Ontario's Provincial Fish Strategy: *Fish for the Future*

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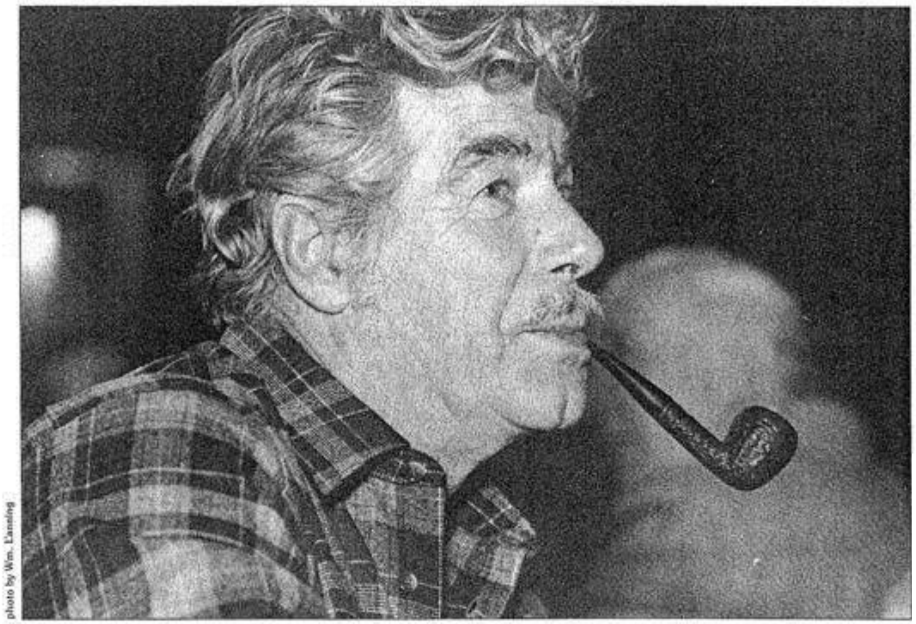
#AFSOC14

Outline

- **Fisheries Strategic Planning: A Short History**
  - S.C.O.L
  - S.P.O.F.
  - S.P.O.F. II
- **Draft 2014 Provincial Fish Strategy: Overview**
  - Management Approaches
  - Goal, Objectives and Tactics
  - Implementation Plans
- **How You Can Participate**
- **A Few Words About Parallel Universes**

S.C.O.L. (1972)



OMNR Photo

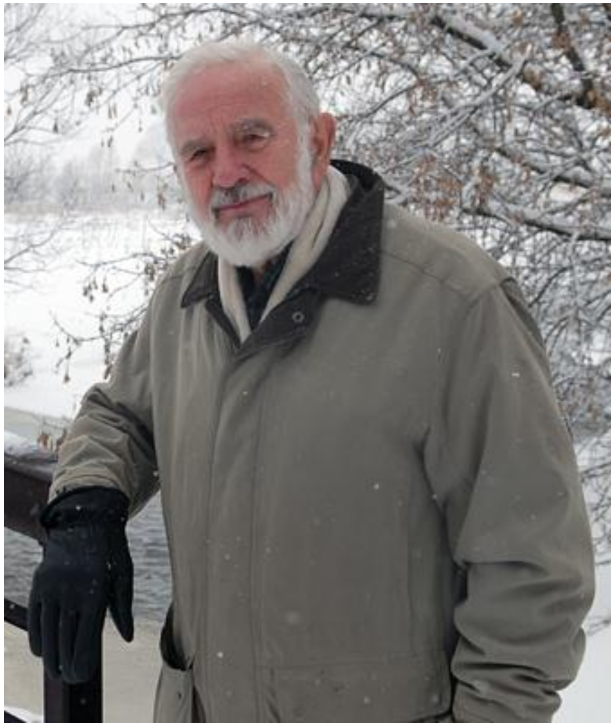


Photo credit: Stephen Bocking, Trent University

Loftus, K. H., & Regier, H. A. (1972). Introduction to the proceedings of the 1971 symposium on salmonid communities in oligotrophic lakes. *J. Fish. Res. Board Can.*, 29(6), 613-616.

S.C.O.L. (1972)

- Lakes can be **treated as sets** (e.g. fish communities), That respond to stresses in similar ways;
- Long term **monitoring data** series can give insight into ecological processes;
- Impacts of **stresses may take decades** to emerge (i.e. time lags); and
- Empirical **data should complement a modelling** approach (not all lakes can be monitored).

