



~ **FUNDY TIDINGS** ~

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

January 2008 ~ Winter 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 2007 AGM - The 2007 Annual General Meeting of BoFEP was held in the Board Room of the Canadian Wildlife Service in Sackville, NB on November 29th, 2007. The complete draft minutes of the meeting (including all committee and Working Group reports) are available online at http://www.bofep.org/PDFfiles/2007_minutes.pdf. The following are a few AGM highlights:

a) BoFEP 10th Anniversary - BoFEP was officially launched at meeting on November 15th, 1997 in St. Andrews, NB. The minutes of this inaugural meeting are available online at: www.bofep.org/agm.htm. To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the organization a cake cutting ceremony and reception preceded the 2007 AGM.

b) Report of Chair - BoFEP Chair Peter Wells in his annual report noted that *"the bay is still being exploited, built upon and industrialized, incrementally, potentially leading to further loss of habitats, biota and overall health and ecological integrity. The Bay and its coastal lands on both sides suffer from unplanned and uncoordinated use and development."* He further stated that *"One solution, among many, is to ensure that knowledge of the state of the bay, with all of its ecological complexity, is both current and accessible to the public. Work of the BoFEP working groups, the timely Fundy workshops, and our excellent Fundy issues series, contribute to this new knowledge and understanding. BoFEP's work, along with that of many other groups and individuals around the bay, is vital to developing a much needed integrated coastal planning and management framework and plan for the bay."* He continued *"BoFEP has been in place for 10 years. It's continued niche and role as a place for reliable information, networking and a stimulus for new research, long term monitoring, and frequent reporting is much needed. We should both celebrate and plan for the future."* [Complete Report](#).

c) BoFEP membership fee - For some time there has been concern that BoFEP relies too heavily on a few key funders, particularly Environment Canada. The Outreach Working Group has been developing new initiatives to diversify our funding sources. One idea that has been discussed is the implementation of membership fees for BoFEP. At this AGM it was noted that *"we must look towards diversified sources of funding including the broad membership of BoFEP for support of its programs."* To this end a motion was passed to implement membership fees for participation in BoFEP. A comprehensive gradient of fees was proposed with categories *"designed to fit the level of ability of your organization or yourself to pay and to focus your contribution on core areas of BoFEP's activities."* The following membership categories were proposed:

Honor Roll of BoFEP Donors

The Fundy Society (>\$5000)

The Tidal Society (\$1000-4999)

BoFEP Associates

Life Members (\$1000)
Fellows (\$500-999)
Patrons (\$250-499)
Sustaining associates (\$100-249)
Contributing associates (\$25-99)
Student member (\$5)

Membership forms detailing membership fees and benefits will be circulated to all current members and potential members once the many operational details have been worked out.

d) Special Recognition Presentation - During the AGM the Chair presented a gift and a certificate of appreciation to Barry Jones for his many years of service to BoFEP, particularly as recent Chair of the organization. He has agreed to continue serving BoFEP as a member of the Steering Committee, Finance Committee and Past-Chair. Thanks Barry for all your contributions in the past and those yet to come.

e) Election of Steering Committee and Management Committee - A slate of 24 members of the Steering Committee was elected at the AGM, with a good representation from both sides of the Bay (13 from NB and 11 from NS). Welcome back to the returning members and warm greetings to the several new members, including Peter Etheridge (Fundy Biosphere Reserve), Brad Walters (Mount Allison University), Melanie Weiber (UNB, Fredericton) and Kathryn Parlee (EC Representative). Our thanks for their dedicated service to those retiring from the committee, including Mike Brylinsky (*he will continue as an alternate*), Mick Burt, Romney McPhie, John Terry and Danika van Proosdij. Immediately after the AGM a brief meeting of the new Steering Committee was held to elect a Management Committee. Peter Wells will continue as Chair, with Marianne Janowicz as vice chair. [Complete membership](#) of both committees.

