

TNG-led Emergency Salmon Task Force Weekly Data Report August 10 to August 16, 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.

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 16, 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 16,874 salmon have been counted since the start of the program on June 16, 2026, including 5,650 salmon >80 cm in length, 5,977 salmon 65 to 79 cm in length, and

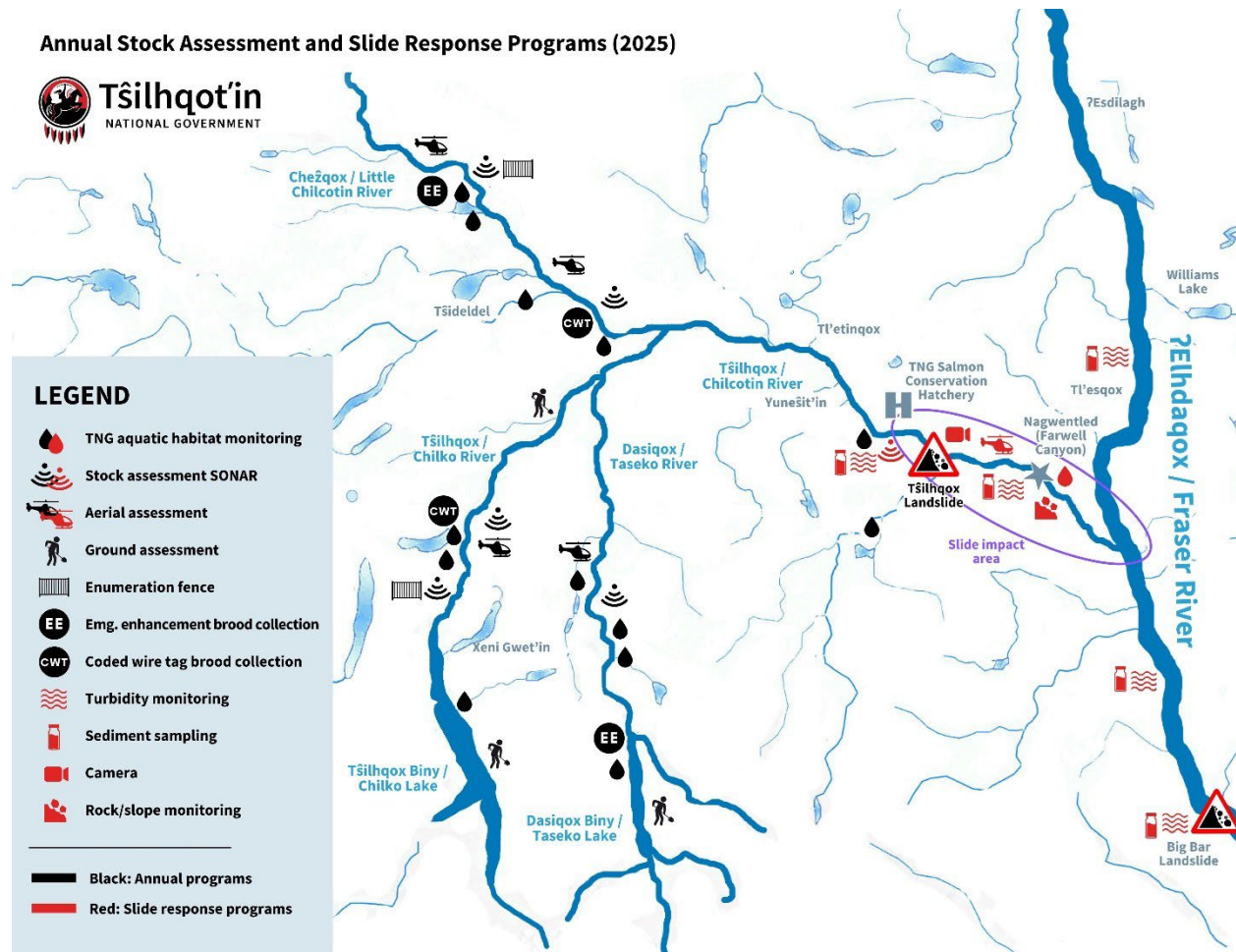


5,247 salmon 50 to 64 cm in length (Section 2.1). June 16 is the earliest start date for sonar monitoring in the Chilcotin River to date (2025 start date was June 24).

