

Local Communities: Key to Success in Conservation & Sustainable Livelihoods



Community Conservation
Research Network

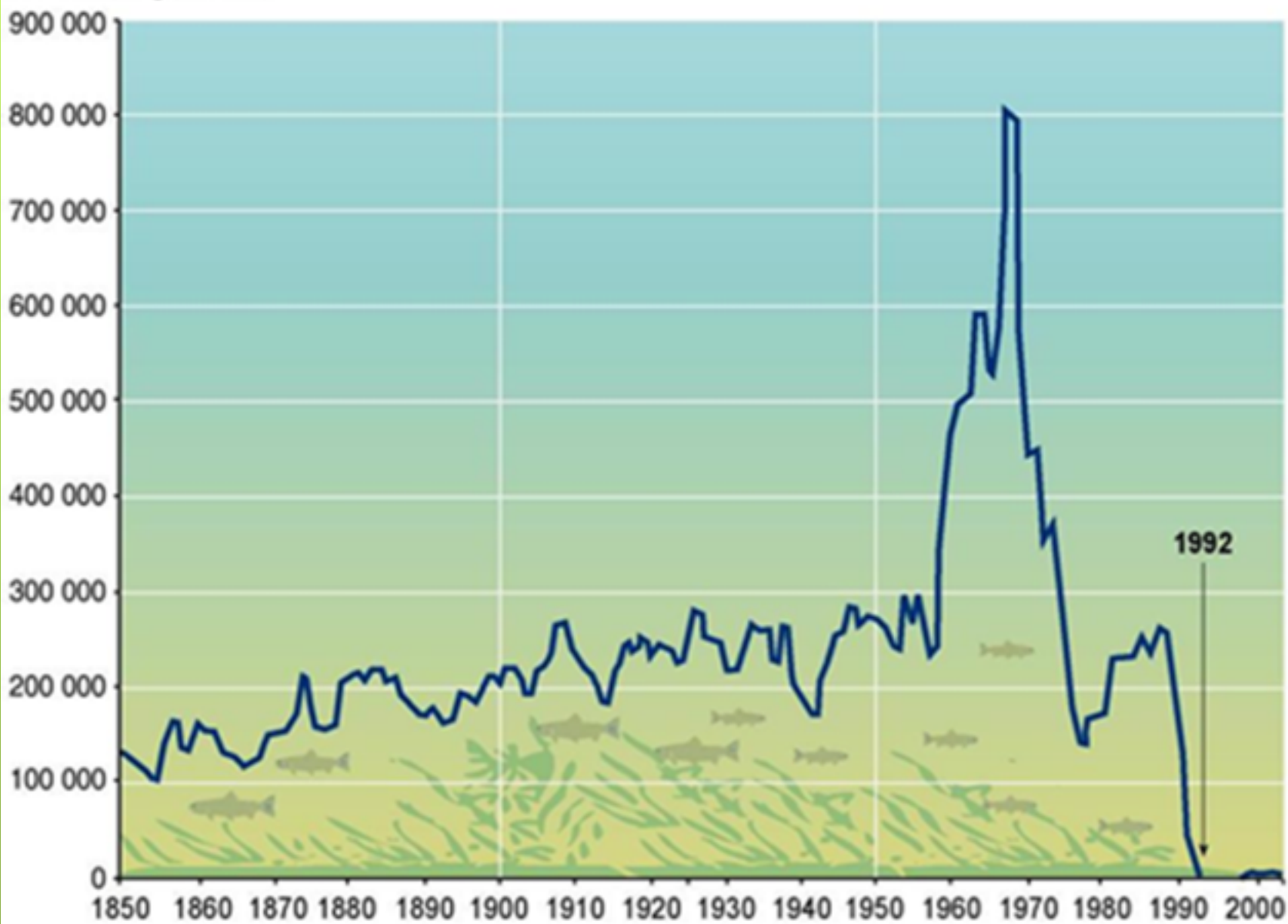
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Fish landings in tons



Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

Cod Collapse & Coastal Communities

Coastal communities play a key role in conservation of the ocean. I saw first-hand that stewardship 25 years ago, after Canada's cod fishery collapse... coastal people concerned for the future of their communities and their livelihoods. For them, future of communities depends on the future of the ocean, so conservation matters.

Thursday Perspective

By TONY CHARLES
Assistant to The Daily News



There is a Future in fish

WHEN FISHING BOATS started arriving from Nova Scotia last week, many university students had the good news: they had a job. The bad news: the fish were scarce. But I was wrong.

The protest was really against reports that the federal government would have eventually killed all the steel-head fisheries, proposed many of the "left group" in the industry from passing on their fishing licenses to their children, and proposed these fisheries would be sold to private interests.

Fisheries Minister Fred Milten, in his words, ended up agreeing with much of what the protesters were saying. I like to think the Minister realized that some of the protesters are justifiably, and sometimes, progressive. These were one of those things.

