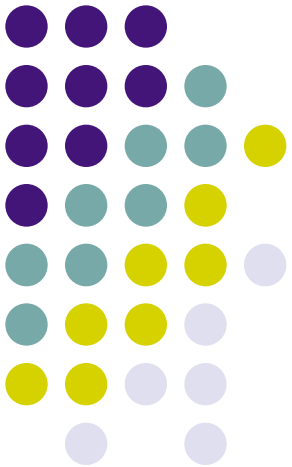
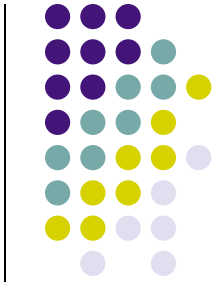
Fraser Sockeye Escapement Goals

Principles & Guidelines Document



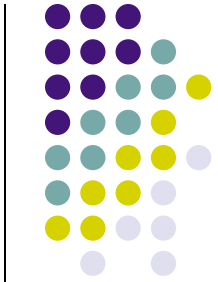
February 2013

Outline



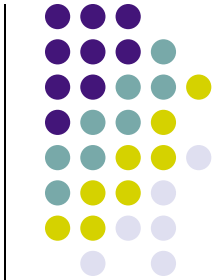
- Putting the Principles & Guidelines document (P&G) into context
- Potential uses of a P&G
- What *is* a P&G?
- What a P&G *isn't*
- Current P&G document structure
- Draft Principles
- sample guidelines
- next steps

Context



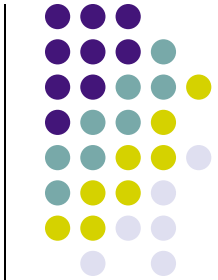
- P&G is focussed on setting and achieving escapement goals via harvest management
  - i.e., water use, habitat use, etc. are outside of the scope of this document
- P&G is meant to clarify, not conflict with, all existing DFO policies, including WSP

Potential uses of P&G



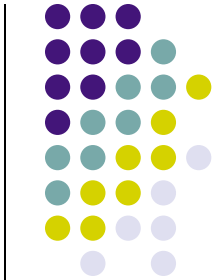
- general communication
  - on the principles behind developing and achieving escapement goals for Fraser Sockeye
- manager's guidebook
  - pre-season and in-season considerations
- IFMP insert
  - description of principles behind escapement plan and fisheries plans for Fraser Sockeye
- WSP Integrated Strategic Planning (strategy 4)
  - description of how WSP concepts are incorporated into the management of Fraser Sockeye fisheries

What *is* a P&G?



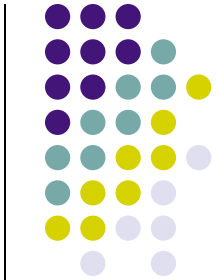
- outlines some current and potential future approaches used for planning and management of Fraser Sockeye fisheries
- pre-season: what needs to be taken into account during the decision making process for an escapement plan
- in-season: what needs to be taken into account when an escapement plan is implemented and fisheries are being planned
- identifies questions for future analysis and consideration

What a P&G *isn't*



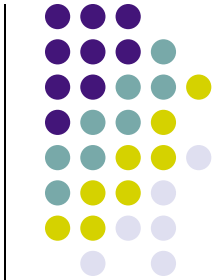
- …an allocation document
- …prescriptive
  - i.e., not instruction book (e.g. if this then that), but guidebook (e.g. describes what needs to be taken into account for making decisions under different sets of circumstances)
- …ever finalized
  - P&G will change as new information emerges and new lessons are learned

P&G Document Structure



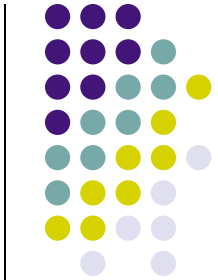
- Part 1: Principles
- Part 2: Executive Summary
- Part 3: Guidelines

Draft Principles (1 – 4)



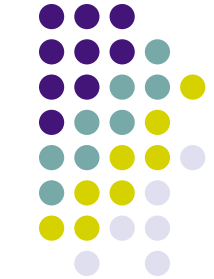
1. Fraser River sockeye harvests are managed for maximum sustainable benefits
2. Management of Fraser sockeye fisheries tries to account for key sources of uncertainty.
3. Fraser River sockeye harvests are managed in aggregates of one or more Conservation Units, called management units.
4. The only aspect under direct human control each year is the level of harvest and harvest levels change with abundance (i.e. small runs are managed differently from large runs).

Draft Principles (5-9)



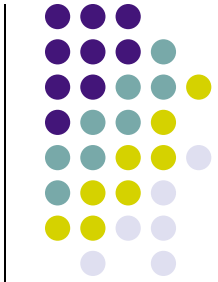
5. Fraser Sockeye management units (MUs) are not managed in isolation (i.e., harvest of Fraser sockeye MUs will take into account the abundance of co-migrating MUs, component CUs, as well as other species).
6. Aggregates dominated by highly cyclic CUs are managed differently from non-cyclic aggregates.
7. Additional management actions are taken for CUs at very low abundance or very poor status.
8. Additional management actions may be taken for management units or CUs at very high abundance.
9. Management plans for Fraser sockeye are subject to public review.

Sample Guidelines for Draft Principle #4



The only aspect under direct human control each year is the level of harvest and harvest levels change with abundance (i.e. small runs are managed differently from large runs).

Sample guidelines: “harvest levels change with abundance”

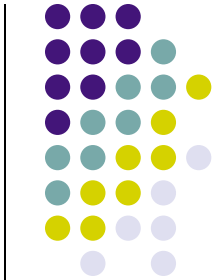


Aggregate Abundance Level	Management Approach
Low	Focus on incidental harvests and impact reduction measures (e.g. window closures, non-retention). Most of run is dedicated to gross escapement into the river, but en-route mortality may still result in substantial losses before they reach the spawning grounds.
Moderate	Stable spawning goal for the aggregate
Abundant	Spawner goals increase with run size

Sample guidelines: “harvest levels change with abundance”

Abundance Level	Management Approach
Very Low / Special Concern (at the CU level)	Increase spawner abundance above “low” abundance level. Fishery planning focuses on special measures that reduce incidental impacts from fisheries targeting other CUs or species (e.g. Cultus)
Low	Focus on incidental harvests and impact reduction measures (e.g. window closures, non-retention). Most of run is dedicated to gross escapement into the river, but en-route mortality may still result in substantial losses before they reach the spawning grounds.
Moderate	Stable spawning goal for the aggregate
Abundant	Spawner goals increase with run size
Very High (at the CU level)	Consideration given to increasing allowable ER by decreasing the management adjustment and/or increasing the TAM cap.

Next Steps



- gather feedback on principles
  - are there principles that are missing or need to be changed?
- distribute draft guidelines portion of the document for comment & feedback
- priorities for future work to help fill in some of the questions posed in the document will be identified by the Canadian Caucus of the Fraser Panel