# Coastal Community Access to Marine Resources and Conservation in Canada

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# Presentation Overview

- Provide overview of OceanCanada Partnership
- Introduce the Access Cross-Cutting Theme of the OceanCanada Partnership
- Discuss the research plan and early results from the ongoing research

# OceanCanada Partnership

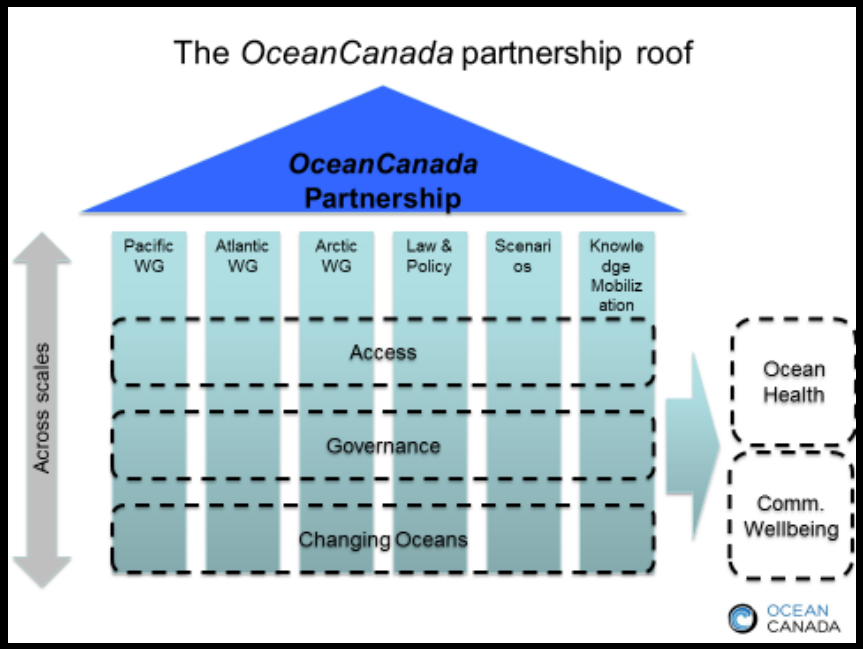
- 6 -year $2.5 million SSHRC Partnership Grant
- PI: Dr. Rashid Sumaila (UBC IOF)
- Central Question: How can Canada maintain healthy oceans and the well-being of coastal communities in the future?
- Aim: Understand past, present and future of Canada's oceans from an interdisciplinary perceptive
- Three objectives
  1. Taking stock
  2. Scenario building
  3. Visioning

For more information:

http://www.oceancanada.org

# OceanCanada Partners

# Working Groups and Themes




**NATIONAL :**

- Legal and policy working group;
- Data and integrated scenarios working group;
- Communications and engagement working group.

**REGIONAL:**

- Arctic working group;
- Atlantic working group;
- Pacific working group.

**CROSS-CUTTING THEMES:**

- Governance
- Changing oceans
- Access

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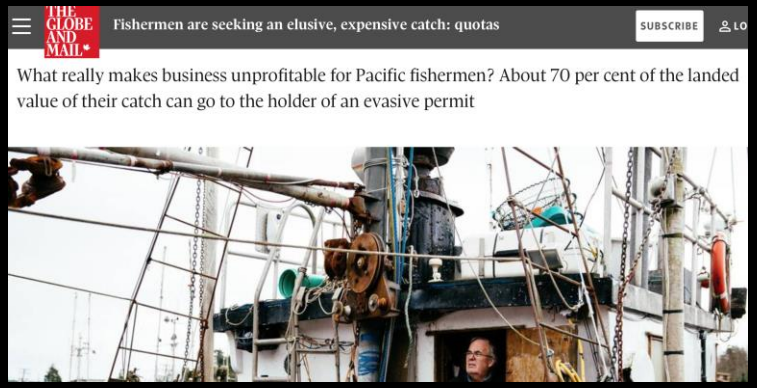
# Why a central focus on access?



