

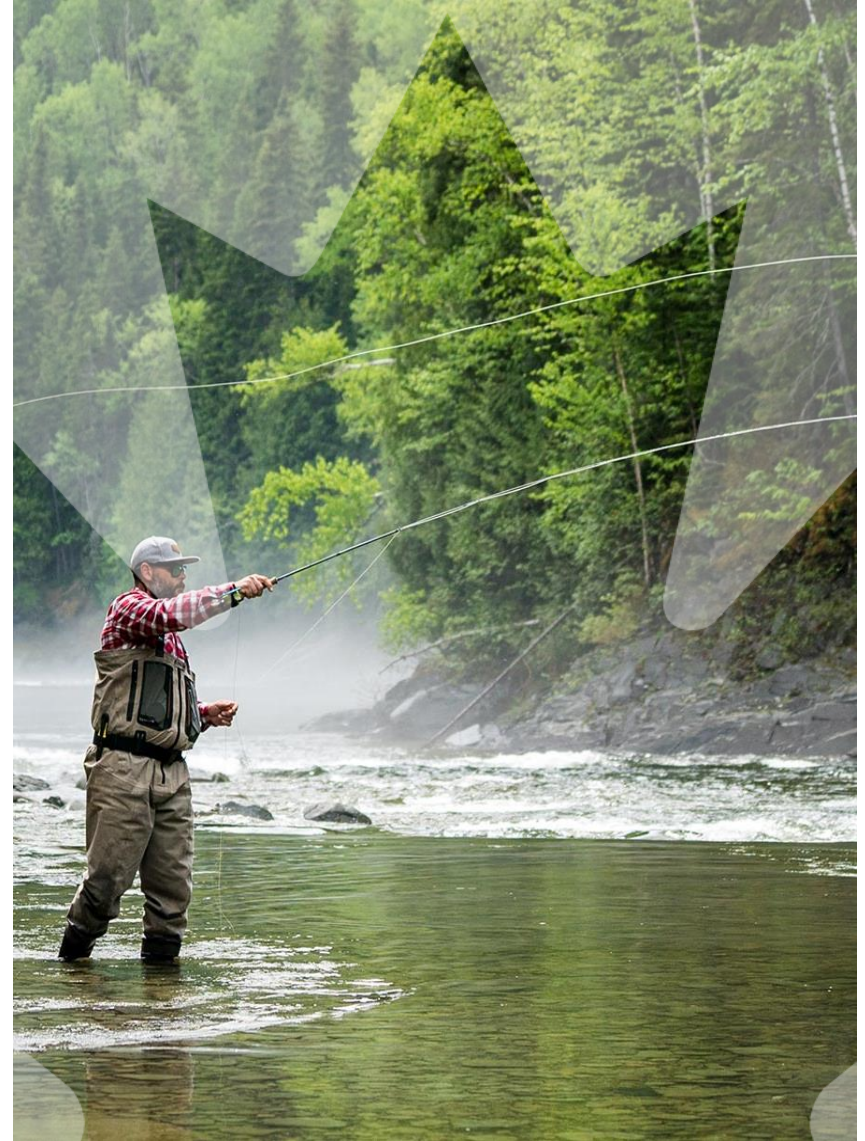


NB Recreational Salmon Management Transformation Project (NBRSMPT)

Using the Miramichi River as a Case Study

“Atlantic salmon is an iconic species that is of cultural, recreational and economic importance throughout Atlantic Canada. As such, the management measures for the 2017 season reinforce the need to protect the declining stock of Atlantic salmon. We will continue to work diligently, in collaboration with all partners, toward furthering our understanding of this species with the goal of protecting Atlantic salmon now and for future generations.”

- The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., Q.C., M.P.; Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard



Context for DFO doing this now

- Wild Atlantic Salmon Conservation Policy (under review)
- Response to SCOFO 2017 on Atlantic salmon
- Address declining stocks in eastern Canada
- Link to separate exercise of Precautionary Approach under the *Oceans Act* and framework/decision rules based on biological factors (2018)
- Evergreen Integrated Fisheries Management Plan
- Partnership with NB, First Nations and stakeholder groups
- DFO Departmental Forward Plan for Atlantic Salmon in response to MACAS
- DFO Ocean Science recruitment hired 1 scientist and 2 biologists
- Connections to Atlantic Salmon Research Joint Venture collaborative projects

How does this project fit within the hierarchy of priorities for fisheries management?

Priority (in order)	Process to address the priority
1. Conservation	1. Precautionary Approach framework (meetings to discuss biological aspects)
2. FSC Aboriginal Fisheries	2. GOC (DFO) and First Nations based on Treaty Rights
3. Recreational (other users)	3. Transformation project meetings to address recreational fisheries management regime (human behaviour)

NBRSMT is about setting up nuts & bolts for when we have the info needed to manage at a more local scale.

