



# Considering ATK in the Implementation of WSP

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# Purpose



- To facilitate discussion and determine the next steps for considering ATK in WSP implementation.

## ***Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK):***

- *A holistic way of knowing that encompasses social, environmental, economic, cultural and spiritual elements, where humans are an intimate part of the natural world;*
- *Long-term knowledge based on direct observation from living in close contact with nature;*
- *Dynamic knowledge that has evolved over time and continues to evolve today;*
- *Knowledge that is passed down orally through many generations;*
- *Cumulative knowledge held by, and unique to, Aboriginal peoples*

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# Value of ATK



- Considers the ecosystem or 'bigger picture' context
- Provides broad trends in species and stock distribution, abundance and seasonal behaviour patterns
- Systemic observations with a temporal scale that goes beyond most scientific studies
- Can save time and money by guiding field work
- Can help determine baseline data

Considering ATK can be time and labour intensive but payoffs go well beyond achieving WSP obligations

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# ATK linkages with WSP



- **PRINCIPLE 3 - SUSTAINABLE USE:**

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

- **Conservation Unit delineation:**

The delineation of CUs will be based on biological information, including genetic traits , polygenic traits, and **ATK where available**.

- **Planning Process – Overview reports:**

For CUs in the Red zone more detailed reports will be provided as they become available. These **detailed reports will consider and incorporate ATK, where available**, and be subject to peer review through PSARC.

# Wild Salmon Policy ATK Background



- WSP Draft Proposal for Development of Guidelines for the use of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) Management of Fisheries Resources in DFO's Pacific Region (July 2006)
- David Suzuki Foundation and Watershed Watch Report on Knowledge Integration in Salmon Conservation and Sustainability Planning (March 2009)
- First Nations participation in WSP implementation is primarily through consultation

# Federal Work on ATK



- **CEAA**
  - Interim Principles for Considering ATK in Environmental Assessments
- **SARA DFO**
  - Aboriginal Funds for Species at Risk
  - Aboriginal Policy Framework for Aquatic Species at Risk
  - National ATK Workshop 2008
  - Pacific Region ATK Working Group
  - Draft National Interim Operational Guidance Document
  - In coordination with EC, Parks Canada and COSEWIC
- **Yukon Placer Mine**
  - ATK approach for development of a Fish Habitat Regulatory System
  - Big “C” consultations
  - Consultation/ATK coordinator
  - First Nations ‘invited’ to participate
  - Compensation provided
  - Introductory meeting, 40 individual interviews, review of final draft

# Opportunities or vehicles for sharing ATK



- Informally through involvement of Aboriginal people as guides and assistants in the field
- Inherently through early engagement of First Nations and involvement in planning processes
- Via ongoing First Nation sub committees to planning committees
- Through targeted consultations with First Nations
- Individual meetings and interviews with clearly defined questions



# Preparing to receive and handle ATK



- Clear intent as to why ATK is collected or accessed and how it will be used
- Records Management for storage of ATK
- Informed Consent
- Guiding principles and training for discussing ATK during the planning process
- Guidelines for integration in planning documents and decision-making
- Follow-up mechanism to communicate to Aboriginal communities when ATK is used

# Who brings ATK to bear?



- Identify parties that might be affected by the plans on a regional basis
- Aboriginal Traditional Language regions coincide fairly well with Fresh Water Adaptive Zones (FAZ) (potential planning units)
- Elders are often the holders of ATK
- Important to get the appropriate First Nation experts involved in planning and sub-committees (political vs. technical expertise)
- AAROM bodies have potential to provide First Nations communities with capacity for management of ATK
- Community capacity to participate may be limited <sup>10</sup>

# ATK Best Practices



1. Respect ATK and Knowledge Holders
2. Make sure you use the correct and respectful term to refer to ATK in a particular community
3. Engage early and sustain communication (Work with the community)
4. Take the time to establish strong trusting relationships based on honesty, openness and sharing
5. Respect Community ATK Protocols
6. Respect intellectual property rights
7. Seek Prior Informed Consent
8. Recognize Capacity Concerns
9. Consider ATK and Western Knowledge in a Complementary Manner
10. Work on projects with common interest and benefit
11. Provide value-added knowledge back to the community, share equitably with the holders any benefits from the use of ATK
12. Provide a venue for stories and opportunity for sharing
13. Use pictures and traditional names as well as English when describing and discussing as Aboriginal names are often information rich.
14. Explain what is being sought and why
15. Employ flexibility but clearly define limits
16. Demonstrate how and where ATK will be used

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# Considerations



- ATK is regionally specific and non-transferable
- Language barrier, some traditional words do not translate accurately
- Elders have advised that a rigid structure and set of protocols does not work for ATK
- IP and privacy sensitivities, absolute protection of info is not possible (Access to Information Act)
- First Nations want to contribute and be included on an equal basis. Consultation is not seen as inclusion by some First Nations.
- PSARC review process creates a challenge function that is advised against when dealing with ATK
- Significant time as well as human and financial resources required to engage First Nations early and build strong relationships
- Capacity of aboriginal communities/institutions related to the provision of input for implementation of WSP
- Managing expectations related to the inclusion of ATK
- Flow of ATK information is not always available to non-aboriginals

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# Options for WSP Implementation



- Hold a workshop to determine how First Nations want us to consider ATK in WSP implementation.
- Look for other forums to discuss ATK and the WSP eg. Visions Conference
- Begin discussions about and start considering it in decision-making processes for one of the WSP pilots.
- Develop an overall Aboriginal Policy Framework/Engagement Strategy for WSP which would include ATK considerations
- Draft a proposal for a First Nations team, individual or Graduate Student to develop ATK guidelines for WSP in collaboration with First Nations
- Wait for the SARA Operational Guidelines to be completed and amend them to suit WSP, then have the draft reviewed by First Nations at a WSP workshop

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