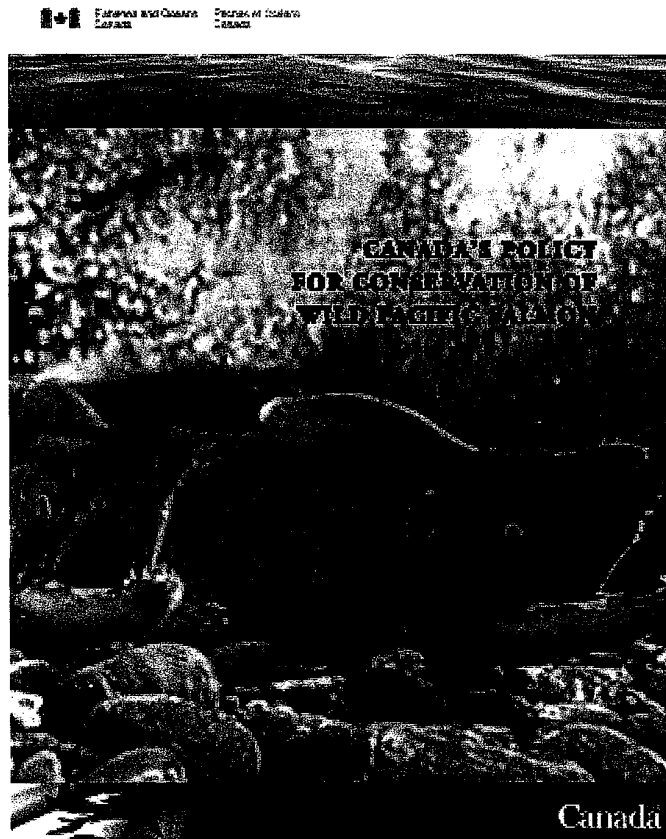


Wild Salmon Policy Implementation Workplan

FY 07/08

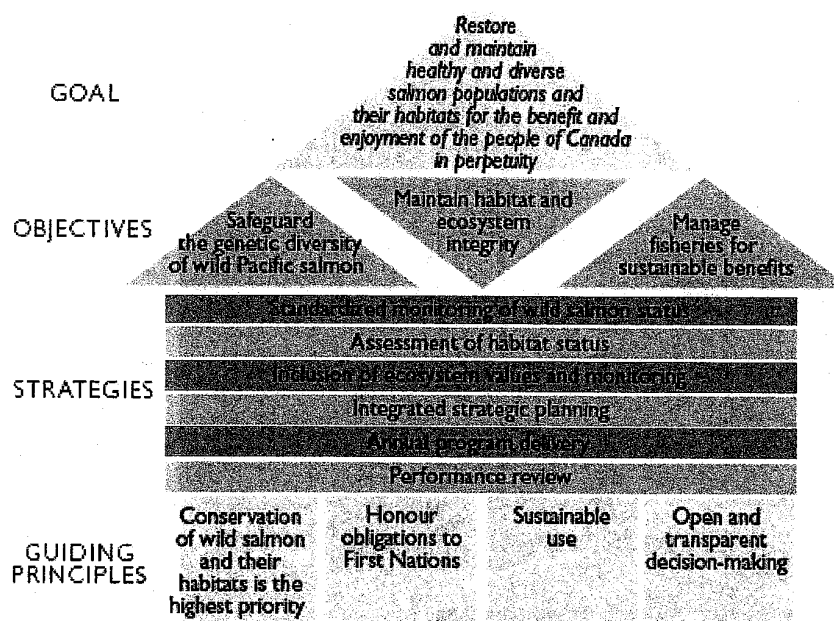


August 13, 2007

Background

This document outlines Fisheries and Oceans Canada's implementation workplan for the Wild Salmon Policy (WSP) in the Pacific Region for FY 2007/08. The WSP was released in June 2005 and an annual budget of approximately \$1M has supported implementation. The WSP (Figure 1) is comprised of goals, objectives, principles and a six implementation strategies that describe a proactive process to guide salmon resource and habitat management rather than a reactive rules-based approach. The implementation is phased recognizing that a number of key action steps must be completed in order for the process to function. It is important to recognize that the WSP is not a discrete program but rather an initiative to affect corporate change. After implementation it will simply represent the way DFO business is conducted.

