

FINAL
SECTION 404(b)(1)EVALUATION
FISCAL YEAR 1999 QUILLAYUTE RIVER MAINTENANCE DREDGING
LA PUSH, CALLAM COUNTY, WAHSINGTON

1.0 Introduction

A final environmental impact statement (EIS), dated February 1986, was prepared to examine the environmental consequences of various alternatives for Operation and Maintenance activities for the Quillayute River Navigation Project at La Push, Washington. The accompanying environmental (EA) describes proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2002 dredging and disposal of sediments from the Quillayute River Navigation Channel. The following evaluation was prepared pursuant to Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act in accordance with the guidelines promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency (40 CFR 230) for evaluation of the discharge of dredged fill materials into waters of the United States. This 404(b)(1) evaluation assesses the placement of dredged material on the ocean side of the spit separating the Quillayute River and the Pacific Ocean. Only the portions of these fills that are below mean higher water (MHHW) will be evaluated, as these are the features that fall within Section 404 jurisdiction. References to the EA for this action will be made throughout this evaluation.

2.0 Description of Proposed Discharge

2.1 Need for Discharge. The purpose of the proposed project is to dredge accreted gravel, cobbles, sand and silt from the Federal Navigation Channel, and boat basin to return the channel to authorized navigation depths. The Quillayute River flows generally westward from the Olympic Mountains and makes a sharp turn to the south just prior to discharging to the Pacific Ocean directly to the west.

Maintenance dredging for the navigation channel has been required annually since the breach. Dredging and disposal has occurred in September-November 1996, January-February 1997, February-March 1998, and September-November 1998 , 1999 and January-February 2000.

Approximately 75,000 to 100,000 cubic yards (cy) are to be dredged from the navigation channel that consist of silt and sand are proposed for this year's maintenance program. This material will come from the entrance channel and the boat basin in La Push. The boat basin in La Push, provides moorage for tribal, commercial, and Coast Guard search and rescue boats, is also in need of dredging.

This material will be placed on the ocean side of the spit.

All of the dredged material will be placed on the ocean side of the spit separating the Quillayute River from the ocean. This disposal activity will

allow the materials to move northward to nourish Rialto Beach. With the exception of approximately 10,000 cy of material that will be placed upland at Site A to be beneficially used by the Quileute Tribe.

2.2 Location. The discharge site is on Quileute Tribal lands just south of Rialto Beach in Olympic National Park. The nearest town is La Push, Washington.

2.3 Description of Discharge Site. Dredged material and the gravel bar material would be discharged at two sites on the Quillayute spit (designated as sites 1 and 2A in the public notice) with return waters into the ocean. The disposal site substrate is similar to the dredged material. Site 1 has been routinely used and site 2A is the area on the spit where dredged materials from the breach repair were discharged.

2.4 Methods of Discharge. Several discharge methods are possible, depending on the dredging contractor's choice of equipment.

- Dredging in the navigation channel can be accomplished by hydraulic pipeline (method recommended) or clamshell and barge. The hydraulic pipeline has a limiting pumping distance that decreases as the material size increases. If the outer channel materials are sandy, with few cobbles, then the hydraulic pipeline may be able to pump all the way to disposal site 2A. A small amount will be discharged at site 1.

2.5 Disposal Schedule. Dredging and disposal would begin September 15 or after and all dredging would stop by March 15th. The channel entrance is to be completed by 31 October 2002. These times avoid periods of juvenile salmonid out-migration and surf smelt spawning on Rialto Beach. Dredging and disposal will require approximately 3 months.

2.6 General Characteristic of Material. Material to be dredged from the entrance channel consists of sand, gravel, and cobbles from the entrance channel, and sand and silt from the boat basin dredging.

Quantity of Material. The proposed project would dredge approximately 100,000 c.y. of material from the different locations in the navigation channel and boat basin. The quantities are estimates based on bathymetric surveys conducted in June 2002 and estimated winter shoaling. Sediment will continue to deposit until the dredging activities commence and greater or lesser quantities may be present at that time.

2.7 Source of Material. Sediment to be dredged and/or excavated is from the lower Quillayute River and the boat basin.

3.0 Potential Impacts on Physical and Chemical Characteristics of the Aquatic Ecosystem.

3.1 Substrate. The beach site proposed for dredged material disposal has been previously used for disposal of dredged materials. The disposal site on the spit, where most material will be disposed, formerly consisted of material from the river and ocean. The proposed discharges are expected to have little or no additional impact on the substrate or aquatic ecosystem at any of the disposal sites.

