



We must point out that we have never been able to maintain a run of steelhead or spring chinook solely by hatchery methods. Hatcheries play an important part in supplementing the natural productivity of our streams but can never replace it.

The dam on the Upper Baker at the site proposed would flood out the larger part of the available spawning grounds. It can be shown statistically that the present Baker River dam has caused terrific losses of certain species of fish, completely eliminating the runs of steelhead, cutthroat, and spring chinook. However, Baker River silver salmon and sockeye salmon runs have been maintained even though the runs are of considerably less magnitude than they were prior to the construction of the dam.

It is our understanding that the proposed Baker River dam in addition to flooding out the major part of the remaining spawning areas would inundate Baker Lake. This is a beautiful, primitive recreational area which will increase in value in its present state as the years go on. The elimination of this natural lake would in addition to fisheries losses, deprive the people of one of the few remaining natural recreational areas.

A dam on the Cascade River would cause fisheries losses. How extensive such losses might be is not known at present. It will be necessary for us to make some additional biological investigations before we are prepared to state what damages might be incurred. We can definitely state that losses incurred from the construction of dams on either the Cascade or Baker sites would not come near approaching the tremendous losses which would be occasioned by the construction of dams at either the Faber site or Sauk site. This last sentence is not to be construed to mean that losses at either Baker or the Cascade would be of a minor nature.

We appreciate the frankness and sincerity of the Corps of Engineers of the Seattle District in approaching us at an early planning stage in regard to the fisheries problems, and you will find that our men will cooperate by advising the engineers at all times of fishing problems which must be considered. We realize there are problems of a serious nature effecting the residents of Skagit County, particularly as regards the control of flood waters. It is our belief that these may be met by a program of dyking and dredging as correlated with the construction of either the Avon cutoff or Joe Leary cutoff. It is hoped as your studies progress that this will be borne out. We believe this would best serve the interests of the people of Skagit County and all the State of Washington as well.

Very truly yours,

THE DEPARTMENT OF GAME

By

*Don W. Clarke*  
Don W. Clarke, Dir

DWC:bc

cc: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service-Portland

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Fisheries Dept.