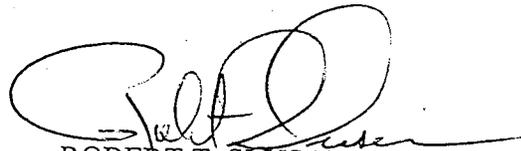


FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
MOUTH OF COLUMBIA RIVER MAINTENANCE DREDGING
DISPOSAL AT NEW INWATER SITE
PACIFIC COUNTY, WASHINGTON

The proposed action involves the disposal of dredged material from the maintenance of the Mouth of the Columbia River (MCR) entrance channel in a new inwater disposal site. The purpose of the proposed action is to provide additional disposal capacity for MCR dredged material and to reduce erosion occurring at the base of the north jetty. This action has been coordinated with federal, state and local agencies and the public.

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and determined that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Date: 2/26/99



ROBERT T. SLUSAR
Colonel, EN
Commanding

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
MOUTH OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER MAINTENANCE DREDGING
NEW INWATER DISPOSAL SITE
PACIFIC COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Introduction and Purpose. The Portland District is proposing to use a new placement area for dredged material from the Mouth of the Columbia River (MCR) Federal Navigation Project. The placement area is near the MCR north jetty and closely matches a historical placement site last used in 1971. A preliminary evaluation completed in February 1998, following reported damage and risk to the north jetty, indicated that depths adjacent to the jetty are increasing and could threaten the integrity of the structure. The District is proceeding with further evaluation of the condition of the jetty.

This new placement area would be used in addition to the ocean dredged material placement sites already being used for the MCR project. All other aspects of maintenance of the MCR project have been described in previous public notices and environmental documents.

Proposed Action and Alternatives. The proposed work involves the redistribution of sedimentary material from the MCR entrance to approximately river mile 3. The general location proposed for placement is shown in the attached drawing. The approximate dimensions of the proposed site are 1000 feet by 5000 feet. Additional hydrographic surveys are scheduled to be performed as sea conditions allow, and they will be used to determine the actual placement limits. Initially, up to 1 million cubic yards of sand will be placed in the area. Hydrographic surveys will be conducted to monitor the effectiveness of placement and evaluate the long-term capacity or need at the site. If use of the site is determined to be effective for protecting the jetty and/or offers a long-term dispersive site for placement of dredged material, the Corps and USEPA will pursue long-term identification under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Affected Environment.

The proposed placement area is a fairly high-energy area subject to strong tidal and river currents and wave action. This high-energy condition contributes to continual movement of sediments through this area with more recent observation of sediment erosion from the site. The continual disturbance of the site from currents and sediments would likely discourage biological productivity. A study of the effects of hopper dredge entrainment conducted at the MCR by the Corps of Engineers (Larson, USACE, 1993) determined that young of the year Dungeness crabs occur in the area as they transit from the ocean into the estuary. A variety of fish species were also observed in trawl samples conducted for the study, including sand lance, sculpin, smelt, herring and anchovy and Pacific tomcod. Benthic invertebrates likely present within the disposal site, based on studies conducted at nearby ocean sites (Hinton and Emmett, 1994), include polychaete worms and *Macoma balthica*, a clam species. Abundance of the benthic invertebrates at the new site is expected to be low because the strong tidal and river current create an unstable environment.

Avian species commonly found in the area include gulls, cormorants, pelicans, auklets, murres and kittywakes.

Marine mammals known to occur in the area include dolphin, porpoise, whale, harbor seal and California sea lion.

Species listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 likely to occur or migrate in the vicinity of the project include brown pelican, wintering bald eagles, wintering peregrine falcon, marbled murrelet, chinook and coho salmon and steelhead. Steller sea lions may occasionally be sited in the vicinity.

There are no known cultural resources in the immediate project vicinity.

Environmental Effects. In addition to the stated purpose of reducing erosion of sediments adjacent to the north jetty, physical impacts would include change in bathymetry at the disposal location; eventual redistribution of sediments by waves and currents; and short term turbidity from disposal. The estimated quantity of material, distributed throughout the site would increase bottom elevations by an average of about 5 feet. This change in bottom elevation would result in a slight increase in wave height in the vicinity of the disposal site. Physical monitoring would occur prior to and following disposal to determine actual bathymetric changes and sediment distribution patterns. This information would be used to help determine subsequent disposal quantities and possible timing of disposal. Because the MCR dredged material is primarily marine sands, any turbidity from the disposal would be minor and of very short duration. The MCR sediment has undergone physical testing and is determined to be free of contaminants and suitable for unconfined inwater disposal. The sediments are similar in physical composition to the placement area substrate.

Biological impacts would include effects on benthic invertebrates and other bottom dwelling organisms, and temporary disturbance of marine mammals, fish, crabs and avian species. Because of the high current and wave energy in this area, bottom dwelling organism densities are low and have adapted to continual sediment movement and burial. These invertebrates would be temporarily disturbed by disposal, but no lasting environmental effects would be expected. Marine mammals, fish, and local waterfowl would avoid the area during the dredging and disposal operation, but otherwise should not be affected. Dungeness crabs, which transit through the disposal area, would be affected by the disposal but little mortality or injury would be expected because the sediments would be dispersed in thin layers over the site as each load falls through the water column.

The limited recreational and commercial fisheries adjacent to the north jetty would be temporarily impaired during disposal. No long term impacts on these activities are expected.

No impact to cultural resources is expected at any of the proposed disposal sites or from dredging. Dredging and disposal would occur in areas previously disturbed by these activities. There is no known site of archeological or historical significance in or close to the project area.

Coordination.

The proposed action was coordinated with appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, organizations, and interested members of the public through Public Notice NWPCO-CRA-FY98-005, dated 27 May, 1998.

Comment letters were received from Washington Dept. of Ecology and Columbia River Crab Fisherman's Association.

Washington Dept. of Ecology issued Water Quality Certification for this action for a period not to exceed 5 years subject to the conditions and standards outlined in the certification. Their letter also included their determination that the action is consistent with Pacific County Shoreline Master Program.

CRCFA comments included a request for bathymetric monitoring, consideration of crab presence in timing of disposal and evaluation of potential for use of dredged material placed at the site for beneficial use at Benson Beach. Bathymetric monitoring will occur prior to and following disposal at the site. Potential for disposal of MCR dredged material is being considered as part of the MCR ocean disposal site designation study.

Consultation Requirements.

- a. Clean Water Act of 1977. A water quality evaluation has been prepared in accordance with Section 404(b)(1) of this Act. State water quality certification has been received from Washington Department of Ecology.
- b. Coastal Zone Management Act. A consistency determination was prepared and provided to the Washington Dept. of Ecology and Pacific County for concurrence. They have determined that this action is consistent with state and local plans.
- c. Endangered Species Act. A list of threatened and endangered species was obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Species that have the potential to occur in the immediate project area include the marbled murrelet, Aleutian Canada goose, western snowy plover, peregrine falcon, bald eagle, northern spotted owl, brown pelican and chinook and coho salmon. In addition, several species of whales, turtles, and the Steller sea lion, are listed by the National Marine Fisheries Service. A determination has been made that the proposed action would not affect these species listed as threatened or endangered under this Act. Consultation letters are attached.
- d. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. In compliance with this Act, the proposed action has been coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- e. Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act. The proposed action does not involve the transportation of dredged material for the purpose of ocean disposal; therefore this act does not apply.

e. Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act. The proposed action does not involve the transportation of dredged material for the purpose of ocean disposal; therefore this act does not apply.

f. Cultural Resources Acts. Dredging and disposal would occur in areas previously disturbed by these activities. There is no known site of historical or archeological significance in or close to the project area. It is therefore unlikely that any archeological resources would be affected by the proposed activity. The Washington State Historic Preservation Officer will be advised of the proposed action.

g. Executive Order 11988. Flood Plain Management. The proposed project would not encourage development in or alter any flood plain areas.

h. Executive Order 11990. Protection of Wetlands. No wetlands would be affected by this project.

i. CEQ Memorandum. Analysis of Prime and Unique Farmlands. No prime or unique farmlands exist within the project area.

