

**Climate change  
is putting the tourism  
industry to the test**

**Maritime and nautical  
activities**

Quebec offers a wide variety of activities and attractions throughout the province. Some of them are particularly vulnerable to climate change and may be affected in different ways depending on their specific characteristics.

# Challenges in ensuring the resilience and longevity of the tourism offering

Depending on the situation, the impacts of climate change may pose a threat, but in some cases they can also present new opportunities.

Taking these threats into account, along with the associated environmental, economic, and social issues, is part of the challenge of ensuring the resilience and long-term viability of the tourism industry. The needs include:

**01** [Consult](#)

Ensuring the long-term viability of infrastructure, equipment, and facilities that are exposed to weather events while minimizing the impact on the natural environment

**02** [Consult](#)

Maintaining the quality of tourism offerings over the long term despite more variable weather conditions and rising adaptation costs

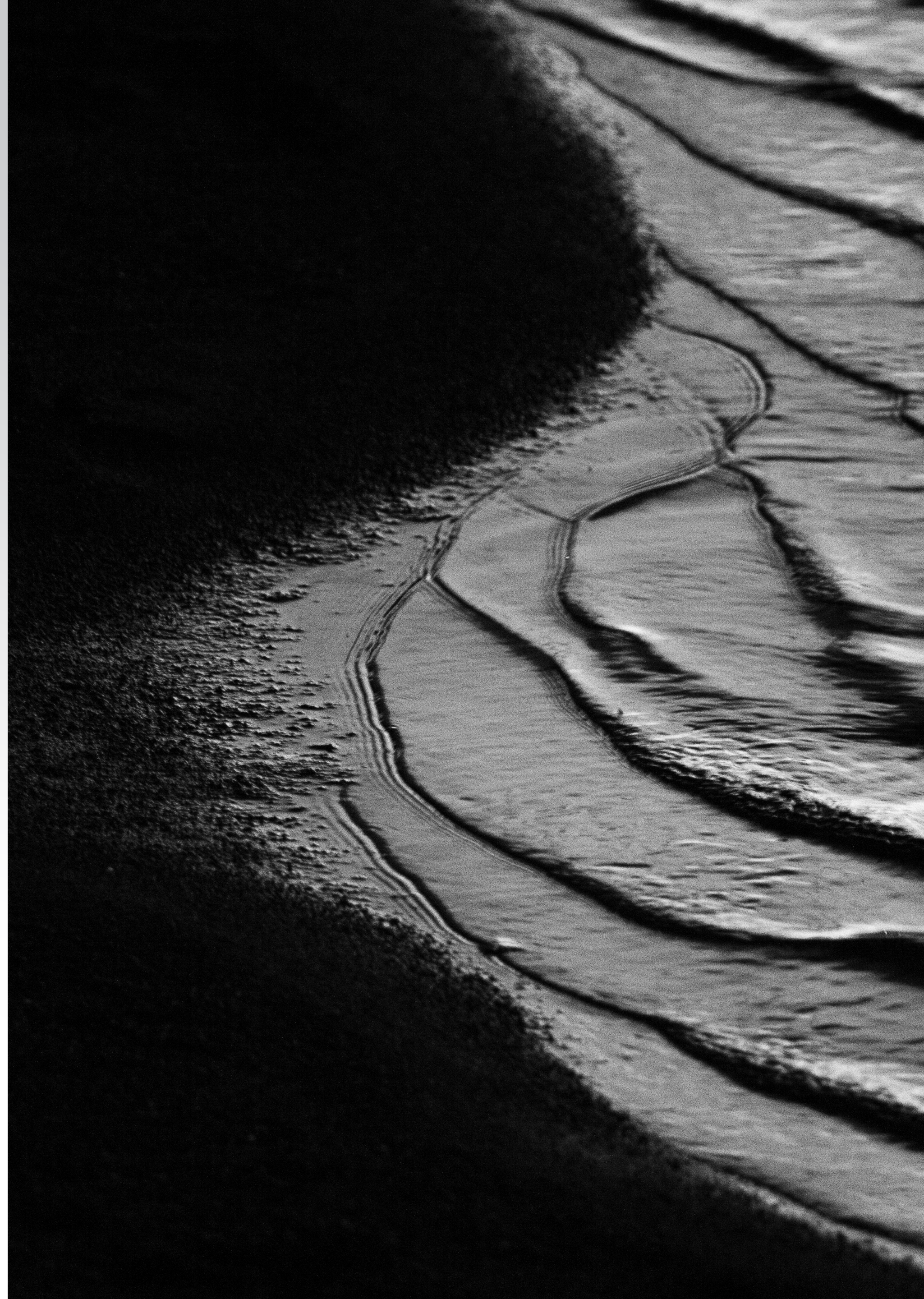
**03** [Consult](#)

