

Thinking with Rivers

Communication for
conservation and sustainability

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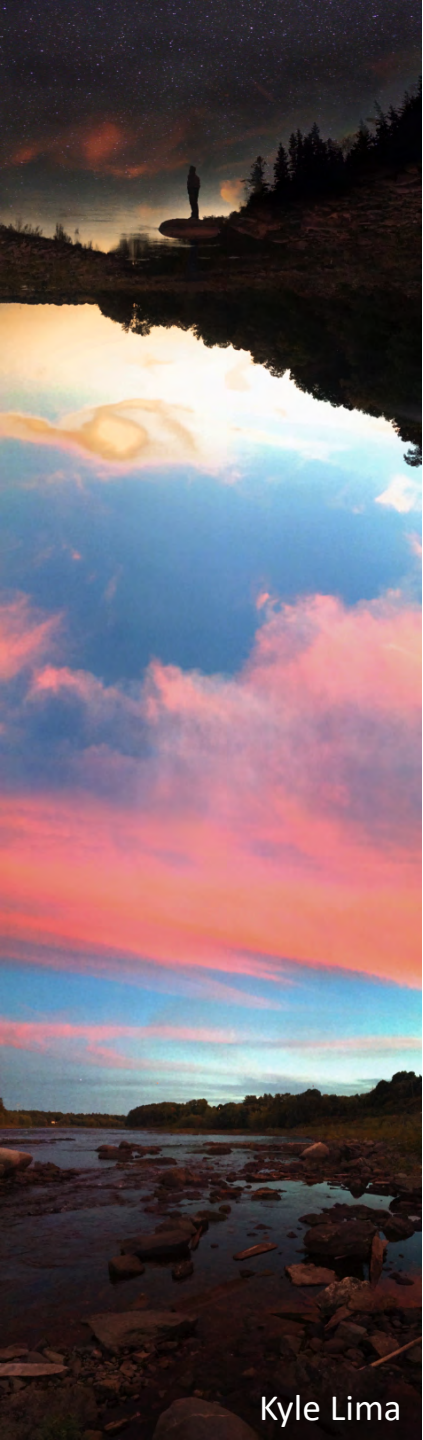
Brawley Benson

Cat Ashcraft

EC CooP

CMJ 407 (Fall 2018)

et al...

