

VOICEPIPE

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The Newsletter of the BIO-Oceans Association



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Jeff Hutchings - In Memoriam 1958 - 2022

Jeff was born on September 11, 1958 in Orillia, Ontario to Wendy and Alexander Hutchings. He was the eldest of five children followed by Stephen, Roslyn (who pre-deceased him in 1982), Julia and Jamie. Jeff's deep and abiding love for his family in Orillia was eclipsed solely by his love for his daughter – the brightest light of his life - Lex Hutchings. He also leaves behind his partner, Anna Kuparinen, and his very dear friend of nearly forty years, Joyce Yates.

As a faculty member in the Department of Biology at Dalhousie University, Jeff (PhD, FRSC) was a highly regarded, enthusiastic teacher, and generations of students gained an appreciation of the marvelous diversity of fishes in his extremely popular undergraduate course on that topic. He was one of the Biology De-

partment's most famous scientists and a staunch supporter of providing evidence-based, objective advice to government and industry. After starting at Dalhousie in 1995, he continued earlier work that began during a visiting postdoctoral fellow at DFO on the causes of the collapse of Northern cod, and later expanded his applied research to understanding potential barriers to population recovery. All the while, he remained true to his academic roots, and was dedicated to addressing fundamental questions related to the evolution of life histories.

Jeff always considered Orillia to be his true home. While he had not resided there for many decades, Orillia resonated in his heart nearly every day. To his mind, his induction into the Orillia Hall of Fame was one of his greatest achievements and his joining therein two of his greatest heroes, Stephen Leacock and Gordon Lightfoot, was a great honour and a source of immense pride. His deep connection to his hometown, to the Muskoka area, and to the values of kindness and understanding which were instilled in him by his parents and their broader community, was later exemplified by his compassion for others and his desire to help those who needed it – be they family, students, colleagues, friends or strangers – and he did so in any and every way he could.

A voracious and wide reader, Jeff's passion for science, history, politics and fiction constantly saw him scouring contemporary and antiquarian bookstores for rare gems. He did this with such fervour that he was well known to more than one bookshop owner. His favourite presents to give others were books: they were used as payment for minding a very young Lex, or as an acknowledgment of accomplishment for graduate students upon successful completion of their theses. Reading, in Jeff's words, is "a gift that few successfully receive and one that even fewer can successfully give." And throughout his storied career, he certainly gave the world many opportunities to read. His carefully and elegantly crafted writing, be it in scientific articles, in reports or in books, inspired – and will continue to inspire – countless scientists, policy-makers and anyone who reads his works.

Notwithstanding a gift for words, Jeff claimed he never listened to song lyrics (that is, unless those lyrics were written by Leonard Cohen or Gordon Lightfoot). Jeff's love of music spanned well beyond that of an educated listener. He was both a decent trumpet player and a pianist, and the latter was put to good use when he took part in a variety of performances during his undergraduate years at the University of Toronto. Jeff counted these as years very well spent, and he considered his mediocre grades at the time to be a testament to the fun and camaraderie he experienced with friends and acquaintances.

Following his years spent in the hometown of his beloved Maple Leafs, and after tree planting in British Columbia and employment with Ed Crossman in the wilds of Ontario, Jeff undertook graduate work at Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN). His great love for the province stemmed from his father growing up in Sunnyside, Trinity Bay, and Jeff regularly honed his idioms and accent during visits with extended family. From a field research perspective, Jeff's work on freshwater species took him to some of the island's most remote and beautiful landscapes. While he largely enjoyed being alone in the field, memories of riverside chats with his assistants and colleagues played a pivotal role in his graduate experience. Post-doctoral work at the University of Edinburgh advanced his studies further.

Jeff's graduate and postdoctoral research was facilitated by the hugely supportive and wide influences of Dick Haedrich, Doug Morris, John Gibson, Linda Partridge, Felicity Huntingford and Ransom Myers.

Jeff became an accomplished, and world-renowned expert in life history theory, a feat that would culminate in one of his most hard-earned and fulfilling achievements – an undergraduate textbook on the topic published in late 2021. "A Primer of Life Histories" was largely written in spaces Jeff loved: first in Iceland, and then in central Finland, where he recently lived with Anna. It was there that Jeff found solace and a means to clear his head through daily outings to walk or ski, go birding and fishing, or to swim, row or scuba dive.

Many know Jeff for his brilliantly inquisitive mind and his myriad academic achievements: he was the Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Chair in Fish, Fisheries, and Oceans at Dalhousie University, Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, former Chair of the Committee on Endangered Species and Wildlife in Canada, Fellow of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, past President of the Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution as well as winner of the Huntsman Medal for international research excellence and outstanding contributions to marine sciences. He was author of over 250 scientific papers, a collaborator with a diverse field of scientists and policy makers, an editor of numerous scientific journals and a mentor to a dizzying number of undergraduate, graduate students and post-doctoral researchers.

