



# NWT Water Monitoring Bulletin

## – May 14, 2025



NWT Water Monitoring Bulletins are posted monthly. These bulletins are intended to provide an update of water flow and level data at select NWT Hydrometric Network gauge stations across the Northwest Territories.

Where available, data from river sites are presented as flow (discharge) or water level and data from lake sites are presented as level. The figures in this report represent current conditions for this year, relative to historic minimum and maximum values, extreme values (10<sup>th</sup> to 90<sup>th</sup> percentiles) and the average range, which is calculated as the interquartile range.

The NWT Hydrometric Network is a partnership between Government of Northwest Territories – Environment and Climate Change (ECC) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and is operated by the Water Survey of Canada (ECCC). Both historic and real-time data for all stations are available at [https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/index\\_e.html](https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/index_e.html). All 2024 and 2025 data are considered provisional and may contain values that are later corrected.

Any questions regarding information contained in this Bulletin can be directed to [NWTWaters@gov.nt.ca](mailto:NWTWaters@gov.nt.ca).

## Current status

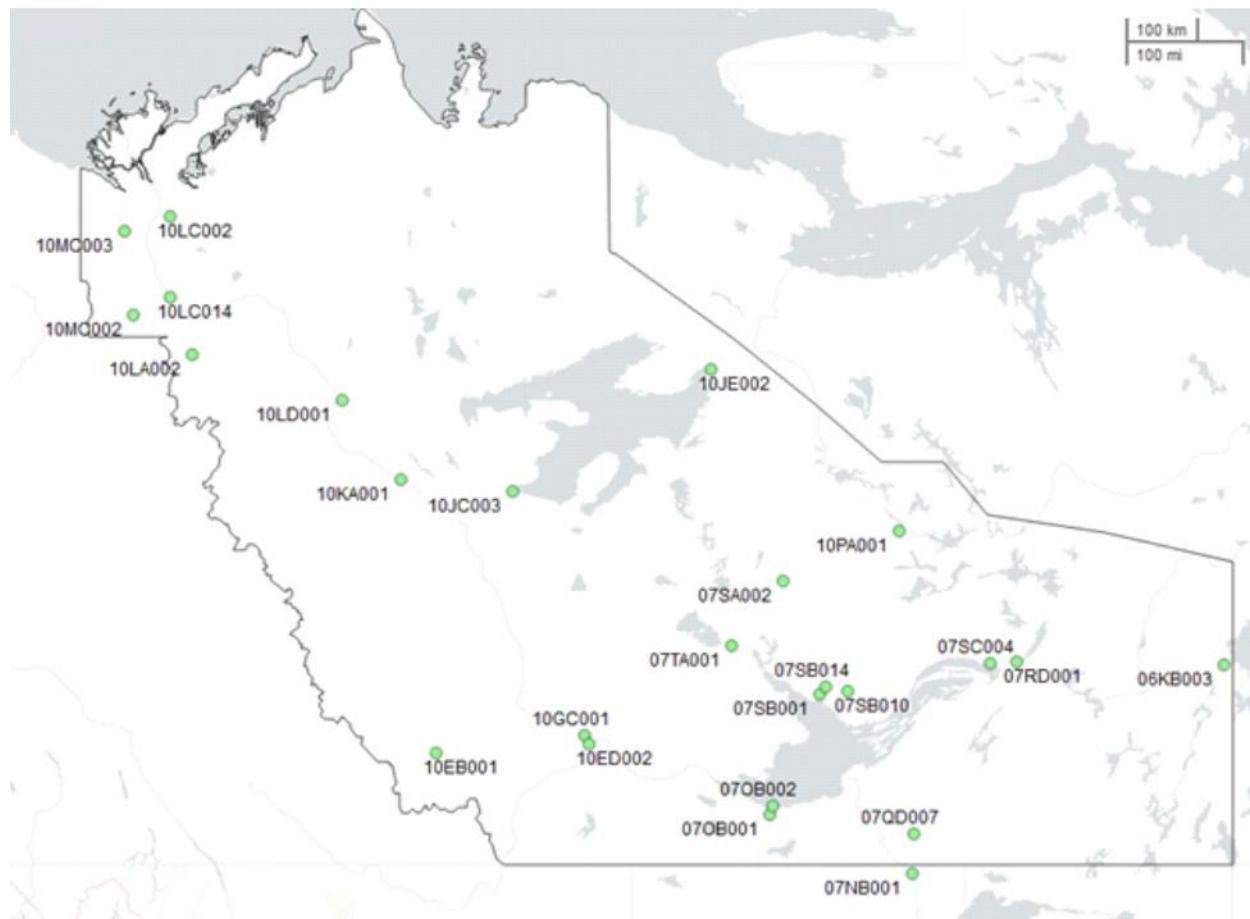
- This report is our **Monthly Water Monitoring Bulletin**, which provides regular updates on water levels and precipitation in the NWT;
  - Our **Spring Break-up Reports** are still being published as needed.
- Water levels and flow rates remain low across most of the NWT with some exceptions.
  - Great Slave Lake water level is currently well below average.
    - The water level is approximately 30 cm higher than the level recorded at this time last year and approximately 20 cm lower than the level recorded this time in 2023.
  - Slave River water level is below the average range for this time of year and is 55 cm higher than the level recorded at this time last year.
  - Liard River water level is well below average for this time of year.
  - Mackenzie River water level, recorded at several stations along the river, is below average for this time of year.
  - Great Bear Lake remains at its lowest water level recorded for this time of year and flow rates on the Great Bear River are well below normal for this time of year.
  - Exceptions to low water levels and flows include:
    - South Nahanni River
    - Some smaller rivers in the Great Slave Lake basin, including:
      - Taltson River
      - Lockhart River
      - Snare River
      - Hoarfrost River
      - Tazin River
- Low water levels are the result of extreme drought conditions that began in the summer of 2022 and have persisted through 2023 and 2024. Water levels have since shown some recovery, but this has mostly been limited to smaller rivers and lakes.
- **April precipitation** across the NWT was variable, where Yellowknife and Norman Wells received approximately average precipitation, Fort Smith and Fort Simpson received well above average precipitation, and Inuvik received well below average precipitation. The amount of precipitation typically received in April is much lower than in July and August.
- Water levels on Great Slave Lake and the Mackenzie River this coming summer will be impacted by rainfall amounts in northern Alberta and British Columbia.
  - So far this spring, precipitation in these areas has been generally below average, with some variability between locations.
- **April temperatures** across the NWT were average to above average.
- Climate forecasts from ECCC for the remainder of May indicate cooler than normal temperatures in the Sahtu and Beaufort-Delta and warmer than normal temperatures in the South Slave. Above average precipitation is forecast for May in the Sahtu region.

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## Hydrometric station map



Above – A map of the hydrometric stations included in this report.

## Information on interpreting figures

### Water level and flow figures

**Note:** Additional grey bands have been added to represent the 10<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> percentiles.

The light blue line shows water levels/flows from last year (2024), while the dark blue line shows current water levels/flows from 2025. The darkest grey band represents the average range (calculated as the interquartile range, which is the 25<sup>th</sup> to 75<sup>th</sup> percentile), the next lightest grey bands represent a wider range of values (10<sup>th</sup> to 90<sup>th</sup> percentiles) and the lightest grey bands represent the highest and lowest levels or flows on record. If the dark blue line is within the dark grey band, current conditions can be assumed to be normal.

**Note:** The grey bands are calculated for data prior to 2024. If the line from 2024 or 2025 is above (or below) the grey band, it means that the water level or flow from that year was the highest (or lowest) on record.

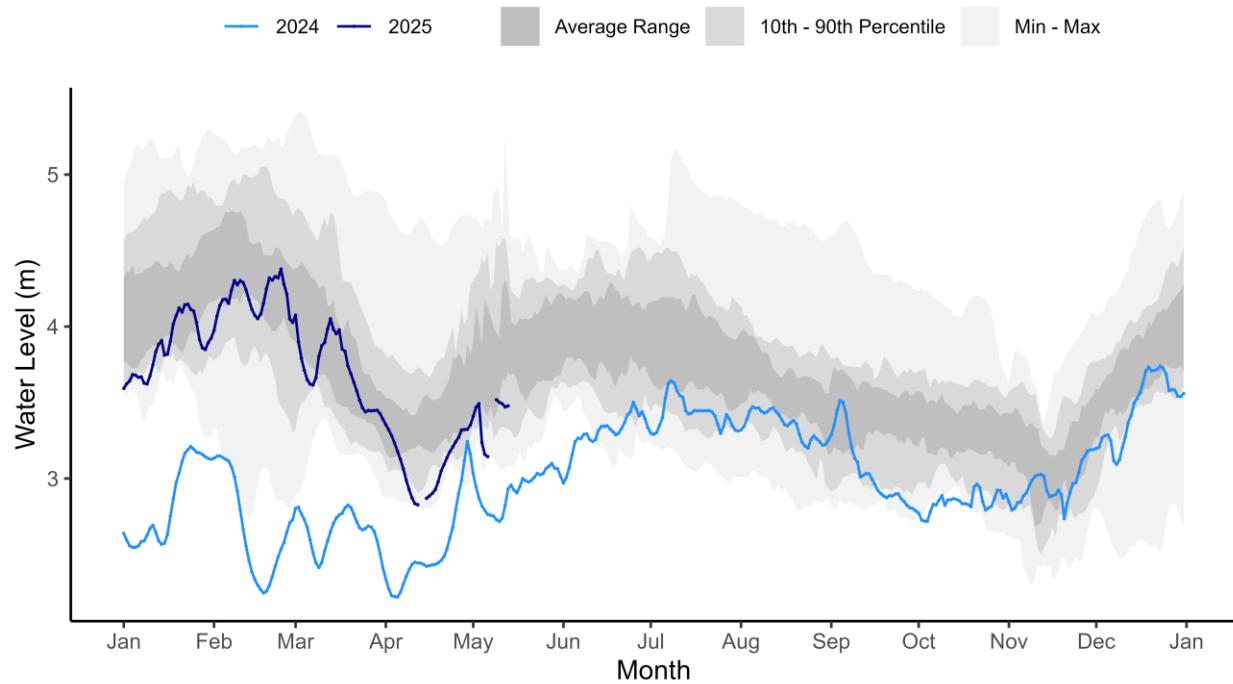
### Climate figures

Monthly air temperature and precipitation data are displayed for six communities in the NWT (Fort Smith, Hay River, Yellowknife, Fort Simpson, Norman Wells, and Inuvik) and presented as box and whisker plots. The box in each plot represents the average range (calculated as the interquartile range) for each month, and the whiskers are the vertical black lines that represent the extreme values (10<sup>th</sup> to 90<sup>th</sup> percentiles). Each grey dot is the value from a previous year, beginning in 1950. The red or blue dots represent the values for the current year. These data are primarily acquired and managed by Environment and Climate Change Canada, but in some cases 2025 values have been infilled with GNWT climate station data when ECCC data are unavailable.

## Water level and flow data

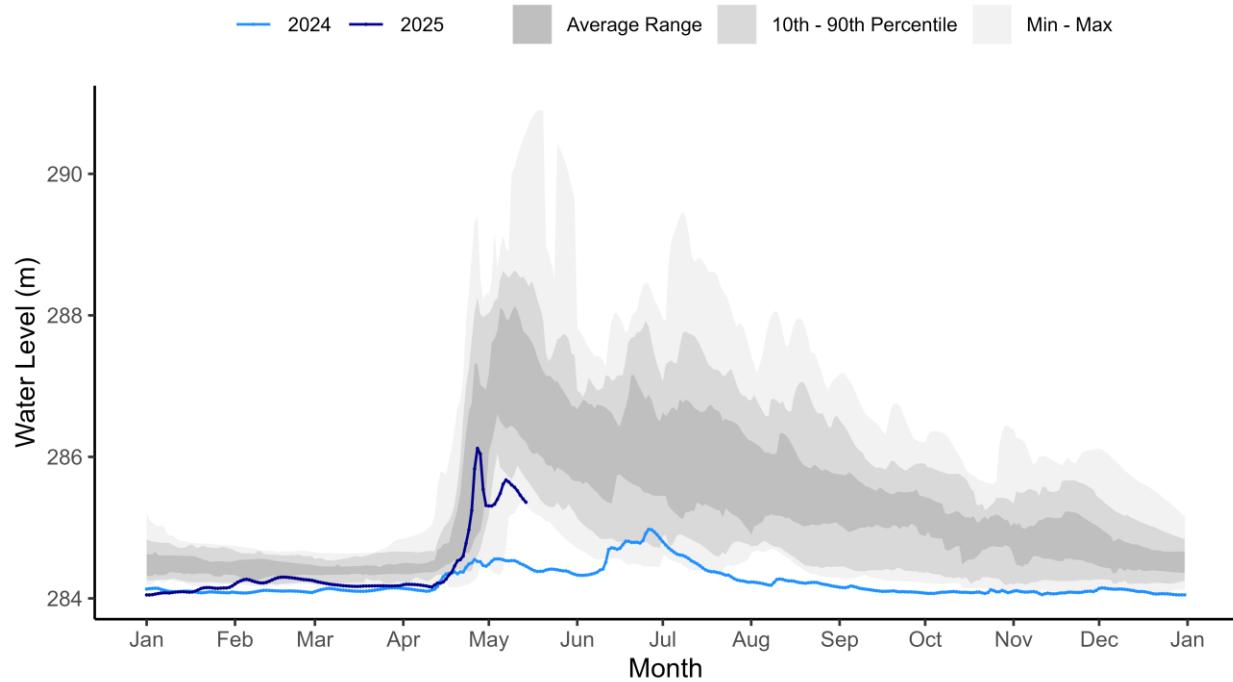
Slave River at Fitzgerald [07NB001]

