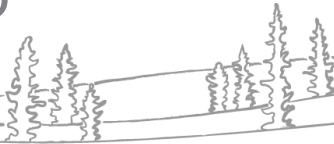




# NWT Water Monitoring Bulletin – December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

## Bulletin sur la surveillance des eaux des TNO – 8 décembre 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 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<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>. 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 are very low across most of the NWT.
  - Great Slave Lake water level is currently well below average and similar to 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 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 for this time of year and is similar to the level recorded at this time last year.
  - Exceptions to low water levels and flows include:
    - Arctic Red River (average)
    - Peel 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)
- Due to the lack of rain or snowmelt, water levels in unregulated lakes and rivers will slowly decrease or remain stable for much of the winter.
- Low water levels are the result of extreme drought conditions that began in the summer of 2022 and have persisted through 2023, 2024 and 2025. Water levels have shown limited recovery since 2022.
- **November precipitation** was variable across the NWT. Inuvik and Fort Smith received well above average precipitation, Yellowknife received above average precipitation, Norman Wells and Hay River received below average precipitation, and Fort Simpson received well below average precipitation.
- **November temperatures** were much warmer than normal across the NWT.
- Water levels on Great Slave Lake and the Mackenzie River are strongly influenced by precipitation received in northern British Columbia and Alberta.
  - So far this early winter, precipitation in these areas has been variable, with communities receiving above average to below average precipitation.
- Climate forecasts from ECCC for December 2025 to February 2026 indicate cooler than average temperatures across the NWT except for in the Beaufort-Delta region. Precipitation is forecast to be above average for most of the NWT, with the highest confidence in the Dehcho region.

## 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 sont très bas dans la majeure partie des TNO.
  - Le niveau d'eau du Grand lac des Esclaves est bien inférieur à la moyenne et est semblable au relevé effectué l'année dernière, à la même époque.
  - 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 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 similaire au niveau enregistré à la même période l'année dernière.
  - Exceptions aux faibles niveaux d'eau et aux faibles débits :
    - Rivière Arctic Red (dans la moyenne)
    - Rivière Peel (dans la moyenne)
    - Rivière Nahanni Sud (dans la moyenne)
    - Plus petites rivières dans le bassin du Grand lac des Esclaves :
      - Rivière Snare (dans la moyenne)
      - Rivière Lockhart (supérieurs à la moyenne)
      - Rivière Hoarfrost (supérieurs à la moyenne)
      - Rivière Taltson (dans la moyenne)
- En raison du manque de pluie ou d'eau de fonte, les niveaux d'eau des lacs et des rivières non contrôlés diminueront lentement ou resteront stables pendant une grande partie de l'hiver.
- 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, 2024 et 2025. Les niveaux d'eau se sont peu rétablis depuis 2022.
- **En novembre, les précipitations** étaient variables aux TNO. Inuvik et Fort Smith ont enregistré des précipitations bien supérieures à la moyenne, Yellowknife a reçu des précipitations supérieures à la moyenne, Norman Wells et Hay River ont reçu des précipitations inférieures à la moyenne, et Fort Simpson a reçu des précipitations bien inférieures à la moyenne.
- **En novembre, les températures** 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 et de l'Alberta.

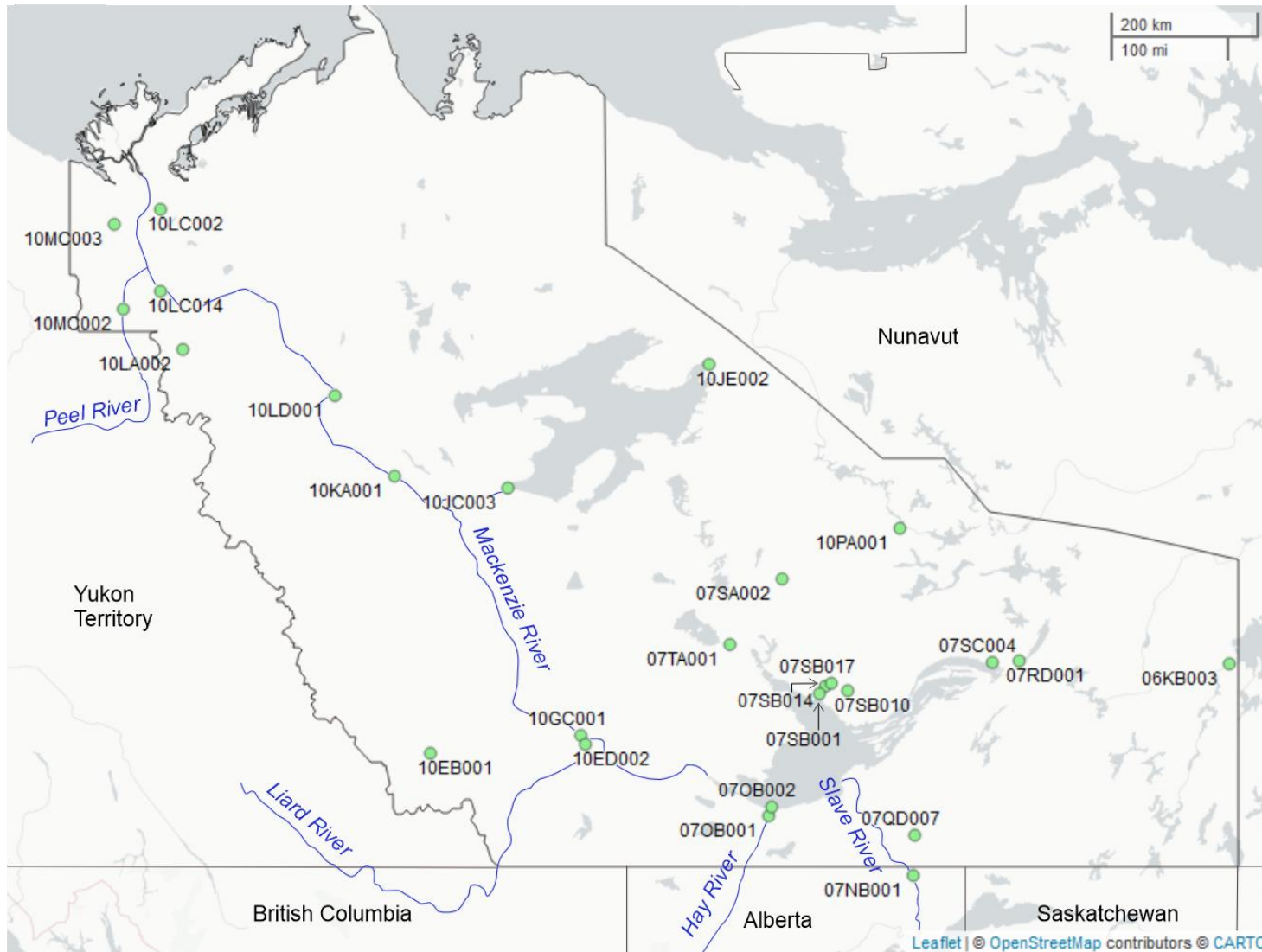
- Jusqu'à présent, en ce début d'hiver, les précipitations ont été variables dans ces régions, certaines collectivités ayant reçu des précipitations supérieures à la moyenne, d'autres inférieures.
- Les prévisions climatiques d'ECCC pour la période allant de décembre 2025 à février 2026 indiquent des températures inférieures à la moyenne aux TNO, à l'exception de la région de Beaufort-Delta. Les précipitations devraient être supérieures à la moyenne dans la majeure partie des TNO, et les prévisions sont particulièrement fiables pour la région du Dehcho.

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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

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 water level or flow conditions are defined as follows:

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

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, which is the 25<sup>th</sup> to 75<sup>th</sup> percentile) 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:

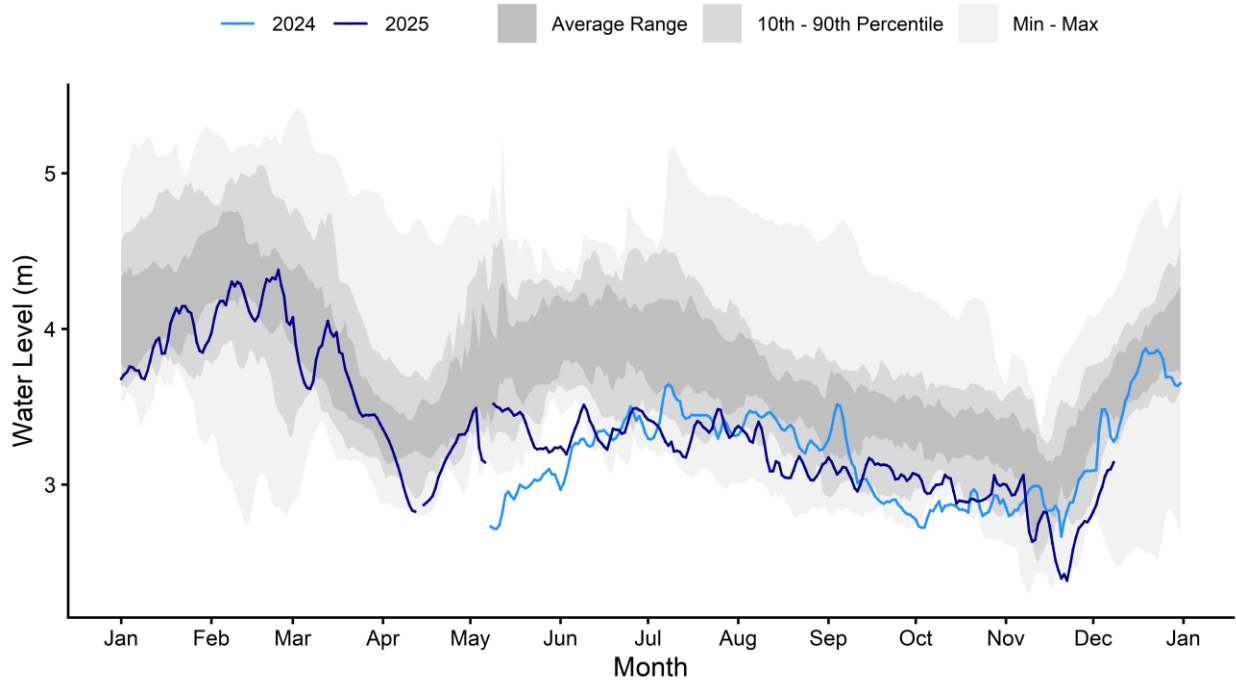
- **Average:** within the interquartile range (25<sup>th</sup>-75<sup>th</sup> percentile range).
- **Above average / Below average:** within the 75<sup>th</sup>-90<sup>th</sup> percentile range or 10<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> percentile range, respectively.
- **Well above average / Well below average:**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

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

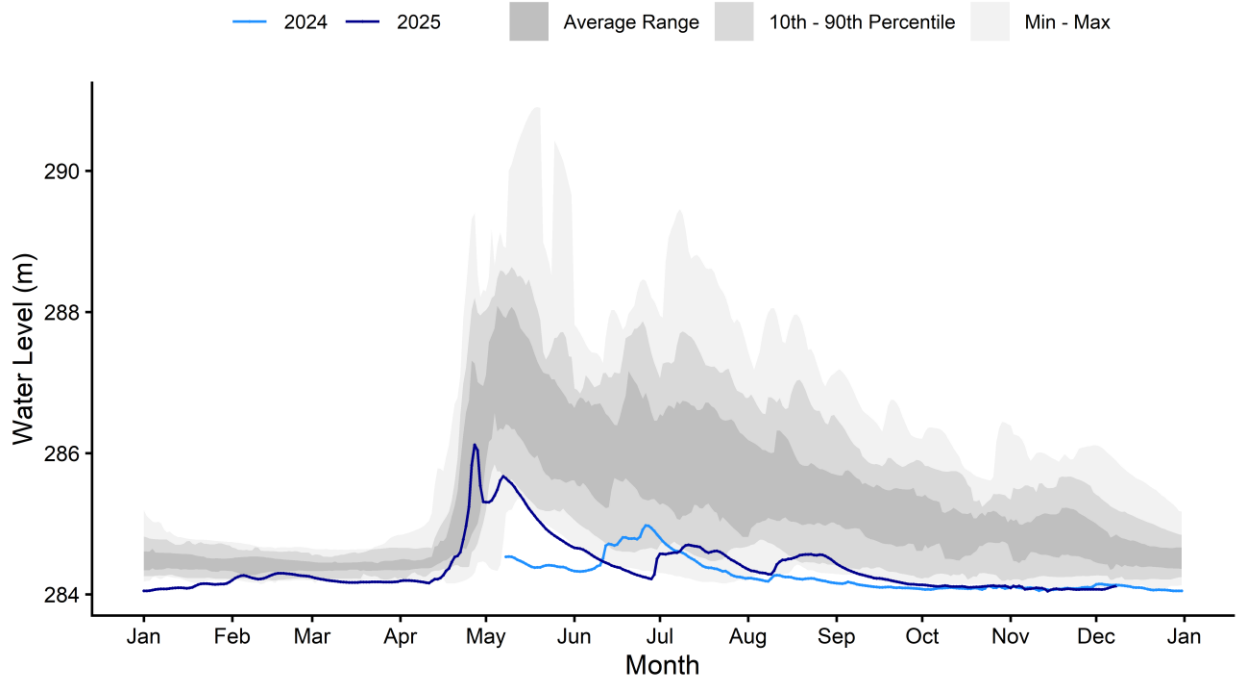
Slave River at Fitzgerald [07NB001]

SLAVE RIVER AT FITZGERALD (ALBERTA) (07NB001)

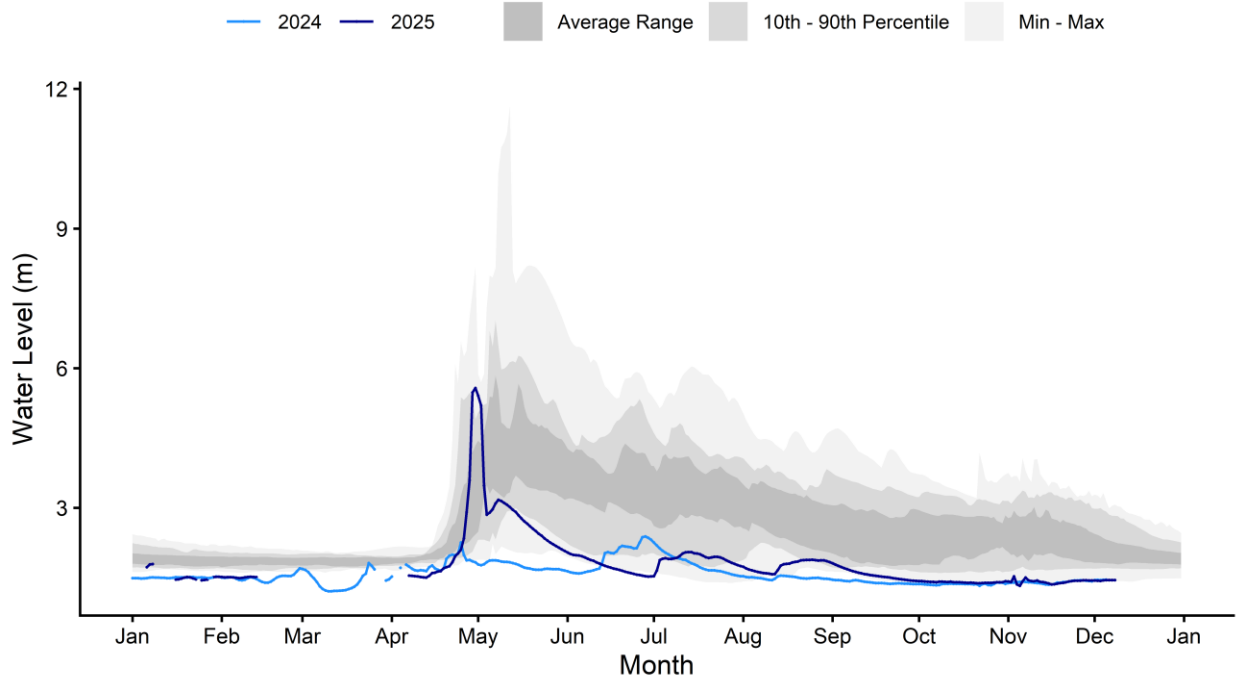


Hay River near Alberta/NWT Boundary [07OB008]

