

Fisheries and Oceans Canada Strategic Environmental Assessment	
Proposal Name: Wild Salmon Policy File Number: Security:	Originating Responsibility Centre: 53000
Form 1: Initial Checklist (Handbook Section 2.0)	
Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Memorandum to Cabinet <input type="checkbox"/> Treasury Board Submission <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ministerial Announcement <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Describe)	Contact Name: Position: Mark Saunders Telephone: 604.868.0867 Facsimile: 604.666.3295
Description of Initiative: Canada's Policy for Conservation of Wild Pacific Salmon will guide resource management activities to maintain healthy and diverse salmon populations and their habitats. The policy is not prescriptive in nature but rather process-oriented to arrive at decisions that are appropriate for each situation and have considered environmental, social and economic factors in a manner consistent with the principles of Sustainable Development.	
Potential for Environmental Effects: The outcomes of this policy over the long term will be positive for the environment. The intent is to safeguard the genetic diversity of salmon as well as maintain habitat and ecosystem integrity.	
Proposal Exempted from SEA: Emergency: <input type="checkbox"/> Shortened Cabinet Process: <input type="checkbox"/> Previously Assessed: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Is a Strategic Environmental Assessment required? Y Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Rationale: The policy has the potential to positively affect the environment	
<p> <u>Mark Saunders</u> <u>10/08/2005</u> _____ _____ Policy Officer Date Manager Date </p> <p>If Strategic Environmental Assessment is required, proceed to Preliminary Scan.</p>	

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Form 2: Preliminary Scan (Handbook Section 5.1)	
Proposal Activities and Outcomes (Direct and Indirect):	
<p>The goal of the Wild Salmon Policy is to restore and maintain healthy and diverse salmon populations and their habitats for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of Canada in perpetuity. This goal is to be achieved by meeting three objectives specifically: 1) safeguard genetic diversity of salmon 2) maintain habitat and ecosystems and 3) manage fisheries for sustainable benefits. The policy includes six implementation strategies. The first three strategies provide information on the status of the salmon resource, its habitat and associated ecosystems. Strategic plans (Strategy 4) are then developed that specify long term biological objectives to achieve conservation and sustainable use. The plans will include specific management measures to protect or restore Pacific salmon, their habitats and ecosystems in a specified time frame. The plans inform annual workplans (Strategy 5) the results of which are reviewed annually to ensure progress and continuous learning through performance assessment (Strategy 6). The outcomes will be: 1) Healthy and diverse, abundance wild salmon populations for future generations 2) sustainable fisheries to meet the needs of First Nations and contribute to the current and future prosperity of Canadians and 3) improved accounting for ecosystem values in salmon and habitat management decisions.</p>	
Are aspects of natural resources affected by outcomes? Y Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Description and Rationale:	
<p>The policy is designed to proactively manage salmon populations and their habitat. In doing so the salmon and their habitat will be affected.</p>	
Does the proposal have Direct and Indirect outcomes with environmental effects?	
Y Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Description and Rationale:	
<p>The long term strategic and annual plans developed under Strategies 4 and 5 will include specific measures to maintain or restore salmon populations and their habitat. Some of these measures will have direct or indirect effects on the environment.</p>	

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Will the proposal affect achievement of SDS commitments? Y Yes No

Description and Rationale: DFO's SD Action Plan for 2005/06 has three key goals. The WSP supports the Goal of Sustainable Programs, which reflects DFO effort toward the protection of aquatic resources while supporting the development of economic and social benefits. DFO has specified three targeted activities in support of this goal and the WSP addresses all three:

- 1) Developing policies, frameworks, regulations and responses to ensure the integration and sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture.
- 2) Promoting an ecosystem based approach for Canada's three oceans
- 3) Examining issues pertaining to climate change.

There are four planned action steps this FY:

- 1) Consult with Stakeholders – Complete
- 2) Release policy – Complete
- 3) Preliminary ID of Conservation Units for wild salmon – Due March 31
- 4) Development of interim strategic planning process for salmon management – Due March 31.

The expected outcome will be healthy and diverse salmon populations and their habitat for all Canadians.

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Will the proposal generate projects subject to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* or other federal EA legislation?

Y Yes No

Description and Rationale: It is possible that through the Strategic Planning processes it may be decided to take actions to improve habitat or enhance salmon populations through construction of hatcheries or spawning channels that would require a CEAA assessment.

