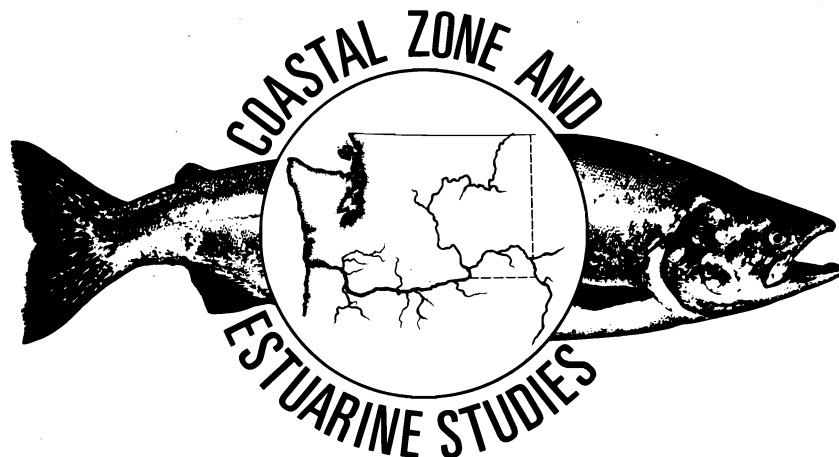


Benthic Infauna and Sediment Characteristics in the Columbia River near Westport, Oregon, August 1989

by
George T. McCabe, Jr.
and
Susan A. Hinton

June 1990



**BENTHIC INFAUNA AND SEDIMENT CHARACTERISTICS IN THE
COLUMBIA RIVER NEAR WESTPORT, OREGON, AUGUST 1989**

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Final Report

funded by

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Portland District
P.O. Box 2946
Portland, Oregon 97208
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and

**Coastal Zone and Estuarine Studies Division
Northwest Fisheries Center
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
2725 Montlake Boulevard East
Seattle, Washington 98112**

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INTRODUCTION

In August 1989, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), Portland District, and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), in a cooperative investigation, sampled the Columbia River benthos in the vicinity of the route followed by the Cathlamet Ferry. The Cathlamet Ferry is a small ferry that runs between a dock on Puget Island, Washington, which is located at River Mile (RM) 43.2 on the Columbia River, and Westport, Oregon. The objectives of the study were to determine the species compositions and densities of benthic invertebrates in areas that may be dredged. This report summarizes the results of this investigation.

METHODS

On 31 August 1989, benthic invertebrate and sediment samples were collected at five stations in the vicinity of the route followed by the Cathlamet Ferry (Figure 1; Appendix Table 1). Five benthic invertebrate samples and one sediment sample were collected at each station using a 0.1 m² Van Veen grab sampler (Word 1976). When practical, each benthic invertebrate sample was sieved through a 0.5-mm screen and the residue preserved in a buffered formaldehyde solution ($\geq 4\%$) containing rose bengal, an organic stain. If it appeared that most of the sample would not wash through the sieve, then the entire sample was preserved and sieved at a later time. Each benthic invertebrate sample was sorted and the invertebrates were identified to the lowest practical taxonomic level and counted. Sediment samples were analyzed by the COE (North Pacific Division Materials Laboratory, Troutdale, Oregon) for sediment grain size and percent organic carbon (total volatile solids).

Data were analyzed by station. Information calculated for each station included the number of taxa; total number, frequency of occurrence, and mean number/m² and standard deviation (SD) for each taxon; mean number of invertebrates/sample and SD;

