

2016-2017 Wild Salmon Policy Consultations

Updated as of February 2017 (Further updates will be provided on DFO Website)

Canada's Policy for Conservation of Wild Pacific Salmon (Wild Salmon Policy) was released in 2005 after over six years of consultations and discussions. Following recommendations from the 2012 *Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River* (Cohen Commission) and an independent review of the Wild Salmon Policy (WSP) by Gardner Pinfole in 2011, as well as changes to legislation, policies, programs, and legal context relevant to conservation and sustainable use of Pacific salmon, work is being undertaken to develop an updated, 5-year implementation plan. This time bound document will allow parties to identify key priorities in the short-term and to ensure that progress is being made on an annual basis, in the context of work to date and mid- to long-term interests consistent with the goal and objectives of the Wild Salmon Policy.

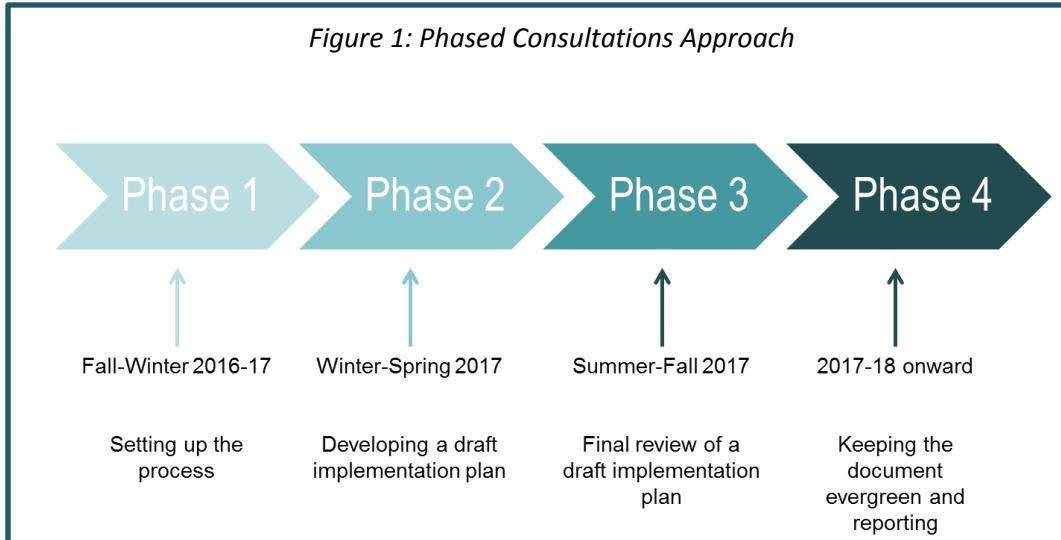
Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) does not and cannot implement the WSP without the help of others and therefore is working collaboratively with key partners to develop a 5-year implementation plan. This implementation plan will include guidance and activities, deliverables, timelines, and accountabilities, and will be kept updated as new projects and programs are implemented by DFO or by others.

Canada's unique relationship with Indigenous peoples in both BC and Yukon is central to how the WSP implementation plan is being designed and developed. Where possible, work on developing the WSP will build on existing collaborative, fisheries-related processes in place involving BC First Nations. In the Yukon, the development of the WSP implementation plan will respect the provisions of the Yukon Final Agreements and roles of the Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee and the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board.

The WSP implementation plan consultations will be comprehensive, involving four phases:

- Phase 1 (fall-winter 2016-17) involved working broadly with parties across BC and the Yukon to understand interests and set up the process.
- Phase 2 (winter-spring 2017) is beginning now, and will go through to May 2017. During this phase, work is being taken with key partners to collaboratively develop a draft implementation plan.
- Phase 3 (summer-fall 2017) involves consulting broadly with parties across BC and the Yukon on the draft implementation plan. Information about additional WSP-related activities being undertaken by First Nations, partners, and stakeholders across BC and the Yukon will be sought, and a final first draft of the document will be readied for approvals.
- Phase 4 is ongoing and will involve reviewing the implementation plan to ensure that it remains current, as well as reporting out on progress against the plan.

Figure 1: Phased Consultations Approach



Progress to Date

As a first step in engaging First Nations, stakeholders and the public, a series of meetings and public open house sessions were held between November 2016 and February 2017 in Kamloops, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Nanaimo, Vancouver, and Whitehorse. The purpose of these initial consultation sessions was to provide background on the Wild Salmon Policy, to discuss a proposed approach to developing updated five-year implementation plan, and to hear about Pacific salmon-related initiatives and work being undertaken by First Nations, partners, and stakeholders that could help to inform the plan.

What's Next

During winter-spring 2017 (Phase 2), DFO will be working collaboratively with key partners to develop a draft, five-year implementation plan. The timelines are ambitious because DFO intends to consult broadly on a collaboratively developed, draft WSP implementation plan by summer-fall 2017 (Phase 3).

It is expected that the draft implementation plan will include guidance, work planning (activities, deliverables, timelines, accountabilities), and reporting. Information is currently being organized under the broad themes of Assessment Work and Integrated Planning and Program Delivery, and emphasizes the need for collaboration to support the goal and objectives of the WSP. Where possible, information about WSP-related work being undertaken by those external to DFO will be incorporated into the deliverables section in order to provide a more complete picture of efforts to conserve and protect wild Pacific salmon in BC and the Yukon.

Following this, the WSP implementation plan will be finalized and posted on DFO's website and shared with consultation participants. During Phase 4 (2017-18 onward), focus will shift to keeping the implementation evergreen and reporting on progress. This will include incorporating additional information about WSP-related work identified by DFO First Nations, partners, and stakeholders into the deliverables section on an ongoing basis.