

# ~ *FUNDY TIDINGS* ~

*Newsletter of the*

**Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP)**

**November 2024 Issue**

## A. BoFEP and its activities:

### **1. Reminder: BoFEP 2024 Workshop material on website**

Progress is being made in compiling the proceedings of the BoFEP/ACCESS 2024 Conference held in St. Andrews NB this past June. The theme for the conference was “Tides of Change: Accelerating Conservation and Protection Efforts in Atlantic Canada’s Estuaries and Coastal Waters.” In the meantime, for more information about the conference visit: [More details and Conference program and book of abstracts](#). [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. Reminder: BoFEP 2024 AGM**

The 2024 Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP) AGM will be held from **1– 4 pm on Friday November 15, 2024** in room #112 in the Avard-Dixon Building, at Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB. [More information and a campus map](#). While in-person attendance is encouraged, provision will be made for participation via Zoom. The Zoom link to participate and the agenda will be circulated shortly to all members along with a second reminder. Lunch will be available from 12-1 pm in the Jennings Bldg. Dining Hall. It is recommended that you park in the King Street lot - there is no charge, and it should have spaces given that it’s break week

### **3. Moving ahead with Ocean Literacy**

IOI-Canada in collaboration with the BoFEP Ocean Literacy Working Group and the Nova Scotia Department of Education Early Childhood Development, hosted a daylong educational program (PD Day) at Dalhousie University on October 19th. The program was designed specifically for B.Ed. Students interested in deepening their understanding of the connection between the ocean and climate change. Thirty-five participants from the Faculty of Education at Mount St Vincent University, together with several academic observers, participated in the event. The session was a follow-up to the successful PD Day for 35 teachers, primarily from HRM schools, delivered on March 23 also at Dalhousie University.

### **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**. p. 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. Don Gordon Obituary**

BoFEP members were saddened to hear of the passing of Donald Gordon, research scientist at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography. [Obituary](#). [Research while affiliated with Bedford Institute of Oceanography](#). Much of his work encompassed the Bay of Fundy including [Intertidal ecology and potential power impacts, Bay of Fundy, Canada](#)

## **2. Summit of the Bay II a success**

A successful second Summit of the Bay was held October 22-23 at the Huntsman Aquarium in St. Andrews NB. A special acknowledgment goes to the Peskotomuhkati Nation and neighboring Indigenous communities, whose traditional knowledge and stewardship of the Bay continue to expand our consciousness for what is possible. Their deep connection to the land and sea offers invaluable insights that, when combined with Western science, help us address the complexities of our times. A complete recording of the Summit is in preparation. In the meantime you can find more details about the summit program and resources at: [Summit of the Bay II](#)

## **3. EIUI - Using information effectively**

One of BoFEP's partners via a working group is the Dalhousie-based research program Environmental Information Use and Influence.(EIUI). It addresses the use and influence of marine environmental and fisheries information produced by governmental and non-governmental organizations, with a focus on their grey literature publications. The research probes the complex science-policy interface(s) so as to understand and maximize the role (use and influence) of such information in policy and decision-making processes. [EIUI Research Program](#). [EIUI Blog](#),

## **5. 2025 CZC Conference - Call for Abstracts!**

The Coastal Zone Canada Association (CZCA) has issued a call for abstracts (Due end of November!!!) for its upcoming conference "[CZC2025: Strengthening Coastal Resilience and Relationships](#)." This three-day event will take place in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada June 9 to 11, 2025.

## **6. Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists**

CSEB is an organization of Canadian biologists working to further the conservation and prudent management of Canada's natural resources, based on sound ecological principles. Members are professionally-trained biologists and biology students, from the wide range of environmental biology disciplines. Individuals with other backgrounds are welcome to join as associate members. CSEB produces a quarterly Bulletin for members. ([More information about CSEB](#))

## **7. Clean Annapolis River Project**

CARP is a charitable, community-based, non-governmental organization incorporated in 1990 to enhance the ecological health of the Annapolis River through science, leadership and community engagement. ([20+](#)) [Facebook](#) and also [Clean Annapolis River Project](#). One key group of volunteers, the Annapolis River Guardians began monitoring the River and its tributaries in 1992, in the first water quality monitoring program of its kind in Eastern Canada. The data collected by the River Guardians over the years provides an overview of the river's health and identifies key environmental problems within the Annapolis River and its tributaries.

