

MEDIA LINES

WILD SALMON POLICY REVIEW

Issue

Under strategy six of the Wild Salmon Policy (WSP), action step 6.2, DFO is expected to initiate an independent review of the success of the WSP in achieving its broad goals and objectives by June 2010. DFO will be unable to undertake the review in that timeframe and it will likely be challenging to come up with the funding to undertake the review. DFO is considering the best approach for a review and is currently taking an incremental approach to implementing the policy. The Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council (PFRCC) recently published a report on developing a process for reviewing the WSP, but it did not provide recommendations on the scope or focus of a review. Instead it provided recommendations on how DFO could approach developing a review.

Media lines

- DFO is considering the best approach for a review and is currently taking an incremental approach to implementing the Wild Salmon Policy.
- DFO has made significant progress toward implementing the Wild Salmon Policy, however, much of our work to date has involved developing a solid scientific foundation for the policy to be implemented in a manner that is effective and measurable.
- In 2009, for example, as part of our work to build the scientific foundation for the Wild Salmon Policy, the department identified and published a list of salmon conservation units. Conservation units group salmon with similar genetic profiles, and are needed to implement an ecosystem approach to salmon management.
- DFO is now developing and finalizing a series of benchmarks that will allow us to measure the effectiveness of the conservation-unit-based strategies we employ under the Wild Salmon Policy to conserve and rebuild salmon populations.
- DFO is also reviewing how aspects of the Wild Salmon Policy have been integrated into fisheries management planning, stock assessment, habitat indicators and our habitat risk framework.

Spokesperson(s)

Al Cass

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