

## ENERGY--Fournier Lays Out Next Steps for Tidal Energy Development

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Nova Scotia is well on its way to turning its abundant ocean energy resources into an affordable supply of clean, renewable electricity, according to a report released today, Sept. 21.

Dalhousie University oceanographer Bob Fournier makes 27 recommendations in *Marine Renewable Energy Legislation: A Consultative Approach*, with a focus on the potential for in-stream tidal development. The report covers planning, economic opportunities, research and regulation.

"This report continues the consultative and careful approach we have taken to exploring the potential of tidal electricity in Nova Scotia," said Energy Minister Charlie Parker. "In reflecting both the enthusiasm and concerns of Nova Scotians, as well as pulling together the latest research on tidal energy worldwide, Dr. Fournier has laid out a thoughtful and deliberate path for us to follow.

"As we proceed with developing an industry here that can supply us with secure, affordable electricity and build expertise that can be exported around the world, such a roadmap is invaluable. Government is pleased to accept, and committed to acting on, all the good advice it contains."

The report calls for a continued effort to involve the public in all aspects of tidal energy research and development, particularly people living on the coast, potential industry participants and First Nations communities.

It also stresses the need for all levels of government to co-operate and develop regulations that ensure safety and protect the environment, while helping appropriate commercial development.

"Through my review, I found that much good, foundational work has already been completed in this area," said Mr. Fournier. "What is missing is a comprehensive strategy that consolidates what we know, what we value and what we aspire to in the area of marine renewable energy, into an integrated plan."

Mr. Parker said such an effort is well underway at the Department of Energy.

Mr. Fournier's report was commissioned to fulfill a commitment of the 2008 Strategic Environmental Assessment on Marine Renewable Energy.

Discussion and background documents were prepared and shared with the public last fall, written submissions were sought and public consultations held in November 2010. A series of informal meetings were also held with interested parties to help develop the report.

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FOR BROADCAST USE:

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Energy Minister Charlie Parker says the report continues the consultative and careful approach the province has taken to explore tidal electricity potential. He says Mr. Fournier has laid out a thoughtful and deliberate path and government is pleased to accept, and committed to acting on, all the good advice it contains.

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