



# NWT Water Monitoring Bulletin – November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025

## Bulletin sur la surveillance des eaux des TNO du 14 novembre 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).

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<sup>e</sup> au 90<sup>e</sup> 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](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](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;
- Water levels and flow rates remain relatively low across most of the NWT:
  - Great Slave Lake water level is currently well below average. It is higher than the level recorded at this time last year.
  - Hay River water level is well below average for this time of 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 well below average for this time of year.
  - Great Bear Lake remains at its lowest water level recorded for this time of year - similar to records seen in 2024. Flows on the Great Bear River also remain below average.
  - Exceptions to low water levels and flows include:
    - Slave River (average)
    - Arctic Red River (average)
    - South Nahanni River (average)
    - Some smaller rivers in the Great Slave Lake basin, including:
      - Snare River (average)
      - Lockhart River (above average)
      - Hoarfrost River (above average)
      - Taltson River (average)

- As water bodies head into freeze-up and ice starts to form, it is normal for some rivers to show rises in water levels due to the presence of ice.
- 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 small rivers and lakes.
- **October precipitation** was approximately average across the NWT, with some communities slightly below average.
- **October temperatures** were warmer than average across the NWT.
- Water levels on Great Slave Lake and the Mackenzie River are strongly influenced by precipitation received in northern British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and southern NWT.
  - Precipitation in the Great Slave Lake basin in northern British Columbia and Alberta has been approximately average this fall (Oct 1<sup>st</sup> to present).
- ECCC climate forecasts indicate that warmer-than-normal temperatures are likely to continue through November, with the likelihood ranging from about 40% in western NWT to around 80% in the east. November precipitation forecasts show roughly a 50% chance of above-average precipitation amounts across central, eastern, and northwestern regions of the NWT.

### Situation actuelle

- Le présent rapport est notre Bulletin mensuel sur la surveillance des eaux qui fournit des mises à jour régulières sur les niveaux d'eau et les précipitations aux TNO.
- Les niveaux d'eau et les débits restent relativement bas dans la majeure partie des TNO.
  - Le niveau d'eau du Grand lac des Esclaves est actuellement bien inférieur à la moyenne. Il est toutefois plus élevé que le niveau relevé au même moment l'année dernière.
  - Le niveau d'eau de la rivière Hay est bien inférieur à la moyenne pour cette période de l'année.
  - Le niveau d'eau de la rivière Liard est bien inférieur à la moyenne pour cette période de l'année.
  - Le niveau d'eau du fleuve Mackenzie, relevé à plusieurs stations le long de son cours, est bien inférieur à la moyenne pour cette période de l'année.
  - Le niveau d'eau du Grand lac de l'Ours reste le plus bas enregistré à cette période de l'année, et il est égal aux niveaux records relevés en 2024. Le débit enregistré le long de la rivière Great Bear demeure également inférieur à la normale.
  - Exceptions aux faibles niveaux d'eau et aux faibles débits :
    - Rivière des Esclaves (dans la moyenne).
    - Rivière Arctic Red (dans la moyenne).
    - La rivière Nahanni Sud (dans la moyenne).
    - De plus petites rivières dans le bassin du Grand lac des Esclaves, notamment :

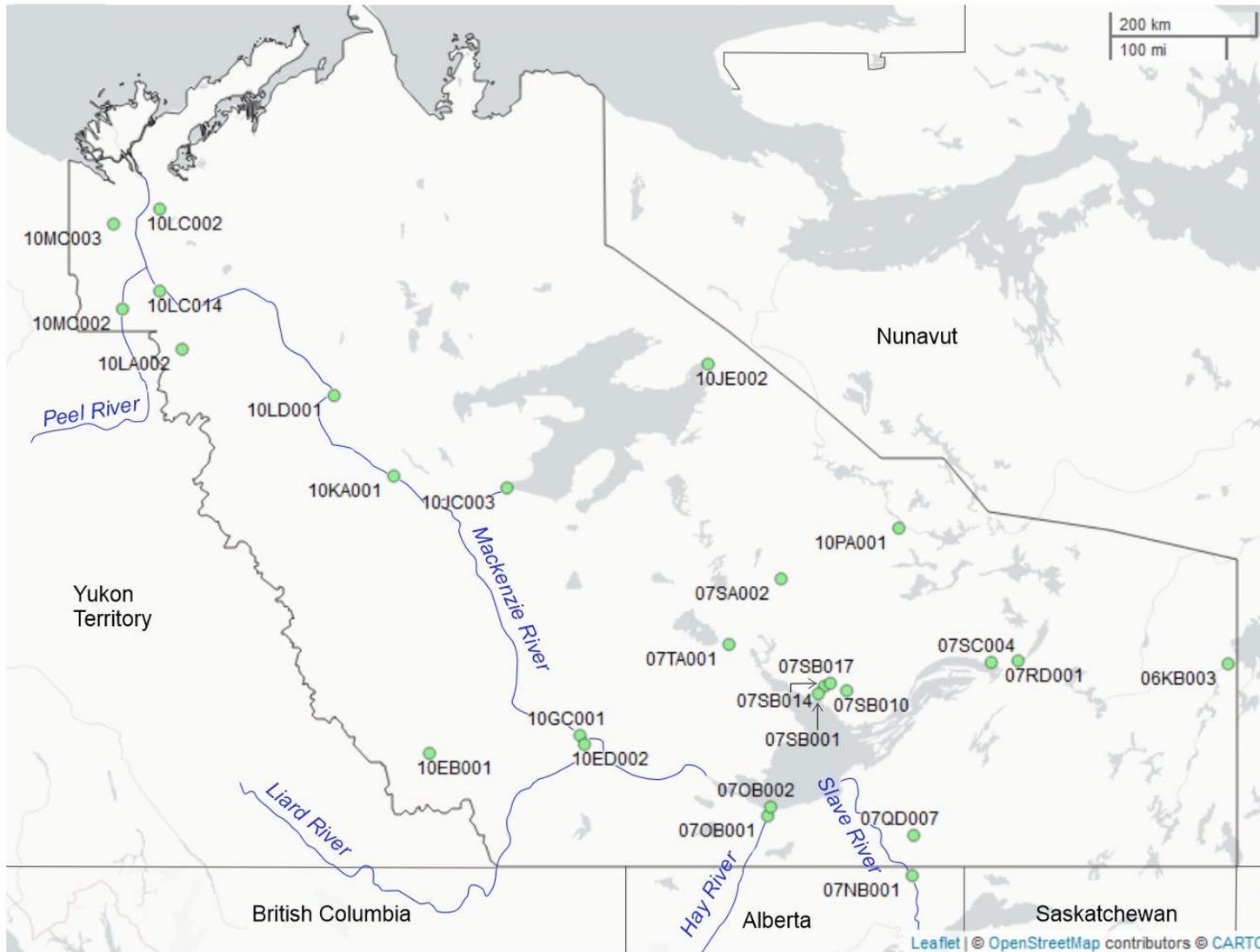
- Rivière Snare (dans la moyenne)
  - Rivière Lockhart (supérieur à la moyenne)
  - Rivière Hoarfrost (supérieur à la moyenne)
  - Rivière Taltson (dans la moyenne)
- Lorsque les plans d'eau commencent à geler et que la glace commence à se former, il est normal que certaines rivières voient leur niveau monter en raison de la présence de glace.
  - 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 petits lacs.
  - Les précipitations étaient plutôt dans la moyenne en octobre, partout aux TNO; certaines collectivités ont reçu des précipitations légèrement inférieures à la moyenne.
  - Les températures en octobre étaient supérieures à la moyenne à l'échelle des TNO.
  - Le niveau d'eau du Grand lac des Esclaves et du fleuve Mackenzie est fortement influencé par les précipitations reçues dans le nord de la Colombie-Britannique, de l'Alberta et de la Saskatchewan, et dans le sud des TNO.
    - Les précipitations dans le bassin du Grand lac des Esclaves dans le nord de la Colombie-Britannique et de l'Alberta ont été plutôt dans la moyenne cet automne (du 1<sup>er</sup> octobre à ce jour).
  - Les prévisions climatiques d'ECCC indiquent que les températures supérieures à la normale devraient se maintenir tout au long du mois de novembre, avec une probabilité allant d'environ 40 % dans l'ouest des TNO à environ 80 % dans l'est. Les prévisions de précipitations pour novembre indiquent une probabilité d'environ 50 % de précipitations supérieures à la moyenne dans les régions du centre, de l'est et du nord-ouest des TNO.

## Contents

Current status .....	2
Situation actuelle.....	3
Contents .....	5
Hydrometric station map.....	7
Information on interpreting figures.....	8
Water level and flow figures.....	8
Climate figures.....	8
Water level and flow data .....	9
Slave River at Fitzgerald [07NB001] .....	9
Hay River near Alberta/NWT Boundary [07OB008].....	10
Hay River near Hay River [07OB001] .....	10
Taltson River below Hydro Dam [07QD007] .....	11
Lockhart River at outlet of Artillery Lake [07RD001].....	11
Snare River below Ghost Lake [07SA002] .....	12
Coppermine River below Desteffany Lake [10PA001].....	12
Great Slave Lake at Yellowknife Bay [07SB001].....	13
Great Slave Lake at Hay River [07OB002] .....	13
Prosperous Lake near McMeekan Bay [07SB014].....	14
Prelude Lake near Yellowknife [07SB017].....	15
La Martre River below outlet of Lac La Martre [07TA001] .....	15
South Nahanni River above Virginia Falls [10EB001] .....	16
Liard River at Fort Liard [10ED001].....	16
Liard River near the mouth [10ED002].....	17
Mackenzie River at Fort Simpson [10GC001] .....	17
Mackenzie River at Norman Wells [10KA001] .....	18
Great Bear River at outlet of Great Bear Lake [10JC003].....	18
Great Bear Lake at Hornby Bay [10JE002].....	19
Arctic Red River near the mouth [10LA002] .....	19
Peel River above Fort McPherson [10MC002] .....	20
Mackenzie River at Arctic Red River [10LC014].....	20
Mackenzie River (East Channel) at Inuvik [10LC002] .....	21
Mackenzie River (Peel Channel) above Aklavik [10MC003].....	21
Climate Data .....	22

NWT communities.....	22
Slave River basin communities.....	23
Liard River basin communities.....	24
Fort Smith .....	25
Hay River .....	26
Yellowknife.....	27
Fort Simpson.....	28
Norman Wells .....	29
Inuvik .....	30

## 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.

The terms used to describe temperature or precipitation conditions are defined as follows:

- **Average:** within the interquartile range (25<sup>th</sup> –75<sup>th</sup> percentile range).
- **Above average / Below average:** falls between the 75<sup>th</sup> – 90<sup>th</sup> percentile or 10<sup>th</sup>–25<sup>th</sup> percentile, respectively.
- **Well above average / Well below average:** values above the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile or below the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile, respectively.

**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.

The terms used to describe temperature or precipitation conditions are defined as follows:

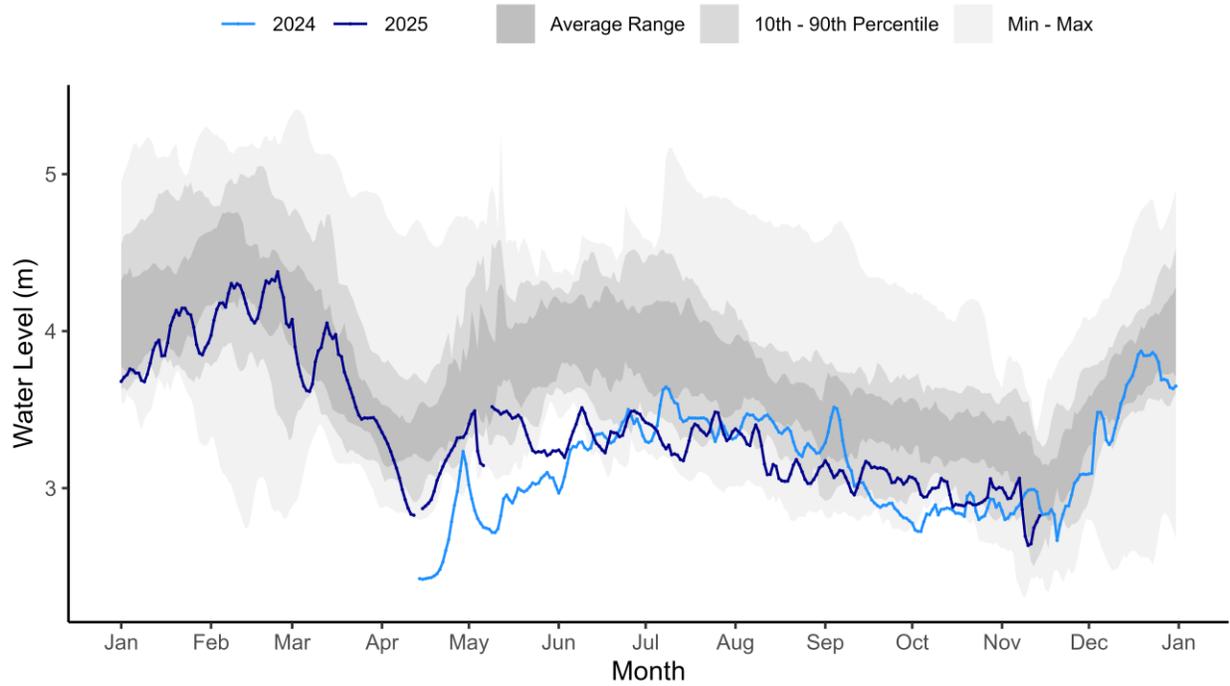
- **Average:** within the interquartile range (25<sup>th</sup> –75<sup>th</sup> percentile range).
- **Above average / Below average:** falls between the 75<sup>th</sup> – 90<sup>th</sup> percentile or 10<sup>th</sup>–25<sup>th</sup> percentile, respectively (for temperature, this corresponds to warmer/colder than average).
- **Well above average / Well below average:** values above the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile or below the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile, respectively (for temperature, much warmer/much colder than average).