## **8. Bedford Institute of Oceanography Oceans Association**

The Bedford Institute of Oceanography Oceans Association (BIO-OA) was formed in 1998 by a group of retired public servants previously involved in Ocean Sciences and Hydrography who share an abiding interest in BIO. The Association is also concerned with the history of BIO and with enhancing public knowledge about the oceans. Membership is open to anyone who shares its goals. [Check out its Facebook Page](#). It also produces a quarterly newsletter "[Voicepipe](#)". In the [July 2024 issue](#) (Page 9) BoFEP Chair Peter Wells provided a report on the 2024 BoFEP Science Conference.

## **9. Thesis on information and IBoF Salmon conservation**

There is a new MES thesis from Dalhousie University entitled ["Dynamics of information flow at the science-policy interface for endangered Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic salmon"](#) by Simon-Luc Noël . Once an aquatic species is added to Canada's list of endangered flora and fauna under the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA), does the best available information make its way into decision-making to promote the recovery of the species? The research focusses on the process for determining the feasibility of recovery of iBoF salmon.

## 10. Talk on Policy-Making and Plastic Pollution

You are invited to a special talk entitled: ["Can the Public Contribute to Plastic Pollution Policy-Making through Community Science? A Vision for Participatory Legislation"](#) by Speaker Tim Kiessling, PhD Kiel University, Germany. OFI Visiting Scholar, Dalhousie Univ. Tuesday 19 Nov. 2024 3:30-4:30 pm Room 3089, Rowe Management Building Dalhousie Univ.

## C. Fundy/GOM and other news:

### 1. North Atlantic Right Whale updates

Once again Right Whales dominate the news cycle, particularly because of changes in their distribution. For the past ten years plus, North Atlantic right whales have been visiting the Gulf of St. Lawrence in large numbers, gradually [abandoning](#) the Bay of Fundy, which was thought to be one of their essential habitats. Scientists agree that this change in distribution is [caused](#) by a fluctuation in the distribution of this cetacean's favourite prey: copepods. [Right Whale Hunting: A Historical Review](#) (Whales Online). Also, scientists spotted more than 82 [North Atlantic right whales](#) over the summer south of Long Island, New York. In the past they have gathered in Cape Cod Bay and the Bay of Fundy off the coast of Maine. In a press release they called the area where the whales were seen an "unusual feeding area." ['Unusual feeding area.' Scientists report North Atlantic right whale summer hangout](#) (Cape Cod Times). For the latest right whale detections across multiple platforms, including aerial and shipboard surveys, opportunistic sightings and acoustic buoy and glider data check out: [WhaleMap: Latest Right Whale Observations](#) (Johnson H, Morrison D, Taggart C (2021). WhaleMap: a tool to collate and display whale survey results in near real-time. Journal of Open-Source Software, 6(62), 3094, <https://joss.theoj.org/papers/10.21105/joss.03094>). Meanwhile, Fundy North Fishermen's Association hopes new ropeless gear will allow them to continue fishing when Right Whales are nearby. [N.B. fishermen test new gear in bid to stay on the water when right whales spotted](#) (CBC News). NOAA has announced funding for its Right Whale Road to Recovery Program \$2.8 million will be going towards efforts to improve monitoring and modeling and \$6.9 million will be going to support fishing industry partners testing innovative fishing gear that reduce large whale entanglement risk. [Biden-Harris Administration announces over \\$9 million for partnerships to recover North Atlantic right whales](#) (NOAA)

### 2. Humpback Whale News

Whale watchers witnessed firsthand as members of the Campobello Whale Rescue Team untangled a young humpback whale. [Entangled humpback whale freed thanks to Campobello rescue team](#) (CBC News). Also, watch the moment a humpback whale stopped by to greet tour boat passengers on the Bay of Fundy in New Brunswick. [a humpback whale greeted N.B. tour boat passengers](#) (CBC News; YouTube video 1:15 mins)

### 3. Ocean warming impacting Fundy Puffins?

The puffins of Machias Seal Island are feeling the heat. Scientists say there is a link between warming waters and changes in the birds' size and their beaks, as well as fluctuations in reproduction and the survival of chicks. [Scientists seeing change in puffins as the tuxedo birds](#)

[adapt to climate change](#) (Globe and Mail - paywall). [Warming waters cause concern for Atlantic puffins, other seabirds](#) (CBC News)

#### 4. What about sandpipers?

Biologists and avian experts from across the Western Hemisphere and beyond got together in August at Mount Allison University in Sackville to discuss all things shorebirds. One topic on the agenda was the population's decline and possible causes. Climate change leading to sea level rise is one issue. Others include shoreline hardening and the frequency and intensity of storms. [Shorebird experts flock to Sackville for conference, with population decline top of mind](#) (CBC News). [Why rising sea levels and severe weather could mean fewer shorebirds:](#) (Video 2:14 Mins CBC News)

