



Gitksan Watershed Authorities

Project Updates

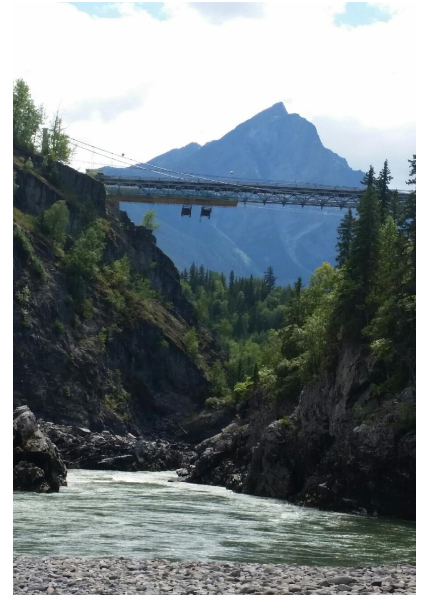
AUGUST 2016

August Report for Ranger & Monitors

By Rod Harris

August was another busy month, having to do our regular monitoring as well as monitoring the Inland Fishery. We were also involved in the rescue of a New Brunswick man who went for a swim close to the Hazelton Library and was pushed out into the current, Herb Patsey first noticed the him in the river and went into the Skeena to rescue the him. By the time we pulled up to them with our boat the man was pale and hypothermic, Clarence Jones pulled him into the boat and we asked Herb if he was ok. He looked up to us on the boat and said that he could get back to shore on his own. When he reached the shore, he fell to his knees and was crouched over in exhaustion. We are glad that we were able to assist Herb on his rescue.

We would like to thank all of the fishermen who have allowed GWA to collect data from your fishing sites, samples collected were by direct/interview, and set net log.



Stikyoden
Photo taken by: Clarence Jones

2016 Preliminary Estimates

Week	Effort (Sets)	Sockye	Chinook	Jack chinook	Pink	reles	Steelhead	reles	Coho	reles	Chum	reles
23	74	0	123	11	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0
24	124	7	76	12	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
25	197	176	500	67	0	0	9	0	2	0	0	0
26	280	1670	627	199	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
27	300	5776	422	191	0	0	4	0	16	0	0	0
28	337	5886	426	201	9	5	28	0	13	0	1	0
29	341	5942	310	143	29	3	57	2	5	0	0	0
30	373	9230	225	223	296	58	86	8	63	2	20	6
31	196	4522	58	64	879	196	89	2	191	0	27	0
32	207	6948	70	16	1052	209	149	0	228	2	44	0
33	191	6988	27	18	808	298	218	5	419	2	40	5
	2620	47145	2864	1145	3073	769	661	17	937	6	132	11

If you are interested in receiving our project updates by email you can email office@gitksanwatershed.com

GWA Staff

Charlie Muldon – Coordinator
 Alicia Fernando – Sr. Biologist
 Rod Harris – GWA Ranger
 Tim Wilson – Sr. Fisheries Technician
 Gordon Wilson – GIS Technician
 Elaine Sampson – Finance Officer
 Marj Turner – Administrative Assistant

2016 Slamgeesh Salmon Project Update

By Alicia Fernando

The adult fence program count to the night of August 29th is:

80 sockeye

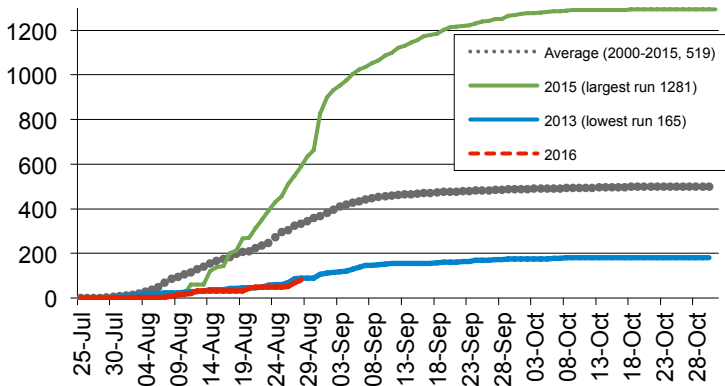
9 coho

Based on average run timing of both large and jack sockeye through the fence, typically **66%** of the sockeye are through the weir. The initial sockeye arrived later than average timing at the fence (2006-2015).

Maximum escapement for this date was 633 sockeye in 2015 which resulted in a total escapement of 1281. The lowest escapement for this date was 89 sockeye in 2013 which resulted in a total escapement of 165 sockeye. The 2016 sockeye return is derived from brood years 2011 and 2012, which had 689 and 940 large sockeye spawners respectively. The average large sockeye fence count since 2006 (all based on weir counts) is 519.

Water temperature at the fence in the past week has ranged from 14.8 to 17.3°C.

Cumulative sockeye weir count including jacks



James McRae counting sockeye up at McDonnell lake (Upper Zymoetz)

Water and Fish Habitat

By Tim Wilson

Habitat work

An in-stream flow study was initiated on the Nangeese River. The study will give us an intricate understanding of the flow, stream depth, substrate relationship within the stream. In turn this data will be used to identify restoration opportunities within the study area. 16 transects were installed and the study is underway.

Hydrometric stations were also visited at low water levels to collect low water discharge measurements.

Adult escapement

Sockeye escapement walks began in late August. The first walk was at McDonnell Lake (Upper Copper River) at the spawning grounds between McDonnell and Dennis Lakes. A good number of sockeye were observed on the spawning beds. Final numbers will be reported at the end of the season once all data is collected. A minimum of 3 walks are required for a good estimate of fish returning.

2016 In-River Demonstration Fishery

By Charlie Muldon

This season, GWA assisted with resource management of the in-river commercial fishery, on the Skeena River within the Gitksan Territories. Five house groups participated in this commercial fishery, harvesting a total of 7,409 Sockeye. DFO (Tye Test Fishery) estimated over 1.46 million Sockeye have entered the Skeena River. If the DFO is correct, there should be over 1.2 million Sockeye through the Babine Fence by August 30th 2016. Thus far, only 745,000 have passed through the Babine Fence to date. With this information, and other available data, the GWA took a precautionary approach to fisheries management and limited the fishery, to avoid impacts to future wild sockeye populations. Therefore, the Gitksan harvested only 58.03% of their commercial allocation this season. A summary of this seasons catches are provided in the table below.

We would like to thank those house groups and fishermen who participated in the fishery this year, and for their commitment to its success, by maintaining catch and release data during this fishery.

Date of Opening	Allocation	Catch	Uncaught
July 25 -31, 2016	701	682	19
August 1-7, 2016	2839	2602	237
August 21-28, 2016	2933	2933	0
August 23-28, 2016	4492	1192	3300
August 29-Sept 4, 2016	1803	0	1803
Season Totals	12768	7409	5359