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

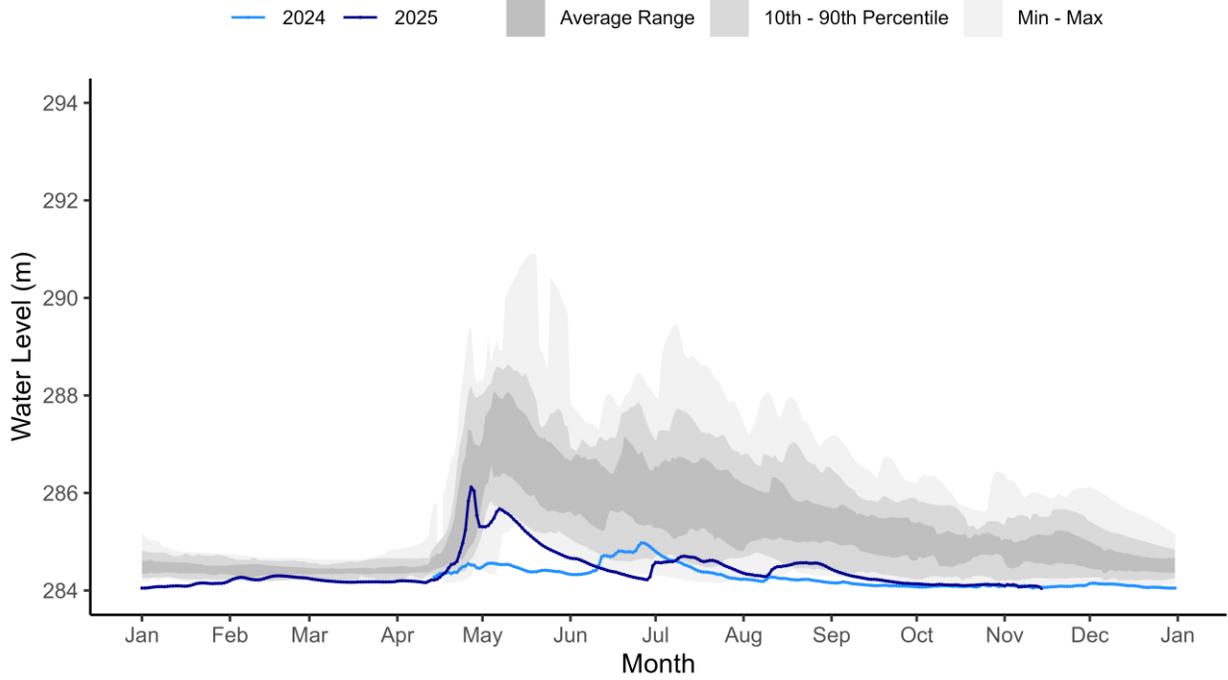
### Slave River at Fitzgerald [07NB001]

Record Length: 24 years | Period of Record: 2002–2025



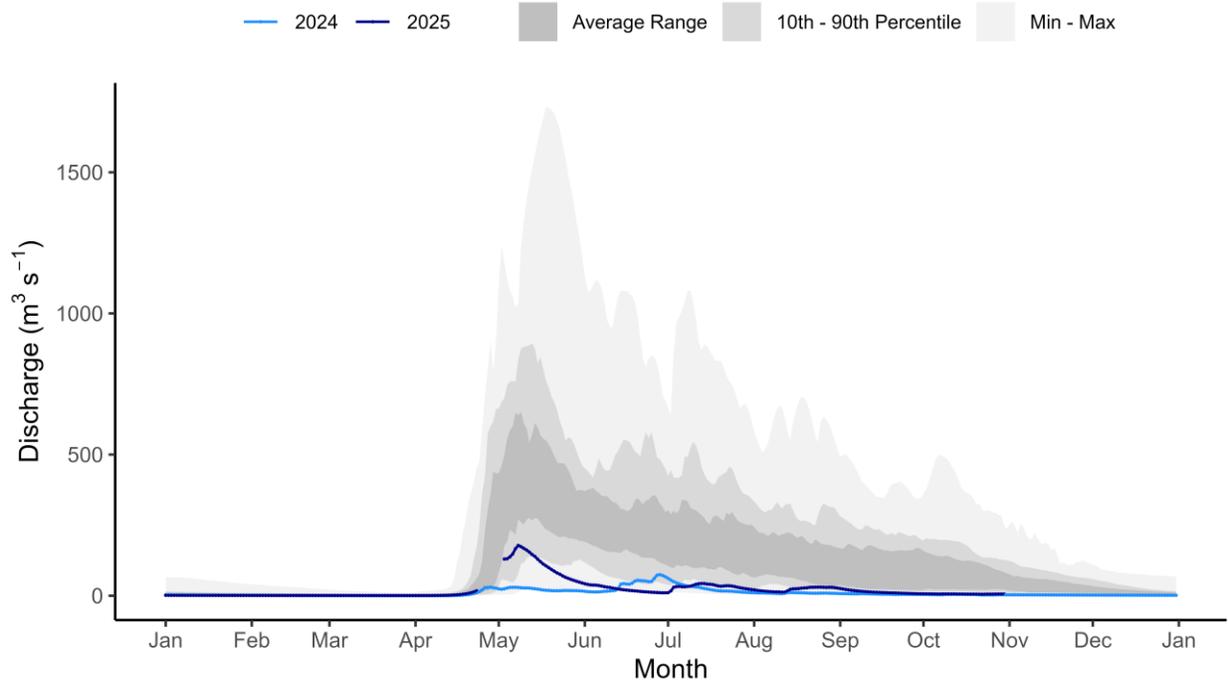
### Hay River near Alberta/NWT Boundary [070B008]

Record Length: 35 years | Period of Record: 1986–1998; 2004–2025



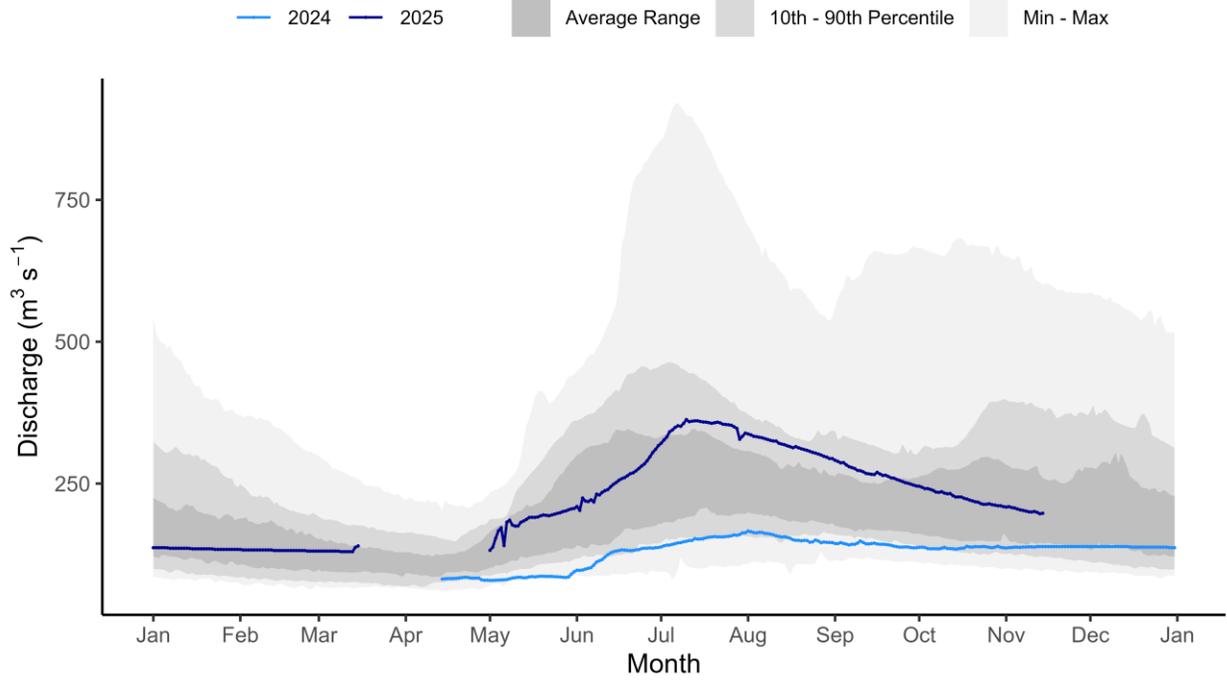
### Hay River near Hay River [070B001]

Record Length: 63 years | Period of Record: 1963–2025



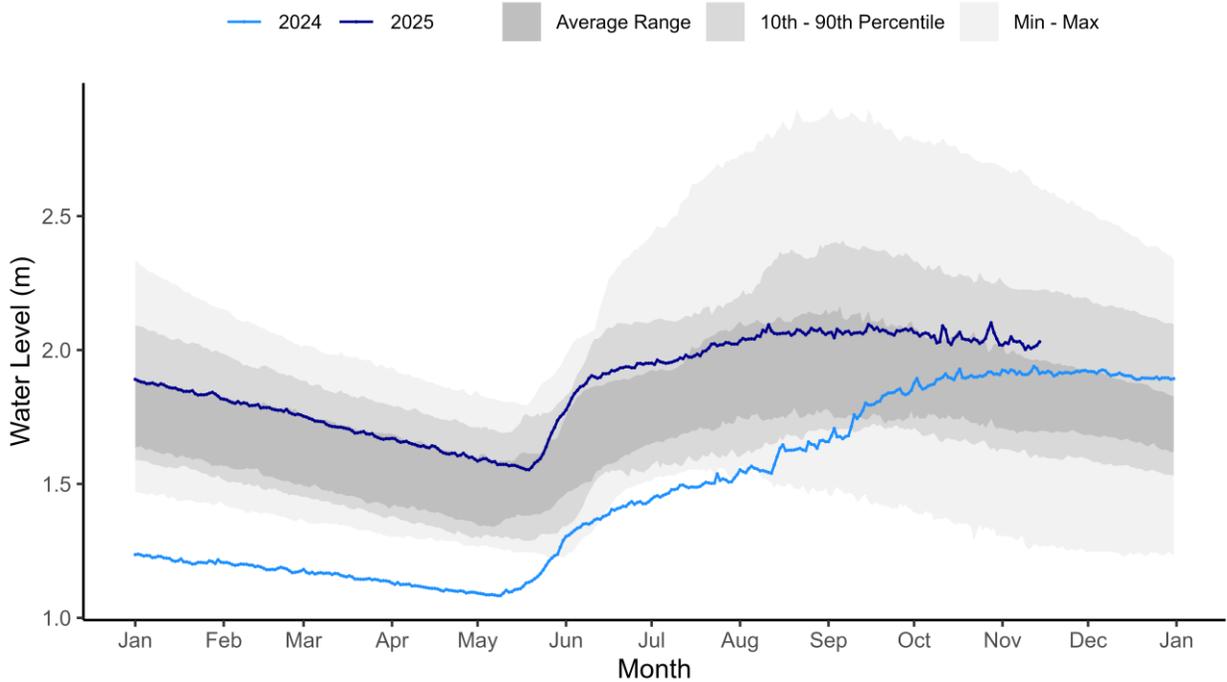
### Taltson River below Hydro Dam [07QD007]

Record Length: 32 years | Period of Record: 1994–2025



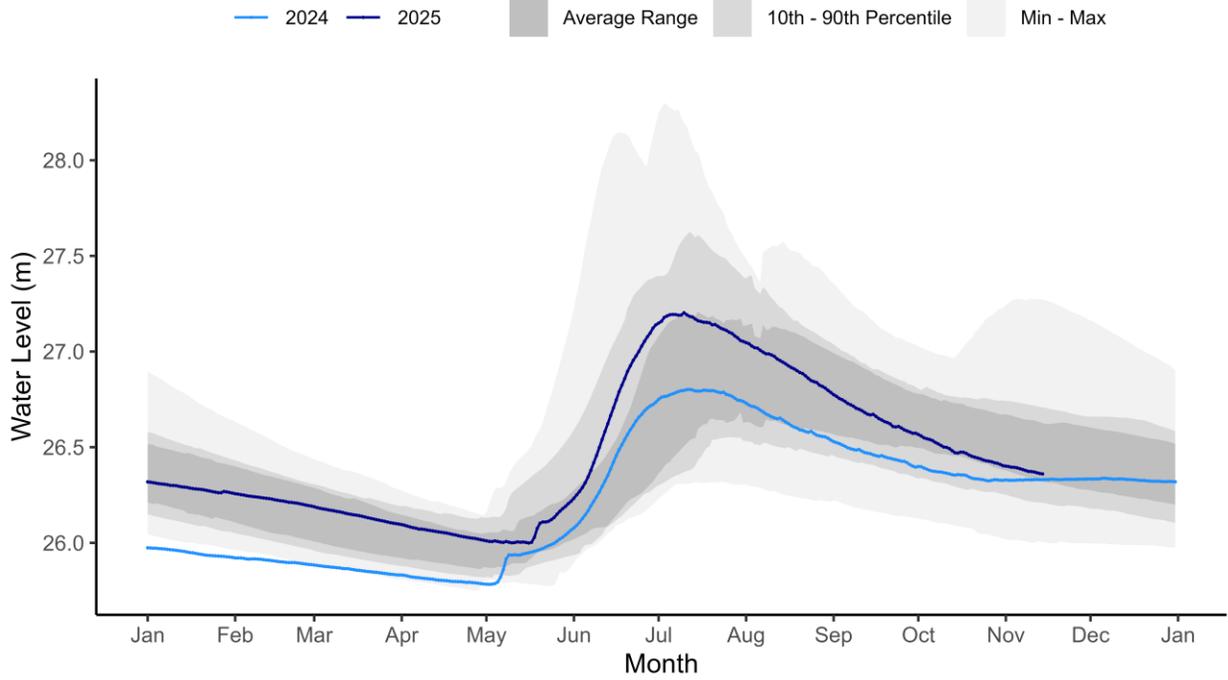
### Lockhart River at outlet of Artillery Lake [07RD001]

Record Length: 24 years | Period of Record: 2002–2025



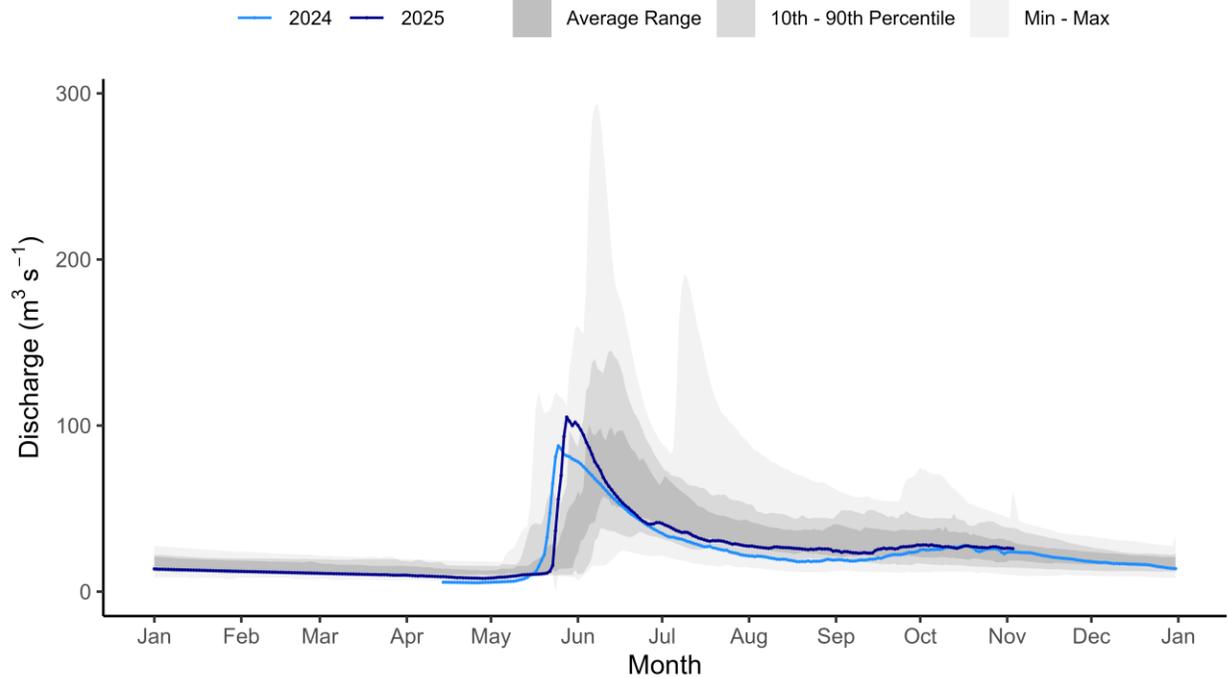
### Snare River below Ghost Lake [07SA002]