For those who interacted with him regularly on a professional basis, Jeff is remembered as having an uncanny ability to remember names, a keen wit, a tireless interest in the scientific endeavours of others, and an unparalleled drive to effect change in policy that he thought inadequate. For his family and his few close friends, Jeff will forever be remembered as eve-

rything else: a loving father, a loyal son and brother, and a man who could carry a conversation, carry a tune, tell a great joke, delight and enjoy, and laugh heartily.

Jeff's compassion is best expressed by one of his hometown heroes: "...the house you live in will never fall down, if you pity the stranger who stands at your door". To honour this, please donate in his name to United Way or Nature Conservancy of Canada, or a charity of your choice.

A celebration of life will occur in spring 2022 when restrictions ease and Jeff can be commemorated appropriately.

(courtesy of Dalhousie University - <https://www.dal.ca/faculty/science/biology/faculty-staff/our-faculty/Jeffin-memorial.html>)

Recollections of the Research Vessel *MV Harengus* (Peter Wells)

A career in a chosen profession often starts through personal connections. Following a hunch from a professor friend at UofT, in 1969 and at age 22, I obtained a job at the St. Andrews Biological Station (SABS) as a fisheries technician (EG-2), working on the nascent Atlantic snow crab fishery with Dr. Jeff Watson. "Field work" was based out of the FRB Technological Station in Grande Riviere on the Gaspé Peninsula, Quebec. I arrived there in April under winter conditions after a long drive from Toronto and was immediately put to work digging large and heavy crab traps out of a frozen snow bank! So much for having a hard-won graduate degree was my thought at the time!

Our early studies on the crab, *Chionoecetes opilio*, had 3 phases – research at sea (oceanography, plankton, benthos, potential of the fishery in the western Gulf of St. Lawrence through a tagging program), crab catch inventories at local fish plants, and in the winter months, life history research back at SABS. Jeff led the first 3 cruises, then put me in charge of each cruise. Between early May 1969 and mid-June 1970, I had 8 cruises on the *MV Harengus*, as well as one long trip on a fishing boat out of Caraquet, NB, on Chaleur Bay.

The *Harengus* was a wooden converted side trawler built in the 1940s. It was 84 feet on overall length, 20 ft beam, 109.2 gross tons, with nine crew members (2 officers, 7 crew) (AOG 1961). The skipper was from Louisport, NS, and was very capable and friendly. The small ship had minimal facilities – they included a winch, deck room for traps, a galley, an upper bridge, and tiny cabins, including one on the stern for scientists. It took a while for my sea legs to develop

as *Harengus* was known for rolling and moved around a great deal in stormy conditions. In Lord Tennyson's words, "we felt the good ship shake and reel." After that, I enjoyed the work tremendously, especially the 24 hr food service! Each cruise was one-two weeks in length, with one of 3-4 weeks, all in the western Gulf including around Anticosti Island.



Fig. 1 - *MV Harengus* (courtesy of P. Wells)

Our primary goal was to survey populations of crabs in three bays – Chaleur Bay, Mal Bay and Gaspé Bay, as well as out on Orphan Bank in the western gulf – using large rectangular crab traps. The plan was to record what we caught along transects to determine crab distribution (where were they found and in what numbers?) and also tag them to determine movements (how far do they move and especially, do they migrate, like offshore lobsters?). We discovered that an individual crab does not move further than 50-60 km and does not migrate. There are size and morphological differences between males and females. The males are much larger and keep growing throughout their lives; their large meaty limbs are the focus of the fishery. The females are small, undergo a terminal ecdysis (molt), carry and release the larvae, and are not the subject of the fishery.

On the *Harengus*, we conducted basic oceanography, using Nansen bottles and depth/salinity/conductivity/temperature gauges. The tag-recapture studies, placing numbered tags on males, were a year in duration in all locations in the western Gulf. We also towed for plankton with surface neuston nets, looking for the crab larvae. Having an interest in their early life history, in the Fall we took live berried females back to SABS to study the larvae upon hatching.

Life on board the ship at sea was full of adventure. I learned a great deal rather quickly, being soon in charge of the scientific work. The *Harengus* crew were always friendly and helpful which greatly assisted this

novice sailor! I learned much from them, including some quite salty language! Interestingly, there was no training regarding safety on board or what to do in an emergency. The work days were long and the conditions on deck often cold and rough. We endured several severe storms; one gale almost sank us on Orphan Bank, a “Perfect Storm” experience! Our student assistant quit after that.

The cruises reinforced my environmental consciousness and a budding interest in marine life and the effects of ocean pollution. When close to shore, we often anchored off Bonaventure Island, noted for its enormous Northern Gannet colony. At sea, we sometimes saw pods of whales and porpoise. Amazingly, the daily garbage from the ship’s galley was thrown overboard each day in perforated plastic bags, there being no room for waste storage onboard. As well, our bottom trawls which disturbed a lot of bottom in our search for settled larvae also brought up a variety of items from the sea floor, such as old tires and glass bottles. Occasionally, we would see other ships, and had one close call with a fishing dragger that cut across our bow in foggy conditions, highlighting the hazards of shipping.

