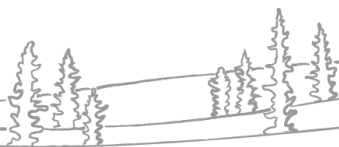


NWT Water Monitoring Spring Break-Up Report

May 11, 2026 at 13:00

Surveillance des eaux aux TNO
Rapport sur la débâcle
printanière

11 mai 2026 à 13 h



NWT break-up reports will be published routinely as break-up unfolds. These reports will focus on regions with active snowmelt and ice break-up. The geographic focus of the report will shift as conditions change. Additional information about basin conditions can be found in the 2026 Spring Water Outlook, [available here](#). If you have any photos or information about break-up in your community, feel free to reach out to us: nwtwaters@gov.nt.ca.

Current Status:

- Break-up is near complete for the Hay River.
 - Rubble ice has now cleared the East Channel of the Hay River delta. According to satellite imagery, very little river ice remains upstream of the Town of Hay River.
 - Most of the water level rise has already occurred (including rapid rise of nearly 2 m between May 7 and 8). However, water levels on the Hay River – as measured at the Alberta/NWT border and near the Town of Hay River – continue to rise gradually (20 cm over the last 24 hours).
- Predominantly open water conditions now extend along the Mackenzie River in the Dehcho Region, and break-up is quickly progressing along the Mackenzie River in the Sahtu Region.
 - Some previously-intact ice upstream of Fort Simpson has now started to break up and is flowing.
 - The river is mostly clear of ice at Tulita.
 - River ice broke and started flowing at Norman Wells and Fort Good Hope over the weekend.
- Break-up is progressing on the Peel River and the Arctic Red River.

Nous publierons régulièrement des rapports sur la débâcle aux TNO au fur et à mesure de l'évolution de la situation. Ces rapports se concentreront sur les régions où la fonte des neiges et la débâcle sont en cours. Nous changerons de région géographique en fonction de l'évolution de la situation. Vous trouverez des informations complémentaires sur l'état du bassin dans l'Aperçu des eaux printanières 2026, disponible ici. Si vous avez des photos ou des renseignements en lien avec la débâcle dans votre collectivité, n'hésitez pas à communiquer avec nous à l'adresse suivante : nwtwaters@gov.nt.ca.

Situation actuelle

- La débâcle est presque terminée sur la rivière Hay :
 - Il n'y a maintenant plus de fragments de glace dans le chenal Est du delta de la rivière Hay. Selon les images satellites obtenues, il ne reste que très peu de glace fluviale en amont de la ville de Hay River.
 - La majeure partie de la crue des eaux s'est déjà produite (notamment une augmentation rapide de près de 2 m entre le 7 et le 8 mai). Cependant, le niveau d'eau de la rivière Hay – mesuré à la frontière Alberta-TNO et près de la ville de Hay River – continue d'augmenter de façon progressive (20 cm au cours des 24 dernières heures).
- L'eau du fleuve Mackenzie est désormais majoritairement libre dans la région du Dehcho, et la débâcle progresse rapidement le long du fleuve Mackenzie dans la région du Sahtu :
 - De la glace qui était jusqu'alors intacte en amont de Fort Simpson a commencé à se briser et à se déplacer.
 - La glace n'est pratiquement plus présente sur le fleuve à la hauteur de Tulita.
 - La glace fluviale s'est brisée et a commencé à se déplacer à la hauteur de Norman Wells et de Fort Good Hope durant la fin de semaine.
- La débâcle progresse le long de la rivière Peel et de la rivière Arctic Red.

Contents

Current Status:	2
Situation actuelle	3
Hay River	6
Current Status:	6
Station Map:	6
Hydrometric Data:.....	7
Hay River near Hay River [07OB001]	7
Hay River near Alta/NWT Boundary [07OB008]	7
Steen River near Steen River [07OB004]	8
Gauge photos:.....	9
Hay River near Alta/Nwt Boundary [07OB008]	9
Hay River near Hay River [07OB001]	9
Mackenzie River	10
Current Status:	10
Station Map:	10
Hydrometric Data:.....	11
Mackenzie River near Fort Providence [10FB001].....	11
Mackenzie River at Fort Simpson [10GC001]	12
Mackenzie River at Norman Wells [10KA001]	16
Arctic Red River near the Mouth [10LA002].....	20
Gauge photos:.....	13
Mackenzie River at Jean Marie River [10FB007]	13
Mackenzie River at Strong Point [10FB006]	13
Mackenzie River at Fort Simpson [10GC001]	14
Peel River	15
Current Status:	19
Station Map:	19
Hydrometric Data:.....	20
Peel River above Canyon Creek [10MA001]	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Peel River above Fort Mcpherson [10MC002].....	20

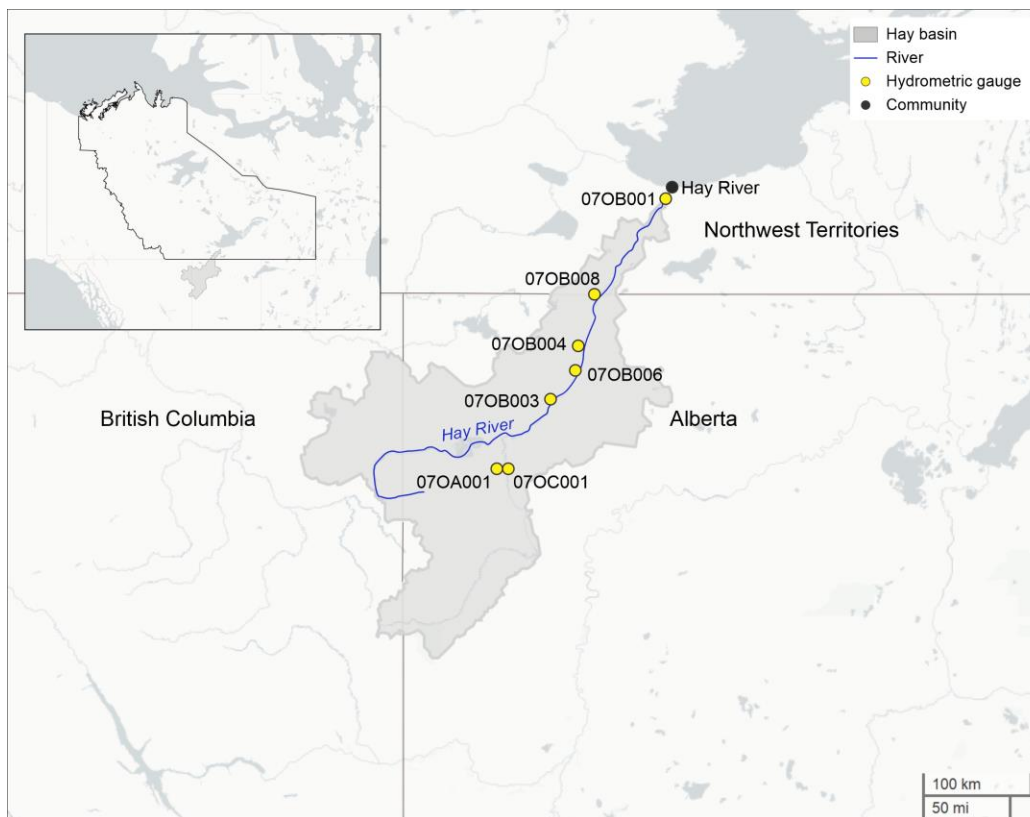
Gauge photos:.....	21
Peel River above Fort Mcpherson [10MC002].....	21
Weather Data:	22
High Level Air Temperature.....	22
Hay River Air Temperature.....	23
Fort Simpson Air Temperature	24
Sambaa K'e Air Temperature	24
Tulita Air Temperature	25
Norman Wells Air Temperature	25
Weather Forecasts:	27
Factors to Watch:	32
Spring Break up on NWT Rivers: Mechanical vs Thermal	32
Technical Note:	33
Appendix A: River Ice Imagery	34
Appendix B: High resolution and historic water level plots	36
Hay River Near Hay River (07OB001).....	39
Hay River Near Alta/Nwt Boundary (07OB008).....	40
Steen River Near Steen River (07OB004).....	41
Mackenzie River Near Fort Providence (10FB001)	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Mackenzie River At Jean Marie River (10FB007)	42
Mackenzie River At Norman Wells (10KA001).....	43
Arctic Red River Near The Mouth (10LA002).....	44
Peel River Above Canyon Creek (10MA001).....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Peel River Above Fort Mcpherson (10MC002)	48

Hay River

Current Status:

- Break-up is near complete for the Hay River.
 - Rubble ice has now cleared the East Channel of the Hay River delta. The West Channel is also clear.
 - According to satellite imagery, very little river ice remains upstream of the Town of Hay River.
 - Most of the water level rise has already occurred (including rapid rise of nearly 2 m between May 7th and 8th). However, water levels on the Hay River – as measured at the Alberta/NWT border and near the Town of Hay River – continue to rise gradually (20 cm over the last 24 hours).
- Scattered rain showers in the basin over the next few days will have minimal impact on water levels.
- Refer to the [Town of Hay River website](#) for the most up-to-date information, as well as webcam images of current conditions.

Station Map:



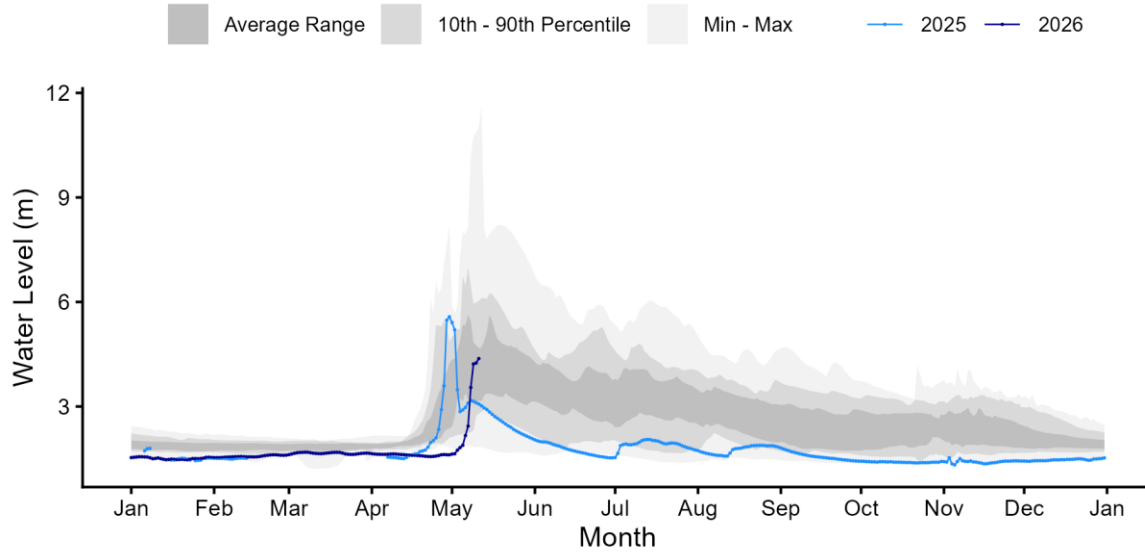
Above: Map of Hydrometric Stations and nearby communities for the plots included in this section.

Hydrometric Data:

Hay River near Hay River [07OB001]

HAY RIVER NEAR HAY RIVER (07OB001)

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

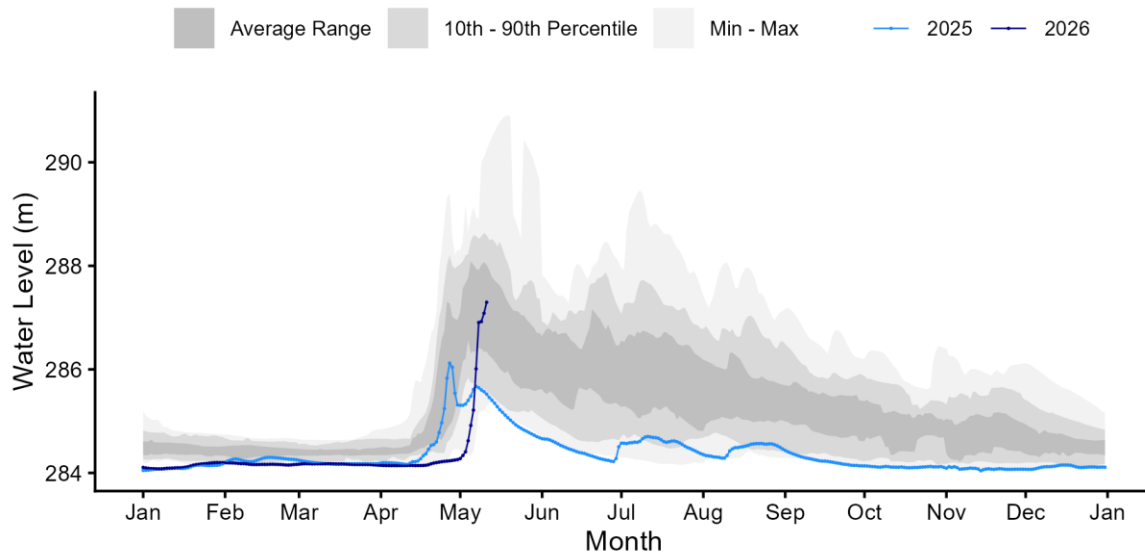


Above - Water level data for Hay River near Hay River [07OB001]. Daily average levels for the previous year also are shown here.

Hay River near Alta/NWT Boundary [07OB008]

HAY RIVER NEAR ALTA/NWT BOUNDARY (07OB008)

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

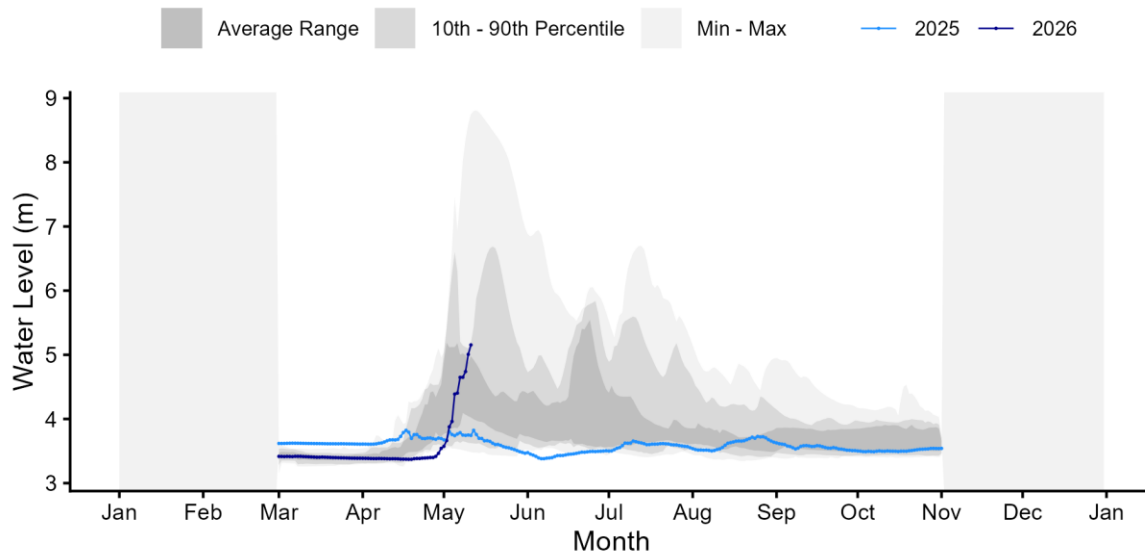


Above - Water level data for Hay River near Alta/Nwt Boundary [07OB008]. Daily average levels for the previous year also are shown here.

Steen River near Steen River [07OB004]

STEEN RIVER NEAR STEEN RIVER (07OB004)

Record Length: 15 years | Period of Record: 2012-2026



Above - Water level data for Steen River near Steen River [07OB004]. Daily average levels for the previous year also are shown here.

Gauge photos:

Hay River near Alta/Nwt Boundary [070B008]



Above - Hay River near Alta/Nwt Boundary [070B008] hydrometric gauge photo from May 11 at 13:00. Photo courtesy of Water Survey of Canada and GNWT.

