

# ~ *FUNDY TIDINGS* ~

*Newsletter of the*

**Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP)**

**March 2023 Issue**

## **A. BoFEP and its activities:**

### **1. Update: BoFEP WG on Coastal Flooding.**

Recently BoFEP formed a Climate Change and Coastal Flooding Working Group ([See item A4 in December Issue of Fundy Tidings](#)). It was suggested that this WG focus on how Coastal Flooding will affect marginalized communities, gather relevant information and share it with those who need it. The province of Nova Scotia has just established an Environmental Racism Panel. It is proposed that BoFEP WG closely follow the committee's work and support its activities through social media and other means. We need a designated person from the Steering Committee to follow the Environmental Racism Committee and provides updates to the BoFEP membership. The updates would include any current items to committee has put out – date and times of meeting or public information sessions, and how to submit information if the committee asks for general submissions. The panel will make its recommendations to the province by December 31, 2023. [Work Begins on Environmental Racism Panel](#) (NS Govt. Press release) [Effective activism takes 'urgent patience,' says head of N.S. environmental racism panel](#) (CBC News). If you are interested in participating in this working group, [please contact Sandra Currie](#).

### **2. BoFEP 25th Anniversary Article.**

2022 was BoFEP's 25th anniversary! We continue our work with a steering committee and a small management team, supported by many organizational partners and individual members across multiple sectors and the two provinces surrounding the Bay of Fundy. We focus on science communication, particularly on the over-arching theme of ocean and climate literacy for the people and communities in this region. The following paper, summarizing the organizations launch, goals, evolution and activities over the years, was presented at the 2022 Bay of Fundy Workshop. ["Addressing environmental issues in the Bay of Fundy – BoFEP's 25th anniversary and next steps"](#) by Peter G. Wells, Jon A. Percy, and Graham R. Daborn

### **3. New BoFEP Steering and Management Committees.**

The following members of the Steering Committee and Management Committee were elected at the 2022 BoFEP AGM in October [Steering Committee](#) [Management Committee](#). The next meeting of the BoFEP Steering Committee will be at a time and place to be announced soon. The agenda will be circulated to all SC members prior to the meeting.

### **4. BoFEP Participation in CZC 2023 Conference**

The [Coastal Zone Canada Association](#) will be holding its annual conference on June 11 - 15, 2023 in Victoria B.C. [Conference Program and registration](#). BoFEP will be making three presentations: a 25th anniversary poster describing BoFEP's achievements and future plans; a poster on the Environmental Information Use and Influence Working Group; and a paper on the Ocean Climate Literacy Working Group. BoFEP has been a knowledge network and "quiet advocate" for the Bay of Fundy (part of the Gulf of Maine) and its watersheds. BoFEP has focussed on creating, sharing and using information and knowledge about the Bay to support its biodiversity, fisheries resources and long-term ecosystem health.

## 5. 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. Please take a moment to renew your support for BoFEP and the important work it does on behalf of the Bay of Fundy and its natural and human communities. [BoFEP Membership Form docx](#) [BoFEP Membership Form pdf](#).

## B. Partners and other organizations:

### 1. ASF Launches New Salmon Conservation Initiative.

The [Atlantic Salmon Federation](#)'s new *Wild Salmon Watersheds* program has advanced from concept to pilot stage. This places ASF in the role of builder and facilitator. Working with local partners like the Nepisiguit Salmon Association ASF will help build a long-term plan for conservation action and deliver the money and expertise required to execute. As a facilitator, it will connect these local groups at annual conferences where best practices are shared. To learn more or nominate your river for the *Wild Salmon Watersheds* program, contact [Kris Hunter](#).

### 2. GOMCME Invites Nominations for 2023 Awards.

The Gulf of Maine Council is accepting nominations for several annual awards to recognize volunteers, professionals, businesses, and organizations for outstanding efforts to promote a healthy Gulf of Maine ecosystem. Nominees from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts are invited. Awards will be presented at an awards reception in Boston, Massachusetts during early June. [Please use the nomination forms available here](#). Nomination forms must be submitted by March 31, 2023

### 3. FSRs Annual Conference and AGM.

[The Fishermen and Scientists Research Society](#) will hold its 30th Annual Conference and AGM on March 21st at the Best Western Plus Hotel in Dartmouth, NS. Each year, the FSRs hosts this conference to allow members, fishermen, scientists, industry workers, students and the general public to come together for a collaborative discussion of recent research and findings within the fishing industry. [Conference/AGM Program Page](#)

### 4. Kudos to Plastics Collecting Activist.

Thanks, and congratulations to Karen Jenner who has been picking up beach trash, much of it plastic, from the beaches between Black Rock and Halls Harbour in Kings County for three to five hours a day, three or four times a week, since March 2018. She has made many observations of plastics, and documenting what she collects (almost 32,000 lbs since 2018). [Single-use plastics ban a start, concerned Nova Scotians say](#). (SaltWire Network)

