

June, 2013



Dear SSBC supporter,

SSBC would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. As many of you well know, the SSBC has committed itself to undertaking habitat restoration projects in the Thompson River watershed. This past winter the Bonaparte creek project was undertaken and the year before, the Spius creek project was completed. The SSBC is looking to do a similar project again this winter. It has been through the support of other like minded organizations such as BCFFF, the King Fishers Rod and Gun Club, the Totems Fly Fishers of BC, Ospreys and other BC fly fishing clubs, fishing tackle suppliers, tackle shops, and the general angling public, that these projects get funded. The SSBC will be hosting another Pub night fund raiser, likely in November again; the reality is we are always looking for financial support. Pay pal donations can be made through the website and if so desired can be specified for Thompson River Projects or other projects such as the Squamish River Trust.

The following is a brief synopsis of what the Steelhead Society of BC has been up to since the December update:

- Bonaparte Creek Habitat Restoration Project completion. Link to more information on this project:
<http://www.steelheadsociety.org/news/bonaparte-river-habitat-river-enhancement-project#attachments>
- Directors attended an open house forum with NDPs Fin Donnelly, to discuss changes to the federal Fisheries Act.
- Region 2 fisheries biologist Kenji Miyazaki did a presentation at a SSBC directors meeting to discuss future plans and concerns with steelhead in the region.
- Director Matt Joyce was accepted for and attended "Engagement of organizing and training for BC water Leaders". Held January 25- January 27th.

- The SSBC wrote a letter of support to the Pacific Salmon Foundation for the Seymour Salmonid Society for the Community Salmon Program.
- The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency has determined that a federal environmental assessment is required for the proposed Coastal GasLink Pipeline Project in British Columbia and has invited Public comment. Link to the SSBC submission: <http://www.steelheadsociety.org/sites/default/files/January%2024%202013%20Gaslink%20submission.pdf>
- SSBC was consulted by Tera Environmental Consulting (hired by the Coastal GasLink proponent) with regards to the SSBC submission to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency.
- Signed on to the Marine Conservation Caucus “Commercial Catch reporting and Monitoring Pilots.
- The Northern branch sent a letter to the Premier regarding “Land Based Spills Preparedness and Response”.
- The Northern branch sent a letter to Christy Clark re: “Pipeline Planning”. Link to the letter: <http://www.steelheadsociety.org/sites/default/files/February%201.pdf>
- Northern Branch chairs met with and consulted with NDP fisheries Critic Rob Fleming.
- Directors participated in the Squamish/ Lillooet Sport Fish Advisory Board meetings.
- Participated in the Sport Fish Advisory Main Board Meetings.
- Participated in the Consultative Committee for the Joint Water Use Plan (JWUP) for the Capilano and Seymour rivers.
- The SSBC attended the Squamish Cast and Blast hosted by Brian Niska, owner of Whistler Fly Fishing. There was a fundraiser for the Squamish River Trust Fund that will go into habitat restoration projects in that watershed.
- Had substantial input in the Provincial Angling Advisory Team consultations, especially in discussions regarding the Thompson river.
- Organized the now annual Squamish River Clean Up. There were approximately 20 volunteers attending who removed over 5,000 pounds of garbage from throughout the Squamish Watershed. For those of you on Facebook, here is a link to some pictures: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.944344185746.1073741827.122505749&type=1>
- Donated \$500 to the “Osprey” a publication of the Federation of Fly Fishers. This publication focuses on the plight of steelhead both south and north of the border.
- Attended the Kinder Morgan Transmountain Expansion Project Workshop as well as various “Open Houses” where the proponent was answering questions from members of the public regarding issues surrounding expansion of this existing sixty year old pipeline.
- Donated \$2000 to Eco Justice for the lawsuit against the Minister of fisheries and Marine Harvest.

- The SSBC hosted two showing of the Salmon Confidential film, one in Port Moody and one in Burnaby. View post screening discussion in Burnaby with Chief Bob Chamberlain: <http://vimeo.com/64927820>
- Attended the Energy Forum held in Vancouver: A Public Forum on LNG in BC. This was a very informative and also the first public discussion on the LNG plays in BC. Link to video of the forum: <http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLg1aFgyKQnLba29cTzxkzD6UnqOfeU-CK>
- Had posters made up and installed in common access to fishing areas around the Capilano and Seymour rivers advising anglers that there is zero retention of steelhead including marked hatchery fish, after several reports of steelhead being improperly identified and retained by anglers.
- Made a salmon identification poster and had a few thousand copies printed (sponsored by Backwoods Map Books) for distribution to tackle shops so they could print angling licenses on the other blank side. Link to a picture of this on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10151513724182422&set=gm.10151443239638001&type=1&theater>
- SSBC was a funding partner on a BC Habitat Conservation Foundation steelhead study on the Stave and Alouette rivers.
- The twelve member strong Comox branch had their AGM and elections and has also been active with a variety of projects on the Quinsam, Salmon, Tsolum, Big Qualicum, Oyster, Puntledge, and Trent rivers.

