



## **~ FUNDY TIDINGS ~**

*The Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP)*

**February 2009 ~ Winter Issue**

For up-to-date information about BoFEP meetings and other events visit: [www.bofep.org/calendar.htm](http://www.bofep.org/calendar.htm)

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#### **A. BoFEP and its activities:**

## 1. BoFEP 8<sup>th</sup> Bay of Fundy Workshop

- a) **Abstract Submission Deadline** - A large number of excellent abstracts have already been received. There is still space for a limited number of additional submissions, particularly posters. Abstracts must be submitted before the final deadline of **February 27<sup>th</sup>**. Abstracts of papers and poster should be submitted to: [workshop@bofep.org](mailto:workshop@bofep.org) . The Theme of the Workshop is "*Resource Development and its Implications in the Bay of Fundy and Gulf of Maine*", although submissions on a wide range of other topics may be accepted. Guidelines for the preparation of abstracts, as well as information about the workshop, can be found at [www.bofep.org/workshop2009.htm](http://www.bofep.org/workshop2009.htm) . Any queries may be submitted to [workshop@bofep.org](mailto:workshop@bofep.org)
- b) **Workshop Program Outline and Registration Form on Website** – The registration form, preliminary program schedule and other informative material pertaining to the upcoming Workshop is now available on the BoFEP website at: [www.bofep.org/workshop2009.htm](http://www.bofep.org/workshop2009.htm)
- c) **Environmental Stewardship Award Nominations – Reminder** The Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership created an award several years ago to recognize the significant efforts of individual citizens toward the environmental stewardship of the Bay of Fundy. The first of these awards was presented in 2004, and the second in 2006. The third will be presented at the Bay of Fundy 8<sup>th</sup> Workshop to be held in Wolfville, Nova Scotia in May, 2009. This award is presented to an individual who has “contributed significantly to the environmental health/sustainability of the Bay of Fundy”, preferably one who might be described as an “unsung hero”, who has not been in the limelight as a prominent player, but has worked hard behind the scenes toward the Mission and within the Principles of BoFEP. Guidelines for the award and a nomination form can be downloaded at: [www.bofep.org/MS\\_Word\\_files/2009award\\_notice\\_form.doc](http://www.bofep.org/MS_Word_files/2009award_notice_form.doc). The deadline for nominations is **February 28, 2009**.

- ## 2. Tidal Power Consultations In New Brunswick
- In the spring of 2008 the New Brunswick Department of Energy commissioned a Strategic Environmental Assessment (NB SEA) to consult with the public and marine stakeholders of the Bay, assess all factors in light of the Background Report covering existing pertinent information, and develop recommendations in support of proceeding toward a tidal energy development policy for New Brunswick. This consultation was carried out by Barry Jones of Gryffyn Coastal Management Inc. on behalf of BoFEP's Marine Energy Working Group. Seven public forums were held throughout the New Brunswick side of the Bay during April, 2008, to consult with the public and marine stakeholders on their opinions and concerns with tidal in-stream energy development. The 175 page final report of this consultation process was released in November 2008. The "Strategic Environmental Assessment of In-Stream Tidal Energy Generation Development in New Brunswick's Bay of Fundy Coastal Waters" contains 19 recommendations to be considered if the Province moves forward with developing in-stream tidal energy in the Bay of Fundy. The Government of New Brunswick is working on a formal response to the recommendations. The full report,

the Executive Summary and the Recommendations are available in both English and French in MSWord or PDF versions at <http://www.bofep.org>.

- 3. CBC Interview about Sunken Irving Barge** - On January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 BoFEP Chair Peter Wells was interviewed on CBC Radio about the J.D. Irving dredging barge the “Shovel Master” which capsized in a storm and sank about 80 km southeast of Yarmouth, NS in late November 2008. The barge, travelling from Saint John to Halifax, was carrying about 70,000 litres of diesel fuel when it went down raising concerns about possible environmental effects if this leaks out. Wells noted that the types of impacts will depend how the oil is released. While the amount involved is relatively small (about 140 home oil tanks by Well’s estimate) it could still have significant environmental effects, particularly affecting seabirds and marine mammals. Tainting of fish and lobsters by the hydrocarbons could hurt the fisheries in the area. Wells felt that the agencies involved in dealing with the situation were doing the public a great disservice by not keeping them informed about what was going on regarding their plans for the barge in terms of pumping it out, raising it or leaving it alone. The complete interview can be heard at: <http://www.cbc.ca/informationmornings/interview-archive/jan.html> by simply clicking on “A retired scientist raises questions about the Irving barge still sitting on the ocean floor.”

