

~ *FUNDY TIDINGS* ~

Newsletter of the
Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP)
April 2025 Issue

A. BoFEP and its activities:

1. BoFEP needs and challenges in 2025

At recent BoFEP Management Committee meetings attention has focussed on strengthening BoFEP by addressing critical needs and challenges. Some of the issues discussed at the meeting include the following: [BoFEP Needs and Challenges 2025](#). (DOCX). A recent BoFEP Steering Committee meeting also focussed on the proposed work plan for 2025-26.

2. BoFEP supports Fundy Colouring Book

BoFEP is supporting the Bay of Fundy Colouring Book (see B4 below) being produced by [Oceans North](#) with an initial purchase of 50 books that will be offered for resale to our membership and others. Keep your eyes peeled for more details.

3. BoFEP 2026 Workshop

Planning is now underway for the BoFEP 2026 Science Workshop that will be held next May, tentatively in a location in New Brunswick. Further details will be circulated as they become available. Suggestions for an overall workshop theme as well as for specific sessions are always welcome and can be sent to: oceans2@ns.sympatico.ca

4. Please support BoFEP - start/renew your membership

We invite you to renew your 2025 membership in BoFEP. We rely on membership income to fund the core activities of this volunteer environmental organization. **\$25 individual** or **\$100** organization. You can pay either **by e-transfer or mailed cheques**. The details are on the [BoFEP Membership Form docx](#) [BoFEP Membership Form pdf](#) .

B. Partners and other organizations:

1. 2025 ACCESS Conference May 28-30

The 22nd [Atlantic Canada Coastal & Estuarine Science Society](#) (ACCESS) annual conference will be hosted by Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, from May 28th to 30th, 2025. While the special conference theme is "*Coastal microbial interactions*", research related to coastal science in general will be accepted. [Program and registration details](#).

2. Registration is now open CZC 2025

The [Coastal Zone Canada Conference 2025](#) will be held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island from June 9 to 11, 2025. The theme for this year's conference is "*Strengthening Coastal Resilience and Relationships*," focusing on sharing knowledge and experiences within coastal zones. Registration is now open. Options include multi-day, or single day passes and Indigenous and student pricing.

3. Videos from Right whale consortia meetings

Both the Ropeless and North Atlantic Right Whale Consortia have public YouTube channels that feature videos from annual general meetings for the past several years. [Ropeless Consortium](#) (63 videos). [North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium](#) (79 videos)

4. Fundy colouring book - How to order.

The Inner Bay of Fundy Colouring and Activity Book is a collaborative ocean literacy project, with the English version scheduled for release in May 2025. It brings together a diverse range of knowledge about the Inner Bay of Fundy's coastal and marine environments, presented in an engaging and accessible format for all ages. We're currently seeking funding to support printing and distribution—if you're interested in contributing or have ideas for sponsorship or funding opportunities, we'd love to hear from you. For book purchases and more information, Visit: <https://books.friesenpress.com/store/title/119734000439030264> We also have promotional and supplementary materials available—posters, colouring pages, and sticker templates can be provided upon request. Reach out to us at colourthecoasts@gmail.com or visit <https://linktr.ee/colourthecoasts>.

5. Nature NS AGM and Cliffs of Fundy Geopark

Nature Nova Scotia invites you to this year's 2025 Celebration of Nature and AGM at the Debert Hospitality Centre, 130 Ventura Dr, Debert, NS from May 23rd to 25th. This year, we're headed to the North shore of the Minas Basin with friends from the Cliffs of Fundy Geopark. We have a weekend full of interesting talks and field trips planned, plus a Friday social, raffle draw, the presentation of the 2025 Conservation award, and, as per tradition, Nature Nova Scotia's AGM on the Sunday morning. [More information and program](#). To get your ticket, you can [register through Eventbrite](#)

6. Invitation to Family Friendly Beach School

The Municipality of the County of Kings Recreation Department is planning to host a family friendly beach School this summer. The program will be a weekly event: Fridays 1-3pm at Kingsport Beach from late June – early September. This is a multigenerational interactive program, not a drop off. The participants do not need to register. The program is free to participants. The target audience will be children and their caregivers. Beach School gives participants an opportunity to explore and discover the beach/coast in a way which they may not have thought or experienced before. For more information contact: echurch@countyofkings.ca Please forward this to families that you feel might be interested.

