

Pacific Streamkeepers Federation Roundtable Report
October/2024 SEHAB meeting
Oct. 6-9, 2024 Kamloops

Summary

1. Any issues that are affecting groups and their projects that are directly related to DFO
 2. Any positive things that are directly related to DFO
 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.
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- 1) Fish kills are still occurring regularly. While the pollution event may be under ECCC groups feel that once fish are documented as dying that DFO should step up. Apps like Flowlink are monitoring in real time but the spills continue without real consequences. How can we get the death of salmon to be of importance? Groups are feeling the need to step in at all levels of government processes, many don't have the experience to state their concerns in a way that is understood and taken serious and yet have more on the stream experience than many who are writing the bylaws, OCPs or regulations. We need to stand beside the DFO in the protection of salmon.
 - 2) Slow start to getting funds rolled out. Groups tend to plan a year in advance to get all the partners and funding in place. It would be good to work with our DFO partners in a proactive way so starts to the new year can begin April 1st
 - 3) fishing rules and regulations - its is difficult to share the fishing regulations in such a way that the public can understand them well. I've had three interactions with fishing concerns this month. I will share the latest from Pemberton
 - 4) There are not too many salmon, mainly Coho, coming to our creek every year but we have few teenagers who every year try to fish some out. We would like to post messages to our local social media groups that our community prefers to help returning salmon and mention that harassing them is also illegal. We would like to include the link from DFO page backing our claim of illegality.

My understanding is, please correct me if I am wrong, that the following page relates to the Pemberton Creek:

<https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/rec/fresh-douce/region2-eng.html>

After carefully studying the page, I understand that fishing for salmon is illegal everywhere except in the watersheds included in the table at the bottom of that page. All Pemberton creeks and rivers are not included in the table.

If I will send someone to that page claiming that fishing in Pemberton Creek is illegal, the first that person will see are points starting with:

- You can only fish for salmon in Region 2 during daylight hours.

- and few other notes which follow

All these notes suggest that fishing is legal with some restrictions.

Then below all of these notes is paragraph "**Salmon limits, openings and closures**" explaining that fishing is illegal except what is in the table below.

Basically, my suggestion is to reformat this page, move all those notes from the top to the bottom of the page. The page should start from the "**Salmon limits, openings and closures**".

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Can these be made clearer or at least have a Coles notes done for groups to share? They work so hard to save salmon and a few people just are a bit selfish.

- 1) Spawner season has arrived, hearing of salmon in streams and a few surprises such as the pinks in Roberts Creek on the Sunshine Coast. Something that we have found very surprising as we review the data on the Streamkeepers database is the high ratio of males to females. This year we are paying close attention to the fins on the salmon as many coho last year seemed to be missing the left pectoral fin. We just started looking last year on the north shore and Squamish and will pay more attention this year. So amazing what we see when we actually look. Update on 6PPD - many are now doing sampling for 6PPD. The concern over "urban run off disease" was brought forward by the SEP/Streamkeeper volunteers and it is good to have the focus on sampling and on finding solutions
- 2) Groups were again very thankful to have their insurance policy fees covered through the PSSI 500 to 1400 may not seem like a lot for some of the larger groups but for the smaller ones it is immense. Hoping this can be continued into 2025 and with process in place can be announced early so as to allow the groups to get on with their planning.
- 3) It looks like the fisheries act review may begin soon. Heads up as some of the pieces that were put into the act haven't had as much traction as we would have envisioned (public database of projects, rebuilding plans)
- 4) Groups spend WAY too much time and energy responding to agency surveys and paperwork and input sessions. Have to scour the paper to find the environmental "protection" permits - reading where municipalities are muzzled when they take industry money - looking closer to quiets the people who signed the grant paperwork as well as all the staff and council members. We need DFO to take a stronger stance on protecting the waterways and salmon and to have staff who speak out and have an understanding of policy and process

We have been working alongside DFO for 40 years but we can't do the works alone