



Wild Salmon Policy

Presentation to Policy Committee

5 April 2002

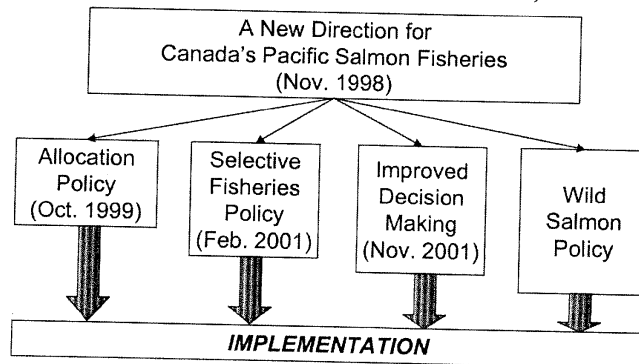
- Background
- Proposed Policy
- Proposed Timetable

3 April 2002



Wild Salmon Policy - Context

- Wild Salmon Policy (WSP) one of a series of policy documents stemming from A New Direction for Canada's Pacific Salmon Fisheries (released October 1998)



2



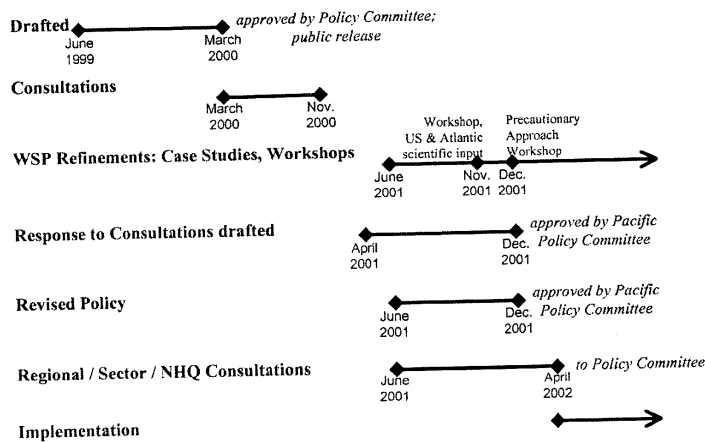
Wild Salmon Policy - Context

- WSP started in response to coho crisis - key element in New Direction to define conservation basis for managing salmon
- WSP delivers on Departmental Strategic Plan and New Direction principles in several important ways:
 - Transparent
 - Based on risk management framework for decision rules
 - Policy renewal - fisheries of the future
 - Moving forward on oceans and ecosystem management
 - Response to current drivers and directions
 - potential COSEWIC / Species At Risk responses (such as Thompson coho; Rivers & Smith, Cultus, & Sakinaw sockeye)
 - First Nations upriver FSC requirements and treaty demands (such as Nisga'a treaty)
 - Coho conservation issues (reduced harvest rate)
 - Places Departmental initiatives - Habitat Blueprint, Objective-based Fisheries Management, Aquaculture Policy Framework - in the context of sustainable salmon management

3



Wild Salmon Policy - History



4



Wild Salmon Policy - Proposal

1) **Primary goal** - *promote the long-term viability of Pacific salmon populations in natural surroundings, and the maintenance of fish habitat for all salmon life stages, for the sustainable benefit of the people of Canada*

2) **Principles**

– separate the vision from the implementation by collapsing 6 principles of draft policy into 3 general, overarching principles:

PRINCIPLE 1 - Conserve wild salmon by maintaining diversity of local populations and their habitats

PRINCIPLE 2 - Acknowledge and protect the key role that wild salmon play in their ecosystems

PRINCIPLE 3 - Use a transparent decision making framework, based on risk management, to develop operational guidelines for harvest, habitat, and fish cultivation activities.

5



Wild Salmon Policy - Proposal (con't)

3) **Develop Decision Making Frameworks**

– sets out how to translate WSP principles into effective management rules & how to apply risk management to operational guidelines for resource management, habitat, enhancement, and aquaculture

– for resource management, includes:

- Conservation Unit (CU) size
- Reference points - for stocks (local populations) and CUs
- Other rules - e.g. minimum mortality rate?