Figure 1. Wild Salmon Policy structure



WSP Implementation Strategies 1-3 address the need for information about current conditions, specifically the details on the status of salmon, their habitat and ecosystems. Strategies 4-6 describe an inclusive and transparent cycle of long term strategic and annual planning that will outline the long term objectives for Conservation Units (CUs), their habitat and ecosystems and the measures we will take to get there. Given that the majority of key start-up Action Steps are within Strategies 1-4, we have focused our work planning to date and into 07/08 on those strategies. Strategies 5 and 6 describe how the Strategic Plans will inform annual planning and performance measurement. Strategies 1-

4 are not sufficiently implemented to initiate Strategies 5 and 6 in 07/08 although IFMPs must consider the impact of fisheries on proposed CUs.

Figure 2. WSP Strategies and Action Steps

- 1. Standardized monitoring of wild salmon status**
 - Identify Conservation Units
 - Develop criteria to assess CUs and identify benchmarks to represent biological status
 - Monitor and assess status of CUs
- 2. Assessment of habitat status**
 - Document habitat characteristics within CUs
 - Select indicators and develop benchmarks for habitat assessment
 - Monitor and assess habitat status
 - Establish linkages to develop an integrated data system for watershed management
- 3. Inclusion of ecosystem values and monitoring**
 - Identify indicators to monitor status of freshwater ecosystems
 - Integrate climate and ocean information into annual salmon management processes
- 4. Integrated strategic planning**
 - Implement an interim process for management of priority CUs
 - Design and implement a fully integrated strategic planning process for salmon conservation
- 5. Annual program delivery**
 - Assess the status of Conservation Units and populations
 - Plan and conduct annual fisheries
 - Plan and implement annual habitat management activities
 - Plan and implement annual enhancement activities
- 6. Performance review**
 - Conduct post-season review of annual workplans
 - Conduct regular reviews of the success of the WSP

Progress to Date

Since release of the WSP considerable progress has been made. Highlights are reported in the table below.

| Strategy | Highlight |
|---|--|
| 1. Standardized monitoring of wild salmon status | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CU identification methodology developed in collaboration with Nature Conservancy of Canada • Consultation in 12 cities with FN and multi-interests • Paper submitted and approved by PSARC subject to revision |
| 2. Assessment of habitat status | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivered summary of 10 salmon life history strategies • Developed habitat characteristic templates and tested on several priority CUs. • Developed two-tiered monitoring approach • Developed draft list of indicators for streams, lakes and estuarine areas • Developed linkages with Province of BC and other potential partners |
| 3. Inclusion of ecosystem values and monitoring | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop with U.S. colleagues in Seattle from federal and state agencies and academia provided background material for meetings with FN, stakeholders and public on ecosystem values • Ecosystem workshop with Province and OGD to develop integrated approach to Ecosystem monitoring and management scheduled conducted in late March |
| 4. Integrated Strategic Planning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSP/FRSSI collaboration nearing completion of 4 year plan for Fraser sockeye- • 5 Step Planning procedure and structured decision making very successful to date • Draft material on scale-based integration model presented to SDC • Linkage to FSWP Governance work established |

2007/08 Plan

The workplan for 2007/08 represents a positive tipping point in WSP implementation. While to date management plans have considered component Conservation Units to the extent possible, detailed planning has been limited without defined CUs, benchmarks for CUs or information about habitat/ecosystem status. In 2007/08 finalized lists of CUs will be available, the method for calculating benchmarks will be developed and testing of a habitat monitoring program will begin. This will set the stage for development of strategic plans for CUs with all of the WSP process set in motion for 08/09.

