



RECORD OF MEETING

Date: April 15, 2010

Location: YWCA, MacMillan Room, 535 Hornby Street, Vancouver

Purpose of Meeting: Update on Wild Salmon Policy (WSP) Implementation

Group/Advisory Committee: WSP Implementation Team

Attendees: Lisa Wilson (Chair), Melody Farrell, Mark Saunders, Kim Hyatt, Deborah Phelan, Wellsley Hamilton, Corey Jackson, Wilf Luedke, Shaun Davies, James Irvine, and Carol Cross

Regrets: Neil Schubert, Raymond Lauzier, Carrie Holt, Richard Bailey, Ann-Marie Huang, Diane Lake, Paul Ryall, and Sandy Johnston

Materials Distributed (list):

- Agenda
- Draft Meeting Minutes from February 26, 2010
- WSP Implementation Timelines Gant Chart
- Draft Work Plan 2010-11
- Draft Report on Work Plan 2009-2010
- Draft Pilots Matrix
- PICFI Evaluation Methodology

Key Issues Discussed:

- **Minutes**
 - Minutes for February 26th meeting were approved.
- **Stock Assessment Framework Status (M. Saunders)**
 - Copy of stock assessment presentation can be found on the shared drive under the Strategy 1 folder.
 - More strategic thinking should be done to determine if the science work will help us reach our fisheries management objectives.
 - The Framework does not reflect CU's and is not operational yet.
 - About 30-50% of CU's have data deficiencies (CU's no data to do even rudimentary assessments). However, these are largely in areas not impacted by commercial fisheries.
 - B. Holtby looking into using COSEWIC conservation status indicators help identify priority CU's.
 - Arlene Tompkins leads the Stock Assessment Coordinating Committee (SACC).
- **Strategy 1: Standardized Monitoring of Wild Salmon Status (M. Saunders)**
 - Updates to the Gantt chart discussed.
 - Update of WSP Strategy 1 provided for incorporation into 2009-2010 report on implementation.
 - Update on WSP planned work for 2010-11 provided.
 - StAD budget continues to be reduced, as such only ~\$100K available from Science for WSP implementation (historically \$300K invested).

- Stock assessment work done in the North and Central Coast still needs to be translated to the CU level.
- Software for identifying benchmarks and assessing CU status is being developed by C. Holt. A 2-day DFO workshop to introduce staff to the software and seek their feedback is planned for June 2010.
- Timelines and requirements for ongoing operational review of CU status and boundaries needs to be discussed and determined. Revisions every 5 to 10 years was recommended by M. Saunders.
- **Strategy 2: Assessment of Habitat Status (M. Farrell)**
 - Engagement in watersheds is considered the same as WSP engagement, but at the watershed level rather than CU level.
 - Update of WSP Strategy 2 provided for incorporation into 2009-2010 report on implementation.
 - OHEB awaiting final habitat status reports for Cowichan, Sarita, and Harrison watersheds.
 - Update on WSP Strategy 2 planned work for 2010-11 provided.
 - Funding to complete habitat status reports comes from Canada-BC habitat fund. OHEB has not secured funding to complete habitat status reports this fiscal.
 - OHEB unable to do status reports or monitoring in all CU's.
 - Indicators and ideally some thresholds should be identified in the status reports. At present, some indicators do not have thresholds associated with them.
 - Monitoring of habitat status will not take place in the near future because the habitat compliance and monitoring program is national and the present focus is on compliance and conformance.
 - Web mapping application:
 - A list of potential upgrades to the mapping application was circulated by W. Hamilton.
 - Mapping application framework is available and waiting to be populated with WSP reports. If GIS analysis is required to support the information uploaded, resources are required. If the application is to represent all things WSP, the system will need to be reviewed.
- **Strategy 3: Ecosystem Values and Monitoring (K. Hyatt)**
 - Update of WSP Strategy 3 provided for incorporation into 2009-2010 report on implementation.
 - Conceptual framework for Strategy 3 ready to be documented. This will include an operational definition of a salmonid ecosystem and the links to elements of Strategy 1 and 2. Under the policy the definition of Ecosystem-based Management (EBM) not as firmly bounded as the habitat component.
 - As with the StAD Framework, Strategy 3 will have conceptual, contextual and operational elements.
 - Definition of ecosystem unit: a CU linked to at least one habitat unit and the integration with key salmon dependent species needs to exist within the bounds of present societal ecosystem values related to the species.
 - In Barclay working on an Ecosystem Overview Assessment, which includes integration of a key list of habitat indicators. Success has been limited so far; however decision by West Coast Aquatic Mgmt Board to make salmon the key focus of their work.
 - State of the Ocean Reporting summarizes the status of the North Pacific Ecosystems from a Canadian perspective. Increasing the salmon information in the State of the Ocean Reporting is linked to inclusion of oceanographic information in annual fisheries planning processes. A link should be made between the Strategy synoptic assessment piece and this type of ecosystem reporting. Represents a good example of where WSP implementation is affecting more than internal processes.
 - Update on WSP Strategy 3 planned work for 2010-11 provided.

