

IN THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES

In the Matter of: )  
)  
DAVE ERLANSON, SR. ) Docket No. CWA-10-2016-0109  
)

Courtroom 4  
Jefferson County Courthouse  
210 Courthouse Way  
Rigby, Idaho

Wednesday,  
May 15, 2019

The parties met, pursuant to notice of the  
Court, at 8:28 a.m.

BEFORE: HONORABLE CHRISTINE D. COUGHLIN  
Administrative Law Judge

APPEARANCES:  
For the Agency:  
WILLIAM McLAREN, Esquire  
MATTHEW MOORE, Esquire  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Suite 900 ORC-113  
Seattle, Washington 98101  
(206) 553-1938  
For the Respondent:  
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E X H I B I T S

COMPLAINANT

EXHIBITS:	IDENTIFIED	RECEIVED
1A	450	450
1B	451	451
1C	452	452
16	414	415
17	415	416
19	438	439
20	440	441
33	410	411

RESPONDENT

EXHIBITS:	IDENTIFIED	RECEIVED
2	521	Withdrawn, 537
4 through 9	521	Withdrawn, 537

C O N T E N T S

VOIR

WITNESSES: DIRECT CROSS REDIRECT RE CROSS DIRE

For the Agency:

Dan Kenney  
(Continuing) 332 346 379 390 --  
David Lee Arthaud 409 485 513 515 --

P R O C E E D I N G S

1  
2 (8:28 a.m.)  
3 JUDGE COUGHLIN: And we're reconvening  
4 Wednesday, May 15th. We're actually getting started a  
5 couple of minutes ahead of time. It's about 8:28 or  
6 so, and the parties are present and ready to go, I  
7 assume.  
8 MR. MOORE: Yes.  
9 MR. McLAREN: Yes, Your Honor.  
10 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Yes? Okay. Great. So, I  
11 think when we adjourned or recessed last evening, you  
12 were -- Mr. Moore, you were in the midst of your  
13 direct of Mr. Kenney, right?  
14 MR. MOORE: Correct.  
15 JUDGE COUGHLIN: So, Mr. Kenney, would you  
16 like to approach, and I'll just remind you that you  
17 remain under oath. You were sworn yesterday. So,  
18 that remains and through the rest of the proceeding.  
19 THE WITNESS: I understand.  
20 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. So I'll just let Mr.  
21 Moore go ahead and pick up. I assume there's nothing  
22 to discuss before we get started. From Complainant?  
23 MR. MOORE: No.  
24 JUDGE COUGHLIN: No. And from Mr. Erlanson?  
25 MR. ERLANSON: Oh, no, Your Honor.

1 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. All right. Great.  
 2 Please go ahead Mr. Moore.  
 3 Whereupon,  
 4 DAN KENNEY  
 5 having been previously been duly sworn, was  
 6 recalled as a witness herein and was examined and  
 7 testified as follows:  
 8 DIRECT EXAMINATION (RESUMES)  
 9 BY MR. MOORE:  
 10 Q Good morning, Mr. Kenney.  
 11 A Good morning.  
 12 Q When we left off, we were discussing  
 13 Complainant's Exhibit 21. So I'll have you turn back  
 14 to Complainant's Exhibit 21, please.  
 15 (Pause.)  
 16 Q Mr. Kenney, just to remind the Court, what  
 17 is Complainant's Exhibit 21?  
 18 A This is the Biological Assessment that was  
 19 written by and submitted by the Forest Service and BLM  
 20 for the -- excuse me -- for the approval of up to 15  
 21 suction dredging operations annually on the South Fork  
 22 Clearwater River.  
 23 Q Did the proposed plan of operation include  
 24 any mitigation measures intended to mitigate the types  
 25 of harm that you testified were caused by Mr.

1 Erlanson?  
 2 A Yes, that is the intent.  
 3 Q Can you turn to where those mitigation  
 4 measures are included in the BA? I think we'd be  
 5 looking at Page 1138 of this exhibit.  
 6 A Yes, I've got it.  
 7 Q And specifically can you look at Mitigation  
 8 Measure Number 1. What's required by Mitigation  
 9 Measure Number 1?  
 10 A That requires that the -- each miner who  
 11 receives or -- excuse me -- who submits a plan of  
 12 operation would sign off on the -- the compliance with  
 13 the various terms and conditions of the plans of --  
 14 plan of operation prior to the Forest Service, the BLM  
 15 approving that plan of operation.  
 16 Q And what was the harm that the Forest  
 17 Service was hoping to mitigate by including Mitigation  
 18 Measure Number 1?  
 19 A We were trying to ensure that the miners  
 20 would read and understand, to ask questions if they  
 21 didn't understand those terms and conditions and be  
 22 aware of what they were agreeing to comply with.  
 23 Q And, in your opinion, Dr. Mr. Erlanson mine  
 24 in a manner that was consistent with Measure Number 1?  
 25 A No. He -- he was not consistent with that.

1 Q What's required by Mitigation Measure Number  
 2 3?  
 3 A Mitigation Number 3 requires that a Forest  
 4 Service or BLM biologist inspect and what we term  
 5 delineate a suction dredging reach for each mining  
 6 operation prior to the start of the mining. And  
 7 during that delineation the biologist would take a  
 8 look at the site that the miner wanted to dredge and  
 9 to assess whether there were particular areas within  
 10 that reach which had a greater potential to harm  
 11 ESA-listed and other sensitive fish and invertebrate  
 12 species, and then the biologist would exclude those  
 13 areas within the larger dredging reach from dredging  
 14 or provide other sorts of instructions to the miner to  
 15 mitigate the harm within that reach.  
 16 Q It may be obvious in your last response, but  
 17 what is the harm that the Forest Service was intending  
 18 to mitigate by including that Measure Number 3?  
 19 A Well, the disturbance associated with  
 20 suction dredging is inherent. The suction dredger  
 21 digs up the stream bottom which has various organisms  
 22 associated with it and discharges materials that moves  
 23 materials to a different place in the stream channel.  
 24 So, the -- the mining activities inherently disrupts  
 25 it to the habitat and sometimes to the actual bodies

