



TNG FISHERIES

The latest information important to T̓silhqot'in fish and fishing activities

This is the **final** TNG Fisheries in-season bulletin of the 2026 season! These bulletins are released weekly throughout the salmon season (mid July to early September) to provide updates on the state of T̓silhqot'in fisheries and work in the field. These bulletins are publicly available on the TNG Facebook page and on the TNG website at www.tsilhqotin.ca/our-territory/fisheries/communications.

2026 Fishing Season Update

TNG Fisheries continues to see a good return of Ja̓s (Chinook) and Ts'eman (sockeye) to the Chilcotin system, and good catch numbers to date. Ts'eman catches/numbers have increased rapidly over the last couple of weeks, and we are now approaching the later part of the Chilko Ts'eman run. We expect that numbers will continue to be strong for the next 1 to 2 weeks as we near the end of the run.

On June 4, 2026 the T̓silhqot'in Council of Chiefs approved the 2026 Fisheries Plan. The plan supports harvest opportunity when the stronger Chilko populations of Ja̓s and Ts'eman return to the Territory, and requests that fishers follow voluntary measures to protect early-timed Ja̓s and Ts'eman populations that are at high risk of extinction. Please see the current requested voluntary protection measure below, and see the 2026 Fisheries Plan attached (pg. 4).

Current Requested Voluntary Protection Measure:

- Please do not fish for Ja̓s in the Che̓zqox (Little Chilcotin) system upstream from the 7km signboard on the Chezacut road for the full fishing season.

Moving forward, the TNG Fisheries Team will be shifting from an in-season focus to post-season analysis of data and information about the 2026 salmon season.

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In-Season Update

Over the last 2 weeks we've seen Ts'eman catches steadily increase with the arrival of more Chilko Ts'eman in the Territory. We are very happy that people are continuing to **successfully catch Jaš and Ts'eman!** To date, Nagwentled (Farwell) has had the highest catch total, followed by Gwetsilh (Siwash).

TNG catch monitors are out at fishing sites collecting critical information to help us understand the condition of fish, number of fishers, fishing site use, and overall numbers of Jaš and Ts'eman harvested. This information is important to TNG to inform future decision making and actions to support our fish and fisheries. Thank you to fishers who have provided information to the TNG catch monitors!

Jaš (Chinook):

- The Jaš fishery has been going well since it began on July 10. We continue to see good participation from fishers and good catch numbers to date.
- Our in-season monitoring programs show that the Jaš return continues to show strong numbers.
- Information from TNG's catch monitoring program indicates that the Jaš catch to date is approx. 372 fish.
- The Jaš fishery will continue until the end of fishing season.

Ts'eman (sockeye):

- As laid out in the 2026 Tšilhqot'in Fisheries Plan, the Ts'eman harvest fishery started on August 6.
- Data from the TNG-led Hanceville sonar shows that Chilko Ts'eman continue to enter the Chilcotin system in strong numbers, and we are currently in the main part of the Chilko Ts'eman run (approaching the later part of the run). We expect to continue seeing strong numbers over the next 1 to 2 weeks.
- The Chilko sonar continues to monitor returning Chilko Ts'eman as they arrive to spawn in Chilko Lake.
- Information from TNG's catch monitoring program indicates that the Ts'eman catch to date is approx. 9800 fish.
- The Ts'eman fishery will continue until the end of fishing season.

Hanceville Sonar:

- The Hanceville sonar has been operating since June 16 to count Jaš and Ts'eman as they move toward their spawning grounds in Tšilhqot'in Territory. The sonar has counted a cumulative total of 315,729 salmon (including Jaš and Ts'eman). The TNG Fisheries team looks at the size of salmon as they pass the sonar to determine whether they are Jaš or Ts'eman; our counts show that approx. 286,000 of the fish that have passed to date were Ts'eman; approx. 6600 were Jaš; and approx. 23,000 were a mix Ts'eman and Jaš, with the sizes too close to differentiate between the species.
- The Hanceville sonar program will conclude on September 4.

Environmental conditions:

- Fraser River temperatures are now past their peak for the year and are expected to continue to slowly cool as we get closer to fall.
- Migration conditions for returning salmon remain good in the Chilcotin River, including cooler water temperatures and moderate flows.

Scenes from the Field

Lower Chilcotin Jaš Coded Wire Tag (CWT) Brood Stock Collection



The Lower Chilcotin Jaš CWT program, a TNG-DFO partnership, is a new stock assessment program that allows us to track where Lower Chilcotin Jaš go in the ocean, how many are harvested and where, and their overall survival. Eggs and milt (sperm) are collected from adult Jaš. The eggs are then fertilized, raised to the smolt stage in hatcheries, and tagged for tracking. The smolts will be released back into the Lower Chilcotin River in spring 2028 for their ocean migration.

Left: TNG Fisheries Technician Winston Bambrick holds a female Jaš captured on Aug 27 during brood (parent) stock collection for the program. This Jaš was a kelt, meaning she had already spawned, so the team released her.

Lower Chilcotin Jaš Aerial Assessment



TNG Fisheries Technician Hayden Grinder in the helicopter conducting a Lower Chilcotin Jaš assessment flight on Aug 28.

Scenes from the 2026 Fishery



TNG Fisheries Manager Randy Billyboy helping his daughter Scarlett with dipnet fishing just below Tl'etingox on Aug 29.