7. FORCE for Fundy tidal energy

[Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy](#) (FORCE) is Canada's lead research facility for tidal stream technology, created to better understand how this technology can play a role in Canada's clean energy future and help respond to climate change impacts. At its test site in Minas Passage, Bay of Fundy, FORCE provides offshore and onshore electrical equipment to connect devices to the power grid and conducts monitoring and research to understand potential environmental effects. More information: Web: www.fundyforce.ca or Email: sandra.currie@fundyforce.ca

8. Oceana pushes for ropeless gear to protect whales

North Atlantic right whales continue to face major threats of entanglements in fishing gear and collisions with vessels. In March, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) announced it will continue using fishing closures in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Bay of Fundy, Roseway Basin, and other areas when right whales are detected. While [Oceana Canada](#) welcomed this commitment it warned that the current approach is not enough to save the species from extinction. It calls for Canada to immediately implement ropeless gear in high-risk areas. [Canada's Continued Right Whale Protections Welcome — Oceana Urges Ropeless Gear and Mandatory Slowdowns to Prevent Extinction](#) (NationTalk)

9. DFO Funds fight against invasive species.

To help facilitate preventative action against aquatic invasive species, Fisheries and Oceans Canada launched the \$8.75 million Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Fund (AISPF) in 2023. Seven multi-year projects amounting to more than \$3.7 million in contribution funding are described. They seek to increase awareness of the threat of aquatic invasive species, as well as prevent their introduction and spread. One study conducted by the Huntsman Marine Research Centre is entitled: "*Establishing the extent of the invasive *Didemnum vexillum* (sea vomit) and other marine invasives in the Bay of Fundy through community partnerships*". [Projects funded under the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Fund](#)

10. A better regulated fishery for elvers

New regulations that came into effect on March 1 are designed to strengthen the elver fishery in Nova Scotia. According to DFO, the new rules require elver fishing and possession licence holders to submit reports to help manage the movement of elvers within the export supply chain. These regulations apply to both domestic and foreign caught elvers. [Feds implement new regulations for Nova Scotia's elver fishery](#) (City News Halifax)

11. CCGS Hudson log available online

The CSS/CCGS Hudson was the primary Canadian offshore oceanographic research vessel at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography (BIO) for fifty-nine years until she was retired in 2022. She was capable of working in all the world's oceans throughout the year with a specific focus on the North Atlantic and adjacent ice-invested arctic waters. From 1963 to 2022 she conducted 495 scientific cruises in the North Atlantic, South Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic Oceans (including the Bay of Fundy). ["A LOG OF THE CSS/CCGS HUDSON 1963-2022"](#) by Donald C. Gordon, Pierre M. Clement, David L. McKeown, and Keith Manchester (2025 Canadian Technical Report of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences 3681, 235 pages) Is now available online.

12. CARP March newsletter available online

The [Clean Annapolis River Project](#) (CARP) is a charitable, community-based, non-governmental organization incorporated in 1990 with a vision of fostering ecologically healthy watersheds, particularly the Annapolis River watershed, through science, leadership and community engagement. The [March 2025 Issue](#) of the Waterstrider Newsletter is now available online in PDF format. It is packed with project updates, thought-provoking articles, activities, backyard tips, and volunteer opportunities. You can also [Subscribe to CARP's "Waterstrider Newsletter"](#) so you don't miss future issues.

13. DFO announces wild salmon strategy

In March, DFO announced its conservation strategy to restore and rebuild wild Atlantic salmon populations and their habitats. This Strategy will guide the Department and its partners in working together to mitigate threats and ensure healthy ecosystems that can support Atlantic salmon. Since 2021, DFO has engaged with Canadians, stakeholders, partners, provincial governments and Indigenous organizations on the Strategy. [Government of Canada announces its first ever strategy to restore and rebuild Atlantic salmon populations and their habitats](#) (DFO Press Release) [Canada's national strategy to ensure the future of Atlantic salmon 2024-2036](#) (DFO Report) [Funded projects to restore and rebuild Atlantic salmon populations and their habitats](#) (DFO Report)

14. GOM marine debris action plan.

At a meeting in March 2025 the GOMC Secretariat Team considered plans for a Marine Debris Action Workshop and a draft of the GOM Marine Debris Action Plan. The Action Plan was created in 2019 by a voluntary, collaborative effort of 30 organizations from the United States

and Canada to address marine debris through coordinated actions over five years (2019 - 2024). The plan was re-evaluated and updated in 2022.

[Gulf of Maine Marine Debris Action Plan - 2022](#)

[Gulf of Maine Marine Debris Action Plan - 2019](#)

15. Geoheritage Summer Institute

The objectives of the Geoheritage Summer Institute are to build knowledge and relationships among regional university faculty in natural science, humanities, and social science in Nova Scotia, and build collaborations that enhance sustainable development goals for the region.

