Gitanyow Fisheries Authority

August 13, 2025

2025 Kitwanga River Salmon Enumeration Update #3

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 Huwilp 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 Wilp 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 12, 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 0.78m, approximately 0.14m above the long-term average and water temperatures are within normal range, currently fluctuating between 12-15°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 end of August 12, 2025:

KsF (~28km upstream from KSEF)

Sockeye= 367

KSEF

Sockeye= 541 Chinook= 770 Pink= 183,023 Chum= 36 Coho= 28

This year's **sockeye** escapement through the KSEF compares to a previous maximum observed to the day of 4,749 in 2010, which resulted in an overall escapement of 20,804 and the minimum observed to the day of 5 in 2020, which resulted in an overall escapement of 440. Based on average run timing for Kitwanga sockeye to the day (2003-2019) it is predicted that approximately **18%** 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.

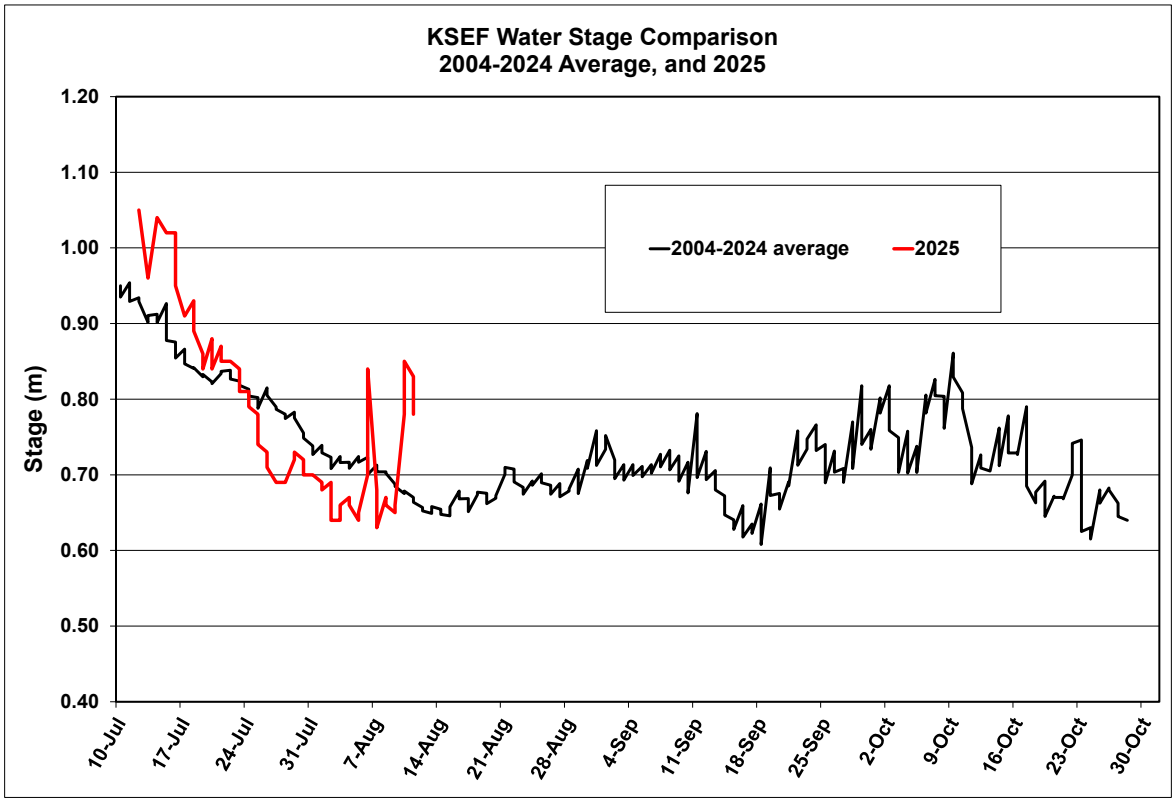
To date we have counted **770 Chinook** (plus 85 jacks) through the KSEF. This year's Chinook escapement compares to a maximum observed to the day of 2,564 in 2007, which resulted in an overall escapement of 3,225 and the minimum observed to the day of 35 in 2012, which resulted in an overall escapement of 848. Based on average run timing for Kitwanga Chinook to the day (2003 - 2019 and 2021 - 2024) it is predicted that approximately **59%** 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.