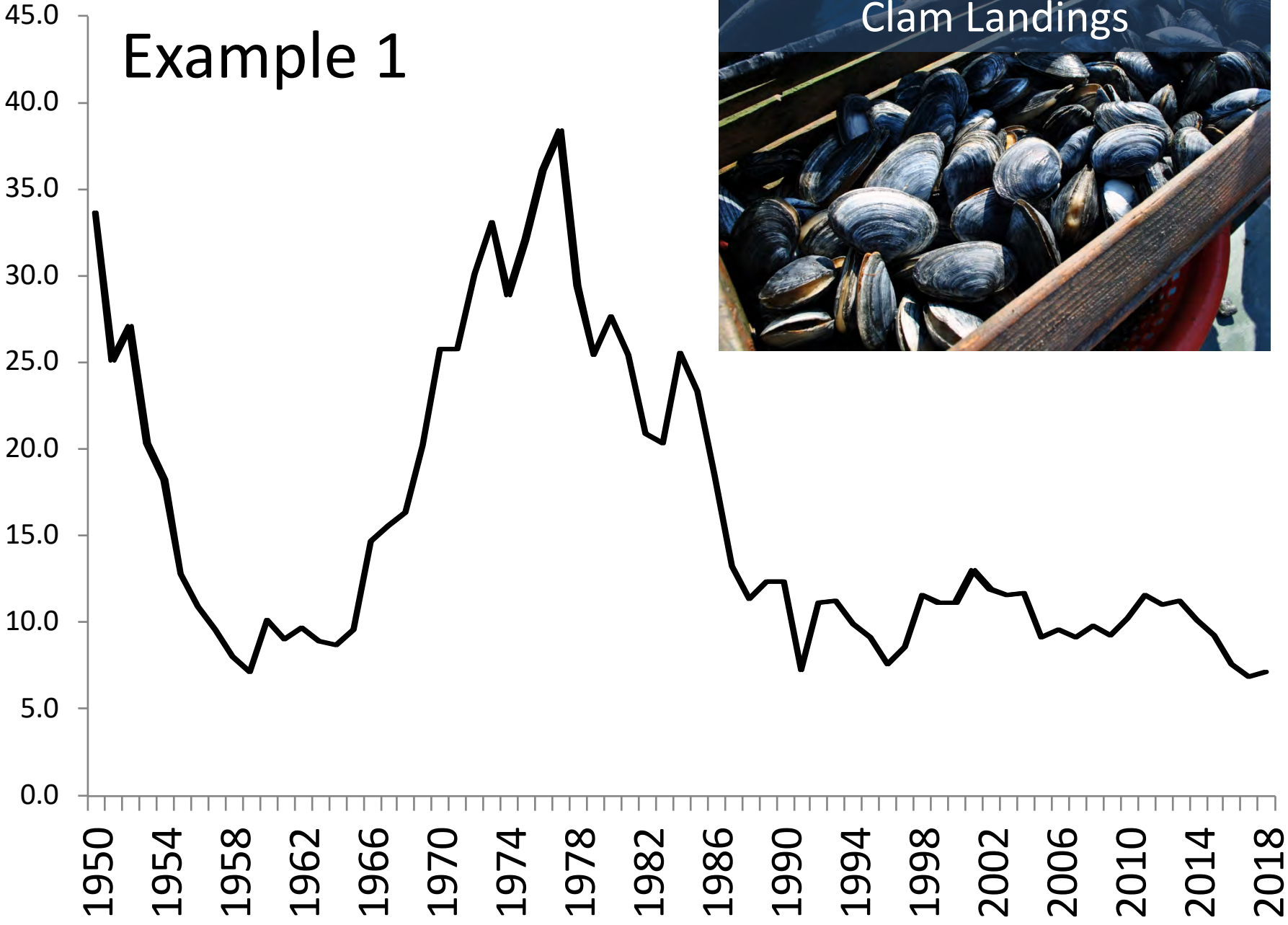


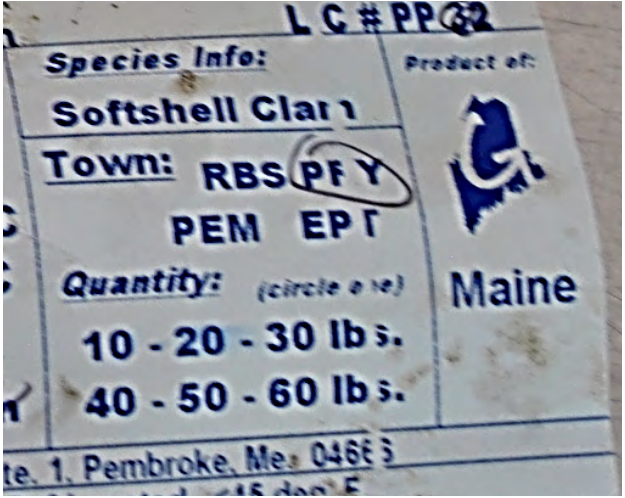
Focus on communication for sustainability efforts: Listening, power, poetry

1. Introductory examples
2. Communication & power
3. Thinking with rivers
4. Return to poetry

Millions of pounds

Example 1

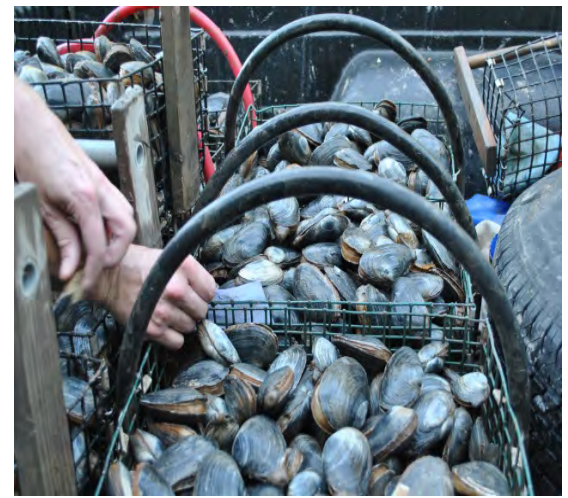




Decline in state license sales



Limited entry



Price fluctuations



Shellfish dealers & power



Fisheries interactions



Equity and well-being

A River Reborn

'Win-win' agreement could lead to removal of two dams on the Penobscot, and restoration of fish runs and nature's balance

