



Government of Northwest Territories
Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

NWT Water Monitoring Bulletin

June 3rd 2026

Bulletin sur la surveillance
des eaux des
TNO – 3 juin 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 (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 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.

Current Status

- This report is our **Monthly Water Monitoring Bulletin**, which provides an update on current hydrologic and climatic conditions in the NWT.

- Following the 2026 spring break-up, water levels are generally higher than the levels observed at this time last year, across most of the large lakes and rivers in the NWT.
 - Great Slave Lake water level has been rising since mid-May and is currently approximately below average, after being well below average consistently since July 2023.
 - Slave River water level is above average for this time of year. This is also the case upstream on the Athabasca River and Peace River.
 - Hay River water level is average to above average for this time of year, as measured at the AB-NT border and at the Town of Hay River. Similarly, an upstream tributary of the Hay River – Chinchaga River – is also well above average for this time of year.
 - Liard River water level is below average, as measured at Fort Liard and at the mouth, for this time of year, but higher than the levels recorded this time last year. This is also the case for the upstream gauges in BC (Liard River at Lower Crossing) and Yukon (Liard River at Upper Crossing).
 - Mackenzie River water level, recorded at several stations along the river, is below average for this time of year, but higher than the levels observed last year.
 - Great Bear Lake has been rising since early May and is now still well below average for this time of year, but higher than its level recorded last year.
 - Peel River water level is below average for this time of year and lower than the level recorded last year.

- Other water bodies with water levels that are currently higher than this time last year include Prosperous Lake (average), Prelude Lake (average), La Martre River (well below average), and Taltson River (average).
- Other water bodies with water levels that are currently lower than this time last year include Lockhart River (average to above average), Hoarforst River (average to above average), Mountain River (average), and Keele 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.
- Water levels on Great Slave Lake and the Mackenzie River this summer will be impacted by rainfall amounts in northern Alberta and British Columbia.
 - May precipitation across the territory was approximately average, except for Norman Wells (above average precipitation).
 - May temperatures across the territory were generally above average, except for Norman Wells and Inuvik (average temperatures).
- Climate forecasts from ECCC for June to August 2026 indicate above-average temperatures across most of the NWT, particularly in western and southern regions, while temperatures along the Beaufort Sea coastline are expected to be near normal. Precipitation is forecast to be near to below average across the NWT, with a tendency towards above-average precipitation in the southeast. The forecast confidence is higher for temperature than precipitation.

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 (du 10e au 90e 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 (MECC) 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.

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.
- Après la débâcle du printemps 2026, 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 cours d'eau des TNO.
 - Le niveau d'eau du Grand lac des Esclaves est en hausse depuis la mi-mai et se situe actuellement légèrement 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 des Esclaves est supérieur à la moyenne pour cette période de l'année. C'est également le cas en amont de la rivière Athabasca et de la rivière de la Paix.
 - Le niveau d'eau de la rivière Hay se situe entre la moyenne et un niveau supérieur à la moyenne pour cette période de l'année, selon les mesures effectuées à la frontière Alberta-TNO ainsi qu'à la hauteur de la ville de Hay River. De même, le niveau d'un affluent en amont de la rivière Hay – la rivière Chinchaga – est également bien supérieur à la moyenne pour cette période de l'année.
 - Le niveau d'eau de la rivière Liard, mesuré à la hauteur de Fort Liard et à l'embouchure de la rivière, est inférieur à la moyenne pour cette période de l'année, mais est supérieur aux niveaux enregistrés au même moment l'année dernière. C'est également le cas pour les stations hydrométriques en amont, en Colombie-Britannique (rivière Liard à la hauteur de Lower Crossing) et au Yukon (rivière Liard à la hauteur de Upper Crossing).
 - Le niveau d'eau du fleuve Mackenzie, relevé à plusieurs stations le long de son cours, est inférieur à la moyenne pour cette période de l'année, mais supérieur aux niveaux observés l'an dernier.
 - Le niveau du Grand lac de l'Ours est en hausse depuis début mai; il reste toutefois bien en deçà de la moyenne pour cette période de l'année, mais il est supérieur au niveau enregistré l'année dernière.
 - Le niveau d'eau de la rivière Peel est inférieur à la moyenne pour cette période de l'année et inférieur au niveau enregistré l'année dernière.
 - Parmi les autres plans d'eau dont les niveaux sont actuellement supérieurs à ceux de la même période l'année dernière, mentionnons le lac Prosperous (dans la moyenne), le lac Prelude (dans la moyenne), la rivière La Martre (bien inférieur à la moyenne) et la rivière Taltson (dans la moyenne).
 - Parmi les autres plans d'eau dont les niveaux sont actuellement inférieurs à ceux de la même période l'année dernière, mentionnons la rivière Lockhart (dans la moyenne ou supérieur à la moyenne), la rivière Hoarforst (dans la

moyenne ou supérieur à la moyenne), la rivière Mountain (dans la moyenne) et la rivière Keele (inférieur à la moyenne).

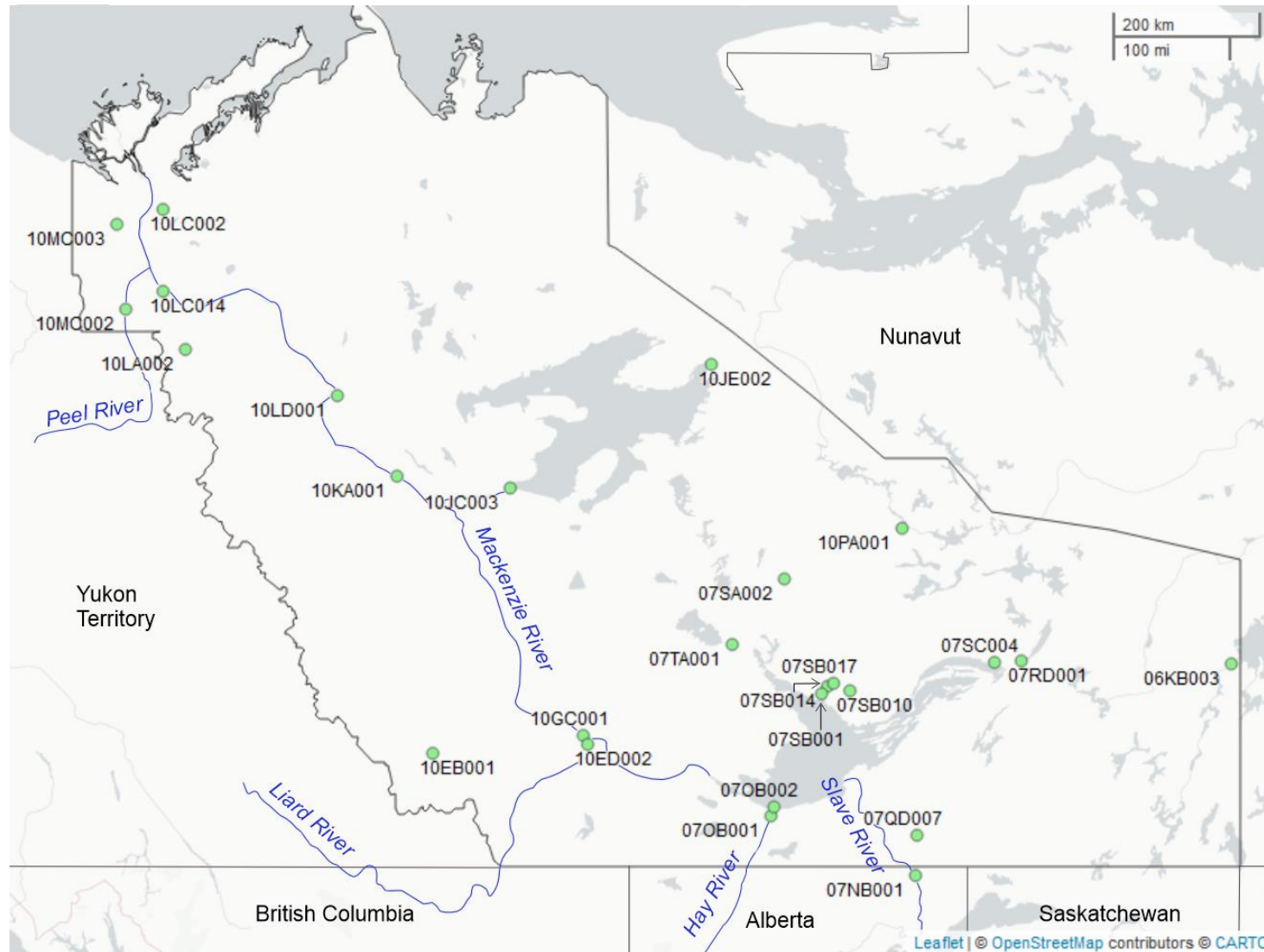
- Les niveaux d'eau ont connu une certaine remontée depuis les faibles niveaux observés ces dernières années, grâce à une augmentation due à un manteau neigeux plus épais que la moyenne dans une grande partie du bassin du fleuve Mackenzie.
- Pour l'été à venir, les niveaux d'eau du Grand lac des Esclaves et du fleuve Mackenzie varieront en fonction des précipitations tombées dans le nord de l'Alberta et de la Colombie-Britannique.
 - Les précipitations du mois de mai sur l'ensemble du territoire ont été proches de la moyenne, sauf à Norman Wells (précipitations supérieures à la moyenne).
 - Les températures du mois de mai sur l'ensemble du territoire ont été généralement supérieures à la moyenne, sauf à Norman Wells et à Inuvik (températures dans la moyenne).
- Les prévisions météorologiques du MECC pour la période de juin à août 2026 indiquent des températures supérieures à la moyenne dans la majeure partie des TNO, en particulier dans les régions de l'Ouest et du Sud, tandis que les températures le long du littoral de la mer de Beaufort devraient être proches de la normale. Les précipitations devraient être proches de la moyenne ou inférieures à la moyenne pour l'ensemble des TNO, avec une tendance à des précipitations supérieures à la moyenne dans le Sud-Est. Le degré de confiance à l'égard des prévisions est plus élevé pour les températures que pour les précipitations.

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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 (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

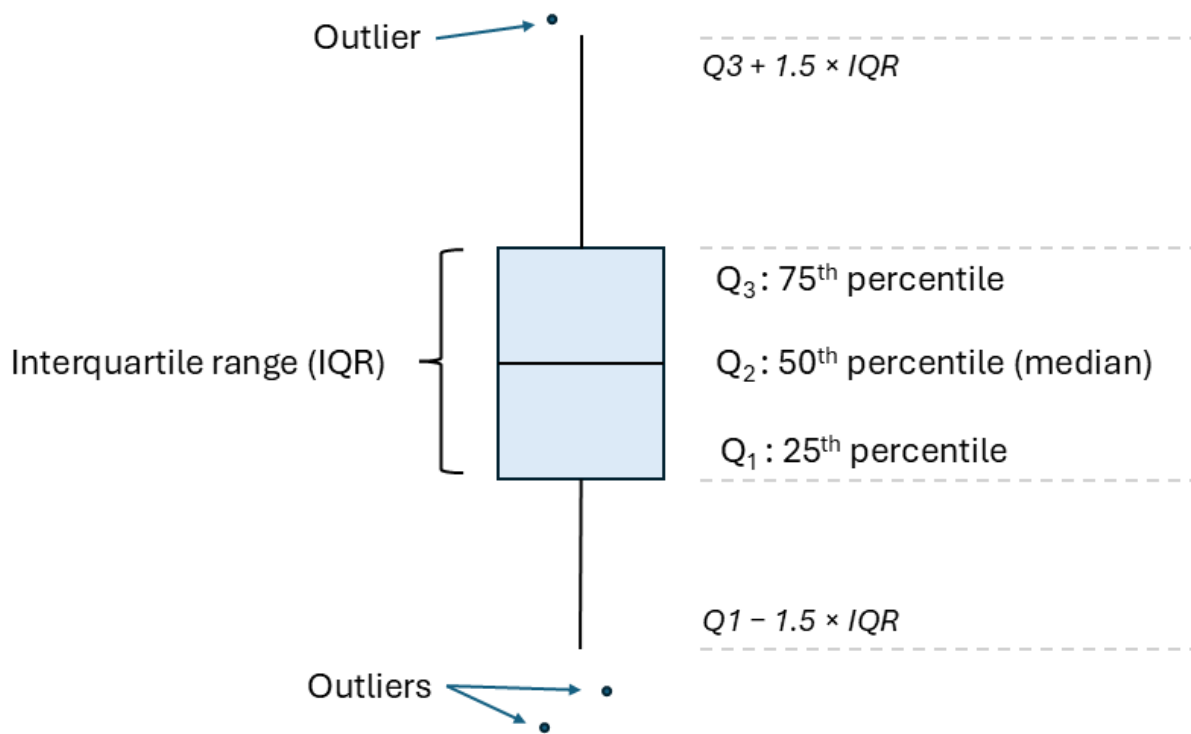
Monthly air temperature and precipitation data are displayed for six communities in the NWT (Fort Smith, Hay River, Yellowknife, Fort Simpson, Norman Wells, and Inuvik) and presented as box and whisker plots.

As shown in the schematic below, box and whisker plots show how data are spread out. The horizontal line inside the box shows the median (50th percentile) value. The box itself shows the interquartile range (IQR) between the 25th and 75th percentiles (the average range), where the typical values are found. The whiskers (the vertical lines extending from the box) show how far the rest of the data stretch, excluding outliers (unusually high or low values).

Each grey dot in the climate figures is the value from a previous year, beginning in 1950. The red or blue dots represent the values for the current year. Any dots beyond the whiskers are considered outliers, or unusually high or low values compared to the rest of the data.

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:** higher or lower than the interquartile range (average range), but excluding unusually high or low values.
- **Well above average / Well below average:** unusually high or low values.

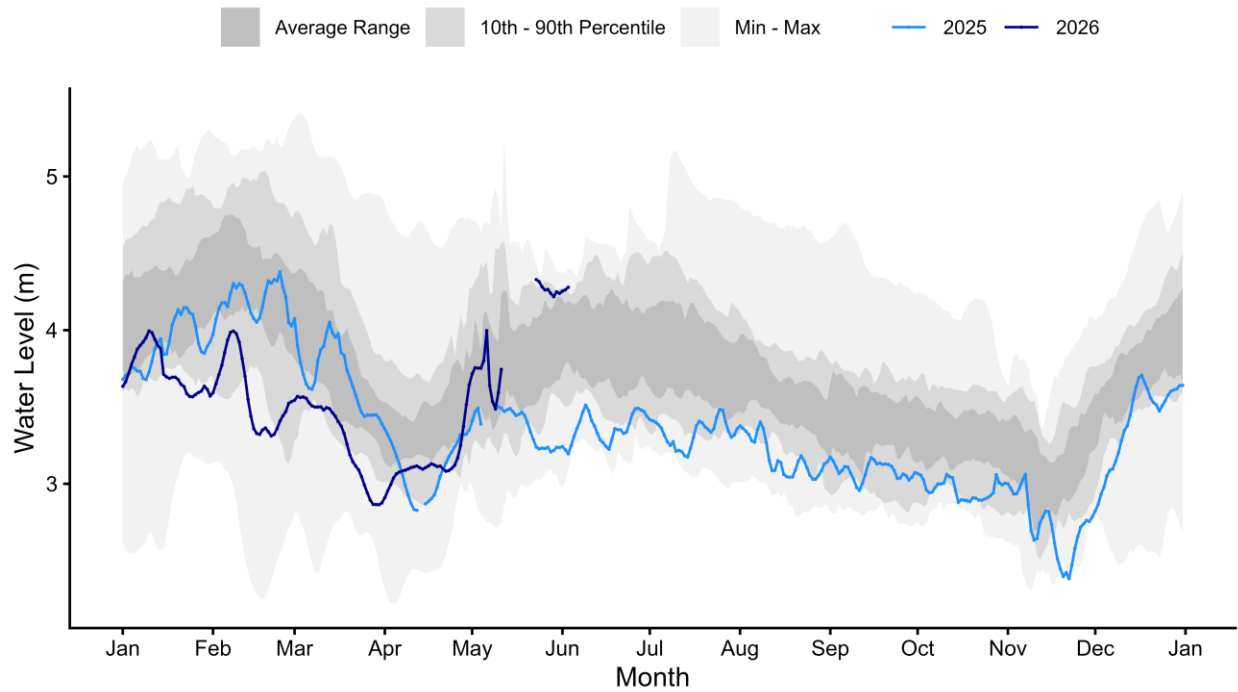


These data are primarily acquired and managed by Environment and Climate Change Canada, but in some cases values have been infilled with GNWT climate station data when ECCC data are unavailable.

