

19 June 1963

SUBJECT: Meeting in Burlington Regarding Dredging of Skagit River

1. On 11 June Mr. Ostroth accompanied me to a meeting with members of the Burlington Sportsmen Club at Burlington, Washington, regarding our study of dredging of the Skagit River for navigation. Approximately 55 attended, including The Skagit County Engineer, representatives of local interests desiring navigation, local residents, and State fish and wildlife agencies. Some of the representatives from the fish and wildlife were Messrs. Clint Stockley, Skagit District Fish Biologist, State Department of Fisheries; Earl Jewell, Fish Biologist from Olympia; Lloyd Finney, Fishery Department; Gail Gufler, Fishery Patrol, Mt. Vernon; Ole Eide, Dist. Supt. of Game, Stanwood; Carl Patswald, Game Department; Wayne Tedrow, Game Department; Chris Woershorst, Director, Washington State Sportsmen Council.

2. Mr. Skrinde discussed the basin studies presently being made in the Skagit River Basin for comprehensive development of all water resources. He explained that enhancement of the fisheries was an important consideration in the studies and is being considered in attempting to incorporate fishery facilities in the authorized Avon Bypass. We will also investigate possibility of fishery enhancement from augmenting low river flows. Navigation in the Skagit River is also an important water resource for development of industry in the basin.

3. Mr. Ostroth explained the proposed navigation project on the Skagit River with navigation extending downstream from Concrete to the Mt. Vernon area. He demonstrated the area by the use of maps and indicated by cross sections of the river the relatively small amount of channel that would be affected by dredging. A depth of 6 feet would be provided for a river flow of 9,000 c.f.s. Existing minimum river flows are about 3,000 c.f.s. Mr. Ostroth also explained that we do not intend to cut through oxbows in the river or to disturb existing channel any more than is absolutely necessary to provide navigation requirements.

4. There was considerable discussion on benefits from navigation, amount of present navigation, and possibility of new industries after navigation is provided and possible effects of dredging on fish spawning.

5. There was no united opposition from fishery interests on the proposed project. Before the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Skrinde explained that in determination of project benefits any adverse effects on fish, which would be evaluated by the fishery agencies, would be included in our cost estimates. Should a favorable project be found, the fishery agencies would have an opportunity to review and comment on the project.

6. Following the meeting Mr. Woerhorst, Director of Washington State Sportsmen Council, informed me that prior to the meeting he had been instructed to prepare a resolution that would oppose the navigation project/<sup>that</sup>would have State-wide support. He stated that he was impressed by our meeting and would not prepare the resolution. I briefly discussed with him our Puget Sound Basin studies. He invited me to attend the Sportsmen Council meeting in Olympia in September and discuss our Puget Sound Basin studies. I told him that I would be pleased to attend the meeting.

*Skrinde*  
SKRINDE

cc: Hopkins  
Ostroth  
Gullidge  
Skrinde  
Gedney