

# MEDIA LINES

## WILD SALMON POLICY REVIEW

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### Issue

Under strategy six of the Wild Salmon Policy (WSP), action step 6.2, DFO has committed to initiate an independent review of the success of the WSP in achieving its broad goals and objectives within 5 years of its adoption. On the basis of the review, the implementation of the policy will be revised to address shortcomings that may be reducing its effectiveness. The Department has taken a phased approach to implementation of the policy and is still laying the scientific foundation for the evidence-based approach outlined in the policy, which requires a significant amount of time. Additionally, the Department does not want to preempt the recommendations of the Cohen Inquiry and the Departmental Strategic Review. As such, an independent review of WSP will not be undertaken at this time. DFO will continue to consider the best approach for to undertake periodic reviews of the policy's success and maintain its incremental approach to implementation of the policy. The Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council (PFRCC) undertook consultations with nineteen stakeholder groups and individuals not actively engaged in the WSP process and summarized their advice on a recommended framework for undertaking an independent evaluation of WSP implementation. The report and PFRCC advisory, published in January, did not provide recommendations on the scope or focus of a review. Instead it provided ten steps that could be used to build a review framework.

### Media lines

- DFO is considering the best approach for a review and is currently taking an incremental approach to implementing the Wild Salmon Policy.
- Much of DFO's 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 identifying 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 working to document how aspects of the Wild Salmon Policy have been integrated into decision-making, fisheries management planning, stock assessment, salmon enhancement, and habitat protection.
- For example, as a result of WSP DFO has made a paradigm shift to focus on weak stock management as a means of protecting biodiversity and adapting to climate change.

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