

TNG-led Emergency Salmon Task Force Weekly Data Report July 21 to July 27, 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 27, 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:

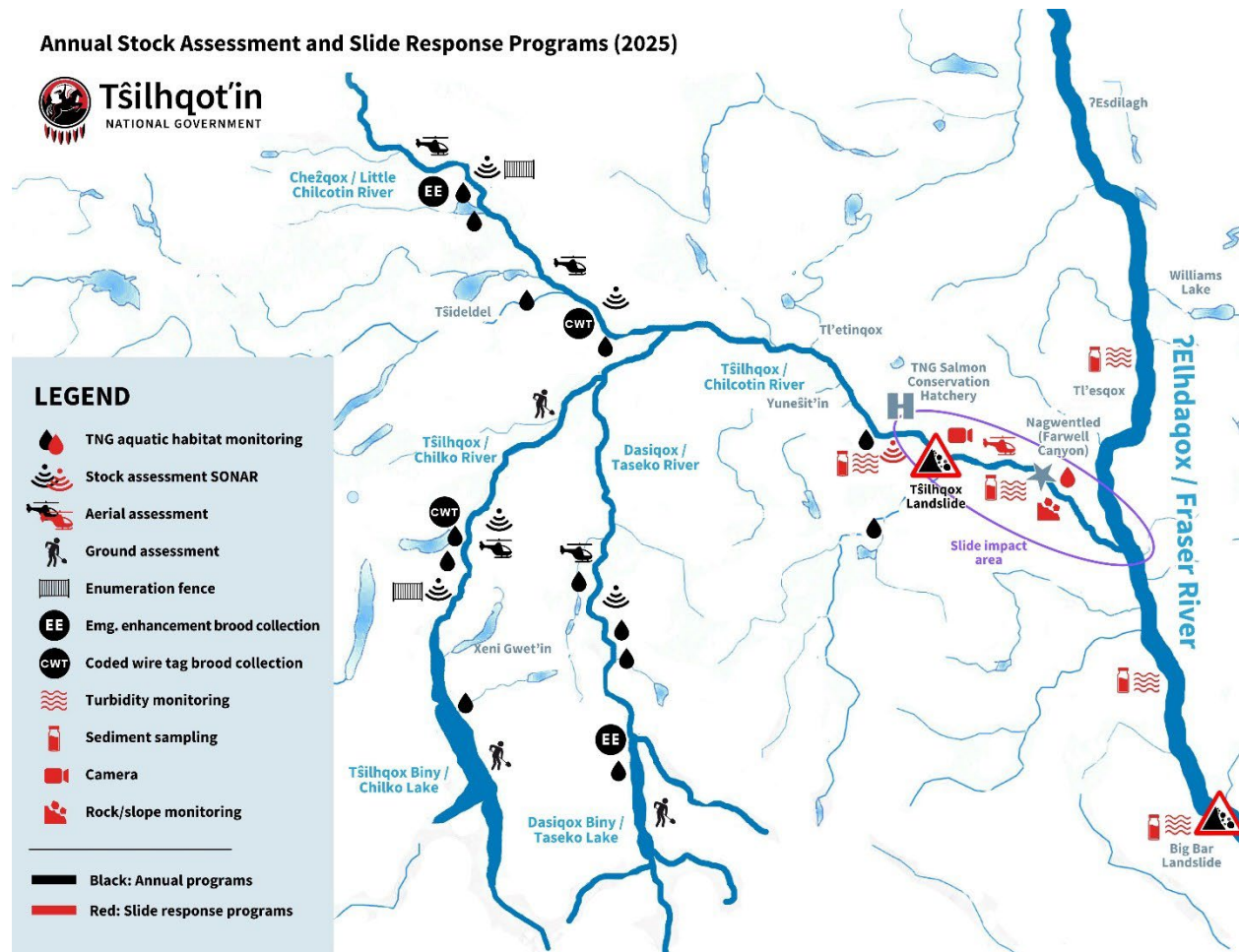
- A cumulative total of 3,535 salmon have been counted since the start of the program on June 16, 2026, including 2,542 salmon >80 cm in length, 749 salmon 65 to 79 cm in length, and



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).