### 5. Investments in Kelp Restoration and Urchin Harvesting.

Cadman's investment Company will support the start of kelp restoration across the Bay of Fundy and the East Coast. The company has also acquired a stake in a sea urchin harvesting venture. [Cadman Capital adds Quoddy Savour Seafood to its basket](#) (PE Hub). [Cadman Capital invests in Urchinomics](#) (The Fish Site). [Canadian investment firm snaps up urchin aquaculture company](#) (IntraFish)

## 6. Foundation Promotes Youth Ocean Literacy.

Geoff Green the founder and president of the Students on Ice (SOI) Foundation has overseen educational expeditions for more than 3,000 youth from around the world and expanded to work with partner organizations involved in research and conservation. These ocean journeys of a lifetime always include a youth element, with participants joining scientists, Elders, artists and other visionary leaders who guide them toward building a more positive world. Green spoke about his vision — for SOI and the ocean — last fall while on the foundation’s inaugural Ocean Conservation Expedition, a 22-day journey along the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia and through the Bay of Fundy. [Students on Ice founder Geoff Green discusses his experience as an expedition leader](#) (Canadian Geographic) Hop aboard the Polar Prince with David McGuffin as he sails Atlantic Canada’s Bay of Fundy with the scientists, students and researchers that make up this Students on Ice conservation expedition. [The Bay of Fundy: Sea and skies](#) (National Geographic Podcast 26:34 Mins)

## 7. Student Defends Thesis on Indigenous Environmental Values.

Emily Wells a student at Dalhousie University will soon defend her Master of Environmental Studies thesis entitled “*Mi’kmaw relational values: lessons for environmental valuation from indigenous literatures and L’nuwey along the Bay of Fundy coast*”. This study aims to enrich relational value discourses by first engaging with literatures on Indigenous values and subsequently considering the emergent descriptions and classifications of relational values in a community-based case study on how the Mi’kmaq navigate coastal adaptation decision-making on the Bay of Fundy coast.

## 8. Virtually Dive into Fundy with New Exhibit.

Dive Deeper is a virtual museum exhibit that invites you into a world beneath the waves that comes to life with the click of a mouse through a revolutionary exhibit exploring the Bay of Fundy. Through a mix of the latest technologies in marine mapping and underwater photography, users can explore 3D maps and 360-degree videos of six areas of Passamaquoddy Bay. [Dive deep into the Bay of Fundy without leaving home](#) (CBC News) [This exhibit explores the Bay of Fundy seafloor through a screen](#) (CTV News) Go to the [Dive Deeper storymap](#) to begin your exploration.

## 9. DFO to Release Marine Spatial Planning Atlas

Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) is a collaborative and practical approach to managing ocean spaces that considers all stakeholders in the marine environment. The Canadian federal government through the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has committed to developing MSP in three marine spatial planning areas in Atlantic Canada by 2024. The first product of the planning process is the Canada Marine Planning Atlas – Atlantic, an online, interactive atlas showing marine spaces, resource use, and environmental protection in the Newfoundland and Labrador Shelves, the Estuary and Gulf of Saint Lawrence, and the Scotian Shelf and Bay of Fundy. DFO expects to release the Atlas publicly in 2023. [Canada Marine Planning Atlas](#) (DFO).

## 10. Inner Bay of Fundy Initiative

The Inner Bay of Fundy Initiative is a Marine Spatial Planning project that involves beta-testing of MSP, a tool that is already proving to be quite valuable. The objective is to develop a coastal and marine conservation decision-support “toolbox” for the Inner Bay of Fundy using the Conservation Standards, including Targets, Pressures, Strategies, Action Plans, and Implementation Plans. We hope to have more information for the next Fundy Tidings.

## C. Fundy/GOM and other news:

### 1. Tidal Power Newsclips.

Tidal power in the Bay of Fundy still dominates the headlines, with a focus on smaller floating turbines and the impacts of tidal installations on fish and the environment.