# Access Cross-Cutting Theme

**Objectives**

- To define and characterize the importance of access for coastal communities in Canada
- To understand the current status of and historical changes to access for coastal communities across the three coasts of Canada, and drivers of change in access
- To examine the factors that support or undermine access
- To identify knowledge gaps and develop an agenda for future research on access issues
- To make recommendations for considering access in decision-making and policies related to the ocean

# A mari usque ad mare?

# So, how does one go about conducting research on access at national scale? The plan…

| | |
|---|---|
| Knowledge Coproduction Workshop (complete) | • Knowledge synthesis and co-production workshop<br>• Policy and literature review |
| Interviews Across Canada (in progress) | • Expert and stakeholder interviews on 3 coasts<br>• Thematically driven and open coded analysis |
| Community Case Studies (upcoming) | • Qualitative interviews and focus groups<br>• Synthetic and comparative analysis of cases |
| Quantitative Surveys (need funding) | • Community surveys across the three coasts<br>• Quantitative analysis of status, trends and determinants |

# Research Methods

## Knowledge Co-Production Workshop (Complete)

- Included 20 academics, practitioners, fishers and indigenous representatives from across Canada
- Co-define the problem, identify issues, and set the research agenda

## Expert Interviews Across Canada (Analysis Underway)

- With academics, practitioners, managers, government, indigenous reps.
- Sample: 30 total, 10 on each coast (Pacific, Atlantic, Arctic)
- Guided by open-ended questions related to objectives of Access CCT

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Marine Policy

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/marpol

# Coastal and Indigenous community access to marine resources and the ocean: A policy imperative for Canada

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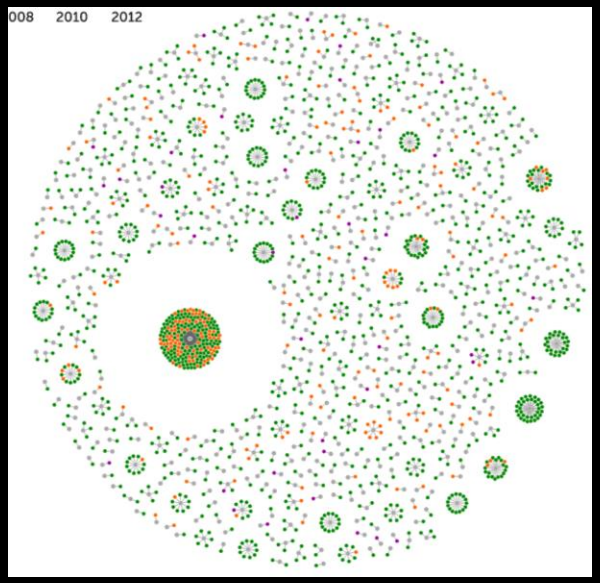
(Bennett et al, 2018)

# Access is “the ability to use and benefit from available marine resources or areas of the ocean or coast”

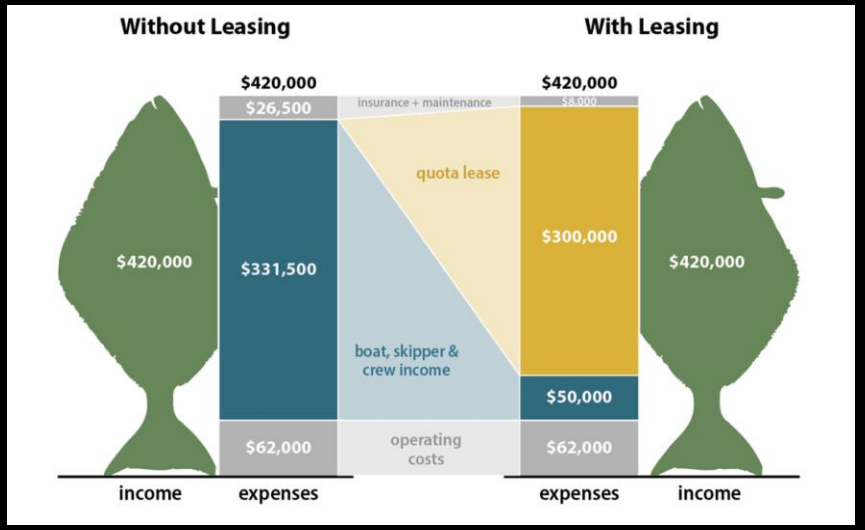
(Bennett et al, 2018)

