



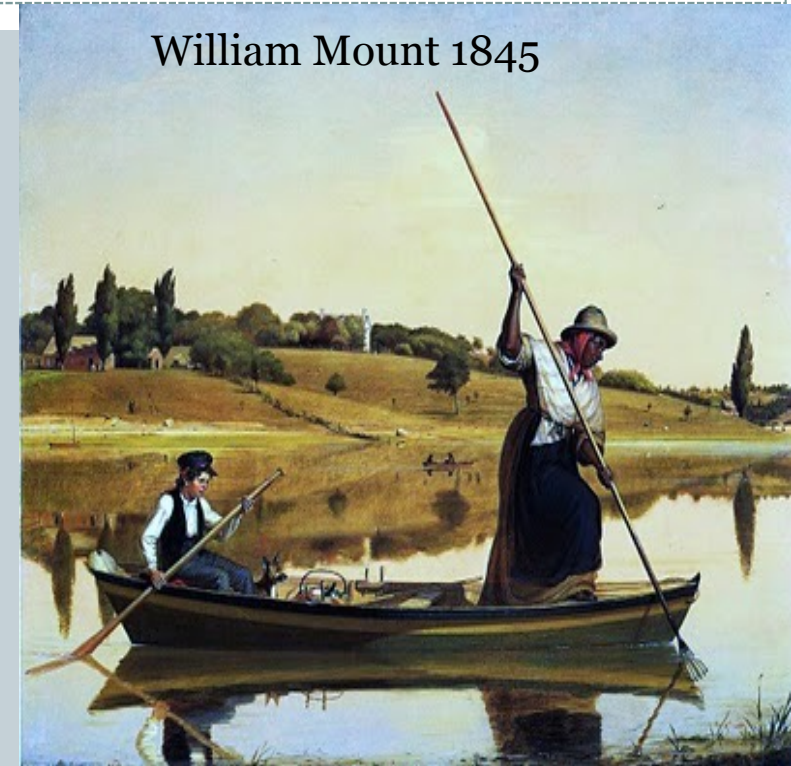
# Exploring Distinct Indigenous Knowledge Systems to Inform the Sustainability of Fisheries on Canada's Three Coasts and Inland Region

**A Research Partnership Co-Chaired by the Assembly of First Nations and Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada**

David Brooks 2006



William Mount 1845



[WWW.FISHWIKS.CA](http://WWW.FISHWIKS.CA)



# What is Fish-WIKS?

- **7-year collaborative partnership research program hosted at Dalhousie University (2012-2019)**
- **Co-Chairs – Assembly of First Nations and Dalhousie University**
- **Partners –**
  - Atlantic - Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources, Dalhousie University
  - Ontario - Assembly of First Nations, University of Guelph, University of Toronto
  - British Columbia - BC First Nations Fisheries Council, Vancouver Island University
  - Nunavut – Government of Nunavut (Dept. of Environment)
- **Communities Partners –**
  - Eskasoni, NS
  - Nipissing, ON
  - Tla-o-qui-aht, BC
  - Repulse Bay, NU



Supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

# Fish-WIKS

Fisheries – *Western & Indigenous Knowledge Systems*



[fishwiks.ca](http://fishwiks.ca)

engage • collaborate • strengthen

Improving the sustainability of Canadian fisheries  
through meaningful partnerships



## Community Partners:

- Eskasoni, NS
- Nipissing, ON
- Tla-o-qui-aht, BC
- Naujaat, NU



Social Sciences and Humanities  
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en  
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

## Purpose:

Through **mutual respect, engagement** and **collaboration**, strengthen opportunities for governing fisheries on Canada's 3 coasts and inland region

## Research Goals:

1. Understand how knowledge affecting fisheries is obtained, valued, shared and used in each of the 4 regions
2. Identify commonalities and differences across the regions and systems
3. Enhance the fisheries process and decision-making outcomes for specific areas of concern in each of the four regions
4. Contribute to strategic decision making and policy outcomes that supports co-managed and self-governing regimes

