

## **McGill Food & Dining Services Marine Stewardship Certification**

**Project Title:** MFDS Marine Stewardship Certification

**Budget Requested:** \$2660

**Applicant/Project Leader:** Oliver De Volpi

**Faculty/Department:** McGill Food & Dining, Sustainability

**Email:** oliver.devolpi@mcgill.ca, amelia.brinkerhoff@mail.mcgill.ca

**Daytime Phone:** 514 398 5743

### **Overview:**

**Project Summary:** McGill Food and Dining Services began to change their seafood purchasing practices about two years ago, after an MSE applied student research group (ENVR 401) approached them and offered to research feasible alternatives for MFDS's seafood sourcing. They suggested a few different sustainable seafood certifications and criteria, including the Marine Stewardship Certification. Since then, MFDS has shifted to only purchasing seafood with recommended criteria. We would now like to complete the process, by receiving the Marine Stewardship Certification. This certification officially signifies that MFDS supports and rewards sustainable fisheries, sustainable seafood companies, scientists, and conservation groups. If MSC certified, McGill will be the first Canadian School to have achieved this.

**Project Eligibility:** The topic of sustainable agriculture makes it's way into many departments at McGill, because of its importance for our future. For students and staff to know that material being taught in the classroom is then applied in other capacities at McGill presents a very strong message. This project is also an excellent example of how administration can work with students to make meaningful progress. We hope that students will appreciate our efforts to improve sustainability, and thus be more likely to apply the same principles of local food and sustainable agriculture when they're no longer living in Residence. One significant side effect of our efforts is that through our purchasing power, we have convinced both Gordon Food Services of Montreal and Cisco of Montreal to also become MSC certified. This is an excellent example of how one group's decision can positively affect the economic variables surrounding it.

**Timeframe/Milestones:** MFDS feels ready to be audited, because we are already following the necessary criteria for MSC. There are a few administrative habits that need to be familiarized with staff, but the main bulk of the work is complete. MFDS has scheduled an audit for December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012, and once that is complete, MFDS will be MSC certified. Within this particular certification, there are certain requirements that need to be met after the initial audit. This means additional annual audits, and selected individuals who oversee that all practices are correctly followed. **MFDS commits to provide all necessary future resources to this**

**process.** We will promote our MSC certification and why it's important, as we do with our other sustainability achievements, to use the opportunity to support learning on campus. We're also hoping to host a celebratory speaker's event in mid-January, with Seafood Expert Chef Barton Seaver. This would be a great giveback and engagement opportunity with the McGill community.

**Stakeholders:** The majority of the work related to this certification will be completed by Amelia Brinkerhoff (MFDS Student Sustainability Coordinator) and Oliver de Volpi. MFDS employees will be thoroughly trained to ensure that all requirements are being met and understood. The students who researched this project over two years ago laid the foundation and will be proud to know that their ideas led to considerable change at McGill. The McGill Food Systems Project has also contributed a lot in the past years, and will certainly be pleased to see this.

**Project Implementation:**

**Tasks & Responsibilities:** The main responsibilities of this project would be to oversee the paperwork involved with shipments, confirm that the merchandise is placed separately from non-certified seafood, and that all information is properly documented. This would fall under the duty of the head chef at each location, but MFDS will be holding an employee training session so that every team member properly understands procedures.

**Financials:** December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 is the date that MFDS needs to funding by, as that is that official audit date. The requested amount will cover the audit fees for Gertrud Gastel to come from Seattle to audit 5 locations on the McGill Campus.

**Detailed expenses:**

Expense Description	Estimated Cost
Cost of MSC Audit	\$2660

We hope that the Sustainability Projects Fund will support this project, and shares the same vision as McGill Food & Dining, because this certification represents substantial sustainable progress at McGill.