

~ *FUNDY TIDINGS* ~

Newsletter of the

Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP)

February 2022 Issue

A. BoFEP and its activities:

1. ACCESS/BoFEP 2022 Conference *Call for Abstracts*

The [Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership](#) (BoFEP) and the [Atlantic Canada Coastal and Estuarine Science Society](#) (ACCESS) are issuing a call for abstracts for a joint and hybrid (in person or virtual) Conference from May 18-21, 2022). The Conference theme is “*Advancing Estuarine Science and Ocean Literacy in Atlantic Canada*”. The in-person conference will tentatively take place in Truro, Nova Scotia, at the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus (pending the status of COVID regulations). Proof of vaccination and masks will be required for in-person attendees. To submit your abstract please complete the [Abstract Submission Form](#). The deadline for abstract submission is March 1st, 2022. Student submissions are particularly welcome. Registration information will be circulated shortly. Questions about the conference may be directed to the President of ACCESS ([Jeff Clements](#)) or the Chair of BoFEP ([Peter Wells](#)) [View Conference poster](#).

2. Join or renew your BoFEP membership

Members are the heart of our organization. Membership is open to any individual or group who shares its vision for protecting, conserving and sustainably using the Bay of Fundy ecosystem. Membership fee for individuals is \$25 and for organizations \$100. The membership is on a calendar year basis. Please consider joining/renewing today. Please submit membership form below.

Benefits of becoming a BoFEP Member:

- Periodic emailing of Fundy Issues, Fundy Tidings newsletter and other BoFEP publications,
- A vote at our Annual General Meeting (organizations are entitled to ONE voting representative)
- Opportunity to join the BoFEP Steering Committee
- Opportunity to join the BoFEP Management Committee
- Knowledge that you are contributing to the efforts to sustain the Bay of Fundy as a healthy, productive ecosystem

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

B. Partners and other organizations:

1. Passamaquoddy group to present at Lepreau hearings

Chief Hugh Akagi, representing the Passamaquoddy Recognition Group, will make a presentation this spring during licensing hearings as NB Power seeks approval to operate Lepreau for another 25 years. Akagi says he's particularly disturbed by the radioactive waste stored on site close to the Bay of Fundy. [Canada's nuclear regulator starts hearings on Lepreau](#) (CBC News)

2. Research collaboration in the Bay of Fundy

A unique project called Apoqmatulti'k that combines Indigenous and Western knowledge, as well as insights from local fishers, is helping to understand the movements of lobster, eel and tomcod in the Bay of Fundy. The approach called two-eyed seeing is a framework for combining Indigenous and Western knowledge systems to better understand the natural world. It is also helping to build trust between the various participants. [In Canada, Indigenous communities and scientists collaborate on marine research](#) (Mongabay)

3. NS Fisherman receives GOMCME Award

Hants County fisherman Darren Porter has been awarded the 2021 Visionary Award by the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. The award recognizes individuals, groups or organizations that help

protect, enhance and restore the ecosystem of the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy region. [Hants County fisherman recognized as 'unwavering champion for the Bay of Fundy'](#) (*Saltwire Network - paywall*)

4. Fundy Geopark lauded in Toronto paper

The Cliffs of Fundy Geopark was highlighted in a recent issue of the Toronto Star Newspaper. The author spent several days exploring the region, which she notes has also been designated one of the Seven Natural Wonders of North America. [The magic of the Cliffs of Fundy: Nova Scotia's tidal landscapes make a UNESCO Global Geopark](#). (*Toronto Star*)

5. Fundy Geopark seeks volunteers for shoreline cleanup

Fundy Geopark is hosting a shoreline cleanup as part of the [Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup](#). They seek cleanup submissions for two shoreline areas in Cumberland County. If you have noticed an area that has debris that needs cleaning up, they would like to know about it! The tentative dates are June 6-10th (also [World Oceans Week](#)). If you would like to help, please reach out to admin@fundygeopark.ca.

