

~ FUNDY TIDINGS ~

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

Autumn, 2005

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

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A. BoFEP and its activities:

1. BoFEP 2005 Annual General Meeting - The BoFEP AGM originally scheduled for September 27th at the Huntsman Marine Science Centre has been postponed until October 26th at the same location. Further details will be circulated shortly and posted on the BoFEP website. The Management Committee apologizes for any inconvenience this postponement may cause. For information contact: secretariat@bofep.org

2. Changes at BoFEP Secretariat - Donna Porter, who has managed the BoFEP Secretariat at the Acadia Centre for Estuarine Research, resigned on August 17th in order to take up another post within the University. We extend warmest thanks to Donna for her dedicated and enthusiastic work on behalf of BoFEP and wish her every success in her new position. Lacey Croft is presently handling things at the ACER office.

3. BoFEP Workshops Updates - The report on the Fundy Coastal Forum held in conjunction with the **5th BoFEP Science Workshop** has just been published as follows: "Wells, P.G., J. Harvey, J.A. Percy, G.R. Daborn and S.J. Rolston. (Eds). 2005. The Bay of Fundy Coastal Forum. *Taking the Pulse of the Bay*. A GPAC-BoFEP Coastal Forum held May 15-16th, 2002, as part of the 5th BoFEP Bay of Fundy Science Workshop, Wolfville, NS. Environment Canada - Atlantic Region, Occasional Report No. 25, Environment Canada, Dartmouth, NS and Sackville, NB. 54 p. plus Appendices (CD ROM format)." Copies are now being circulated to participants in recent BoFEP Science Workshops. They can also be requested from: communications@bofep.org .

Note: The editors are seeking feedback as to whether another Fundy Coastal Forum should be convened (perhaps in conjunction with the 7th Workshop?) to complete the task of ranking stresses in the system. Comments can be sent to peter.wells@ec.gc.ca .

The Proceedings of the **6th Science Workshop** "The Changing Bay of Fundy: Beyond 400 Years" are also available and copies may be obtained by contacting: communications@bofep.org

Planning for the **7th Science Workshop** is moving ahead expeditiously. Hosted by the Huntsman Marine Science Centre, it will take place October 25-27th 2006 at the Algonquin Fairmont Hotel in St. Andrews, NB. The theme will be: "*Challenges in Environmental Management in the Bay of Fundy - Gulf of Maine*". The Workshop Organizing Committee will be meeting on September 26th at the Huntsman Marine Science Centre. Anyone interested in helping out with the planning should contact Gerhard Pohle at huntsman@huntsmanmarine.ca .

4. New Fundy Issue on MPAs published - Fundy Issue #26, entitled "*Saving Special Places: Protected Areas and the Bay of Fundy*" has just been published and is now being circulated to all BoFEP members. Paper copies can be requested from: communications@bofep.org. It can also be found on the BoFEP Website at: www.bofep.org/mpas.htm.

5. Upper Bay Integrated Fisheries Management Pilot Project - This project was conceived within the Minas Basin Working Group in 2000 as a pilot study of the potential to develop comprehensive, ecosystem- and community-based management of coastal waters, as required by the Oceans Act. An initial proposal submitted to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans in 2002 received approval in principle, but lack of funds prevented its implementation. A subsequent

proposal, supported by fisheries organizations and communities in the area, was submitted to the EJLB Foundation in February 2004 by a consortium including the Upper Bay Marine Resource Centre, the Acadia Centre for Estuarine Research, and BoFEP. A grant of \$35K was received from EJLB. Christie Dyer, employed as Researcher for the project, has compiled much of the available information on the fisheries of the Upper Bay of Fundy, including the number of vessels, licenses, and landings of important species. Many species are currently at lower abundance levels than have ever been recorded, although two (lobster and scallop) appear to be holding their own or rebuilding from previous low levels. Ms. Dyer has also identified numerous stakeholders in the fisheries and initiated early discussions with them regarding their interests in the development of an integrated management plan that would ensure sustainability of both the marine resources and the human communities of the Upper Bay. In addition, EJLB funding and contributions from Acadia University enabled the first experimental surveys of groundfish in the Minas Basin and Scots Bay areas. The objective was to develop an independent measure of stocks in these areas, since landings data collected by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans fail to distinguish between fish caught in the Upper Bay and those collected in deeper waters of the Lower Bay, which may be different stocks. [Submitted by G.R. Daborn]

