

Fisheries Field Technician Program

**FINAL REPORT
CRE-104-04**

**For the Yukon River Panel
From the Yukon College Dawson Campus**

June 10, 2004

Abstract

Yukon College Dawson Campus and Malaspina College offered a five-week Yukon Fisheries Field Assistant Program in Dawson City May 3 to June 2, 2004. The primary focus of this project was to provide relevant educational training to members of community stewardship groups, including First Nations and commercial fishers, throughout the Yukon. In addition, as this program evolves, the curriculum continues to be modified specifically for the Yukon. This program equipped students from many Yukon communities with certification, skills, and knowledge of fisheries techniques, fish habitat inventories, and restoration techniques. Of sixteen registrants, fourteen completed the program and twelve challenged the final examinations successfully. Graduates of this program are employable in fisheries work with Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Yukon Territorial Government, Yukon First Nations, and other Restoration and Enhancement Fund Projects.

Acknowledgements

The Dawson Campus of the Yukon College would like to acknowledge the following people and organisations for their contribution to the success of this program:

Instructors: Al Hobson, Darrell Otto, Darren Hebert, Jim Gilpin, John Tyrrell

Dawson Renewable Resources Council

Department of Fisheries and Oceans: Sandy Johnston, Al VonFinster, Kate Bartel

Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation: Paul Moore

Yukon College: Miranda Atwood, Al Morrison, Rose Fleet, Ashley Doiron

Yukon Fish & Wildlife Management Board: Jake Duncan

Yukon River Panel Restoration and Enhancement Fund: Hugh Monaghan

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Introduction

The intent of the Fisheries Field Technician Program is to provide relevant education that will ensure continuing and healthy fish populations in the Yukon. This program provides an excellent learning opportunity for fish & wildlife agency employees, Yukon First Nation lands & resource staff, Yukon commercial fishers, and Yukoners who are interested in, and who may wish to be employed in the fisheries and habitat field.

Objectives

1. To provide an opportunity for 16 Yukon students to complete a Yukon Fisheries Field Assistant program in the Yukon.
2. To equip students in the program with skills and knowledge of salmonid biology, fish identification, fisheries techniques, fish and fish habitat inventories, assessments, and restoration techniques.
3. To give students an opportunity to acquire skills in project planning, procedures, permit applications, project administration, proposal writing, GPS, and First Aid as these pertain to fisheries fieldwork. To draw on Yukon expertise to instruct and provide locally relevant material for the students.
4. To increase the quality of salmon restoration projects in the Yukon and build community capacity among stakeholder groups.

Background

Initiation of the Fisheries Field Technician program began in 2002 with a Curriculum Development project at Yukon College (CRE-68-02) funded by the Yukon River Panel Restoration and Enhancement Fund. While following the program format developed by Malaspina College in BC, this project generated additional curriculum, which took into account the Yukon setting. Yukon College, Dawson Campus and Malaspina College delivered the first offering of this course in Dawson in August 2003 (CRE104-03), which produced the first group of fisheries field technicians. Given the resulting increase in program interest and the recognized need for these skills, the second offering of the program took place this spring.

Student Success

Number of Students in Program	16
Waiting List	8
Number of Students who stayed until the end	14
Number of Students who gained Malaspina Certification	13

* See Appendix I

We had great student success this year. The overall calibre of the students was higher this second year of instruction, with a significant number of the current students already employed (or about to be employed) by their respective First Nations governments - Teslin Tlinget Council in Teslin, Selkirk First Nation in Pelly Crossing, Champagne & Aishihik in Haines Junction, and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation in Old Crow, and several local commercial fishers associated with the Yukon River Commercial Fishing Association in Dawson City.

Instruction

This year, three instructors taught the course. Darren Hebert, Fisheries Programs Coordinator from Malaspina College taught the first week. Al Hobson took over for the next four weeks. Darrell Otto did some teaching as well and worked as an assistant to Al in the field. He is continuing to enhance and develop Yukon-focused curriculum. All instructors, as revealed in the student evaluations, were thorough and knowledgeable in their areas.

In addition, Yukon College is willing to give credit for this program toward its Renewal Resource Management Diploma.

Timeline

TASK DESCRIPTION	TIME SPAN	RESPONSIBILITY
Future Course Planning	Autumn 2003	Hugh Monaghan Eldo Enns
Student Recruitment – providing course information to all college staff, community campuses, and all First Nations in the Yukon and northern BC	5 months Nov/03 to March/04	Eldo Enns
Student Registration; Finance/Tuition; Lodging arrangements for out-of-town students & instructors; Vehicle rentals	2 months March – April/04	Ashley Doiron Eldo Enns
Write and submit educational license applications	2 months March – April/04	Darrell Otto
Prepare, order, and transport course supplies & materials	2 months March – April/04	Darrell Otto Al Morrison Nick de Graff
Organize student binders and arrange transportation north for Malaspina instructor	1 month April/04	Darren Hebert
Teaching Fisheries Field Technician Program	5 weeks May 3 – June 4/04	Al Hobson Darren Hebert Darrell Otto
Final Report	By June 14	Eldo Enns
Course Payment	Upon receipt of approved final report	Hugh Monaghan

Funding Schedule

Initial Fee at outset of course	May 3/04	\$39,900
Final Payment upon submission of Final Report	Summer/04	\$25,000
Total Approved		\$64,900

