

5 p.c. of this winter precipitation occurs as snowfall, except at the heads of very deep inlets on the northern stretch of the coast where it may reach 10 p.c. There are no figures available of the actual precipitation on the precipitous west coast of the Queen Charlotte Islands since there are no winter inhabitants to make the measurements but it is reported to be very heavy. The most extraordinary precipitation so far observed for a period of years has occurred at Henderson Lake which is situated at the end of an arm of Barkley Sound on the outer coast of Vancouver Island. The annual average precipitation is 262 inches and the wettest month is December which averages 47 inches. It does, however, have the characteristic dry period of the summer since June, July, and August average only 6 inches each. On the inner coast of Vancouver Island and on the islands of the Gulf of Georgia precipitation is considerably less. At higher elevations on the eastern slopes the annual precipitation is fairly high. Thus, at Cowichan Bay the annual precipitation is 34 inches but at Lake Cowichan, 550 feet higher, at the head of the Cowichan River, precipitation rises to 64 inches but averages only one inch and one-quarter per month in June, July, and August. Vancouver Island is largely mountainous and there is, therefore, a sort of 'chinook' effect on the eastern face of this mountain range. On the southeast coast of Vancouver Island the annual precipitation falls to as little as 25 inches with less than an inch in each of the months from May to August. Northward along the east coast of Vancouver Island the precipitation rises to 37 inches in the vicinity of Nanaimo and to 35 inches or slightly more on some of the islands of the Gulf of Georgia.

On the southwestern coast line the annual total is 36 inches on the outer islands of the delta of the Fraser River but the precipitation rises with small increases in elevation. The 'chinook' effect is largely lost with air currents from the west since the moist air must now ascend the Coast Mountains. Along the lower Fraser the precipitation rises to 55 or 65 inches on the comparatively flat lands alongside the River. At very moderate elevations on the mountainous slopes to the north of the Fraser the annual figure rises to the neighbourhood of 80 inches. Among the lakes north of North Vancouver, from which water for Greater Vancouver is obtained, the annual precipitation averages 100 to 150 inches and this at elevations not greatly exceeding 400 feet. The summer dry season is, however, maintained with 10 p.c. or less of the total falling in the months of June, July, and August combined. Snowfall accounts for 5 p.c. or less among these storage reservoirs but there is evidence that on considerably higher slopes which drain towards these lakes the annual percentage of snowfall may rise to 20 p.c. so that there is actually some winter storage in the form of snow to feed the reservoirs in early summer.

The following statement gives typical temperatures and precipitation of this Region:—

TEMPERATURES
(Fahrenheit)

TOTAL PRECIPITATION

Station	Mean		Highest	Lowest	Average in Inches			Average Number Days	
	Jan.	July	on Record		Jan.	July	Annual	Rain	Snow
Prince Rupert, B.C.....	34.9	55.9	88	-6	9.76	4.76	95.16	215	11
Vancouver, B.C.....	36.2	63.7	92	2	8.57	1.22	57.38	168	12