



## ~ **FUNDY TIDINGS** ~

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

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**October 2008 ~ Fall Issue**

For up-to-date information about BoFEP meetings and other events visit: [www.bofep.org/calendar.htm](http://www.bofep.org/calendar.htm)

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## **A. BoFEP and its activities:**

**1. BoFEP AGM** - The 2008 Annual General Meeting of BoFEP will be held from 2:00-4:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>** at the Joggins Fossil Cliffs Centre in Joggins, NS. All BoFEP members and others with an interest in the organization are invited to attend. In addition to the required agenda items (various reports, future activities, election of Steering Committee etc.), guest speaker, Terri McCulloch of the Bay of Fundy Tourism Partnership, will talk about the activities of her organization and the possibilities for working with BoFEP. Many of you may be interested in the newly opened, spectacular fossil centre, so we have arranged for a guided tour of the facility from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. immediately before the AGM. Right after the AGM, there will be a very short meeting of the newly elected Steering Committee to select the Management Committee for BoFEP. Hope to see you all there!!!!

**2. BoFEP Fall Mail out** - In early October a special mail out was sent (by snail mail) to all those on the BoFEP mail list. It contained:

- an invitation to the 2008 AGM and a copy of the agenda
- a colourful poster advertising the 2009 BoFEP Science Workshop (*we hope you will display this in a prominent place for others to see*)
- a 2009 BoFEP membership application form
- a copy of the latest "hot-off -the-press" Fundy Issue (see item 4 below).

If you didn't receive the mailout package, it may be because we don't have your mailing address or have an incorrect one. Please send the BoFEP Secretariat ([secretariat@bofep.org](mailto:secretariat@bofep.org)) your mailing address ASAP and a package will be sent to you posthaste.

**3. BoFEP 2008-2009 Funding** - In early October BoFEP received funding from Environment Canada in support of its activities for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. The Management Committee is presently consulting with the Working Group Chairs about the mid-term report being prepared for Environment Canada on our activities.

**4. New Fundy Issue** - Fundy Issue number 29 entitled "Flushed with Tide: Municipal Effluents in the Bay of Fundy" was published in early October. This 12-page document provides an overview of sewage management around the Bay and highlights some of the problems resulting from inadequate treatment facilities. Free copies can be obtained by contacting [communications@bofep.org](mailto:communications@bofep.org) . It will also soon be appearing in pdf format on the BoFEP Website.

**5. BoFEP PowerPoint Presentations** - Two PowerPoint presentations pertaining to BoFEP have recently been prepared:

- An Introductory Presentation on BoFEP is available for use by Steering and Management Committee members in speaking to outside groups. A draft copy is on the BoFEP website at: [http://www.bofep.org/Publications/presentation2008/BoFEP%202008\\_files/frame.htm](http://www.bofep.org/Publications/presentation2008/BoFEP%202008_files/frame.htm). Any comments or suggestions for improvements can be sent to [communications@bofep.org](mailto:communications@bofep.org)
- A copy of the Presentation "*BoFEP - Current Challenges and Directions*" presented by the BoFEP Chair to the Steering Committee on July 22, 2008 is also available on the Website at: [http://www.bofep.org/Publications/wells\\_ppt\\_2008/wells\\_presentation\\_2008\\_files/frame.htm](http://www.bofep.org/Publications/wells_ppt_2008/wells_presentation_2008_files/frame.htm). Comments and suggestions can be sent to [chair@bofep.org](mailto:chair@bofep.org) .

**6. BoFEP 8<sup>th</sup> Science Workshop Update** - Plans for the 8<sup>th</sup> Bay of Fundy Science Workshop from May 26 - 29, 2009 at Acadia University are progressing apace. Up-to-date information will be posted as it becomes available at: [www.bofep.org/workshop2009.htm](http://www.bofep.org/workshop2009.htm) . The theme for the workshop is: "Resource Development and its Implications for the Bay of Fundy and Gulf of Maine". The deadline for submission of abstracts for posters and papers is **January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009**. Abstracts should be sent to: [workshop@bofep.org](mailto:workshop@bofep.org) .

We are looking into the possibility of a collaborative effort with a number of community groups to hold a "Citizens Forum" during the day on May 26<sup>th</sup> , prior to the evening reception opening the main BoFEP Workshop. The forum will focus on community concerns and responses to industrial development in and around the Bay.

