

Houle, Brian (Crofton)

From: Houle, Brian (Crofton)
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2023 9:55 AM
To: Houle, Brian (Crofton)
Subject: Watershed update: Oct 23, 2023

Good morning,

A much better start to the week with the lake half full of water, the weir off control, and the river flowing at over 25 cms from lake.

On Wednesday last week, in response to rising lake level, the pumps were shut down, and river returned to gravity feed from lake.

This was very helpful as we had reports of fish wanting to get into the lake and held up due to the operation of the pumps and confused with water moving in wrong direction at fish ladder.

Then on Thursday, as lake level continued to rise, the weir was taken off control, with all four control gates lowered to river bottom and 100% open.

In this condition, fish are free to navigate through the gate structure and through the fish ladder given water was flowing from lake to river.

The lake is now 50% full and the recent dry weather has allowed lake level to again begin to decline.

I won't even share a weather forecast this week as it does not matter what next week brings, rain will continue now that we are in the wet season and the lake level is high enough to sustain the river for many weeks.

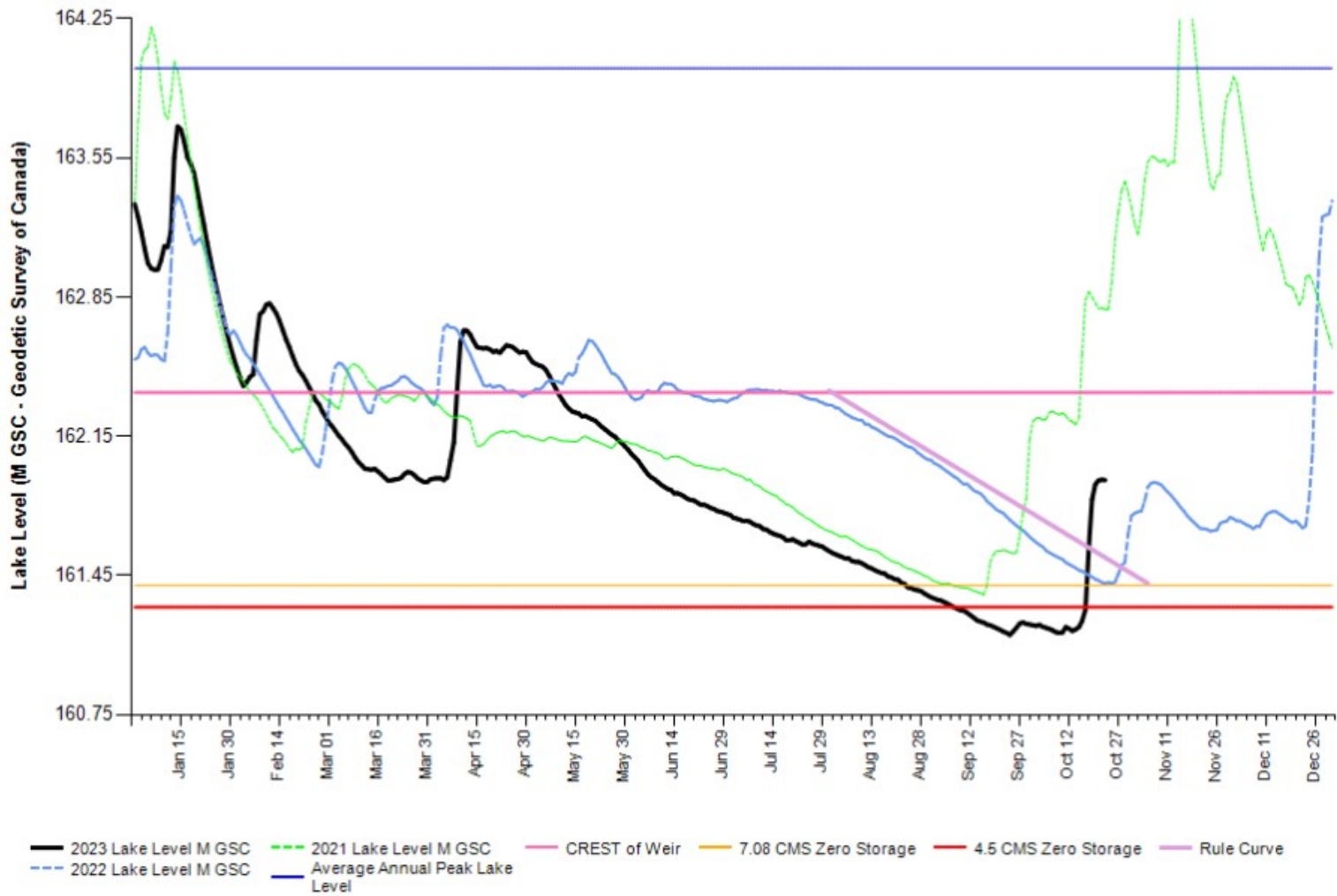
The pumps and scaffolding will be removed from the weir area this week and the weir will be winterized and shut down after the pumps are removed, exact timing not yet in hand.

