

TNG-led Emergency Salmon Task Force Weekly Data Report August 4 to August 9, 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 9, 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 10,746 salmon have been counted since the start of the program on June 16, 2026, including 4,808 salmon >80 cm in length, 3,834 salmon 65 to 79 cm in length, and

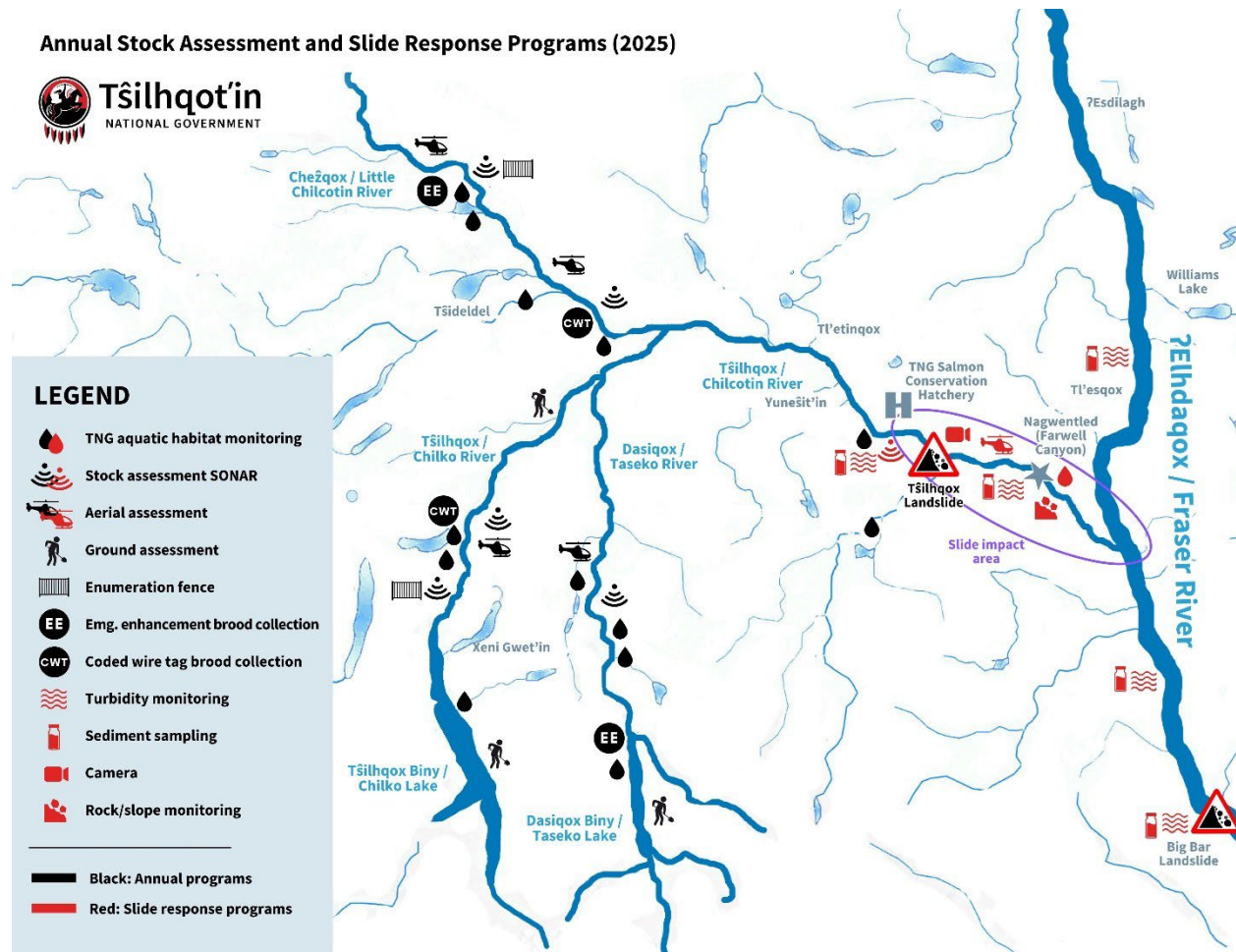


2,104 salmon 50 to 64 cm in length (Section 2.1). June 16 is the earliest start date for sonar monitoring in the Chilcotin River to date (2025 start date was June 24).

