Government of Northwest Territories
Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

NWT Water Monitoring Bulletin

July 8th 2026

Bulletin sur la surveillance des eaux des TNO

8 juillet 2026

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^{th} to 90^{th} 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 2025 and 2026 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.

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 Territoires du Nord-Ouest.

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 2025 et de 2026 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 our **Monthly Water Monitoring Bulletin**, which provides regular updates on water levels and precipitation in the NWT.

- On the **Peel and Arctic Red Rivers**, water levels are well above average due to rain in those basins last week, causing disruption to transportation infrastructure.
    - Water levels as measured on the Peel River near Fort McPherson and upstream in the Yukon remain well above average, but are currently declining from their peak on July 5. The rapid rise in water levels follows a large 60-75 mm rain event measured in the lower Peel River basin during the period July 2-4.

- On the **South Nahanni River**, the water level is well above average.
    - A forecasted precipitation event will likely increase water levels over the coming days.
    - The rain event over southwestern NWT started last night (July 7) and will persist over the next several days and into the weekend. ECCC has forecast widespread rainfall totals of 20-40 mm over much of the Dehcho region, in the Liard River basin. Higher totals of 50-75 mm and pockets of 80-100 mm are possible.
    - The communities of Nahanni Butte and Fort Liard should be aware of this weather and monitor conditions closely.
    - Those planning to be out on the land should be aware that rainfall may cause rapid rises in water levels and flow, particularly on mountain rivers such as the South Nahanni River.

- **Elsewhere in the NWT**, water levels are generally higher than the levels observed at this time last year, across most of the large lakes and rivers.
    - Slave River water level is currently above average after being below average or well below average since 2023.
    - Hay River water level has decreased to below average, after being average to above average following break-up this past spring. Water levels remain slightly higher than this time last year. Water levels on tributaries upstream where data are available are well below average.
    - Great Slave Lake water level has been rising since mid-May and is currently average to just below average, after being well below average consistently since July 2023.
    - Liard River water level is slightly above average, after being below average for much of 2023-2025.
    - Mackenzie River water levels, measured at several monitoring stations along the river, are average to above average, and higher than this time last year.
    - La Martre River water level is below average, but higher than this time last year.
    - Great Bear Lake and Great Bear River water levels remain well below average, similar to this time last year.

    - Other water bodies with water levels that are currently higher than this time last year include:
        - Keele River (well above average), Prosperous Lake (below average), Prelude Lake (average), and Lockhart River (above average)
    - Other water bodies with water levels that are currently lower than this time last year include:
        - Taltson River (average), Hoarforst River (average to above average), Snare River (well below average), Coppermine River (below average)

- Water levels have shown some recovery since the low water levels observed over the past few years, with increases in water levels due to an above-average snowpack in much of the Mackenzie River basin this past winter.

- **June precipitation** was variable, but generally below average, across the NWT:
    - Well below average: Hay River, Fort Simpson
    - Below average: Yellowknife
    - Average: Norman Wells
    - Above average: Fort Smith, Fort Liard, Inuvik

- **June temperatures** were above average to well above average across the NWT.

- Water levels on Great Slave Lake and the Mackenzie River for the rest of the summer will be strongly influenced by precipitation received in northern British Columbia and Alberta.
    - So far this summer, cumulative precipitation has been variable, generally average to below average in western regions, and average to above average in eastern regions.

- Climate forecasts from ECCC for July-September 2026 indicates the potential for above average precipitation over the Dehcho region, and approximately average elsewhere across the NWT. Warmer than average temperatures are forecast for July-September 2026 across the NWT (except in northwest regions where temperatures are closer to normal), and particularly warmer in the regions east of Great Slave Lake reaching the Nunavut border.

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.

- Sur les **rivières Peel et Arctic Red**, les niveaux d'eau sont bien supérieurs à la moyenne en raison des précipitations reçues dans ces bassins la semaine dernière, ce qui a causé des perturbations aux infrastructures de transport.
    - Les niveaux d'eau mesurés sur la rivière Peel près de Fort McPherson et en amont au Yukon demeurent bien supérieurs à la moyenne, mais sont actuellement en baisse par rapport à leur sommet atteint le 5 juillet. La hausse rapide des niveaux d'eau fait suite à d'importantes précipitations de 60 à 75 mm enregistrées dans le bassin du cours inférieur de la rivière Peel entre le 2 et le 4 juillet.

- Le niveau d'eau de la **rivière Nahanni Sud** est bien supérieur à la moyenne.
    - Les précipitations prévues devraient faire monter les niveaux d'eau au cours des prochains jours.
    - Les pluies qui s'abattent sur le sud-ouest des TNO ont commencé hier soir (7 juillet) et devraient se poursuivre au cours des prochains jours et jusqu'à la fin de la semaine. ECCC prévoit des précipitations généralisées de 20 à 40 mm sur une grande partie de la région du Dehcho, dans le bassin de la rivière Liard. Il pourrait y avoir des accumulations plus élevées, soit de 50 à 75 mm, ainsi que des zones où les accumulations pourraient atteindre jusqu'à 80 à 100 mm.
    - Les collectivités de Nahanni Butte et de Fort Liard devraient se tenir au courant des conditions météorologiques à venir et les surveiller de près.
    - Si vous comptez vous rendre dans la nature, sachez que ces précipitations pourraient entraîner des hausses rapides du niveau et du débit des eaux, surtout pour les rivières de montagne, comme la rivière Nahanni Sud.

- **Ailleurs aux TNO**, les niveaux d'eau sont généralement plus élevés que ceux observés à la même période l'année dernière, dans la plupart des grands lacs et des grandes rivières.
    - Le niveau d'eau de la rivière des Esclaves est actuellement supérieur à la moyenne, après avoir été inférieur ou bien inférieur à la moyenne depuis 2023.
    - Le niveau d'eau de la rivière Hay est descendu sous la moyenne, après s'être situé entre la moyenne et au-dessus de la moyenne à la suite de la débâcle du printemps dernier. Les niveaux d'eau demeurent légèrement plus élevés qu'à la même période l'année dernière. Les niveaux d'eau des affluents en amont, là où des données sont disponibles, sont bien en dessous de la moyenne.
    - Le niveau d'eau du Grand lac des Esclaves est en hausse depuis la mi-mai et se situe actuellement entre la moyenne et juste en dessous de la moyenne, après avoir été constamment bien en dessous de la moyenne depuis juillet 2023.

- Le niveau d'eau de la rivière Liard est légèrement supérieur à la moyenne, après avoir été inférieur à la moyenne pendant une grande partie de la période de 2023 à 2025.
- Les niveaux d'eau du fleuve Mackenzie, mesurés à plusieurs stations de surveillance le long du cours d'eau, se situent entre la moyenne et un niveau supérieur à la moyenne, et sont plus élevés qu'à la même période l'année dernière.
- Le niveau d'eau de la rivière La Martre est inférieur à la moyenne, mais supérieur à celui de la même période l'année dernière.
- Les niveaux d'eau du Grand lac de l'Ours et de la rivière Great Bear demeurent bien inférieurs à la moyenne, comme à la même période l'année dernière.

- Parmi les autres plans d'eau dont les niveaux sont actuellement plus élevés qu'à la même période l'année dernière, mentionnons :
  - La rivière Keele (bien supérieur à la moyenne), le lac Prosperous (inférieur à la moyenne), le lac Prelude (dans la moyenne) et la rivière Lockhart (supérieur à la moyenne).
- Parmi les autres plans d'eau dont les niveaux sont actuellement plus bas qu'à la même période l'année dernière, mentionnons :
  - La rivière Taltson (dans la moyenne), la rivière Hoarforst (dans la moyenne jusqu'à supérieur à la moyenne), la rivière Snare (bien inférieur à la moyenne) et la rivière Coppermine (inférieur à la moyenne).

- Les niveaux d'eau ont connu une certaine remontée depuis les faibles niveaux observés au cours des dernières années, grâce à une accumulation de neige supérieure à la moyenne dans une grande partie du bassin du fleuve Mackenzie l'hiver dernier.

- Les **précipitations pour le mois de juin** ont été variables, mais généralement inférieures à la moyenne dans l'ensemble des TNO :
  - Bien inférieures à la moyenne : Hay River, Fort Simpson
  - Inférieures à la moyenne : Yellowknife
  - Dans la moyenne : Norman Wells
  - Supérieures à la moyenne : Fort Smith, Fort Liard, Inuvik

- Les **températures de juin** ont été supérieures à la moyenne, voire bien supérieures à la moyenne, dans l'ensemble des TNO.

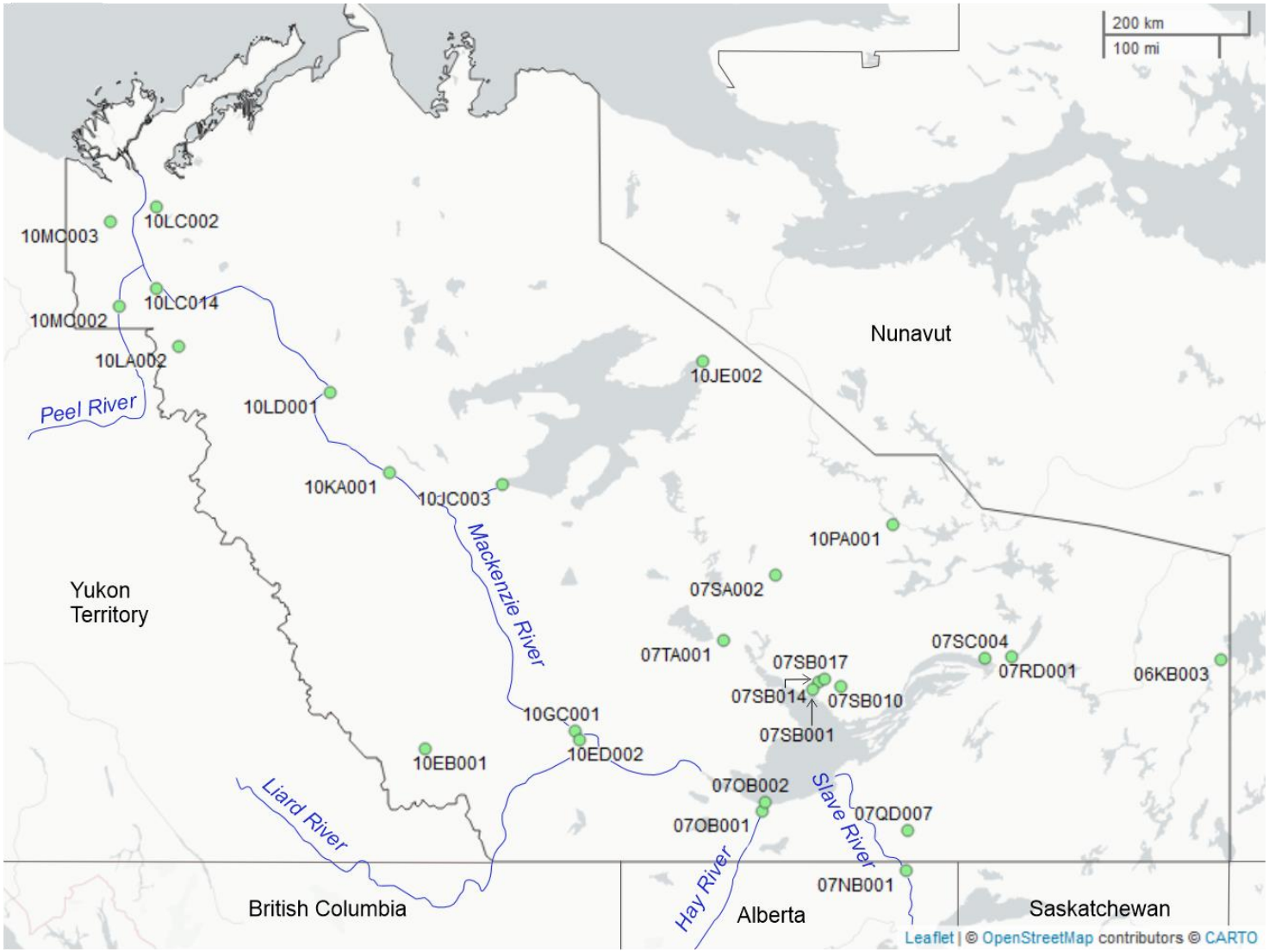
- Le niveau d'eau du Grand lac des Esclaves et du fleuve Mackenzie pour le reste de l'été sera fortement influencé par les précipitations reçues dans le nord de la Colombie-Britannique et de l'Alberta.
  - Jusqu'à présent, cet été, les précipitations cumulatives ont été variables, se situant généralement entre la moyenne et inférieures à la moyenne dans les

régions de l'ouest, et entre la moyenne et supérieures à la moyenne dans les régions de l'est.

- Les prévisions climatiques d'ECCC pour la période de juillet à septembre 2026 indiquent une possibilité de précipitations supérieures à la moyenne dans la région du Dehcho, et des précipitations proches de la moyenne ailleurs aux TNO. Des températures supérieures à la moyenne sont prévues pour la période de juillet à septembre 2026 dans l'ensemble des TNO (à l'exception des régions du nord-ouest où les températures seront plus proches de la normale), et particulièrement dans les régions situées à l'est du Grand lac des Esclaves, jusqu'à la frontière du Nunavut.

Contents

Hydrometric station map



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

Information on interpreting figures

Water level and flow figures

The light blue line shows water levels/flows from last year (2025), while the dark blue line shows current water levels/flows in 2026. 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.

The terms used to describe water level or flow conditions are defined as follows:

- ***Average:*** within the interquartile range (25th-75th percentile range).
- ***Above average / Below average:*** within the 75th-90th percentile range or 10th-25th percentile range, respectively.
- ***Well above average / Well below average:*** above the 90th percentile or below the 10th percentile, respectively.

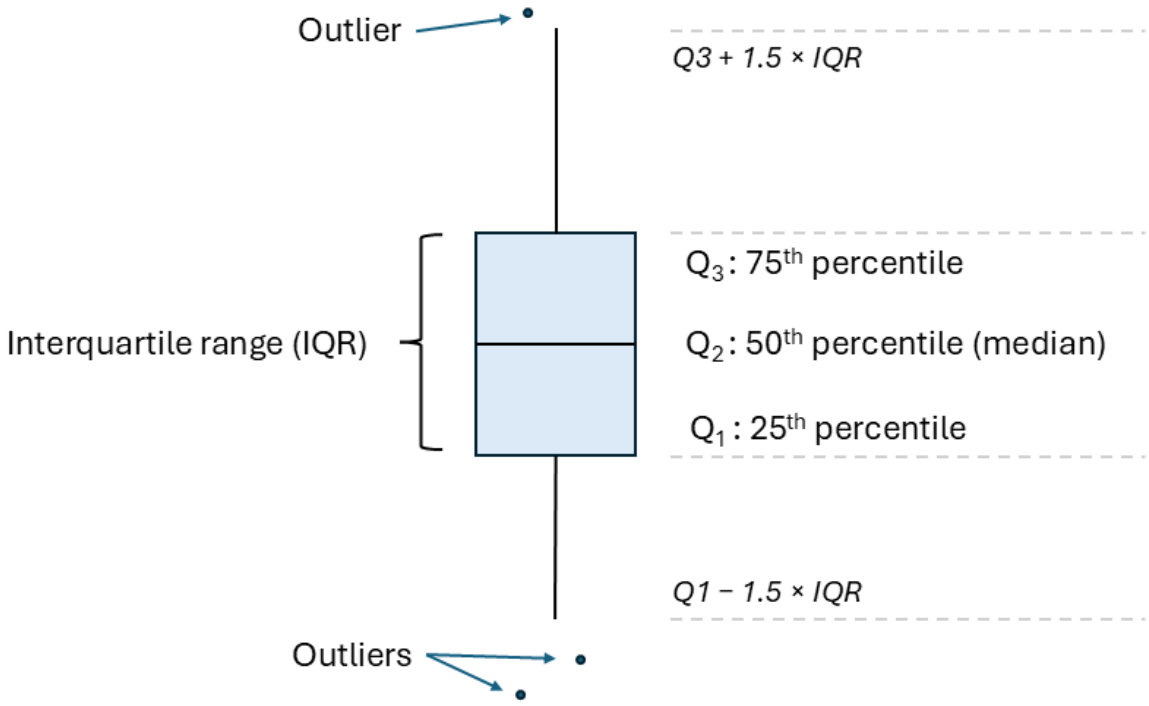
The grey bands are calculated for data prior to 2025. If the line from 2025 or 2026 is above (or below) the grey band, it means that the water level or flow from that year was the highest (or lowest) on record.

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, which is the 25th to 75th percentile) 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.

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

- ***Average:*** within the interquartile range (25th-75th percentile range).
- ***Above average / Below average:*** within the 75th-90th percentile range or 10th-25th percentile range, respectively.
- ***Well above average / Well below average:*** above the 90th percentile or below the 10th percentile, respectively.

