

CRE-09-11
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Student Steward
Final Report



Charles Dickson and Tyler Rear TH Fish and Wildlife Students

Prepared for:

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ABSTRACT

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (TH) believes that our children are our future, that we must address the needs of our citizens, that we must devise ways and means to improve opportunities, capacities and skills of our youth, and that we must help to empower our people. To that end, the CRE-09-11 Student Steward project was designed to involve a local youth by familiarizing him or her with the activities of the TH Fish and Wildlife branch and encouraging him or her towards a career in renewable resources (stewardship).

Over the course of the summer of 2011 beginning June 13 and ending August 12, the student this year was Charles Dickson, it was his first year working with Fish and Wildlife. Charles worked with the Fish and Wildlife personnel on a daily basis in the Steward position. As a result, he was exposed to a variety of other salmon projects presently under-going in the Dawson City region. This was done in a collaborative fashion, working with First Fish, lead by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Health and Social Department. In addition fishing projects conducted by Fish and Wildlife included Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Health and Social Department on their Elders Meals on Wheels project, Klondike Sonar Project visits and DDRRC Salmon Restoration Project.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CRE-09-11 TR'ONDËK HWËCH'IN STUDENT STEWARD	1
ABSTRACT	2
TABLE OF CONTENTS	3
INTRODUCTION	4
DISCUSSION	4
CONCLUSION	6
RECOMMENDATIONS.....	7
PHOTOS	7
APPENDICES	9

INTRODUCTION

The Student Steward project was proposed and developed by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (TH) Fish and Wildlife Branch, whose mandate is provided by Chapter 16 of the TH Final Agreement. To be sure, the objectives outlined in Chapter 16 include the preservation and enhancement of the renewable resources economy, as well as the culture, identity and values of Yukon First Nations. In addition to that, the Branch is expected to find and develop means through which we can collaboratively and cooperatively integrate the relevant knowledge and experience of both the Yukon First Nations and of the scientific communities in order to achieve conservation¹. Moreover, the Fish and Wildlife Branch is guided by the TH vision statement:

“Our vision is to achieve an interdependent and united self governing First Nation by re-establishing our traditional culture and reclaiming our identity and rightful place as Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation People. By committing to work together to provide training, education and employment, we will build a strong, healthy and stable future.”

DISCUSSION

The Student Steward position was funded primarily by the Yukon River Panel, whose members administer the Restoration and Enhancement fund (“the fund”). Of course, the Panel entertains a variety of proposals on an annual basis and provides funding to projects that have to do with the restoration and enhancement of salmon and their habitat, among other things. Following that, the Student Steward position was designed to meet the principles and guidelines contained within the Yukon River Salmon Agreement (2001), which establishes the fund.

¹ TH Final Agreement, Chapter 16.

More specifically, this project aimed to provide the opportunity for a youth from the community to learn traditional and conventional conservation and stewardship methodologies, which, when combined and incorporated into the Work Plan (Appendix B), helped to create and promote awareness towards the activities involved in by the TH Government and by other local salmon restoration, management and enhancement projects. Local knowledge was also incorporated into the student's weekly activities as the TH Student Steward received hands-on training. He also participated in, and is expected, should he decided to work with the Fish and Wildlife Branch in the future, to eventually lead restoration and enhancement projects.

Results of the Plan included:

- Identifying and participating in activities that fostered stewardship by providing stewardship incentives and by promoting community-based management. Such activities included the First Fish program annually administered by TH, as well as the Viable Fishery project, as well as the Meals on Wheels Program by TH Health
- Priority was assigned to involving local people in all activities associated with the Plan. For the most part, this included the involvement of TH personnel and citizens, as well as other interested parties.
- Safety and leadership training for the TH Student Steward is a significant component of this project. Charles Dickson received his TH Cross-Cultural training, ATV Training Certification, Youth Leadership Training, Bear Safety as well as Standard First Aid.
- It was anticipated that the Summer Students could participate in the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) river trips with Conservation and Protection personnel. The Student also had an opportunity to accompany the TH Lands Officer on the water sampling project and further to that, accompany the TH Salmon Harvest Monitor. Through this experience the Student observed the data

collection activities of the Chinook salmon and was introduced to Aboriginal Fishers.

CONCLUSION

The project was successful insofar as it involved a local youth in the summer activities of the Fish and Wildlife Branch. Furthermore, we helped train the Student Steward in salmon stewardship and conservation, ATV training, Youth Leadership training which complemented supervisory responsibilities at First Fish. The workshop had been broken into groups which allowed the TH Students to participate in the discussions. For the Panel's consideration, Tyler has produced a first hand account of his activities with the TH Fish and Wildlife Branch and with our partners.



Charles Dickson preparing nets for First Fish

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is recommended that each year, the Student Steward undertake the following training:
 - I. Health and Safety Due Diligence,
 - II. Introductory Supervisory Skills;
 - III. Boat Safety Certification;
 - IV. Wilderness First Aid; and
 - V. ATV or Four-Wheeler Standard Training.
2. It is recommended that the Student Steward work with the Dawson District Renewable Resources Council (or its coordinator) at various times throughout the summer season, as appropriate.

