



INTERNATIONAL OCEAN INSTITUTE



FINAL REPORT



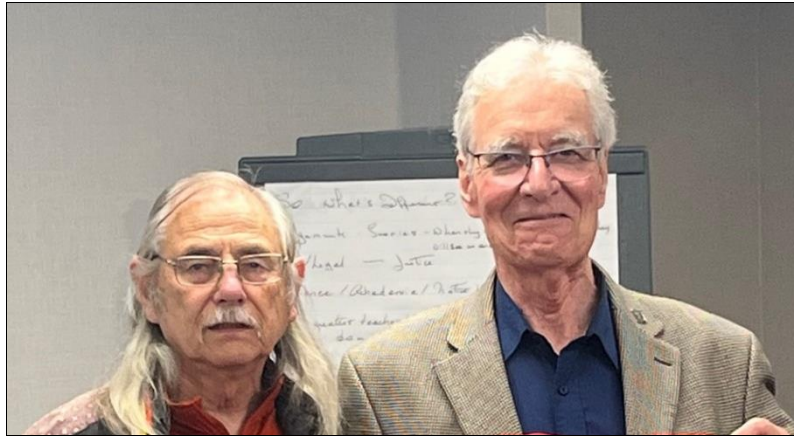
23rd – 27th October 2023

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CO-MODERATORS' INTRODUCTIONS



The idea of a workshop was prompted by the Indigenous alumni of IOI-Canada's eight-week international Ocean Governance Training Programs in 2018 and 2019. These globally recognized programs have been offered annually at Dalhousie University since 1981. The Indigenous alumni of those two pre-covid years suggested a course or workshop dedicated to the specific needs of First Nations. Thanks to the generous support of DFO, with additional funds from IOI-Headquarters, this became a reality in 2022 with our first workshop on Ocean Governance for Indigenous Peoples (December 5-9) and a second from October 23-27 of this year.

IOI-Canada, the 2023 workshop participants and the lecture team were honored by the presence of the Mi'kmaq Grand Chief Norman Sylliboy. He not only opened this year's workshop with due ceremony, but also stayed with us for two days and contributed his Nation's wisdom. In addition, Chief Hugh Akagi of the Peskotomuhkati First Nation kindly agreed to co-moderate the proceedings and sensitively guided us throughout the five-day program, as he did for the first workshop in December, 2022.

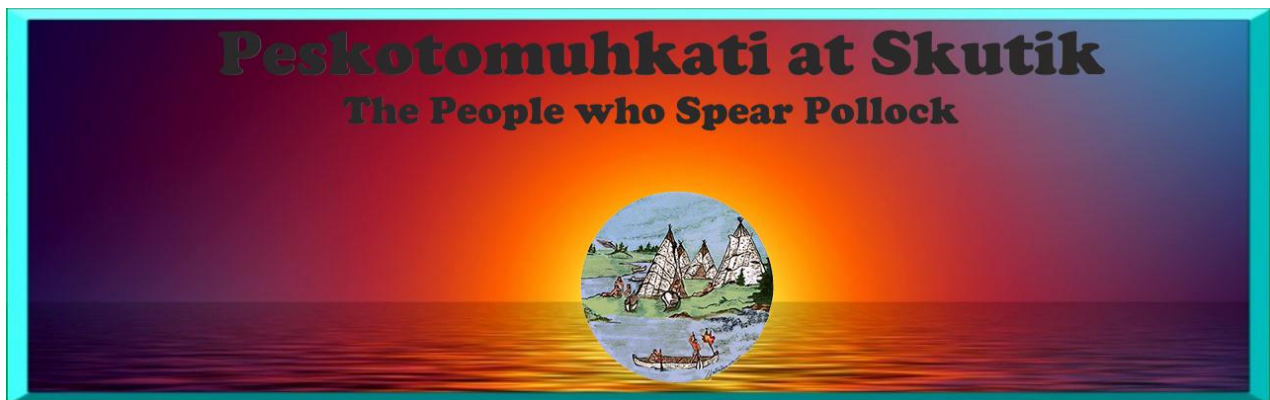
Although two workshops have now been delivered and considerable experience gained, there remains much to be learned by IOI-Canada. The challenge of fully appreciating the precise needs of the Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqey and Peskotomuhkati Nations, and presenting the required material in a culturally appropriate manner, requires ongoing consultation with Indigenous colleagues. Their generosity of time, knowledge and spirit has been exemplary and without it, the workshops would not have achieved their modest success. Equally challenging is the mode of presentation of the Federal and/or Provincial government perspectives or mandates (e.g. the current legal regimes, commercial species management, restoration programs etc.), in a manner that will encourage a constructive dialogue. This, hopefully, may contribute to the eventual establishment of mutually acceptable management regimes for species or territory of particular importance to First Nations.