Message: There are not enough fish in the ocean, and there never will be, in places where there are no more fish. The fish are not just in the fisherman, but in all of us in the province.

Think about location, something crucial to Nova Scotia's economy. There are like to visit the small communities along our coastline. These communities are there to serve our fishermen — people, just like the protesters. In an industry where the goal is coastal conservation, what happens if the fisherman and the fish are not there? The future of the fishery will be lost for coastal communities. There are a range of choices:

- The Vancouver Cleaner Class. Everyone agrees there is too much catching power in the fishery. There have to be cuts. But how to make these cuts? There will be a clean classer vessel used to not as many people from the fishery as possible. Get rid of the smallest fisherman, the least fishers, or the remaining big players can work up the smallest fish.
- The Vancouver Cleaner Class is pushed in two ways. One of them is through the license system, aiming to change the shape of the fishery. A perfect example of this was the "pilot" trial. The maximum has been over 1000 fish. This has been and the fishery is restricted.
- The second approach is to reduce the size of the fisherman's vessel who takes and who leaves the fishery. This can be done by reducing the maximum "total tonnage" (TT) of individual fisherman and companies, who can then buy up quota from others (individual or company) or under the table. Of course, only those with the cash tend to do the buying. So in pretty much every case of TT in around the world, a few big players have ended up controlling most of the fishing. This has happened recently in New Zealand, which is often listed as a model of the TT approach.
- Close to home, TTs were pushed on the dragger fleet in Nova Scotia, and not surprisingly the quota has been put under the control of a handful of fishermen. This fact is widely known inside the fishery, but not widely publicized by DFO. (Comments for to do: try to find DFO documentation of this... In no wonder the fishermen are organized, they, and their efforts, are what would happen to the fishery and their communities if TTs were not.)
- The Sustainable Communities View. Perhaps there are alternatives? Even if the various cleaner class is implemented, perhaps we have to face facts: the fishery's total income more affected. As an "industry" there are about the same jobs per fish caught, an equivalent gain to fish, an "industry" fishery is one that gives the most benefits to the coastal economy for every fish caught. So we need to ask: what fishery strategy is best for the coastal economy? (Comments for fishery: if figures not who is government is looking at this big picture.)
- Message: The fishery is the engine of the coastal economy. We all have a stake in making sure the engine is performing well and serving our interests, whatever we are actually catch or process fish.
- The new minister has indicated an intention to hearing some broad ideas about the fishery of the future. It might be worth including one of the broader ideas, raised by the people of Canada a few years back. Formulated with the expertise of their community, I have suggested that instead of allowing fish quotas to be purchased, which can really threaten the community, the quota might be given instead to the non-industry fishermen.
- Community matters! The idea is to set high community or regional boundaries to sustain community or regional boundaries and provide some protection to the quality to fishermen local benefits. But perhaps ministers could be asked to do so, or the quota could be "traded" in

between for a fee, which could be used to fund a local conservation system. And so on. Let the community decide. Budget, (Comments for fishery: find DFO's study of community system. Think quote: "There is some. I don't fit the general view. DFO's position is that only with the industry" not with coastal communities. If the idea had been treated seriously, we would have, in some, a clear work-out for local management of ground fish quotas. But it's not the last...)

Message: It's time for DFO to begin talking not only with the fishing industry, but also with coastal communities, which have a big stake in the fishery of the future.

- Message: Tough Political Decision: Fundamental to the priority over the past weeks is a conflict over control of what the fishery could be. The fact is that it cannot be all things to all people. Someone needs to decide what kind of fishery is best for Canada: one that protects the resource and makes a small number of players wealthy, or one that protects the resource and maintains overall community sustainability and security.
- All the moment, DFO is stuck in an in-between state, where the division of the fish is unacceptably treated as a given, or, best, by the powerful players in the fishery. That figure then is built up a great deal about it, which, in the end, is not in the past. (Comments for fishery: The status quo system of allocating catch quotas rewards those who have killed the most fish. The more you caught in recent years, or the more you caught, the greater the share of the fish you can claim for the future. Involving communities helps, then.
- It would take a major change in the way the fishery is managed to build a new fishery based on restoring Atlantic Canada's coastal economy, the cornerstone of which is the region's coastal communities. This might involve the industry selling to large processors. (Comments for fishery: Your community is built on the profits generated by the industry fishery. That is the right thing to do, and that is what we are doing. It might also mean maintaining fish among those in the fishery. Who can best catch them in the kind of fish, to give most benefits to the most coastal communities? Shouldn't that be a key question to ask?)
- News Flash: If fishing communities can have a future? The idea that the small inshore fishery is an unresolvable down ward spiral might be quite a person's dream. But that's not the future for a fisherman that the fishery. Who can best catch them in the kind of fish, to give most benefits to the most coastal communities? Shouldn't that be a key question to ask?)

— The "Charlie" teacher in the department of Finance and management science at Saint Mary's University.



Communities



Coastal Communities Saving the Seas

Oceans are so vast, the problems so immense... can one coastal community make a difference? YES!



