

TNG-led Emergency Salmon Task Force Weekly Data Report August 17 to August 23, 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 23, 2026 (start date varies with program). This summary includes:

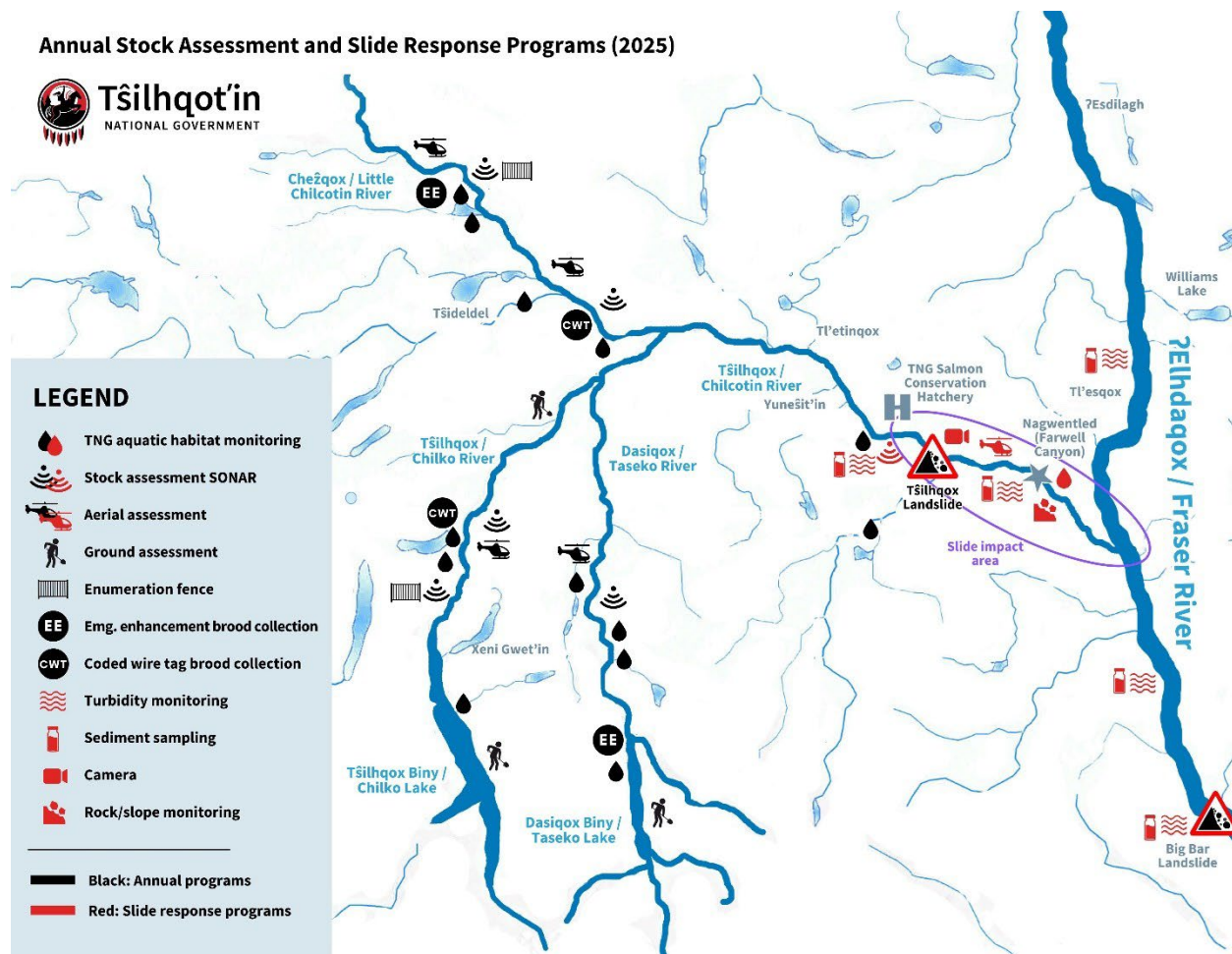
- Salmon passage upstream of the slide site (Hanceville) and concurrent turbidity and flow conditions downstream of the slide site (Farwell Canyon);
- River conditions in the Chilcotin River upstream and downstream of the slide site (turbidity and discharge) and the Fraser River upstream and downstream of the Chilcotin River confluence (turbidity).

