



SEHAB Roundtable Template

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: *Elizabeth Hardy*

Area: *West Vancouver Howe Sound*

Community Advisor: *Rob Bell-Irving*

Date: *January 2015*

Key Issues:

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

1. Concern about fishing violations and how this fits in with to response when ORR phoned
2. Volunteer recognition:
3. Environment Canada

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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)			
Aquaculture			
Capacity & Core Funding			

Submissions, Comments from Groups:

WEST VANCOUVER SHORELINE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

The WVSPS has not had any Reports or Events to involve DFO this past year, nor have we witnessed any overt pollution events so nothing to be complaining about. . The WVSPS applied for funds towards putting a sub-tidal reef just west of the 14th Street Fishing Pier in order to enhance habitat for salmon and forage fish and other animals. This going towards the completion of the Fishing Pier Project started some years ago and never finished so there could be a bit of a concern that DFO didn’t keep track of this and move towards the completion of the project. The application is to the Recreational Fisheries Program. The WVSPS is not too concerned about Volunteer Recognition as it is only of significance if it helps get donations or governments doing something about the erosion of the beaches, etc.

SQUAMISH STREAMKEEPERS

Our wrapping of 20 creosote pilings Dec 2013 at Fisherman’s Wharf A float in False Creek resulted in 3 spawns-Feb, March and June, with about a 50% hatch out which means 20 million herring fry survived. They will return to spawn in 2017 which means all of lower False Creek will likely get spawn. Jeff Marliave of the Vancouver Aquarium identified the June spawn as Cherry Pt herring which don’t go north to feed like the earlier spawns, they stay and feed off the Fraser River plume and used to spawn mainly in U.S. waters around Cherry Pt. However, since the Cherry Pt oil refinery was put in, the U.S. spawn has plummeted from 15,000 tons to less than 2,000.

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Now that we know Cherry Pt herring spawn in False Creek and, assuming Canadian waters are more amenable to spawning, this run could eventually go over 10,000 tons. With that potential in mind, we are going to wrap more pilings at False Creek's B Float this Saturday evening, Jan 17, starting at 7:30 PM. If we have a small turnout we can do 40 to 60 wraps, a bigger turnout might get all 90 done. The picture below is the False Creek fry in early Sept. Jonn Matsen, Squamish Streamkeepers



WEST VANCOUVER STREAMKEEPERS

There is one gap in the C&P page. ORR calls are either directed to FPP or Environment Canada - the focus being habitat damage or pollution. Many of us use ORR to report Fisheries infractions - illegal fishing which includes fishing in closed areas or during closed times (e.g. smelt fishing), people taking more than their limit, people taking undersized species whether it be crab, ling cod or salmon or protected species (e.g. rockfish). I have many examples. Where would such a call be directed? There must be an Enforcement Branch to which these ORR calls can be directed. It is a major complaint in the recreational fishery that enforcement has all but disappeared. All the salt water marine species need protection. There is so much pressure and too frequently abuse is unchecked.

I would be interested to hear how such ORR calls are handled, to whom they are forwarded and if action is taken, how often and how quickly can they respond?

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Fall salmon spawners included low to average coho returns, poor chum returns, a small localized off-year pink return and a bumper crop of chinook in the largest creek, a tributary of the Capilano River, and higher up the mountain than has been seen previously.

BOWEN ISLAND FISH AND WILDLIFE CLUB

I had one instance with an abandoned barge off Hutt Island leaking oil into Grafton Bay reported to me by a BIFWC member – I think December, '13 or January '14. I reported it to Environment Canada and several days later the barge was moved – I believe the owner from Squamish towed it to a salvage yard on the Fraser River.

Volunteer recognition. I think one of the most important things is that DFO continue to recognize and support the efforts of Zo Ann of the Pacific Streamkeepers Federation and keep providing sufficient funding and organizational help (Sandie, Maurice, etc) putting on SEP Community Workshops. SEP Community Workshops are fantastic from a learning, contact, recognition standpoint and we shouldn't take Zo Ann's efforts for granted.

Another thought – at the present time the BIFWC has club funds (not PIP) available from accumulated donations to allow me, as President, to recognize individual volunteer efforts by giving gift certificates to local restaurants (e.g. \$75 gift certificates to Tuscan Restaurant here on Bowen to Roger & Bill when they worked so hard to remove silt & debris from incubation trays after our heavy rainfall problem last year). Extra club funds aren't always available and smaller hatcheries may have zero money available for this, so DFO might consider providing between \$200 - \$500 extra (depending on the size of the operation and # of volunteers) to PIP funding each year. For example, if a small hatchery operation receives \$2,000 PIP funding then increase that to \$2,200 on the understanding that \$200 is specifically for 'volunteer appreciation'.

Our spawner returns were disappointing this year. We did see about 20 chum in the Lagoon so using the 10 x multiplier (what Rob recommends), let's say several hundred chum returns. We have not seen any coho spawners, which has been the case for the last 5 years.

We should mention that the BIFWC completed two habitat rehabilitation projects on Bowen in 2014 so it was an extremely busy year for us. The guidance provided by Rob Bell-Irving was excellent and the Pacific Salmon Foundation approved all funding requests. This is very encouraging. I get the impression PSF has lots of money available but we don't have any projects planned in 2015.

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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.