REFERENCES

Larson, K.W. 1993. Entrainment of Dungeness Crabs by Hopper Dredge at the Mouth of the Columbia River, OR and WA. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland, Oregon.

Hinton, S.A. and R.L. Emmett. 1994. Benthic Infauna, Sediment and Fish Offshore from the Columbia River, July, 1992. NMFS, Seattle, WA.

SECTION 404(b)(1) EVALUATION
MOUTH OF COLUMBIA RIVER MAINTENANCE DREDGING
NEW INWATER DISPOSAL SITE
PACIFIC COUNTY, WASHINGTON

I. Introduction.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 requires that all civil works projects involving the discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States be evaluated for water quality effects prior to making the discharge. This evaluation assesses the effects of the discharge described below utilizing guidelines established by the Environmental Protection Agency under the authority of Section 404(b)(1) of the act.

II. Project Description.

a. Proposed Action and Alternatives. The proposed work involves the redistribution of sedimentary material from the Mouth of the Columbia River federal navigation channel. The proposed dredging and material placement areas are shown on the attached drawing.

b. Description of the Proposed Discharge Site. The disposal site is within the flowlane disposal areas adjacent to the Columbia River navigation channel. Based on the April 1998 bathymetric chart, depths at the site range from approximately 40 to 70 feet. The substrate is composed primarily of medium to coarse-grained sand.

III. Factual Determinations.

a. Physical Substrate Determinations. Samples of sediments collected from the MCR project in 1990 were found to be clean marine sand suitable for unconfined inwater disposal based on criteria established under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Sediment at the placement site is also clean marine sand. The disposal of dredged material would not substantially alter the physical composition of any of the proposed disposal sites. River and tidal currents would disperse the material placed at the sites.

b. Water Circulation, Fluctuation, and Salinity Determinations. The dredging and disposal operation would not affect water quality characteristics such as circulation, fluctuation, and salinity.

c. Suspended Particulate/Turbidity Determinations: Turbidity which might result from the proposed action would be minimal and would not continue once the placement was completed. Any resuspended sediments would be quickly dispersed and would settle out away from the placement site.

d. Contaminant Determinations. The material to be dredged was tested in 1990 and determined to be clean sand of marine origin. The material meets the exclusionary criteria specified in Clean Water Act guidelines, 40CFR 230.60.

e. Aquatic Ecosystem and Organism Determinations. The proposed action would have minimal impact on existing aquatic ecosystems and organisms. No special aquatic sites or threatened and endangered aquatic species would be affected by the proposed action. The placement area is a high energy erosive site and organisms living there are adapted to rapid sediment movement and burial.

f. Proposed Disposal Site Determinations. The inwater placement of dredged material from the MCR channel would be in compliance with Environmental Protection Agency and State water quality standards. The material would not introduce toxic substances into surrounding waters or violate the primary drinking water standard of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 USC 300 et sec).

g. Determination of Cumulative Effects on the Aquatic Ecosystem. The proposed action is not expected to have any cumulative effect on the aquatic ecosystem.

h. Determination of Secondary Effects on the Aquatic Ecosystem. The proposed action is not expected to result in any secondary impacts to the aquatic ecosystem.

IV. Coordination.

The proposed action was coordinated with appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, organizations, and interested members of the public through Public Notice NWPCO-CRA-FY98-005, dated 27 May 1998.

Comment letters were received from Washington Dept. of Ecology and Columbia River Crab Fisherman's Association.

Washington Dept. of Ecology issued Water Quality Certification for this action for a period not to exceed 5 years subject to the conditions and standards outlined in the certification. Their letter also included their determination that the action is consistent with Pacific County Shoreline Master Program.

CRCFA comments included a request for bathymetric monitoring, consideration of crab presence in timing of disposal and evaluation of potential for use of dredged material placed at the site for beneficial use at Benson Beach. Bathymetric monitoring will occur prior to and following disposal at the site. Potential for disposal of MCR dredged material is being considered as part of the MCR ocean disposal site designation study.

V. Findings of Compliance or Non-compliance with the Restrictions on Discharge.

a. No significant adaptations of the guidelines were made regarding this evaluation.

b. As stated in this evaluation, none of the alternative disposal methods and sites would have significant adverse effects on the aquatic ecosystem.

c. The action is in compliance with applicable State water quality standards. State water quality certification has been requested.

d. The placement of the dredged material would not violate the toxic effluent standards of Section 307 of the Clean Water Act.

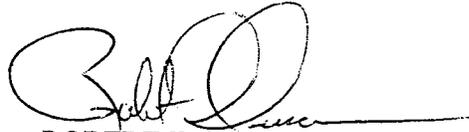
e. Use of the sites would not harm any species or habitats designated as critical, endangered, or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA).

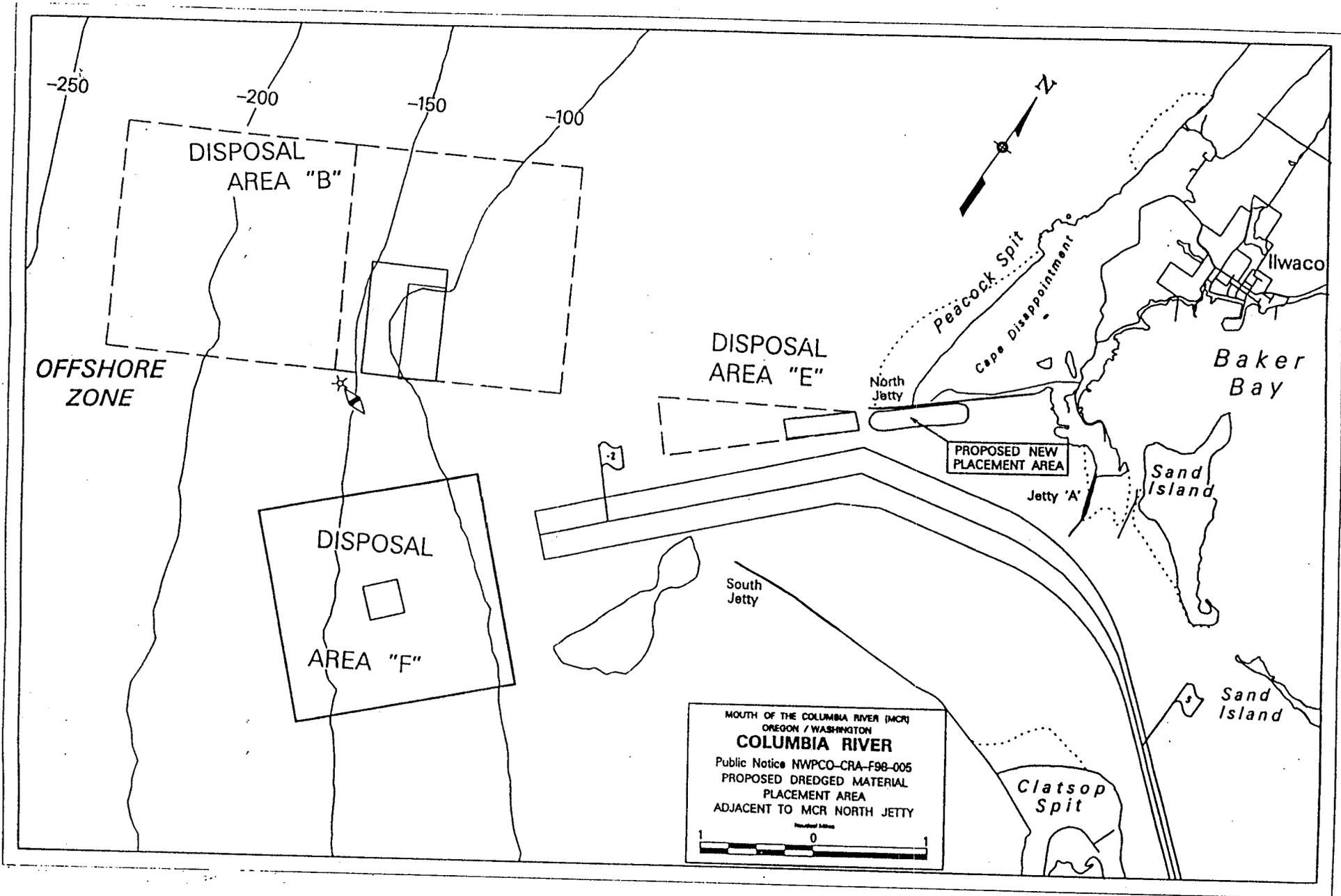
f. The proposed placement of dredged material would not result in significant adverse effects on human health and welfare; life stages of aquatic life or other wildlife dependent on the aquatic ecosystem; ecosystem diversity, productivity or stability; or recreational, esthetic, and economic values.