### SLAVE RIVER AT FITZGERALD (ALBERTA) (07NB001)



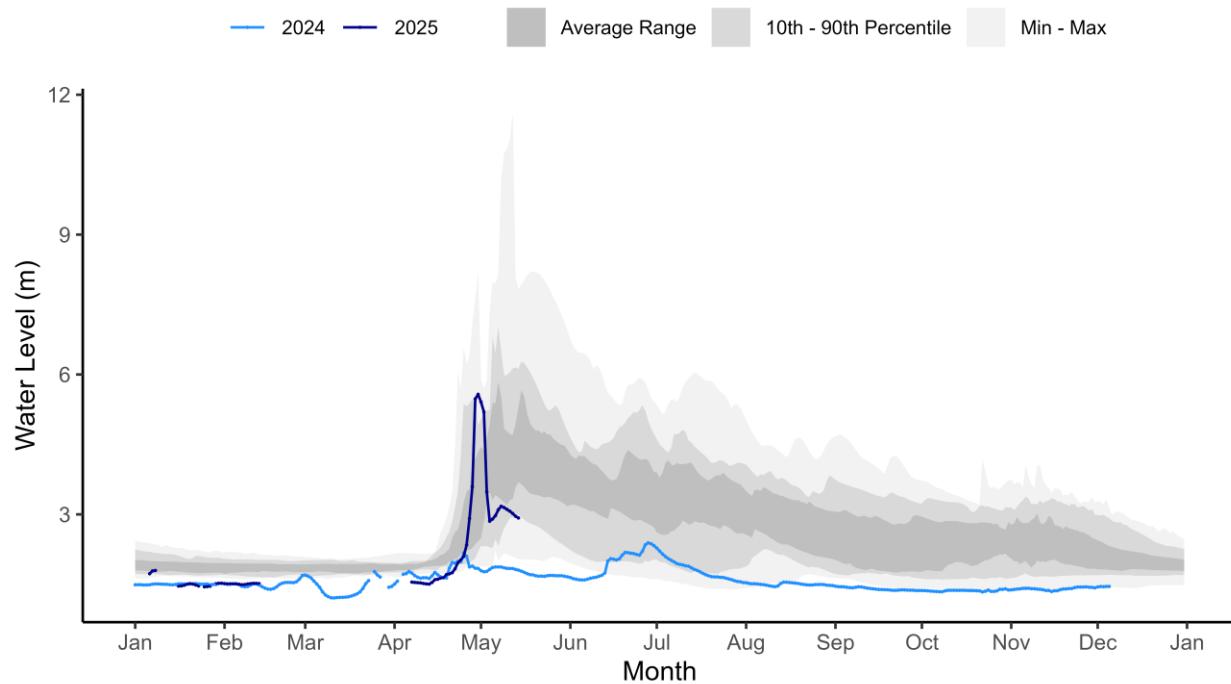
Hay River near Alberta/NWT Boundary [07OB008]

### HAY RIVER NEAR ALTA/NWT BOUNDARY (07OB008)



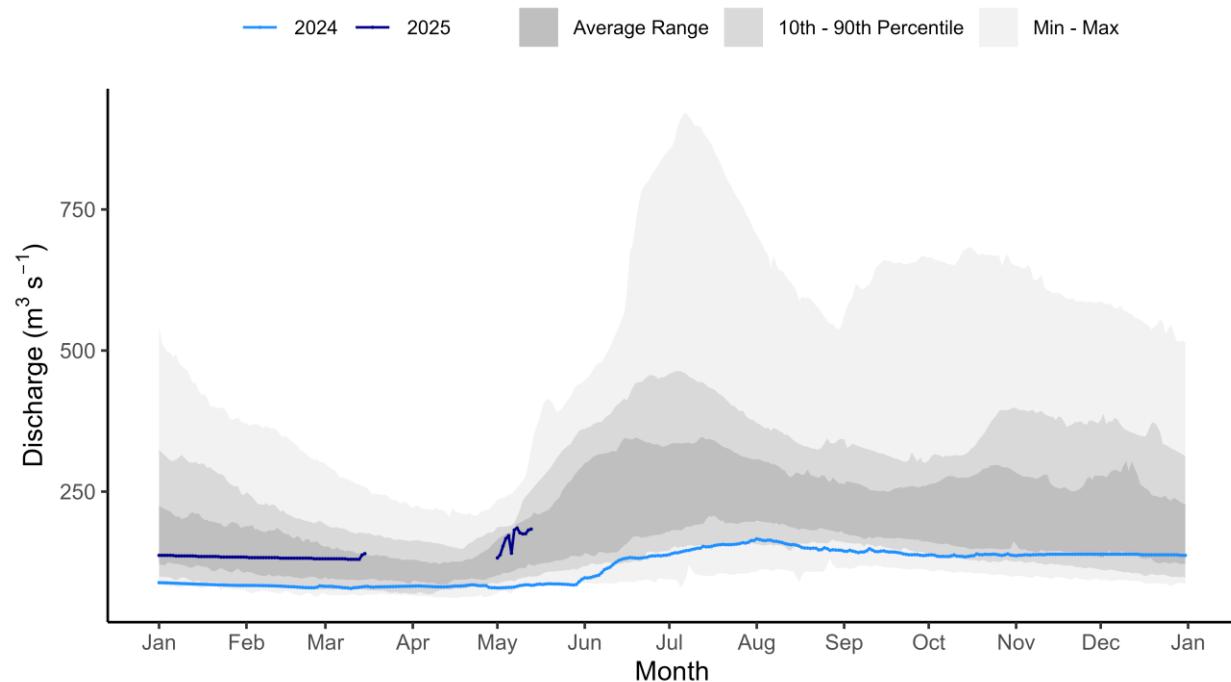
### Hay River near Hay River [07OB001]

#### HAY RIVER NEAR HAY RIVER (07OB001)



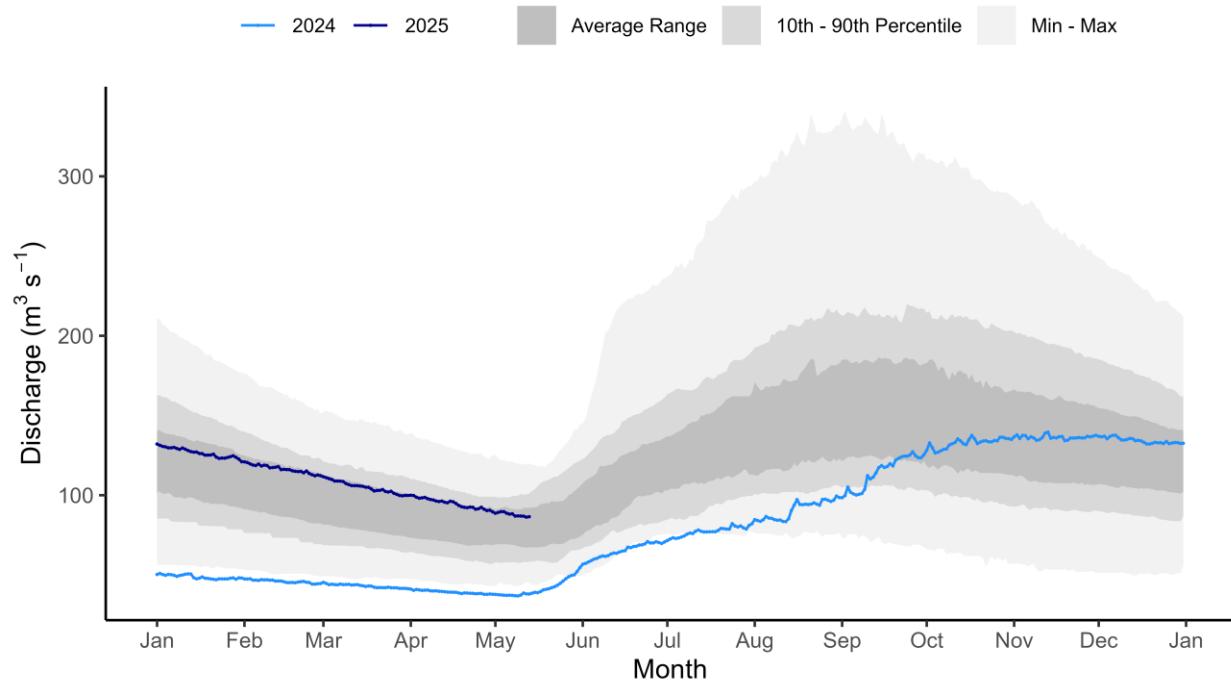
### Taltson River below Hydro Dam [07QD007]

#### TALTSON RIVER BELOW HYDRO DAM (07QD007)



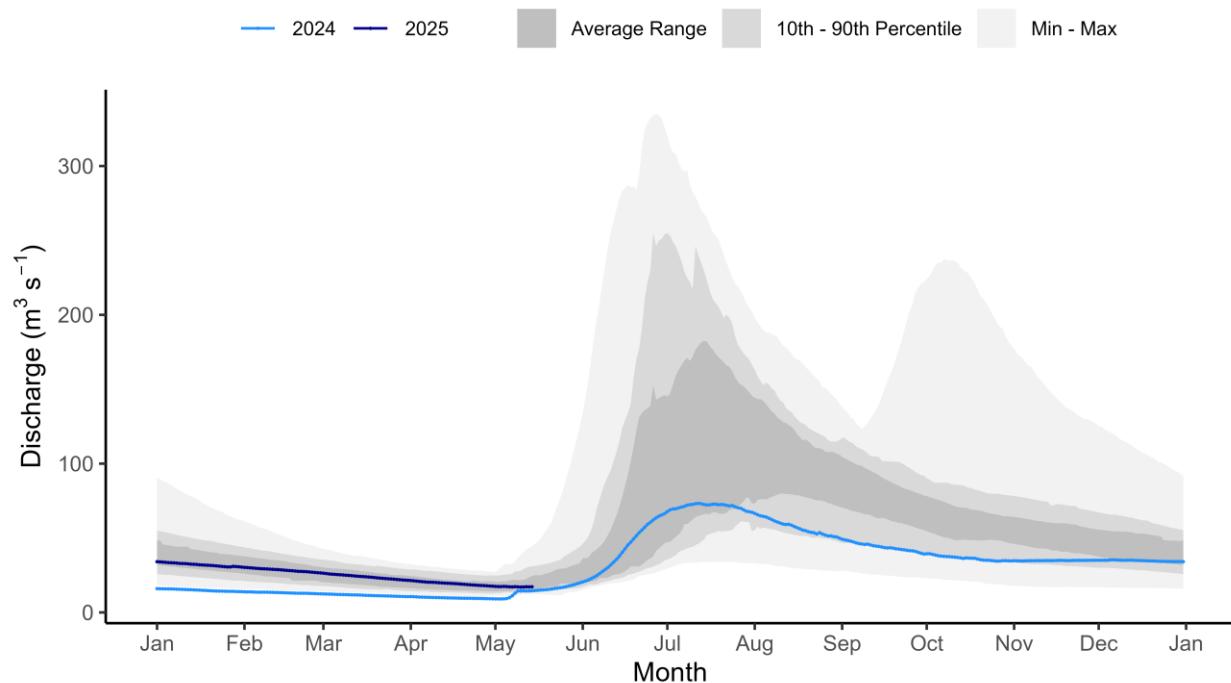
Lockhart River at outlet of Artillery Lake [07RD001]

LOCKHART RIVER AT OUTLET OF ARTILLERY LAKE (07RD001)



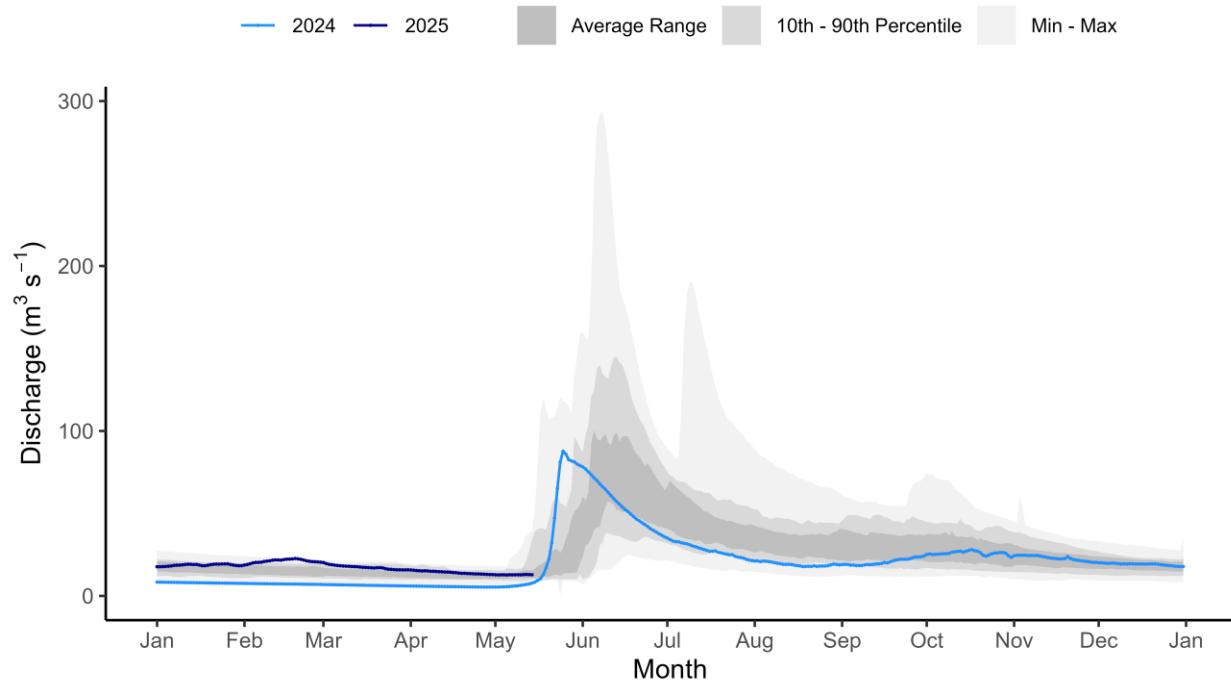
Snare River below Ghost Lake [07SA002]

SNARE RIVER BELOW GHOST RIVER (07SA002)



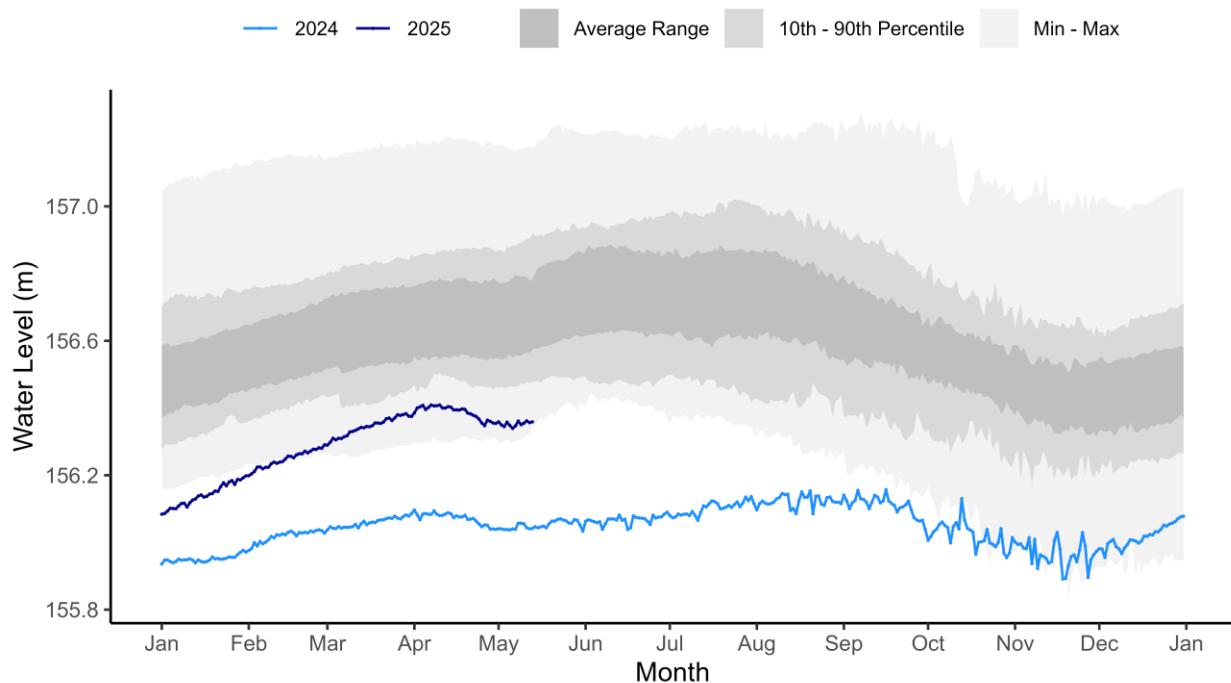
Coppermine River below Desteffany Lake [10PA001]

