

ESTUARY RESOURCE SURVEY  
SUBTITLE: ESTUARY USE SURVEY

COMPLETION REPORT  
July 1, 1971 to June 30, 1973

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PART 1. ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1, 1972 TO JUNE 30, 1973

In 1971 the Fish Commission of Oregon conducted an estuary resource use study on 16 Oregon estuaries (Table 1). Data collected during the study included, for each bay and month, an estimate of angler effort and species composition of the commercial and sport catch of marine non-game fish, crabs, clams, and miscellaneous invertebrates. Information collected is being published in individual reports, by estuary, and provided to interested individuals for use in developing land use plans including the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Table 1. List of Estuaries Surveyed During 1971 Estuarine Use Study

Estuary	Acres	Estuary	Acres	Estuary	Acres
Columbia	15,000	Salmon	438	Umpqua	5,712
Nehalem	3,766	Siletz	1,203	Coos	9,543
Tillamook	8,839	Yaquina	2,853	Coquille	703
Netarts	2,406	Alsea	2,227	Rogue	750
Sand Lake	700	Siuslaw	1,589	Chetco	500
Nestucca	1,149				

During fiscal year 1973 a major part of our effort was spent in compiling and analyzing data collected during the study and in writing final reports for the Coos and Umpqua estuaries. Major portions of each of the other 14 estuary reports have been written and completion awaits the arrival of the remaining data from the Computer Center at Oregon State University. The Coos Bay report is published and distributed. Partial support for analysis of this data was provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

PART 2. SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS JULY 1, 1971 TO JUNE 30, 1973

Sixteen Oregon estuaries were selected for our resource use survey. Selection of sampling priorities and fisheries studied in each of the estuaries were based on two criteria: (1) prior knowledge of the resource uses of each estuary; and (2) the potential for recreational and industrial development.

Survey crews were stationed at Astoria, Tillamook, Newport, Charleston, Port Orford, and Brookings. Personnel assigned to these offices were responsible for interviewing shore and boat anglers, skin divers, and clam diggers for catch and effort data. Limitations in manpower restricted our sampling to areas within each estuary that supported the majority of recreational uses of non-game fish and shellfish. This sampling procedure precluded sampling the sport harvest of anadromous fishes in the upper portions of several of the estuaries. In addition, sampling of the resource uses on the Rogue River was terminated in May due to the transfer of project personnel.

The first month of the resource use study was devoted to developing a sampling program adaptable to each estuary. Following this developmental period, sampling stations and routes were established specifically for each estuary. Adjustment of technique continued as needed throughout the field phase producing a well tested procedure by the study's end.

Upon completion of the field work, data collected during the study were summarized and prepared for computer analysis under contract with Oregon State University. Results of the analysis are being summarized with support from the USACE and presented in individual estuary data reports that they can use in planning their work in estuaries. The Coos Bay report has been completed and copies sent to planners, consultants, federal, state, and local agencies. Analysis of all other data is nearing completion and the Umpqua report is nearly completed.