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River plan snagged

By PAUL NICHOLSON
(Staff Writer)

Two decisions taken by the Comox-Strathcona Regional Board after hearing a brief by the Vancouver Island Steelhead Society may have halted Pacific Playground's plans for the Oyster River.

The proposed test channel that would be dredged through the mouth of the Oyster River should be held in abeyance at least until Environment Canada has finished its studies there.

And the provincial government will be strongly urged to hold a public hearing on the use of the estuarine region of the Oyster River.

These two decisions were reached by the Comox Strathcona Regional Board after a presentation by a representative of the British Columbia Steelhead Society opposed the proposed channel.

Pacific Playgrounds operates a resort area at the mouth of the river, and part of its expansion plans calls for a 1,700 foot deep-water channel to be dredged through the estuary region to give 24-hour access to its boat basin.

At present the basin is not accessible during low tide.

An engineering study recommended a smaller test channel be dug first, so tidal and storm action could be observed to see what effect a larger channel might have on the estuarine region.

Both channels have received a great deal of

"If the channel goes through, we feel it would be detrimental to marine life in this area," he said.

"Environment Canada is making a study of the area now. All we are asking is that the board wait before approving the test channel, at least until the study is finished.

He also pointed out that the channel was in violation of a recreational land reserve set for the area by an order-in-council of the provincial government in 1937, and that the director of lands also recommended the channel construction wait until the federal studies are completed.

"The fisheries department, including Federal Minister Jack Davis, are working toward imposing a moratorium on all estuarine

regions in Canada," he added.

Director H.C. McQuillan, of the adjoining Black Creek electoral area, opposed what he called the delaying tactics of the board.

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Board wants data

A recommendation by the environmental committee to obtain more information for the possible relocation of industries along the Campbell River estuary, was endorsed unanimously by the Comox-Strathcona Regional Board Saturday.

An interim report by Environment Canada had previously recommended that industries on the river be removed and no further leases be issued for industry in this area.

The board has already written letters inquiring



CLAIRE BROWN, 3820 Discovery, will be the only woman representing B.C. in target shooting at the Canada Games this August. She beat out seven other

B.C. women to win the honor of representing the province.

— Bob Howse photo



