

Bay of Fundy Science Workshop Report to the BoFEP AGM, Nov. 14, 2018
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The **12th Bay of Fundy Science Workshop** was held on May 9-12, 2018 at the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus, Truro, Nova Scotia. The theme of the workshop was ***A Changing Fundy Environment: Emerging Issues, Challenges and Priorities.***

Concurrent sessions covered tidal energy, fisheries ecology and management, monitoring and contaminants, integrated coastal management, dykelands and tidal restoration, the new Oceans Protection Plan by the Government of Canada, and marine protected areas. Three panels were held: oceans literacy and awareness, information use at the science-policy interface, and future research needs and BoFEP's continued role as an NGO. There were also 3 keynote addresses: Dr. Kimberley T. A. Davies – *An Uncertain Future: The Right Whales' Fight against Environment, Biology and Ocean Urbanization*; Dr. Tony R. Walker – *Drowning in Debris: Solutions for a Global Pervasive Marine Pollution Problem*; and Dr. Graham R. Daborn – *The Bay of Fundy and its Future*. Abstracts of the 41 paper sessions, 18 poster sessions, and 3 keynote addresses, as well as notes from the 3 panel sessions are included in BoFEP Technical Report No. 11 which can be found on the BoFEP website.

Approximately 115 people attended, including many young professionals and students, making the 12th Science Workshop one of the largest in BoFEP's 20 years. A central location and a renewed commitment by the Government of Canada for ocean science was generally credited with the large turnout. This year also marked the first time that BoFEP held a public talk as part of its Science Workshop. I hope this is something that we continue for future workshops and public events, not only to inform the public about issues in the Bay of Fundy, but also as a means of reaching out to interested citizens who may want to become involved in BoFEP. The emerging issues and challenges of a changing Fundy environment affects all and it is well documented that sound solutions to "scientific problems" can be found if we peer through the lens of others' priorities. We should proactively utilize the Science Workshop as a vehicle for reaching out and soliciting new members, such as the several new faces on the Steering Committee who attended their first BoFEP Science Workshop this year. We are looking forward to your ideas and energy to make the 13th Science Workshop even better.

BoFEP thanks the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy, and Mountain Equipment Co-op for sponsoring the workshop. On behalf of myself and my Co-Chair Marianne Janowicz, we salute Peter Wells and Blythe Chang for organizing the program and Susan Rolston, Jon Percy, and Sarah Chamberlain for organizing logistics. A big thank-you to all those who contributed their time and expertise to make a presentation and to all those on the Standing Committee and members-at-large who brought forward suggestions, found potential presenters, or who helped out during the workshop. As the closing panel noted, we are all BoFEP and 100% of the time at the Workshop, whether in the lecture hall, during meals, in the hall, or travelling to and from Truro was brought to us by us.

Reflecting upon recent discussions and this Science Workshop, especially the final panel session, Dr. Peter Wells concluded the Workshop Report with a summary of ***"Next Steps for BoFEP – Moving Ahead with a Focused Program"***, intended to capture the momentum generated by all the positive feedback and to spur the BoFEP Steering Committee toward actions on some specific focused tasks. I encourage you to read the report and to take a few moments to reflect on what Peter wrote and how it may intersect with your own work life or personal life. BoFEP presents a lot of opportunities for someone concerned about the Bay of Fundy to make a difference.