

~ *FUNDY TIDINGS* ~

Newsletter of the

Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP)

July 2026 Issue

A. BoFEP and its activities:

1. ACCESS-BoFEP 2026 Conference Report

Now available, an overview of the recent Atlantic Canada Coastal and Estuarine Science Society (ACCESS) 2026 Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP) Joint Conference, Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick May 19-22, 2026 . Theme: Connecting Communities to Ocean Science. [Conference Overview](#).

2. ACCESS-BoFEP 2026 Conference a success

Belen, A., Webster, A. E., Keast, E., Legault, A., Margeson, K., Martinez Calderon, D., & Toze, S. (2026, June 25). "Connecting communities to ocean science: The ACCESS/BoFEP conference, 19-22 May 2026. *EIUI Blog*. <https://eiui.ca/connecting-communities-to-ocean-science-the-access-bofep-conference-19-22-may-2026/>

3. Please support BoFEP - start/renew your membership

We invite you to renew your 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 ZEFFY, e-transfer or mailed cheque**. The details are on the [Join BoFEP page](#).

4. Fundy Tidings archive

Back issues (from Spring 2003) of the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP) quarterly newsletter "**Fundy Tidings**" are available online at [BoFEP FT Archive](#)

5. Accessing BoFEP social media

Use LinkTree link as a one-stop way to access all BoFEP social media including Linked In, Bluesky Social, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and X. You can also pay membership fees or donate safely to BoFEP using ZEFFY. <https://linktr.ee/bayoffundyecosystempartnership>

B. Partners and other organizations:

1. Students design upgrades for salmon hatchery

At the Atlantic Salmon for Northern Maine facility, a team of UMaine civil engineering students is designing upgrades to the hatchery's infrastructure. That includes improving a makeshift dam, rerouting water lines, and creating a new wastewater treatment system to cut down on harmful sediment and phosphorus flowing into the Aroostook River. [UMaine students design upgrades for endangered salmon hatchery](#) (WAGM)

2. DFO shrinks funding for ghost gear cleanup

Lost, abandoned or discarded fishing gear, or ghost gear, is a major source of plastic and litter in the ocean, and is a particular concern in Atlantic Canada, given its historical fishing sector. A federal fund to assist organizations that carry out marine and beach cleanups is returning but with less money behind it than in past years. In a statement to CBC News, a Department of

Fisheries and Oceans spokesperson said the Ghost Gear Fund relaunch will be worth \$15 million over three years. [Federal Ghost Gear Fund to return, bringing hope to some organizations in the Maritimes](#) (CBC News)

3. Educational Programs at Fundy Geological Museum

Learn what the FGM in Parrsboro NS has to offer in terms of educational programming for all ages. Includes day trips, overnight trips, gallery tours, class visits from Museum staff, activities and a host of educational resources. [Educational Programming](#) (FGM). [Sign up for FGM eNewsletter](#).

4. Heads up for Ropeless Consortium Meeting

The 2026 Meeting will take place at the Halifax Convention Center in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada starting early afternoon on Wednesday, November 18. The 2026 North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium annual meeting will take place BEFORE the 2026 Ropeless Annual meeting on November 16-17, 2026. [2026 Ropeless Consortium Annual Meeting](#) (Ropeless Consortium)

5. Right Whale Research at NE Aquarium

North Atlantic Right Whales are a critically endangered species, with an estimated 380 individuals remaining. Their habitats include busy shipping and fishing areas—putting them at increased risk of deadly entanglements and vessel strikes. Learn more about these animals and how researchers at the New England Aquarium's Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life are working to protect them. [All About North Atlantic Right Whale Research at the New England Aquarium](#) (NE Aquarium).

6. Subscribe to ASF Newsletter

Welcome to *Rivernotes*, a weekly roundup of news and information from around the world of Atlantic salmon—Québec, Atlantic Canada, and Maine. It's got everything from fishing updates and photos, to details about ASF's conservation projects around the region, to highlights of upcoming events. Note that our online version of *Rivernotes* offers improved navigation and other features. [Click here to read Rivernotes on the web](#).

7. Upcoming RARGOM science meeting

Mark your calendars for the Regional Association for Research on the Gulf of Maine Annual Science Meeting, which will take place on November 4, 2026, at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, NH. The theme for this year's meeting is: Navigating Change in the Gulf of Maine: Science, People, and the Next Generation. Meeting details and updates will be posted to the RARGOM website at: <https://www.rargom.org/annual-science-meeting/>

8. Fundy salmon facility closes.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans says the decision to close biodiversity facilities in Mactaquac, N.B., and Coldbrook, N.S., came down to a poor return on investment. [DFO explains closure of biodiversity facilities](#) (CBC News)

9. Annapolis Royal receives GOMC award.

BoFEP congratulates the Town of Annapolis Royal for being awarded the GOMC Sustainable Communities Award "for exemplary work in achieving sustainable outcomes related to the environment and economy in the Gulf of Maine". The award was accepted by the Major on

Wednesday, May 27th, at the Awards Ceremony, Algonquin Hotel, St. Andrews, NB. [Town of Annapolis Royal Receives the 2026 Sustainable Communities Award!](#) (Annapolis Royal)

10. Coastal Zone Canada 2027

June 11–14, 2027 University of Waterloo.

