

I cannot respond to this questionnaire, as it is in a computer language that my software does not understand (probably Microsoft Word, which our agency doesn't use).

I left the last meeting with the distinct impression that the designation and use of the deepwater site was going ahead without any direction or permission from any agencies that have responsibility for the specific fish resources that would be impacted. I also left with the message that the Corps and EPA didn't care what the local jurisdiction thought. Finally, I understand that the Corps considers the designation of this site a done deal, as they are now claiming that the environmental impacts were mitigated in the EIS done for Columbia River Deepening, in spite of the frequent statements separating deepening from MCR disposal. If this is the case I see little utility in our agency participating in meetings that offer no chance of mitigating environmental impacts.

If the Corps would actually like to hear our input, for this year and the near future WDFW recommends that all MCR sediment be disposed in Site C and Expanded Site E. If occasional weather or other conditions preclude the use of these sites we recommend that site F not be de-designated and used for very minimal and occasional disposal. We oppose any use of the about to be rammed down our throats deep water site.

For the future, as we now have Pacific County stepping forward as the project sponsor for disposal of dredged material on Benson Beach, we recommend that the majority of the material be disposed there. This sand is the lifeblood of Washington's beaches, as the USGS/DOE Washington Coastal Erosion Study clearly shows. Wasting of the sand offshore will exacerbate erosion problems for Washington State, to the tune of uncountable billions of dollars of future damages. Disposal in this fashion also likely permanently removes the sediment from the vicinity of the navigation channel, which will inevitably reduce the amount that needs to be dredged from material falling back into the channel. Disposal on an eroding beach is also the least impacting environmentally, as it avoids covering productive, fine grained, and stable deep water habitat, and avoids killing dungeness crabs by burial. The Corps needs to make every extraordinary effort to assist in getting all of the sand that it has in it's hoppers on to Washington's beaches.

Our attendance at meetings to say this over and over seems fairly pointless, but if the group in general still wants to hear this I'll keep showing up to deliver the message. Any meeting format that facilitates input is fine with me.

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