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Wild Salmon Policy – Work Planning

Strategic Directions Committee

May 6, 2010

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Purpose

- Provide an update on WSP implementation
- Discussion and determine the next steps for:
 - 2010-2011 work planning for Strategies 1-3
 - 2010-2011 work planning WSP Implementation Pilot(s)
 - Considering Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) in WSP implementation (recommendation from the WSP Implementation Team)
 - Planning for the independent review of the success of the WSP in achieving its broad goals and objectives, as required by the Policy by June 2010

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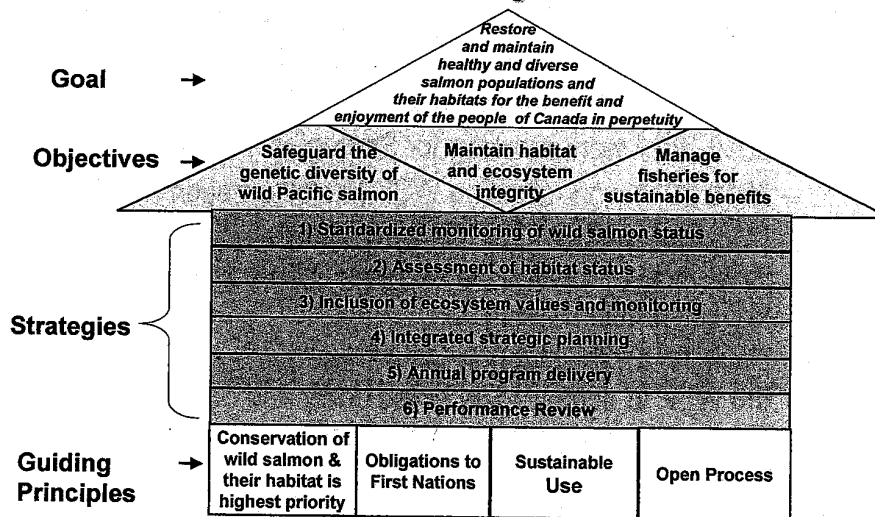
Background

- WSP Goal - to restore and maintain healthy and diverse salmon populations and their habitats for the benefit and enjoyment of Canadians in perpetuity
- WSP places conservation of salmon and their habitats as the first priority for resource management
- Successful WSP implementation is dependent on:
 - Acceptance of new ways of doing business
 - Ability of DFO to re-allocate existing resources to manage a number of new program obligations
 - Successful implementation of all six strategies to ensure overall success
 - Support from and our ability to share responsibilities with our partners and stakeholders

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Wild Salmon Policy Overview



Refer to ANNEX 1 for a list of the Action Steps for each Strategy.



Strategy 1: Standardized Monitoring of Salmon

- Organize salmon streams and lakes by geographic or genetically distinct populations to support *conserving diversity of salmon*
- ~ 420 salmon conservation units (CUs) in BC and 20 in the Yukon identified covering the 5 anadromous species
- Jan 2009 scientific review workshop on benchmarks methodology to assess health of conservation units (CUs)
- Benchmarks methodology paper is finalized and posted on DFO's Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat website
- Starting to identify benchmarks for a few CU's – Barkley Sound and Fraser River
- Draft assessment frameworks completed for regional coho, Fraser sockeye, and North Coast populations

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Strategy 1: Key Challenges & Questions

- Challenges with data deficiencies (30-50% CU's no data to do even rudimentary assessments, but these are largely in areas not impacted by commercial fisheries) and determining overall status of CUs with a range of different indicators
- StAD budget continues to be reduced & will translate to a \$100-200 K reduction in funding for WSP assessments for 2010-2011
- What should the criteria be for prioritizing assessment of CU's?
 - Priority Areas?
 - "Pilots" only?

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Strategy 2: Assessment of Habitat Status

- Discussion paper on proposed habitat indicators is finalized and posted to DFO's Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat website
- April 2009 launch of habitat web-mapping tool to provide public access to CU maps and other WSP data in the future
- Habitat status reports completed for Barkely Sound, Harrison River, & Cowichan River
- Instream flow requirement analyses completed for Englishman River

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Strategy 2: Key Challenges & Questions

- No funding to develop more habitat status reports
- Unable to develop habitat monitoring framework for at least 3 years (awaiting National framework)
- How do we partner & coordinate internally to collect info to populate habitat status reports?
- What are the next steps with the integrated habitat data web mapping application?
 - No funding from Habitat to keep website current
 - CU boundaries only WSP data on the site (not current)
 - Science developing a separate software program for Strategy 1 assessments

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Strategy 3: Monitoring Ecosystems

- Discussion paper underway to outline approach on ecosystem objectives and indicators. Peer review workshop planned for Spring 2010
- Applying ecosystem-based management concepts in Barkley Sound pilot area
- Intended that ecosystem monitoring will be linked with CU benchmarks (Strategy 1) and habitat monitoring (Strategy 2), and be incorporated into annual salmon management
- Key challenges:
 - Very complex issue
 - Never been done before – no example to follow
 - Many factors outside of DFO's mandate

