



NWT Water Monitoring Bulletin

July 8th, 2025

Bulletin sur la surveillance des eaux aux TNO

8 juillet 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 NWT Water Monitoring Bulletin**, which provides an update on current hydrologic and climatic conditions across the NWT.
- Water levels and flow rates remain low across most of the NWT.
 - Great Slave Lake water level is currently well below average and has been decreasing slowly throughout the last month.
 - Slave River water level is well 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 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 at its lowest value on record for this time of year. Flow rates on the Great Bear River are below average.
 - Exceptions to low water levels and flows include:
 - Peel River (average)
 - South Nahanni River (average)
 - Some smaller rivers in the Great Slave Lake basin, including:
 - Taltson River (above average)
 - Lockhart River (above average)
 - Snare River (average)
 - Hoarfrost River (average)
 - Tazin River (well above average)
- 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.
- **June precipitation** across the NWT was below average, where Fort Smith, Norman Wells and Inuvik received below average precipitation and Hay River, Yellowknife and Fort Simpson received well below average precipitation.
- **June temperatures** were cooler than average in Fort Smith, average for Hay River, Norman Wells and Yellowknife, and warmer than average for Fort Simpson and Inuvik.
- Water levels on Great Slave Lake and the Mackenzie River for the rest of the summer will be impacted by rainfall amounts in northern Alberta and British Columbia.
 - So far this spring and summer, precipitation in these areas has been below average to well below average.

- Climate forecasts from ECCC for July to September indicate warmer than normal temperatures for most of the NWT, above average precipitation for northwest portions of the NWT, and below average precipitation for southwest portions of the NWT.

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.
- Les niveaux d'eau et les débits restent bas dans la majeure partie des TNO.
 - Le niveau d'eau du Grand lac des Esclaves est actuellement bien en dessous de la moyenne et a diminué lentement au cours du mois dernier.
 - Le niveau d'eau de la rivière des Esclaves est bien en dessous de 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 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.
 - Le niveau d'eau du Grand lac de l'Ours est à son niveau le plus bas jamais enregistré pour cette période de l'année. Le débit enregistré le long de la rivière Great Bear est inférieur à la normale.
 - Exceptions aux faibles niveaux d'eau et aux faibles débits :
 - Rivière Peel (près de la normale)
 - Rivière South Nahanni (près de la normale)
 - De plus petites rivières dans le bassin du Grand lac des Esclaves, y compris :
 - Rivière Taltson (supérieurs à la normale)
 - Rivière Lockhart (supérieurs à la normale)
 - Rivière Snare (supérieurs à la normale)
 - Rivière Hoarfrost (supérieurs à la normale)
 - Rivière Tazin (nettement supérieurs à la normale)
- 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 juin, aux TNO, les précipitations ont été inférieures à la normale : Fort Smith, Norman Wells et Inuvik ont reçu des précipitations inférieures à la normale, tandis que Hay River, Yellowknife et Fort Simpson ont reçu des précipitations nettement inférieures à la normale.
- En juin, les températures ont été plus fraîches que la normale à Fort Smith; près de la normale à Hay River, Norman Wells et Yellowknife, et supérieures à la normale à Fort Simpson et Inuvik.

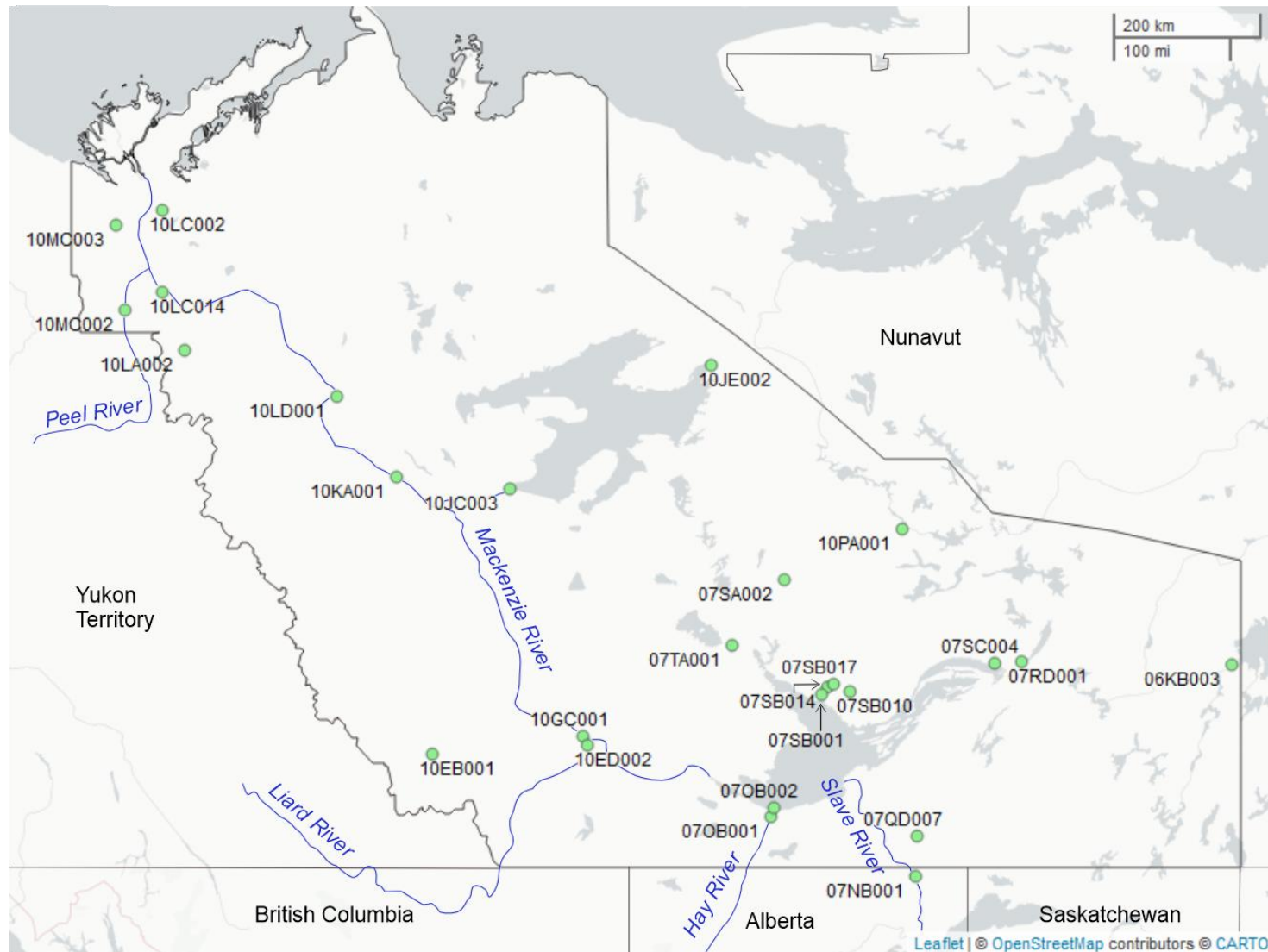
- Pour le reste de l'été, les niveaux d'eau du Grand lac des Esclaves et du fleuve Mackenzie varieront en fonction des précipitations tombées dans le nord de l'Alberta et de la Colombie-Britannique.
- Ce printemps et cet été, les précipitations dans ces régions ont été inférieures à la normale.
- Les prévisions climatiques du MECC, de juillet à septembre, indiquent des températures supérieures à la normale pour la majeure partie des TNO, des précipitations supérieures à la normale pour les parties nord-ouest des TNO et des précipitations inférieures à la normale pour les parties sud-ouest des TNO.

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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.

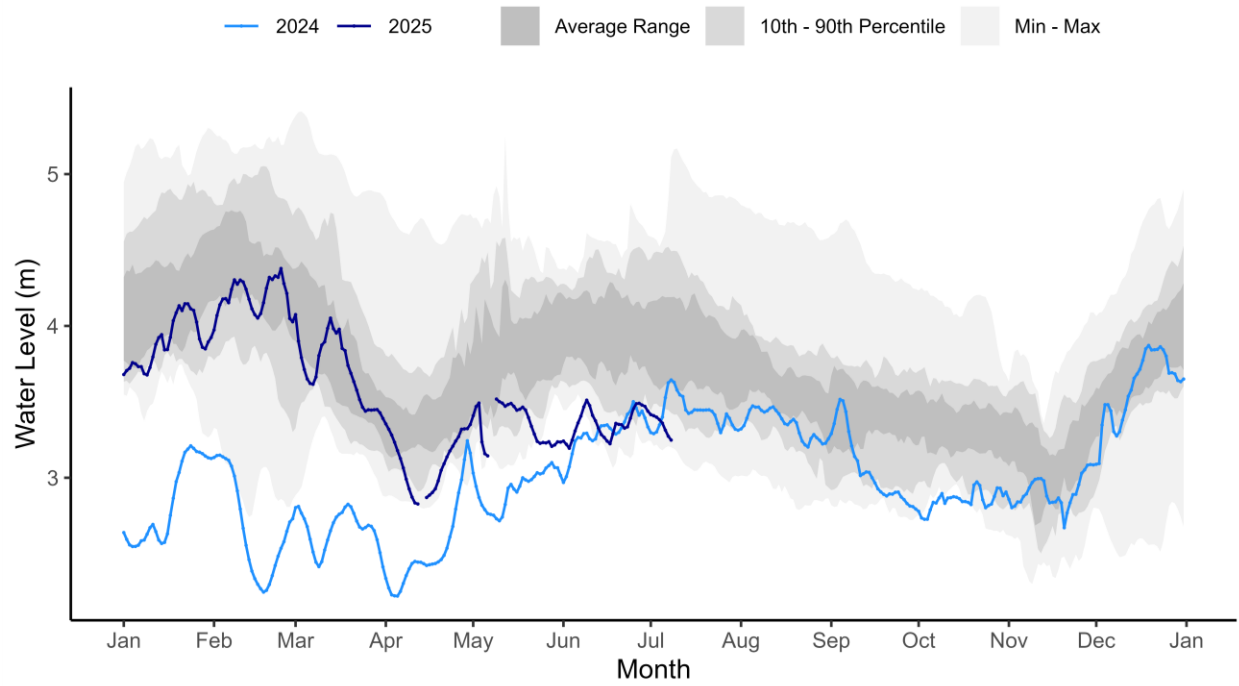
Note: The grey bands are calculated for data prior to 2024. If the line from 2024 or 2025 is above (or below) the grey band, it means that the water level or flow from that year was the highest (or lowest) on record.

Climate figures

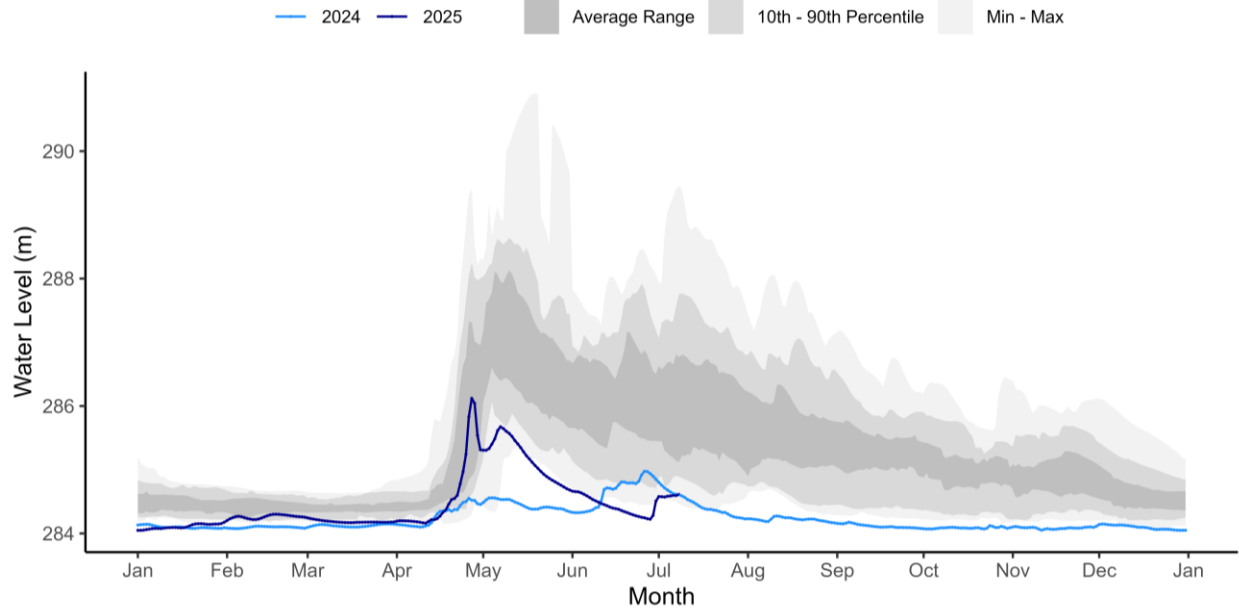
Monthly air temperature and precipitation data are displayed for six communities in the NWT (Fort Smith, Hay River, Yellowknife, Fort Simpson, Norman Wells, and Inuvik) and presented as box and whisker plots. The box in each plot represents the average range (calculated as the interquartile range) for 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

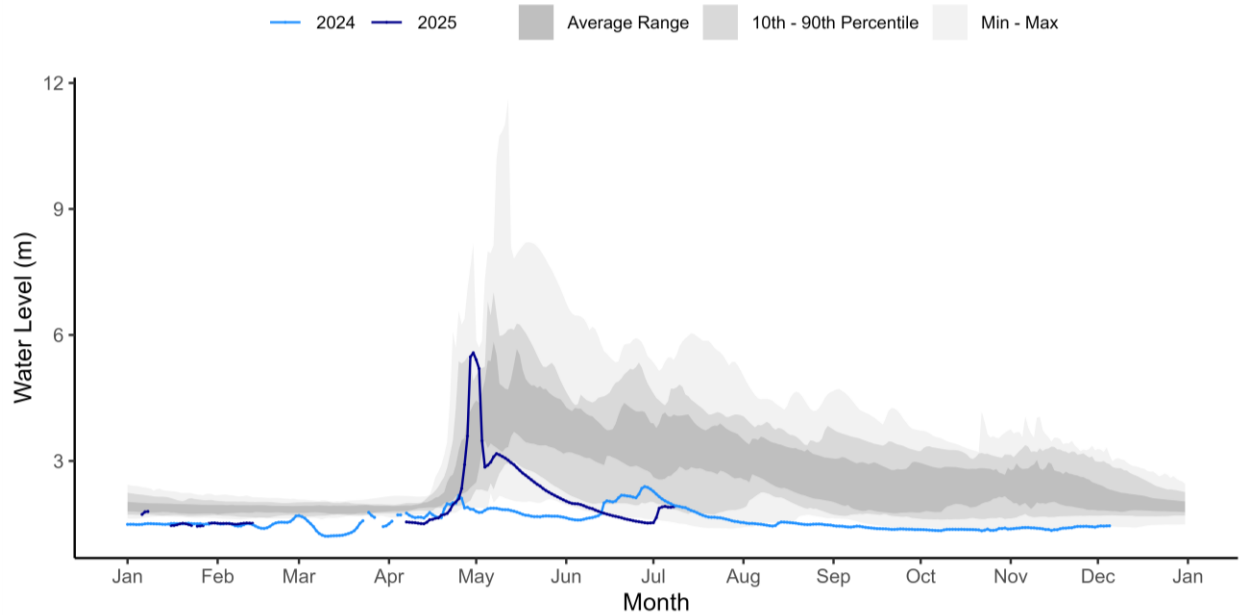
Slave River at Fitzgerald [07NB001]



