

**PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION JOINT
TRANSBOUNDARY TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**TRANSBOUNDARY PANEL STRATEGIC
SALMON PLAN**

REPORT TCTR (09)-1

Report developed by the Transboundary Panel and the
Joint Transboundary Technical Committee at meetings held:
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ACRONYMS

ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
BEG	Biological Escapement Goal
CV	Coefficient of Variation
CWT	Coded Wire Tag
DFO	Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada
GIS	Geographic Information System
GSI	Genetic Stock Identification
ID	Identification
PIT	Passive Integrated Transponder
PST	Pacific Salmon Treaty
SEPP	Stikine Enhancement Production Plan
TEPP	Taku Enhancement Production Plan
TTC	Transboundary Technical Committee

Introduction

The *Transboundary Panel Strategic Salmon Plan* was developed by the Transboundary Panel of the Pacific Salmon Commission to provide strategic guidance for addressing priority information needs/data gaps related to salmon stock assessment, enhancement, or habitat restoration in the transboundary Alsek, Taku and Stikine Rivers (Figure 1). The Panel identified development of this strategic plan as an important Northern Fund activity in 2008 and obtained support from the fund for its development.¹

The bilateral Transboundary Panel is chartered to provide information and make recommendations on Annex IV, Chapter 1 of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) for stocks of salmon originating in the Alsek, Taku, and Stikine Rivers.² The Transboundary Technical Committee (TTC) assists the Panel.

Plan Purpose

The *Transboundary Panel Strategic Salmon Plan* identifies projects, programs or actions that are important to meeting the obligations of Transboundary Rivers Agreement (Annex IV, Chapter 1) for the period 2009-2018,³ or that would conserve salmon and benefit salmon management on the transboundary rivers. The Transboundary Panel will use the plan to:

- Identify the Panel's view of programs or actions useful to meet its objectives for salmon conservation, harvest and enhancement; and
- Develop the Panel's yearly recommendations to the Northern Fund Committee.

The Transboundary Panel is hopeful that the plan will also be considered by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada (DFO) and others in the allocation of resources to meet priority needs relevant to transboundary salmon stocks.

The plan includes:

- Goals and objectives relevant to salmon stock assessment, habitat restoration, and enhancement on the Alsek, Taku and Stikine Rivers.
- For each goal/objective, a list of on-going programs and new information needs/actions that should be addressed to accomplish these goals/objectives, and a brief summary of the points of the Panel's discussion relevant to the information needs/actions.

¹ Northern Fund Project NF-2008-I-27.

² The Transboundary Panel was established in Attachment A of the June 30, 1999 Pacific Salmon Treaty Agreement and authorized by Congress on December 15, 2000. Current Panel and Technical Committee members are listed in Appendix 1.

³ Pacific Salmon Treaty, Annex IV, Chapter 1, Transboundary Rivers, 2009-2018.

- Identification of the appropriate timing to address new information needs/actions, described as short- (1-2 years), mid- (3-5 years) or long-term (6-10 years).
- Guidance on plan implementation and updates.

Goals

The goals of the plan are:

Goal 1: SALMON MANAGEMENT – Maintain and improve the information base to support coordinated or cooperative management of the fisheries on transboundary stocks to implement the Bilateral Transboundary Rivers Agreement for 2009-2018.

Goal 2: SALMON ENHANCEMENT – Without compromising wild stocks, enhance salmon production where appropriate opportunities exist to generate returns that will contribute to fisheries and/or stock rebuilding.

Goal 3: SALMON HABITAT – Maintain, restore and/or enhance salmon habitat for the long-term productivity of transboundary salmon stocks.

These goals will be accomplished through the cooperative and coordinated efforts of the agencies and other entities that have the authority, obligation and/or expertise to conserve and manage transboundary river salmon, in the context of the Transboundary Rivers Agreement. This plan supports coordination with stakeholders and users of the resources, including the collection and application of traditional ecological knowledge in cooperation with the First Nations.

Plan Development and Updates

The Transboundary Panel developed the *Strategic Salmon Plan* with the assistance of the TTC. Panel and TTC members individually responded to a survey to initially identify information needs/actions in each of the three goal areas. The Panel and TTC then met in Vancouver, British Columbia, on January 14 and 16, 2009, and in Portland, Oregon, on February 12, 2009, to provide bilateral direction on the content of the final plan.

The Panel intends that the plan will be a dynamic document that will be reevaluated and updated every three years to respond to changing conditions and priorities.



