

2012

Harrison Salmon Stronghold

Building a Vision

*The stronghold initiative
advocates local
leadership and
encourages partnership
building among
managers, landowners
and users of the resource
through habitat and
fisheries stewardship.*



David Moore
Harrison Fisheries Authority
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HARRISON SALMON STRONGHOLD ~ ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION

The Vision and structure of the Harrison Salmon Stronghold are being established in 2012. A local public forum will provide opportunity to direct the vision and chart the stronghold's course. This will be the first important step in broader engagement and collaboration in the Harrison Salmon Stronghold.

This rolling discussion document was designed to capture key themes from the Stronghold Partnership for further direction in this vision workshop.

KEY THEMES FOR STRONGHOLD IMPLEMENTATION

- Vision – Goals-Objectives
- Partnerships
- Scientific and Traditional Knowledge Panel
- Funding
- Center of Excellence



Why is this relevant?

What is needed?

How do we proceed?

VISION – GOALS-OBJECTIVES

Background

In 2010 the North American Salmon Stronghold Partnership, declared the Harrison River and area to be the first Salmon Stronghold in Canada. Pacific salmon are a defining feature of west-coast lifestyles and are central part of First Nations fishing cultures. Healthy wild salmon are a reflection of a healthy ecosystem and portends all of our futures.



This project is about understanding and preserving the attributes of a healthy salmon ecosystem that supports a salmon stronghold. By learning about what makes a salmon stronghold work, we can apply these lessons more broadly, sustaining both the salmon and our quality of life for future generations.

The following themes are designed to provide focus for the participants in the visioning workshop to refine and direct the scope of work in the Harrison Stronghold (goals and objectives). By the time of the workshop, these themes will have been shaped and agreed to by the emerging Stronghold Partnership and presented for informed local knowledge-holders to provide detailed direction on implementation.

Harrison Stronghold Vision Themes

- Geographic & ecological scope
- Diversity of salmon ecosystem
- Role and function of the fishery in sustainable lifestyles
- Guidance to land-use/resource-use planning

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PARTNERSHIPS

A successful Harrison Salmon Stronghold Partnership will provide credibility, strategic guidance, and support to this initiative. Proper structure and engagement by *The Partnership* in the work of the Harrison Salmon Stronghold is critical to its success.

The following themes of participation are designed to define the right mix of partners and to define their rolls.

Themes for Salmon Stronghold Partnership

- Local leadership/host
- First Nations
- Other fishing interests
- Local businesses & land-owners
- Independent scientific advice
- NGO's in nature and salmon conservation
- Academia (UBC, SFU, local school children, etc)
- Local, regional and both provincial and federal fisheries agencies
- Steering Committee

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SCIENTIFIC AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE PANEL

The Harrison River joins the North American Salmon Stronghold Partnership following a rigorous scientific assessment. The scientific review considered species abundance and diversity, strength of populations and ecosystem health. These and other factors are the underpinnings of what makes a salmon stronghold function, yet there is much more to understanding how and why these attributes result in a salmon stronghold and what this tells us about conservation and sustainable use of Pacific salmon elsewhere.

A scientific panel is proposed that will provide advice and strategic focus to research and management planning in the Harrison Salmon Stronghold. The following themes are defined to provide focus and clarity in the ways that this may work.

Themes for a Scientific Panel

- Methods and standards for study
- Traditional and cultural use and fisheries knowledge
- Comparable work in other strongholds
- Reporting and publications
- Credibility

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FUNDING

The Harrison Salmon Stronghold Partnership will require financial resources to cover costs of organization and for supporting stronghold-related activities. There is currently no dedicated budget for the organization required for the stronghold. In a well managed programming partnership with the local host – Sts'ailes and the Harrison Fisheries Authority, the activities of the stronghold may draw upon ongoing work, but it will also need resources dedicated financial resources aimed at advancing specific objectives of the stronghold.

Themes for Harrison Salmon Stronghold Funding

- Programming partnerships with Sts'ailes, the Harrison Fisheries Authority and DFO
- Access to grants
- Revenues from HFA fisheries
- Charitable status
- Dedicated trust fund



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CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

The operational activities of the Harrison Salmon Stronghold will combine existing and new activities in local fisheries programming that will become a center of excellence for Pacific salmon stewardship.

With effective use of the Stronghold Partnership and advice from scientific/traditional knowledge holders, the Harrison Salmon Stronghold will contribute to advancements in our understanding of salmon ecosystems and the source of credible scientific publications.

Key themes for fisheries science

- Salmon inventory and assessment
- Wild Salmon Policy Implementation
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- Habitat stewardship
- Terminal fishery management
- Traceability and catch monitoring
- Shares in salmon management
- Role and effectiveness of cooperatives in the salmon fishery
- Fishery building under construction



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