

January 2013



Dear Steelhead Society Members,

It has been six months already since our last update of June 2012 and it has been a busy six months for the SSBC. We thank you all for your continued support and we look forward to working hard this upcoming year for steelhead in B.C. Please find below some of the projects and business SSBC has been involved in over the past six months.

-SSBC participated in Black Out Speak Out. <http://www.blackoutspeakout.ca/>

This was a movement to black out websites in a show of solidarity protesting the now passed federal budget bill-C 68. The SSBC also submitted letters against this omnibus bill, in which were hidden amendments to dismantle existing protective legislation of fish and wildlife habitat.

-“Over 500 groups including Oxfam, Amnesty International, the Canadian Labour Congress, faith groups, First Nations and all four opposition parties (NDP, Liberal, Green and Bloc Quebecois) are participating in Black Out Speak Out. The campaign is also supported by Canadian community leaders and cultural icons, including Nobel Prize winning scientist Dr. Andrew Weaver, Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President of the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs and tens of thousands of other concerned citizens. "The continued survival of B.C. icons like migratory salmon and steelhead are put at risk through this far-reaching omnibus bill. It's bad policy and it's bad democracy," stated John Fraser, Conservative fisheries minister in 1984-5...”

SSBC directors participated in the "Defend our Coast" rally held in Victoria. The SSBC also attended a round table meeting with federal NDP fisheries critic Finn Donnelly and Nova Scotia fisheries minister Robert Chisholm, again, discussing the implications of this bill and what it means. The SSBC continues to encourage people to write their MP's and voice their displeasure of how this bill came to pass and that Canadian democracy, and our fish and wildlife are important to us.

Link to the SSBC letter: <http://www.steelheadsociety.org/sites/default/files/June%2013.pdf>

-SSBC directors continued to participate in the Capilano/Seymour rivers water use plan meetings. Our two participating directors deserve a big thank you as these frequent meetings have been lengthy (day long). The SSBC endorsed the proposed water use plan as it will create flow increases which will benefit steelhead and other fish.

-In August, salmon identification signage was posted at some of the more popular recreational fishing areas along the Fraser River as well as the Capilano River. This was done to educate anglers about their catches, to remind them there is no retention of wild steelhead or wild coho or, for that matter, any steelhead in the Capilano River.



Along the same lines, SSBC printed a document that shows some basic salmonid identification. These were distributed to lower mainland tackle shops. The Northern Branch of SSBC also received this for distribution to tackle shops in the northern portion of the province. When someone comes into a shop to purchase or renew an angling licence, the licence is printed on the blank side of this document.

See the PDF file here:

<http://www.steelheadsociety.org/sites/default/files/FISH%20ID%20LICENCE%20PAPER.pdf>

-Attended an information meeting regarding the proposed McNab Creek Gravel mine in Howe Sound and submitted a letter of concern. The McNab Creek area is the site of a spawning channel that was built to mitigate for lost spawning and rearing habitat in other areas of Howe Sound. There are steelhead, coho, chinook, cutthroat and chum that use this spawning channel. This spawning channel would be destroyed and other suitable mitigation sites are very rare in Howe Sound. The marine foreshore area is an important salmonid rearing area that quite likely will be negatively impacted by the mine.

-Donated \$1000 towards the B.C. Conservation Foundation's stream nutrient enrichment program for continued data collection on specific Fraser Valley streams and rivers. The monitoring gauges the success of the five year stream fertilization project and allows for similar future projects. In the past, the SSBC donated funds and organized volunteer labour to bag and place in stream fertiliser.

-The SSBC made a submission to the Joint review Panel raising concerns with the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project. Link to the submission here: <http://www.steelheadsociety.org/news/letter-joint-review-panel-reenbridge-northern-gateway-project>

-Submitted an opposition letter against the Canada-China Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement:

<http://www.steelheadsociety.org/sites/default/files/Doc4.pdf>

-Submitted a letter to the province addressing the drawdown of Cowichan Lake water levels and the near drying up of the Cowichan River during the summer drought. The drawdown issue was a direct result of a small vocal group of lake front property owners wanting beach front property.

-The SSBC participated in the Provincial Stream Classification policy meetings as well as the Provincial Angling Advisory Team (PAAT). The SSBC has been very involved with the processes as one of our directors holds a senior position on the Advisory team and consults with the SSBC board on a very regular basis. Through the consultative meetings, concerns regarding steelhead advocacy are well represented as other SSBC directors sit on boards of other angling and user groups representing a large group of constituents.

-Submitted a letter of support for the Seymour Salmonid Society in their quest for funding to improve their facility. Although the Steelhead Society of B.C. advocates for wild salmon and steelhead and their associated habitats, we recognize the continued and important efforts of the Seymour Salmonid Society. Seymour summer and winter steelhead populations have been hit particularly hard due to water use issues, habitat loss, pollution and predation in the marine rearing area.

-The SSBC has also submitted an article to B.C. Outdoors magazine for the January/February 2013 issue. Look for regular contributions to the magazine by SSBC in order to promote, educate, inform and further steelhead awareness in B.C.

-The SSBC wrote and signed on to letters of support for the B.C. Conservation Foundation. These letters help BCCF secure funding for important ongoing and future steelhead conservation projects.

- The Northern Branch of the SSBC continues to work on the Telkwa Coho Ponds project. After years of neglect, the pond complex was brought back to a functioning level and coho were once again using the habitat this year.

Photos and write up here:

<http://www.steelheadsociety.org/news/northern-branch-telkwa-coho-ponds-update>

-On November 29th the SSBC held a fundraiser at Mickey's Pub in Coquitlam. This event helped fund a habitat project on the Bonaparte River, a tributary of the Thompson River. The project, which is targeted specifically at juvenile steelhead habitat rehabilitation, will include boulder and large woody debris structure placement and will create riffle and pool habitats and other in-river improvements.

The evening was a wonderful social event and was a complete success with over \$15,000 being raised and 135 people in attendance. The SSBC would like to thank all those who attended and especially those people who donated and bid on items. The support was very encouraging. As details of this project are finalized the SSBC will update the website.

Already we look forward to next year's project and fundraiser to help rebuild Thompson River Steelhead and their habitat.

For more information regarding the SSBC please take a look at our regularly updated website: <http://www.steelheadsociety.org/>

Or find us on Facebook.

The SSBC would like to thank SSBC members for continuing to support Steelhead and salmonid advocacy. We look forward to 2013,

Brian Braidwood, President

Ralf Kroning, Vice president