



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: Leandre Vigneault

Area: Haida Gwaii

Community Advisor: Pat Fairweather

Date: January 16-18, 2015

Key Issues: Habitat work notification and disregard for instream work windows, concern over increased shipping in the north, shift to more aggressive fisheries management and less accountability

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

1. Lack of notifications/oversight for work around streams is leading to more casual attitude towards these activities. Examples - abandonment of instream work window timing, work being done without a qualified environmental monitor onsite.
2. Increased shipping results in increased risk to the north coast and there are not enough dedicated resources available to respond and avert disaster. Example - near miss with the Simishir this past October.
3. The drive to industry funded science and stock assessment appears to be resulting in less precautionary fishing decisions and at the same time less data is being collected. Examples Haida Gwaii herring fishery in both 2014 and 2015 and stopping of collection/retaining sales slip data.

Stories:

A few examples of successes, failures, challenges.

Successes

The move and reconstruction of the NTA hatchery is a success and a credit to the volunteers, the community advisor and the funders (PSF and the Gwaii Trust). The hatchery is operating this year and will be producing chum and coho for local small streams as well as the eggs for all of the southern Graham Island Salmonids in the Classroom incubators.

A site has been selected and plans are moving forward for the construction of a small education center and community based hatchery in Skidegate. The facility, located in the center of Skidegate and adjacent to the teen center is supported by local volunteers, the Skidegate Band Council, the Haida Fisheries Program, Parks Canada and the school district. When complete it should provide a great venue for education as well as increase the capacity for incubation at the south end of Graham Island.

Tlell Watershed Society operated their fish fence for the 12th season with DFO funding. The group counted the largest return of coho through fence to date this past fall.

Other current groups include Aliford Bay Hatchery Society enhancing coho in small streams on Moresby Island, QCI Salmon Unlimited enhancing coho in small streams on northern Graham Island, Sangan Streamkeepers up and running doing water quality and stream keeper activities, Port Clements Enhancement Society doing enhancement of coho in tributaries to the Mamin River and the Old Massett Village Council CEDP project is enhancing coho and chinook in the Yakoun river.

Salmon Enhancement and Habitat Advisory Board - Roundtable

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)	Continued decline in stock assessment resources.		Work with science branch and others to figure out how to use volunteer data. Care must be taken to ensure that this is not just downloading of responsibility with out the ability for the volunteers to have a say in the larger DFO decisions that affect their watersheds. E.g authorizations and fishing plans.
Aquaculture			
Capacity & Core Funding			

Submissions, Comments from Groups:

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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.