The table below highlights these key activities, the Sector responsible and the budget. Funding for WSP implementation has been from Regional re-profiling of resources within four Branches. The total has been approximately \$1.1M in each of the last two years and is \$864K for 2007/08. A timeline for WSP implementation is presented in Figure 3. Appendices 1-5 provide detailed breakdown of activities by strategy.

| Strategy | Branch Responsible | Budget \$K | Key Activities |
|---|--------------------|------------|--|
| General coordination | Policy | 70 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a transition plan/RMAF for implementation. As noted above the WSP is not a new program. It is a framework to guide and integrate existing resource management programs and implementation funding will be phased out A WSP forum is planned early in 2008 to ensure First Nations and stakeholders understand progress to date and the approach to moving forward. |
| 1. Standardized monitoring of wild salmon status | Science | 103 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Units definition will be completed early in 07/08 development of benchmarks and stock assessment frameworks. |
| Science Admin for Strategies 1 & 3 | | 137 | |
| 2. Assessment of habitat status | OHEB | 284 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete development of two tiered approach to habit monitoring monitoring pilot GIS CU mapping tool to be completed |
| 3. Inclusion of ecosystem values and monitoring | Science | 70 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a discussion paper on ecosystem indicators and monitoring framework |

| Strategy | Branch Responsible | Budget \$K | Key Activities |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------|---|
| 4. Integrated Strategic Planning | FAM | 200 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A template for CU strategic plans will be developed and tested in a single area –Barkley Sound Staff will be engaged in a workshop to review template and proposed approaches to interim and long-term strategic planning. |
| Total | | 864 | • |

Strategic Considerations

WSP implementation is strategically linked to a number Departmental initiatives. These initiatives are well-aligned but represent a significant management challenge in order to be effectively coordinated. Specific initiatives and the links include the following:

| Initiative | Linkage to WSP |
|--|---|
| Fisheries Reform/Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries | The development of an approach to integrated fisheries that provides flexible management tools and a planning process links directly to Strategy 4 – Integrated Strategic planning. |
| Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program (FSWP) | This joint DFO and Province of BC initiative provides over \$21M over 5 years towards salmon sustainability in the Fraser. Projects related to themes of governance, habitat protection, improved relationships and improved science for decision-making will directly and indirectly support WSP implementation. FSWP Projects related to habitat monitoring are directly linked to WSP Strategy 2 activities and the Salmon Dialogue Forum objectives are linked to Strategy 4. |
| Oceans Action Plan | The development of oceans monitoring and governance needs to be harmonized with development of integrated oceans, habitat and fisheries planning under Strategy 4 – Integrated Strategic planning |
| Marine Stewardship Certification | Successful WSP implementation includes most of the elements required to successfully achieve MSC. |

| Initiative | Linkage to WSP |
|---|--|
| Salmon Dialogue Forum/Governance | DFO and FSWP resources are being used to explore the potential of a leadership forum to resolve long standing and difficult fisheries management issues. There is potential for this governance model to address strategic planning issues for CUs (Action Step 4.2) |
| AAROM | This program is central to the engagement of First Nations in the development of strategic plans for CUs under Strategy 4 |
| SEP Revitalization - Examination of program priorities, objectives and processes. | Integrated production planning is the key link between WSP and SEP Revitalization |
| EPMP | The proactive model for habitat management envisioned under EPMP directly supports the approach to habitat management described in the WSP. |

