

Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program



Fraser Basin Council



2011/12 FINAL REPORT

FSWP File Number*	FSWP 11 21 XX SIFM
--------------------------	---------------------------

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

Upper Fraser – Williams Lake, Chilcotin, Quesnel, Prince George, Stuart

1.4. Contact for this report

Name: **Howard Stiff – FSC Database Developer**

Phone: **250-247-8258**

Email: **watercolour@shaw.ca**

1.5 Funding Amount

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

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 Project* was a multi-year effort to design, customize, and implement a user-friendly software program to assist First Nation fisheries offices in managing data associated with communal fishing. In this phase, emphasis was placed on **improving computer-based skills and data management capacity** via enhanced training and technical support for participating FN groups.

Enhanced computer training for FN data technicians involved professional pre-season computer skills workshops in Williams Lake and Prince George designed to bring all database users up to a standard level of proficiency with both hardware and software. Post-season refresher workshops were held for database users to reinforce their computer skills to facilitate final data entry and management tasks. **Enhanced technical support** was delivered in-season (June-October) by the *FSC Data Management Advisors*, who provided personal contact for trouble-shooting data management problems.

As a result of this effort, First Nation fisheries offices and their personnel were able to use the FSC Database program more effectively, and exchange data with Fisheries & Oceans department personnel on a routine basis. DFO personnel reported improved quality in the data transmitted from FN fisheries offices relative to previous years. Database users reported significant skill development due to the workshops.

Please give a short statement (up to 100 words) of the most compelling activity or outcome from your project.

The **Data Management Advisor (DMA)** position was piloted in the region this year to provide enhanced technical support to First Nation database users during the fishing season. The DMA was trained to an advanced level in all aspects of computer and FSC Database usage, and acted as a “circuit-rider”, touching base on a frequent basis with all FN fisheries offices to facilitate database usage and troubleshoot data management issues. It is hoped that funding can be found to continue this position in 2012.

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
1. FSC Catch Monitoring Database installed and functional in all appropriate census-based FN fisheries offices in mid- and upper Fraser for start of 2011 fishing season (May/June 2011). Upper Fraser – extend or consolidate installations in Esketemc, Lheidli T’enneh, Nazko, and Yekooche fisheries offices.	NSTC, CSTC and TNG First Nation fisheries offices upgraded to version 5.x of the FSC Database and operational by July 1st. Esketemc, Lheidli T’enneh, Nazko, TI’azt’en, and Yekooche bands were introduced to the database in-season, but not fully functional for various reasons (see attached DMA reports) until later in the post-season.
2. Multi-level Computer-Based Training Workshops: 5-day Professional Computer Skills Workshop , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Basic computer usage b. MS-Office software Efficient data management methods (organized email and data storage, data exchange, data security, tips, tricks, shortcuts, etc).	Free pre-season and post-season workshops hosted by computer trainer Jeremy Farrow and UFFCA CM were held in both Williams Lake and Prince George for a total of 12 participants. Workshops were reduced to 3 days to accommodate compressed time schedules of participants, but covered all aspects of basic computer usage, file management and backup, and Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, Outlook).
3. Basic FSC Database Users Workshop , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Intro to the FSC Database; Setup and configuration; Contacts data management; b. Catch data entry; reports and charts; c. Export procedures. 	Basic FSC Database Usage training was incorporated into the professional workshops, and reinforced via routine in-season DMA technical support.
4. Advanced FSC Database Users Workshop , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MS-Access software; • Custom data analysis & reporting using queries, summary reports, charts, etc. 	An advanced FSC Database workshop was not implemented due to lack of demand, availability and/or time constraints of database users during season. However, the DMA’s provided several FN groups (TNG, NSTC, CSTC, Lheidli T’enneh) with direct and specific technical support upon request.
5. Complete and error-checked catch and effort data exported on a routine basis to DFO on a routine basis.	Enhanced quality of weekly export data received was reported by DFO personnel (Steve Ratko, Carla Grimson, DFO catch reporting technicians).
6. The Data Mgmt Advisor Position . Final report documenting challenges, opportunities, costs/benefits, and vision for renewing this position.	DMA’s final report attached.

3.2 Please evaluate the EFFECTIVENESS of your project in achieving Project Objectives, using the specific measures of success identified in your proposal. Please include any notable successes or challenges.

Database usage has been expanded yet again this year and introduced to more groups within the Upper Fraser region. As with past years the most capable users of the database consisted of the TNG, NSTC and CSTC tribal council coalitions, while individual bands commonly experienced capacity-related difficulties in getting up and running with the program. Thus, the objective of having all eligible First Nations exchanging fisheries data with DFO on a weekly basis in-season remains a challenge, and a goal for 2012.

Factors that reduced the effectiveness of the project generally relate to delays in AFS funding for participating First Nations, which, in turn disrupt FN fisheries offices' ability to commit trainees to the program. Unless trainees are introduced to the system early in the season, routine database usage in-season is unlikely, due principally to the lack of time resources available to individual bands. The perennial issue of staff turn-over is also a wild card that is difficult to plan around. For example, use of the database in TI'azt'en, Esketemc, and Nazko fisheries offices was delayed due to lack of capacity in fisheries manager and data technician positions and/or staff change-over during season start up.

Participating First Nation technicians, however, were enthusiastic about the training workshops, and approved unanimously of the assistance provided by the DMA, according to post-season surveys (summaries attached). These results indicate that ongoing training and technical support are warranted in the region. As has been demonstrated elsewhere (Vancouver Island NTC, Central Coast HKN councils), consistent training and technical support may be expected to provide incremental improvements in computer and data management skills to facilitate Fraser FN's self-reliance and inter-agency collaboration

All in all, this year was characterized by a significant drop in hours spent fixing and managing data for FN fisheries offices. The calls and services requested, (at least by the coalition groups) were instead for further training into the use of the high level options within the database (issuing permits, generating graphs and reports, etc).