3.2 Water Quality. Disposal operations will likely cause a slight reduction in the dissolved oxygen concentration at the point of discharge. However, this will be a short-term impact. The dissolved oxygen concentration will not be reduced below the water quality standards in the water quality certification. The sediments are clean and will not cause any release of contaminants into the water column. See EA, Section 5.a.

3.3 Current Patterns and Water Circulation. Current patterns and water circulation will be slightly altered both in the Quillayute River and on the ocean beach discharge site. Placement of the dredged materials on the ocean beach will slightly alter water circulation, but this has been done several times in the past. Natural currents and wave action will move the dredged materials northward, further up Rialto Beach, thus nourishing the beach.

3.4 Salinity Gradients. Proposed disposal will not impact salinity gradients in the project area.

4.0 Potential Impacts on Biological Characteristics of the Aquatic Ecosystem.

4.1 Threatened and Endangered Species. No salmonid species have been proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act within this project area. The National Marine Fisheries Service has determined that the Olympic Peninsula Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) for coho salmon, Chinook salmon, and steelhead are not warranted for listing within the project area. Therefore no impacts to threatened or endangered species are anticipated. Letters of concurrence from USFWS dated July 11, 2002 and NMFS dated August 09, 2002 concur with our findings.

4.2 Aquatic Food Web. The disposal event will have a physical impact on animals at the disposal sites. Fish and other mobile organisms will be able to move and avoid disposal activities. Sessile benthic infauna inhabit the disposal sites. Recolonization of organisms damaged by the falling dredged material is usually rapid after completion of disposal. Whatever disruption occurs to the food web, as a whole will be relatively short-lived as organisms become newly established after the disposal event.

4.3 Wildlife. No wildlife species are expected to be adversely affected by the proposed action.

5.0 Potential Impacts on Special Aquatic Sites. The proposed project will not adversely impact marine sanctuaries (designated under local ordinances, state and/or local laws), mudflats, vegetated shallows or riffle and pool complexes. The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary is directly offshore from the mouth of the Quillayute River. This area is not in close proximity to the disposal or dredging sites and is not expected to be impacted by this project.

6.0 Potential Effects on Human Use Characteristics.

6.1 Recreational and Commercial Fisheries. The proposed dredging and disposal activities are scheduled to avoid the surf smelt spawning period (ending in mid-September) and the juvenile salmon out-migration period (starting in mid-March) and is not expected to significantly impact fisheries resources. Surf smelt spawning beds will be temporarily lost on the ocean beach, but will have fully recovered by the next spawning period. The proposed dredging may inconvenience recreational and commercial fishing vessels during operations but will significantly improve navigation safety after completion.

6.2 Aesthetics. The proposed actions will not adversely impact aesthetic qualities of the project area.

6.3 Parks, National and Historic Monuments, National Seashores, Wilderness Areas, Research Sites, and Similar Preserves. The Olympic National Park is immediately north of the project site. Dredged materials deposited on the ocean side of the spit will, intentionally, be carried by tidal current northward to nourish Rialto Beach. The Quillayute Needles National Wildlife Refuge and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, offshore of the project area, will not be affected by this project.

7.0 Evaluation and Testing of Discharge Material.

7.1 Evaluation of Chemical-Biological Interactive Effects.

7.1.1 **Exclusion of Material from Testing.** The sediment was excluded from chemical testing requirements because of the lack of upland sources of contamination, the high sand and gravel content, and the high-energy environment of the dredge and excavation areas.

7.1.2 **Water Column Effects.** See section 5.a of the EA. The Water Quality Certification was received from EPA after coordination with the Quileute Tribe and other resource agencies, and the conditions are as follows:

1. All dredged material is to be placed at Disposal Site 2A, with the exception that a small volume from the entrance channel may be placed at Disposal Site 1.

7.2 Comparison of Excavation and Discharge Sites.

7.2.1 **Total Sediment Chemical Analysis.** A sediment chemical analysis was not required for the dredge disposal.

7.2.2 **Biological Community Structure Analysis.** A community structure analysis was not considered necessary.

