

Our Vision: Pacific Region communities living sustainably within the natural limitations of healthy ecosystems supporting abundant and biologically diverse Pacific salmonids.

Our Mission: SEHAB C.A.R.E.S. SEHAB is the voice of the volunteer community dedicated to:
Communicating
Advocating
Representing
Educating, and
Supporting its endeavours.

SEHAB and the community have a shared commitment of ensuring functioning ecosystems supporting viable, genetically diverse and abundant indigenous fish populations.

SEHAB Roundtable Report — February 2016

SEHAB Member:	Jim Armstrong
Area:	Lower Fraser (South)
Community Advisor:	Bob Schaefer
Date:	September 22, 2016

Key Issues:

What top three points can you distill from community input to take to DFO RHQ?

1. Lack of DFO support for the protection and enhancement of fisheries habitat.
2. Volunteers are taking on the lead roles that used to be undertaken by government agencies.
3. Need for increased support from DFO for the Salmon Enhancement Program.

Roundtable November 2015

Stories:

A few examples of successes, failures, challenges.

The Nicomekl Enhancement Society (NES) has been rebuilding its stream reaches for the past three years after a devastating water main blowout (East Langley Watermain). This work has been organized, managed and carried out by 100% volunteer labour and community support. No funding has been provided by any government agency as none would contribute until the Township of Langley addressed its damage control (Not happened to date). The stream is alive, full of Coho fry and cutthroat trout, along with crayfish, red-legged frogs and lamprey eels. A broomstick fence and removal fish trap were installed in 2016 to enable better capture of returning spawners and to cause them less stress (both fish and volunteers).

The Little Campbell hatchery is in the midst of planning a complete rebuild of its 50-year-old hatchery to deal with the issues associated with recycled water and bacteria contaminants. Again, the volunteers are extremely dedicated and undertake the work enthusiastically.

Two other issues are the threats to fish habitat:

- EBCO Metal Finishing has built a zinc galvanizing plant on the headwaters of Erickson Creek that flows into the Nicomekl River and stormwater flows into the Little Campbell. Both rivers will be devastated if it is allowed to operate. A stay was granted by the Environmental Appeal Board in June after 13 parties filed appeals of the Metro Vancouver Approval. Still waiting to see what the final outcome will be.
- BEEDIE Construction Group has been developing Glouster Estates in Langley for many years. On West Creek, a DFO covenant has been in place since 1999 that is now being threatened by further development. Beedie has attempted to redefine where the Creek is and what the riparian area should be to maximize their development footprint. The creek has changed course, been expanded by beaver activities and is now covering a larger area. Beedie was responsible for a fish kill on the creek earlier this year with using trash pumps to clean out a sump that fish pass through. However, the good news is that an Integrated Stormwater Management Plan is now being required by the TOL after the West Creek Community Group challenged the Beedie development application at TOL council meeting.

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Issues Specific to SEHAB's Work Plan:

SEHAB Work Plan	Local Issue, Specific Examples	Actions by Community or DFO	SEHAB Opportunity
Wild Salmon Policy (Stock Assessment, Habitat)	Lack of enforcement of the wild salmon policy.	Community is contacted the Reporting line on a daily basis without action or little response.	Solicit gov to provide adequate resources to conservation and protection to enforce what laws are already there and strengthen the wild salmon policy to protect habitat.
Aquaculture	Previous history in the area has made communication between hatcheries non-existent causing a lack of overarching plan and fragmented activity.	Attempts at communication and collaboration by volunteer groups. Groups are mobilizing over development issues and communications lines are working well	SEHAB needs to be more visible in the Community.
Capacity & Core Funding	No human or financial resources for overarching supervision and plan in the watershed. Volunteers working on a shoe string budget spending lots of human resources on trying to find funding for projects and then still not being able to pay staff or operational expenses.	Funding is always an issue especially for capital expenditures such as hatchery upgrades, expansion, modernizations	Solicit gov to maintain and enhance CA positions and capabilities. Lobby for certainty in funding (i.e. food supply, education support)

Submissions, Comments from Groups:

I have outlined in the stories section. Groups are sending a common message "Where is DFO?" what do we need to do to get the needed regulatory support when we see the fisheries threatened?

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