Record Length: 24 years | Period of Record: 2002–2025



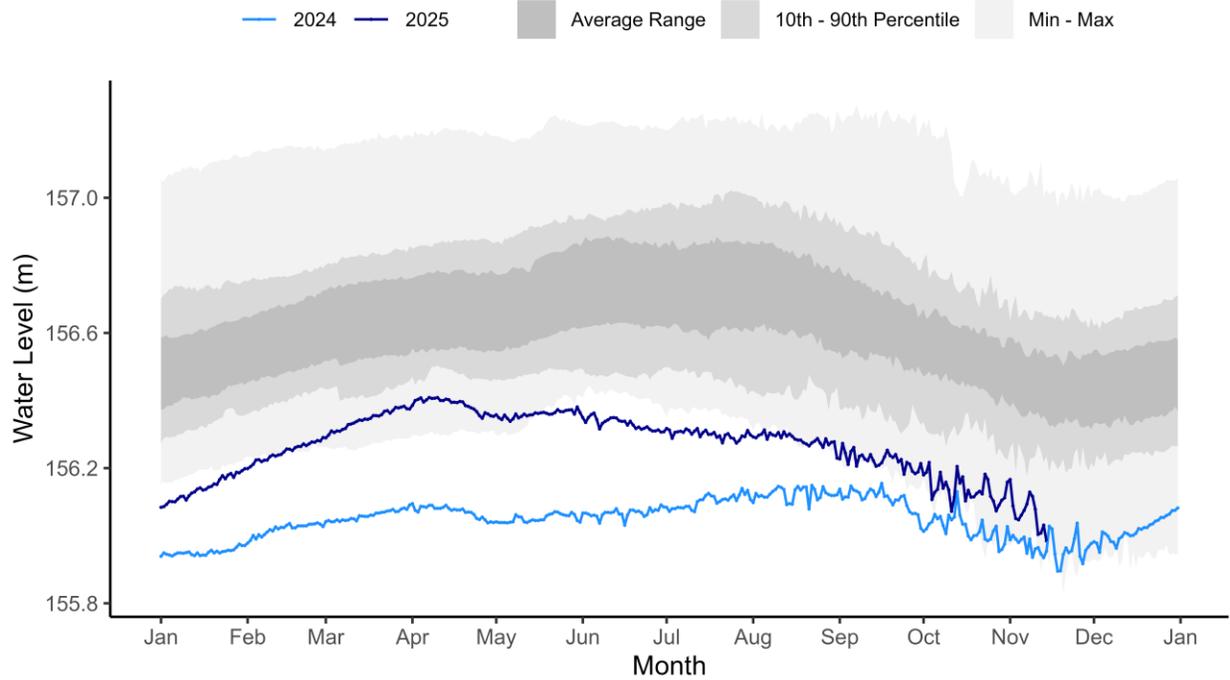
### Coppermine River below Desteffany Lake [10PA001]

Record Length: 32 years | Period of Record: 1994–2025



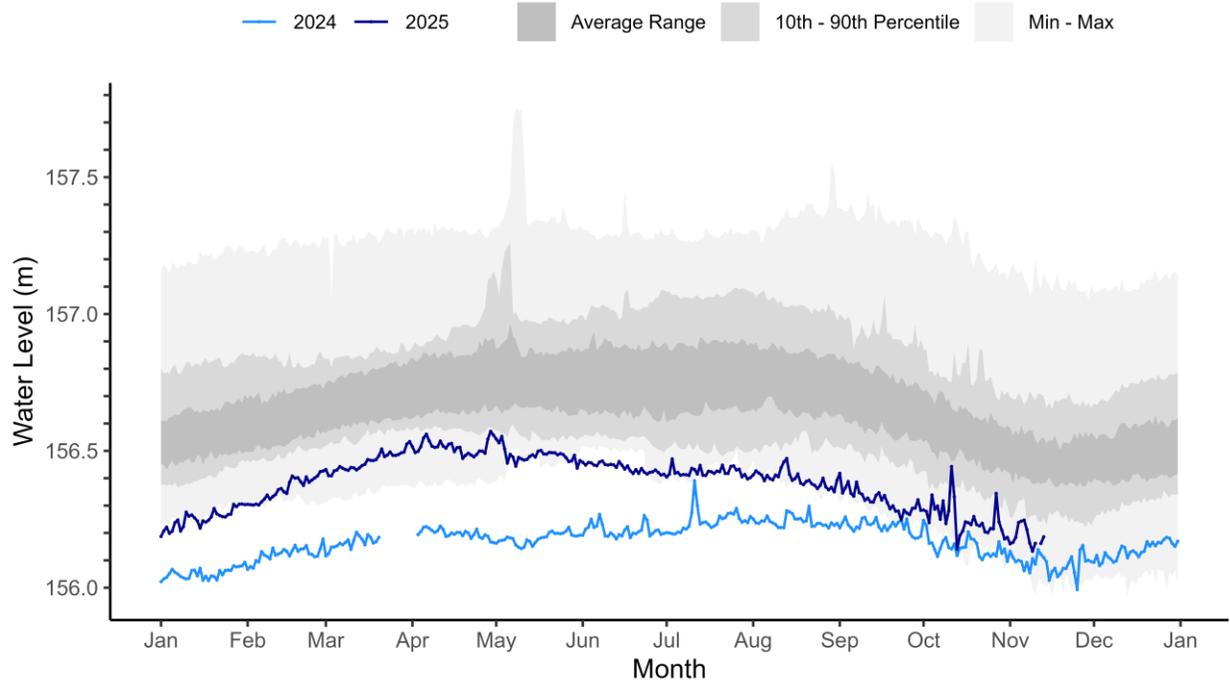
### Great Slave Lake at Yellowknife Bay [07SB001]

Record Length: 90 years | Period of Record: 1934–1935; 1938–2025



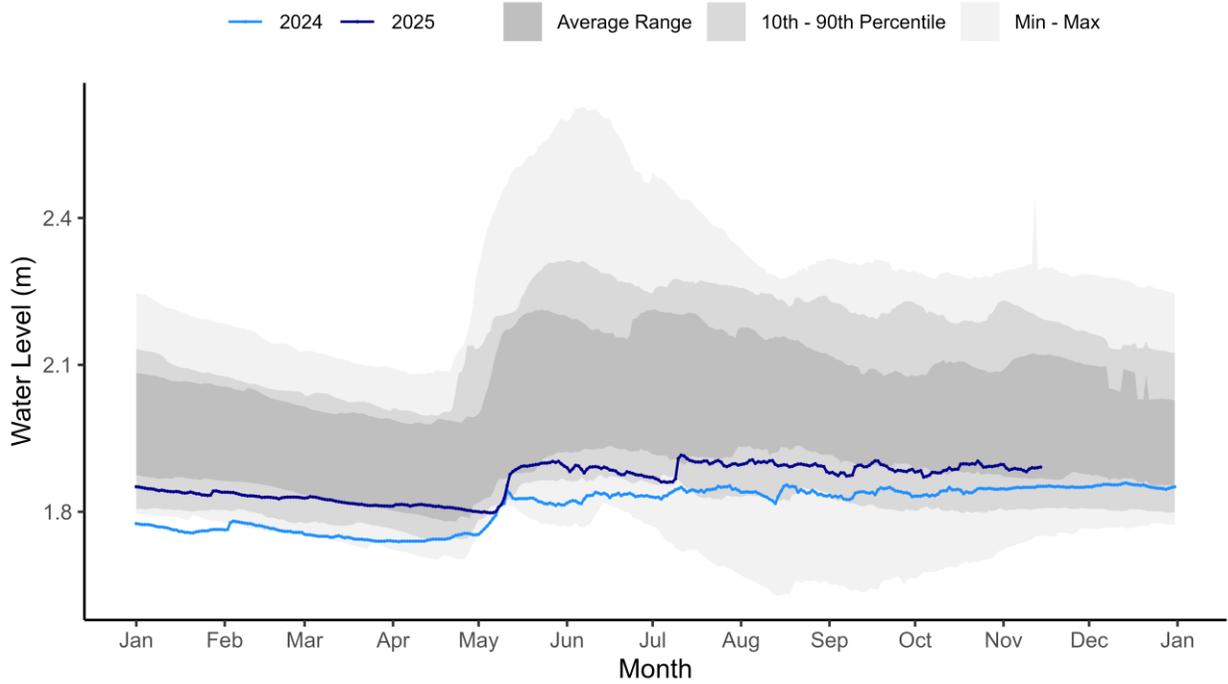
### Great Slave Lake at Hay River [07OB002]

Record Length: 55 years | Period of Record: 1959–1970; 1983–2025



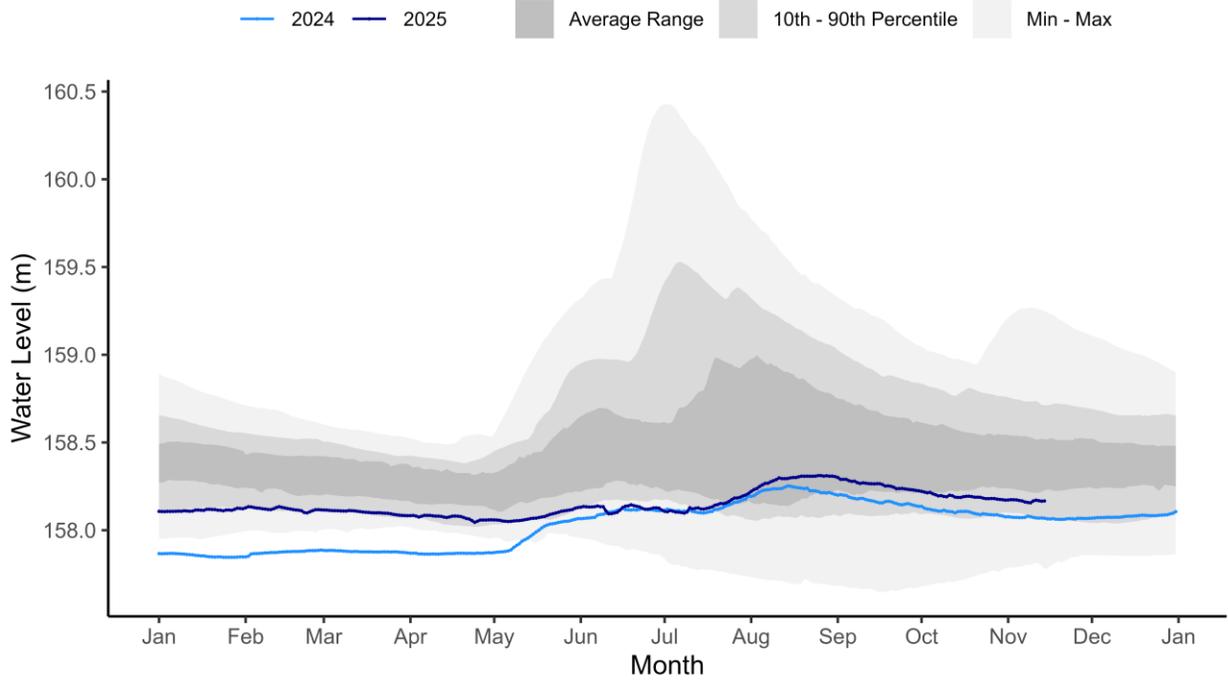
### Cameron River below Reid Lake [07SB010]

Record Length: 24 years | Period of Record: 2002–2025



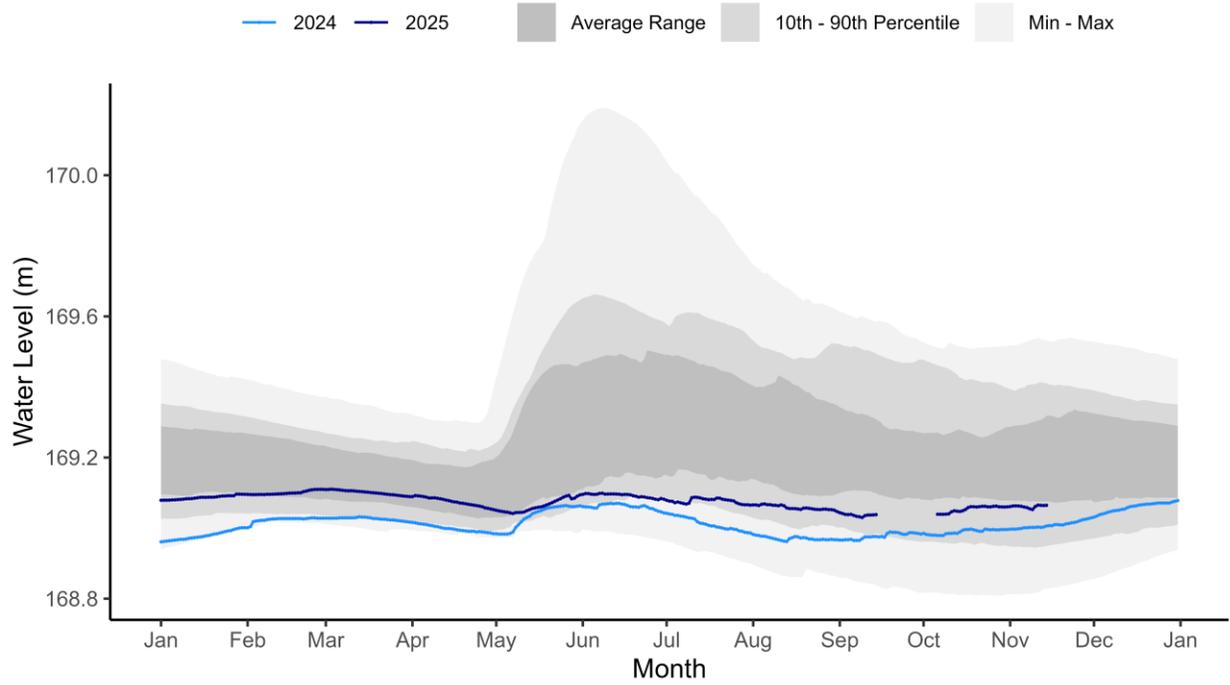
### Prosperous Lake near McMeekan Bay [07SB014]

Record Length: 39 years | Period of Record: 1987–2025



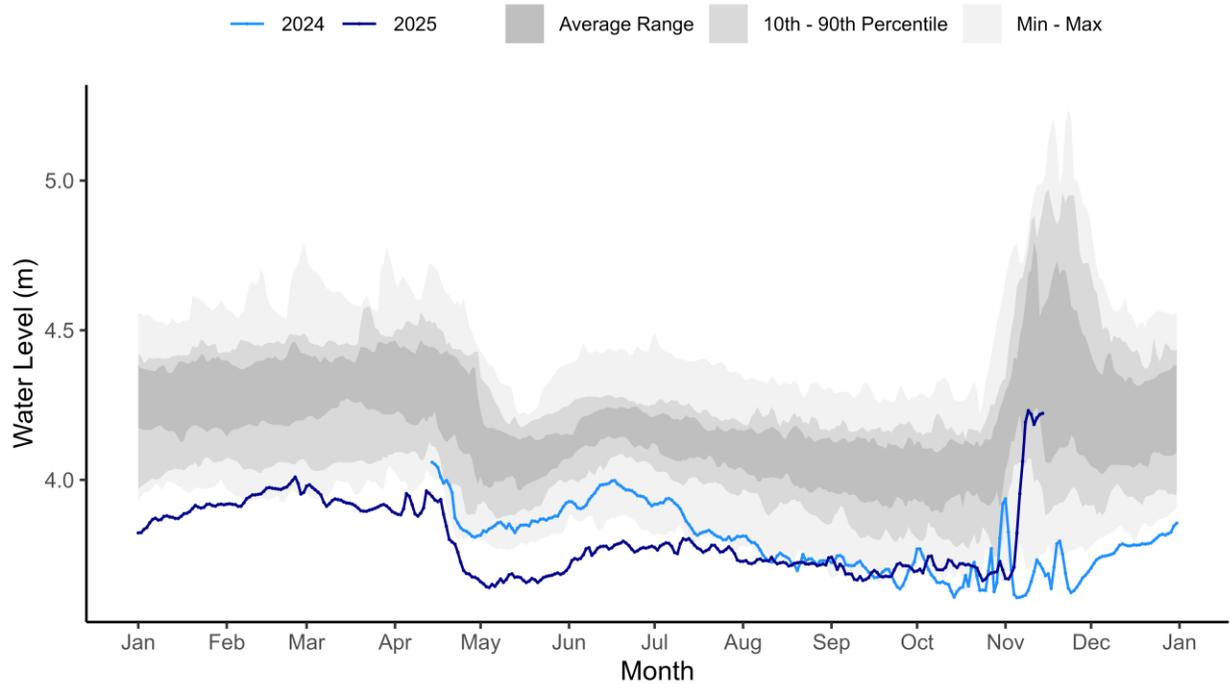
### Prelude Lake near Yellowknife [07SB017]