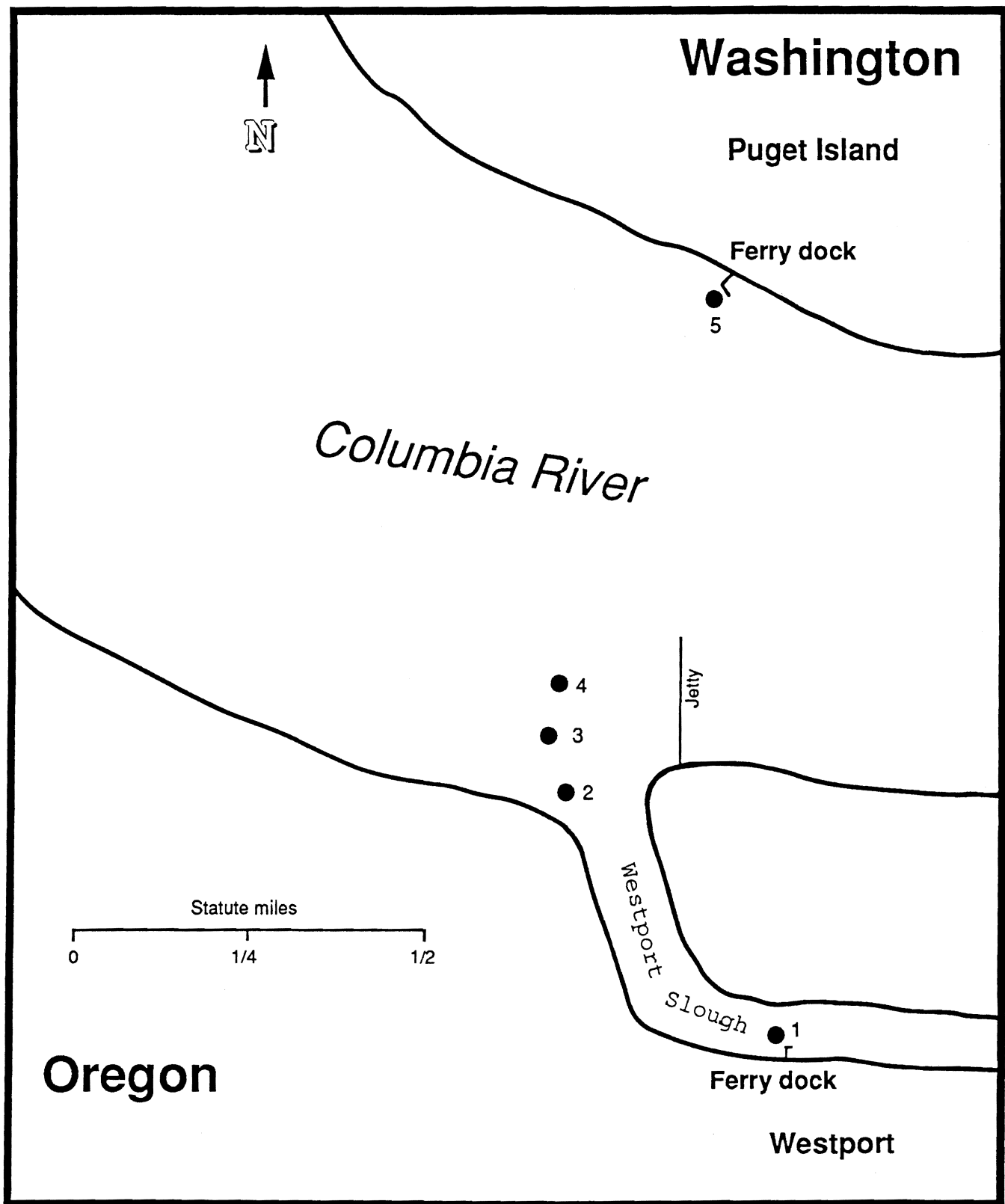


Figure 1.--Locations of the five benthic sampling stations between Westport, Oregon, and Puget Island, Washington.

and total number of invertebrates/m² and SD. Also, four community structure indices were calculated for each station--Shannon-Wiener Diversity Index (H') (Krebs 1978), Simpson Diversity Value (SDV) (Simpson 1949), Species Richness (SR) (Margalef 1958), and Evenness (J') (Pielou 1966):

