

TNG-led Emergency Salmon Task Force Weekly Data Report June 16 to July 6, 2026.

1. 1. INTRODUCTION

The Tsilhqox landslide occurred on the Chilcotin River on July 30, 2024, dramatically and immediately impacting Sockeye and Chinook populations returning to the Chilcotin watershed to spawn. In response to the slide, the Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) rapidly formed a technical tripartite Emergency Salmon Task Force, comprised of BC, DFO and TNG's indigenous technical partner, the Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance (UFFCA), to assess the impacts on returning salmon, and prepare and implement mitigation measures to reduce risks and impacts for the 2024 salmon season. Post-season analysis has shown that the Tsilhqox landslide had significantly negative impacts on both Sockeye and Chinook salmon populations, and the risks and impacts to salmon are anticipated to be significant and ongoing for years. TNG and the Task Force continued monitoring in 2025 and 2026 (Figure 1) using refined and expanded methods that permitted monitoring of the full suite of returning salmon stocks and associated environmental conditions related to the Tsilhqox landslide to inform both in-season response and recovery planning.

Post-Tsilhqox landslide monitoring identified a location downstream of the Farwell Canyon Bridge at risk of landslide and with potential to form a barrier to fish passage. In May 2026, TNG successfully completed the Farwell Canyon Slope Stabilization Project to mitigate the risk to fish passage. There is no anticipated impact to fish passage at Farwell Canyon from this work, however, TNG (with Trinity Consultants Canada, TCC) continue to monitor Farwell Canyon for any indication of a hydraulic drop that could impede or challenge fish passage. Results will be presented if fish passage concerns are identified.

The following weekly report, prepared by TNG with support from TCC, summarizes monitoring data for fish passage and environmental conditions (river conditions update) from May 1, 2026 to July 6, 2026 (start date varies with program). This summary includes:

- Salmon passage upstream of the slide site (Hanceville) and concurrent turbidity and flow conditions downstream of the slide site (Farwell Canyon);
- River conditions in the Chilcotin River upstream and downstream of the slide site (turbidity and discharge) and the Fraser River upstream and downstream of the Chilcotin River confluence (turbidity).

Key observations from this period include:

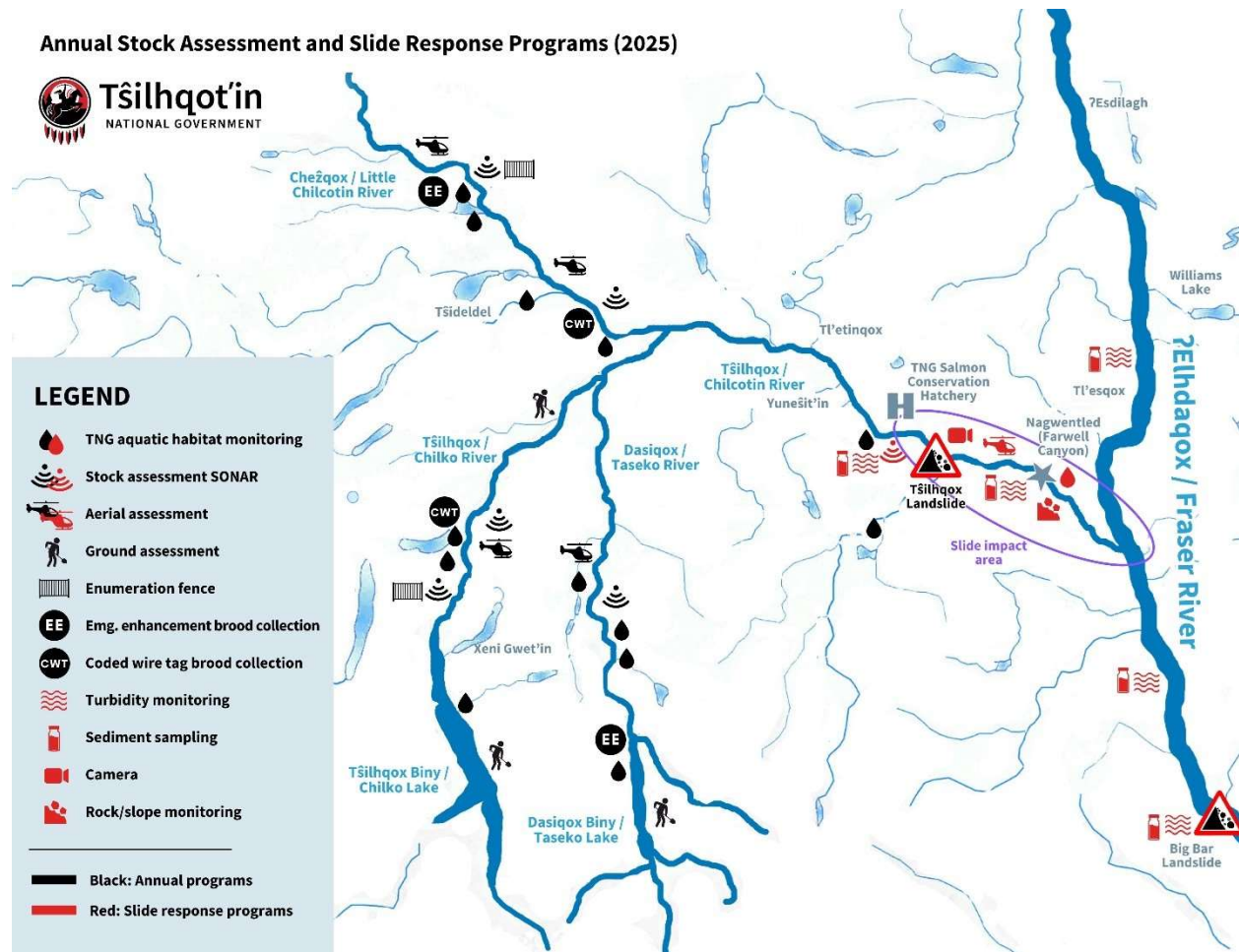
- A cumulative total of 259 salmon have been counted since the start of the program on June 16, 2026, including 34 salmon >80 cm in length, 38 salmon 65 to 79 cm in length, and 187



salmon 50 to 64 cm in length (Section 2.1). June 16 is the earliest start date for sonar monitoring in the Chilcotin River to date (2025 start date was June 24).

- A period of elevated turbidity (maximum of 2,587 NTU) occurred downstream of the slide site between June 24 and June 27, 2026 (recorded at Farwell Canyon). Turbidity above the slide site (Hanceville) during the same period remained lower, with a maximum of 60 NTU occurring on June 27, 2026.
- The continuous detection of all sizes of salmon at Hanceville suggests that fish passage past Farwell Canyon or the Tsilhqox landslide has been maintained, including during maximum freshet flows of 244 m³/s on July 2, 2026 and during the high turbidity observed on June 27 and 28.
- Daily mean turbidity in the Chilcotin River downstream of the slide site (Farwell Canyon) is 355 NTU higher (as of July 6, 2026) than upstream of the slide site (Hanceville) (Section 3.1).
- Daily mean turbidity in the Fraser River downstream of the Chilcotin River confluence (Gang Ranch) is 28 NTU higher (as of July 6, 2026) than upstream of the Chilcotin River confluence (Sheep Creek) (Section 3.2).

Figure 1. TNG Annual Stock Assessment and Slide Response Programs.



2. FISH PASSAGE

2.1. Hanceville Sonar Update

Daily salmon passage with turbidity and discharge is presented in Figure 3, noting that Olson *et al.* (2025) estimate that salmon passing downstream of the Tsilhqox landslide (Farwell Canyon) arrive at the sonar station upstream of the slide site (Hanceville) roughly one to two days later.

Summary of Salmon Counts

A total of 259 salmon were counted since sonar enumeration commenced on June 16, 2026 (Figure 4). This includes 34 presumed Chinook Salmon (>80 cm in length) that were observed from June 17 to July 6 with peak counts ($n = 6$) occurring on June 30 and July 2, as well as 187 salmon between 50 to 64 cm in length and 38 salmon between 65 to 79 cm in length. 50 to 64 cm salmon observations

occurred from June 25 to July 3 and peak counts occurred on June 29 ($n = 90$). 65 to 79 cm salmon were observed from June 17 to July 4, 2026, and peak dates occurred on June 29, 2026 ($n = 12$).

Field Summary of Sonar Operation

The river-right sonar was installed ~10 m upstream of the 2025 monitoring location. The new location was selected as it provides improved protection from high flows and safer site access. The river-left sonar and fence have been reinforced due to the presence of debris during current elevated flows.

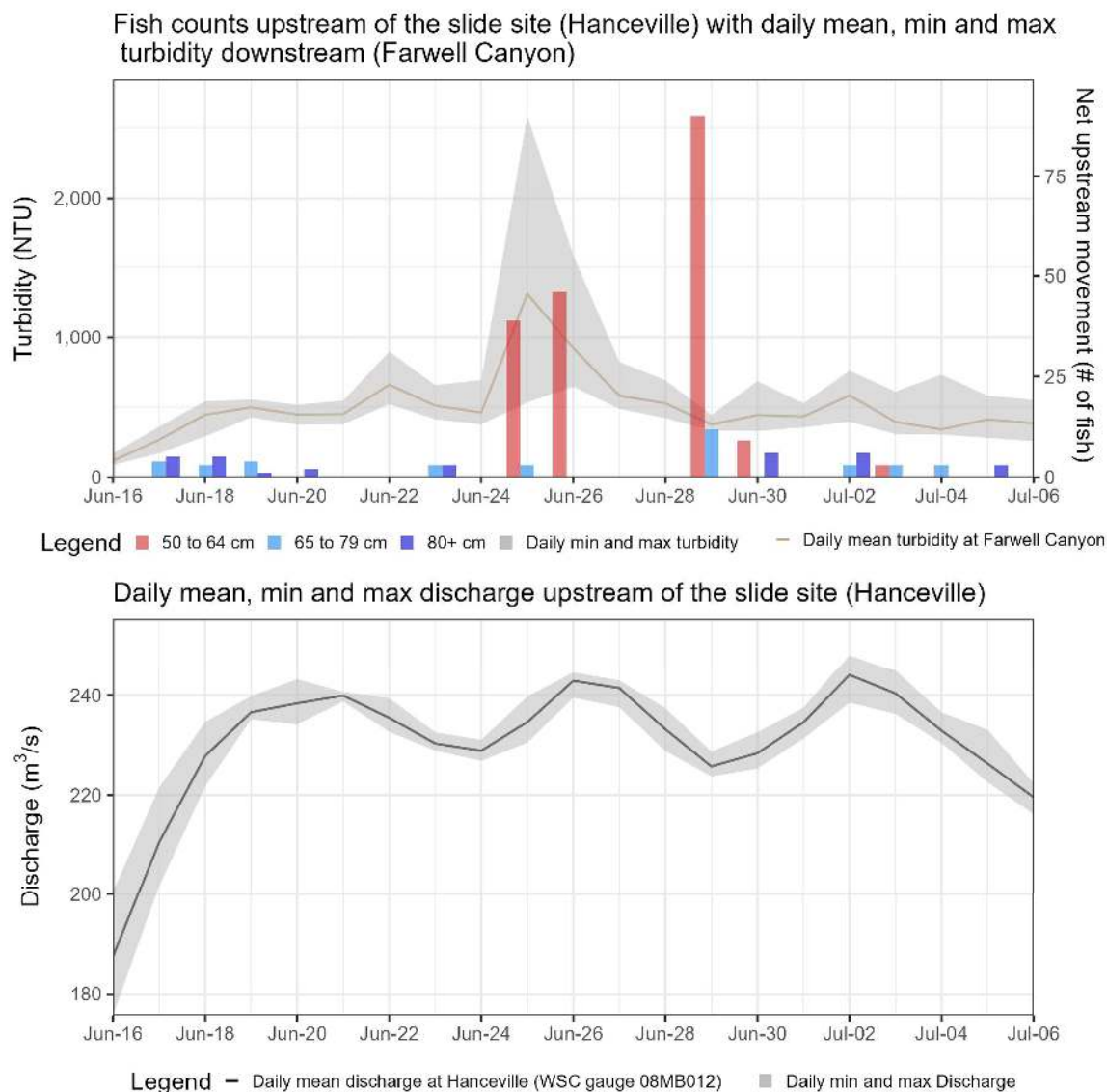
Flood forecasts are being monitored to mitigate risk of equipment loss or damage from high stream flows during weekends. Concerns about high stream flows resulted in the removal of both river-left and right sonars on the weekend of June 27, 2026, and the removal of the river-left sonar on the weekend of July 4, 2026. Once freshet discharge recedes and the risk to equipment is deemed lower, both sonars will be left in place over weekends.

Figure 2. Upstream view of the Hanceville sonar station. Captured on July 7, 2026.





Figure 3. Expanded net¹ daily movement of salmon² past the Hanceville sonar upstream of the Tsilhqox slide site (counts expanded from 20 minutes counted per hour), with turbidity measured downstream of the Tsilhqox slide site (Farwell Canyon) and discharge upstream of the slide site (Hanceville) from June 16 to July 6, 2026.

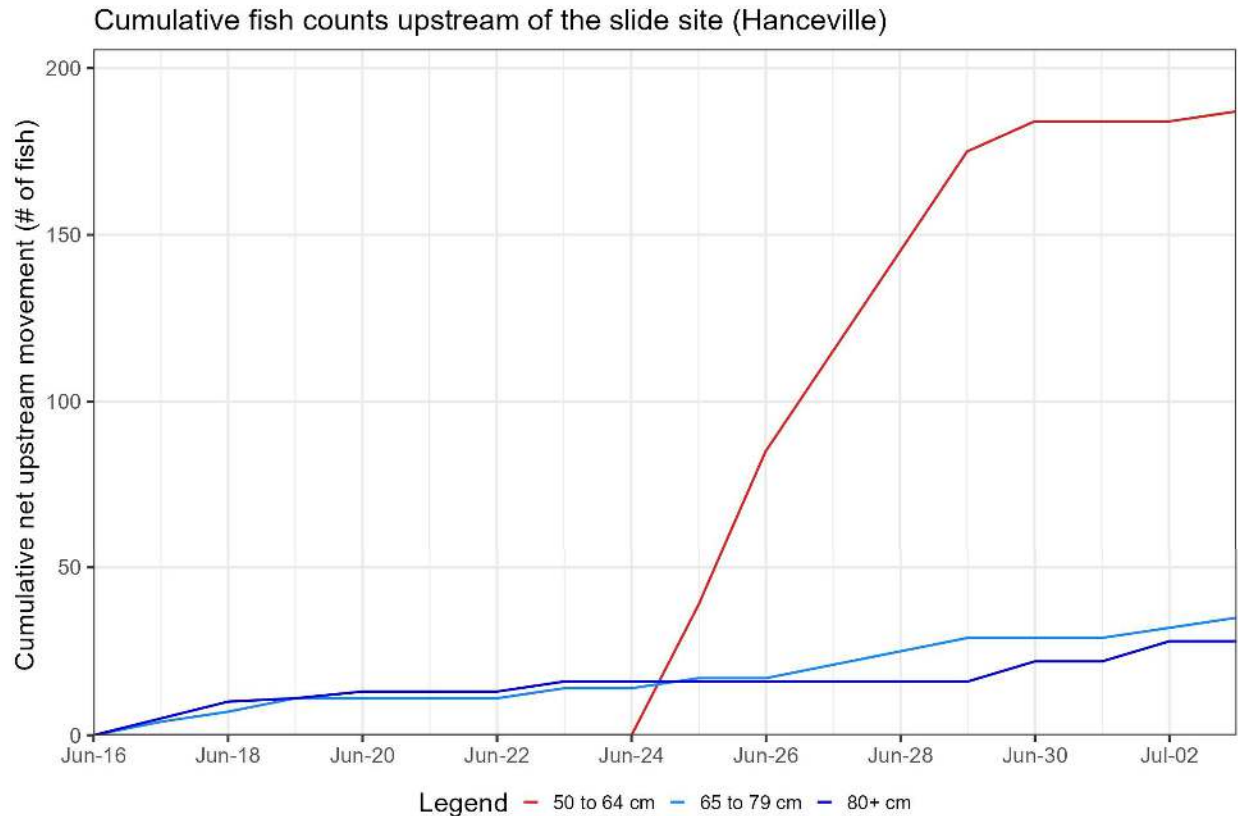


¹ One sonar file was reviewed per hour of sonar operation, with the duration reviewed determined by abundance of fish the previous day at each station. To estimate total fish passage per hour, the hourly counts were expanded by a factor of 60 divided by minutes reviewed to expand to the full hour. Infilling will be completed in post-season analysis.

² Mixed salmon separated by size (50 to 64 cm) and (65 to 79 cm), and presumed Chinook (80+ cm), as defined by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO).



