

A small group of hardy volunteers conducted a swill from slightly above km 11 on the Koksilah river down to Bright Angel park on Saturday November 10th.

The swim started slightly above km 11 just above the 2017 Koksilah DIDSON counter down to Koksilah river KM 6.41 km or Bright Angel park. The swim group entailed four volunteers with previous experience to swim the Koksilah at what was reported to be 10 cms. This is a drop from 45 cms earlier in the week so we were lucky to get the visibility we had which was 2 m+ depending on the extent of the leg of the swim. Vis was good considering time of year and conditions but degraded the closer we got to the Cowichan Station bridge. The swim started approximately 3.5 km above Cowichan station bridge for those struggling to figure out where we are talking about.

This swim is just a tally and is not a SILS enumerated swim.

Chinook adults 135 Jacks 40
Chum 850
Coho 4 adults

As was mentioned the vis was good but closer to the end of the swim as more fish were encounter visibility reduced and Chum numbers significantly increased.

I suspect and Jason Slade agreed that there are likely more Chinook upstream and despite the number which are greater than the first volunteer swim last year which was shorter and resulted in a short video showing less than 100 Chinook in the upper area of this current 2018 swim. It seems like many adults may have already gone past.

In the near future the hope is to continue with small recon swims to determine if there are indeed more Chinook and where they might be in the system. It is worth noting that the swim that Jason Slade did last year there were several fish above the falls. It is not know at this time if we will be able to reconfirm this for this year or not.

Huy ch q'u siem

Tim Kulchyski
Cowichan Tribes
(236)800-4023 office
(250)732-4895 cell