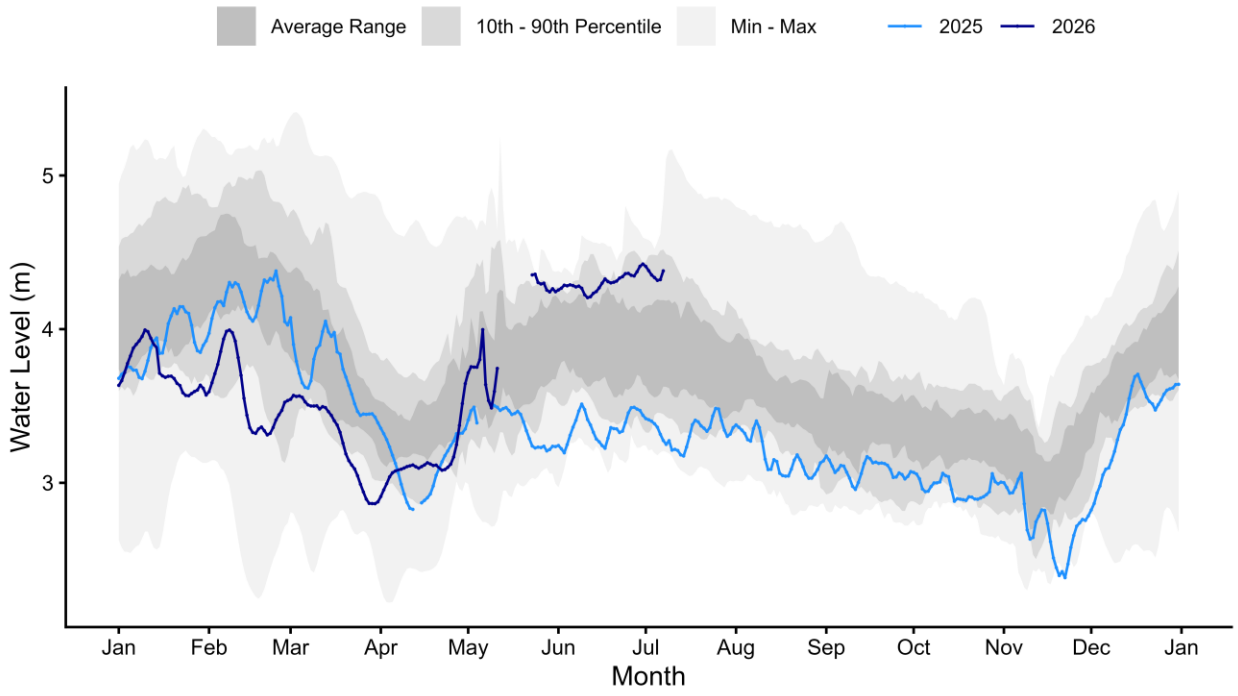


These data are primarily acquired and managed by Environment and Climate Change Canada, but in some cases values have been infilled with GNWT climate station data when ECCC data are unavailable.

Water level and flow data

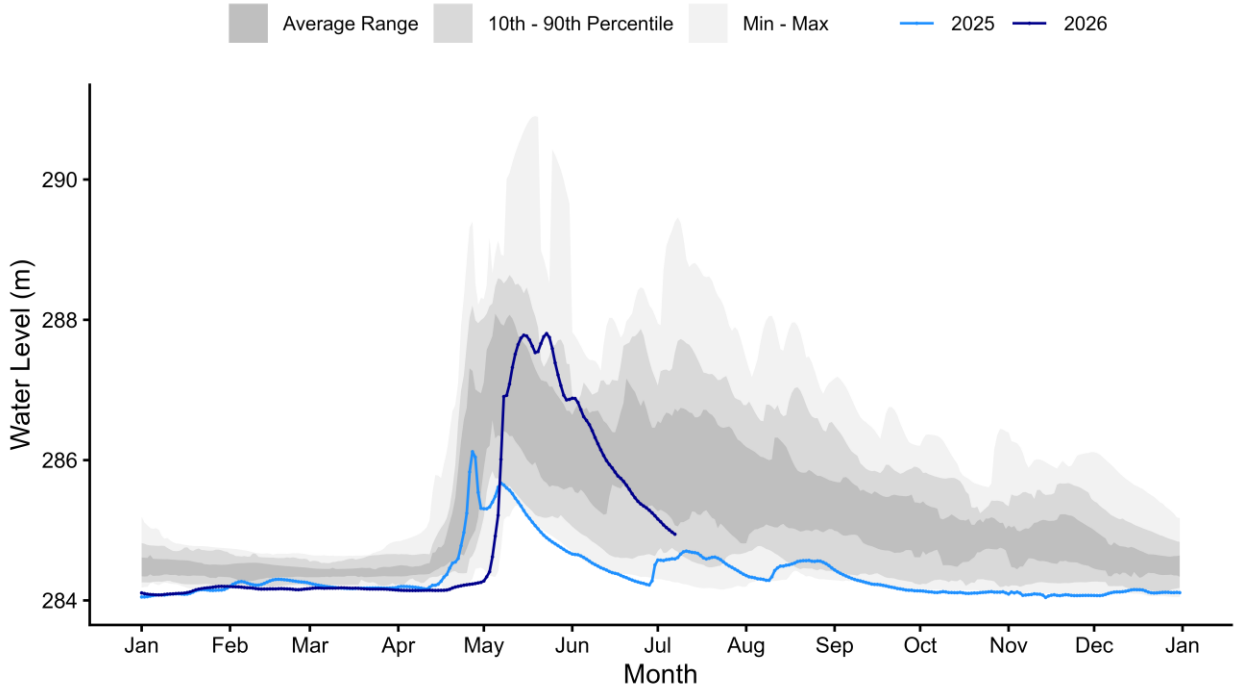
Slave River at Fitzgerald [07NB001]

Record Length: 25 years | Period of Record: 2002-2026



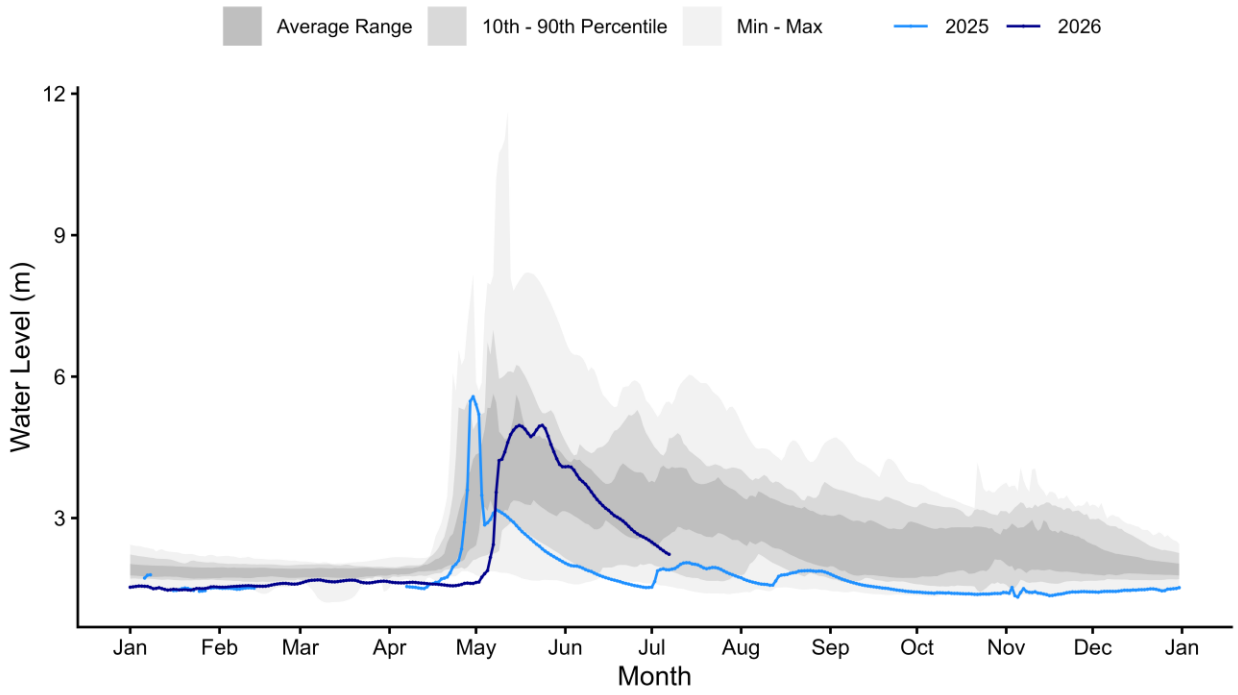
Hay River near Alberta/NWT Boundary [07OB008]

Record Length: 36 years | Period of Record: 1986-1998; 2004-2026



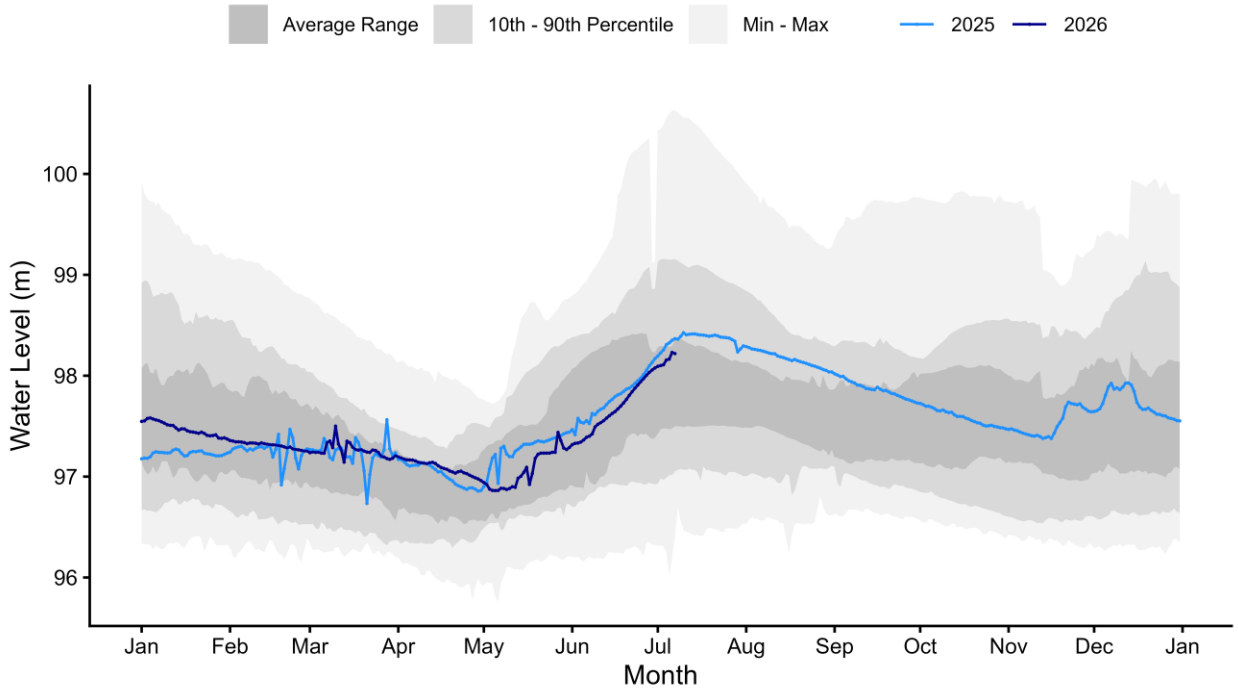
Hay River near Hay River [07OB001]

Record Length: 25 years | Period of Record: 2002-2026



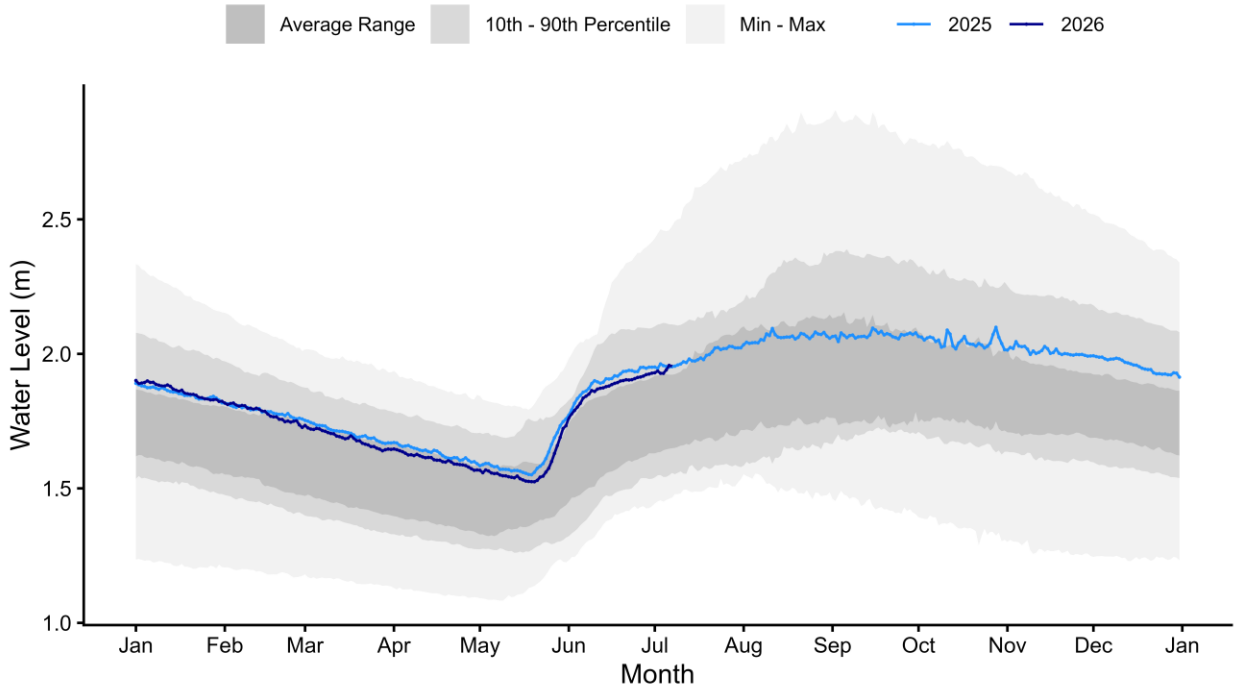
Taltson River below Hydro Dam [07QD007]

Record Length: 24 years | Period of Record: 2002-2008; 2010-2026



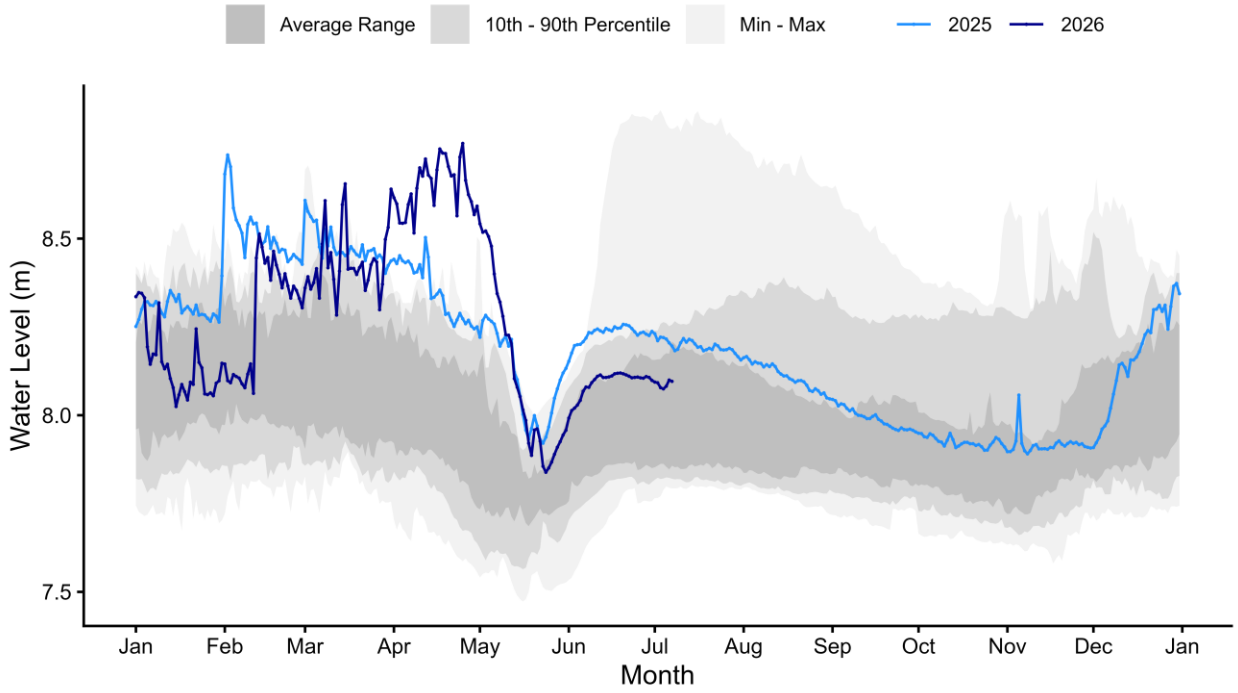
Lockhart River at outlet of Artillery Lake [07RD001]

Record Length: 25 years | Period of Record: 2002-2026



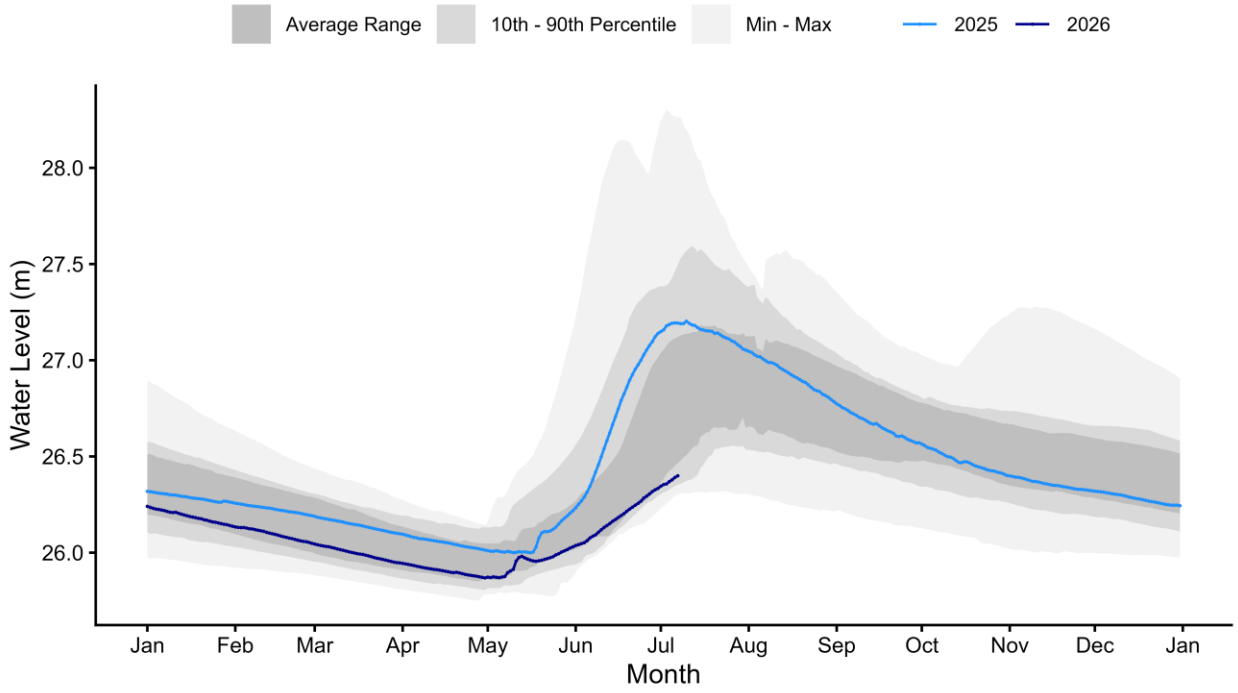
Hoarfrost River near the mouth [07SC004]