Goal 1 Salmon Management

Goal 1: Maintain and improve the information base to support coordinated or cooperative management of the fisheries on transboundary stocks, to implement the Bilateral Transboundary Rivers Agreement for 2009-2018.

Objective 1.1

Continue cooperative general salmon management actions that contribute to implementation of the Transboundary Rivers Agreement.

Action Area	Actions/Projects	Timeframe
Coordinated Salmon Management Actions	Continue Annual Management Plan.	On-going
	Continue Annual Catch and Escapement Report.	On-going
	Present information to the Transboundary Panel and TTC about the feasibility and steps involved in developing a bilateral transboundary web-based database for primary data collected from fisheries and escapements.	Short (January – February 2010)
	Develop bilateral transboundary web-based database for primary data collected from fisheries and escapements, including age, size, gender and tag/mark/stock ID data. (See notes, below)	Mid-Long

Discussion Points:

- Developing a shared database would be very useful to staff and would facilitate efficient reporting. However, a common database does not yet exist.
- Web-based shared database would be expensive to develop; it would be essential to prioritize data entry. Need to consider the priority of this action (e.g., the funding and staff time it would require), relative to actions of more immediate and direct benefit to fisheries management.

Objective 1.2

Continue to develop and implement genetic stock identification (GSI) to increase knowledge and improve management of Transboundary Area salmon stocks.

Action Area	Actions / Projects	Timeframe
Implement Genetic Stock Identification	Continue to implement the recommendations related to Chinook and sockeye salmon from Report TCTR (07)-02, “ <i>Summary of the Transboundary Genetic Stock ID Workshop: January 18-19, 2007.</i> ”	On-going
	Continue collaborative TTC effort to identify and fill priority genetic baseline data gaps.	On-going
	Design methodology for sampling fisheries, to apply and evaluate use of GSI as a stock separation tool.	Mid
	Incorporate GSI into the stock identification (ID) and management regime.	Long

Discussion points:

- Annex IV of the Transboundary Rivers Agreement states that commencing 2009, Parties agree to implement through the TTC an agreed Chinook GSI program to assist in the management of Stikine and Taku Chinook salmon.⁴
- The Annex also states that Parties agree to implement through the TTC an agreed Chinook GSI program for Alsek Chinook.⁵
- It is anticipated that GSI may provide improvements in accuracy, precision and timeliness, compared with existing stock ID methods (i.e., brain parasite, scale pattern analysis).
- The TTC met on January 18-19, 2007, to jointly develop a GSI program for use in the inseason abundance-based management of TBR Chinook and sockeye salmon (funded by Northern Fund Project NF-2006-I-21). The workshop report (TCTR 07-02) evaluated gaps in the GSI baseline and established a process for bilateral collaboration in identifying priorities and developing proposals for transboundary GSI projects for completing the genetic baseline.
- Incorporation of GSI into the management regime will require multiple years of comparison of GSI results with existing stock ID methods (ground-truthing).
- The TTC will need to evaluate and recommend when GSI should be implemented as the primary or sole stock ID method to determine stock composition for specific rivers/stocks.
- Over the long-term, agencies should collect genetic baseline data for transboundary coho salmon. (Agencies do not anticipate using GSI baseline for

⁴ Annex IV, Chapter 1, paragraphs 3(a)(3)(vii) and (b)(3)(vi).

⁵ Annex IV, Chapter 1, paragraph 3(c)(iv)(b).

coho management in Southeast Alaska, but it is prudent to collect and archive genetic tissues, as they are available.)

Objective 1.3

Continue to fully develop and implement abundance-based management⁶ regimes for the following stocks:⁷

- **Alsek River Chinook**
- **Alsek River sockeye**
- **Stikine River coho**

ALSEK CHINOOK

Action Area	Actions/Projects	Timeframe
Escapement Objectives	Develop drainage-wide biological escapement goal (BEG) and review the Klukshu specific BEG. (Contract in place; expect completion in spring 2009).	Short
Abundance for Management – Preseason Forecasting	Continue existing preseason forecasting program.	On-going
Abundance for Management – Inseason Abundance	Improve existing inseason abundance program.	On-going
Stock Assessment	Continue Klukshu weir.	On-going
	Continue aerial surveys.	On-going
	Review test fishery sampling program (including non-lethal sampling) to annually collect biological samples (e.g., DNA, age, sex, size) to enable run reconstruction.	On-going
	Consider reimplementation of wild stock coded-wire-tag (CWT) program.	Mid
	Consider reimplementation of inriver mark-recapture program.	Mid
	Consider feasibility of using sonar or other technology to enumerate fish passage in the lower river. (See notes, below)	Mid

⁶ Abundance-based management refers to management of fisheries harvest in a manner that is responsive to in-season stock abundance, to allow escapements within ranges necessary to conserve and sustain potential salmon production.

