

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
INTRAOFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: September 29, 1960

TO: George Warner, Fisheries Management Supervisor

FROM: Walter Thomsen, Pollution Bioanalyst III

SUBJECT: Underwater Survey

Tahoe Keys

As a possible project for SCUBA divers, Jim White and Ray Nilsson, during their training dives, it is suggested that an investigation of the effects of siltation due to Tahoe Keys dredging activities be made. Hugh Thomas may also be interested in this project as he has had considerable SCUBA diving experience. Lake Tahoe is an excellent location for practice diving offering both clear and turbid water, shallow, and deep water, good shore access by auto, and facilities for rental of boats if needed. Valuable observations can possibly be made to determine the degree of siltation as well as its effects on the fishery. Although we know that considerable siltation occurred last year, we have no quantitative measure of the amount and do not know if it was damaging to the fishery.

Possible problems which may be worked out are as follows:

1. Establish present conditions to enable determination of future changes.
2. Compare shore and offshore bottom areas near Tahoe Keys with such areas near other tributaries to Lake Tahoe.
3. Determine if sludge banks will be formed by the dredging to be done later this year to connect the Keys to the Lake. The recently established waste discharge requirements prohibit accrual of sludge banks, and present conditions should be established to permit comparison.
4. Observe effect of silted area on repellency or attractiveness to fish. Quantitative determinations should be made if possible by counting and identification and comparing with other areas.
5. Observe effect on spawning run up Upper Truckee.
6. Measure depth of silt deposits if possible.
7. Determine effect on plants, delimit areas in which plants are growing and identify species.
8. Determine effect of plants on fishery. Do plants attract fish, providing food and cover?

This project could be made quite extensive if time and facilities permit and would provide valuable information as well as excellent training.

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