

Session #2 - Spotlight: Why Blending Indigenous and Western Knowledge systems is vital to inform and fuel conservation

Coastal Insights: Eyes on the Coast

Info on our Guest Speakers

Elder Albert Marshall



Albert Marshall is an Elder of the Mi'kmaw Nation of Unama'ki (Cape Breton Island), Nova Scotia. He is the designated voice' on environmental issues for the Mi'kmaw Elders, a fluent speaker of the Mi'kmaw language, and a passionate advocate of Mi'kmaq culture, healing, and reconciliation. He is a proponent of cross-cultural understanding and the creator of the "Two-Eyed Seeing (Etuaptmumk)" concept the idea that combining multiple cultural perspectives will result in clearer focus and better comprehension. He believes that Two-Eyed Seeing is the requisite guiding principle in collaborative/transdisciplinary/transcultural work and integrative science. As collaborative developers and stewards of the Integrative Science program at Cape Breton University, Elders Albert and Murdena spent the better part of two decades working with students, faculty, and researchers

encouraging Etuaptmumk awareness. In 2009, Albert and his wife Murdena were awarded honorary doctorates from Cape Breton University for their efforts promoting and preserving Mi'kmaw culture and language.

For more info on Albert Marshall: <http://www.integrativescience.ca/People/Elders/>
You can view a list of Elder Albert's [presentations, publications, and participation](#).

Andrea Jane Reid



Dr. Andrea Reid is a citizen of the Nisga'a Nation and an Assistant Professor with the University of British Columbia's (UBC) Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries. She will lead the Indigenous Fisheries Research Unit, working to build a national and international hub for the study and protection of culturally significant fish and fisheries. She is also the principal investigator at UBC's new Centre for Indigenous Fisheries. Her research program adopts highly interdisciplinary and applied approaches to improving our understanding of the complex interrelationships between fish, people, and place. Reid's Ph.D. in Biology (Carleton University '20) centered on multiple stressor effects on Pacific salmon, using tools and insights from Western and Indigenous sciences in tandem. Reid is a cofounder of Riparia, a Canadian charity that connects diverse young women with science on the water to grow the next generation of water protectors. She is also a National Geographic Explorer (Grantee '12,'15,'16,'19) and a Fellow of The Explorers Club (FI'19).

Links for more information on Andrea Jane Reid:

- <https://oceans.ubc.ca/andrea-reid/>
- <https://oceans.ubc.ca/centre-for-indigenous-fisheries/>
- <https://www.riparia.ca/>

Follow-up Discussion Questions

As a follow-up to the session, below are some suggested discussion points to start some important discussions/dialogues or research around this topic with your group.

- 1) What are the defining characteristics of two-eyed seeing (i.e. keypoints)?
- 2) Highlight key differences between Indigenous and Western approaches, goals, and perspectives on learning about the natural world around us.
- 3) What are the benefits of using two-eyed seeing? (This can be in general to understand the world around us or specifically to approach stewardship and conservation).
- 4) Find some examples of two-eyed seeing being implemented and applied.
- 5) What are some of the challenges applying this concept may face?
- 6) What are some ways you can bring in different knowledge systems to your own learning?

Resources and links

Two-eyed Seeing (2ES) concept

Online:

- [Albert Marshall explaining the framework of 2ES](#) (2 min video)
- Webinar - [Dialogue 4: Etuaptmumk / Two-Eyed Seeing and Beyond](#) (2 hours)
- [Institute for Integrative Science and Health](#) (2ES) description
- [Integrating Indigenous Epistemologies and Pedagogies into Curriculum Design and Development](#)

Reading List:

- Upper level (Highschool - Adults) - Extensive list of [Resources for further reading](#)
- Paper co-authored by Andrea Jane Reid on Two-eyed seeing in Fisheries - [An Indigenous framework to transform fisheries research and management.](#)