**BoFEP CHAIRS REPORT, AGM 2022 - D3 OCT. 17TH**

As Chair of BoFEP over the past year, I wish to introduce an update on our current activities and focus on our immediate needs as an organization. A work plan for the current FY (2022-23) follows the financial report, after which you will hear in more detail about our activities.

As you all know well, the Bay of Fundy and its’ watersheds are truly one of nature’s coastal wonders. It is world-renowned and unique globally as a tidally drive marine ecosystem, its recognition shown by its six UNESCO sites, the latest being the Cliffs of Fundy Geopark.

That said, many environmental issues still confront the Bay of Fundy and its watersheds, small and large, especially in this era of climate change. They require our ongoing commitment to track them, encourage their study, and report on them with the most reliable information available, especially at our biennial workshops/conferences, and at other venues wherever possible. This is BoFEP’s role – being a one-stop shop of reliable information on the bay.

Along with other organizations and our partners, study of the bay and its protection and conservation require a close connection between science and policy making, and above all, public understanding and support. The work of BoFEP continues under **the over-arching theme of ocean and climate literacy**, in support of the ongoing UN Decade on Ocean Science and Sustainability, the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 14), and ongoing global efforts on ocean literacy.

 This is BoFEP’s 25th year of operation, surely something to celebrate. We have a steering committee and small management team, and we have over 400 “members”, a number of them paid i.e. supporting members. Of late, our focus has been on communication, not on specific projects.You will hear about how we fill this information niche. We welcome your views as to whether we have been successful or not, and whether this should be our focus for the immediate future.

 During the meeting, you also will hear about our immediate and urgent needs for the organization, the main one being recruitment. We continue to search for a new Treasurer and we need younger and energetic volunteers in all our key positions. Please give this some thought as we work through the business part of our meeting, with the various reports on our current finances and our current projects. We especially need an active Steering Committee, with each person involved directly in our activities.

Our current work is reflected in the reports. After they are given, there is a brief opportunity for discussion, as at previous AGMs and workshops. We look forward to your input. Following that, the nominations process will elect the next roster of steering committee members, for 2022-2023. After a short break, Dr. Jeff Ollerhead of Mt.A will be giving a talk on his Fundy research and concerns.

Thank-you for participating in this meeting. BoFEP is your organization and your continued input and participation are crucial for its programs.