Let's Talk about Geoheritage – Free webinars 12:00 – 1:00 pm (Atlantic, ADT)

May 2 Introducing and Discussing Geoheritage in NS

June 6 Sustainable Development Goals & Geoheritage

July 4 Community Studies: Cliffs of Fundy Global Geopark

Aug 1 Local, Regional, and International Collaborations

More information and registration: <https://edinos.ca/talking-about-geoheritage/>

16. Documentary highlights connections to Fundy

An environmental group [Eastern Charlotte Waterways](#) is hoping to get New Brunswickers thinking about their connection to the Bay of Fundy by means of a new documentary entitled *Hands in the Current: Stories of Work, Water, and Home* which premiered recently at the Huntsman Marine Science Centre in Saint Andrews. The film features six residents of the area discussing their connection to the southwestern New Brunswick coastal region and the changes they've witnessed in the area. [Changes in Bay of Fundy highlighted in new documentary by environmental group](#) (CBC News)

C. Fundy/GOM and other news:

1. Similarities in whale and human communication?

Two new studies on whale song found striking, structural parallels to human language, especially in humpback whales. The first, [Whale song shows language-like statistical structure](#) (Science) focused on humpback whale song because it is culturally transmitted — in other words, taught and changed over time just like human language. The other study [Language-like efficiency in whale communication](#) (Science Advances) found that whale song has parallels to another hallmark of human language: efficiency. [Whale song shows 'hallmarks' of human language](#) (CBC News)

2. Baleen whales sing low to avoid killer whales?

New research suggests male baleen whales looking for love sing a different tune when attracting a mate, and it all depends on if they are more likely to fight or flee from a predator. Researchers reviewed more than 250 research papers last summer on whales and found that most of the baleen whales more prone to flee from predators will sing at a bass level low enough to avoid being heard by killer whales. [Some whales sing low enough to be 'acoustically invisible' to predators: Research](#) (Toronto Sun)

3. Right whales and climate change?

North Atlantic right whales, critically endangered with a population of only around 370, move widely around our ocean. They have traditionally ranged from below Cape Canaveral, Fla., where they calve in winter, to New England and into Canada following the summer food supply. But their distribution has been shifting as the location of plankton, their key food, is altered by climate change. In January, a study published in *Endangered Species Research* found that right whales' main food source is declining across its range, with less nutritious food sources taking

its place. [As Right Whales Shift, Cape Cod Remains Safe Haven for Now](#) (The Provincetown Independent)

4. Right whale newsletter

The latest (March 2025) issue of [Right Whale News](#) is now available online. The submission deadline for articles/idea submissions for the next RWN issue is June 18, 2025. Also, current and back issues are available on the [North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium Website](#). Additionally, the RWN 2004-2014 Index is also posted on the website.

5. Fundy island ownership in dispute

For more than two centuries Canada and the US have disputed ownership of Machias Seal Island, a small 18 -hectare islet located in the Bay of Fundy. In 1832, Great Britain built a lighthouse to consolidate its control, and since then, Canada has maintained a permanent presence. Its strategic value and the richness of its waters have fueled the conflict for more than two centuries. Recent tensions between the two countries add to the uncertainty about the future of this enclave in light of Trump's latest insults and threats about Canadian sovereignty. [This strategic and tiny island has been disputed for 200 years. And the US and Canada still are not clear to whom it belongs to](#) (Ruetir)

6. New maps help track whales

North Atlantic right whales are in peril from ship strikes and entanglement in fishing gear. Successful conservation relies on finding these whales. Whalemap was designed to communicate the latest whale survey results to scientific, regulatory and industrial sectors. It is synchronized with data repositories from several different survey groups whose results are update regularly. Currently WhaleMap processes data from US-based contributors, and an analogous platform called Whale Insight, managed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, processes data from Canadian contributors. The two platforms then exchange data to facilitate coastwide coverage. [WhaleMap: a tool to collate and display whale survey results in near real-time](#) (Journal of Open Source Software) [Whale Insight - An interactive map of North Atlantic right whale detections in Canada](#) (DFO)