- 4. Eelgrass Workshop** - The BoFEP Eelgrass Working Group is participating in a workshop on the Status, Trends, and Conservation of Eelgrass in north-eastern United States and Canada will be held February 24-25, 2009, at the Regency Hotel in Portland, Maine. The objective of the workshop is the timely dissemination of information regarding the science and conservation of eelgrass among federal, state, and provincial agencies and environmental organizations. Invited presentations and discussions will highlight status and trends in eelgrass distribution and abundance, factors controlling ecosystem change, current management issues, and regional examples of eelgrass conservation efforts. Participants are invited from all sectors of eelgrass science and management throughout eastern Canada and the north-eastern United States. There is no fee to attend the workshop but pre-registration is required. Please e-mail Hilary Neckles <[hneckles@usgs.gov](mailto:hneckles@usgs.gov)> for further information and to register.

## **B. Partners and other organizations:**

- 5. Fundy narrowly loses new 7 natural wonders race** - After a down to the wire, neck and neck race, the Bay of Fundy was nosed out of the top Canadian spot in the New 7 Natural Wonders of the World Competition. The top Canadian site announced on January 7<sup>th</sup> ended up being Dinosaur Provincial Park in Alberta. Terri McCulloch, of the Bay of Fundy Tourism Partnership, who ably spearheaded the effort on behalf of Fundy, thanked all those who supported the campaign. She noted that despite

losing the tight race the “Bay of Fundy benefited greatly from participation in this contest” because:

- we were accepted as one of only 5 Canadian sites into this prestigious contest.
- our region got international exposure on the New7Wonders website for 8 months
- we were in the top 1/4 of all international nature tourism sites
- we raised awareness of the Bay as one of Canada's top nature tourism destinations
- we've calculated it gave about \$300,000 in free media coverage of Fundy
- we've witnessed a 400% increase in visitation to our Fundy tourism website
- we had a good time doing it !!

For more details about the contest visit:

<http://www.new7wonders.com/nature/en/nominees/northamerica/>

You might also enjoy Terri's Fundy blog at :<http://bayoffundy.blogspot.com> and the YouTube travel show: [www.bayoffundy.travelWonders](http://www.bayoffundy.travelWonders)

**6. NS Coalition Seeks Coastal Development Strategy -** In a January letter to the province, thirty-one community and environmental organizations from Yarmouth to Cape Breton formally offered their collective assistance to help the government develop a sustainable coastal development strategy. The letter states that *“The undersigned organizations support the development and implementation of a Sustainable Coastal Development strategy. Specifically, we expect the Strategy will address the following pressing coastal issues: deteriorating coastal water quality, the destruction of coastal ecosystems and habitats, the loss of marine biodiversity, protection of traditional fisheries, maintaining coastal access, and the vulnerability of our coastal areas to climate change. There is a pressing need for clearer, integrated governance and effective planning that involves the residents of coastal communities”*. The full text of the letter is available at: [http://www.ecologyaction.ca/files/images/file/Coastal/CCNS\\_LetterJanuary12\\_2009.pdf](http://www.ecologyaction.ca/files/images/file/Coastal/CCNS_LetterJanuary12_2009.pdf)

**7. Fishermen and Scientists Research Society Annual Conference -** The "16th Annual Conference of the Fishermen and Scientists Research Society, will be held 20-21 February 2009, in Truro, Nova Scotia. The conference will include a range of workshop sessions, poster presentations, the Scientific Program Committee Report and Workplans for 2009/2010, and the Annual General Meeting. Conference details and registration form can be found at: <http://www.fsrs.ns.ca/events/ac2009.html>

**8. Tidal Conference Coming to Annapolis - Digby -** On May 13 and 14, 2009, the Annapolis Basin Conference Centre, Cornwallis, NS will be the venue for the spring conference of [The Ocean Renewable Energy Group \(OREG\)](#). As planning for the Fundy Tidal Energy Demonstration Facility comes together, this Bay of Fundy Tidal Energy Forum will serve a number of purposes.

