



NWT Water Monitoring Bulletin

– June 9th, 2025



Introduction

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 (10th to 90th 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. 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.

Introduction

Les Bulletins sur la surveillance des eaux aux TNO sont publiés mensuellement. Ces bulletins visent à fournir des mises à jour sur les données concernant l'écoulement et le niveau de l'eau à certaines stations de jaugeage du Réseau hydrométrique des TNO.

Si elles sont disponibles, les données sur les rivières et les fleuves sont présentées sous forme d'écoulement (débit) et celles des lacs sont présentées sous forme de niveau. Dans le présent rapport, les données font état des conditions de cette année et sont comparées aux valeurs minimales, maximales et extrêmes (10^e au 90^e centile) ainsi qu'à la moyenne (calculée en tant qu'écart interquartile).

Le Réseau hydrométrique des TNO est le fruit d'un partenariat entre le ministère de l'Environnement et du Changement climatique du gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest et Environnement et Changement climatique Canada (ECCC) et est exploité par la Division des relevés hydrologiques du Canada. Vous pouvez consulter les données historiques et les données en temps réel de toutes les stations au https://eau.ec.gc.ca/index_f.html. Toutes les données de 2024 et de 2025 sont considérées comme provisoires et peuvent contenir des valeurs qui seront ultérieurement corrigées.

Pour toute question sur le contenu du présent document, écrivez un courriel à l'adresse NWTWaters@gov.nt.ca.

Current status

- This report is a **Monthly Water Monitoring Bulletin**, which provides an update on current hydrologic and climatic conditions across the NWT.
- Following spring break-up, water levels and flow rates remain low across most large lakes and rivers in the NWT.
 - 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 similar to the level recorded at this time last year.
 - Liard River water level, measured at both Fort Liard and near the mouth, is well below average for this time of year.
 - Flow rates on the Hay River are well below average for this time of year.
 - Mackenzie River water level, measured at several locations along the river, is well below average.
 - Great Bear Lake water level is no longer at its lowest value on record but is still below average. Flow rates on the Great Bear River are well below normal for this time of year.
 - Exceptions to low water levels and flows include:
 - Peel River
 - Coppermine River
 - Some smaller lakes and rivers in the Sahtu region, including:
 - Camsell River
 - Johnny Hoe River
 - Whitefish 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.
- **May precipitation** across the NWT was variable, where Yellowknife, Hay River and Inuvik received approximately average precipitation, Fort Smith received well below average precipitation and Fort Simpson and Norman Wells received above average precipitation.
- 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 and early summer, precipitation in these areas has been generally below average.
- **May temperatures** across the NWT were cooler than average in the Sahtu and Beaufort Delta regions, and warmer than average across southern NWT.
- Climate forecasts from ECCC for June indicate cooler than normal temperatures for most of the NWT. Below average precipitation is forecast for southwest areas of the NWT, specifically over the Liard River basin.

Situation actuelle

- Le présent rapport est un bulletin mensuel de surveillance de l'eau, qui fait le point sur les conditions hydrologiques et climatiques actuelles aux TNO.
- Après la débâcle printanière, le niveau d'eau et le débit des lacs et des rivières restent faibles dans la plupart des grands lacs et rivières aux TNO.
 - Le niveau d'eau du Grand lac des Esclaves est actuellement bien en dessous de la moyenne.
 - Le niveau d'eau est d'environ 30 cm plus élevé que le niveau enregistré à cette période l'année dernière et d'environ 20 cm plus bas que le niveau enregistré à cette même période en 2023.
 - Le niveau d'eau de la rivière des Esclaves est inférieur à la moyenne pour cette période de l'année et est semblable au relevé effectué au même moment l'année dernière.
 - Le niveau d'eau de la rivière Liard, mesuré à Fort Liard et près de son embouchure, est bien en dessous de la moyenne pour cette période de l'année.
 - Le débit de la rivière Hay est bien inférieur à la moyenne pour cette période de l'année.
 - Le niveau d'eau du fleuve Mackenzie, relevé à plusieurs endroits le long de son cours, est bien inférieur à la moyenne.
 - Bien que le niveau d'eau du Grand lac de l'Ours ne soit plus à son niveau le plus bas jamais enregistré, il reste inférieur à la moyenne. Le débit enregistré le long de la rivière Great Bear est bien inférieur à la normale pour cette période de l'année.
 - Exceptions aux faibles niveaux d'eau et aux faibles débits :
 - Rivière Peel
 - Rivière Coppermine
 - De plus petits lacs et petites rivières dans la région du Sahtu, y compris :
 - Rivière Camsell
 - Rivière Johnny Hoe
 - Rivière Whitefish

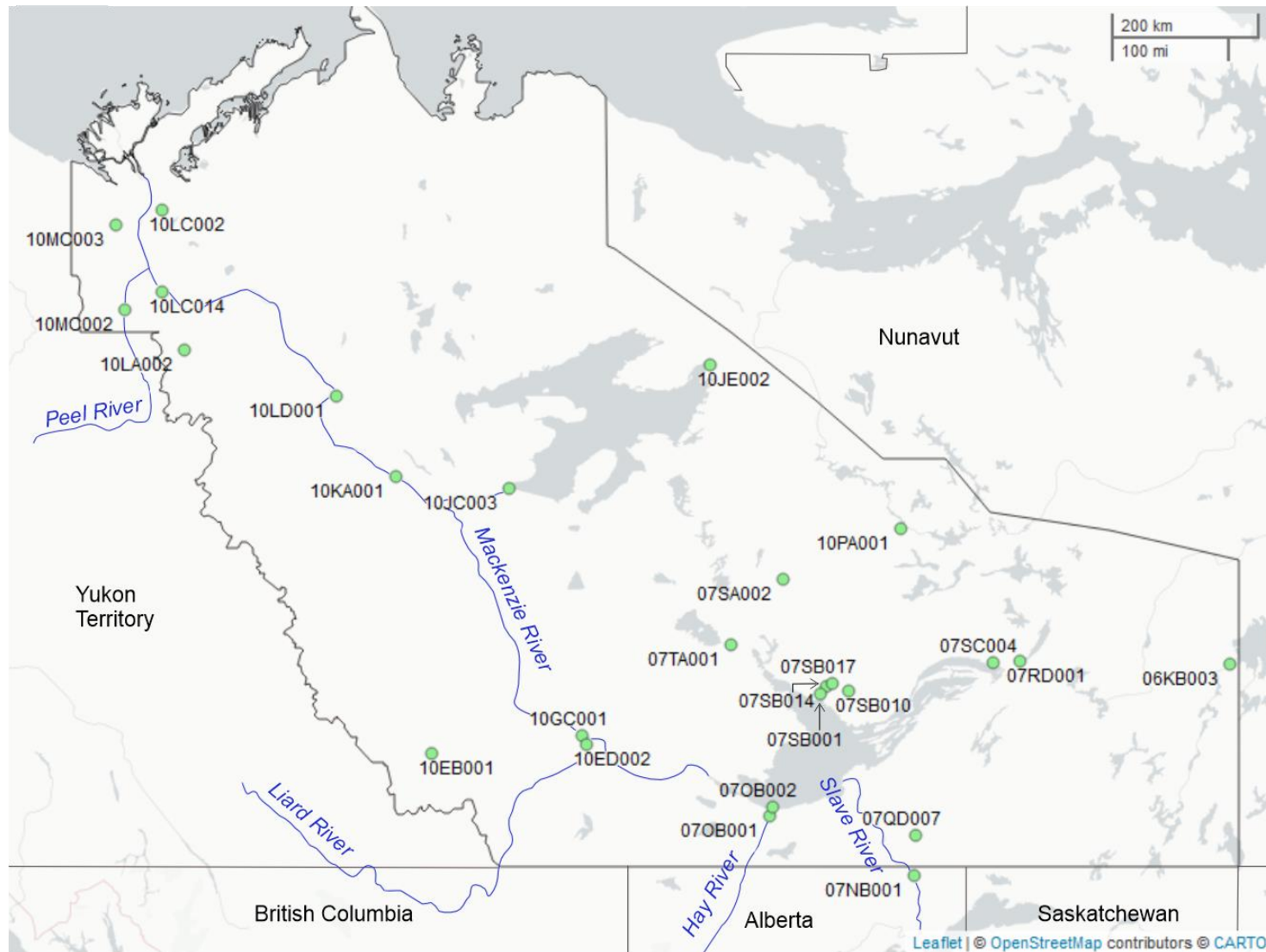
- De plus petites rivières dans le bassin du Grand lac des Esclaves, y compris :
 - Rivière Taltson
 - Rivière Lockhart
 - Rivière Snare
 - Rivière Hoarfrost
 - Rivière Tazin
- Les faibles niveaux d'eau sont attribuables à une sécheresse extrême qui a commencé à l'été 2022, et qui s'est poursuivie en 2023 et 2024. Depuis, les niveaux d'eau se sont quelque peu rétablis, mais cela s'est surtout limité aux petites rivières et aux lacs.
- **En mai, les précipitations** ont été variables aux TNO : Yellowknife, Hay River et Inuvik ont reçu des précipitations proches de la moyenne; Fort Smith, des précipitations nettement inférieures à la moyenne, et Fort Simpson et Norman Wells, des précipitations supérieures à la moyenne.
- Pour l'été à venir, les niveaux d'eau du Grand lac des Esclaves et du fleuve Mackenzie varieront en fonction des précipitations tombées dans le nord de l'Alberta et de la Colombie-Britannique.
 - Ce printemps (et début d'été), les précipitations dans ces régions ont été généralement inférieures à la moyenne.
- **En mai, les températures** ont été plus fraîches que la moyenne dans les régions du Sahtu et de Beaufort-Delta, et plus chaudes que la moyenne dans le sud des TNO.
- Les prévisions climatiques d'ECCC pour le mois de juin indiquent des températures plus fraîches que la normale pour la plupart des TNO. On prévoit des précipitations inférieures à la moyenne dans les régions du sud-ouest des TNO, en particulier dans le bassin de la rivière Liard.

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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 10th and 90th 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 25th to 75th percentile), the next lightest grey bands represent a wider range of values (10th to 90th 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.

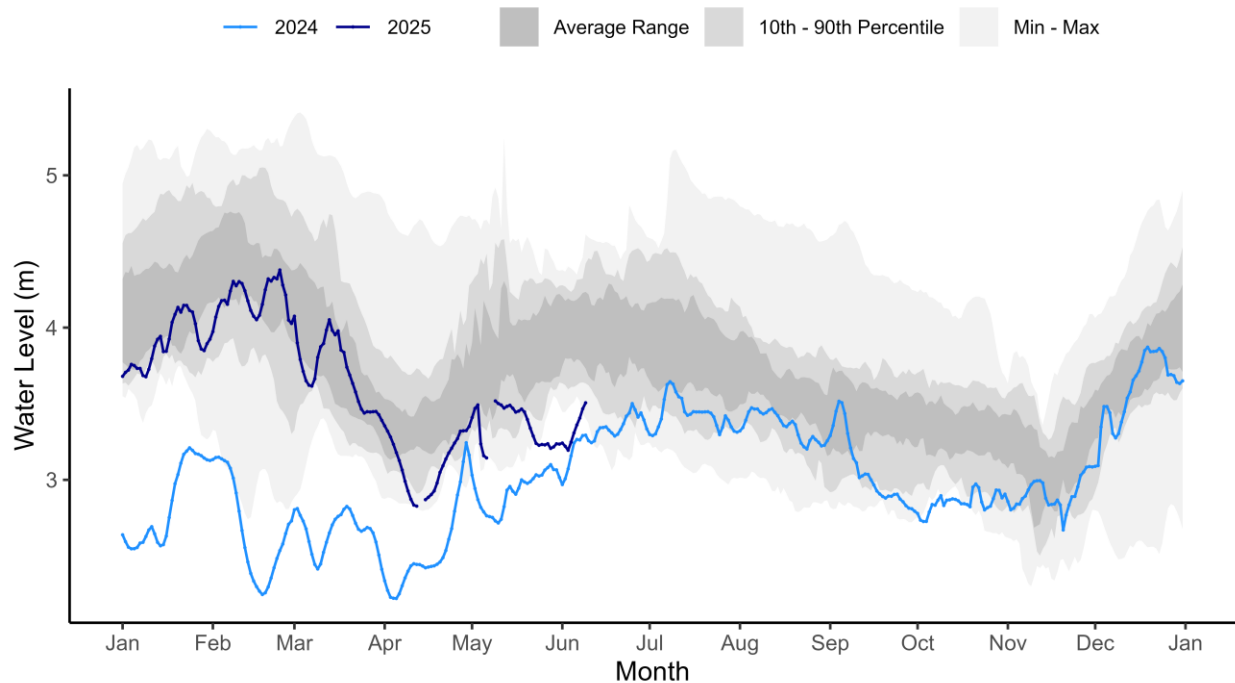
Climate figures

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 (10th to 90th 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

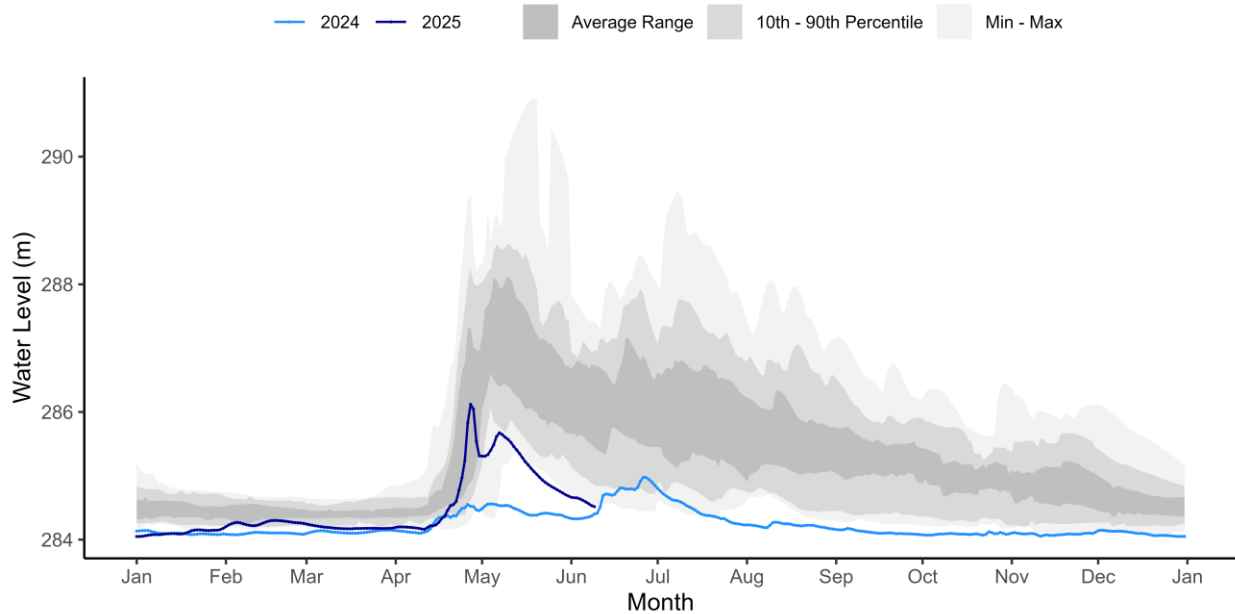
Slave River at Fitzgerald [07NB001]

SLAVE RIVER AT FITZGERALD (ALBERTA) (07NB001)



