



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: Pacific Salmon Foundation

Area: Province Wide

Community Advisor:

Date: January 17, 2015

Key Issues: Community Salmon Program

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

1. PSF is anticipating receiving approximately 1.3 million from the sale of the 2014 tidal waters salmon conservation stamp. We are ready for the February 15, 2015 round, announcement have gone out to community and DFO. We have not signed our new contribution agreement but expect to in the immediate future. The new agreement will have new terms and conditions and will begin a new 5 year funding cycle to community that is not tied to the DFO or PSF fiscal year ends but to community needs and biological rhythms.
2. All report for every project for the past five years is due to PSF by March 15, we need to know asap, now, if any project is not going to be completed. Letters going out to every group that has a report due. No grants will go to a group until all of their reports have been received and accepted as is described on the application process and notification of grant. No surprises, everyone is aware.

3. Next contribution agreement PSF is developing and funding a process to support community to do effectiveness monitoring of their projects. Indicators and measures of success are being developed that the community can work with. PSF will also randomly select a portion of projects and undertake independent monitoring to help inform project development and other processes as well as credibility of the great work being done.

Stories: A few examples of successes, failures, challenges.

PSF is continuing to invest in **salmon science**.

We are undertaking **Salish Sea Marine Survival** studies to better understand marine survival of salmon. Recent catches in the Strait have been less than one-tenth of past levels, resulting in a ban on retention of wild Coho salmon and historically low catches of Chinook salmon. These losses have been well acknowledged, particularly in communities surrounding the Strait; yet understanding causes of the declines have remained a mystery. We and our partner Long Live the Kings have raised \$10 million for this study.

Strategic Salmon Health Initiative is being undertaken with a partnership with Genome BC and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. This partnership called the Strategic Salmon Health Initiative was started for a variety of reasons, the primary one being the high mortality rate of juvenile salmon during their early ocean migration. There is a strong belief within the scientific community that infectious disease may be a significant factor in this mortality, but not enough is known about what disease agents might affect Pacific salmon in their natural habitats. What is known comes almost exclusively from observations of cultured fish (both in hatcheries and aquaculture). The initiative intends to clarify the presence and/or absence of microbes in Pacific salmon. To address this issue the initiative will involve a four-phased program to discover the microbes present in Pacific salmon that may reduce the productivity of our Pacific salmon.

Skeena Salmon Program Conservation Unit Snapshots and Habitat mapper are available for the public to use. Based on data from all sources in the watershed- FN, Gov, Community, Industry, NGOs , academia. <http://skeenasalmonprogram.ca/>

PSF Community Bursary granted 12,500 to 9 students to assist them in their salmon relevant studies and future careers.

Salmon-Safe BC the international eco-certification program has accepted more than 40 farms and vineyards across British Columbia into the program. The program that encourages farmers to use agricultural practices that protect Pacific salmon habitat and water quality. Farms are evaluated by independent, professional certifiers. Once certified, farms are designated "Salmon-Safe" and receive a seal of approval to include on product packaging and marketing.

Salmon Enhancement and Habitat Advisory Board - Roundtable

Dinners and auctions are planned again in BC communities to help raise awareness of salmon and the stewardship community and to raise funds to support projects in the region.

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: