

Fisheries and Oceans
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5th Annual Fall Community Dialogues - 2008

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Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has concluded the 5th annual Fall Community Dialogues. These facilitated sessions provided an opportunity to raise awareness, exchange information, and gather feedback from First Nations, stakeholders and the public. Dialogue participants engaged in discussions with DFO on current issues, policies and programs to create a forum of understanding to ensure First Nation, stakeholder, and public involvement in decision making processes.

Agenda Items

Based on local interests, agenda items at the dialogues varied. Generally, topics included:

Climate Change

Overview by DFO scientists on the impacts of Climate Change

**Pacific Integrated
Commercial
Fisheries
Initiative (PICFI)**

An update on the five-year program aimed at achieving environmentally sustainable and economically viable commercial fisheries, where conservation is the first priority and First Nations' aspirations to be more involved are supported. Discussed this year were more in-depth topics within the program, including co-management and salmon management through defined shares.

**Recreational
Fisheries Vision**

A vision and strategic plan for recreational fisheries in BC.

Species At Risk

Update on species listings

**Pacific Salmon
Treaty**

Update

**Wild Salmon
Policy**

Update

Documents

- 2008 Fall Community Dialogues Final Report [PDF]
- Participant Feedback on a Vision for the Recreational Fishery in British Columbia 2008-2012 Consultation 2008 [PDF]

Presentation Files

- Update - Fall Community Dialogues [PDF]
- Climate Change [PDF]
- PST/WSP Update [PDF]
- SARA Overview [PDF]
- Recreational Fisheries Vision [PDF]
- PICFI Update [PDF]
- Co-Management and PICFI [PDF]
- Supporting Integrated Commercial Salmon Fisheries - Moving to Share Based Management [PDF]

Contact Information

If you have any questions about the Community Dialogues process, or to provide comments in writing, please contact:

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Update

Pacific Salmon Treaty Wild Salmon Policy 2008

Fall Community Dialogues, 2008

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What is the Pacific Salmon Treaty?

- Canada / U.S. agreement, first signed in 1985
- Sets out joint principles for conservation and harvest sharing, for fisheries covered by the Treaty
 - Transboundary Rivers
 - Northern Boundary (Southeast Alaska / Northern BC sockeye, pink and chum
 - Chinook (coast-wide)
 - Fraser River (sockeye and pink)
 - Coho (Southern BC, Washington and Oregon)
 - Chum (Southern BC and Washington)
 - Yukon River (Chinook, coho and chum)
- Five "fishing chapters" in Annex IV expire at the end of 2008 and are being renegotiated with the U.S.

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Overview Last Year's Presentation (2007)

- Provided an update on negotiations and outlined key issues
- Discussed the PST and the importance of Treaty relationship with the U.S.
- Reviewed process for reaching an agreement with the U.S.
- Sought additional views on the PST negotiations and identified opportunities for additional input on PST renewal
- Some of the key messages we heard were:
 - Need to raise awareness among First Nations regarding PST
 - Need to emphasize conservation of Canadian stocks
 - Desire to have First Nations more involved in the negotiations
 - Renewed PST should account for impacts of climate change
 - Issues related to First Nation representation in the PST process
 - Interest in process for renewal of Fraser River sockeye and pink (Chapter 4)
 - Desire for greater emphasis on habitat issues and restoration

Update for 2008 Fall Dialogues

- Additional meetings with First Nations and other domestic stakeholders (still ongoing in some cases)
- Canada-US discussions within the PSC concluded in May 2008
- On May 22, 2008, the bilateral PSC has provided a recommendation on new chapters to the Governments of Canada and the US
- The Canadian Government (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister of Foreign Affairs) is reviewing the proposed changes and will likely make a decision regarding ratification by December 31, 2008
- If approved, new arrangements for the following chapters would be in place for 2009
 - Chapter 1: Transboundary Rivers
 - Chapter 2: Northern Boundary; sockeye, pink and chum
 - Chapter 3: Chinook salmon, coast-wide
 - Chapter 5: Coho; Southern BC, Washington & Oregon
 - Chapter 6: Chum; Southern BC & Washington

Wild Salmon Policy

- WSP is a new approach to managing wild Pacific salmon through the assessment and protection of conservation units, their habitat and ecosystems, and through an informed and integrated planning approach in collaboration with First Nations and stakeholders.
- Implementation of WSP is occurring through a phased approach.
- WSP goal: to restore and maintain healthy and diverse salmon populations and their habitats for the benefit and enjoyment of Canadians in perpetuity.

WSP Strategies

- **Strategy 1:** *Standardized monitoring of wild salmon status*
- **Strategy 2:** *Assessment of habitat status*
- **Strategy 3:** *Inclusion of Ecosystem Values and Monitoring*
- **Strategy 4:** *Integrated Strategic Planning*

WSP Update

Overall:

- Held a multi-interest forum in March, 2008
- Held a number of workshops on aspects of implementation (e.g. habitat indicators workshop in 2007, ecosystem workshop in 2006.)

Strategy 1: Standardized monitoring of wild salmon status

CUs are the essential building blocks of genetic diversity necessary to ensure the survival of distinct wild salmon populations.

- CUs have been identified for BC
- Developing tools and methods to identify benchmarks to assess the health of a CU.
- This methodology will undergo a scientific peer review process in January 2009 (PSARC.)
- DFO Area staff will be involved in identifying benchmarks, developing stock assessment frameworks, and consulting with stakeholders in early 2009.

Strategy 2: Assessment of habitat status

- Developed templates for Overview and Habitat Status reports to identify and track highly productive and limiting habitats.
- Identified habitat indicators, metrics and benchmarks for rivers, lakes and estuaries.
- Undertaking scientific review of methodology for habitat indicators.
- Developing a habitat monitoring framework to guide monitoring of habitat pressures and conditions.
- Developing web-mapping application to store and share WSP data internally and externally.
- Integrating Strategy 2 into OHEB programs and operations.
- Collaborating with partners on habitat monitoring and data sharing.

Strategy 3: Inclusion of Ecosystem Values and Monitoring

- Identified provisional ecosystem objectives.
- Undertaking work to identify ecosystem indicators for freshwater, coastal, and high seas.
- Drafting discussion paper on ecosystem objectives and indicators for scientific peer review in January 2009.

Strategy 4: Integrated Strategic Planning

- Initiated an integrated strategic planning pilot for the Barkley Sound/Alberni Inlet area and the Skeena River and a variety of processes related to the Fraser River watershed.
- Engaging with First Nations, Province of BC, West Coast Vancouver Island Aquatic Management Board, local governments, industry, and other stakeholders.
- Will test indicators for the CUs, habitat and ecosystem in the pilot (integrating Strategies 1, 2, 3.)
- Barkley pilot will serve to identify lessons learned for future planning projects.
- Next steps: senior management discussions on planning units and future planning projects.

Next Steps

- Implementation of WSP is occurring through a phased approach.
- Ensure integration across Strategies 1, 2, 3 for consistent and coherent implementation.
- Improving communications internally and externally through staff meetings, email and web updates, and WSP Forums (external.)
- Next stakeholder forum is planned for February/March, 2009