

## BACKGROUND

The Wild Salmon Policy (WSP) represents the culmination of five years of consultations with Canadians concerned about the protection of Pacific salmon. It represents a significant new approach to the conservation of wild Pacific salmon. Its adoption represents the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Canada's commitment to maintain healthy and diverse populations of salmon that will support sustainable fisheries now, and meet the needs of future generations.

*The goal of the Wild Salmon Policy is to restore and maintain healthy and diverse salmon populations and their habitats for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of Canada in perpetuity. This goal is achieved through clear objectives, strategies to meet them, and a decision-making process to ensure that choices made about salmon conservation reflect societal values.*

As a key principle of the policy, DFO places conservation of salmon and their habitats as the highest priority for resource management decisions and activities pertaining to wild Pacific salmon. Additionally, the DFO's resource management decisions and activities will honour Canada's obligations to First Nations and consider biological, social, and economic consequences, reflect best science including Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK), maintain the potential for future generations to meet their needs and aspirations, and be made in an open, transparent and inclusive manner.

It gives tangible effect to these principles for decision-making by establishing three objectives:

1. Safeguard the genetic diversity of wild salmon,
2. Maintain habitat and ecosystem integrity, and
3. Manage fisheries for sustainable benefits.

The WSP is not a program, as such is not part of the DFO Program Activity Architecture (PAA). As such, WSP is not the principle responsibility of any one sector, but relates to how all DFO sectors participate in the management of wild Pacific salmon.

Strategy 6 of the WSP commits the DFO to undertake a performance review to determine what is and is not working, and to encourage continuous improvement over time. Further, Strategy 6, Action Step 6.2 commits the Department to complete 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. On the basis of the review, the implementation of the policy will be revised to address shortcomings that may be reducing its effectiveness.

An independent review of the WSP will be required to examine the DFO's progress towards implementing the goals and objectives of the Policy.

The timeframe covered by the independent review is from June 2005 to October 2010.

## **METHOD**

The review will address the questions through:

1. Document and/or file review that involves the review and analysis of policy, management, and planning documents from various paper records or computer generated data.
2. Interviews, either individual or focus groups, which will be conducted with DFO staff, partners, external experts and target clientele.
3. External experts may contribute short written commentaries on key issues and participate in a panel discussion.

The data will be analysed, and a draft and final report will be prepared.

The principal evaluation questions will be the following:

1. To what extent is WSP making progress in achieving its goal?
2. To what extent is WSP on track to achieving its objectives?
3. To what extent is the WSP governance structure well designed and implemented to ensure effective and efficient policy delivery?
4. To what extent have strategies and action steps occurred as planned?
5. To what extent do the WSP principles guide the Department's resource management decisions and activities pertaining to wild Pacific salmon?
6. To what extent have strategies and action steps produced the intended outputs and contributed to the goal and objectives?
7. Are there options for making WSP more responsive to the needs of the DFO and Canadians?
8. Are there any unintended outcomes, positive or negative, that can be attributed to WSP? If so, were any actions taken because of these?
9. Are there any internal/external factors and/or general challenges/barriers that influence the success of WSP?
10. Identify priority areas to focus on for future WSP implementation that make best use of the effort invested.