6. Geopark seeks to train ambassadors/interpreters

The Cliffs of Fundy Geopark has launched an ambassador training program, designed to educate local people about the Cliffs of Fundy so they can share information, locations, and stories with visitors. Attendance at each session is capped at 15 people and Proof of Vaccination is required. [More information](#) . To register or for more details email admin@fundygeopark.ca

7. Fundy group raising awareness about microplastics

The environmental group ACAP Saint John is trying to educate people about the threat of microplastics in the marine environment. They are holding informative workshops as well as collecting samples from the area's water bodies. The most common types are microfibrils shed from clothing made from polyester, nylon and acrylic. [From washer to ocean: Saint John nonprofit wants people to know how microplastics travel](#) (*CBC News*)

8. NSP can't charge its customers for idle tidal plant

Regulators have denied an application from Nova Scotia Power to make customers pay it \$27.7 million over the next decade to write off the idle tidal generating station at Annapolis Royal. The station hasn't generated any electricity since January 2019, when a generator component failed. Two and a half months later, the Department Fisheries and Oceans notified the company it is required to provide safer fish passage at the site. A company analysis concluded decommissioning was cheaper than a life-extension modernization or introducing new technology. [N.S. Power loses 1st bid to get \\$27M from ratepayers for idled Annapolis plant](#) (*CBC News*)

9. NS Aquaculture Review Board sides with Cooke Aquaculture

Opponents of marine fish farms lashed out Tuesday at the Nova Scotia Aquaculture Review Board (ARB) after the newly created regulator sided with industry in its first decision, related to a salmon farming case. The board [approved the boundary expansion](#) of a Cooke Aquaculture salmon farm near Digby, N.S. This decision has seriously eroded the confidence of Nova Scotians in the independence of the ARB. [Opponents deride first fish farm decision from new N.S. regulator](#) (*CBC News*)

C. Fundy/GOM and other news:

1. Another Right Whale entangled (with calf)

An endangered [North Atlantic right whale](#), named Snow Cone, was seen on camera by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission early in December off the coast of Georgia. The newborn calf by her side and the twin ropes around her lips are seen in the footage. Researchers believe there's no likelihood of releasing the two 16-foot lengths of rope. [Rescuers Struggling to Free Whale Entangled in Fish Lines With Her Newborn Calf](#) (*Nature World News*)

2. Global warming altering Right Whale distribution?

Researchers have noted that summering Right Whales have all but disappeared from the Bay of Fundy in recent years. Ongoing studies indicate that they may have changed their location in response to changes in their food availability because of warming of the waters of the Gulf of Maine. [Solving a mystery: How researchers found missing North Atlantic right whales](#) (*Cape Cod Times*)

3. Warming GOM affecting marine resources?

The Gulf of Maine has been warming faster than 96 percent of the world's ocean areas. It experienced its warmest fall surface water temperatures on record last year in what scientists call a "distinct regime shift" for the whole ecosystem. Some species have increased with the rising temperatures, new species have moved in, while other have declined. Fishers in southwestern New Brunswick are trying to figure out how to get ready for an uncertain future.

[Gulf of Maine waters warmed to highest fall temperatures on record](#) (*Mount Desert Islander*)

[Ocean warming is changing N.B.'s fishing grounds. Will fishermen adapt?](#) (*CBC News*) [Gulf of Maine waters warmed to highest fall temperatures on record](#) (*The Ellsworth American*)

4. NB and NS climate action efforts recognized

When it comes to adapting to climate change and disasters, the rest of Canada can learn a lesson or two from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. A [new report](#) by the Council of Canadian Academies (CCA) on Canada's ability to prepare for extreme weather events singled out a number of success stories. [These two provinces got a head start on climate action](#) (*National Observer*)

5. Flooding of Chignecto Isthmus focus of study.

Experts have long warned that the combination of a high tide with a powerful storm up the **Bay of Fundy** could overwhelm aging dikes in the upper Bay. A study looking at options to protect the province from potentially being cut off by flooding across the Chignecto Isthmus has been completed and is being reviewed. It is not clear when the study will be released to the public. [N.S. government says study to protect Chignecto Isthmus from rising seas complete](#) . (*CTV News*) [PC government urged to reveal details of Isthmus of Chignecto study](#) (*Saltwire Network*)

