



Gitanyow *Fisheries* Authority



August 6, 2025

2025 Kitwanga River Salmon Enumeration Update #2

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 23rd 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 Gitwankak 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



Downstream view of KSEF on August 1, 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 are currently at 0.65m, approximately 0.07m below the long-term average and water temperatures are higher than normal, currently fluctuating between 12-17°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 end of August 5, 2025:

KsF (~28km upstream from KSEF)

Sockeye= 6

KSEF

Sockeye= 240 Chinook= 676 Pink= 111,775 Chum= 9 Coho= 10

This year's **sockeye** escapement through the KSEF compares to a previous maximum observed to the day of 3,230 in 2010, which resulted in an overall escapement of 20,804 and the minimum observed to the day of 1 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 **5.7%** 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 **676 Chinook** (plus 74 jacks) through the KSEF. This year's Chinook escapement compares to a maximum observed to the day of 1,342 in 2007, which resulted in an overall escapement of 3,225 and the minimum observed to the day of 4 in 2012, which resulted in an overall escapement of 848. Based on average run timing for Kitwanga Chinook to the day (2003 - 2019 and 2021 - 2024) it is predicted that approximately **33%** 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 **111,775 pink** salmon through the KSEF. This year's odd-year pink escapement **is the maximum** observed to the day, with a previous high of 24,504 observed in 2023. The **minimum** observed to the day is 4 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 **1.6%** 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 **9 chum** salmon through the KSEF. This year's chum escapement compares to a **maximum** observed to the day of 18 in 2005, which resulted in an overall escapement of 1,862 and a **minimum** observed to the day of 0 in multiple years. Based on average run timing for chum salmon to the day (2003-2019, 2021, 2023, 2024) it is predicted that **less than**

1% 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 **10 coho** salmon through the KSEF. This year's coho escapement **is the maximum** observed to the day and a **minimum** observed to the day of 0 in multiple years. Based on average run timing for coho salmon to the day (2003-2019) it is predicted that **less than 1%** 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.