Currently:

- Salmon Fishing Area scale (large units) ex: CnR is Region-wide.
- Limited for a specific river (ex: high Temp. closures on Miramichi).

Future change, where information drives the scale of management:

- Sufficient information enables management of specific rivers as sub-units smaller than an SFA (ex: 4 Index Rivers)
- As more information is available, the sub-unit size can approach more of a “river-by-river” or local approach.

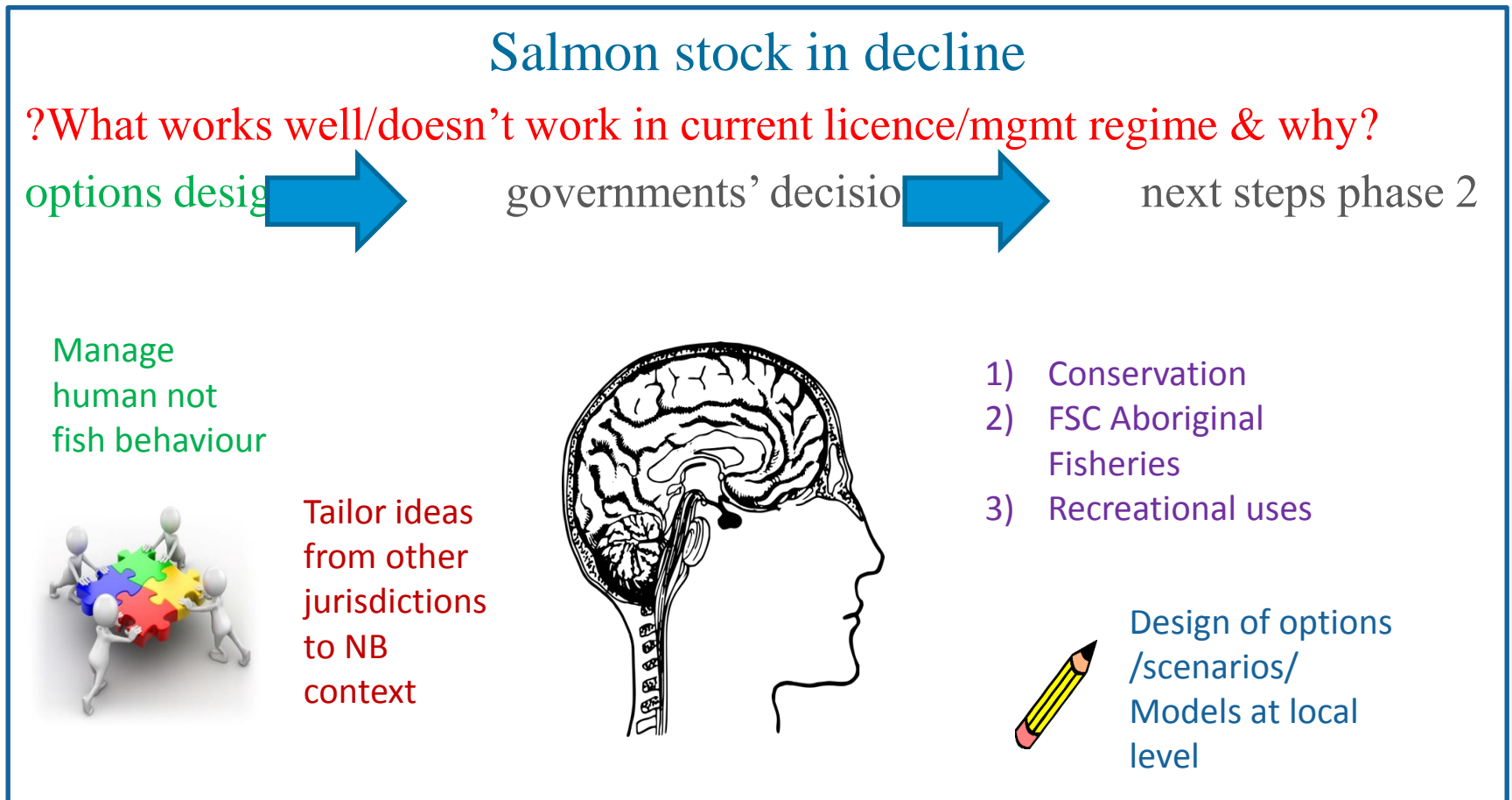
Summary of River Specific Management Project

This phase is to design options/scenarios/models for future rec. fishery:

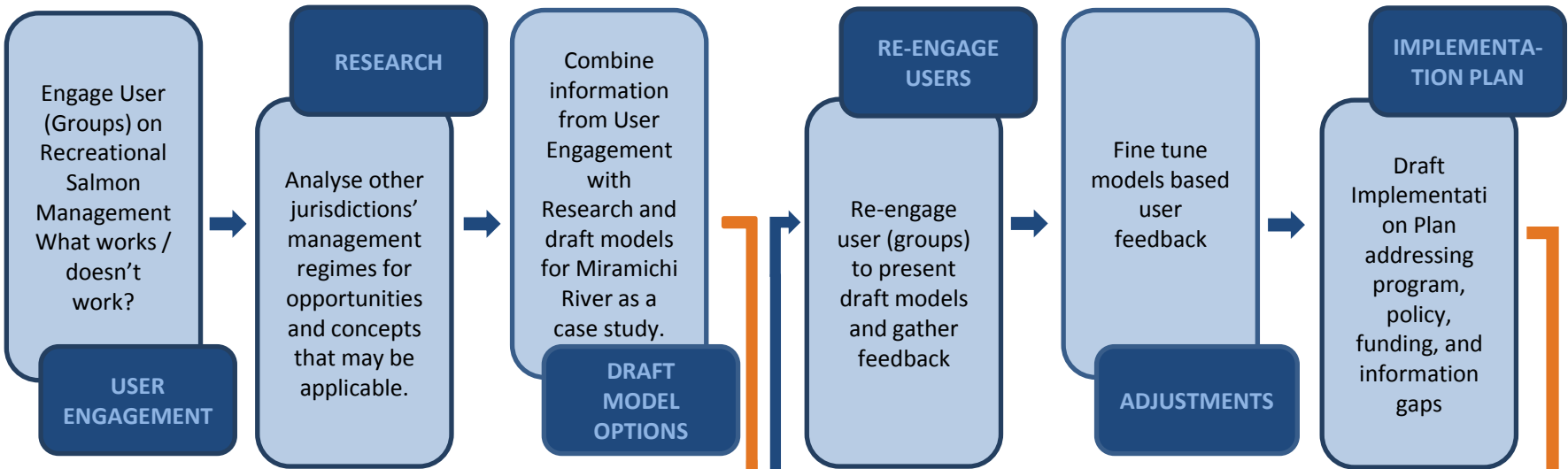
- Use case study of both Miramichi branches (NW and SW) to ground our options/modelling in reality
- Focus is on nuts & bolts of what could be part of a new recreational salmon management regime; and looking at how it could work: ex: licences and tags, regulatory changes, reporting, management board partner concepts and stewardship
- Assumptions about the governments' roles/obligations remain unchanged or unaltered: DFO retains mandate (access and allocation); NB retains their mandate (licences); FN Treaty Rights for communities do not change.
- Parallel but separate from the Precautionary Approach (PA) Framework which deals with biological aspects (decision rules and thresholds).
- Project ends with drafting of options/models for recommendation to governments.

There is no decision-making aspect of this project, Working Group or Task Force.

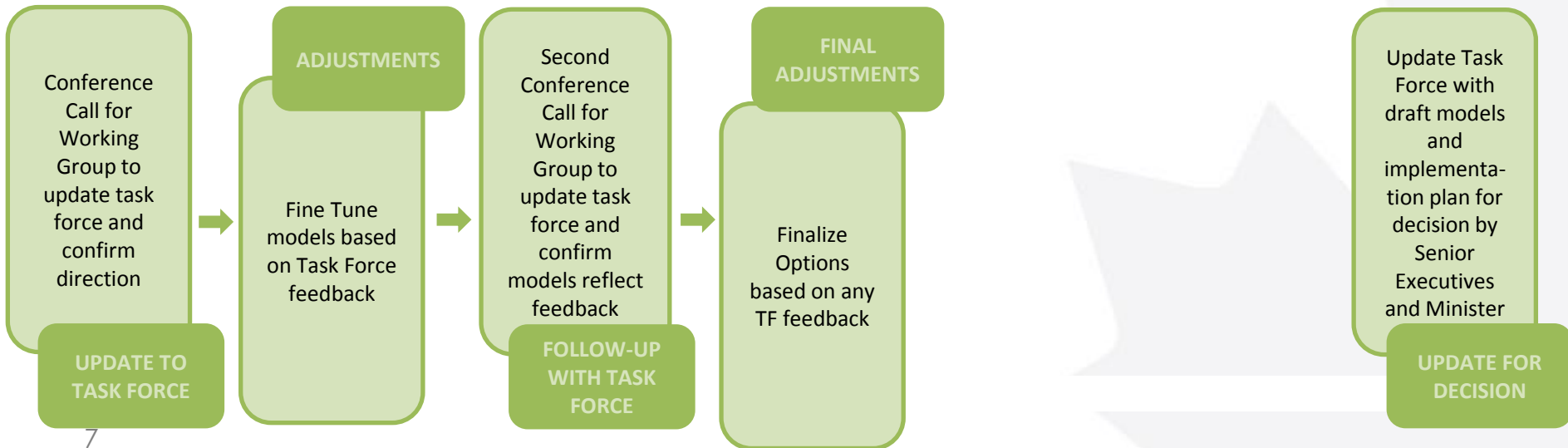
Opportunity to propose change/revitalize salmon angling as optional mgmt models



