



10/30/2015



Some Dam – Hydro News™ And Other Stuff



Quote of Note: *“A synonym is a word you use when you can’t spell the first word you thought of.” - - Burt Bacharach*

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“Good wine is a necessity of life.” - -Thomas Jefferson
Ron’s wine pick of the week: 2013 Byron Pinot Noir "Santa Barbara County"
“No nation was ever drunk when wine was cheap.” - - Thomas Jefferson



Dams:

(More water than you can imagine. What does a PMF look like?)

Wall of water more than enough to tear apart homes, overturn lives

snow.com, October 15, 2015 9:23 am by Tim Smith Greenville News

COLUMBIA, S.C. – George Dawn had just finished a late-morning shower Oct. 4 when his wife relayed an evacuation request by a fireman going through their Pine Glen neighborhood outside Columbia.

It had been raining since the day before, but the Dawns had never seen water enter their house in 41 years of living there. So Dawn said he grabbed only one set of clothes and left one of their two vehicles parked in the driveway, assuming they would be back the next day and all would be fine.

It wasn't. By the end of the day, a wall of water spread through much of the neighborhood, which is located within about a quarter mile of the Lower Saluda River, drowning homes almost to the roof. Some residents had to be rescued by boat. The water tore apart homes, displaced families and overturned lives. And now, residents question if some of that water came as a result of releases from the Lake Murray Saluda Dam and if warnings of the releases were adequate.

Robbie Damron, a resident of Pine Glen for 17 years, points to areas in the neighborhood she says were flooded by successive openings of spillway gates of the dam, 5-6 miles away. “They gave us no warning,” she said. “The firemen and policemen, that’s the ones who helped us.”

In fact, the operator of the dam, South Carolina Electric and Gas, began sending out press releases beginning Oct. 2 warning its hydroelectric plant was releasing water in an effort to get ahead of what would turn out to be a record rainfall event. "Lake Murray is currently at elevation 356.5 feet," the utility said in its Oct. 2 release. "SCE&G's goal is to keep the lake level below 360 feet. Area residents and recreational lake and river users are advised to use caution, as lake levels and river flows could continue to fluctuate over the next several days." On Oct. 2, the dam's hydro station discharged 18,000 cubic feet of water a second, enough to fill an Olympic-sized swimming pool every five seconds.

The dam, built in 1930, measures almost 1.5 miles long and 213 feet high. The lake behind it covers 78 square miles and can hold an estimated 750 billion gallons. Even with the hydro station's discharges, however, the lake's elevation continued to climb, according to the utility, swelled by inflows from Lake Greenwood and tributaries. The morning of Oct. 4, SCE&G sent out another press release, this time to warn that it would be opening its spillway gates for a lengthy discharge, the first time it had done so outside of testing in 46 years. The dam eventually would fully open three gates and partially open a fourth. At its peak, 53,000 cubic feet per second of lake water raced down the river, enough to fill an Olympic pool every second and a half. Asked if the utility was aware opening the gates would cause flooding in some neighborhoods, Ginny Jones, a spokeswoman, responded that, "The recent unprecedented amount of rainfall in the Columbia area caused flooding. During this time, SCE&G opened the spill gates at Lake Murray to ensure the integrity of the dam by maintaining elevations just below its maximum operating level of 360 ft." Though some residents believed the rains were close to overtopping the dam, Jones said that was not true. The dam's elevation, she said, is 377 feet. "It would take a considerable rise above the regulated lake level to overtop the dam," Jones said. "But obviously, we don't want to get anywhere close to that." The dam is regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and required to keep the lake at an elevation of no more than 360 feet as part of its license, she said.

Hours before the flooding became severe in Pine Glen, firemen and policemen were patrolling the neighborhood every 15 minutes asking residents to leave. Some refused. At 4 p.m., the Lexington County Sheriff's Office sent out a press release asking residents in neighborhoods bordering the river to evacuate. "This voluntary evacuation recommendation is based on information received from SCE&G concerning its plans to release more water from the Lake Murray Dam, which will impact the Saluda and Congaree rivers," the agency warned. "The public should seek shelter with friends or family outside of the quarter mile evacuation zone." Almost 1,300 homes as well as multi-family dwellings were within the evacuation zone, according to the sheriff's office. Damron said she and her husband initially were going to stay but decided to leave about 5:30 pm. "At 5:30 I was putting stuff in my car and it was a little bit damp," she said. "By a quarter of 6 it was over my knees." By 6:30, she said, boats had arrived to rescue remaining residents, along with buses parked at the neighborhood's entrance to transport evacuees. At 7:09 pm, SCE&G announced it had opened a third spillway gate. "Spill gates will be open for at least another 24 hours, though it could be longer," the utility said in its press release. "Inflows will have to reduce before SCE&G can consider closing the spill gates." In the neighborhood of Coldstream, closer to the dam, flooding had begun early that morning, as water from the neighborhood creek and a neighborhood pond moved beyond their banks. Catherina Flaminko-Maddocks, a resident of Coldstream for seven years, had been watching the creek that ran in their back yard in the early morning hours, along with her husband. The rain did not seem particularly heavy, she said, but was constant. Around 3:30 am Sunday, she said, the water began pouring into the vents of their split-level home. As she and her husband moved items to an upper level, hoping the flood would stop, she said a car outside honked and someone yelled for them to flee their home. By the time the couple descended to the lower level a few minutes later, she said, the water was waist high. "There was an incredible current coming through our front yard," she said. Around the corner, on Wilton Hill, arguably the hardest hit street in the subdivision, residents were awakening to a nightmare. The Rev. George Fagan, a resident of the neighborhood for 25 years, had never seen flooding there before. At 4:15, he said, the power went off but no water had come into his home. Before 6 a.m., he heard water coming in his back door. It soon poured in through double doors to a bedroom and also through the chimney. Neighbors called for him to leave. He grabbed his keys,

Bible and some money and was able to get his car started as the water rose outside to about two feet deep. Some neighbors were later rescued by canoe.

