

# Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

**UPGRADED: Flood Watch – North Coast**

**ISSUED: 12:00 PM November 20, 2021**

The River Forecast Centre is **upgraded to a Flood Watch for:**

- **North Coast including Haida Gwaii and areas around Prince Rupert, Kitimat, Hartley Bay, Kemano and surrounding areas**

An atmospheric river is set to make landfall onto the North Coast today (Nov 20<sup>th</sup>), following a mild winter storm that began yesterday (Friday, Nov 19<sup>th</sup>). The transition from the winter storm to atmospheric river means a change to warm and wet conditions through to Monday, especially for areas including Prince Rupert, Kitimat, and Haida Gwaii. Total rainfall amounts across the event could reach 200-300 mm, with highest amounts expected on the outer coast between Prince Rupert and Ocean Falls, and decreasing amounts moving inland. Snowmelt at low-to-mid elevations is expected to add to runoff. Inland areas, including the Bulkley Valley, are not currently forecast to receive significant rainfall, however if the system pushes across the Coast Mountains the region could also experience higher flows from rain and snowmelt. Right now there is a high likelihood of this event occurring, with medium confidence as to rainfall intensity and amounts as well as associated impacts. Current hydrologic forecasts indicate the potential for coastal streams to reach 2-5 year return periods beginning later today (Saturday) and lasting into early next week. Coastal streams are currently demonstrating the highest potential impacts, however impacts into the interior will depend on how much of this system falls as rain as it moves east.

The public is advised to stay clear of the fast-flowing rivers and potentially unstable riverbanks during the high-streamflow period.

Details of the COFFEE and CLEVER Model forecasts can be found at:

[http://bcRFC.env.gov.bc.ca/fallfloods/map\\_coffee.html](http://bcRFC.env.gov.bc.ca/fallfloods/map_coffee.html), and

[http://bcRFC.env.gov.bc.ca/freshet/map\\_clever.html](http://bcRFC.env.gov.bc.ca/freshet/map_clever.html)

The [River Forecast Centre](#) continues to monitor the conditions and will provide updates as conditions warrant.

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A **High Streamflow Advisory** means that river levels are rising or expected to rise rapidly, but that no major flooding is expected. Minor flooding in low-lying areas is possible.

A **Flood Watch** means that river levels are rising and will approach or may exceed bankfull. Flooding of areas adjacent to affected rivers may occur.

A **Flood Warning** means that river levels have exceeded bankfull or will exceed bankfull imminently, and that flooding of areas adjacent to the rivers affected will result.