

**INTERNATIONAL OCEAN INSTITUTE**



## **FINAL REPORT**



**5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

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**Photo credits:** Andrew Williamson (workshop), Mirella Leis (cover, poster)

## CO-MODERATORS' INTRODUCTIONS



For many years IOI-Canada has attempted to raise scholarship funds to enable Indigenous Canadians to participate in its 8-week, in-person, Ocean Governance Training Program held annually at Dalhousie University. It achieved its first success in 2009 when the (then) Inuit Relations Secretariat (IRS) of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada funded the participation of an Indigenous participant from Iqaluit, Nunavut. It was not until 2018

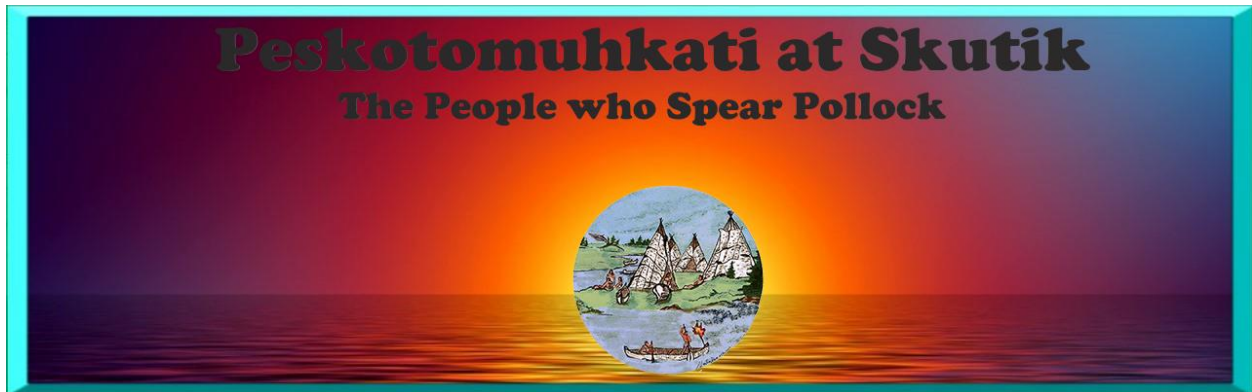
and 2019 that this initial and solitary success was followed by the securing of five scholarships per year, funded by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Indigenous alumni of those two pre-covid training programs, urged IOI-Canada to plan and deliver Ocean Governance training specifically designed with and for Indigenous peoples, with an emphasis on the integration of Indigenous knowledge systems and western science. The innovative design and delivery of the “Summit of the Bay” conference, focused on the southern Bay of Fundy and organized by the Peskotomuhkatk Nation in March of 2022, was a further encouragement.

The current political and social climate of reconciliation has facilitated this endeavour. With funding from both the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Ocean Science and Research Foundation, and with the generous support and guidance of the Indigenous peoples and organisations of the Wabanaki, a 5-day “Ocean Governance for Indigenous Peoples” workshop was held in Halifax from Dec. 5-9, 2022. Fifteen members of the Mi’kma’ki, Wolasyoqiyik and Peskotomuhkatk First Nations attended as workshop participants. Others participated as speakers, as the workshop co-moderator and the ceremonial leader. We were particularly fortunate that Chief Hugh Akagi of the Peskotomuhkatk Nation and Catherine Martin, Director of Indigenous Community Engagement at Dalhousie University, agreed to fulfill the latter two roles.

The December workshop was preceded by two planning sessions which proved to be absolutely essential. The first session was held on-line in September and the second in-person in November. The majority of the participants were Indigenous, from the First Nations of the Maritime region. IOI-Canada also benefitted from numerous individual briefing sessions, that greatly supplemented the group planning meetings. Only with this individual and group guidance was the workshop successfully delivered. “One proceeds at the speed of trust” was an early admonition that proved to be essential to facilitate IOI-Canada’s steep and very necessary learning curve.

IOI-Canada is looking forward to an anticipated de-briefing session that will help to determine the possibility of further Ocean Governance training workshops for Indigenous participants of this region and perhaps elsewhere in Canada.

**Michael J.A. Butler, Director, IOI-Canada**



As I agreed to assist in the planning exercise to incorporate Native content into the IOI course offered through Dalhousie University in Halifax, I have also agreed to provide a summary of what I observed through participation at the event itself, including the opportunity to co-facilitate and present, throughout.

