

~ *FUNDY TIDINGS* ~

The Quarterly Newsletter of the

Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP)

May, 2007 ~ Spring Issue

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 Facing Funding Crunch

The end of the 2006-2007 fiscal year finally arrived without BoFEP receiving its long anticipated funding from Environment Canada. The organization is thus facing a serious financial crunch. In spite of this, several working groups are pushing ahead with their meetings and other activities and the Management Committee is meeting regularly by

conference call to address the funding issue and ensure the continuation of core BoFEP activities and functions. However, a meeting of the Steering Committee is long overdue - travel funds are non-existent and it is just not feasible for such a large group to participate meaningfully in a conference call. A meeting will be scheduled as soon as circumstances permit. A revised application for funding for 2007-2008 has been prepared and submitted to Environment Canada.

In the meantime, a newly created Outreach Committee has also been working actively to identify and develop ways for BoFEP to broaden and strengthen its links with industry, First Nation and other government agencies. It is particularly looking to find ways to tailor BoFEP's considerable expertise and knowledge resources to the needs of such potential partner groups. The Committee is also tasked with identifying new funding sources and also developing new initiatives for raising funds in support of ongoing BoFEP operations and programs. One possibility being considered is expanding our very successful efforts at organizing local forums and workshops on important issues confronting the Bay and its coastal communities. Another controversial approach that may have to be reconsidered is charging a membership fee for BoFEP.

2. BoFEP 7th Workshop Proceedings Nearly Ready

Peter Wells and Susan Rolston have been working diligently on the final editing/formatting of the Proceedings of the 7th Bay of Fundy Workshop held last October in St. Andrews NB. It is now essentially ready for publication. However, the above mentioned funding crunch precludes printing paper copies at this time and even digital copies on CD are beyond our reach at the moment. The plan is, for the time being at least, to make the Proceedings available on the BoFEP Website in PDF format. Hopefully, sufficient funding will eventually be found to allow us to make it available in other formats.

3. Fishermen Concerned about Impacts of Minas Basin Tidal Power

Late in February, BoFEP received a letter from Mark Taylor, a fisherman in the Minas Basin who has concerns about the proposed tidal power developments in that area. Mark has given us permission to share his letter with the broader BoFEP membership. It highlights the economic importance of the fisheries in the Basin, something that is not widely appreciated. BoFEP's Minas Basin Working Group is also reviewing Mark's letter and assessing how it might be able to help address this particular issue.

"To Who it May Concern:

I am writing in regards to a meeting I attended in Wolfville Nova Scotia February 22 regarding the Tidal Power Project [ed: see item x below]. I am a lobster and scallop fisherman in the Minas Basin. I have fished there for over 30 years and have just recently heard about the turbines being put in the Minas Basin. Nova Scotia Power and Open Hydro proposes the turbines to be put in between Cape Split and Parrsboro, crossing the entire channel.

I have concerns with the exclusions of fishing for this entire zone. The lobster, Northern Shark (dogfish) and the fish dragging fishery in the Minas Basin is a successful fishery for a large number of fisherman. It will directly effect eleven Class A lobster licenses and one Class B lobster license. It will also directly effect twelve ground fish long line licenses and four

ground fish generalist licensees. Closing the proposed area will affect all of District 35 as these boats will have to find new fishing ground. This as it stands at present, is an eight to ten million dollar a year industry. I have spent over a quarter of a century to become successful in the lobster fishery in the Minas Basin.

Nova Scotia power in my opinion, is hiding behind the environmental issues, claiming it will not hurt the environment. In fact, it is just the opposite. The Minas Basin is where fish and lobster go to migrate, molt and spawn due to the warmer waters of the Minas Basin. I have concerns on how this will affect the lobster migration due to the generators, electrical fields and the cables on the ocean floor. It is unknown what can happen when the tides are disturbed, using the Windsor Causeway in NS and the Petticodiac River in Moncton, NB for an example.

Kings, Cumberland and Colchester Counties may be known for their agriculture but in fact it is also a viable fishing industry with no environmental cost. The proposed turbines will only generate a small amount of power and to myself and the other fisherman, this is a high price to pay to consider wiping out the entire future of the Upper Bay of Fundy Fishery.