$$H' = - \sum_{i=1}^s P_i \log_2 P_i$$

$$SDV = 1 / \sum_{i=1}^s P_i^2$$

$$SR = (s-1)/\ln (n)$$

$$J' = H'/\log_2 s.$$

where $P_i = X_a/n$ (X_a is the number of individuals of a particular species in a sample and n is the total number of individuals in a sample) and s = number of species.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Densities of benthic organisms at the five sampling stations ranged from 1,529 (Station 1) to 2,871 organisms/m² (Station 3) (Tables 1-5). Essentially all organisms collected were benthic invertebrates, with the exception of six lampreys (Lampetra spp.) collected at Stations 3 and 4. The tube-dwelling amphipod Corophium salmonis was by far the dominant benthic invertebrate collected at all five stations--C. salmonis densities ranged from 1,264 (Station 1) to 2,461/m² (Station 3) with a mean of 1,818/m². Corophium salmonis is an important food for fishes in the Columbia River estuary (McCabe et al. 1983; Bottom et al. 1984). Densities of C. salmonis at the Westport sampling stations were lower than densities reported by Emmett et al. (1986) at four sampling stations in Cathlamet Bay of the Columbia River estuary, where C. salmonis

Table 1.--Summary of benthic invertebrate collections at Station 1 near Westport, Oregon, 31 August 1989.

Taxon	Total number	Frequency of occurrence (%)	Mean number /m ²	Standard deviation /m ²
<u>Neanthes limnicola</u>	1	20	2.1	4.7
Oligochaeta	103	100	216.3	141.0
<u>Corbicula manilensis</u>	9	60	18.9	18.8
<u>Neomysis mercedis</u>	2	40	4.2	5.8
<u>Corophium</u> spp.	3	20	6.3	14.0
<u>Corophium salmonis</u>	602	100	1,264.2	804.9
Heleidae larvae	6	60	12.6	17.2
Odonata	1	20	2.1	4.7
Arachnida	1	20	2.1	4.7
Number of taxa: 9				
Mean number/sample: 145.6		Standard deviation (SD): 69.8		
Mean number/m ² : 1,528.8		SD/m ² : 732.4		
H' = 0.86 SDV = 0.30 SR = 1.21 J' = 0.27				

Table 2.--Summary of benthic invertebrate collections at Station 2 near Westport, Oregon, 31 August 1989.

Taxon	Total number	Frequency of occurrence (%)	Mean number /m ²	Standard deviation /m ²
<u>Neanthes limnicola</u>	31	100	65.1	22.8
Oligochaeta	145	100	304.5	243.4
<u>Corbicula manilensis</u>	12	100	25.2	9.4
Ostracoda	15	80	31.5	42.0
<u>Corophium salmonis</u>	1,149	100	2,412.9	715.0
Chironomidae larvae	7	80	14.7	12.0
Ephemeroptera	2	40	4.2	5.8
Number of taxa: 7				
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Mean number/m ² : 2,858.1		SD/m ² : 577.6		
H' = 0.86 SDV = 0.28 SR = 0.83 J' = 0.31				

Table 3.--Summary of benthic invertebrate (and Lampetra spp.) collections at Station 3 near Westport, Oregon, 31 August 1989.

Taxon	Total number	Frequency of occurrence (%)	Mean number /m ²	Standard deviation /m ²
<u>Neanthes limnicola</u>	1	20	2.1	4.7
Oligochaeta	178	100	373.8	326.4
<u>Corbicula manilensis</u>	5	80	10.5	7.4
<u>Neomysis mercedis</u>	2	40	4.2	5.8
<u>Corophium salmonis</u>	1,172	100	2,461.2	847.0
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Chironomidae pupae	2	20	4.2	9.4
<u>Lampetra</u> spp.	5	40	10.5	18.2

Number of taxa: 8

Mean number/sample: 273.4

Standard deviation (SD): 54.1

Mean number/m²: 2,870.7

SD/m²: 568.2

H' = 0.68 SDV = 0.25 SR = 0.97 J' = 0.23

Table 4.--Summary of benthic invertebrate (and Lampetra spp.) collections at Station 4 near Westport, Oregon, 31 August 1989.

Taxon	Total number	Frequency of occurrence (%)	Mean number /m ²	Standard deviation /m ²
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<u>Neanthes limnicola</u>	1	20	2.1	4.7
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<u>Corbicula manilensis</u>	45	100	94.5	104.7
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Heleidae larvae	1	20	2.1	4.7
Unidentified insect	1	20	2.1	4.7
<u>Lampetra</u> spp.	1	20	2.1	4.7

Number of taxa: 9

Mean number/sample: 159.4

Standard deviation (SD): 49.0

Mean number/m²: 1,673.7

SD/m²: 514.4

H' = 1.04 SDV = 0.38 SR = 1.20 J' = 0.33

Table 5.--Summary of benthic invertebrate collections at Station 5 near Westport, Oregon, 31 August 1989.