Record Length: 17 years | Period of Record: 2010-2026



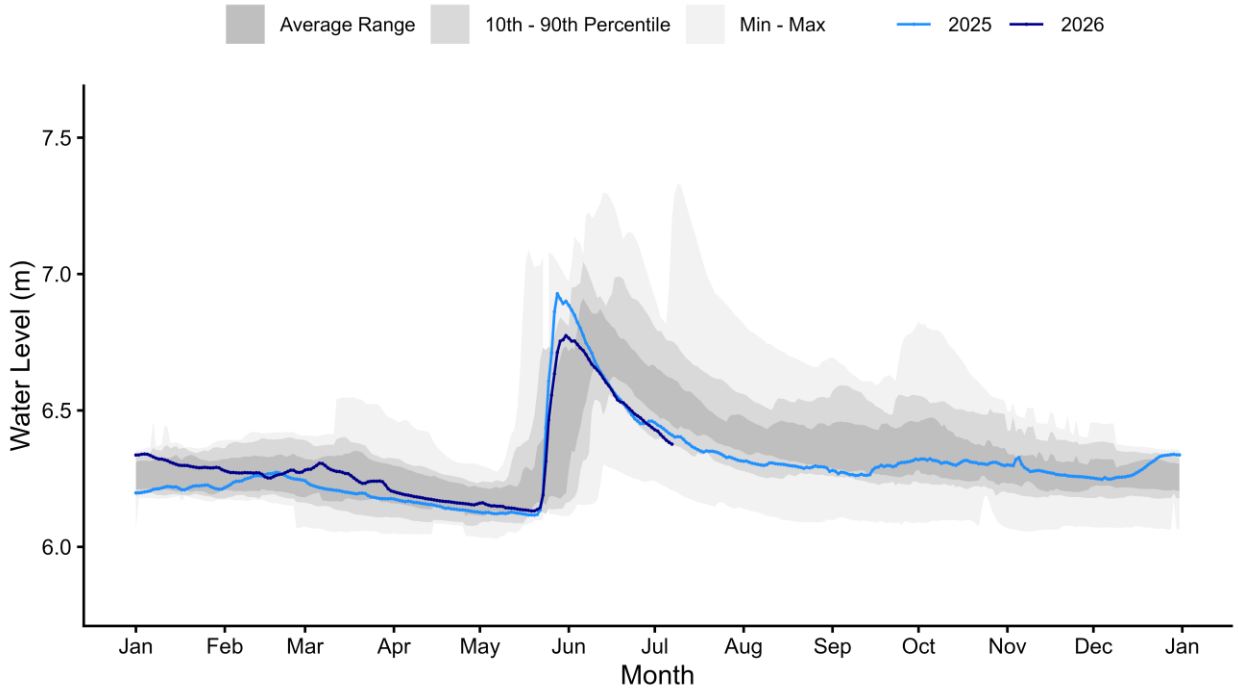
Snare River below Ghost Lake [07SA002]

Record Length: 25 years | Period of Record: 2002-2026



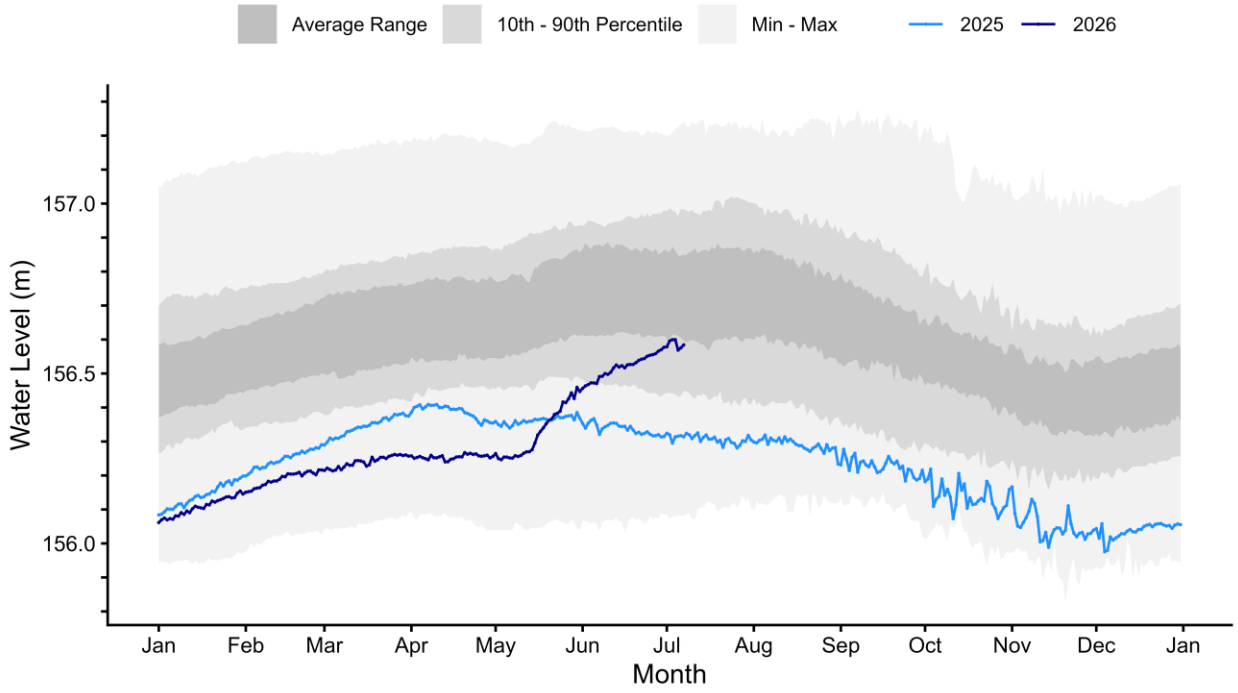
Coppermine River below Desteffany Lake [10PA001]

Record Length: 25 years | Period of Record: 2002-2026



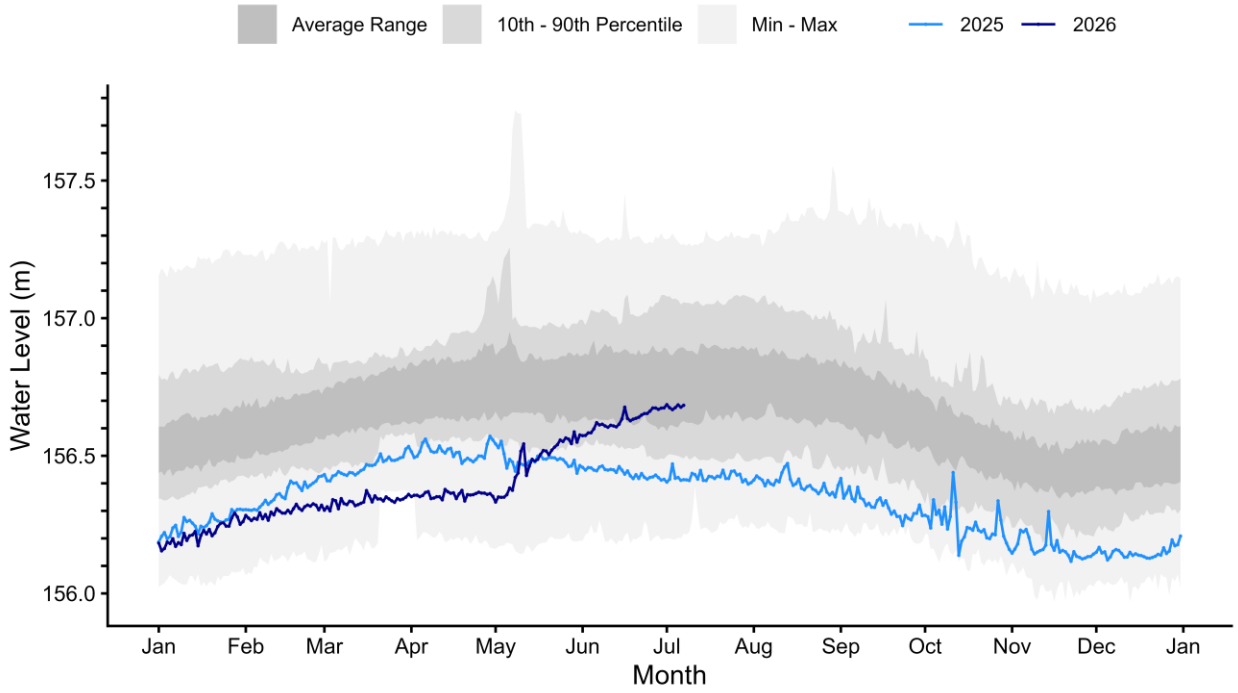
Great Slave Lake at Yellowknife Bay [07SB001]

Record Length: 91 years | Period of Record: 1934-1935; 1938-2026



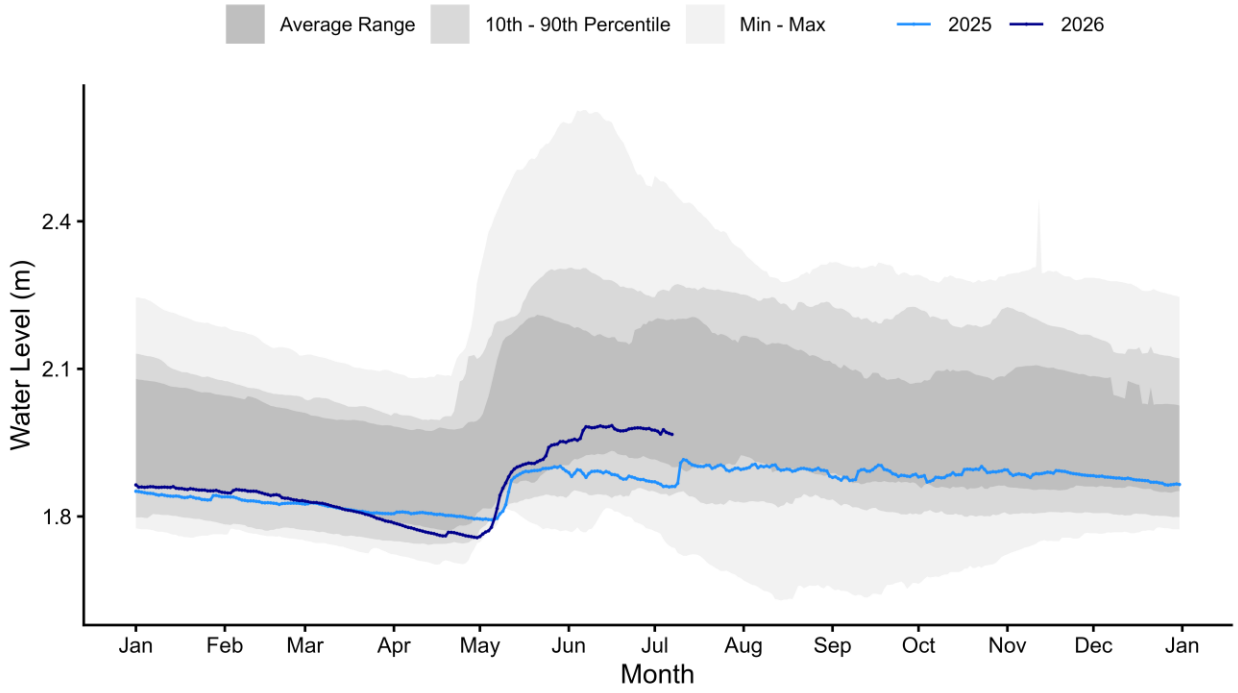
Great Slave Lake at Hay River [07OB002]

Record Length: 56 years | Period of Record: 1959-1970; 1983-2026



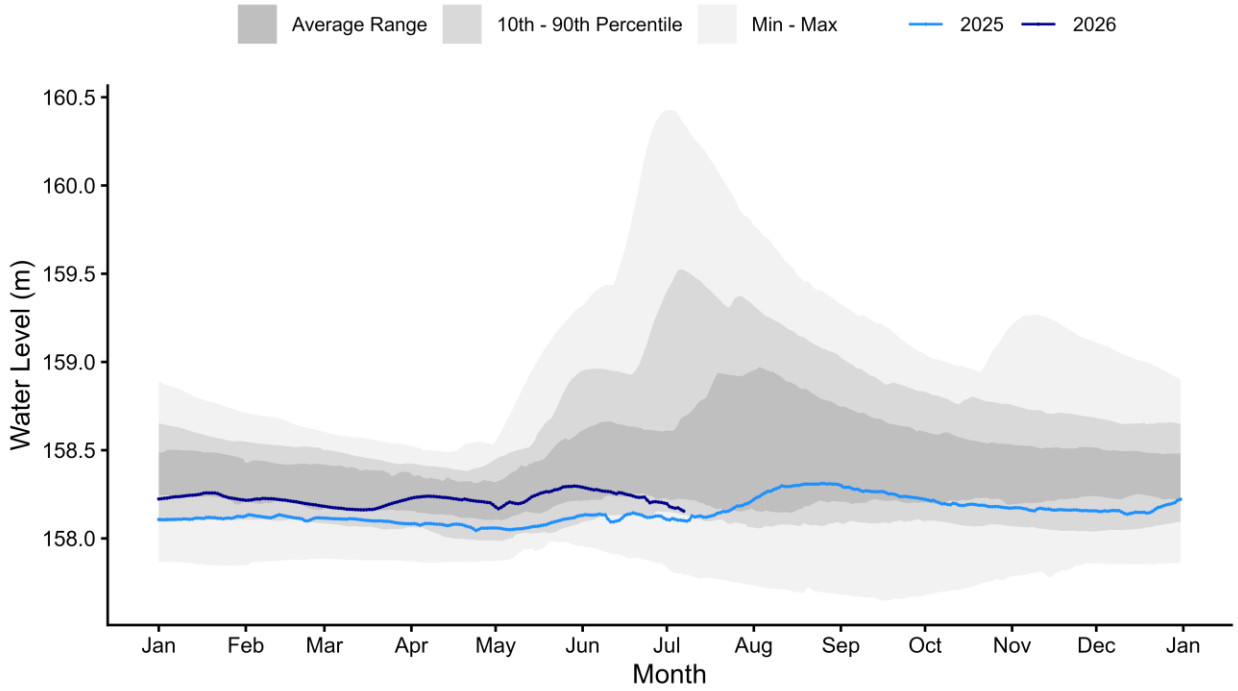
Cameron River below Reid Lake [07SB010]

Record Length: 25 years | Period of Record: 2002-2026



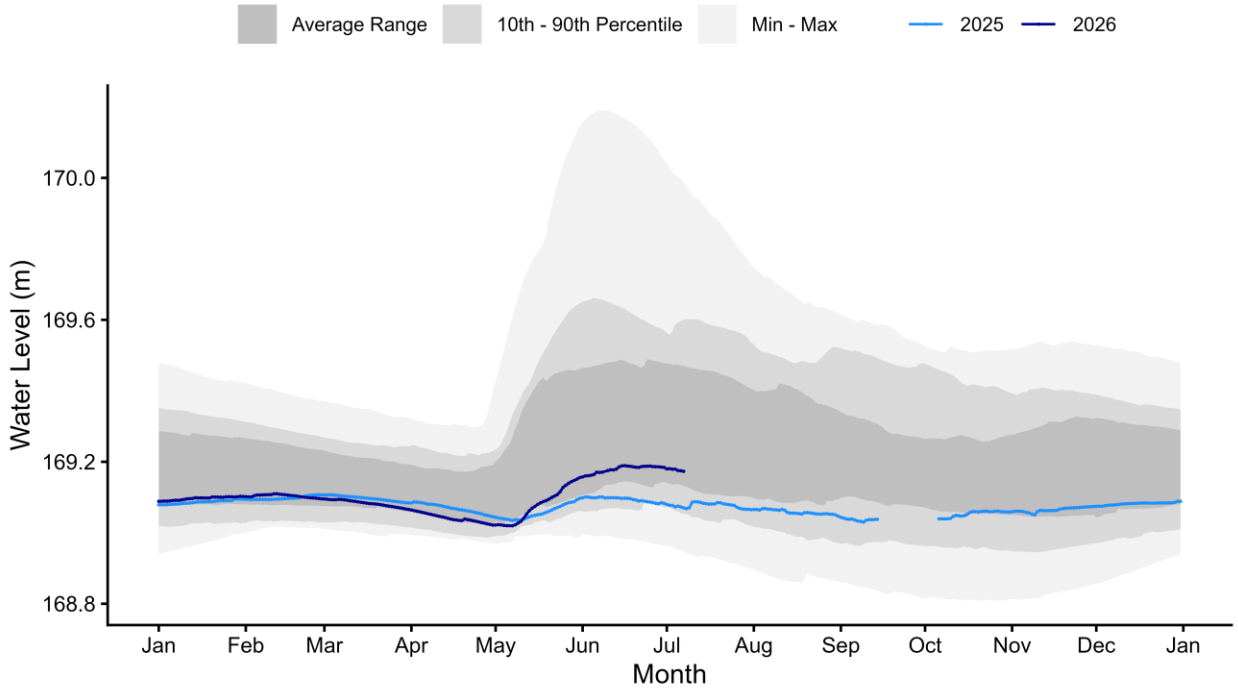
Prosperous Lake near McMeekan Bay [07SB014]