Hydrometric data

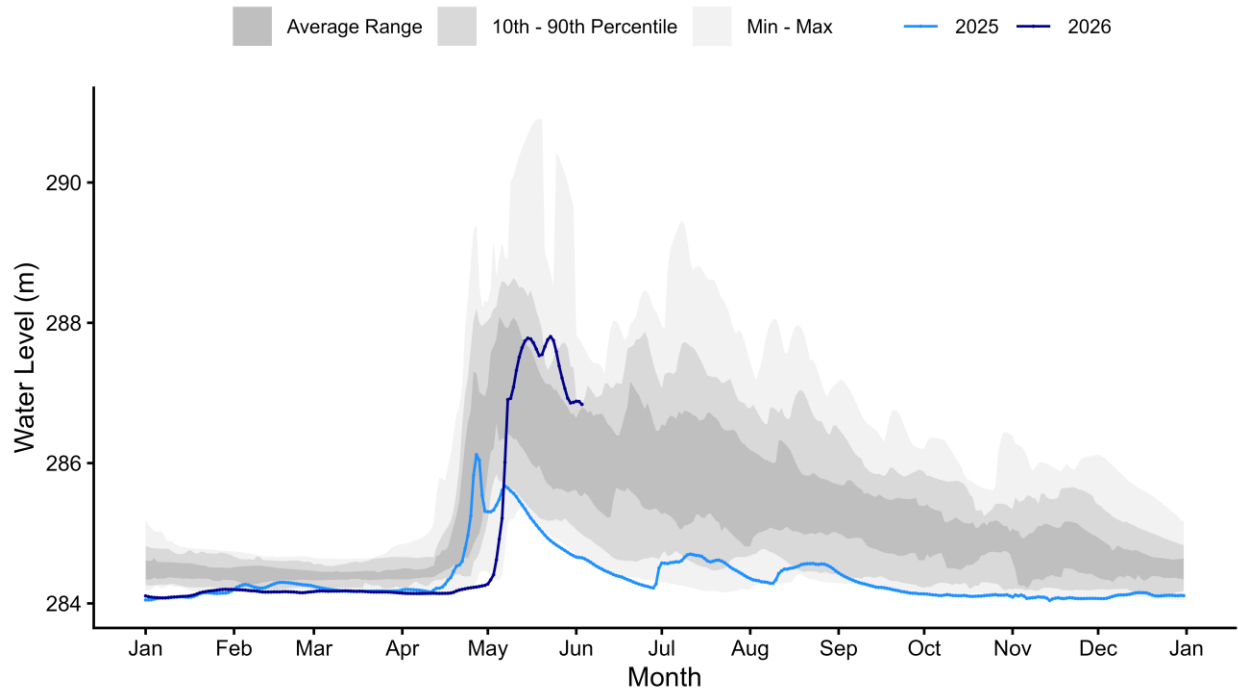
Slave River at Fitzgerald [07NB001]

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



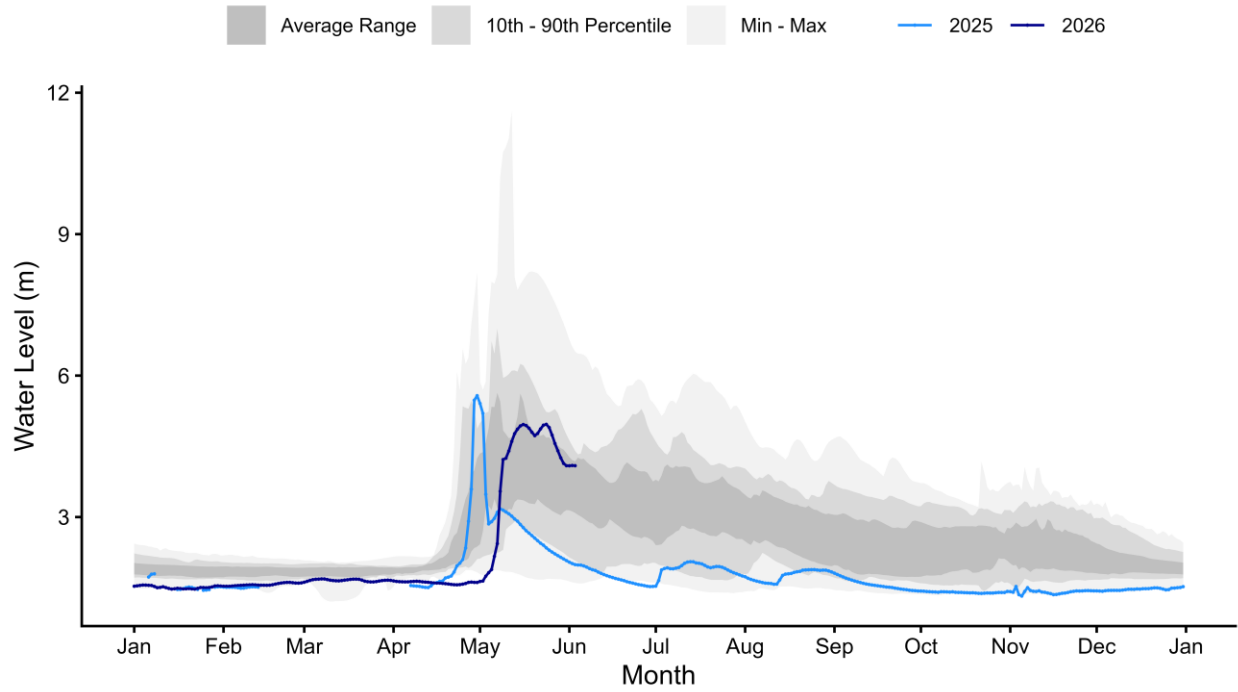
Hay River near Alberta/NWT Boundary [07OB008]

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



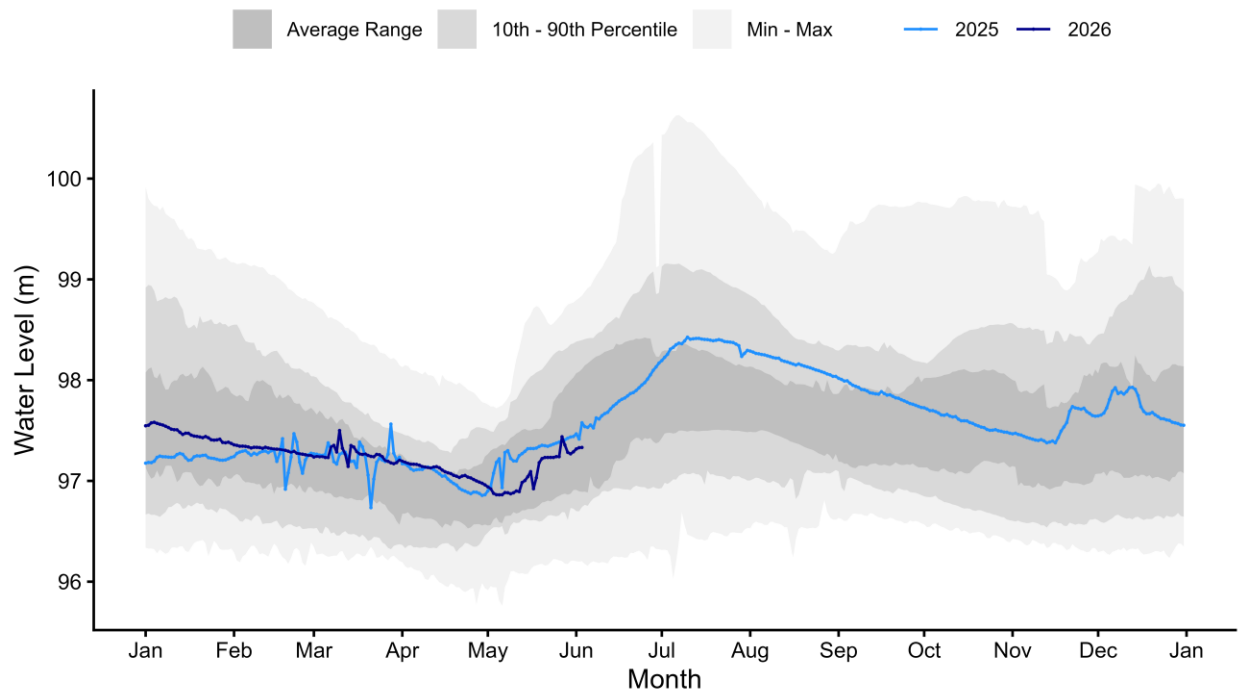
Hay River near Hay River [07OB001]

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



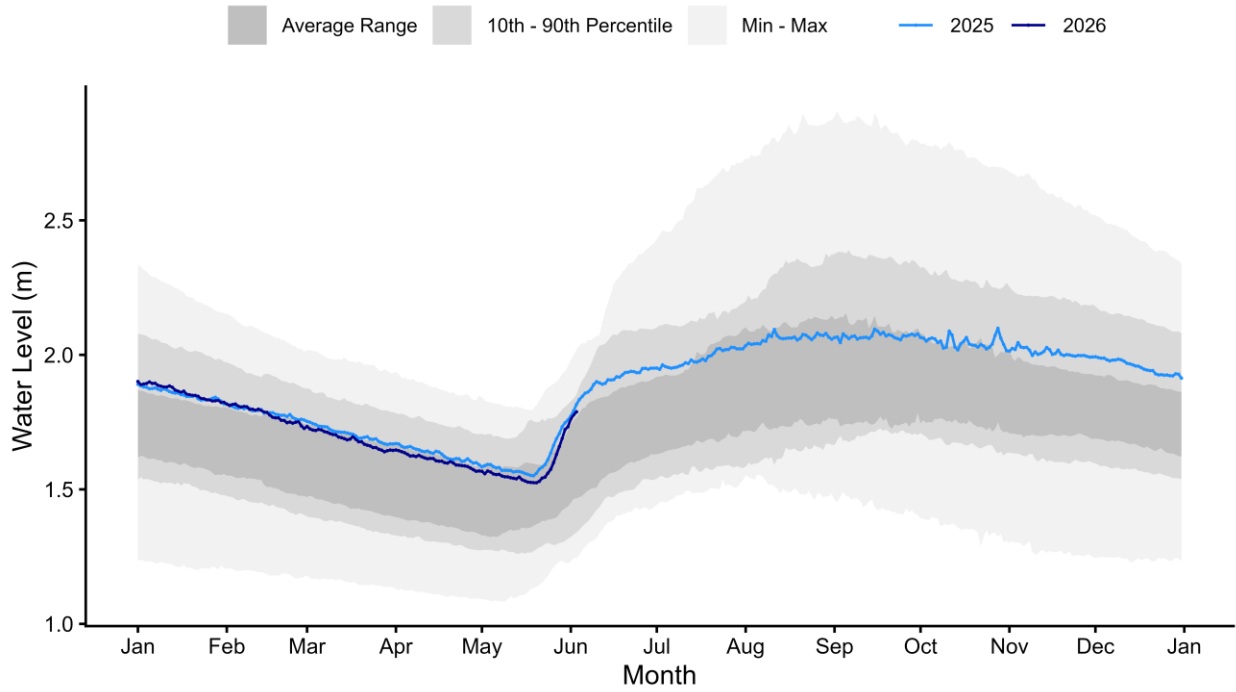
Taltson River below Hydro Dam [07QD007]

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



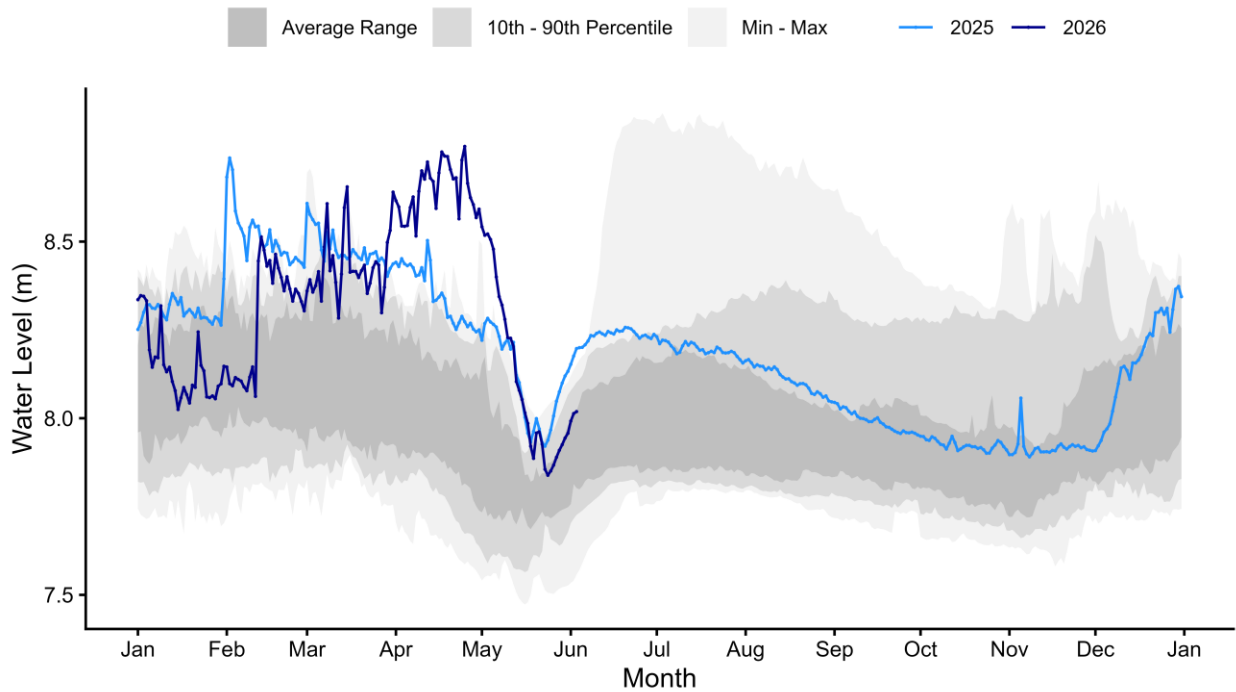
Lockhart River at outlet of Artillery Lake [07RD001]

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



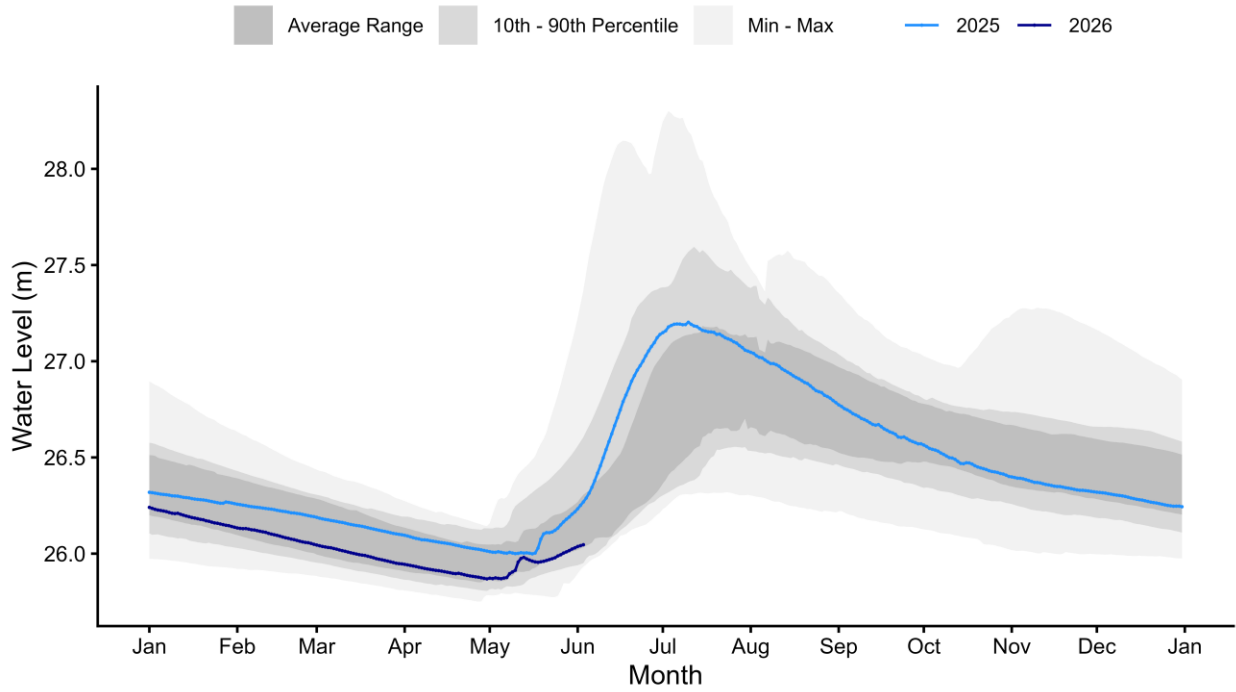
Hoarfrost River near the mouth [07SC004]

