Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program

2010/11 FINAL REPORT

FSWP File Number*	FSWP 10 XX 52 SIFM

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

1. Project Information

1.1. Project Title
First Nations FSC Catch Database Project
1.2. Proponent's Legal Name
A'Tlegay Fisheries Society
1.3. Project Location
Lower and Upper Fraser
1.4. Contact for this report

Name: Kim Duncan	Phone: 250-287-8868	Email: Atlegay@shawcable.com

1.5 Funding Amount

Original Approved Grant Amount:	Total FSWP Expenditures:	Final Invoice Amount:	Final Non-FSWP leveraging, including cash and in-kind:
$24,500	$24,500		$1,500

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.

Catch monitoring and reporting is a vital component in ensuring accurate fish stock assessments and sustainable *Food, Societal, and Ceremonial* (FSC) fisheries. Information gaps regarding returning salmon abundance and condition in First Nation fisheries in terminal areas may result in poor estimates of spawner abundance and a reduced ability to forecast population survival rates, which may in turn lead to fishery management errors that are often most detrimental to FN fisheries themselves, operating at the terminal end of the salmon's journey. The purpose of this project is to expand the capacity of First Nations fisheries organizations to manage FSC fisheries through training in the use of database software that facilitates assembly, reporting, and exchange of catch monitoring data in a standardized format with other agencies, such as the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO).

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
Robust, functional data management system installed in participating FN fisheries offices for control of catch monitoring data.	FSC database installed, re-installed or upgraded and operational at Northern Shuswap Tribal Council, Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Tsihlqotin National Government, Lheidli T'enneh First Nation (new), Tl'azten First Nation (new), Esketemc First Nation (new).
Standardized electronic data exchange of FSC fisheries catch and effort data between participating FN fisheries organizations and DFO occurring on a routine basis during 2010 fishing season.	FN-to-DFO data export is occurring regularly in-season at NSTC, TNG, Tl'azten and Tsawwassen fisheries offices, but only post-season for CSTC, LT, Esketemc and Musqueam.

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.

1. ***FSC Catch Database* operational on 3-5 new FN fisheries offices in upper- or lower sub-regions of the Fraser watershed for 2010 fishing season**.
    - Installation and training efforts were coordinated with UFFCA Co-Management Facilitator staff in Prince George to deliver system updates and provide local "on-the-ground" technical support to participating nations In the Upper Fraser. Pre-season and in-season efforts to get users operational appear to have been hampered by the usual problems: lack of FN fisheries staff, time constraints, hardware limitations, data misplaced, etc. In at least one case, software had to be re-installed at a site that was up-and-running the previous year, but due to staff turnover, login information for the password-protected database was lost; considerable effort was made to successfully recover the previous year's data for the user. Smaller offices, including Lheidli T'enneh and Esketemc nations, continue to have capacity issues that have stymied multiple efforts to initiate in-season database usage.
    - In the Lower Fraser, Tsawwassen, Musqueam, and Cheam First Nations were consulted for installations: only Tsawwassen achieved full in-season operations; Musqueam input all their data and transmitted it to DFO post-season; and Chehalis did not get up-and-running at all in spite of multiple contact efforts, again likely due to capacity problems.

2. **Provide on-going support for currently operational installations at Upper Fraser FN fisheries offices**.
    - Technical support was provided either by phone, or via online meeting software, or in-person via UFFCA Co-Management Facilitator. A post-season Program Evaluation survey of end-users (based on five responses) suggested however that technical support levels were not sufficient, given the complexities of using the program, combined with generally low levels of capacity at the FN fisheries offices. The efficacy of sporadic technical support via online meetings, though providing rapid response to specific problems, is likely lower for training purposes than in-person workshops.

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.	Working with FN data technicians and catch monitors to improve fisheries data management skills, capacity, and comfort levels.
Active partnerships with one or more organizations.	Increased involvement with Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance of First Nations, whose Co-Management Facilitator (CMF) position (funded via PICFI) was staffed by UFFCA to co-ordinate and facilitate FN fisheries management projects.
Relationship building, as a foundation for sustainable, enduring activities.	On-going liaison with DFO area managers and data managers to facilitate co-operative data management and exchange with participating FN fisheries offices.
Capacity building, including mentorship models, leadership training and skills development.	Trained UFFCA CMF in the use of the FSC database, who has served well as a first-responder to FN FSC data issues in the Upper Fraser region, and will likely do so again in 2011.

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 post-season program evaluation survey of FSC Database users in the Fraser area (initiated by A'Tlegay in October 2010) indicated that, despite high interest in using the database for their Catch Monitoring (CM) data management needs, for most users, **more technical support is required to maximize the utility of the database**. This appears to be due to:

1. Low initial computer proficiency levels of data technician staff;
2. Inconsistent or intermittent use of the program (leading to reduced comfort levels in using it);
3. Frequent changes in data technician personnel.

To address the first two issues, an **emphasis on multi-level computer training and technical support** will be implemented in Phase II of the FSC Database project in 2011 as the logical next step to **improve the technical capacity of the FN office to manage and deliver CM data to other fisheries authorities on a timely basis**. Improved computer skill sets, combined with higher comfort levels using the database, may, in turn, reduce staff turnover (issue #3) by making a technically-demanding job easier, and more efficient.

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. Capacity-building is key to FN catch data management.
2. Enhanced technical support needed now to:
   - Sustain user comfort levels;
   - Build skill-sets;
   - Encourage continuity.
3. FN coalitions (tribal councils) show highest probability of success.

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.

Presentations and project updates or kiosk displays at various DFO and First Nation conferences and meetings, including: DFO Regional FSC Planning & Coordination Workshop (Vancouver, Jan 27, 2011); FRAFS VISIONS conferences (Seabird Island, Oct 13-14, 2010); UFFCA General meetings (Prince George, Oct 21-22, 2010); and FNFC catch monitoring workshops (Nanaimo, Feb 28, 2011).

Attachments:

- FSC Catch Database FRAFS Oct 2010.pps - kiosk
- FSC Catch Database UFFCA Oct 2010.ppt – presentation
- A'Tlegay - FSWP 2011 FSC DB past & present.pptx
- FSWP 2010 Evaluation.doc – program evaluation survey for participants