

TNG-led Emergency Salmon Task Force Weekly Data Report July 28 to August 3, 2026.

1. BACKGROUND

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.

2. WEEKLY SUMMARY

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 August 3, 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:

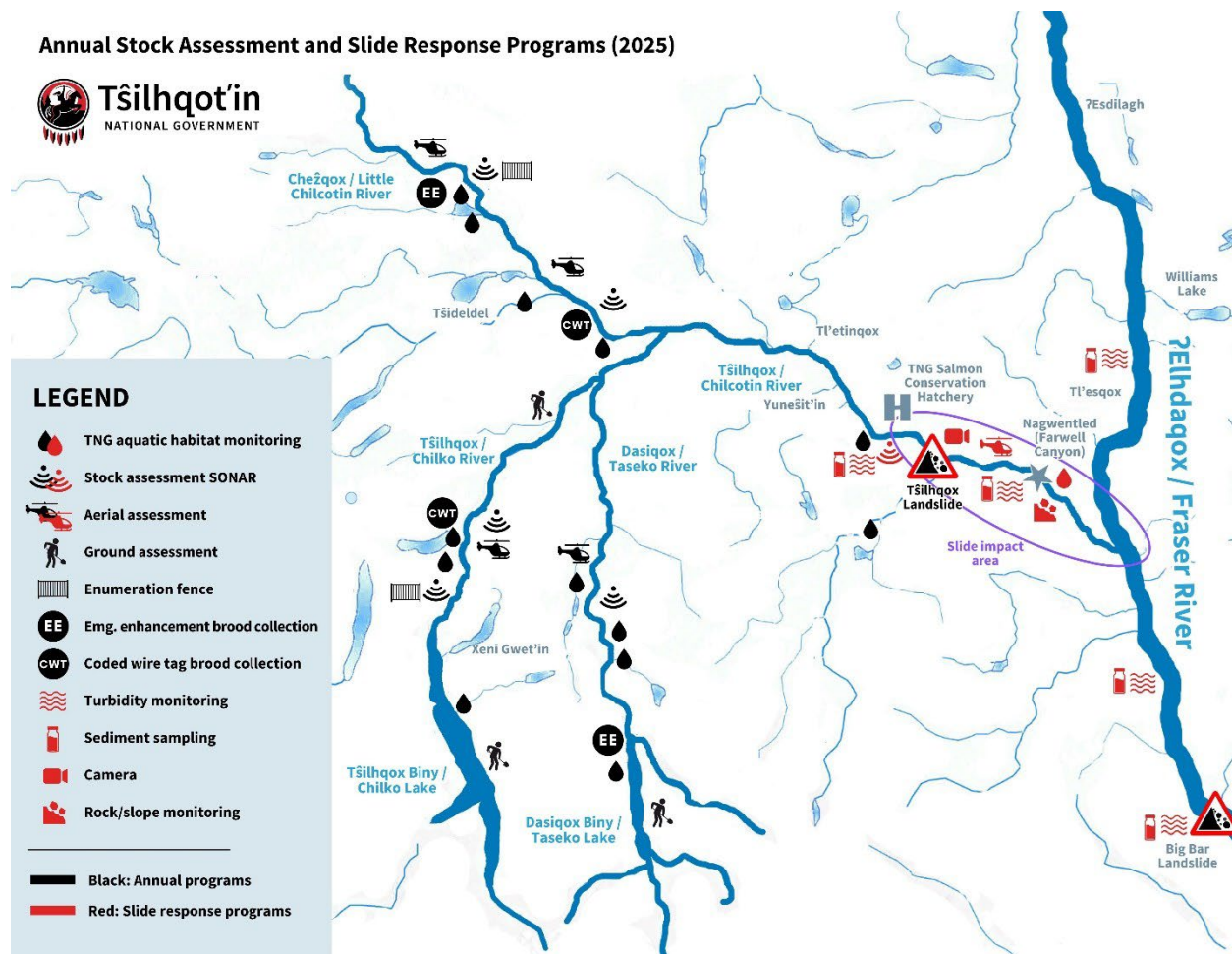
- A cumulative total of 5,280 salmon have been counted since the start of the program on June 16, 2026, including 3,314 salmon >80 cm in length, 1,595 salmon 65 to 79 cm in length, and



371 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).