Record Length: 40 years | Period of Record: 1987-2026



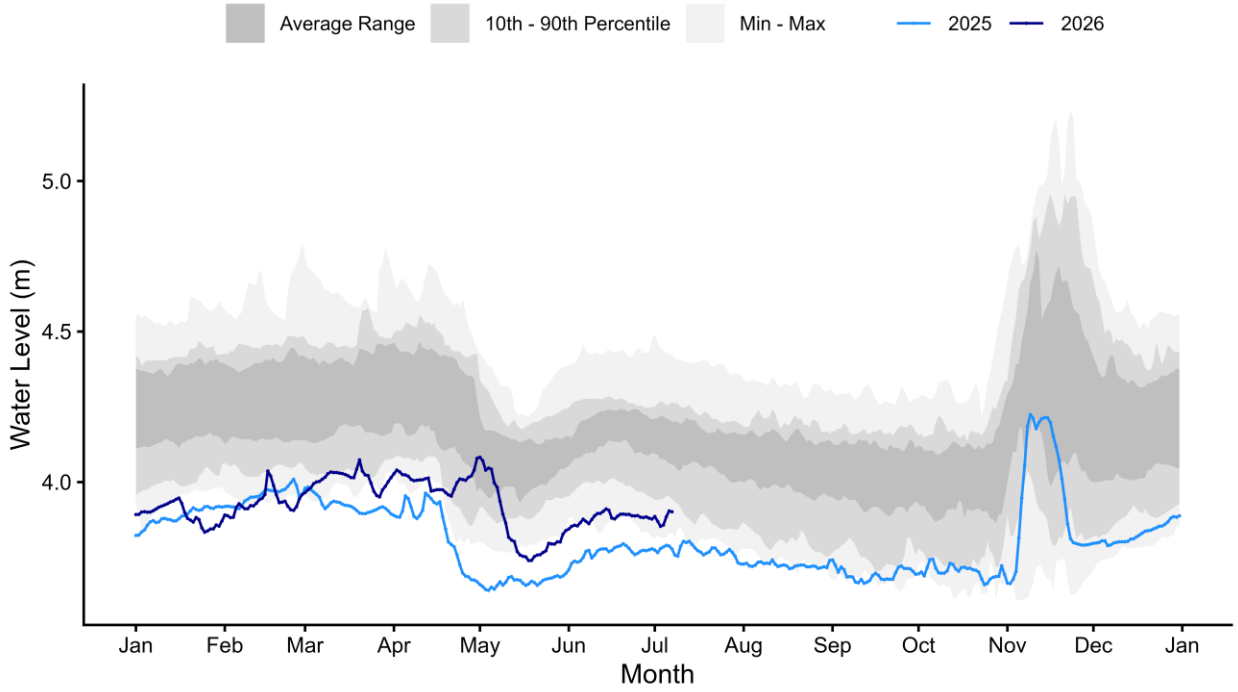
Prelude Lake near Yellowknife [07SB017]

Record Length: 32 years | Period of Record: 1995-2026



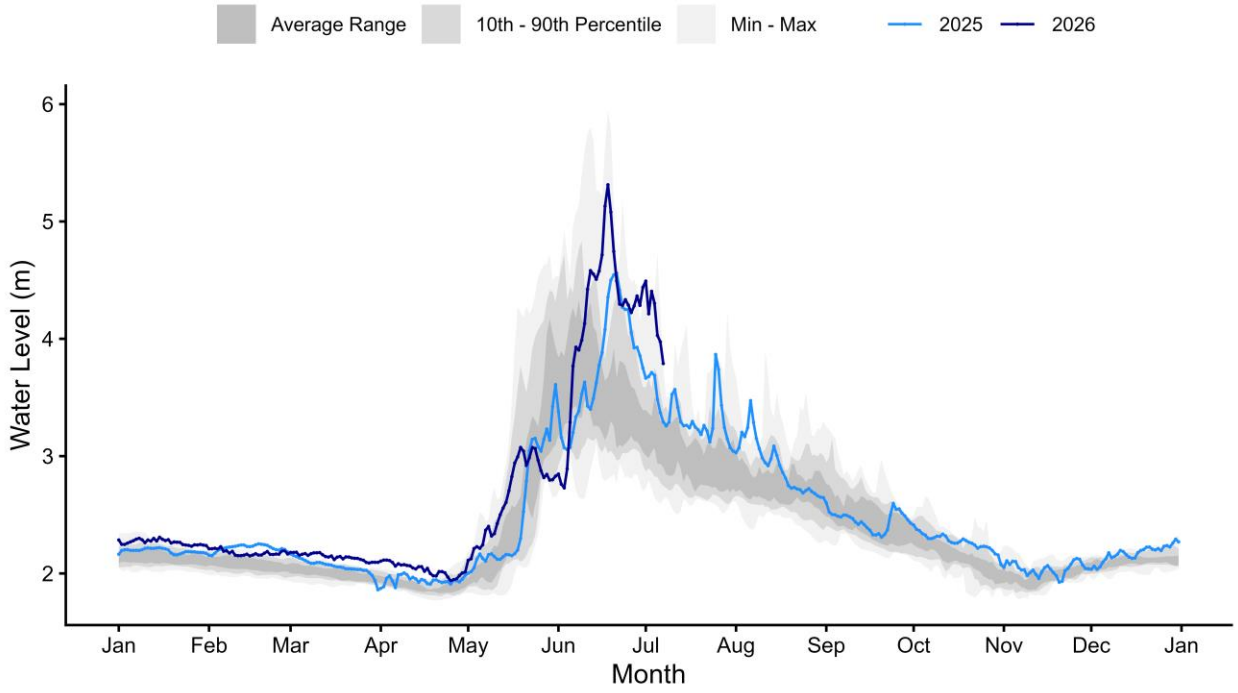
La Martre River below outlet of Lac La Martre [07TA001]

Record Length: 25 years | Period of Record: 2002-2026



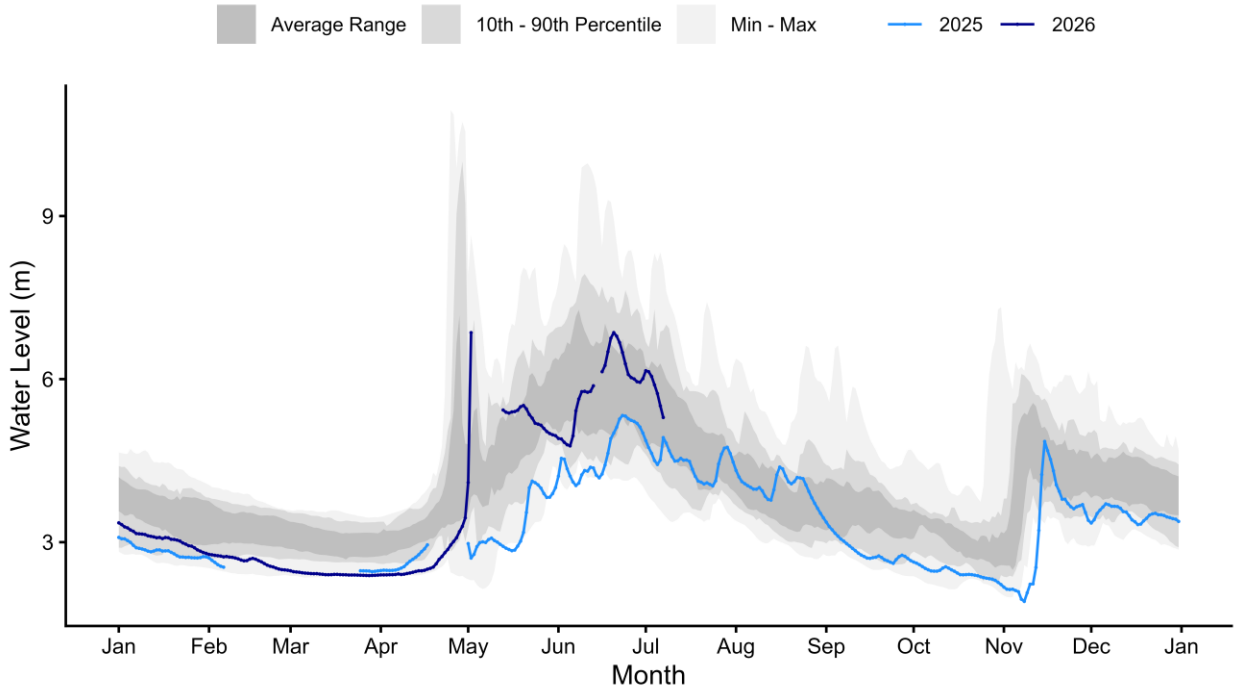
South Nahanni River above Virginia Falls [10EB001]

Record Length: 21 years | Period of Record: 2002-2019; 2024-2026



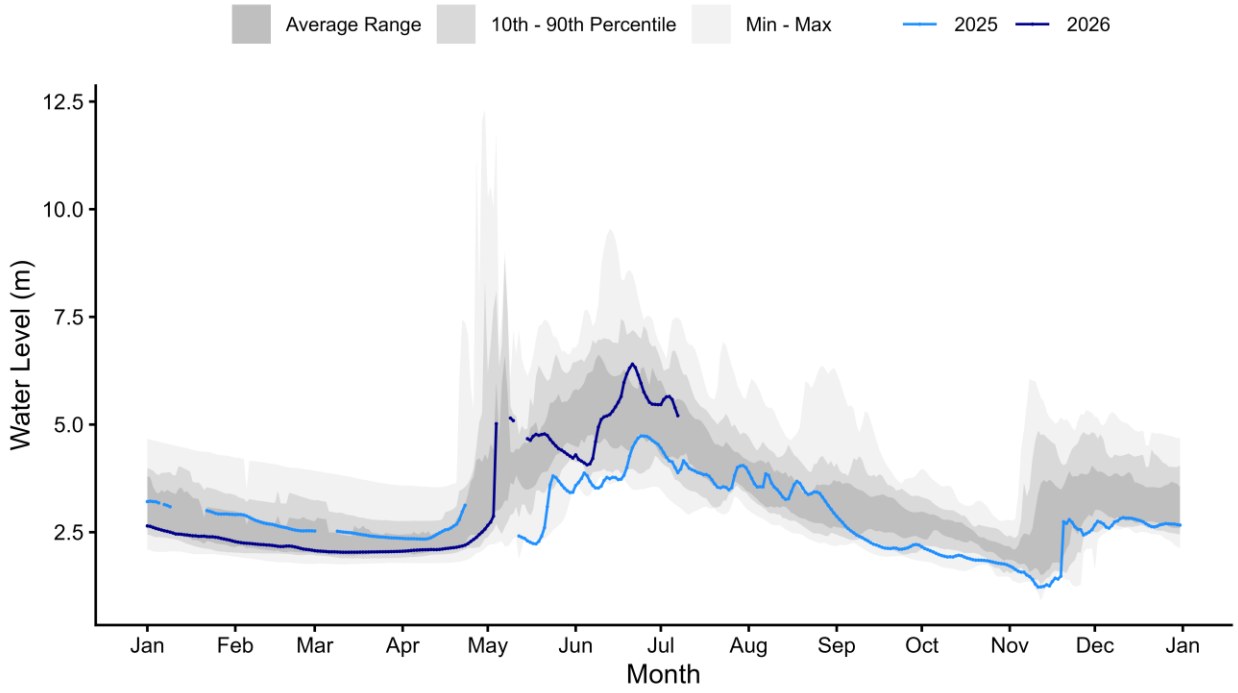
Liard River at Fort Liard [10ED001]

Record Length: 25 years | Period of Record: 2002-2026



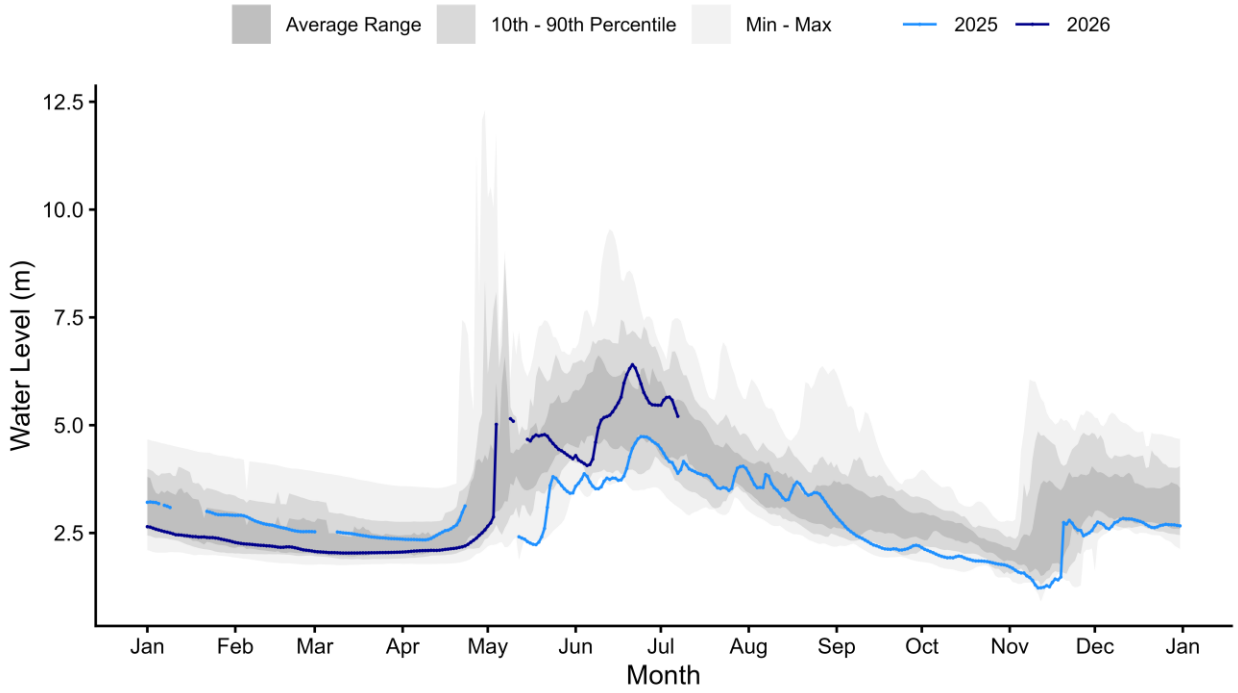
Liard River near the mouth [10ED002]

Record Length: 25 years | Period of Record: 2002-2026



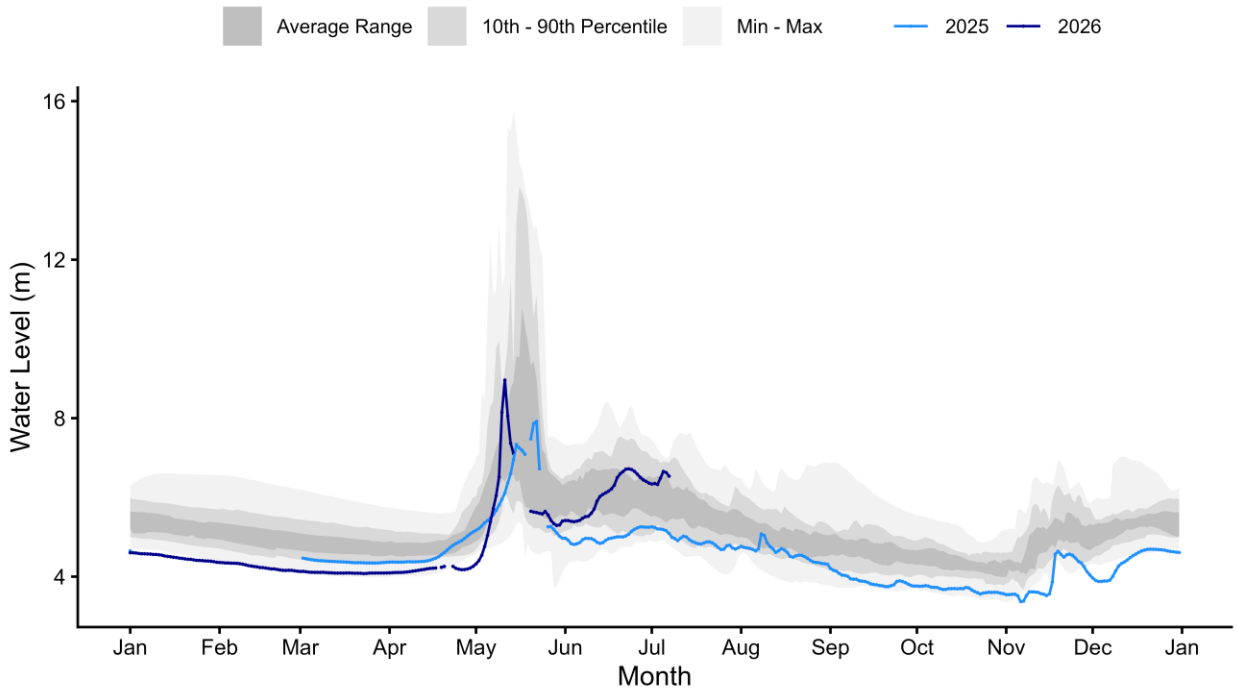
Mackenzie River at Fort Simpson [10GC001]

Record Length: 25 years | Period of Record: 2002-2026



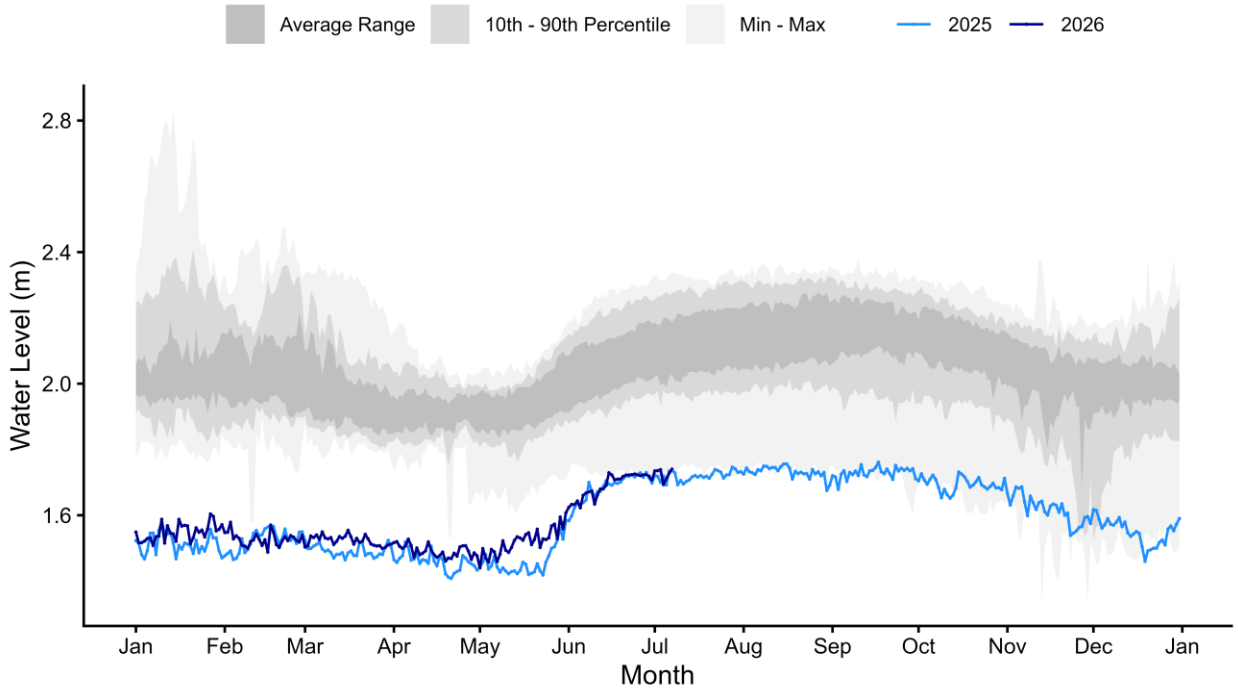
Mackenzie River at Norman Wells [10KA001]