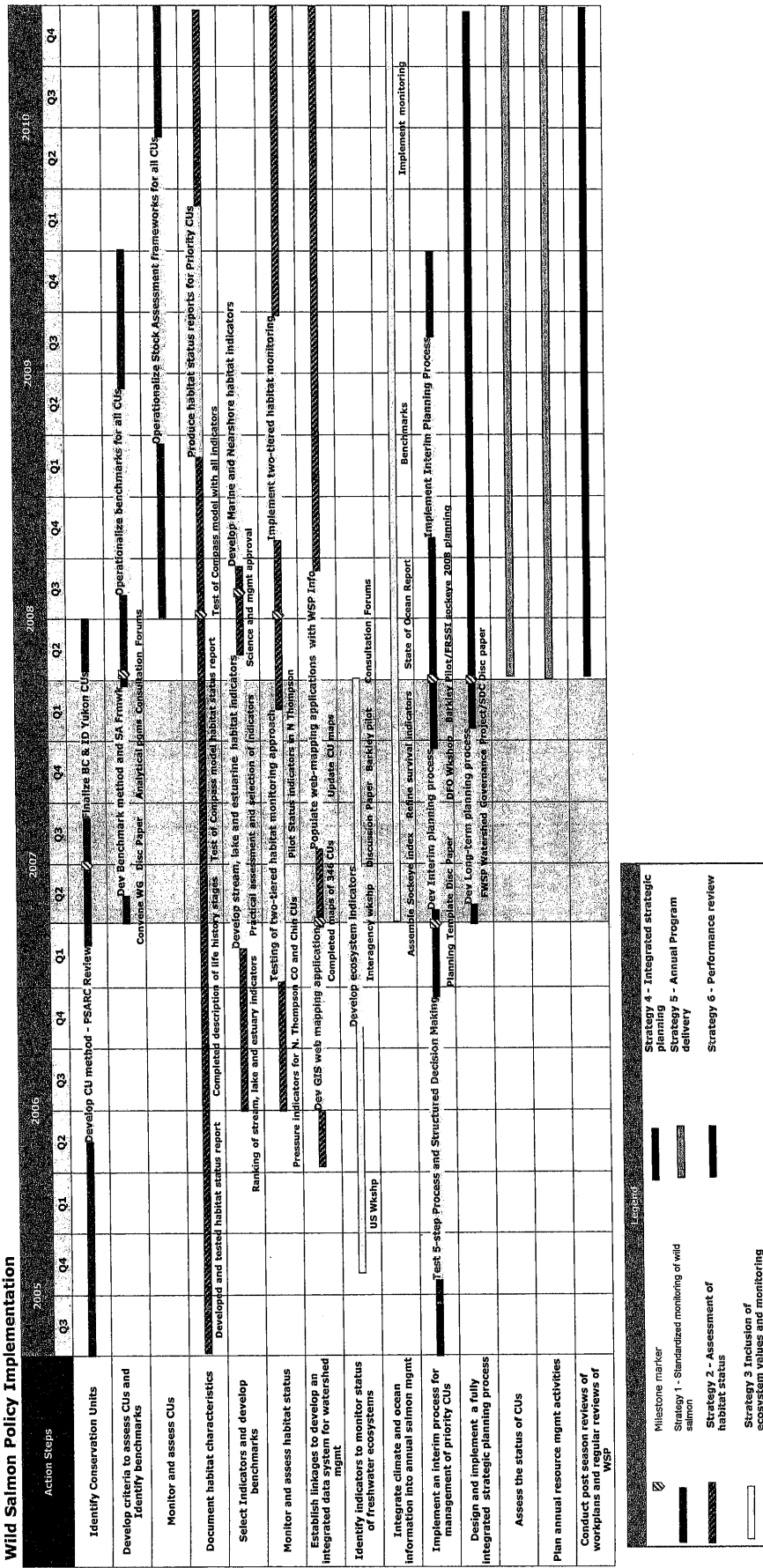
Implementation Uncertainty

Some of the key areas of concern and the approaches to managing the uncertainty associated with WSP implementation are as follows:

| Issue | Management Approach |
|--|--|
| Impact on stakeholders of protecting CUs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As stated in the WSP, the policy will not preclude fisheries operation on population aggregates that include numerous CU's, but increased attend to all of the units within the aggregate will likely require significant changes to current management practices, particularly in the case of sockeye. The development of a management model for the Fraser, initiated by Science this year will allow us to assess the conservation and eventually, social and economic impacts of proposed measures that will be taken to ensure sustainable fisheries management. Management tools being considered under Fisheries Reform and PICFI will provide the flexibility to protect CUs and meet socio-economic objectives Success with development of the 5-step planning |