The following is the Northern Branch Report:

- Submitted a long and difficult letter to Premier Clark regarding LNG facilities and pipelines and sent it off on February 1 to the Premier and many MLA's, MP's the local News papers and the Vancouver Sun.
- Acting chair Jim Culp and the remaining Officers tried to reorganize the Northern Branch into a more cohesive, effective entity.
- Corresponded with various people regarding amendments to the Federal Fisheries Act and discussed what can be done to bring the Federal Government to its senses.
- Reviewed Shell Oil proposal for an LNG facility in Kitimat and a 48" dia. pipeline from the Peace River Region to feed gas to the facility.
- The Officers reviewed regulation proposals for the March 17, 2013 Skeena Fisheries Advisory Committee meeting.
- Met with Robin Austin MLA For Skeena region to discuss LNG facility proposals and a meeting with the NDP Environment critic before the Provincial election

- The Branch became entangled in a considerable amount of public controversy over the plans of the Skeena Region Provincial Fisheries Branch to change the regulations for trout and char stream sport fisheries.
- Acting chair Jim Culp got a call from Vancouver Sun Columnist Gordon Hamilton who talked about writing a column to do with our letter to Premier Clark but it never came to fruition. As well, from a Smithers Town Council Member who supported our position but wanted more information regarding the NB Clark letter so he would have better understanding of its intent and be able to discuss it at the next council meeting.
- Participated in a special round table forestry discussion "BC Forest Conversation" that was province wide in scope (took place in other communities across the Province) and was attended by most of the key industry, First Nation and environmental groups from the Terrace area on February 6, 2013 at the Terrace Inn.
- Put together a position paper detailing our position on the Provincial Governments consultation process to do with oil spill response that was sent off to them on February 15, 2013.
- Participated in a Spectra Energy open house at North West Community College on Feb. 21/13 to learn about their LNG Pr. Rupert facility and pipeline proposal.
- Attended the first showing in BC of the Alex Morton film on the sockeye salmon decline in the Fraser River system also on Feb. 21/13 at the Skeena Junior secondary school.
- Jim Culp represented the NB at a public meeting in Terrace on March 4 and Brian Kean a few days later in Kitimat to discuss the Rio-Tinto Alcan application to amend their air emission permit to release more SO₂ into the atmosphere upon completion of their upgrade of the Kitimat aluminum smelter. The turnout in Terrace with a large majority of people against the increased emissions which will create acid rain and threaten local lakes and watersheds by altering the pH in the water to become more acidic. Brian Kean wrote a position paper for the NB on the Rio Tinto amendment and the impact it could have on water quality and upon fish and wildlife in the Kitimat Watershed and adjacent watersheds and sent it to the Provincial Ministry of Environment not to approve the amendment and as alternative include additional scrubbers in the rebuild of the smelter to remove the increased emissions before they enter the atmosphere.
- We sent our Christy Clark letter as information to George Baker with CBC on March 8/13 who aired a radio program discussion on LNG.
- Sent off comments for the Northern Branch to the Federal Environmental Assessment office requesting a full environmental assessment of the North West LNG facility to be located on Lelu Island at the mouth of the Skeena River.
- Talked with Mark Beere Senior Skeena Provincial Fisheries biologist who phoned on March 13 and said Jim might have to be asked to resign as an alternate representative for the Steelhead Society on the Skeena Sport fishing Advisory Committee. The reason

were the complaints from various public over the letter Jim wrote to the editor of the Terrace Standard to do with numerous public comments critical of him and Rob Brown resulting from their position on trout and char regulation and management in the Skeena Region and how it may have influenced the Provincial Fisheries Section who indicated a need for stronger conservation measures through amended sport fishing regulation for streams in the Skeena Region.

- The Directors reviewed the SFAC regulation proposals for 2013 and made their comments.
- Participated in the SFAC meeting in Terrace on March 18.
- Jessea Grice conducted fly tying sessions at Oscars Source for Sports in Smithers which turned out to be very positive. Good attendance and ongoing interest. He also made a major effort to interest those who attended in the SS and in particular the NB. Work on the Telkwa holding ponds is on hold until we are able to attract more members from the Bulkely Valley.
- Jim Culp with support from the NB Directors and the PB Directors was instrumental in the organization of a meeting with the NDP Environment Critic Rob Fleming MLA for Victoria Swan Lake. Prior to the meeting Jim dusted off a previous NB position paper over how the Provincial Fish and Wildlife Sections across the Province could be provided with a larger working budget and staff. He also provided Mr. Fleming with a letter from Premier Clark who replied to the NB LNG letter sent off to her on Feb.1 and some other points to consider if the NDP were elected as the new Provincial government on May 14 (see notes passed on to Rob Fleming). See further notes re. meeting on April 5
- Participated at the Trans Canada Pipeline (Shell Canada) open house at the Terrace Inn on March 28/13 to inform the public about the project. Jim made contact with the project manager and a public relations manager and they talked about some future field trips.
- Rob Brown and Jim Culp on two separate times with their wives counted steelhead in the closed section of the (Zymoetz) Copper above the confluence with the Clore to provide some idea of the relative abundance of pre spawning steelhead in this section of the river compared to other years. Could this be the beginning of a future project that could be viewed as key stream indicator for Copper steelhead?
- Jim Culp talked with Ralf Kroning V.P. SSBC who phoned regarding consultations with Tera Environmental Consultants and the Trans Canada Pipe Coastal Gas Link project as part of the projects proponent due diligence and also discussed the Bonaparte River steelhead habitat enhancement project on April 4.
- Met with Rob Fleming NDP Environment Critic, Robin Austin MLA for Skeena and Doug Donaldson MLA for Bulkley-Stikine. Other groups in attendance were Friends of Wild

