

Houle, Brian (Crofton)

From: Houle, Brian (Crofton)
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 9:20 AM
To: Houle, Brian (Crofton)
Subject: Watershed Update: April 19, 2024

Good morning,

Over previous 2 weeks, flow reductions in Cowichan River have resulted in return to 100% full lake.

The flow from Cowichan lake is now at 15 cms and will be held at this flow into next week.

Review of conditions with regulators will take place next Tuesday, to set up operating guidance for the weir as we enter May and June.

As I have noted previously, 2024 will be a new approach to managing the watershed and driven from the fish kill experienced in July of 2023.

The main objective for 2024 is to ensure there is enough water in Cowichan Lake to support at least 7 cms through to mid-September.

This new objective is expected to result in the need for river flows to be reduced to below the ideal 15 cms through May and out to June 15th.

It is good to see rainfall predicted for most of the coming 7 days, but then the prediction is dry weather, but still cool weather which will help keep snow pack as snow.

Snow pack will begin to melt in coming 2 weeks as it does each year at this time and that will help to keep the lake at 100% full.

The flow guide chart shows enough lake level to support ideal 25 cms flows, but that is not appropriate guidance given the need to sustain 7 cms through the heat of summer.

A new flow guide chart will be needed and 2024 weir operations will help with the development of a new flow guide chart for future years.

A report of stranding fish near Stoltz Pool area on Cowichan River was received earlier this week.

Follow-up from that call highlighted that volunteers are actively attending the river to both observe if stranding is occurring and taking action to transport emerging fry to the main stem of the river.

Prior to the observation of stranding near Stoltz Pool, a key volunteer Parker Jefferson, had been at this area and assisted with relocating stranded fish back to mainstem.

A return visit to this area of the river was planned by Parker and very much appreciated that Parker is monitoring conditions in this section of the river and qualified to take required actions.

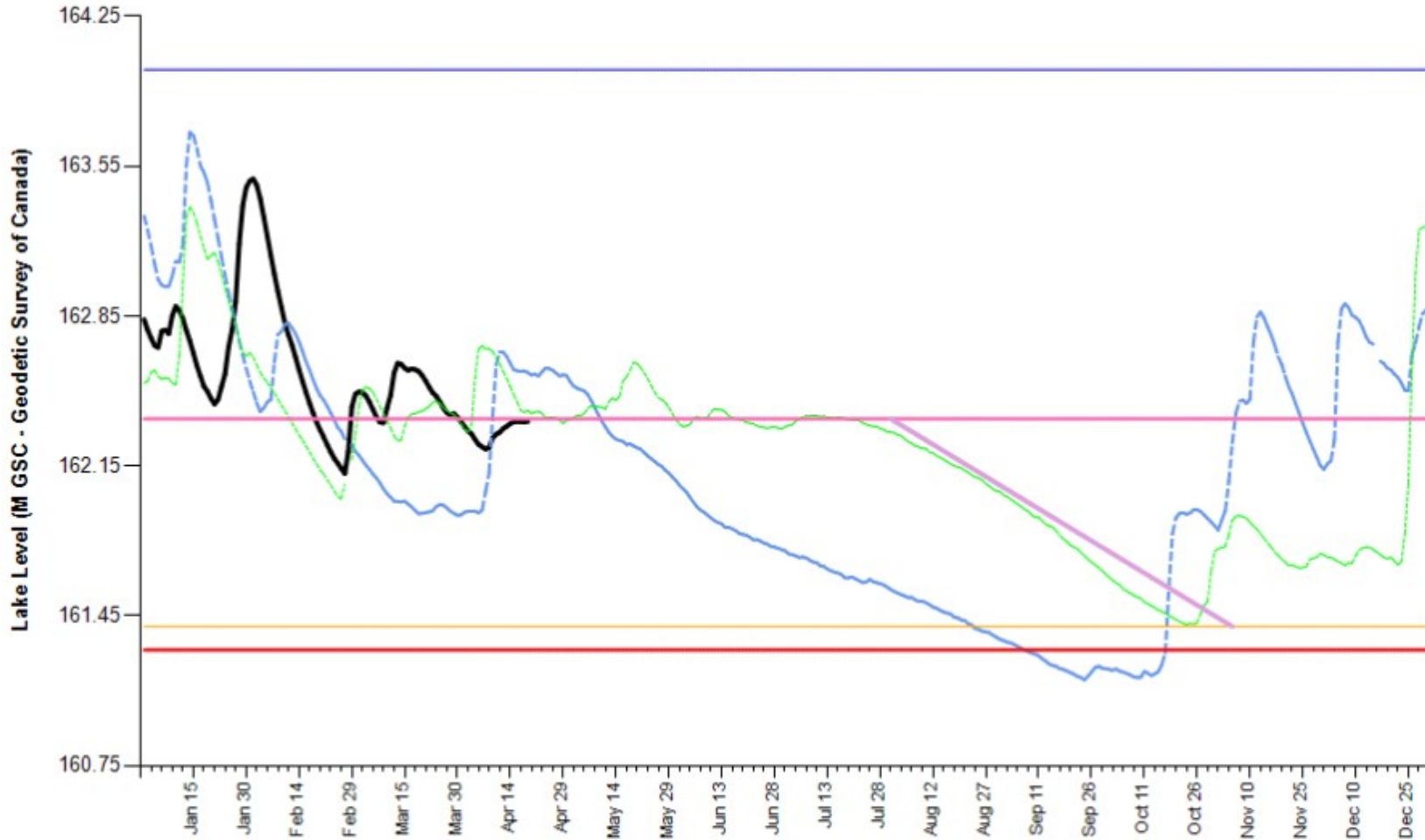
The upper river is being monitored closely by Joe Saysell, and again, very much appreciated that Joe continues to volunteer his time to observe and take action when fish stranding is observed.