Research on shore included visiting the crab processing plants and collecting data on crab catches throughout the fishing season along the north coast of NB, especially at Caraquet. As part of this work, in late summer 1969, I took one cruise on a small fishing boat to see how the commercial fishing was conducted and experienced another major storm.

For our program, the *Harengus* always sailed out of Grand Riviere. While on shore, we analysed our field data and repaired gear for the next cruise. I stayed in a hotel with a night club; this did not encourage sleep but it led to befriending some interesting ladies! If time permitted, I explored the local landscapes – Perce and Perce Rock, the Forillon Peninsula (now a national park), and the inland mountains, such as Mt. Jacques Cartier, climbed with friends during the weekend that humans landed on the moon (July 1969).

Research continued at SABS during the Fall-Winter 1969-70. After the last cruise in the Fall, all our gear and live animals (berried females) were driven back to SABS. We built a specialized lab for keeping the crabs and hatching out their larvae to study their development. During the winter, I wrote a paper with Jeff for the JFRBC (publ. in 1970, Watson and Wells 1970) and contributed to a technical report (Watson and Wells 1972).

My final cruise on the *Harengus* was in Spring, 1970, plowing through floating ice in Gaspé Bay. I soon returned to university to study the effects of oil pollution on lobster larvae (another story). My time on *Harengus* and the generosity of her crew and the SABS scientists are recalled with great fondness; their encour-

agement and support helped start my career in marine environmental science and a lifetime of concern about our changing ocean.

Hudson's Successor (David McKeown)

Commencing in the mid-'90s, three attempts were made to create a suitable replacement for the *Hudson*. Each time the specification of requirements deemed to meet the needs of current and future programs led to a vessel similar in size and capability to *Hudson*. In each case, the estimated cost was considered to be too expensive and the proposals were shelved. In 2011, in response to a fourth such exercise, it was announced that a vessel approximately 15% smaller than *Hudson* would be built. The BIO OA examined the specifications of the proposed design in comparison to the anticipated program needs and found it wanting in many respects. Carefully crafted letters detailing our concerns were conveyed to the Ministers of DFO and NRCan with copies to senior managers in each department. The Minister's offices sent us back a polite acknowledgement. The Maritime Region Director Science, met with the Association Executive to inform us that departmental management was rejecting our concerns and that it was not appropriate for the Association to criticize management decisions.



Fig. 1 - 3d rendering of the *Hudson's* successor. (<https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/app-acq/amd-dp/mer-sea/sncn-nss/oceanographique-oceanographic-eng.html#a1>)

Fast forward to 2017 when *Hudson's* successor, the Offshore Oceanographic Science Vessel (OOSV) was announced as part of Canada's National Shipbuilding Strategy. The actual vessel is now under construc-

tion on the west coast. As is apparent from the table below someone in a senior position in the government paid attention not only to the Association but to various other concerned parties and changed the decision. The OOSV is intended to have the same functionality as *Hudson* and thus should meet east coast oceanographic program needs for some years to come. We would like to think that the Association's efforts on behalf of our colleagues had an impact.

Vessel Characteristic	<i>Hudson</i>	OOSV
Length overall	90.4m	87.9m
Breadth	15.4m	17.6m
Design draft	6.8m	6.20m
Light ship weight	3444t	3597t
Cruising speed	10.5 kts	12 kts
Top speed	17 kts	13.4 kts
Ice class	Arctic Class 2	PC6
Science berths	28	26
Endurance	105 days	84 days
Cruising range	23100 NM	12719 NM

Gulfwatch: Blue Mussels and Chemical Contaminants (Peter Wells)

Gulfwatch is a program of the Gulf of Maine Council (GOMC) – see www.gulfofmaine.org Although unfunded for many years now, it is still part of the formal GOMC program and remains together as a team of scientists (mostly retired) deeply concerned about the fate and effects of persistent toxic chemicals in the coastal environment. Sampling in Canadian waters has ceased due to government program cuts and general disinterest, but periodic sampling in USA waters of the GOM continues for chemicals of emerging concern (CECs), e.g., plasticizers, micro-plastics, legacy halogenated substances (see Apeti et al 2021) and pa-



pers are being written as time permits by the Gulfwatch team (Elskus *et al.* 2020).

Thanks to the support of DFO management at BIO, the archive of Gulfwatch samples is now housed in three deep temperature freezers at the Huntsman Marine Science Centre, St. Andrews, NB. The samples (9 bags, 122 boxes) have now been inventoried by us, an important step to their preservation, management, and distribution to interested marine pollution investigators from agencies and universities around the GOM. A strategy is required to manage this process for the foreseeable future.

Highly persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic chemicals continue to circulate in the GOM, putting marine organisms and fisheries products at risk. Hence, there is great value in the archived samples for retrospective spatial and trend analyses of CECs. Hopefully one day, the Gulfwatch program will be rejuvenated in the interests of protecting the environmental quality of our coastal waters.