Key observations from this period include:



- A cumulative total of 130,395 salmon have been counted since the start of the program on June 16, 2026, including 6,406 salmon >80 cm in length, 16,664 salmon 65 to 79 cm in length, and 107,325 salmon 50 to 64 cm in length (Section 2.1).
- Detections of 50 to 64 cm salmon at Hanceville increased significantly this week, with an average of 14,582 fish per day counted in this size bin (up from an average of 449 fish per day from August 10-16). Across the same period, mean daily counts of 65 to 79 cm salmon increased from 306 to 1,526 fish per day and mean daily counts of 80+ cm salmon decreased from 120 to 108 fish per day.
- 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 137 NTU) occurred downstream of the slide site on August 21, 2026 (recorded at Farwell Canyon). Turbidity above the slide site (Hanceville) on the same day remained lower, with a daily maximum of 36 NTU.
- Daily mean turbidity in the Chilcotin River downstream of the slide site (Farwell Canyon) is 15 NTU higher (as of August 23, 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 18.7°C, with an overall mean of 17.7°C. In Farwell Canyon, mean daily water temperatures ranged from 16.2°C to 18.3°C (mean = 17.4°C). Daily maximum water temperatures ranged from 16.8°C to 20°C (mean = 18.8°C) at Hanceville and from 16.9°C to 18.9°C (mean = 18.2°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 130,395 salmon have been counted (Figure 4 and Table 1), including 6,406 presumed Chinook Salmon (>80 cm in length), 107,325 salmon between 50 to 64 cm in length, and 16,664 salmon between 65 to 79 cm in length. Program-to-date peak daily counts occurred on August 6 for Chinook ($n = 381$), August 22 for 50 to 64 cm salmon ($n = 26,406$), and August 19 for 65 to 79 cm salmon ($n = 3,414$).



During the current reporting period (August 17 to August 23, 2026), 113,521 salmon were counted. This includes 756 presumed Chinook Salmon (>80 cm in length), that were observed from August 17 to August 23 with peak counts ($n = 165$) occurring on August 18, as well as 102,078 salmon between 50 to 64 cm in length and 10,687 salmon between 65 to 79 cm in length. 50 to 64 cm salmon observations occurred from August 17 to August 23 and peak counts occurred on August 22 ($n = 26,406$). 65 to 79 cm salmon were observed from August 17 to August 23, 2026 and peak dates occurred on August 19 ($n = 3,414$).

2. Field Summary of Sonar Operation

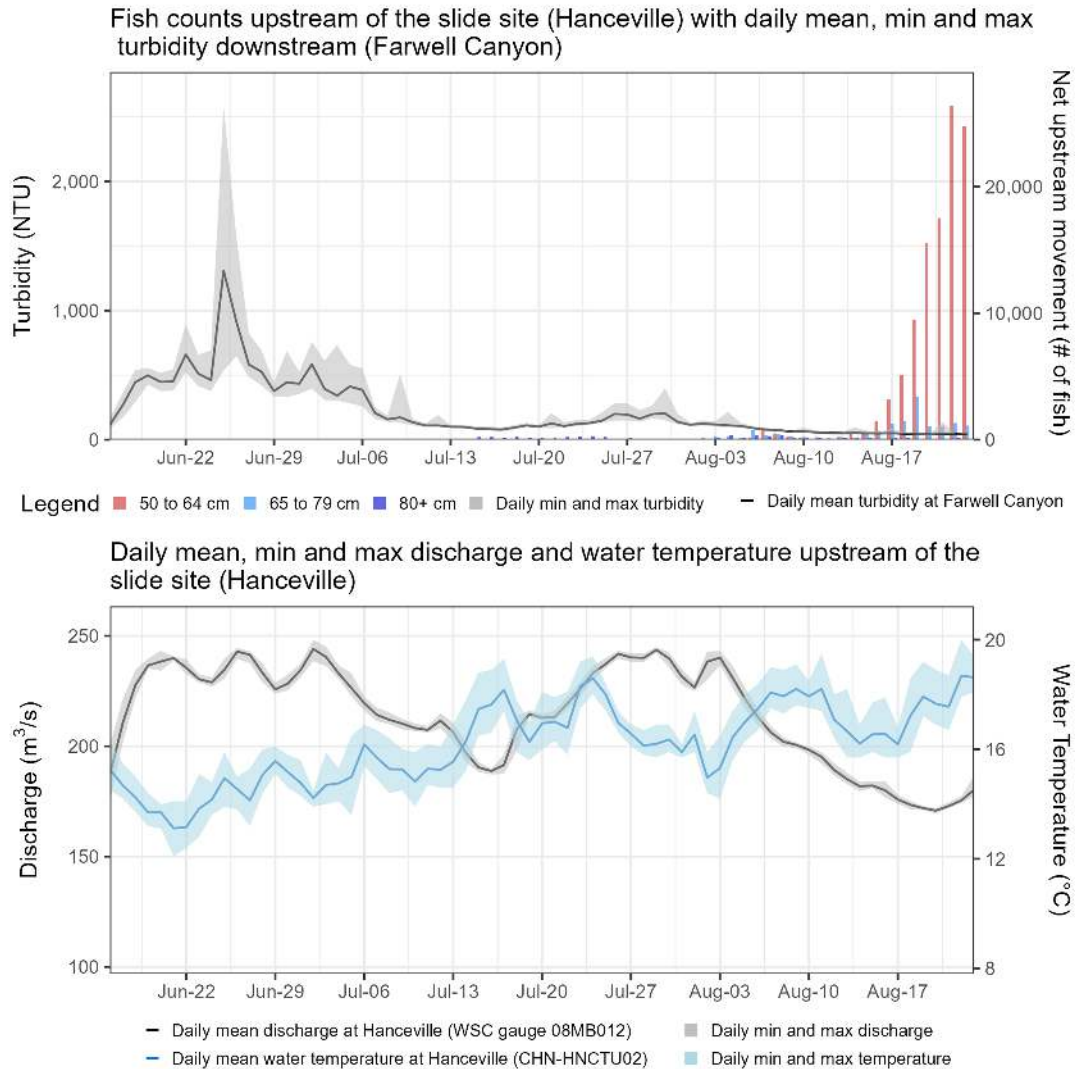
Both river-left and river-right Hanceville sonar stations operated without interruption during the Week 10 reporting period. Reduced file review effort protocols established in 2025 were implemented on August 22, 2026. Under these protocols, file review effort was reduced from 20 minutes per hour to 10 minutes per hour when previous days expanded daily counts exceed 10,000 fish on a single sonar.

