

FUNDY TIDINGS

Newsletter of the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP)

Issue #7 Spring 2005 [For up-to-date information about BoFEP meetings and other events visit: www.bofep.org/calendar.htm]

HEADLINES:

- 1. 6th BoFEP Workshop Proceedings now available**
 - 2. 7th BoFEP Workshop call for papers**
 - 3. BoFEP-GOMCME Agreement**
 - 4. Funding awards for 2005-2006 under the BoFEP-GOMCME Agreement**
 - 5. Minas Basin Working Group meets with Planners**
 - 6. Stephen Hawboldt finalist in Canadian Environmental Awards**
 - 7. Welcome Minas Basin WG Student Interns**
 - 8. Cooperation between BoFEP and SGSLCS**
 - 9. Reactivation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management Working Group**
 - 10. SMaRTS Working Group has productive spring Meeting**
 - 11. FNSN AGM (June 24-26)**
 - 12. Dynamic Atlas of the Gulf of Maine**
 - 13. NOTE: If you do not wish to receive Fundy Tidings**
-

1. 6th BoFEP Workshop Proceedings now available

Those of you who participated in the 6th Bay of Fundy Science Workshop last fall should have already received your copy of the Workshop Proceedings. If you haven't, you should contact Peter Wells at peter.wells@ec.gc.ca ASAP. CD-only copies of the complete Proceedings are also available from the same source. At first glance the Proceedings appear slimmer than in previous years. They are, in fact, much thicker. With each succeeding Workshop, the number of contributions has steadily risen, with an attendant increase in publication and mailing costs. We are now approaching the 500-page mark (480p to be exact)! Hence, it was essential to seek a less costly and more environmentally friendly way of disseminating the results. The current Proceedings contain a full table of contents, a comprehensive overview of all the paper and poster sessions, assorted introductory materials, text of four keynote presentations, summaries of round table discussions, minutes of the 2004 BoFEP Annual General Meeting, and the participants list. There is also an author index and a comprehensive general index. The CD inserted on the back cover contains the full Proceedings, including all papers or extended abstracts of oral and poster presentations, which are linked to the table of contents. The CD is searchable by keyword. We propose using this format for all future proceedings. Eventually, we plan to have the fully searchable text of all the proceedings and the other BoFEP publications (Fundy Issues, Working Group Reports etc.) on the BoFEP web site.

2. 7th BoFEP Workshop call for papers

No sooner do we have one successful Science Workshop under our belt than we start embarking on the planning of the next one. We extend a cordial invitation to join us for the 7th BoFEP Bay of Fundy Science Workshop at the Fairmont Algonquin Hotel in St. Andrews, NB, on October 25-27, 2006, hosted by the Huntsman Marine Science Centre. Gerhard Pohle and his team are already hard at work planning the program and coordinating all the local arrangements for what is shaping up to be a top-notch event in a particularly scenic part of the Maritimes..... not that you'll have much time to look at the scenery, but it'll be nice to know it's there!

The theme for the 7th Workshop is: "*Challenges in Environmental Management in the Bay of Fundy-Gulf of Maine*". Some of the possible session topics for which we are inviting papers and posters include:

- *Climate Change*
- *Cross-Border Issues*
- *Ecosystem Approaches: Theory and Practice*
- *Education and Public Awareness*
- *Environmental Monitoring and Indicators*
- *Fisheries and Aquaculture*
- *History and Future of Marine Labs*
- *Knowledge Integration*
- *First Nations and Community-based Programs*
- *Watershed Issues*

Other sessions may also be considered based on the range of abstracts submitted. For up-to-date information about the progress of the workshop planning check in regularly at:

http://www.bofep.org/2006_workshop.htm

3. BoFEP-GOMCME Agreement

Last year BoFEP and the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (GOMCME) moved to establish "a greater and more formal linkage between the two organizations" by signing a Contribution Agreement. This is similar to the existing relationship between the GOMCME and the Regional Association for Research on the Gulf of Maine (RARGOM). This Agreement will allow BoFEP to implement aspects of its workplan that are directly relevant to the goals and objectives of the 2001-2006 Gulf of Maine Council Action Plan, namely; Protect and Restore Coastal and Marine Habitats; Protect Human Health and Ecosystem Integrity; and Encourage Sustainable Maritime Activities. As part of this agreement GOMCME will provide financial assistance in the amount of \$10, 000US per year for three years in order that BoFEP can undertake project initiatives of mutual interest. The Agreement may be extended with the consent of both parties. The Gulf of Maine Management Team and representatives of the BoFEP

Management Committee will meet annually to review the progress of work carried out under the agreement and to develop the workplan for the subsequent year.

In addition to carrying out specific research initiatives, BoFEP also undertakes to augment the COMCME Action Plan by:

- Contributing to the scientific understanding of the Bay of Fundy ecosystem through focused research and studies/programs on contaminants, habitat restoration, and acting as the key information source for the Bay of Fundy and other northern parts of the GOM;
- Promoting effective communication and information exchange between the GOM Council and BoFEP members, and cross-linking information sources - GOM Council and BOFEP web sites, displays, joint fact sheets with both BOF and GOM information;
- Contributing to development of the 4th GOM Council Action Plan by bringing forward a consensus on priorities from Bay of Fundy stakeholders, starting the discussion at the 6th BoFEP Fundy Workshop, September, 2004;
- Providing consultation and scientific advice on issues of importance to the GOM;
- Implementing new research projects e.g. the GIS study of tidal barriers in the Bay of Fundy; and
- Expanding BoFEP to include more US representatives.

