

~ *FUNDY TIDINGS* ~

Newsletter of the

Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP)

March 2026 Issue

A. BoFEP and its activities:

1. ACCESS/BoFEP Conference 2026 – update

May 19-22, 2026, Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB. Hosted jointly by the Atlantic Canada Coastal and Estuarine Science Society and the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership. Conference theme: “**Connecting communities to ocean science**”. Event details, registration and abstract submission: [ACCESS & BoFEP 2026](#). Abstract submission now open – **Deadline - March 31, 2026**

2. 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](#).

3. Fundy Tidings archive

Back issues (from Spring 2003) of the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP) quarterly newsletter “**Fundy Tidings**” are available online at [BoFEP FT Archive](#)

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. Latest news about Right Whales

The latest issue (Volume 33 Number 2 December 2025) of [Right Whale News](#), an independent forum for right whale conservation and recovery that is published several times each year, is now available online. Current and back issues are available on the [North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium Website](#).

2. Cliffs of Fundy Geopark celebrates diversity day

Tim Fedak, senior Curator of Geology of the Nova Scotia Museum outlines how [the Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark](#), celebrated International Geodiversity Day 2025 with a very special guided hike. [Geodiversity Day 2025 at the Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark](#) (The article was first published in the December 2025 issue of the *Geologists' Association Magazine*.)

3. Shaw Institute tackles plastic and more!

[The Shaw Institute](#) is a nonprofit, scientific research organization based in Blue Hill, Maine. For more than three decades, it has conducted research on plastics, ocean pollution, marine mammal health, toxic chemicals, and climate change. Subscribe to newsletter [News - Shaw Institute](#)

4. Blue Beach Fossil Museum update

Blue Beach, Nova Scotia, near Avonport NS, is a world-class and world-famous fossil site. It has long been known by paleontologists and geologists for its unique treasures and evidence for the invasion of the land by the first vertebrates to leave the sea. The fossil trackways were first discovered in 1841, making Blue Beach the official birthplace of vertebrate paleontology in Canada! While the museum is temporarily closed to visitors there is still much interesting work being done behind the scenes. [Blue Beach Fossil Museum](#).

5. GOMCME invites nominations for awards

The Gulf of Maine Council is accepting nominations for our 2026 awards program to recognize volunteers, professionals, businesses, and organizations for their outstanding efforts to promote a healthy Gulf of Maine ecosystem. Deadline is March 13, 2026. Access online nomination form [here](#). Download detailed call for nominations [here](#)

6. Ropeless Consortium 2026 Meeting

[Ropeless Consortium](#) Meeting November 18 and 19. Details will be posted on the organization website. Subscribe to [Email Newsletter](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).

C. Fundy/GOM and other news:

1. Who owns Seal Island?

An American boat tour company claims on their website that an island off the coast of New Brunswick is part of the United States. That's incensed a Canadian senator, who is calling on Ottawa to do more to reinforce Canada's claim to the island. [Senator calls on Ottawa to reinforce Canada's claim to island off New Brunswick](#) (Global News). [Colby Cosh: The brewing Canada-U.S. fight over a disputed puffin island](#) (National Post)

2. More investment in tidal power

Scottish renewable energy company Orbital Marine Power has secured a £7 million (around €8 million) investment to support its international commercial tidal stream projects. The investment follows the recently awarded new tidal energy licenses in the Province of Nova Scotia. ([Orbital Marine Power gets €8M investment boost for tidal energy development](#) (Offshore Energy Biz))

3. Acadia Links computers to study Fundy currents

The \$2.6M project on tidal energy led by Dr. Anna Redden (Biology Dept.) got a computing boost last week. A team of experts from various departments and abroad completed installation of a marine renewable energy computing cluster, a group of computers that work as a single high-performance system to tackle complex problems. It will allow researchers to model the strong currents in the Bay of Fundy and their impact on tidal turbines. [New Computing Cluster to Model Tidal Energy Turbines](#) (Acadia University).