1 of the -- of the organisms.  
 2 Q And, to your knowledge, did Mr. Erlanson  
 3 mine in a manner consistent with Measure Number 3?  
 4 A No. The delineation was not performed.  
 5 Q Can you tell me what's required by  
 6 Mitigation Measures Numbers 7, 8 and 9?  
 7 A Yes. They primarily deal with  
 8 rehabilitation and other mining activities on the  
 9 site. Also there is a section having to deal with the  
 10 location of the mining areas in relationship to  
 11 tributaries to the South Fork --  
 12 Q I'm sorry. Go ahead.  
 13 A Okay. In particular, it requires that the  
 14 dredge holes be filled not at the end of every day but  
 15 at the end of that particular -- the use of that  
 16 particular dredge hole and at the end of the season  
 17 filled with the material that has been moved out of  
 18 the dredge hole either by manually or through using  
 19 the suction dredge to pick up the finer material to  
 20 place it back in the hole. Also it requires that  
 21 certain treatment of the tailings, whether those are  
 22 fine tailings or -- or manipulated larger pieces of  
 23 material to reduce the potential for the -- adversely  
 24 affecting the ability of fish to move through the  
 25 stream and also to reduce the amount of stream bottom

1 that is covered by those tailings.  
 2 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Bless you.  
 3 BY MR. MOORE:  
 4 Q And what's the harm that the Forest Service  
 5 hoped to mitigate by requiring the rehabilitation that  
 6 you discussed?  
 7 A Well, again, the -- the mining itself,  
 8 there's a certain amount of disruption of the stream  
 9 bottom associated with it inherently. But if we can  
 10 have the miner restore the site to as close to the  
 11 original additional -- of the original condition as  
 12 possible, we believe that that would tend to reduce  
 13 the long-term impacts of the dredging.  
 14 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Could I interject with one  
 15 quick question? When you talked about reducing the  
 16 amount of the stream bed that's covered by the  
 17 tailings --  
 18 THE WITNESS: Uh-huh.  
 19 JUDGE COUGHLIN: -- how exactly would that  
 20 be mitigated? I mean, I understand the concept of  
 21 filling the hole. But with regard to the tailings,  
 22 how do you mitigate that in practice?  
 23 THE WITNESS: Well, one -- one was a  
 24 requirement to minimize to a certain depth riffle  
 25 areas, so basically saying there, don't cover up

1 riffles more than a certain amount in their operation.  
 2 And then the other main part of it is that whatever  
 3 was convenient timing for the miner and definitely at  
 4 the end of the mining season to take those tailings,  
 5 the finer tailings and -- and suction them up and put  
 6 them back in the hole. So, your -- the tailings pile  
 7 that's in the photos would then be -- it would be  
 8 possible for the miner to remove those back to the  
 9 hole.  
 10 JUDGE COUGHLIN: I see. Okay. Thank you.  
 11 THE WITNESS: Uh-huh.  
 12 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Please go ahead, Mr. Moore.  
 13 BY MR. MOORE:  
 14 Q And, Mr. Kenney, in regard to the Judge's  
 15 question, when you observed impacts at Mr. Erlanson's  
 16 site, did the volume of the pile equal the volume  
 17 removed from the hole?  
 18 A No. If I recall the figures, the -- the  
 19 amount that we measured in the pile was about a third,  
 20 I believe, of what we calculated was in the hole.  
 21 Q So, where does the rest of that material go?  
 22 A It's -- it's impossible for me to say  
 23 exactly how Mr. Erlanson dredged beyond what Mr.  
 24 Hughes saw on July 22nd, but often a miner will  
 25 progress a hole, usually in an upstream manner,

1 sometimes laterally, and fill in behind with those  
 2 tailings. So, some of the materials may have been  
 3 moved back into the -- well, I'm sorry. I'm -- I'm  
 4 saying this wrong.  
 5 Part of the answer is that some of the  
 6 material that was dredged could have been tossed off  
 7 to the side and not of the manipulatable size could  
 8 have been tossed off to an area that is not in the  
 9 tailings possibly we're not able to assess the volume  
 10 of, and some of it may have been in the form of -- of  
 11 the turbidity that was carried farther downstream and  
 12 away from the tailings pile. And part of it was  
 13 probably -- our methods that were as -- it's not a  
 14 matter of saying here's -- here's exactly what was  
 15 taken out versus here's exactly what we see left.  
 16 Q What's required by Mitigation Measure Number  
 17 13? It would be on the following page.  
 18 A It says, "Operators must visually monitor  
 19 the stream for 150 feet downstream in the dredging or  
 20 sluicing operation." This is intended to alert the  
 21 miner that he -- that the turbidity is to be minimized  
 22 and so to -- for the -- the miner to monitor that  
 23 turbidity plume as much as possible and then to stop  
 24 dredging at least -- at least momentarily in order to  
 25 reduce the volumes of that plume.

1 Q Would a plume extending over 220 feet  
 2 violate this mitigation measure?  
 3 A Yes. A visible plume of 220 feet is more  
 4 than 150 feet.  
 5 Q What's required by Mitigation Measure Number  
 6 15?  
 7 A "Operators must maintain a minimum of  
 8 spacing of at least 800 linear feet of stream channel  
 9 between active mining operations." That's intended to  
 10 reduce the cumulative effects of the mining in -- in  
 11 the operation of the -- of this -- this construct of  
 12 15 dredgers per season. It's intended to space things  
 13 out such that the effects are not concentrated.  
 14 Q Did Mr. Erlanson mine in a manner that was  
 15 consistent with Measure Number 15?  
 16 A No. Looking at Mr. Hughes' report, it's  
 17 evident that Mr. Rice is only a few dozen feet,  
 18 dredging only a few dozen feet upstream from Mr.  
 19 Erlanson.  
 20 Q And by failing to comply with the mitigation  
 21 measures that we discussed, would a suction dredge  
 22 operation cause increased harm to ESA-listed species  
 23 in the South Fork?  
 24 A I'm sorry. Did it increase harm?  
 25 Q I'll repeat the question.

1 A Please.

2 Q By failing to comply with the mitigation

3 measures that we discussed, would a suction dredge

4 operation cause increased harm to ESA-listed species

5 in the South Fork?

6 A That is the intent, yes, and I believe it

7 would -- it would -- it would lead to that effect,

8 yes.

9 Q Thank you. So I'm going to turn you back to

10 your report, Complainant's Exhibit Number 37, and

11 specifically Page 1519.

12 A I'm sorry. Could you repeat the page

13 number?

14 Q 1519.

15 A Yes.

16 Q Besides Hole Number 5 and Pile Number 7, did

17 you observe other evidence of dredging at Site Number

18 14?

19 A Yes. My technicians named five holes in

20 total and seven tailing piles in total, and it's --

21 the naming, the delineation of any of those holes

22 could be -- it possibly could have one, two or more of

23 these features together that are otherwise impossible

24 to tell apart. So, yes, there were more sites.

