

Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

Flood Watch – Central Coast, South Coast, Lower Fraser Tributaries, Vancouver Island

High Streamflow Advisory – North Coast, Interior Mountains

Issued: 12:30 PM October 17, 2024

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

- Central Coast including the Kingcome River and Owikeeno River
- South Coast including the Sunshine Coast, Howe Sound, Sea-to-Sky and tributaries around Sechelt, Squamish, Whistler and surrounding areas
- Lower Fraser Tributaries including the Lillooet River and rivers around Pemberton, Metro-Vancouver, Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley
- Vancouver Island

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
- Interior Mountains including tributary rivers in the Upper Fraser, North Thompson, South Thompson, Cariboo Mountains, and Upper Columbia

Weather Synopsis:

Another atmospheric river system is approaching coastal British Columbia. While the Central and North Coast have experienced several storm cycles this season, this will be the first significant event of the season for south-west BC. Rainfall is expected to begin during the day on Friday, with a prolonged period of rainfall forecast to extend through into Sunday. Current weather modelling is indicating the highest rainfall amounts across western Vancouver Island and the South Coast, with total rainfall amounts forecast in the 80 mm to 150 mm range and the potential to reach 200 mm to 300 mm over higher terrain. Lesser rainfall amounts, in the 30 mm to 80 mm range (up to 80mm to 100mm over higher terrain) are forecast for other areas, including the Interior Mountains.

River Conditions:

Rivers are anticipated to rise rapidly in response to rainfall on Friday, through Saturday and into Sunday. Current hydrologic modelling is indicating the potential for flooding (e.g. flows reaching

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or exceeding 5-year to 20-year flows), particularly on the Central Coast (Kingcome River), Vancouver Island, South Coast and Fraser Valley. Current hydrologic modelling from the US National Weather Service is not indicating a high likelihood of flood flows in the Nooksack River, however this outlook could change through the weekend, particularly if the forecasted storm track shifts further south or stalls.

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.