

PACIFIC REGION CONSULTATION PLAN: WILD SALMON POLICY, 2009-2010

1.0 Objectives:

- Design a process to work with First Nations and stakeholders on implementing strategies of the Wild Salmon Policy.
- Engage in an interactive dialogue on implementing the Wild Salmon Policy strategies
- Seek feedback and technical advice on processes and approaches
- Brainstorm new ideas and solutions on implementing the plan
- Manage expectations of those participating in the consultation process.

2.0 Background/Update:

It is generally accepted that the Wild Salmon Policy was strengthened by public input. The key policy elements are:

- Conservation – the highest priority.
- Clear objective to protect genetic diversity of wild salmon populations.
- A focus on ensuring healthy, sustainable fish habitat and ecosystems; and
- Open and transparent decision-making with full participation.

The policy, which reaffirms the department's commitment to conservation, has been very well received generally. Environmental organizations, however, have been critical of the pace of implementation. The complexity of the issues has required more deliberation than anticipated.

There are raised expectations to maintain the high degree of stakeholder involvement that was present during the development stage of the policy. While progress on each strategy is being made, the tangible outcomes are difficult to demonstrate. See attached appendix.

A multi-interest forum was held in March, 2008, to update First Nations and stakeholders on progress that the department has made and to seek advice on how stakeholders can be part of the implementation of the Wild Salmon Policy. Since then, there has been limited engagement with stakeholders and the public. The Fall Community Dialogues has been the main vehicle for communications with First Nations and stakeholders on progress made on implementing the WSP. While a forum was planned for the fall, 2009, it will not be taking place. As well, this year, the Fall Dialogue meetings are not taking place.

Milestones to date include:

Strategy 1

- Identification of Conservation Units for British Columbia, developed in consultation with First Nations and stakeholders
- Identification of conservation units for Yukon salmon, to be confirmed through consultations
- Completion of draft paper on benchmark methodology, to help assess the health of a CU; reviewed by PSARC

Strategy 2

- Completion of draft habitat indicators methodology paper by DFO; reviewed by PSARC

Strategy 3

- Discussion paper on ecosystem indicators is being developed



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Strategy 4

- New integrated planning structure being considered: local area planning committees for sub-regions and region-wide forums; consultation on the concept is required
- Barkley Sound integrated planning pilot project:
 - Consultations with First Nations and others on production planning
 - Socio-economic analysis of local salmon
 - Identification of Conservation Unit benchmarks

3.0 Issues:

There are high expectations by stakeholders, particularly environmental groups and academics, to move forward. It is a challenge for DFO to engage individuals and groups in the implementation of the policy and work in partnership with them. With no forum and no Community Dialogues this year, opportunities to engage with First Nations and stakeholders on the WSP are limited.

Education and awareness can assist with building capacity and understanding of the programs among First Nations and other interested groups. (See Communications Plan.)

Funding is provided through reallocation from sectors within the region; budget restrictions have constrained WSP activities. Linkages must continue to be made with other existing programs and initiatives as branches transform their activities to fully implement WSP, eg., PICFI co-management.

Collaboration with other governments and ENGOs is required for habitat and ecosystem monitoring. It is important to work with and show that DFO is working with, the province (MOE); Skeena Watershed and Fraser Salmon Watershed Program are examples of this. With provincial government budget realities and staff turnover, there will continue to be challenges in working with provincial counterparts. Identification of partnership opportunities with ENGOs could be one avenue for funding assistance.

For effective watershed planning, new/refined governance structures are required in some cases; the change initiatives underway in PICFI under the co-management element present opportunities for linkages with WSP.

The team considered a proposal to set up an external advisory board with First Nations, environmental organizations and stakeholders as a way to engage them more fully in implementing the policy. It was decided that it would be more effective to proactively attend already-existing processes/sessions internally and externally to provide update information and seek input into the strategies.

4.0 Key stakeholders:

1. Government Agencies
2. Aboriginal
3. Recreational
4. Commercial Fishing Industry
5. Environmental Non-Government Organizations
6. Academic and Professional Associations
7. Foundations and Commissions
8. Yukon government and groups
9. DFO Staff

5.0 CONSULTATION STRATEGY:

5.1 Consultation Team: The WSP working group, lead by Amy Mar; Consultation Secretariat.

Strategy 1 – Neil Schubert

Strategy 2 – Ray Lauzier/Bruce Reid

Strategy 3 – Kim Hyatt

Strategy 4 – Paul Ryall

5.2 Funding for consultations: Any activities are to be funded by reallocation from sectors or from Policy Branch; very limited funding is available.

