

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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

High Streamflow Advisory: South Coast

UPDATE: 29September2013 11:15AM

The BC River Forecast Centre is **maintaining** a **High Streamflow Advisory** for the **South Coast** including:

- **Howe Sound**
- **North Shore Mountains**
- **Fraser Valley (including Chilliwack River)**

Coastal British Columbia is currently being impacted by a number of Pacific storm systems. These systems have entrained moist sub-tropical air masses, leading to significant precipitation, particularly through Howe Sound, North Shore Mountains, Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley. Rainfall amounts over the past 36 hours observed at provincial weather monitoring stations has ranged from approximately 30 mm up to 110 mm, with the heaviest rainfall amounts occurring around the North Shore Mountains and south-east portions of Howe Sound.

Most gauged rivers in the region hit peak levels late-Saturday, or overnight into Sunday, and are currently seeing a slight easing. All Water Survey of Canada gauged rivers (Coquitlam, Seymour, Stave, Allouette, Stawamus, Squamish, and Chilliwack) are currently flowing below a 2-year return period level.

Another system of heavy rainfall is expected later on Sunday and overnight into Monday. Environment Canada has a rainfall warning in effect for the Howe Sound, Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley regions, with additional rainfall amounts in the 50-70 mm forecasted. Higher rainfall amounts are possible in the higher terrain in the headwaters of creek systems leading into Howe Sound and the North Shore.

Rivers through Howe Sound and North Shore are expected to see rises overnight Sunday and into Monday, with flows getting higher than what was observed on Saturday. Flows on the gauged river systems (Squamish, Stawamus, Seymour, Coquitlam) are expected to remain below flood levels (reaching peak levels below a 5-year return period). However, smaller ungauged creek systems (particularly draining along the south-east side of Howe Sound along Highway 99, and creeks draining the from the North Shore and adjacent mountains from West Vancouver east to Haney) may see significant flows over the next 24-36 hours. Localized high streamflow conditions and minor flooding issues are likely.

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

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