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



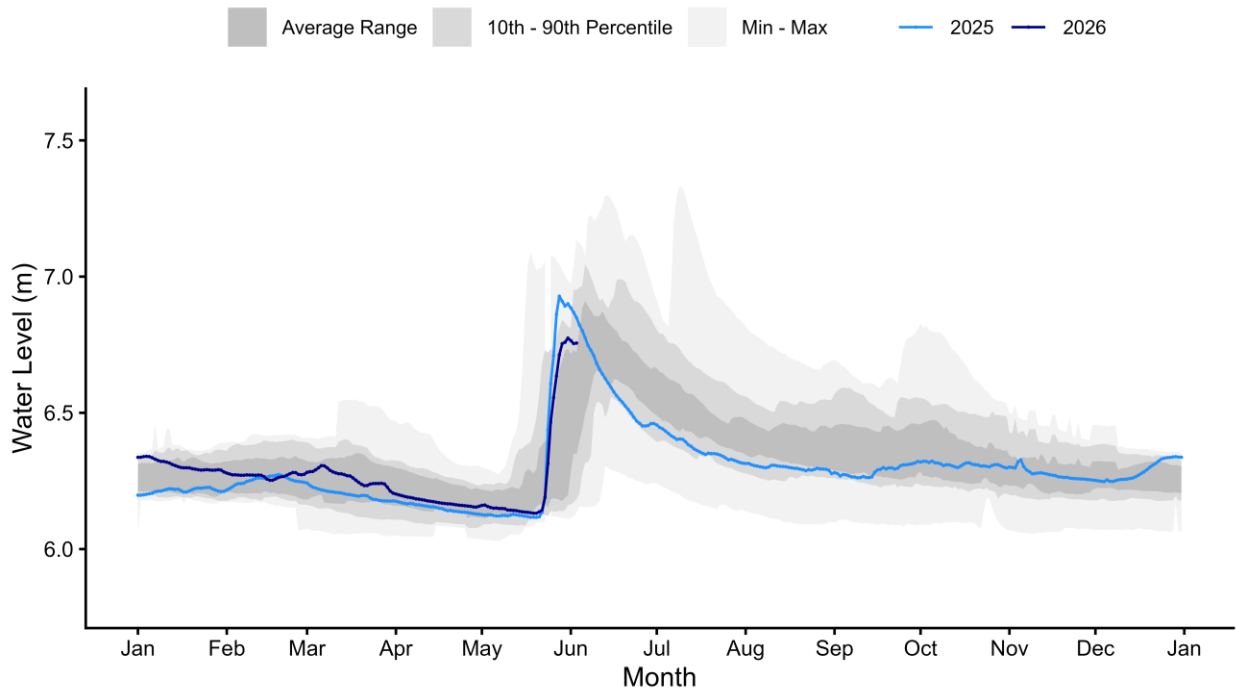
Snare River below Ghost Lake [07SA002]

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



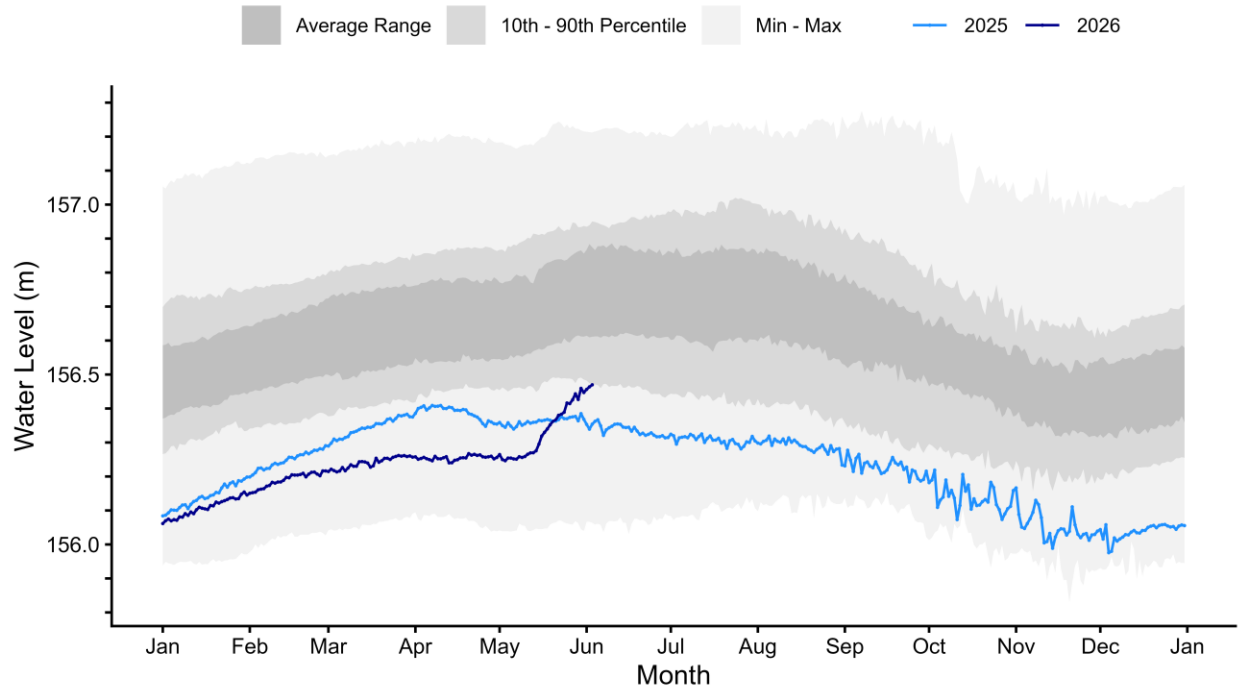
Coppermine River below Desteffany Lake [10PA001]

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



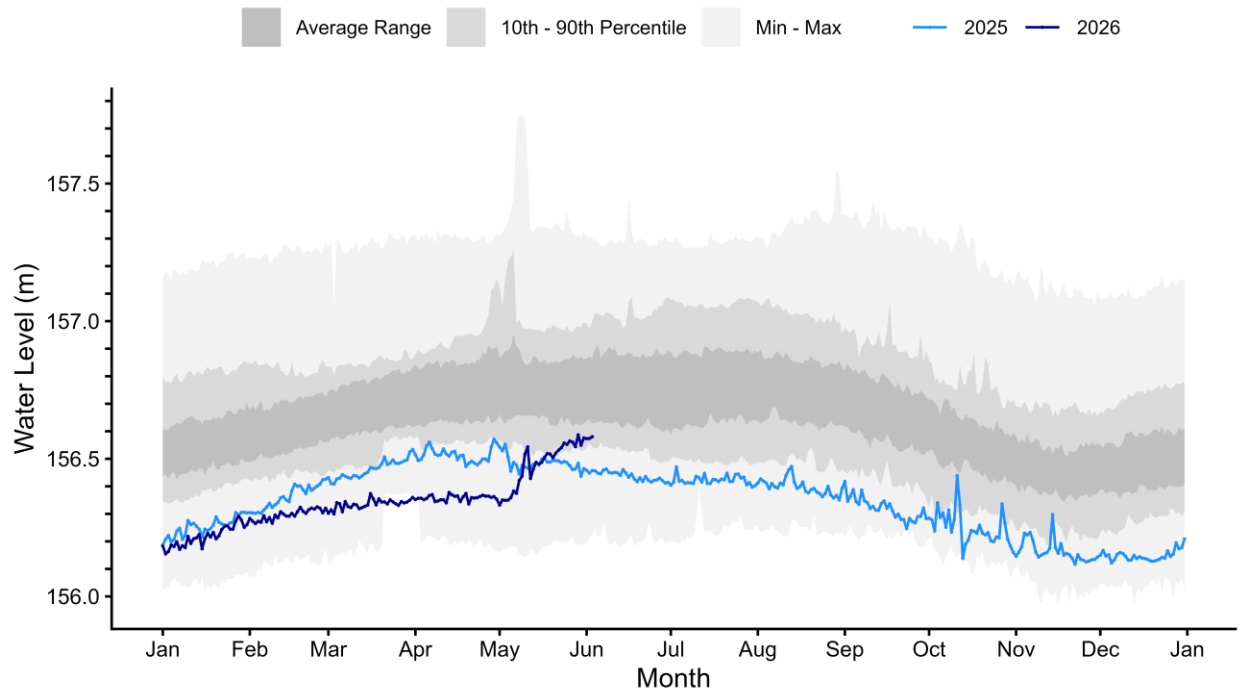
Great Slave Lake at Yellowknife Bay [07SB001]

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



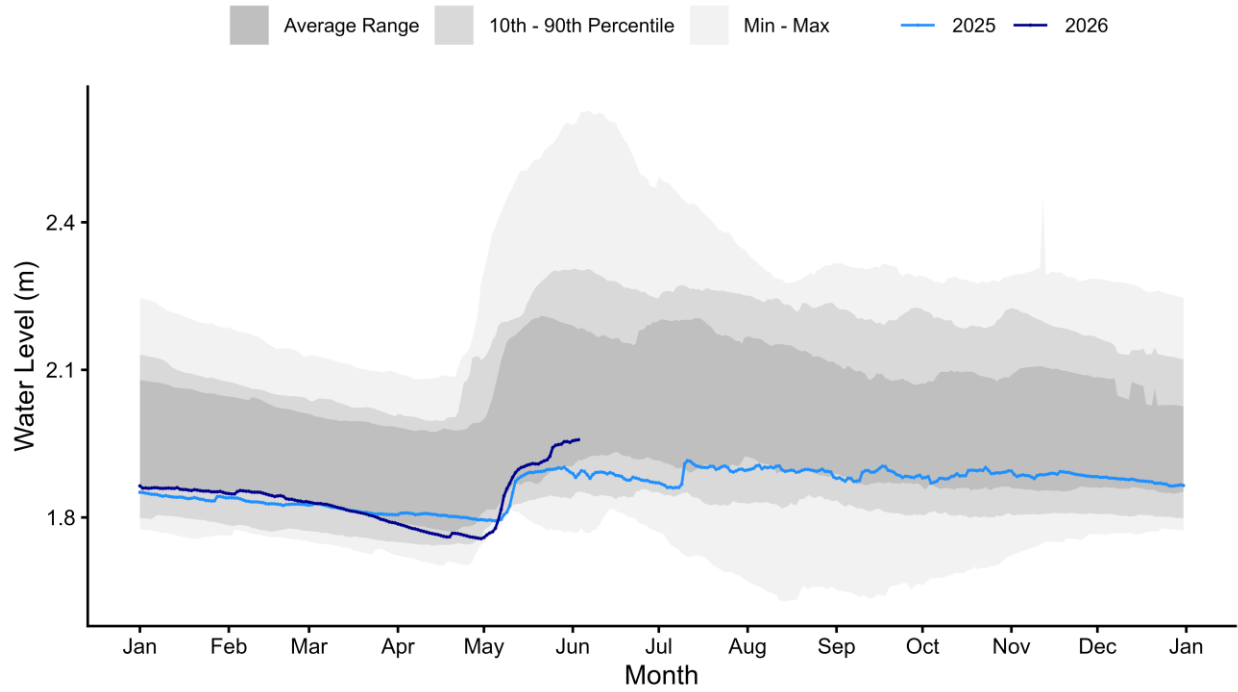
Great Slave Lake at Hay River [07OB002]

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



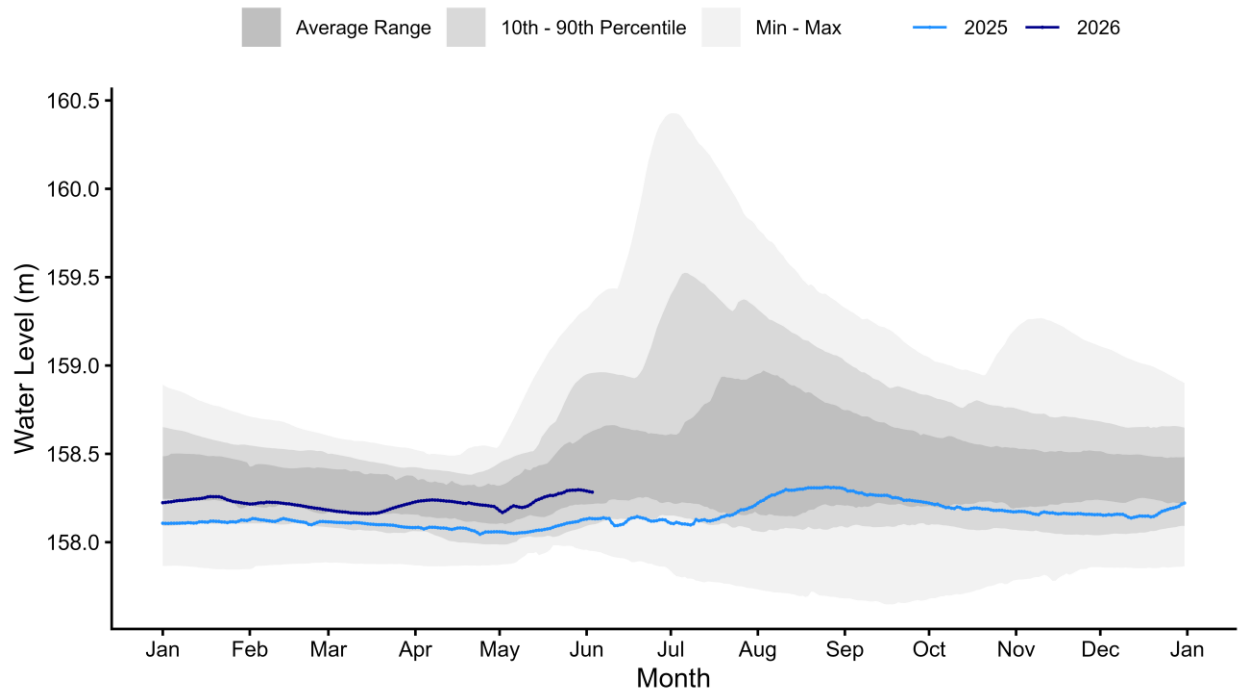
Cameron River below Reid Lake [07SB010]

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



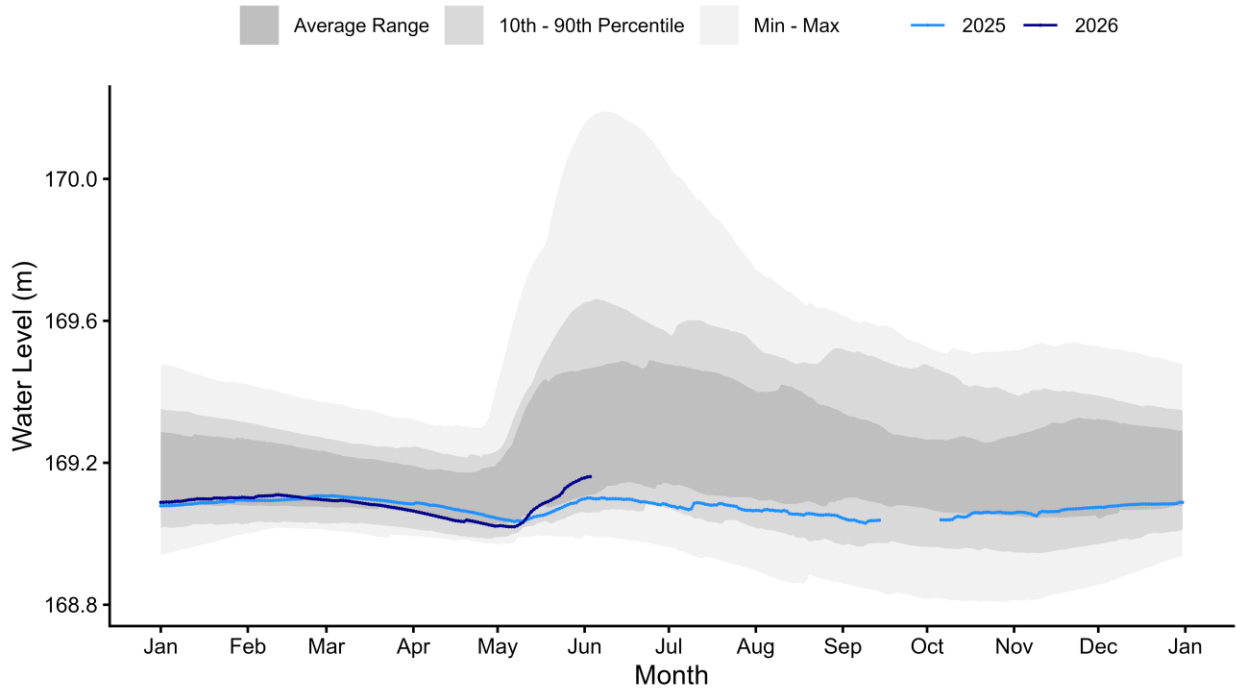
Prosperous Lake near McMeekan Bay [07SB014]