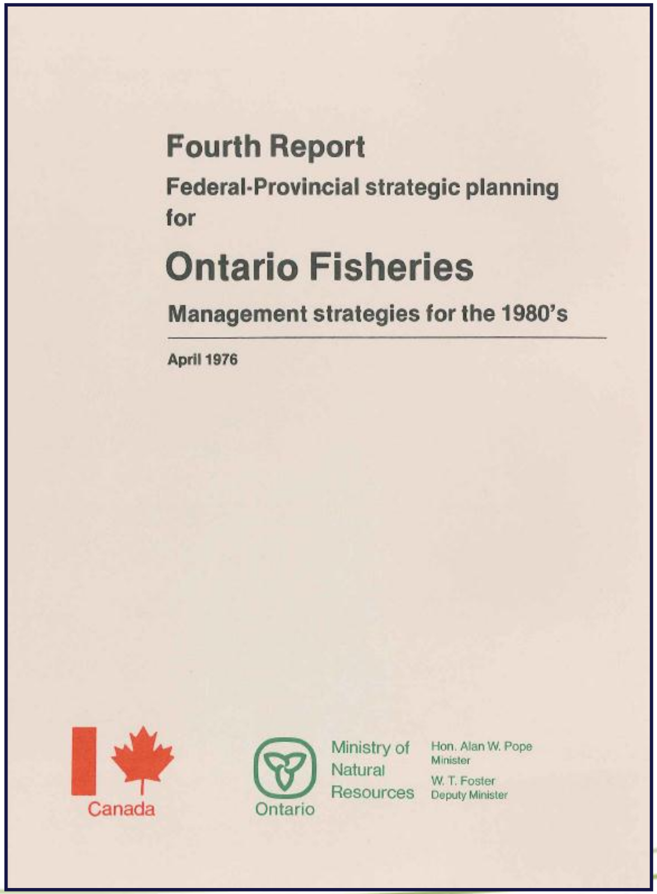
OMNR Photos

S.P.O.F. (1976)

Management Strategies for the 1980's

Initiated by Federal-Provincial Ontario Fisheries Committee:

- Gov't Working Group;
- Response to declining fish stocks as revealed by SCOL (over-fishing, introductions, eutrophication, habitat loss).


Fourth Report

Federal-Provincial strategic planning for

Ontario Fisheries

Management strategies for the 1980's

April 1976

Canada

Ontario

Ministry of Natural Resources

Hon. Alan W. Pope
Minister

W. T. Foster
Deputy Minister

See also:
Loftus, K. H., Johnson, M. G., & Regier, H. A. (1978). Federal-provincial strategic planning for Ontario fisheries: management strategy for the 1980s. *J. Fish. Res. Board Can.*, *35*(6), 916-927.

S.P.O.F. (1976)

Policy & Program Direction

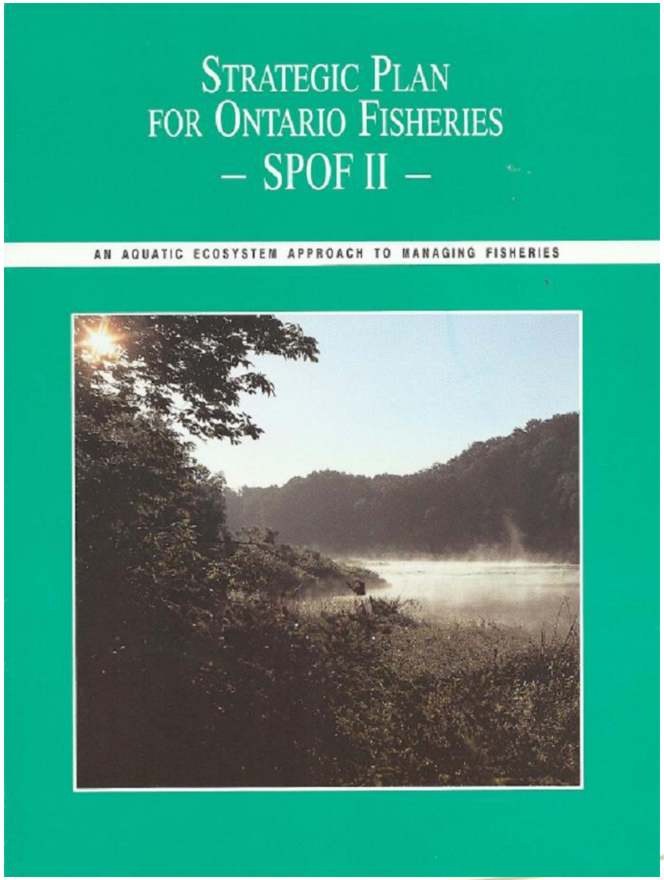
- More engaged public (e.g. CFIP).
- Improved hatchery system.
- Resident Sport Fishing Licence.
- Catch quotas for commercial fishing.
- District Fisheries Management Plans (DFMPs).

- Establishment of Fisheries Assessment Units (FAUs).
- Experimental management approach.
- Initial OFIS development.

Science Direction

S.P.O.F. II (1992)

An Aquatic Ecosystem Approach to Managing Fisheries



Ontario Gov't update of SPOF:

- Increased concern about ecosystem health;
- Included Stakeholder input.
- Incorporated concept of Sustainable Development - Brundtland Commission (1987).

S.P.O.F. II (1992)*

Policy & Program Direction

- Stocking Policy/Guidelines.
- Bait Policy Review.
- Planning Reform (PPS - Fish Habitat Policy).
- Watershed-based Planning.

- Expansion of FAU concept to network of aquatic ecosystems (proposed).
- Research into watershed capacity modelling.
- Collected more socio-economic data from Recreational Fishing Survey.