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## **B. Partners and other organizations:**

**7. BoFEP Supports Fundy as one of the 7 Wonders of Nature** - BoFEP has sent a letter of support for this unique international initiative spearheaded by the Bay of Fundy Tourism Partnership. In it, BoFEP Chair Peter Wells stated that: " I extend our enthusiastic support for the nomination of the Bay of Fundy as one of the New Seven Natural Wonders of the World. We will be informing all our members and others about the current nomination campaign and encouraging them to vote for the Bay during the coming months." We urge you to visit the voting site at:

<http://www.new7wonders.com/nature/en/nominees/northamerica/c/BayofFundyBay/>

and vote before December 31<sup>st</sup> to ensure that the Bay of Fundy is the Canadian site chosen to advance in this international competition. A list of 21 finalists will be selected in July 2009 and the final 7 will then be selected by popular worldwide vote. For more information about the competition and about the Bay of Fundy Tourism Partnership visit their Website at:

<http://www.bayoffundytourism.com/>

**8. CPAWS-NS presentation to BoFEP Steering Committee** - At the BoFEP Steering Committee meeting on July 22<sup>nd</sup> , Ashley Sprague of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Nova Scotia Chapter (CPAWS-NS) gave an overview of that organization and highlighted areas where collaboration with BoFEP might be considered. She noted that CPAWS, founded in 1963, is Canada's pre-eminent, community-based non-profit wilderness protection organization. With 13 chapters across Canada, 20,000 members, over 50 staff, and hundreds of committed volunteers, they are leaders in setting the agenda for wilderness conservation at the national, provincial and territorial levels. They ground their work in conservation science and seek consensus for wilderness protection by engaging governments, industry and the Canadian public. For over 15 years, the Nova Scotia Chapter (CPAWS-NS) has been working co-operatively with governments, industry and other wilderness conservation organizations across the province to protect Nova Scotia's unique terrestrial and marine ecosystems. They use conservation science to identify the best places for the creation of new protected areas to conserve biodiversity. CPAWS-NS has helped to conserve over 600,000 hectares of Nova Scotia's most treasured wild places in parks and other protected areas, as well as remarkable areas of the ocean, including The Gully and deep-sea coral reefs.

The CPAWS-NS marine program focuses on working to:

- Establish a network of marine protected areas in our region, with a particular focus on National Marine Conservation Areas (NMCAs). We are promoting the Digby Neck and Islands region as a candidate site for a Parks Canada NMCA because of the ecological significance of the area and early signs of community support. We are working to build support and understanding of marine conservation in this region.
- Spread information and awareness of the horse mussel reefs in the Bay of Fundy. These globally rare marine features play an important role in the Fundy ecosystem and are being threatened by physical impacts such as bottom trawling. We are working with DFO and fishermen to gather information on the reefs and determine the appropriate management options to protect the mussel reefs.
- Encourage citizen engagement in upcoming coastal strategy consultations. Project WETSUIT, a collaboration between community groups and environmental organizations, is just getting underway. The goals of this project will be to build public understanding and support for watershed and coastal management in Nova Scotia, ensure that local issues are addressed and that local concerns are incorporated into the upcoming Nova Scotia coastal strategy. We are also encouraging youth participation in public consultations and will be visiting schools in the fall to discuss coastal and marine issues.

CPAWS hopes to work with BoFEP in the future to promote marine education and conservation around the Bay of Fundy. For more information on CPAWS-NS please visit:

[www.cpawsns.org/marine](http://www.cpawsns.org/marine) or contact Ashley Sprague at [marine@cpawsns.org](mailto:marine@cpawsns.org)

**9. Gulf of Maine EBM Toolkit Survey Report** - The Gulf of Maine is a semi-enclosed sea bordered by Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. As an initial step in developing an Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) Toolkit for the region, an online survey of EBM practitioners was carried out to gather region-specific information on: management issues and situations to which people seek to apply EBM; critical obstacles to implementing EBM; and the types of tools and information that could facilitate the practice of EBM. The survey results are available at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/ebm/>.

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## **C. Fundy/GOM and other News:**

**10. Climate Change Speaker Series at MTA** - This fall, Mount Allison University is presenting the President's Speaker Series on "Climate Change and Global Citizenship". Upcoming speakers include: October 27<sup>th</sup> - Dr. John Smol; November 4<sup>th</sup> - Dr. Andrew Weaver; and November 26<sup>th</sup> - Dr. Mark Jaccard. A poster with more details can be downloaded from: [www.bofep.org/PDFfiles/Climate\\_Change\\_Fall\\_Series\\_MTA.pdf](http://www.bofep.org/PDFfiles/Climate_Change_Fall_Series_MTA.pdf)

**11. Adaptation to Climate Change in Atlantic Canada** - The "Climate Change Adaptation Workshop for Atlantic Canada" was held on 8-9 May 2008 in Saint John, New Brunswick. Topics included: current scientific knowledge; economic and social implications in coastal areas; and a socio-economic perspective for inland waters and infrastructure. A Workshop goal was to lay the foundation for further collaboration between the Atlantic Provinces on adaptive strategies and with the Federal Government. The Workshop presentations are available at:

<http://www.gnb.ca/0009/0373/0004/0008-e.asp>.

**12. Progress Report on NB Climate Change Plan** - A progress report for the New Brunswick Climate Change Action Plan has been released. Progress was reported in several areas, including energy efficiency and renewable energy; transportation; waste management; industrial sources; government practices; development policies; managing natural resources; risks and damages; community partnerships and public education; and outreach - <http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/env/2008e1311ev.htm>.

**13. Fundy Tidal Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment** - The Offshore Energy Environmental Research Association (OEER) has completed the strategic environmental assessment for marine renewable energy in the Bay of Fundy. OEER is recommending tidal energy development, but in a cautious manner, including ongoing research and monitoring and stakeholder involvement. The SEA report and the Community Response Report are available at: <http://www.offshoreenergyresearch.ca/LinkClick.aspx?link=312&tabid=77>.