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



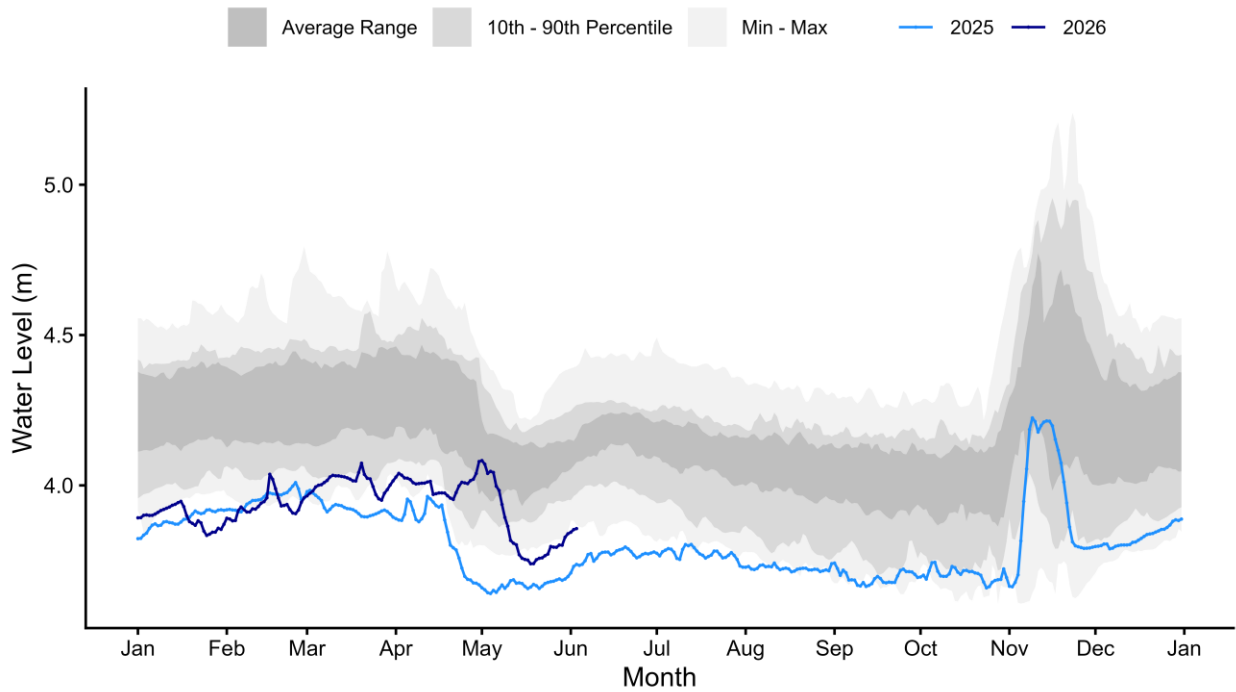
Prelude Lake near Yellowknife [07SB017]

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



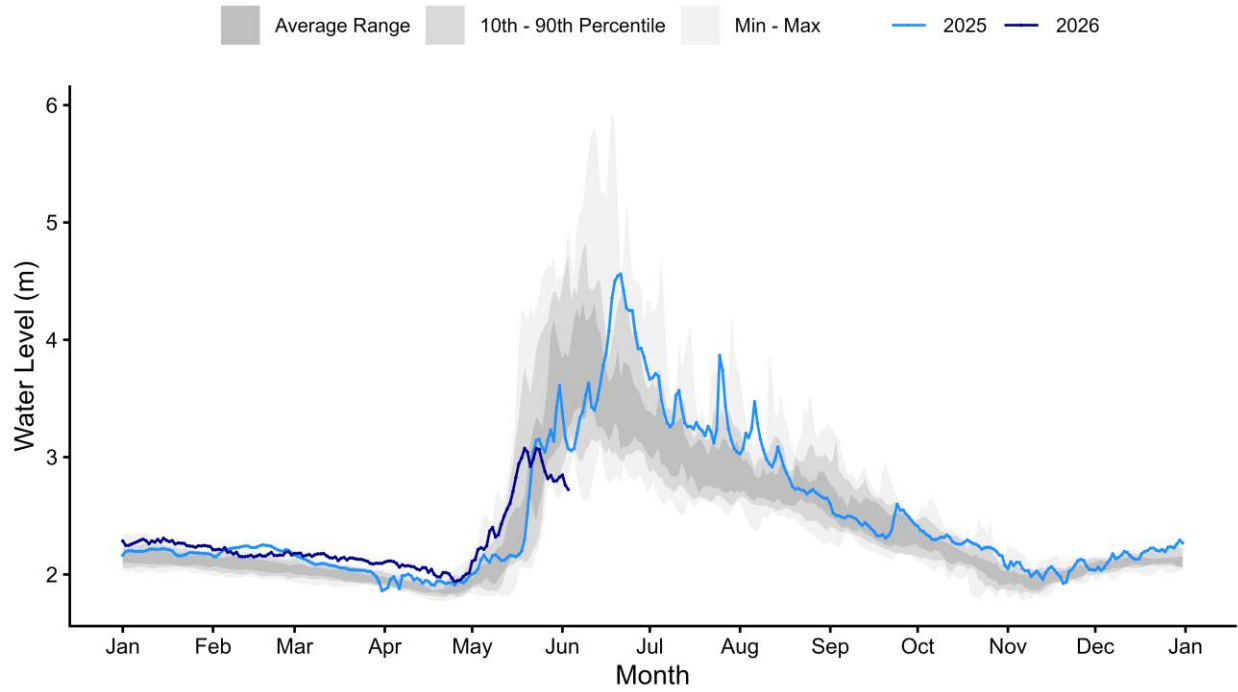
La Martre River below outlet of Lac La Martre [07TA001]

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



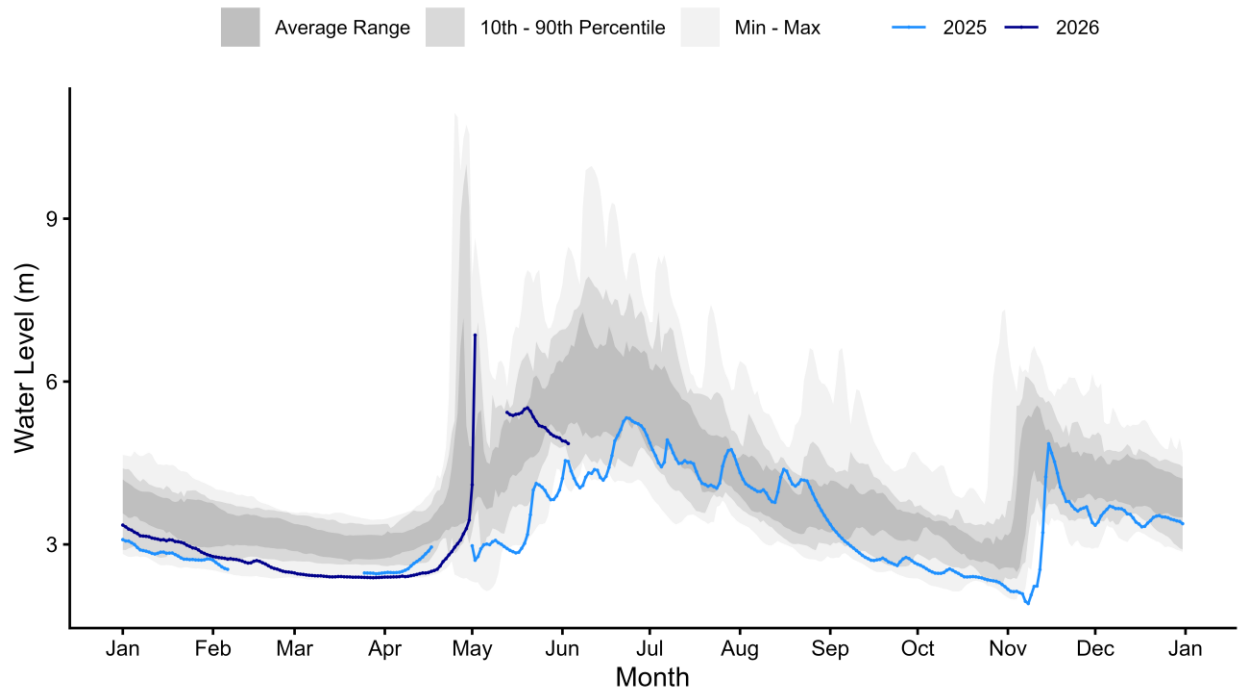
South Nahanni River above Virginia Falls [10EB001]

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



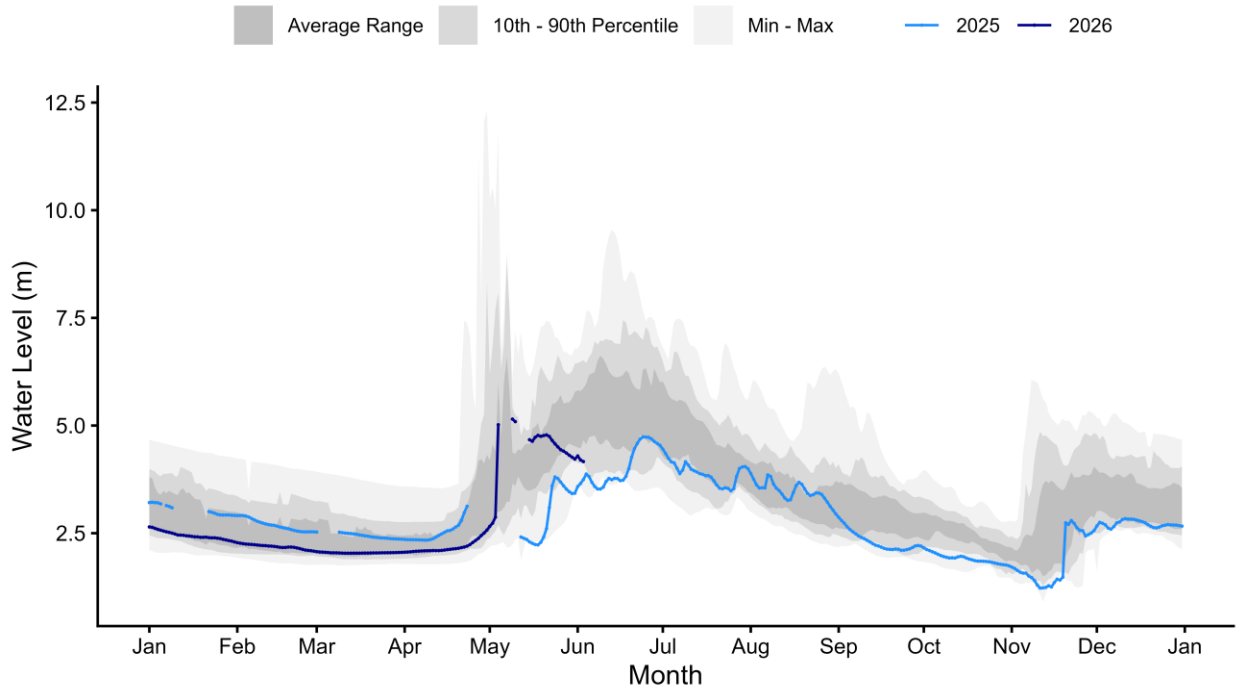
Liard River at Fort Liard [10ED001]

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



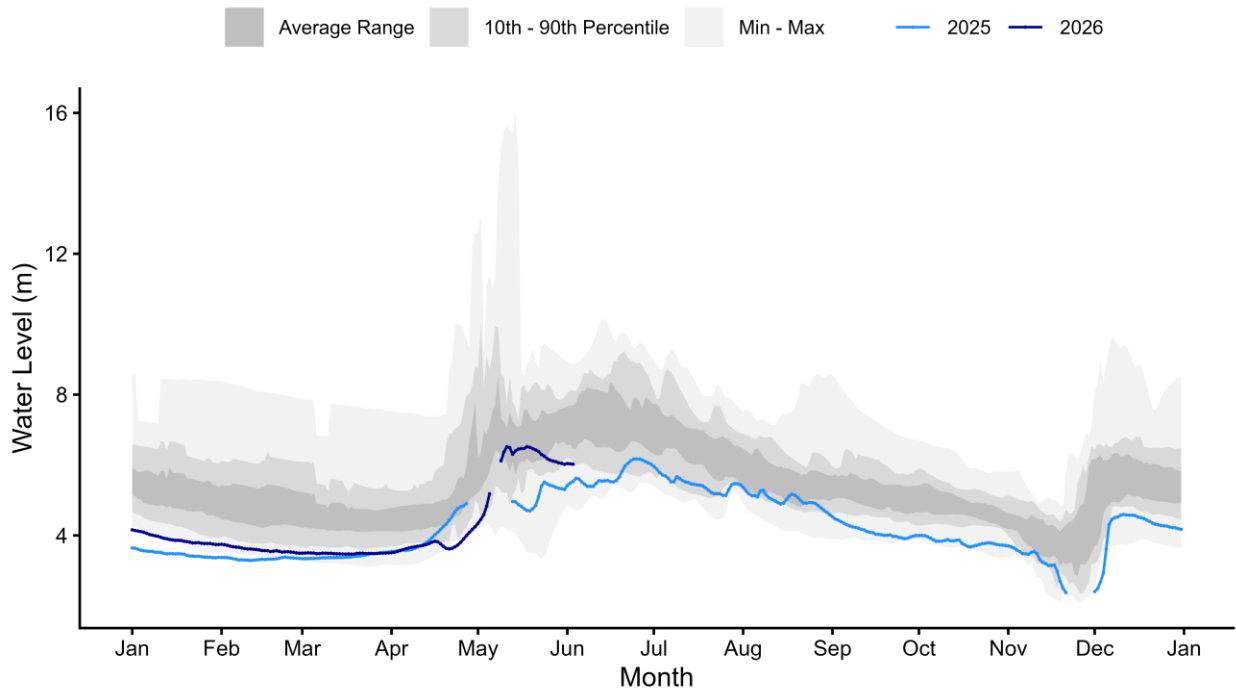
Liard River near the mouth [10ED002]