25 Q And in general numbers were the other holes

1 and tailings piles similar in size to the hole and

2 pile that Mr. Erlanson was photographed dredging?

3 A Some were larger. Some were smaller. But

4 in general they were of a comparable size.

5 Q And so would those features have impacts

6 similar to the impacts that were caused by the

7 creation of Hole 5 and Pile 7?

8 A As a general matter, yes, I believe so.

9 Q And were there indication that those holes

10 and piles were created during the 2015 dredge season?

11 A They were created when? I'm sorry.

12 Q During the 2015 dredge season.

13 A Yes, I -- I believe that they were. As I've

14 talked about before, the -- the evidence of the

15 tailings piles is -- is at least in part the light

16 color of the material against the darker background of

17 the algae-covered rocks. And so, tailings piles,

18 fresh tailings piles are -- are fairly noticeable but

19 they do tend to fade over time, especially with the --

20 with subsequent high flows.

21 Q Thank you. While we're talking about your

22 study, I think throughout your testimony you've

23 described some of the data that you collected as crude

24 or you've commented on the accuracy of it. Do you

25 think that the accuracy of your data was appropriate

1 for the purpose for which it was being used?

2 A Yes, I do.

3 Q How so?

4 A Well, I -- this was not intended to be a

5 study, a research study that could be published in a

6 journal. It was to provide me some information on

7 which to base our -- our proposed dredging program and

8 also to -- to get a better idea of what might be

9 possible in a relatively large stream like this one as

10 opposed to the smaller streams that we have suction

11 dredging programs on that I was more familiar with.

12 Q And, sir, in your opinion, did the accuracy

13 of your data render the information unreliable in any

14 way?

15 A No. The -- the intent was to gain an idea

16 of the level of magnitude of the effects and also the

17 persistence of -- the data that I gathered I believe

18 was consistent with that goal.

19 Q And, in your opinion, was the data helpful

20 in -- in analyzing the impacts of Mr. Erlanson's

21 dredging activity?

22 A Were -- were the -- were the data helpful?

23 Is that what you said?

24 Q Was it helpful in analyzing the impacts of

25 Mr. Erlanson's dredging activities?

1 A Yes. It -- it gave me an idea of what was

2 possible at that site and the consistency of the

3 tailings piles that would -- that would be created at

4 that site. Also an idea of the magnitude of the area

5 that might be disturbed.

6 Q And did you also use the same data in

7 drafting the Biological Assessment?

8 A To a slight extent. The -- the other

9 suction dredging areas that we had previously had

10 consultations and NEPA treatment of, the consultations

11 included requirements to stay under a certain square

12 footage of bottom disturbed by -- by the permitted

13 suction dredging. And so, it gave me an idea of -- of

14 about how ten or so dredgers, how much bottom would be

15 disturbed in a similar number of dredgers on the South

16 Fork in our consultations.

17 Q And you found that your data was

18 sufficiently reliable for that purpose?

19 A Yes, absolutely.

20 Q And earlier you characterized certain

21 impacts from Mr. Erlanson's dredging activity as

22 small. Can you describe the scope of your

23 characterization?

24 A When I was talking about -- I was talking

25 about the specific Hole Number 5 and Tailings Pile

1 Number 7, that area. So, it -- when comparing that  
2 particular area, I'm saying and thinking on the scale  
3 of the proposed project area of 40-some miles on the  
4 South Fork and on the -- on the area that's most --  
5 most commonly dredged on the South Fork, the actual  
6 area of disturbance is relatively small.

7 Q And so, if you're focusing just on the site  
8 level at Site 14, would you characterize the impacts  
9 of Mr. Erlanson's dredging as small?

10 A On that site level, no. The -- the hole and  
11 the tailings pile are visually evident and completely  
12 transformed from what was previous -- what it looked  
13 like previously, although I haven't seen it but what  
14 is generally what is on either side and above and  
15 below that site. So, the -- the actual impacts of  
16 those dredge features is profound.

17 Q In fact, is it your opinion that Mr.  
18 Erlanson's impacts extended even beyond Site Number  
19 14?

20 A Yes, I believe so, yes.

21 Q How so?

22 A Well, in particular the tailings pile did --  
23 was not present in 2016 as a -- as a -- a pile, at  
24 depth -- excuse me -- as a pile with thickness  
25 compared to what it was in 2015. So, that finer

1 sediment, mostly sand, was carried downstream and  
2 would incrementally add to the -- the fine sediment  
3 burden of -- of the South Fork.

4 MR. MOORE: I have no further questions,  
5 Your Honor.

6 JUDGE COUGHLIN: All right. Mr. Erlanson,  
7 questions for Mr. Kenney?

8 MR. ERLANSON: Yes. There's a lot of  
9 material here to go over. To save time for the Court,  
10 I'm going to address just a couple of things.

11 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. Mr. Erlanson, can  
12 you speak up a little bit?

13 MR. ERLANSON: Yeah.

14 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry.

15 MR. ERLANSON: To save time -- can you --  
16 can you hear me now? Is this thing, like, on?

17 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Thank you. And, Mr.  
18 Erlanson, we have plenty of time. So, I don't want  
19 you to curtail because the witness has testified to  
20 quite a bit. So --

21 THE WITNESS: Yes.

22 JUDGE COUGHLIN: So, I mean, if you want to  
23 curtail your questions, that's your choice, but don't  
24 -- don't do that fearing that we don't have adequate  
25 time because we do have plenty. Okay?

1 THE WITNESS: Okay.

2 JUDGE COUGHLIN: So, ask what you want.

3 THE WITNESS: Okay. Can -- can you hear me,  
4 Mr. Kenney?

5 THE WITNESS: Yes.

6 MR. ERLANSON: Okay.

7 CROSS-EXAMINATION

8 BY MR. ERLANSON:

9 Q Well, I'll start with the hole. Let's go  
10 back to these -- do you still have a copy of these big  
11 photographs?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Not that one. Where is -- this one here.  
14 Let me get the right one here. Can you see the one  
15 with the big plume from Mr. Rice's dredge upstream of  
16 my -- does that -- that appear to be the same one?

17 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. So, and once again,  
18 I know the blow-ups are helpful for the testimony, but  
19 I need to be able to refer to it with regard to what's  
20 actually in the -- in the exhibits. So, you're --  
21 you're talking about this one, Mr. Erlanson?

22 THE WITNESS: Yes, I am.

23 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. And so, this  
24 corresponds to what in terms of what's in evidence?

25 MR. McLAREN: Your Honor, we're willing to

1 provide that.

2 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.

3 MR. McLAREN: That skips 01 and I believe  
4 it's at Page 5 -- Page 6, 0005 of that exhibit.

5 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. So, let me just --

6 MR. McLAREN: Oh, pardon me. That's Page 6  
7 of that exhibit.

8 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Thank you. Let me  
9 just --

10 MR. McLAREN: And it's the top left  
11 photograph.

12 JUDGE COUGHLIN: All right. Great. Let me  
13 just pull that up here quickly so I can follow along  
14 in both ways. Okay. Page 6. I'm leaving out the  
15 zeroes because I'm a little lazy this morning. Okay.  
16 So, Page 6, top left, did you say, or top right?

17 MR. McLAREN: I believe Mr. Hughes'  
18 testimony established that it was the top left  
19 photograph.

20 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. All right. Thank  
21 you. Go right ahead. Are you -- oh, Mr. Kenney, are  
22 you there?

23 THE WITNESS: I think so.

24 JUDGE COUGHLIN: All right. Great.

25 MR. ERLANSON: Okay.

1 BY MR. ERLANSON:

2 Q Okay. Before we go into this picture, this  
3 picture was taken by whom?

4 A Clint Hughes.

5 Q Okay. Was there any pictures taken on this  
6 site previous to July 22nd, 2015?

7 A I don't know.

8 Q Was there -- did you take any measurements  
9 of Hole Number 5's area, Tailings Number 7 area before  
10 July 22nd, 2015?

11 A I did not personally, no.

12 Q Okay. As you look at this picture on the  
13 side over on, where the trees are, the timbered side  
14 -- let's call it the timbered side -- looking upstream  
15 that would be on the right side.

16 A Yes.

17 Q Why are these rocks not rounded off?

18 A The substrate in a stream channel is subject  
19 to a greater or lesser amount of erosion in that  
20 stream channel. It's no longer a particle that's  
21 within the stream channel, and the more it's moved the  
22 more little bits and pieces are broken off and the  
23 more rounded a substrate particle becomes. The  
24 material that's in a stream channel or along the edges  
25 of the stream channel can be moved either by the

1 stream, or they can come off the -- off the area, the  
2 land, in this case the slope adjacent to the stream  
3 channel. And so, likely the less rounded rock has  
4 spent less time in the stream channel and moved less  
5 in the stream channel and hasn't had the opportunity  
6 to be rounded yet.

7 Q Well, what concerns me is you mentioned --  
8 EPA counsel said, the tailings pile was only one-third  
9 of what you estimated the depth at. That's what was  
10 your testimony was. This --

11 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Hold on. One second. Do  
12 you have an objection?

13 MR. MOORE: Your Honor, to the extent, Your  
14 Honor's leniency has allowed some testimony during  
15 cross-examination. I just want to ensure that the  
16 Respondent is still under oath to that.

17 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Yes, the oath remains. You  
18 were sworn -- Mr. Kenney was sworn.

19 MR. MOORE: Yes.

20 JUDGE COUGHLIN: The witnesses who testified  
21 yesterday were sworn. So, that oath remains  
22 throughout the proceeding which would extend through  
23 today.

24 MR. MOORE: Sure.

25 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. So, you were asking

1 about the depth I think, the reference to it. Go  
2 ahead and just repeat your question.

3 BY MR. ERLANSON:

4 Q Yeah. You referenced the hole, but you  
5 never saw it before you went down to measure it. You  
6 referenced that the tailings pile was one-third what  
7 you estimated the contents of the hole to be. And the  
8 counsel for the EPA asked you the question, "Well,  
9 what happened to the rest of it?" In other words,  
10 what happened to the other two-thirds of what you  
11 estimated to be in that hole? I have a theory for  
12 that which we --

13 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. But question,  
14 remember, question, not testimony yet.

15 MR. ERLANSON: I understand.

16 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.

17 BY MR. ERLANSON:

18 Q So, could it be that those sharp-edged rocks  
19 are exposed bedrock pieces on the shoreline?

20 A Okay. That's your question about the --  
21 whether that's exposed bedrock?

22 Q Yes.

23 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Could it be --

24 MR. ERLANSON: Could it be --

25 JUDGE COUGHLIN: -- exposed bedrock?

1 THE WITNESS: Some of it is -- clearly is  
2 not. They're individual pieces, but there could be  
3 portions that expose bedrock there, yes.

4 BY MR. ERLANSON:

5 Q Yes. Did you -- when you and your team  
6 looked at the hole, did you conclude that that hole  
7 was on the side of the river or in the thalweg -- of  
8 the river?

9 A It was on the side of the river or what?

10 Q In the thalweg, in the main center velocity  
11 of the river?

12 A It was more generally towards the center. I  
13 -- the -- the -- the morphology of the stream channel,  
14 this area is relatively even depth. So, it's a little  
15 difficult to -- to discern the thalweg and would tend  
16 to vary at stream flow level. But the hole appears  
17 from the photograph to be towards the center of the  
18 stream and closer to the thalweg.

19 Q If you were to look at this photo here --  
20 this is --

21 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.

22 MR. ERLANSON: I'm sorry. You'll have to  
23 look it up.

24 JUDGE COUGHLIN: It's okay. We need to take  
25 a second to orient it to what's in evidence.

1 MR. ERLANSON: Yes.  
 2 JUDGE COUGHLIN: So, that's --  
 3 MR. McLAREN: Page 5 of Exhibit CX-01.  
 4 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Thank you.  
 5 MR. McLAREN: It is the right center of  
 6 that.  
 7 MR. MOORE: This photograph has the label  
 8 "Rice Green Dredge and Erlanson's Blue Dredges".  
 9 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Perfect. Thank you.  
 10 Go right ahead, Mr. Erlanson. Mr. Kenney, are you  
 11 there?  
 12 THE WITNESS: Yes, I believe I am.  
 13 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Great.  
 14 MR. ERLANSON: Are we ready?  
 15 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Yes.  
 16 BY MR. ERLANSON:  
 17 Q Mr. Kenney, if you look at what is referred  
 18 to as Rice's Green Dredge, if you'd take a look at  
 19 that. On the right side of this photo looking  
 20 downstream from where this photo was taken, do you  
 21 see -- would you conclude that that is the inside of  
 22 the river bank?  
 23 A Could you be more specific about where  
 24 you're talking about, please?  
 25 Q All the way down this, around this corner.

1 Would that be considered the inside of the river bank?  
 2 Because of the amount of gravel exposed on the  
 3 shoreline, the rounded gravel and, of course, you can  
 4 see gravel in the stream bed there below the water if  
 5 you look, too.  
 6 JUDGE COUGHLIN: And where you just gestured  
 7 with your hand, you're talking about the rightmost  
 8 side of the photograph?  
 9 MR. ERLANSON: Let's call it the grassy side  
 10 of this photo.  
 11 JUDGE COUGHLIN: But on the right side,  
 12 correct?  
 13 MR. ERLANSON: Yeah, on the right side.  
 14 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Go ahead, Mr.  
 15 Kenney.  
 16 THE WITNESS: I believe that the river tends  
 17 to curve to the right looking downstream, if that is  
 18 what you mean by the inside.  
 19 BY MR. ERLANSON:  
 20 Q Right. And where does most of the gravel,  
 21 sand and silt congregate in a stream after a  
 22 high-water event?  
 23 A During a high-water event, the areas that  
 24 are of the highest velocity tend to move the larger  
 25 material while the areas of lower velocity tend to

1 drop out the finer material which the gravel is  
 2 somewhere in the middle there. So, the thalweg during  
 3 the high-flow event would tend to have less gravel  
 4 after that flow event than the areas of lower  
 5 velocity --  
 6 Q That's correct.  
 7 A -- on the surface.  
 8 Q Uh-huh. Now, as we look at this picture,  
 9 the same one that we were talking about, if you look  
 10 at Rice's Green Dredge, do you see the amount of  
 11 gravel on -- let's call it the timber side -- do you  
 12 see the amount of gravel on the timber side as you do  
 13 on the right side?  
 14 A Are you referring to the gravel in the areas  
 15 that have been disturbed by the dredging?  
 16 Q No. If you -- if you look right above his  
 17 dredge, you will see a line which is holding that  
 18 dredge. Can you see that line, sir?  
 19 A Yes.  
 20 Q What do you see on the left side of that?  
 21 Do you see gravel there from there over to the river  
 22 bank, or do you see exposed bedrock on that river  
 23 bank?  
 24 A It's a little difficult to tell, but for the  
 25 most -- I -- I can discern larger pieces of substrate

1 of the size of small boulders but also finer substrate  
 2 among there.  
 3 Q You see finer substrate over there. By  
 4 "finer," what type -- what are you classifying as  
 5 finer?  
 6 A Well, the photo is not really of a close,  
 7 fine enough detail and close for me to say, but my  
 8 experience with the South Fork is that there's going  
 9 to be large -- there's going to be boulders that are  
 10 -- that are visible here, but that's going to be  
 11 intermixed with finer substrate in the forms of cobble  
 12 and gravels and sand and silt in some places.  
 13 Q Would you say -- okay. I'll ask you another  
 14 way. On the right is there more gravel exposed on the  
 15 grassy bank or on the wooded bank or more smaller  
 16 substrate? Is there more smaller substrate on the  
 17 inside bend of that river or on the outside?  
 18 A I see more large substrate on the wooded  
 19 side. I can't really judge at this distance how much  
 20 small material might be mixed within the larger.  
 21 Q Okay. So, would it not be a probable  
 22 conclusion that because the dredge, Erlanson's dredge,  
 23 the blue dredge, is working out in the thalweg at the  
 24 creek where the highest velocity is and the river  
 25 bottom is all bedrock for a hundred yards above that?

1 Would it -- would it not conclude that that hole was  
 2 there before any dredge operation started dredging?  
 3 A I -- I don't agree that the -- the stream  
 4 bottom is all bedrock for a hundred feet or 150 feet  
 5 above that where you're --  
 6 Q A hundred yards.  
 7 A A hundred yards.  
 8 Q On the right-hand side of that stream  
 9 looking upstream.  
 10 A Perhaps we have different definitions of  
 11 bedrock, sir.  
 12 Q What's your definition of it?  
 13 A Bedrock is a -- the continuous --  
 14 contiguous, continuous integral portion of -- of -- of  
 15 a stream bottom that it -- while it may have cracks  
 16 and -- and holes in it, it is not in separate  
 17 particles.  
 18 Q That's correct. I have the same -- I have  
 19 the same definition you do. But that's -- quite  
 20 frankly, that's why I bought that mining claim. I'm  
 21 an old man. So, I can't dig through that much gravel.  
 22 So, that's why if you look at this picture, it's  
 23 evident that the gravel stops right about where Rice's  
 24 dredge is and from there over it's solid bedrock. Now  
 25 --

1 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Stop right there --  
 2 MR. ERLANSON: Okay.  
 3 JUDGE COUGHLIN: -- because we need to  
 4 ascertain if there's agreement or not with what you  
 5 said.  
 6 MR. ERLANSON: Right.  
 7 JUDGE COUGHLIN: You're making a statement.  
 8 MR. ERLANSON: Right.  
 9 JUDGE COUGHLIN: So --  
 10 MR. ERLANSON: I was going to say, "Is that  
 11 correct?"  
 12 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Mr. Kenney, do you agree  
 13 with that statement or do you disagree?  
 14 THE WITNESS: It does not appear from this  
 15 photo that all of the area where Mr. Erlanson is  
 16 indicating above Mr. Rice's dredge is what I would  
 17 call bedrock. I think I'm seeing some large boulders,  
 18 and there definitely could be bedrock in there, but I  
 19 don't believe it's all.  
 20 JUDGE COUGHLIN: And the basis for your  
 21 disagreement from what you can gather from the  
 22 photograph, aside from the larger boulders, can you  
 23 explain any other basis for your disagreement with Mr.  
 24 Erlanson's position on that?  
 25 THE WITNESS: If Mr. Erlanson is saying that

1 it's all bedrock and I can see material that's not  
 2 bedrock, I -- I mean, that's -- I don't know how  
 3 farther I can go than that. I mean -- perhaps I  
 4 misunderstood your question.  
 5 JUDGE COUGHLIN: So -- so, the depiction of  
 6 material that isn't bedrock leads you to the  
 7 conclusion then that it's not entirely bedrock?  
 8 THE WITNESS: Yes.  
 9 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Go ahead.  
 10 MR. ERLANSON: I agree with his conclusion.  
 11 It's not entirely bedrock, and that's why I was in  
 12 that area.  
 13 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Well, just ask  
 14 questions.  
 15 MR. ERLANSON: Yeah.  
 16 BY MR. ERLANSON:  
 17 Q Now, you stated that one-third of the  
 18 tailing pile you -- you attributed to being taken out  
 19 of that hole. And then you also mentioned that as a  
 20 suction dredge works, if the suction dredger's doing  
 21 his job properly, he tries to put the tailings into  
 22 his hole and backfill as he goes upstream. You stated  
 23 that, correct?  
 24 A I -- well, first, I don't believe I said  
 25 that the tailings -- I -- I said that the measurements

1 that were taken by my technicians and the calculations  
 2 I made with those measures is about one-third of the  
 3 volume that we calculated with the measurements of the  
 4 hole.  
 5 Q Right.  
 6 A I didn't say that those were precise  
 7 measurements or that they were greatly inconsistent.  
 8 Q Mr. Kenney, when you took -- when you or  
 9 your crew took those measurements, could you explain  
 10 how you took those measurements of that tailing pile  
 11 to the Court?  
 12 A Yes, I explained yesterday the -- that my  
 13 crew took -- they measured. I didn't say they  
 14 measured with a measuring tape the approximate  
 15 greatest length and greatest width of the dredge hole,  
 16 and also they used a staff, marked staff to measure  
 17 the approximately maximum depth of that dredge hole,  
 18 although -- yeah.  
 19 Q You said they took a staff to measure the  
 20 approximate depth of the --  
 21 A The maximum --  
 22 Q -- dredge hole? How did they --  
 23 A -- of the dredge -- the maximum.  
 24 Q How did they measure the tailings depth?  
 25 A The tailings?

1 Q Yeah. How did they measure the depths of  
 2 the tailings?  
 3 A In about the same manner.  
 4 Q How did they know they got to the bottom of  
 5 the tailings that weren't in the substrate of the  
 6 river?  
 7 A Well, when we were doing the measurements  
 8 together at other sites on the previous day, I had  
 9 instructed them to observe the area which appeared to  
 10 be outside -- outside the edges of the -- of the  
 11 tailings pile and -- and individually observe the --  
 12 the depth of the stream at that point and then compare  
 13 it to the maximum height of the dredge pile. So, it  
 14 was based on the surrounding apparently not covered  
 15 with tailings areas.  
 16 Q Okay. So, what -- what you just described  
 17 is an approximation. Is that correct?  
 18 A There are definitely approximations in the  
 19 measurements, yes.  
 20 Q Was there any measurements made other than  
 21 one depth measurement at the top of the hole?  
 22 A They were instructed to measure as best they  
 23 could the maximum depth of the hole if that's what you  
 24 mean by the top.  
 25 Q Well, I'm talking about the tailings pile.

1 A Oh, I'm sorry.  
 2 Q Considering that this section of -- of real  
 3 estate is primarily bedrock -- and I -- I agree with  
 4 your statement that -- your testimony that there is  
 5 some gravel. There's some big boulders on top of that  
 6 bedrock, and there is even some small substrate behind  
 7 those boulders which would be natural. I'm sure we  
 8 agree on that. But I'm concerned about the tailings  
 9 pile because best management practices in dredging say  
 10 you don't leave tailing piles in their natural state  
 11 as some of these pictures I've seen yesterday showed  
 12 Rice's dredging, how they had big humps. Anybody that  
 13 ever dredges in one of my holes or that I dredge --  
 14 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Mr. Erlanson, you've got to  
 15 get to the question.  
 16 MR. ERLANSON: Oh, yeah. I'm sorry.  
 17 BY MR. ERLANSON:  
 18 Q Is -- are you aware of the common practice  
 19 of best management practice of dredging whereby the  
 20 dredger takes a break or a shovel and spreads out the  
 21 tailings?  
 22 A I'm aware that some dredgers do that, yes.  
 23 Q Okay. From your interpretation onsite, do  
 24 you feel that that was done in Hole -- Tailings Number  
 25 7?

1 A If -- no, I can't -- I can't make that  
 2 conclusion. It is -- I'm not saying it didn't happen,  
 3 but I can't make that conclusion from the photos that  
 4 my technicians took in October.  
 5 Q Okay.  
 6 A Some -- some of the material is still above  
 7 the water surface. So, my understanding of the -- I  
 8 think of what you're saying about the raking is to try  
 9 to spread out the material so that it doesn't reach  
 10 the surface and doesn't impede fish passage and that  
 11 sort of thing.  
 12 Q Correct. That's correct.  
 13 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Is -- let me just pop in  
 14 really quickly. Mr. Erlanson has characterized that  
 15 as a best management practice. Is that consistent  
 16 with your opinion, that method of using a rake to  
 17 spread it out? From your -- from your standpoint  
 18 would that be considered a best management practice?  
 19 THE WITNESS: I think it would be a part of  
 20 a mitigation measure that the dredgers may employ, and  
 21 that would be consistent with part of what we have in  
 22 the biological opinion, some of the mitigation  
 23 measures. Ideally the material would be more than  
 24 spread out because the spreading out reduces the  
 25 potential for fish passage to be impeded, and that's

1 more important in a smaller stream than in a larger  
 2 one like this. But also the mitigation measures in  
 3 the biological opinion -- that should be in the  
 4 Biological Assessment -- try to actually return the  
 5 finer materials to whence they came and not just  
 6 spread them out in a larger area where they were  
 7 deposited or near where they were deposited.  
 8 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Please go ahead, Mr.  
 9 Erlanson.  
 10 BY MR. ERLANSON:  
 11 Q Okay. Finally as far as Hole Number 5 and  
 12 Tailings Number 7, do you have any conclusive proof,  
 13 can you add any testimony on anybody's behalf in this  
 14 courtroom today that said that Mr. Erlanson made that  
 15 hole?  
 16 A The hole -- which hole are you referring to?  
 17 Q Hole Number 5 and Tailings Number 7 which  
 18 has been the --  
 19 A Are you referring to Hole Number 5 as we  
 20 observed in October?  
 21 Q I'm talking about Hole Number 5 and Tailings  
 22 Number 7 that this whole discussion is about, that EPA  
 23 continually stated my name in their assertion that  
 24 Erlanson made Hole Number 5 and Tailings Number 7. Do  
 25 you have any conclusive proof of that fact?

1 A I believe that the photos, the -- the GPS  
2 coordinates that Mr. Hughes' report comparison that --  
3 of the information that my technicians gathered in  
4 October show that the dredge hole in the Hughes photos  
5 that he identified as being -- as you -- you dredging  
6 are a component, although not the full extent of what  
7 my technicians measured as Hole Number 5 in October.

8 Q So, you have no conclusive proof that you  
9 can enter to this Court at this time that says that  
10 Mr. Erlanson did entirely make Hole Number 5 or  
11 Tailings Number 7?

12 A No, I've never stated that Hole Number 5 was  
13 created by Mr. Erlanson, the hole of -- Hole Number 5  
14 as measured in October of 2015.

15 Q Okay.

16 JUDGE COUGHLIN: And I think it's just --  
17 because I agree that there's been a good deal of time  
18 spent on those two particulars. And so, just so that  
19 I'm clear, what you've relied on -- I think you just  
20 said this, but I just want to make sure I'm capturing  
21 it for my own understanding. What you've relied on  
22 then to, if you will, link perhaps circumstantially  
23 Hole Number 5, Tailings Number 7, to activity  
24 attributed to Mr. Erlanson, you've identified Mr.  
25 Hughes' report and photos, the GPS coordinates he's

1 provided and then your own evaluation in October?

2 THE WITNESS: Yes.

3 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Was there anything else  
4 that you relied upon other than those things to lead  
5 to that belief?

6 THE WITNESS: No.

7 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. I just wanted to  
8 make sure we had all that covered. Mr. Erlanson,  
9 please go ahead with your next question.

10 BY MR. ERLANSON:

11 Q Okay. We're going to go to -- back to the  
12 beginning, Mr. Kenney, of your testimony. Did you  
13 take any biological samples above and below the  
14 dredged areas on Pay Day Two mining claim of -- well,  
15 let's -- let's just say Hole Number 5 and Hole Number  
16 7. Did you take any biological assessments below or  
17 above that to count the number of invertebrates that  
18 you stated later in your -- that you stated later in  
19 your testimony that were -- were damaged by the act of  
20 dredging?

21 A The information that was gathered by my  
22 technicians is provided in my report. For the most  
23 part there are some that wasn't in the report. But,  
24 no, none of that included any sort of biological  
25 sampling. It was sampling, and it was measurements

1 and -- and photos.

2 Q Okay. Did the U.S. Forest Service, U.S.  
3 Fish & Wildlife at NOAA conclude that suction dredging  
4 would not jeopardize the continued existence of either  
5 the steelhead trout or the bull trout on the South  
6 Fork Clearwater River?

7 A That's a very general question, suction  
8 dredging in general. So, no, the -- none of those  
9 entities concluded that suction dredging in general  
10 was --

11 Q This is from a letter that you wrote --  
12 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. What --

13 MR. ERLANSON: -- on the FOIA --

14 JUDGE COUGHLIN: What are you referring to?  
15 Is it in evidence?

16 MR. ERLANSON: No, no, it's not, Your Honor.  
17 I -- I didn't add it into evidence. I'm just -- I  
18 just got it because I -- he was on the stand and so,  
19 when I came today, I thought I would bring this up and  
20 see if he agreed with his statement.

21 JUDGE COUGHLIN: With a prior statement?

22 MR. ERLANSON: Yes, that he -- that he  
23 wrote.

24 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. What is that?

25 MR. ERLANSON: Can I come up?

1 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Well, show it to Mr. Moore  
2 first.

3 MR. ERLANSON: Oh, here. It's in the  
4 highlighted spot down there, the maroon color, pink  
5 color, whatever it is.

6 (Pause.)

7 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Have you seen that before,  
8 Mr. Moore?

9 MR. MOORE: I have not, ma'am.

10 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. All right. So, just  
11 so I'm clear on -- I think you're using it for  
12 impeachment purposes. Are you offering it to suggest  
13 that there was a prior inconsistent statement that Mr.  
14 Kenney made?

15 MR. ERLANSON: No. But we -- he talked  
16 about ESA species and how possibly suction dredging  
17 could harm those species.

18 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.

19 MR. ERLANSON: And my -- my contention is,  
20 from what he wrote here, that seems to be -- I'm --  
21 I'm not calling it impeachment or perjury or anything  
22 of that nature. I'm just trying to clarify.

23 JUDGE COUGHLIN: But is it -- is it a  
24 different statement that you're referring to and what  
25 you have in your hand, something other than what he --

1 MR. ERLANSON: Well, I'm -- I'm relying on  
2 his testimony, Your Honor.

3 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Yeah, I'm -- Okay. Mr.  
4 Moore.

5 MR. MOORE: Your Honor, my quick review of  
6 that email suggests that it is a -- they're talking  
7 about a biological assessment that was conducted at  
8 least ten years before the biological assessment that  
9 Mr. Kenney conducted on the South Fork. It dealt with  
10 different rivers, not the South Fork, and it could be  
11 prejudicial to introduce now because this is the first  
12 time that we're seeing it. So, I think it's limited  
13 in materiality and relevance.

14 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. I appreciate that.  
15 I wasn't considering admitting it, but, you know, for  
16 impeachment purposes, things, really anything can be  
17 used, in my view. But if it's that dated and a  
18 different river, then it's really not material to this  
19 discussion or a different water body, I should say.  
20 So, it -- why don't you just let me take a look at it.

21 MR. ERLANSON: Yeah. I -- I don't see where  
22 he's --

23 JUDGE COUGHLIN: You can approach and just  
24 let me take a look at it, and I'll just make a  
25 decision. It's okay. You can approach, Mr. Erlanson.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. ERLANSON: I think I see where he got  
3 the year there, but there's another year down there.

4 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Let me just have a  
5 quick look here.

6 MR. ERLANSON: Yeah. Or, yes, Your Honor.  
7 (Pause.)

8 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Yeah, I mean, I'm  
9 just going to kind of read here just a couple of  
10 sentences, a few sentences into the record. I think  
11 you were focusing on the highlighted in pink, right?

12 MR. ERLANSON: Yes, Your Honor.

13 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. So, that portion  
14 reads in a 2008 Biological Assessment, "Forest  
15 determined that suction dredging was likely to  
16 adversely affect steelhead trout but was not likely to  
17 adversely affect bull trout in LoLo Creek. The Forest  
18 determined that suction dredging was likely to  
19 adversely affect bull trout in Moose Creek. In their  
20 respective 2009 and 2008 Biological Opinions, NOAA and  
21 USFWS agreed with the Forest Service's determinations.  
22 Both agencies concluded that suction dredging would  
23 not jeopardize the continued existence of either  
24 species."

25 And this is an email, it appears -- it

1 purports to be an email from Dan Kenney to Norma Staff  
2 of Forest Service I think, cc to Clinton Hughes and  
3 it's with regard to a NEPA for suction dredging POOs  
4 and it was dated on -- back in February 11th of 2015.