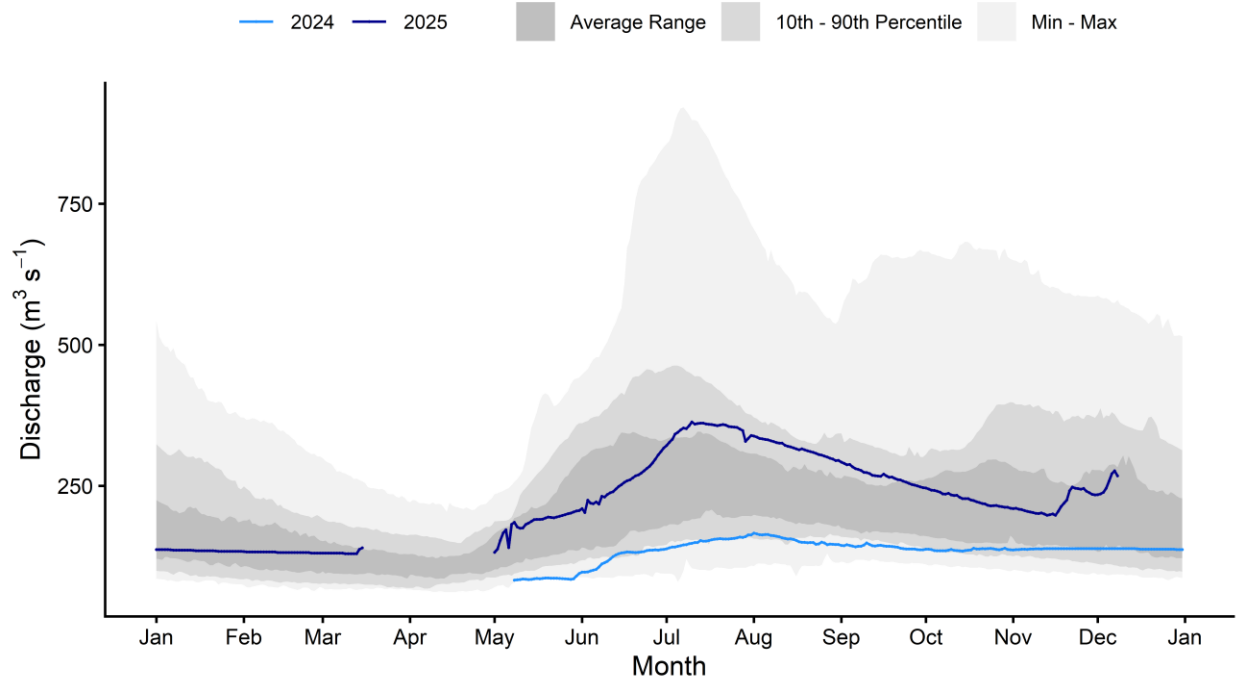
HAY RIVER NEAR ALTA/NWT BOUNDARY (07OB008)



Hay River near Hay River [070B001]  
HAY RIVER NEAR HAY RIVER (070B001)

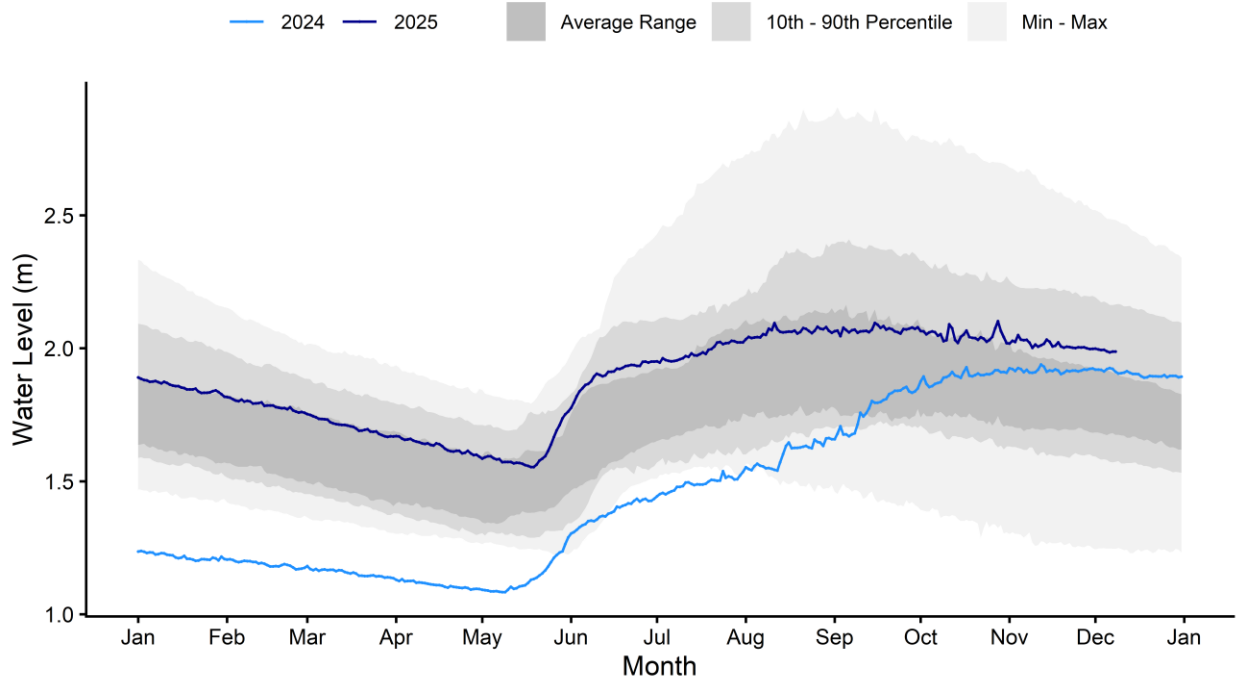


Taltson River below Hydro Dam [07QD007]  
TALTSON RIVER BELOW HYDRO DAM (07QD007)



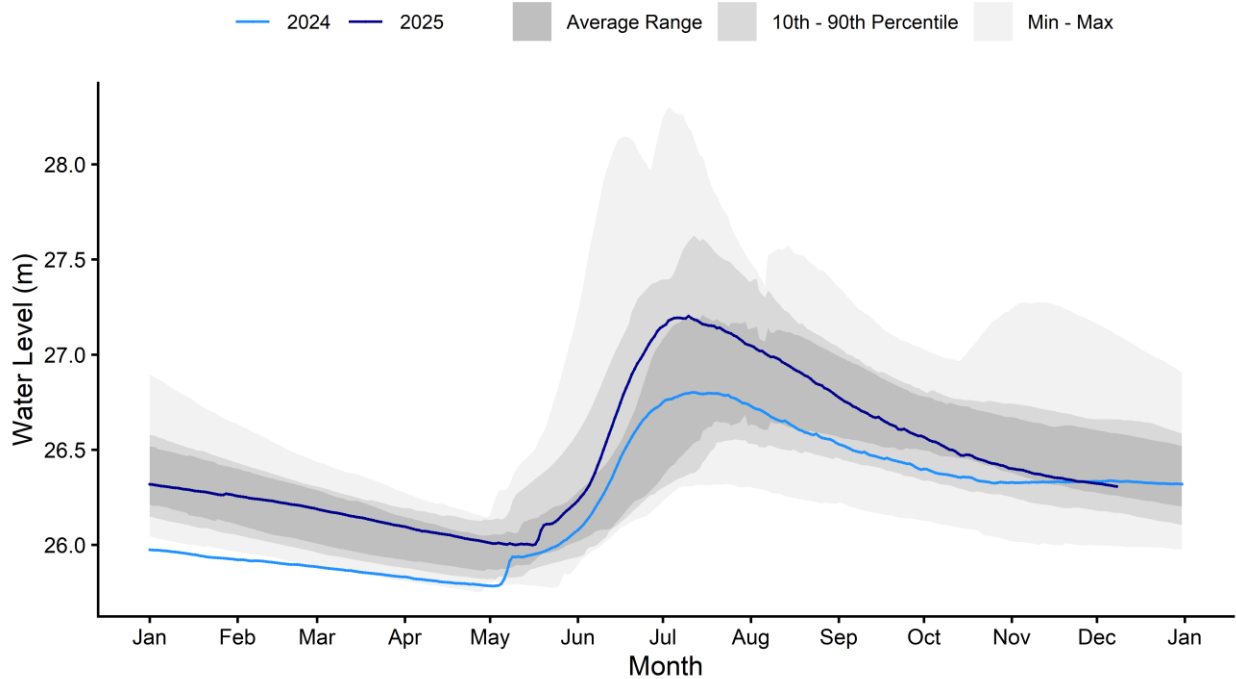
Lockhart River at outlet of Artillery Lake [07RD001]

LOCKHART RIVER AT OUTLET OF ARTILLERY LAKE (07RD001)



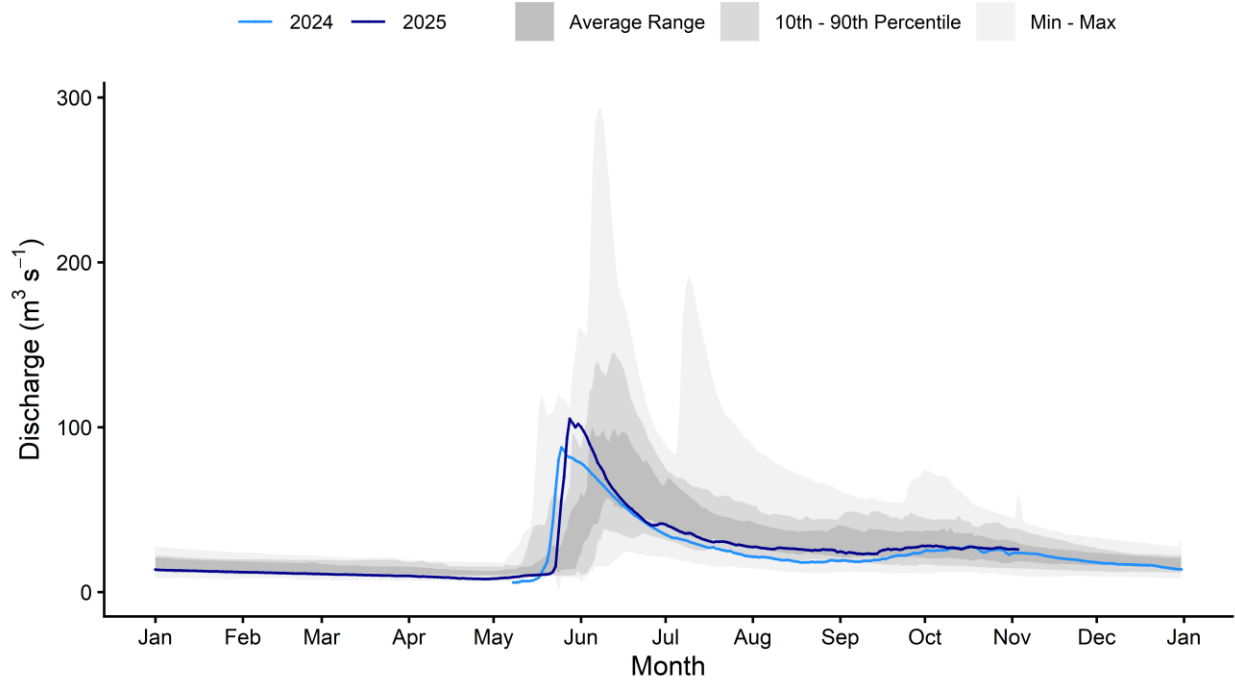
Snare River below Ghost Lake [07SA002]

SNARE RIVER BELOW GHOST RIVER (07SA002)



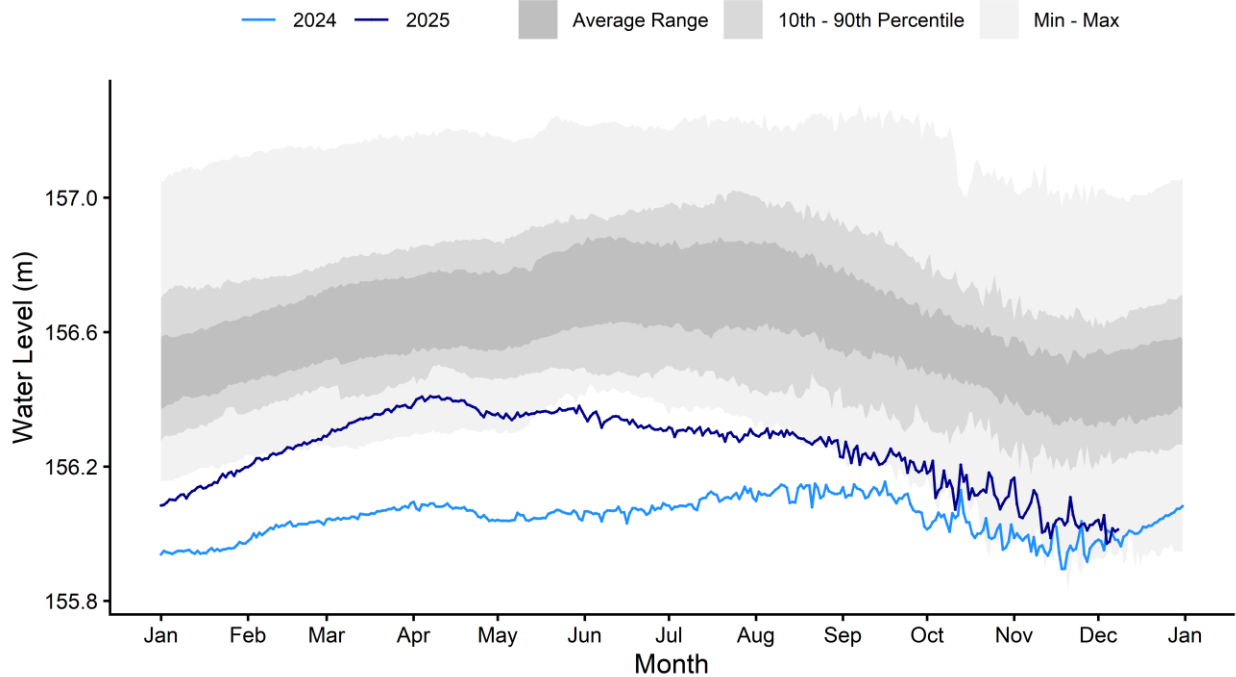
### Coppermine River below Desteffany Lake [10PA001]

#### COPPERMINE RIVER BELOW DESTEFFANY LAKE (10PA001)



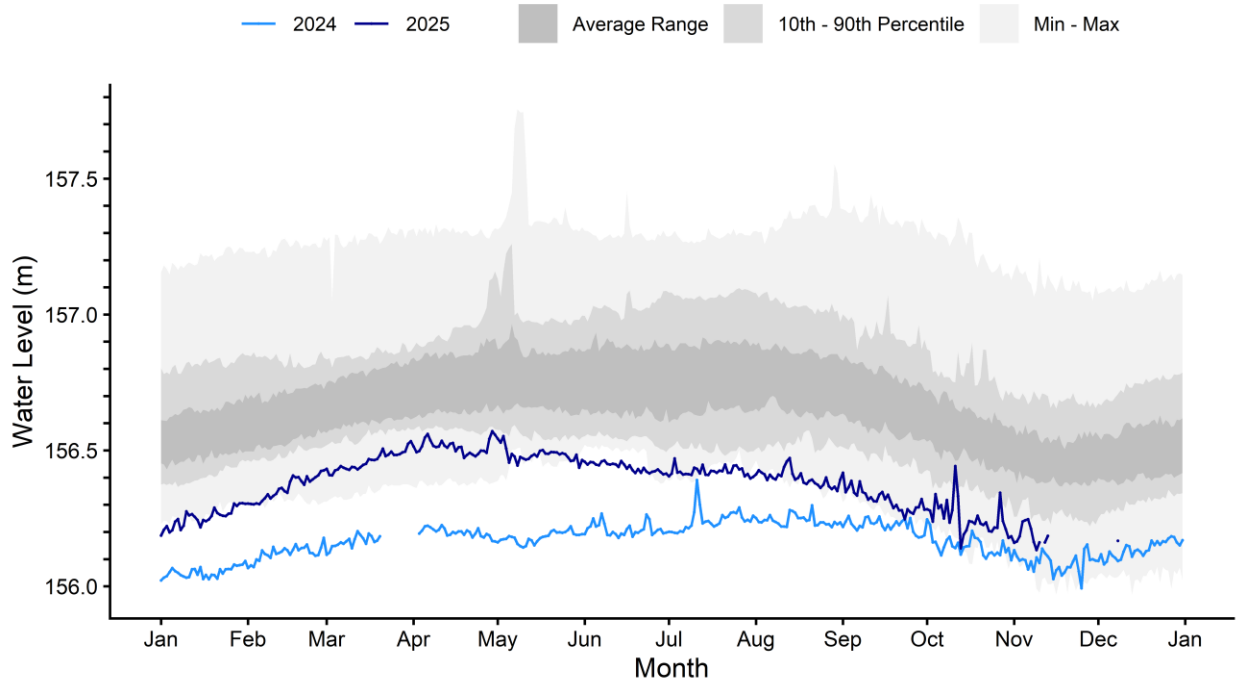
### Great Slave Lake at Yellowknife Bay [07SB001]

#### GREAT SLAVE LAKE AT YELLOWKNIFE BAY (07SB001)



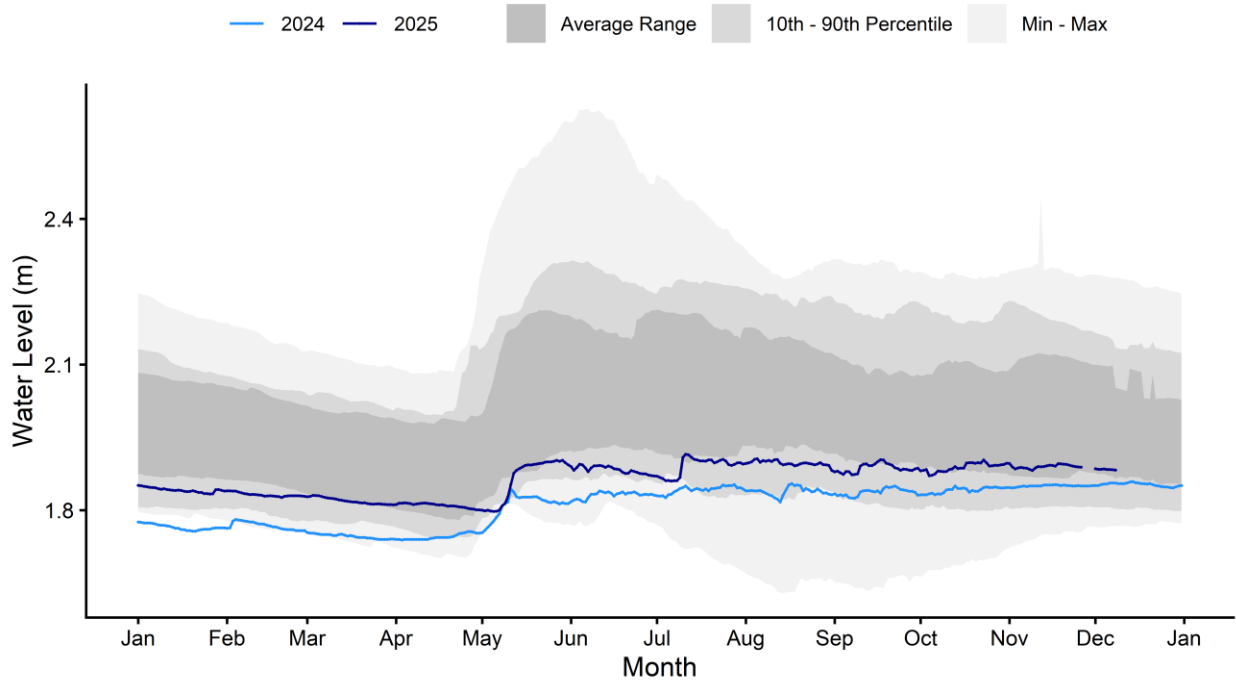
### Great Slave Lake at Hay River [07OB002]

#### GREAT SLAVE LAKE AT HAY RIVER (07OB002)



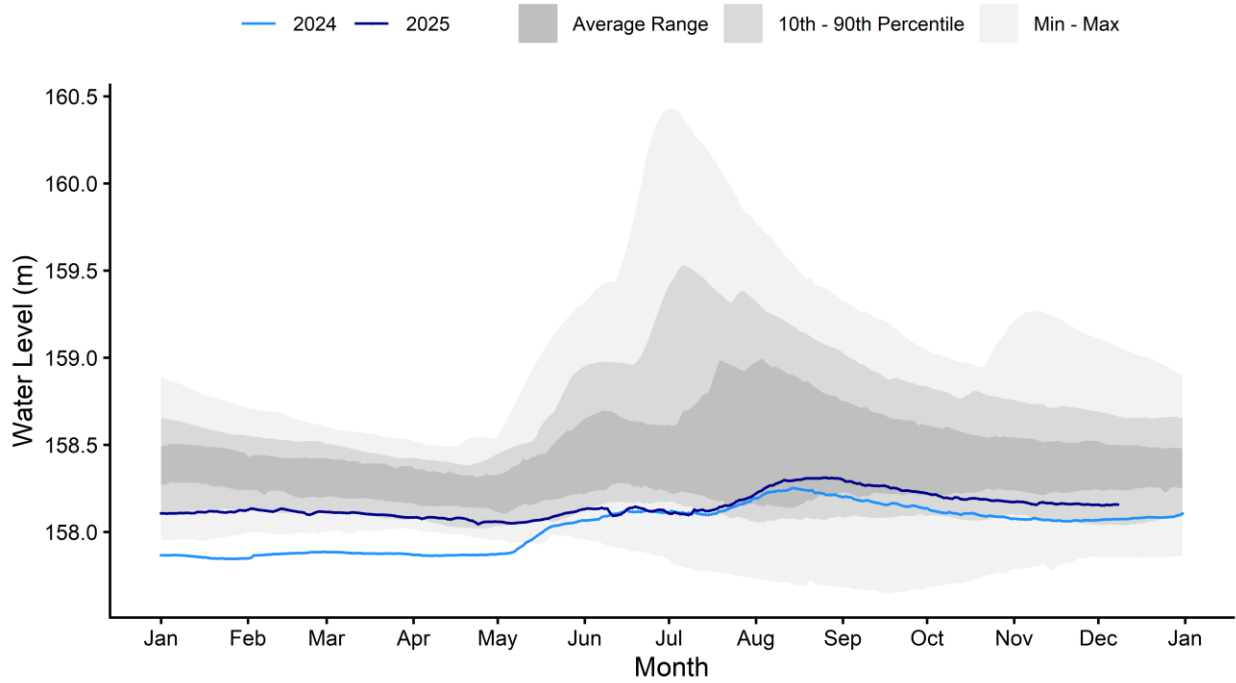
### Cameron River below Reid Lake [07SB010]

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



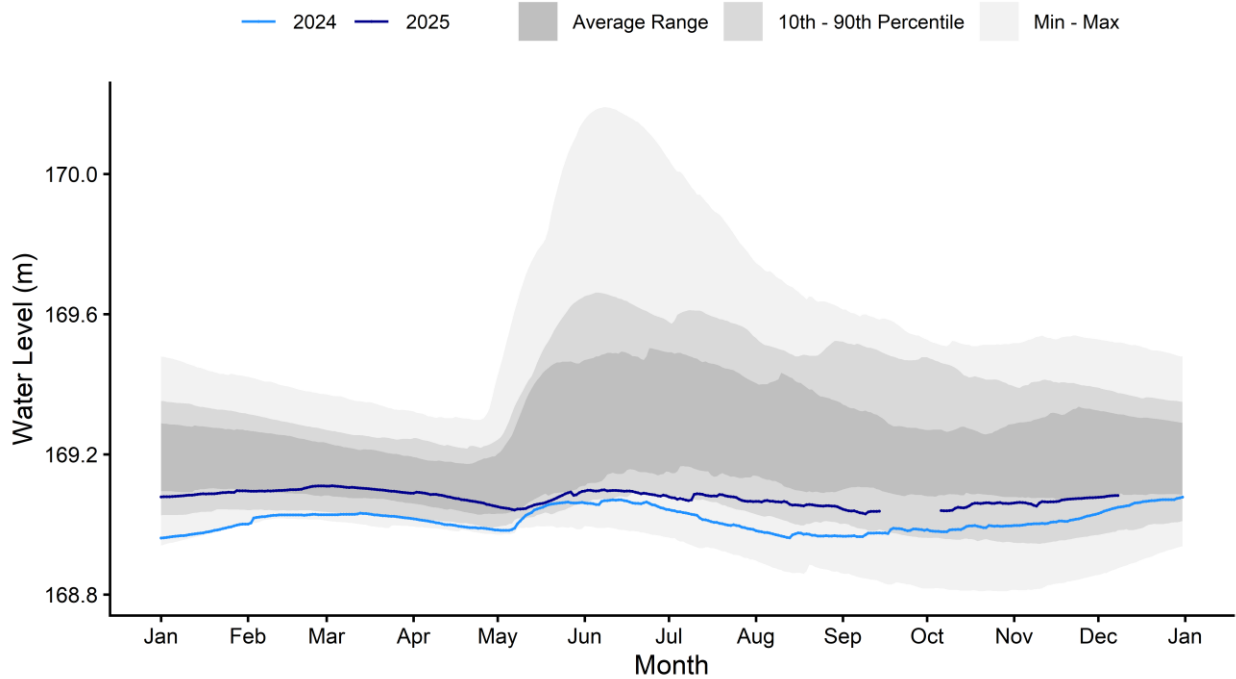
### Prosperous Lake near McMeekan Bay [07SB014]

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



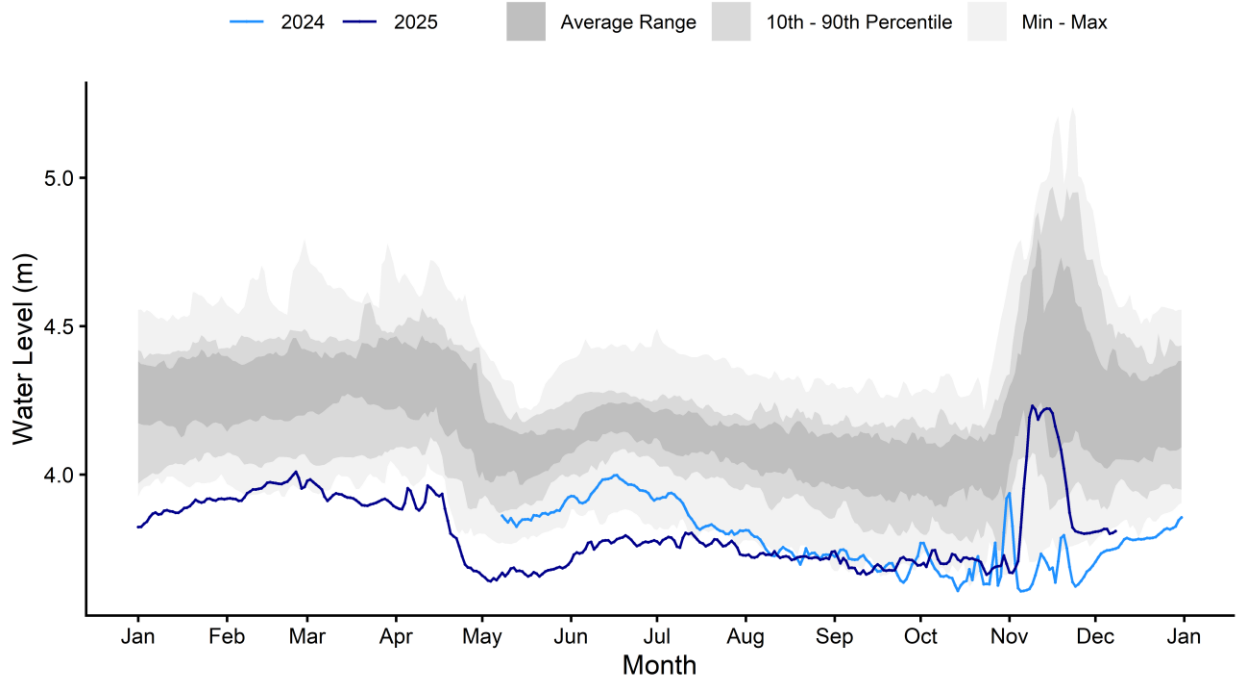
### Prelude Lake near Yellowknife [07SB017]

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



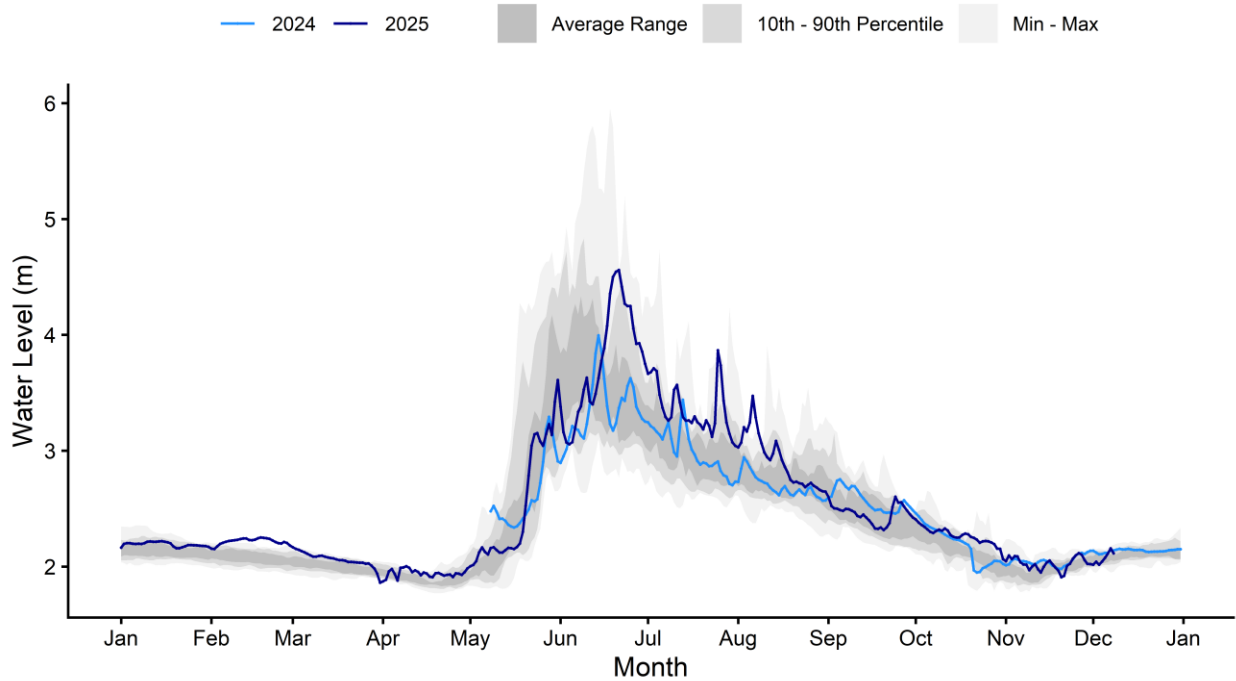
La Martre River below outlet of Lac La Martre [07TA001]

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



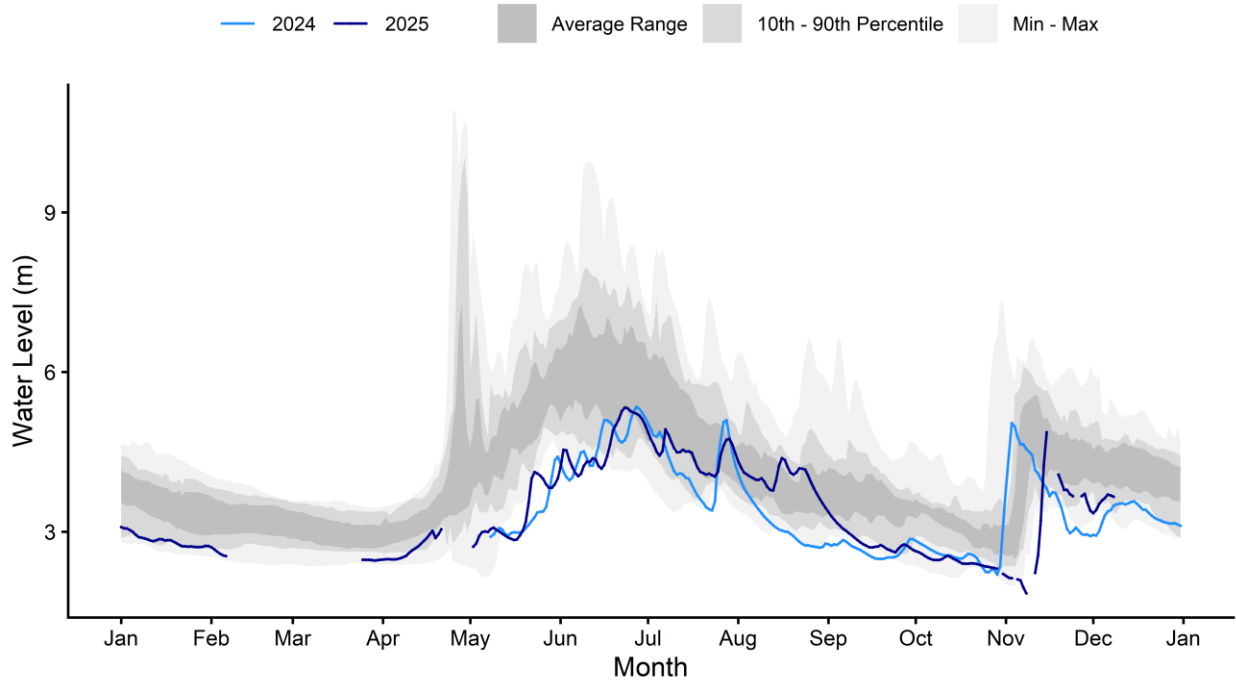
South Nahanni River above Virginia Falls [10EB001]

SOUTH NAHANNI RIVER ABOVE VIRGINIA FALLS (10EB001)

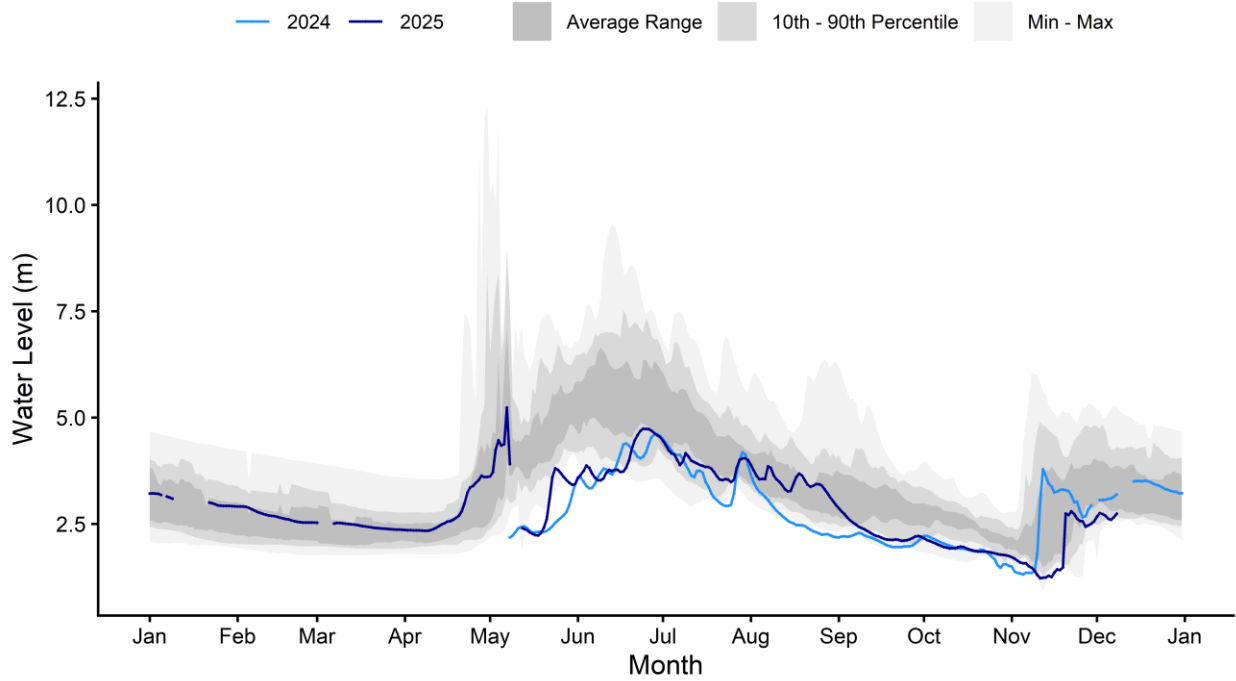




Liard River at Fort Liard [10ED001]  
 LIARD RIVER AT FORT LIARD (10ED001)

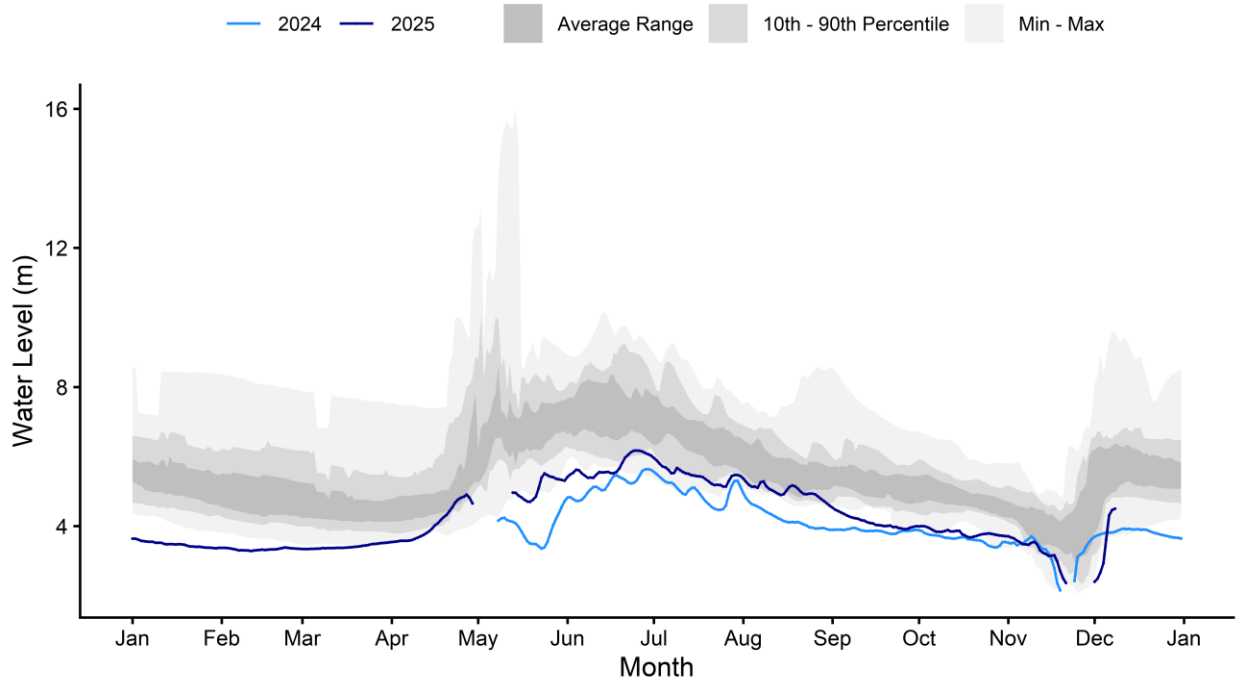


Liard River near the mouth [10ED002]  
 LIARD RIVER NEAR THE MOUTH (10ED002)



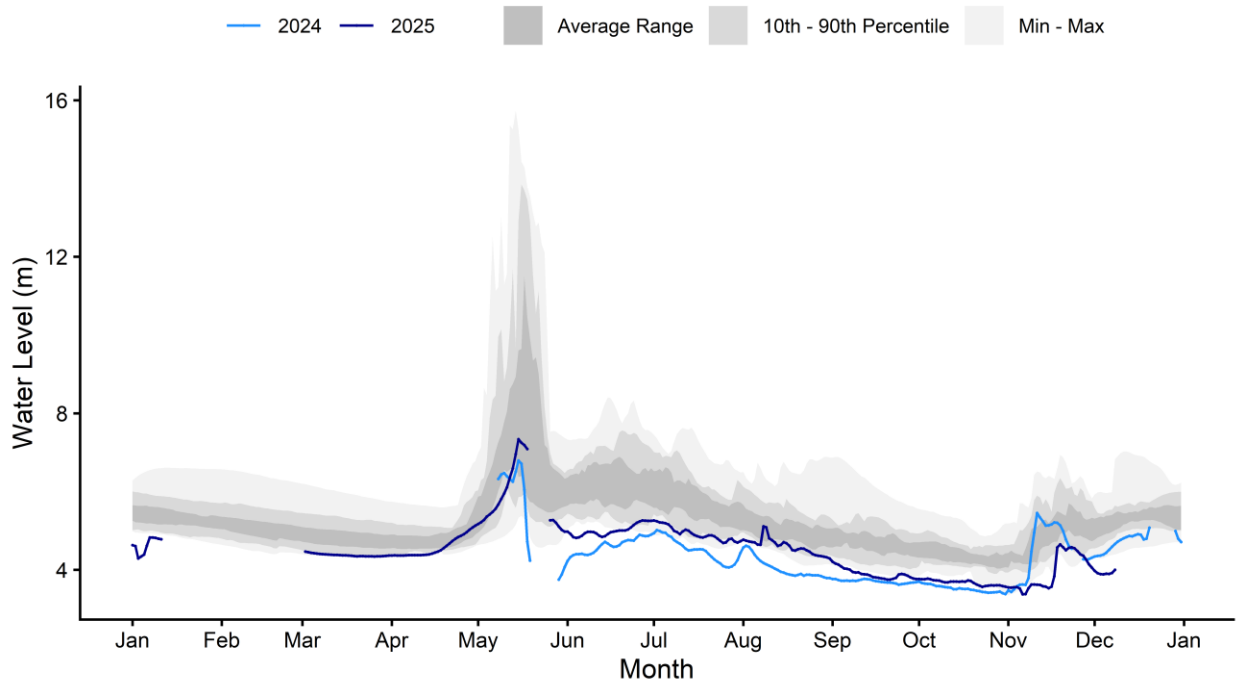
Mackenzie River at Fort Simpson [10GC001]

MACKENZIE RIVER AT FORT SIMPSON (10GC001)



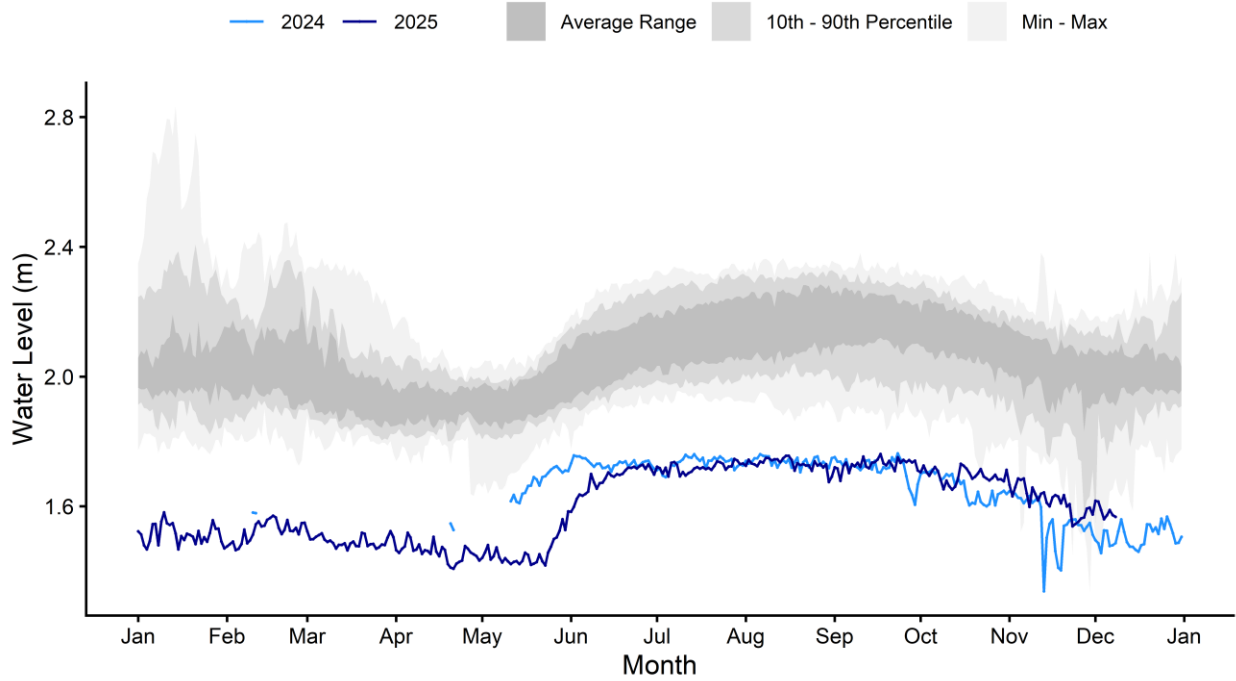
Mackenzie River at Norman Wells [10KA001]

MACKENZIE RIVER AT NORMAN WELLS (10KA001)



