



# TNG FISHERIES

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

## 2023 T̄silhqot̄'in Fisheries Plan

On July 8th, 2023 TNG shared the 2023 T̄silhqot̄'in Fisheries Plan on behalf of the T̄silhqot̄'in Council of Chiefs. The plan prioritizes harvest opportunity while shaping the fishery to help protect our most vulnerable salmon stocks. Please see the Fisheries Plan on page 4.

The plan schedules harvest opportunity during what is typically the best fishing time, August 17 to 27, when the stronger Chilko populations of Jās̄ (Chinook) and Ts'eman (sockeye) return to the Territory; current information indicates 2023 returns will support Jās̄ and Ts'eman fisheries during that time. 2023 is a Dandzex (pink salmon) year, which may also provide fishing opportunity.

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

## FISHERIES TEAM

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 Water Monitoring, Conservation  
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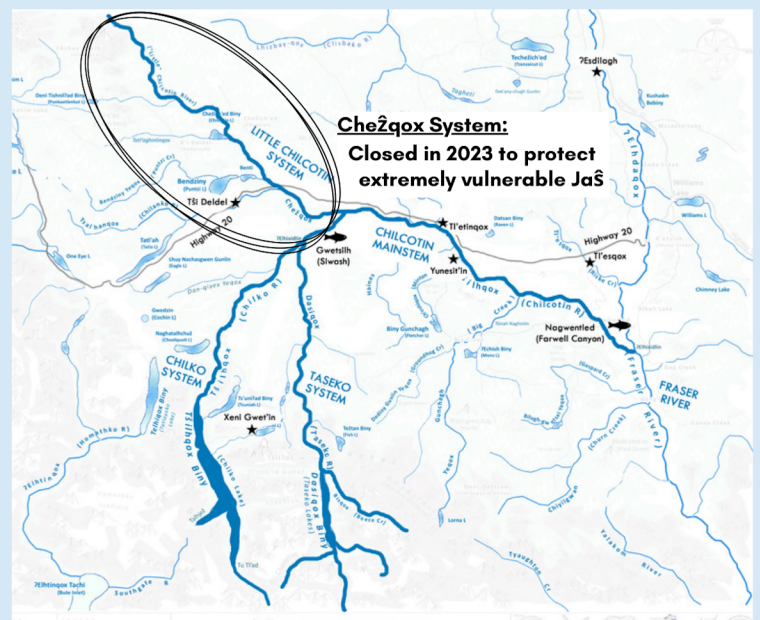
## 2023 Fisheries Plan – Voluntary Protection Measures:

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

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

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

- Allow vulnerable early-timed Jās̄ 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.



## Ts'eman (Sockeye) In-season Update

- **Early Stuart Ts'eman** (that migrate up the Fraser past T̄silhqot'in Territory) are returning in better numbers than expected this year, but are still well below the escapement (spawning) goal. This already vulnerable stock was devastated by the impacts of the Big Bar Landslide, and continue to require a high level of protection.
- The new TNG-led **Fraser/Chilcotin junction SONAR** has confirmed that **Taseko Ts'eman** are now in T̄silhqot'in Territory, based on the early timing. Typically, 70-80% of this year's run would be from the 2019 parent year, so this is an encouraging sign, as no spawners were confirmed in 2019 due to the Big Bar Landslide.
- Our **Taseko SONAR** was set up last week that monitors **Taseko Ts'eman** as they return to their spawning grounds, and we will soon have more detailed information on how many Taseko Ts'eman have returned to the system.
- As in past years, we will be conducting emergency hatchery enhancement to rebuild highly vulnerable **Taseko Ts'eman** (collecting brood stock [eggs and milt], fertilizing eggs, and raising babies in hatcheries to increase their chance of survival).
- **Chilko Ts'eman** have just begun showing up in marine and Lower Fraser assessments and test fisheries. We expect more information by the end of next week that will help us begin to project the ocean return of Chilko Ts'eman.
- TNG Fisheries and DFO completed installation of the **Chilko SONAR** yesterday (Wednesday) to prepare for assessing **Chilko Ts'eman** once they reach the Chilko system.

## Jās̄ (Chinook) In-Season Update

- **Jās̄** passage has been good throughout the Fraser, including at Hell's Gate and Big Bar.
- Our new **Fraser/Chilcotin junction SONAR** has confirmed presence of highly vulnerable early-timed **Chilcotin Jās̄** in the Chilcotin system, which is a good sign! We will receive more information soon on these fish from aerial assessments (helicopter surveys) starting next week, and from SONAR in the lower Little Chilcotin system.
- We are now set up for our third year of emergency enhancement for endangered **Upper Chilcotin Jās̄**. Brood stock collection is scheduled to conclude by August 10.
- Later-timed **Chilko Jās̄** were detected last week in the Fraser River on their way to the Lower Chilcotin/Chilko system. The **Chilko SONAR** (installed yesterday) and our mark and recapture program (starting next week) will provide more information on the status of Chilko Jās̄.

## Environmental Conditions

- We've had hot weather with low precipitation, which raises concerns for water temperature and flows, which we are closely monitoring within and outside T̄silhqot'in Territory.
- Information from TNG's Territory-wide water monitoring program shows that temperatures and water levels/flows in key nursery/spawning areas **within T̄silhqot'in Territory are within normal range**, and remain below the threshold that creates stress for salmon (particularly Ts'eman) – this is good news!
- Temperatures in the **Fraser** are at the **high end of normal** and have reached a level that indicates salmon could have stressful migration conditions in the Fraser. Temperatures are forecast to increase slightly in the next week.
- Flow levels in the **Fraser** are **well below average**. Jās̄ and Ts'eman have been moving without problems throughout the Fraser – there have been no barriers to passage (including Big Bar). This is good news for the highly vulnerable early-timed Taseko Ts'eman and Chilcotin Jās̄ populations that spawn in T̄silhqot'in Territory.
- Elsewhere in the Fraser watershed, low flow conditions are raising concerns for nursery/spawning systems (e.g., extreme drought conditions in the Thompson, record low water levels in Shuswap Lake).

## TNG FISHERIES WEEKLY UPDATES

For weekly updates on the status of T̄silhqot'in 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 Randy Billyboy:  
**rbillyboy@silhqotin.ca**  
**Tel: 250-392-3918**

# SCENES FROM THE FIELD



## TASEKO SONAR

Top: Leonard English downloading Taseko SONAR files. Left: Taseko SONAR site.



## CHILKO SONAR

Left: Winston Bambrick and Gerald William with Andrew Grant (DFO) completing the installation of the Chilko SONAR yesterday (Wednesday). Right: Chilko SONAR site.



## TERRITORY-WIDE WATER MONITORING PROGRAM:

Top left: Winston Bambrick and TNG Ranger Jeremiah Harry measuring water level. Top right: Leonard English surveying water level. Bottom: TNG Rangers Shawn Harry and Corbett Johnny doing water quality instrument training for our habitat monitoring program.



## UPPER CHILCOTIN JAŚ:

Top: TNG crew and UFFCA technicians installing the brood collection fence for emergency hatchery enhancement of endangered Upper Chilcotin JaŚ. Bottom left: Winston Bambrick with UFFCA technicians Carl Siwallace and Brendan Wright installing the fence. Bottom right: Randy Billyboy in the helicopter conducting an aerial survey to assess Upper Chilcotin JaŚ (he saw one JaŚ near the fence!)



## 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