

~ FUNDY TIDINGS ~

Newsletter of the

Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP)

September 2025 Issue

A. BoFEP and its activities:

1. BoFEP needs and challenges

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).

2. Accessing BoFEP social media

Use the LinkTree link below as a one-stop way to access all BoFEP social media including Linked In, Bluesky Social, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and X. You can also pay membership fees or donate safely to BoFEP using ZEFFY.

<https://linktr.ee/bayoffundyecosystempartnership>

3. BoFEP supports Fundy Colouring Book

BoFEP is supporting the Bay of Fundy Colouring Book (see item B5 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.

4. BoFEP Presenters at 2025 CZC Meeting

Several papers were presented by BoFEP members/partners at the Coastal Zone Canada Conference, in Charlottetown, PEI, June 7-11, 2025. The following abstracts are available.:

["Addressing environmental issues in the Bay of Fundy – An overview of BoFEP and its next steps"](#). Peter G. Wells, Jon A. Percy, Graham R. Daborn and Michael, J.A. Butler.

["Encouraging Ocean and Climate Literacy within the Nova Scotia School System."](#) Michael Butler, Kerri McPherson and Peter Wells

["The United Nations Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection \(GESAMP\) – an Ocean and Coastal Science-Policy Interface Standing the Test of Time."](#) W. M. Watson-Wright and P. G. Wells.

["Understanding science-policy interfaces is critical to developing resilience of coastal communities to climate change"](#). Bertrum H. MacDonald, Suzette S. Soomai, and Peter G. Wells

5. BoFEP 2026 Workshop

Planning is now underway for the BoFEP 2026 Science Workshop that will be held at Mt. Allison University, Sackville, NB May 19-22, 2026, New Brunswick and jointly with ACCESS. 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

6. 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 ZEFFY, e-transfer or mailed cheque**. The details are on the [Join BoFEP page](#).

B. Partners and other organizations:

1. Funeral for Fundy diversity

More than two dozen people gathered to mourn the diminishing biodiversity of Passamaquoddy Bay and the surrounding Bay of Fundy. [Grief over loss of diversity expressed at funeral for Bay of Fundy](#). (Video 3:27 mins. CBC News)

2. Highlights from the 2025 GOMCME meeting.

The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment 2025 annual meeting held May 28-29 focused on the themes of coastal resilience planning and promoting resilient working waterfronts throughout the Gulf of Maine. Highlights of the meeting are summarized here:

<https://www.gulfofmaine.org/public/gulf-of-maine-council-on-the-marine-environment/about-the-council/meeting-documents/>

3. CZC 2025 Conference a great success

June 2025 marked an exciting milestone as the [Coastal Zone Canada 2025 Conference](#) took place in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. Themed “Strengthening Coastal Resilience and Relationships,” this 16th CZC conference brought together over 400 delegates from coast to coast to coast, as well as from international communities.

4. CZC newsletter returns.

The periodic newsletter of the Coastal Zone Canada Association returns with a new Summer Issue [The Zone, July, 2025](#). [Back issues of the newsletter](#) (2015-2022) are also available. You can also [sign up to receive future issues](#) of the newsletter sent straight to your inbox.

5. New Fundy Colouring and Activity Book Published!

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.

Next steps include publishing the book in both Mi'kmaw and French. We're excited to share that translation efforts for these versions are already underway! 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>.

["People won't protect what they don't understand." — New colouring book dives deep into the Minas Basin](#) (Chronicle Herald)

6. Cliffs of Fundy Geopark status at risk.

Two unique areas of Atlantic Canada recognized for their geological significance five years ago have been cautioned to make changes or risk losing their rare status as UNESCO Global. One of them is the Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark, on the north shore of the Minas Basin in the Bay of Fundy and the other is Discovery in Newfoundland. Geoparks are distinct regions with internationally important geology — rock formations, caves, mountain ranges and fossil sites —

that tell the story of Earth's history. [Two Canadian UNESCO Geoparks cautioned to make improvements or risk losing status](#) (CBC News)

7. Group funded to Conserve NB salt marsh

An Indigenous-led conservation group has received federal funding in hopes of conserving 100 hectares of N.B salt marshes and mudflats. They will purchase and protect land in the Inner Bay of Fundy and Northumberland Strait in an effort to respond to climate change and coastal development pressures. [Indigenous group aiming to preserve N.B. salt marshes](#). (Miramichi Leader)

8. Meeting to focus on Maine land sea connections

On Wednesday July 16, 2025 the University of Maine's College of Earth, Life, and Health will hosted a day of presentation and discussion sessions at the Darling Marine Center focused on land-sea connections in the region. The presentations covered topics in geomorphology, hydrodynamics, and engineering related to the explanation and prediction of conditions in streams, rivers, lakes, and estuaries in Maine. For more information visit: [Information Exchange: Land-Sea Connections in Maine](#).