- *to provide learning opportunities and bring together those who must work on developing the region's clean energy and economic opportunities*

- *to pursue collaboration in approaches to sustainable tidal and in-stream energy in the Bay of Fundy region, Atlantic Canada and North East USA*
- *to set standards for development and create lessons that can be applied to wave, tidal and in-stream energy development in other jurisdictions*

This Forum is intended to stimulate tangible collaboration in the areas of policy development and regulatory requirements, R&D and deployment, utility and electricity grid requirements, and industrial capacity development. The Atlantic Canada and USA regions are facing similar challenges in pursuing the development of ocean energy, while there is little technical, operational or environmental experience to draw on. However, there is significant applicable knowledge within stakeholder communities and regulatory agencies working with other energy and marine industries. For more information visit:

[http://www.oreg.ca/2009\\_Spring\\_Event\\_Registration.html](http://www.oreg.ca/2009_Spring_Event_Registration.html)

**9. Poem on Fundy Tides** - Terri McCulloch, of the Bay of Fundy Tourism Partnership, has unearthed a tongue-in-cheek poem in Grace Helen Mowat's 1928 book *Funny Fables of Fundy*. "*The Tides*" explores the use of Fundy's tidal energy and begins:

*A stranger once said to the tides in the Bay:*

*"How strange you should live in this indolent way;*

*You crawl up the strand then crawl down again*

*Why can't you be useful and helpful to men?*

and concludes with the sobering moral:

*These facts tell us plainly to look on all sides*

*Before we are tempted to tamper with tides;*

*And when we are strangers, wherever we go,*

*There's always a side that we still do not know;*

*And if we too suddenly start to reform*

*Our plans and our gold may be lost in the storm!*

It certainly offers food for thought for those currently engaged in tidal power development. The full text of the poem can be found at: <http://bayoffundy.blogspot.com/2009/01/tides-poem.html>

## **C. Fundy/GOM and other News:**

**10. New NS Aquaculture Development Funding** - Nova Scotia Fisheries Minister Ron Chisholm has announced that a \$2.5 million dollar investment in aquaculture will be made over the next three years to help communities affected by economic difficulties stemming from instability in the global financial and commodities markets. The \$2.5 million will be allocated to three important areas; namely, public confidence in aquaculture products, site development and an aquaculture development fund. More detailed information is available at:

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/fish/aquaculture/cdt/>

- 11. Discussion Paper on Beach Management in NS** - During the last half of 2008, the Ecology Action Centre prepared a discussion document about Nova Scotia's beach systems and management issues, entitled "True Grit: A New Vision For Healthy Beaches in Nova Scotia." The paper describes Nova Scotia's spectacular beach shorelines, and outlines relevant management changes facing planners, decision-makers and communities. Sections deal with crucial beach issues; namely,
1. Beaches as dynamic and interconnected systems.
  2. Beaches as critical habitat
  3. Beaches as public space for sustainable human use.

The document concludes by suggesting emerging beach management principles and emerging questions that were discussed at a November 27th workshop.

The paper is now available for download at:

[http://ecologyaction.ca/content/coastal-issues-committee-publications#Coastal\\_Resources](http://ecologyaction.ca/content/coastal-issues-committee-publications#Coastal_Resources)

. Comments and feed back are welcome. In addition, a Beach Management Strategic Report, synthesizing results of the recent "True Grit" workshop with key points from the discussion paper will be released soon.

- 12. GOM Times Article on Marine Energy** - The Gulf of Maine Times, the quarterly newsletter of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, has as its lead story in the Fall/Winter 2008 edition an article entitled "Harnessing the Gulf's winds, tides for reliable energy independence". It notes that *"From tidal power plants in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to proposed offshore wind farms from Maine to Massachusetts, the latent energy-producing possibilities from the Gulf of Maine have become the focus of state and provincial interest. Those who can tap that energy may find substantial rewards"*. It also discusses more conventional energy sources noting that, *"there's always the traditional source of energy, oil and natural gas. The specter has once again raised its head of opening the Gulf of Maine, specifically Georges Bank which is shared by the U.S. and Canada, to oil and gas exploration."* The full article can be found at: <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/times/fallwinter2008/>.

- 13. Report on NS Fisheries and the Marine Environment** - A report, prepared by GPI Atlantic, entitled *"Fisheries and the Marine Environment in Nova Scotia: Searching for Sustainability and Resilience"* highlights key ecological, socioeconomic and institutional aspects that should be monitored by government agencies and considered by decision-makers. It focuses on nine "headline indicators" and covers both ecological and human aspects, including economic, social, environmental, and community perspectives. The full report is available at: [http://www.gpiatlantic.org/releases/pr\\_fisheries\\_2008.htm](http://www.gpiatlantic.org/releases/pr_fisheries_2008.htm).

