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# South Cumberland NEWS

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## BoFIFA to Appear In Court October 20

**(ED NOTE: The following information was provided by Bruce Wark, from his blog, "The New Wark Times". A veteran journalist, Wark recently moved from Parrsboro, NS to Sackville NB, after his wife was offered a full-time librarian job at Mount Allison University).**

The Bay of Fundy Inshore Fisherman's Association plans to ask a Nova Scotia Supreme Court judge to block deployment of tidal turbines in the Minas Passage this fall. During a court hearing on August 25th in Halifax, Madame Justice Denise Boudreau set October 20th as the date for hearing the fishermen's application.

Their lawyer David Coles told the judge the case must be heard as soon as possible in light of a media report that Cape Sharp Tidal Inc. is planning to deploy its first tidal turbine sometime between Nov. 6 and Nov. 8.

The respected online business news site, [allnovascotia.com](http://allnovascotia.com), reported on Wednesday that turbine developer OpenHydro has applied to the Canadian Transportation Agency for permission to use a foreign-registered, heavy-lift cargo vessel called the BBC Pearl for turbine deployment during neap tides in early November.

OpenHydro's application explains that deployment was delayed, in part, after the discovery of weak fastening components that must be replaced.

The report caught the fisherman's association by surprise. Their spokesman, Colin Sproul says that during their private discussions with Cape Sharp, the fishermen were assured that turbine deployment had been postponed indefinitely while the talks continue.

"Cape Sharp has related to us that they still intend to negotiate in good faith," Sproul told reporters outside the courtroom, "but it's hard for the association to accept that when investigative journalism reveals that they've been deceiving us and all the fishermen of Nova Scotia." During yesterday's hearing, David Coles told the judge he would proceed with his application to block the turbines on Oct. 20 if he doesn't get assurances from the company by the end of September that deployments will not go ahead this fall.

### FINANCIAL CRUNCH

Wark Times has obtained a letter to the federal transportation agency from Jacques Chatelet, the chief operations officer for turbine developer, OpenHydro. (Cape Sharp Tidal Inc. is a partnership between OpenHydro and Emera Inc., the parent company of Nova Scotia Power.)

Chatelet's letter warns that if the first of two turbines can't be deployed in November, the company could face disastrous financial consequences threatening its very existence.

Meantime, at yesterday's court hearing, Madame Justice Boudreau also set February 1st and 2nd to hear the fishermen's application to overturn the Nova Scotia government's decision in June to allow turbine deployment.

The fisherman's association argues that the provincial environment minister should not have authorized deployment until baseline scientific studies are conducted to measure the presence of sea life including fish, marine mammals and lobster at the turbine testing sites in the Minas Passage. The association says such studies would take at least a year. "It's a sad day for Nova Scotia," Sproul told reporters, "that the fishermen of this province are being forced to spend their hard-earned money to fight the province on environmental responsibility."

He added that last year, the lobster industry alone generated \$2.2 billion in exports from Atlantic Canada and that the fishing industry in Nova Scotia is the largest single employer outside the public sector. "That economic benefit to the province also needs to be weighed and that's something that has never been undertaken by the province or the federal government," Sproul said.

Bruce Wark's blog, "The New Wark Times" can be found at: <https://warktimes.com>

## Cape Sharp, FORCE, GFA Meet For First Time

By Maurice Rees

Cape Sharp Tidal Power, FORCE and the Gaspereau Fisherman's Association met at the Gaspereau Community Hall for the first time on July 25th. The three groups were represented by various officials:

Gaspereau Fisherman's Association (GFA): Peter Croft,

Mickey Coldwell, Chris Gertridge and Darren Porter (weir fisherman); FORCE: Matt Lumley, Tony Wright, Tyler Boucher and Melissa Oldreive, while Cape Sharp were represented by: Carys Burgess, Paul Laberge and Sarah Dawson.

