



Emergency Salmon Task Force Situation Report – September 6, 2024

A major landslide occurred on the Chilcotin River the night of July 30, 2024, which continues to dramatically impact this year's returning sockeye and Chinook populations. In response to the slide, TNG rapidly formed a technical tripartite Emergency Salmon Task Force to assess the impacts on Tsilhqot'in-bound salmon populations.

The task force is sharing regular situation reports to share key developments and milestones. All situation reports and landslide updates are posted on the TNG website at www.tsilhqotin.ca/our-territory/fisheries/communications and on the TNG Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Tsilhqotin. For questions please email tngsalmontaskforce@tsilhqotin.ca.

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This week's situation report provides an update on **salmon passage past the slide and associated environmental conditions**. The Task Force is pleased to report **continued positive news** – rates of passage past the slide continue to improve for both Sockeye and Chinook as anticipated by the Task Force based on monitoring information.

See page 2 for the new **Tsilhqox (Chilcotin River) Landslide Timeline** that overlays key slide events with TNG Leadership response, Emergency Salmon Task Force actions, and salmon passage past the slide to date.

A Technical Subgroup of the Task Force continues to evaluate the need for intervention/mitigation actions to reduce the risk to migrating salmon. Next week's situation report will detail **mitigation/intervention considerations and status**.

Monitoring Update

A summary of monitoring program scope, duration, and results is provided in the **infographic on page 2**. Monitoring locations are displayed in the **map on page 3**. Monitoring programs are ongoing and planned to continue through the duration of the run.

Fish passage conditions and outlook

Monitoring programs continue to indicate that there is no velocity barrier to fish passage at the slide site. Turbidity and suspended sediment concentrations in the river continue to drop, despite periodic peaks resulting from sediment sluffing and rain events. Migration temperatures in the Fraser River are still high for the time of year, and forecast to remain above seasonal average. On balance, the migration conditions for Chilko Sockeye, Chilko Chinook, and Elkin and Taseko Chinook in the Fraser and Chilcotin Rivers are still poor, but improving. Passage rates upstream of the slide remain steady for Sockeye and are increasing for Chinook.



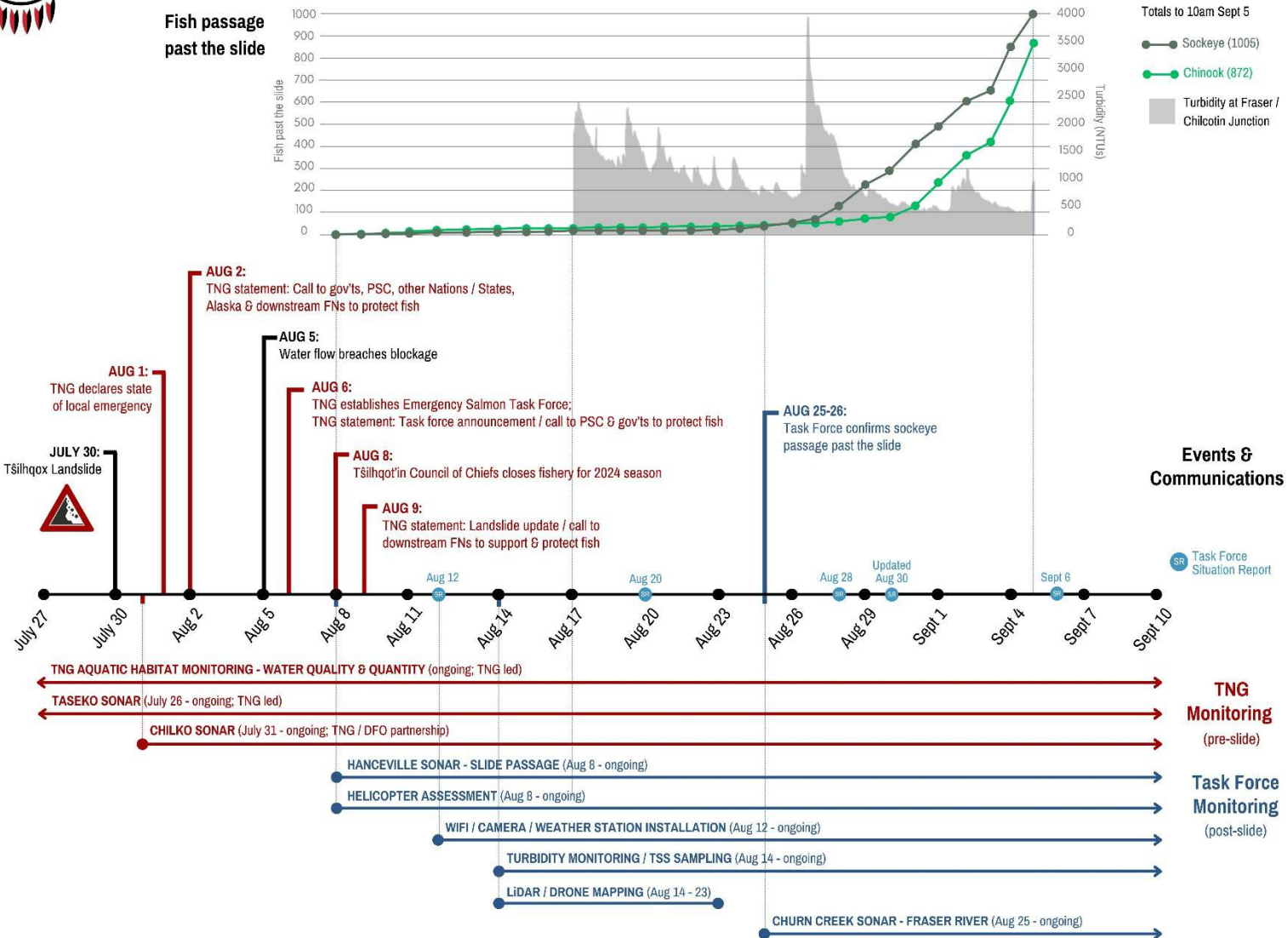


Considering the migration challenges to date, the condition of these fish is expected to be poor and the survival to spawn is unknown. In the coming days overflights and sonar programs in natal streams are expected to detect the first pulse of fish that migrated past the slide and this should provide further insight into the escapement of these stocks.

While the focus to date has been on Chinook and Sockeye, the Task Force is also assessing potential effects to Chilcotin Steelhead and Interior Fraser Coho which will be migrating through the system in the coming weeks and months. Considering we were able to accurately track migration in response to changing environmental conditions for Chilko Sockeye, we are confident that our monitoring programs and assessment methods will be able to anticipate future migration effects to these stocks in the Chilcotin River.



Tsilhqox (Chilcotin River) Landslide Timeline (to Sept 5, 2024)





Tsilhqox (Chilcotin River) Landslide - Monitoring Map

