

~ FUNDY TIDINGS ~

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

Autumn, 2006 ~ Issue #11

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 7th Science Workshop update

The upcoming BoFEP Science Workshop (October 25-27th at the Fairmont Algonquin, St. Andrews NB) is shaping up to be a well-attended, informative and stimulating event. Gerhard Pohle of the Huntsman Marine Science Centre (the host organization for the workshop) and his program committee have done an excellent job in putting together a first class workshop focused on the theme "Challenges in Environmental Management in the Bay of Fundy - Gulf of Maine". Oral presentations have been grouped into 12 diverse

sessions and an array of informative posters will also be on display. Many students have submitted excellent paper and poster abstracts, so once again, competition for the coveted student awards should be intense! The schedule of sessions, information for presenters and forms for registration and accommodation are all available on the BoFEP website at www.bofep.org/workshop2006.html . If you haven't yet registered yet, you should do so without delay especially if you need accommodation in St. Andrews. If you have any questions about the workshop send them along to workshop@bofep.org . Hope to see you all in St. Andrews!!!

2. BoFEP Annual General Meeting

The 2006 Annual General Meeting of the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership will be held in conjunction with the 7th BoFEP Science Workshop in St. Andrews, NB. The AGM will take place from 6:30 -8:00 p.m. on Wednesday October 25th at a venue to be announced later. All BoFEP members and any other interested individuals are invited/encouraged/urged to attend. Student members (and prospective ones) are particularly welcome to participate. A formal announcement and agenda for the meeting will be circulated later. Anyone who would like to raise particular issues at the AGM should contact the BoFEP Chair at chair@bofep.org . An election of members of the BoFEP Steering Committee will also take place at the AGM. If you are interested in re-offering or standing for nomination on this Committee you should contact the Chair well in advance. A list of the current members of the Steering committee (as well as of the 8-member Management Committee) can be found on the BoFEP Website at: www.bofep.org/steering.html. Information about the makeup and responsibilities of both these committees can be found at: <http://www.bofep.org/constitu.htm> .

3. Index of BoFEP publications now available

A "Cumulative Index to BoFEP Publications" is now available on CD. It comprises a comprehensive author and subject index in addition to the complete text (in PDF format) of the Proceedings of the first 6 BoFEP Science Workshops, the first 27 Fundy Issues fact sheets and the Bay of Fundy Coastal Forum. The CD also includes a gallery of candid photographs taken at the 6th Bay of Fundy Workshop in 2004. The index, methodically prepared by Susan Rolston and Peter Wells, is an invaluable tool for readily accessing the wealth of information archived in the rapidly growing stack of BoFEP publications. Copies of the index are available from communications@bofep.org or from Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP) Secretariat, Acadia Centre for Estuarine Research, Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia B4P 2R6

The editors encourage you to use this CD to access the information on the activities, initiatives and research of individuals, community groups and researchers working on Bay of Fundy marine ecosystem processes and concerns. They welcome comments (communications@bofep.org) on the content and usefulness of the cumulative index and its presentation, and suggestions on how to improve access to this information. The index will eventually be available on the BoFEP website.

4. New chair for Eelgrass Working Group

Al Hanson of CWS in Sackville, NB has stepped down as Chair/Coordinator of the Eelgrass Working Group. BoFEP extends warmest thanks to Al for his efforts in setting up

the group and guiding it through its formative years, including organizing a very successful workshop. Herb Vandermuelen of DFO, Bedford Institute of Oceanography in Dartmouth NS has graciously agreed to assume the role of Working Group Chair. The goal of this working group is to support and facilitate collaboration, networking, and information exchange about eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) in the Bay of Fundy and elsewhere in eastern Canada. Specific interests of the Working Group include:

- The current distribution and abundance of eelgrass.
- Trends in eelgrass distribution.
- Ecological significance of eelgrass
- Identifying reasons for change in eelgrass distribution and abundance.
- Methods to reduce negative impacts on eelgrass
- Methods of eelgrass restoration

Anyone interested in participating in this Working Group should contact Herb at vandermeulenh@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

5. In-kind contributions to BoFEP

BoFEP normally operates on a surprisingly small cash budget provided largely by a limited number of mostly governmental sponsors, the most notable of which over the years has been Environment Canada. However, BoFEP's remarkable record of achievement has largely been possible because of the ongoing provision of an immense amount of in-kind support by a wide range of governmental, private, academic and organizational contributors in the form of supplies, work/meeting space, equipment use, expertise, services, person-hours and assorted external contracts.