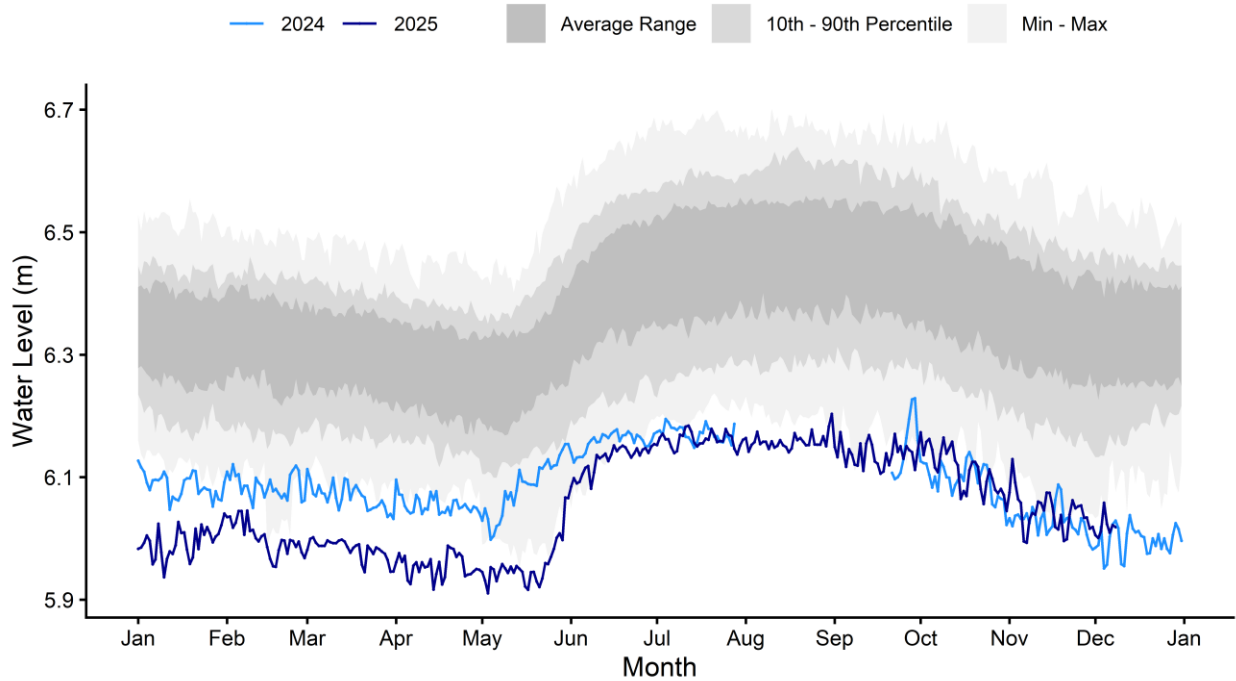
Great Bear River at outlet of Great Bear Lake [10JC003]

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



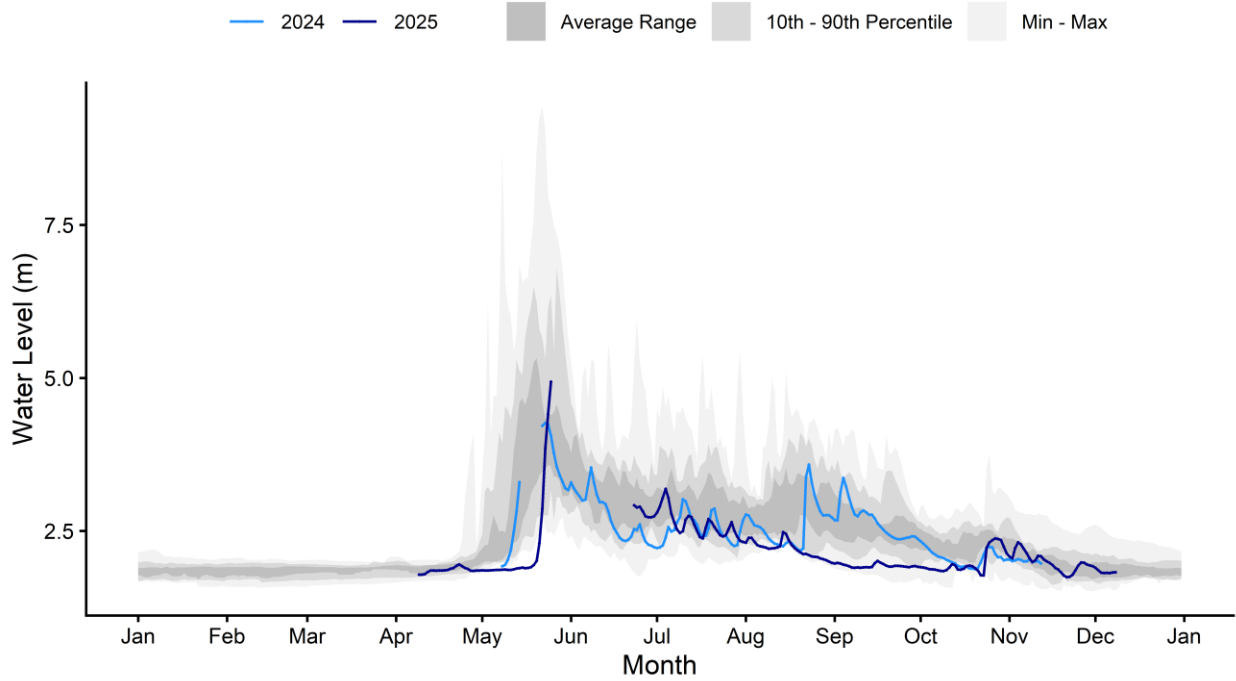
Great Bear Lake at Hornby Bay [10JE002]

GREAT BEAR LAKE AT HORNBY BAY (10JE002)



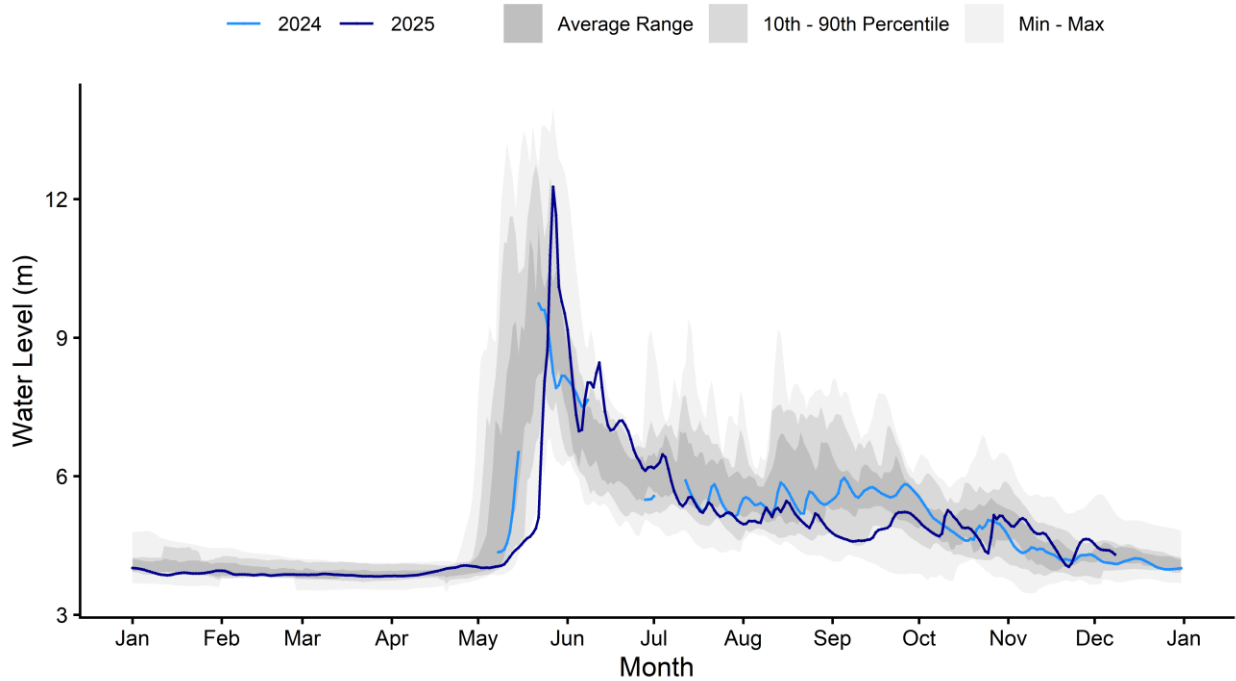
Arctic Red River near the mouth [10LA002]

ARCTIC RED RIVER NEAR THE MOUTH (10LA002)



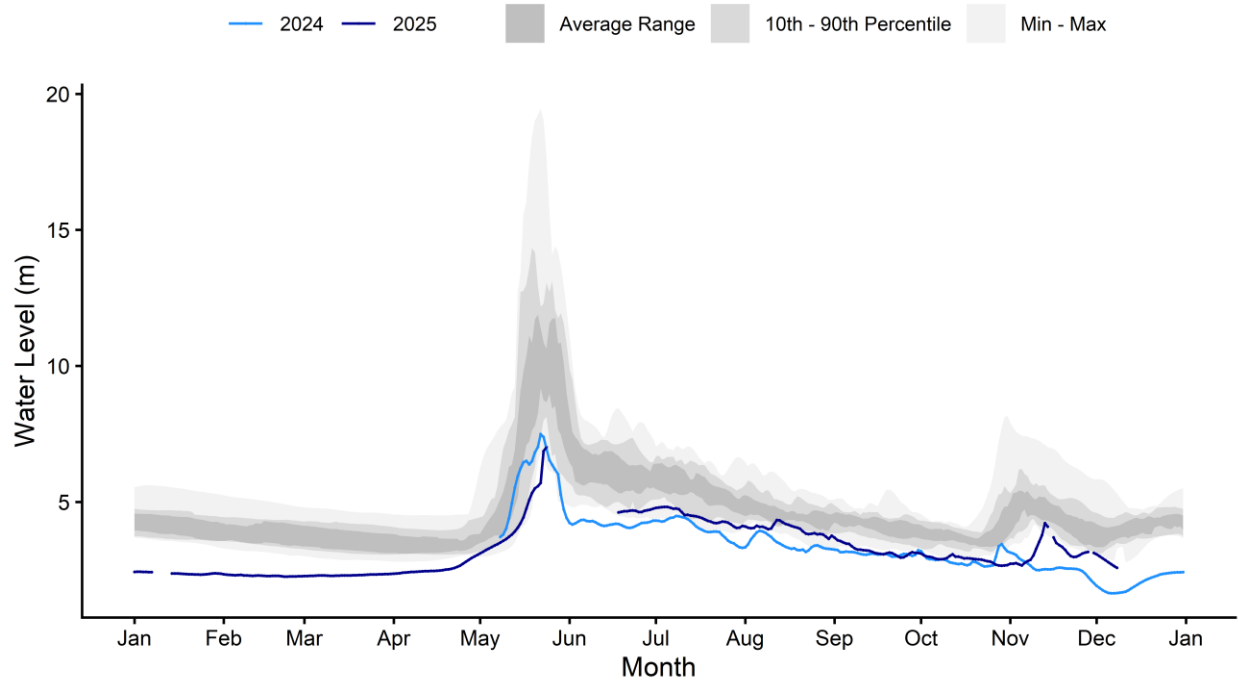
Peel River above Fort McPherson [10MC002]

PEEL RIVER ABOVE FORT MCPHERSON (10MC002)



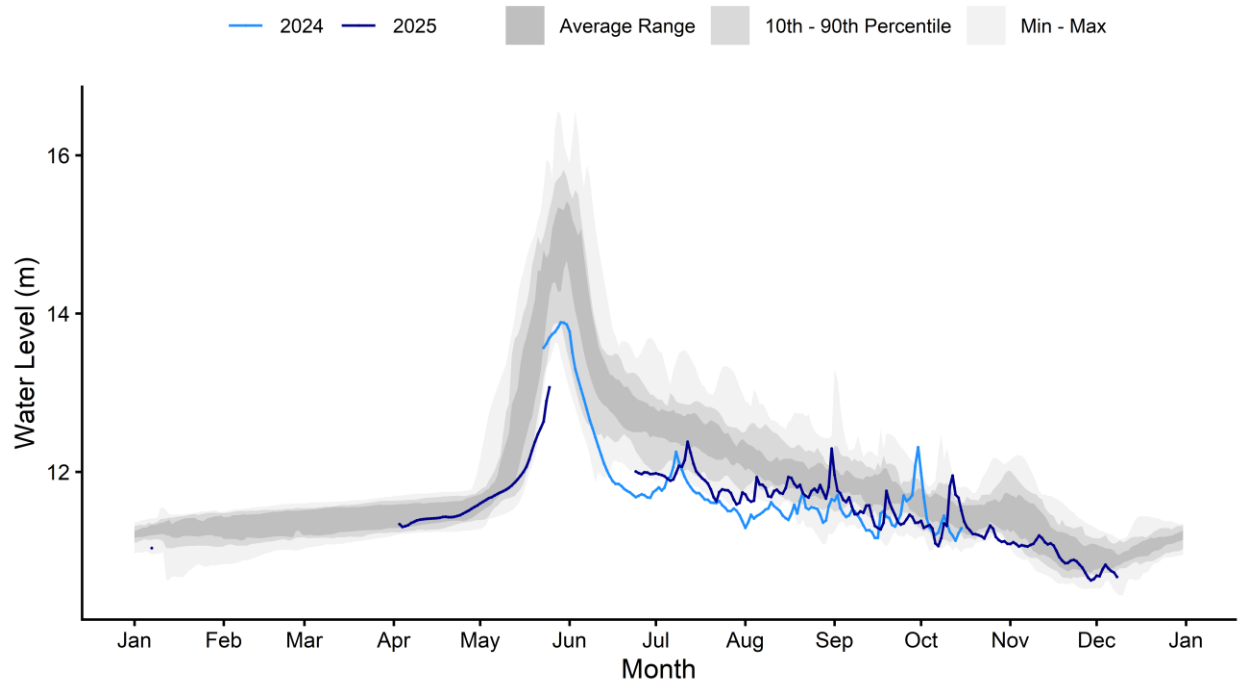
Mackenzie River at Arctic Red River [10LC014]

MACKENZIE RIVER AT ARCTIC RED RIVER (10LC014)



