

SEHAB Roundtable North Side Fraser Burnaby to Mission

June 2025

Paul Cipywnyk

CA Catherine McLean

Main Items:

Extensive report from CA on activities at hatcheries in this area

Unfortunately the CA is leaving after only a short period of time. Some comments from groups about the seemingly constant turnover of staff at DFO, and how groups have to keep getting to know new DFO staff and teaching them about group activities.

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. Some groups are also frustrated that their reports to SEHAB and via SEHAB to DFO, seem to result in little improvement at the local and/or regional level. 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

Some general news is that:

- I will be leaving the role of Community Advisor and Eric Kukulowicz is taking over starting in June. The hatcheries are happy to have Eric take over because he is familiar with the hatcheries and programs.
- I have heard some groups are finding it difficult with all the switching of people through roles. In the past, staffing in CIP was very stable but there has been a lot of change in recent years.
- Volunteers are disappointed that some of their CAs and technicians are not able to attend the upcoming Community Workshop due to the limit put on the number of DFO staff able to attend.
- And as always, there are continued water quality issues resulting in devastating fish kills – in the past month there were kills at Hyde Creek, Scott Creek and Stoney Creek in my area.

A quick summary of hatchery activities:

Brunette Hatchery (operated by Burnaby Firefighters Charitable Society): - as mentioned previously, plans are underway to use PSSI funding to improve incubation and rearing at their facility. Improvements to incubation will improve biosecurity.

Grist Goesen Memorial Hatchery (operated by Port Coq Hunting & Fishing): - Continued improvements are taking place at this hatchery this coming summer – tub refurbishment, possible roof extension.

- This hatchery also continues to support work in the Coquitlam watershed by providing coho for release into the watershed and for studies aimed at assessing out-migration through the Coquitlam dam knife gates.

Hoy Creek Hatchery (operated by Hoy-Scott Watershed Society): - work improving on the hatchery intake and water delivery system is needed and planned for this summer.

Hyde Creek Hatchery (operated by Hyde Watershed Society): - ongoing issues continue with water (quality and quantity) and these threaten hatchery production.

Kwikwetlem Takw Hatchery (to be operated by Kwikwetlem First Nation): - this sockeye facility has been completed and is doing a test run incubating and rearing coho which they got from Grist Goesen Memorial Hatchery. The coho will be released at the end of June and the hatchery will be readied to start its sockeye program.

River Springs Hatchery (operated by River Springs Community): - as mentioned previously, this hatchery has increased their number of volunteers and they are really increasing their community education program. This year they will be adipose clipping what they produce for the first time in the 28 years that they have been operating.

Let me know if you have questions! All the best!

Cathy

ARMS and the Allco Hatchery.

Released:

- 402,463 Chum, split between North & South Alouette River
- 17,433 unfed fry Coho due to BKD
- 10,000 fed fry Coho to various side streams around Maple Ridge
- 39,838 Chinook all to South Alouette River

No specific issues to note.

We anticipate that our Adult Sockeye Enumeration project will commence as planned on June 15 when the Allco fish fence goes up to start fishing. Sockeye adults are anticipated in the Alouette river from July to early September. They will be intercepted at the Allco fish fence, sampled for DNA and scales for aging then transported by the hatchery staff to the Alouette reservoir for release.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Stoney Creek Environment Committee

I'm not going to waste my time sending any more reports when we never get any feedback from these meetings.

Every agency that is meant to do something does very little to change behaviour as most are under-staffed and under-resourced and it's impossible for them to do the job to the level it requires (if even there is the will to do so).

Do you know how many staff each city has in Burnaby and Coquitlam for environmental enforcement? Do you know how many DFO enforcement officers now work out of Langley's office to cover 4 Cities and 17 Municipalities? Do you know how few staff Environment and Climate Change Canada have? Do you know how ineffective Environment and Climate Change Canada is?

We have recently had yet another fish kill which got coverage on the CBC and Global News. 225 spill incidents last year and all we see is more development.

Is it any wonder we're tired of all the rhetoric ...

John

Maple Creek Streamkeepers

We had a wonderful bountiful return with our chum and coho this year, discussions around this with many pointed to the removal of the fish farms, and the eruption of the volcano in Iceland with the amount of volcanic ash feeding the kelp.

Now that we have some semblance of peace for a few years in politics, perhaps DFO will settle down and won't be so tied in knots, it would be nice to get all our CAs and techs in place, it's been quite confusing this last few years, that and so many of our dependable great people have retired, we will have to break the new ones all in, here's hoping the new liberal government knows we need protections, and new money for projects to protect salmon and continue to have great runs, afraid of LNG and new pipelines though, we as Streamkeepers need help keeping our streams from being infringed upon by developers and city council members chomping at the bit wanting those tax dollars, and so very willing to give variances.

Byrne Creek Streamkeepers Society

Main issues are volunteer recruitment and retention. We had an AGM recently, and same board members. Several executives have said they will not take on positions again, as they have held them for many years. Fingers crossed that new exec will take shape soon.

Just heard that we are getting a new CA, though we barely got to meet the current one.

Relations with the City of Burnaby have been improving, with more contact with City staff, and we feel more positive about that.