

Ministry of Forests

High Streamflow Advisory – Lower Fraser River (MAINTAINED)

ISSUED: 2:30 PM July 8, 2022

The River Forecast Centre is **maintaining a High Streamflow Advisory** for:

- **Fraser River from Quesnel downstream, including Big Bar, Boston Bar, and the Fraser Valley from Hope to the ocean**

The Fraser River at Hope (08MF005) reached above a 2-year return period flow (8,650 m³/s) on June 8th and has remained above that level over the past month. Flows reached the highest value of the season on June 26th at approximately 10,400 m³/s and rose again for a secondary peak of approximately 10,300 m³/s on July 3rd. The secondary peak was caused by the warmest temperatures of the year occurring on the weekend of June 25-26 melting the Interior snowpack, moderate rainfall in the Upper Fraser watershed on June 28-29, and a moderate South Coast rain event on July 3rd. The secondary peak for the Fraser River at Hope combined with additional contributions from local rivers in the Fraser Valley resulted in the highest water levels of the freshet season for the Fraser River at Mission (08MH024) gauge of approximately 5.87 m near mid-day on July 4th.

Since the recent peaks, water levels have been receding slowly. The Fraser River at Hope is currently flowing at approximately 9,500 m³/s and the Fraser River at Mission has a water level of 5.52 m. Current weather forecast inputs into the CLEVER model indicate continued slow recession over the upcoming 10-days. The River Forecast Centre is maintaining a High Streamflow Advisory for the Fraser River from Quesnel downstream to the ocean as the river remains above a 2-year return period flow. Also, there are significantly high flows at many of the upstream tributaries including the Chilcotin River, Nechako River, Quesnel River, North Thompson River, South Thompson River, and the Upper Fraser. It is unlikely for the Lower Fraser River to reach higher levels this season, but it is possible if a heavy and widespread rain event occurs in the next couple weeks in the headwater basins.

Current flow forecasts for the Fraser River are available from the [CLEVER model](#) and [WARNS model](#), with [water level forecasts available](#) for locations along the lower Fraser River from Hope to the ocean.

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The public is advised to stay clear of the fast-flowing rivers and potentially unstable riverbanks during the high-streamflow period. [Be prepared and know your hazards.](#)

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

BC River Forecast Centre

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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.