BY MISTY EDGECOMB OF THE NEWS STAFF

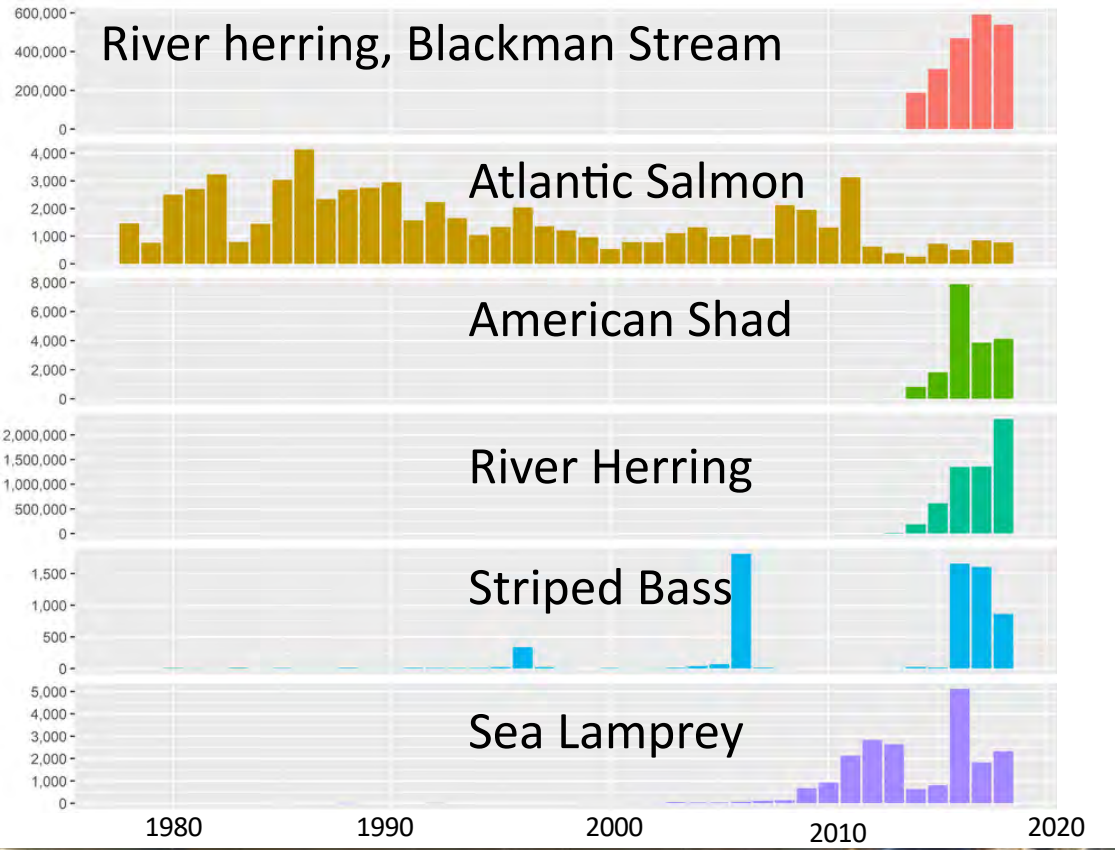
OLD TOWN — In what conservationists are calling the biggest restoration project north of the Everglades, two dams will be removed from the lower Penobscot River.

Representatives of a broad coalition including the Penobscot Nation, environmental groups, state and federal officials and a hydroelectric company gathered on the riverbank Monday morning to celebrate "a historic agreement for a historic river."

For nearly a century, the Penobscot has been a broken river. Water pollution has contaminated fish, and hydroelectric dams have blocked their age-old spawning migrations. More than half of the food chain was simply absent.

Now, fish species that haven't been seen in decades, such as the shortnose sturgeon and blackback herring, may again swim by the Penobscot Nation's tribal lands. In total, 600 miles of habitat will be restored by the Penobscot River Restoration Project that was announced Monday.

"From the tribal perspective, we're looking at this as repairing a circle that had been broken," said John Banks, natural resources director for the Penobscots. "This is it. This is the project that is going to set national precedent."



Example 2



1.2 million river herring @ Milford (2017)

John Burrows

Taking Down Dams and Letting the Fish Flow



LOCAL & STATE >

Posted July 16, 2017 | Updated July 17, 2017

INCREASE FONT SIZE

Maine's river herring making dramatic comeback, a godsend for the food chain

With the path to inland spawning grounds clear, the species rebounds with unexpected speed, benefiting everything from bald eagles to Atlantic cod.

BY COLIN WOODARD STAFF WRITER



Share     



Hat Trick On The Penobscot River: Fewer Dams, Same Energy, More Fish



David Ferris Contributor

Green Tech

I write at the intersection of energy, climate and business.

