

~ *FUNDY TIDINGS* ~

Newsletter of the

Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP)

July 2024 Issue

A. BoFEP and its activities:

1. BoFEP ACCESS Conference Update

The theme for this year's conference was *"Tides of Change: Accelerating Conservation and Protection Efforts in Atlantic Canada's Estuaries and Coastal Waters."* The conference was held from June 4-7th at the Huntsman Marine Science Centre, in St. Andrews, New Brunswick. The Program and Abstract Books for the 2024 BoFEP/ACCESS Conference are now available online: [2024 Conference Program Book](#) (MS Word) [2024 Conference Abstract Book](#) (PDF).

[General overview of conference](#) - particularly from the point of view of participants from the [Environmental Information: Use and Influence](#) and the Ocean Frontier Institute Marine Spatial Planning research groups at Dalhousie University.

2. BoFEP Stewardship Award winners 2024

BoFEP is delighted to announce that the two award winners recognized at the recent Fundy Science Conference in St. Andrews, NB, are Karen Jenner and Antony Diamond. [Pictures and Bios of the worthy recipients.](#)

3. BoFEP ocean literacy poster and bibliography

The Ocean Literacy working Group presented a poster at the recent 2024 Fundy Science Conference in St. Andrews entitled: ["Enhancing Ocean Literacy in the Fundy Community: Continued activities of BoFEP's Ocean Literacy Working Group"](#) prepared by M.J.A. Butler, K. MacPherson, S. Rebitt and P.G. Wells. The poster is accompanied by a ["Bibliography on Ocean Literacy"](#).

4. Please support BoFEP - start/renew your membership

We invite you to renew your 2024 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 e-transfer or mailed cheques**. The details are on the [BoFEP Membership Application Form](#).

B. Partners and other organizations:

1. Organization seeks to save old forest stands

The [Save Our Old Forests \(SOOF\) Association](#) is a registered nonprofit based in Kespukwitk, Mi'kma'ki. SOOF has two primary objectives: firstly to engage the public in helping to protect the forests in keeping with the Government of Nova Scotia's commitment to protect 20% of Nova Scotia's lands and waters by 2030; and secondly to raise awareness of the ecological importance of protecting forests over 80 years old in particular. [Subscribe to the SOOF email list.](#)

2. GOMCME 2024 award winners announced

During a ceremony hosted by the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management in Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts on the evening of June 11, 2024, the Gulf of Maine Council

presented international awards to honor 15 individuals and organizations that have made a significant difference in protecting the health and sustainability of the Gulf of Maine watershed. The Canadian award winners included Fundy North Fishermen's Association, Karen Jenner, Huntsman Marine Science Centre and Dr. Robert Stephenson. [Gulf of Maine Council Recognizes International Award Winners for 2024](#) (GOMCME media release). [Gulf of Maine Council 2024 Award Winner Highlights](#) (GOMCME) [GOMC 2024 Awards Slide Show](#) (GOMCME)

3. Conserving the Inner Bay of Fundy

Oceans North recently released a comprehensive report entitled "[Making the case for marine conservation in the Inner Bay of Fundy](#)". The IBoF is of significant ecological and cultural importance due to its unique environment. It has received several designations recognizing its unique geology, history, and diverse marine ecosystems. However, notable gaps remain in marine conservation efforts. While there are several protected areas in terrestrial and coastal areas, these do not extend into the marine environment. Existing National Wildlife Areas in the IBoF cover intertidal waters, but not permanent marine waters. The report's findings indicate strong public support for establishing marine protected areas in the IBoF and general agreement that the process should be led by government officials and First Nations with the direct involvement of local communities.

4. NB Nature Trust acquires Fundy island

A New Brunswick island in the Bay of Fundy that can be accessed by foot when the tide is low has officially been acquired by the [Nature Trust of New Brunswick](#) which is promising its preservation forever. [N.B. island once owned by American now preserved forever after acquisition by Nature Trust of New Brunswick](#) (CTV News - includes video 1:04 mins)

5. CZC 2025 Conference in Charlottetown PEI

The 2025 Coastal Zone Canada Conference will be held in Epekwitk (Prince Edward Island), Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. The beautiful coastal city of Charlottetown will be welcoming participants from June 9 to June 11, 2025. The first call for abstracts will be issued in the early fall. Stay tuned for email and social media updates. Learn more at the [Coastal Zone Canada Website](#). If you have questions about sponsorship or the conference: igibson@coastalzonecanada.org

C. Fundy/GOM and other news:

1. Documentary: 'catastrophic' changes in Gulf of Maine

When Charles Tilburg, professor of oceanography and director of the School of Marine Programs at University of New England was approached by the University's communications team about making a documentary on climate change in the Gulf of Maine, he realized it was an opportunity to show people just how serious the situation is becoming. The 23:58 Min documentary, titled [Reckoning With Climate Change in the Gulf of Maine](#), reveals that the Gulf of Maine is warming faster than 99 per cent of the world's oceans, and ecological effects are already being seen, especially with the arrival of species not normally found in those waters. [Documentary warns of 'catastrophic' changes happening in Gulf of Maine](#) (CBC News)

