

~ *FUNDY TIDINGS* ~

Newsletter of the

Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP)

March 2021 Issue

A. BoFEP and its activities:

1. Please support BoFEP with a new/renewed membership

Members are the heart of our organization. We rely on your continuing financial support to aid us in promoting a healthy, diverse and productive Bay of Fundy ecosystem. Membership is open to any individual or group who shares its vision for protecting, conserving and sustainably using the Bay of Fundy. The annual membership fee for individuals is \$25 and for organizations \$100 .

[BoFEP Membership form MS Word](#) [BoFEP Membership form PDF](#)

Please take a moment to join/renew (or make a donation!) today.

2. Visit the BoFEP Website and Facebook Page

To keep up to date with BoFEP and its activities, and to dig into a trove of archived information, visit our Webpage at www.bofep.org/wpbofep and also check out our Facebook page for fast breaking news at: [Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership \(facebook.com\)](https://www.facebook.com/BayofFundyEcosystemPartnership)

B. Partners and other organizations:

1. GOMCME 2021 awards nominations invited

The Gulf of Maine Council is accepting nominations for our 2021 awards program to recognize volunteers, professionals, businesses, and organizations for outstanding efforts to promote a healthy Gulf of Maine ecosystem. We are seeking award nominees from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. Accepting nominations through Friday, April 30, 2021. [More information and nomination forms.](#)

2. ACCESS virtual conference in May

After a pandemic induced postponement in 2020, the Atlantic Coastal and Estuarine Science Society (ACCESS) conference will now be held virtually on May 13-14, 2021. This is a great opportunity for students and professionals in aquatic sciences to network and share their research. [More information and call for abstracts.](#)

3. Wolfville declares climate emergency

The town of Wolfville, on the shores of the Minas Basin, has declared a climate emergency and is developing a plan to reduce emissions and address its contributions to climate change. The town is looking for input from residents by [completing a 5-6 minutes survey.](#)

4. In with the Tide winter edition

The [winter 2021 edition of "In with the Tide"](#), the quarterly newsletter of the Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre Association is now available online. It features articles on: Tidal power in Grand Passage, Amazing sightings, extensive article on Cooke's Hatchery plans for Digby Neck, a compelling story about Needless trash on a popular trail, Greenhouse update, a recycling project and much more. Copies of the newsletter dating back to 2009 are also available [in the archive.](#)

5. New book on communities and conservation

"*Communities, Conservation and Livelihoods*", co-published by CCRN & IUCN-CEESP, is a new, freely-available book exploring how local communities, around the world, are tackling some of the biggest global challenges: the climate, the environment, and how to reach local conservation goals while sustaining economies and livelihoods. [More information and a link to download the book.](#)

6. Fundy oriented Facebook groups on the rise

Facebook groups oriented to many different aspects of protection and conservation of the Bay of Fundy ecosystem have sprung up over the last decade. The following is a quick sampling of just a few of them (*note: members indicate members of Facebook group, not of the organization*)

[Annapolis Royal & Area - Environment & Ecology](#)

Public group; 868 members; created 2018.

A group for those in Annapolis Royal, NS, and the surrounding area, who are interested in ecology and the environment. It is a place for networking about environmental issues, coming events, and also to share observations about the natural world in this area.

[Bay Of Fundy Water Protectors](#)

Public group; 715 members. Created 2016

A gateway portal & information hub pertaining to Environmental and Indigenous Rights. With a vision to unite people who are passionate about protecting, preserving and restoring the environment. A non-violent action group who believe in strong sustainability through education, conservation and marine stewardship. Its Mission is to preserve, protect & restore. Created to communicate and network all things related to the health and safety of the Bay of Fundy.

[Save the Bay of Fundy Heritage](#)

Public group; 800 members; created 2015

For all the people in & around the Bay of Fundy (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick & Maine) to inform & be informed as to the dangers facing what should be a World Heritage Site.

[We Can Save The Bay Of Fundy](#)

Public group; 248 members; created 2015

For everyone who wants to work towards protecting the environment and ecosystem of Nova Scotia and the Bay of Fundy. Website is <http://savethebayoffundy.ca>

[Fundy Tidal Power](#)

1426. members; created 2011

This page is about the developments around tidal power in Nova Scotia, specifically focussed on the sensitive ecosystem of the area and the way developers are dealing with or not dealing with it. This site advocates for the protection of our marine environments, specifically the responsible & sustainable development of tidal power in Nova Scotia.

[Save the Avon River!](#)

Public group; 1000 members; created 2007

The Friends of the Avon River seek to help fix what has become an ecological disaster by raising public awareness of this environment hot potato. The people of Nova Scotia need to step up to the plate and demand that elected officials act responsibly by building a bridge for the twining of highway 101 in Windsor and remove a portion of the causeway to restore the river to its natural flow.

