

SALMONID ENHANCEMENT AND HABITAT ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Hybrid – Nanaimo/Virtual

DATE: February 03 - 04, 2025

MONDAY FEBRUARY 03, 2025

ATTENDING¹:

A. SEHAB:

- Jim Shinkewski: Co-Chair & Rep for Pacific Salmon Foundation
- Stephanie Cottell: Treasurer & Rep for Lower Vancouver Island, Southern Gulf Islands
- Angela Kroning: Secretary & Rep for Sunshine Coast
- ZoAnn Morten: Membership & Rep for Pacific Streamkeepers Federation
- Kevin Ryan: Rep for Burrard Inlet, Indian Arm, Vancouver (virtual)
- Jan Lemmon: Rep for Northern Interior and Northern Coast (virtual)
- Lee Hesketh: Rep for Thompson: Central Interior, Boston Bar to 100 Mile House (virtual)
- Paul Cipywnyk: Rep for Lower Fraser North
- Kyle Milburn: Rep for Central East Coast Vancouver Island & Nootka Sound Areas (virtual)
- Marjorie Lieuwen; Alternate Rep for Smithers & Northwest BC (virtual)
- Lynn Lee: Alternate Rep for Haida Gwaii

DFO:

- Steve Newton, Director, SSD (virtual)
- Brigid Payne, Director SED (virtual)
- Michael Crowe: Regional Manager, Community Involvement Program, SED (virtual)
- Kiran Dhesi: Program & Planning Coordinator, Stewardship Partnerships, SSD (virtual)
- Suzanne Thorpe: Strategic Advisor, Stewardship Partnership, SSD (virtual)

Regrets: Kelly Binning, Regional Manager, Stewardship Partnership, SSD

B. Provincial:

- Mike Turner: Director of Policy- Fisheries, Aquaculture and Wild Salmon Branch | Water, Fisheries and Coastal Policy and Planning Division, Ministry of Water, Lands & Resource Stewardship (virtual)

C. Presenters:

- Mark Rose: A/ Regional Habitat Enforcement Coordinator, Conservation and Protection (virtual)
- Shawn Seguin: Section Head, Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program (virtual)
- Michael Folkes: A/Regional Manager, Integrated Rebuilding Unit, SSD (virtual)
- Erica Blake: A/SEP-CIP Stewardship Coordinator, SED (virtual)

¹ Due to snow event, SEHAB members attending in person remained at Inn on Long Lake, Nanaimo

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AGENDA:

0900	Call meeting to Order (Jim Shinkewski)
0905	Introductions
0915	<p><u>Roundtable Presentations</u> (see sehab.org)</p> <p>Of Note:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Kyle has not been contacted re: outstanding habitat violations in Deep Bay as per November RHQ mtg. ACTION: DFO to contact Kyle to follow up on habitat violations. 2) Request for cooperation between ECCC & DFO: when fish die as a result of a pollution event they become DFO (Fisheries Act) responsibility. 3) ACTION: Mike C & Brigid to ask Stock Assessment if age sampling is being done on returning 2024 chum to determine if increased numbers due to jacks/jills. 4) How are long-time community steward groups being recognized? E.g., 30 year old Chicago/Mission Cr Society Request for DFO to attend Salmon River (Shuswap) provincial/landowner meetings re: water regulations/allocations during periods of drought. ACTION: DFO to report back to SEHAB about attendance at these meetings. 5) Request that DFO attend meetings re: BC Hydro’s Wilsey Dam removal. ACTION: DFO to report back to SEHAB about attendance at these meetings.
1030	Health Break
1037	<p><u>SEP Community Workshop Update:</u> Brigid Payne, Steve Newton, Mike C.</p> <p>No approval yet; Simpcw First Nations (Barriere) has agreed to co-host; tentative date May 8-11th. PSF does not have capacity to host event but can contribute funding. ZoAnn offered to help plan. DFO cannot yet commit to participating in the community workshop in May 2025 due to uncertainties in the federal government at this time; ACTION: Mike C. to ask SIMPCW if they are willing to co-host event in June instead of May. ACTION: DFO to follow up with SEHAB about participation at the community workshop in 2025.</p>
1100	<p><u>Integrated Rebuilding Unit Update</u> - Michael Folkes (see presentation deck at sehab.org)</p> <p>Since June 2024, An additional project has been announced at Babine Lake (Sockeye) collaborating with First Nations. The balance of planning for 2025, are easily implemented and recovery actions to be undertaken before PSSI completion in March 2026. Noted that within DFO there are several other rebuilding programs: Species-at-Risk Act,</p>

