SALMON ENHANCEMENT AND HABITAT ADVISORY BOARD (SEHAB) -DFO EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES

February 27, 2024: 1500 -1615 Microsoft Teams Meeting

Chair:	Secretariat:	Lesley Englar	١d
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SEHAB:

Lesley England	Secretary, Representative for Fraser South	
Paul Cipywnyk	Paul: Representative for Lower Fraser North	
Angela Kroning	Representative for Sunshine Coast	
Stephanie Cottell	Treasurer: Representative for Lower Vancouver Island, Southern Gulf	
	Islands	
ZoAnn Morten	Representative for Pacific Streamkeepers Federation	

DFO:

Brigid Payne	Director, Salmon Enhancement Directorate
Steve Newton	Director, Salmon Stewardship Directorate
Michael Crowe	Regional Manager, Community Involvement Programs
Kelly Binning	Regional Manager, Stewardship and Partnerships
Kiran Shank	Program and Planning Coordinator, Stewardship Partnerships

<u>PURPOSE:</u> Salmon Enhancement and Habitat Advisory Board members meet with the Salmon Enhancement Program (Enhancement and Stewardship Directorates) Executives to discuss key community issues and provide input and advice from the community to senior management on local salmon habitat, restoration, and stewardship.

Item	Outcomes/Actions
1.0 Old Business	
1.1 Ground Water access is still a major issue for all PIP groups doing fish culture. The only reason that well water is used is for fish culture.	Lesley provided Steve Newton a document outlining the historical background of this issue being brought up at SEHAB meetings. Michael stated that as part of the CIP Survey initiative that will inform Facilities Management plans required for PAR licences (July 2024) - specific and detailed information is being collected for all types of water supply infrastructure, including wells. When this inventory has been completed, a more accurate picture of infrastructure, availability, capacity, and operational costs will be available for evaluation and program planning purposes. Recommended that this is an ongoing item on future RHQ agendas for status updates.
1.2 At the November 2023 meeting, Brigid Payne stated she found it interesting to hear all the roundtables at the last SEHAB meeting.	1.2 ACTION : Lesley and Kelly will look at the feasibility of having Brigid attend virtually for roundtable presentation at each meeting going forward. This will be subject to Brigid's availability e
1.3 Within the Fry Salvage Policy, the contact information needs to be clarified for the public and for local stewardship/hatchery groups.	1.3 Discussion on the current Fry Salvage Statement. Michael stated that this statement will be reviewed this winter. Michael also stated that there is a Provincial Document in place regarding fry salvage and that his team is trying to understand how that document interacts with the SEP Statement. However, there was good cooperation with the province this last year.

Michael also stated that there is a companion document on Adult Salvage.

Recommendations from SEHAB:

- As part of the rewrite of the Fry Salvage Statement please remove "contact local Streamkeepers Group"
- Clarify license/permit requirement on the Fry Salvage Statement
- Send out any new documents through the community advisors to share with their groups.

ACTION: All in agreement that this item will remain ongoing on future agendas until the Fry Salvage Statement rewritten

- 1.4 Recommendation that the SEP revisit program functions that occurred prior to COVID and consider reinstating some as inperson events versus virtual. One example: Stream to Sea educators/ community networking events.
- **1.4** Discussion found two issues: local functions and SEP biennial workshop.
 - 1. Local Functions:

ACTION: Stephanie will contact Michael to discuss the opportunity for in-person local community events in her area.

2. SEP community workshop

Travel caps are in place for DFO staff in Pacific Region. There is a need to prioritize travel. DFO to request approval for in-person DFO staff attendance for the next workshop.

ACTION: In preparation for the next 2025 SEP Community Workshop, DFO (Brigid) will look into the approvals required and provide a travel budget forecast to SEHAB so they can plan effectively in a timely manner.

Discussion regarding a) the limitations on travel for DFO and DFO numbers to attend and b) the fact that no host has yet been identified. Both are intertwined for planning. This is going to be ongoing work with both DFO and PSK. A planning committee is yet to be determined.

2.0 New Business

2.1 SEHAB would like a clarification of wording of enhancement and nonenhancement (as brought forward by Kelly) and how these definitions will impact who community groups contact (CA versus whom).

2.1 Discussion ensued. Salmon Enhancement and Salmon Stewardship are still under the Salmon Enhancement Program (SEP). Currently, early plans/steps are in happening to transition stewardship activities from the Community Advisors (CA) to the new 10 Stewardship Staff. CAs and their teams are involved in these high-level discussions.

From a community perspective, the CA will continue to be the default first contact, but as stewardship transition plans roll out, individual groups will be contacted directly.

ACTION: Kelly Binning will be keeping SEHAB updated at all meetings.

2.2 How is PSSI working with 2.2 Steve- Drought was not scoped under PSSI initially but is top of **Public Announcements** mind for the RDG and DM. Salmon Stewardship Directorate regarding droughts and the playing coordination role. Lynda Ritchie and Jaimi Gardner are need to conserve water for leading this for PSSI. fish. Any mechanisms available? Lesley asked how will PSSI groups communicate with public? How is website being communicated out? More on DFO Facebook page? Kelly stated Jaimi Gardner doing regional coordination work with un. Will share approach once completed. **ACTION:** Invite Lynda and Jaimie to the next SEHAB meeting in June to present their work and receive feedback from SEHAB on communications strategies for the general public. 2.3 Drought work is not just within Sunny's area. It is a region wide 2.3 Can RQH expedite Sunny coordination with Jaimi Gardner involved. Newly hired Strategic Mizushima's drought work to Advisors in each area are doing similar work. See information cover other areas of the under 2.2. province undergoing drought? 2.4 DFO has no direct right to intersect with CN on use of 2.4 We understand that CN falls herbicides. That falls under Environment & Climate Change under federal jurisdiction. Canada's jurisdiction. How is DFO working with **Environment & Climate** No direct cause of the fish kill at Smithers has been proven as of Change Canada to ban the this date. Further assessment is ongoing on this incidence. use of herbicides containing Meanwhile, work is being done to increase the water security at glyphosate (Roundup) to Toboggan Creek Hatchery to reduce vulnerability to surface water prevent fish kills originating quality challenges. from federally regulated Brigid stated that staff are working with agencies around Smithers lands such as what recently to discuss resolutions. More studies are needed around this issue. happened near Smithers? https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climatechange/services.html 2.5 SEHAB Finance committee in process of finalizing the year **2.5** Next SEHAB meeting was end report to DFO. The monies available for this next year's of initially planned for Haida meetings are yet to be finalized. Once the SEHAB budget is Gwaii but this is yet to be determined, a decision will be made on where best to have our verified. June meeting. **ACTION**: SEHAB to consider inviting wither CN or ECCC to a meeting to discuss us of glyphosate near fish bearing waters.

June with location TBD

Next Steps - Next SEHAB meeting

Meeting Adjourned at 1615 hour.