

Round table Report
November 2023 SEHAB meeting
Leandre Vigneault, Haida Gwaii
CA: Erin Harris/Patrick Arkesteyn-Vogler

Summary

We have very good CA support on Haida Gwaii and DFO is to be commended on finding creative solutions for our area Erin Harris has been re-hired in a part time basis and supported by Patrick Arkesteyn-Vogler doing the job remotely and we understand that Quinn Barabash has recently been hired on part time as well. Our thanks to DFO for finding creative solutions to keep providing CA support to our groups and what looks like a great model for mentoring and building CA capacity on the North Coast.

As with all areas of the coast weather has been unusual with very dry conditions in the start of the salmon migration time but water levels have been more normal in the later fall than they were last year.

Chum returns continue to be very low throughout Haida Gwaii. Returns of the other salmon species were reasonable to good.

Groups are still struggling to understand the changes brought in through PSSI.

- They understand that the initiative comes with more money and have seen some the new hires but also understand that CA budgets have gone down. Some groups contribution agreements are going up but due to the limited duration of the PSSI funding commitment realize that the additional funds cant be counted on for the long term.
- They understand that the NC RRU staff have moved out of SEP and that perhaps more people are being hired to fill their old roles within SEP but are not sure who to contact with the questions they would have previously directed to RRU staff.

Group reports

The Hecate Strait Streamkeepers – operated a smolt counting on Crabapple Creek this spring and good success at getting brood stock this fall - primarily coho. They report good volunteer turn out despite how small our communities are.

The Tlell Watershed Society continues to operate the Tlell River Fish fence with a combination of volunteers, one paid staff member and support from Haida Fisheries and DFO staff. They are thankful for the continued StAD funding to support the Tlell Fence.

The Old Masset Village Council is completing some upgrades to their staff living quarters at their CEDP site at Marie Lake using BC SRIF funds.

DFO StAD has been funding DNA collections to build a detailed for coho DNA database for Haida Gwaii over the past few years with most of the collections expected to be complete by next fall.

Low water events this spring prompted the many Skidegate community members to organize a fry salvage in a small stream in the community and this has prompted interest in improving habitat conditions in streams in the community.