Hay River near Hay River [070B001]



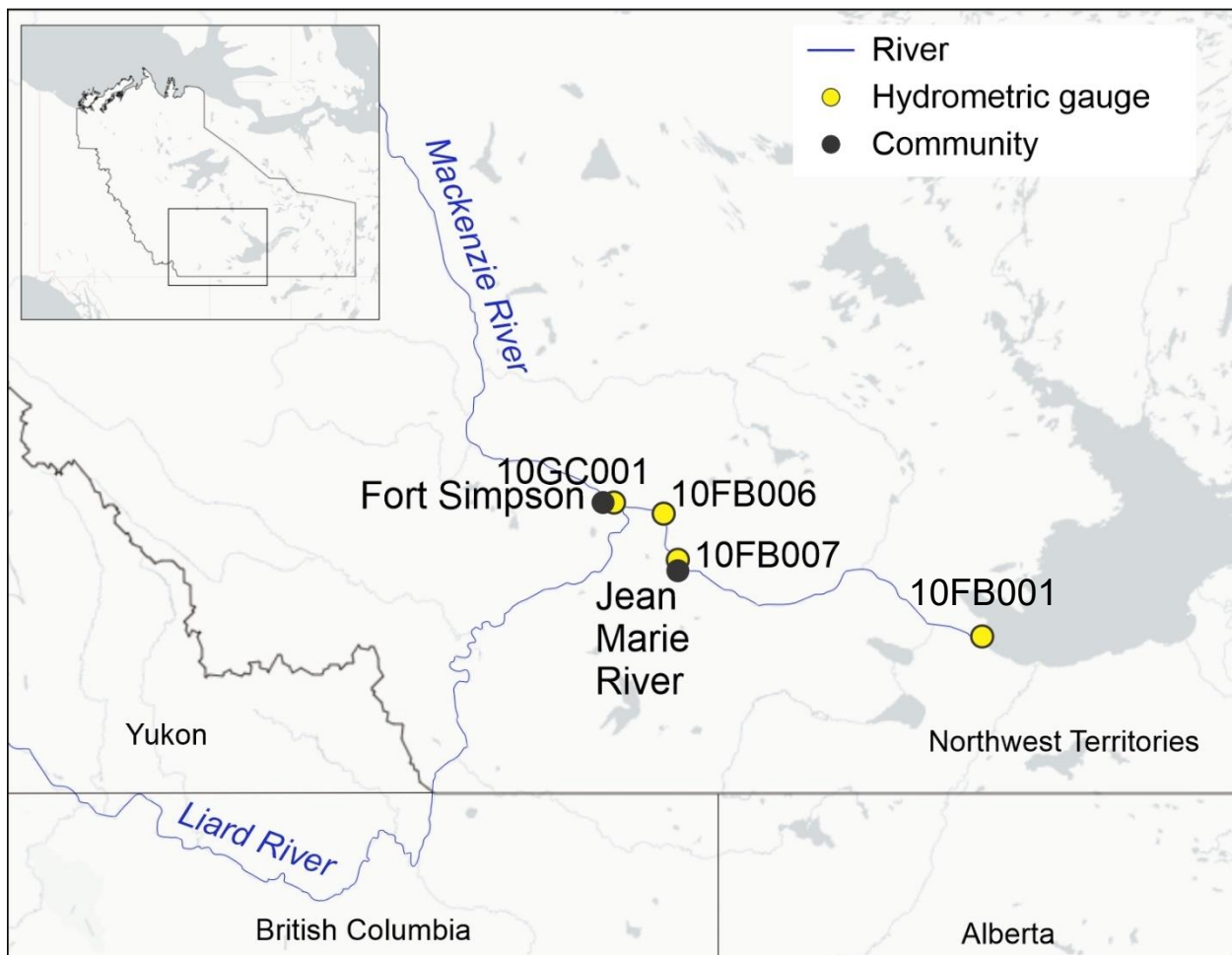
Above - Hay River near Hay River [070B001] hydrometric gauge photo from May 11 at 13:00. Photo courtesy of Water Survey of Canada and GNWT.

Upper Mackenzie River

Current Status:

- Predominantly open water conditions now extend along the Mackenzie River in the Dehcho Region.
 - Some previously-intact ice upstream of Fort Simpson has now started to break up and is flowing.
- The water level sensor on the Mackenzie River near Jean Marie River (10FB007) is showing fluctuating water levels in response to ice movement.
- The water level sensor on the Mackenzie River near Fort Providence (10FB001) has been affected by ice and is no longer recording data.
- Scattered rain showers in the area over the next few days will have minimal impact on water levels.

Station Map:



Above: Map of Hydrometric Stations and nearby communities for the plots included in this section.

Hydrometric Data:

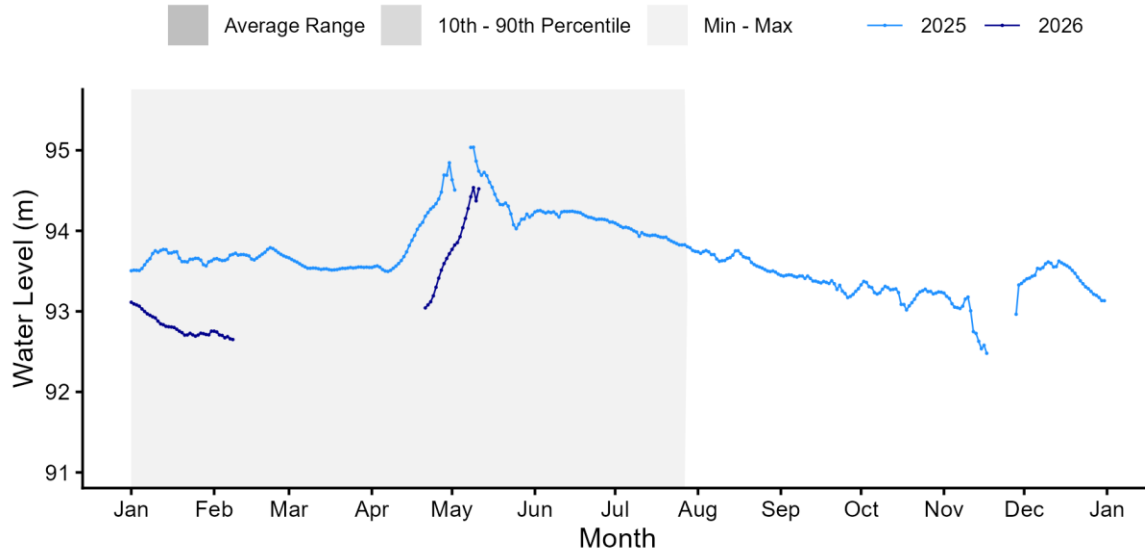
Mackenzie River near Fort Providence [10FB001]

Note - The sensor at Mackenzie River near Fort Providence [10FB001] has been affected by ice.

Mackenzie River at Jean Marie River [10FB007]

MACKENZIE RIVER AT JEAN MARIE RIVER (10FB007)

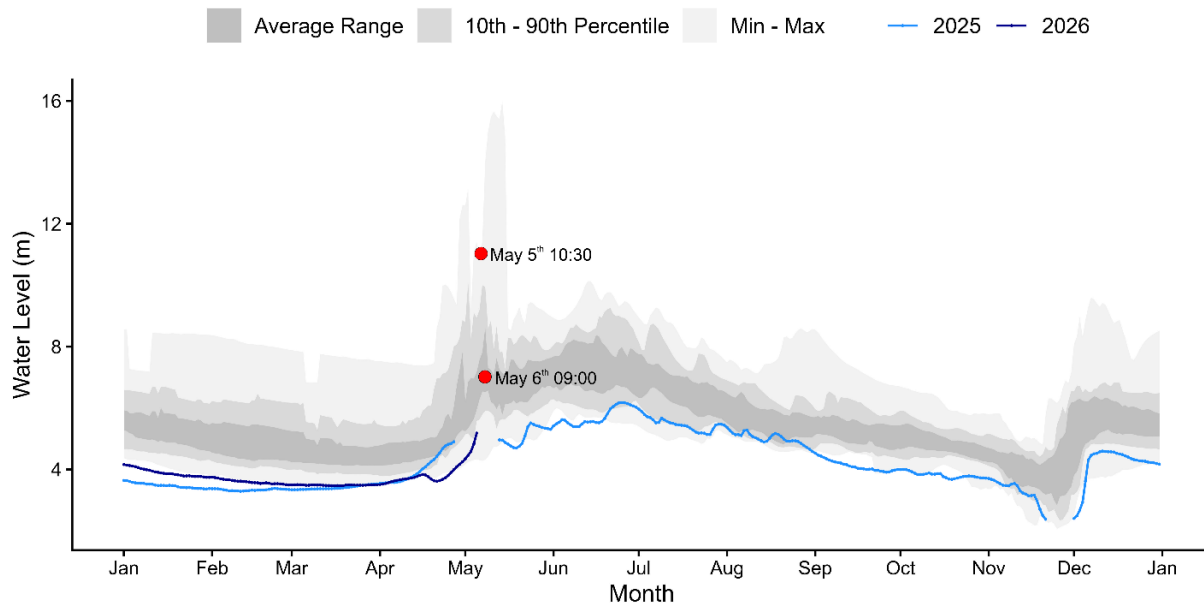
Record Length: 3 years | Period of Record: 2024-2026



Above - Water level data for Mackenzie River at Jean Marie River [10FB007]. Daily average levels for the previous year also are shown here.

Mackenzie River at Fort Simpson [10GC001]

MACKENZIE RIVER AT FORT SIMPSON (10GC001)



Above - Water level data for Mackenzie River at Fort Simpson [10GC001] up until May 4th. Daily average levels for the previous year also are shown here. Data points from the Village of Fort Simpson gauge have been added onto this graph (shown as red circles).

Gauge photos:

Mackenzie River at Jean Marie River [10FB007]

10FB007 2026-05-11 17:01:58 UTC 61.52555, -120.62289 13.3V 18.0C P



Above - Mackenzie River at Jean Marie River [10FB007] hydrometric gauge photo from May 11 at 11:00. Photo courtesy of Water Survey of Canada and GNWT.

Mackenzie River at Strong Point [10FB006]

10FB006_MackStrongPoint 2026-05-11 17:01:14 UTC
61.81646, -120.79192 12.8V 16.0°C P



Above - Mackenzie River at Strong Point [10FB006] hydrometric gauge photo from May 11 at 11:00. Photo courtesy of Water Survey of Canada and GNWT.

Mackenzie River at Fort Simpson [10GC001]

10GC001_MackSimpson 2026-05-11 17:01:14 UTC
61.86804, -121.95839 14.3V 28.0°C F



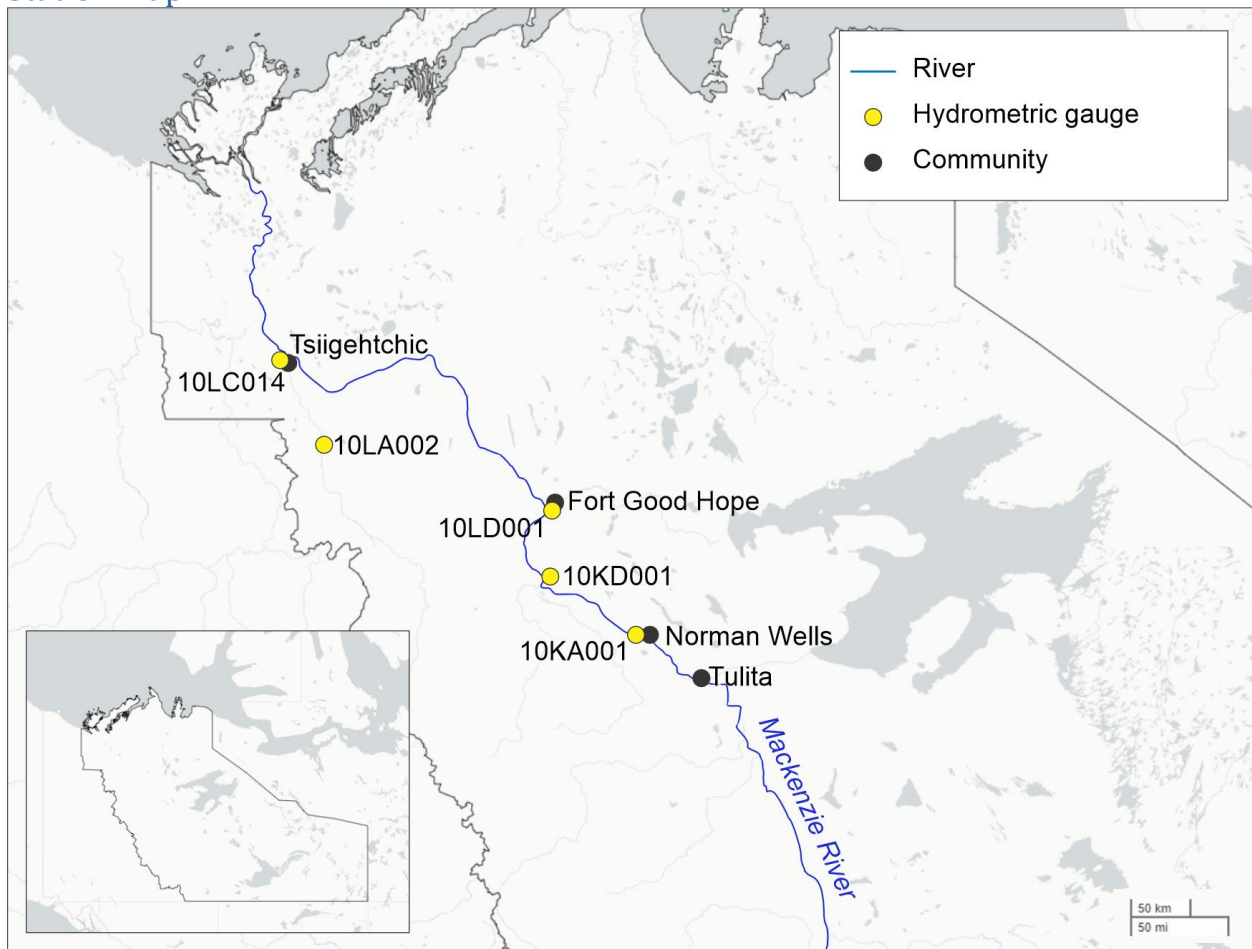
Above - Mackenzie River at Fort Simpson [10GC001] hydrometric gauge photo from May 11 at 11:00. Photo courtesy of Water Survey of Canada and GNWT.

Central Mackenzie River

Current Status:

- Break-up is quickly progressing along the Mackenzie River in the Sahtu Region.
 - River ice broke and started flowing at Norman Wells and Fort Good Hope over the weekend. The river is mostly clear of ice at Tulita.
 - Water level measured on the Mackenzie River at Norman Wells (10KA001) rose by about 2 meters over the past 2 days and is fluctuating in response to ice.
 - From radar imagery on May 10, there appears to be two small ice jams: one upstream of Fort Good Hope at the Ramparts, and one downstream of Fort Good Hope.
- Scattered mixed rain/snow in the area over the next few days will have minimal impact on water levels.

Station Map:

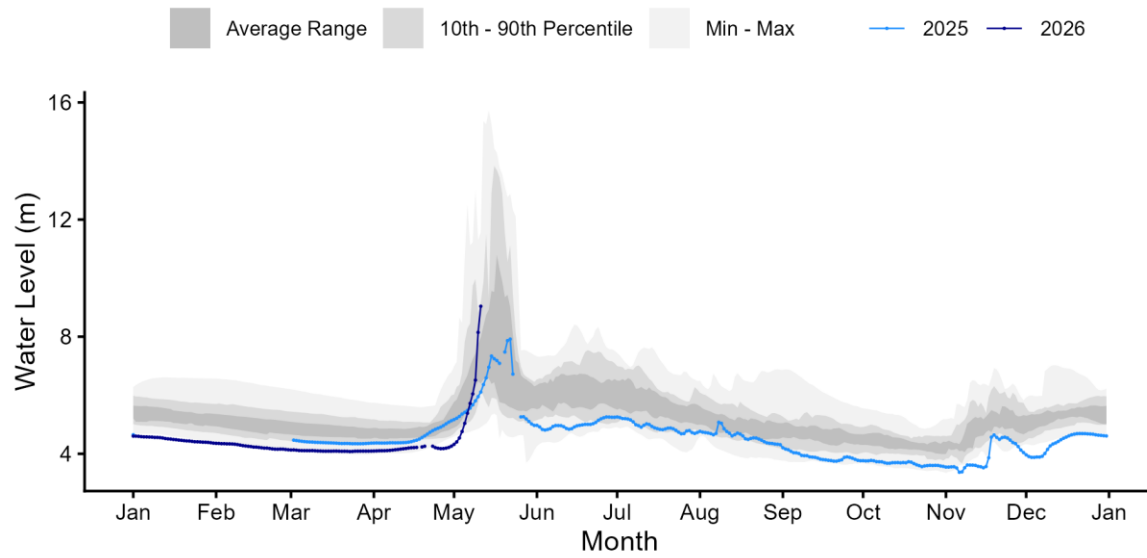


Above: Map of Hydrometric Stations and nearby communities for the plots included in this section.

Mackenzie River at Norman Wells [10KA001]

MACKENZIE RIVER AT NORMAN WELLS (10KA001)

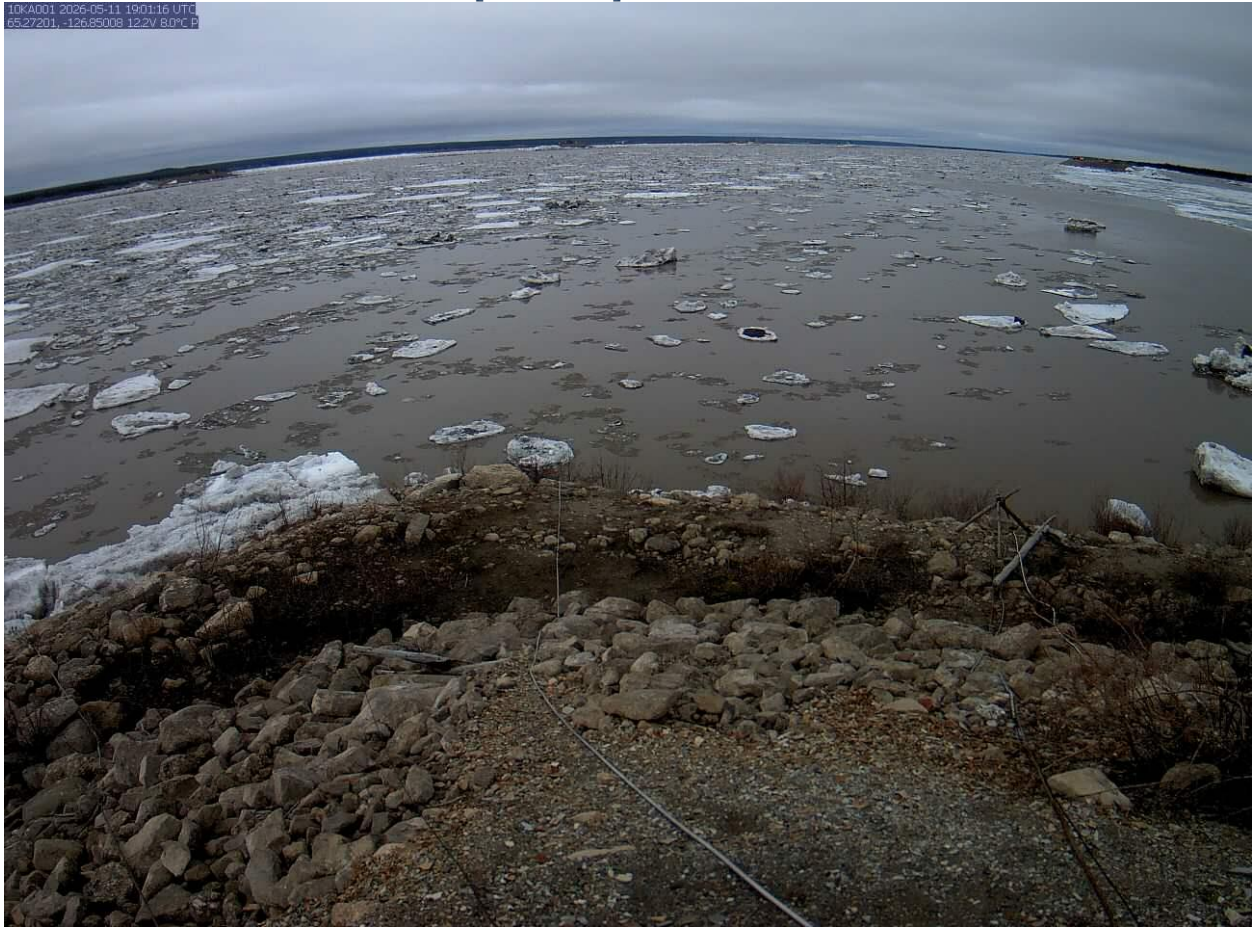
Record Length: 25 years | Period of Record: 2002-2026



Above - Water level data for Mackenzie River at Norman Wells [10KA001]. Daily average levels for the previous year also are shown here.

Mackenzie River at Norman Wells [10KA001]

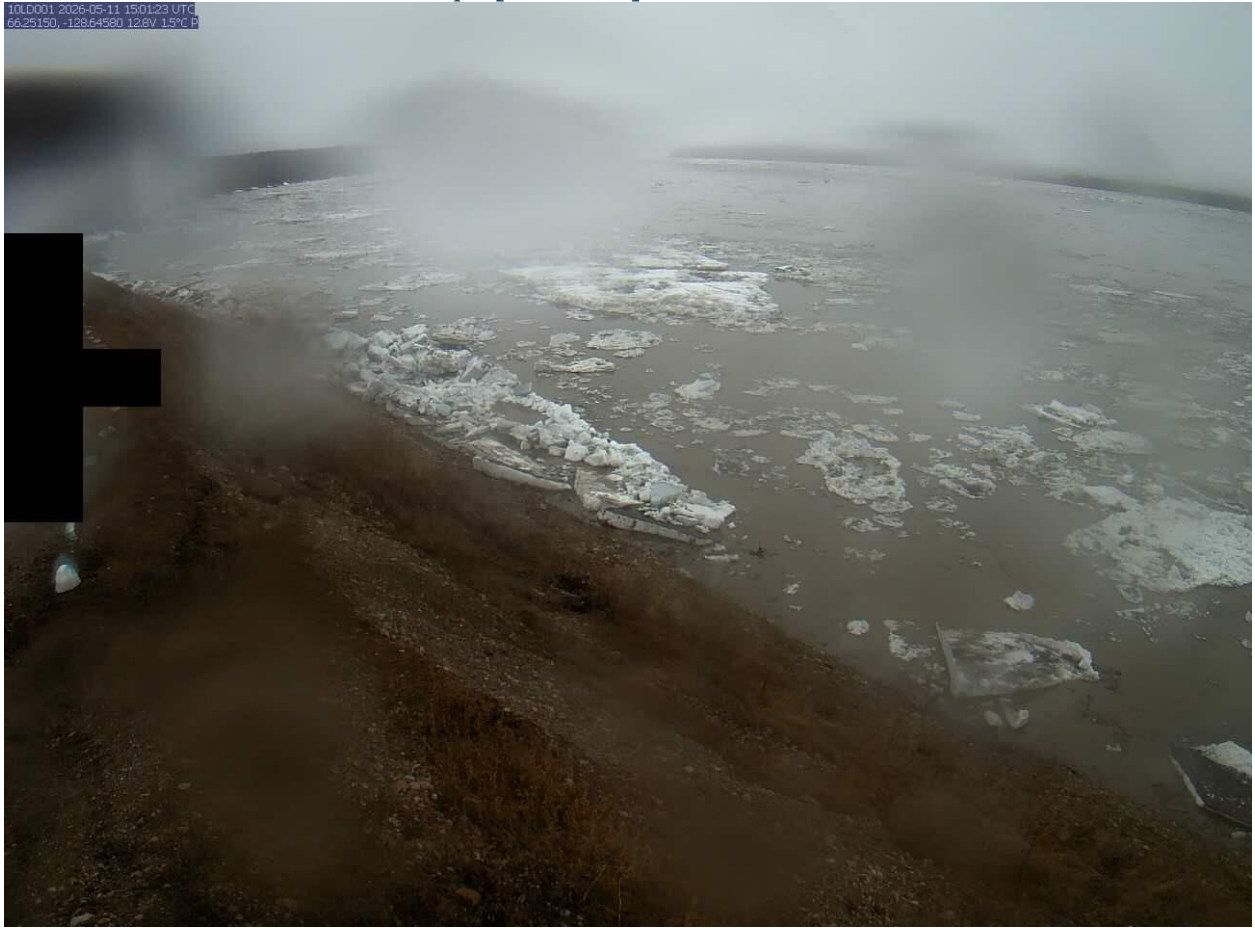
10KA001 2026-05-11 19:01:16 UTC
65.27201, -126.85008 12.2V 8.0°C P



Above - Mackenzie River at Norman Wells [10KA001] hydrometric gauge photo from May 11 at 13:00. Photo courtesy of Water Survey of Canada and GNWT.

Mackenzie River at Fort Good Hope [10LD001]

10LD001_2026-05-11_15:01:23 UTC
66.25150, -128.64980 12.8V 15°C P



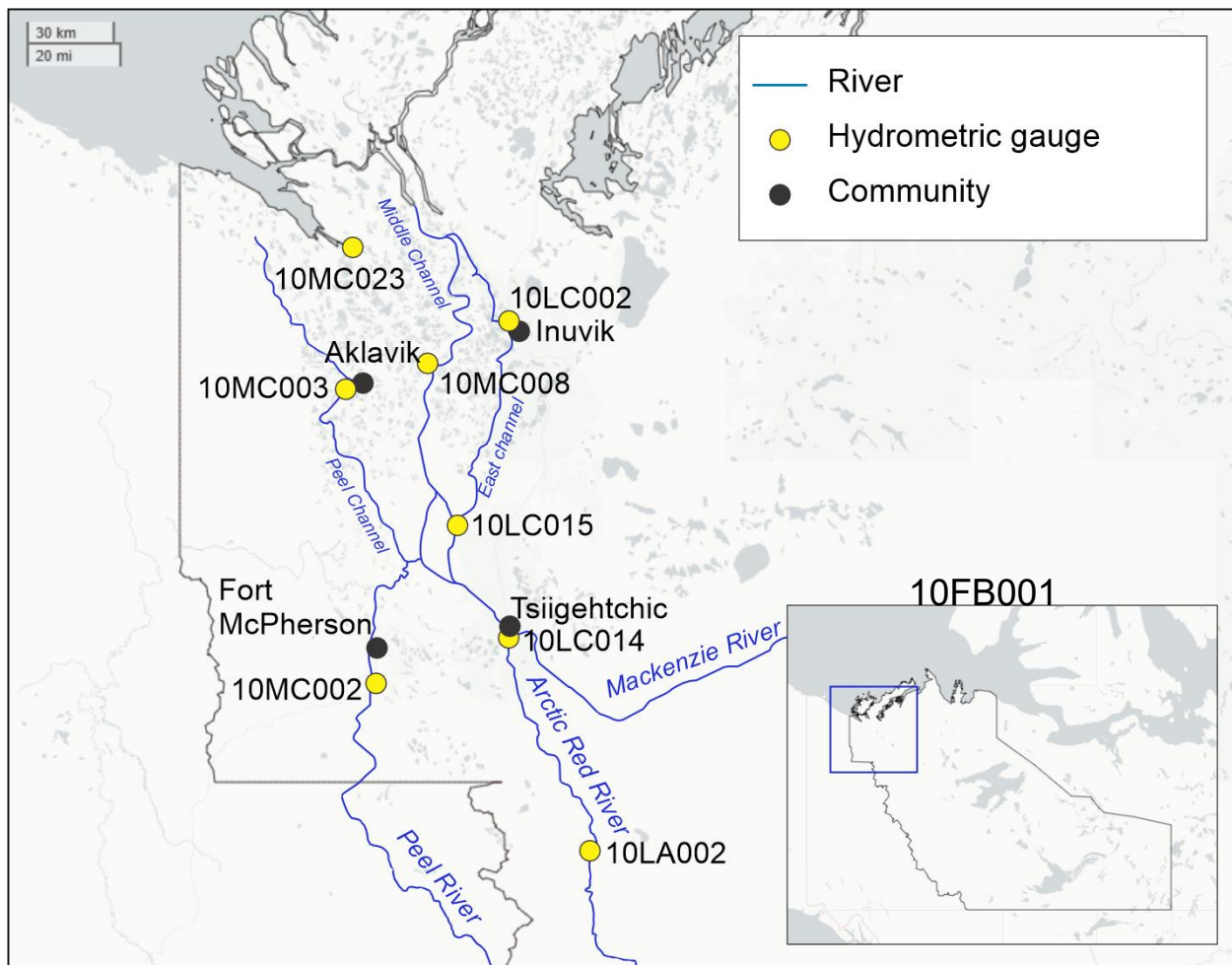
Above - Mackenzie River at Fort Good Hope [10LD001] hydrometric gauge photo from May 11 at 09:00. Photo courtesy of Water Survey of Canada and GNWT.

Peel River & Arctic Red River

Current Status:

- Break-up is progressing on the Peel River and the Arctic Red River.
 - Water level measured on the Peel River just upstream of Fort McPherson (10MC002) has held relatively steady at around 10.2 m over the past 2 days, following a rise of 4 m between May 7-9th.
 - From radar imagery, the river in the vicinity of Fort McPherson is a mix of open water and ice, with some small ice jams. Downstream, the ice is still intact in the Delta.
 - Water level measured on the Arctic Red River (10LA002) continues to decrease following the peak on the evening of May 7. The water level is now within average levels for this time of year.
- Scattered rain showers in the basin over the next few days will have minimal impact on water levels.

Station Map:



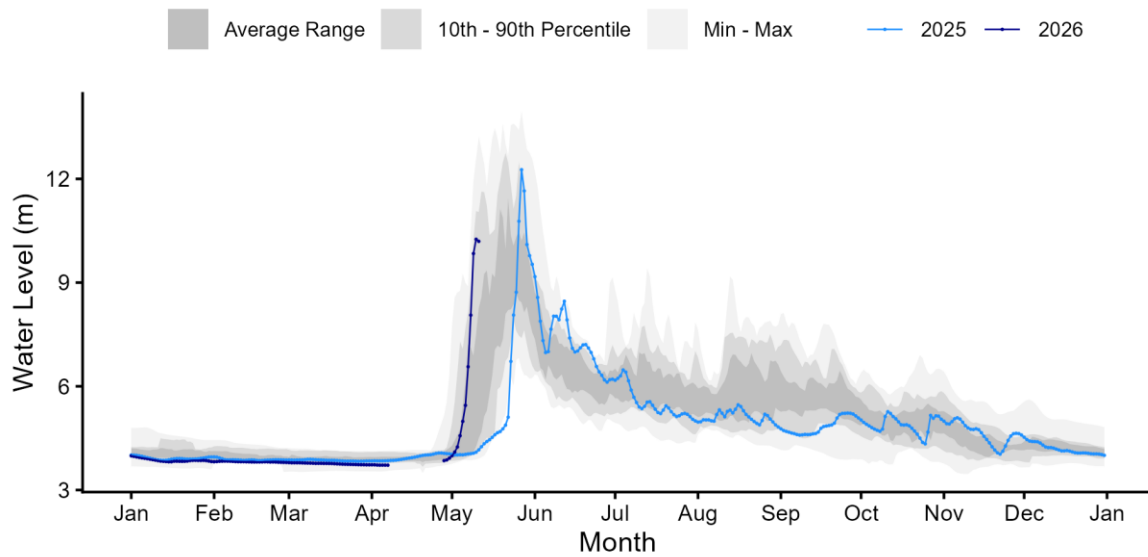
Above: Map of Hydrometric Stations and nearby communities for the plots included in this section.

Hydrometric Data:

Peel River above Fort Mcpherson [10MC002]

PEEL RIVER ABOVE FORT MCPHERSON (10MC002)

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

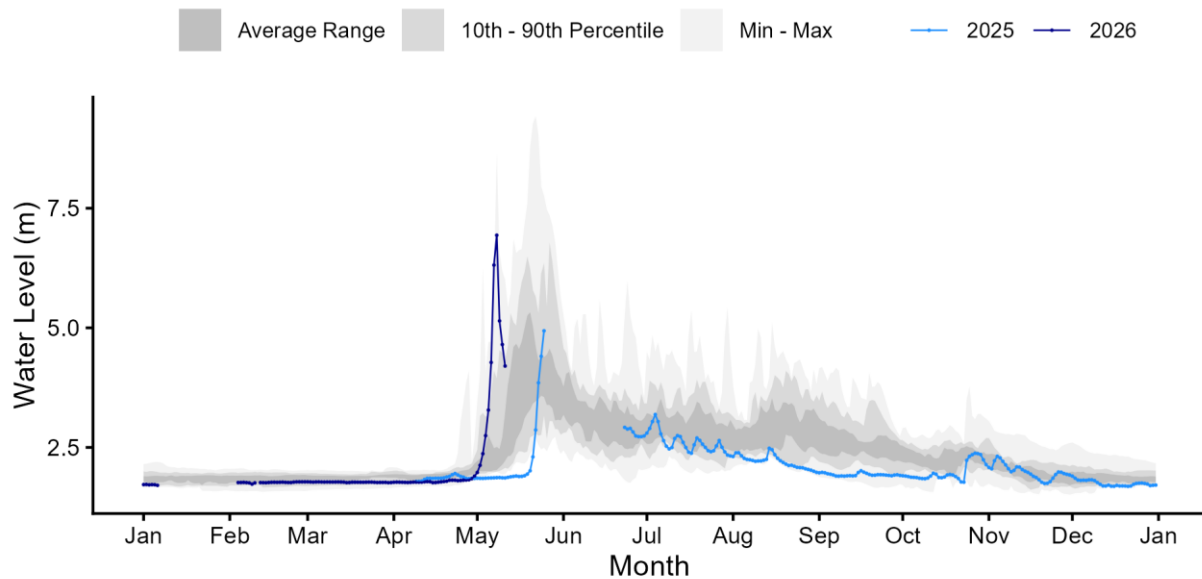


Above - Water level data for Peel River above Fort Mcpherson [10MC002]. Daily average levels for the previous year also are shown here.

Arctic Red River near the Mouth [10LA002]

ARCTIC RED RIVER NEAR THE MOUTH (10LA002)

Record Length: 23 years | Period of Record: 2002-2021; 2024-2026



Above - Water level data for Arctic Red River near the Mouth [10LA002]. Daily average levels for the previous year also are shown here.

Gauge photos:

Peel River above Fort McPherson [10MC002]



Above - Peel River above Fort Mcpherson [10MC002] hydrometric gauge photo from May 11 at 12:00. Photo courtesy of Water Survey of Canada and GNWT.

Weather Data:

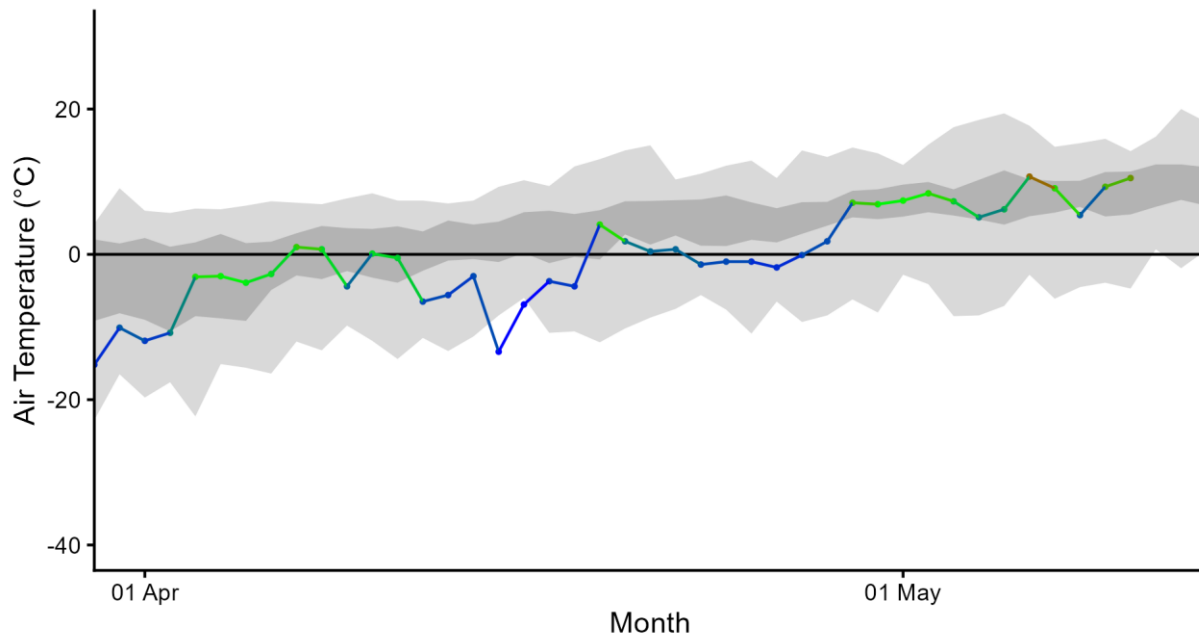
Weather information informs how snow and ice will melt and provides information about how this spring is unfolding relative to previous springs. Warmer than normal conditions early in the spring allow for additional energy to melt the snowpack and soften river ice. Rain-on-snow events can cause rapid melt of snowpacks and facilitate quick delivery of snowmelt water to rivers. Locations included here cover basin areas that feed into NWT rivers that are currently undergoing break-up.

The first set of figures show how temperatures have been relative to average (dark grey band) this spring, while the second set is Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) weather forecast data for the next seven days.

- In the Hay River basin, temperatures over the weekend were average to above average. Light rain was recorded in the basin on Sunday.
- In the upper Mackenzie River basin (Dehcho Region), temperatures over the weekend were above average. No significant precipitation was recorded over the weekend.
- In the central Mackenzie River basin (Sahtu Region), temperatures over the weekend were average to above average. No significant precipitation was recorded over the weekend.
- In the Peel, Arctic Red River, and lower Mackenzie basins (Beaufort Delta), temperatures over the weekend were average. Light snow was recorded over the weekend.

High Level Air Temperature

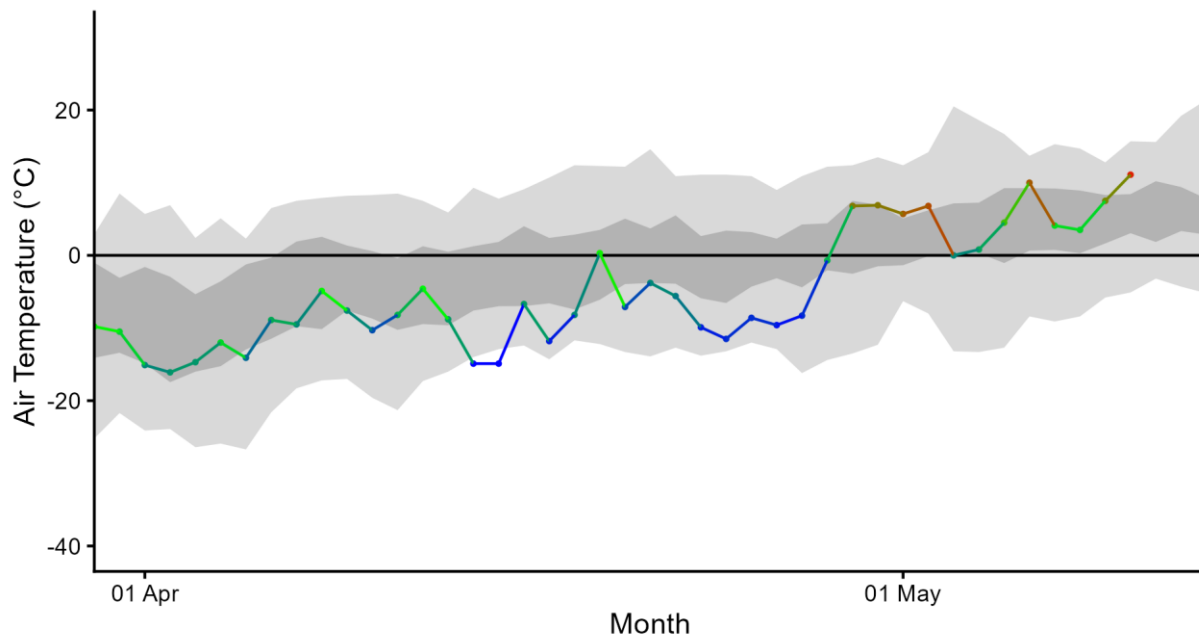
2026 High Level Daily Mean Air Temperatures



Above - Daily mean air temperature for High Level. Shaded areas represent the historical range (1991-2025).

Hay River Air Temperature

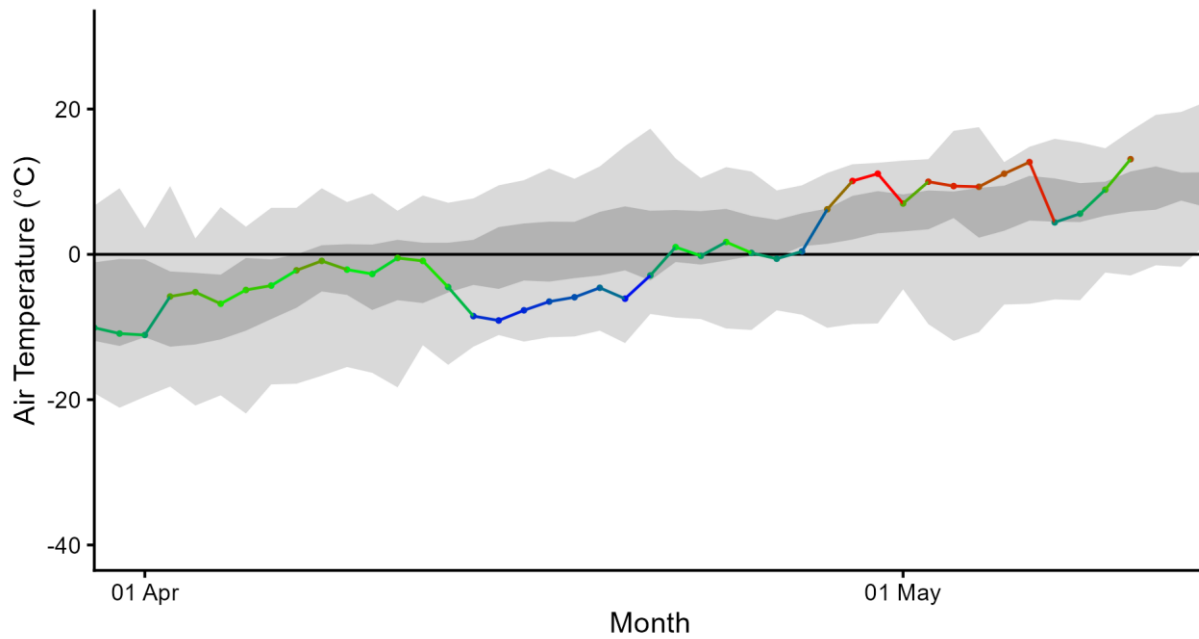
2026 Hay River Daily Mean Air Temperatures



Above - Daily mean air temperature for Hay River. Shaded areas represent the historical range (1991-2025).

Fort Simpson Air Temperature

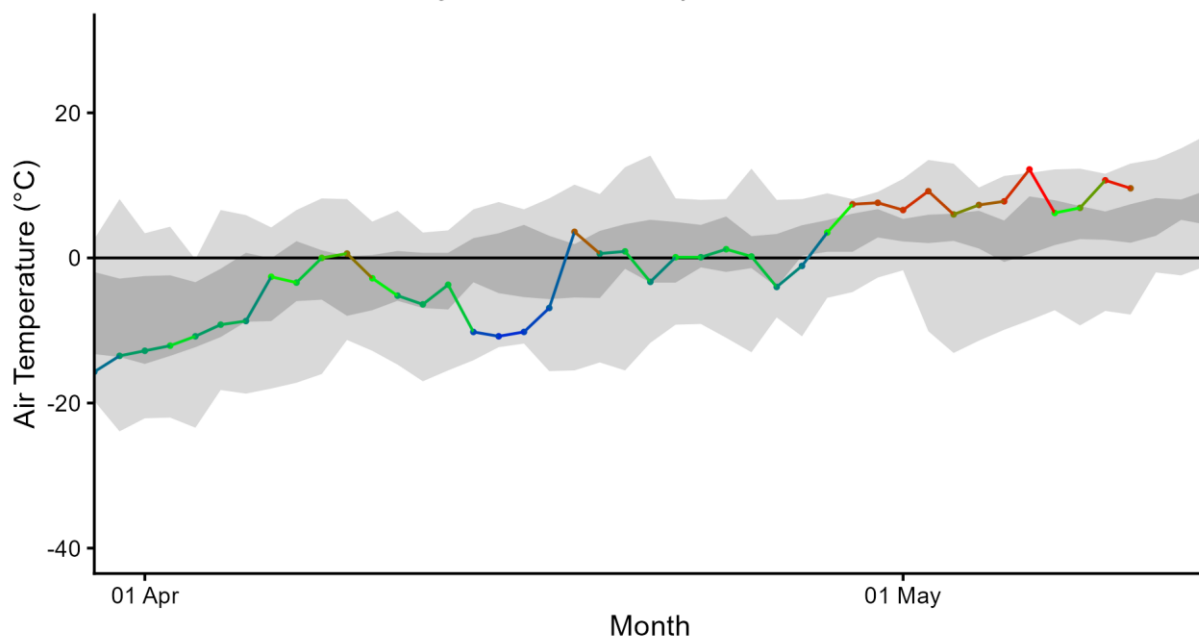
2026 Fort Simpson Daily Mean Air Temperatures



Above - Daily mean air temperature for Fort Simpson. Shaded areas represent the historical range (1991-2025).

Sambaa K'e Air Temperature

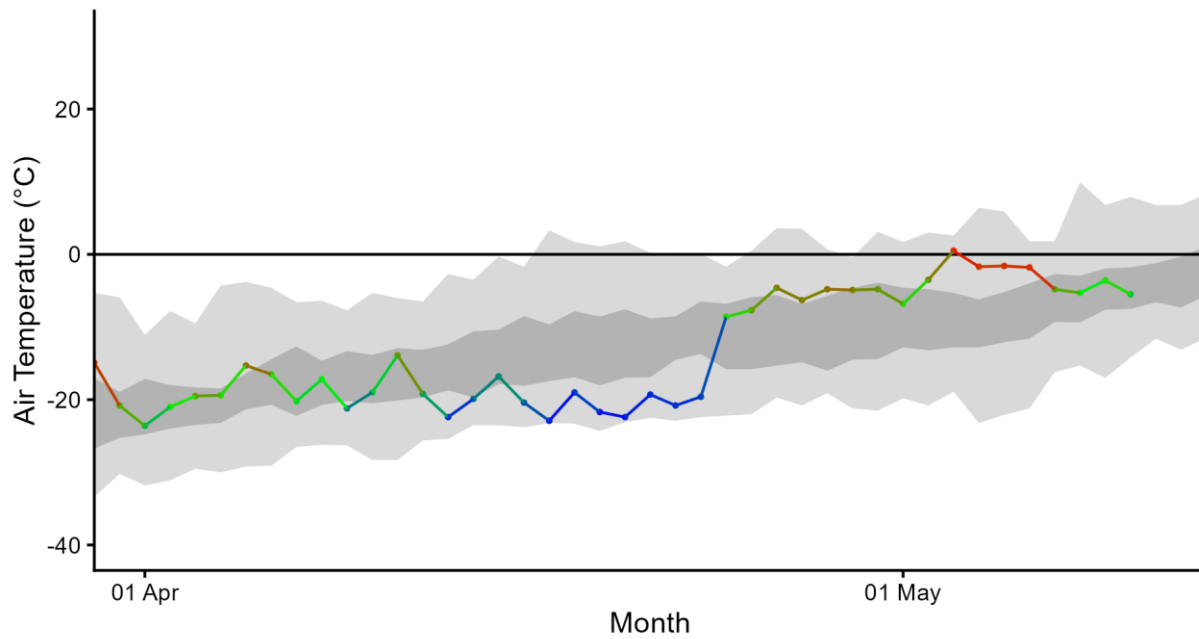
2026 Sambaa Ke Daily Mean Air Temperatures



Above - Daily mean air temperature for Sambaa Ke. Shaded areas represent the historical range (1991-2025).

Tulita Air Temperature

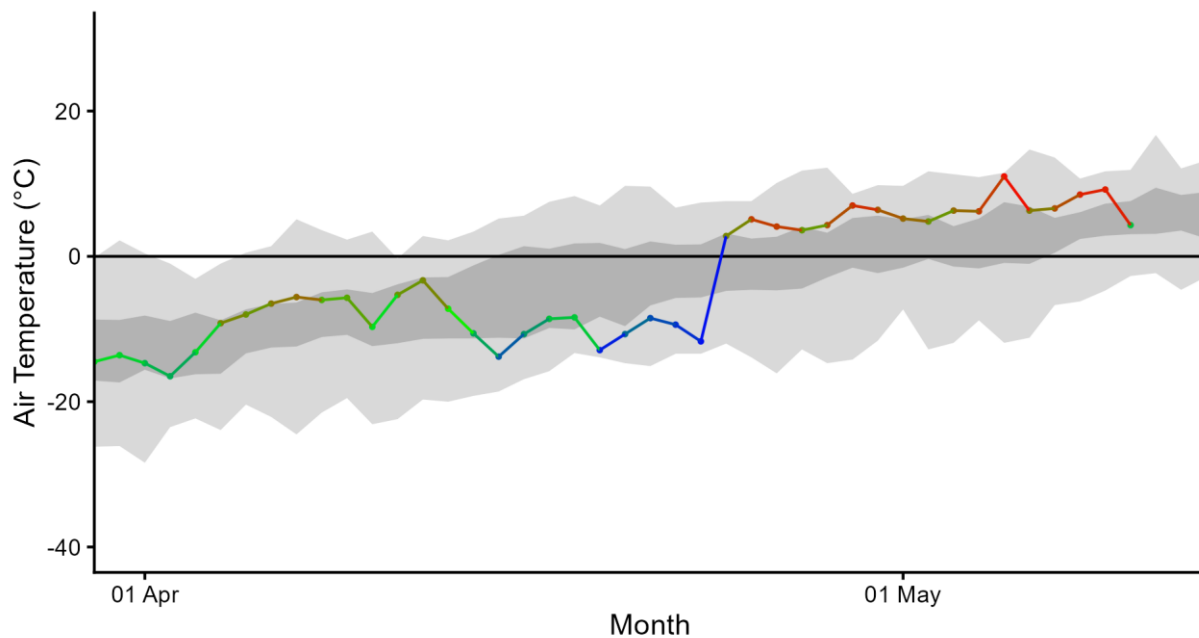
2026 Tulita Daily Mean Air Temperatures



Above - Daily mean air temperature for Tulita. Shaded areas represent the historical range (1991-2025).

Norman Wells Air Temperature

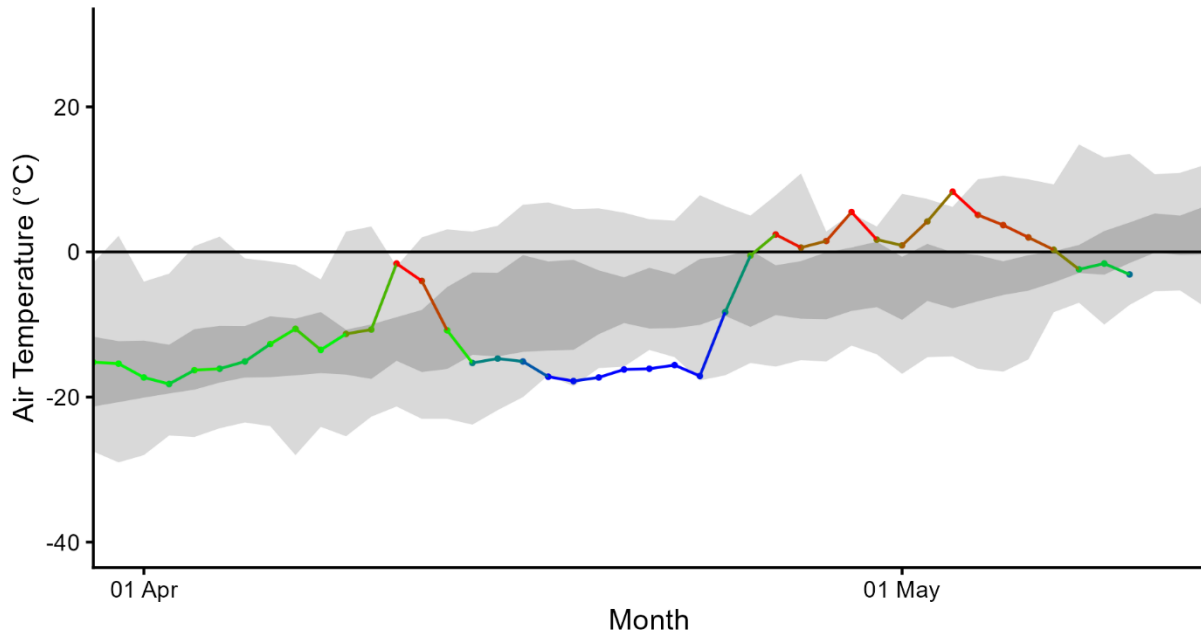
2026 Norman Wells Daily Mean Air Temperatures



Above - Daily mean air temperature for Norman Wells. Shaded areas represent the historical range (1991-2025).

Fort McPherson Air Temperature

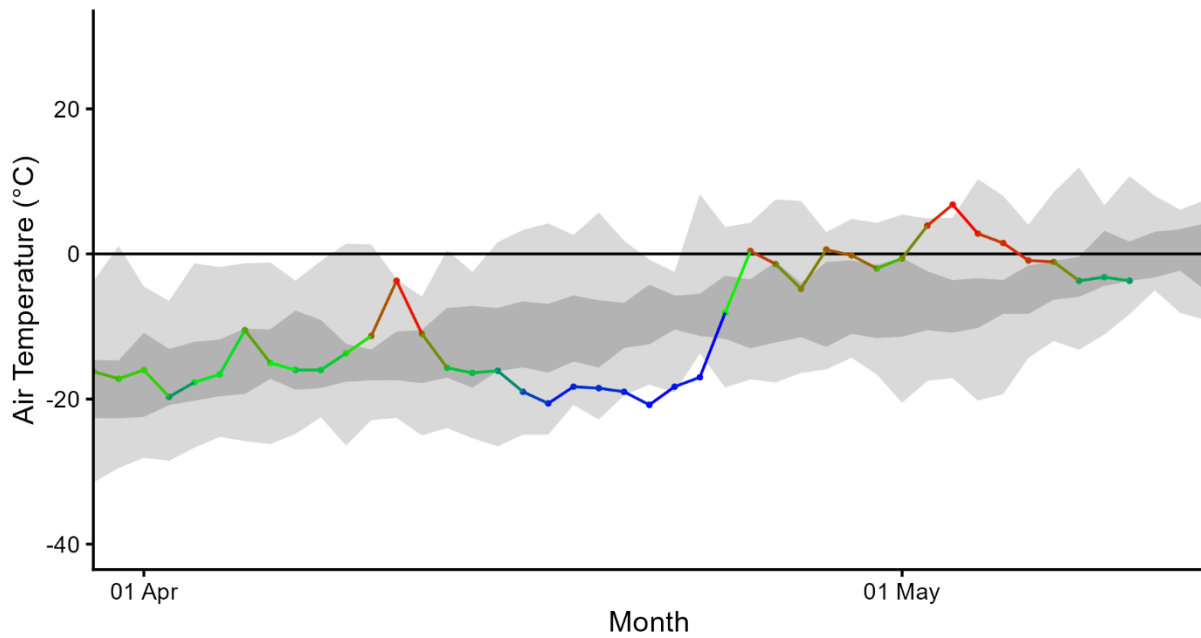
2026 Fort McPherson Daily Mean Air Temperatures



Above - Daily mean air temperature for Fort McPherson. Shaded areas represent the historical range (1991-2025).

Aklavik Air Temperature

2026 Aklavik Daily Mean Air Temperatures
















Above - Daily mean air temperature for Aklavik. Shaded areas represent the historical range (1991-2025).














Weather Forecasts:

- In the Hay River basin, forecasted temperatures for the week of May 11-17 cool from slightly above average to slightly below average. Scattered rain showers are possible over the next few days and potentially higher accumulated totals upstream in the Chinchaga River basin, with minimal anticipated impact on water levels in Hay River.
- In the upper Mackenzie River basin (Dehcho Region), forecasted temperatures for the week of May 11-17 are average. Scattered rain showers are possible over the next few days, with minimal anticipated impact on water levels.
- In the central Mackenzie River basin (Sahtu Region), forecasted temperatures over the week of May 11-17 are average. Scattered mixed rain/snow are possible over the next few days, with minimal anticipated impact on water levels.
- In the Peel, Arctic Red River, and lower Mackenzie River basins (Beaufort Delta), forecasted temperatures over the week of May 11-17 are average (to slightly above average in Inuvik towards the end of the forecast period). Scattered snow flurries are possible over the next couple of days, with minimal anticipated impact on water levels.














High Level seven-day weather forecast:

▼ Forecast							Hourly Forecast	Air Quality	Alerts	Jet Stream
Mon 11 May	Tue 12 May	Wed 13 May	Thu 14 May	Fri 15 May	Sat 16 May	Sun 17 May				
 19°C Mainly sunny	 19°C Mainly sunny	 17°C Cloudy	 10°C 70% Chance of showers	 8°C Periods of rain	 13°C A mix of sun and cloud	 16°C Sunny				
Tonight	Night	Night	Night	Night	Night					
 5°C Clear	 7°C Cloudy periods	 7°C Cloudy	 1°C 60% Chance of showers	 0°C 60% Chance of showers	 0°C Cloudy periods					














Hay River seven-day weather forecast:

▼ Forecast							Hourly Forecast	Air Quality	Alerts	Jet Stream
Mon 11 May	Tue 12 May	Wed 13 May	Thu 14 May	Fri 15 May	Sat 16 May	Sun 17 May				
 15°C 30% Chance of showers	 14°C A mix of sun and cloud	 8°C Cloudy	 4°C Cloudy	 4°C A mix of sun and cloud	 6°C Sunny	 10°C Sunny				
Tonight	Night	Night	Night	Night	Night					
 2°C 30% Chance of showers	 3°C Cloudy periods	 2°C Periods of rain	 -1°C Cloudy periods	 -3°C Cloudy periods	 -1°C Clear					














Fort Simpson seven-day weather forecast:

▼ Forecast							Hourly Forecast	Air Quality	Alerts	Jet Stream
Mon 11 May	Tue 12 May	Wed 13 May	Thu 14 May	Fri 15 May	Sat 16 May	Sun 17 May				
 18°C 60% Chance of showers	 17°C Mainly sunny	 12°C Periods of rain	 12°C Cloudy	 15°C Cloudy	 14°C A mix of sun and cloud	 16°C A mix of sun and cloud				
Tonight	Night	Night	Night	Night	Night					
 7°C 60% Chance of showers	 7°C Cloudy	 4°C Periods of rain	 3°C Cloudy	 -1°C Cloudy periods	 1°C Cloudy periods					














Sambaa K'e seven-day weather forecast:

▼ Forecast							Hourly Forecast	Air Quality	Alerts	Jet Stream
Mon 11 May	Tue 12 May	Wed 13 May	Thu 14 May	Fri 15 May	Sat 16 May	Sun 17 May				
 20°C Mainly sunny	 18°C A mix of sun and cloud	 14°C Showers	 9°C Periods of rain	 13°C 40% Chance of showers	 14°C A mix of sun and cloud	 16°C A mix of sun and cloud				
Tonight	Night	Night	Night	Night	Night					
 2°C A few clouds	 6°C Cloudy	 6°C Rain	 2°C 40% Chance of showers	 0°C Cloudy periods	 1°C Cloudy periods					














Norman Wells seven-day weather forecast:

▼ Forecast							Hourly Forecast	Air Quality	Alerts	Jet Stream
Mon 11 May	Tue 12 May	Wed 13 May	Thu 14 May	Fri 15 May	Sat 16 May	Sun 17 May				
 7°C Rain	 13°C A mix of sun and cloud	 6°C 60% Chance of rain showers or flurries	 8°C 60% Chance of flurries	 12°C Cloudy	 11°C A mix of sun and cloud	 13°C A mix of sun and cloud				
Tonight	Night	Night	Night	Night	Night					
 -1°C Rain	 2°C Periods of rain	 -2°C 60% Chance of flurries	 1°C Cloudy	 0°C Cloudy periods	 2°C Cloudy periods					














Fort McPherson seven-day weather forecast:

▼ Forecast							Hourly Forecast	Air Quality	Alerts	Jet Stream
Mon 11 May	Tue 12 May	Wed 13 May	Thu 14 May	Fri 15 May	Sat 16 May	Sun 17 May				
 -1°C Periods of light snow	 3°C 60% Chance of flurries	 1°C A mix of sun and cloud	 2°C Cloudy	 5°C Cloudy	 7°C A mix of sun and cloud	 7°C A mix of sun and cloud				
Tonight	Night	Night	Night	Night	Night					
 -7°C 30% Chance of flurries	 -6°C Cloudy	 -7°C Cloudy periods	 -2°C Cloudy	 -4°C Cloudy periods	 -3°C Cloudy periods					

Inuvik seven-day weather forecast:

▼ Forecast							Hourly Forecast	Air Quality	Alerts	Jet Stream
Mon 11 May	Tue 12 May	Wed 13 May	Thu 14 May	Fri 15 May	Sat 16 May	Sun 17 May				
 -2°C Periods of light snow	 2°C 30% Chance of flurries	 -2°C Sunny	 1°C A mix of sun and cloud	 4°C Cloudy	 9°C Sunny	 11°C Sunny				
Tonight	Night	Night	Night	Night	Night					
 -5°C 30% Chance of flurries	 -10°C Cloudy periods	 -8°C Clear	 -4°C Cloudy	 -4°C Cloudy periods	 -2°C Clear					

Aklavik seven-day weather forecast:

▼ Forecast							Hourly Forecast	Air Quality	Alerts	Jet Stream
Mon 11 May	Tue 12 May	Wed 13 May	Thu 14 May	Fri 15 May	Sat 16 May	Sun 17 May				
 -3°C Periods of light snow	 0°C 60% Chance of flurries	 -2°C Sunny	 1°C A mix of sun and cloud	 5°C Cloudy	 5°C A mix of sun and cloud	 5°C A mix of sun and cloud				
Tonight	Night	Night	Night	Night	Night					
 -6°C 30% Chance of flurries	 -9°C Cloudy	 -9°C Clear	 -3°C Cloudy	 -6°C Cloudy periods	 -5°C Cloudy periods					

Factors to Watch:

It is important to note that much of the water contributing to NWT rivers originates from outside of the NWT, which is why we also rely on information from the Yukon, British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

The potential and severity of flooding will depend in large part on the weather over the upcoming weeks and how this interacts with existing ice conditions, water levels and snowpack amounts.

The primary factors that influence water levels in the spring are:

- Ice jams (can result in out-of-bank flows, even if there are below normal flows)
- Rate of melt of ice and snow:
 - Gradual vs quick melt
 - Rain on snow or ice events (rain brings a lot of energy to help melt happen more quickly)
- Current water levels
- How wet the ground was in the fall
- Snowpack

Spring Break up on NWT Rivers: Mechanical vs Thermal

In any given year, spring flooding can occur in a number of NWT communities, including Hay River, Jean Marie River, Fort Simpson, Fort Liard, Tulita, Fort Good Hope, Fort McPherson and Aklavik. Spring flooding is caused by ice jam-induced flooding and can occur irrespective of existing water levels. However, if existing water levels are high, the impact of an ice jam flood can be much worse.

Ice jams typically occur on north-flowing rivers where warm weather and snowmelt cause ice to break up on the southern reaches of a river. As this ice flows north (downstream), it meets a more solid ice cover, hits the ground, or gets stuck in a river bend. When this happens, the pieces of floating ice jam can form a dam, which causes water levels to rise rapidly. This is called a **mechanical break-up**, whereby the ice downstream is broken up by the force of ice moving into it.

If there is warm and sunny weather throughout early spring, the ice may thermally erode and weaken. This provides less of a resisting force for ice and water moving down the river and will have less of a chance of causing water levels to rise behind an ice jam. This is called a **thermal break-up**.

