

# ~ *FUNDY TIDINGS* ~

*Newsletter of the*

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

**November 2023 Issue**

## A. BoFEP and its activities:

### 1. **BoFEP 2023 AGM fast approaching!**

The BoFEP 2023 Annual General Meeting will be held via Zoom on Thursday, November 30th from 7:30-9:00 p.m. The agenda, Zoom sign in information, and details of a guest speaker presentation will be circulated to members prior to the meeting and also posted on the BoFEP website [www.bofep.org/wpbofep](http://www.bofep.org/wpbofep)

### 2. **Planning underway for 2024 BoFEP Workshop**

The 14th Biennial Bay of Fundy Workshop is being planned for 2024. The 13th meeting was held in Truro, NS, so the hope is that the next one can be held in New Brunswick, possibly at the Huntsman Marine Sciences Centre in St. Andrews, NB. In keeping with tradition, the get together will likely be held in mid to late May. It is hoped that it will again be a productive joint meeting with the [Atlantic Canada Coastal and Estuarine Science Society](#) (ACCESS). Suggestions for plenary presentations and possible workshop sessions are always welcome, as are relevant Sponsors/Displayers for the gathering. [Contact address](#) Details of the workshop location, date and registration will be circulated with the **Call for Papers** to the BoFEP newsletter mail list and also posted on the [BoFEP website](#) early in the new year.

### 3. **BoFEP “Fundy Minute” Video Project**

BoFEP has initiated a video project entitled “Fundy Minute” in which experts from around the Bay give their take on a wide array of topics pertaining to Fundy and some of the ecological problems that are confronting it. BoFEP extends special thanks to Michele Tremblay of naturesource communications ([naturesource.net](http://naturesource.net)) for guiding the project so adeptly and professionally and kudos also to George Swenson for sharing his technical expertise during the postproduction processing of the first two videos.

**Fundy Minute #1** (3:37 min) features Dr. Ian Spooner from [Acadia University](#) in Wolfville NS where he is a professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Science. He is also the Director of Research at the K.C. Irving Environmental Science Centre and Harriet Irving Botanical Gardens. Dr. Spooner’s primary research interest is investigating environmental change, and he has active research programs in northwestern British Columbia, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland. He will give a brief overview of how the Bay of Fundy formed, how it has evolved over geological time and what makes it geologically unique.

**Fundy Minute #2** (40:58 mins) features Chief Hugh Akagi of the [Peskotomuhkati \(Passamaquoddy\) First Nation](#), whose traditional territory includes the watershed of the Skutik (St. Croix) River and Passamaquoddy Bay. Based in St. Andrews, NB, he provides an extended overview of some of the First Nations’ perspectives on the Bay of Fundy, its marine resources, and their historical relationship to it.

Work is already underway for additional videos in this series. BoFEP welcomes any suggestions for future topics and/or speakers. Send your ideas by email to: [Fundy videos](#)

#### 4. Proceedings of 13th BoFEP/ACCESS workshop online

The Proceedings of the 13th Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP) Science Workshop and the Atlantic Canada Coastal and Estuarine Science Society (ACCESS) Conference held jointly on May 18-21, 2022, at the Cox Institute of Agricultural Technology on the Dalhousie University campus in Truro, NS is now available online. The theme was: "Advancing Estuarine Science and Ocean Literacy in Atlantic Canada". [Conference Proceedings \(pdf\)](#)

#### 5. Become a BoFEP supporter

[Join BoFEP!](#) 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. **You can now pay via e-transfer.** 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-current](#) (docx)

[BoFEP-Membership-form-current](#) (pdf)

#### 6. BoFEP on social media

In addition to receiving the BoFEP Fundy Tidings newsletter and following us on the website, you might also want to consider following us on any of the following social media platforms.