[Blomidon Naturalists Society](#)

811 members

The Blomidon Naturalists Society is a field naturalists club centered around the eastern Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia.

[Clean Annapolis River Project](#)

2,473 members

CARP is a charitable, community-based, non-governmental organization incorporated in 1990 to enhance the ecological health of the Annapolis River through science, leadership and community engagement. Although the focus of its mission is the improvement of the local environment, many of its projects have resulted in economic, societal and health related benefits and expand beyond the bounds of the watershed.

7. Recent paper on Ocean Literacy

Kelly, R., Evans, K., Alexander, K. *et al.* Connecting to the oceans: supporting ocean literacy and public engagement. *Rev Fish Biol Fisheries* (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11160-020-09625-9>

C. Fundy/GOM and other news:

1. Right Whale found dead in Florida

Officials in the United States are investigating after a North Atlantic right whale was found dead on a Florida beach Sunday. The calf, estimated to be about a month old, was found in Anastasia State Park, near St. Augustine. A vessel strike was evidently the cause of death. [North Atlantic right whale found dead on Florida beach](#) (CBC News)

2. Right whale protection measures working

Measures introduced to better protect endangered North Atlantic right whales will continue this year — with some adjustments — after no deaths were reported in Canadian waters in 2020. DFO will continue to close fishing in areas in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the Bay of Fundy and the [Roseway Basin](#) where whales gather in large numbers. [Canada stays course on North Atlantic right whale protections](#) (CBC News) [DFO outlines protection measures as Atlantic Canada right whale season approaches](#) (Cape Breton Post)

3. Promising right whale news

The endangered North Atlantic right whale population is experiencing its best calving season since 2013. As of last week, 18 newborn whales have been spotted, in a season that began in November and could continue through this month. However, the whales are still in peril because two of those new calves have since died, one by natural causes and one by ship-strike. [Right Whales Having Best Calving Season In Years, But Still Endangered](#) (Maine Public Radio)

4. Right whale calf in European waters

Divers in the Canary Islands spotted and filmed (0:38 mins) a 4-metre whale calf swimming past their boat. Examination of the video revealed that it was a North Atlantic Right whale, seemingly alone and thousands of miles away from its usual haunts along the eastern seaboard of Canada and the US and long considered extinct in European waters. Could the species be recolonizing and recovering in the eastern Atlantic, as has the Humpback population? [The new humpback? Calf sighting sparks hope for imperilled right whale](#) (The Guardian)

5. True cost of open pen salmon farming

The Changing Markets Foundation and Just Economics have released a new report called Dead Loss that examines the externalized costs placed on nature and the public from open net-pen salmon aquaculture in Canada, Norway, Scotland, and Chile. Over 100 million salmon have escaped or died of disease since 2013 and unaccounted costs placed on the public are worth nearly \$50 billion USD. [Global salmon farming harming marine life and costing billions in damage](#) (The Guardian & ASF)

6. Salmon aquaculture impacts reduced by IMTA?

Scientists on Canada's coasts have demonstrated how growing seaweed or shellfish alongside salmon farms can provide a host of benefits — economic and ecological. UNB researcher Thierry Chopin has been pitching the idea of co-cultivating multiple species together, or Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA), since the late 1990s. The notion behind co-cultivation, [or IMTA](#), is that extractive species like seaweed, mussels, or sea cucumbers can filter or flourish from the uneaten feed, waste, and byproducts from fish farms. [Could seaweed be a salve to debate over salmon farming?](#) (National Observer)

7. Annapolis Basin salmon farm seeks boundary change

Kelly Cove Salmon Ltd. (a subsidiary of Cooke Aquaculture) has applied for a boundary amendment to its marine finfish license and lease in the Annapolis Basin. Board hearings are open to the public and written comments or request to appear should be submitted to the [Clerk of the Board](#) by April 25, 2021. It is claimed that this change won't result in an increase in production. [Detailed application](#) (469 pages)

8. New salmon hatchery on Digby Neck given go ahead

Cooke Aquaculture has been granted a provincial licence for a \$58.6-million Atlantic salmon hatchery in Digby County. The application for a 10-year licence for the land-based hatchery, through Cooke's subsidiary Kelly Cove Salmon, was approved by the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture on Thursday. The hatchery, based in Centreville on Digby Neck, would grow salmon from egg to smolt, prior to release into the ocean for rearing in open-pen fish farms. [Nova Scotia approves new salmon hatchery for Digby County](#) (CBC News)