For those of you who do observe unusual conditions in the watershed, it is very important and helpful to report those observations as that allows actions to be taken, if needed.

Reporting observations is very helpful and please be aware that special qualifications are needed to take actions like the relocation of fry from side channels.

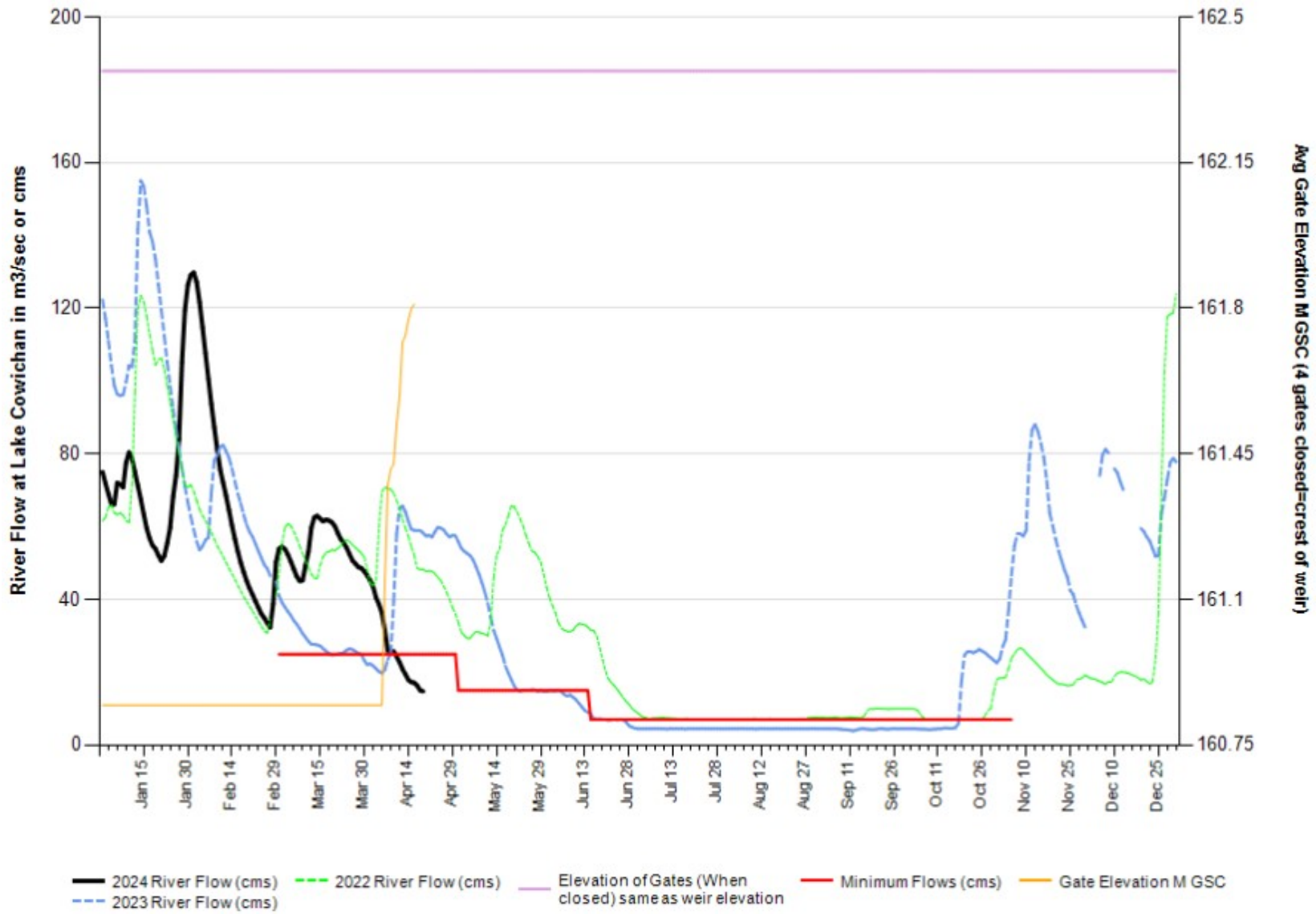
Regards,

2024 Cowichan Lake Level - 2024 (Black) & 2023 (Blue) & 2022 (Green)









— 2024 Lake Level M GSC - - - 2022 Lake Level M GSC — CREST of Weir — 7.08 CMS Zero Storage — 4.5 CMS Zero Storage — Rule Curve
- - - 2023 Lake Level M GSC — Average Annual Peak Lake Level