[Will tidal energy be the new clean power in coastal & island microgrids?](#) (Microgrid Knowledge)

[Bay of Fundy Extreme Tides Time Lapse](#) (Kottke.org)

[Canada's flagship tidal energy test center appoints new directors](#) (Offshore Energy)

[Best Of 'Insights': Has Tidal Power Finally Arrived On Our Shores?](#) (Huddle.Today)

[Bay of Fundy research to shed more light on fish and tidal turbines interaction](#) (Offshore Energy)

### 2. Limitations on Fundy Tidal Power?

Tom Scott explains why despite having the world's highest tidal range, you can't harness the power of those waves at the Bay of Fundy. This YouTube video (5:13mins) features fascinating drone footage of various places around the Bay as well as a simple demonstration of the bathtub effect that makes the Bay such a challenge for turbine developers. <https://digg.com/video/bay-of-fundy-tom-scott>

### 3. Wind Industry and Whales in Conflict?

The wind industry warns that a recommendation from federal scientists to limit turbines in offshore lease areas to protect the endangered North Atlantic right whale could threaten the commercial viability efficiency and utilities contracts for some projects. [Wind industry group says turbine restrictions for whales could threaten commercial viability of projects](#) (Offshore Wind). [Opinion: 'Strategy' to protect right whales from offshore wind development is recipe for extinction](#) (The New Bedford Light)

### 4. NS Launches Climate Change Plan.

Nova Scotia unveiled its [Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth](#) (*Department of Environment and Climate Change*) on a foggy December morning, citing Hurricane Fiona as a recent example of the cost of inaction. The province's climate plan, entitled "*Our Climate: Our Future, Nova Scotia's Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth*", includes 68 actions, broken down into the following four main groups: *Responding to climate change impacts; Seizing opportunities for a cleaner, sustainable economy; Reporting and evaluating progress; and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.* [Province Releases Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth](#) (NS News Release) [Climate Risk in Nova Scotia](#) (NS Department of Environment and Climate Change) [Nova Scotia's ambitious climate plan aims to phase out coal](#) (The Weather Network)

### 5. EAC Critiques New NS Climate Action Plan.

Soon after Nova Scotia's climate plan was released the [Ecology Action Centre](#) did a close analysis of the plan to look for clear, actionable measures to address the climate crisis, an appropriate level of funding commitments, accountability mechanisms and commitments to stop undermining climate action with further investment in outdated industries. [The EAC's analysis and response to Nova Scotia's climate plan](#) (Ecology Action Centre)

### 6. Concerns About Erosion Around the Bay.

It is increasingly apparent that many areas around the Bay of Fundy are prone to the devastating impacts of rising sea level. Concerns are growing about coastal erosion, an old problem that has a new urgency along a stretch of coastline in Saint John, NB. Erosion has been a problem in the area for decades. [Concerns are growing about coastal erosion in Saint John](#) (Pipa News). Meanwhile, the mayor of Amherst, N.S., says he hopes work can move ahead as soon as safely possible to address climate threats to the vital land border between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Projections suggest the isthmus could be at flood risk by the year 2100. On the

other side of the border, the newly-sworn-in mayor of the new town called Tantramar, N.B., says consequences could be severe if dikes are breached. [Climate mitigation plan for Chignecto Isthmus needs to be prioritized: N.B. and N.S. mayors](#) (Global News) Meanwhile, on the other side of the Earth, an analysis of swell height in relation to tidal amplitude and coastal geography along the south Australian Coast (aimed primarily at surfers!) draws upon extensive data from the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy to explain the relationships. [The Tide Giveth And The Tide Taketh Away](#) (Swellnet)

## **7. The Gulf of Maine is Warming Fast.**

The Gulf of Maine is warming faster than most of the world's oceans. Last year fell short of setting a new high mark for hottest year by less than half a degree Fahrenheit, said scientists with the Gulf of Maine Research Institute in Portland. The average sea surface temperature was 53.66 degrees (12 degrees Celsius), more than 3.7 degrees above the 40-year average. The accelerated warming is changing an ecosystem that's host to numerous important commercial fishing industries. [Waters off New England had 2nd warmest year on record in '22](#) (AP News) [Gulf of Maine Warming Update: 2022 the Second-Hottest Year on Record](#) (Gulf of Maine research Institute)

## **8. Right Whale Baby Boom?**

Eight North Atlantic right whale calves have been spotted off the coast of the United States so far this calving season between mid-November and mid-April in southern coastal waters. The population has been declining for more than a decade, though the decline has shown signs of slowing in recent years. The latest population estimate is around 340, but fewer than 100 are potential mothers. [8 North Atlantic right whale calves recorded this season encouraging.](#) (Yahoo News Canada) [Three newborn calf sightings renew optimism for right whale population](#) (SaltWire) [Wildlife Wednesday: baby boom sparks hope for North Atlantic right whale](#) (Canadian Geographic)

## **9. US Won't Protect Right Whales from Vessels.**

The U.S. government has denied a request from a group of environmental organizations to immediately apply proposed ship-speed restrictions to save a vanishing species of whale. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is considering new rules designed to stop large ships from colliding with North Atlantic right whales. The whales number less than 340, and they are vulnerable to ship strikes and entanglement in fishing gear. The proposed rules would expand "slow zones" off the East Coast and require more vessels to comply with those rules. [White House Refuses to Shield Endangered Right Whales From Lethal Vessel Strikes](#) (Truthout) [Feds deny emergency request for ship-speed restrictions to protect whales.](#) (Fox 5 NW York)