*Sincerely,
Mark Taylor''*

4. Report on GOMCME Publications and their Use

Ruth Cordes, Bertrum MacDonald and Peter Wells, members of BoFEP's Fundy Informatics Working Group and also with the School of Information Management and the School for Resource and Environmental Studies at Dalhousie University, recently produced a report entitled "Gulf of Maine Council Publications and Their Use". The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment has produced a large and diverse body of publications since it was established in 1989. The authors of this report conducted an extensive citation analysis to understand usage of the Council's publications. This report includes a bibliography of Council publications and recommendations for improving the Council's publication practices. A copy (PDF, 2.64 MB) can be downloaded from the Council Website at: <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/publications>.

5. Thierry Chopin New President of International Seaweed Association

BoFEP extends hearty congratulations to one of its members, Thierry Chopin, Professor of Marine Biology at the University of New Brunswick in Saint John, on being elected (for a three-year term) President of the International Seaweed Association (ISA) during the 19th International Seaweed Symposium, held in Kobe, Japan, March 26-31, 2007. The ISA is an international organization dedicated to the encouragement of research, development and commercialization of seaweeds and seaweed products. Its mission is to promote applied phycology on a global basis, and to stimulate interactions among researchers and industrialists involved in basic and applied biology, ecophysiology, biochemistry, molecular biology, biotechnology, responsible resource management and conservation, and cultivation and processing of seaweeds and their products.

6. In Memoriam - John Gibb

BoFEP was saddened to learn of the passing in mid March of one of its members, John Gibb. John was a hydrogeologist with Environment Canada for 28 years until his retirement on May 10, 2006. He was a member of Atlantic Well Drillers Association and many other organizations having to do with his work. John was also an active member of the Minas Basin Working Group and had been collaborating with Peter Wells in producing a report entitled: *"Groundwater Quality in the Minas Basin Watershed - An Overview of Issues and Groundwater Water Quality Information"*. It is anticipated that once final editing is completed this report will be made available on the BoFEP Website.

B. Partners and other organizations:

7. Tidal Energy Workshop

On the evening of February 22nd a public forum on Tidal Power was held at Acadia University , with 180-200 people in attendance. This forum, jointly organized by the NS Department of Energy, the Offshore Energy and Environmental Research group and the Arthur Irving Academy of the Environment, was moderated by Graham Daborn, Director of the last organization. Overview presentations on the technology, the policy implications and the environmental effects of the proposed development were given by Nancy Rondeaux of NS Department of Energy, Sandra Farwell, a provincial government energy policy analyst and Andre Casavant, an Environmental Consultant. A panel comprising NS Power spokesman Terry Toner, Les Smith of the Clean Annapolis River Project, and Mark Taylor, a local fisherman provided additional commentary on the presentations and fielded many questions from the audience. The Provincial Government has identified tidal power as one of its top priorities and dedicated 2.6 million dollars to assessing its potential in the Minas Basin region. On the following day there was an invitation only workshop, hosted by the Arthur Irving Academy on the Environment, to discuss in more detail various aspects of tidal power development. It is anticipated that a Proceedings document summarizing these deliberations will eventually be published.

8. 2007 Conference of the Atlantic Coastal and Estuarine Science Society (ACCESS)

The 2007 Conference of the Atlantic Coastal and Estuarine Science Society (ACCESS) will be held 16-17 May 2007, in Sydney, Nova Scotia - For more details visit:

<http://faculty.capebretonu.ca/mjones/access/>.

9. New editor at GOM Times

Earlier this year, Andi Rierden stepped down as editor of the Gulf of Maine Times after six years of exceptional journalistic and editorial activity. We thank her for her dedication and enthusiasm in putting together so many wonderfully informative issues and wish her well in her new journalistic endeavors. The new editor is former staff writer and assistant editor Lori Valigra. Cathy Coletti has joined the publication as assistant editor. Starting this year, The GOM Times will be produced three times a year, rather than quarterly. This is largely attributable to changing reader preferences from printed to online electronic publications. Speaking of which, the new editor invites you sign up for a free electronic subscription to the Times. Periodically you will be notified by e-mail about a newly minted edition of the

periodical, which you can then read online at your convenience. To subscribe visit: <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/quicksubscription.php> , where you will be able to either sign up for an electronic subscription only, or choose to have a free printed copy mailed to you as well. The Gulf of Maine Times is circulated to some 10,000 people with a professional or personal interest in the Gulf of Maine. Through feature articles, profiles, book reviews, and essays, the Gulf of Maine Times covers social, environmental, and scientific issues that affect the Gulf.

