

# SALMONID ENHANCEMENT AND HABITAT ADVISORY BOARD

## Minutes

### Virtual Meeting

**DATES: February 5 & 6, 2024**

**Monday, February 5**

#### **Attending:**

##### **SEHAB:**

- Lesley England: Secretary and Representative for Lower Fraser South and Eastern Fraser Valley
- Stephanie Cottell: Treasurer and Representative for Lower Vancouver Island, Southern Gulf Islands
- ZoAnn Morten: Representative for Pacific Streamkeepers Federation
- Jim Shinkewski: Representative for Pacific Salmon Foundation
- Kevin Ryan: Representative for Burrard Inlet, Inian Arm, Vancouver
- Paul Cipywnyk: Representative for Lower Fraser North
- Angela Kroning: Representative for Sunshine Coast
- Jan Lemon: Representative for Northern Interior and Northern Coast
- Kyle Milburn: Representative for Central East Coast Vancouver Island & Nootka Sound Areas
- Lee Heskewth: Representative for Thompson: Central Interior, Boston Bar to 100 Mile House
- Marjorie Lieuwen: Alternate for Smithers and Northwest British Columbia
- Dianne Sanford: Alternate for Sunshine Coast

#### **DFO – Salmon Enhancement Program:**

- Michael Crowe: Regional Manager, Community Involvement Programs
- Kelly Binning: Regional Manager, Stewardship Partnerships
- Kiran Shanks: Program and Planning Coordinator, Stewardship Partnerships

#### **BC Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship:**

- Mike Turner: Director of Policy- Fisheries, Aquaculture and Wild Salmon Branch | Water, Fisheries and Coastal Policy and Planning Division

#### **Guests:**

- Tanya Brown: Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser University
- Jacob Melville: DFO Community Advisor - Central East Coast Vancouver Island & Nootka Sound Areas
- Paul Neufeld: DFO Community Advisor – Lower Fraser South and Eastern Fraser Valley
- Heather Wright: DFO Community Advisor - South Vancouver Island
- Amy Wakelin: DFO Area Strategic Advisor – Stewardship Partnerships Fraser Interior
- Shannon Balfry: DFO Area Strategic Advisor – Stewardship Partnerships North Coast
- Suzanne Thorpe: DFO Regional Strategic Advisor – Stewardship Partners, RHQ
- Stephanie Taylor: DFO, a/Regional Manager, Enhancement Policy, Engagement & Strategic Initiatives

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- Sunny Mizushima: PSSI Program Manager, Southwest and Vancouver Island
- Lora Nield: B.C. Ministry of Water, Lands & Resource Stewardship - Director of Aquatic Habitat – Riparian Areas Protection Regulation Program
- Mya Eastmore: B.C. Ministry of Water, Lands & Resource Stewardship - Unit Head - Riparian Areas Protection Regulation Program

**1. Meeting called to order at 0900 by Jim Shinkewski**

**2. Agenda adopted with no changes.**

**3. SEHAB Roundtable presentations**

Each SEHAB representative presented their roundtable developed from input from their communities. Michael Crowe provided updated feedback on several issues.

**4. Provincial Update: Michael Turner, Director of Policy- Fisheries, Aquaculture and Wild Salmon Branch | Water, Fisheries and Coastal Policy and Planning Division**

Michael presented updates on:

- a) BC Initiatives - BCSRIF in partnership with DFO Part 2
  - \$127.3 million funding recommended for 73 projects.
  - 67 project funding agreements in place
- b) Provincial Strategies:
  - a. Watershed Security Strategy
  - b. Coastal Marine Strategy – added restoration priorities for juvenile salmon.
  - c. Flood Strategy – at same stage as last report.
  - d. Salmon Strategy – all of the above address wild salmon and aquatic ecosystems at various levels
- c) First nations Fisheries Council, BC and DFO trilateral agreement
  - a. Salmon Action Dialogue Sessions happening today.
  - b. Restrictions will be the limitations of provincial government processes (i.e. election outcomes)

**5. Riparian Areas Protection Regulation Program RAPR: RAPR 101.**

- **Lora Nield, Director of Aquatic Habitat**
- **Mya Eastmore, Unit Head**

Presentation on how RAPR functions followed by a Question-and-Answer period.

**Question: Dykes clearing and riparian Zone**

When there is an industrial type of development, RAPR will not apply. RAPR applies to private land only.

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**Question:**

**What about covenant conservation areas put into place by local government areas prior to RAPR. (i.e. Nothing included to legally re-plant dead tree removal)**  
Effectiveness monitoring looking at current local government bylaws to see how they fit into RAPR.

**Question:**

**Majority of areas are on lower mainland but nothing for Northern B.C.**  
Currently only southern but in works to expand to northern part of province.