8.0 Factual Determinations.

8.1 Physical Substrate. Due to its similarity to the existing substrate and the absence of major sources of contamination, disposal of dredged and excavated material on the spit will have minimal impact on the disposal area substrate.

- 8.2 Water Circulation, Fluctuation, and Salinity Determinations.** No significant changes in water circulation, tidal exchange, or salinity are expected from the proposed dredging and disposal.
- 8.3 Aquatic Ecosystem and Organisms Determinations.** The project will not have significant adverse effects on the aquatic ecosystem and organisms. Placement of dredged materials at the site would temporarily reduce populations of sessile epifauna and infauna, thereby reducing their contributions to the aquatic food web. However, these populations are at low levels at the placement sites because of the high energy tidal and wave action on the ocean beach. Recolonization of benthic invertebrates is expected to begin soon after disposal operations are complete as a result of recruitment of individuals from adjacent areas. Some mobile epibenthic organisms, including bottom fish and crab, would suffer mortalities; however, most would escape the immediate physical impact area of the disposal.
- 8.4 Determination of Cumulative Effects on the Aquatic Ecosystem.** Anticipated impacts will be minimal, localized, and limited to the project site. Thus, it is determined that the dredging and settling basin excavation will not contribute significantly to any cumulative effects on the Quillayute River aquatic ecosystem.
- 8.5 Determination of Secondary Effects on the Aquatic Ecosystem.** It is determined that the project will not result in any significant secondary effects on the Quillayute aquatic ecosystem.

9.0 Proposed and Alternative Actions to Minimize Adverse Effects.

This project has been designed to minimize adverse effects on the aquatic environment. Extensive coordination with local, state, federal and tribal agencies has occurred throughout the project design and implementation process.

- 9.1 Actions Concerning the Location of the Discharge.** The proposed action was modified so the dredged and excavated materials will be used beneficially as nourishment on Rialto Beach.
- 9.2 Actions Concerning the Material to be Discharged.** None.
- 9.3 Actions Controlling the material After Discharge.** None
- 9.4 Actions Controlling the Method of Dispersion.** None
- 9.5 Actions Related to Technology.** None
- 9.6 Actions Affection Plant and Animal Populations.** The dredging and disposal operations will be timed to not impact surf smelt spawning on Rialto Beach (until September 15) and juvenile salmonid out-migration (March 15 – June 15). The EPA in consultation with the WDE, in accordance with section 401 of the Clean Water Act, issued a Water Quality Certification on. The certification includes conditions to minimize adverse effects to the aquatic ecosystem. Those conditions as stated in the attached Water Quality Certification are herein incorporated by reference.

9.7 Actions Affecting Human Use. The initial placement of dredged material on the ocean beach will limit the public access. It will also take some time for the tidal and wave action to sort and disperse the placed materials. During this time, the aesthetics of the beach will be somewhat diminished.

10.0 Analysis of Practicable Alternatives.

No alternative other than the recommended plan was found to meet the objectives of the project in a manner that was effective, cost effective, and publicly acceptable.

10.1 No Action. With no action, the Federal navigation channel will continue to shoal and boats will no longer be able to pass through the river mouth. Tribal fishing and Coast Guard Search and Rescue operations would cease. Therefore, the No Action alternative is not acceptable.

11.0 Review of Conditions for Compliance.

11.1 Availability of Practicable Alternatives. There are no practicable alternatives available for this action that would have less adverse impact on the aquatic environment.

11.2 State Water Quality Standards and Federal Toxic Effluent Standards (section 307 of the Clean Water Act). The EPA has certified that the proposed discharges of fill and dredged material are in compliance with Sections 301,302,303,306, and 307 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended (Clean Water Act). The proposed project is subject to compliance with several provisions of the Water Quality Certification. Based on the fact that no sources of contamination exist upstream of the proposed dredging locations, it was determined that no contaminants would be released at the disposal site that would result in unacceptable adverse effects on disposal site biota. Therefore, the proposed project is considered to be in compliance with applicable federal environmental requirements and state water quality standards.

11.3 Threatened and Endangered Species (ESA of 1973). The proposed discharge of dredged material is not expected to impact any threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat in the project area. The proposed project is in compliance with this act. A Biological Assessment was performed in June 2002 with the determination of not likely to adversely affect the listed species. There has been no additional species added nor has the project changed significantly.

