

Salmon Enhancement and Habitat Advisory Board (SEHAB)

November 7, 2023

SEHAB Advisory Meeting ,
Presentation for RDG



SEHAB and COMMUNITIES COMMITTMENT

SEHAB and SEP volunteer stewardship community have shared commitment of:

- ensuring functioning ecosystems
- supporting viable, genetically diverse and abundant indigenous fish populations.



SEHAB ROLE

Liaison between community involvement, salmonid enhancement Streamkeepers stewardship community, and PSSSI team

Provides advice to both Federal and Provincial governments focusing on:

- ❑ Salmonid Enhancement Programming.
- ❑ Strategies to manage salmon stocks focusing on conservation.
- ❑ Comprehensive and effective habitat protection, and restoration policies.
- ❑ Fostering education & improved public understanding of the important environmental, social, and economic benefits of BC's salmon resource.
- ❑ Encouraging adequate resources are allocated to recovering, restoring, and maintaining salmon habitats

CHALLENGES

SEHAB Board

- ❖ Finance (budgets, financing, funding, support)
- ❖ Effective Communications
- ❖ PSSI

Community

- ❖ Finance (funding)
- ❖ Communications (information exchanges)
- ❖ PSSI
- ❖ Climate Change
- ❖ Water (quality, access)



SEHAB SUCCESSES

- ▶ Played key role in *Pacific Aquaculture Regulations*, ensuring a risk-managed framework for community facilities.
- ▶ Input into Community Advisor Roles and Responsibilities, Restoration Planning Framework, Hatchery Best Practices, etc.
- ▶ Provided advice regarding the new *Fisheries Act* and enforcement.
- ▶ *Wild Salmon Policy Implementation Plan* – feedback on commitments and policy implementation, and Habitat and Enhancement components.
- ▶ Input into reversing DFO budget reductions to community programming and support.

COMMUNITY SUCCESSES

Janet Lemon: North Coast Area. CA - Rob Dams

Oona River Resources Association:

40 Kilometers south of Prince Rupert, on Porcher Island

- ▶ Operates Public Involvement Program since 1980
- ▶ Have done valuable restoration & enhancement work in/around their community.
- ▶ Latest success is completion of education part of facility.
 - ▶ Host annual Coast Mountain College field trips with up to 20 students learning hands-on about salmon, their habitat, ancient indigenous fishing weirs & climate change issues.



COMMUNITY SUCCESSES

DON HICKS: Central East Coast Vancouver Island. CA - Jacob Melville

Comox:

Brooklyn Creek Watershed Society - North Central Vancouver Island volunteers work hard at stream restoration. Now seeing greater coho numbers and pinks establishing a presence in Brooklyn Creek. <https://brooklyncreek.ca/message-from-bcws-president/>

Courtenay:

Project Watershed of Courtenay: working on major estuary restoration - Kus-Kus Sum.

- will help Tsolum River Restoration Society in efforts of restoration in Tsolum River and DFO Puntledge Hatchery on the Puntledge River.

The Tsolum and Puntledge rivers join just above Project Watershed Kus-Kus Sum site. <https://projectwatershed.ca/>

COMMUNITY SUCCESSES

Stephanie Cottell: Lower Van Island,
Southern Gulf Islands. CA: Heather Wright

Cowichan area:

The Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society - GreenStreams initiative

Goal: to work in partnership with community to restore S'amunu/Somenos Watershed from mountains to sea, beginning with stream corridors on Swuq'us (Mt Prevost) and Richards Mountain, and ending at Cowichan River.

- Includes Richards, Averill, Bings and Somenos Creeks, their tributaries, and Somenos Lake and Marsh.

<https://www.somenosmarsh.com/our-work>

COMMUNITY SUCCESSSES - PARTNERSHIPS

Successes are only achievable with collaboration and partnerships

- ▶ Community goal is work in partnerships with all groups interested in salmon and rebuilding stocks or doing habitat work.
- ▶ All levels of Government – Federal, Provincial, First Nations, Municipal
- ▶ Local groups within communities – including schools and youth groups

CIP hatchery's, Streamkeepers and Stream to Sea have been easy way for the public to get more info and to learn to care for salmon and their habitat

- ▶ Encourages local businesses to get involved with community groups

PARTNERSHIP EXAMPLES:

- ▶ Oona River Resources Association's successes due to partnerships with PSSSI, CIP, Pacific Salmon Foundation and full support of their CA
- ▶ Board members heard of 6PPD-q (Tire Tread toxins) study via SEHAB meetings → linked a variety of local groups to this study
 - ▶ North Shore Streamkeepers sharing data with 6PPD-q study on when fish die in Maplewood to compare with results of sampling – all data entered in Streamkeepers database
 - ▶ Serpentine Enhancement Society working with Metro Vancouver Parks, City of Surrey, 6PPD-q study, Salish Sea Indigenous Guardians Association to combine / share data to prevent data replication gathering.

SEHAB meeting minutes,
representatives' Roundtables, &
other board information is posted
on the SEHAB website

<https://sehab.org/>

