

## Issue #1 Spring 2003

### FUNDY TIDINGS

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

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#### **1. Welcome to the BoFEP Newsletter.**

This is the first issue of BoFEP's quarterly newsletter. It is designed to keep members informed about the activities of the organization and its Working Groups. It will also feature short items pertaining to the Bay of Fundy that may also be of interest to you. To avoid swamping you with information, the articles in the newsletter will usually be brief; but links will be provided for those interested in more details.

We welcome items for inclusion in the next issue - simply send them to [bofep@auracom.com](mailto:bofep@auracom.com). The newsletter will be circulated during the first week of March, June, September and December. Comments about the Newsletter and its contents, as well as requests to be taken off the mailing list can also be sent to the same address. We'd also like to hear if you have any strong preference for receiving such a newsletter in a hard-copy-via-post instead of an e-mail format. This is certainly the easiest and cheapest way to create and distribute a newsletter - but is it the most effective? Only you can provide us with the answer to that question.

More up to date information about BoFEP and its activities can also be found on the [BoFEP Website](#) . Please bookmark it and visit periodically.

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## **2. BoFEP Annual General Meeting.**

The 2002 BoFEP AGM will be held at Fundy National Park, Alma, NB on Thursday April 24<sup>th</sup>. There will be an interesting interpretive program arranged by park staff in conjunction with the meeting. More information about the program and the agenda will be available shortly on the [calendar page](#) of the BoFEP Website.

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## **3. BoFEP Inc. established as fiscal agent for BoFEP.**

A new legal entity named BoFEP Inc. was incorporated in November 2002 through the Registry of Joint Stock Companies, as a not-for-profit organization under the Companies Act of New Brunswick. BoFEP Inc. will serve as the fiscal agent for BoFEP and manage its bank accounts and financial transactions etc. This will permit BoFEP to have more direct and straightforward management and accounting control of its funds. The interim Board of Directors of the new company consists of Graham Daborn, Chair, Barry Jones, Treasurer and Jon Percy, Secretary. A decision has not yet been made about seeking charitable tax status for the new entity. New forms for submitting BoFEP related travel claims and miscellaneous expense claims have been prepared and should now be used. Both are available from the BoFEP Secretariat: [nancy.huntley@acadiau.ca](mailto:nancy.huntley@acadiau.ca)

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## **4. SMARTS Working Group active**

The Salt Marsh and Restricted Tidal Systems Working Group (SMaRTS) held two meetings in 2002. The [WG minutes](#) are available on the BOFEP website. The group, which was formed by a merger of the former Barriers and Salt Marsh Working Groups, has prepared a new Terms of Reference document which is available on the SMaRTS page of the BoFEP Website. The group prepared a poster about its work for display at the 5<sup>th</sup> Bay of Fundy Science Workshop held last spring. Several Working Group members also presented posters and/or papers at the 5<sup>th</sup> Bay of Fundy Science Workshop including, Tony Bowron (paper and poster), Jeff Ollerhead (paper), Danika van Proosdij (paper), Zsofi Koller (poster). The New Brunswick Tidal Barriers Audit and Inventory being spearheaded by the Conservation Council of New Brunswick is now complete. A final report, covering the entire study (3 years) should be available by late March 2003. During the coming year SMaRTS will be attempting to procure NSERC funding for a doctoral or post-doctoral student to model changes and cumulative effects resulting from tidal barriers in the Bay of Fundy. The Gulf of Maine Habitat restoration Committee held a meeting in Clare, NS on October 7-8, 2002. And several members from the SMaRTS WG attended and presented reports on current research activities. The Nova Scotia Tidal Barriers Audit, in Hants County, NS, was completed in the summer of 2001 and a report is available from Tony Bowron. During the summer of 2002 tidal barriers in Colchester County were audited. Restoration work was carried out on Cheverie Creek, Hants County, NS in the summer of 2002. Further monitoring of Cheverie Creek will be carried out by an honours student at Dalhousie. Sarah Townsend's honours thesis on the Windsor Causeway, supervised by Danika van Proosdij of Saint Mary's University, is now complete. She found that the downstream salt marsh now covers 92 acres and since 1992 has been growing at a rate of 30% per year. SMaRTS is presently working to

coordinate an event, most likely in late March 2003 at Mount Allison University, at which the keynote speaker will be Ron Colman from Genuine Progress Index (GPI) Atlantic.

For further information about the SMaRTS Group and the other BoFEP Working Groups visit: <http://www.auracom.com/~bofep/working.htm>

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### **5. Gulf of Maine Biogeographic Information System Atlas now online.**

The **Gulf of Maine Biogeographic Information System** (GMBIS) electronic atlas is now on line. This is a joint initiative of the University of Southern California, DFO Maritimes Region, the Atlantic Reference Center, and System Science Applications. The project's goals are to develop, test and demonstrate information dissemination and visualization tools, involving overlaying numerous environmental and ecosystem data layers in the Gulf of Maine region. The project draws on the extensive data and expertise in DFO Maritimes. It will be a proof-of-concept activity to explore how geographical information system (GIS) and Internet technologies can be used to access databases and display their products to address questions about biogeography and the status of local marine populations. There are links that generate dynamic visualizations of biological and environmental data such as Groundfish research trawl surveys and the Atlantic Reference Centre Specimen Collection as well as the ability to map ones own data. For more information visit: <http://gmbis.marinebiodiversity.ca> .

