



Southern BC Chinook Strategic Planning Initiative

VISIONS

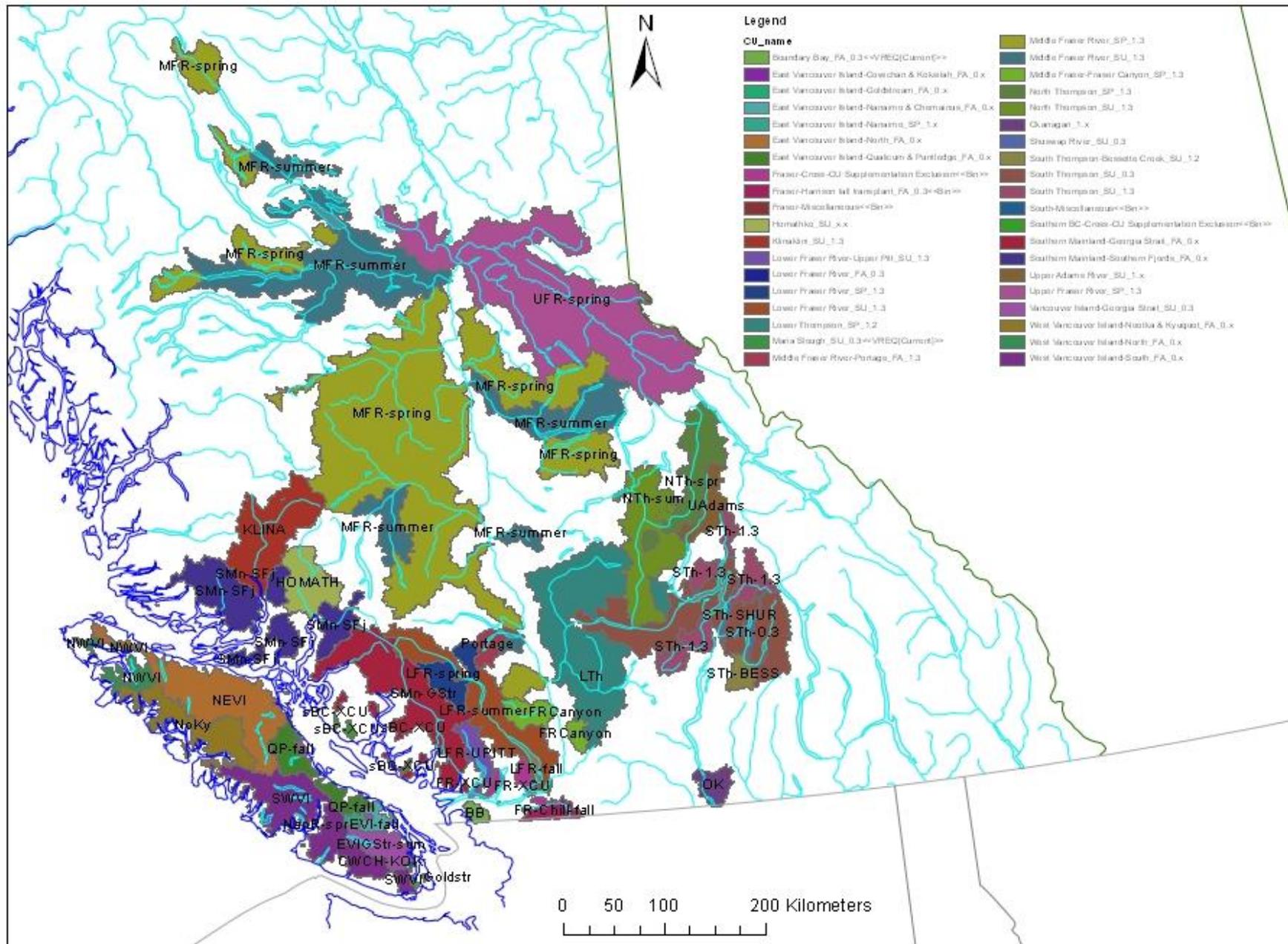
July 9, 2013



Background

- Broad pattern of decline, affecting many chinook populations in a range of geographic areas (Fraser River, Strait of Georgia, WCVI) in southern B.C.; however, not all populations affected (e.g. South Thompson)
- These populations are facing a number of potential challenges, including:
 - o depressed and/or declining spawner abundance;
 - o reduced and variable freshwater and marine survival rates;
 - o high uncertainty about future production;
 - o pressures on freshwater habitat;
 - o increased predation, and;
 - o ecosystem effects from climate changes.