7. Oceana pushes for ropeless gear to protect whales

North Atlantic right whales continue to face major threats of entanglements in fishing gear and collisions with vessels. In March, DFO announced it will continue using fishing closures in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Bay of Fundy, Roseway Basin, and other areas when right whales are detected. Transport Canada will maintain current mandatory vessel slowdowns in static and seasonal management areas. While [Oceana Canada](#) welcomed this commitment it warned that the current approach is not enough to save the species from extinction. It calls for Canada to immediately implement ropeless gear in high-risk areas. [Canada's Continued Right Whale Protections Welcome — Oceana Urges Ropeless Gear and Mandatory Slowdowns to Prevent Extinction](#) (NationTalk)

8. Lobsters heading north - Climate change?

Maine lobsters may be heading north into the Bay of Fundy in response to a warming Gulf of Maine. Lobster hauls have dropped to their lowest levels in 15 years. Maine produces 93% of all lobster in the United States. However, the annual catch has dropped from 50 million to 39 million since 2021. The Gulf of Maine is warming three times faster than other ocean waters. [Literally Millions of Lobsters are Moving to Canada from Maine](#) (Seacoast Current)

9. Seaweed on the menu?

Researchers at Acadia University are studying what people think of seaweed (Irish moss and rockweed) as a food additive and how to improve the taste experience. The study entitled [An Investigation Into Soup With the Addition of Brown Seaweed \(*Ascophyllum nodosum*\) and Red Seaweed \(*Chondrus crispus*\) Using Nonconsumers of Seaweed](#). Since seaweed is an "underutilized ingredient" in the Western world, there's a bit of an uphill battle to develop the market for it in food products. [Rockweed soup? How researchers are trying to boost use of native seaweeds](#) (Yahoo!News)

10. More tidal power projects to be tested

Companies interested in testing tidal energy projects in the Bay of Fundy will be able to apply for a site in the Minas Passage later this spring. Nova Scotia has the highest tides of the world and there is great potential to harness them to generate clean electricity, create more green jobs and attract more investment. The province is hiring consultant Power Advisory LLC to manage a procurement to fill two vacant berths at the Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy (FORCE) near Parrsboro. [Province Prepares Tidal Energy Procurement](#) (Government of NS) [Procurement to open soon for new tidal energy projects in Bay of Fundy](#) (City News) [Why N.S. may be 'closer than ever' to harnessing Bay of Fundy tidal power](#) (CTV News)

11. Who will pay to protect critical link?

The Chignecto isthmus is the only path for railway, highway, and power and communication lines connecting Nova Scotia to New Brunswick and the rest of Canada. Many people who live or rely on the isthmus are calling for urgent action as experts warn that climate change is causing sea-level rise and more frequent and powerful storms. The Maritime and federal governments have been in talks for years about upgrading an aging dike system that protects the isthmus against inundation from the Bay of Fundy. The latest cost estimate for upgrading the dikes is \$650 million. Ottawa has offered to pay half, but Nova Scotia and New Brunswick want the federal government to pay the full cost.

[Ottawa implores court not to answer Chignecto Isthmus question](#) (CBC News) [Nova Scotia tells court that Ottawa is entirely responsible for Chignecto Isthmus](#) (St. Albert Gazette) [N.S. agrees to pay 25 per cent of Isthmus project cost, pending court decision](#) (Saltwire)

12. Marine spatial planning in NS

The First-generation Marine Spatial Plan for the Scotian Shelf and Bay of Fundy is now available on the DFO website. It describes the approach to advance marine planning in the Maritimes Region, with a focus on improving planning and decision-making within the marine environment. The two key deliverables for the program included the development of an online Marine Planning Atlas and the first generation Marine Spatial Plan. The Atlas allows users to access, view and analyze a large array of ecological and human use data sets.

[First-generation Marine Spatial Plan: Scotian Shelf and Bay of Fundy](#)

[Canada Marine Planning Atlas](#)

[Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia](#)

[Ocean Use Compatibility Analysis for the Scotian Shelf and Bay of Fundy Planning Area](#)

[Application of Marxan with Zones as a marine spatial planning decision-support tool: a case study for offshore wind planning in Nova Scotia](#)

13. Hiking Cape Chignecto

The next time you consider exploring the Bay of Fundy, consider Cape Chignecto Provincial Park located in NS where the cape juts out into the bay. The park's rugged cliffs are the defining feature of the area and are part of the park's appeal for outdoor enthusiasts. The camping opportunities include a dozen kayak-in-sites, 28 walk-in tent sites and over 50 backcountry sites

at various points along the 52km looping trail around the park. [Cape Chignecto Provincial Park: Explore Nova Scotia's Wild Coastal Escape](#) (To Do Canada)

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](#)

Please consider supporting BoFEP by becoming a member!

[BoFEP Membership Form docx](#)

[BoFEP Membership Form 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/>