5.3 Recommended Approach

5.3.1 Internal Consultation:

- In the Loop updates to staff (including a note when there is a significant update on the website); meetings with Area staff (via management meetings or annual all-staff sector and Area meetings, eg. OHEB Management Committee)
- Contact list on internet for each strategy
- Consider donut demos or brown bag lunches in Areas and RHQ for updates
- Ensure WSP is included with other DFO programs outlining how we are moving forward: PICFI, PICFI co-management, IHPC, Habitat watershed planning
- Briefings (Briefing notes or conference calls) for NHQ as required

5.3.2 External Consultations:

5.3.2.1 Regular communications with First Nations and stakeholders on overall status will be a cornerstone of engagement; the website will be used as the main means of communication:

- New website completed; new WSP consultations website has been completed; links exist to each site;
- Develop RSS interactive capability on website;
- Key stakeholders email distribution list developed;
- Documents sent to stakeholders for review and input, via email alert to access website
- Updates of WSP team meetings to go to stakeholders via email and posted on the website, with an offer for stakeholders to comment;
- Hold joint workshops with other organizations, eg., Pacific Salmon Foundation, Fraser Assembly; FN Leadership Council
- Participation at First Nation and stakeholder meetings
- Attend FAM species advisory board meetings with overview presentation by a WSP team member
- Consider community meetings in Areas, when an initiative is completed and consultation is beneficial, and if funding is available
- Fact sheets highlighting major initiatives to be developed: Barkley Sound pilot, Skeena initiative, interactive mapping portal (see Communications Plan);
- WSP bulletin to be published quarterly (see Communications Plan) – May, Sept have been posted

5.3.3 Products required: ppt, notes, meeting calendar (external and internal) – with strategy leads presenting, as determined

5.3.4 Use of teleconference or web seminar

- 1. CUs:** confirm Yukon CUs, benchmarks and stock assessment framework
- 2. Habitat:** finalize methodology paper; indicators and monitoring framework
- 3. Ecosystem:** Complete discussion paper; indicators and monitoring framework
- 4. Integrated planning:** Barkley Sound pilot – determine priorities with AMB; complete discussion paper on planning units

- For this year, concentrate on discussion paper on planning units (requiring grouping of the CUs) and the habitat monitoring framework, using above vehicles
- Track processes used and communicate them

5.4 Consultation materials: Supported by Communications products (see Communications Plan)

- Power Point presentations – overall and each strategy
- Discussion and Background papers/research reports
- Website postings
- Website portal for interactive mapping - completed

5.5 Communications Plan has been developed: Contact is Diane Lake.

5.5.1 Media relations: Consideration could be given to having a proactive media approach, with media releases/initiatives for milestones; articles in community newspapers

Prepared by: *Deborah Phelan*

Approved in Pacific Region by:

Amy Mar – Sept. 14, 2009

WSP Team – Sept 14, 2009

RD, Policy

Attch:

Appendix 1 – WSP engagement and communications for 2009

Appendix 2 – Consultation calendar 2009-10

Appendix 1:**WSP Engagement and Communications for 2009-10**

Timelines	Issue/ Event	Responsibility	Target Audience
GENERAL			
September 2009	Quarterly fact sheet – update on WSP implementation	Diane Lake, Communications	All WSP stakeholders
Ongoing	Regular updates on WSP website	Policy/ Communications	General public / stakeholders
STRATEGY 1: Standardized monitoring of salmon status			
Fall 2009	Discussion paper, list of Yukon CUs to be released in July 2009. Blair to visit Yukon to discuss CU list	Blair Holtby, Science	Yukon stakeholders
October 2009	Benchmarks paper to be finalized and posted to CSAS website	Carrie Holt, Science	Technical stakeholders
Late Fall or Winter 2009-10	Combining indicators into overall assessment for CUs – requires internal discussion prior to external engagement	Science	Internal staff Technical stakeholders
Winter 2009-10	Consider stakeholder engagement on benchmarks and assessment frameworks	Science	Technical stakeholders
STRATEGIES 2 & 3: Habitat and ecosystems monitoring			
October 2009	Habitat indicators methodology paper to be completed and posted to CSAS website	OHEB / Science	ENGOs, academia, technical stakeholders
November 2009	PSARC review of ecosystems discussion paper	Kim Hyatt, Science	ENGOs, academia, technical stakeholders
Winter 2009-10	Habitat and ecosystems monitoring framework – consider preliminary discussions with stakeholders	OHEB / Science	ENGOs, academia, technical stakeholders

