

WE ARE OCEAN PEOPLE: INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP IN MARINE CONSERVATION  
CINDY BOYKO & 'AULANI WILHELM, GUEST EDITORS

## Welcoming the World to Vancouver in 2023: *The Fifth International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5)*



**The Fifth International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5)** is an opportunity to bring together different nations and cultures to work collaboratively towards one common goal—protecting the world ocean.

IMPAC5 is where the global community of marine conservation decision-makers, managers, and practitioners from all walks of life will gather to exchange knowledge, experience, and best practices to strengthen the conservation of marine biodiversity and to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the ocean.

### ACKNOWLEDGING THE HOST FIRST NATIONS

The congress will take place on the territories of the Host First Nations—x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh)—in Vancouver, Canada, from 3–9 February 2023. As partners in organizing IMPAC5, we are grateful to the three Host First Nations for welcoming us onto their lands and waters for this international event.



**IMPAC 5**  
FIFTH INTERNATIONAL  
MARINE PROTECTED AREAS  
CONGRESS  
VANCOUVER • CANADA



## MEET THE HOST FIRST NATIONS

### ► x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam)

x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm are traditional hənqəmínəm speaking people living in the Fraser River estuary for thousands of years. Today, many members live on Musqueam's reserve located in south Vancouver within a small portion of our Traditional Territory.

Musqueam have moved throughout this Territory using the natural resources for fishing, hunting, trapping, and gathering. Our lands and waters continue to support cultural and economic practices while serving as a vital source of knowledge and memory. Our sniw (teachings) are part of who we are, and they have persevered because of the wisdom and resilience of our Ancestors.

Learn more about x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam)

Visit the Musqueam website

### ► Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish)

The Squamish Nation is a vibrant and dynamic Coast Salish Nation, with a strong culture, rich history, and bright future. We are the descendants of the Coast Salish Indigenous Peoples who lived in the present-day Greater Vancouver area, Gibson's Landing, and Squamish River watershed. Our Traditional Territory is located in the Lower Mainland region of British Columbia, where our Nation has existed and prospered since time immemorial.

Learn more about Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish)

Visit the Squamish website

### ► səlilwətəl (Tsleil-Waututh)

We are Tsleil-Waututh Nation, "People of the Inlet," a distinct Coast Salish Nation whose Territory includes Burrard Inlet, the waters draining into it, and the surrounding shores. Our oral history tells us up to 10,000 Tsleil-Waututh members lived in our Traditional Territory, before contact with Europeans. The families of TWN Ancestors traveled throughout the Territory, keeping villages in different locations so that they could live wherever seasonal resources were plentiful that were connected by the waterways that were considered our highways.

Learn more about səlilwətəl (Tsleil-Waututh)

Visit the Tsleil-Waututh website

## CELEBRATING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' LEADERSHIP

From partnering in planning marine protected area networks, to exchanging knowledge and best practices, Canada is committed to renewed nation-to-nation, government-to-government, and Inuit-Crown relationships that will further reconciliation efforts and protect our ocean spaces for future generations.

IMPAC5 will showcase the important role of Indigenous Knowledges and leadership in managing marine protected areas in Canada and around the world. To guide discussions and further dialogue, all aspects of the congress will be informed by **three cross-cutting streams**: Indigenous Peoples' Leadership; The Voice of Young Professionals; and Innovation and Transformational Change. These streams were designed in consultation with the IMPAC5 Planning Committee and the Indigenous Working Group. The streams helped to shape proposal submissions for presentations at the congress. Under the stream of Indigenous Peoples' Leadership, the IMPAC5 secretariat sought presentations that explore the following topics:

- Respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and reconciliation in ocean governance;
- Recognizing Indigenous Peoples' leadership in ocean conservation;
- Showcasing Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas;
- Incorporating Indigenous ways of knowing;

▼ Siwash Rock SABINE JESSEN, NATUREEYE PHOTOGRAPHY



- Enhancing regional, national, and international networking;
- Strengthening capacity of Indigenous communities; and
- Understanding connections between art, culture, and ocean

#### A PLATFORM FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF INDIGENOUS LEADERS

Under the stream “The Voice of Young Professionals” the IMPAC5 Young Professionals Committee is working to ensure that young leaders from the international marine protected area community, including Indigenous organizations, will be recognized at IMPAC5 and beyond. Youth and Indigenous representatives are engaged in helping to shape the congress program, and their perspectives will be shared through participation in thematic discussions at IMPAC5. Our goal is to significantly increase the number of young professionals who participate at this congress and to set a high bar for youth attendance at international conferences beyond IMPAC5.

#### THE INDIGENOUS WORKING GROUP OF IMPAC5

“Host and visiting Indigenous Peoples’ rights and ways of being & knowing must be integrated throughout the planning of IMPAC5. The conference planning and implementation must be founded on respect for the territories and protocols of the three Host Nations—x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh)—while also representing Indigenous interests from across the province, country and globe.”