<https://www.facebook.com/BayofFundyEcosystemPartnership>

<https://www.instagram.com/bayoffundyecosystempartnership/>

<https://twitter.com/BayofFundyEP>

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8774711/>

## **B. Partners and other organizations:**

### 1. NOAA Plans Whale vessel strike workshop

National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration will convene a North Atlantic Right Whale Vessel Strike Risk Reduction Technology Workshop on March 5-7, 2024 in Arlington, VA as well as virtually. The first two days of the workshop will be open to the public, while the final day will be restricted to federal agencies only. [North Atlantic Right Whale Vessel Strike Risk Reduction Technology Workshop](#)

### 2. Keeping up with news about Right Whales

Anyone interested in keeping up with the latest news about North Atlantic Right Whales might want to consider subscribing to "*Right Whale News*". This independent forum for right whale conservation and recovery is published several times each year by the North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium. Subscription information and current and back issues are available on the [North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium Website](#).

### 3. Paper advocates natural protection of shorelines

A report in the Bulletin of the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society argues that the conservation and reestablishment of coastal foredunes may be an important way to reduce coastal erosion. The paper is entitled "[The importance of coastal foredunes as a nature-based solution for shoreline protection: What Hurricane Fiona tells us](#)" and written by researchers Jeff

Ollerhead, Robin Davidson-Arnott, and Bernard O. Bauer. Foredunes are oft-touted as a nature-based solution to preventing shoreline inundation during major storms, serving to mitigate potential damage to valuable coastal infrastructure and reducing the erosional impact of waves and storm surge. The recent destruction imparted by Hurricane Fiona (September 2022) on the north coast of Prince Edward Island (PEI) provides an ideal opportunity to validate this assertion.

#### **4. Fundy National Park Draft Management Plan**

Parks Canada has prepared a 2023 draft management plan for Fundy National Park. The review gathered comments and suggestions on the proposed vision for the park over the next 10 years. [Fundy National Park Draft Management Plan, 2023](#).

#### **5. Oceans North - collaborating on conservation**

Oceans North is a charitable organization that fosters science- and community-based conservation in the Arctic and Atlantic regions of Canada, as well as western Greenland. Its goal is to promote policies and programs that address the unprecedented environmental changes taking place in northern marine ecosystems and ensure that they are protected within the framework of Indigenous knowledge, rights, and consultation. [Oceans North Website](#)  
[Subscribe to newsletter](#)

#### **6. Overview of recent environmental news in NS**

The last few months have seen several key environmental issues covered in the Nova Scotia press and discussed across the media in general. BoFEP Chair Peter Wells has prepared a summary of many of these issues for inclusion in the [Fall issue of the Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists Bulletin](#).

#### **7. Inner Bay of Fundy Conservation Project**

This Habitat Conservation Strategy (HCS) was developed through collaboration among member organizations of the [Eastern Habitat Joint Venture](#) (EHJV) Nova Scotia Steering Committee and partner conservation groups. It is intended to be one of a series of HCS with contiguous boundaries that will consider all areas of the province. The purpose of this HCS is to identify and assess the current state of species and ecological communities of conservation priority for the Nova Scotia Inner Bay of Fundy (NS IBoF) bioregion, to present a series of mapping approaches to identify their location within the bioregion, and to identify the planned conservation and stewardship actions of organizations within the bioregion to enhance partnerships, reduce redundancies, and facilitate decision-making. Each organization is guided by its own particular mission, vision, and/or guiding principles. [Nova Scotia Inner Bay of Fundy Habitat Conservation Strategy Final Report to Environment Canada by the Mersey Tobetic Research Institute March 2015](#).