#### 5. NOVA explores climate change in GOM

A three part NOVA special entitled SEA CHANGE explores a body of water that is warming 97 percent faster than the global ocean, and what that means for the Gulf of Maine – for the animals, for the jobs dependent upon it, and the millions of people along its shores – and may serve as a preview of what could happen worldwide due to climate change. [SEA CHANGE: THE GULF OF MAINE, A NOVA SPECIAL PRESENTATION](#) ( PBS previews - [This series will be available to stream](#) with the [PBS App.](#))

#### 6. Unusual sightings in the Bay ... warming water?

With the onset of global warming, and its particular impact on water temperatures in the Gulf of Maine Bay of Fundy area, there are more sightings of species rarely found here. Passengers on a whale-watching tour were treated to a special sight - a leatherback turtle. [Whale watchers catch rare glimpse of leatherback turtle in Bay of Fundy](#) (CBC News). [Leatherback turtle treats 'very lucky' whale watchers to a rare sighting](#) (CBC News - video 0:46 mins). Unfortunately, some of the newcomers are not so benign - such as the Green Crab. Their populations are *exploding* because they really do well in warmer water and they undermine existing systems and species. [Green crabs are decimating the Gulf of Maine's wildlife and economy. Innovators are fighting back.](#) (WGBH News). It was a memorable day for many near the upper Bay of Fundy Monday when a Mola mola stranded itself in the Parrsboro Harbour in Nova Scotia. Fortunately rescuers managed to free the unusual animal. [Holy Mola! Massive sunfish rescued near Bay of Fundy](#) (CTV News - video 1:33 mins). Meanwhile, near the mouth of the bay a dead 160-kilogram Mola mola washed up on a beach in St. Andrews. [Gigantic mola mola fish washes ashore in St. Andrews](#) (CBC News). There have also been a number of other reports of sightings in various parts of the Bay. Finally, scientists are almost certain that the number of sharks being detected in the bay is growing, possibly as a result of the warming water. [Scientist believes more great white sharks are swimming Down East](#) (Bangor Daily News).

#### 7. National Film Board historic film on NB dikes

The National Film Board turned 85 this year, and the agency is highlighting the films of each province and territory as part of the celebrations. [NFB marks 85th anniversary with channel highlighting New Brunswick films.](#) (CBC News). One of the NB films "[The Dikes](#)" (1955) directed by Roger Blais is a narrative short film (22 mins) about the heavy rains that destroyed dikes along the Bay of Fundy, and the subsequent work to fix and modernize them. It highlights the work of the Maritime Marshland Rehabilitation Administration in the reclaiming of flooded agricultural regions.

#### 8. Will Nova Scotia become an Island?

Concern and controversy are still brewing about the potential effects of global warming, sea level rise and coastal erosion on the skimpy bit of real estate (known as the Chignecto Peninsula) linking Nova Scotia to New Brunswick and ultimately the rest of Canada. What needs to be done

and who is going to pay for it???? [Fight brewing in Atlantic Canada over strip of marshland in danger of disappearing](#) ( Video 2:02 mins Global News) [Ottawa threatens to pull funds for Chignecto Isthmus if N.B., N.S. don't partner](#) City News, Halifax) [STATEMENT: Nova Scotia premier speaks out on Chignecto Isthmus](#) (Saltwire - Paywall) [The \\$650M fight to save the Isthmus of Chignecto, the narrow strip of marshland connecting N.B. and N.S.](#) (Saltwire - Paywall) [Work to protect Chignecto Isthmus going too slowly, say local politicians](#) (CBC News) [Chignecto Isthmus project delays a risk to national trade](#) (Saltwire - Paywall). [N.S. to build berm to protect Chignecto Isthmus, still wants Ottawa to pay for it](#) (CJME- Canadian Press)

## 9. Fundy tidal power: setbacks and a lookback

Fundy tidal power development continues to be plagued by developer bankruptcies and demands for remediation efforts. ['It is very unfortunate': Tidal power developer files for bankruptcy](#) (CBC News) [Tidal power junk: N.S. village wants huge, abandoned moorings moved from fishing area](#) (Pelham Today) [Transport Canada orders plan to remove huge tidal power moorings left near N.S. town](#) (Global News) [Transport Canada orders plan to remove huge tidal power moorings left near Walton, N.S.](#) (Globe and Mail)

Meanwhile, a team of researchers is trying to better understand the forces that in-stream tidal turbines have to withstand from the surging currents generated by Fundy's Immense tides. "The Bay of Fundy has been known to tear blades from turbines". ["Current" affairs: Harnessing renewable energy of the Bay of Fundy's tides](#). (National Research Council of Canada).

