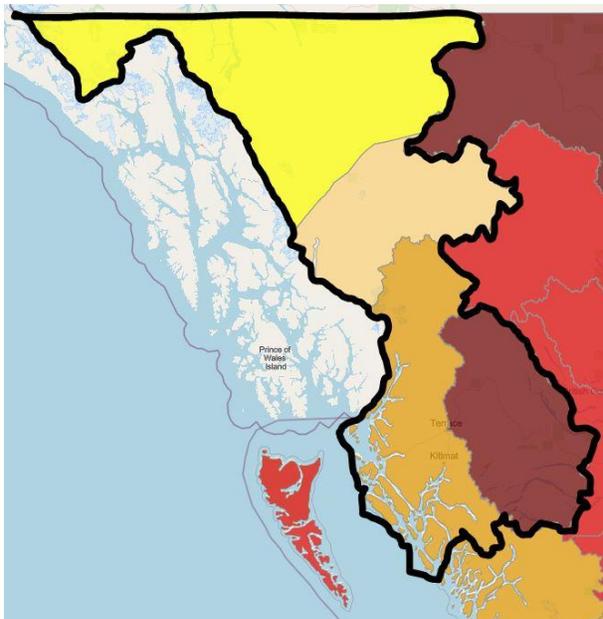


July 13, 2023

UPDATE: INCREASE IN PROVINCIAL DROUGHT LEVELS ACROSS THE SKEENA REGION

This update is intended to provide information to First Nations communities and local government agencies regarding provincial drought levels across the Skeena Region Drought Polygons (Northwest Basin, Stikine Basin, Skeena-Nass Basin and Bulkley-Lakes Basin). Information on current drought levels is provided below:



Bulkley-Lakes Basin
Drought Level 5 - Adverse Impacts
Almost Certain

Skeena-Nass Basin
Drought Level 3 - Adverse Impacts
Possible

Stikine Basin
Drought Level 2 – Adverse Impacts
Unlikely

Northwest Basin
Drought Level 1 – Adverse Impacts
Rare

Warm dry conditions are persisting. Regional flows continue to decline. Drought levels have therefore increased within the regional drought polygons. We anticipate that very dry conditions are likely to persist and may result in critically low stream-flows within the Region.

As the drought season progresses and escalates the *Provincial Drought and Water Scarcity Response Plan* recommends the implementation of local water restrictions and conservation measures in addition to any regulatory actions that may be taken by the Province under the *BC Water Sustainability Act*.

For reference, the Provincial drought levels, impacts, and general response measures are provided in the table below.

Level	Impacts	General Response Measures
0	There is sufficient water to meet socio-economic and ecosystem needs	Preparedness
1	Adverse impacts to socio-economic or ecosystem values are rare	Conservation
2	Adverse impacts to socio-economic or ecosystem values are unlikely	Conservation Local water restrictions where appropriate
3	Adverse impacts to socio-economic or ecosystem values are possible	Conservation Local water restrictions likely
4	Adverse impacts to socio-economic or ecosystem values are likely	Conservation and local water restrictions Regulatory action possible
5	Adverse impacts to socio-economic or ecosystem values are almost certain	Conservation and local water restrictions Regulatory action likely Possible emergency response

As we progress into this drought season, the Skeena Region Water Authorizations team respectfully request you remain informed of the latest drought level in your area and take proactive measures to conserve water to minimize the risk of harm to fish and aquatic habitat and other water users.

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

At home:

- Limit outdoor watering
- Don't water during the heat of the day or when it's windy
- Consider planting drought-tolerant vegetation
- Take shorter showers
- Don't leave the tap running
- Install water-efficient showerheads and toilets

On the farm:

- Implement an irrigation scheduling program using real-time weather data
- Schedule irrigation to match crop needs and soil storage capacity
- Improve water system efficiencies and check for leaks
- Focus on high value crops and livestock

Industry:

- Reduce non-essential water usage
- Recycle water used in industrial operations
- Utilize water-efficient methods and equipment

Learn More:

- British Columbia drought information website:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/drought-flooding-dikes-dams/drought-information>
- British Columbia drought information portal provides current and historic drought information:
<https://governmentofbc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=838d533d8062411c820eef50b08f7ebc>
- British Columbia drought information for agriculture:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/agricultural-land-and-environment/water/drought-in-agriculture>