⁷ Annex IV, Chapter 1, paragraph 2.

Objective 1.3 – Alek Chinook, continued		
Action Area	Actions/Projects	Timeframe
Stock Assessment (continued)	Monitor Canadian Wild Salmon Policy conservation units' relative abundance through use of GSI or other methods.	Mid-Long
	Investigate fish size trends on the Blanchard and Klukshu Rivers.	Long
Catch Monitoring	Continue Dry Bay catch monitoring.	On-going
	Implement First Nations fisheries monitoring and continue Canadian sport fisheries catch monitoring. Monitoring includes numbers harvested and biological data.	Short

Discussion Points:

- Stock Assessment – Feasibility study should be done on a low budget using rented sonar equipment, with contractor assistance. Also of interest for Alek sockeye.

ALSEK SOCKEYE

Action Area	Actions/Projects	Timeframe
Escapement Objectives	Update BEG. ⁸ Includes drainage-wide escapement goal and Klukshu specific BEG, with early and late run targets.	Short
Abundance for Management – Preseason Forecasting	Continue existing preseason forecasting program.	On-going
Abundance for Management – Inseason Abundance	Improve existing inseason abundance program.	On-going
Stock Assessment	Continue Village Creek weir.	On-going
	Continue Klukshu weir.	On-going
	Evaluate feasibility of using GSI in conjunction with a sampling program to estimate total abundance.	Short
	Consider feasibility of using sonar or other technology to enumerate fish passage in the lower river. (See notes, below)	Mid
	Monitor Canadian Wild Salmon Policy conservation units' relative abundance through use of GSI or other methods.	Mid-Long
	Consider marking out migrating smolt at weir with Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags, for recapture as adults in US commercial fishery. (May be able to use data to generate an in-season estimate applicable to the year the adults are returning.)	Long
Catch Monitoring	Continue Dry Bay catch monitoring.	On-going
	Implement First Nations fisheries monitoring and continue Canadian sport fisheries catch monitoring. Monitoring includes numbers harvested and biological data.	Short

Discussion Points:

- Stock Assessment – Feasibility study should be done on a low budget using rented sonar equipment, with contractor assistance. Also of interest for Alsek Chinook.

⁸ Required through Annex IV, Chapter 1, paragraph 3(c)(1).

STIKINE COHO

Action Area	Actions/Projects	Timeframe
Escapement Objectives	Continue test fishery at border as an indicator of escapement. (See notes, below)	On-going
	Consider feasibility of using sonar or another method for abundance estimate at border.	Mid
	Work toward development of escapement goal (e.g., use information from sonar enumeration and test fishery results).	Long
Abundance for Management – Preseason Forecasting	Continue practice of characterizing Stikine coho run outlooks annually (generally as below average, average or above average.)	On-going
Abundance for Management – Inseason Abundance	Continue test fishery at border as an indicator of abundance.	On-going
Stock Assessment	Continue aerial surveys.	On-going
	Consider reimplementation of mark-recapture program, to improve estimates of escapement. (See notes, below)	On-going
	Evaluate the test fishery for its use in estimating abundance.	Mid
	Monitor Canadian Wild Salmon Policy conservation units' relative abundance through use of GSI or other methods.	Mid-Long
Catch Monitoring	Continue CWT recovery program in in-river fishery.	On-going

Discussion Points:

- Escapement:
 - First Nation concern that in some years the coho escapement is perceived to be inadequate.
- Stock Assessment:
 - LGL Ltd. is preparing a summary of results of the Stikine coho CWT program to date (available February 2009).
 - Note that there are too few fish examined to recover CWTs to estimate theta (θ) with acceptable precision.

