

~ FUNDY TIDINGS ~

Newsletter of the

Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP)

April 2022 Issue

A. BoFEP and its activities:

1. BoFEP/ACCESS Joint Conference in May

The [Atlantic Canada Coastal and Estuarine Science Society](#) (ACCESS) and the [Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership](#) (BoFEP) are holding a joint hybrid (in person or virtual attendance) conference, at the Cox Institute of Agricultural Technology Dalhousie Campus, in Truro NS from May 18th to 21st, 2022. The Conference theme is “*Advancing Estuarine Science and Ocean Literacy in Atlantic Canada*”. The final deadline for abstract submission has now passed. Those submitting abstracts for plenary talks, panels, or symposiums should contact the ACCESS Secretary ([Matthew Penney](#)). Masking may be required for in-person attendees. We will update registrants about this at the beginning of May.

[Conference Information](#)

[General conference program](#)

[Registration](#)

[Accommodations](#)

2. BoFEP Stewardship Award - Call for Nominations

In 2004, BoFEP created an award to recognize the significant efforts of individual citizens toward the environmental stewardship of the Bay of Fundy. The award will again be presented in May 2022 at the ACCESS/BoFEP Conference. This award will be presented to an individual who has “*contributed significantly to the environmental health/sustainability of the Bay of Fundy*”, preferably one who might be described as an “unsung hero”. For more details and to nominate someone, please download the [Award Guidelines and Nomination Form](#) and submit the completed form to seapencom@gmail.com. **It must be received by midnight April 22, 2022, at the latest.**

3. Phenomenal Fundy home to six UNESCO sites!

The Chair of BoFEP Peter Wells recently compiled a list of the UNESCO sites presently designated in the Bay of Fundy. Remarkably, there are six of them in a relatively small area! The Bay is truly remarkable in so many ways! They are as follows:

Two Geoparks (NB and NS)

[Stonehammer UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Two World Heritage Sites (both in NS)

[Landscape of Grand Pre UNESCO World Heritage Site](#)

[Joggins Fossil Cliffs UNESCO World Heritage Site](#)

Two Biosphere Reserves (NB and NS)

[Fundy Biosphere Reserve](#)

[South-west Nova Biosphere Reserve](#)

4. Become a BoFEP supporter

Members are the heart of our organization. As a non-profit, volunteer organization, we rely upon donations and membership dues from individuals and organizations to operate our core activities and programs. 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. [BoFEP Membership Form docx](#) [BoFEP Membership Form pdf](#).

5. BoFEP has new mailing address

Effective immediately snail mail sent to BoFEP should be addressed to:

Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership
PO Box 536
Parrsboro, NS
B0M 1S0

B. Partners and other organizations:

1. NS Coastal Protection Act report available

The Nova Scotia government has released its "[What We Heard](#)" report on regulations for the [Coastal Protection Act](#) (CPA). The report shows that Nova Scotians want strong regulations to protect our coastline. It also serves as a timely reminder of the importance of smart building practices along our coast.

2. Contaminant monitoring in GoM/BoF mussels

[Gulfwatch](#) is a program of the [Gulf of Maine Council](#) (GOMC) now coordinated by a team of scientists (mostly retired) deeply concerned about the fate and effects of persistent toxic chemicals in the coastal environment. Sampling in Canadian waters has ceased, but periodic sampling in USA waters of the GOM continues for chemicals of emerging concern. The archive of Blue Mussel samples is now housed in freezers at the [Huntsman Marine Science Centre](#), St. Andrews, NB, an important step to their preservation, management, and distribution to interested marine pollution investigators from agencies and universities around the GOM. Hopefully one day, the Gulfwatch program will be rejuvenated in the interests of protecting the environmental quality of our coastal waters.

3. MTRI Seminar on Whales

On May 26th, the [Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute](#), as part of its "Sit Back Seminar Series" will host a seminar on "*How Humans are Impacting Baleen Whale Distribution*" by MSc Candidate Hannah Soley (Dalhousie University). The seminar will start at 7:00 p.m. ADT. You must preregister to participate via Zoom at: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#).

4. BoF Discovery Centre Newsletter available

The [winter 2022 issue](#) of "In with the Tide" the newsletter of the Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre Association is now available online. It is chock full of interesting articles on the snow goose, the Big Meadow Bog boardwalk, a local tidal power initiative, proposed salmon farms in St. Mary's Bay and Yarmouth County to mention just a few intriguing topics. You can lend your support to this worthwhile organization by becoming a member, using the form at the back of the newsletter. There is also a [back issue archive of previous newsletters](#).

5. Sign up for Cliffs of Fundy Newsletter

The Cliffs of Fundy Geopark produces a wonderfully informative newsletter featuring articles on the many fascinating activities and opportunities organized by the Geopark and some of its partners. [Sign up for the Newsletter today](#). You can also have a peek in the archive of previous newsletters.

6. CCNB calls for urgent response to UN climate report

The [Conservation Council of New Brunswick](#) says that New Brunswick leaders must heed the urgent calls from UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for rapid emissions reductions and greater nature protection. The report, [Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability](#), released Feb. 28, says the already enormous costs of climate change will get worse and more deadly if governments around the world don't slash greenhouse gas emissions deeper than current reduction commitments. [UN climate report shows need for rapid emissions reductions: Conservation Council – NB](#)

7. 2022 World Ocean Day on June 8th

Mark your calendar now and plan to help celebrate World Ocean Day on June 8th, 2022. The action focus this year will seek to protect 30% of our lands, waters and oceans by 2030. Find out more and check up on [How You Can Help](#) and also [sign up to receive updates](#) of the ongoing activities worldwide.

