

Houle, Brian (Crofton)

From: Houle, Brian (Crofton)
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2024 2:46 PM
To: Houle, Brian (Crofton)
Subject: Watershed update: September 23, 2024
Attachments: 2024 Cowichan Bulletin #2_Sept20.pdf

Good afternoon,

Good conditions in the watershed continue and flow in river remains at base flow of 7.08 cms.

Weather forecast continues to show dry and wet conditions and they have changed format of forecast, it is more difficult to see coming 7 days in new format.

At this time of year, with heavy rainfall more likely in coming weeks, the only concern is a repeat fall drought, like we experienced in 2022.

As Salmon begin to accumulate in Cowichan Bay, waiting to return to the river, the use of fish pulse flows has been done in previous years to encourage the salmon to come in from the ocean.

With current lake level, there is not enough lake level right now for 18 cms pulse flow but there is enough lake level for a 15 cms pulse flow.

Coordination of a pulse flow will be from Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Cowichan Tribes staff if one will be conducted.

This weekend's river celebration went very well. Thank you goes out to all the volunteers who helped with this event and special thanks go out to Genevieve Singleton, Parker Jefferson from Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable and who coordinated the event and to Cowichan Tribes who hosted the event on their river front property by Black Bridge.

And very thankful that mother nature only misted us with minimal sprinkle of water on Sunday.

I am including a copy of the most recent DFO escapement bulletin where it is noted that already there have been just over 2,000 Chinook enter the Cowichan River, travelling past the counting fence.

And finally, to close out on project to remove gravel from river bed in front of the pump house. On Wednesday last week, the last loads of gravel were removed from the river.

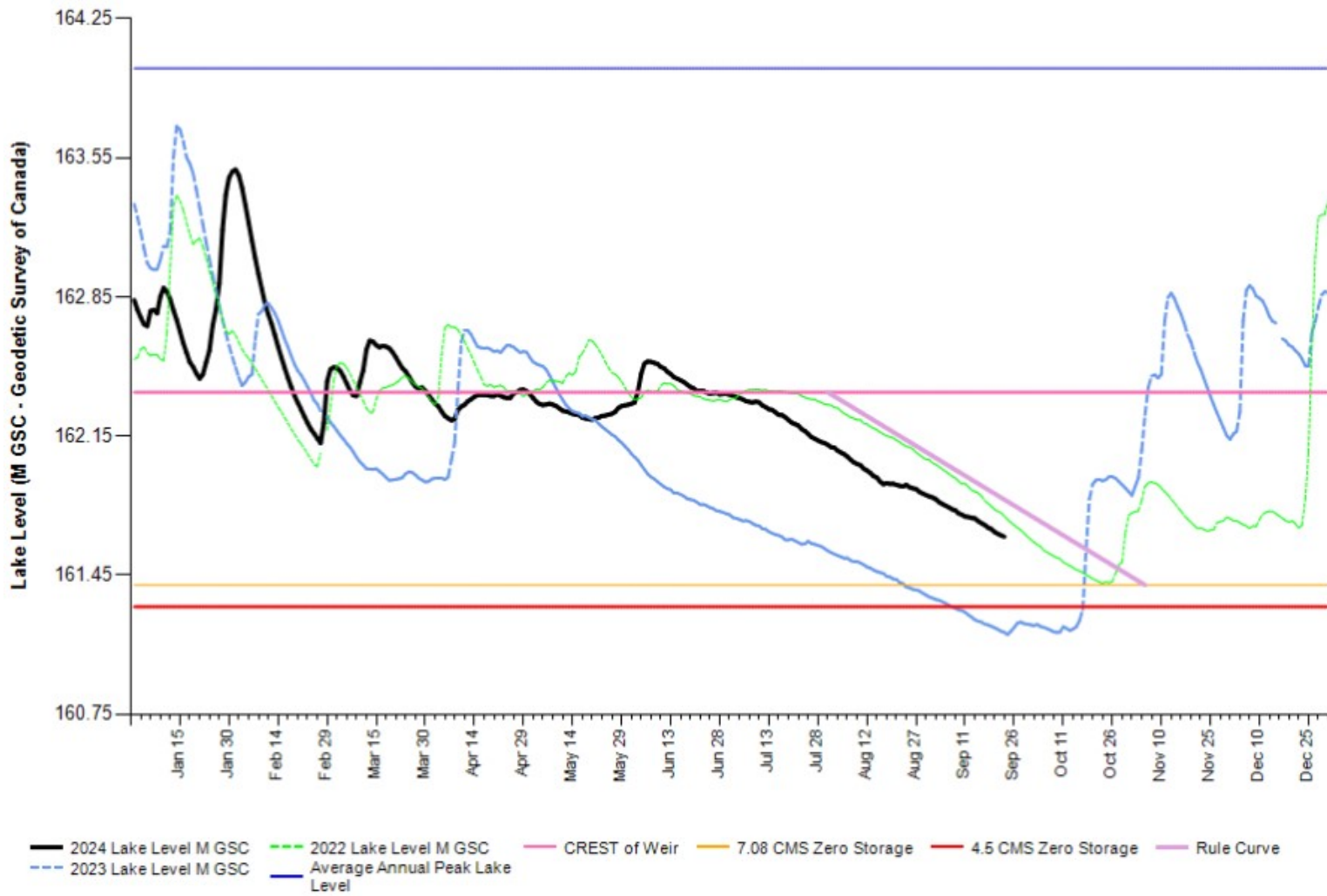
On Thursday the river was returned to pre-dredge conditions, removing the large lock blocks, fish screens and other things used to ensure fish had clear river passage past the gravel extraction location.

On Friday, the land area was cleaned up and by end of day, everything back to normal for the river in this area.

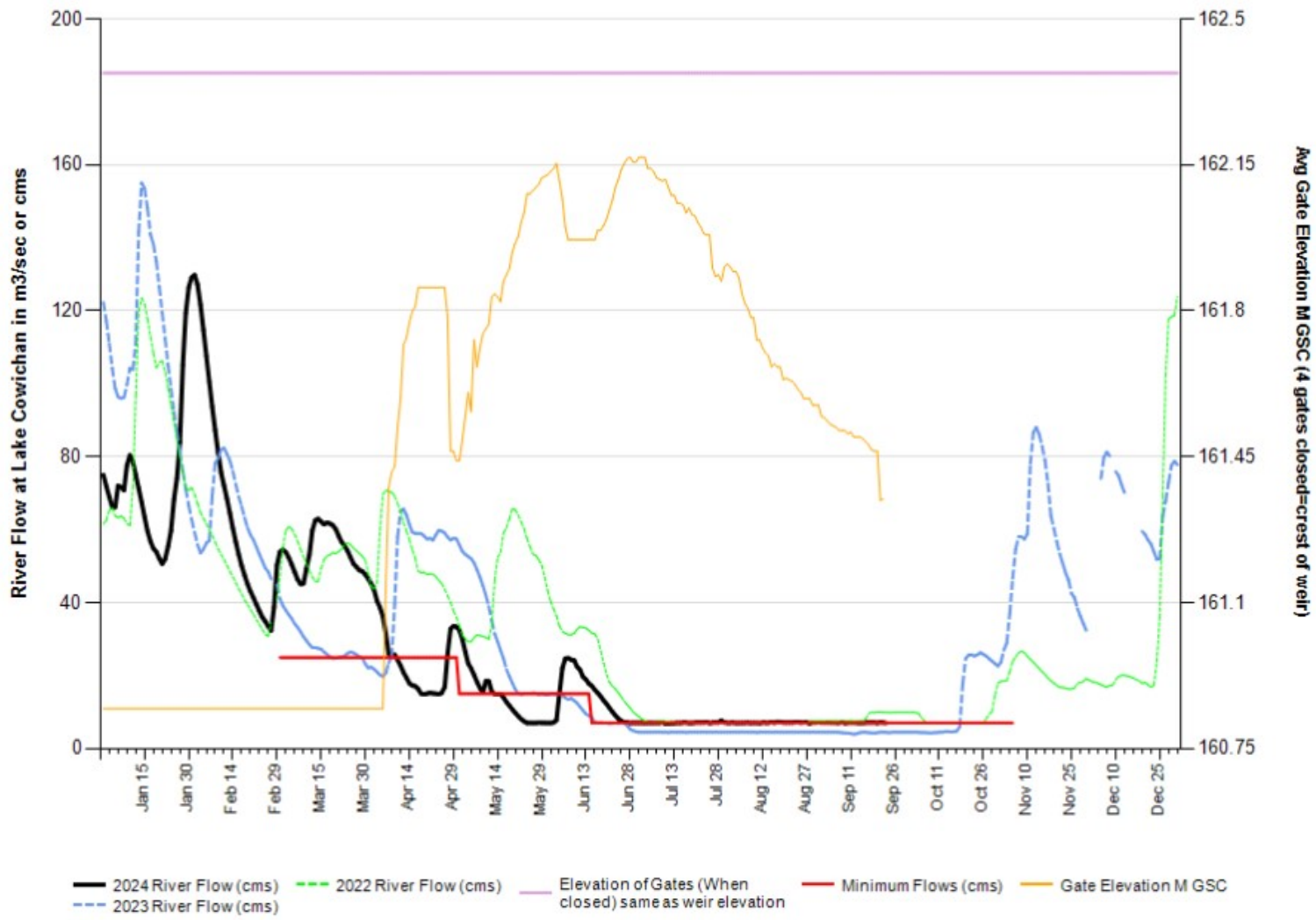
There were no issues of concern during the gravel extraction process that is authorized as part of the Catalyst Crofton water license for the pump house.

