



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.

2026 Fishing Season Update

TNG Fisheries is seeing a good return of Jaš (Chinook) to the Chilcotin system, and good catch numbers to date. They are also anticipating that the Chilko Ts'eman (sockeye) run will arrive in rising numbers over the next 2 weeks, which will support traditional fisheries on the Chilcotin River mainstem.

On June 4, 2026 the T̓silhqot'in Council of Chiefs approved the 2026 Fisheries Plan. The plan supports harvest opportunity when the stronger Chilko populations of Jaš and Ts'eman 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 the current requested voluntary protection measure in the box below, and see the 2026 Fisheries Plan attached (pg. 4).

Current Requested Voluntary Protection Measure:

- 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.

Moving forward, we will be updating our understanding of the fishery throughout the season based on in-season information. We now have our entire monitoring system fully operational. 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.

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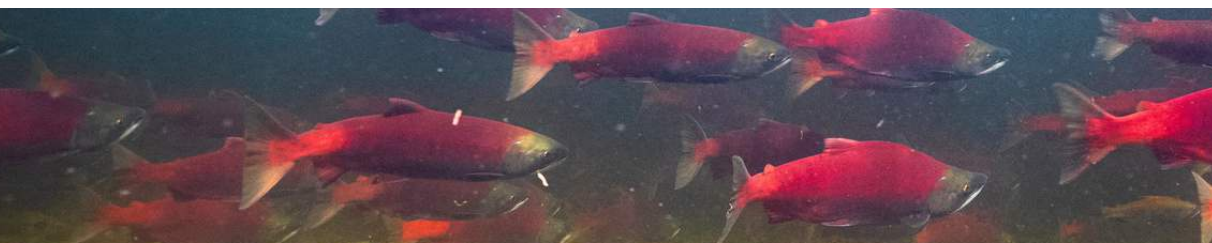
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In-Season Update:

We have heard that people are enjoying the start of the salmon season, and we are very happy to see people out on the river **successfully catching Jaš and Ts'eman!**

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 and Ts'eman harvested. This information is important to TNG to inform future decision making and actions to support our fish and fisheries. Thank you to fishers who have provided information to the TNG catch monitors!

Jaš (Chinook):

- The Jaš fishery has been going well since it began on July 10; we're seeing good participation from fishers and good catch numbers to date.
- Indications from our monitoring programs show that the Jaš return continues to show strong numbers.
- The Jaš fishery will continue until the end of fishing season.

Ts'eman (sockeye):

- As laid out in the 2026 Tšilhqot'in Fisheries Plan, the Ts'eman harvest fishery started on August 6.
- Data from the TNG-led Hanceville sonar shows that the number of Ts'eman entering the Chilcotin system is starting to increase with the arrival of the first part of the Chilko Ts'eman run.
- Early-timed Ts'eman stocks returning to the Chilcotin system have returned in weaker than anticipated numbers, similar to other early-timed Ts'eman returning to other parts of the Fraser watershed (outside Tšilhqot'in Territory).

Chilko Ts'eman:

- We are still in the early part of the Chilko Ts'eman run, the basis of the Tšilhqot'in Ts'eman fishery. A few Chilko Ts'eman have entered the Chilcotin River, but most have not yet arrived. Their numbers are expected to increase rapidly over the next couple of weeks.
- TNG Fisheries is currently working to install the Chilko sonar to monitor Ts'eman as they arrive to spawn in Chilko Lake.
- TNG will continue to monitor and analyze critical in-season information over the next week that will allow us to refine and update the estimated number of Chilko Ts'eman expected to return to the Fraser from the ocean.

Environmental conditions:

- Migration conditions for returning salmon are currently good in the Fraser and Chilcotin Rivers. This includes cooler water temperatures and moderate flows, which are creating better migration conditions than we've seen in the past several years (for this time of the year).



Scenes from the Field:

Aerial Assessment for Upper Chilcotin Jaš



TNG Fisheries Technician Hayden Grinder conducted the first Upper Chilcotin Jaš assessment helicopter flight of the season on August 10.

