



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

Environmental Resources Section

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
SEATTLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 3755  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98124-2255

RECEIVED  
JUL 18 2003  
DNR CENTRAL REGION

JUN 26 2003

Mr. Gary Cooper, Assistant Region Manager  
DNR South Central Aquatics District  
Post Office Box 47000  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7000

Dear Mr. Cooper:

The purpose of this letter is to inform the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that based on studies and information to-date, increased wave energy stemming from the existing North and South Jetties appear to be contributing to the erosion and migration of Whitcomb Spit. Corrective action may qualify under Section 111 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1960.

The "Dynamics of Whitcomb Flats, 2003" study conducted by Pacific International Engineering for the Port of Grays Harbor and the Coastal Communities of Southwest Washington presents a plausible hypothesis that storm waves from the Pacific Ocean and associated high water levels during storms result in overtopping of the sand flat promoting eastward transport of sediment and the migration of Whitcomb Spit in an east-southeast direction. This hypothesis is supported in part by various studies conducted since 1974. All of the studies indicate that significant geomorphic changes in Grays Harbor are attributed to the construction of the Grays Harbor Navigation Project.

The "Dynamics of Whitcomb Flats" study suggests a couple of alternatives such as dredged material as beneficial use and or continued monitoring for a minimum period of five years. Another potential alternative would be to develop another spit from dredged material (providing there is sufficient quantity) that could function as an oyster bed. I propose that a team be developed consisting of staff from both agencies and key resource agencies. This team would develop alternatives based on the numerous studies that have already been accomplished for this area and suggest additional studies if required.

Now that you have had the opportunity to review the "Dynamics of Whitcomb Flat" study and if you would like to continue the Section 111 process and remain the Local Sponsor for any work, please call me at (206) 764-3699 so we can discuss possible partnering opportunities. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. George A. Hart, Project Manager, at (206) 764-3641 or [George.A.Hart@usace.army.mil](mailto:George.A.Hart@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

Lester E. Soule  
Chief, Civil Projects Branch