

# Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program



## 2011/12 FINAL REPORT

**FSWP File Number\*** FSWP 11 26 LR PG

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

### 1. Project Information

#### 1.1. Project Title

Building a River Community

#### 1.2. Proponent's Legal Name

Fraser River Salmon Table Society

#### 1.3. Project Location

Fraser Watershed

#### 1.4. Contact for this report

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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:
\$30,000	\$30,000	\$9,000	\$260,654.26

### 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.

This Fraser Watershed project has made successful and measurable steps in *Building a River Community*, effectively redefining relationships in readiness for transformative change in the salmon fishery. The Fraser River Salmon Table has completed the first phase of building effective relationships for the changing salmon fishery, spanning 5 years of capacity-building among First Nations, leading sport fishing groups, industry and salmon conservation organizations.

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

The emerging "River Community" has introduced new tools to support the changing fishery including "River Manners" to guide salmon fisheries in conflict, piloted a *Peacemakers* process to solve problems that arise, and developed a vision for certifying modern economic salmon fisheries that advances principles of sustainability, prosperity and traditional values of First Nations on the river. As the foundation of steps forward these groups

are building partnerships that will strive to improve sharing relationships, enhance river access to support their fisheries, and in the market-place they will brand the Fraser salmon fishery to reflect the river fishing cultures, and the high quality natural and wholesome fish that is produced from the Fraser River, as certifiably sustainable, healthy, and beneficial to the salmon, the producer and the public (from River to Plate – A Branding Vision for the emerging economic fisheries).

### 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><b>1. Building a River Community: Ongoing</b> communications between competing interests and agencies in the fishery through board of directors, newsletter, Website, meetings and teleconferences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>4 Salmon Table Board meetings/</b> conference calls</li> <li>• <b>5 Finance Committee meetings</b></li> <li>• <b>1 Website</b></li> <li>• <b>3 financial reports and 1 annual financial review</b></li> <li>• <b>1 strategic action plan</b> (from Fraser River Salmon Table AGM)</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Best Practices:</b> Complete supporting work plans and funding support for traceability platform field testing, development of a First Nations fishery certification pilot, and capacity support for quality management plans in each of the participating fisheries.</p> <p>A business plan for operational activities after 2011/12 is required.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Coordinated a comprehensive implementation proposal</b> to INAC for Phase II: including further field testing of the traceability platform and broader discussions with First Nations in the Fraser River on certification plans(\$200k)</li> <li>• <b>Organized a governance plan</b> for transition of the best practices forum to a board of directors, staff plan, and business framework</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Support capacity-building with constituent interests:</b></p> <p>Ongoing facilitation of Peacemakers Corps and First Nations EO salmon producers network.</p> <p>Organize internal responses to conflicts in the former, and an action plan and business case/work plans for the latter.</p> <p>Completion of work plans around traceability and quality management plans, and final draft of River to Plate. Both processes should make significant progress towards self sustaining status by year’s end.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>12 Joint sport fishing-First Nations working group meetings &amp; field trips</b> including broader engagement with Fraser First Nations and the Sport Fishing Advisory Board</li> <li>• <b>14 best practices meetings,</b> conference calls and field trips among First Nations</li> <li>• <b>4 Discussion papers for BP forum</b> ( River to Plate Vision, “What is a [River] Fishing Enterprise”, Towards a Salmon Producers Network, and An Investment Prospectus Supporting Developing River Salmon Fisheries)</li> <li>• <b>3 Discussion papers for sport fishing-First Nations working group</b> (Signage strategy, Access plan, Peacemakers TOR)</li> <li>• <b>1 Open-architecture traceability platform</b> for producer managed harvest and landing data, regulatory documentation, production reports, and QR code verification of fish products</li> <li>• <b>1 Business planning and implementation workshop</b> for the QVS Select Certification and branding program ( shared</li> </ul>

