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From: Houle, Brian (Crofton)
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 12:37 PM
To: Houle, Brian (Crofton)
Subject: Special Bulletin - Cowichan River Fish Pulse Flow begins tonight

Greetings everyone.

With the weather prediction firming up and showing 50-75 mm of rainfall at town of Lake Cowichan beginning tomorrow, a special meeting scheduled today by Fisheries and Oceans Canada took place.

The objective of special meeting was to discuss options for higher flows in the Cowichan River to both signal to salmon to enter the river system and also to ensure the fish counting fence could continue to operate for as long as possible.

The fish counting fence becomes flooded at river flows of over 30 cms and the storm in front of us can result in higher flows.

Catalyst has agreed to begin a fish pulse flow tonight and on Friday to end the fish pulse flow if the predicted rainfall does not arrive.

It is expected that before Friday, the lake level will have risen the 7 cm (2&3/4") that would then have resulted in Catalyst beginning to come off control due to high lake level anyhow.

The rule curve associated with the Cowichan Lake weir restricts control of lake level if lake level is higher than the maximum authorized level.

The maximum authorized lake level on and before July 31 is 100% full and that changes each day until on Nov. 5, when the lake must be empty (97 cm below full lake level).

The pulse flow will begin tonight at 7:00 PM as this will result in a flow increase during dark of night – by Wednesday AM the entire river will be at 18 cms.

On Friday, if the predicted rainfalls have not impacted the lake, river flows will again be reduced to summer base flow.

It is expected the flow will remain well above 7 cms after this weeks wet weather passes by – and next week also shows wet weather.

I am predicting we will remain off control and flow will remain at least at 18 cms after this storm system passes by and I will update everyone how things went with next week's bulletin.

Safety is a significant issue with increasing river flows and people are guided to use extra caution if on or around the river during these coming days.

Flow increase scheduled for later in day today (just before darkness) to avoid impacting people using river for recreational purposes.

Flow will increase in 4 steps over a period of 2 hours with flow leaving lake at 18 cms by 8:30 PM tonight.

Regards,

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