

TNG-led Emergency Salmon Task Force Weekly Data Report July 14 to July 20, 2026.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Tsilhqox landslide occurred on the Chilcotin River on July 30, 2024, immediately impacting Sockeye and Chinook populations returning to the Chilcotin watershed to spawn. In response to the slide, the Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) 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 showed that the Tsilhqox landslide had substantial 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 rockfall 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 barrier that could impede or challenge fish passage. Results from monitoring of the Farwell Canyon slope works 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 20, 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:

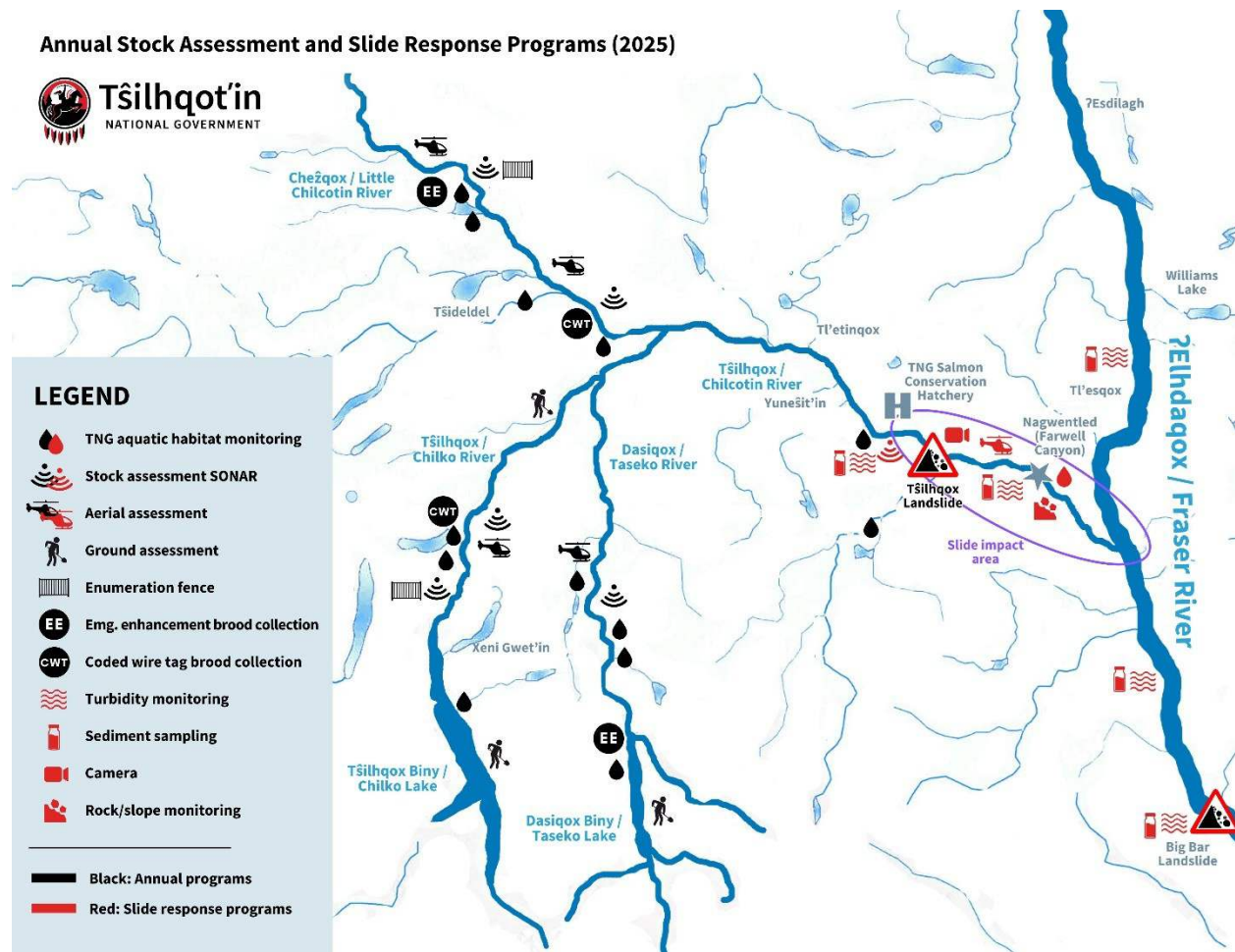
- A cumulative total of 1854 salmon have been counted since the start of the program on June 16, 2026, including 1203 salmon >80 cm in length, 407 salmon 65 to 79 cm in length, and 244



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).