The analysis of the information derived from the questionnaire, completed by participants after the workshop, will guide any future endeavours. The encouragement of a constructive dialogue that encompasses First Nation and Federal/Provincial government concepts of coastal and ocean

governance, while upholding Treaty Rights and the spirit of reconciliation, requires patience, much thought and planning. The suggestion of an Indigenous facilitator to promote discussion will be considered, as will the location, title, length and content of any future workshop.

The two workshops have hopefully indicated a way forward as we continue to seek the ambitious guiding principles of Integrity, Reciprocity, Respect and Interaction. These can only be achieved with the continuing advice from the workshop participants, the lecturers, and the guidance of other Indigenous colleagues. They have all stayed with us as we continue to climb the challenging “learning curve” while “proceeding at the speed of trust.”

Michael J.A. Butler
Director, IOI-Canada



This year’s workshop had the added dimension of an opening presentation by the Mi’kmaq Grand Chief, Norman Sylliboy. His presence and words of wisdom would set the tone for the rest of the week, which would resonate well beyond the end of the course, and have a visible effect on all the participants.

The attendees, and the fact that there was a need to turn some aside, speaks well to the success of this year’s event. A word spreads, I have also spoken to others who have heard and are already making plans for next year’s event.

It has been an honour and a privilege to be part of such a truly collaborative effort with IOI and the dedicated staff who have a real appreciation for reconciliation.

Hugh M. Akagi
Chief of the Peskotomuhkati Peoples

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

IOI-Canada acknowledges that we are located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People, living under a Treaty of Peace and Friendship of which we are part.

We also wish to acknowledge major financial support for this workshop from [Fisheries and Oceans Canada](#) (DFO) through its Ocean Management Contribution Program. Fisheries and Oceans Canada 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. Additional funding was provided from [IOI Headquarters](#), based in Malta. These generous contributions enabled us to organise and deliver the training free of charge.

“Overall a great workshop with amazing presenters. Thank you!”

Workshop participant

“Thanks for the opportunity for gaining much more knowledge towards my Mi'kmaq culture.”

Workshop participant

In addition to these funders, we would 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.

“Hope you have another one in the near future”

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 c.45 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. The international headquarters of the IOI have been located in Malta since being founded in 1972 by Elisabeth Mann Borgese, so the institute recently marked its 50th anniversary. Information on IOI headquarters and the network as a whole can be found at www.ioinst.org.

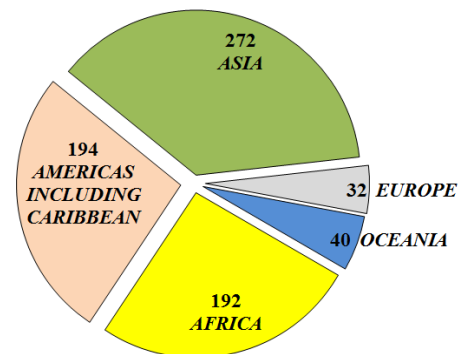


IOI-Canada’s mission is to promote responsible ocean governance and the stewardship and sustainable use of coastal and ocean resources in Canada and around the world. Its goals are to encourage and develop the potential and capacity of individuals, institutions and communities to foster:

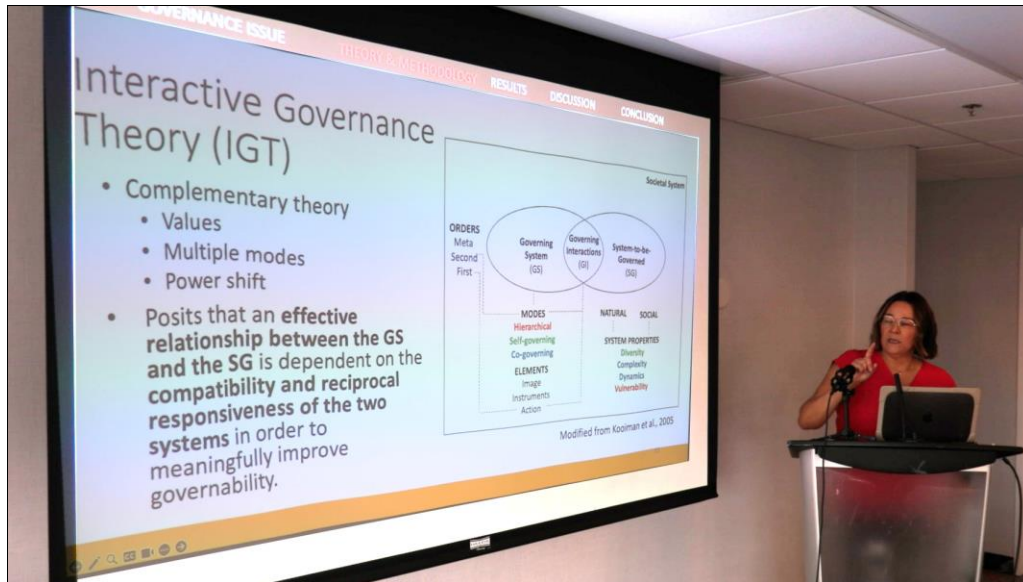
- a network of individuals dedicated to effective coastal and ocean governance;
- management, education, training, research and outreach; and,
- sustainable and prosperous coastal communities.

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 training. Both alumni and a further 200 or so new participants worldwide have been able to benefit from these online courses during the pandemic. The 2022 Workshop on Ocean Governance for Indigenous Peoples marked a welcome return to in-person training.

ALUMNI OF FLAGSHIP COURSE 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 UNDRIP to conservation, health of the ocean and alternative energy, with a day and a half on fisheries and aquaculture including species of particular relevance, e.g. salmon and lobsters. A total of 27 speakers, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, shared their knowledge and expertise. The detailed schedule and list of presenters are available below (pp. 8-9, 11-12 respectively).

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. 10).

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 salmon are raised in a unique saltwater closed-loop, land-based facility, discharging zero effluent back into the environment.



A second afternoon field trip took the group to the Halifax waterfront. At the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic the participants had guided tours of both the award-winning exhibit *Ta'n me'j Tel-keknuo'ltiek: How Unique We Still Are* – offering a reflection on the ways that Mi'kmaw people remain connected to the lands and waters of Mi'kma'ki – and the extensive archives and library. They then toured the CSS Acadia, with its long history of hydrographic and oceanographic research, as well as the innovative boat building facility, which provided an interesting learning experience.

This was followed by a visit to the nearby Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO). Here the participants enjoyed welcome hospitality and an informative presentation on the important work of this intergovernmental fisheries science and management body. This involves regulated fisheries that take place beyond the EEZ of coastal states, specifically groundfish, shrimp and pelagic redfish.



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.



SAMPLE PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

(in their own words)

“What did you like most about the workshop?”

The discussions after each presentation. Though I may not have spoken out as much as I could, I still enjoyed seeing how each representative from their respective discipline handled themselves with questions from our neighboring nations.

The fact that most of the presentations were done by First Nations.

Attending the salmon farm

Everything!

Indigenous presenters, story-telling and the field trip to the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

I liked the field trips most.

Meeting with others from other communities. Making new friends in you field.