11.4 Marine Sanctuaries (Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1977). The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary is located offshore from La Push and extends north to Cape

Flattery and south to the Quinault River area. No impacts to this sanctuary are anticipated from this project.

11.5 Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 and Shoreline Management Act Consistency. The project is located within Trust lands of the Quileute Tribe. The project is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with enforceable policies of the Quileute Tribe's approved shoreline management program.

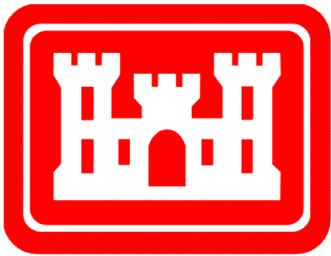
11.6 Potential for Significant Degradation of Water as a Result of the Discharge of Polluted Material. No contaminants are expected to be released that would significantly affect human health, the aquatic ecosystem, wildlife, or any activities in the area.

11.7 Steps to minimize Potential Adverse Impacts on the Aquatic Ecosystem. All appropriate and practicable steps, including scheduling the timing of the dredging and disposal, and adhering to established water quality criteria, that will minimize potential adverse impacts of the discharges on the aquatic ecosystem, have been incorporated into the proposed project.

12.0 Findings.

Based on the information provided in paragraphs 2 through 11 above, Seattle District has determined that the proposed discharge of fill and dredged material includes practicable steps to minimize impacts to the aquatic environment, and that there is no practicable alternative to the proposed discharge that would have less impact on the aquatic environment. Therefore, Seattle District has determined that the proposed discharge complies with the Clean Water Act, Section 404(b)(1) guidelines.

**QUILLAYUTE NAVIGATION MAINTENANCE
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
SEATTLE DISTRICT
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON**



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Seattle District

Quillayute River Navigation Project
Environmental Assessment & 404(b)(1) Assessment
404(b)(1)

09/12/02

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FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2002 QUILLAYUTE RIVER NAVIGATION PROJECT
LA PUSH, CLALLAM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

1. Authority

The Quillayute River Navigation Project was authorized by the River and Harbor Act of July 3, 1930 and modified by the River and Harbor Acts of March 2, 1945 and September 3, 1954. The project calls for:

- a. An entrance channel 10 feet deep, varying from 100 to 250 feet wide and a 75 foot wide channel extending about three-quarters of a mile upstream to Smith Slough;
- b. A boat basin with a timber-planked training wall with a +16 feet mean lower low water (MLLW) top elevation including a rock toe; and
- c. A jetty about 1,200 feet long at a +15 foot MLLW elevation on the east bank and a low dike 1,050 feet long on the west bank protecting the entrance channel.

There is also Federal responsibility to maintain revetments or the ocean spit that separates the basin and the channel from the ocean. Maintenance of the upstream 1,700 feet of channel is not performed, as it no longer is justified. The project is a harbor of refuge and has the only Coast Guard search and rescue station along 100 miles of coast between Grays Harbor and Neah Bay. The Reservation offers a livelihood for approximately 300 Quileute Tribal members and 50 non-Tribal members, including Coast Guard personnel. The primary commercial activity is fishing and fish processing that generates approximately \$4,000,000 in annual income.

2. Project Description

- a. The project described by this environmental assessment (EA) is a component of the Quillayute River Navigation Project. This EA covers entrance channel and boat basin maintenance dredging. The federal navigation project for this area includes:
 1. A small boat basin 1,070 feet long, 313 feet wide and 10 feet deep, with a 1,500 foot training wall constructed to elevation +16 feet MLLW along the west side to reduce shoaling inside the boat basin and a timber breakwater at the downstream and upstream ends (El. +9) to protect against wave attack;
 2. A rubblemound jetty 1,400 feet long along the east side of the river mouth at elevation 15 to 18 feet above MLLW with a crest width of 18 feet;
 3. A rubblemound dike 8 feet above MLLW with a crest width of 14 feet and 1,050 feet in length along the west side of the river between Quillayute