It is very important that BoFEP keep a reasonably accurate accounting of the value of this in-kind support that is being leveraged as a result of the much smaller infusion of actual cash. Such information is invaluable in bolstering proposals for additional financial support from existing and new funders. The Management Committee and Treasurer have wrestled with this question for some time and have finally developed a standard procedure for in-kind contributors to have their donations formally recorded. An appropriate form can now be downloaded from the BoFEP website in either Word or PDF formats at www.bofep.org/bofep_forms.htm . Completed form can be submitted either quarterly or at the end of a fiscal year. Coordinators and members of active Working Groups should provide a record of their participation in the group's meetings and other relevant activities. Likewise, members of the Steering and Management Committees and any other BoFEP members acting on the organization's behalf should submit a form periodically. The estimation of in-kind value reported is based on each contributor's own best judgment. Please download a form template and complete and submit a copy periodically to the Treasurer.

B. Partners and other organizations:

6. Thesis on potential Conservation Areas in the Bay of Fundy

BoFEP member Victoria Sheppard has given permission to post a copy of her December 2004 MES Thesis *"Developing a Strategic Framework for National Marine Conservation Area Establishment in the Bay of Fundy"* on the BoFEP Website at www.bofep.org/publications.htm.

Abstract: One of Canada's options for conservation using the marine reserve approach is Parks Canada's National Marine Conservation Areas (NMCAs) program. Parks Canada has divided Canada's oceans and Great Lakes into twenty-nine distinct marine regions, of which the Bay of Fundy is one. With its high level of unique biological diversity and human activity, the Bay of Fundy may be a good candidate site for pursuing NMCA establishment in the near future. However, it is critical not to base NMCA establishment decisions solely on a biophysical foundation without considering the social condition and interests of the region. This study explores the potential for NMCA establishment in the Bay of Fundy by examining the current views of various members of the broadly defined Bay of Fundy community. Qualitative research, in the form of interviews, was conducted around the Bay of Fundy perimeter to answer two primary research questions: where in the Bay of Fundy would the community be most supportive of pursuing talks on this idea; and what process of engagement would be the most appropriate to pursue to increase the likelihood of success?

The research identified the St. Mary's Bay/Brier Island region, on the Nova Scotia side of the outer Bay of Fundy, as being the location with the highest likelihood of success in the Bay. Especially when compared to the New Brunswick side of the outer Bay and the inner Bay of Fundy, there is considerable opportunity in the St. Mary's Bay/Brier Island region to pursue further discussions on NMCA establishment in the region. This study also resulted in a possible framework for NMCA establishment in the Bay of Fundy. The results highlight important initial steps that might be taken in order to optimize the chance of success. These steps include: recognizing lessons learned and the damage of past mistakes; building trust; finding non-governmental project leaders from the local community; ensuring early involvement and commitment from all partners and stakeholder groups; establishing a non-governmental secretariat to guide the project; developing a broad education campaign to generate public support; and the securing of funds and other resources.

7. Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate (MAARS)

The Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate (MAARS) is an aquatic resources and oceans management collaborative partnership of the communities of Mi'Kmaq, Malicite and Passamaquoddy Aboriginal Peoples who continue to reside on traditional ancestral homeland territories throughout the Maritime Region on the East Coast, including around the Bay of Fundy. MAARS was launched in January of 2005 as part of a multi-year Aboriginal Aquatic Resources and Oceans Management (AAROM) program by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Based in Truro, NS, MAARS will help aboriginal communities chart a course for viable economic growth in the fisheries, acquire aquatic resources knowledge, promote a sustainable aquatic and oceans living environment, and create a climate for effective and direct participatory involvement in decision making. MAARS publishes a quarterly communiqué "Voice of the Ocean" that provides information about the organization and its activities. This newsletter (along with a great

deal of other information) is also available on the organization's website at <http://www.mapcmaars.ca/> .