Science Direction

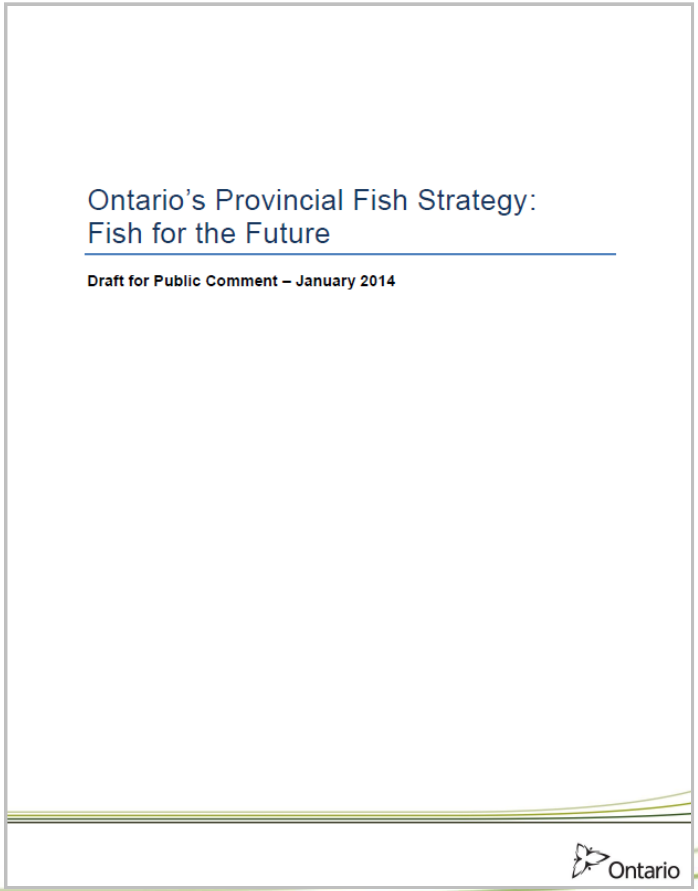
* Never fully implemented - No new $$ requested & then 1996 MNR downsizing.

Provincial Fish Strategy (2014)

Fish for the Future

MNR update/revision of SPOF II:

- Addresses Biodiversity, Climate Change, Aboriginal & Treaty Rights;
- Will include Stakeholder, Public & Aboriginal engagement.


Ontario's Provincial Fish Strategy: Fish for the Future

Draft for Public Comment – January 2014

Ontario

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Federal and Provincial Natural Resource Legislation
Acts and Regulations
``The Legal Authority``
MNR Strategic Direction
Our Sustainable Future
``Long-term Strategic Directions and Current Priorities of the Ministry of Natural Resources``
Ontario`s Provincial Fish Strategy
Goals, Objectives and Tactics
``Linking Strategic Direction & Fisheries Management``
Policy
Development & Review
Guiding Decisions that Impact Fish, Fish Communities & Supporting Ecosystems
Management
Planning & Activities
Guiding Planning & Management Actions at Regional, Zone, Watershed and Local Scales
Enforcement
Priority Setting
Providing Fisheries Input to Compliance and Enforcement Priority Framework
Science
Priority Setting
Ensuring Research & Science Activities Continue to Support Fisheries Priorities

Purposes of the Strategy

Two Main Purposes:

- To improve the conservation and management of fisheries and the ecosystems on which fish communities depend; and
- To encourage fishing as an activity that contributes to the individual well-being and the social, cultural and economic well-being of communities in Ontario.

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Vision and Mission

Vision:

Healthy ecosystems supporting native self-sustaining fish communities, and fisheries that provide long-term ecological, social, economic, cultural and health benefits for the people of Ontario.

Mission:

MNR will provide leadership in the management of Ontario's fisheries, and the protection, restoration, and recovery of fish communities and their supporting ecosystems.

Target Audience and Scope

Policy document to guide Ontario government staff, key partners & stakeholders.

Scope:

- Existing and potential freshwater fisheries of the Great Lakes, inland lakes, rivers and streams of Ontario;
- Range of fisheries including Aboriginal subsistence, recreational, and commercial fisheries; and
- Fisheries for naturally recruited wild fish stocks to those based on naturalized populations.

Photo credit: Lloyd Mohr

Photo credit: Warren Dunlop

Three Management Approaches

- Based on current scientific approaches.
- Requires on-going Research and Monitoring to implement.

North American Journal of Fisheries Management 23:1312–1328, 2003

A Broad-Scale Approach to Management of Ontario's Recreational Fisheries

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Article

Carl J. Walters

Is Adaptive Management Helping to Solve Fisheries Problems?

