



TNG FISHERIES

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

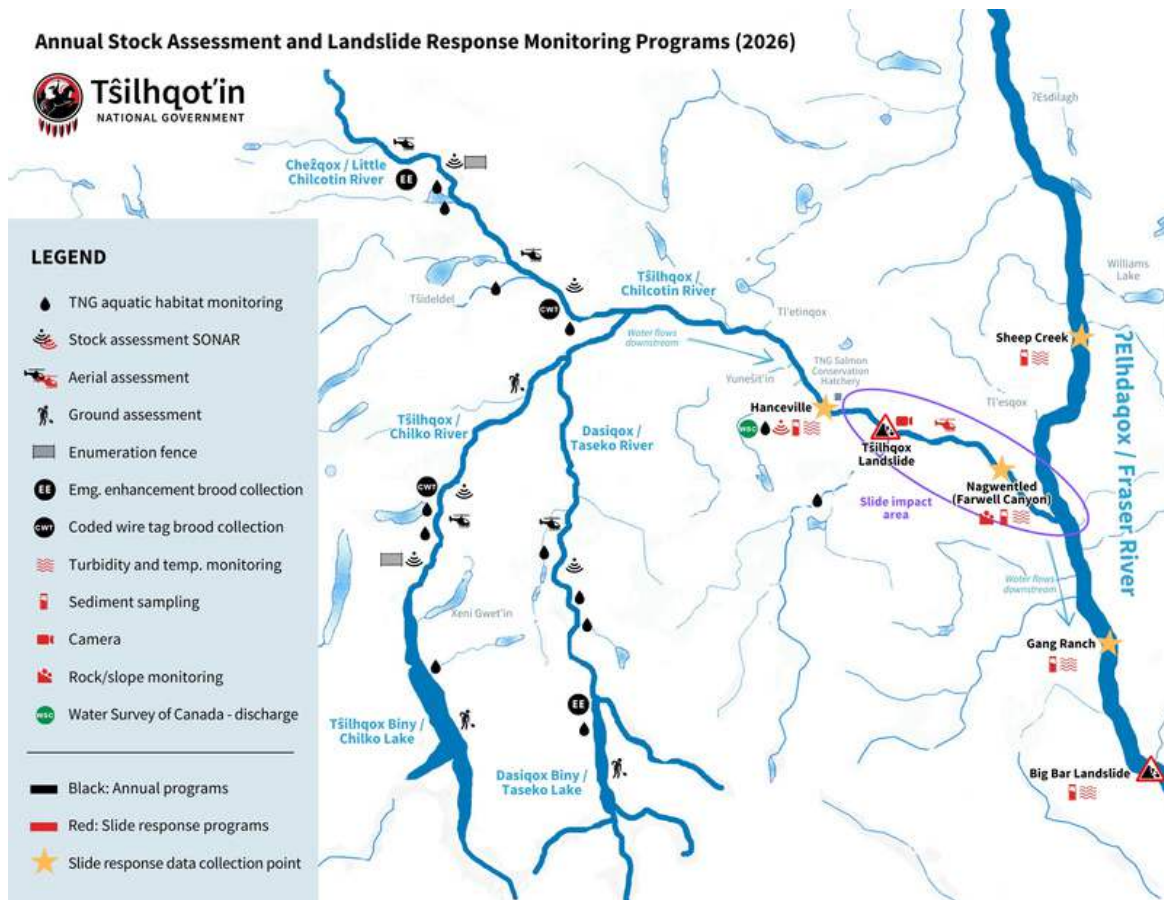
This is the TNG Fisheries in-season bulletin that is released weekly throughout the salmon season from mid-July to early/mid-September to provide updates on the state of T̓silhqot'in fisheries and work in the field. These bulletins are publicly available on the TNG Facebook page and on the TNG website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

Overview of Anticipated 2026 Fishery

TNG Fisheries anticipates a good return of both Jaš (Chinook) and Ts'eman (sockeye) that will support traditional fisheries on both the Chilcotin and Fraser River mainstems.

Moving forward, we will be updating our understanding of the fishery throughout the season based on in-season information. From late June to the end of September, we conduct detailed monitoring and analysis of in-season fisheries information from the ocean to the spawning grounds. We use a network of information from outside the Territory combined with information generated from assessment programs within the Territory. We report on this information through these weekly in-season bulletins.

Annual Stock Assessment and Landslide Response Monitoring Programs (2026)



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In-Season Update:

We hope you are enjoying the start of the salmon season. We are very happy to see people on the river **successfully catching Jaš** (Chinook)!

2026 Tšilhqot'in Fisheries Plan:

On June 4, 2025 the Tšilhqot'in Council of Chiefs approved the 2026 Fisheries Plan. The plan supports harvest opportunity when the stronger Chilko populations of Jaš (Chinook) and Ts'eman (sockeye) return to the Territory, and requests that fishers follow voluntary measures to protect early timed Jaš and Ts'eman populations that are at high risk of extinction. Please see voluntary protection measures in the box below, and see attached the 2026 Fisheries Plan (pg 5).

