



# TNG FISHERIES

The latest information important to T̓silhqot̓in fish and fishing activities

## Dramatic increase in Ts'eman passage past the T̓silhqox Landslide

TNG Fisheries and the TNG-led tripartite Emergency Salmon Task Force are pleased to share the **very positive news that Chilko Ts'eman (sockeye) passage past the T̓silhqox landslide has dramatically increased** based on near-real-time data counts at the Hanceville SONAR.

- A significant increase was observed on Sat, Sept 7 when **940 Ts'eman** were counted past the slide – approx. **7 times higher** than the average daily passage in the preceding week.
- Further dramatic increases were seen in the following days: Ts'eman passage on Sept 8 was **5211** – approx. **40 times higher** than average daily passage the preceding week; Ts'eman passage further increased to **8426** on Sept 9, which in a single day **more than doubled** the total number of Ts'eman observed past the slide since passage was first seen on Aug 24.
- The **total number of Ts'eman** observed past the slide to date is **17,559** (as of 10:00am Tues, Sept 10).

This is very positive news. The task force had predicted that passage would increase based on anticipated environmental conditions and monitoring data. **This current dramatic increase is strong positive confirmation that overall passage is improving.**

Environmental conditions are anticipated to be stable in the coming weeks, during what would be the typical peak spawning period for Chilko Ts'eman (in recent 20 years, approx. Sept 19 – Oct 3).

**Please see T̓silhqox (Chilcotin River) landslide timeline (to Sept 5) that overlays key slide events with TNG leadership response, emergency salmon task force actions, and salmon passage past the slide (page 5).**

*Photos: Sockeye migrating up the T̓silhqox (Chilcotin River) near Yunesit̓in/Hanceville Bridge (Sept 9). Source: Task Force.*





# New season kicks off at the TNG Salmon Conservation Hatchery

After a highly successful first year of operations in 2023–24, the TNG Fisheries team is excited to kick off our second year of operations at the TNG Salmon Conservation Hatchery under the leadership of TNG Jr. Hatchery Manager Winston Bambrick.

Last week (Sept 5–7) Winston led the successful collection of brood stock (eggs and milt) for Chilko JaꞤ (Chinook), working with TNG Fisheries Coordinator Leonard English and TNG Fisheries Technician Hayden Grinder and with technical support from DFO and the Snootli Creek hatchery team. The eggs are now incubating in the TNG hatchery. This year's cohort of hatchery JaꞤ will be released in spring 2025 as part of the Chilko JaꞤ coded wire tag program, a TNG/DFO partnership for stock assessment of Chilko JaꞤ.

Winston has provided strong leadership in all hatchery operations to date this season including:

- hatchery preparation and systems testing in the weeks ahead of brood stock collection, including cleaning incubation trays and ensuring optimal water flow for eggs;
- working directly with DFO to coordinate brood stock collection field work;
- leading/overseeing brood stock collection in the field to ensure selection of healthy parent fish, best practices in extracting eggs and milt, and proper biosecurity and fish health protocols;
- maintaining flexibility and adaptability to a moving/changing schedule to respond quickly to unpredictable spawning timing of parent fish;
- personally transporting eggs to the hatchery;
- overseeing and directly participating in counting, fertilizing, and disinfecting eggs;
- daily hatchery visits to assess the health of eggs and make system adjustments to ensure ideal incubation conditions;
- training staff.

