

Ministry of Natural Resource Operations

BC River Forecast Centre

UPDATE: Vancouver Island - 25Dec2010 12:30PM

- Quinsam River (Campbell River) – Flood Warning maintained
- Tsolum River (Courtenay) downgraded to a High Streamflow Advisory
- Central Vancouver Island – downgraded to a High Streamflow Advisory
- South Vancouver Island – High Streamflow Advisory maintained

The BC River Forecast Centre is maintaining the Flood Warning on the Quinsam River, and downgrading the Tsolum River and other creeks and streams on central Vancouver Island to a High Streamflow Advisory. The High Streamflow Advisory for south Vancouver Island is maintained.

Environment Canada has maintained Rainfall Warnings for inland Vancouver Island with an additional 20 mm of rainfall forecast for today. Precipitation recorded since mid-afternoon yesterday included 20 mm in the Quinsam watershed and 30 mm at MOT North Courtenay. Further to the south and inland, 40 mm were recorded in the Cruickshank watershed, Beaver Creek Fire Weather near Port Alberni, and Mesachie Fire Weather near Lake Cowichan.

The Quinsam River near Campbell River (WSC 08HD005) peaked late yesterday afternoon, and has slowly receded overnight. The water level at 10AM today is 2.7 m at a flow of about $100 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$, approximately a 20-year return period. The Tsolum River near Courtenay (WSC 08HB011) also receded overnight, and the most recent water level at 10AM today is 3.25 m, below the 2-year bankfull level of 3.52 m.

On the south island, rivers peaked overnight. The Englishman (WSC 08HB002) and Chemainus (WSC 08HA001) and Cowichan (WSC 08HA011) rivers approached but remained below the 2-year bankfull flow and are now receding. However, the Nanaimo (WSC 08HB034) river just reached the 2-year return period flow of $530 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ late last night and is now slowly receding.

Environment Canada is forecasting periods of rain today and high temperatures of 9°C , changing to cloudy overnight and showers tomorrow. River levels will continue to fall today and tomorrow. However, water levels remain high in some areas and all rivers and streams should be approached with caution.

The River Forecast Centre will continue to monitor conditions and will provide an update Sunday morning or earlier if 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.