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### **6. Planning for 6th Bay of Fundy Workshop underway**

BoFEP's 6<sup>th</sup> Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Workshop will take place on September 29 - October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004, at the Annapolis Basin Conference Centre, Cornwallis Park, Nova Scotia. The date and location were selected largely because of their approximate coincidence with the 400th anniversary and the site of the first permanent European settlement in the region (in fact in Canada). This workshop will be an opportunity for a broad thematic overview of what may have happened to the Bay and its watershed during that span as well as to think about what further changes may occur in this new century. The Workshop is an opportunity to present original research papers, synoptic reviews, discussion or viewpoint papers, posters or project demonstrations. There will also be a chance to convene special discussion sessions on specific topics related to the general theme. The first planning meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 11, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at the Bay of Fundy Marine Resources Centre in Cornwallis Park, NS. For more information visit: [BoFEP 6th Workshop](#)

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### **7. CCNB Workshop**

The Conservation Council of New Brunswick, in collaboration with several watershed groups, is hosting a *workshop "Restoring Estuaries and Shellfish: A Call to Action"*, April 4 - 5, 2002 at the Rodd Inn, Miramichi, New Brunswick. The workshop is intended to provide practical ideas and tools for restoring a wide range of habitats and shellfish, including saltmarsh, oysters, clam and mussel beds. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Rob Brumbaugh, a fisheries scientist with the

Chesapeake Bay Foundation in Virginia. Dr. Brumbaugh will address indicators of ecosystem health, monitoring, the value of state of the environment reporting as well as the restoration, outreach and advocacy programs of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Guest speakers from South Carolina, New Hampshire, New York as well as New Brunswick will offer their knowledge and experiences in estuary and shellfish restoration. Simultaneous French translation will be available. Registration is \$50. For more information or to register, please contact the Conservation Council at (506) 458-8747 or [ccnb@nb.aibn.com](mailto:ccnb@nb.aibn.com)

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### **8. Minas Basin Forum Reports to be published.**

During the past year the Minas Basin Working Group convened a very successful series of Community Forums in several communities around the Minas Basin. These provided an opportunity for residents to get together to identify problems affecting their portion of the Minas Basin ecosystem and its watershed and to contribute towards finding workable solutions. Detailed information about the planning for, and the results of, the forums in Wofville, Truro, Parrsboro and Summerville are available on the BoFEP Website at: [Minas Basin Forums](#). A Proceeding document of these workshops, including the results of an Action Planning "Leads" workshop held in Truro in November, is nearing completion and will be published shortly. The final summary document will also be available on the BoFEP Website.

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### **9. The BoFEP Fundy image collection.**

BoFEP is now in the process of creating a library of images pertaining to the Bay of Fundy and its watershed. This collection is primarily intended for BoFEP and its members for use in publications, press packages, Websites, audio/visual presentations etc. However, the images may also be made available for other approved non-commercial uses involving the dissemination of information about the Bay of Fundy, its ecosystems and the issues that confront it. The collection includes both 35 mm. slides as well as digital images suitable for multimedia projectors; where possible, images are being acquired in both formats. Interested BoFEP members, or any other interested individuals or groups may contribute suitable images to the collection. Original slides submitted will be duplicated and scanned and the originals promptly returned to the contributor. Anyone who has suitable images that they would like to contribute should contact the Communications Working Group at: [bofep@auracom.com](mailto:bofep@auracom.com)

For more information visit: <http://www.auracom.com/~bofep/communic.htm>

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### **10. Bay of Fundy Shipping Lanes Moved to Protect Right Whales.**

The Government of Canada's proposed changes to the shipping lanes in the Bay of Fundy to protect the endangered North Atlantic right whale population from ship strikes have been approved by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The lane changes will be in place before to the whales'

return to Fundy waters in the summer of 2003. For more information:  
[http://www.tc.gc.ca/mediaroom/releases/atf/2002/02\\_A017e.htm](http://www.tc.gc.ca/mediaroom/releases/atf/2002/02_A017e.htm)

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### **11. New Publication on Groundfish Spawning in the Bay of Fundy.**

*"Local Knowledge and Local Stocks: An Atlas of Groundfish Spawning in the Bay of Fundy."* —  
By Jennifer Graham, Stephen Engle and Maria Recchia

This report documents fishermen's knowledge of local groundfish stocks and spawning grounds in the Bay of Fundy. It is based on research conducted with local fishermen by staff of the Centre for Community-based Management. At the heart of the report are maps showing where and when fishermen have caught spawning haddock, pollock and cod, and how these fisheries have changed over time. This report finds strong evidence for the existence of local stocks of cod, pollock and haddock in the Bay of Fundy and documents and discusses active and lost groundfish spawning areas. In many instances the loss of inshore fisheries is associated with the disappearance of local spawning activity. Fishermen attribute the progressive loss of groundfish spawning areas to

the effects of overfishing, habitat change, diminished food availability, and pollution. Immediate action must be taken to protect and rehabilitate remaining local stocks and their spawning areas in the Bay of Fundy. Fishermen can play a significant role in the process because they have information about groundfish stocks that supplements scientific knowledge. This publication is available from the Saint Francis Xavier bookstore for \$18.75 + HST + shipping and handling.

