

**Operations Committee Meeting
June 25, 2009
Record of Decisions**

Attendees: McGivney, K.; Reid, R.; Richards, L.; Sprout, P.; Trager, D.; Webb, A.; Wright, S.

Absent: Farlinger, S.; Macgillivray, P.; Reid, R.

Guests: Manore., C. (*for Randy Nelson*); Mar, A.; Ryall, P.

1. Wild Salmon Policy Update and Workplan (Presentation) – A. Mar

Issue: Presentation on progress to date on implementation of the Wild Salmon Policy and proposed workplan and budget for 2009/10. Committee was supportive of the proposed workplan and budget although it was noted that Sector budgets are uncertain at this time and that WSP allocations may need to be revisited later this year to ensure delivery of key products.

Next Steps: n/a

Responsibility: A. Webb

Deadline: n/a

2. Update on WSP Strategy 4: Integrated Strategic Planning (Presentation) – P. Ryall

Issue: Update on progress made under Strategy 4 in regards to the planning pilots – Fraser River Sockeye Spawning Initiative, Barkley Sound, and Skeena. Discussion on proposed scale and scope of planning units for further implementation of Strategy 4 and on the proposed rapid assessment of conservation units (CUs) in order to prioritize planning efforts.

Next Steps: FAM to develop overarching principles to guide the identification of planning units. FAM/Science to conduct rapid assessments of CUs through a phased approach over a number of years and to return to Operations Committee later this year to re-evaluate the process.

Responsibility: S. Farlinger

Deadline: TBS

Approved: original signed by P.E. Sprout

Date: December 15, 2009

MECTS #: 2009-518-00029

EKME #:1139839



Wild Salmon Policy Update

**Operations Committee
Pacific Region
June 25, 2009**

Canada



Outline

- Update on WSP implementation
- 2009-10 Workplan and Budget
- Discussion on proposed approach to 2009-10 implementation



Strategy 1- Standardized Monitoring of Wild Salmon

- Jan 2009 PSARC workshop on benchmarks methodology to assess biological status of CUs
- Revision of benchmarks paper underway
- Tools and guidelines under development to assist staff in development of benchmarks and indicators over Fall/Winter
- Internal discussions planned for Fall to discuss CU assessment frameworks



Strategy 2 – Assessment of Habitat Status

- Jan 2009 PSARC workshop on methodology and outcomes of habitat indicators
- Revised habitat indicators paper due in Fall 2009
- Will undertake habitat status reports in three key areas this year (Barkley S., Skeena, one other area)
- Continue integration of Strategy 2 into OHEB programs
- April 2009 launch of web-mapping tool



Strategy 3 – Incl. of Ecosystem Values & Monitoring

- Consultation within DFO on proposed sector-specific ecosystem objectives
- Draft paper on ecosystem objectives, indicators, benchmarks, and management options for PSARC review in Fall 2009
- Integration with Strategy 1 – assessments of CU health, and Strategy 2 – habitat assessments
- Potential collaboration with partners on monitoring



Strategy 4 - Integrated Strategic Planning

- Continuation with Fraser River Sockeye Spawning Initiative process; development of benchmarks and indicators for Fraser sockeye
- Development of workplan under Barkley Sound pilot; collaboration with partners and stakeholders on key activities
- Discussion on overall approach to Strategy 4: scale of planning units for implementation, criteria for priority areas



Stakeholder Engagement & Communications

- Consultations require multi-sectoral support in terms of staff and funding (previous WSP Forum in March 2008 cost \$60K)
- Not proceeding with WSP Forum this year due to resource constraints
- Continue to provide quarterly email/web updates
- Will consider alternative engagement options, such as teleconferences or webcasts



WSP Overview – Key Milestones

Timelines	Next Steps
Summer 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Completion of CUs for Yukon- Completion of CU benchmarks methodology paper
Fall/ Winter 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Completion of Strategy 2 habitat indicators methodology paper- PSARC review of Strategy 3 ecosystems discussion paper- Areas begin application of benchmarks & rapid assessments of CUs
Spring 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Develop and evaluate metrics and benchmarks on distribution within CUs and publish as PSARC document- Overview document to detail components of CU assessment frameworks
2010-2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Completion of Barkley Sound pilot

**2009-10 WSP Workplan and Budget**

Activity	Responsible Sector	2008-09 O&M (\$K)	2009-10 O&M (\$K)	2009-10 FTEs
Strategy 1: Standardized monitoring	Science	100	78.5	1
Strategy 2: Assessment of habitat	OHEB	329	3	0.25
	Science	40	20	0.5
Strategy 3: Ecosystem values	Science	120	121	0.5
Strategy 4: Integrated strategic planning	FAM	180	175	3
Stakeholder Engagement	Policy (cost-shared)	65	20	0.25
Coordination/ Partnerships*	Policy (cost-shared)	110	110	1.5
TOTAL		\$944 K	\$527.5 K	7

