



Gitanyow *Fisheries* Authority



July 28, 2017

2017 Kitwanga River Salmon Enumeration Facility Update #1

The Gitanyow Fisheries Authority (GFA) is pleased to announce that the Kitwanga River Salmon Enumeration Facility (KSEF) is now operational. GFA like in other years will be providing weekly updates on salmon escapement to the Kitwanga River (middle Skeena index stream) from this point onwards for 2017. This year marks the 15th 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 our 2017 funders and supporters the Gitanyow Chiefs (Gitanyow Huwilp Sustainability Fund), the Pacific Salmon Commission and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. As in other years, GFA will make the weekly updates available throughout the salmon season (July – October) and post them on our website: www.gitanyowfisheries.com

GFA staff installed the in-river KSEF components between July 5-10, 2017 under slightly higher than normal water level conditions making the set-up somewhat more challenging this year. However, despite the difficulties the project was rendered operational (diverting fish through sample boxes) on the afternoon of July 10, which is our usual starting date for the project. Since July 10 water levels have normalized and currently they sit at 0.81m, approximately 0.03m above normal (see KSEF Water Stage Comparison graph below for more detail). Water temperatures in the Kitwanga River appear to be average this year and are currently fluctuating between 11-15°C. Total salmon counts to the end of day on **July 27, 2017** are as follows:

Sockeye = 0 Chinook = 15 Pink = 0 Chum = 0 Coho = 0

To date we have counted **0 sockeye** through the KSEF. This year's sockeye escapement compares to a previous **maximum** observed to the day of 404 in 2006, which resulted in an overall escapement of 5,139 and the **minimum** observed to the day of 0 in 2007, which resulted in an overall escapement of 240 for the year. Based on average run timing to the day (2003-2016) it is predicted that approximately **1.5 %** of the run should now be past the KSEF. For more information on cumulative Kitwanga sockeye salmon abundance by day, refer to the graph below.

To date we have counted **15 Chinook** through the KSEF. This year's Chinook escapement compares to a **maximum** observed to the day of 841 in 2006, which resulted in an overall escapement of 3,014 and the **minimum** observed to the day of 8 in 2010, which resulted in an overall escapement of 852 for the year. Based on average run timing for Chinook salmon to the day (2003-2016) it is predicted that approximately **9.5%** of the run should now have passed the KSEF. For more information on cumulative Kitwanga Chinook salmon abundance by date, refer to the graph below.

We have not counted any pink, chum or coho salmon through the KSEF to date. We expect to see these salmon species in the next few weeks.



