



# Gitanyow *Fisheries* Authority



August 19, 2025

## **2025 Kitwanga River Salmon Enumeration Update #4**

The Gitanyow Fisheries Authority (GFA) is pleased to announce that the Kitwanga River Adult Salmon Enumeration program is operational for 2025. Like in previous years, GFA will be providing regular updates on salmon escapement to the Kitwanga River (middle Skeena index) from July through to September. This year marks the 23<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year that GFA has implemented the program, which collects important in-season pacific salmon stock assessment and biological information. GFA would like to thank their 2025 funders and supporters, specifically the Gitanyow Chiefs (Gitanyow Huwilt Sustainability Fund), the Pacific Salmon Commission's Northern Endowment Fund and Fisheries and Oceans, Canada. GFA would also like to acknowledge and thank the Kitwanga Wilt Simadeeks for allowing GFA to continue to work within their traditional territory, as set out by our 2002 agreement. Updates will be distributed and posted on our website: [www.gitanyowfisheries.com](http://www.gitanyowfisheries.com)



*Downstream view of KSEF on August 18, 2025*

GFA staff installed the lower Kitwanga River Adult Salmon Enumeration Facility (KSEF) weir components from July 10-11, 2025 under slightly higher than normal water levels. The weir was fish tight by the afternoon of July 11. For 2025, we once again will be operating both a manual counting boxes and one digital video camera box with recording capabilities (DVR).

The water levels at the KSEF came up a lot over the past four days and was up as high as 1.25m which is approximately 0.58m above the long-term average. Water levels have since come down and are currently at 0.88m (approximately 0.20m higher than the long-term average) and water temperatures are lower than normal, currently fluctuating between 10-15°C. For more information on water levels and water temperature at the KSEF by day and compared to previous years, refer to the stage and temperature graphs below.

Like in previous years, the KsF (smolt fence) located at the outlet of Gitanyow Lake (~28km upstream from the KSEF) will be used again this year to count adult sockeye through an additional DVR camera system. The KsF DVR has been operational since July 2, 2025. Prior to July 2, the KsF was operated as a smolt fence and sockeye adults would have been prevented from swimming upstream undetected.

For 2025, the total sockeye return will be reported through both the KsF and the KSEF for comparison purposes and all other salmon counts will only be reported when they migrate past the KSEF.

Total salmon counts to the afternoon of August 19, 2025:

#### **KsF (~28km upstream from KSEF)**

Sockeye= 645

#### **KSEF**

Sockeye= 618      Chinook= 826      Pink= 237,827      Chum= 59      Coho= 35

This year's **sockeye** escapement through the KSEF compares to a previous maximum observed to the day of 7,770 in 2010, which resulted in an overall escapement of 20,804 and the minimum observed to the day of 30 in 2019, which resulted in an overall escapement of 125. Based on average run timing for Kitwanga sockeye to the day (2003-2019) it is predicted that approximately **34%** of the run should have passed the KSEF. For more information on cumulative Kitwanga sockeye salmon abundance through the KSEF by day, refer to the sockeye salmon graph below.

To date we have counted **826 Chinook** (plus 86 jacks) through the KSEF. This year's Chinook escapement compares to a maximum observed to the day of 2,939 in 2007, which resulted in an overall escapement of 3,225 and the minimum observed to the day of 140 in 2010, which resulted in an overall escapement of 852. Based on average run timing for Kitwanga Chinook to the day (2003 - 2019 and 2021 - 2024) it is predicted that approximately **78%** 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.

To date we have counted **237,827 pink** salmon through the KSEF. This year's odd-year pink compares to a **maximum** observed to the day of 311,230 in 2023, which resulted in an overall escapement of 653,985, and a **minimum** observed to the day of 19,499 in 2011, which resulted in an overall escapement of 68,410. Based on average run timing for pink salmon to the day (2003-2023) it is predicted that **37%** 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.

To date we have counted **59 chum** salmon through the KSEF. This year's chum escapement compares to a **maximum** observed to the day of 309 in 2005, which resulted in an overall

escapement of 1,862 and a **minimum** observed to the day of 0 in 2006, which resulted in an overall escapement of 685. Based on average run timing for chum salmon to the day (2003-2019, 2021, 2023, 2024) it is predicted that **8%** of the run should now have passed the KSEF. For more information on cumulative Kitwanga chum salmon abundance by date, refer to the chum salmon graph below.

To date we have counted **35 coho** salmon through the KSEF. This year's coho escapement compares to a **maximum** observed to the day of 319 in 2009, which resulted in an overall escapement of 12,080 and a **minimum** observed to the day of 0 in 2006, which resulted in an overall escapement of 2,572. Based on average run timing for coho salmon to the day (2003-2019) it is predicted that **2.3%** of the run should now have passed the KSEF. For more information on cumulative Kitwanga coho salmon abundance by date, refer to the coho salmon graph below.











