

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

* Transcribed

Institutional Change and the Wild Salmon Policy

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Canada's Oceans Strategy and Integrated Management: An introduction to the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA) Initiative

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Question: (21:30). I'd like to know a little more about how these two initiatives fit together. Both you and Mark seem to be talking about similar ideas at different scales. Have you thought about how they will fit together in the overall plan?

Answer: (21:57, Kotyk) I can't speak for Mark, but I know that one of the things that goes on, especially with this PNCIMA initiative, is that there is a lot of different processes that are underway right now. They could be through the Wild Salmon Policy, they could be through processes that are underway through environmental assessment aspects with particular projects that are underway for development. We've got a network of marine protected areas that's being developed. We have things such as areas of interest for new marine protected areas. There's a number of different things that all need to be drawn together so as we develop our plan, we have to take the information and the objectives that are happening through the Wild Salmon Policy and all through these other processes and draw them together, and that will help inform us on the development of this plan. But a lot of what it is we're trying to do through the PNCIMA Initiative is to set that vision. What is it that the North Coast ocean area needs to look like in 10 years, 15 years, 20 years? What is that vision or where is it that we want it to go to? And this is where we get into some of these spatial zoning aspects. What are some of the objectives we need to adhere to in different areas in order to achieve that vision? And so some of the things that, you're right there's a number of similarities, but again the purpose of what we're doing different from PNCIMA is to draw those things together so we can wrap them up into one plan for the North Coast.

Answer: (23:47, Saunders) It's a great question, Dave. I think the issue of scale is huge and I think Oceans has already taken [inaudible] large ocean management area (LOMA). There's a lot of debate, I know, around sort of a dotted line that goes to the headwaters and how that gets included in consideration of planning in the area. The Wild Salmon Policy recognizes that we have to do the reuse planning, which would fall under the process that Mel is talking about, but we also have to do watershed scale and fisheries scale. I think that scale, especially you could say instead of a LOMA a LAMA — a large aquatic management area — is that the Skeena? And I think this is sort of appropriate to the kind of thing we are talking about today. The DFO

Skeena Salmon Habitat Conference – September 15 & 16, 2009



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS—continued

is really sort of sitting down and trying to think around what are logical planning units for these groups of conservation units. What are the planning units that you would bring people together around in terms of those aquatic areas terrestrially? Brian and I have talked about this for years, but it's probably the order of 12 or 13 geographic areas about the size of the Skeena that you would want to try to break that up into. It gets back to forestry, the province has other boundaries, there's regional districts, forest districts. That would be a great discussion to have on what the right scale is to do this type of thing.

Question: (25:18) This is a question for Mark. I'm just wondering, in your opinion, what opportunities the implementation of the Wild Salmon Policy could have in impacting resource development decisions such as coal-bed methane in the Sacred Headwaters.

Answer: (25:40, Saunders) I think just about any one of those issues where fish are being impacted, the Wild Salmon Policy has a role to play in that. The information that it provides on the habitat, what is the status of the habitat, the importance of the habitat, status of the fish, and what is the interaction with any proposed activity, has got to be considered in the context of the plan that's there for that conservation unit. So, I think it will inform tremendously for a process that goes on around protecting. I haven't thought through what it might look like in the case of, specifically around coal-bed methane, but absolutely — most of the information is just not brought together in that standardized way to be available for those decisions to be made and that's what the policy is about.

Answer: (26:36, Brian Riddell) Further to that, the Strategy 4 is exactly the answer to that question. The intention of Strategy 4 is that local communities that are affected by local decisions should have a say in making those decisions. That's the point that was brought up this morning, of who really is appropriate to make some of these major long-term impact-type decisions? We can probably come back to that, but that's certainly is an important question.

Question: (27:04) This actually relates very closely to that, because the Pacific Salmon Forum's recommended an integrated model, pilots, to get that going. The Wild Salmon Policy seems particularly consistent with that. For about, certainly about a decade, decade and a half, or maybe even longer, we have had continually, in this part of the world, example after example of economic ideas not coming to fruition simply because, whether they were tenured or not they didn't have social licence. And that might come from integrated processes with proper information and opportunities for public dialogue and so on. What I'm interested in is whether the lead that the federal government seems to be willing to take through Wild Salmon Policy whether that has within it the ability or the leadership to actually bring the province to the table, because it seems pretty clear from Geoff's presentation that there's willingness within the staff within the agencies, but certainly not at this point political will, to take leadership on the provincial side. How do you see Wild Salmon Policy bringing the province into the game in a way that will allow you to be successful?

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS—continued

Answer: (28:50, Saunders) I don't see the Wild Salmon Policy bringing the province in. I see the province bringing us in. I think what John and Jon are looking for in the Living Water Smart is provincial policy that is going a long way to this notion of watershed governance. There was a project, Fraser Salmon Watersheds program, that I was hitching my wagon to. It's a collaborative watershed governance initiative, CWG is what we were calling it, and it's still alive. It brought together all the interests, both fishing, agriculture, mining, Union of BC Municipalities, around this notion of watershed governance, and trying to develop working with the University of Victoria, the POLIS (Project on Ecological Governance) group there, as well. What would the model look like for this watershed governance? To me, that was an initiative that was getting everybody to the table. We had a workshop, it was probably about a year ago now, that was extremely well attended and a series of focus groups where the municipalities, everybody, said we need this kind of a process. And I think that's where the pull is going to come. I don't think DFO is going to pull the province anywhere. I think it needs to come — we're certainly there to provide leadership but not to lead, I would say, in terms of the work DFO has been doing.

Comment: (30:35, Riddell) I think that is a good question to keep in mind as we move forward in the next two days. I think Mark really does encapsulate it, and it's not really the role of the Wild Salmon Policy to entice the province along, but they have a number of initiatives on their own that are significant steps forward. And when we talk about watershed-based governance there is lots of support. So it really is a matter of, who's going to step forward first and how do we actually make that work? And really it could be an initiative such as this where you have a significant commitment of a major chunk of real estate that could take on a number of serious questions. It could be an excellent pilot and show the values of people working together and committed that would really entice government to make the next steps. It's something to keep in mind.