| Issue | Management Approach |
|---|---|
| | process has demonstrated that stakeholders are able to work together to develop long term plans that address conservation and socio-economic objectives |
| Cost of CU monitoring | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WSP will be implemented within existing budgets. • The stock assessment framework will allow evaluation of a sampling strategy that balances cost and risk. |
| Cost of habitat and ecosystem monitoring | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As stated above, the WSP will be implemented using existing budgets. • The proposed indicators are being assessed with respect to practicality and cost • Watershed monitoring will be considered across 4 orders of government to develop a shared approach that will be affordable. |
| Cost and effectiveness of integrated planning processes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar to monitoring, a shared approach to planning and watershed governance will be examined. No single agency can assume total responsibility • The approach will use existing programs and mechanisms whenever possible. |
| Partnership opportunities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are numerous opportunities to engage NGO's as partners in implementation. • We should be entering into alliances when the objectives of the potential partner match with the Departments |

Figure 3. WSP Implementation timeline
Wild Salmon Policy Implementation



Appendix 2. WSP Strategy 1, Standardized monitoring of wild salmon status, Science Branch Workplan 2007-08 (August 5, 2007 version)

| Strategy 1 (Salmon Status) | Activity | Budget FY 07/08 K | Notes |
|---|--|------------------------------|--|
| 1.1 Identify Conservation Units | Contract/Collaboration agreement with NCC on Yukon CU's | 46 | NCC work on Yukon did not start in 06/07 due to lack of inter-governmental agreement on data sharing. Expect Yukon data sharing agreement and NCC collaborative agreement early in 07/08 FY |
| 1.2 Develop criteria to assess CUs and identify benchmarks to represent biological status | Local consultations in Yukon/ Northern BC Contract/support to adapt relevant parts of Fraser sockeye resource assessment framework to other areas and species Development of benchmarks methodology with examples across species and areas with varying data richness. | 5 10 32 | Consultations on CU list similar to summer/fall 06 program in BC SOLV Consulting recommended Contracts and honoraria to academics. Support for area staff, FN and NGOs to participate in development of examples |
| 1.3 Monitor and assess status of CUs | Stock assessment framework development | 10 | Small contract to assist with coordination of this task that will be completed in 08/09. Support for Carrie Holt and for new RES |
| Total | | 103 K | |

Appendix 3. WSP Strategy 2, The Assessment of Habitat Status, OHEB Workplan 2007-08 (Apr.26/07 version)

| Action Step(s) | Activity/Completion Date | Proj. Budget FY 06/07 K | Final Budget FY 06/07 K | Proj. Budget FY 07/08 K | Notes |
|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Travel HWG Lead | Meetings, consultations, inter-agency committee | 20 | 20 | 20 | -No travel in '06 for inter-agency committee as has been advocated through Fraser Basin Council and has yet to be struck. |
| Travel HWG | Meetings, consultations, inter-agency committee | 20 | 10 | 10 | -'06/07 costs less than projected as majority of HWG meetings attended by limited numbers of staff and those either predominantly from Lower Mainland or attended via tele-conference. |
| Admin. | Administrative support | 0 | 4 | 4 | -Similar attendance pattern expected for '07/'08 -Conference phone, cell phone, office costs (06/07), meeting room bookings, etc. |
| WSP Coordinator support | Support of co-ordinator and communications | 25 | 1 | 0 | |
| Fall Consultations | Program delivery | 50 | 31 | 0 | |
| | Communications | | | 5 | Support for fall consultation |
| 2.1 Document habitat characteristics | Updating FISS in priority CU(s) -Barkley and Clayoquot Sound and Thompson Areas (Mar.31/07) | 10 | 10 | | -FISS input information from reports on fish life history timing in freshwater, valued or sensitive freshwater habitat (rearing, spawning and migratory), obstructions, enhancement or management activities and |