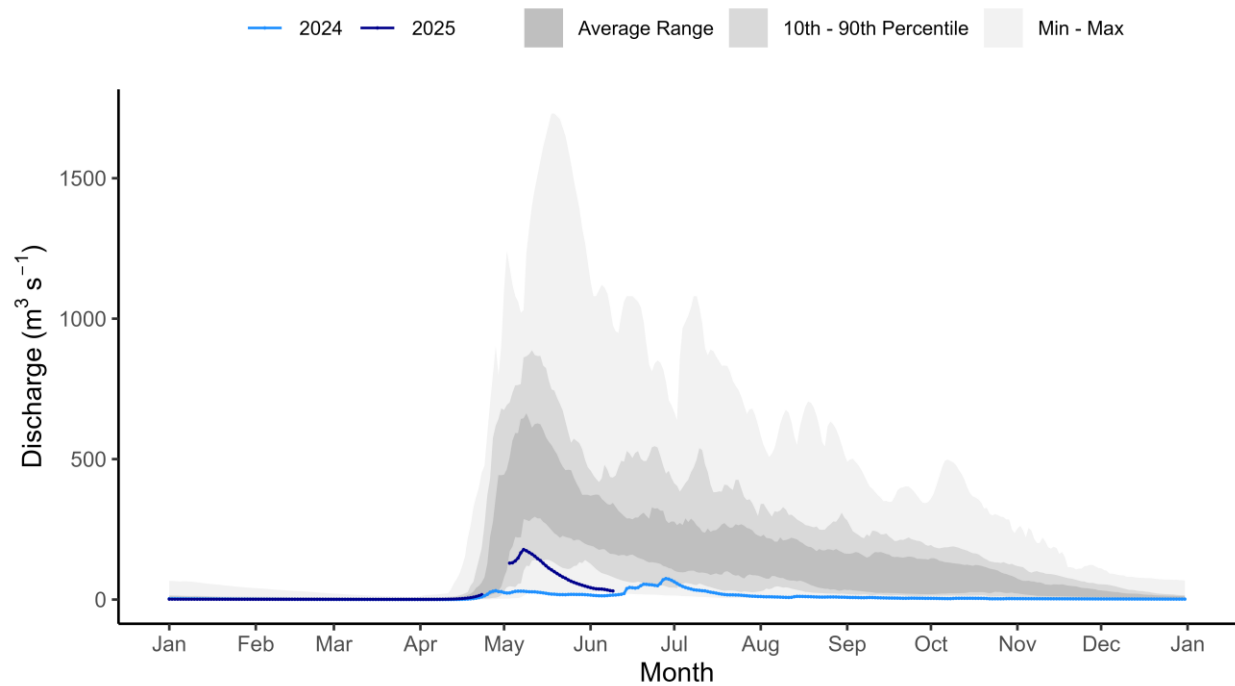
Hay River near Alberta/NWT Boundary [07OB008]

HAY RIVER NEAR ALTA/NWT BOUNDARY (07OB008)



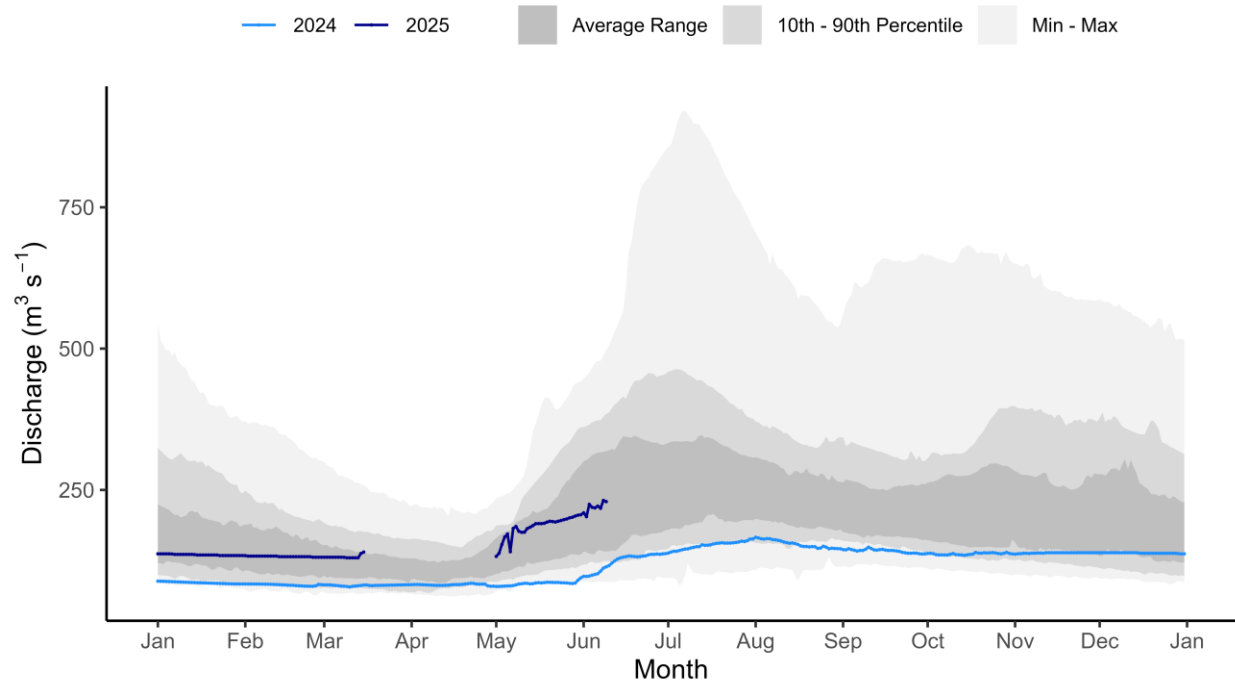
Hay River near Hay River [07OB001]

HAY RIVER NEAR HAY RIVER (07OB001)



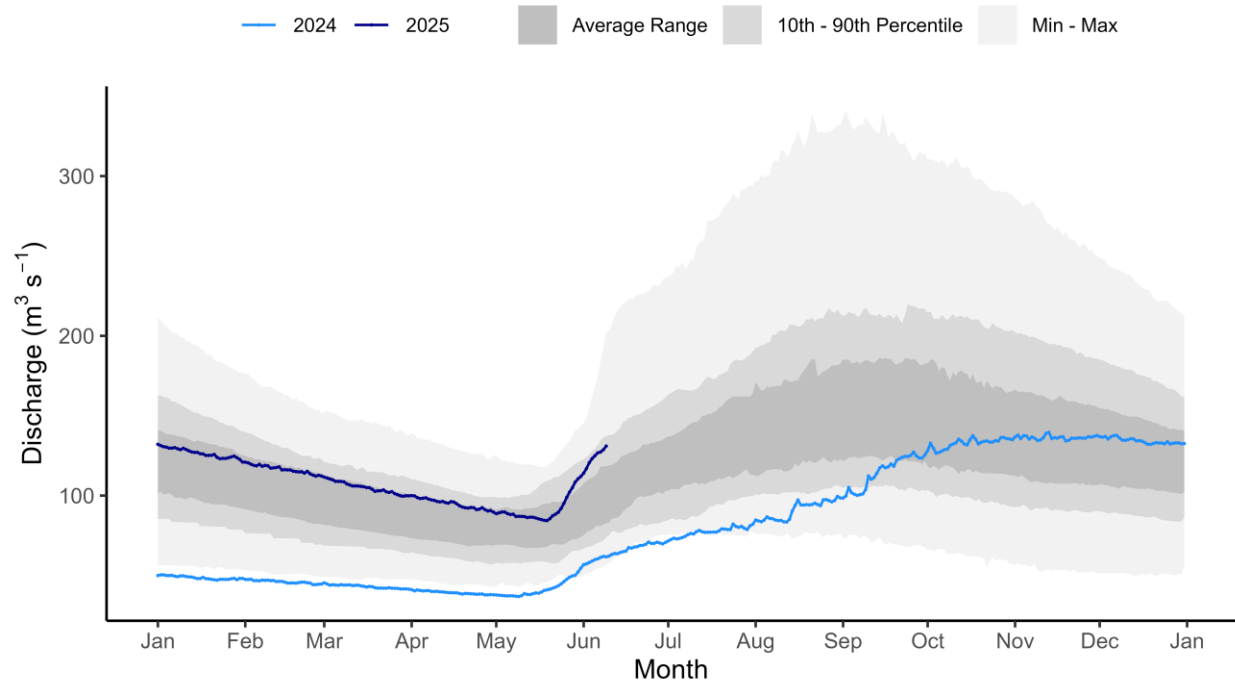
Taltson River below Hydro Dam [07QD007]

TALTSON RIVER BELOW HYDRO DAM (07QD007)



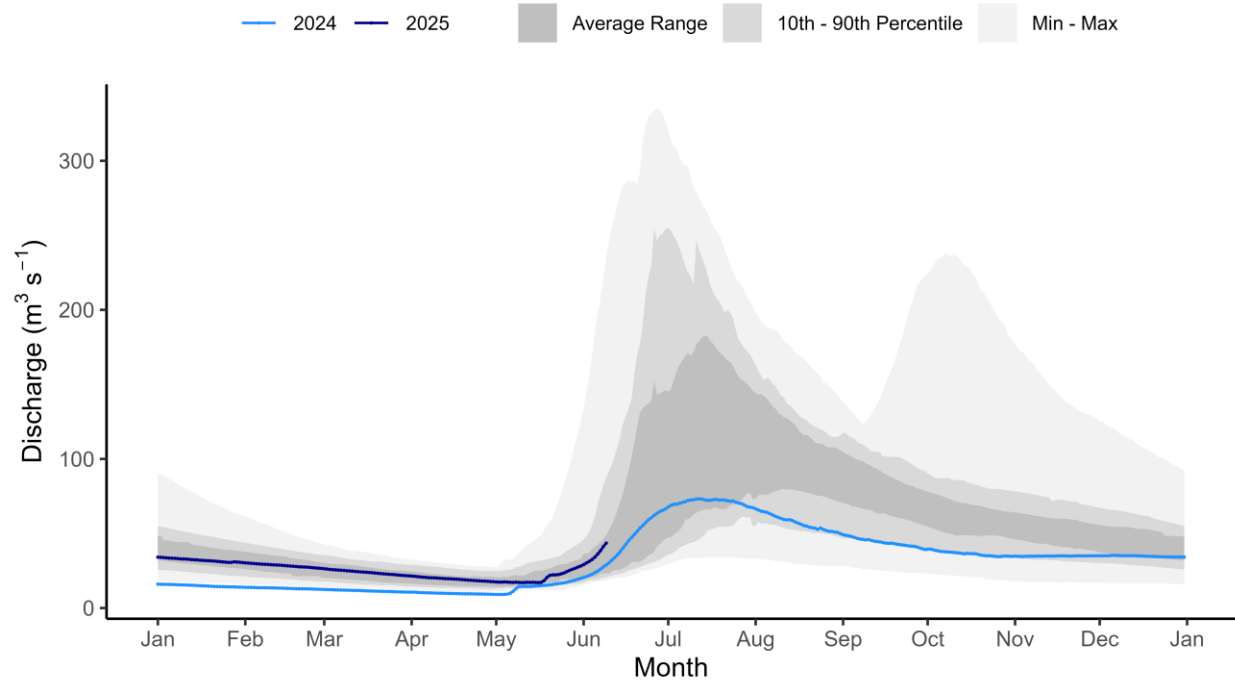
Lockhart River at outlet of Artillery Lake [07RD001]

LOCKHART RIVER AT OUTLET OF ARTILLERY LAKE (07RD001)



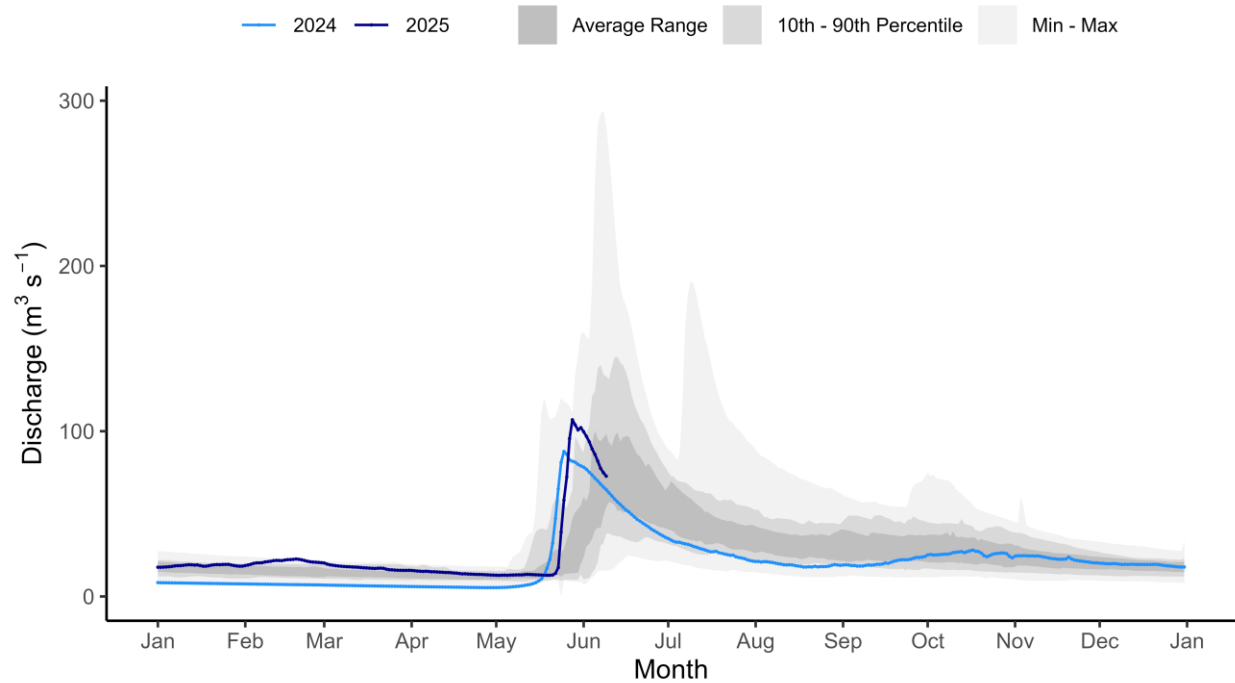
Snare River below Ghost Lake [07SA002]

SNARE RIVER BELOW GHOST RIVER (07SA002)



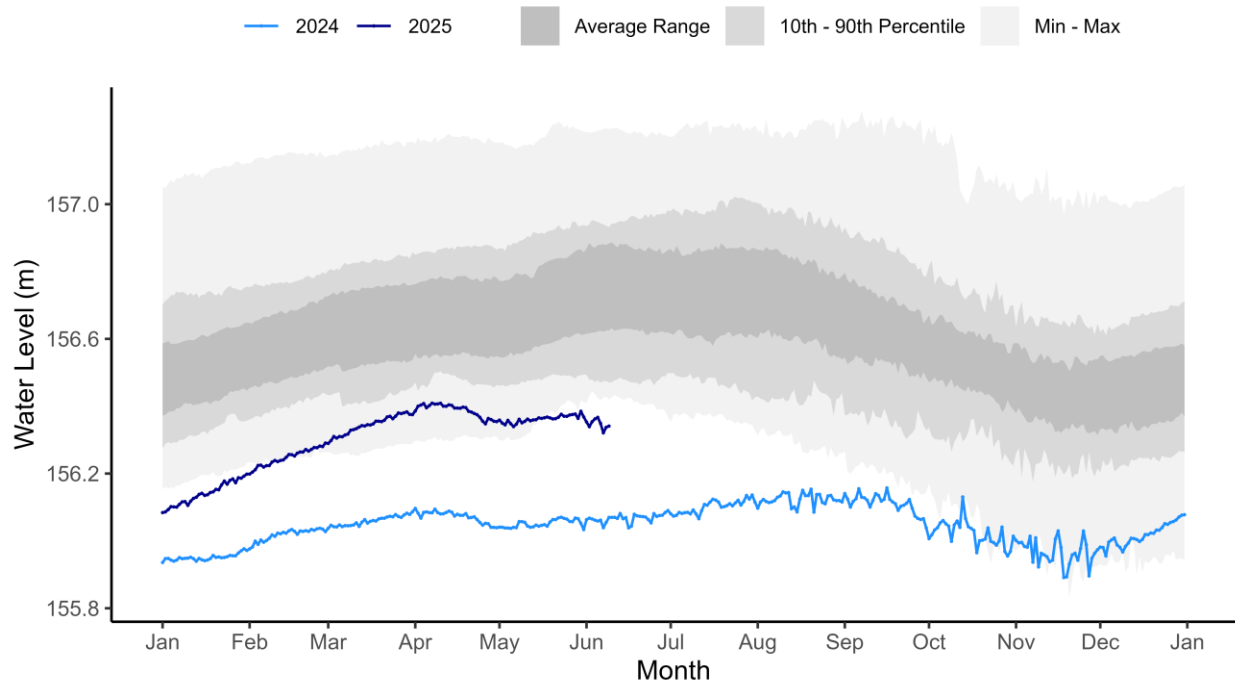
Coppermine River below Desteffany Lake [10PA001]

