

<h1>Provincial Freshet and Flood Status</h1> <p>Date: May 9, 2024: 5pm</p> 	Dashboard # Freshet 1 - 2024	Provincial Lead Contact: Director, River Forecast Centre & Flood Safety Andrew Giles Water Management Branch, Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship Andrew.Giles@gov.bc.ca	Media Relations contact: Communications Director Sean Leslie Communications Director, Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca
	Provincial Summary Spring freshet has begun around the province. Low to mid-elevation snow has melted in many areas, leading to the seasonal rise in streamflow, particularly in central and southern BC. Low seasonal snowpack and dry conditions are leading to below normal streamflow in the north and north-east. Snowmelt rates are expected to rise this weekend with the first hot spell of the season. Streamflow is anticipated to rise across the province into next week. Due to low snowpack this year and the short duration of warming, no significant flood risk is anticipated over the coming week.		

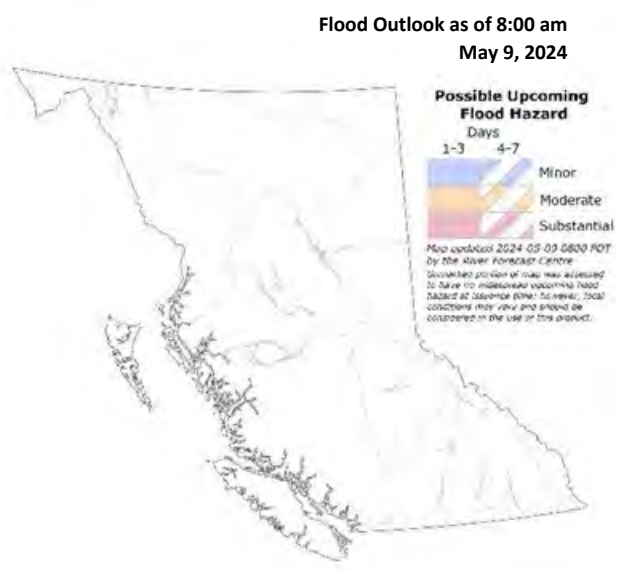
Weather (Current and Forecast)

A high-pressure ridge is building on Thursday and expected to develop into the weekend. This will bring a period of seasonally hot and dry conditions to the province. Temperatures on Friday through Monday are expected to reach to the low to high-20°C on the Coast, mid-20s to 30°C in the South Interior and Central Interior, and low to mid 20s in the North Interior. Temperatures are expected to ease into the middle of next week, with the potential for unsettled weather and light showers.

Flood Outlook

There are currently no flood warnings or advisories in effect, and no identified flood hazard anticipated in the upcoming seven days.

Warnings and advisories may change at any time. For up-to-date information, please consult the [Current Flood Warnings and Advisories](#) map.



River Conditions and Outlook

Streamflow across the province is currently at near to below-normal for the early May period. Early snowmelt of low and mid elevation areas had led to closer to normal flows, while areas with lower-than-normal streamflow have yet to see substantial runoff from higher elevation snowmelt. In the north-east and Central Interior (including areas around Prince George, Vanderhoof, Quesnel and Williams Lake) streamflow is well below normal reflecting persistent dry conditions, and limited snowmelt runoff from low snowpack this year.

Hot temperatures this weekend are expected to initiate the first significant period of higher elevation snowmelt, marking a start to the freshet season across the province. Rivers are expected to rise over the weekend and through next week in response to snowmelt runoff, with rivers expected to trend towards typical early to mid-May conditions.

The [River Forecast Centre](#) public website is updated daily and should be consulted by those seeking up-to-date information.

*All model outputs are subject to uncertainty, change, and revision.