| Action Step(s) | Activity/Completion Date | Proj. Budget FY 06/07 K | Final Budget FY 06/07 K | Proj. Budget FY 07/08 K | Notes |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Monitoring | <p>-Lower Thompson Coho (Mar.31/07)</p> <p>-Mapping of Statistics (July /07)</p> <p>-Provincial analysis of three(?) indicators through Watershed Statistics, Hectares B.C. if available and/or combination of NCC model (see notes)</p> | | | 100 | <p>information (Watershed Statistics) on pressure indicators at a landscape level which is the first step in the proposed two tiered approach to monitoring habitat status within CUs; the second step is more site specific monitoring of status indicators where benchmarks for the pressure indicators have been exceeded.</p> <p>-Could only complete one CU in 2006/07 with Q&A built into the cost and further QC undertaken in-house by DFO. Lower Thompson Coho CU selected as: Interior Fraser Coho stock status poor (CoSEWIC listed); proposed Area for Nature Conservancy and MoE to test Watershed Decision Support Tool; opportunity to test linkages of Tool with existing processes to deal with habitat threats e.g. water quantity in Nicola; FBC/Living Rivers to pilot a Governance model and; it covers the same geographic area as lower Thompson spring Chinook.</p> |
| 2.4 Develop integrated habitat data systems | <p>Initiate CU based mapping products i.e. CU overview maps, development of an OGC compliant web-mapping application and providing WSP spatial data management functions.</p> <p>Amend CU maps based upon consultation feedback, load information into web-mapping application, and provide WSP spatial data management functions.</p> | 30 | 21 | 20 | <p>-OHEB funded solely in 2006/07.</p> <p>-This identifies the OHEB portion of total(?) as Sectors to cost share in '07/08.</p> <p>-Data needs to be organized, stored, updated and made accessible so a function of data management staff and GIS group.</p> |

| Action Step(s) | Activity/Completion Date | Proj. Budget FY 06/07 K | Final Budget FY 06/07 K | Proj. Budget FY 07/08 K | Notes |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| | <i>Produce Overview and Stock Status Reports in 6 Priority Pilot CUs that link to Habitat Status Reports within WSP web-mapping application</i> | | | 10 | <i>-This identifies potential OHEB portion of total (?) Sectors to cost share in '07/08</i> |
| | Interagency Harmonized Monitoring Committee | | | | |
| 4.0 Integrated Strategic Planning | Contribute to Pilot Integrated Planning Process in Priority Cu e.g. Barkley Sound, or Fraser River Sockeye Spawning Initiative (Mar.31/08) | | | 5 | -Support Harmonized Interagency Monitoring Committee in 2007/08 (e.g. consultations with individuals experienced in setting-up such systems) -OT for Area staff to collate information and attend meetings. |
| Total | | 381 | 152 | 284 | -06/07 Projected budget included 96K for Bi-3 Co-ordinator, however this funded through Sector A-base so removed from subsequent budgets |

Other works

- Engagement Strategy development which, depending upon level of effort, may effect above deliverables and incur additional costs
- Determine timing and extent of consultation for Strategy 2 initiatives
- Briefing Note to again support MoU between agencies for data sharing for freshwater, and supporting interagency monitoring committee
- Resolve watershed decision support tool(s), and their roles and integration, incl. working on NCC Steering Committee
- Summarize funding opportunities (projects and science) and be better prepared to advance proposals; volunteers for leading proposals
- Continue to integrate Strategy 2 and 3

