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# Update and Strategic Approach to Implementation of WSP Strategy 4

Strategic Directions Committee (SDC)

April 14, 2011





## Purpose

- Provide overview of WSP Strategy 4, context and strategic considerations
- Outline progress, work to-date and “lessons learned”
- Identify key gaps, challenges and opportunities
- Seek SDC guidance on an approach, including:
  - Strategies to address gaps, challenges and opportunities; and
  - Overall strategy for advancing Strategy 4 over the short, medium and long-term



## Context

- Salmon planning / management key part of DFO's core mandate
- The Department engages in a wide range of activities and processes:
  - Consultation and engagement with First Nations (bilateral, multilateral)
  - Direct consultation with CSAB, SFAB and others
  - Integrated Harvest Planning Committees (IHPC)
  - Various roundtables, watershed and ocean planning processes
  - Integrated Salmon Dialogue Forum (ISDF)
- Many of these align with and support WSP goals and objectives (both directly and indirectly), including integrated planning envisioned under Strategy 4



## Strategic Considerations

- Strategy 4 largely contingent on Strategies 1-3
- DFO holds some (but not all) of the policy and management “levers”
- Linkage between Strategy 4 and other initiatives, both internal and external
  - MSC / Eco-certification, conditions for benchmark development
  - Watershed and oceans / coastal zone planning initiatives
  - Pacific Region “Co-Management Framework”
  - South Coast Chinook Management Framework
- Cohen Commission - significant focus on WSP and Strategy 4
- High stakeholder expectations regarding WSP Strategy 4 and pilots
- SARA – response to potential listings for salmon



## Overview of Strategy 4

- **Objective: develop long-term strategic plans for CUs, groups of CUs and their habitat**
- Action Step 4.1: Implement interim process for priority CUs
- Action Step 4.2: Design and implement a fully integrated strategic planning process for salmon conservation
- Strategic plans will integrate biological information (Strategies 1-3) with socio-economic information (Strategy 4), and identify:
  - Long-term biological targets for CU's and groups of CUs
  - Recommended resource management actions to protect or restore salmon, their habitat and ecosystems to achieve targets; and
  - Timeframes and priorities for action



## Action Step 4.2 (Long-Term Planning Process)

- **Action Step 4.2: Design and implement a fully integrated strategic planning process for salmon conservation**
  - “The Department will consult with First Nations, P/T governments, communities and stakeholders to design an effective integrated planning process that respects people’s interests in Pacific salmon, land and water uses, watersheds, fisheries and marine areas. This policy does not dictate that process. Those affected need to be directly involved in the process design and implementation.” (WSP, Strategy 4)
  - Bilateral consultation between Governments and First Nations
  - Integrated planning should follow an “open and formal procedure that will result in informed decision-making”

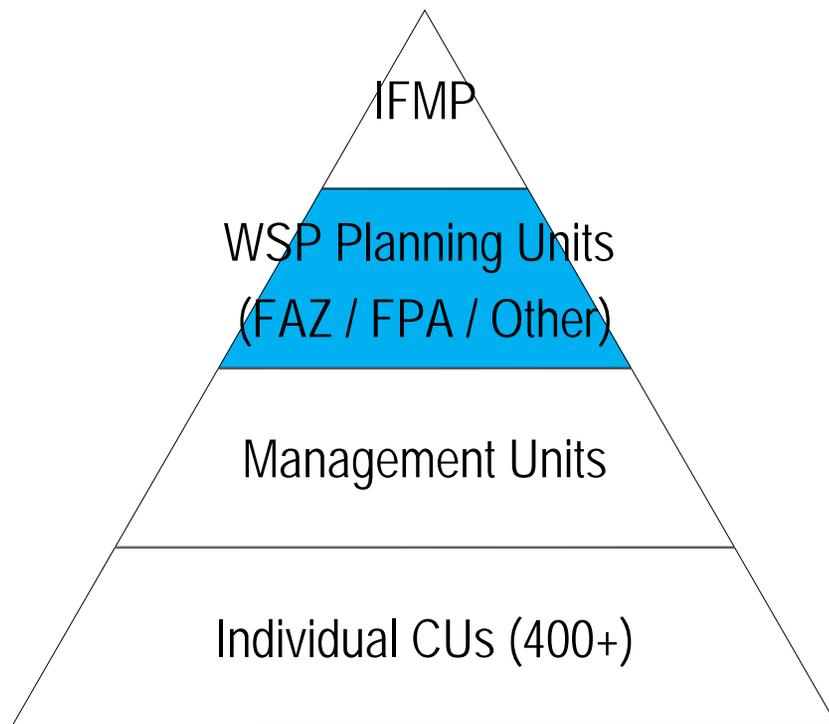


## Strategy 4 Update and Progress To-Date

- Primary focus on WSP “pilots” and foundational work
- OPS discussion (June 2009) re: scale for planning units and priorities
  - Support for planning unit approach (FAZ / FPA) but with flexibility (FAM lead)
  - FAM and Science to perform “rapid assessment” to determine priority CUs
    - Synoptic assessment (B. Holtby)
    - FAM/Science workshop (2009)
- Internal and external engagement re: Strategy 4
- Guidance papers and analysis (partial list)
  - S. Fraser papers on “Planning Units” and “Interim Guidance for Integrated Plans”
  - J. Gardner report on DFO workshop (March 2009)
  - J. Gardner paper for Watershed Watch/Suzuki Foundation
  - M. Nelitz paper for Suzuki Foundation (March 2009)
  - J. Irvine paper on “Lessons Learned” (2009)