# Use vs benefit

**Right to harvest**




**Who benefits**




(Caught up in catch shares, Robertson et al, 2014)

# Importance of access

<u>Community</u>

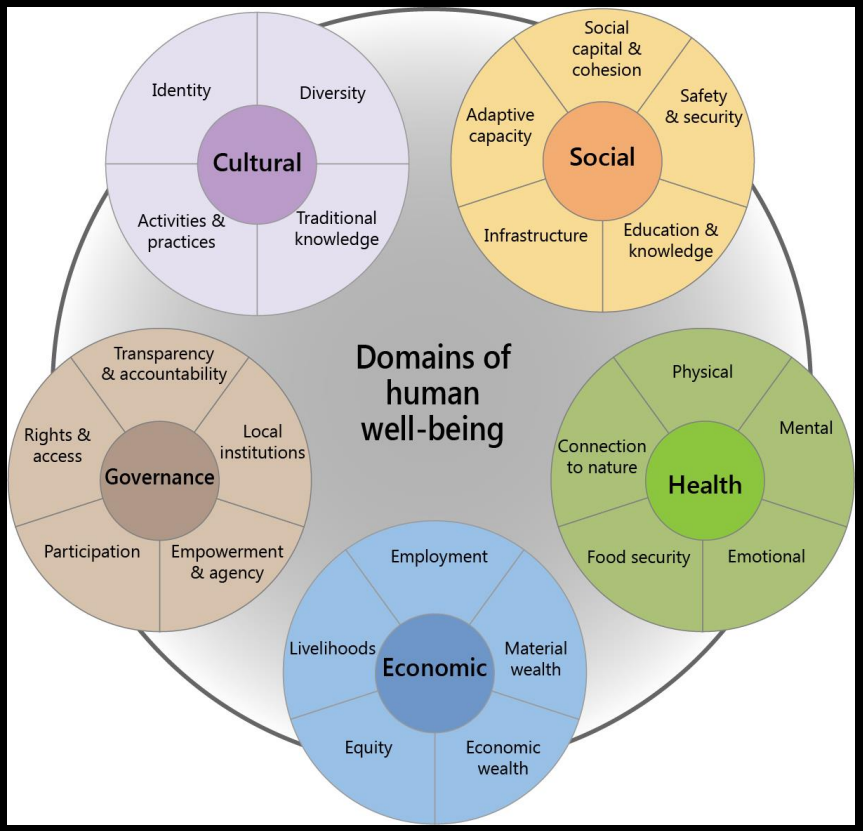
1. Fundamental to community livelihoods and well-being
2. Declining vs thriving coastal communities
3. Indigenous rights

