

Wild Salmon Policy Strategy 2 (Habitat Status)
Recommended Essential Workplan Elements for OHEB Integration
Feb.6/09

SUMMARY

- Numerous sessions were held with OHEB and HPSD managers in fiscal 08-09 to inform future integration of WSP Strategy 2, Habitat Status, into the Habitat Management Program.
- As a result, essential elements of the WSP Strategy 2 workplan were recommended for the Areas and RHQ, bounded by resourcing envelopes identified in HPSD's Program Elements and Workplanning document and related to outcomes within the EPMP and HMP Results-Based Management and Accountability Frameworks.
- These essential elements should have immediate tangible benefits for operations and advancing the WSP.
- Recommended next steps include looking to partners for increasing efficiency in delivering components of these essential elements and advancing a future habitat monitoring framework, the latter in conjunction with our Science Branch.

Background

- Throughout fiscal 2008-09 numerous sessions were held between the HPSD managers and the WSP OHEB Overall and Strategy 2 Coordinators to identify WSP workplan elements for integration into future HPSD work-planning.
- In an October 21, 2008 session with an expanded group of OHEB managers and WSP team members, all of the WSP workplan elements were scored, with the criteria including meeting objectives within the 2006-2010 Pacific Region Implementation Plan¹ (Attachment 1).
- The intent was to then evaluate the outcomes in relation to the interdependent nature of the workplan activities within Strategy 2 i.e. the sequential nature of many of the workplan elements, when providing recommendations to the OHEB managers.
- The outcomes of the scoring were predominantly high, with a narrow range, showing an intellectual commitment to the elements, however providing little guidance on priorities for integration.
- In a subsequent Dec.9/08 briefing to the OHEB managers, Bruce Reid identified the following:
 - *WSP implementation will fall into the Partnering and Integrated Planning work planning envelope.*
 - *Also linkage with Program Management (e.g. Inventory, IM))*

¹ Earlier scoring criteria undertaken included relating elements to the DFO Program Activity and Architecture and the 2008 Interis HMP Corporate Risk Profile.

- *RDG expects some level of WSP work will continue.*

Options:

Propose that Heather identify essential items then:

1. *Areas assigned specific essential work items and include in SLA; or*
 2. *Areas negotiate deliverables on essential work items;*
 3. *Areas choose any additional (non-essential) work from suite of options (e.g. monitoring, creating partnerships agreements) to address area priorities.*
- In a Nov. 24, 2008 HPSD Program Elements and Strategic Workplanning document, the allocation of effort for the aforementioned two program elements, which each having 9 or more components, were identified as follows:
 - *10% for Partnerships and Integrated Planning*
 - *15% for Information Management, with the two related components being: i) Wild Salmon Policy, Regional Implementation and Area delivery and ii) Watershed planning.*
 - Within the HPSD Workplanning document, 5% was also allocated to Regional Coordination of the WSP, to collaborate with other Sectors and Governments on strategic research related to habitat. This was separate from implementation.
 - WSP environmental monitoring was not captured in the HPSD Workplan Monitoring envelope which presently focuses on compliance and efficacy.
 - Time estimates, as well as relating the elements to immediate, intermediate and final outcomes informed by the EPMP and HMP Results-Based Management and Accountability Frameworks was also requested to provide further information.

Analysis / DFO Comment

- Numerous participants in the October 21, 2008 session advocated complete delivery on workplan element packages i.e. the element, the performance measure and related communications. This too guided determining the essential elements.
- Time estimates were based upon previous pilots and asking area-of-practice staff for estimates.
- Recommended essential elements included those in fiscal 08-09 and the future; the latter which should be the focus for future work-planning deliberations.
- The essential elements and related information are highlighted yellow within the *Essential Elements OHEB-WSP Integration Version 10.0* (Attachment 2).
- The recommended future essential workplan elements are:
 - Areas:
 1. Identify the priority watersheds within priority CUs (criteria provided within Attachment 2)
 2. Partially populate a Habitat Status report for each salmon species within the priority watershed (guidance and example provided in Attachment 3)
 3. Forward partially populated Habitat Status reports to RHQ for posting on the web-mapping application
 4. Track the limited related Performance Measures (PM) and Communicate this to Area staff and RHQ

- RHQ:
 1. Maintain the web-mapping application
 2. Upload any reports to the web-mapping application
 3. Undertake related PM tracking
 4. Communicate to Region new postings and PMs (Attachment 2).
- R. Reid, OHEB Regional Director has advised between ¼ and 1/3rd a PY will be maintained in RHQ to coordinate OHEB's future delivery of the WSP which will be an asset.
- Some of the PMs can be evaluated subjectively e.g. effect in focusing conservation and restoration efforts, while others have readily available data e.g. # of habitat status reports posted, use of web-mapping application, so the effort required to evaluate the related PMs is very small.
- Area communications can utilize existing mechanisms e.g. monthly staff meetings, and Regional communications could be comprehensively done via a single communiqué semi-annually, or annually, so the effort is also expected to be very minimal.
- If there are additional resources to extend towards implementation, additional habitat status reports could be generated and/or the workplan reviewed for non-essential elements.
- Identifying the highly productive and limiting habitats within the partially populated Habitat Status Reports should help prioritize referrals, a Habitat Improvement Project, as well as focus watershed planning. This characterization of the habitat i.e. WSP Strategy 2, Action Step 2.1, can act as a stand-alone product, however it is also a requisite step to guide selection of relevant indicators for monitoring status and trends.
- The above essential elements have very limited ability to report out on trends in habitat quality and quantity as monitoring is not included and the return rate for evaluating the partially populated habitat status reports is 5 years.
- The combined essential elements will maintain momentum on the WSP, and importantly, in a visible and accountable manner to both internal staff and external groups.

Recommendations / Next Steps

- Recommend using the Fraser Salmon Watershed Program to deliver the partially populated habitat status reports; Regional coordination would facilitate this.
- After publication of the reports by Stalberg, et. al and Taccogna, G, publishing the Ron Diewart series of Pacific Salmon Life History Requirements under one cover is recommended.
- To allow for greater accounting of losses and gains of habitat within DFO's spectrum of control, it is recommended that losses and gains be accounted for within the new resource restoration program database, PATH and estimates made where unauthorized works are found. Similar descriptors of habitat type and units need to be used in these databases to facilitate accounting. This information will compliment the future habitat monitoring and also help to inform what is

considered highly productive and limiting habitats within the Habitat Status reports.

- Habitat monitoring is an important and progressive next step and work with our Science Branch representatives on the WSP Implementation Team and external groups such as the Pacific Salmon Foundation should be undertaken to develop a monitoring framework and test some of the proposed Habitat indicators.

Heather Stalberg

Attachments

1. Word file, Oct.16/08 *WSP Scoring Version 4*
2. Excel file, Feb.4/09 *Essential Elements WSP-OHEB Integration Version 10*
3. Excel file, partially populated habitat status report example. Feb.4/09 *Highlighted East Coast Vancouver Island Coho, Englishman River.*