6. M.Sc. Thesis on Resource Management in Minas Basin - Peter Wells reports that one of his students in the Marine Affairs Program at Dalhousie University, Ms. Jaime Vickers, recently completed a Masters of Marine Management thesis. Entitled *"Environmental and resource management issues in Minas Basin, Bay of Fundy - the role of appropriate indicators and indices to assess marine ecosystem health"*, the thesis should be of particular interest to BoFEP's Minas Basin WG, as it contains recommendations for work that needs to be done in the Basin in relation to monitoring programs and indicators pertaining to the overall health of the Basin.

7. Draft of Report on groundwater completed - Questions pertaining to sewage treatment and water quality arose at every almost every meeting of the Minas Basin Working Group. A common concern expressed was the lack of ready public access to information on water quality, including groundwater, and it was felt that a "state of water" report would help satisfy this need. As part of the Minas Basin Working Group's Integrated Management Project, John Gibb of Environment Canada undertook to prepare a report entitled: *"Groundwater Quality In The Minas Basin Watershed. An Overview of Issues and Groundwater Water Quality Information"*. This document is an important step towards improved knowledge of the "state of groundwater quality" in the Minas Basin Watershed. Part 1 includes a discussion of groundwater and groundwater-quality concepts, while Part 2 provides a description of previous groundwater studies in the Minas Basin Watershed. A draft of this report has been circulated for review and will soon be published in the Environment Canada Occasional Report series.

8. Tidal Barriers Database completed - A tidal barrier audit was initiated for New Brunswick in 2000 by the Conservation Council of New Brunswick (CCNB) and Environment Canada (EC). In 2001 EC and the Ecology Action Center (EAC) undertook a similar audit on the Nova Scotia side of the Bay, with the Salt Marsh and Restricted Tidal Systems (SMARTS) Working Group of BoFEP providing scientific support and expertise. The purpose of the audits was to assess whether the daily natural tidal flow to rivers and salt marshes is blocked or restricted and to identify sites that would be suitable candidates for restoration. Danika van Proosdij and Peter Dobek of Saint Mary's University have now completed the Nova Scotia Pilot Project of the Bay

of Fundy Tidal Barrier Project. This project, supported by the GOMCME - BoFEP Contribution Agreement, integrates the tidal barrier audits into a comprehensive digital spatial database and makes the results of the audits available on-line. Fact sheets for each of the barriers may be accessed interactively on an individual basis by selecting the barrier or geographical area of interest directly on maps displayed. Clicking on the barriers on the map links directly to the corresponding fact sheet in .pdf format. This database serves as a baseline to assess the cumulative impacts of tidal barriers in the Upper Bay of Fundy and as a platform for future research as well as provides much needed background information for future salt marsh restoration projects. The database will shortly be available on the BoFEP website.

B. Partner organizations and others:

9. New Director for ACER - In its 20th year of operation, ACER has a new Director, Dr. Anna Redden, who grew up in Windsor (NS) and attended Acadia and Memorial Universities between 1982 and 1994. Her 1986 M.Sc. thesis was a comparative study of the Atlantic silverside (*Menidia menidia*) in the Annapolis Estuary and Minas Basin and she was one of the first students to complete a graduate degree through ACER. At Memorial University, her Ph.D. project was part of a large-scale study of phytoplankton dynamics in Conception Bay, part of a national program on the productivity of cold ocean waters. She moved to Australia in 1994, and has been researching and teaching at Victoria, Monash and Newcastle Universities. She has been extensively involved in community-based collaborative studies of coastal watersheds in New South Wales, resulting in a ministerial appointment as a Catchment Management Board Member for the Department of Land and Water Conservation. She has also served as the Director of International Relations for the University of Newcastle. Anna's local knowledge of the Bay of Fundy and its research community, combined with her extensive experience abroad, are admirably suited to the position of ACER Director, and she will be a welcome addition to the BoFEP community. [Submitted by G.R. Daborn]

