



# 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](http://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.

On June 4, 2026 the T̓silhqot'in Council of Chiefs approved the **2026 T̓silhqot'in 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 current requested voluntary protection measures in the box below, and see attached the 2026 Fisheries Plan (pg 4).

### Current Requested Voluntary Protection Measures:

- 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.

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.

## FISHERIES TEAM

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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 out on the river successfully catching Jaš!

### Jaš (Chinook):

- The Jaš fishery has been going well since it began on July 10; we're seeing good participation and good catch numbers to date.
- Indications from our monitoring programs show that the Jaš return is shaping up nicely.
- 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 starts on August 6.
- Data from the TNG-led Hanceville sonar shows that low numbers of Ts'eman have entered the Chilcotin system so far.
- Early-timed Ts'eman stocks returning to other parts of the Fraser watershed (outside Tšilhqot'in Territory) are also showing up in lower numbers than anticipated pre-/early-season.

### Chilko Ts'eman:

- The Chilko Ts'eman run, the basis of the Tšilhqot'in Ts'eman fishery, is still in the very early days. A few have entered the Chilcotin River, but the vast majority have not yet arrived. This is normal for this time in the season.
- We expect that the early part of the Chilko run will show up in the Territory in coming weeks. TNG Fisheries will be installing the Chilko sonar on August 11 to monitor Ts'eman as they arrive to spawn in Chilko Lake.
- Important technical information will be coming out in the next 1-2 weeks that will allow us to estimate the number of Chilko Ts'eman returning 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).

### TNG Fisheries fieldwork:

- We are now well into the busiest time of the year for fieldwork for the TNG Fisheries crew that will continue until mid-September.
- TNG Fisheries Technician Hayden Grinder will start the helicopter Jaš enumeration program next week, with the first flight on August 10.
- The mark and recapture program for Chilko Jaš will start later this week out at the Chilko fish camp, which helps us understand the strength and health/condition of the Chilko Jaš run.
- The TNG Fisheries crew will install the Chilko SONAR on August 11 to count Chilko Jaš and Ts'eman as they migrate to their spawning grounds in the Chilko system.

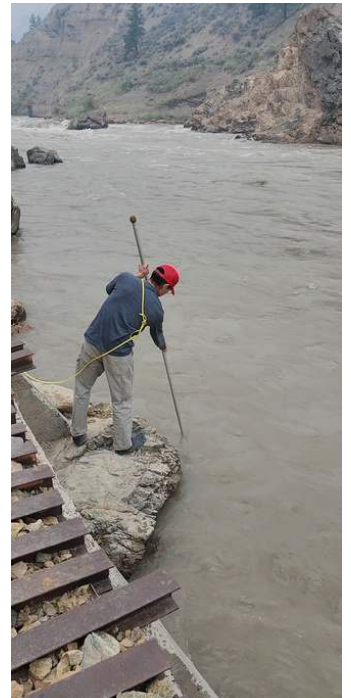




## Ṭsilhqot'in Fisheries Highlights:



Photos above: Dipnetting for Jaš in July 2026. From left: 1. Micole Myers (Yunesit'in) fishing at Nagwentled (Farwell Canyon); 2. Sherry Stump (Tl'etinqox) fishing at Beš Telad; 3. Daana Gilpin (Tl'etinqox) fishing at Beš Telad; 4. Anaiya Hink (Yunesit'in) fishing at Tš'iқи Ch'osh.



Photos above: In the first week of August, some members of the TNG Fisheries Team went out fishing for Jaš at Nagwentled (Farwell Canyon) to support Elders and folks who are unable to fish. From left: Winston Bambrick (first 2 photos); Leonard English; Damon Isnardy.

For more information about the TNG Fisheries Program, visit the TNG Fisheries page on the TNG website at [www.tsilhqotin.ca/our-territory/fisheries](http://www.tsilhqotin.ca/our-territory/fisheries)

For questions please contact TNG Fisheries Manager Randy Billyboy: [rbillyboy@tsilhqotin.ca](mailto: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.

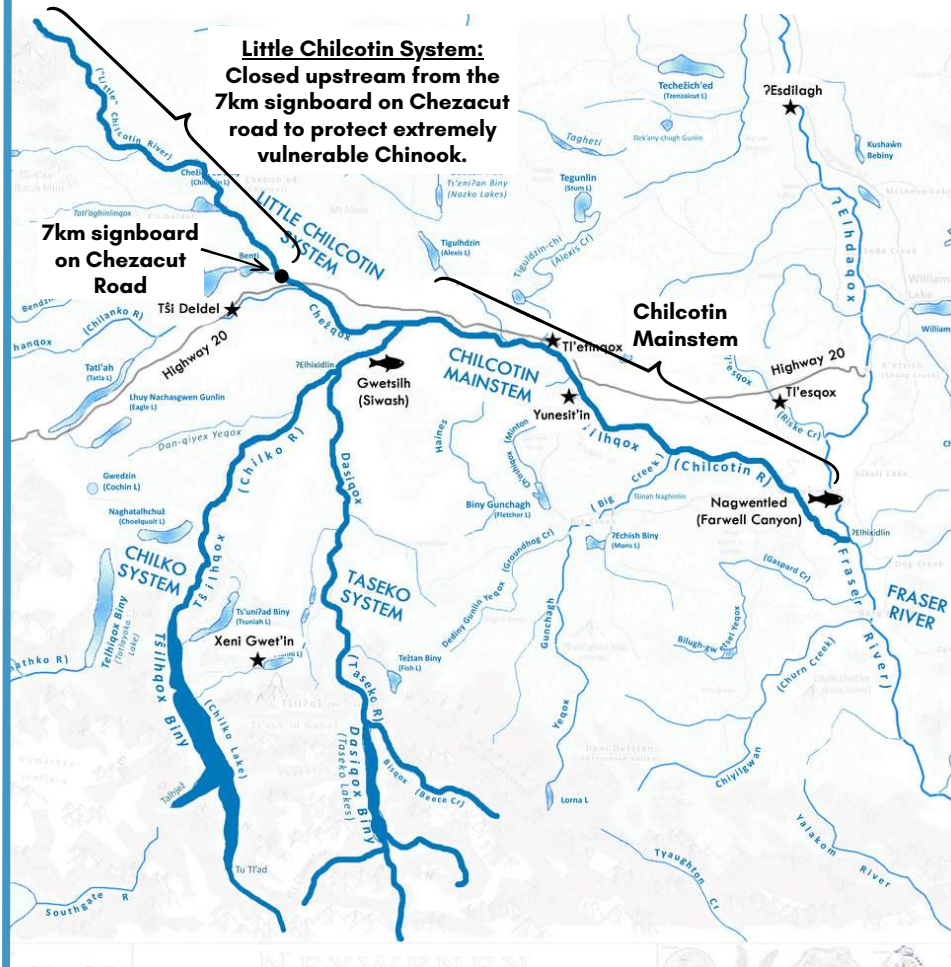
Two early-timed populations remain at a high risk of extirpation (local extinction). The T̓silhqot'in Council of Chiefs requests voluntary compliance with limited measures to protect these 2 specific populations – Upper Chilcotin Ja̓s (Chinook) and Taseko Ts'eman (sockeye).

**REQUESTED VOLUNTARY  
PROTECTION MEASURES FOR THE  
MOST VULNERABLE JA'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 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