COPPERMINE RIVER BELOW DESTEFFANY LAKE (10PA001)



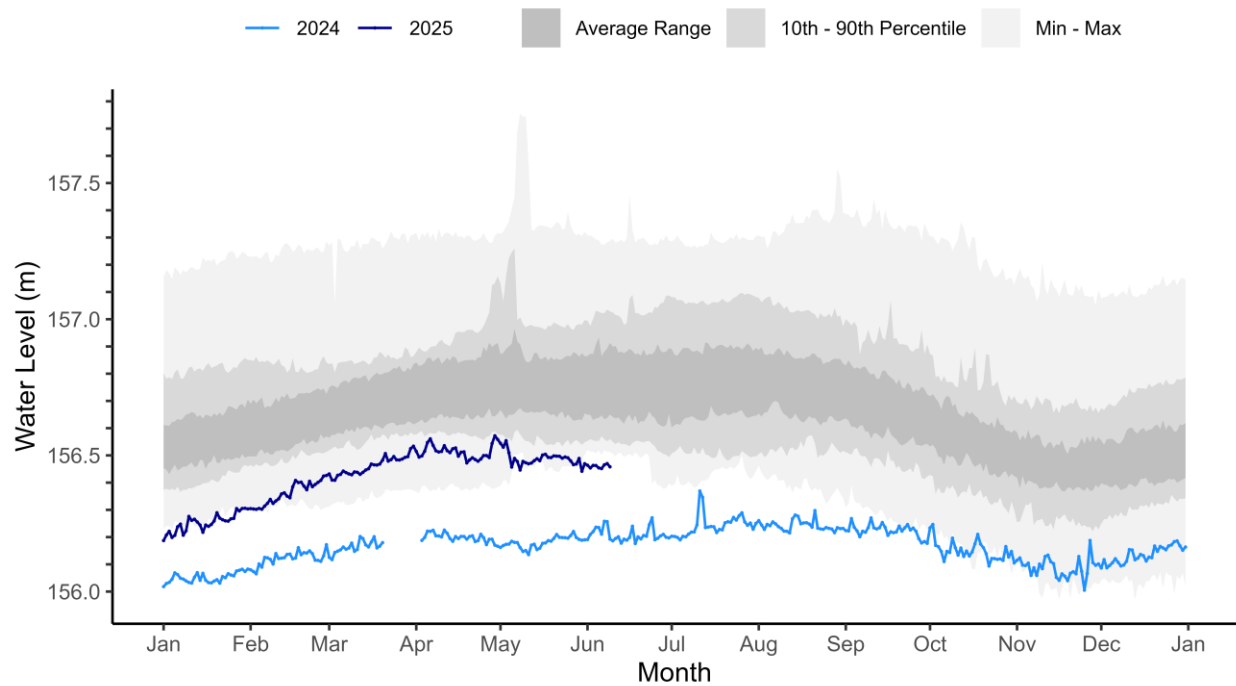
Great Slave Lake at Yellowknife Bay [07SB001]

GREAT SLAVE LAKE AT YELLOWKNIFE BAY (07SB001)



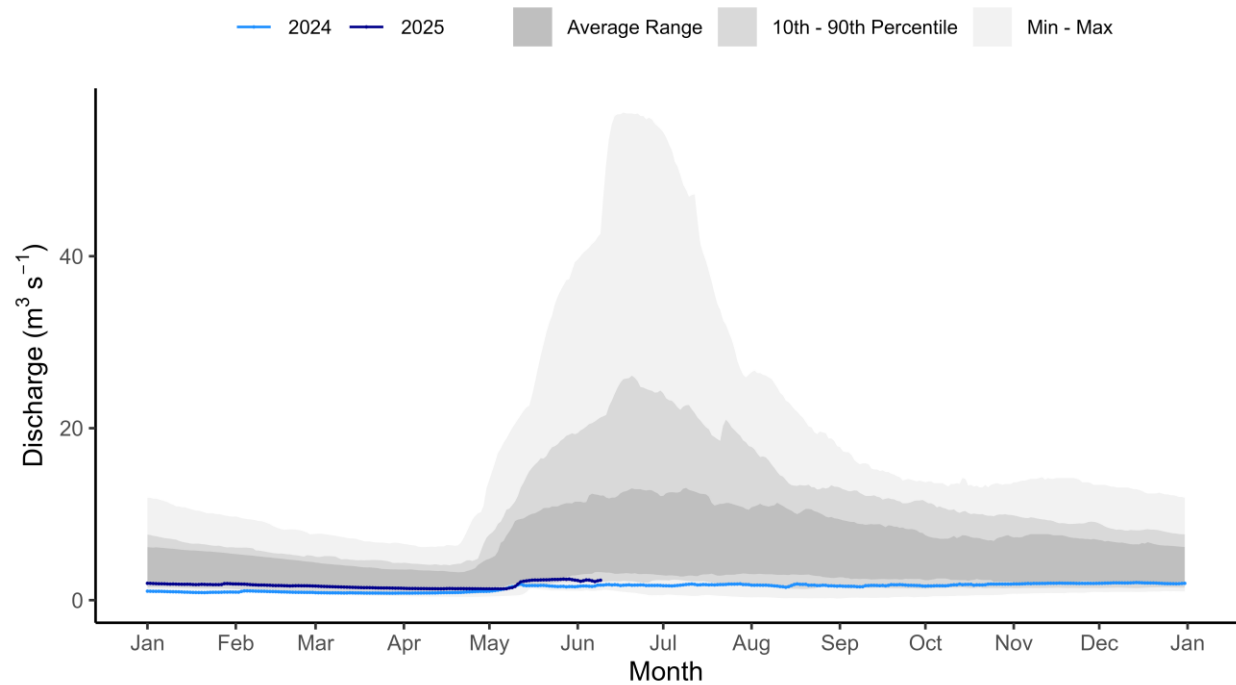
Great Slave Lake at Hay River [07OB002]

GREAT SLAVE LAKE AT HAY RIVER (07OB002)



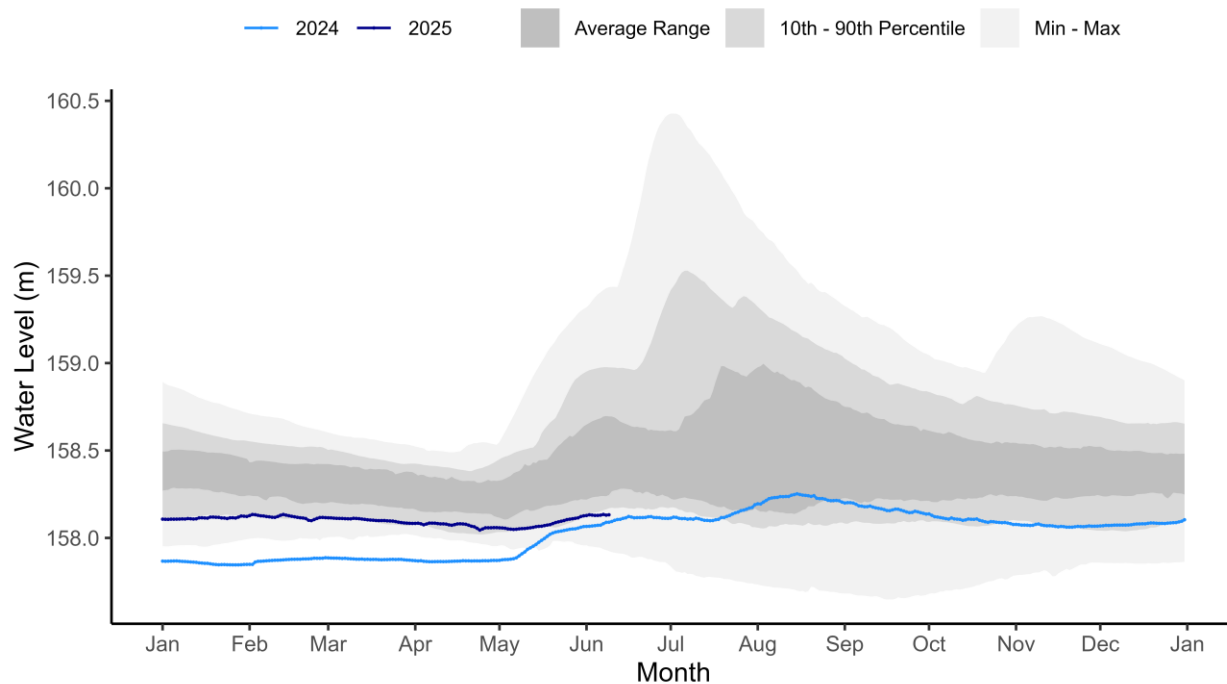
Cameron River below Reid Lake [07SB010]

CAMERON RIVER BELOW REID LAKE (07SB010)



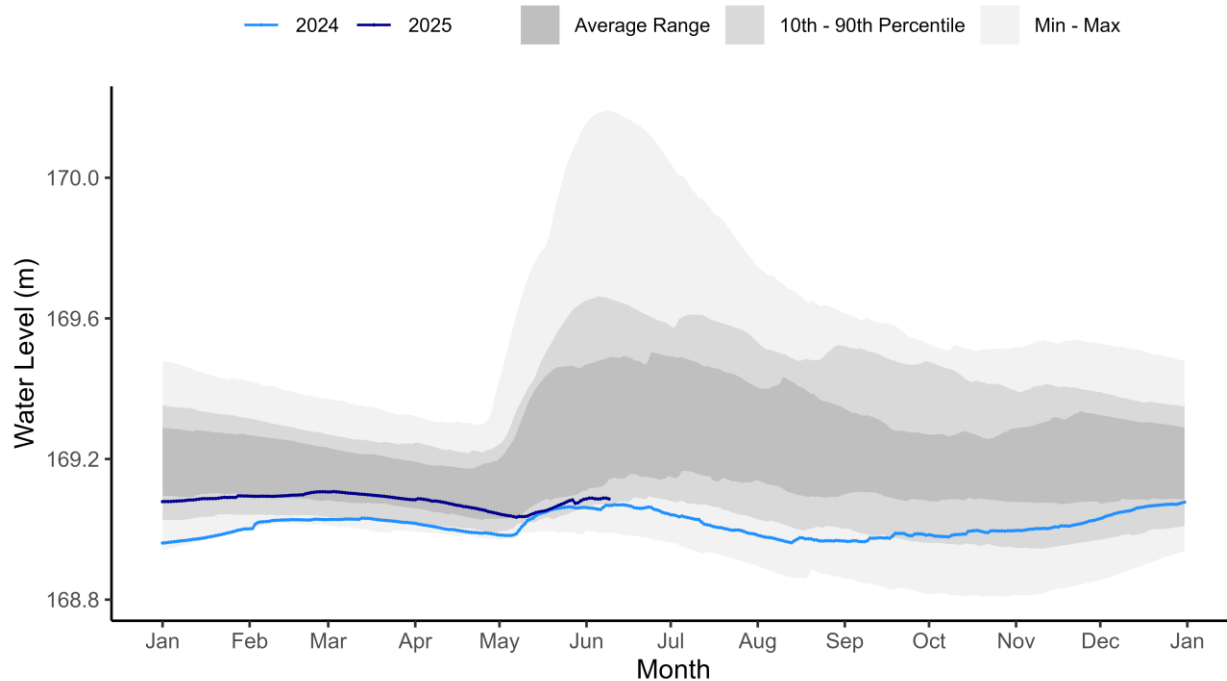
Prosperous Lake near McMeekan Bay [07SB014]

PROSPEROUS LAKE NEAR MCMEEKAN BAY (07SB014)



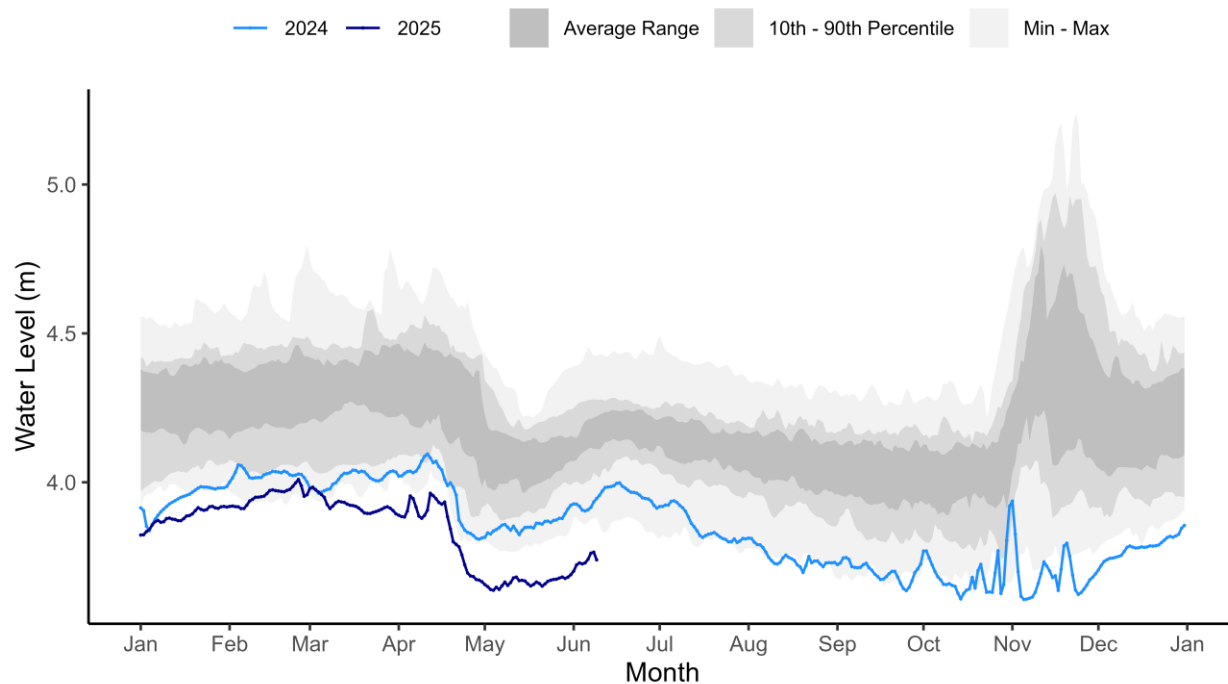
Prelude Lake near Yellowknife [07SB017]

PRELUDE LAKE NEAR YELLOWKNIFE (07SB017)



