



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

Haley Milko, Presented by Dr. Evelyn Pinkerton  
May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
OceanCanada Network Conference

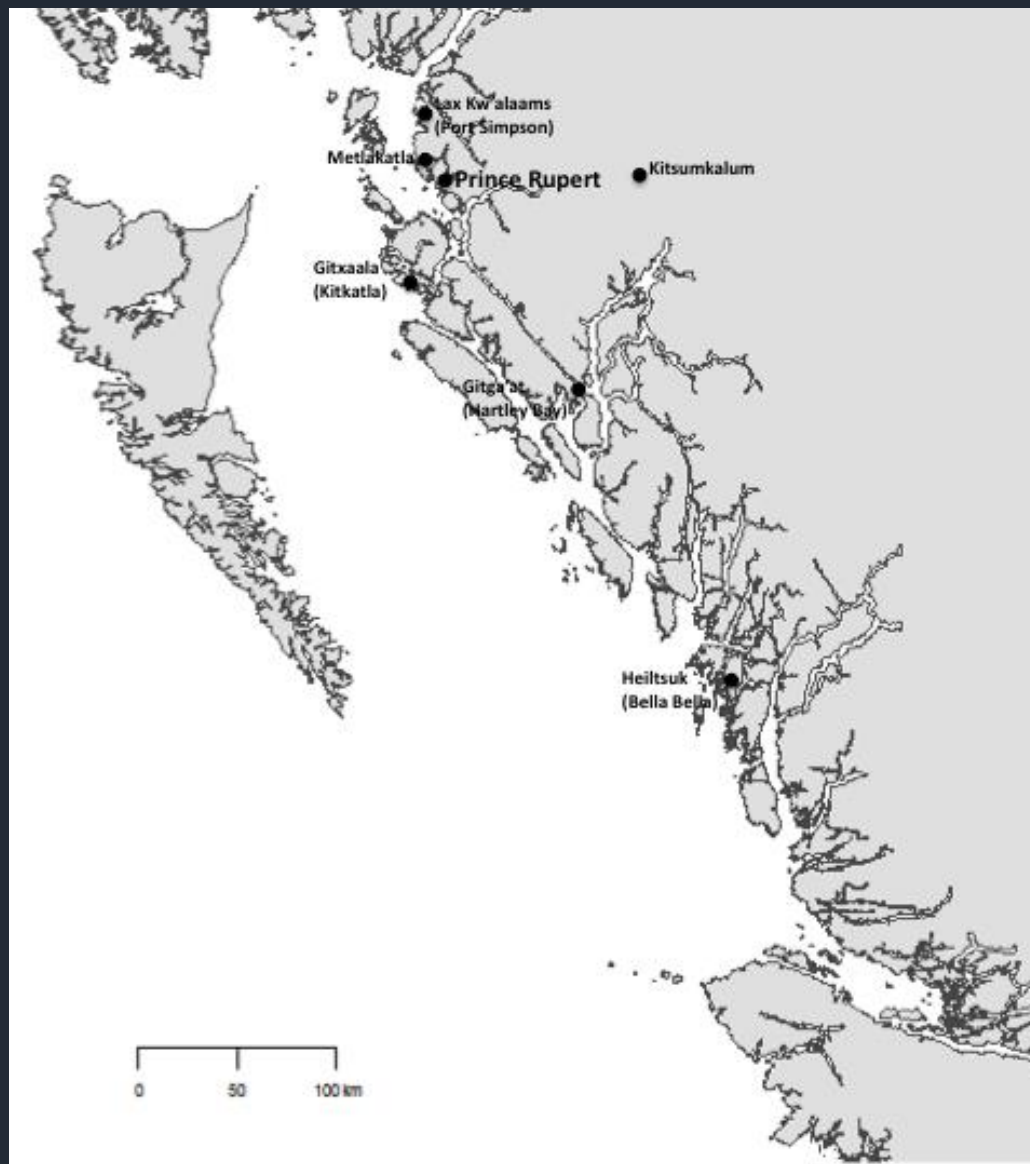
An aerial photograph of a mountain valley. In the background, a large mountain with snow-capped peaks rises above a green valley. A river flows through the valley, surrounded by dense green forests. Several small, forested islands are visible in the river. The sky is blue with some white clouds.

# 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!

## Funders:

- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
- OceanCanada Research Network
- Canadian Fisheries Research Network

All research participants who generously contributed their time and knowledge

- Members of the Metlakatla, Gitxaala, Lax Kw'alaams, Gitga'at, Heiltsuk, and Kitsumkalum First Nations
- Coastal Stewardship Network
- Ecotrust Canada
- DFO

Evelyn Pinkerton and Vicki Kelly



Social Sciences and Humanities  
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en  
sciences humaines du Canada