- Detections of salmon 50-64 cm in length remain low (<40 fish per day) but are ticking up. In 2025, abundance of this size bin rapidly increased after the first week of August.
- The continuous detection of all sizes of salmon at Hanceville suggests that fish passage past Farwell Canyon and the Tsilhqox landslide has been maintained.
- A period of elevated turbidity (maximum of 399 NTU) occurred downstream of the slide site on July 30, 2026 (recorded at Farwell Canyon). Turbidity above the slide site (Hanceville) on the same day remained lower, with a daily maximum of 38 NTU.
- Mean daily discharge upstream of the slide site (Hanceville) reached a maximum of 243 m³/s on July 29, 2026, which is slightly higher than peak freshet flows recorded on July 2, 2026 (240 m³/s).
- Daily mean turbidity in the Chilcotin River downstream of the slide site (Farwell Canyon) is 83 NTU higher (as of August 3, 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 38 NTU higher (as of August 3, 2026) than upstream of the Chilcotin River confluence (Sheep Creek) (Section 3.2). The turbidity gauge upstream of the Chilcotin-Fraser confluence (Sheep Creek) was offline from July 28 to August 3, 2026, however, connectivity was restored on August 5, 2026 and data has been incorporated into this report.
- No clear satellite imagery was available for this monitoring period due to wildfire smoke in the region.

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



3. FISH PASSAGE

3.1. 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 5,280 salmon have been counted (Figure 4 and Table 1), including 3,314 presumed Chinook Salmon (>80 cm in length), 371 salmon between 50 to 64 cm in length, and 1,595 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 August 3 for 65 to 79 cm salmon ($n = 252$).



During the current reporting period (July 28 to August 3, 2026), 1,600 salmon were counted. This includes 673 presumed Chinook Salmon (>80 cm in length), that were observed from July 28 to August 3 with peak counts ($n = 184$) occurring on August 2, as well as 127 salmon between 50 to 64 cm in length and 800 salmon between 65 to 79 cm in length. 50 to 64 cm salmon observations occurred from July 28 to August 3 and peak counts occurred on August 1 ($n = 36$). 65 to 79 cm salmon were observed from July 28 to August 3, 2026 and peak dates occurred on August 3.

2. Field Summary of Sonar Operation

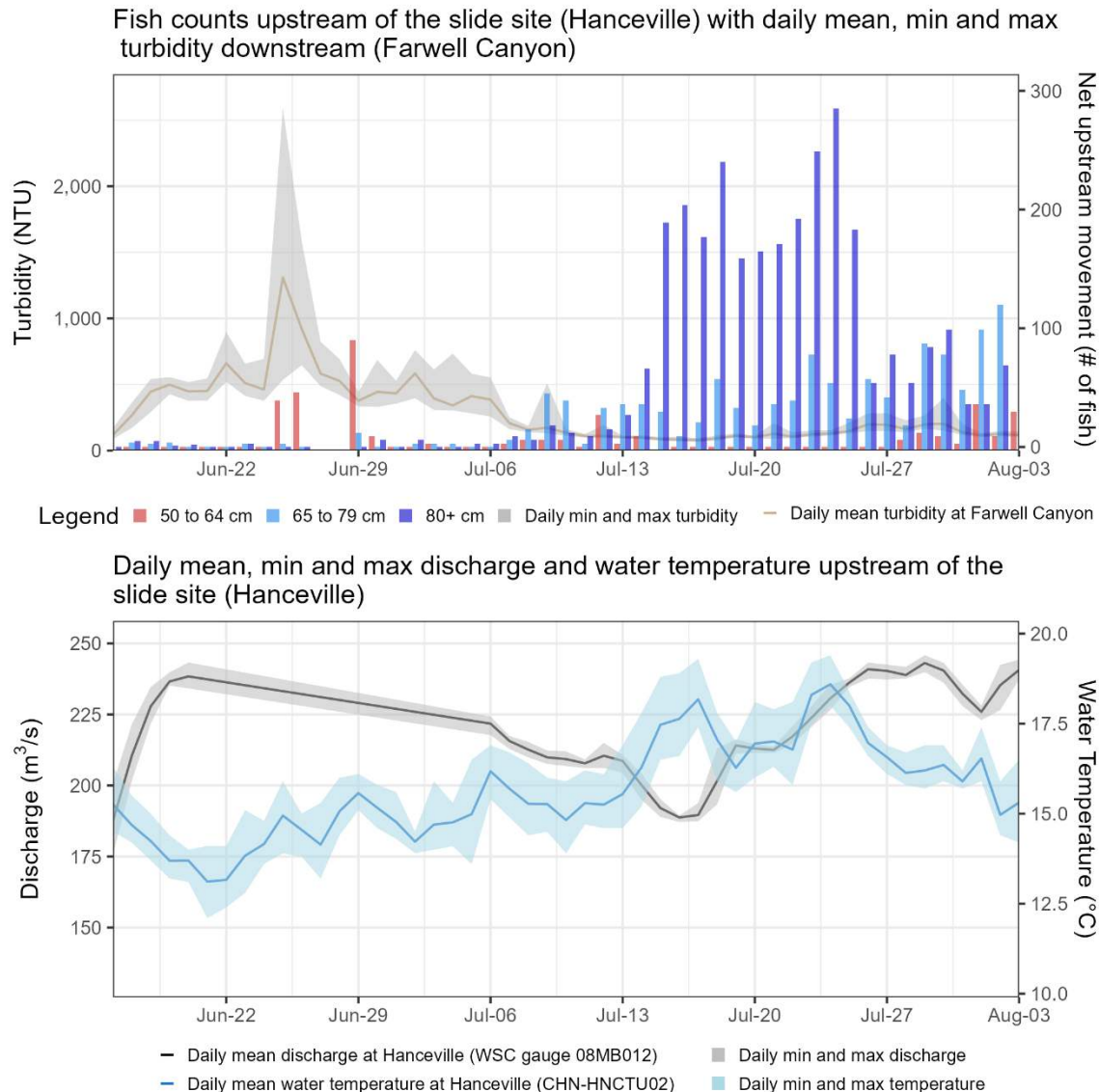
The river right sonar operated without interruption during the Week 7 monitoring period. Monitoring equipment on river left was removed from 1100 on July 31 to 1400 on August 2 due to a forecasted rain event and high flows. The river-left sonar was reinstalled on August 2 in a more protected location ~30 m downstream and will remain here for the remainder of the program.