My initial introduction to this course was an understanding that this all came about as a vision of Elisabeth Mann Borgese whose personal dedication to the world oceans has contributed greatly to bringing awareness to the plight of our Oceans seeking solutions through “governance, management, education, training, research and outreach”.<sup>1</sup>

My contribution would entail a different approach to the usual or commonly accepted approach of others (both individuals and institutions) which have achieved only limited and moderate success at best. My first suggestion was to involve Native educators who would bring true Native content to the design of the course itself, with powerful traditional values often overlooked as inferior practice when educating youth, especially as compared to the hierarchical standing of today’s academic institutions.

This ‘common’ approach creates a quandary/conflict for Native students wishing to further their education as supplemental to their Native selves and the lessons learned from their own educators the Tribal Elders, often their Grandmothers. The need is to integrate the two systems seamlessly, removing the conflict and this requires a blending of the two education systems (again, a near impossible exercise when one system is given dominance over the other).

The key is in finding individuals and institutions willing to take a chance by trying something different. The beginning for myself was a conversation with a friend who was willing to take such a chance in order to seek success beyond strict academia in a world in which Natives are being invited to take leading roles in the education of their own youth to assure success by removing conflicts and barrier others may not see. This is putting true meaning to words such as reconciliation and sovereignty as others are struggling to define them.

The course included some uncomfortable moments for both participants and presenters, as well as organizers, but these are the ‘growing pains’ that assure success into the future. Here was the

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<sup>1</sup> IOI-Canada pamphlet titled ‘Independent Perspectives on Ocean Affairs’

key to building a course necessary to address one of the greatest problems faced by this world and that is the state of our oceans. We will need to address the ‘tough’ questions and offer ‘unpopular’ solutions if we are to succeed in saving them. Here is the ‘dream’ I understand to be Elisabeth’s plan for healthy oceans in the future.



I will continue to participate if asked and wish to thank those willing to help educate ‘all’ youth using the tools they have, making them available to others who may have so little. Indigenous knowledge is the product of fourteen thousand years of living in a territory (in the case of our Wabanaki Nations, evidenced by archaeological digs throughout) and we measure our success by reading the journals of European ‘discoverers’ who claimed to have found ‘Paradise’ where they could walk on the backs of fish. Now that is a healthy ocean we should all aspire to!

The format used to produce this report is our traditional method of simply ‘telling the story’ as it happened.

**Chief Hugh Akagi of Peskutomakati Peoples**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

IOI-Canada gratefully acknowledges major financial support for this workshop from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans through the Ocean Management Contribution Program, and additional funding from the Ocean Science and Research Foundation. These generous contributions enabled us to organise and deliver the training free of charge.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is the federal lead for managing Canada's fisheries and ocean resources and safeguarding its waters. The department supports economic growth in the marine and fisheries sectors and innovation in areas such as aquaculture and biotechnology. It aims to ensure healthy and sustainable aquatic ecosystems through habitat protection and sound science.

Based in Zurich, the Stiftung für Meereswissenschaft und -forschung (Ocean Science and Research Foundation) is a charitable foundation registered in Switzerland. Its general objective is to promote research in the social and natural sciences pertaining to the ocean by granting financial contributions to appropriate research and training projects.

“Thank you for inviting me to your workshop. I love it.”

*Workshop participant*

In addition to these funders, we would also like to express our deep appreciation and thanks to our Indigenous partners and advisors for their guidance, experience and patience throughout the planning, preparation and delivery of the workshop. Some also contributed as speakers, so to them and all the other individuals who gave presentations, led discussions and assisted on field trips, we extend sincere thanks.

Finally, IOI-Canada would like to express appreciation of its host organisation, [Dalhousie University](#), which has provided crucial in-kind support for more than 40 years. Ocean studies are one of Dalhousie's main focuses and strengths – it was the first university in Canada with an Oceanography Department and subsequent Canadian firsts have been its Marine and Environmental Law Program, its Marine Affairs Program and its undergraduate degree in Ocean Sciences. Linked to its ocean learning, it has also developed a broad range of expertise in ocean research as exemplified by the work of the Ocean Frontier Institute, an inter-university initiative led by Dalhousie.

“It was a great week! I appreciate the organizers and the presenters!! Thank you for having us!!”