The challenges facing the world's oceans are mostly close to shore - land-based pollution, marine habitat damage, fishing pressure and the like. Coastal communities are truly on the front lines, with most at stake in protecting coast and oceans.

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Save Money!

Governments and NGOs: in your marine conservation plans, be sure to support plenty of small-scale community-based initiatives. They work well and can save us money...

One Brick at a Time!

Local-level community-based conservation is making a real difference for ocean ecosystems!

Combining *ecosystem-based* management and *community-based* management can improve marine conservation in three key ways...

- Adding traditional ecological knowledge and 'local knowledge'.
- Drawing on strong human institutions and community support.
- Using participatory research involving local people and scientists.

Connecting Communities to Ecosystems...

Around the world, coastal communities are taking action, to solve major marine conservation problems and protect livelihoods. These community success stories reflect the inspiration of community action.

A key message is that while the world's seas are vast, ocean conservation can and is successful "one brick at a time"; real support from governments and international bodies can help multiply these success stories many times.

Coastal Community Example #1

In Eastport (Newfoundland, Canada), local fishermen partnered with government and universities to improve ocean habitat and lobster stocks. This led to an official marine protected area that now protects their fishing livelihoods.



After the devastating collapse of the Atlantic cod fishery, the fishers of the community of Eastport, in Newfoundland on the Atlantic coast of Canada, organized themselves to take action to protect their lobster-fishing livelihoods. The fishers worked with scientists and involved the children in local schools, to create a real conservation success... both improving their lobster stocks and protecting the ocean ecosystem for the benefit of all...

Coastal Community Example #2

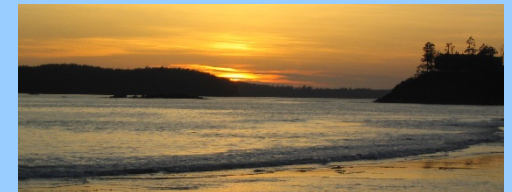
Youth in the native community of Bear River (Nova Scotia, Canada) have worked together to restore local streams, following their traditional aboriginal practices in harmony with Nature. The fish are now returning to reproduce again...



The aboriginal Mi'kmaq people in Canada have lived off local natural resources for many thousands of years. One community, Bear River, in the Bay of Fundy, has seen neighboring lands deforested and local ocean areas polluted. They see the land and the sea as fundamentally connected, notably by the streams that run through their land. They have worked hard to restore these streams, based on traditional aboriginal practices of living in harmony with Nature.

