

# Rio Tinto

## Water Engagement Initiative

### Main Table videoconference

Wednesday, July 8, 2020



- **Recognize tragic loss: Stuart Sinclair**

# Draft Agenda

- Agenda review and action item update
- Discuss and develop draft pathway for Sandy Beach flooding
- Discuss and confirm necessary improvements to Flow Facts
- Southside information gathering update
- Discussion and confirmation of WEI plan development

# Agenda (2)

- Interests and issues
  - Review and refine interests and issues that have been raised by the Main Table participants
  - Identify “what matters” to facilitate the process team developing draft objectives and performance measures over the summer break
- Next meeting dates
- **Proposed agenda additions:**
  - **reservoir level discussion**
  - **Big Bar slide update**

# Meeting 11 Action items

- **ACTION ITEM:** Rahul to update wording and send letter to the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative (NWSRI).
- **Update**
  - revised letter based on WEI participant comments
  - sent letter to NWSRI representatives on Thursday, June 25, 2020
  - included a copy of the letter sent in the WEI meeting reading package
  - Following up with NWSRI representatives about next steps

# Meeting 11 Action items

- **ACTION ITEM: Jason to provide the Draft Execution Plan to the Main Table for review**
- **Update:**
  - Draft execution plan sent as part of the pre-reading package last week
  - Execution plan to be discussed today
  - Writing mandate to be confirmed today

# Meeting 11 Action items

- **ACTION ITEM: TWG to provide List of Interests to Main Table to inform decisions on next steps in the WEI process**
- **Update:**
  - List sent as part of the pre-reading package
  - To be discussed today

# Meeting 11 Action items

- **ACTION ITEM:** Rahul to put dredging the narrows on list of interests to discuss.
- **Update:**
  - Tahtsa Narrows dredging interest added to the overall interest list



# Meeting 11 Action items

- **ACTION ITEM: TWG to work with the DOV to update the flooding report**
- **Update:**
  - Jayson and Rahul met with Kevin to discuss the Sandy Beach concept
  - Discussed available information
  - Concept will be discussed today

# Meeting 11 Action items

- **ACTION ITEM: TWG to look at the STMP flows and report back to the Main Table.**
- **Update:**
  - STMP recognized as a Main Table interest
  - Need to better understand concerns

# **Sandy Beach flooding concept**

# Improvements to Flow Facts

- WEI focussed on identifying ways of improving Rio Tinto operations in the Nechako region.
- Interests and mechanisms related to improving Rio Tinto communication methods have been identified by you.
- One of the tools currently used to communicate information about Nechako operations is Flow Facts.