<u>Canadian Society</u>

1. Urban-rural dynamics
2. Functioning food systems
3. Claims to sovereignty

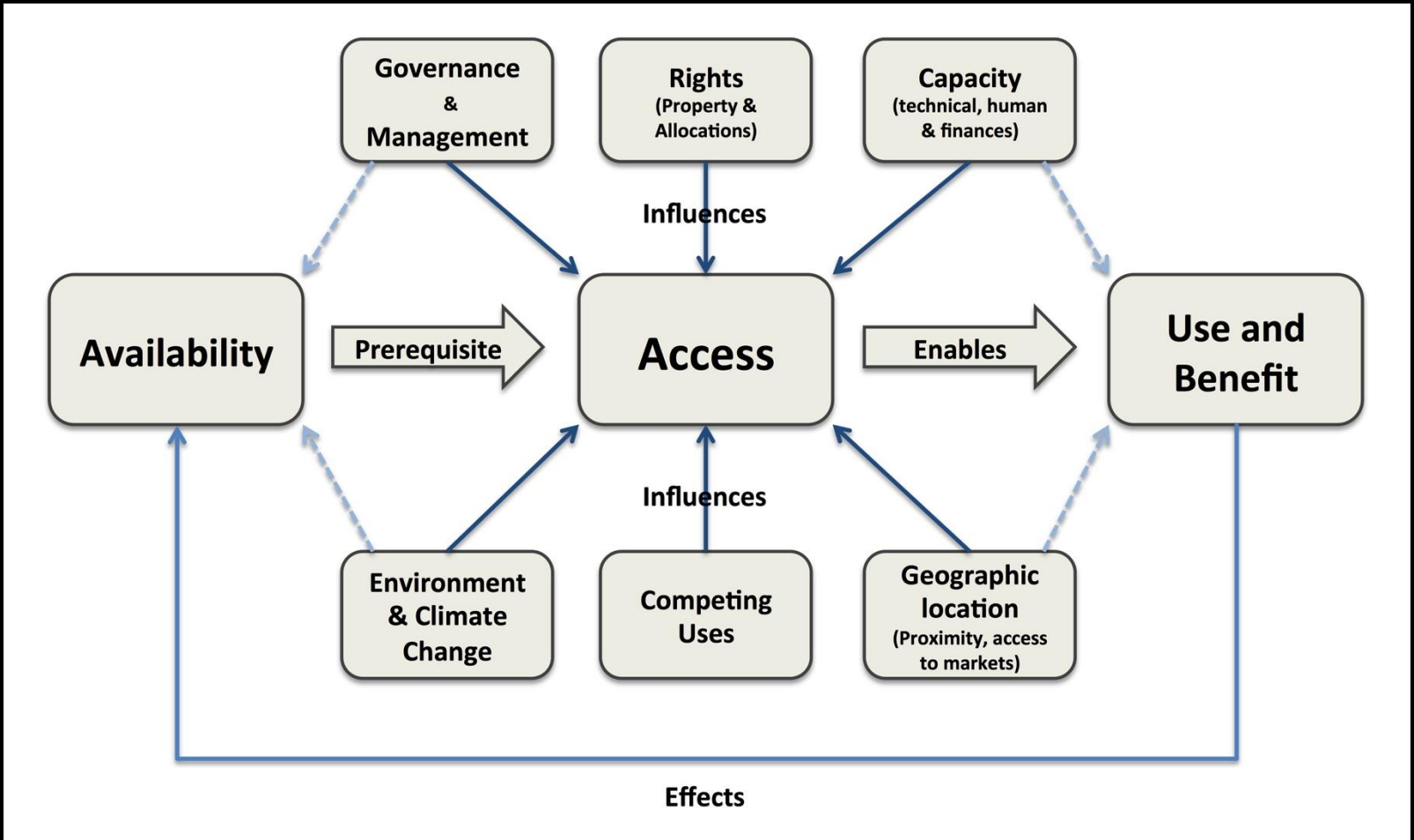
<u>Environment</u>

1. Coastal response capacity
2. Coastal stewardship and management capacity




(Bennett et al, 2018)

# Factors that Influence Access




(Bennett et al, 2018)

