

Fish-WIKS FEATURES

the newsletter of Fish-WIKS, Fisheries - Western & Indigenous Knowledge Systems

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WHAT IS Fish-WIKS (Fisheries – Western and Indigenous Knowledge Systems)

Fish-WIKS is a five-year collaborative partnership project funded by the Social Sciences and Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) in 2012 comprising partners from the Assembly of First Nations, BC First Nations Fisheries Council, Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources, Government of Nunavut, Vancouver Island University, University of Guelph, University of Toronto and Dalhousie University. The research looks at understanding indigenous knowledge systems and how they can be used to enhance fisheries governance and management in Canada. **The research aims to identify the**

commonalities and differences in indigenous knowledge systems in four distinct regions and communities across Canada (Tla-o-qui-aht, BC; Repulse Bay, Nunavut; Nipissing, Ontario; and Eskasoni, Nova Scotia) and **to understand western knowledge systems currently used in governmental decision making.** Working with both users and decision makers, key research questions will focus on examining the extent to which western and indigenous knowledge systems influence fisheries governance and understanding how distinct indigenous knowledge systems can improve current efforts.

Community Profile: Eskasoni

LOCATED on the beautiful Bras d'Or Lakes in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Eskasoni takes its name from a Mi'kmaq word, "we'kwistoqnik", meaning 'where the fir trees are plentiful'. Eskasoni was first charted by the Surveyor-General of Cape Breton in 1832 when very few families lived in the area. In 1834, Eskasoni officially became a reserve of 2,800 acres of land. Today, home to nearly 4,000 residents, Eskasoni is the largest Aboriginal community in Atlantic Canada and is the largest Mi'kmaq speaking community in the world with close ties to Cape Breton Gaelic and French traditions.



Managed by a Chief and Council, the Eskasoni Band administers 24 businesses and employs over 120 people. The commercial fishing operation, Crane Cove Seafoods, a community contributor of Fish-WIKS, has 12 employees and 150 part-time fishermen. Other operations include Eskasoni Foodland, Eskasoni Gaming Centre and Eskasoni Tobacco Shop. The community is also served by public businesses in the areas of food service, variety stores and gas stations. A strong network of health and other services provide residents with a full range of amenities such as a pharmacy, legal support and crises centre.

Children, K-3, have access to immersion education in the Mi'kmaq language, the local middle school has over 900 students and high school-aged children attend the Allison Bernard Memorial High School or the Unama'ki Training and Education Centre.

Coordinators' Corner

THE Fish-WIKS Liaison Coordinator is an essential member of the Project providing ongoing linkage with participating communities and other members of the research team. The Community Liaison Coordinator builds community awareness and organizes meetings and other knowledge mobilization events. Coordinators are now working in all four regions – Tyson Paul in Eskasoni, Clint Couchie in Nipissing, Lucy Tegumiar in Repulse Bay and Terry (Seit-cha) Doward in Tla-o-qui-aht. In this issue, meet Tyson Paul of

Eskasoni.



Community Liaison Coordinator, Eskasoni

Tyson Paul joined the Fish-WIKS team in November 2012 as Community Liaison Coordinator for the Eskasoni research site. Tyson

is Research Assistant with the Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resource (UINR) in Eskasoni. Tyson received a Bachelor of Science in Community Studies from Cape Breton University and since joining UINR in 2009, he has worked on the collection and documentation of traditional knowledge, commercial fishing activities and research projects monitoring aquatic health, eels and salmon. He is fluent in Mi'kmaq and was raised in the Eskasoni community.

Creating a Project Logo

As part of the community engagement strategy for the Project, a logo contest was initiated in each of the four regions. The logo will be based on a circular medicine wheel with each of the four partner regions represented in one quarter of the logo.

Below are the winning entries representing Nova Scotia, Nunavut and British Columbia. Fish-WIKS is currently awaiting the selection of the winning logo for the Ontario region. Winning logos were selected by representatives from the respective regions and communities.



Nova Scotia Winning Artist Lenita Denny

Lenita Dominique Denny is a 14 year old grade 8 student from Eskasoni. She enjoys art and music. Lenita plays the piano and is learning the drums and guitar. She is a member of the Canadian Life Saving Society where she has obtained her master swimming level, bronze star, bronze medallion, and bronze cross. Lenita also enjoys playing video games and hanging out with her friends.