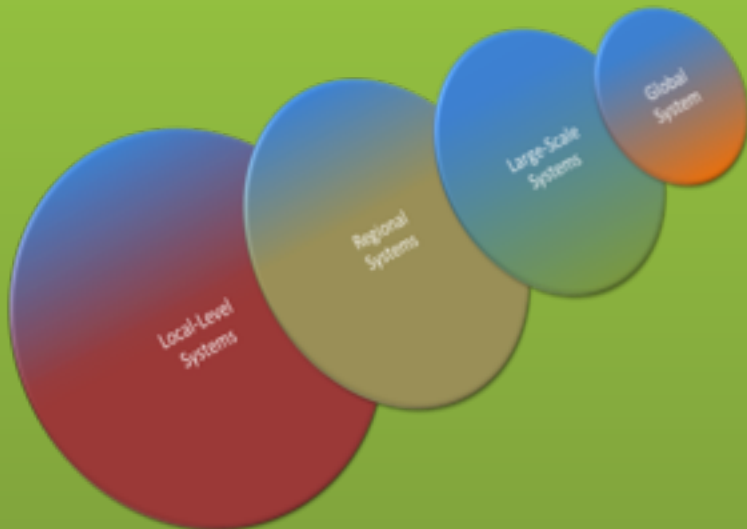
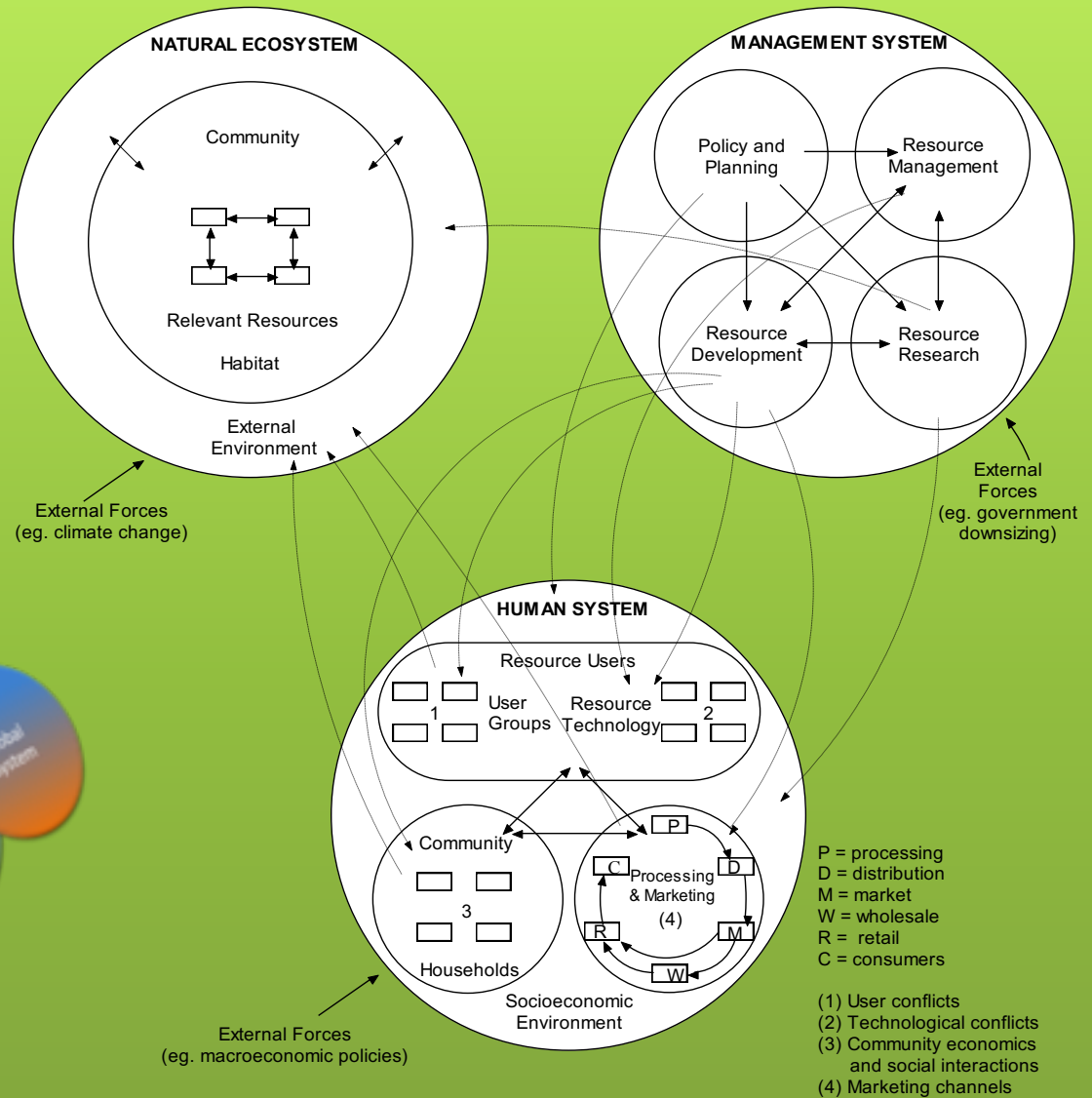
Coastal Community Example #3

Native and non-Native communities on Vancouver Island (Pacific coast of Canada) came together to create an *Aquatic Management Board*, which supports a common vision of sustainability and respect for the people and nature in the region.