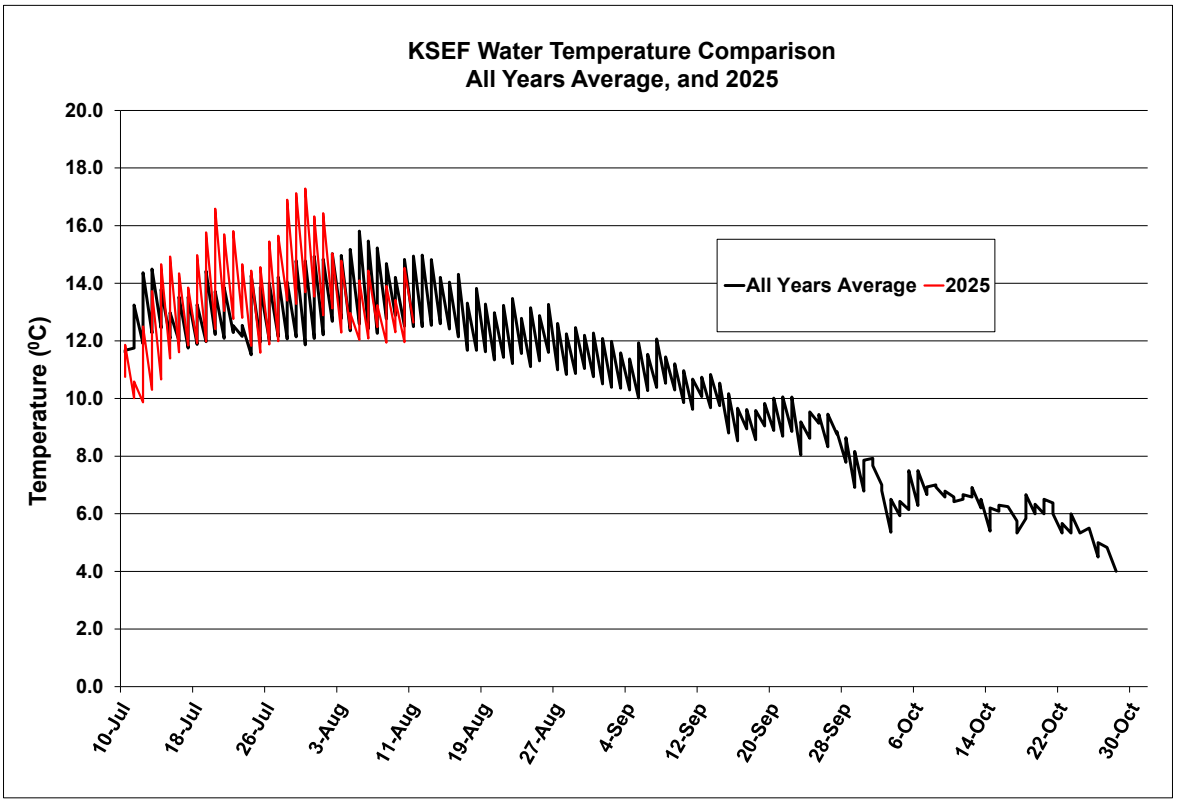
To date we have counted **183,023 pink** salmon through the KSEF. This year's odd-year pink escapement **is the maximum** observed to the day, with a previous high of 24,504 observed in 2023. The **minimum** observed to the day is 2,112 in 2011, which resulted in an overall escapement of 68,410. Based on average run timing for pink salmon to the day (2003-2023) it is predicted that **14**% 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.