g. Appropriate steps to minimize potential adverse impacts would be specified in the dredging contract.

h. With the inclusion of appropriate and practical conditions to minimize pollution or adverse effects on the aquatic ecosystem, the proposed discharge is specified as complying with the requirements of Section 404(b)(1) guidelines.

Date: 2/26/99


ROBERT T. SLUSAR
Colonel, EN
Commanding



**COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT
CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION
NEW DISPOSAL SITE FOR MAINTENANCE DREDGING
MOUTH OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER**

INTRODUCTION

The proposed Federal action applicable to this consistency determination is placement of dredged material from the Mouth of the Columbia River (MCR) entrance channel at an inwater disposal site adjacent to the north jetty in the State of Washington. This determination of consistency with the Coastal Zone Management Program is based on review of applicable sections of the State of Washington Shoreline Management Program, Columbia River Estuary Management Plan and policies and standards of the Pacific County (Washington) Shorelines Management Program.

STATE OF WASHINGTON SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Primary responsibility for implementation of the State of Washington Shoreline Management Act of 1971 has been assigned to local government. The applicable government office responsible for this consistency action is Pacific County. They have prepared a Shoreline Master Program, as required by the Act, which has been approved by the Washington State Dept. of Ecology. The following are excerpts from applicable segments of the Pacific County plan.

COLUMBIA RIVER ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Columbia River Estuary Management Plan, developed by the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST), has been adopted and incorporated into local comprehensive plans, including that of Pacific County. CREST provides technical assistance to local planning jurisdictions.

PACIFIC COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM

POLICIES

Section 25. Columbia River Estuary Segment

Section 25.05.20. Dredged Material Disposal Site Selection Policies. Plan Development.

- A. Appropriate sites for dredged material disposal should show that:
1. Wetlands will not be impacted: The proposed aquatic site contains no wetlands.
 2. The environmental designation is development: The proposed site is within an area designated as Conservation Aquatic-2. Use of the site would require either a plan amendment or meet the definition of a flowlane disposal site under the Pacific County plan definition.
 3. Future development of recreational use will benefit from deposition of dredged materials: One of the primary purposes for disposal of dredged material at this site is to prevent

further erosion of the base of the north jetty. Deterioration of the jetty could lead to a major adverse effect on local and regional recreation activity.

D. Aquatic and shoreland disposal of dredged material should be coordinated with Appendix 5, Section 2. This section is addressed in this consistency determination.

Plan Implementation

G. Flowlane disposal sites should transport sediment downstream without excessive shoaling; should not interfere with commercial or sports fishing; should not show undesirable hydraulic effects or adverse effects on significant fish and wildlife habitat; and should not damage essential properties of the estuarine resource: The proposed disposal site is located in an area of high current and wave activity. Shoaling at the site is expected to be short term and net transport of sediment is downstream. Aquatic organisms at this location, including fish and shellfish, are adapted to a high energy environment with significant sediment movement. Timing of disposal activities would be coordinated with resource agencies and fishing interests to minimize interference with fishing seasons.

25.10.23. Dredged Material Disposal. Dredged material disposal in aquatic and shoreland areas shall comply with the following:

A. Dredged material disposal shall be consistent with Appendix 5, Section 2. This consistency determination addresses this requirement.

B. Inwater estuary and ocean disposal of dredged material shall:

1. Demonstrate the need for the proposed action and the availability and desirability of alternate sites and methods of disposal: Placement of dredged material at this location would serve the purpose of reducing erosion at the base of the north jetty. The proposed disposal site is also needed to assure the ongoing maintenance of the MCR entrance channel. Existing ocean disposal sites do not have a guaranteed adequate capacity due to persistent mounding and/or litigation by commercial fishing interests. Other estuarine disposal sites would be less desirable from a resource standpoint.

2. Demonstrate that the sediment size and chemical characteristics of the material proposed for inwater disposal is substantially the same as the substrate in the disposal area: Sediment samples taken at the MCR site are medium to coarse grained sand free of any chemicals of concern. The disposal site substrate is composed primarily of coarse grained sand.

