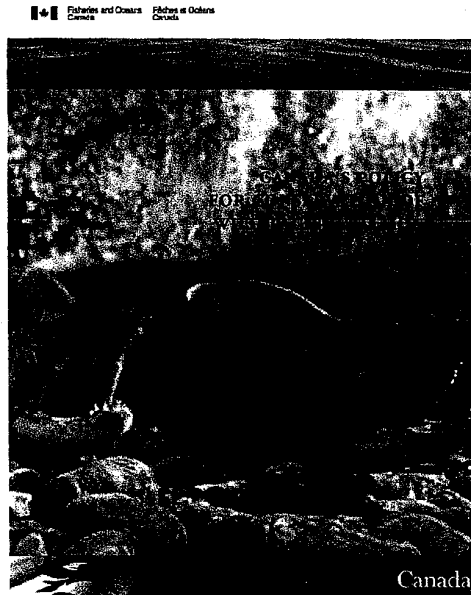


Operations Committee

WSP Strategy 4 Update: Integrated Planning

June 25, 2009



➤ Provide an update on Wild Salmon Policy Strategy 4 implementation progress

1. Identification of planning units (i.e. scale for integrated planning)
2. Process for determining priority planning CUs
3. Work Plan Update (Fraser River sockeye, Barkley Sound sockeye, Skeena River (sockeye))

➤ Discuss key challenges re implementation and seek direction on;

- appropriate scale for WSP integrated plans
- proposed approach for identifying priority planning areas (i.e. Rapid Screening)
- developing rapid screening process for Conservation Units (CUs)



1) IDENTIFICATION OF PLANNING UNITS

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WHAT NEEDS TO BE INTEGRATED IN STRATEGIC PLANS?

- Holtby et al has identified 420 CUs that need to be considered in developing strategic plans. This will required integration of:
 - Information on conservation unit abundance and habitat/ecosystem status.
 - Social and economic interests of people (both harvest and non-harvest).
 - Interests of other land, forest, water and marine area users.

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HOW IS INTEGRATION TO BE ACHIEVED?

- 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.

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KEY IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

- Local area committees currently exist in only a few areas of Pacific region.
- There are numerous data and information gaps for weaker and smaller conservation units.
- Lack of departmental authority over many areas of land and water use and no way of requiring other agencies/governments to participate.
- Limited capacity both internally and externally to engage in the detailed planning called for in the WSP.
- Where possible need to link to existing processes

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ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES

- A practical, efficient and incremental approach to implementation.
- Selection of a manageable scale at which to develop plans.
- Prioritization of planning efforts.
- Building on established (regional and more localized) planning for salmon and evolving it to more closely conform to the direction and intent of the WSP.

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WHAT IS AN APPROPRIATE SCALE FOR PLANNING?

- Planning at the scale of 420 CUs is impractical and requires amalgamation.
- The amalgamation should reflect:
 - Geographically adjacent and ecologically similar units that likely need to be managed in similar ways;
 - Aggregations of units that resonate with First Nations and encourage their involvement in planning, and;
 - Aggregations of units that fit well with the direction of the Province with respect to decision-making within its areas of jurisdiction.
- Planning scale should consider how First Nations' are aggregated and possible Treaty arrangements.

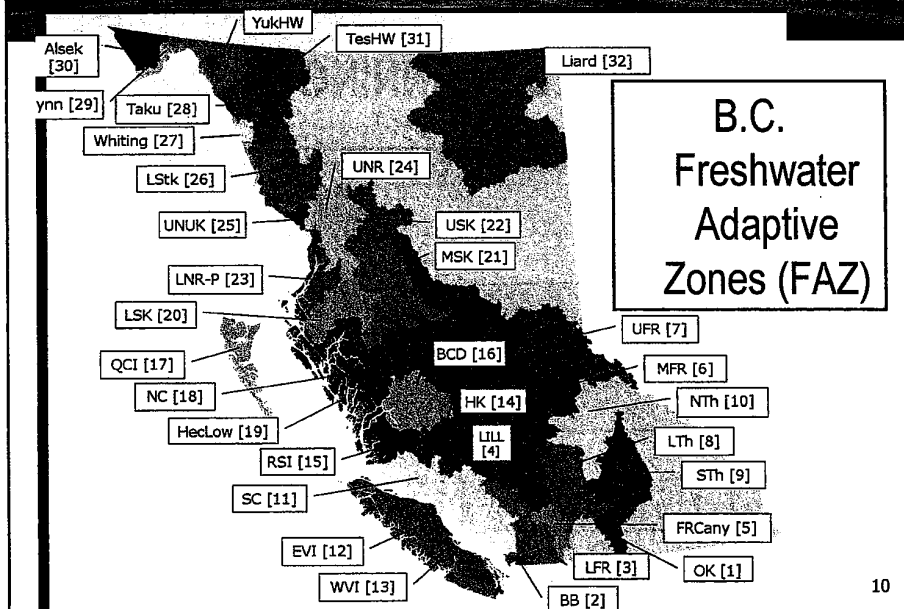
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AN APPROPRIATE SCALE FOR PLANNING