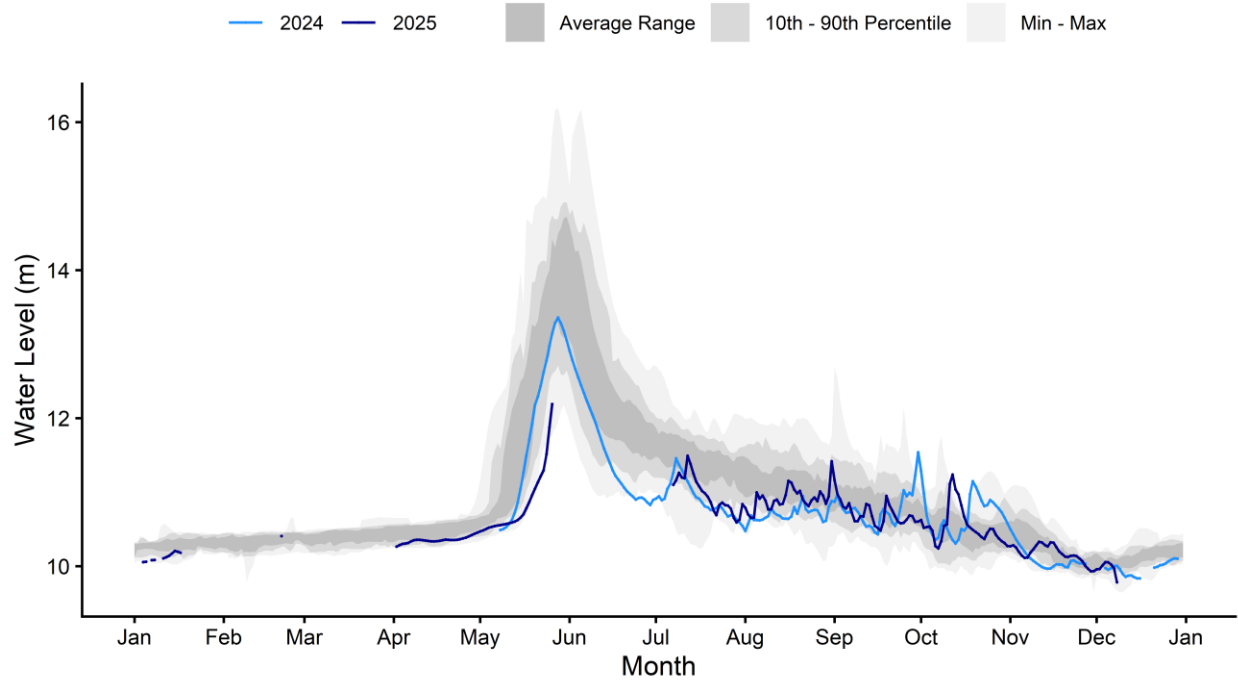
Mackenzie River (East Channel) at Inuvik [10LC002]

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

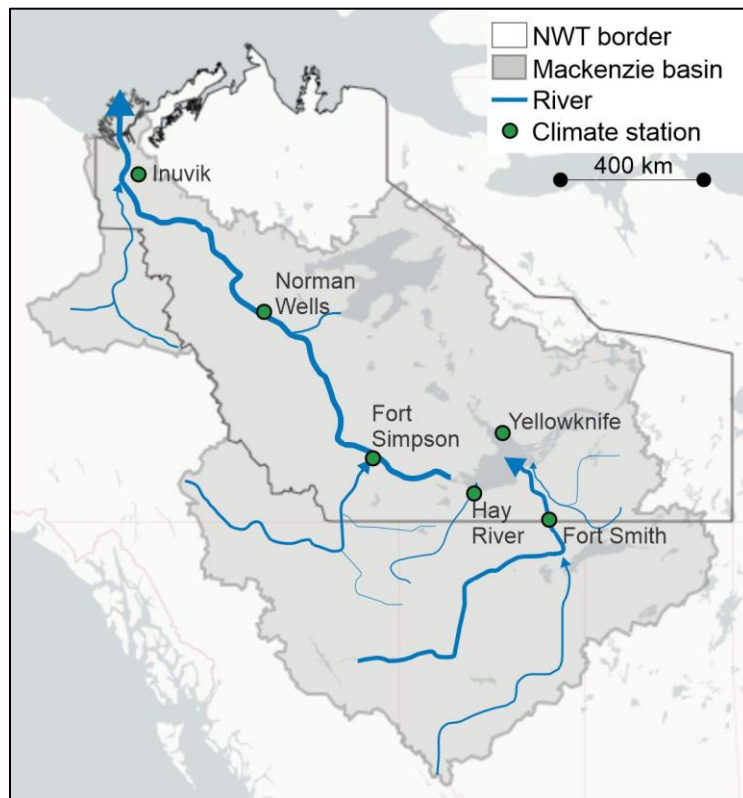


Mackenzie River (Peel Channel) above Aklavik [10MC003]

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

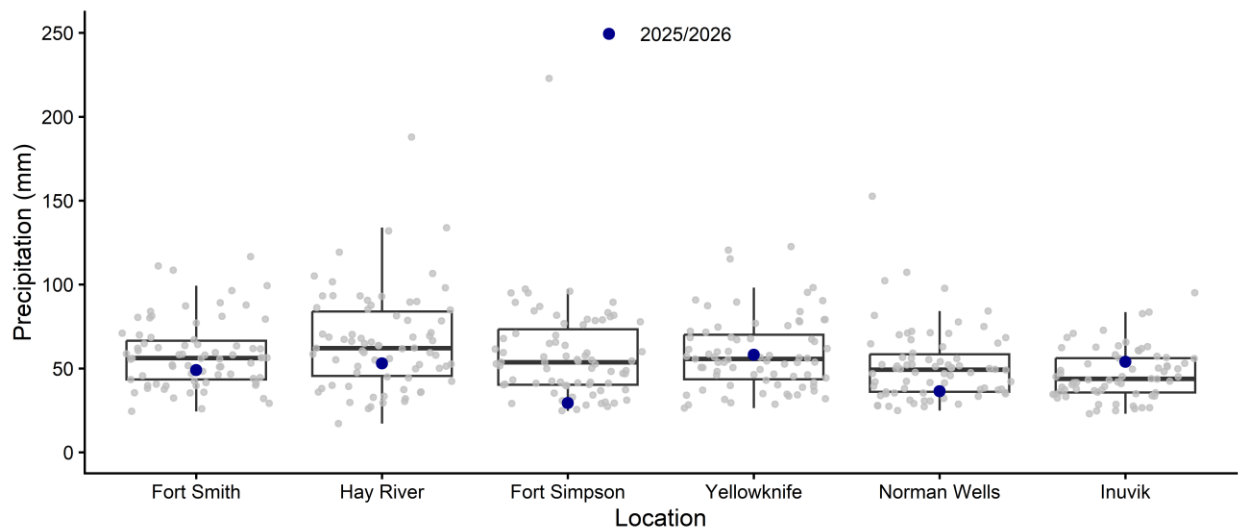


Climate Data  
NWT communities



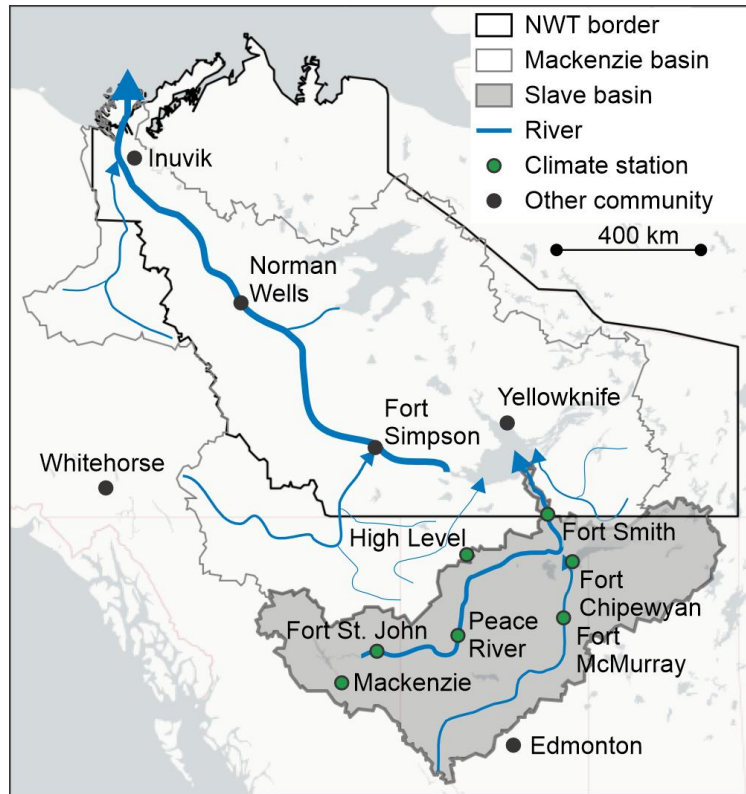
Cumulative precipitation for select NWT communities

October 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 to December 8<sup>th</sup> 2025



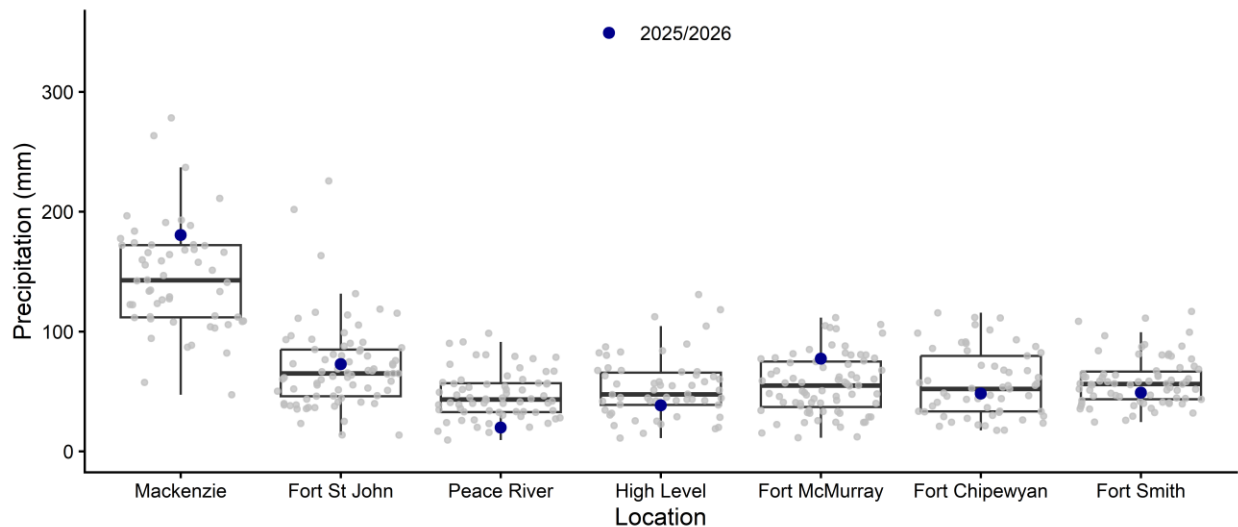
This figure shows total precipitation (rain and snow) that has fallen in select communities across the NWT from the start of October until December 8<sup>th</sup>. The blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present. See the map above for geographical context.

## Slave River basin communities



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

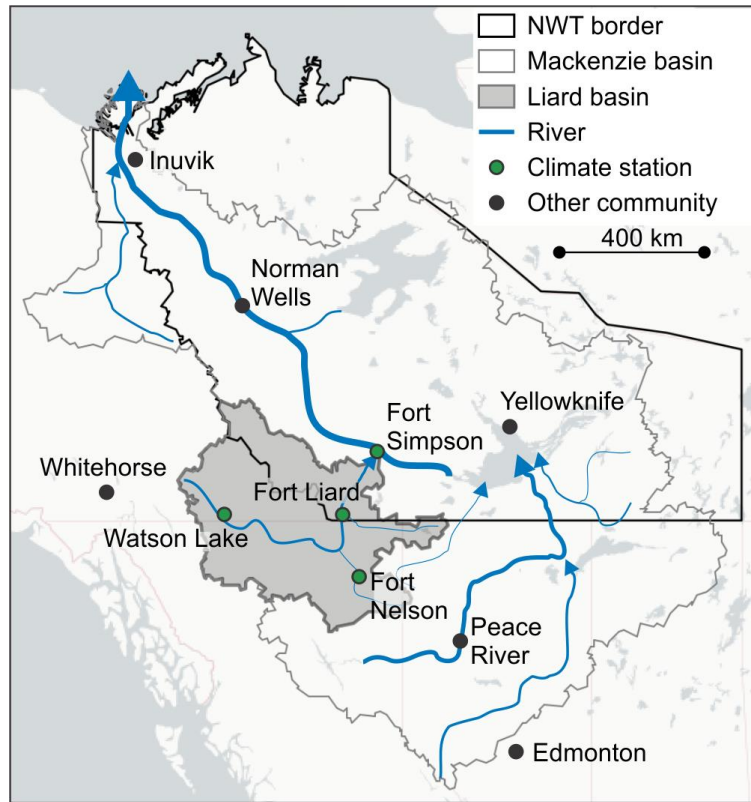
October 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 to December 8<sup>th</sup> 2025



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 December 8<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.

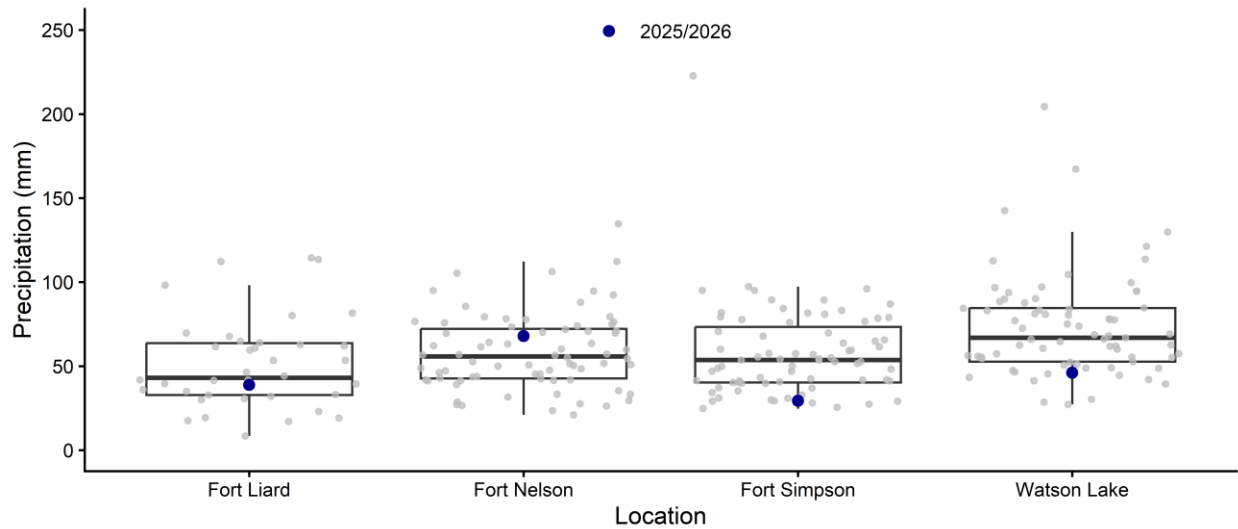


## Liard River basin communities



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

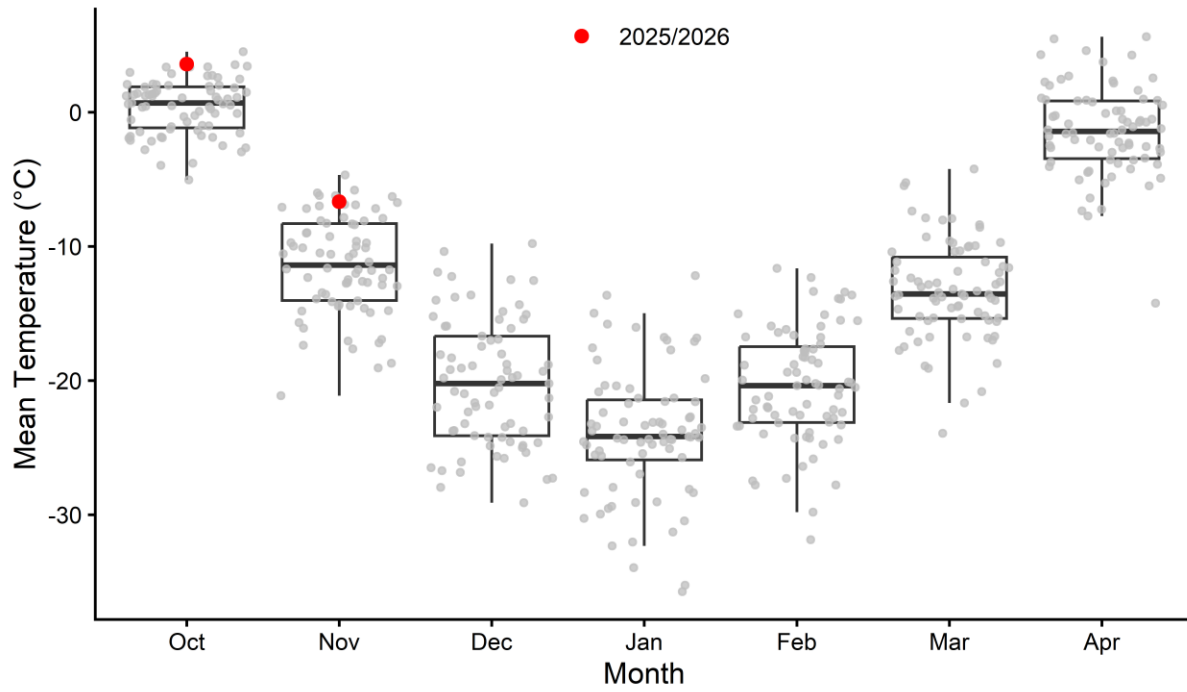
October 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 to December 8<sup>th</sup> 2025



