



## **SEHAB Roundtable Template** (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:** Paul Cipywnyk

**Area:** North Side Fraser River Burnaby to Mission

**Community Advisor:** Maurice Coulter-Boisvert

**Date:** May 2015

**Key Issues:**

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

1. Low water and possibly pollutants from road wash are killing released coho smolts. There are three reports of such events.
2. Concern about a lack of education and enforcement in relation to ongoing sources of pollution in the Fraser River, and lack of public knowledge/awareness of dredging-related issues. Information that used to be provided to the public by groups like FREMP has disappeared.
3. Lack of response/interaction from/with ORR is disturbing. Suggestion that when folks call in their reports be immediately issued with a case number for future reference and follow up

**Stories:**

## Salmon Enhancement and Habitat Advisory Board - Roundtable

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

All groups that responded are doing well with public outreach, education of kids, etc. Lots of involvement with community events that are not all necessarily enviro events.

### 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) | Is anyone watching coho smolts dying in creeks and in the Fraser? |                             |                   |
| Aquaculture                                    |   |                             |                   |
| Capacity & Core Funding                        |   |                             |                   |

### Submissions, Comments from Groups:

#### Hyde Creek Watershed Society

Our society continues to experience growth in our school educational programs as well as Coho returns for the past twelve months. Our watershed and associated creeks and streams are well stocked with young Coho salmon and we even found a dozen returning salmon in the fall that had their fins clipped from a few years previous. This is all good news for our small urban hatchery. So far, the huge number of houses being built up in our watershed has had no major effect on our volunteer run operation. The influx of sediment in the creek from the ongoing development in the watershed does require the removal of tons of sand from some sections of the creek annually. Thankfully, we have had no serious problems with any pollution in the creek that has entered the egg room and pond so far.

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All the school classes that we have supplied with Chum eggs have come to the hatchery to release the young salmon and get an educational tour on site. The Salmonids in the Classroom Program is popular with the local school district and really imprints on the young students. We are getting requests for educational tours from more organizations in the Lower Mainland - and once again we will be hosting sixty students from a province in China in July. Public exposure and education is a very important part of our operation.

On Friday May 8th we did our smolt release. Sunday creek observations were good; however, Monday found the creek had dropped considerably, resulting in approximately 500 dead fish. Overnight rain and hopefully more will keep the creek flowing again.

We had a successful Open House this spring and once again entered our parade float in the Port Coquitlam May Day Parade on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Ongoing water supply challenges from the creek and our well have our attention and we are taking steps to deal with this. We continue as usual with an average of sixty volunteer members and are proud of our contribution to our community.

Regards,

Cliff Kelsey & Susan Ingram

### Fraser River Coalition

Just a few salmon comments from the Fraser River Coalition now aligned with the Wreck Beach Preservation Society! Every Spring on the North Arm of the Fraser River from Burne Road west I get reports of some dead salmon smolts washing ashore, and the reports come from mostly industrial sites and private waterfront landowners on the Lulu Island, Richmond side of the River! DFO needs to be very clear on what must be done when we find dead fish in the river?

Salmon Habitat destruction also seems to be increasing especially in the North Arm of the river in Riparian Areas! I have personally contacted the old Fisheries and Oceans Canada "Be the Eyes and Ears for Salmon report Hotline "Vancouver Area" and their response usually is very poor! This old reporting program needs to be reviewed and upgraded, so citizens reporting cases know this really is working and does make a difference! Small oil spills from Marinas and large Commercial boats of light engine oils being discharged into the river, usually from boat bilge pumps, this growing concern also needs to be addressed, who is the authority to address them to and what type of reporting info is required by the Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans! FREMP in the past also provided citizens with info about Specific Maintenance Dredging Projects in the river and a means of citizens voluntary reporting illegal dredgeate being transported and dumped off shore, this program needs to be reviewed and a program put back in place! Fisheries and Oceans Canada "Observe Record and Report" case numbers for each of these citizens reports should be given at the time of reporting!

River Shoreline recreational bottom fishing in the Fraser River estuary seems to be growing over the years and each fisher is now using up to 3 fishing rods and retaining all the species of fish that are caught, including catch and release only Juvenile White Sturgeon! This lower Fraser River recreational shoreline bottom fishing needs to be reviewed in regard to education and regulations. That includes catch limits and multi rods for each personal licence that are presently being used! I hope this report is useful!

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

Terry Slack

Director Fraser River Coalition and the Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Society"

### **Byrne Creek Streamkeepers Society**

We continue to meet regularly and have been enhancing our meetings with guest speakers, including from the South Coast Conservation Program, Langara College bee program, and were recently contacted by a local Jane's Walk organizer for information about the creek and watershed. We continue to be active in events in Burnaby including Earth Day, Environment Week, Rivers Day, local community cleanups, etc. We are also maintaining our relationship with Byrne Creek Secondary School, and have been taking students from the school's art program on creek tours. We have also provided tours for university students from UBC and SFU, focusing on urban biodiversity and watershed sustainability. Fish releases continue with chum fry and coho smolts. Unfortunately, we continue to suffer "first flush" events, in which the first rain following a coho smolt release appears to carry pollutants into the creek that kill a significant percentage of the released fish, while not impacting indigenous fish.