9. Students plant salmon eggs in Maine river.

On the Sandy River, part of the Kennebec watershed, University of Maine students helped plant 15,000 salmon eggs that will hatch, come spring, as part of restoration efforts on this river. Dams have been the major cause of decline in the Atlantic salmon population in Maine. [Reviving the Atlantic Salmon One Egg at a Time](#) (The Daily Bulldog and ASF)

10. Are lobster stocks in Fundy being protected?

The indigenous moderate livelihood lobster fishery in St. Mary's bay has unleashed angry arguments about the conservation of lobster stocks in the area. Recent data from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans at first glance gives reason to non-native fishermen who are concerned about the consequences of subsistence fishing on lobster stocks. However, an overview of the past 18 years shows a much more complex picture. [Lobster landings data released by DFO show complex picture](#) (CBC News) [Difficult to establish a link between declining lobster stocks and the Aboriginal fishery](#) (Inspired Traveler) .

11. More land protection for NB

The public nomination period has closed and the team working on increasing protected lands in New Brunswick from around four to 10 per cent of the province is pushing ahead. [New Brunswick Nature Legacy website.](#)

12. Opposition to excessive clearcutting boils over in NS

Generations of abusive clearcutting of forests in Nova Scotia by big pulp companies, aided by lax government regulations and a Lands and Forestry Department more interested in promoting the forest industry than in protecting our public forests, has finally boiled over in the form of increasingly heated editorials, camp-ins on threatened woodlands, arrests of protesters and protests and a hunger strike. The government vows to do better and implement the Lahey Report; but talk is cheap and there is not a lot of public trust.

[The last \(tree\) stand against clearcuts, government betrayal, in Nova Scotia](#) (Chronicle Herald - paywall; [Extinction Rebellion NS](#))

[What's environmentally wrong with clearcutting?](#) (Halifax Examiner)

[Looming change to Nova Scotia's forestry practices not coming soon enough for some](#) (CBC News)

13. NS moving away from clearcutting and coal?

Nova Scotia's new premier, Iain Rankin, is giving more attention to the issues raised by the Lahey Report, which called for a significant shift towards ecological forestry practices. He is committing to reducing clearcutting and reliance on fossil fuels. The Liberal government has been criticized for not taking action sooner. The report came out in 2018, and the government agreed to the 45 recommendations. But advocates said back in 2020 that little changes have been made to forestry practices. Rankin said he believes the forestry industry can still thrive without massive clearcutting. [N.S. Premier Plans Green Shift Away From Clear-Cutting, Coal-Burning](#) (Huddle and ASF)

14. Students work to restore NS bat populations

Two Acadia University students have launched a new initiative in an effort to replenish the dwindling bat population in the Annapolis Valley. They are distributing bat boxes in the community to support local bat populations by giving them somewhere safe to roost that's free from predators and disease. In recent

years bat population in the region have been decimated by white-nose syndrome, a devastating fungal infection. [Annapolis Valley project could help boost declining bat population](#) (CBC News) Also visit: [Annapolis Valley Bat Box Project | Facebook](#)

15. NSP to decommission Annapolis tidal power plant

Nova Scotia Power is permanently retiring its Annapolis Royal, N.S., generating station, which has been shut down since 2019. The utility says the decision to permanently retire the 37-year old Annapolis Generating Station in Annapolis Royal, N.S., was due to the failure of a "crucial component" in the generator and an authorization required by the Department of Fisheries Oceans after it determined the facility caused serious harm to fish. One wonders why it took DFO 37 years to reach that conclusion? [Nova Scotia Power to pull plug on tidal station, seeks \\$25M from ratepayers](#) (CBC News). The Annapolis Climate & Ecological Research Centre (ACERC) Coalition, an ad hoc coalition, is advocating that the idled generating station be transformed into a world-class climate change and ecological research centre. The group shared its vision with Annapolis Royal's town council [during a virtual council meeting](#) held via ZOOM on Jan. 18, 2021.

16. NB First Nation calls for halt to further nuclear power development

The Wolastoq Grand Council in New Brunswick are demanding an immediate stop to any further nuclear developments at Point Lepreau. Check out their detailed resolution in [Wolastoq Grand Council Resolution on nuclear energy and nuclear waste on traditional Wolastoq territory](#) (NB mediacoop) and See also the FaceBook page: [Citizens Concerned about Nuclear Waste in Ignace](#)

D. ADMINISTRIVIA

Fundy Tidings is circulated quarterly (or more often) to members of BoFEP and others who have expressed an interest in BoFEP and its activities. If you know someone who might like to receive Fundy Tidings, or if you would like to be removed from the Fundy Tidings mailing list, e-mail a request to: seapencom@gmail.com Back issues are available at [Fundy Tidings Archive](#)