Coldstream residents are divided as to whether water releases from the dam contributed to the neighborhood flooding. Joanne Fineberg, a resident of Coldstream for 25 years, said the facts are not yet known as to how the flooding developed, but "I'm not convinced the dam had anything to do with a lot of it." The first spillway gate opened at a few minutes to noon, she noted, and by then much of the Coldstream flooding had already occurred. And the water was moving fast toward the river, she said, not away from it. "Half the people I talked to said if they hadn't released the water when they did, how bad would it have been when they finally had to release water?" she said. "Even more homes would have been lost. I know the people of Pine Glen don't feel that way because they had a loss. I don't have a loss. I can't begin to know what they are going through." Dawn said he is certain the dam releases flooded his neighborhood and the opening of the third gate sealed the fate of many homes in Pine Glen. "No doubt in my mind," he said. "We're kind of wondering why this wasn't done a week ahead of schedule when they knew this weather was coming." Jones said the utility released water the previous Thursday and Friday through its hydro station in anticipation of the forecast rainfall. This isn't the first time the dam's water releases have been blamed for flooding in Pine Glen. In the 1960s, a developer sued SCE&G over water releases in June 1965 that the developer claimed flooded the neighborhood.

In a lengthy ruling, a federal judge dismissed the lawsuit, concluding the area would have flooded even without the dam. The last time the dam opened its spillway gates because of weather was in April 1969, Jones said. Dawn, like many of the residents of Pine Glen and Coldstream, did not carry flood insurance. But also like many residents, he is not bitter toward SCE&G. His house, like many in his neighborhood, has been stripped of sheet rock or paneling in the lower third of his walls, as well as any floor coverings. The vehicle he left behind was ruined by the flood. But at least, he said, it is covered by his automobile insurance. He and his wife for now will move to a family home near Newberry. He isn't sure, he said, if he will return to Pine Glen but is optimistic about his future. "We're going to make lemonade out of this," he said in a yard still filled with the remnants of the flood. "I'm actually looking forward to the challenge."

(Why do they always put the stoplight in after the accident?)

Haley says dam safety program under scrutiny

More engineers, better maintenance being discussed

Hundreds of dams being inspected

Improvements could follow

By ANDREW SHAIN and SAMMY FRETWELL, thestate.com, 10/14/15

COLUMBIA, SC - Gov. Nikki Haley said Wednesday that South Carolina is working to improve how the state oversees dams after historic rainfall this month led to a number of breaches, many on dams in the Columbia area. "We are reconfiguring the way we do dams in South Carolina," Haley told reporters. "Do we have enough engineers to monitor those dams? How are we going to go and maintain those dams going forward?" The governor did not elaborate, but Department of Health and Environmental Control chief Catherine Heigel said "immediate action" plans to ensure "the integrity" of dams will follow the current inspections of all high hazard and significant hazard dams. Inspections of more than 600 dams are to be completed in the next two weeks.



DHEC will require some dams to be improved, agency spokeswoman Jennifer Read said Wednesday night. The agency might also seek to have lake levels lowered behind some dams, she said. Wednesday's remarks follow the failure of about three dozen earthen, community dams

in South Carolina after sheets of rain pounded the state Oct. 4. Thousands of people suffered property damage and many fled their homes. More than 17 inches of rain fell in less than 24 hours in some areas of Columbia, making it the worst flooding many people had ever encountered in South Carolina's capital city.

Haley's comments also came a day after state regulators revealed they have retained a consulting firm to examine South Carolina's dam safety program, which has one of the nation's smallest budgets. Since the Oct. 4 floods, the state's commitment to dam safety has drawn criticism. The state has about 2,400 dams regulated by the state, but only a handful of inspectors to monitor them. "Apparently, this is a pretty toothless program," Arcadia Lakes area resident Gary Cadle said during a community meeting Tuesday night. The DHEC-retained consulting firm, the HDR engineering company, will also examine the Gills Creek watershed and the scores of dams found there, DHEC regulator David Wilson said during Tuesday night's meeting. HDR will help DHEC study the watershed to "provide advice and input to the individual dam owners and lake owners as they move forward with the repairs or the adjustments that they need to make." The number of dams that failed in the storm statewide has reached 36, Haley said. Almost half, 17, are in Richland County. Four of the dams that failed were not regulated by the state. Their locations were not released. But the number of failed dams could rise as DHEC continues to assess conditions of dams in higher-populated areas. DHEC said it has inspected 357 dams, using more than 125 employees working on "dam response."

(Low lake or no lake.)

DHEC orders lake levels to be dropped behind hazardous dams **Agency's order affects 63 lakes and ponds, including 28 in Richland County and four in Lexington County**

OCTOBER 16, 2015, thestate.com

COLUMBIA, SC -- The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control has ordered the owners of what are considered potentially dangerous dams to lower lake levels or drain their lakes completely by Oct. 20, according to agency records released Friday night. All told, the agency's emergency orders require action affecting 63 lakes and ponds across South Carolina, including 28 in Richland County and four in Lexington County. Columbia-area ponds where water levels must be lowered include Forest Lake, Lake Katherine, Spring Lake, Hughes Pond, Upper Rockyford Lake, Windsor Lake and Wildwood Pond 2, records show. Hundreds of people live on or near those and other lakes, which are major recreational amenities for property owners and their guests. Many of the lakes are privately owned, as are the dams that hold water back.



The department issued the orders Thursday and released them Friday night on its website. The action follows torrential rains and flooding earlier this month that caused more than three dozen dams in South Carolina to break. More than 17 inches of rain dropped on parts of Columbia. The flood staggered South Carolina's capital city, crippling the area's water supplies and causing thousands of people to flee their homes. Some people caught in the storm were killed. "As a result of the 1,000-year flood, many dams across our state were damaged and have been identified as needing repair," said DHEC Director Catherine Heigel in a news release Friday night. "DHEC remains committed to ensuring public safety and will be aggressive in pursuing all necessary safety measures to make sure that dam owners are making these needed repairs as

quickly as possible." DHEC's orders include standard language saying that the department has "determined that the referenced dam appears unsafe and a potential danger to life and/or property. It has been determined that it is necessary that immediate maintenance action be undertaken by the dam owner to prevent failure of the dam and potential loss of life and/or serious damage to property."

Orders say property owners must lower lake levels by Oct. 20, have the dam inspected and submit an action plan to DHEC by Oct. 30. It was unknown late Friday how property owners associations that own many of the dams would react. But some already have contacted attorneys, in anticipation of legal issues that are arising over broken or overtopped dams.