Figure 2. Upstream view of the Hanceville sonar station. Captured on August 4, 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 and water temperature upstream of the slide site (Hanceville) from June 16 to August 3, 2026.

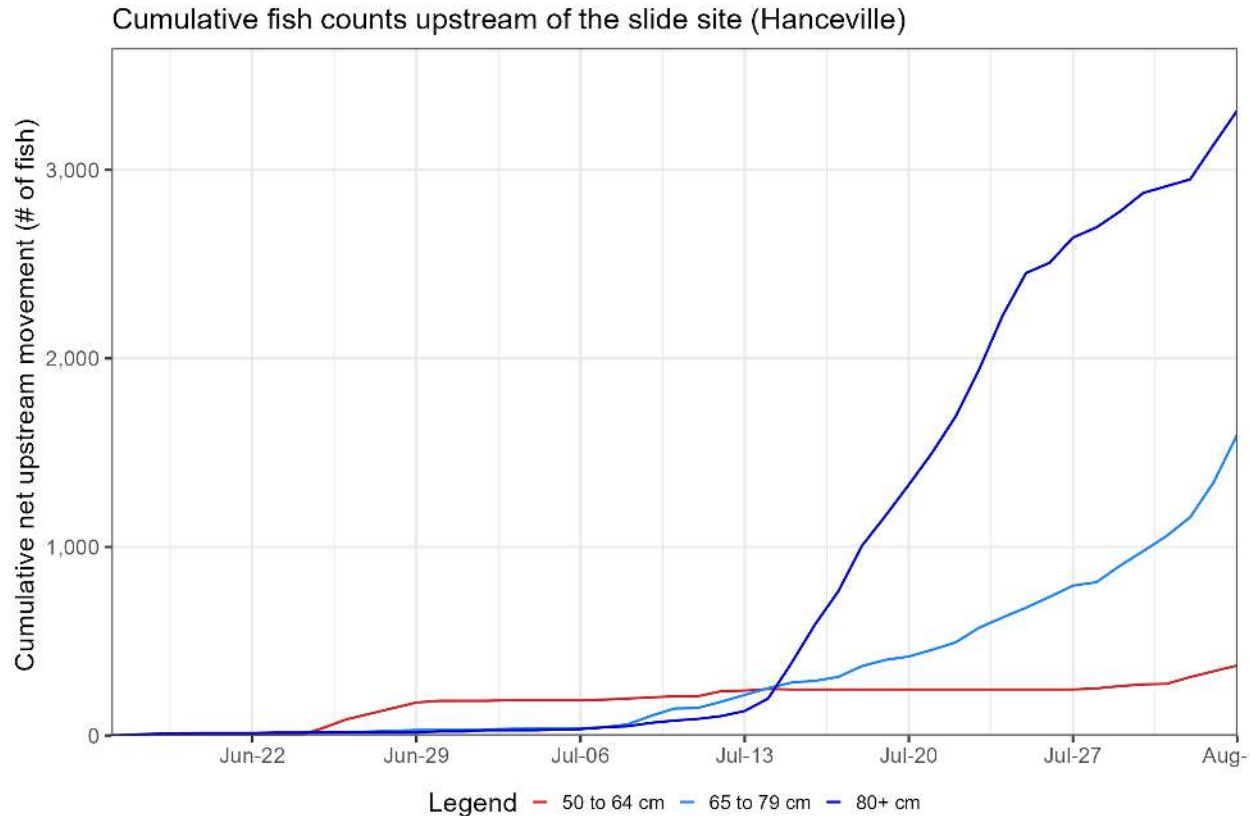


¹ One sonar file was reviewed per hour of sonar operation, with the duration reviewed determined by abundance of fish the previous day at each station. To estimate total fish passage per hour, the hourly counts were expanded by a factor of 60 divided by minutes reviewed to expand to the full hour. Infilling 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 August 3, 2026.