<p>Completion of the first phase of a joint access assessment study in the lower Fraser River is anticipated.</p>	<p>logistics, marketing, and product development strategy) and workshop for business plan development (March 28/29)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>1 Completion of Access Study</b> of the lower Fraser River salmon fishery</li> </ul>
<p>4. Cultus Sockeye restoration: Cultus sockeye predator intervention activities will be ongoing.</p> <p>Efforts will be made to seek alternative funding to support pikeminnow removal.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>2011/12 business plan for the Cultus Lake Sockeye fund</b></li> <li>• <b>Strategic planning</b> from Board of Directors AGM workshop</li> </ul>
<p><b>3.2 Please evaluate the EFFECTIVENESS of your project in achieving Project Objectives, using the specific measures of success identified in your proposal. Please include any notable successes or challenges.</b></p>	
<p><b>Effectiveness Goals</b></p> <p><b>1. Building a River Community:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial accountability</li> <li>• Effective oversight, engaged interest-specific and cross-cutting consultations</li> </ul>	<p><b>Effectiveness Measures</b></p> <p>Financial reporting received certification reflecting both accuracy and meeting standard accepted accounting principles by KPMG</p> <p>Received consensus to move forward into the next phase of building a river community from the Board of Directors, including agency participant observers.</p> <p>DFO support for best practices forum and the joint sport fishing-First Nations working group</p> <p>Successfully delivered sustainable tools for addressing transformative change in the Fraser River salmon fishery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tier 1 vision for new economic fisheries and supporting certification program</li> <li>• River manners to guide salmon fisheries in conflict</li> <li>• Peacemakers (Committee of sport fishing interests and First Nations in the lower Fraser River) to respond to conflict</li> </ul> <p>The Fraser River Salmon Table is recognized for delivering a new model for “Tier 3” interactions in the fishery, focused on problem solving and support for common goals.</p>
<p><b>Effectiveness Goals</b></p> <p><b>2. Best Practices:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visible First Nations and agency support for emerging vision defined and reflected on for 2011</li> <li>• Multiple First Nations agreements with DFO’s PICFI program</li> <li>• Agreement with agencies on specific best practices</li> </ul>	<p><b>Effectiveness Measures</b></p> <p>Provincial agencies support expressed for the River to Plate Vision document although DFO has expressed no position. DFO support for best practices forum. Agency attendance however in best practices forum is broad and engaging.</p> <p>Selective inland economic access supported and salmon fishing agreements in place with partnerships in the Harrison, Mid-Fraser/Thompson, and upper Fraser River, and Okanagan as well as among combined groups with the exclusion of the</p>

	<p>Thompson River. 3 groups have had PICFI business plans accepted and received license access, training and development grants.</p>
<p><b>Effectiveness Goals</b></p> <p>3. <b>Support capacity-building with constituent interests:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 interests on board and grounded in sectors</li> <li>• Gain support of SFAB and CSAB</li> <li>• Interest-based fishery objectives</li> <li>• Improved participation from the middle Fraser</li> </ul>	<p><b>Effectiveness Measures</b></p> <p>A quorum of Fraser River Salmon Table Board members includes an engaged cross-section of participants from the 4 interests in the fishery.</p> <p>CSAB has provided support for a designate to the Fraser River Salmon Table Board, and the Sport Fishing Advisory Board has expressed support and requested direction from DFO</p> <p>Interest-based fishery objectives are emerging but remain largely unclear. First Nations remain challenged to achieve full access to FSC fisheries around the watershed and more than 100 licenses for commercial access has been transferred in-river. The sport fishery is enjoying access to all salmon species around the watershed though there is a lack of effective planning to meet common objectives/solve problems across interests with the exception of the successful pilot in the lower Fraser River.</p> <p>There is little improvement in the level of cooperation and engagement between and among interests within the middle-Fraser river, and with a few exceptions most of these groups continue to work in relative isolation.</p> <p>An emerging relationship between the Fraser River Salmon Table and the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat is considering the role of the Fraser River Salmon Table as a referral body for “Tier 3” referrals in the salmon fishery.</p> <p>A joint access planning study between Sport fishers and First Nations in the lower Fraser River will provide the basis for First Nations benefits from the sport fishery and for the growing sport fishery to reduce tensions in the First Nation fishery.</p> <p>A workshop between First Nations, the BC Cooperative Association and Vancity in March will scope out cooperative project business plans for strategic investment in the future river salmon fishery in processing and access (boat launches/campgrounds, trails etc.)</p>

