

FUNDY TIDINGS

Quarterly Newsletter of the
Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP)

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1. First Call for Papers for BoFEP's 6th Bay of Fundy Workshop.

"The Changing Bay of Fundy ~ Beyond 400 Years." September 29th - October 2nd, 2004.
Annapolis Basin Conference Centre, Cornwallis Park, Nova Scotia

This Workshop is the sixth in the series on the Bay of Fundy, organized by the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP). It coincides with the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the arrival of French explorers in 1604 and the establishment of the first permanent European settlement in Canada at nearby Port Royal in 1605. The workshop theme encourages us to reflect on the changes in the ecosystems of the Bay and its surrounding watersheds before and during these four centuries of expanding European settlement. More importantly, it inspires us to explore the ecological and social changes that may take place in the region during the next hundred years.

The Workshop is an opportunity to present original research papers, synoptic reviews, viewpoint papers, posters and project demonstrations. Panel discussions and round table sessions will encourage participants to reflect on ecological changes that have already taken place and share ideas about what needs to be done to protect or restore the Bay's productivity and diversity in

coming decades. Presentations may deal with aspects of the physical, chemical, biological and social science relevant to the Bay of Fundy, particularly topics pertaining to:

- *Coastal/watershed issues affecting communities.*
- *Human and natural history of Fundy.*
- *Economics of natural resources, past and present.*
- *Fisheries and aquaculture.*
- *Wildlife biology and habitat conservation.*
- *Ecology and ecosystem health.*
- *Education: communities, schools and marine science.*
- *Marine and coastal protected areas.*
- *Partnerships: working together for sustainability.*
- *Watersheds and land-based impacts on the Bay.*
- *Natural changes and effects of human activities.*
- *Issues in marine governance.*
- *Information technology: new tools new approaches.*
- Suggestions for other topics are welcome.

The workshop sessions will be based on an appropriate grouping of the papers submitted.

The deadline for submission of paper/poster abstracts is April 2nd, 2004

Abstracts may be:

E-mailed to: workshop@bofep.org

Posted to: BoFEP Workshop, Marine Resource Centre, P.O. Box 273,

Cornwallis Park, Cornwallis, Nova Scotia, B0S 1H0

Faxed to: (902) 638-3284

For up-to-date Workshop Information visit the BoFEP Website: www.bofep.org

Or contact: E-mail: workshop@bofep.org Telephone: (902) 532-5129

2. Student paper/poster awards at 6th Workshop

University students engaged in research projects pertaining to the Bay of Fundy are again being invited to submit papers and posters about their research for consideration for presentation at the 6th Bay of Fundy Workshop in the fall of 2004. Prizes will be awarded for the best student paper and poster presented at the workshop. The Huntsman Marine Laboratory, which generously provided the awards presented at the 5th Workshop in 2002, has again agreed to be a sponsor. Additional sponsors are also being sought. Poster inviting student submissions to the Workshop will be posted in the appropriate Departments of Maritime universities.

3. In Memoriam - Walt van Walsum

It was with great sadness that we learned that long-time BoFEP member Ewout (Walt) van Walsum passed away last month. He was cremated the morning of August 21, with a memorial service in the afternoon at the van Walsum home in Pointe Claire, Quebec. Walt was a Consulting Civil Engineer with Tidal Power Consultants Ltd. Of Pointe Claire Quebec. He was involved with developing and assessing tidal power project projects both on Canada's Atlantic and Pacific coasts. He was particularly interested in Fundy's potential for producing electricity. At a Canadian Dam Association conference in 1998 he noted that "*The challenge of extracting energy from the tides of Fundy has until now been approached with some success by hydro-power engineers. The large-scale development of the Bay of Fundy's tidal power resources will become economically attractive when conventional dam building experience is linked with today's know-how regarding construction in marine environments.*" Walt also participated actively in the 4th Bay of Fundy Workshop in Saint John, NB in 2000, where he presented a paper entitled "*Review of Engineering Studies on Tidal power, Technical/Economic Performance of existing Plants, and Scenario for the Bay of Fundy.*" His stated purpose in the presentation was "to inform the group regarding the engineering and economic characteristics of tidal power options?" We will miss his considerable expertise and great enthusiasm in our ongoing deliberations about this important issue. He will be greatly missed by his wife Katy, three brothers, four children and eight grandchildren. BoFEP extends sincere condolences to all his family and friends.