#### **8. Huntsman seeks help in cataloging Fundy species**

A new project at the Huntsman Marine Science Centre in Saint Andrews is looking for citizen scientists to help catalogue the species living in the Bay of Fundy. The centre, in southwestern New Brunswick, is asking people who live and work around the bay to keep an eye out for any interesting or unexpected finds. The centre has set up the project using the social media platform iNaturalist, which allows users to post pictures and locations of animals and plants they encounter. These posts can then be sent to the centre, where researchers on site, as well as across the iNaturalist platform, can work together to help identify the species in the photo. [Huntsman Marine Centre seeks species tips from citizen scientists](#) (CBC News)

## 9. Newsletter of BIO Oceans Organization

The [Bedford Institute of Oceanography \(BIO\) Oceans Association](#) (OA) was formed in 1998 by a group of retired public servants previously involved in Ocean Sciences and Hydrography who share an interest in BIO. In addition to social activities, the OA is concerned with the history of BIO and with enhancing public knowledge about the oceans. social activities include lectures on topics of general interest and organized tours of local and regional places of interest. While most current members are present or past employees of BIO or of the federal departments of Environment, Fisheries and Oceans, and Natural Resources, the organization welcomes anyone who shares its goals. [Membership application](#). Membership includes a subscription to the [quarterly newsletter "VoicePipe"](#). Facebook - [\(20+\) BIO Oceans Association | Facebook](#).

## 10. Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists

The [Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists](#) (CSEB) is a national non-profit organization. Its primary objectives are: to further the conservation of Canadian natural resources; to ensure the prudent management of these resources to minimize environmental effects; to maintain high professional standards in education, research and management related to natural resources and the environment. The Society publishes the quarterly Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists Bulletin. [YouTube \(2:03 mins\) video about CSEB](#). The Society welcomes Associate Members who do not qualify for regular or student membership. [Membership information](#).

## C. Fundy/GOM and other news:

### 1. Update on cancelled tidal project.

The tidal power developer Sustainable Marine Energy has experimented for five years in the Bay of Fundy near Digby and had received a federal subsidy of nearly \$30 million. Last year, the company became the first in Canada to successfully connect a tidal power turbine to supply energy to Nova Scotia Power. But this past summer Sustainable Marine, a subsidiary of a company headquartered in Scotland, abruptly announced it was pulling up stakes and leaving Nova Scotia. More information is surfacing concerning the reasons for the abrupt departure. [DFO offered tidal developer one-year lease for Minas Basin site](#) (Halifax Examiner)

### 2. Fight to reopen Windsor Causeway gates continues

A recent decision from a Nova Scotia judge isn't stopping a marine conservationist and fisherman in his efforts to get the gates reopened at the Windsor causeway. Darren Porter's lawyer filed a notice of application for a judicial review of the June 1, 2023, decision from the minister responsible for emergency management to issue a declaration of state of emergency. That order ruled the gates in the aboiteau, or dike system, be closed to allow Lake Pisiquid to fill up so it could be used as a water source to fight fires. [Fight to reopen gates at Windsor causeway continues, despite court defeat](#) (CBC News)

### 3. Wetland restorations mitigate climate change impacts

Tidal estuaries can act as a buffer against flooding and erosion. Several coastal areas on the Bay of Fundy where dikes were built to stave off the ocean tides are set to be restored to tidal estuaries. The areas to be restored are along three tidal rivers: the St. Croix River, River Hebert and the Maccan River. Danika Van Proosdij, a professor at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, is at the forefront of wetlands restoration research in Nova Scotia and has already overseen the restoration of over 400 hectares. [More coastal wetlands to be restored in Nova Scotia to reduce damage from climate change](#) (CBC News)

#### 4. Paper on coastal impacts of climate change

A new paper entitled "Climate change and the coasts of Maritime Canada: Expect the previously unexpected" by J. Ollerhead, has recently been published in the [Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science](#) 53(1): 19-27.

#### 5. Limit coastal development because of erosion

For people who live along the sandstone shoreline of southeastern New Brunswick, constant erosion and rising sea levels are facts of life. As developers push to build closer and closer to the ocean, environmental experts say it's time for the province to strengthen the rules that protect the coast. [Erosion experts caution N.B. against continued coastal development](#) (CBC News)

