

Dr. PRITCHARD: We do see a problem, and that is why we are very keen on the alternate recommendation, because we feel—and I think that the engineers agree—that the present dyking system has to be brought up to the standard. If they do that, then they will not want the Stuart lake dam, and we would fight for that rather than put it in, although we feel that we could pass them. But there is still a tremendous run of fish there. In some years it has amounted to almost one million.

Mr. HOWARD: The dam, as indicated at 104, which is on the lower McGregor, as I understand it, is a 450 feet dam.

Dr. PRITCHARD: Yes.

Mr. HOWARD: I understood the minister to say that the higher the dam the greater the problem, all other things being considered too. Would it be the intention or the thought to establish fish passages of some nature for this particular dam, to the lower McGregor?

Dr. PRITCHARD: I do not think that at the moment we can say whether it would be absolutely essential to have fish passages through that dam on the basis of the spawning area; but I can say this: that there are relatively few that go above it. If it were necessary, we would resort to something else, like fish lifts. But at the present time it is our opinion that it may not be necessary to establish these.

Mr. HOWARD: That would mean the abandonment of that area as a spawning ground.

Dr. PRITCHARD: For salmon.

Mr. HOWARD: Yes. I am thinking only of migratory fish.

Dr. PRITCHARD: Yes, with respect to migratory fish. But the Clearwater has never supported migratory fish in large runs in that area.

Mr. HOWARD: I am talking about the lower McGregor.

Dr. PRITCHARD: I was thinking of the other one, which is the Clearwater.

Mr. HOWARD: The lower McGregor dam is a 450 foot dam, as I understand it. You will find that on page 107.

Dr. PRITCHARD: Yes, I have it here. Major dam sites: lower McGregor dam site, 104.

Mr. HOWARD: Yes. On page 104, I read as follows:

The downstream one, known as lower McGregor site, lies at the head of the lower canyon some 16 miles above the junction of the McGregor river with the Fraser river and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles above Woodall creek. For the narrow valley with its steep, heavily wooded slopes, a rock filled dam some 450 feet in height is judged most suitable.

Dr. PRITCHARD: The same argument holds there. This is pretty well up the McGregor, and most of the fish spawn below that.

Mr. HOWARD: Insofar as the McGregor is concerned, the area above that as a spawning ground is inconsequential.

Dr. PRITCHARD: May I answer your question this way: we, in the Department of Fisheries, do not consider that the loss of any spawning ground is inconsequential. We think that in the light of the economics of development and the effect it may have elsewhere that we should take a look at it and see if we cannot get fish up there or take a chance on a few eggs being destroyed.

Mr. HOWARD: In the discussion we had before you were talking about the Clearwater.

Dr. PRITCHARD: The Clearwater situation is just the same there.

Mr. BROWNE (*Vancouver-Kingsway*): I think it might be helpful to the committee if the minister could outline the exact responsibility of the two