



Jill Thompson <jill@cowichanwatershedboard.ca>

Watershed Update: October 21, 2023

Brian Houle <Brian.Houle@domtar.com>

21 October 2025 at 08:17

To: Brian Houle <Brian.Houle@domtar.com>

Good morning,

Wet weather is now well established, weather forecast showing rain every day for coming 2 weeks.

Last week, the gates were fully opened at the weir, moving to off control on Wednesday, a form of pulse flow.

With many large salmon congregating in Cowichan Bay and lower river, higher river flows can signal them to leave the ocean where predators are more common and to move up river where there are less predators.

Going off control resulted in river flow from lake rising from controlled 7 cms to 9.5 cms leaving the lake and in Duncan, flow went from 10 to 16 cms.

With the rainfall that arrived, the weir continues to be off control and over previous day lake level has risen to just above the rule curve lake level.

In this condition and with so much rainfall predicted, the weir will remain off control and in coming days will be winterized for the season.

It was very fortunate to have had what the meteorologist called an "a-typical" weather system in August that bumped up the lake level.

As you can see in the trend of lake level, lake level dropped to as low as it can go before pumps would be needed, and then enough rain arrived to prevent needing to use pumps.

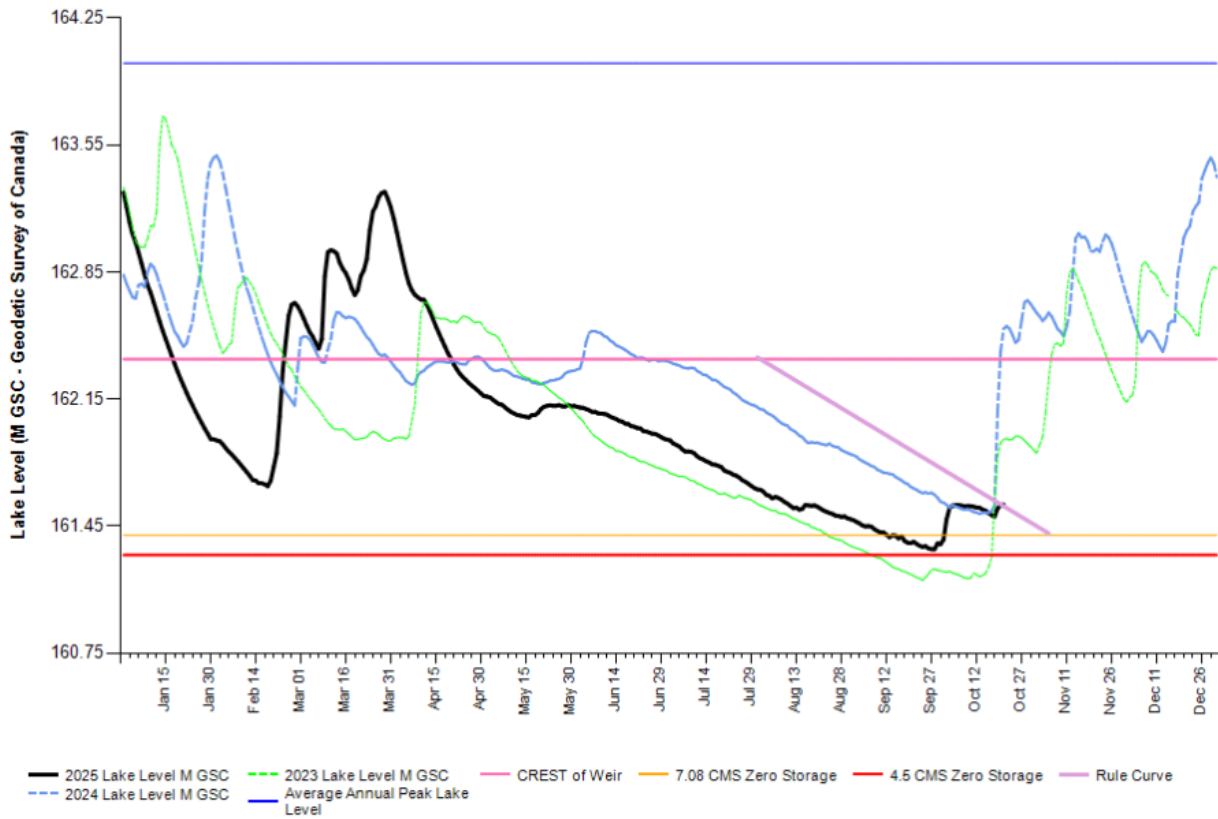
If the August weather system (first such event in my 15 years of wishing for it) had not arrived this summer, pumping would have been required late in September.

This will be the last weekly update for the weir as I will revert to monthly updates moving through the wet season.

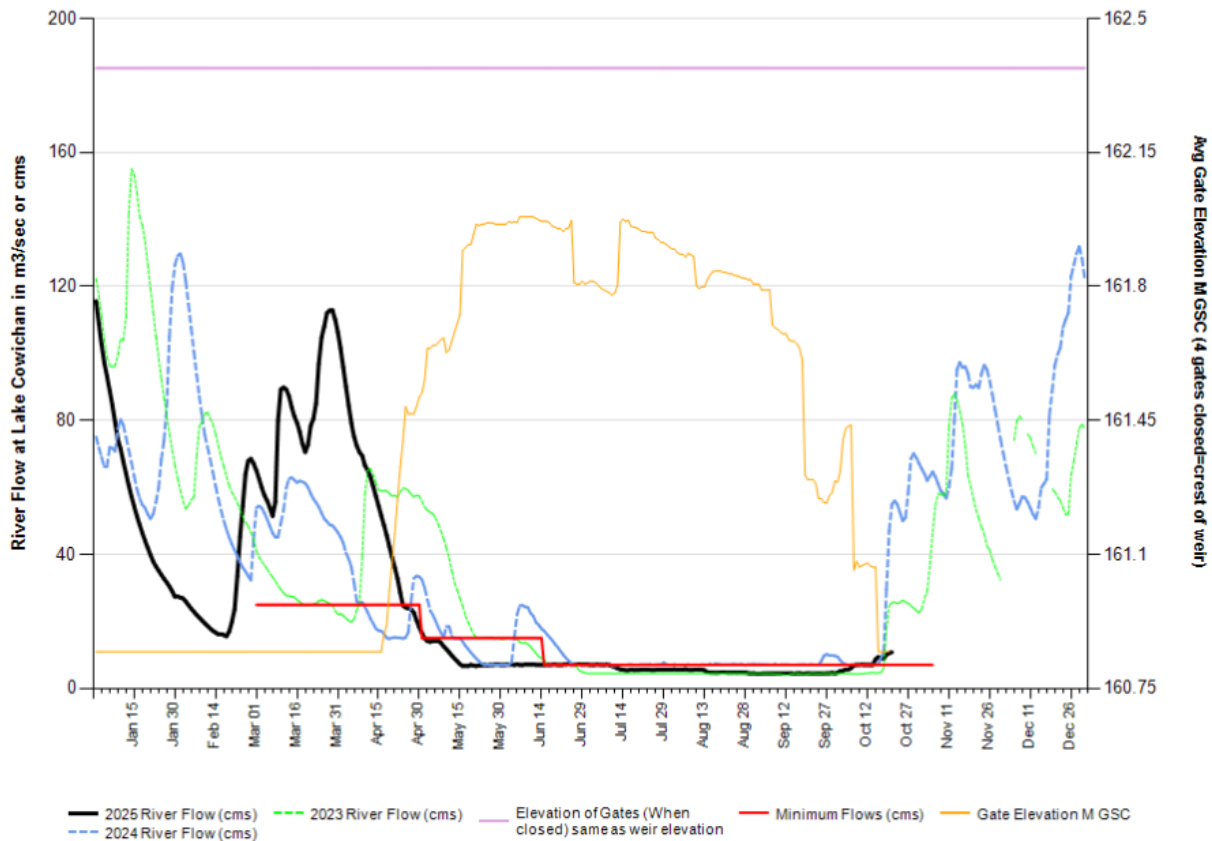
Regards,

Brian

2025 Cowichan Lake Level - 2025 (Black) & 2024 (Blue) & 2023 (Green)



2025 Cowichan River Flow - 2025 (Black) & 2024 (Blue) & 2023 (Green)



Wed 22	14°/9°		PM Rain	◊ 80%	+
Thu 23	13°/9°		Rain	◊ 84%	+
Fri 24	11°/6°		Rain	◊ 91%	+
Sat 25	9°/4°		Rain	◊ 91%	+
Sun 26	9°/3°		Showers	◊ 55%	+
Mon 27	9°/2°		Showers	◊ 41%	+
Tue 28	9°/4°		Showers	◊ 42%	+
Wed 29	11°/5°		Showers	◊ 59%	+
Thu 30	11°/5°		Showers	◊ 59%	+
Fri 31	12°/6°		Showers	◊ 59%	+
Sat 01	11°/6°		Showers	◊ 59%	+
Sun 02	13°/6°		Showers	◊ 59%	+
Mon 03	12°/5°		Showers	◊ 59%	+
Tue 04	12°/5°		Showers	◊ 57%	+

2025 Cowichan Lake Level and River Flow Guidance Chart - Below Average snow pack