- Spit and James Island (the dike included four optional rock groins which have not been constructed);
4. A navigation channel of 100 feet wide (widened at bends and near docks and the entrance to the boat basin) and 10 feet deep from deep water opposite James Island up the Quillayute River to the small boat basin (approximately 2,400 feet), then 75 feet wide and 10 feet deep, extending another 1,900 feet further upstream to the mouth of Smith Slough (currently not maintained);
 5. Maintenance of Quillayute Spit, a naturally and artificially maintained spit approximately 3,400 feet in length along the west bank of the Quillayute River extending northerly from the dike between James and Rock Islands to the Olympic National Park boundary.
- b. Project History. Recent maintenance dredging has occurred in September – November 1996, January – February 1997, February – March 1998, and September – November 1998, 1999 and continued in January-February 2000. Prior to the breach, dredging of the navigation channel was not required more often than every other year. The 1996-97 dredging programs were to have removed 170,000 c.y. of silt and sand from the navigation channel, but only 61,000 c.y. were actually dredged. This was apparently due to limitations of the contractor's equipment. For the 1998 dredging program, 75,000 c.y. were to have been removed from the channel and again only 30,000 c.y. were removed. However, in 2000 approximately 75,000 cy of material was removed.
- c. Proposed Action. According to the Public Notice, maintenance dredging would occur from the mouth of the Quillayute River upstream to the boat basin and within the boat basin.
Hydraulic dredging at the river mouth will not begin until after 15 September 2002 because disposal sites are not available due to surf smelt spawning. If dredging were not completed before the winter storm season begins, it would be completed in early spring 2002, by March 15th.
- d. Pertinent Documents. Dredging practices, disposal actions and spit and jetty maintenance options in the project area were evaluated in a final Environmental Impact Statement dated February 1986 (FEIS). Two Quillayute River Navigation Project environmental reports were prepared in August 1981, one on water quality, salmonids, surf smelt, crab, and subtidal habitat, and one on benthic intertidal ecology, birds and mammals. Several EA's have been prepared since 1986 for maintenance dredging of the Quillayute Project, maintenance of the spit revetment, and repair of the spit breach. These documents are available at the Seattle District Office and are incorporated herein by reference.

3. Alternatives

- a. No Action. The no action alternative would involve no dredging by the Corps for the project in this maintenance cycle. Currently, commercial boats can only access the marina and cross the river entrance bar at high tides because of the extensive shoals throughout the channel. The Coast Guard also can only access the marina and entrance channel at high tides, thus reducing their search and rescue effectiveness at low tides. With no dredging, this condition would continue and eventually boats would no longer be able to access the marina at high tides, the marina would cease to function, and the Coast Guard would be unable to effectively carry out their mission.
- b. Dredge Navigation Channel. Dredged material would be deposited on the spit, with most of the material deposited on the seaward side of the beach repair. The work will begin after the critical out-migration period for juvenile salmonids, i.e., after mid-September. Since dredging work would not be finished before the winter storm season begins in late November/December, it would start up again after the winter storm season is over and be completed by March 15th.

4. Description of the Environment

- a. General Setting. The Quillayute River system, including the Sol Duc, Sitkum, Calawah, Bogachiel, and Dickey Rivers, flows generally westward, draining the northern portion of the Olympic Peninsula. The Quillayute spit is essentially a river mouth bar formed of material derived from both the Quillayute River Basin and from erosion of the headlands to the north and south along the coast. The river transports a moderate bedload of gravel and cobbles during flood stages and a moderate bedload of sand and fine gravel during low stages.
- b. Water Quality. The Washington State Department of Ecology (1991) classified the fresh/estuarine water of the Quillayute River as class AA (extraordinary). Aside from logging, the upper Quillayute Basin is relatively unaffected by human activities which might affect water quality. Within the marina, boat use and maintenance is the main source of pollutants.
- c. Fisheries. The Quillayute River supports several species of salmon and trout. Chinook salmon is the most important species to the Quileute Tribe. Trout species occasionally present are steelhead and cutthroat trout. The estuary also supports surf smelt and small numbers of many other fish species. Surf smelt live in deep waters and move in to the project area to spawn during May to mid-November (peak time is July-August). Smelt spawn on the high intertidal area of the beach (drift line). According to WDFW, ideal smelt beaches have a grain size of 80 percent 1-8 mm, with a beach slope of 10-15 percent. Consult the referenced EIS for more information.
- d. Threatened and Endangered Species. The bald eagle, marbled murrelet, and brown pelican are listed as threatened in Washington pursuant to the Endangered Species Act and can be found in coastal areas. These species

were addressed in the BA dated June 2002. The scope of work on this project has not changed since the BA was written, therefore, no change in the not likely to adversely affect those species has occurred.