Southern British Columbia Chinook Conservation Units





Background - 2

- Scoping work undertaken to:
 - Identify broad principles and objectives that will guide the process for development of a framework from both a DFO-First Nations bilateral perspective & a multi-interest perspective
 - Ensure current funding/resources context is understood and discuss options to conduct process and work in the most efficient and effective possible
 - Identify the overarching objectives, scope, process and timelines associated with the framework (including both Technical & Governance Processes)
 - Identify possible immediate action as well as longer term planning steps and considerations



Strategic Planning Considerations

- Propose following the structured planning procedure described in Appendix 2 of the Wild Salmon Policy (WSP)
- Iteratively examine potential fisheries, habitat and/or enhancement options
- Options would be assessed against biological, and socio-economic objectives and indicators
- Planning Bodies would consider the options and the Joint Technical Working Group would conduct the assessment of options.
- Challenge to incorporate socio-economic analyses



Southern BC Chinook Strategic Plan

Purpose/Objectives:

To develop an Integrated Strategic Plan that accounts for the biological status of southern BC chinook conservation units, their habitat and the ecosystem, that addresses the causes of any declines, and identifies the management actions necessary to remedy their status where possible.

Deliverables from this process will provide guidance to annual Integrated Fisheries Management Plans, fish culture production plans, habitat restoration work plans and community partnership agreements where possible.



Integrated Strategic Planning Process

Process will be consistent with structured 5 step planning procedure outlined in Wild Salmon Policy (see WSP Appendix 2) as follows:

1. **ID planning priorities** – informed by work of technical group on CU status and bottlenecks to productivity First Nations and stakeholders put forward priorities (e.g. rebuilding, maintaining fishery harvest levels, etc...)
2. **ID a range of possible alternative management strategies** – including fisheries management measures, habitat restoration, enhancement initiatives, etc...
3. **Establish biological, social and economic performance indicators** – First Nations and stakeholders identify indicators of importance for assessing management alternatives
4. **Assess likely impacts of management alternatives** – evaluation by appropriate technical experts
5. **Select the preferred management alternative** – reach as much consensus as possible and document differences to inform Ministers decision making.



Process

Planning process undertaken in three phases:

- **Phase 1 (Technical Analysis)**
 - to assess status of southern BC Chinook Conservation Units (34 CU's), determine potential bottlenecks and identify potential actions to improve status.
- **Phase 2 (Preliminary Planning)**
 - preliminary work on steps 1-3 of WSP planning
- **Phase 3 (WSP Strategy 4 - Integrated Strategic Planning)**
 - more detailed analysis of options and further refinement of actions



Proposed Timeline

| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--|---|--|--|------|
| Phase 1: Technical (TWG) | Conducts Technical Scoping Phase | Conducts Science Workshop | | |
| Phase 2: Evaluation & Planning (HSWG & HWG) | | Results Evaluated & Strategic Plan Developed | Strategic Planning Framework Steps 1-3 Completed | |
| Phase 3: Integrated Strategic Planning (SPC) | | | Strategic Framework Guides Development of Options (Steps 4-5) for Ministerial Approval | |
| Implementation | Implementation can occur throughout the process. DFO will incorporate options into existing management processes. | | | |



Governance Structure / Approach

- 1. DFO-FN Bilateral Steering Committee** - to oversee the overall process
- 2. Steering and Planning Committee (DFO-FN co-chairs)**
 - DFO, First Nations, participating interest groups (CSAB, SFAB, Marine Conservation Caucus, SEHAB) and Province of BC.
 - Terms of Reference developed to guide process
 - *Steering and Planning Committee* provides direction on development of the strategic plan
- 3. Technical Working Group (DFO-FN co-chairs)**
 - Technical experts from DFO, First Nations and other groups.
 - Co-ordinates scientific analyses to evaluate the status of Southern BC chinook, examine causes for their decline and then will transition to supporting the strategic planning process – e.g. develop performance indicators, conduct analyses of options

Relationship between SPC and TWG





Some Key Milestones to Date

- Initial process scoping meetings (*July 2011*)
- Initial meeting of Interim Steering Committee - *December 2011*
- *CSAS Special Science Response Process: **Review and update of SBC chinook conservation unit assignments** (February 2013)*
- *pre-COSEWIC workshop (March 2013): **Vancouver Island, Sunshine Coast and Fraser chinook Pre-COSEWIC Assessment Report.***
- **Phase 2 Preliminary Planning Workshop** - Summary report – Compass Resource Management (*March 2013*)



Some Key Milestones to Date

- ***Independent Science Workshop (May 2013)***: to identify bottlenecks to productivity of Southern BC chinook. (Independent Science Panel Report)
 - Final report available at: www.psc.org (under ‘What’s New?’)
- **Assessment of Southern British Columbia Chinook Salmon Conservation Units, Benchmarks and Status –CSAS process (February 2014)**
- **Final Report: Southern BC Chinook Strategic Planning Initiative: Alternative Strategic Directions for the Management of Southern BC Chinook Salmon – ESSA/ LGL (May 2014)**
- Planning for next steps (*Summer 2014*)



Process Support

- Support for planning process and technical work came from a variety of organizations, individuals and funding sources:
 - Existing DFO program funding and in-kind staff support
 - First Nations steering committee members and technical support supported by First Nations agreements
 - COSEWIC funding for pre-COSEWIC assessment
 - Pacific Salmon Treaty – Southern Endowment Funding for Independent Science Workshop
 - Planning process support through Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat (FRAFS) with PICFI funding (collaborative management)
 - Compass Resource Management (phase 2)
 - ESSA Technologies and LGL Ltd. (phase 3)