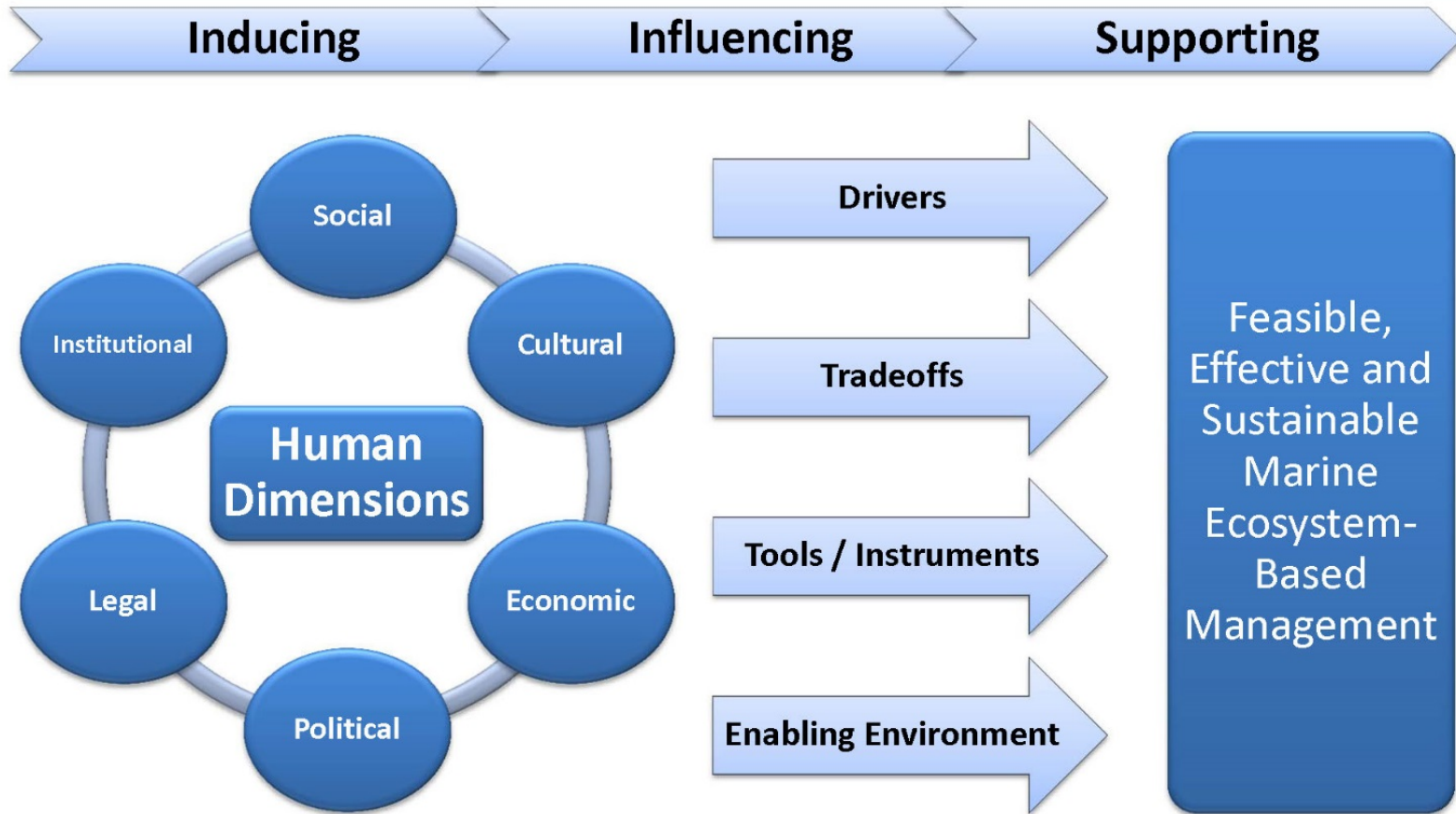
On Canada's Pacific coast, fishing families, conservationists and aboriginal communities living on the west coast of Vancouver Island all share a common concern over the fate of the marine environment they love. The communities came together to form the West Coast Vancouver Island Aquatic Management Board... a vehicle to plan coastal activities that are in keeping with sustainability and with "respect" for people and nature in the region.

