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# Backgrounder

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## NUNAVUT FISHING RESEARCH VESSEL

A fishing research vessel will upgrade Nunavut's research capabilities to include a larger, safer research platform with a complete capability to operate within the full range of Nunavut's territorial sea and near coastal waters over an entire Arctic marine season. The past two years of activities have demonstrated to the Government of Nunavut's Division of Fisheries and Sealing and Nunavut stakeholders that its current research platform is not sufficient to meet the research needs for Nunavut's inshore fishery.

This collaborative effort from the Governments of Canada and Nunavut will allow for building and equipping a new research vessel to serve as a research platform able to undertake critical scientific research in support of sustainable development in the fishery and protection of the marine environment. It will be owned by Northerners, and will be used in the North.

The federal government is contributing \$1,874,560 for the building of the vessel, and the Government of Nunavut is purchasing \$263,000 worth of equipment.

The Government of Canada's contribution came through an \$85 million Canada Economic Action Plan (CEAP) investment. It is managed by the Arctic Research Infrastructure Fund, a program created to renovate and upgrade research facilities across the North over two years.

The vessel will be 64 feet long. It will represent an important step in the Government of Canada's plan to unlock the North's enormous potential. Northerners will participate in the operations and maintenance of the vessel and Inuit will receive training for inshore fishery through the Nunavut Fisheries Training Consortium for careers.

The Government of Nunavut recently awarded a contract to Glovertown Shipyards, from Newfoundland to build the ship. Work on vessel construction is underway at the present time. It is expected to be completed by November 2010.



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