NSIS Activities (Peter Wells)



The Nova Scotian Institute of Science NSIS continues to meet monthly. It has a full lecture program for '21-'22 (please see the website, www.nsis.chebucto.org) and a student writing competition is underway. The lectures for this year have largely been on-line

but hopefully will transition back to the Nova Scotia Museum in the post-Covid era. Three issues of the PNSIS were published in 2020-2021 (quiet time does have its benefits!), with articles by BIO-OA members Don Gordon and Charles Schafer. Progress is now being made by the Editorial Board on the next issue, Volume 52(1); it has nine contributions at various stages of preparation and review as of March '22. Of special interest as well to members of the BIO-OA and BIO's staff is the upcoming Second Edition of *Birds of Brier Island*, by Eric L. Mills and Lance Laviolette; it will be on the NSIS website shortly, as PNSIS 52(2), 2022. Members of the BIO community are welcome to submit more articles to the PNSIS at any time and also to join NSIS or renew memberships. The linkage between the NSIS and the BIO-OA is greatly valued in the interest of promoting and recording science in the Maritimes, especially on ocean topics.

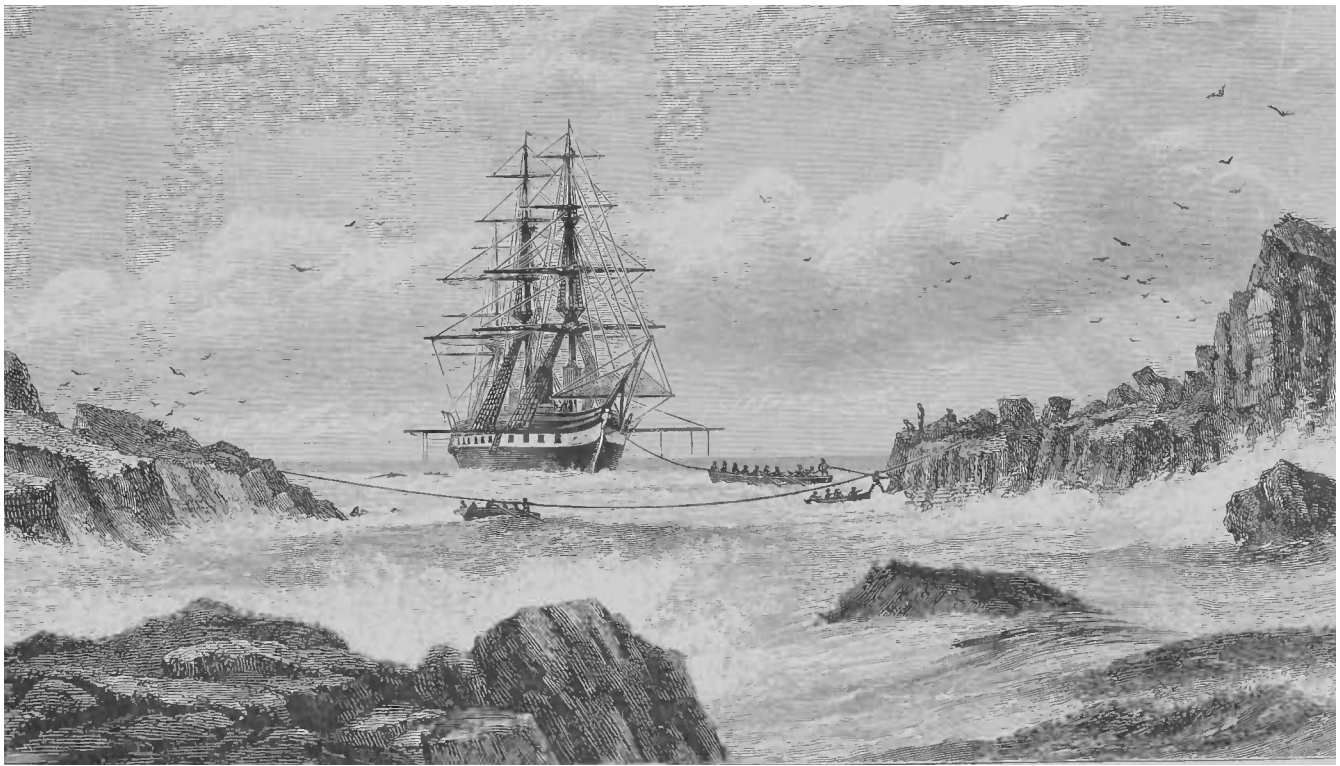


Fig. 1 - *HMS Challenger* on St. Paul's Rocks from the *The Voyage of the Challenger* - v.02 (public domain).

150th Anniversary of the HMS Challenger Expedition

"In 1870, Charles Wyville Thomson, Professor of Natural History at Edinburgh University, persuaded the Royal Society of London to ask the British Government to furnish one of Her Majesty's ships for a prolonged voyage of exploration across the oceans of the globe. On the 7th December 1872, the expedition put to sea from Sheerness aboard the corvette H.M.S. Challenger.