9. Coastal and Ocean Governance Workshop in October

The [International Ocean Institute](#) (IOI-Canada, Dalhousie University) will be delivering its fourth "Coastal and Ocean Governance Workshop for Indigenous Peoples" at the Huntsman Marine Science Centre, in St. Andrews, New Brunswick from October 19-24, 2025. The workshop will cover key aspects of coastal and ocean governance of importance to Indigenous peoples based on Indigenous perspectives and Knowledge Systems.

10. EIUI blog - rejection of Coastal Protection Act.

A new blog by Buhler, A., Guevara, M., Thompson, B., & Nolan, Q. (2025, July 7) of the Environmental Information Use and Influence Group focusses on the on-again-off-again NS Coastal Protection Act. The NS coastline is subject to unrelenting coastal erosion, flooding, sea level rise, and storm activity driven by climate change, which constitute serious threats to coastal infrastructure, communities, and ecosystems. The provincial government responded to these threats by introducing the Coastal Protection Act in 2019. In 2024 the conservative government decided it would not proclaim the Act. This decision sparked province-wide outrage, considering the high level of public support for the Act. <https://eiui.ca/managing-coastal-development-in-nova-scotia-in-the-absence-of-the-coastal-protection-act/>

11. Celebrating Ocean Week Fundy

Ocean Week Fundy (June 1-8) again brought people together to celebrate and protect local waters. Now in its second year as a regional hub for Ocean Week Canada, the event highlighted the importance of ocean conservation and education along the Bay of Fundy coastline. Hosted by Stonehammer UNESCO Global Geopark and the Fundy Biosphere Region, it offered hands-on opportunities for communities to connect with their waters through learning and action. These included beach cleanups, citizen science Bioblitzes, ocean-themed art projects, and environmental festivals, all designed to help participants explore the marine environment while learning simple ways to protect it. [Ocean Week Fundy is making waves in the community](#). (Country94). [Facebook Ocean Week Fundy](#)

C. Fundy/GOM and other news:

1. NS to lead tidal turbine recovery

A 1,300-tonne tidal turbine placed on the ocean floor in the Minas Passage by now bankrupt Cape Sharp Tidal will be removed to free up the berth. The Nova Scotia Energy Minister says his department will take the lead on finding a way to recover the failed and abandoned turbine. [N.S. government will oversee recovery of abandoned tidal turbine](#) (CBC News). Local communities also want huge railcars used as anchors removed as well. ['It's a disgrace': Community wants huge, abandoned railcars removed from Bay of Fundy](#) (Video 1.53 mins Global News)

2. Trump takes aim at Fundy fisheries

An executive order from U.S. President Donald Trump that aims to deregulate the U.S. fishing industry is concerning and "reprehensible" says the Premier of New Brunswick. The spat involves the disputed waters around Machias Seal Island, a remote, rocky island in the Bay of Fundy. The roughly 550 metre-long and 250-metre-wide island remains in a long-standing sovereignty dispute between Canada and the United States. In 1832, New Brunswick built a lighthouse on the island to physically stake its claim, and it remains the only lighthouse in the Maritimes with a full time keeper, partly to maintain that ownership. [New Trump order stirs waters off N.B., Maine](#) (Pressreader Calgary Herald). [Trump rhetoric on disputed N.B.-Maine waters 'reprehensible': Holt](#) (Telegraph Journal)

3. Cape Split has spectacular coastal scenery

There are dozens, of beautiful lookoff points and viewing areas around the Bay of Fundy shores. Several are easy to access or only require a short hike before arriving at the views over the water and cliffs. Some areas around the Bay of Fundy and the Minas Basin, are, contrastingly, quite remote. And no area around these Nova Scotian shores is quite as remote as Cape Split. [Explore Spectacular Cape Split Provincial Park – From Forest Trails to Dramatic Ocean Lookoffs](#) (To Do Canada)

