



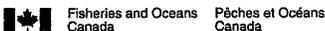
Operations Committee

**WSP Strategy 4 Update:
Integrated Planning**

June 25, 2009



Canada



➤ **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)

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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 require 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?

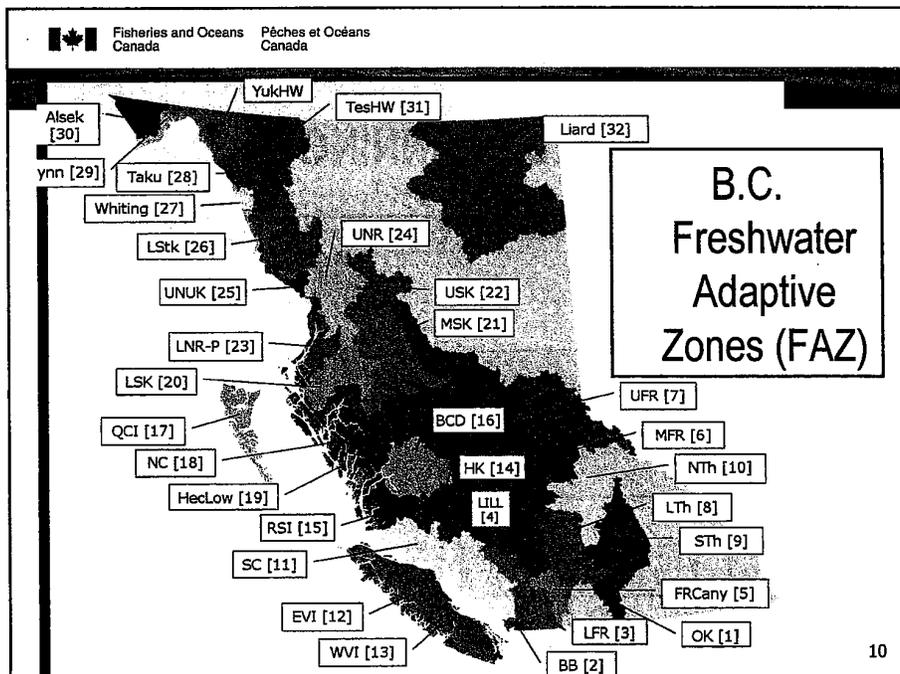
- Planning at the scale of 420 CUs is impractical and requires amalgamation.
- The amalgamation should reflect:
 - Geographically adjacent and ecologically similar units that likely need to be managed in similar ways;
 - Aggregations of units that resonate with First Nations and encourage their involvement 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

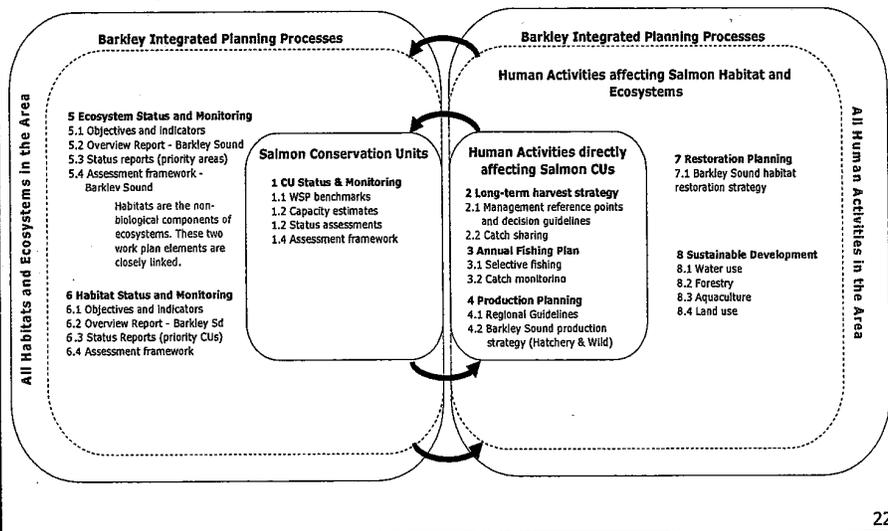
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3) WORK PLAN UPDATE



WSP INTEGRATED PLAN OUTLINE





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



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



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



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?