

**CRE 07-05
First Fish Camp
Final Report
2005**

Submitted to:
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada - Science and Technology Camps
And the
Yukon River Panel – Restoration and Enhancement Fund
And to
TH Chief and Council and Fish & Wildlife Dept



Submitted by:

**Glen Everitt
Youth Enhancement
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in**

Final Report
CRE 07-05
First Fish 2005

Traditional knowledge has always been passed down from one generation to another on the way we respect and handle fish. Salmon have always been an integral component of our way of life. It is one of our main sources of harvest, as it was in the past with our ancestors. Through the loss of our culture and the decreased salmon populations in our Traditional Territory, it has become imperative that we continue to find new ways of teaching our children about salmon, about the importance of keeping salmon harvests sustainable, and the importance of keeping their habitats healthy. The "First Fish" Youth Camp was used to pass on traditional knowledge about salmon to the youth, and to teach youth about the ethics, conservation and guardianship of salmon and their habitats. This year's First Fish was held from July 12 – 16th at Moosehide, near Dawson City.

Fishing, Activities, and Workshops

Each morning, afternoon and evening the youth went out with the Staff from the Fish & Wildlife Department of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to set and check the fish nets. The final count over the camp was 74 salmon, the run was fairly good and around average. The first day they got 17 Male 3 Female, second day 19 male, 6 Female, third day 21 male 8 female, due to a large run, it was decided there was more than enough salmon to meet the teachings of First Fish. All of the youth were able to learn and practise their cleaning, gutting, filleting and stripping methods. All of the fish was shared with the Youth Participants and Elders at the First Fish Feast . Not only were the youth cleaning and cutting fish, they were also learning "hands on" how to prepare and smoke/dry the fish. Most of the fish was smoked and dried this year. Between working "hands on" with the fish, the youth participated in many activities and workshops throughout the days such as nature walks which included traditional medicine teachings, as well as many sports, boat safety and bear safety, setting fry traps, a fry study and swimming. They had a great workshop about the Salmon Life Cycle. They were kept busy in the evenings with games, swimming, story telling and Indian Bingo.

Participants

The popularity of the first fish continues grow each year. The youth are eager and wait with anticipation for the camp to begin. This year, 14 (5 girls and 9 boys) youth participated. The number of youth participants was average for the event, this means more undivided attention and individual teachings.

Once again, it was great to see such interest and enthusiasm and the participation and the gratitude of holding such an educational event at Moosehide. It is full-filling to know that many youth and others will have learned a lot from the program. It is such an important event for the youth to have each year.

Elders, Staff and Volunteers

We were very thankful to have Elders attend the camp, as well as some of our Citizens. They were all very involved with the youth, showing them traditional fish cutting techniques and telling stories. It is such a valued time for the youth to get out of the busy summer season in town and be out on the land and water, see and learn from the Elders, as well as each other. Several staff were at camp and we also had volunteers such as the Dawson Community Habitat Stewart, Sebastian Jones, who again provided a very valuable learning experience on the creek.

Staff and Elder number breakdown

Youth Staff 2

Fish and Wildlife Department 1

Elders 3

Youth Enhancement Staff 2

The Feast & Celebration

This year's feast/celebration was held on August 29th. The Feast was well attended by families of the Youth Participants, organizers and volunteers. The Youth were awarded a certificate, group photo and gift for the recognition of their stewardship. A very well done slide show was enjoyed by following the presentations. It was also a time to share stories, educate the parents of the participants as well as the community, about what we do with the youth, why the river is such a key component to the First Nations people, and to thank everyone who contributed.

First Fish Financial Statement

Expenses

Date of Invoice	Supplier	Item	Cost
15-Jul-05	Dog House	Supplies	14.00
21-Jul-05	A Ray of Sunshine	Food, etc	45.11
21-Jul-05	Gold Poke	Supplies	13.58
28-Jul-05	Charlie Teddy	Facilitator Contract	875.00
28-Jul-05	Robert Rear	Boat Handler and Rental	1575.00
28-Jul-05	Nora VanBibber	Cook contract	1200.00
31-Jul-05	Fish and Wildlife Gas Card	Gas	211.86
11-Aug-05	CIBC Visa	Supplies	344.50
11-Aug-05	Dawson Hardware	Supplies	28.91
18-Aug-05	McKenzie Petroleum	Gas	215.32
18-Aug-05	Bonanza Market	Food, etc	1049.91
03-Aug-05	Northern Meta	Food, etc	300.20
23-Aug-05	Dawson City Grocery	Food, etc	394.93
23-Aug-05	Dawson City Grocery	Food, etc	111.47
23-Aug-05	Dawson City Grocery	Food. Etc	36.70
23-Aug-05	Dawson City Grocery	Food. Etc	330.14
23-Aug-05	Dawson City Grocery	Food. Etc	14.07
2-Sept-05	A Ray of Sunshine	Supplies	51.16
9-Sept-05	Maximilian's	Supplies	201.71
9-Sept-05	Maximilian's	Supplies	158.56
22-Sept-05	Bonanza Market	Food, etc	135.96
22-Sept-05	Dawson Hardware	Supplies	101.67
22-Sept-05	CII	Gas	600.00
22-Sept-05	Wages	Wages	4200.00
22-Sept-05		Total Expenses	12,209.76

Revenue

Funding Organizations	
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada - Science and Technology Camps	4200.00
Yukon River Panel - Restoration and Enhancement Fund	3500.00
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in	979.00
In Kind Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in	2930.76
Chief Isaac Inc – Donated Fuel	600.00

12,209.76

Total Revenue

In Kind

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in

Rental Boats – 3 Boats (450.00) for 3 days –	\$ 1 350.00
Employee – Wages 4 Staff - 1 Youth 3 Adults –	\$ 4200.00
Infrastructure - Buildings/Generators –	\$ 1 200.00
Total	\$6750.00