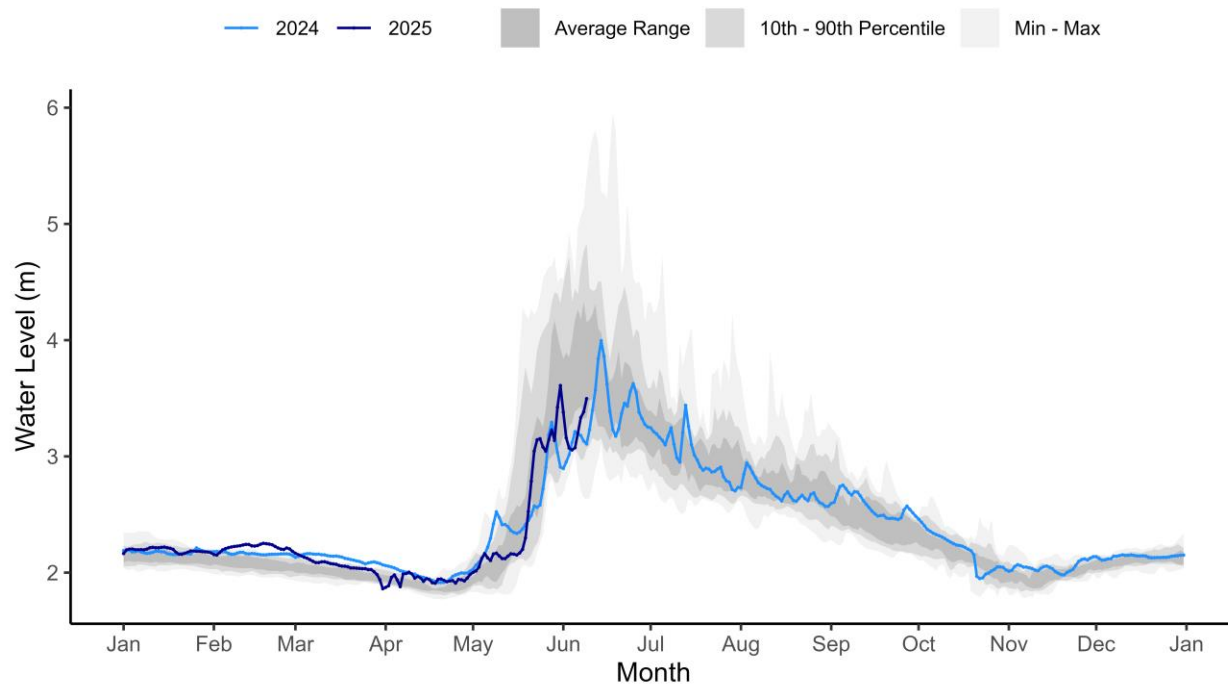
La Martre River below outlet of Lac La Martre [07TA001]

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

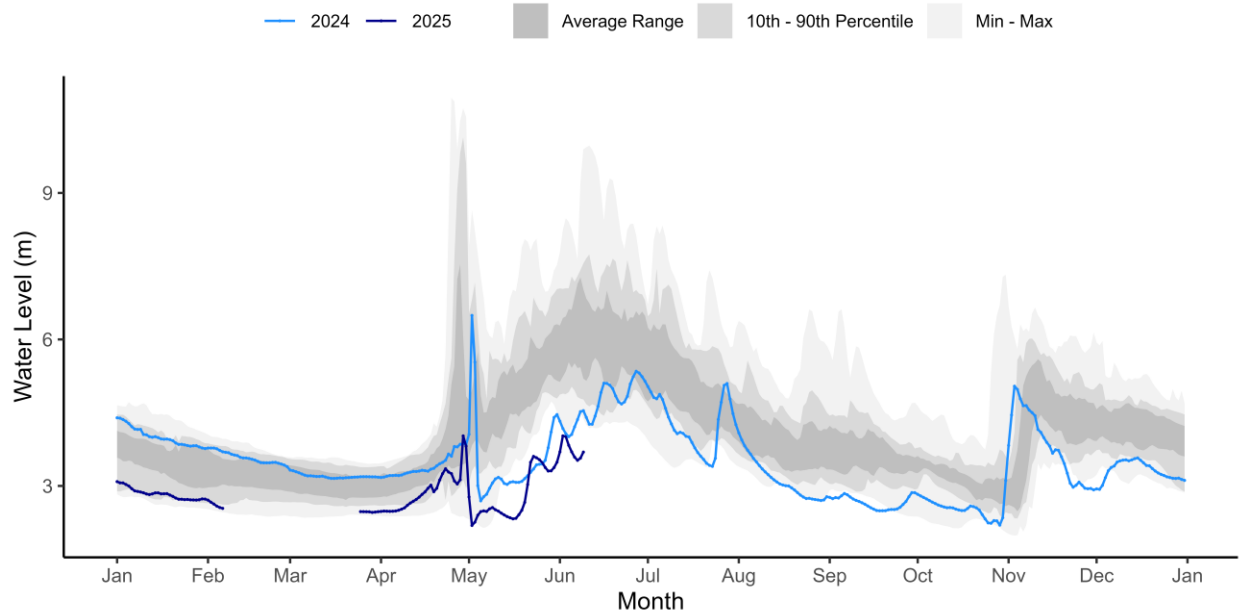


South Nahanni River above Virginia Falls [10EB001]

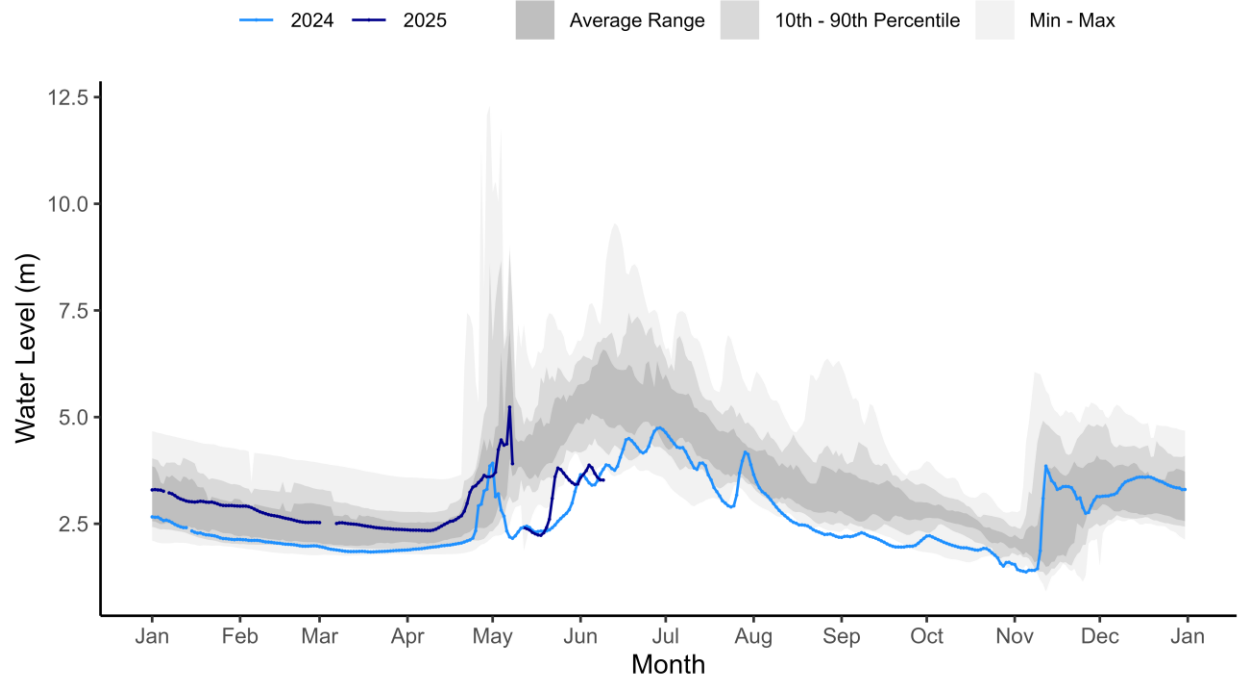
SOUTH NAHANNI RIVER ABOVE VIRGINIA FALLS (10EB001)



Liard River at Fort Liard [10ED001] LIARD RIVER AT FORT LIARD (10ED001)

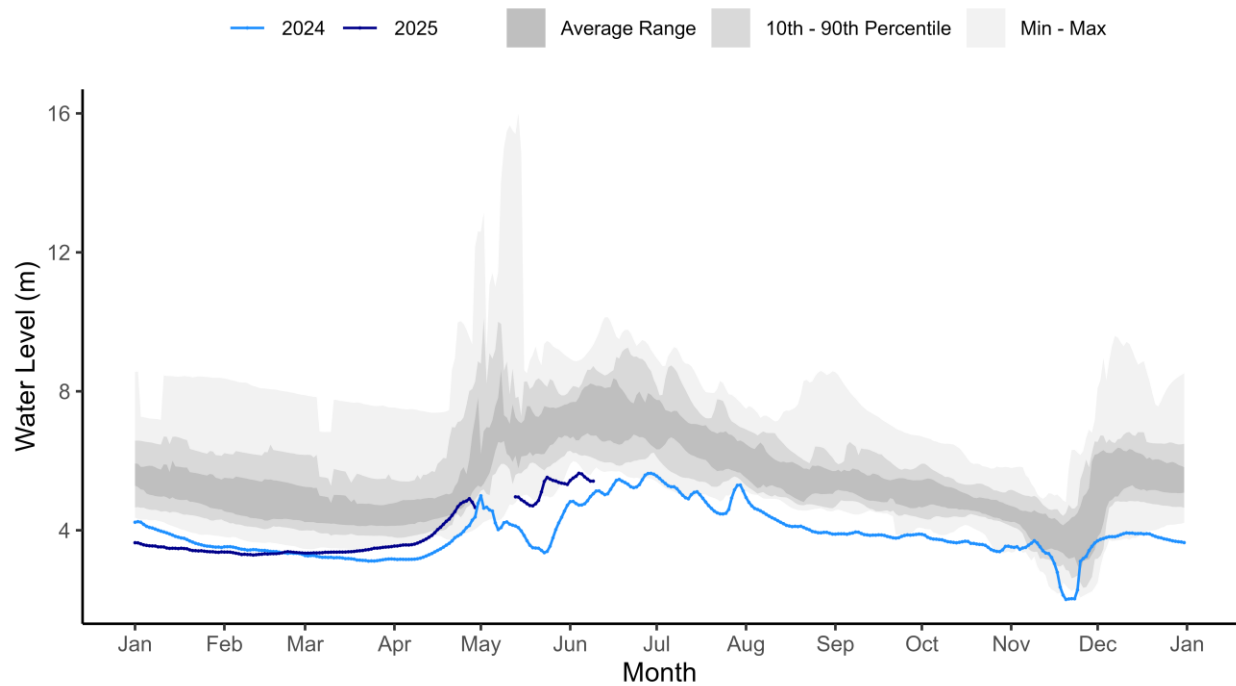


Liard River at the mouth [10ED002] LIARD RIVER NEAR THE MOUTH (10ED002)



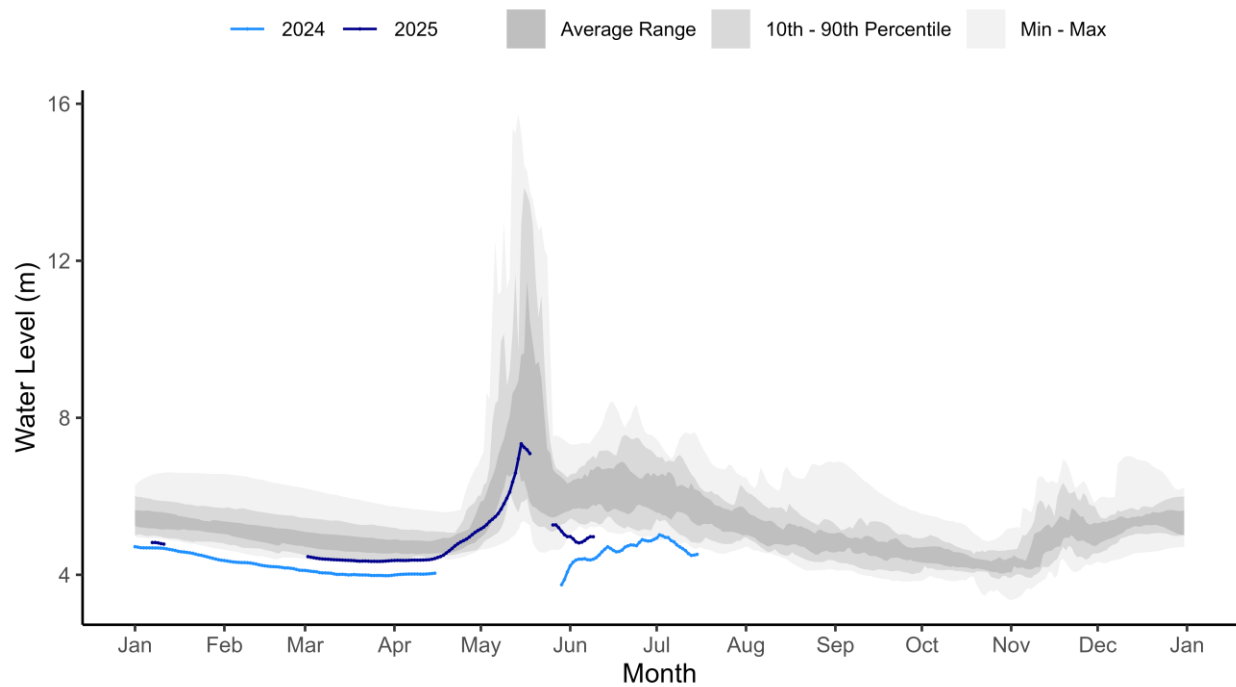
Mackenzie River at Fort Simpson [10GC001]

MACKENZIE RIVER AT FORT SIMPSON (10GC001)



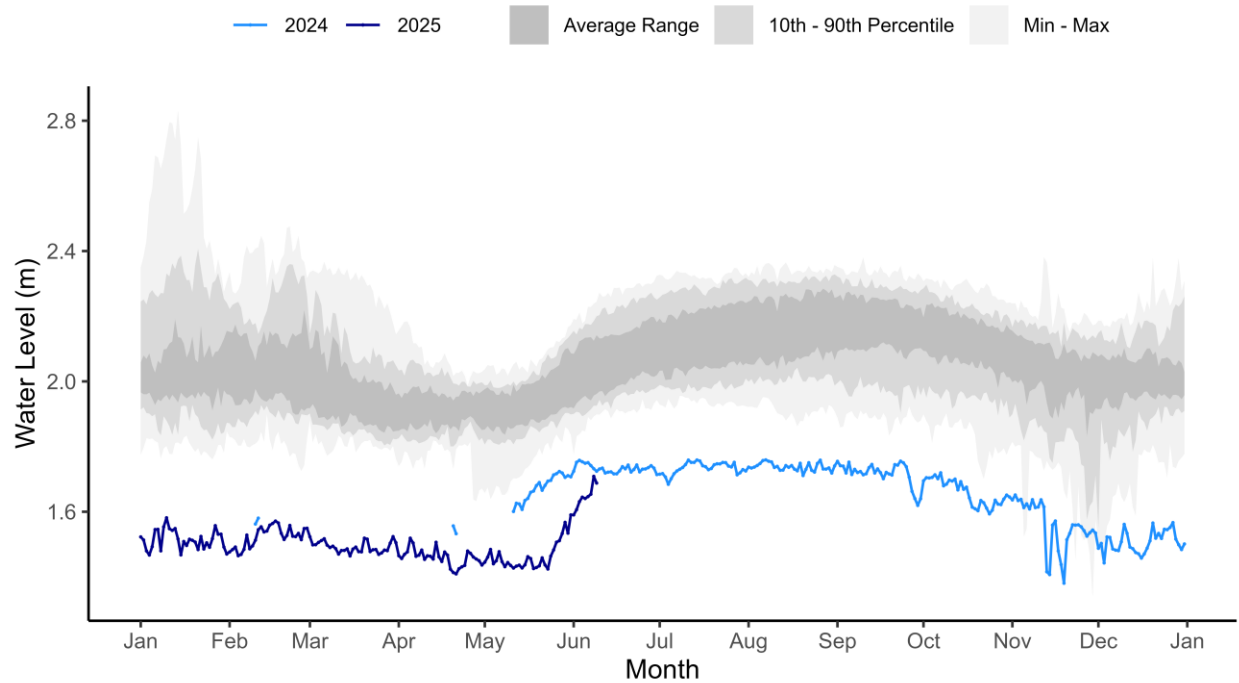
Mackenzie River at Norman Wells [10KA001]