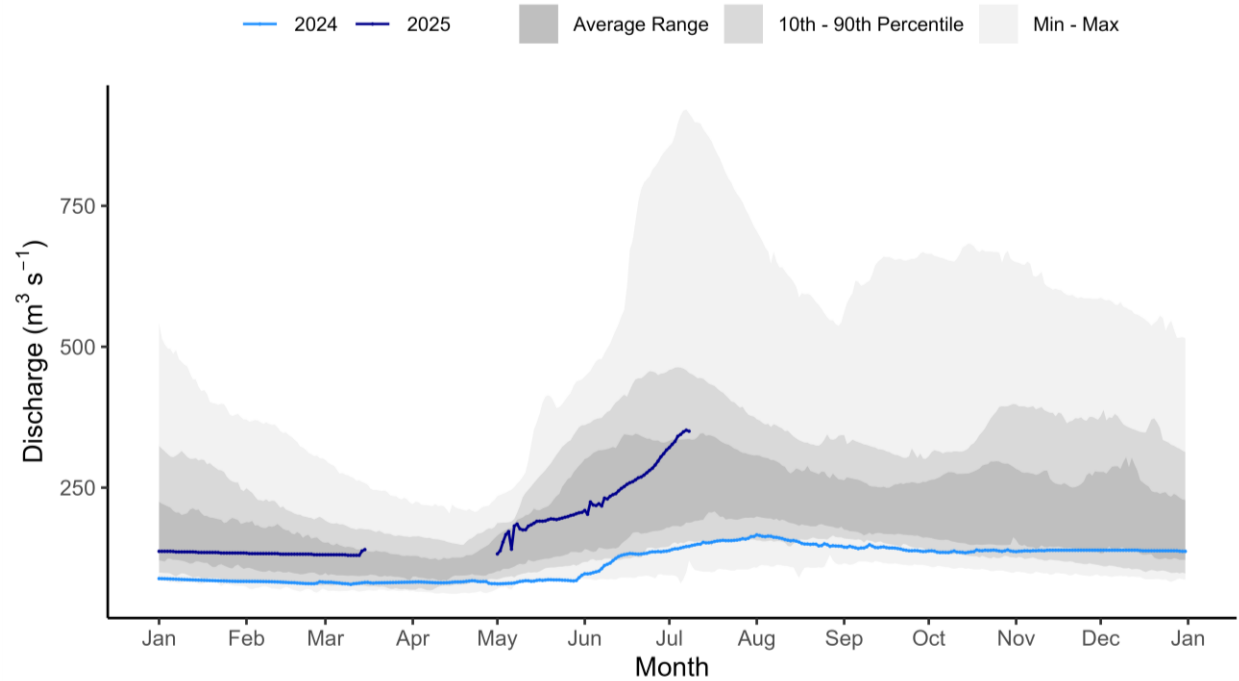
Hay River near Alberta/NWT Boundary [07OB008]



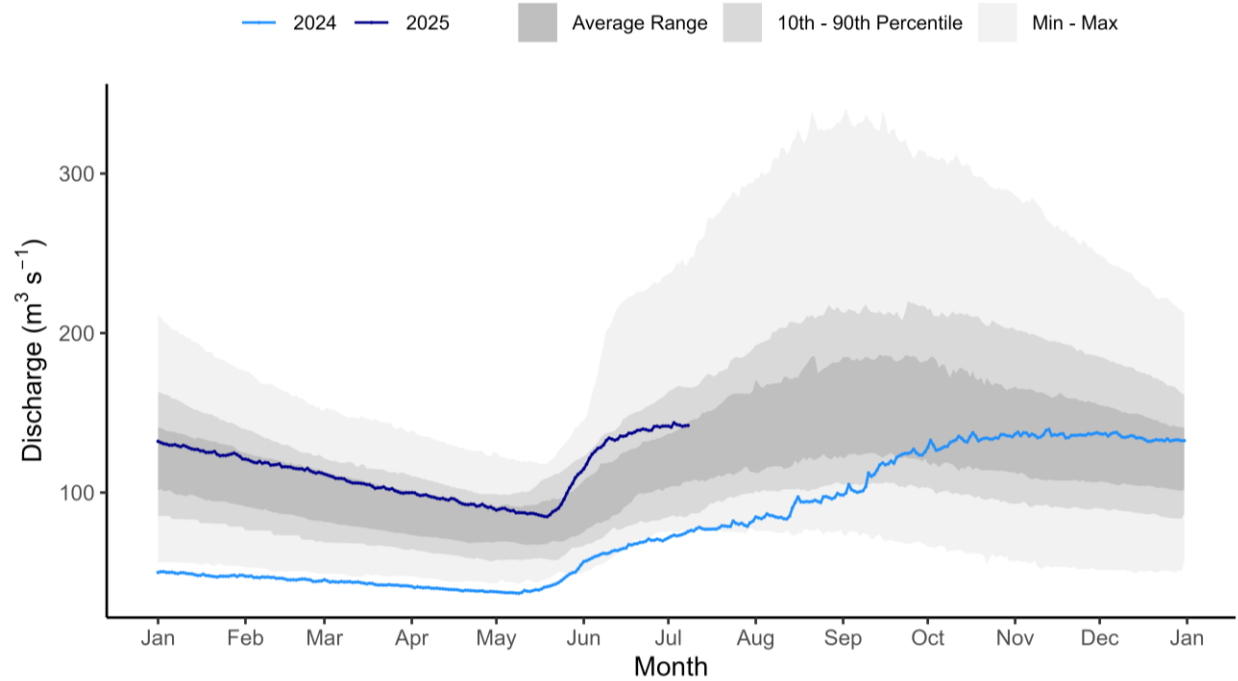
Hay River near Hay River [07OB001]



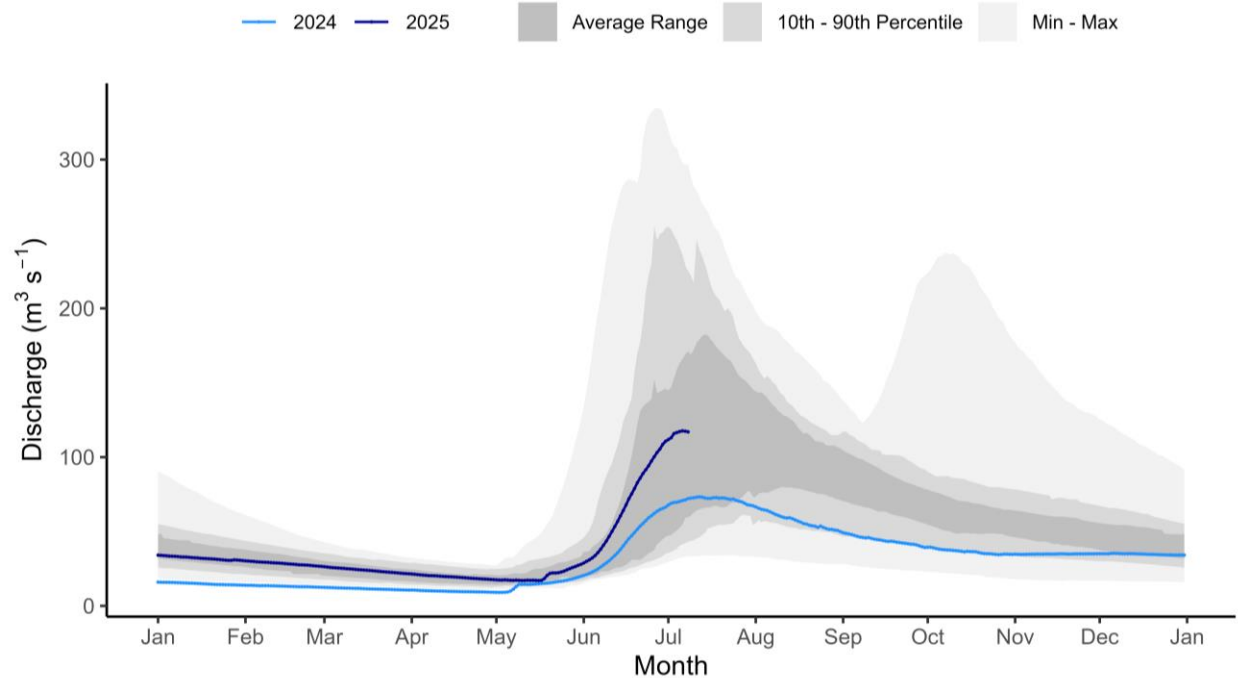
Taltson River below Hydro Dam [07QD007]



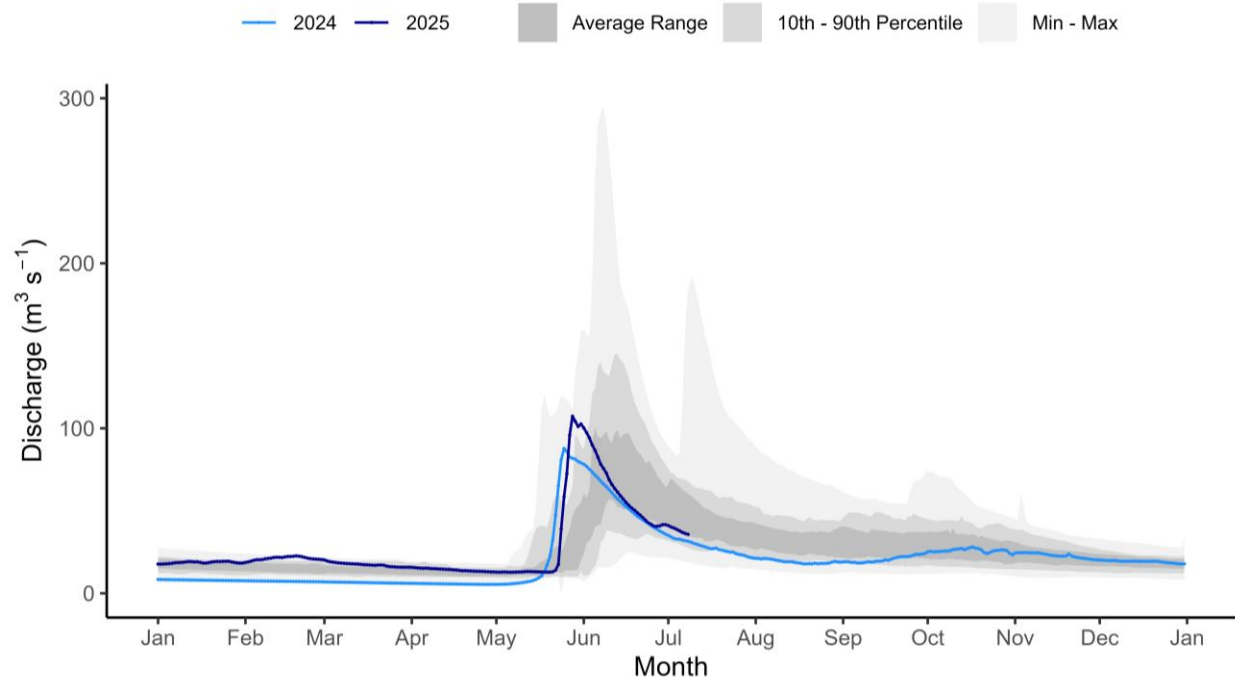
Lockhart River at outlet of Artillery Lake [07RD001]



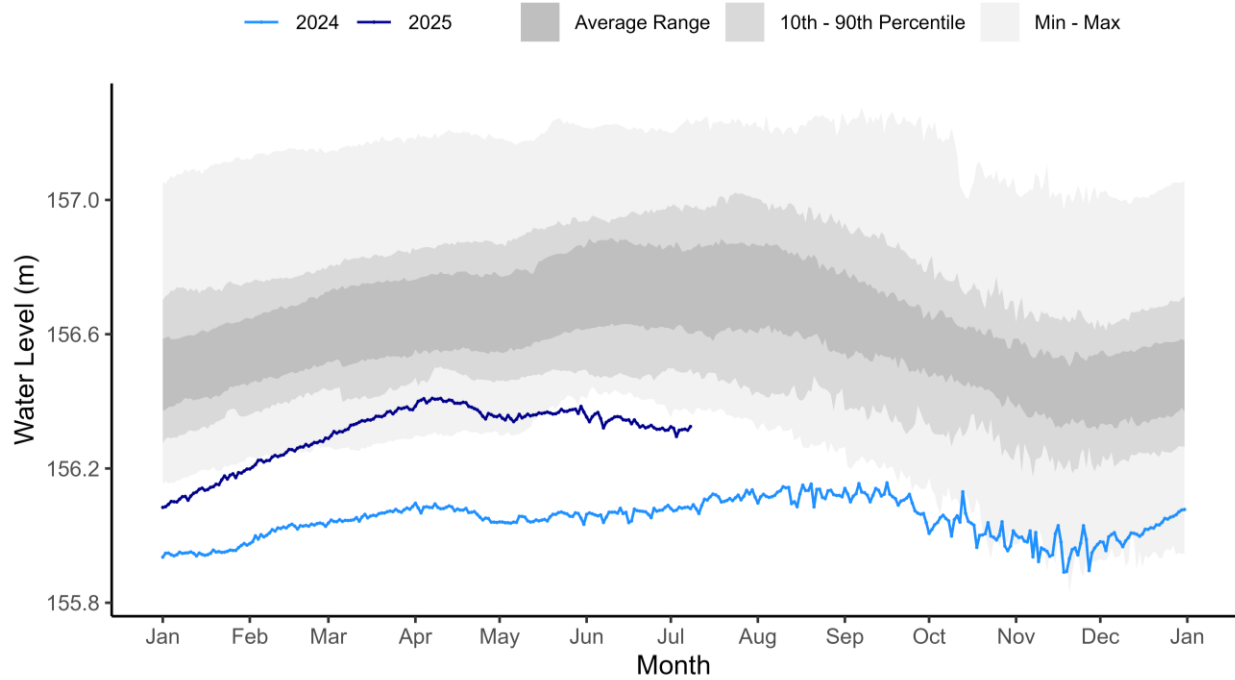
Snare River below Ghost Lake [07SA002]



