



Revitalizing climate resilience through Indigenous planning and action:

Lessons from NW tribal food sovereignty
& clam gardens projects

Melissa Poe
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Tribal Communities at the forefront of ocean change



Photo credit: Larry Workman, Quinault Indian Nation



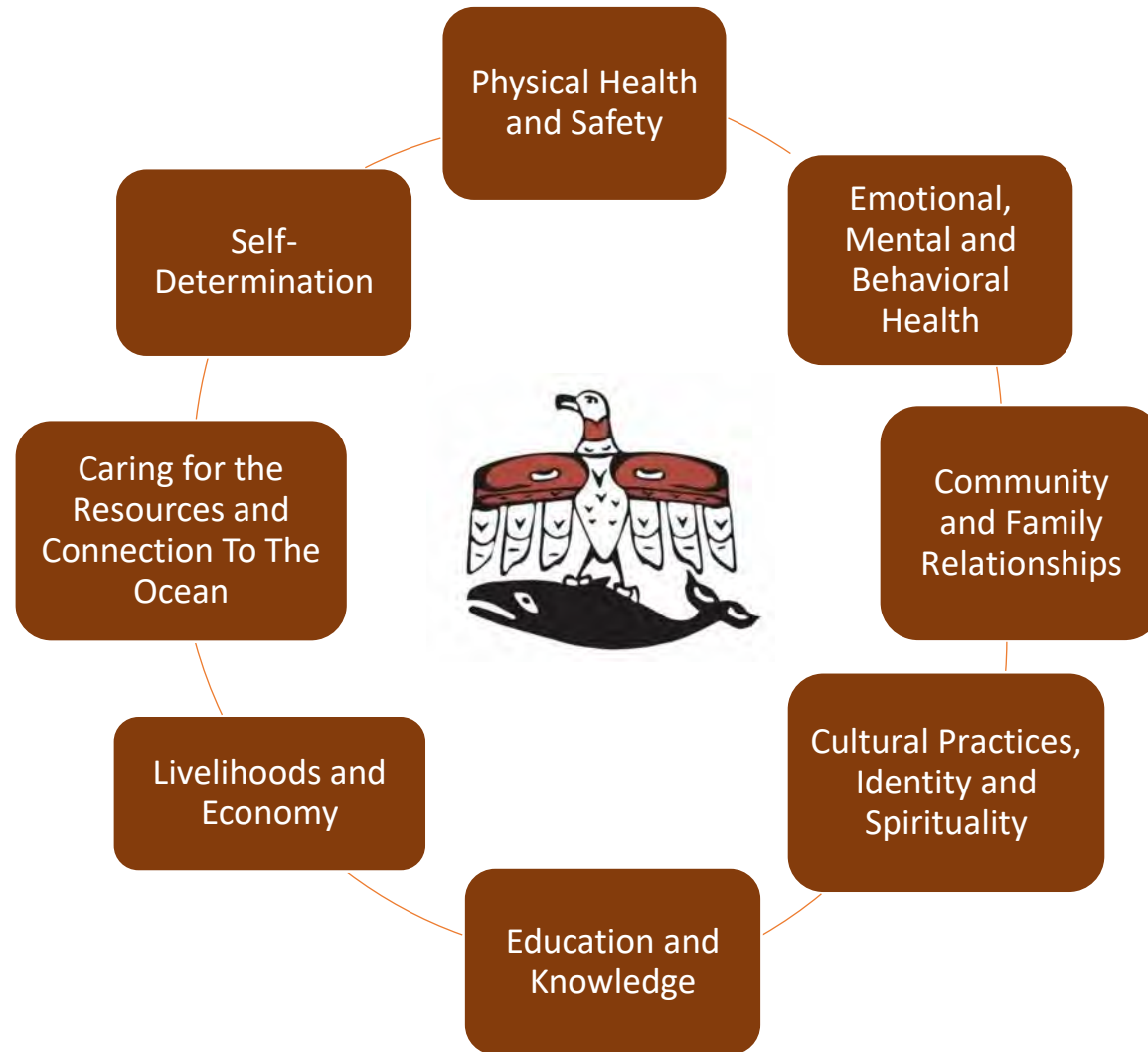
Credits (L to R): Julie Barber, Barbara Wilson, Chazley Brown

The Olympic Coast as a Sentinel





MAKAH TRIBE COMMUNITY-DEFINED HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



OVERALL: Our spiritual beliefs and guidance provide us the understanding that well-being is having a balance of all aspects of health in your life.

MAKAH TRIBE COMMUNITY DEFINED HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

“To be healthy and well you have to have good food, you have to have socialization, and you have to be able to interact with other people, and you have to have good mental and emotional health. You need to be connected I believe; living here [with] your family and friends and culture. The culture is wide open. It could be what you were taught since the time you were little – like basket weaving, carving, digging clams or getting wood or whatever. That you are able [...] to feel connected and belonging, which is so important to the well-being of all human beings.”

