

6. Justine Barton also provided a brief overview of PSDDA approved reference areas, and other potential reference areas (enclosure 12). Ecology and EPA (PSEP) are currently doing studies in a number of reference areas, and Ecology will conduct a workshop on reference areas sometime in October 1990.

Grain size matching. The importance of matching test sediment grain sizes with an appropriate reference area was stressed, and agents/practitioners conducting bioassays should closely coordinate the collection of reference samples with the Corps' Data Manager particularly when collection of reference samples from other than approved PSDDA reference areas is proposed. A crude field wet sieving technique for determining percent fine grain material was discussed, which should help in better matching project test and reference sediment grain sizes (enclosure 13). It was also pointed out that reference samples must be collected subtidally.

Positioning of reference samples. The importance of accurately locating reference area samples was emphasized, in order to track their performance relative to specific projects, and to relocate satisfactorily performing reference stations. Tim Thompson (Parametrix) indicated that LORAN-C appeared to be adequate for most areas they have used as reference areas except Samish Bay. He suggested that LORAN-C coordinates be reported in lieu of Lat./Long. to facilitate relocating stations. Since LORAN-C is not a standardized navigation/positioning requirement for locating stations, PSDDA will continue to require the reporting of all sediment sampling locations in Latitude/ Longitude. Microwave navigation positioning and/or ranges to fixed locations with known coordinates were also suggested as acceptable methods of locating reference stations.

10. David Kendall then provided a summary wrap up of the workshop. The following items discussed in detail in this memo should be considered in the finalized PSEP bioassay protocols, and will be reviewed for adoption at the next PSDDA Annual Review Meeting. The PSDDA Data Manager will send out a letter soon providing guidance to workshop participants and labs doing bioassays relative to protocol clarifications discussed at the workshop.

E. Reference Sediment Samples

- a. Collect subtidally
- b. Grain size matching w/test sediments