Lisa Sharrard Jones, a Columbia consultant and former state flood mitigation coordinator, said she supports DHEC's action. "I don't see this as a bad thing, it's a good thing," she said. "These are earthen dams." Department officials said Friday's announcement follows an agency assessment of all high hazard and significant hazard dams in South Carolina. So far, 390 dams have been evaluated. The agency has a goal of looking at more than 600 dams before the end of the month. The department's news release said the owners' decisions to repair or replace dams will be subject to agency review and approval. DHEC will prioritize review of dam permit applications associated with the natural disaster, the agency said. The permitting for these repairs could take days to weeks depending upon the complexity of the repairs that need to be made, the department said. In an email Friday night, agency spokeswoman Jennifer Read said DHEC attempted to notify all lake owners and lake associations affected before releasing the documents. "DHEC has either contacted or attempted to contact by phone each dam owner that has received a written emergency order," Read said. "Additionally, DHEC attempted to hand-deliver copies of the emergency orders to many of the dam owners Thursday." Some lakes on which DHEC has issued orders have no water because the dams broke in the storm. Among those is Cary Lake, a 56-acre residential pond off Trenholm Road in Columbia. The only water running in that lake is the old stream, which meanders through the lake bed.

(As CK always says, maintain 'em or drain 'em.)

Hume Lake drained for repairs on historic dam

OCTOBER 16, 2015, by Rory Appleton, fresnobee.com

The lake has been drained so repairs can be made to the historic dam, which is in the distance and to the right. Hume Lake Christian Camps. Hume Lake as it appeared Friday evening. Bare earth is visible where water used to cover. The lake has been drained so repairs can be made to the historic dam, which is in the distance and to the right. Hume Lake Christian Camps



The U.S. Forest Service has emptied Hume Lake to allow a contractor to repair and upgrade the historic dam. The lake remains under a Rough fire closure order, but Hume Lake Ranger District planner Marianne Emmendorfer said the Forest Service is working to modify that directive. When the lake does reopen, the area near the dam will remain closed because of the construction.

The Rough fire in the distance is separated from evacuated Hume Lake by a saddle or two as it continues burning near Kings Canyon National Park.



Copy obtained from the National Perform

The Rough fire in the distance is separated from evacuated Hume Lake by a saddle or two as it continues burning near Kings Canyon National Park. People will be allowed to visit the area and walk in the dry lake bed if they want once the closure order is lifted, Emmendorfer said. The lake was drained last week, and Emmendorfer expects the repairs to be completed before the winter storms hit in late December.

The dam was built in 1908 and is the world's first concrete multiple-arch dam. It created Hume Lake, which originally was used as a water source for a logging operation. The lake is now owned and operated by the Sequoia National Forest and serves as a recreation and tourist destination. Contractors will inject grout into cracks in the dam's bedrock foundation to stop water from seeping under the dam. They also will check the dam for any other cracks or abnormalities. When water gets into these crevices, it can erode the concrete. The construction team will install a waterproof membrane on the upstream face of the dam to prevent water leakage. Emmendorfer said Hume Lake was last drained in the 1980s and again in the early '90s for repair work on the dam's outlet valves. This is the first time a waterproof membrane has been installed, she said, which was a tactic used recently on Shaver Lake's dam to improve its function. Meanwhile, Hume Lake Christian Camps' staff is working to clean up its facilities in the aftermath of the Rough fire. Fall programs through Nov. 20 were canceled as a result of the fire, which burned up to the camp but did not destroy any structures.

(There's no end to the opinions.)

Letter - Lower Snake River dams built for navigation

By Letters to the editor, October 19, 2015, union-bulletin.com



On Oct. 13, I opened my newspaper to read a letter to the editor titled: "Dams cause harm to the ecosystem." Duhhh? Do you think so? As one who is old enough to remember back to when they were building the dams, everyone who was alive at the time knew this would be the case. Everyone who was alive at the time also knew it was going to affect the fishing. That was the price that we were expected to pay for "progress." While well-written, this letter is substantially misinformed

when it comes to the history and the facts. Let's look at the dams from a historical and practical view.

The Lower Snake River dams were built to facilitate navigation, not hydropower or flood control. Hydropower is simply a useful side benefit produced by the Snake River dams. I also find it interesting to note that none of the Columbia River dams built upstream of McNary were built with navigation locks. Billions of dollars in international trade move up and down the Lower Snake River every year. River barges are far and away the most energy-efficient way to move heavy freight. Goods from all over the Pacific Rim move up the river, and goods from as far away as the Upper Midwest move down the river. The Snake River dams were financed with 75-year bonds that are only partially paid off. Are the dam naysayers volunteering to pay off the mortgage on the dams when they are torn down? Oh, that's right, we'll just get out the credit card and charge it to the national debt!

When the dams were built, mitigation was a requirement that included hatcheries, parks, railroad relocation, etc. to compensate for the dams' effects on the local ecology. My father was an avid fisherman. Because of his love of fishing, I had the opportunity to travel up and down much of the Lower Snake before it was dammed. In all those years, we never caught a salmon. A few steelhead, but never a salmon. Because of the dams, were he still alive, he would now have the opportunity to catch a salmon. Right now seems to be a good time to inject a quote from the headline in the Oct. 14 edition of the U-B, "Record fall Chinook run seen at McNary Dam." *Wes Harting, Dayton*

(Gotta have at least one dam removal article. Yep, there's a dam there.)

City awards bid for Sauk River dam removal

Jenny Berg, October 19, 2015, sctimes.com

The dam on the Sauk River near Whitney Park is one step closer to being removed. St. Cloud City, MN Council approved Monday awarding the bid for dam removal and stream bank restoration to Montevideo-based MAAC, Inc. "The bridge piers, bridge and pedestrian access will all stay in place," said Scott Zlotnik, park and recreation director for St. Cloud, of the bridge that connects Whitney Park to Sauk River Regional Park in Sartell. But the dam underneath the bridge is both a safety concern and the cause of shoreline erosion, Zlotnik said.



The dam was built in the 1930s as part of parks improvements done under the Works Projects Administration, which was part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs to get men back to work during the Great Depression. A camp associated with the dam was built in 1937. The camp gave children a chance to get outdoors, and the dam backed up water to create a swimming pool in the river. "Way back when in the 1930s, you could do anything without jurisdictional approval," Zlotnik said. "(The dam) was one of recreation. There was no hydrological purpose." Zlotnik said engineers believe the dam has contributed to erosion, specifically erosion on the southern shore of the river near Whitney Park. Removing the dam will redirect the water and lessen the water's force on the shoreline, Zlotnik said. The dam also poses a hazard for people canoeing or kayaking down the river, and when the river's water level is low, the dam can prevent fish from migrating. St. Cloud has received about \$418,000 in grants for the project: the city received \$146,000 from Sauk River Watershed District and \$272,000 from Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program. The city hired SEH Inc. for professional services related to the project. MAAC, Inc. was the lowest of four bidders with a total bid of approximately \$260,000. The city must contribute 10 percent of the project costs, either in cash or in-kind donations, Zlotnik said. Zlotnik expects most of the match to be in-kind donations from staff time dedicated to the project; any monetary cost would be taken from the stormwater utility fund that has been budgeted to the project. Zlotnik expects the restoration project to begin this fall. The dam demolition will likely occur next year.