Objective 1.4

Continue to implement and refine abundance-based management regimes for the following stocks:⁹

- **Stikine River Chinook**
- **Stikine River sockeye**
- **Taku River Chinook**
- **Taku River sockeye**
- **Taku River coho**

STIKINE CHINOOK

Action Area	Actions/Projects	Timeframe
Escapement Objectives	Review Stikine Chinook escapement goal with new smolt data (Bernard, et al., 2000). ¹⁰ (See notes, below)	Mid
Abundance for Management – Preseason Forecasting	Continue existing preseason forecasting program.	On-going
Abundance for Management – Inseason Abundance	Continue existing mark-recapture program and improve as necessary to meet a coefficient of variation (CV) of 15%, without bias.	On-going
	Investigate migratory behavior relative to flow conditions (affects inseason abundance estimates.)	Short
	Develop a contingency plan for inseason abundance estimates to address possible eventuality of no directed in-river and/or marine fisheries to provide recapture event for the mark-recapture program (e.g., consider need for test fisheries.)	Short
	Consider feasibility of using sonar or other technology to enumerate fish passage in the lower river. (See notes, below)	Mid

⁹ Annex IV, Chapter 1, paragraph 2.

¹⁰ Bernard, David R., Scott A. McPherson, Keith A. Pahlke and Peter Etherton, 2000. Optimal production of Chinook Salmon from the Stikine River. ADF&G Division of Sport Fish, Fishery Manuscript No. 00-1. July 2000.

Objective 1.4 – Stikine Chinook, continued		
Action Area	Actions/Projects	Timeframe
Stock Assessment	Continue weir at Little Tahltan.	On-going
	Continue aerial surveys.	On-going
	Monitor Canadian Wild Salmon Policy conservation units' relative abundance through use of GSI or other methods.	Mid-Long
Catch Monitoring	Continue CWT program for catch monitoring and inseason stock identification.	On-going
	Investigate feasibility of augmenting District 108 inseason stock identification with GSI.	Short

Discussion points:

- Escapement Objective - Expect that new escapement goal for Stikine Chinook will lower the upper bound of the goal and narrow the range between the mid and upper bounds, which will benefit fisheries.
- Inseason Abundance – New Technology – The primary interest in new technology such as sonar is for coho, but may also be applicable to Chinook and sockeye. Uncertain feasibility for sonar application; lower priority than continuation of existing mark/recapture inseason abundance programs.

STIKINE SOCKEYE

Action Area	Actions/Projects	Timeframe
Escapement Objectives	Review Tahltan Lake sockeye escapement goal.	On-going
	Review mainstem Stikine River escapement goal. Determine and prioritize the specific information needs to establish a BEG.	Mid
Abundance for Management – Preseason Forecasting	Continue existing preseason forecasting program.	On-going
Abundance for Management – Inseason Abundance	Improve or replace the Stikine Sockeye Management Model. (See notes, below)	Immediate
	Investigate migratory behavior relative to flow conditions (affects inseason abundance estimates.)	Short
	Consider feasibility of using sonar or other technology to enumerate fish passage in the lower river. (See notes, below)	Mid
Stock Assessment	Continue adult and smolt weirs at Tahltan Lake.	On-going
	Continue aerial surveys.	On-going
	Monitor Canadian Wild Salmon Policy conservation units' relative abundance through use of GSI or other methods.	Mid-Long
Catch Monitoring	Continue inseason stock ID using thermal marked otoliths.	On-going
	Investigate feasibility of augmenting District 106 and 108 inseason stock identification with GSI.	Short

Discussion points:

- Inseason Abundance
 - Stikine Sockeye Management Model – Suggest contracting with an independent expert who can dedicate time to developing recommendations for immediate improvements to or replacement of the model.
 - New technology – Primary interest in new technology such as sonar is for coho, but may also be applicable to Chinook and sockeye. Uncertain feasibility for sonar application.

TAKU CHINOOK

Action Area	Actions/Projects	Timeframe
Escapement Objectives	Complete new Taku Chinook escapement goal.	Immediate
	Review escapement goal.	Long
Abundance for Management – Preseason Forecasting	Continue and improve existing preseason forecasting program.	On-going
Abundance for Management – Inseason Abundance	Continue and maintain the existing mark/recapture program and improve or augment as necessary to meet a coefficient of variation (CV) of 15%, without bias.	On-going
	Consider feasibility of using sonar or other technology to enumerate fish passage in the lower river. (See notes, below)	Mid
Stock Assessment	Continue CWT program.	On-going
	Continue aerial surveys.	On-going
	Continue escapement sampling at Nakina, Tatsatua, Nahlin, Kowatua and Dudidontu.	On-going
	Monitor Canadian Wild Salmon Policy conservation units' relative abundance through use of GSI or other methods.	Mid-Long
Catch Monitoring	Continue CWT program for catch monitoring and inseason stock identification.	On-going
	Investigate feasibility of augmenting District 111 inseason stock identification with GSI.	Short

Discussion points:

- Inseason Abundance – New Technology – Primary interest in new technology such as sonar is for coho, but may also be applicable to Chinook and sockeye. Uncertain feasibility for sonar application, particularly in Taku River.