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Does the proposal involve a new process or technology? Y Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Description and Rationale: <p>The policy includes an action step that calls for a new integrated strategic planning process for the development of long term strategic plans for wild salmon, their habitat and ecosystems. The open and transparent process will require a new consultative structure and procedure and will take several years to develop.</p>	
Does the scale or timing of the proposal result in important interactions with the environment? Y Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Description and Rationale: <p>Wild Pacific salmon utilize freshwater habitat throughout much of British Columbia and the Yukon and marine ecosystems from estuaries to the central north Pacific. The intent of the WSP is to provide “egg to egg” planning that ensures local and Region wide planning processes for fisheries, marine use and watersheds consider the larger picture for salmon and are integrated in their approaches.</p>	
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If the proposal is likely to result in important environmental effects, proceed to Detailed Analysis (Form 3).

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Form 3: Detailed Analysis (Handbook Section 6.0)

Describe the Proposal. (Use attachments if necessary)

Scope:

The WSP provides direction for the management of wild salmon and their habitat throughout British Columbia and the Yukon. This includes areas throughout the eastern North Pacific Ocean and the full extent of watersheds utilized by salmon. Pacific salmon are occasionally found in the Northwest Territories but are relatively uncommon, not actively managed and are not included in this policy.

Major Elements:

The overall structure of the Wild salmon policy is described in Figure 1. It includes the following major elements:

Goal: The goal of the Wild Salmon Policy is to restore and maintain healthy and diverse salmon populations and their habitats for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of Canada in perpetuity.

Objectives: The WSP goal is to be achieved by meeting three objectives specifically:
1) safeguard genetic diversity of salmon 2) maintain habitat and ecosystems and 3) manage fisheries for sustainable benefits.

Strategies: The policy includes six implementation strategies. The first three strategies provide information on the status of the salmon resource, its habitat and associated ecosystems. Strategic plans (Strategy 4) are then developed that specify long term biological objectives to achieve conservation and sustainable use. The plans will include specific management measures to protect or restore Pacific salmon, their habitats and ecosystems in a specified time frame. The plans inform annual workplans (Strategy 5) the results of which are reviewed annually to ensure progress and continuous learning through performance assessment (Strategy 6).

Principles: There are four principles that will guide implementation of the WSP,
1. Conservation of wild Pacific salmon and their habitats is the highest priority in resource management decision-making. 2. Resource management decisions will honour Canada's obligations to First Nations. 3. Sustainable Use- Resource management

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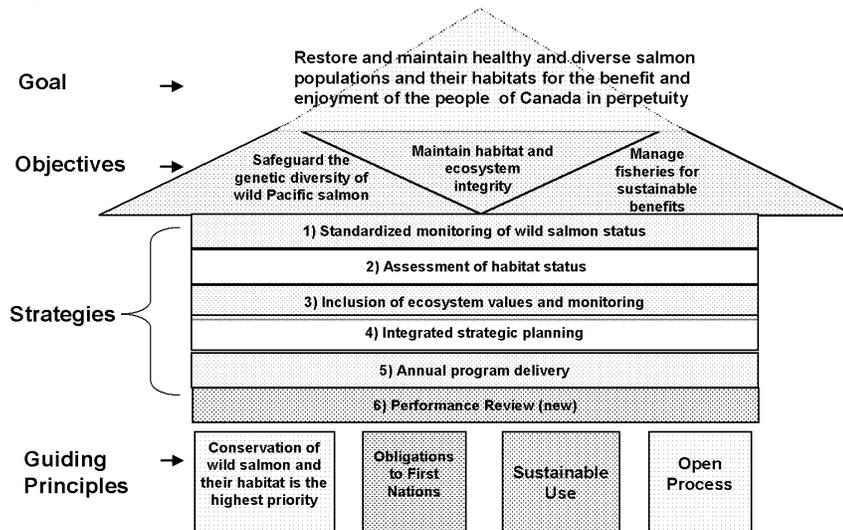
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decisions will consider biological, social and economic consequences, reflect best science including Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge and maintain the potential for future generations to meet their needs and aspirations.

Figure 1. Wild Salmon Policy Overview



What are the Direct, Indirect and Unintended Outcomes of the proposal? (Refer to SEA Handbook text and use attachments if necessary)

The outcomes will be: 1) Healthy and diverse, abundance wild salmon populations for future generations 2) sustainable fisheries to meet the needs of First Nations and contribute to the current and future prosperity of Canadians and 3) improved accounting for ecosystem values in salmon and habitat management decisions

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Describe the environment at a level and scope relevant to the proposal.

