

**CommuniTea on  
Indigenous Science & Land Acknowledgements  
November 8, 2022**

Select and discuss the following topics (as time permits) within your group. Please consider using the Circle Process during discussions to allow everyone an opportunity to participate.

**Land Acknowledgments**

- What do you know about the indigenous people who live in the places you have lived and worked?
- How can land acknowledgements be helpful? How are they not helpful?
- How can we acknowledge the past and present inhabitants of the places where we conduct research?
- How are Land Acknowledgements relevant (or not) for work in the open ocean, for other non-research work at WHOI (e.g., Finance, Facilities)
- What can we as ocean scientists do to acknowledge and/or support indigenous peoples in areas where we work (at WHOI or in remote locations)?

**Indigenous Science**

- Do you think of Traditional or Indigenous Knowledge as “Science” or “Religion”? Why?
- Do you think indigenous knowledge can contribute to Western Science? How?
- How can western science learn from and incorporate indigenous science?

## Circle Process for Discussions

The Circle is an ancient form of meeting that has gathered human beings into respectful conversations for thousands of years.

- Circle is a shape where everyone can see and hear each other.
- Circle is a group process that supports every voice into collaborative decision-making.
- Circle is an experience of sharing story, inviting diverse thinking, and encouraging creative problem solving.

### Key elements:

- **Leadership rotates** – allow everyone an opportunity to speak.
- **Do not interrupt** – the person speaking has the floor.
- **Speak with intention** – noting what has relevance to the conversation.
- **Listen with attention** – respectful of the learning process for all members.
- **Tend the well-being of the group** – remaining aware of the impact of our contributions.