

Update on FORCE's Environmental Effects Monitoring Program (EEMP) – as of November 2013

Environmental Monitoring Advisory Committee (EMAC): The 11th EMAC meeting was held on April 24th. Tony Wright provided an overview of the Sensor Platform project, which generated a lot of interest and feedback from the Committee members. However, the main objective of the meeting was to discuss the need for, and extent of, an EEM program for 2013. It was agreed that the focus for 2013, and likely 2014, should be on reviewing the data collected to date, assessing the gaps and progress on monitoring approaches, to help define the design of future EEM programs for the site. Therefore, no continuing or additional field programs, with the exception of the weir fisheries study was recommended for 2013. The next EMAC meeting is being planned for January or February, 2014, with a focus on the review of the Draft 2nd EEM Report

Status of FORCE's 2nd EEM Report: FORCE's 2nd EEM Report will now cover the period of 2011-2013 and the final report should be available in Spring 2014. This rescheduling will enable the incorporation of the final data analyses for several of the 2012 studies, and the initial data analysis for the weir fisheries study. The Draft 2nd EEM Report is being prepared with the assistance of the Fundy Energy Research Network (FERN) and will be circulated to EMAC for their review in late November or early December 2013.

EEM Program: The **Weir Fisheries** study was initiated in late April by Acadia University in co-operation with two weir operators in the Minas Basin i.e. a weir located at Bramber (on the Annapolis Valley shore) and a weir near Five Islands. The objective of the study is to investigate whether weir catches are a possible analogue for the abundance and fish species that are passing through the FORCE site and Minas Passage. The field work component of the study was completed in late August, and the analysis of the data is underway. A progress report should be available in December 2013 or January 2014.

FORCE is also discussing potential future lobster monitoring studies in cooperation with the Fishermen and Scientists Research Society (FSRS).

New Monitoring Equipment:

-A **digital tide gauge** was installed just below low water mark at the FORCE site in mid-August on an experimental basis and is operating effectively, and providing useful data. The gauge was moved to a semi-permanent location further seaward in early November.

-Also, in mid-August, an **X-band radar system** was installed at the FORCE Visitor Centre, in a joint project with Acadia University, to generate maps of surface currents and wave fields.

-The **weather station** installation was completed in early September and is operational. This is a cooperative project with NSCC. FORCE is working on integrating the tide gauge data and weather data and making these available remotely in the future.

Joe Kozak –November 21, 2013