Regards,
Brian Houle

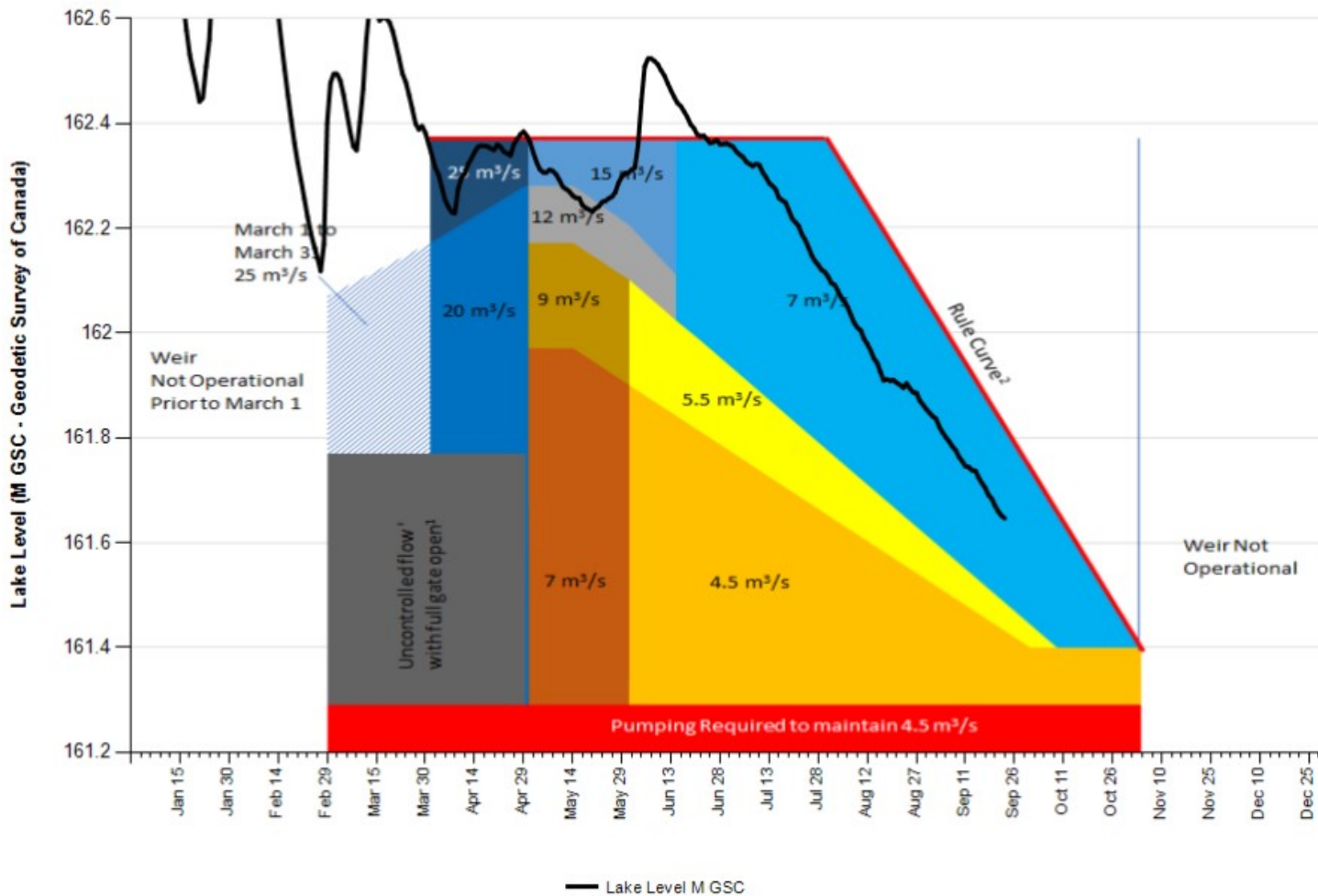
2024 Cowichan Lake Level - 2024 (Black) & 2023 (Blue) & 2022 (Green)



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



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



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