Taxon	Total number	Frequency of occurrence (%)	Mean number /m ²	Standard deviation /m ²
Oligochaeta	8	60	16.8	17.6
<u>Corbicula manilensis</u>	23	100	48.3	26.4
<u>Corophium</u> spp.	14	40	29.4	46.0
<u>Corophium salmonis</u>	796	100	1,671.6	578.0
Diptera adult	2	40	4.2	5.8
Chironomidae larvae	4	60	8.4	8.8
Heleidae larvae	24	80	50.4	40.9

Number of taxa: 7

Mean number/sample: 174.2

Standard deviation (SD): 61.1

Mean number/m²: 1,829.1

SD/m²: 641.5

H' = 0.61 SDV = 0.16 SR = 0.89 J' = 0.22

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The substrate at four of the sampling sites consisted primarily of sand; however, at Station 2, silt/clay was the most important material (Appendix Table 2). Organic content at all stations was less than 3.5%.

Results from this one survey do not adequately describe the benthic invertebrate community in shallow water between Westport, Oregon, and Puget Island, Washington. To adequately describe the benthic invertebrate community in this area, it would be necessary to sample seasonally (four seasons) for at least 2 years.

This report does not constitute NMFS's formal comment under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act or the National Environmental Policy Act.

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APPENDIX**Data Tables**

Appendix Table 1.--Depths, sampling times, and geographic locations of the five benthic sampling stations between Westport, Oregon, and Puget Island, Washington. All sampling was done on 31 August 1989.

Station	Time (h)	Depth (m)	Geographic location (lat. and long.)	
1	1000	2.7	46° 08' 13"N.	123° 22' 37"W.
2	1040	5.8	46° 08' 40"N.	123° 23' 04"W.
3	1232	1.8	46° 08' 46"N.	123° 23' 05"W.
4	1301	1.2	46° 08' 50"N.	123° 23' 03"W.
5	1330	2.7	46° 09' 13"N.	123° 22' 41"W.

Appendix Table 2.--Results of physical analyses of sediment samples (by station) collected near Westport, Oregon, 31 August 1989.

System : Columbia River						System : Columbia River					
Project: Westport, OR						Project: Westport, OR					
Station: 1						Station: 2					
Date : 31 Aug 1989						Date : 31 Aug 1989					
Depth : 2.7 m						Depth : 5.8 m					
Method: 0.1 m2 Van Veen						Method: 0.1 m2 Van Veen					

Appendix Table 2.--Continued.

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System : Columbia River      Date : 31 Aug 1989
Project: Westport, OR       Depth : 2.7 m
Station: 5                  Method: 0.1 m2 Van Veen

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Size mm	U.S. Sieve Pan #	Phi	Percent finer	Percent retained	Percent by size classification
64 mm	2-1/2 in	-6	100.0	0.0	0.0 % Rubble
32 mm	1-1/4 in	-5	100.0	0.0	0.0 % Coarse gravel
16 mm	5/8 in	-4	100.0	0.0	
8 mm	5/16 in	-3	100.0	0.0	0.0 % Medium gravel
4 mm	No. 5	-2	100.0	0.0	
2 mm	10	-1	99.8	0.2	0.2 % Fine gravel
1 mm	18	0	98.6	1.2	
0.5 mm	35	1	86.7	11.9	13.1 % Coarse sand
0.25 mm	60	2	23.9	62.8	62.8 % Medium sand
0.125 mm	120	3	1.5	22.4	
0.0625 mm	230	4	0.3	1.2	23.6 % Fine sand
<.0625 mm	<230			0.3	0.3 % Silt/clay
Gravel = 0.2 %					
Sand = 99.5 %					
Fines = 0.3 %					
0.6 % Organics					

