



## RECORD OF MEETING

**Date:** March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**Location:** Boardroom 2C, 401 Burrard St., Vancouver

**Purpose of Meeting:** Wild Salmon Policy (WSP) Work Planning 2011-2012

**Group/Advisory Committee:** Regional WSP Implementation Team

**Attendees:** Amy Mar (Chair), Wellsley Hamilton, Kim West, Melody Farrell, Corey Jackson, Carol Cross, Jim Irvine, Shaun Davies, Deborah Phelan, Heather Wood, Tom Robbins (p.m.), Mark Saunders (by phone) and Wilf Luedke (by phone)

**Regrets:** Neil Schubert, Kim Hyatt, Carrie Holt, Ryan Galbraith, Richard Bailey

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### **List of Materials Distributed:**

- Agenda
- WSP Implementation Draft Workplan
- WSP Implementation Timelines
- Draft Ops Committee Presentation: Update and Strategic Approach to Implementation of WSP Strategy 4
- Draft Ops committee presentation: Wild Salmon Policy Strategy 6 – Performance Review
- Draft Terms of Reference for Independent Review
- WSP Performance Measurement Framework

### **Key Issues Discussed:**

- **Strategy 1: Standardized monitoring of wild salmon status (M. Saunders)**
  - Difficult to assess budget for WSP for upcoming years because of uncertainties regarding strategic review and departmental cuts, which are likely to affect core business
  - Benchmarks will be considered highest priority
  - Two process questions on CUs could be explored further for 2011-12
    1. What is the process for revising/ updating CUs?
    2. What is the process for communicating changes to stakeholders?
  - Comments on CUs may be received and addressed but not communicated back to the originator
  - There needs to be a process in place to document what has been done, what changes have been done and why – centralizing/ standardizing comments and responses
  - Suggested that Stock Assessment Coordinating Committee could take this on
  - Agreement that the process should not be cumbersome or time consuming
  - Blair Holtby working on synoptic assessment methodology to determine the degree to which CUs are at risk; Blair is expected to present to CSAP in May 2011, however it was agreed that it would be of value to make a presentation to Operations Committee in advance for feedback

- **Reference Points vs. Benchmarks (J. Irvine)**
  - WSP was drafted to be consistent as practicable with the Species at Risk Act – differentiating between biological benchmarks and management reference points and those that take socio-economic factors into consideration
  - The term “benchmark” was chosen deliberately to differentiate the biological status zones
  - There are concerns about misrepresentation of WSP benchmarks in MSC documentation (lower and upper biological benchmarks referred to as “limit and target reference points” in MSC Action Plans for sockeye and chum)
  - Although unlikely original MSC document can be changed, language needs to be clarified to avoid confusion.
  - Will also need to be cross-referenced with SFF and Precautionary approach language
  - M. Saunders agreed to raise this issue with Arlene Tompkins, Chair of the Stock Assessment Coordinating Committee
- **Strategy 2: Assessment of Habitat Status (M. Farrell)**
  - Funding for habitat program unknown at this point, however there will be some funding for WSP this year
  - Looking for advice from the team as to how to prioritize and be as strategic as possible
  - Based on the team discussion, it was recommended that two approaches be explored:
    1. An assessment of CU status – determining areas where habitat is limiting based on status of CUs
    2. An assessment based on landscape pressures
  - It was recognized that these may not be mutually exclusive, but would be a good starting point for analysis
  - Due consideration will be given to the existing pilots which have been given priority by the department however South Coast Chinook which was identified as both a conservation and management priority of the department could guide Strategy 2 efforts this year.
  - M. Farrell and C. Cross will flesh out the two approaches discussed by the team and will work towards the proposed May timeline for presentation to Operations Committee.
  - M. Farrell to follow up with K. Hyatt and M. Saunders on habitat monitoring approach and integration of Strategies 2 & 3
- **Strategy 3: Inclusion of ecosystem values and monitoring (J. Irvine)**
  - Gave PowerPoint update on State of the Ocean reporting – ocean status research
  - State of Ocean reports offer timely overview of changes in marine conditions
  - Evidence suggests that there are strong linkages between Pacific Decadal Oscillation index (variations in ocean temperature) and copepod abundance
  - Copepods and other zooplankton are indicators of salmon health
  - Salmon survivals (and growth) in cool (La Niña) years better than warm (El Niño) years
  - Although not formally peer reviewed, State of Ocean reports contain information and approaches useful in understanding future salmon returns
  - A next step will be to link this information (e.g. PDO variations) with IFMPs – management issues will need to be factored in
  - Update provided on the coho salmon Bayesian Belief network – a program that links ecosystem parameters and uses historical time series of early marine survival – report is nearing completion
  - Discussion of the status and scope of the Ecosystem paper will be deferred until K. Hyatt is available.

- **Strategy 4: Integrated Strategic Planning**
  - ***Barkley Sound Pilot Update (W. Luedke)***
    - January 2011 public meeting and announcement of work to date, including discussion on priority activities
    - Next steps – there will be a DFO-FN technical review session and preparation for another public meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup> to present a prioritized list of activities based on benchmarks
    - Continue to influence local management plans, ensuring the fisheries plans are complementary
    - Priorities for the Workplan:
      1. Develop benchmarks (as committed to in MSC Action Plans)
      2. Develop chinook production plan
      3. Determine the harvest strategies for each zone
      4. Develop a local management plan
  - ***Strategy 4 presentation to Ops Committee (C. Jackson)***
    - Last time Strategy four was discussed by regional management was early 2009 – FAM was directed to develop guiding principles and return
    - Purpose of the presentation on April 14<sup>th</sup> is provide an update and seek advice on the implementation strategy for Strategy 4, including future actions
    - The team provided specific feedback on the deck presentation, including suggested changes to order of slides, wording and content
    - Also suggested that Strategy 4 be strategically linked to the Co-management framework and other departmental policy documents
    - A revised draft will be circulated for additional comment later in the week, with an aim of a final draft completed by Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.
- **Strategy 5: Annual Program Delivery**
  - Due to timing, discussion on Strategy 5 work planning was deferred to the next meeting
- **Strategy 6: WSP Performance Review (A. Mar)**
  - In general the team was supportive of the draft terms of reference
  - It was suggested that whomever is selected should have fisheries insight – there are pros and cons to both approaching individuals and putting the contract up for bid.
  - Specific comments to the ToR will be incorporated and a final draft will be circulated to the team.
  - Due to time constraints, it was requested that specific comments on the Strategy 6 presentation to Ops committee be submitted to A. Mar by the end of the week.

**Action Items:**

- M. Saunders to follow up with B.Holtby on synoptic assessment work and presentation to Ops Cttee prior to CSAP
- M. Saunders to follow up with A. Tompkins (Stock Assessment Coordinating Cttee) on process to review and provide feedback on CUs, and clarifying terminology around benchmarks/reference points
- M. Farrell to follow up with K. Hyatt and M. Saunders on discussion on habitat monitoring approach and integration of Strategies 2 & 3
- C. Jackson to revise draft Strategy 4 presentation based on discussion and circulate to team for further comment.
- A. Mar to revise Terms of Reference for Strategy 6 Performance Review
- A. Mar to revise Strategy 6 Ops presentation and circulate to team for further comment.

**Contact:**

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**cc:**

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