Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program

2009/10 FINAL REPORT

FSWP File Number*	FSWP 09 LR 95 SIFM

1. Project Information

1.1. Project Title

First Nations FSC Fisheries Database Project

1.2. Proponent's Legal Name

A-Tlegay Fisheries Society

1.3. Project Location

First Nation fisheries offices, Upper Fraser watershed; Williams Lake, Kamloops, and Prince George

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:
$26,400.00	$24,000.00	$4,686.55	$2,400.00

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.

The FSC Catch Database is a database management system (DBMS) for fisheries data management, reporting, and data exchange with Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). The objective of the FSC Catch Database project is to expand the capacity of First Nations (FN) fisheries organizations to manage *Food, Societal, and Ceremonial* (FSC) fisheries, through the installation and training of FN fisheries personnel in the use of the catch database. In the first year of activity (2008-2009), the database was demo'd, customized and installed in three FN fisheries offices: NSTC, CSTC, and LT[1], with follow-up training and technical support. In 2009-2010, these efforts were extended to three other FNs, including TNG, TFN, SFC[2]. According to DFO, these groups represent approximately 95% of the salmon catch in census-based fisheries in the Upper Fraser.

[1] Northern Shuswap Tribal Council, Carrier-Sekani Tribal Council, and Lheidli T'enneh First Nation.
[2] Tsilqoht'in National Government, Tl'azt'en First Nation, Shuswap Fisheries Commission.

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 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.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES	FINAL OUTCOMES
1. Prioritized list of candidate FN fisheries organizations for FSC catch monitoring database installation & support **in each of** the upper and lower sub-regions of the Fraser watershed.	• **Completed. Groups identified in consultation with DFO for Upper Fraser (TNG, Tlazten, SFC) and Lower Fraser (Chehalis, Musqueam, Tsawwassen FNs).**
2. *FSC Catch Database* operational on 3-5 FN fisheries computer systems in the upper- and/or lower sub-regions of the Fraser watershed for 2009 fishing season.	• **Complete for Upper Fraser groups, and imminent (Spring 2010) for Chehalis in the Lower Fraser.** • **In process for Lower Fraser groups, which use a different fisheries management process (multiple communal licenses of short duration) than is used in the Upper Fraser, for which the database has required some fundamental modifications, thus slowing down implementation.** • **Musqueam and Tsawwassen FNs also utilize more species (marine), including ground fish, eulachon, clams, crabs, prawns and other invertebrates, requiring additional catch monitoring forms and reports, which are currently being incorporated into a special version of the database for these river-mouth-based groups.** • **Lower Fraser FNs are expected to be operational prior to fishing season 2010.**
3. FN fisheries crews increasingly competent in the use of the *FSC Catch Database* for internal fisheries management in 2009.	• **Ongoing technical support is required to maintain a high level of competence due to staff changes and turnover.**
4. PICFI-hired DMA(s) conversant with *FSC Catch Database* usage, and available for ongoing trouble-shooting, technical support, training and outreach.	• **Upper Fraser groups now serviced by UFFCA-funded data mgmt advisor (Shamus Curtis, B.Sc. Tel: 250-562-7645) based in Prince George. Ad hoc training and technical support for this position is provided by A'Tlegay under the FSWP project funding.**
5. Standardized electronic data exchange of FSC fisheries catch and effort data between participating FN fisheries organizations and DFO occurring on a routine basis during 2009 fishing season.	• **Active for operational groups in the Upper Fraser (NSTC, CSTC, TNG). Imminent for LT, Tlazten FN, SFC (31 March 2010).** • **In process for Lower Fraser groups (Tsawwassen, Musqueam, Chehalis) in Spring 2010.**

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 most suitable indicators of the effectiveness of this project are related to:

1. the number of installations in FN Fisheries offices;
2. how effectively the installed software is being used by FN Fisheries personnel; and
3. the utility of the export data for DFO data management purposes.

1. In terms of total installations, approximately half of the projected maximum number of FN Fisheries offices are up and running with the software. For example, it was anticipated that as many as 5 FN offices could be serviced in each year of the FSWP contract; in reality, a maximum of 3 installations have been effectively implemented, for a total of six installations. This represents the minimum number of installations anticipated in the proposal, thus the project is still on target. Software was not installed in time for in-season use by the other groups, due to various factors, including: amount of work customizing the program for some groups; lack of capacity of groups to perform standard catch monitoring duties PLUS learn new data system; lack of direct contact. According to DFO personnel, however, these groups represent approximately 95% of the salmon catch in census-based fisheries in the Upper Fraser.
2. On the basis of ongoing conversations and technical support exchanges, FN fisheries data managers at NSTC, CSTC, and TNG have indicated no major issues with in-season data entry and reporting functions in the database. No significant changes have been identified for post-season summary analyses and reports in 2009.
3. Data export to DFO apparently went smoothly in 2009 for operational FN groups (NSTC, CSTC, and TNG). A post-season meeting with DFO personnel identified two changes to the export procedure to improve data management and analysis at the DFO side: incorporation of InterviewDate with all catch records; and sorting of export dataset by river management unit and week. These changes have been implemented in a subsequent software upgrade recently distributed to all FN groups.

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.

Relevant email communications from:

1. **FN fisheries offices**
2. **DFO offices**

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?

A portion of funding made available by the FSWP program for the third year will be applied to remote training and technical support for existing installations in FN Fisheries Offices in the Upper Fraser and Thompson systems. A significant improvement in the provision of on-the-ground technical support was the recent (Jan 2010) data mgmt advisor position **provided by the UFFCA organization** – this person will act as a local, first line of support, responding in-person if necessary to assist FN fisheries offices. Experience in other regions (South Coast, Central Coast) has shown that a local DMA is critical to the success of FSC fisheries software programs installed in FN offices.

The focus of third-year funding will be in the Lower Fraser, where implementation is either imminent (Chehalis) or in process (Tsawwassen, Musqueam), or under review for implementation (Sto-lo groups). Communications with DFO around the provision of a DMA for this region are in process.

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. **Importance of local "on-the-ground" technical support to reinforce system usage; to encourage users, and to support improved catch monitoring data management.**
2. **Importance of implementing data mgmt system with training before the fishing season gets started.**
3. **Need to keep other organizations appraised of progress.**