

**SEHAB / DFO RHQ MEETING
MINUTES
MARCH 19, 2025
3:00 – 4:30 PM
Virtual meeting by Teams**

**ATTENDING:
SEHAB:**

- Leandre Vigneault, Chair, Rep for Haida Gwaii
- Stephanie Cottell: Treasurer & Rep for Lower Vancouver Island, Southern Gulf Islands
- Angela Kroning: Secretary & Rep for Sunshine Coast
- Kevin Ryan: Rep for Burrard Inlet, Indian Arm, Vancouver
- Jan Lemmon: Rep for Northern Interior and Northern Coast
- Marjorie Lieuwen; Alternate Rep for Smithers & Northwest BC
- Lynn Lee: Alt Rep for Haida Gwaii

DFO:

- Brigid Payne: Director, Salmon Enhancement Directorate (SED)
- Michael Crowe: Regional Manager, Community Involvement Program, (SED)
- Kelly Binning: Regional Manager, Stewardship Partnerships, (SSD)
- Kiran Dhesi: Program & Planning Coordinator, Stewardship Partnerships, (SSD)

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order 3:10** – late start due to SEHAB invite challenges
2. **Changes to DFO** –
 - a. Regional Director General is now Anna Klassen (from ECCC).
 - b. Susan Chambers will continue to lead PSSI
 - c. Joanne Thompson is new Minister effective March 14, 2025
 - d. Assistant Deputy Minister for Ecosystems & Ocean Sciences is Dr. Arran McPherson
3. **Old Business:**
 - a. SEP Community Workshop update – Approval from DFO still pending. The Planning Committee has noted that the May date proposed is now not possible, looking at alternate dates. Still actively planning workshops
4. **New Business:** Questions/Comments from SEHAB meeting of February 03-04, 2025 –

a. PSSI Update & Next Steps: SEHAB requests that DFO ensures that pre-PSSI capacity is not lost with the ending of PSSI. Kelly requests SEHAB input to what worked successfully for PSSI and what future focus might be. Angela noted that request had been sent out to SEHAB members, to be forwarded to community members March 04; follow up reminder will be sent in May. Angela hopes to have summary presented at next SEHAB meeting.

ACTION: DFO to let Angela know if summary would be required sooner.

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- b. Request to further clarify role of Stewardship Coordinator, Stewardship Advisor and how they relate to Community Advisors – Kelly has prepared a written response. **ACTION:** DFO to send clarification to Angela
- c. Toboggan Cr/ CN incident: DFO/ECCC have both investigated potential spraying of an herbicide along tracks that may have entered creek and killed fish; they found no conclusive evidence. However, moving forward CN will be required to GPS all water bodies prior to spraying and create a geo-fence of no-go zones. In addition the Ministry of Transportation & Transit will be required to use creek water to wash bridges rather than chlorinated tap water. **ACTION:** SEHAB requests that these procedures be adopted everywhere, not just in the Toboggan Cr. /Smithers area.
- d. Anniversary Recognition of SEP Volunteer Community; how is this being recognized today? E.g. 30 years of Chicago/Mission Creek group – DFO would like to continue with recognition; however there are challenges with mechanisms given financial constraints. **ACTION:** Does SEHAB have any ideas of what would constitute recognition, e.g. virtual calls, letters of acknowledgement?
- e. Comment: “Multi-partner projects” (differing levels of government and programs, First Nations and stewardship community) this language/concept should be embraced by PSSI and moved forward into PSSI 2. – The original quote was from the summary of the Sunshine Coast Roundtable **ACTION:** SEHAB to ask member groups of examples of multi-partner stewardship projects.
- f. Request of Stock Assessment: Is there sampling for age class of the significant 2024 chum returns – is there a significant number of jacks/jills? – Stock Assessment does routinely sample for age classes on returning salmon. No differences were noted this past year for the South Coast. **ACTION:** Michael to send report to SEHAB.
- g. Request for DFO to attend Salmon River (Shuswap) provincial/landowner meetings re water regulations – The Stewardship Advisor for the area is attending the Nicola Dam roundtable meetings. **ACTION:** DFO to send Stewardship Advisor contact information to Lee directly.
- h. Request that DFO attend meetings re BC Hydro’s Wilsey Dam removal. **ACTION:** DFO to send *Dan Sneep* (Section Head Water Use Group within F&FHPP) contact information to Lee directly.
- i. Volunteer stewards dismayed that discharges into waterways are not being addressed by ECCC/DFO/municipalities. Spills are not stopping. Request that DFO take this to appropriate Program to stop. – DFO hears the concerns but notes that it does not have legal nor direct operational spill response.
- j. SEHAB requests more lead time for volunteers to be notified where possible with respect to enhancement activities.

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5. Discussion about new possible date for Community SEP Workshop following the next SEHAB meeting in June a week later. Request from DFO to consider moving date to allow for DFO in-person attendance.
6. **Meeting Adjourned:** 4:43 PM