2. Fundy Park management plan updated

The management plan for [Fundy National Park](#) was tabled in Parliament recently. Reviewed every ten years, management plans are a requirement of the Canada National Parks Act and guide the management of national historic sites, national parks, and national marine conservation areas. The management plan was developed through extensive involvement and

input from various people and organizations. [Fundy National Park Management Plan Tabled in Parliament](#) (Parks Canada news release). [Fundy National Park of Canada Management Plan, 2024](#) (Parks Canada)

3. NS Dikes to be upgraded

After years of planning, the first tender has been issued for work to upgrade three parts of the dikeland system in Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley. Topping up the existing dikeland will help guard the areas from the impacts of climate change through increased strength and height. [Tender issued for first projects to upgrade Annapolis Valley dikes](#) (CBC News).

4. NB planning to reprocess nuclear waste?

A scientist at UNB, among many others, has raised questions about the wisdom of plans to extract plutonium from the used nuclear fuel at Point Lepreau generating station. In protest he transferred from UNB to St. Thomas University and shared his story about why he did it. "[The plutonium connection: Why I no longer conduct my research at the University of New Brunswick](#)" (NB Media Co-op) He also asserts in a recent article entitled "[Nuclear industry wants Canada to lift ban on reprocessing plutonium, despite proliferation risks](#)" (Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists) that there is collusion between the nuclear industry and the federal government to develop a policy on nuclear fuel reprocessing. The nuclear industry wants Canada to lift ban on reprocessing plutonium, despite proliferation risks.

5. NS also preparing for nuclear power plants?

Meanwhile, in Nova Scotia two small clauses [removing the prohibition on nuclear power plants in NS](#) are buried in the extensive [Energy Reform Act](#), which makes major changes to utility regulation, power systems operation and power generation in Nova Scotia. The public had not been informed or consulted on this significant reversal of the long-held prohibition on nuclear power generation in Nova Scotia. [Is Nova Scotia next for nuclear power experiments?](#) (NB Media Co-op)

6. Indigenous groups concerned about nuclear waste

Indigenous leaders from New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario have condemned the storage of dangerous and long-lasting nuclear waste on their traditional territories. The leaders argued that the federal government hadn't obtained their consent for the expansion of nuclear energy and the production of more radioactive waste, violating the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which Canada signed it in 2016. [Indigenous leaders say Ottawa ignores their concerns over nuclear waste](#) (Local Journalism Initiative).

7. Tidal energy - no clear regulatory path

For years, there's been talk and great interest in exploring tidal energy opportunities in Nova Scotia. But industry players say there's no clear regulatory path to developing the tidal energy sector and getting beyond the research stage and into commercial development. [Tidal energy opportunities remain untapped in Nova Scotia: industry players](#) (CTV News) [How Nova Scotia fell behind in the tidal power race](#) Saltwire - paywall)

8. Plea for continued retrieval of ghost gear

Lost (ghost) fishing gear not only continues killing target species, but also creates a risk to larger species in the ocean, including the endangered North Atlantic right whale. the Fundy North Fishermen's Association, has been able to clean up a lot of ghost gear since 2008, thanks to federal funding. But Fisheries and Oceans Canada has ended its support — something the association believes is a mistake. [Fishermen cleaning up huge snarls of ghost gear in Bay of Fundy want funding to continue](#) (CBC News)

9. New NOAA Right whale infographics

To help illustrate the plight of North Atlantic right whales, NOAA Fisheries has created two new infographics that focus on both population and abundance trends and the impact of the ongoing UME. Both infographics can be found on the [NARW species page](#). (NOAA Fisheries)

10. Updates on whales in Bay of Fundy

A Humpback whale spotted alive on Canada Day in Shubenacadie River was later found dead in the Stewiacke River. [Death of humpback whale in Nova Scotia river raises climate change questions](#) (CBC News - includes link to video 1:25 mins). [‘I’ve never seen anything like it’: Dead humpback whale washed up on N.S. shore](#) (Global News - includes video 2:45 mins). [Interview with Marine Animal Rescue Society](#) about dead humpback (CBC News - video 6:01 mins). In June, a beached minke whale found in the Shubenacadie River was rescued by river rafters. [Group of N.S. river rafters help rescue beached whale](#) (CBC News - includes video 1:23 mins) An endangered blue whale that was seen in St. Marys Bay off Long Island, N.S. appeared to be fine. In addition, DFO recently received an undated video showing an endangered Right whale swimming in Saint John Harbour near the Digby Ferry terminal and only a few metres off of shore. [Endangered North Atlantic right whale spotted in Saint John Harbour](#) (CTV News - includes video 2:14 mins)