Record Length: 31 years | Period of Record: 1995–2025



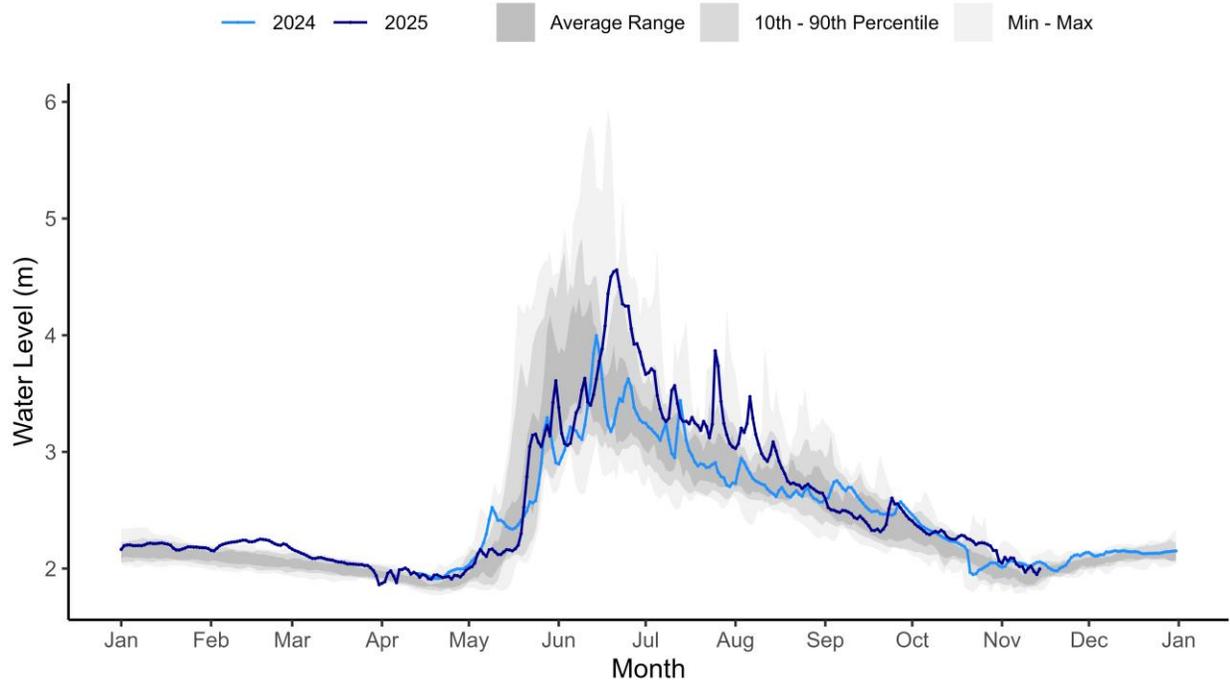
### La Martre River below outlet of Lac La Martre [07TA001]

Record Length: 24 years | Period of Record: 2002–2025



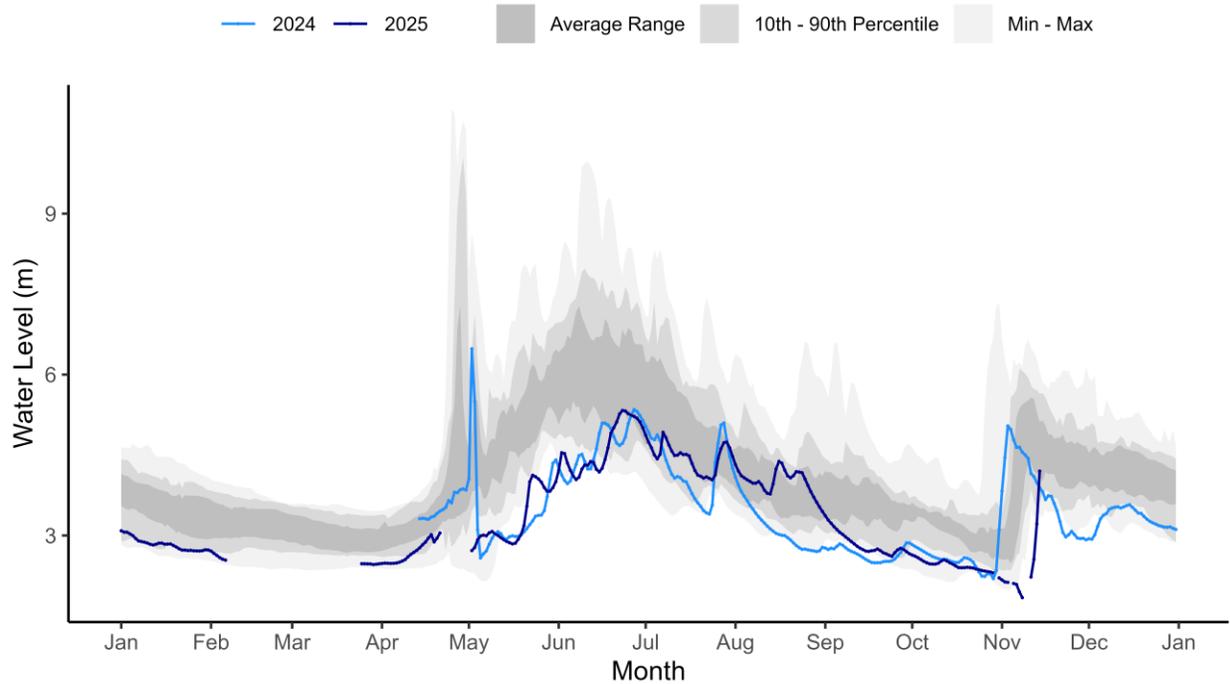
### South Nahanni River above Virginia Falls [10EB001]

Record Length: 20 years | Period of Record: 2002–2019; 2024–2025



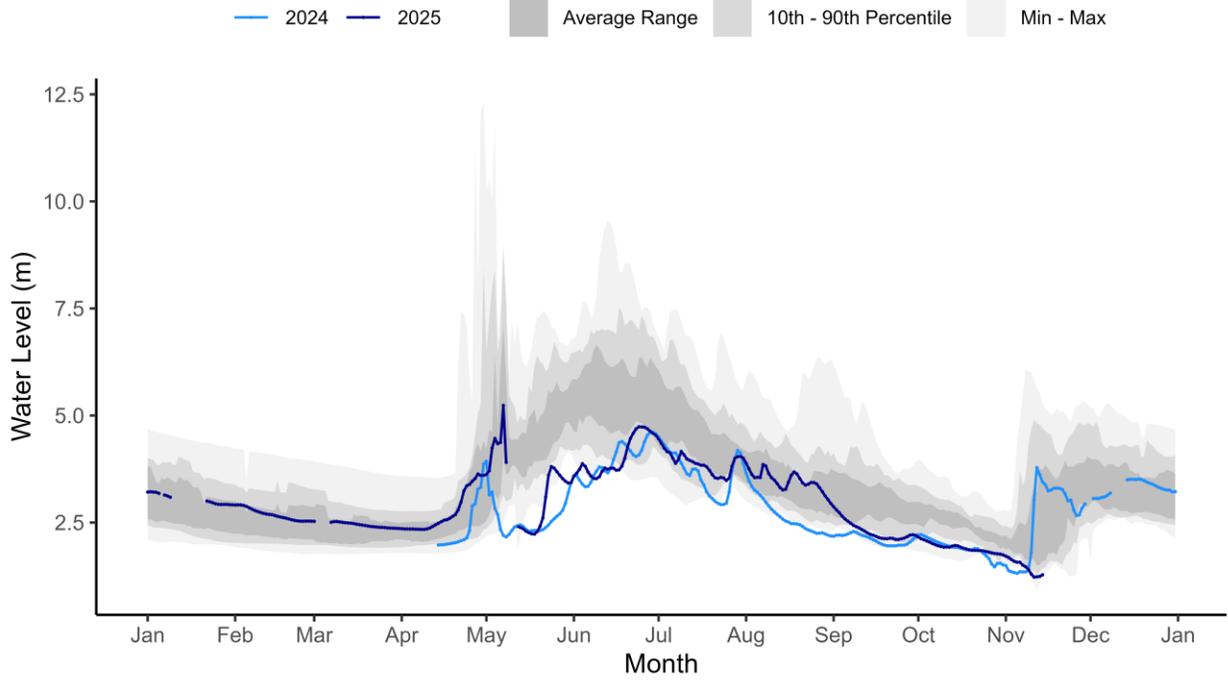
### Liard River at Fort Liard [10ED001]

Record Length: 24 years | Period of Record: 2002–2025



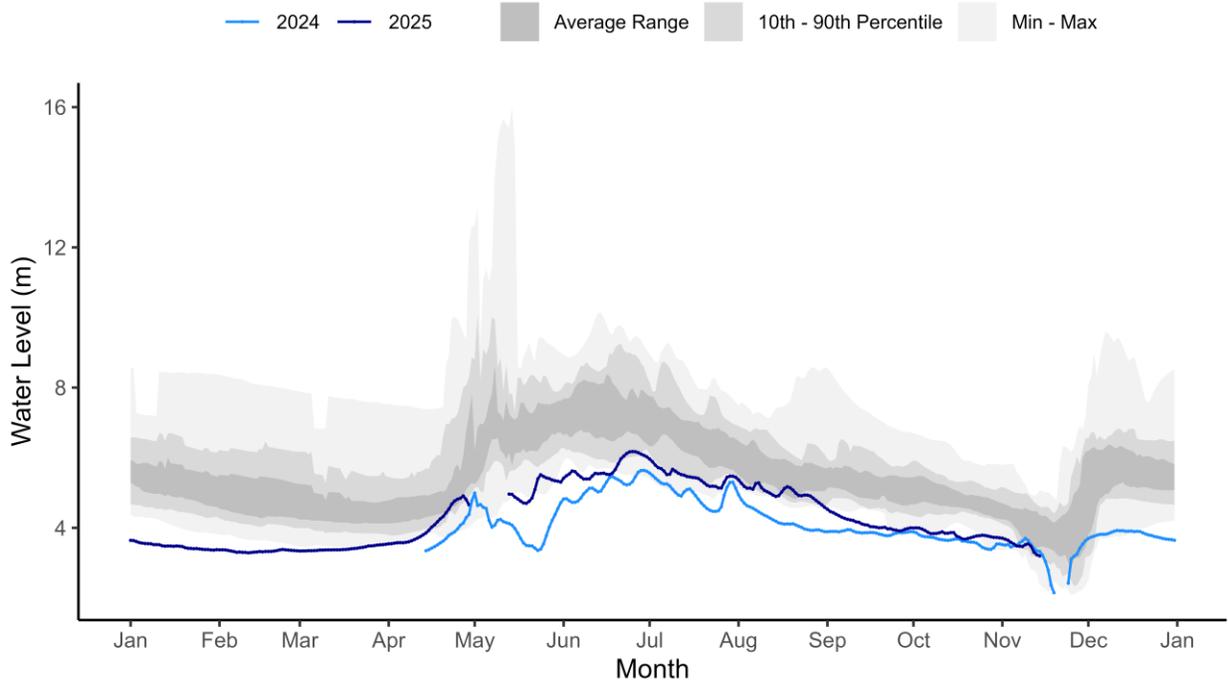
### Liard River near the mouth [10ED002]

Record Length: 24 years | Period of Record: 2002–2025



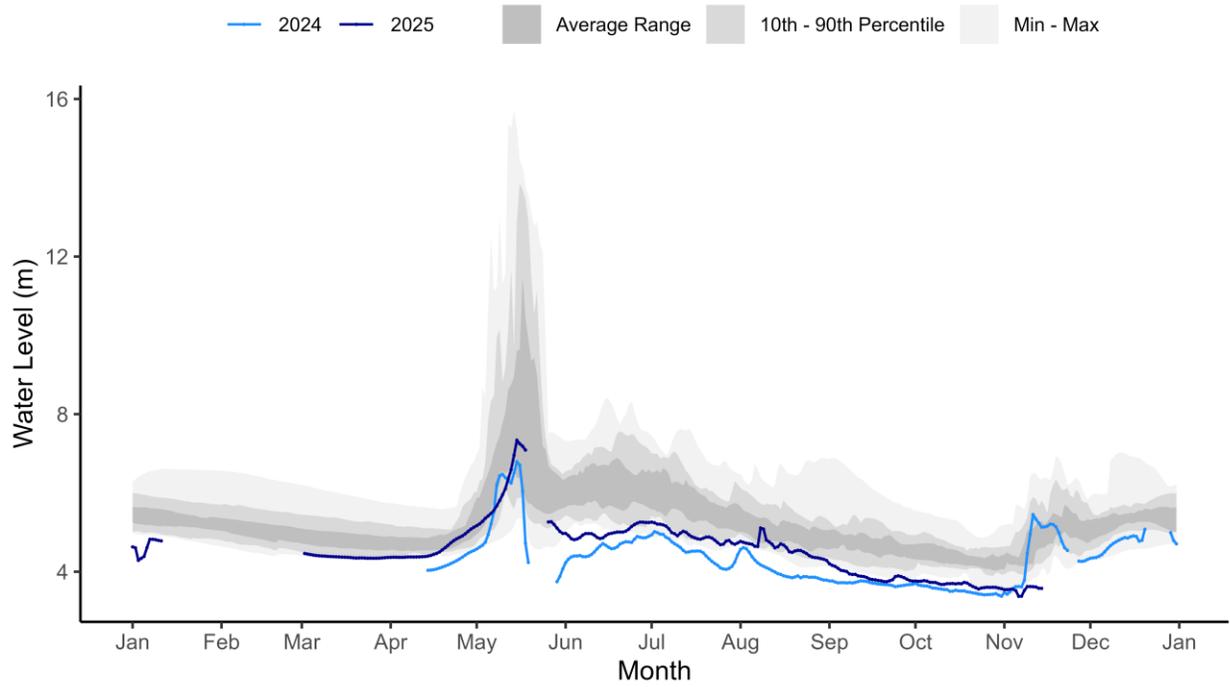
### Mackenzie River at Fort Simpson [10GC001]