COPPERMINE RIVER BELOW DESTEFFANY LAKE (10PA001)



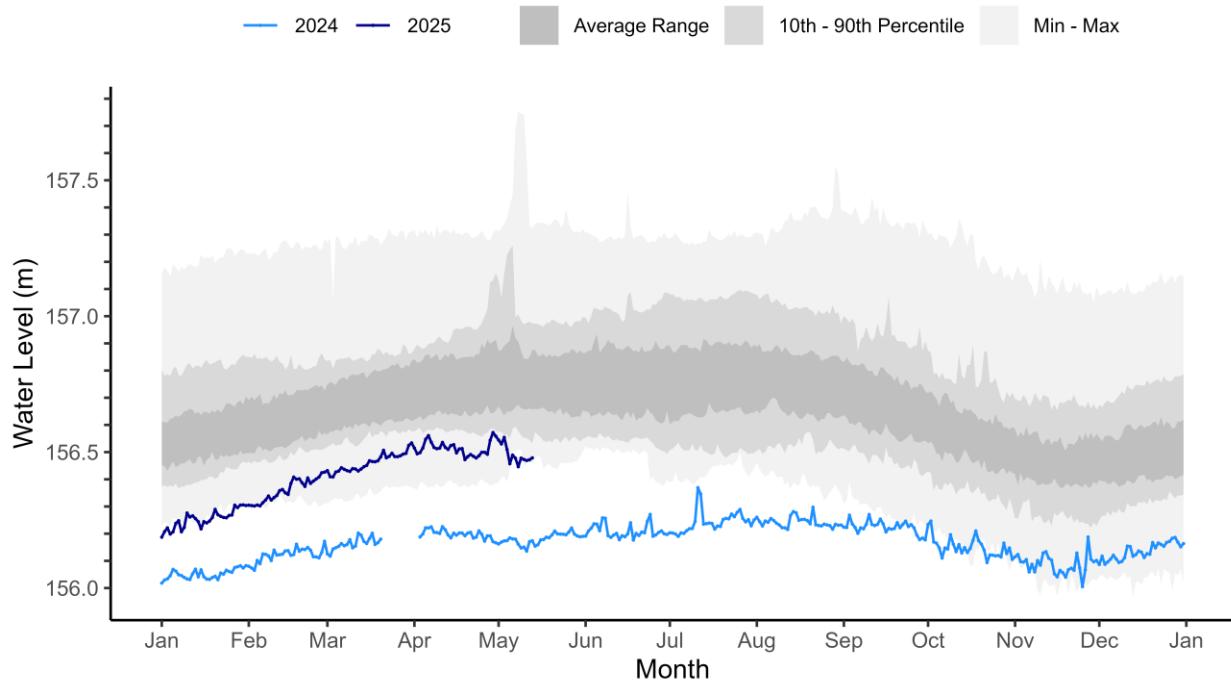
Great Slave Lake at Yellowknife Bay [07SB001]

GREAT SLAVE LAKE AT YELLOWKNIFE BAY (07SB001)



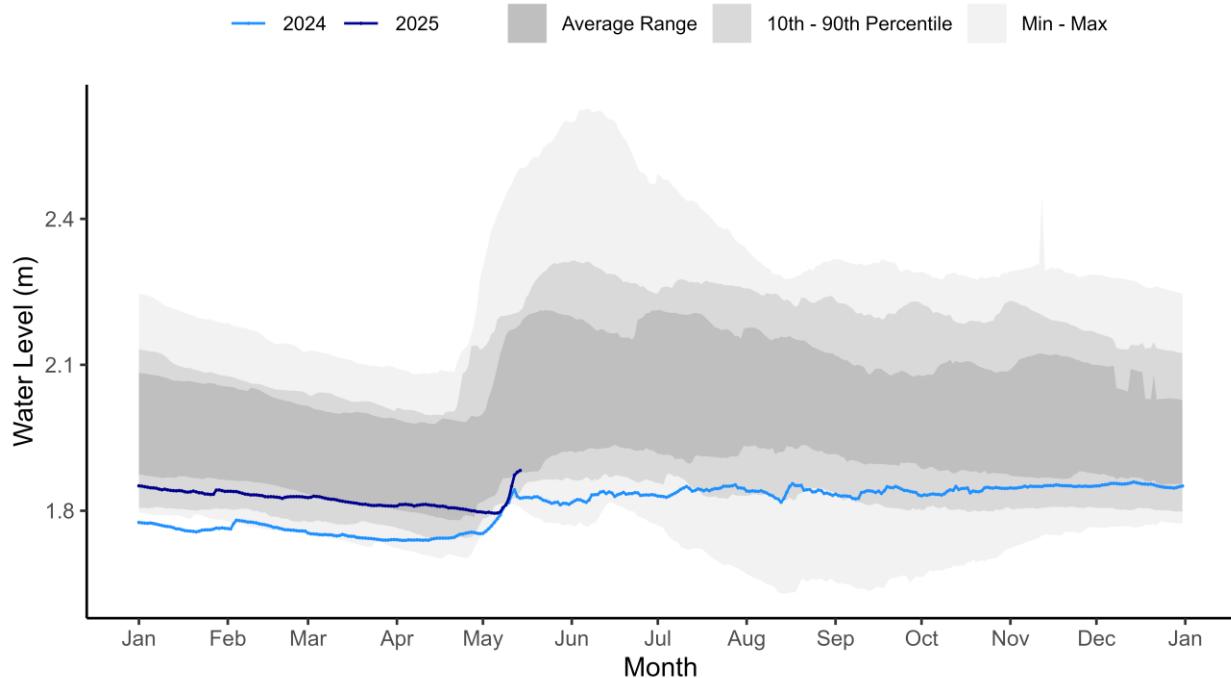
### Great Slave Lake at Hay River [070B002]

#### GREAT SLAVE LAKE AT HAY RIVER (070B002)



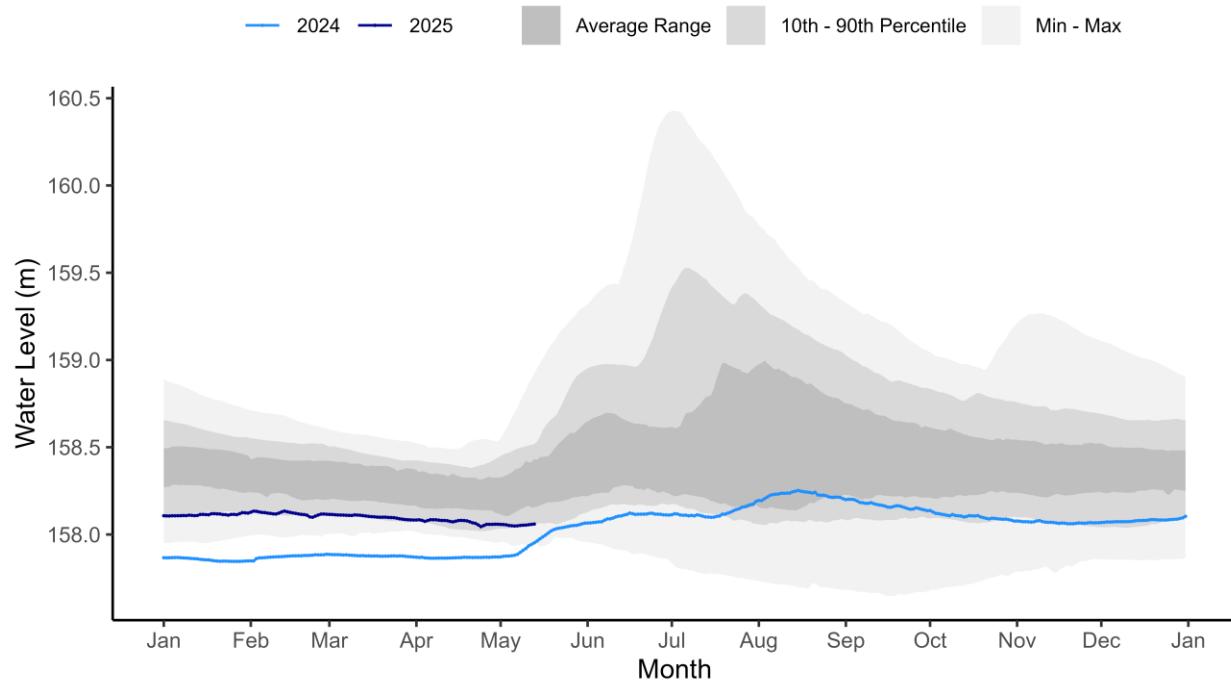
### Cameron River below Reid Lake [07SB010]

#### CAMERON RIVER BELOW REID LAKE (07SB010)



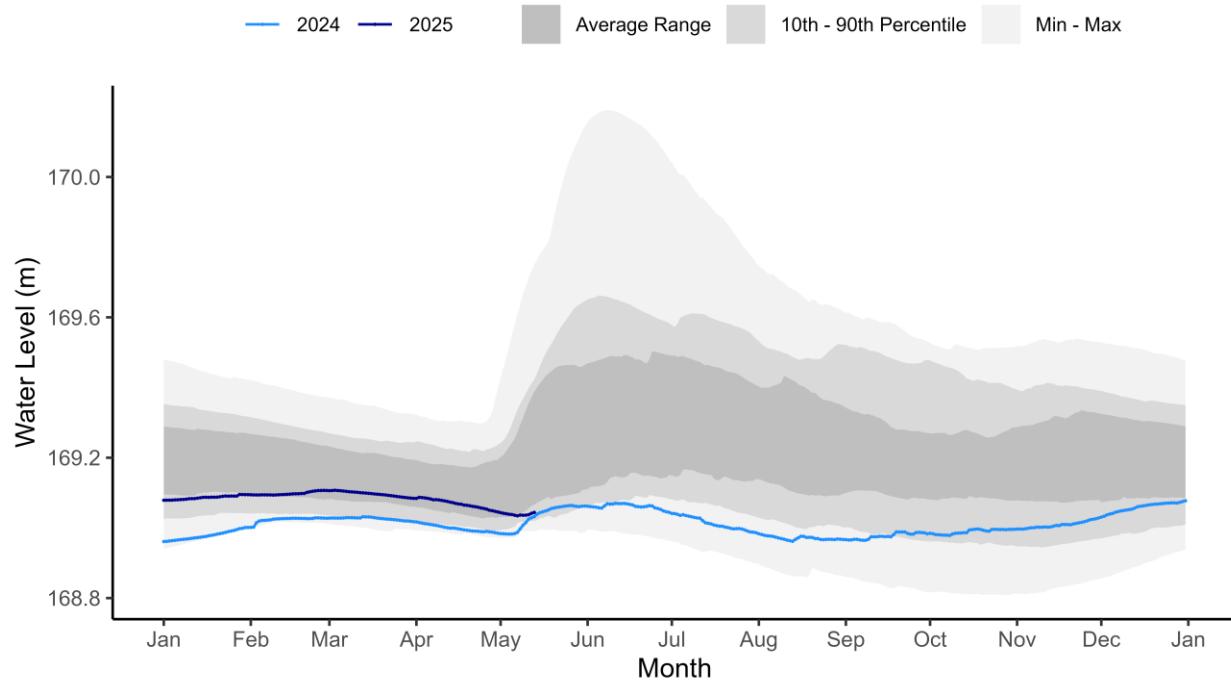
### Prosperous Lake near McMeekan Bay [07SB014]

#### PROSPEROUS LAKE NEAR MCMEEKAN BAY (07SB014)



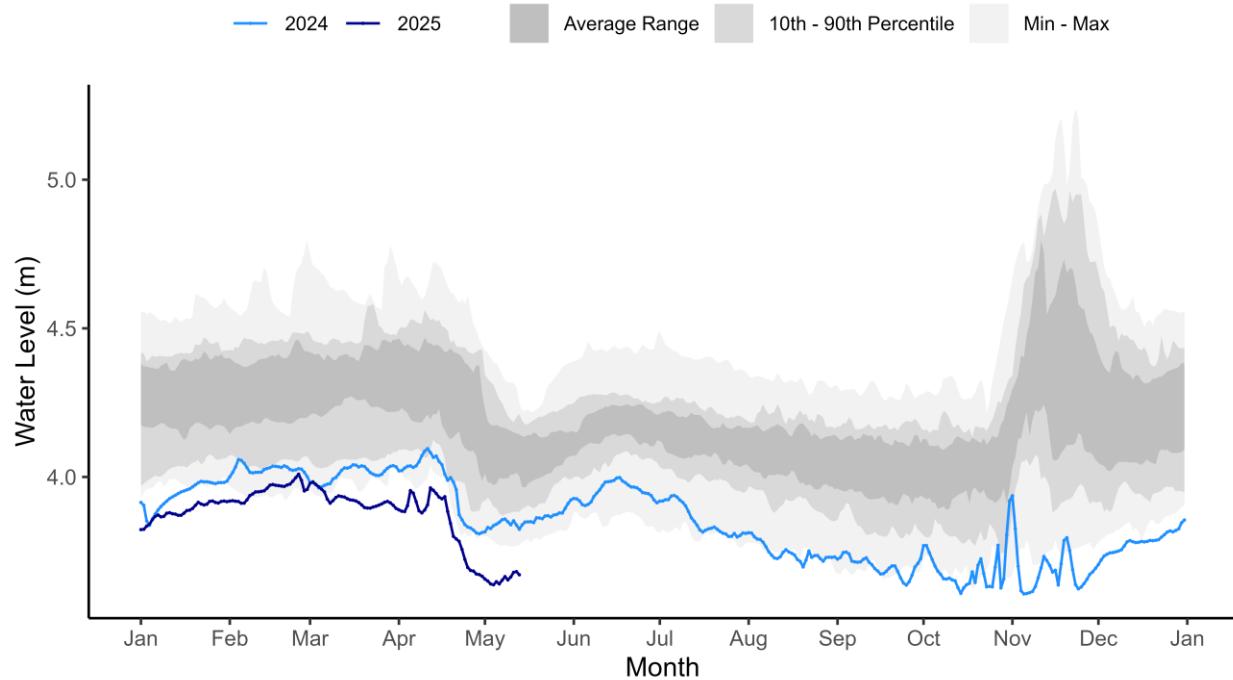
### Prelude Lake near Yellowknife [07SB017]