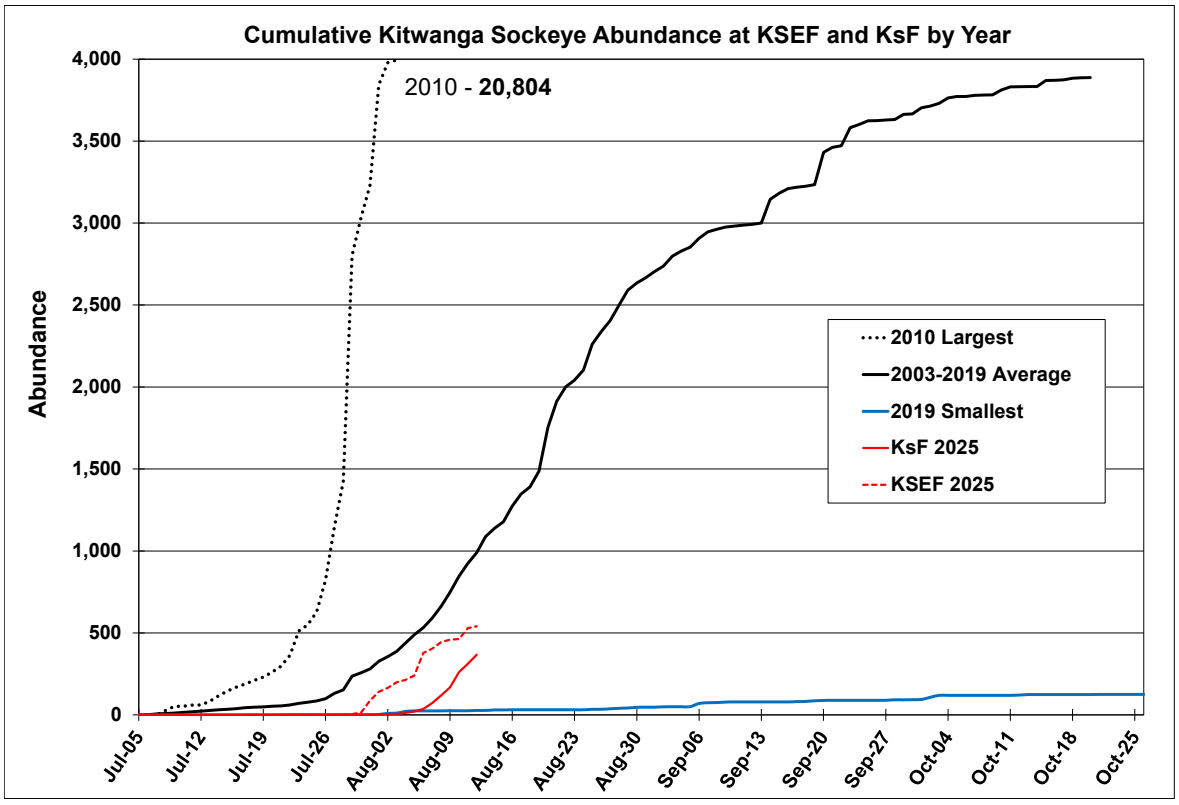
To date we have counted **36 chum** salmon through the KSEF. This year's chum escapement compares to a **maximum** observed to the day of 82 in 2005, which resulted in an overall escapement of 1,862 and a **minimum** observed to the day of 0 in multiple years. Based on average run timing for chum salmon to the day (2003-2019, 2021, 2023, 2024) it is predicted that **2.4%** of