- 14. Atlas on NB Groundwater Chemistry** - The New Brunswick Department of the Environment has released the New Brunswick Groundwater Chemistry Atlas 1994-2007. The Atlas provides information on 28 naturally occurring chemical parameters related to groundwater quality, including pH, fluoride, hardness as well as information on geology, well depth and location. Under the *Potable Water Regulation* of the *Clean Water Act*, the Province of New Brunswick maintains a



database of groundwater quality data collected from domestic water wells drilled since 1994. The database comprises results from approximately 10,500 inorganic chemistry samples from 1994 to 2007. In general, the water quality of domestic water wells in New Brunswick is considered to be very good. The 31 page Atlas can be found at: <http://www.gnb.ca/0009/0371/0014/index-e.asp> .

**15. Consultation on Right Whale Recovery Strategy** - Public comments are being solicited on the proposed recovery strategy for North Atlantic Right Whale (endangered) that is now protected under the Species at *Risk Act* (SARA). Recovery efforts, as provided for under SARA, are being led by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The first step in the recovery process is the development of a recovery strategy, which is intended to set out goals, objectives and the general direction of activities for the conservation and recovery of the species. The proposed recovery strategy for the North Atlantic Right Whale has been posted on the SARA Public Registry for a 60 day comment period (***ends March 9, 2009***). The final version of this strategy will be posted following consideration of all comments, and will be used to direct the recovery efforts for the North Atlantic Right Whale. To view this strategy and provide comments, please visit the SARA Public Registry at: [http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default\\_e.cfm?documentID=1750](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default_e.cfm?documentID=1750) Alternatively, please contact the Species at Risk Coordination Office in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia: toll free: 1-866-891-0771

**16. Live Webcam Views from Digby Wharf** – The Annapolis Digby Economic Development Agency (ADEDA) [www.annapolisdigby.com/](http://www.annapolisdigby.com/) informs us that a new 24-7 live web cam has been set up overlooking Digby's boardwalk, wharf and marina. This is a great tool to promote the town and a great illustration of the bay's tidal power. You can access the camera feed from anywhere in the world simply by visiting <http://www.novascotiawebcams.ca/~digbyharbour/> . We encourage everyone, especially tourism operators, to add this link to your own site.

**17. Georges Bank Drilling – US opposed? – Nova Scotia in Favour?**

An article in the February 4<sup>th</sup> issue of Cape Cod Times highlights the apparent growing divergence between the U.S. and Canada with respect to the protection of Georges Bank from offshore drilling. The US controls 80% of the rich marine habitat and fishing grounds and Canada oversees the remaining 20%. In a clear repudiation of a last-minute decision by the outgoing Bush administration, a bi-partisan congressional committee has introduced the **Georges Bank Preservation Act**, a bill which would reinstate the prohibition on drilling for oil or gas on the fragile and unique marine habitat at **Georges Bank** and nearby **Gerry E. Studds Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary** off the coast of Massachusetts. In contrast, the Nova Scotia government appears to be positioning itself to remove the current moratorium in place in Canadian waters and allow drilling. Richard Hurlburt, while he was NS Minister of Energy, told oil & gas industry executives in the US and Canada that he thought drilling on Georges Bank would be compatible with fisheries there and with the marine habitat. The full text of the article can be found at:

<http://www.capecodtoday.com/blogs/index.php/2009/02/04/georges-bank-preservation-act?blog=53>

#### **D. ADMINISTRIVIA**

Fundy Tidings is circulated Quarterly to all registered members of BoFEP and other individuals who have expressed an interest in BoFEP and its activities. If you know of others who might like to receive Fundy Tidings or if you would like to be removed from the Fundy Tidings mailing list, simply e-mail a request to [communications@bofep.org](mailto:communications@bofep.org).

For more news items about BoFEP, its partners and the Bay of Fundy periodically check the BoFEP What's New page at: <http://www.bofep.org/whatnew.htm>. You can also find the back issues of Fundy Tidings archived at. <http://www.bofep.org/tidings.htm>

If you would like to post an item in Fundy Tidings pertaining to BoFEP, its partners or the Bay of Fundy send it along to [communications@bofep.org](mailto:communications@bofep.org).

The submission deadlines are: January 1<sup>st</sup>, April 1<sup>st</sup>, July 1<sup>st</sup>, October 1<sup>st</sup>.