Chilko Jaš Mark Recapture Program



The mark recapture program for Chilko Jaš stock assessment gives us critical information about the numbers and health of Chilko Jaš returning to spawn in 2026. This project is a DFO–TNG Fisheries partnership. Pictured is Hayden with a captured Jaš, which will be marked, measured, and released back into the river to spawn.

Hatchery Training at QRRRC



Jr. TNG Salmon Conservation Hatchery Manager Winston Bambrick training with Dylan Glendinning and Tyler Penner, hatchery staff at the UFFCA–run Quesnel River Research Centre (QRRRC) Hatchery. Here they're extracting milt (sperm) from a male Jaš captured for emergency conservation enhancement of endangered salmon stocks.

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

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.

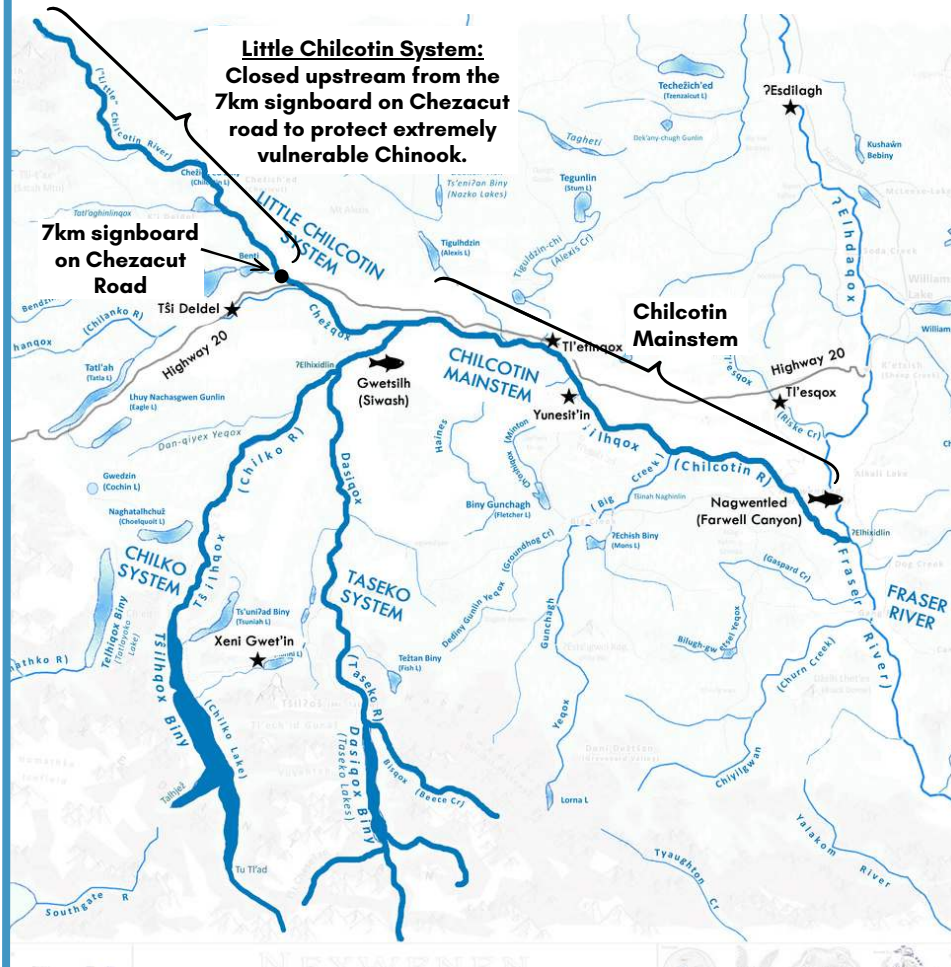
Two early-timed populations remain at a high risk of extirpation (local extinction). The T̓silhqot'in Council of Chiefs requests voluntary compliance with limited measures to protect these 2 specific populations – Upper Chilcotin Ja̓s (Chinook) and Taseko Ts'eman (sockeye).

**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