

## High streamflow advisory – Yukon River

August 13, 2021 at 9 a.m.

### A high streamflow advisory is being maintained for:

- Yukon River at Whitehorse

Flow on the Yukon River at Whitehorse remains historically high but are currently stable and flowing at close to 670 m<sup>3</sup>/s. Water level measured at the gauging station in Marwell is approximately 631 metres above sea level, down 42 centimetres from a high July 9. Flow is expected to increase on average over the next week.

A weather system bringing heavy precipitation to the Alaskan coast is also affecting the Southern Lakes and will be followed by second system late Sunday. The Southern Lakes are expected to continue to rise but not reach previous peak levels; although it remains a possibility given the uncertainties with precipitation. Flow on the Yukon River increases in response to higher levels on Marsh Lake, but are not expected to exceed the previous peak flow.

Yukon Energy models water level for Marsh Lake, with forecasts updated regularly. Updated model results project a peak water level of 657.5 metres above sea level in mid-August for Marsh Lake, which is close to 20 centimetres above current levels and slightly lower than the July 11 peak. This assumes average temperatures and precipitation through August. Below and above average rainfall could result in lower and higher water levels. The forecasted peak water level estimates may change as the model is rerun with updated observations. The Government of Yukon is in continuous communication with Yukon Energy regarding water level modelling for the Southern Lakes as conditions change.

Rainfall is the greatest source of uncertainty as precipitation timing and severity will likely determine the peak water level in 2021. Dry conditions in June and early July resulted in limited rainfall inputs, which helped to limit water level increases beyond those driven mainly by historically high snow and glacier melt.

The public is advised to stay clear of the fast-flowing rivers and potentially unstable riverbanks during this high-streamflow period. River users should be equipped to handle strong flows and underwater currents, as well as increased debris in the river. See [Yukon.ca](http://Yukon.ca) for more information. We will continue to monitor conditions and will provide updates as conditions change.

### Advisory and warning levels

**High streamflow or water advisory** means that river or lake levels are rising or expected to rise rapidly, but that no major flooding is expected. Minor flooding in low-lying areas is possible.

**Flood watch** means that river or lake levels are rising and will approach or may exceed bankfull or flood stage. Flooding of areas adjacent to affected rivers and lakes may occur.

**Flood warning** means that river or lake levels have exceeded or will exceed bankfull or flood stage imminently, and that flooding of areas adjacent to the rivers and lakes affected will result.

### Contact

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