



August 9, 2024

Tsilhqot'in Nation requests support from downstream First Nations to protect and conserve Tsilhqot'in-bound salmon following the Tsilhqox (Chilcotin River) landslide

As most First Nations in the Fraser River watershed are likely now aware, a major landslide occurred on the Tsilhqox (Chilcotin River) the night of July 30. Increased sediment, debris, and flows to the Chilcotin and Fraser Rivers have and will continue to dramatically impact this year's returning sockeye and Chinook populations, which were already seeing record-low returns.

The Tsilhqot'in Nation Council of Chiefs is **requesting support from downstream First Nations** in taking **all precautionary measures possible** to protect and conserve salmon bound for Tsilhqot'in Territory, which are in a state of **extreme conservation concern**. We are asking communities to **cease any fisheries that may impact these returning fish** (i.e., fisheries along the migration route through the marine area and Fraser River downstream of the Chilcotin) until the impacts of the landslide are fully understood.

TNG issued a statement on August 6 that also calls on all levels of government, the Pacific Salmon Commission, and other Nations and States (particularly Alaskan commercial fisheries that impact Fraser salmon) to immediately cease all fisheries that may have impacts on Tsilhqot'in-bound salmon. **The priority is to maximize the number of fish that can reach their spawning grounds, maximize their spawning success, and support their recovery and long-term sustainability.**

One key salmon population of concern is Chilko sockeye, which spawns in Tsilhqot'in Territory and in recent years has been the strongest sockeye population returning to the Fraser Watershed. Most Chilko sockeye have yet to reach the territory, and have not yet attempted their migration past the slide to their spawning grounds.

TNG has declared a local state of emergency and is taking all possible measures to conserve and protect salmon impacted by the slide. This includes a **full closure** issued by the Tsilhqot'in Council of Chiefs for all Chinook and sockeye fisheries in Tsilhqot'in Territory for the duration of the 2024 season. TNG is also leading a **Salmon Emergency Task Force**, which includes participation from the Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance (UFFCA), DFO, the Province of BC, and numerous technical experts. The task force is fully engaged in a thorough and urgent investigation of the slide and its impacts on Tsilhqot'in-bound salmon.

TNG has released a statement regarding the formation of the task force here:

www.tsilhqotin.ca/tsilhqotin-national-government-initiating-emergency-salmon-task-force

TNG is also posting regular landslide updates on their website at www.tsilhqotin.ca and www.tsilhqotin.ca/our-territory/fisheries/communications and on their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Tsilhqotin.