The vessel was a three-masted square-rigged wooden ship of 2300 tons displacement and some 200 feet in length. She was essentially a sailing ship even though she possessed an engine of 1200 horsepower. It was planned that the ship would be under sail for most of the cruise, using the engine primarily for manoeuvring when conducting scientific observations and deploying heavy gear. All but two of the ship's 17 guns had been removed to make way for purpose-built scientific laboratories and workrooms designed specifically for biological, chemical and physical work. Storage space for all the trawls and dredges was also necessary, together with space for the anticipated sample collection.

The commanding officer was Captain George Nares with approximately 20 naval officers (including surgeons and engineers) and 200 crew. There were six civilian staff and scientists under the direction of Wy-

ville Thomson that included the naturalists John Murray and Henry N. Mosely, the chemist/physicist John Buchanan and the official artist J.J. Wild.

Between her departure in December 1872 and her return to Spithead on 24 May 1876, H.M.S. Challenger traversed 68,890 nautical miles, in the course of which she sampled in the North and South Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and travelled north of the limits of drift ice in the North Atlantic polar seas and south of the Antarctic Circle." (from the *Challenger Society website* https://www.challenger-society.org.uk/History_of_the_Challenger_Expedition)

The expedition, funded at a cost of £100,000 from the British Treasury, was charged with determining the physical conditions of the deep sea; establishing the chemical composition of sea water; charting the nature of marine sediments; and studying the distribution, abundance and origins of organisms. The findings of this historic expedition were compiled and published in a series of 50 reports issued between 1885 and 1895, which some say established the science of oceanography and began its spread to the wider scientific community. In the words of John Murray in 1895, the Challenger expedition was "the greatest advance in the knowledge of our planet since the celebrated discoveries of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries". (*Challenger Society website*)

To celebrate the anniversary of this historic expedition, the Challenger Society in cooperation with the Natural History Museum and Imperial College, London,

UK, will host Challenger 150: The Challenger Society Conference 2022 from September 6-8 with side events before and after these dates. An ad hoc group in Halifax, led by Tim Fedak (NS Museum of Natural History) and Roger Marsters (Maritime Museum of the Atlantic), is exploring ideas to participate in the Conference.



Fig. 2 HMS *Challenger* docked in Bermuda in 1865, seven years prior to the expedition. (<https://www.britannica.com/event/Challenger-Expedition>)

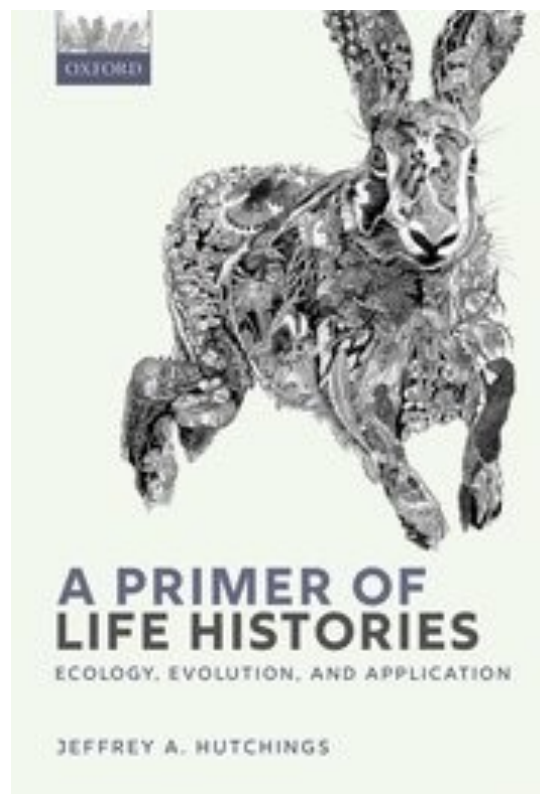
These ideas range from a remote event here in Halifax that could be linked to the main conference in London, the in-person presentation of one or more papers to the main conference, or possibly a separate event in May 2023 to commemorate the arrival of *HMS Challenger* in Halifax. The *Challenger's* stopover in Halifax from May 9 to May 19, 1873 makes this anniversary particularly relevant to our community. Two initial thoughts on potential topics are the influence the expedition on the development of Canadian marine sciences, and the contribution of the expedition to between Halifax, Bermuda and the West Indies. The BIO OA will continue to work with the ad hoc group to assist in planning and organizing an event to celebrate this expedition.

Book Review – “A Primer of Life Histories” by Dr. Jeff Hutchings (Peter Wells)

Tragically, the world of fisheries and marine biology lost one of its foremost scientists, teachers, and advocates when on Jan. 29th, 2022, Dr. (Professor) Jeff Hutchings of Dalhousie University suddenly passed away. Jeff was only 63 years old and at the peak of his career. He had been enormously productive over a 30

year career, and was internationally famous (some would say infamous) for his explanations of the demise of the northern cod fishery. Jeff had just published a new book on the life histories of organisms, *A Primer of Life Histories. Ecology, Evolution, and Application* (Oxford University Press), as well as an overview paper in the ICES journal (*Stories from the Front Lines*; ICES Journal of Marine Science (2022) <https://doi.org/10.1093/icesjms/fsab271>), on the communication of science advice, when he left us all too soon. He will be sorely missed by his many colleagues and friends. A memorial is apparently planned for the spring.