- 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 214 m³/s on July 2, 2026 and during the high turbidity observed June 27 and 28.
- Daily mean turbidity in the Chilcotin River downstream of the slide site (Farwell Canyon) is 72 NTU higher (as of July 20, 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 3 NTU higher (as of July 16, 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.

1. Summary of Salmon Counts

Since sonar enumeration commenced on June 16, 2026, a cumulative total of 1854 salmon have been counted (Figure 4), including 1203 presumed Chinook Salmon (>80 cm in length), 244 salmon between 50 to 64 cm in length, and 407 salmon between 65 to 79 cm in length. Program-to-date peak daily counts occurred on July 18 for Chinook ($n = 240$), June 29 for 50 to 64 cm salmon ($n = 90$), and July 18 for 65 to 79 cm salmon ($n = 57$).

During the current reporting period (July 14 to July 20, 2026), 1271 salmon were counted. This includes 1073 presumed Chinook Salmon (>80 cm in length), that were observed from July 14 to July 20 with peak counts ($n = 240$) occurring on July 18, as well as 6 salmon between 50 to 64 cm in length and 192 salmon between 65 to 79 cm in length. 50 to 64 cm salmon observations occurred from July 14 to July 15 and peak counts occurred on July 14 ($n = 9$). 65 to 79 cm salmon were observed from July 14 to July 20, 2026 and peak dates occurred on July 18.

2. Field Summary of Sonar Operation

Sonar operations on both sides of the river are functioning well with not incidents or outages between July 14 and 20. Fence adjustments continue to be made to account for changes in flow. Flows are projected to remain stable for the next seven days according to the BC River Forecast Centre.



Figure 2. View of the Hanceville sonar station from river left to river right. Captured on June 16, 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

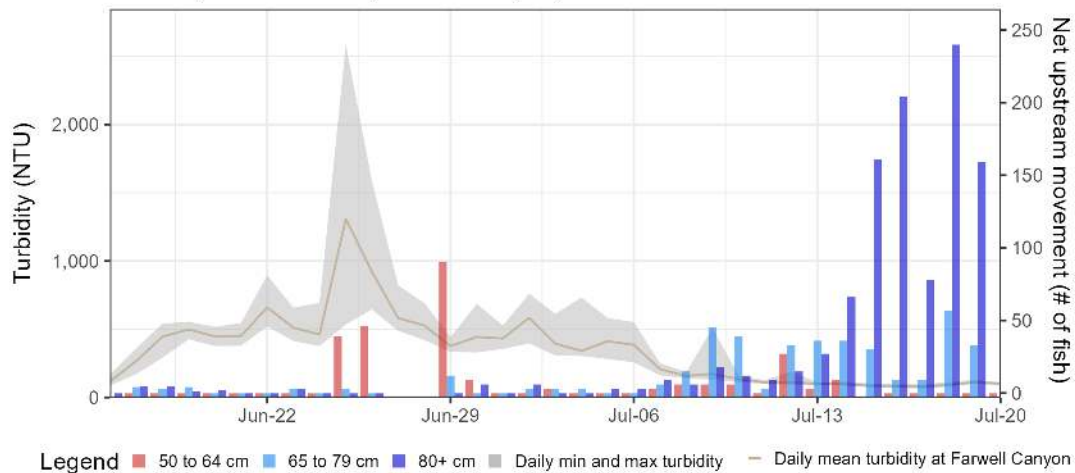
¹ One sonar file was reviewed per hour of sonar operation, with the duration reviewed determined by abundance of fish the previous day at each station. To estimate total fish passage per hour, the hourly counts were expanded by a factor of 60 divided by minutes reviewed to expand to the full hour. Infilling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



Canyon) and discharge upstream of the slide site (Hanceville) from June 16 to July 20, 2026.

