



## **SEHAB Roundtable** (May 2015)

**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: Elizabeth Hardy**

**Area: West Vancouver-Howe Sound- Pemberton**

**Community Advisor: Rob Bell-Irving**

**Date: May 2015**

**Key Issues:**

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

1. Lack of support from DFO to volunteer groups and no idea who else to turn to for help
2. Lack of recognition from DFO for volunteer skills
3. Continued frustration for lack of enforcement for fishing violations

## 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)			
Aquaculture			
Capacity & Core Funding			

### Submissions, Comments from Groups:

#### West Vancouver Shoreline Society:

The West Van Shoreline Preservation Society has had a tough year with one Director suddenly dying, one other suffering a debilitating stroke and two others undergoing some treatment so 2014 was not a good period for us.

We made an application under the **Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnership Program** for a grant to complete a project. It required quite a bit of cost estimating, liaising with potential partners, etc and then we haven't heard a thing since submitting the application. We phoned two different DFO people asking if we could come and talk to them to get some guidance and help but NO, just do the online stuff and hope it is accepted. Very poor attitude by DFO. But one doesn't complain or they will blacklist you for the future. I note one place they said the bureaucracy was outstripping volunteer time.

**Workshops** – somehow it seems these are scheduled when we have something else scheduled and are often far enough away that several day's time is involved so we haven't been able to attend them. Someday maybe.

## **Salmon Enhancement and Habitat Advisory Board - Roundtable**

DFO people need to talk to Volunteers trying to get things done and they need to realize that there are experts who are more expert than DFO people working as volunteers and resource people. Not me, but a couple of our resource people.

### **Bowen Island Fish & Wildlife Club**

As you'll remember, the Bowen Island Fish & Wildlife Club focus in 2014 was completing two significant habitat rehabilitation projects. Our focus over the last six months has been to get more volunteers actively involved in hatchery operations and implementing DFO's best management practices. Mike has done a great job interpreting and training volunteers about BMP. For the first time in many years we have enough volunteers to have a different person looking after the hatchery each day of the week. Working with local school students is always a priority.

We don't have any issues with DFO or PSF funding at this time. We just wish more of the salmon released would come back to spawn because spawner survey results have been very disappointing for the last 5 years, especially coho. I've been a BIFWC volunteer for 4 years and have never seen a coho spawning.

### **West Vancouver Streamkeepers**

Enforcement remains a frustrating issue. Crab fishers on the municipal pier continue to take over the limit and undersized crabs, and often the offenders return repeatedly. Repeated calls to ORR have resulted in minimal response. Volunteers drove to Steveston to meet with Fisheries officers, but realized during the meeting that the office is understaffed and nothing will change. Volunteers have realized that the only way to deal with the lack of enforcement is to remove fishing from the municipal pier. A meeting has been scheduled to see what can be done.

An oil spill in Burrard Inlet on April 8 resulted in oil on West Vancouver beaches. Signs were placed in the area warning the public of the oil on the beaches, but the signs were being overlooked. The CAO of West Vancouver asked Streamkeepers to patrol the beaches on the weekend to inform the public that there was oil in the intertidal zone. Volunteers did two hour shifts, and twenty one shifts were done. The information was generally well received by the public. Streamkeepers did not assist with the clean-up effort. The fisheries opened on the 13<sup>th</sup> and the beaches are now all open.

### **North Shore Wetland Partners**

Two projects are ongoing. One is in Cypress Provincial Park and involves trail maintenance and invasive species removal. The second project is on the Mackay Creek wetlands in North Vancouver, just upstream of the improved creek mouth.

## **Salmon Enhancement and Habitat Advisory Board - Roundtable**

The more experienced members of this group are trying to limit the amount of work that they take on and pass the torch to new younger volunteers.