

LOCATION AND AREA OF WASHINGTON TIDE MARSHES.

At Baker's bay, near the mouth of the Columbia river, are two considerable tracts of tide marsh land. These are, first, those on Wallcut river, 1,650 acres; second, those on Cheenok river, 1,475 acres, making about 3,125 acres on the Washington side of the Columbia river. Around Shoalwater bay are tide marsh lands as follows:

| | Acres. |
|--|--------|
| West and south of it..... | 1,549 |
| On Bear river..... | 979 |
| On Bone and Palix rivers..... | 2,509 |
| On and near Naselle and Nama rivers..... | 1,300 |
| On Willapa river..... | 8,000 |

There are also several thousand acres of brush and spruce tide or marsh lands on the east side of the bay. The total tide marsh lands of Shoalwater bay are 15,000 acres of open marsh and 5,000 or more acres of spruce marsh.

Around Gray's harbor are many tracts of tide marsh land, as follows:

| | Acres. |
|--|--------|
| On its south side, Elk creek..... | 80 |
| On its south side, John's creek..... | 2,000 |
| On its south side, Redman's creek..... | 1,000 |
| O' Larry's, Nuskah's, Metcalf's and Joe's creeks, all on its south side..... | 25,000 |
| East side, on Chehalis river..... | 20,000 |
| North side, Wiskah river..... | 7,000 |
| North side, Fry's creek..... | 2,000 |
| North side, Hoquiam river..... | 8,000 |
| North side, Grass creek..... | 1,500 |
| North side, Humptulips river..... | 5,500 |
| West side, near entrance to Gray's harbor..... | 500 |

This makes a total of 73,100 acres of tide marsh land in the Gray's harbor region. Of all this about 20,000 are tide marsh prairie. Something like the same amount is covered with small brush or scattering timber, and the balance is spruce tide marsh, covered with heavy timber.

On the ocean coast, from Gray's harbor northward, are many small tracts of tide marsh land, in all not exceeding 20,000 acres.

At the mouth of Quilleutte river, and on the Neah bay Indian reservation, along Sues river and Wyatch creek, are considerable tracts of tide marsh land.

Tide marsh lands are found on the south side of the straits of Fuca, at Pysht river, Dungeness river, Squim bay and Port Discovery bay. The total at these and other places is less than 2,000 acres.

From Port Townsend southward to Hood's canal, and around all the canal, might be found 2,000 acres.

On the west side of the sound, between Foulweather bluff and the Narrows there are 1,000 acres of tide marsh.

Above the Narrows are 600 acres of tide marsh lands, not including Nesqually.

On the east side of Puget sound the area and location of tide lands may be described as follows:

| | Acres. |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Pierce County-- | |
| On Nesqually river..... | 1,200 |
| On Puyallup river..... | 2,500 |
| King County-- | |
| On Duwamish river..... | 1,000 |
| Rest of King county..... | 20 |
| Snohomish County-- | |
| South of Snohomish river..... | 20 |
| On Snohomish river..... | 11,000 |
| On Stillaguamish river..... | 6,000 |
| Skagit County-- | |
| On Skagit river..... | 12,000 |
| On Swinomish falls..... | 11,000 |
| On islands..... | 1,000 |
| In Samish valley..... | 8,000 |
| In Beaver marsh..... | 1,000 |

Other Counties--

| | |
|---------------|-------|
| Whatcom..... | 4,000 |
| Island..... | 4,000 |
| San Juan..... | 600 |

These estimates are very small for Skagit county tide marsh lands. The Beaver marsh is east of Pleasant ridge. Only a part, before it was reclaimed, was covered by tide. Some of it is spruce marsh and some fresh water marsh. There are not far from 6,000 acres in the whole tract, including all these kinds of lands. It is now nearly all in cultivation. There are numerous tracts west and north of the Beaver marsh of similar character. Also, on the Samish there are 6,000 acres of nearly open marsh, the improving of which makes possible the clearing and cultivation of spruce and other timber land just back of it and but little higher than the open marsh. In its most extended sense the Samish tide marsh lands may be estimated to contain 10,000 acres. As all these lands are benefited by dikes in front of them, and can not be improved until such dikes are built, many tracts east of the Swinomish may be included, and elsewhere, which are now really protected by dikes or levees, so that in all of Skagit county the total of all kinds of tide lands may be called 50,000 acres.

Some of these estimates are greater than those given years ago, because then the tide marshes covered with heavy spruce timber were deemed almost worthless. Now, when men have learned how to clear this at a reasonable expense, this class of land is considered to be very valuable, and, when cleared, the most valuable of all. In estimates made years ago, only the marshes covered with a light growth or with scattering spruce timber were included. In the larger Gray's harbor and Skagit county estimates here given, more spruce lands are included.

Thus the total area of all tide marsh lands west of the coast range amounts to 120,000 acres. The area of Puget sound tide marshes, including all tracts of spruce tide marsh, in round numbers, is about 100,000 acres, fully one-half of which is in Skagit county. Much fresh water marsh and ordinary river bottom land on Skagit river needs to be protected against the high summer freshets of that river. That is, there are 150,000 acres in that county that require dikes against tides or levees against overflow before their cultivation can be considered fully secure.

Out of the 200,000 acres of tide marsh land in this state, there are not over 100,000 acres of open tide marsh where no clearing was necessary, over one-half of which is west of the coast range of mountains. Nearly three-fourths of the ocean coast tide marshes are found in the Gray's harbor region. They are one-half greater than all Skagit county tide lands.—*Eldredge Morse, in Tacoma Ledger.*

PROTECTION FOR SALMON.

The Washington legislature has passed a bill for the protection of salmon in the Columbia river, concurrently with Oregon, and at other points along the coast. In general the provisions of the law are that it shall not be lawful to take, or fish for, salmon in the Columbia river or its tributaries, between March 1st and April 10th of each year; and during the weekly close time, viz.: between six o'clock p. m. Saturday and six o'clock p. m. Sunday. It shall be unlawful to catch, kill or in any manner destroy any salmon on or within one mile below any rack or other obstruction erected across any stream or river for the purpose of obtaining fish for propagation. The close season on Shoalwater bay and its tributary rivers, is made from November 15th to December 15th. It shall not be lawful for any pound net, set net, trap, weir, wheel or other fixed appliance for taking fish, to extend more than one-third of the way across the breadth of any stream, channel