#### PRELUDE LAKE NEAR YELLOWKNIFE (07SB017)



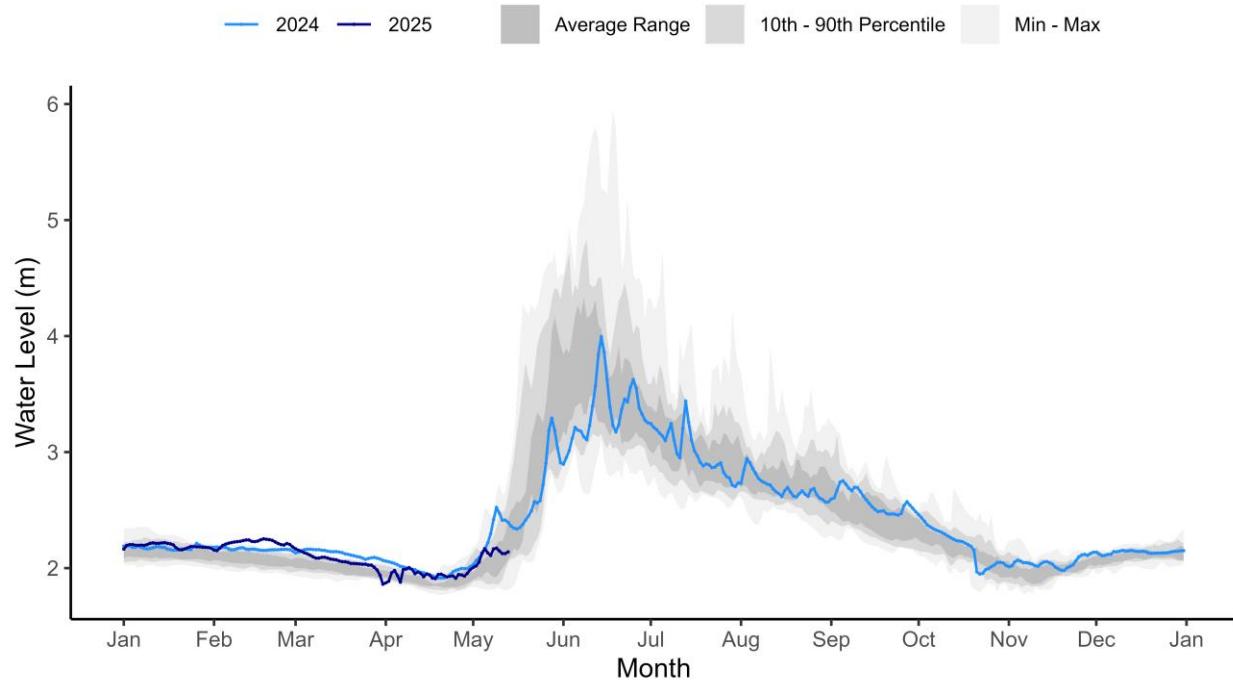
La Martre River below outlet of Lac La Martre [07TA001]

LA MARTRE RIVER BELOW OUTLET OF LAC LA MARTRE (07TA001)



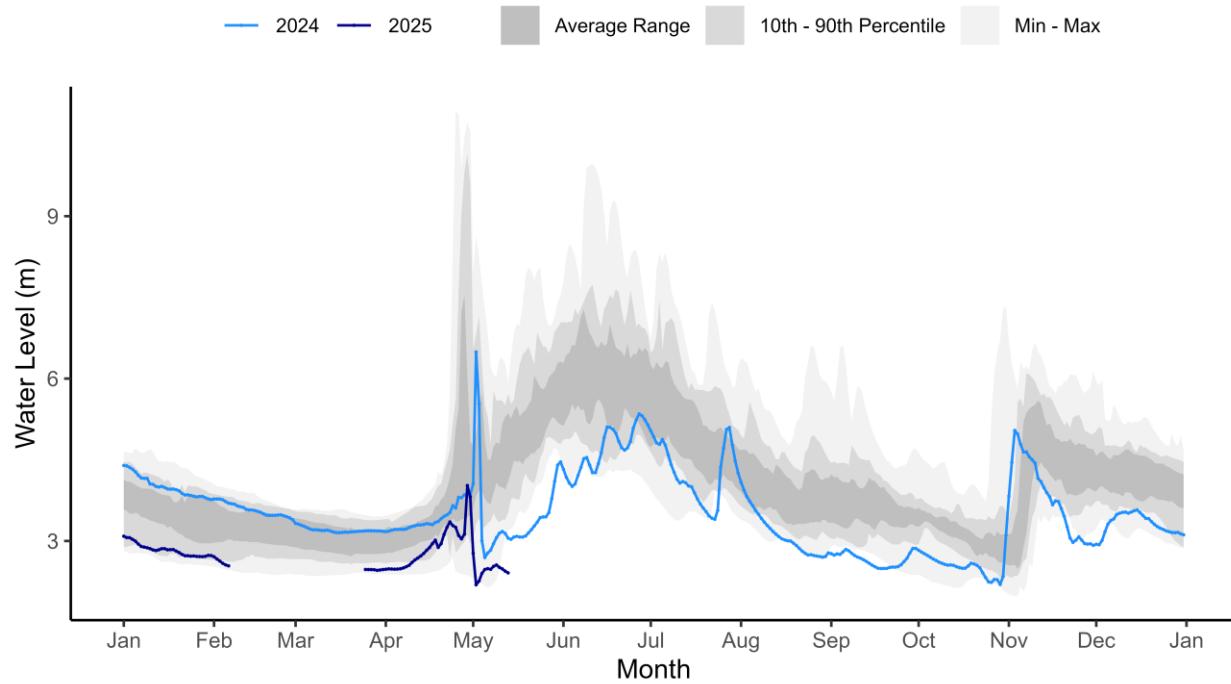
South Nahanni River above Virginia Falls [10EB001]

SOUTH NAHANNI RIVER ABOVE VIRGINIA FALLS (10EB001)



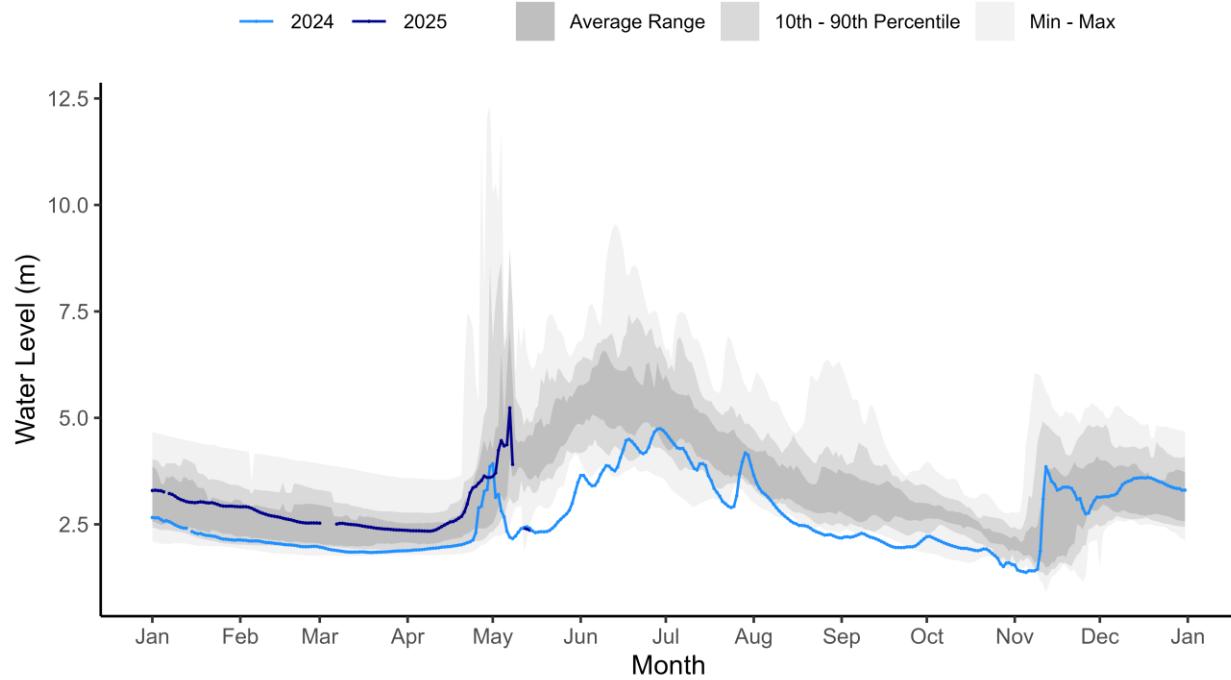
### Liard River at Fort Liard [10ED001]

#### LIARD RIVER AT FORT LIARD (10ED001)



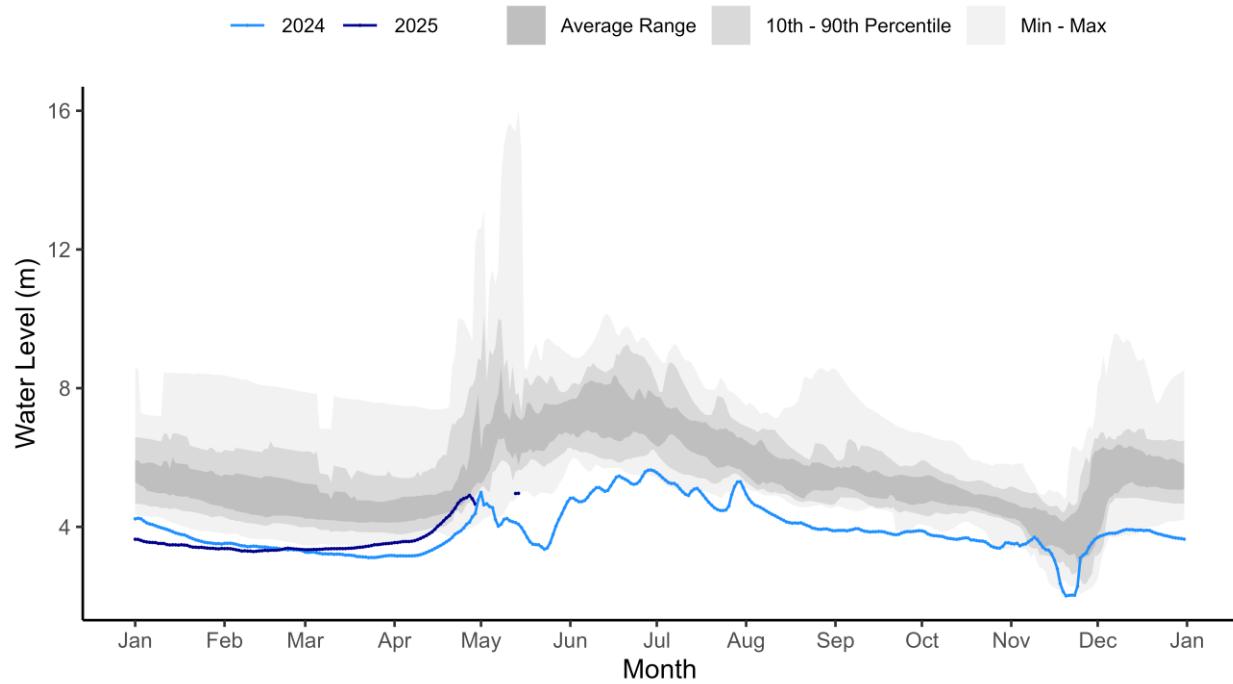
### Liard River at the mouth [10ED002]

#### LIARD RIVER NEAR THE MOUTH (10ED002)



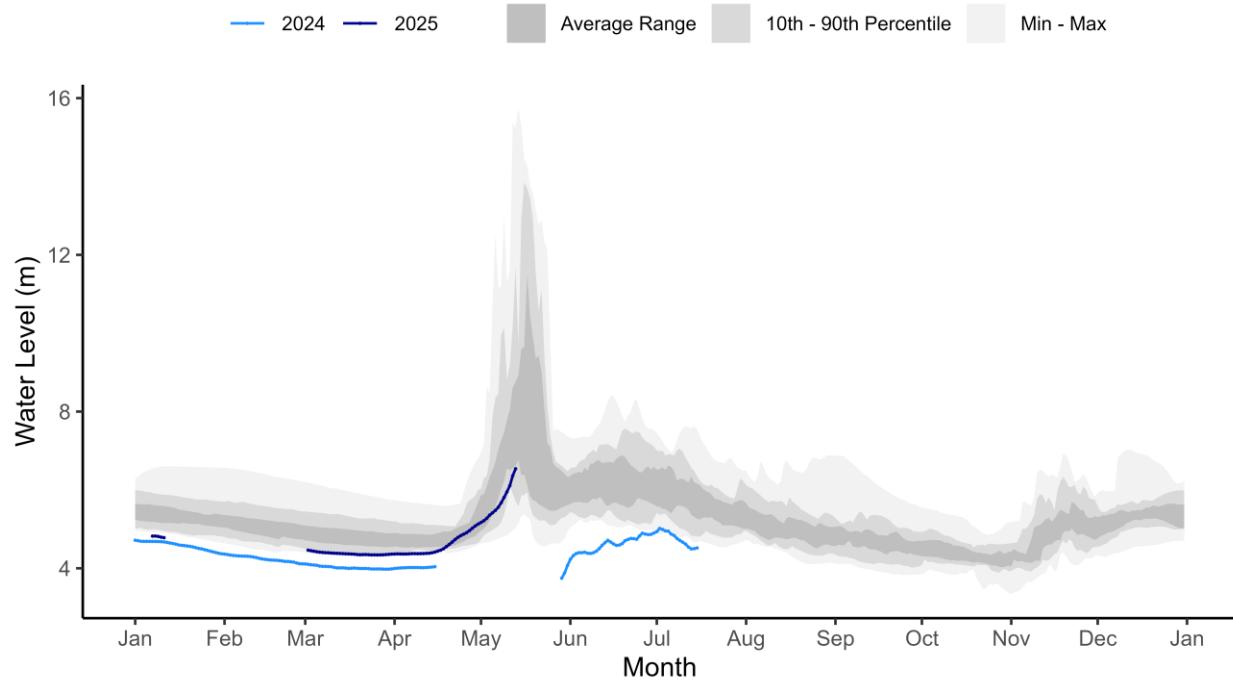
### Mackenzie River at Fort Simpson [10GC001]

