



**APOQNMATULTI'K**  
INTEGRATIVE KNOWLEDGE. COLLABORATIVE STEWARDSHIP.

# Apoqnmulti'k: Understanding Etuaptmumk

**Alanna Syliboy, The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq**

**Sept. 24, 2025 | Net Zero Atlantic - Nova Scotia Offshore Wind R&D Forum | Halifax**

**Panel: Pathways to Sustainable and Inclusive Offshore Wind: Economy, Equity, and Indigenous Knowledge**

Apoqnmatulti'k takes place in  
Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded  
territory of the Mi'kmaq.  
We are all Treaty people.





Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

Pêches et Océans  
Canada

# Study Sites



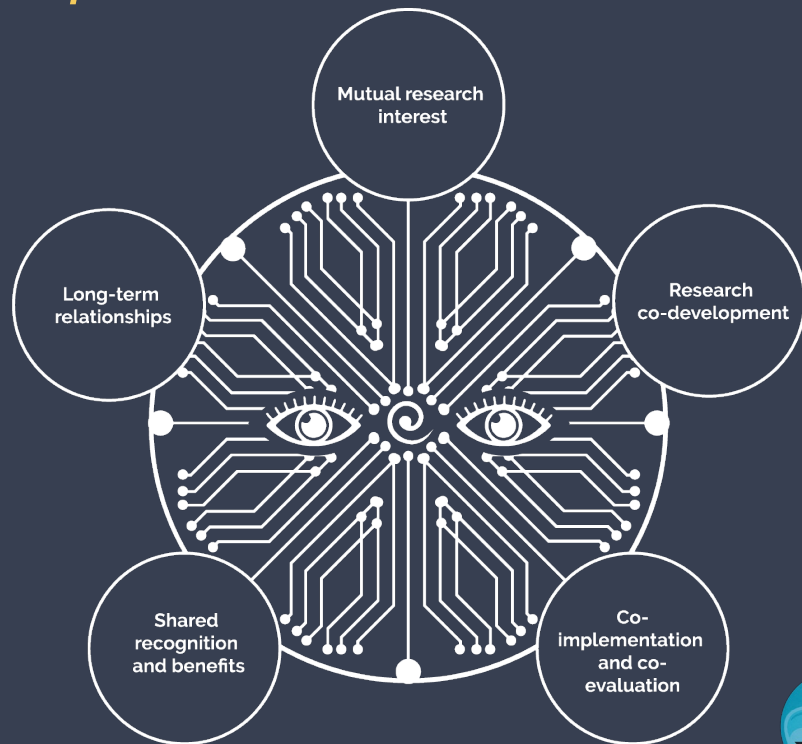
# Study Species



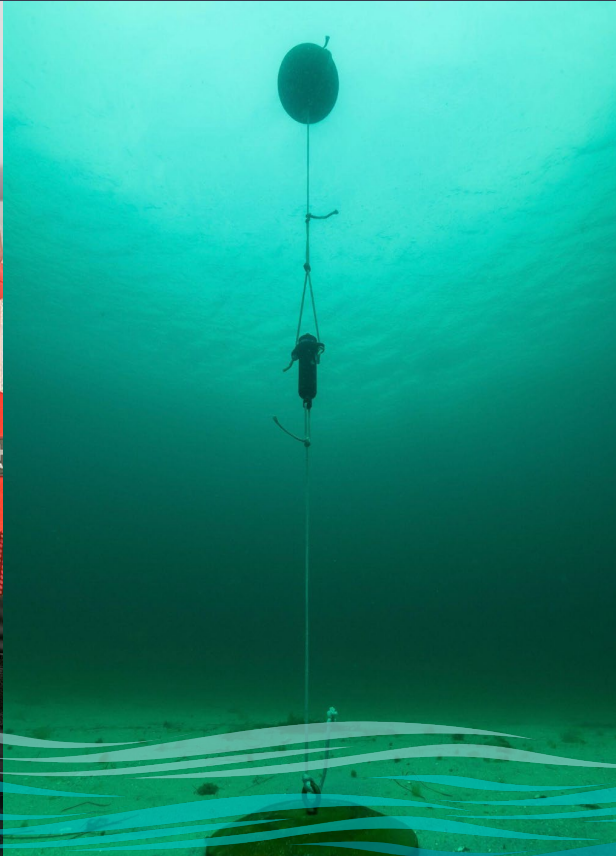
# Apoqnmattulti'k: *we help each other*

Apoqnmattulti'k is guided by the principle of Two-Eyed Seeing and through co-design, joint participation and shared knowledge, aims to enable better stewardship of culturally, commercially and ecologically valued aquatic species.

This graphic has been adapted from "Two-Eyed Seeing": An Indigenous framework to transform fisheries research and management" published by Reid et al. (2022) in the Fish and Fisheries journal.



# Tools & methods



# How we work together



# Community liaisons



# Knowledge sharing

- Moving beyond extractive research: not just “taking” knowledge but giving back.
- Share the information gained to a broader audience.
- Commitment to First Nations Principles of OCAP, with partner training to ensure respectful data collection, use, and sharing.



# Etuaptmumk in practice

- Electro-immobilization gloves introduced for fish tagging surgeries.
- Eliminates withdrawal and recovery time.
- By avoiding chemicals, fish remain safe to eat immediately after release—important for ji'kaw, a traditional food of the Mi'kmaq.
- Procedure change inspired by partner discussions on honouring Mi'kmaw values.



# An Ocean of Life:

How the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development is supporting implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The United Nations  
Decade of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development  
(2021–2030)



**TARGET 22: Ensure participation in decision-making and access to justice and information related to biodiversity for all**

**Apoqnmatluti'k: Working together for healthy and resilient ocean**

**Decade Action:**  
Ocean Tracking Network

**Lead partner and other main partners involved:**  
Ocean Tracking Network;  
Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources;  
Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq; commercial fisher Ben Porter; Acadia University; Dalhousie University; Fisheries and Aquaculture Canada

**SDG Targets:**  
14, 15, 16, 17, 21 and 22



In Mi'kma'ki, on the east coast of Canada, the Apoqnmatluti'k project is reshaping the landscape of collaborative research through a unique, inclusive model. Founded in 2018, Apoqnmatluti'k (Mi'kmaq for 'we help each other'), is a partnership that aims to further understand and inform the stewardship and ecosystems of valued aquatic species for current and future generations, and to advance a collaborative and holistic research model that ensures transparency and accessibility. Apoqnmatluti'k follows the Mi'kmaq principle of Elusaptmunk, or Two-Seeing, which integrates Indigenous knowledge with western scientific approaches, ensuring that both knowledge systems contribute equally to outcomes. This philosophy is at the heart of

This collaborative effort ensures that the project is co-designed and co-delivered by Indigenous, local, and scientific partners, offering a values transparency structure that, by integrating traditional ecological knowledge with modern scientific methods, the project addresses critical challenges facing marine and aquatic ecosystems, such as climate change and habitat degradation. Apoqnmatluti'k exemplifies how meaningful partnerships between Indigenous and scientific communities can foster a deeper, more nuanced understanding of environmental stewardship. The project's model, grounded in trust and mutual respect, offers a framework that can be adapted globally, especially as the world grapples with the



# Wela'lioq



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## Connect

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