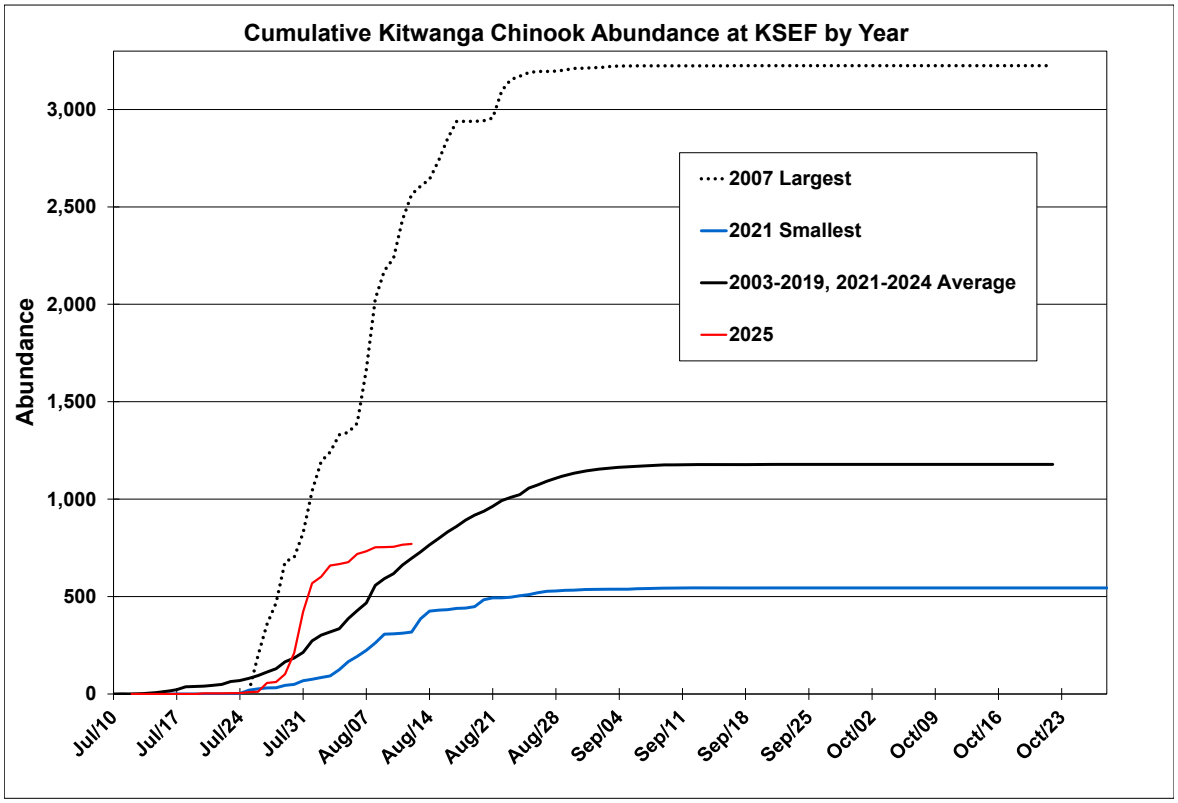
the run should now have passed the KSEF. For more information on cumulative Kitwanga chum salmon abundance by date, refer to the chum salmon graph below.

