

SKAGIT FISHERY WORK PROPOSED

Technical plans for future development of the Skagit river was studied by members of the Skagit county planning council at its August meeting held in the small courtroom of the Skagit county courthouse Monday night.

Erosion control and fishery development comprised the major items of discussion with representatives of the state department of fisheries and the Skagit soil conservation district present.

Paul Dickey, district conservationist of the federal soil conservation service with offices in Sedro-Woolley, and John Nordmark of the state planning council, discussed the erosion program while J. C. Clausen, assistant chief engineer; J. A. Craig, chief biologist; Dr. Lauren Donaldson, consulting biologist on hatcheries; and Earl Baily of the geological survey in charge of cooperative small stream measurement programs, led the fisheries discussion.

That plans are now being initiated for post war work in fisheries was revealed by Clausen who pointed out that the future work must make possible greater spawning areas and protection of river assets now available in Skagit county. In the wide-scale postwar program for Skagit county, he listed eight projects headed by the creation of a Skagit river fish hatchery. Preliminary studies already are under way for the establishment of such a hatchery, he said.

Other projects in Skagit county

Skagit Fisheries

(Continued from Page One)

include the removal of barriers and dam at Nookachamps creek; survey of additional water supply for the Samish fishery at Friday Creek; river flow improvement of the Skagit; a study of the proposed Sauk river power and flood control dam site; study of the proposed Cascade river power and flood control dam site; installation of facilities at the Baker river dam to aid fish in entering and leaving the Baker river area; and a fish way over the east fork falls of Nookachamps creek.

Present work on the Skagit water problem includes the establishment of 15 guage stations in the county, Earl Baily told the planners. Stations have already been established at the highway 99 crossing of the Samish river, at Friday creek, Hansen creek, Jones creek, Grandy creek, Jackman creek, Diebsud creek, Bacon creek, Jordan creek, Illabot creek, Phinney creek, O'Tool (Marietta) creek, Day creek, East Fork Nookachamps creek, and Nookachamps creek while measurement stations are being erected in between guage stations. Future programs call for the establishment of numerous stations in the upper regions of the Cascade, Sauk and Suiate rivers, Baily stated. He also revealed that plans call for the creation of three large stations on the main Skagit river to study fishing.

J. A. Craig discussed studies which are being made to determine the effects of fluctuation in the river level upon spawning and to determine areas in watersheds more suitable for spawning.

The need for immediate work on the erosion problem was emphasized by Mr. Dickey as the critical situation in the Lyman-Sedro-Woolley area was again cited. Engineering surveys are now going forward after which engineers will have to check channel programs. Dickey stated that the county commissioners can levy up to one mill which will make available \$19,000 for work in this county. The state has a flood control fund which will match the Skagit contribution for the work. Actual work on erosion control will have to be done by the county under the supervision of the soil conservation district, he concluded.