Systems & Integration: 1. Systems



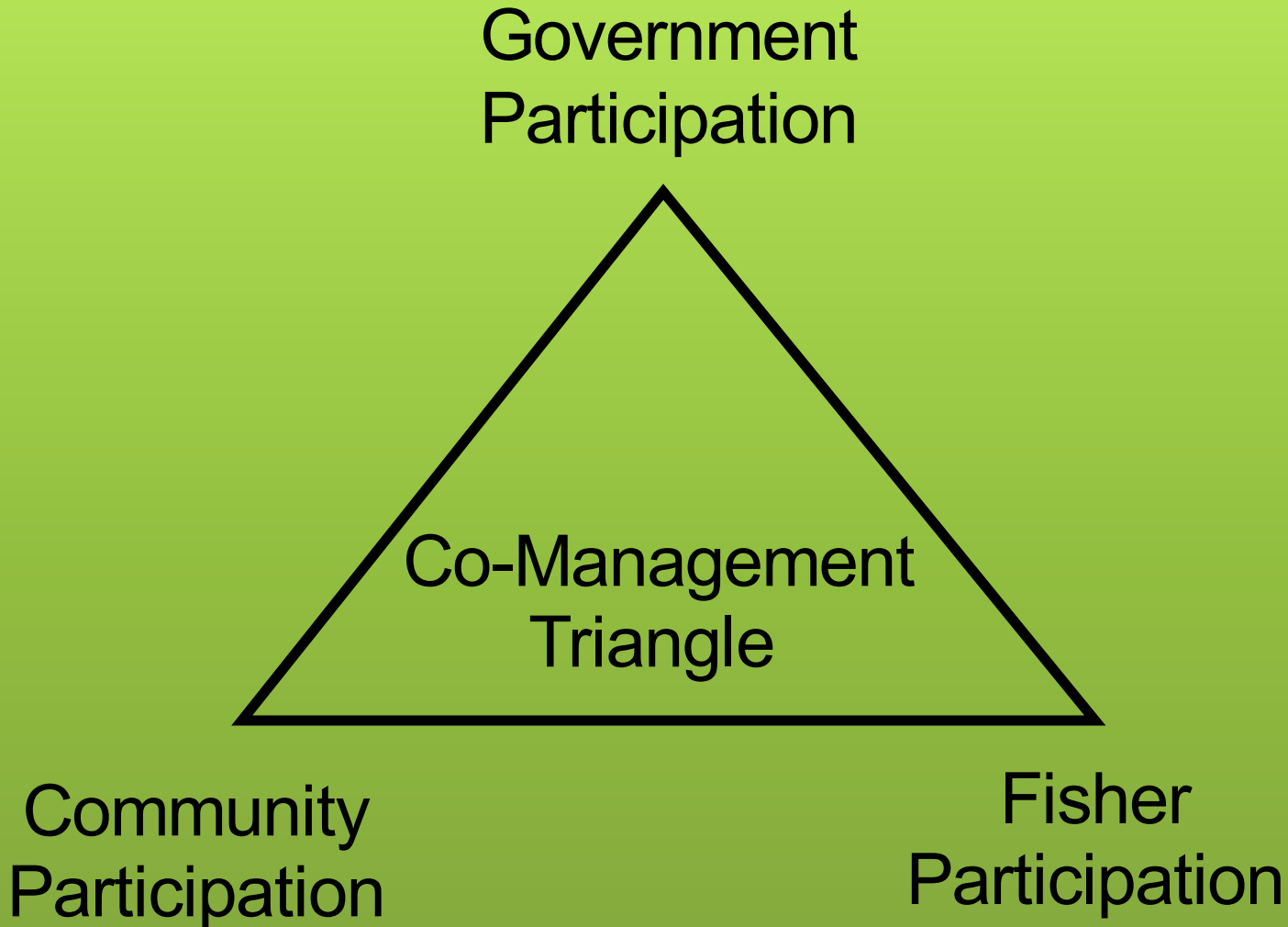
Systems & Integration: 2. EBM

The Role of Human Dimensions in EBM Implementation

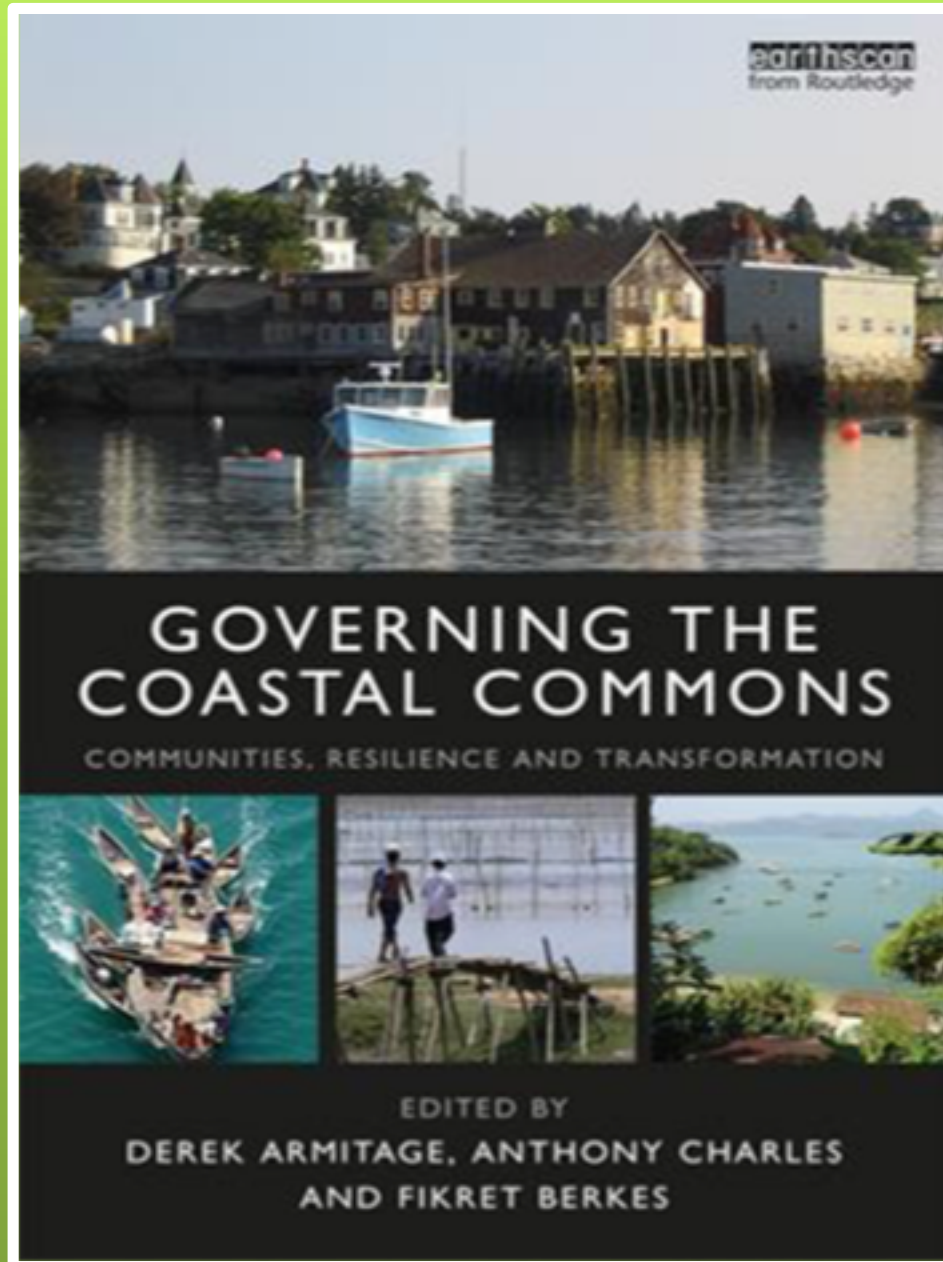


Charles, A. 2014. Human dimensions in marine ecosystem-based management. Marine ecosystem-based management. The sea. Vol. 16. (M.J. Fogarty & J.J. McCarthy, editors) Harvard U. Press. 568p.