#### MACKENZIE RIVER AT FORT SIMPSON (10GC001)



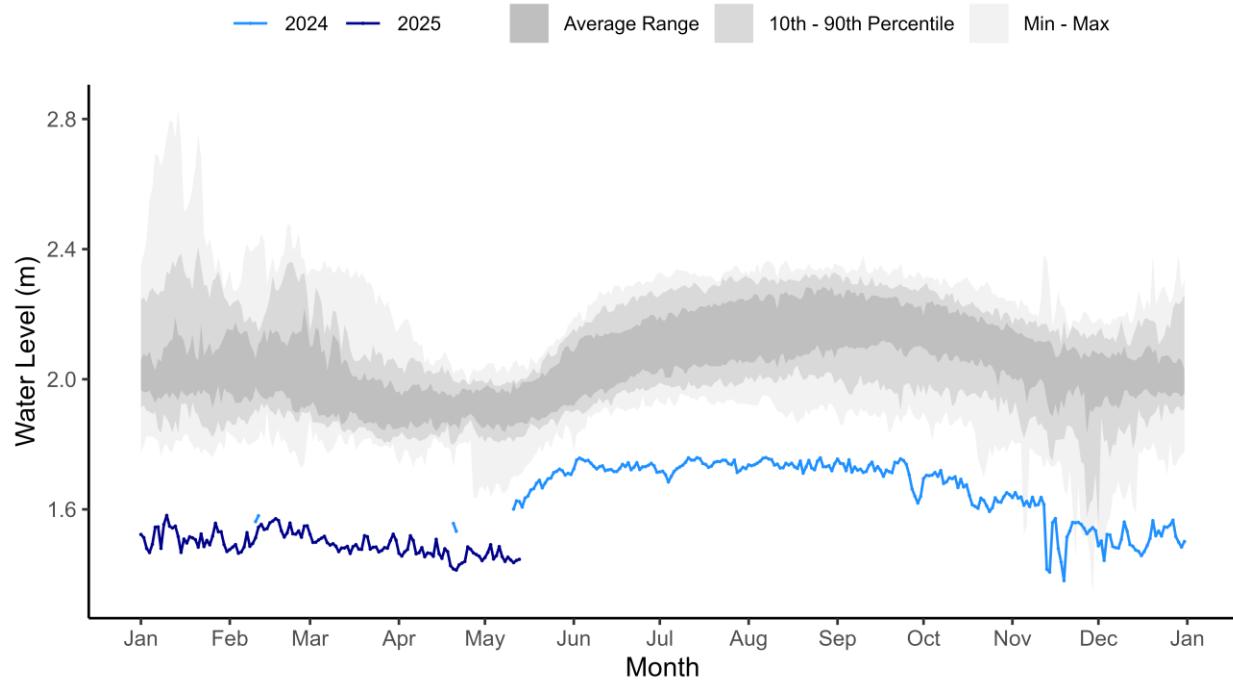
### Mackenzie River at Norman Wells [10KA001]

#### MACKENZIE RIVER AT NORMAN WELLS (10KA001)



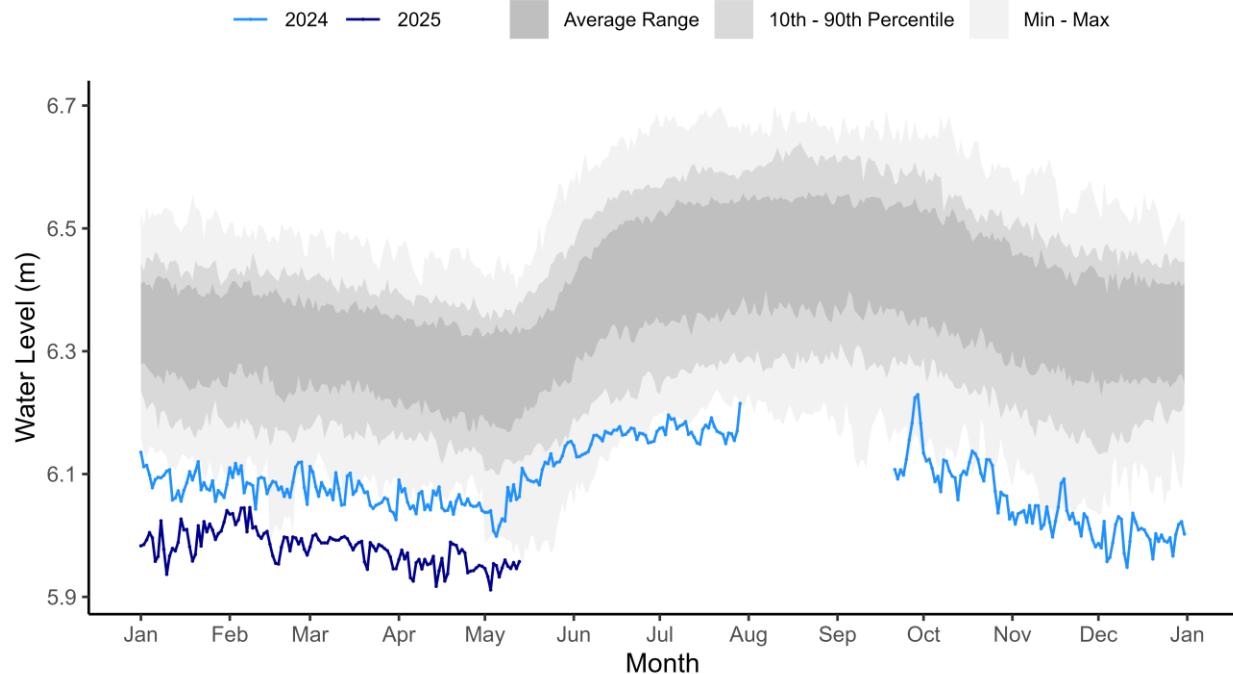
Great Bear River at outlet of Great Bear Lake [10JC003]

**GREAT BEAR RIVER AT OUTLET OF GREAT BEAR LAKE (10JC003)**



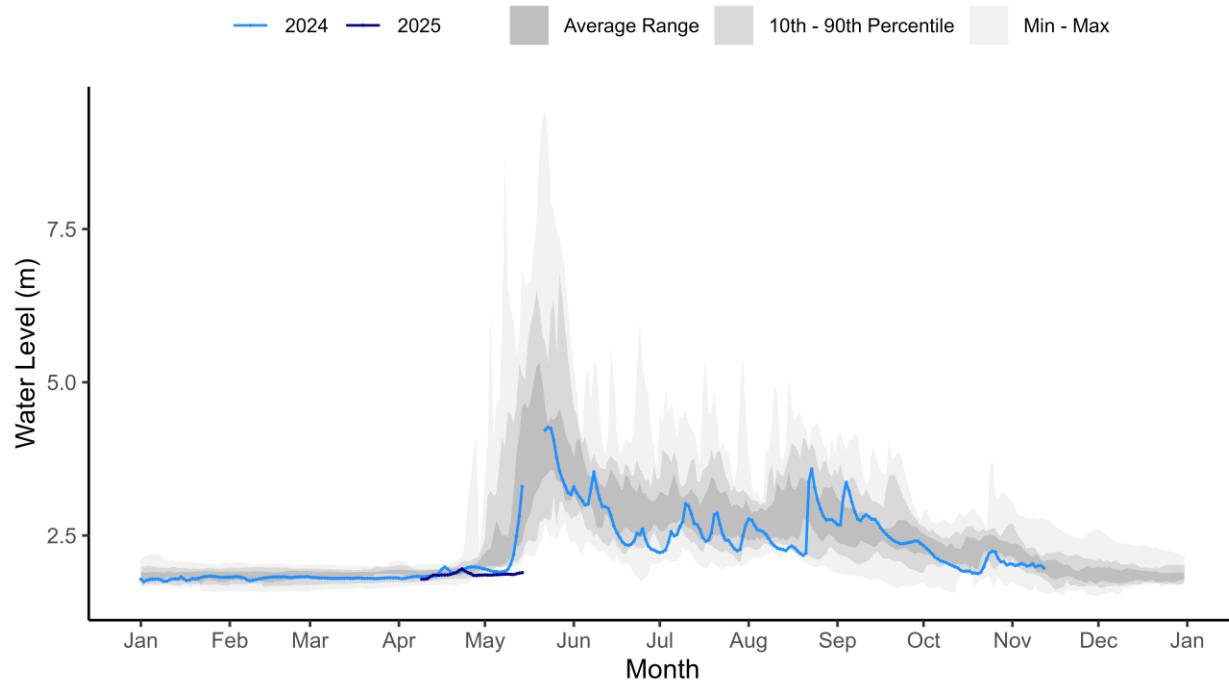
Great Bear Lake at Hornby Bay [10JE002]

**GREAT BEAR LAKE AT HORNBY BAY (10JE002)**



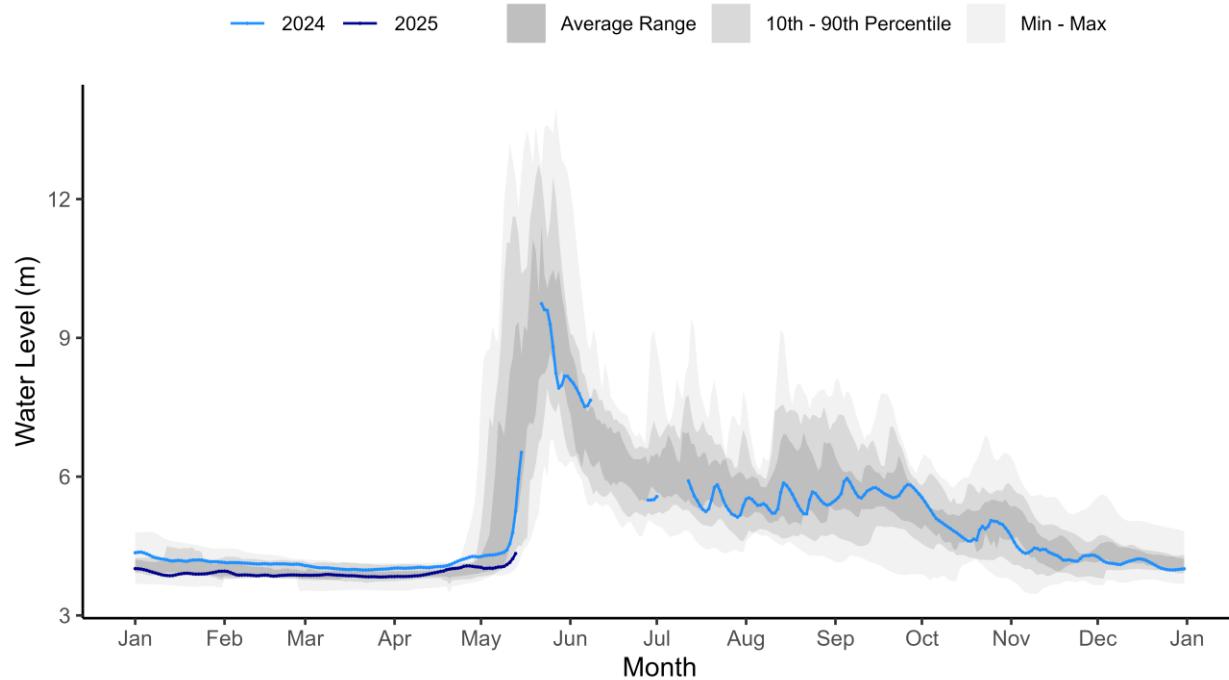
Arctic Red River near the mouth [10LA002]

ARCTIC RED RIVER NEAR THE MOUTH (10LA002)



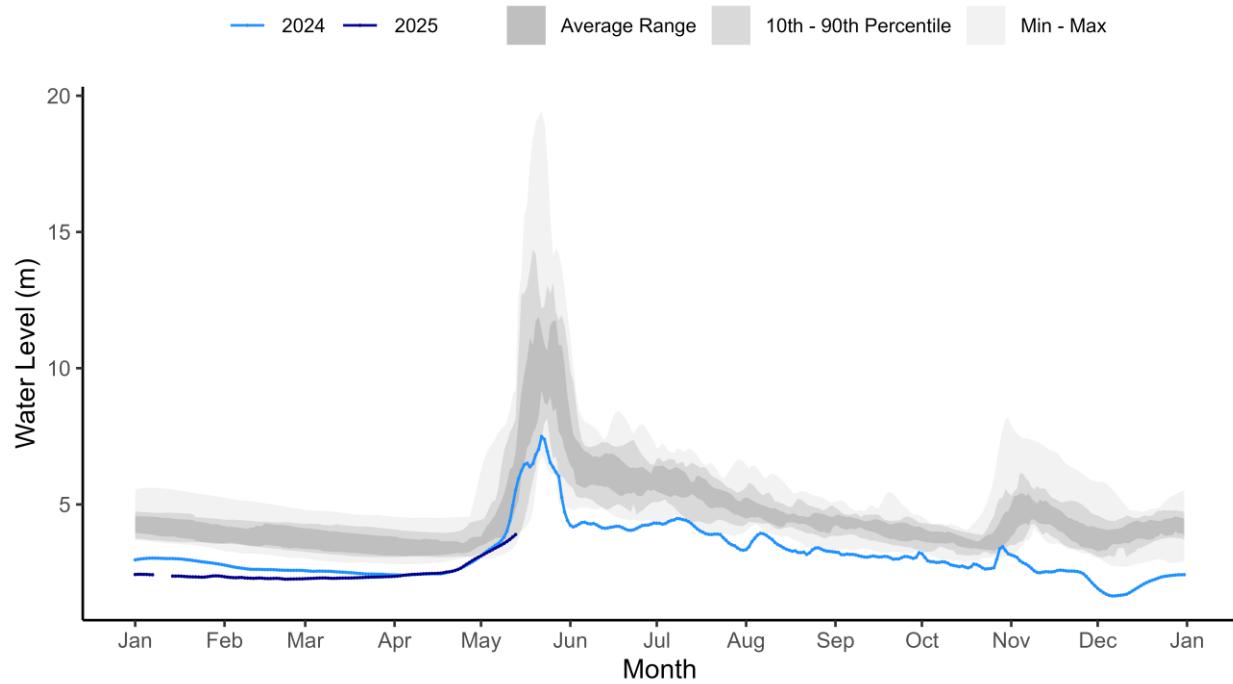
Peel River above Fort McPherson [10MC002]