**14. Marine Renewable Energy in the Bay of Fundy** - The Province of Nova Scotia has released a report in response to the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) for marine renewable energy in the Bay of Fundy. Section one of the report contains an overview of the Province's specific approach to tidal energy. Section two addresses the broader approach to marine renewable energy in the Bay of Fundy, with responses to each recommendation in the SEA. The Province's response to the SEA report is available at <http://www.offshoreenergyresearch.ca>.

**15. Tidal Power Exploratory Leases Awarded in NB** - Crown land leases have been awarded to Irving Oil, in partnership with the Huntsman Marine Science Centre, to explore tidal power on the Bay of Fundy in New Brunswick. For details visit: <http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/nr/2008e0767nr.htm>.

**16. Nova Scotia Releases Coastal Management Framework** - The Framework documents the Government of Nova Scotia's commitment for a more coordinated and strategic approach to coastal management. It builds upon existing provincial and departmental commitments, mandates and capacities, and collaboration with other levels of government, stakeholders and interest groups. The Coastal Management Framework sets out six strategic activities to assist the Government of Nova Scotia in achieving coastal management: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/fish/marine/coastalzone>.

**17. Defining Nova Scotia's Coastal Area** - The Marine Affairs Program at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia held a workshop entitled "Towards a Coastal Area Definition for Nova Scotia" on 11 June 2008. The goal of the Workshop was to develop an understanding of options for the Province in defining the spatial extent of its coasts to address priority coastal issues. The Workshop presentations and other documents are available at: [http://marineaffairsprogram.dal.ca/News\\_and\\_Events](http://marineaffairsprogram.dal.ca/News_and_Events)

**18. Characterizing Marine and Coastal Areas** - The guide entitled "Seascapes: Getting to Know the Sea Around Us. A Guide to Characterizing Marine and Coastal Areas" describes how to develop a compendium of basic information about any coastal marine area in the Bay of Fundy/Gulf of Maine. It answers questions such as: How does one go about characterizing a marine area in a meaningful way? What information is needed? How should the information be

obtained and organized? How can the findings be communicated so they are useful? The guide is available at:

<http://www.qlf.org/publications/seascapes.html>.

**19. Study of Culvert Impacts on Fish Migration** -The Clean Annapolis River Project has carried out a study throughout the Annapolis River Watershed in Nova Scotia to assess the ability of culverts to support fish populations. 55% of the culverts were assessed as creating either a full or partial barrier to fish migration. The report describes the study methodology and includes recommendations for retrofitting culverts and post-restoration monitoring. It can be downloaded from:

[http://www.annapolisriver.ca/downloads/brokenbrooks\\_finalreport.pdf](http://www.annapolisriver.ca/downloads/brokenbrooks_finalreport.pdf).

**20. Report on Aquaculture Disinfectant** - Wescodyne, an iodophor compound, is used extensively in Atlantic Region aquaculture operations as a general disinfecting agent for aquaculture gear and fish pens. Use pattern information indicates that at aquaculture facilities Wescodyne is likely entering the marine environment via direct discharge to surface water during disinfection activities. Actual concentrations entering the environment and dispersion rates, however, are not currently known. Based on these preliminary calculations using limited data, and using the most conservative literature-based ecotoxicity values involving the most sensitive species tested, Wescodyne may be entering the environment in concentrations that may pose unacceptable risks to marine aquatic receptors in Atlantic Canada. The results of this study indicate that more information on use pattern, discharge concentrations and rates, and dilution rates are required in order to better characterize concentrations of Wescodyne in the aquatic environment that may be available for exposure by aquatic receptors. To receive a copy of the report, contact Benoit Lalonde - Environment Canada - Atlantic Region; [benoit.lalonde@ec.gc.ca](mailto:benoit.lalonde@ec.gc.ca) .

**21. Geomatics Atlantic 2008 Conference in Saint John NB** -The Conference is scheduled for 19-20 November 2008 in Saint John, New Brunswick. The theme is "Discovering the Way to a Sustainable Future". Topics include: water level monitoring and forecasting; riparian buffer assessment using optimized classification method and GIS; using LiDAR to map floodrisk; agri-environmental geomatics for agri-sustainability; spatial data infrastructures (SDIs) and sustainable community planning; and using GIS to influence social policy. For details visit:

<http://www.geomaticsatlantic.com>.

**22. Community-based monitoring in GOM article** - The Summer 2008 issue of "Hook, Line and Thinker", the newsletter of the Fishermen and Scientists Research Society, includes articles on the Community Based Environmental Monitoring Network and Ecosystem Indicators and Tools in the Gulf of Maine. Available at: <http://www.fsrns.ca/doc/HLT2008-3.pdf>.

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#### **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](mailto: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](mailto:communications@bofep.org).

The submission deadlines are: January 1<sup>st</sup>, April 1<sup>st</sup>, July 1<sup>st</sup>, October 1<sup>st</sup>.

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