8. Larry Hildebrand interviewed on coastal management

Long-time BoFEP supporter Larry Hildebrand of Environment Canada in Dartmouth is featured (along with a flattering photo!) in an extensive interview in the Summer 2006 edition of the Gulf of Maine Times. Entitled *"Building a case for sound coastal management - at home and abroad"*, the interview by GOM Editor Andi Rierden explores some of Larry's articulate and carefully thought out insights on this important topic. She began by asking him: *"Are we better prepared to handle development pressures in the Bay of Fundy?"* He responded: *"We're certainly better prepared than we were 30 years ago, but not to the fullest extent that we need to be. The problem is, we're caught in a cycle of just reacting. A development comes along, like an LNG, and we go 'oh dear, got to get the data together, start a campaign, find out who's against it and who's for it.' Instead, we need to look at these projects in advance of them coming along and decide, for instance, that for the Bay of Fundy, given its natural capital, its uses and the vision we have for it, would LNG tankers coming through be appropriate or not? And that's not for one group to say. It needs to be a collective decision among government, researchers and the community and we're simply not there yet. It's really hard in coastal and ocean management to get people to pay attention when there isn't a crisis or obvious problem. Yet that's the best time to do the planning."*

Larry also recognized BoFEP's recent efforts in this regard by adding: *"Research in the Minas Basin being done through the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership is a good start in moving toward a coastal management plan for the Bay"*. The text of the complete interview can be found at: <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/times/summer2006/editorsnotes.html>

C. Fundy and other news:

9. DFO cold water coral conservation plan

The final version of the Coral Conservation Plan for the Maritimes Region (2006-2010) is available from the ESSIM Planning Office and online <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Library/322312.pdf>. Contact Heather Breeze if you would like a hard copy (breezeh@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca) (tel: 902-426-9851).

The document notes that "while Atlantic Canadian corals have been known to scientists since the late 1800s, concern about their status and vulnerabilities to human impacts have only come to attention of the public in the last ten years. This concern has fostered a renewed interest in scientific research on corals." It also points out that "two major groups of corals – about 25 to 30 species in total – occur or are thought to occur in the waters off the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia. At least two or three of those species occur off the southwest coast of New Brunswick in the Bay of Fundy and further directed research may find other species. The species found in the Bay of Fundy are soft coral species, which are considered to be less sensitive than other corals. For that reason, the plan focuses on the corals found off the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia, including the deep basins of the Gulf of Maine."

10. Long distance tracking of Bay of Fundy Shearwaters

Laurie Murison of the Grand Manan Whale and Seabird Research Station reports that this summer a team of researchers attached satellite transmitters to the backs of 6 Greater Shearwaters. These seabirds have subsequently departed the Bay on their long, arduous migration to their breeding islands in the South Atlantic. Anyone interested can follow the birds' slow progress by regularly checking the website:

http://www.seaturtle.org/tracking/index.shtml?project_id=176 . The movements of the individual birds are updated regularly on the map and the site provides information about actual distances flown as well as straight-line distance from the start point. There is also information about the project, the individual birds (including their names) and the project sponsors.

11. Oilspill Response Workshop

The NATO Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society "3rd Workshop on Oil Spill Response" will be held 12-13 October 2006 at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. For more information visit:

<http://www.nato.int/ccms/2006/060530e.htm>

12. Aquaculture Workshop

The Workshop "Aquaculture Canada 2006" will be held 19-22 November 2006 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The theme is "Culturing Quality and Confidence". For more information visit: <http://www.aquacultureassociation.ca/AC06/index.html>