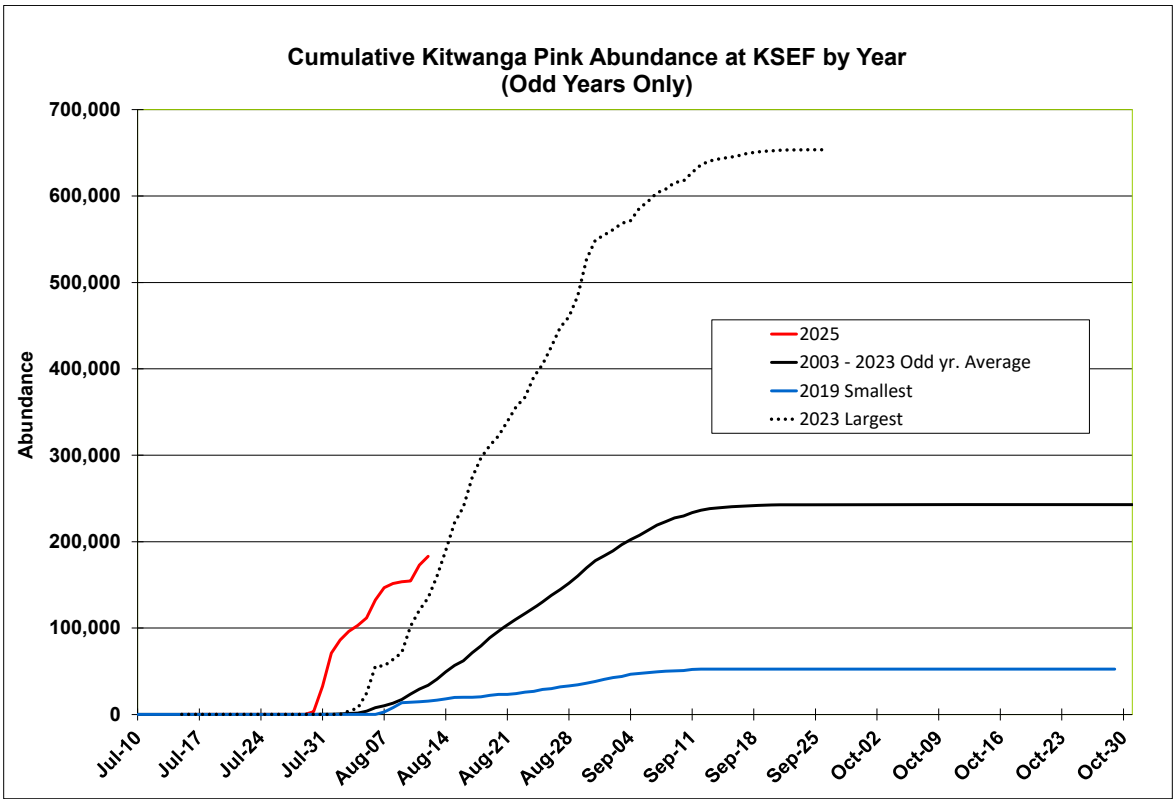
To date we have counted **28 coho** salmon through the KSEF. This year's coho escapement compares to a **maximum** observed to the day of 101 in 2005, which resulted in an overall escapement of 7,993 and a **minimum** observed to the day of 0 in multiple years. Based on average run timing for coho salmon 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.

