

Resource Management Agency Consent Form

Participant Name:

Affiliation:

Project title: Filling the environmental-monitoring gap by tapping into the citizen-science resource

STUDY TEAM

Principal Investigator:

[My name] (Master's student; School of Resource and Environmental Management, Simon Fraser University (SFU)); email: _____; phone: _____.

Supervisors:

[Supervisors' names and positions]; email: _____.

Additional Team Members:

[Team member's name and position]; email: _____. [Name] will be the primary person installing/helping to install the temperature loggers in streams, training volunteers on use of the loggers, and essentially being the primary point of contact regarding the fieldwork component of DFO's Community Stream Monitoring (CoSMo) pilot project.

[Team member's name and position]; email: _____ [Name] works for DFO and might be present during some of the temperature logger installations.

*Please note that this research is being conducted as part of my (Name) Master's project, the written component of which will be made publicly available upon completion. My research is supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) of Canada, as well as DFO.

STUDY PURPOSE

Why are we doing this study?

Threats to stream ecosystems, ranging from increases in development and land-use changes to climate change and severe weather events, are becoming greater every year. As such, collaborations between community steward groups and resource management agencies and their science researchers are more vital now than ever before. The recent Wild Salmon Policy (WSP) *Implementation Plan* acknowledges the need for collaboration with First Nations and stewardship organizations to ensure monitoring of salmon and their habitat is conducted effectively across as many streams as possible. Consequently, in working as part of the Community Stream Monitoring (CoSMo) pilot project and interviewing those that have worked as part of a community-resource management agency collaboration, my goal (hopefully with your help!) is to find out how resource management agencies, such as DFO, can better collaborate with community environmental stewardship groups.

My Project

My role will be to facilitate communication between local stream steward groups and DFO researchers to (1) observe and report challenges that arise through this collaboration, (2) evaluate how data collected by stream steward groups and DFO researchers on water temperature, flow, and fish distribution can be combined effectively, and (3) provide recommendations to DFO resource managers on how best to collaborate with steward groups and incorporate their information in the context of the WSP *Implementation Plan*. More specifically, I am interested in studying current barriers to these partnerships, with the goal of developing a framework for future collaborations. I want to learn how participants feel about the collaboration process, including what, in their opinion, needs to be done to improve and foster future partnerships. To do this, I plan to conduct interviews over the next year to get feedback as the project progresses. I want to hear your thoughts, feedback (positive and negative), ideas, and recommendations for how things can be done better.

Significance

Improved relationships and communication between communities and regulatory government agencies have potential benefits for all: local groups are empowered and enabled to play a more active role in the conservation of their local ecosystems; scientists gain access to a larger breadth of shared data, enabling a better understanding of the environment; and resource management agencies gain more credible information from which to make decisions. Finally, local ecosystems can benefit from the identification of critical areas in order to target conservation efforts towards the primary causes of problems.

INVITATION

I would like to invite you to participate in my (Name) research. Participation in my research involves sharing your thoughts and opinions about collaborations between DFO and community stewardship groups via a semi-structured interview. The interview would likely take around 30-45 min (or more if you have lots to share!). In order to adhere to social-distancing restrictions, interviews will be held virtually via your preferred platform or over the phone. The interview will consist of me asking you a series of questions about your experience working as part of a collaboration, data management protocols, and thoughts regarding stream monitoring and threats to freshwater ecosystems, among others, and then recording your answers.

RISKS AND BENEFITS

There are no foreseeable risks or immediate benefits from participating in my research.

STUDY RESULTS

I will be emailing my completed Master's project, as well as a summarized version of my results, to participants so that they can see the results of their contributions. The results will also be used by DFO so that they can better collaborate with groups in the future, so there may be indirect benefits to your group and others resulting from this research. Additionally, the main study findings might be published in an academic journal article.

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS VOLUNTARY

There is no obligation whatsoever to participate in my research and you are free to change your mind about participating at any time prior to my publishing my thesis (no questions asked and no hard feelings!). If you choose to participate and then later choose to withdraw, all the information you provide will be deleted. You have the option to be identified or have your identify kept confidential (more details provided later in this document), and I will be sure to keep you posted on any changes that may influence your desire to participate.

CONTACT FOR INQUIRIES OR COMPLAINTS

If you have any questions or concerns about my research, feel free to ask me (email: _____), [Name of supervisor] (email: _____), [Name of team member] (email: _____), or, if you feel more comfortable discussing your concerns with someone outside our research team, you are always more than welcome to talk to your DFO Community Advisor.

Additionally, if you have any concerns about your rights as a research participant and/or your experiences while participating in this study, you may contact [Name and position], Office of Research Ethics (email: _____ or phone: _____).

IF YOU AGREE TO PARTICIPATE

I sincerely thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts and opinions. There are several options for inclusion of your thoughts and opinions in my (Name) Master's project. You have the option to not be identified, in which case your information will be used as part of the collective information gathered, but your name and direct quotes will not be included in my Master's project.

I may wish to use some direct quotes or to refer to specific people/conversations/interview responses to highlight specific issues or convey opinions more effectively. If you are comfortable with being identified and permit me to use quotes or identify you directly, I will contact you prior to the thesis being submitted if I use a quote of yours or mention your name, to ensure that I properly convey the message that you want conveyed (i.e., in case there was any misinterpretation on my part while reading the survey/conducting the interview, etc.). I will only include your name/direct quotations in my finished project if you have confirmed and signed that you are comfortable with the way in which your name and/or quotes are used.

Finally, you always have the option to change your mind. If at any point you decide that you do not wish for your thoughts and opinions provided via the interview, conversations, etc. to be included in my Master's project, or you wish to change your level of inclusion, please do not hesitate to let me know.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Your confidentiality will be respected. The information you provide will be stored on a password protected computer. To ensure confidentiality, your name, affiliation, and contact information will not be stored in the same folder as your interview responses, and the document with your contact information will also be password-protected. For those who choose to use web-based communication (e.g., video conference calls), please note that there cannot be a guarantee of confidential communication.

If you consent to being contacted in the future, should additional information or clarification of information be needed, then your contact information will remain stored on the same password-protected computer. If you do not wish for your contact information to be stored for potential future contact, it will be deleted upon completion of my project.

CONSENT

I consent to being contacted in the future if additional information or clarification of information is required for the thesis component of this project:

- Yes ()
- No ()

Do you permit [Name of supervisor] and [Name of team member] to have access to your interview responses? (Please check **one**)

- I permit [Name of supervisor] and [Name of team member] to have access to my interview responses and identity (i.e. to know who gave the responses) ()
- I permit [Name of supervisor] and [Name of team member] to view my responses, but I want my identity to remain confidential (i.e. neither [Name of supervisor] or [Name of team member] will know specifically who provided the responses) ()
- I do not permit [Name of supervisor] or [Name of team member] to have access to my responses ()

Are you comfortable with being identified or would you prefer to not be identified in the written component of my Master's project?

- I do not want to be identified ()
- I consent to being identified ()

If you are comfortable being identified, what level of inclusion do you feel comfortable with? (**Check all that apply**)

- I permit mention of my specific group/affiliation (e.g. "DFO") ()
- I do not wish to have my name included in the thesis ()
- I permit my first and last name to be included in the thesis ()
- I permit my first name *only* to be included in the thesis ()
- I permit direct quotes from my survey/ interview to be included in the thesis ()
- Other (please specify):



Please note that by consenting to have your thoughts and opinions shared, you have not waived any legal rights of any sort.

Your signature below indicates that you have received a copy of this consent form for your own records and that you agree to participate in this study.

Name (Please print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____