Lenita describes her entry as the red ring around Mother Earth representing global warming and the effect it has on her. The feathers represent the importance of fish and wildlife to our culture.



Nunavut Winning Artist Calvin Smith

Born in Coley's Point, Conception Bay, Newfoundland & Labrador, **Calvin Smith** spent 30 years as an art teacher. For the past two and a half years, he has been teaching in Repulse Bay, Nunavut. His students have created a variety of relief prints related to Inuit culture.

Calvin's art ranges from murals to a 20 foot flag made from pop cans. He was also set designer for six musicals performed at the Arts and Culture Centre in Grand Falls-Windsor, Newfoundland & Labrador. His speciality is oil painting on canvas and he has developed a style he calls "Harmony in Space". The subject matter in many of his paintings is the environment quite often relating to the fishery.



British Columbia Winning Artist Percy Benson

Percy Benson III is Gitksan from Gitwangak, BC. He graduated from Hazelton High School.

Percy's logo illustrates the four Crests of Gitksan/Thimshian on the West Coast, the fireweed is a sub crest of the Killer Whale and/or Blackfish.

Fish-WIKS in the News

Although just getting started, Fish-WIKS activities are already being showcased by partners and the media.

Studying local knowledge in Repulse Bay

“An ambitious program is underway to look at how individuals and communities develop their own local knowledge concerning fish management.”

nnsf.com/northern-news-services/stories/papers/mar20_13fsh.html



Research workshop participants, Repulse Bay, NU

Fish-WIKS was also highlighted in the Government of Nunavut DOE Newsletter. The article was extremely valuable in raising awareness of what Fish-WIKS is all about as illustrated in this excerpt from the newsletter.

What is Fish-WIKS? Fisheries – Western Indigenous Knowledge Systems (Fish-WIKS) is a research project looking at how Inuit and First Nations knowledge, as well as western knowledge, are used in fisheries management across Canada; and how social, cultural, environmental, and economic factors change this process.

The project has several main aims:

- Document current fisheries management practices in each region
- Investigate how indigenous and western knowledge are gathered, verified, shared, preserved, and used in each region
- Provide a model for how to improve the use of different types of knowledge in fisheries management in Canada

Where is Fish-WIKS taking place? Fish-WIKS is a national research project and will focus on four communities spread across Canada: Repulse Bay, NU; Tla-o-qui-aht, BC; Nipissing, ON; and Eskasoni, NS

When will Fish-WIKS be happening? Fish-WIKS will run for five years. Work started on the project in March 2012 and will continue until March 2017.

Who is involved in Fish-WIKS? Fish-WIKS is led by the Assembly of First Nations and Dalhousie University in partnership with the Government of Nunavut, the Unama’ki Institute of Natural Resources, the BC First Nations Fisheries Council and researchers from Vancouver Island University, University of Toronto and University of Guelph.

Fish-WIKS will only be a success if Nauyasmiut are a part of the entire project – from visualizing the questions that the community wants answered, to deciding how to do the research, and the best way to apply it. Central to the community involvement was the hiring of the current community coordinator, Lucy Tegumiar.

How can I be part of Fish-WIKS? The Fish-WIKS team is looking for researchers to participate in the project (8 undergraduate, 4 Masters, and 4 doctoral students; as well as 2 post-doctoral fellows) and encourages Inuit to apply. Please let us know if you are interested in this opportunity!

If you have any questions or would like to be part of Fish-WIKS, please contact: Janelle Kennedy, Aquatic Science Advisor, Fisheries and Sealing Division, Department of Environment, 867-975-7706; email: jkennedy1@gov.nu.ca

PDF Profile Dr. Stephanie Boudreau



Dr. Stephanie Boudreau joined the Fish-WIKS team in January 2013. A 2012 graduate of the Ph.D. program in Biology at Dalhousie University, Stephanie’s passion for all things marine began as a young girl spending summers on family vacations in southwest Nova Scotia. Her undergraduate studies at the University of New Brunswick specialized in Marine Biology and she was hooked. Moving to York University in Toronto for her Masters studies, Stephanie studied the spread of a nonindigenous species, *Bythotrephes longimanus*, and evaluated its impact on Ontario inland lakes. Returning to Dalhousie for her doctoral program, Stephanie explored trends in American lobster and snow crab abundance in part by talking to fishermen to determine and document ecosystem changes in southwest Nova Scotia. Stephanie says, “I have discovered through my Ph.D. that weaving traditional knowledge with conventional scientific evidence is essential to understanding management issues.” Her research interests encompass invertebrates, community ecology, marine conservation and traditional ecological knowledge, specifically with respect to commercial fishing practices and coastal communities.