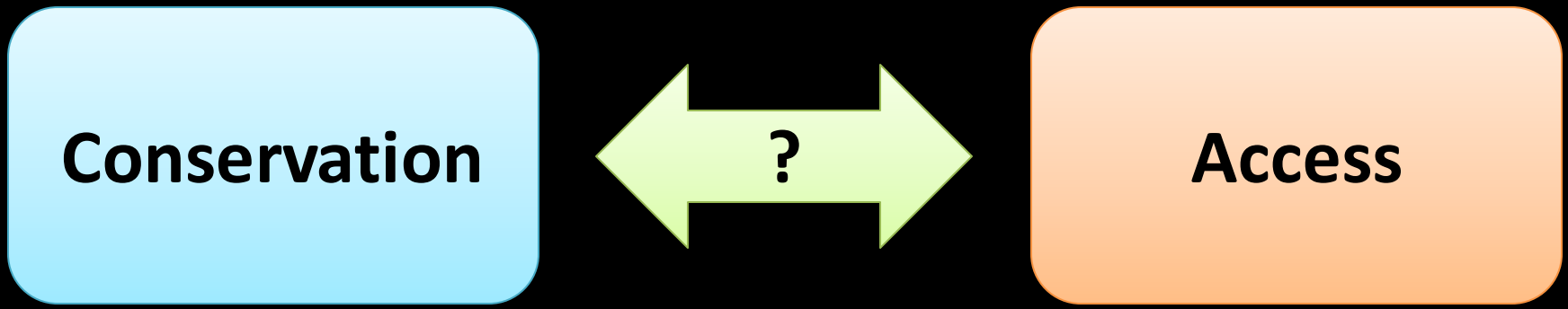
# Early insights from cross-country interviews

- Fisheries rights and allocation are pressing concern on all coasts
- General downward trend, but some exceptions
- Historical and geographical factors have major influence on current access
- Application of policies related to access at local levels is fluid and contested
- Spatial access is an increasing concern
- Loss of access is hard to reverse
- Addressing access issues is necessary - requires knowledge, will, capacity and concrete action

Access to marine resources and the ocean is central to the wellbeing of coastal and Indigenous communities in Canada

(Bennett & Bailey, in prep.)

# Early insights on relationship between access and conservation



# Bill C-68: An opportunity to address access issues in environmental decisions

Bill C-68

- Traditional and community knowledge
- Social, economic and cultural factors in the management of fisheries
- Preservation and promotion of … commercial and inshore fisheries

POLICY OPTIONS POLITIQUES

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**Bill C-68 enshrines human dimensions in Canadian fisheries law**

Bill C-68 would update the *Fisheries Act* so all decisions address Indigenous rights. It could spur major improvements to Indigenous and coastal communities.

PRINT ARTICLE

Written by
Date published

Jennifer Silver, Nathan Bennett
May 8, 2018

SHARE STORY

Canada's GDP and the well-being of many rural communities in this country are tightly tied to our natural resources. Therefore, real sustainability in the primary resource sectors demands equal attention to ecology, economics and the people whose cultures and livelihoods depend on trees, minerals, fish and so on. Bill C-68, *An Act to Amend the Fisheries Act and Other Acts in Consequence*, tabled in February, has the potential to take Canadian fisheries management farther in this direction than ever before.

# Next Steps…

# Questions or Thoughts?


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CENTER FOR OCEAN SOLUTIONS

# Research challenge

How can Canada promote healthy, ocean-related economies and communities without further degrading the marine environment?

- Develop an enhanced understanding of the current and future social-ecological stressors affecting Canada's three coastal-ocean regions (Climate change, ocean acidification, globalization, management innovations);

- Effectively integrate social & natural science research in order to optimize national-level policy planning and management;

- Work collaboratively towards a pan-Canadian vision for sustainable & healthy coastal-ocean regions by 2050.

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# Three objectives

- Taking stock:
  - Integrate existing information from several disciplinary areas & identify gaps in our current knowledge.
- Building scenarios:
  - Map future health of marine living resources under different biophysical and policy pathways;
  - Compare & 'ground-truth' our scenarios at local levels using case studies in each region.
- Develop a shared vision:
  - Disseminate research findings to community stakeholders & the broader research community;
  - Engage with governments, industry, NGOS, & communities.

