

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.

Our partner, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)

DFO Vision: Excellence in service to Canadians to ensure the sustainable development and safe use of Canadian waters.

DFO Mission: It is our mission, as DFO employees, to deliver to Canadians the following outcomes:

- Safe and Accessible Waterways;
- Healthy and Productive Aquatic Ecosystems; and
- Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture.

In working toward these outcomes, the Department will be guided by the principles of sound scientific knowledge and effective management.

DFO Mandate, on behalf of the Government of Canada, DFO is responsible for developing and implementing policies and programs in support of Canada's scientific, ecological, social and economic interests in oceans and fresh waters.

Salmonid Enhancement Program:

The Salmonid Enhancement Program (SEP) plays a key role in DFO's work to conserve and manage Pacific salmon stocks. The program's activities aim to rebuild vulnerable salmon stocks, provide harvest opportunities, work with First Nations and coastal communities in economic development, and improve fish habitat to sustain salmon populations. SEP broke new ground when it was launched in 1977 by working closely with citizens and schools to raise awareness of salmon conservation and to carry out hands-on community salmon enhancement and stewardship projects. Three of the program's main activities are:

- [Fish Hatcheries](#)
- [Resource Restoration](#)
- [Stewardship and Education](#)

SALMON ENHANCEMENT AND HABITAT ADVISORY BOARD
SEHAB, The Voice of the Salmon Enhancement Program Volunteer

Roundtable

SEHAB Member: Paul Cipywnyk

Area: North Side Fraser River, Burnaby to Mission

Community Advisor: Maurice Coulter-Boisvert

Date: October 2014

Key Issues:

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

- 1. Uncertainty and angst about FA changes and introduction of FPP. Volunteers need more info, better understanding. In relation to this, there is a lot of skepticism about self-assessment, QEPs, and how that will work.**
- 2. Aside from great relations with CA, lack of DFO support on the ground.**
- 3. Sense of no response to development, pollution, etc., impacts on habitat. Based on a long record of zero DFO/EC response, particularly to pollution events, people are doing "self-triage" and not bothering to report things that they assume won't be acted upon anyway.**

Stories:

A few examples of successes, failures, challenges.

Groups in this area have been very active at public events and in education efforts. Municipal and regional events such as Environment Week, Earth Day, and Rivers Day often see multiple stewardship groups participating. Groups also tend to have a good presence in the press, and reporters are aware of the groups and who to contact when issues arise. I know that several groups are contacted regularly by reporters looking for stories, and not just bad news but also good news. Reporters are aware that salmon return to urban creeks, and check to see if spawners are returning etc.

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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)			
Aquaculture			
Capacity & Core Funding			

Submissions, Comments from Groups:

Stewardship input from the Hyde Creek Watershed Society

Our society has experienced growth in our school educational programs as well as Coho returns for the past twelve months. There was an increase in the number of classes attending our spring educational tours at our Educational Centre & Hatchery and we expect increased tour requests in the fall. Spawning Coho continue to return in good numbers in Hyde Creek and associated watershed. This year we clipped the fins of 6,500 in our pond and released 25,000 young Coho throughout the watershed. We also collect Chum eggs for the Salmonids in the Classroom Program.

Our main challenge is the influx of some 30,000 new home owners throughout our watershed and how that development affects our creek below as well as our well aquifer. So far, there has been some increase in sand and other sediment in the creek but nothing that has caused much alarm. We are monitoring possible changes in the water level in our aquifer as we

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need to use the well in summer months. We are adding more equipment to monitor and protect hatched salmon in the troughs. We are moving deeper into the watershed to protect and enhance spawning and rearing grounds by partnering with some developers for long term management of these areas.

Our public outreach and education programs continue as in past years. We have received much recognition for our parade float with four large salmon that we enter in community parades. Our annual Open House attracts hundreds of visitors wanting to put young salmon into the creek in early May. We are now preparing for our 15th annual Fall Salmon Festival in Port Coquitlam that attracts up to 6,000 visitors. We fill up the nearby Recreation Centre Gymnasium with displays and visitors can enjoy the spawning salmon in the creek. We attend community events with our displays and host invasive plant removal work parties. We get good press coverage for our events and activities. We enjoy good relations with and support from local municipal governments.

The Hyde Creek Watershed Society is concerned about the future of the Salmon Enhancement Program – how it will impact us and the successes we seem to be enjoying. How does public education enter into any discussion in this regard? **We view education as a critical component to the SEP as the public should see and understand the value of what we are trying to accomplish and why it is so important. We help to shape the future with every class we teach and hope the DFO can share our vision.**

We would also like to acknowledge the excellent support we have been given from our CA, Maurice Coulter-Boisvert and contractor Scott Ducharme over the years. Their professionalism and patience when dealing with sixty or so volunteer members of our society cannot be overstated. Our facility has been in existence for over a decade and is viewed as a success story in our Tri-Cities community.

Hyde Creek Watershed Society

Stewardship input from the Byrne Creek Streamkeepers Society

Our society is fairly stable, with membership staying steady. We have a solid core of around 15 volunteers, and a very active online mailing list that has nearly 40 subscribers who participate in events as they are able.

Our returns have been very low for the last few years, on the order of a dozen to three dozen combined chum and coho. This compares to a peak of nearly 100 about ten years ago. We

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suspect that since other lower mainland creeks have had some excellent years, our problems may be due to pollution since our “headwaters” are all residential, automotive, and light industrial.

We continue to have good relations with the City of Burnaby, with good contact in Parks, Planning and Engineering. The City is becoming more active with invasive species removal and tree planting.

Our society has also established contact with Byrne Creek Secondary School, and in particular with the Art Department. This autumn, for the second year, we will take art students from the school on tours of the creek. We continue to release chum fry and coho smolts every spring provided by our CA and the volunteers at the hatchery on Kanaka Creek. We have a long tradition of rotating these releases through elementary schools in the watershed.

We continue to have good contact with both local newspapers, the Now and the NewsLeader. Both contact us regularly for creek, watershed and more general environment-connected topics.

I was pleased to attend a recent one-day refresher streamkeeper modules program hosted by PSKF, and was happy to see the City of Burnaby represented by their community liaison person from the Planning department. His enthusiasm, and subsequent excitement about urban creeks makes me think that stewardship groups should encourage key municipal and regional staff in their areas to take such programs. I think they can be real eye-openers into the value of citizen science, and in connecting office-bound staff to the real world.

Stewardship input from other groups

While I have no other written submissions, I have spoken with members from other stewardship groups in our area at recent events such as Rivers Day. Most groups appear to be doing well, though a few are struggling with volunteer turnover and succession planning. On the one hand it's good for groups to have strong leaders, on the other hand, it behooves those leaders to plan ahead for when they may want to step back. At least one group has become inactive, but all of its equipment went into the care of an active group. Perhaps more time and effort could be put into setting up and training more groups, for there are several salmon-bearing streams that have no active groups, but not sure who has the time, energy and resources to do this. Other larger organizations such as Evergreen have been expanding into stream activities such as invertebrate surveys and riparian invasive plant removal.