- Overall detections of salmon 50 to 64 cm in length increased this week, with an average of 449 fish per day counted in this size bin (up from an average of 293 fish per day from August 4-9). Mean daily counts of salmon 65 to 79 cm in length decreased from 390 fish per day from August 4-9 to 306 fish per day during the current monitoring period, while mean daily counts of salmon 80+ cm in length decreased from 268 to 120 fish per day across the same period.
- The continuous detection of all sizes of salmon at Hanceville suggests that fish passage past Farwell Canyon or the Tsilhqox landslide has been maintained.
- Daily mean turbidity in the Chilcotin River downstream of the slide site (Farwell Canyon) is 20 NTU higher (as of August 16, 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 16.2°C to 18.2°C, with an overall mean of 17.0°C. In Farwell Canyon, mean daily water temperatures ranged from 16.2°C to 17.8°C (mean = 16.9°C). Daily maximum water temperatures ranged from 16.9°C to 19.5°C (mean = 18.1°C) at Hanceville and from 17.1°C to 18.6°C (mean = 17.7°C) at Farwell Canyon.



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 16,874 salmon have been counted (Figure 4 and Table 1), including 5,650 presumed Chinook Salmon (>80 cm in length), 5,247 salmon between 50 to 64 cm in length, and 5,977 salmon between 65 to 79 cm in length. Program-to-date peak daily counts occurred on August 6 for Chinook ($n = 381$), August 16 for 50 to 64 cm salmon ($n = 1,494$), and August 6 for 65 to 79 cm salmon ($n = 752$).



During the current reporting period (August 10 to August 16, 2026), 6,128 salmon were counted. This includes 842 presumed Chinook Salmon (>80 cm in length), that were observed from August 10 to August 16 with peak counts ($n = 152$) occurring on August 10, as well as 3,143 salmon between 50 to 64 cm in length and 2,143 salmon between 65 to 79 cm in length. 50 to 64 cm salmon observations occurred from August 10 to August 16, and peak counts occurred on August 16 ($n = 1,494$). 65 to 79 cm salmon were observed from August 10 to August 16, 2026, and peak dates occurred on August 16.

2. Field Summary of Sonar Operation

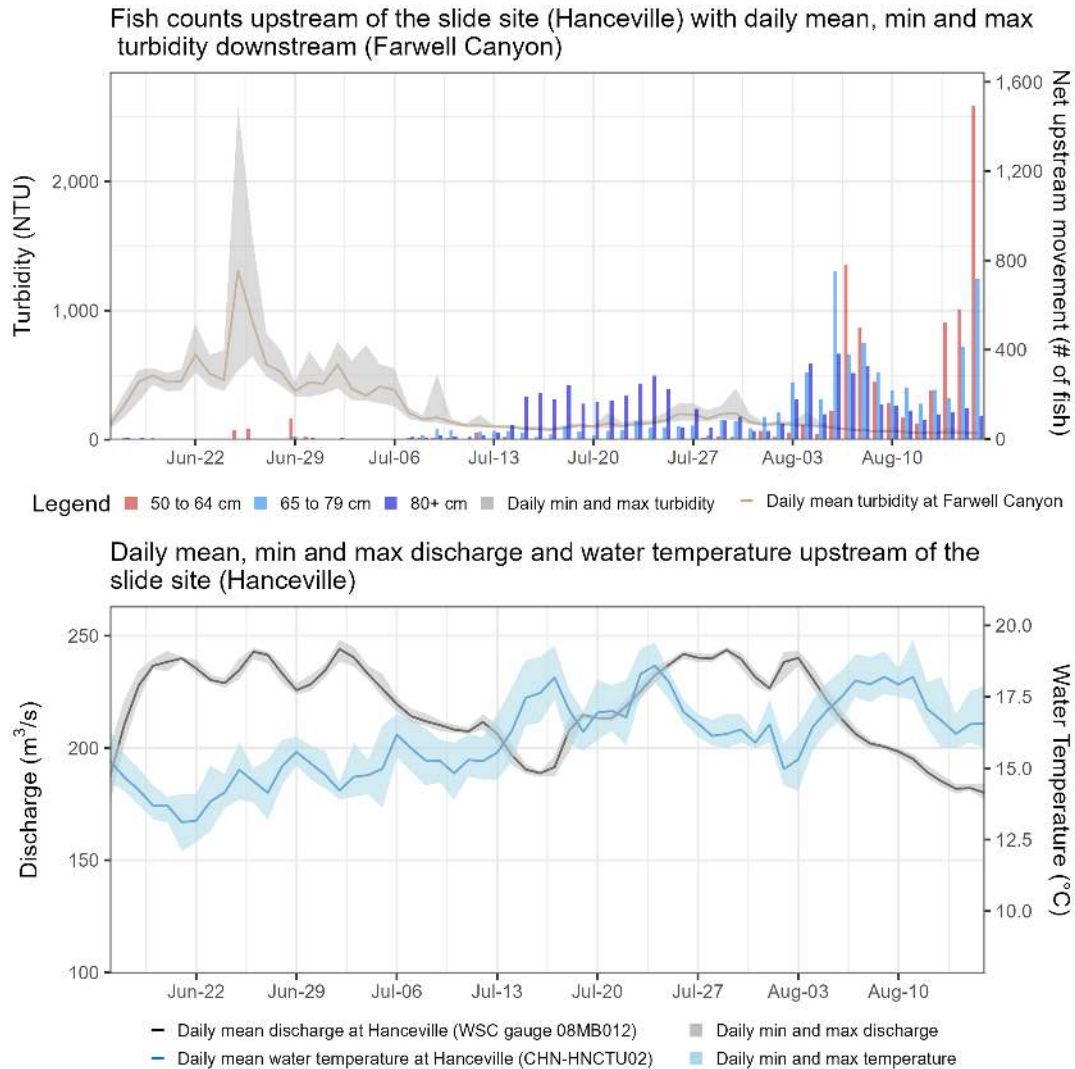
Both river-left and river-right sonar stations operated without interruption during the Week 9 reporting period.