Fish counts upstream of the slide site (Hanceville) with daily mean, min and max turbidity downstream (Farwell Canyon)



Daily mean, min and max discharge upstream of the slide site (Hanceville)

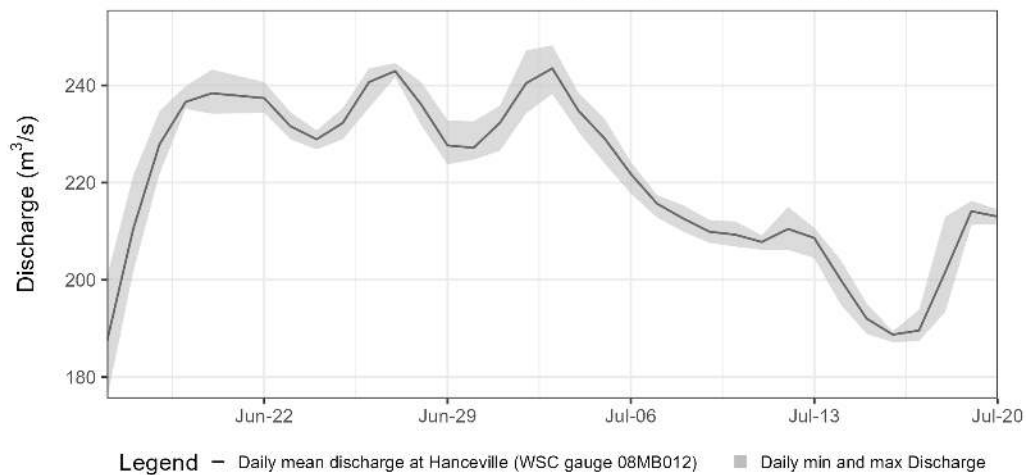
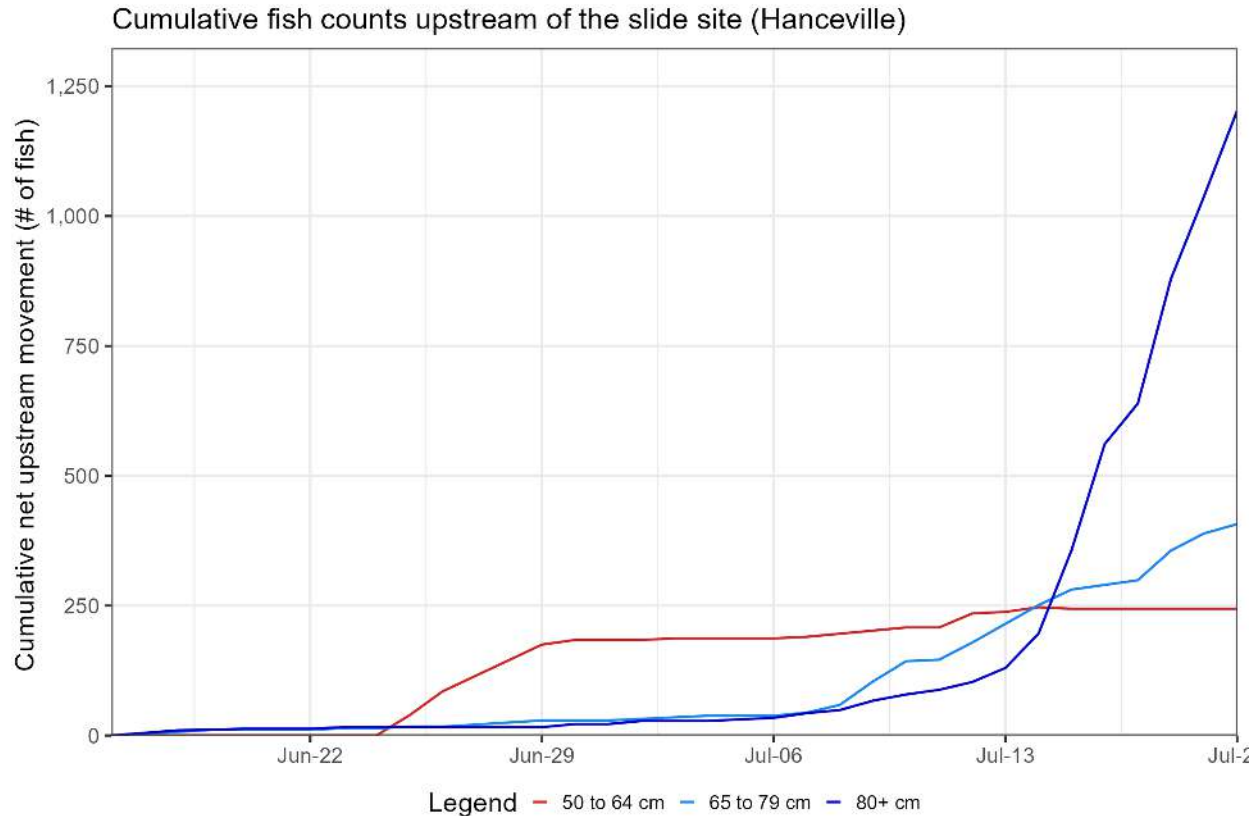