- Mean daily discharge upstream of the slide site (Hanceville) reached a maximum of 241 m³/s on July 26, 2026, which is slightly higher than peak freshet flows recorded on July 2, 2026 (240 m³/s).
- No 50 to 64 cm salmon were detected between July 21 and July 27, 2026 and no upstream movement has been documented since July 15, 2026. For context, salmon in this size class were detected in low numbers (<35 fish per day) during the same period in 2025, and abundance rapidly increased after the first week of August.
- Larger size classes of salmon were continuously detected at Hanceville, suggesting that passage past Farwell Canyon and the Tsilhqox landslide has been maintained for these fish. A tree disrupted operation of the river left sonar from 1000 on July 25, 2026 until 1330 on July 27, 2026.
- A period of elevated turbidity (maximum of 207 NTU) occurred downstream of the slide site on July 21, 2026 (recorded at Farwell Canyon). Turbidity above the slide site (Hanceville) on the same day remained lower, with a daily maximum of 33 NTU. One of the two Farwell Canyon turbidity stations (CHN-FCTU01) has been offline since 1300 on July 21, 2026, data has been backfilled from the second station (CHN-FCLG02) which remains operational.
- Daily mean turbidity in the Chilcotin River downstream of the slide site (Farwell Canyon) is 106 NTU higher (as of July 21, 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 8 NTU higher (as of July 24, 2026) than upstream of the Chilcotin River confluence (Sheep Creek) (Section 3.2). The Sheep Creek turbidity station was dewatered from 1300 on July 16, 2026, to 0300 on July 22, 2026, and after 0400 on July 24, 2026. Servicing was completed on July 28, 2026, and the station is now operational.

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 3,535 salmon have been counted (Figure 4 and Table 1), including 2542 presumed Chinook Salmon (>80 cm in length), 244 salmon between 50 to 64 cm in length, and 749 salmon between 65 to 79 cm in length. Program-to-date peak daily counts occurred on July 24 for Chinook ($n = 285$), June 29 for 50 to 64 cm salmon ($n = 90$), and July 23 for 65 to 79 cm salmon ($n = 78$).



During the current reporting period (July 21 to July 27, 2026), 1,542 salmon were counted. This includes 1,212 presumed Chinook Salmon (>80 cm in length), that were observed from July 21 to July 27 with peak counts ($n = 285$) occurring on July 24, 2026, and 330 salmon between 65 to 79 cm in length. No 50 to 64 cm salmon were identified from July 21 to July 27, 2026, and no upstream movement of this size class has been recorded since July 15, 2026. 65 to 79 cm salmon were observed from July 21 to July 27, 2026, and peak dates occurred on July 23.

2. Field Summary of Sonar Operation

The river right sonar operated without interruption during the Week 6 monitoring period. Monitoring on river left was interrupted at 1000 on July 25, 2026, when a tree became wedged on the fence, resulting in one support beam being bent and the loss of one dowel. On July 27, 2026, the tree was removed and monitoring resumed at 1330. To date, 96% salmon between 50 to 64 cm and 77% of 65 to 79 cm salmon have detected by the river left sonar. Presumed Chinook Salmon (>80 cm in length) have been mostly detected on river right (60% of detections). Reduced counts of >80 cm salmon on July 26 and 27, 2026 is likely partially explained by the disruption in operation of the river left sonar.



Figure 2. Looking upstream from river right sonar station on July 24, 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

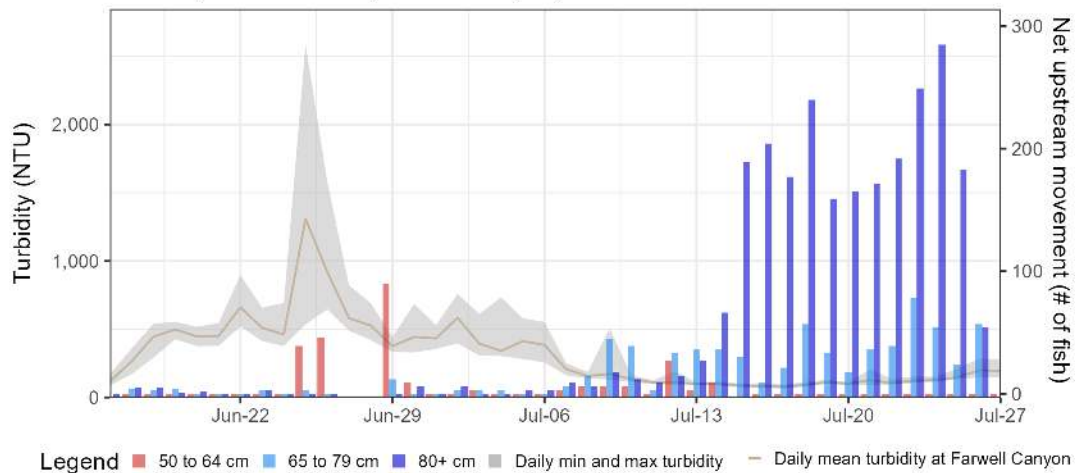
¹ One sonar file was reviewed per hour of sonar operation, with the duration reviewed determined by abundance of fish the previous day at each station. To estimate total fish passage per hour, the hourly counts were expanded by a factor of 60 divided by minutes reviewed to expand to the full hour. Infilling 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 27, 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)