2024 Cowichan River Flow - 2024 (Black) & 2023 (Blue) & 2022 (Green)



Next 7 Days










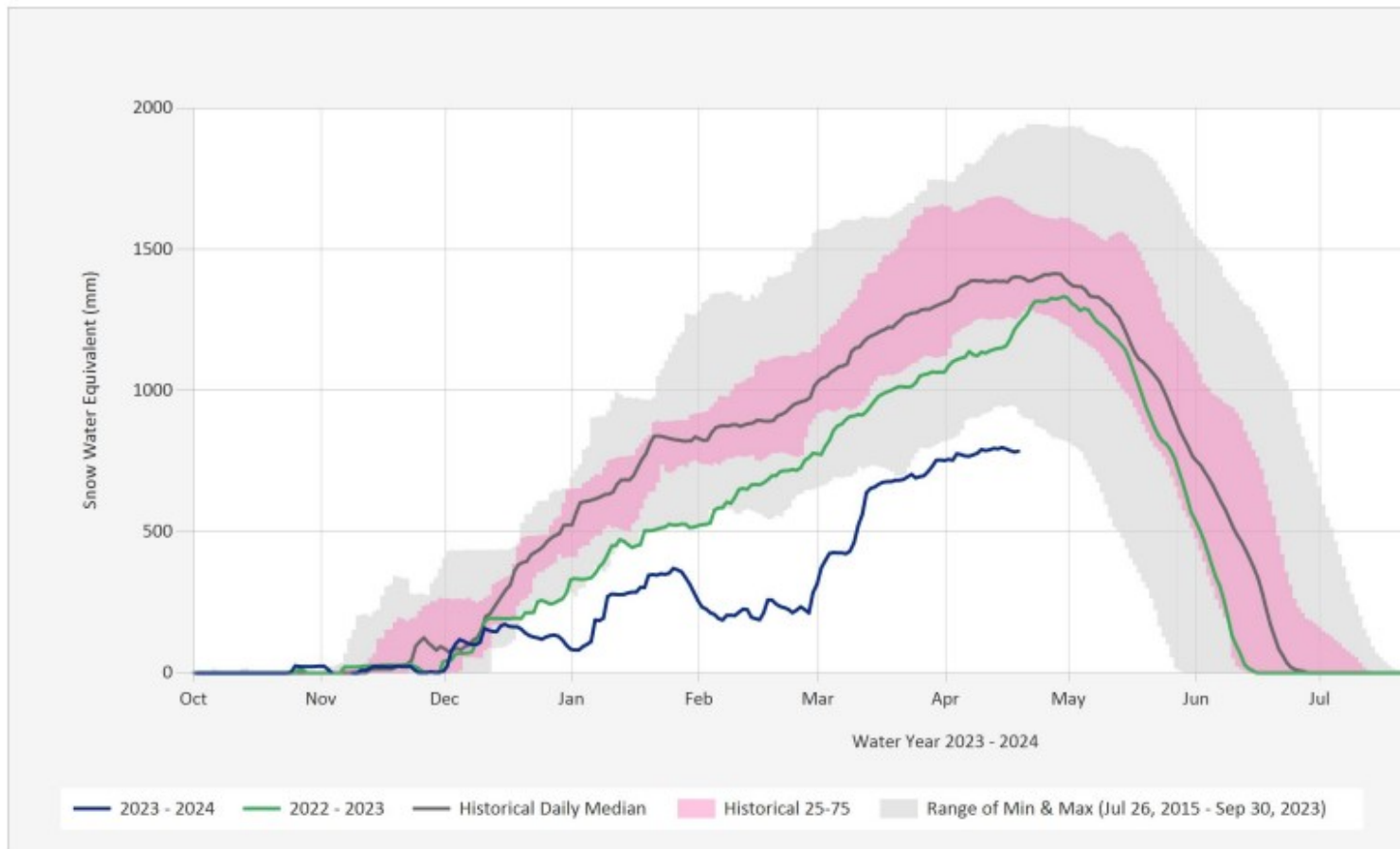
	Sat 04/20 A Few showers  13°	Sun 04/21 A Few showers  9°	Mon 04/22 Mainly sunny  14°	Tue 04/23 Cloudy with sunny breaks  14°	Wed 04/24 Chance of a shower  11°	Thu 04/25 Light rain  9°	Fri 04/26 A Few showers  10°
Feels like	12	7	14	13	10	8	10
Night	5°	2°	5°	4°	1°	4°	5°
POP	80 %	60 %	20 %	40 %	40 %	70 %	40 %
Wind (km/h)	18 E	17 W	8 N	15 SW	13 W	7 SE	7 SW
Wind gust (km/h)	27	26	12	23	20	11	11
Hrs Of Sun	5 h	5 h	8 h	3 h	4 h	1 h	3 h
24 Hr Rain	5-10 mm	1-3 mm	-	<1 mm	~1 mm	~15 mm	1-3 mm