This formal linkage of the two groups is of great value for both groups. For the GOM Council, it engages a credible group that has been working for years on issues in the north-east GOM, i.e. the Bay of Fundy, hence offering tangible contributions from a multi-partner, community based group in partnership with government. For BoFEP, it ensures that specific projects of its working groups, its workshops and its communication efforts are linked with, reflect and benefit from work being conducted on/in the greater GOM, from research to communications and practical work in the field.

BoFEP has established an open, competitive process whereby relevant research projects or conservation activities in the Bay of Fundy can be considered for financial support under this Agreement. Specific BoFEP Projects being funded under the Agreement during the 2005-06 fiscal year are summarized in the following news item #4. *[Based on information provided by Pat Hinch]*

4. Funding awards for 2005-2006 under the BoFEP-GOMCME Agreement

The 2005-06 GOMCME grant is providing financial support to the following projects.

1) Development of a Series of Historical Digital Mosaics Depicting Change in Intertidal Habitat in the Minas Basin. - Danika van Proosdij, Department of Geography Saint Mary's University (\$4,990).

The purpose of this study is to assess and integrate all available historical aerial photography on salt marshes within the Southern Bight of the Minas Basin, into the comprehensive digital geodatabase initiated in 2004. This work will compliment on-going initiatives to quantify the

changes in ecosystem habitat in the Minas Basin. The air photo mosaics produced can then be used by researchers to explore why changes are occurring, ideally separating the natural versus anthropogenic impacts. The final product of this project is a georeferenced rectified air photo mosaic layer for each year of available historical aerial photography at low tide integrated into the GIS geodatabase. This database is being developed as a baseline for future research on the impacts of tidal barriers on intertidal ecosystems and is to be housed at St. Mary's University.

2) *Annapolis Watershed Salt Marsh Evaluation Project.* - Stephen Hawboldt Clean Annapolis River Project (\$5,000).

The study will examine the degree and cause of tidal restriction and the size and potential biological productivity of the site including contributing factors. Sites will be ranked as to their feasibility for restoration. Project outcomes include: an inventory of candidate salt marsh restoration sites in the western Annapolis Valley sites; the identification of priority candidate sites; development of restoration plans for high priority sites; and an initiation of protocols for pre-restoration baseline monitoring of priority sites.

3) *Lessons learned from recovering marshes: the hydrological network in abandoned dykelands.* - Gail Chmura, Department of Geography, McGill University (\$2,500).

This project is a study of vegetation distribution and production in relation to the altered hydrology documented in recovering marshes. The project will assess the responses of two recovering dykelands - John Lusby Sanctuary on the Cumberland Basin and Saints Rest March near St. John. Each marsh will be compared to a reference, or control marsh, Allen Creek/Wood Point on the Upper Bay and Dipper Harbour on the lower Bay, which have never been isolated from tidal flooding. Products of this study include: a digital spatial database of hydrological networks and elevation model; maps of modern hydrological networks at four marshes; maps of original hydrological networks of two dykes marshes; and a report of analyses of hydrological differences between reference and dyked marshes in the two parts of the Bay. *[Based on information provided by Pat Hinch and Donna Porter]*

5. Minas Basin Working Group meets with Planners

On April 7th, several members of the Minas Basin Working Group had a preliminary meeting with municipal and regional planners from around the Minas Basin. The objective was to develop a partnership between the Working Group and the planners in order to work together to maintain and improve the health of the Minas Basin through land-use planning in the coastal zone and watershed of the Minas Basin. Some of the topics broached in this initial meeting were priority impacts, jurisdictional issues, planning resources, possible pilot projects on priority issues, and the need for ongoing education of decision-makers about environmental issues and sustainable land-use. Both parties agreed that such a partnership would be mutually beneficial, with the Working Group serving as a scientific resource to planners and the planners serving as planning information resource to the Working Group. The Working Group will provide the planners with copies of its reports on the Minas Basin and planners will give a presentation on municipal planning at a meeting of the Minas Basin Working Group. A number of other possible

future cooperative activities were discussed, including convening a 1-2 day workshop for councilors, mayors, wardens, etc. to increase local decision-makers' understanding and appreciation for coastal and watershed planning in the Minas Basin region. *[Based on information provided by Justin Huston]*

6. Stephen Hawboldt finalist in Canadian Environmental Awards

Congratulations to Steve Hawboldt, Executive Director of the Clean Annapolis River Project (CARP) and member of the BoFEP Steering Committee, on being named a finalist in the Canadian Environmental Awards 2005 in the category of Restoration and Rehabilitation. The Awards will be presented by Stephane Dion, Minister of the Environment, at a Gala Dinner on June 6th in Toronto. David Suzuki will be the special guest speaker and will also receive a lifetime achievement award. For more details go to:

http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/cea2005/en/finalists_restoration.asp

7. Welcome Minas Basin WG Student Interns

Two student interns are working with the Minas Basin Working Group (MBWG) during the summer.