10. GOMCME Action Plan Grants Program 2007 - RFP

A reminder that proposal submissions the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Action Plan Grants Program for 2007 are due by May 15, 2007. The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment seeks applications from non- governmental organizations to achieve specific outcomes in its new five-year Action Plan (2007-2012), www.gulfofmaine.org/actionplan and its three long-term goals:

Goal 1: Coastal and marine habitats are in a healthy, productive, and resilient condition.

Goal 2: Environmental conditions in the Gulf of Maine support ecosystem and human health.

Goal 3: Gulf of Maine coastal communities are vibrant and have marine-dependent industries that are healthy and globally competitive.

The Council invites eligible organizations to apply for funding made available through a US Congressional appropriation administered by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to work toward these goals. Online applications are preferred, please submit them at: www.gulfofmaine.org/actionplan/grant/apply/overview.php

Hard copy versions of the RFP can be downloaded and printed from:

[2007 Action Plan Grants RFP 3.26.07.doc](#) (MS Word, 84 Kb)

[2007 Action Plan Grants RFP 3.26.07.pdf](#) (Adobe Acrobat, 140 Kb)

11. 34th Aquatic Toxicity Workshop

The 34th Annual Aquatic Toxicity Workshop will be held at the Westin Nova Scotia Hotel, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Sept. 30th to Oct. 3rd, 2007. This year, the theme is "*Navigating New Waters*". This multidisciplinary meeting brings together 300-350 students and researchers from academia, non-government, government and industry with interests in biochemistry, biology, chemistry, environmental, geochemical, geology, immunology, microbiology, modelling, physiology and other related fields. You can find more information about proposed sessions and registration at www.atw.ca.

C. Fundy/GOM and other News:

12. Musquash Estuary - Canada's Newest Marine Protected Area

On March 7, 2007 the Musquash Estuary became Canada's Newest Marine Protected Area and the first MPA in New Brunswick. An MPA is a unique marine area designated for special management and protection under Canada's *Oceans Act*. Located on the coast of

the Bay of Fundy, approximately 20 kilometres southwest of Saint John, the Musquash is one of the last ecologically intact estuaries in the Bay of Fundy region and is an area of high biological productivity and varied coastal habitats. The New Brunswick provincial government has transferred 1150 hectares (or 11.5 square km) of Musquash Crown lands to the federal government. There are now six MPAs throughout Canada.

For the complete press release about the designation visit:

http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/media/newsrel/2007/mar04_e.htm.

and for detailed background information about the Musquash Estuary visit:

http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/media/backgrou/2007/mar01_e.htm

13. Nova Scotia Acquires More of Cape Split

On March 15, 2007 the NS Department of Natural Resources announced that the province is finalizing the purchase of another 147.5 hectares (364.5 acres) adjacent to Crown land at Cape Split, Kings Co., as part of its special property acquisition program. Eight parcels of land are being purchased from several owners for a total of \$1,042,000. The province acquired 280 hectares (700 acres) at the tip of the Blomidon peninsula in 2002. Earlier, on Feb. 22, the province had confirmed that it had also purchased 699 hectares (1,727 acres) of prime Nova Scotia property for recreational and tourism opportunities, coastal access, inland waterways and wildlife habitat. *[Based on DNR Press release]*

14. International Sewage Conference in Moncton

An International Water Association Specialist Conference entitled "*Moving Forward: Wastewater Biosolids Sustainability - Technical, Managerial, and Public Synergy*" will be held June 24-27, 2007 in Moncton NB. The organizers note that "*As not all countries, or areas within countries, are producing, treating or disposing of biosolids/sludge with the same degree of knowledge, quality, public acceptance, success, or management and operational controls, it is our intent to host a 'Big Picture' conference*".

