

NICOLA SYMPOSIUM

COLLABORATION IN A SENSITIVE WATERSHED

NICOLA VALLEY INSTITUTION OF TECHNOLOGY
FEBRUARY 1 & 2, 2018

Presentation: State of the Watershed
By Tracy Wimbush, Program Manager of NTA Fisheries Dept.

Elders Story

- ▶ In his memory, there was a time these waters were full of salmon returning to spawn. His horse would have a hard time crossing the river due to numbers of salmon.
 - ▶ There are remains of storage caches along the Coldwater river, where people could go if they were caught out in adverse weather.
 - ▶ The watershed was healthy and productive.
- 

Giant Footprint

- ▶ Sorry no story of Bigfoot this time, but a story of progress.
- ▶ Trails turned to wagon roads, which turned to roads, then highways or in the canyon, they turned into the railways.
- ▶ Each footprint tore through many xaxa sites, productive habitat for many of sex^wsex^w little brothers; today, there is few other animals in our watershed.

State of our Oceans

Kim Hyatt, DFO

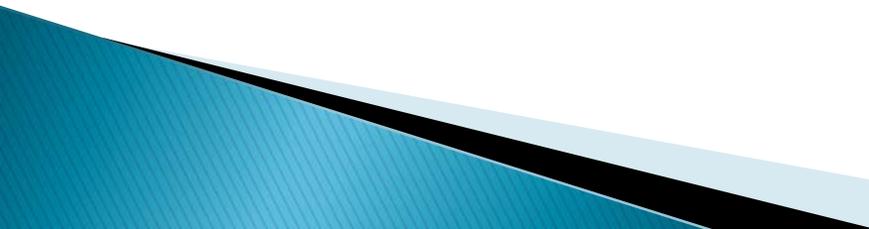
The presentation focused on recent environmental conditions & outlook to 2020. Key points:

- Continuing global warming
 - Research shows spawning and parental condition affect egg and fry survival (more study needed to predict population-wide impacts to improve forecasting).
 - 2014–2016: Low discharge/high river temperature summer anomalies for much of southern BC/Vancouver Island — warm enough to affect adult migration swim performance/survival.
 - Anomalous ocean conditions: The Blob/El Nino, phytoplankton blooms, later migration for returning sockeye in 2016.
- 

Page 2 of K. Hyatt information

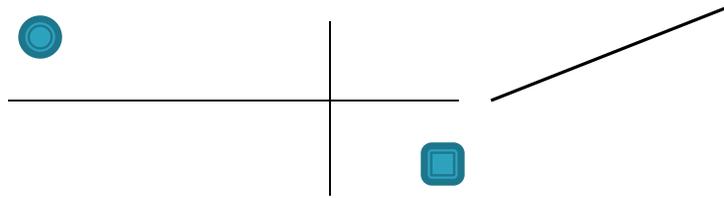
- Emerging La Nina conditions in 2017, which can lead to improved future returns.
- 2016 ocean conditions: Warmer all along BC coast, with shift to less nutritious plankton species. Anomalous marine species shifts seen from California to Alaska in 2015–2017.
- Red/Amber/Green suite of ocean indicators for Oregon/Washington.
- Recent trends: General correlation of sockeye returns with anomalous indicators
- Poor productivity expected for southern BC sockeye returns for 2017 & 2018.

COSEWIC recommendations

- ▶ Recently 8 Fraser River Sockeye stocks have been recommend for listing.
 - ▶ Interior Fraser Coho has been recommended for listing years ago and is still being recommended.
 - ▶ There is now an Emergency Assessment for Interior Steelhead.
 - ▶ Southern Resident Killer Whales are now listed. Their main food is Chinook, which also spawns here in the Thompson systems.
- 

Our (federal) Stocks

- ▶ Early Chinook
 - ▶ Interior Fraser Coho
 - ▶ Interior Fraser Steelhead (managed by the Province)
 - ▶ Pink
 - ▶ Hopefully sockeye
- 



- ▶ Once upon a time there was enough for the People. Then change came, but we survived. Now it is time to rebuild, I have to believe it is not too late. We can work together.
- ▶ What about you?