Today, steel rams will start to break apart an old hydroelectric dam on Maine's longest river, ushering in a restoration project that will keep the electricity flowing while rehabilitating some of the state's most damaged and valuable fisheries, like herring and Atlantic salmon.



— COVER STORY —

Setting rivers free: As dams are torn down, nature is quickly recovering

With the removal of many dams, conservationists are seeing the return of the natural bounty that fed Native Americans and astonished European settlers.

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Challenges



- Complexity
- Uncertainty
- Problem perceptions
- No simple solutions
- Power, colonialism & systemic inequities

Communication and Power

“...as soon as researchers become concerned with *action, decision making, and change*, power can no longer be ignored as it is intimately entwined with the ability to act.”

Van Kerkhoff and Lebel, p. 466



Coastal resilience

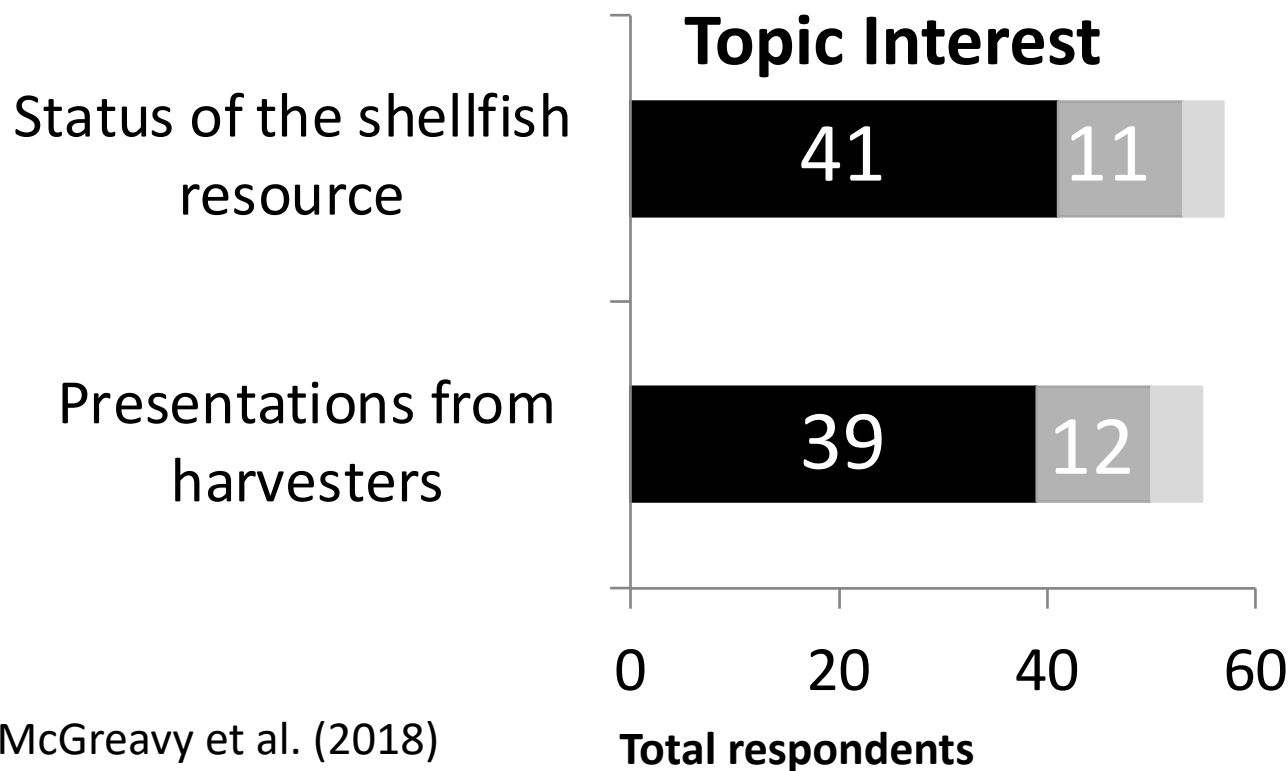


Nolan Altvater

The power of rivers



Shellfish Focus Day



- High
- Moderate
- Low

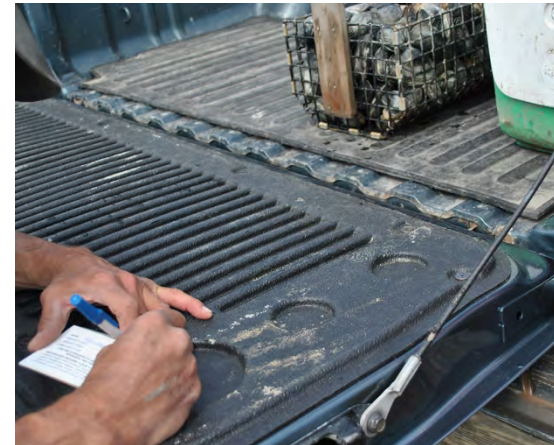
Equity
Learning
Leadership

McGreavy et al. (2018)

