

Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program



2009/10 FINAL REPORT

FSWP File Number* **07350-35/FSWP 09 PG LR 60**

* FSWP File Number provided in previous FSWP project correspondence.

1. Project Information

1.1. Project Title

River Community Synergies: Advancing Integrated Fisheries Management

1.2. Proponent's Legal Name

Fraser River Salmon Table Society

1.3. Project Location

Fraser Watershed

1.4. Contact for this report

Name: Dave Moore

Phone (250)372-9472

Email: davemoore08@xplornet.com

1.5 Funding Amount

Original Approved Grant Amount:	Total FSWP Expenditures:	Final Invoice Amount:	Final Non-FSWP leveraging, including cash and in-kind:
\$119,100	\$119,037.62	\$23,820	\$35,500

2. Project Summary

Project objectives and results

The Fraser River Salmon Table (the Salmon Table) continues work "To build a river community", to engage a greater formal collaboration among the 4 key constituent interests (First Nations, sport fishers, commercial fishers and conservation interests) and fishery managers. The work pays specific attention to the capacity needs of each of the constituent interests to be effectively informed, and as desirable, able to work together to address the changes in the fishery, to problem solve, and to build a better fishery for all. In 2009/10, and in addition to strengthening partnerships with DFO and the Pacific Salmon Foundation, the Salmon Table funded projects aimed at Cultus sockeye recovery, coordinated best practices planning in the developing in-river economic fisheries, facilitated conflict resolution amongst First Nations and sport fishers in the lower Fraser salmon fishery, and advanced thinking amongst competing interests around share-based fisheries, monitoring and compliance.

The most compelling activity or outcome from our project.

- 1. River to Plate Strategy-building** amongst First Nations will revolutionize the in-river economic fisheries – a self certifying effort espousing sustainability quality/best value, and traceability;
- 2. “River Manners”**, the video and supporting pamphlet was produced as a product of the effort by First Nations and sport fishers to find ways to get along on the river – one of several strategies that find common ground amongst competing fishing interests.

The video can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbyYW9cerxA> or search Youtube for River Manners.

3. Final Project Results and Effectiveness

3.1 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

EXPECTED OUTCOMES	FINAL OUTCOMES
1. Organization of public and Board Functions	Established a permanent office and administrative functions for operations and cultus sockeye recovery, coordinated partnerships with DFO and the Pacific Salmon Foundation, built a funding strategy, and a work planning framework. A fund-raising development analysis report is provided.
2. Lead dialogue among interests (First Nations, Conservation, sport and commercial interests)	4 Board meetings, 4 public forums, and several conflict resolution forums amongst sport fishers and First Nations. The forums and activities addressed the changing in-river fishery, challenges and miss-conceptions in monitoring and compliance, considered ways for competing fisheries to get along in the fishery, explored share-based fisheries, and conducted strategic planning related to the Salmon Table work plan.
3. Contribute to Cultus Lake sockeye recovery projects through the proposal-driven process of funding projects and contribute to area environmental planning	Contributed \$82,000 to pikeminnow removal experiments using trawl gear and a sport fishing derby, and contributed to local planners understanding to begin developing an integrated plan to help in the restoration of Cultus sockeye through active participation in the Cultus Lake Aquatic Stewardship Strategy.
4. Facilitated Best Practices Forums involving First Nations demonstration projects (River to Plate)	Facilitated several working sessions involving First Nations, processing industry and regulators that focused on best practices around sustainability, quality/value, and traceability. Assisted partners to develop an accredited certification course (through BCIT) for participating fishers and landing site workers. Piloted a web-based traceability system and fishers cooperative. Cost shared updated River to Plate strategy report due in June 2010.
5. Conflict resolution/ relationship building dialogue amongst sport fishing organizations and First Nations in the Fraser River.	Organized a number of forums for dialogue arising from conflicts in the fishery between First Nations and sport fishing organizations – these led to a list of strategic activities that would lead to “peace on the river” including public educational materials (video and pamphlet). Dialogue around spring Chinook conservation is ongoing.

3.2 EFFECTIVENESS

1. Public engagement: Public forums often exceeded the goal of 25 participants, always engaged the 4 interests in the fishery, and was able to move meetings around the river. The Salmon Table was also able to strike an effective partnership with the Integrated Salmon Dialogue Forum (“high-beam” perspectives) by providing locally relevant engagement and practical activities (low-beam) to address the changing fishery. Active participation in the Cultus Lake Aquatic Stewardship Strategy provides an important public vehicle to look holistically at the challenges for restoration. Of Cultus sockeye.

In addition to the regular structured forums, the Salmon Table was able to step in on short notice during difficult conflicts involving sport fishers and First Nations in the lower Fraser last fall, and again in the spring around spring Chinook conservation to engage the Parties in functional dialogue aimed at finding common ground for the benefit of the fish and their fisheries.

2. Utilizing funds from the fishery: In 2006, the Salmon Table partners raised funding for Cultus sockeye restoration from the sale of 100k sockeye harvested in trade for relaxed conservation measures. Funds were subsequently frozen due to Supreme Court rulings against the practice.

The Salmon Table was able to conclude negotiations with the Commercial Salmon Advisory Board (CSAB) and DFO to satisfactorily address public policy to allow funding raised from within the fishery to be spent on Cultus Sockeye recovery. Funds were placed in a segregated account and spent on activities to reduce populations of competing pikeminnows in Cultus lake. A call for proposals and joint review with the CSAB led to this particular focus for the Salmon Tables contribution to the recovery initiative, effectively filling in where reduced funding in the Southern Boundary PST fund was unable to contribute in 2009;

3. First Nations engagement: The Salmon Table provided travel and per-diems for a shared First Nations engagement team (an upper and a lower Fraser First Nations engagement focal point) that attended First Nations inter-tribal treaty meetings, conflict resolution between sport fishers and First Nations in the lower Fraser River, and best practices forums aimed at building a cohesive strategy among developing economic fisheries.

3.3 Documentation of Final Outcomes and List of Attachments

Attachments:

- 1. Appendix 1: FSWP Cultus Lake Restoration Work Annual Report (2009-10)**
- 2. Appendix 2: Strategic Initiatives list from First Nations-Sport Fishing Dialogue**

Annexed PDF Files:

- 3. Fundraising development report**
- 4. Share-based fisheries perspectives report**
- 5. River Manners pamphlet**
- 6. Work plan 2010**

3.4 Benefits of this project that will be sustained and/or be built upon into the future and next steps

The mission of the Fraser River Salmon Table is to enhance the capacity of the competing interests to work together to define good salmon management and to identify and achieve common objectives in the fishery. In 2009/1-0, the Salmon Table has developed relationships and skills between competing interests to foster mutual respect and increased understanding to achieve reduced conflict, better decision-making, effective harvest management, improved health of salmon stocks and greater economic opportunity for all.

Plans and activities were adaptable to low escapements and conflicts on the river this year, restoration funds complimented sockeye recovery within legal boundaries set for partnership funding, and the public collaborations have been able to respond to external pressures and changing social values among competing interests.

The Fraser River Salmon Table will continue its work in 2010 with an increasing focus on standards for developing in-river economic fisheries for salmon, collaborations on shre-based fisheries, and conflict resolution/co-management among First Nations and the sport fishery.

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. Competing interests want to get along in an effort to improve the quality of their own fisheries

2. There is a time and a place for NGO's to work through conflict in the fishery together, but governments are instrumental to implementing the outcomes

3. Users of the resources must first agree upon each other's catch accounting and understand each other's fisheries before they can accomplish anything more complicated to improve management of their own fisheries