4. NS Seeks new tidal power projects

Nova Scotia has launched a competitive process to attract two new projects at Canada's lead research facility for tidal stream technology, Fundy Ocean Research Center for Energy (FORCE). It seeks projects between 5 MW and 8 MW. The total capacity awarded across both sites will not exceed 13 MW. The draft call for applications is open for comment, with a final version expected soon. [Nova Scotia opens new tidal stream procurement round at FORCE](#) (Offshore Energy)

5. Keeping NS connected to Canada

The Chignecto Isthmus connecting NS and NB is presently protected by centuries old dikes that are at risk of flooding due to rising sea level and increasingly severe storms associated with climate change. Planning is now underway to upgrade 35 kilometres of dikes to better protect rail, road and communication lines during powerful storms. The \$650-million project is being financed jointly by the two provinces and the federal government and is expected to take 10 years. [Construction to protect Chignecto Isthmus from floods 'several years' away: minister](#) (Canadian Press). [Chignecto Isthmus infrastructure debated](#) (Press Reader). [Protecting the Chignecto Isthmus against climate change](#) (Government of Canada press release.)

6. Annapolis Royal tackles shoreline flooding

Historic Annapolis Royal, N.S., will soon begin making changes to its shoreline to address flood risk and improve the environment. The "living shoreline" to be constructed is made up

of natural elements, such as plants, sand and rocks. The town awarded an \$88,462 contract to CB Wetlands and Environmental Specialists in April. It is part of what will be a \$2-million project. The work will start in the summer and finish by the end of 2026. [Annapolis Royal set to begin work on 'living shoreline'](#). (CBC News).

7. Advocate Harbour upgrades dikes

A rural Nova Scotia community on the Bay of Fundy is preparing for the most significant upgrades in decades to the dike land system that protects it from flooding. The work has been approved for Advocate Harbour, N.S., which has been identified as being at risk due to rising sea levels caused by climate change. ['Long overdue' dike land upgrades coming to rural N.S. community](#) (CBC News) [Advocate Harbour preparing for upgrades to its dike lands system.](#) (CBC Video 2:20 mins)

8. Lake Pisiquid - to be or not to be?

Some Windsor, N.S., residents say a two-year-old decision to close the gates of an aboiteau and keep Lake Pisiquid filled with water is unnecessary and causing other problems. Prior to the closure, the open gates caused the lake to drain. This was done by way of a Department of Fisheries and Oceans order to restore the Avon River to a natural river state to allow fish to pass through. [Decision to refill Lake Pisiquid coming with side-effects, say some Windsor residents.](#) (CBC News)

9. A lighter view of climate change in NB

A new seven episode documentary series "Jimmy Saves the World" is a somewhat lighthearted look at climate change and other serious environmental issues in NB. Miramichi comedian and actor Jimmy MacKinley and the film crew hit the road, speaking to experts across New Brunswick about what they know and what they do to have a greener footprint. The purpose of this show is not to create eco-anxieties in our communities, it's to find ways that we can all come together and improve our lives and the dynamic equilibrium and ecosystem that we share. [New N.B. docuseries aims to shine a light on climate change](#) (CTV News). [The New Brunswick docuseries 'Jimmy Saves the World' aims to shine a light on climate change in the province.](#) (Video 1:29 mins)

10. Gold mining in Fundy?

Kingsview Minerals Ltd announced that it has acquired the Vernon property located in southeastern NB along the Bay of Fundy just west of Fundy National Park. Historical assessments reported impressive gold grades of up to 4 oz/ton Au in the Peacock Vein, but no gold production was undertaken during its operational years from 1864 to 1865. Kingsview Minerals is committed to further exploration and development of the Vernon property, aiming to unlock its significant gold potential. [Kingsview Minerals Acquires Vernon Property in New Brunswick](#) (Junior Mining Network)

11. Great White sightings on the rise

A marine ecologist in Nova Scotia says great white sharks get a bad rap, as more of the animals start making their way into Atlantic Canadian waters. Several studies now have indicated that numbers of white sharks in Atlantic Canada have increased and tracking data shows more and more tracked individuals are coming to Canadian waters. Humans are not a natural prey for sharks and so a fear of sharks should not prevent people from going into the water. [Rise in number of great whites in N.S. waters no cause for fear, says expert](#) (City News Halifax)

12. Efforts to conserve Right Whales ongoing

Something's not right with North Atlantic right whales. These critically endangered animals — just [372](#) are left — are showing up in places researchers never expected.