10. New Marine Resource Centre opens in St. Andrews - The Clarke House Resource Centre, located in a heritage building at 62 Princess Royal in downtown St. Andrews, was officially launched at an open house on July 14, 2005. The new Centre provides office space on a cost-sharing basis to local non-profit groups and presently houses the following organizations:

- *Centre for Community-based Resource Management* - Supports grassroots initiatives to manage and care for natural and social resources of coastal communities in Southwest NB.
- *St. Andrews Civic Trust* - Dedicated to preserving the architectural and cultural landscape of historic St. Andrews.
- *Fundy Baykeeper* - Conservation Council of NB - Defends the public's right to a healthy Bay of Fundy by investigating environmental threats and ensuring laws are enforced.
- *Fundy North Fishermen's Association* - Serves the needs of its members, independent small boat commercial fishermen from St. Martin's to St. Stephen.
- *Nature Trust of New Brunswick* - Works with private landowners to conserve New Brunswick's natural landscapes for the benefit of nature and future generations.

For more information about the new centre contact: Maria Recchia, Centre for Community-Based Resource Management , PO Box 3920, St. Andrews, NB E5B 3S7 Phone (506) 529-4157 e-mail: mariar@nb.sympatico.ca

11. GOMCME PEPC plans new educational resource site - The Public Education and Participation Committee (PEPC) of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment is putting together a virtual toolkit that will be a compilation of Gulf of Maine related marine education resources for educators. It is anticipated that the site will contain links to other websites that provide quality teacher-resources (such as lesson plans, classroom activities, images, maps of the region, and research/data). For more information about the project visit the GOMCME website at www.gulfofmaine.org or contact the toolkit coordinators- Barbara McMillan at: bmcmillan@des.state.nh.us (603) 271-7889 and Karin Hansen at: karinmhansen@yahoo.com (207) 729-8012

12. Saltwater Network update - The Saltwater Network SWN is a coalition of community-based organizations around the Gulf of Maine that works to support community-based management and conservation in the Gulf. The SWN was created in 2001 by and for community-based organizations around the Gulf of Maine to support community-based marine management. Many fishermen's organizations, local conservation groups and other community groups have adopted community-based management as a response to the economic, social and environmental crisis brought on by overfishing, privatization and overexploitation of non-renewable resources. The SWN, like an upwelling that circulates nutrients in the water, seeks to distribute human, economic, educational and social "nutrients" amongst the communities of the Gulf of Maine, in support of community-based management. In recent years SWN has supported two existing marine resource centres, helped launch four new resources centres, supported local organizations with a mini-grants program, provided bursaries for staff of participating organizations to learn about community-based management, and helped bring new grantmaking foundations into the Gulf of Maine - Bay of Fundy region. For information about the SWN contact the Executive Director Arthur Bull at info@saltwaternetwork.org or visit the website www.saltwaternetwork.org

13. Greening of Industry Network Conference at Acadia University - The next conference of the Greening of Industry Network (GIN) will be held at Acadia University, hosted by the [Arthur Irving Academy for the Environment](http://www.acadiah.edu/academy), from 20-22 October, 2005. The title of the conference is:

"Global Shifts and Regional Development: Innovating for Sustainable Energy, Agriculture, and Finance." information about both GIN and the conference can be obtained from academy@acadiau.ca , telephone: (902)585-1311 or by visiting www.greeningofindustry.org/gin2005-2.htm