Systems & Integration: 3. Co-management



Systems & Integration: 4. Governance



Systems & Integration: 5. Governance Streams

Governance of Marine Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation

Interaction and Coevolution

Edited by Serge M. Garcia, Jake Rice and Anthony Charles



WILEY Blackwell



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations


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FAO
FISHERIES AND
AQUACULTURE
TECHNICAL
PAPER

603

Marine protected areas: Interactions with fishery livelihoods and food security



Systems & Integration: 6. Indicator Frameworks


Genuine Progress Index for Atlantic Canada / Indice de progrès véritable - Atl

MEASURING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

APPLICATION OF THE GENUINE PROGRESS INDEX TO NOVA SCOTIA

**THE NOVA SCOTIA GPI
FISHERIES & MARINE ENVIRONMENT
ACCOUNTS**

A PRELIMINARY SET OF ECOLOGICAL,
SOCIOECONOMIC AND INSTITUTIONAL
INDICATORS FOR NOVA SCOTIA'S
FISHERIES AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Prepared by:
Anthony Charles
Heather Boyd
Amanda Lavers
Cheryl Benjamin


MEASURING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

APPLICATION OF THE GENUINE PROGRESS INDEX TO NOVA SCOTIA

***FISHERIES AND THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT
IN NOVA SCOTIA: SEARCHING FOR
SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE***

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January 2009

A. Charles, C. Burbidge, H. Boyd and A. Lavers. 2009. *Fisheries and the Marine Environment in Nova Scotia: Searching for Sustainability and Resilience*. GPI Atlantic. Halifax, Nova Scotia. Web: http://www.gpiatlantic.org/pdf/fisheries/fisheries_2008.pdf

Creating community-based indicators to monitor sustainability of local fisheries

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Systems & Integration: 7. SSF Guidelines

Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries

in the Context of Food Security
and Poverty Eradication

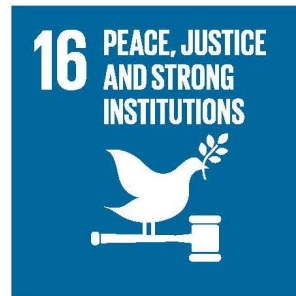
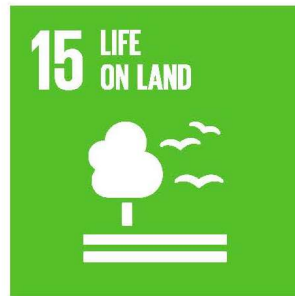
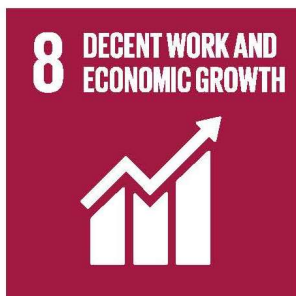
Takes systems approach to include fishing communities and their stewardship work, and responses to climate & environmental threats.

Ground-breaking integration of fisheries with broader issues and frameworks, in community, social, economic, governance systems.

Systems & Integration: 8. Human Rights

Human-Rights Based Approach – Assessment Framework		
	Individual or Household	Community or Collective
Right to Food		
Right to Livelihood		
Right to Access		
Right to Participate (Management Rights)		
Accountability & Transparency		
Equity / Fairness Non-Discrimination		
Empowerment		
Capacity		

Systems & Integration: 9. Links among SDG



Systems & Integration: 10. Poverty & Climate

Salt Water Intrusion

Loss of Wetlands & Oyster

Increased Flooding

Loss of Freshwater

Sea Level Rise

Loss of Coral & Mangroves

Loss of Fisheries & Jobs

More Extreme Weather



Community Conservation Research Network

**Successful community environmental stewardship,
sustainable livelihoods, and government engagement.**

www.CommunityConservation.net

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Community Conservation Research Network



CCRN examines local community experiences in conservation that benefits the livelihoods and well-being of local residents.

Addresses environmental and economic challenges, as well as governance needs, through an SES framework worldwide.

Partnership of indigenous bodies, NGOs, communities, universities and governments, based at Saint Mary's University in Halifax.



