

SEHAB Roundtable North Side Fraser Burnaby to Mission

February 2025

Paul Cipywnyk

CA Catherine McLean

Main Items:

Extensive report from new CA on activities at hatcheries in this area

Groups need younger volunteers and exec members

Continuing issue of volunteer burnout due to never-ending urban impacts on streams and lack of response and solutions. Groups are very frustrated that pollution events, sedimentation, etc., are reported to DFO, to ECCC, to Metro Vancouver, to municipalities yet nothing ever seems to be done to solve such problems.

Ongoing fears about massive urban redevelopment and the impact on streams – single family homes with yards are being rapidly replaced with huge towers and no permeable surfaces

SCEC:

I would like some feedback as to what happens at these meetings as we try to keep you updated but don't know what DFO does with all the info that we send them as there is no change in the effluent spills into our watershed. Last year we had over 225 discharges into the creek 4 fish kills all related to redevelopment issues.

Scec reports to all the authorities ECC Canada DFO Cities of Burnaby, Coquitlam Min of Environment . Last year we had meetings with head of the Conservation service. Head of DFO enforcement ECC Canada in Ottawa but things just get worse all the time. There by laws but all these developers just keep on polluting. Nothing changes.

John Templeton, President

Stoney Creek Environment Committee

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McClean, Catherine (DFO/MPO)

Hello Paul,

I passed your request for stewardship and salmon-related input to the groups. I don't know if some of them have reached out to you directly but in conversation with them the general themes I have heard are:

- PSSI funding has helped all the groups in my area make improvements to their sites but there is still work that could be done.
- Water, in terms of both quantity and quality still is an issue. Below in my summary for each project I have more details on this.
- Groups on the Coquitlam River feel that the habitat restoration projects (ie Overland, Archery, Oxbow, etc channels) that were built on this river, need maintenance.
- It was a fantastic year for chum returns and a good year for coho returns.

Brunette Hatchery (run by Burnaby Firefighters' Charitable Society): - Incubation improvements still underway and another rearing tub needs to be purchased and installed. Coho incubation issues – is this issue tied to the well water being too soft or ?

Grist Goesen Memorial Hatchery (run by Port Coq Hunting & Fish): - River pumps are not operating as efficient as previously. They also have Metro Van raw water but they don't have an adequate back up to this without replacing the river pumps.

- They have been releasing coho fry and coho adults into the Coquitlam reservoir, (above the dam), at Cedar Creek as they were asked to do as a five year trial. There are very few coho smolts making it out of the reservoir from this trial.

Hoy Creek Hatchery (operated by Hoy-Scott Watershed Society): - A low level alarm system installed and new roof built over rearing tub. Improvements to water supply system need to be made (ie a new pump needs to be installed).

Hyde Creek Hatchery (operated by Hyde Watershed Society): - The well that supplies water to Hyde Creek has been re-developed but serious problems with water supply still exist. In the middle of October, the atmospheric river also filled in the pond in the creek where they draw their surface water from so they don't have this as a back-up.

Kwikwetlem Hatchery (to be operated by Kwikwetlem First Nation): - This sockeye facility whose aim is to bring sockeye back to the Coquitlam river, is now completed but it was not completed in time to collect residualized sockeye brood from the lake. For this year, they are testing their systems by incubating and rearing a small number of coho eggs. In 2024, the largest number of returning sockeye to date was counted in the Coquitlam river (13 fish) and DNA tests show they were all Coquitlam stock. In the past, there have been sockeye strays from other systems to this river.

River Springs Hatchery (operated by River Springs Community): - This group remains enthusiastic and engaged with the community. This coming year they are planning to adipose clip their coho which they have never done previously.

Regards,

Cathy

Byrne Creek Streamkeepers Society

Best spawner returns in 20+ years – nearly 200 combined chum and coho.

We are now having a “monthly” meeting every three or four months.

Only 4 or 5 volunteers participated in spawner patrols

We have not had the volunteer capacity to attend events like Environment Week

As in my previous report, we are encouraged that 6PPD studies are ongoing, but without support from the municipality (in our case, the City of Burnaby) to install rain gardens, and bioswales, and retention ponds, how are we to reduce the impacts of road runoff on creeks? Our group has been pushing for infiltration for decades to no avail. The City keeps redeveloping roads and urban trails and cycling paths with no accompanying infiltration.

Our group has met once or twice with key City staff since my last report, and we hope that continues as such meetings are valuable.