14 Days

Apr 20 - May 3

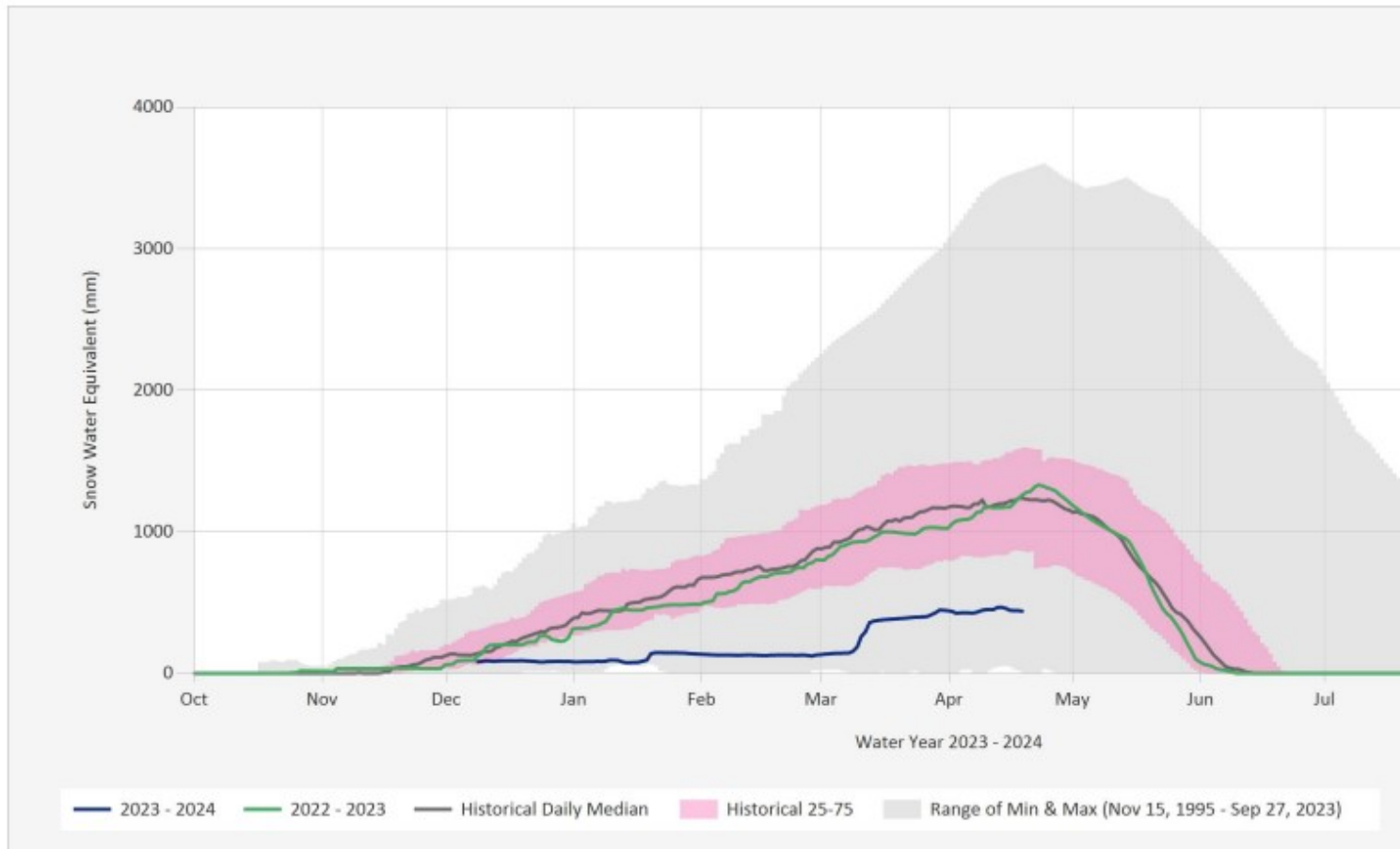
◀ PREVIOUS 7 DAYS

	Sat 04/27	Sun 04/28	Mon 04/29	Tue 04/30	Wed 05/01	Thu 05/02	Fri 05/03
	Cloudy with sunny breaks	Mainly cloudy	A mix of sun and clouds	A mix of sun and clouds	Sunny	Mainly sunny	Sunny
							
	11°	10°	9°	10°	12°	12°	13°
Feels like	11	9	7	10	12	12	13
Night	5°	3°	3°	3°	5°	5°	5°
POP	30 %	40 %	30 %	30 %	10 %	20 %	10 %
Wind (km/h)	5 s	6 sw	15 w	5 NE	6 E	12 sw	5 N
Wind gust (km/h)	8	9	23	8	9	18	8
24 Hr Rain	-	<1 mm	-	-	-	-	-

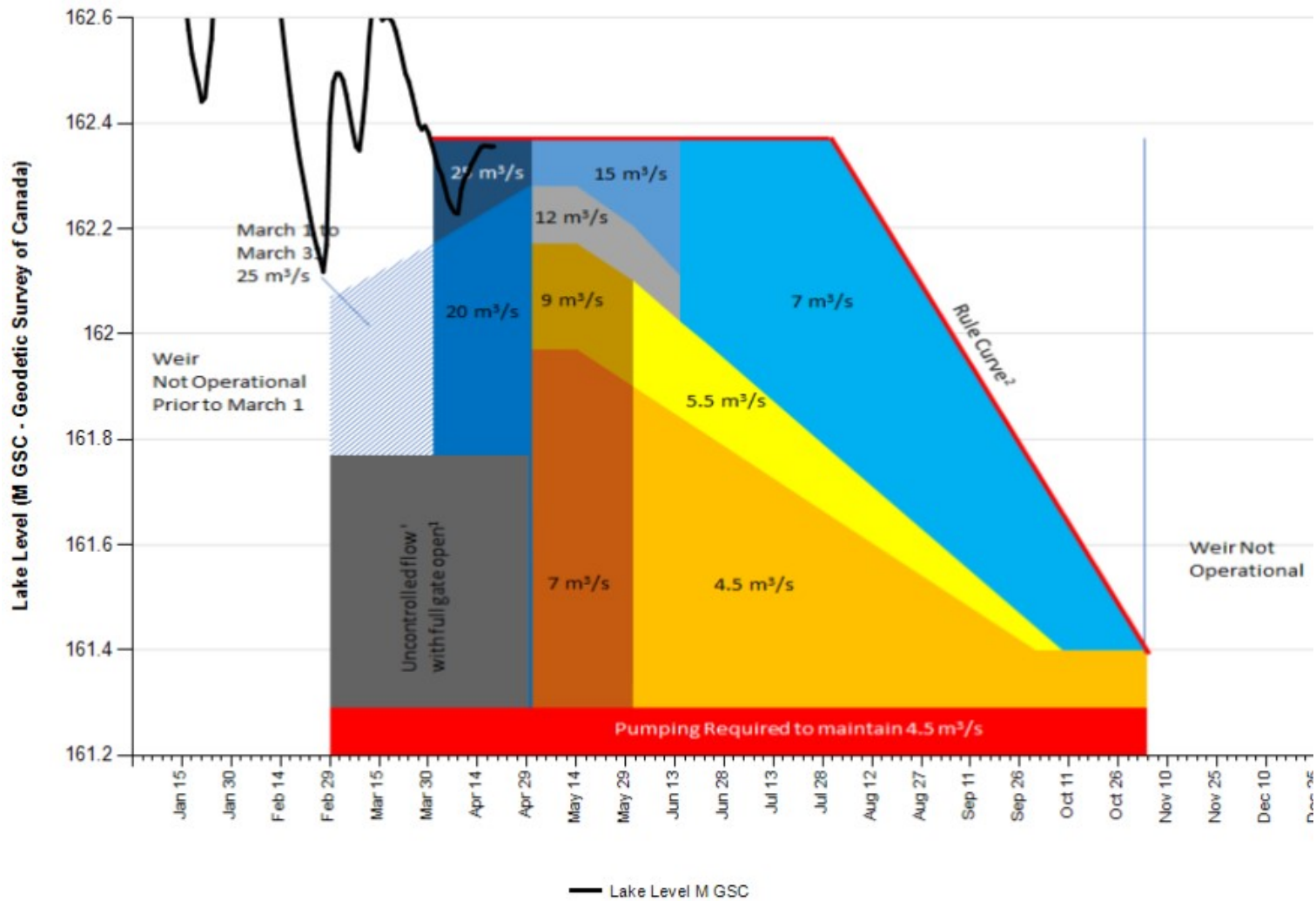


Source Data: SW.Daily@3B23P

Location: Jump Creek, Latitude: 48.969505, Longitude: -124.276182, Elevation: : 1160 m



2024 Cowichan Lake Level and River Flow Guidance Chart - Below Average snow pack



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