

ID: 337

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Title:

Enhancing Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods: The Tsawout First Nation's Initiative in Creating an Indigenous Protected Area in the Salish Sea

Abstract:

In 2023 the Tsawout First Nation (TFN) has taken a proactive stance by establishing the QEN, T Marine Protected Area. This innovative approach combines traditional ecological knowledge with contemporary conservation practices to safeguard critical marine ecosystems and promote sustainable nature-based economies. By designating a specific area within their traditional territories as protected, TFN aims to preserve crucial crab stocks, improve native kelp farming techniques, restore degraded eelgrass and kelp habitats, and foster food sovereignty. This initiative not only demonstrates Indigenous leadership in conservation but also highlights the importance of Indigenous stewardship in maintaining biodiversity and ecological integrity. Through collaboration with scientific researchers, industry and government agencies, TFN serves as a model for conservation efforts in their traditional territory. This abstract showcases the Tsawout First Nation's Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area and ongoing projects to inform its management plan, as a promising strategy for achieving Canada's 30x30 conservation goals while supporting Indigenous sovereignty, cultural revitalization, and sustainable livelihoods in the Salish Sea region.

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From Indigenous Stewards to Conservation Leaders

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12 minute oral presentation

What is your second choice for the type of presentation you'll give if your first choice is unavailable?:

3 minute speed talk

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