Figure 2. View of the river left Hanceville sonar station. Captured on August 13, 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 16, 2026.

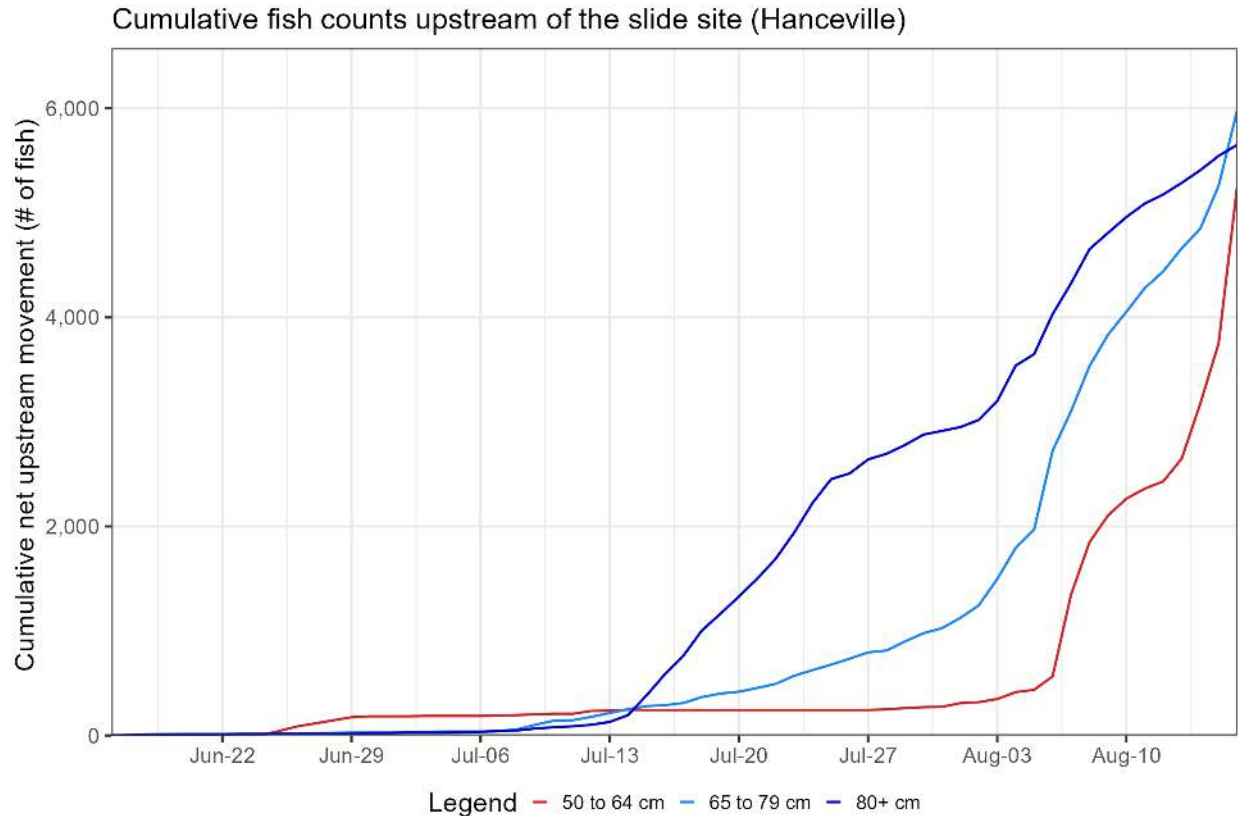


¹ One sonar file was reviewed per hour of sonar operation, with the duration reviewed determined by abundance of fish the previous day at each station. To estimate total fish passage per hour, the hourly counts were expanded by a factor of 60 divided by minutes reviewed to expand to the full hour. Infilling 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 16, 2026.



4. RIVER CONDITIONS UPDATE

4.1. Chilcotin River Turbidity and Flow