Record Length: 25 years | Period of Record: 2001–2025



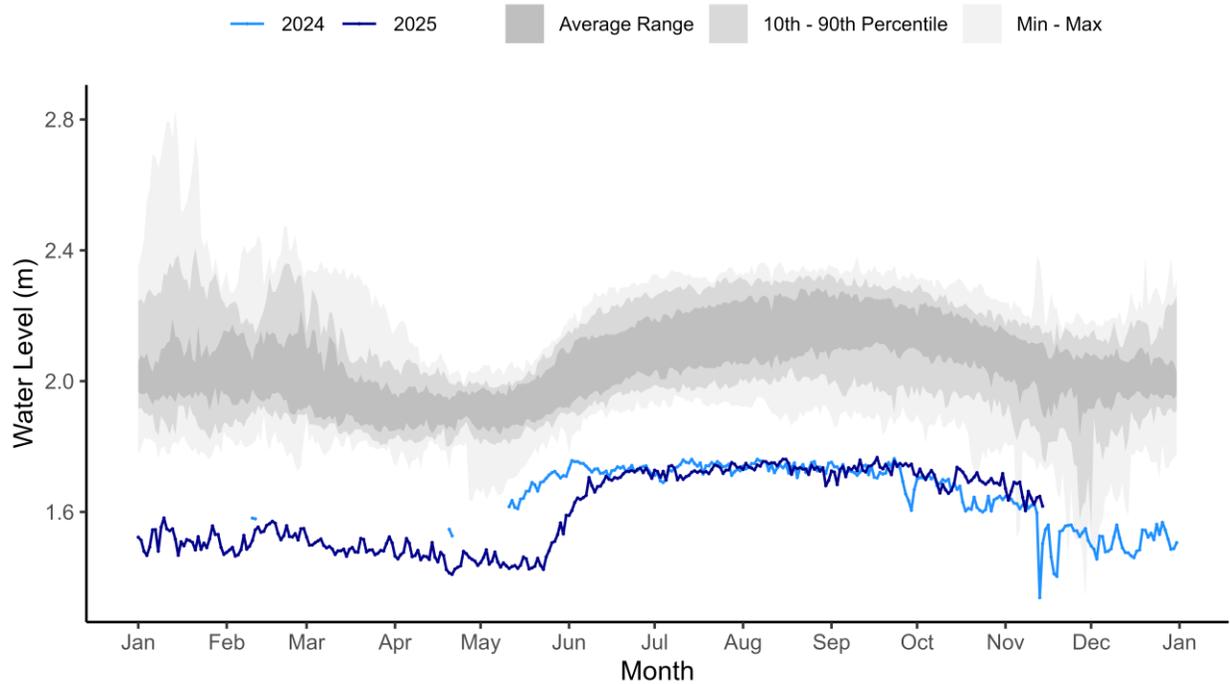
### Mackenzie River at Norman Wells [10KA001]

Record Length: 24 years | Period of Record: 2002–2025



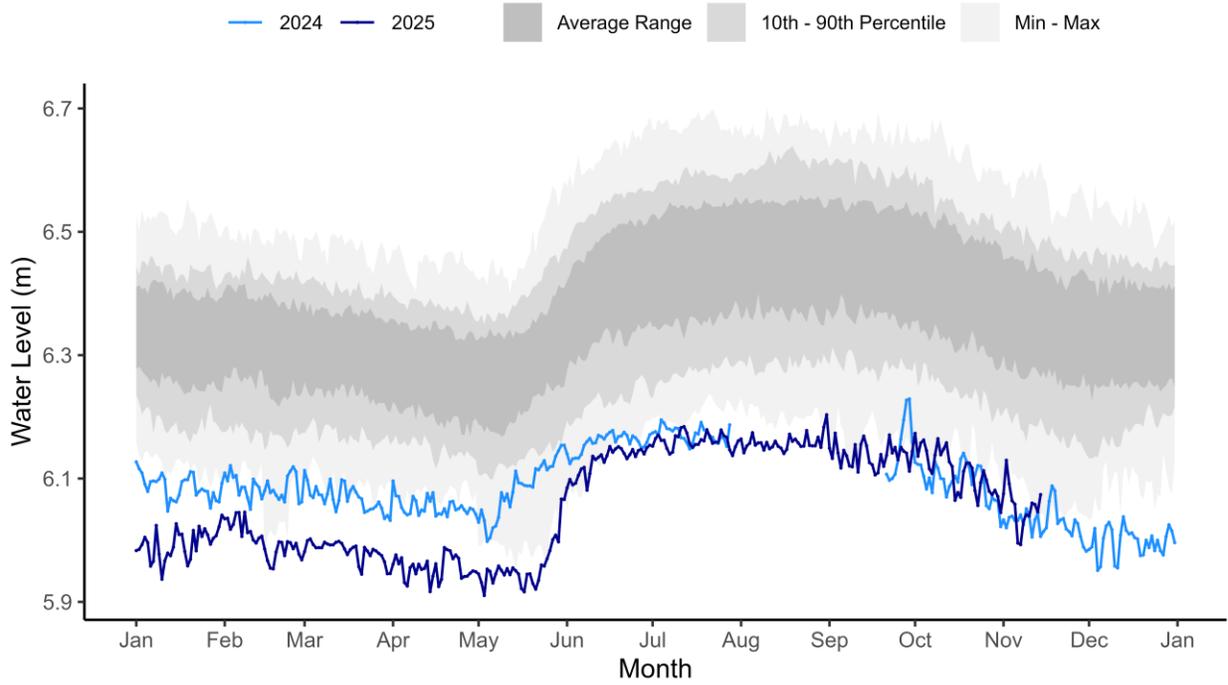
### Great Bear River at outlet of Great Bear Lake [10JC003]

Record Length: 24 years | Period of Record: 2002–2025



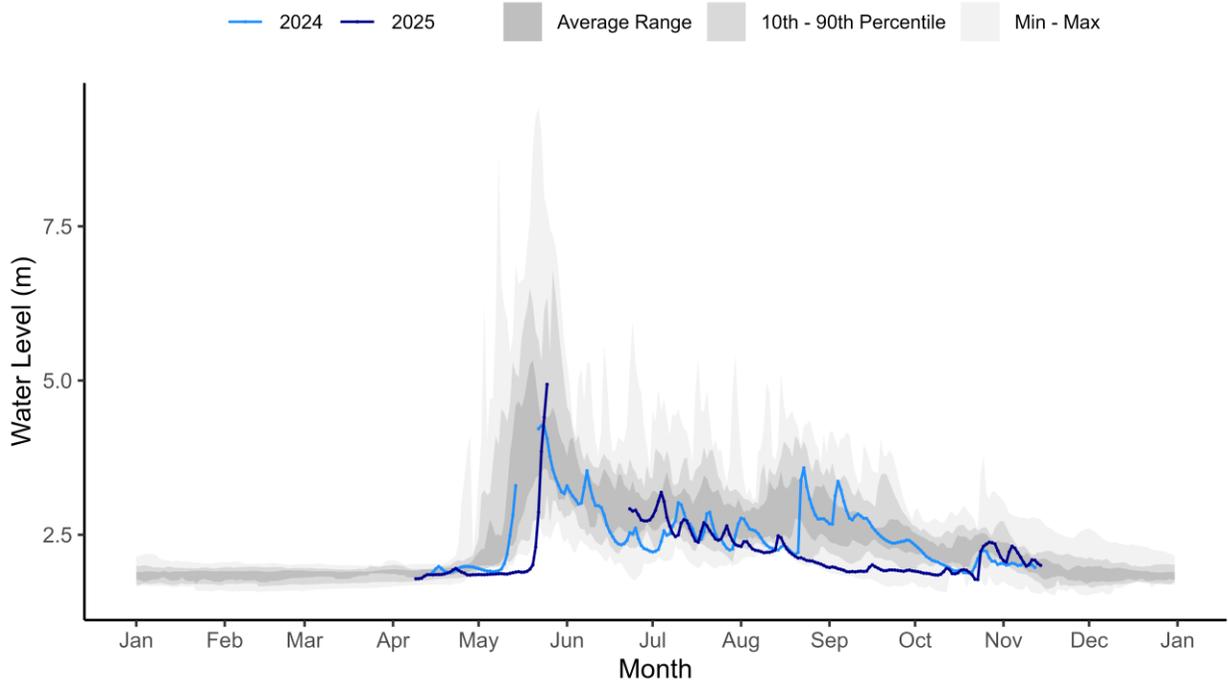
### Great Bear Lake at Hornby Bay [10JE002]

Record Length: 42 years | Period of Record: 1984–2025



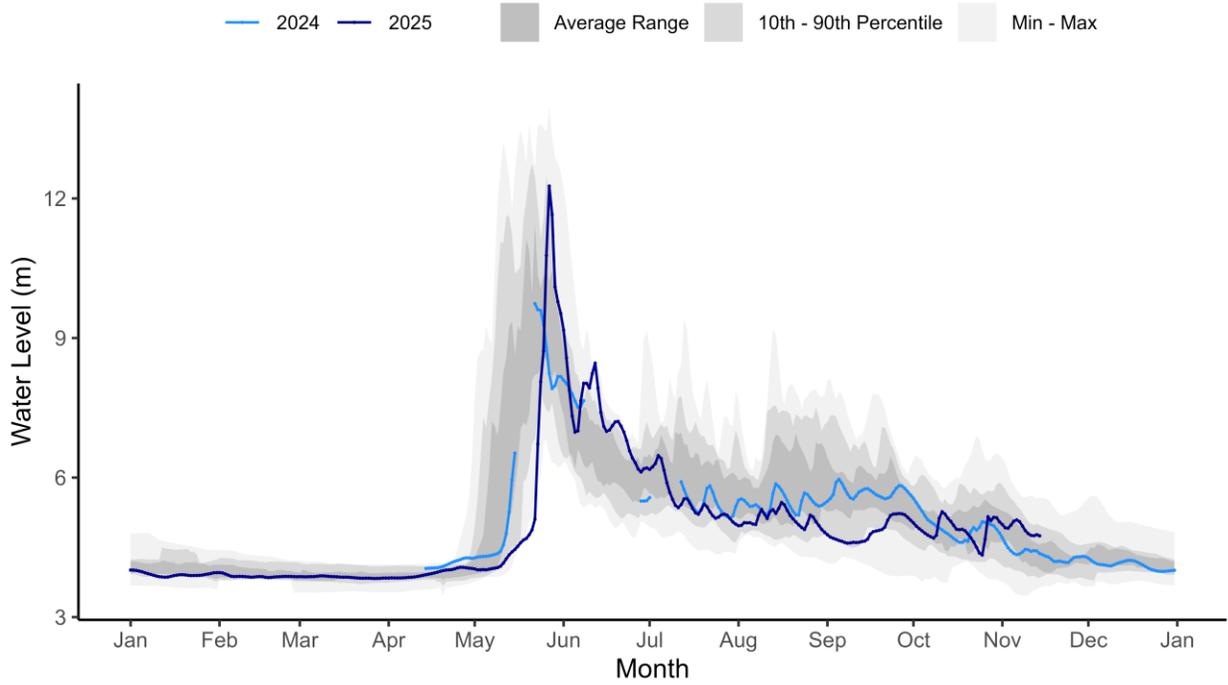
### Arctic Red River near the mouth [10LA002]

Record Length: 22 years | Period of Record: 2002–2021; 2024–2025



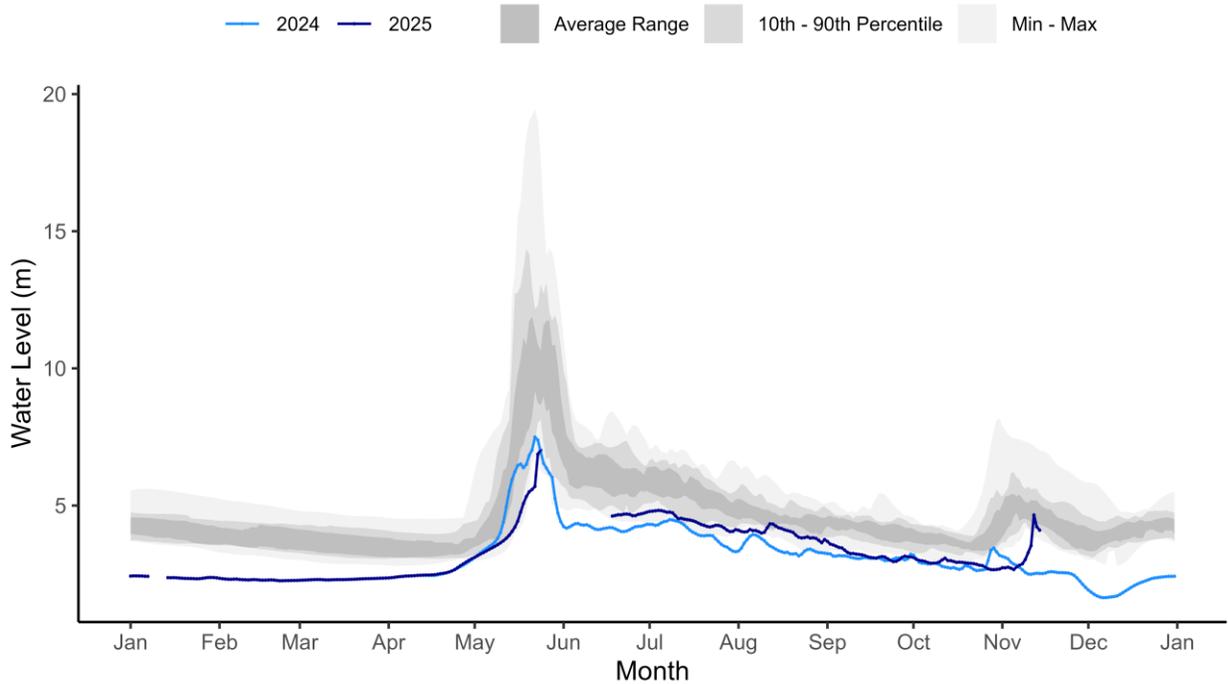
### Peel River above Fort McPherson [10MC002]

Record Length: 19 years | Period of Record: 2002–2018; 2024–2025



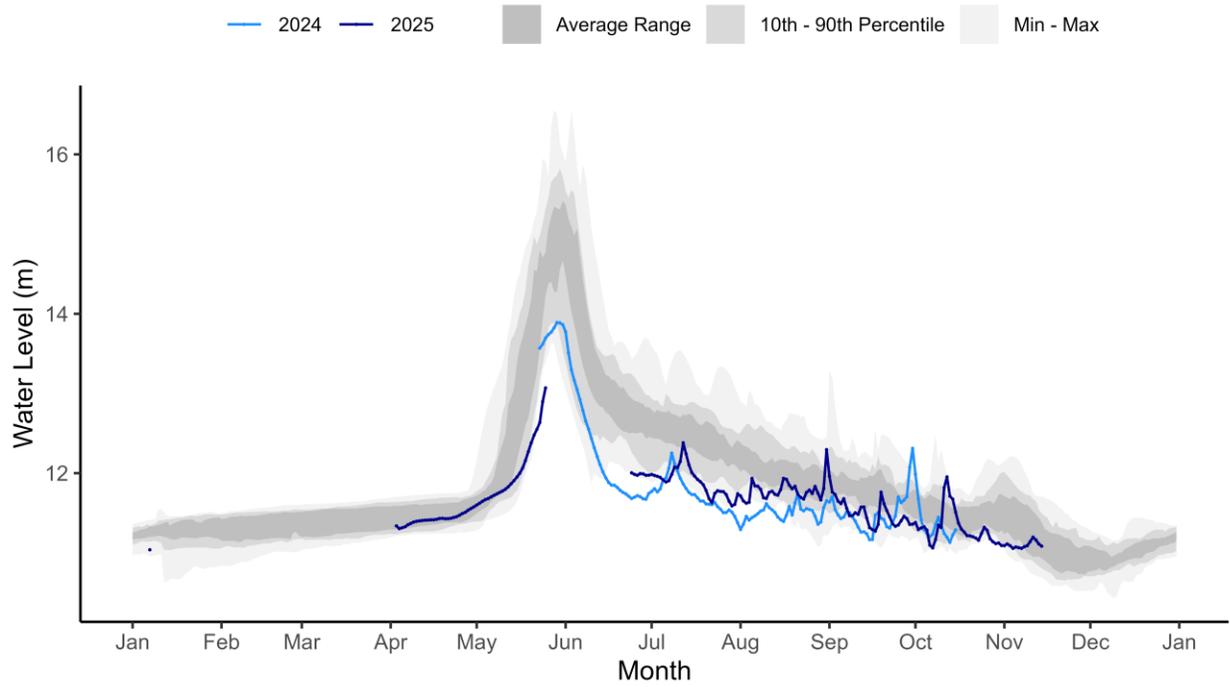
### Mackenzie River at Arctic Red River [10LC014]

