



## Governance document – version 3

*How Memorial University will  
inform fishery policy*

October 11, 2012

# Introduction

The entire text of this presentation presents a DRAFT of how Memorial University's fishery policy group could operate. It is meant to guide the discussion of a possible governance document for the group. Readers should feel free to recommend additions, deletions and amendments to the text.

# Draft vision of fishery policy

The fishery of Newfoundland and Labrador is guided by the wisdom, energy and creativity of all its stakeholders, including employers, employees, unions, community leaders, regional development practitioners, government officials, NGOs, academic researchers and concerned citizens. Decisions regarding the fishery are made in an open, evidence-based, non-partisan and respectful fashion.

# Draft mission for Memorial

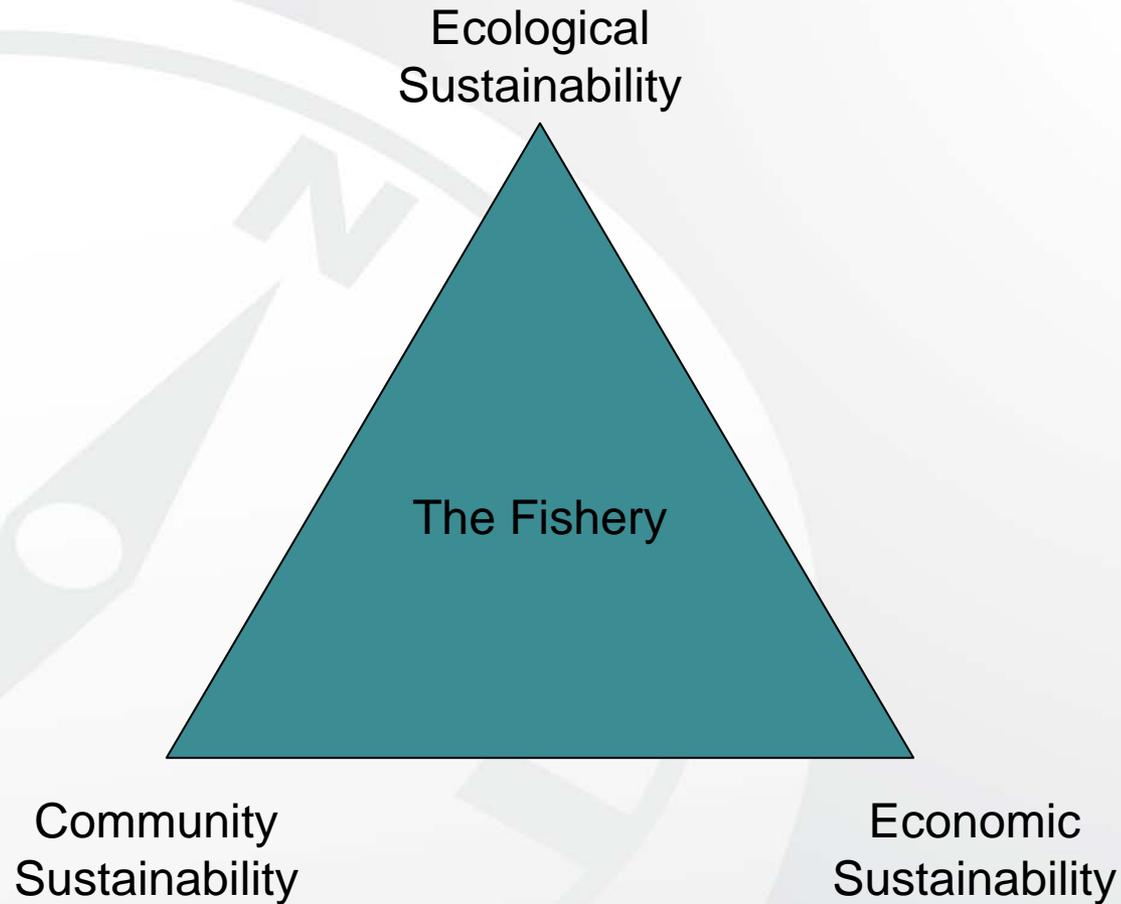
In working towards the vision, Memorial University will help contribute to a sustainable fishery. This will include undertaking research on all aspects of the fishery; communicating the findings of this research to those who need to use it; identifying new opportunities in the fishery; and assisting in finding solutions to conflicts.

# Draft scope of the mission

Memorial University recognizes that, in order for the fishery to be sustainable, the following must be sustainable:

- Fish ecosystems and their habitats
- Commercial enterprises related to the fishery
- Communities which provide the base for the fishery

# Scope of the mission



# Draft mandate of the group

- To share information among the group and to discuss issues – even the most contentious – in a respectful and collegial manner, so that we may all learn from each other
- To promote the study of the fishery of Newfoundland and Labrador from a variety of perspectives in order to bring clarity to complex interrelationships.
- To promote the sharing of information with the public and with decision-makers through considering strategies for knowledge mobilization

# Focus on public policy

“Shaping public policy is a complex and multifaceted process that involves the interplay of numerous individuals and interest groups competing and collaborating to influence policymakers to act in a particular way. These individuals and groups use a variety of tactics and tools to advance their aims, including advocating their positions publicly, attempting to educate supporters and opponents, and mobilizing allies on a particular issue.”

