

~ FUNDY TIDINGS ~

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

Spring, 2006

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A. BoFEP AND ITS ACTIVITIES

1. BoFEP 7th Science Workshop Updates

Deadline for Abstracts extended - Organizers of the workshop have announced that the deadline for submission of abstracts for papers and poster to be presented at the workshop has been extended to April 30th, 2006. Submission guidelines and other information about the workshop can be found at <http://www.bofep.org/workshop2006.htm>. Abstracts should be sent to workshop@bofep.org .

Best student papers and posters awards - once again prizes will be awarded for the best student papers and posters presented at the 7th Workshop. Competition was keen at the 6th workshop and we are hoping that once again many students conducting research in the Bay or its watershed will accept the challenge to present their work during one of the regular workshop sessions. If you know of any students who are carrying out Fundy related research please pass the invitation along to them. More information can be found at <http://www.bofep.org/workshop2006.htm>. The abstract deadline is April 30th, 2006.

SMaRTS Working Group promoting saltmarsh session - A request has been made to the organizers of the upcoming BoFEP workshop (Oct. 25-27 in St. Andrews NB) to have one or two (depending on interest) sessions organized by the SMaRTS (Salt Marsh and Restricted Tidal Systems) Working Group. Presentations on salt marsh research, restoration, monitoring, etc. would be welcome. The deadline for abstract submission has been extended to April 30, 2006 so we encourage members of this group to attend and present their research. Details of the workshop and instructions for abstract submission can be found at <http://www.bofep.org/workshop2006.htm>

Workshop registration forms online - Most of you will have already received the Workshop registration packages by mail. If not, registration forms and other documents pertaining to the workshop can be found at <http://www.bofep.org/workshop2006.htm>. You should also update your mailing address by sending a note to secretariat@bofep.org.

2. New Fundy Issue Available -

Fundy Issue number 27 entitled "*Parlous POPs: Persistent Organic Pollutants in the Bay of Fundy*" is just being printed and will be available for distribution shortly. A copy will also soon be posted on the BoFEP Website.

3. Recent Publications Added to BoFEP Website:

The following publications can be downloaded from the BoFEP Website at:

<http://www.bofep.org/publications.htm>

a) *Investigations of the Reference Condition Approach and Intertidal Ecology of Minas Basin, Bay of Fundy, with Reference to the Impacts of Intertidal Harvesting.* Maxine C. Westhead. 2005. 138+x pages. [PDF format]

b) *Environmental and resource management in Minas Basin, Bay of Fundy – the role of appropriate indicators and indices to assess marine ecosystem health.* Jaime Ann Vickers. August 2005. 77+ix pages. [PDF format]

c) Conservation and Local Communities: Exploring the Upper Bay of Fundy Biosphere Reserve Initiative in Nova Scotia. Caroline Canning, August 2005, 171+xii pages. [PDF format]

d) Thirty Year Assessment of the Cornwallis Estuary Evolution: Aerial Photograph and GIS analysis. Christian Perry-Giraud, September 2005, 65+viii pages. [PDF format]

4. BoFEP Secretariat Changes

During recent personnel changes at the Acadia Centre for Estuarine Research (ACER), Nancy Roscoe Huntley, presently with the Acadia Biology Department, stepped in to handle the BoFEP Secretariat functions for a number of months. Many of you will remember that Nancy competently filled this role a few years back, so it was great to have her back on board again, if only for a short time. Our thanks to Nancy, the Biology Department and ACER for juggling things to help us out in a pinch. We are delighted to welcome Leanna McDonald in her dual role as Administrative Assistant at ACER and the person responsible for the BoFEP Secretariat. In addition, Anna Redden, the new Director of ACER has graciously accepted the appointment as the official secretary of BoFEP.

5. Author of 2004 BoFEP Workshop Best Student Paper off to Madagascar

Ashley Sprague whose paper "Factors Affecting Movement of Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Calidris pusilla*) Migrating Through the Upper Bay of Fundy" received first place as best student paper presented at the 2004 BoFEP Science Workshop, has successfully defended her thesis at UNB Fredericton. She is presently working as a marine field scientist in Madagascar on a one-year posting with www.blueventures.org. She will continue to serve (virtually!) as a member of the Steering Committee of BoFEP, although she obviously won't be attending any meetings in person until her return. Congratulations on the thesis defense Ashley and we look forward to hearing about your activities in Madagascar when you get back. We also wish to recognize Romney McPhie, another student (at Dalhousie) serving on the BoFEP Steering Committee. It bodes well for the future of BoFEP to have the active involvement of such young and upcoming scientists.

