 

**EIUI (Environmental Information: Use and Influence) Report to BoFEP Annual Meeting, October 21st, 2022.**

The Environmental Information: Use and Influence (EIUI) interdisciplinary research program, based in the Faculty of Management at Dalhousie University, continues an active research agenda on subjects about the pathways and roles of information in marine science-policy interfaces. This program started many years ago as the BoFEP Informatics Working Group and evolved into EIUI.

Lately, constraints due to the pandemic continue to affect the pace of activities, however. This research is currently supported by an Insight Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), the third grant that the program has received since 2007.

**Current Projects**

Within the current SSHRC grant, the team is preparing publications that highlight the results of recent case studies and also synthesize the findings of the case studies over several years. All of these initiatives highlight the importance of understanding how credible, relevant, and legitimate information finds its way (or not) into decision processes for marine environmental sustainability.

The EIUI team contributed to the development of a large multi-institutional research grant application submitted to the Canada First Research Excellence Fund in August 2022. If this grant is approved (the decision will be announced in March 2023), the line of research that the EIUI team has conducted over several years will be extended and expanded.

As well, supported by our EIUI member in the USA, we are continuing a project in collaboration with the California Ocean Science Trust. This project is investigating the information seeking activities of staff of the California Legislature, who report to Assembly Members and Senators, and deal with coastal and marine subjects.

**Conferences**

The research team participated in the ACCESS-BoFEP conference in May 2022 with oral presentations and posters that focused on Atlantic Canada subjects (see appendix). Members also chaired sessions and co-chaired the Conference itself.

**Publications, Twitter, and Website**

The research team’s recent publication activities and presentations are listed in the Appendix. EIUI maintains an active Twitter account ([twitter.com/EIUI\_Dal](about:blank)). Further details about the research team’s work are available at the EIUI website ([www.eiui.ca](about:blank)). Notably, numerous blog entries about our activities and those of our students are posted on the website.

**Graduate Course**

Another iteration of the graduate course, Information in Public Policy and Decision Making, was offered during the Winter 2022 term to Masters students from five different programs at Dalhousie University. The participation of several prominent guest speakers in Canada and the UK continues to be a strength of this important and well-received course about evidence-informed decision-making. Several blog entries prepared by the students are posted on the EIUI website.

Bertrum MacDonald

For the EIUI Research Team

14 October 2022

**Appendix**

**Publications**

Castillo, D. J., Vicary, T., Kalensits, M., Soomai, S. S., & MacDonald, B. H. (2022). Ensuring equitable access to ocean and coastal information to advance knowledge and inform decision-making: The global Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts. *Ocean and Coastal Management* (In press).

Moharana, T. (2021). Book Review. The Science of Citizen Science. *Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science* 51(2): 455-457.

Wells, P.G. (2021-2022). Various (15) contributions to the Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists Bulletin, Vol. 78 (3,4), and Vol. 79 (1,2,3). CSEB website [http://www.cseb-scbe.org](about:blank)

Wells, P.G., Butler, M.J.A., and Eger, S. (2021). Ocean literacy – communicating science in an ocean province. *Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science* 51(2): 253-256.

**Conference Presentations**

Long, L., Mongeon, P., & MacDonald, B. H. (2022). Situating Atlantic Canada in the global research on the science-policy interface and the oceans. Poster presented to ACCESS-BoFEP conference, Truro, 17-21 May 2022.

MacDonald, B. J., Long, L., & Wells, P. G. (2022). Communication of scientific information: Assessing informal communication practices of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. Paper presented to the ACCESS-BoFEP conference, Truro, 17-21 May 2022.

Noël, S-L., Beazley, K., & MacDonald, B. H. (2022). Perspectives on determining recovery feasibility of inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic salmon, 20 years on. Poster presented to ACCESS-BoFEP conference, Truro, 17-21 May 2022.

Wells, P. G., Percy, J. A., Daborn, G. R., Currie, S., & Butler, M. J. A. (2022). Celebrating BoFEP’s 25th anniversary: Reflections and future steps to enhance ocean and climate literacy. Talk presented to the ACCESS-BoFEP conference, Truro, 17-21 May 2022.