- Detections of salmon 50 to 64 cm in length increased this week, with an average of 293 fish per day counted in this size bin (up from an average of 15 fish per day last week).
- The continuous detection of all sizes of salmon at Hanceville suggests that fish passage past Farwell Canyon and the Tsilhqox landslide has been maintained.
- Discharge in the Chilcotin River declined steadily this week from a daily mean of 230 m³/s on August 4 to 199 m³/s on August 9.
- Daily mean turbidity in the Chilcotin River downstream of the slide site (Farwell Canyon) is 39 NTU higher (as of August 9, 2026) than upstream of the slide site (Hanceville) (Section 3.1).
- Daily mean water temperature in the Chilcotin River upstream of the Tsilhqox slide site (Hanceville) ranged from 16.4°C to 18.2°C, with an overall mean of 17.5°C. In Farwell Canyon, mean daily water temperatures ranged from 16.1°C to 18°C (mean = 17.2°C). Daily maximum water temperatures ranged from 17.4°C to 19.1°C (mean = 18.5°C) at Hanceville and from 17.1°C to 18.9°C (mean = 18.2°C) at Farwell Canyon.
- Daily mean turbidity in the Fraser River downstream of the Chilcotin River confluence (Gang Ranch) is 74 NTU higher (as of August 5, 2026) than upstream of the Chilcotin River confluence (Sheep Creek) (Section 3.2). The upstream Fraser River station (Sheep Creek) began malfunctioning due to a faulty sensor at 1200 on August 5 and was removed on August 7. Replacement of the sensor is tentatively scheduled for late August.
- Starting this week, the reporting period shifted from Tuesday–Monday to Monday–Sunday to provide field crews sufficient time to review files. This week's report begins on Tuesday, August 4, 2026 as data from Monday, August 3, 2026 was previously reported on.



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 10,746 salmon have been counted (Figure 4 and Table 1), including 4,808 presumed Chinook Salmon (>80 cm in length), 2,104 salmon between 50 to 64 cm in length, and 3,834 salmon between 65 to 79 cm in length. Program-to-date peak daily counts occurred on August 6 for Chinook ($n = 381$), August 7 for 50 to 64 cm salmon ($n = 783$), and August 6 for 65 to 79 cm salmon ($n = 752$).



During the current reporting period (August 4 to August 9, 2026), 5,701 salmon were counted. This includes 1,609 presumed Chinook Salmon (>80 cm in length), that were observed from August 4 to August 9 with peak counts ($n = 381$) occurring on August 6, as well as 1,755 salmon between 50 to 64 cm in length and 2,337 salmon between 65 to 79 cm in length. 50 to 64 cm salmon observations occurred from August 4 to August 9 and peak counts occurred on August 7 ($n = 783$). 65 to 79 cm salmon were observed from August 4 to August 9, 2026 and peak dates occurred on August 6 ($n = 752$).