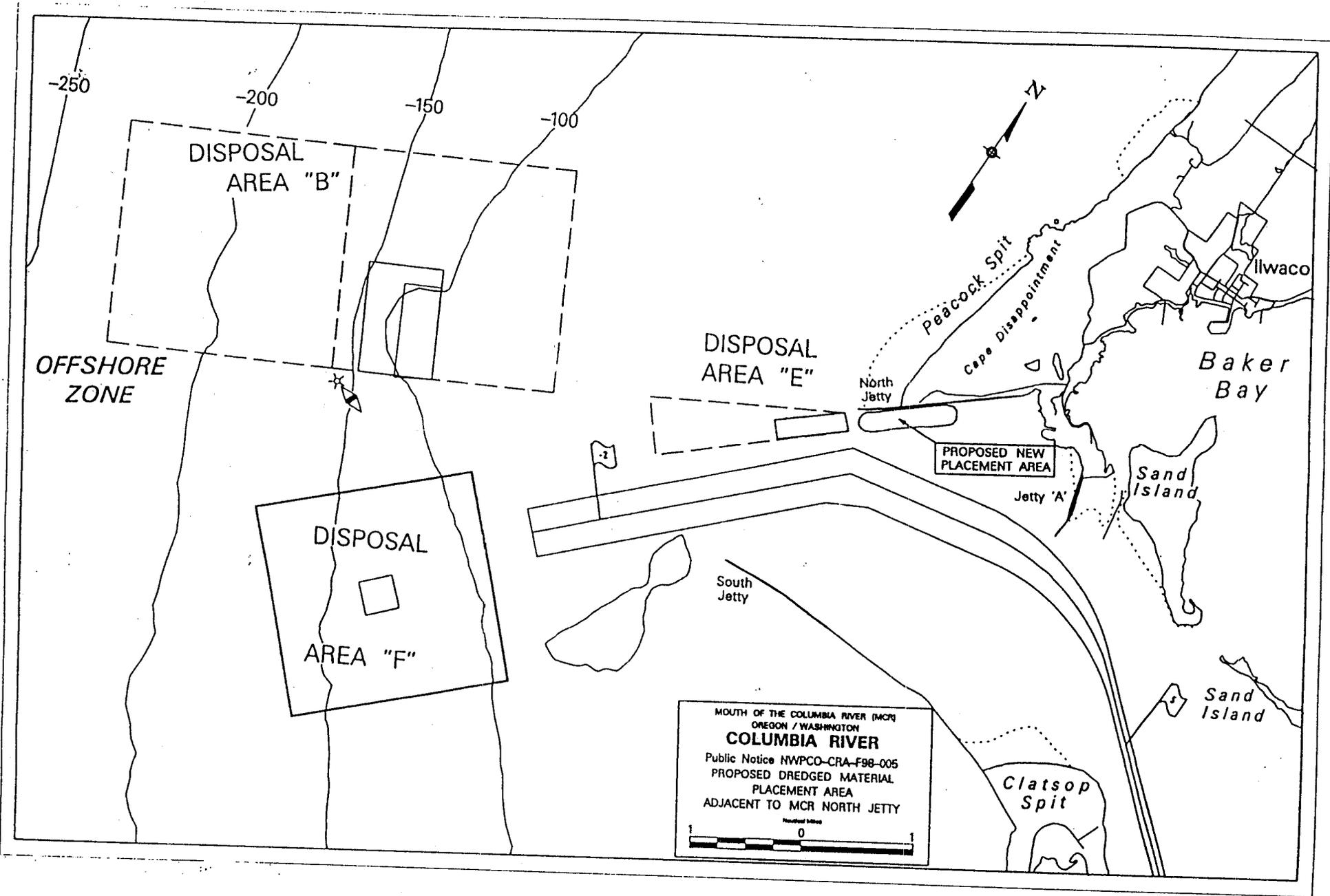
C. Flowlane disposal sites shall be in areas identified as low in benthic productivity: Although benthic samples have not been taken at the proposed site, samples taken in similar high energy environments in the vicinity have shown low species abundance.

Section 27 – ENVIRONMENTS

27.06 Conservation Aquatic. This designation provides for development that does not require major alterations of the estuary, while providing for the long term use and conservation of estuarine resources: The proposed disposal site would be located in a Conservation Aquatic environment. Although the disposal activity would appear to be compatible with the estuarine resource capability at this location, long term use of this site may require a plan amendment to designate this area as Development Aquatic. The Corps is requesting that Pacific County allow disposal at this location for the short term, and, based on physical monitoring of the site and adjacent areas, determine long term requirements for a plan amendment.

STATEMENT OF CONSISTENCY

Based on the above evaluation, we have determined that the proposed use of a disposal site adjacent to the Columbia River north jetty generally complies with the policies, general conditions, and activities as specified in the Pacific County, Washington, Shoreline Management Plan. Pending a determination from Pacific County for plan amendment requirements, the proposed action is considered to be consistent with State and local plans, policies and standards to the maximum extent practicable.





STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

P.O. Box 47600 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7600
(360) 407-6000 • TDD Only (Hearing Impaired) (360) 407-6006

February 4, 1999

Mr. Eric Braun
Portland District, Corps of Engineers
Channels and Harbor Section
P.O. Box 2946
Portland, OR 97208-2946

RE: Revision to Water Quality Certification/Modification
Corps Public Notice No. NWP-CO-CRA-FY98-005
MCR disposal site at the North Jetty

Dear Mr. Braun:

We have received your request for a revision to the water quality certification/modification pertaining to the establishment of an MCR disposal site at the "scour hole" located adjacent to the North Jetty. You requested that the bathymetric monitoring requirements contained in Condition 1.d) be scaled back to more closely match the survey efforts planned to be undertaken by the Portland District now and for the foreseeable future. We find the request reasonable and appropriate and thus 1.d) is amended to read as follows:

d) Disposal Monitoring. A sufficient volume of dredged material should be placed at the site to create a distinct bedform that can be monitored and tracked using depth sounding equipment. Following disposal of sufficient material, bottom contours at the North Jetty (NJ) site shall be surveyed at least monthly, along with that of Site E, located adjacent to the NJ site.

In addition to the survey of the NJ/Site E location, a bathymetric survey of the larger MCR area is to be undertaken at least once a year (and preferably twice a year) to determine the full extent of the effects of nearshore disposal on the coastal sediment regime. The larger area includes, for example, Site F (if used), Peacock Spit, Peacock Spit to the north of Site E, and Peacock Spit waterward toward the original Site B.

A report shall be prepared assessing the results and outcome of the monitoring effort. The report shall be submitted to WDOE, WDFW and CRCFA by January of each year. The report shall include an analysis of the fate of the dredged material placed at each MCR disposal site and an estimate, if possible, of where the material went if no longer at the site or sites.



Revision #1

WQC Order NWP-CO-CRA-FY98-005

February 4, 1999

Page 2

All other provisions of the original Order shall remain in effect. If you have any questions about this revision, please contact Rick Vining at (360) 407-6944.

Sincerely,



Paula Ehlers, Supervisor
Environmental Coordination Section
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

cc: WDFW (Bob Burkle)
EPA (John Malek)
NMFS (Ben Meyer)
Pacific County (Mike Desimone)
CRCFA (Dale Beasley)



COLUMBIA RIVER
CRAB FISHERMAN'S ASSOC.
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Bill Rhodes
1038 Skyline
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Fax

To: U S Army Corps of Engineers

ATTN: Colonel Slusar

From: Dale Beasley, CRCFA

Date: 18 June 98

Time: 10:30 AM PDT

Fax number: 503-808-4344

Number of pages: 3

Subject: Response to North Jetty dredge disposal site: NWP-CO-CRA-FY98-005

Enclosed is CRCFA's response to Corps current North Jetty Site proposal. We support the wise use of the site and may want the site's use expanded to included coastal erosion abatement through direct beach placement, VIA a repumping station to Benson Beach. This is one possible location.

Hopefully this and future contacts with the Corps can help guide dredging operations nationally to become more environmentally friendly, eliminate as much as possible adverse impacts to local resource based economies, include navigational safeguards, and provide well placed sediments to abate coastal erosion problems without interrupting the dredge maintenance process.

CRCFA would like to thank you for your continuing efforts to accommodate needs of coastal communities related to the dredging operation.

CRCFA is working with congress to provide funding to accommodate more expensive environmental options and will need to work with you to develop projected costs that will reflex future funding needs.

Sincerely,

Dale Beasley
CRCFA



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CRAB FISHERMAN'S ASSOC.
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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Portland District
Construction - Operations Division
P O Box 2946
Portland, Oregon 97208-294

18 June 1998

RE: NWP-CO-CRA-FY98-005

Dear Colonel Slusar:

Thank you for providing CRCFA with timely opportunity to review and comment on activating a disposal site at the end of the North Jetty, Columbia River Mouth.

