

# A'Tlegay Fisheries Society

## FSC Catch Database Project – 2008 Final Report

FSWP File Number	07350-35/FSWP 08 FM D67
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<b>Contact Information</b>					
Sponsoring Organization's Legal Name					
<b>A-Tlegay Fisheries Society</b>					
Are you a federally registered Charity, Non-profit organization or Business (Yes /No)?					YES
If yes, please indicate which		Charity	X	Non-profit organization	Business
Registration number	897368528 RP0001		GST number		
Are you a registered Society (Yes / No)?	YES	Society Registration number		S-39971	
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### Project Information

<b>Project Title</b>					
<b>First Nations FSC Fisheries Database</b>					
<b>Project Location</b>					
<b>Various First Nation fisheries offices, Upper Fraser watershed, including Williams Lake and Prince George.</b>					
<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>\$37,025.00</b>	<b>Total Project Value</b>	<b>\$41,825.00</b>	<b>Non-FSWP funds<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$4,800.00</b>

<sup>2</sup> Non-FSWP funds include both cash and in-kind funding. In-kind funding refers to all non-cash contributions such as equipment, supplies, labour, etc. Please refer to Budget Section for further details.

### Project Summary

Please provide a single paragraph describing your project, its objective, and the results. As this summary will be used in program communications, clearly state the issue addressed and avoid overly technical descriptions. Do not use more than 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.

First Nations performing catch monitoring activities in the Upper Fraser were surveyed for their interest and need for database management tools. Based on that data, and consultations with DFO, the database was or is being demo'd, customized and installed in three FN fisheries offices: Northern Shuswap Tribal Council (NSTC), Carrier-Sekani Tribal Council (CSTC), and Lheidli T'enneh First Nation (LT). A fourth possibility pending hardware upgrades is the Tsilqotin National Government (TNG). The database is fully operational at NSTC where it was used to manage FSC catch data in 2008. Installations at other Upper Fraser FNs in March 2009 will provide data management capabilities for the coming fishing season.

**OPTIONAL** If your project lends itself to sparking interest through a compelling sound bite (for potential use in FSWP media communications), please tell us what that sound bite would be. Do not use more than 150 words.

**Species and life stage(s) the project targets: please list**

**Adult Salmon: Sockeye, Chinook, Pink, Coho, Chum, Steelhead. Sturgeon**

**Watershed(s) the project targets: please list**

**Fraser (Quesnel, Sheep Creek to Marguerite and Deadman to Chilcotin River, Canim Lake, Soda Creek)  
Chilcotin (Bull Canyon, Farwell Canyon, Chilcotin Junction and Upper Chilcotin)  
Quesnel (Bullion Pool)  
Nechako (to Wedgewood and Finmore)  
Stuart River and Lake  
Takla River and Lake**

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Project Deliverables and Results	
Deliverable	Result
1. A minimum of five First Nations fisheries organizations, representing as many as 20-30 First Nations in the lower, middle, and upper Fraser watershed, will be equipped and trained in the use of the <i>FSC Catch Database</i> management system, specifically customized to their data needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultations with DFO (June-July 2008<sup>1,2</sup>) resulted in a project plan to focus database implementation efforts in the Upper Fraser sub-region for 2008-9. The NSTC, representing 8 FN groups, was selected as a pilot project (Aug 2008) to customize the (marine-oriented) FSC Catch Database for in-river purposes. (See October 2008 interim report – Performance Expectations - #1 – for more information.)</li> <li>• To identify other candidate FN groups, A'Tlegay made a presentation at the UFFCA meeting (Oct 16<sup>th</sup>) in Prince George. The TNG, and EFN (Williams Lake) and the CSTC and LT (Prince George), were identified as likely candidates. However, none of these groups were in a position to receive the DBMS due to a lack of personnel in the post-fishery and New Year's break period.</li> <li>• In February 2009, the DBMS was demonstrated to CSTC personnel, and customizations performed. As of this report (March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009), installation at CSTC and further training is awaiting a necessary software upgrade to the fisheries office computers.</li> <li>• As of this report (March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009), the LT and TNG fisheries catch monitoring groups have committed to obtaining the DBMS. Demonstration / customization will occur over the last two weeks of March, followed by installation and training.</li> <li>• The Fraser Valley Aboriginal Fisheries Society (Lower Fraser) has also requested an installation, which may be feasible if the funds projected for Upper Fraser groups mentioned above are not fully utilized.</li> </ul>
2. Enhanced delivery (increased comprehensiveness and timeliness) of in-season harvest estimates from FN fisheries offices to DFO managers or direct into centralized DFO catch databases (e.g. <i>Fisheries Operating System – F.O.S.</i> ). DFO may wish to develop pre- and post-project assessment criteria to evaluate effectiveness of data delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DFO historically uses an employee a catch data technician who would travel to remote band offices to input the catch monitoring data and collate summary data by band, interview and date. These output data generally required further manipulation at the DFO office to provide critical information to DFO managers.</li> <li>• Using the FSC Database, these data are now automatically error-checked before delivery to DFO via email. Data updates can therefore be provided to DFO in a more timely manner. Additional information not available previously include <i>Gear</i>, <i>Fishing Time</i> details, and <i>CPUE for each species</i>. The electronic data are accompanied by a comprehensive report which provides DFO with an intelligible summary of the data (see report example attached).</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> First Nations FSC Monitoring and Catch Reporting Regional Approach for Improvements – FSC Working Group, SFU Harbour Centre Vancouver, June 18, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> First Nations Catch Monitoring Strategy Meeting, DFO Offices, Kamloops, July 11, 2008.

