

DRAFT June 6, 2008

PACIFIC REGION CONSULTATION PLAN: WILD SALMON POLICY

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.
- Seek input on the roles of First Nations and stakeholders on the implementation of WSP.
- Brainstorm new ideas and solutions on implementing the Consultation Plan.
- Manage expectations of those participating in the consultation process.

2.0 Background/Update:

The Wild Salmon Policy was finalized in 2005. A multi-interest forum was held in March, 2008 to update First Nations and stakeholders on progress that the department has made since then and to seek advice on how stakeholders can be part of the implementation of the Wild Salmon Policy. It was developed with a high degree of stakeholder engagement, and has thus raised expectations to maintain that involvement.

The recently-finalized identification of Conservation Units, developed in consultation with First Nations and stakeholders, is a major milestone. The next phase of strategy one includes consultation on the benchmarks and stock assessment framework and associated monitoring. The next three strategies include habitat and eco-system indicators and monitoring, and development of an integrated planning process. These also require continued consultations.

Pilot projects will begin in the summer, 2008, to support the work required. For example, in WCVI's Barkley Sound, an integrated planning process will be tested; and in the North Coast, implications of the science-based Skeena Review funded by the Moore Foundation, will be assessed.

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.

It is generally accepted that the 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.

3.0 Issues:

There are high expectations by stakeholders, particularly environmental groups and academics, to move forward. DFO need ideas on how to include groups in the implementation of the policy, such as monitoring, and work in partnership with them.

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

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

Implementation requires progress on supporting strategies of the policy. A workplan for 2008-09 has been developed. It is important to show progress to stakeholders and gather feedback on next steps.

Collaboration with other governments and ENGOs is required for CU, 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.

For effective watershed planning, new/refined governance structures are required in some cases; the change initiatives underway such as EPMP, AAROM and PICFI present opportunities for linkages with WSP.

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

See Appendix 1 for more information.

5.0 CONSULTATION STRATEGY:

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

5.2 Funding for consultations: To be determined

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

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

5.4 Recommended Approach

5.4.1 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 staff meetings)
- Contact list on intranet/internet
- Consider donut demos or brown bag lunches in Areas and RHQ

- Ensure WSP is included with other DFO programs outlining how we are moving forward: PICFI, EPMP and with governance: PICFI co-management, IHPC, Habitat watershed planning
- Briefings (Briefing notes or conference calls) for NHQ as required

5.4.1.1 Products required: ppt, notes

5.4.2 External Consultations:

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

- Development of a website (see Communications Plan);
- Updates of WSP team meetings will go out to stakeholders via email and posted on the website (see Communications Plan);
- Fact sheets highlighting major initiatives: Barkley Sound pilot, Skeena initiative, interactive mapping portal (see Communications Plan);
- WSP bulletin to be published quarterly (see Communications Plan)
- Documents sent to stakeholders for review and input, via email alert to access website
- Hold joint workshops with other organizations, eg., Pacific Salmon Foundation; Fraser Assembly; FN Leadership Council
- Participation in the Fall Community Dialogue initiative; requires attendance at approx 12 meetings throughout the province, with presentation and background documents.
- Participation at First Nation and stakeholder meetings
- Attendance at advisory board meetings with overview presentation by a WSP team member
- Consider community meetings in Areas

5.4.2.2 Targetted consultations regarding issues in each strategy:

- 1. CUs:** benchmarks and stock assessment framework
- 2. Habitat:** indicators and monitoring framework
- 3. Ecosystem:** objectives, indicators and monitoring framework
- 4. Integrated planning:** Barkley Sound pilot

Means of communication for targeted consultations:

- Use above vehicles
- Hold meetings with targeted external experts and/or organizations on specific issues related to each strategy
- Track processes used

5.0 Communications Plan has been developed: Contact is Lara Sloan.

5.1 Media strategy required; consider proactive media approach, with media release for milestones

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Approved in Pacific Region by:

WSP Team

RD, Policy

RDG

Appendix 1: Key stakeholders:

1. Government Agencies
 - Provincial: MoE
 - Yukon Territorial Government
 - Local Governments and Regional Districts (via UBCM)
2. Aboriginal
 - Native Brotherhood of BC
 - Native Fishing Association of BC
 - First Nations Summit
 - Individual Bands and Tribal Councils (approx. 96 Coastal FN groups and organizations)
 - First Nations Leadership Council/Fisheries Council
 - Skeena Fisheries Commission
 - AAROM groups: UFFCA, FRAFS, LFARM
 - Council of Yukon First Nations
3. Recreational
 - Sport Fishing Advisory Board
 - Sport Fishing Institute of BC
 - BC Federation of Drift Fishers
 - BC Federation of Fly Fishers
 - BC Guide and Outfitters Assoc.
4. Commercial Fishing Industry
 - IHPC
 - BC Seafood Alliance
 - BC Salmon Marketing Council
 - United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union/T. Buck Suzuki
 - Vessel Owners Assn.
 - Ocean Fisheries
 - Canadian Fishing Company
 - Seafood Processors Assn. of BC
 - Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee
5. Environmental Non-Government Organizations
 - Sierra Legal Defence Fund
 - Sierra Club
 - Georgia Strait Alliance (comprises approx. 200 small environmental interests in the Strait of Georgia)
 - World Wildlife Fund
 - Watershed Watch Salmon Society
 - Living Oceans Society
 - David Suzuki Foundation
 - Greenpeace
 - BC Wildlife Federation
 - Ducks Unlimited
 - Steelhead Society of BC
 - Trout Unlimited Canada
6. Academic and Professional Associations
 - Sustainable Fisheries Foundation

- Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists
- Fisheries Centre, UBC
- Institute of Fisheries Analysis, SFU
- North Pacific and International Chapter of American Fisheries Society

7. Foundations and Commissions:

- International Pacific Salmon Commission
- Pacific Halibut Commission
- SEHAB
- Streamkeepers Federation
- Pacific Salmon Foundation
- Fraser Basin Council
- Moore Foundation
- Marine use planning committees
- Watershed planning committees