Record Length: 25 years | Period of Record: 2002-2026



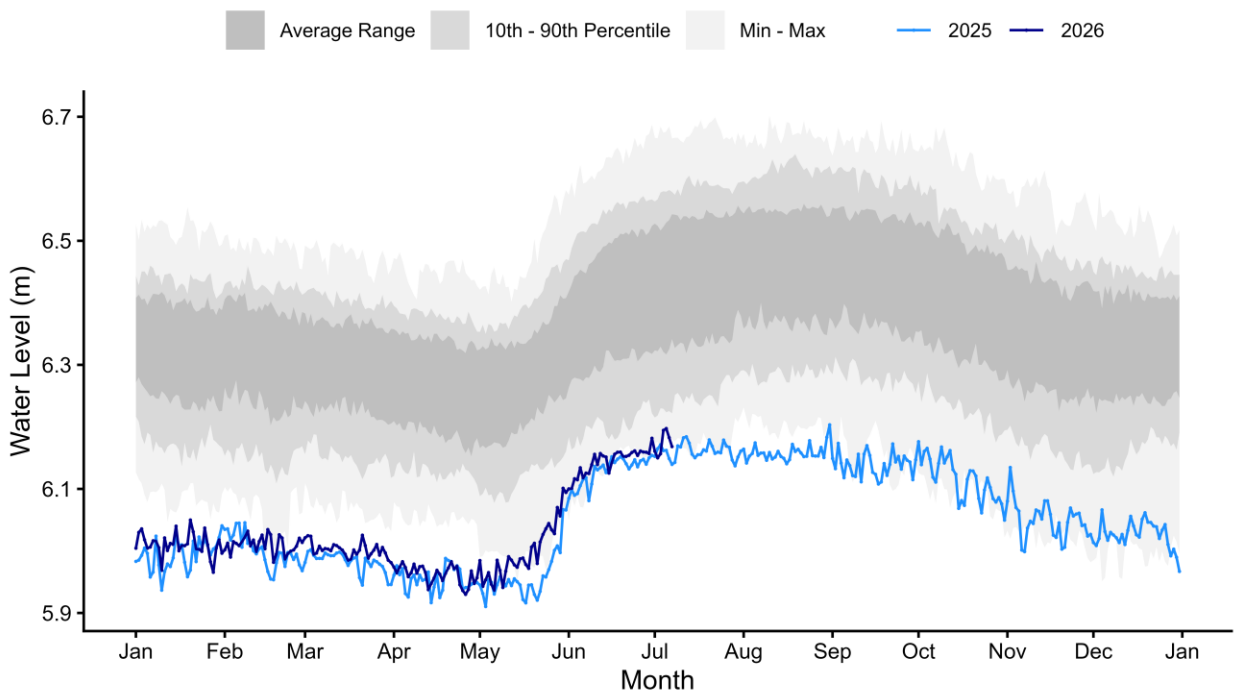
Great Bear River at outlet of Great Bear Lake [10JC003]

Record Length: 25 years | Period of Record: 2002-2026



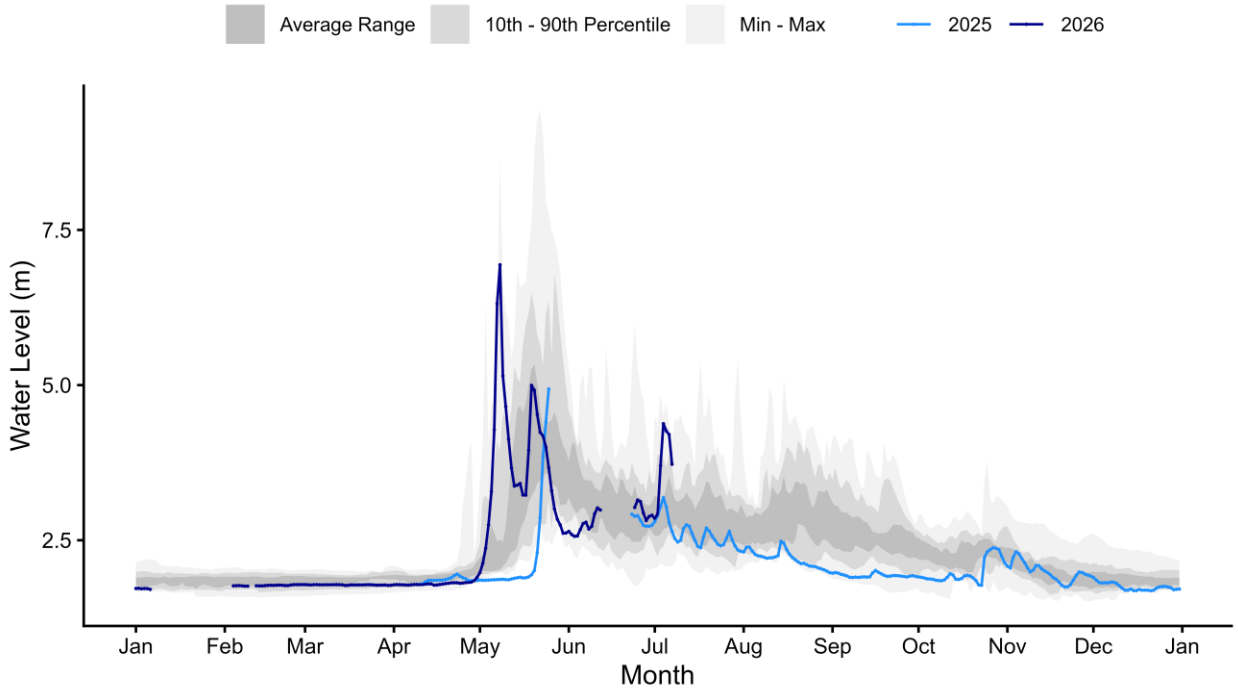
Great Bear Lake at Hornby Bay [10JE002]

Record Length: 43 years | Period of Record: 1984-2026



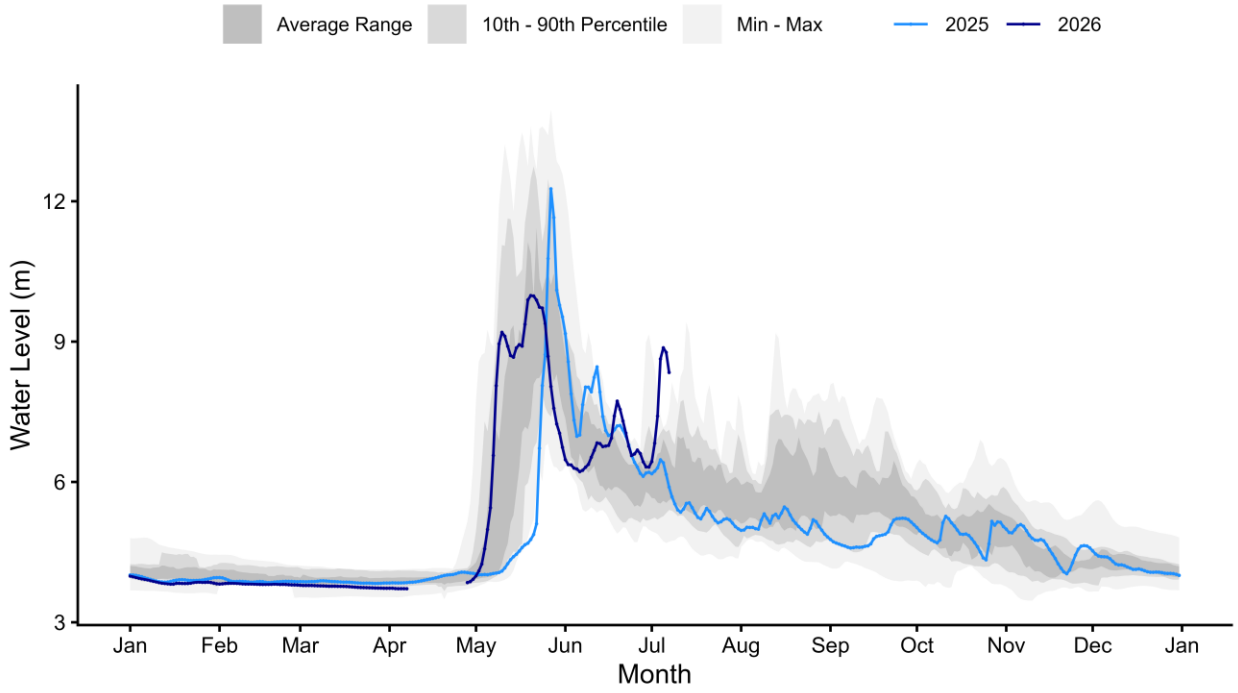
Arctic Red River near the mouth [10LA002]

Record Length: 22 years | Period of Record: 2002-2021; 2025-2026



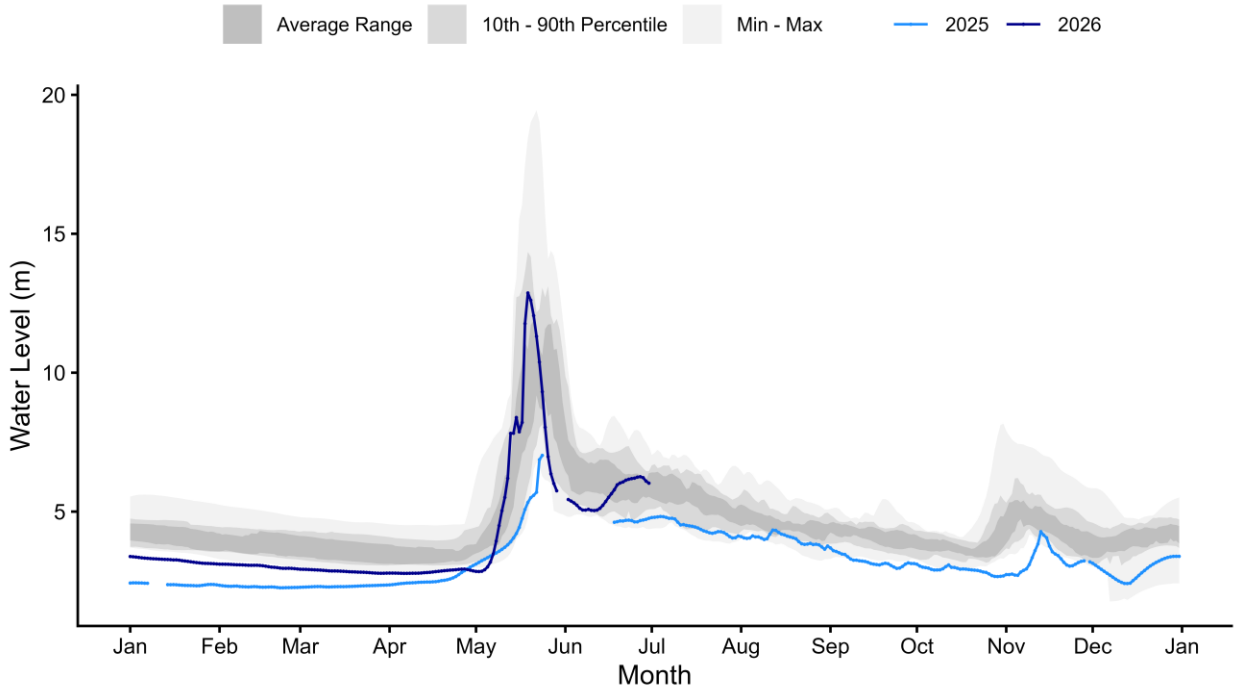
Peel River above Fort McPherson [10MC002]

Record Length: 20 years | Period of Record: 2002-2018; 2024-2026



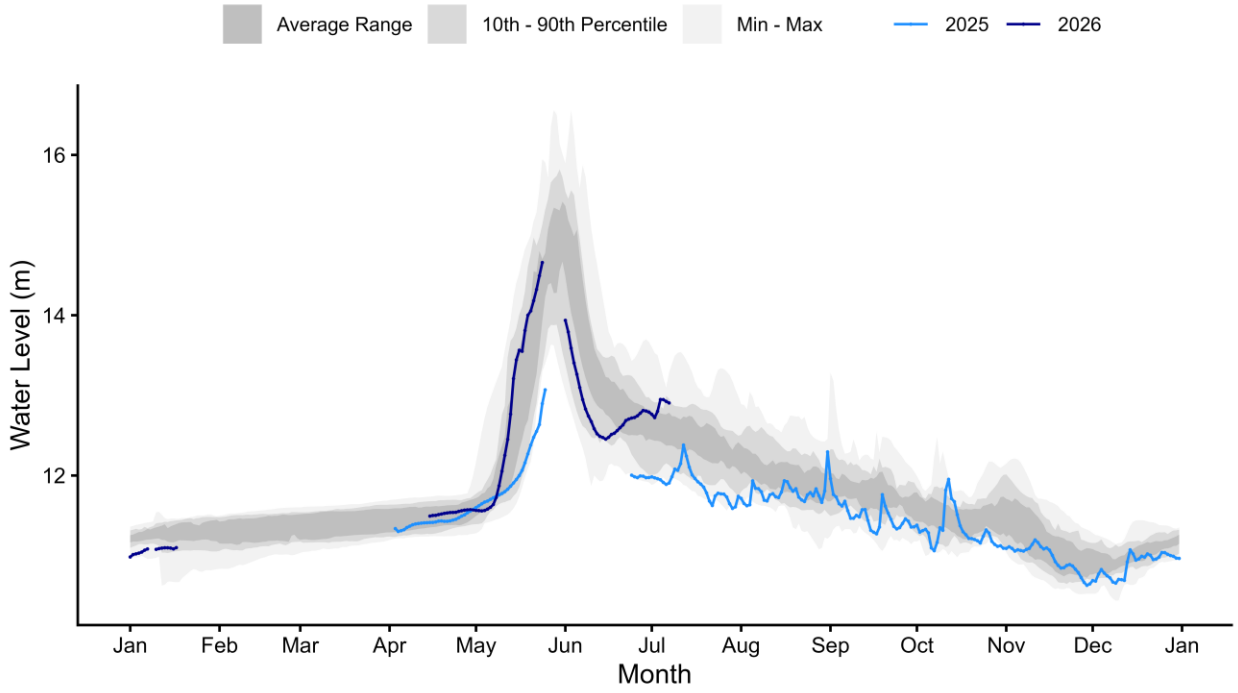
Mackenzie River at Arctic Red River [10LC014]

Record Length: 21 years | Period of Record: 2002-2019; 2024-2026



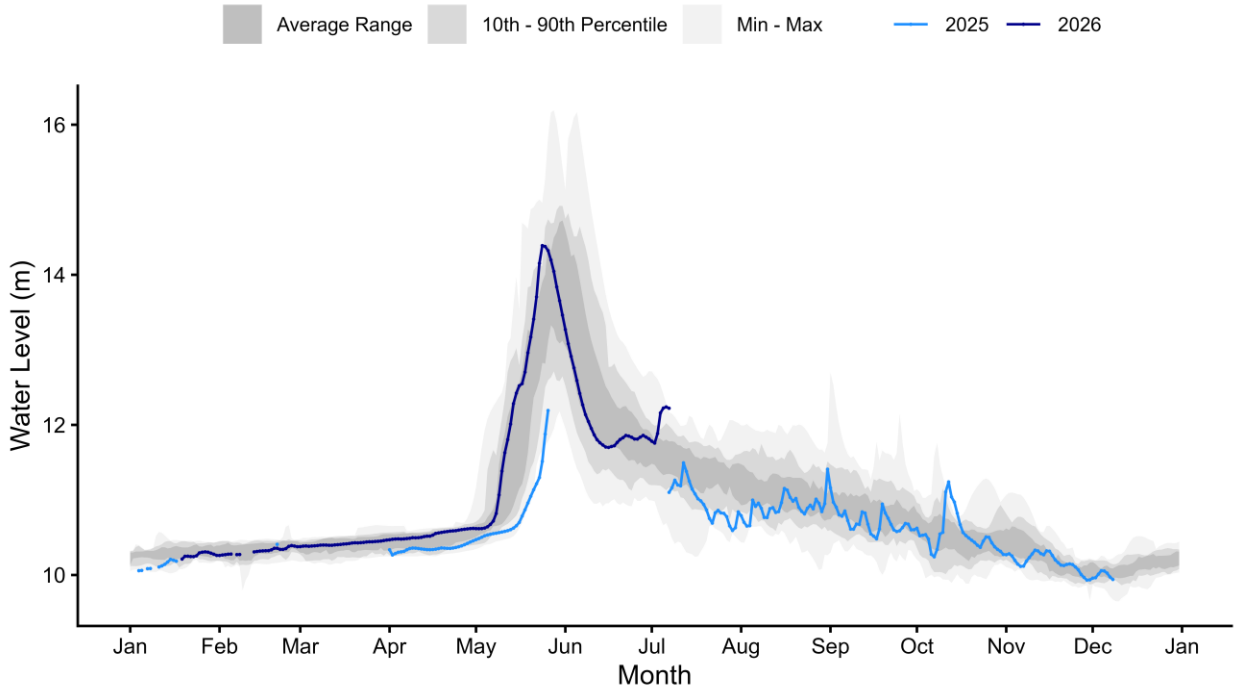
Mackenzie River (East Channel) at Inuvik [10LC002]