**Question:**

**Is monitoring data available on RAPR website?**  
Not at this time

**Question:**

**Are development undertaken by municipalities under RAPR?**  
No to Hospitals.  
Roads may be exempt is not through residential areas.

**Question:**

**Municipalities state that they do not need to address roads through residential area.**  
Municipalities do need to address roads through residential areas and this will be part of RAPR education this year.

**Question:**

**How many staff members are dedicated to compliance of known problems?**  
Unknown as this is part of the enforcement Branch – not able to answer as separate department from speakers.

**Question:**

**How close to shoreline does this remain in effect at Estuary? Any say in regulation of that area?**  
Applies to fresh water and does not apply to marine waters.

**Question:**

**What ministry are the Rural Resource Officers with?**  
With Ministry of Forests but can deal with RAPR infractions

**Question:**

**Does the Province require the municipalities to have mapping in place that shows all the properties that have potential Streamside Protection & Enhancement Area (SPEA) on it?**  
Would be helpful to have but answer is not at this time.

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*Information regarding placing a complaint and contacts for violations involving fisheries, wildlife and environmental pollution:*

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/fish/aquatic-habitat-management/riparian-areas-regulation/citizen-resources>

**6. Update on 6PPDq Salmon Study: Tanya Brown, Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, SFU**

Tanya was formerly with DFO. Presentation and discussion on her latest research. To date, there has been no interest from corporations in supporting her research.

The Pacific Salmon Foundation along with other nongovernmental groups, is taking action to advance the restriction of 6PPD-quinone and is in discussion with Environment & Climate Change Canada.

**7. Salmon Stewardship Directorate Update: Kelly Binning, Regional Manager, Stewardship Partnerships**

- Updates on Salmon Stewardship Directorate.
- Input opportunities through PSSI's **Let's Talk Salmon** Platform:
  - Regional Habitat Restoration Prioritization plan (CoE)-April 2024
  - Pacific Salmon Data Portal- March 2024  
letstalkpacificsalmon.ca
- Introduction of Suzzane Thorpe
- Introduction of Area Strategic Advisors: Amy Wakelin, Shannon Balfry.
- Introduction of Sunny Mizushima, PSSI Program Manager for Southeast Vancouver Island.

**8. Salmon Enhancement Directorate Update: Michael Crowe, Regional Manager, Community Involvement Programs**

- Updates including
  - Staffing Updates
  - The presence of Whirling Disease getting closer to British Columbia. Staff are being proactive and developing measures to put into place to decrease the chance of introduction into hatcheries in B.C. Community Advisors will be delivering information for all hatcheries they are responsible for.
- C.A. Introductions: Jacob Melville, Paul Neufeld, Heather Wright.

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**9. DFO Regional Enhancement Engagement Updates: Stephanie Taylor, a/Regional Manager, Enhancement Policy, Engagement & Strategic Initiatives**

- Regional Engagement Updates
- Explanation of Stephanies role and her team's roles Under PSSI Pillar 2: Enhancement
- Presentation on where her group is and future plans.
- Questions and Answer period.
- Feedback provided to Stepanie from those present at this meeting.

If anyone would like to reach out to Stephanie s team directly, the email is:

[dfo.sepengage-engagepmvs.mpo@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:dfo.sepengage-engagepmvs.mpo@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

**10. Meeting Adjourned at 1700 hr.**

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### Tuesday, February 6

#### Attendance

##### SEHAB:

- Lesley England: Secretary and Representative for Lower Fraser South and Eastern Fraser Valley
- Stephanie Cottell: Treasurer and Representative for Lower Vancouver Island, Southern Gulf Islands
- Jim Shinkewski: Vice Chair and Representative for Pacific Salmon Foundation
- Kevin Ryan: Representative for Burrard Inlet, Inian Arm, Vancouver
- Paul Cipywnyk: Representative for Lower Fraser North
- Angela Kroning: Representative for Sunshine Coast
- Jan Lemon: Representative for Northern Interior and Northern Coast
- Kyle Milburn: Representative for Central East Coast Vancouver Island & Nootka Sound Areas
- Lee Hesketh: Representative for Thompson: Central Interior, Boston Bar to 100 Mile House
- Marjorie Lieuwen: Alternate for Smithers and Northwest British Columbia

1. **Meeting called to order at 0902 hr. by Jim Shinkewski**

2. **Committee Reports**

1) ***Finance – Stephanie***

*Update provided.*

2) ***Membership – Lesley***

- Current membership status reviewed.
  - a. South Fraser – Paul Neufeld
    - Still looking for an alternate
  - b. Lower Fraser – Brian Smith CA
    - Still looking for an alternate
  - c. Fraser-Thompson: Central Interior Boston Bar to 100 Mile House – Tiffani Furlong CA
    - Still looking for an alternate

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- d. Areas with no funding for Representative or Alternate
  - North Vancouver Island/Campbell River – Ian Douglas CA
  - West Vancouver and East Sound – Gillian Steele
- e. Lower Fraser North – CA Issac Nelson
  - Alternate has not been in contact with Representative and not responding to E-mails. Paul is working with CA to look at a new alternate.