2. Field Summary of Sonar Operation

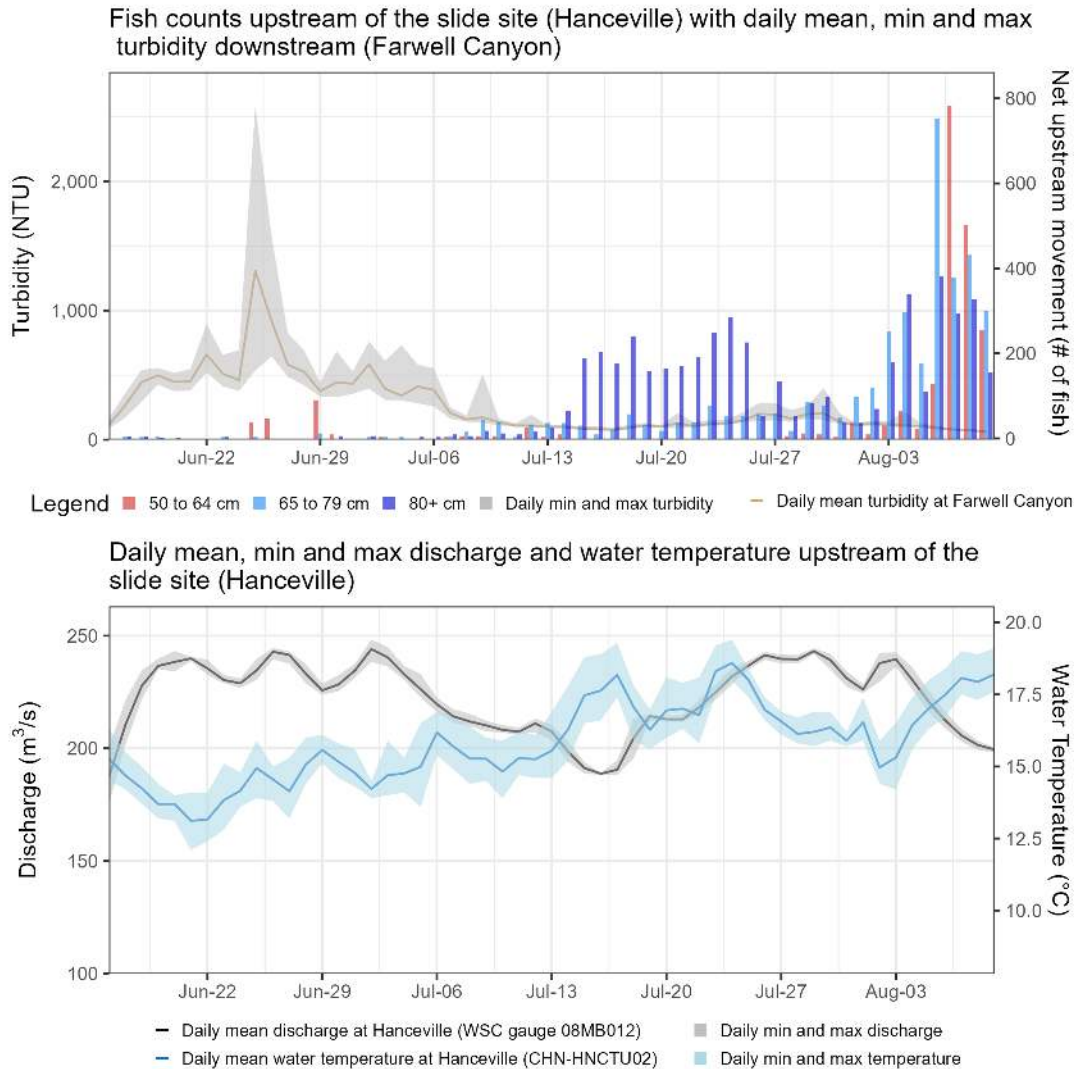
Both river-left and river-right sonar stations operated without interruption during the Week 8 reporting period.

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 upstream of the slide site (Hanceville) from June 16 to August 9, 2026.

