

BC Environment

River Forecast Centre

Flood Warning / Watch ENDED:

16Jan2010 7:00AM

- **Vancouver Island rivers**

The **Flood Warning and Flood Watches** for Vancouver Island rivers, including the Cowichan, Koksilah and Chemainus rivers, are ENDED.

Rainfall ended late yesterday morning, and river levels have been falling steadily since then. All rivers are now below warning level. The status of rivers on Vancouver Island is as follows:

- **Cowichan River:** The water level on the Cowichan River at Duncan peaked at 3.322 metres at 1PM Friday (at the Water Survey of Canada gauge). Since then, it has dropped 0.54 metres to 2.782 metres (as of 6AM this morning). The water level is falling slowly, at a rate of about 2 cm/hour since midnight. The river is expected to drop another 0.2 metres by the 7:40AM high tide Sunday. Cowichan Lake remains plateaued at a high water level of 3.4 metres (on the WSC gauge), and will remain high for the next few days.
- **Chemainus River:** Peaked near noon Friday at a discharge of 425 cubic metres per second (m^3/s). The water level has dropped 1.5 metres as of 6AM, to a discharge of 130 m^3/s .
- **Nanaimo River:** Peaked near noon Friday at a discharge of 600 m^3/s . The water level has dropped 1.0 metres as of 6AM, to a discharge of 400 m^3/s .
- **Englishman River:** Peaked near noon at a discharge of 320 m^3/s . The water level has dropped 1.2 metres as of 6AM, to a discharge of 120 m^3/s .
- **Tsolum River:** Peaked near noon Friday at a discharge of 220 m^3/s . The water level has dropped 1.3 metres as of 6AM, to a discharge of 80 m^3/s .

Environment Canada indicates dry weather is expected for Vancouver Island today, with light rain on Sunday(10-20 mm) and into the next week. No significant effect of river levels is anticipated. For the Cowichan River specifically, the water level will continue to recede slowly for the next few days.

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.