No anadromous fish runs in the Quillayute River area are listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA. The Southwest Washington/Lower Columbia River ESU of the coho salmon are candidates for listing. This includes runs of this species in the Quillayute River. The Washington Coast ESUs for chinook salmon and steelhead have been evaluated, and listing is considered not warranted at present.

- e. Sediment Quality. The sediment proposed for dredging and relocation to the ocean beach is considered clean because of the high sand and gravel content, a high energy environment and the lack of upland and upriver contamination sources.
- f. Cultural Resources. There are no known cultural resources in the project area, but cultural resources are found on National Park Service lands near or adjoining the project staging area. Cultural resources are located around the east border of the Rialto Beach parking lot, on the east side of the Dickey River bridge, and on the north end of the spit. A gravel washing operation existed on the spit for the 1940's concrete plant at Mora. The Shamrock Resort was at the base of the east bank of the Rialto Beach parking lot, while Alexander's Mansion was on the riverbank. The Taylor home and store at the Dickey River dates from the turn of the century.
- g. Environmental Consequences.
 - a. Water Quality. Water quality impacts of the proposed action are expected to be short term and minor. Turbidity would be minimal because of the high percent of sand and gravel in the navigation channel materials, which would settle out quickly in the water column as in-water work is being performed. Turbidity would be somewhat higher during the boat basin dredging, because those materials have a higher silt content. Dissolved oxygen would be only slightly depressed as the material contains very low levels of organic material (silt), which has high oxygen demand when resuspended.
 - b. Fisheries. The proposed dredging work is expected to have minimal impacts on salmon fisheries because in-water work would avoid peak downstream migratory periods (15 March-15 June).

A comparison of aerial photographs of the estuary taken in 1984 and 1997 indicate that intertidal area (between MLLW and MHHW) has actually increased by approximately 6 acres over this time.

The project will again produce positive impacts for surf smelt. Placement of the dredged materials onto the ocean side of the spit allows the littoral drift to nourish Rialto Beach. As these materials naturally sort, suitable grain-sized sands will provide additional surf smelt spawning habitat.

- c. Threatened and Endangered Species. The closest bald eagle nest is about 2 miles from the project area so impacts from the project are not a concern to nesting behavior. These birds are diverse feeders and the Quillayute River is not considered a primary foraging area for the nesting birds, so the project is not likely to adversely affect bald eagles. Marbled Murrelets do not nest in the project area but they do feed in the area. The birds have not been observed foraging in the river so the project should not affect murrelet foraging behavior. During most years, brown pelicans are not observed in the La Push area. However, last year after the project had stopped due to bad weather, several brown pelicans were seen sitting on the wall at the marina. The project is expected to have no effect on brown pelicans.
- d. Cultural Resources. The proposed work as described will have no impacts to cultural resources.
- e. Indian Treaty Rights. This proposed project has been coordinated with and is supported by the Quileute Indian Tribe. The Tribe agrees the proposed project likely would not interfere with their treaty fishing rights.
- f. Permit Requirements. The proposed project complies with Section 404(b)(1) guidelines of the Clean Water Act. The attached Section 404(b)(1) evaluation addresses the placement of dredged material on the spit. A copy of the Water Quality Certification (dated August 16, 2002), provided by EPA in consultation with Ecology, is attached to the Section 404(b)(1) analysis. The certification is contingent upon conditions outlined in the evaluation, including monitoring of surf smelt spawning beds and outmigrating juvenile salmonids. Additionally, the project is located within Trust lands of the Quileute Tribe. The project is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with enforceable policies of the Quileute Tribe's approved shoreline management program.
- g. Cumulative Impacts. There are three actions for the Quillayute project: dredging the entrance channel, marina, and the settling basin. These actions impact the same area (lower Quillayute River) and at roughly the same time. The main impact of the dredging action is the temporary loss of smelt spawning habitat on the spit. Expected natural restoration of smelt spawning habitat at Rialto Beach will result from the project. No significant cumulative impacts have been identified from implementation of this project. Cumulative impacts from local, short-term disturbances caused by the construction project (noise, emissions, traffic disruptions, etc.), would be minor and not significant.
- h. Coordination. Since maintenance dredging has been required annually since the breach repair, coordination is essentially a year-round activity. For this year's proposed project, the details were resolved in the meeting of the semi-annual dredging conference held at the Seattle District Office.