PHOTOS

Photo 1. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Fish and Wildlife Summer Student, Charles Dickson



Photo 2. Tyler Rear and Charles Dickson at the Klondike Weir



Photo 2. Ryan Peterson and Charles Dickson at the Klondike Sonar



APPENDICES

Appendix A: Student Steward Final Report

Fishery Summer Student

June 13 – August 12, 2011

Prepared by:
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Yukon River Panel

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Fish and Wildlife Branch

Fish and Wildlife student
Report 2011

Fish and Wildlife
Students Jr. Steward
2011 Final Report
Season End Report

This year Tyler went to a Salmon Steward Summit project in Whitehorse with Roberta and it was really fun, Charles could not attend. He learned a lot of things about salmon at that conference and it really helped him at the First Fish camp and now he learned a good piece of information and now it will be there with him where ever he goes. Then once he got back we left the next day to the Youth Leader ship course and man was were ever tired of going back and forth to Whitehorse. We learned how to be a leader and how to work with kids younger than me at a leader ship camp in Whitehorse and it really helped me at the First Fish camp we helped put together down river at Moosehide. At the First Fish camp We had lots of fun playing games and telling story's and all together we Fished 43 salmon with all the kids and the kids had to help clean all of the fish and they all had lots of fun out there. We, along with Ryan and set 2 fish nets down river for First Fish. And then once First Fish was over we set two more fish nets for the Elders and Meals on Wheels Programs. And we fished out 134 salmon out of 4 net's that was the most fishing we have ever done in our life time and it was lot's of work but we like doing that stuff so it was a little bit easy for us. We also went up the Dempster Highway and looked at the interruptive center and went for a little drive, on our drive we saw a moose and then we went back to Dawson. And we did an ATV training course it was fun.

By Charles Dickson and Tyler Rear

Appendix B

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Student Steward Work plan, Summer 2011

Summer Goal	A motivated team of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Fish and Wildlife professionals with the capacity to effectively manage and deliver on the various 2011 Restoration and Enhancement projects and salmon projects.
Objective	To provide an opportunity to a local high school student to become familiar with the duties and responsibilities of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Fish and Wildlife Department (THFW) and encourage a career geared towards Fish and Wildlife (stewardship).
Strategy	Develop a work plan and carry out the objectives (restoration and enhancement projects)
Concern(s) Addressed	Involve youth in the activities of the Fish and Wildlife Department and impart principles of Traditional Knowledge, including conservation and stewardship
Justification	Increase conservation, restoration, enhancement, and stewardship awareness amongst local youth.
Timeframe/Cost	9 weeks from June-August; TH staff wages, \$4,600 R & E Funding
Assistance Required	The TH Heritage, Education, and Health and Social Departments; the Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Dawson District Renewable Resource Council.

Main Tasks	Responsibility	Due Date	Results Expected	Status
Restoration and Enhancement Projects:	TH Fish and Wildlife Steward, Coordinator	Summer, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contribute to the completion of the various Restoration and Enhancement projects in TH Traditional Territory 	
Salmon Harvest Collection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Distribute harvest calendars ▪ Collection salmon harvest data ▪ Record ASL salmon harvested by TH 	TH Steward	July and August, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gain knowledge and familiarize self with TH salmon harvesters ▪ Progressive management of the Tr'ondëk fishery 	

<p>First Fish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preparation of nets ▪ Assist in hauling to Moosehide ▪ Assist in planning and coordinating ▪ Set up/Take down camp ▪ Provide support and guide youth 	<p>TH Staff</p>	<p>June-July, 2011</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assist with teaching youth traditional and modern fishing techniques ▪ Learn to set nets ▪ Learn boat safety 	
<p>Health and Social Programs: Community and Elders Meals program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Weekly 2-4 days of salmon distribution ▪ Salmon filleting ▪ Information collection ▪ Contact and communicate with participants ▪ Attend Meetings 	<p>TH Staff</p>	<p>July and August 2011</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure adequate border and spawning escapement numbers ▪ Expound on local capacity 	
<p>DFO River Trip:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ River trip downriver for observation on conservation/enforcement efforts and check fish wheel counter 	<p>TH staff</p>	<p>July, 2011</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gain familiarity of conservation/enforcement efforts by checking nets and wheels. 	

Appendix C: Project Financial Statements CRE-09-11

Financial Statement

		Year to Date	Total Budget	Variance
Revenue:				
Yukon River Panel	\$	4,760.00	\$ 5,290.00	\$ 530.00
Total revenue	\$	4,760.00	\$ 5,290.00	\$ 530.00
Expenses:				
Wages & Benefits	\$	4,569.77	\$ 4,600.00	\$ 30.23
Administration Fees		690.00	690.00	0.00
Total expenses	\$	5,259.77	\$ 5,290.00	\$ 499.77
Total Revenue over Expenses	\$	499.77	\$ 0.00	\$ 30.23