

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: Lee Hesketh

Area: Southern Interior

Community Advisor: Tom Niven acting for Fred Lockwood

Date: November 2015

Key Issues:

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

1. CA capacity, Community is very happy with acting CA's Tom Niven's efforts and we are fortunate to have had Bob Harding's assistance in keeping the stewardship movement alive through consistent efforts to help community find solutions.
2. Rec. Fisheries funding not being the solution for habitat enhancement for smaller community groups with minimal core funding to carry projects through. Other outside programs like Environmental Farm Plan are becoming more restrictive making it harder to qualify for funding so projects simply aren't being done.
3. Concerns over SEP's future as possible diminishing budgets will mean less capacity given that austerity has DFO staff limited in their present capacity.

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.

The 11th Annual Interior Stewardship meetings were held in Enderby November 4,5 2015 with a great turn out of Stewards from throughout the interior. I presented as a SEHAB representative and asked for feedback from constituents on issues relevant to SEP management. The concerns brought forward were the perpetual issues that have been constant the last few years around capacity, funding and long term planning. The good news was that the stewardship community while tired, still exists.

Kingfisher Interpretive Center and Hatchery has been successfully restored through cooperation and support from Community, NGO's and Government agencies working together to restore over 400 meters of Cooke Creeks flow corridor and infrastructure. Final habitat restoration was completed this past summer. Support from DFO staff was key to the successful recovery.

Habitat restoration projects are occurring throughout the interior due to hard work by DFO staff in securing permitting and supporting projects through the Notification or Authorization process. The challenge is more the habitat restoration staff not being able to fill requests for assistance.

Relationships between first nations and stewardship groups being strengthened as funding partnerships or collaboration between stakeholders has led to successful restoration of salmon back into the Okanagan and multiple restoration projects throughout the region.

Wilsey dam fish passage committee is active but frustrated by the process in evaluating the potential restoration of salmon above Wilsey Dam. BC Hydro and DFO's lack of leadership on issues under their management due to funding restraints has other stakeholders questioning the process and their commitment to the wild salmon policy.

Concern as always with diminishing returns due to low water flows and high water temperatures in streams throughout the interior. While the Province has taken the lead by implementing the Fisheries Act, and restricting irrigation use on the Coldwater as a example, more dialogue is needed around planning for future occurrences. Will DFO be able to help lead these discussions?

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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)	Concern over staff conducting assessments on the Shuswap system not respecting the community and the resource. It varies from staff piling dead fish in front of houses attracting bears to the way the boats are driven on the river.	Dialogue between community members and management staff have dealt with concerns this year but this seems to occur each year as summer staff change.	Request more sensitivity training to these type of issues before letting new staff into the field.
Aquaculture	Concern about reduced production numbers at Kingfisher Hatchery and the concern with Sockeye numbers crashing in the Adams River has raised the question if more hatchery support required.	Communication between DFO and local stewards on DFO's vision on production numbers in the different systems.	Encourage DFO to do more outreach to communities to inform and educate.
Capacity & Core Funding	No core funding opportunities means volunteers don't have capacity to meet regulatory requirements to develop and implement projects.	Look at opportunities to find a secure funding base through partnerships.	Remind DFO headquarters the value of investing in stewardship versus the cost in repairing what we have screwed up.

Submissions, Comments from Groups:

I had discussions with a great cross section of Stewardship organizations at the Interior Stewardship meetings and through a email to stewards requesting feedback. Most comments involved the concern about DFO's capacity to act, support or lead in completing habitat restoration. (perpetual questions)

The concern over possible further SEP reduction in capacity through loss or retirement of staff and core funding is a major concern. A good example is the potential retirement of staff like Bob Harding. While he is only one individual, his dedication and perseverance is priceless and not easily replaceable.

A real concern was the future of education support around the environment as the interior's size limits our CA's ability to be effective through the whole region.

Some of the issues were regional in nature and will be taken up with appropriate staff from DFO.