#### 6. Right Whale prospects improving?

Four North Atlantic right whales were spotted in the Bay of Fundy this past summer. This, along with other reports suggest that the population of this critically endangered species may be levelling off after a decade of steep decline. They clearly aren't out of the woods (kelp forest?) yet, but it may be an indication that efforts to reduce impacts of vessel strikes and fishing gear entanglement may be working. [4 North Atlantic right whales spotted in Bay of Fundy](#) (CBC News) [North Atlantic right whale population has steadied, scientists say](#) (CBC News) [After years of decline, endangered right whale population could be levelling off](#) (CTV News) [North Atlantic right whales still struggling as conservation efforts continue](#) (Yahoo News)

#### 7. Economics of switching to ropeless fishing gear

A new report by the [Conservation Law Foundation](#) looks at the financial implications of switching to ropeless or "On demand" lobster fishing gear to reduce entanglement of Right Whales. Accidental entanglement in commercial fishing gear is the primary threat to the survival and recovery of the species. Approximately 83 percent of the population has been entangled at least once in the rope, or static vertical line, that runs from anchored fishing gear on the seafloor to the surface marking buoys. [Financial Impact of Transitioning Two Sectors of the Northeast Lobster Fishery to On-Demand \(Ropeless\) Fishing](#) (Conservation Law Foundation). In addition, The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) has completed the second phase of a two-year project to evaluate the operational costs of on-demand fishing gear technology by Massachusetts lobster fishermen [On-Demand Fishing Gear Economic Model](#). (Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries).

#### 8. Hungry sharks chowing down in Fundy

Some researchers feel that the number of Great White Sharks summering in Fundy waters may be increasing. Others think that the increases may be attributable to more people looking for them and the fact that research groups such as Oearch have tagged many and know exactly where to look. People can also follow their peregrinations online. Many of sharks have been named and more and more is being learned about the travels and behaviors of individuals. This past summer one was filmed feeding on the carcass of a dead whale ([video: 0:48 mins](#)). Also, a boater reported multiple sightings of "Old Thom" swimming with a group of dolphins near Grand Manan ([Video: 0:59 mins](#)).

[Large Great White Shark Spotted Circling the Islands Off Maine's Coast](#) (AZ Animals)

[Great white shark makes a meal out of a dead whale off N.B.](#) (CBC News)

[Old Thom and friends get social with Grand Manan family](#) (CBC News)

[Old Thom: The killer whale that everyone knows but few have seen](#) (CBC News)

[Shark pings off SC coast as part of southern migration](#) (WYFF News)



## 9. Controversy over herring quota

Nova Scotia's fishing industry and conservation groups are at odds over a new herring quota set by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) this season. The quota, or total allowable catch (TAC), off southwestern Nova Scotia and New Brunswick is now limited to 21,000 tonnes for 2023, an 11 per cent reduction from the previous year. The quota for the Southwest Nova Scotia/Bay of Fundy fishery has been on the decline, DFO said, dropping by 50 per cent since 2018. [N.S. fishing industry, conservation groups at odds over new herring quota](#) (CBC News)

## 10. DFO Fisheries stock monitoring faulty

A new report from the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development (CESD) has found serious problems with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)'s approach to monitoring marine fisheries catch. Fisheries monitoring is intended to make sure that all species coming out of the water due to fishing activities are accounted for. Monitoring occurs at sea, where species are brought onboard or discarded, and at the dock, where fish is landed and sold. Amongst the report's concerns is a failure to collect dependable and timely catch data. [DFO's Continued Failure to Properly Monitor Fisheries Puts Sustainability and Biodiversity at Risk](#) (Oceans North) [Report 9—Monitoring Marine Fisheries Catch—Fisheries and Oceans Canada](#) (CESD). Also listen to: [Reaction to scathing report on federal Fisheries Department](#) (Information Morning - NS CBC Radio with marine conservationist Katie Schleit, of Oceans North )

## 11. Dulse harvest declines sharply

Dulse harvester Sandy Flagg, who operates Roland's Sea Vegetables, has been in the dulse business on Grand Manan for 54 years and he's never seen a worse season. The main issue is what's called grey leaf, although it's more of an unappetizing greenish-brown colour. Scientists say it's likely an algae or sediment on the purple leaves of the plant. Flagg said about 90 per cent of dulse he bought this summer was grey. Those in the industry blame a confluence of conditions, including global warming. [Grand Manan dulse season worst ever, say pickers and sellers](#) (CBC News)