- Chris Perry-Giraud is working out of the Bedford Institute for 5 months, working on the Ecosystem Overview Report and likely some other things as well. Chris (from Nantes, France) is working towards a Masters degree in "Environment, Ground and Water" at the University of Rouen and this internship is his 3rd and final placement.
 - Jaime Vickers is working on developing a suite of environmental indicators for the Bay of Fundy, with a focus on the Minas Basin. She's working out of the Environment Canada office in Dartmouth with Peter Wells until mid-August. She is a Marine Affairs student at Dalhousie University. We extend a warm welcome to both students and wish them every success in their projects.
-

8. Cooperation between BoFEP and SGSLCS

All members were in attendance at the most recent Management Committee meeting on Saturday April 23rd. The meeting was held in Montague, Prince Edward Island to coincide with the Annual General Meeting of the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability (SGSLCS). This provided an opportunity to continue the dialogue between the two multi-stakeholder, regional groups and identify areas of common interest where there might be opportunities for cooperation. The dialogue began in November 2003 when representatives from both groups made presentations at an Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Network (EMAN) conference in Halifax, NS and reflected on some of their common interests. The dialogue continued at the BoFEP Annual General meeting last October, when Nadine Gauvin, Executive Director of the SGSLCS gave us an overview of the organization and its activities.

SGSLCS has many similar objectives to BoFEP but operates in a different body of water and watershed. At the recent meeting in Montague, BoFEP Management Committee members explained what BoFEP was all about to the assembled delegates. In the ensuing discussion it was clear that we do have many common interests and closer collaboration would be mutually beneficial. For instance, on some issues of broad regional applicability we might form joint Working Groups and also organize joint workshops focusing on topics of common concern. To facilitate such cooperation it was felt that the Management Committees of both groups might meet together periodically to discuss common interests and develop joint activities. You can learn more about the activities of the SGSLCS by visiting their Website at:

<http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca>

9. Reactivation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management Working Group

The Integrated Coastal Zone Management Group which has been dormant for some time is now in the process of being reactivated and revitalized. Colleen Mercer Clarke, Jennifer Smith and Mark TeKamp are now engaged in developing a Terms of Reference for the group for ratification at the next BoFEP Steering Committee meeting. Further information about this Working Group will be posted on the BoFEP Website <http://www.bofep.org/working.htm> . If you are interested in participating in this working group contact communications@bofep.org .

10. SMaRTS Working Group has productive spring Meeting

The Salt Marsh and Restricted Tidal Systems working group (SMaRTS) held their spring meeting at the Canadian Wildlife Service Regional Headquarters in Sackville, New Brunswick on May 11, 2005. Sixteen members attended and discussed a wide range of issues (topics) including various salt marsh restoration projects (e.g., Musquash marsh and Cheverie Creek), the ever growing SMU-EC-BoFEP-GOMCME tidal barriers database, and the upcoming 7th Bay of Fundy Science Workshop (in 2006). Meeting participants thanked Janice Harvey for her many years of service to SMaRTS as its Co-chair and selected Tony Bowron as its new Co-chair. Minutes of the meeting will be posted on the BoFEP web site in June of 2005. [*submitted by SMaRTS Co-Chair Jeff Ollerhead*]

11. FNSN AGM (June 24-26)

The 2005 Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists will be held from June 24-26, 2005 at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro. The Conference theme is the Acadian Forest and many interesting presentations and excursions pertaining to this theme are planned. At the Saturday banquet the guest speaker Rob Rainer, Director of Conservation with Nature Canada, will talk about "*Old Acadian Forest - New Conservation Values, Strategies and Imperatives*". For more information about the program and to obtain registration forms please visit: www.naturens.ca.

12. Dynamic Atlas of the Gulf of Maine

The Gulf of Maine Census of Marine Life has just announced the release of the Dynamic Atlas of the Gulf of Maine, the data and mapping portal of the Gulf of Maine Biogeographic Information System (GMBIS).

The website can be found via this link: <http://gmbis.iris.usm.maine.edu>

At this site, you can explore, download and map biological and biogeographical data from multiple sources. The goal of this site is to enhance our understanding of biological patterns in the Gulf of Maine, across space and time. The Dynamic Atlas of the Gulf of Maine and the Gulf of Maine Biogeographic Information System are part of the [Gulf of Maine Area Program of the Census of Marine Life](#). This first version of the website primarily offers datasets from the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans, plus additional features to help visualize the data in meaningful ways. In the coming months, the website will include more datasets, enhanced mapping capabilities, improved search features, and educational tools for students and teachers. *[Information from: Suzy Ryan, Project Specialist, Gulf of Maine Census of Marine Life]*

13. NOTE: If you do not wish to receive Fundy Tidings

Just ask communications@bofep.org to remove your name from the distribution list.

Bookmark and regularly visit the BoFEP Website www.bofep.org for the latest news about BoFEP and the Bay of Fundy.