- From these perspectives, planning at the scale of the Freshwater Aquatic Zones (FAZ) identified by Holtby et al seems appropriate.
- Each FAZ represents a discrete geographic area that includes watersheds, rivers and streams and contain salmon populations that "are more likely to be interchangeable".
- There are 32 FAZ Units in B.C. (23 excluding transboundary areas).

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AN APPROPRIATE SCALE FOR PLANNING

- However, this scale does not always accord well with harvest planning needs for the fishery.
- For many areas of the BC coast, a second larger scale, Fisheries Production Area (FPA), planning process will always be needed.
- In addition, establishing the local area committees for every FAZ throughout Pacific Region FAZ may simply not be achievable in any realistic time frame.
- And detailed planning at this scale will be incremental at best.

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PROPOSED PLANNING SCALE

Fisheries Production Areas for the BC Coast	# of Freshwater Aquatic Zones
West Coast of Vancouver Island	1
Queen Charlotte Islands	1
Nass River	2
Skeena River	3
Central Coast	4
South Coast Inside	3
Fraser River	9
Total	23

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2) PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHING PRIORITY PLANNING CONSERVATION UNITS (i.e. RAPID SCREENING PROCESS)

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PRIORIZING PLANNING EFFORTS AND BUILDING ON ESTABLISHED PROCESSES

- There are some areas where FAZ more closely reflect fisheries planning needs (e.g. WCVI and QCI).
- An existing structure that aligns with WSP needs (i.e. the Aquatic Management Board) is already in place on the WCVI.
- A Pilot has already been initiated for Barkley Sound and WCVI may be an appropriate area to undertake a comprehensive integrated planning pilot for an entire FAZ.

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PRIORIZING PLANNING EFFORTS AND BUILDING ON ESTABLISHED PROCESSES

- There are areas of the coast (e.g. Skeena and Fraser Rivers) that require harvest planning at a broader Fisheries Production Area scale.
- Extending Fraser River Sockeye Spawning Initiative (FRSSI) type harvest planning to other species and these other geographic areas will anticipate this need.
- This will help to evolve IFMP processes towards establishing long term harvest rules rather than annual fishing plans.
- This more closely aligns with the direction of the WSP.

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BENEFITS OF THE APPROACH

- A comprehensive integrated planning pilot will begin to identify pitfalls and problems in developing these types of plans.
- Will show the Department's commitment to the WSP through:
 - An early example of comprehensive integrated planning in at least one area of the coast (e.g. Skeena River).

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ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES FOR IMMEDIATE PLANNING EFFORTS

- Will assess all 420 CUs
- Will use existing escapement data to assess status relative to COSEWIC criteria and proxy WSP benchmarks.
- This process could be developed by late fall 2009.
- Each of these CUs in the red zone would be linked to their associated CU('s), their relevant FAZ and FPA.

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SELECTING APPROPRIATE PRIORITIES FOR IMMEDIATE PLANNING EFFORTS

- Ranking of the short list would then proceed on the basis of several specific criteria.
- An initial ranking factor would be the relative importance of the "Stock" in the context of the WSP (e.g. based on the number of impacted CUs).
- Subsequent ranking factors would include the importance to (First Nations, commercial and recreational) fisheries, habitat status within the associated FAZ and so on.
- An overall ranking would reflect all of these considerations.
- In addition, information from the ranking matrix would be used to identify the appropriate type and scale of planning (e.g. broad based fisheries planning/FPA scale or localized habitat planning/FAZ scale or below).

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BUILDING ON ESTABLISHED PLANNING PROCESSES FOR SALMON

- A final selection criteria for pilots or priority watersheds would reflect existing planning capacity.
- This would assess the extent to which established planning processes/infrastructure are adequate to:
 - Proceed immediately;
 - Proceed after modest improvements/changes;
 - Proceed only after major efforts.

