



# TNG FISHERIES

*The latest information important to T̓silhqot̓in fish and fishing activities*

## 2023 T̓silhqot̓in Fisheries Plan

On July 8th, 2023 TNG shared the **2023 T̓silhqot̓in Fisheries Plan** on behalf of the T̓silhqot̓in Council of Chiefs (please see attached on page 3). The plan schedules **harvest opportunity during what is typically the best fishing time, August 17 to 27**, when the stronger Chilko populations of Ja̓s̓ (Chinook) and Ts'eman (sockeye) return to the Territory. Current information indicates 2023 returns will support Ja̓s̓ and Ts'eman fisheries during that time. **2023 is a Dandzex (pink salmon) year**, which may also provide fishing opportunity.

The plan also **supports T̓silhqot̓in Nation conservation goals** and asks fishers to follow voluntary measures to **help protect highly vulnerable early-timed Chilcotin Ja̓s̓ and Taseko Ts'eman**. This year, our returning Ja̓s̓ and Ts'eman include babies from 2019 parents, which were severely impacted by the Big Bar Landslide. In 2019, our highly vulnerable earliest-timed stocks were hit hardest by Big Bar and high water levels early in the season. For the past 3 years, TNG has been leading emergency conservation enhancement (hatchery) efforts to rebuild and restore these endangered salmon stocks.

## TNG FISHERIES WEEKLY UPDATES

For weekly updates on the status of T̓silhqot̓in salmon and fisheries and TNG Fisheries Department activities, please see our weekly TNG Fisheries updates online at [www.tsilhqotin.ca/fisheries](http://www.tsilhqotin.ca/fisheries) and on the TNG Facebook page.

For questions please contact TNG Fisheries Manager  
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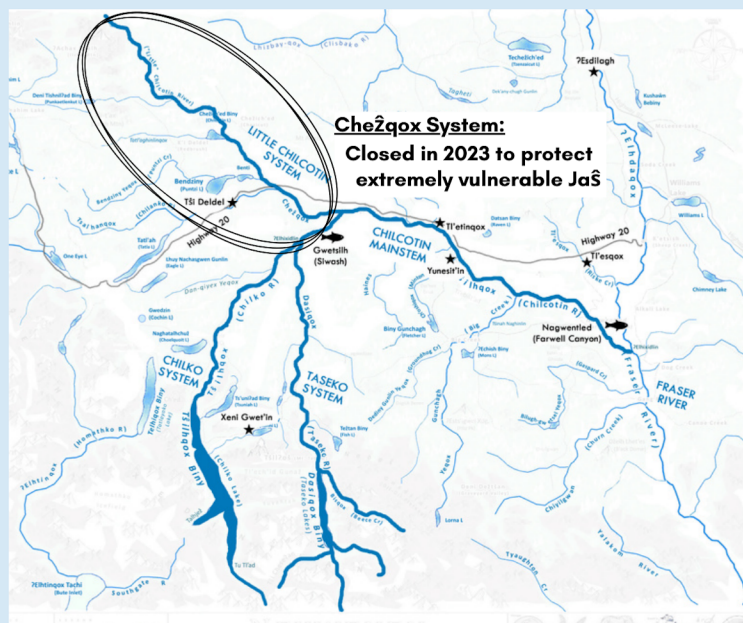
## 2023 Fisheries Plan – Voluntary Protection Measures:

**#1. Please do not fish for Ja̓s̓ in the Che̓zqox system above the Chilko/Chilcotin junction for the full fishing season.**

- Protect our most vulnerable Ja̓s̓ populations as they return to their spawning grounds.

**#2. Please do not fish for Ja̓s̓ or Ts'eman in the Chilcotin/Chilko mainstem until the scheduled opening of August 17 to 27, 2023.**

- Allow vulnerable early-timed Ja̓s̓ and Taseko Ts'eman to return to their spawning grounds.
- Reduce initial pressure on Ts'eman.
- This opening may be extended based on in-season information.



## Environmental Conditions

- While environmental conditions are not currently impacting our fisheries planning, we are closely monitoring 2 key sets of conditions – **low water levels** and **warm water temperatures** – both within the Territory through TNG’s water monitoring program, and outside the Territory along the whole Fraser River migration route. These conditions are important because:
- **Low water levels** can impact the amount and quality of available salmon spawning area;
- **Warm water temperatures** can cause stress for salmon, impact their ability to reach their spawning grounds, and reduce spawning success.
- With this year’s low water levels, combined with work done the past few years to restore passage at Big Bar, salmon passage hasn’t been a problem to date in 2023. This is good news, especially for our highly vulnerable early-timed Ts’eman and Jaŝ.

