



Gitanyow *Fisheries* Authority



November 10, 2019

2019 Kitwanga River Salmon Enumeration Facility Update #15 – FINAL

The KSEF was dismantled on October 31 and November 1, with final salmon counts to the morning of **October 31st, 2019** as follows:

Sockeye = 125 Chinook = 654 Pink = 52,644 Chum = 492 Coho = 1,647

Water levels at the KSEF had risen ~ 0.08m since the last update on October 21, and were at 0.80m prior to the fence being removed, about 0.13m higher than the long term average for the time of year (2004-2017). Daily water temperatures in the Kitwanga River fluctuated between 1.5 - 5°C over the last ten days of operation; colder for the time of year when compared with 2011-2017 averages.



Left photo: View towards right bank of KSEF on October 22, 2019. Right photo: View towards right bank showing fence removed on November 1, 2019.

A total of **125 sockeye salmon** were counted through the KSEF in 2019. Based on average run timing for Kitwanga sockeye to October 31 (2003-2018), it is predicted that **all** of the run should have passed the KSEF. For more information on cumulative Kitwanga sockeye salmon abundance by day, refer to the sockeye salmon graph below.

A total of **654 Chinook salmon** were counted through the KSEF in 2019. Based on average run timing for Kitwanga Chinook to October 31 (2003-2018), it is predicted that **all** of the run should have passed the KSEF. For more information on cumulative Kitwanga Chinook salmon abundance by date, refer to the Chinook graph below.

A total of **52,644 pink salmon** were counted through the KSEF in 2019. Based on average run timing for pink salmon to October 31 (2003-2018), it is predicted that **all** of the run

should have passed the KSEF. For more information on cumulative Kitwanga odd year pink salmon abundance by date, refer to the pink salmon graph below.

A total of **492 chum salmon** were counted through the KSEF in 2019. Based on average run timing for chum salmon to October 31 (2003-2018), it is predicted that **all** of the run should have passed the KSEF. For more information on cumulative Kitwanga chum salmon abundance by date, refer to the chum salmon graph below.

A total of **1,647 coho salmon** were counted through the KSEF in 2019. A stream walk was conducted downstream from the fence to the Skeena River, prior to the fence being pulled, with 13 additional coho added to the total. Based on average run timing for Kitwanga coho to October 31 (2003-2017), we have historically had **all** of the run passed the KSEF at this point. Note in 2018, we had late arriving coho, which we believe was due to extremely low water levels in the Skeena and Kitwanga Rivers from August to October. For more information on cumulative Kitwanga coho salmon abundance by date, refer to the coho salmon graph below.

GFA would like to thank their 2019 funders and supporters, specifically the Gitanyow Chiefs (Gitanyow Huwilp Sustainability Fund), the Pacific Salmon Commission and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. GFA would also like to acknowledge and thank the Gitwangak Wilp Simadeeks for allowing GFA to continue to work within their traditional territory, as set out by our 2002 agreement.







