

Highlights from WSP Stakeholder Forum March 2008

WSP Planning Meeting
May 14-15, 2008

What we wanted to come away with from the forum...

Communications

- Stakeholders to have an understanding of WSP
- Feedback on our work to date (habitat indicators, ecosystem values and objectives, strategic planning template)
- Input on priorities for pilots

Engagement

- A shared understanding of where we are going and the roles of stakeholders and partners
- Mobilizing the choir – engaging partners

What stakeholders thought of the forum...

Results of Feedback Surveys

(to be completed)

What we've heard

Key Messages from Discussion Questions

Strategy 1: What is the best way to inform and engage people in this work on CUs?

- Keep messaging simple
- Use electronic processes (e.g. internet)
- Use existing processes and structures (DFO Fall Consultation Dialogues, stewardship groups, Marine use planning, watershed planning, AAROMs, advisory groups, community groups, etc.)
- Liaise with core regional working groups with representatives from a broad range of interests who will return to communities to inform/solicit feedback
- Develop engagement strategy for each stakeholder group
- Develop in-depth dialogue forums for meaningful discussion
- Solicit feedback from stakeholders and show how DFO responds to feedback
- Increase communications within DFO, especially with DFO regional staff who liaise with stakeholders

Strategy 1: What are the opportunities for partnerships on the development of benchmarks and monitoring?

Process

- Be a leader and others will follow
- Run a pilot study first
- Set priorities for monitoring and data collection
- Integrate LEK and TEK with benchmark data collection
- Develop a statistically rigorous monitoring program and data systems that can be shared
- DFO to suggest general indicators/benchmarks which will be adapted by area staff to specific CUs

Partnership Building

- Involve First Nations bodies, AAROM, community conservation groups, volunteer watershed groups, streamkeepers, & provincial programs on data collection, methodologies and standards
- Improve coordination of federal and provincial fisheries to avoid overlap
- Expand DFO capacity to interact and seek partnerships with First Nations and stakeholders

Strategy 2: How should we select the sentinel streams for monitoring habitat indicators in a CU?

- Must be representative of majority of streams within a CU
- Identify healthy and weak streams, exploited and non-exploited streams
- Streams that have most promise for recovery
- Aim for good distribution across habitat stressors
- Identify sentinel streams that are accessible and average
- Based on historical relevance to salmon populations
- Based on high value and highly impacted streams
- Choose streams that represent complexity and diversity
- Based on high correlation of indicators and salmon production
- Link habitat attributes and changes in fish
- Based on socio economic need, conservation priorities, logistics, costs
- Streams that are data rich (historical long term data exists)
- DFO to make initial selection and consult with stakeholders

Strategy 2: How should we best be guided by local knowledge/expert opinion in selection of watershed specific indicators?

- Incorporate TEK, LEK, knowledge of stewardship groups, streamkeepers, First Nations, technical experts, local/provincial governments
- Scientists need to better understand TEK and LEK and better incorporate into decision making
- Task groups to contribute data and information; establish collaborative efforts in monitoring
- Track information better and provide feedback to those who generate data
- Use core habitat indicators for all CUs that are selected by scientific experts and second set of specific indicators for each CU selected by regional/local experts
- Public review of selected indicators and reassessment of indicators

Strategy 3: Do we appear to be on the “right track” with respect to the process and content that we are talking to develop an EBM framework for wild salmon?

- Important to recognize wild salmon as part of ecosystem
- Expand understanding of interactions of salmon and their prey, predators, and parasites
- Integrate multi-species approach to fisheries management
- Focus on preserving ecosystem process rather than looking at individual species
- Adopt ecosystem principles developed by Convention of Biological Diversity
- Focus on watershed-wide effects
- Focus on human related impacts and interests
- Aquaculture is a concern
- Consider marine component
- Consider climate change
- Use TEK and work w/ First Nations to identify and/or test indicators
- Focus more on process indicators and species at risk
- Consider socio-economic and socio-cultural impacts

Strategy 3: Who should our partners be towards the development of an EBM framework? What resources should DFO and its partners bring to this enterprise?

Partners

- First Nations, Province of BC, other federal departments, politicians, aquaculture industry, municipal and local governments, forestry, stewardship groups, commercial and recreational industry, academia
- First Nations who are already working on EBM processes through Marine Use Planning committees
- Build on existing relationships and link to other EBM processes
- Work with industry that are impacting or proposing new developments

DFO Resources

- DFO to bring funding support and scientific knowledge

Strategy 4: How can DFO build partnerships in order to develop and fully implement integrated planning?

Collaboration

- Have common objectives and goals
- Stakeholders must be committed to the process
- Build trust through transparent decision making, listening to everyone's concerns related to the fishery, and addressing conflicts between all user groups in order to move forward
- Local and community meetings on integrated planning and management
- Inclusive collaboration where share information among all partners

Governance

- Develop governance structures to define roles, responsibilities and accountability of all those involved
- More effective planning with representatives from responsible stakeholder groups
- Develop decision framework to implement WSP
- DFO to lead WSP implementation to protect communities that depend on the resource

Strategy 4: What does a sustainable fishery look like to you?

Economic Viability

- Ensure that commercial fleets are economically viable.
- Need a global marketing strategy to increase value of wild salmon and long-term commitments/ strategies supported by core funding that guarantees growth/adaptability for the salmon industry.

Shared Stewardship

- We all have to work together to conserve and protect our stocks. All user groups must have equal responsibility for conservation and resource management. Enable communities to be stewards of the resource.
- Sustainable fisheries needs to account for all users and ecosystem drivers.

Sustainable Resource

- Viable populations, intact habitats and ecosystems to ensure persistent opportunities for socially acceptable and economically feasible fisheries.
- Ensure that we have clean rivers, maintain diverse ecological communities, and future salmon returns
- Adaptive fishery that is managed effectively (not derby style openings.) Accurate catch and by catch reporting and effective enforcement.
- A sustainable fishery is one that will look after aboriginal people to ensure First Nations food, social, and ceremonial fisheries.

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Comments from the facilitator

General Recommendations

- Work with stakeholders to co-create new engagement process
- More frequent, interactive, iterative and collaborative consultation
- Facilitate intra-stakeholder communication and dialogue
- Leverage leadership from partners to move forward
- Build trust
- Bring all players to the table (Province of BC, industry such as aquaculture, forestry, mining, etc.)

Forum Design Recommendations

- Separate forums for First Nations and individual strategies
- Clarify forum objectives
- Create shared sense of purpose
- Recap results at end

Moving forward..... next steps

Communications Plan

- Creating consistent messaging within DFO
- Communications material to distribute
- Process to distribute information (i.e. website)
- Internal communications

Stakeholder Engagement

- Objectives for engagement (to inform, solicit input?)
- Process: local community meetings, working with existing partners
- Other processes?