WORKING GROUP: USER GROUP ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



WORKING GROUP: TASK FORCE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



Revised Proposed Project Timeline

#	Key Activity	Completion
1	Initial meeting of the Task Force – approve draft TOR, identify key tasks, consultations plan, roles; Confirm composition of Task Force and the Working Group; set date for next conference call meeting	October 6 2017
2	Working Group first meeting: background research on existing river by river management models model, economic development WG Confirm fact-finding strategy for engagement– questions, stakeholders, locations, methods for engagement	November 20 ^h week
3	Working Group completes the first round of local consultations and discussions on the Miramichi with user groups to present project, share interests and feedback (First Engagement)	Late November (24 th)
4	Two conference calls with WG on lessons learned from NFLD river classification and Que for ZEC approach	Early December
5	Working Group develops draft model with options for design of: models/scenarios A) river classification scheme (s) B) watershed level participation/governance (s) C) others	Early December
6	Task Force 2 nd meeting: conference call for Working Group to update on progress, confirm direction	Mid December
7	First update to senior executives and Ministers – seek approval to continue	Mid December
8	Working Group develops initial round of options as models for further engagement and refinement based on work to date.	Mid January 2018
9	Second update conference call to Task Force, on initial round of options	Mid January
10	Update senior executives and Ministers – on initial options	Late
11	Working Group finalizes initial round of options based on TF feedback	Early February
12	Working Group second round of engagement on the initial round of possible options for a river-by-river management project	Mid February
13	Working Group – finalize models based on user feedback	March 5st
14	Working Group drafts Implementation Plan for detailed program, policy changes, funding, strategy to fill gaps in information etc.	March 5st
15	Third update to Task Force, senior executives and Ministers – with drafted models for decisions on proposed model and implementation plan for a pilot	Mid-March
16	End of phase one of project (design)	March 31st

Transformation Project Governance

A Terms of Reference (draft form) sets out oversight by three levels of government in a Task Force (NB and DFO co-chair)

- One Working Group of (DFO, NB, FNs, Miramichi Watershed Management Committee, Atlantic Salmon Federation) to:
 - engage interested parties along Miramichi on what they value in the current rec. salmon management regime, what they want transformed, what works in other jurisdictions into design options (models)
- Special Project Directorate (DFO FAM/Sci: H Kerr, R Francis, S Smith)
- Revised Workplan (previous slide)

Engagement of User Groups on Current Rec. Salmon Mgmt Regime (WG November Task)

Meeting agenda with rec. salmon user groups and FNs

- 1) to share information
- 2) share one pagers on what other jurisdictions are doing
- 3) Hear from them on what is working, not working, and why they want to see changes in the rec. salmon management regime; and preferences from other jurisdictions

This information will inform WG in drafting potential models/options/scenarios which will be presented in the second engagement session (January)

Look at Applicability of Visions Elsewhere as One Page Summaries: Could It Work Here?

- Newfoundland model of River Classification where defined and managed unit of 6 types with specific number of tags for retention, Catch-and-Release protocol or closed when conservation threshold not met for the area. (What Miramichi could look like).
- Quebec model of river specific management (ZEC) where units defined with mini-management regimes with third party organizations participate in management together with Quebec province who manages recreational salmon fishery under an agreement with DFO. Lottery draws are set for access, recent plan greatly reduced retention of large fish, ZEC has protocols for retention or Catch-and-Release. (How administration and management could look on Miramichi).
- Other jurisdictions (NS, YK, Ireland, etc.); creative ideas for NB
- Meld elements together for best fit in context of NB.

Draft Questions for Consideration by User Groups at the First Engagement Session

What works well/not in current system and any improvements from other jurisdictions that you would like to see here: examples of nuts & bolts

- Licences and tags
- Reporting: creel surveys, incentives, mandatory reports with licence
- Enforcement and monitoring
- Administration of river units by a partnership management board component (i.e. compare with Quebec ZEC)
- Aggregating rivers into units (i.e. compare with NFLD river classification)
- Crown lease
- Stewardship
- In-season adjustments etc.