## 12. Salmon released into Petitcodiac

The Inner Bay of Fundy wild salmon population, which collapsed in the 1990s, is experiencing an apparent rebound following efforts led by Amlamgog, also called Fort Folly First Nation. The group has released more than one million fry – fish at an early developmental phase – into the Petitcodiac Watershed, along with more than 8,000 mature adults. The group is anticipating that adult salmon will be returning in greater numbers in the years to come. The Fundy Salmon Recovery Model involves collecting Atlantic salmon smolts — young salmon that are ready to migrate to the ocean — and rearing them at the Mactaquac Biodiversity Facility, a Department of Fisheries and Oceans complex near Fredericton. [Wild salmon return to inner Bay of Fundy following Indigenous-led efforts](#) (NB Media Co-op)

## 13. Aquaculture escapees a growing threat to wild salmon

Salmon conservationists are in a fish flap with the aquaculture industry, accusing the sector of allowing farmed salmon to escape and endanger the last remaining wild stock in the Bay of Fundy between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) has removed 46 escaped aquaculture salmon from the Magaguadavic River fishway in southwest New Brunswick since Aug. 1. Escapees are considered a major threat to wild Atlantic salmon, which are endangered in the Bay of Fundy and Gulf of Maine. The escapees interbreed and make the wild salmon lazy and unable to survive the annual migration up rivers. Cooke aquaculture denies any responsibility for the escapees. [Fish farm escapees must stop, say Atlantic conservationists](#) (Yahoo News) [Fish farm escape puts Bay of Fundy wild salmon in](#)

[jeopardy](#) (The Narwhal) [Cooke challenges report salmon captured by conservation group might've escaped its farms](#) (Undercurrent News) [Scientists differ on threat from Atlantic salmon that escape into the wild](#) (CBC News)

#### 14. NB moving from fossil fuel to nuclear/biomass

New Brunswick sees new nuclear and burning biomass as central to its 'net zero' energy plan. The targets include eliminating coal-fired electricity plants by 2030 and then removing all other fossil fuel plants from the grid by 2035. This contrasts with the Nova Scotia plan focused on offshore wind. A [new report](#) has indicated that NS could be an energy-generating powerhouse by developing its offshore wind potential. [Nuclear and biomass central to New Brunswick's 'net zero' energy plan](#) (NB Media Co-op)

#### 15. Pollutants in the Gulf of Maine

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Mussel Watch Program (MWP) conducted an assessment of the presence, distribution, and concentrations of legacy organic contaminants and trace metals in blue mussels from the Gulf of Maine's coastal waters, in collaboration with the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (GOMC) Gulfwatch Program. Like the national MWP, the Gulfwatch monitoring program utilizes a sentinel-based monitoring approach by collecting and analyzing bivalves as surrogates for coastal water pollution. [Legacy Organic Contaminants and Trace Metals in the Gulf of Maine](#). (GOMCME)

#### 16. Fundy - sea glass treasure trove

Sea glass is the perfect example of turning trash into treasure. It is used widely in jewelry and seaside home decor. The material is made from glass bottles that were tossed overboard ships hundreds of years ago. During its period in the ocean, the glass is tossed, tumbled, frosted and polished by the natural environment beneath. The Bay of Fundy is where you'll find some amazing sea glass, because of its impressive tides and it being the highest tides in the world, [From ocean trash to coastal gems, sea glass is the new trend](#) (The Weather Network)

## 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](#)

Please consider supporting BoFEP by becoming a member!

[BoFEP-Membership-form-current](#) (docx)

[BoFEP-Membership-form-current](#) (pdf)

Also consider following us on any of the following social media platforms.

<https://www.facebook.com/BayofFundyEcosystemPartnership>

<https://www.instagram.com/bayoffundyecosystempartnership/>

<https://twitter.com/BayofFundyEP>

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8774711/>