

SALMONID ENHANCEMENT AND HABITAT ADVISORY BOARD

Agenda

Pacific Shores Resort
1-1600 Stroulger Rd Nanoose Bay BC V9P 9B7

DATES: June 6, 7 & 8, 2024

Thursday June 6, 2024

Board Business

Pacific Shores Resort & Spa & Resort
(Madrona meeting room)

Attending:

SEHAB:

- Leandre Vigneault: Chair and Representative for Haida Gwaii
- Stephanie Cottell: Treasurer and Representative for Lower Vancouver Island, Southern Gulf Islands
- ZoAnn Morten: Representative for Pacific Streamkeepers Federation
- Kevin Ryan: Representative for Burrard Inlet, Indian Arm, Vancouver
- Angela Kroning: Representative for Sunshine Coast
- Kyle Milburn: Representative for Central East Coast Vancouver Island & Nootka Sound Areas
- Kris Bullock: Representative for Smithers and Northwest British Columbia

1. Meeting called to order

2. Adoption of Agenda and Standing Committee Reports

- Angela, Kyle – Approved with change
 - 1) *Finance – Stephanie*
 - Leandre, Jim, Paul, ZoAnn and Stephanie will be the Finance Committee
 - Stephanie learning the ropes with help from Zo Ann. Hold back approved and paid, carrying about 20k that has been held internally since SETG
 - Met with Susan and Kiran from DFO, question about needing more money, discussion about new deliverables in contract, found that the new tasks were about how to gather the data about what we do.
 - 2) *Membership*
 - ZoAnn as past executive is on membership committee asking to define the committee. Kevin and Kyle agreed to be on committee.
 - There is interest in looking at representation boundaries/map. Planning for how many members we have.

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3. Working Group Reports

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

- Answers received to submission on proposed 2024/2025 Management Measures were reviewed. See appended report.

ACTION: Angela will draft recommendations to the revision of the Marine Mammals Regulations, Fisheries Act.

2) *Mass Marking – Leandre*

- Nothing to report. SEHAB to follow up.

4. SEHAB discussion items

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

- Fall date – Oct 6, 7, 8
- Winter date – Feb 27, 28, Mar 1

2) *ToR questions*

- The item on page two saying that if there are not enough funds, we will have less people was flagged as issue by a few people as giving DFO too much of an out.
- Roles of secretary seem to be too a large commitment in light of Lesley stepping down, should this be reviewed?
- Minutes of meetings approval. should clarify that only the relevant sections be out for DFO approval.

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Friday June 7, 2024

Location: Nanaimo Pacific Biological Station (PBS): Boardroom

SEHAB:

- Leandre Vigneault: Chair and Representative for Haida Gwaii
- Stephanie Cottell: Treasurer & Representative for Lower Vancouver Island, Southern Gulf Islands
- ZoAnn Morten: Representative for Pacific Streamkeepers Federation
- Kevin Ryan: Representative for Burrard Inlet, Indian Arm, Vancouver
- Angela Kroning: Representative for Sunshine Coast
- Kyle Milburn: Representative for Central East Coast Vancouver Island & Nootka Sound Areas
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DFO: Salmon Enhancement & Salmon Stewardship

- Brigid Payne, Director, Salmon Enhancement, SED (virtual)
- Michael Crowe, Regional Manager, Community Involvement Program, SED (virtual)
- Kelly Binning, Regional Manager, Stewardship Partnerships, SSD (virtual)
- Byron Nutton, Regional Manager, Habitat Restoration Center of Expertise, SSD (in-person)
- Michael Folkes, Regional Manager, Integrated Rebuilding Unit, SSD (in-person)
- Adam Silverstein, Regional Manager, Hatchery Modernization, SED, (virtual)
- Stephanie Taylor, A/Regional Manager, Enhancement Policy, Engagement and Strategic Initiatives, SED (in-person)
- Kiran Shanks: Program and Planning Coordinator, SSD (in-person)
- Lynda Ritchie, a/Section Head, Climate Emergency Restoration Unit, SSD (virtual)
- Jaimi Gardner, Regional Drought Response Coordinator, SSD (virtual)
- Erica Blake, Stewardship Coordinator, CIP, SED, (in-person)
- Alison Krimmer, A/Hatchery Reform Biologist, SED (in-person)
- Andrea Goruk, Area Strategic Advisor, PSSSI, South Coast Area, (virtual)
- Shannon Balfry, Area Strategic Advisor, PSSSI, North Coast Area, (virtual)
- Robin Hawes, Area Strategic Advisor, PSSSI, Fraser & Interior Area, (virtual)
- Adrienne Paylor, Stewardship Partnerships, Policy and Planning Lead, SSD (in-person)
- Jennifer Harding, Biologist, Habitat Restoration Centre of Expertise (virtual)