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### Project Effectiveness

Please evaluate the effectiveness of the project, using the objective standards, quantifiable criteria and/or quality control measures identified in your Detailed Proposal (under question #1 in the 'performance expectations' heading).

A post-project assessment from participating DFO offices and FN fisheries organizations was suggested, identifying issues and listing recommendations for improved system performance.

A questionnaire has been sent to NSTC and relevant DFO offices. Responses will be collated and delivered to FBC by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

What are the top three lessons learned from this project that would be important to communicate to others doing similar work throughout the Basin?

- Timing is key – It can be problematic to provide new services to FN fisheries organizations during fishing (July-September) or winter (Nov-Jan) seasons – personnel are either not available or capacity does not exist. Optimum window of opportunity for demo/setup/training time may be: March – June, and October.
- Expect delays – Implementation of fisheries-oriented programs that involve over-worked individuals from multiple understaffed government offices will necessarily impact projected timelines.

### Project Effectiveness

Please describe how your project has addressed each Priority Activity identified in your Detailed Proposal.

Priority Activity	How the Priority Activity has been Addressed
The <i>FSC Fisheries Database</i> potentially addresses the coordination, collaboration, and information exchange among fisher organizations and fisheries sectors, through improved approaches for management of salmon. This is largely achieved via:	
1. support of standardized catch monitoring and increased efficiencies in FSC harvest data management, reporting, and electronic distribution amongst participating fisheries agencies.	DFO originally provided a catch data technician who would travel to remote band offices to input the catch monitoring data and collate summary data by band, interview and date. These output data generally required further manipulation at the DFO office to provide critical information to DFO managers.  Using the FSC Database, these data are now automatically error-checked before delivery to DFO via email. Data updates can therefore be provided to DFO in a more timely manner. Additional information not available previously include <i>Gear</i> , <i>Fishing Time</i> details, and <i>CPUE for each species</i> . The electronic data are accompanied by a comprehensive report which provides DFO with an intelligible summary of the data (see report example attached).
2. facilitating the development of local technical capacity to	Internal technical capacity for FN Fisheries organizations is enhanced through this program via ongoing training in the use of information technology, specifically in the use of MS-Access databases to analyze data and generate reports & charts, but also in the use of email to

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<p>encourage sustainable fisheries.</p>	<p>transmit information, and other utilities to enhance data reports.</p> <p>Where this project fell short of desired outcomes was in the hiring of an individual (preferably an aboriginal person) for the FSC Database Technician position as designated in the proposal. The intention for this position was to provide on-the-ground local expertise, independent of any particular FN group, to provide technical support to all area FN groups using the FSC Database, and to promote its use to other FN groups as appropriate.</p> <p>An application/interview process was initiated, however the FN Fisheries Technician position was not filled.</p> <p>Thus, the majority of work done was completed by the Computer Programmer who handled all installations and training requirements. The use of remote logon software to provide demo/installation/support services helped reduce the anticipated travel costs, but increased the fees related to programmer time.</p> <p>DFO personnel associated with the PICFI program have designated some resources to filling this position in each of the Fraser River sub-regions in 2009.</p>
<p>3. enhancing First Nation community involvement in making natural resource management decisions, and increase awareness regarding how the outcomes or results of the decisions will affect them.</p>	<p>Whereas catch monitoring data were previously collated for one-way delivery to DFO authorities in the most expedient format, using the FSC Database puts control of catch monitoring data in the FN groups hands. This enables the FN group to use their own data, not only to meet DFO's requirements, but for their own custom purposes as well. As catch monitoring data accrues in the FN's database over multiple seasons, the data will provide the FN with an accessible dataset for local fishery analysis, which can be used for more effective fisheries management (via internal permitting capabilities, communal fish allocation and distribution reports, etc), and community education (catch &amp; effort analyses, trends analysis, etc) concerning sustainable fisheries.</p>



# **A'Tlegay Fisheries Society**

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### **Further Comments**

Please provide any further comments including recommendations for future conservation efforts and suggestions for helping partners to meet the goals of the Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program. If your project produced a narrative or scientific report or additional project products (e.g. maps, photos), attach them as an appendix.

An FSC Database Technician position (preferably filled by an aboriginal person) was designated in the proposal. The intention for this position was to provide on-the-ground local expertise to provide technical support to FN groups using the FSC Database, and to promote its use to other FN groups as appropriate.

An application/interview process was initiated, however the FN Fisheries Technician position was not filled. To some extent, this reflects the low technical capacity level of people of aboriginal descent in the region. Perhaps some outreach to educational facilities in the area could be made to highlight the increasing need for First Nation individuals trained in fisheries and data management.

DFO personnel associated with the PICFI program have designated some resources to filling this position in each of the Fraser River sub-regions in 2009.

### **Submission Instructions**

Please send your Final Report electronically to your designated FSWP Staff Contact. If you are uncertain who this person is or how to contact them, please contact Tiffany Pither, FSWP Administrator.

Email: [tpither@psf.ca](mailto:tpither@psf.ca)

Phone: (604) 664-7664 Ext 119