4. NS leads efforts to salvage failed turbine

A tidal turbine placed on the ocean floor in the Minas Passage failed and remains abandoned in the water. Ten months after the NS Energy Department took the lead on recovering it officials still cannot say when or if the 1,300-tonne device might be removed. [Provincial officials still trying to find way to raise abandoned tidal turbine](#) (CBC News)

5. Tidal turbines impact ocean environment.

Offshore wind farms have been linked to altered migration routes and increased mortality in bird life. Underwater tidal turbines bring a similar twist to the marine world. These machines don't just produce energy — they change how the ocean environment behaves. [Tidal turbines's dark side no one talks about — Fish have started creating “superhighways” and where they go worries experts.](#) (Ecoportal)

6. Tackling the invasive green crab

The presence of an invasive species, the European green crab, has upset the balance of the ecosystem of parts of the coastal Bay of Fundy. DFO has announced a commercial fishery pilot, in an attempt to control the species and mitigate the damage it does to the area's biodiversity. [New fishery pilot aims to control invasive crab species in Bay of Fundy](#) (Frequency News - Includes video of DFO representative discussing fishery 7:37 mins)

7. New podcast series on Atlantic Salmon

Introducing a new podcast that investigates river systems from Maine to Greenland and the wild salmon that depend on them for survival. Hosted by award-winning CBC journalist Bob Keating and ASF Communications Director Kristen Noel, "Saving Salmon" is brought to you by Atlantic Salmon Federation. [Open all 8 episodes.](#)

8. Upgrading trail to Balancing Rock

The federal government is spending more than \$37,000 to revamp Balancing Rock Trail in Tiverton, N.S. The Nova Scotia government is spending \$18,990, while the municipality is pitching in \$6,283. The 2.5-kilometre trail features a 20-foot basalt column that formed an estimated 200-million years ago. The money will be used to redesign the trail and the viewing platform. It will also improve accessibility and enhance safety. [Ottawa spending \\$37K to revamp Balancing Rock Trail in Tiverton, N.S.](#) (CTV News) [Digby launches process to redesign Balancing Rock trail](#) (CBC News)

9. Going ropeless to protect Right Whales

Entanglement in fishing gear is a major contributors to the death of whales. North Atlantic right whales have been especially vulnerable because they feed in the same areas that commercial and private fishers set traps for crabs and lobsters. To find and retrieve their traps, harvesters attach a rope to the trap that leads to a buoy on the surface. These lines can be hundreds of feet long in the water column. To prevent these deadly encounters, officials with the Canadian and US governments have closed fisheries when whales are migrating through an area. This, however, means that fishers can't fish. Or can they? Companies, such as Ropeless Systems, based in Biddeford, Maine, and others, have created a solution that enables fishers and whales to coexist. [This Easy Solution Could Prevent Whale Deaths: New on-demand fishing gear reduces harmful entanglements](#) (Sierra Club)

10. The battle over highest tides

Recent satellite images suggest that Tasiujaq, Que., could have higher tides than the Bay of Fundy, but DFO says it has no immediate plans to make a true comparison between the two sites. Images captured between August 2022 to August 2023 suggested a tidal range of 16.35 metres. That's potentially half a metre higher than the 15.85 metres recorded at the Bay of Fundy's Burntcoat Head. [No immediate plans to test whether Tasiujaq, Que., has higher tides than the Bay of Fundy](#) (CBC News.) [Does the Bay of Fundy have the highest tides in the world? People in Nunavik don't think so](#) (CBC News)

11. Crabs Vs. Lobsters

A burgeoning Jonah crab population is proving a challenge for some Nova Scotia lobster fishermen. the crabs are having a significant impact on the lobster catch in certain areas,

particularly in lobster fishing area 34, stretching from Yarmouth to the Bay of Fundy. The crabs are a primary food source for lobsters, and the lobsters may be feeding on them rather than the bait in traps, resulting in smaller catches. Some areas are reporting a drop of 20 to 25 per cent in their lobster catches. [Increasing Jonah crab numbers a problem for lobster fishermen in parts of Nova Scotia](#) (CBC Lite)