1. Meeting called to order at 0905 by Leandre, Chair.
2. Roundtable Presentations with DFO present

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3. DFO - Salmon Stewardship Directorate (SSD) & Salmon Enhancement Directorate (SED) Updates:

1) Stewardship Partnerships: (Kelly)

- a. Integrated Pacific Salmon Planning Framework currently under development
- b. Integrated Planning for Salmon Ecosystems (IPSE) Piloting 32 programs Thompson-Shuswap (Indigenous-led approach and Nicola Watershed and Yukon River. *Comment: DFO can invite Chantelle Caron (Section Head, Integrated Planning for Salmon Ecosystems, BC, Fish & Fish Habitat Protection Program, Ecosystems Management Branch) to explain more if SEHAB wants*
- c. Stewardship Partnerships: Phase 1 is underway with 70 stewardship groups; all groups have been notified. If there is a significant enhancement, then activity stays with CIP. Included in the transition are SEHAB, PskF and PSF to the regionally based stewardship team. There is a list of the activities, not all transitioned yet, Phase 2 upcoming activities to be considered. *Comment: SEHAB could provide input*

2) Strategic Areas Updates:

- a) Fraser & Interior- (Robin) Objective of the Tusit'ol T'ah (Let's Work Together) partnership is to collaboratively develop a rebuilding plan for Early Stuart Sockeye by March 2026. Thirty-three stewardship activities have been transferred to our Stewardship Partnerships team. Working with CA to administer funding agreements.
- b) South Coast (Andrea): Integrated Rebuilding Pilot – Nanaimo River Summer Chinook. Risk Assessment Methodology for Salmon (RAMS) and Habitat Assessment Ecosystem Status reports have been completed. Cumulative Effects Model for the Prioritization of Recovery Actions (CEMPRA) has been implemented. Stewardship Activities Transition associated with 22 groups, working with CA and with CORE, they will be the primary point of contact.
- c) North Coast (Shannon) Smith inlet Sockeye Integrated Rebuilding Pilot underway. Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nations is leading their rebuilding plan and has developed an outline for their draft Watershed Recovery Plan. Stewardship activities transitioning with 12 groups not all are First Nations. NCA SP staff are now the primary point of contact for stewardship groups and working closely with CA and HRCoE

Discussion: Not every geographical area will get Stewardship staff.

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Comment: (SEHAB) There was a system that was working well in remote areas e.g. Haida Gwaii, don't re-invent the wheel. Response: note of that taken. b) SEHAB members stated multiple times that local communities are confused as to what services Stewardship staff will be providing. Response: challenges and disruptions are recognized

4. **DFO Drought Response: (Jaimi & Lynda)**

- Building on lessons learned from last year.
Question: (SEHAB) how does a Temporary Protection Order get issued?
Answer: no quick answer, Lynda will find out and get back with an answer.
- Each four areas in BC & Yukon have a drought response team that have identified priority systems and stocks. In addition, there are Regional Technical Drought Working Groups (RTDWG) in BC. New are Drought Advisory Tables (DAT) with representation across all governments.

Question: (SEHAB) Is there any work being done in preserving cold water refugia in small streams?

Answer: There are exercises in identifying areas that may be particularly sensitive and in some priority areas they are looking at cold water refugia. Comment: (SEHAB) if you don't protect then will have to restore; also, local community is on the ground to know where the fish are during drought. Looking forward to how community can respond and also help plan. Note fish need to learn how to respond to drought conditions.