(Needs a course in probabilities.)

Letters: Don't blame dams for flood damage; blame the rainfall
OCTOBER 20, 2015, THESTATE.COM



Columbia, SC - I was astounded to read a letter blaming the damage from the largest rainfall in recorded S.C. history on private dams ("Why should FEMA pay for faulty dams?" Oct. 12). Using that logic, hurricane damage

and loss of power are due to trees. For people to spend funds to prepare for an event that should not happen in another thousand years would be total insanity. It wasn't the dams that caused significant damage; it was the rain and the inability of natural creeks and rivers to handle the huge amounts of rain in a short time. A thousand years ago, American Indians lived alone in South Carolina, so maybe they should also be blamed for not planning for this flood event. *MARK KIRBY, COLUM*



(There's an appendage.)

Speaker explains connection between dams, flooding, civil engineers

By Brendon James, The Shorthorn staff, theshorthorn.com, 10/22/15

The military protects the U.S. from threats to national security, including the threat from dams. Jerry Cotter, chief of water resources for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, spoke to the Society of American Military Engineering about the most recent flooding in the Metroplex.

The topic relates to the organization because it covers the aspects of civil engineering such as working on dams said Aaron Hamilton, Society of American Military Engineering president and computer science engineering senior.

The society helps people find jobs in either public or private sectors, and offers scholarship opportunities to any students, Hamilton said.



The Fort Worth district of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work with other federal agencies to develop and maintain a flood control system to provide \$2 billion to \$3 billion in damage reduction for the Metroplex, Cotter said. "Each year, that system in Dallas-Fort Worth pays for itself," he said. "It prevents, on average, as much damage as the system cost each year. The system also provides about 20 percent of the water supply for the state of Texas." From May to June, the area had almost reached its annual total of rainfall in six weeks and the flood control system was pushed to its limits, but performed as it was designed and prevented \$7 billion in damages, Cotter said. "During this specific flood, we had unprecedented rainfall for this region," he said. "We did

see some damages in areas downstream of Lewisville and Ray Roberts and around the lakes. It's very extensive. It'll be years for us to repair and return those projects to their normal operating state. ~~we received so much run off into the reservoirs it took three to four months to empty all of the water from the reservoirs.~~ The flooding from May to June affected the Metroplex and UTA students, said Brian Reniker, the Society of American Military Engineering vice president and civil engineering senior. Interstate Highway 30 was shut down and impeded students from getting to classes. "Anything that impacts the DFW area does impact UTA," Reniker said. "And that's why it's so relevant, the topic the speaker gave." During the speech, Cotter had the audience members close their eyes and picture themselves as a 6-year-old child, being in a house with their parents, starting to panic and the house being swept up by the flood. "I felt very motivated," Reniker said. "It was a very human aspect, and it really put into perspective touches that engineering has on the people that we help."

(It was bound to happen. When in doubt, sue the dam owner.)

Couple file lawsuit blaming utility's dam for flood damage

By Tim Smith, greenvilleonline.com, October 21, 2015

COLUMBIA, SC – A Columbia couple has filed suit against South Carolina Electric & Gas Co. alleging waters released from the utility's Lake Murray Dam earlier this month destroyed their house and rendered them homeless.

Sharon and Thomas Funderburk filed their lawsuit in circuit court in Lexington, almost two weeks after record rainfall hit the state and their neighborhood, Coldstream, about a quarter mile from the Lower Saluda River.

The lawsuit could be the first of several related to the flood statewide, as homeowners, landowners and businesses seek to hold others

accountable for not preventing or mitigating damage to their property.



A spokesperson for SCE&G could not be reached Wednesday for comment about the lawsuit. The lawsuit alleges that the utility knew or should have known that releasing the water through the dam's flood gates would flood downstream neighborhoods. According to the suit, weather forecasters predicted record rains for the area before the flooding, but the utility did "little or nothing" to bring down the level of Lake Murray. The suit alleges that even after the flood gates of Lake Greenwood were opened during the rain, SCE&G "did nothing." Eventually the utility opened three flood gates, and partially opened a fourth, an act the lawsuit alleges had not been done since 1939. SCE&G previously has said the last time the gates were opened for a weather event was in 1969. The dam has six flood gates. Releases from the dam go into the Lower Saluda River and have been blamed in years past for flooding of downstream lands. "In opening three flood gates, the defendant knew or should have known the volume of water being released was such as it was reasonably anticipated that the Coldstream subdivision and other areas would sustain major flooding," the lawsuit states. Had the dam not existed, the lawsuit argues, the rain water would have followed the riverbed and would not have flooded homes in the Coldstream neighborhood. "What actually caused the flood was the impounding of large amounts of water and the opening of three flood gates, which diverted huge amounts of water in a concentrated fashion," the lawsuit alleges. "The water was directed directly towards the plaintiffs' home as well as the home of plaintiffs' neighbors." The opening of the flood gates combined with the lack of warning created an "emergency situation" and gave the Funderburks no time to remove themselves or their personal property from the home, according to the suit. The couple had moved into their home in September.

The lawsuit accuses SCE&G of being “negligent and reckless” in its actions, which it alleged included failing to properly maintain water levels of the lake, failing to properly lower those levels ahead of the impending rain, failing to warn those downstream, and by opening three flood gates at one time “when such opening was not or would not have been necessary if proper management practices had been followed.” The flooding of the couple’s property, the lawsuit states, has severely devalued the property, destroyed the home, caused the couple to move and incur additional living expenses and left the couple suffering “great shock and emotional distress.” The lawsuit also alleges that the flooding constitutes a trespass of the couple’s property. The couple is seeking unspecified actual and punitive damages, as well as payment of attorney fees. SCE&G issued press releases warning of its water releases, including one on Oct. 2 regarding releases from its hydroelectric station and on Oct. 4, prior to the utility opening the dam’s gates later that morning.