# Why is this important?

## Governance Challenges - Two distinct knowledge systems

Indigenous  
Knowledge  
Systems



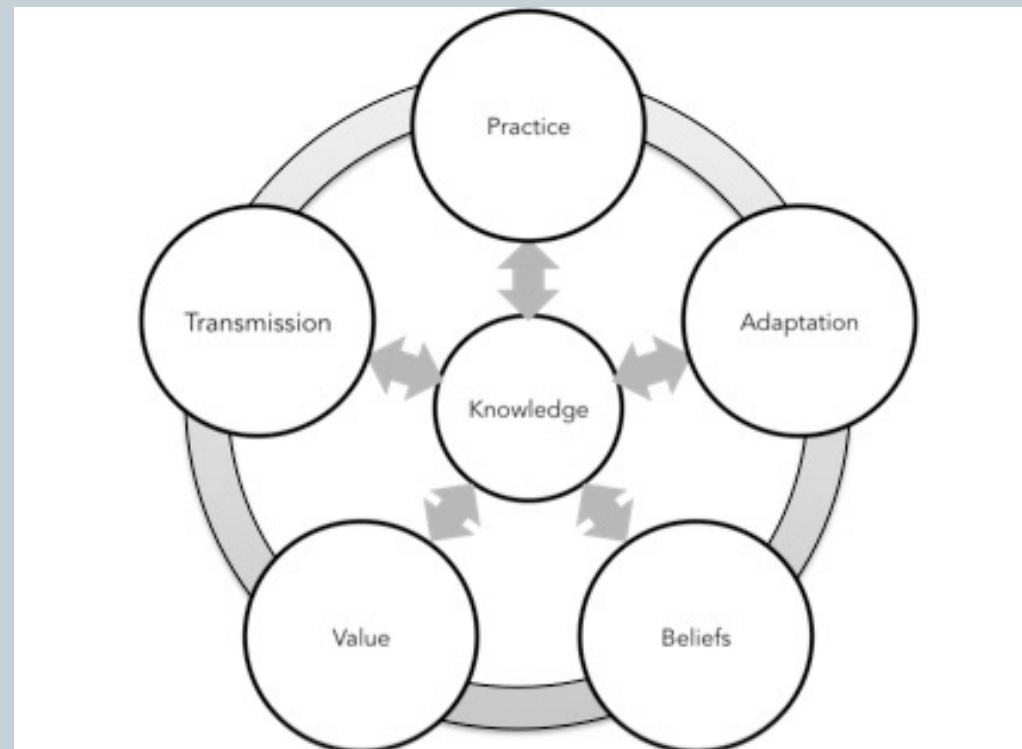
Western  
science

- Based on different philosophical underpinnings
- Based on different »ways of knowing«
- Western science favoured over IKS

# Research assumptions



**How knowledge is generated, transmitted and effectively used is dependent on the rules governing “how an institution gathers information, processes ideas, reaches decisions, and formulates and implements policies” (White, 2006, p. 401)**



**This understanding allows for the design of alternative models of fisheries governance that not only contributes to more effective fisheries management but is also better suited to address and adapt to uncertainties arising from climate-induced changes and changes in the policy environment**