MACKENZIE RIVER AT NORMAN WELLS (10KA001)



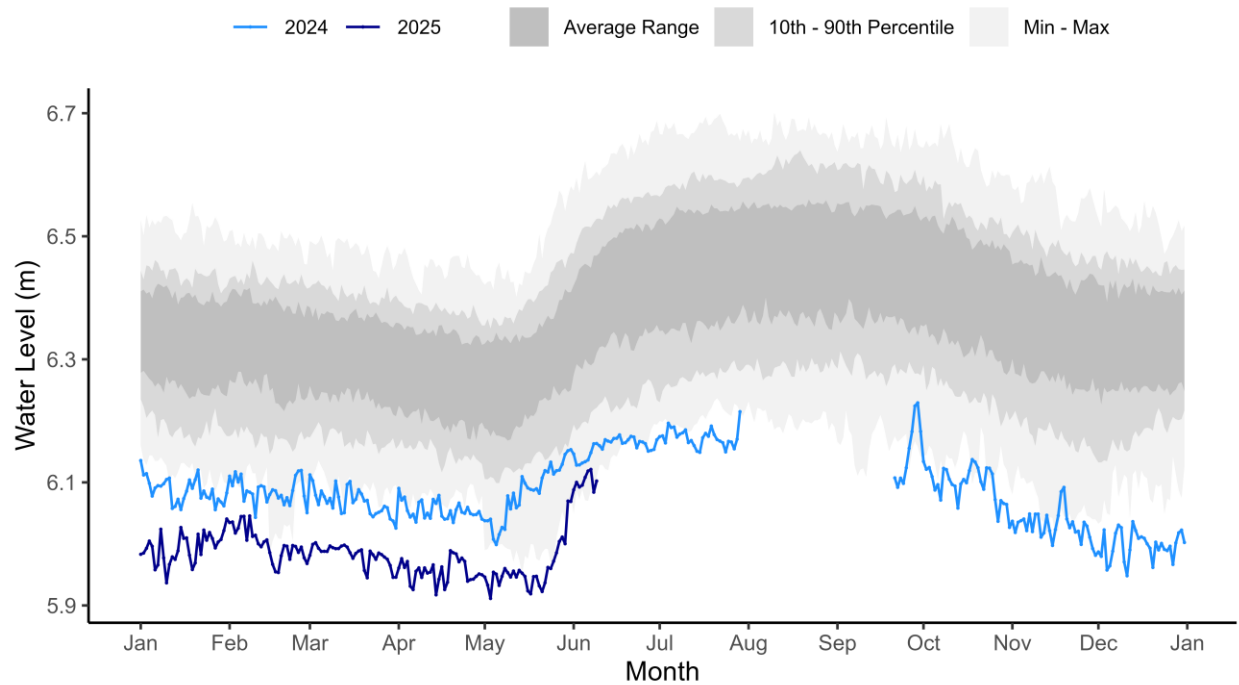
Great Bear River at outlet of Great Bear Lake [10JC003]

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



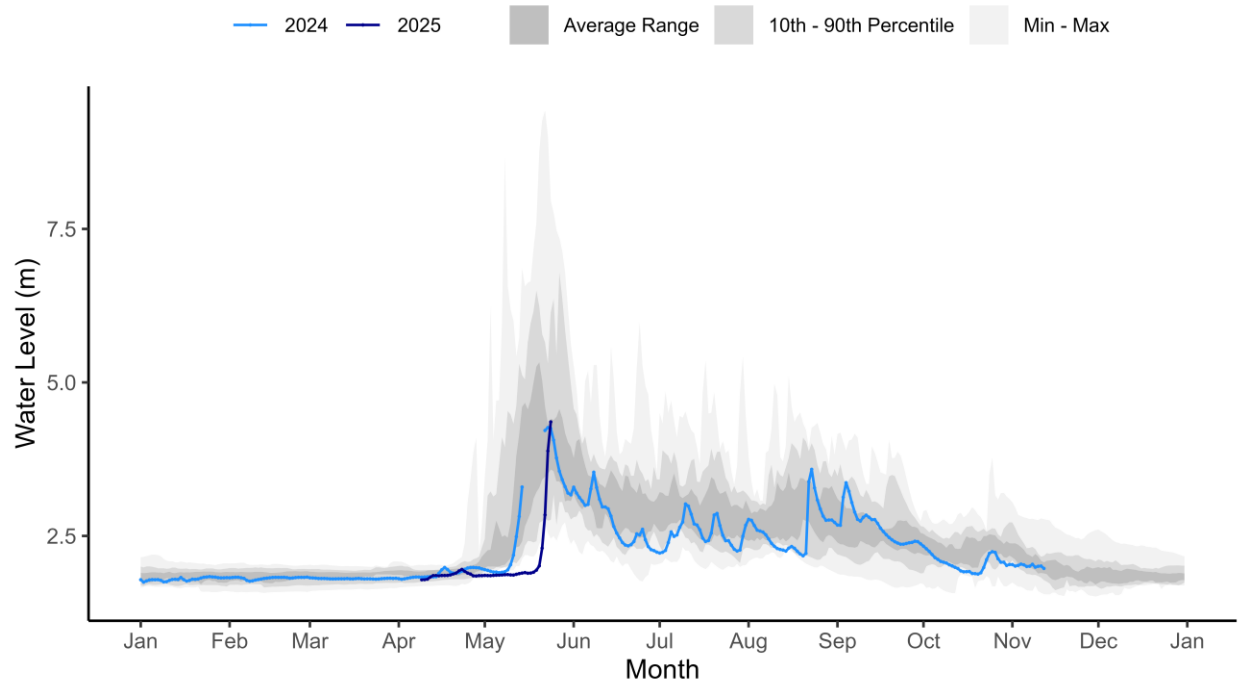
Great Bear Lake at Hornby Bay [10JE002]

GREAT BEAR LAKE AT HORNBY BAY (10JE002)



Arctic Red River near the mouth [10LA002]

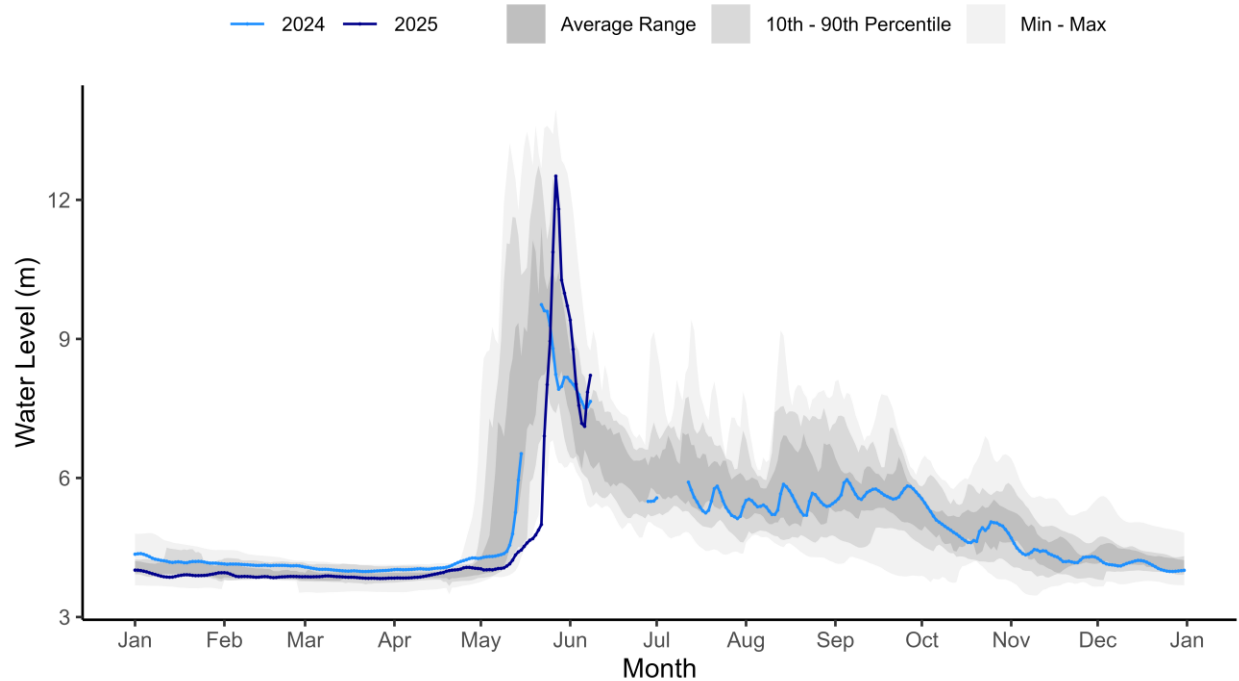
ARCTIC RED RIVER NEAR THE MOUTH (10LA002)



Note: Current sensor data have been impacted by ice and are not shown here.

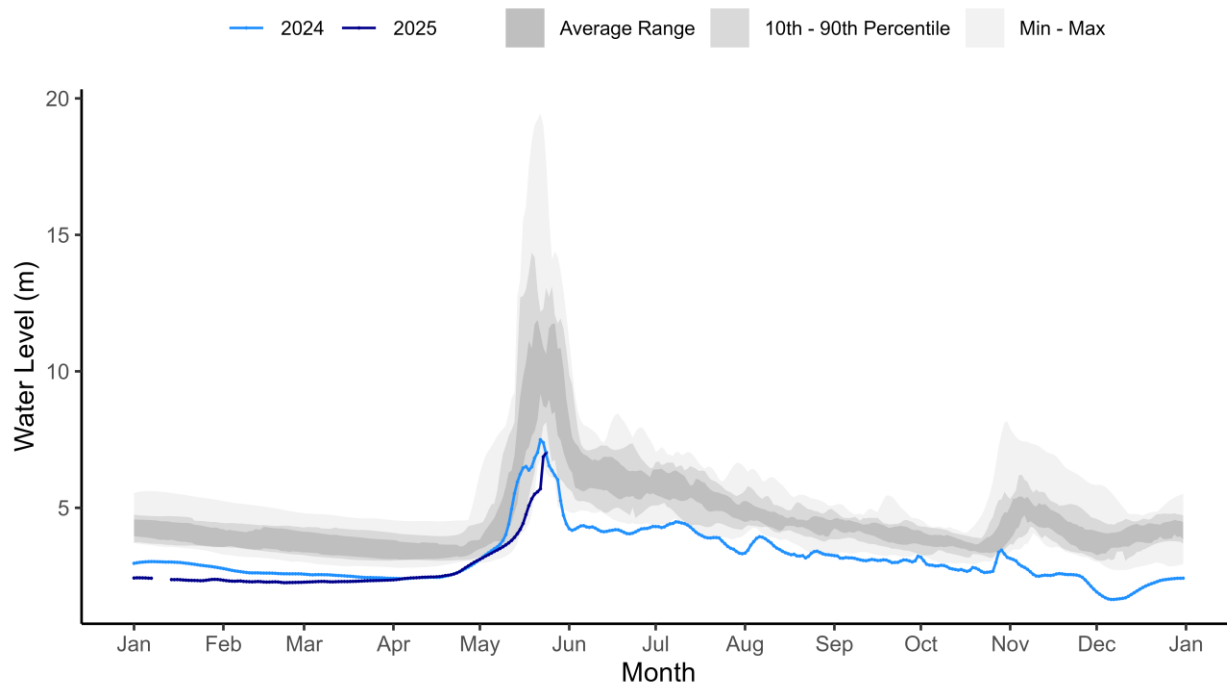
Peel River above Fort McPherson [10MC002]

PEEL RIVER ABOVE FORT MCPHERSON (10MC002)



Mackenzie River at Arctic Red River [10LC014]

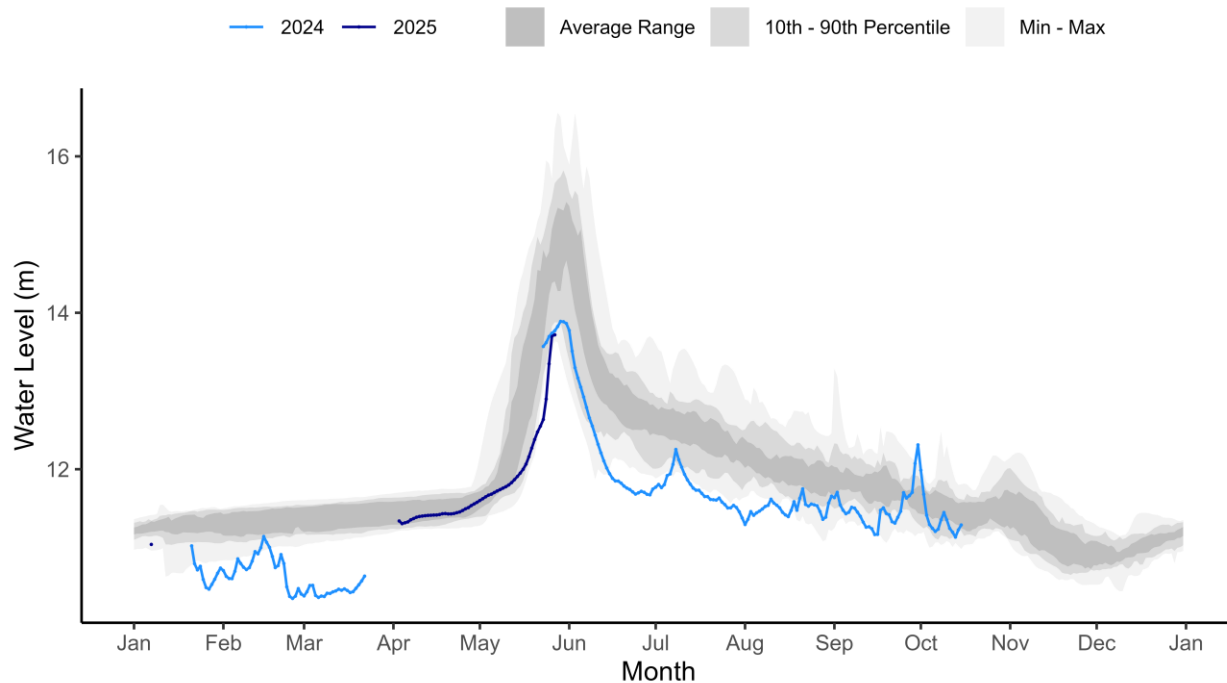
MACKENZIE RIVER AT ARCTIC RED RIVER (10LC014)



Note: Current sensor data have been impacted by ice and are not shown here.