* Includes FSWP Director Position

**Challenges and Opportunities**

- Uncertainty in regards to resources given other priorities and budget realignment
- WSP planning requires integration across other initiatives such as PICFI, FSWP, MSC certification, watershed planning
- Effective planning requires appropriate governance structure
- Effective engagement of partners to support key aspects of WSP implementation (i.e. integrated planning, habitat and ecosystem monitoring)
- Expectations for WSP evaluation in 2010



Discussion Questions

- Are the proposed workplan activities, timelines, and level of resources appropriate given the Region's commitment to WSP?
- Is the approach to stakeholder engagement reasonable given stakeholders' interest in WSP?

2009-10 WSP WorkPlan

Summary of WSP Resources by Sector

Sector	O&M (\$K)	FTEs
Science	\$244.5	2
OHEB	\$28.0	0.25
FAM	\$200.0	3
Policy	\$55.0	1.75
TOTAL	\$527.5	7

Horizontal Issues

Activities	Progress made to date	Planned Work in 2009/10	Resources in 2009/10	Responsibility	Planned Work 2010/11 to 2012/13	Notes / Issues
External Engagement						
Stakeholder engagement - WSP annual forum (FN and Multi-interest) - Bilateral meetings - Web-based consultations	WSP Forum in March 2008 Ongoing bilateral meetings and web consultations	Consider other consultation/engagement activities such as website development, webcasts or teleconferences	\$20K	Policy	Ongoing consultations	Potential for partnership support?
Aboriginal traditional ecological knowledge		Assess current work on consideration of ATEK into resource management processes Discuss options for consideration of ATEK under WSP with First Nations		Policy / TAPD	Implement means of incorporating ATEK into WSP implementation	
External Communications	Ongoing email/web updates Fact sheet released in Oct 2008 WSP display produced in Oct 2008	Ongoing quarterly email/ web updates Conversion of WSP external site to internet		Communications	Ongoing communications	
Partnership Strategy - including BC/YK	Revamped WSP website Participation in Fraser watershed logic model with partners	Linkages to Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program Continue to participate in development of Fraser watershed logic model with partners (PSF / FBC) Identify elements where partners' engagement is required and develop strategy Develop and formalize	\$100K (cost-shared by Sectors to support FSWP Director position)	Policy	Maintain partnership relationships	Identifying roles and responsibilities between DFO and partners Providing support, tools and direction to partners

WSP Strategy 1 - Standardized Monitoring of Wild Salmon Status

[illegible]

		2010). Coordination of Science WSP implementation. Area staff to identify and consult stakeholders on benchmarks in 2009/10	\$10 K	Science (Schubert) Area Stock Assessment		High stakeholder expectations on identification of benchmarks and implications
1.3 Monitor and assess status of CUs	Draft assessment frameworks (AFs) have been completed for regional coho, Fraser sockeye and North Coast populations.	To be developed in 3 tiers: 1) an overview document that details the components of an AF; 2) regional AF's for each species; and 3) project level operational plans. Tier 1 will be completed this year; outlines will be completed for Tier 2 and area staff will be engaged. Complete the Fraser sockeye framework and decision support tool.	\$2 K \$5 K	Science (Holtby) Areas Stock Assessment Science (Cass)	Science to provide guidance to Areas on development of assessment frameworks for CUs Areas to develop and implement frameworks for priority CUs	Strategic direction on implementation of assessment frameworks (priority CUs?) Capacity for Area staff to develop and implement assessment frameworks Implications for MSC requirements
TOTAL			\$78.5 K			

WSP Strategy 2 - The Assessment of Habitat Status

Action Steps	Progress made to date	Planned Work in 2009/10	Resources in 2009/10	Responsibility	Planned Work 2010/11 to 2012/13	Notes / Issues
2.1 Document habitat characteristics	Developed habitat characteristic templates and tested on several priority CUs	Complete habitat status reports in 3 priority CUs (Barkley, Skeena, one other area) Provide support to Barkley Sound pilot	To be confirmed	OHEB	Areas to focus on habitat status reports for highly productive and limiting habitats to inform planning	WSP integration into existing WSP programs Area capacity for implementation
2.2 Select indicators and benchmarks	Completed identification of habitat indicators for streams, lakes and estuaries and their metrics and benchmarks. Peer review workshop on habitat indicators paper in Jan 2009. Summary report on Jan 2009 workshop completed.	OHEB and Science co-leading revision of methodology paper to determine habitat indicators. Science will participate with OHEB in the development of the Strategy 2 framework, with a focus on its interconnections to Strategy 3. This may include further refinements/revisions to the methodology paper.	\$20 K	OHEB Science (Lauzier, 0.5 FTE)		Issues of data availability and quality Needs further discussion between Science and OHEB
2.3 Implement Monitoring		Development of Monitoring Framework Develop component on partnership support for habitat monitoring under broad WSP Partnership Strategy		OHEB	Implement Monitoring Framework	Identifying roles and responsibilities between DFO and partners on monitoring Identifying standards for monitoring Identifying partners to implement monitoring
2.4 Develop integrated habitat data systems		Launch and implement web-mapping application; upload Yukon CUs Explore potential partnerships with other information sharing systems (i.e. Hectares BC, Aquatic Information Partnerships BC)	\$3K	OHEB	Ongoing maintenance of web-mapping application	Multi-sectoral support for ongoing maintenance of application Ongoing data management at RHQ Communications with partners on use of the application
TOTAL			\$23 K			

WSP Strategy 3 - Inclusion of Ecosystem Values and Monitoring

Action Steps	Progress made to date	Planned Work in 2009/10	Resources in 2009/10	Responsibility	Planned Work 2010/11 to 2012/13	Notes / Issues
3.1 Identify indicators to monitor status of FW ecosystems	<p>3.1.1 EBM Discussion Paper</p> <p>Draft tables of ecosystem objectives and indicators completed by EBM subgroup.</p> <p>Ongoing input to Strategy 2 and Strategy 3 reviews define Strat. 1-3 interdependencies.</p> <p>Maintenance of ongoing consultation re: Strategy-3 both within DFO (OHEB, Bk Sd, WG) and external to DFO (SFU, Watershed Watch, Raincoast, Suzuki, AMB, BC-MOE etc...).</p> <p>3.1.2 Develop ecosystem objectives and indicators for the Barkley Pilot.</p> <p>Table of contents for report well developed, existing lake survey data assembly nearing completion.</p> <p>"Proof of concept" trials completed in fiscal 08-09 at a few riparian "stations".</p> <p>Instrumentation and methods generated informative and affordable results on status of predator-carnivore complex.</p> <p>3.1.3 Science Integration</p>	<p>3.1.1 EBM Discussion Paper</p> <p>Develop discussion paper on ecosystem objectives, indicators and management options, with CU case studies, for PSARC review in Sept 2009:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract support; Peer review workshop; <p>Provision of expert scientific advice to DFO sectors, partners and clients regarding the development and implementation of Strategy 3.</p> <p>3.1.2 Develop ecosystem objectives and indicators for the Barkley Pilot.</p> <p>Complete report on multi-trophic level indicator assessment of impact of Henderson L. fertilization on sockeye and carrying capacity of Barkley Sound lakes for sockeye CUs.</p> <p>Develop semi-automated system to profile status of salmon predator-scavenger complex in riparian ecosystem ("in-kind" support expected from Parks Canada).</p> <p>3.1.3 Science Integration with</p>	<p>\$20 K</p> <p>\$10 K</p> <p>\$10 K</p> <p>\$10 K</p> <p>\$16 K</p>	<p>Science (Hyatt et al.)</p> <p>Science (Hyatt-Rankin)</p> <p>Science (Shardlow, Hyatt)</p>	<p>Test, refine Strategy-3 EBM objectives & indicators (in BkSd Pilot).</p> <p>Develop metrics for ecosystem indicators, identify potential benchmarks.</p> <p>Publish Ms and primary paper(s) re: WSP-EBM objectives and indicators.</p> <p>Identify data sources for ecosystem indicators</p> <p>Continue EBM objectives and indicators consultations with Sectoral managers. Area staff to implement annual monitoring of ecosystem indicators</p> <p>Integrate ecosystem information into annual WSP planning processes</p> <p>Submit paper by early 2010 for review and publication (Possibly review within CSAS process).</p>	<p>Discussion at Ops Com on Strat-3 in Spring-09 to improve "grasp" of WSP ecosystem requirements.</p> <p>Area capacity to implement ecosystem monitoring</p> <p>Interdependencies among Strategies 1-4 and requirement to integrate Strategies 2 & 3 in a common monitoring and evaluation framework.</p> <p>Availability of Sectoral managers for meaningful consultation.</p> <p>Implications of ecosystem assessments for management of human activities (i.e. fisheries, enhancement).</p> <p>Freshwater ecoregion databases poorly organized, not a primary responsibility of DFO, shared responsibility-authority with OGDs and NGOs.</p> <p>DFO has no history of assessing impacts of salmon on ecosystems so this is "new business" required but overlooked to date under the WSP. University research approaches to date are labour intensive and not affordable for regional-scale applications.</p> <p>Unexpectedly "heavy" work-load</p>

