

Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

High Streamflow Advisory - South Coast, Western Vancouver Island

Issued: 2:30 PM November 8, 2024

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

- South Coast including the Sunshine Coast, Howe Sound, North Shore Mountains, Lower Mainland, and Fraser Valley
- Western Vancouver Island including areas around Bamfield, Ucluelet, Tofino, Tahsis, Zeballos, and other coastal communities

Weather Synopsis:

Starting on Friday, November 8, the South Coast will be the focal point of storm systems continuing over at least the next several days. The prolonged wet pattern is expected to be punctuated by two main precipitation events: the first Sunday to Monday, and the second Tuesday to Wednesday. Although there is some divergence among weather models as to specific amounts, the models have broad agreement that precipitation totals will be moderate to heavy for each storm. For the week as a whole, cumulative precipitation will likely be substantial.

River Conditions:

As the storms arrive, rivers across the South Coast and Vancouver Island are generally at near-normal seasonal levels. During the upcoming event, rivers are expected to be at heightened vulnerability to rapid flow increases due to the wetter weather conditions of preceding weeks, as well as the long duration of the storms. However, cooler temperatures accompanying the storms may generate snow rather than rain at mid and high elevations, which could keep runoff and flow responses relatively subdued despite heavier precipitation totals.

Although current hydrological models suggest that Vancouver Island rivers may be relatively less responsive to the upcoming storms compared to rivers on the mainland, the west coast of the island is expected to receive substantial precipitation, and rivers in the region are considered particularly susceptible to high flows due to very heavy precipitation totals in the past month.

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](#).

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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.