Under the theme "Coastal Futures: Bridging Tradition and Technology," CZC 2027 will explore how innovative technologies, including advanced modelling, data systems, remote sensing, and artificial intelligence, can support resilient coastal and freshwater systems alongside the vital contributions of traditional and community knowledge. ([CZC 2027](#))

C. Fundy/GOM and other news:

1. Diversifying Fundy Fisheries

As Nova Scotia's seafood industry grapples with tariffs and uncertain quota allocations, some businesses are diversifying to better deal with the uncertainty. Scotia Harvest Inc., responded with the purchase of a clam and scallop business. The Digby County company already harvests and processes haddock, redfish and scallops. But a new product like clams will secure the business when quotas for other species fluctuate. [Scotia Harvest adds clams to product list, expands scallop fleet](#) (CBC News)

2. Forage fish stocks critically low

Critically depleted herring in southwest Nova Scotia and the Bay of Fundy continue to be harvested at rates that science advice cannot justify. [Canada's Forage Fish Report Reveals Mounting Ocean Risks: Herring, Capelin, and Mackerel Have Collapsed](#) (Business Insider)

3. Cod populations still critical

A new assessment of Atlantic cod stocks is highlighting a concern that's been building for years. Researchers studying areas like the Bay of Fundy and the Scotian Shelf found that cod populations remain in what's considered a "critical zone," a designation they've held since around 2008. The latest data, based on 2024–2025 observations, shows the lowest number of young fish ever recorded. [Atlantic Cod Still Struggling](#) (Your South Shore). Also see: [Things aren't looking good': Atlantic cod stocks continue decline in parts of N.S., N.B.](#) (CBC)

4. Concerns about groundfish declines in Fundy.

As summer approaches in Downeast, Maine, there is a certain sadness about visitors who no longer arrive in the border waters shared with Canada and the Passamaquoddy Tribe. For tens of thousands of years, big cod, pollock, and haddock swam into what we now call Cobscook Bay and Passamaquoddy Bay. By 1988 it was all over. [Downeast groundfish vanish, leaving stories and questions behind](#) (National Fisherman)

5. Lady Crab range moving north.

This article focuses on the northward range expansion of the lady crab *Ovalipes ocellatus* in the northwestern Atlantic Ocean, particularly into the Gulf of Maine and Bay of Fundy, likely driven by ocean warming associated with global climate change. [Range expansion of the lady crab *Ovalipes ocellatus* Herbst, 1799 \(Decapoda: Brachyura: Portunidae\) due to ocean warming.](#) Johnson, Maclaren G; Acosta-Rodríguez, Valerie N; Johnson, David S. (Journal of Crustacean Biology, 2025, v. 45, n. 1. P. 1)

6. Strategy for protecting whales from fishing gear

In early February 2026 Canada's Fisheries and Oceans released the strategy which "provides a process to develop and support the implementation of fishing gear innovations designed to reduce the risk of harm to whales from entanglement in fishing gear: [Canada Releases Whalesafe Fishing Gear Strategy 2026-2030](#) (DFO)

7. AI centre in Fundy waters?

Rising public concern over a proposed underwater artificial intelligence data center in the Bay of Fundy's Western Passage has pushed the issue to the forefront in Eastport ME. DeepGreen, which specializes in underwater powered data infrastructure, identified waters north of Eastport as one of two potential sites for its first project. The other is in Alaska's Upper Cook Inlet. [Eastport residents push City Council to oppose DeepGreen's underwater AI data center](#) (News Center Maine)

8. Explore NS protected areas

The Nova Scotia Nature Trust launched an online platform for users to explore the province's protected, delicate and rarely seen ecosystems. You can step into remote shorelines and tide pools and watch the seasons change with just a click. [N.S. nature group launches platform for virtual tours of protected lands](#) (CTV News)

9. Sandpiper use of staging sites

This article investigates differing staging strategies between adult and juvenile Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Calidris pusilla*) during their southbound migration through Atlantic Canada, emphasizing the importance of smaller staging sites outside the well-known Bay of Fundy. [Evidence of differing staging strategies between adult and juvenile Semipalmated Sandpipers highlights the importance of small staging sites in Atlantic Canada](#). Linhart, Rebeca C.; Hamilton, Diana J.; Paquet, Julie; Gratto-Trevor, Cheri L. (Ornithology (Oxford University Press), 2023, v. 140, n. 1. P. 1).

10. Dangerous tidal debris

The shorelines of Nova Scotia are picturesque at the best of times. But sometimes they can be a bit ugly when garbage and debris wash up on shore. At the worst of times, they can be dangerous with some of the material that is brought in on the tides. [Danger on Nova Scotia beaches: Marine location markers, other hazardous items can be found along Nova Scotia's coast](#) (Chronicle Herald)

11. Aquaculture program's positive impact on wild salmon?

A newly published study shows a Cooke Aquaculture-supported wild salmon enhancement program in Atlantic Canada is increasing wild-hatched juvenile abundance. [Cooke-supported marine conservation boosts wild salmon recovery, study finds](#) (IntraFish - PayWall)

D. ADMINISTTRIVIA

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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<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8774711/>