*Workshop participant*

“Everything was excellent”

*Workshop participant*

## INTERNATIONAL OCEAN INSTITUTE

IOI-Canada is a leading member of the International Ocean Institute’s network of centres and focal points operating worldwide in over 30 countries. One of the earliest IOI centres to be established, it was set up by Elisabeth Mann Borgese in 1979 soon after she arrived at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and it has been based at the university for the 40+ years since then. It is one of the network’s designated Training Centres.



*IOI-Canada’s home at Dalhousie University*

Registered as the “IOI-Canada Association”, IOI-Canada is a not-for-profit organisation, federally incorporated under the Canada Corporations Act and governed by a Board of Directors. It is guided by the IOI-Canada/Dalhousie Ocean Advisory Committee and staffed by an experienced team of professionals, augmented by Senior Research Fellows who contribute to its activities. IOI-Canada is the regional co-ordinator of the IOI centres in the Americas, namely IOI-Brazil, IOI-Costa Rica, IOI-Cuba and IOI-USA, in addition to the Canadian centre. The international headquarters of the IOI have been located in Malta since being founded in 1972 by Elisabeth Mann Borgese, so 2022 saw the institute marking its [50<sup>th</sup> anniversary](#). Information on IOI headquarters and the network as a whole can be found at [www.ioinst.org](http://www.ioinst.org).

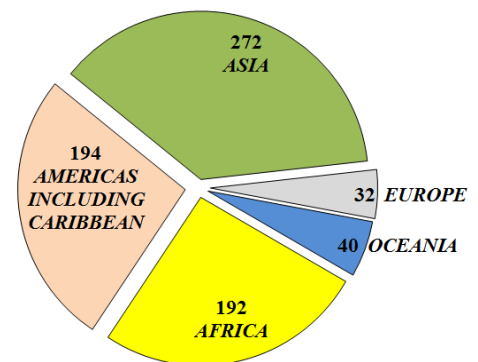


IOI-Canada’s mission is to promote responsible ocean governance and the stewardship and sustainable use of coastal and ocean resources in Canada and around the world. Its goals are to encourage and develop the potential and capacity of individuals, institutions and communities to foster:

- a network of individuals dedicated to effective coastal and ocean governance;
- management, education, training, research and outreach; and,
- sustainable and prosperous coastal communities.

IOI-Canada accomplishes its mission and goals through three main activities: education and training, collaborative research and outreach. The provision of interdisciplinary training is its major focus, and the institute’s flagship course in Halifax has trained nearly 740 individuals from over 100 countries around the globe. IOI-Canada has also collaborated on shorter programmes in several countries and in 2020 it started offering online courses due to covid restrictions on travel and face-to-face (F2F) training. Both alumni and a further 130+ new participants worldwide have been able to benefit from these online courses during the pandemic. The Workshop on Ocean Governance for Indigenous Peoples marked a welcome return to in-person training.

### ALUMNI (F2F) BY REGION



## WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

Planned with and for Indigenous Peoples from Mi'kma'ki, Wolastoqiyik and Peskotomuhkatik (Maritime Provinces), this in-person workshop took place at the Atlantica Hotel in Halifax. Based on guiding principles of Integrity, Reciprocity, Respect and Interaction, the workshop combined presentations, discussions and field trips over the course of a week. Participants were challenged to explore key aspects of Ocean and Coastal Governance through an interdisciplinary approach, with particular attention to Indigenous needs, perspectives and knowledge systems. Topics ranged from law and governance to marine conservation, fisheries management and ocean technology. Indigenous speakers were included among the 14 specialists sharing their knowledge and expertise. The detailed schedule and list of presenters are available below (pp. 9-10, 12-13 respectively).

“I think the format was great.”

*Workshop participant*

Publicity and participant recruitment were undertaken in collaboration with Indigenous partners throughout the region. Given the importance of creating an inclusive forum for learning and sharing perspectives and experiences, the group size was capped at 15, even though this meant having to turn down some applicants. While the majority of participants were Mi'kmaq, there was representation from all three Nations, as well as a good range of different backgrounds and experience. This, combined with the varied line-up of speakers, led to valuable opportunities for networking and exchange both during and beyond the workshop. See below for the participant list (p. 11).

“I am new to fisheries so having people I can reach out to when I have questions is great.”

