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## **Canadian provinces study Fundy Bay tidal flows**

The east Canadian provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are putting together a programme to assess the renewable energy potential of the Bay of Fundy, which has the world's greatest peak tidal ranges, writes Iain Esau.

To support a strategic environmental assessment of the bay, which will be carried out by Nova Scotia's Offshore Energy Environmental Research Association, each province is investing up to C\$75,000 (\$70,000) to complete an environmental and socio-economic report, which will look at how a tidal power generating system could affect marine life in the area as well as issues such as energy security, energy cost, greenhouse gas, compatibility with other marine activities and economic development.

Studies by the US-based Electric Power Research Institute have identified the Bay of Fundy as, potentially, the best site in North America for large-scale, grid-connected tidal energy generation.

"We welcome New Brunswick's involvement in tidal energy development," said Nova Scotia's Energy Minister Bill Dooks.

"A lot of work needs to be done before demonstration turbines can be put in the water, and New Brunswick is helping us move that work forward."

New Brunswick Energy Minister Jack Keir added: "This is an important step forward in developing future tidal projects which could benefit both of our provinces."

The Bay of Fundy has the world's highest recorded tidal ranges peaking at 21.6 metres in 1869.