

Cowichan Watershed Board

October 28, 2019



Updates

Overview

- Cowichan Water Management Update
- Salmon Returns
- CVRD Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Service
- Koksilah Water Sustainability Plan



Cowichan Water Management Update

- Current Water Situation
- Decision Making Framework
- BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Project Update...

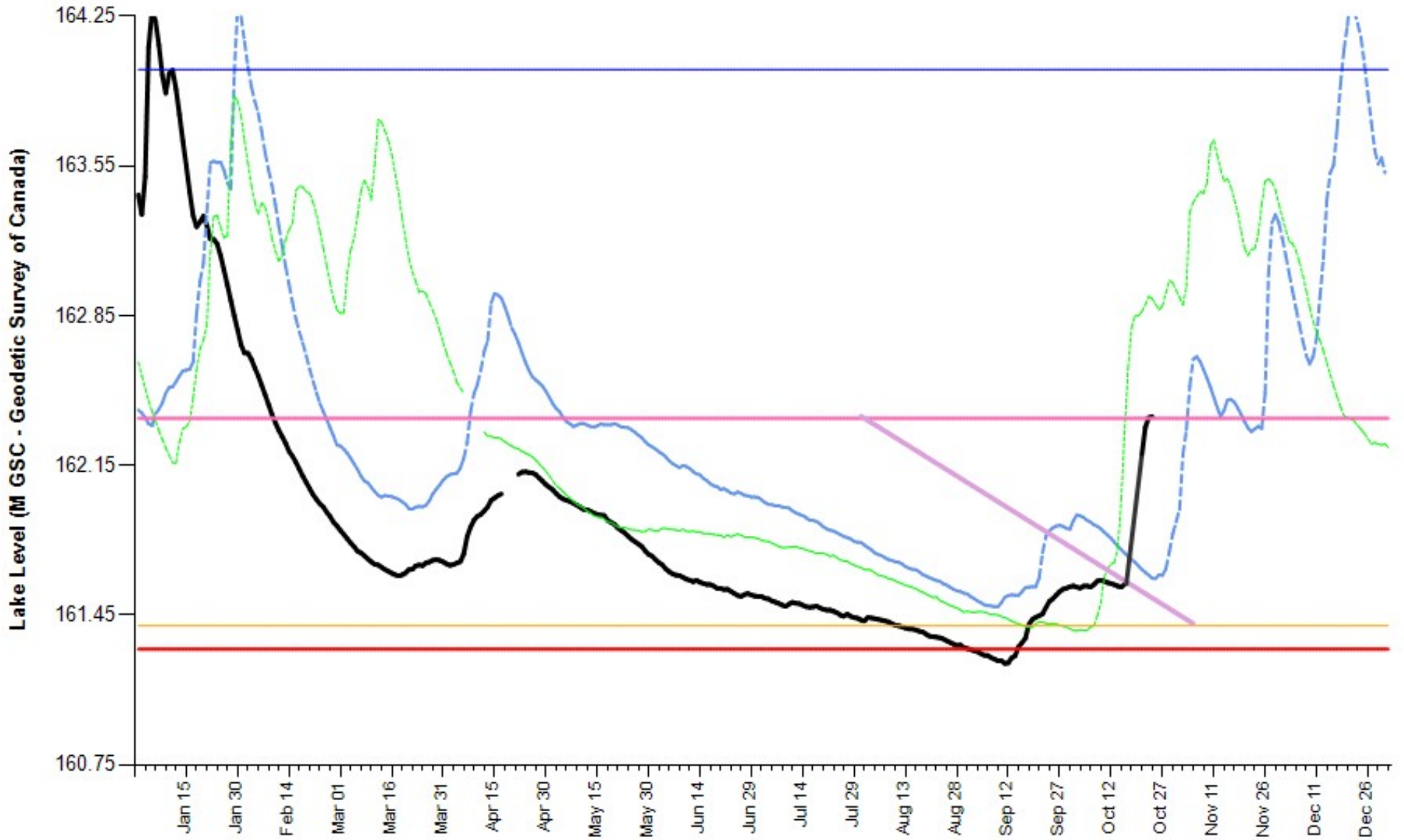


Cowichan Water Status

- Last meeting: pumps off; Lake above 0 storage; flows were being increased to 12 CMS
- Currently: weir is ‘Off Control’, Lake level is approx. ‘Full storage’; flows are around 50CMS
- Editorial comment: Great thing that we had a cool wet September!
- At lowest point, Lake levels were below historic lows but not by that much – less than 10 cm (4 inches) dry fall would have been a lot different....

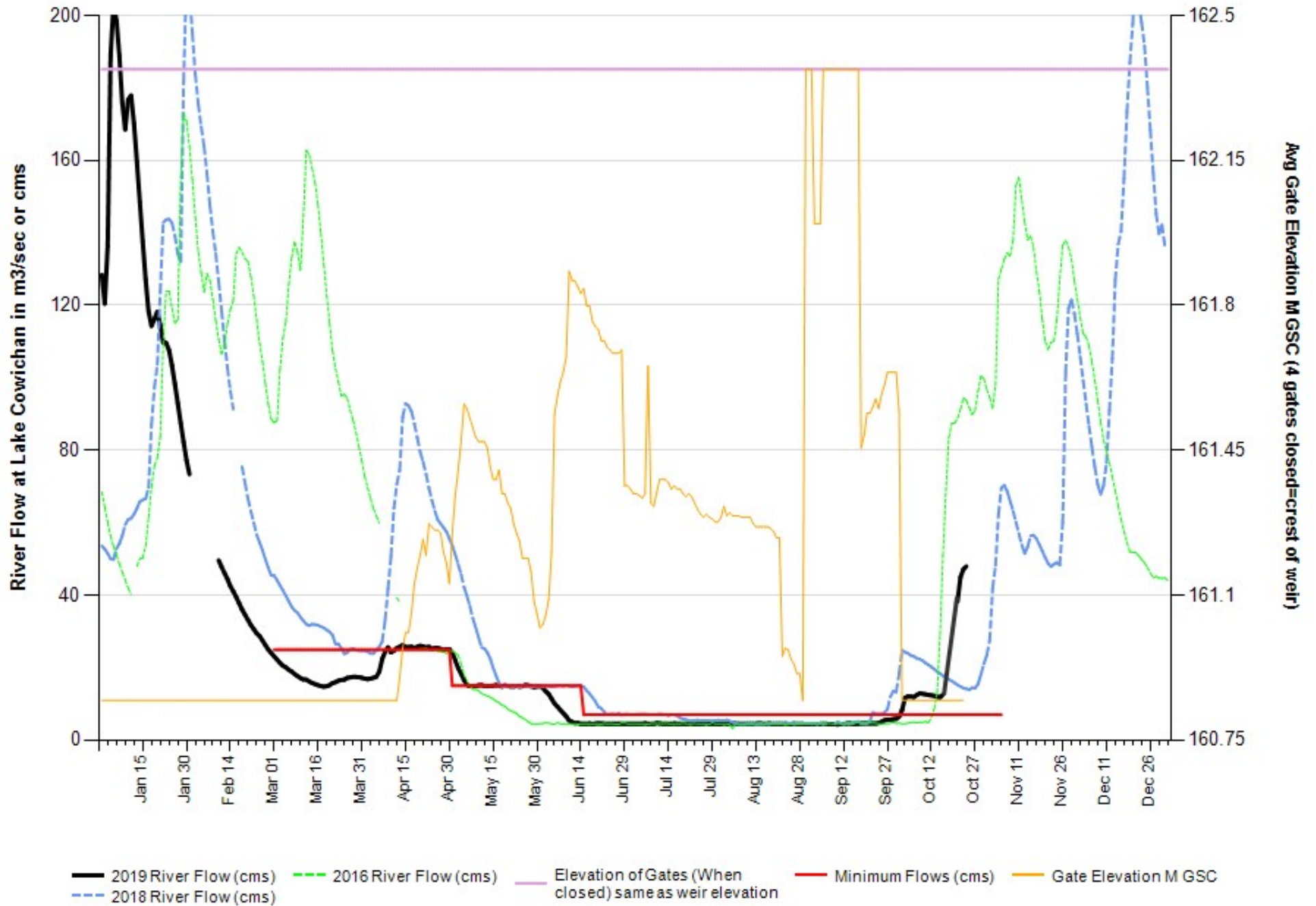


2019 Cowichan Lake Level - 2019 (Black) & 2018 (Blue) & 2016 (Green)



— 2019 Lake Level M GSC
 - - - 2016 Lake Level M GSC
 — CREST of Weir
 — 7.08 CMS Zero Storage
 — 4.5 CMS Zero Storage
 — Rule Curve
- - - 2018 Lake Level M GSC
— Average Annual Peak Lake Level

2019 Cowichan River Flow - 2019 (Black) & 2018 (Blue) & 2016 (Green)



In Season Decision Making Framework

- Every Spring –conversations about how to operate the weir – how much water to let out, how much water to save for later in the summer
- Propose a Decision Making Framework based on measurable parameters – so it's not let's make a deal every year.
- Working with Brian H. on a series of meetings with reps from 5 organizations - beginning in November and continuing until we have built a plan
- Should make it easier and less stressful to manage existing weir until we get the new one built....

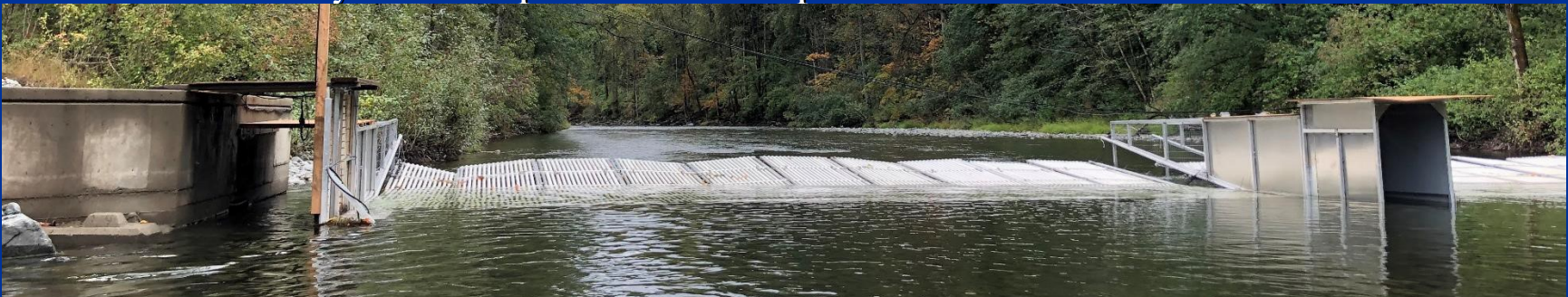
BC Salmon Restoration & Innovation Fund Update

- Governance Documents
- Project Manager
- RFP for Engineering Feasibility and Design
- LIDAR for Natural Boundary



Cowichan Salmon Returns

- Good Chinook escapements – “just in time” water delivery, strong response to 12CMS ‘Pulse’ and mid-Oct. rain
- 11,742k Adults – likely to go up – fence down Oct. 17
- 1, 343 Jacks down but... –generally later timing...
- Real concerns about Chum – ecological driver of the systems – steady as a rock for the past 3 cycles – 12 years – not only escapement but significant commercial fisheries....
- Bottom line
- Complex, critical and fragile resource
- Water surety is one piece of the puzzle – no water no fish



CVRD Drinking water/watershed Protection Service

- Supported by strong referendum win Oct. 2018
- Community and Technical Advisory Group struck to develop 10 year Vision, Goals and Objectives
- +/- 20 people - reps from Local Gov, FN, Industry, NGO
- First meeting focused on goals and objectives of service
- Can distribute draft goals and objectives for comment to those of you who are interested.....
- Ambitious time line for this work



Koksilah WSP

- Koksilah low water impacts arguable worse than Cowichan – and no “techno-fix available
- CWB co-chairs lobbied Minister Donaldson to support WSP approach in Koksilah
 - New enforceable tool under WSA
- Local FLNRORD staff now funded and engaged.
- Important to establish working relationship with Cowichan Tribes as First step...



Koksilah WSP

- Several meetings between FLNRORD, CT and CWB reps over last month
- 1. Suggest a “staged approach”: - A Letter of Agreement to work together on scoping exercise this year, gives partners time to see how it goes and work on a more formal agreement while initial stages progress
 1. Signed by Chief and Minister Donaldson
 2. Resources for CT
- 2. SoW report
 1. A technical document collecting existing Koksilah Watershed information
 2. No new data collected – a “compilation exercise” to get existing information all in one place.
- 3. Importance of scoping this work broadly – “whole of watershed” approach
- 4. Engage other stakeholders moving forward

Questions?



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