2026 Applicable Voluntary Protection Measures:

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

- Please release Ts'eman (sockeye) until Thursday, August 6, 2026.
- Please do not fish for Jaš in the Chežqox (Little Chilcotin) system upstream from the 7km signboard on the Chezacut road for the full fishing season.

Ts'eman (Sockeye) Update:

- It's still early in the Chilko Ts'eman return, but we're monitoring information from test fisheries in the marine area and Lower Fraser River. Over the past week, we can see the first part of the Chilko return moving past Vancouver Island and into the Lower Fraser in numbers showing the slow build toward the main Chilko Ts'eman run, which we expect in the next 2 to 3 weeks.
- The TNG Fisheries crew installed the Dasiqox (Taseko River) SONAR last week to count critically endangered Dasiqox Ts'eman.



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

TNG Fisheries Update:

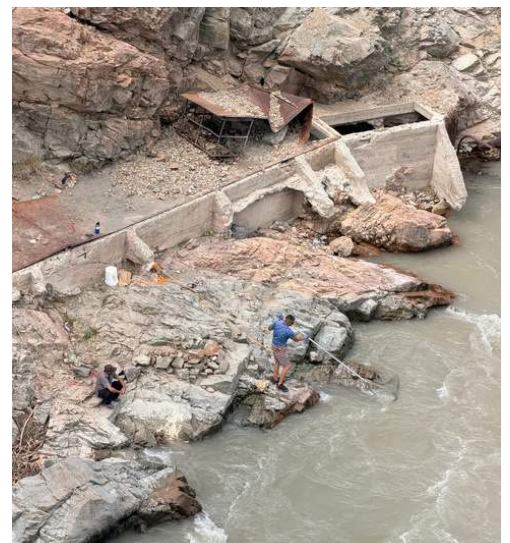
- Jaš harvest began on July 10, with a request to release Ts'eman (sockeye) until August 6. This allows Ts'eman impacted by the Tšilhqox Landslide, including critically endangered Dasiqox and South End Chilko Ts'eman populations, to return to their spawning grounds to support their recovery.
- Please do not fish for Jaš in the Little Chilcotin system upstream from the 7km signboard on the Chezacut road for the full fishing season to protect critically endangered Upper Chilcotin Jaš.
- Please see all applicable requested voluntary protection measures below.

TNG catch monitors are now at fishing sites collecting critical information to help us understand the condition of fish, number of fishers, fishing site use, and overall numbers of Jaš harvested.

- This information is important for future fishery recommendations to advocate for the fish and fisheries.
- Fishing effort and catch information helps us to assert for protection of the fish and fishery throughout the season and the salmon migration path from the ocean to the spawning grounds for future years.
- Thank you to fishers who have provided information to the TNG catch monitors.



TNG Fisheries Technician Damon Isnardy conducting catch monitoring and a dipnet test fishery at Farwell on July 6, to assess the numbers and health/condition of returning Jaš.



Members of the TNG Fisheries crew out dipnetting for Jaš at Farwell Left: Leonard English and Winston Bambrick on July 11; Middle: Winston and Damon on July 11; Right: Gerald William and Leonard on July 14.

Scenes from the Field

TNG-Led Hanceville SONAR:

On June 16 the TNG Fisheries crew, with support from the TNG Rangers and technical partner Trinity Consultants, installed the Hanceville SONAR to monitor salmon past the T̓ilhqox landslide area. This SONAR will operate until the end of the salmon season. In attendance were TNG Ranger Jimmy Harry, TNG Fisheries Technicians Kyle Blatchford, Hayden Grinder, Damon, Winston, and Leonard, and Casey Beel of Trinity.



Left: Jimmy, Damon and Kyle installing the Hanceville SONAR in June; Middle: Hanceville SONAR fence; TNG Fisheries Crew conducting repairs at the Hanceville SONAR on July 27.

Dasiqox SONAR (TNG/DFO Collaboration):

TNG Fisheries Technicians Leonard, Hayden, and Gerald installed the Dasiqox (Taseko) SONAR on July 22-24 to count Dasiqox Ja̓s and critically endangered Dasiqox Ts'eman as they migrate to their spawning grounds. This project is led by TNG in collaboration with DFO.



Top 2 / bottom left: Leonard, Hayden and Gerald installing the SONAR July 22-24; Bottom right: Gerald and Leonard downloading SONAR files on July 29.

Upper Chilcotin Chinook Emergency Enhancement Brood Stock Collection:

TNG has led emergency conservation enhancement activities for our most vulnerable salmon populations since 2020, in partnership with the Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance (UFFCA) and DFO. The TNG Fisheries crew, TNG Rangers, and technicians from UFFCA and DFO conducted brood stock collection for emergency conservation enhancement of Upper Chilcotin Ja̓s on July 13-16. In attendance were TNG Fisheries Technicians Hayden, Leonard, and Winston, TNG Rangers Jeremiah Harry, Corbett Johnny and Chantelle Paul, UFFCA summer student Hailey Karran, and Tyler Thibault of DFO.