12. Popular Puffins tourist magnet

From the end of May until early August, the [Bold Coast Charter Company's](#) 40-foot vessel leaves on a five-hour excursion to Machias Seal Island — the only place in the United States to see Atlantic puffins at close range. The caveat is that getting a ticket is like securing admission to a Taylor Swift concert. In March, ticket sales go live on the charter company's website, and they're gone within minutes. [Machias Seal Island, Maine Where puffins have Swifty-like star power](#) (The East Hampton Star)

13. State of NB coast report

For the last few months, [CBCL Limited](#) has been working on the State of the Coast report for New Brunswick. It recently hosted its second expert engagement session, bringing together the expertise of more than 60 participants (First Nations, Government, NGOs, Knowledge Institutes, Consultants, etc.) to identify key challenges and priority actions. [State of the coast report update](#) (Linked In)

14. Fundy salmon threatened by closure of gene banks.

Two salmon conservation organizations and an Indigenous water protector say the DFO decision to close biodiversity facilities in the Maritimes could be the final nail in the coffin for an endangered salmon population. DFO confirmed that it will discontinue its Atlantic Salmon Live Gene Bank program, closing facilities in N.B., and, N.S. The gene banks help at-risk Inner Bay of Fundy salmon populations by raising wild juvenile salmon to adulthood. [Conservationists warn DFO facility closures could risk future of endangered salmon](#) (CBC News). [Closure of salmon facilities leaves conservationists in the dark](#) (Telegraph Journal - paywall). [Scientists, conservationists warn against closing N.B. fish research facility](#). (CBC News)

15. Fundy finfish aquaculture application

Canadian Salmon, a Norwegian company, plans to develop four 80-hectare fish farms in St. Mary's Bay. The Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture has been accepting public comment on four applications for new marine licences/leases. This follows an ARB decision to approve Cooke's fish farm expansion at Liverpool Bay, despite staunch community opposition. [St. Mary's Bay finfish aquaculture application open for public comment](#) (Tri County Vanguard) [Norwegian salmon farm expansion in N.S. enters next stage](#) (CBC News)

16. Digby preps for climate change

Nova Scotia is giving \$600,000 to the Digby Harbour Port Association for upgrades to protect the area from climate change. That includes a study on how rising sea levels and storms affect wharves and the shoreline. [Port of Digby gets \\$600k for climate change protection](#) (Acadia Broadcasting)

17. Huge shark visits Fundy

A boater off Dipper Harbour, New Brunswick captured a nearly five-metre-long shark on camera [Massive shark spotted off NB coast in Bay of Fundy - Global Player](#) video 0:37 mins. Warning advertisement. (Global Player)

18. Bio of an ocean tracker.

A podcast in the series "[Sciographies](#)" features Dr. Rob Lennox, scientific director of the [Ocean Tracking Network](#) (OTN), a global aquatic research, data management and partnership organization headquartered at Dalhousie University in Halifax. It explores his early curiosity of marine species and how it fueled a passion to study marine biology. His studies include Atlantic mackerel and halibut tagged in the Bay of Fundy. [Meet Dr. Rob Lennox, scientific director of Dal-based Ocean Tracking Network](#) (Dal News)

19. River of chocolate??

The Petitcodiac River in New Brunswick, is known as the "Chocolate River." It looks brown like chocolate milk because strong tides from the Bay of Fundy stir up red clay and silt from the riverbed. The mud stays mixed in the fast-moving water, giving it a thick cocoa colour. [Which River is known as the Chocolate River?](#) (Current Affairs)

20. Keeping Fundy skies Dark

Plans are afoot for the development of Bay of Fundy Dark Sky Corridor. This includes Fundy National Park, which is already a certified Dark Sky Preserve that protects the night-time environment from the effects of artificial lighting, educates visitors about the ecological and cultural importance of dark skies, and helps plants, animals and insects that rely on darkness to forage, breed and navigate. The corridor will be 220 kilometres (137 miles) long and have the highest concentration of Dark Sky Sites in the world. [Fundy National Park Could Become Part Of A Dark Sky Corridor](#) (National Parks Traveller)

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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