

BC Environment

River Forecast Centre

High Streamflow Advisory Update – North Coast

Issued: 22Oct2008, 4:00PM

BC Environment issued a **High Streamflow Advisory** on Oct 21 for the North Coast, including:

- Kitimat area (including Kitimat River and Hirsch Creek)
- Terrace area (including Kitsumkalum River)
- Stewart area (including Bear River)
- Nass River valley

Environment Canada has ENDED the High Rainfall warning for North Coast - Coastal Sections but has MAINTAINED the warning for North Coast – Inland Sections. Rainfall has eased at Stewart and in the Nass areas over the past 2 hours, to 2-4 mm/hour (decreased from 4-7 mm/hour overnight and this morning). Rainfall is continuing in the Kitimat area at 2-4 mm/hour. Rainfall in the Terrace and Kitsumkalum areas is only 1-2 mm/hour. Environment Canada indicates the front will push through into the interior in the next few hours, and rain will ease further this evening, to showers. An additional 10-20 mm of rain is expected for the North Coast Inland Sections tonight.

Rivers are continuing to rise. With the easing of the rain, smaller rivers will peak and begin to recede overnight, while larger rivers (such as the Nass) will continue to rise into Thursday morning. The Bear River at Stewart will likely peak late tonight. The (high) high tide at Stewart occurs at 8:30PM, and will keep water levels in Stewart high until after that time.

Hirsch Creek at Kitimat is rising steadily, and is currently at a 2-year return period level. It will also continue rising before peaking late tonight

The River Forecast Centre will continue to monitor conditions closely and will issue an update by 8AM Thursday, or earlier if conditions warrant (such as when the rain eases further and rivers begin to peak).

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.