Figure 4. Expanded³ cumulative daily counts of salmon⁴ movement past the Hanceville sonar upstream of the Tsilhqox slide site from June 16 to July 6, 2026.



3. RIVER CONDITIONS UPDATE

3.1. Chilcotin River Turbidity and Flow

During the period of June 16 to July 6, 2026, discharge in the Chilcotin River upstream of the Tsilhqox slide site (Hanceville) ranged from 174 m³/s to 244 m³/s (mean = 230 m³/s) (Figure 5). Turbidity ranged from 28 NTU to 86 NTU at Hanceville, with an overall mean of 45 NTU. Downstream of the Tsilhqox slide site (Farwell Canyon) turbidity was higher, ranging from 87 NTU to 2,587 NTU, with an overall mean of 503 NTU. The differences in turbidity upstream and downstream of the Tsilhqox slide site can be seen by differences in river colour in recent satellite imagery (Figure 6).

³ One sonar file was reviewed per hour of sonar operation, with the duration reviewed determined by abundance of fish the previous day at each station. To estimate total fish passage per hour, the hourly counts were expanded by a factor of 60 divided by minutes reviewed to expand to the full hour. Infilling will be completed in post-season analysis.

⁴ Mixed salmon separated by size (50 to 64 cm) and (65 to 79 cm), and presumed Chinook (80+ cm), as defined by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO).



Figure 5. Turbidity and discharge measured in the Chilcotin River upstream of the Tsilhqox slide site (Hanceville) and downstream of the Tsilhqox slide site (Farwell Canyon) from May 1 to July 6, 2026.

Daily mean, min and max turbidity in the Chilcotin River upstream (Hanceville) and downstream (Farwell Canyon) of the landslide area with daily mean discharge (Hanceville)

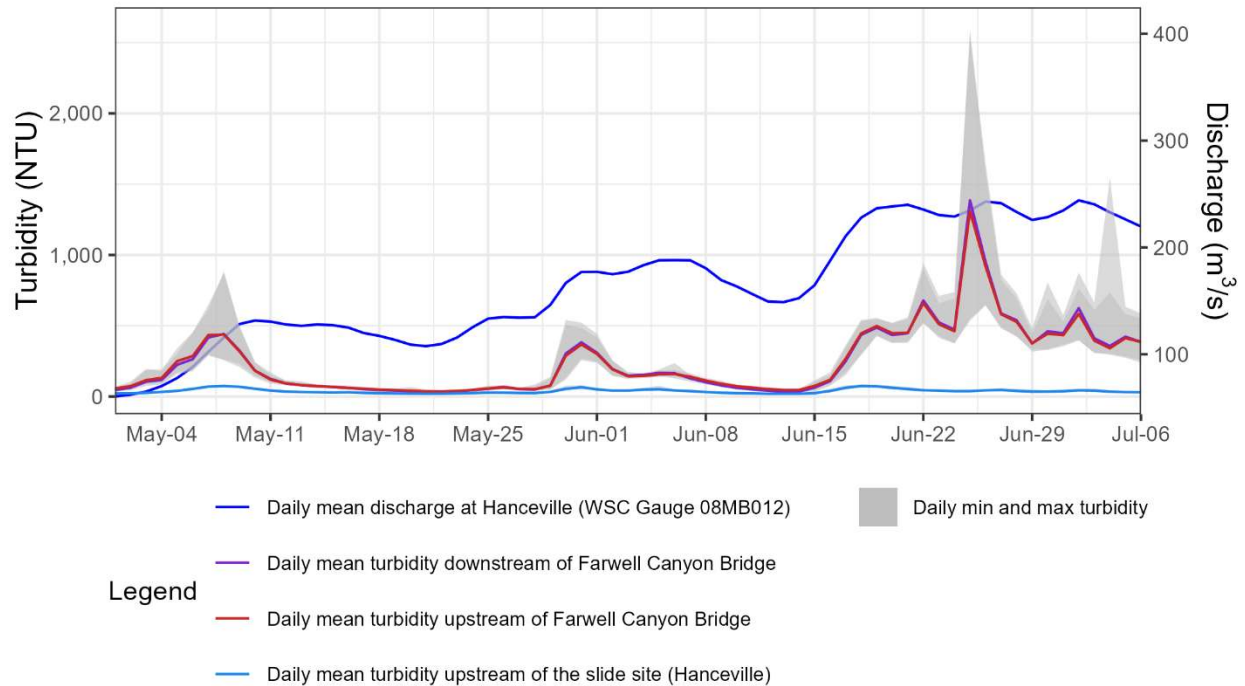


Figure 6. Satellite image of Chilcotin River upstream (left) and downstream (right) of the Tsilhqox slide site on July 6, 2026 ([Copernicus 2026](#)).



