

~ *FUNDY TIDINGS* ~

Newsletter of the

Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP)

December 2025 Issue

A. BoFEP and its activities:

1. ACCESS/BoFEP Conference 2026

Planning is well underway for the 2026 ACCESS/BoFEP Conference to be held Tuesday May 19th - Friday May 22nd, 2026 at Mt. Allison University, Sackville, NB. The theme of the conference will be *"Connecting communities to ocean science"*. The deadline for submission of abstracts is March 31, 2026. A public forum organised by BoFEP and tentatively scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, May 20th, will explore the themes of *"Making Connections and Ocean Literacy"*. Suggestions for session topics and abstracts can be sent to: Heather Hunt, Dept. of Biological Sciences, UNB Saint John, NB, Heather.Hunt@unb.ca with a copy to Peter Wells, BoFEP, at oceans2@ns.sympatico.ca. Deadline for abstracts – March 31st.

2. BoFEP AGM January 2026

The BoFEP AGM will be held in January 2026 – the exact date will soon be announced. You are all invited to attend and participate. We are working away, guided by our current workplan. It will be discussed at the AGM and will be the blueprint for our work over the next fiscal year (April 2026-March 2027). However, more needs to be done via WGs and projects. This will require many more volunteers and of course, funds. We must also consider a succession plan for positions in the management committee and indeed the steering committee, as some members are aging and others are contributing very little. We need a flow of new and active members.

3. Please support BoFEP - start/renew your membership

We invite you to renew your 2026 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](#).

4. Accessing BoFEP social media

Use LinkTree link 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>

B. Partners and other organizations:

1. COLC is now the Centre for Ocean Literacy Collaboration.

For the past seven years, the Canadian Ocean Literacy Coalition has grown from a small group of partners developing a national ocean literacy strategy into a collaborative centre working alongside hundreds of organizations, communities, and leaders across Canada and beyond. Its new name, [Centre for Ocean Literacy Collaboration](#), reflects who they've become – a living lab for high impact public ocean engagement. This is of interest to BoFEP members as our Ocean Literacy Working Group is in touch with and often collaborates with COLC.

2. Fundy Geopark: thumbs up from UNESCO.

The Cliffs of Fundy Global Geopark stretches from Lower Truro in Colchester County and extends along the Fundy shoreline to Apple River in Cumberland County. The area was awarded its official status as a UNESCO global geopark in 2020. Part of the process includes periodic validations or evaluations that either approves of the park's progress or suggests ways to improve and maintain its status as part of a growing network of global geoparks. The evaluators appeared to be very pleased with the Cliffs of Fundy Global Geopark. They made some recommendations that are very helpful and will help proceed in a positive way. [Cliffs of Fundy Global Geopark gets positive reviews from UNESCO representatives](#) (Truro News)

3. 25th anniversary of shorebird centre

Every year more than a quarter million shorebirds—about 30% of the world's population—return to the Bay of Fundy's tidal mudflats as part of their long migration from the Arctic all the way to South America. Recently, interpreters at Johnson's Mill have reported counts of 50,000 to 60,000 shorebirds. Some years, the numbers have topped 100,000. This year, the gathering shorebirds unwittingly helped celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Johnson's Mills Shorebird Interpretive Centre run by the Nature Conservancy of Canada. [The birds are back, just in time to celebrate 25 years of the Johnson's Mills Shorebird Interpretive Centre](#) (CHMA 106.9)

4. Three decades tracking Fundy seabirds

The [Point Lepreau Bird Observatory](#), located on the edge of the Bay of Fundy in New Brunswick, has tracked the seabirds that fly past for the last 30 years. Created by the [Saint John Naturalists' Club](#), the observatory examines the migration of birds during the fall and spring. In the last three decades it has recorded more than 1.6 million seabirds. ['Heck of a lot of birds': This N.B. group has been counting feathered fliers for 30 years](#) (CTV News)

5. Ropeless Meeting Report 2024

A report of the 6th annual Ropeless Consortium Meeting is now [available online](#). This report reflects the continued development and policy impact of on-demand fishing to prevent large whale entanglements.