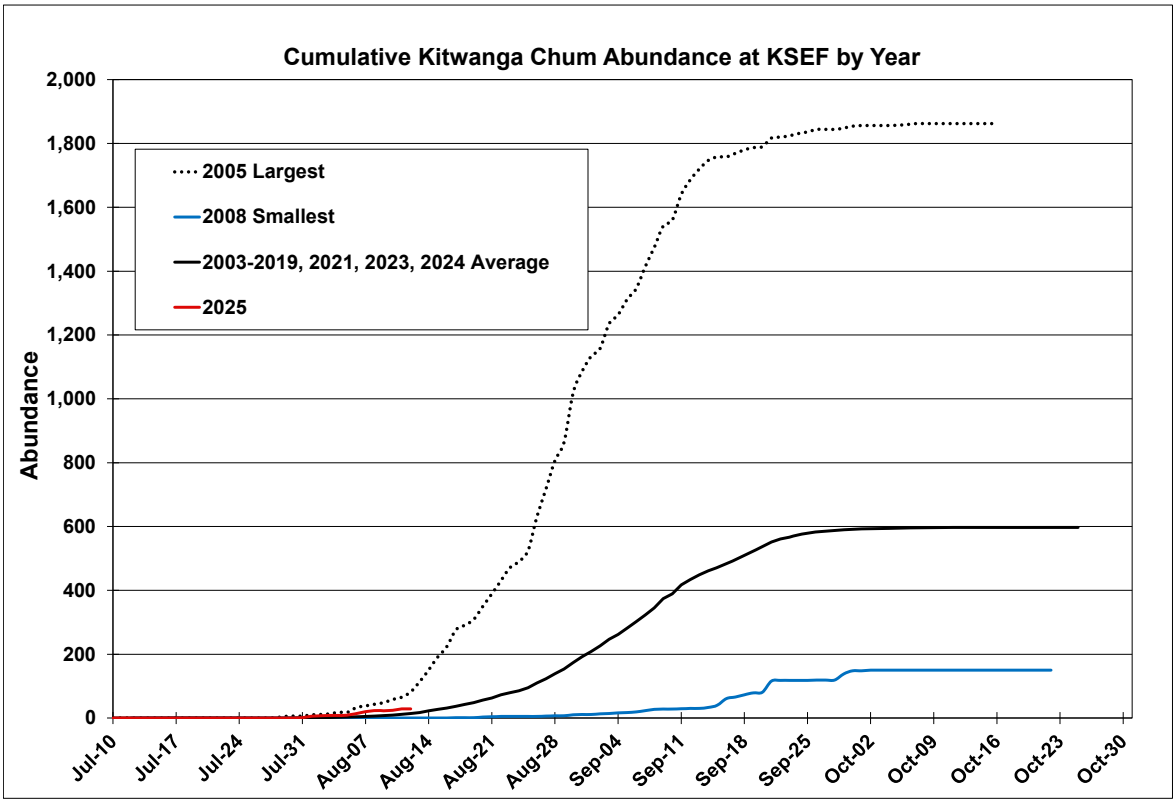


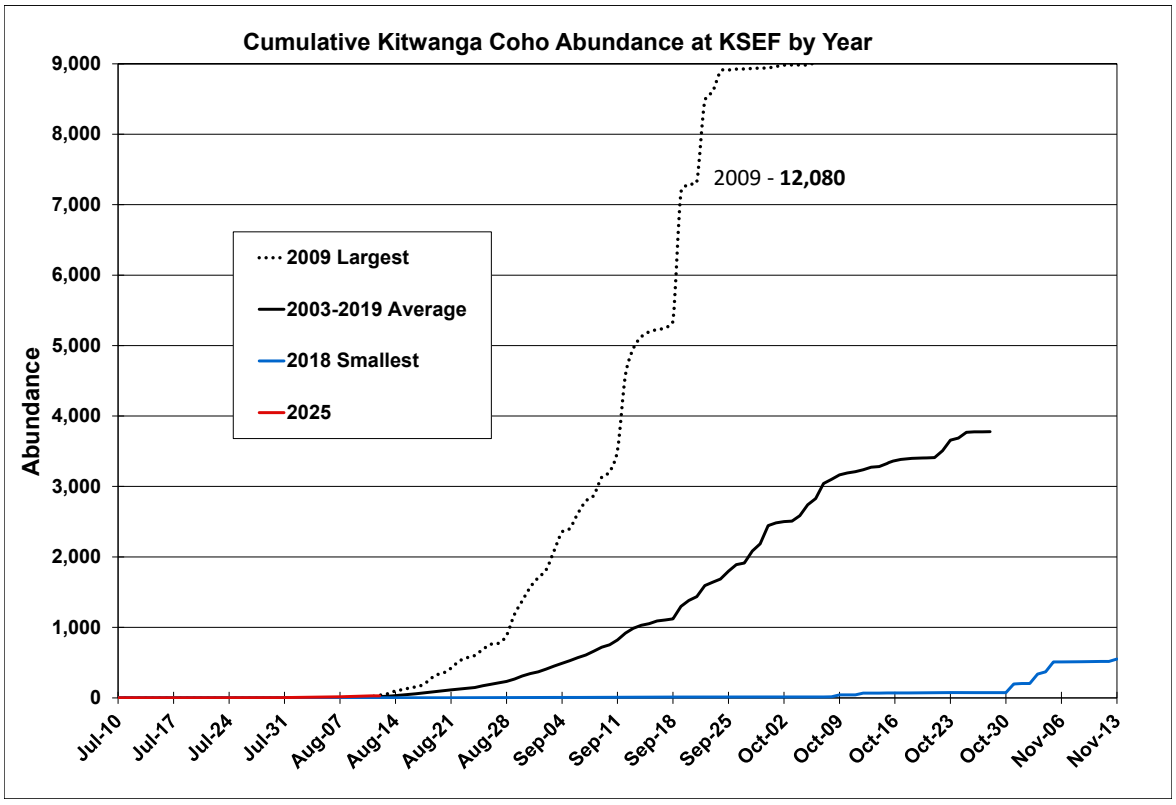

KSEF Water Temperature Comparison
All Years Average, and 2025
Temperature (⁰C)
20.0
18.0
16.0
14.0
12.0
10.0
8.0
6.0
4.0
2.0
0.0
All Years Average
2025
10-Jul
18-Jul
26-Jul
3-Aug
11-Aug
19-Aug
27-Aug
4-Sep
12-Sep
20-Sep
28-Sep
6-Oct
14-Oct
22-Oct
30-Oct