Residents of Coldstream who talked to The Greenville News last week were split on whether the dam had any connection to the neighborhood flooding, which some residents said began in the early morning hours. A creek also passes through the neighborhood and water escaped the banks of the creek and a neighborhood pond during the flooding. Joanne Fineberg, a resident of Coldstream for 25 years, said then that the facts are not yet known as to how the flooding developed but “I’m not convinced the dam had anything to do with a lot of it.” The first spillway gate opened at a few minutes to noon, she noted, and by then much of the Coldstream flooding already had occurred. And the water was moving fast toward the river, she said, not away from it. “Half the people I talked to said if they hadn’t released the water when they did, how bad would it have been when they finally had to release water?” she said. “Even more homes would have been lost. I know the people of Pine Glen don’t feel that way because they had a loss. I don’t have a loss. I can’t begin to know what they are going through.” Residents of the Pine Glenn neighborhood further downstream have said they are certain the dam’s releases that day were responsible for the flooding of their neighborhood. Flooding there was reported later in the day than in Coldstream. Asked last week if the utility was aware opening the gates would cause flooding in some neighborhoods, Ginny Jones, a spokeswoman, responded then that, “The recent unprecedented amount of rainfall in the Columbia area caused flooding. During this time, SCE&G opened the spill gates at Lake Murray to ensure the integrity of the dam by maintaining elevations just below its maximum operating level of 360 feet.” The utility released water the previous Thursday and Friday through its hydroelectric station, Jones told The News. The volume released from the hydro station at its peak was about 18,000 cubic feet per second, the utility said. When the gates were opened, 53,000 cubic feet per second was released, according to SCE&G, enough to fill up an Olympic-sized swimming pool about every second and a half. The earthen dam was built in 1930, measures almost 1.5 miles long and 213 feet high. In the 1960s, a developer sued SCE&G over water releases in June 1965 that the developer claimed flooded the Pine Glen neighborhood. In a lengthy ruling, a federal judge dismissed the suit, concluding the area would have flooded even without the dam. The last time the dam opened its spillway gates because of weather was in April 1969, Jones said last week.

(And yet another opinion. It’s not over until it’s over.)

Letter: Taking out the dams

October 22, 2015, dnews.com, by Jack Ensley



I was surprised to find the article in your paper this morning (Page One, Oct. 19) about taking out the Snake River dams. I thought that was a dead issue, but guess not. Those people seem dead earnest. They seem to be satisfied at this point with removing only the Snake River dams, but with success with that they would no doubt go after the Columbia ones. They stop salmon, too. That seems to be the main argument they have even though we had a good fish return last year.

I always thought the Northwest was the envy of the rest of the country because of our cheap hydroelectricity. I think some folks would complain if they had a hen that laid golden eggs. The

idea that we have other sources is not a good argument. If they are thinking about wind, they must know that windmills on Knaffe Hill are successful only because the dams serve as a backup when the wind doesn't blow. If we get to depending on wind, I wonder if some winter night when it gets down to 10 below, and the wind is still, and the lights go out, if they won't change their minds.



Hydro:

(Not much news here, they blocked the story.)

Hydroelectric plant proposed at Blue Marsh Dam

By Mike Urban, October 17, 2015, readingeagle.com

The plans are in the very early stages, but some advocates for the local watershed have concerns.



Reading Eagle: Bill Uhrich | A plan to build a hydroelectric plant at Blue Marsh Dam in Bern Township, PA is in its very early stages.

(This is an uphill battle.)

MOJAVE DESERT: Hydroelectric project clears hurdle

Federal energy regulators deny a request by critics to hold more hearings, address environmental concerns.

By JANET ZIMMERMAN / STAFF WRITER, Oct. 16, 2015, pe.com

Critics of a proposed Mojave Desert hydroelectric generating plant said Friday, Oct. 16, that they may appeal a decision by federal regulators who refused to reconsider licensing for the project. The \$1.4 billion Eagle Mountain Pumped Storage Project near Desert Center, north of Interstate 10, would draw water from an underground basin and store it in vacant pits at a shuttered iron-ore mine to use for generating electricity. The National Park Service, nearby residents and environmentalists have long questioned the project's environmental analysis, which they say was inadequate. Eagle Mountain is located in the center of a rectangular hole on the eastern edge of Joshua Tree National Park. It was once home to the booming Kaiser Steel mine, which closed in 1982. Critics say the hydroelectric project threatens wildlife because it would deplete the aquifer, drying up springs in the national park, and cut off corridors that endangered bighorn sheep and other animals need for food and reproduction. Critics want the land given back to the national park.

On Thursday, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission denied a request by the Department of the Interior and Desert Protection Society to issue a stay on the license and hold more hearings. Commission members agreed with the 2012 environmental impact statement, which found that resources would be adequately protected. The project by Santa Monica-based Eagle Crest Energy would generate 1,300 megawatts during peak hours, enough to power nearly 1 million homes at any given time, company officials said. Steve Lowe, Eagle Crest's president, did not return a phone call Friday seeking comment. At the time the environmental study was conducted, Kaiser Ventures would not give Eagle Crest access to the site. So the study was based on aerial photos and reports from another project there that was never built. "They never stepped foot on the site to do any kind of studies whatsoever," said Donna Charpiel of Desert Center, founder of the Desert Protection Society, formerly known as Citizens for Chuckwalla Valley. The jobba farm

she runs with her husband, Larry, is in view of the old mine. She is a proponent of returning 29,000 acres of former mining lands to the park. Her group and the Department of the Interior, which oversees the park service, have 60 days to appeal the energy commission's ruling to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Joshua Tree National Park Superintendent David Smith said he has been in discussions with Eagle Crest to resolve concerns about the project. Lowe has offered to donate to the government 2,500 acres near the park that won't be used by the plant, Smith said. **Smith said Eagle Crest has been a good partner in the process.** "The appeal process is in no one's best interest. We would much rather continue to engage in good negotiations," Smith said. **A study is underway to determine if the park's boundaries should be changed to include Eagle Mountain. Under consideration is about 22,000 acres of public land around the park; the remainder is privately owned and would have to be donated.** The federal government ultimately will have more studies of the site because the Bureau of Land Management is the agency charged with approving right-of-way permits for transmission lines and roads on public lands, which Eagle Crest will need.

(Light my fire.)

Hydropower plans back on front burner

Plans to generate electricity at three dams along the Mississippi River are back on the front burner.