Hutchings's book is the culmination of seven years of travel, discussion with many fisheries colleagues, and as he states, being able to work in the ideal settings of Iceland and Finland “to think, walk, and write”. The book is well worth noting and reading by fisheries biologists, senior fisheries managers and fisheries policy makers. However, on first glance, the book is primarily meant as a detailed background for the population biologist or a student of the subject of animal populations – what their life history characteristics are and what makes the species thrive or not. It is a challenging topic but one critical to understand if one is



working in fisheries or wildlife conservation. Hence, topics covered include life history variability among species, the genetics underpinnings of species and their populations, the vital rates of mortality and reproduction, the evolution of life histories in a changing environment, and

the application of life history knowledge in species conservation. All of this theoretical and applied understanding is aimed at trying to ensure that living resources, terrestrial and aquatic, are sustainably exploited for the future.

A Valley Hike for All Seasons (Peter Wells)

Nova Scotia is a hikers' paradise, with many short and longer trails to choose from (e.g., see Michael Haynes various guidebooks). One which I have started to explore lately is the Harvest Moon Trailway or Path (HMT), located in the beautiful Annapolis Valley (<https://destinationtrailsnovascotia.com/trails/harvest-moon-trailway/>). It is one of several long trails in the province, the others being the Rum Runners Trail, the Chignecto Provincial Park loop trail, and the Celtic Shores Coastal Trail.

The HMT is 110-kilometres (68 miles) in length, running from Grand Pre' to Annapolis Royal (or back!) and offers year-round opportunities for hiking, biking, X-country skiing and snow-shoeing. Being the former CPR rail bed, it has many entry points off local roads, offering a variety of day hikes or a thru trek down the whole valley. Its surface is flat and largely compressed gravel, easy for aging hikers. Its many small bridges across picturesque streams and two rivers are now maintained by local hiking and community groups.



Fig. 1 - The Harvest Moon Trail Kiosk at Wolfville, NS. (All photos by the author)

The HMT traverses the Valley alongside rivers, streams, farm fields and woodlands, mostly far from local roads, hence offering the solitude of the valley. But being the former railroad, it also goes through several villages and towns, where one can get resupplied (if thru-trekking and camping) or seek comfortable over-night accommodation and meals. A large kiosk in downtown Wolfville, near the harbour, provides a detailed map and highlights of the whole path, including distances between towns. Benches there provide a place to contemplate the proposed venture.



Fig. 2 - Hiking the dyke, while approaching Port William. Spectacular open views of farmlands, the river, and North Mountain in the distance.

During the Covid pandemic, I have explored the path at both ends and soon hope to trek the whole distance. My favorite walk is a 19 km loop, starting at Grand Pre' National Historic Site, with its free parking. I walk to Wolfville along the path, alongside many farm fields, then head out on the dykes towards Port William, turn back just before the town along the highway towards Greenwich, then tramp back to Wolfville and Grand Pre'. This can be done comfortably in 5 hours, with rest and photo stops. The highlights are the marshlands, shorebirds, and various plants such as wild roses along the path and views from the dyke of the Cornwallis River and its estuary, an ever changing and dynamic ecosystem due to the enormous Fundy tides. One caution for this walk – washrooms are non-existent except at the historic sites and in village cafes. This can be hard for an aging hiker whose sauntering mantra is “BandB” – benches and bathrooms!



Fig 3 - An old railway bridge, well maintained by local groups.

Another walk that I have done is the section between Bridgetown and Annapolis Royal, in both directions. This path is really isolated and offers a range of valley scenery and solitude. A 4.5 hr, 24 km winter walk was done with two friends from Granville Ferry, heading south west from Bridgetown towards Annapolis Royal. Enroute, the scenes of the Annapolis River and the North Mountain were stunning. It was very cold, breezy and sunny wintry day, there was little snow on the path due to wind, and it was frigid at times. After a few hours, we stumbled half frozen into a café in Annapolis Royal to enjoy soup, hot drinks and a chat about the walk – happy memories despite the cold. It is a bit more pleasant in the summer, if not too hot, and one meets more people, especially runners.



Fig. 4 - Excellent signage along the Harvest Moon Trailway.

In places, the Harvest Moon Trailway is accessible to noisy ATVs, though the riders are respectful while passing by. To date, I have not been overly bothered by them but still dislike their noise and fumes. A debate apparently continues, related to their access to the path. Around Wolfville, the path is closed to all motorized vehicles.

In spring this year (2022 – Covid year 3!), my plan is to thru-hike the whole trailway. Starting in Grand Pre', I reckon that the walk can be done in four days, with overnights stays in Kentville, Kingston and

Middleton. One has to keep the old legs in motion and what better place is there to be for hiking than in our ocean province! Come join me and explore the Valley on foot!



Fig. 5 - Curious alpacas , in a field north of Bridgetown.