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



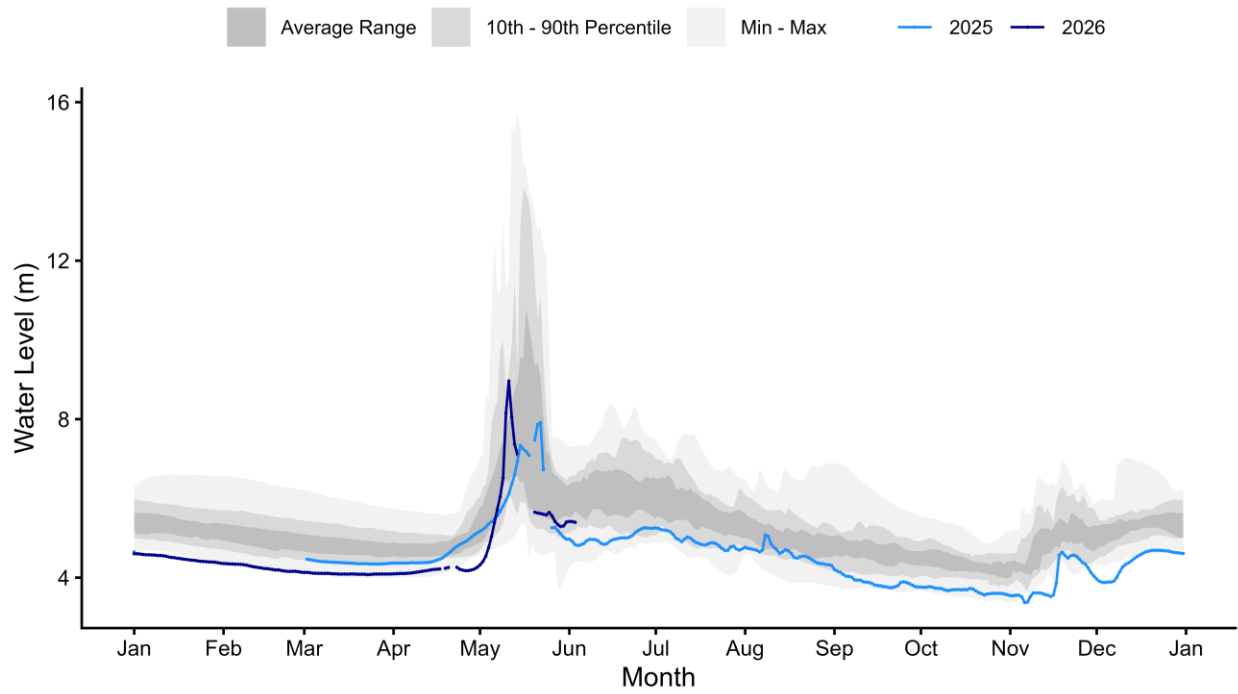
Mackenzie River at Fort Simpson [10GC001]

Record Length: 26 years | Period of Record: 2001-2026



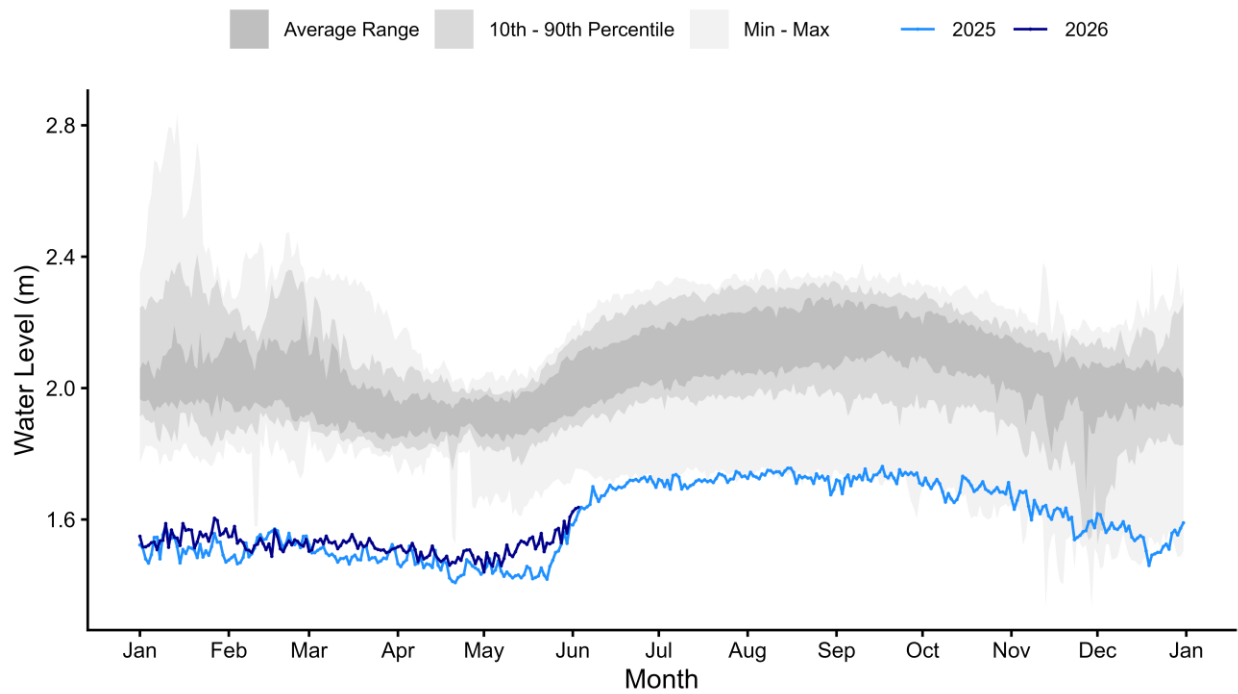
Mackenzie River at Norman Wells [10KA001]

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



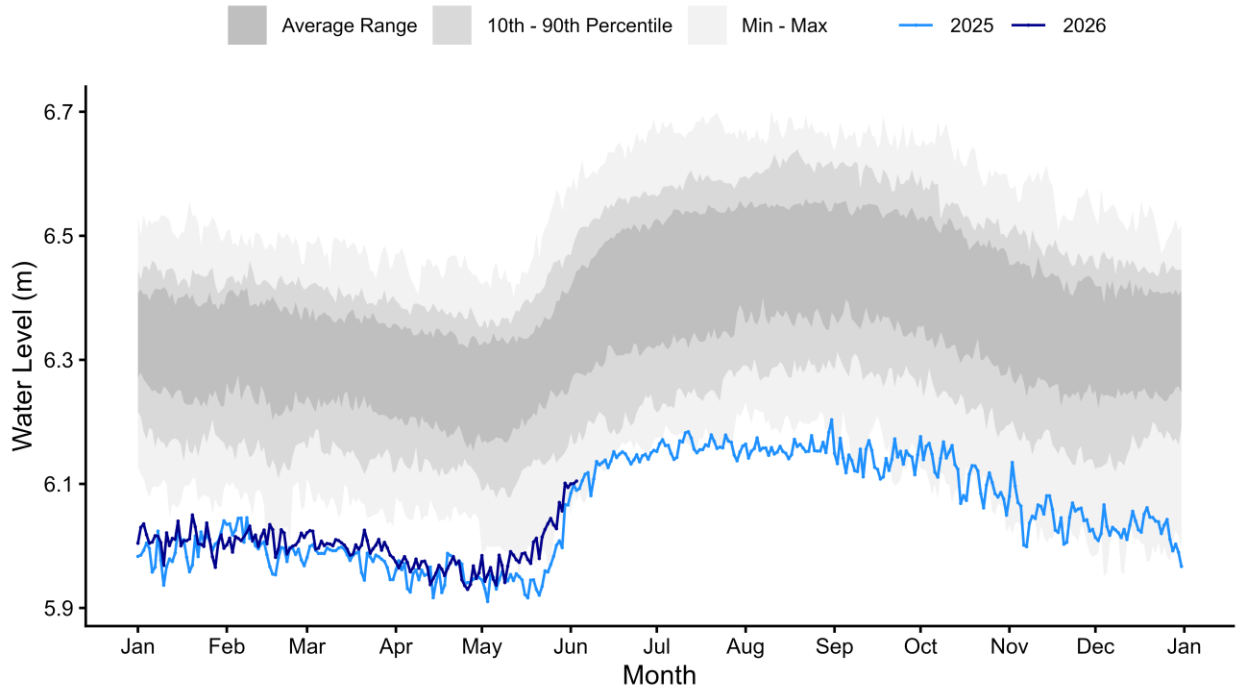
Great Bear River at outlet of Great Bear Lake [10JC003]

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



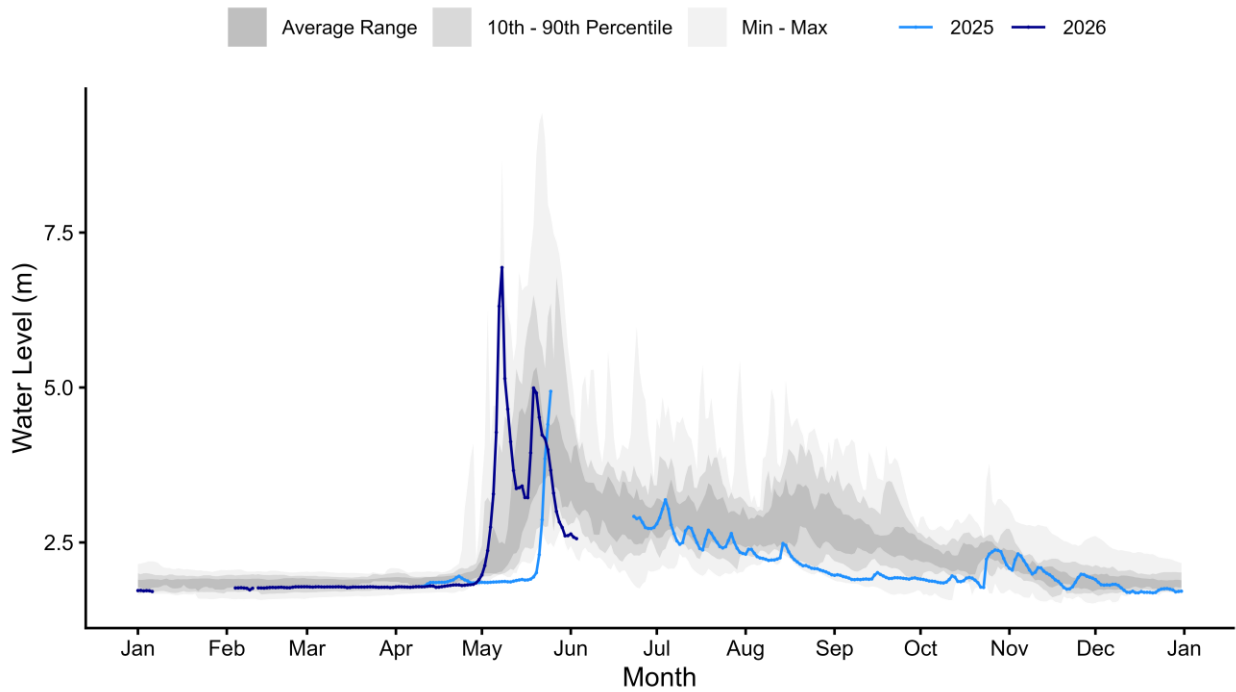
Great Bear Lake at Hornby Bay [10JE002]

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



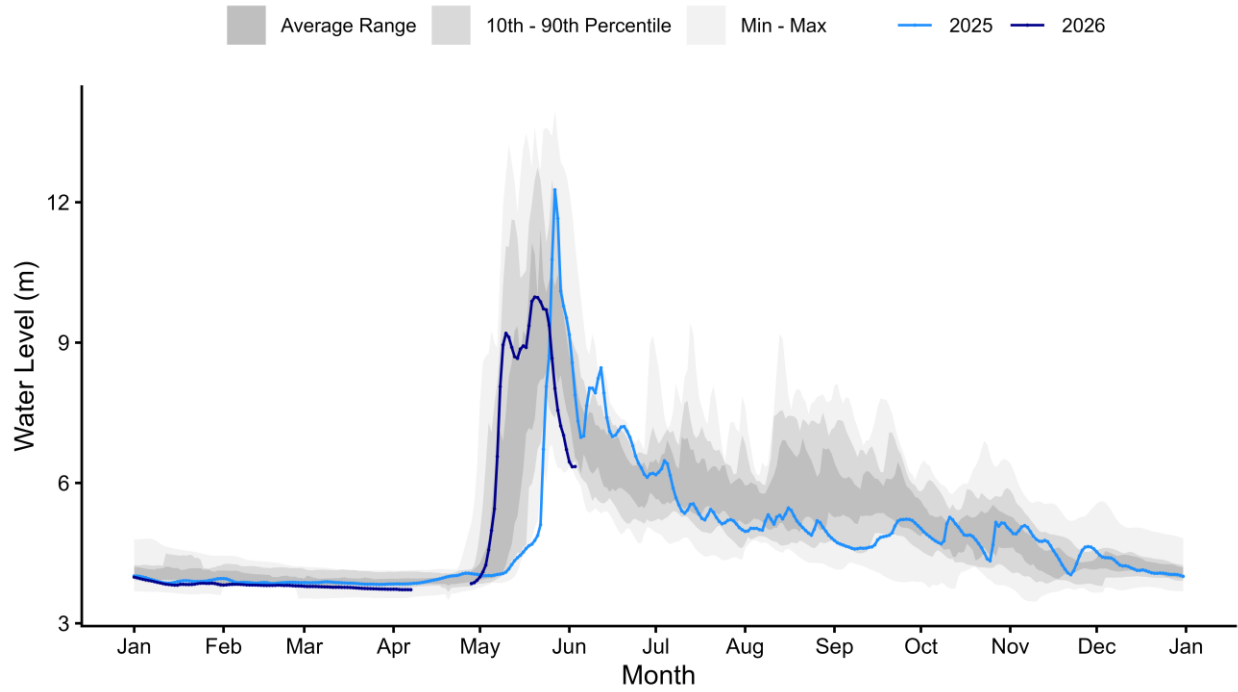
Arctic Red River near the mouth [10LA002]

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



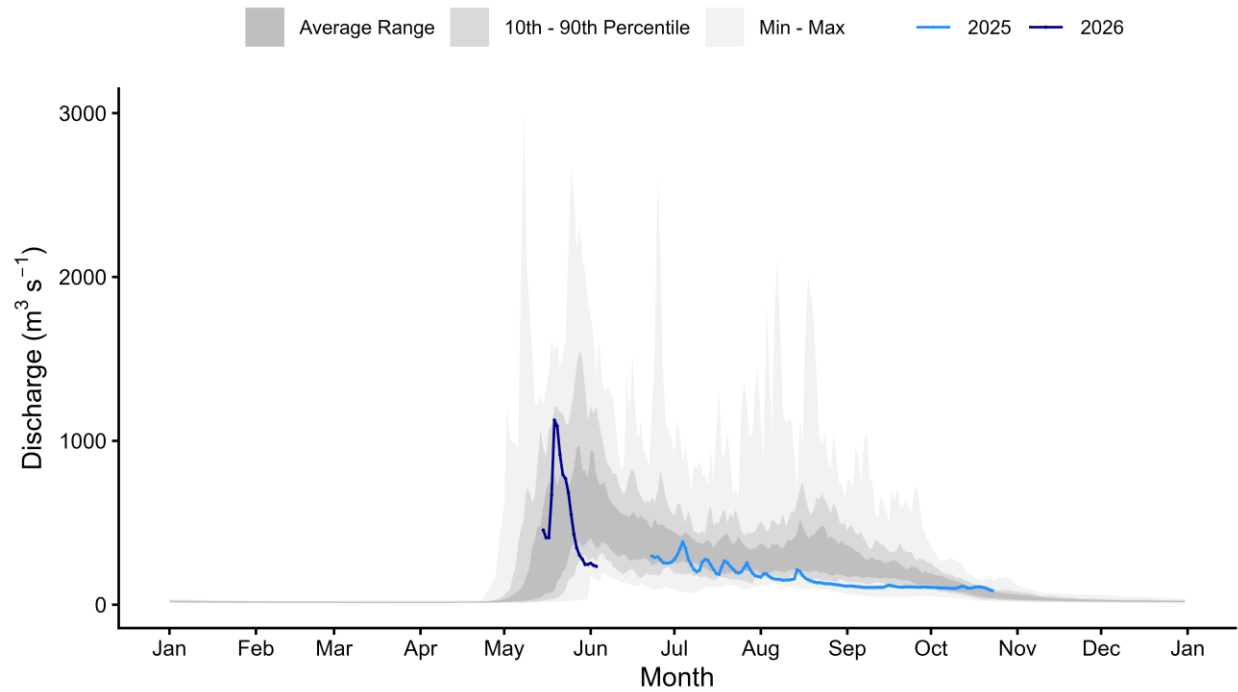
Peel River above Fort McPherson [10MC002]

