

SEHAB / WSP

The Salmon River Enhancement Society in Langley B. C. would like to comment on the Wild Salmon Policy draft.

First we would like to say that we have been involved in the feedback process initiated by SEHAB and agree with the comments they have forwarded to you.

We would also like to comment specifically on the first two principles mentioned in the Wild Salmon Policy document.

1) The first principle is stated to be protection of the resource yet Fisheries and Oceans has consistently failed to provide adequate resources for habitat protection and enforcement. Everyone knows that you just wait until after 5 pm and you don't have to worry about Fisheries.

2) The second principle mentions an open and consultative process. Our experience with DFO has been that consultations are not sought regularly and when they are sought they are often token.

We recall a meeting in Vancouver in 2000 which was well attended by volunteer groups. At this meeting DFO purported to be seeking input on future directions. There was a widespread consensus amongst the volunteer groups that the priorities were increased protection and more education especially in the schools.

We all know that since then protection has become even more pitiful than it was. This has continued despite further letters from our group and from SEHAB requesting improvement in protection and

pointing out how significant this issue is to volunteer groups. It is difficult to remain motivated when you see that DFO is not doing their part.

The education programs that were already in place in 2000 have continued but there has not been a significant effort to expand these programs the way that they need to be expanded to improve environmental awareness.

It is difficult to see the 2000 "consultation" as being anything more than token.

A policy is, after all, only a policy. The real measure of DFO is whether they are accomplishing what needs to be accomplished "on the ground". One hesitates to think of how many thousands of hours have been spent drafting the Wild Salmon Policy when a small fraction of those hours and resources could be allocated to providing more field personnel who could actually improve the enforcement and education issues that are important to the community.

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check out our website WWW.salmonriver.org