Record Length: 25 years | Period of Record: 1984-1990; 2002-2017; 2025-2026



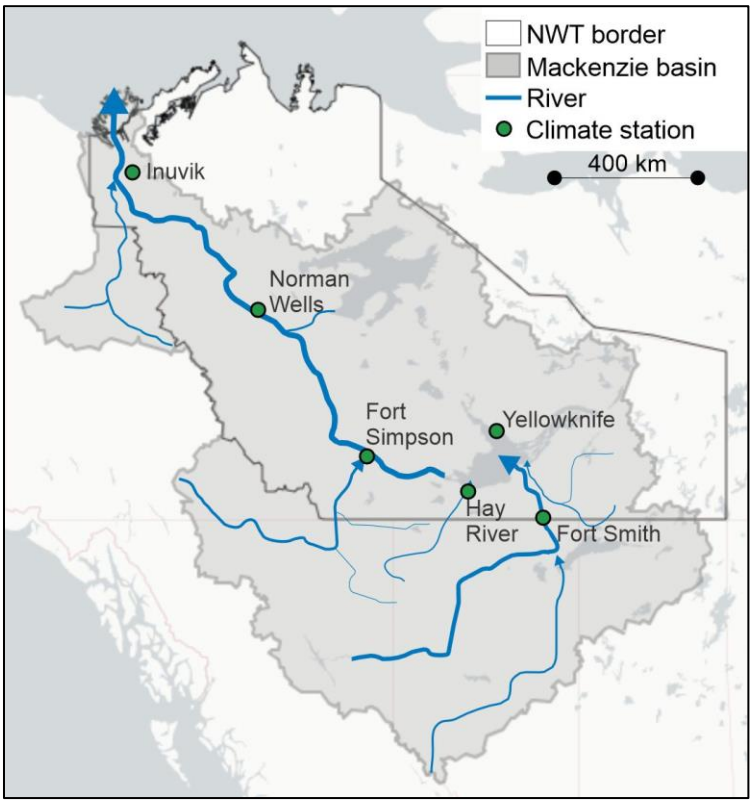
Mackenzie River (Peel Channel) above Aklavik [10MC003]

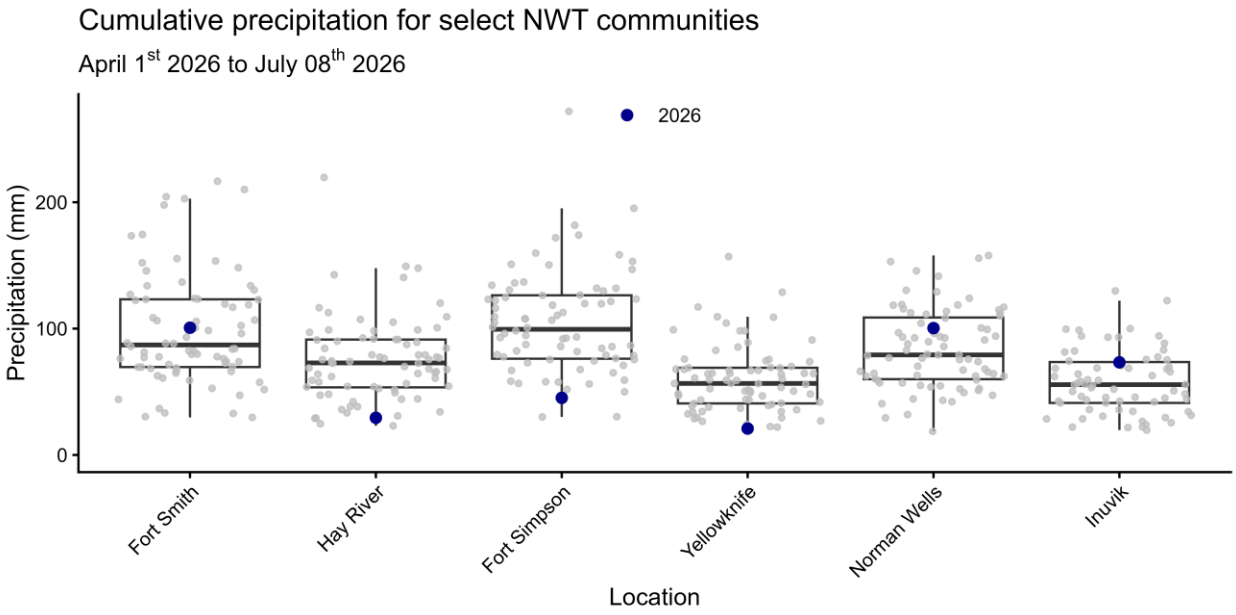
Record Length: 37 years | Period of Record: 1982-1986; 1991-2019; 2024-2026



Climate Data

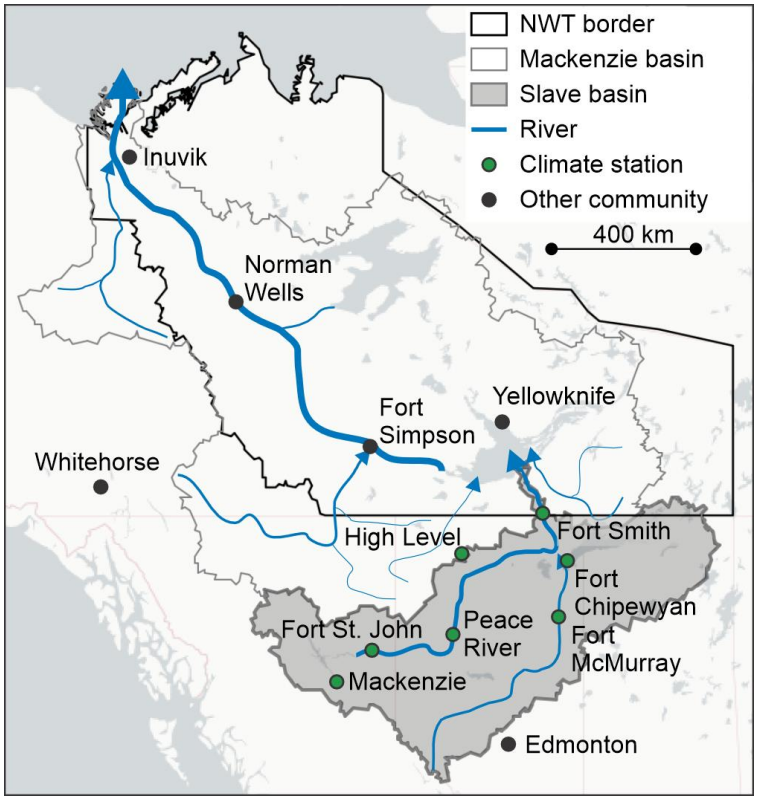
NWT communities

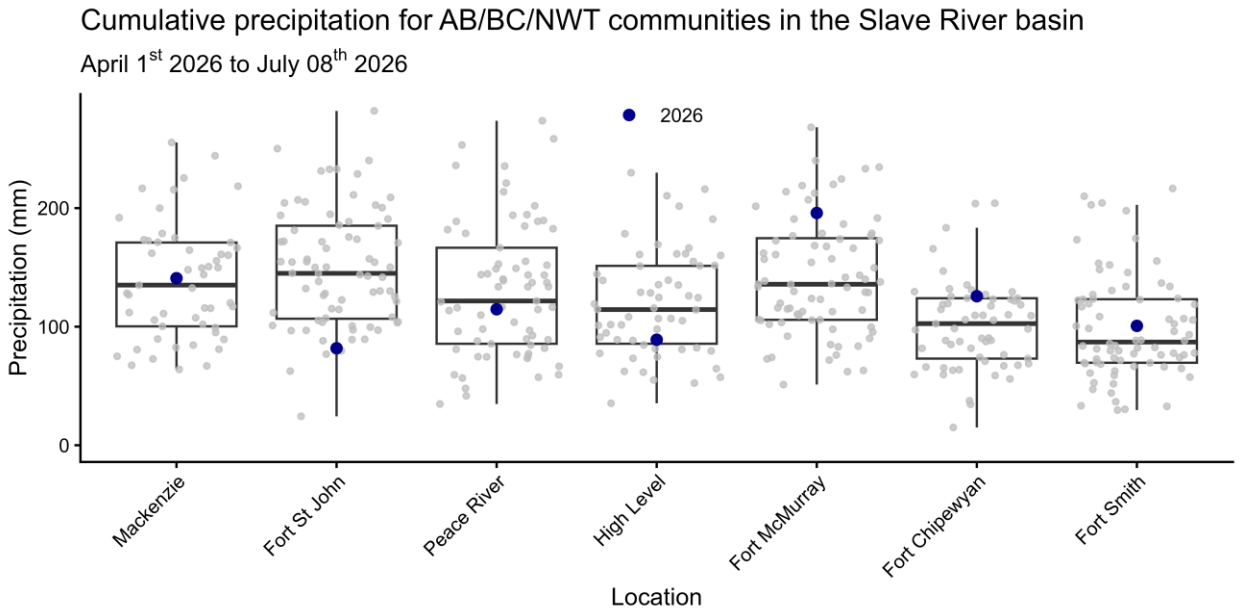




This figure shows total precipitation (rain and snow) that has fallen in select communities across the NWT from April 1st until July 8th. The blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present. See the map above for geographical context.

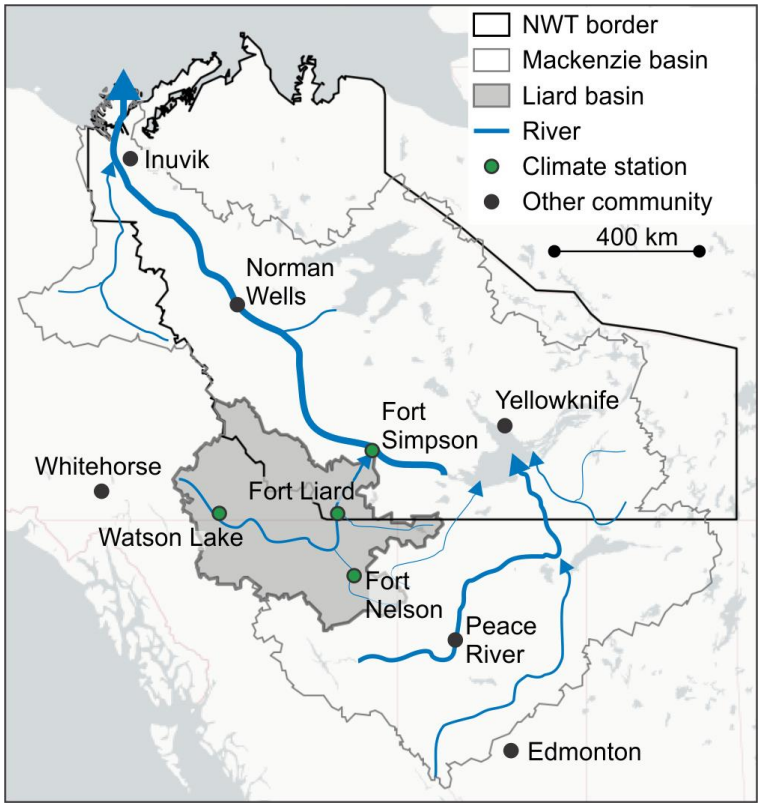
Slave River basin communities

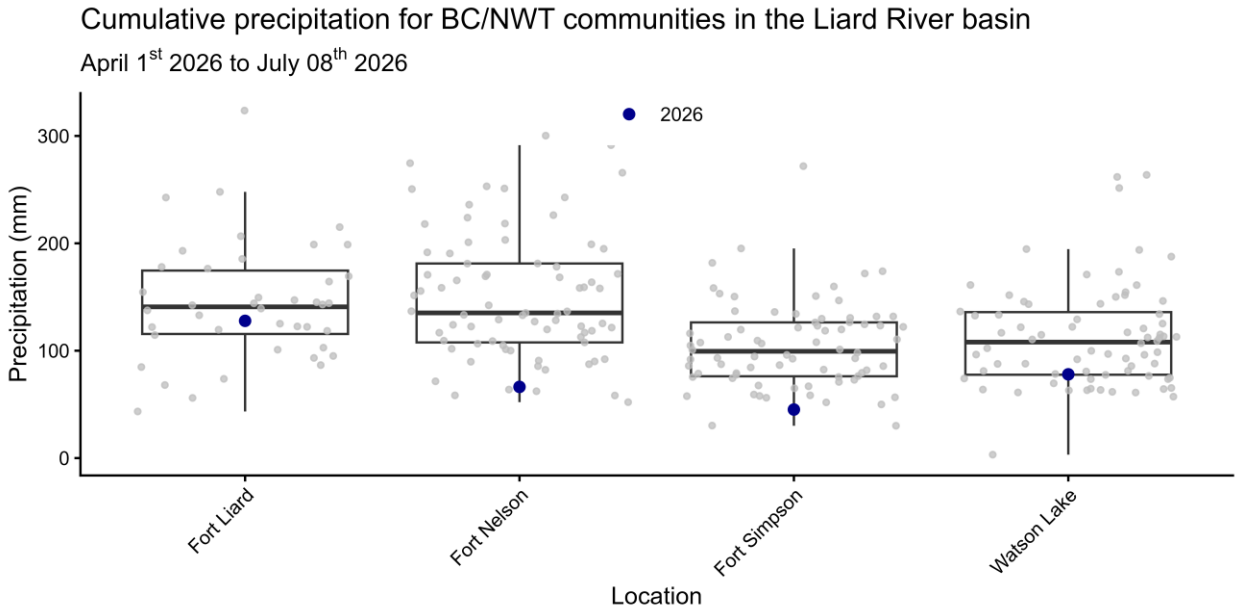




This figure shows total precipitation (rain and snow) that has fallen in select communities in the Slave River basin from April 1st until July 8th. The blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present. See the map above for geographical context.

