

Fraser South

November 2022 SEHAB Report

Representative: Lesley England

Community Advisor: Tyler Thibault

1. Any issues that are affecting groups and their projects that are directly related to DFO

Common theme

A. Funding:

- As usual, an increase in funds is required for hatcheries to maintain operation. Our funding has remained stagnant while costs of doing business have been rapidly rising.

B. Tynehead Hatchery and Little Campbell Hatchery – Clipped Chinook

- Tynehead Hatchery had a total of five clipped Chinook accidentally culled during egg take. Since we do not have clipped Chinook within our system, we did not use eggs or milt
- Little Campbell Hatchery had over 100 clipped Chinook. These have been left to spawn and heads have been collected on the dead spawners for checking of any head chips.

REQUEST: The ask of both hatcheries is that the DFO develop a policy that guides any hatchery that finds any salmon that does not belong within it water system (i.e. Clipped Chinook). Volunteers are confused as to why we will not let them use the eggs and milt within the hatchery; however, it is permitted for these Salmon to spawn within the river systems.

Tynehead Hatchery

- A. PSSSI definition of Hatchery. We are finding that the PSSSI framework/information does not clearly define the concept of ‘hatchery’. The Serpentine Enhancement Society (operators of the Tynehead Hatchery) request that this concept be clarified within documents. It is not clear when PSSSI is discussing DFO hatcheries and community hatcheries.
- B. We are still requesting further information on how the DFO is going to work within the Provincial Water Sustainability Act to ensure that community hatcheries are not going to have to pay for water usage from their well - water usage that is specifically raising salmonids. Tynehead is one hatchery that would not be using the well if we were not raising salmonids for DFO. We have raised this issue via SEHAB over the last

four years and we have not received any information on how this is being resolved by DFO and the Province. Is this issue being addressed through PSSI? If so, how?

2. Any positive things that are directly related to DFO

All - Greatly appreciating our DFO Community Advisor and his depth of dedication and knowledge

Tynehead –

- The atmospheric river last November created massive movement of spawning gravel to the extent that it was blocking areas of passage for Salmon to our fish fence and just beyond. Thank you to the River Restoration Team and our CA for examining this situation and arranging for a minimum dredging to assist our salmon in returning and being counted.
- We now have 5600 clipped Coho fry in our refurbished COHO rearing Pond. Thanks to DFO and PSF for support. Volunteers check water temperature and PPM, and hand feed four times a week. All fry growing well and very active.

3. Any things coming up that DFO should know about

Tynehead: Large Development impeding on current Salmon bearing streams

Tynehead: A very large development going in by Godwin Farm that will destroy a small stream that has been shown to have spawning Coho returns. Underwater video of Coho fry taken and sent to City of Surrey along with our concerns regarding destroying more watershed. No responses have been received

4. Any issues that are affecting groups and their projects that are related to other agencies

A. Sea Dams:

Nickomekl Hatchery: The replacement of the Sea Dam at King George remains high on the list of our concerns and the DFO engineers are aware of the problem – it remains in the hands of the City of Surrey engineers.

Tynehead Hatchery: The replacement/resighting of the Sea Dam at the Serpentine Fenn is in planning stages with DFO and City of Surrey Engineers. Our hatchery has shared all our escapement data with the engineers

B. Provincial Policy - Riparian Areas Protection Regulation

All groups understand that this regulation was meant as a guide to municipalities regarding passing and monitoring development projects. It is a common feeling that individual municipalities interpret this differently and make concessions for developers. There appears to be no follow up/overseeing of the policy application.

There is a request that the PSSI take this into account as part of their plan to work with Provincial regulations around Riparian Zones and find a new framework that would allow a less self-governing model. The above policy that could be reviewed with both Provincial and Federal input.

5. A general update of what has been happening with your society that you would like to share.

Nickomekl Enhancement Society: Nickomekl Hatchery.

- We have had tremendous cooperation from BCWF regarding help with a seminar dealing with invasive plants, water quality, etc. and now there are providing us with 100 trees & shrubs to repair the riparian area along our watercourse all at N/C – a big shout out for BCWF.
- Secondly we have secured a 5-year deal with Lafarge Canada to provide all our aggregate, labour as needed in a joint venture which provides Lafarge with an environmental good feel for their company.

Serpentine Enhancement Society Tynehead Hatchery:

- Last year was our second year in raising Chehalis Hatchery eyed Chum eggs (50,000). We will be receiving at least 100,000 eyed Chum this year
- Restarting school tours again this year.

Cougar Creek Streamkeepers

- We have been very busy with many projects. Installation and downloading of temperature and conductivity loggers (9 in total), numerous planting projects involving many outside groups, weir building, water sample collection to detect contaminants in the creek water....the tire additive 6PPD-Q, a weekend seminar in conjunction with BCWF, mulching of paths and plantings, maintenance of rain gardens, invasive plant and garbage removal from the ravine, etc.