

# OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

## DISCUSSION PAPER

*Security Classification: Unclassified*

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**Title:** Performance Review of the Wild Salmon Policy (WSP) Implementation

**Issue:** The Wild Salmon Policy commits to an independent review of implementation against goals and objectives five years after its inception, in 2010

### **Background:**

- WSP was announced in April 2005 after considerable effort and extensive consultation with the First Nations, Province of BC, interested stakeholders, and general public.
- The objectives of the WSP are to safeguard the genetic diversity of wild Pacific salmon; maintain habitat and ecosystem integrity; and manage fisheries for sustainable benefits.
- Under Strategy 6: Performance Review, WSP commits to regular review of the success of WSP. Specifically, the policy states that “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.”
- First Nations and stakeholders expect an evaluation of WSP in 2010. As some stakeholders have been critical of the Department’s pace of WSP implementation, a review may further the argument for increased attention and focus towards implementation.

### **Current Status:**

- An incremental approach has been taken towards implementation of WSP given limited resources and capacity to also meet existing priorities. As such, the policy has not yet been fully implemented.
- Further work is required to develop monitoring frameworks to assess conservation units, habitat and ecosystems. In addition, the first integrated planning pilot in Barkley Sound is not expected to be complete until the end of fiscal year 2010-11.
- The Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council (PFRCC) is preparing a report with recommendations for a WSP evaluation framework, which would outline key areas for performance measurement. This report is expected to be released in December 2009. The

PFRCC has expressed a strong interest in providing an independent review of WSP in 2010.

## **Recommendations:**

Given the current status of WSP implementation, it is recommended that the Department adopt the following approach for a WSP review:

### Phase 1:

Undertake a review of WSP progress to date since the launch of the policy. The review would look at key implementation pieces, such as conservation units for BC and Yukon, benchmarks methodology, proposed habitat indicators, approach to include ecosystem objectives, and the Barkley Sound integrated planning pilot.

### Phase 2:

Undertake a full evaluation of WSP in 2015 following further implementation of key pieces, such as monitoring and other planning pilots.

## **Next Steps**

- WSP Implementation Team to review PFRCC report on WSP evaluation framework following its release in December 2009.
- WSP Implementation Team to draft evaluation framework, including performance targets, measures, and options in Spring 2010.

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**Date:**

**Date submitted to RMC:**