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Strategy 4: Integrated Strategic Planning

- Design & implement an integrated planning process for salmon conservation
- Planning for over 400 CUs is impractical, therefore need to consider an appropriate geographic scale to implement planning
- Proposed approach: group CUs into "planning units" to allow for more manageable development & implementation of strategic plans
 - Combine Freshwater Aquatic Zones (FAZ) into planning units or Fisheries Production Areas (FPA)
 - FAZ represents a discrete geographic area that includes watersheds, rivers and streams and contain salmon populations that "are more likely to be interchangeable" (Holtby et al.)
 - 32 FAZ units would be amalgamated into 23 FPAs to allow for a manageable scale of planning

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Strategy 4: Integrated Strategic "Planning Pilots"

- **Barkley Sound: "Official" WSP Pilot**
 - Led by DFO in partnership with others, the Barkley Sound pilot is aimed at full implementation of WSP for the area and CUs, including strategic planning under Strategy 4
 - Significant work is underway or completed, including a discussion paper, production planning model for chinook and sockeye, economic analysis of Barkley Sound salmon, and the development of CU benchmarks (due shortly)
 - Additional resources (\$50 K) provided to NTC to provide additional support, coordination and facilitation for the pilot
- **Several other integrated planning initiatives for salmon (e.g. "unofficial" WSP pilots)**
 - Fraser River Sockeye Spawning Initiative (FRSSI)
 - Skeena Watershed Initiative
 - Cowichan River

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Strategy 4: Key Challenges & Questions

- **Need to re-energize Barkley Sound pilot**
 - What are the strategic opportunities given limited resources?
 - How do we strengthen internal coordination?
- **Confirm an approach, strategic direction and key priorities for moving forward with the Barkley pilot**
 - Both internally and with partners in the pilot
- **How should we characterize the role of these other initiatives (e.g. Skeena, FRSSI)?**
 - Are they "WSP Pilots" or work that will support implementation of WSP over the long-term
- **Need for a new DFO 'strategic plan' around implementation of WSP?**
 - Roles, responsibilities, strategic priorities, timelines, etc.

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Strategy 5: Annual Program Delivery

- Assess the status of Conservation Units and populations
 - How do we develop annual stock assessment work plans describing the assessment plan for each CU and related activities in the absence of an assessment framework?
 - Moving forward with software on catch and spawning escapement.
 - How do we link to the habitat integrated data system, so that threats or impacts can be identified and monitored?
- Plan and conduct annual fisheries
 - Strategy 4 management strategies included in IFMPs
 - Explicit agreed-upon rules for in-season decision-making
 - Moved away from large mixed stock fisheries to more selective fisheries
 - In river commercial fisheries that are more stock selective
- Plan and implement annual habitat management activities
 - Can annual workplans with specific priorities for and reports on habitat rehabilitation or restoration work be developed?
- Plan and implement annual enhancement activities

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ATK linkages with WSP

- Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK): includes, but is not limited to, the knowledge Aboriginal peoples have accumulated about wildlife species and their environment. Much of this knowledge has accumulated over many generations.
- **PRINCIPLE 3 - SUSTAINABLE USE:** Resource management decisions will consider biological, social, and economic consequences, reflect best science including Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK), and maintain the potential for future generations to meet their needs and aspirations.
- **Action Step 1.1 Identify Conservation Units:** the delineation of CUs will be based on biological information, including genetic traits, polygenic traits, and ATK where available.
- **A Structured Five-Step Planning Process*:** for CUs in the Red zone more detailed reports will be provided as they become available. These detailed reports will consider and incorporate ATK, where available, and be subject to peer review through PSARC.
 - * As defined in Appendix 2 of the WSP

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Current Mechanisms for Receiving ATK

- Informally through interactions with First Nations
- Inherently through early engagement of First Nations and involvement in planning processes
- Through targeted consultations with First Nations
- Through individual meetings and interviews with clearly defined questions during on-going processes (resource management and habitat related)
- No accessible, repository of ATK information available for DFO staff
- Currently, single focus approach to collecting ATK (e.g., Guidance document being developed by SARA Team)

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WSP & ATK: Questions

- Should WSP develop an approach to collecting ATK?
- Is it feasible to have a coordinated DFO approach to collecting ATK?
- Should the Region/DFO pursue the development of a data system to hold ATK information? Who should lead?

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Strategy 6: Performance Review

- Action Step 6.1: Conduct post-season review of annual workplans
 - In consultation with First Nations and others, conduct annual post-season reviews of work plan implementation for stock assessment, fishing, habitat, and enhancement
 - Evaluation of annual plan implementation
 - Evaluation of annual operational targets
 - Recommendations for adjustments for the next season
- Action Step 6.2: Conduct regular reviews of the success of the WSP
 - An independent review of the success of the WSP in achieving its broad goals and objectives
 - Required by June 2010

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What Should the WSP Performance Review Cover?