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

I have fished my whole life but when I went to school I did not study aquatics so I never thought I could speak on it. Now that I have this experience to draw on I am confident I will speak out more

I have more knowledge on Ocean governance, Two eyed seeing for a science perspective.

Traditional story telling is always a definite share for me. The presentations were great and provided me with more contacts to share with all Wolastoqey Nation

Just to meet more people that share your cause.

Everything

I will incorporate information I learned about fisheries and governance into my work

SCHEDULE



<i>Guiding principles:</i>		
<i>Integrity, Reciprocity, Respect, Interaction</i>		
<i>Registration and Meet & Greet: 5.00-7.00 p.m. on Sunday. Late registration: from 8.30 a.m. on Monday.</i>		
DAY 1 Monday 23rd October		
9.00 – 10.30	Opening Ceremonies	Grand Chief Norman Sylliboy Chief Hugh Akagi Ms Cathy Martin (via Zoom) Mr Michael Butler
<i>Break</i>		
10.45 – 12.00		
<i>Lunch</i>		
1.00 – 2.45	Introduction to Ocean Governance, Law of the Sea, UNDRIP, Laws, Treaties, Acts and Social Equity	Ms Rosalie Francis Dr Sherry Pictou
<i>Break</i>		
3.00 – 4.30		
DAY 2 Tuesday 24th October		
9.00 – 10.30	History, Archaeology, Legends and Oral Traditions	Mr Kerry Prosper Chief Hugh Akagi
<i>Break</i>		
10.45 – 11.30		
<i>Lunch</i>		
12.30 – 5.30	Field trip: Sustainable Blue Fish Farming, Centre Burlington	Mr David Roberts Mr Justin Rogers

DAY 3 Wednesday 25th October		
9.00 – 10.30	Salmon Governance, Restoration and Conservation	Chief Hugh Akagi Dr Shelley Denny Mr Barry Labillois Mr Donald Humphrey
<i>Break</i>		
10.45 – 12.00		
<i>Lunch</i>		
1.00 – 2.45	Rights-based Fisheries: Lobsters and Eels	Dr Shelley Denny Dr Courtenay Parlee (via Zoom) Dr Jill Campbell-Miller
<i>Break</i>		
3.00 – 4.30		
DAY 4 Thursday 26th October		
9.00 – 10.30	Indigenous Protected and Conservation Areas (IPCAs)	Ms Leah McConney Mr Darran O’Leary Ms Sherilyn Young (via Zoom)
<i>Break</i>		
10.45 – 11.30		
<i>Lunch</i>		
1.00 – 4.30	Field trip (Halifax waterfront): <u>Maritime Museum of the Atlantic</u> <u>Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization</u>	Dr Roger Marsters Ms Amber Laurie Ms Ellen McLaren Ms Brynhildur Benediktsdóttir Ms Jana Aker Mr Tom Blasdale
DAY 5 Friday 27th October		
9.00 – 10.30	Health of the Ocean and Us	Dr Peter Wells
<i>Break</i>		
10.45 – 11.30	Future Opportunities: Offshore Wind	Mr Jim Wooder (via Zoom) Ms Victoria Watson (via Zoom)
11.30 – 12.15	Future Opportunities: Tidal Power	Ms Sandra Currie
<i>Lunch</i>		
12.30 – 1.30	Debrief, Closing Ceremonies and Awarding of Certificates	Chief Hugh Akagi Mr Michael Butler

PARTICIPANTS



Ms Kianna Bear-Hetherington, Fisheries Technician, Wolastoqey Nation in New Brunswick

Mr Allison Bernard, Wildlife Lead, Kwilmu'kw Maw-Kluswaqn Negotiation Office

Ms Jerrylee Dennis, Species at Risk, Eskasoni Fish and Wildlife Commission

Ms Shae Denny, Aquatics Research Manager, Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources

Mr Seth Doucette, Research Technologist, Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources

Mr William Francis, Manager of Indigenous Fisheries, Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq

Ms Cheryl Gehue, Director Indigenous Relations, Clearwater Seafood

Mr Ryle Googoo, Fishery Guardian, We'koqma'q First Nation

Mr Jordan Marshall, Land Guardian, Eskasoni Fish and Wildlife Commission

Ms Amy Moulton, Treaty Related Measures, Wolastoqey Nation in New Brunswick

Ms Wendy Narvey, Fisheries Consultation Coordinator, Mi'gmawel Tplu'taqnn

Mr Darran O'Leary, Lands Manager and IPCA Lead, Peskotomuhkati Nation at Skutik

Mr Jason Pierro, Fishery Guardian, Wagmatcook First Nation

Mr Harry Sappier, Programs Director, Peskotomuhkati Nation at Skutik

Ms Brontë Thomas, Aquatic Resource Technician, Peskotomuhkati Nation at Skutik

SPEAKERS

Chief Hugh Akagi (workshop co-moderator), Skutik Community Chief & Executive President, [Peskotomuhkati Nation at Skutik](#)

Ms Jana Aker, Fisheries Management Coordinator, [Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization](#)

Ms Brynhildur Benediksdóttir, Executive Secretary, [Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization](#)

Mr Tom Blasdale, Scientific Council Coordinator, [Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization](#)

Mr Michael Butler (workshop co-moderator), Director, [IOI-Canada](#), Dalhousie University

Dr Jill Campbell-Miller, Policy Analyst, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, [Bedford Institute of Oceanography](#) & Adjunct Professor, [Department of History](#), Saint Mary's University

Ms Sandra Currie, Facilities Manager, [Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy \(FORCE\)](#)

Dr Shelley Denny, Senior Advisor, [Unuma'ki Institute of Natural Resources](#); & Adjunct Professor, [Marine Affairs Program](#), Dalhousie University

Ms Rosalie Francis, Indigenous Lawyer, [RFrancis Law](#); & Member of Board of Governors, [Gorsebrook Research Institute](#), Saint Mary's University

Mr Donald Humphrey, Acting Director, Ecosystems Management, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, [Bedford Institute of Oceanography](#)

Mr Barry Labillois, former Chief & President, [New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council](#)

Ms Amber Laurie, Assistant Curator/Registrar, Marine History, [Maritime Museum of the Atlantic](#)

Dr Roger Marsters, Curator, Marine History, [Maritime Museum of the Atlantic](#)

Ms Cathy Martin (via Zoom), Director, Indigenous Community Engagement, [Office of the Vice-Provost, Equity and Inclusion](#), Dalhousie University

Ms Leah McConney, Oceans Biologist, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, [Bedford Institute of Oceanography](#)

Ms Ellen McLaren, Shipkeeper, CSS Acadia, [Maritime Museum of the Atlantic](#)

Mr Darran O'Leary, Lands Manager and IPCA Lead, [Peskotomuhkati Nation at Skutik](#) and workshop participant

Dr Courtenay Parlee (via Zoom), Policy Advisor, Strategic/Fisheries Policy, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, [Bedford Institute of Oceanography](#)

Dr Sherry Pictou, Honorary District Chief, [Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq](#); Associate Professor of Law and Management & Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Governance, [Schulich School of Law](#) and [Faculty of Management](#), Dalhousie University

Mr Kerry Prosper, Member, [Band Council of Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation](#) & Knowledge Keeper on Campus, [St Francis Xavier University](#)

Mr David Roberts, Chief Sustainability Officer, [Sustainable Blue](#) Fish Farming

Mr Justin Rogers, Process Engineer, [Sustainable Blue](#) Fish Farming

Grand Chief Norman Sylliboy, Mi'kmaq Grand Council

Ms Victoria Watson (via Zoom), Project Manager, [Net Zero Atlantic](#)

Dr Peter Wells, Senior Research Fellow, [IOI-Canada](#) & Adjunct Professor, [Marine Affairs Program](#), Dalhousie University

Mr Jim Wooder (via Zoom), Offshore Wind Community Liaison, [Unuma'ki Institute of Natural Resources](#)

Ms Sherilyn Young (via Zoom), Consultation Project Support Officer Coordinator, [Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn](#)

Wela'liog. Woliwon. Thank you.

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