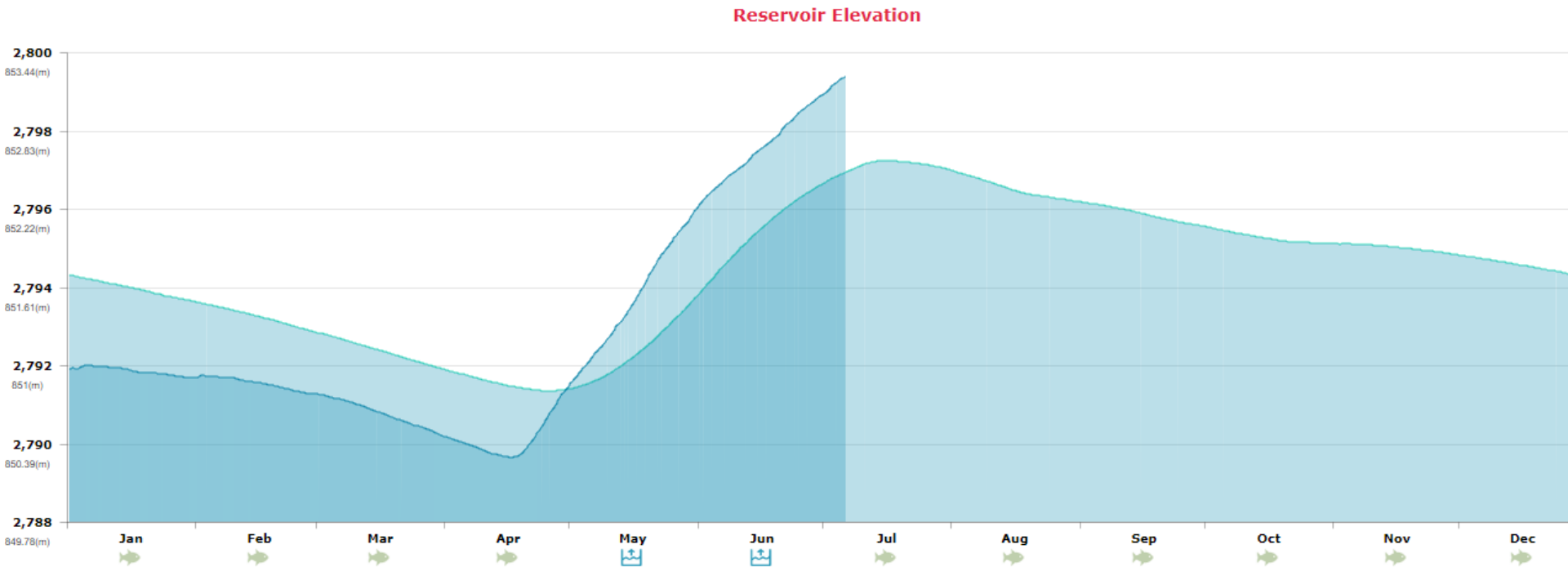
# Flow Facts

- Flow Facts provides a variety of information about Nechako operations, including:
  - Key highlights, including the status of specific components in the previous week, and some forward-looking projections,
  - Reservoir status
  - Skins Lake Spillway status
  - Nechako River flow at Vanderhoof
  - Snowpack information
  - Real-time hydrometric data

# Reservoir elevation

 Fisheries considerations  Ice jam management  Beaver population considerations  Flood forecast

Start Year  Start Month



# Reservoir elevation

- Each Flow Facts includes links to “reservoir elevation”.

