

## Houle, Brian (Crofton)

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**From:** Houle, Brian (Crofton)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 17, 2024 8:16 AM  
**To:** Houle, Brian (Crofton)  
**Subject:** Watershed Update October 17, 2024

Good morning,

Conditions anticipated in coming days include a lot of rain.

At this time of year, with salmon in Cowichan Bay and in the lower river, it is helpful to increase river flow.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Cowichan Tribes have requested river flow is increased to help signal the salmon to migrate into and up the river.

It is also helpful that flow is higher sooner to delay flow rising as high as fast given the fish counting fence apparatus needs to be removed from river, before flow is too high.

Beginning this morning and right away, the gates at the weir will be opened to increase river flow from current 7 cms to an anticipated 10-11 cms.

If rainfall raises lake level, river flow would rise higher and the target flow for this weekend is 15 cms.

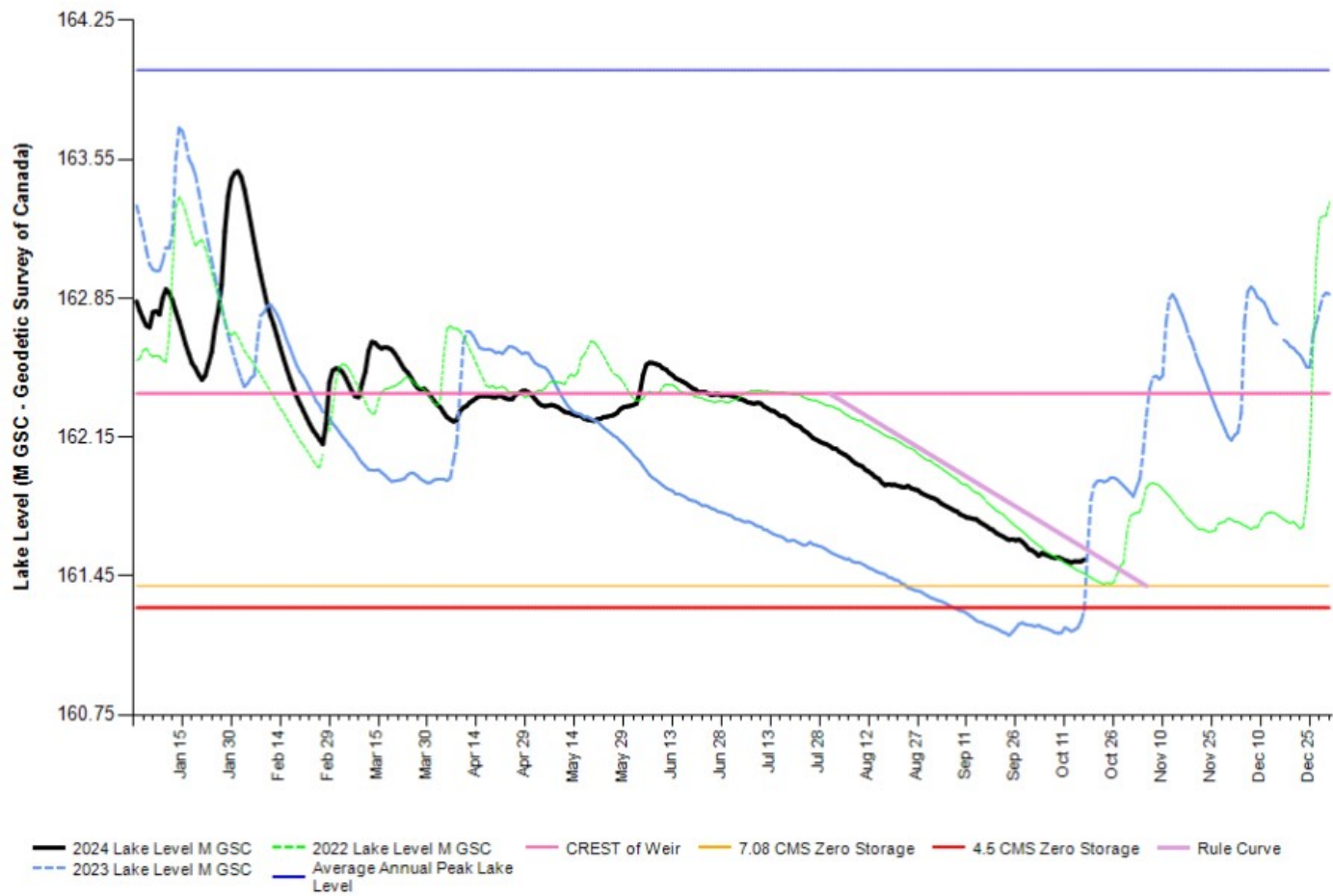
If the predicted rainfall does not raise lake level it is possible next week the flow will be returned to 7 cms but that is unlikely given how much rain is predicted.

From trend below you can see that the lake level, while showing the lake is almost empty, the rule curve guides the lake to be almost empty (pink sloped line in graph).

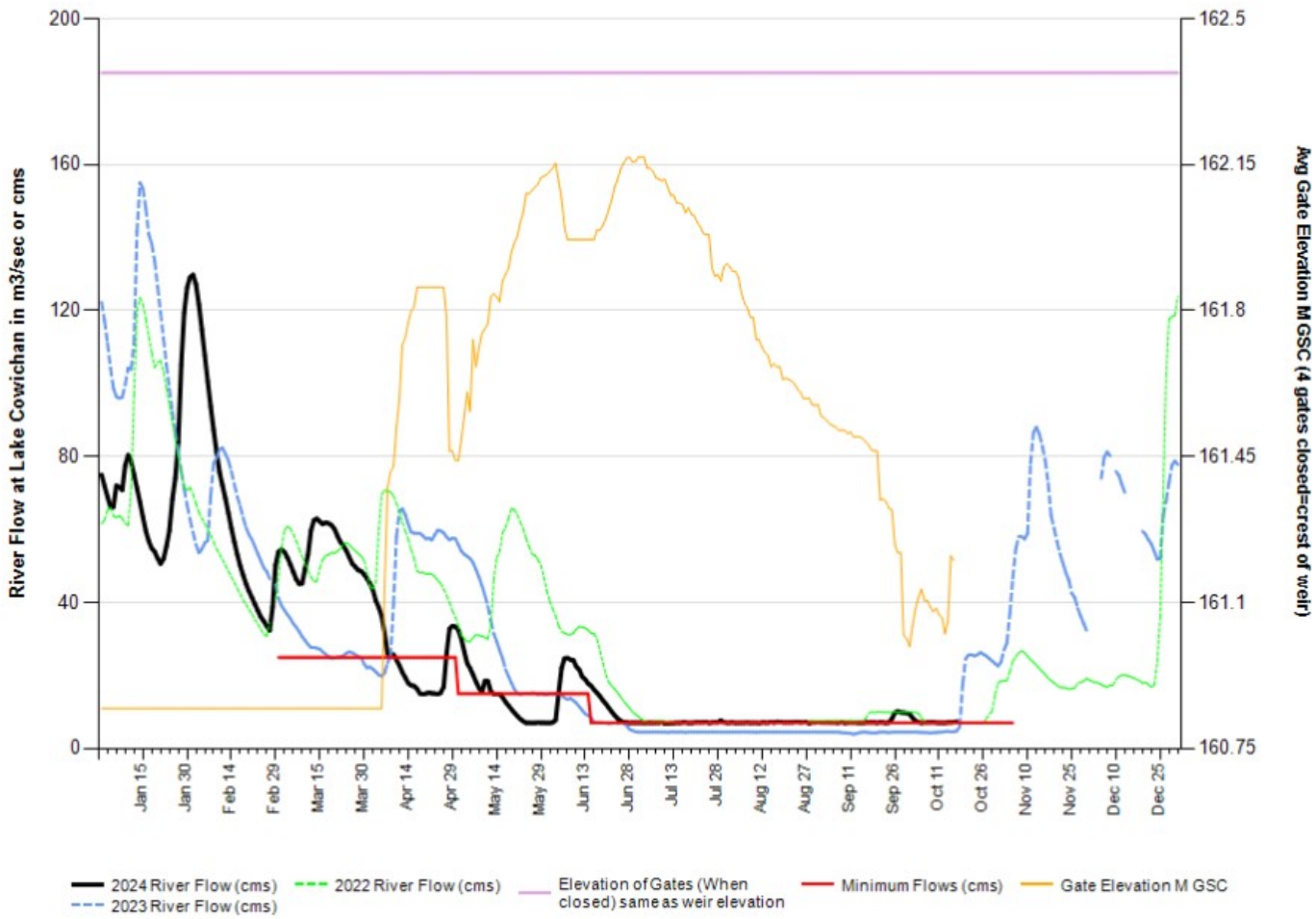
A small move higher in lake level results in the water license requirement to be off control as well, so we are taking action a few days in advance of that anticipated need as well.

Regards,  
Brian Houle

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



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



## Lake Cowichan, BC

### Temperature



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