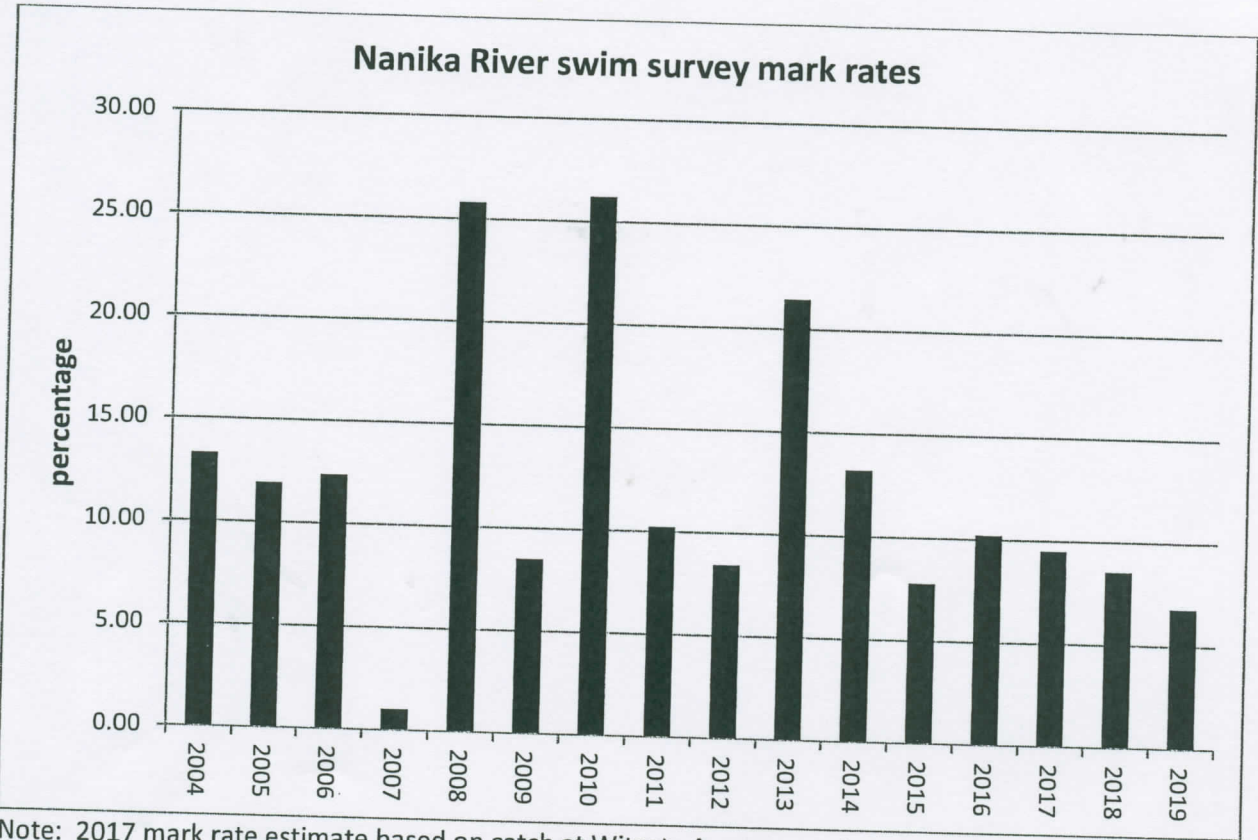


November 25, 2019

Fisheries Report

The current estimates for sockeye on the Nanika spawning beds are almost 25,000, while harvest was less than 1000. At the start of the season, we hoped to catch 2,500 sockeye for food, but DFO forecasted a poor return. In fact – the early returns were so poor they closed the Skeena for any sockeye harvest – including food fisheries. The Skeena was opened for food fisheries after the peak of the Nanika run was through Witsset, and catches remained low due to missing the peak of the run. I emailed DFO about opening a food fishery before the peak, but didn't receive a response. This year, we were unable to meet food fish needs – even from coho, which was poor. The pink run – although it was big, the peak happens in a short time period, and a decision to harvest must be made in advance. DFO is developing a Integrated Fisheries Management Plan: we should have our input before January. In preparation, we should consider our food fish plans now

- 1) Harvest 2,500 sockeye if the Nanika run seems to be average. We may have to fish even if DFO closes the Skeena. The returns from the 2016 run may be very poor, due to very low water conditions in the fall of 2016.
- 2) Harvest coho in the canyon, and tag at the beach seine.
- 3) Harvest Chinook in the canyon, and tag at the beach seine
- 4) Harvest pink salmon
- 5) Harvest Steelhead in the canyon, and tag at the beach seine.



Note: 2017 mark rate estimate based on catch at Witset. Average mark rate = 12.2%