Your concern for preservation of the North Jetty is welcomed and encouraged. The North Jetty disposal site may prove to be one of the better site choices available today. CRCFA has two areas of concern: *navigational safety* and *environmental safeguards*.

1) Maintain navigational safety through adequate bathymetric monitoring. Consider 55' as a prudent depth for safety. *Avoid any wave amplification* in the main channel as a result of dumping in the North Jetty site. Apply the suspension of dumping criteria of 10% wave amplification to areas outside the channel. Maintenance of small vessel traffic routes keeps traffic levels in the main ship channel at lower levels and adds to the over all safety of the Columbia River transportation system. It is routine for fishermen to use this area as a traffic route to get out of excessive ebb tide while transiting inbound.

2) *Utilize timing* of dumping to minimize mortality to crabs of all life stages that use the area for transit in and out of the estuary. Your investigations and use of biological timing should include the possibility of dumping on large minus tides and the relationship to crab presence. This site can be useful to help relieve pressures on other areas of high marine resource abundance. It is possible that the timing closure window in expanded site E can be increased at least two weeks earlier in August when the North Jetty site becomes available and should be highly

considered as such.

3) The North Jetty disposal site should be evaluated as a potential permanent, shore-based pumping station for direct beach placement of sediments on Benson Beach. Crab entrainment may or may not be acceptable depending on quantities present at various times. This is a beneficial use that could be used for erosion abatement to save the sewer lagoon used by Fort Canby State Park and the USCG National Motor Lifeboat School. Excess sediments could be used for local contractor construction needs and/or building a dune field for tourist dune buggy activities. Other creative beneficial uses may result from the activation of the North Jetty site. Additional direct beach placement could dramatically increase the sites capacity and aid in future ocean disposal requirements.

CRCFA's concern for the North Jetty site is the same as for all disposal sites. **Minimize adverse biological affects**, especially related to crab and monitor for biological influxes throughout the dredging season. In Lou of monitoring, historic information related to timing should be more restrictive, in favor of the resource.

Maintain adequate numbers of disposal sites that are managed to minimize adverse affects to natural resources. Suspend disposal if, a site becomes biologically active, to maximize the use of sites biologic monitoring becomes a necessity. Switch to another site that is less active. Expanded site E is a good example. In 1997, large numbers of crab moved into the area as they usually do in August. At that time, dumping should have been suspended and moved to another less active area. Contracts with dredge companies should reflect rapid changes in dump location and be tied to monitoring when timing is necessary to avoid natural resource concentration.

Other *environmental safeguards* should be employed. Use the **primary principle of resource avoidance**. Establish site management plans that specify quantifiable resource thresholds which cannot be exceeded. These thresholds will be sanctioned by the area's resource managing agencies: NMFS, State Fisheries, State Department of Natural Resources, or other qualified resource managing agencies and put into place prior to deposition. Once natural resource concentration levels are triggered, switching disposal sites should be automatic. Remember, pressures from other priorities must not supersede responsible obligations to habitat.

Respectfully,



Dale Beasley
CRCFA



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
North Pacific Coast Ecoregion
Western Washington Office
510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 102
Lacey, Washington 98503
Phone: (360) 753-9440 Fax: (360) 753-9008

August 14, 1998

Howard B. Jones, P.E.
Chief, Planning and Engineering Division
Department of the Army
Portland District, Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 2946
Portland, OR 97208-2946

FWS Reference: 1-3-98-I-0385
X-Reference: 1-3-98-SP-0330

Dear Mr. Jones:

This responds to your request for informal consultation on the proposed Mouth of the Columbia River North Jetty Dredged Material Placement Site in Pacific County, Washington. Your cover letter and attached Biological Assessment (BA) were dated July 17, 1998, and received in this office on July 22, 1998. In your letter you request U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) concurrence with your determination of "no effect" on Aleutian Canada goose (*Branta canadensis leucopareia*), bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus marmoratus*), and brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) in accordance with section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act)(16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

The Service concurs that the proposed project, as described in your BA, will have no effect on the Aleutian Canada goose, bull trout, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, marbled murrelet or brown pelican. Our concurrence is based on information and conservation measures described in your letter.

This concludes informal consultation pursuant to the regulations implementing the Act, 50 CFR Section 402.13. This project should be re-analyzed if new information reveals effects of the action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not considered in this consultation; if the action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the listed species or critical habitat that was not considered in this consultation; and/or if a new species is listed or critical habitat is designated that may be affected by this project.

If you have further questions about this letter or your responsibilities under the Act, please contact Bobbi Barrera at (360) 753-6048, or Jim Michaels at (360) 753-7767, of this office.

Sincerely,



for Nancy J. Gloman
Acting Supervisor

BB/jko

c: WDFW, Region 6
WNHP, Olympia



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
PORTLAND DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 2946
PORTLAND, OREGON 97208-2946

Reply to
Attention of:

JUL 17 1998

Planning and Engineering Division

Mr. William Stelle
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
7600 Sand Point Way, NE
BIN C15700
Seattle, Washington 98115

Dear Mr. Stelle:

Pursuant to the requirements of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, we are providing a Biological Assessment for threatened and endangered species that may occur in the area of the Mouth of the Columbia River North Jetty Dredged Material Placement Site Project in Pacific County, Washington. Anadromous fish species and listed species under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have been addressed separately.

We have determined that the project will have no effect on the listed marine mammals and marine turtles.

If you have any questions or need clarification regarding this assessment, please contact Jim Stengle of my staff at (503) 808-4778.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Howard B. Jones".

Howard B. Jones, P.E.
Chief, Planning and Engineering Division

Enclosure

BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
FOR
MOUTH OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER (MCR) NORTH JETTY
DREDGED MATERIAL PLACEMENT SITE PROJECT
PACIFIC COUNTY, WA

Purpose

The purpose of this Biological Assessment (BA) is to evaluate the effects of the proposed project on federally listed species. This biological assessment has been prepared to meet compliance criteria under the consultation requirements of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). In a letter dated July 2, 1998 (Reference 1-3-98-SP-0330), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) identified the threatened and endangered species that may occur in the proposed project area including green, leatherback, loggerhead, and olive ridley sea turtles. Marine mammals under jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) are also included in this BA. Anadromous fish species under NMFS jurisdiction and those species under USFWS jurisdiction have been addressed separately.

Project Description

The proposed project includes maintenance dredging of the MCR Federal Navigation Project channel from the entrance to approximately River Mile 2+00 and the creation of a new in-water placement site near the MCR North Jetty (T9N, R11W, S8). The proposed new placement area closely matches a historical placement site last used in 1971. A preliminary evaluation report completed in February 1998, following reported damage and risk to the MCR North Jetty, indicated that depths adjacent to the jetty are increasing and could threaten the integrity of the structure. The new placement area would be used in addition to the ocean dredged material placement sites already in use for the MCR project. If use of the new placement site is determined to be effective at protecting the jetty and/or offers a long-term dispersal site for placement of dredged materials, the Corps and EPA will pursue long-term identification under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Based on previous testing, the dredged materials were found to be suitable for unconfined, in-water placement.

Work will be scheduled during the recommended in-water work periods.

Humped-back, Blue, Finback, Sei, Right, and Sperm Whales

These six species of whales are rather infrequent visitors to the vicinity of Oregon/Washington coastal jetties, entrance channels, and bays. Dredging and disposal activities are intermittent and confined to limited areas. As the material to be disposed meets environmental criteria for in-water disposal established by the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, no impacts from contaminants are anticipated.

Given the nature of the proposed action and low whale use/occurrence in the project area, we have determined that there will be no effect to these six whale species.

Steller (Northern) Sea Lions

Occurrence of northern sea lions in the Columbia River is primarily associated with a haulout site on the South Jetty. The Columbia River South Jetty is primarily a winter use site for northern sea lions. Northern sea lions may occur further upstream in the Columbia River but in limited numbers. Discussions with Robin Brown (ODFW, pers. comm. 1998) suggest that the project activities may result in some localized avoidance by sea lions around the immediate dredging and disposal areas but that impacts, if any, would be minimal.

Given the seasonal and limited occurrence of northern sea lions in the Columbia River, the proposed project will have no effect on Steller (northern) sea lions.

Pacific Leatherback, Loggerhead, Green, and Olive ridley Sea Turtles

Sea turtle off the Oregon Coast are often associated with the appearance of albacore. Albacore, and very likely sea turtles, are strongly associated with the warm waters of the Japanese Current that tends to approach the Oregon Coast (i.e. 1-5 miles), in late summer. Typically, these warm waters occur 30-60+ miles offshore. During El Nino events, warm water may occur much closer to the Oregon coast than usual.

Sea turtles generally occur well offshore from the project location with only occasional individuals occurring in nearshore, colder waters. It is expected that sea turtles would only be casual visitors to the project area.

The proposed action will have no effect on the marine sea turtles.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
PORTLAND DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 2946
PORTLAND, OREGON 97208-2946

Reply to
Attention of:

JUL 17 1998

Planning and Engineering

Ms. Nancy J. Gloman
Acting Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Western Washington Office
510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 102
Lacey, Washington 98503

Dear Ms. Gloman:

Pursuant to the requirements of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, we are providing a Biological Assessment for threatened and endangered species that may occur in the area of the Mouth of the Columbia River North Jetty Dredged Material Placement Site Project in Pacific County, Washington. This biological assessment is in reference to your list provided July 2, 1998 (1-3-98-SP-0330). Species under the jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service have been covered separately.

We have determined that the project will have no effect on the listed species including Aleutian Canada goose, bald eagle, brown pelican, bull trout, marbled murrelet, and peregrine falcon.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding this assessment, please contact Jim Stengle of my staff at (503) 808-4778.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard B. Jones".

Howard B. Jones, P.E.
Chief, Planning and Engineering Division

Enclosure

BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
FOR
MOUTH OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER (MCR) NORTH JETTY
DREDGED MATERIAL PLACEMENT SITE PROJECT
PACIFIC COUNTY, WA

Purpose

The purpose of this Biological Assessment (BA) is to evaluate the effects of the proposed project on federally listed species. This biological assessment has been prepared to meet compliance criteria under the consultation requirements of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). In a letter dated July 2, 1998 (Reference 1-3-98-SP-0330), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service identified the threatened and endangered species that may occur in the proposed project area including Aleutian Canada goose, bald eagle, brown pelican, bull trout, marbled murrelet, and peregrine falcon. Species under the jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service, including northern sea lion, anadromous fish, and sea turtles, have been addressed separately.

Project Description

The proposed project includes maintenance dredging of the MCR Federal Navigation Project channel from the entrance to approximately River Mile 2+00 and the creation of a new in-water placement site near the MCR North Jetty (T9N, R11W, S8). The proposed new placement area closely matches a historical placement site last used in 1971. A preliminary evaluation report completed in February 1998, following reported damage and risk to the MCR North Jetty, indicated that depths adjacent to the jetty are increasing and could threaten the integrity of the structure. The new placement area would be used in addition to the ocean dredged material placement sites already in use for the MCR project. If use of the new placement site is determined to be effective at protecting the jetty and/or offers a long-term dispersive site for placement of dredged materials, the Corps and EPA will pursue long-term identification under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Based on previous testing, the dredged materials were found to be suitable for unconfined, in-water placement.

Work will be scheduled during the recommended in-water work periods.

Aleutian Canada goose

This species occasionally occurs in western Oregon and Washington during fall and spring migration or occasionally as wintering birds. A population from the Semidi Islands occurs near Pacific City on the Oregon Coast. They are known to occur in small numbers during fall migration at Willapa Bay National Wildlife Refuge, north of the Columbia River mouth. The occasional individual or family group may occur in the large, mixed

subspecies flocks of Canada geese that forage in the croplands and pasturelands along the lower Columbia River, particularly on the state wildlife areas or National Wildlife Refuges.

Habitat expected to be frequented by this species on the wintering grounds include grasslands (pasturelands), agricultural croplands, and offshore rocks used for loafing/roosting areas. This species would not be expected to be present in the deep, open water habitats where the maintenance dredging occurs.

The proposed action will have no effect on Aleutian Canada geese.

Bald eagle

Bald eagles occur as winter migrants and as nesting pairs in the Columbia River estuary. Wintering bald eagles rely on large concentrations of waterfowl as their primary prey. There are two bald eagle nests located in the general vicinity of the proposed project. All of these nest locations are located over one mile distance from the project site. Consequently, disturbances to nesting activities are considered negligible.

Dredging actions, because they are confined to deep, open water habitat, seldom pose a concern for bald eagles. Occasionally, bald eagles may be temporarily displaced from portions of their territory where they normally forage by dredging actions. Eagles are expected to use other portions of their foraging territory if temporarily disturbed by dredging actions. Any disposal actions would only disrupt foraging activities for short periods of time. Dredged materials are suitable for inwater disposal and therefore are not considered to pose a contaminant threat to the species or food chain organisms.

The proposed action will have no effect on bald eagles.

Brown pelican

Brown pelicans occur in the Columbia River Estuary and offshore between approximately early summer and mid-fall each year. These birds are thought to be comprised primarily of post-breeding migrants, 75-85 percent of which are immature birds. Brown pelicans feed primarily on northern anchovies which are common in the lower estuaries of Oregon during the summer.

Brown pelicans congregate on jetties, rocks and sandflats in and around Baker Bay, particularly near Chinook, Washington at East Sand Island. The South Jetty also receives substantial use by brown pelicans. Pelicans forage over open water areas, including the Columbia River and bar, estuarine embayments, and nearshore ocean waters.

Disposal or dredging actions may result in occasional localized disturbance to brown pelicans foraging or loafing adjacent to or in the navigation channel or at offshore disposal locations. However, this species is commonly observed foraging and loafing around human activities and appears habituated to human activity. Additionally, numerous alternative areas are available to foraging and loafing pelicans in the immediate

vicinity of the proposed action. Dredged materials are suitable for inwater disposal and are not considered to pose a contaminant threat to the species or food chain organisms.

The proposed action will have no effect on brown pelicans.

Bull trout

The Columbia River bull trout population occurs as 141 isolated subpopulations throughout the Columbia River basin and its tributaries in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana. Both migratory and resident bull trout can be found in the Columbia River basin. A majority of Columbia River bull trout occur in isolated, fragmented habitats that support low numbers of fish and are inaccessible to migratory bull trout. Remaining population strongholds tend to be located in large areas of contiguous habitats, often in protected wilderness areas, roadless areas, or headwater streams. Due to their life history requirements, bull trout are more sensitive to increased water temperatures, poor water quality and low flow conditions than many other salmonids.

Due to the location of the proposed project in the lower Columbia River estuary, it is unlikely that bull trout would be present in the maintenance dredging area or the ocean disposal sites.