3.2. Fraser River Turbidity and Flow

During the period of June 16 to July 6, 2026, turbidity upstream of the Chilcotin-Fraser confluence (Sheep Creek) ranged from 68 NTU to 481 NTU, with an overall mean of 109 NTU (Figure 7). Turbidity downstream of the confluence (Gang Ranch) ranged from 82 NTU to 692 NTU (mean = 136 NTU).



Figure 7. Turbidity in the Fraser upstream of the Chilcotin confluence (Sheep Creek) and downstream of the confluence (Gang Ranch) from May 1 to July 6, 2026.

Daily mean, min and max turbidity upstream (Sheep Creek) and downstream (Gang Ranch) of the Chilcotin confluence on the Fraser River

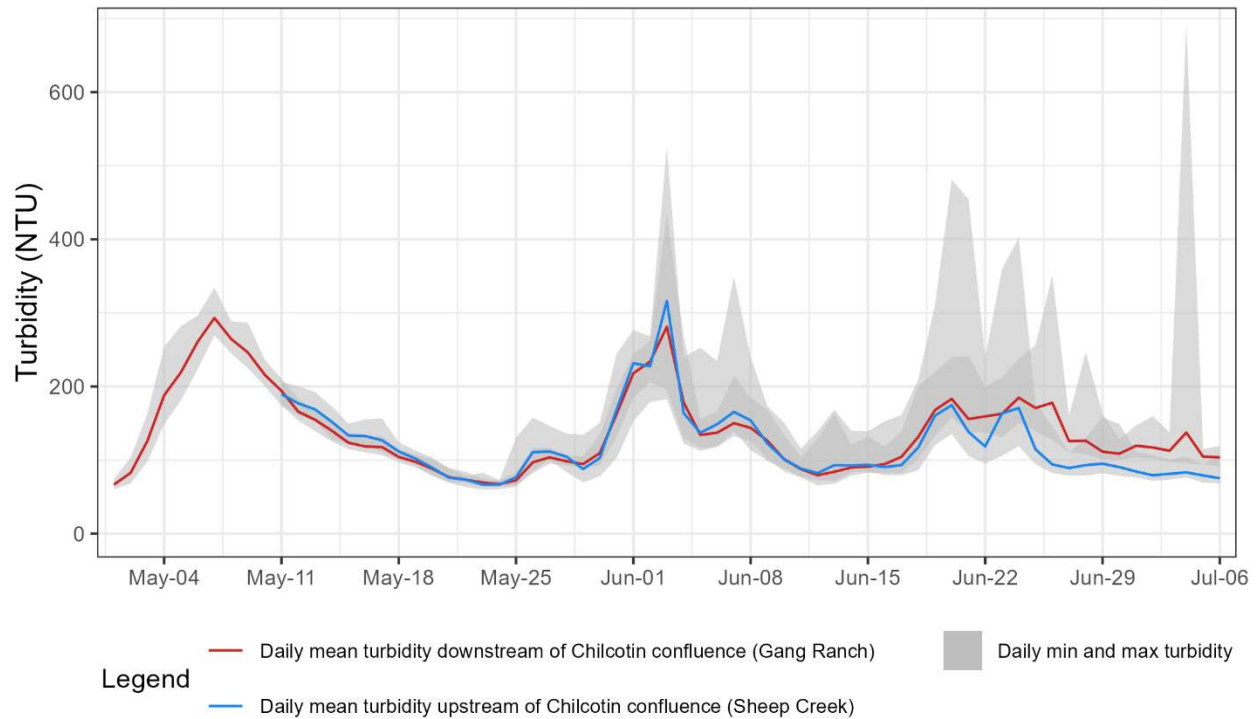




Figure 8. Satellite image of the Chilcotin River at confluence with the Fraser River on July 6, 2026 ([Copernicus 2026](#)).