f) Special Presentation on Fundy Biosphere Reserve - As part of the AGM program Peter Etheridge, Executive Director of the Fundy Biosphere Reserve (FBR), gave an excellent presentation on the newly designated Reserve. He noted that the objectives of the FBR include "*providing a forum for dialogue and information sharing between communities, resource sectors, government agencies and researchers*" and "*creating a cooperative network of partners who will work to assist communities to achieve greater sustainable development*". A chair (Yves Gagnon, Université de Moncton) and an interim Board of Directors are both now in place and an office is set up at the Université de Moncton. [Complete presentation](#) on FBR. For more information about the FBR contact Peter Etheridge, Executive Director, at 506-433-3645 pether@rogers.com or Fundy Biosphere Reserve / Réserve de biosphère de Fundy, Room/Bureau 127, Pav. P.A. Landry Building Université de Moncton, Moncton, NB E1A 3E9, Ph:506-858-4152.

2. Funding for BoFEP Working Groups

Eleven BoFEP Working Groups (WGs) are currently active, with coordinators, moving forward on key Fundy issues. These are:

Biosphere Reserve: *Peter Etheridge*.
Corophium and Mudflat Ecology: *Diana Hamilton/Peter Wells*.
Eelgrass: *Al Hanson*.
Eutrophication and Nutrients: *Thierry Chopin*.
Fundy Informatics: *Elaine Toms/Peter Wells*.
Marine Energy: *Barry Jones/Graham Daborn*.
Minas Basin: *Peter Wells/Patricia Hinch*.
Outreach: *Marianne Janowicz/Owen Washburn*.
SMaRTS (Salt Marsh and Restricted Tidal Systems): *Tony Bowron/ Deanne Meadus*.
Stress and Cumulative Effects: *Mick Burt/Peter Wells*.
Subtidal Ecology and Habitat Conservation: *Maria-Ines Buzeta*.

BoFEP's management committee has recently confirmed that 9.6K is available for WG activities. Each active working group can have \$1K allocated to it for the rest of the FY. This can be used for projects, travel and meetings, or both. It is important that each WG use this allocation to advance its projects. With 11 groups, and only 9.6K, we need to know which group needs money for ongoing or new projects and other efforts.

As soon as possible, could each WG please report back to the Chair and Management Committee, through secretariat@bofep.org on the following:

- 1) What it plans to do with the 1K before the end of March 08 – a project, travel and meetings, etc;
- 2) Whether the WG could use more money were it to become available (up to 500-1000\$ max) – no promises here;
- 3) What it plans to do in the next FY 08-09, with budget attached. We need this for a BoFEP submission to EC, due end of February. The budget should include partners contributions.

B. PARTNERS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

3. Minas Basin Ecosystem Overview Report

The report entitled "Ecosystem Overview Report for the Minas Basin, Nova Scotia", prepared by M.Parker, M. Westhead and A. Service, provides an overview of the major ecological components of the Minas Basin marine waters, as well as a contextual outline of the land encompassed in the surrounding watershed. The EOR is based on the existing knowledge of the geological, oceanographic and biological systems of this ecosystem. The report is primarily intended as a background resource document for integrated management and planning. The background of the report, a component of the Minas Basin Integrated Management Project, is described as follows. *"Funded during the late 1990s, the aim of the Minas Basin Working Group, a working group of the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP), is to devise integrated management plans for the Minas Basin watershed. The Minas Basin Integrated Management Project is best described as a process - one that is meant to be flexible and to evolve with age. It is a process of engaging citizens, groups and agencies in developing a comprehensive and sustainable*

management plan for the area's resources. It is hoped that this document will provide the sound ecological knowledge required for planning in the Minas Basin Watershed"

The full report can be downloaded in pdf format at:

