

Our Vision: Pacific Region communities living sustainably within the natural limitations of healthy ecosystems supporting abundant and biologically diverse Pacific salmonids.

Our Mission: SEHAB C.A.R.E.S. SEHAB is the voice of the volunteer community dedicated to:

Communicating

Advocating

Representing

Educating, and

Supporting its endeavours.

SEHAB and the community have a shared commitment of ensuring functioning ecosystems supporting viable, genetically diverse and abundant indigenous fish populations.

SEHAB Member: Jim Armstrong

Area: South Fraser

Community Advisor: Bob Schaefer

Date: November 2015

Key Issues:

What top three points can you distill from community input to take to DFO RHQ?

1. Lack of community support from DFO. Each of the groups in the South Fraser Region have expressed similar concerns about information transfer from internal groups within DFO through the Community Advisor to the Community Groups. Direct requests to specific teams within DFO are similarly not being responded to.
2. Threat to fisheries habitat. Our groups are wondering if we are going to have the fisheries habitat to support the Salmon Enhancement Program going forward. BCMOE has directed Metro Vancouver and its member municipalities to protect stream health under the Integrated Stormwater Management Program that each is supposed to develop but many are not interested, providing minimal input and/or allowing minimal and directed input from the community groups
3. Need for continued Community Hatcheries and their expansion. The Community hatcheries not only provide fisheries stocks but also education programs, habitat assessments and feedback to DFO on what is working or not. Our groups at this point are not certain that our message is

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getting through to DFO management for the growing needs within the community. How can we continue to manage the existing resources and encourage the next generations to take over when we cannot see foresight on the part of DFO in regards to fisheries management.

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Stories:

A few examples of successes, failures, challenges.

1. NES – Return of Chinook into the hatchery stream in 2015 has been excellent and has allowed the hatchery to maximize their egg taking over a single weekend. Just waiting for the Coho to return to may 2015 a successful year for the group.
2. NES- challenge – the Township of Langley is proposing to undertake the riverbank restoration upstream of the hatchery sometime in November. As many Chinook/Chum have already spawned out in the immediate area where the work is proposed, it would be detriment to the spawning beds if undertaken at this time. Question is also being asked about how DFO is allowing this work to commence outside of the Fisheries Window and within the spawning period?
3. Semiahmoo – Excellent video expressing their concerns about the proposed truck park and the extent of the overall community support to ensure that the hatchery will remain viable for generations to come.
4. Tynehead Hatchery – they have had a great return of Chinook and Chum this year.
5. NES/Tynehead – Sea Dams making fish passage difficult for returning salmon. Neither the City of Surrey or BCMFLNRO are willing to enact the recommendations from the consultant to provide better fish passage.

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Issues Specific to SEHAB’s Work Plan:

SEHAB Work Plan	Local Issue, Specific Examples	Actions by Community or DFO	SEHAB Opportunity
Wild Salmon Policy (Stock Assessment, Habitat)	Community Advisor is now responsible for two areas with a reduced budget.	Provide additional staffing and funding	Provide positive examples where the community programs are working
Aquaculture	Are the local community hatcheries going to get the 2016 DFO grants? New funding process is unclear and questions being asked do not lead groups to think that they can count on the normal funding grants used to provide food, pay for electricity, etc.	Provide clear understanding of what each group can expect to receive each year under SEP.	Get clear direction from DFO about the programs, funding and DFO resources available to the Community.
Capacity & Core Funding	WE should be increasing our capacities based on climate change, degradation of fisheries habitat and receive additional funding through grants	Many hatcheries have additional capacity to rear and support the fisheries programs that they currently undertake. DFO should recognize this and provide the authorizations to expand the programs	Help the Community groups to inventory capacity, core funding requirements and build a common front approach for more resources.

Submissions, Comments from Groups:

1. Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club – Bob Schaefer will present their prepared video/ issue associated with the proposed truck park alongside the Little Campbell River immediately downstream of the hatchery. If constructed, it could effectively eliminate the necessary fisheries habitat to maintain the hatchery and the Little Campbell salmon/trout runs.
2. Nicomekl Enhancement Society (NES) – The NES volunteers have been dealing with the issue of hot water being discharged from Masonville Plastics in Surrey, BC into McLellan Creek which flows into the Nicomekl River. Water temperature ranges between 48 degrees Celsius to 60+ degrees Celsius. NES has lost three years of salmon production in this stream due to this ongoing issue and DFO, BCMOE, EC, BCFLNRO are all unwilling to take the required actions

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under their individual mandates. This stream has been noted for the high returns of Chinook and Chum prior to these recent events.