The site for the proposed dike construction, bulldozer, a
groin, and dredging at Yaquina Bay by the Yaquina Bay Dock and Dredge
Company of Newport, Oregon was examined on August 11, 1953 by Mr.
Harry Moore and Jim McCaulley of this laboratory. The tide was rated
as a -0.4 feet at 7:30 A.M. (Standard Time) which was low enough to
permit access to the tide flats in the area. The Yaquina Bay Dock and
Dredge Co. owns the property it proposes to change.

The substrate is firm, sandy-mud, tending to be shelly near the
point, a high sandy bar about 30 feet in diameter. The highest portion
of the point is at about a plus 5.0 feet tide level and is located on
the downdrift end of Sally's Bend (see chart). In general the area is
scattered with tidepools. Most of the area, excluding the point, is at
about a plus 2.0 feet tide level. A small, dead-end channel emptying
into the main river channel extends shoreward between the existing dock
and dredge facilities and the tideflats.

It was found that clams of the following species are present in
the area. Notes as to comparative and relative abundance are also in-
cluded.

Schistopecten nuttallii: A selected area showed 450 of these
clams present in 1,000 square feet of tideland. Random counts per
1,000 square feet in the past have shown 25 clams/1,000 sq. ft. to be
an average figure for gaper clam populations. Seventeen of these clams
averaged 100 mm in length, an indication of clams of young age (3-4 years).
Many smaller (younger) clams were present over most of the area extend-
ing back about 200 feet from the point. They were more numerous near
the point and gradually decreased in numbers away from the point. A
meat yield sample of 17 clams showed the clams to be in excellent
condition. Thirty per cent of the whole clam (by weight) in the shell was
edible meat (15% is poor, 35% very good).

Cardium corbis: This clam is present over most of the area but
not as numerous as the gaper clam.

Protothaca staminea: Present in limited numbers.

Saxidomus giganteus: Present in limited numbers.

Miscellaneous forms: Other clams of minor importance are present
(Nacoma, etc.).

Two sports diggers in the immediate area had their limits of gaper
clams (18 apiece) and were gathering cockles to fill the aggregate limit
(36 total). It should be noted that the tide on this date was not an
exceptionally good one; the fact that a limit of clams was able to be
taken at this tide is an indication of clams in good abundance.

If the proposed project is approved a small channel will be
filled in at the mouth. This channel drains quite a large portion of
the flats in the immediate area (the channel is 10 feet deep at the deep-
est point) and is used as a small boat channel (skiffs, etc.). The fill-
ing of this channel will undoubtedly change some current patterns in the
immediate area.

Conclusions:

1. Although a certain number of clams and clamming ground will
be destroyed, it does not appear that a large number of clams will be
killed by the dredging and filling. This is due chiefly to the projection
of the work project onto the clam ground. There are clams of good
a
2. The filling-in of the small channel could have deleterious effects far more reaching than the initial dredging. Scouring action, in some areas through formation of a new channel(s), silting-in in others, are two of the possibilities. What effect these will have on the clam populations is not determinable at this time -- it can only be theorized. It is my opinion damage to the clam population(s) will occur outside of the proposed work area. This damage will be local, however, not far reaching in its effect.

Note: The Yaquina Dock and Dredge Co. owns nearly all of Sally's Bend -- they own approximately 500 acres of the 750 acres enclosed by Sally's Bend.

Respectfully submitted,

Lowell D. Marriage
Aquatic Biologist
Aug. 17, 1953
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Yaquina Bay Dock and Dredging Company, Newport, Oregon, has submitted an application to the Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, for a permit to construct dikes, bulkheads, a groin, and to dredge material to be deposited landward from the bulkheads, in Yaquina Bay near Newport, Oregon.

The site for the proposed work is southeasterly from the company's existing wharves and ship berthing area near McLean Point. The proposed bulkhead will extend diagonally across an existing shallow low water channel extending easterly from the pile and timber ship wharf. Approximately 400 feet southerly from and parallel to the company's southerly wharf, a groin and bulkhead will be constructed. The channelward limit of the groin will be 150 feet from the existing low water line. The existing berthing area in front of the wharf will be dredged and the material deposited landward from the bulkhead.

Maps and plans for the work are on file and may be seen in this office.

Letters concerning the effect of the work on navigation are requested from all parties concerned, particularly navigation interests and State and local authorities. Replies should be mailed to reach this office not later than August 18, 1953.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

T. W. Ragsdale
Chief, Operations Division