Record Length: 20 years | Period of Record: 2002–2019; 2024–2025



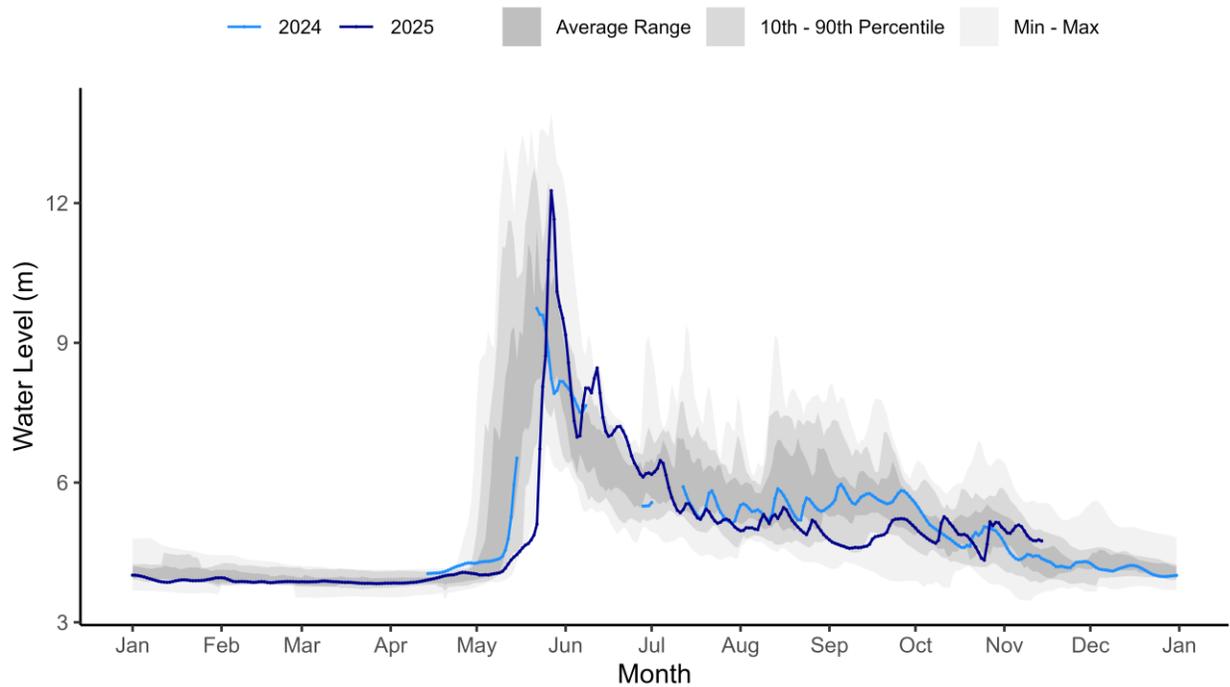
### Mackenzie River (East Channel) at Inuvik [10LC002]

Record Length: 25 years | Period of Record: 1984–1990; 2002–2017; 2024–2025



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

Record Length: 19 years | Period of Record: 2002–2018; 2024–2025



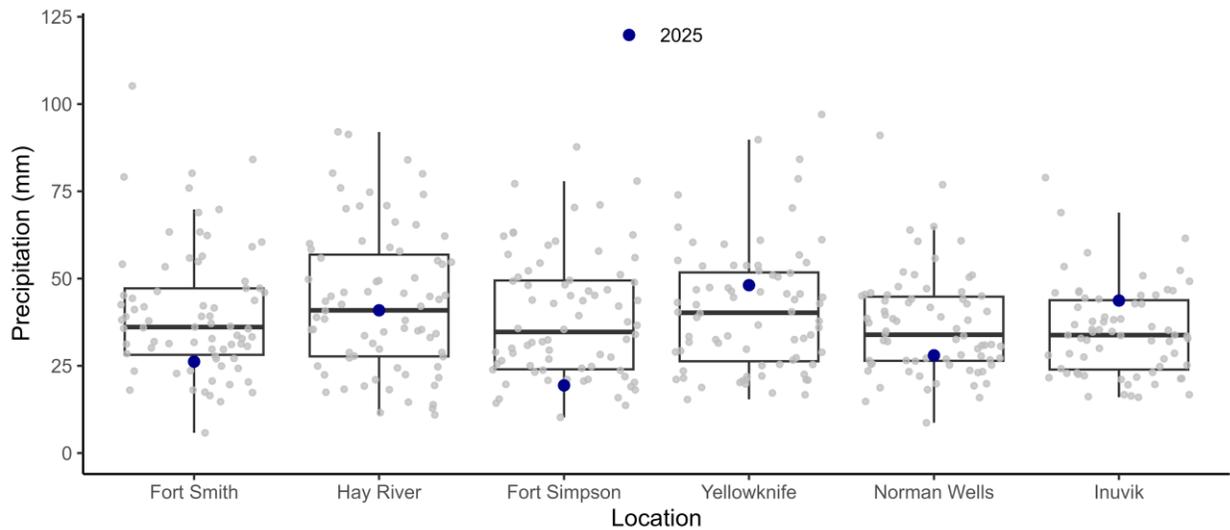
# Climate Data

## NWT communities



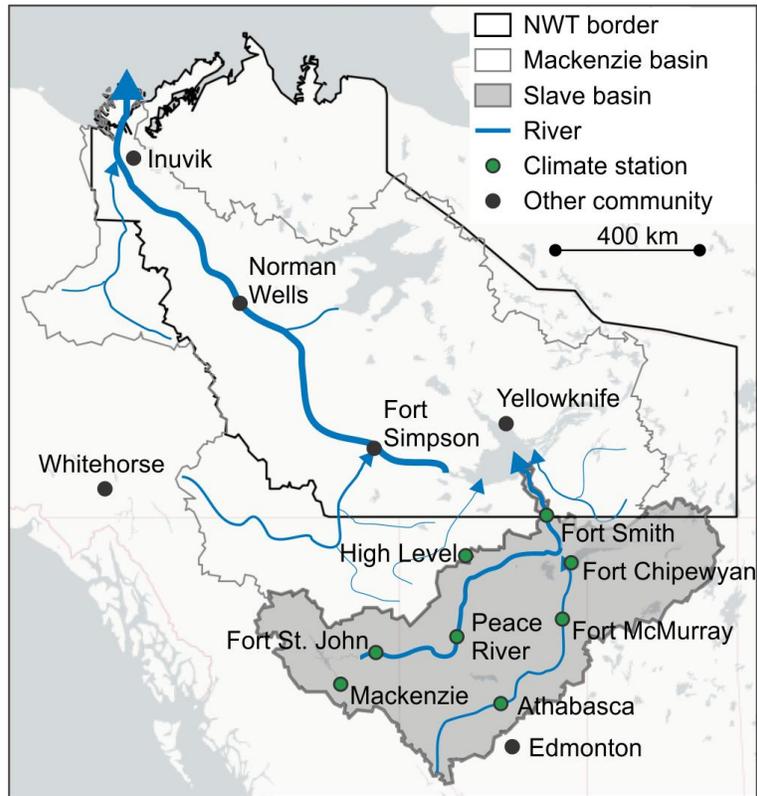
Cumulative precipitation for select NWT communities

Oct 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 to Nov 14<sup>th</sup> 2025



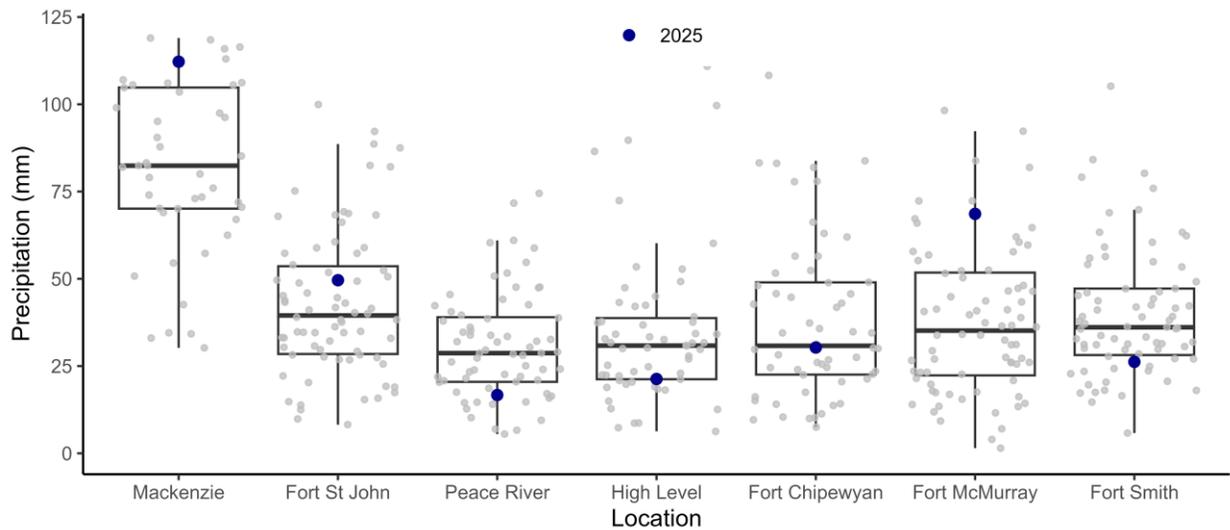
This figure shows total precipitation (rain and snow) that has fallen in select communities across the NWT from the start of October until November 14<sup>th</sup>. The blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present. See the map above for geographical context.

## Slave River basin communities



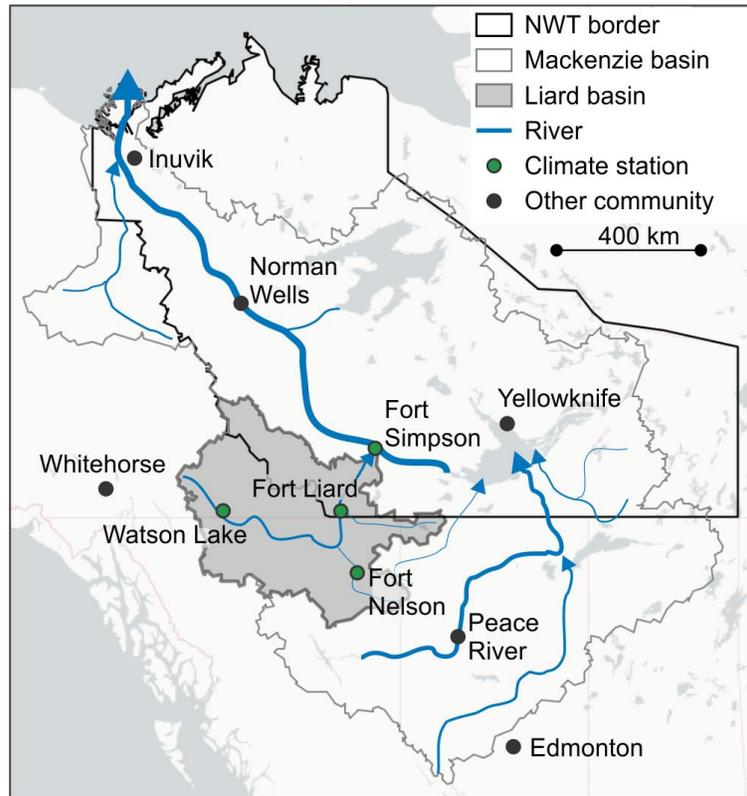
Cumulative precipitation for AB/BC/NWT communities in the Slave River basin

Oct 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 to Nov 14<sup>th</sup> 2025



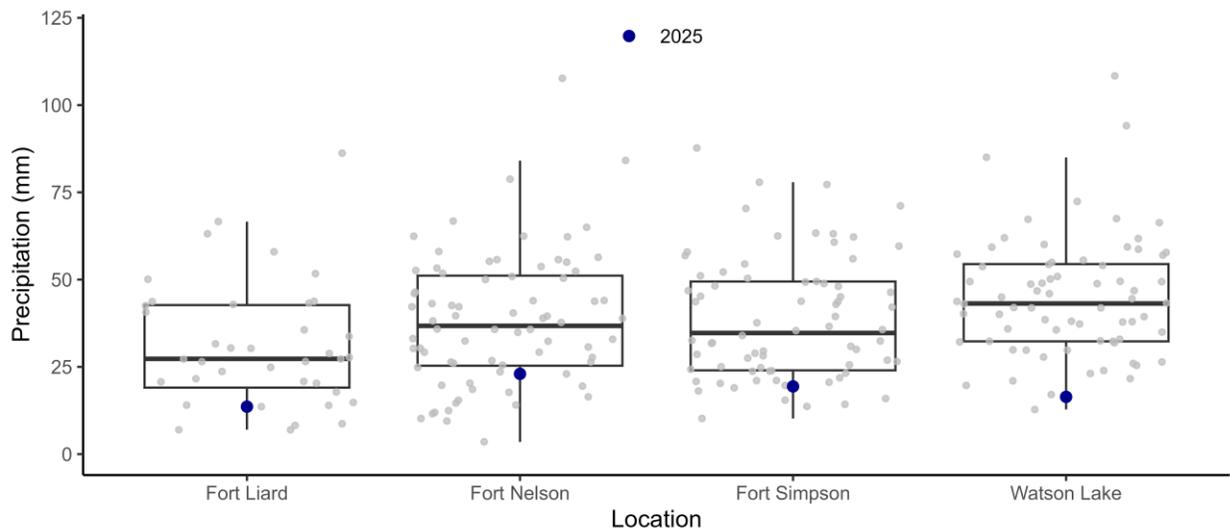
This figure shows total precipitation (rain and snow) that has fallen in select communities in the Slave River basin from the start of October until November 14<sup>th</sup>. The blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present. See the map above for geographical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

