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West Coast Aquatic Marine Planning Approach: Integrating Cultural Ecosystem Services

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INTEGRATING CULTURAL ECOSYSTEM SERVICES INTO PLANNING & MANAGEMENT
Presentation Overview

From Mistrust to Data to Decisions…

What are we really talking about?

What is the context for this work?

How does WCA go from mistrust to data to decisions?
What are we really talking about?

- When you talk about cultural ecosystems, you are talking about people’s and other species homes; you are talking about their sustenance, identity, sense of belonging, and other basic human needs.

- When you talk about services, you are talking about access to and ownership of resources— the basis for most wars and almost all foreign policy.

- When you are talking about data, you are talking about people’s stories, their knowledge, their intellectual property.

- When you are talking about decisions, you are talking about self-determination, autonomy, and the future.
What is the context for this work?

- Mistrust from historical events is still alive; and similar dynamics are still at play.
- Information is part of communication. What is the relationship between the people communicating? Who is the messenger? What is the medium? What is the message? What is the context and circumstances for the communication?
- Which culture? What cultural baseline?
- How do we account for fundamentally different worldviews?
What is the context for this work?

- What happens when cultures value the same service, but clash about its allocation and use?
- How are trade-offs made between different cultural values (economic, social, ecological?)
- Aren’t cultural, economic, ecological and other values and services really all the same thing? What happens when we describe them as being separate?
- Culture is anthropogenic and changing; is the goal to protect traditional CES areas, or is it adaptive?
How did WCA address these issues?

I. Governance

- Initiative came from the people of the place
- Focused on governance first
  - Guiding principles
  - Shared decision-making structure and process
  - Mandate
  - Empowerment
How did WCA address these issues?

I. Governance

- Relationship Building, Protocols, and Data Sharing Agreements
- Na-a-qu’us people from each community in the communities
- Agreement on Coastal Strategy
  - Vision
  - Values
  - Goals and Objectives
  - Priority Issues and Action Areas, including spatial planning, ec dev, salmon, monitoring, and other issues.
How did WCA address these issues?

II. Data Gathering

- Several years of personal interviews and meetings included questions touching on the importance of cultural ecosystem services in the area.

- Results helped inform the development of vision, values, goals and objectives which provide direction to the development and ongoing management of marine planning.
How did WCA address these issues?

II. Data Gathering

- Collected spatial data and details about areas that represent culturally important areas or cultural services (ie. Important swimming areas, important beach location to land kayaks/canoes in an otherwise already heavily used/tenured area, areas with important viewscapes, areas with important and accessible clam harvest areas, important First Nation cultural use areas).

- The seascape is a rich cultural environment, making it difficult for people to answer questions in a segregated way.
How did WCA address these issues?

III. Salmon Planning

- WCA convened and facilitates multi-sector round tables
- Round Tables have developed the first integrated salmon strategies under Canada’s Wild Salmon Strategy.
- Strategies include spatial and other management tools and address resource sharing issues, stewardship, weak stocks, and habitat protection and recovery.
- Round Table builds cross-cultural understanding and respect for diverse values.
- Developed ecosystem service modelling with Natural Capital Project: Marine InVEST tools to help with trade-offs
How did WCA address these issues?

IV. Marine Spatial Planning

- WCA developed an area designation framework
- WCA considers all designations as important to culture and seeks to make them compatible rather than separate them.
- For a healthy culture, the goal is balance, not maximizing any single value at the expense of others.
- There is a “cultural management area” designation which offers ability to highlight and note areas with critical cultural use or importance within an area of many uses and activities/ecosystem services. Tends to reflect cultural ‘sites’.
- Developed ecosystem service modelling with Natural Capital Project: Marine InVEST tools to help with trade-offs
Hishukish Ts’awalk: Everything is One
Iisaak: Respect with Caring
Listening: The Heart is Made Perfect Through the Ear
Uu-a-thluk: To Take Care Of
“We are not the owners of reality. The Creator is the owner of reality. Our role is to remember reality. To keep in balance.”
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