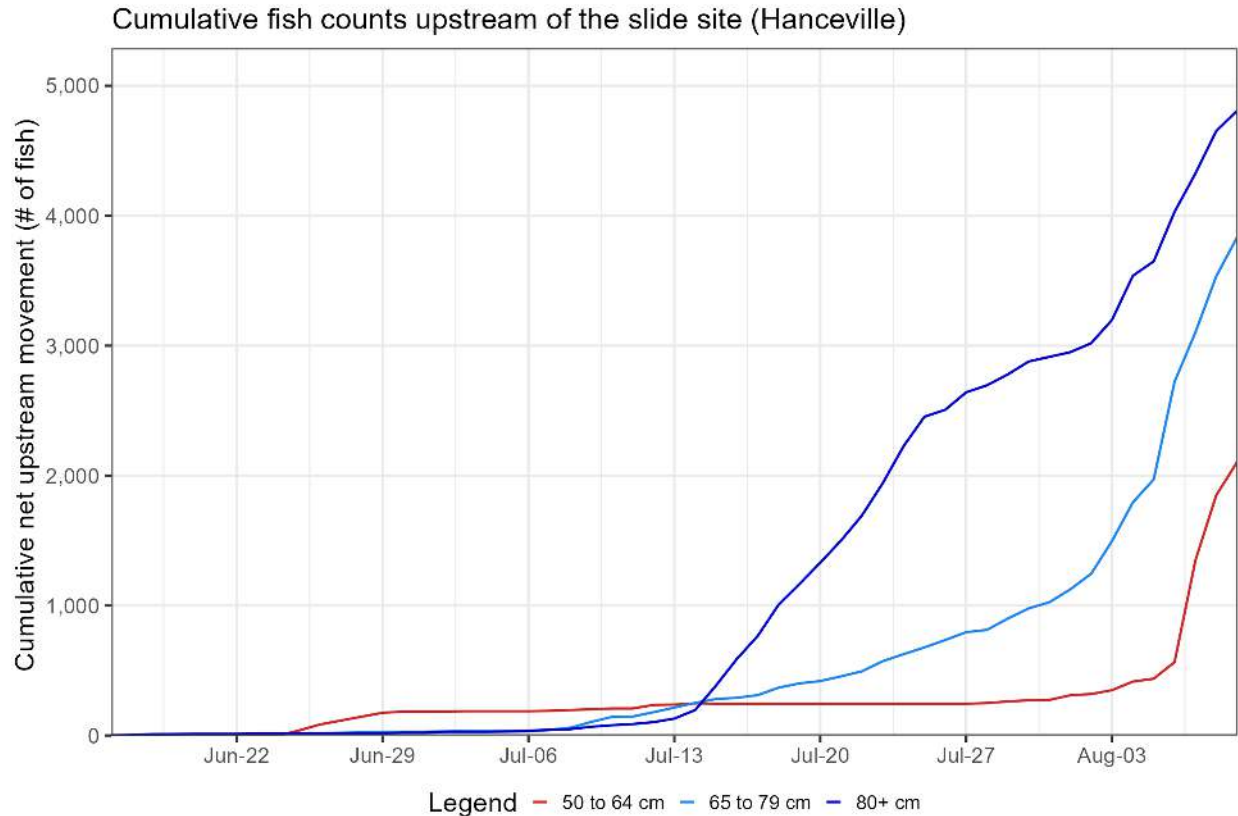


¹ One sonar file was reviewed per hour of sonar operation, with the duration reviewed determined by abundance of fish the previous day at each station. To estimate total fish passage per hour, the hourly counts were expanded by a factor of 60 divided by minutes reviewed to expand to the full hour. Infilling 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 9, 2026.



4. RIVER CONDITIONS UPDATE

4.1. Chilcotin River Turbidity, Flow and Temperature

During the period of August 4 to August 9, 2026, discharge in the Chilcotin River upstream of the Tsilhqox slide site (Hanceville) ranged from 195 m³/s to 230 m³/s (mean = 212 m³/s) (Figure 5). Turbidity ranged from 23 NTU to 37 NTU at Hanceville, with an overall mean of 28 NTU. Downstream of the Tsilhqox slide site (Farwell Canyon) turbidity was higher, ranging from 57 NTU to 214 NTU, with an overall mean of 87 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 August 9, 2026.

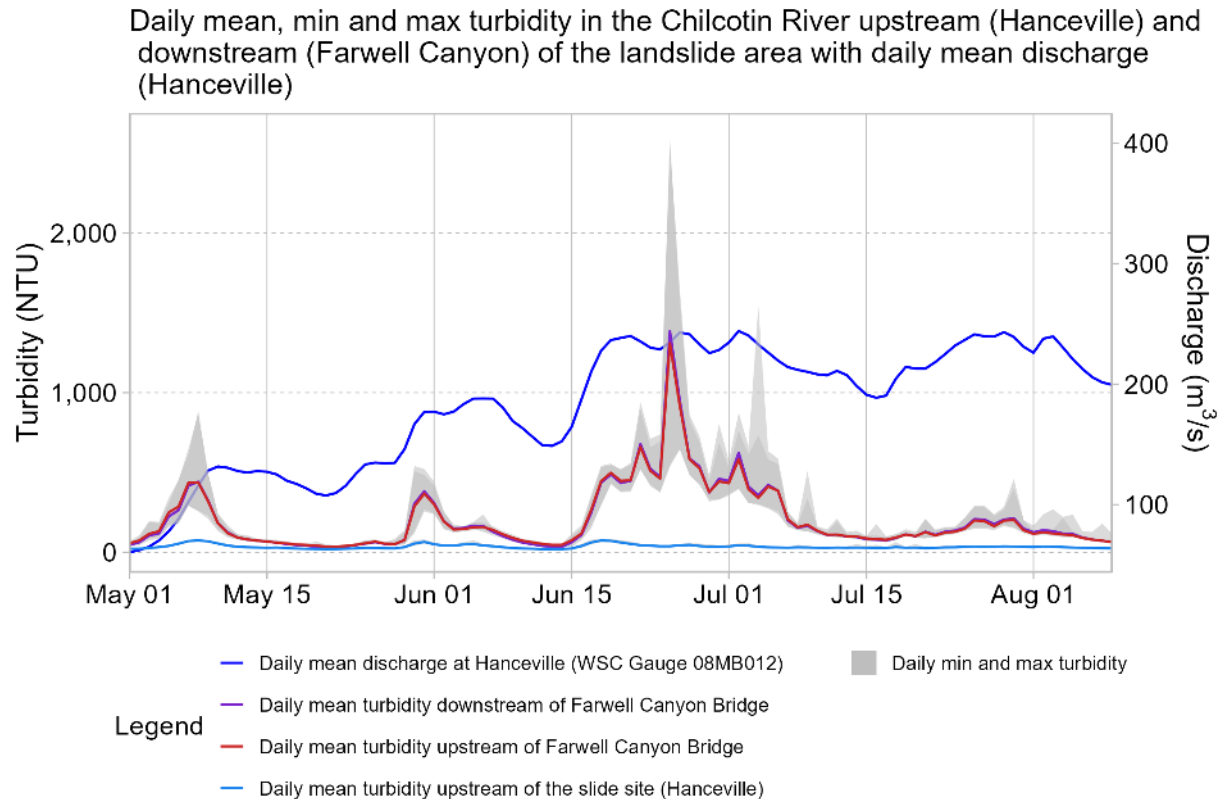




Figure 6. Satellite image of Chilcotin River upstream (left) and downstream (right) of the Tsilhqox slide site on August 9, 2026 ([Copernicus 2026](#)).