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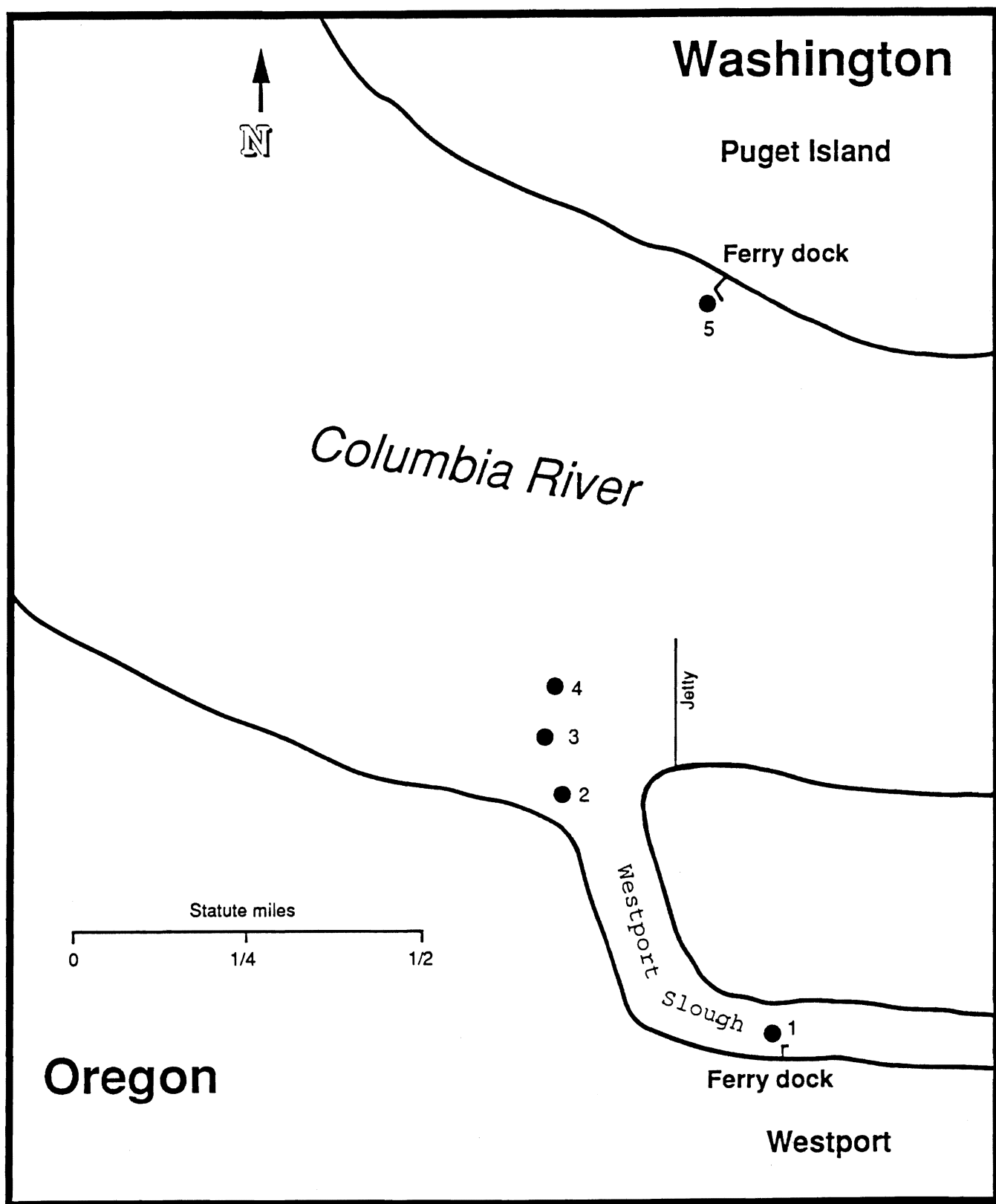


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H' = 0.86 SDV = 0.30 SR = 1.21 J' = 0.27				

Table 2.--Summary of benthic invertebrate collections at Station 2 near Westport, Oregon, 31 August 1989.

Taxon	Total number	Frequency of occurrence (%)	Mean number /m ²	Standard deviation /m ²
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Standard deviation (SD): 55.0

Mean number/m²: 2,858.1

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Table 3.--Summary of benthic invertebrate (and Lampetra spp.) collections at Station 3 near Westport, Oregon, 31 August 1989.

