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**ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE DIRECTOR
ON ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING
OF INLAND WATERS PROJECTS**

**PACIFIC AND YUKON REGION
1988 - 1989**

**Water Impact Assessment Division
May , 1989**

ANNUAL REPORT (1988-89) TO THE DIRECTOR
ON ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING OF INLAND WATERS PROJECTS
PACIFIC AND YUKON REGION

WATER IMPACT ASSESSMENT DIVISION
MAY, 1989

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the fourth annual report on the implementation of the environmental screening procedure in IW, P/Y Region. The main observations for 1988-89 are the following:

- Fifty IW activities (47 for WRB and 3 for WPMB) were screened for environmental effects and filed in the central screening registry. This is in marked contrast to last year's (1987-88) low of 26 screened activities but similar to the high of 55 for 1985-86. All screening decisions were reported to FEARO as required.
- In WRB, D. Burns has picked up R. Hardy's responsibilities for preparing the screening reports and is maintaining the same quality and timely submissions.
- In WPMB two activities not included above, but which required considerable time and effort in 1988-89 FY, were the pre-screening of this region's proposed FRFC Coquitlam River project and W&N's NHRI study of effluent discharge to the Thompson River by the City of Kamloops.
- The screening guide was revised to reflect the present IW organization and was distributed in March 1989.
- Environmental surveillance and follow-up was conducted for 4 WPMB FRFC projects.
- Only one problem arose in 1988-89 and that was with the environmental screening statement attached to the Work Plan. The 1988-89 work plans had the statement but for 1989-90 it was omitted, likely inadvertently with the transfer to the results definition model and changes with word processing. This should be rectified on the 1990-91 Work Plans.

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Introduction

The purpose of this fourth annual report is to provide an account of the 1988-89 fiscal year implementation of the environmental screening procedure in IW. This annual report, together with the quarterly reports to HQ which are copied to each Responsibility Centre Manager (Branch Chief) will serve as a type of audit. This report is intended as an internal regional review and documents that all IW activities underwent environmental scrutiny.

Environmental Screening

In 1988-89 fifty IW activities were screened for environmental effects, and documentation was filed in the central screening registry (Table 1).

TABLE 1

Summary of the Number of IW, Pacific and Yukon Region, Environmental Screenings by Branches for the Fiscal Year 1988-89.

SCREENING LEVEL	IW BRANCHES			TOTAL
	WPMB	WRB	WQB	
Preliminary	2	47	--	49
Formal	1	--	--	1
Total	3	47	--	50

Forty-seven of these were WRB activities related to the construction or maintenance of hydrometric stations and all were environmentally acceptable as proposed, requiring no mitigating measures. Of note for WRB in 1988-89 was the change in the person preparing the screening decisions upon R. Hardy's departure.

D. Burns was given the responsibility and the transfer has been smooth and effective. WRB continuing cooperation in the application of the screening procedure is commendable.

The three remaining activities were WPMB Fraser River Flood Control projects on dyke rehabilitation and bank protection in Glen Valley and on construction and removal of structures (pumpstation and floodbox) in Pitt Meadows. The Glen Valley project required the more detailed formal screening and was judged to be environmentally acceptable with the incorporation of mitigating measures (e.g. stream diversion and fry salvage during construction) and habitat compensation (i.e. creation of fishing benches on the Fraser R. and intertidal marsh at Nathan Slough). The Pitt Meadows project also required compensation for lost habitat and a serpentine channel and nesting islands were constructed on the Pitt River foreshore.

Yearly variations in the number of activities screened since the full implementation of the screening procedure in 1985-86 are shown in Figure 1. WPMB has registered between 3 to 5 activities per

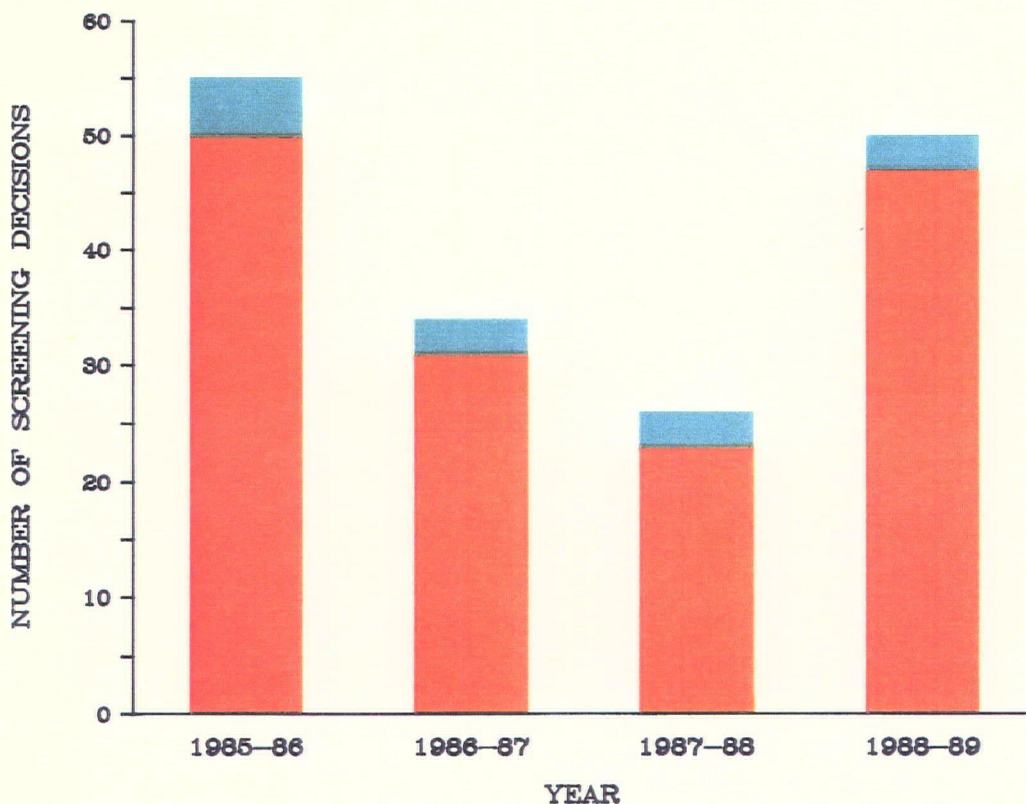


FIGURE 1 The number of Inland Waters, Pacific and Yukon Region, environmental screening decisions by Branch (W.P.M. ■ , and W.R.B. ■) since 1985-86.

year. However WRB has fluctuated between a high of 50 activities in 1985-86 to a low of 23 in 1987-88, and back up to 47 in 1988-89.

As specified by the EARP Guidelines Order (1984), all screening decisions were reported to FEARO as well as to the RSCC of this region. Decisions were submitted on a quarterly basis to a C&P co-ordinator in HQ via the RDG's office, for transmittal to FEARO and subsequent publication in the FEARO Bulletin. A perusal of the Bulletins published to date have shown that none of the decisions submitted between January 1, 1987 to May 31, 1988 were reported. This represents 5 quarterly reports with 27 screening decisions. The HQ co-ordinator was advised through your and the RDG's offices on January 6, 1989 of this oversight. A response is outstanding on this issue.

As mentioned in last year's (1988) annual report the 1988-89 Work Plans contained an environmental screening statement above the signature of the accountable manager. However the approved 1989-90 Work Plans have not included this screening statement. This may have resulted with the changing over to the results definition model structure for the work plans and the word processing transfer from Wang to DOTS. However that screening statement should be reinstated for the coming work plans and if possible added for 1989-90.

The screening guide was revised again and distributed in March 1989. The changes were minor and reflected the change over from IW/L to IW and the reduction in financial responsibility centre managers resulting from reorganization.

There are two other activities in WPMB which were not mentioned above but have involved considerable time and effort in pre-screening. These are proposed projects that are in the planning phase and at a stage before a screening report can be initiated due to continual changes in their design. These are this region's proposed Coquitlam River flood control project and W&N's proposed NHRI study of effluent discharge to the Thompson River by the City of Kamloops. The Coquitlam River project, scheduled to commence in 1989-90, has required numerous meetings and on-sites as part of the Information Committee and the Environmental Sub-Committee. This early involvement in the planning stages of this project has been beneficial for all concerned as the project is in an environmentally and publicly sensitive area. Some good interagency cooperation, exchanges and resolutions have resulted from this process.