Wastewater operators, managers, administrators, scientists, researchers, regulators and other stakeholders will all benefit from knowing about the concerns and challenges of each other. History has shown that the best science in the world is not sufficient if the general public lacks confidence in the science; so there will be conference "streams" dealing with the management and public relations sides of biosolids/sludge. On the science/technical side, the conference will feature leading research and scientific papers on advancements in the science of biosolids/sludge treatment. For more information visit the conference website at:

<http://www.iwabiosolidsmoncton2007.ca/home/index.cfm>

15. Massachusetts publishes Draft of Wetlands Restoration Plan

The Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management has just posted a draft of its Great Marsh Coastal Wetlands Restoration Plan. The Draft Plan is an online web site intended to help communities in the Great Marsh region identify and facilitate the restoration of degraded and former coastal wetland habitats. The web site presents maps, photos, and descriptions of 121 potential and completed salt marsh restoration sites.

Visit: http://www.mass.gov/czm/wrp/planning_pages/gmplan/home.htm

For additional information on the Draft Plan contact Beth Suedmeyer at:
beth.suedmeyer@state.ma.us

16. Innovative Land Use Planning Techniques in New Hampshire

New Hampshire's Regional Planning Commissions, in conjunction with the NH Department of Environmental Services and others, have been working on the development of an innovative land use guide that will serve as a toolkit for municipal officials concerned with managing sustainable growth in their communities. It is anticipated that the guide, which will include a 2nd volume focusing on Water Resource Management, will be ready for release in the fall of 2007. Currently several chapters are available in their final draft form at: <http://www.swrpc.org/assistance/guide.htm>.

17. New Journal on North Atlantic

The Journal of the North Atlantic (JONA) is a new multi-disciplinary, peer-reviewed and edited scientific journal focusing on the peoples of the North Atlantic, their expansion into the region over time, and their interactions with their changing environment. The first issue will appear in March 2008. For information about the new journal visit:

<http://www.eaglehill.us/jonageninf.html>

The "First Call for Papers and Subscriptions" and "Instructions for Authors" are available on this site as a PDF downloads.

The Journal of the North Atlantic is intended to serve as a forum for researchers, and as an information resource for teachers, students, and the intellectually curious who would like to learn about the latest research and study opportunities within the region. The journal will be published in print and online versions. The journal will publish a wide diversity of research papers, as well as research summaries and general interest articles in closely related disciplines, which, when considered together, will help contribute to a comprehensive multidisciplinary understanding of the historical interplay between cultural and environmental changes in the North Atlantic world. Specifically, the journal's focus will include paleo-environmental reconstruction and modelling, historical ecology, anthropology, ecology of organisms important to humans, archaeology, human/environment/climate interactions, climate history, ethnography, ethnohistory, historical analyses, discussions of cultural heritage, and place-name studies. The journal will also publish field observations, notes, and archaeological site reports, as well as book reviews, summaries of important news stories, opinion papers, and free brief announcements of meetings, symposia, conferences, and grant opportunities.

18. Illustrated booklet on the American Eel Available

The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment has created a twelve-page booklet entitled "*American eels: Restoring a vanishing resource in the Gulf of Maine*" that describes the American eel and the challenges and methods for its restoration in the Gulf of Maine region. The American eel presents challenges to conservation because its vast range spans political boundaries and habitats. Written for resource managers and other coastal decision makers in government, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, the beautifully illustrated booklet includes maps, graphs and an extensive bibliography.

Topics include the biology of eels, migration and life cycle, current state of the fishery, effects of ecosystem quality and challenges posed by non- native species and climate change. The booklet provides an in-depth look at this complex animal – the only catadromous species in the Gulf of Maine. Currently the booklet is available in pdf form and can be downloaded from the GOMC website at:
<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/publications>

D. ADMINISTTRIVIA

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 .

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/fundynews.htm>. You can also find the back issues of Fundy Tidings that are archived there.

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 .

The submission deadlines are: January 1st, April 1st, July 1st, October 1st.