PEEL RIVER ABOVE FORT MCPHERSON (10MC002)



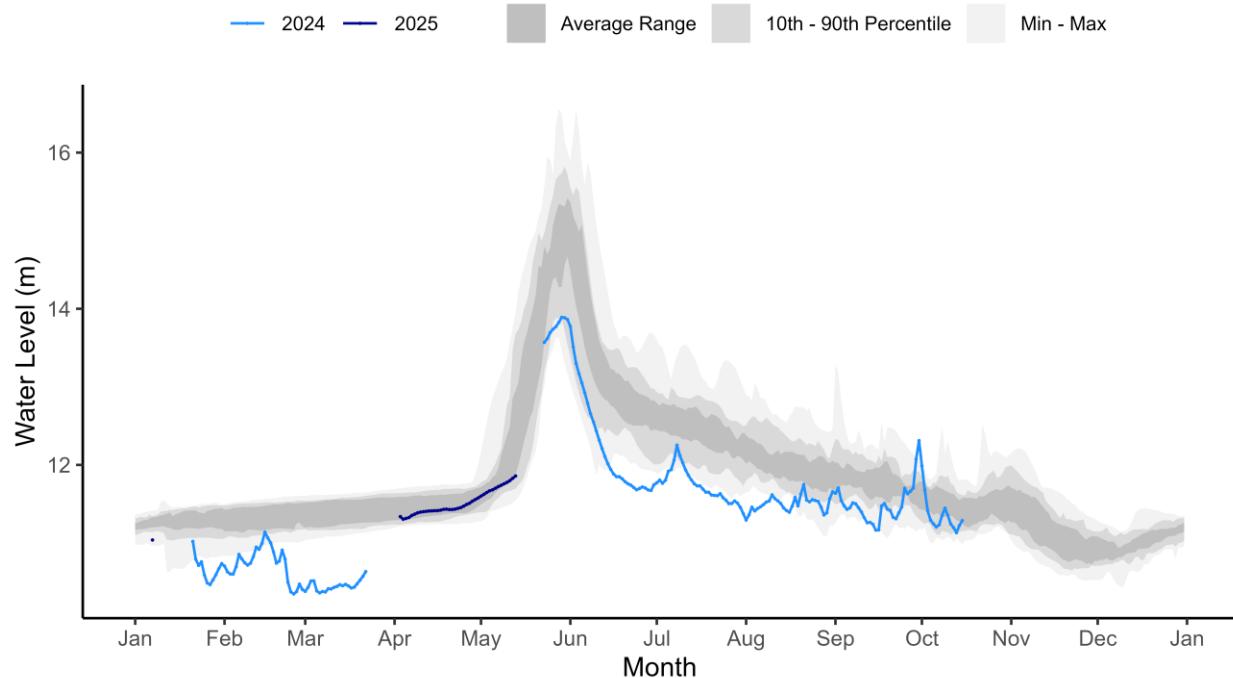
Mackenzie River at Arctic Red River [10LC014]

MACKENZIE RIVER AT ARCTIC RED RIVER (10LC014)

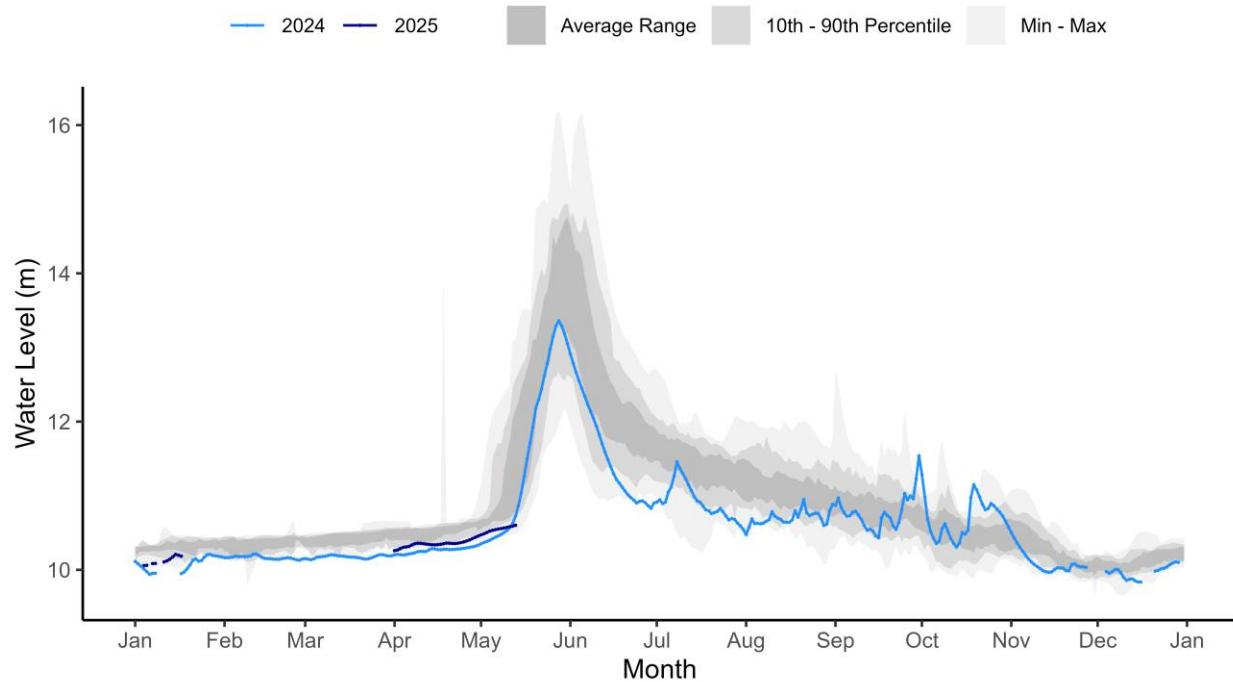


Mackenzie River (East Channel) at Inuvik [10LC002]

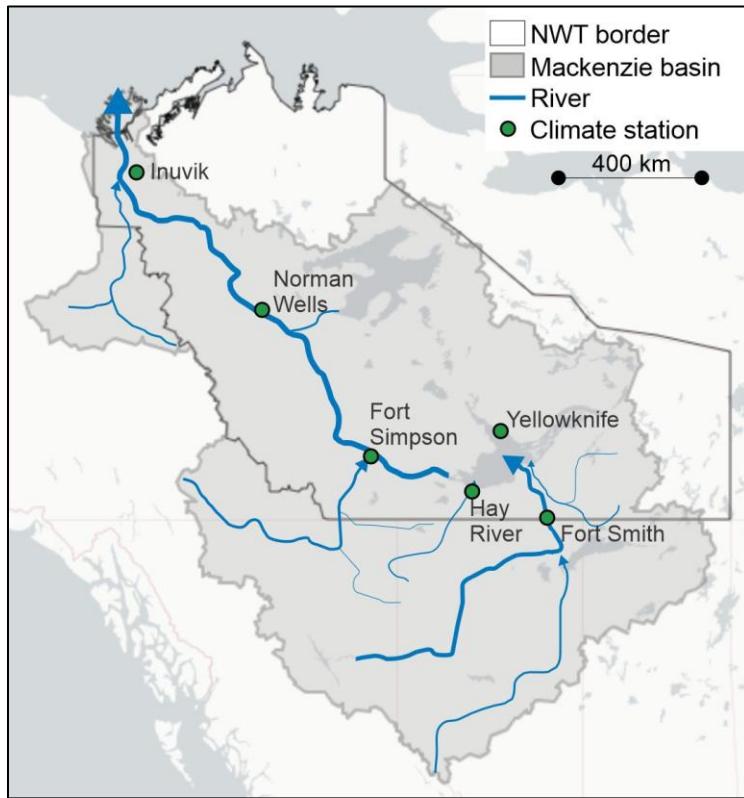
MACKENZIE RIVER (EAST CHANNEL) AT INUVIK (10LC002)



Mackenzie River (Peel Channel) above Aklavik [10MC003]  
MACKENZIE RIVER (PEEL CHANNEL) ABOVE AKLAVIK (10MC003)

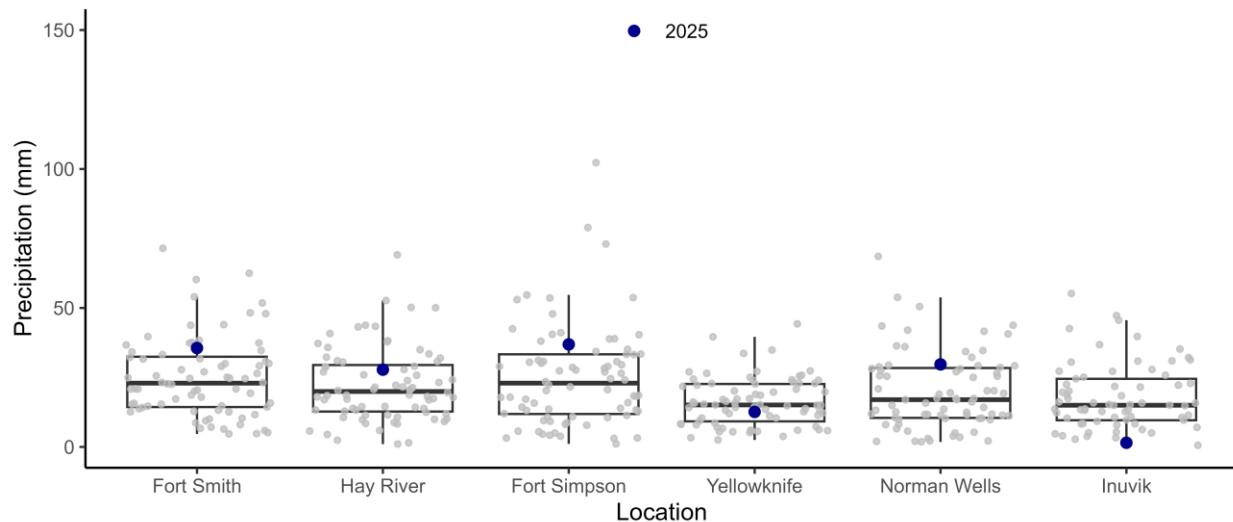


## Climate Data NWT communities



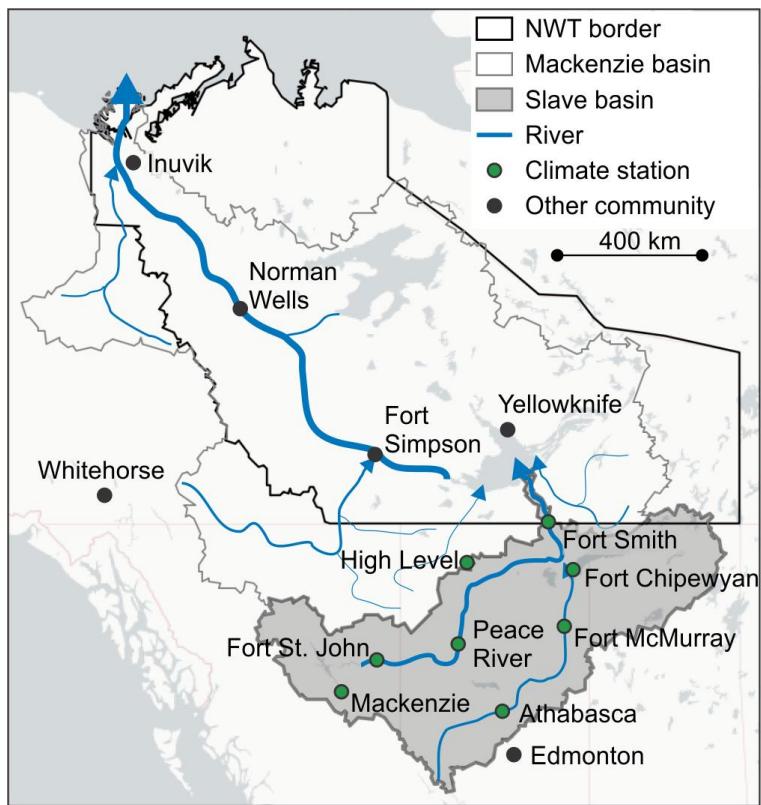
### Cumulative precipitation for select NWT communities

April 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 to May 14<sup>th</sup> 2025

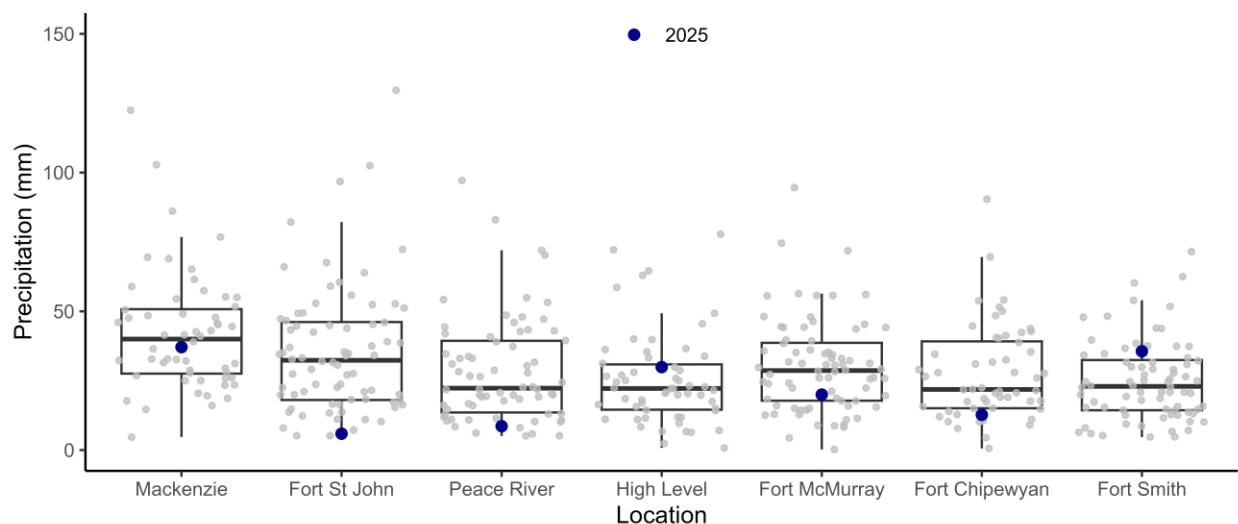


This figure shows cumulative total precipitation (rain and snow) that has fallen in select communities across the NWT from the start of April until May 14<sup>th</sup>. The blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present. See the map above for geographical context.