*Workshop participant*

Field trips were woven into the schedule to complement and enrich the presentations and discussions. A half-day trip out of Halifax to Sustainable Blue Fish Farm in Centre Burlington provided participants with an up-close look at an innovative land-based aquaculture operation,





where Atlantic salmon are raised sustainably in a closed-loop facility. A second field trip took the group to the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic on the Halifax waterfront. A guided tour of the award-winning exhibit *Ta'n me'j Tel-keknuo'tiek: How Unique We Still Are* offered a reflection on the ways that Mi'kmaw people remain connected to the lands and waters of Mi'kma'ki, including personal testimony and individual histories as well as objects, artifacts, images and symbolic artwork.



In addition to creating learning opportunities through presentations and field trips, one of the workshop aims was to provide a useful selection of reference materials on topics relating to ocean and coastal governance, including Indigenous and western approaches. An initial list of recommended resources relevant to the workshop themes was therefore compiled and circulated in advance, including links to publications and videos. Speakers and participants were invited to add to it during the week, and print materials were also showcased in the meeting room. As well as helping provide context to the presentations during the workshop, the intention was to build an interesting selection of resources which could be of value to draw on – and potentially share – after the participants returned to their work, studies and/or communities.



For a short but engaging overview of the workshop in video format, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRx1QerklwM>. Produced by Andrew Williamson (who also provided IT support throughout the week) and funded by the Ocean Science and Research Foundation, this seven-minute video presents footage and interviews from the workshop within the broader context of IOI-Canada's efforts to provide training for Indigenous Canadians.

**SAMPLE PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK**  
(in their own words)

**“What did you like most about the workshop?”**

Open dialogue with fellow first nations individuals and allies

I liked the presentations and discussions that resulted from them.

I loved the communication between the participants. There was excellent Dialogue and information shared.

Informal, field trips

feeling comfortable to speak and ask questions

The gathering of the Mikmaq people from all provinces. Good representation. It was great to meet people who work in the same field in different parts of Mikmaki

Meeting with other Indigenous peoples

Everything it was excellent

**“What, if anything, will you take from the course and actually USE. in your work/studies/community?”**

The importance of this type of work. Also the relationships between all communities and organizations despite provincial boundaries

Resources, training opportunities

The breakdown of Laws and Treaties. The breakdown of information on MPA's. Contacts. Shelly Denny's presentation on Indigenous Governance Structures.

The information we received from Dr. Shelley Denny.

building partnerships and helping other originations with two-eyed seeing

The networking was the most valuable part of the workshop in terms of what I'll take back to my job

## SCHEDULE



<i>Guiding principles:</i> <i>Integrity, Reciprocity, Respect, Interaction</i>		
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>DAY 1: SETTING THE CONTEXT</b>		
9.00 – 10.30	Ceremony including smudging, drumming Getting acquainted Setting the scene: history, relationships, connections with ocean Introduction to Ocean Governance	Ms Cathy Martin Chief Hugh Akagi Mr Michael Butler
Break		
10.45 – 12.00		
Lunch		
1.00 – 2.45	Legal context (from international to local): law, treaties, acts	Ms Rosalie Francis
Break		
3.00 – 4.15		
<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>DAY 2: CONSERVATION &amp; SUSTAINABILITY</b>		
9.00 – 10.30	Marine conservation tools, approaches, concepts (western and Indigenous)	Mr Derek Fenton Ms Sherilyn Young
Break		
10.45 – 12.00		
Lunch		
12.30 – 5.30	Field trip: Sustainable Blue Fish Farming, Centre Burlington	Ms Rosie Stopford

<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December</b>		
<b>DAY 3: OCEAN HEALTH &amp; FISHERIES MANAGEMENT</b>		
9.00 – 10.30	Challenges and threats to ocean health and governance	Mr Kerry Prosper
Break		
10.45 – 12.00		
Lunch		
1.00 – 2.45	Fisheries Management: regional fisheries management organisations, stock assessment (salmon) and rehabilitation, including Indigenous management concepts	Mr Fred Kingston Ms Sarah Tuziak Chief Hugh Akagi Mr Glenn Page
Break		
3.00 – 4.30		
Evening	Group dinner	
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December</b>		
<b>DAY 4: POLITICAL LANDSCAPE</b>		
9.00 – 10.30	Key political issues: history, Indian Act Indigenous organisations, Pathways for change e.g. Two-Eyed Seeing	Dr Shelley Denny
Break		
10.45 – 12.00		
Lunch		
1.00 – 3.30	Field trip: Maritime Museum of the Atlantic	Dr Roger Marsters Mr Jason Climie
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December</b>		
<b>DAY 5: LOOKING TO THE FUTURE</b>		
9.00 – 10.30	Future opportunities: ocean technology, blue economy, renewable energy	Ms Elisa Obermann
Break		
10.45 – 12.00	Closing: reflection - talking circle, relationships, lessons learned, feedback	Ms Cathy Martin Chief Hugh Akagi Mr Michael Butler
Lunch		
1.00 – 2.00	Closing (cont.), Ceremony, drumming, certificates	Ms Cathy Martin Chief Hugh Akagi Mr Michael Butler