Taxon	Total number	Frequency of occurrence (%)	Mean number /m ²	Standard deviation /m ²
<u>Neanthes limnicola</u>	1	20	2.1	4.7
Oligochaeta	178	100	373.8	326.4
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Standard deviation (SD): 54.1

Mean number/m²: 2,870.7

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H' = 0.68 SDV = 0.25 SR = 0.97 J' = 0.23

Table 4.--Summary of benthic invertebrate (and Lampetra spp.) collections at Station 4 near Westport, Oregon, 31 August 1989.

Taxon	Total number	Frequency of occurrence (%)	Mean number /m ²	Standard deviation /m ²
Nematomorpha	1	20	2.1	4.7
<u>Neanthes limnicola</u>	1	20	2.1	4.7
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Number of taxa: 9

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Standard deviation (SD): 49.0

Mean number/m²: 1,673.7

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Table 5.--Summary of benthic invertebrate collections at Station 5 near Westport, Oregon, 31 August 1989.

Taxon	Total number	Frequency of occurrence (%)	Mean number /m ²	Standard deviation /m ²
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Number of taxa: 7

Mean number/sample: 174.2

Standard deviation (SD): 61.1

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APPENDIX

Data Tables

Appendix Table 1.--Depths, sampling times, and geographic locations of the five benthic sampling stations between Westport, Oregon, and Puget Island, Washington. All sampling was done on 31 August 1989.

Station	Time (h)	Depth (m)	Geographic location (lat. and long.)
1	1000	2.7	46° 08' 13"N. 123° 22' 37"W.
2	1040	5.8	46° 08' 40"N. 123° 23' 04"W.
3	1232	1.8	46° 08' 46"N. 123° 23' 05"W.
4	1301	1.2	46° 08' 50"N. 123° 23' 03"W.
5	1330	2.7	46° 09' 13"N. 123° 22' 41"W.

Appendix Table 2.--Results of physical analyses of sediment samples (by station) collected near Westport, Oregon, 31 August 1989.

System : Columbia River
Project: Westport, OR
Station: 1

Date : 31 Aug 1989
Depth : 2.7 m
Method: 0.1 m2 Van Veen

Size mm	U.S.Sieve Pan # Phi	Percent finer	Percent retained	Percent by size classification
64 mm	2-1/2 in -6	100.0	0.0	0.0 % Rubble
32 mm	1-1/4 in -5	100.0	0.0	0.0 % Coarse gravel
16 mm	5/8 in -4	98.8	1.2	
8 mm	5/16 in -3	97.2	1.6	2.8 % Medium gravel
4 mm	No. 5 -2	94.4	2.8	
2 mm	10 -1	91.1	3.3	6.1 % Fine gravel
1 mm	18 0	89.8	1.3	
0.5 mm	35 1	82.8	7.0	8.3 % Coarse sand
0.25 mm	60 2	44.0	38.8	38.8 % Medium sand
0.125 mm	120 3	21.5	22.5	
0.0625 mm	230 4	13.2	8.3	30.8 % Fine sand
<.0625 mm	<230		13.2	13.2 % Silt/clay
Gravel =	8.9 %			3.3 % Organics
Sand =	77.9 %			
Fines =	13.2 %			

System : Columbia River
Project: Westport, OR
Station: 2

Date : 31 Aug 1989
Depth : 5.8 m
Method: 0.1 m2 Van Veen

Size mm	U.S.Sieve Pan # Phi	Percent finer	Percent retained	Percent by size classification
64 mm	2-1/2 in -6	100.0	0.0	0.0 % Rubble
32 mm	1-1/4 in -5	100.0	0.0	0.0 % Coarse gravel
16 mm	5/8 in -4	100.0	0.0	
8 mm	5/16 in -3	100.0	0.0	0.0 % Medium gravel
4 mm	No. 5 -2	100.0	0.0	
2 mm	10 -1	100.0	0.0	0.0 % Fine gravel
1 mm	18 0	100.0	0.0	
0.5 mm	35 1	100.0	0.0	0.0 % Coarse sand
0.25 mm	60 2	99.8	0.2	0.2 % Medium sand
0.125 mm	120 3	97.1	2.7	
0.0625 mm	230 4	61.9	35.2	37.9 % Fine sand
<.0625 mm	<230		61.9	61.9 % Silt/clay
Gravel =	0.0 %			2.6 % Organics
Sand =	38.1 %			
Fines =	61.9 %			

