

For Immediate Release

Date: 31 May 2016

The Striped Bass Association Supports the Efforts and Concerns of Recreational and Commercial Fishers with respect to the Lack of Suitable and Sufficient Baseline and Monitoring Science to Protect Recreational and Commercial Fisheries in the Bay of Fundy,

And Thus;

Remains Opposed to Tidal In-Stream Energy Conversion Devices Installed in Minas Passage, Nova Scotia



The Striped Bass Association (SBA) supports recreational and commercial fishers' organizations in the Bay of Fundy, Minas Passage, and Minas Basin including the Bay of Fundy Inland Fishermen's Association (BFIFA), the Shubenacadie River Commercial Fishermans Association (SRCFA), all small-scale commercial fishers, and all recreational anglers, in their efforts to prevent tidal turbine installations until such time that:

- 1) Accurate, credible, and reflective baseline studies are completed;
- 2) Credible, scientifically and statistically defensible organism monitoring plans are devised and devices are designed and deployed to realize species-specific monitoring; and
- 3) Respectful and meaningful consultations are conducted with all commercial and recreational fishers' groups that are potentially affected by tidal energy devices.

Our concerns for striped bass and the Bay of Fundy ecosystem were outlined in a press release on 11 August 2015 (SBA Press Release, 2015). To date, there has been no meaningful response from government on our concerns, nor have they been addressed adequately by the Provincial Ministers of Energy or Environment, or by FORCE.

In addition, the SBA supports the statements made by BFIFA in a letter to the Honourable Stephen McNeil, the Honourable Keith Colwell, the Honourable Michael Samson of Nova Scotia 25 May 2016. In this letter, BFIFA questions the proposed methods for monitoring organisms. Monitoring organisms is a major concern. Fisheries and Ocean Canada (DFO) state "insufficient research and monitoring had been undertaken to evaluate the effects of the [turbine] on valued ecosystem components of the Bay of Fundy" with respect to organism monitoring approaches outlined by FORCE and Cape Sharp Tidal (DFO, 2016). Currently turbines are being deployed without adequate monitoring plans to determine turbine impact on fishes or the ecosystem.

The Ecology Action Centre (EAC, 2016) authored a report summarizing the concerns from the point of the Marine Renewable Legislation for Nova Scotia, FORCE, DFO, and other sources. In addition to the concerns summarized therein, the SBA demands a higher priority be placed on fundamental research outlined in the Marine Renewable Energy Legislation: A Consultative

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Process report (MREL, 2011) and recommendations therein, in sections Bio-Physical environment, Socio-Economic Environment, Ecosystem Approach, and A Long-term View of Research. To date, the points raised in the MREL report and recommendations provided have not been adequately addressed.

Many resource users are greatly concerned for the Bay of Fundy ecosystem and the potential negative impacts on it by tidal energy devices. There has been inadequate consultation with concerned groups and industries currently operating in the Bay of Fundy. Insufficient baseline studies have been produced. DFO concludes that much more research is required before the installation of tidal turbines even at the testing stage. There is no long-term research plan of any value that will provide any useful information to allow commercialization of tidal energy to the extent wanted by government. Turbines are being deployed despite a monitoring plan that is inadequate to test the effects of turbines installed at the FORCE test site.

The SBA joins in spirit with other concerned recreational and commercial fishers' groups, communities, and individuals that will be potentially affected by tidal turbine devices. The SBA joins in the call to cease all turbine deployments until such time that concerns raised by all parties are adequately addressed.

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References

SBA Press Release, 11 August 2015

http://stripedbassassociation.ca/?file=tl_files/sites/stripedbass/downloads/SBA_Press_Release_on_Tidal_TISEC_Devices_11Aug2015.pdf

DFO, 2016, Review of Environmental Effects Monitoring Program for the Fundy Tidal Energy Project, Science Response 2016/022

http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/ScR-RS/2016/2016_022-eng.html

Ecology Action Centre, Initial statement regarding the Cape Sharp Tidal demonstration project in the Bay of Fundy. 24 May 2016.

<https://www.ecologyaction.ca/files/images-documents/Ecology%20Action%20Centre%20Statement%20Regarding%20the%20Cape%20Sharp%20Tidal%20Demonstration%20Project%20in%20the%20Bay%20of%20Fundy%20%281%29.pdf>