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Fact Sheet - Update on the Implementation of the Wild Salmon Policy (WSP) 2009

September 2009

To keep First Nations, stakeholders and interested Canadians informed on progress and planned activities in 2009 on the implementation of the Wild Salmon Policy (WSP), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), is publishing updates on the WSP implementation. Those who would like to highlight work that they, or others are undertaking in this newsletter can contact DFO by e-mailing: wsp@dfo-mpo.gc.ca. Additional information can also be found on this website

WSP Forum

The Department will not be holding a WSP Forum in September 2009. Instead, the Department will be focussing its efforts on targeted sessions on certain aspects of WSP to better engage interested individuals. We will also be looking into alternative communication options, such as website communications, web casts or teleconferences to broaden our reach. We will be providing information on these sessions in the near future.

Strategy 1: Standardized Monitoring of Wild Salmon Status

DFO will be finalizing the list of salmon conservation units (CUs) for the Yukon Territory shortly. This information on the Yukon is expected to become available in the Fall of 2009.

[List of CUs, maps, and list of sites by CU for B.C. and transboundary rivers](#)

DFO is also in the process of finalizing its draft paper on the benchmark methodology, which will help guide the development of benchmarks and other indicators to assess the health of a CU. A scientific peer review workshop on the paper was held in early January 2009. The report's authors have incorporated the comments heard at this workshop and the final version will be made available on the DFO website in the early Fall.

Strategy 2: The Assessment of Habitat Status

The Department is nearing completion of a draft paper that outlines the methodology to determine habitat indicators for lakes, rivers and estuaries. A scientific peer review was held to review the methodology, and the paper is now being revised and finalized. A summary of the workshop's proceedings will be drafted and made available on the DFO website in the near future.

[Information on the habitat indicators for lakes, rivers and estuaries.](#)

Strategy 3: Inclusion of Ecosystem Values and Monitoring

DFO is finalizing a discussion paper on WSP Strategy 3 ecosystems objectives and indicators. This will be followed by testing, refinement and integration of Strategies 1, 2 and 3 indicators, metrics and benchmarks as part of the Barkley Sound WSP pilot. Future efforts will focus on

integrating habitat status indicators with Strategy 3 to achieve a monitoring framework. There will also be a continued focus on strengthening relations with other federal government departments, Province of B.C. agencies and NGOs with interests in ecosystem-based management.

Strategy 4: Integrated Strategic Planning

An update on implementation of WSP Strategy 4 was recently presented by Paul Ryall of DFO at meetings with the Fraser Watershed and technical committees in Prince George, Nanaimo and Kamloops.

The update provided information on identifying planning units, and planned activities for pilots on Fraser River sockeye, Barkley Sound and Skeena River.

The presentation proposes integration could be achieved through a new planning structure that may encompass:

- Local area planning committees for various sub-regions (e.g. WCVI, Skeena)
- The participation on these committees by local First Nations, harvesters, community interests, local and regional governments and other stakeholders
- Region-wide forums to resolve inconsistencies

Next steps for the Barkley Sound pilot include fall consultations with First Nations and other interested parties on production planning for chinook and sockeye, an economic analysis of Barkley Sound salmon and an identification of Barkley Sound conservation unit benchmarks in the Fall/Winter of 2010.

Wild Salmon Policy: Economic Evaluation of Salmon in the Barkley Sound Area

The Wild Salmon Policy establishes fundamental principles for conservation and sustainable use of wild Pacific salmon, and recognizes that long-term sustainability of salmon populations can only be achieved through close collaboration with other federal agencies, with provincial agencies, local municipalities, First Nations, and stakeholders.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada is currently undertaking a project that will support the Wild Salmon Policy's pilot in the Barkley Sound area in terms of an economic evaluation of salmon. WSP refers to the need to consider social and economic information into strategic plans for the use of decision makers. The Barkley Sound economic evaluation of salmon will provide this economic information base for the planning pilot.

The first component of the work will involve the development of a methodology to establish economic values for salmon in Barkley Sound. The second component of this work will be the gathering of information on different sectors related to salmon to order to estimate values. The final component is to recommend performance indicators that assess resource management scenarios and impacts.

Expected completion of work is March 31, 2010.

If you have any questions, comments, or feedback on WSP, please contact Amy Mar at 604-666-3657 or email to: wsp@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

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