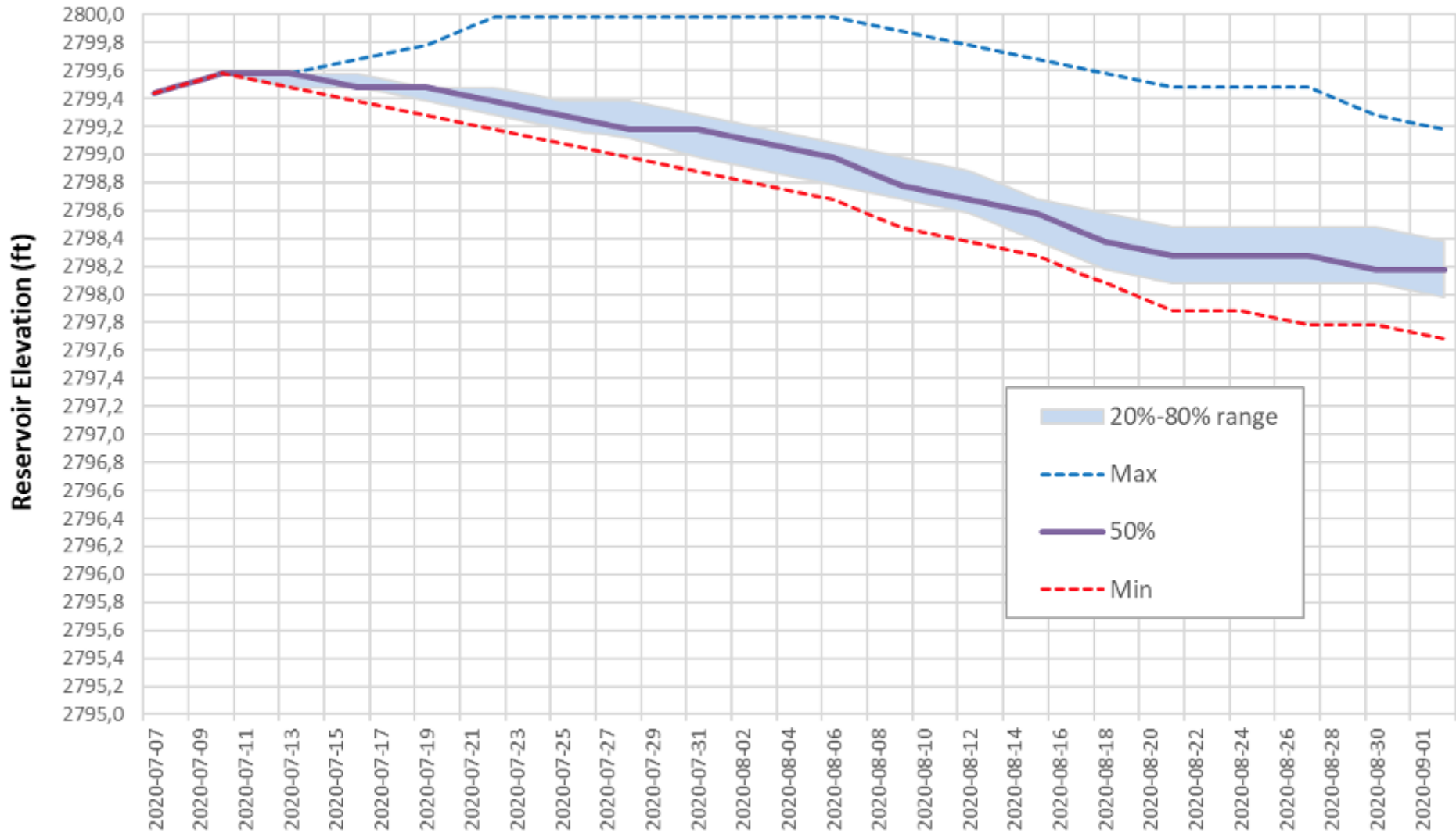
[https://nechako.riotintoflowfacts.com/#reservoir.](https://nechako.riotintoflowfacts.com/#reservoir)

- The graphs show:
  - actual reservoir elevation since the beginning of the calendar year
  - the current reservoir elevation
  - average elevation by date
  - provides notes on various management considerations
- What is missing from the information currently being provided?

# NECHAKO RESERVOIR

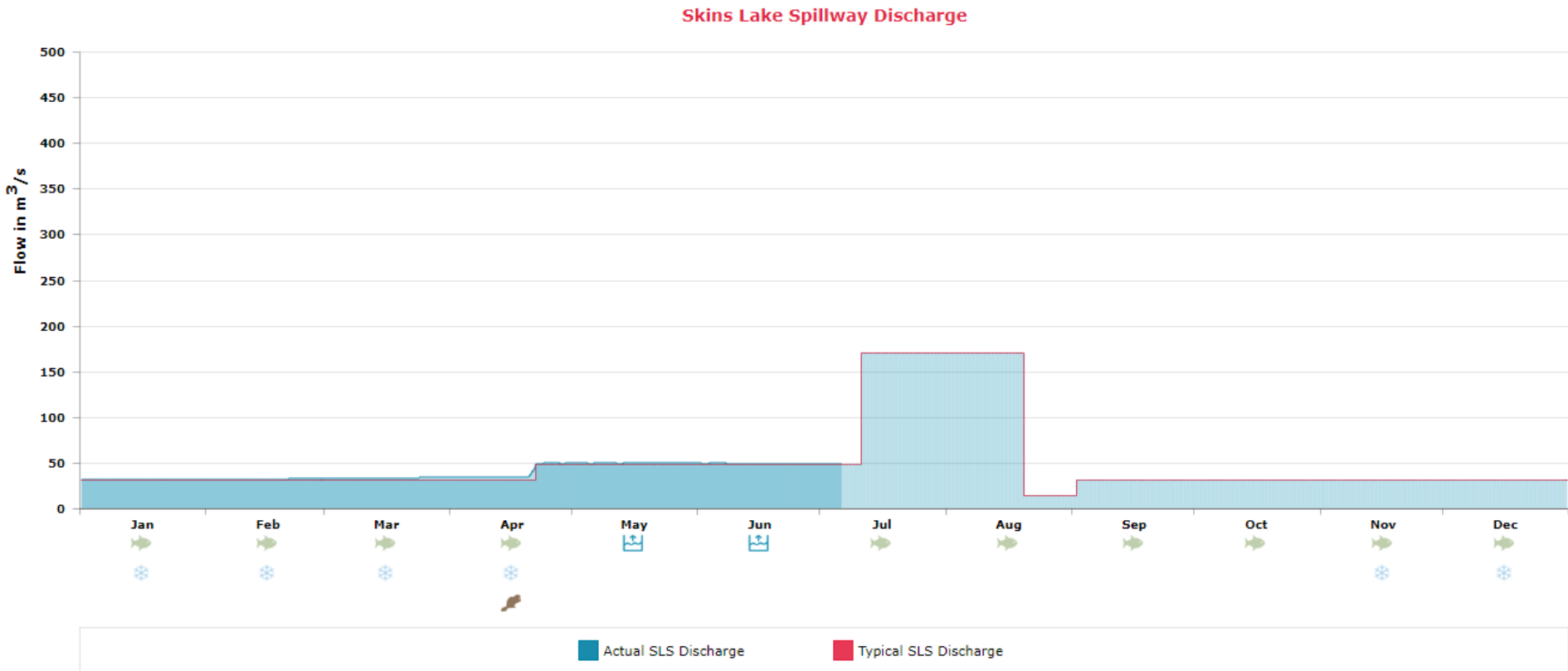
## Observed and projections 2020

### 7 July Projections





# Skins Lake Spillway Discharge



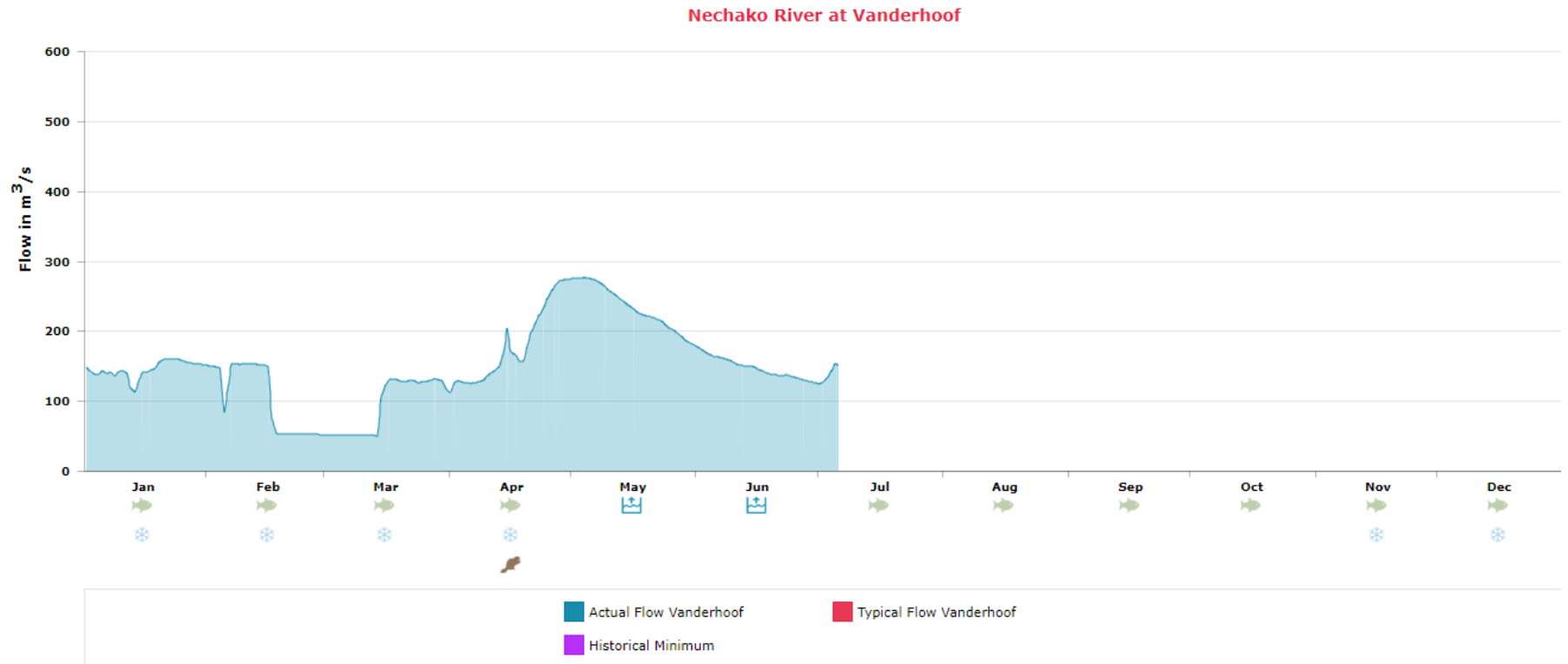
# Skins Lake Spillway Discharge

- Each Flow Facts includes a link to a “Skins Lake Spillway Discharge” webpage.

<https://nechako.riotintoflowfacts.com/#sls>

- The site shows:
  - actual discharge at Skins Lake Spillway since the beginning of the calendar year
  - typical discharge by date
  - expected changes
  - provides information on various management considerations.
- What is missing from the information currently being provided?