4. RIVER CONDITIONS UPDATE

4.1. Chilcotin River Turbidity and Flow

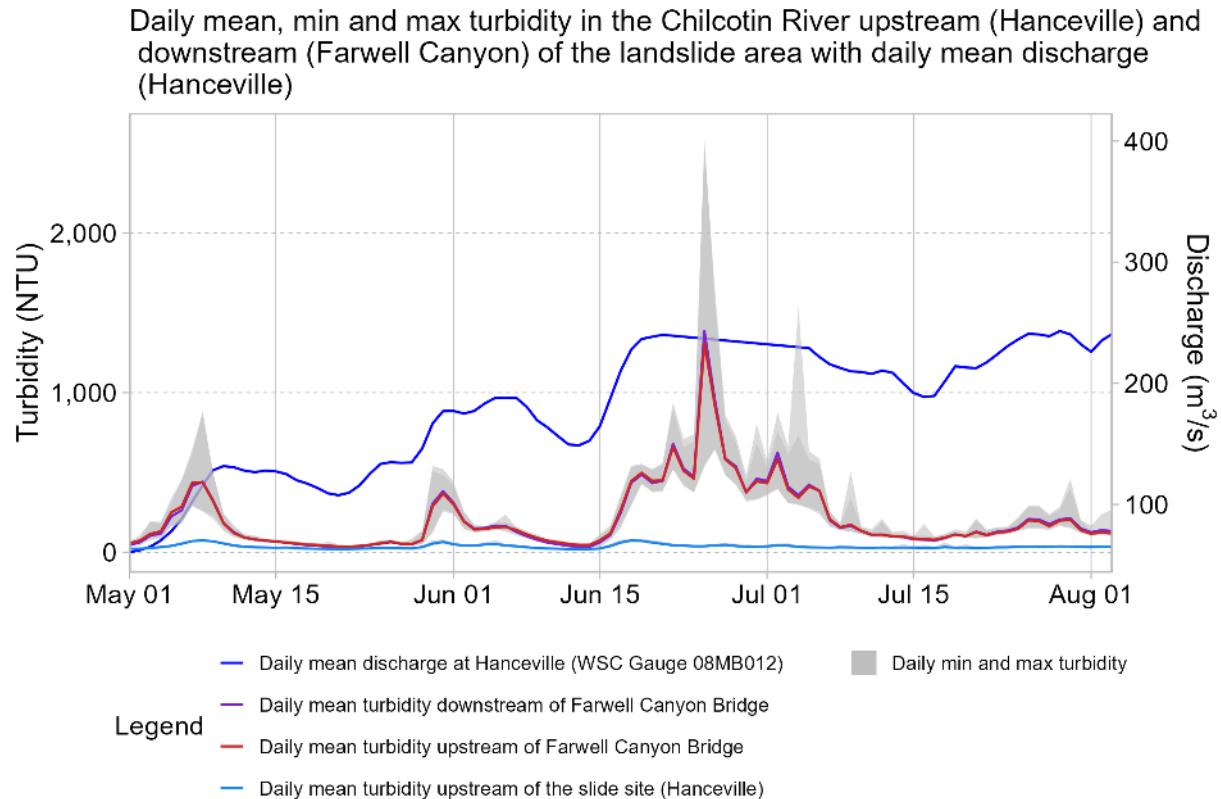
During the period of July 28 to August 3, 2026, discharge in the Chilcotin River upstream of the Tsilhqox slide site (Hanceville) ranged from 217 m³/s to 243 m³/s (mean = 237 m³/s) (Figure 5). Turbidity ranged from 31 NTU to 41 NTU at Hanceville, with an overall mean of 35 NTU. Downstream of the Tsilhqox slide site (Farwell Canyon) turbidity was higher, ranging from 102 NTU to 399 NTU, with an overall mean of 151 NTU. No satellite imagery of the Tsilhqox slide site was available this week due to wildfire smoke cover beginning on July 26, 2026.

