

## Learning Exchanges for Conservation: An Examination of Lessons Learned (LExCELL)

**Award Year:**

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**Principal Investigator:**

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**Associated Program:**

[Propose a Workshop](#) [1]

**Repository:**

[Online Repository](#) [2]

Overfishing, the leading social-ecological problem in the marine realm, has modified ecosystem functioning and is jeopardizing the well-being of the billion people that depend on seafood as their primary source of protein. Over the past decade, fisher learning exchanges, in which representatives from different fisher communities are brought together to share knowledge, have become key tools in improving fisheries management. Fisher exchanges are regarded as effective by both organizers and participants for a) sharing fisheries challenges and solutions (both between and within fleets); b) empowering fisher leaders; c) creating communities of practice and building social capital; and d) in developing conservation solutions. To date however, no comparative analysis of the effectiveness of fisher learning exchanges has been made, despite the large investments in them by NGOs and federal agencies, including NOAA Fisheries, The Nature Conservancy, and Environmental Defense Fund. Given the urgency of fishery management challenges plus ever scarcer conservation and fisheries management resources, this team of fisheries scientists will conduct an interdisciplinary workshop to begin to objectively assess the effectiveness of fisher exchanges and to identify key attributes that can enhance their success of using methods, including focus groups, interviews, and reflexive discourses. We will synthesize these attributes into an actionable research plan to guide a subsequent two phase field research program on fisher learning exchanges.

**Participants:**

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Fernando Bretos, The Ocean Foundation  
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Rod Fujita, Environmental Defense Fund  
Lindsay Garbutt  
Alasdair Harris, Blue Ventures  
Will Heyman, Texas A&M  
Amy Hudson Weaver, Niparaja  
Noah Idechong, Palau National Congress  
Mitchell Lay, Caribbean Network of Fisher Organisations  
Jesus Lucero, GTC  
William Anthony Maheia, Toledo Exposure Documentary Films  
John Mitchell, NOAA Fisheries  
Shawn Peabody, Blue Ventures  
Nick Pilcher, Marine Research Foundation  
Joseph Quinata, Humatak Community Foundation  
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Kathleen (Katie) Thompson, University of Washington  
Chua Yau Tsen, Hai Leng Enterprise  
Steven Victor, The Nature Conservancy  
Johnny Wong Sin Fatt, Fook Soon Seafood Products  
Nathalie Zenny, The Nature Conservancy

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**Source URL:** <https://www.sesync.org/learning-exchanges-lexcell>

**Links**

[1] <https://www.sesync.org/workshops>

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