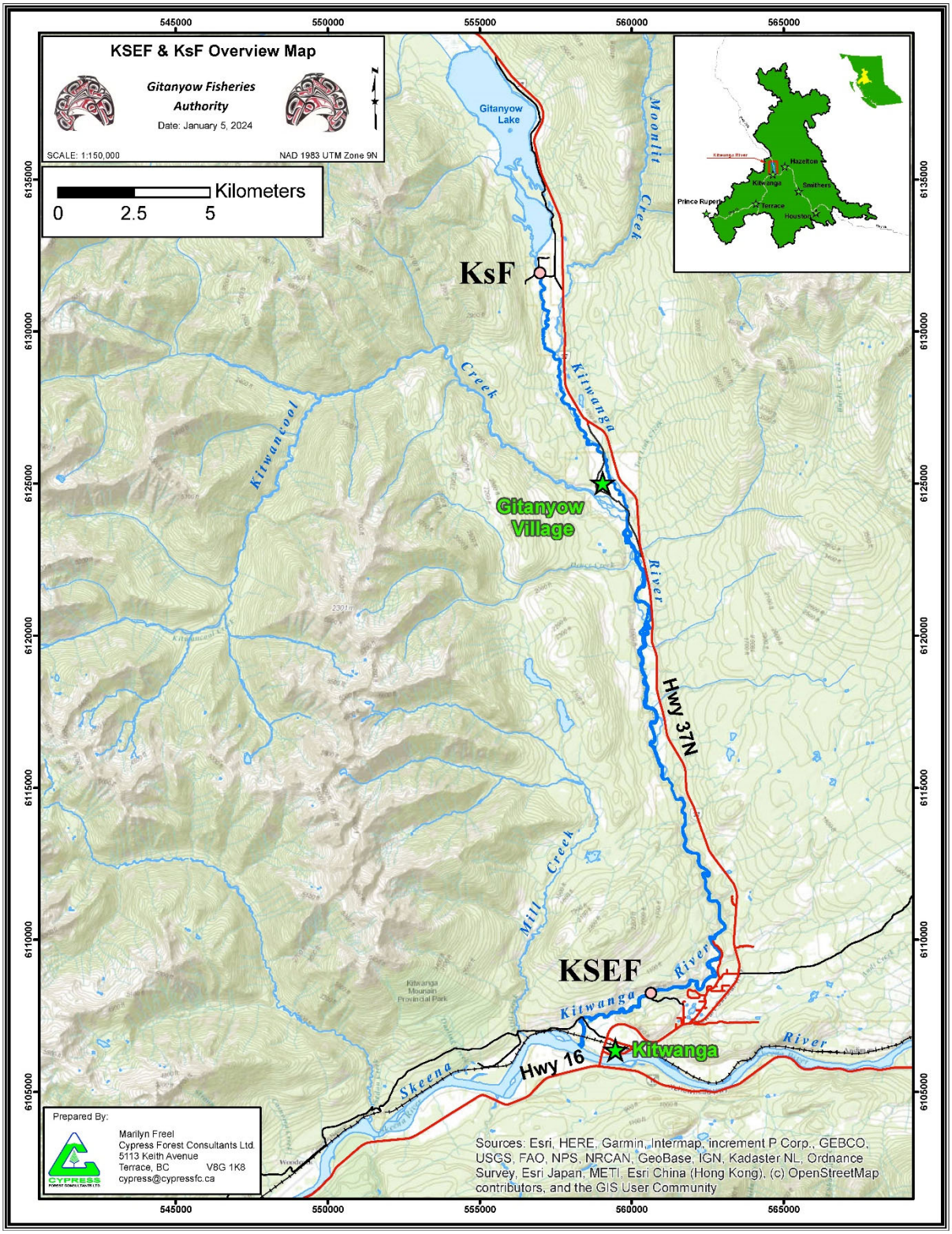

Cumulative Kitwanga Sockeye Abundance at KSEF and KsF by Year
Abundance
4,000
3,500
3,000
2,500
2,000
1,500
1,000
500
0
2010 - 20,804
2010 Largest
2003-2019 Average
2019 Smallest
KsF 2025
KSEF 2025
Jul-05
Jul-12
Jul-19
Jul-26
Aug-02
Aug-09
Aug-16
Aug-23
Aug-30
Sep-06
Sep-13
Sep-20
Sep-27
Oct-04
Oct-11
Oct-18
Oct-25


Cumulative Kitwanga Chinook Abundance at KSEF by Year
Abundance
3,000
2,500
2,000
1,500
1,000
500
0
2007 Largest
2021 Smallest
2003-2019, 2021-2024 Average
2025
Jul/10
Jul/17
Jul/24
Jul/31
Aug/07
Aug/14
Aug/21
Aug/28
Sep/04
Sep/11
Sep/18
Sep/25
Oct/02
Oct/09
Oct/16
Oct/23


Cumulative Kitwanga Pink Abundance at KSEF by Year
(Odd Years Only)
Abundance
700,000
600,000
500,000
400,000
300,000
200,000
100,000
0
2025
2003 - 2023 Odd yr. Average
2019 Smallest
2023 Largest
Jul-10
Jul-17
Jul-24
Jul-31
Aug-07
Aug-14
Aug-21
Aug-28
Sep-04
Sep-11
Sep-18
Sep-25
Oct-02
Oct-09
Oct-16
Oct-23
Oct-30


Cumulative Kitwanga Chum Abundance at KSEF by Year
Abundance
2,000
1,800
1,600
1,400
1,200
1,000
800
600
400
200
0
2005 Largest
2008 Smallest
2003-2019, 2021, 2023, 2024 Average
2025
Jul-10
Jul-17
Jul-24
Jul-31
Aug-07
Aug-14
Aug-21
Aug-28
Sep-04
Sep-11
Sep-18
Sep-25
Oct-02
Oct-09
Oct-16
Oct-23
Oct-30


Cumulative Kitwanga Coho Abundance at KSEF by Year
Abundance
9,000
8,000
7,000
6,000
5,000
4,000
3,000
2,000
1,000
0
2009 - 12,080
2009 Largest
2003-2019 Average
2018 Smallest
2025
Jul-10
Jul-17
Jul-24
Jul-31
Aug-07
Aug-14
Aug-21
Aug-28
Sep-04
Sep-11
Sep-18
Sep-25
Oct-02
Oct-09
Oct-16
Oct-23
Oct-30
Nov-06
Nov-13



Map of the Kitwanga River / Watershed highlighting the locations of the KSEF and KsF.