CSS *Acadia* – A New Life

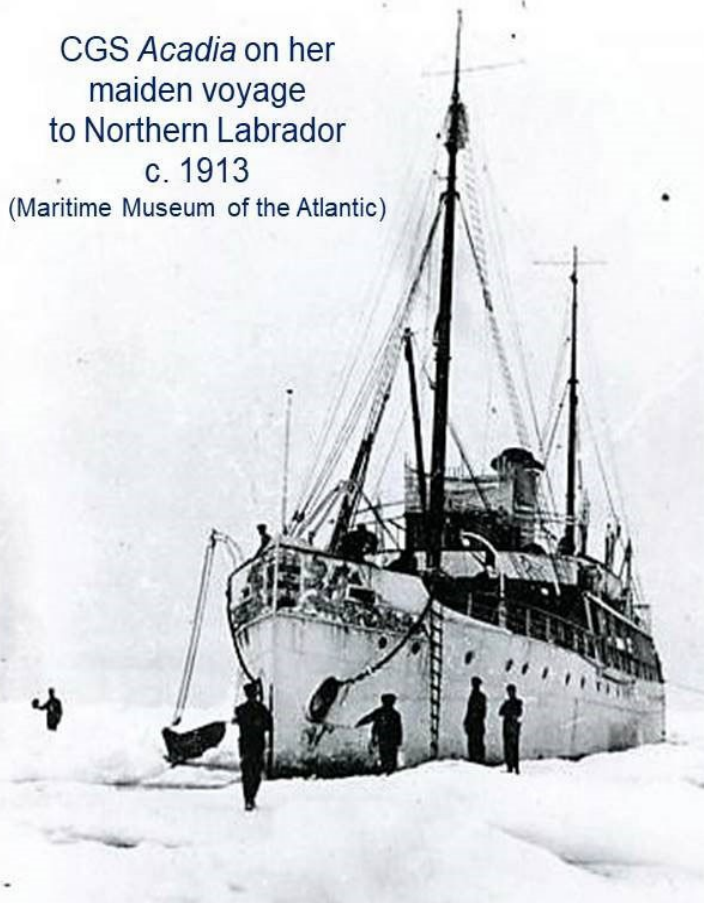


HMCS *Acadia* wardroom (Maritime Museum of the Atlantic)

A recent story in the Chronicle Herald highlights the new life for the CSS *Acadia* after its recent refit. It can now be used as an integral part of the programming of the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. The Herald article outlined the activities of a group of Mi'kmaq youth from across Nova Scotia as they built five small plywood rowboats (Bevin's skiffs) on the deck of the *Acadia* under the supervision of the Museum shipwright, Eamonn Doorly and their student supervisors from Mount Saint Vincent University's child and youth

study department. (Full article available at <https://www.saltwire.com/atlantic-canada/news/all-hands-on-deck-indigenous-youth-learn-boat-building-skills-on-css-acadia-100732809/>)

The Museum plans to use the ship not just as an historic artifact, although that will always be its prime role, but as an asset that belongs to the people of Nova Scotia and is available for their use. For example, the refit provided much more access to the engine room including a workshop and some open space that can be utilized for various activities and training opportunities. The vessel could also be used as a rental for various functions. People are encouraged to contact the Visitor Experience staff at the Museum.



CGS *Acadia* on her maiden voyage to Northern Labrador c. 1913

(Maritime Museum of the Atlantic)

Update on CCGS *Hudson* Commemoration

In the January edition of the *Voicepipe*, we reported on the initial response of the Oceans Association to the news of the decommissioning of the CCGS *Hudson*. Our intent was to celebrate the legacy of the ship by collecting information on her cruises and the science accomplishments as well as, and possibly more importantly, the memories and stories of the many people that worked aboard the *Hudson*.

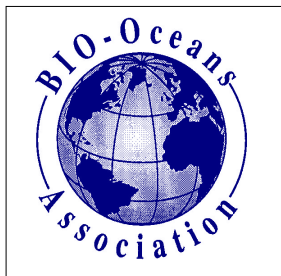


Fig. 1 - From the Facebook page CSS/CCGS *Hudson* fan page set up by Fergus Francey.

The project has evolved into a number of components and work has been progressing as we wait to hear from the Coast Guard about any formal decommissioning ceremony. The team working on the project includes Dave McKeown, Pierre Clement, Kelly Bentham, Jennifer Hackett, Andy Sherin, Keith Manchester, Fergus Francey, and Don Gordon. The first component is centered on compiling information for a possible book that would be directed to a general audience including crew members, families, and history or seagoing buffs. The team is researching the ship's logs, the summaries of the research cruises which number over 500, and a large collection of archived photos. Our current thought is to simply publish the information on our website to allow easy access. At that time we can decide if we want to go further and produce a more polished volume like *Voyage of Discovery*.



Fig. 2 - CSS *Hudson* in the early 1980s. Photo by Ying Wang



From the President

Firstly I want to thank Michael Murphy for his outstanding contribution to one of the major initiatives of the OA, the *Voicepipe* and for his other previous contributions to the OA. I

know from experience the time and intellectual commitment the newsletter takes. Michael has shared with our members remarkable stories and this issue is no exception. As he has done, I would like to thank everyone who contributed articles.