The NHRI study on the other hand has and continues to require ongoing advice and assistance from this region in the application of EARP and the development of project screening. The proposal has been scaled down but NHRI is still actively pursuing the proposed study.

Environmental Surveillance and Follow-up Reports

In 1988-89 environmental surveillance was conducted for four WPMB Fraser River Flood Control projects. These are described as follows:

1. Project: South Dewdney Dyke Improvements - Fraser River Flood Control Project No. 18, Contract No. 2.

Date of Completed Screening: Preliminary - July 16, 1986.

Construction Activity: The project involved the upgrading of the dyke and bank protection along Nicomen Slough and Fraser River for approximately 11.8 km, rehabilitation of the pumphouse and floodbox of Hatzic Slough Dam, installation of relief wells, raising of existing roadways and pavement, reseeding of dyke slopes and replacement of fencing and gates.

Time of Construction: Construction commenced in July 1986 and the project was completed in October 1988.

Surveillance: The project was visited twice during 1988-89.

Follow-up Report: No follow-up report is needed as the only mitigation required was timing of construction.

2. Project: Pitt Meadows Dyke Reconstruction from Harris Road North to Sheridan Hill - Fraser River Flood Control Project No. 2, Contract No. 15.

Date of Completed Screening: Preliminary - January 27, 1988.

Construction Activity: Reconstruction of approximately 2.5 km of dyke to program standards including clearing, stripping, excavating, placing fill material, topsoil and seeding.

Time of Construction: Construction commenced in March, 1988 and was completed on September 23, 1989.

Surveillance: Three site visits were undertaken during this fiscal year. For cost saving reasons excavation of the outlet channel for the new Fenton Slough pumpstation - floodbox was undertaken in this contract. Verbal approval was obtained for DFO prior to initiation of work and the work was completed by September 1988. This resulted in the loss of some intertidal habitat and as required by DFO compensation was provided.

Follow-up Report: No follow-up report was required for this project as the mitigation requirements were minor. With

Provincial concurrence, Program habitat signs were designed declaring the habitat adjacent to the dyke right-of-way was left in its natural state for wildlife habitat, the signs were posted along the 2.5 km strip in November of 1988. This aspect along with above mentioned compensation will be reported in the follow-up report of Pitt Meadows Contract No. 16.

3. Project: Glen Valley Dyking District West Wingdyke Upgrading and Fraser River Bank Protection - Fraser River Flood Control Project No. 22, Contract No. 1.

Date of Completed Screening: Preliminary - May 20, 1988 and Formal - May 20, 1988.

Construction Activity: Upgrading of approximately 3.4km of west wingdyke, placement of bank protection on 0.7km of the south bank of the Fraser River and removal and replacement of floodboxes and culverts.

Time of Construction: Construction commenced in July, 1988 and was completed by April 11, 1989.

Surveillance: The project area was visited sixteen times before and during construction of this project.

Follow-up Report: A follow-up report will be written on this project to document compliance to the mitigation and compensation requirements, especially those requirements on stream diversion, salmonid fry salvage and bank protection.

4. Project: Pitt Meadows Structures - Fraser River Flood Control Project No. 2, Contract No. 16.

Date of Completed Screening: Preliminary - October 6, 1988.

Construction Activity: Construction of a floodbox - pumpstation at the north end of Fenton Slough, upgrading of the existing floodbox at the north side of the Alouette River and the removal of the existing Fenton Road Pumpstation at the Alouette River and reconstruction of the affected dyke section.

Time of Construction: Construction commenced in October of 1988 and was completed on April 20, 1989.

Surveillance: Nine site visits were undertaken during the period of June 29, 1988 to April 20, 1989.

Follow-up Report: A follow-up report will be written on this project especially to document the habitat conservation and protection measures incorporated in this project as

well as those of Contract No. 15 in order to meet environmental requirements.