14. GOMCME/NOAA Habitat Restoration Partnership - Request for Proposals - The Gulf of Maine Council/NOAA Habitat Restoration Partnership is requesting proposals for the 2005-2006 Habitat Restoration Grants Program. Grants are available to NGOs, municipalities, schools and tribal and state governments for habitat restoration projects located within the Gulf of Maine watershed. Proposals must be postmarked no later than *November 18, 2005*. To see the RFP for full details and to download the grant application, go to the Council's website,

www.gulfofmaine.org/habitatrestoration/ or contact: Jon Kachmar, Habitat Restoration Coordinator, Maine State Planning Office, 38 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333
Telephone: (207)287-1913 jon.kachmar@maine.gov

C. Fundy News Clips:

15. Public concern mounts over LNG Terminal in Passamaquoddy Bay - There is growing public concern and opposition over proposals by Quoddy Bay LLC and Downeast LNG to construct a Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) terminal in Maine on the shores of Passamaquoddy Bay. The terminal's storage facilities would be located in Robbinston ME, on the shore of the St. Croix Estuary, just across the Bay from picturesque St. Andrews. LNG tankers would have to transit Canadian waters to access the terminal. A major campaign is now underway by an organization named "Save Passamaquoddy Bay", a three nation alliance involving Canadians, Americans and members of the Passamaquoddy tribe. Up-to-date information about the project, an overview of the environmental concerns and news about the mounting opposition can be found at: www.savepassamaquoddybay.org or on the website of the St. Croix Estuary Project www.scep.org.

16. Digby Neck Quarry Updates - The proposed Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal Project is projected to take place on 150 hectares of land on Digby Neck. The quarry operations are expected to be year-round with approximately 40,000 tonnes of aggregate being exported by ship to the northeastern US every week, totaling two million tonnes per year. More information about the nature and scope of the quarry project can be found at: www.savedigbyneck.org

The Joint Panel reviewing the Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal project in Digby County, released the final Guidelines for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on March 31, 2005. These Guidelines provide direction to the proponent, Bilcon of Nova Scotia, Corporation, in preparing a statement of the anticipated effects of the project on the environment. Following the reception of the EIS from the proponent (anticipated sometime this fall), the public will be invited to assist in the EIS review by submitting written comments on the statement's conformity to the Guidelines, over a period of at least 90 days. Once the Panel has determined that the EIS is complete and that no additional information is required, public hearings will be scheduled. The final EIS Guidelines are available at www.savedigbyneck.org

Alastair McIntosh, author of "Soil and Soul: People versus Corporate Power", published by Aurum Press in 2002, gave a passionate presentation to about 75 people at the Digby Neck Consolidated School on June 6th. Alastair, who describes himself as a "human ecologist", was one of the major figures in a fight to stop a super quarry in the Outer Hebrides in Scotland that took 13 years to win. He noted that, while the proposed quarry on the Isle of Harris was larger than the proposed Whites Point quarry, it is ten times larger than the average large quarry in the UK. He drew a number of parallels between that battle and the one being waged locally including the fact that all the aggregate was to be exported, the number of jobs to be created was exaggerated, and personal lawsuits were filed. He suggested to those opposing the quarry that "If

you want to save your community, you have to get much less polite when dealing with a predatory industry." For further information go to www.savedigbyneck.org

17. National Geographic Adventure Magazine features Fundy - The July-August issue of National Geographic Adventure Magazine has a 11 page article on the Bay of Fundy focusing on Bay of Fundy Tourism partnership businesses. Also there is a new updated Bay of Fundy Tourism Partnership web site: www.bayoffundytourism.com . *[submitted by Tom Young]*

18. ADMINISTRIVIA

For more news items about BoFEP, the Bay of Fundy and beyond periodically check the BoFEP What's New page at: <http://www.bofep.org/fundynews.htm>. You can also check out the back issues of Fundy Tidings that are archived there.

If you would like to post an item in Fundy Tidings pertaining to BoFEP or the Bay of Fundy send it along to communications@bofep.org . The deadlines for submissions are: March 1st, June 1st, September 1st, December 1st.

Note: If you would like to be removed from the Fundy Tidings mailing list, simply e-mail a request to communications@bofep.org .