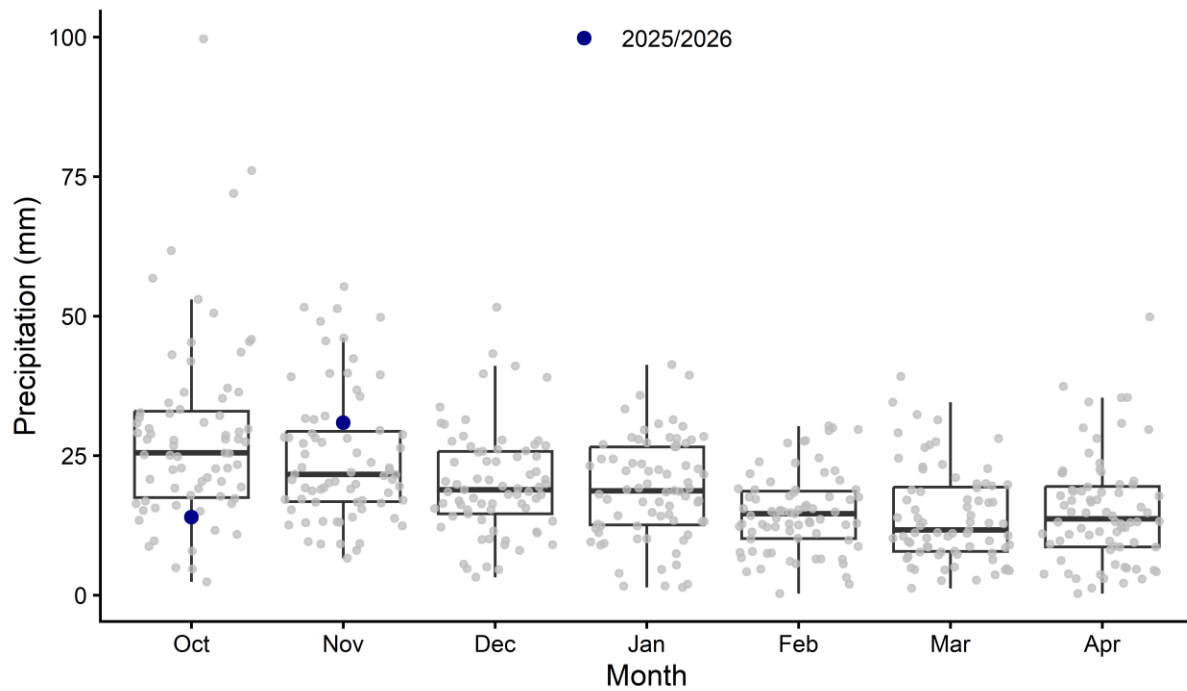
This figure shows total precipitation (rain and snow) that has fallen in select communities in the Liard River basin from the start of October until December 8<sup>th</sup>. The blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present. See the map above for geographical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

Fort Smith

Fort Smith Mean Air Temperatures



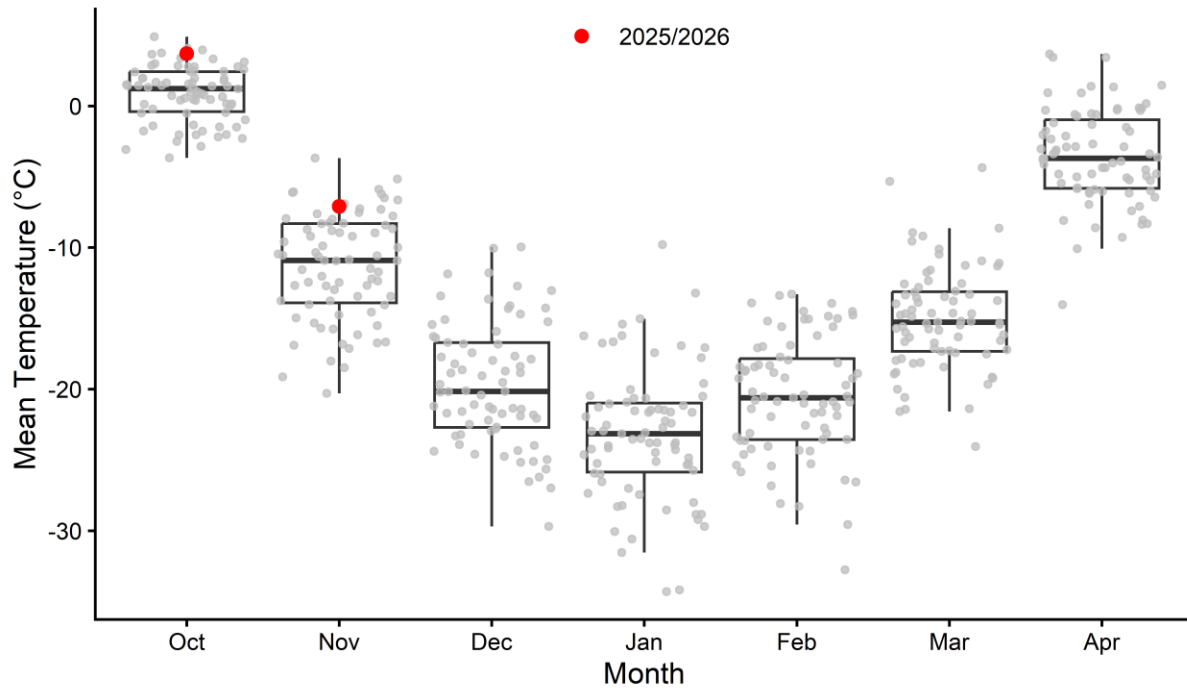
Fort Smith Total Precipitation



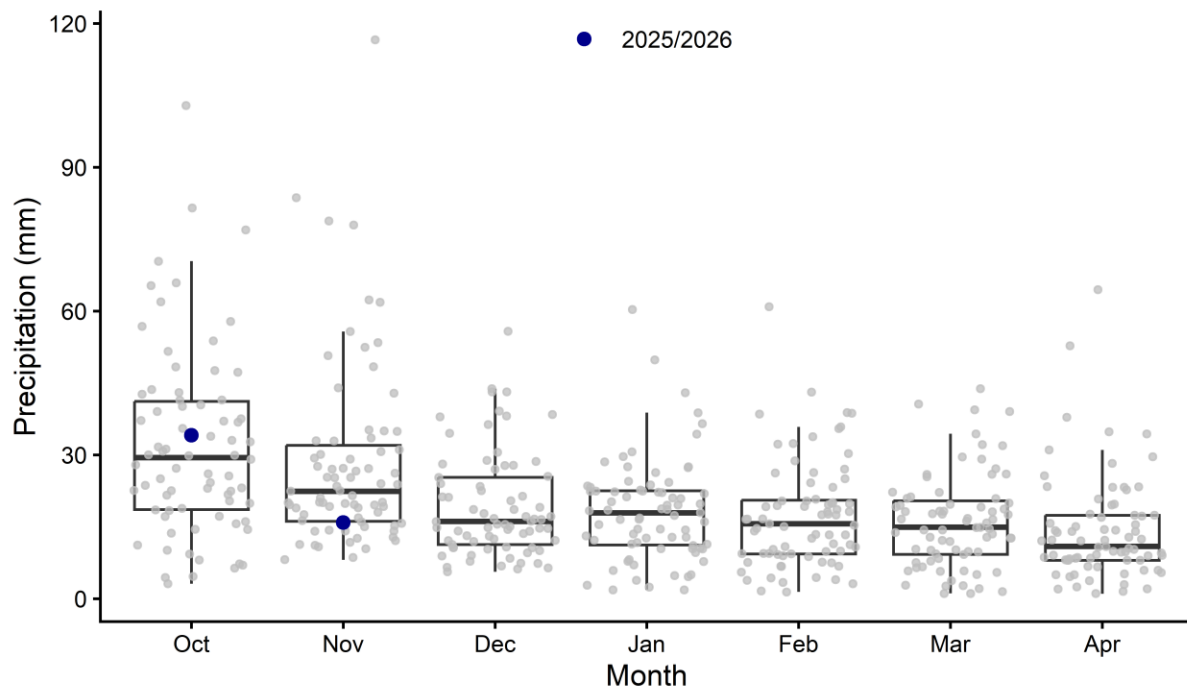
These figures shown above represent mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for winter 2025/2026 beginning October 2025.

Hay River

Hay River Mean Air Temperatures



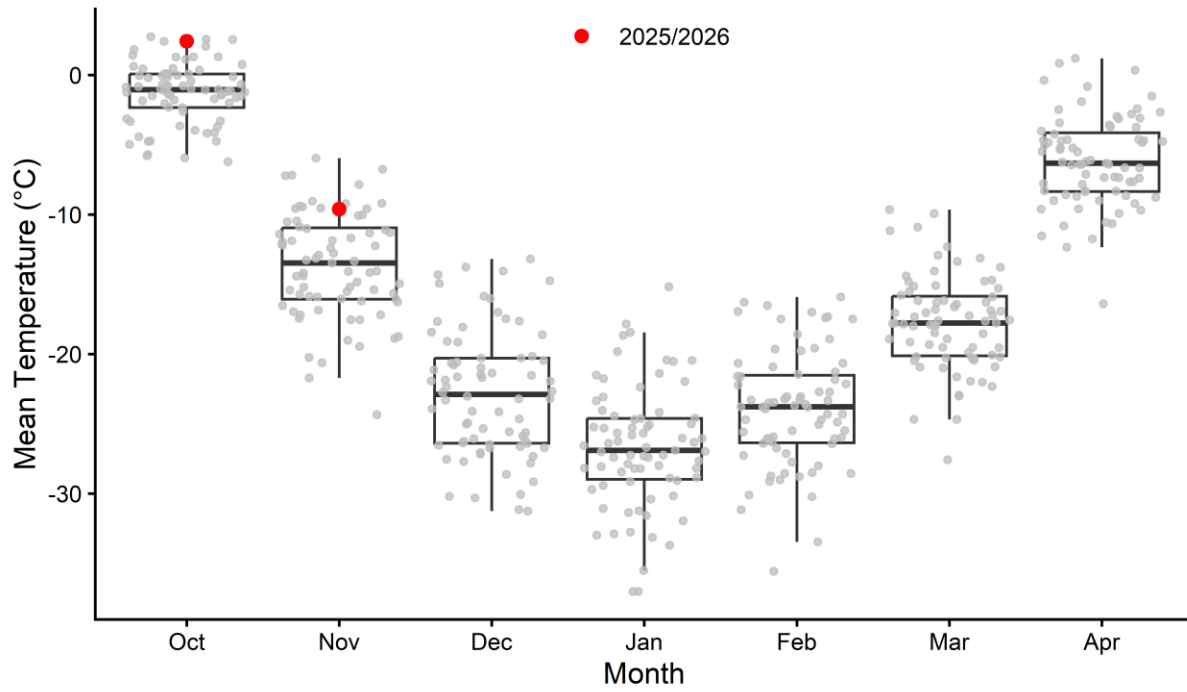
Hay River Total Precipitation



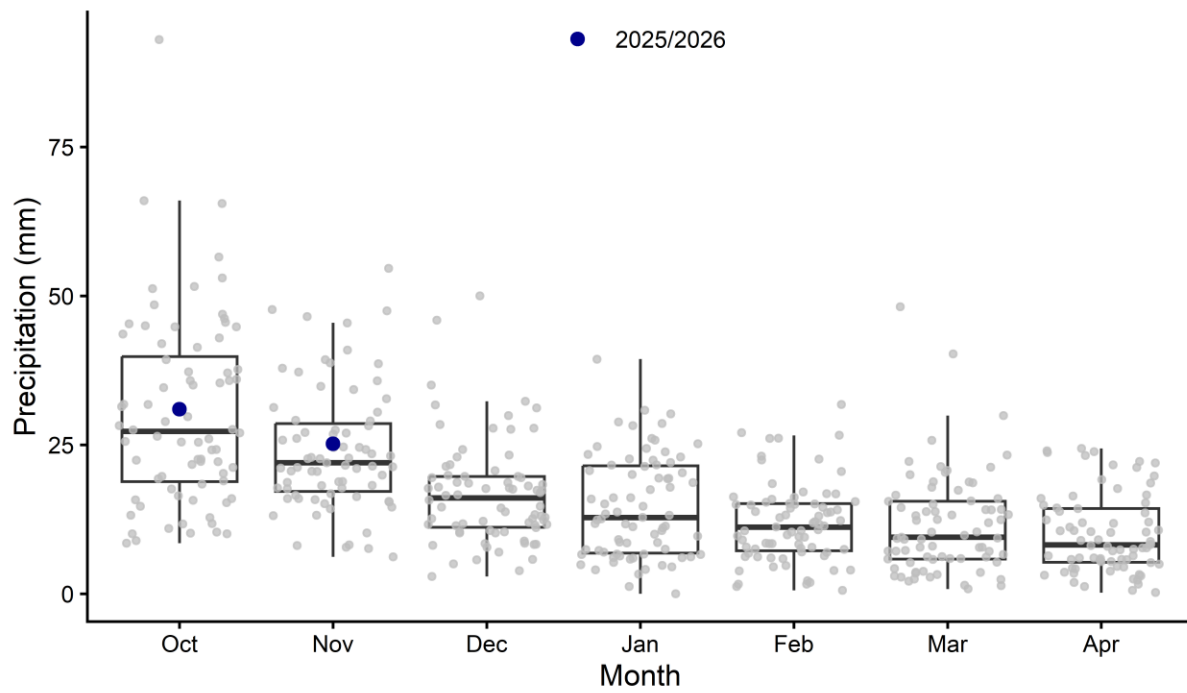
These figures shown above represent mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for winter 2025/2026 beginning October 2025.

