

# Weir Catches Drop While Boats In Water

By Maurice Rees

A heavy presence of boats in the water are disastrous for weir fishermen. If you don't believe that ask Jerry Taylor about the decrease in his catches when there was a heavy presence of boat traffic, near his weir just outside Parrsboro.

Not only the Taylors, but Minas Basin weir fishermen woke up on the morning of April 18 to what they described as a heavy presence of boat traffic from Big Moon Power Canada Inc. The boat's activities temporarily drove herring stocks away, returning only when the testing stopped. At first Taylor thought the boat traffic was connected to FORCE, but after a few calls, he found out Big Moon Power was doing testing for itself. After the boats had left FORCE confirmed it has dropped the ball and did not get an advisory out on-time concerning the work being done by Big Moon Power Canada Inc.

While other boats moved up and down the basin, towing an energy generating device, while one boat sat idling near his weir. Taylor tried to get the boat to move, but the captain was reluctant to move. After finding a number at head office, Taylor says it took four or five calls to head office in the United States to get the boat to move.

Taylor's concern was the impact traffic had on catches. On April 16th the catch was 14,000 lbs, increasing to 19,000 lbs on April 17th, the day before the boats arrived on the 18th, at which time catch dropped by 15,000 lbs to 4,000 lbs. For the next five days, while the boats were there, catches ranged from 4,000 lbs to 7,000 lbs. The day after they left, catch ballooned to 20,000 lbs.

Taylor, would not confirm how much it cost him, but it was substantial. Originally, he understood, he would be compensated, but has seen nothing yet. He'd prefer to talk to the boat people, but legal action is also an option. It's a family operation and to lose that much catch in a few days it really hurts, because of the short window for catching herring.

Taylor's weir is rather unique in that it is one of the oldest in North America, having been fished constantly for 185 years.

Taylor would not confirm, but if you do the math, he probably lost about 40 tonnes of catch. Occasionally herring prices reach as high as \$1,500 a tonne. That's a big hit for a family operation.

Although about a quarter of his income was wiped out, he wasn't alone. Along the shore there are 5-6 other weirs and each of these employ 4-5 people, plus the boat traffic affected the catches of some other fishermen who work from New Brunswick.

Not only is Taylor upset about the losses in the five days of April, he has other concerns. With increased boat traffic, and more equipment in the water, he had seen catches drop significantly in the last two years. With catches dropping even without the turbines in the water, Taylor and his wife, who works with him are really concerned, as are all fishers along the Basin, including those in Advocate and along the shore towards Economy and beyond.

His question is, "Why are we sacrificing our waters, the ecology of the area and livelihood of many people? Mrs. Taylor added, "This renewable energy is going to be at the cost of our ecosystem. These turbines are in my opinion going to kill everything that comes in their path. Just look at the "29 year test in the Annapolis valley river".

"When people from other places think of Nova Scotia/ the Maritimes they think of fishing. The fishing industry will be wiped out. These turbines are going to kill the very thing that we the Maritimes are best known for. We all know the fishing industry is the backbone of the Maritimes," Mrs Taylor said.

The incident prompted a large outcry by Bay of Fundy fishermen, who insisted they need to be consulted with before any more testing takes place and turbines deployed. Since the first window to catch herring in April was disturbed, fishermen formally asked FORCE to respect the last window of opportunity, at the end of May to mid-June, to catch herring.

A few days later FORCE sent out an advisory telling local fishermen that soon there will be ongoing vessel and barge activity near the Parrsboro Wharf, West Bay and the FORCE site in the Minas Passage.



Burning a blueberry field got out of control on Neville Road on April 30th. Chief Randy Mosher of Parrsboro Fire said they are only one of many departments spending a lot of time putting out fires when people burning grass and blueberry field fires get out of control. In 10 days Parrsboro responded to 6 separate fires that got away. Luckily, all were stopped before becoming a major problem. With the lack of rain more care needs to be taken, or that perhaps burning the grass skipped this year. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)



While burning this blueberry field on Neville Road, the fire got away, quickly climbing up the hill and into the brush and smaller trees. Quick action by the Parrsboro Fire Department eliminated the possibility of a forest fire. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)

# Large White Whale Fundy

Continued from page 1

While talking to Darren Porter he said a large white whale was sighted about 4 Km from his weir within the last week. He has video footage to confirm the sighting. The white whale is sacred to First Nations people.

