

MEDIA LINES

WILD SALMON POLICY REVIEW

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 while there is more to be done, the intent of the policy is informing management actions. 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 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.
- In 2009, for example, as part of our work to build the scientific foundation for the Wild Salmon Policy, the department completed the identification of salmon conservation units. Conservation Units (CU's) are groups of genetically similar salmon populations that are units of biological diversity to be conserved.
- DFO is now identifying a series of benchmarks that will allow us to report on the status of CU's and to inform the development of management strategies to conserve CU's.
- 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 the Wild Salmon Policy DFO has made a paradigm shift to focus on management of small and large CU's as a means of protecting biodiversity and adapting to climate change.

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Created by: Lara Sloan

Last saved by: Lara Sloan Sloan

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Spokesperson(s)

Bonnie Antcliffe

Prepared by:

<i>Communications Contact:</i> Lara Sloan 604-666-0903	<i>Program Contact:</i> Lisa Wilson 604-666-3657
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