System : Columbia River
Project: Westport, OR
Station: 3

Date : 31 Aug 1989
Depth : 1.8 m
Method: 0.1 m2 Van Veen

Size mm	U.S.Sieve Pan # Phi	Percent finer	Percent retained	Percent by size classification
64 mm	2-1/2 in -6	100.0	0.0	0.0 % Rubble
32 mm	1-1/4 in -5	100.0	0.0	0.0 % Coarse gravel
16 mm	5/8 in -4	100.0	0.0	
8 mm	5/16 in -3	100.0	0.0	0.0 % Medium gravel
4 mm	No. 5 -2	100.0	0.0	
2 mm	10 -1	100.0	0.0	0.0 % Fine gravel
1 mm	18 0	100.0	0.0	
0.5 mm	35 1	99.9	0.1	0.1 % Coarse sand
0.25 mm	60 2	99.4	0.5	0.5 % Medium sand
0.125 mm	120 3	88.2	11.2	
0.0625 mm	230 4	13.8	74.4	85.6 % Fine sand
<.0625 mm	<230		13.8	13.8 % Silt/clay
Gravel =	0.0 %			1.1 % Organics
Sand =	86.2 %			
Fines =	13.8 %			

System : Columbia River
Project: Westport, OR
Station: 4

Date : 31 Aug 1989
Depth : 1.2 m
Method: 0.1 m2 Van Veen

Size mm	U.S.Sieve Pan # Phi	Percent finer	Percent retained	Percent by size classification
64 mm	2-1/2 in -6	100.0	0.0	0.0 % Rubble
32 mm	1-1/4 in -5	100.0	0.0	0.0 % Coarse gravel
16 mm	5/8 in -4	100.0	0.0	
8 mm	5/16 in -3	100.0	0.0	0.0 % Medium gravel
4 mm	No. 5 -2	100.0	0.0	
2 mm	10 -1	100.0	0.0	0.0 % Fine gravel
1 mm	18 0	100.0	0.0	
0.5 mm	35 1	99.8	0.2	0.2 % Coarse sand
0.25 mm	60 2	99.1	0.7	0.7 % Medium sand
0.125 mm	120 3	77.8	21.3	
0.0625 mm	230 4	10.8	67.0	88.3 % Fine sand
<.0625 mm	<230		10.8	10.8 % Silt/clay
Gravel =	0.0 %			0.6 % Organics
Sand =	89.2 %			
Fines =	10.8 %			

Appendix Table 2.--Continued.

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System : Columbia River	Date : 31 Aug 1989
Project: Westport, OR	Depth : 2.7 m
Station: 5	Method: 0.1 m2 Van Veen

Size mm	U.S.Sieve Pan #	Phi	Percent finer	Percent retained	Percent by size classification
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64 mm	2-1/2 in	-6	100.0	0.0	0.0 % Rubble
32 mm	1-1/4 in	-5	100.0	0.0	0.0 % Coarse gravel
16 mm	5/8 in	-4	100.0	0.0	
8 mm	5/16 in	-3	100.0	0.0	0.0 % Medium gravel
4 mm	No. 5	-2	100.0	0.0	
2 mm	10	-1	99.8	0.2	0.2 % Fine gravel
1 mm	18	0	98.6	1.2	
0.5 mm	35	1	86.7	11.9	13.1 % Coarse sand
0.25 mm	60	2	23.9	62.8	62.8 % Medium sand
0.125 mm	120	3	1.5	22.4	
0.0625 mm	230	4	0.3	1.2	23.6 % Fine sand
<.0625 mm	<230			0.3	0.3 % Silt/clay

Gravel =	0.2 %	0.6 % Organics
Sand =	99.5 %	
Fines =	0.3 %	

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