Figure 2. View of the river left Hanceville sonar station. Captured on August 20, 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 23, 2026.

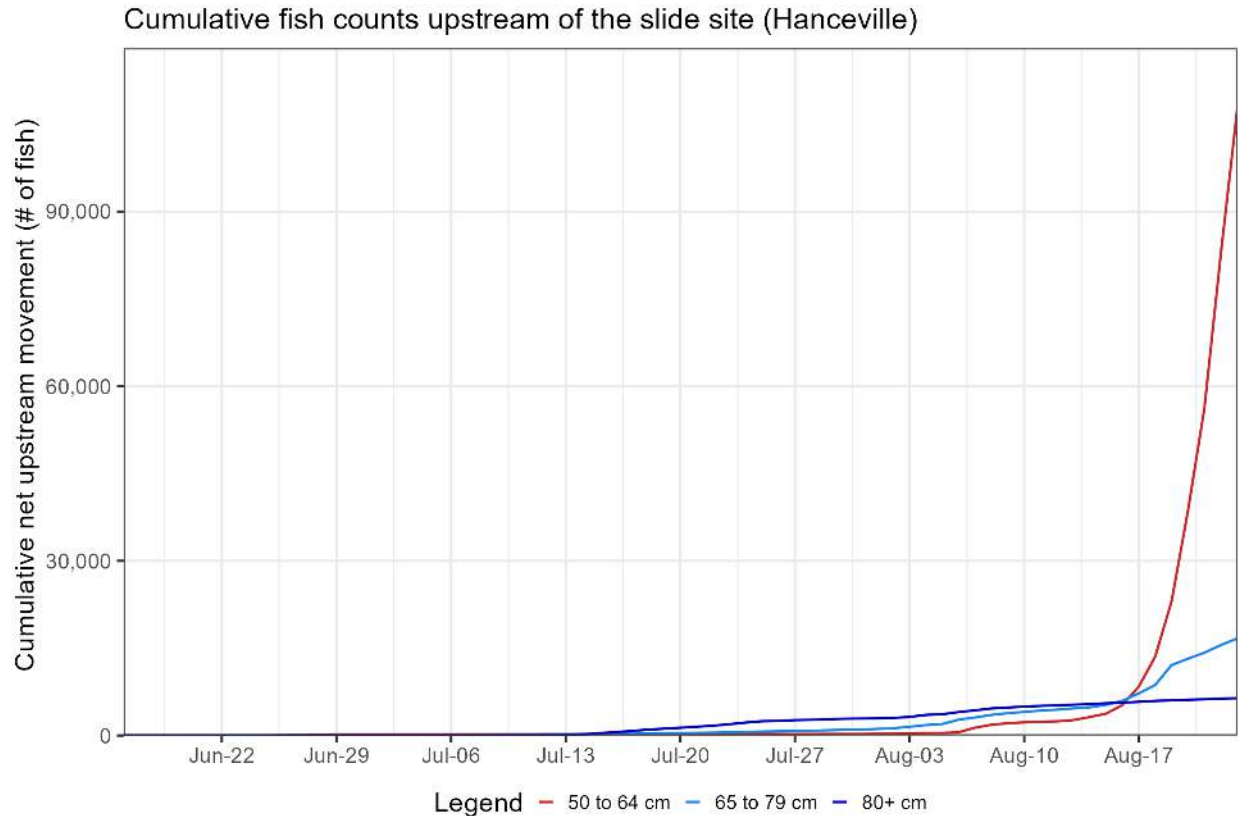


¹ One sonar file was reviewed per hour of sonar operation, with the duration reviewed determined by abundance of fish the previous day at each station. To estimate total fish passage per hour, the hourly counts were expanded by a factor of 60 divided by minutes reviewed to expand to the full hour. Infilling 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 23, 2026.



4. RIVER CONDITIONS UPDATE

4.1. Chilcotin River Turbidity, Flow and Temperature

