**BoFEP Chair’s Report, November AGM, 2023 30-11-23**

This report, and those that follow, update the BoFEP community on our collective activities since Fall 2022. This meets our continued core mandate of “creating, sharing and using information and knowledge about the Bay of Fundy” in this time of much environmental change and concern.

As noted in the 2022 AGM, in collaboration with ACCESS, we had a very successful biennial conference that year. The Proceedings are now published on the BoFEP website as BoFEP Technical Report No 12, March 2023. I thank all contributors to that meeting. One of the papers celebrates BoFEP’s 25th Anniversary. It was also encouraging to have so many students at that meeting, a trend we hope continues.

We are now in the early planning stages for the next BoFEP/ACCESS Workshop, for 2024, collaborating with the Huntsman Marine Science Centre in St. Andrews, NB. Details follow as part of this AGM program.

The work of BoFEP continues under the over-arching theme of ocean and climate literacy. We emphasize this as it supports the ongoing UN Decade on Ocean Science and Sustainability, the sustainable development goal SDG 14, and many ongoing global efforts on ocean literacy. It fits in with what we have been doing over all these years. Our work plan for 2023-24 focusses on communication, new WG initiatives, new projects, and the next Workshop.

This is BoFEPs 26th year of operation. Our management team meets monthly to guide the organization and its program. BoFEP has a Steering Committee of 26 members and a mailing list of 400-500 “members” maintained by Dr. Jon Percy, our long-serving Communications member. A number of people or organizations are paid members of BoFEP, the paid membership still being optional.

Our new Treasurer, Ms. Katie Schleit of Oceans North, has recently expertly navigated our move to a new bank (TD) to facilitate us being able to have e-transfers for all monetary transactions. Susan Rolston is thanked for her many years as our past Treasurer; we are grateful that she continues to serve as a Steering Committee member.

Our new mailing address is in Parrsboro, NS – BoFEP, PO Box 536, Parrsboro, NS. B0M 1S0. It is monitored by our Vice-Chair, Sandra Currie, who lives there.

From March to August this year (six months), we employed a Dalhousie student, Lauren Lowther, as our BoFEP Coordinator. She worked closely with the OCL WG, helping us prepare for the 2023 Coastal Zone Canada Conference where we gave a paper and a poster, building on our ocean literacy work to date. Lauren has since moved on, becoming a graduate student at Queens University in Kingston, Ontario.

In her place is Ms. Emilie Butler, of HRM, who as our new BoFEP Coordinator will be assisting with the work of the Ocean Literacy WG and aspects of next years’ BoFEP Workshop. Welcome to the BoFEP Team, Emilie.

We have also successfully moved ahead with the Fundy Video Project, thanks to members of the management team assisted by Michele Tremblay of NH. You will hear more about this project from Sandra Currie.

At this AGM, you will hear about all our current activities (three active programs and WGs) and importantly about some of our immediate needs to ensure that our projects and working groups continue to move ahead with success.

Please note – organizations like ours always need more people such as you and your colleagues to volunteer for some of the vacant positions and jobs that need to be done. Organizations need renewal of people in key positions to stay viable. BoFEP is no exception – please volunteer and/or give your suggestions as to new people, new projects and new funding opportunities.

To conclude, I thank you for your valuable time attending this meeting. Our management team appreciates your expertise and dedication to what we can achieve together, in the spirit of protecting and conserving the biodiversity, ecology and habitats in the truly remarkable Bay of Fundy and its watersheds. Please enjoy this meeting and follow up with us afterwards with suggestions and your time.

Peter Wells, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS.

Chair BoFEP, 2022-2023.