Figure 4. Expanded³ cumulative daily counts of salmon⁴ movement past the Hanceville sonar upstream of the Tsilhqox slide site from June 16 to July 20, 2026.



3. RIVER CONDITIONS UPDATE

3.1. Chilcotin River Turbidity and Flow

During the period of July 14 to July 20, 2026, discharge in the Chilcotin River upstream of the Tsilhqox slide site (Hanceville) ranged from 184 m³/s to 214 m³/s (mean = 200 m³/s) (Figure 5). Turbidity ranged from 23 NTU to 63 NTU at Hanceville, with an overall mean of 29 NTU. Downstream of the Tsilhqox slide site (Farwell Canyon) turbidity was higher, ranging from 65 NTU to 130 NTU, with an overall mean of 93 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 20, 2026.

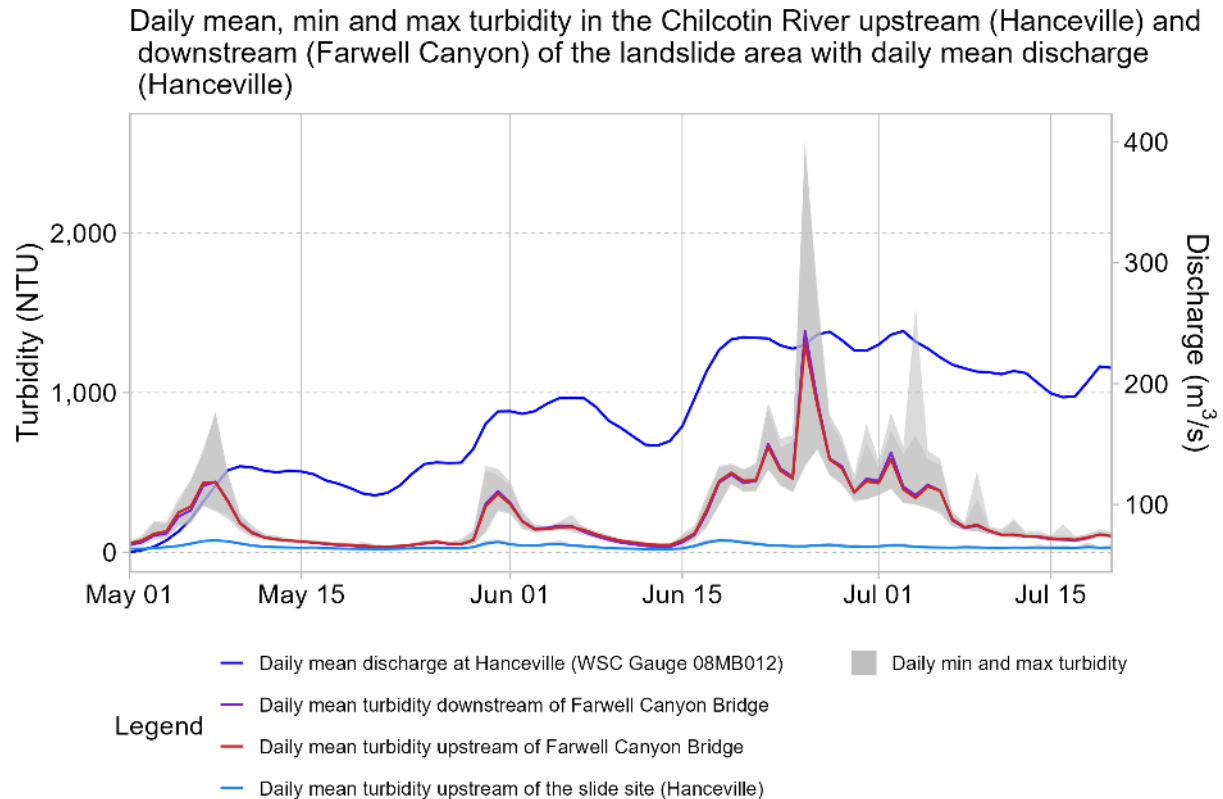




Figure 6. Satellite image of Chilcotin River upstream (left) and downstream (right) of the Tsilhqox slide site on July 20, 2026 ([Copernicus 2026](#)).