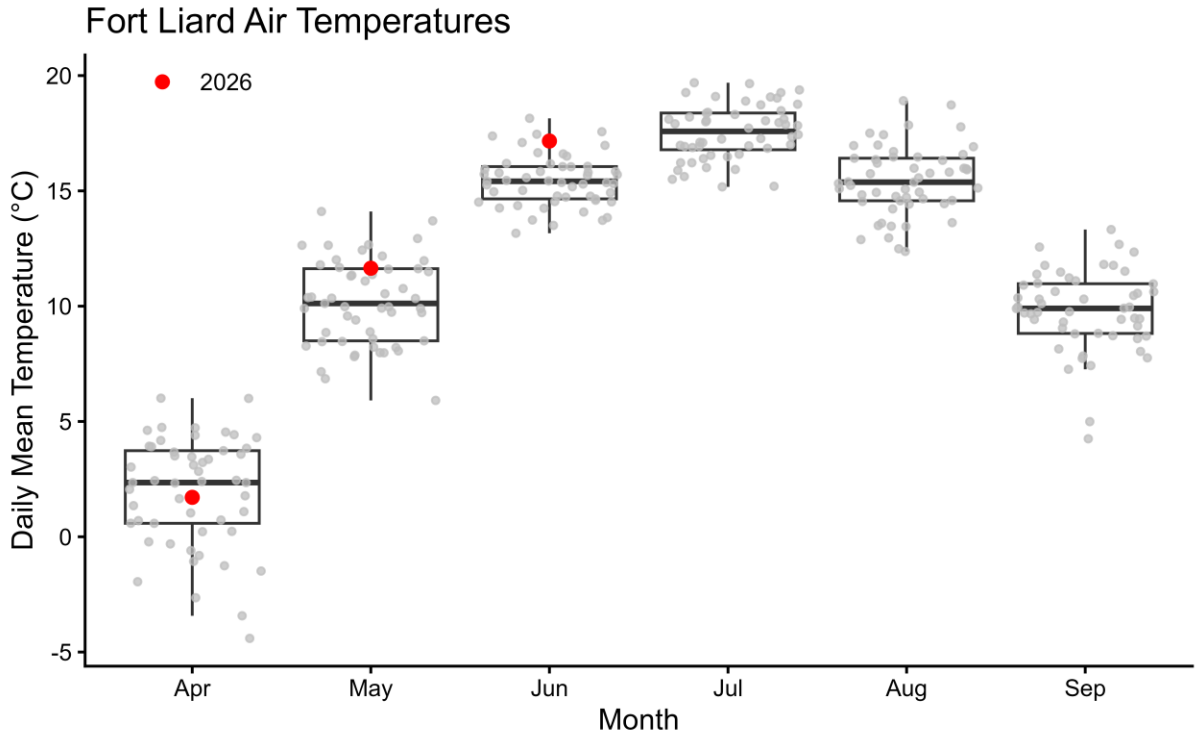
Liard River basin communities

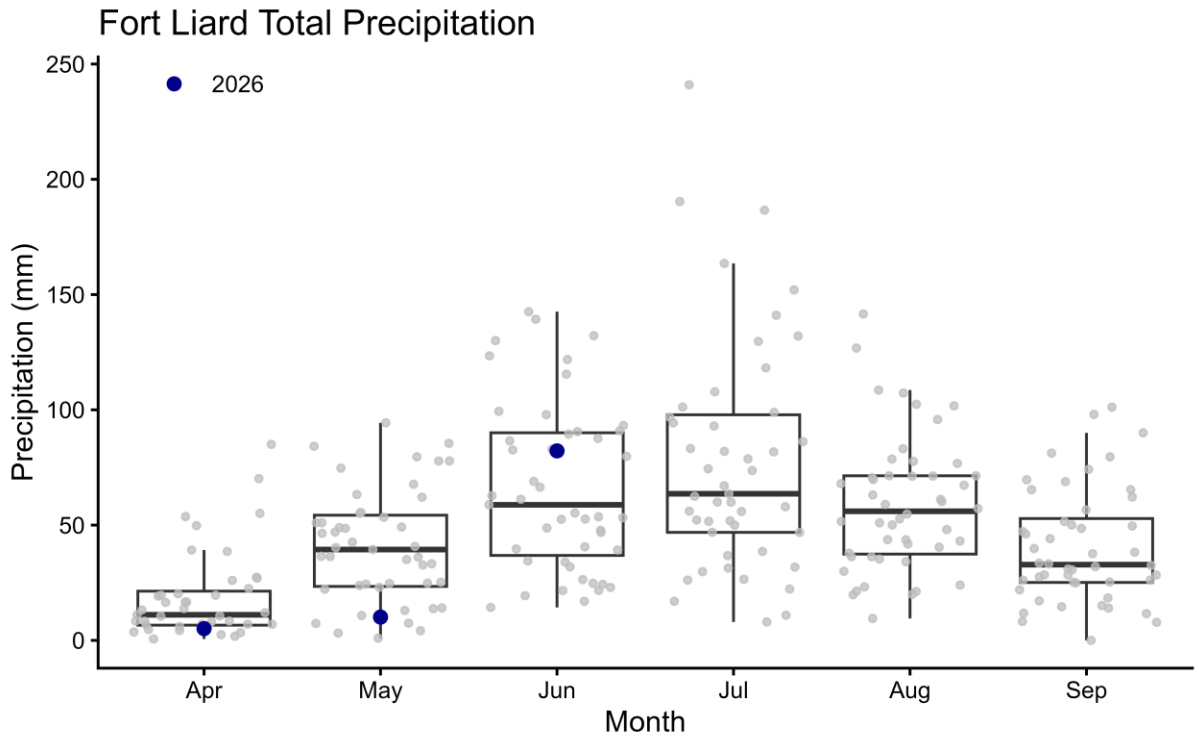




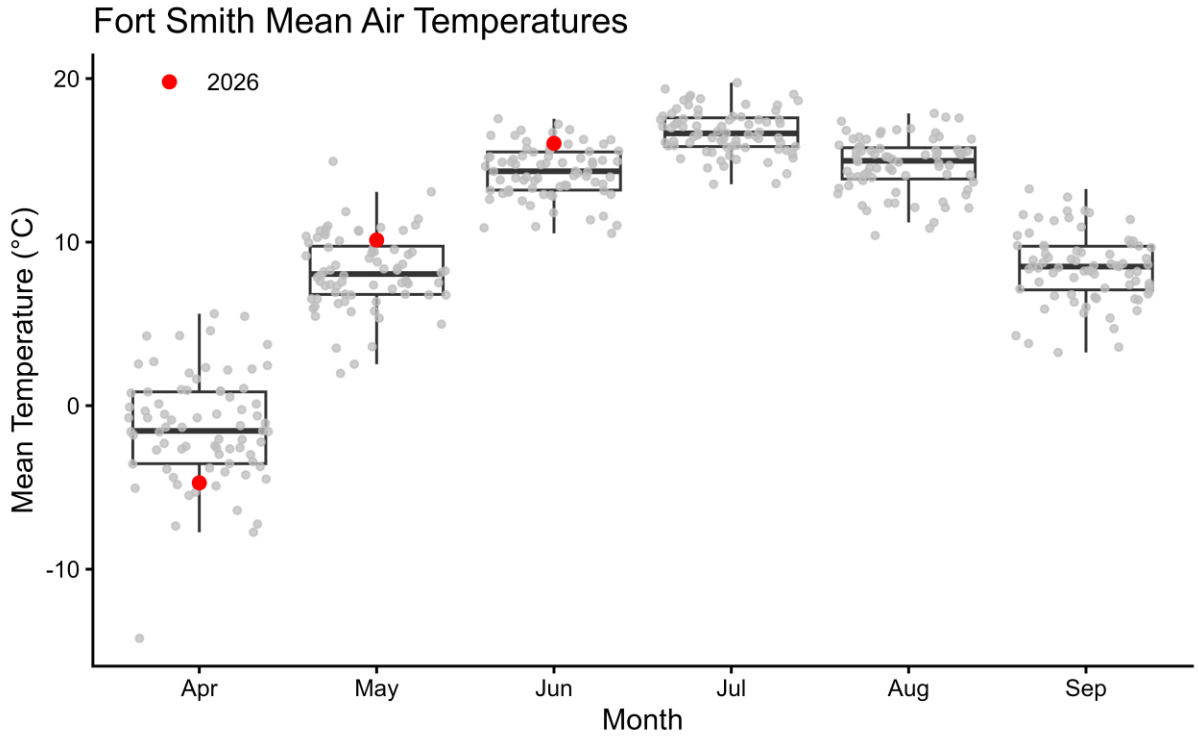
This figure shows total precipitation (rain and snow) that has fallen in select communities in the Liard River basin from April 1st until July 8th. The blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present. See the map above for geographical context.

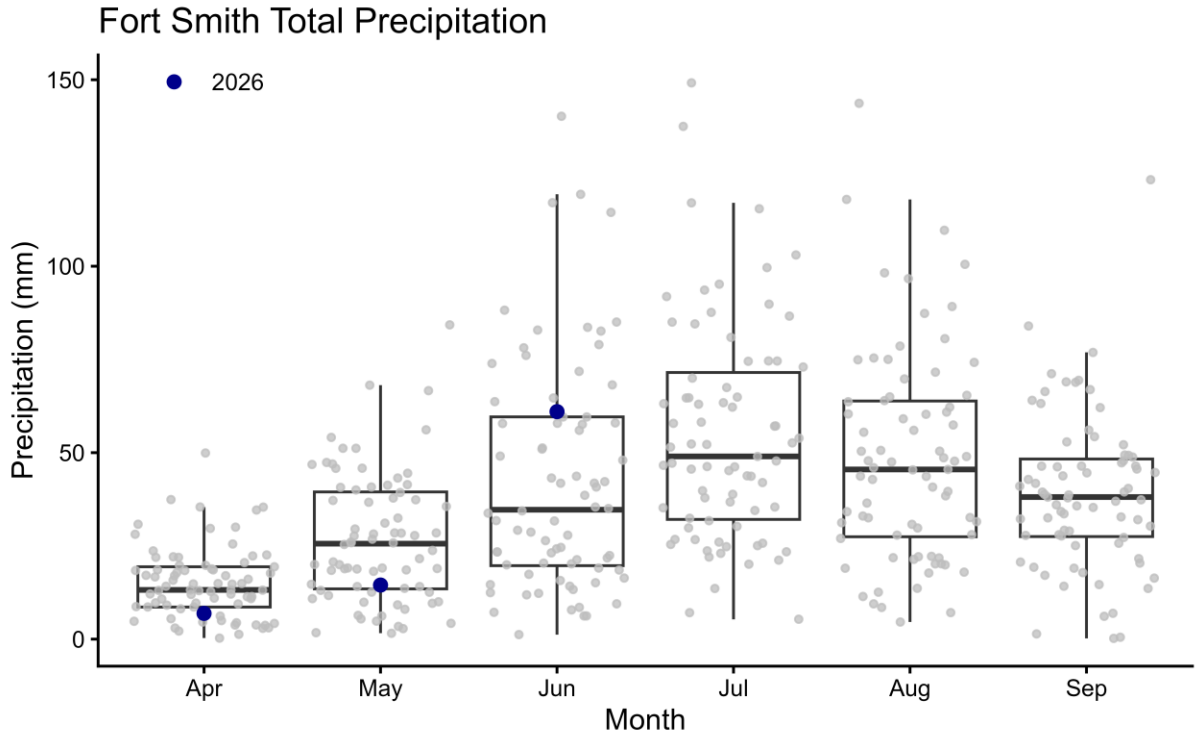
Fort Liard


Fort Liard Air Temperatures
2026
Daily Mean Temperature (°C)
20
15
10
5
0
-5
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Month


Fort Liard Total Precipitation
2026
Precipitation (mm)
250
200
150
100
50
0
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Month

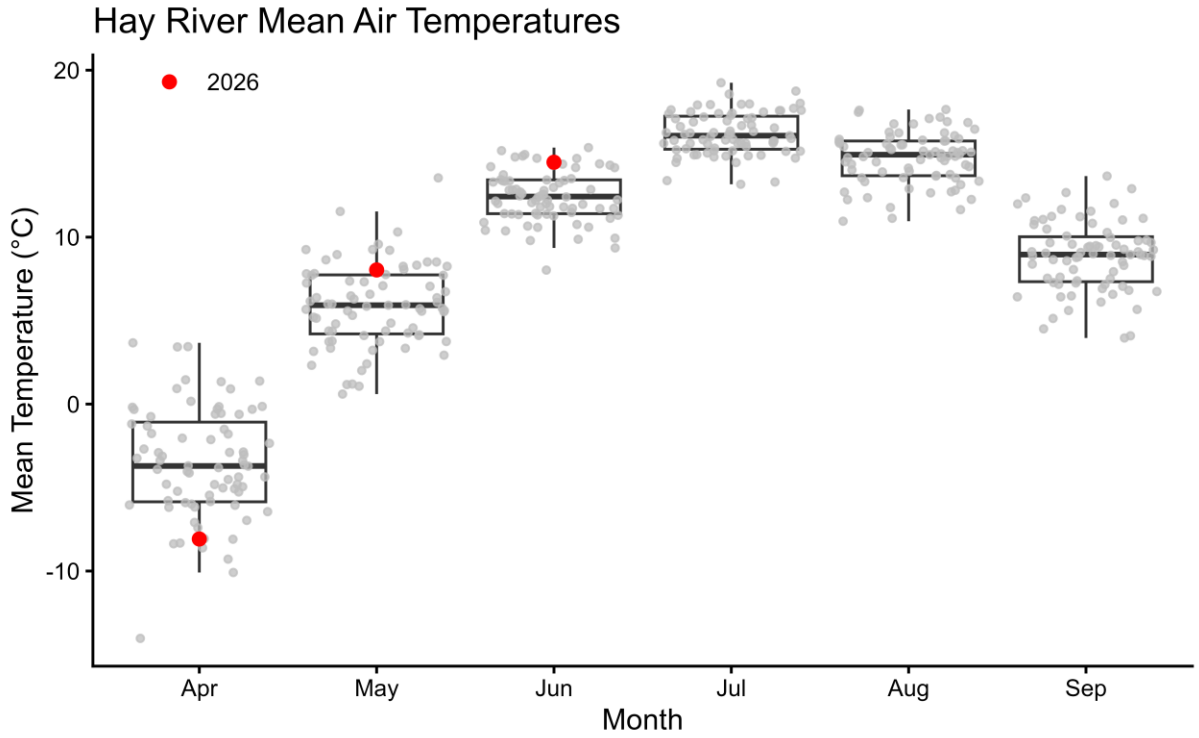
Fort Smith

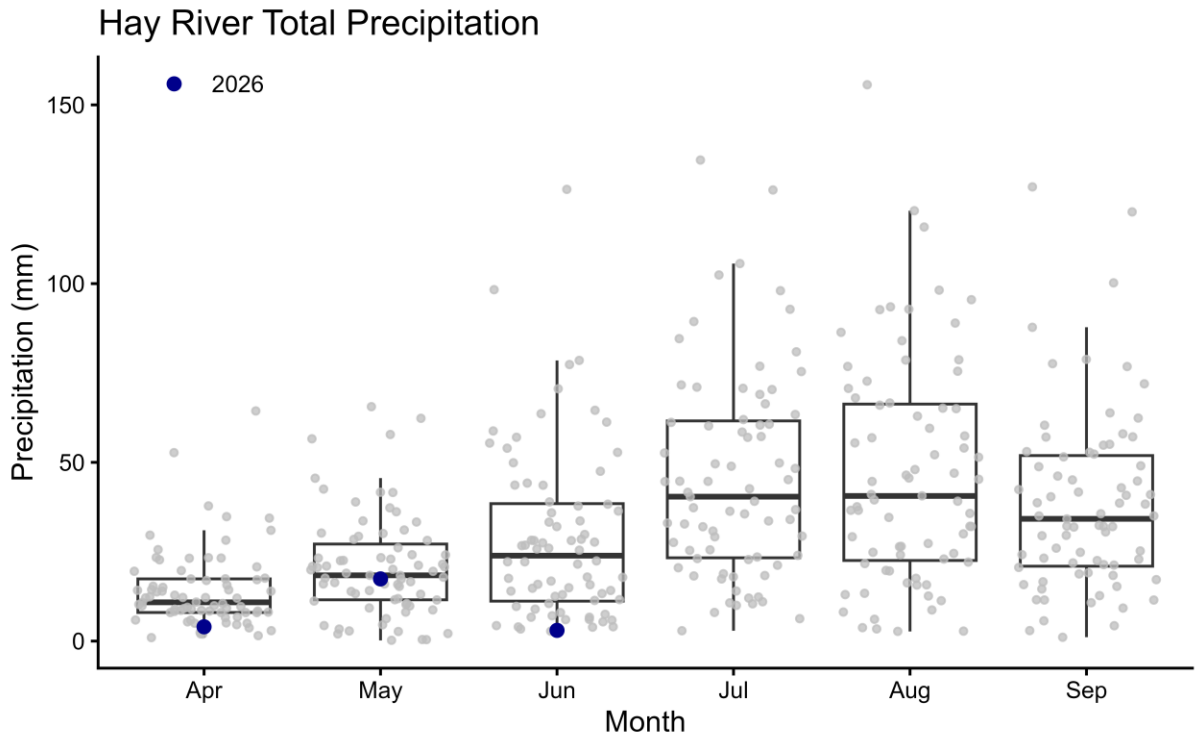




These two figures (above) represent mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for spring and summer (April to September) at Fort Smith. The red or blue dot is the current year (up to report date), and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present.

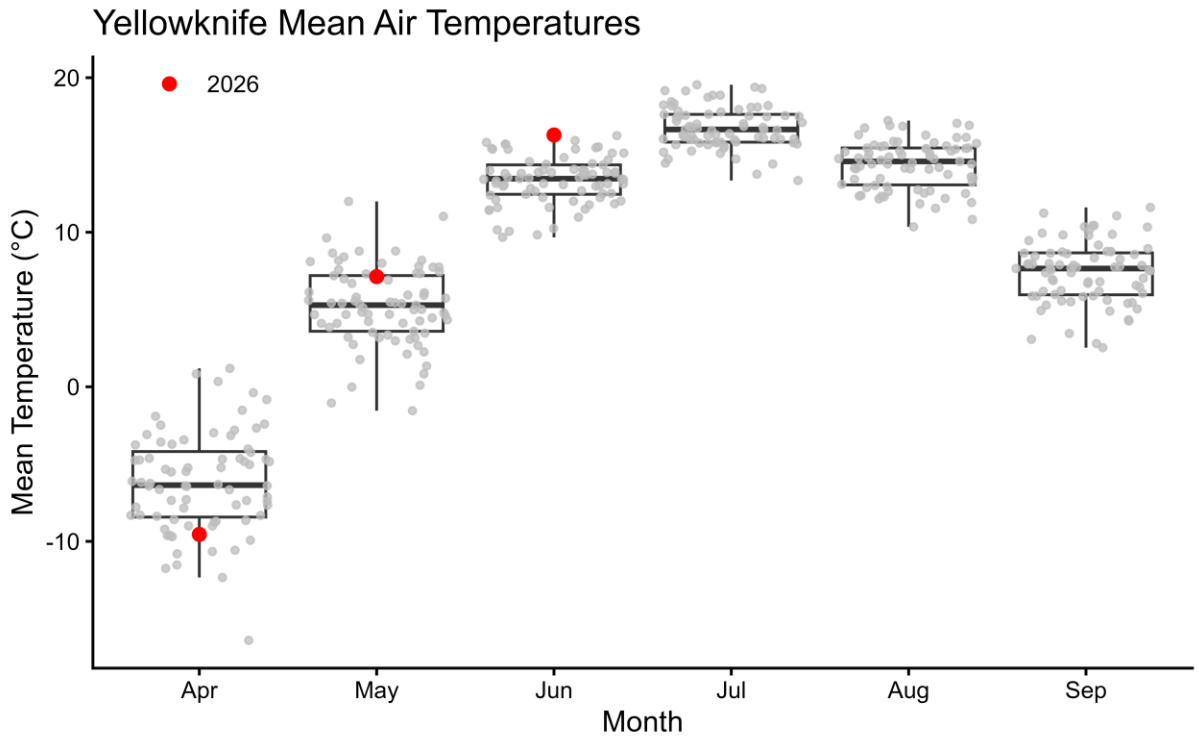
Hay River

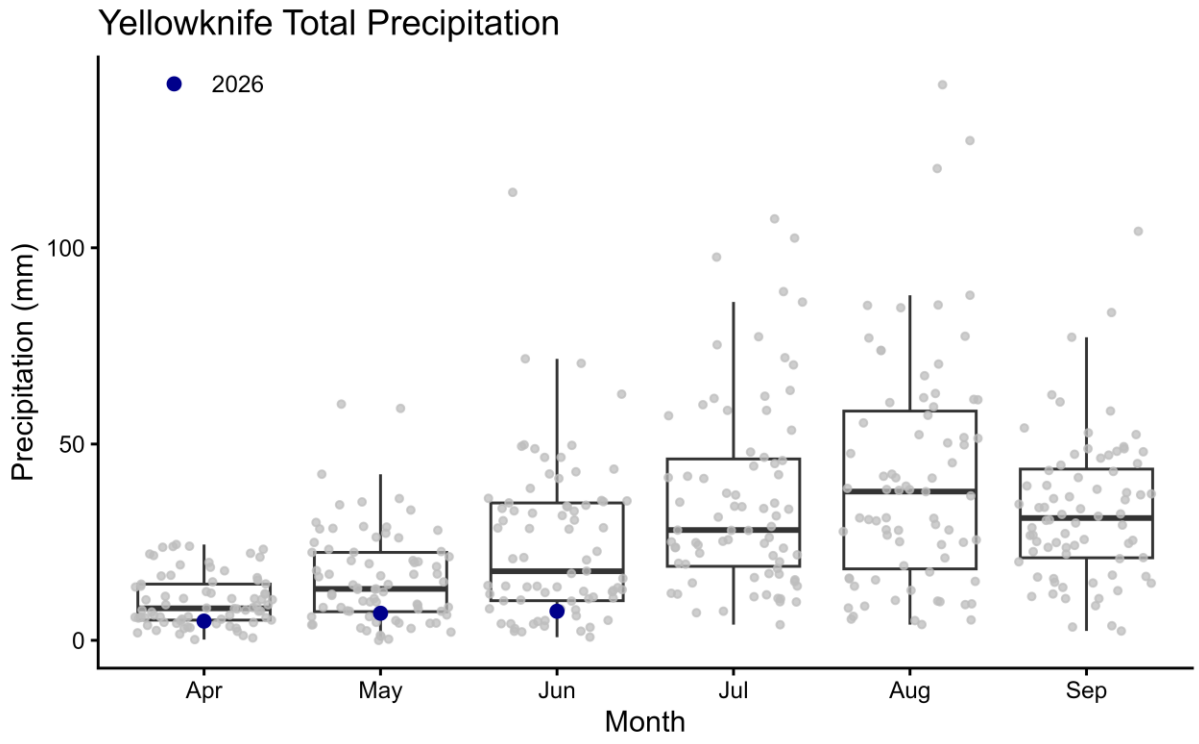




These two figures (above) represent mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for spring and summer (April to September) at Hay River. The red or blue dot is the current year (up to report date), and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present.

