

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

BC River Forecast Centre (<http://bcrfc.env.gov.bc.ca/>)

UPDATE: Vancouver Island - 04January2012 8:00AM

Flood Watch:

- Zeballos River - downgraded
- Tsolum River (Courtenay)

High Streamflow Advisory:

- West Vancouver Island (downgraded)
- Central Vancouver Island
- North Vancouver Island

A frontal weather system is working its way across the south coast of British Columbia, bringing warm sub-tropical air and heavy rainfall. Rainfall rates of 100 to 200+ mm have been observed over the past day at the BC Forest Service weather stations on west Vancouver Island at Effingham (near Ucluelet) and Artlish (near Zeballos). On the east side of Vancouver Island, over 120 mm of rain has been observed over the past 24 hours at BC Hydro's Cruikshank rain gauge. Rainfall rates have been easing Wednesday morning and Environment Canada is forecasting an additional 30 to 50 mm of rain for parts of Vancouver Island today.

Rivers have been rising rapidly in response to this rain. On west Vancouver Island, gauged rivers (including the Zeballos River, Mckelvie Creek, Pugh Creek, and Tofino Creek) peaked earlier on Wednesday morning. On north and central Vancouver Island, rates of river rise have been easing through early Wednesday. The Tsolum River near Courtenay (08HB011) is currently at 3.54 m and rising 2 cm/hour. Current flow on the Tsolum River near Courtenay is 200 m³/s, or approximately a 2-year to 5-year return period flow.

Rivers on west Vancouver Island are expected to recede through Wednesday morning and into the afternoon. On north and central Vancouver Island, rivers are expected to peak through Wednesday morning and recede into the afternoon.

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.