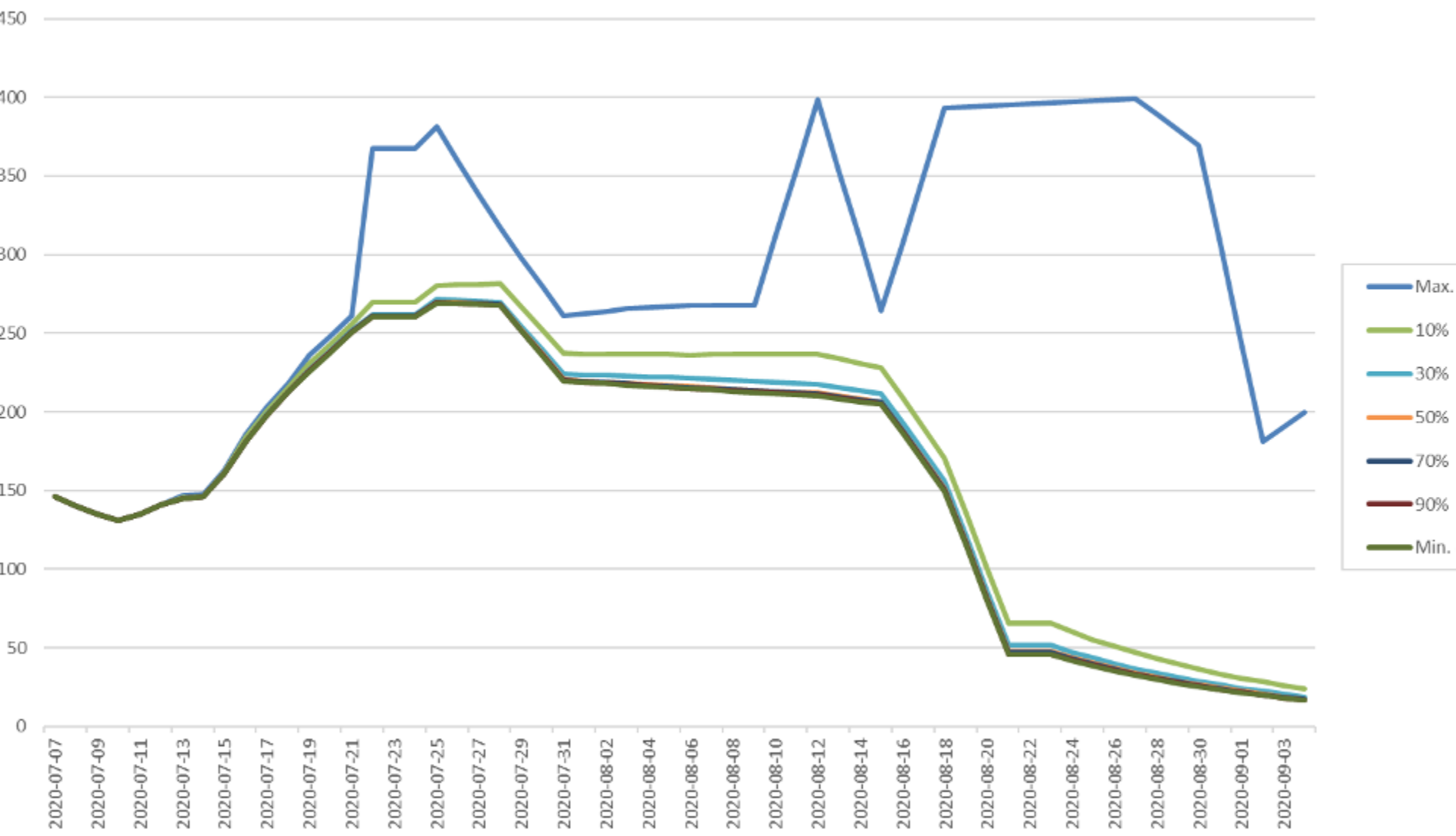
# Nechako River Flow at Vanderhoof



# Nechako River Flow at Vanderhoof

- Each Flow Facts includes a link to a “Nechako River at Vanderhoof” webpage.  
<https://nechako.riotintoflowfacts.com/#vanderhoof>.
- The site shows actual flow at Vanderhoof since the beginning of the calendar year.
- The website also provides information on various management considerations.