## Slave River basin communities

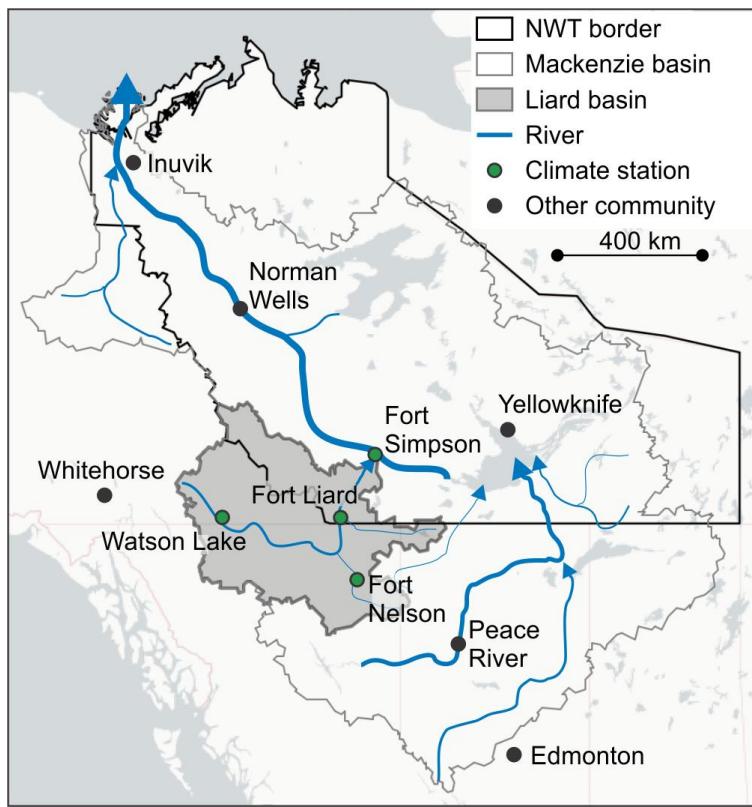


Cumulative precipitation for select AB/BC/NWT communities in the Slave River basin  
April 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 to May 14<sup>th</sup> 2025

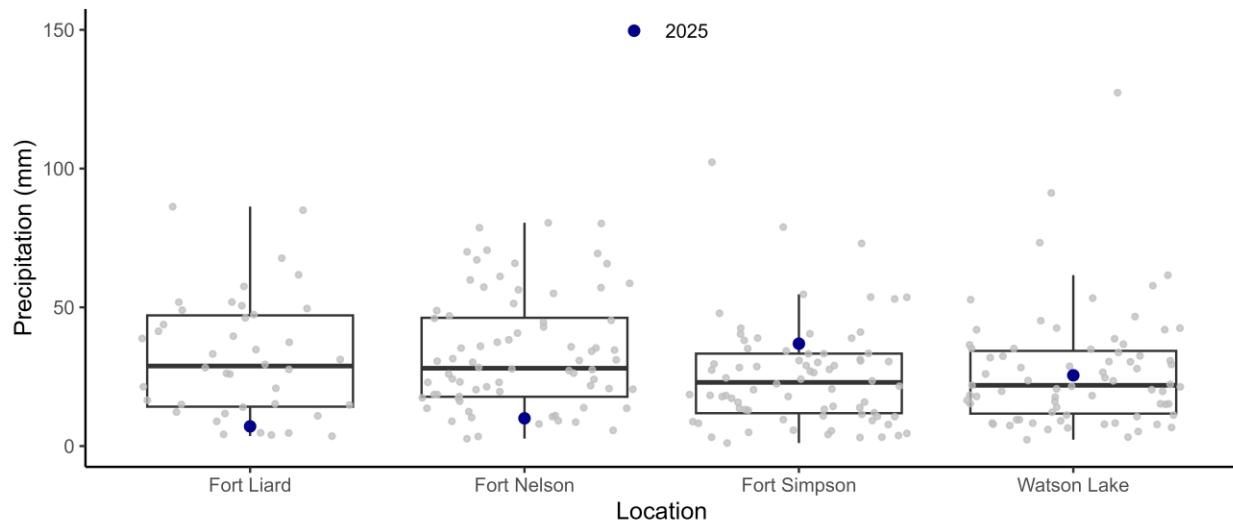


This figure shows cumulative total precipitation (rain and snow) that has fallen in select communities in the Slave River basin from the start of April until May 14<sup>th</sup>. The blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present. See the map above for geographical context.

## Liard River basin communities

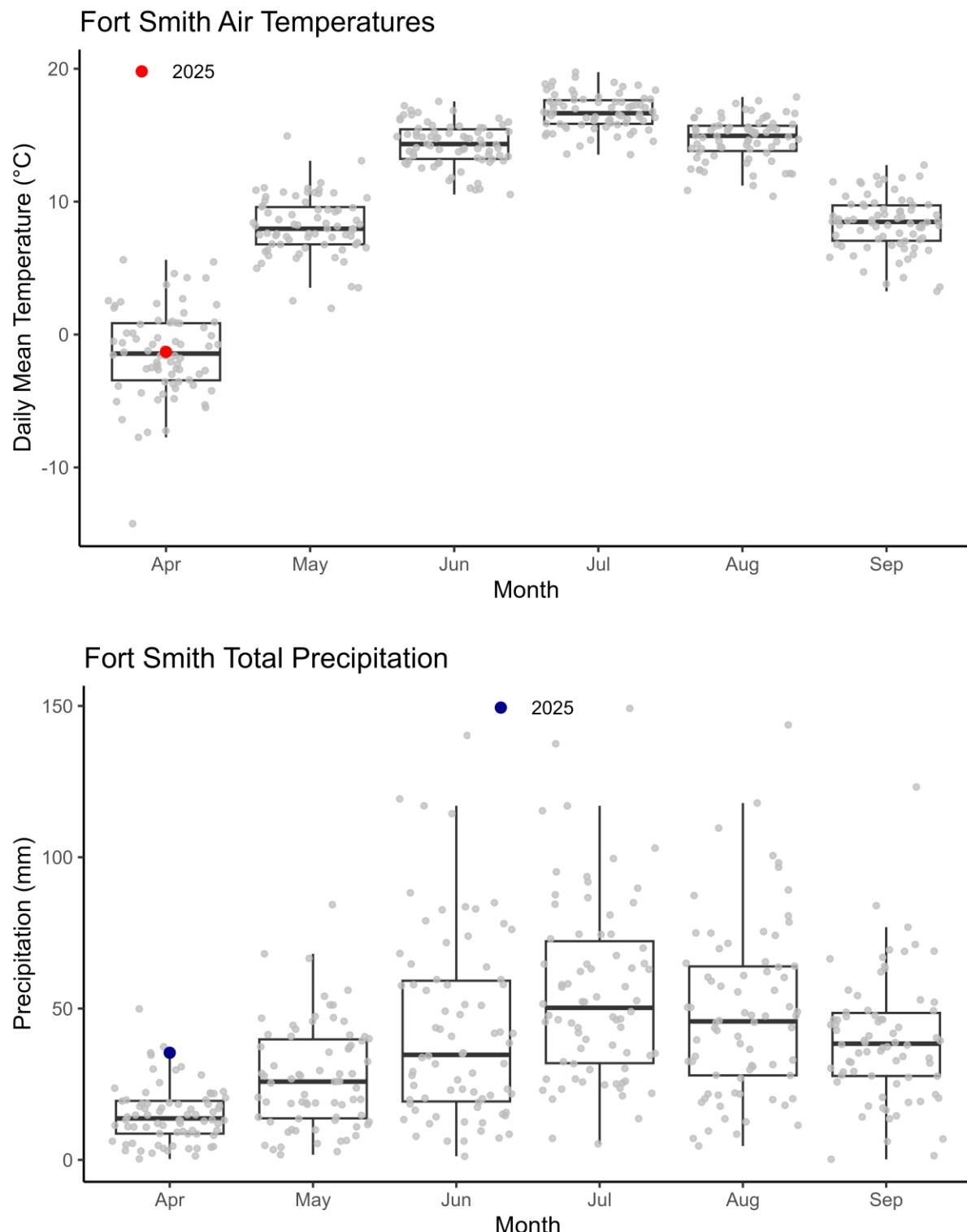


Cumulative precipitation for select BC/NWT communities in the Liard River basin  
April 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 to May 14<sup>th</sup> 2025



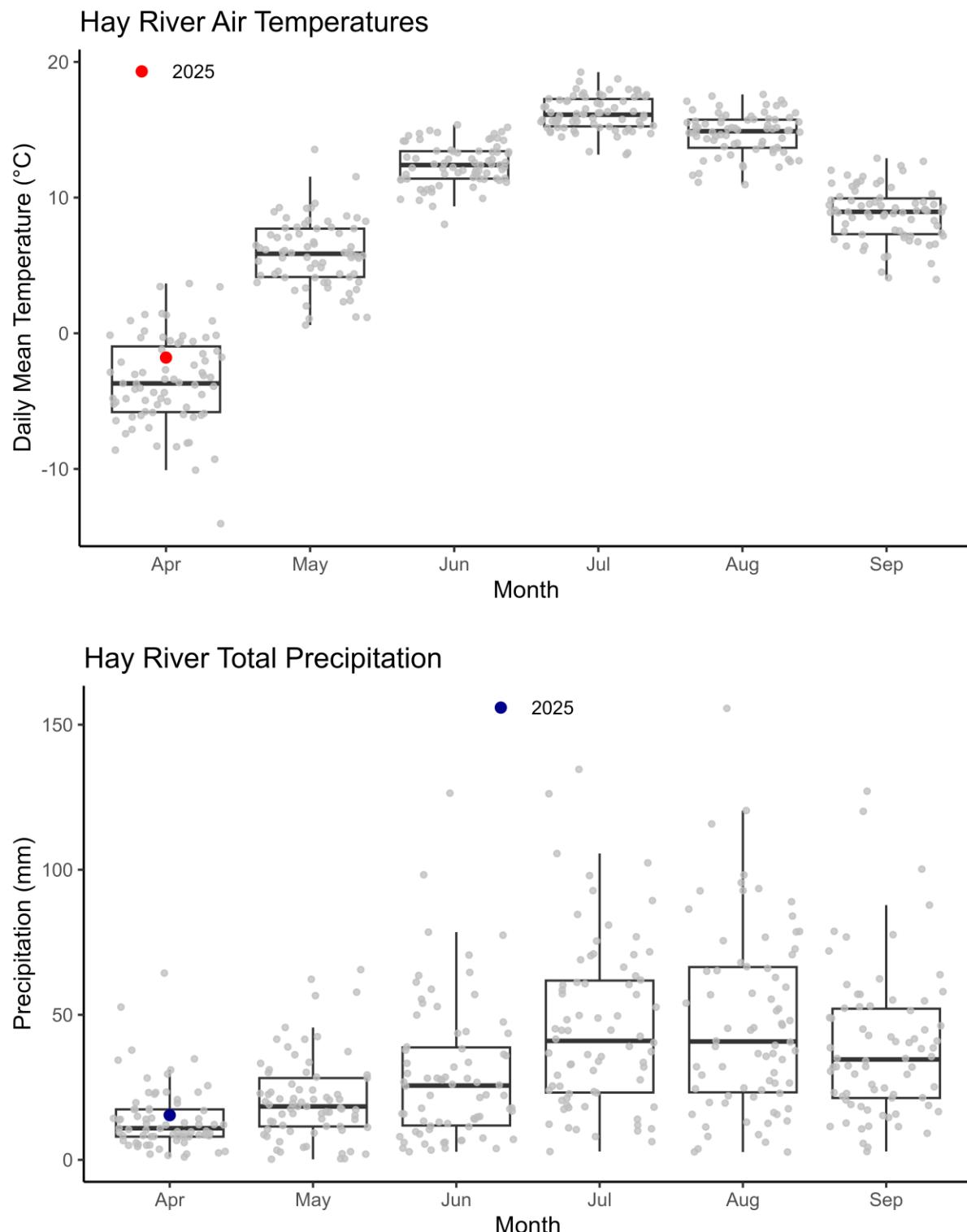
This figure shows cumulative total precipitation (rain and snow) that has fallen in select communities in the Liard River basin from the start of April until May 14<sup>th</sup>. The blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present. See the map above for geographical context.

## Fort Smith



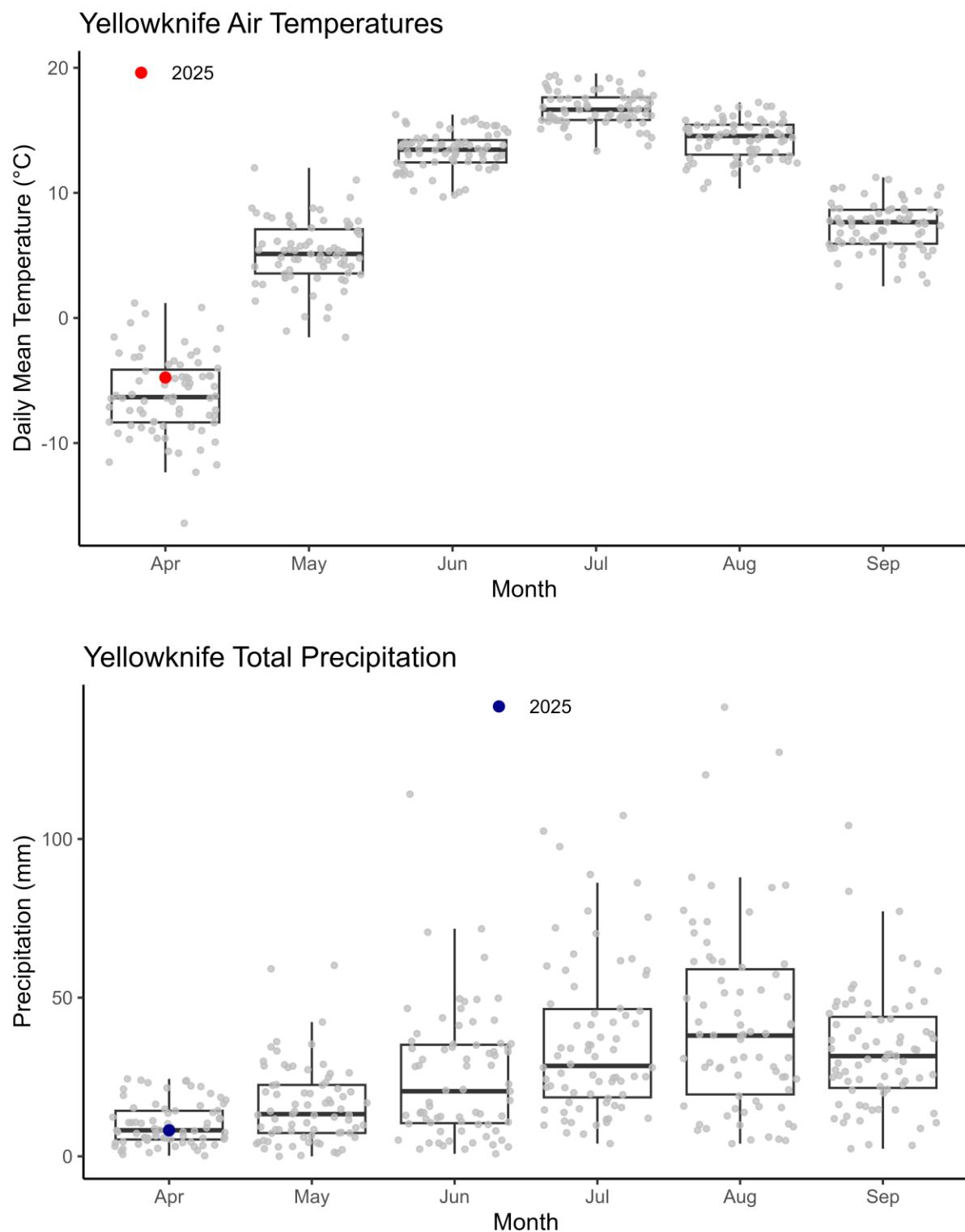
This figure shows mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for spring and summer of 2025.

