

~ *FUNDY TIDINGS* ~

Newsletter of the

Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP)

July 2022 Issue

A. BoFEP and its activities:

1. BoFEP/ACCESS Conference a success

After a two-year delay due to the pandemic, the [Atlantic Canada Coastal and Estuarine Science Society](#) (ACCESS) and the [Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership](#) (BoFEP) jointly hosted a conference on "[Advancing Estuarine and Coastal Science and Ocean and Climate Literacy](#)," 17-21 May 2022, at the Dalhousie University Agriculture Campus, Truro, Nova Scotia. This meeting was the 13th in the biennial workshop series organized by BoFEP since 1996. Over 100 people attended the in-person and online conference presenting [48 oral presentations, 22 posters](#), two panels (on the linkage between ocean education and climate change, ecosystem services and dykeland decision making), and a public forum addressing the implications of sea level rise for coastal flooding. The conference offered university researchers, students, government scientists and managers, and private sector personnel an opportunity to present their recent aquatic, environmental, and social science research, especially studies pertaining to the Bay of Fundy and its watersheds. This meeting also marked the 25th anniversary of the founding of BoFEP in 1997. [More details.](#) [Book of Conference Abstracts.](#)

2. Blog: EIUI Presentations at recent ACCESS/BoFEP Conference

The Environmental Information: Use and Influence (EIUI) Working Group recently posted a blog about their oral and poster presentations at the recent ACCESS/BoFEP Conference [From Species at Risk to the Science-Policy Interface: EIUI at Conferences](#) .

3. BoFEP Stewardship Award recipient announced

In 2004 the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership created an award to recognize the significant efforts of individuals in promoting and advancing the environmental stewardship of the Bay of Fundy, reflecting the Mission Statement and Guiding Principles of BoFEP. BoFEP is proud and delighted to announce that the 2022 Environmental Stewardship Award was presented at the ACCESS/BoFEP Conference in Truro, NS to **Dr. Jeff Ollerhead**, a professor in the Department of Environment and Geography at Mount Allison University. [More details.](#)

4. BoFEP's new Fundy Minute video series

This is the first in a series of short videos showcasing Bay of Fundy topics, the purpose is to inform share knowledge of the history, biology, happenings, and actions happening affecting the Bay of Fundy. We would like to thank Dr. Ian Spooner for participating and Kate Spooner at Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council (MAPC) for facilitating, thank you both! [Fundy Minute episode 1 The formation of the Bay of Fundy](#) (3:37 mins) by Dr Ian Spooner, Director of Research, KC Irving Environmental Science Centre at Acadia University. [View Video on YouTube.](#) The next episode is now in preparation

5. Ocean Literacy at BoFEP/ACCESS Conference

The BoFEP/ACCESS conference provided an ideal venue for publicizing the importance and challenge of incorporating ocean/climate literacy into the school curricula. The conference keynote address, entitled "*Ocean and Climate Literacy: Strengthening the Linkage Between Ocean Education and Climate Change Action in Our Coastal Waters*" was delivered by Dr Wendy Watson-Wright. Her presentation highlighted the major global and national programs, many of the former under UN auspices. Her global perspective was complemented by the subsequent and very informative Ocean/Climate Literacy Panel that addressed local initiatives. The panel included Phillip Prosper (Whycocomagh Education Centre), Dr Sondra Eger (DFO), Laura Barrett (HMSC) and Kerri McPherson (Halifax Regional Centre for Education).

6. Local teacher recognized for ocean literacy efforts

The Ocean Literacy and awareness Working Group is delighted to note that Kerri McPherson recently received the Gulf of Maine Visionary Award for her efforts to deliver ocean/climate literacy at the C.P. Allen High School in Bedford NS, where she is a senior Math and Science teacher."

7. BoFEP Annual General Meeting

The 2022 BoFEP AGM will be held on Friday October 21st from 1 - 4 p.m. at Mount Alison University in Sackville NB. (location to be confirmed). The agenda and further details will be circulated prior to the meeting. Steering Committee members please ensure that your membership is up to date before the meeting.

8. 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. It is particularly important that Steering Committee Members make sure that their membership is up to date so that they can vote at the upcoming AGM. [BoFEP Membership Form docx](#) [BoFEP Membership Form pdf](#).

9. Reminder: BoFEP's 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. Joggins Fossil Cliffs beckons visitors

Created over hundreds of millions of years, and uncovered by the highest tides in the world, the Joggins Fossil Cliffs are an iconic part of the Maritimes. Canada's 15th UNESCO World Heritage Site is located in Joggins, which is a two- and half-hour drive from Halifax, NS and just over an hour's drive from Moncton, NB. To Do Canada details five reasons why you should visit Joggins Fossil Cliffs this summer: [5 Reasons Why You Should Visit Joggins Fossil Cliffs](#) (To Do Canada)

2. Canada funds DU to enhance wetland resilience

The Government of Canada announced that it will invest \$5.6 million over three years with Ducks Unlimited Canada. The funding will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by increasing biodiversity conservation efforts in southern Canadian wetlands and coastal areas in the six eastern provinces of Canada. Ducks Unlimited Canada will use the funds to restore and conserve degraded wetlands and upland habitats, acquire habitat at high risk of being lost to alternative land uses, as well as acquire habitat to enable inland migration to coastal salt marsh habitats. [Minister Guilbeault announces investment with Ducks Unlimited Canada to increase long-term carbon storage and enhance biodiversity](#) (Mirage News)

3. In with the Tide Spring Edition 2022

The quarterly newsletter of the Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre Association is now available for your reading pleasure. It features articles on the Digby Neck and the "green grid", hiking in the area and beyond, the biodiversity challenge badge, concerns about salmon aquaculture in the area, all about the Dark Fishing Spider and much more! Help support the association by joining, using the form on the last page!