Course Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 3 Salmonid Biology	May 4 Salmonid Biology	May 5 Fish ID	May 6 Fish ID	May 7 Electrofishing Theory	May 8 Occupational First Aid I
May 10 Transportation Endorsement	May 11 Boat Safety	May 12 Electrofishing Field	May 13 Inventory and Capture Methods	May 14 Inventory and Capture Methods	May 15 Inventory and Capture Methods
May 17 Habitat Assessment	May 18 Habitat Assessment	May 19 Habitat Assessment	May 20 GPS Procedures	May 21 Fisheries Field Techniques	May 22
May 24 Stream Crossing Assessment	May 25 Stream Crossing Assessment	May 26 Lake Assessment Methods	May 27 Lake Assessment Methods	May 28 Lake Assessment Methods	May 29
May 31 Streambank Restoration	June 1 Streambank Restoration	June 2 Streambank Restoration	June 3 Fisheries Mapping Procedures	June 4 Final Assignment	

There were some variations in this schedule in order to accommodate all instructors; however, all content was covered to Malaspina's standard and satisfaction. The first day of the course was postponed because Flat Creek had washed out the Klondike Highway and both instructors and students were caught on the south side of the washout. Their dedication to the program showed as they slept in their trucks until we could get a boat to ferry them to our vehicles on the north side in order to commence classes. The students made up this time on Sunday, May 9, thus demonstrating their enthusiasm by being in class ten consecutive days without a break.

Program Budget

		Proposed	Actual
Expenses			
Yukon Instructor Contract	5 wks + per diem	\$ 9,000	\$ 12,600
Malaspina Contract	5 wks + pd + travel + equip	28,000	26,565
Instructors' Lodging	5 wks x 2 instructors	3,000	2,000
Vehicle Rental	\$70/day x 2 vans X 35 days	4,900	3,988
Vehicle Fuel	1000 L x \$0.85/L	850	850
GPS Course	Instructor Fee + Travel + Exp	2,700	3,085
First Aid + Transportation Endorsement		2,400	3,600
Equipment		9,700	10,704
Freight (+ Postage)		1,050	1,050
Electroshock Fisher Rental	\$1,000/wk	1,000	1,300
Boat Rental (16 person commercial)	\$1,000/day x 2 days	2,000	-
Promotion and Advertising		450	450
Classroom Rental	\$200/day x 24 days	4,800	4,800
Supplies and Photocopying	Incl. 16 reference texts	500	1,000
Fax/Phone		100	198
Total Expenses		\$ 70,450	\$ 72,190
Income			
Tuition	\$750/student x 16 students	12,000	12,000
In Kind Contribution - Yukon College			
Classroom Rental	\$200/day x 24 days	4,800	4,800
Total Income		\$ 16,800	\$ 16,800
Expense Minus Income		\$ 53,650	\$ 55,390
GST		3,755.50	3,977.75
Total		\$ 57,405.50	\$ 59,367.75
Administrative Support/College Fee	15% changed to 10% in keeping with R&E guidelines	8,610.83	5,936.78
Funding Request		\$ 66,016.33	\$ 65,304.53
Funding Awarded		\$ 64,900.00	\$ 64,900.00

* *Administrative Support Includes:*

Creating/distributing brochures	Program initiation
Hiring instructors	Registering students
Assisting students with financial aid forms	Course scheduling

Recommendations For The Future

1. Move the delivery of this course to another community next year. Teslin and Carcross have requested this program.
2. Teslin has requested to run this program again this fall, albeit the Panel is only committed to fund a single deliver of this program in a year.
3. Keep the maximum number of students in the program at 12. It is more difficult to run field activities with 16 students.
4. Provide a course with increased Yukon content. Darrell Otto will develop this refined curriculum in consultation with Panel contacts. To save costs, bring a Malaspina instructor that generalized portion of the program.
5. Train a certified (with WCB) electrofisher instructor in the Yukon.
6. Include Land Claims training and an overview of the Umbrella Final Agreement. Look at a co-management model.
7. Replace BC forest practices code with a local one relevant to the Yukon.
8. Develop a cross-cultural module with emphasis on traditional practices and inclusion of local elders and their wisdom.
9. Offer a proposal writing and project-creating course with reference to the Panel's R & E fund.
10. Refine the course in consideration of employment and educational options in the field.
11. Given the limited population in the Yukon, continue to offer this course in only one place in the Yukon each year, thereby sharing this course with all communities, while moving amongst the regions to ensue appropriate availability to local need.

Contact

For more information about future course offerings, please contact Eldo Enns, Coordinator, Dawson Campus – Yukon College.

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Appendix I:

Name	Community	Final Grade
Alfred, Nancy	Pelly Crossing	Incomplete
Algotsson, Hans	Dawson City	82
Baker, April	Pelly Crossing	Incomplete
Besharah, Mel	Dawson City	91
Brown, Shelley	Dawson City	96
Gorgichuk, Crystal	Dawson City	86
Jackson, Robert	Haines Junction	88
Jones, Sebastian	Dawson City	94
Maloney, Mike	Haines Junction	84
Narozny, Frank	Dawson City	80
Njootli, Stanley	Old Crow	54
Smith, Harry	Haines Junction	85
Sydney, Darren	Teslin	71
Sydney, Frank	Teslin	83
Tetlich, Kibbe	Old Crow	70
Wolfe, George	Teslin	80

* *Passing Grade = 70%*