Oct. 22, 2015, hannibal.net

Northeast Missouri

Plans to generate electricity at three dams along the Mississippi River are back on the front burner. Hydro Friends Fund of Alabama and Energy Resources USA of Florida are seeking preliminary federal permits. **The firms hope to build large electricity generators at Lock 24 in Clarksville and Lock 25 near Winfield. Energy Resources also wants authorization for a smaller project at Lock 22 in Canton.** The three hydropower plants would produce enough electricity to supply tens of thousands of homes. Preliminary permits are an early step that would allow the two companies to draft development plans and seek further federal approval. The projects aren't the first to be proposed at Clarksville and Winfield. The City of Quincy had permits for the two locations and was working with a Canadian firm on hydropower development. The deal fell through in 2013 amid criticism that Quincy had nothing to show for its multi-million-dollar investment. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is taking written and electronic comments about the three new proposals through early December. For more information, go to www.ferc.org or call toll-free 1-866-208-3676.

(If it's as slow as this website, they'll never get it done.)

Braddock Locks and Dam hydropower plant project off to slow start

By Tory N. Parrish, Oct. 18, 2015,
tribweb.com

A Dallas-based startup is moving ahead with a plan to become the first company to operate a hydropower plant in Allegheny County, but don't expect a heavy flow of followers just yet. Despite a federal push to generate more electricity from water, especially at existing structures such as the Braddock Locks and Dam on the Monongahela River, expansion has been slow. **"It is more economically feasible right now to build**



Stephanie Strasburg | Trib Total Media
The flat area stretching across the Monongahela River to the opposite shoreline is the planned future site of a new low-impact hydroelectric plant at Braddock Locks and Dam, as photographed on Thursday, Oct. 15, 2015.

generators that burn off natural gas ... than to build hydro," said Penn State University mechanical engineering professor John M. Cimbala, who was the principal investigator on a \$3 million project between the school and the Department of Energy to train graduate students in hydropower research and development. Eight proposed Pennsylvania hydropower projects pending before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which grants licenses, would total about 120 megawatts of capacity — less than 5 percent of the power of the state's largest coal and nuclear plants. Nationally, hydropower supplies about 7 percent of electricity.

"Hydropower plants pay themselves off eventually, but it's a big up-front investment. It's hard to justify right now with the cost of natural gas," Cimbala said.

Licensing delays can make the decision to invest even tougher, said LeRoy Coleman, spokesman for the National Hydropower Association in Washington. Dallas-based Hydro Green Energy got its license in July to build a 5.25-megawatt, low-impact hydroelectric plant on the Braddock dam, for which it applied in 2011. The company expects the \$15.7 million construction project to last a year starting next July. "(In) Pennsylvania, with its rivers and hills, there's tremendous opportunity, not just in Braddock but in other locations around Pittsburgh," said Mike Maley, Hydro Green's president and CEO. The plant, running on technology patented by Hydro Green, will generate enough electricity to power about 5,250 homes, but the power might not be used for that purpose, Maley said. He has an agreement with an entity to buy the power but won't disclose the buyer until a contract is signed. Adding hydropower to non-powered dams such as Braddock could generate up to 12 gigawatts of power, according to the Energy Department, which gave Hydro Green a \$1.8 million grant to develop its technology. The company received a \$4 million grant from the state Alternative and Clean Energy Program and a \$500,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority, through the Department of Environmental Protection.

The Department of Energy is promoting development of small hydropower at existing, unpowered dams, especially those owned by the Army Corps of Engineers, because it is cheaper and has less impact on wildlife and the environment than new dams. In June 2014, Congress passed the Water Resources Reform and Development Act, which is supposed to expedite the corps' review of permit applications for hydropower plants at its dams. Developers are waiting for the corps to issue guidance for its permits, the National Hydropower Association said. A 2012 department report listed 597 non-powered dams in the United States where hydropower facilities could be developed. Forty-five of those sites were in Pennsylvania. Since the report was issued, two hydropower plants, including Braddock, have received FERC licenses. The corps, the largest hydropower producer in the country, has 75 federally run hydro plants on its 700 dams, producing about 21,000 megawatts of power, said Kamau Sadiki, national hydropower business line manager. There are another 59 nonfederal hydropower plants, owned by counties, municipal governments and private companies, at the corps dams, he said. About one-third of the agency's remaining dams are feasible sites for hydropower development, he said. "We want to see more renewable energy online. We want to reduce the carbon footprint, and so it's a good thing for the corps," Sadiki said. But the low price of natural gas has put a damper on many hydropower plans, and it doesn't look like that will change anytime soon, Cimbala said. Santa Monica, Calif.-based U.S. Renewables Group's Boston company, Rye Development, has FERC permits to study building small hydropower facilities at existing dams in the corps' Pittsburgh District, but it needs licenses before any work could begin, said Don Lauzon, vice president of regulatory affairs for the company. It applied for the licenses under the name Free Flow Power in February and March 2014, but the regulatory requirements make the process long, Lauzon said. "That causes an additional time because it's additional coordination for us as developers, which makes the process a little bit more ... complicated for a coordination perspective," Lauzon said.

(Wonder why this site took so long for developing?)

Hydroelectric plant proposed at dam in Saugerties

By James Nani, Times Herald-Record , Oct. 19, 2015, recordonline.com

SAUGERTIES, NY - A Colorado-based renewable energy company is researching whether it can transform the Diamond Mills Dam on the Esopus Creek into a hydroelectric plant able to churn out 5,300 megawatt-hours of energy a year. If constructed, the plant could generate enough power for more than 700 homes a year. Gravity Renewables out of Boulder, Colo., has asked the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a permit to allow it to study turning the dam into the Diamond Mills Hydroelectric Project. The dam is close to the Diamond Mills Hotel and Tavern. There was no cost estimate on the project.



Ted Rose, CEO of Gravity Renewables, wouldn't reveal much about their future plans, but called it the beginning of a long process. "That's one of a number of potential sites that we're taking a look at," Rose said. A filing to FERC says that Empire State Hydro 301, LLC, a subsidiary of Gravity Renewables, is looking to construct two new 750-kilowatt turbines, a 50-by-30 foot powerhouse and a 300-foot-long, 12.7-kilovolt transmission line. The dam has been eyed before as a place to churn out energy. In 2010, a different company, American Hydro Power, figured it could generate 2,113 megawatt hours a year at the site at a cost of \$3.5 million, according to FERC. But that project has apparently dried up. Filings with FERC show that American Hydro Power, Inc. said its investigations ran into delays because of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection's cloudy water discharges from the Ashokan Reservoir into the Lower Esopus Creek. They stopped giving FERC updates in 2012. The U.S. Department of Interior also wrote that the project "could have an adverse impact on existing fish and wildlife resources and their habitats" and warned that it would be opposed to any hydroelectric operation what would destroy fish and wildlife resources. The dam was built in 1929 and is now owned by Leading Edge Developers LLC. It was originally built to churn out energy for the local paper mill but fell into disrepair. John Mullen of Leading Edge Developers could not be reached for comment.