CLAM CAM

Exploring clamming on Maine's coast

<http://nest.maine.edu/clamcam>





The clammers have a **substantial, embodied role in shaping how their industry is depicted.** This variation on traditional data generation supports **engaged and ethically mindful research.** Tyler Quiring

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MAY 31, 2017

Maine Food Insider: 'Glam cam' for clams reveals the lives of harvesters



CONTENTS > SEPTEMBER 2017

BANGOR METRO

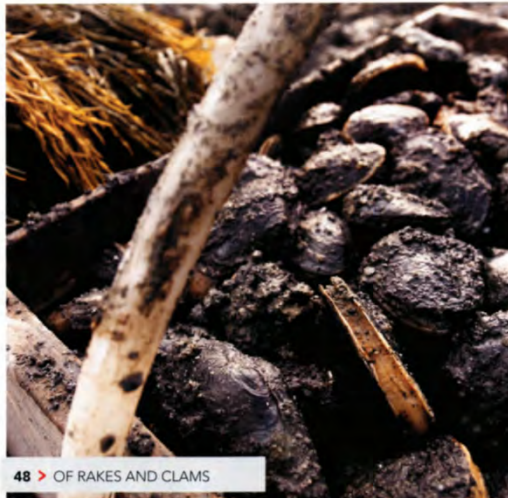
FEATURES

42 > IN CONVERSATION:
EMILY CAIN
The once reluctant politician is making her mark on a national stage

48 > OF RAKES AND CLAMS
Get an inside look at Maine clamming

IN EVERY ISSUE

08 > WHAT'S HAPPENING
Local news & sightings



48 > OF RAKES AND CLAMS

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Coastal Conversations on Soft-Shell Clams

Want to learn about the status of Maine's soft-shell clam population and how communities and harvesters are taking action to help protect this important resource? Listen to the May 25th edition of Maine Sea Grant's *Coastal Conversations* in the WERU audio archives.

Bivalves in Maine

By CINDY HAN • FEB 9, 2018



HTTPS://WWW.FLICKR.COM/PHOTOS/SETHGMACY/

Of the iconic shellfish harvested in Maine, lobsters get the most attention, but bivalves--mussels, clams and oysters--also play a significant role in our state's economy. From climate change to pollutants, what are the primary challenges that affect these industries? What new approaches are bringing opportunities for healthy bivalve harvests?

Guests: Kohl Kanwit, Public Health Bureau director, shellfish sanitation and management, with the Maine Department of Marine Resources

Bridie McCreavy, Assistant Professor, Communication & Journalism at the University of Maine; Center for Sustainability Solutions

Listen 49:52





14 projects

Broad Reach Fund



Maine Shellfish Restoration & Resilience Project

Shellfish Advisory Council & Science Advisory Committee

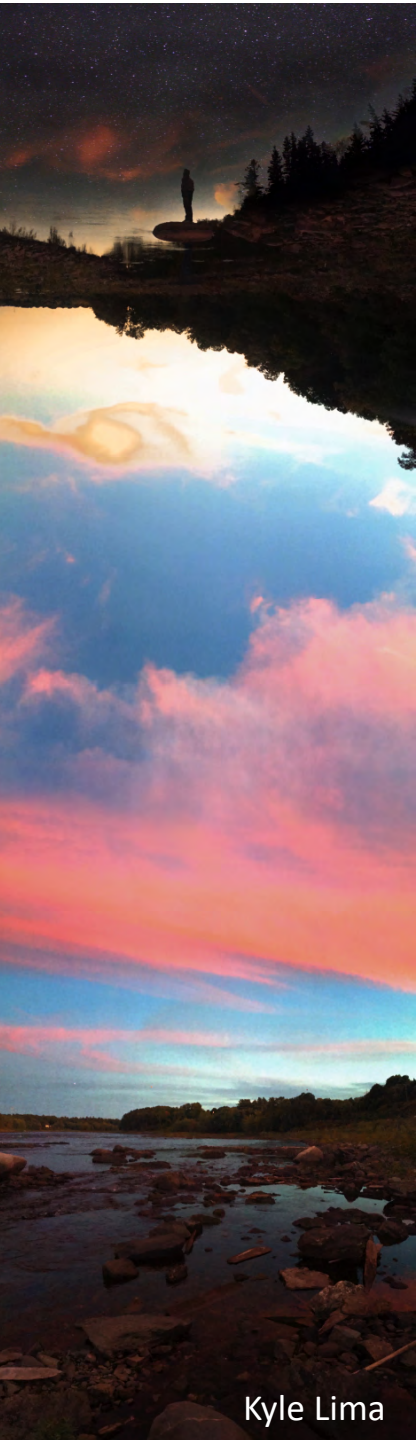
Priority: Harvester and municipal leadership

