

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

BC River Forecast Centre

UPDATE – Flood Warning: Central Coast

Issued: 23 September 2011 6:20 PM

The BC River Forecast Centre is **maintaining** the **Flood Warning** for:

- **Central Coast** (including Bella Bella, Bella Coola, Kingcome, Owikeeno Lake/River's Inlet, and surrounding areas)

A number of frontal systems have been delivering, or are forecast to deliver, heavy rain throughout regions of North and Central Coast of British Columbia. Rainfall has been heavy overnight, and throughout Friday. Rainfall over the past 12 hours has been in the 45 mm to 90 mm range at BC Fire Weather Stations and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Stations at Machmell, Bella Coola and Hagensborg. Rainfall over the past 48 hours for the same areas have been in the 100 mm to 175 mm range.

River levels, elevated from previous rainfall, have risen through the day due to overnight precipitation, and continue to rise from heavy rain throughout the day. The Bella Coola River above Burnt Bridge (WSC 08FB007) gauge stopped transmitting at 12:51 pm today at a discharge of 678 m³/s, or a 15-year flow, and was rising at approximately 8-10 cm/hour. The Homathko River at the mouth (WSC 08GD004) is currently at 2030 m³/s, or a 10-year flow, and rising at 18 cm/hour. The Kliniklini River East Channel (Main) near the mouth (WSC 08GE002) is currently at 2175 m³/s and rising at 11 cm/hour. This appears to be the highest observed flow on the Kliniklini River in the 28 years of record at the location, and this exceeds the flood event last September.

Additional heavy precipitation is forecast through the BC Central Coast through Saturday morning. Rivers are expected to continue to rise through Friday evening. Flood conditions are expected on rivers throughout the region. High tides this evening are at 10:55 pm at Sullivan Bay (near Kingcome) and 10:26 pm at Wadhams (Dean Channel). In the lower, tidal reaches of rivers in the region, high flows may coincide with high tides this evening to exacerbate flood conditions.

The River Forecast Centre will continue to monitor conditions and will provide updates 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.