In opening remarks, Darren Porter outlined the

importance of the square net fishing and its important relationship with different provincial and federal governmental organizations. The Gaspereau Fishers have a diverse relationship with DFO and other wildlife groups. There has been a meshing of the GFA and the Avon River Fisherman's Association, mak-

ing the organization 28+ members strong.

Porter continued, "Numbers are important to the Gaspereau fishing. Currently there exists cooperation between Nova Scotia Power (NSP), Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and the Gaspereau Fisherman's Association (GFA). It is a model of maximum input versus maximum output with the new regulations for the fishery. GFA is a food industry, with product being sent to be packaged, where the Avon River Fishermen are predominantly a bait industry".

The meeting's agenda included six main components: Introductions - purpose of the meeting, description of the fishery; FORCE Presentation; Cape Sharp Tidal Presentation; Questions from the Gaspereau Fisherman's Association; Public Questions and Conclusion and closing.

Some highlights from the meeting included the acknowledgement GFA is the only group which meets annually with DFO, Nova Scotia Power (Emera) and has the only model in Canada, which is capable of detecting any impact on the fishery. GFA was extremely upset it was not permitted to be part of the studies and in fact was ignored each year when it asked to be part of the process. Professor Mike Dadswell, Acadia University maintained that although the methodology might be different, but the technology used at the Annapolis Royal tidal site and what is proposed for Minas Channel is exactly the same and Annapolis Royal resulted in massive fish kill as soon as it started operation.

Darren Porter strongly pointed out at other sites if something came close, the Sonar could be turned off, however that is not the case in Minas Channel, nor has the Sonar equipment been tested at the FORCE site. He suggested testing could be done

*continued on page 5*

At the end of July work began in Pictou on turbine 2 as it is already in a horizontal position. OpenHydro is currently considering options for replacing the components in turbine 1 and is not able to forecast when turbine 1 could be deployed as all of that depends on being able to solve the fastener component problem.



Dominion Victory enters FORCE site to recover FAST-1 platform, which it has submerged 27 days earlier. Story and more photos on page 2. (Image: FORCE)

## Faulty Component Delays Deployment

By Maurice Rees

Deployment of Cape Sharp Tidal turbines into the Minas Channel was delayed even further, beyond the early July postponement to consult further with fishery groups, when Open Hydro announced lab results confirmed there was a risk with the long term durability of a fastening component on the open-centre turbines. In an announcement on August 5th, Cape Sharp Tidal announced they had been advised by Open Hydro of the potential problem in mid-July, but it took time to for lab results to confirm the potential problem.

With Open Hydro indicating in mid-July there could be a problem, it was about the same time Cape Sharp announced it was delaying deployment of the first of two turbines into the Minas Channel to enable them to consult with various fishery groups and First Nations who had claimed they had not

been consulted and sufficient baseline research had not been conducted.

Shortly after the deployment delay, Cape Sharp moved its first turbine to Halifax so its base could be filled with required concrete ballast, thus permitting the second turbine to be moved onto the marine railway at the shipyard in Pictou for fabrication completion.

On Monday, July 25th, Cape Sharp and FORCE held a public consultation meeting with the Gaspereau River Square Net Fisherman's Association and other invited fishery groups at the community hall in Gaspereau. At the meeting the Gaspereau association stated that even though they have a long history, exceeding 20 years, of meeting with Nova Scotia Power to discuss water management and release and the only fishery model in Canada as it relates to the hydro dams on the river, it was the first meeting when tidal power

turbines was discussed.

An executive member of the association stated on several occasions they had requested to be involved in and consulted with matters relating to deployment of tidal turbines into the Bay of Fundy, they were ignored or refused on every occasion.

While Open Hydro considers the problem to be a minor element of the overall system, the components are used to secure part of the turbine generator in position, and could fail prematurely if not replaced. With long-term performance and reliability are key priorities, Open Hydro decided to replace the components in the Open-Centre Turbines.

Open Hydro maintains this is not an issue with the turbine design, rather a matter of incorrectly supplied components, which were not sourced locally. The component is inside the turbine so the rotor must be removed to gain access.

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