<https://umaine.edu/shellfish-restoration/>

How do we communicate about rivers, dams, and restoration efforts?



Removing Our Blinders



“Do we want to preserve our humanity? Do we want to preserve our compassion and awareness? Do we want to preserve our connection to the rest of life? Those are the questions that we need to ask ourselves.”

Sherri Mitchell, 2018



Penobscot River

In this photo, a branch of the Penobscot River flows besides the University of Maine football stadium at left, and towards Orono to the right.

Stillwater River

Familiar to all at the University, this branch is commonly referred to as The Stillwater River. Native Americans however, recognize it as part of the Penobscot.

Fisheries

Before the 1830s, no dams were on the Penobscot. Salmon, shad, alewives, striped bass and sturgeon ranged hundreds of miles upstream from the ocean, deep into Maine.

River Tradition

Fresh fish, fiddlehead greens and sweetgrass found along the Penobscot are at the center of rituals celebrated by the both the Wabanaki and Penobscot tribes.



University Land



Indian Island

Most important?

“Communication across cultural boundaries about environmental issues and indigenous rights.”

Thinking with Rivers

Video clip featuring Jan Paul and Angie Reed from the Penobscot Nation, Department of Natural Resources, Water (nəpi) Resources

Available on Vimeo

<https://vimeo.com/333366327>

A person in a blue jacket and dark shorts is walking away from the camera along a grassy riverbank. The river is calm and reflects the surrounding green trees. The sky is overcast. The scene is framed by a large tree branch in the upper right corner. Three semi-transparent blue rectangular boxes with white text are overlaid on the left side of the image.

Think with rivers.

Communicate by
listening.

Create space for
voice.

Thinking *with* rivers



Saco River Story



They Remember Me Still

AKƏLƏPEMO

GUARDS-WATER

Gluskabe Creates the

Penobscot River &

Clan Names of the People

<http://www.penobscotculture.com/>



Margo Lukens and Carol Dana



Tyler Quiring

A person wearing a blue jacket and dark shorts is walking away from the camera on a grassy bank next to a river. The river flows from the left towards the right. In the background, there is a dense forest of green trees. The sky is overcast. The person is carrying a bag. The foreground is filled with tall grass and some purple flowers. A large tree branch hangs over the person from the right. A large rock is visible in the river. The text "Communicate by listening." is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Communicate by
listening.

What does it
mean to listen?





Individual



Solitary



Passive

Technological

Abstract

Hearing





Listening as practice

Contextual

Demonstrated

Cultivating
response-ability

Process

- Ask questions
“Surveys & interviews”
Experiences, needs
- Collaborative media

Technical

- Meeting minutes,
information archives
- Governance
- Decolonizing methods:
<https://bit.ly/2Udr5DZ>



The Future of Dams Project: Governance Statement

[NEST - New England Sustainability Consortium](#)

Abstract

This governance statement sets out shared principles to guide our work and our relationships with each other on the New England Sustainability Consortium's Future Dams project. This is a living document, meant to evolve as our partnership evolves. Rather than offering an exhaustive catalog, this governance statement is meant to serve as a touchstone to prompt important conversations about conduct, conflict resolution, authorship, expectations, data sharing, and assessment.

Publication Date
2017

Document Type
Article

Recommended Citation

NEST - New England Sustainability Consortium, "The Future of Dams Project: Governance Statement" (2017). *New Hampshire EPSCoR*. 1.
https://scholars.unh.edu/nh_epscor/1



Hutchins et al., 2013, Meadows (n.d.)

