

2010/11 FINAL REPORT

FSWP File Number*	FSWP 10 D 130 SIFM
--------------------------	--------------------

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

1. Project Information

1.1. Project Title

Salmon in the Quesnel Watershed: A Think Tank on the need for an Inland Fisheries Research Program.

1.2. Proponent's Legal Name

Northern Shuswap Tribal Council Society

1.3. Project Location

Williams Lake – Cariboo Chilcotin Region.

1.4. Contact for this report

Name: Gord Sterritt

Phone: 250.392.7361

Email: g.sterritt@nstq.org

1.5 Funding Amount

Original Approved Grant Amount:	Total FSWP Expenditures:	Final Invoice Amount:	Final Non-FSWP leveraging, including cash and in-kind:
\$6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 5900.00

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.

On February 23-25, 2011 an Inland Fisheries Research Think Tank has held at the Dr. Max Blouw Quesnel Research Center to discuss options or possibilities for a research watershed, such as the Quesnel. It was recommended that yes a Quesnel River Fisheries Research and Knowledge program be established for all healthy breeding populations of salmon and that the mission is to design and implement a program addressing interior fisheries issues, with a focus on the Quesnel River Watershed.

It is key that this research and knowledge program will be collaborative, multi-disciplinary, community-based, community-centered, and local; and that the goals of the Quesnel River Fisheries Research and Knowledge Program are to:

- increase our knowledge and understanding of the biology, ecology, and behavior of the major fish species in the Quesnel River Watershed, especially salmon, bull trout and white sturgeon;
- identify and develop a protection strategy for productive fish spawning, rearing, and in- and out-migration habitat in the Quesnel River Watershed;
- increase resource managers' and decision-makers access to and utilization of the knowledge generated through the research and extension projects; and
- establish and maintain a communicative, functioning network of researchers and extension specialists to address the defined issues.

It was also determined that someone be hired to ‘champion’ this initiative through to the ‘up and running’ stage and that the research program be guided by a Partnership Steering Committee, comprised of representatives of the following institutions, agencies, and organizations:

- University of Northern British Columbia,
- North Shuswap Tribal Council
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada

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

3. Final Project Results and Effectiveness

3.1 Please copy THE EXPECTED DELIVERABLES from your detailed proposal and insert into this table. Add additional rows as needed. Then describe the FINAL DELIVERABLES (the tangible end products resulting from this work) associated with each expected Deliverable.

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

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES	FINAL DELIVERABLES
<p>1. To achieve the overall goal/issue of a long-term research strategy the specific deliverables of this project with respect to the Quesnel River Watershed and the Interior will be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the key issues and knowledge needs; • identify the potential research partners; • identify the potential supporting partners; • identify the potential funding sources; and • define the highest priority research topics. 	<p>We were able to achieve consensus on the key issues and knowledge needs and recognized the need for greater research to fill knowledge gaps. However, it became clear that identifying research partners other than the participants of the workshop, the supporting partners and funding sources would prove somewhat difficult at the stage we were at.</p> <p>So from there we altered our direction and worked towards the following:</p> <p>Vision – The vision for the Quesnel Watershed Fisheries Research Program is:</p> <p><i>Healthy, breeding populations of all genetic variants of wild salmon utilizing the Quesnel River watershed (sustainable communities through sustainable salmon populations)</i></p> <p>Mission – The mission statement for the Quesnel Watershed Fisheries Research Program is to:</p> <p><i>Design and implement a research and extension program addressing interior fisheries issues, with a focus on the Quesnel River watershed.</i></p>

	<p>This research and knowledge program will be collaborative and multi-disciplinary.</p> <p>Goals – The goals of the Quesnel Watershed Fisheries Research Program are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Increase our knowledge and understanding of the biology, ecology, and behavior of the major fish species in the Quesnel River Watershed, especially salmon, bull trout and white sturgeon. (2) Identify and develop a protection strategy for productive fish spawning, rearing, and in- and out-migration habitat in the Quesnel River Watershed. (3) Identify and develop a protection strategy for productive fish in- and out-migration habitat in the Fraser River south of its confluence with the Quesnel River. (4) Increase resource managers’ and decision-makers access to and utilization of the knowledge generated through the research and extension projects. (5) Establish and maintain a communicative, functioning network of researchers and extension specialists to address the defined issues.
<p>2. To achieve the goal of developing a strategy for the formation of a Interior Fisheries Research Center the specific deliverables of this project will be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the key goals and objectives of an inland fisheries research centre; • identify the resources required to facilitate addressing of each goal and objective; • identify the potential collaborating partners and their roles; and identify the potential funding partners (endowments, grants, etc.). 	<p>Although the goals and objectives were not necessarily defined, it proved more difficult to identify the funding and resources to move ahead. The consensus was that this would be the task of the steering committee.</p> <p>At this point the potential collaborating and funding partners would also be identified.</p> <p>Read narrative report.</p>
<p>3.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	
<p>3.2 Please evaluate the EFFECTIVENESS of your project in achieving Project Objectives. Identify the indicators you have used to measure the effectiveness of your project. Please include any notable successes or challenges.</p>	

This project was a success in that it was acknowledged that we definitely require a inland fisheries research program to address freshwater ecology issues. The participation was also a success in realizing the busy schedules and remoteness of the workshop. Initially it was thought that having everyone on almost the same page would be a great challenge. However, it became apparent that the parties involved are working towards the same direction and that a partnership would be invaluable to making this happen.