- K. Hyatt presently focusing on harvest, habitat, and hatchery with regards to Chinook and Sockeye.
- Working with Living Rivers and BC Conservation on the Somass. Other work being done in relation to South Coast stocks on the Henderson.
- EBM work related to the future impacts of anthropogenic change, which may link to WSP implementation, taking place at Stanford University.
- Much of the EBM work is based on historical narrative and expert opinion.
- **Strategy 4: Integrated Strategic Planning – Pilot Discussion (C. Jackson)**
 - **Barclay Sound** is an example of a pilot where DFO is taking the lead.
 - There are productivity issues related to Barclay Sockeye and Chinook.
 - Steps have been taken to address issues related to the mixed-stock fisheries.
 - The Team recognized that there is good work going on related to management of **Southern BC Chinook**; however to meet WSP objectives that framework needs to go beyond harvest planning.
 - **Skeena** has evolved differently from Barclay, however many would consider it a pilot. Skeena Working Group existed long before WSP; however they agreed that WSP implementation is the focus of their current work. DFO is not leading in this case. Skeena received funding through NSERC do to research with UBC. The Moore Foundation is also providing funding.
 - Many consider the **Cowichan** as a WSP pilot. The local group is running the round table with tribes and regional district members. State of the Environment report underway that includes salmon as a keystone species; however, it is unclear whether the fishery component would satisfy WSP requirements. Cowichan does not have a formal governance structure or ToR in place yet, as they are still in the relationship-building phase. The team agreed that synthesis of what is working on the Cowichan and what is transferable would be worthwhile.
 - DFO should be engaged and move towards meeting WSP objectives in the Fraser and Skeena, given their acute conservation issues and governance complexities. However, it was acknowledge that they are very different from the Barclay Sound pilot.
 - General agreement that DFO wants to harness the energy of other groups to work towards meeting WSP objectives. Stressed that to do this we need to be flexible and open to negotiating.
 - The group recognized a difference between broad watershed governance and the obligation to implement WSP.
 - Linkages between WSP implementation and the Fraser Salmon Watershed Program not clear.
- **Strategy 6: WSP Performance Review (L. Wilson)**
 - Audit and Evaluation Directorate in Ottawa is booked for the next 5 years and cannot undertake review of WSP.
 - Emulating the PICFI evaluation would not measure the policy's overall success against the objectives and ultimate goal. Mixed views at last WSP meeting with regards to determining the scope of the review. Team agreed the PICFI evaluation model broadly acknowledges success, gaps and areas of improvement. Model generally accepted by the group as a good way to frame the WSP review.
 - \$40K was proposed for a contract to undertake the WSP review.

Action Items:

- **Policy** to reschedule Blair Holtby Yukon CU presentation.
- **M. Saunders** to confirm with Blair Holtby whether the COSEWIC benchmarks can be used as an interim approach. Areas should then be engaged regarding the feasibility of this approach.
- **Policy** to update WSP Gantt chart and work plan.
- **M. Saunders** to provide Gantt chart updates for Action Items 1.2 and 1.3.

- **M. Farrell / C. Jackson** to coordinate on Skeena Watershed pilots to ensure that it is linked to Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program (FSWP) and Brad Mason's work.
- **W. Hamilton** to circulate the Habitat Indicator paper to the team before next WSP meeting.
- **M. Saunders, C. Jackson, and M. Farrell** to discuss the development of a habitat monitoring framework with Science and Dave Carter from HCM, with the caveat that OHEB funding challenges exist.
- **C. Jackson** to provide additional information for Strategy 4 with regards to planning framework before next WSP meeting.
- **K. Hyatt** to draft Ecosystem Approach Paper and develop a working example of how the approach might be applied, to determine affordability and applicability.
- **W. Luedke** to share one-pager update to Senior Management on the Cowichan before next WSP meeting.
- **C. Jackson and L. Wilson** to meet with their Directors from FAM, South Coast, and Policy to discuss an area lead for the Barkley Sound pilot.
- **C. Jackson, M. Saunders, K. Hyatt, L. Wilson, and W. Hamilton** to complete an analysis of WSP "governance models" or "pilots" prior to Ops Ctte meeting on June 17th. Criteria could include capacity (internal and external), data available, stocks present and their status, lead (DFO or other), opportunity to participate, strategic benefits, etc.

Decision:

- Continue to develop the WSP Habitat Web-Mapping Tool and only add products that do not have significant costs.
- Consensus that selecting one type of plan or model for "piloting" WSP would not be a practical way to proceed.

Deferred:

- Strategy 5: Agenda Items
 - Consultation Plan
 - Communications Plan

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