6. Major funding for tidal energy impacts on fish

Acadia's leadership in tidal energy research goes back decades. It got a boost recently with \$2.6 million in funding from Natural Resources Canada for a three-year project to better understand the probability of fish interactions with proposed tidal stream energy devices in the Minas Passage. [Acadia's tidal energy research gets federal funding boost](#) (Acadia University release). [Canada Invests in Environmental Monitoring to Advance Tidal Energy in the Bay of Fundy](#) (Yahoo Finance)

7. New tidal energy projects

Eauclaire Tidal Limited Partnership is adding projects in two more berths at the Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy (FORCE) to help advance clean energy and the jobs and investment that come with it. Eauclaire and its partner, Orbital Marine Power, already occupy one berth at FORCE in the Minas Passage. Adding two more berths to their portfolio allows the companies to pursue a total of 16.5 megawatts (MW) of tidal energy. [New Tidal Energy Projects Coming to Nova Scotia](#) (NS Energy News Release - November 10, 2025). [Dexter announces new tidal energy partnership for Fundy project](#). (Global News).

8. Coastal Hiking Trail is officially "Amazing"!

On October 6th, 2025 the [Delaps Cove Wilderness Trail](#), near Annapolis Royal, was designated an Amazing Place by UNESCO. It is the first Amazing Place designated within the

UNESCO Southwest Nova Biosphere Region. [Delaps Cove Wilderness Trail named UNESCO Amazing Place](#) (Annapolis Valley Register)

9. Indigenous group to conserve saltmarsh

An Indigenous-led conservation group has acquired its first property as part of its efforts to purchase and protect land in the Inner Bay of Fundy and Northumberland Strait. The 25-hectare salt marsh habitat is home to migratory bird populations, as well as plant life like sweetgrass. It is currently in the process of being donated to Amlamgog First Nation, also known as Fort Folly First Nation. [Conservation group donates salt marsh to N.B. First Nations community](#) (Times and Transcript).

10. Obituary - Susan Farquharson

BoFEP members will be saddened to hear that Susan Farquharson, former executive director of the Atlantic Canada Fish Farmers Association (ACFFA), passed away November 7th at the age of 65. Her leadership helped shape the future of finfish farming in Atlantic Canada and was instrumental in helping to advance the groundbreaking Fundy Salmon Recovery partnership which has achieved the highest returns of inner Bay of Fundy wild Atlantic salmon in 20 years. [Tributes paid to Atlantic Canada's fish farming champion Susan Farquharson](#) (FishFarmingExpert)

C. Fundy/GOM and other news:

1. Are Fundy tides the highest?

The Bay of Fundy is well renowned for having the highest tides in the world — but many residents in Nunavik have long believed that title belongs to them. Now, the representative for Inuit in the northern Quebec region says it has new data to prove that. [Does the Bay of Fundy have the highest tides in the world? People in Nunavik don't think so](#) (CBC News). [Wave goodbye Bay of Fundy, Nunavik may soon take the 'world's highest tide'](#) (CBC Video - 1:44 mins). [Whose tide is highest? Canadian towns battle it out over Guinness World Record title](#) (Press Reader)

2. Fundy tides rooted in ice age melting?

The education co-ordinator for [Stonehammer Geopark](#), says the Bay of Fundy tides are influenced by events that happened at the end of the last Ice Age nearly 12,000 years ago. A huge amount of water entered the ocean from that melting ice, raising sea levels and creating our tides. ACAP is currently doing research into climate change impacts within the Stonehammer region, collecting information and coming up with mitigation strategies to share with the community. [How climate change in the last Ice Age helped create the Bay of Fundy tides](#) (CBC News)

3. Forceful Fundy

The Bay of Fundy is flooded with an estimated 160 billion metric tonnes of water twice a day, which is more water than flows over Niagara Falls in a year. [Bay of Fundy tides show force of nature](#) (Telegraph-Journal - Paywall)

4. Tidal cycle threatens Chignecto corridor

The low-lying Chignecto Isthmus is under threat from climate change and sea level rise. Protection of the critical corridor is now underway and scheduled for completion in 10 years. However, during that time, an astronomical cycle is creating bigger tides in the Bay of Fundy and increasing the vulnerability of the infrastructure and communities on the isthmus. [Fundy tides to peak in 2034, adding urgency to Chignecto Isthmus flood project](#) (CBC News) [Public](#)