The fish counting fence was removed from lower river in advance of the rising water levels.

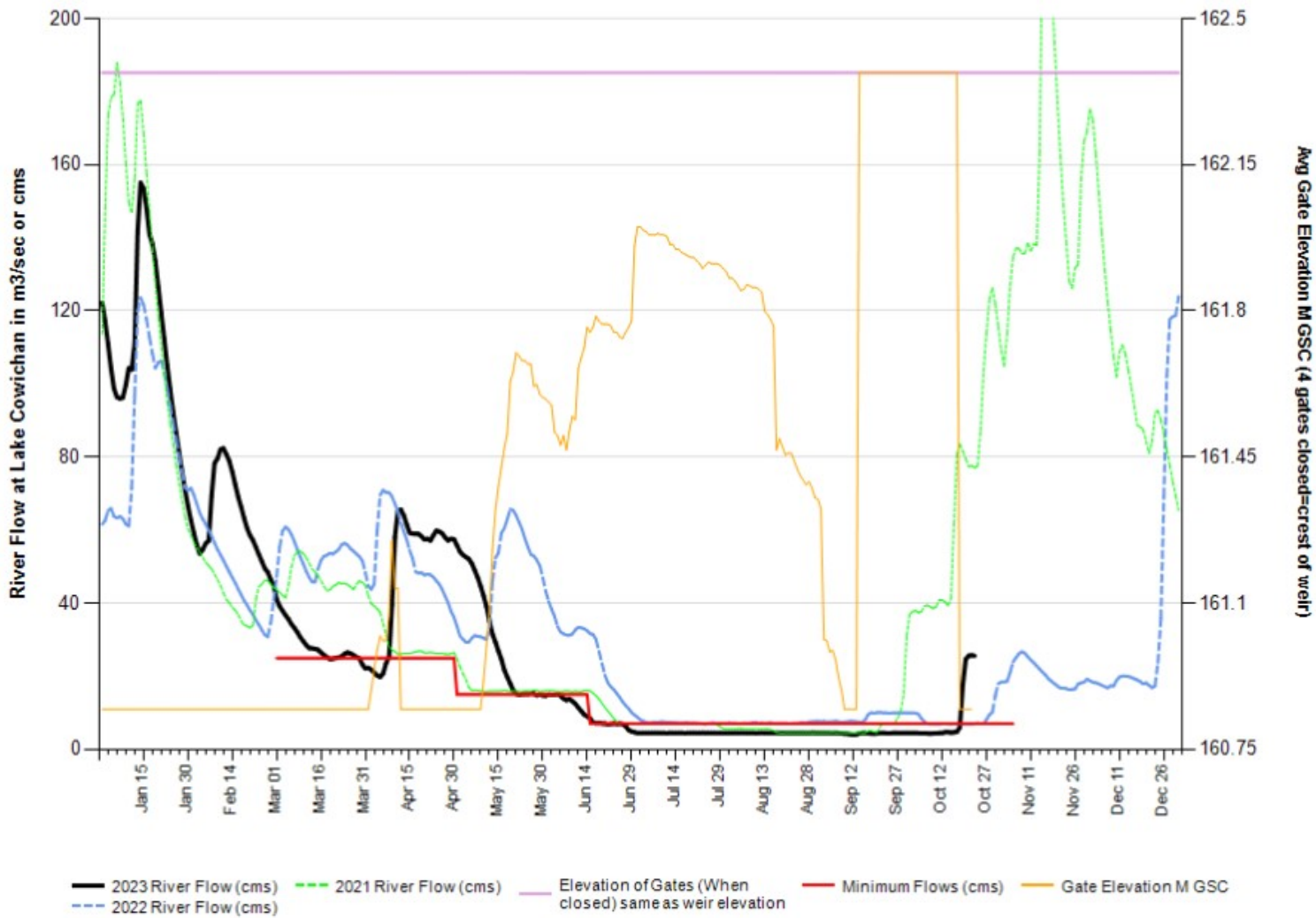
My updates will be at a reduced frequency given we are now off control and fully into the wet season.

Regards,
Brian

2023 Cowichan Lake Level - 2023 (Black) & 2022 (Blue) & 2021 (Green)



2023 Cowichan River Flow - 2023 (Black) & 2022 (Blue) & 2021 (Green)



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