



## **SEHAB Roundtable Template** (Oct. 2014)

**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: Jack Minard**

**Area: Central Vancouver Island**

**Community Advisor: Dave Davies**

**Date: Jan 18, 2015**

**Key Issues: Lack of monitoring, boil water advisory, stovepiping/lack of integration**

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

1. Great concern over an absence of monitoring. This includes both data collection to use as baseline information upon which to make wise decisions and the lack of follow-up and monitoring of completed projects to ensure conditions and parameters set out were met.
2. Comox Valley Boil Water Advisory is now in its 8<sup>th</sup> week. The extensive and aggressive timber harvesting over the past 6 years appears to be a contributing factor. Logging interests and those charged with drinking water protection all essentially deny that logging is causal citing research that shows there is little to no correlation. It is argued that a "managed" forest is managed to not allow sedimentation. Please see picture below...

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Note that there is a direct link between the logged area and the downslope slide. The slide begins at the downslope of the logged area and continues downstream for two kilometres with the end of the slide corresponding to the edge of the logged area.

There “appears” to be a direct relationship but industry and government all claim there is no correlation. This is Upper Perseverance Creek and this slide will continue to provide bentonite silt into the Comox Valley Drinking water system from Comox Lake indefinitely.



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3. New systems and services, new initiatives, new policies and regulations are all being worked on as governments wrestle with an ever increasing reduction in resources. It appears as though these initiatives all take place within their own stovepipe and do not integrate with each other. This describes two concerns: one, that there is wasted effort as each organization works in isolation and two, that there is no integration of these initiatives going forward. A classic example currently would be the new Fisheries Act and the New Water Sustainability Act. Although it appears there is an attempt to consult there seems to be no integration with the federal and provincial authorities to ensure a seamless and effective relationship.

Further stovepiping is evidenced inside each governing body as well. Planning departments do not work closely with engineering departments and often outcomes are frustrated and less than desired or even contemplated. Couple this with a lack of monitoring and follow up and the governing bodies do not even know that the desired outcomes are not being met.

### **Stories:**

#### **A few examples of successes, failures, challenges.**

The Comox Valley Conservation Strategy (CVCS) continues to positively influence government in Regional Growth, OCP and LAP processes. The outcome has been to break down some of the discrepancies between local government departments and between local municipalities and the Regional District.

Because the CVCS has been utilized to base language and policy on by all local governments a more cohesive and “regional” approach to conservation and ecological protection is taking place and bypassing to some extent the bureaucratic inertia inherent in Government.

Although this is a good story and an effective grass roots influence, integration of other levels of government is so lacking as to be counter-productive on the ground. Primarily this is because there are no, or extremely cavalier implementation plans attached to the initiatives coming from government that attempt to stem ongoing water, land and air damage and degradation. Because of this lack of implementation planning there is no monitoring and therefore no understanding of how well initiatives, policies or even regulations are working to achieve the outcomes they were supposed to. Because there are no implementation plans there is no monitoring.

There are examples all over our area of continuing ecological degradation. Riparian areas removed, wetlands drained, speculation lands being cleared and denuded of any environmental features and then put up for sale with an application to be annexed into the municipality in order to reduce environmental oversight and increase property values.

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Integration between the development of new Fisheries Act regulations and policies, for example, should certainly be integrated with the new BC Water Act so they work in concert with each other. Local initiatives that are regionally based and speak to specific regional concerns need to be supported by flexibility built into provincial and federal initiatives

### Issues Specific to SEHAB's Work Plan:

SEHAB Work Plan	Local Issue, Specific Examples	Actions by Community or DFO	SEHAB Opportunity
Stock Assessment, Habitat protection, WSP, Water Act, new fisheries Act etc.	No monitoring, no integrated references to the WSP – every level of government doing what they think best at the expense of ongoing ecological degradation and loss of habitat	FPP and C&P appear to be attempting to integrate information and actions  Community is commenting more and more on the lack of follow up and often the lack of common sense	To insist and assist in integration of various levels and departments  To call on all levels of government to work more closely together and to define common goals
Aquaculture	Groups still do not want to “own” licences	Ongoing holding of licences by DFO Ca's	To remain “at the table” influencing best management practices and supports for community groups as “partners” with department

### Submissions, Comments from Groups:

Good Morning, Jack and Happy New Year. Just wanted to let you know there is a bit of an issue happening here with the seaweed harvest we've asked you to take to the SEHAB meeting, that you should be aware of.

There are 3 license-holders allowed to take up to 300 tonnes each of seaweed off the beaches of Bowser. Their beaches are now stripped and the vehicle has been running back and forth over forage fish spawning areas. One of the licenses is held by Beaver Meadow Farms in Comox, which promotes itself as "organic" and sustainable, environmentally friendly etc. The owner, Edward Smith, sits on the Board of Little River Enhancement Society which, among other things is planting seaweed. What nerve eh?

Anyway, some of the pitbulls have got wind of this situation and will likely be going for the jugular. I would hate to see LRES and all the good people involved there have their good reputation tarnished because of this. I'm sure they don't know the whole story, if any of it.

Personal communication: CoalWatch (John Snyder) asking what SEHAB's position is on the coal tenure applications on Central and north Vancouver Island.

I informed him that we rely on CoalWatch to do whatever they decide to do, that we support any work that has the potential to reduce or eliminate activities that harm fish or fish habitat and that any comments we receive from our community will be forwarded to them.

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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.