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 August 3, 2026.

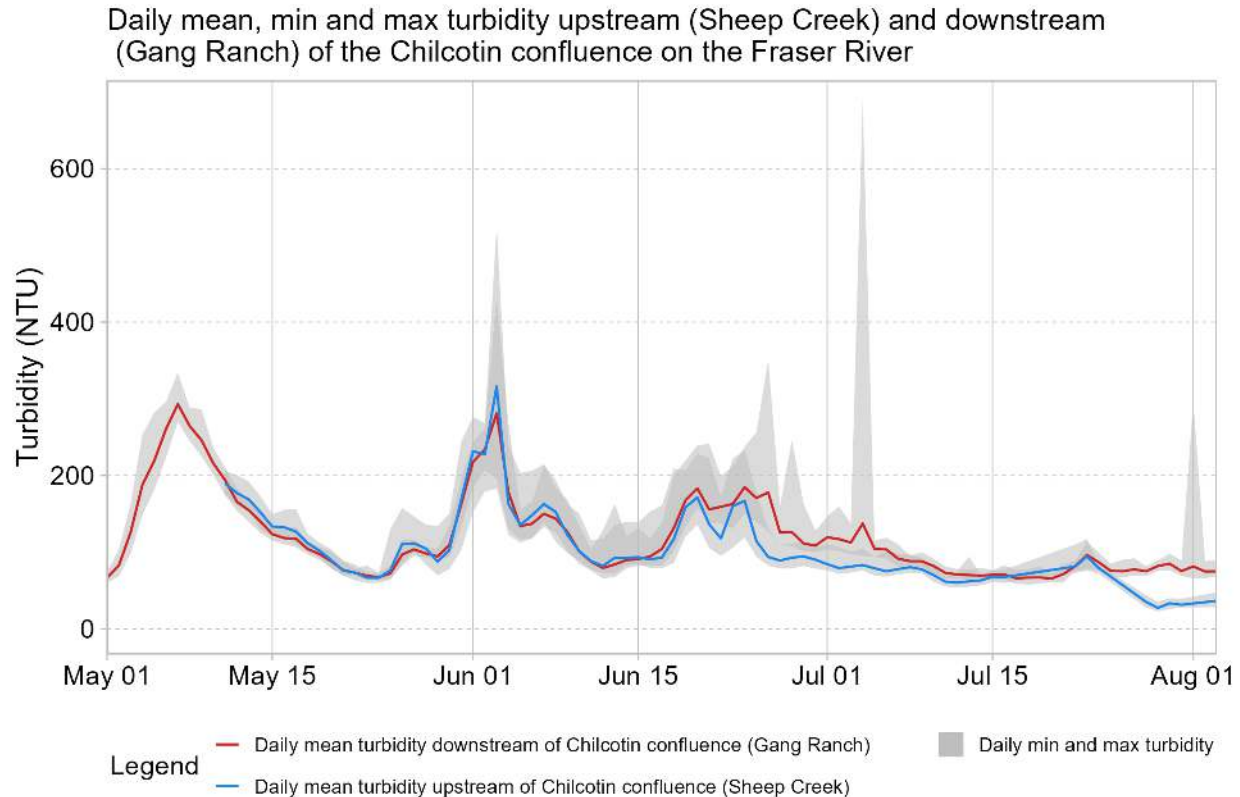


4.2. Fraser River Turbidity and Flow

During the period of July 28 to August 3, 2026, turbidity upstream of the Chilcotin-Fraser confluence (Sheep Creek) ranged from 23 NTU to 48 NTU, with an overall mean of 33 NTU (Figure 6). Turbidity downstream of the confluence (Gang Ranch) ranged from 66 NTU to 295 NTU (mean = 78 NTU). No satellite imagery of the Chilcotin-Fraser confluence was available this week due to wildfire smoke cover beginning on July 26, 2026.



Figure 6. Turbidity in the Fraser upstream of the Chilcotin confluence (Sheep Creek) and downstream of the confluence (Gang Ranch) from May 1 to August 3, 2026.



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