



Secwepemc Fisheries Commission

Me7 wéwlem-kt wel me7 yews
“Fishing for our Future”

September 26, 2019

A successful Secwepemc fish story!

Approximately 4.8 million sockeye were forecast to return to the Fraser in 2019, only 600,000 returned - one of the worst returns on record. This conservation crisis combined with the Big Bar landslide compelled DFO to close all commercial, sport and First Nation fisheries on Fraser sockeye. On August 20 at a Secwepemc Health Caucus special Chiefs meeting SNTC Tribal Chief Wayne Christian offered assistance to northern Secwepemc communities that were unable to access sockeye. Secwepemc Fisheries Commission were requested to coordinate a fishery for Secwepemc communities.

A chinook gillnet fishery, led by the Skeetchestn Indian Band, occurred from September 8-22 at Kamloops Lake – 1078 chinook and 609 pink salmon were provided to Xatsull, Whispering Pines, Bonaparte, Canim Lake, Simpcw, Canoe, Williams Lake, Skeetchestn and High Bar communities. Tkemlups planned their own fishery.

Adams Lake Indian Band provided Esketemc with 52 chinook and NSTQ 27 from their chinook gillnet fishery. In total Adams Lake Indian Band provided 574 chinook to Lakes division and northern Secwepemc communities.



Happiness sets in! Canim Lake Band picking up fish on September 13 at Kamloops Lake:
Left to right Aaron Gillespie SFC, Dean Archie & Mark Boyce Canim Lake, Gabe Jules
Skeetchestn Band NR Corp.



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A total of 1652 chinook (33,000lbs) were provided to Secwepemc communities by the Skeetchestn and Adams Lake Band fisheries. Don Ignace and his crew from the Skeetchestn Band Natural Resources Corp stepped up to make the fishery happen at Kamloops Lake fishing 13 days straight including two weekends. Riverfresh donated their commercial gillnet boat and nets while SNTC Aboriginal Rights and Title Dept. provided funds to hire the boat captain.

Similarly, the Adams Lake Indian Band Natural Res. Dept should be acknowledged for providing opportunity for Lakes Division communities and the Shuswap Band to access chinook during these hard times.

The chinook population that was fished has been returning to the Shuswap watershed relatively strong over the past several years with no immediate conservation concerns. While this population may be healthy, returns of Fraser sockeye and other earlier - timed chinook stocks and coho over the next several years will likely be very uncertain. Access for food may be limited. All Secwepemc communities and organizations need to work together to ensure our people get fish. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

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