Ambio Vol. 36, No. 4, June 2007

A fisheries risk-assessment framework to evaluate trade-offs among management options in the presence of time-varying productivity

Jeremy S. Collie, Randall M. Peterman, and Brett M. Zuehlke

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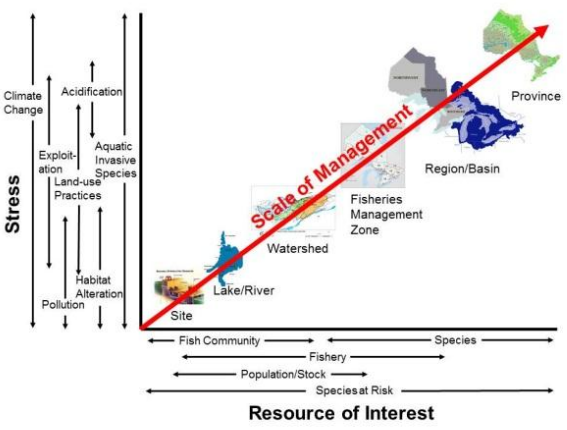
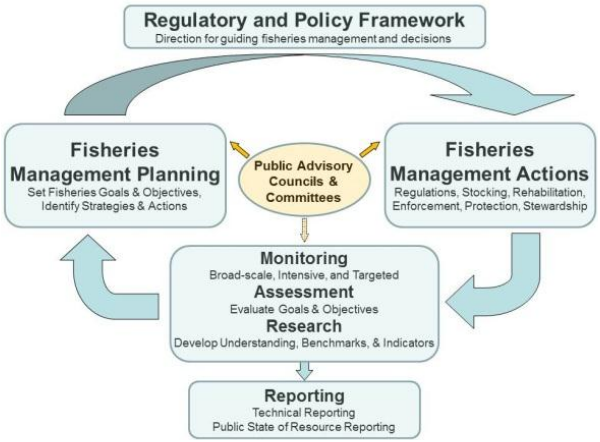
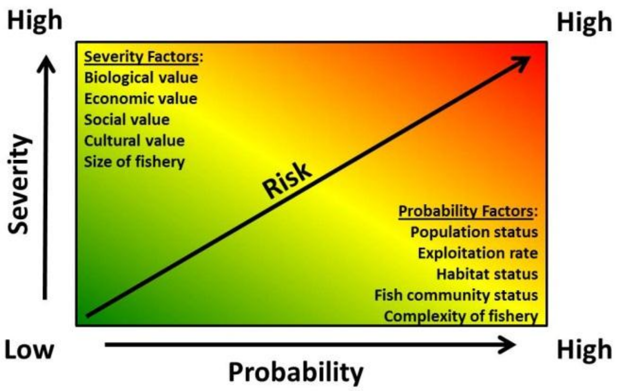
Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 69: 209–223 (2012) doi:10.1139/F2011-148 Published by NRC Research Press

Three Management Approaches

- **Landscape Approach**
- **Adaptive Management**
- **Recognizing Risk and Uncertainty**