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

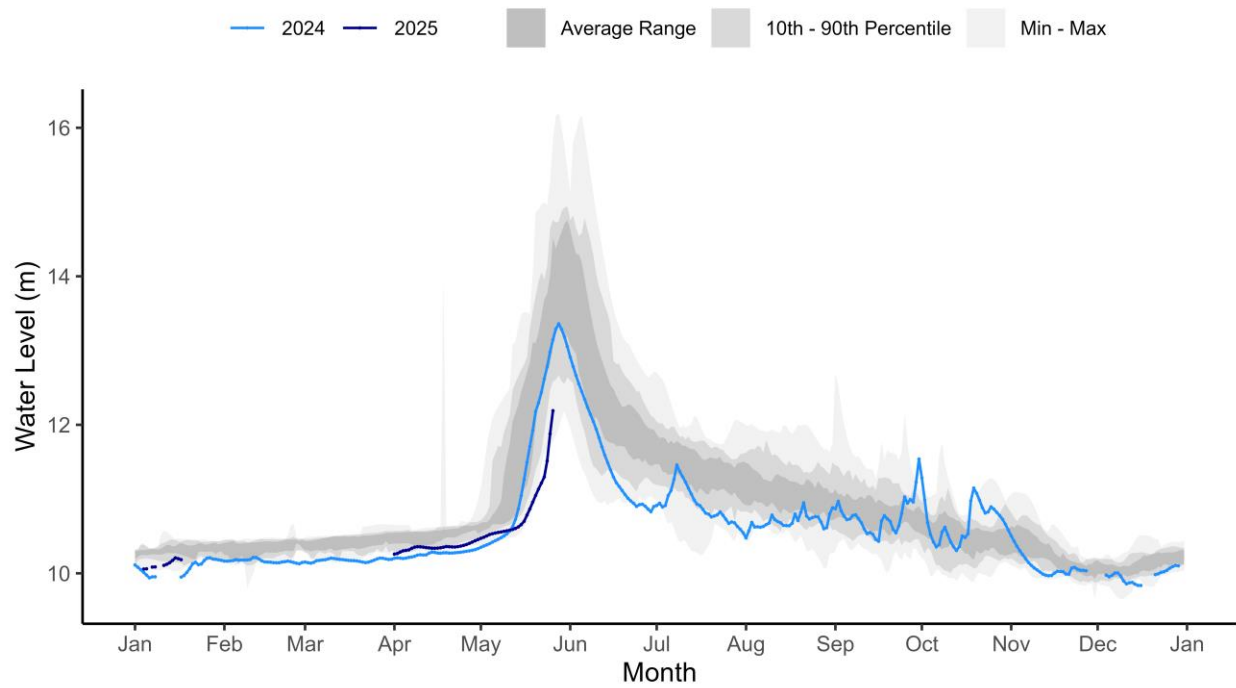
MACKENZIE RIVER (EAST CHANNEL) AT INUVIK (10LC002)



Note: Current sensor data have been impacted by ice and are not shown here.

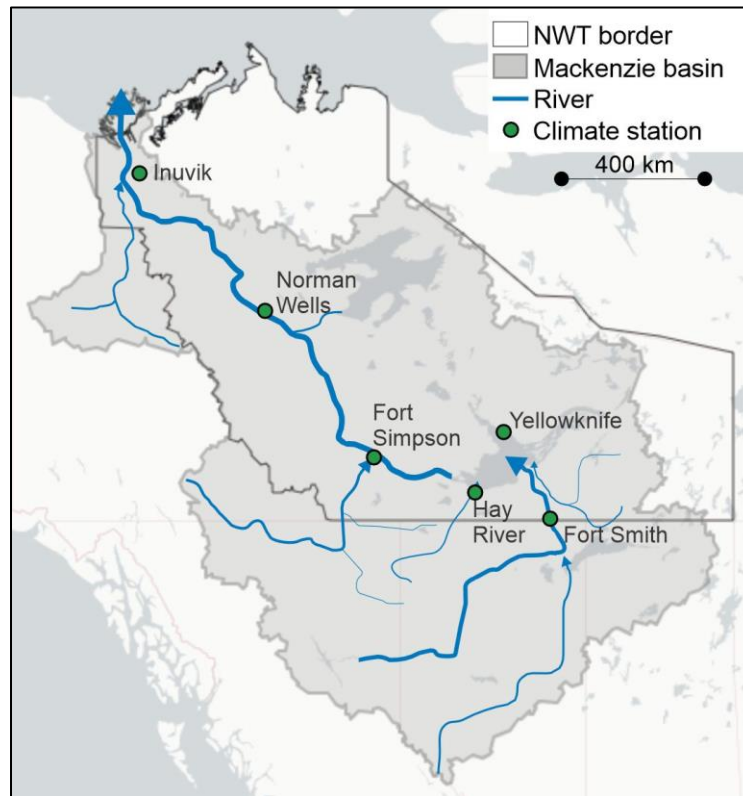
Mackenzie River (Peel Channel) above Aklavik [10MC003]

MACKENZIE RIVER (PEEL CHANNEL) ABOVE AKLAVIK (10MC003)



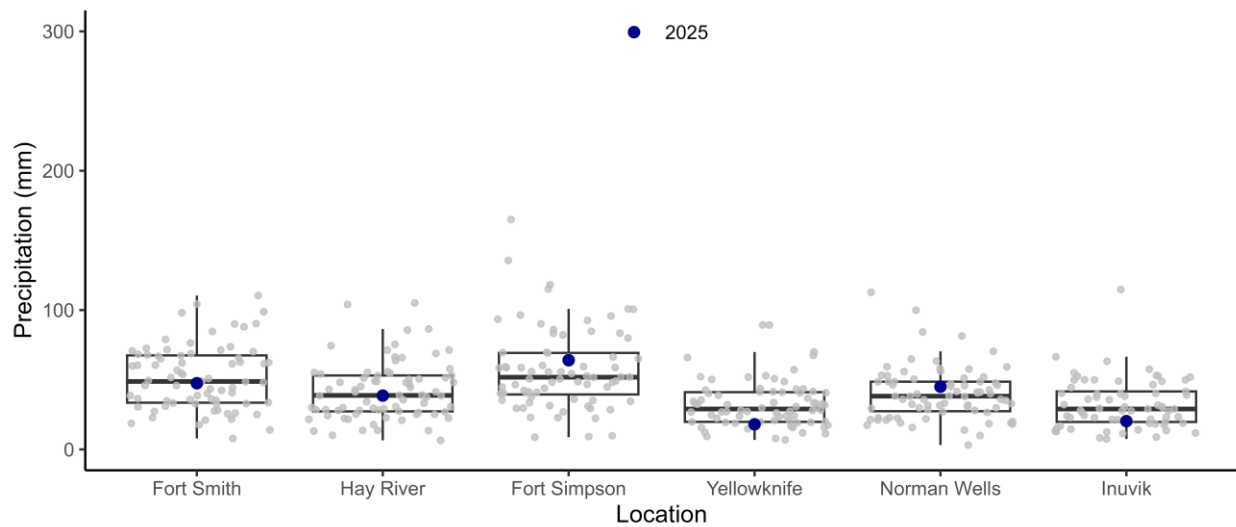
Note: Current sensor data have been impacted by ice and are not shown here.

Climate Data NWT communities



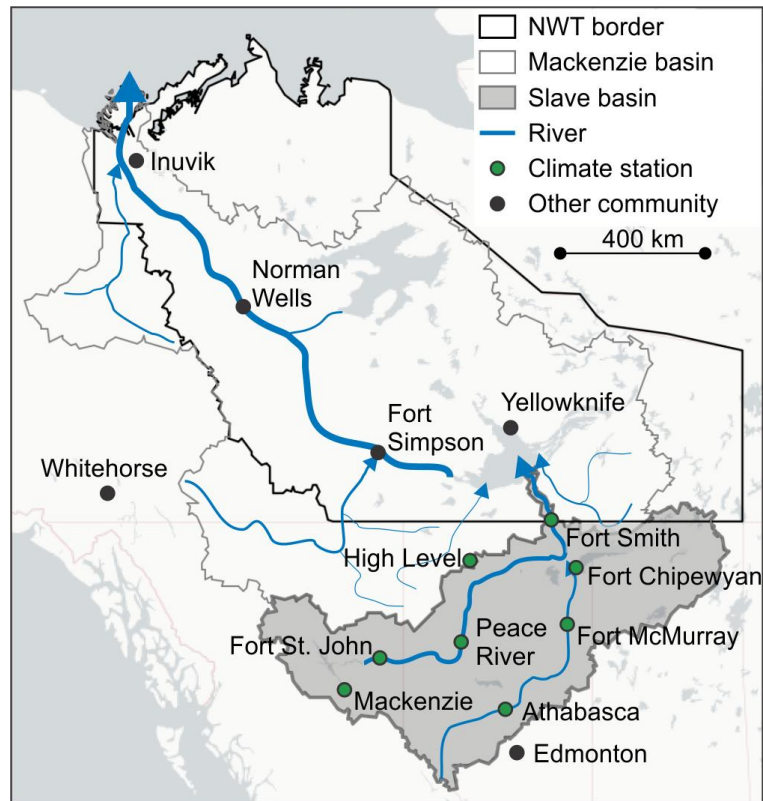
Cumulative precipitation for select NWT communities

April 1st 2025 to June 9th 2025

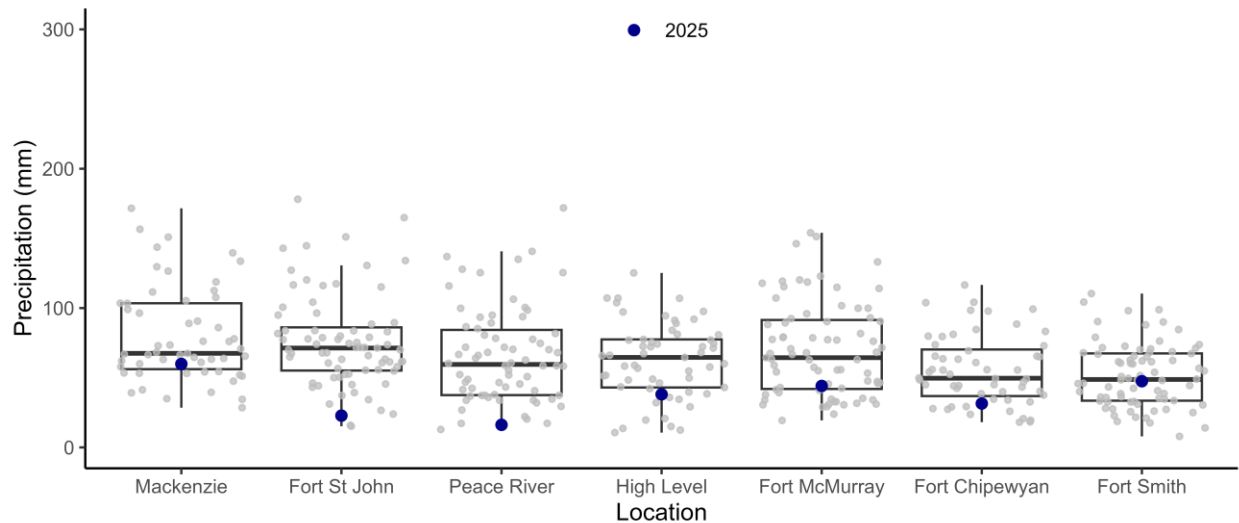


This figure shows cumulative total precipitation (rain and snow) that has fallen in select communities across the NWT from the start of April until June 9th. The blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present. See the map above for geographical context.

Slave River basin communities

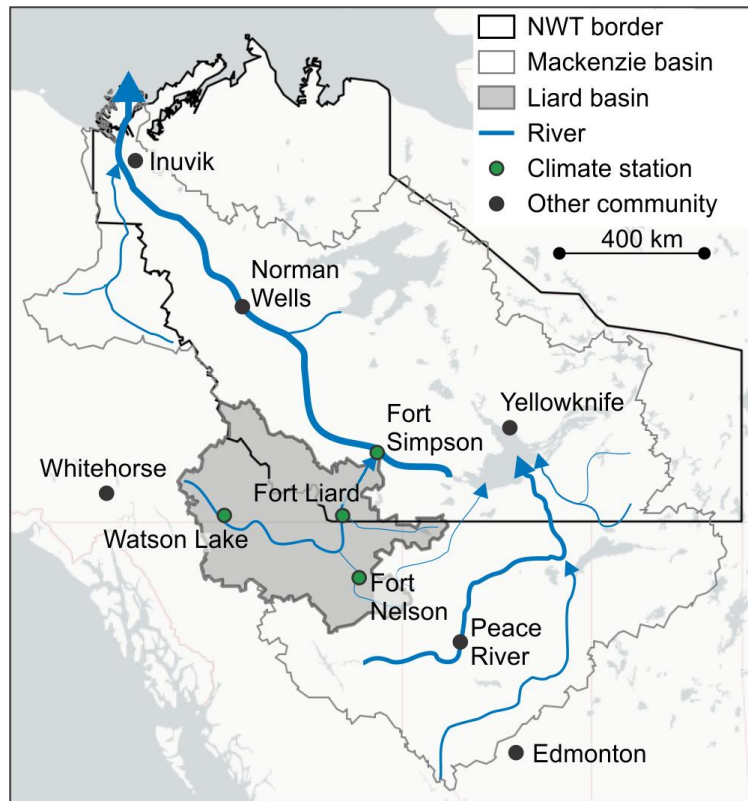


Cumulative precipitation for select AB/BC/NWT communities in the Slave River basin
April 1st 2025 to June 9th 2025

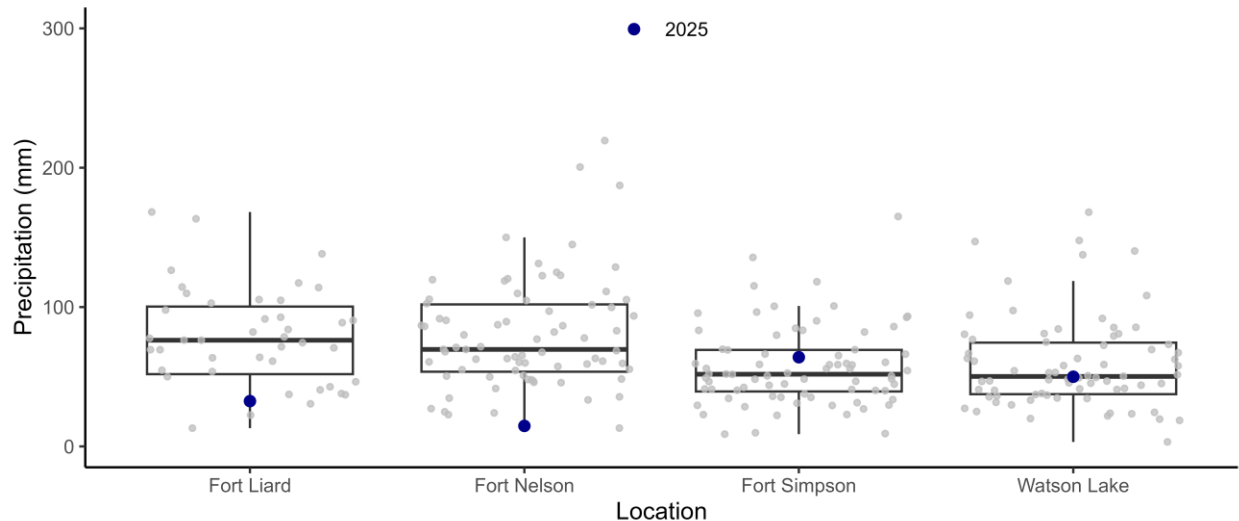


This figure shows cumulative total precipitation (rain and snow) that has fallen in select communities in the Slave River basin from the start of April until June 9th. The blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present. See the map above for geographical context.