Confluence of the Chilko River (left, blue/green water) and the Chilcotin River (darker water) where the Lower Chilcotin assessment flight begins (Aug 28).

For more information about the TNG Fisheries Program, visit the TNG Fisheries page on the TNG website at www.tsilhqotin.ca/our-territory/fisheries

For questions please contact TNG Fisheries Manager Randy Billyboy: rbillyboy@tsilhqotin.ca / 250-392-3918

T̓silhqot'in Fisheries Plan - 2026 Salmon Season

Approved by the Tâilhqot'in Council of Chiefs, June 4, 2026

The TNG Fisheries team anticipates a good return of summer Ja's and Ts'eman to support traditional fisheries on both the Chilcotin and Fraser River mainstems.

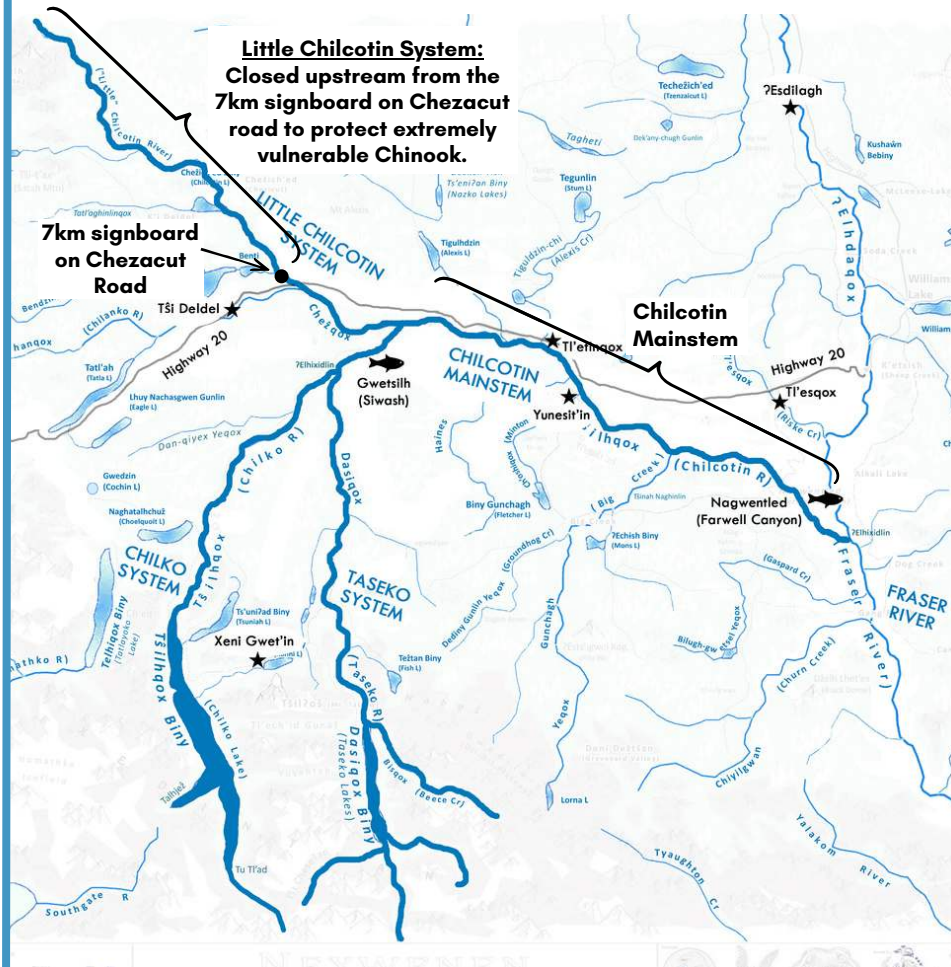
Two early-timed populations remain at a high risk of extirpation (local extinction). The T̓silhqot'in Council of Chiefs requests voluntary compliance with limited measures to protect these 2 specific populations – Upper Chilcotin Ja̓s (Chinook) and Taseko Ts'eman (sockeye).

**REQUESTED VOLUNTARY
PROTECTION MEASURES FOR THE
MOST VULNERABLE JA'Û AND
TS'EMAN:**

#1. If you can, please delay harvest of Jaš in the Chilko/Chilcotin mainstem until **Friday, July 10, 2026** when the stronger Chilko and Lower Little Chilcotin Jaš populations will be in the Territory and allow critically endangered early-timed Upper Chilcotin Jaš to continue to their spawning grounds.

#2. If you can, please delay harvest of Ts'eman in the Chilko/Chilcotin mainstem until **Thursday, August 6, 2026** when the stronger Chilko Ts'eman population will be in the Territory and allow critically endangered early-timed Taseko Ts'eman to continue to their spawning grounds.

#3. Please do not fish for Jaš in the Little Chilcotin system upstream from the 7km signboard on the Chezacut road for the full fishing season to protect the critically endangered Upper Chilcotin Jaš.



We can all help protect our at-risk Ja'ê and Ts'eman populations for the future by allowing them to safely return to their spawning grounds.

Please Note: Fishery opening dates may be adjusted in-season as more information becomes available, and under extreme circumstances, emergency conservation measures may be implemented.

Updated July 29, 2026