



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 continues to see a good return of Jaš (Chinook) to the Chilcotin system, and good catch numbers to date. Catches and numbers are increasing for Chilko Ts'eman (sockeye) returning to the Territory, which we anticipate will continue to build rapidly in the next 2-3 weeks and 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 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 continue to update 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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In-Season Update

Over the last few days we've seen Ts'eman catches increasing with the arrival of Chilko Ts'eman in the Territory. We are very happy to hear that people are continuing to **successfully catch Jaš and Ts'eman!**

TNG catch monitors are out 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 continue to see 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 rapidly increasing as we approach the main part of the Chilko Ts'eman run, the basis of the Tšilhqot'in Ts'eman fishery. This rapid increase is expected to continue over the next 2-3 weeks.
- The Chilko sonar is now in full operation to monitor returning Chilko 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:

- Fraser River temperatures are expected to rise over the coming week as hot weather continues. A reminder that water temperatures greater than 18°C are stressful for Ts'eman, but we expect these temperatures to decrease as we move toward the fall.
- Migration conditions for returning salmon remain good in the Chilcotin River, including 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

Chilko Jaš Mark Recapture Program

The TNG Fisheries Team is working on the mark recapture program for Chilko Jaš stock assessment again this week. This program gives us critical information about the numbers and health of Chilko Jaš returning to spawn in 2026. This project is a TNG Fisheries–DFO partnership.

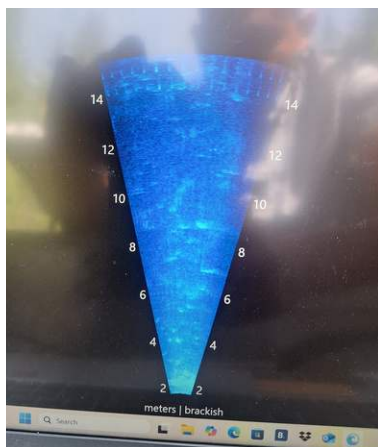


TNG Fisheries Technicians Hayden Grinder, Damon Isnardy, and Winston Bambrick processing Jaš, including taking scale samples, measuring length, and collecting the heads of marked Jaš to retrieve coded wire tags (CWTs), which provide critical stock assessment info. Once processed, the Jaš will be shared with communities at the Tšilhqot'in Nation Gathering.

Photos left to right: 1) Hayden and Spencer Beauchamp (DFO) processing Jaš. 2) Winston with a jack (3 year old Jaš) caught in the weekly seine at Lingfield. It's possible that this year's returning jacks could be from the TNG Salmon Conservation Hatchery's 2023 cohort! They'll be able to find out from the CWTs. 3) Damon with an adult Jaš. 4) Hayden retrieving CWTs.

Dasiqox (Taseko) Sonar

The Dasiqox Sonar continues to count passing Dasiqox Jaš and critically endangered Dasiqox Ts'eman as they migrate to their spawning grounds in the Dasiqox system. TNG Fisheries Field Coordinator Leonard English visited the site today (Aug 19) to download sonar files and top up the generator with oil and fuel.



Photos left to right:
1) Leonard downloading sonar files.
2) Closeup of the computer screen that shows sonar counts; fish show up as blue spots on the screen as they pass in front of the sonar.
3) The Dasiqox Sonar and fence.

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

T̨silhqot'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.

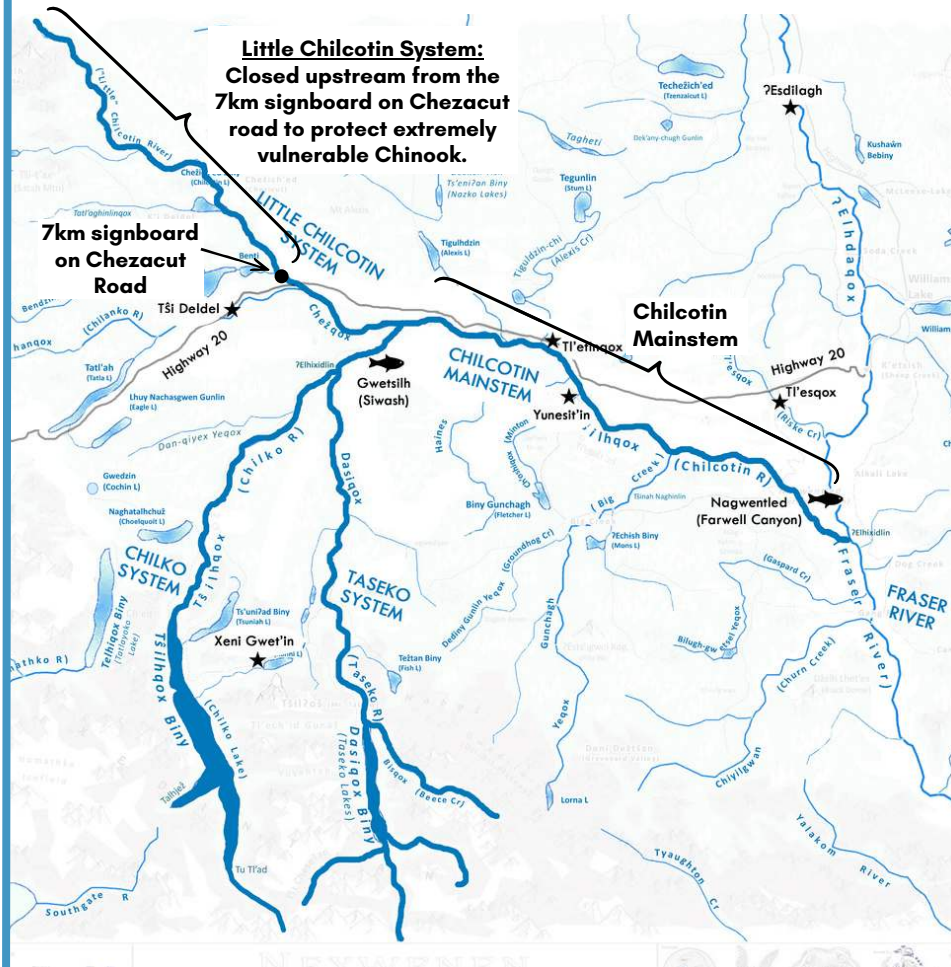
Two early-timed populations remain at a high risk of extirpation (local extinction). The T̓silhqot'in Council of Chiefs requests voluntary compliance with limited measures to protect these 2 specific populations – Upper Chilcotin Ja̓s (Chinook) and Taseko Ts'eman (sockeye).

**REQUESTED VOLUNTARY
PROTECTION MEASURES FOR THE
MOST VULNERABLE JA'AT 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 Jaś 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 Jaś.



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