

**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: Lee Hesketh**

**Area: Southern Interior**

**Community Advisor: Fred Lockwood, currently covered by Bob Harding**

**Date: Jan. 15 2015**

## **Key Issues:**

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

1. Habitat restoration has become impossible or costly to complete due to the Province requirements for an engineer to sign off in stream works and tight work windows. The Fisheries and Oceans Habitat restoration unit from Kamloops has been very helpful in assisting with Notifications addressing projects on salmon bearing streams in the Fraser system but work to be completed in the Okanagan or the Columbia systems or on private projects have become costly for engineering oversight as DFO's capacity to assist is limited and support from Provincial habitat staff non-existent.

2. This problem may be amplified with new funding coming through programs like the Recreational Fisheries Fund, Habitat Conservation Fund and Environmental Farm Plan geared towards habitat restoration. Without DFO support staff capacity, the funding maybe available but the ability to implement projects in a timely and cost effective manner won't be possible due to simple lack of capacity.

3. With the new organization of DFO priorities or rolls along with staff, a number of processes involving regional and provincial initiatives undertaking watershed management or water quality and volumes will not be attended by DFO staff in my understanding. Examples are working with Agriculture sector on a number of topics around waste management .

## **Stories:**

**SALMON ENHANCEMENT AND HABITAT ADVISORY BOARD**  
**SEHAB, The Voice of the Salmon Enhancement Program Volunteer**

**Roundtable**

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

**Success:** The Kingfisher Hatchery and Interpretive Center and Cooke Creek was restored after being heavily impacted by a debris torrent that came down May 3 2014. Through support from DFO and FRISP, restoration work allowed the hatchery to be up and functional for this year's egg intake. The restored creek corridor was completed just in time for both Sockeye and Kokanee salmon spawning.

The Environmental Farm Plan has been working with FRISP on a number of group farm plan demonstration projects throughout the interior. FRISP in turn has engaged the DFO Habitat Restoration Unit as projects involve restoration to local salmon streams. Alderson Creek Project for example will see a small creek impacted by agriculture restored. 9 landowners have formed the Alderson Creek Restoration Society with the goal of naturalizing the flow pattern and restoring a healthy riparian buffer. Additional projects in development possible through the Environmental Farm Plan program include, Ashton Creek, Big Creek, Cherry Creek and Sinmax Creek.

A major project was completed in the middle Shuswap River by the Whitevalley Community Resource Center involving the habitat restoration and protection of 1500 meters of riverbank /pool development along with protection of 1.8 km of off channel habitat. The project was completed through BC Hydro funding and technical support from the DFO Habitat Restoration unit staff and FRISP.

**Challenges:** Example of frustration in having habitat restoration projects approved or supported by DFO and the Province.

FRISP provided prescriptions for a project on the Kettle River in 2013 trying to assist a landowner restore a riverbank. The prescription involved a series of habitat recruitment structures to stabilize the bank while adding in stream habitat values. It was recognized by the landowner that these types of works would benefit fish and his bank stability. The project was denied approval or consideration due to no Professional engineering on the design by MoE staff.

In 2014 a private engineering firm was hired at great expense to provide a design. The project design now became a large rock wall that became unaffordable to complete by the landowner and would provide limited fisheries values.

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

<b>SEHAB Work Plan</b>	<b>Local Issue, Specific Examples</b>	<b>Actions by Community or DFO</b>	<b>SEHAB Opportunity</b>
<b>Wild Salmon Policy (Stock Assessment, Habitat)</b>			
<b>Aquaculture</b>			
<b>Capacity &amp; Core Funding</b>			

**Submissions, Comments from Groups:**