

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 Member: Cindy Verbeek for Gord Wadley

Area: Smithers, Northwest BC

Community Advisor:

Date: November 2015

Key Issues:

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

1. Activities by CN line crews removing beaver dams upstream continue to have a major impact on salmonids in the watershed. Despite assurances given in two years of roundtable discussions, crews removed a series of dams in the New Hazelton area of the stream, resulting in a major high water event that disrupted fence operations and washed away redds of Pink salmon and early returning Coho spawners. The incident was reported to DFO, resulting in yet another warning to CN. Have any other organizations found a way of getting CN to act in an environmentally responsible manner?
2. This is the first time we have encountered a problem with getting timely environmental approval for habitat restoration work from provincial staff. The reason given was 'work overload' and an inability to process the number of applications received. Is this just a problem in our region, or are volunteer organizations in other areas also having problems getting provincial approvals in time to complete funded projects?
3. 125 beaver dams on 60 km stretch of river. Different opinions on whether this is an issue to the late run Coho or not...study needs to be done to put this question to a rest. And if they are an issue what do we do about it? Do others have experience?

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

Roundtable November 2015

Stories:

A few examples of successes, failures, challenges.

CA – what will happen to Stream to Sea program once our CA retires?

Disjointed work with no real shared big picture strategy (that I know of or have been asked to be involved with).

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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: