

Houle, Brian (Crofton)

From: Houle, Brian (Crofton)
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 12:17 PM
To: Houle, Brian (Crofton)
Subject: Watershed Update: September 25, 2024

Good day everyone,

A special added watershed update this week given current wet weather and conditions in Cowichan Bay and in the lower river and the opportunity to enhance salmon management programs.

The base flow of 7 cms continues to be sustained, and very important that this minimum flow is sustained until fall rains return.

With salmon now accumulating in Cowichan Bay and the lower river and moving through the fish counting fence, Fisheries and Oceans Canada along with Cowichan Tribes are requesting a fish pulse flow begin right away.

Today, a fish pulse flow will begin, with the river flow rising from 7 to 10 cms and holding there for 5 days.

On Tuesday next week, Catalyst will reduce the flow by 1 cms per day, back down to 7 cms, if lake level has not risen enough to support holding the higher 10 cms river flow for added days.

From previous years, evidence in hand shows that the salmon holding in the bay will respond and will enter the river system and travel through the counting fence, if flow is increased to 10 cms.

The motivation to have the salmon enter the river system is the reduced predation they will be subjected to once they are in the river, as compared to the predation they experience in the ocean.

In 2022 a flow of 10 cms was sustained for a number of days in the fall and unfortunately in that year, a fall drought occurred and the flow was reduced back down to 7 cms waiting for fall rains to return.

If there is enough water in lake to sustain holding 10 cms in river for added days next week, that will be done.

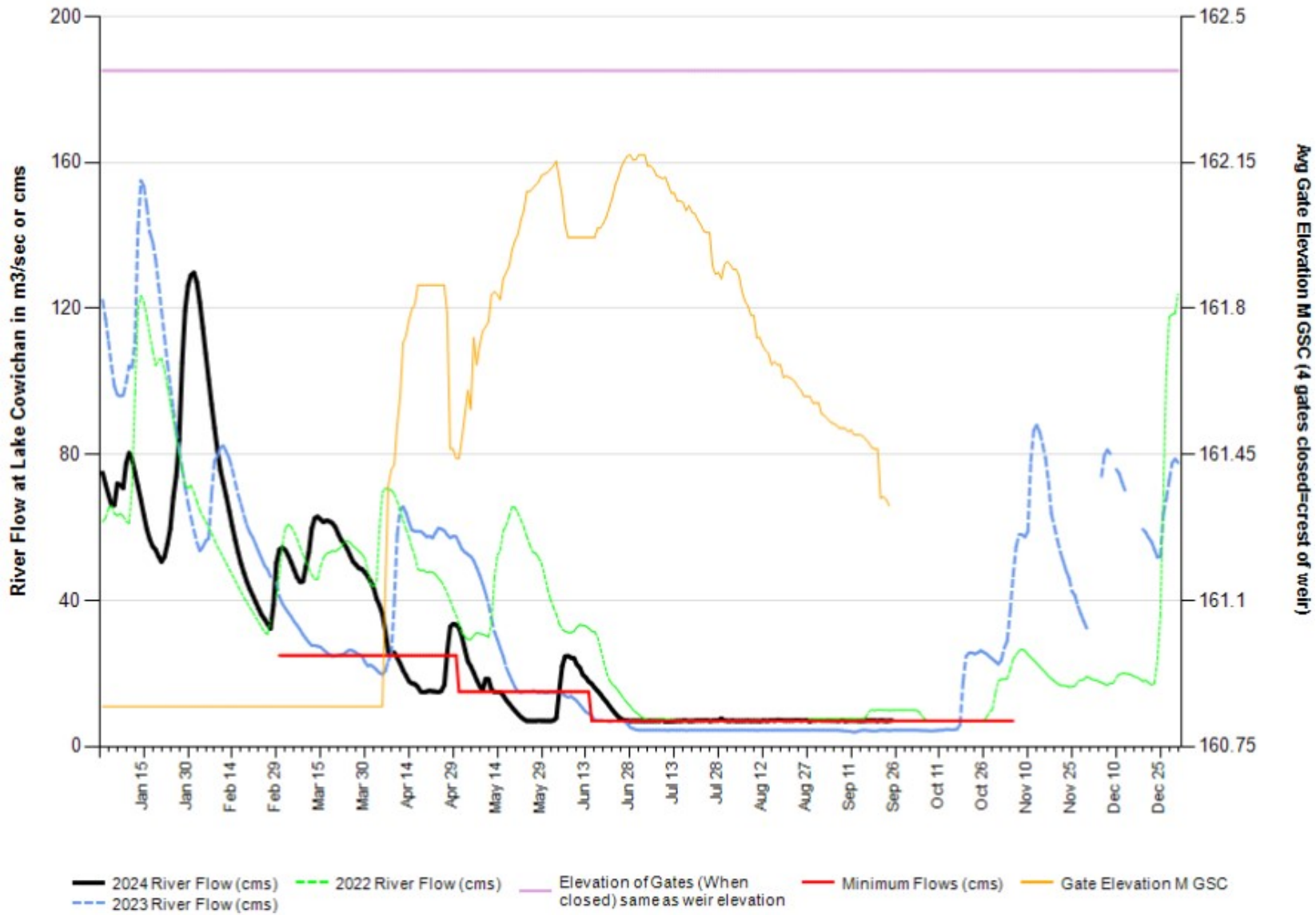
Next weeks update will be issued on Tuesday to clarify to everyone the ongoing plan for the pulse flow that will begin today.

Trends and weather forecast included below and weather forecast does show things drying out beginning Friday.

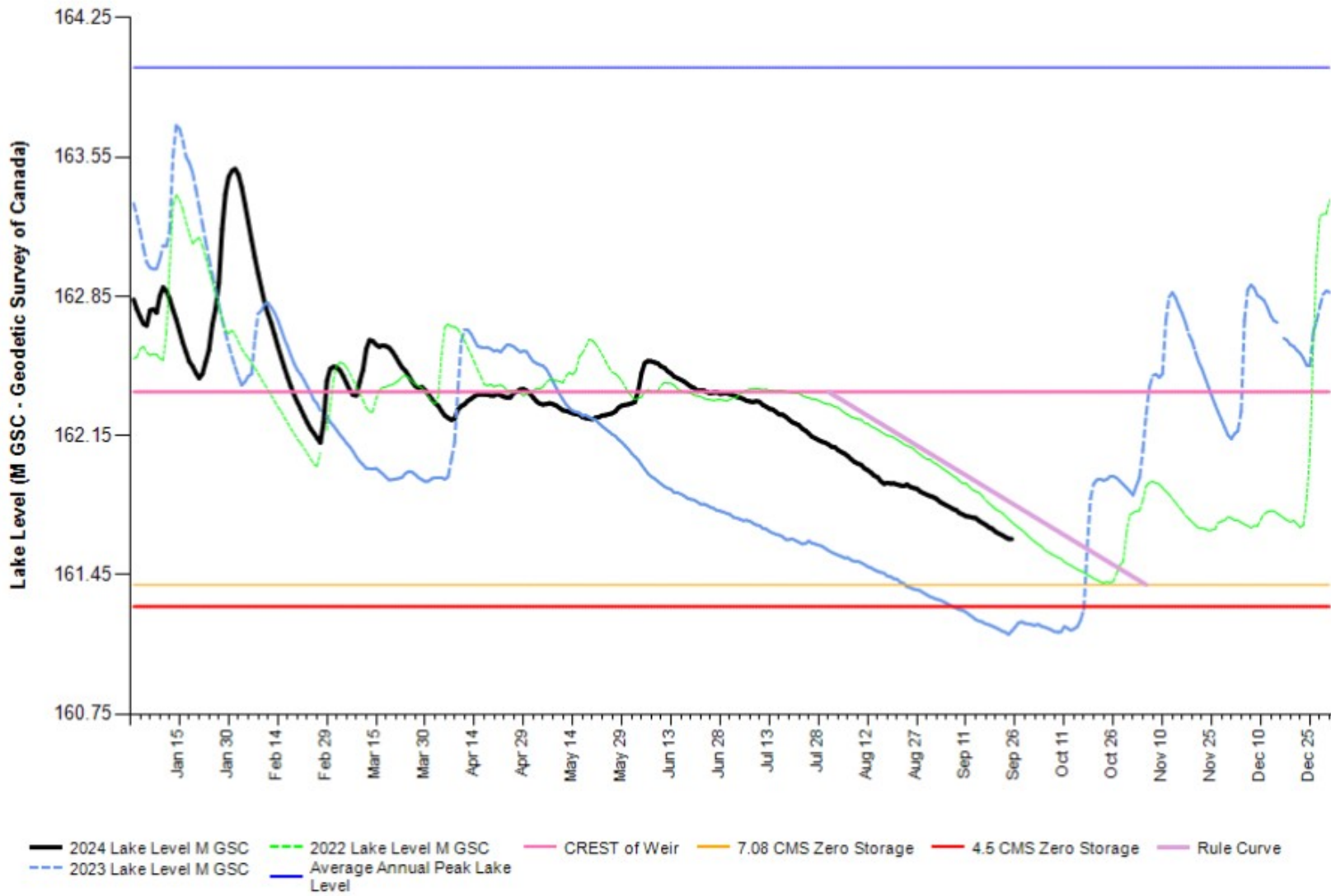
It is hard to predict how rainfall will impact lake level given the high degree of variability of rainfall from West to East on Cowichan Lake.














Regards,
Brian Houle

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



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



Forecast				Hourly Forecast	Air Quality	Alerts	Jet Stream
Wed 25 Sep	Thu 26 Sep	Fri 27 Sep	Sat 28 Sep	Sun 29 Sep	Mon 30 Sep	Tue 1 Oct	
 18°C 60% Chance of showers	 13°C Rain	 17°C A mix of sun and cloud	 14°C Cloudy	 16°C Sunny	 18°C A mix of sun and cloud	 16°C A mix of sun and cloud	
Tonight	Night	Night	Night	Night	Night		
 6°C Partly cloudy	 9°C Rain	 5°C Cloudy periods	 5°C Clear	 6°C Clear	 7°C Cloudy periods		



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