8. NCC given land on Chignecto Isthmus

The Nature Conservancy of Canada has received a substantial bequest of land on the Isthmus of Chignecto, connecting NB and NS. NCC has been working to conserve privately owned forested and wetland habitats in the area to maintain an unbroken wilderness corridor between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. [Nature Conservancy of Canada gifted 397 hectares of land in Chignecto Isthmus](#) (IHeart Radio)

9. Call for renewed focus on seaweed cultivation.

Thierry Chopin, Professor of marine biology at the [University of New Brunswick](#), continues to urge that we in North America and Europe need to rethink and expand our efforts around seaweed aquaculture. Seaweeds account for 51.3 percent of global mariculture production, but 99.5 percent of seaweed farming is concentrated in Asian countries. He points to the potential for an increasing role in food production, particularly in integrated multi-trophic aquaculture systems, and in the production of organic fertilizers and biological extracts as well as in carbon capture. [Seaweed aquaculture – panacea or hype?](#) (The Fish Site)

C. Fundy/GOM and other news:

1. Featuring Fundy Tourism

A recent article entitled "[High Tides & Fossils: What Makes The Bay Of Fundy So Special](#)" (The Travel March 2022) highlights in words and pictures the wonders of Fundy that make it such an intriguing place to visit. From record tides to reversing rivers, from strange geological formations to key fossils, from races on the seabed to whale watching, the Bay has it all in spades. The article concludes that "*Anyone looking for the perfect Canadian getaway will find it at the Bay of Fundy*".

2. Gulf of Maine warming fast!

An ocean heat wave sent temperatures soaring to a new high last year in the Gulf of Maine, continuing an alarming trend. The surface temperature was more than 4 degrees Fahrenheit above the long-term average and topped the previous record in 2012, according to the Gulf of Maine Research Institute in Portland. [Fast-warming Gulf of Maine set new record in 2021](#) (Concord Monitor)

3. What's the best way to protect NS-NB land link?

There has long been concern about the vulnerability to flooding of the low-lying corridor connecting NS and NB. This has heightened in recent years because of rising sea-level and stronger storm events associated with climate change. A \$700,000 transportation study released by the two provinces recommends three options to prevent the dikes from failing. These involve rebuilding the current dykes to 10.6 metres elevation along with other protective measures, with an estimated costs of between \$189 million and just over \$300 million.

[Long awaited Isthmus study released with 10 year timeline, and \\$190-300 million price tag](#) (CHMA)

[Dikes to protect N.S.-N.B. link from flooding expected to cost hundreds of millions](#) (Global news)

[Dike upgrades to protect N.S.-N.B. land link from flooding expected to cost up to \\$300 million](#) (Globe and Mail)

[Engineering study: three top options to protect Chignecto Isthmus will cost between \\$189 million and \\$301 million](#) (Halifax Examiner)

However, Mount Allison University coastal scientist Jeff Ollerhead expressed disappointment that the report didn't include any "natural" options for protecting the area. He noted that a salt marsh will grow naturally, vertically with rising sea level in the upper Bay of Fundy. There's plenty of sediment available for that to happen and the vegetation will provide natural protection to the dykes, buffer wave energy

and provide a natural protective buffer with no ongoing maintenance cost. [Expert calls recommendations to raise Fundy dykes 'disheartening'](#) (NB Media Coop)

4. US working on Act to Protect Right Whales

An opinion piece in the Ellsworth American entitled "[An important step for whale conservation](#)" suggests that "[the Right Whale Coexistence Act](#), when passed, can also help by providing funding of \$15 million per year for 10 years to assist fishermen in making the transition to whale-friendly fishing gear. This will be a win-win for the whales and for the fishermen".

5. Canada announces Right Whale protection measures

The Canadian government has announced its fishery and vessel management measures for the 2022 season to protect North Atlantic right whales as the endangered animals migrate into Canadian waters. Officials said in a statement Thursday the Fisheries Department will once again implement seasonal and temporary fishing area closures and speed restrictions in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the Bay of Fundy and other "critical habitat areas" where whales have previously been sighted.

[Right whale protection measures to return ahead of migration into Canadian seas](#) (CTV News)

[Right whale protection measures to return ahead of migration into Canadian seas](#) (Toronto Star)

6. Lobstermen challenge Right Whale regulations

New England lobstermen are going to court, worried about how the [coming regulations](#) issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service will affect their livelihoods. The issue is complicated by the fact that they are fishing in disputed waters claimed both Canada and the US, which have differing regulations. [Along the Gulf of Maine, lawsuits over North Atlantic right whale regulations coming to boil](#) (Courthouse News Service)

7. Another Fundy coastal rock formation topples

A mid February storm has toppled yet another of Fundy's iconic coastal flowerpot formations. The narrow stack of rock called Flowerpot Rock because of the trees growing on top of marked where the coastline ran millions of years ago. A storm in March 2016 toppled another such coastal formation named Elephant Rock located at the well-known Hopewell Rocks Park farther northeast on the Bay of Fundy.

[Iconic Flowerpot Rock in Bay of Fundy crumbles](#)

(The Globe and Mail)

[Fundy Trail's iconic Flowerpot Rock tumbles in winter storm](#) (CBC News)

[Storm topples famous rock formation in New Brunswick](#) (CTV News)

8. Mysterious Eider mortality prompts call for action

More than 130 common eiders were found dead on Grand Manan Island NB. The deaths are still under investigation, although testing has ruled out highly pathogenic avian influenza. Aerial surveys have shown that numbers of breeding common eider in the Bay of Fundy are declining about three per cent a year—and no one's sure why. The Gulf of Maine, one of the eiders' primary habitats, is warming faster than 96 per cent of the world's oceans. Ducks Unlimited suggest several actions to help the eiders.

[Taking action for our eiders](#) (Global Newswire & DUC)

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](#)