

flow control. That project was completed in 1962 and the real proof of whether this type of enchancement of natural conditions will work, will be coming this year and next, when the first returns of the adult fish which spawned in those new areas will be entering the fishery and coming back to the stream.

We will know far better, in a couple of years, how successful these projects have been. So far, the fresh water survival is being substantially increased, but will the production of adult fish, coming back, be increased? We cannot yet answer that question with certainty.

Mr. BARNETT: I just wanted to ask, Mr. Chairman, seeing that Big Qualicum has been mentioned, whether this year's estimates include any funds for increasing the spawning channel area in the Big Qualicum development. I understand there is room for expansion and I was wondering whether this was part of the construction vote for this year?

Mr. LUCAS: Well, Mr. Chairman, we do have plans prepared for an extension of the spawning grounds at Big Qualicum if and when the need can be shown by the return of fish. We have postponed further expenditure there until such time as we do get our returns from these runs, which are now at sea. There is ample room for the first returns, and if those returns are optimistic, then we will probably be going ahead and asking for funds to extend the facilities there.

Mr. CHATTERTON: My question concerns Gold Stream which enters into the Pennington Arm. Whether this is a fact or not, perhaps you can tell me, but old timers tell me that the runs going up there now are only a fraction of what they were twenty or forty years ago.

Further, I understand the Greater Victoria Water Board which, I believe, owns just about all the watershed to Gold Stream, will be abandoning that watershed in a few years. Is the department giving consideration to the taking over of the watershed, at least from the point of view of rehabilitating the spawning facilities in the Gold Stream?

Mr. C. R. LEVELTON (*Director, Conservation and Protection, Fisheries Department*): It is true there has been a decline in the spawning populations of chum salmon in Gold Stream. This is not an isolated case; it occurred in common with the chum salmon production on the entire southern coast of British Columbia and, to some degree, on the northern British Columbia coast. So I would not say the cause lies in that stream alone; it is a rather general and widespread picture.

As for the Victoria Water Board abandoning the stream, I am not, at the moment, familiar with this matter so I cannot answer that part of your question, Mr. Chatterton.

Mr. CHATTERTON: You are not then aware of their plans, which call for the abandoning of the Gold Stream as a source of water and relying entirely on the Sooke Lakes? If you are not aware of it, could I ask that some contact be made with them to see if there is a possibility of your department taking over when they do abandon their Gold Stream watershed?

Mr. LUCAS: The department was aware of these proposals and have had a few general discussions but the situation is not as clear-cut as you describe. I believe other problems are involved. It is not just a matter of a total turnover.