

Sproul Delivers Letter to Premier

By Maurice Rees

"The Minas Basin is the most important nursery for larval lobster in all of Atlantic Canada and fulfills the same life cycle requirements for sea scallops, cod, haddock and many other commercially valuable species", is just one of the concerns outlined in an open letter, which Colin Sproul authored and hand delivered to, Premier MacNeil on May 24th, with copies mailed to Hon. Keith Colwell and Hon. Micheal Sampson. Sproul is the official spokesperson for the Bay of Fundy Inshore Fisherman's Association (BoFIFA).

In addition to contacting provincial cabinet ministers, Sproul also delivered a copy of the letter to Colin Fraser, MP, who on behalf of Sproul, is going to request a meeting with Federal Fisheries Minister, and to also work on having an Emergency Meeting of the Standing Committee on Fisheries in Ottawa.

Here's some extracts from his May 24th letter to Premier MacNeil:

Striped Bass Association is Opposed to TISEC devices

By Maurice Rees

In a comprehensive press release issued in August 2015, the Striped Bass Association opposed the installation of test turbines at Minas Passage until more scientific study had been completed. The opening of the press release stated: "The Striped Bass Association is opposed to the installation of Tidal In-Stream Energy Conversion (TISEC) devices within the Minas Passage, Nova Scotia, in both the Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy (FORCE) test facility, and especially as large-scale commercial power arrays until such time that:

- The risks to Striped Bass, its habitat, and its food sources are much better understood;
- It is determined that TISEC devices will not negatively affect Striped Bass conservation; and
- Regulations are put in place that limit deployment of, and trigger removal of TISEC devices if it is determined that they have a high risk of negatively affecting Striped Bass conservation.

The following are excerpts from the August 2015 media release:

This recreational fishing resource and its economic, cultural, and community importance should not be traded for any development that has a high potential to harm Striped Bass or its ecosystem especially when based on unquantifiable risk, and untested monitoring. Nova Scotia is labelled as

Canada's Ocean Playground, not Canada's Ocean Powerplant.

Regulations do not exist to guarantee discontinuation and removal of TISEC devices if they cause unacceptable risk or harm to the conservation of Striped Bass (or other fishes). There is no confidence that if negative environmental impacts do occur that any action will be taken to remove TISEC devices, limit their design or deployment, discontinue their use, or otherwise mitigate damages.

Greater than 7,000 anglers participate in Striped Bass fishing in the province of Nova Scotia and this fishery is worth an estimated \$9.8 million per year to the economy of the Province. There are also commercial fishers in the Minas Basin that contribute much more to the economy and are an integral part of the history and culture of Nova Scotia.

The accuracy of scientific studies conducted to date, is being called into question, because those all the studies are industry funded. Many anglers and other fishers are concerned about the wellbeing of striped bass stock, and future of its contribution to the Nova Scotia Economy, based on a study conducted by several professors at Acadia University, which concluded a 95% mortality rate would exist within six months after 100 adult striped bass were placed within the area of working tidal turbines.

In terms of value extracted from the Bay of Fundy, in 2014, 464 million dollars of lobster were taken from the Bay alone with export values much higher. Landings and value were both up significantly in 2015. The scallop, total allowable catch for the Bay in 2016 is 3 million pounds of roughly 50 million dollars in landed value. As well, the total allowable catch for ground fish reaches into the hundreds of millions. This year, last year, next year, every year. In excess of three quarters of a billion dollars, that is truly a renewable resource!

These turbines kill in three ways, strikes, shear and cavitations. The extreme turbidity, low visibility and speed of the water column in the Minas Passage preclude any notion of avoidance of these machines. Many fish are sighted in the passage being swept through sideways, completely unable to control their movements but driven by the instinct of millions of their ancestors to reach the warm waters of the Minas Basin. Where it is 6 degrees warmer than any body of water north of the Chesapeake.

All of these problems have been identified to exist in this project by federal scientists and they asked the Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat to review the industry funded science used. They issued a scathing review and cited multiple examples of FORCE findings in disagreement with previous, respected research from independent scholars. Law makers foresaw the dangers of this when drafting the Environment Act and the law specifies that discrepancy in scientific fact is an important justification to follow the precautionary principle and preclude adaptive management. As fishermen and stewards of our seas we feel that we must speak for voiceless victims like the Bay of Fundy Harbor porpoise. The DFO review of FORCE science identified this as a serious problem. FORCE researches only conducted minimal study of these amazing animals, the tiniest of whales. The methods used were not internationally accepted. Even accounting for this, 42 individual whales were observed within 200 meters of the site during one tide. This represents the highest concentration of harbor porpoise ever observed in the Bay of Fundy.

The Bay of Fundy Inshore Fishermen's Association and other fishers respectfully ask governments both provincial and federal to stop this installation which we see as a grave threat to our existence and the entire eco system in the Gulf of Maine. We request all future development sites be ecologically chosen foremost. We request a halt to tidal energy activity and removal of existing equipment in the Minas Passage and elsewhere in the Bay of Fundy, so that an accurate baseline study may be completed on the undisturbed eco system of this incredible spectacle of nature.

SCCEC Closed 14% of Days

Regardless of what efforts are taken the South Cumberland Collaborative Emergency Centre in Parrsboro is closed approximately 14% of the time. Frequent closures are necessary because no physician coverage is available.

From April 1st to May 20th, the centre has been closed for seven days. Even though the Amherst office of the Nova Scotia Health Authority issues closure notices approximately 48 hours in advance the daytime closures are a worry and an inconvenience to local residents.

In the seven weeks starting April 1st the 8:30 am to 8:30

pm closures have occurred on: Friday, April 1; Tuesday April 12; Monday, April 18; Wednesday April 20th and 27th; Wednesday May 18th and Friday May 20th.

The overnight coverage (8:30 p.m. to 8:30 a.m.) provided by the paramedic/registered nurse/oversight physician team has always been available as usual.

In all circumstances, those experiencing a medical emergency should always call 911. General health concerns can also be directed to HealthLink 811 where advice and information are available around the clock. Simply dial 811 to speak with a registered nurse.

Palliative Care Front of Mind in End-of-Life Debate

In the dash to fill the legal gap left by the Supreme Court of Canada in its Carter decision, the Government has not forgotten its pledge to make palliative care a priority, says Bill Casey, MP for Cumberland-Colchester.

Casey was a speaker at the 12th Advanced Learning conference of the Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians. In his brief remarks welcoming attendees to Ottawa, Casey, who is the Chair of the Standing Committee on Health, highlighted the Trudeau Government's stated commitment to put an additional \$3-Billion into homecare and palliative care.

Casey is also very pleased to note that not only is the Federal Government negotiating a new Health Accord with the Provinces, but it will include palliative care as part of that negotiation. This should lead to greater consistency of access to palliative

care across Canada.

And good access to palliative care is essential in the new health care world we find ourselves, post-Carter. "Access to medical assistance in dying is to some extent a constitutional right, the Court has told us," notes Casey. "But if the real aim is to relieve intolerable suffering, then access to palliative care has to be at least as robust."

"The Hospice Society in Colchester County does great work, and the Cumberland Hospice Society is aiming to build a hospice facility," adds Casey.

The Standing Committee on Health has said it plans to study homecare and Pharmacare soon, placing it high on their priority list. For the time being, the Committee continues to study models of universal Pharmacare.

For more information, contact Bill Casey at 902-397-1305



Shown here is a portion of the Diligent River, Port Greville residents who attend a May 18th public meeting at the Diligent River community hall. Two representatives from SeaSide were there to explain actions they are taking and to listen to community concerns. (Rees Photo)

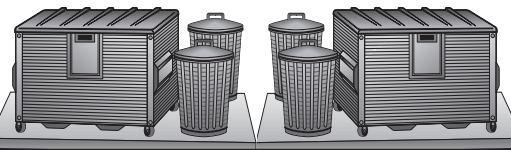


More of the Diligent River area residents who attended the May 18th Meeting. (Rees Photo)

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Att: Saint Georges' Parish Council

For more information please contact:
Robert Yorke (902)728-2031,
Bev Clark (902)-254-3468

Or **Father Brian Spence** (902)-254-2106
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