## **10. Right Whales Facing Extinction?**

North Atlantic right whales may be on the brink of extinction. Follow the long fight to save them in this CBC documentary (44:08 Mins). Featuring breathtaking footage of the majestic, but rarely seen, North Atlantic right whale — seen through the eyes of scientists, photographers, rescuers and fishers — this program bears witness to their struggle and brings hope for their survival. [Last of the Right Whales](#) (CBC Gem - The nature of Things)

## **11. Watch Efforts to Free Right Whale from Fishing Gear!**

Virtually look over the shoulders of a dedicated rescue team as they attempt to disentangle a Right Whale from fishing gear. [Onboard a dangerous mission to disentangle a right whale](#) (CBC Documentaries).

## 12. Crab Fishers Go High-Tech to Protect Whales.

Each summer, North Atlantic right whales risk becoming entangled in fishing gear around the waters of the Bay of Fundy, Gulf of St. Lawrence and the New England coast. So how do you stop whales from getting tangled up? Lose the ropes!!! Forward-thinking crab fishers are getting high-tech to solve the problem. They are using pop-up buoys activated by their cell phones to raise their traps, avoiding the use of ropes. [Whale-friendly fishing: Crab fishers are testing new gear to help right whales](#) (CBC Documentaries). [How fishermen are using new technology that could help save North Atlantic right whales](#) (The Globe and Mail) [Tracing fishing gear to protect North Atlantic right whales is positive step: experts](#) (Moose Jaw News)

## 13. Tagging Reveals Lobsters' Extensive Wanderings.

Researchers who have been tagging them know that the average lobster in the Bay of Fundy can crisscross that bay several times over the course of a year. Depending on how many times a single lobster is caught and released, it can create a pretty accurate map showing about where it has been over the years [Tagging along on the secret life of the lobster](#) (CBC News).

WATCH | [Egg-bearing lobster get tagged for science.](#) (CBC Video 3:35 mins).

## 14. Invasive tunicate on DFO's watch list.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada is asking fishermen to keep an eye out for an invasive species in the Bay of Fundy — one that has an unforgettable nickname. Pancake batter tunicate — more commonly known by its colloquial name "sea vomit" — that has been spotted on the east coast of North America since 1982. The species is a creamy white colour, is slimy to the touch and is native to the ocean around Japan. It's only been confirmed north of the U.S. border since 2013, but there is some evidence the invasive species is growing more prevalent in New Brunswick waters. [Sea vomit: Why DFO is worried about an invasive species with a disgusting name.](#) (CBC News)

## 15. Point Lepreau Shutdown Raises Concerns.

On December 14, yet another costly power outage occurred at New Brunswick's Point Lepreau nuclear power plant on the beautiful Bay of Fundy, forcing a costly and potentially dangerous emergency shutdown of the reactor. Once more, the Canadian Greens urge caution on the government's financing of new nuclear experiments, dubbed Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), that include two projects taking place at Point Lepreau: ARC-100 and Moltex. [Green Party statement on emergency shutdown at Point Lepreau nuclear power station](#) (Green Party of Canada)

## 16. Protecting and restoring habitats around the Bay/GOM.

Several promising initiatives designed to restore or protect freshwater and marine habitats around the Gulf of Maine and Bay of Fundy are presently in the works. [Collins, King Announce \\$5 Million to Restore Fish Habitat on the St. Croix River](#) (Angus King Press Release). [Collins aids river's restoration](#) (Letters To Editor - The Ellsworth American). [ASF nets \\$7.5 million grant for Maine habitat work: NOAA fisheries supports major work in Penobscot headwaters and tributaries](#) (Atlantic Salmon Federation). [EAC applauds new provincial protected areas, \\$20 million for NS Crown Share Land Legacy Trust](#) (Ecology Action Centre)

## 17. Bird Sanctuary considered "eyesore" to be upgraded.

A coastal stretch of land adjacent to the Anchorage Provincial Park campground on Grand Manan Island, NB has turned into a place where old cars, garbage and burnt mattresses go to rot. The Nature Conservancy of Canada acquired the land, known as Henderson's Point, in 2017, with the goal of preserving the location for hundreds of migratory birds which have visited

the island in the middle of the Bay of Fundy. The conservancy has been managing it as a nature reserve since then, and it'll soon be breaking ground on a project to restore the area and preserve it for generations. [Island bird sanctuary to get a facelift.](#) (Yahoo 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](mailto:seapencom@gmail.com) Back issues are available at [Fundy Tidings Archive](#)

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