

## Roundtable Report

March 26,2023

Zoom to Vancouver meeting

SEHAB Member: Janet Lemon

North coast Area

Community Advisor: Rob Dams

### Key Issues:

1. Oldfield creek needs to build new facility at a better water supply and they are falling short on funding. The new facility located near Port Edward would be a strategic spot to begin some serious strategic stock enhancement
2. Floods, droughts and extreme low temperatures have caused many issues for the salmon streams and for all the facilities. Volunteers and groups have no extra money to implement climate change preparedness.
3. Volunteers and groups in the north feel they are left out of the loop in all ways and since we don't have a large population to solicit funding from we are always scrambling. There are not enough patrolmen out in the creeks or assessments done. Oldfield and Oona River Hatchery has no year round staff to implement the work that needs to be done in enhancement, restoration and assessment.

### 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

Kispiox Area: New hatchery is to be built at Gitwanow as the Kitwanga group begin to enhancement 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: continues to be an active group. They are making Zymacord into indicator stream for lower Skeena coho mark recapture for coded wire tags

Deep Creek Hatchery: Deep Creek, Terrace have Infrastructure upgrades pending

Hartley Bay Hatchery: The group have a new stream bottom intake and new streamside intake through BC Salmon Restoration And Innovative funding. With the re-plumbing and repairs they plan to have it operational by

the fall egg intake but that may be subject to low summer flows

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Oldfield creek Hatchery: The Society has undergone a stressful time after the rock slide November 2021. The group has decided to relocate the hatchery to a better water source and use the old facility for a Stewardship Center which will involve other groups including Coast Mountain College. It is estimated they would need 1.5 million for a new hatchery and will fall short unless DFO or other funding sources contribute.

Oona River Resources Association: We 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. However we did not predict the -27 Celsius (first on record in over the 43 years enhancement) in the dead of winter and this caused the new Victaulic fitting to freeze and push the downstream pipe out of place. Overnight the upwelling box froze and most of our precious eggs did not survive. We cannot put in an alarm system as the cell and phone connections are very unreliable and we are waiting for the fiber optics to be installed around the community and to the hatchery (which is 4 kilometers from the shore cable box.) We are looking in to satellite system through star link. The rivers in the area have been low and we have had long bouts of cold. The gravel and some spawning beds freezing may cause the survival of all our species of salmon in the north coast area to be low.

The Lakelse Watershed Society: This group are keeping active and have a potential at the Lakelse hot springs regarding geo thermal. They are asking for Lakelse to be designated as a sensitive water area. They continue doing the underwater video camera project, and are setting base line data on air and water quality

Kitimat Hatchery: having some staffing issues, they have advocated for a marking trailer but have not received one. They no longer enhance and mark steelhead

Steelhead Society, Skeena Wild, and Rotary Club continue their good stewardship work and are doing well as is the group in Stewart.

