

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: Ian Bruce

Area: Southern Vancouver Island

Community Advisor: Shona Smith

Date: January 16, 2015

Key Issues:

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

1. Price of fish feed and its impact on SEP budgets and small hatcheries
2. Strategy to deal with Low flows: holding licences, augmentation through groundwater, etc.
3. DFO has abandoned beach and beachfront habitat issues – apparently no provision under the new Fisheries Act – serious harm to forage fish??

Stories:

A few examples of successes, failures, challenges.

- 1) Craigflower Creek, Victoria – 2014 = almost 2,000 spawning Coho – record returns directly correlated to increased summer flows to Craigflower Creek from Thetis Lake by the Capital Regional District. WIN!!!
- 2) DeMamiel Creek, Sooke – 2014 = first generation Coho returns after removal of the Bill James dam that was providing more stable summer flows in the creek. Direct result of the dam removal: 50% lower than historic Coho returns to DeMamiel. Despite DFO's regular arguing that Bill James dam never actually contributed to increased summer flows. FAIL!!!!
3. Story comes from a professional - QEP concerned that at least one member of the FPP triage group seems to advise the public to self-assess and not seek professional help...."what do you think?"...in other words almost an attitude of we don't need to know
4. Finally ...harbour dredging issues in Victoria Problems: 1. stewards received original authorization from FPP not the current one, there confusion on the ground re: measures were wrong...2. deployment of silt curtains were not as were reported....stewards/engineers in condos 10 stories up watching operations 3.timing window ignored because it would cos money for

developer 4. No information available about measures on existing authorization - I was told by FPP that this is proprietary...imho not acceptable to hide all the info.....

5. Returns...variable...late average run chums into Goldstream R. but no chinook, moderate coho; good returns to Craigflower 2000 and Colquitz...1600.....

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:

From a very active and vocal steward: 'Something I have been trying to find an answer for as far as DFO regulations go....there has been much discussion regarding the use of racing boats, outriggers 6 person canoes, stand up paddle boards, motor boats, and even single canoe and kayaks that are entering, and even planning races in the estuaries of the Colquitz and Craigflower creeks....both of which are part of the migratory bird sanctuary. I have seen photos posted by kayakers in 8 inches of water in the estuary while the salmon fins are sticking out of the water - estuaries are staging areas for so many fish and boats should not be there.... are there DFO regulations that would apply to fish disturbances in such shallow narrow estuaries with migrating spawning salmon??'

me: societies act, funding streams and funding partnerships...more and more difficult,,,need multi year funding from friends.....PSF