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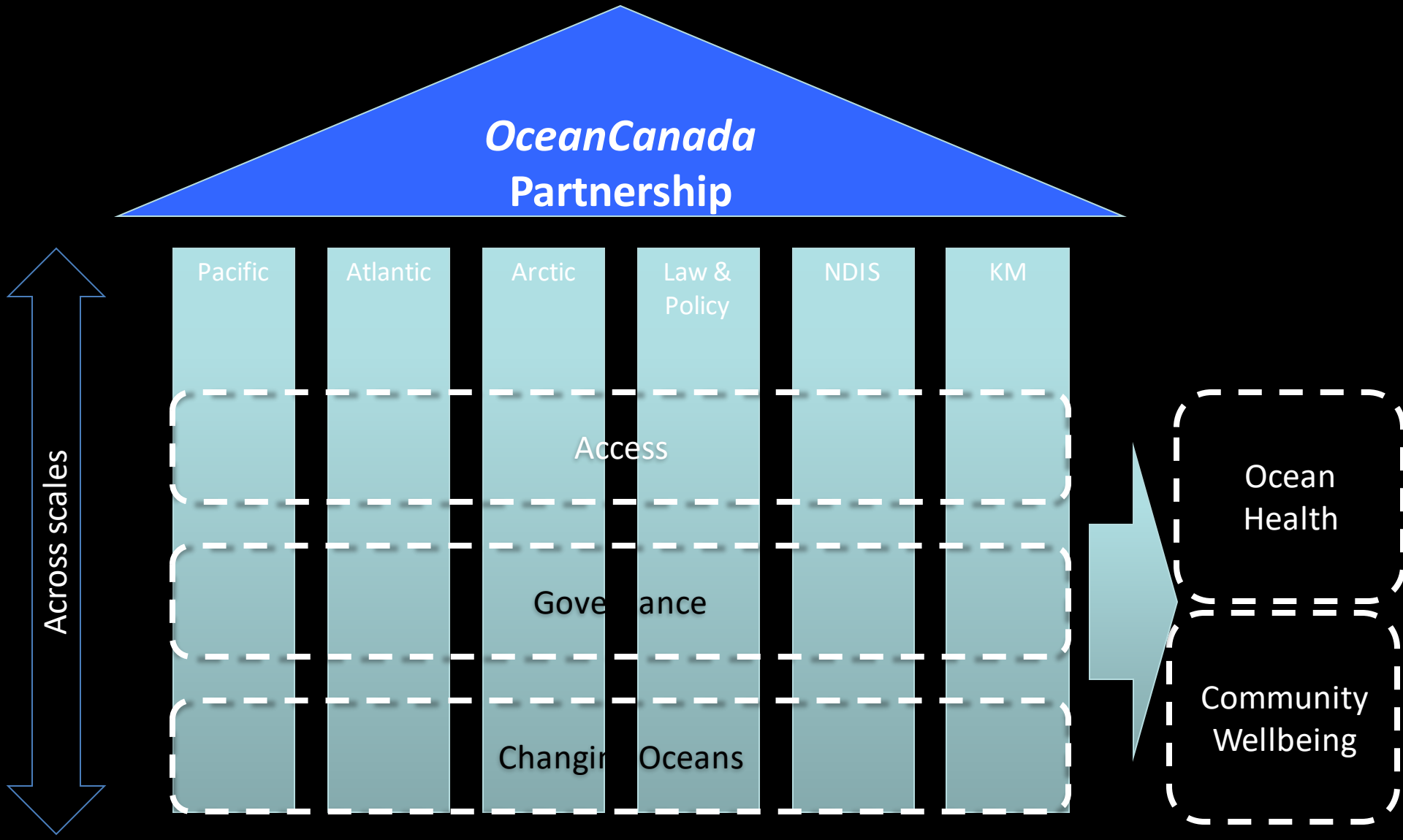
# A small piece of the big *OceanCanada* picture…



# Accounting for Access in Ocean Policy

- Key consideration across all ocean policy realms
- Opportunity: Proposed amendments to the Fisheries Act

- But…
  - Need will to implement.
  - Need adequate social science capacity.
  - Just transitions
  - Etc.

(Bennett & Armitage, in prep.)