	with Others in Barkley Pilot	Others in Barkley Pilot	\$15 K	Science, FAM, AMB, Parks, Hyatt, Dobson	Continue work and expand collaboration with Parks Canada or others having interest and/or shared authority. Publish WSP Ms or Chapters as contribution to broader contents dealing with integrated fisheries mgt. Plan, integrated coastal zone mgt plan, Parks Canada mgt plan etc.... Extend freshwater and marine survival time series as EBM "pressure" and trend indicators for freshwater and marine ecoregion analyses (e.g. Sockeye Indicator Stock contributions to recent State of the Ocean Reports)	associated with providing Science support to BkSd Pilot. Partnership strategy for ecosystem monitoring, sourcing and integrating data from partners such as BC Identify lessons learned from Barkley pilot for broader WSP implementation.
	Provision of planning and advisory support to BkSd Pilot Working Group. Internal workshop development nearing completion. Support for outreach with external groups (AMB, Parks, MOE, LRT, BCCF) provided. Multiple review sessions with S. Coast stock assessment staff suggest data review and standardization required to clean up "gaps", errors before analysis of survival series EBM indicators.	Assemble Ecosystem Overview Assessment Report (EAOR) as per National EBM standard on status and trends of ecosystem attributes of Barkley CU-OEU combinations, including the assembly, review and standardization of CU stock assessment data. Engage First Nations Fisheries Council to develop a protocol for FN engagement in the development of ecosystem values.	\$10 K	Science (Saunders, Hyatt)		
3.2 Integrate climate & ocean information into annual salmon management processes	Expansion of salmon information in State of Oceans Report (in 2009 includes papers on coho and chinook as well as sockeye). Additional application of oceanographic and climate indicator information to forecast salmon survival and abundance. Publication of: Irvine, J. and Crawford, B. [Editors] 2008: State of physical, biological, and selected fishery resources of Pacific Canadian marine ecosystems. CSAS Research Doc. 2008/013.	Continued integration of salmon information into annual FOWG reports including additional application of oceanographic and climate indicator information. Assembly and analyses of physical and biological data to explore their relationships with wild salmon productivity. PSARC sanctioned workshop (pre-FOWG) to discuss salmon outlooks, forecasts and survival.	\$10 K \$10 K	Science (Irvine)		
TOTAL			\$121K			

WSP Strategy 4 - Integrated Strategic Planning

Action Steps	Progress made to date	Planned Work in 2009/10	Resources in 2009/10	Responsibility	Planned Work 2010/11 to 2012/13	Challenges
4.1. Implement an interim process for management of priority CUs	<p>Completed discussion paper on strategic planning guidelines</p> <p>Completed Barkley Sound discussion paper: Sustainable Management of Wild Salmon in Barkley Sound and Alberni Inlet: Challenges, Resources, and Priorities</p> <p>Conducted Barkley Sound planning workshop</p> <p>Continued pilot for planning for Fraser sockeye CUs (Fraser Sockeye Spawning Initiative)</p> <p>Initiated testing of template on Barkley Sound sockeye</p>	<p>Continue work on strategic planning guidelines</p> <p>Continue work on strategic plan for Fraser sockeye CUs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PSARC paper for CU benchmarks - Develop co-management framework in conjunction with IFRAWG (Fall wkshop) <p>Develop Barkley S. pilot project until end of 2009/10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview of economic value of salmon to Barkley and social economic analysis of this area - Develop production planning model for chinook and possibly sockeye (partner with Living Rivers) - Structured decision making process for Barkley Sound Production planning - PSARC paper for Barkley sockeye CU benchmarks <p>Participate in Skeena Initiative to implement WSP</p>	<p>\$60 K</p> <p>60</p> <p>25</p> <p>10</p> <p>5</p>	FAM	<p>WSP Strategy 4 implementation revised IFMP in progress</p> <p>Identification of lower/upper benchmarks for Fraser River, Barkley Sound, Skeena and Nass sockeye</p> <p>Regional framework for integrated planning</p>	<p>Reviewing lessons learned from pilots for broader application</p> <p>Identifying resource requirements for wide-spread implementation of strategic plans</p>
4.2 Design & implement integrated strategic planning for salmon conservation	<p>Completed discussion paper on identifying planning units (Sandy Fraser)</p> <p>Internal workshop on March 10, 2009 to discuss planning units; summary report done</p>	<p>Develop overall approach to implement strategic planning (planning units, priority plans)</p> <p>Present planning approach to Ops Cttee in June 2009</p>	15	FAM	<p>Implement strategic planning processes for other planning units</p>	<p>Seek direction on implementation of other pilots</p> <p>Area capacity for broader implementation of strategic planning</p>
TOTAL			\$175 K			