(It's about time!)

Hydropower backers push faster permitting

By Devin Henry - 10/19/15, thehill.com

A hydropower industry group is encouraging Congress to move forward with bills to speed up the permitting process for new projects. The National Hydropower Association launched a website and public education campaign Monday to plug the industry, the role it can play in reducing carbon emissions and congressional measures designed to ease hydropower permitting in the future. "As a nation, if we are serious about decreasing carbon emissions and expanding clean energy solutions, we simply can't allow hydropower to be hindered by a process that can take up to ten years," NHA executive director Linda Church Ciocchi said in a statement. "Unless and until we have a system that exemplifies efficiency, timeliness and accountability, America's largest source of renewable energy will continue to be held back."

There are about 1,400 hydropower plants in the United States today, generating about 7 percent of the country's electricity, according to the Energy Information Association. The industry's biggest presence is in the Pacific Northwest, where hydropower is a key source of electricity. NHA says there are "dozens" of hydropower projects waiting for federal permitting, about 40 percent of which have been delayed beyond their license expiration dates. Both the House and Senate included hydropower provisions in their respective energy overhaul bills. In the House,

lawmakers directed the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to take the lead in permitting new plants and consult with relevant agencies to write a permitting schedule, among other measures. The Senate's energy bill does the same, and it contains a "sense of Congress" provision that all authorizations for hydropower plant should be issued within three years of filing with FERC. "Congress has a chance to unlock hydropower's potential to fight climate [change], while providing millions of homes and businesses with access to affordable and sustainable energy," Ciocchi said. "With this campaign, we hope to empower and encourage American's to let their representatives know how important waterpower is to our clean energy future."

(Hydro and other benefits live together.)

OR farmers, fish benefit from critical hydropower, irrigation improvements

waterworld.com, 10/19/15

BEND, OR, Oct. 19, 2015 -- On Friday, Oct. 16, the Three Sisters Irrigation District and Energy Trust of Oregon held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Watson Hydroelectric Facility, capping a decade of its investments in efficient irrigation. The facility uses pressure from irrigation pipes to generate renewable electricity, while delivering much-needed water to the District's farmers and maintaining flows in Whychus Creek. The improvements help strengthen Deschutes Basin agriculture, increase drought resilience and bolster the region's economy. Three Sisters Irrigation District increased the efficiency of its water delivery systems with help and support from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Deschutes River Conservancy, Energy Trust, and many other stakeholders. By enclosing and installing more than 50 miles of pipe in more than 75 percent of its open canals, the District has been able to continue delivering irrigation water to farmers during historic drought conditions, even while improving stream flows for basin fish populations.

"The work done by Three Sisters Irrigation District is a powerful example of how irrigation modernization can address multiple challenges and provide multiple benefits," said U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley. "The potential exists over the next decade for irrigation districts across the state to upgrade to more modern infrastructure, saving water, restoring streams and generating green, renewable energy. These investments in irrigation systems are also investments in the future resiliency, competitiveness and livability of Oregon's rural economies." Moving from open canals to irrigation pipes has enabled the district to remove more than 100 individual irrigator pumps, saving farmers and ranchers thousands of dollars on their energy bills. The 700-kilowatt Watson Hydroelectric Facility is located at the end of the main pipeline. Completed in 2014, it generates about 3.1 million kilowatt hours of electricity annually -- enough to power about 275 average Oregon homes.

"For the first time since the late 1800s, there was summertime flow in Whychus Creek for salmon and steelhead. We have 25 percent more water on farm compared to the 1977 drought, and we are generating clean, green, renewable power and conserving energy," said Marc Thalacker, district manager, Three Sisters Irrigation District. "Cooperation and collaboration by a wide variety of Central Oregon stakeholders made it possible for us to achieve these significant changes." Over the last 10 years, the District leveraged more than \$15 million in grant funds for more than \$25 million in irrigation modernization projects. For the Watson plant, support included a \$1-million cash incentive from Energy Trust. "Other Oregon irrigation districts will benefit from the many benefits demonstrated through the Three Sisters Irrigation District project," said Peter West, director of energy programs, Energy Trust. "Energy Trust will continue to support



these projects, including an additional investment of \$1 million in support of irrigation modernization planning in the Deschutes Basin starting in 2016."

Three Sisters Irrigation District's success has been magnified through a Bridging the Headgates partnership between the Natural Resource Conservation Service and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The Deschutes River Conservancy helped the District secure grants through multiple sources over the 10-year effort, including the Pelton Fund, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and many others. Three Sisters Irrigation District received a \$1-million grant from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART program that helped fund the hydroelectric facility. Revenues from the Watson Hydroelectric Facility will help pay back a loan from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Clean Water State Revolving Fund that financed an earlier piping project.

(Congress mucking around.)

Energy bills before Senate would benefit Alaska

10/20/2015, by - Cordova Times Staff, thecordovaitimes.com

Two hydropower bills introduced by Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, and now before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, would benefit residents of Kodiak Island and the Ketchikan area. S 1583 would amend the special use permit for the Terror Lake Hydroelectric Project to authorize construction, operation and maintenance of a tunnel and associated facilities and activities for the Upper Hidden Basin Diversion within the boundaries of Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. S. 2046 would authorize the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to continue an existing stay of a hydroelectric license for the Mahoney Lake project near Ketchikan.

Murkowski, who chairs the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, held a hearing Oct. 8 on both measures. Hydropower is a major part of meeting our energy needs in an affordable, reliable and clean way," Murkowski said. "That is true nationally and it is certainly true in Alaska. Hydropower supplies 24 percent of Alaska's electricity needs and the state has identified more than 200 promising sites for further hydropower development. Murkowski spokeswoman Karina Petersen said the committee plans on having one or two more bill mark-up sessions before the end of the year, but the agenda for those meetings has not been set yet.



Water:



Environment:

(Adding another to the Snake River dams' coffin.)

