

Roundtable Report

November 6-8,2022

Ladysmith, B.C.

SEHAB Member: Janet Lemon

North coast Area

Community Advisor: Rob Dams

Key Issues:

1. Stock Status---all stocks in our area are down and some rivers have had a collapse of pink and chum salmon, The sockeye run in the Skeena was strong and there was a commercial fisheries.
2. Floods, droughts and extreme low temperatures have caused many issues for all groups
3. Hartley Bay Hatchery is out of commission because of a water blockage they have not been able to fix, Oldfield creek Hatchery is also not functioning because of the Mountain slide last fall which took out the water supply

Some highlights of the various groups on the North Coast

Stream to Sea school Programs were able to be carried on throughout our area with our Community Advisor, Rob Dams and the groups getting the brood stock and supplying all the school incubators

New hatchery is to be built at Gitwanow as the Kitwanga group would like to begin enhancement of their sockeye run. This year they have taken 20K eggs and sent them to be incubated at Snootly Hatchery in Bella Coola. They plan to do 50 K next year and hope to have the facility up and running as soon as the feasibility study is done.

Eby Street Hatchery & Deep Creek Hatchery in Terrace continues to be an active player and they continue to mark Zymacord coho in lower Skeena. Investing in a full mark and recapture population estimate

Hartley Bay Hatchery. water blockage has held up production.

Oldfield creek Hatchery The Society has undergone a stressful time after the rock slide November 2021 but have now decided to move the hatchery to a better more secure water supply. They are looking at 2 land sites on Wolf Creek just outside Port Edward. They were able to catch the necessary brood stock for the Stream to Sea Program.

Oona River Resources Association We have had a good year with improvements to the facility and a repair to the water intake, pipe and protection rocks around the pipe from the weir to the bank We feel

that our water supply is secure for the first time in five years and have just met our target of 25,000 coo eggs in the incubation box. Our grant from PSF was greatly appreciated. We hosted our annual Coast Mountain College fall field trip, which had been cancelled for 2 years due to Covid, There was 2 groups of 24 and 27 students and they had a fabulous time in their first week of starting the Acquired Coastal Ecology Program in Prince Rupert

This is the 4th season where there has not been many pink salmon observed in Oona River although 72 were counted along with 16 caucus. All the rivers in Area 5 are still showing a collapse of the pink runs.

The Lakeselse Watershed Society continue doing the underwater video camera project, are setting base line data on air and water quality and continuing their work

There is lots going on with Coastal First Nations having received BC Shriff funding and plan to do restoration.

Roundtable Report

February 7,8,9, 2021

SEHAB meeting held on ZOOM

SEHAB Member: Janet Lemon

North coast Area

Community Advisor: Rob Dams

Key Issues:

1. Stock Status---all stocks in our area are down and some rivers have had a collapse of pink and chum salmon
2. Concerns over industrial development especially around Kitimat, Terrace and Prince Rupert
3. Impacts of Covid 19 have changed how some of the groups have done their work and restrictions on gathering has impacted local field trips, fund raising, travel and planning sessions. Fisheries and Oceans staff working from home has made it more difficult for groups to access personal.
4. Unusually wet summer with record setting high precipitation in August. High water flows during brood stock collection has been a challenge

Some highlights of the various groups on the North Coast

Stream to Sea school Programs were able to be carried on throughout our area with our Community Advisor, Rob Dams bringing the collection to the school parking lot and distributing the eggs to the teachers and students who then put them into their incubation box. It was a huge amount of work for Rob and many thanks to him for seeing that this valuable program was able to go on despite Covid 19 restrictions

Eby Street Hatchery & Deep Creek Hatchery in Terrace continues to be an active player and they were able to mark the 20,000 coho successfully practicing a Covid 19 protocol that worked for everyone. Past records show that Zymacord River coho have a 22% mark rate and a survival rate of 5%

Hatley Bay Hatchery didn't get their target of 300,000 coho but did good considering the high water flows.

We were all saddened to hear that Danny Danes (Reese) passed away in Prince Rupert on Feb.4th.2021 He and his group started the hatchery in Hatley Bay 40 years ago and was manager up until his retirement around 2015. Danny had a true passion for salmon and was a wealth of knowledge.

Oldfield creek Hatchery volunteers were able to capture their coho brood stock from Oldfield creek and have 30,000 eggs incubating. They were also able to capture spring salmon from Kloya Creek and have approx 10,000 alevins on hand .

A new manager has been hired and will know more after the start on April 1st.

Due to Covid 19 the annual Smolt fest was not held but the fry were released by each volunteer (who had been responsible for a feeding shift) organizing their household (bubble) to do release over a week's period.

Oona River Resources Association is in the process of hiring a new manager starting April 1, 2021. They have 4,500 coho eggs in incubation. High water flows during peak spawning time and a large family of otter made brood stock capture difficult. A huge beaver dam on the river below the original beaver dam/weir washed out in the 3 day flood mid August and has not been rebuilt. This has resulted in erosion pockets where emerging coho fry may get stranded and will have to be monitored in the spring.

This is the 3rd season where there has not been any pink salmon observed in Oona River although a few were seen jumping in the estuary in early September. All the rivers in Area 5 indicated a collapse of the pink runs.

The Douglas Channel Watch and the Terrace and Kitimat Rod n Gun clubs are still active and are keeping a close watch on industrial activities in and around the area

The Lakeselse Watershed Society continue doing the underwater video camera project, are setting base line data on air and water quality and continuing their work despite Covid 19. Check out their web page.