During the period of August 17 to August 23, 2026, discharge in the Chilcotin River upstream of the Tsilhqox slide site (Hanceville) ranged from 167 m³/s to 180 m³/s (mean = 174 m³/s) (Figure 5). Turbidity ranged from 24 NTU to 39 NTU at Hanceville, with an overall mean of 28 NTU. Downstream of the Tsilhqox slide site (Farwell Canyon) turbidity was higher, ranging from 37 NTU to 137 NTU, with an overall mean of 45 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 23, 2026.

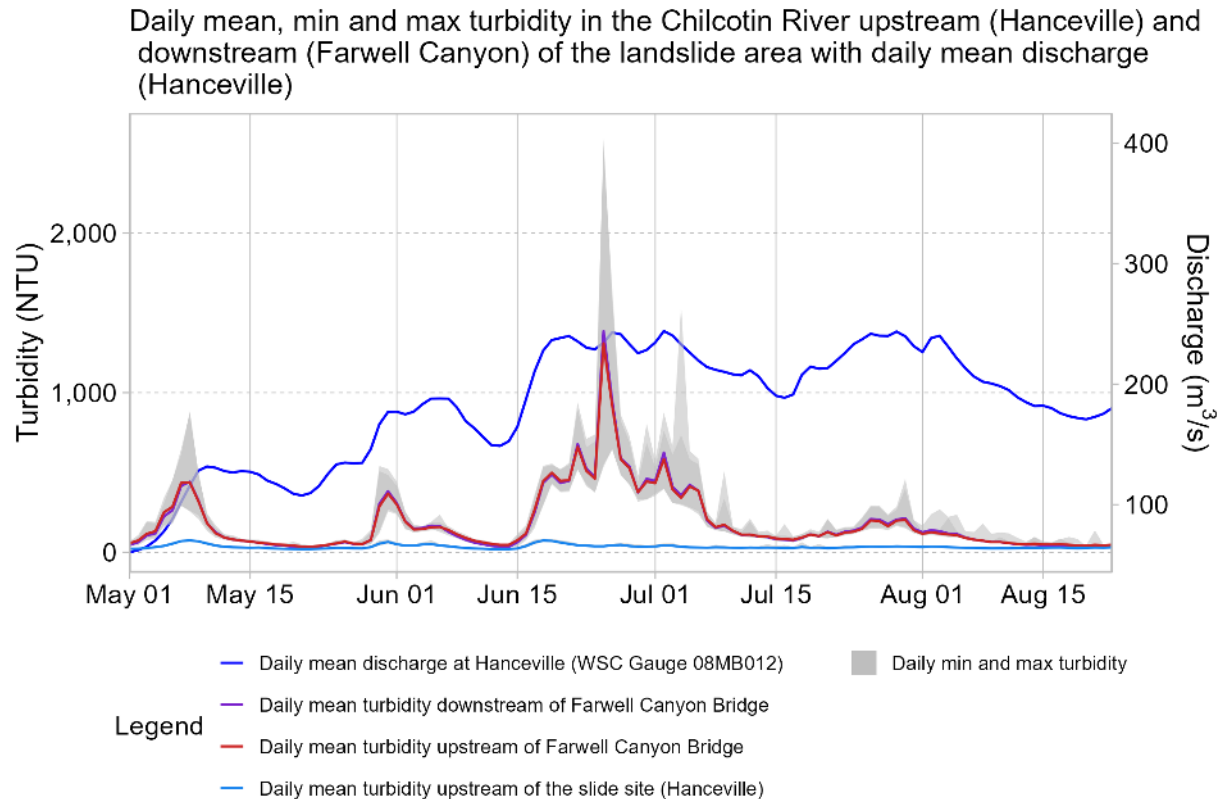




Figure 6. Satellite image of Chilcotin River upstream (left) and downstream (right) of the Tsilhqox slide site on August 20, 2026 ([Copernicus 2026](#)).