Stephanie has worked for the Ecology Action Centre in Halifax, Torngat Wildlife, Plants & Fisheries Secretariat in Goose Bay and as a Fisheries Biologist/Observer in Anchorage, Alaska. She's served on several academic and community-based committees and still finds time to practice yoga and continue to contribute to her community.

Two of Stephanie's recent publications are:

Boudreau, S.A. and B.Worm. 2010. Top-down control of lobster in the Gulf of Maine: insights from local ecological knowledge and research surveys. Marine Ecology Progress Series, 403: 181-191. http://www.int-res.com/articles/meps_oa/m403p181.pdf

Boudreau, S.A 2011. Documenting the local ecological knowledge of lobster fishermen in southwest Nova Scotia. Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, 31 pages. http://wormlab.biology.dal.ca/ramweb/papers-total/Outreach_doc_draft_March%2030_final.pdf

You can reach Stephanie at s.boudreau@dal.ca

Meet some of the Fish-WIKS Project Team



Front Row L to R Audrey Mayes, AFN; Alex Gagne, BCFNFC; Janelle Kennedy, Gov't of Nunavut

Middle Row L to R Clint Couchie, Community Liaison Coordinator, Nipissing; Lucia Fanning, Project Director, Dalhousie; Shelley Denny, UINR; Grant Murray, VIU



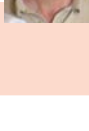







Back Row L to R Saul Milne, PhD student, Dan Pujdak, AFN; Brennan Daly, PhD student; Chris Milley, Dalhousie; Will David, AFN

Missing from photo Deb McGregor, U of Toronto; Jeji Varghese, U of Guelph; Steve Crawford, U of Guelph; Tyson Paul, UINR; Lucy Tegumiar, GN; and Terry (Seit-cha) Doward, BC First Nations.

Fast Facts

Funding	SSHRC	Partners (in-kind)	Other	
	\$1,997,000	\$1,218,000	\$153,760	
Term	March 2012 – March 2017			
Partners	Academic	Regional	Community	
	Dalhousie University	Unama'ki Institute of Nautral Resources	Eskasoni, NS	
	University of Toronto	Assembly of First Nations	Nipissing, ON	
	University of Guelph	Government of Nunavut	Repulse Bay, NU	
	Vancouver Island University	BC First Nations Fisheries Council	Tla-o-qui-aht, BC	
Training & Mentoring	Under-graduate	Masters	Doctoral	Post Doctoral Fellow
	8	4	4	2

Steering Committee Members

	Lucia Fanning	Principal Investigator	Dalhousie	NS	lucia.fanning@dal.ca
	Chris Milley	Co-applicant	Dalhousie	NS	chris.milley@amec.com
	Stephen Crawford	Co-applicant and Partner	University of Guelph	ON	scrawfor@uoguelph.ca
	Jeji Varghese	Co-applicant and Partner	University of Guelph	ON	varghese@uoguelph.ca
	Deborah McGregor	Co-applicant and Partner	University of Toronto	ON	d.mcgregor@utoronto.ca
	Grant Murray	Co-applicant and Partner	Vancouver Island University	BC	grant.murray@viu.ca
	Dan Pujdak	Co-applicant	Assembly of First Nations	ON	dpujdak@afn.ca
	Audrey Mayes	Collaborator	Assembly of First Nations	ON	amayes@afn.ca
	Janelle Kennedy	Collaborator	Government of Nunavut	NU	jkennedy1@gov.nu.ca
	Alex Gagne	Collaborator/Partner Organization	BC First Nations Fisheries Council	BC	alex@fnfisheriescouncil.ca
	Shelley Denny	Collaborator/Partner Organization	Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources	NS	shelley.denny@uinr.ca
	Laura Addicott	Project Coordinator	Dalhousie	NS	laura.addicott@dal.ca

