



# TNG FISHERIES

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



## TNG Fisheries Update: Thursday, August 26, 2021

We're glad to report continued good news for Chilko Ts'eman (sockeye)! Last week we reported an estimate of 500,000 to 650,000 fish; as assessment information continues to roll in, our best estimate has increased this week to potentially over 700,000. The leading edge of the Chilko run has now reached the spawning grounds, and the tail end is still migrating through the ocean toward the Fraser River. Chilko is the strongest Fraser salmon run in 2021.

Paired with favourable environmental conditions (e.g. water temps/flows) and good passage at Big Bar, best available science shows that Chilko Ts'eman can continue to sustain a T̓silhqot'in fishery in the Chilcotin watershed. On August 25th, T̓silhqot'in National Government leadership announced an extension of the Chilko Ts'eman FSC fishery until September 8 (see fisheries extension notice on page 2); this will be re-evaluated by T̓silhqot'in Leadership based on updated technical information closer to that time. Due to ongoing conservation concerns for Ja̓s̓ (Chinook) and Tislagh (steelhead), it's requested that any Ja̓s̓ and Tislagh be released back into the river.

TNG Fisheries will continue to monitor and assess technical information on the status of the Chilko Ts'eman stock and the fishery and provide updates to TNG Leadership and communities.

***See page 2 for the extension notice for the current fishery opening for Chilko Ts'eman and retention of pink salmon.***

***For questions contact TNG Fisheries Manager Randy Billyboy  
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## FISHERIES TEAM

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With regular support from:

**Andrea Sterling**, Biologist, Water Quality and Quantity Program, Conservation Hatchery Feasibility, Emergency Enhancement; and Aimee Arsenault, Communications; and additional technical support from: **John Hagen**, Conservation Biologist, Chilcotin Steelhead; and **Gottfried Pestal**, Quantitative Biologist, Biological Benchmarks.



## SOCKEYE TEMPORARY OPENING EXTENDED

The T̓silhqot'in Council of Chiefs declared a temporary opening of T̓silhqot'in Sockeye (Ts'eman) Fisheries to members, which took effect on Thursday, August 19th at 6 PM. The temporary opening **is extended until Wednesday, September 8th at 6 PM**, at which time it will be re-evaluated by T̓silhqot'in Leadership based on updated technical information.

The temporary opening is **strictly for Sockeye (Ts'eman)** in the Lower Chilcotin River to the confluence with the Fraser, and the Chilko River, and **NOT for the Fraser.**

The temporary opening is to allow for sustenance and ceremonial fishing.

At this time, please release any Chinook (Ja̓s̓) and Steelhead and **take only the Sockeye (Ts'eman)** you need due to continued conservation concerns. Any bi-catch of Pink Salmon can also be harvested.

Due to COVID-19, please practice social distancing while fishing.

We will keep communities informed about the state of Chilko Sockeye (Ts'eman) through our weekly in-season communications, and any updates on the fisheries temporary opening will be shared through all available channels.

### TAKE ONLY WHAT YOU NEED!

Stay up-to-date on TNG Fisheries: <https://www.tsilhqotin.ca/fisheries/>





## IF YOU CATCH A TAGGED FISH:

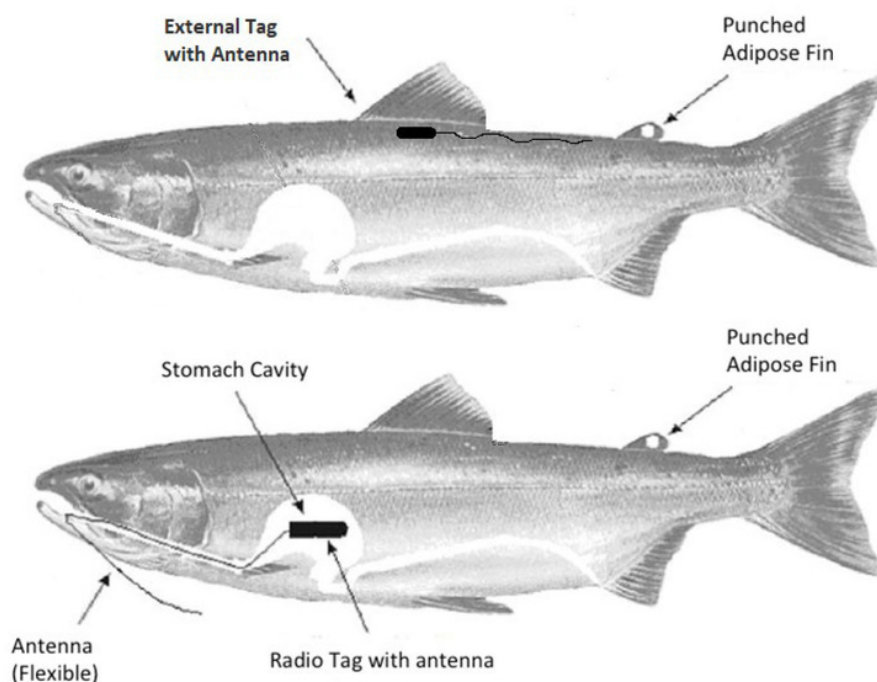
As part of the response to the Big Bar slide, First Nations, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Province of BC are working together to tag adult salmon with radio tracking transmitters. These transmitters relay important information to stations along the Fraser River that allow us to evaluate salmon migration success as they travel up the Fraser River and tributaries to their natal streams.

**If you catch a tagged fish, please report the tag number along with the date and location of capture to: [2021BigBar@gmail.com](mailto:2021BigBar@gmail.com)**

**Or you can turn the tags in with the date and location of capture to your catch monitors.**

The information will be used to help understand the impacts of the Big Bar landslide and improve our understanding of salmon migration biology.

Radio tracking transmitters are either attached to the back below the dorsal fin or inserted into the stomach cavity.



**Thank you / Musi / Kukwstumúlhkacw / K<sup>w</sup>uk<sup>w</sup>stéyp,  
Kukwstéc-kucw / Sechanalyagh / Huy ch q'u**

# WEEKLY IN-SEASON FISHERIES UPDATES

for T̓silhqot'in Chiefs,  
Councils, TNG and  
community staff, and  
T̓silhqot'in members,  
including Elders

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**Wednesday Afternoons**  
**1:00PM to 2:00PM**

mid-July to end of August

**2021 Dates:**

Wednesdays, July: 14, 21, 28

Wednesdays, August: 4, 11, 18, 25

Wednesdays, September: 8, TBD!

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**Zoom Meeting Link:**  
[fisheries.live/tng2021](https://fisheries.live/tng2021)

Meeting ID: 869 9877 1924

Passcode: 830690

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**Or Join TOLL FREE by Phone:**

Dial-in: 1-855-703-8985

Meeting ID: 869 9877 1924

Passcode: 830690

In effort to provide timely in-season information on T̓silhqot'in fish and fisheries, the TNG Fisheries Department provides weekly fisheries bulletins and weekly in-season Zoom call updates for Chiefs, Councils, staff, and community members.

We present on salmon populations and returns, fishing opportunities, and TNG Fisheries Department activities.

TNG Fisheries collects, receives and analyzes weekly in-season salmon and fisheries information from our own programs, and from DFO and the Pacific Salmon Commission.

Although TNG Fisheries provides information and works on many aspects of salmon returning to T̓silhqot'in Territory and other parts of the upper Fraser, decisions about 2021 community fisheries openings and closures are made by T̓silhqot'in Leadership, and also by DFO. Fisheries opening and closure notices are shared broadly with communities by TNG central communications.