



Update: Flood warning – Southern Lakes

August 2, 2021 at 10 a.m.

A flood warning is being maintained for:

- Bennett Lake, Tagish Lake and Marsh Lake

Water levels on Bennett Lake, Tagish Lake, and Marsh Lake are currently 3 to 8 centimetres below 2007 levels and approximately 25 centimetres lower than the July 10/11 peak.

Contributions from Atlin River have increased in the last 48 hours in response to above normal temperatures over the weekend promoting increased glacier melt. Water Levels in the Southern Lakes are close to stable as inflows to the lakes are close to outflows.

Rain is forecast for Southern Yukon over the next 48 hours. Weather models predict a total rainfall of less than 10 mm for the Southern Lakes Basin on average, with local amounts in excess of 30 mm possible. Water levels may rise in response to the rain, but increases are not expected to be significant.

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. Water levels for the other Southern Lakes are expected to be relatively similar. These 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 snow and glacier melt while these were historically high. With inflows to the Southern Lakes currently closer to average, and less than outflows, large rainfall amounts are required to cause significant water level increases.

Flood prone property owners are advised to have a plan in place. See 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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