Appendix 4. WSP Strategy 3, Inclusion of Ecosystem Values and Monitoring, Science Branch Workplan 2007-08 (August 4, 2007 version)

| Action Step(s) | Activity | Budget FY07/08 K | Notes |
|---|---|---------------------------------|--|
| 3.1 Identify indicators to monitor status of FW ecosystems | Follow up of spring 2007 ecosystem workshop | 5 | Produce white paper from workshop proceedings, appoint and support activities of Knowledgeable Persons Panel to further assess and refine ecosystem indicators (review meeting) |
| | Ecosystem monitoring framework development | 25 | Continue development of integrated habitat/ecosystem indicators with 4 orders of government, NGOs and academics. Support for meeting travel and contracts to review watershed governance and approaches to monitoring state of the environment (linkage to |
| | Pilot further development & test performance indicators | 15 | Supplementary activity likely in association with Barkley Sd. and WCVI sockeye or multispecies pilot to be funded under Strategy 1 of workplan. |
| 3.2 Integrate climate & ocean information into annual salmon management processes | Support for ½ PY of BI-2 biologist + expenses | 25 | Biologist presently working on elements (sockeye "indicator" stocks) of this with partial PY support from C-CIARN Fisheries funding to end of June. WSP "salary" support requested to cover additional 6 months of time to extend work to assemble and summarize non-sockeye indicator stock time series data. |
| Total | | 70K | |

Appendix 5. WSP Strategy 4, Integrated Strategic Planning, FAM Workplan 2007-08 (August 7, 2007 version)

| Action Item | Task | Deliverable(s) | Completion Date | FY 07/08 | Notes |
|--|--|--|------------------------|-----------------|--|
| 4.1. Implement an interim process for management of priority CUs | 4.1.1 Develop template for CU Strategic plans | Discussion paper | Sept 2007 | 15K | Contract |
| | 4.1.2 Test implementation of CU planning template on Barkley Sound sockeye | Draft plan for Barkley sockeye | March 2008 | 40K | |
| | 4.1.3 Development of strategic plan for Fraser sockeye | Develop plan for 2008 and continue development of long term plan | March 2008 | 60K | Continuation of FRSSI initiative. Planning will focus on 2008 and addressing information gaps. Linkage to Science work on Fraser management model and Fisheries Reform |
| | 4.1.4 Development of a socio-economic framework for evaluating impact of management measures | Discussion paper on approach to SE frameworks | March 2008 | 25K | Linkage to Policy Branch SE work. Science work on Fraser Management model and Fisheries Reform/PICFI |
| 4.2 Design and implement a fully integrated strategic planning process for salmon conservation | 4.2.1 - Hold an internal workshop with staff to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review CU strategic plan template Consider approaches to interim and final planning processes | 1. Workshop 2. Report describing options | October 2007 | 15K | 15K Resources for travel and facilitation 10K K Contract for report |
| | 4.2.2 Consult with advisory groups regarding planning process | 1. Advisory group meetings 2. WSP Forum – FN and Multi-interest | March 2008 | 35 | 10K WSP Forum 25K Advisory process |
| Total | | | | 200K | |

| Wild Salmon Policy Implementation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---------|----|----|----|---------|----|----|----|---------|----|----|----|---------|----|----|----|
| Strategies and Action Steps | | 2007-08 | | | | 2008-09 | | | | 2009-10 | | | | 2010-11 | | | |
| | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| Strategy 1: Standardized monitoring of wild salmon status | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Identify Conservation Units | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.2 Develop criteria to assess CUs and identify benchmarks | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.3 Monitor and assess CUs | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Strategy 2: Assessment of habitat status | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1 Document habitat characteristics | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.2 Select indicators and develop benchmarks for habitat | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.3 Monitor and assess habitat status | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.4 Develop integrated data system for watershed management | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Strategy 3: Inclusion of ecosystem values and monitoring | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.1 Identify indicators to monitor status of freshwater ecosystems | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.2 Integrate climate & ocean info into annual salmon mgt | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Strategy 4: Integrated strategic planning | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4.1 Implement an interim process for management of priority CUs | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4.2 Design & implement integrated strategic planning process | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Strategy 5: Annual program delivery | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5.1 Assess the status of CUs | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5.2 Plan annual resource management activities | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Strategy 6: Performance review | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6.1 Post season reviews of workplans & regular reviews of WSP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |