Ministry of Natural Resource Operations
BC River Forecast Centre

UPDATE: Vancouver Island - 24Dec2010 8:45AM

Flood Warning:

- **Quinsam River (Campbell River) - upgraded**
- **Tsolum River (Courtenay) - maintained**

Flood Watch:

- **Central Vancouver Island**

High Streamflow Advisory:

- **South Vancouver Island**

The BC River Forecast Centre is **upgrading** the Quinsam River to a **Flood Warning**, maintaining the Flood Warning for the Tsolum River, the Flood Watch for Central Vancouver Island and the High Streamflow Advisory for South Vancouver Island.

Environment Canada has maintained Rainfall Warnings for west and inland Vancouver Island (up to 100 mm through tonight), and for Eastern Vancouver Island (up to 50 mm through tonight).

Rivers on Central Vancouver Island began to rise yesterday and overnight in response to the strong frontal systems arrival. The Tsolum River (WSC-08HB011) has exceeded a 10 year return period discharge of 235 m^3/s, and as of 6AM was at 243 m^3/s and rising at 5 cm/hour. It is expected to continue to rise throughout the morning.

The Quinsam River (08HD005) surpassed a 5 year return period of 89 m^3/s at 6AM (94 m^3/s), and continues to rise at ~4 cm/hour.

Other rivers on central Vancouver Island continue to rise slowly, including:

- Oyster River (08HD011) - Discharge @ 6AM – 78 m^3/s, 2 yr return period = 216 m^3/s
- Puntledge River (08HB006) – Discharge @ 6AM – 115 m^3/s, 2 yr return period = 281 m^3/s

Current precipitation rates on Central Vancouver Island are steady at 5-7 mm/hour. Storm precipitation totals for eastern Vancouver Island average 100 mm, while higher amounts have been recorded on the west coast.

Rivers are expected to continue to rise throughout today in response to the continuing precipitation. Localized flooding has been reported in both the Courtenay and the Campbell River areas. Localized flooding on smaller creeks and streams may also be occurring.

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.

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The Environment Canada weather forecast for Vancouver Island is for continued rain throughout today, heavier at times on the central Island, tapering off this evening as the front weakens. In addition, high tides will occur over the next two days, which has the potential to further raise river levels near the outlets. The highest tide today has just occurred between 8-8:30 AM on Eastern Vancouver Island. Light rain will continue overnight and into the weekend. Given the current weather forecast, rivers are expected to peak this evening, and will slowly recede over the next few days.

The River Forecast Centre will continue to monitor conditions and will provide an update Friday afternoon or earlier if conditions warrant.

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