

Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

Flood Watch – Kitimat River, Kemano River

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

Issued: 12:00 PM October 11, 2024

The River Forecast Centre is issuing a **Flood Watch** for:

- Kitimat River including tributaries (Little Wedeene River and Hirsch Creek) and other creeks in the region (Renegade Creek)
- Kemano River including tributaries

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

- North Coast including tributaries around Stewart, Gingolx, Laxgalts'ap, Gitlaxt'aamiks (New Aiyansh), Prince Rupert, and other coastal communities
- Central Coast including tributaries around Bella Coola, Rivers Inlet, and other coastal communities
- Inland tributaries of the Skeena and Bulkley Rivers near Terrace and Smithers including the Kitsumkalum River and Telkwa River
- Northern Vancouver Island including tributaries and smaller streams around Port Hardy, Port Alice, Zeballos, and Tahsis

Weather Synopsis:

Another atmospheric river system is approaching the North and Central Coast this Thanksgiving long weekend. Precipitation from the storm is expected to arrive on the North Coast beginning Saturday morning. The stream of intense moisture will move south through the weekend, eventually impacting Vancouver Island on Monday. Areas of the North Coast are expecting 100 to 150 mm of precipitation, with potential totals of 250 mm or more over higher terrain. Precipitation totals from the storm are expected to be lower than the event from September 21-24; however, river response may be more rapid due to saturated conditions from ongoing rain events.

River Conditions:

Rivers are relatively high across the region from several weeks of recent precipitation, including recent storms within the past few days. Saturated ground conditions and higher flows will amplify

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river rises to additional precipitation. Shallow snowpack levels at higher elevations may exacerbate the river response with additional water contribution from melting snow with higher freezing levels.

Based on the current weather forecast, the River Forecast Centre's hydrological models predict the Kitimat and Kemano regions may see the greatest impact from the upcoming storm with flows possibly reaching a 5-year return period or higher. Rises are also expected near Prince Rupert and tributaries up the Nass River, the Bella Coola Region, Kingcome Inlet and northern Vancouver Island. The heavy rainfall may spill over the mountains into more inland watersheds like the Kitsumkalum River near Terrace and the Telkwa River near Smithers, which have both experienced very high flows in the past month. Based on the precipitation timeline, North Coast rivers will likely peak mid to late Sunday. The Kitimat River, Kemano River, and Bella Coola area could likely peak late Sunday to mid Monday and the north end of Vancouver Island more likely on Monday.

Fast-flowing rivers pose increased risk to life safety. The [River Forecast Centre](#) continues to monitor the conditions and will provide updates as conditions warrant.

For information on how to prepare for flood hazards, visit [PreparedBC](#).

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. Fast-flowing bodies of water increase risk to life safety. 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.