To stop North Atlantic right whales from vanishing, Canada and the United States have spent decades trying new policies, facing new crises and trying again. Here's a timeline of their struggle. [The tides of change for endangered whales](#) (The Globe and Mail - Paywall) [Experts baffled by unprecedented behavior of critically endangered whale species: 'How do you explain that?'](#) The Cool Down.

13. Fundy fanged fish fossil sheds light on evolution

Researchers have uncovered a new species of ancient predatory fish from fossils found in cliffs along the Minas Basin in Nova Scotia. The discovery of the ancient, fanged fish, *Sphyragnathus tyche*, is a significant milestone in paleontology. This species, which lived approximately 350 million years ago, is notable for its unique "hammer jaw" feature, which includes long, curved anterior hooks and one-centimeter-long posterior fangs. These teeth were instrumental in capturing and processing prey. [Ancient fanged fish discovered in Nova Scotia sheds light on evolution](#) (The Canadian Press - Video 0:57 mins.). [Researchers discover ancient predatory, fanged fish that swam in Nova Scotia waters](#) (CBC News)

14. Article on saving the Atlantic Sturgeon

Along the murky depths of Atlantic coastal waters swims a living fossil that has remained largely unchanged for more than 100 million years. The Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*) predates many dinosaurs and has witnessed the rise and fall of countless species while maintaining its prehistoric appearance. This article proves an interesting overview of the biology and ecology of this fascinating species. [Saving the Atlantic Sturgeon—The Dinosaur Fish of the East Coast](#) (Animals Around the Globe)

15. Study on Sturgeon Feeding

The feeding habits of Atlantic sturgeon *Acipenser oxyrinchus* (AS) juveniles and sub- adults from Minas Basin (MB), and adults taken during their spawning run in the Saint John River (SJR) were investigated by stomach content and stable isotope analysis. The findings are directly relevant to the conservation and management of the AS, providing critical empirical data to support ecosystem-based models, particularly in the Bay of Fundy and Saint John River regions. [Diet and stable isotope signatures of Atlantic sturgeon \(*Acipenser oxyrinchus*\) caught in Minas Basin, Bay of Fundy, and the Saint John River, Canada](#) by Jose Luis Varela et al.

16. 33 year old puffin found with chick

A UNB graduate student, researching Atlantic puffin ecology, found a bird, likely older than him, with a plastic band dating back to 1992. And it also had a chick. Machias Seal Island is a flat, treeless sanctuary for seabirds located about 19 kilometres southwest of New Brunswick's Grand Manan Island at the mouth of the Bay of Fundy. It has about 8,600 breeding pairs of puffins. [Hey old bird: A 33-year-old puffin on New Brunswick island going strong, with a chick](#) (City News)

17. Satellite imagery shows GOM algae bloom

In the early summer of 2025, waters in the Gulf of Maine popped with vivid swirls of blue and green because of a massive bloom of phytoplankton. It was one of the largest blooms of its kind to show up in the gulf's waters in recent years. The OCI (Ocean Color Instrument) on NASA's PACE (Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem) satellite captured this image of the colorful waters on June 21, 2025. The relationship between these changing water conditions and phytoplankton communities in the gulf remains unclear, but ongoing research could begin to

provide some answers. <https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/154472/a-booming-bloom-returns-to-the-gulf-of-maine>

18. Pavement or old growth forest?

Saint John city council recently approved the plans for the Spruce Lake Industrial Park, described as a "diverse ecosystem" of companies. Scientists, meanwhile, say a red spruce tree - estimated to be about 400 years old -- is among the oldest trees in the province, and the old-growth forest in which it stands is a piece of history the city should protect from the axe. [Saint John warned against paving old-growth forest and putting up industrial park](#) (National Newswatch)

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](#)

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