TAKU SOCKEYE

Action Area	Actions/Projects	Timeframe
Escapement Objectives	Conduct periodic review of Taku sockeye escapement goal.	On-going
	Evaluate establishment of BEG for Taku sockeye.	Long
Abundance for Management – Preseason Forecasting	Develop preseason forecast for enhanced Taku sockeye.	On-going
	Resolve need to develop a bilaterally-agreed to preseason forecast for Taku sockeye. (See notes, below)	Short
Abundance for Management – Inseason Abundance	Continue Taku sockeye mark-recapture program, upriver weirs (Little Trapper, Tatsamenie, Kuthai, King Salmon) and fish wheels.	On-going
	Consider feasibility of using sonar or other technology to enumerate fish passage in the lower river. (See notes, below)	Mid
Stock Assessment	Continue smolt enumeration and sampling at Tatsamenie and at other enhancement sites.	On-going
	Run reconstruction – Incorporate GSI in estimation of run components (Tatsamenie, Mainstem, Little Trapper, Kuthai, King Salmon) to monitor Canadian Wild Salmon Policy conservation units.	Mid
Catch Monitoring	Continue inseason stock ID using thermal marked otoliths.	On-going
	Investigate feasibility of augmenting District 111 inseason stock identification with GSI.	Mid

Discussion points:

- Preseason Forecast – There was not bilateral agreement on the need to develop an annual bilateral preseason forecast for Taku sockeye. The Alaska panel and TTC members believe that setting early fishery openings based on early June fish wheel data and early inseason abundance estimates is working without problems. Canadian parties expressed concern that without a bilateral forecast, managers are not starting “on the same page” and there is a risk that early openings in Alaska might be too liberal (prior to inseason abundance estimates being available.)

- Inseason Abundance - New technology – Primary interest in new technology such as sonar is for coho, but may also be applicable to Chinook and sockeye. Uncertain feasibility for sonar application, particularly in the Taku River.

TAKU COHO

Action Area	Actions/Projects	Timeframe
Escapement Objectives	Complete update of Taku coho escapement goal.	Short
Abundance for Management – Preseason Forecasting	Continue existing program.	On-going
Abundance for Management – Inseason Abundance	Continue mark-recapture program. Investigate ways to improve recovery of tags for mark-recapture estimates (need 3,000 to 5,000 coho). Consider test fishery.	Short
	Consider feasibility of using sonar or other technology to enumerate fish passage in the lower river. (See notes, below)	Long
Stock Assessment	Continue mark-recapture program.	On-going
	Monitor Canadian Wild Salmon Policy conservation units' relative abundance through use of GSI or other methods.	Mid-Long
	Develop assessment index at Hackett weir.	Long
Catch Monitoring	Continue CWT program. (See notes, below)	On-going

Discussion Points:

- Inseason Abundance - New technology – Primary interest in new technology such as sonar is for coho, but may also be applicable to Chinook and sockeye. Uncertain feasibility for sonar application, particularly in the Taku River.
- Catch Monitoring – Recovery of tags for Taku coho is hampered by reduced commercial fishing in the fall.

Goal 2 Salmon Enhancement

Goal 2: Without compromising wild stocks, enhance salmon production where appropriate opportunities exist to generate returns that will contribute to fisheries and/or stock rebuilding.

Objective 2.1

Implement provision of the Transboundary Rivers Agreement for enhancement of Stikine and Taku River sockeye stocks, to meet an annual production target of 100,000 enhanced sockeye salmon in each river system.¹¹

STIKINE SOCKEYE

Actions/Projects	Timeframe
Complete yearly Stikine Enhancement Production Plan (SEPP) for the duration of the Annex.	On-going
Maintain existing enhancement programs at this time.	On-going (for near term)
Consult with enhancement and management experts to develop a well-informed transboundary rivers enhancement plan to address Pacific Salmon Treaty obligations through a suite of diversified projects (e.g., seek expert review/assistance, conduct technical workshop). (See notes, below)	Short

Discussion Points:

- It is preferable to produce identifiable enhanced adults, for accountability.
- The process of preparing a transboundary rivers enhancement plan would not preclude consideration of proposals for funding for specific enhancement projects.