4. Event celebrating biodiversity in the Fundy

Mark your calendar for a get together about "Conserving and Celebrating Biodiversity in the Bay of Fundy" Join us for discussion and nibbles before and after the tidal bore at the Fundy Discovery Site 103 Tidal Bore Rd, Lower Truro, NS on Monday August 29th from Noon-4PM (tidal bore time is 2:31PM). Event hosted by [Oceans North](#) and [Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society](#) (CPAWS) Nova Scotia.

5. In Memorium - Jim Wolford

Members of BoFEP will be greatly saddened to learn of the death of Acadia University biologist/naturalist Jim Wolford on June 23rd, 2022, shortly after moving to BC. He was a committed supporter of a wide range of environmental and naturalist organizations, including BoFEP. He was always ready to lead an informative field trip to explore one or another of the Bay of Fundy's fascinating ecosystems. He will be missed. Rest in peace Jim. [Obituary](#).

6. Fundy Discovery Aquarium celebrates 50 years!

The Fundy Discovery Aquarium in St. Andrews is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Formerly known as the Huntsman Aquarium, it first opened to the public in 1972. It was torn down in May 2010 to make way for a larger 1,858-square-metre facility which opened in September 2011. [Aqua anniversaries: N.B.'s two aquariums mark major milestones in 2022](#) (CTV News)

7. Fundy tidal power project connects to grid

Sustainable Marine has delivered Canada's first grid-compliant floating tidal plant, following several months of activity in the Bay of Fundy. After laying a kilometre long underwater cable in late January, Sustainable Marine subsequently connected its PLAT-I 6.4 tidal energy system to a purpose-built substation, located on the shores of Grand Passage on Digby Neck. [Bay of Fundy tidal project gets grid nod](#) (ReNews) [Sustainable Marine Ready to Launch Tidal Energy onto Nova Scotia's Grid](#) (Renewable Energy Magazine)

8. Slow progress on designation of new MPAs

The federal government says it will be 2024 before it can produce the final version of its plan to create more marine conservation sites on the Scotian Shelf and in the Bay of Fundy in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The Scotia Fundy Marine Conservation Network Plan is a map of existing marine protected areas (MPAs), two proposed candidate MPAs, a proposed marine refuge, and another 31 potential sites. It's part of Canada's commitment to conserve 25 per cent of its oceans by 2025 and 30 per cent by 2030. [Final plan for Scotia Fundy marine conservation won't be ready until 2024](#) (CBC News)

C. Fundy/GOM and other news:

1. New film offers an indigenous perspective on the St. John River

A gathering circle of Indigenous people and allies in Fredericton has produced a new film about the river officially known as the St. John. "My Name is Wolastoq" features interviews with chiefs and elders and scenes of the river that runs almost 700 kilometres from northern Maine to the Bay of Fundy. [Film shows loss of Indigenous identity from perspective of a man and a river](#) (CBC News). My Name is Wolastoq aired July 2 on CBC Television and will also be available through the [CBC Gem streaming platform](#).

2. NOAA delays enforcing rules protecting Right Whales

New regulations designed to protect the endangered Right Whales still took effect May 1, but the federal government will put off enforcement because supply chain issues have made it too difficult for lobstermen to comply. The regulations require lobstermen to splice NOAA-approved weak rope or weak plastic links into the lines they use to connect buoys to traps on the ocean floor. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said on Wednesday that it will use a "graduated enforcement effort" from when the rules take effect on May 1 until the supply issues have been resolved. [NOAA delays enforcement of new lobster gear rules aimed at protecting right whales](#) (Kennebec Journal)

3. High tech "gliders" to track/protect Right Whales

Researchers will be using the latest technology again this year to track the movement of North Atlantic right whales in the waters off Atlantic Canada in an effort to protect the endangered animals. It's the second year of a five-year, \$3.6-million project using ocean-going autonomous vehicles called underwater gliders. [Technology plays role in protection of endangered right whales off Atlantic Canada](#) (CTV News)

4. Whale poop may provide clues to changing migration

Researchers are studying why North Atlantic right whales are migrating out of our New England waters into Canada. Some believe rapidly warming waters in the Gulf of Maine could be playing a role, but they're just not sure how. Scientists from the New England Aquarium are studying these majestic creatures and they think some of the answers might lie in their poop. [More Endangered Right Whales Are Leaving New England for Canada](#) (NBC Boston)