11. Minke Whale rescued in Fundy

Whitewater rafters came across, and helped, a stranded minke whale while touring on the Shubenacadie River in Nova Scotia. [#TheMoment a group of rafters rescued a beached whale near the Bay of Fundy](#) (Video 1:16 mins - CBC News) [Good Samaritans assist minke whale stranded in Nova Scotia’s Shubenacadie River](#) (CTV News)

12. Great white shark warnings at NS beaches

There's growing evidence that the number of great white sharks is on the rise along Canada's East Coast, where plans are in the works to post warning signs for beachgoers for the first time. [New signs warning of great white sharks in the works for some N.S. beaches](#) (CBC News)

13. DFO not protecting IBoF salmon?

There is growing concern in the conservation community that DFO is not enforcing regulations designed to allow endangered inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic salmon and other fish species access to the Avon River upstream of the Windsor Causeway. Nova Scotia is not authorized to obstruct fish from carrying out their life processes nor are they authorized to cause the harmful alteration, disruption, or destruction of fish habitat, yet this is exactly what is occurring, with zero enforcement action from DFO, the regulator. [The Regulator who Refuses to Regulate](#) (ASF Blog). [Windsor Causeway saga continues: Avon River fish passage blocked, highway still not twinned](#) (Saltwire - paywall)

14. Tensions rise over aquaculture

Internal government emails about a report on threats to wild fish reveal tensions between protecting salmon and protecting aquaculture industry interests. ["It could be very damaging": feds worried about fallout of Atlantic salmon farm risk report](#) (The Narwhal)

15. Verbal sparring over salmon farming

In a recent commentary, retired DFO scientist Brian Glebe lashed out at the Atlantic Salmon Federation for its stance on salmon farming ["It's Time to Stop the Anti-Salmon Farming Blame Game"](#). In a hard-hitting reply ASF's Neville Crabbe minces no words as he responds to Glebe's assertions. ["It's time to stop blaming NGOs for salmon farming failures"](#).

16. Calls to end open-pen aquaculture in NS

The Healthy Bays Network, an environmental group, says a federal government decision to ban open-pen aquaculture in British Columbia should be implemented in Nova Scotia, where the regulations surrounding aquaculture are enforced by the provincial government. [Push to shut down N.S. open-pen fish farming continues](#) (CBC News - video 2:14 mins) Meanwhile, in neighbouring New Brunswick, the provincial government says that the aquaculture industry is open for business [Open-pen salmon farming to continue in N.B., despite closure on West Coast](#) (CBC News)

17. NS Lobster Fishers worried by MPA plans

DFO is hastening to reassure lobster fishers in Nova Scotia that the planned creation of marine protected areas will not harm the inshore fishery. This followed the release of DFO's marine conservation network plan — a map with dozens of potential protected sites on the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia and the Bay of Fundy. [DFO seeks to reassure fishermen after 'scary' map released of potential protected areas](#)

18. The battle over Fundy's lobsters

The New Yorker magazine recently featured the following gripping story about the battle over who has the right to fish lobsters in the lower Bay of Fundy. [Nova Scotia's Billion-Dollar Lobster Wars: How Indigenous fishermen are defending their rights—and corporate profits—in the most lucrative fishery in North America.](#) (New Yorker)

19. More cuts to Fundy herring quotas

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has again lowered the Atlantic herring quota in southwestern Nova Scotia and the Bay of Fundy, this time for 2024 to 2027. DFO has announced the total allowable catch for the fishery will be 16,000 tonnes per season over those four seasons. The 2023 allocation was 21,000 tonnes. [Herring quota in southwestern Nova Scotia, Bay of Fundy reduced again](#) (CBC News)

20. Forage fish - how valuable a resource?

What would happen if we took the full value of forage fish into account—not just what they sell for, but what they contribute to other fisheries and the ecosystem as a whole? A new economic report from Oceans North does just that. Using an Atlantic herring stock in the southwest Nova Scotia/Bay of Fundy region as an example, it shows that long-term rebuilding strategies for forage fish offer big benefits for both harvesters and the marine environment. [Overlooked & Undervalued: The economic case for rebuilding forage fish.](#) (Oceans North)

21. Fundy drift bottle found 63 years later!

A drift bottle cast off from Machias Seal Island in the Bay of Fundy by DFO in the 1960s recently washed up near Boston. According to a social media post by DFO Maritimes, the bottle was one of five released from the western side of the island in 1961. It was recently discovered on the northern tip of Cape Cod. [Bottle launched from Bay of Fundy island in 1961 found near Boston](#) (CTV News - video 0:41 mins)

22. Fishers entranced by Orca pod

[Once in a lifetime day on the Bay of Fundy' as fishing crew spot pod of orcas](#) (CBC News video 1:24 mins)

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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