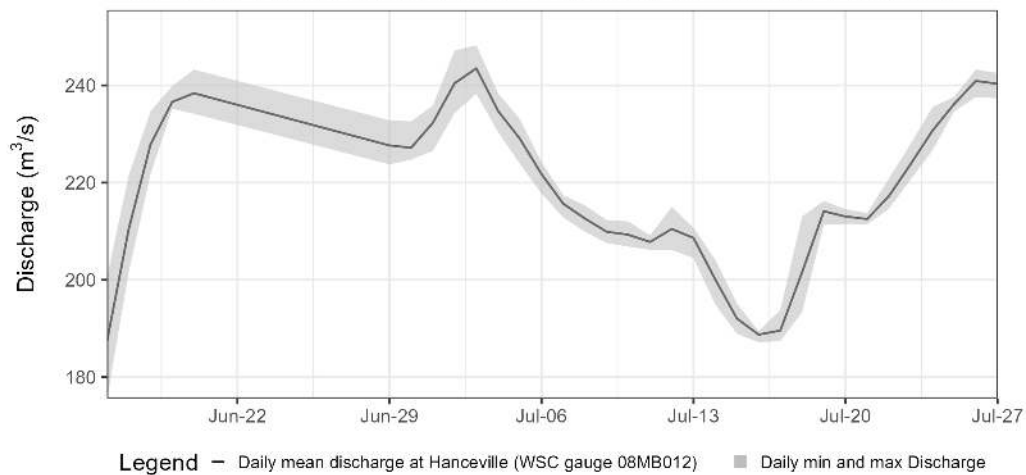
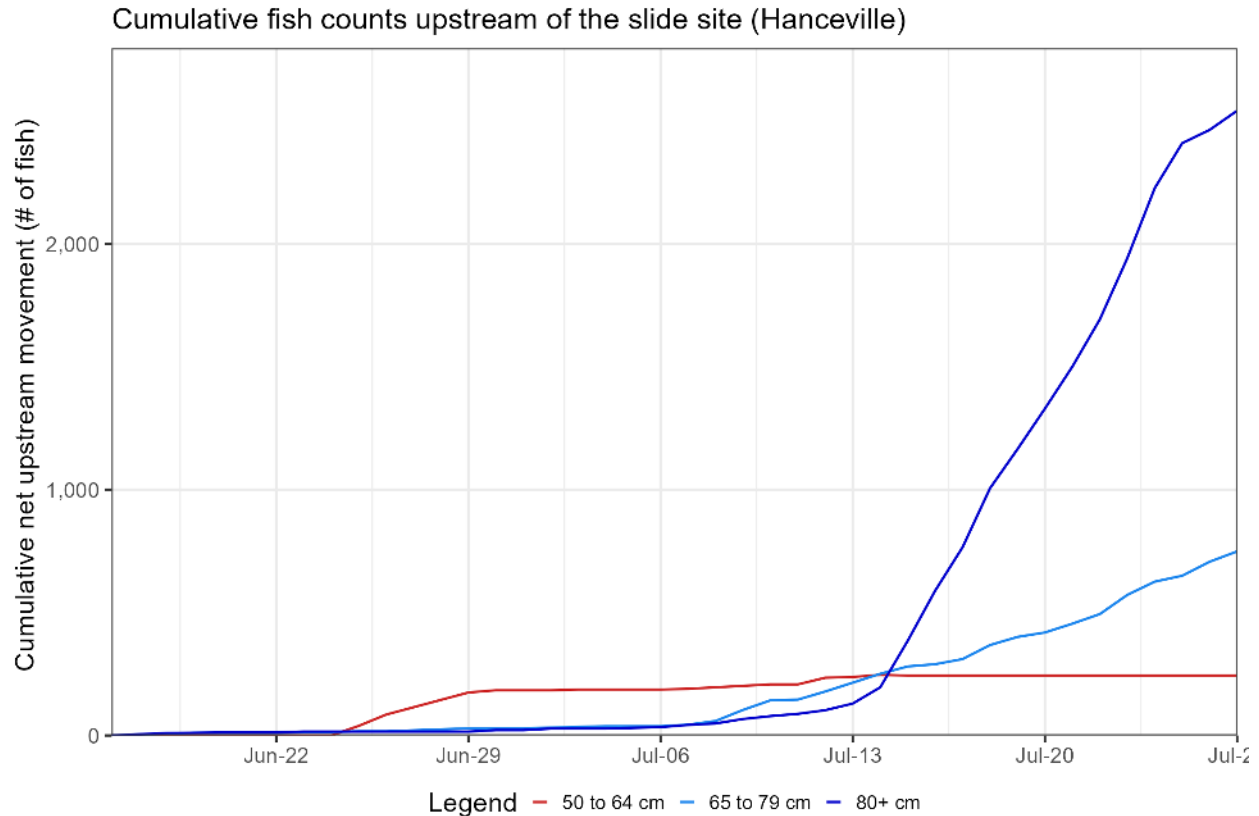