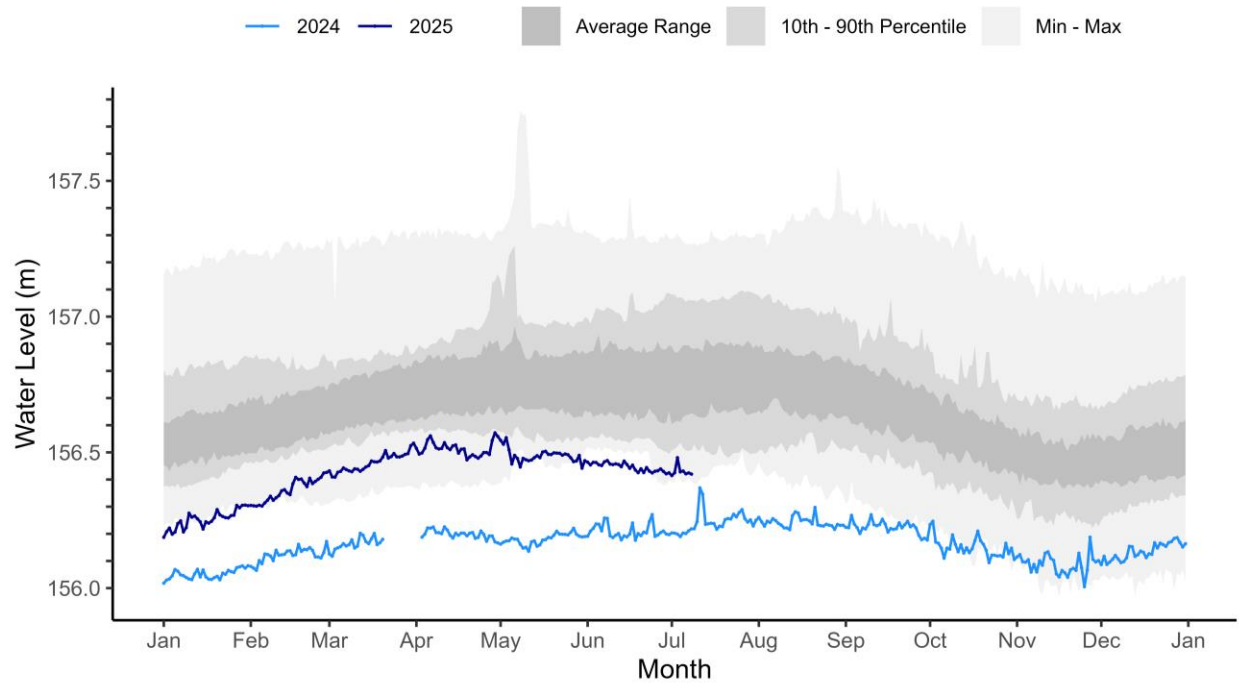
Coppermine River below Desteffany Lake [10PA001]



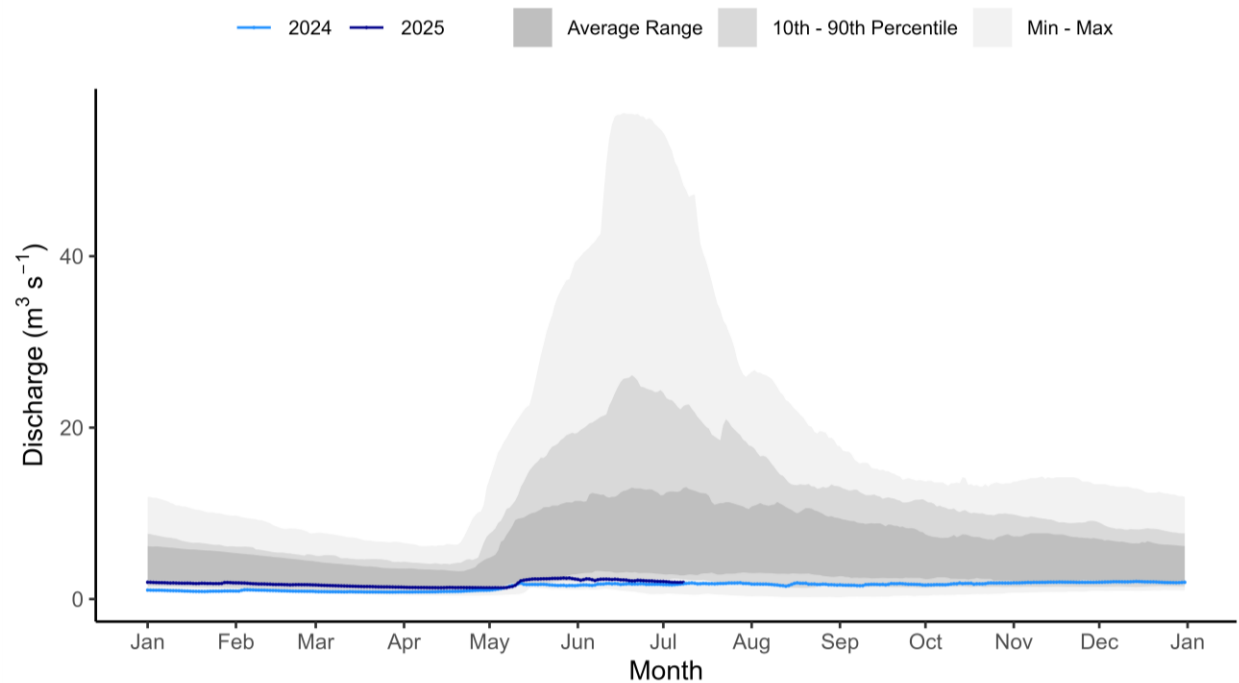
Great Slave Lake at Yellowknife Bay [07SB001]



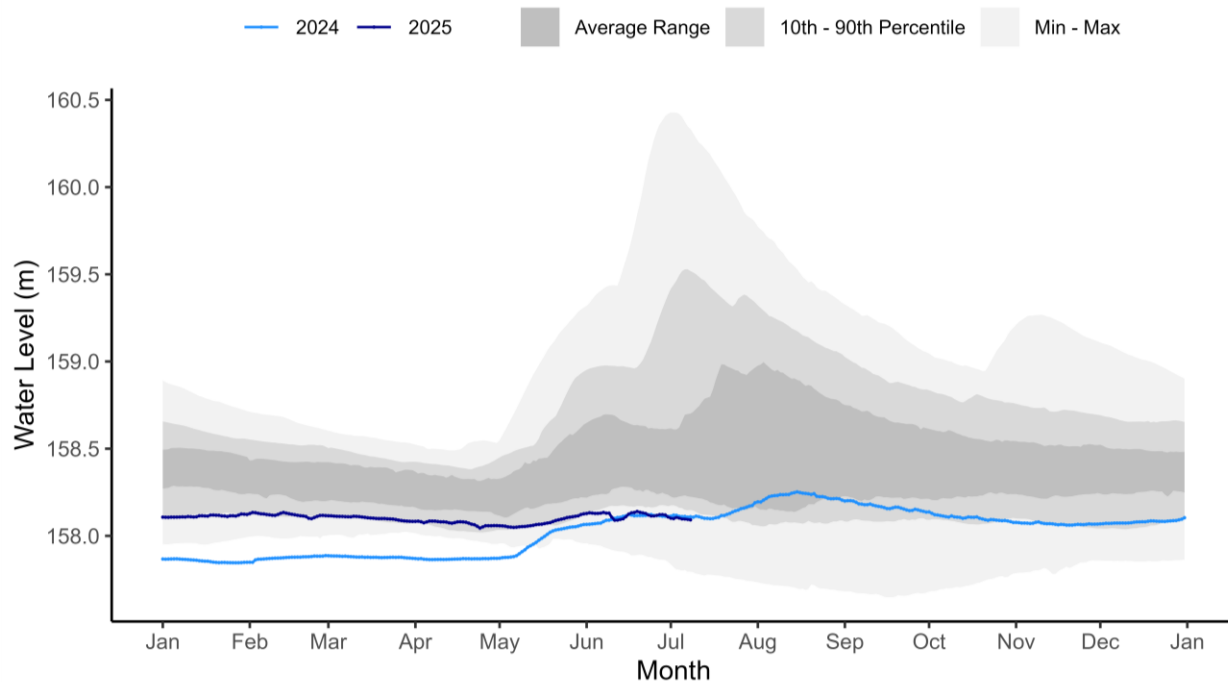
Great Slave Lake at Hay River [070B002]



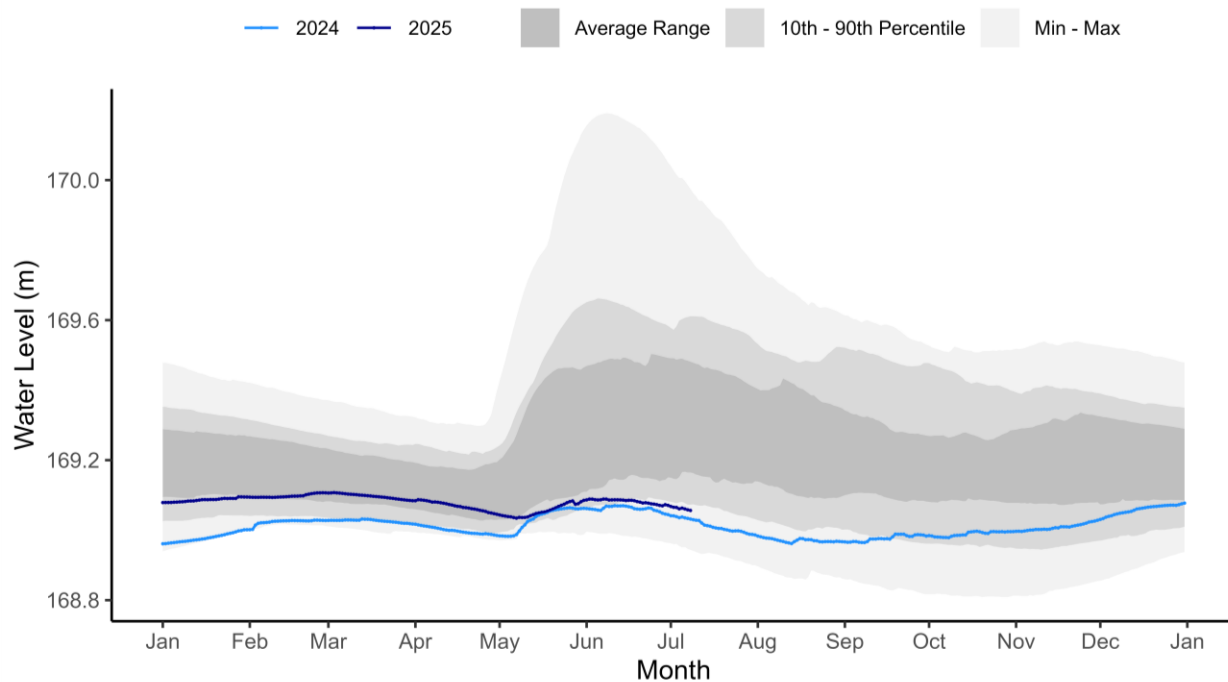
Cameron River below Reid Lake [07SB010]



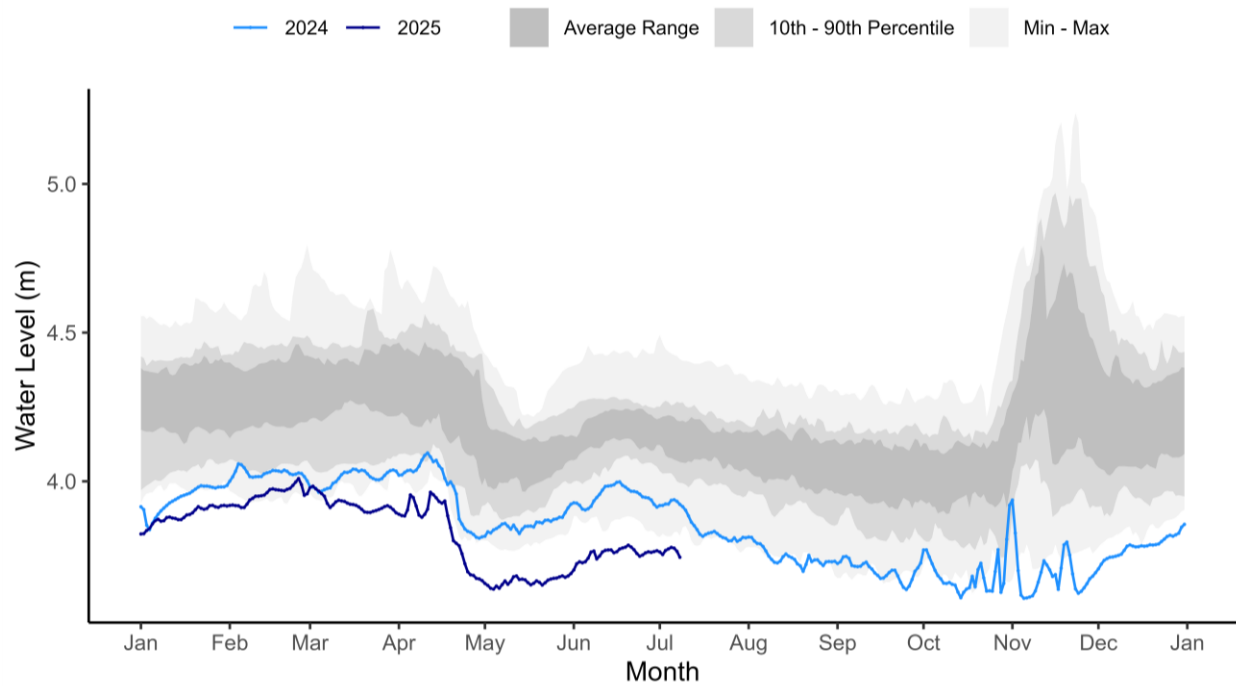
Prosperous Lake near McMeekan Bay [07SB014]



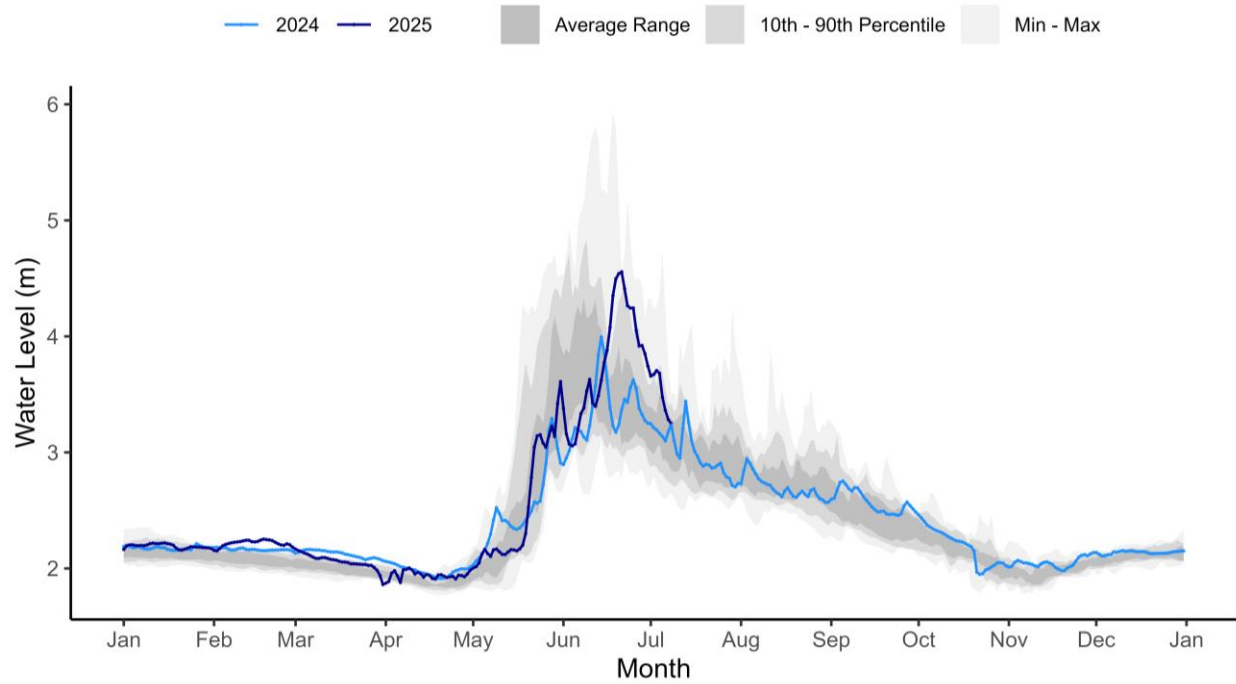
Prelude Lake near Yellowknife [07SB017]



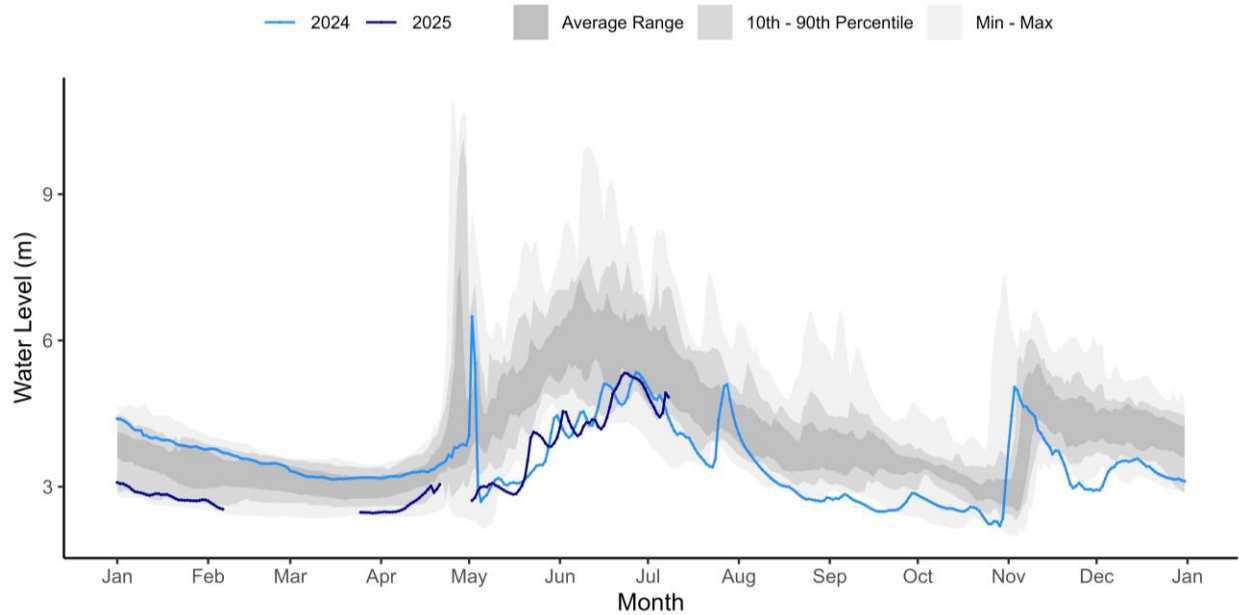
La Martre River below outlet of Lac La Martre [07TA001]



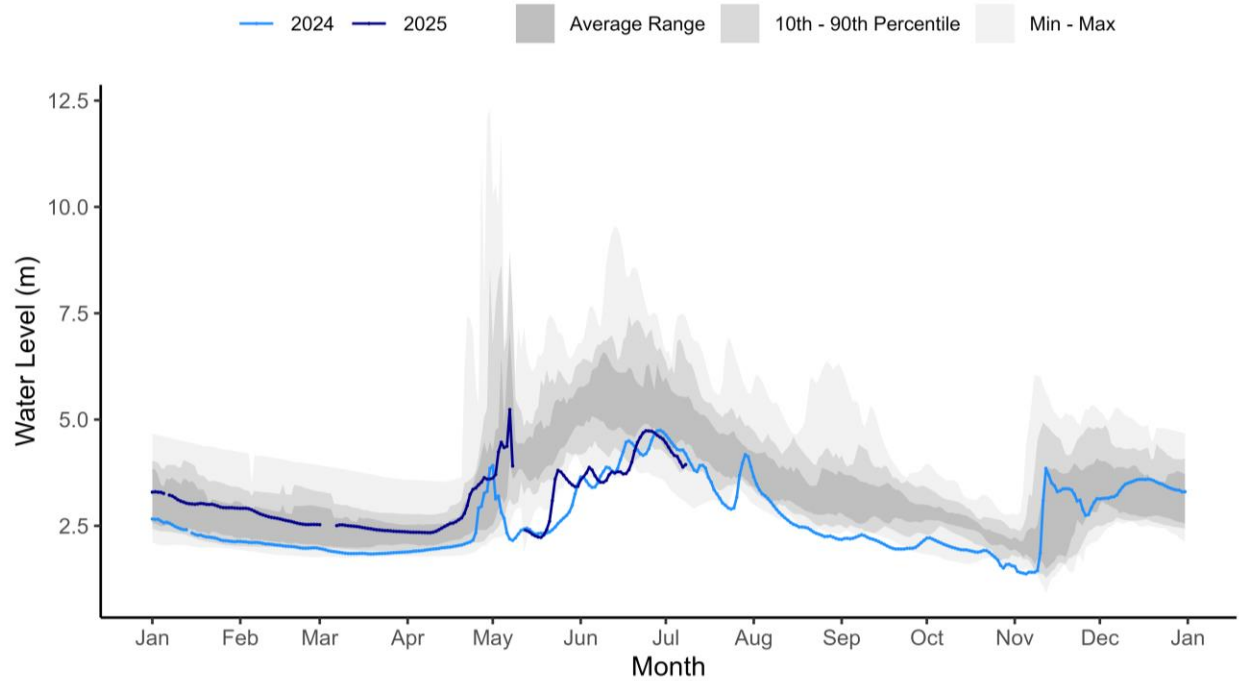
South Nahanni River above Virginia Falls [10EB001]



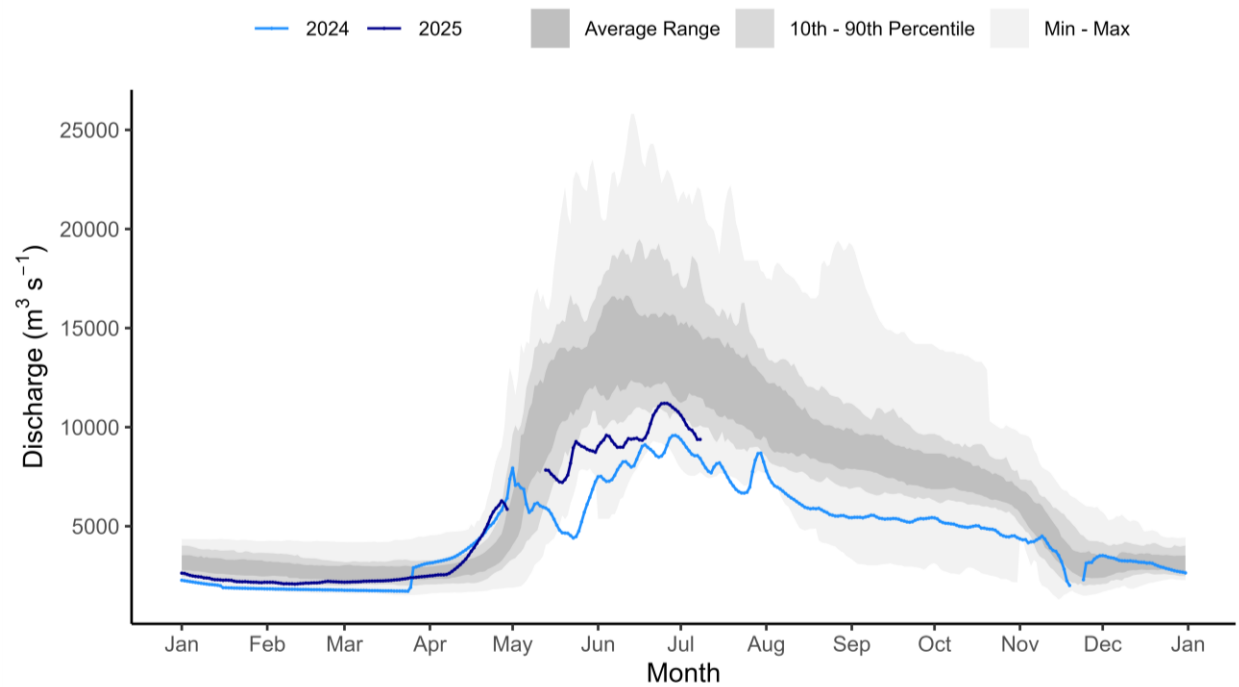
Liard River at Fort Liard [10ED001]



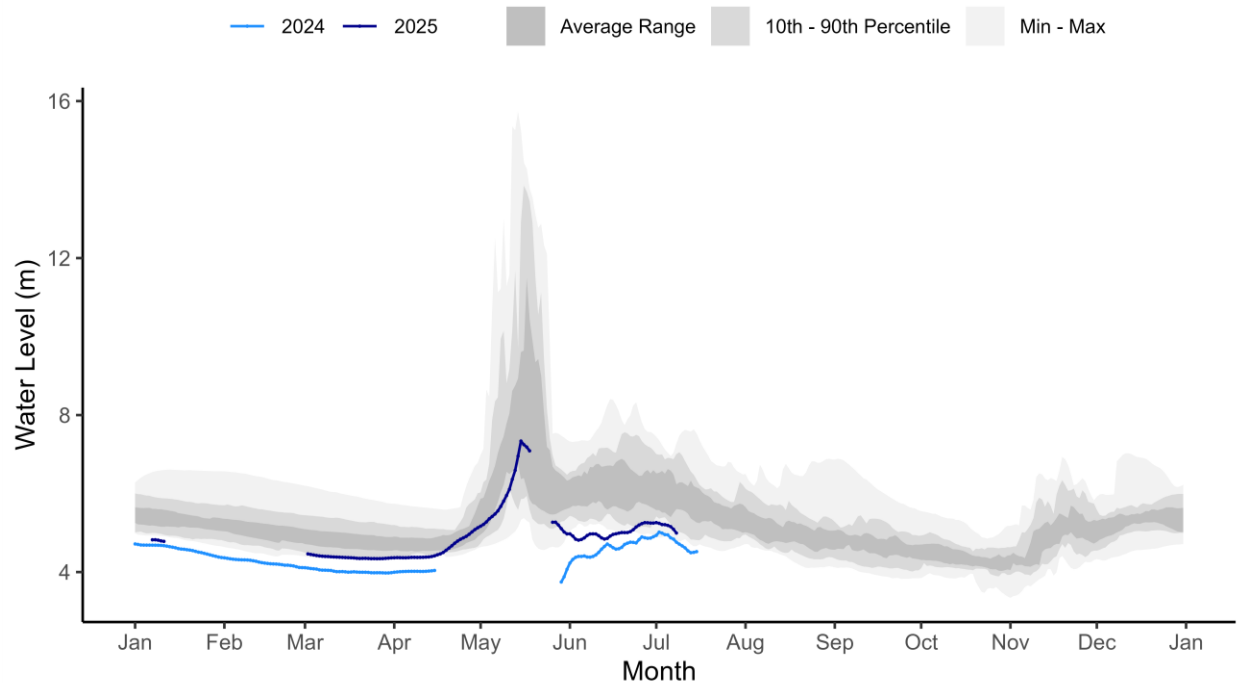
Liard River near the mouth [10ED002]



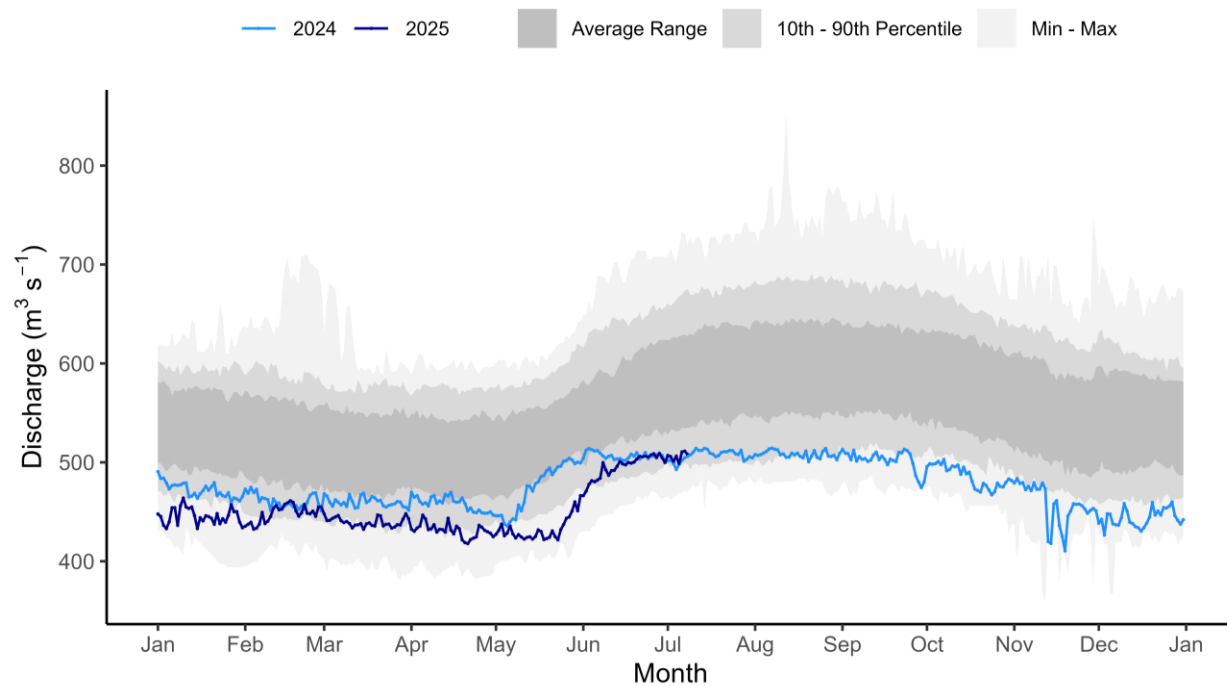
Mackenzie River at Fort Simpson [10GC001]



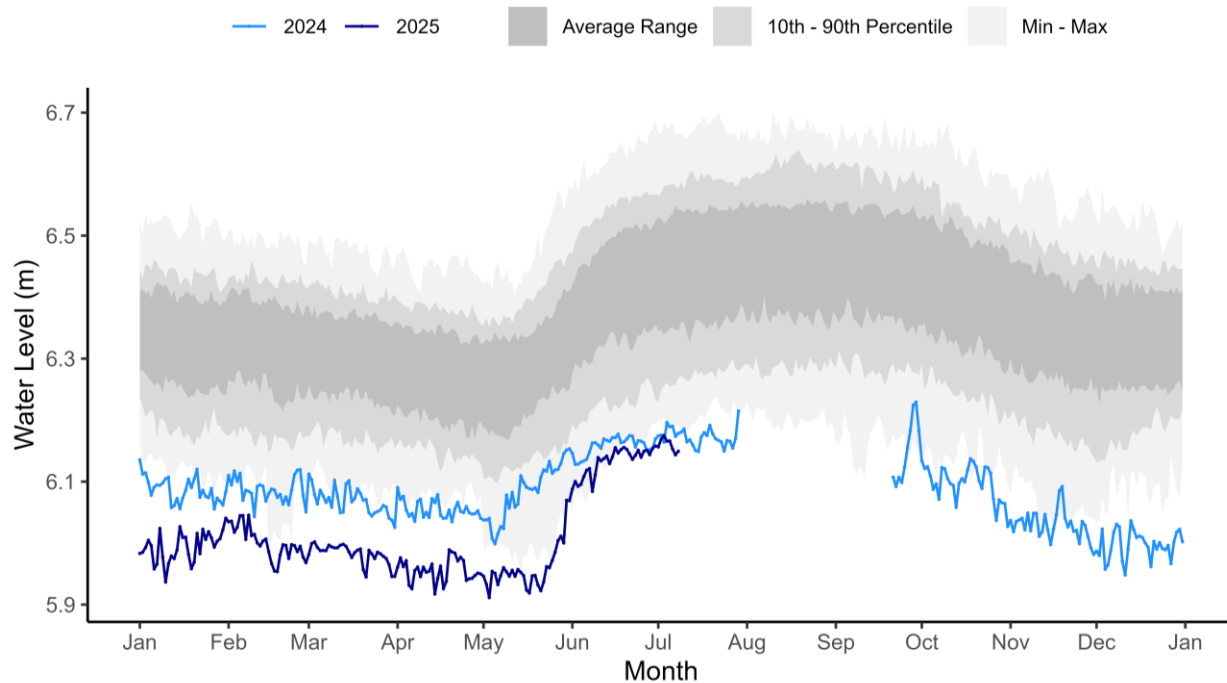
Mackenzie River at Norman Wells [10KA001]



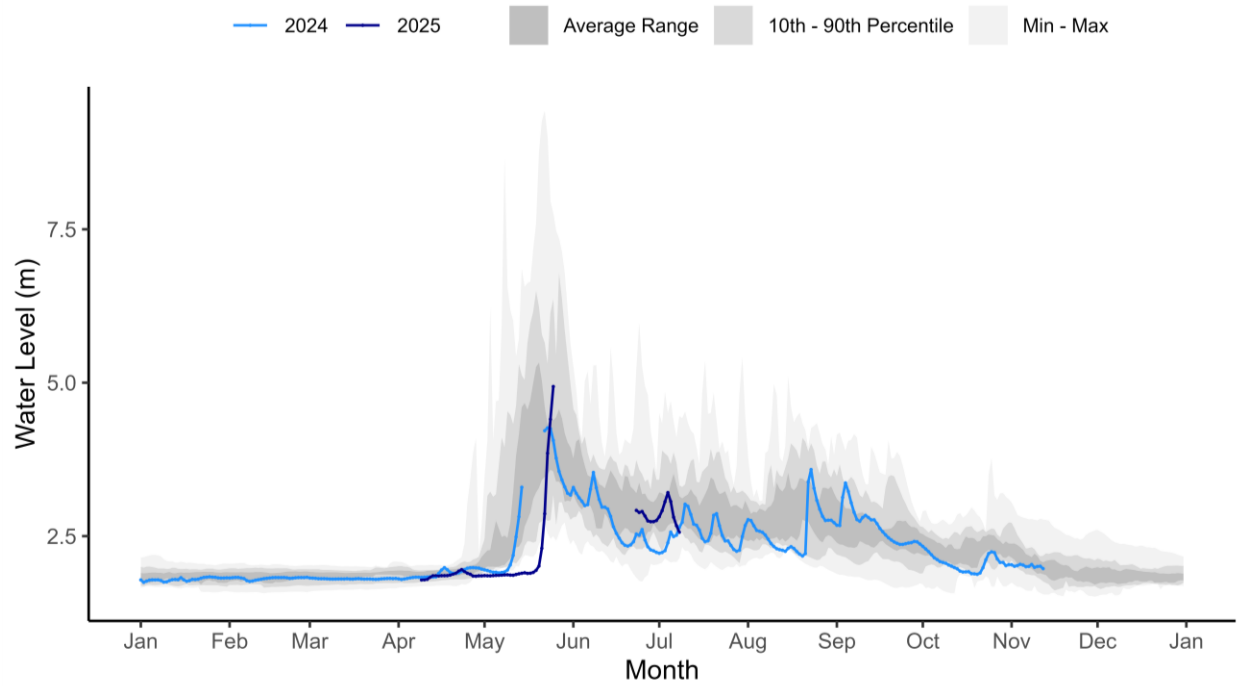
Great Bear River at outlet of Great Bear Lake [10JC003]



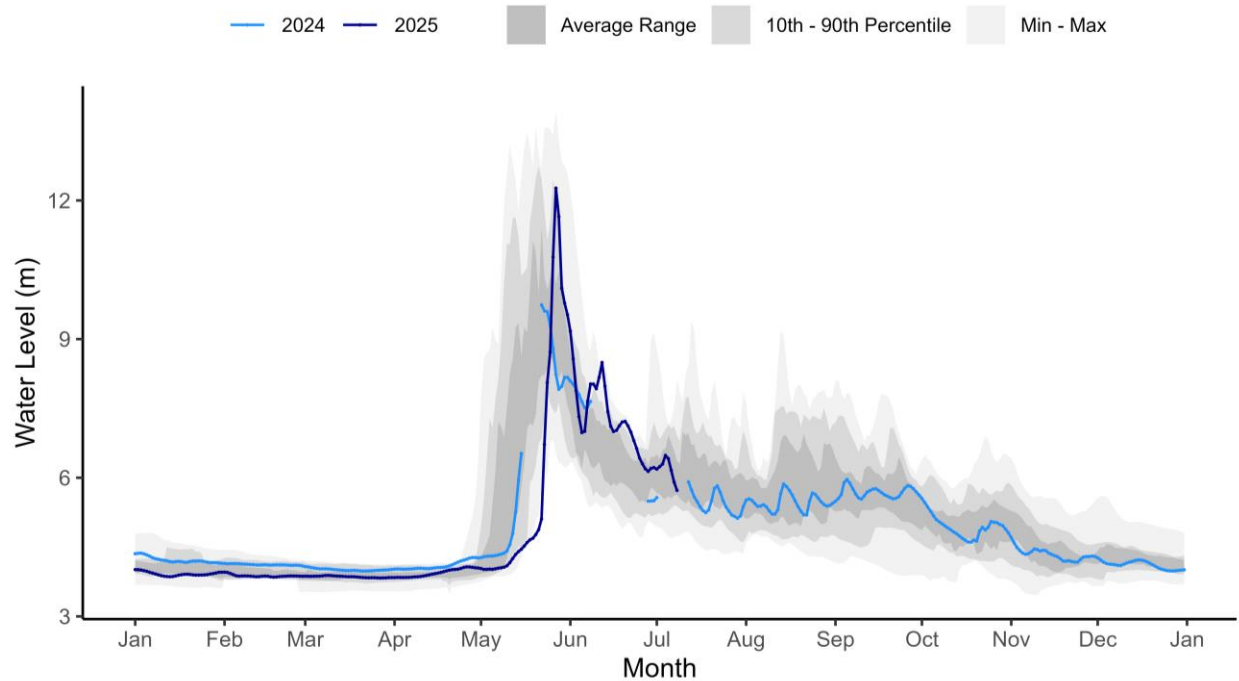
Great Bear Lake at Hornby Bay [10JE002]



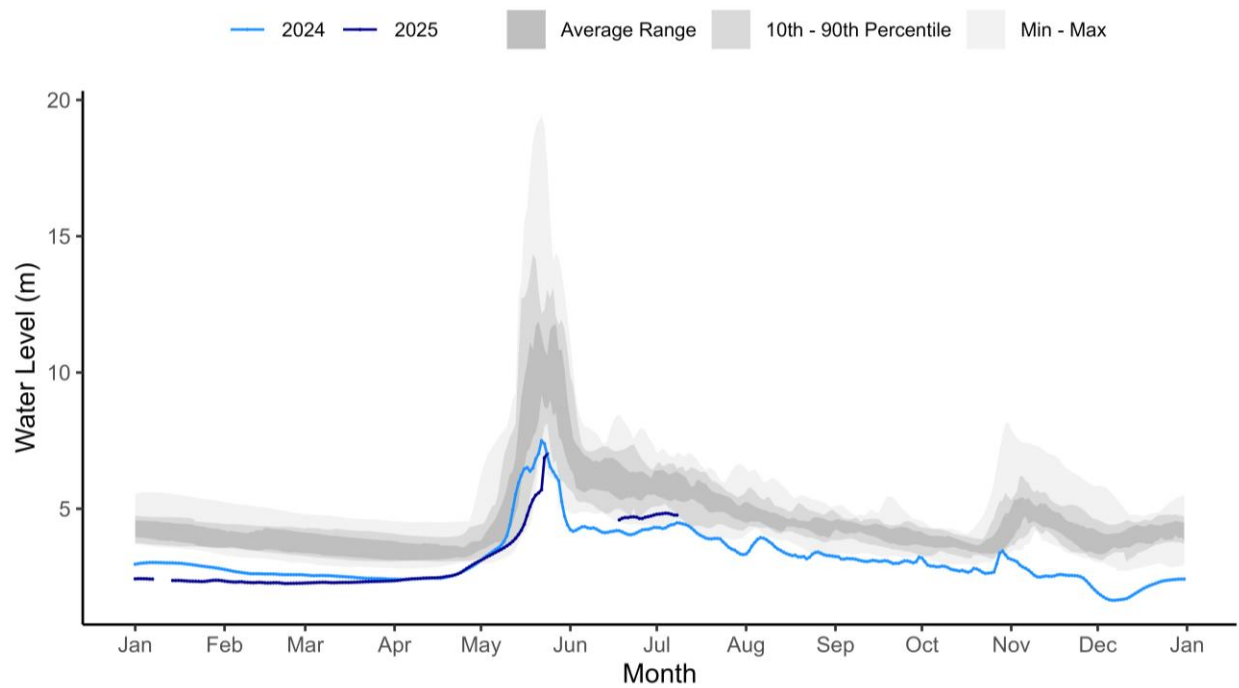
Arctic Red River near the mouth [10LA002]



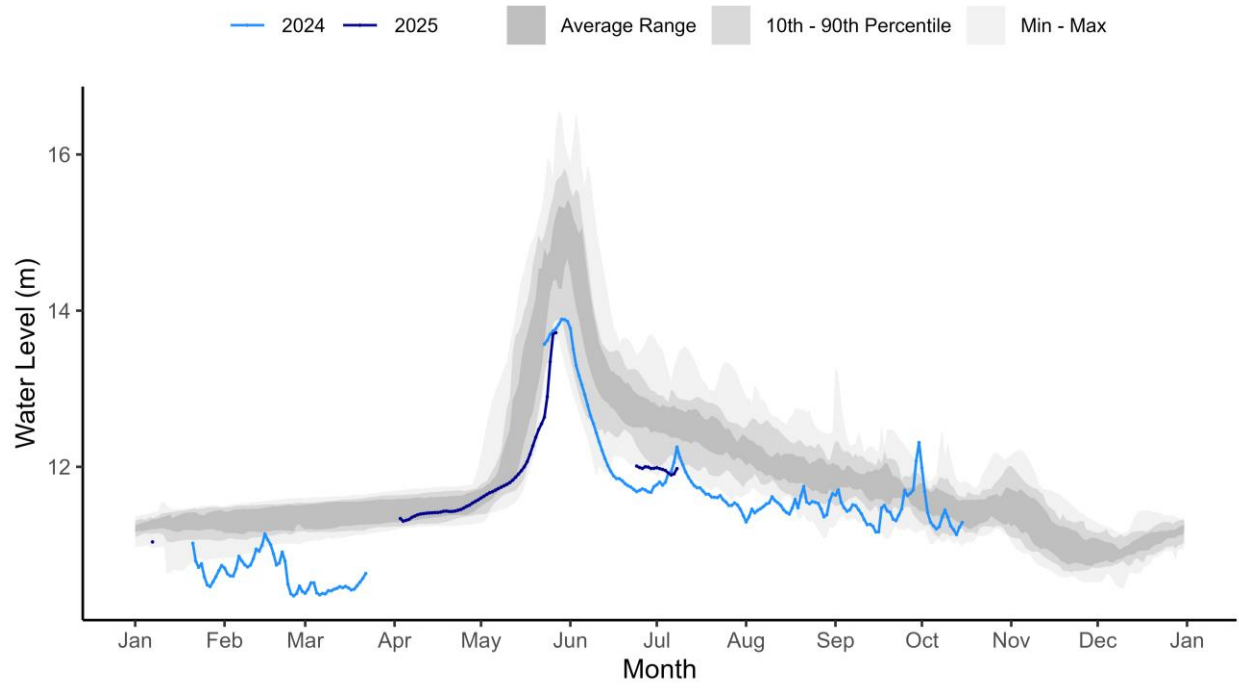
Peel River above Fort McPherson [10MC002]



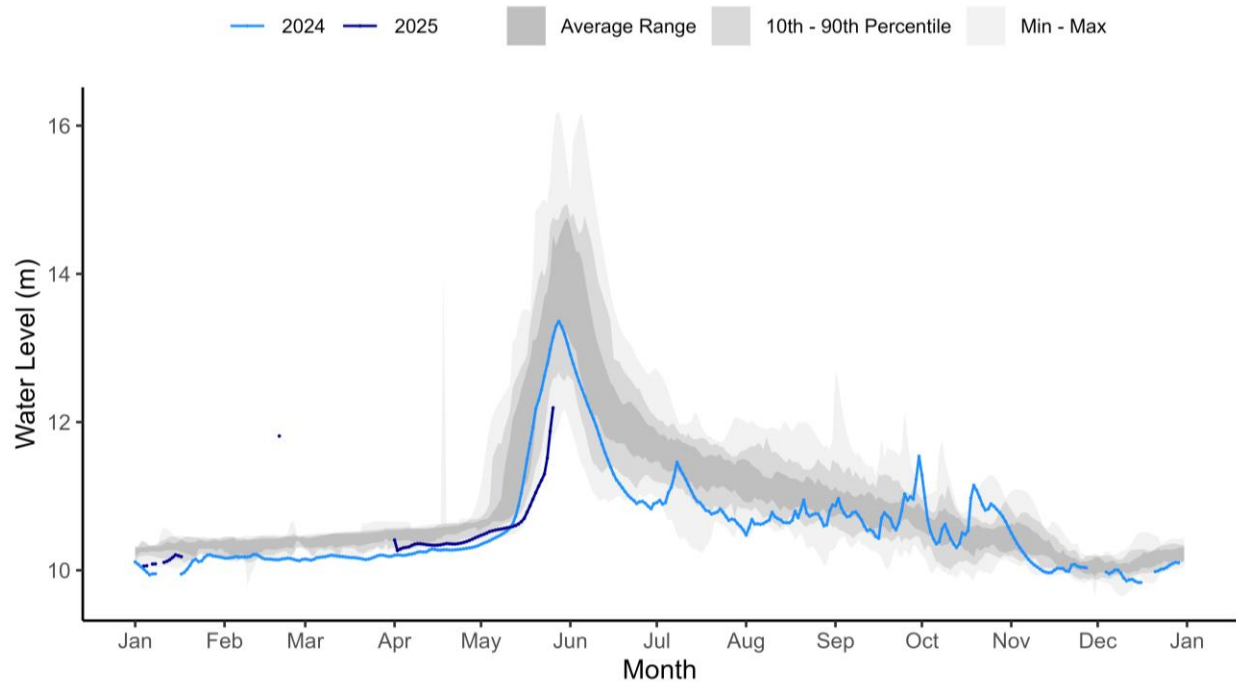
Mackenzie River at Arctic Red River [10LC014]