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



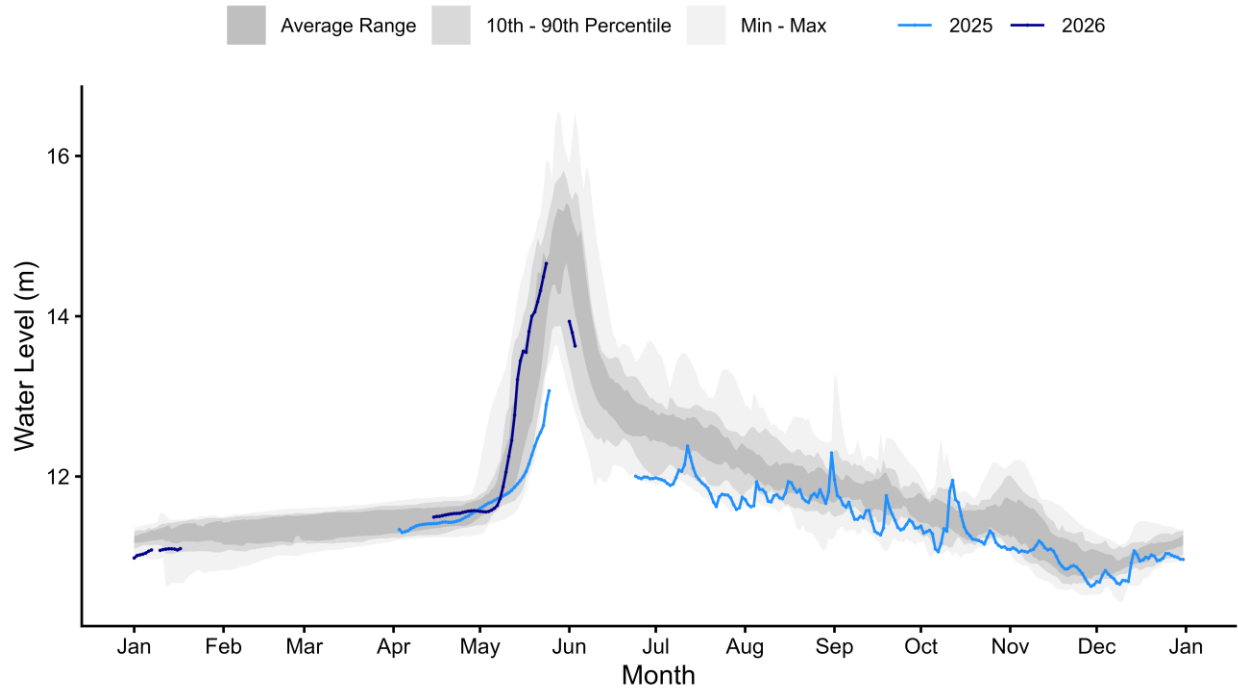
Mackenzie River at Arctic Red River [10LC014]

Record Length: 56 years | Period of Record: 1968-2021; 2025-2026



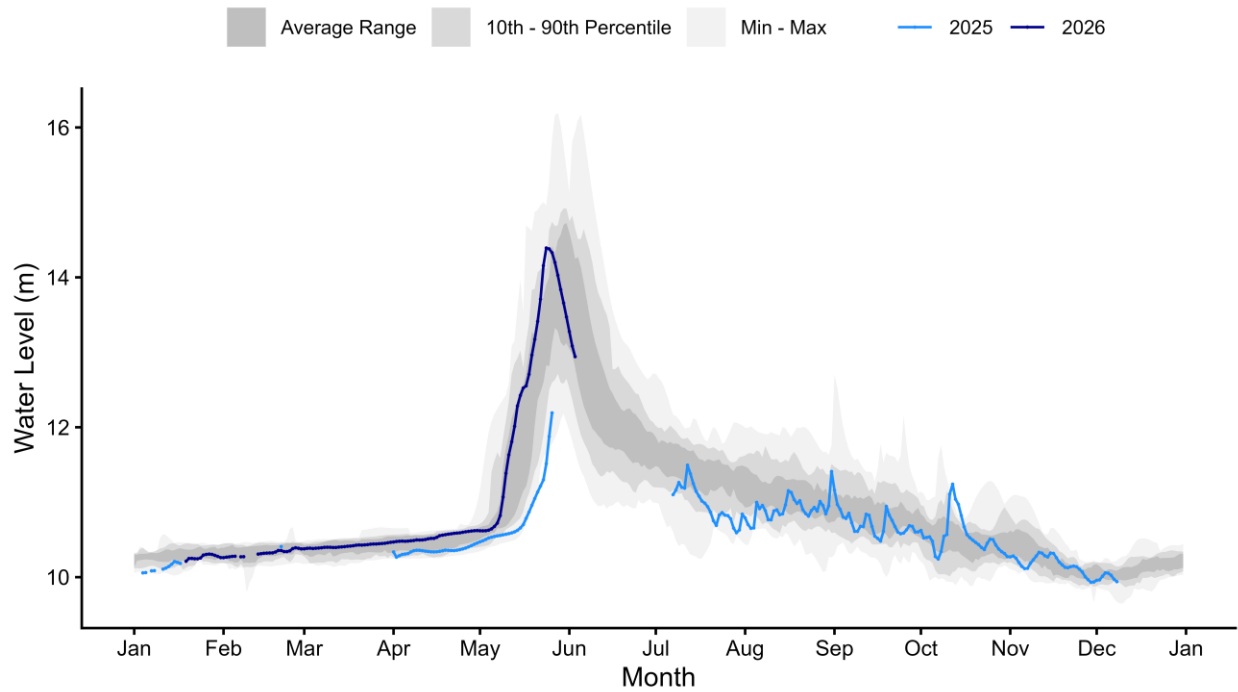
Mackenzie River (East Channel) at Inuvik [10LC002]

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



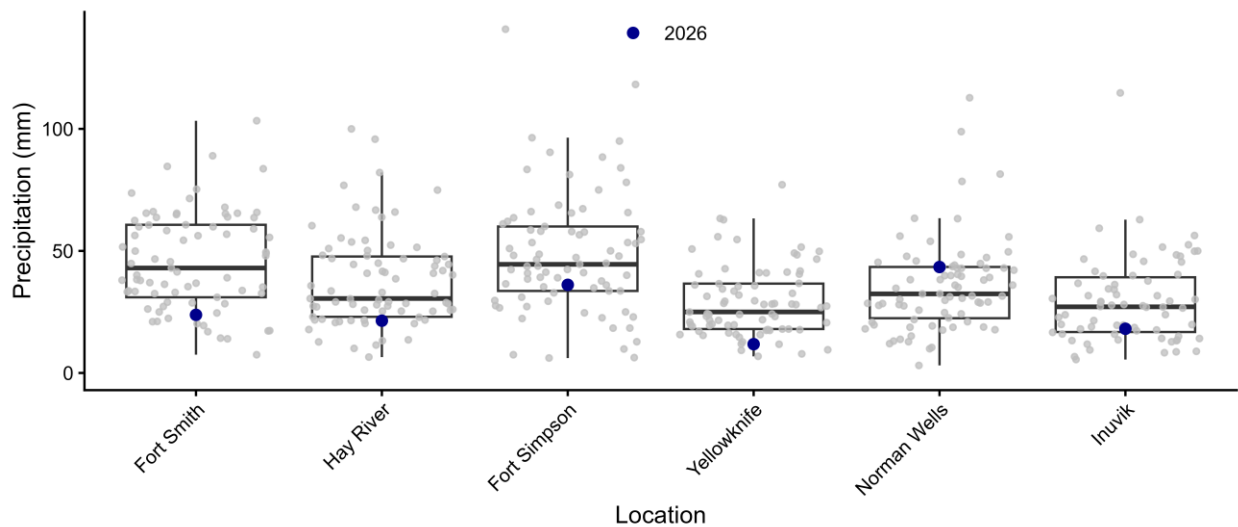
Climate Data

NWT communities



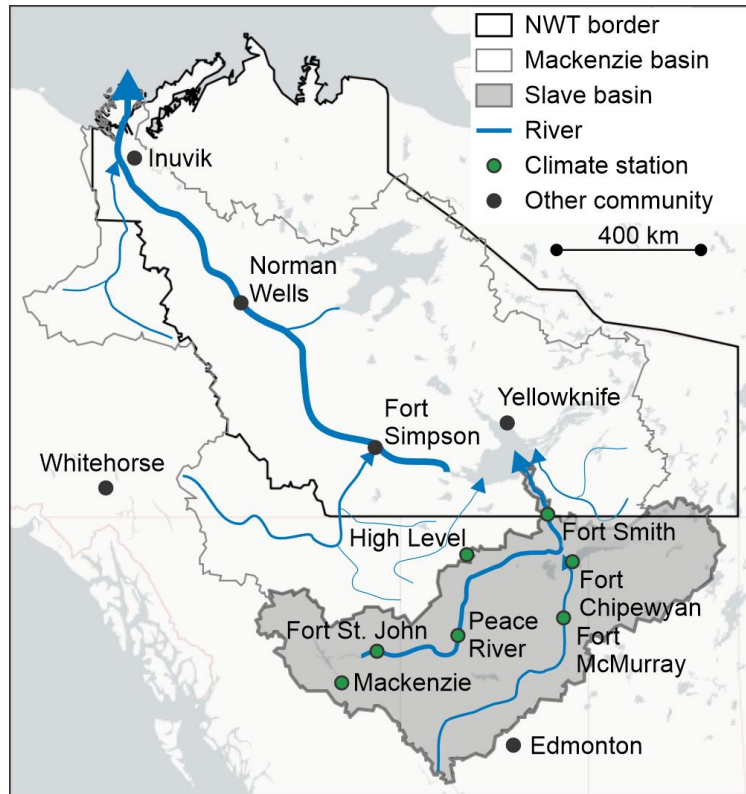
Cumulative precipitation for select NWT communities

April 1st 2026 to June 03rd 2026



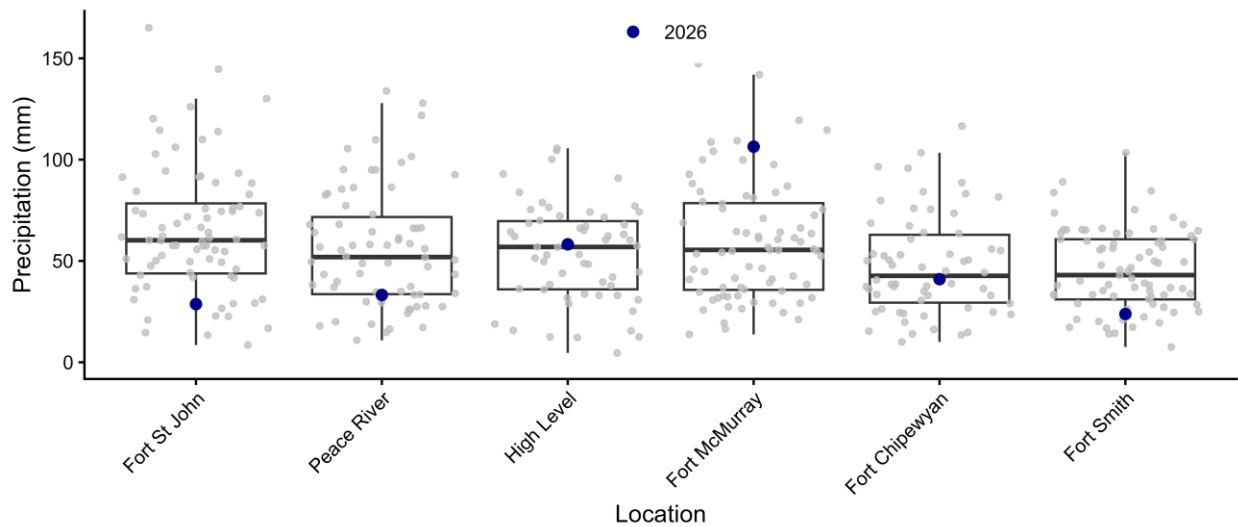
This figure shows total precipitation (rain and snow) that has fallen in select communities across the NWT from April 1st until June 3rd. The blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present. See the map above for geographical context.

Slave River basin communities



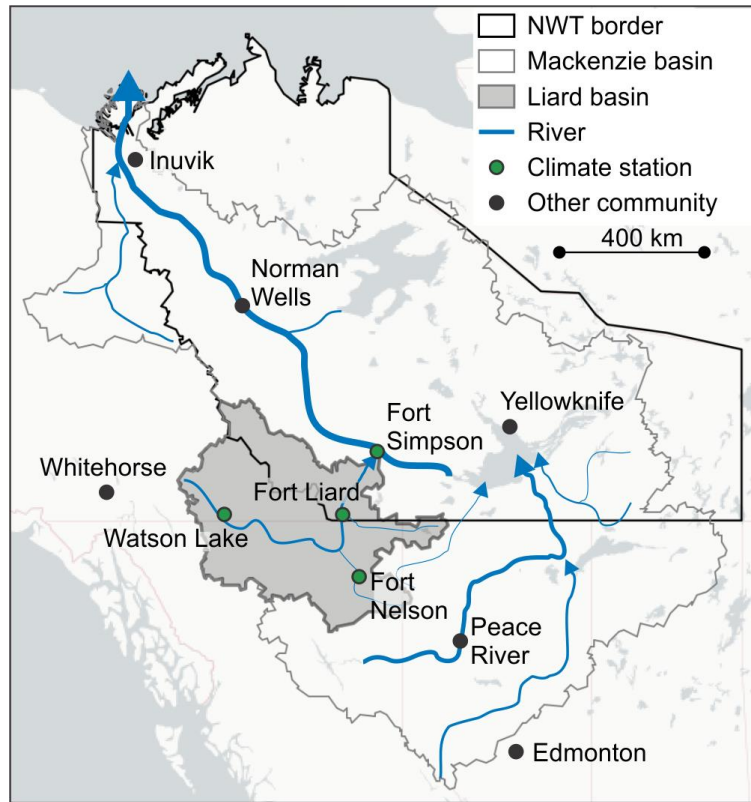
Cumulative precipitation for AB/BC/NWT communities in the Slave River basin

April 1st 2026 to June 03rd 2026



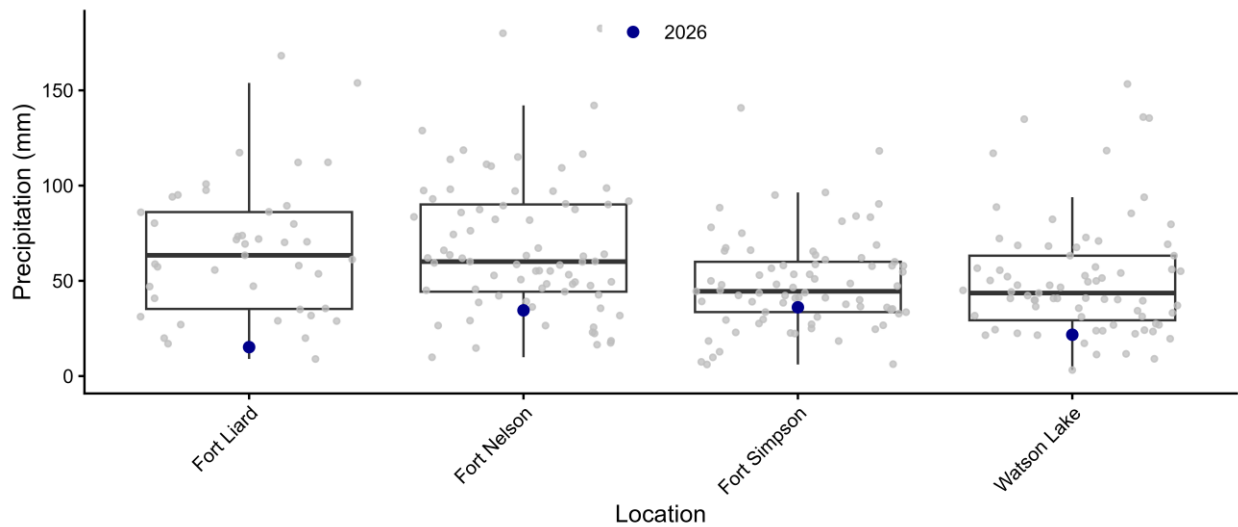
This figure shows total precipitation (rain and snow) that has fallen in select communities across the Slave River basin from April 1st until June 3rd. The blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present. See the map above for geographical context.