**Congratulations Winston on a highly successful start to this hatchery cycle!**



*TNG Jr. Hatchery Manager Winston Bambrick leading Chilko JaꞤ brood stock collection.*

## TNG FISHERIES TEAM

**RANDY BILLYBOY**  
Fisheries Manager

Contact for questions:  
rbillyboy@tsilhqotin.ca  
Tel: 250-392-3918

**MICHELLE TUNG**  
Fisheries Strategy Lead

**LEONARD ENGLISH**  
Fisheries Coordinator

**WINSTON BAMBRICK**  
Jr. Hatchery Manager

**GERALD WILLIAM**  
Sr. Fisheries Technician

**HAYDEN GRINDER**  
Fisheries Technician

**PETE NICKLIN**  
Biologist

**ANDREA STERLING**  
Biologist

**AIMEE ARSENAULT**  
Communications



## Chilko Jās brood stock collection: Recap, reflections, and field highlights from TNG Jr. Hatchery Manager Winston Bambrick

In June 2024, we successfully completed our first year of TNG Salmon Conservation Hatchery operations (2023–24) and released 3702 Chilko Jās fry. This year (2024–25) we collected Chilko Jās eggs again but will work at a higher capacity, raising eggs from 5 females instead of 2.

The landslide in the T̄silhqox earlier this summer really highlights the importance of our conservation hatchery and puts on a little more pressure that we continue to operate at the highest standard. I'm looking forward to taking the full reins myself this year and managing the hatchery. Last year I was mentored by Wayne Levesque on how to manage our facility. I was nervous prior to the first year we had eggs, but now I feel fully comfortable as I've seen the full process and know what to expect for this year. The quality of our fry last year was incredibly high, and I just want to keep that intact going forward and to keep having that good reputation of raising high-quality fry.

It's great to be back in the hatchery raising this year's Chilko Jās eggs. Here are some highlights from the field from last week's brood stock collection:

### Thurs, Sept 5 – Fri, Sept 6:

- Leonard English, Nolan Guichon (photographer) and I met the Snootli and DFO crew at the Chilko Camp at 0800 hours. We completed 2 tangle net lets and 1 seine set.
- Females that weren't ready to spawn yet were held in brood tubes over the next couple nights.
- We originally planned to return Sept 9 as most of the eggs were still very green and days away from being ready to collect – but Sherri Schmidt (DFO) called on Sept 6 and notified me that the females should be ready for Sept 7.



*I'm working with DFO technicians to capture a female Jās and get the brood tube ready to hold her until ready to spawn.*



**Sat, Sept 7:**

- Leonard and I left Williams Lake at 0400 hours to collect the eggs. We arrived at Hausi's boat launch at 0800 hours, then drove by boat to Lingfield.
- We completed 2 tangle net sets. In the first set we caught 3 hatchery males and released them. Note: hatchery fish have their fins clipped as juveniles so they can be identified later; we only keep wild fish for brood stock to maximize their genetic variation/biodiversity, which helps keep the population strong and as wild as possible.
- The next set we caught 4 Jaš, but none were kept as the females were partially spawned out.
- We then checked the female fish we caught on Sept 5, and the eggs were ready for collection.
- We collected eggs and milt and transported it back to the hatchery in coolers for fertilization. We met Cory Williamson (TNG hatchery biologist support) and Nolan at the hatchery at 1530 hours with this year's cohort of Chilko Jaš eggs.



*Female Jaš before we extracted the eggs, with Leonard and DFO technicians in the background.*