4.2. Fraser River Turbidity and Flow

During the period of August 17 to August 23, 2026, turbidity downstream of the Chilcotin-Fraser confluence (Gang Ranch) ranged from 25 NTU to 45 NTU (mean = 31 NTU) (Figure 7). 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.



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 23, 2026.

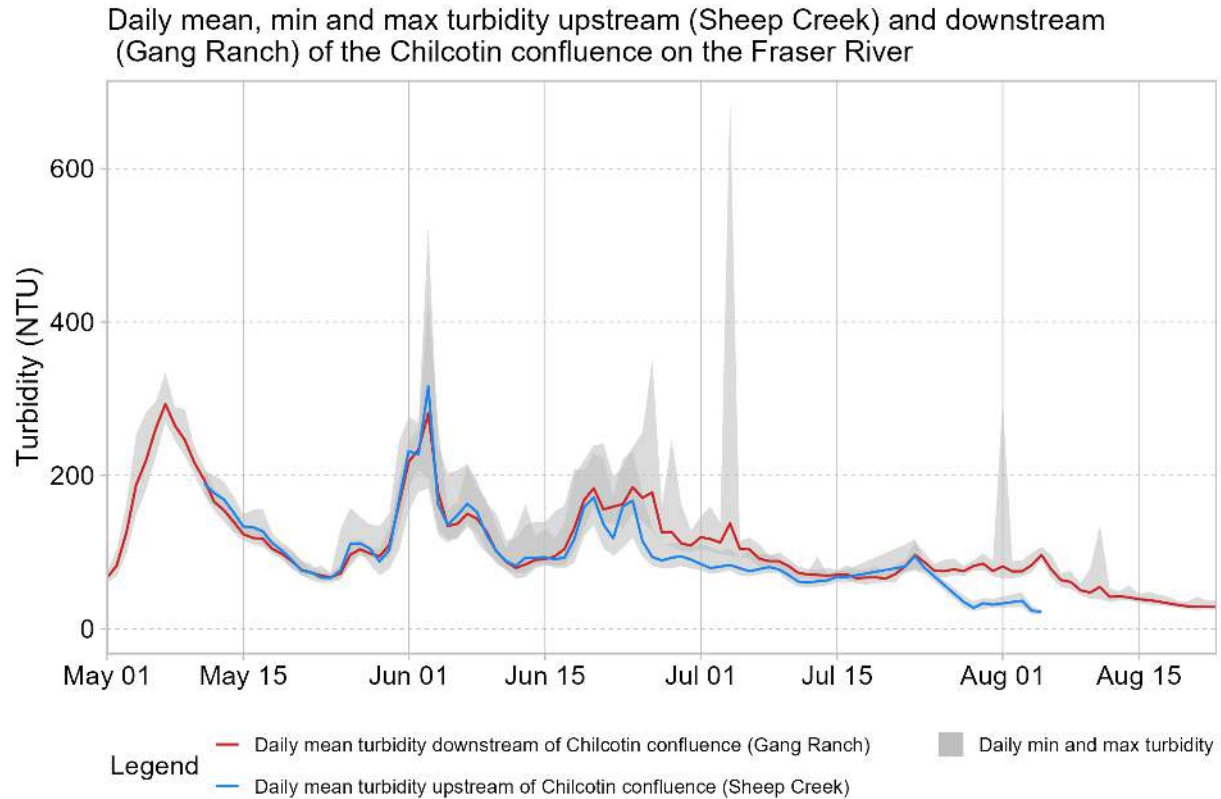




Figure 8. Satellite image of the Chilcotin River at confluence with the Fraser River on August 20, 2026 ([Copernicus 2026](#)).



Disclaimer: The values and plots presented in this summary should be considered provisional until Trinity Consultants Canada and TNG perform standard QA/QC procedures, respectively. Data are subject to change post-season. The material in this memorandum reflects the best judgement of Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) in light of the information available at the time of preparation. Any use which a third party makes of this memorandum, or any reliance on or decisions made based on it, is the responsibility of such third parties. TNG and Ecofish accept no responsibility for damages, if any, suffered by any third party as a result of decisions or actions based on this memorandum. This memorandum is a controlled document. Any reproductions of this memorandum are uncontrolled and may not be the most recent revision.