6. Annapolis Basin Saltmarsh Report Available Online

A 32 page report by Denise Sullivan, with the Clean Annapolis River Project (CARP) and the SMaRTs Working Group, entitled "Annapolis Watershed Salt Marsh Evaluation: Surveying Tidal Barriers Along the Annapolis Basin" is now available online in PDF format at: <http://www.annapolisriver.ca/downloads/annapolissaltmarsh.pdf> . The Annapolis Watershed Salt Marsh Evaluation Project identified a short-list of

potential salt marsh restoration sites throughout the Annapolis Basin and area. A total of 27 salt marsh sites, including 20 aboiteau and culvert barriers, were evaluated during the summer and autumn of 2005. Additional information was collected on four short-listed potential sites, from which two were deemed high priorities. The project was partially financially supported by BoFEP as Part of the BoFEP- GOMCME Cooperation Agreement.

B. PARTNERS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

7. Nature Nova Scotia conference looks at our changing natural history

On the weekend of May 26-28th, 2006 the Annapolis Field Naturalists' Society will be hosting the Annual General Meeting and Conference of *Nature Nova Scotia - the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists* at the Annapolis Basin Conference Centre in Cornwallis, NS. This Conference will bring together naturalists from all across the province for a weekend of informative talks and stimulating field trips. The theme for the conference is: "*Our Natural 'History': Changing Lands and Waters*". Additional information about the Conference and Nature Nova Scotia can be found on the web at www.naturens.ca

8. Ecology Action Centre (EAC) has a new home

EAC has acquired spacious new premises located at 2705 Fern Lane, between Agricola and Robie Streets (2 blocks north of North St.) and is now actively engaged in renovating the facility in the most environmentally friendly, green fashion possible. Peter Henry Architects to help to plan and rebuild the new space and the hope is to move in early 2006. For volunteer opportunities, house information and regular updates visit www.ecologyaction.ca/newhome

9. EAC Coastlines Column Needs Writers

Ecology Action Centre's Coastlines column is looking for a few good writers! They are looking for short submissions (350-400 words) about the natural and human history of Nova Scotia's coasts and coastal habitats. They'd like to have some fresh voices for this public education column that appears in newspapers throughout Nova Scotia. With permission of EAC, articles pertaining to the Bay of Fundy are posted on the BoFEP Website at <http://www.bofep.org/articles.htm> For more details, please see <http://ecologyaction.ca/coastline>

C. FUNDY AND OTHER NEWS

10. ESSIM Coral Conservation Plan Update

The ESSIM (Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management) Planning Office has compiled the comments received on the draft Coral Conservation Plan and prepared a written response to these comments. To obtain a copy of this document, please contact Heather Breeze at the ESSIM Planning Office (breezeh@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca or 902-426-9851). The final Coral Conservation Plan will be released soon.

11. Species-At-Risk Update

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) has recommended that several species/populations found in the Maritimes Region be added to Schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act. These are: winter skate (Eastern Scotian Shelf population, threatened); winter skate (Georges Bank/Bay of Fundy/Western Scotian Shelf population, special concern); shortnose sturgeon (special concern); and striped bass (Bay of Fundy population, threatened). Your opinion is now being sought to assist the government of Canada in making an informed decision about adding these species to SARA. Meetings are being held in the region and consultation workbooks are available for these species on the [SARA Public Registry](#) or by contacting the SARA Regional Coordination Office at 1-866-891-0771 or by email XMARSARA@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

12. More on Fundy Tidal Power

Report on potential sites available - The report entitled "Nova Scotia Tidal In-Stream Energy Conversion (TISEC): Survey and Characterization of Potential Project Sites" is available at <http://www.epri.com/oceanenergy/streamenergy.html#reports>. The Minas Channel and Minas Basin were identified as the only TISEC sites in North America with the potential for central power generation.

Firm hopes turbines will drive Bay of Fundy tidal power. A Windsor company wants to harness the Bay of Fundy's immense tidal power to generate electricity. ATEC Power Inc. has reached an agreement with an American company, UEK Corp., to use its tidal turbine technology to build and use these underwater turbines in Atlantic Canada. -Article in Halifax Chronicle Herald, March 24, 2006 by Judy Myrden, Business Reporter. For complete story go to: <http://www.herald.ns.ca/Search/492121.html>