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ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES FOR IMMEDIATE PLANNING EFFORTS

- Pros
 - Consistent with WSP categories (red, amber, green) and CU framework
 - Uses the importance of the Stocks of Concern/CU's to the maintenance of the wild salmon resource in helping to determine planning priorities.
 - ENGO's are already embarking upon a similar process. Developing our own assessment would allow us to control framework and assessment.
- Cons
 - May require either a small amount of additional resources or re-prioritization of current resources
 - Once established will be used by critics as a performance measure on WSP

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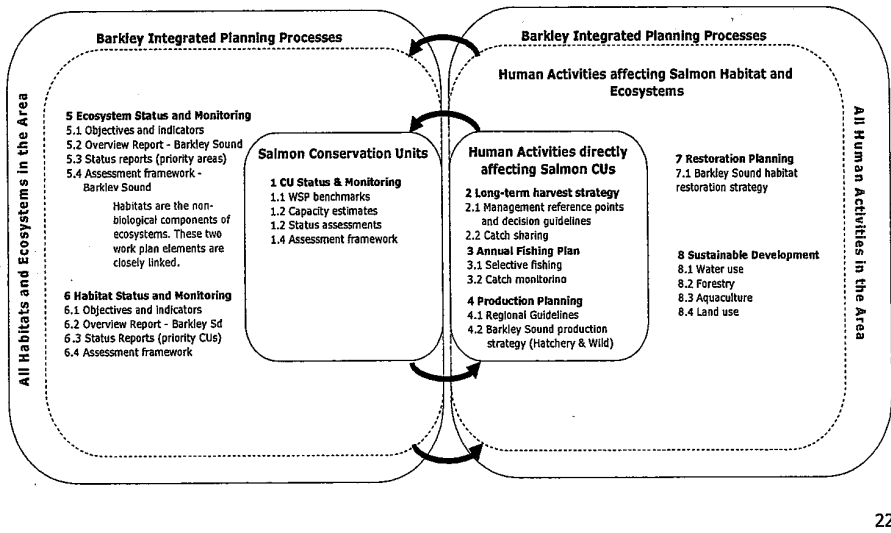


3) WORK PLAN UPDATE

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WSP INTEGRATED PLAN OUTLINE



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Progress	Next Steps	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed comprehensive work plan for Barkley Sound Pilot• Completed draft Barkley Sound discussion paper• Initiated development of production planning model for Barkley Sound chinook and sockeye	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fall consultations with First Nations and other interested parties on production planning for chinook and sockeye using Structured Decision Making (4)¹• Economic analysis of Barkley Sound salmon (4)• Identification of Barkley Sound CU WSP benchmarks fall 2011 and fall 2010 possible with additional resources (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scale and scope of planning units• Stakeholder expectations for implementing planning pilots in other areas• Area capacity and resources required for implementation of strategic plans

¹Reflects chapter headings slide 22

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Progress	Next Steps	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed FRSSI planning process for 2009• Completed Summary report (WAVES)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fall consultations with First Nations to broaden their input into the Fraser River sockeye WSP planning process. Potentially leading to a co-management framework in conjunction with IFRAWG/ Fraser Fisheries Forum (4)• Identification of Fraser River sockeye CU WSP benchmarks PSARC spring 2010 (1)• PSARC review of Fraser R. sockeye model used to assess alternative management strategies (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scale and scope of planning units• Determine priority planning units• Stakeholder expectations for implementing planning pilots in other areas• Area capacity and resources required for implementation of strategic plans

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Progress	Next Steps	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed Skeena report Independent Science Review• Completed economic analysis report Skeena fisheries• Commenced multi-sector consultation via Skeena watershed process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue multi-sector consultation (4)• Review of Skeena River sockeye CU WSP benchmarks PSARC fall 2011 (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scale and scope of planning units• Determine priority planning units• Stakeholder expectations for implementing planning pilots in other areas• Area capacity and resources required for implementation of strategic plans

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KEY ISSUES AND QUESTIONS

- We propose to use FPAs in combination with FAZs to identify 23 planning WSP units. Do you have concerns with the proposed approach for determining planning scale?
- We proposed to complete a rapid screening process by the fall 2009. Do you support re-prioritization of resources to make this occur?
- Are there gaps in the proposed 2009/10 work plan activities and do you have concerns with the timelines related to the current pilots?

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