During the period of August 10 to August 16, 2026, discharge in the Chilcotin River upstream of the Tsilhqox slide site (Hanceville) ranged from 175 m³/s to 198 m³/s (mean = 187 m³/s) (Figure 5). Turbidity ranged from 24 NTU to 43 NTU at Hanceville, with an overall mean of 27 NTU. Downstream of the Tsilhqox slide site (Farwell Canyon) turbidity was higher, ranging from 43 NTU to 96 NTU, with an overall mean of 54 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 16, 2026.

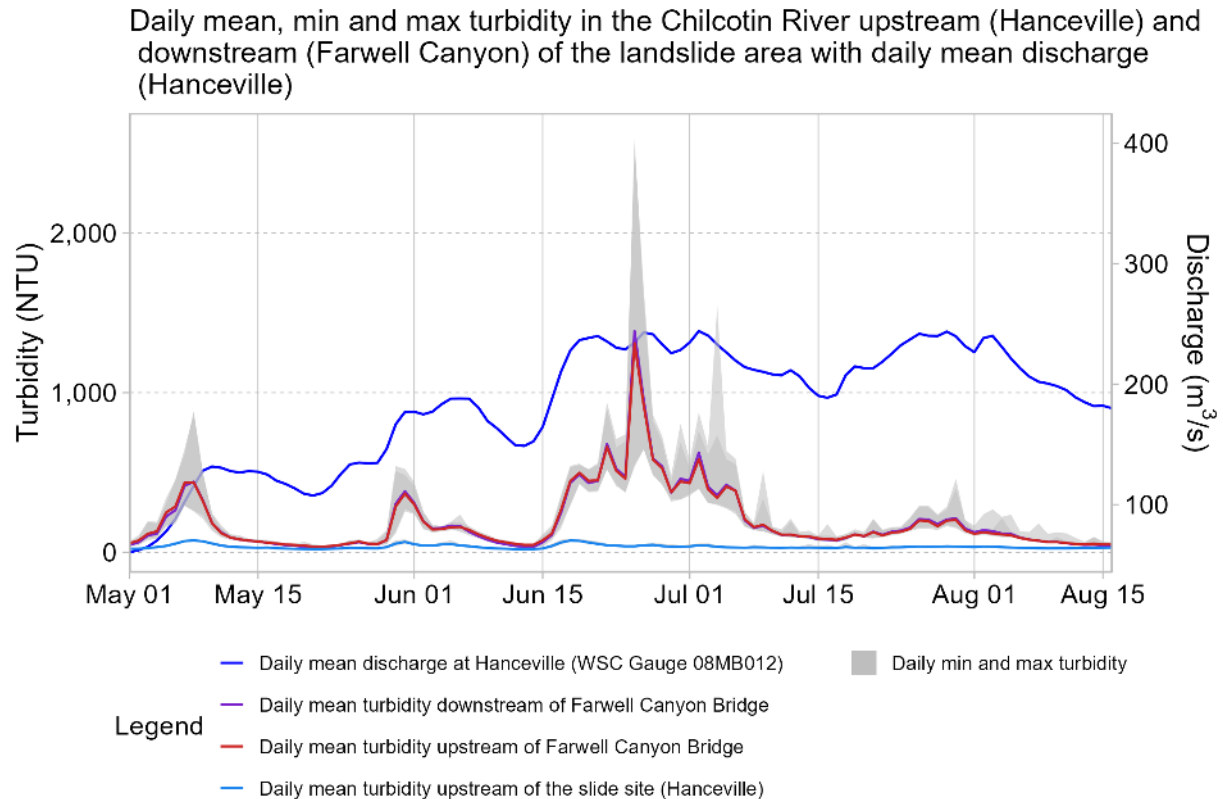




Figure 6. Satellite image of Chilcotin River upstream (left) and downstream (right) of the Tsilhqox slide site on August 15, 2026 ([Copernicus 2026](#)).



