

Ministry of Forests

High Streamflow Advisory – North Coast, Central Coast, Northern Vancouver Island

Issued: 3:50 PM November 22, 2022

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

- **North Coast including areas around Kitimat, Kemano and further south**
- **Central Coast including Bella Coola River and tributaries, Kingcome River, Owikeno/Rivers Inlet and surrounding areas**
- **Northern Vancouver Island**

A strong atmospheric river is approaching and expected to arrive on the Central Coast tomorrow (Wednesday, Nov 23) with precipitation forecast to continue through Thursday (Nov 24). Freezing elevations will likely rise to approximately 1,200 to 1,500 m during the heaviest precipitation on Thursday. Currently, there is good agreement between weather models for the heaviest precipitation to fall between Kitimat and Bella Bella. Total precipitation from the storm event is expected to range from 80 to 120 mm within this region, with possibly higher rates in mountainous areas. Areas on northern Vancouver Island, like Port Hardy and Zeballos, could reach 80 to 100 mm for the storm event. Areas further north of Kitimat, like Prince Rupert and Terrace are only expecting to be grazed by the atmospheric river with current weather models indicating 30 to 40 mm total precipitation.

River levels are expected to rise Thursday and likely peak later in the evening or the following day. There is uncertainty with the exact level of the freezing elevation. If temperatures warm a little more than currently forecast, the river response could be quicker due to rain-on-snow conditions. Alternatively, if the freezing level remains lower, the upcoming event could result in significant mountain snow accumulation.

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

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.