It is fitting to lead off the issue with an In Memoriam to Jeff Hutchings. John Reynolds, chair of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, was quoted in a report from the Canadian Press to say Hutchings “believed passionately in the value of ensuring public policy decisions could be guided by unbiased science.”

Again we seem to have an issue with a lot of ships. It is gratifying to see the article on the use of the *Acadia* as a venue for Maritime Museum programming. We will soon be saying a formal goodbye to the venerable CSS / CCGS *Hudson* who has served the world's oceanographic community for almost 6 decades. Soon (hopefully) we will welcome a vessel to serve in her stead, one according to David McKeown's table will have characteristics remarkably similar to *Hudson's*. To mark *Hudson's* legacy, a team led by Don Gordon has been compiling a massive quantity of information and stories contributed by members and those who have sailed with her. Thank you to this team, the products resulting from their work will be a suitable tribute to a gallant ship, the men and women who sailed on her and the scientific accomplishments she helped realize.

I understand from Randy King, Chair of the Beluga Award Committee that they will soon be announcing the name of the latest award recipient. The ceremony for awarding the Beluga has traditionally triggered the OA Annual Meeting held just before the award ceremony. That means we need to solicit or strong arm nominations for the Executive. I would fervently request any member who would be willing to contribute to the leadership of the Association in any capacity, send me a message at asherin@ncf.ca indicating their wish to join the Executive.

This will likely be the last column I write as President. At the AGM Patrick Potter will don the mantle of President. I have every confidence he will execute the role most competently. It has been a rewarding experience being President and Vice President although it was in a time of substantial stress and uncertainty due to the pandemic. The AGM will be the first face to face meeting of the Executive and OA in two years although

during that time the newsletters have continued to be distributed, emails have gone out to members, the website and social media have been updated and the Executive has been meeting virtually. Thank you to all the members of the outgoing Executive, and thank you to those Executive members who have agreed to stay on for your support.

Hudson Update con't:

In conjunction with this research, Jennifer Hackett has been collecting stories and photos from those who have worked on the ship and compiling them in a shared folder on a Google drive. The response to a call letter from Andy Sherin has been excellent with many personal stories submitted to date and more expected. They are entertaining to read with much variety in content and style. A second call letter has been sent out to encourage more submissions. We have also begun contacting crew, other government labs and universities who may wish to contribute. While the plan is to eventually post these stories on the BIO-OA website, if you wish to read the memories submitted to date, just contact Jennifer at bio.oceans@gmail.com stating you would like read access to the folder and we will send you the link. In addition, there are numerous recent posts on the BIO-OA Facebook page referring to Hudson as well as on the Facebook page set up by Fergus Francey. It is open group called CSS/CCGS Hudson Fan page and has numerous stories and photos posted.

Work will continue on this project. Please forward any suggestions as well as any information that you may have that will contribute to the commemoration of the *Hudson*.

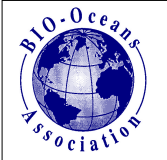


Fig. 3 - After crossing the Arctic Circle, science staff are relaxing in the CSS Hudson's officers' lounge. Baffin Island fjords cruise Sept 1982. From left to right: Austin Boyce (GSC), Bob Murphy (GSC), crew?, Kathy Ellis (DFO), Kevin Robertson (GSC), J Banner (NHRI/DEC), Ken Asprey (GSC) Photo – J. Syvitski

Editor's Keyboard:

This is my last edition as the editor of the *Voicepipe*, a role I fulfilled since 2019. While the job has its challenges, it has been a lot of fun. I also realized that my continuous involvement in the Oceans Association executive, as secretary, president, past president, and editor from 2013 to today, has been longer than my employment at BIO. One lesson I learned through my work career is that you should move on before you stop having fun in your job – whatever your personal definition of fun may be.

I need to thank a number of people who have been so helpful to me over my years as editor. Andy Sherin has always supported my efforts and was so helpful when I worked on my first editions. Jennifer Hackett has done great work getting the newsletter out to our members. And I want to say a big thank you to all the people who contributed articles or photos, especially my two most faithful contributors – Peter Wells and Don Gordon. I could always rely on them for extra copy to help fill the pages.



ABOUT THE BIO-OCEANS ASSOCIATION

The Bedford Institute of Oceanography Oceans Association (BIO-OA) was established in 1998 to foster the continued fellowship of its members; to help preserve, in cooperation with the Institute's managers and staff, BIO's history and spirit; and to support

efforts to increase public understanding of the oceans and ocean science. Membership is open to all those who share our objectives. Most current members are present or past employees of BIO or of the federal departments of Environment, Fisheries and Oceans,

and Natural Resources (or their predecessors) located in the Halifax Regional Municipality. Membership is \$10 per year, \$40 for five years, \$70 for 10 years, or \$150 for a lifetime membership.

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Membership Information

Access to our registration form and info at <http://bedfordbasin.ca/join.php>

Or

Email bio.oceans@gmail.com - request details to become an OA Member

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