

Lessard, M. 1995. *Réservoir Outardes-2 : Bilan des aménagements écologiques. (Outardes-2 reservoir. Review of environmental enhancements.)* Report by Martin Lessard Enr. for Milieu naturel, Vice-présidence Environnement, Hydro-Québec, Montréal (Qc), 82 pages and appendices.

### **Abstract**

Outardes-2 hydroelectric generating station is one of the last facilities built in the vast Manicouagan-Outardes complex near Baie-Comeau, with a capacity of 439 MW. Outardes-2 reservoir, impounded in 1978, is a water body which, owing to its size, shape and origin, acts like both a lake and a river.

In 1975, Hydro-Québec submitted an environmental enhancement project for the Outardes-2 site and this proposal was supported, in 1980, by the initiation of a fish stocking program and ecological measures. The program included a pilot project to create new riparian habitats and introduce landlocked salmon into Outardes-2 reservoir.

Ecological measures began with the forest clearing of the banks of the future reservoir and the creation of artificial islands to attract waterfowl and muskrats. Just before impoundment, artificial spawning grounds were created to provide new spawning areas for salmonids. The landlocked salmon was introduced with a forage fish species, rainbow smelt. The Loup Marin River was made accessible to the salmon by means of a fish pass on the left bank. Tributaries were enhanced to increase the number of good habitats and their potential production. The creation of a fishing sanctuary on the Loup Marin River and some of its tributaries was an additional measure to benefit the introduction of landlocked salmon. Pike is controlled during spawning season to reduce the risk of predation on landlocked salmon.

The numerous enhancements associated with the Outardes-2 project have been the subject of many studies, follow-up activities and scientific experiments.