Effectiveness Goals	Effectiveness Measures
<p><b>4. Cultus Sockeye restoration:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be defined by projects funded</li> </ul>	<p>The Cultus lake sockeye program has been successfully delivered in partnership between the Sto:lo and the CSAB for 3 years.</p> <p>Growth in the attendance at the Fathers Day Greg Clark Memorial Pikeminnow derby and harvest of pinkminnow is encouraging and it is a popular public education forum. Decreasing catches in the pikminnow removal is providing some optimism to managers. Further study of the cause and effect has been recommended.</p>
<p>3.4 If applicable, please describe project outcomes that relate to one or more of the following strategic approaches (Section 2.1 of RFP; section 8 of detailed proposal template), and include specific examples.</p>	
<p>Engagement of First Nations. Please specify who, and in what capacity.</p>	<p>Sto:lo Tribal Council, Sto:lo Nation, Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance, Upper Fraser Conservation Alliance, <i>Scowlitz/Sts'ailes, Northern Shuswap, Tshquotin National Government, Xeni Gwetin, Okanagan Nation, Lake Babine First Nations, and Siska Indian Band</i></p>
<p>Active partnerships with one or more organizations.</p>	<p>Access planning and development in the lower Fraser River among First Nations and leading sport fishing groups</p> <p>Certification and branding of emerging inland economic fisheries among First Nations</p> <p>Best practices forum attendance from agencies includes DFO, BC Ministry of Marine and Ocean Fisheries and Provincial Fish Inspectors, Fraser Valley Health Authority and Interior Health Authority, Canadian Food Inspection Agency.</p> <p>Capacity building support has been provided by BC Cooperative Association, UBC, BCIT and the Fraser Valley Regional District.</p>
<p>Engagement and participation of diverse and under-represented groups.</p>	<p>Cultus lake partnerships has included fund raising and project involvement from the East Asian Community</p>
<p>Relationship building, as a foundation for sustainable, enduring activities.</p>	<p>Sport fishers and First Nations</p> <p>First Nations around the watershed</p>
<p>Capacity building, including mentorship models, leadership training and skills development.</p>	<p>Standards in sustainable economic fisheries</p> <p>Applied training in Peacemakers last fiscal into Peacemakers committee this fiscal</p> <p>Shared access planning and public educational signage is an advanced</p>

	step in finding common ground in the fishery
Recognition and support of champions and their initiatives.	<p>An award was shared with Corporal Chris Gosslin by the Joint Sport Fishing- First Nations Working Group recognizing his contributions and support for the conflict resolution initiative</p> <p>The emerging cooperative inland fishery is gelling around capacity “nodes” in processing and logistics, administration and marketing recognizing leadership over the last 5 years</p>
Opportunities to influence policy and decision making,	<p>The best practices forum on inland economic opportunities was instrumental in advancing the in-river economic fisheries from “experimental” to recognized viable and equally important, the formulation of a vision that embraces in-river values and customs garnered sufficient support and awareness that it allayed public fears about over-fishing, risk to food safety and traceability; and, it quelled apprehension among First Nations about interference with traditional salmon fisheries.</p> <p>The best practices forums also brought together agencies that were critical role-players in the regulation of the inland fisheries that had formerly no mechanisms or experience dealing with the challenges unique to the emerging in-river economic fisheries. Key policy outcomes included acceptance of standards &amp; permitting for roadside sales of fresh salmon, and legislative change(Provincial) to accommodate licensing of processing small catches as in marine salmon fisheries.</p>

**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?**

A new paradigm for “Tier 3” interactions among competing interests in the river salmon fishery that focuses on problem-solving rather than fighting over access to the fishery, will pave the way for shaping a more constructive and sustainable in-river salmon fishery in the future – it is expected that the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat will pick up the model for third party engagement as First Nations deploy new in-river commercial fishing licenses;

The joint working group of First Nations and sport fishers on the lower Fraser River have formed a Peacemakers Committee that will perpetuate the lessons and provide a vehicle for responding to conflict in a constructive way. Supported by the River Manners video and reprinting of the pamphlet (now utilized by both groups), as well as public education signs at 4 key access points in the lower Fraser fishery, will help competing interests in the fishery improve their relationships and reduce conflict.

The best practices forum has been handed-off to a First Nations-led body. This project assisted in the formation of the body, governance structure and administrative arrangements that will be a legacy of this project.

A traceability platform has been developed in the emerging First Nations economic fisheries that puts the power of the data into the hands of the First Nations salmon producer: to generate and organize regulatory

documentation, to manage product custody, and to provide archives and fishery production statistics and reports in a simple, secure and open-access format. Coincidentally, the provision of QR coded validation of provenance is the most advanced traceability tool in the Country and it provides First Nations with a marketing resource tool to promote their artisanal fisheries and local fish products that will enhance the value of their fishery.

**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. There is a need for “River Manners” to guide salmon fisheries in conflict;**
- 2. There is a role for structured third-Party problem solving in the changing in-river salmon fishery and local Peacemakers process to solve problems that arise;**
- 3. There is enormous benefit to be derived from building a common vision for certifying modern economic salmon fisheries that advances principles of sustainability - that initiative should be extended outwards to involve all fisheries in a common vision for a modern Fraser River salmon fishery**

**3.7 REQUIRED: Attach all DOCUMENTATION of Final Deliverables, and LIST attachments in Section 8. 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.**

- Website: [www.frasersalmontable.org](http://www.frasersalmontable.org)
- Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZ8YStwrhy4>
- Pamphlets: 3,000+ in circulation
- Signage at 4 key lower Fraser River boat launches (Kilby, Island 22, Gill Road, and Dewdney)
- Best practices forums
- Multi-interest forums

5.1 If you have had any significant differences in spending in comparison to your original budget, please provide an explanation. Significant differences could include costs that exceed 20% of a line item or budget category (labour, materials, administration), and new items or services that were not originally budgeted, exceeding 10% of total FSWP contribution.

5.2 Please describe all non-FSWP project contributions, cash and in-kind. ATTACH letters of confirmation for non-FSWP contribution sources (cash and/or in-kind).

Non-FSWP Contribution Sources	Letter of Confirmation Attached (Y/N)	Cash (\$)	In-Kind (\$)	Total (\$)
Cultus Lake Sockeye Fund	Delivered	\$42,950.26	-	\$76,174.26
DFO PICFI	Contribution Agreement	\$156,480	-	\$156,480
Enterprising Non-profits	Y	\$10,000	-	\$10,000
Shell Canada	Y	\$10,000	-	\$10,000
Lower Fraser Fisheries Assembly	N	-	\$2,000	\$2,000
BC Wildlife Federation	N	-	\$2,000	\$2,000
BC Federation of Drift Fishers	N	-	\$2,000	\$2,000
Fraser Valley Salmon Society	N	-	\$2,000	\$2,000
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$260,654.26</b>

## 6. Additional Comments

*OPTIONAL: Provide any additional comments or recommendations for future efforts and suggestions for helping partners to meet the goals of the Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program.*

Special thanks for the strategic contributions of the Fraser Salmon and Watershed's Program – for without your contributions, it is unlikely that any of this work would have been accomplished. This was particularly valuable in it's strategic timing during transformative change in the salmon fishery. A risk analysis that would have defined the changes to the fishery over the last 5 years in the absence of the FSWP reflects the following likely scenarios:

1. There would be increased conflict between the sport and First Nations fishery causing harm to relationships and potentially leading to overfishing
2. It is unlikely that the licensing policy and transfer of licenses would have occurred at this pace and would likely have been opposed publicly due to ignorance and concern about conflict
3. Traceability in the fishery and the regulatory environment would take decades to catch up