Mainstreaming climate change in the **Coquimbo Region, Chile**



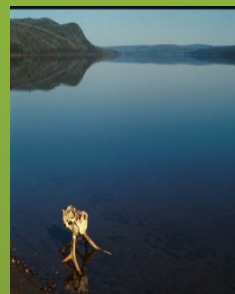
Why do communities conserve? Lessons from Samudram Women's Federation in **Odisha, India**



Recognising rights and integrating local knowledge into an estuary management plan in the **Olifants Estuary: South Africa**



Aboriginal fishing rights, livelihoods, and resource conservation. Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council, **Vancouver Island, Canada**



Developing a community-based Innu Nation environmental policy in **Natuashish, Labrador, Canada**



Strengthening the capacity for ecosystem change in coastal communities: the spiny lobster fishery of **Punta Allen, Quintana Roo, Mexico**



Community Conservation
Research Network

Key Messages from the CCRN

1. Community conservation essential to livelihoods & economies.
2. Involving local communities leads to better sustainability results.
3. Excluding communities leads to conflict and management failure.
4. Conservation efforts must properly use community knowledge.
5. Must learn to 'scale up' and 'scale down' to maximize benefits.

www.CommunityConservation.net

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE:

COMMUNITIES CONSERVATION & LIVELIHOODS

MAY 28-30, 2018 • HALIFAX, CANADA



Community Conservation
Research Network



Co-organized and hosted by CCRN-SMU and IUCN-CEESP.
400 participants (including 100 Indigenous) from 50 countries.
Set of resulting commitments including follow-up activities.

www.CommunityConservation.net

Resource Centre

The CCRN provides a global learning and resource platform on community-based conservation and broadly, the relationships between Community, Conservation and Livelihoods. Please take some time to browse our ever-growing resources which include an interactive Communities in Action map, Community Stories from around the world, Publications on a wide range of environmental topics, Webinars, Videos, Radio clips, etc.



Community Stories

Stories that showcase a fresh perspective & insightful approach to community conservation & sustainable livelihoods, within a local environmental, cultural & political context.

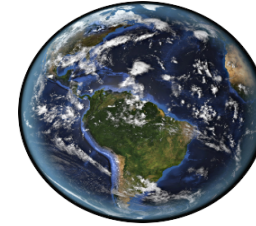
[BROWSE COMMUNITY STORIES](#)



Webinars

The Community Conservation Research Network's 10 part webinar series is an in-depth exploration of the themes central to the CCRN: communities, conservation and livelihoods.

[BROWSE WEBINAR VIDEOS](#)



Communities in Action

Contribute to our growing, global database and share the efforts of a local community with this unique, knowledge-sharing network and interactive map.

[EXPLORE OR CONTRIBUTE](#)



Community Conservation Guidebooks

View our community conservation guidebooks. These resources focus on Governance and Social-Ecological Systems respectively. View these frameworks in PDF or interactive format.

[SOCIAL ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS GUIDEBOOK](#)

[GOVERNANCE GUIDEBOOK](#)



Videos

The following videos and short documentaries are produced by researchers and organizations of many forms, all conveying important insights and experiences on the linkages of Communities, Conservation and Livelihoods.

[VIEW CCRN VIDEOS](#)



Governing the Coastal Commons

An examination of how coastal communities adapt to environmental change, approaches to governing the coastal commons, emphasizing a social-ecological systems perspective, and the role of resilience and transformation.

[READ BOOKLET](#)

Communities in Action

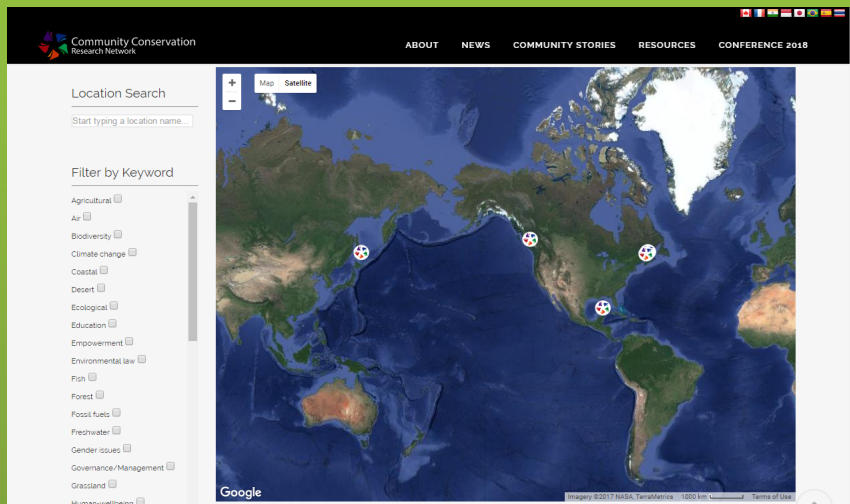
A World of Communities, Conservation & Livelihoods

Around the world, local communities are working hard to keep their environment healthy and their economy and livelihoods sustainable.

What is “Communities in Action”?

An online initiative to showcase these experiences of local communities working to protect their environment and their livelihoods.

An interactive map highlighting the global extent of community conservation.



To submit a community story to
Communities in Action, go to:

www.CommunityConservation.net

