

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
U. S. COAST GUARD

Statement of RADM Edward Scheiderer

For presentation to
Subcommittee on Water Resources of the Senate
Committee on Public Works
(June 8, 1973)

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I appreciate the privilege of appearing before you today to support the U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers' project for erosion control on Ediz Hook, Port Angeles, Washington.

The Coast Guard has operated Port Angeles Air Station which is located on the easterly end of Ediz Hook since the late 1930's. The missions of this important station are Search and Rescue, Marine Environmental Protection, Law Enforcement and support functions for Group Port Angeles. The Coast Guard operates aircraft and boats from this facility in support of these missions.

As indicated on page 3 of the August 1972 final Environmental Impact Statement on the Ediz Hook beach erosion control project, the station responded to 384 Search and Rescue cases which resulted in 36 lives saved and over \$3 million worth of property assisted from July 1969 to June 1970.

During the last four years Ediz Hook has been subjected to storm and tidal action resulting in damage to the spit and roadway. Erosion of the sand spit continues to be a major concern for the Coast Guard. If the sand spit is breached, then land access to the air station would be severed, thereby, adversely affecting our operational and support capability.

As reported on page 6 of the Environmental Statement, the Coast Guard has spent \$242,000 in repairing storm damage and bolstering protective works along the shoreline during the summers of 1970 and 1971. Since that time the Coast Guard has spent an additional \$98,000 repairing storm damage on Ediz Hook.

Port Angeles Air Station is vital in executing the Coast Guard missions in the Strait of Juan de Fuca area. I am confident that the erosion control project before you will provide added protection to Ediz Hook and the access road to the Air Station. The Department of Transportation and the Coast Guard endorse this project.