Liard River basin communities

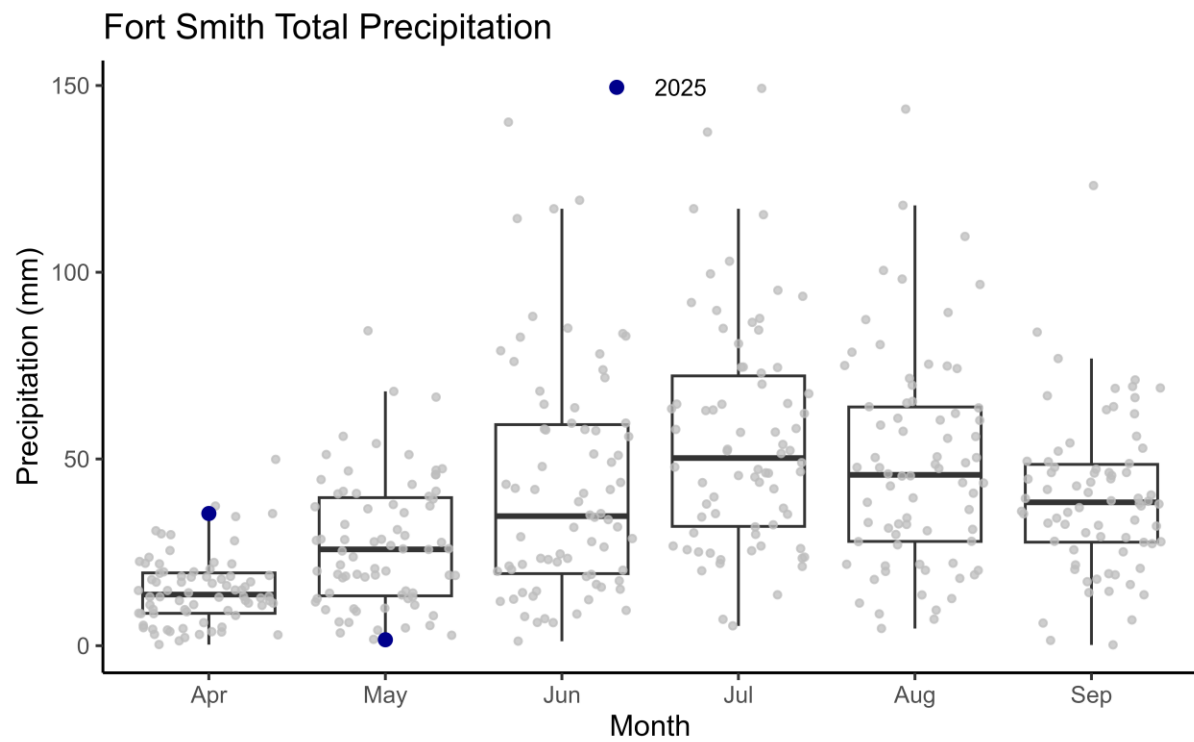
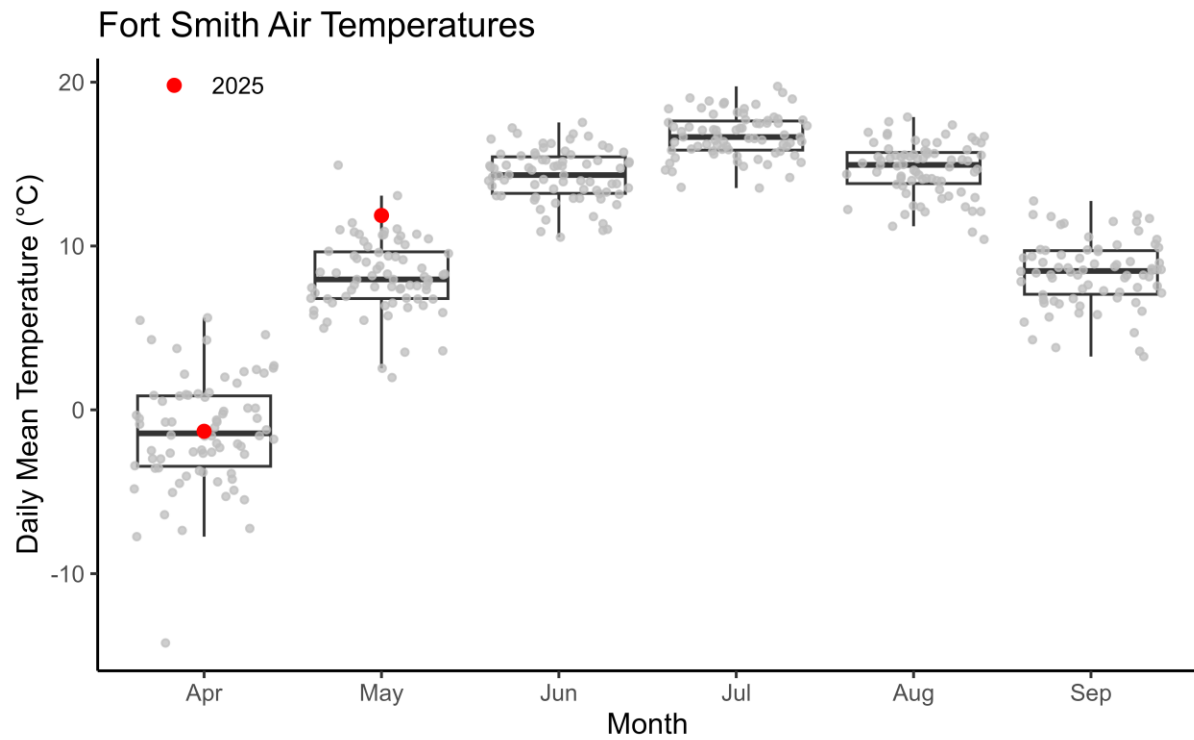


Cumulative precipitation for select BC/NWT/YT communities in the Liard River basin
April 1st 2025 to June 9th 2025



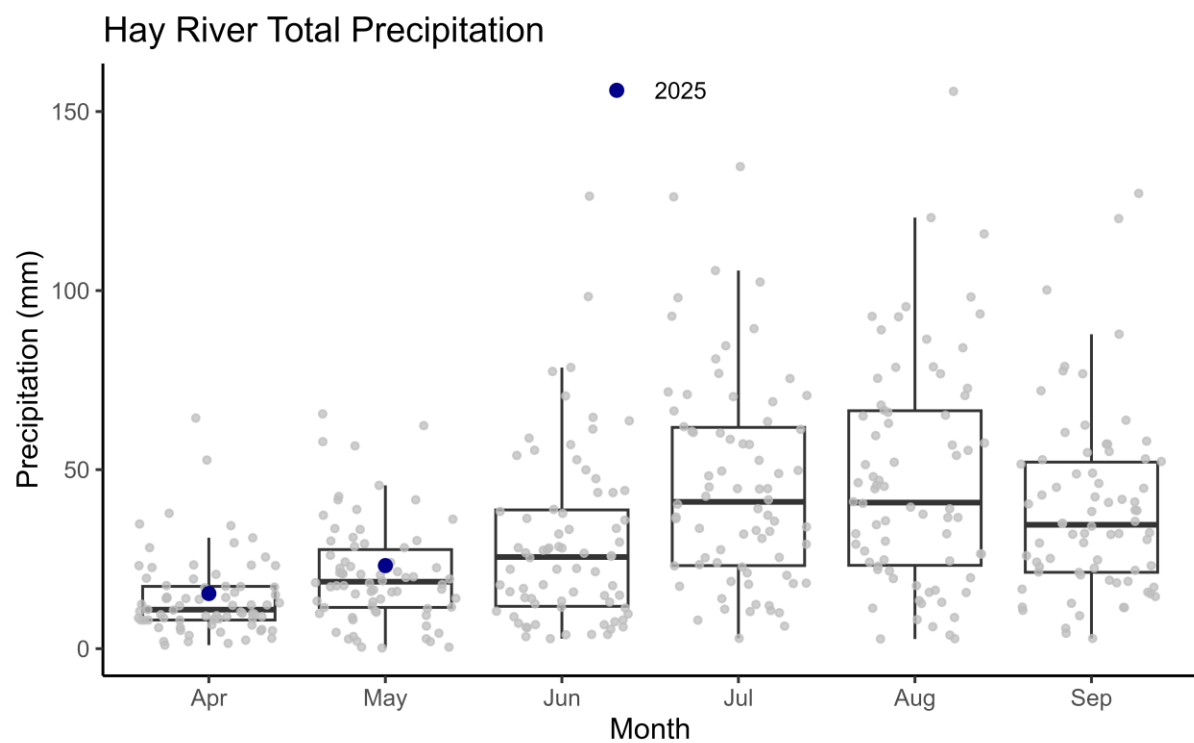
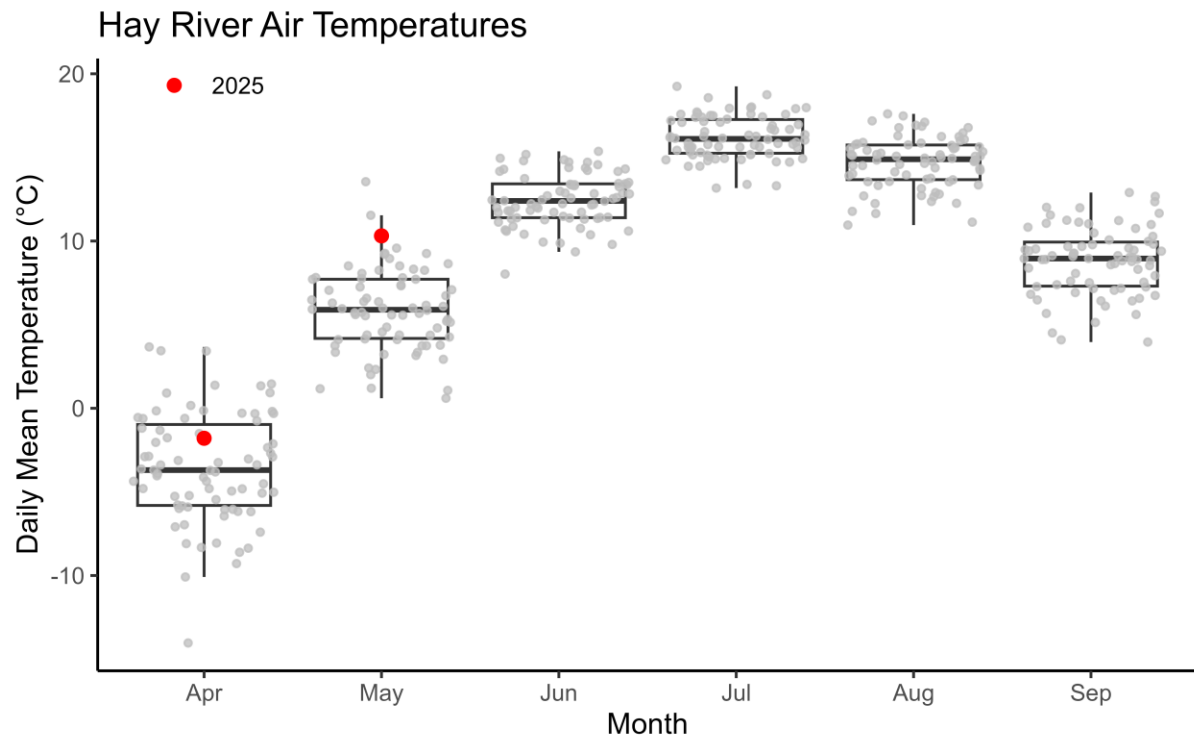
This figure shows cumulative total precipitation (rain and snow) that has fallen in select communities in the Liard River basin from the start of April until June 9th. The blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present. See the map above for geographical context.

Fort Smith



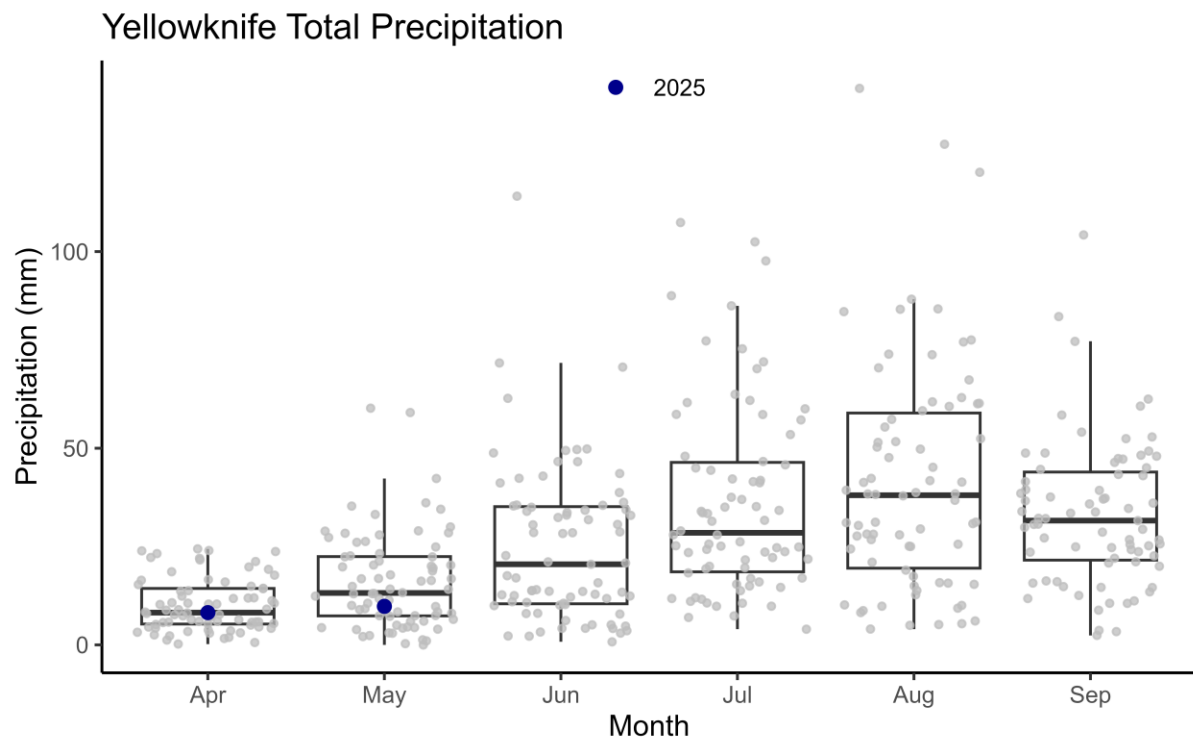
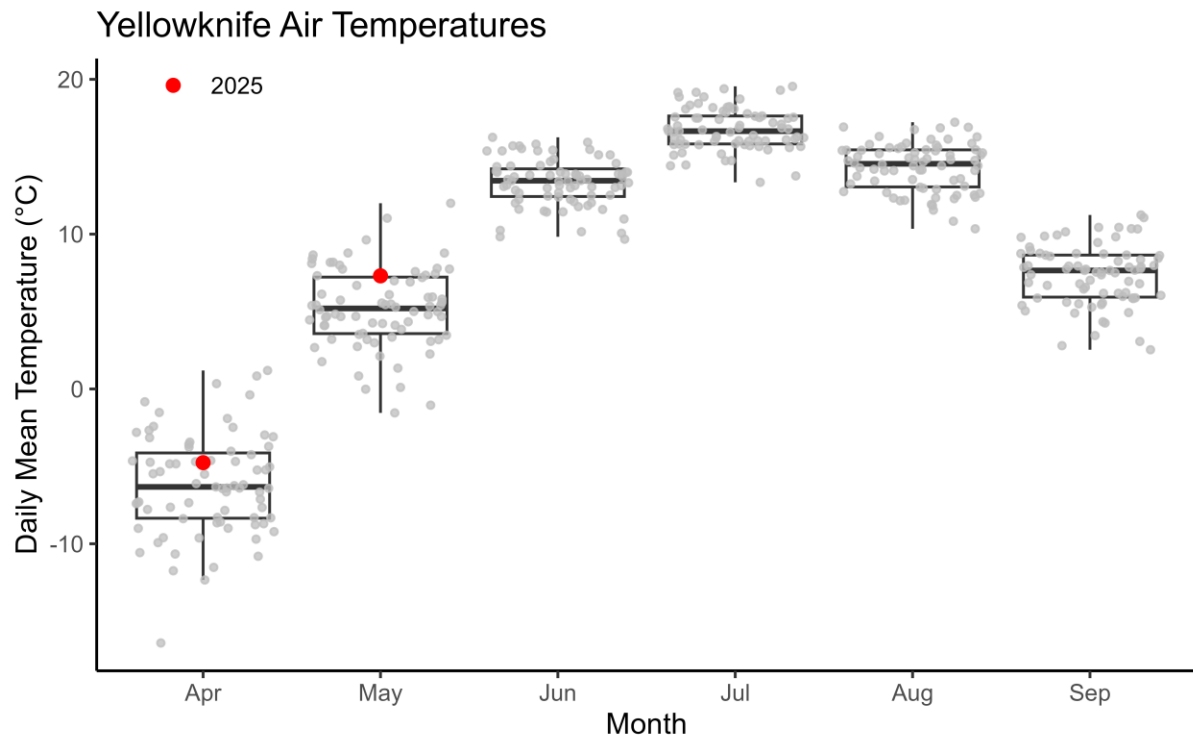
This figure shows mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for spring and summer of 2025.