4.2. Fraser River Turbidity and Flow

During the period of August 4 to August 5, 2026, turbidity upstream of the Chilcotin-Fraser confluence (Sheep Creek) ranged from 18 NTU to 30 NTU, with an overall mean of 23 NTU (Figure 7). The Sheep Creek turbidity sensor malfunctioned and stopped reporting reliable data at 1200 on August 5 before it was removed on August 7. Turbidity downstream of the confluence (Gang Ranch) ranged from 44 NTU to 107 NTU (mean = 72 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 August 9, 2026.

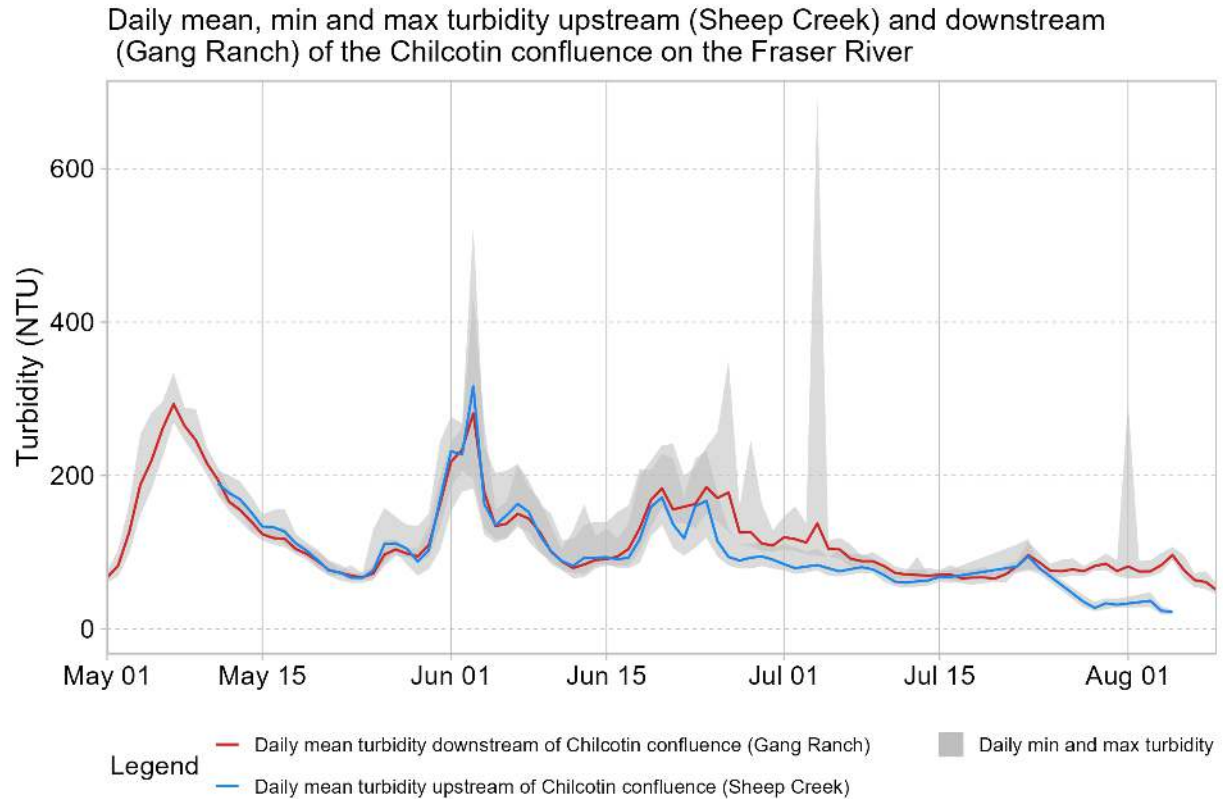




Figure 8. Satellite image of the Chilcotin River at confluence with the Fraser River on August 9, 2026 ([Copernicus 2026](#)).



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