- Observe, Record & Report (ORR) has taken on climate conditions impacting salmon, public can call to report salmon in peril.
Question: (DFO) How would SEHAB like to collaborate with DFO in Drought Response?

DFO is trying to create responses for both large and small-scale drought responses. Michael Crowe is working on responses to small, local events. Lynda noted that CA's will be reaching out to community groups.

5. **Integrated Salmon Rebuilding Plans:** (Michael Folkes)

- Four pilot projects involving First Nations to fulfill United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA Measure 41): Yukon River Chinook, Early Stuart Sockeye, Smith Inlet Sockeye, Nanaimo River Summer Chinook (single CU). Planning for early easily implemented recovery actions to be undertaken before PSSI completion in 2026 as directed by Regional Director General Susan Chambers.
- Next steps: includes undertaking with Skeena FN to scope opportunities for supporting a currently underway rebuilding project.

Question: (SEHAB) What is the longer-term plan?

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Answer: Prioritization exercise: evaluate all 400 Conservation Units which is expected to be done by March 2026.

Question: (SEHAB) How do small NGO's/volunteers' priority list fit in?

Answer: has not thought of it, will now.

6. Pacific Region Habitat Restoration Priorities Plan: (Byron Nutton) & Jennifer Harding (leading this effort)

- Guided by DFO National Framework to ID Fish Habitat Restoration Priorities. Led by the HRCoE. Intended to be informed by “everyone” and includes all fish, including shellfish and crustaceans. All terrestrial (riparian and upland included) and aquatic (nearshore, estuary, tidal flats, wetlands, floodplains, rivers and lakes).
- Engagement: see Let's Talk Pacific Salmon website. Now in Phase II Survey: Habitat Restoration Goals & Objectives. Development Timeline: starting this summer draft first edition of Restoration Priorities Plan; then launch Restoration Priorities Plan Technical Document. Feedback received after July 31, will be incorporated into the next edition.

Comment (SEHAB) – Should keep intact areas at front of priorities - preservation should be prioritized; gov't needs to provide funds for this.

Question (SEHAB): What is different?

Answer: Not sure yet, wanted to have a public guiding documentation

Question (SEHAB): Believes that this program should work to protect habitat but concerned as present system doesn't work because DFO is not dealing with reported violations.

Answer: This document will be available to the public and it will be recommended who to contact for enforcement and compliance be included.

7. Community Involvement Program: (Michael Crowe)

- Long-time Lower Fraser Stream-to-Sea Education Coordinator Bev Bowler will retire in August.
- Whirling Disease Info Bulletin #2: Canadian Food Inspection Agency has stated Columbia River watershed is now a known infected zone, no movement of fish out of the zone.
- Drought Response – Juvenile Salmon Salvage Guidelines is just about ready to be published and distributed.

Comment: (SEHAB) Requests copy of Juvenile Salmon Salvage Guidelines

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- SEP Workshop Status: (Brigid) – Developing Delivery Options for 2025 Workshop. It will be a challenge for DFO participation regarding current government restrictions.

Comment: Hopes to have meeting with smaller group to consider how to make it happen with a smaller DFO presence?

8. Enhancement & Engagement: (Stephanie T.)

- Updating SEP website.
- Ongoing regional engagement work: PSSSI First Nations Engagement Series, June 10-14th, there will be another engagement for the general audience afterwards. Regional Engagement Campaign SEP 2024– Advancing SEP through Hatchery Modernization.
- SEP-SED Newsletter first Issue June 2024. Pacific Salmon Enhancement Policy Vision.

Comment: (DFO): Is SEHAB interested in further discussion with this important Policy?

Question: (SEHAB) Is newsletter only for enhancement?

Answer: Yes, does not include stewardship/education (as per previous newsletter).

Comment: (SEHAB) would like to see goals, improvement for community input.

Answer: The Policy is meant to be directional not an operational piece.

9. Pacific Hatchery Adaption Strategy - Alison & Adam (will share presentation to SEHAB group only)

- Had hoped to be able to distribute paper for this meeting. Strategy will apply to all current and future Pacific salmon enhancement activities carried out in BC and the Yukon. It will be implemented over time in a tiered manner that considers short to long term time frames. It will include the development of population specific Enhancement Plans.