3.2. Fraser River Turbidity and Flow

During the period of July 14 to July 20, 2026, turbidity upstream of the Chilcotin-Fraser confluence (Sheep Creek) ranged from 57 NTU to 77 NTU, with an overall mean of 66 NTU (Figure 7). Turbidity downstream of the confluence (Gang Ranch) ranged from 58 NTU to 83 NTU (mean = 68 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 20, 2026.

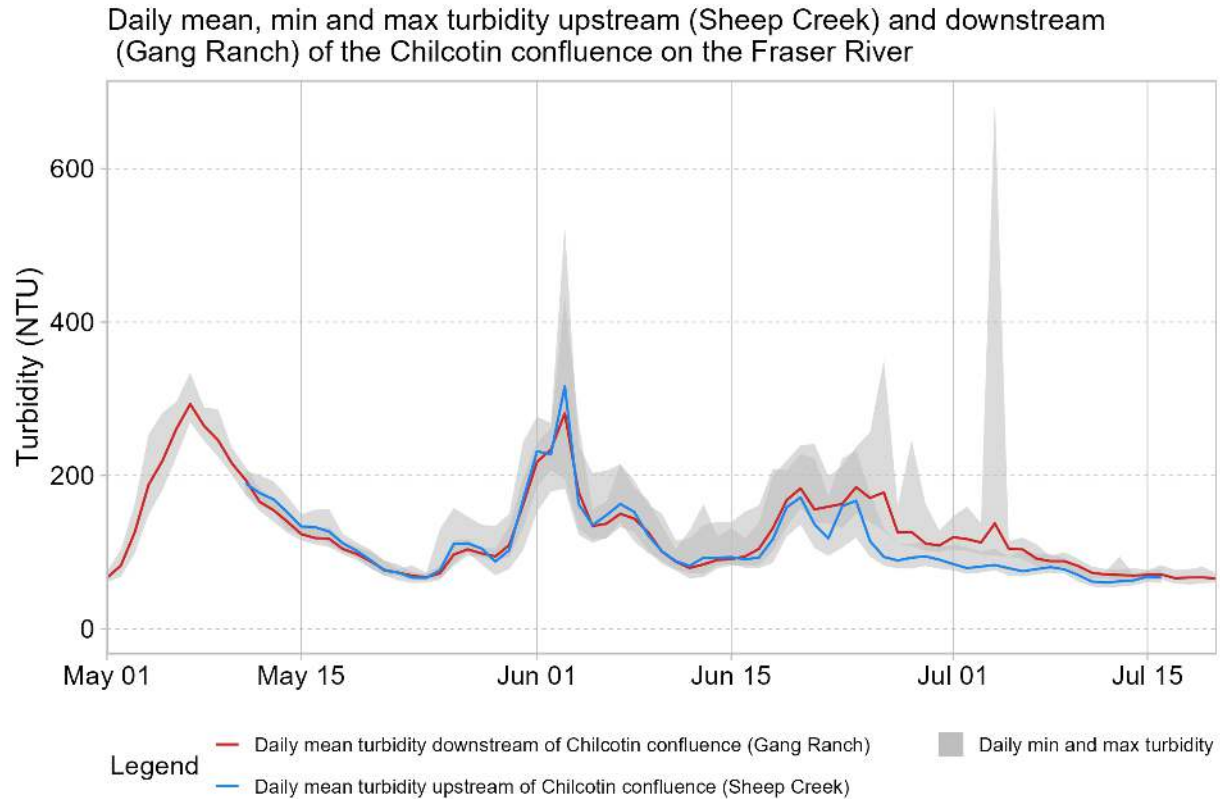




Figure 8. Satellite image of the Chilcotin River at confluence with the Fraser River on July 16, 2026 ([Copernicus 2026](#)).



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