6. Ghost fishing gear removal project a success

DFO data from their Ghost Gear Program shows 739 tonnes of derelict fishing equipment have been removed from Canadian coastlines. Thirty-three partners (mostly fishing or conservation groups) assisted in the cleanup. BC saw the most gear removed with 44 per cent, while the Nova Scotia and the Bay of Fundy ranked second with 39 per cent. [Ghost Fishing Gear Cleanup Project Surpasses 700 Tonnes Mark](#) (CKBW) [Canada's Ghost Gear Fund delivering results for cleaner oceans](#) (*Benzinga*)

7. Sustainability of open pen salmon farming questioned

New advice for seafood shoppers is being criticized by wild salmon advocates. Seafood Watch, published by the Monterey Bay Aquarium, recently upgraded [open net-pen salmon from Nova Scotia and Maine to yellow, or "Good Alternative."](#) Meanwhile, the guide gives a red "Do Not Buy" rating to salmon raised in sea cages in British Columbia, New Brunswick, as well as Newfoundland and Labrador. The Atlantic Salmon Federation claims that Seafood Watch's yellow label for sea cage salmon from Maine and Nova Scotia is misleading. [All salmon raised in open net-pens is environmentally unsustainable](#) (ASF)

8. Aquaculture salmon threat to endangered wild stocks

Atlantic Salmon Aquaculture escapees were detected at three sites in the Bay of Fundy and Gulf of Maine in 2021, including during broodstock collection for a critically endangered population. Two aquaculture-origin Atlantic salmon were among seven adult fish collected on Nova Scotia's Gaspereau River this year for breeding at DFO's Coldbrook Biodiversity Facility, a hatchery where populations of critically endangered inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic salmon are maintained. Fortunately, staff at the hatchery recognized these fish looked different and euthanized them. [Aquaculture salmon detected in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Maine rivers](#)

9. Dead Eider ducks wash up on Grand Manan

DFO confirmed it visited the island after reports that 100 dead eider ducks were found in Seal Cove, where a resident had reported about 30 dead ducks just a week before. The Canadian Wildlife Service is investigating to ascertain the cause of the unusual deaths. [More dead ducks wash up on Grand Manan shore](#) . (CBC News)

10. Fundy fossil tree featured in museum display

An ancient tree that began its modern journey after falling out of a cliff in Nova Scotia is now on display in the new Dawn of Life gallery at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. The fossilized tree dates from the Carboniferous, when the cliffs now lining the Bay of Fundy were an equatorial swamp at the heart of the supercontinent Pangea. [Fossilized tree discovered at N.S. cliff on display at Royal Ontario Museum](#) (CBC News) [How Canada's geography tells the story of life's evolution on Earth](#) (The National Post)

11. Melding western science and indigenous knowledge

"Two eyed seeing" describes a new approach to understanding and dealing with nature, using the perspectives of both western science and indigenous traditional knowledge. It is being used across Canada to reshape science, but its roots are here in Mi'kmaki. The use of this approach on rivers feeding into the Bay of Fundy has shaped how the research is being carried out, and the priorities for action determined. ['A quest for wisdom': How two-eyed seeing mixes Indigenous knowledge and Western science in N.S.](#) (CBC News)

12. Alton Gas storage sites to be closed

The components of a planned natural gas storage project in Stewiacke, N.S., will be decommissioned by the end of 2022, according to the company behind the project. The project was consistently met with resistance from environmentalists and some members of the Mi'kmaw community. [Alton Gas sites to be decommissioned by end of 2022](#) (CBC News)

13. Is NB Nuclear station threatened by storm surges

The Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station is sitting on one of the most exposed points of land in the Bay of Fundy. Open and exposed on relatively low-lying ground, is the whole plant and its nearby nuclear waste dump a disaster waiting to happen? Has extending its life by recent refurbishment increased the potential for damage by a catastrophic storm event? This article explores the possibilities. [ISSUES – Another Japanese tsunami and wishful thinking at Point Lepreau](#) (Art Mackay Explore Atlantica)

14. Highway crossing of Avon River delayed over fish passage

Completion of the Highway 101 twinning project over the Avon River has been delayed until 2024. The two sections of road on either side of the river cannot be connected by a twin bridge until it's determined how to address fish passage concerns. [Highway 101 twinning project completion delayed until 2024](#) (CBC News)

D. ADMINISTRIVIA

Fundy Tidings is circulated usually quarterly 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](#)