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

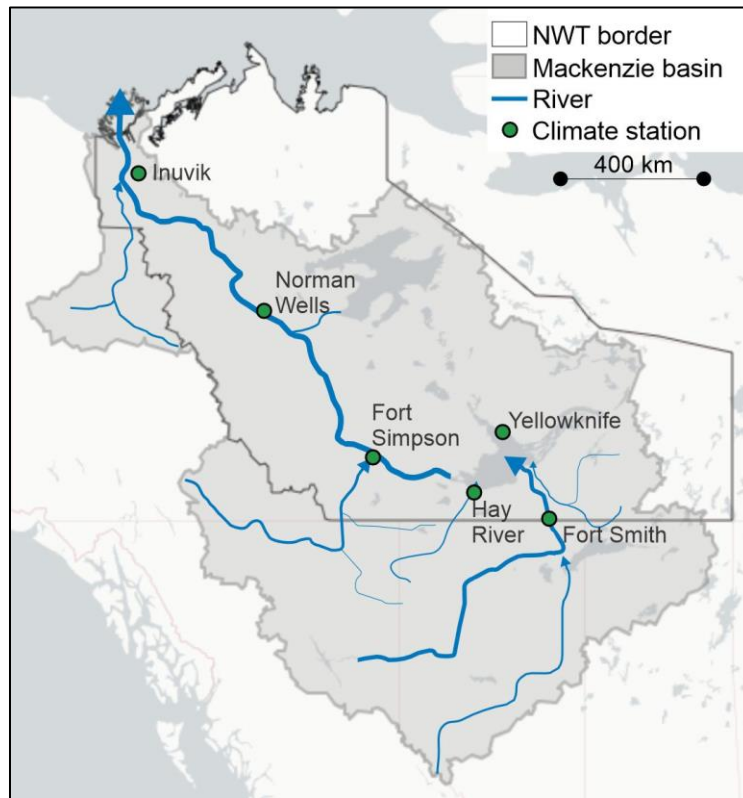


Mackenzie River (Peel Channel) above Aklavik [10MC003]



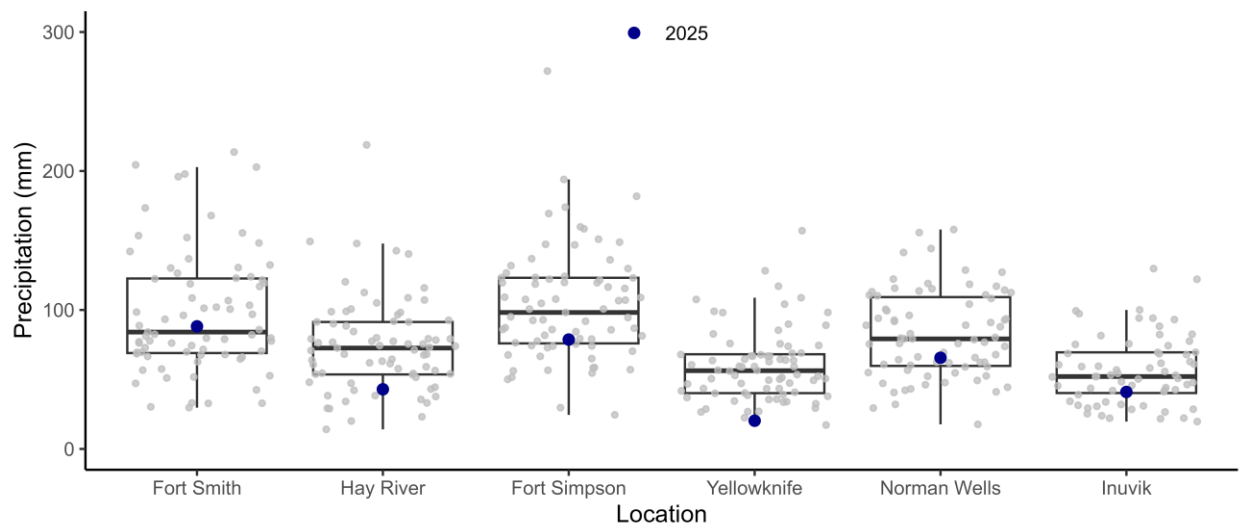
Climate Data

NWT Communities



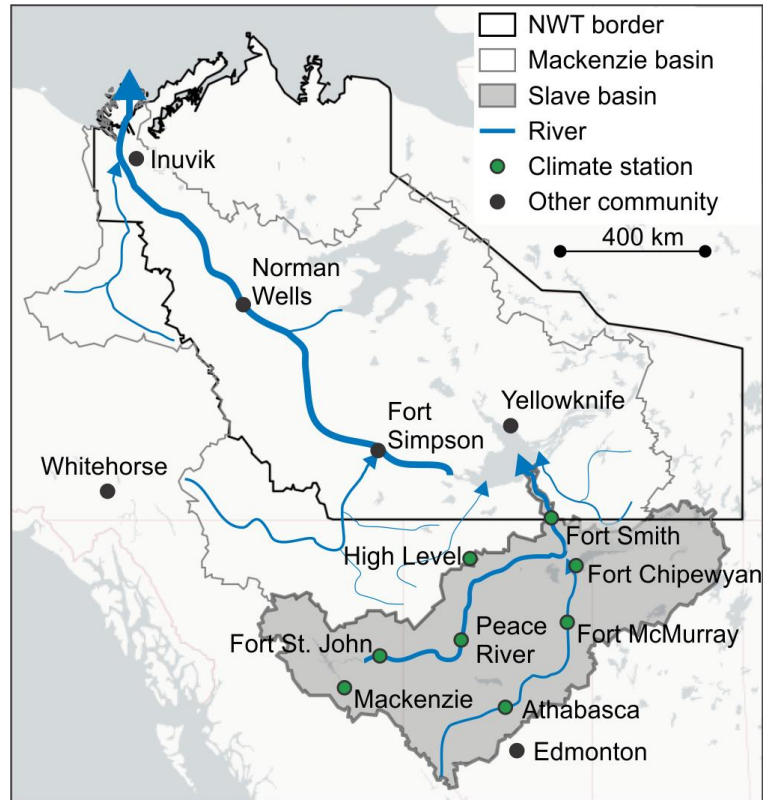
Cumulative precipitation for select NWT communities

April 1st 2025 to July 8th 2025



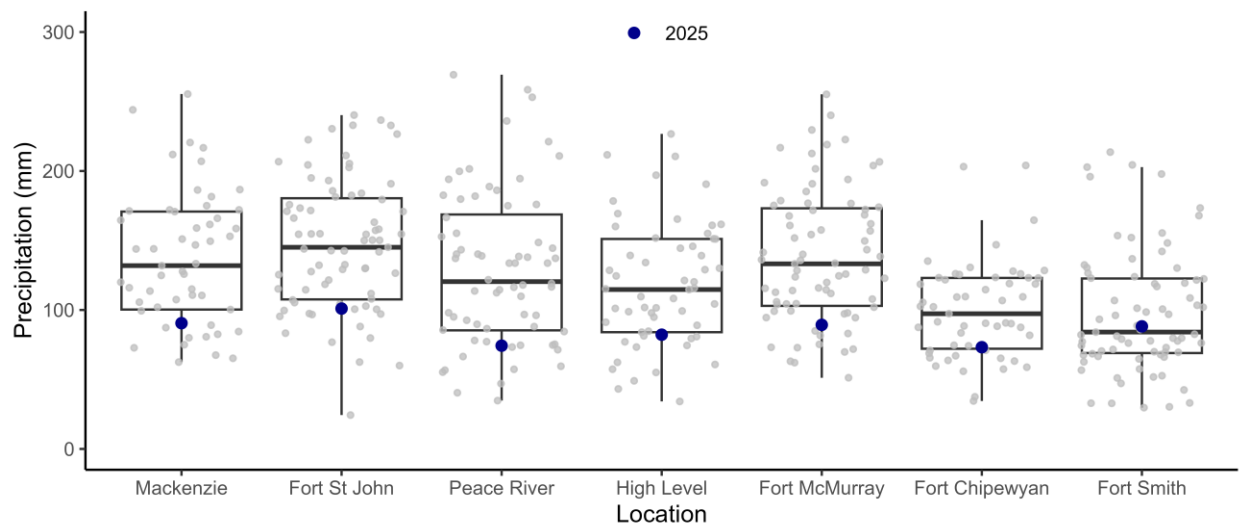
This figure shows cumulative total precipitation (rain and snow) that has fallen in select communities across the NWT from the start of April until July 8th. The blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present. See the map above for geographical context.

Slave River Basin Communities



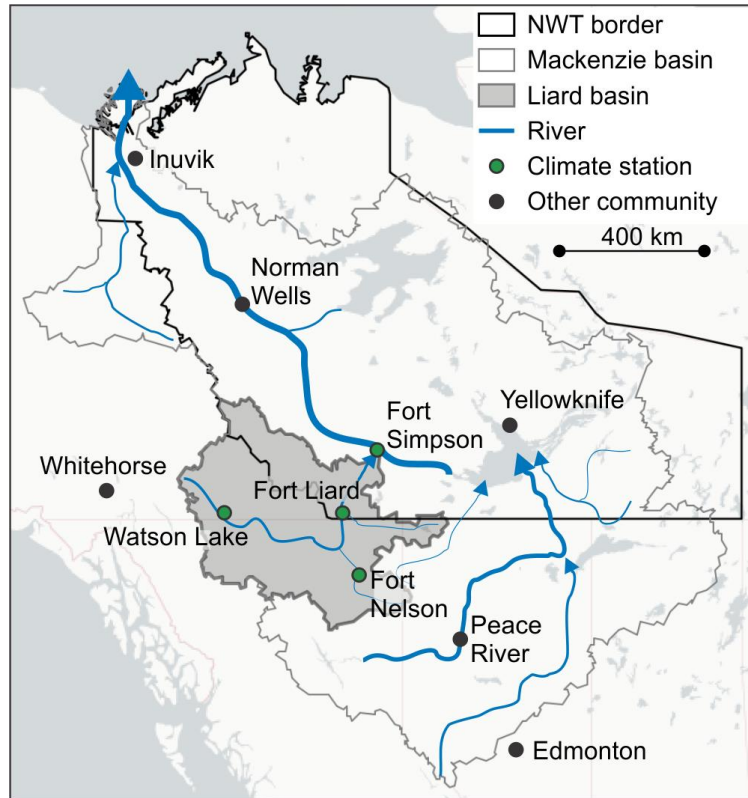
Cumulative precipitation for AB/BC/NWT communities in the Slave River basin

April 1st 2025 to July 8th 2025



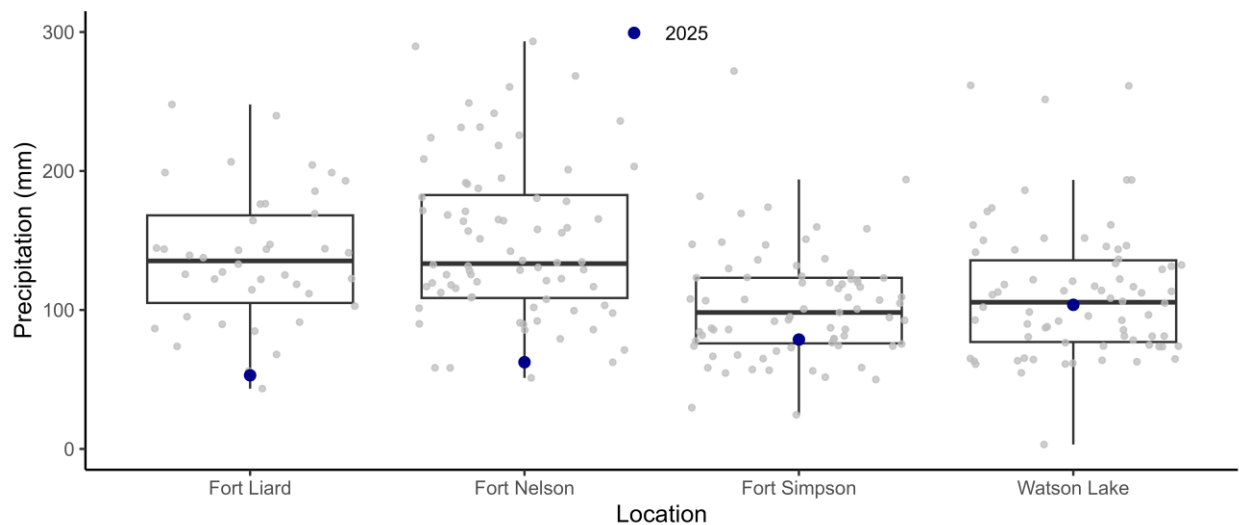
This figure shows cumulative total precipitation (rain and snow) that has fallen in select communities in the Slave River basin from the start of April until July 8th. The blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present. See the map above for geographical context.