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Library/330668.pdf>

4. Tides of Change Project Looks at Three Macrotidal Estuaries

Natasha Barker worked with Maxine Westhead last summer studying the management of change in the upper Bay of Fundy and met with many BoFEP members. She was awarded a Churchill Fellowship under the 'Water Workers' category in 2006 to look at how estuaries with high tidal ranges are managed. She works for the Severn Estuary Partnership in the UK (a bit like BoFEP), which is known to have the 2nd highest tidal range in the world. Across the Atlantic, the Bay of Fundy is known to have the highest tidal range in the world. On the opposite side of the Earth, a remote Russian estuary called the Penzhinskaya Guba, experiences a tidal range similar to the Severn. The three estuaries share dynamic tides but extreme differences in culture, population and wilderness. Natasha has provided us with a concise summary (see below) of her fellowship experience. She considered three themes across the three estuaries in her fellowship project:

1. *public awareness and marketing the tide for tourism*
2. *flood risk planning*
3. *renewable tidal energy potential*

She reports that after completing this comprehensive study "*the expression 'time and tides wait for no man' has taken on new meaning as a result of my fellowship. My time in Canada and Russia was rewarding both professionally and personally. I now feel that the real journey has only just begun.*" A [one page overview](#) of Natasha's experiences has been posted on the BoFEP website, while a draft copy (in PDF format) of [Natasha's complete report](#) "*Managing Tidal Change. Man and Nature's Response to Tidal Change: Comparisons between Estuaries with the Highest Tidal Ranges*" is available on the Severn Estuary Partnership website.

5. Call for Nominations - GOMCME Awards

The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment is calling for nominations for its annual *Visionary* and *Longard Awards* and the first *Susan Snow-Cotter Leadership Award*. One group *and* one individual (paid professionals or volunteers are eligible) in each province and state (*Maine, Massachusetts, New Brunswick, New Hampshire, and Nova Scotia*) will be selected to receive a Visionary Award. One Longard Award winner will be selected to honor a lifetime of achievement in his or her volunteer work. One individual will be selected for the first Susan Snow-Cotter award to recognize a coastal management professional who exemplifies outstanding leadership or exceptional mentoring in the Gulf of Maine watershed. Nomination forms can be obtained at:

<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/opportunities/#awards>

Nominations must be submitted by **April 25, 2008** via email to info@gulfofmaine.org (preferred) or via hard copy to: *Michele L. Tremblay, Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, PO Box 3019, Boscawen, NH 03303-3019, US*. Questions can be addressed to: Michele L. Tremblay at Tel: (603)796-2615 or info@gulfofmaine.org.

6. Paper on Fundy Salt Marsh Recovery Published

A paper entitled "*Salt Marsh Vegetation Recovery on the Bay of Fundy*", by Stacey Byers and Gail Chmura of McGill University has been published in the October 2007 issue of *Estuaries and Coasts*. The study investigated the potential for recovery of reclaimed lands to improve the knowledge about salt marsh restoration. The authors conclude that "*the broad elevation range of *S. alterniflora* and high sediment deposition rates impart Bay of Fundy salt marshes with a high resilience and prospects for success of deliberate restoration efforts are promising, without the addition of fill required for marsh restoration in some regions. While marsh loss occurs in other areas the Bay of Fundy provides an opportunity to gain this resource*".

The [full paper](#) can be downloaded as a pdf file.

7. Discovery Corridor Website - compilation of historic research

The Gulf of Maine Biodiversity Discovery Corridor (DC) is a swath of ocean and underlying seafloor extending from shore to deep sea (cutting across the mouth of the Bay of Fundy) and chosen to focus regional biodiversity investigations. The DC is an initiative of many partners under the umbrella of the [Centre for Marine Biodiversity](#). A [compilation of historic research](#) in DC waters, prepared to guide future research, is now available online.

8. Fishermen and Scientists Research Society - Annual Conference

The deadline for submitting posters and displays to the "15th Annual Conference of the Fishermen and Scientists Research Society" is January 31, 2008. The Society is "*a partnership between fishermen and scientists, promoting a common goal.... the long-term sustainability of the marine fishing industry in the Atlantic Canada region*". The Conference will be held in Truro, NS on 22-23 February 2008. For more information about the Society and the Conference visit: <http://www.fsrns.ca>.