4. Meeting of Sublittoral Ecology and Habitat Conservation Working Group

A meeting of the BOFEP - Sublittoral Ecology and Habitat Conservation Working Group was held at the Conference Centre, Biological Station in St. Andrews on August 26, 2003. There were eight attendees (two other members sent regrets) with a very wide spectrum of interests ranging from benthic ecology and biodiversity to geology and mapping. Discussions focussed on the rationale for setting up the working group and on the terms of reference. Most of the other active Working Groups are focussed on the intertidal areas in the Upper Bay of Fundy, hence, it was felt that this Working Group would bring a balance to BOFEP. The Terms of Reference states that the geographic focus will initially be on benthic habitats in the Outer Bay of Fundy. The overall theme for the group will be to provide Science contributions for identification of priority areas and for Integrated Management of the Outer Bay of Fundy. For this purpose, the group would look at the approaches and methodology for indicating areas of high ecological value, integration of data sources and knowledge, and coordination of ongoing and new activities within these themes. Others with similar interests are invited to join this Working Group by contacting the coordinator, Maria-Ines Buzeta (buzetam@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca). More information will be available through the soon to be updated web site.

5. Alison Evans to Co-chair 6th BoFEP Workshop

The BoFEP Steering Committee is pleased to announce that it has ratified the appointment of Alison Evans as a Co-Chair for the 6th Bay of Fundy Workshop scheduled for the Fall of 2004. She joins Jon Percy in the challenging task of planning a stimulating and productive workshop around the theme: "The Changing Bay of Fundy ~ Beyond 400 Years". Alison was one of the principal organizers of the very first BoFEP Science Workshop in 1996 and has since also been actively involved in the planning of national conferences for the Ocean Management and Research Network (OMRN). She thus brings a wealth of experience to the job and all members of the various workshop-planning committees look forward to working with her.

6. Nancy Roscoe-Huntley steps down from BoFEP Secretariat

On August 18th, BoFEP's dynamic Secretary and leader of the BoFEP secretariat (as well as Administrative Secretary of the Acadia Centre for Estuarine Research and Acadia's Environmental Science Program), Nancy Roscoe-Huntley, stepped down to take on to a full time position with the Department of Biology at Acadia. Nancy worked enthusiastically and tirelessly on behalf of ACER and BoFEP and her absence is going to be greatly missed by both groups. Her remarkable organizing ability, attention to detail and good humour were greatly appreciated by all those who worked with her. She played a particularly important behind the scenes role is helping to organize the very successful 5th BoFEP Workshop at Acadia in the Spring of 2002. We extend our warmest thanks to Nancy for her dedicated service on behalf of BoFEP and wish her every success in her new position. ACER and BoFEP Chair Graham Daborn announced that plans are already underway to recruit a new half-time Administrative Secretary at ACER who might also be engaged as half-time Secretariat for BoFEP if this is agreeable to the BoFEP Steering Committee. Further details will be posted on the BoFEP Website www.bofep.org as they become available.

7. White's Point Quarry assessment

A draft agreement on the joint environmental assessment review panel process for the proposed Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal, in Digby County, Nova Scotia has been released for public comment. The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour welcome written comments on this agreement. The deadline for comments is 18 September. For information and to download the agreement: http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/0005/index_e.htm

8. Ecology Action Centre saltmarsh restoration project

To address the cumulative loss of salt marsh habitat in the Minas Basin, the EAC has a number of ongoing activities in the area. Public education, community outreach, school programs, data collection, fieldwork, and collaborative restoration planning are part of our efforts to protect and restore salt marshes and tidal rivers in the Minas Basin.

The EAC has completed two tidal audits in the Minas Basin. The first, during the summer of 2001, focused on coastal Hants County, from Maitland to Cheverie. Twenty-one tidal crossings were found. Of these, nine were partially restricted and five were completely restricted. In 2002, in partnership with the Municipality of Colchester County, a tidal audit was completed for the entire coastal portion of Colchester County. Of the 54 tidal crossings in Colchester County, 29 were completely or partially restricted. In 2003, the tidal barriers project will expand into Cumberland County through to the New Brunswick boarder and from Cheverie, in West Hants, to Blomidon, in Kings County.