The proposed action will have no effect on bull trout.

Marbled murrelet

The marbled murrelet is a near-shore marine bird that is most frequently observed within 1.5 miles of shore. Marbled murrelets reportedly forage just beyond the breaker zone and along the sides of river mouths where greater upwelling and less turbulence occurs. Prey items include small fish and invertebrates. Marbled murrelets nest in old growth coniferous forests. The largest concentration of marbled murrelets in Oregon occurs off the central coast between Depoe Bay and Coos Bay.

The low incidence of marbled murrelets at coastal locations is probably related to the loss of old growth coniferous forest. Available information suggests a low incidence of marbled murrelets on the northern Oregon coast and Columbia River estuary (Dave Nuzum, ODFW pers. comm. 1998).

Maintenance dredging activities would occur in habitat typically not frequented by marbled murrelets. Although marbled murrelets could forage in the adjacent navigation channel, this area receives substantial use from recreational and commercial vessels. Disturbance posed by these ongoing activities would probably discourage foraging by marbled murrelets in this area.

Dredged material to be disposed meets environmental criteria for in-water disposal established by the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The proposed action will have no effect on marbled murrelets.

Peregrine falcon

Peregrine falcons occur as resident, migrant, and/or winter residents in the Columbia River estuary. Peregrine falcons typically are associated with areas where large concentrations of waterfowl and shorebirds occur. A peregrine nest is reportedly located on the southern portion of the Astoria-Megler bridge that spans the Columbia River west of Astoria (Dave Nuzum, ODFW pers. comm. 1998). This nest site is located more than a mile distant from the project site.

Peregrines have been observed throughout the estuarine area including Baker, Grays, and Cathlamet Bays. The species has been observed in numerous habitats, including ocean beach, spit, dredged material island, spruce swamp, urban and industrial areas and agricultural lands. Baker, Grays and Cathlamet Bays are all shallow subtidal and intertidal marsh/mudflat complexes that support large concentrations of waterfowl and shorebirds. Peregrines are present where concentrations of shorebirds and waterfowl occur. Bays in the Columbia River estuary, agricultural lands, tidal flats and wildlife management areas are typical locations for waterfowl and shorebird concentrations in the vicinity of the project area. Migrant and resident passerine birds are also considered important prey resources for this species.

This species is not expected to forage to any extent in the navigation channel. Prey concentrations along the lower Columbia River generally do not occur in deep, open water habitat where the navigation channel is located. Prey availability and distribution are not limiting factors on the lower Columbia River. Consequently, disturbance from dredging and disposal actions is unlikely to occur.

The proposed action will have no effect on peregrine falcons.



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

North Pacific Coast Ecoregion

Western Washington Office

510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 102

Lacey, Washington 98503

Phone: (360) 753-9440 Fax: (360) 753-9008

July 2, 1998

Howard B. Jones, P.E.
Chief, Planning and Engineering Division
Department of the Army
Portland District, Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 2946
Portland, OR 97208-2946

FWS Reference: 1-3-98-SP-0330

Dear Mr. Jones:

This is in response to your letter dated June 8, 1998, and received in this office on June 10, 1998. You have requested a list of listed and proposed threatened and endangered species, candidate species, and species of concern (Attachment A) that may be present within the area of the proposed Mouth of the Columbia River (MCR) North Jetty Dredged Material Placement Site in Pacific County, Washington. This response fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). We have also enclosed a copy of the requirements for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) compliance under the Act (Attachment B).

Should the COE determine that a listed species is likely to be affected (adversely or beneficially) by the project, you should request section 7 consultation through this office. If the COE determines that the proposed action is "not likely to adversely affect" a listed species, you should request Service concurrence with that determination through the informal consultation process. Even if there is a "no effect" situation, we would appreciate receiving a copy for our information.

Candidate species are included simply as advance notice to Federal agencies of species which may be proposed and listed in the future. Species of concern are those species whose conservation standing is of concern to the Service, but for which further status information is still needed. Conservation measures for candidate species and species of concern are voluntary, but recommended. Protection provided to these species now may preclude possible listing in the future.

There may be other Federally listed species that may occur in the vicinity of your project which are under the jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Please contact NMFS at (360) 753-9530 to request a species list.

In addition, please be advised that state regulations may require permits in areas where wetlands are identified. You should contact the Washington State Department of Ecology for State permit requirements.

Your interest in endangered species is appreciated. If you have additional questions regarding your responsibilities under the Act, please contact Bobbi Barrera at (360) 753-6048, or John Grettenberger of this office, at the letterhead phone/address.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Grettenberger" with a large flourish underneath.

Nancy J. Gloman
Acting Supervisor

BB/jko

Enclosures

SE/COE/1-3-98-SP-0330/Pacific

c: WDFW, Region 4

WNHP, Olympia

ATTACHMENT A

LISTED AND PROPOSED ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES,
CANDIDATE SPECIES AND SPECIES OF CONCERN
WHICH MAY OCCUR WITHIN THE
VICINITY OF THE PROPOSED MOUTH OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER
NORTH JETTY DREDGED MATERIAL PLACEMENT SITE
IN PACIFIC COUNTY, WASHINGTON
(T09N R11W S08)

FWS REF: 1-3-98-SP-0330

LISTED

Aleutian Canada goose (*Branta canadensis leucopareia*) - may occur in the vicinity of the project.

Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) - there are two bald eagle nesting territories located in the vicinity of the project at T09N R11W S09; T09N R11W S04.. Nesting activities occur from about January 1 through August 15.

Wintering bald eagles may occur in the vicinity of the project from about October 31 through March 31.

Brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) - may occur in the vicinity of the project.

Bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) - Columbia River Population may occur in the vicinity of the project.

Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) - may occur in the vicinity of the project.

Leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) - may occur in the vicinity of the project.

Loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) - may occur in the vicinity of the project.

Marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus marmoratus*) - may occur in the vicinity of the project.

Olive ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) - may occur in the vicinity of the project.

Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) - may occur in the vicinity of the project.

Major concerns that should be addressed in your Biological Assessment of the project impacts to listed species are:

1. Level of use of the project area by listed species.
2. Effect of the project on listed species' primary food stocks, prey species, and foraging areas in all areas influenced by the project.
3. Impacts from project construction (i.e., habitat loss, increased noise levels, increased human activity) which may result in disturbance to listed species and/or their avoidance of the project area.

PROPOSED

None.

CANDIDATE

None.

SPECIES OF CONCERN

The following species of concern may occur in the vicinity of the project:

Long-eared myotis (*Myotis evotis*)

Long-legged myotis (*Myotis volans*)

Newcomb's littorine snail (*Algamorda newcombiana*)

Pacific lamprey (*Lampetra tridentata*)

Pacific Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii townsendii*)

River lamprey (*Lampetra ayresi*)

FEDERAL AGENCIES' RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER SECTIONS 7(a) AND 7(c)
OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973, AS AMENDED

SECTION 7(a) - Consultation/Conference

- Requires:
1. Federal agencies to utilize their authorities to carry out programs to conserve endangered and threatened species;
 2. Consultation with FWS when a federal action may affect a listed endangered or threatened species to ensure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by a federal agency is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. The process is initiated by the federal agency after it has determined if its action may affect (adversely or beneficially) a listed species; and
 3. Conference with FWS when a federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a proposed species or result in destruction or an adverse modification of proposed critical habitat.

