

Changing Resource Monitoring and Stewardship Training Opportunities for First Nations Youth in North-Pacific British Columbia



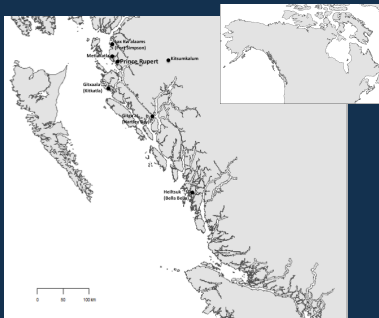
Haley Milko, MRM (Candidate), School of Resource and Environmental Management, Simon Fraser University



Methods

1. Academic and Grey literature review
2. 26 semi-structured interviews and numerous informal conversations with:
 - a) The Coastal Stewardship Network and Ecotrust Canada
 - b) Staff at Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
 - c) First Nations in stewardship and monitoring roles
 - d) First Nations young adults who both have and have not taken stewardship or fisheries monitoring training (offered by Ecotrust Canada, the Coastal Stewardship Network, or DFO)
 - e) Other relevant informants in Prince Rupert and surrounding communities
3. Thematic coding of Interviews in NVivo Qualitative Data Analysis Software

Map of Study Area



Fieldwork was conducted in July-August 2014 in Prince Rupert. Interviews were conducted in person or by telephone with members of the First Nations indicated on the map.

Research Overview

- Aboriginal coastal communities must have access to their traditional livelihoods in order to ensure long-term sustainability of their food, income, cultural identity and community health.
- Changing conditions on the north coast are impacting opportunities for the younger generation to get involved in both the fishing industry and other ocean-related careers.
- Resource monitoring and stewardship roles are a promising entry point for First Nations youth to gain knowledge of their territory, fisheries, and ocean conditions.
- The Coastal Stewardship Network, Ecotrust Canada, and DFO offer opportunities for First Nations to be trained as monitors and/or guardians of their traditional territories, and new opportunities to be trained as environmental monitors are emerging.

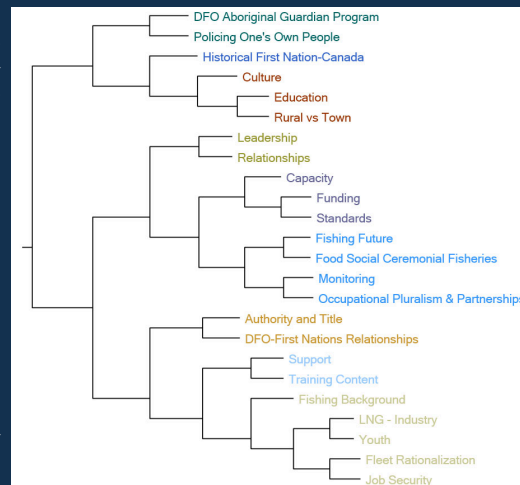
Significance

The research shows how economic and political drivers are changing employment opportunities for First Nations youth on the north coast, evaluates potential entry points for youth seeking to continue working in their traditional territories as monitors or resource guardians, and identifies "best practices" for monitoring and stewardship training programs.

Research Questions

- *How can training in fisheries monitoring and as resource guardians better support First Nations to grow their resource management capacities?*
- *How can monitoring training be designed to best foster job creation for First Nations youth?*
- *What barriers to involvement in ocean-related activities and jobs do First Nations youth on the north pacific coast face?*
- *Of the diverse monitoring options that exist on the north coast, what works best for youth?*

Cluster Analysis: Thematic Coding of Interviews and Fieldnotes



Discussion of Selected Emerging Themes

1. The collapse of the commercial fishing industry negatively impacts Aboriginal Food, Social, and Ceremonial fisheries;
2. Downsizing of the fishing industry impacts opportunities for youth to pursue ocean-related careers due to loss of access to fishing boats;
3. Government funding cuts to DFO and inadequate funding of AFS agreements make it difficult for First Nations to conduct baseline climate change studies and monitor their territories;
4. First Nations and organizations that offer monitoring and stewardship training are experimenting with ways to build a portfolio of skills for youth and create jobs in monitoring;
5. Industrial proposals are changing the landscape of opportunities available to youth
6. Aboriginal epistemologies and pedagogies should form the base of training programs



Next Steps

- Detailed analysis of thematic clusters
- Continued interviews with key informants
- Preparation of draft report to be reviewed by study participants for accuracy