– <http://www.musc.edu/vawprevention/policy/definition.shtml/>

# Focus on fishery policy

The group is composed of people at Memorial University who share an interest in the fishery; the group will not seek funding under its own name nor advocate for any issue (except for basing fishery policy on an open, non-partisan, informed and respectful discussion)

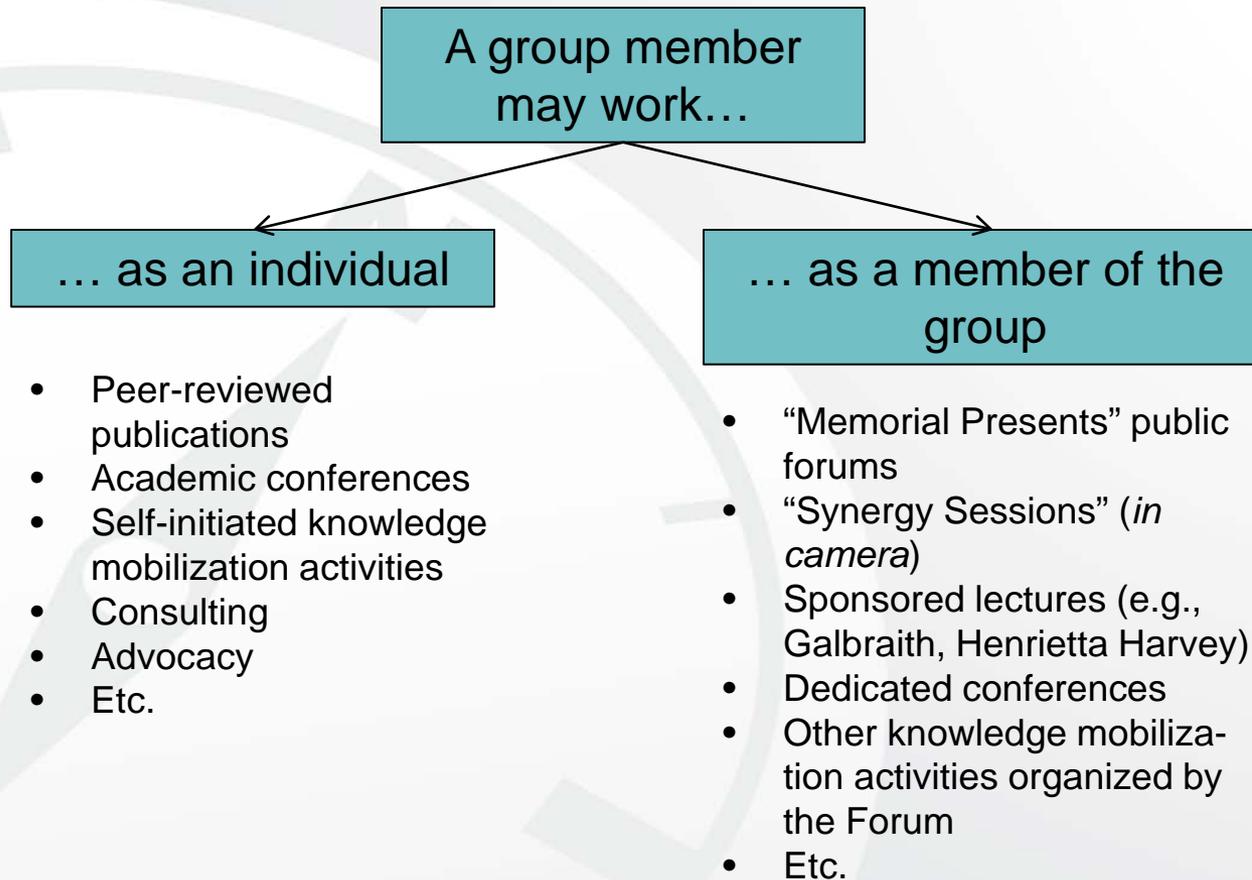
# Valuing differing viewpoints

- Conflicts will arise based on knowledge gaps, the interpretation of facts and differing values; unresolved conflicts are acknowledged explicitly, as they reflect differing points of view in the fishery
- The group is a safe place to discuss controversial issues without fear of attribution outside the group

# Draft composition of the group

- Current faculty and staff, retired faculty and staff, and graduate students of Memorial University
- Participation in the group is voluntary and members may act both within and outside the group (see graphic next page)
- Individuals or organizations from outside Memorial University may be invited to give guest presentations to the group

# Possible activities of the group



# Three types of activities need to be considered...

## Participating

- Attend meetings
- Undertake research and scholarship on the fishery
- Share research findings with group members
- Participate in knowledge mobilization activities with the public and/or decision-makers
- Assist in finding solutions to conflicts in the fishery

## Leading

- Set the agenda for meetings
- Chair meetings
- Lead the process to establish priorities and schedules
- Monitor progress and report on activities
- Provide a liaison with external groups (e.g., government, media, NGOs)

## Coordinating

- Maintain the list of group members
- Schedule and organize meetings
- Keep and distribute minutes of meetings
- Facilitate communications among group members
- Conduct the election of the Chair

# The Chair of the group

- Must be a member of the group, or eligible to become a member
- Must have demonstrated ability to facilitate meetings within an academic environment
- Is elected biannually by secret ballot by a simple majority

# Coordinating the meetings

- The Harris Centre acts as the secretariat for the group
- Meetings are held once a month, except during the summer
- Meetings are scheduled for when the largest number of members are available; no minimum number of members (or quorum) is required for a meeting

# Coordinating the meetings

- Participants may attend meetings in person, by videoconference or by teleconference
- The group may create committees where detailed, complex and/or contentious issues can be reviewed before being brought back to the full group

# Agenda of a typical meeting

- Welcome and introduction by the Chair
- Presentations by one or two group members on the findings of their research projects
- Discussion about the public policy implications of the research projects
- Discussion on possible knowledge mobilization activities (to the public or to decision-makers)
- Identification of presenters for subsequent meetings
- Identification of agenda items for the next meeting