5. Permit Requirements

National Environmental Policy Act

This Environmental Assessment (EA), prepared August 20, 2002, is intended to achieve NEPA compliance for the proposed project. As required by NEPA, this EA describes existing environmental conditions at the project site, the proposed action and alternatives, potential environmental impacts of the proposed project, and mitigation measures to minimize environmental impacts.

Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended (PL 93-205)

In accordance with Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species act of 1973, as amended, federally funded, constructed, permitted, or licensed projects must identify and evaluate any threatened and endangered species, and their critical habitat, that may be affected by an action proposed by that agency. The Biological Assessment (BA) for the project, hereby incorporated by reference, comprises the Corps' evaluation of the proposed action's potential effects on threatened and endangered species. The BA determined that the proposed work will not affect endangered or threatened species or their critical habitats designated under the Act. Formal consultation under Section 7 of the Act is not required.

Water Quality Certification (WQC)

This work requires a WQC from the Washington State Department of Ecology for compliance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The request for this certification was included in the Public Notice. On August 16, 2002 the Environmental Protection Agency issued a Water Quality Certification including water quality provisions to be monitored and managed during the project. A copy of the WQC is attached to this Environmental Assessment.

State Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA)

No HPA was required, as this project is located on tribal lands.

Federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Consistency Determination (16 USC 1456 et. seq.) and Washington State Shoreline Management Act

The Quileute Tribe has a Coastal Zone Management Program that was developed in 1980, updated in 1993, and is consistent with the state's Coastal Zone Management Act. Based on past permit actions and documentations by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Corps has determined the boundary between state bedlands and reservation lands to be extreme low water, presently established at - 3.8 feet MLLW, with the reservation landward of this line. The project is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the applicable approved State and Tribal management programs.

Compliance with Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (33 USC 1344 et. seq.; 40 CFR Part 230)

A 404(b)(1) evaluation, which demonstrates compliance with the substantive requirements of the Clean Water Act, and with the 404(b)(1) guidelines, is required for work involving discharge of fill materials into the waters of the United States. The 404(b)(1) evaluation is attached.

National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470)

The National Historic Preservation Act (16 USC 470) requires that the effects of proposed actions on sites, buildings structures, or objects included or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places must be identified and evaluated. A review was conducted by the Quileute Natural Resources Department for the project construction listed in this EA. There were no National Historic or Native American sites, buildings, structures, or objects that met the Preservation Act criteria.

In accordance with the current Section 106 regulations, it has been determined that the listed maintenance work comprises “undertakings” in accordance with the Washington State Historic Preservation Office and is the appropriate authority for coordination. We have determined that while some of the undertakings have no potential to affect historic properties, other undertakings might affect such properties. We have found that in no case will historic properties be affected.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661)

The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661) requires that wildlife conservation receive equal consideration and be coordinated with other features of water resource development projects. USACE’s consultation with USFWS regarding this project satisfies the requirements of this Act. A Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report is not required for maintenance work.

Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898 directs every federal agency to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental affects of agency programs and activities on minority and low-income populations.

The project does not involve the siting of a facility that will discharge pollutants or contaminants, so no human health effects would occur. Maintenance of these facilities would not affect property values in the area, or socially stigmatize local residents or businesses in any way. No interference with local Native American Nation’s treaty rights would result from the proposed project; construction activities would not physically interfere with fishing, or impact fishery resources.

Coordination has occurred with the Quileute Indian Tribe and efforts have been made to incorporate local concerns. Navigational Channel maintenance will not have an adverse effect on minority populations and low-income populations, conversely the project is expected to benefit the economy of the Quileute Tribal community. Since no high and adverse effects are anticipated to result from the project, it has been determined that no disproportional impacts would occur.

4. Finding. Based on this assessment and on coordination with Federal and State agencies and the Quileute Indian Tribe, it is considered that the proposed project would not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. The proposed project is not considered a major Federal action having a significant impact on the human environment

and does not require preparation of an environmental impact statement supplement. A finding of so significant impact (FONSI) has been prepared.