

Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

UPDATE: Flood Watch – Kingcome River including tributaries (UPGRADED)

High Streamflow Advisory – North Coast, Central Coast, Northern Vancouver Island (MAINTAINED)

Issued: 11:00 AM October 7, 2024

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

- Kingcome River including tributaries

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

- North Coast including tributaries around Stewart, Gingolx, Laxgalts'ap, Gitlaxt'aamiks (New Aiyansh), Prince Rupert, Kitimat, and other coastal communities
- Central Coast including tributaries around Bella Coola, Rivers Inlet, and other coastal communities
- Northern Vancouver Island including tributaries and smaller streams around Port Hardy, Port Alice, Zeballos, and Tahsis

Weather Synopsis:

A frontal system that arrived yesterday (Sunday) brought moderate to heavy precipitation to much of the coast, with precipitation continuing today (Monday). Although precipitation is widespread, the centre of the storm has moved generally southwards down the coast and on Monday morning is currently directed at the southern portion of the Central Coast and northwestern Vancouver Island.

As of 11:00 am today, recorded precipitation for the past 36 hours varied widely across the coast. In general, the highest 36-hour precipitation totals are approximately 70-80 mm on the Central Coast and northern Vancouver Island. However, precipitation has been even higher in some areas, with one weather station southeast of Bella Coola reporting over 140 mm. Precipitation is expected to taper off over Monday and Tuesday as the storm front dissipates.

River Conditions:

Rivers are high across the region from several weeks of recent precipitation. Saturated ground conditions and higher flows will make rivers potentially more responsive to additional precipitation. Additional runoff contributions from rain-on-snow may further amplify increases in river levels.

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Peak flows will likely occur on Monday-Tuesday for most systems. Some coastal rivers have already peaked and are now declining, although flows remain generally high. The River Forecast Centre's current hydrological models indicate that peak flows for gauged rivers may reach levels corresponding to a 1-2 year or 2-5 year return period interval; however, shifts in storm track or intensity could cause higher flows. It is also important to note that flow impacts may be highest in ungauged systems.

Water levels in the Kingcome River are currently rising rapidly as higher flows from runoff are bolstered by a rising tide. Measurements from the gauge at Kingcome Village Upstream indicate that the water level was approximately 4.7 m and rising at 10:40 am, coinciding with low tide. The combination of higher flows and rising tide may drive the water level up to or over the Flood Watch level of 5.1 m in the coming hours.

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.