

# The Role of Women in Fisheries Management

Project 2.5 - The Role of Women in the Fishery

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# Introduction

- The purpose of this research study is to understand the role women play in the PEI fishery and its management.
- Document women's roles in fishery and fisheries management.
- Apply a gender lens to the unions and women's roles.



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# Background and Rationale

- Contribution of project to theory and practice of SE in Atl. Canada – by focusing on the sustainability and conservation of the fishing industry on Prince Edward Island
- Bringing forward the fact that women are absent despite their profound involvement in fishing enterprises and their active roles in the social economy as volunteers supporting the social and economic integrity of fishing communities.



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# Community/University Collaboration (partnership)

- Irene Novaczek (IIS) & Sara Roach-Lewis (WES) collaborated on a gender-based analysis of women in fisheries management workshop and from there the partnership was born
- WES contributes local knowledge of PEI fishery and its management to the development of the research question, proposal writing and interview questions, identifying potential participants
- IIS/UPEI contributes academic expertise in developing and running a research study. There is an excellent working relationship, mutual respect and collaboration with IIS, WES and the student researchers.
- The project is in the interview phase now but plans are in development to bring the results of the study to a wide audience including government, fishery groups, academics, women's groups, and the local community.



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# Project Methodology

Project is in the interview stage. We worked together to develop the research questions, complete the ethics review, develop interview questions, area of interest for the literature review, and potential participants for the study. Going forward, the partners will work together to code the interviews, identify key themes, compile the data, and disseminate the information to a wider audience.



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# Main Findings To Date

- Still in research phase.



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# Deliverables (completed & planned)

- We plan to speak to the PEI Fisherman's Association Annual Convention in January 2009.
- Other anticipated deliverables will include articles in local newspapers, community meetings, academic conferences, academic journals, etc.
- Improved gender equity in fisheries management (long term)



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# How Students Benefited from the Project

- Students are an integral part of this project and are involved in all aspects of development and implementation of the proposal including:
  - input in development of project, questions, etc.
  - conducting interviews
  - literature search
  - transcription
- Skills gained:
  - increased experience with developing project (and ethics approval process, etc)
  - refined and expanded research and interview skills and a general overall learning with respect to women and their role in fisheries



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# Conclusions and Next Steps

**The partners in the project are excited and energized by the work and by the relationships that are being built. As community partners, we are thrilled to be a TRUE partner in this project, to have our knowledge and skills appreciated and to have our experience and expertise respected and valued. This has been an excellent opportunity for students to be involved with type of research and for academics to be working with key informants.**

**We are excited about moving the work forward and disseminating the findings to a wide and diverse range of people.**



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