Hay River



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

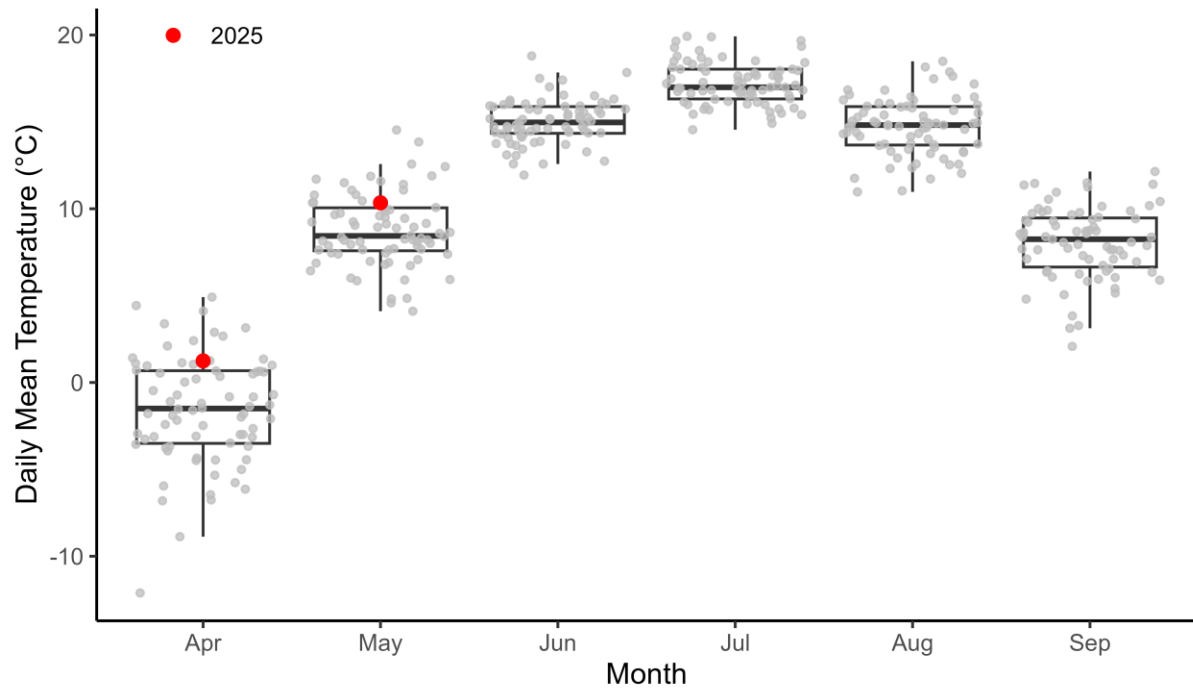
Yellowknife



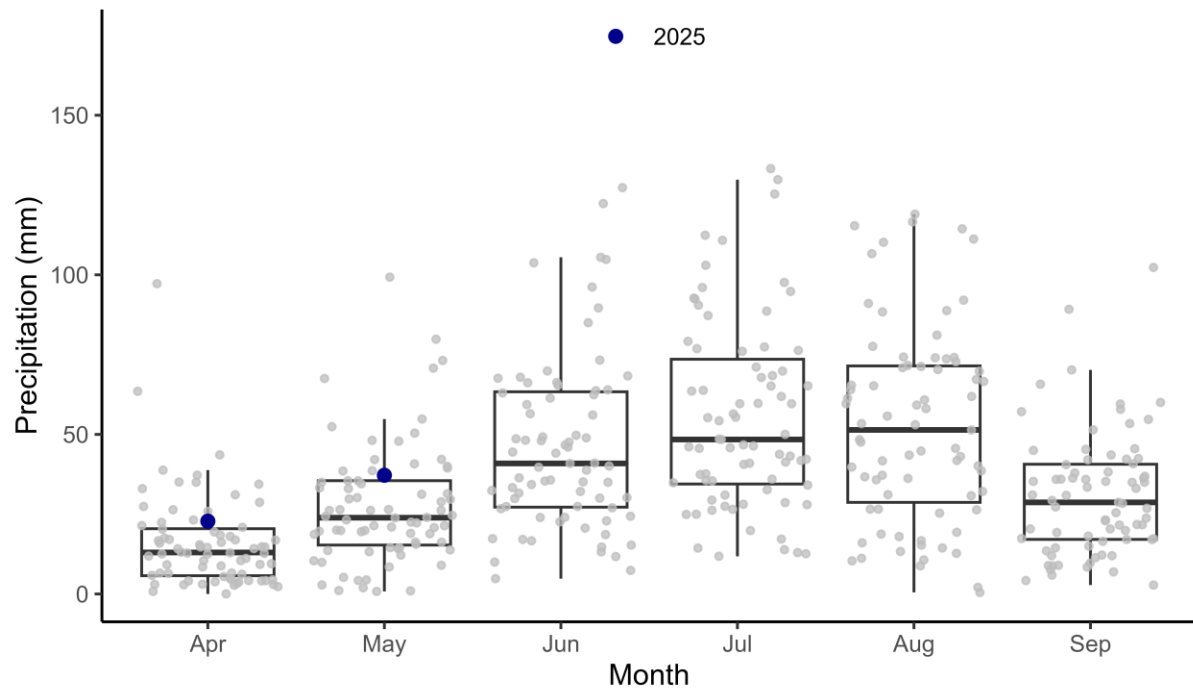
This figure shows mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for spring and summer of 2025.

Fort Simpson

Fort Simpson Air Temperatures

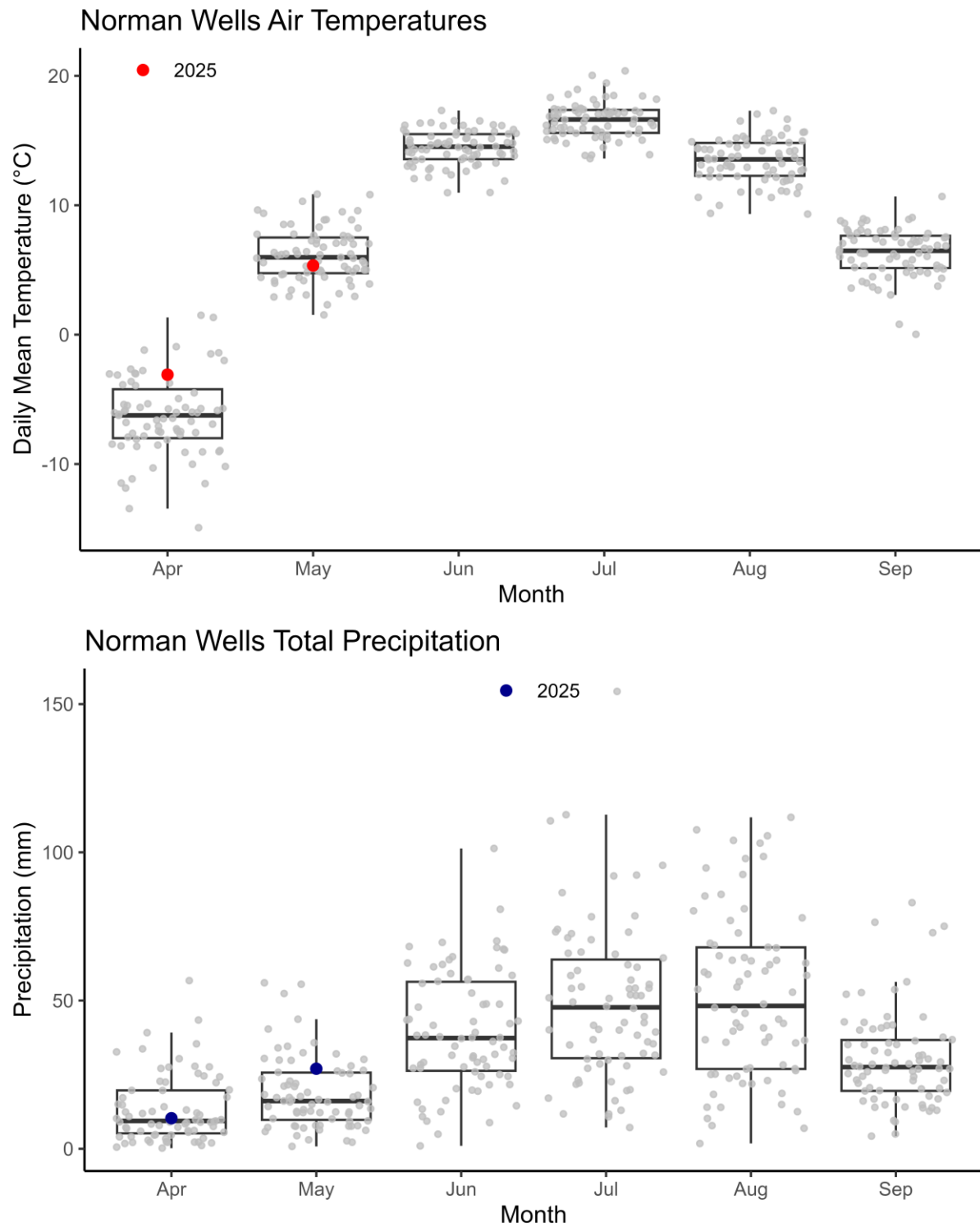


Fort Simpson Total Precipitation



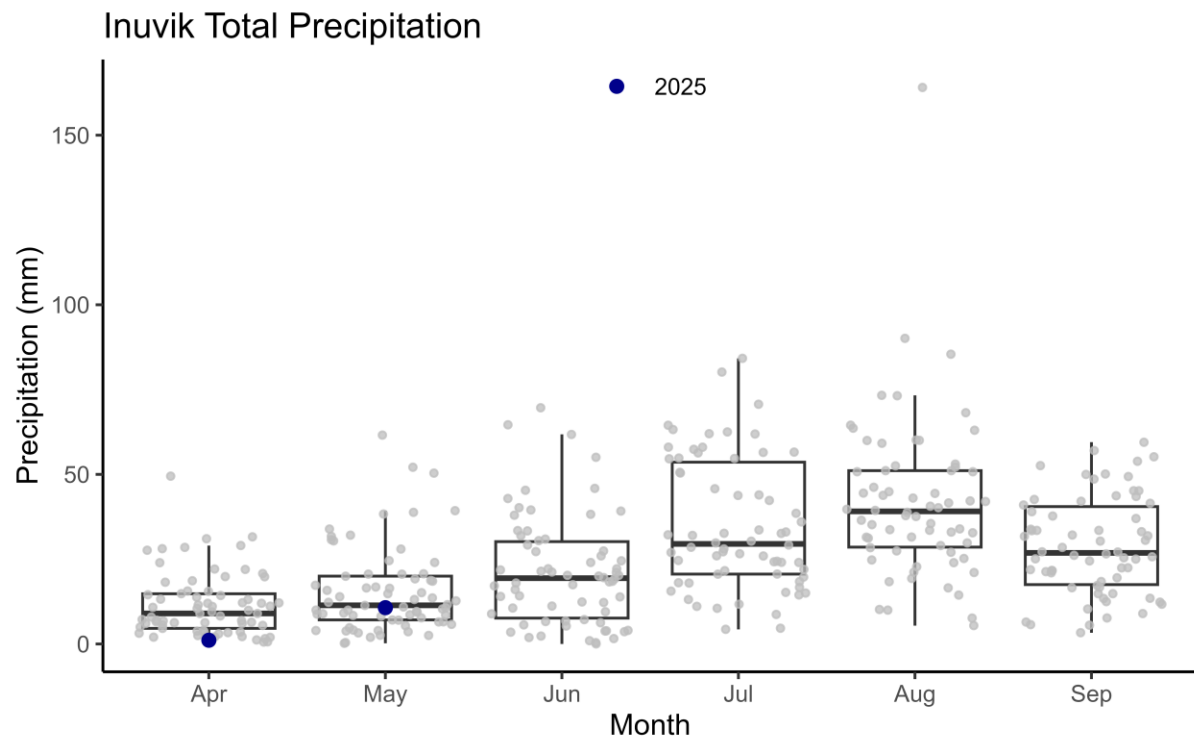
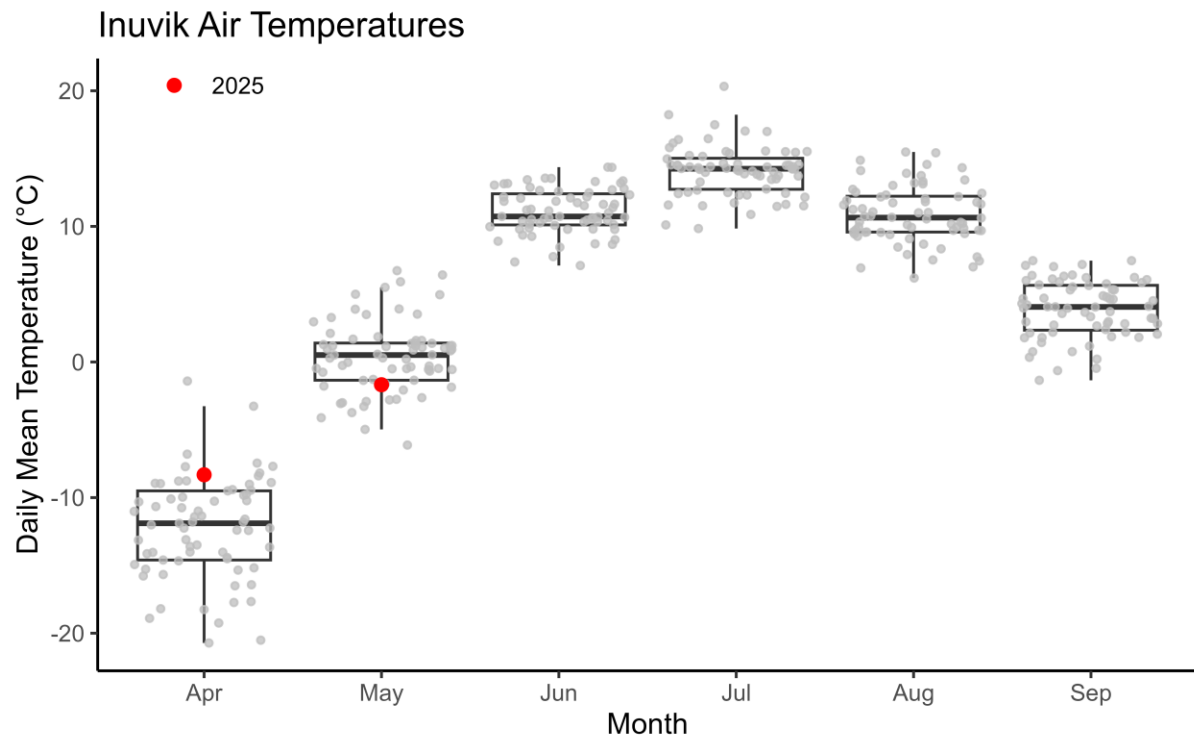
This figure shows mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for spring and summer of 2025.

Norman Wells



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

Inuvik



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