STRATEGY 4: Integrated strategic planning			
September 2009	Barkley S. Steering Cttee - seek direction on production planning model, other workplan items for pilot	Paul Ryall, FAM	Steering Cttee consists of DFO, BC, AMB, regional district
Fall 2009	Circulate revised discussion paper on scale of planning units (Sandy Fraser) to stakeholders	Paul Ryall, FAM	All WSP stakeholders
Spring 2010	FRSSI – PSARC review of Fraser sockeye benchmarks – continue to engage First Nations technical participants	Paul Ryall, FAM / Science - STaD	Fraser technical stakeholders
Fall/ Winter 2010-11	Barkley S. benchmarks paper to be developed in 2011-12 – stakeholder engagement through PSARC process	FAM / South Coast STaD	Barkley Sound technical stakeholders

Appendix 2**WSP CONSULTATION CALENDAR 2009-2010**

This calendar of meetings, showing external and internal meetings, will be reviewed at WSP working group meetings to determine meetings where WSP strategy leads could provide update information and receive feedback on topics.

SEPTEMBER

DATE	EVENT	SUBJECT	WSP STRATEGY	COMMENTS
17	Groundfish Hook and Line Advisory Committee			Nanaimo
18	Halibut Advisory Board			Nanaimo
22-23	Fraser Panel post season review	PST/sockeye		Williams Lake
23	Crab Sectoral Meeting			Nanaimo
23-24	OHEB Managers	Monthly meeting		Includes Areas PBS, Nanaimo
23-25	First Nations Summit Assembly			North Vancouver
24	Prawn Sectoral Meeting			Nanaimo
30-1	BC Assembly of First Nations	Assembly		North Vancouver

FAM Exec meets every Monday, 9:00-10:00, at RHQ

OCTOBER

DATE	EVENT	SUBJECT	WSP STRATEGY	COMMENTS
5	FAM All-staff meeting			DFO; At RHQ, 12:30-4pm
6-7	Fraser Watershed Joint Technical Forum	Chinook joint technical wg		With First Nations, Vancouver
13-15 TBC	PSARC – Salmon sub-cmte	Pre-season abundance forecasts for Fraser sockeye		Nanaimo
18	Integrated Herring Harvest Planning Committee			Vancouver
21-22 TBC	Intertribal Fraser River Aboriginal Working Group	workshop		
21-22	OHEB Managers	Monthly meeting		At RHQ
21-24	Ocean Management Research Network	Annual conference; themes: governance, accountability, Arctic		Ottawa; research and policy affecting Canada's oceans
26	Integrated Salmon Dialogue Forum	Sigardson/Stuart		Vancouver
28	Fraser Watershed Joint Technical Forum	Post season review		With First Nations, Kamloops
28-30	Fall Fisheries Assembly	Theme: "Rights to Access Fisheries		FNFC; First Nations – Chehalis/Harrison

		Resources"		
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NOVEMBER

DATE	EVENT	SUBJECT	WSP LEAD	COMMENTS
3-5	NC All-staff meeting			DFO; Smithers
17-18	OHEB Managers	Monthly meeting		At RHQ
24	Commercial Salmon Advisory Board (CSAB)	AGM		Richmond
25-26	Integrated Harvest Planning Committee (IHPC)	Key issues		Richmond; Full meeting
26	Sardine Integrated Advisory Board			Vancouver
28-29	Sport Fishing Advisory Board (SFAB)	Regional; post season review		Nanaimo
TBD	PSARC National Workshop	Peer Review of Ecosystem Status and Trends Report		Ottawa

DECEMBER

DATE	EVENT	SUBJECT	WSP LEAD	COMMENTS
1	Central Coast Advisory Board	Post season review		Richmond
5-6	North Coast SFAB	Post season review		Prince Rupert
7-8	NC IHPC	Post season review		Prince Rupert
TBD	Skeena Fisheries Commission	Post season review		
9-10	Area A and C Harvest Cmte	Post season review		Prince Rupert
15-16	OHEB Managers	Monthly meeting		At RHQ

2010 JANUARY

DATE	EVENT	SUBJECT	WSP LEAD	COMMENTS
11-15	PSC	Post season review		Vancouver
19-20	SC IHPC	Post season review		Richmond
20	Fraser Watershed Joint Technical Forum	Final post season review and updates		FN; Abbotsford
23-24	SFAB - Main board meeting	Post season review and pre-season planning		Victoria

27-28	OHEB Managers	Monthly meeting		
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FEBRUARY

DATE	EVENT	SUBJECT	WSP LEAD	COMMENTS
8-12	PSC Annual meeting	AGM		Portland, Ore.
24-25	OHEB Managers	Monthly meeting		

MARCH

DATE	EVENT	SUBJECT	WSP LEAD	COMMENTS
3	Fraser Watershed Joint Technical Forum	Pre-season planning		FN; Kamloops
23-24	OHEB Managers	Monthly meeting		
24-25	Full IHPC	Draft IFMP		Richmond

May 26-27	OHEB All-staff meeting			DFO
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