

FUNDY TIDINGS

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

Issue #5 Spring 2004 [All issues archived at: www.bofep.org/tidings.htm]

HEADLINES:

- 1. Deadline for abstracts for Bay of Fundy Workshop approaching fast!**
 - 2. "Fundy Evening" Open House at the 6th Workshop.**
 - 3. Displays at the 6th Bay of Fundy Workshop.**
 - 4. The Sublittoral Ecology and Habitat Conservation Working Group**
 - 5. Report of the *Corophium* Working Group**
 - 6. Draft Summary of the State of the Minas Basin Forum now available.**
 - 7. BoFEP Expense Claim Forms available Online**
 - 8. Solar Sightings Contest - Clean Nova Scotia Foundation**
 - 9. Guidebook for Seafood Processing Plant Practices**
 - 10. North Atlantic Humpback Whales Recovering?**
 - 11. Conservationists Applaud New Spiny Dogfish Limits**
 - 12. Nova Scotia Green Plan available for comment**
 - 13. Ocean Zoning Workshop in Halifax**
 - 14. Summary of EMAN Meeting now available**
 - 15. ADMINISTRIVIA - Removal from list; submit material; BoFEP Website**
-

1. Deadline for abstracts for Bay of Fundy Workshop approaching fast!

April 2, 2004 is the deadline for abstracts of papers and posters to be presented at the 6th Bay of Fundy Workshop. The Workshop will take place September 29th - October 2nd at the Annapolis Basin Conference Centre in Cornwallis Park NS.

The success of this workshop will depend on the quality and quantity of papers submitted. If any of your colleagues are carrying out interesting research or conservation projects in the Bay of Fundy encourage them to present their work at the 6th Workshop. Similarly if you know of any graduate students doing interesting research in or around the Bay let them know that cash awards will be given for the best papers and posters presented at the workshop.

The guidelines for preparation and submission of abstracts are available online at:

<http://www.bofep.org/guidelines.htm> . If you have not yet received a "*call for papers*" package and would like to receive one, simply send a quick note to workshop@bofep.org

You can mail your abstract on a diskette to:
6th Bay of Fundy Workshop, Bay of Fundy Marine Resource Centre
P.O. Box 273, Cornwallis Park, Cornwallis, Nova Scotia, B0S 1H0

Or send as an e-mail attachment to: workshop@bofep.org

Remember - Deadline for Abstract Submission ~ April 2nd, 2004

The preliminary workshop program and the registration/ accommodation information package will be mailed out in mid May. Details will also be posted on the Website.

2. "Fundy Evening" Open House at the 6th Workshop

The widespread interest in the 400th anniversary commemorations in the Fundy region makes the 6th Workshop an excellent opportunity to raise public awareness about the Bay of Fundy, its natural resources, and the problems confronting it. To this end, the Workshop will feature a special public "Fundy Evening". Dr. Moira Brown, a renowned whale researcher from the New England Aquarium with a long history of active research in the Bay of Fundy and the Gulf of Maine, will give an illustrated talk about the past, present and future of the whales of the Bay of Fundy. The open house will also provide the opportunity for members of the public to meet the workshop delegates, enjoy some refreshments and explore the many informative displays and demonstrations presented by organizations and groups from around the Bay.

3. Displays at the 6th Bay of Fundy Workshop.

As at past Fundy Workshops, organizations from around the Bay are again being invited to set up informative displays highlighting their goals, activities, successes etc. This year the displays will also be open to the public as well as to workshop delegates. If your organization is interested in mounting a display, or you know of other organizations who might be interested in doing so, then please contact either of the display Co-chairs indicated below to get on the mailing list for receiving the display guidelines and application forms. Workshop Display Co-chairs:

Maxine Westhead (Nova Scotia) westheadm@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Angela Martin (New Brunswick) amartin@huntzmanmarine.ca

4. The Sublittoral Ecology and Habitat Conservation Working Group

This is a relatively new BoFEP Working Group. Its overall aim is to provide a means of disseminating information on sublittoral ecology and habitat conservation in the Outer bay of Fundy to decision-makers, other researchers and the public through the development of a systematic method for the synthesis of relevant data and information. In order to accomplish this the group will:

- review and suggest approaches and methodologies for indicating benthic areas of high ecological value.
- Integrate data sources and knowledge about the benthos
- coordinate ongoing and new activities on sublittoral ecology and habitat conservation
- have an overall theme to provide Science contributions for Integrated Management of the Outer Bay of Fundy.

A brochure describing the Working Group and its aims in more detail is now in preparation and should be available shortly. The Working Group is open to all interested individuals and organizations. For more information about the group or to become a member contact the Coordinator Maria-Ines Buzeta at buzetam@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca .

5. Report of the *Corophium* Working Group

The BoFEP *Corophium* WG met last in May 2003 at CWS Sackville, with most members present. The meeting was spent largely discussing: 1) the contents and progress on the *Corophium* review paper or monograph; 2) research planned for summer 2003; 3) research papers in preparation; and 4) the *Corophium* bibliography.

