

BC Environment

River Forecast Centre

Flood Watch: Skeena River, Nass River, Kitsumkalum, others

Issued: 05June2009 8:30AM

The BC River Forecast Centre is issuing **Flood Watch** for rivers in the BC north-west, including the Skeena River, Nass River and Kitsumkalum River, and other rivers and streams within these basins

A strong high pressure ridge built over the Alaska Panhandle last weekend, producing record and near record temperatures across the north-west. Temperatures in Terrace on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday were above 30 degrees. Continued hot weather is expected for today and Saturday, resulting in 7 days of continued heat. Current forecasts show the ridge migrating by Sunday, with a return to temperatures closer to seasonal normals by Monday.

Skeena River: The Skeena River at Usk (upstream of Terrace) has been rising steadily the last 3 days. Its current discharge is 5,100 cubic metres per second (m^3/s), above the 2-year return period discharge of 4,800 m^3/s . The water level has been rising at 6 cm/hr for the past 24 hours, and has risen 2.5 metres over the past 2 days. The water level is anticipated to rise another 2.0-2.5 metres, to a discharge near 6,500-7,200 m^3/s , before peaking next Monday-Wednesday. As a reference, the peak discharge during the June 2007 flood event was 7,550 m^3/s .

Nass River: The Nass River (at Shumal) has been rising steadily. Its current discharge is 3,500 m^3/s , above the 2-year return period discharge of 3,400 m^3/s . Its water level has been rising 2.5 cm/hr for the past 24 hrs. It is anticipated to rise another 1.5 metres before peaking near 5,500 m^3/s by Monday-Wednesday.

Kitsumkalum River: There is no river level gauge on the Kitsumkalum River to provide quantitative information. However, based on discharge patterns on the Skeena and Nass rivers, it is expected that water levels on the Kitsumkalum have been rising over the past few days and will continue to rise through the weekend and into early next week. Flooding at Dutch Valley and other locations on the Kitsumkalum is expected (likely comparable to June 2007 flooding)

The River Forecast Centre will provide an update as conditions warrant.

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.