Active Floods of Note

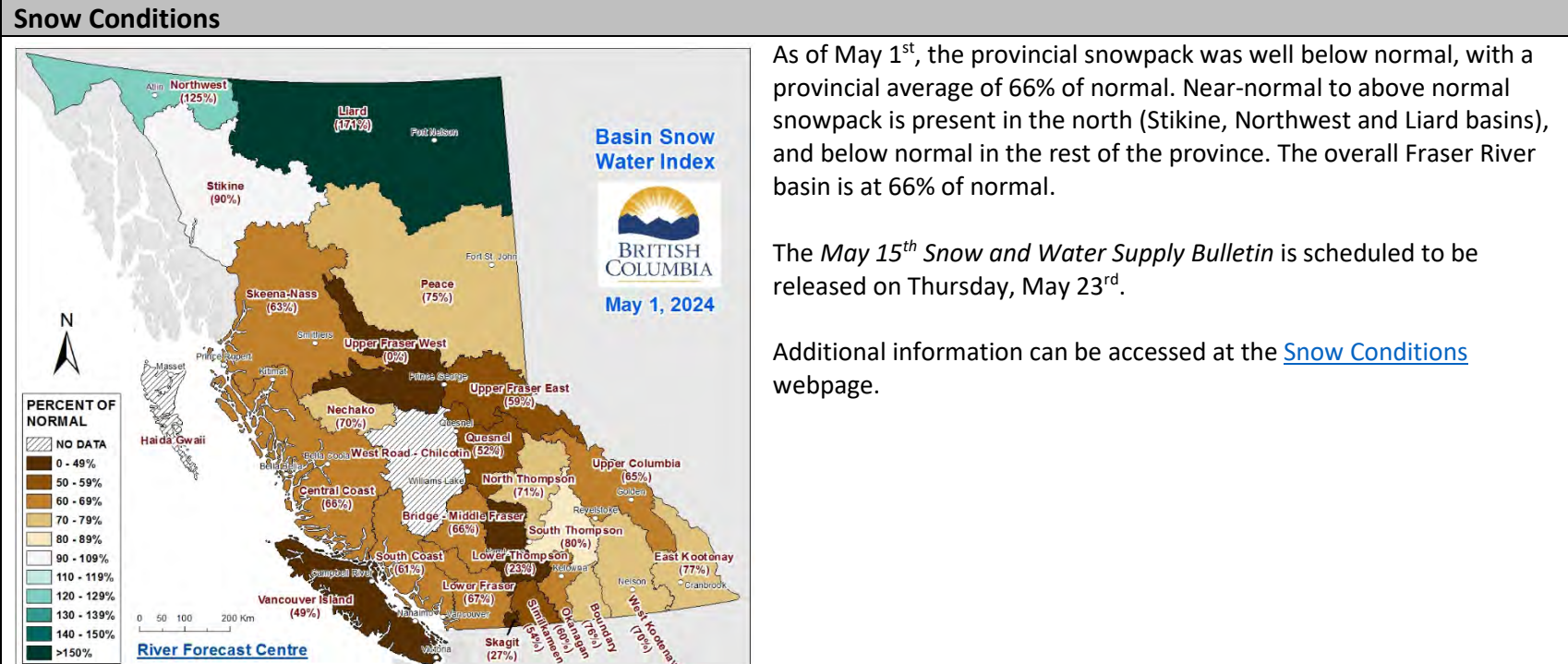
There are currently no floods of note.

Resources

The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) continues to support First Nations and communities throughout the province with seasonal readiness, preparedness, and response. This includes the coordination of flood-related resources and asset deployments where they are needed most. The public is encouraged to understand their seasonal flood hazards, and EMCR provides information on [how to be prepared](#).

Ministry of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship staff throughout the province continue to support emergency management efforts through their roles and responsibilities as outlined in the Provincial Flood Emergency Plan. See [DriveBC](#) for current information on road and highway conditions and closures.

Additional emergency information is available through [EmergencyInfoBC](#).



Definitions:

Flood Warnings and Advisories	
High Streamflow Advisory	River levels are rising or expected to rise rapidly, but no major flooding is expected. Minor flooding in low-lying areas is possible.
Flood Watch	River levels are rising and will approach or may exceed bankfull. Flooding of areas adjacent to affected rivers may occur.
Flood Warning	River levels have exceeded bankfull or will exceed bankfull imminently. Flooding of areas adjacent to the rivers affected will result.
Hydrometrics and Forecasting	
Hydrometric Conditions	Current water flow and/or level conditions, based on the federal Water Survey of Canada (WSC) hydrometric gauge station sites indicating flood conditions in BC, based on a total of 247 WSC stations, binned by flood frequency analysis.
Forecast Return Period	Forecast (estimated) future water flow and/or level conditions, based on the BC River Forecast Centre's hydrologic models. The primary spring freshet flood forecasting model is the Channel Links Evolution Efficient Routing (CLEVER) model. For spring 2023, the CLEVER model includes outputs for 348 sites. The return period values represent the inverse measure of the probability of a particular flow occurring in any given year. For example, a 50-year flow has a probability of 1/50 or a 2% chance of occurring in any given year, a 100-year flow has a 1/100=1% chance of occurring in any given year, a 20-year flow has a 1/20 or 5% chance of occurring in any given year, a 5-year flow has a 1/5=20% chance each year, etc.
Flood Frequency Analysis	Statistical analysis of historic peak flows used to understand the frequency or probability of extreme flows.
Snow Basin Index	Estimated average snow water equivalent (e.g., amount of water contained in the snowpack) across a watershed basin relative to its historic average.