#### **ACTIONS:**

- Paul C. will make telephone contact with current Alternate and CA
- f. West Coast of Vancouver Island, East to Nanaimo, South to Chemainus – CA Ryan Cyr.

**Last months ACTION:** Lesley will contact Ryan regarding the situation and have him put forward names for both positions. -**DEFERRED** until Executive can discuss best areas to readdress membership.

- g. Central East Coast Vancouver Island & Nootka Sound Areas – CA Jacob Melville
  - Still looking for an alternate.
- h. Upper Fraser: Central Interior north of 100 Mile House – CA Tyler Thibeault
  - Has had major problems finding a representative due to most of his community responsibly responsibility is not volunteer run. Alternate is wanting to step down and not interested in being the area representative.
- Discussion on how best to provide opportunity for CA representation at SEAHB with above information.
  - ACTION:** Executive will meet once ZoAnn back in the country.

### 3) **ToR – Lesley**

- Current state of ToR renewal provided to those present.
  - A meeting was held with Steve Newton, Kelly Binning, and several SEHAB members which went very well.
  - Lesley is working with Kelly Binning and Suzzanne Thorpe on wording and placement of information. This has proven to be a very good educational experience for both sides and thought provoking. The third meeting will be this week.
  - Once a draft has been completed this will go out to all concerned for feedback.
- The wording and meaning of committees were discussed by those present today, particularly Finance Committee. The current ToR talks about Membership Committee and Finance Committee with no explanation of who sits on these

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committees. No clear understanding of who the Finance Committee is comprised of.

**ACTION:** Stephanie will follow up with ZoAnn on history and report back to Lesley

### 3. Working Group Reports

#### 1) *South Resident Killer Whale Prey Technical Working Group – Angela*

From the SRKW Prey TWG meeting held November 28, 2023 and confirmed February 02-05, 2024:

There has been an ongoing project by SEP to augment the SRKW diet with Chilliwack River Fall Chinook from 2019 – 2023 by 1M annually. Opportunistic prey and fecal samples collected since 2022 and to 2028 are being analysed by DFO to determine if this specific prey is being eaten and helpful in their diet. Results from 2022 (and 2023) are not yet finalized. This data will be incorporated into a larger Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat process. The 1M Fall Chinook release for harvest is still on the production plan going forward.

From the SRKW Indigenous & Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group and Technical Working Groups Meeting held January 12, 2024:<sup>1</sup>

An update was provided by the Vancouver & Fraser Port Authority on their voluntary Evaluating Cetacean & Habitat Observation (ECHO) Program.

American federal and state representatives provided an update on their legislated and funded programs for Orcas, their prey (salmon) and prey habitat, reducing vessel noise and disturbance and contaminants. There is currently a \$25M US Washington proposal to retrofit 6PPD-quinone stormwater hot spots with green infrastructure before their legislature. Also of interest, is the legislation requiring a 1000-yard vessel avoidance distance passed May 2023; it will come into effect in 2025.

SRKW Management measures and options for the 2024-2025 season were introduced. A public survey was launched January 12, 2024 and will remain open until February 12, 2024 (<https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/consultation/fm-gp/srkw-eprs/2024-srkw-survey-sondage-ers-eng.html>).

**ACTION:** Angela will submit survey comments to DFO directly on behalf of SEHAB.

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<sup>1</sup> I was unable to attend the entirety of the presentation. DFO was unable to send an invitation to the presentation to my Alternate



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**2) *Mass Marking – Leandre – Tabled***

**4. SEHAB discussion items**

**1) *SEHAB Correspondence – review of letters received/sent.***

Nothing to report since last meeting.

**2) *SEHAB Communication and Outreach***

Discussions on how to improve feedback from our community groups.

**3) *Set dates for the next two meetings.***

- June 10-12 Haida Gwaii
- Fall = October 7-9
  - Suggestions: Merritt, Comox Valley, Sunshine Coast.

**4) *Minutes:***

***All in agreement with the following:***

- Lesley will have draft minutes ready by the end of the week.
- Minutes for February 5 will be sent to Kiran for DFO to provide feedback by February 12.
- Minutes for both February 5 and 6 will be posted for all attendees to read and provide feedback by February 12.
- If no feedback is received by DFO or SEHAB attendees, minutes will be considered approved and posted as such by February 15.

**5. RHQ questions developed.**

***ACTION:*** Lesley will ask for a meeting date with RHQ

**6. Meeting adjourned at 1130 hr.**