Some fishermen are

expressing concern about what will happen with Jerry Taylor's Weir near the turbine test sight. Taylor's weir, almost 185 years old is one of the oldest constantly fished weir in the world. Fished two tides a day, Taylor employs 8-9 people. Some fear if the turbines are installed, the fishery will be destroyed.



Hailing from London, Ontario, WHOOP-Szo was warmly welcomed by an audience of all ages at the Hall in Parrsboro on Wednesday, May 11th! Due to family illness, Jon McKiel was not able to make it as originally promoted. Local youth Meana Oliveira took the stage and made it her own! Next up, "Construction and Destruction" played a few tunes then WHOOP-Szo brought their energy to the stage! (Sharlene Lake Photo)

**Municipality of Cumberland**  
**Tax Reduction and Exemption Policy**

The Municipality is now accepting applications for tax reduction or exemption from organizations that pay property taxes and meet the following criteria:

- property of a named registered Canadian charitable organization, and that is used directly and solely for a charitable purpose;
- or-
- property of a non-profit community, charitable, fraternal, educational, recreational, religious, cultural or sporting organization if, in the opinion of Council, the organization provides a service that might otherwise be a responsibility of Council.

Applications are available at the Upper Nappan & Springhill Service Centres, or by visiting our website at [www.cumberlandcounty.ns.ca](http://www.cumberlandcounty.ns.ca).

To be considered for the 2016/17 tax year, applications must be submitted by June 15, 2016 to:

**Municipality of Cumberland**  
 1395 Blair Lake Rd,  
 Upper Nappan, NS B4H 3Y4  
 (902) 667-2313

**Upper Nappan Service Centre**  
 1395 Blair Lake Rd, Upper Nappan NS B4H3Y4  
 Phone (902) 667-2313 Fax (902) 667-1352

**Springhill Service Centre**  
 43 Main St. PO Box 1000, Springhill NS, B0M1X0  
 Phone (902) 597-3751 Fax (902) 597-3637

[www.cumberlandcounty.ns.ca](http://www.cumberlandcounty.ns.ca)  
 Toll Free: 1-888-756-6262

**Municipality of Cumberland**  
**Applications are now being accepted for The Low Income Tax Exemption**

The Municipality has a Policy that allows tax exemptions for households that meet the following criteria:

- When the total household income is less than \$17,957 an exemption of \$306 is provided.
- or-
- When the total household income is between \$17,958 and \$20,332 the exemption of \$211 is provided.

The exemption only applies to the tax account that you occupy as your primary residence. The amount of the exemption is applied directly to the applicable tax account.

In order to receive the exemption you must provide a copy of the 2015 Canada Revenue Agency Notice of Assessment for all people living in your household, to accompany the application.

The application can be found on our website at [www.cumberlandcounty.ns.ca](http://www.cumberlandcounty.ns.ca). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Upper Nappan Service Centre at (902) 667-2313.

**Upper Nappan Service Centre**  
 1395 Blair Lake Rd, Upper Nappan NS B4H3Y4  
 Phone (902) 667-2313 Fax (902) 667-1352

**Springhill Service Centre**  
 43 Main St. PO Box 1000, Springhill NS, B0M1X0  
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**Liberal**  
 SOUTH CUMBERLAND

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Cumberland South Liberal Association will be held at the Diligent River Community Hall on June 22 at 7:00 pm.

Watch for our upcoming Oxford Barbeque.

Gary Brown, President 902-546-2525.  
 E-mail: [gary.l.brown1945@gmail.com](mailto:gary.l.brown1945@gmail.com)

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