4.2. Fraser River Turbidity and Flow

The Sheep Creek turbidity sensor malfunctioned and stopped reporting reliable data at 1200 on August 5 and was removed on August 7, 2026. The station is tentatively scheduled to be replaced in late August. Turbidity downstream of the confluence (Gang Ranch) ranged from 32 NTU to 135 NTU (mean = 43 NTU) (Figure 7).



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 16, 2026.

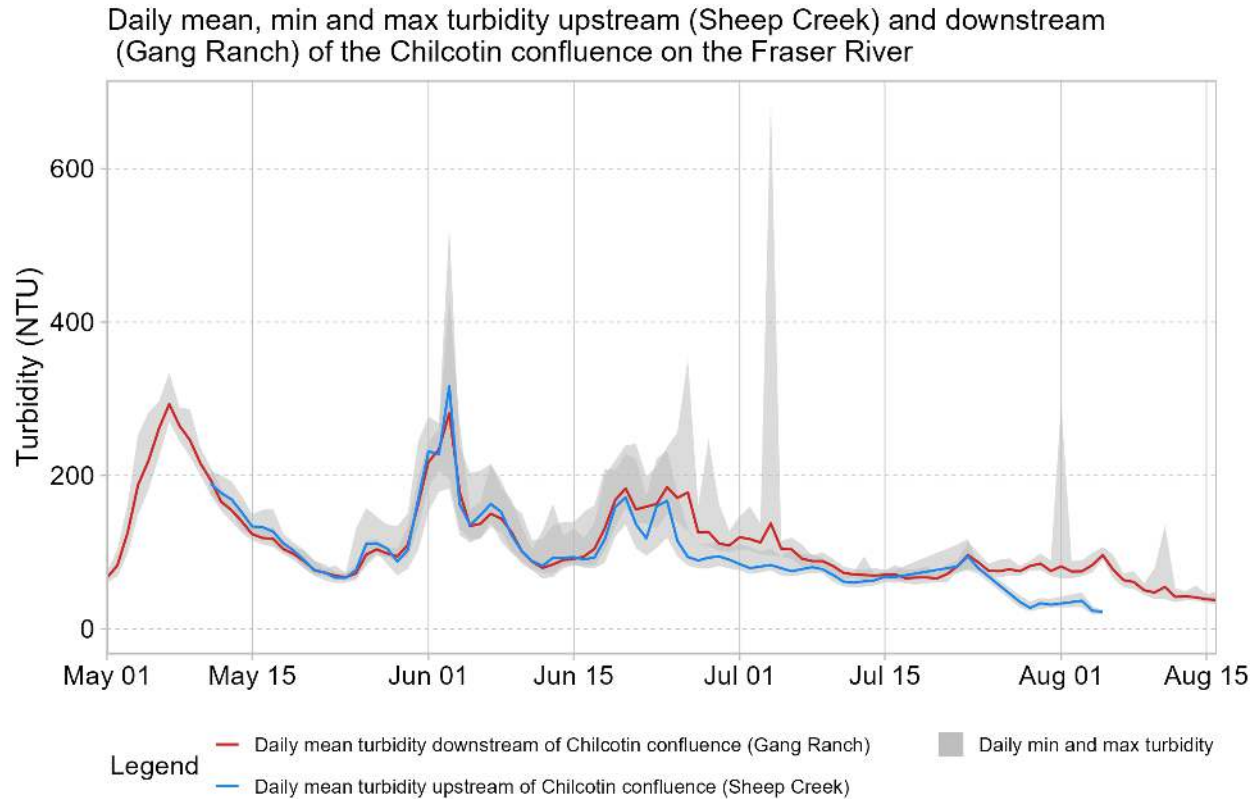




Figure 8. Satellite image of the Chilcotin River at confluence with the Fraser River on August 15, 2026 ([Copernicus 2026](#)).



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