

Houle, Brian (Crofton)

From: Houle, Brian (Crofton)
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2020 1:10 PM
To: Houle, Brian (Crofton)
Subject: Wet Season update of Cowichan Watershed conditions

Greetings everyone.

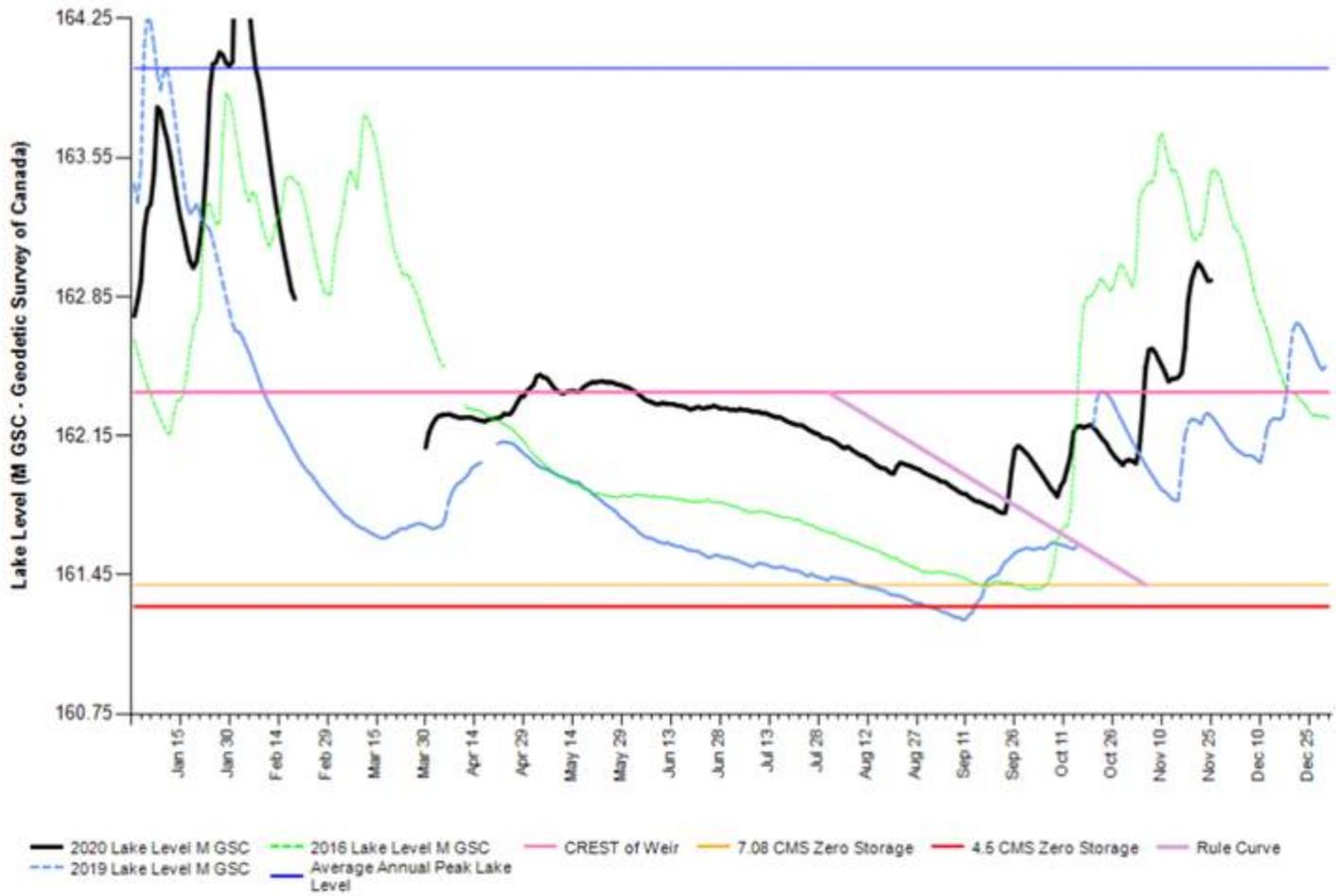
2020 was not a great year for many reasons but 2020 was a cold and wet year and for the Watershed that meant healthy and happy conditions. Great to see Fisheries and Oceans estimating the returning Chinook counts at over 20,000 fish yet again. The 4 year average coming into 2020 was 20,000 returning Chinook and with 22,390 arriving in 2020, the average will increase yet again. Coming into 2020 the 4 year average return of 20,000 Chinook was fully double the 12 year average which was noted as 10,090 fish I arrived to this region and this role in 2010 and there were only 500 returning Chinook just 10 years ago. What an amazing and possibly sustainable recovery of Chinook returns to the Cowichan River.

Regarding cold and wet, we are getting very familiar with that weather pattern and it is showing up in the hills already. Snow accumulation has already begun and that is very early in the cold season for snow accumulation in local mountains. Hoping for a significant snow pack in 2021 as the snow pack makes a big difference with dry season conditions in the river and lake.

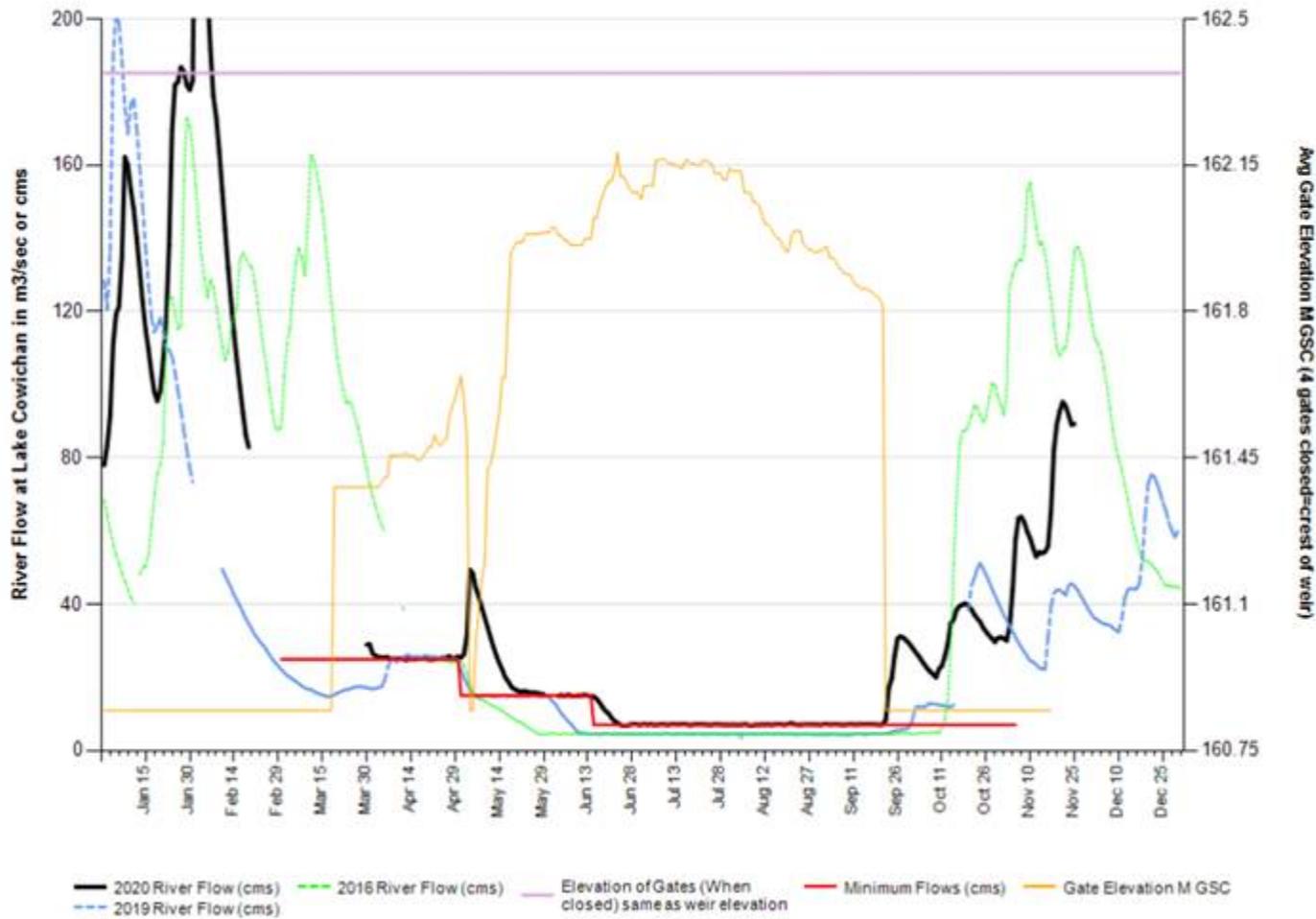
I have shared lake and river trends along with the snow pack trends below.
I feel a white Christmas might be on the books for this year, get your snow shovels and backs tuned up and ready.

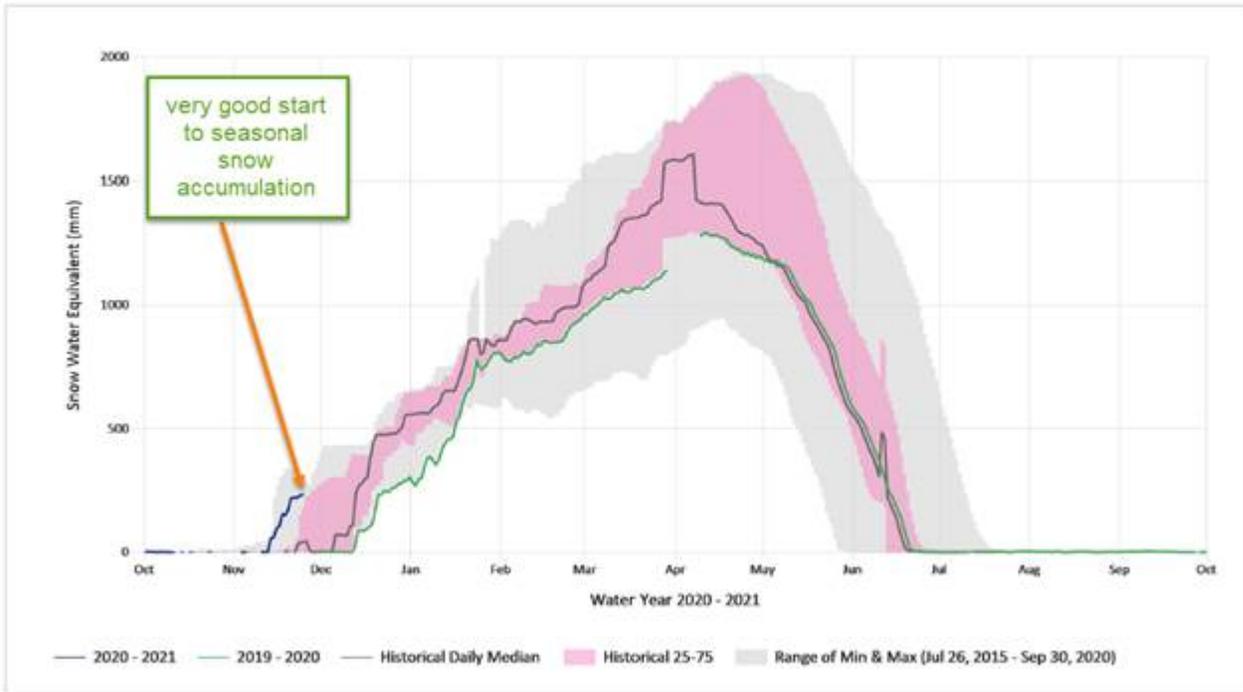
Brian Houle
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250-246-6236

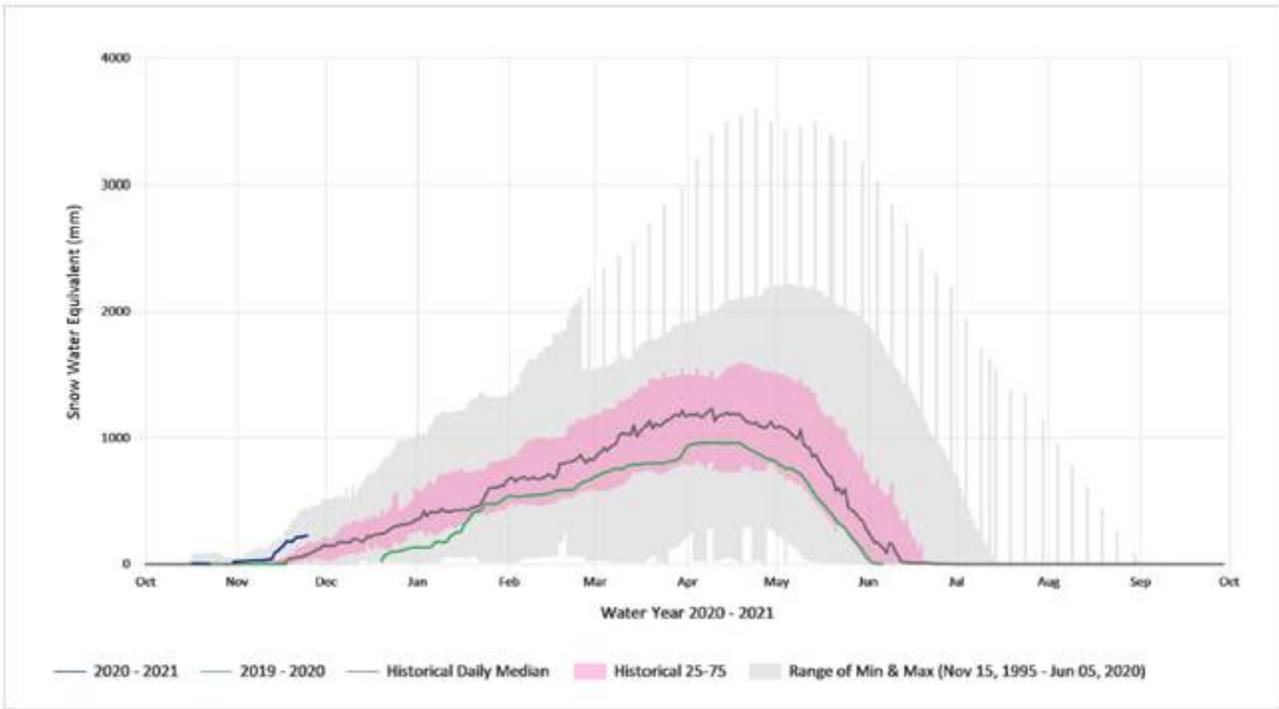
2020 Cowichan Lake Level - 2020 (Black) & 2019 (Blue) & 2016 (Green)



2020 Cowichan River Flow - 2020 (Black) & 2019 (Blue) & 2016 (Green)







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