Liard River basin communities



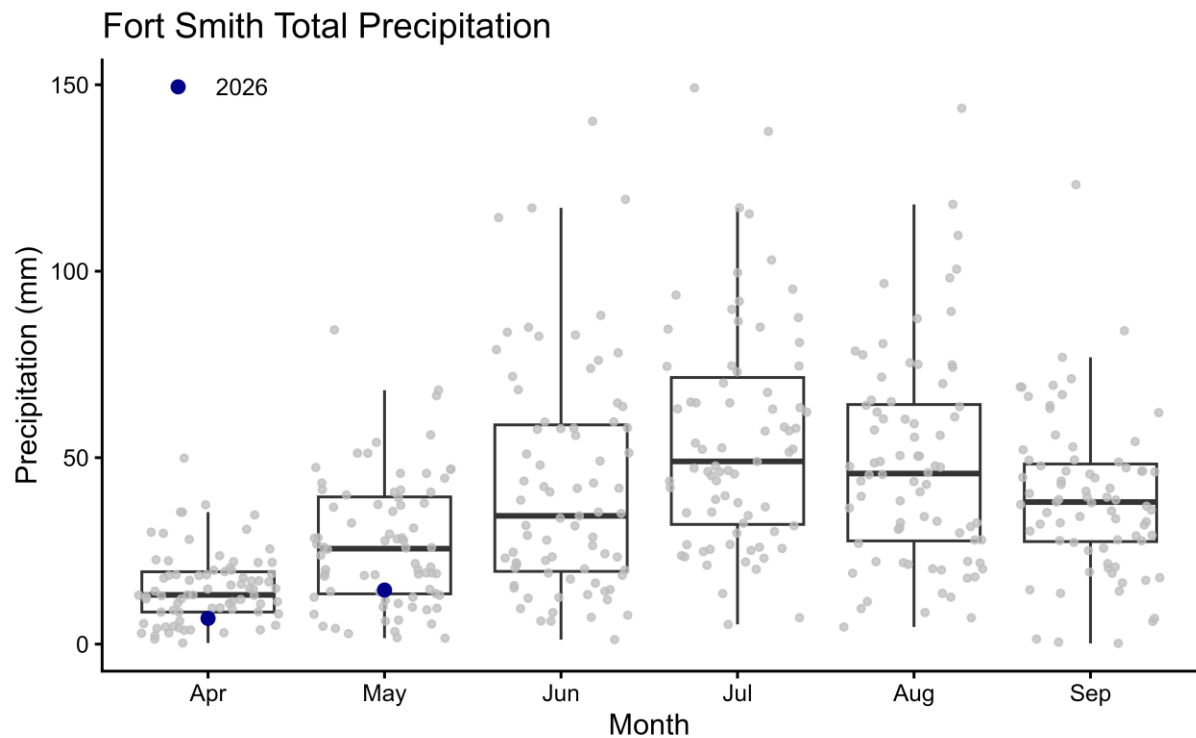
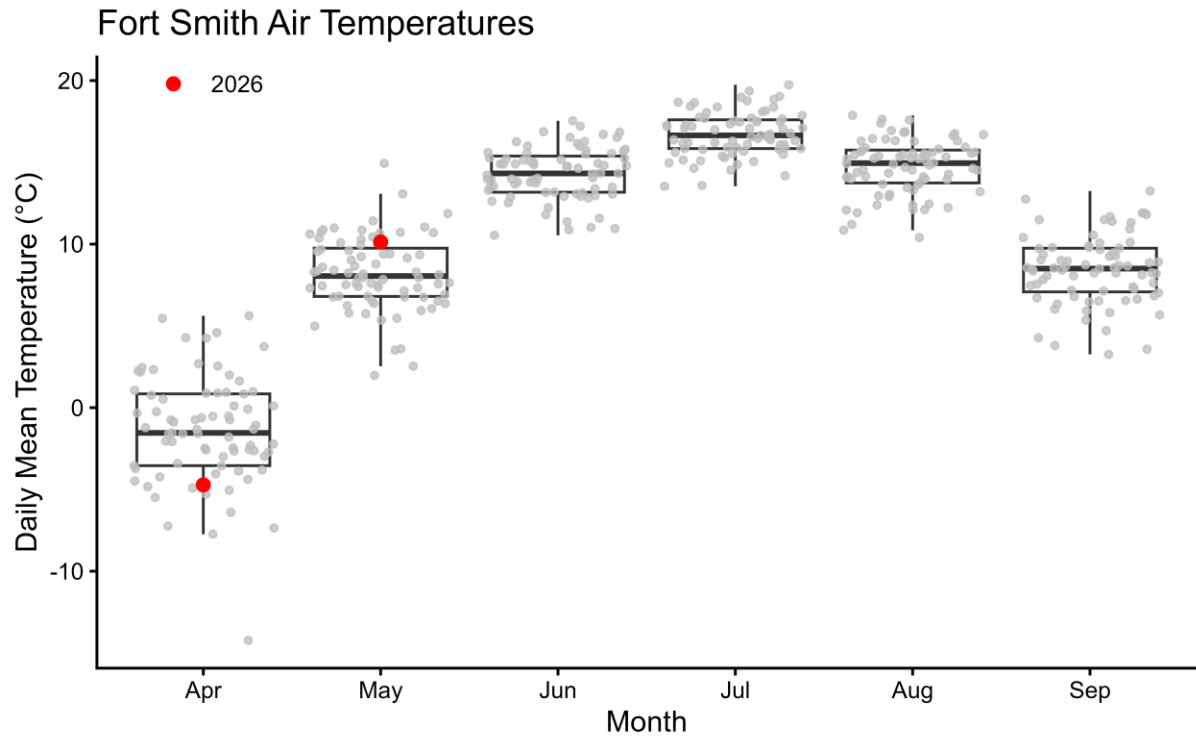
Cumulative precipitation for BC/NWT communities in the Liard River basin

April 1st 2026 to June 03rd 2026



This figure shows total precipitation (rain and snow) that has fallen in select communities across the Liard River basin from April 1st until June 3rd. The blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present. See the map above for geographical context.

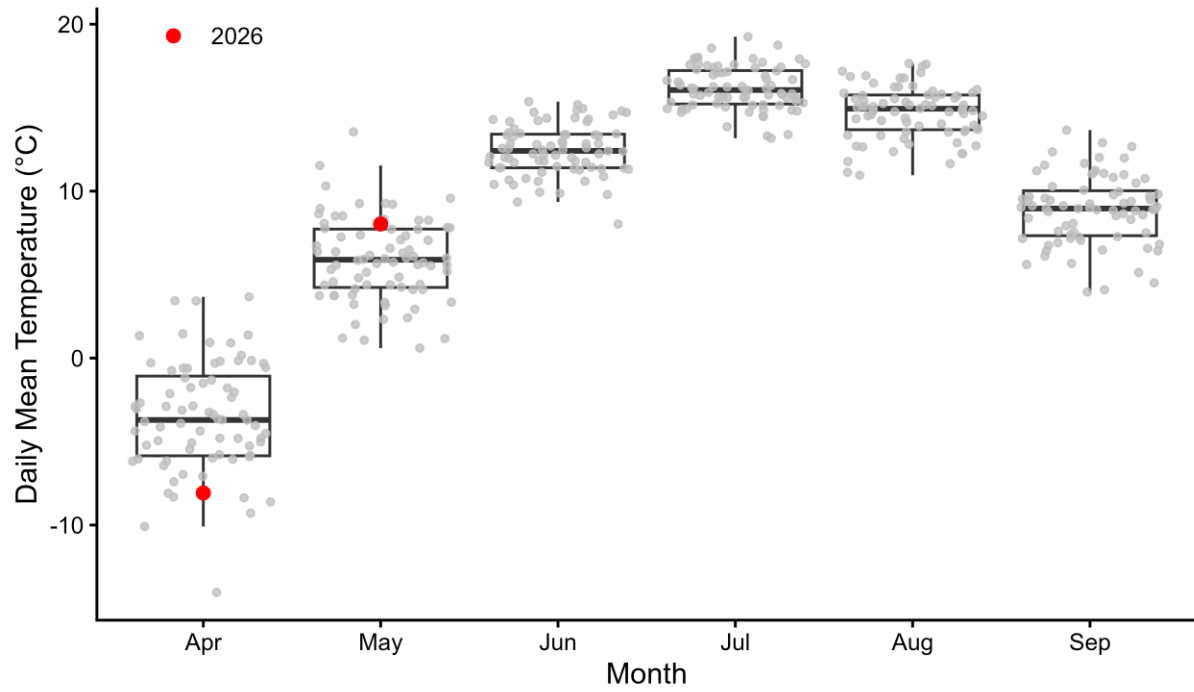
Fort Smith



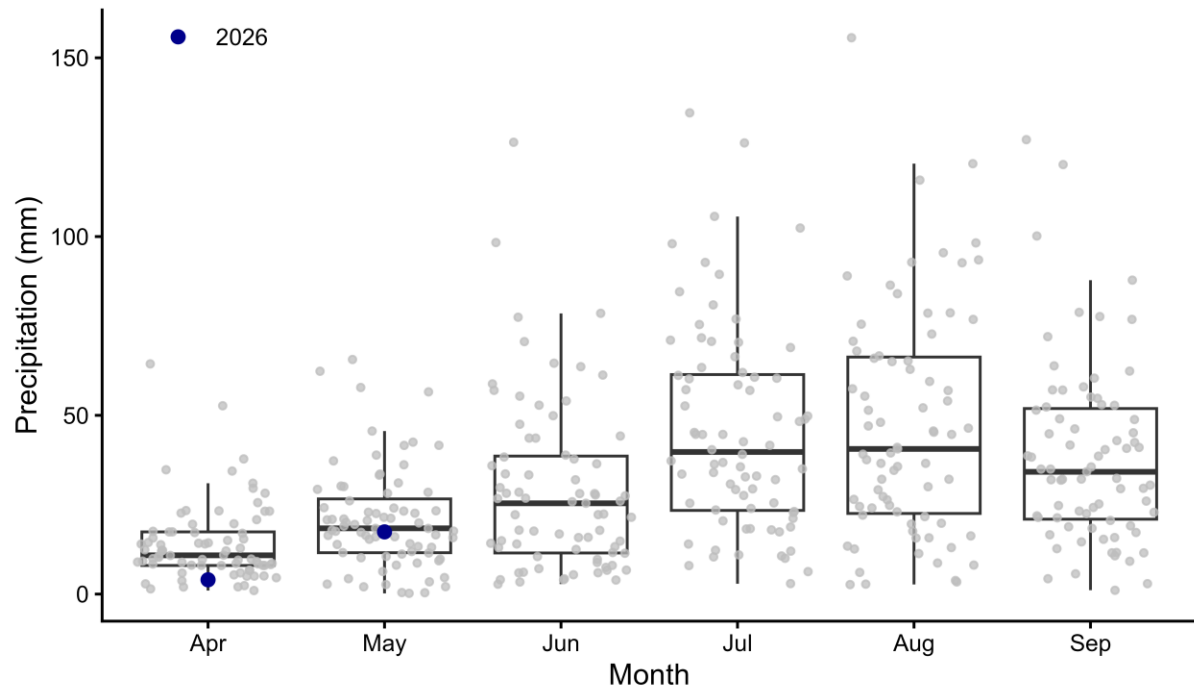
These two figures (above) represent mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for spring and summer (April to September) at Fort Smith. The red or blue dot is the current year (up to report date), and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present.

Hay River

Hay River Air Temperatures



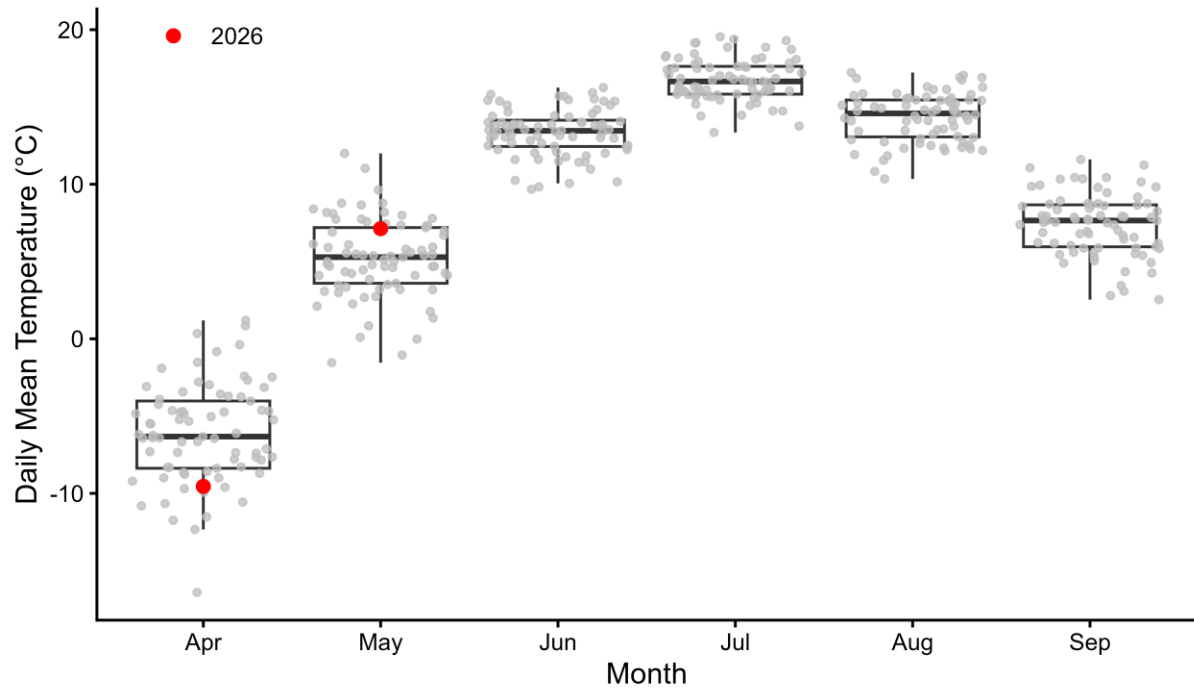
Hay River Total Precipitation



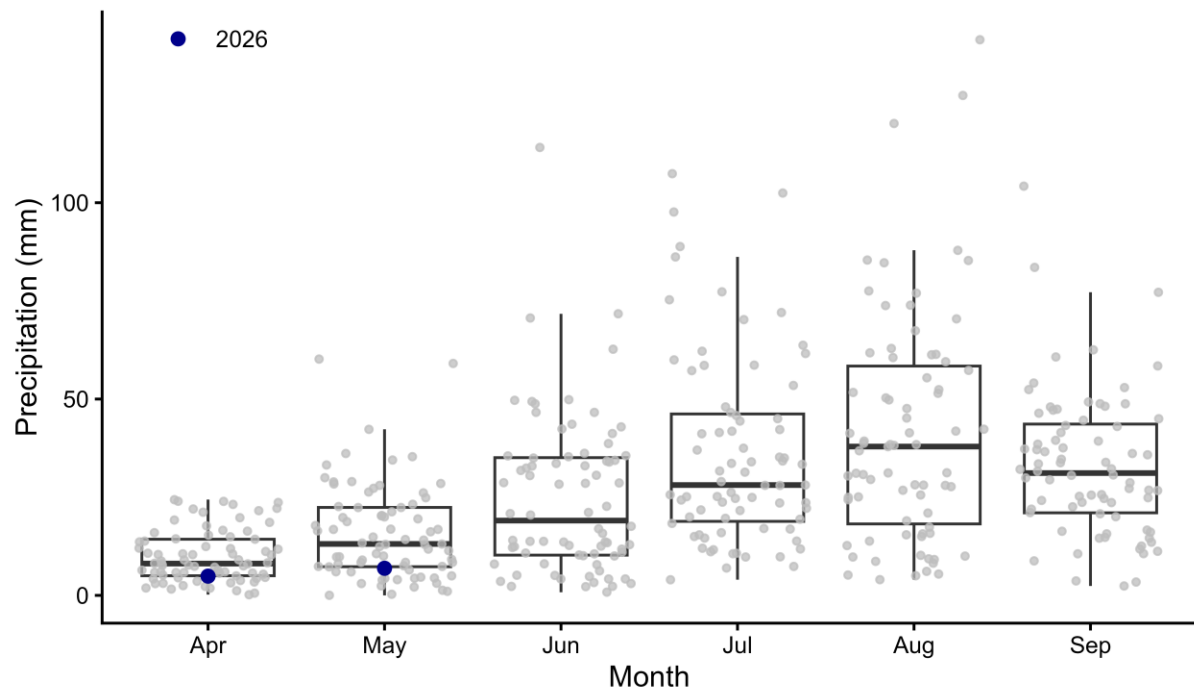
These two figures (above) represent mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for spring and summer (April to September) at Hay River. The red or blue dot is the current year (up to report date), and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present.