Yellowknife

Yellowknife Mean Air Temperatures



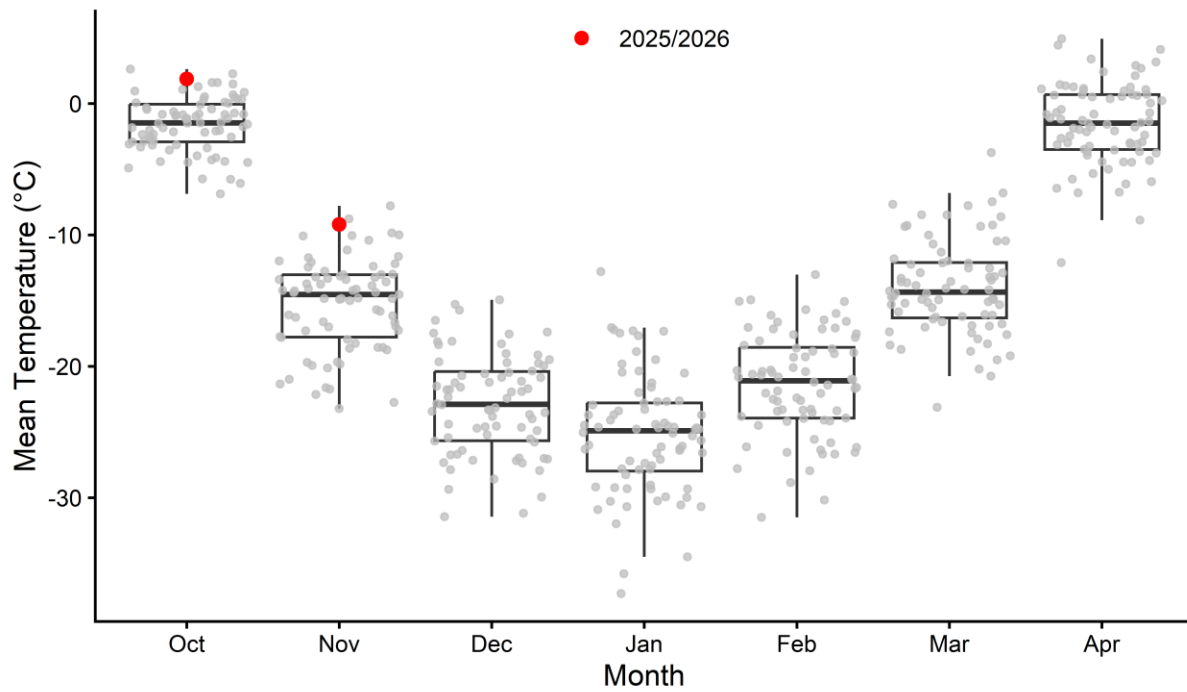
Yellowknife Total Precipitation



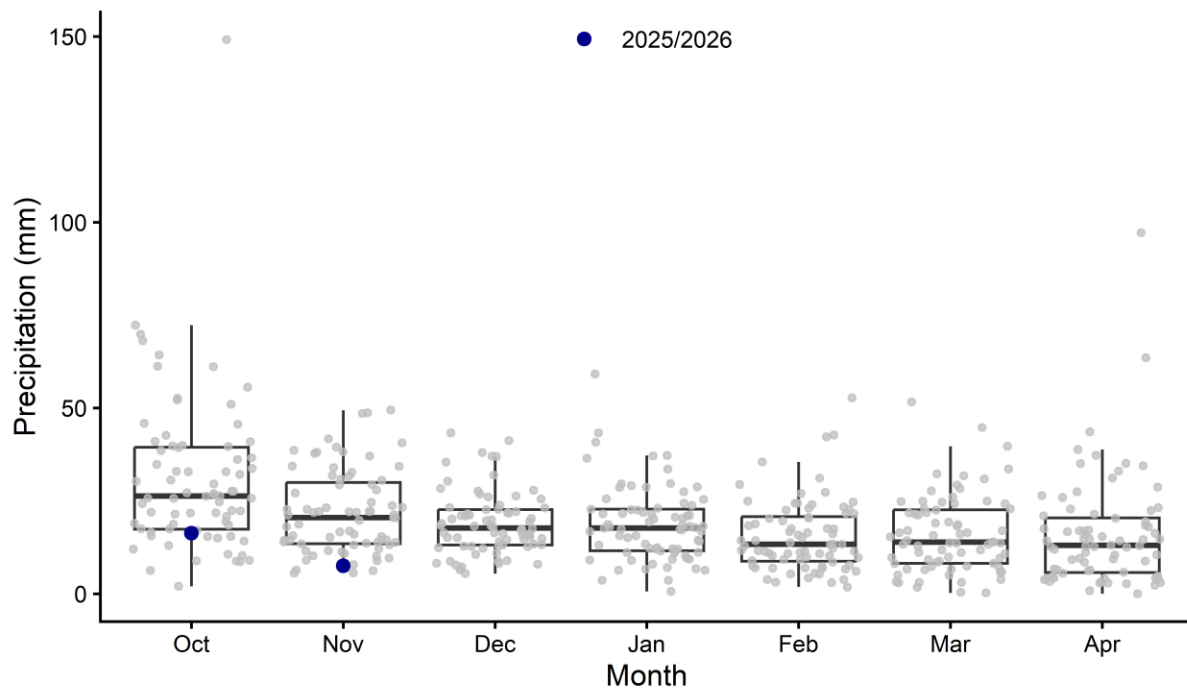
These figures shown above represent mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for the winter 2025/2026 beginning October 2025.

Fort Simpson

Fort Simpson Mean Air Temperatures



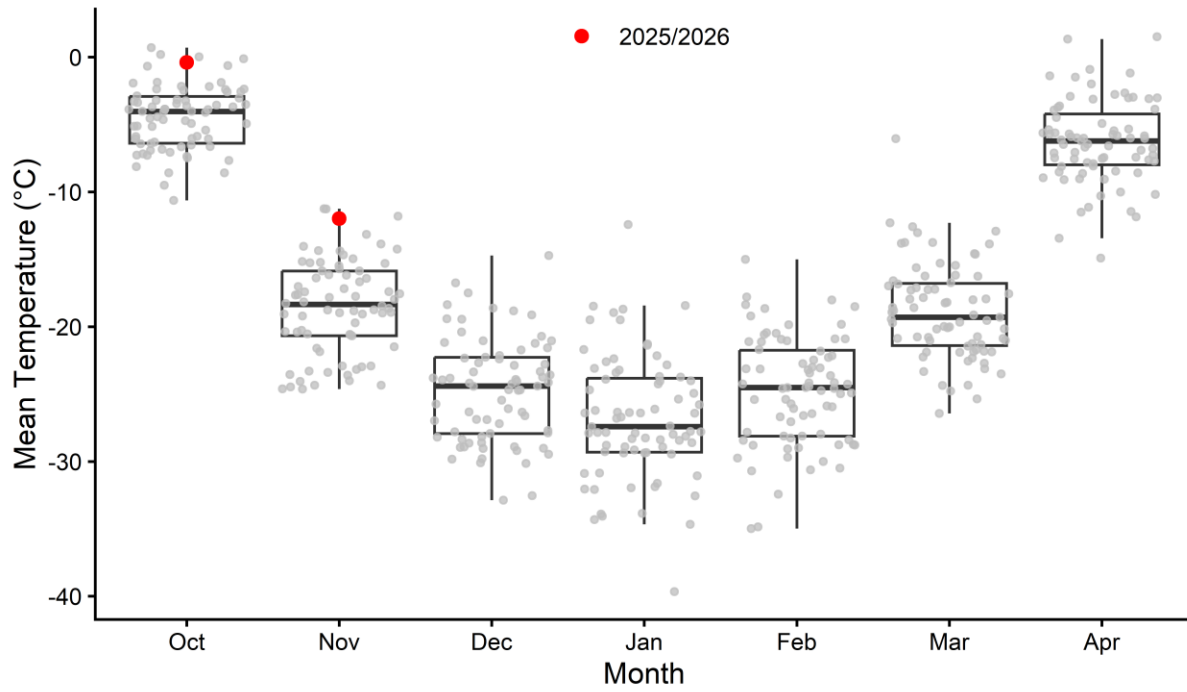
Fort Simpson Total Precipitation



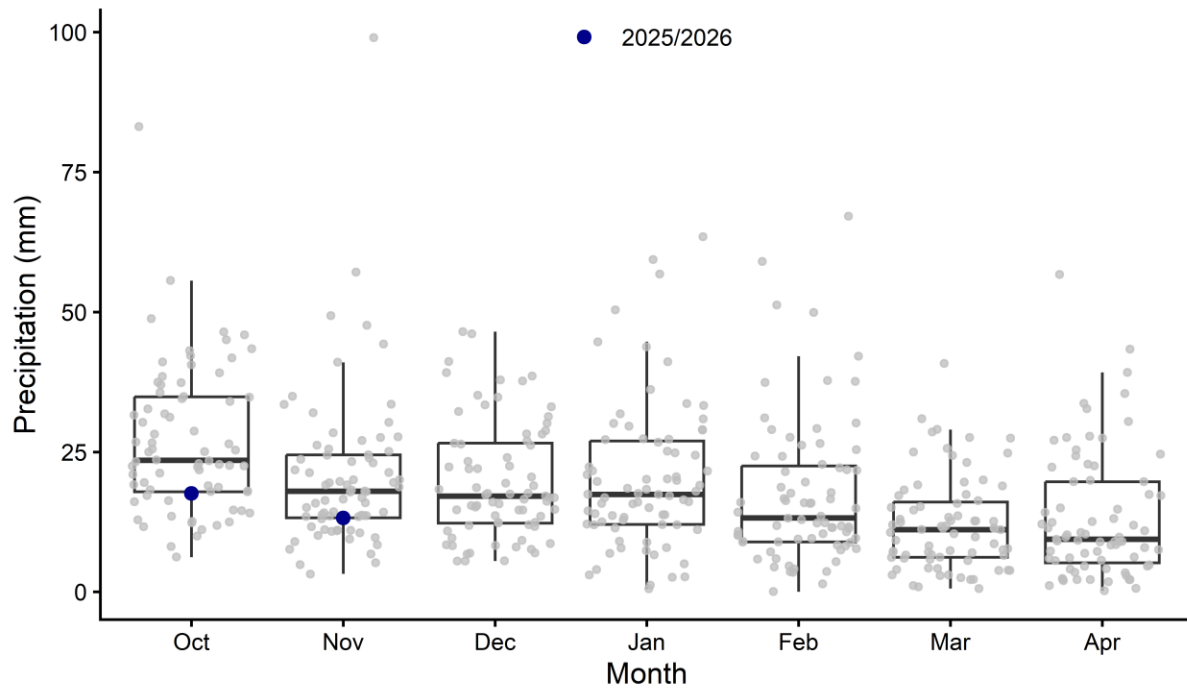
These figures shown above represent mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for winter 2025/2026 beginning October 2025.

Norman Wells

Norman Wells Mean Air Temperatures



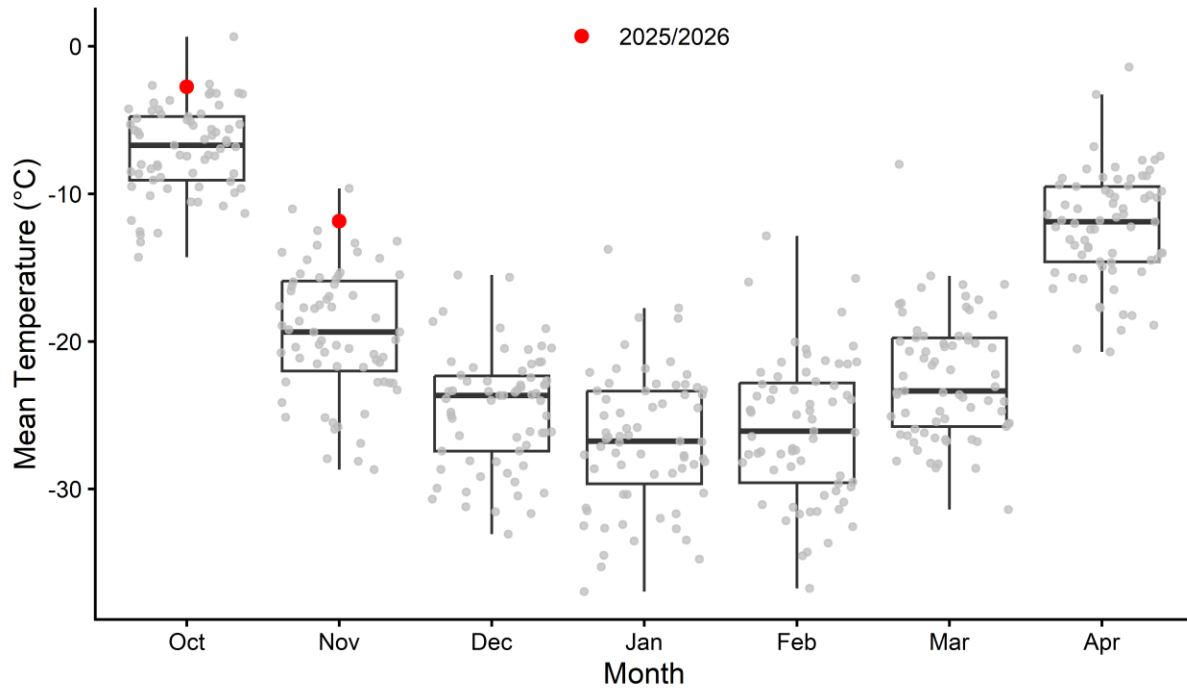
Norman Wells Total Precipitation



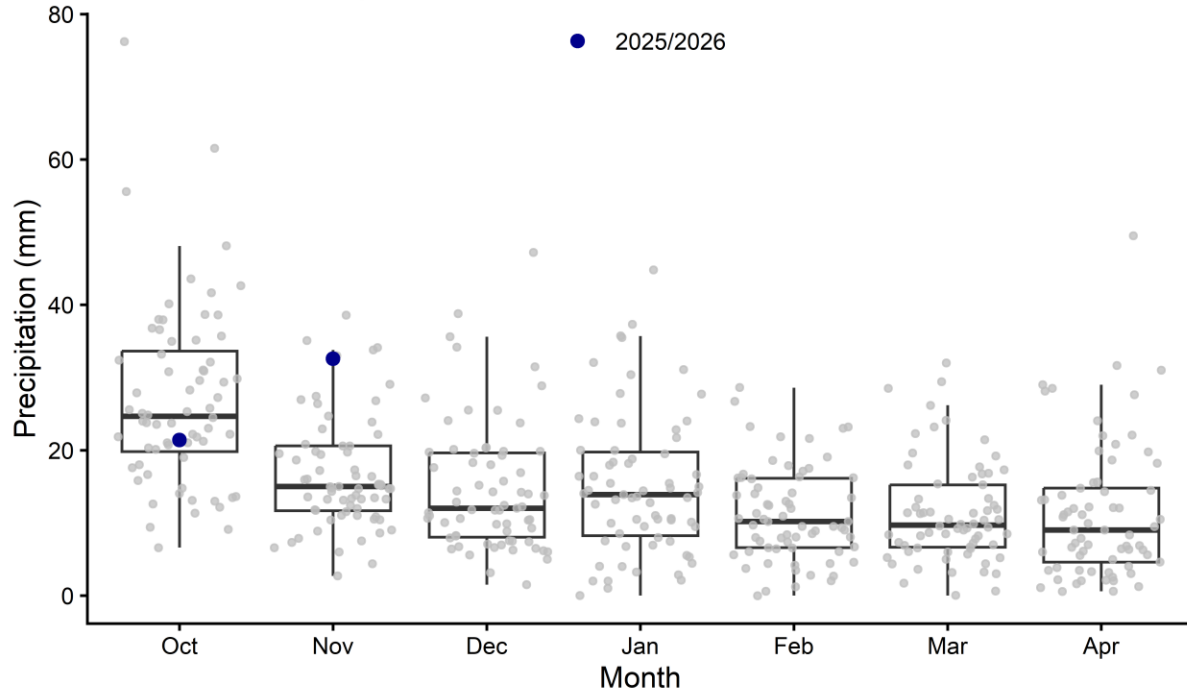
These figures shown above represent mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for winter 2025/2026 beginning October 2025.

Inuvik

Inuvik Mean 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.