So,

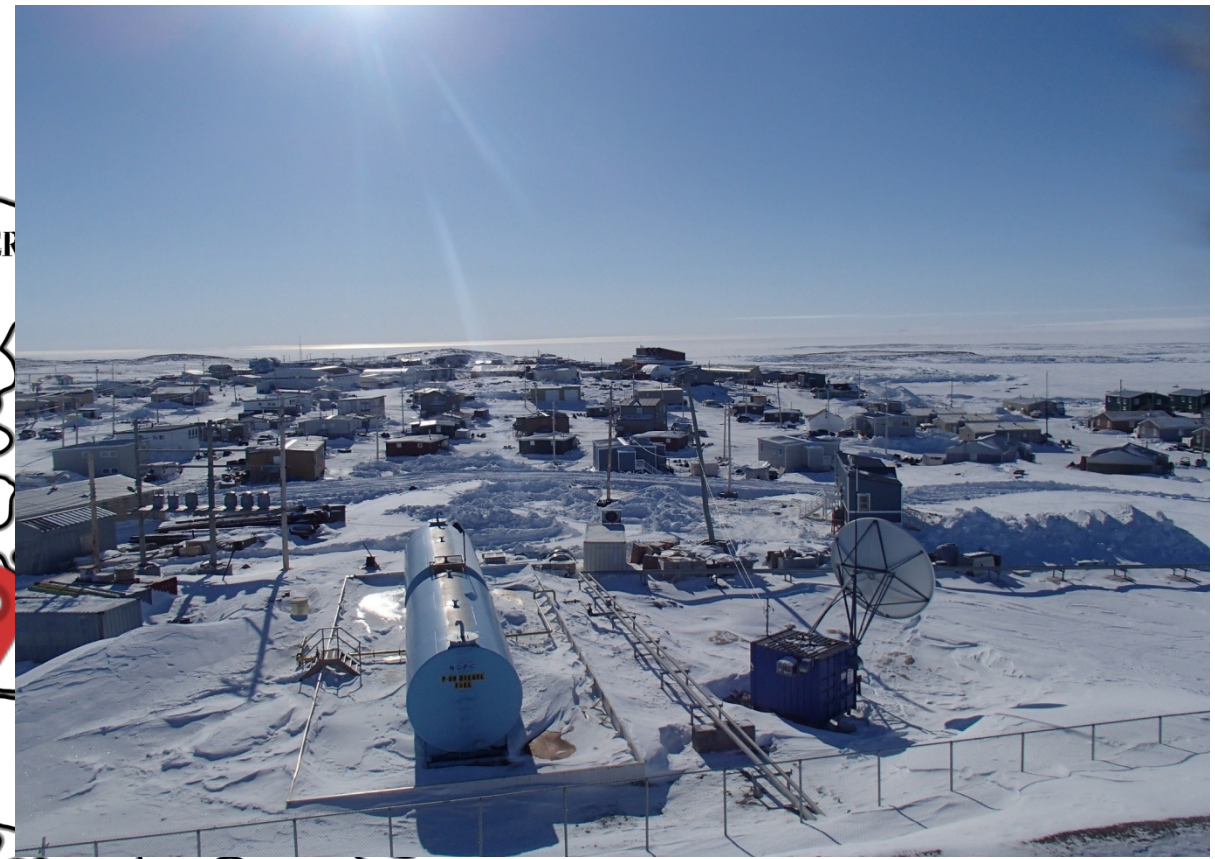
**How**  
do you know  
what you know?

We're looking for  
the answer.



## Fish-WIKS

understanding how **Western and Indigenous Knowledge Systems** can improve the sustainability of Canadian fisheries



NUNAVUT



# Core Research Questions

1. How and to what extent are different knowledge systems incorporated into fisheries governance and processes by indigenous nations in Canada at national, regional and local scales?
2. Can varied IKSs be used to improve the effectiveness of fisheries governance at national, regional and local scales in Canada and internationally?
3. Can various IKSs be used to inform and enhance an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management in Canada and internationally, given the complexities of ecosystems and additional uncertainties posed by climate-induced changes?



# Key Fish-WIKS Activities

- Engage in community-identified priority setting
- Conduct community-supported research
- Build awareness at local, regional, national and international levels
- Provide recommendations that informs and enhances fisheries governance and management at the regional level
- Contribute to strategic decision making and policy outcomes at the national level that supports co-managed and self-governing regimes at regional and local levels



# Fish-WIKS

## Partnership Approach

- Bridges two worlds through collaboration built on mutual respect and trust
- Shares and increases the accessibility of knowledge generated
- Builds relationship between holders and users of knowledge that is generated using different approaches



[www.fishwiks.ca](http://www.fishwiks.ca)