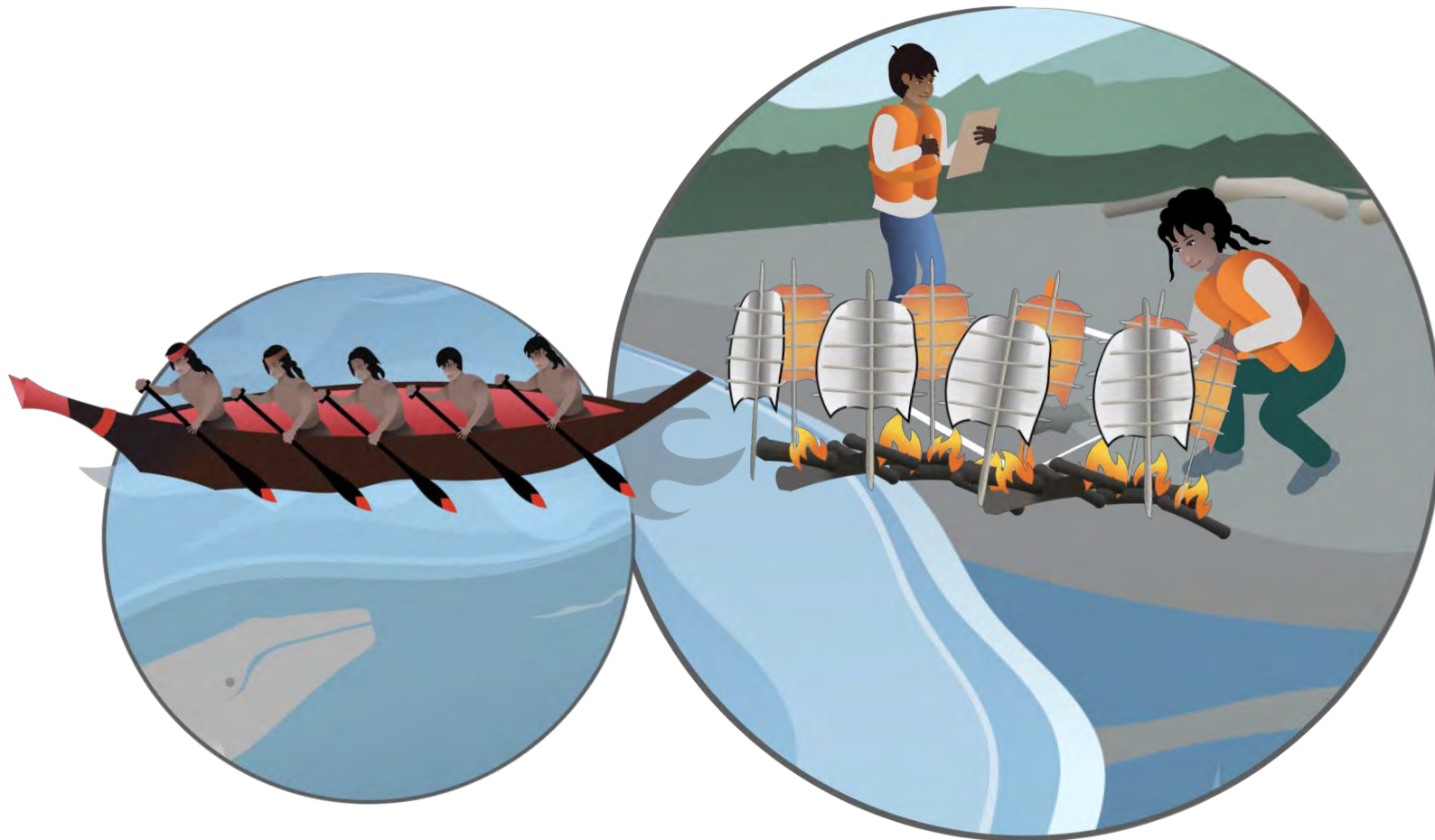
– Makah Interview Participant



Resilience Action:

Makah Tribal Food Sovereignty Program

ʔuxʔawa-ł qwa-qik ʔusubaqey – (“*Use What You May Need*”)



Makah Tribal Food Sovereignty Program

ʔuxʔawa·t qwa·qik ʔusubaqey – (“Use What You May Need”)



Expand First Foods access:

- Distribution of fish and healthy local foods to seniors and community members
- Lending library of tools for food processing (such as smokehouses, vacuum sealers, canning equipment)
- Knowledge transfer
- Teaching use and processing skills



Revitalizing the Past to Prepare for the Future



The Swinomish Clam Garden Project



Credit: Caroline Edwards
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community Clam Garden Blessing

Revitalizing the Past to Prepare for the Future The Swinomish Clam Garden Project



Revitalizing the Past to Prepare for the Future

The Swinomish Clam Garden Project



What is a clam garden?



Credit: John Harper

- Higher density
 - 2x *L. staminea*
 - 2-4x *S. gigantea*
- Greater biomass
 - 2x *S. gigantea*
- Faster growing rates
 - 1.7x juvenile *L. staminea*
- Adaptive to sea level rise
- Buffer extreme temperatures
- Improve OA conditions
- Biologically diverse

The Swinomish Clam Garden Project



Credit: Kari Neumeyer, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Julie Barber

Video: Reviving Clam Gardens





Summary & Lessons Learned

- Interconnectedness
- Multiple ways of knowing
- Hope in community resilience
- Invest in local priorities
- Build and maintain respectful partnerships

Thank You

Contact: Melissa Poe, mpoe@uw.edu

Additional Resources