The Indigenous Working Group of IMPAC5 includes the following organizations:

- Assembly of First Nations
- Coastal First Nations
- First Nations Fisheries Council of British Columbia
- Inuit Circumpolar Council
- Nuw-chah-nulth Tribal Council
- Host First Nations for IMPAC5

▼ Burrard Inlet SABINE JESSEN, NATUREEYE PHOTOGRAPHY



Eight of the sixteen Young Professionals Committee members are from Canada, including six Indigenous members from across the country. The remaining eight members come from Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, and North and South America. Between them, they speak eight languages.

#### INDIGENOUS-SPECIFIC EVENTS AT IMPAC5

In addition to celebrating Indigenous leadership in marine protection throughout the Congress, there will be a number of Indigenous-specific activities planned around IMPAC5, including:

- An Indigenous caucus for international Indigenous organizations;
- Virtual networking opportunities for Indigenous delegates throughout the Congress via different platforms; and,

- A large and interactive Indigenous pavilion showcasing Indigenous marine stewardship initiatives at a local, national, and international scale.

#### JOIN US AT IMPAC5

The future of the ocean depends on us all, and our future depends on the ocean. Protecting it requires truly global action that includes leaders with diverse experiences and perspectives. By valuing differences and extending respect to others, we can truly work together to protect the global ocean.

We invite you to join us at IMPAC5 from 3–9 February 2023. For more information on the congress and to learn how you and your organization can participate, please visit [www.IMPAC5.ca](http://www.IMPAC5.ca) and follow us on your preferred **social media channels**.





### Citation for this article

Hale, Larissa, Karin Gerhardt, Jon C. Day, and Scott F. Heron. 2022. A First Nations approach to addressing climate change—Assessing interrelated key values to identify and address adaptive management for country. *Parks Stewardship Forum* 38(2): 235–245.

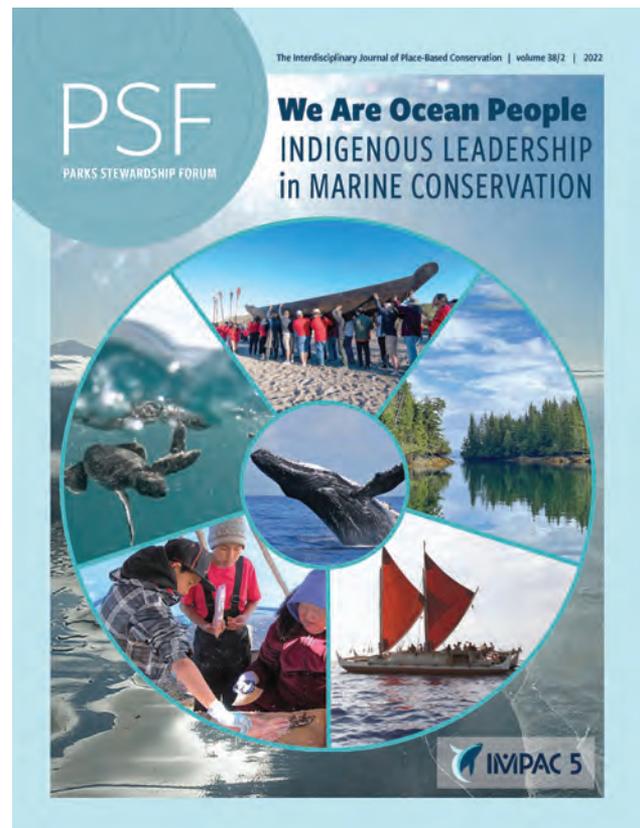
*Parks Stewardship Forum* explores innovative thinking and offers enduring perspectives on critical issues of place-based heritage management and stewardship. Interdisciplinary in nature, the journal gathers insights from all fields related to parks, protected/conserved areas, cultural sites, and other place-based forms of conservation. The scope of the journal is international. It is dedicated to the legacy of **George Meléndez Wright**, a graduate of UC Berkeley and pioneer in conservation of national parks.

*Parks Stewardship Forum* is published online at <https://escholarship.org/uc/psf> through **eScholarship**, an open-access publishing platform subsidized by the University of California and managed by the California Digital Library. Open-access publishing serves the missions of the IPPB and GWS to share, freely and broadly, research and knowledge produced by and for those who manage parks, protected areas, and cultural sites throughout the world. A version of *Parks Stewardship Forum* designed for online reading is also available at <https://parks.berkeley.edu/psf>. For information about publishing in PSF, write to [psf@georgewright.org](mailto:psf@georgewright.org).

*Parks Stewardship Forum* is distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC 4.0).

The journal continues *The George Wright Forum*, published 1981–2018 by the George Wright Society.

PSF is designed by Laurie Frasier • [lauriefrasier.com](http://lauriefrasier.com)



### On the cover of this issue

CIRCLE DESIGN, clockwise from top:

- Northern Chumash ceremony | [ROBERT SCHWEMMER](#)
- Haida Gwaii | [CINDY BOYKO](#)
- The Polynesian Voyaging Society's voyaging canoe Hōkūle'a | [NOAA](#)
- Elder teaching youths, northern Alaska | [US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE](#)
- Baby Honu (sea turtles), Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument | [NOAA](#)
- Center: Humpback whale, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument | [NOAA](#)

Background: Pacific Rim National Park Reserve | [PARKS CANADA](#)