### Expected Vanderhoof Discharge 7 July 2020 forecast

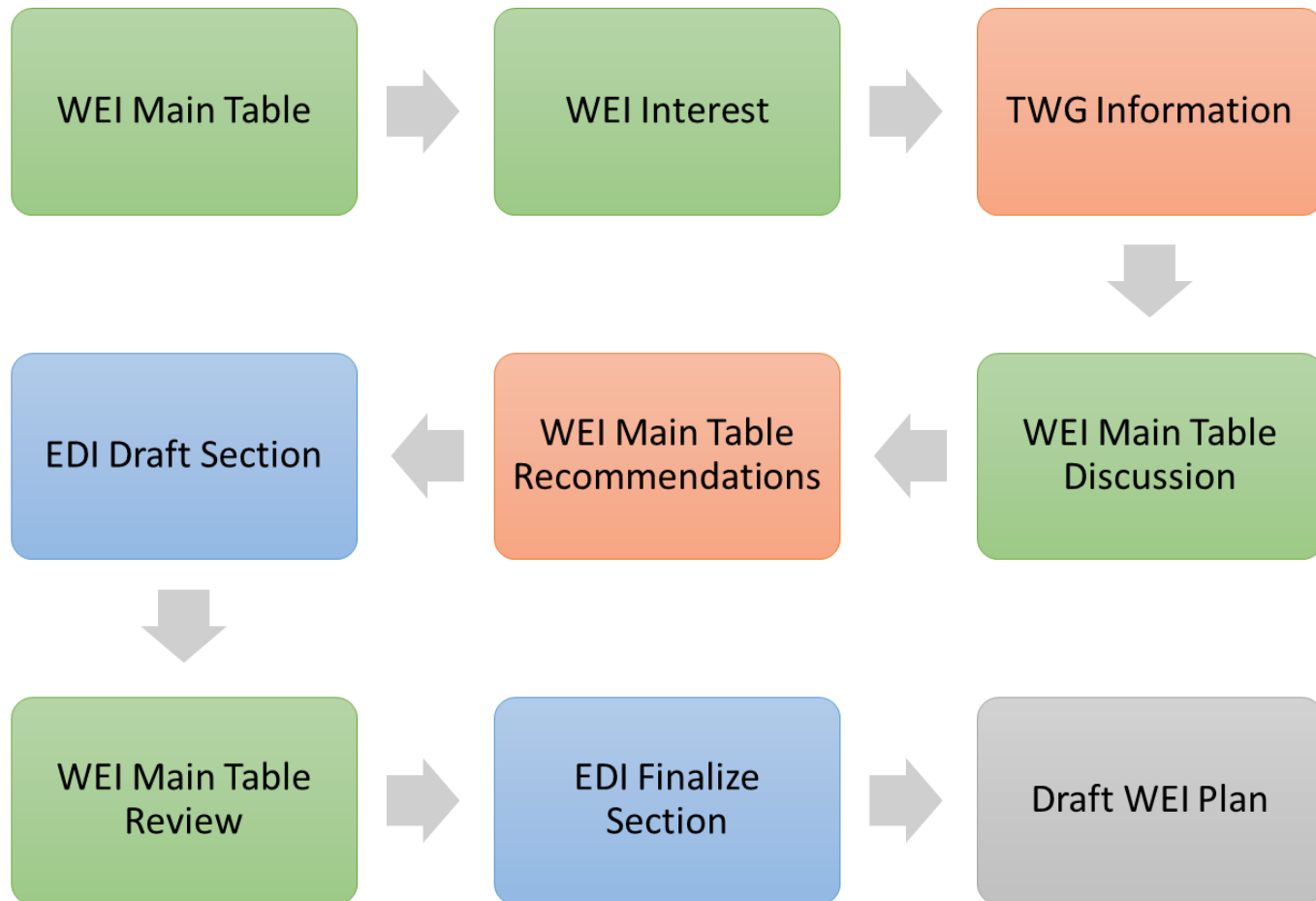


# Southside information gathering update

# WEI plan development

- Draft Execution Plan sent last week as part of reading package has two main sections:
  1. Development Approach for the WEI Management Plan
  2. Proposed Overview of the WEI Management Plan (Table of Contents)

# Development Approach Section





# Contents Overview Section

- WEI Management Plan proposed to have three main sections:
  - 1. Background Information:** Current Rio Tinto Operations, WEI Context and Purpose, Environmental Context, etc.
  - 2. Recommendations:** Flow, Non-flow, Communications for Reservoir and River
  - 3. Adaptive Management:** Post implementation approach

# Three Distinct Areas

- 1. Nechako Reservoir:** East of the Tunnel entrance and “south” of the Skins Lake Spillway and Kenney Dam.
- 2. Cheslatta/Murray Lake System:** East of the Skins Lake Spillway and west of Cheslatta Falls.
- 3. Nechako River:** East of Cheslatta Falls to Prince George. Includes channel north of Kenney Dam to the Cheslatta Falls.

# Plan development next steps

- Do you have comments? Please raise them now, or get in touch with Jason or Rahul
  - Incorporate feedback into the draft Execution Plan
  - Finalize Execution Plan
- Begin development of the WEI Management Plan by drafting sections for Main Table Review.

# Issues and Interests

- Review and refine interests and issues that have been raised by the Main Table participants
- Identify “what matters” to facilitate the process team developing draft objectives and performance measures over the summer break

# WEI Table Accomplishments

- Formed WEI Table
- Approved process Guiding Principles
- 12 Main Table meetings to date, 7 in-person, 5 remotely
- Participated in a field trip to the Southside
- Formed and activated Technical Working Group
- Developed mapping
- Compiled overflight photos
- Formed and activated Communication Working Group

# WEI Table Accomplishments (2)

- Continue to collaboratively identify issues and interests
- Forming strategic partnership with the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative
- Received presentations on:
  - Hydrographs
  - Salmon
  - Climate change
  - River geomorphology
  - Nechako sturgeon

# WEI Table Accomplishments (3)

- Understanding and advancing practical improvements (e.g. reservoir, communication)
- Forming objectives and performance measures to build and analyse improved flow scenarios
- Starting to build the WEI path and plan that will help address long-standing issues

**Thank you for all of your hard work,  
dedication, and collaboration!**

**See you in September**