Interestingly, The generating station and various dams that make up the Musquash complex represent N.B. Power's first steps in producing electricity. It was operational from 1922 until 2009. An historian says the remnants of the station offer a prime view of the province's power history. [Musquash power: A look back at N.B. Power's first foray into electricity production](#). Also see [Roadside History - Musquash dam](#) Video 11:14 Mins (Information Morning - Saint John CBC)

## 10. Ban open-pen aquaculture? Cooke in Hot water?

An alliance of groups opposed to open net pen aquaculture in Nova Scotia is calling on the province to end the practice. A recent federal court ruling upheld a decision that will see the end of open net salmon farms in British Columbia by 2029. [Environmental group pushing for N.S. government to shut down open-pen fish farming](#) (Podcast - 12:07 mins - CBC Mainstreet NS) [Push to shut down N.S. open-pen fish farming continues](#) (Video - 2:14 mins CBC News) [Groups call for end to open net pen aquaculture in Nova Scotia](#) (Halifax Examiner) And once again, is Cooke aquaculture in legal hot water? [Lawsuit alleges Cooke Aquaculture using shell companies to skirt U.S. law](#) (CBC News)

## 11. Lobster poaching fuels anger

Fundy lobstermen continue to express frustrations about illegal fishing in southern New Brunswick, which they claim threatens the stock. With the lack of federal fisheries officers patrolling areas, lobster poaching will not slow in the near future. In September local fishermen and their families demonstrated in St. Andrews and demanded change out on the water. [Lobstermen clash with poachers during federal enforcement crisis](#) (National Fisherman). [New Brunswick fishermen fill St. Andrews Wharf Saturday as they call for change on the water](#) CTV News). [Editorial: Ottawa must answer the bell on lobster poaching](#) (Telegraph-Journal - paywall). [UPDATE: Enforcement patrols return as frustration over poaching boils over](#) (Telegraph Journal paywall)

## 12. Declining herring stocks force quota cuts

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. Total allowable catch reduced by more than half since stocks fell in 2018. Atlantic herring, like many fisheries,

faces challenges as a result of climate change, which has led to herring that are smaller in size and that have more difficulty surviving and reproducing. [Herring quota in southwestern Nova Scotia, Bay of Fundy reduced again](#) (CBC News) [Industry, environmental group at odds over multi-year herring quota reduction](#) (CBC News) [Quota cut shocks Bay of Fundy Herring Science Council](#) (The Wave) [DFO defends cut to herring quota that company claims forced N.B. layoffs](#) (CBC News) [Fish biomass loss possible in Atlantic Canada amid rising emissions, researcher says](#) (CBC Lite) [Marine council program director calls for vigilance to keep fishing sustainable](#) (CTV News - video 6:31 mins)

### 13. Good news conservation stories

Fortunately, all is not doom and gloom when it comes to the Bay of Fundy and its watersheds. For example, the Fundy Biosphere Region marked a milestone this summer of 43,000 trees planted over three years in Moncton, Riverview and Salisbury. [Fundy Biosphere Region plants 45,000 trees over three years](#) (Telegraph-Journal - Paywall). In another bit of good news, the Nature Conservancy of Canada has acquired 2.3 square kilometres of land about 40 kilometres east of Saint John. The new Fundy Bay View Nature Reserve, located by the St. Martins Sea Caves, is an important location for migratory shorebirds to stop, feed and rest during their travels. [Nature Conservancy of Canada acquires Acadian seaside forest for new reserve in N.B.](#) (Globe and Mail). [Seaside forest now latest nature reserve in N.B.](#) (Telegraph-Journal - paywall). We should also celebrate (and explore) the unique Fundy Trail Parkway. Built over 25 years (at a cost of \$100 million), this 30-kilometre strip of asphalt meanders along the scenic coastal cliffs and beaches of New Brunswick. [The Fundy Trail Parkway: New Brunswick's bucket list coastal drive](#). (Canadian Geographic). Meanwhile, across the Bay in Nova Scotia, the Department of Environment and Climate Change has been seeking public input on 16 proposed new or expanded wilderness areas and nature reserves. Designating these sites will be one more step in helping the province protect 20 per cent of its land and water by 2030. [Nova Scotia seeks feedback on 16 proposed wilderness areas](#) (CBC News).

## 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](mailto:seapencom@gmail.com) Back issues are available at [Fundy Tidings Archive](#)

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