

Identifying Best Practices in Fisheries Monitoring and Stewardship Training for First Nations Youth

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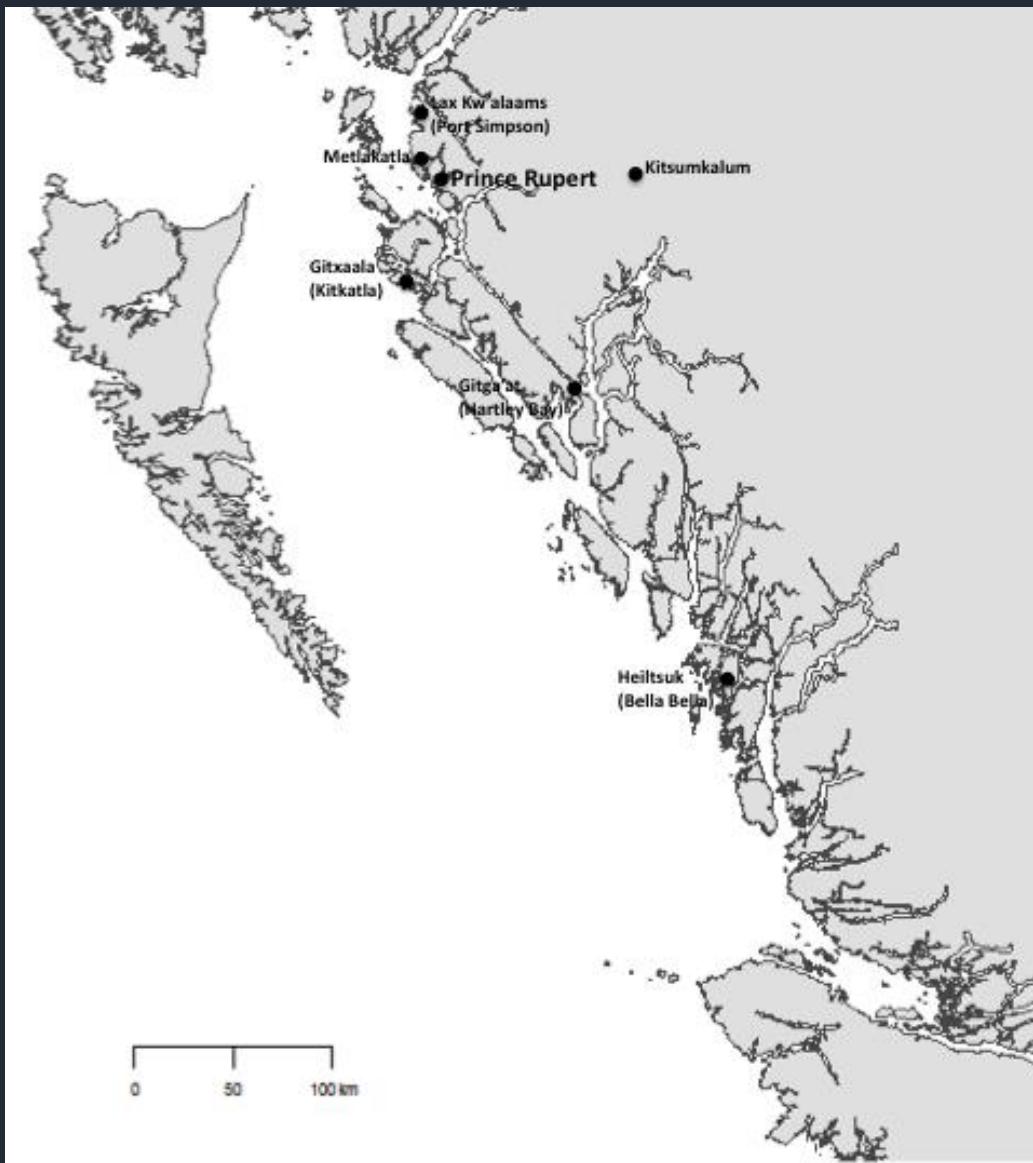
OceanCanada Network Conference

A scenic aerial photograph of a river flowing through a valley, surrounded by lush green forests and towering mountains. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds.

Context

- Colonialism
- Neoliberal fisheries policies
- *Tsilhqot'in* SCC decision
- MaPP

- How can training in fisheries monitoring and as resource guardians better support First Nations to grow their traditional governance and resource management capacities?
- What barriers to involvement in ocean-related activities and jobs do First Nations youth on the North Coast of BC face?
- What measures could enhance the ability of fisheries and stewardship programs to increase their program and job creation capacity?
- How are different programs and organizations working together to create more opportunities for youth to build a stewardship or monitoring career?



1. Academic and grey literature review
2. 31 semi-structured interviews and informal conversations (July-August 2014 and April 2015)
3. Thematic Coding of interviews in Nvivo
4. Research for the CSN as part of course internship
5. CSN online survey
6. Feedback April 2015

Results: Major Themes

- 1. Major Barriers to Stewardship Program Development and Youth Engagement**
- 2. Opportunities to Build Stewardship Programs and Youth Engagement**
- 3. Industrial Proposals and Environmental Monitoring**
- 4. Stewardship Programs and Decolonization**
- 5. Best Practices for Stewardship Program Design and Delivery**

Major Barriers to Stewardship Program Development and Youth Engagement: Neoliberal Fisheries Policies

“My grandfather, at one time he wanted me to fish, and then, when I started getting 14, 15, 16, he says, ‘you know, I know you love it and you’d do anything to go out fishing’, but he says “don’t become a fisherman”

- Youth, Metlakatla Nation

“In regards to our Guardian Watchmen that we have now, their background was, like my own [...] I knew the territory through fishing. And unfortunately nowadays I guess with the younger folks, when you take them out around the corner here, they’re basically lost some of them. They don’t have that background.”

- Fisheries Manager, Heiltsuk Nation

Opportunities to Build Stewardship Programs and Youth Engagement

- Coordinated Action – leveraging power and resources
- Relationship Building
- Leadership & Vision to build a stewardship program
- Engage youth at a young age

Stewardship Programs and Decolonization

- Indigenous knowledge and the land
- Stewardship across generations

“The more disengaged we are from the land, the less we know who we are as Tsimshian people [...] We need that land. So we need to find ways to keep our people engaged with our communities, and engaged with our land.

Guardianships are amazing. I think the whole idea and concept is much needed, and we need people, and we need to take young people, as well as older people, and have them work together.”

- Youth, Gitga’at Nation

Foundations of a Successful Stewardship Program

- Standardization
- Recertification
- Indigenous Knowledge
- Long-term funding
- Professional development part of the job
- “Laddered” approach to becoming a Guardian Watchman

Conclusions and Directions for the Future

Lingering Challenges

- Will the government be willing to share power?
- Funding

Stewardship Training

- CSN-VIU Stewardship Training Program 2015-2018



Reconciliation in Marine Management

- From co-management to co-governance
- Space for two worldviews
- Building relationships

Thank You!

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- DFO

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