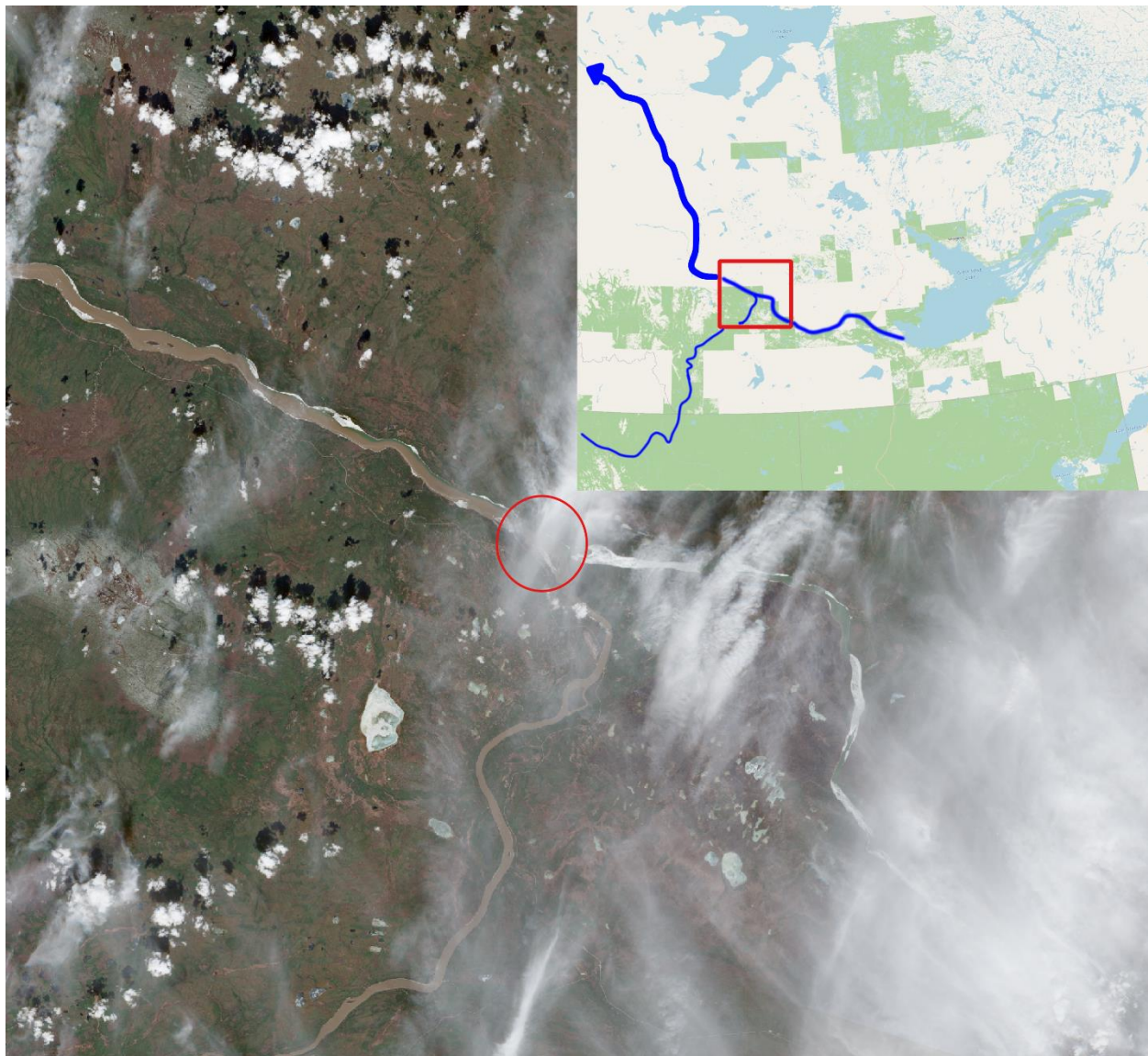
The causes of mechanical and thermal break-ups are usually dependent on the weather during early spring. Warm weather, sunshine, and rain on snow events are usually a good way to bring extra energy into the system to help melt the ice. Warm temperatures in the upstream part of a basin could also cause a rapid snowmelt and move water to the river very quickly. This could lead to ice-jam conditions downstream if the ice has not yet received

enough energy to degrade. Another important factor is the thickness of the ice. Thicker ice takes longer to melt and can increase the chances of ice jams. If an ice jam occurs, the location of the ice jam is also very important. Each river reach has different locations that are prone to ice jams. The location of the ice jam can be an important factor as to whether or not a community floods. Furthermore, ice will jam and then move again at multiple locations along a river as break-up progresses downstream. The timing and location of each jam can also influence if a community will flood.

Technical Note:

- The figures in this report plot water levels. The values on the y-axis are (in most cases) relative to an arbitrary datum. This means that the values on each gauge can be compared to different years but should not be used to compare water levels from one location to the next.
- For example, the Hay River near the border gauge (070B008) records a level of about 288 m. The Hay River near Hay River gauge (070B001) usually records a level of about 4 m. This **does not mean** that the water level at the Hay River at the border site is 284 m higher than the water level at the Hay River near Hay River site.

Appendix A: River Ice Imagery

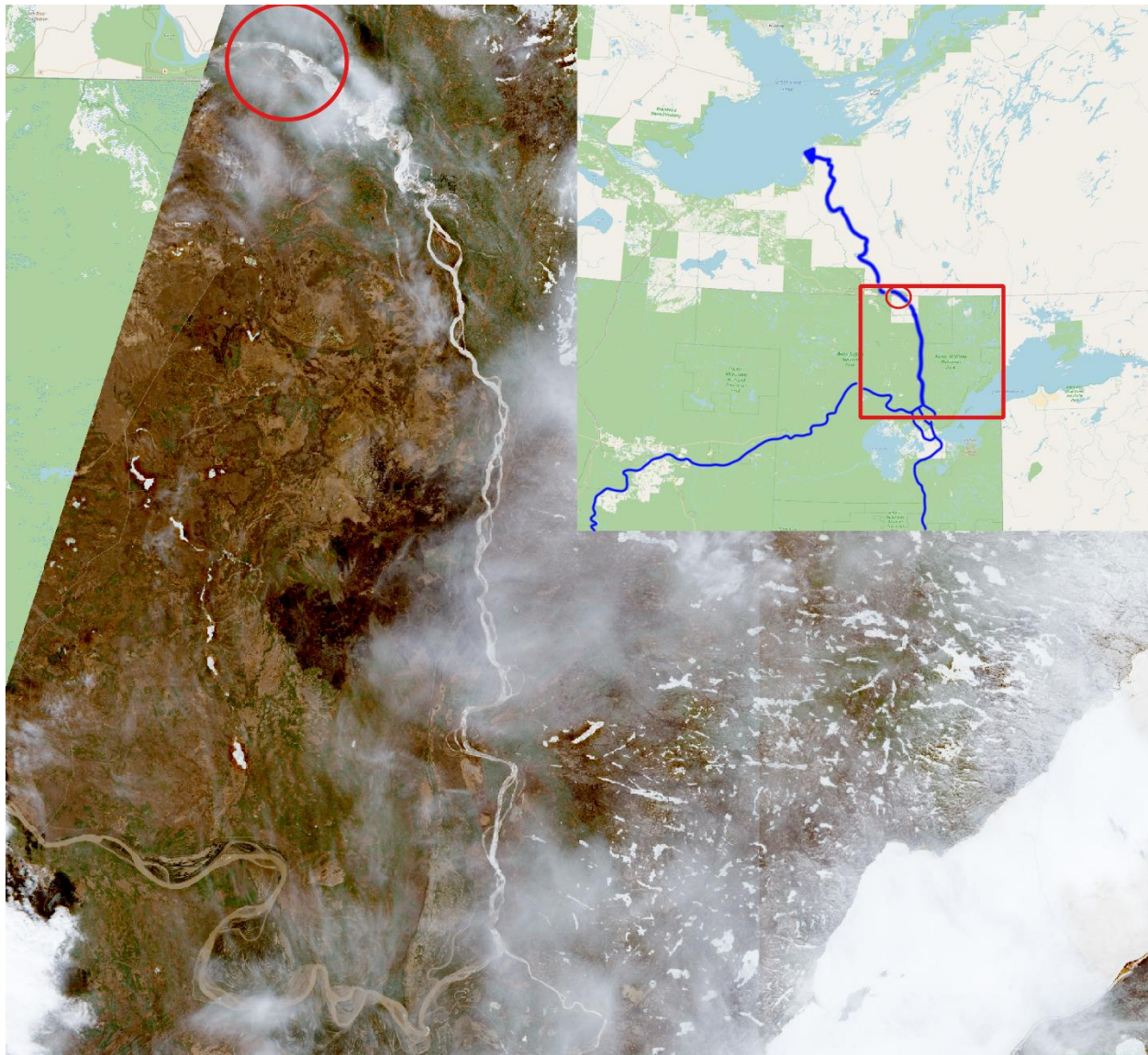


Optical satellite imagery of the Mackenzie River near Fort Simpson (circled).
Image: Copernicus Sentinel-2
Image acquired: May 10, 2026 at 13:28 MDT.

0 10 20 km



Above – optical satellite imagery acquired on May 10 at 13:28 MDT shows ice-free conditions on the Mackenzie between Fort Simpson and Camsell Bend. A section of ice remains jammed upstream of Martin Island, and sections of ice cover remain between Martin Island and Fort Providence. The exact extent cannot be determined from optical imagery due to cloud cover east of Jean Marie River.

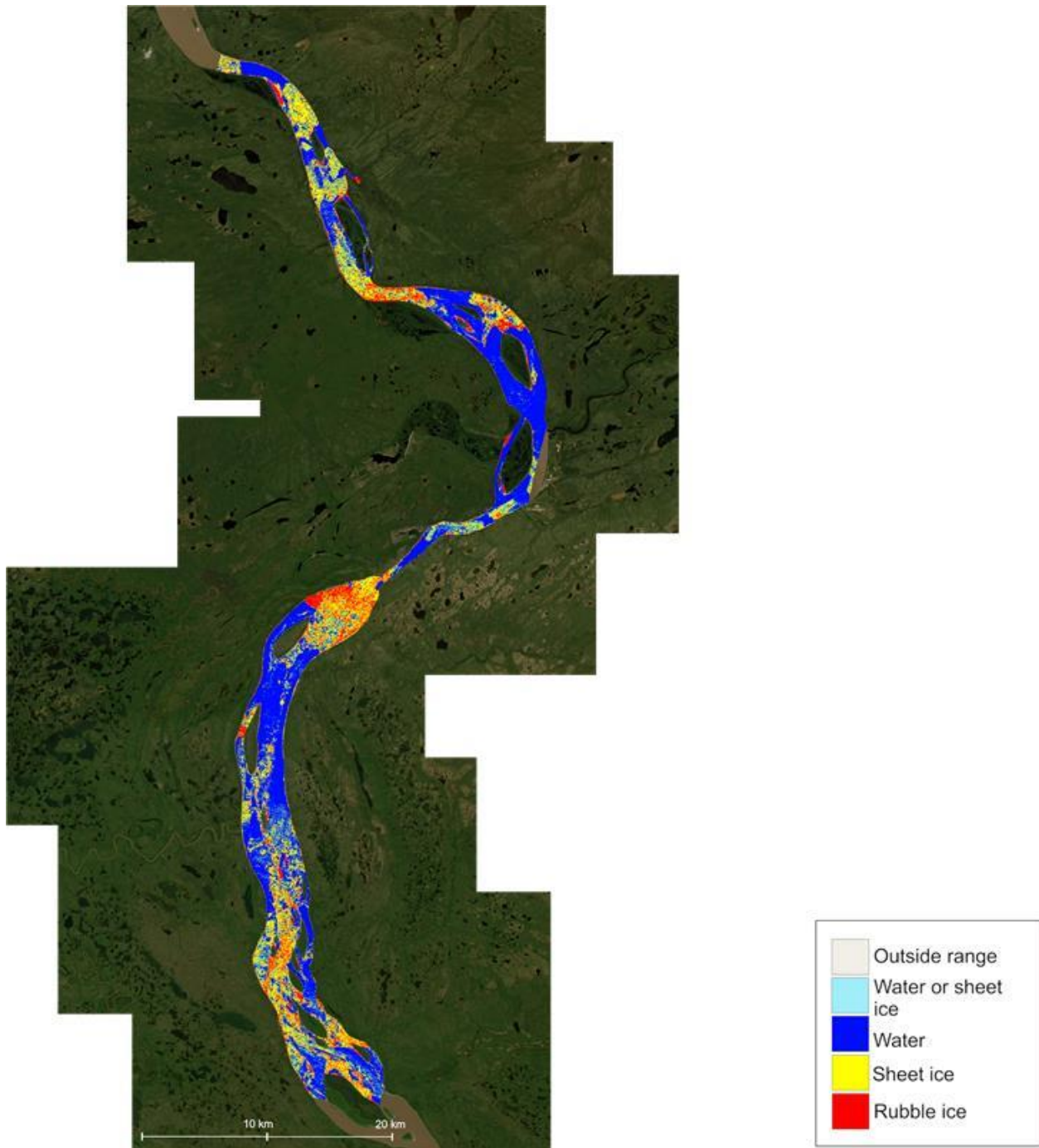


Optical satellite imagery of the Slave River upstream of Fort Smith (circled in both image and inset) and the Alberta border.
Image: Copernicus Sentinel-2
Image acquired: May 10, 2026 at 12:39 MDT.