## Liard River basin communities



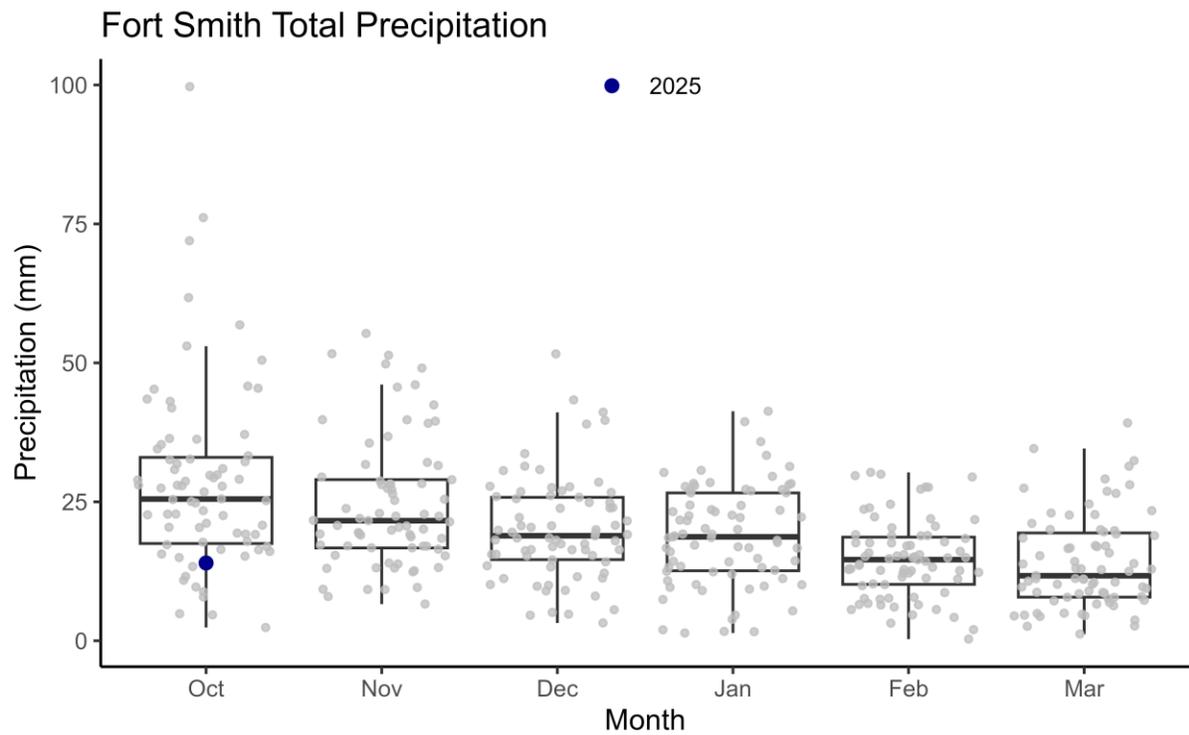
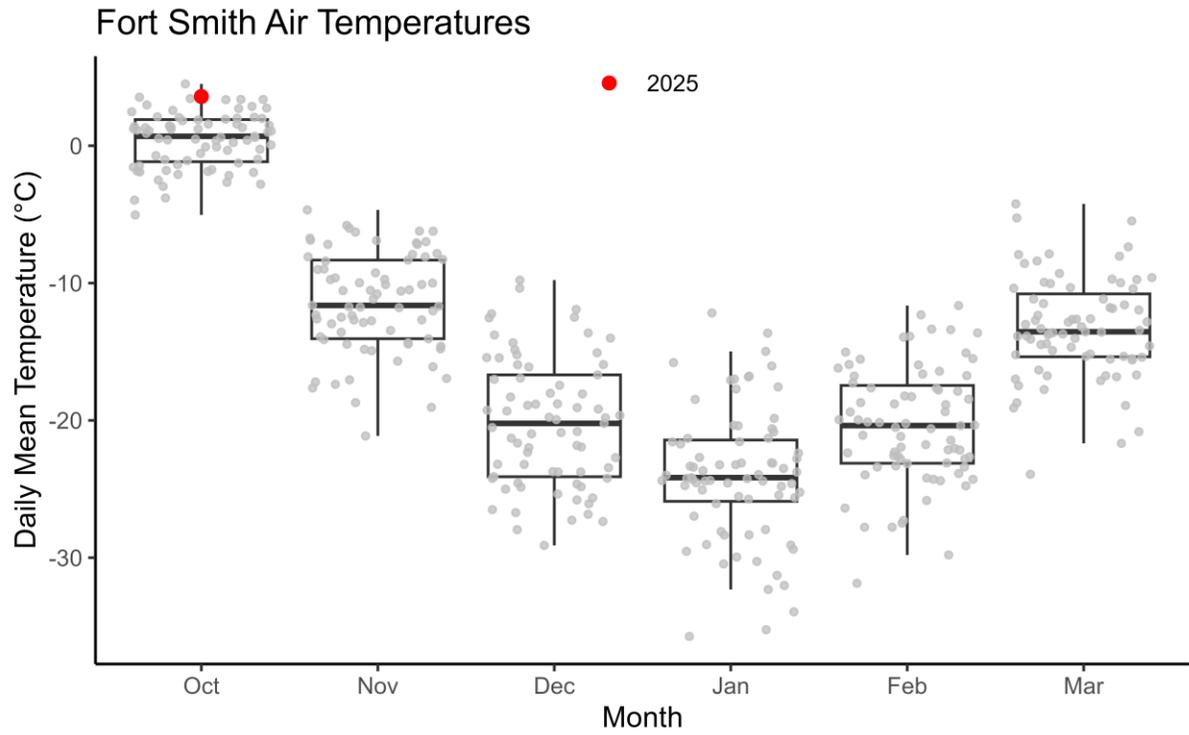
Cumulative precipitation for BC/NWT communities in the Liard River basin

Oct 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 to Nov 14<sup>th</sup> 2025



This figure shows total precipitation (rain and snow) that has fallen in select communities in the Liard River basin from the start of October until November 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.

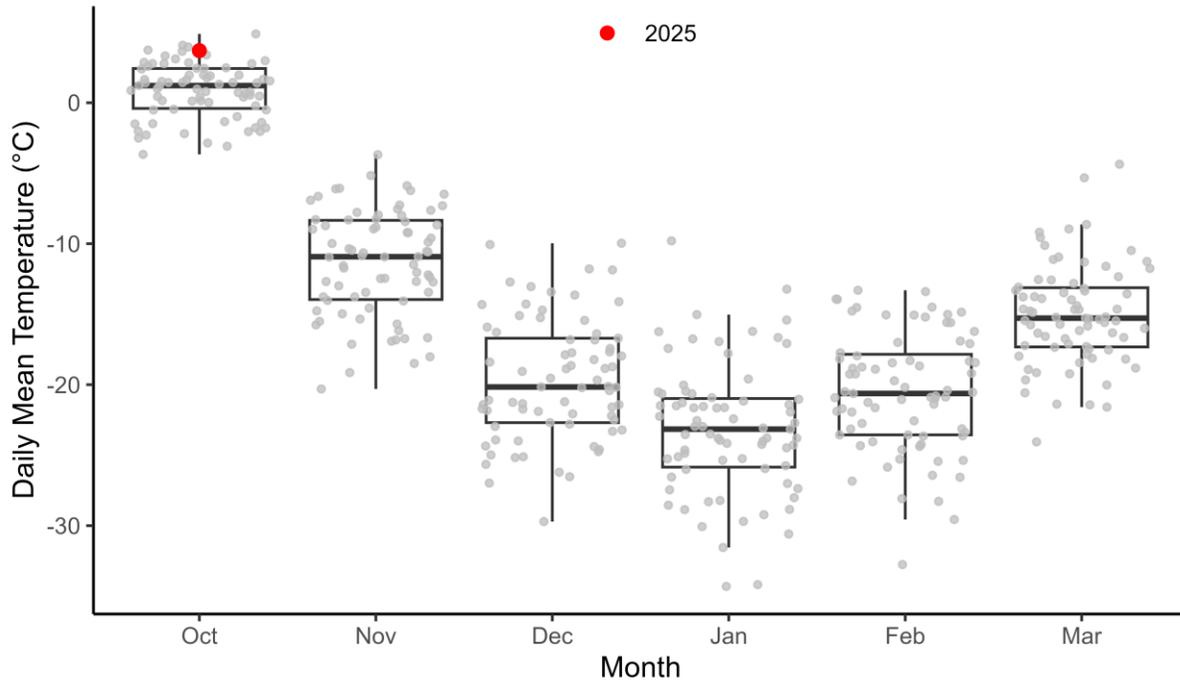
Fort Smith



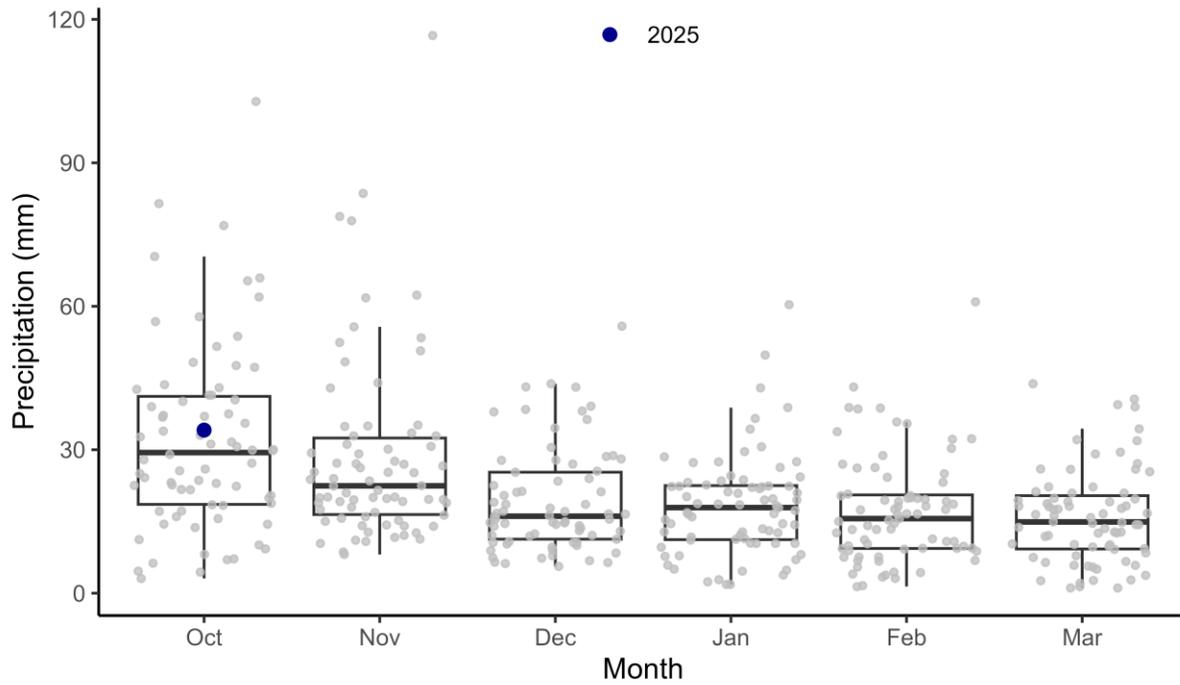
These figures shown above represent mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for winter 2025/2026 October 2025.

Hay River

Hay River Air Temperatures



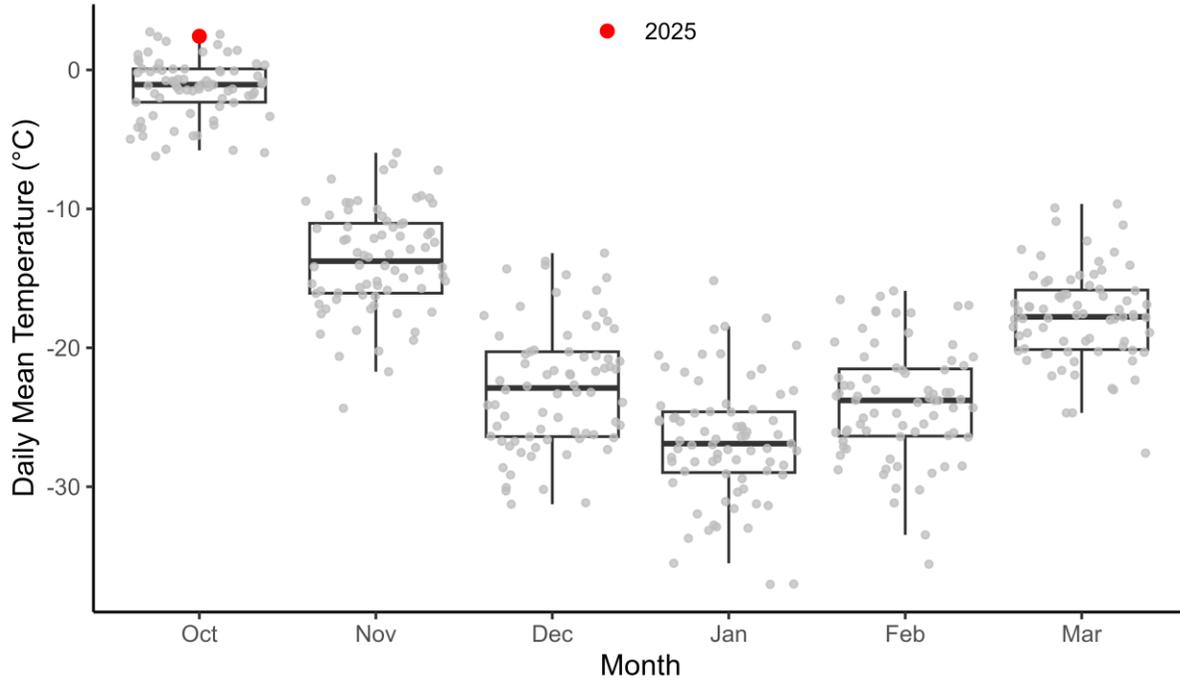
Hay River Total Precipitation



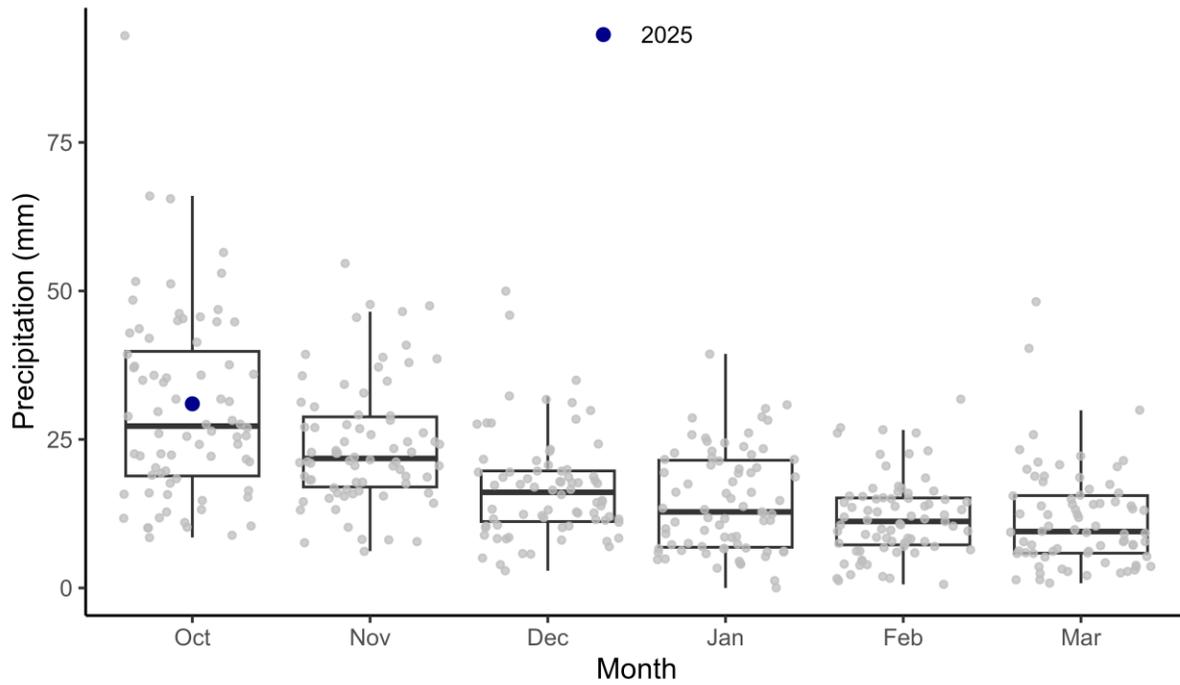
These figures shown above represent mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for winter 2025/2026 beginning October 2025.