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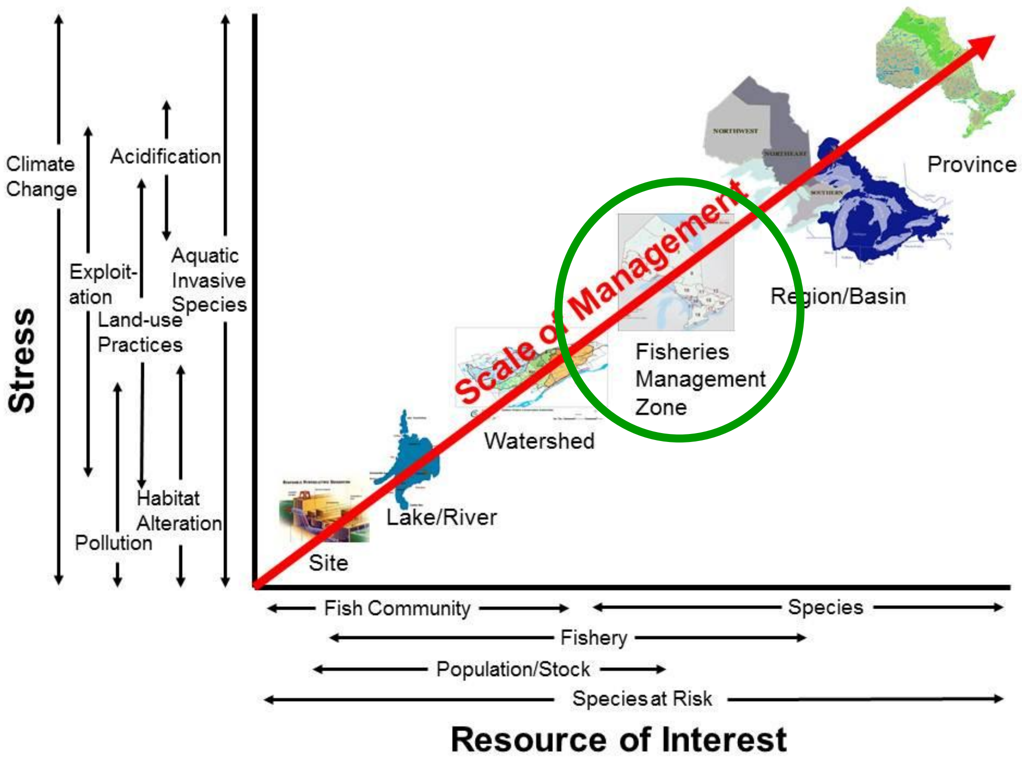
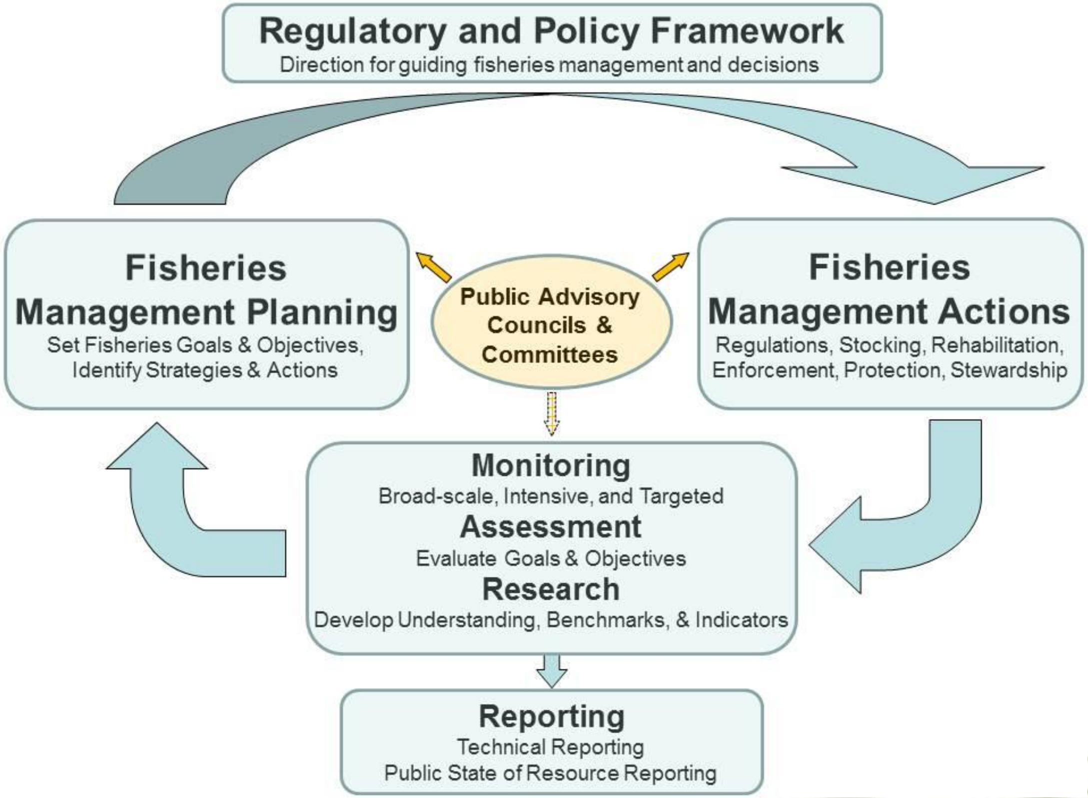
Landscape Approach

- **Fisheries Management Zones** (FMZ): primary unit for recreational fisheries management;
- Recognize that **other space (and time) scales** still play a role; and
- Defining the appropriate scale is based on **stressors, resource of interest, and level of risk**.



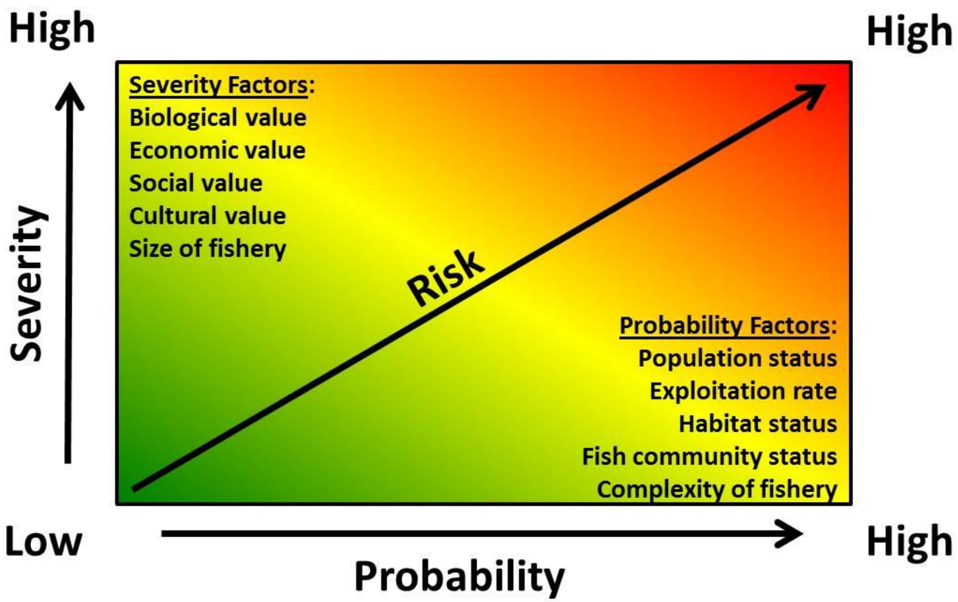
Adaptive Management

- ‘Learning through doing’, continuous commitment to improvement;
- Linkages across program areas;
- Clearly defined role for input; and
- Clear accountabilities.



Recognizing Risk and Uncertainty

- Risk and uncertainty inherent in natural systems;
- ‘Risk’ is a combination of **probability** and **severity of occurrence;**
- Informed by science, expert and traditional knowledge; and
- Need to develop priorities based on risk, and manage to reduce risk where possible.

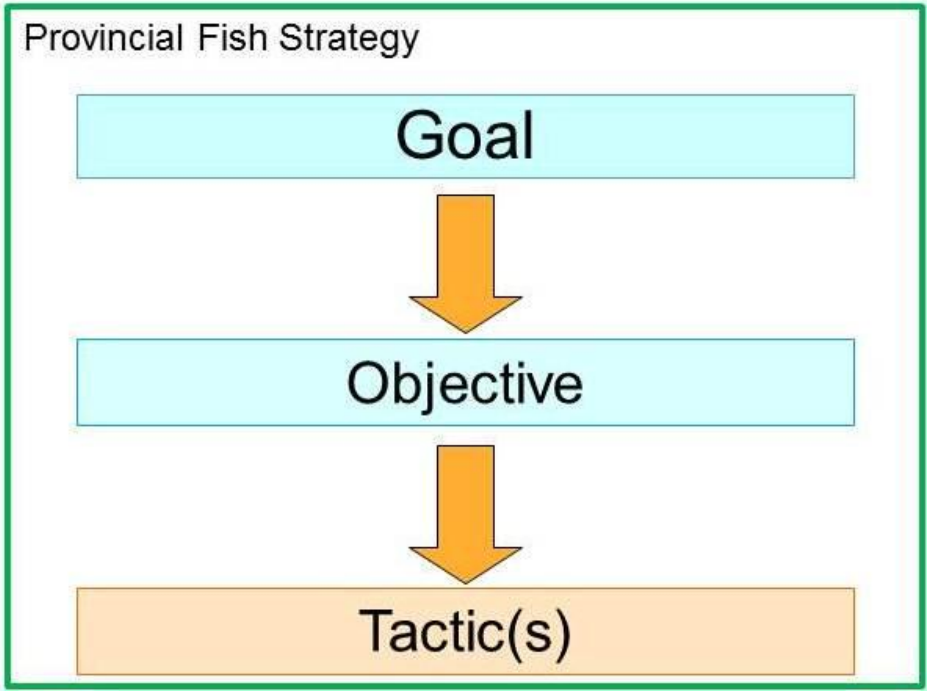


Goals, Objectives, and Tactics

Long-term **Goals** reflect ideal future conditions;

Objectives are shorter term and represent categories of activity; and

Tactics are detailed actions that government can focus on to contribute to achieving the Goals and Objectives.



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Five Goals

1. **Healthy ecosystems** that support self-sustaining native fish communities
2. **Sustainable fisheries** that provide benefits for Ontarians
3. A fisheries management **program** that is **effective and efficient**
4. **Science and information** to inform fisheries policy and management decisions
5. **Informed and engaged** stakeholders, partners, Aboriginal communities and members of the public

Goal 4: Science and information to inform fisheries policy and management decisions

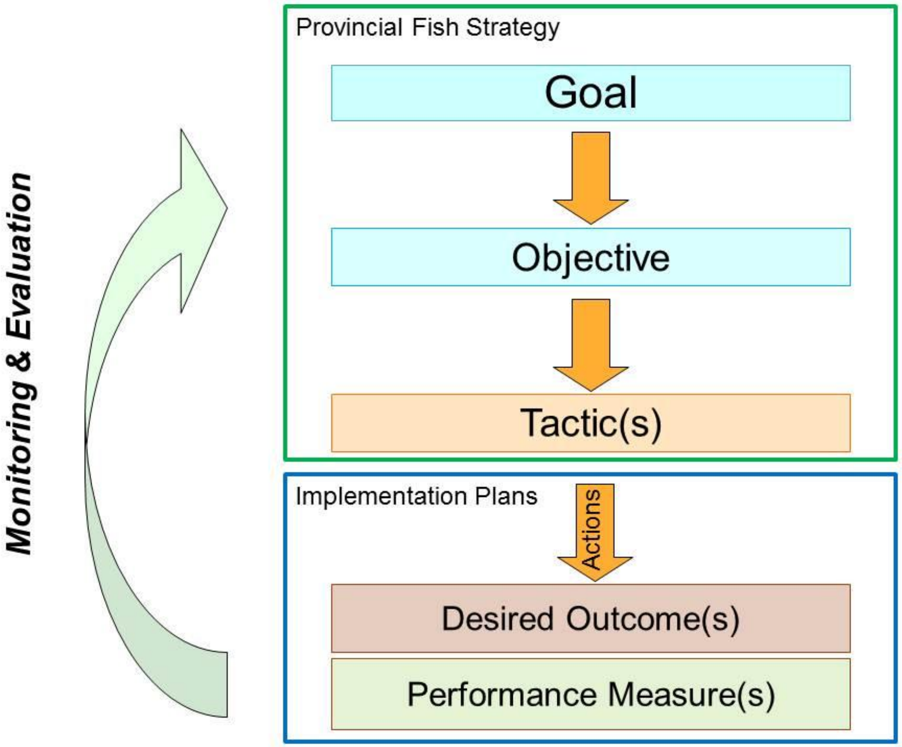
- **Objective 4.1**: **Monitor** at the appropriate spatial and temporal scale
- **Objective 4.2**: **Develop and use** applied fisheries and aquatic sciences and social **science**.
- **Objective 4.3**: A coordinated and standardized approach to **information management**