Preserving the health, safety, and well-being of visitors and employees despite the increase in extreme weather events

# Understanding the impacts in order to optimize climate change adaptation

To assess the threats and opportunities facing a tourism destination, it's essential to consider the scope and scale of the impacts of climate change on the industry. These vary depending on several factors, including the specific characteristics of each region and seasonal variations.

Learn about the impacts of climate change by region and by season in a special report on tourism industry on the website of Ouranos. [Access the report](#)



# Main

# challenges

The information provided here is based on current knowledge and discussions with tourism associations. It is provided as an example and does not reflect all possible scenarios. A thorough understanding of climate phenomena and their effects on tourism supply and activities remains essential for assessing their impacts in a fair and representative manner.

# 01 Longevity of infrastructure, equipment, and facilities

Challenges

Maritime and nautical activities

What factors might be causing this?

Extreme weather events

Extreme weather events

Coastal erosion and submergence

Extreme weather events

Coastal erosion and submergence

River flooding

What kind of threat does this pose?

Cancellation, interruption, or disruption of activities related to the affected infrastructure.

Increased maintenance and repair costs due to the premature aging of infrastructure, equipment, and facilities.

Total or partial loss of infrastructure, equipment and facilities.

Examples for the industry

Temporary closure of marinas due to high winds or a storm.  
Cancellation of guided tours (canoe, sea kayaking) due to damage to the dock or launch ramp caused by high winds or a storm.

Increased maintenance and repair costs due to the premature aging of infrastructure, equipment, and facilities.  
Accelerated corrosion of materials (docks, marinas, boat launches) subjected to repeated coastal submergence.  
More frequent repairs (docks, marinas, boat launches) following episodes of ice movement or frazil ice.

Damage to marinas, docks, and boat launches due to floods.  
Damage to dry docks and boat sheds during storms.

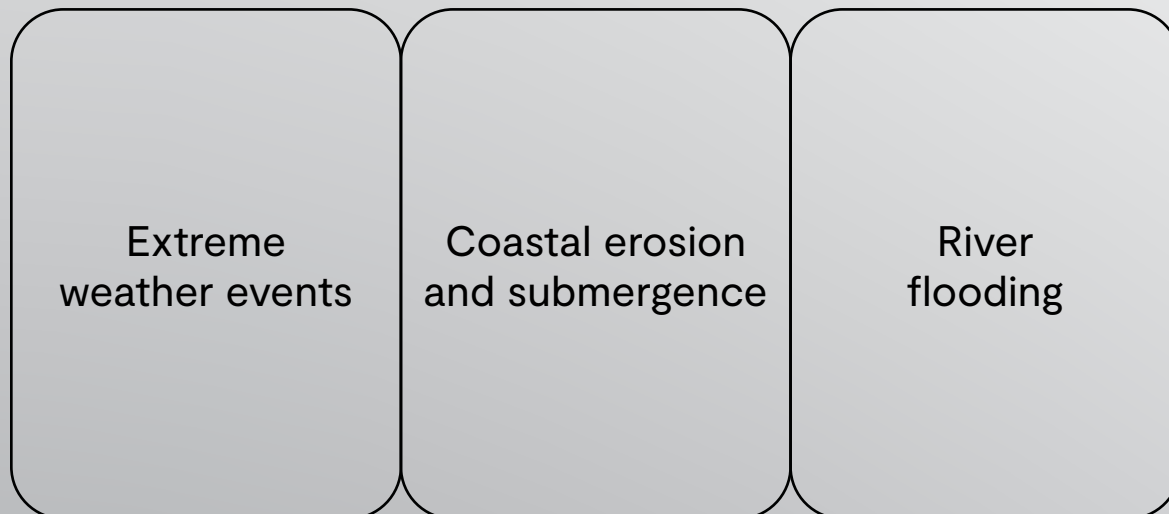
 Track climate change and inform your actions on [Climate Portraits](#) platform.