Starving orcas and Snake River dams | Guest Column

Oct 15, 2015, by Scott Hering for Southern Resident Killer Whale, Chinook Salmon Initiative, islandssounder.com

Recently, a contingent of San Juan Islanders joined three hundred fishermen, Native Americans, farmers, orca activists, business owners and conservationists to advocate breaching four federal dams on the lower Snake River in Southeast Washington. Canoes, kayaks, rafts and drift-boats filled the Snake River near Pullman, Washington. People came from as far away as Alabama to paddle three miles to Lower Granite Dam. There, boaters unfurled a massive floating banner that read: "Free the Snake." The protesters carried signs reading: "A River of Negligible Use. – Corps of Engineers" or "Something is Happening Here..." Another sign read "More Salmon, More Orcas." What was going on here? How could the Snake River, the largest tributary of the Columbia River, be thought of as insignificant by our government? Together these rivers were once the greatest salmon producers on earth. How could removing dams save orcas? Easy. The dams have been killing millions of Chinook salmon for nearly 50 years.

Chinook, one of four species of ESA-listed salmon on the Snake, is the preferred prey for the Southern Resident orcas. Starvation is a top threat facing these highly social whales. NOAA's 2008 Recovery Plan states; "...the single greatest change in food availability for Resident Orcas since the late 1800s has been the decline of salmon from the Columbia basin." The Center for Biological Diversity petitioned NOAA to include these orcas as Endangered; that happened in 2005. A decade later the federal government is again being challenged, this time to revise the Southern Resident critical habitat to include coastal waters, which, of course, includes the mouth of the mighty Columbia River. Dam hydropower mistakenly has been thought of as clean energy. That is changing. According to a University of Cincinnati biogeochemist, in 2012 a large Ohio reservoir emitted as much methane, a potent greenhouse gas, as roughly 5800 dairy cows emit over an entire year. Add this to the fact that the lower Snake dams impede access to 5500 miles of cool, climate change resistant salmon spawning and rearing streams, and you have a strong new case that hydropower from dams is indeed 'dirty energy.'

In the past year, close to 150,000 citizens (through petitions and email campaigns) have supported breaching the four lower Snake River dams to save salmon and orcas. The issue has reached national media attention with articles appearing in National Geographic, Huffington Post, and The New York Times. Leading environmental organizations such as Endangered Species Coalition, Patagonia, Oceana and Whale and Dolphin Conservation are also on board. Use your superpower. Call our Commander-in-Chief (202-456-1111) and Senators Murray (206-553-5545) and Cantwell (206-220-6400) to tell them we support breaching the four lower Snake River dams to save the Southern Resident orcas. We owe it to the forty-five Southern Resident orcas who were violently captured and sold to marine parks during the construction of these dams. Only one of those Southern Residents remains alive in captivity today, Tokitae, aka Lolita.

(Let's go fishing!)

Fall-chinook return in Columbia River, McNary Dam still setting records

October 17, 2015, by Mark Yuasa, seattletimes.com

The Columbia River fall-chinook return could be the largest since daily counts began at Bonneville Dam in 1939. A news release from the Columbia Inter-Tribal Fish Commission also reported this week that the fall-chinook return to McNary Dam is a new record. The Columbia River fall-chinook return continues to migrate upstream at near-record levels, and could be the largest since daily counts began at Bonneville Dam in 1939. "The fall-chinook return is still holding on to second place on the all-time list," said Joe Hymer, a state Fish and Wildlife biologist.

The fall-chinook return to the mouth of the Columbia has been updated to 1,224,300 fish, and only the 2013 return of 1,268,400 stands in its way. While October is only a little more than halfway done, it has already been a record-setting month for fall chinook at Bonneville. Through Wednesday, a record 76,529 adult fish have been counted, beating out the 50,073 tallied from Oct. 1-14 in 2013. "Except for three of the 14 days this October, daily counts have set new records at the dam," Hymer said. "With 2.5 months to go (in 2015) and a gain of 26,000 fish at Bonneville so far in October, could 2015 make up the 44,000-fish difference from 2013, and become a new record? Stay tuned."



A news release from the Columbia Inter-Tribal Fish Commission also reported this week that the fall-chinook return to McNary Dam is a new record.

The single-day count of 4,672 fish this past Monday boosted the season total at the 61-year-old dam to 456,043, breaking the previous high of 454,991 set in 2013.

This season's salmon fishery got off to a hot start around Buoy 10 at the Columbia River when fishing opened Aug. 1, and it continues to remain good from Kalama up to the Hanford Reach area and beyond.

Last week, 4,765 angler trips on Lower Columbia produced a catch of 1,824 adult chinook (35 were released), 145 adult coho (53) and 14 summer steelhead (four). Best catches occurred in the gorge, but places from Troutdale downstream to Longview had their glory moments.

Huge schools of Puget Sound squid returning

Squid jigging around the docks and piers in Puget Sound is off to a fast start, and this fishery is a relatively easy activity to get hooked on. "Squid jigging has been pretty decent from Edmonds south to the Seattle waterfront, and as far down as Des Moines Pier to the Les Davis Pier in Tacoma," said Mike Chamberlain, owner of Ted's Sports Center in Lynnwood. Bear in mind, though, the best fishing usually occurs in the middle of the night during the fall and winter when freezing temperatures and rain can be unbearable. These decapods are highly sought after, and food lovers commonly refer to them as calamari in culinary circles. The squid measure 6 to 10 inches with octopus-like tentacles and have a purplish brown mottled body. Millions of squid swim in huge schools around Puget Sound, and have a life cycle of around 18 months. They return to spawn annually, and gorge on small baitfish and crustaceans. Maria and Jerry Beppu, owner of Linc's Tackle Shop in Seattle who have operated their business for more than 64 years, report sales of their colorful jigs is brisk. "This has been one of our best years for squid, and we're selling around 200 jigs in three to four days," Maria said. "It has been going strong off (the Seattle Aquarium) dock near the ferris wheel. The Des Moines pier is also good, but it gets very crowded."

When the action lights up, the pier is filled with excitement as jiggers reel in their daily limit (five quarts or 10 pounds), with the height of the season occurring in December and January. Squid are attracted to the bright lights reflecting off the Seattle waterfront at Piers 57, 62, 63 and 70, and Pier 86 near the grain terminal off Elliott Way. The A-Dock at Shilshole Bay has been decent too. Most squid schools tend to be just under the water's surface to about 20 feet down. Working your lure from top to bottom is the best way to find them. Weighted jigs come in a wide range of colors, and some will also use an unweighted lure with a small 1-ounce lead weight or glow-in-the-dark jigs. The best time to catch them is during a flood tide, and they often feed just after dark and through the middle of the night. Some are even caught during the early-morning hours.



Other Stuff:



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