– existing background work and contextual drivers suggest:

- CUs for sockeye may be lake based
- implementation will require consultation and individual solutions within the framework
- implementation will proceed at an affordable pace, with priorities driven by conservation needs

6



Wild Salmon Policy - Operational Guidelines

- Operational guidelines will be developed for resource management, habitat, enhancement, & aquaculture
 - will include monitoring & performance assessment
 - requires significant First Nation, stakeholder, & public consultation
 - need to establish 5-10 year implementation plan
- Resource Management:
 - Fisheries Management to use CUs, RPs, & harvest rules to meet multiple objectives, such as conservation, treaty & FSC requirements, sustainable fisheries, and manageability
 - link to: selective harvesting (to take advantage of fishing opportunities), improved decision making (for consultation), & objective based fishery management
 - Stock Assessment role to provide advice on CUs, RPs, & harvest rules and assess long-term viability of salmon populations at CU and local level to ensure local populations within each CU are conserved

7



Wild Salmon Policy - Operational Guidelines (con't)

- Habitat
 - review consistency of habitat operational guidelines to WSP through implementation of the Habitat Blueprint in Pacific
- Enhancement
 - WSP does not preclude enhancement, but does require that activities protect genetic diversity & long-term viability of wild salmon
 - develop Enhancement Policy encompassing existing & updated guidelines to define how enhancement projects are planned & evaluated
 - consultation through watershed planning process
- Aquaculture
 - work with regional implementation of Aquaculture Policy Framework to ensure that aquaculture practice is consistent with the WSP goals
 - need to include Province

8



Wild Salmon Policy - Sector Implications

- Fisheries Management
 - additional work to implement CUs & RPs (detailed consultations with stakeholders, FNs, public)
 - adapting salmon harvest plans to CUs and RPs may change fishing levels and locations
 - determine phased approach to implementation
- Habitat & Enhancement
 - additional work to review existing habitat, enhancement, & aquaculture guidelines for consistency with WSP
 - co-ordination with other agencies dealing with environment, such as Province, Environment Canada
 - may change view of critical habitat, zoning may become a key approach
- Science
 - additional work to define and advise on implementation of CUs & RPs, monitor and assess salmon stocks at CU and population levels
 - dealing with uncertainty

9



Wild Salmon Policy - Challenges

- High expectations
 - considerable public, stakeholder, & First Nation interest in WSP & its implementation
- Large, complex task, but inevitable
 - implementation phased over 5-10 year period
 - significant commitment of time & resources for DFO & stakeholders to develop operational guidelines and subsequent harvest rules
 - implications for users will be an explicit component of consultation on decision making frameworks
 - DFO cost will be identified and considered in the development of decision making frameworks
- Involvement of Others
 - First Nations, Province, other government departments, commercial & recreational fishers, environmental organizations, communities, public
 - all with a significant stake

10



Wild Salmon Policy - Proposed Timetable

Immediate:

- prepare WSP Policy Statement on 3 elements of proposal (goal, 3 principles, decision making frameworks)
- revise consultation response document (for WSP & SEP Direction) to reflect Policy Committee decisions

April to October 2002:

- develop draft decision making framework for Resource Management
- lead by Fisheries Management & Stock Assessment; involvement of all sectors - Region & HQ

October to April 2003:

- consultation to review draft framework and start development of operational guidelines (harvest rules) for key stocks/fisheries (e.g., Thompson coho)

April to December 2002:

- develop discussion paper reviewing existing guidelines for habitat, enhancement, and aquaculture and recommending changes for consistency with WSP
- lead by Habitat & Enhancement; involvement of all sectors - Region & HQ

January to April 2003:

- consultation on discussion paper

11



Wild Salmon Policy - Decisions

• Approve:

- Primary goal and 3 principles
- Initiate development of draft decision making frameworks for Resource Management and Habitat / Enhancement / Aquaculture
- Develop phased implementation plan - pace driven by affordability, conservation priorities, and necessity (e.g., treaty, SARA)
- Fall 2002 / Winter 2003 consultation on frameworks

• Options for public release:

- Minister releases policy statement, response document, and timetable now; draft Resource Management decision making frameworks in Oct. 2002 for consultation
- Department releases response document now & announces more to follow in fall; Minister releases policy statement, draft Resource Management decision making framework, timetable in Oct. 2002
- Minister releases everything in Oct. 2002

12