Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program

2009/10 FINAL REPORT

FSWP File Number*	FSWP 09 LR SIFM 62

* FSWP File Number provided in previous FSWP project correspondence.

1. Project Information

1.1. Project Title

Beyond the Mixed-stock Fishery

1.2. Proponent's Legal Name

Chehalis Indian Band

1.3. Project Location

Harrison Watershed

1.4. Contact for this report

Name: Kim Charlie	Phone (250)372-9472	Email: kim.charlie@chehalis.com

1.5 Funding Amount

Original Approved Grant Amount:$28,250	**Total FSWP Expenditures:** $28,250	**Final Invoice Amount:** $5,650 (20%)	**Final Non-FSWP leveraging, including cash and in-kind:**$7,000

2. Project Summary

Project objectives and results

This project was designed to engage First Nations in the Harrison Watershed and others with access to chum salmon to begin to explore future management needs. The goal is to create the capacity within the Harrison Watershed to build effective conservation and management plans with links to WSP CU's and broader Fraser stock assessment activities to support integrated harvest planning.

The most compelling activity or outcome from our project.

Creating a lower Fraser River Chum Management Committee with formal linkages to the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat (FRAFS) that is designed to redirect co-management focus from lower Fraser River First Nations chum harvesting to conservation and management.

3.Final Project Results and Effectiveness

3.1 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

EXPECTED OUTCOMES	FINAL OUTCOMES
Develop partnerships in analysis of Lower Fraser Chum CU with specific attention to TEK and FSC fisheries in the Harrison/Lillooet watershed and adjacent lower Fraser River	Developed a presentation, co-organized a chum management forum with DFO managers, commercial and sport fishing representatives in collaboration with the Fraser River Salmon Table
Assemble available Chum data (DFO) and FSC information (First Nations) and undertake analysis and consultations on the associated WSP Benchmarks	Commissioned 2 reports and technical presentation in Powerpoint, including analysis and consultations with managers and Chehalis Community-knowledge holders.
Engage First Nations and other affected fisheries in consultations on the CU as the basis for reviewing the escapement goal and FSC as an integral part WSP	Initiated the process of building a lower Fraser chum management committee, including discussions with FRAFS Watershed Committee, Executive, and followed up with a joint technical meeting with DFO, Sto:lo Tribal Council and *Sto:lo* Nation to explore issues and future steps.
WSP implementation; how can target/limit reference points for lower Fraser chum protect FSC fishing needs (and the diversity First Nations depend upon) while sustaining commercial and sport fisheries.	Specific details on establishing benchmarks suitable to protect local FSC fisheries could not be achieved with funding and time available. More-over, the lack of priority placed on chum management precludes First Nations from substantive discussion on alternatives. Finally, it is unclear of the impacts of the PST Chum Annex on alternative management scenarios, though some opportunity to transfer TAC from marine to river fisheries is possible through DFO's Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (PICFI).

3.2 EFFECTIVENESS

The outcome from the initial discussions with other interests pointed towards share-based fisheries planning and the need to clarify key issues through the IHPC - Where do the shares come from and where do they go. What is "compensated" TAC and what is not (Floating).

It also was pointed out that in order to proceed into share-based fisheries, the parties would need to work towards monitoring and compliance systems to meet standards of "trust". There was a need to test various management ideas to optimize benefits and fairness through demonstration type fisheries, and to develop collaborative planning outcomes that involves pre-season agreement on shares of a common TAC, in-season management.

3.3 Documentation of Final Outcomes and List of Attachments

Attachments (Annexed):

1. Exploratory Dialogue on Share-based Management of Fisheries that Harvest Fraser River Chum. Moore, D. 2009.
2. Harrison River Chum Fishery: the Ethnographic and Archaeological Perspective. Morgan Ritchie (MA, Heritage Research Archaeologist) Chris Springer (MA, PhD Candidate SFU)
3. Managing and Conserving Harrison River Chum Salmon. Barrett D.
4. An in-river perspective on managing lower Fraser chum (Slideshow). Wilson, K.
5. Minutes from the Joint Technical Meeting on Lower Fraser chum Management involving DFO, Chehalis, Sto:lo Tribal Council and Sto:lo Nation

3.4 Benefits of this project that will be sustained and/or be built upon into the future and next steps
The Fraser Watershed Joint Technical Committee has been petitioned by the Chehalis and supported by other lower Fraser First Nations/Sto:lo to develop a standing Chum Joint-technical Committee in the lower Fraser River. Chehalis will propose a joint stock monitoring program with the newly formed Lower Fraser First Nations Fisheries Alliance as the basis to expand current stock assessment programming in order to better understand and manage fishing impacts on FSC chum fishing in the lower Fraser River.
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. There is a need for a lower Fraser chum joint technical process involving First Nations and DFO that will refocus annual harvest planning consultations into chum ecosystem-based management;
2. The solution to the dilemma of protecting traditional chum fishing practices is tied to some future involving share-based fisheries models that will accommodate a wide range of fisheries timing and locations in the lower Fraser River;
3. By developing a management regime that protects the diverse life history traits of lower Fraser chum, managers will protect the traditional practices and knowledge derived from the use of this resource by First Nations in the lower Fraser River – if this is not achieved, it is likely that the erosion of stock diversity inherent in lower Fraser chum could eventually lead to loss of distinct populations, and/or vulnerability of the remaining populations to climate change or other natural disasters that could put them at risk to extirpation.