

**Smithers & Northwestern BC**  
**November 2022 SEHAB Report**  
**Representative: Marjorie Lieuwen**  
**Community Advisor: Natalie Newman**

1. **Any issues that are affecting groups and their projects that are directly related to DFO**
  - a. **Chicago Cr Community Environmental Enhancement Society**
    - We are interested in learning more about the PSSI and how DFO branches may be re-organized. We want to advocate for ensuring that we still have our Community Advisor and our Resource Restoration Division team and that they remain part of the same division. Our engineering and biological staff and our Community Advisor have knowledge and expertise and an ability to cooperate that is key to all of our projects moving forward. We don't want to see the team split up
  
2. **Any positive things that are directly related to DFO**
  - a. **Chicago Cr Community Environmental Enhancement Society**
    - We now have a brand new fish fence on Mission Creek. Our partners at DFO and Pacific Salmon Foundation have been key to the success of this project. We were also able to get funding from the Prince Rupert Port Authority and Seabridge Gold.
  - b. **Buck Creek Canfor Hatchery and Nature Centre**
    - We're very grateful for the support our CA gives on the ground with broodstock capture each year, and incorporating the volunteers we bring along. She and the rest of DFO staff out of Smithers are also very knowledgeable and supportive on ongoing salmon habitat restoration projects very much needed in the Upper Bulkley watershed.
  
3. **Any things coming up that DFO should know about**
  
4. **Any issues that are affecting groups and their projects that are related to other agencies**
  - a. **Chicago Cr Community Environmental Enhancement Society**
    - We have phoned in complaints to the Observe Record Report line regarding CN Rail pulling beaver dams during August, September and October. We have been monitoring the beaver dams using our drone. The issue is being investigated by Conservation and Protection and we are hoping that we can encourage CN to cooperate with other watershed users in the formation of a beaver dam management best management practices specific to the Mission Cr watershed. This is probably a wide spread issue in many watersheds.

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

**a. Chicago Cr Community Environmental Enhancement Society**

- New fish fence: We have had around 350 coho through the fence to date (Oct 26) and are so appreciative to be able to operate the new fence. The panels are on a lifting system so that we can winch the fence down for cleaning or during an extreme high water event and then winch the fence back up into full upright position. We also have a brand new live trap that allows us to hold fish for broodstock or for biological sampling.

**b. Buck Creek Canfor Hatchery and Nature Centre**

- There was a good return of coho to the Upper Bulkley River this year. The beavers helped the fish by holding back water during a fall with little rainfall, but they also hindered spawner migration. With the help of our CA we made small notches in the dams to allow the fish through. One afternoon Marjorie counted 353 coho spawners in the course of 1 hour migrate upstream after we notched a dam. The hatchery reached its target of 10,000 coho eggs.
- Since opening the Nature Centre Spring 2021 we have welcomed many visitors including school groups where the salmon life cycle is a popular topic. Everyone loves to see the coho fry through the viewing window into the hatchery. Marjorie Lieuwen was hired as hatchery manager in Fall 2021.