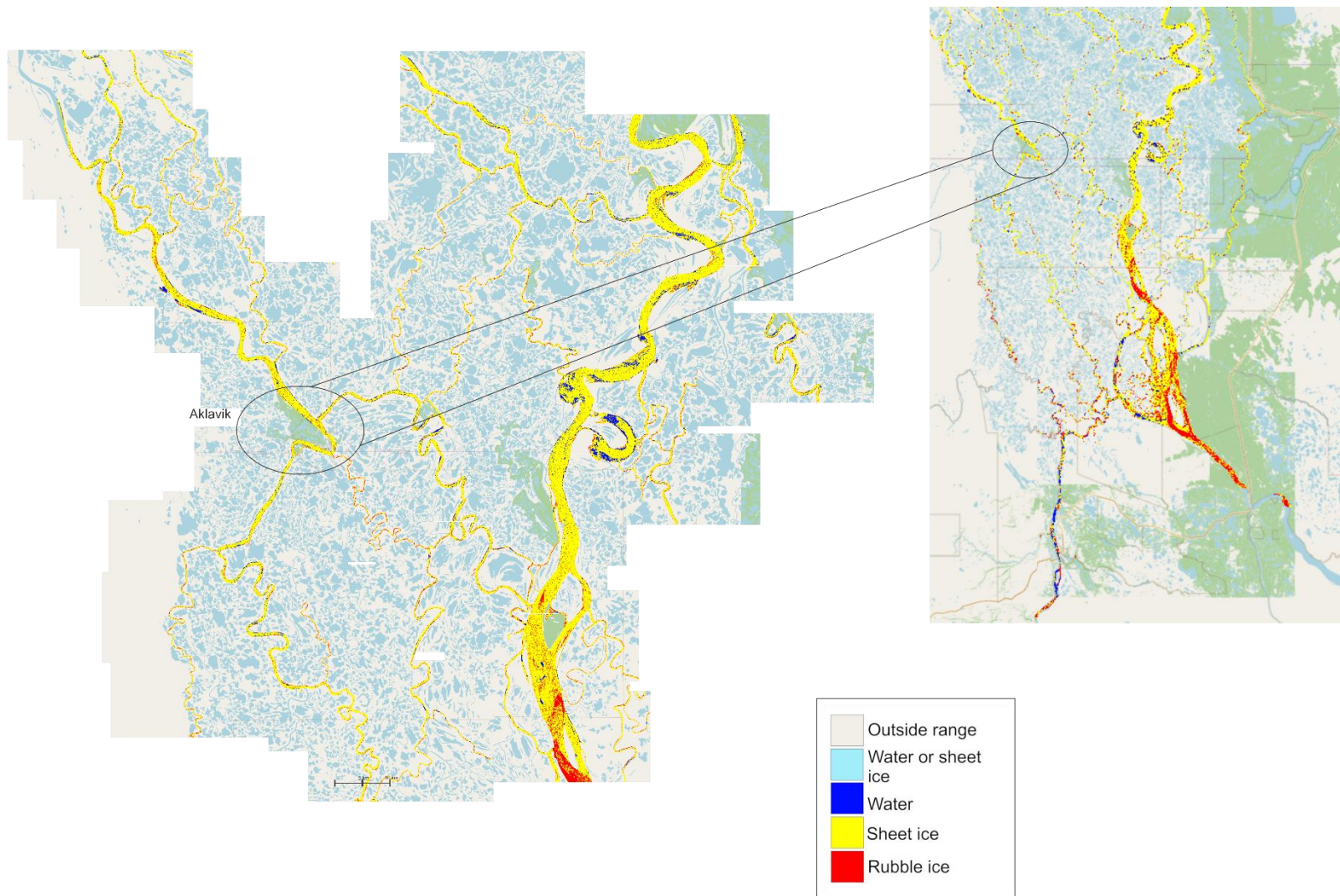
0 10 20 km



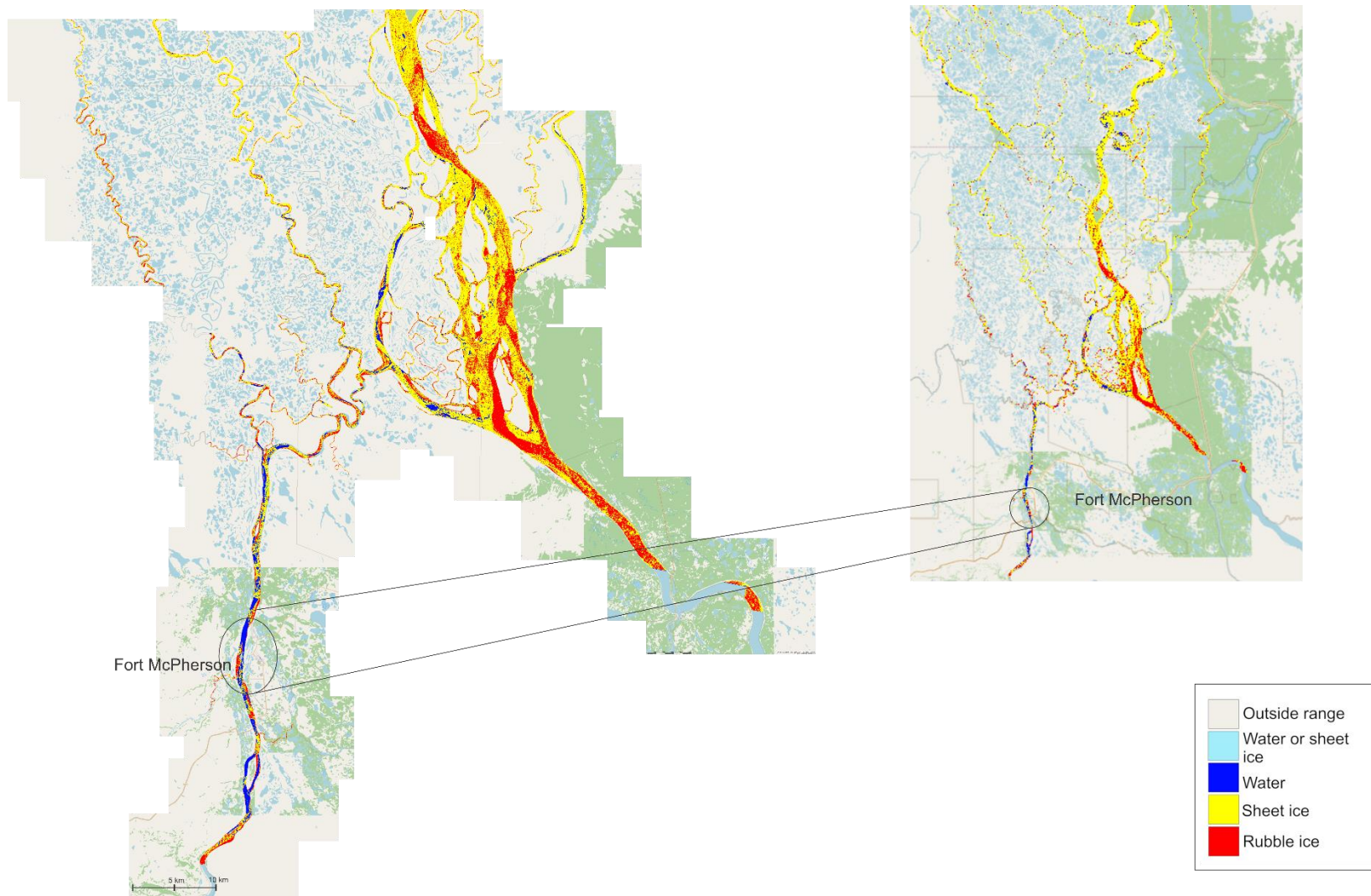
Above – optical satellite imagery acquired on May 10 at 12:39 MDT shows the ice front on the Slave River upstream of Fort Smith and the Alberta border. The Peace River is ice-free until the Riviere des Rochers confluence.



Above - Classified river ice imagery showing the Mackenzie River at Fort Good Hope for a total stretch 105 km. Image captured on May 10 at 09:16 MDT showing predominantly open water with small sections of rubble ice (in red) upstream of the Ramparts and downstream of Fort Good Hope. The image is courtesy of the federal government's Government Operations Centre. The river ice classification was completed using the IceBC algorithm.



Above - Classified river ice imagery showing the Mackenzie River Delta downstream of Horseshoe Bend. Image captured on May 10 at 20:20 MDT shows generally intact ice (yellow) near Aklavik with small pockets of open water (blue) in the delta. The image is courtesy of the federal government's Government Operations Centre. The river ice classification was completed using the IceBC algorithm.



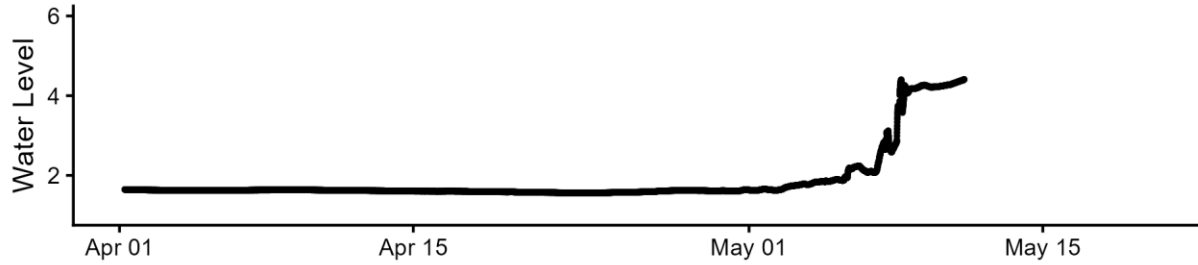
Above - Classified river ice imagery showing the Peel River and the southern Mackenzie Delta reaching north of Point Separation extending to Horseshoe Bend. Image captured on May 10 at 20:20 MDT shows small ice jams (rubble ice in red) upstream and open water sections downstream of Fort McPherson. The image also shows ice jam (rubble ice in red) upstream of Point Separation and into the main channel. The image is courtesy of the federal government's Government Operations Centre. The river ice classification was completed using the IceBC algorithm.

Appendix B: High resolution and historic water level plots

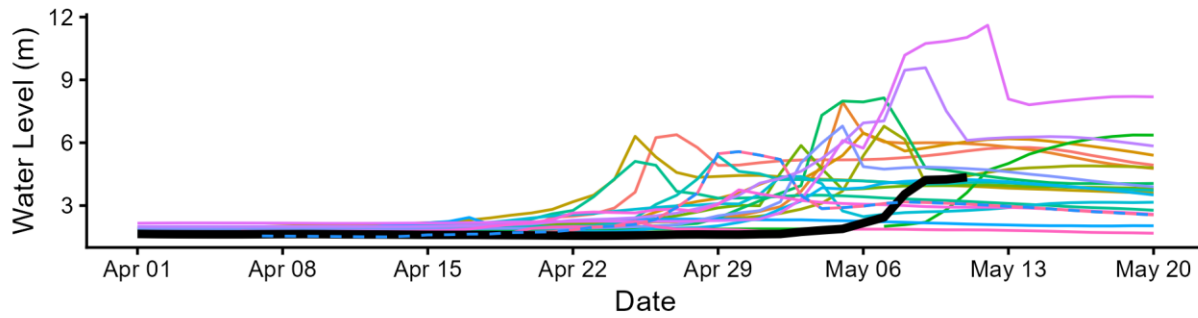
Hay River Near Hay River (07OB001)

HAY RIVER NEAR HAY RIVER (07OB001)

2026 Water Levels (5 minute resolution)



Historic Daily Water Levels

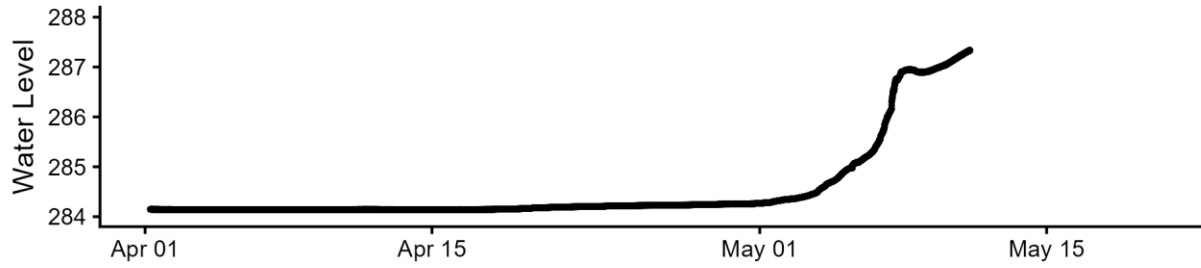


Above - The upper graph in the figure presents real time water level data at 5-minute resolution. The lower graph shows daily average levels relative to the previous 20 years (2026 levels: thick black; 2025 levels: dashed blue).

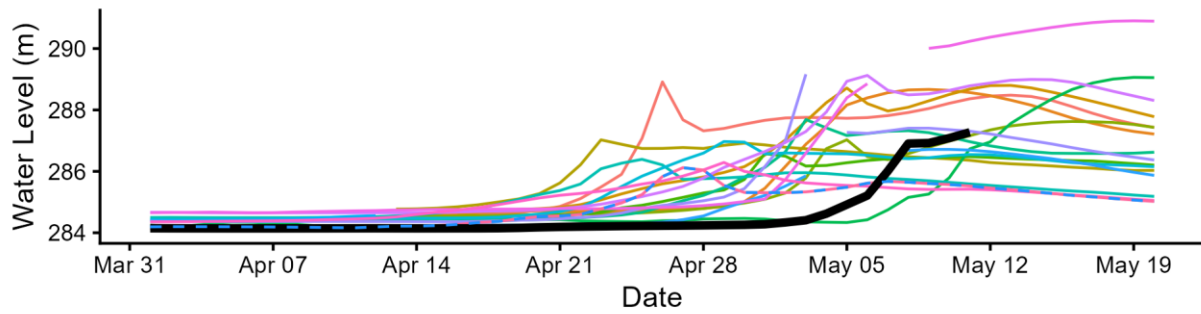
Hay River Near Alta/Nwt Boundary (07OB008)

HAY RIVER NEAR ALTA/NWT BOUNDARY (07OB008)

2026 Water Levels (5 minute resolution)



Historic Daily Water Levels

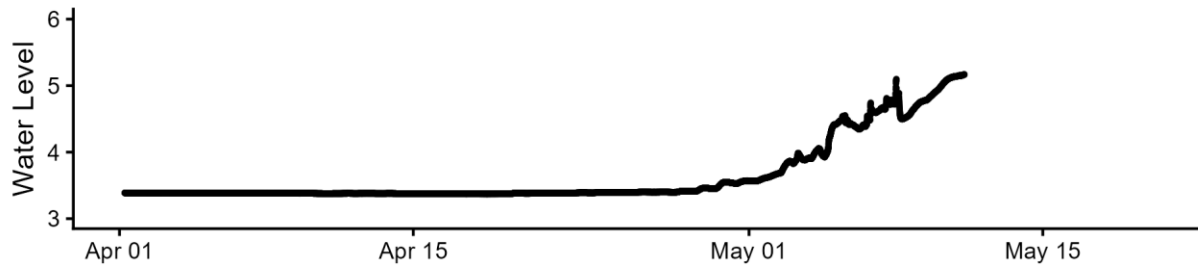


Above - The upper graph in the figure presents real time water level data at 5-minute resolution. The lower graph shows daily average levels relative to the previous 20 years (2026 levels: thick black; 2025 levels: dashed blue).

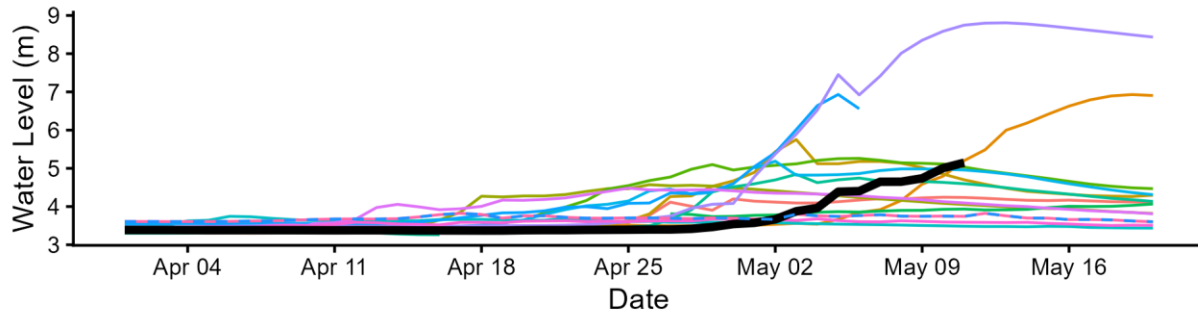
Steen River Near Steen River (070B004)

STEEN RIVER NEAR STEEN RIVER (070B004)

2026 Water Levels (5 minute resolution)



Historic Daily Water Levels

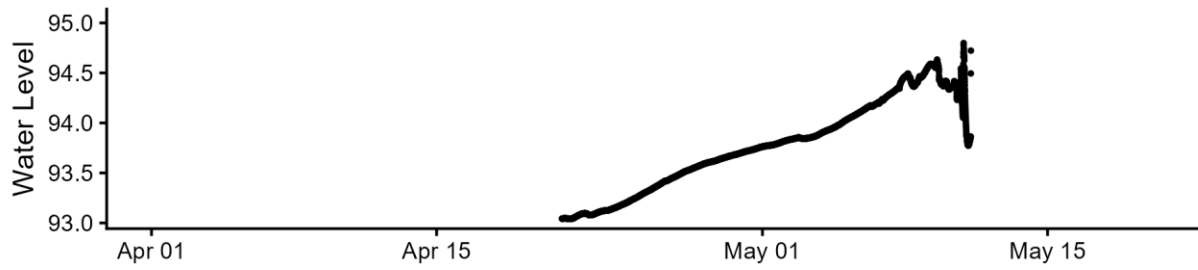


Above - The upper graph in the figure presents real time water level data at 5-minute resolution. The lower graph shows daily average levels relative to the previous 20 years (2026 levels: thick black; 2025 levels: dashed blue).

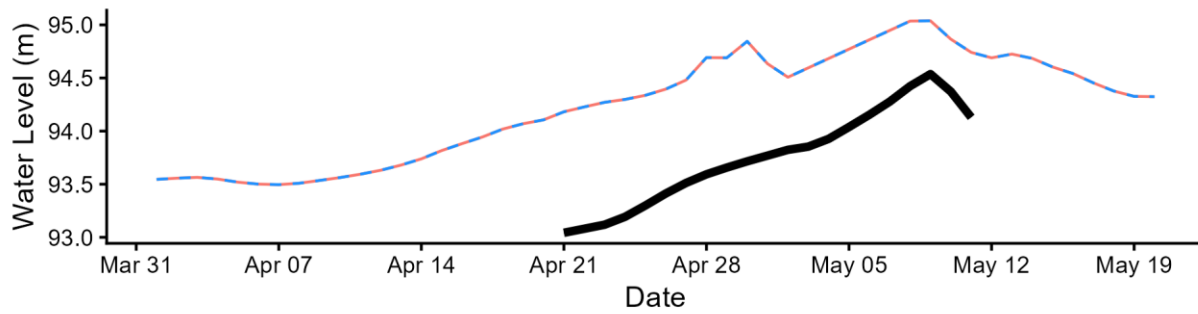
Mackenzie River At Jean Marie River (10FB007)

MACKENZIE RIVER AT JEAN MARIE RIVER (10FB007)

2026 Water Levels (5 minute resolution)



Historic Daily Water Levels

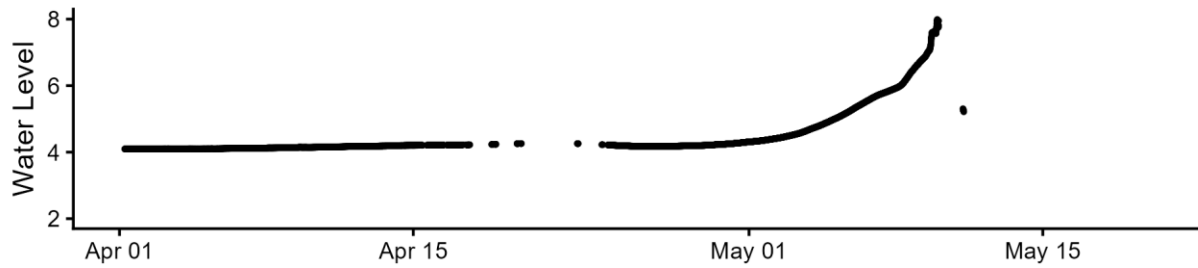


Above - The upper graph in the figure presents real time water level data at 5-minute resolution. The lower graph shows daily average levels relative to the previous 20 years (2026 levels: thick black; 2025 levels: dashed blue).