1. The *Corophium* review paper (The Biology and Ecology of *Corophium volutator*) is well organized and the various authors are working on their sections. The intention is to have a mid winter 2004 meeting to discuss progress and start splicing together the first draft of the paper. The plan is to have a good draft together by Spring 2004 and the paper submitted by the fall.
 2. Research for summer 2003 included additional population studies by Myriam Barbeau on NB mudflats, and plans for behavioural studies on burrowing behaviour in relation to predation (now submitted as a Science Horizons project for FY 2004-05 by Drs Barbeau and Hamilton). It is hoped that the ecological data meta-analysis initiated by Dr. Mike Brylinsky will be continued this spring-summer 2004. Other studies have been delayed in favor of data analysis and writing up past studies.
 3. A research paper was presented at the August Limnology meetings at Sackville, NB. It is: Hamilton, D.J., A.W.Diamond and P.G.Wells. 2004. Shorebirds, snails, and the amphipod, *Corophium volutator*, in the upper Bay of Fundy: top-down versus bottom-up factors, and the influence of compensatory interactions on mudflat ecology. In press, *Hydrobiologia*. Other papers are submitted or are in press by Drs. Barbeau and Hamilton. A productive UNB group indeed!!
 4. The *Corophium* bibliography, in Endnote format and now numbering almost 600 citations, is ready for the BoFEP web site. It is a research tool being used a lot by the working group, and deemed very useful by Dr. O. Vader at the Museum of Zoology in Tromso, Norway, which specializes in marine amphipods.
- *Report prepared by P.G. Wells, January 28, 2004.*

6. Draft Summary of the State of the Minas Basin Forum now available.

On October 28th 2003, a forum on the State of the Minas Basin was held in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. The purpose of this meeting was to bring together a diverse group of resource users, scientists, managers, and individuals with knowledge of the local environmental characteristics to discuss the health and quality of the Minas Basin and its watershed. The outputs from this particular forum include the completion of a series of matrices. This information is compiled and presented in this report for further analysis. In addition, the matrices are supplemented with background notes that further explain the justification for many of the assessments. A participant list, matrix instructions and agenda are included in the appendices. These community forums feed into a larger process of assessing the environmental health and quality of the greater Gulf of Maine region. The particular area that was specified for this session was the Minas Basin watershed. A draft copy of the report by Mark TeKamp can be downloaded in PDF format at: <http://www.bofep.org/publications.htm>

7. BoFEP Expense Claim Forms Available Online

Any one who has travel or miscellaneous expenses incurred in connection with approved BoFEP activities can submit a claim for reimbursement using either the travel expense or miscellaneous expense claim forms that can be downloaded in MS Word or PDF format from the BoFEP Website at: http://www.bofep.org/bofep_forms.htm . The expense claim guidelines and instructions for submitting the claims are printed on the back of each form. The new budget codes provided must be used to assist our Treasurer in keeping track of categories of expenses. Any questions regarding claims can be directed to the treasurer@bofep.org .

8. Solar Sightings Contest - Clean Nova Scotia Foundation

Clean Nova Scotia is currently working on a program with Solar Nova Scotia called Renewable Energy Atlantic Program (REAP). We are specifically promoting solar energy use in Nova Scotia. Part of the program is the Solar Sightings Contest. We are encouraging people to contact us if they use or have seen examples of solar energy use. Those that contact us with sightings will be entered into a draw for some great prizes. The point of this contest is to make people aware that solar energy use is taking place and that it does work in Nova Scotia. We will also be using this information to create a database of solar energy installations and use in the province.

Do you use, or have you seen examples of SOLAR ENERGY use in Nova Scotia?

Clean Nova Scotia and Solar Nova Scotia are collecting information on solar projects in NS. If you make use of, or if you have seen a use of, any type of solar technology in the province, please tell us about it. This will help us show others the great examples of Solar Energy use in NS. Just for telling us you'll be entered into a draw to win great prizes!

Prizes to be won: Solar powered radio; Solar powered battery charger; Energy efficient Christmas lights and light bulbs (\$60 value) and Clean NS prize pack (including a fleece ski vest) Free to enter, and enter as often as you like!

Contest closes March 31, 2004. You must have a different solar sighting for each entry. For more information, or to enter, contact: Amanda Facey: facey@clean.ns.ca or (902) 420-8832

Program Coordinator - Solar Energy for NS, Clean Nova Scotia, 126 Portland St. Dartmouth, NS B2Y 1H8 phone: (902) 420-3478 Fax: (902) 424-5334 E-mail: jmclean@clean.ns.ca

9. Guidebook for Seafood Processing Plant Practices

Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture have announced the publication of a guidebook entitled "Best Management Practices: Marine Products Processing". The Guidebook was developed for the implementation of best management practices for the raw product, water and effluents of processing plants. It is available at:

<http://www.glf.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/sci-sci/effluents/index-e.html#BMP>

10. North Atlantic Humpback Whales Recovering?

Humpback whales in the North Atlantic were severely depleted by commercial whaling over the course of several centuries. The species is known to have been hunted in the area since at least the 17th century; over 2,000 were taken by non-mechanized pelagic and small-scale coastal operations during the 19th century; and from 1885 to 1910 nearly 5,000 were taken in the waters off Norway and Iceland. As a result, the species was considered seriously depleted in much of the region by the early 1920s, although commercial hunting continued until the species was protected in the North Atlantic by the International Whaling Commission in 1955.