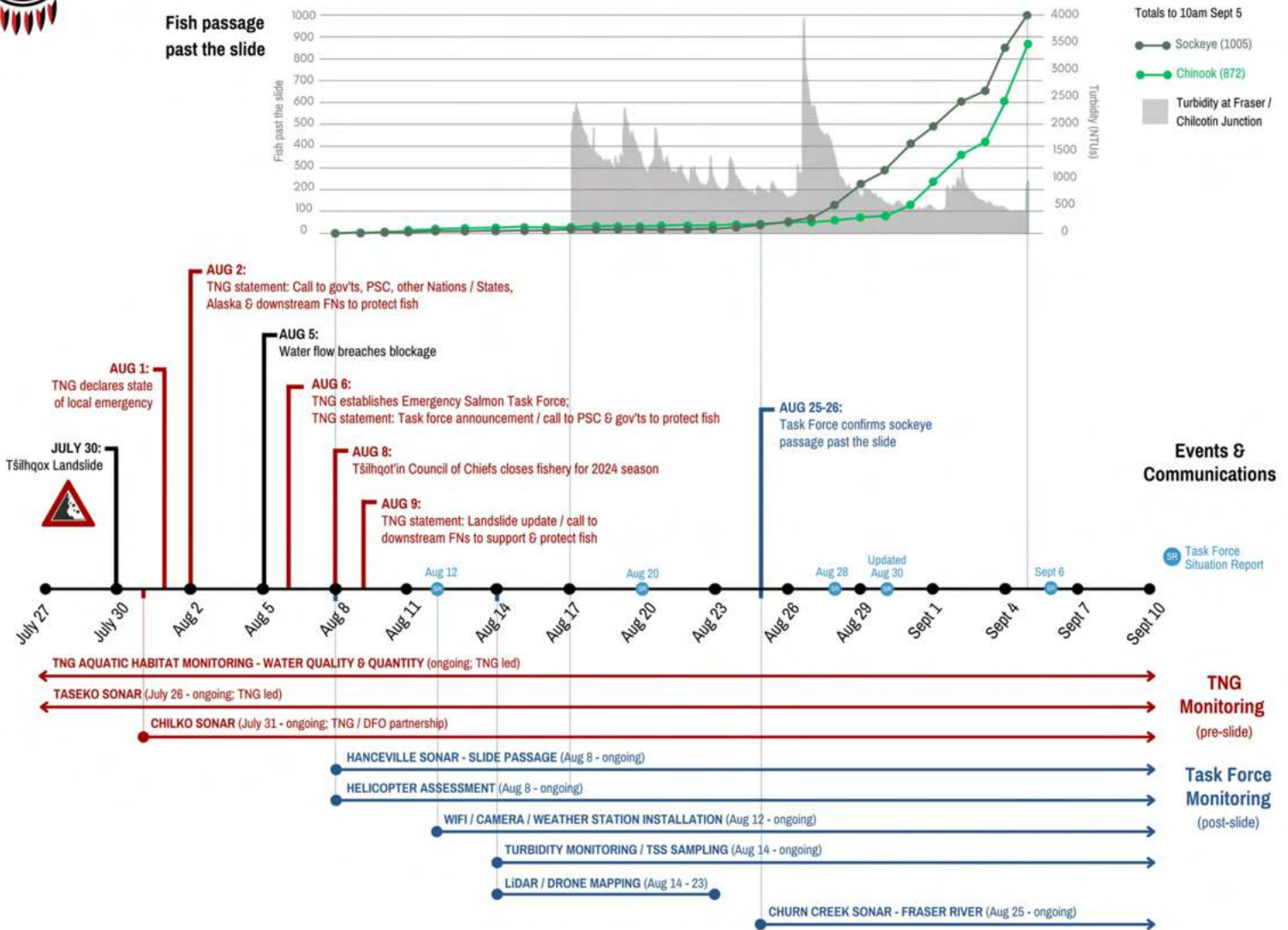


*Collecting eggs from a female Jaš (left) and milt from a male Jaš (right).*





## T̕silhqox (Chilcotin River) Landslide Timeline (to Sept 5, 2024)



For all TNG-led Emergency Salmon Task Force Situation Reports please see [www.tsilhqotin.ca/our-territory/fisheries/communications](http://www.tsilhqotin.ca/our-territory/fisheries/communications)



## TNG FISHERIES WEEKLY BULLETINS AND MORE INFORMATION

For weekly updates on the status of T̕silhqot'in salmon stocks, fisheries, and TNG Fisheries Department activities throughout the salmon season, please see our fisheries bulletins, along with more information about the TNG Fisheries Program, at [www.tsilhqotin.ca/our-territory/fisheries/communications](http://www.tsilhqotin.ca/our-territory/fisheries/communications) and on the TNG Facebook page.

For questions please contact TNG Fisheries Manager Randy Billyboy: [rbillyboy@tsilhqotin.ca](mailto:rbillyboy@tsilhqotin.ca) / 250-392-3918