

WILD SALMON POLICY

**OPERATIONAL
GUIDELINES**

PRELIMINARY OUTLINES

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Resource Management Guidelines

Estimated time to completion - 6-12 months

- Introduction

- Annual fishery management assessment cycle
 - Long-term assessment of performance
 - Roles and responsibilities

- Objectives and Constraints

- Fishery Information Requirements

- Exploitation and Catch Distribution
 - Fishery Mortality (including incidental)
 - Ecosystem Dependencies and Interactions

- Assessment Information Requirements

- Referential Systems (Table 1)

- The Intensive-Extensive approach

- Species-specific assessment components

- Fishery Modelling

- Guidelines for the Identification of Conservation Units

- Genetic Variation

- Phenotypic Variation

- Manageability (international, domestic, and First Nations)

- Application of Evaluation Criteria

- Referential Systems

- LRPs, TRPs, and other RPs

- Harvest Management Actions

- Pre/post season - implications of achieving or not achieving various rps

- In- season

- Summary

Table 1. Major attributes of 4 different referential systems, ranked from most important (top) to least important (bottom) according to the WSP.

Referential System	Objective(s)	Example objectives	Approaches setting objectives	Objectives cast in terms of	Demographic Scale	Information requirements
Persistence	Prevent extirpation	95% probability of persisting 100 years	Viability analysis	Probability of persisting (or failing to)	Conservation Unit and larger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • population structure • whatever is required for VA
Ecosystem	Maintain healthy ecosystem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exogenous N-loading • carcasses per km • maximum juvenile loading 	modeling ecosystem health and function	Ecosystem health, integrity, function, etc.	Depends on ecosystem but probably the Conservation Unit and larger	measures of ecosystem health
Spatial pattern	Maintain fish in habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95% available FW habitat utilized 	Habitat-based modeling; meta-population analysis	Distributions of abundance within CU	Conservation Unit	Spatial descriptions of extent of habitat utilization, presence/absence
Production	Sustainable fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 females km⁻¹ • 25×10³ escapement 	Production modeling	Abundance; number of adults	Conservation Unit	Abundance, catch, catch distribution

Habitat Sustainability Guidelines

Estimated time to completion - 6-12 months

•Objective - to describe and where necessary develop/update guidelines to minimize the risk of negative impacts of habitat development on wild salmon

- link to Habitat Web Page

- Roles and Responsibilities of federal, provincial, and municipal governments

•Overview of Existing Guidelines of Relevance to WSP
Policy and Legislation Guidelines

· Policy for the Management of Fish Habitat

· Habitat Conservation and Protection Guidelines

· Fish Habitat Conservation and Protection

Procedural Guidelines

· Decision Framework

· Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and the Fish Habitat Management Program

Prescriptive Guidelines

Technical Guidelines

Updated Guidelines Specifically For WSP

•Summary

Salmon Enhancement Guidelines

Estimated time to completion - 9-15 months

- Objective - to describe and where necessary develop/update guidelines to minimize the risk of negative impacts of biological enhancement on wild salmon
- Overview of revised SEP policy
- Genetic Risks
 - brood stock collection practices given varying enhancement objectives
 - spawning protocols for various population levels - e.g. matrix spawning for populations <50
 - transplant protocols that reflect introduction and transfer policy
- Demographic risks
 - Guidelines on balanced production strategies and definition of enhancement objectives e.g. objective of a terminal fishery in an area where there are few wild stocks can reduce demographic concerns.
- Disease risk
 - Alaska sockeye protocols
 - Screening and disease management protocols
- Ecological Risks
 - Release guidelines that minimize fw ecological disruption
 - Freshwater fry outplanting guidelines with load rates based on productive capacity
 - Fry salvage guidelines
- Summary

Aquaculture Operational Guidelines

Estimated time to completion - 12 - 18 months

- Objective - describe and where necessary develop/update guidelines to minimize the risk of negative impacts of aquaculture on wild salmon
- Application of precautionary approach consistent with the aquaculture development and wild salmon
- Roles and responsibilities of provincial and federal governments
- existing guidelines and operational policies
 - Siting guidelines
 - Fish health certification
 - Regulations and technologies to limit escapes
- Updated guidelines as appropriate to minimise:
 - Genetic risks
 - Demographic risks
 - Disease risks
 - Waste
 - Fish health problems
 - Ecological risks including escapees, and interactions with wild salmon
- Future direction of salmon farming in B.C.
- Summary