C. FUNDY/GOM AND OTHER NEWS:

9. Fundy Tidal Power SEA Report Released - Public Input Sought

A comprehensive report entitled "*Background Report for the Fundy Tidal Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment*" prepared by Jacques Whitford for the Offshore Energy Environmental Research Association (co-funded by the New Brunswick Department of Energy) was released for public review on January 23, 2008. According to the Executive Summary, this report is "*a background study on ocean renewable energy which is intended to facilitate a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of potential tidal energy development projects in the Bay of Fundy*." It urges a cautious approach to development noting that "*While the technology is developing rapidly in the case of the few that have been field tested, they all lack adequate examination for their potential environmental effects. Even where field testing has included some degree of environmental effects monitoring, it is not possible to transfer the limited information so far available on the environmental effects from those test sites to the Bay of Fundy*." It continues that it is therefore important "*to establish facilities at one or more sites in the*

Bay of Fundy at which such technologies can be tested and thoroughly monitored; it is acknowledged that planning for the first of such facilities is currently under way." Overall, the report recommends *"that a cautionary, staged approach be taken with respect to development of TISEC [Tidal In-stream Energy Conversion] technology projects in the Bay of Fundy. Many unknowns exist and it is the recommendation of this study team that a small number of pilot scale projects proceed with significant monitoring and adaptive management plans. This would allow for future expansion into demonstration and commercial scale developments, provided environmental and socioeconomic components in the Bay of Fundy are not compromised, to the satisfaction of government and local stakeholders."*

The complete report or individual chapters can be downloaded in pdf format from the [Background Report](#) page of the OEER website

The OEER is now interested in receiving the public's response to the report and its recommendations. The deadline for submission of comments is **February 29, 2008**. Written submissions are due by Friday February 29, 2008 at 4 p.m. Submissions should be sent via [email](#) or by regular mail to:

*OEER Association, Suite 400, Bank of Montreal Building
5151 George Street, Halifax, NS B3J 3P7*

You are asked to provide full contact information (i.e., name, address, e-mail, phone number) with your submission.

10. NB Policy on Tidal Power Activities on Submerged Crown Lands

The Government of New Brunswick has released an interim policy (effective October 24, 2007) concerning dispositions of submerged Crown land for research pertaining to in-stream tidal power generation. This policy is to provide interim guidance and direction to Department of Natural Resources staff and the public concerning dispositions of submerged Crown land for the purpose of research to support the future development of in-stream tidal power generation. While the industry is at an early phase in its development, there is increasing interest in gaining access to the Bay of Fundy to investigate and evaluate the tidal resource, as well as equipment and devices. It may be beneficial both to industry and to government to allow for limited access for research purposes. This limited access will help facilitate the development of the industry in New Brunswick and will provide much-needed data and information about this activity and its impacts on the Bay of Fundy environment. [Complete policy](#) (pdf format).

11. Fundy Tidal Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment Support Funding

Second call for applications - The Fundy Tidal Energy Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is once again inviting applications from community-based groups in the Bay of Fundy region for SEA Participation Support Funds. Small awards will be made, at the discretion of the TAG, for proposals in two categories:

- ? initiatives that will bring to the SEA process views and ideas from stakeholders who might otherwise not participate (maximum award \$500); and
- ? initiatives that will bring new information to the SEA process through small locally-based research projects (maximum award \$4,000).

- New application deadline: **January 31, 2008**. For more information visit:

<http://www.offshoreenergyresearch.ca/OEER/SEAHome/tabid/117/Default.aspx>

12. Call for Nominations - Timothy R. Parsons Medal

February 28, 2008 is the deadline for nominations for the next Timothy R. Parsons Medal, established by Fisheries and Oceans Canada to recognize achievement in ocean sciences. The nominations can be for a lifetime's body of work or for a recent outstanding achievement. Posthumous awards will not be considered. [More information](#) about the award criteria. Download [nomination form](#) in pdf format.