Liard River Basin Communities



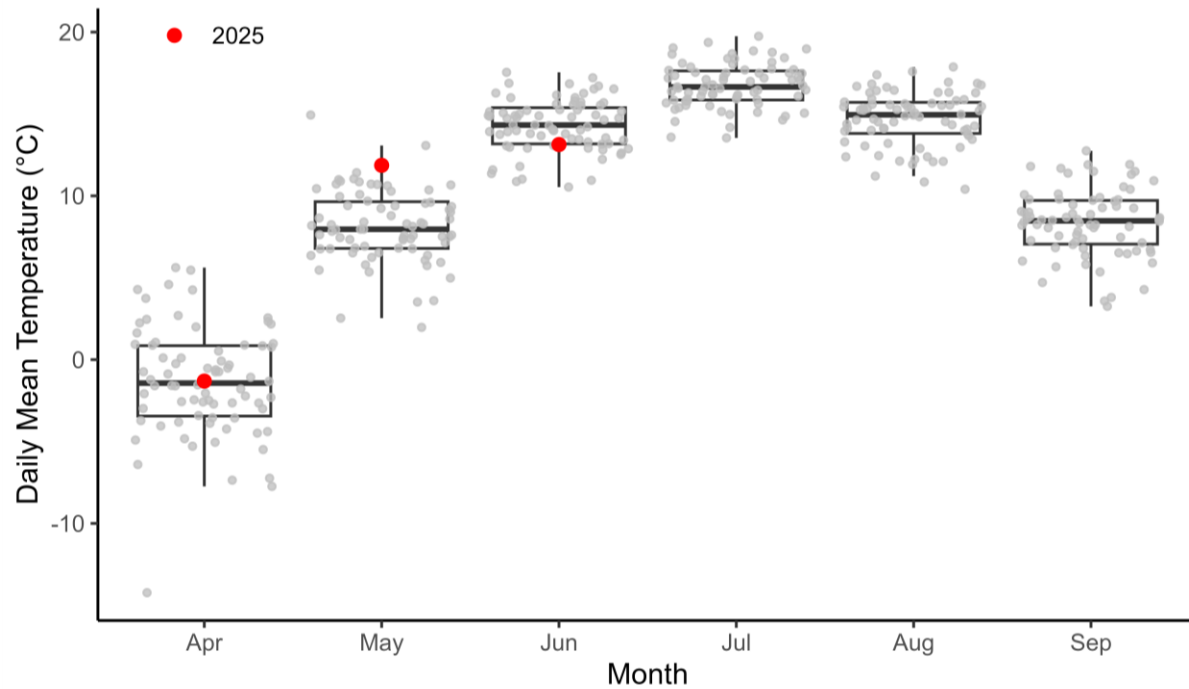
Cumulative precipitation for BC/NWT/YT communities in the Liard River basin

April 1st 2025 to July 8th 2025

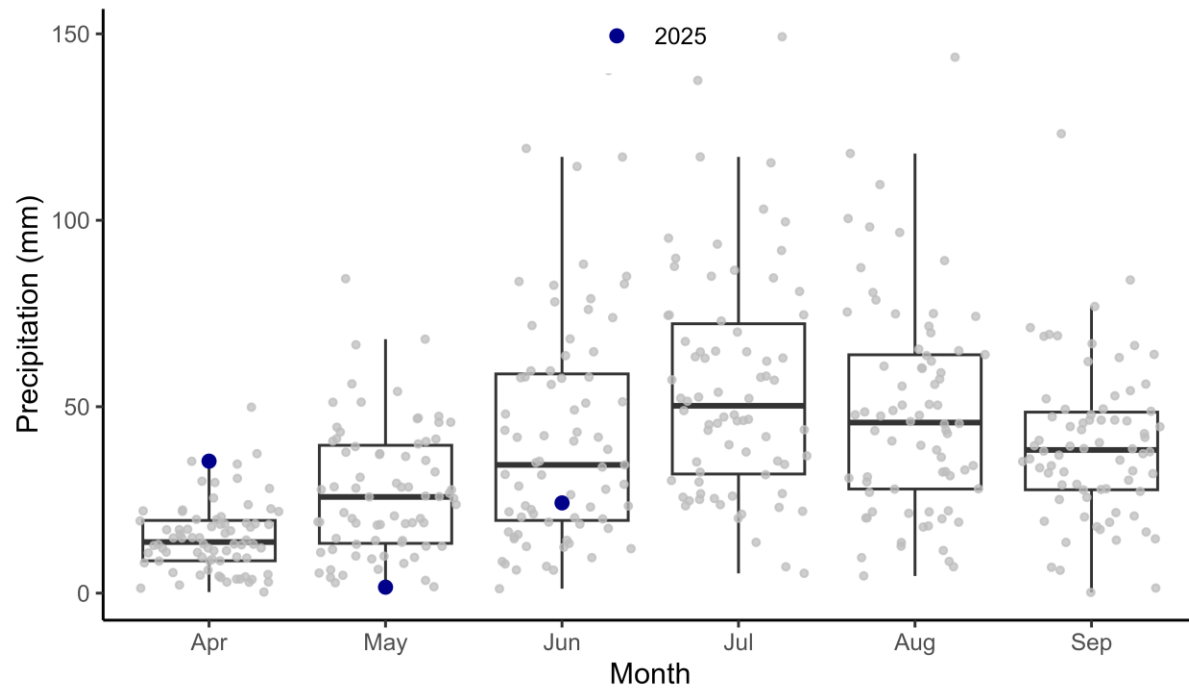


This figure shows cumulative total precipitation (rain and snow) that has fallen in select communities in the Liard River basin from the start of April until July 8th. The blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present. See the map above for geographical context.

Fort Smith Air Temperatures

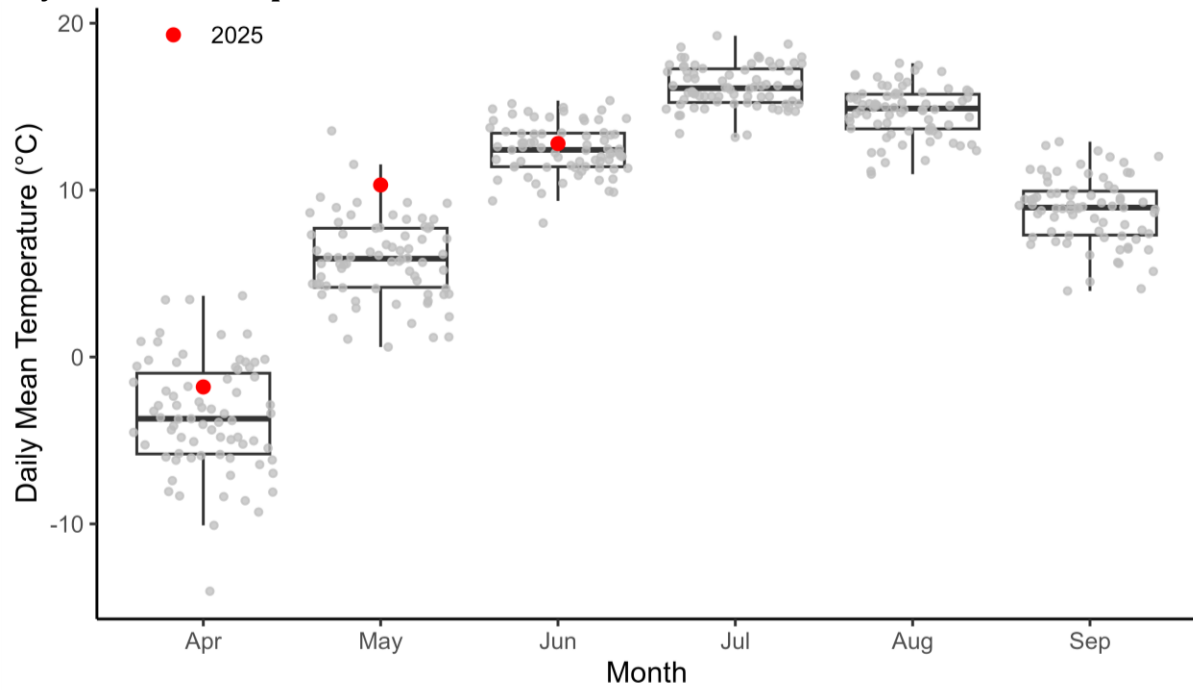


Fort Smith Total Precipitation

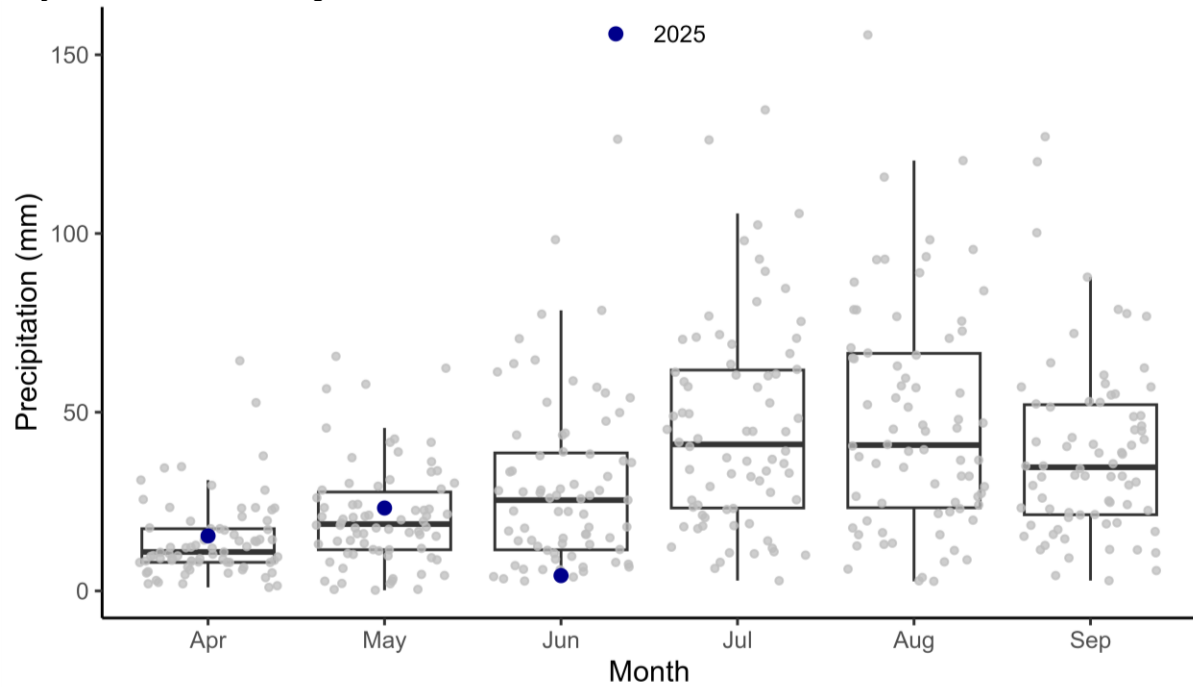


This figure shows mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for spring and summer of 2025.

Hay River Air Temperatures

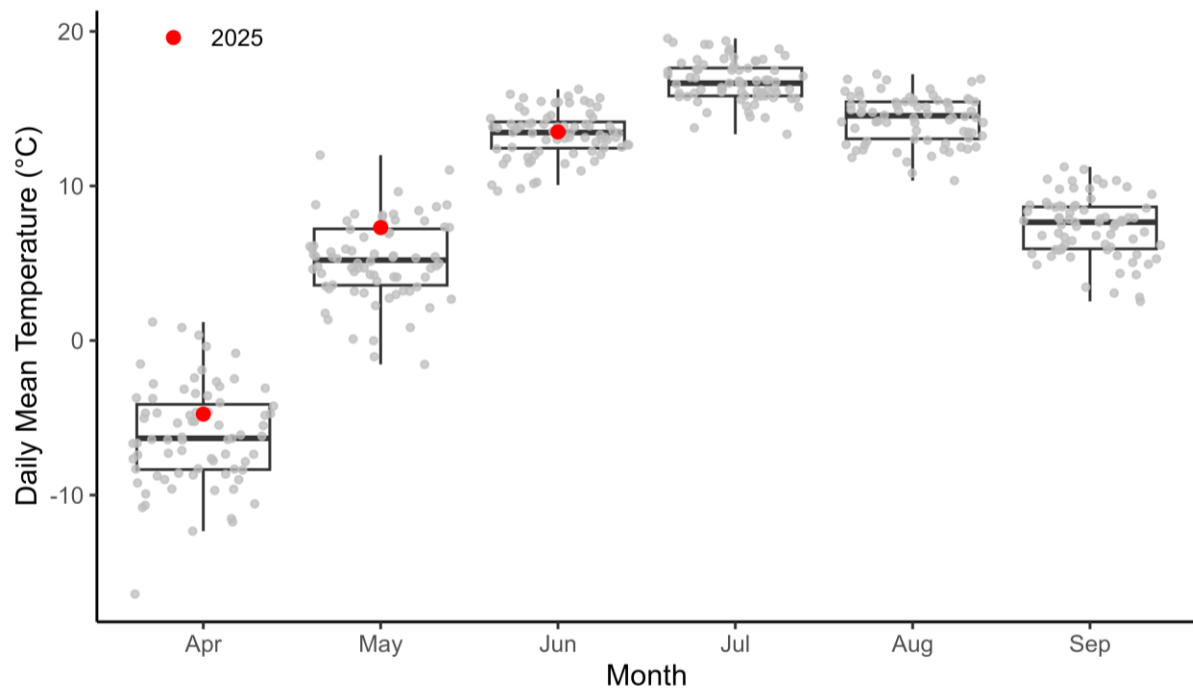


Hay River Total Precipitation

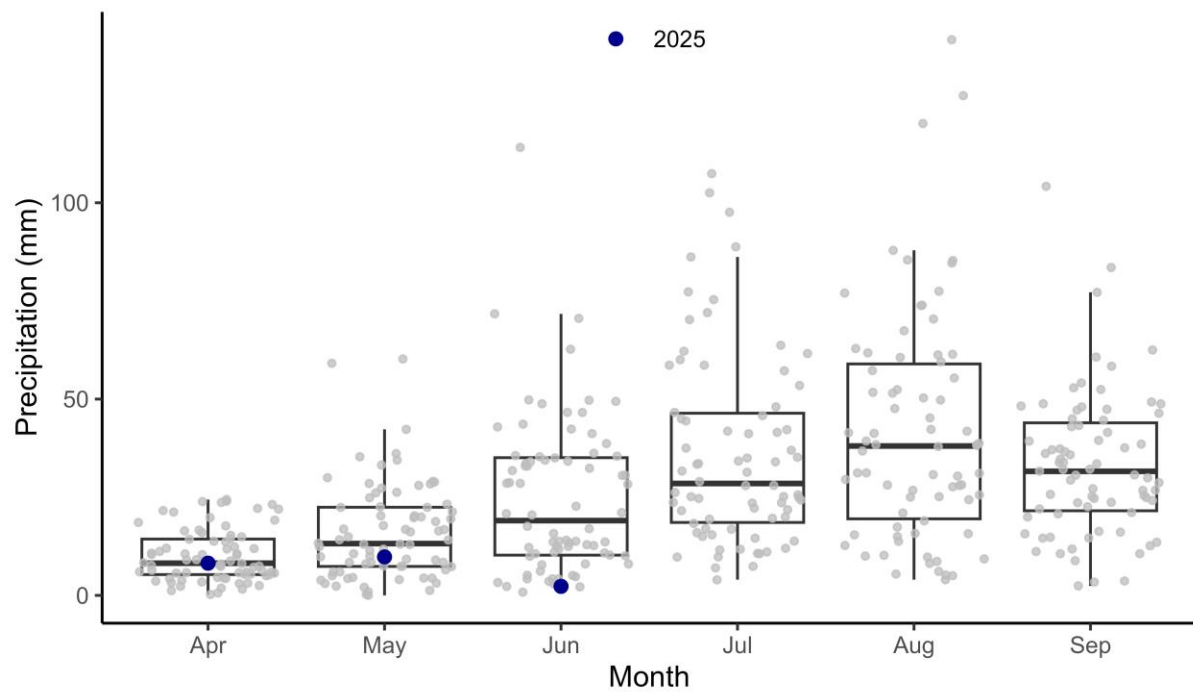


This figure shows mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for spring and summer of 2025.