Salmon, Skeena Conservation Coalition, Headwaters Initiative, and Skeena Wild Conservation Trust along with a woman representing the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council. It was a very informative open meeting intended to discuss the May 14 Provincial election. I met alone with Rob Fleming for about 1/2 hour following the main meeting to discuss NB concerns and ideas. The only down side of being involved in the two meetings is that they can be viewed as a partisan gatherings which they were. It is unfortunate when the government of the day is so anti-environment they leave no choice but to disregard them because it is a foregone conclusion where they stand.

- Rob Brown, Doug Webb, Jim Culp and other members of the NB spent a number of times/days on and off between about April 1 and May 31 or so while angling and hiking on and along the Lakelse River randomly counting holding and spawning steelhead, redds and anglers fishing for them. As well looking for and talking about any unusual or valuable tidbits of information that will assist in the management and conservation of the four or more races of steelhead that are indigenous to this iconic river system.
- Jim Culp represented the NB at a special meeting at the NW Community College on May 13/13 to discuss the Kitimat Stikine Regional District plans to build a new landfill at Foreman Ridge (Upper Clearwater Creek watershed) and their proposed recycling program. About 50 people participated in a lively but respectful exchange of ideas and positions. There were four guest speakers from voices different perspectives but the Regional District speaker taking the most heat and having to be on the defensive for a good part of the evening.
- The NB members and Chairs were wrapped up in the Provincial election for most of April and May and as result no monthly meeting took place in April.
- We held a monthly conference call NB Directors meeting on May 27/13.
- Jim Culp as acting Chair participated in the PBD Directors meetings the 2nd Tues of each month (Feb., March and April unable to make a connection in May)

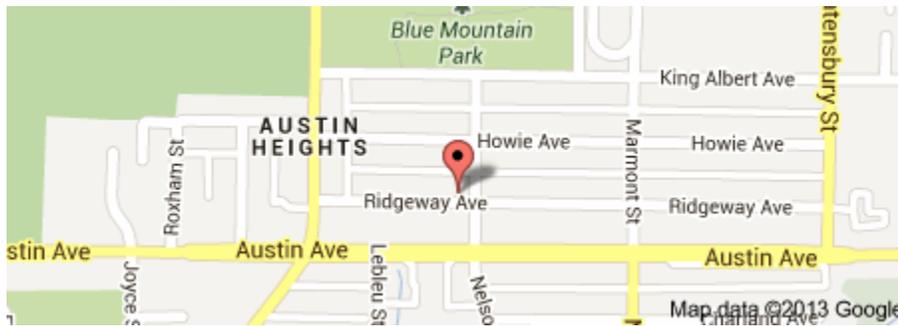
Last but not least, the SSBC is hosting a presentation on July 18 by Dr. Brendon Connors. "Dr. Brendan Connors is a behavioral and quantitative ecologist who recently completed his Ph.D. at Simon Fraser University. Dr. Connor's dissertation focused on the interactions of wild and farmed salmon and the impacts of sea lice on wild salmon. He has published extensively on his pioneering research, and has parlayed his skills into analyses of how multiple factors--including competition, climate change, and salmon farms--have impacted Fraser River sockeye. His work formed a seminal report commissioned by the Cohen Inquiry into the Decline of Fraser River sockeye, and is

currently working with ESSA consultants to analyze fish impacts from river diversion hydro projects.”

Presentation: Are there too many Salmon in the Sea?

Where: Royal Canadian Legion on the corner of Nelson and Ridgeway in Coquitlam.

When: 7:00 pm on July 18th.



Finally, the SSBC would like to thank you for your ongoing and continued support. All of you who have supported us either by contributing money, supporting the various fund raisers, purchasing hats, crests or other items, volunteering time, writing skills, picking up garbage, packing fertilizer or stepping up and getting involved directly deserve a big thank you. Without this support we could not pursue the worthwhile and important endeavors that we have. We look forward to providing our next newsletter in January. Any questions or comments please contact us at: info@steelheadsociety.org

Yours truly,

Brian Braidwood, President

Ralf Kroning, Vice President