



Fisheries
and Oceans

Pêches
et Océans

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Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence

October 31, 2006

Dear Participant:

Re: Fraser River Sockeye Spawning Initiative / Wild Salmon Policy Pilot

In the spring of 2006, DFO hosted a series of facilitated workshops which brought together two on-going initiatives: the Fraser River Sockeye Spawning Initiative (FRSSI), and the pilot implementation for the *Wild Salmon Policy*.

These two initiatives were a natural match for the intensive participatory process that unfolded over three months. The long-term escapement strategy being developed by FRSSI had to fit within the emerging requirements under the WSP, and the WSP implementation pilot was able draw on all the effort that had already been put into the FRSSI process by DFO and participants.

Your contribution has made the development of these initiatives possible and helped establish very important lines of communication between stakeholders and the technical team.

This joint initiative will be continued as part of pre-season planning for 2007. We will host a facilitated workshop series which builds on the results from last spring, and work through a formal decision-making exercise to select a mix of management actions for each planning unit for '07 to '09.

Key Decisions

Building on several years of work on this initiative, the focus for this next phase is to address any open questions and bring all the components together into a comprehensive long-term escapement and harvest strategy for Fraser sockeye.

In preparation for the 2007 fishing season, we will also use these processes to develop several candidate escapement plans for the draft *2007 Integrated Fisheries Management Plan*, which will go into broad consultation in March 2007 and serve as the basis for final planning with the *Integrated Harvest Planning Council* in early May.

Canada

Tentative Timeline

- *October – December:* Working Group addresses highest priority technical modifications and prepares information materials for the workshop series.
- *December:* Circulate information materials, including detailed workshop agendas
- *January – March:* Hold a facilitated 2-day workshop each month
- *March:* Develop escapement plan for 2007 based on long-term strategy identified in the workshop series.

Attached please find a brief summary of the 2006 workshop series. We are looking forward to your continued contribution, and welcome your comments on the proposed approach.

Yours sincerely,



Gordon McEachen
Acting Lead, Salmon Team
Fisheries and Aquaculture Management

attachment

SUMMARY OF WORKSHOP SERIES (January to March 2006)

The Context

This first implementation pilot for the collaborative and integrated strategic planning envisioned under the Wild Salmon Policy took place in early 2006. The implementation pilot was designed to build a collaborative approach for eliciting insight and advice to DFO on two distinct topics:

- Recommendations for a long-term approach to managing the Fraser River Sockeye fisheries
- Recommendations for the 2006 management strategy and escapement plan

A natural starting point for this pilot was the work of the Fraser River Salmon Spawning Initiative (FRSSI). In this way, the groundwork laid by the six Spawning Initiative workshops provided an essential foundation for piloting an approach to both long-term and immediate integrated strategic planning using Fraser River Sockeye as a focus.

The Process

The pilot process was implemented through a sequence of 3 workshops:

- The focus of the first workshop was to engage participants in the process, establish the format for subsequent discussions, and get a first sense of planning priorities.
- The second workshop was designed to build on the momentum from the first workshop, to elicit general views on management objectives and specific suggestions for indicators, and to get a first sense of the range of management actions proposed by participants.
- The third workshop was focused on developing a management strategy for 2006. Throughout most of the workshop, participants worked in small groups using interactive displays of alternative harvest rules, and discussed the immediate implications of choosing one or the other.

Results

Over the course of the three workshops, participants were able to develop a good rapport across a wide range of interests and backgrounds, making it possible to have a highly focused and specific discussion of alternative escapement strategies during the third workshop.

- Participants agreed to the Principles of Participation, and showed great patience with the inevitable challenges that arose as part of a pilot process under great time pressure.
- Participants agreed that it is a priority to investigate bottlenecks in sockeye production (especially for Cultus Lake) and develop management plans that cover the full suite of actions, not just short-term harvest interventions.
- Participants came to agreement regarding the general structure of management objectives, and agreed on a set of practical considerations that should be incorporated.
- Participants agreed with the conceptual changes that were made to the FRSSI model:
 - Apply a fixed exploitation rate across a wide range of run sizes, with a cut-off at which ER starts to be reduced (i.e. hockey stick harvest rule), provided that further work is undertaken to explore cycle-specific harvest rules.
 - Use Larkin model to simulate populations, provided that further analysis is undertaken to investigate the implications for estimated productivity and related benchmarks.
 - Express management objectives as a risk tolerance (e.g. 90% chance of achieving escapement benchmark on each component population)
- Participants put great effort into constructive debate, and provided important insights into key areas of disagreement.
- Participants provided a range of views regarding escapement plans for 2006. Some important differences of opinion were:
 - *Shape of the harvest rule at low run sizes:* Should there be some run size at which harvest stops, or should there be some baseline exploitation rate that allows harvests on overlapping aggregates?
 - *Extent of short-term restrictions:* To what extent, and where, should harvest restrictions be applied?
 - *Reliance on enhancement measures:* To what extent should the potential future benefits of enhancement be taken into account when planning fisheries for the short-term?

To obtain a copy of the summary report for the 2006 workshop series, please contact Gottfried Pestal (gpestal@solv.ca, 604-420-1528).

Contact Information

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