

STATE OF
WASHINGTON
ALBERT D. ROSELLINI
GOVERNOR



DEPARTMENT OF
FISHERIES
MILO E. MOORE
DIRECTOR

4015 20TH AVENUE WEST
FISHERMEN'S TERMINAL AT SALMON BAY
SEATTLE 99, WASHINGTON
ATWATER 2-0286

February 8, 1961

Colonel R. P. Young, District Engineer
Seattle District, Corps of Engineers
1519 South Alaskan Way
Seattle 4, Washington

Dear Colonel Young:

The Skagit River system is considered the most valuable tributary of the Puget Sound area in sustaining and supporting commercial sport fishing. The most important of the salmon from this river are the spring and summer run chinook salmon. The Skagit River supports reproduction of about one half of this total run entering Puget Sound. In addition, this river is highly important for the reproduction of pink, silver and chum salmon. (Evidence is being presented to support this statement).

The proposed plans of previous corps' studies for Flood Control on the Skagit River have been observed and then related to their effects on the fishery of the stream. The proposals of control for floods have been mainly the construction of dams. The locations proposed would have very serious and devastating effects on our fishery resources of the river and thus on the entire Puget Sound fishery. Nearly 65 percent of the spring chinook salmon spawning area is located on the main stem of the Skagit and in tributaries above the proposed Faber dam site. A multiple purpose dam at this location would nearly obliterate this run, as well as the silvers and other species utilizing the upstream spawning beds.



Exhibit 20(a)

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Colonel R. P. Young, Dist. Engineer (2)
Seattle District, Corps of Engineers

February 8, 1961

Consideration has been made of the other dam site locations-- Cascade, Lower Sauk, Upper Sauk and Copper Creek. It is found that various proportions of spawning area loss would be involved to the extent of seriously endangering any continuing value of this resource to the area.

One method of flood control proposed has been the Avon bypass or overflow channel, downstream. This department wishes to emphasize the importance of this proposal as a preventative to lower stream flood damages and save the important reproduction or spawning areas upstream from being inundated and obliterated by dams and reservoirs. As a second recommendation it is urged that other dam sites be investigated higher on the head waters of the various tributaries of the Skagit system, which could be utilized to retain high runoff waters without loss of salmon spawning areas.

Very truly yours,



Milo Moore
Director

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SKAGIT RIVER BASIN - SALMON CATCH AND SPAWNING AREAS
1960 CATCH - AND SPAWNING SURVEY - SPRING - SUMMER CHINOOK

This past 1960 chinook salmon run was of a high order with a sport catch in the river of 5,884 fish, and a Skagit Bay sport catch of several thousand. The Skagit Bay commercial gill net, indian nets, and traps amounted to some 16,500 chinooks alone while over 4,000 were taken off West Beach that would have mainly entered the Skagit. The chinook spawning escapement was the highest that it has been in the last 10 years.

The following percentage distribution of chinook salmon was developed from the 1960 spawning ground surveys.

Percent chinook spawning above dam sites

Above Faber site (Sauk mouth on)	63.86 percent
Dalles (Baker to Sauk)	5.52 "
Cascade River	1.17 "
Lower Sauk (site below Suiattle)	9.42 "
Upper Sauk (at Whitechuck mouth)	2.64 "
Copper Creek (Bacon to Newhalem)	21.68 "
Percent below Faber site	37.23 "

Very important commercial and sport runs of pink, silver, and chum salmon occur in the Skagit system that constitute an important contribution to the entire Puget Sound salmon catches. These other salmon have a distribution similar to the chinook salmon in the river.

Exhibit 20(4)