



SEHAB Roundtable – January 17, 2015

Our Vision: Pacific Region communities living sustainably within the natural limitations of healthy ecosystems supporting abundant and biologically diverse Pacific salmonids.

Our Mission: SEHAB C.A.R.E.S. SEHAB is the voice of the volunteer community dedicated to:

- Communicating
- Advocating
- Representing
- Educating, and
- Supporting its endeavours

SEHAB and the community have a shared commitment of ensuring functioning ecosystems supporting viable, genetically diverse and abundant indigenous fish populations.

SEHAB Member: Dianne Sanford

Area: Sunshine Coast

Community Advisor: Grant McBain

Date: January 16,17,18, 2015

Key Issues:

What top three points can you distill from community input to take to DFO RHQ?

1. Community does not feel empowered to enhance or restore salmon habitats, partially due to mistrust of CA and DFO in general, but also due to perception of DFO lack of planning and answers to questions..
2. There is concern about commercialization of our shorelines. Geoduck and other shellfish tenures, seaweed harvest, and fish farms, as well as commercial and residential building that does not take into account the sensitivity of the intertidal zone.
3. Confusion about FW Land Based Aquaculture License – RB and CT – out of the blue, no communications. User fee notification from Pacific Fisheries License Unit in Nanaimo. How will small non profits be able to afford this and what is the Federal- Provincial connection?

Salmon Enhancement and Habitat Advisory Board - Roundtable

Stories:

A few examples of successes, failures, challenges.

Local secondary school teacher has taken up championing the Sakinaw Sockeye, and has studied the sockeye in depth with his students, and is encouraging them to look at the political processes as well as natural processes with this species.

There have been successes with eelgrass transplants in Sechelt Inlet, and connections are being forged with the Sechelt Nation, who support this work.

The salmonids in the classroom program is so successful that there is a shortage of equipment to service all the schools that wish to do the program .

The Sunshine Coast Friends of Forage Fish group continues to sample for surf smelt and sand lance at local beaches, and to spread knowledge about these species and their importance to salmonids, ecosystems, and humans.

Issues Specific to SEHAB's Work Plan:

SEHAB Work Plan	Local Issue, Specific Examples	Actions by Community or DFO	SEHAB Opportunity
Wild Salmon Policy (Stock Assessment, Habitat)	Why are coho no longer stocked in local areas for terminal fisheries? Reply from local CA that locally no-one fishes for Coho is not believed.	Response with supporting information is needed.	
Aquaculture	Meeting attended by local SC resident on aquaculture – Minister Shea has approved 300 +/- fish farms as well as geoduck tenures on the coast. Is this true? Are the fish farms ocean net pen or enclosed on land? Freshwater Land Based Aquaculture License – RB Trout and Cutthroat – User Fee? Pacific Fisheries License Unit - Nanaimo	Verify what has been approved.	
Capacity & Core Funding	Does DFO have a business plan? What is it and who is responsible for it? Are there realistic goals and funding to execute s plan?		

Submissions, Comments from Groups:

From David Burnett, Exec. Director of SC Salmonid Enhancement Society

This year will be the last year that we will release into Halfmoon Bay. The SCSES would like to release more Coho on the Sunshine Coast but are unable to, as our CA believes that we have an abundance of Coho and that recreational fishing is down so there is no need?

Sechelt Inlet has also had no releases for x3 years now as our CA keeps advising us that SIB (Sechelt Indian Band) will be purchasing Coho from Capilano. When I approached SIB they as of yet had no agreement in place.

Our IFMP is coming up shortly and we need to be able to motivate to at least release close to our historic levels.

Regards, David

Subject: Halfmoon Bay Creek Salmon Enhancement

David Burnett,

Thank you for the opportunity of today's phone discussion in response to my inquiries surrounding this immediately past fall's total lack of any salmon runs, a matter of great concern in light of the historically substantial annual runs. In contrast last year there were multiple runs of varieties including chum, spring, sockeye, pink and coho in substantial volumes over the 2013 fall months. Annually such runs have been enhanced through enhancement efforts focused on transport of adult salmon couples above the challenging waterfall near the Creek's mouth.

The contrast between this year and both recent and historic years where we had enjoyed annual runs up the Creek and this immediately past fall when no runs were observed by local monitors and observers. Interestingly fishing in Halfmoon Bay in this area was almost nonexistent respecting salmon catches by recreational fishermen. Historically this Bay has enjoyed lots of recreational fishing of all sorts and this past summer and fall saw a major falloff of recreational fishing activities with only the prawn fishers enjoying a decent year. Remarkably the sightings of seals, sea lions, otters and eagles were unusually few and far between this year which is highly unusual.

The George Cormack District Park immediately borders the lower Halfmoon Bay Creek and visitors have historically enjoyed viewing the salmon migrating upstream and battling the falls. This year visitors were all denied that splendid view of Nature and the encouragement that view gives for enhancing salmon runs.

I am an advocate of enhancing I have and am very concerned with the above related unanticipated reversal of fortunes this year for salmon runs locally. I have proactively supported enhancement for much of my life and actually was on several occasions

Salmon Enhancement and Habitat Advisory Board - Roundtable

employed by DFO in respect to the protection of fisheries.

I strongly believe that the deposit of a significant volume of several varieties of salmon fingerlings is not only appropriate but is necessary for the survival of fish locally and to support the local fisheries. I am quite prepared to pick up the fingerlings and deposit them in the local creek if that is possible/appropriate. I am otherwise prepared to volunteer to assist in moving and or depositing the fingerlings as circumstances allow.

Whatever can be done to assist DFO in approving supplying fingerlings for the above related efforts should be done forthwith constructively and positively. Please feel free to use this communication in discussions with DFO.

Sincerely,
Warren McCrimmon
5636 Mintie Road, Halfmoon Bay
B,C, V0N 1Y2

Our partner, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)

DFO Vision: To advance sustainable aquatic ecosystems and support safe and secure Canadian waters while fostering economic prosperity across maritime sectors and fisheries.

DFO Mission: Through sound science, forward-looking policy, and operational and service excellence, Fisheries and Oceans Canada employees work collaboratively toward the following **three strategic outcomes**:

- Economically Prosperous Maritime Sectors and Fisheries;
- Sustainable Aquatic Ecosystems;
- Safe and Secure Waters.

In working toward these outcomes, the Department will be guided by the principles of sound scientific knowledge and effective management.

Salmonid Enhancement Program: The Salmonid Enhancement Program (SEP) plays a key role in conserving and managing Pacific salmon stocks. The program aims to rebuild vulnerable salmon stocks, provide harvest opportunities, work with First Nations and coastal communities in economic development, and improve fish habitat to sustain salmon populations. SEP broke new ground when it was launched in 1977 by working closely with citizens and schools to raise awareness of salmon conservation and to carry out hands-on community salmon enhancement and stewardship projects. Three of the program's main activities are: Hatcheries, Resource Restoration, Stewardship and Education.