5. Right Whale population stabilizing?

All in all, it's been so far so good this year for North Atlantic Right Whales. No dead right whales have been spotted. Fifteen calves were born — the second-largest number since 2015. And researchers continue to keep tabs on how the species is doing. It's too early to measure whether closures of lobstering grounds and gear rules enacted off New England this year are averting new entanglements, and there are arguments on all sides about their effectiveness. [Endangered whale numbers may be stabilizing after some bad years, but their future remains uncertain.](#) (Maine Public Radio) [Endangered whale numbers may be stabilizing after some bad years, but their future remains uncertain.](#) (MPR Audio Presentation 5:57 mins) [Will adaptability save the North Atlantic right whale?](#) (CBC News)

6. Stamps feature endangered whale species in Canada

Canada Post has issued a set of stamps to raise awareness about the plight of five whale species that have populations assessed as Endangered by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). Featured in this set of stamps are the following five whales: Beluga whale, Blue whale, Killer whale, *North Atlantic right whale*, Northern bottlenose whale. Illustrations by artist David Miller capture the grace and beauty of these five magnificent mammals swimming in their underwater environments. [New stamps bring attention to Canada's Endangered whales.](#) (Canada Post News Release) [Video on endangered whales](#) (4:46 mins)

7. Great White Sharks like Fundy!

Researchers say the most recent shark visitor to our waters has appeared near Grand Manan. The non-profit organization Ocearch tagged Crystal off the North Carolina Crystal Coast, which is where she got her name. A satellite transmission of her location recently popped up in the Gulf of Maine near Grand Manan. [Great white shark named Crystal believed to be headed to Bay of Fundy region.](#) (CBC News) [So Many Great White Sharks Are Swimming Around Nova Scotia Right Now & Some Of Them Are Huge](#) (Narcity) [Researchers see little evidence that more white sharks prowling North Atlantic](#) (Yahoo News Canada)

8. Warming water impacting NS marine ecosystems.

An Atlantic Canadian biotechnology seafood company says it's seeing the effects of warming ocean temperatures as levels of the cold-water seaweed it harvests have plunged in one area. Acadian Seaplants converts the seaweed *Ascophyllum nodosum* into ingredients used in many food, household and fertilizer products. But the southern range of *Ascophyllum* in Massachusetts is now far less productive than it used to be, according to the company. [How Atlantic Canada's warming ocean could impact everything from seaweed to lobster](#) (CBC News).

9. Lobster populations cope with global warming?

Dire predictions about the effects of global warming on Maine's lobster population may be exaggerated and underestimate the potential that conservation measures have to preserve the fishery into the future. Rapid warming in the Gulf of Maine and the collapse of lobster fisheries in southern New England have fueled predictions that lobsters will likely move north out of Maine waters in the coming decades. But ongoing research at the University of Maine is revealing a more optimistic long-term view of the Maine lobster fishery. [Scientists project bottom temps to remain habitable for lobster.](#) (The Ellsworth American)

10. NS lobster plant reduces plastic pollution

Atlantic ChiCan Seafood Ltd. has installed homemade pipe socks on discharge pipes, after a local environmental activist discovered a large concentration of rubber lobster bands on the beach near the discharge pipes of their lobster processing plant on Cape Sable Island. These bands, are used in lobster

fishing to hold claws closed. [Nova Scotia lobster plant hopes to lead industry in pollution control \(CBC News\)](#)

11. Herring quotas sharply reduced as stocks decline

Another Maritime fishery is facing a big quota cut this year. This time it is the large herring fishery in southwestern Nova Scotia and the Bay of Fundy. The stock is in the critical zone where serious harm is occurring. [Another big Maritime fishery quota cut looming](#) (CBC News). [Proposed Herring Quota Would Put Lobster Fishermen In A Pinch For Bait](#) (Huddle Today). [N.S., N.B. herring fishery swallows 33 per cent quota cut](#) (CBC News). [Herring Quota Decision Not Enough to Rebuild Fishery](#) (Oceans North)

12. Point Lepreau a threat to health?

An expert report suggests that New Brunswick Power's Point Lepreau nuclear reactor on the Bay of Fundy emits much higher levels of radioactive tritium than other nuclear reactors in Canada. Ingesting and breathing in tritium increase the risk of cancer in humans and other animals. These alarming findings were tabled on May 10 by the Passamaquoddy Recognition Group in Saint John during Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) hearings on the application by NB Power for an unprecedented 25-year extension of its licence to operate its Lepreau reactor. [New Brunswick's nuclear reactor emits high levels of radioactivity, increasing cancer risk](#) (NB Media Coop). [Public trust eroded: Longer 10-year licence for Lepreau nuclear reactor reduces Indigenous and community input](#) (NB Media Coop)

13. Fundy salmon farm seeks expansion permit

Norwegian salmon and trout farming company Haugland Gruppen has applied to the Nova Scotia government to operate four marine cage fish farms in St. Marys Bay, Digby County. The move is the next step in the company's plan to expand in the province. Cooke Aquaculture is the only salmon farm operator in Nova Scotia at the moment. The plan is drawing sharp opposition from local residents and fishers. [Norwegian salmon farm expansion in N.S. enters next stage](#) (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](#)