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	stock assessment and Integrated Planning for Salmon Ecosystems (IPSE)
1130	Lunch
1245	<u>Provincial Update</u> - Mike Turner: The new mandate letter has been received and there are no changes to fish habitat deliverables such as drought, critical ecosystems including estuaries, and working with communities and First Nations. However, broader provincial priorities have shifted away from fish in general. Very pleased with Tri-Level Accord (DFO, BC & First Nations Fisheries Council). In addition there are quarterly meetings between DFO RGD and province to discuss issues such as habitat and aquaculture. The BC Watershed Security Strategy may be released in 2025.
1310	<u>Salmon Stewardship Directorate Update</u> - Suzanne Thorpe (see sehab.org): Of Note - <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) ACTION: 2024-25 Grants & Contribution Agreements reports due April 30, 2025. 2) DFO is working on signage for Drought Response. 3) Habitat Restoration Priorities Program available Feb. 24, 2025. 4) ACTION: SEHAB to reach out to constituents to ask "What are your (SEHAB & community) thoughts and perspectives on both the immediate and long term work DFO is doing under the PSSI to address declines of Pacific Salmon?" 5) Discussion of Tlell Watershed Society letter and SEHAB response (see sehab.org) re: Community Advisor recognized role, including financial and field support, in remote areas versus role/responsibility and ability of Stewardship Advisors to support remote groups when they do not live in the remote location. DFO needs to ensure that pre-existing PSSI programs (those removed from the current Enhancement Directorate and moved to the Stewardship Directorate) are not lost in the post-PSSI era.
1340	<u>CIP/Salmon Enhancement Program Update</u> - Michael Crowe: (see presentation at sehab.org) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of staff changes - New CEDP hatchery with Tsilhqot'in Nation - This is the last year of major funding for hatchery upgrades - Stream Talk Newsletter to be restarted, First issue ~ April will be mostly DFO generated content. <p>ACTION: DFO will ask SEHAB for Stream Talk newsletter content advice, mindful of cost constraints.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussions are underway within DFO to secure educational materials. <p><u>Facilities Management Plan</u> – Erica Blake: This will be the first time that all the information, including operational plans about a facility will be found in one place. It is expected that it will be published within two weeks. It was noted that SEHAB members should help review individual plans specific to their initiatives.</p>

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	ACTION: SEHAB to invite Erica to the June meeting for follow-up.
1420	Health Break
1430	<p><u>Conservation and Protection</u> - Mark Rose: <u>Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program</u> - Shawn Seguin: (see sehab.org)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A prohibition (unless authorized) against the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat (HADD) call received via ORR is assessed by a Regulatory Review Process – Risk Determination matrix with persistence of HADD on one axis and extent of HADD on the other. - The Fisheries Act Registry is reviewed by ORR, but the agency does not usually search for local permits. - All calls received are responded to in the same manner, i.e. the origin of the call doesn't matter. - The public may also try to call RCMP to report an acute incident. - ACTION: DFO to contact Kyle, as per request from October meeting to contact him re: Fanny Bay Salmonid Enhancement Society habitat issue. (<u>Done:</u> contacted by Kiran, February 06, 2025)
1510	<p><u>Membership</u> – ZoAnn: SEHAB Membership Committee has met several times and produced a map and an organizational chart of the 16 Community Advisor positions and the SEHAB rep, if any, for each area of the coast. Overlaid will be the new Stewardship Coordinators' areas. If the budget remains the same for SEHAB, then the meeting format may change to two in-person and one virtual meeting per year. This should allow for additional representation from areas currently not represented.</p> <p>ACTION: Mike C. will work with Suzanne and ZoAnn to clarify positions on the map and organizational chart.</p> <p>ACTION: Suzanne will provide SA & SC budgets and monthly calendar of activities to help clarify roles.</p>
1530	<p><u>Wrap</u> –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) ACTION: Mike C. will forward Brigid's PSSI notes to SEHAB. 2) ACTION: Kiran to contact Angela re: possible dates and times for RHQ meeting. 3) Jim provided link for next day's meeting (Feb 04,2025)
1600	Adjourn

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