## PARTICIPANTS



**Ms Anita Jean Abram**, Student, Cape Breton University; former snow crabber

**Mr Levi Denny**, Aquatic Scientist & Indigenous Partnership and Research Project Coordinator, Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources

**Ms Dani Deonarine**, Marine Biologist, Peskotomuhkati Nation at Skutik

**Ms Tamara Joseph**, Fisheries Researcher, Mi'gmawe'l Tplu'taqnn

**Ms Malian Levi**, Fisheries Director, Mi'gmawe'l Tplu'taqnn

**Mr Mattie Martin**, Whale Safety Gear Coordinator, Millbrook First Nation Fisheries

**Ms Melissa Moody**, Fisheries Program Coordinator, Mi'gmawe'l Tplu'taqnn

**Mr Jarrett Paul**, Environmental Monitor, Peskotomuhkati Nation at Skutik

**Mr Judd Poulette**, Native Student Advisor, Annapolis Valley Regional Centre for Education

**Ms Jade Robinson**, Fisheries Coordinator, Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat

**Mr Zachary Sabeau**, Renewable Energy Engagement Coordinator, Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq

**Mr Josh Sack**, FSM Community Liaison, DARFM, Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq

**Mr Roger Sark**, Commercial Fishery Outreach Liaison Coordinator, Maliseet Nation Conservation Council

**Ms Alanna Syliboy**, Culture, Education and Engagement Manager, DARFM, Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq

**Mr Esmond Vautour**, Fisherman; worker at Coastal Shell

## SPEAKERS



**Chief Hugh Akagi (Co-moderator)**, Skutik Community Chief & Executive President, Peskotomuhkati Nation at Skutik

**Mr Michael Butler (Co-moderator)**, Director, IOI-Canada, Dalhousie University

**Mr Jason Climie**, Staff Member, VET, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

**Dr Shelley Denny**, Director of Aquatic Research and Stewardship, Unuma'ki Institute of Natural Resources

**Mr Derek Fenton**, Section Head, Marine Conservation Section, Marine Planning and Conservation Program, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Bedford Institute of Oceanography

**Ms Rosalie Francis**, Indigenous Lawyer, RFrancis Law; & Member of Board of Governors, Gorsebrook Research Institute, Saint Mary's University

**Mr Fred Kingston**, Executive Secretary, Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization

**Dr Roger Marsters**, Curator, Marine History, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

**Ms Cathy Martin**, Director, Indigenous Community Engagement, Office of the Vice-Provost, Equity and Inclusion, Dalhousie University

**Ms Elisa Obermann**, Executive Director, Marine Renewables Canada

**Mr Kerry Prosper**, Member, Band Council of Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation

**Ms Rosie Stopford**, Aquaculture Supervisor, Sustainable Blue

**Dr Sarah Tuziak**, Integrated Planning Biologist, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Bedford Institute of Oceanography

**Ms Sherilyn Young**, Consultation Project Support Officer Coordinator, Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn



# Wela'lioq

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**International Ocean Institute – Canada**



**SAVE THE DATE!**

# **INDIGENOUS OCEAN GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP**

**When:** Monday 5th - Friday 9th December 2022

**Where:** Atlantica Hotel, 1980 Robie Street, Halifax

**What:** A free interdisciplinary workshop, planned for and with Indigenous Peoples, focusing on key aspects of Ocean and Coastal Governance with particular attention to Indigenous needs, perspectives and knowledge systems

**For:** Up to 15 Indigenous participants from Mi'kma'ki, Wolastoqiyik and Peskotomuhkatik (Maritime Provinces)

**Includes:** Accommodation, transportation, meals, certificate upon completion

**For more information:** [ioi@dal.ca](mailto:ioi@dal.ca) / 902 494 1977 / [www.dal.ca/ioihfx](http://www.dal.ca/ioihfx)

Funded by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Ocean Science and Research Foundation

Photo credit: Mirilla Lee