Figure 4. Expanded³ cumulative daily counts of salmon⁴ movement past the Hanceville sonar upstream of the Tsilhqox slide site from June 16 to July 27, 2026.



3. RIVER CONDITIONS UPDATE

3.1. Chilcotin River Turbidity and Flow

The turbidity station located downstream of the Tsilhqox slide site (Farwell Canyon; CHN-FCTU01) has been offline since 1300 on July 21, 2026. A servicing crew was dispatched on July 28, 2026, however, high flows restricted crews from accessing the logger. The second logger in Farwell Canyon (CHN-FCLG02) remained operational during the Week 6 monitoring period.

During the period of July 21 to July 27, 2026, discharge in the Chilcotin River upstream of the Tsilhqox slide site (Hanceville) ranged from 208 m³/s to 241 m³/s (mean = 229 m³/s) (Figure 5). Turbidity ranged from 24 NTU to 43 NTU at Hanceville, with an overall mean of 32 NTU. Downstream of the

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).



Tsilhqox slide site (Farwell Canyon) turbidity was higher, ranging from 89 NTU to 283 NTU, with an overall mean of 146 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).

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 27, 2026.

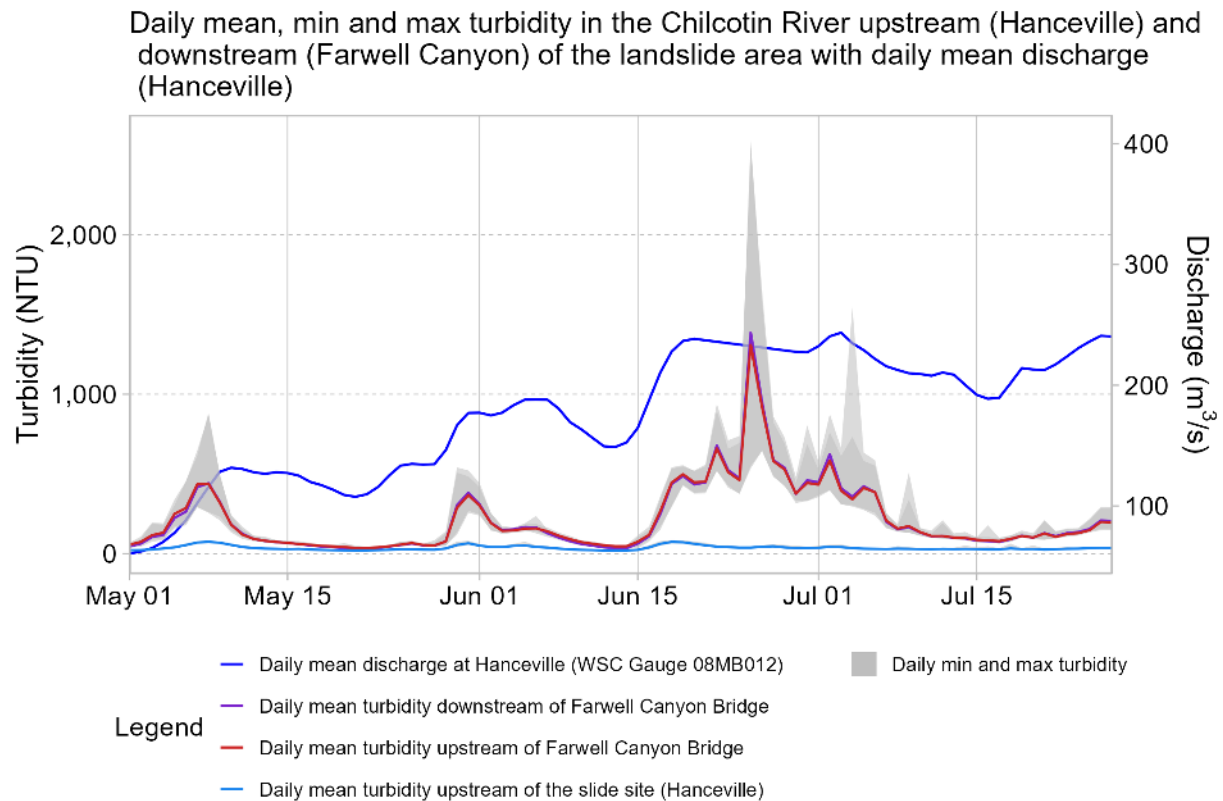




Figure 6. Satellite image of Chilcotin River upstream (left) and downstream (right) of the Tsilhqox slide site on July 23, 2026 ([Copernicus 2026](#)).