Telephone: (902) 867-2450, Fax: (902) 8675115 or email: [bkstore@stfx.ca](mailto:bkstore@stfx.ca)  
For more information: [mariar@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:mariar@nb.sympatico.ca)

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### **12. Fundy Trail**

The Fundy Trail opens up previously unreachable coastal areas of incomparable natural beauty and makes it accessible to all, while responsibly preserving and protecting the ecological balance of the area. The Fundy Trail is a major contributor to the Bay of Fundy Experience. The Fundy Trail is a multi-use corridor hugging the clifftops of the Bay of Fundy coast, with foot paths, pedestrian/bicycle trails and an auto parkway to take you as far as the Interpretive Centre at Big Salmon River and, one day, all the way to Fundy National Park at Alma, with a connecting linkage directly to Sussex. The Fundy Trail has been open to the public since August 29, 1998. This first phase of the Fundy Trail consists of eleven kilometres of hiking/biking trails, supported by a paved auto parkway, which afford magnificent panoramic views from every angle, and lead to the suspension bridge and Interpretive Centre at Big Salmon River.

For more information visit: [www.fundytrailparkway.com](http://www.fundytrailparkway.com)  
Or contact: [fundytp@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:fundytp@nbnet.nb.ca)

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### **13. Coastal Communities Network AGM (April 4 - 6, 2003)**

CCN's Annual General Meeting will be held April 4-6, 2003 at the Tatamagouche Centre, Tatamagouche, NS. *"Ourselves, Our Communities: Replenish, Replant Renew"*.

Join us for useful workshops, the chance to network with other CCN members from across the province, a silent auction, and our annual Nova Scotia Trivia Contest!

For information and to register contact Karen Nash at (902) 485-4754

or e-mail: [coastalnet@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:coastalnet@ns.sympatico.ca)

Also Visit the CCN Website at: <http://www.coastalcommunities.ns.ca>

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### **14. Limnology and Waterbirds Conference (August 3-7, 2003)**

A reminder about the 4th Conference of the Working Group on Aquatic Birds of the International Society of Limnology (SIL): "Limnology and Waterbirds 2003" Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada August 3-7, 2003.

You will find the 2nd Announcement, Call for Papers and Registration Details at: <http://www.links.umoncton.ca/lw/> Abstracts are due by April 1, 2003.

Take advantage of the Early Registration before May 1, 2003.

The Proceedings will be published in the journal *Hydrobiologia* as well as a separate volume of the "Advancements in Hydrobiology" series.

For additional information contact: [joe.kerekes@ec.gc.ca](mailto:joe.kerekes@ec.gc.ca) or [al.hanson@ec.gc.ca](mailto:al.hanson@ec.gc.ca)

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### **15. New Brunswick Land Conservation Conference (April 12 and 13, 2003)**

Register now for the first New Brunswick Land Conservation Conference scheduled for Saturday, April 12 and the morning of Sunday, April 13, 2003 in Fredericton at the Hugh John Flemming Centre and the Fredericton Inn. The Nature Trust of New Brunswick is bringing together established land trusts, emerging trusts and other people interested in the work of land trusts, for a conference dedicated to building capacity for securing and stewarding privately-owned lands in the province. We have kept registration fees low (\$20 for full-day conference including lunch, breaks and field trips) to encourage as many people as possible to attend. Choose from fourteen different sessions featuring land trust experts from New Brunswick, Maine, Massachusetts, Newfoundland and beyond (see attached agenda) and enjoy a dinner reception with presentations at the Brass Rail Restaurant, at the Fredericton Inn. An exciting evening program will highlight some major accomplishments of land trusts. Network with land trust volunteers and staff, and discuss the issues as they pertain to your community. Field trips Sunday will visit some of Fredericton's key natural areas. Registration forms and a full agenda with speakers' roster is attached in Wordperfect and Word formats. The early registration deadline is March 14<sup>th</sup>. Forms in PDF format are available on our website at [www.naturetrust.nb.ca](http://www.naturetrust.nb.ca).

Contact the Nature Trust at [dorothym@ntnb.org](mailto:dorothym@ntnb.org) or phone us at (506) 457-2398 for conference details and further information.

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**IMPORTANT NOTE:** If you would like to receive Fundy Tidings, please contact [bofep@auracom.com](mailto:bofep@auracom.com) and your name will be added to the distribution list.

Bookmark and regularly visit the [BoFEP Website](#) to keep up to date on what's happening.