¹¹ Annex IV, Chapter 1, paragraph 3(a)(1)(iii) and 3(b)(1)(ix).

TAKU SOCKEYE

Actions/Projects	Timeframe
Complete yearly Taku Enhancement Production Plan (TEPP) for the duration of the Annex.	On-going
Tatsamenie Lake – Continue enhancement program. Increase survival through extended fry rearing and release of larger fish.	On-going
Trapper Lake – Continue barrier passage removal projects.	On-going
King Salmon Lake – Investigate enhancement options and consider pilot projects. Conduct baseline assessment work to assess feasibility.	Short
Examine potential for small scale spawning channel development; artificial spawning beds.	Mid-Long
Investigate use of groundwater for remote incubators (e.g., South Fork Lake).	Mid-Long

Discussion Points:

- It is preferable to produce identifiable enhanced adults, for accountability.

Objective 2.2

Identify opportunities and carefully consider whether or not to implement enhancement projects on additional Transboundary Rivers (other than stocks addressed in Objective 2.1).

Actions/Projects	Timeframe
Investigate factors that have impacted Taku Fall chum run, as a first step in rehabilitating this stock. Consider feasible steps for rehabilitation.	Short-Mid
Investigate use of groundwater for remote incubation boxes.	Mid-Long
Determine new potential sites and opportunities for projects to augment or rebuild stocks.	Mid-Long

Goal 3 Salmon Habitat

Goal 3: Maintain, restore and/or enhance salmon habitat for the long-term productivity of transboundary salmon stocks.

Objective 3.1

Identify, assess and catalog essential salmon habitat, including assessment of feasibility for habitat restoration or rehabilitation where appropriate.

River	Actions/Projects	Timeframe
All Transboundary River Systems	Assess major barriers to fish migration and consider the potential to augment salmon distribution and production in the drainage through barrier removal.	Short
Taku River	Assess feasibility of habitat rehabilitation at South Fork Lake.	Short
	Develop Geographic Information System (GIS) based habitat classification system that uses high-resolution satellite imagery to map salmonid habitat utilization, particularly in lower Taku watershed (all stocks, particularly Chinook, sockeye, coho). Project will inform managers of extent and location of critical salmon habitats.	Short-Mid
	Develop Aquatic Reference Condition Assessment Sites within the Taku drainage and collect data using established protocols (all stocks), to allow long-term monitoring of aquatic health.	Short-Mid
	Update and refine existing GIS database and maps, including results from radio telemetry studies (all salmon species).	Mid

Objective 3.1, continued		
River	Actions/Projects	Timeframe
Stikine River	Develop GIS-based habitat classification system that uses high resolution satellite imagery to map salmonid habitat utilization (all stocks, particularly Chinook, sockeye, coho).	Mid-Long
	Develop Aquatic Reference Condition Assessment Sites within Stikine drainage and collect data using established protocols (all stocks), to allow long-term monitoring of aquatic health.	Short-Mid
Alsek River	Catalog essential fish habitat on the Alsek River.	Mid-Long

Objective 3.2

Undertake appropriate projects to improve or restore salmon habitat or fish access to habitat on the transboundary rivers.

River	Actions/Projects	Timeframe
All Transboundary River Systems	<p>Implement improvements to fish migration, spawning and rearing, as appropriate, on the transboundary rivers. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sterling Creek fish passage at falls (Stikine Chinook) • Tuya Lake barrier removal (Stikine Chinook and coho) • Verrett River floodplain stabilization (Stikine Chinook, sockeye and coho) 	Mid-Long

Plan Implementation and Updates

The Transboundary Panel has stated that it is important to retain flexibility in determining which actions or projects should be pursued to achieve the goals of the *Transboundary Panel Strategic Salmon Plan*. The Panel recommends the following points be considered in plan implementation:

- Actions or projects needed to address an obligation of the Bilateral Transboundary Rivers Agreement
- Social and economic importance of the stock
- Stock status
- Cost-benefit of the action or project
- Feasibility of the action or project

The Transboundary Panel intends that the plan will be a dynamic document that will be reevaluated and updated every three years to respond to changing conditions and needs, and to reflect project status.

Transboundary Panel (February 2009)

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