



**Bureau d'accréditation
des pêcheurs et des
aides-pêcheurs
du Québec**

Professionalization of fishers, assistant fishers and apprentice fishers

HISTORY

Since the beginning of the 90s, Québec fishers and assistant fishers request

- 1. to be recognized professionally as workers of the sea,
and
- 2. that the permission to practice the trade be regulated by precise
criteria.

The Act
The Regulation

La Loi
Le Règlement



Professionalization of fishers, assistant fishers and apprentice fishers

A few advantages of professionalization

- recognition of the “professional” status of workers at sea;
- it increases the value of fisher and fisher assistant trades;
- the sector has authority on the regulating criteria for the profession;
- introduction of the booklet as a tool to recognize the skills and professional experience of the persons involved in the fishery;
- increase in the qualification of the workers in the fishery;
- improved safety aboard;
- social recognition of the qualifications and skills of fish workers.

The Act
The Regulation

La Loi
Le Règlement



Professionalization of fishers, assistant fishers and apprentice fishers

In June 1999, the Act respecting the Bureau d'accréditation des pêcheurs et des aides-pêcheurs du Québec (L.R.Q. c. B-7.1) was adopted by l'Assemblée nationale. The Act was brought into effect according to the sector's request.

- to make the trade professional;
- to issue certificates and booklets that confirm the skills of those who request to work as commercial fishers and assistant fishers;
- to produce norms respecting professionalization;
- to establish the certification conditions for fishers and assistant fishers.

The Act
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Professionalization of fishers, assistant fishers and apprentice fishers

The Act respecting the Bureau d'accréditation des pêcheurs et des aides-pêcheurs du Québec established the BAPAP whose mission is to develop and implement a plan for the recognition of the professional qualifications of fishers and assistant fishers who practice a fishing activity for a tidal water species, with the exception of anadromous and catadromous species.

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BAPAP MANAGEMENT

1. conditions for the issue of fisher and assistant fisher certificates, particularly the required training, the training at sea and the payable fees;
2. conditions for the issue of an apprentice fisher certificate, particularly the payable fees;
3. the issue, the contents and the update of the fisher, assistant fisher and apprentice fisher booklets.

The Act
The Regulation

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Le Règlement



Professionalization of fishers, assistant fishers and apprentice fishers

The Regulation respecting the professional recognition of fishers and assistant fishers is adopted by decree (Décret 944-2001).

- The Regulation came into effect on September 13, 2001. It was amended on July 23, 2009
- It dictates the conditions and requirements for the issue of booklets, the payable fees and the requirements concerning training, professional experience or equivalences or exemptions for
 - Fishers
 - Assistant fishers
 - Apprentice fishers

[The Act](#)
[The Regulation](#)

[La Loi](#)
[Le Règlement](#)



Professionalization of fishers, assistant fishers and apprentice fishers

Each category is determined according to the criteria described in the Regulation. A different *training program* pertains to each category.

- Fisher: 81 hours.
- Assistant fisher: 186 hours.
- Apprentice fisher: 1 605 hours.

[The Act](#)
[The Regulation](#)

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Professionalization of fishers, assistant fishers and apprentice fishers

For a FISHER certificate holder: 81 hours

Advanced first aid at sea:	16 hours
Emergency operations at sea:	20 hours
Responsible fishing (2 courses/15h):	30 hours
Organization and team work:	15 hours

For the ASSISTANT FISHER certificate: 186 hours

In addition to the criteria listed above:

Preservation and on-board handling of fish:	20 hours
Fisheries technology:	40 hours
Rules of the road:	30 hours
Radio communications:	15 hours

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The Regulation

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Professionalization of fishers, assistant fishers and apprentice fishers

The person who wishes to work as a FISHER and would like to acquire a fishing license must have

- A professional fishery diploma (1 605 h).

OR

- a certificate of commercial fishing master issued by Transport Canada along with the required time at sea for commercial fishing.

AND proof that the following courses were successfully completed:

Advanced first aid at sea:	16 hours
Emergency operations at sea:	20 hours
Responsible fishing (2 courses/15h) :	30 hours
Organization and team work:	15 hours

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Professionalization of fishers, assistant fishers and apprentice fishers

OR

A professional fisher certificate issued to a holder of a professional fishery diploma or a holder of a commercial fishing master certificate with proof of successful completion of the listed courses.

A person at least 24 years' old who wishes to work as an ASSISTANT FISHER:

A training of at least 630 hours on emergency operations at sea, net mending, fixed and mobile gear assembly, introduction to becoming an assistant fisher, preparing the fishing trip, marine life and habitat, rules of the road, communications and preservation and handling of products. All of these courses are part of the program that leads to the professional fishery diploma.

The Act
The Regulation

La Loi
Le Règlement