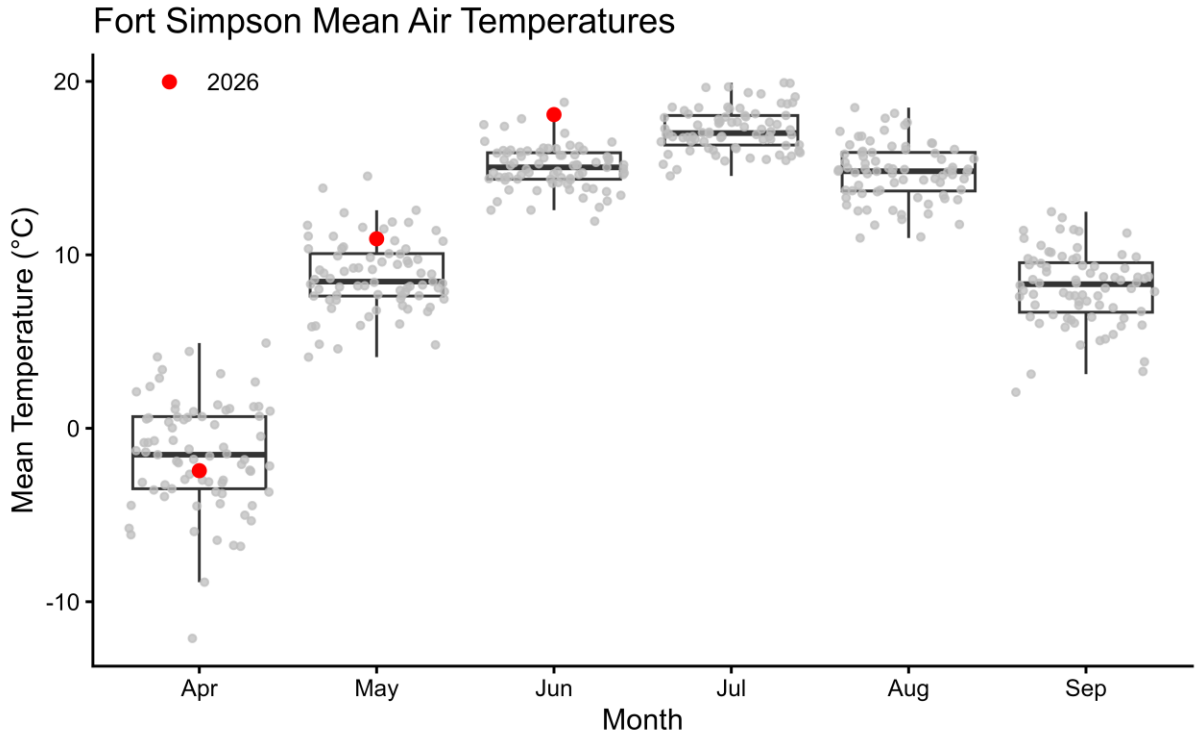
Yellowknife

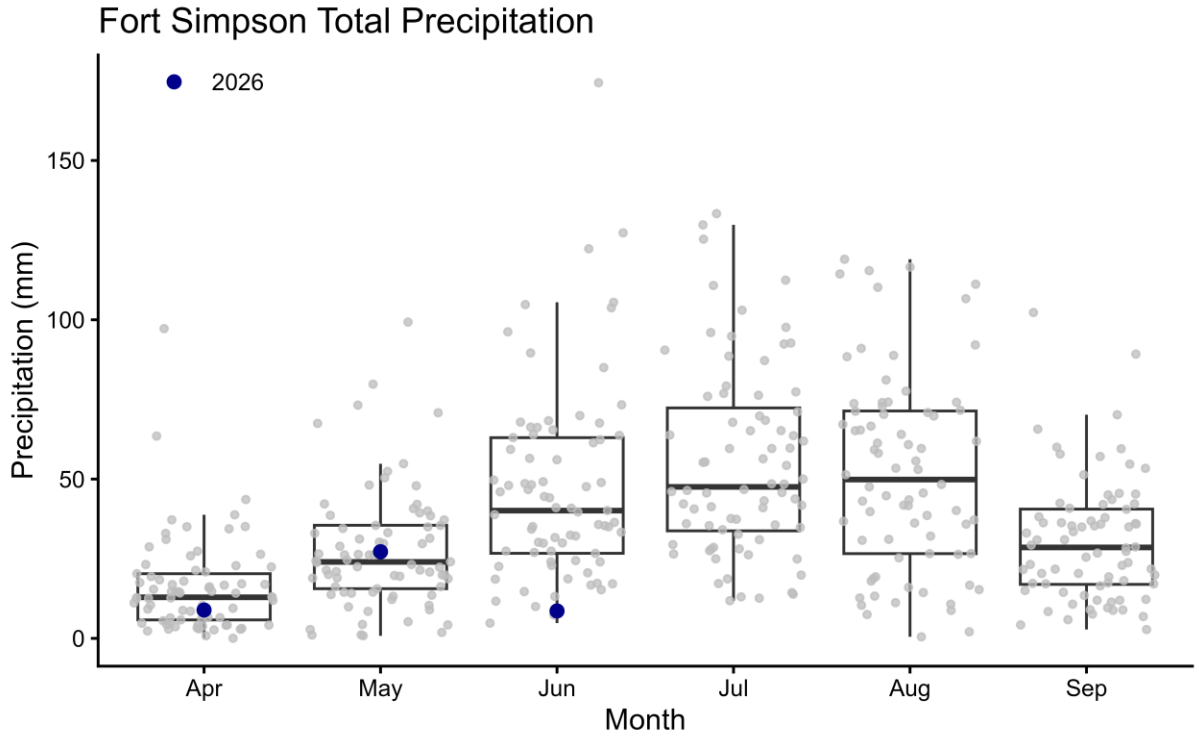




These two figures (above) represent mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for spring and summer (April to September) at Yellowknife. The red or blue dot is the current year (up to report date), and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present.

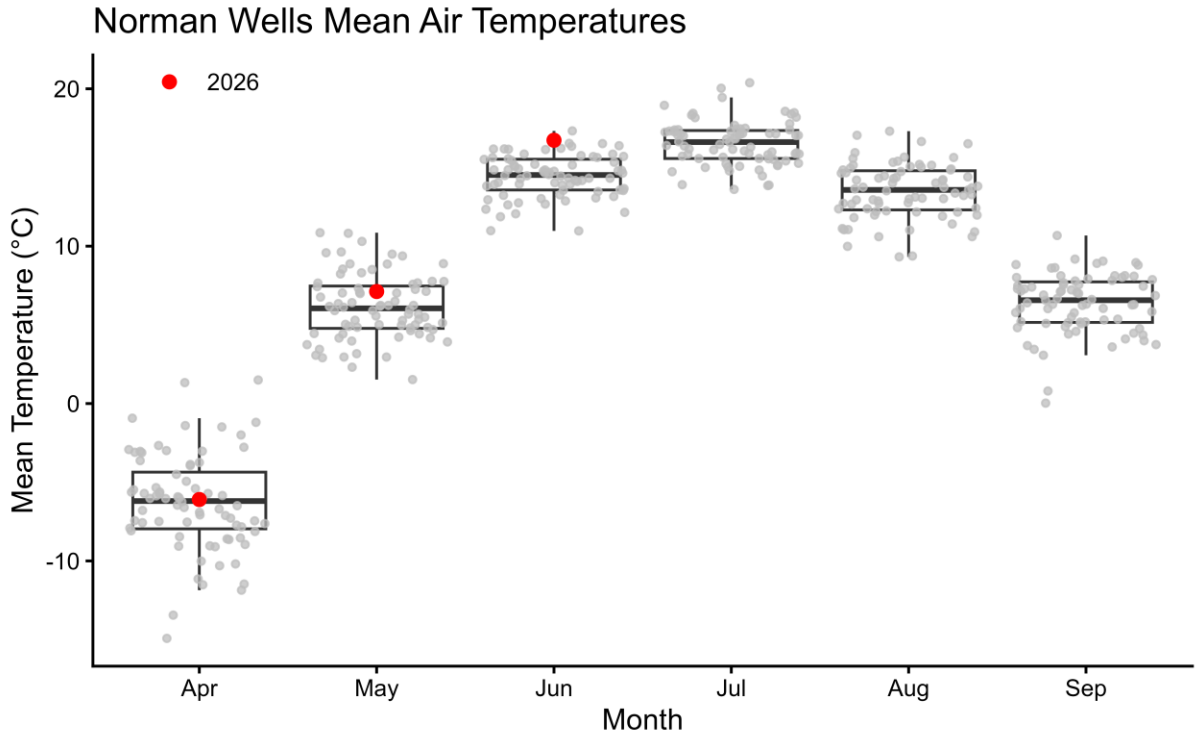
Fort Simpson

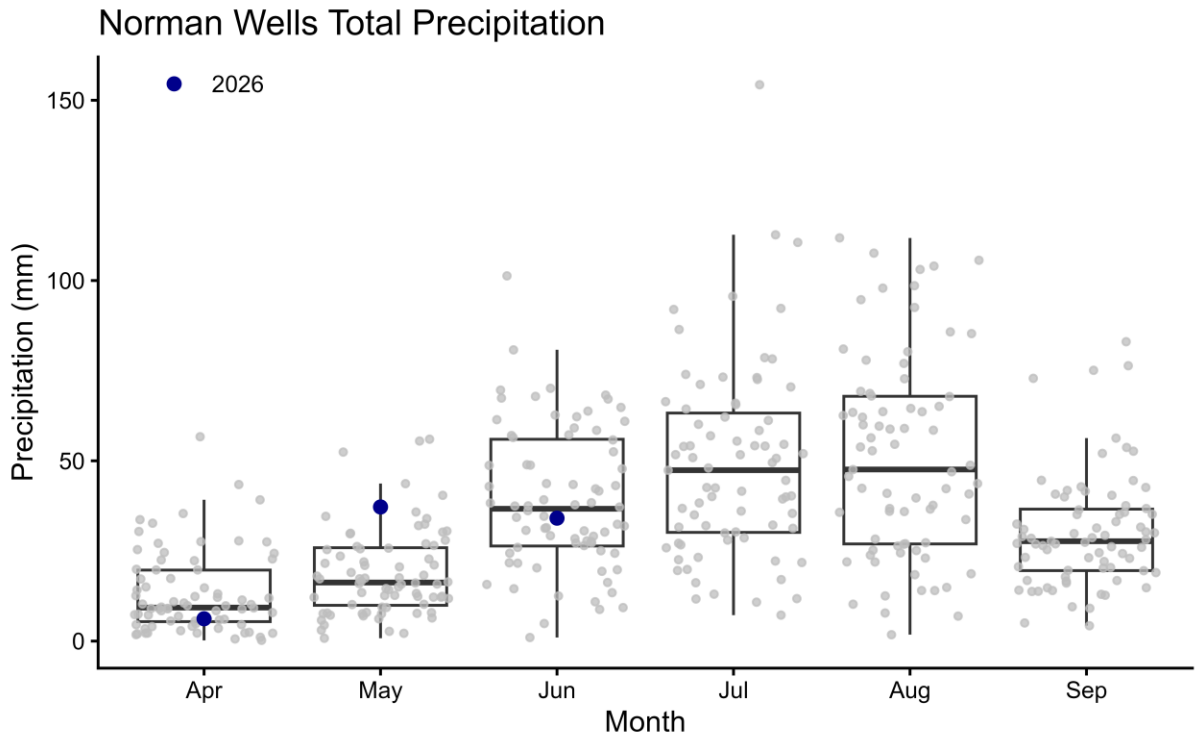




These two figures (above) represent mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for spring and summer (April to September) at Fort Simpson. The red or blue dot is the current year (up to report date), and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present.

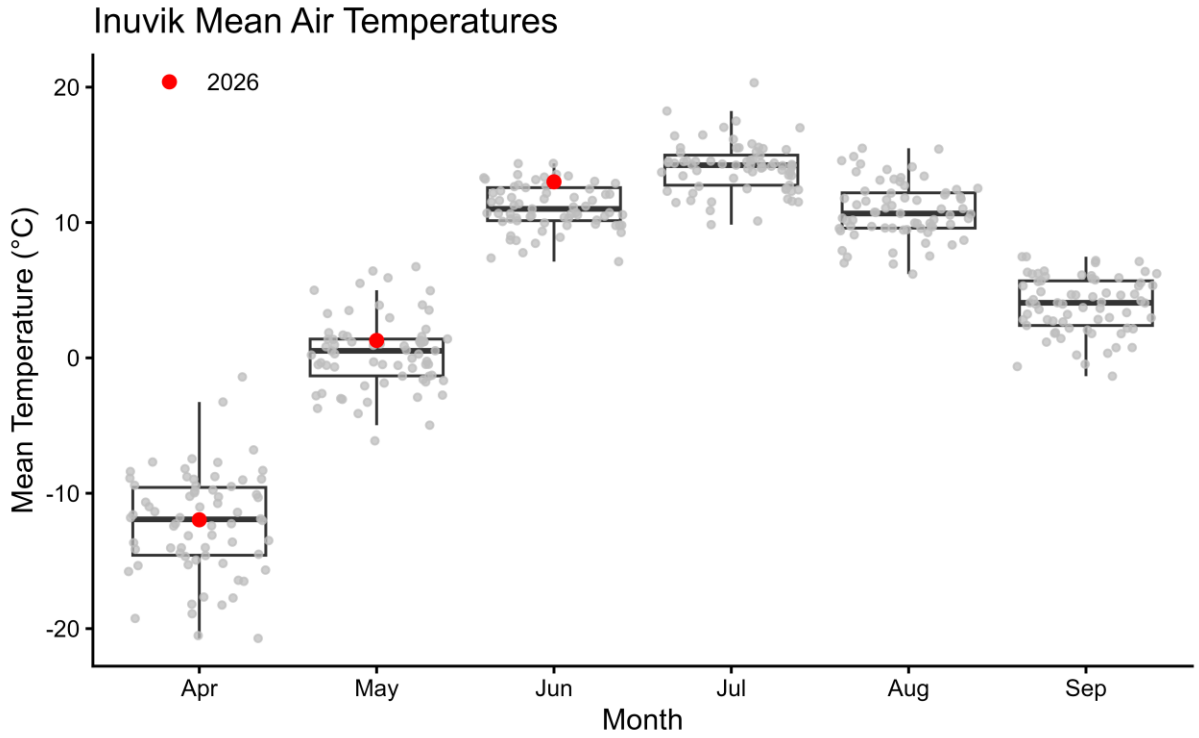
Norman Wells

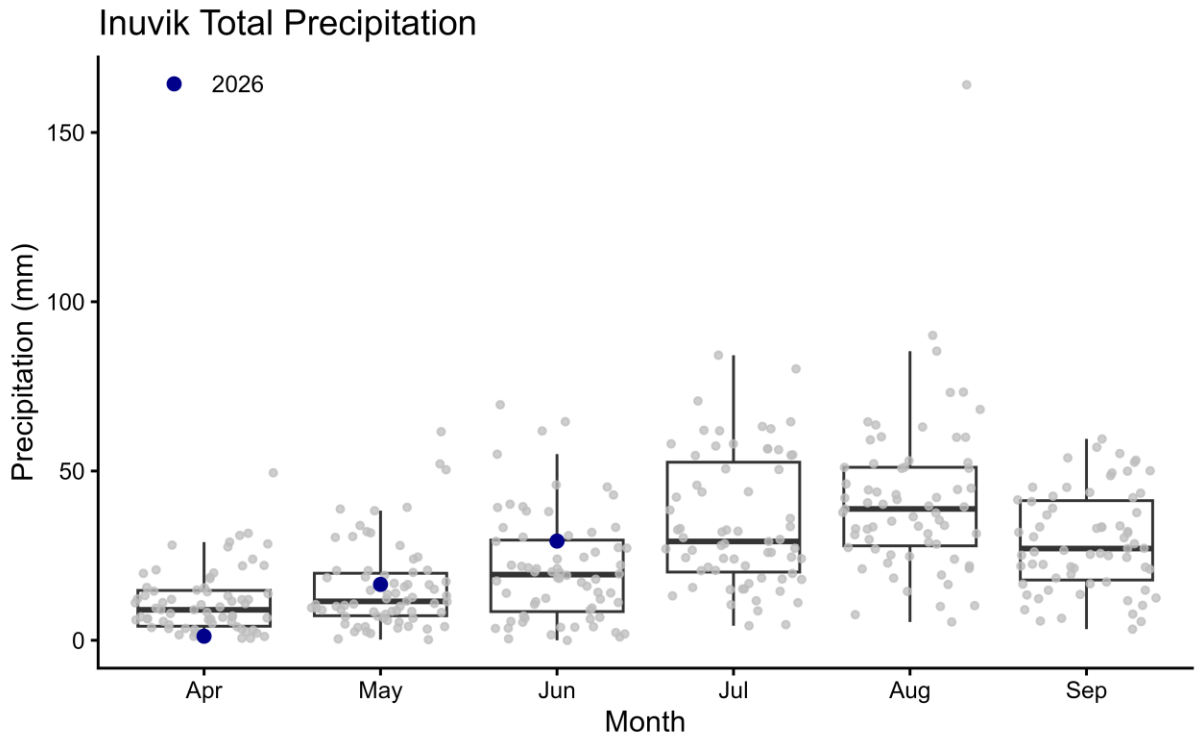




These two figures (above) represent mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for spring and summer (April to September) at Norman Wells. The red or blue dot is the current year (up to report date), and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present.

Inuvik





These two figures (above) represent mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for spring and summer (April to September) at Inuvik. The red or blue dot is the current year (up to report date), and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present.