Scope:

The WSP covers all habitat used by wild Pacific salmon including marine habitat in the North Pacific Ocean and aquatic habitat associated with British Columbia and the Yukon. There will be management decisions to protect fish habitat and salmon that may have social and economic impacts. In keeping with principles of Sustainable Development these impacts will be considered in the decision-making process.

Boundaries:

Spatial: BC/Yukon watersheds containing salmon and North Pacific waters frequented by salmon.

Temporal: This policy begins immediately and is ongoing. Decisions must consider future generations.

Jurisdictional: The policy will guide regulatory programs within DFO but will require DFO to provide leadership in influencing processes that impact salmon but fall under other levels of government including Pacific rim nations, First Nations, Provincial, Territorial and Municipal.

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Physical Environment Components Characterization:

There are many physical characteristics of marine and terrestrial ecosystems that impact salmon populations. Some of these include

Aquatic

- Adequate Water flows
- Appropriate temperatures
- Spawning gravel
- Connectivity of streams
- Adequate nutrients

Marine

- Appropriate temperatures
- Circulation conditions to support biological productivity

Maintaining healthy salmon populations will require that action be considered when factors under human control affect salmon and when changes occur that are beyond our

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control that their implications are considered in our management actions.

Biological Environment Components Characterization:

There are many biological characteristics of marine and terrestrial ecosystems that impact salmon populations. Some of these include:

- Adequate riparian zone vegetation for protection
- Adequate prey (insect) for juveniles
- Adequate prey species

Maintaining healthy salmon populations will require that action be considered when factors under human control affect salmon and when changes occur that are beyond our control that their implications are considered in our management actions.

Related Socio-economic, Cultural and Human Health Environment Component Characterization:

In the long term maintaining healthy populations of wild salmon and their habitat will provide a strong production base that will sustain social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits including:

- Sustainable Fisheries – commercial, recreational
- Aesthetic benefit of fish for people to experience
- Food, social and ceremonial needs of First Nations will be met.

Healthy ecosystems for fish are indicators that they are also healthy for people.

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Potential Environmental and Related Socio-economic Effects Description (Optional use of Matrix to identify effects):

The environmental effects of the WSP will be positive. Strategic plans will outline measures that will be taken to maintain or restore healthy populations of wild salmon along with healthy habitat and ecosystems. Some plans developed under the WSP would include habitat restoration or enhancement that would require modification of the environment. The environmental impact of these projects will be assessed independently.

The majority of social and economic impacts of the WSP will be positive in the long run. In the short term however there may be a redistribution of wealth associated with changing patterns of harvest required to conserve salmon populations and if there is a need to reduce the harvest rates this will impact the industry.

Mitigation / Enhancement Measures and Planned Follow-up:

The WSP includes a strategy of performance review. Progress towards objectives described in strategic plans for salmon Conservation Units and their component populations and associated habitat will be monitored annually. Corrective measures will be taken if required. This will ensure an adaptive approach through continuous learning. Additionally an independent review of the WSP and its progress towards its overall goal and objectives will be conducted.

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Views of the Public and Stakeholders:

An extensive and successful consultation process was used to develop the Wild Salmon Policy. As a result the majority of salmon interests that included First Nations, commercial and recreational processors and fishers, Provincial and Territorial representatives, Municipal representatives and ENGO's are supportive of the policy. While some feel the policy is not prescriptive enough they are willing to begin working

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on implementation.	

Sources of Information:

Internal Documents:

DFO. 2005. Canada's Policy for Conservation of Wild Pacific Salmon.

External Documents:

Public and Stakeholder Consultations (Describe):

Document released December 2004 on public website. Public given 60 days to respond in writing. Bilateral meetings with First Nations. Information sessions held at the request of stakeholders. Policy Forum held with First Nations with expenses paid for 1 representative from each FN in BC/Yukon. Two multi-interest dialogue forums held with 80 representatives of salmon interests in March and April.

Other (Describe):

Summary Characterization of Environmental Effects:

Overall, the Wild Salmon Policy will have a positive impact on the environment. Healthy, diverse and abundance wild salmon populations will be achieved by safeguarding the genetic diversity of wild Pacific salmon and by maintaining habitat and ecosystem integrity.

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