From left: 1. Hayden, Harlan, and Leonard installing the fence; 2. Corbett, Hailey, and Tyler installing the fence; 3. Hayden and Tyler installing the fence; 4. Harlan, Winston, and technicians from Quesnel River Research Centre (QRR) Hatchery confirming the sex of a captured Upper Chilcotin Ja̓s by ultrasound. Ja̓s collected for brood stock will be held at QRR until mature enough for collection of eggs and milt. Eggs will then be fertilized and raised at QRR.

T̓silhqot'in Fisheries Plan - 2026 Salmon Season

Approved by the Tâilhqot'in Council of Chiefs, June 4, 2026

The TNG Fisheries team anticipates a good return of summer Ja's and Ts'eman to support traditional fisheries on both the Chilcotin and Fraser River mainstems.

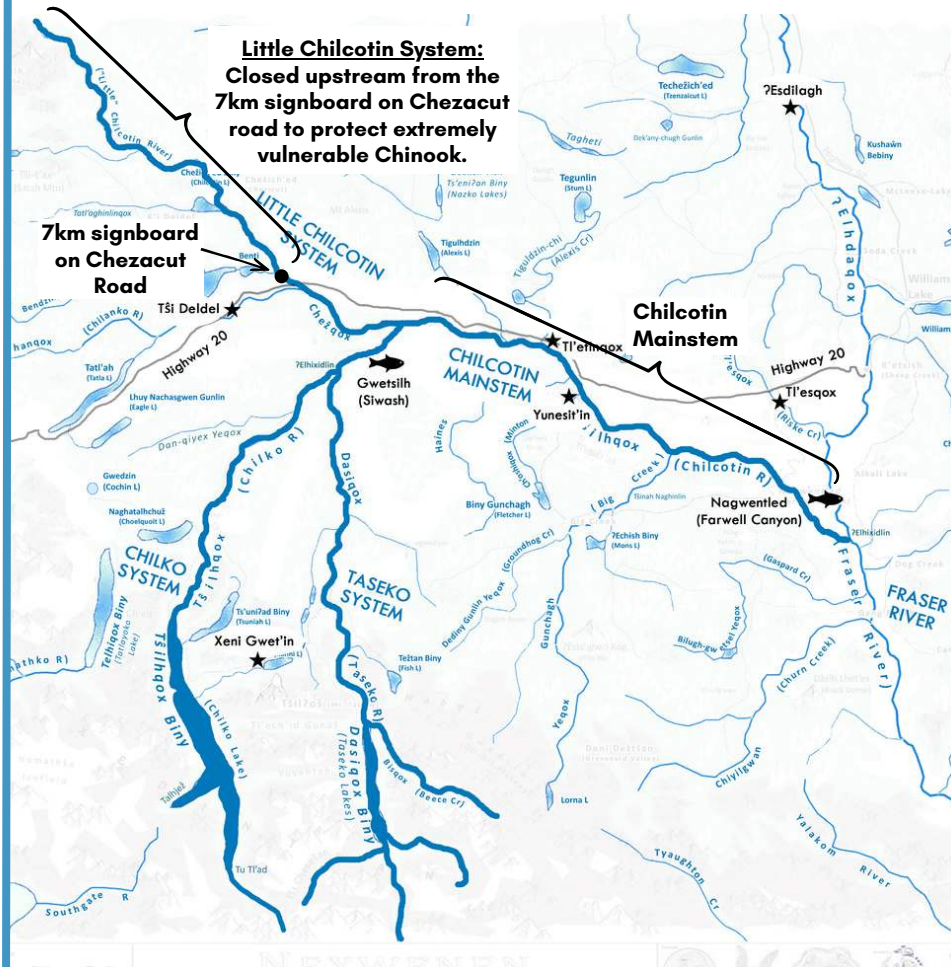
Two early-timed populations remain at a high risk of extirpation (local extinction). The T̓silhqot'in Council of Chiefs requests voluntary compliance with limited measures to protect these 2 specific populations – Upper Chilcotin Ja̓s (Chinook) and Taseko Ts'eman (sockeye).

**REQUESTED VOLUNTARY
PROTECTION MEASURES FOR THE
MOST VULNERABLE JA'Û AND
TS'EMAN:**

#1. If you can, please delay harvest of Jaš in the Chilko/Chilcotin mainstem until **Friday, July 10, 2026** when the stronger Chilko and Lower Little Chilcotin Jaš populations will be in the Territory and allow critically endangered early-timed Upper Chilcotin Jaš to continue to their spawning grounds.

#2. If you can, please delay harvest of Ts'eman in the Chilko/Chilcotin mainstem until **Thursday, August 6, 2026** when the stronger Chilko Ts'eman population will be in the Territory and allow critically endangered early-timed Taseko Ts'eman to continue to their spawning grounds.

#3. Please do not fish for Jaš in the Little Chilcotin system upstream from the 7km signboard on the Chezacut road for the full fishing season to protect the critically endangered Upper Chilcotin Jaš.



We can all help protect our at-risk Ja'ê and Ts'eman populations for the future by allowing them to safely return to their spawning grounds.

Please Note: Fishery opening dates may be adjusted in-season as more information becomes available, and under extreme circumstances, emergency conservation measures may be implemented.

Updated July 29, 2026