SECTION 7(c) - Biological Assessment for Construction Projects *

Requires federal agencies or their designees to prepare a Biological Assessment (BA) for construction projects only. The purpose of the BA is to identify any proposed and/or listed species which is/are likely to be affected by a construction project. The process is initiated by a federal agency in requesting a list of proposed and listed threatened and endangered species (list attached). The BA should be completed within 180 days after its initiation (or within such a time period as is mutually agreeable). If the BA is not initiated within 90 days of receipt of the species list, please verify the accuracy of the list with our Service. No irreversible commitment of resources is to be made during the BA process which would result in violation of the requirements under Section 7(a) of the Act. Planning, design, and administrative actions may be taken; however, no construction may begin.

To complete the BA, your agency or its designee should: (1) conduct an onsite inspection of the area to be affected by the proposal, which may include a detailed survey of the area to determine if the species is present and whether suitable habitat exists for either expanding the existing population or potential reintroduction of the species; (2) review literature and scientific data to determine species distribution, habitat needs, and other biological requirements; (3) interview experts including those within the FWS, National Marine Fisheries Service, state conservation department, universities, and others who may have data not yet published in scientific literature; (4) review and analyze the effects of the proposal on the species in terms of individuals and populations, including consideration of cumulative effects of the proposal on the species and its habitat; (5) analyze alternative actions that may provide conservation measures; and (6) prepare a report documenting the results, including a discussion of study methods used, any problems encountered, and other relevant information. Upon completion, the report should be forwarded to our Endangered Species Division, 510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 102, Lacey, WA 98503-1273.

* "Construction project" means any major federal action which significantly affects the quality of the human environment (requiring an EIS), designed primarily to result in the building or erection of human-made structures such as dams, buildings, roads, pipelines, channels, and the like. This includes federal action such as permits, grants, licenses, or other forms of federal authorization or approval which may result in construction.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
PORTLAND DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 2946
PORTLAND, OREGON 97208-2946

Reply to
Attention of:

JUN - 8 1998

Planning and Engineering

Ms. Nancy J. Gloman
Acting Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Western Washington Office
510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 102
Lacey, Washington 98503

Dear Ms. Gloman:

Pursuant to the requirements of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, we are requesting a list of threatened and endangered species that may occur in the vicinity of the proposed Mouth of the Columbia River (MCR) North Jetty Dredged Material Placement Site in Pacific County, Washington. Project activities would occur at the Mouth of the Columbia River, Pacific County, Washington (T9N, R11W, Section 8). A site map has been included for your use.

The proposed project is to create a new placement site for dredged material from the MCR Federal Navigation Project. The proposed placement area is near the MCR North Jetty and closely matches a historical placement site last used in 1971. Depths adjacent to the jetty are increasing and could threaten the integrity of the jetty structure. This new placement area would be used in addition to the existing ocean dredged material placement sites already used for the MCR project. The proposed work involves the redistribution of sedimentary material from the MCR federal navigation project channel from the entrance to approximately RM 2+00. Initially, up to 1 million cubic yards of sand would be placed in the area. If use of the site is determined to be effective at protecting the jetty and/or offers a long-term dispersive site for placement of dredged material, the COE and USEPA will pursue long-term identification under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

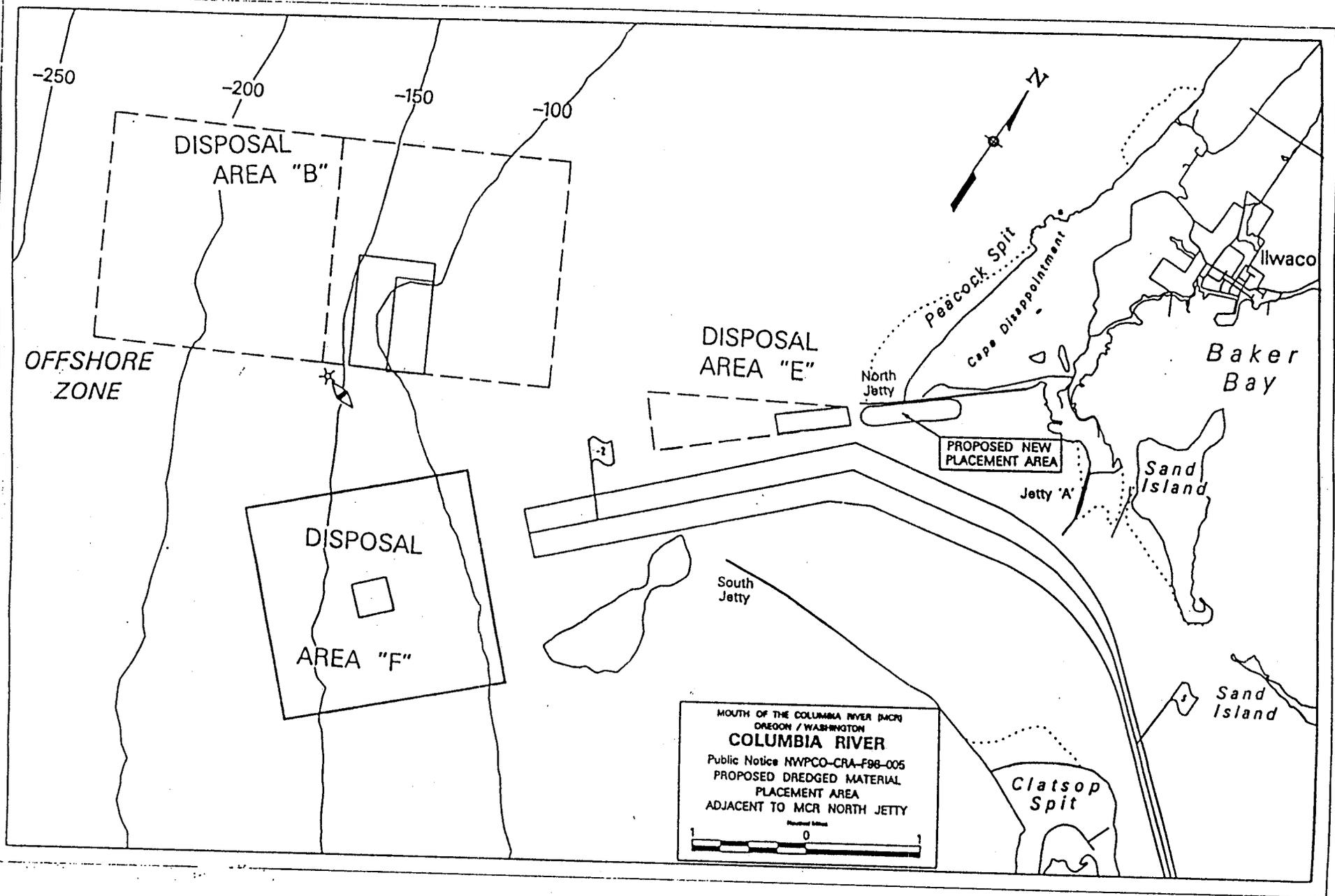
If you have any questions or require further clarification regarding this project, please contact Jim Stengle, of my staff, at (503) 808-4778.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Valters".

Howard B. Jones, P.E.
Chief, Planning and Engineering Division

Enclosure



MOUTH OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER (MCR)
 OREGON / WASHINGTON
COLUMBIA RIVER
 Public Notice NWPCO-CRA-F98-005
 PROPOSED DREDGED MATERIAL
 PLACEMENT AREA
 ADJACENT TO MCR NORTH JETTY

1 0 1
 Nautical Miles