Embodied listening

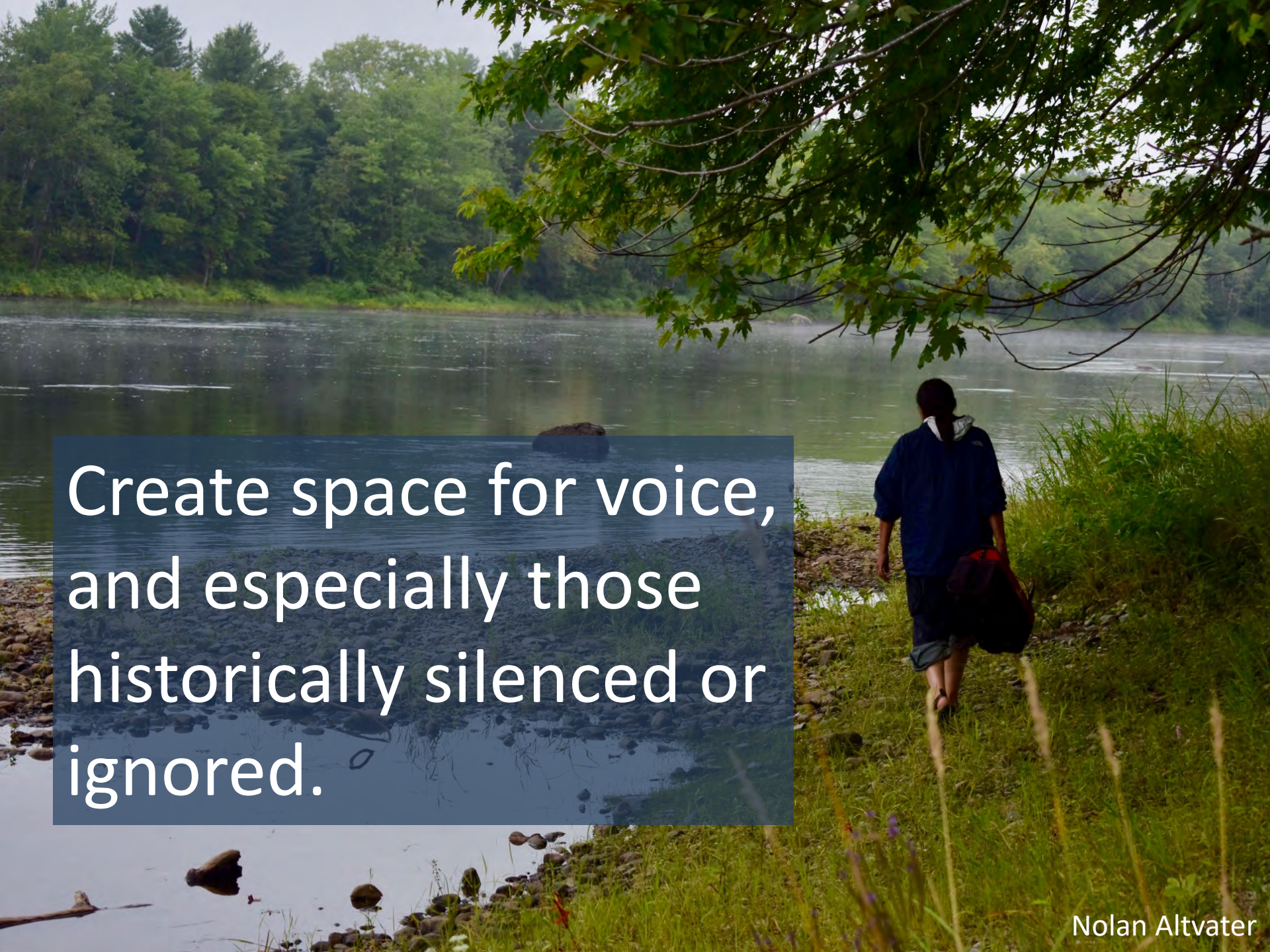


Presence



Tyler Quiring

Salvador & Clarke, 2011; Sutton, 2018

A person in a blue jacket and dark shorts is walking away from the camera along a grassy riverbank. The river is calm and reflects the surrounding green trees. A large tree branch hangs over the scene from the top right. The text "Create space for voice, and especially those historically silenced or ignored." is overlaid in white on a dark blue rectangular background on the left side of the image.

Create space for voice,
and especially those
historically silenced or
ignored.



What about trust?

Build or maintain?

Lose or break it?

Best interests?

What if trust is *really* difficult in historic and present power disparities and injustices?



Trinity of Voice

“The practices of access, standing and influence must be present to build and maintain trust.”