# 01 Longevity of infrastructure, equipment, and facilities

Challenges

Maritime and nautical activities

What factors might be causing this?



What kind of threat does this pose?

Forced relocation due to damage to infrastructure, equipment and facilities in areas prone to extreme weather events.

Examples for the industry

Relocation of a boat launch that is subject to coastal erosion and submergence.

Relocation of a water sports rental centre (kayaking, surfing, sailing) due to the loss of a beach or access to the water.

# 02 Viability of the tourism offering

Challenges

Maritime and nautical activities

What factors might be causing this?

Heat waves and rising temperatures  
Extreme weather events  
Coastal erosion and submergence

Heat waves and rising temperatures  
Low water levels

What kind of threat does this pose?

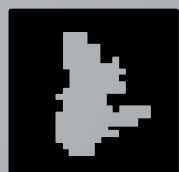
Decreased appeal and/or loss of attractions and activities due to changes in ecosystem dynamics.

Increased risk of pests, invasive alien species, and pathogens.

Examples for the industry

Changes in and deterioration of the landscape quality of certain iconic natural sites due to coastal erosion.  
The relocation of iconic species (marine mammals, seabirds) changes the appeal of certain activities.

Degradation of water bodies due to the proliferation of harmful species.

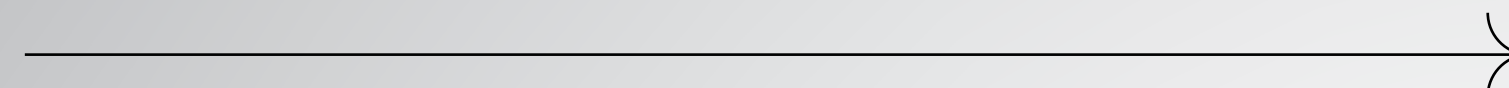
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## What factors might be causing this?

Heat waves and rising temperatures

Extreme weather events

Low water levels



## What kind of threat does this pose?

Increased risks to the health, safety, and comfort of visitors and workers.

## Examples for the industry

Heatstroke, sunstroke, and dehydration during a heat wave.  
More towing and rescue operations due to vessels running aground or hitting the bottom due to low water levels.  
Cancellation of guided tours (canoeing, sea kayaking) due to dangerous conditions on the water.



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## Turning threats into opportunities

Some climate-related threats can also serve as powerful drivers of innovation for the tourism industry. Already, several organizations are taking concrete steps to adapt and are seizing these opportunities to enhance their offerings, strengthen their resilience, and set themselves apart.

### The case of the Laurentians

#### Threat

Extreme water levels (both floods and low water levels) threaten the viability of the tourism business and visitor safety

#### Opportunity

Increasing the resilience of tourism businesses by protecting safety and diversifying activities

Climate change is threatening the rafting operations of Rafting Nouveau-Monde on the Rouge River, near Montréal. High and low water levels disrupt operations and compromise customer safety. To adapt, the business adjusted its rafting schedules based on real-time water levels and diversified its range of activities to minimize cancellations and increase its resilience. [Learn more](#)

## The power of a network to accelerate the transition to action

As the effects of climate change intensify, collective action is more essential than ever.

It is based on scientific knowledge informed by learnings, the sharing of experiences, and collaboration through an iterative and ongoing process. Our understanding of the climate is evolving, risks are shifting, and vulnerabilities are changing. In this context, every tourism stakeholder has a role to play in developing activities and attractions that are better suited to the current and future climate conditions.

Key leaders in the development and structuring of the maritime and nautical tourism offering

Association des croisières du Saint-Laurent

Alliance de l'industrie nautique du Québec

Aventure écotourisme Québec

Canot kayak Québec

Regional tourism associations