Tactics: Fifteen tactics related to these three objectives

Implementation Plans:

Actions, Desired Outcomes, and Performance Measures

- Tactics provide basis for developing **Implementation Plans** where specific **Actions** and **Desired Outcomes** identified;
- Progress will be measured by using **Performance Measures** against which we can measure Desired Outcomes; and
- **Monitoring and Evaluation** will determine how well we are doing and will provide useful information for reviewing Goals & Objectives.



How You Can Participate

- Draft ***Strategy*** is posted on Environmental Registry (Registry #: 012-0291) for comment:

  Jan 21st - May 21st, 2014

  www.ontario.ca/environmentalregistry

- Ontario Public Service (OPS) staff should submit comments directly to Fisheries Policy Section: fishpolicy@ontario.ca

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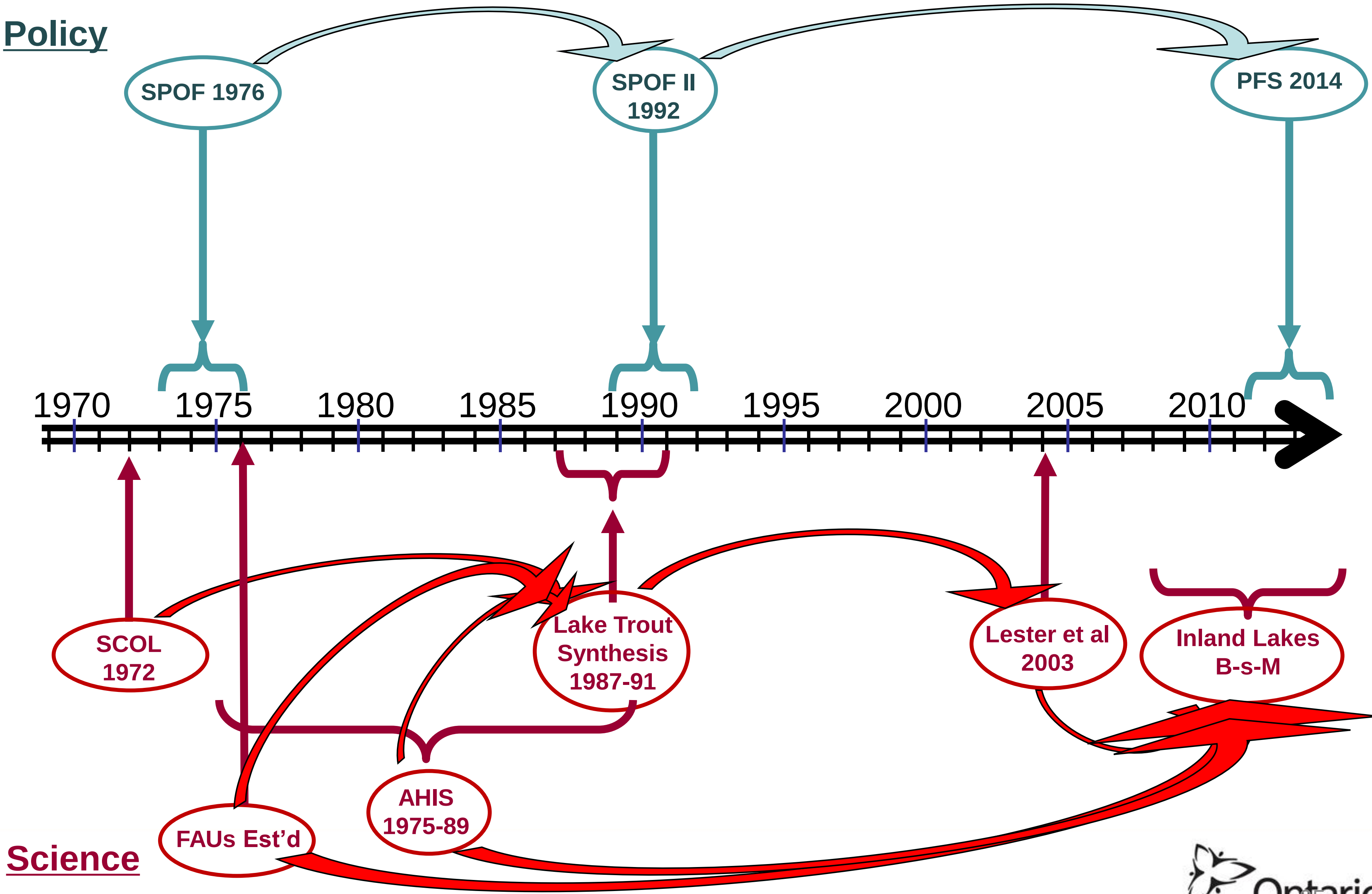
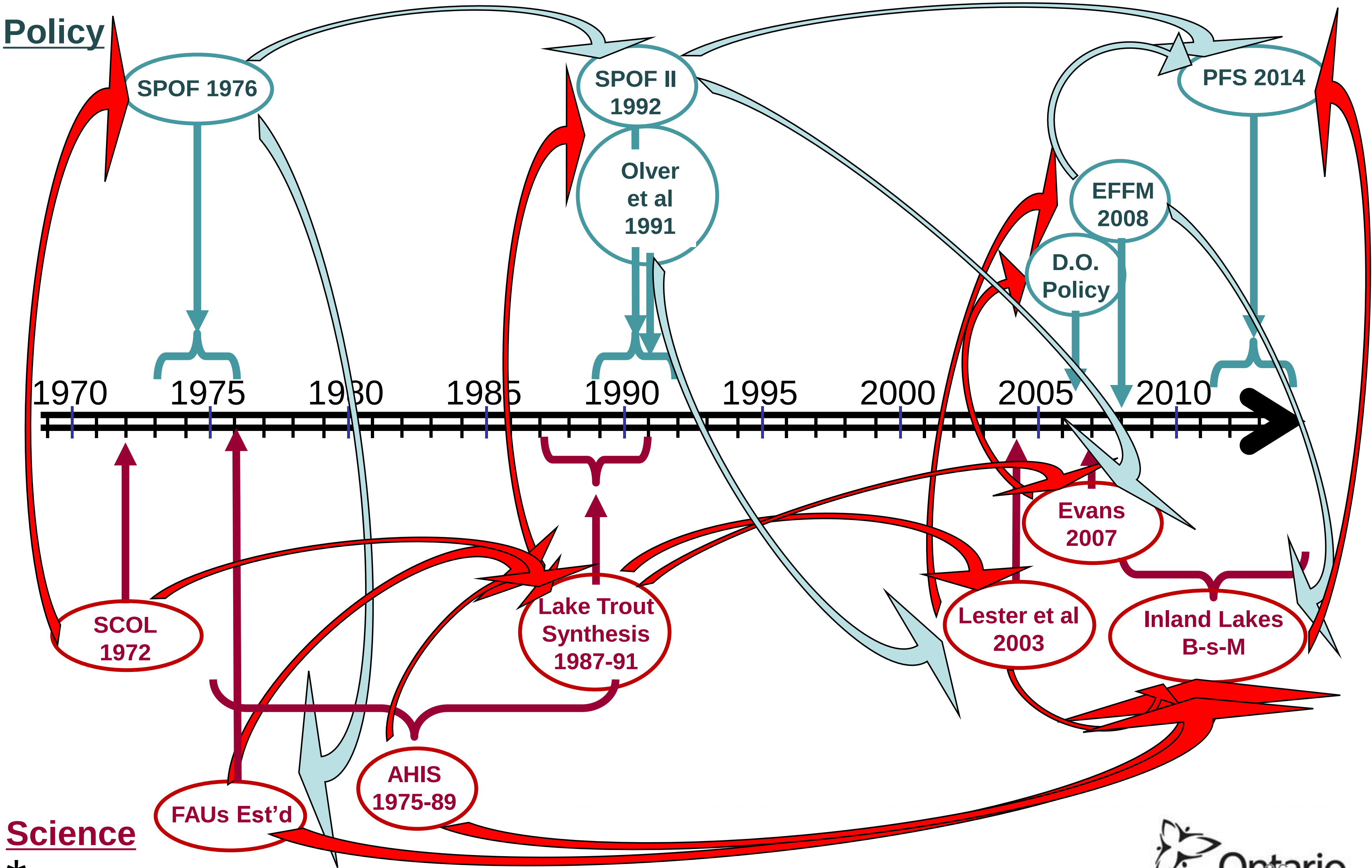
A Few Words About Parallel Universes

Policy & Science: Parallel Universes?



‘Eddies in the space-time continuum’*



* With apologies to Douglas Adams

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Summary

- Ontario has a long history of Strategic Fisheries Planning (SPOF, SPOF II), informed by Science (e.g. SCOL);
- Much has changed since SPOF II was released in 1992;
- In response, MNR has drafted new Provincial Fish Strategy;
- Incorporates recent science-based understanding of successful resource management approaches; and
- Provides direction for Science (Research and Monitoring).

You have an opportunity to influence the final *Strategy*.

Acknowledgements

- Fisheries Policy Section Provincial Fish Strategy Core Team: **Helen Ball, Matt Garvin, Mark Hulsman, Marty McGrath, & Dan Taillon;**
- Fisheries Policy Section Management Team: **Dave Brown & Larissa Mathewson-Brake;**
- The rest of the **Fisheries Policy Section** team;
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- Partner **Agencies**, **Stakeholders**, **First Nation and Métis** groups for past and future insight and input.

Questions?

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