

2011 – 2012 Peace River Report No. 22

The latest ground observation along the Peace River found that the ice front is downstream of km 651 (or more than 255 km downstream of the Highway 2 Bridge at the Town of Peace River) at 17:30 MST on April 17. Spring breakup on the Peace River is continuing without incident. The ice front has been retreating at an average rate of 10 km/day since the beginning of April. Reliance will now be placed on the river level gauges and local observers to indicate the location of the ice front. The Smoky River has also broken up without incident.

Alberta Environment and Water, and BC Hydro are in contact regarding river ice conditions and operation of the BC Hydro Peace River facilities.

Observation Details

Peace River

- March 29 – Gauge interpretation
 - km 426.5 - Ice front at 17:25 MST (Berreth Flats)
- April 6 – Gauge interpretation
 - km 490.7 - Ice front at 03:00 MST (Sunny Valley)
- April 11 – Ground observations by Mackenzie County
 - km 753.0 – Ice is intact at Etnas Landing with water along the shores and some ponding evident
- April 16 – Ground observations by Alberta Environment and Water
 - km 832.0 - Ice is intact at Fort Vermillion and covered with fresh snow. Border flow is evident along the shores.
- April 17 – Gauge interpretation
 - km 651.0 - Ice front at 17:30 MST (Carcajou)

Smoky River

- April 12 – Ground observations by Alberta Environment and Water
 - km 64.25 – Ice is very dark and deteriorated at Watino with border flow along the shores.
- April 16 – Gauge interpretation
 - km 64.25 - Ice front at 06:00 MST (Watino)
- April 19 – Ground observations by BC Hydro
 - km 64.25 – River is clear of ice at Watino with very little shore ice

Little Smoky River

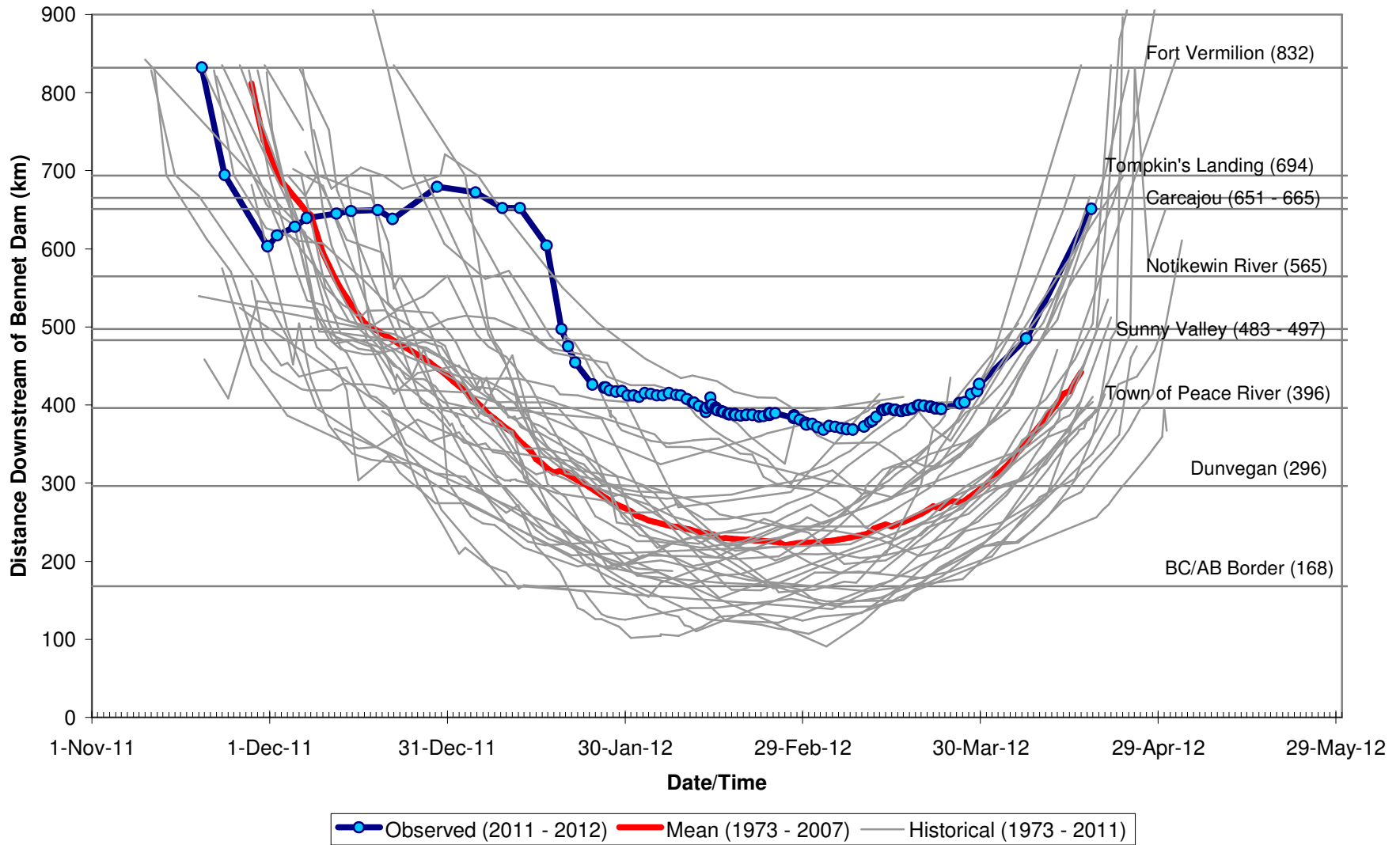
- April 3 – Gauge interpretation
 - km 60.2 – Approximate date the ice front passed the gauge near Guy
- April 19 – Ground observations by BC Hydro
 - km 24.5 - River is clear of ice at the Hwy 744 bridge with very little shore ice

Temperature Forecast

The following table contains Environment Canada's observed and forecasted daily maximum and minimum temperatures through to Wednesday, 25 April.

Day	Date	Location		
		High Level	Peace River	Fort St. John
Yesterday	18-April	9.2 / -7.3	9.5 / -5.8	10.4 / -2.4
Today	19-April	13	11	13
Friday	20-April	8 / 0	10 / 2	9 / 3
Saturday	21-April	5 / 1	9 / -1	9 / -1
Sunday	22-April	11 / -4	12 / -5	10 / -2
Monday	23-April	12 / -2	11 / 1	11 / 1
Tuesday	24-April	10 / -2	11 / -1	10 / -1
Wednesday	25-April	11 / -4	13 / -2	10 / 1
Average Max/Min for 19-April		11 / -3	12 / -1	11 / 0

Observed Peace River Ice Front Locations 2011-2012



Further observations will be posted as they come in from local observers and as river level gauges indicate.