3.4 IF applicable, please describe how your project has achieved one or more of the following supported processes (Section 2.2 of RFP; section 7 of detailed proposal template). If results differ from those originally anticipated, please describe.

Engagement of First Nations. Please specify who, and in what capacity.	This project supported the engagement of the Northern Secwepemc and NStQ Communities of Williams Lake Indian Band and Soda Creek Indian Band as full participants to the planning for a research watershed.
Active partnerships with one or more organizations.	Through the implementation of this project, partnerships and collaboration was conceived with the University of Northern BC, the Quesnel River Research Center, the community of Likely as well as the Pacific Salmon Foundation and Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Additional partnerships were identified that will be pursued.
Engagement and participation of diverse and under-represented groups.	This project promoted the engagement of the NSTC and Northern Secwepemc Communities with UNBC and Likely in an environment that is sometimes non-existent.
Relationship building, as a foundation for sustainable, enduring activities.	Through the common objectives identified with this Think Tank and the desire to pursue the goal of developing a research watershed it is foreseen that this will be a sustainable project for the future of the fish that return to the Quesnel Watershed.
Capacity building, including mentorship models, leadership training and skills development.	The activities that were identified included the building of the Northern Secwepemc capacity through long term monitoring and as well a program to develop professionals such as fisheries scientists locally.
Recognition and support of champions and their initiatives.	As illustrated in the narrative report, this project recognized the persons with the vision to develop the fisheries research program as well as identifying the need for a champion to the initiative.
Opportunities to influence policy and decision making,	It was acknowledged that this was an opportunity to not only satisfy the academic knowledge but also to provide answers to knowledge gaps that are required for policy implementation such as the Wild Salmon Policy as well as management decision making.

3.5 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?

The representatives of the lead collaborators formulated the following recommendations for consideration by their governments, organizations, institutions, and agencies:

- (1) That **The Quesnel River Fisheries Research and Knowledge Program** should be established and integrated with existing and future programs at the Dr. Max Blouw Quesnel River Research Centre, Likely, BC.

- (2) That the **vision** for the Quesnel River Fisheries Research and Knowledge Program is:
- **healthy, breeding populations of all genetic variants of salmon utilizing the Quesnel River watershed (sustainable communities through sustainable salmon populations.)**
- (3) That the **mission statement** for the Quesnel River Fisheries Research and Knowledge Program is to:
- **design and implement a research and knowledge program addressing interior fisheries issues, with a focus on the Quesnel River watershed.**
- (4) That this research and knowledge program will be collaborative, multi-disciplinary, community-based, community-centered, and local.
- (5) That the **goals** of the Quesnel River Fisheries Research and Knowledge Program are to:
- increase our knowledge and understanding of the biology, ecology, and behavior of the major fish species in the Quesnel River Watershed, especially salmon, bull trout and white sturgeon;
 - identify and develop a protection strategy for productive fish spawning, rearing, and in- and out-migration habitat in the Quesnel River Watershed;
 - identify and develop a protection strategy for productive fish in- and out-migration habitat in the Fraser River south of its confluence with the Quesnel River;
 - increase resource managers' and decision-makers access to and utilization of the knowledge generated through the research and extension projects; and
 - establish and maintain a communicative, functioning network of researchers and extension specialists to address the defined issues.
- (6) That someone should be hired to '**champion**' this initiative through to the 'up and running' stage. A project champion is an individual who has the skills, abilities and authority to use resources within an organization for completion of a given project. A project champion is chosen by the management so as to ensure supervision of a specific project right from its initiation phase to its execution phase.
- (7) That the research program be guided by a **Partnership Steering Committee**, currently comprised of representatives of the following institutions, agencies, and organizations:
- University of Northern British Columbia, Dr. Dan Ryan, Dean, College of Science and Management, University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, BC;
 - Northern Shuswap Tribal Council, Gord Sterritt, Williams Lake, BC; and
 - Canada Fisheries and Oceans, Richard Bailey, Kamloops, BC.

This Fish Tank has resulted in some major steps forward in a possible resolution to the Pacific salmon crisis facing British Columbia. The Fish Tank participants and organizers ask that you recognize that this is a beginning of a process, not the end.

3.6. 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.
- 2.
- 3.

REQUIRED: Attach all DOCUMENTATION of Final Deliverables, and LIST attachments in Section 7. These may include technical reports, maps, photos, evidence of communications, lists of meeting participants, etc.

4. Outreach and Communications

Please describe how you have communicated project activities and results within local and basin-wide communities, across organizations and/or to decision makers.

Please list and attach copies of (or links to) any communications materials from these efforts that you have not previously submitted.

The project will be communicated through distribution of the final report as well as communication with the relevant parties. Northern Secwepemc communities will be informed through community forums and quarterly newspaper.