## Scale of Planning Units for WSP



- Planning for 400+ individual CUs is impractical
- WSP reflects need to aggregate at a scale above individual CUs but below the IFMPs
- Approach discussed by OPS combined Freshwater Adaptive Zones (FAZ) and Fisheries Production Areas (FPA) to form planning units (~23 across the Region)
- Require further discussion and clarification regarding this planning scale



## Update on WSP Planning Initiatives (1)

- **Barkley Sound Salmon Initiative (Barkley Sound Pilot)**
  - Recent “re-launch” of Barkley Initiative (February 2011)
  - Workplan developed, building toward Strategic Plans
  - Foundational work underway (production plan, s/e analysis)
  - Benchmark paper for Barkley chinook and sockeye (Fall/Winter 2011)
  - Habitat status reports for Alberni/Barkley
    - Sarita complete and one forthcoming for Somass/Stamp
- **Fraser River Sockeye Spawning Initiative (FRSSI)**
  - Decision rules for sockeye management units which take into account status of CUs and assessment of impacts on CUs
  - Ongoing work on FRSSI model
  - Benchmark paper for Fraser sockeye under review (CSAP Nov '10)



## Update on WSP Planning Initiatives (2)

- **Skeena Watershed Initiative (SWI)**
  - Developed workplan focused on WSP (Strategies 1-4) and MSC
  - Focus on technical work, early scoping of integrated planning
  - Status papers for Skeena sockeye, Nass and Skeena chum under review (CSAP, November 2010)
- **Cowichan**
  - Status paper for Cowichan and Koksilah Chinook (drafted January 2010)
  - Habitat Status Report for Cowichan River Fall Chinook
  - *Cowichan State of the Environment and Ecosystem Status and Trends for the Strait of Georgia Reports (2010)*
  - Hatchery infrastructure and release strategies improved
  - Governance structure with local stewardship and fishery roundtables



## WSP Planning Pilots: What Have We Learned?

- Integrated planning is complex, resource intensive
- Capacity, interest and “readiness” of others to engage varies
- “One size doesn’t fit all”. However, need to balance clarity around objectives and expectations with flexibility to adapt to local priorities, capacity, etc.
- Need for clear governance structure, roles and responsibilities and accountability (internal and external)
- Need for clarity around deliverables (internal and external)
- Processes that have been successful (e.g. Cultus Lake, Skeena) have often focused on a defined issue or management objective



## Gaps, Challenges and Opportunities

- Resources (human and financial)
- Clarity regarding DFO's role, objectives and governance
  - Role in leading or supporting planning initiatives is not always clear
  - Internal coordination is lacking in some cases
  - Lack of clear governance structure for implementation of Strategy 4
  - Lack of a strategic plan or operational guidance for Strategy 4
- Lack of a clear or consistent governance structure for integrated planning processes
- Need an approach for integrating strategic plans into IFMP
- Increased role for First Nations, others via co-management initiatives
- Province of BC (Living Rivers) funding and capacity, Water Act changes



## Proposed Approach

- A more structured, strategic approach to Strategy 4 would help to address these challenges by:
  - Clarifying the scope and core DFO expectations regarding strategic plans
  - Establishing a clear internal (DFO) governance structure, including roles and responsibilities
  - Providing a template and clear guidance for DFO staff and our partners in developing strategic plans
  - Providing more focus for our efforts around Strategies 1-4 and improve coordination
  - Allowing for incremental (phased approach) to implementation
  - Balancing the need for progress with available resources and external considerations (e.g. Cohen recommendations)



## Potential Next Steps

### Short-term (May - December 2011)

- FAM / Science undertake rapid assessment to determine priority CUs
  - Return to OPS with list of high-priority CUs for consideration
- FAM develop principles and approach for identifying planning units/scales
- FAM / Areas develop draft guidelines and “toolbox” (e.g. template) for integrated strategic planning
- Develop an approach for inclusion of socio-economic information (NHQ paper)

### Medium-term (January – August 2012)

- Initiate “interim” planning processes for high priority CUs
- Develop draft “framework” for long-term integrated planning process

### Long-term (September 2012 - ?)

- Consult with First Nations and stakeholders on planning process
- Begin implementation of additional planning initiatives



## Discussion Questions

- Is there support for identifying high “priority CUs” as envisioned under Action Step 4.1 and the longer-term approach?
- How prescriptive should DFO be in terms of:
  - the content and format for integrated strategic plans?
  - the make-up and governance structure for planning processes?
- What is DFO’s role with respect to integrated strategic planning under WSP? Leader? Partner? Funder? Facilitator?
- What is DFO’s core objective / expectation regarding the Barkley Pilot? Skeena?