For more information about salt marshes or the EAC's Salt Marsh Restoration Project, please contact the Salt Marsh and Tidal Rivers Restorations Project, at 429-2202 or coastal@ecologyaction.ca

9. Shipping lanes change to protect right whales in Bay

The new shipping lanes in the Bay of Fundy, designed to protect the endangered North Atlantic Right Whale population from ship strikes, were officially put into operation on 1 July 2003. Amendments have been made to the navigational charts and vessel traffic control procedures and notifications have been distributed. For information, access http://www.tc.gc.ca/atl/marine/fundy_e.htm

10. NB sea level rise project

The operational phase of the multi-year \$2 million research project about the effects of sea level rise, erosion and climate change on coastal areas of southeastern New Brunswick officially started with the initial LIDAR data gathering flight on 22 May. The data will be used to develop tools including flood-risk and ecosystem maps. For information, email Réal Daigle, Project Manager, at real.daigle@ec.gc.ca

11. Maine sea worm farm ready to produce bait

The market for sea worms, which are dug from muddy tidal flats and coveted by anglers as bait, is notoriously inconsistent. Price and availability fluctuate because of factors such as weather and tides. Now a British company is aiming to bring order to a market worth about \$8 million in Maine last year by opening what's billed as the nation's first sea worm farm. Seabait Ltd., which already operates a worm-farming operation in England, has been conducting research in the eastern Maine town of Franklin for about 18 months. The firm hopes to be selling worms within a year and a half, and its long-term goal is to be producing 150 metric tons, or about 40 million sandworms, annually, said Peter Cowin, who's running Seabait's U.S. operations. That would have a major impact on the existing sea worm market. The entire production of sandworms in Maine last year was 197 metric tons. Together with bloodworms, which are generally considered interchangeable by customers, the total market size was still only 507 metric tons. The potential competition worries many of the 1,055 licensed worm diggers who work the tidal flats up and

down Maine's coast. — Kevin Wack, Maine Today, August 15, 2003. Full story at:
www.business.maine.com/news/030815wormfarm.shtml

12. Tourism in Marine Environment - new journal

Tourism in Marine Environments is a new interdisciplinary journal dealing with variety of management issues in marine settings. It is a scientific journal that draws upon the expertise of academics and practitioners from various disciplines related to the marine environment, including tourism, marine science, geography, social sciences, psychology, environmental studies, economics, marketing, and many more. The marine environment has long been one of the most attractive settings for tourism. It includes a wide spectrum of activities, such as scuba diving and snorkeling, wind surfing, fishing, observing marine mammals and birds, the cruise ship and ferry industry, all beach activities, sea kayaking, visits to fishing villages and lighthouses, maritime museums, sailing and motor yachting, maritime events, Arctic and Antarctic tourism, and many more. Tourism in Marine Environments aims to contribute to the process of theory building, and to be the leading source for research reports and analysis related to all forms of marine tourism. It is governed by an international editorial board consisting of experts in marine tourism, marine science, and related fields. Submit full papers and commentaries/research notes related to the above topics to the editor-in-chief: Michael Lück, Department of Recreation & Leisure Studies, Brock University, 500 Glenridge Avenue, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada, L2S 3X2

13. Call for Nominations - NSDEL 2003 Bay of Fundy Awards

NSDEL is now calling for nominations for two 2003 NSDEL Bay of Fundy Awards. These awards were initially introduced by NSDEL in 1998 to show its support for public involvement in environmental management, stewardship, and education initiatives. They recognize outstanding contributions made by the public and private sector for: environmental stewardship, conservation, development and support of environmental management programs; promotion of public awareness of the Bay of Fundy ecosystem; and dedicated service to the Gulf of Maine Council program. The awards are presented each year in conjunction with the Gulf of Maine Council Awards Ceremony which this year will be held in Halifax on December 4th. [Details and form.](#)

14. Call for Nominations - Gulf of Maine Council Annual Recognition Awards

The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment is seeking nominations for its 2003 Gulf of Maine Visionary and Longard Volunteer awards. These awards are presented annually to recognize residents and organizations that have contributed to the mission of the Gulf of Maine Council. Award winners will be presented their award at the Council's December meeting in Halifax during the Visionary and NSDEL Bay of Fundy Aw