Traditional Mi’kmaw Knowledge for Fisheries Resource Management

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Mi’kmaw Traditional Knowledge was never meant to be static and stay in the past.

Rather, we must bring it into the present so that everything becomes meaningful in our lives and our communities.
Our Mi’kmaq culture is built on long term vision and our decisions were made with the next Seven Generations in mind.
Fisheries

All our fisheries face the same risks as the cod fishery if our approaches do not change.
As Elders in Our Time

We seek to be a conduit for wisdom of our Ancestors. We seek to see with “TWO EYES” ... to take the accomplishments of the white man’s ways further by blending it with the wisdom of our Ancestors.
TWO-EYED SEEING

LEARN ... to see from one eye with the best in our Indigenous ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the best in the Western (or mainstream) ways of knowing ...

... and learn to use both these eyes together, for the benefit of all.

(Guiding Principle)
Everything that we do to our natural world ... we also do to ourselves.

Artist Basma Kavanagh
If pollution exceeds the natural cleansing capacity of our ecosystems ...
If consumption of resources exceeds the carrying capacity of our ecosystems ...
If species become extinct, some of our relations are gone forever ...

Ples
(Passenger Pigeon)

http://www.pollsb.com/photos/o/31479-last_passenger_pigeon_dies_cincinnati_zoo.jpg
http://www.wunderland.com/WTS/Andy/ProjectEBAY/pics/Death.icon.jpg
If species become extinct, some of our relations are gone forever ...

Eels (Kataq) are now a *Species of Concern*.

Artist Basma Kavanagh
If people are starving, they will not care about environmental sustainability ...
Our language teaches us that everything alive is both physical and spiritual.

The onus is on the person to look at our natural world with two perspectives.

Modern science sees objects, but our language teaches us to see subjects.
We have to dissociate ourselves from the "Myth of False Security" that the industrial revolution has instilled in our minds.
We need to come together as one where all these things can be taken in. 

Our Mi’kmaw culture is still very much alive ... and we can extract those principles of how one can sustain oneself without compromising abilities for the future.
All these things that Creator has given us are sustenance in both the physical and spiritual sense.

Through utilization of the Gifts from Creator we can become whole. We can take care of our needs: living, dwelling, physical, and spiritual.
MI’KMAW LANGUAGE

Our language is the key to how our actions will unfold. Each word is much deeper than only taking care of an object. Animacy brings personal connection ... such that actions fit actions (everything is in the picture) and we are always mindful of the First Sacred Gift of Life: LOVE

EXAMPLES
1) pekajo’tmnej = consider all aspects
   ... *action is harmonious*
2) wulo’tmnej = love some one
   ... *action is care*
3) sespite’tmnej = worry about what you do
   ... *action is guided*
Netukulimk
“sustaining ourselves”
yes … but really is a much richer concept; it is wholistic.
Netukulimk
“sustaining ourselves”
Co-existence
Interrelativeness
Interconnectiveness
Community Spirit

... takes you into a place where you are very conscious of how the human two-leggeds are interdependent and interconnective with the natural world ...

this philosophy / ideology is so ingrained in your subconscious that you are constantly aware of not creating an imbalance.
Humans possess responsibilities.

Other species possess rights.
Consciousness of Knowing

Co-existence
Interrelativeness
Interconnectiveness
Community Spirit
... with each other and
with Mother Earth

All people must learn

Two-Eyed Seeing
so that knowledge of the
physical is not separated
from wisdom of the spiritual.

artist Basma Kavanagh
Can we fathom how our way of life would be ... if we could really humble ourselves to truly work together for the benefit of all?
Wela’lioq
Thank you