## Hay River



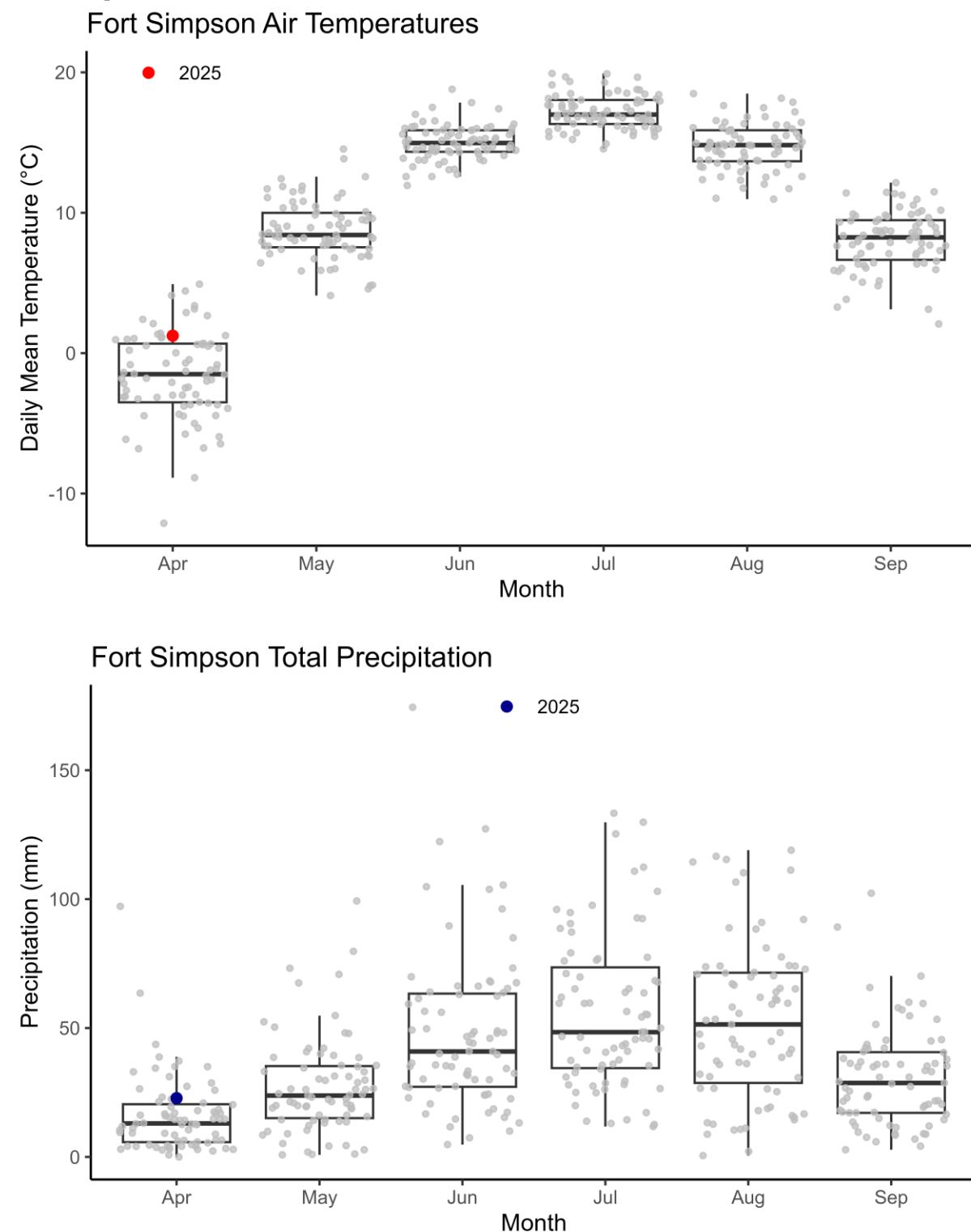
This figure shows mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for spring and summer of 2025.

## Yellowknife



This figure shows mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for spring and summer of 2025.

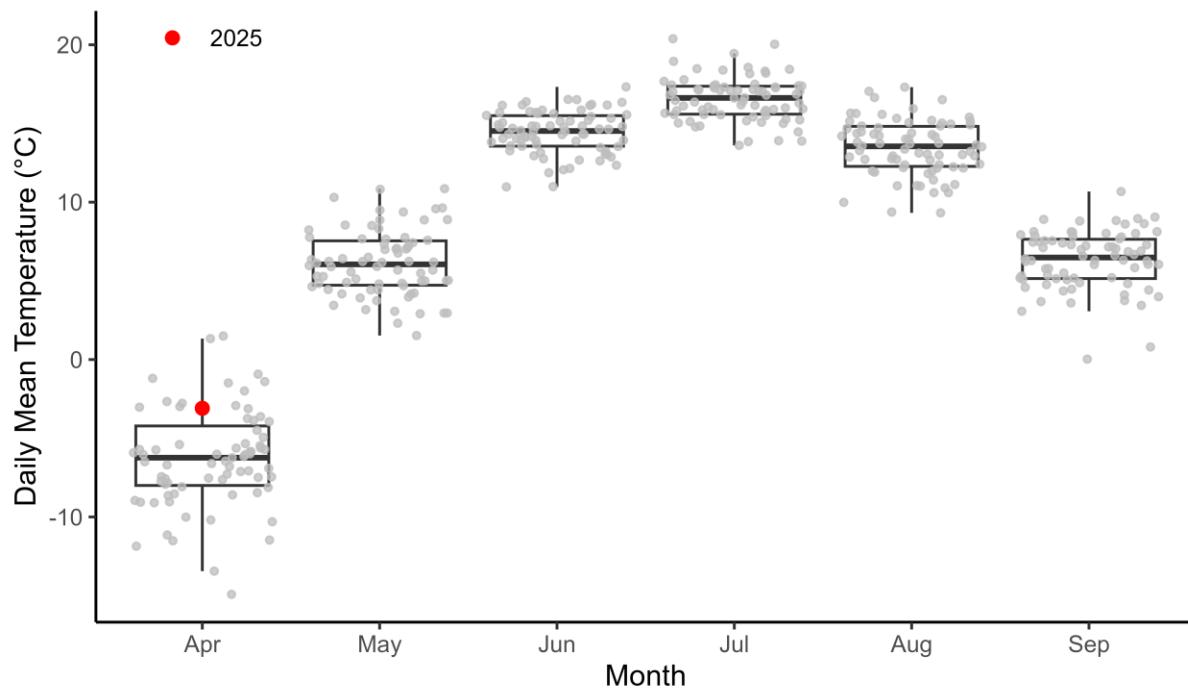
## Fort Simpson



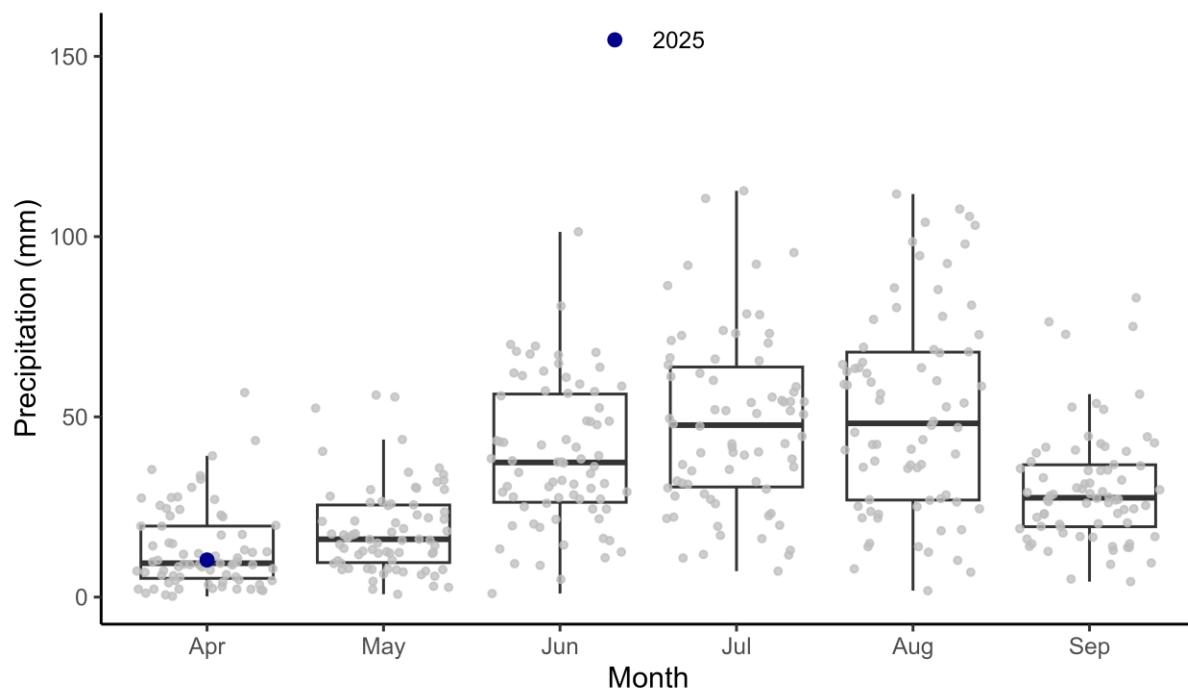
This figure shows mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for spring and summer of 2025.

## Norman Wells

### Norman Wells Air Temperatures

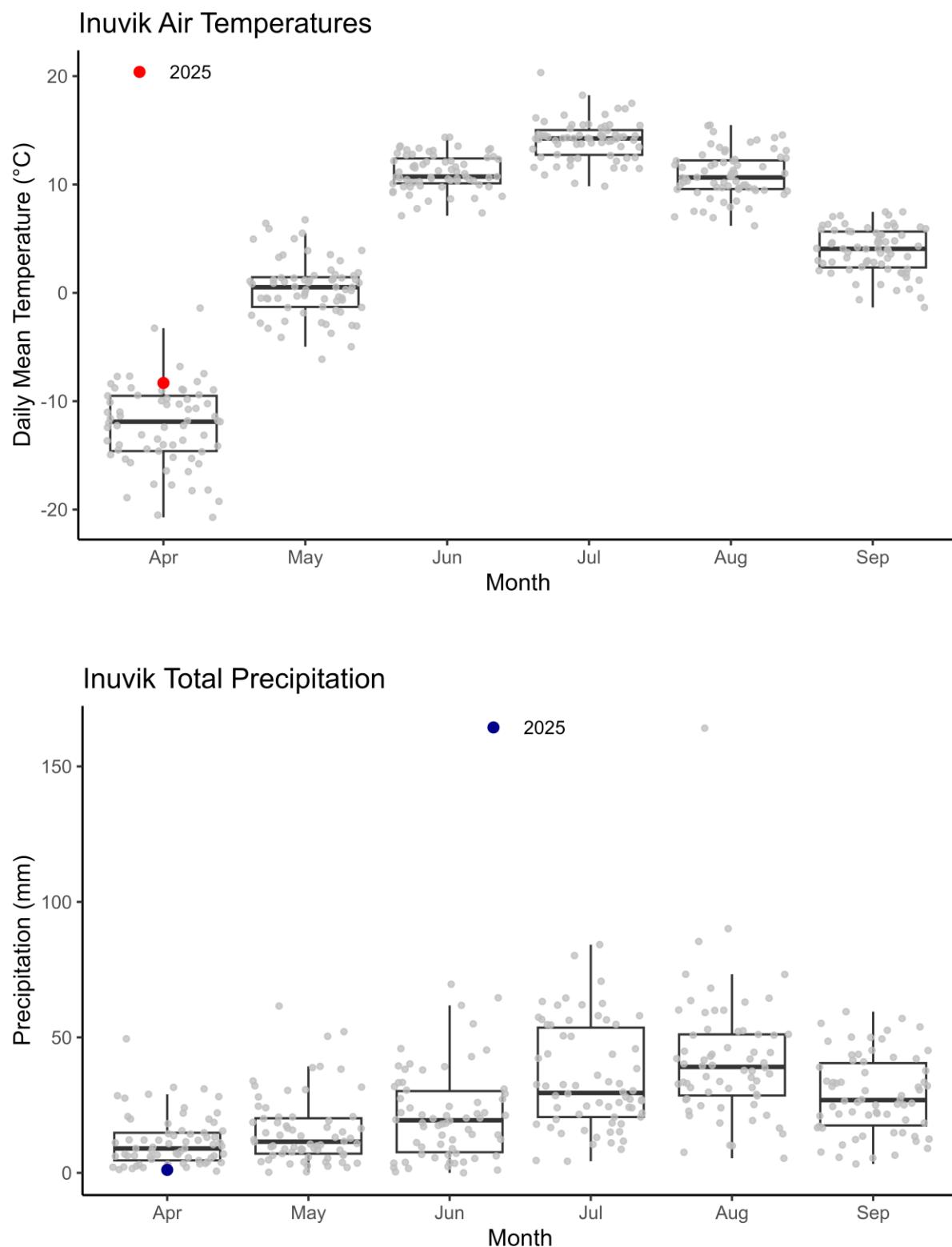


### Norman Wells Total Precipitation



This figure shows mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for spring and summer of 2025.

## Inuvik



This figure shows mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for spring and summer of 2025.