

Northern Exposure – MI extends its expertise to the Canadian Arctic

The people and businesses of Newfoundland and Labrador are making significant contributions to the emerging fishing industry in the Canadian Arctic. The Fisheries and Marine Institute, as a world-class Centre of Excellence in education and advanced fisheries and marine technology, is also extending its expertise to this developing industry. Together with the Nunavut Arctic College (NAC), the Marine Institute is providing education, training, research and development related to fisheries and marine activities in Nunavut.

The Marine Institute has been delivering training programs in Nunavut since 1999 but it wasn't until 2004, when a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the NAC, that a more formalized, structured training plan was implemented. The College's network of facilities and local delivery support and the Marine Institute's technical and content expertise combine to form a strong partnership designed to strengthen fisheries and marine activities in Canada's newest territory.



Fishermen from Clyde River, Nunavut with catch of Turbot (Greenland halibut) from experimental winter longline fishing trials

“In Nunavut, the fishing industry offers immense potential,” said Mr. Gerald Anderson, manager of Marketing and Business Development at the Marine Institute. “A critical element in its development is a trained, capable workforce. Here at the Marine Institute we are pleased to be able to partner with the NAC to deliver high quality training programs to ensure that this workforce is ready.”

Within the last five years, the Marine Institute has delivered training programs to over 500 fish harvesters looking to get involved in Nunavut's offshore shrimp and turbot fishery. These programs have been delivered in Iqaluit and Pangnirtung, and include courses such as Career Orientation, Pre-Sea Trawl, Marine Emergency Duties and Marine Advanced First Aid. In addition, several fisheries-related research and development projects and technology transfer activities have been undertaken. These include fisheries resource assessment activities in Clyde River, Pond Inlet and Cumberland Sound.