



TNG FISHERIES

The latest information important to T̓silhqot'in fish and fishing activities

This is the TNG Fisheries in-season bulletin that is released weekly throughout the salmon season from mid-July to mid-September to provide updates on the state of T̓silhqot'in fisheries and work in the field. These bulletins are publicly available on the TNG Facebook page and on the TNG website at www.tsilhqotin.ca/our-territory/fisheries/communications.

In-Season Update:

2025 T̓silhqot'in Fisheries:

Reminder of the **2025 T̓silhqot'in Fisheries Plan** approved by the TNG Council of Chiefs:

- Ja̓ harvest began July 18, with a request to release Ts'eman (sockeye) until August 13. This allows Ts'eman impacted by the T̓silhqox Landslide, including critically endangered Dasiqox and South End Chilko Ts'eman populations, to return to their spawning grounds to support their recovery.
- **GOOD NEWS:** The **earlier version** of the T̓silhqot'in Fishing Plan requested voluntary release of Ts'eman until Aug 14; due to good news about Ts'eman returns in-season, this has been updated to **Wednesday, August 13** – a full day earlier.
- Please do not fish in the Che̓qox (Little Chilcotin) **for the full season**, except for the junction area with the Chilko. This protects critically endangered Che̓qox Ja̓ by allowing them to return to their spawning grounds to support their recovery.
- Please see all applicable requested voluntary protection measures in the box below.

We hope you're enjoying the 2025 salmon season, and we're happy to see people on the river successfully catching Ja̓ (Chinook) in the Chilcotin and the Fraser!

2025 Applicable Voluntary Protection Measures:

The T̓silhqot'in Council of Chiefs requests voluntary compliance with limited measures to protect early timed Ja̓ (Chinook) and Ts'eman (sockeye) populations at high risk of extinction.

- Please release Ts'eman (sockeye) until **Wednesday, August 13, 2025**.
- Please do not fish for Ja̓ in the Che̓qox (Little Chilcotin) system above the Chilko / Chilcotin junction **for the full fishing season**.

Approved by the T̓silhqot'in Council of Chiefs June 17, 2025

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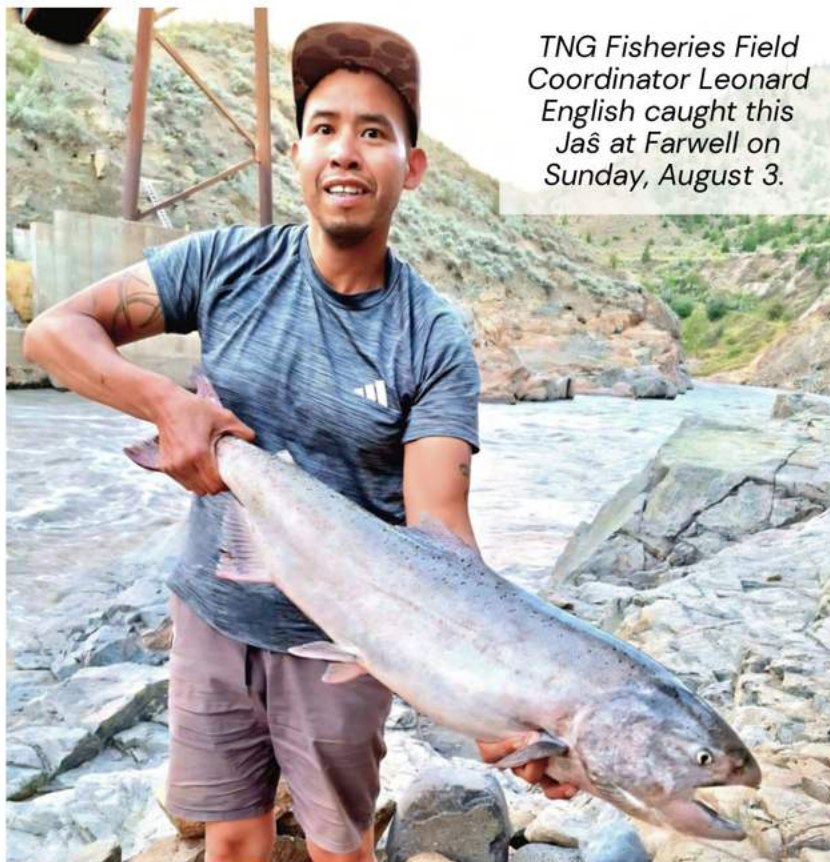
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In-Season Information:

TNG Fisheries updates our understanding of salmon returns and environmental conditions throughout the salmon season based on in-season technical information.

From late June to the end of September, we conduct detailed monitoring and analysis of information from the ocean to the spawning grounds, and provide weekly reports through these in-season fisheries bulletins.

CLICK HERE for more info on how TNG Fisheries **collects in-season information**



TNG Fisheries Field Coordinator Leonard English caught this Ja's at Farwell on Sunday, August 3.



Ts'eman (Sockeye) Update:

- Chilko Ts'eman continue to show an encouraging ocean return, and the run remains at a higher number of salmon than was predicted in the pre-season forecast.
- The early part of the Chilko Ts'eman run has moved into the lower Fraser River.
- Over the next week, we will be getting close to estimating the Chilko ocean return run size, which will be our key indicator of how strong the Ts'eman return to the Chilko will be.
- Most of the Fraser River early run sockeye (which return before Chilko Ts'eman) have also exceeded pre-season predictions. However, we still have a conservation concern for highly vulnerable Dasiqox (Taseko) Ts'eman, and are currently planning emergency enhancement on this population in 2025.
- **GOOD NEWS:** The **earlier version** of the Tsilhqot'in Fishing Plan requested voluntary release of Ts'eman until Aug 14; due to good news about Ts'eman returns in-season, this has been updated to **Wednesday, August 13** – a full day earlier.



For more information about the TNG Fisheries Program, visit the TNG Fisheries page on the TNG website at www.tsilhqotin.ca/our-territory/fisheries

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

Scenes from the Field:

We are officially at our maximum field workload for the year, which will continue until mid-September. Over the past week the TNG fisheries crew has been concentrating on:

- downloading SONAR files from the Taseko SONAR
- maintaining the fish passage SONAR at Hanceville
- counting salmon as they pass through the Hanceville SONAR
- catch monitoring for the T̓silhqot'in Ja̓s fishery
- preparing for Ja̓s and Ts'eman assessment projects based out of the Chilko field camp beginning this week.

Highlights from the Hanceville SONAR:

The TNG Fisheries crew, with technical partner Ecofish, installed the Hanceville SONAR on July 23. It will operate throughout the entire salmon season to monitor salmon past the T̓silhqox landslide impact area.



Top left & middle: TNG Sr. Fisheries Technician Gerald William performing standard maintenance at the Hanceville SONAR, including cleaning the diversion fence (left) and the SONAR lens (middle).

Top right: Gerald dipnetting upstream of the Hanceville SONAR to collect data on fish species and size. Info is used for QA (quality assurance) to ensure the sizes used for species identification in SONAR counts match the actual sizes of species of salmon in the water. Gerald is also evaluating the health and condition of fish after passing through higher turbidity (cloudiness from particles in the water) through the T̓silhqox landslide impact area. Salmon are released after measuring.

Bottom left: Gerald downloading Hanceville SONAR files.

Bottom right: Closeup of the computer screen that shows SONAR counts in real time. The right side of the screen shows fish passing in front of the SONAR unit; each small blue spot is a fish. The left side shows a zoomed in version where technicians can see the size of each fish, which they use for species identification.