Access: Participation and information



Standing: “Civic legitimacy”



Co-management



Tribal sovereignty

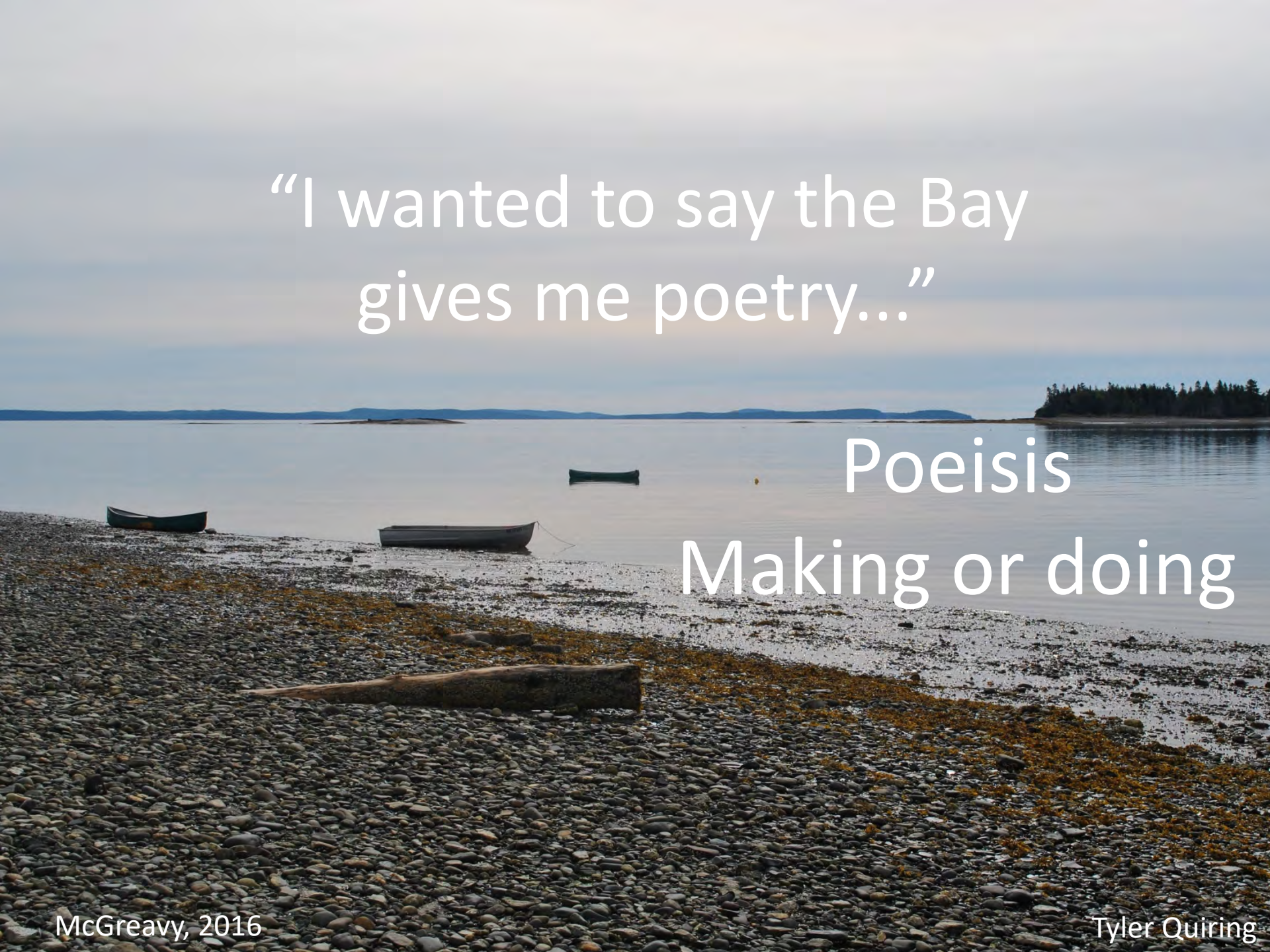
Influence: Process transparency



Confluence: Where rivers of roughly equal width flow together

A person wearing a blue jacket and dark shorts is walking away from the camera on a grassy bank next to a river. The river flows from the left towards the right. In the background, there is a dense forest of green trees. The sky is overcast. The person is carrying a bag. The foreground is filled with tall grass and some purple flowers. A large rock is visible in the river. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Returning
to poetry.

A photograph of a rocky beach with several small wooden boats on the water and a log on the shore. The sky is overcast and the water is calm. The text is overlaid on the image.

“I wanted to say the Bay
gives me poetry...”

Poeisis
Making or doing

Metaphor



Remembering connections

Ethic of care





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