

BIG BAR LANDSLIDE UPDATE

AUGUST 23, 2019



Incident Webpage



BC River Forecast

- There is now evidence that some salmon are able to use the natural fish passage. As of August 20, 2019, a rough estimate of 6,700 salmon have passed through the slide on their own. In recent days our acoustic monitoring station, located a full day's migration above the slide, shows larger numbers of fish than what can be accounted for by helicopter transport alone. We also have visual evidence and radio tagging data to support this conclusion. A natural fish passage is the best way to ensure the maximum number of salmon are able to reach their spawning grounds, and this remains the focus and priority of our operations.
- The Unified Incident Command continues to increase the number of resources to assist with the capturing, monitoring and transport of salmon. A second fish wheel from the Kitsumkalum First Nation and an additional seining crew from the Gitxsan Watershed Authority are being added to the operations. This new seine crew is comprised of First Nations from other parts of British Columbia and two commercial fishermen. A fish wheel is a device situated in a river that operates similarly to a watermill to catch fish. Once these fish are caught they are transported and released upstream by helicopter. Seining crews use large nets and work along the river's shore to capture fish for transport.



Seining crews operating along the river's shore.



Fish wheel operations below the slide.

Salmon Transported by Helicopter

Daily Total

Sockeye: 2,397

Chinook: 398



Total to Date

Sockeye: 25,108

Chinook: 6,517

Salmon Radio Tagging

Downstream From the Landslide

Sockeye: 125

Chinook: 97



Transferred Upstream of the Landslide

Sockeye: 64

Chinook: 56



Canada