

**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: Greig Houlden; Alternate: Gord Wadley**

**Area: Smithers and Northwest BC**

**Community Advisor: Brenda Donas**

**Date: October 18-20, 2013**

**Key Issues:**

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

- 1. Need to clarify Habitat Protection regulations under current legislation to ensure they meet the objectives of the Wild Salmon Policy.**
- 2. Need for adequate core funding for enhancement facilities to allow them to maintain efforts to ensure survival of endangered stocks until the Wild Salmon Policy is fully implemented in the Region.**
- 3. Concerns relating to impact on salmon of proposals to transport hydrocarbons through watersheds in the region. These include (but are not limited to):**
  - the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline;**
  - possible transportation by CN of bitumen from Alberta to Prince Rupert through virtually all watersheds in the region and proposed double-tracking of CN rail lines to achieve this;**
  - surveying currently underway in the Kispiox, Skeena, Babine watersheds for proposed LNG pipelines (and the potential impact on those watersheds and salmonids in them).**

**Stories:**

**A few examples of successes, failures, challenges.**

Toboggan Creek Intake Replacement Project

The project at Toboggan Creek has gone well so far except that water levels in the creek due to glacier melt did not allow for an opportunity to do the final intake install within the timing window. We did install the valve and deliver all of the components and materials. We also installed some exclusion fencing to keep coho from spawning in the area of the intake so there won't be eggs in the gravel when we go to install the intake during low water in March.

Submitted by James Powell, DFO Habitat and Restoration Branch

Chicago Creek Society Meeting With CN Representative

After a decade of efforts to discuss problems created in the Mission Creek watershed by CN's beaver dam management practices, the Society was finally able to obtain a meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Karla Graf from CN Environment, toured the fence site as well as the rail line where the problem beaver dams are located, and met with the CN Line supervisor at our fence site to review our concerns. She will submit a report to DFO outlining procedures and protocols to help

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ensure effective communication and avoid a repeat of the high water incident caused by CN crews breaching upstream beaver dams in September, which then impacted the Pink Salmon spawning beds located on Mission Creek.

Submitted by Mark Larsen, Chicago Creek Society President.

**Issues Specific to SEHAB’s Work Plan:**

**Note: Following issues have been raised in previous Roundtable Reports.**

<b>SEHAB Work Plan</b>	<b>Local Issue, Specific Examples</b>	<b>Actions by Community or DFO</b>	<b>SEHAB Opportunity</b>
<b>Wild Salmon Policy (Stock Assessment, Habitat)</b>	'Streamlining' of federal environmental assessment procedures may create risks for wild salmon populations in the Skeena system from major industrial projects (e.g. Northern Gateway Pipeline).	Community groups currently organized to oppose proposed changes to environmental review.	Advocate for continued focus on habitat protection for wild salmon stocks and full implementation of WSP.
<b>Aquaculture</b>	Concern that DFO may, in planned review, may revise current procedures and require volunteer organizations or societies to hold aquaculture licenses for salmonid enhancement facilities (hatcheries)	-Raised as concern by Toboggan Creek Society	-Advocate with DFO for continuation of current practice with DFO holding aquaculture licenses for such facilities.
<b>Capacity &amp; Core Funding</b>	Lack of increase in funding to CEDP-funded hatcheries, despite closure of a number of facilities and increased costs.	Toboggan Creek Society has raised issue on an ongoing basis with DFO. No increase in budget for approximately 20 years.	Advocate with DFO for levels of funding sufficient to meet needs and cost increases over time

**Submissions, Comments from Groups:**

**Comeau Creek Volunteers**

A spawning/gravel catchment area was constructed on Comeau Creek to increase spawning area available to coho. So far 30 adults have been observed using the area. Monitoring of that project will commence in late October relating to ability of the project to retain gravel and remain functional as a spawning pad.

Submitted by Brenda Donas, Community Advisor

**Chicago Creek Society**

Early in July, the Society was able (with financial and physical assistance from DFO) to install interpretive signage in the area of fence operations. The signs provide information regarding

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the work of the Society, the fish fence operation, and the enhanced spawning beds installed in 2012 with financial assistance from PSF.

Thanks to funding from PSF in the amount of \$8940 the Society was able, in late July and August, to rebuild fish fence infrastructure damaged by a high water event in October 2012. Additional donations of \$1000 each were received from BC Ministry of Transportation and CN. Planning for the re-build, as well as significant support and assistance in the actual work window was received from DFO engineering and habitat restoration staff and our Community Advisor. The fence has been operational since September 1<sup>st</sup>, and design improvements incorporated into the re-build have resulted in improvements to both the structure and the safety of personnel working the trap and transport program.

Coho returns for 2013 spawning season to the target watershed (Mission Creek) have thus far been within projections. Approximately 325 Coho have been counted through the fence to date of this report, with significant numbers holding at the mouth of Mission Creek and waiting to move upstream.

Submitted by Greig Houlden, Secretary

### **Community Advisor**

Beaver dam issues on Waterfall Creek: A constructed spawning pad has been blocked off by beavers so work has commenced to manage water levels at the pads as well as access for coho spawners.

Upper Bulkley River Beaver Dam Management Program: The Upper Bulkley Streamkeepers are managing beaver dams to ensure access for coho. They are making note of where coho are spawning and are recording numbers of fish observed.

Upper Bulkley Fish Fence: The old Upper Bulkley River fence sills were both removed and the river returned to its natural state. Some bank stabilization work was also done. This was done thanks to a cooperative effort between Community Involvement Program and Resource Restoration staff.

The priorities in Upper Skeena for this winter and spring will be monitoring of habitat projects, Juvenile Overwintering Study, collaboration with Resource Restoration staff to look for groundwater projects and we will be making an effort to promote the Streamkeepers Program in Upper Skeena.

Brenda G. Donas, Acting Community Involvement Program Support Biologist  
Ecosystem Management Branch

### **Toboggan Creek Society**

-No submission received to October 17, 2013.