## Jaŝ (Chinook) In-Season Update

- Jaŝ passage has been good throughout the Fraser, including at Hell’s Gate and Big Bar.
- TNG Fisheries has detected Jaŝ in the Chilcotin system with our Junction SONAR project; we are now setting up for emergency enhancement brood stock collection (eggs and milt) in the Upper Chilcotin.
- Jaŝ monitoring in the Chilko system (mark and recapture) and the Upper Chilcotin system (helicopter survey) starts in 2 weeks.
- **Conservation Concern:** Both Jaŝ populations in the Cheŝqox are extremely vulnerable due to Big Bar and other impacts, and TNG has been leading emergency conservation enhancement (hatchery) efforts to rebuild and restore these endangered Jaŝ. This is why the 2023 Tŝilhqot’in Fisheries Plan requests not fishing in the Cheŝqox for the full fishing season.

## Ts’eman (Sockeye) In-Season Update

- Early Stuart Ts’eman are now showing up on their natal spawning grounds in the Stuart River system. They are a high conservation concern.
- Early run Taseko Ts’eman are now in the Fraser and Chilcotin Rivers and are migrating toward their spawning grounds.
- Our pilot sonar project near the Chilcotin/Fraser junction has detected Ts’eman-sized fish migrating into Tŝilhqot’in Territory.
- TNG Fisheries completed SONAR installation in the Taseko River (today!) to count Taseko Ts’eman and prepare for emergency enhancement brood stock collection (eggs and milt) in early September.
- **Conservation Concern:** This year’s returning Ts’eman are from 2019 parents, which were severely impacted by the Big Bar Landslide – particularly early returning Taseko Ts’eman. This is why the 2023 Tŝilhqot’in Fisheries Plan requests not fishing before the scheduled opening that begins August 17.
- It is still early in the salmon season, and Chilko Ts’eman (the basis for the Tŝilhqot’in Ts’eman fishery) are just starting to show up in ocean test fisheries. More information on the Chilko run will be available in the coming weeks.

## FISHERIES TEAM

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With regular support from:  
**Andrea Sterling**, Biologist,  
Water Monitoring Program,  
Conservation Hatchery,  
Emergency Enhancement;  
and **Aimee Arsenault**,  
Communications.



Taseko SONAR installation was completed today (Wednesday) to count vulnerable Taseko Ts’eman.



TNG’s new Conservation Hatchery Manager Wayne Levesque snapped this photo at the hatchery site last night (Tuesday). We’re now conducting systems testing and training, and are on track for full operation including egg incubation and rearing by September 2023.



## 2023 Tśilhqot'in Nation Salmon Fisheries Plan

July 8, 2023

**The Tśilhqot'in Council of Chiefs requests voluntary compliance with limited measures to protect extremely vulnerable Jaś (Chinook) and Ts'eman (sockeye) populations this year.**

### Requested Voluntary Protection Measures:

**#1. Please do not fish for Jaś in the Cheźqox system above the Chilko/Chilcotin junction for the full fishing season.**

- Protect the most vulnerable Jaś populations as they return to their spawning grounds.

**#2. Please do not fish for Jaś or Ts'eman in the Chilcotin/Chilko mainstem until the scheduled opening of August 17 to 27, 2023 (this opening may be extended based on in-season information).**

- Allow vulnerable early-timed Jaś and Taseko Ts'eman to return to their spawning grounds.
- Reduce initial pressure on Ts'eman in a difficult year.

**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.

**Reminder: 2023 is a Dandzex (pink salmon) year!**

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

For weekly updates on the status of Tśilhqot'in stocks, please see our weekly TNG Fisheries updates (starting the week of July 17) at [www.tsilhqotin.ca/fisheries](http://www.tsilhqotin.ca/fisheries) and on the TNG Facebook page.

**For questions please contact TNG Fisheries Manager Randy Billyboy  
Email: [rbillyboy@tsilhqotin.ca](mailto:rbillyboy@tsilhqotin.ca) / Tel: 250-392-3918**