Yellowknife Air Temperatures

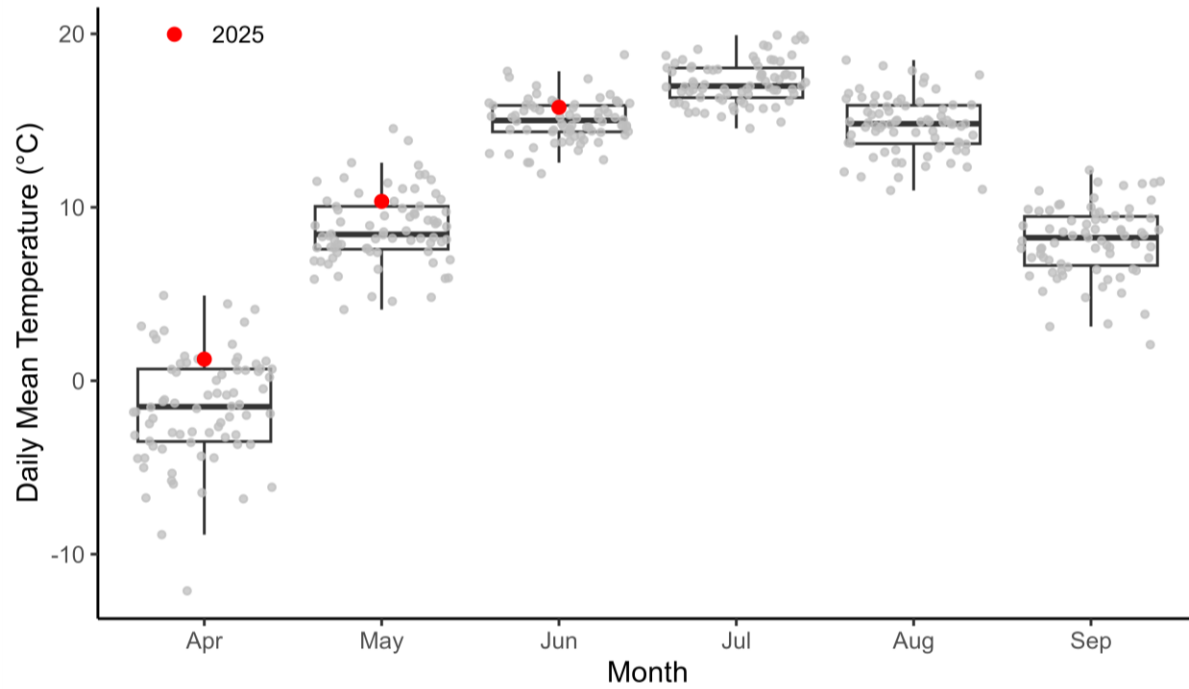


Yellowknife Total Precipitation

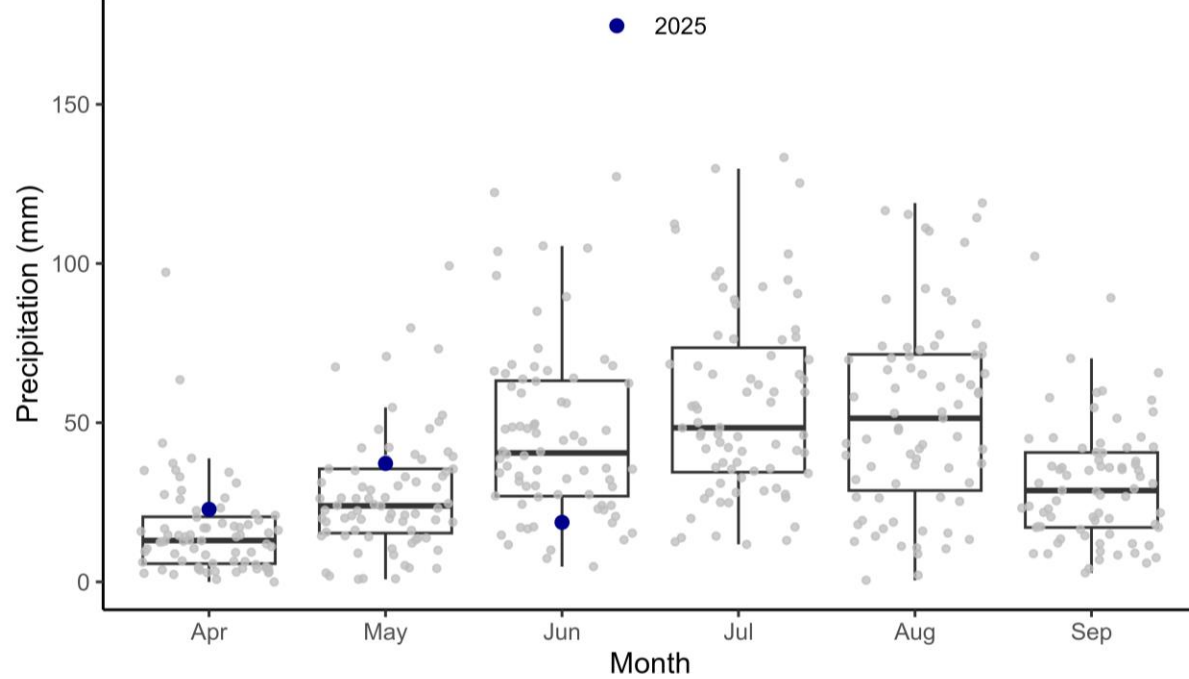


This figure shows mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for spring and summer of 2025.

Fort Simpson Air Temperatures

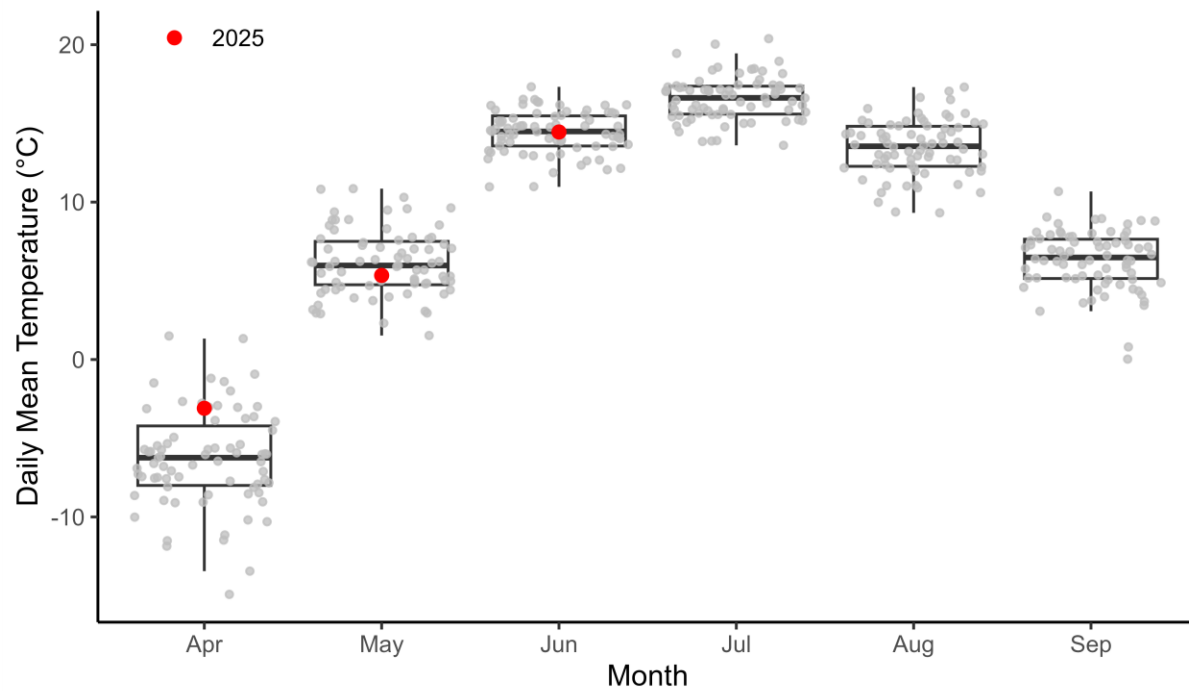


Fort Simpson Total Precipitation

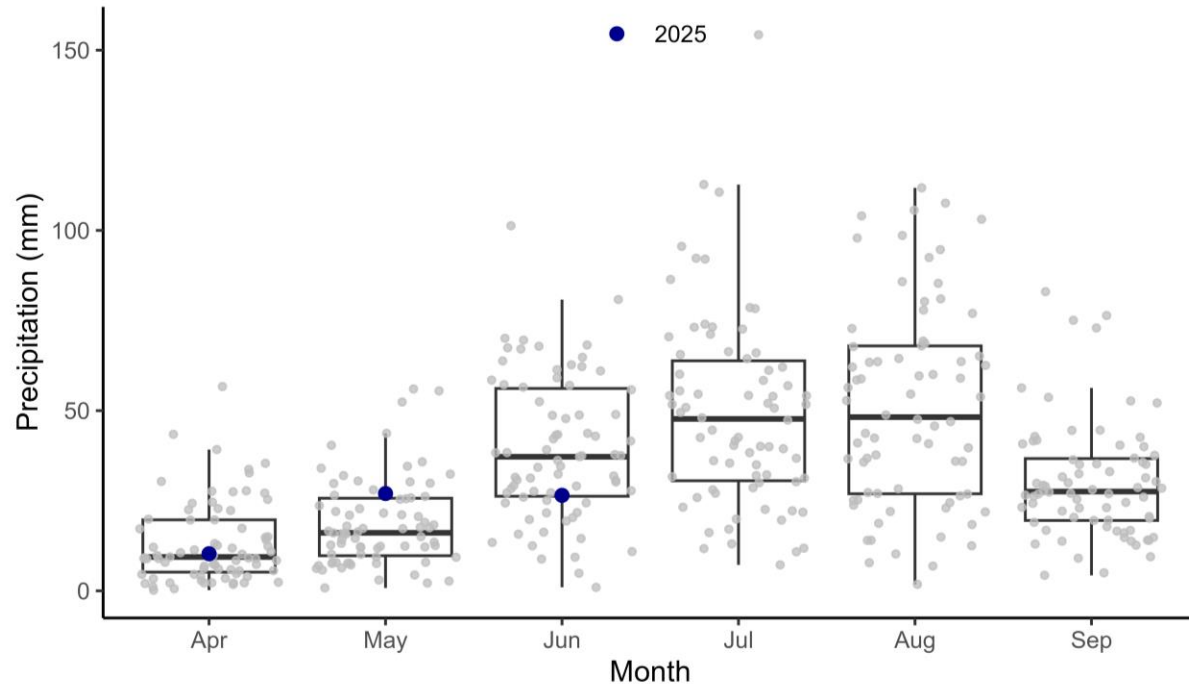


This figure shows mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for spring and summer of 2025.

Norman Wells Air Temperatures

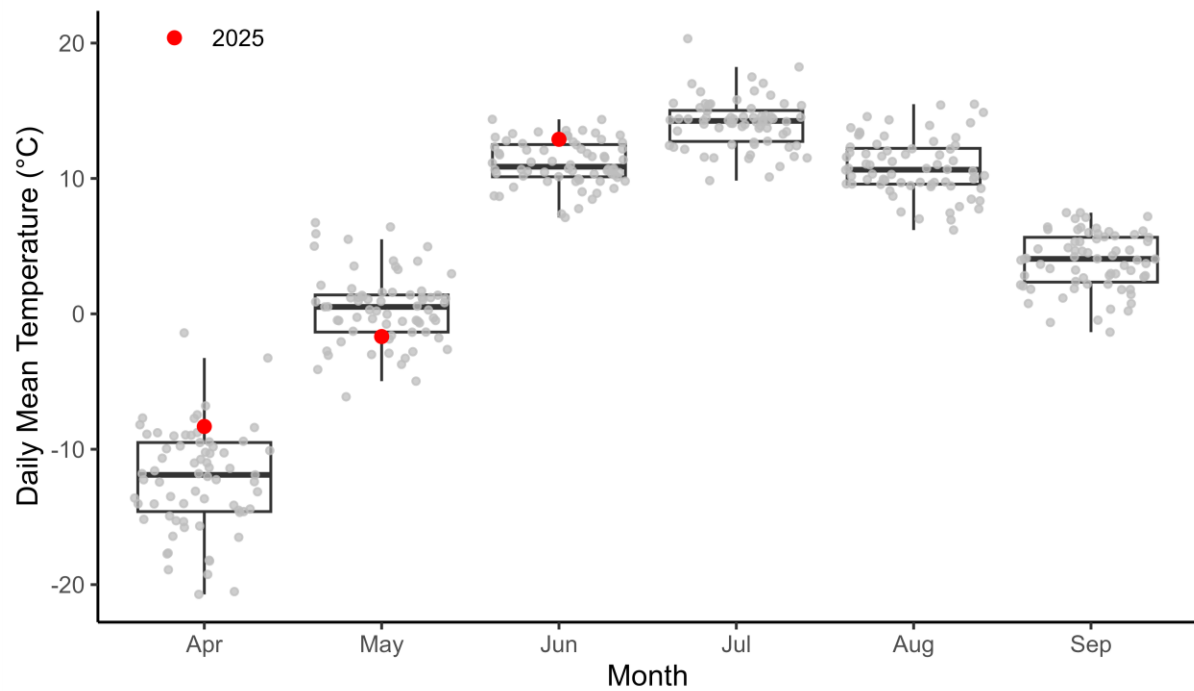


Norman Wells Total Precipitation

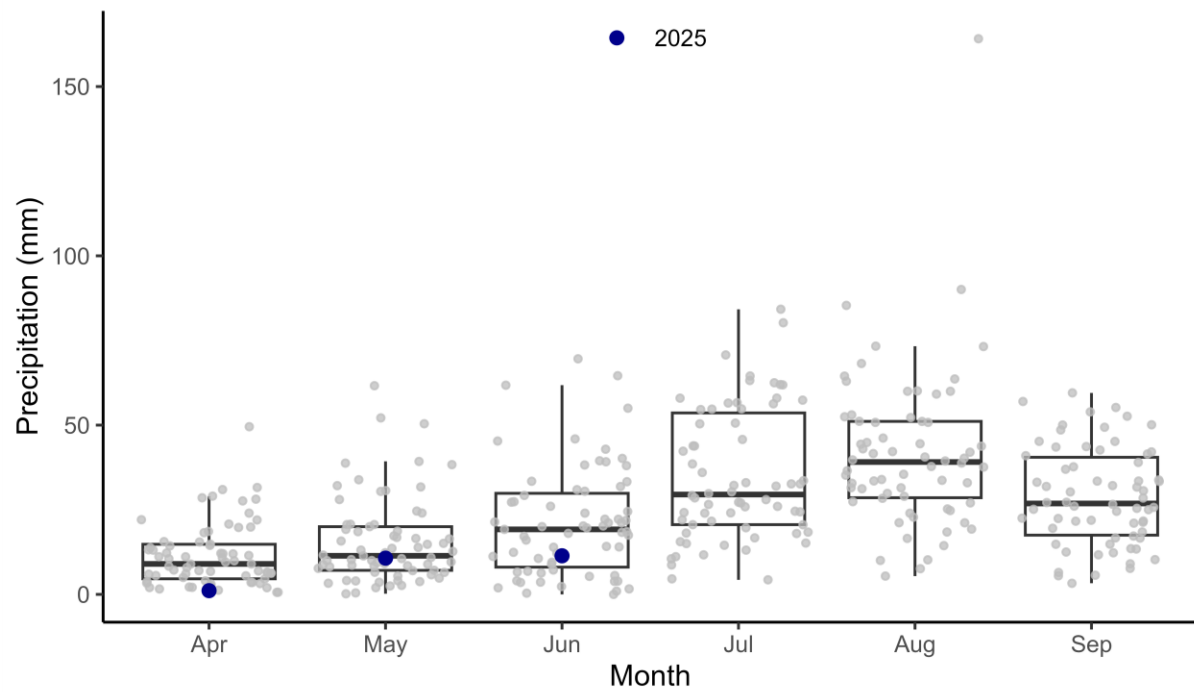


This figure shows mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for spring and summer of 2025.

Inuvik Air Temperatures



Inuvik Total Precipitation



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