

Conservation action planning and boundary work in Frenchman Bay



Bridie McGreavy

Sustainability Solutions Initiative, University of Maine

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3:00 - 4:00pm, 107 Norman Smith Hall

The concept of boundary work and related discussions of boundary objects and organizations are important focal areas within sustainability science. While communication is described as central to boundary work, insights from the field of communication have largely yet to inform theorizing about boundaries within sustainability science. In this presentation, we highlight how communication can help us understand boundary work, including how boundaries form, the social context in which boundary work occurs, and informed strategies for enhanced boundary spanning and management. We focus in particular in the use of boundary objects in the Frenchman



Bay Partners conservation action planning process. In our ethnographic research, we found that food at project meetings; computer software; the Frenchman Bay Atlas; eel grass and their restoration grids; and maps of many sizes and shapes were material participants that influenced how the planning process developed.

Bridie McGreavy is currently a postdoctoral research fellow with the New England Sustainability Consortium (NEST), a project focused on safe beaches and shellfish in Maine and New Hampshire. Bridie received her Ph.D. in communication and sustainability science from the University of Maine in December 2013. Her research focuses broadly on communication, resilience, and sustainability. Bridie received an M.S. in Environmental Studies-Conservation Biology from Antioch University New England in Keene, NH in 2008 and her graduate research focused on science communication for vernal pool conservation.

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