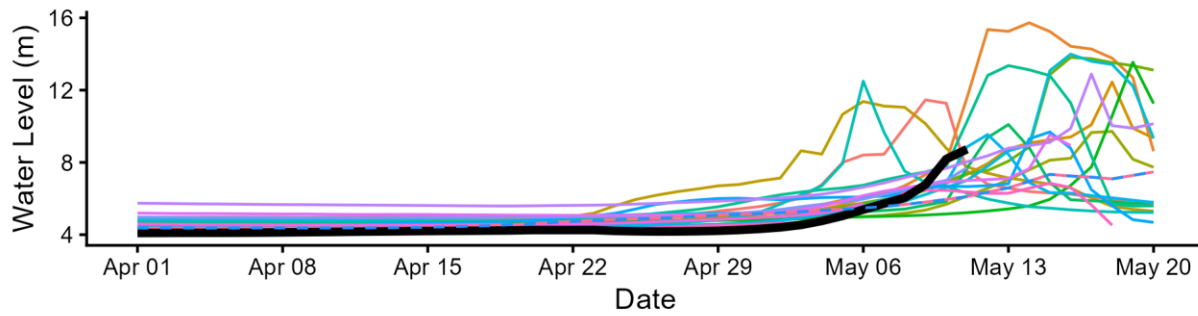
Mackenzie River At Norman Wells (10KA001)

MACKENZIE RIVER AT NORMAN WELLS (10KA001)

2026 Water Levels (5 minute resolution)



Historic Daily Water Levels

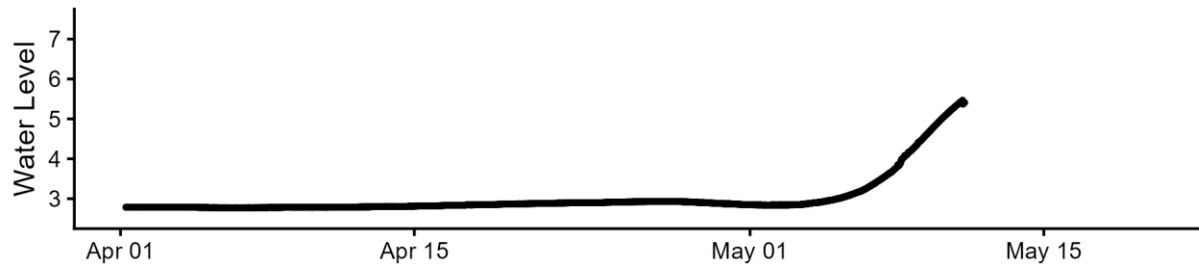


Above - The upper graph in the figure presents real time water level data at 5-minute resolution. The lower graph shows daily average levels relative to the previous 20 years (2026 levels: thick black; 2025 levels: dashed blue).

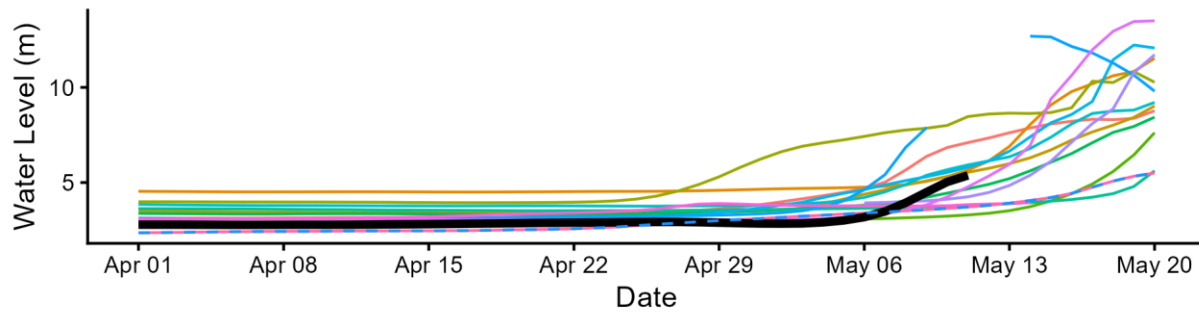
Mackenzie River At Arctic Red River (10LC014)

MACKENZIE RIVER AT ARCTIC RED RIVER (10LC014)

2026 Water Levels (5 minute resolution)



Historic Daily Water Levels

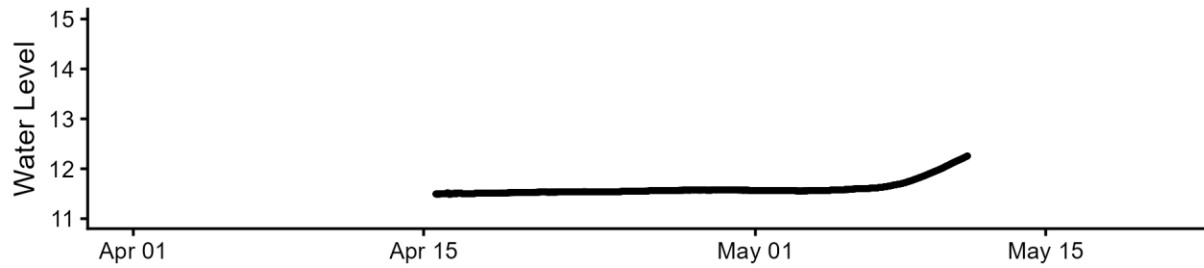


Above - The upper graph in the figure presents real time water level data at 5-minute resolution. The lower graph shows daily average levels relative to the previous 20 years (2026 levels: thick black; 2025 levels: dashed blue).

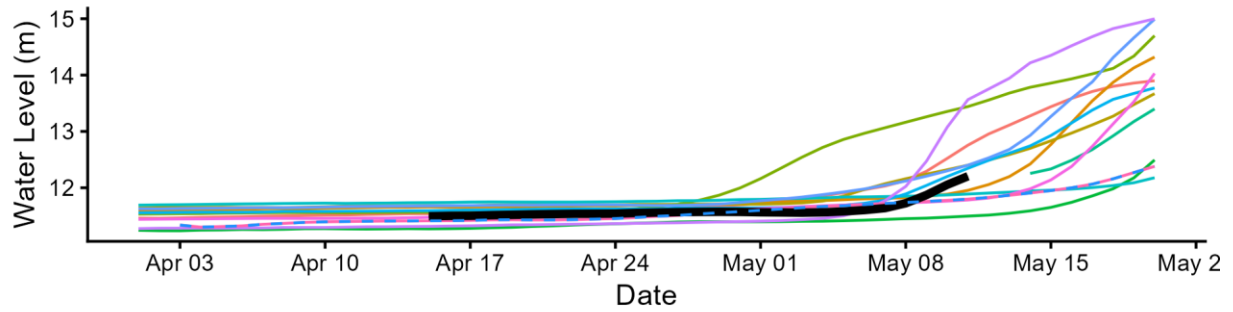
Mackenzie River (East Channel) At Inuvik (10LC002)

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

2026 Water Levels (5 minute resolution)



Historic Daily Water Levels

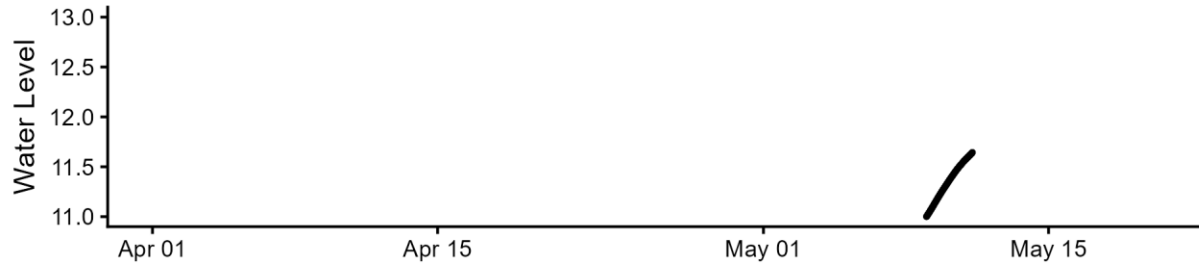


Above - The upper graph in the figure presents real time water level data at 5-minute resolution. The lower graph shows daily average levels relative to the previous 20 years (2026 levels: thick black; 2025 levels: dashed blue).

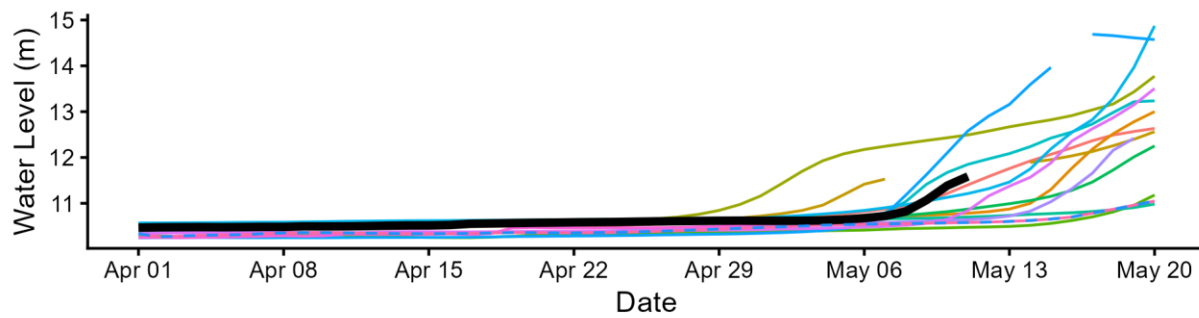
Mackenzie River (Peel Channel) Above Aklavik (10MC003)

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

2026 Water Levels (5 minute resolution)



Historic Daily Water Levels

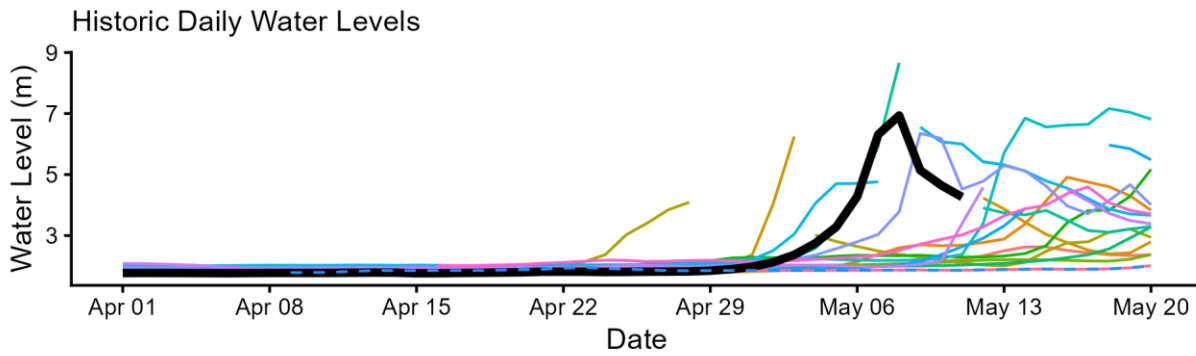
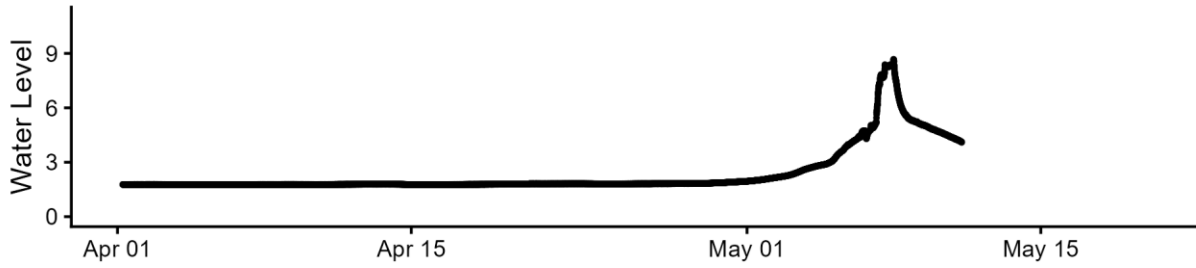


Above - The upper graph in the figure presents real time water level data at 5-minute resolution. The lower graph shows daily average levels relative to the previous 20 years (2026 levels: thick black; 2025 levels: dashed blue).

Arctic Red River Near The Mouth (10LA002)

ARCTIC RED RIVER NEAR THE MOUTH (10LA002)

2026 Water Levels (5 minute resolution)

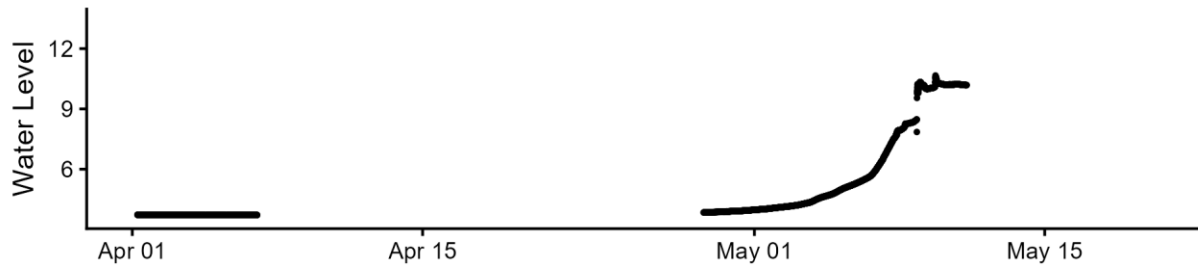


Above - The upper graph in the figure presents real time water level data at 5-minute resolution. The lower graph shows daily average levels relative to the previous 20 years (2026 levels: thick black; 2025 levels: dashed blue).

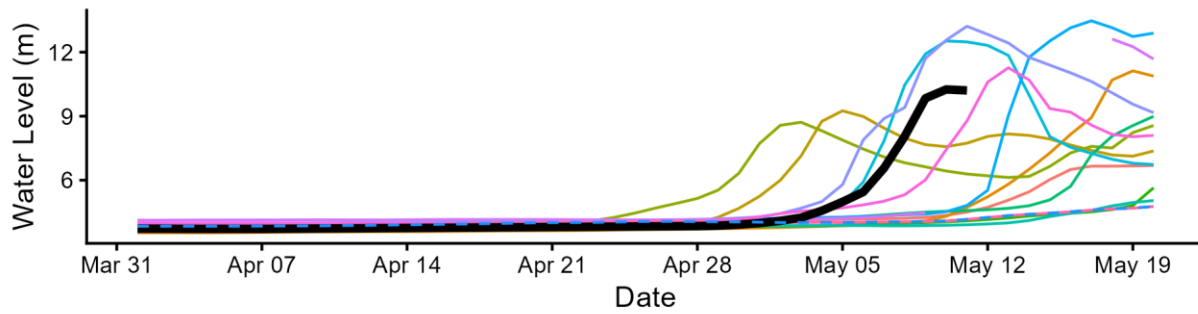
Peel River Above Fort Mcpherson (10MC002)

PEEL RIVER ABOVE FORT MCPHERSON (10MC002)

2026 Water Levels (5 minute resolution)



Historic Daily Water Levels



Above - The upper graph in the figure presents real time water level data at 5-minute resolution. The lower graph shows daily average levels relative to the previous 20 years (2026 levels: thick black; 2025 levels: dashed blue).