3.2. Fraser River Turbidity and Flow

Low stream flows interrupted data collection at the Sheep Creek turbidity station from 1300 on July 16 to 0300 on July 22, 2026, and after 0400 on July 24. The station was serviced on July 28, 2026, and is now operational. The Gang Ranch station remained operational during the Week 6 monitoring period.

During the period when the Sheep Creek turbidity station was operating, turbidity upstream of the Chilcotin-Fraser confluence (Sheep Creek) ranged from 72 NTU to 117 NTU, with an overall mean of 85 NTU (Figure 7). Turbidity downstream of the confluence (Gang Ranch) ranged from 60 NTU to 114 NTU (mean = 81 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 27, 2026.

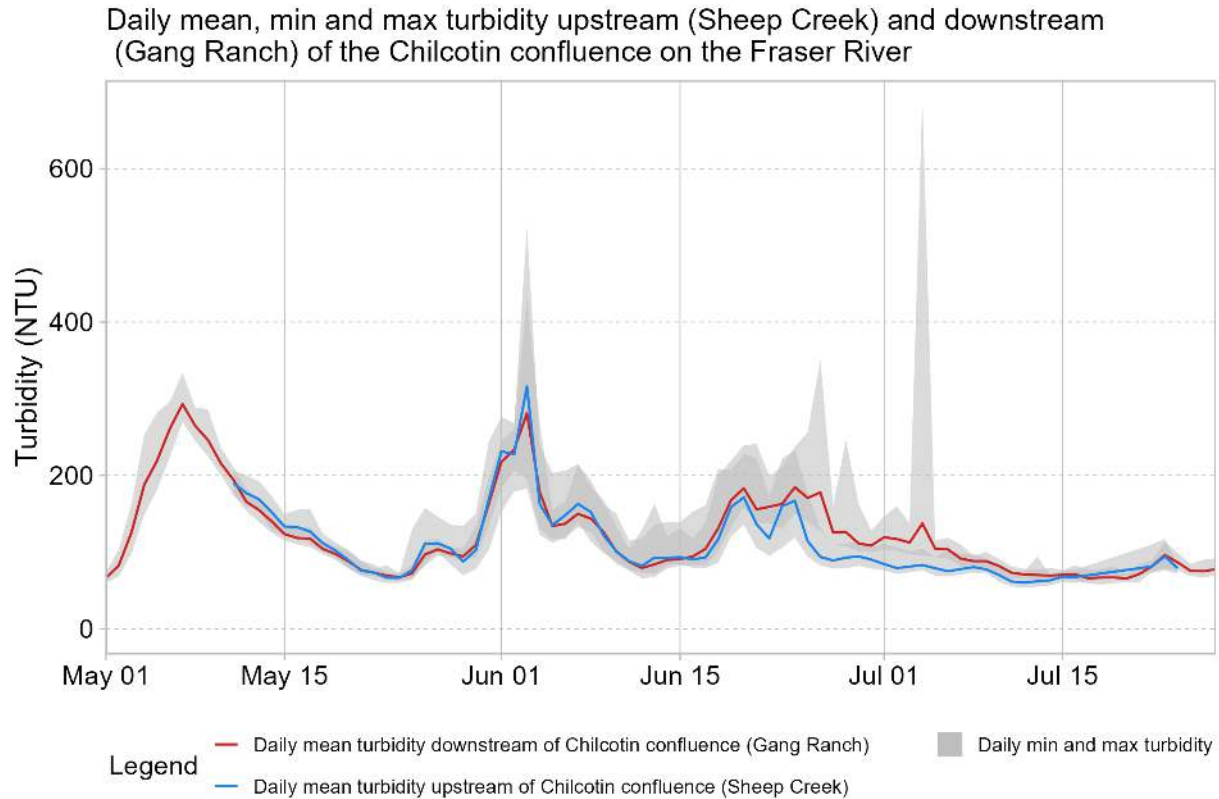




Figure 8. Satellite image of the Chilcotin River at confluence with the Fraser River on July 23, 2026 ([Copernicus 2026](#)).



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