Yellowknife

Yellowknife Air Temperatures



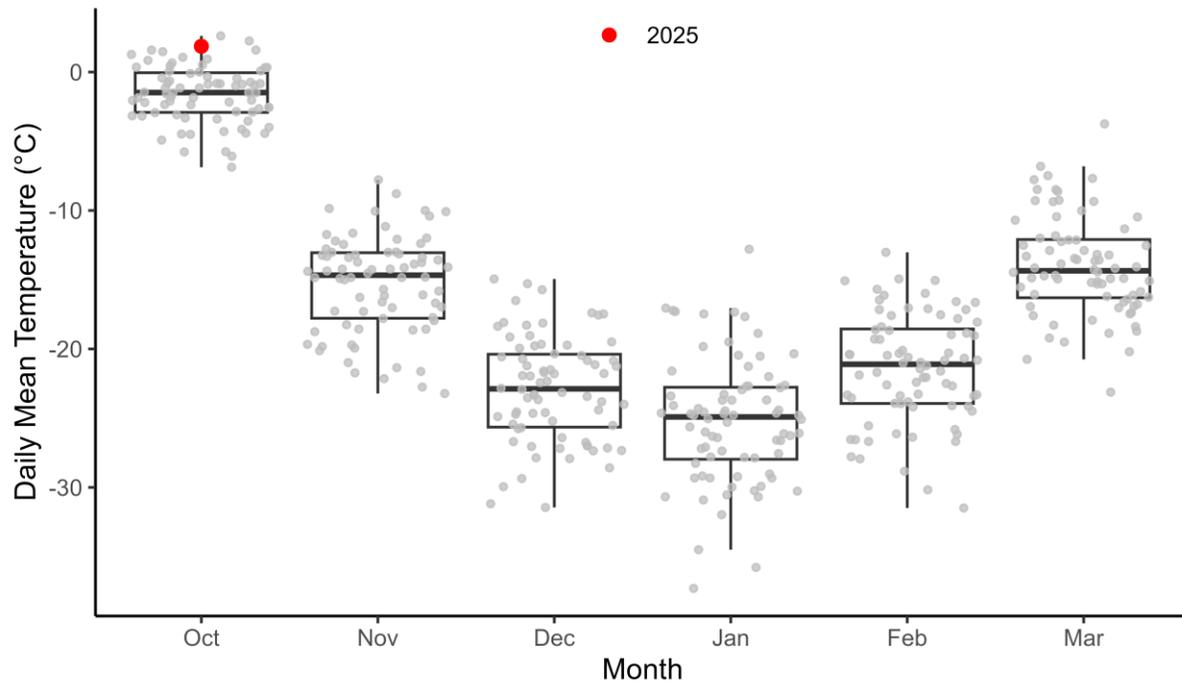
Yellowknife Total Precipitation



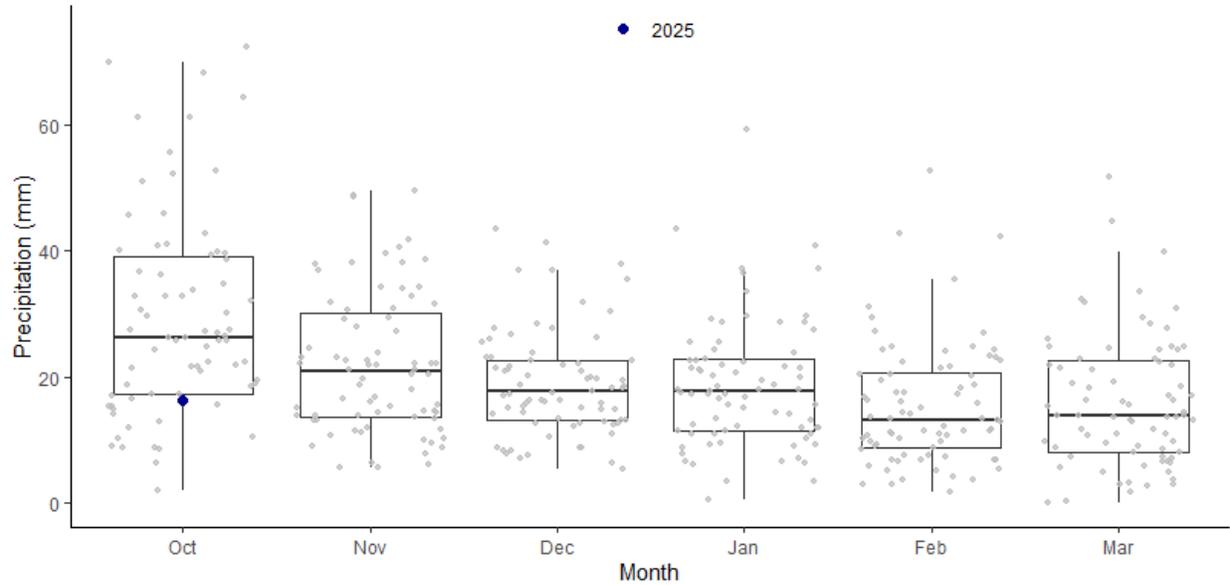
These figures shown above represent mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for the winter 2025/2026 beginning October 2025.

Fort Simpson

Fort Simpson Air Temperatures



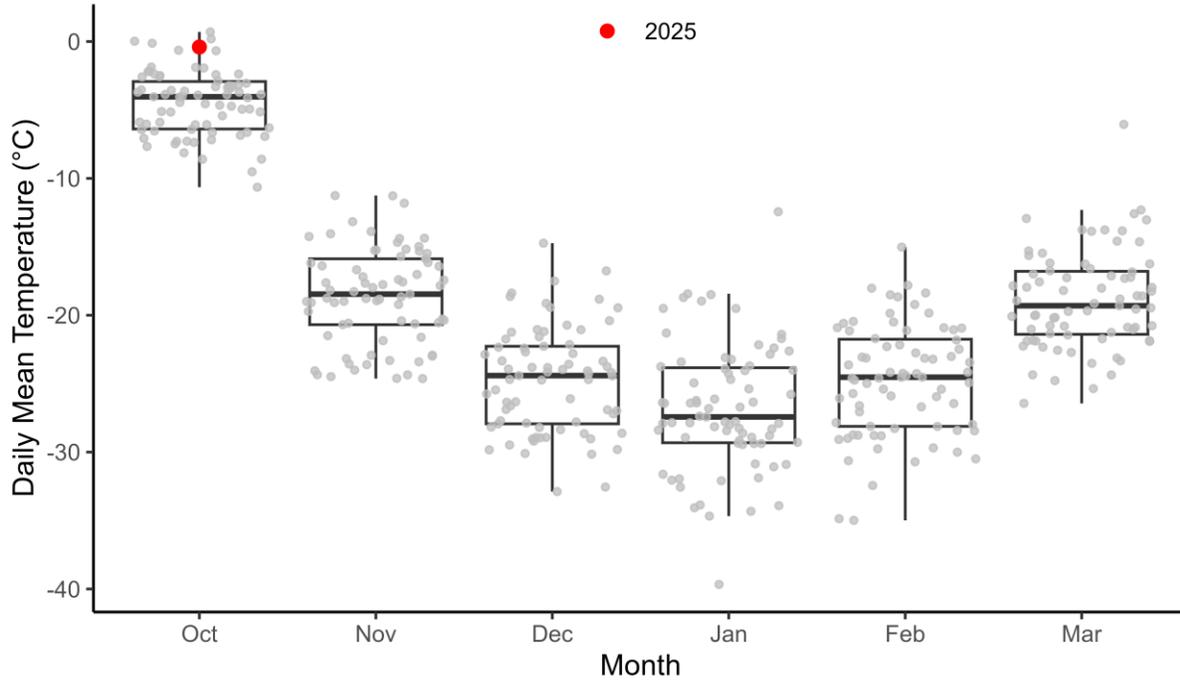
Fort Simpson Total Precipitation



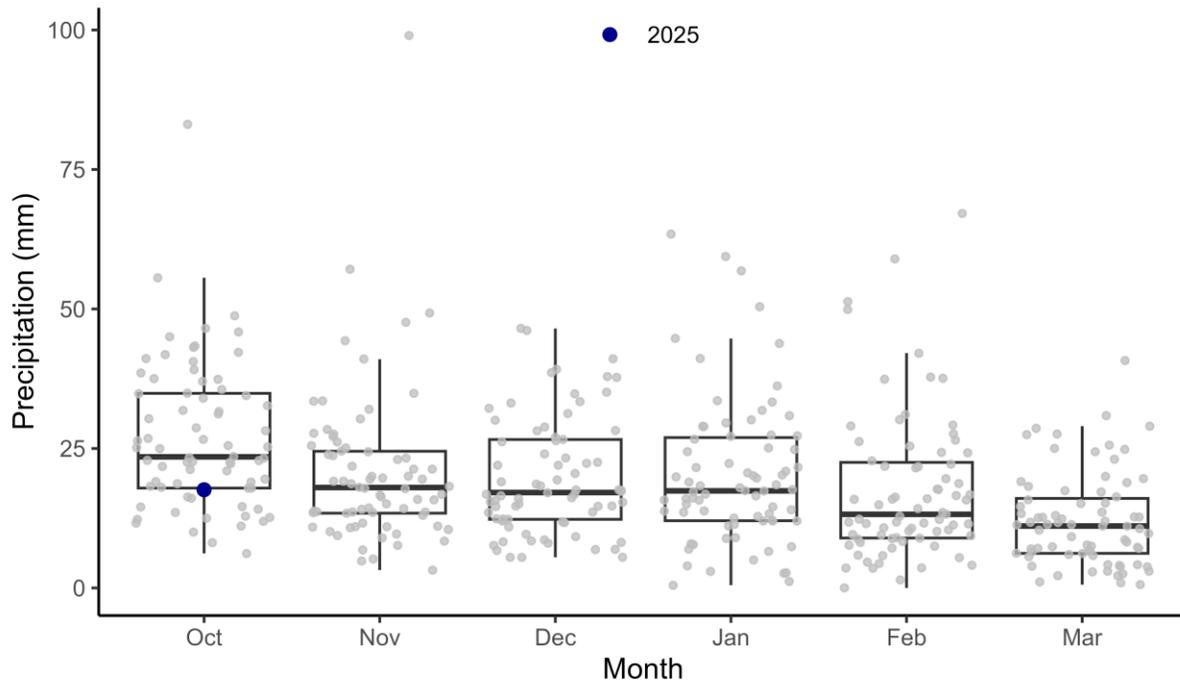
These figures shown above represent mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for winter 2025/2026 beginning October 2025.

Norman Wells

Norman Wells Air Temperatures



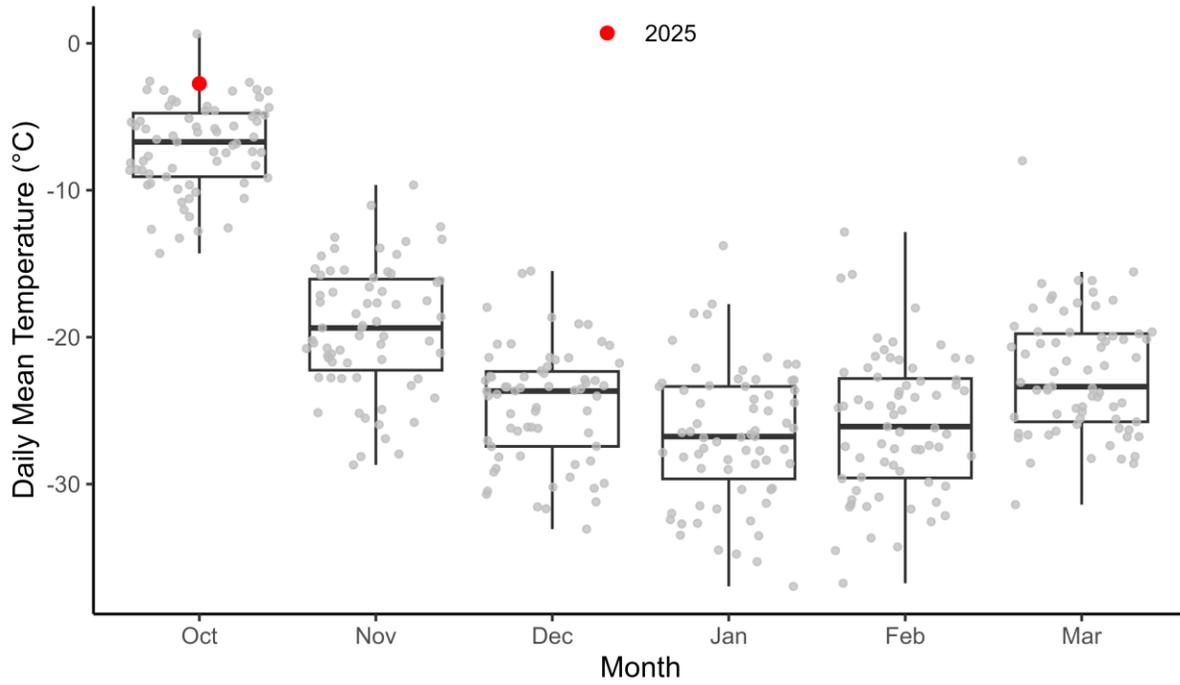
Norman Wells Total Precipitation



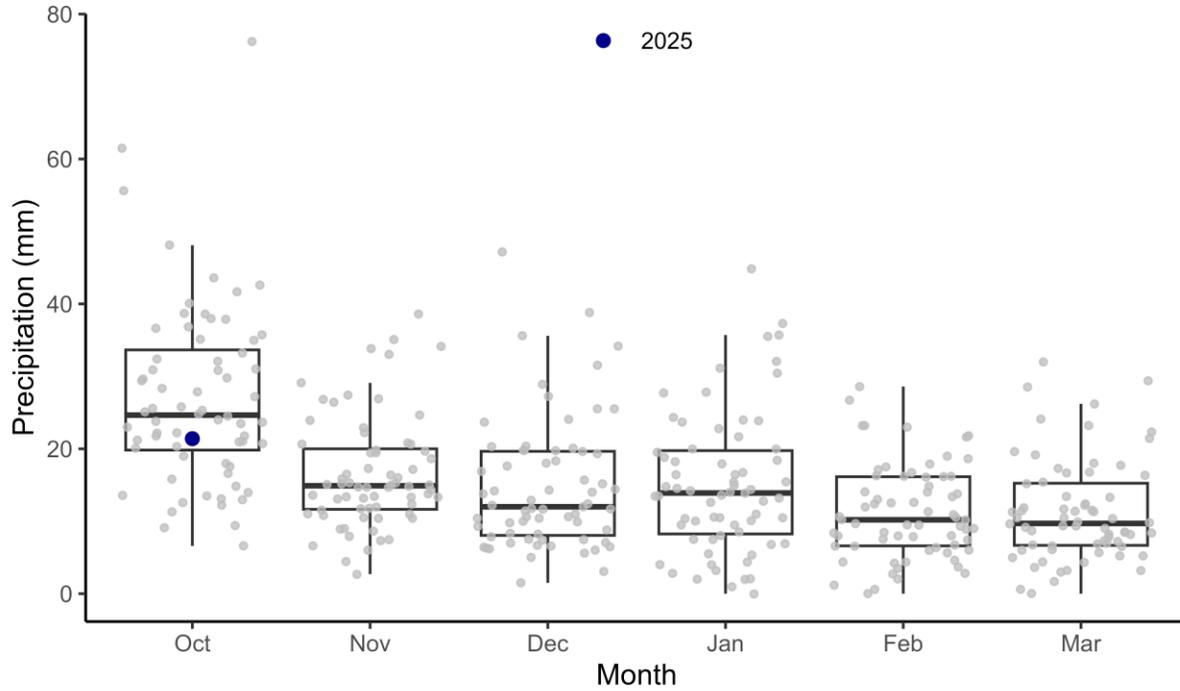
These figures shown above represent mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for winter 2025/2026 beginning October 2025.

Inuvik

### Inuvik Air Temperatures



### Inuvik Total Precipitation



These figures shown above represent mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for winter 2025/2026 beginning October 2025.