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Status of Reconciliation and Indigenous Ocean Management in Canada

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Reconciliation of Indigenous ocean issues, particularly in relation to climate change, governance, and economic access (in essence the three themes of the OceanCanada Partnership) requires cross-scale consideration of the lasting effects of colonization on Indigenous Peoples, including dispossession from land, ocean spaces, and marine resources, and continuing social, cultural, and economic impacts (Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples 1996; Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada 2015). In this chapter, we develop a framework for reconciliation and assess progress on ocean issues by analyzing the extent to which the injustices of colonization have been, or are being, overcome. Current relationships are guided by a mix of historical and modern treaties and are being redefined through new processes and agreements, as well as court decisions, court challenges, negotiations, and political actions. We propose reconciliation criteria based on the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) (2007) and examine best practices, including progress in well-being, economic conditions, and self-determination of Indigenous Peoples across Canadian coastlines, which has varied widely.

Indigenous Peoples make up 4.9% of Canada's population, with many living in 683 communities, some of which are located along Canada's three coasts (Figure 2.1).¹ They are a fast-growing young population compared with Canada as a whole, and form a higher proportion of the population in remote areas such as the Arctic (67%) and north coastal British Columbia (45%).²

Reconciliation has become a major driver of changes in ocean management, including governance arrangements and marine resource access, and is beginning to ameliorate impacts of colonization on Indigenous relationships to ocean spaces and resources. The vignette by the lead author in the text box "Herring and protected area management in Gwaii Haanas" illustrates some long-standing issues with management and resource use in Haida Gwaii ("Islands of the People") and provides an example of steps toward redress.

This vignette illustrates the struggle to achieve reconciliation in one small part of Canada's coastline. Drivers for policy change are complex and have included political changes, Haida direct action, legal challenges, and negotiation. Conflicts have led to negotiated agreements and management plans that resulted in structural changes to management (i.e., creation of a consensus-based management board). Core issues remain to be resolved, such as the Haida jurisdiction and role in fisheries management, and just and fair Haida access to fisheries. Progress has been gradual, sometimes requiring years of progressive litigation, or to negotiate agreements or develop plans, with the result that after 30 years of working together in Gwaii Haanas, the Haida and Canada are still on their journey toward reconciliation.

The lack of agreement on the meaning of "reconciliation" has been identified as a problem for researchers (Rouhana 2011, 292). Rouhana (2011) defined it as follows: "a process that seeks a genuine, just, and enduring end to the conflict between the parties and transformation