Following four decades of protection, it would be expected that humpback whales would be increasing in number in the North Atlantic, and a recent paper in the journal Marine Ecology Progress Series argues that this is indeed the case. Based upon sightings studies, photographic records, and previous studies, the paper estimates that there are approximately 11,570 humpbacks in the North Atlantic, compared to an estimate of between 1,700 and 3,400 at the time the population was protected in 1955. Although this likely represents only a fraction of the likely initial population size, which may have been as much as 240,000 animals, the results are "strongly indicative of a substantial recovery of humpback whales in the North Atlantic following the end of commercial hunting."

Source: Stevick, P.T., et al. 2003. North Atlantic humpback whale abundance and rate of increase four decades after protection from whaling. Marine Ecology Progress Series 258: 263-273. Contact: Peter T. Stevick. E-mail: peterstevick@aol.com

11. Conservationists Applaud New Spiny Dogfish Limits

Conservationists are applauding a December decision by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries

Commission (ASMFC) to set next year's fishing limits for overfished spiny dogfish sharks at what they call "scientifically defensible" levels. The new ASMFC limits are dramatically lower than those currently in place. Last February, the ASMFC adopted a Massachusetts proposal to set the dogfish quota for the 2003 fishing year at double the level recommended by scientists and to allow the limit per trip to exceed technical recommendations by an order of magnitude. Massachusetts's fishermen, primarily from Cape Cod, are responsible for nearly 80 percent of the total U.S. Atlantic dogfish landings.

Dogfish, like other sharks, are especially susceptible to overfishing because they grow slowly, mature late, and produce few young. Female spiny dogfish produce only six pups on average after a two-year gestation period. Dogfish fisheries target large, mature females based on market demand. According to The Ocean Conservancy, lax limits on this practice have led to a 75 percent decline in reproductive females and virtually no offspring for the last seven years. The Ocean Conservancy says that "excessive ASMFC dogfish limits have undermined federal dogfish recovery efforts, negotiations with Canada regarding the same population, and the U.S. leadership role in international shark conservation initiatives. The higher allowances in state waters also drive dogfish fisheries closer to shore, thereby increasing the risk for incidental capture of bottlenose dolphins, threatened sea turtles and depleted Atlantic sturgeon."

The new science-based limits take effect May 1, 2004. Damage to the population, says The Ocean Conservancy, is "expected to take several decades to repair."

Contact: *Sonja Fordham, The Ocean Conservancy. Tel: (202) 429 5609.*

E-mail: sonja@oceanconservancy.org.

- *Source- SeaWeb Ocean Update: Jan/Feb 2004*

12. Nova Scotia Green Plan available for comment

In June 2003, the Nova Scotia Government released "Towards a Sustainable Environment", also known as the Green Plan, which outlines the Government's approach to sustainable environmental management. 31 March is the deadline for commenting on the more than 60 environmental commitments proposed in the policy document. The Green Plan and the consultation workbook are available at:

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/greenweb/towards/>

13. Ocean Zoning Workshop in Halifax

A Workshop entitled "Ocean Zoning: Can it Work in the Northwest Atlantic?" is scheduled for 10-11 May 2004 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The Workshop is designed to explore the concept and effectiveness of ocean zoning as a tool for integrated management of marine resources and activities. It will provide an opportunity to learn from ocean zoning experiences internationally and to consider their application to the Northwest Atlantic region. For information, access:

<http://www.oceanzoning.ca>

14. Summary of EMAN Meeting now available

The Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network 2003 National Science Meeting was held last November in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The theme was "Delivering Ecological Science to Society: influencing and informing governance, policy, adaptation and decision-making". A summary of the Meeting is available at:

<http://www.eman-rese.ca/eman/reports/meetings/national2003/summary.html>

15. ADMINISTRIVIA ~

If you would like to be removed from the *Fundy Tidings* mailing list, simply e-mail a request to communications@bofep.org.

If you would like to post an item in *Fundy Tidings* pertaining to BoFEP or the Bay of Fundy send it along to communications@bofep.org. The deadlines for submissions are: March 1st, June 1st, September 1st, December 1st.

For more news items about BoFEP, the Bay of Fundy and beyond, periodically check the BoFEP's Fundy news clips page at: <http://www.bofep.org/fundynews.htm>. You can also check out back issues of *Fundy Tidings* that are archived there.