13. The Atlantic Climate Change Conference

"*The Atlantic Climate Change Conference - Risks, Responses and Tools for Action*" will be held in Halifax , NS on March 4-5, 2008. The NS Environmental Business Network ESANS, the Climate Canada Atlantic network of companies, and Dalhousie University are organizing this conference which will be of interest to the private and public sectors, civic organizations and associations, infrastructure designers, and decision-makers. It will link researchers, practitioners, engineers, planners, business associations, civil servants and business managers. For more information about ESANS and the conference visit: <http://www.esans.ca/events.html#climate>.

14. Environmental Panel Rejects Whites Point Quarry Proposal

In October 2007 the Environmental Impact Assessment Panel reviewing the proposal for a mega quarry at Whites Point issued its final report. It soundly rejected both the quarry and the associated marine terminal. The three main recommendations (of seven) were:

1. The Panel recommends that the Minister of Environment and Labour (Nova Scotia) reject the proposal made by Bilcon of Nova Scotia to create the Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal and recommends to the Government of Canada that the Project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects that, in the opinion of the Panel, cannot be justified in the circumstances.

2. The Panel recommends that the Province of Nova Scotia develop and implement a comprehensive coastal zone management policy or plan for the Province.

3. Because of the special issues associated with coastal quarries, the Panel recommends a moratorium on new approvals for development along the North Mountain until the Province of Nova Scotia has thoroughly reviewed this type of initiative within the context of a comprehensive provincial coastal zone management policy and established appropriate guidelines to facilitate decision-making.

An [executive summary](#) (PDF: 416k) and the [complete report](#) (PDF 4.1mb) are available online.

15. Alton Gas Storage Decision

On December 18, 2007, the Minister of Environment and Labour released a decision concerning the review of the Alton Natural Gas Storage Project. The Minister has decided to approve the undertaking in accordance with Section 13(1)b of the Environmental Assessment Regulations, pursuant to Part IV of the Environment Act. The undertaking has been approved subject to a number of conditions. The proponent is

required to obtain all other necessary approvals, permits or authorizations before commencing work on the undertaking.

The purpose of the proposed undertaking near Alton, Nova Scotia is to develop an underground hydrocarbon storage facility in a series of engineered salt caverns at depths of over 700 m by means of a solution mining process. Water for the mining process will be carried between the Shubenacadie Estuary and the facility near Alton, via approximately 12 km of buried pipelines. Initially, four caverns will be formed over 18 to 24 months, with construction commencing mid-2008. Depending on future market demand, the Project may develop as many as 10 to 15 caverns at a later date. The caverns will be developed in accordance with the requirements of the latest edition of Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Standard Z341, Storage of Hydrocarbons in Underground Formations. For more information visit:

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/enla/ea/AltonNaturalGasStorage.asp>

16. Community Fisheries Management Handbook

The Handbook is an introduction to the range of ideas and management activities that form part of community-based fisheries management. It is meant to provide a "how to" guide for local fishery managers and management bodies - a guide in which the specific management tasks are related to the underlying values and principles of community-based management. The Handbook

is available at <http://www.coastalcura.ca/links/index.html>.

17. Coastal Management Areas in Canada

A national federal-provincial-territorial Workshop on Coastal Management Areas was held on 16-17 May 2007 in Moncton, New Brunswick. The purpose of the Workshop was to improve the understanding of how to establish, collaboratively develop and implement coastal management plans within respective Canadian jurisdictions. The workshop proceedings are available at:

http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas/Csas/Proceedings/2007/PRO2007_025_B.pdf .

D. ADMINISTRIVIA

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/whatnew.htm>. You can also find the back issues of Fundy Tidings archived at: <http://www.bofep.org/tidings.htm>

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.