Yellowknife

Yellowknife Air Temperatures



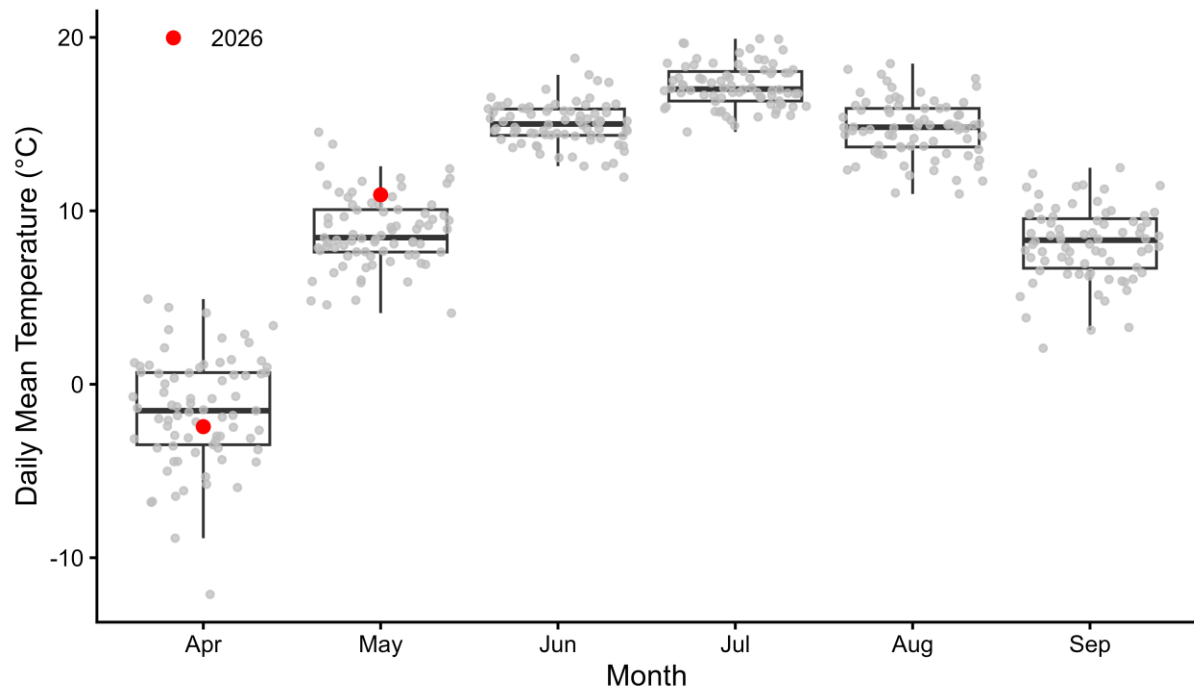
Yellowknife Total Precipitation



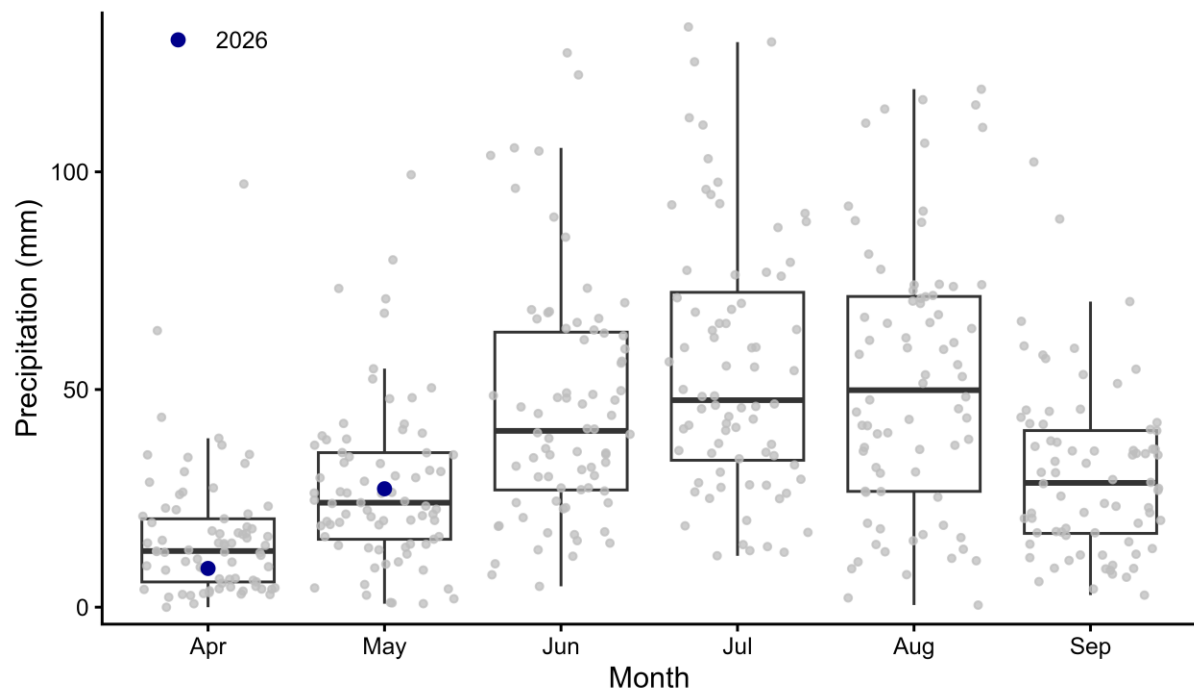
These two figures (above) represent mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for spring and summer (April to September) at Yellowknife. The red or blue dot is the current year (up to report date), and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present.

Fort Simpson

Fort Simpson Air Temperatures



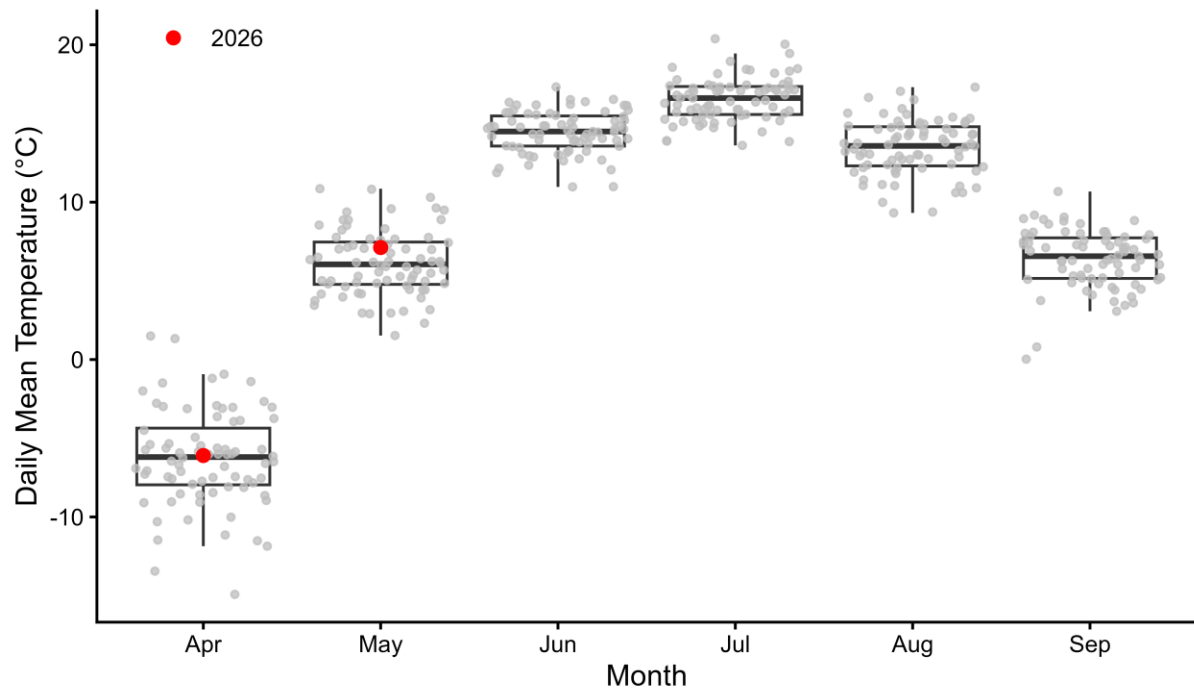
Fort Simpson Total Precipitation



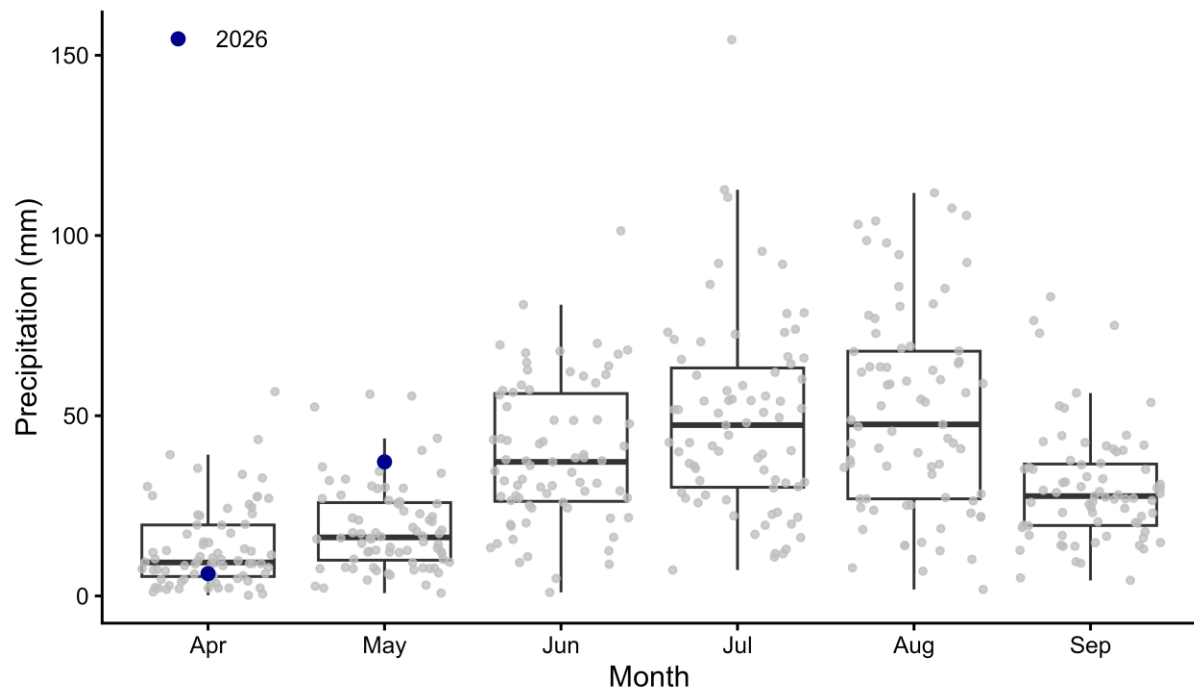
These two figures (above) represent mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for spring and summer (April to September) at Fort Simpson. The red or blue dot is the current year (up to report date), and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present.

Norman Wells

Norman Wells Air Temperatures



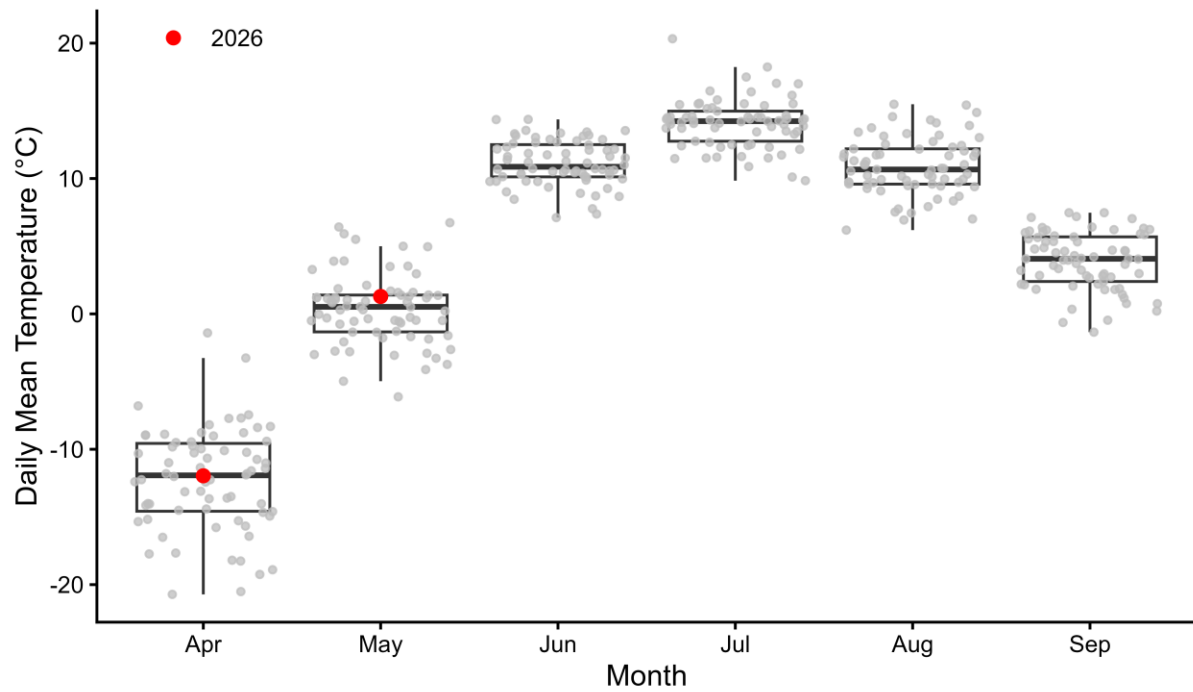
Norman Wells Total Precipitation



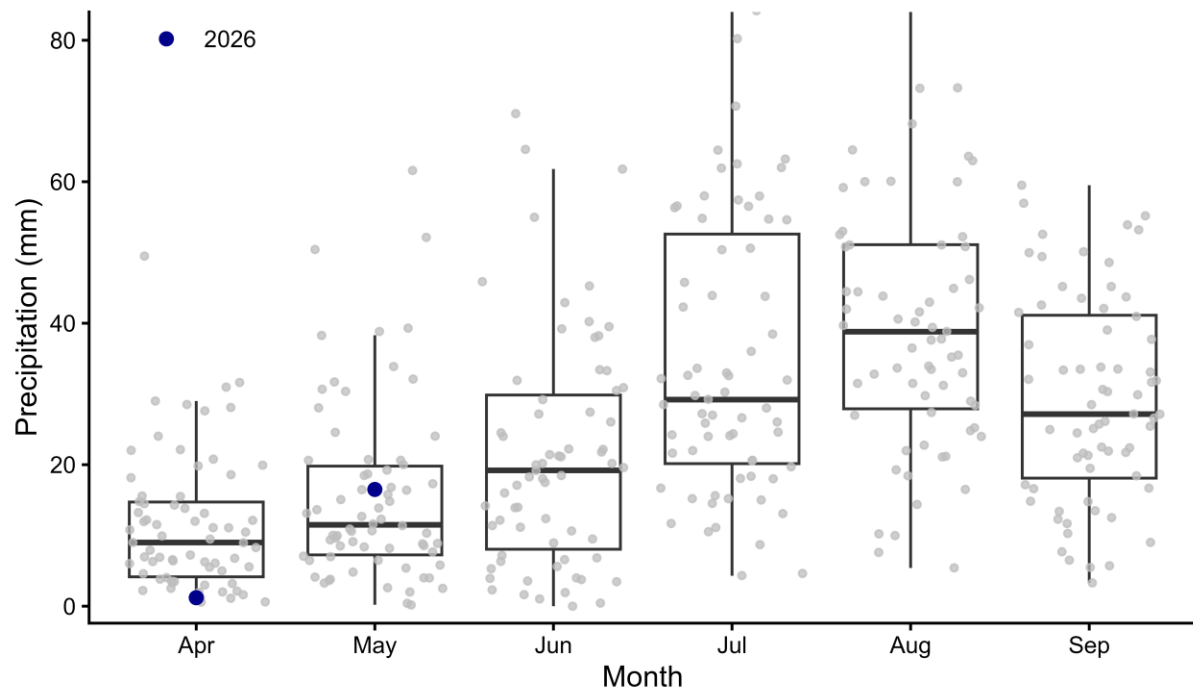
These two figures (above) represent mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for spring and summer (April to September) at Norman Wells. The red or blue dot is the current year (up to report date), and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present.

Inuvik

Inuvik Air Temperatures



Inuvik Total Precipitation



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.