- An independent review of the success of the WSP in achieving its broad goals and objectives will be conducted 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 policy's success at meeting its overarching goal and high level objectives?
 - The implementation and effectiveness of the WSP strategies and action steps?
 - WSP progress to date since the launch of the policy, focusing on key WSP implementation pieces?
 - A combination of one or more of the above?

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Strategy 6: WSP Review – Actions to Date

- DFO has taken an incremental approach to implementing WSP, as such the Policy is not fully implemented
 - Barkley Sound Pilot expected to be completed in 2011
- The Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council (PFRCC) released a report on developing a Wild Salmon Policy Review
 - Does not provide recommendations on the scope, focus, or performance measures for a review.
 - Provides ten suggestions for how the DFO could approach developing a review process – very detailed with high level of consultation
 - Engaged 19 different groups, including First Nations
- Watershed Watch Report, March 2009
- DFO Audit and Evaluation Branch
 - Their 5-year plan, does not include WSP Review
 - Shared questions from the PICFI formative evaluation
 - Willing to share their list of consultants and help develop the SOW

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WSP Review – Formative Evaluation Approach

- Evaluate the performance of WSP based on its:
 - Effectiveness,
 - Design and delivery, and
 - Efficiency and economy
- Document and/or file review, which involves the review and analysis of policy and planning documents.
- Review financial data
- Interviews, either individual or focus groups, which will be conducted with WSP implementation team and other DFO staff, partners, external experts and target clientele.
- External experts may contribute short written commentaries on key issues and participate in a panel discussion

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WSP Review – Formative Evaluation Approach

- Effectiveness

- Are there any unintended outcomes, positive or negative, that can be attributed to WSP? If so, were any actions taken as a result of these?
- Are there any internal/external factors and/or general challenges/barriers that influence the initial success of WSP?
- To what extent have the intended outputs been produced? Are appropriate human, financial and material resources in place to support the production of outputs?
- To what extent is WSP making progress in achieving its immediate outcomes?
- To what extent is WSP on track to achieving its intermediate and longer term outcomes?

- Efficiency and Economy

- Did WSP resource utilization and activities optimally produce expected levels of outputs? How could the efficiency of WSP activities be improved?
- To what extent is WSP economical?

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WSP Review – Formative Evaluation Approach

- Design and Delivery

- To what extent is the WSP governance structure well designed and implemented to ensure effective and efficient program delivery?
- What are the challenges/benefits with the current program design, and would an alternative program design or delivery mechanism be more appropriate to achieve the expected results?
- Is there a WSP performance measurement strategy and a reporting process / system in place?
- Will the performance information provide the necessary data required for the summative evaluation?
- To what extent have activities occurred as planned?
- To what extent have activities produced the intended outputs and contributed to immediate outcomes?
- To what extent were activities modified, and what was the effect on program design?

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Strategy 6: WSP Review – Challenges & Questions

- Where do we find the resources to complete the Review (estimated cost \$40-60 K)?
- How should we complete an independent review?
 - Recommend: contract to complete formative evaluation similar to PICFI
- How do we consider ATK in the Review?

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Questions

- Strategy 1: what are criteria for determining which CU's are assessed?
- Strategy 2: how to partner & coordinate internally to collect info to populate habitat status reports?
 - What are the next steps with the integrated habitat data web mapping application?
- Strategy 4: how do we strengthen the Barkley pilot?
 - How should we characterize the other planning initiatives?
- Strategy 5: how can we better integrate WSP into work planning, etc.
- Should WSP develop an approach to collecting ATK?
- Is it feasible to have a coordinated DFO approach to collecting ATK?
- Should the Region/DFO pursue the development of a data system to hold ATK information? Who should lead?
- Strategy 6: where do we find the resources to complete the Review (estimated cost \$40-60 K)?
 - How should we complete an independent review?
 - How do we consider ATK in the Review?

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ANNEX 1: WSP Strategies & Action Steps

1. **Standardized monitoring of wild salmon status**
 1. Identify Conservation Units
 2. Develop criteria to assess CUs and identify benchmarks to represent biological status
 3. Monitor and assess status of CUs
2. **Assessment of habitat status**
 1. Document habitat characteristics within CUs
 2. Select indicators and develop benchmarks for habitat assessment
 3. Monitor and assess habitat status
 4. Establish linkages to develop an integrated data system for watershed management
3. **Inclusion of ecosystem values and monitoring**
 1. Identify indicators to monitor status of freshwater ecosystems
 2. Integrate climate and ocean information into annual salmon management processes
4. **Integrated strategic planning**
 1. Implement an interim process for management of priority CUs
 2. Design and implement a fully integrated strategic planning process for salmon conservation
5. **Annual program delivery**
 1. Assess the status of Conservation Units and populations
 2. Plan and conduct annual fisheries
 3. Plan and implement annual habitat management activities
 4. Plan and implement annual enhancement activities
6. **Performance review**
 1. Conduct post-season review of annual workplans
 2. Conduct regular reviews of the success of the WSP

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