Comment: (SEHAB) recommends changing description for SEHAB and stewardship groups currently identified as “stakeholders. Strategy will develop science advice on appropriate level of enhancement within a CU

Question (DFO): Questions/thoughts/feedback on Discussion Paper? Wants to hear from SEHAB anytime, specifically once paper is distributed.

Question: (SEHAB) Will it apply to all facilities?

Answer: Yes, but not to commercial aquaculture and the strategies will be specific for each facility. The enhancement biology team working with Adam, are reforming hatchery practice to better align with modern

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circumstances. Production should be modernized and revised a necessary depending on population specific conditions. Both major operations and CIPs will be part of this strategy.

Comments: (DFO). Wants feedback from SEHAB re: potential pilot projects and priority areas of focus

10. Enhancement Facilities Plans (Erica)

- The CIP Facilities Survey – will inform program planning and delivery. CIP Survey Components include site and habitat maps and operational diagrams. Will now need to identify specific fish culture activities undertaken at each facility; adopt SEP FHMP (Fish Health Management Plan). These are supported by Fish Health Group. Of 119 water supplies identified, hatcheries only 76 may require water licences. This document will be available to all hatcheries, not to the public. Less than a month away from being completed.
- Future focus: Operational manuals – develop site specific facility operation documents for CEDPs and larger PIPs. It is hoped that this will help with outstanding issues such as hazardous materials.
- Michael recognizes Erica for her work, and thanks to PSSI for the funding of the Enhancement Facility Plans

11. **SEHAB ToR Ratification:** (Leandre) ToR will be slightly changed, voted on by SEHAB via email and then sent to Kelly at a later date.

1605 **Adjournment:** Moved by Leandre, passed.

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Saturday June 8, 2024

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Attending:

- Stephanie Cottell: Treasurer & Representative for Lower Vancouver Island, Southern Gulf Islands
- ZoAnn Morten: Representative for Pacific Streamkeepers Federation
- Kevin Ryan: Representative for Burrard Inlet, Indian Arm, Vancouver
- Angela Kroning: Representative for Sunshine Coast
- Kris Bullock: Representative for Smithers & Northwest British Columbia
- Leandre Vigneault: Chair & Representative Haida Gwaii via email

1. RHQ Comments & Questions compiled

2. Planning:

- 1) **ACTION:** Minutes will be prepared by Leandre & Angela, then reviewed and ratified virtually by those attending.
- 2) **ACTION:** SEHAB will follow up to see why SEHAB is not being called to engage in Mark Selective Fishery & Mass Marking discussions.
- 3) **Terms of Reference** – Leandre & Angela have already altered language with respect to Executive/Secretarial duties and with respect to guests, including DFO, reviewing their own presentations before Minutes are ratified. Consideration is still being given to wording that DFO commits to appropriate funding for SEHAB to have representation for every CA's Area.
 - a. **ACTION:** Revised ToR to be emailed to SEHAB members for approval before sending to Kelly.
- 4) **Possible Guests for Next Meeting** – Compliance & Protection; Drought Response (large and small scale) – lessons learned over the summer; Flood Preparation.
- 5) **Dates for the next two meetings:** October 6-8th in Kamloops; February 27-28-1, 2025, Location to be announced – may be virtual.

12:00 Adjournment: moved by Kris, passed.

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Addendum:

Questions asked by DFO in minutes from Friday, June 7, but not discussed June 8 as Minutes were unavailable

- 1) Integrated Planning for Salmon Ecosystems (Kelly) – Does SEHAB wish to have Chantelle Caron (Section Head, Integrated Planning for Salmon Ecosystems, BC, Fish & Fish Habitat Protection Program, Ecosystems Management Branch) present on this Plan?
- 2) Does SEHAB wish to comment on Stewardship Partnerships Phase 2 (Kelly)?
- 3) Pacific Salmon Enhancement Policy Vision (Stephanie T.) - Is SEHAB interested in further discussion)?