

# Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program



Fraser Basin Council



## 2009/10 FINAL REPORT

FSWP File Number\* 07350-35/FSWP 09 LR EE 52

\* Please use the FSWP File Number provided in previous FSWP project correspondence.

### 1. Project Information

#### 1.1. Project Title

Stop the Spread of Spiny-ray Fish Species

#### 1.2. Proponent's Legal Name

Kingfisher Interpretive Centre Society

#### 1.3. Project Location

Thompson/Shuswap watershed

#### 1.4. Contact for this report

Name: Neil Brookes

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#### 1.5 Funding Amount

Original Approved Grant Amount:	Total FSWP Expenditures:	Final Invoice Amount:	Final Non-FSWP leveraging, including cash and in-kind:
\$75,242.40	\$72,644.33	\$12,431.21	\$83,077

### 2. Project Summary

Please provide a single paragraph describing your project, its objectives, and the results. As this summary may be used in program communications, clearly state the issue(s) that were addressed and avoid overly technical descriptions. Maximum 300 words.

Our project addressed the threat of alien invasive fish species in the Shuswap watershed. To meet this end we continued with the multi-pronged, multi-agency approach to encompass our objectives of early detection, prevention, education and collaboration. Early detection was carried out by Splat sin band members under the direction of DFO who designed the sampling techniques and sampling schedule. The information collected was then used to detect population growth and expansion. Prevention was an exercise undertaken by KICS through education and engagement. Close to 4,000 school children partook in our spring and fall field trips to KIC and were educated about watersheds, aquatic entomology, forest ecology, First Nations, invasive species, salmon and more. Education and awareness was also offered to the over 2,000 summer visitors to the Centre. Invasive species information was also taken on the road to ten different events throughout the Okanagan and Lower Mainland. The whole project was a collaboration of government agencies, First Nations, and NGO's.

**OPTIONAL** Please give a short statement (up to 100 words) of the most compelling activity or outcome from your project.

**The fundamental out come of this years' project was the discovery of more yellow perch in Adams Lake. The location of this population is so close to our Adams River sockeye that it is essential that large lake control methods be explored before the population establishes itself.**

Quote of the year, made by a grade two student from 'inner-city' Vernon; "This place is just awesome! I've never been in a forest before!" This was the happiest child in the world. He will never forget that initial feeling when he first stepped off his bus into the forest (an unknown world to him). We feel such gratification knowing that his field trip the Kingfisher Interpretive Center probably changed his life!

### 3.Final Project Results and Effectiveness

3.1 Copy EXPECTED OUTCOMES from your detailed proposal and insert into this section. Add additional rows as needed. Then please list the FINAL OUTCOMES (the tangible end products resulting from this work) associated with expected outcome.

If FINAL OUTCOMES differ from the original EXPECTED OUTCOMES please describe why, and the implications for the project.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES	FINAL OUTCOMES
1. Early Detection - to detect the presence of alien invasive fish species in local lakes and waterways as quickly as possible.	Several local lakes were monitored for invasive fish species. Unfortunately, the presence of yellow perch in Adams Lake has been confirmed with the capture of several milting males. This early detection may give us the jump we need to establish large lake control methods and implement them before this population establishes itself. The proximity to the world famous Adams River sockeye run is unnerving and measures need to be taken to address this threat immediately.
2. Prevention – to stop further spread (voluntary and involuntary) of alien invasive fish species. (behaviour change)	We have provided over 6,000 people with the knowledge of what the consequences may be through the involuntary and voluntary spread of invasive fish species. This knowledge, hopefully, will now prevent these individuals from making that mistake. Also, they may pass on their knowledge to family and friends.
3. Education – Educating today's youth and visiting tourists about salmon and to inspire changes in human behaviour making people aware of the effects of intentional and unintentional transportation of invasive species.	We educated close to 6,000 schoolchildren and visitors about salmon, invasive species, watersheds, wildlife, etc.
4. Collaboration – to involve as many similar organizations as we can with invasive species education	We collaborated with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Ministry of Environment, Splatsin, the Little Shuswap Indian Band, Secwepemc

Fisheries Commission, the Alan Brooks Nature Centre, School Districts #22, #83 and #19,

**3.2 Please evaluate the EFFECTIVENESS of your project in achieving Project Objectives. Please identify the indicators you have used to measure the effectiveness of your project. Please include any notable successes or challenges.**

The effectiveness of early detection is essential in controlling further spread of alien invasive fish species. With the early detection of Perch in Adams Lake we now have an opportunity to slow the population growth. We feel that this is imperative for protecting the Adams River and Shuswap salmon populations.

It is tough to evaluate the effectiveness of certain aspects of our project. For example to determine whether or not we have helped prevent the further spread of alien invasive fish species cannot be determined until future monitoring is conducted, however, we do feel that the effect of educating the public can be very important in inspiring changes in human behaviour. Through the interaction with people and seeing the light bulb of epiphany turn on at the mention of some random or obscure fact is encouraging and shows the effectiveness of that contact. We do feel that a large percent of those that we have contact with will think twice about voluntarily spreading invasive species. This percent is important. If we can continue with the education process then more and more people will have been taught the consequences of their actions, therefore, decreasing the potential of intentional and unintentional spread of alien invasive species.

The collaboration efforts of government agencies, First Nations, institutions and NGO's is definitely an effective way of spreading knowledge, ideas and information through out all sectors. These collaborative efforts increase opportunity and improve efficiency in dealing with the looming threat.

**3.3 REQUIRED: attach all DOCUMENTATION of Final Outcomes, and LIST attachments here. These may include technical reports, maps, photos, evidence of communications, lists of meeting participants, etc.**

Note: Attachments will not be sent electronically unless otherwise specified. They will accompany the hard copy.

Attachment # 1 – Newspaper Advertisement  
Attachment # 2 – Newspaper article  
Attachment # 3 – Teacher testimonial from Spring Field Trip (program evaluation)  
Attachment # 4 – KICS List of Achievements for 2009  
Attachment # 5 – Financial Information  
Attachment # 6 – Curriculum activities  
Attachment # 7 – Final Invoice (included with electronic copy)

**3.4 Please describe how the benefits of this project will be sustained and/or be built upon into the future. What are the planned next steps, or recommendations for further work, if applicable?**

KICS has succeeded in salmon based education for three decades and will continue to seek funding and educate people about salmon, watersheds, ecology, the consequences of spreading invasive fish species around etc. We have been building a network of communications and collaborative efforts and will keep striving to do the same. We will continue to seek funding until we are successful.

**3.5 What are the top three lessons learned from this project that could be useful to communicate to others doing similar work in the Basin?**

1. DO NOT transport live fish from one water body to another.
2. Educating people with hands-on activities achieves a higher level of learning, appreciation and understanding.
3. Invasive species are spreading.