3.4 If applicable, please describe project outcomes that relate to one or more of the following strategic approaches (Section 2.1 of RFP; section 8 of detailed proposal template), and include specific examples.

Engagement of First Nations. Please specify who, and in what capacity.	The primary function of this project was to engage First Nation groups and fisheries organizations in the management of their own fishery data, as described above.
Active partnerships with one or more organizations.	To accomplish this task, A'Tlegay Fisheries Society partnered with Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance (www.UFFCA.ca), a key regional FN fisheries organization, to cost-share computer-based training workshops, coordinate on program installation, and collaborate on technical support delivery.
Capacity building, including mentorship models, leadership training and skills development.	The primary objective of the project was to enhance technical capacity and computer skills of participating First Nations fisheries staff via computer-based training workshops and ongoing technical support. Training and mentorship of the successful aboriginal applicant for the pilot DMA position in 2011 should provide another skilled leader for capacity building in the region for 2012 and beyond.

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 summary of the benefits and costs of the DMA position piloted in 2011 will be submitted to Colin Masson (Enhanced Accountability Manager, DFO Fisheries & Aquaculture Management) and other Fisheries & Oceans personnel in the Upper Fraser / BCI region (Les Jantz, Area Chief, DFO BCI; Jamie Scroggie, Resource Manager, DFO BCI) in April 2012, with recommendations to fund a similar position for the fishing season in 2012, perhaps through the UFFCA. See also Section 6 below.

Copies of the report may also be delivered to DFO personnel for Thompson/Shuswap, Okanagan, and Lower Fraser regions for consideration.

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 necessary for First Nation's self-reliance in fisheries catch data management. Enhanced computer-based training and in-season technical support are key elements for sustaining user comfort levels, building skill-sets, and may encourage staff continuity.
2. Timing of installation and training of database users is important to in-season use of the program. Unless sufficient training occurs before the fishing season gets underway, there is a low likelihood that the FN fisheries office will be able to become self-sufficient in database use in-season, resulting in reduced or incomplete data exchange with federal fisheries. Due to the perennial delays in Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy (AFS) funding and support for seasonal FN fisheries technician positions, it may be useful to consider provision of funding to remunerate trainees so that they can attend pre-season workshops before AFS funding is in place.
3. FN coalitions (tribal councils) show highest probability of success of implementation of database management programs, due to pooled resources. Though tribal councils make up the majority of FSC fisheries catch and effort, for FSC catch reporting completeness, the focus of future data management programs should be on assistance of individual nations' fisheries personnel.

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.

Shamus (UFFCA Co-Management Facilitator) and Sarah Hood (DMA) provided regular updates regarding the project and the ability for UFFCA area First Nations to receive assistance with database installation and operations at UFFCA general meetings.

- January 21st, 2011 → UFFCA General Meeting, Prince George
- May 27th, 2011 → UFFCA General Meeting, Quesnel
- September 30th, 2011 → UFFCA General Meeting, Quesnel
- January 10th, 2012 → FSWP Workshop, Quesnel

Workshop and training:

- July 21-23rd, 2011 → Pre-season Computer Skills & Training Workshop, Williams Lake
- October 18-20th, 2011 → Post-season Computer Skills & Training Workshop, Prince George
- October 25-27th, 2011 → Post-season Computer Skills & Training Workshop, Williams Lake

5.1 If you have had any significant differences in spending in comparison to your original budget, please provide an explanation. Significant differences could include costs that exceed 20% of a line item or budget category (labour, materials, administration), and new items or services that were not originally budgeted, exceeding 10% of total FSWP contribution.

On budget. Slight variance with workshop costs and travel; all budget expensed to budget amount overall.

5.2 Please describe all non-FSWP project contributions, cash and in-kind. ATTACH letters of confirmation for non-FSWP contribution sources (cash and/or in-kind).

Non-FSWP Contribution Sources	Letter of Confirmation Attached (Y/N)	Cash (\$)	In-Kind (\$)	Total (\$)
UFFCA		11680	24750	36430
A-Tlegay			1125	1125
DFO		13500		13500

6. Additional Comments

OPTIONAL: Provide any additional comments or recommendations for future efforts and suggestions for helping partners to meet the goals of the Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program.

A user survey was conducted in the post-season of 2011 to record feedback regarding the pilot DATA MANAGEMENT ADVISOR position (see attached *User Survey Summary – Utility of the DMA Position and FSC Database*).

Survey respondents include data technicians working in First Nation fisheries offices, such as the Carrier-Sekani Tribal Council, Tsilqot'in National Government, and others that were provided ongoing in- and post-season technical support in the use of the FSC DATABASE for storage and reporting of FSC fisheries data.

The total sample size of 5 respondents is too small for statistical analysis, but the combined results indicate:

1. weekly DMA assistance was routinely requested and provided in-season;
2. the DMA (Sarah Hood) received high ratings for technical expertise and responsiveness;
3. the FSC database and DMA position played an important role in achieving FN data management goals;
4. computer workshops and technical assistance were valuable and should be repeated in 2012.

RECOMMENDATION: Given the importance of pre-season training, and the limited number of trainees that were able to attend due to lack of committed funding in advance of the fishing season (see 3.6 above), there may be significant return on investment through establishing an alternate funding source (in the form of bursaries, honoraria, grants, etc administered by the UFFCA) to enable designated trainees to attend pre-season workshops or engage in online training before traditional sources of funding (i.e., AFS) are available.