[Works minister says he can't say when Chignecto Isthmus project will be completed](#) (CBC News) [Lunar cycle will bring higher tides to vulnerable Chignecto Isthmus](#) (CBC News - video 3:17 mins)

5. Fishing industry and tidal energy impacts

Along many coasts, a new kind of ocean industry is taking shape. Towering turbines have steadily multiplied in the same waters where generations of commercial fishermen have hauled their gear. For fishermen already navigating regulations and higher fuel costs, the emergence of tidal and wave energy, also known as marine energy, marks a challenge and potential opportunity. [What fishermen need to know about wave and tidal power](#) (National Fisherman)

6. New improved tidal turbine?

Ottawa-based Oceanetic Power Corporation wants to turn the Bay of Fundy tides into electricity by modifying the turbine on a failed company's vessel. Just over a year ago Occurrent Power, formerly Big Moon Power, filed for insolvency. Occurrent's key assets, including a vessel known as the Falcon built for \$14 million US, are now owned by Oceanetic. There are plans to modify the turbine onboard the vessel to improve energy capture by up to 400 per cent. [Tidal power proponent plans to modify turbine on failed company's vessel](#) (CBC News)

7. Faulty culverts threaten fish stocks

A Nova Scotia man who fishes in the Minas Basin says he routinely sees the harm that faulty culverts cause fish. Darren Porter, a commercial fisherman and environmentalist, points to a pair of culverts on the Halfway River near Hantsport, N.S., where strong currents during high tide propel fish through them with such force that it can maim or even kill them. Faulty culverts are far from a rare problem. Between 50 and 60 per cent of Nova Scotia's 31,000 water crossings — where roads cross streams or rivers — cause problems for fish passage. [Faulty culverts are harming or killing fish. N.S. environmentalists want that to change](#) (CBC News)

8. Report details commercial fisheries landings

A report shows commercial fisheries catch weight landings maps of directed fisheries and bycatch from the Scotian Shelf, the Bay of Fundy, and Georges Bank. Five-year composite maps (2019-2023) that aggregate catches for each map series are publicly available and included in this report. Rozalska, K. and Coffen-Smout, S. 2025. *Maritimes Region Fisheries Atlas: Catch Weight Landings Mapping (2019-2023) on a Hexagon Grid*. Can. Tech. Rep. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 3683: vii + 80 p. <https://doi.org/10.60825/n2cp-th60>

9. Striped bass threaten Atlantic Salmon?

Striped bass populations are exploding in Eastern Canada, including the Bay of Fundy. There is growing concern that this voracious predator is adversely impacting not only salmon, but also other commercial species, including lobster, herring, mackerel, gaspereau and smelts. DFO is considering a variety of measures to counter this threat. [Fish fight: Is the decline of Atlantic salmon actually the fault of striped bass?](#) (The Narwhal)

10. Herring quota hike harming fishery?

Fisheries and Oceans Canada increased the quota for the southwest Nova Scotia/Bay of Fundy herring fishery by 4,000 tonnes. A marine scientist says the decision is not rooted in good policy and was made without proper consultation with the fishery's advisory committee. The move comes one year after the federal government established a four-year TAC of 16,000 tonnes per year in the face of concerns that the stock has been considered in the critical zone since 2017. [DFO increases herring quota for southwest N.S., Bay of Fundy fishery](#) (CBC News). [Herring catch hike could seriously harm Bay of Fundy: scientist](#) (Telegraph-Journal - Paywall)

11. Keeping Fundy in the dark?

An astrophotographer is spearheading an effort to have a 180-kilometre stretch of the Bay of Fundy coast designated a dark-sky preserve to both protect the region from light pollution and embrace the growing interest in astrotourism. The vision is to see a dark-sky corridor stretching along the Fundy Coast from New River Beach Provincial Park to Hopewell Rocks Provincial Park, connecting six different sites, including [Irving Nature Park](#) and [Fundy National Park](#), which are already designated dark sky areas. [Astrotourism on the rise over Bay of Fundy](#) (CBC News). [In a world of light pollution, this starry spot could become a top tourist destination](#) (CBC News - video 3:35 mins)

12. Perceived benefits of dykes and wetlands

The Bay of Fundy agricultural dykeland and tidal wetland system in eastern Canada faces sea level rise and increasing storm action. Managed dyke realignment is underway, which will convert some parts of the anthropogenic dykelands. A study used a novel survey question set to understand the ecosystem service benefits locals feel they receive from dykeland, dykes and tidal wetlands. [Proximity, benefit transfer and trade-offs: the limits of ecosystem service assumptions in an anthropogenic rural coastal setting](#) K. Sherren et al. (Research Gate 2025).

13. On the trail of right whales

In recent years, efforts to protect the endangered North Atlantic right whale population have included making ships slow down in known whale zones to avoid hitting them and encouraging fishing crews to use ropeless gear to prevent them from becoming entangled. But changes to where the whales congregate have been challenging some of those efforts. By combining existing studies tracking where food sources for right whales are, scientists have created a model to estimate where the whales themselves might congregate. [New England scientists are honing models that predict where right whales will pop up next](#) (CBC News)

14. Old Thom is back

A lone orca beloved by locals, tourists and guides has made his way back to the Bay of Fundy this year, just as he has for 20 years. Old Thom is typically accompanied by dozens of dolphins. [Whale watchers excited about return of 'friendly' orca to the Bay of Fundy](#) (CBC News) [Audio clip](#) (CBC News - 4 mins). [The Curious Case of 'Old Thom,' an Orca Traveling Alone in the North Atlantic](#). (Smithsonian Magazine).

15. Ecological benefits of whale poop!

The Whale Poop Loop is the foundation of the marine food web and the planet's lungs. Packed with nutrients, whale waste is a super fertilizer that supports phytoplankton, which produces oxygen and is food for zooplankton, fish, other marine species, as well as for shorebirds and humans. These marine leviathans also help mitigate the climate crisis. One whale can capture an average of 33 tons of carbon dioxide over its lifespan. ['Whale Poop Loop' Keeps Ocean and Humans Alive and Well](#) (ecoRI News)

16. Nutritional study on sea cucumbers

Sea cucumbers are valued as traditional and luxury seafood, known for their rich nutritional and bioactive profiles. This study assessed the nutritional and bioactive profiles of *Cucumaria frondosa* across different seasons, geographical zones. [Variations in nutritional and bioactive properties of North Atlantic sea cucumber \(*Cucumaria frondosa*\): Role of seasonality, location, and processing](#) (Amit Das, et al. Journal of Food Composition and Analysis Volume 148, Part 1, December 2025)

17. Climate change and ctenophores

Geographical aspects of the global distribution of ctenophores *Beroë cucumis* and newly discovered *Beroë pseudocucumis* in the World Ocean along with background abiotic environmental conditions and climatology, as well as seasonal and interannual variability of their habitat areas were studied. [Ctenophores Beroë cucumis and newly discovered Beroë pseudocucumis: Global distribution and background abiotic conditions](#). Alexander S. Kazmin, et al. August 2025 Marine Environmental Research 211:107460

18. Lobster marathon?

A female lobster tagged in Canadian waters off Grand Manan Island made a remarkable journey — by lobster standards, in any case — covering more than 250 miles over eight months before entering a trap off Cape Cod. [Cape Cod catch sets lobster distance record in epic journey from Canada: 'Not expected.'](#) (Cape Cod Times).

19. Microplastics in NS lobsters

A new study out of Dalhousie University has found microplastics in the meat of lobsters caught off the coast of Nova Scotia. Each of the 16 lobsters that were analyzed was found to contain various forms of microplastics, averaging six to seven microplastic particles per gram of meat. The average size of the plastics was 3.65 micrometres — about 30 times smaller than the diameter of a human hair. The researchers were able to analyze the particles to determine what types of plastic were present, [New N.S. study finds microplastics in edible portions of lobster tails](#) (CBC News plus video 2:03 mins.)

D. ADMINISTTRIVIA

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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