5 So, I'm inclined to agree with Mr. Moore  
6 that we're talking about an assessment affecting  
7 another water body. So, I don't know how that's  
8 relevant here.

9 MR. ERLANSON: Well, the South Fork  
10 Clearwater Environmental Assessment was based on LoLo  
11 and Moose Creeks years ago. I've got some FOIA stuff,  
12 some more stuff that can prove that fact but --

13 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Well, yeah. We're -- I'm  
14 not --

15 MR. ERLANSON: I --

16 JUDGE COUGHLIN: I'm not going to expand --  
17 you're welcome to --

18 MR. ERLANSON: Right.

19 JUDGE COUGHLIN: -- question him about  
20 anything that he's testified about on his direct.

21 MR. ERLANSON: Right. Yeah, we -- we don't  
22 have to bring that material in.

23 JUDGE COUGHLIN: But I'm -- but I'm not  
24 going to expand it outside of that. Okay? Here you  
25 go.

1 MR. ERLANSON: But that -- but that is on  
2 the record then, what you just quoted?

3 JUDGE COUGHLIN: I just read. Yeah, it's in  
4 the transcript. It sure is. So, the objection is  
5 sustained, I guess just for clarity on the record.  
6 Please go ahead, Mr. Erlanson.

7 BY MR. ERLANSON:

8 Q Is the -- there's been a lot of discussion  
9 about holes, Mr. Kenney, regardless of whether it's  
10 Number 5 or not. I want to talk about holes in  
11 general for just one statement. Does the South Fork  
12 at Clearwater River, one of the parameters of it being  
13 a 303D-impaired waterway because of water temperature?

14 A That's not my area of expertise, but I  
15 believe I heard someone, one of the witnesses  
16 yesterday, testify to that.

17 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Mr. Moore.

18 MR. MOORE: I object, just to the extent  
19 it's outside the scope of his direct testimony.

20 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. It's a sustainable  
21 objection because it is. I'll provide some leniency,  
22 but he's -- he's also answered that that's not his  
23 area of expertise. So, you can follow up as you need,  
24 but that might have been --

25 MR. ERLANSON: Your Honor, I disagree

1 because Mr. Kenney's made a lot of issue about dredge  
 2 holes.  
 3 JUDGE COUGHLIN: No, no. You can ask about  
 4 dredge holes. But with respect to temperature as  
 5 being one of the --  
 6 MR. ERLANSON: Well, that's -- the dredge  
 7 holes and the temperature are 100 percent relevant.  
 8 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Yeah, it's --  
 9 MR. ERLANSON: They -- they --  
 10 JUDGE COUGHLIN: -- not so much --  
 11 MR. ERLANSON: They correlate.  
 12 JUDGE COUGHLIN: -- a relevancy thing.  
 13 MR. ERLANSON: You know --  
 14 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Scope is really -- what  
 15 that's getting at is, your opportunity to ask  
 16 questions of this witness is limited to the testimony  
 17 he's provided on direct as --  
 18 MR. ERLANSON: That's --  
 19 JUDGE COUGHLIN: -- opposed to bringing up  
 20 something new that he hasn't testified about. That's  
 21 what he means by scope, and technically that is  
 22 correct. I'm trying to provide you with some latitude  
 23 because you are representing yourself, and so, I'm not  
 24 being maybe as strict as I would be if you were  
 25 represented by counsel. That said, he's already

1 responded that that's not -- that with regard to  
 2 temperature, that's not necessarily within his area of  
 3 expertise. So, I think continuing down that line is  
 4 not going to lead to much that's fruitful. But if you  
 5 want to ask a follow-up, you can, and you're certainly  
 6 welcome to ask more questions about what he has  
 7 testified about.  
 8 MR. ERLANSON: Well, he's testified --  
 9 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Just go ahead and ask.  
 10 MR. ERLANSON: Yeah.  
 11 JUDGE COUGHLIN: That's my ruling.  
 12 BY MR. ERLANSON:  
 13 Q You've testified about the holes in the  
 14 stream. Considering the fact that we talked about the  
 15 water temperature and the 303D impairment, I  
 16 understand that that's not your area of expertise.  
 17 But I think anybody in this courtroom that's ever went  
 18 swimming, would it be correct to say, Mr. Kenney, that  
 19 the deeper you go into water, the cooler the water  
 20 becomes?  
 21 MR. MOORE: Just continue my objection.  
 22 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. I'm just going to  
 23 ask a preliminary question. Are you -- do you feel  
 24 qualified to answer that question just based on your  
 25 experience?

1 THE WITNESS: It seems to me to be a very  
 2 general and variable -- a question -- a general  
 3 question with a lot of variable answers to that.  
 4 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. So, is that a "no"?  
 5 THE WITNESS: No.  
 6 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. All right. I'll  
 7 sustain the objection. Go ahead and ask another  
 8 question, though, Mr. Erlanson.  
 9 MR. ERLANSON: Okay.  
 10 BY MR. ERLANSON:  
 11 Q Okay. You mentioned about the silt and fine  
 12 sediments impacting the fishery. Do you have any  
 13 proof or can you give any testimony to the fact that  
 14 -- of how many spawning beds of any ESA-listed species  
 15 were located since 2001 to the present time between  
 16 Crooked River and Newsome Spring, the confluence on  
 17 the South Fork of Clearwater River?  
 18 A Spawning beds of ESA-listed species?  
 19 Q Of -- of -- of bull trout, of the fall run  
 20 of Chinook salmon, the spring run of Chinook Salmon or  
 21 the steelhead.  
 22 A I have seen some estimates on fall Chinook  
 23 salmon but not of the other.  
 24 Q Okay. I have a -- I have a map here. Just  
 25 you guys can take a look and there's a whole --

1 (Away from microphone.)  
 2 Q This was part of a --  
 3 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Hold on just a  
 4 second. Hold on. Mr. Erlanson, we're not -- we're  
 5 not introducing new exhibits. So --  
 6 MR. ERLANSON: Oh.  
 7 JUDGE COUGHLIN: -- I'm not sure what you're  
 8 pulling out a new document about.  
 9 MR. ERLANSON: Well, I just -- I just wanted  
 10 to prove --  
 11 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Just ask the question.  
 12 MR. ERLANSON: Okay.  
 13 JUDGE COUGHLIN: As I've said now a couple  
 14 of times, nothing new is coming into the record.  
 15 MR. ERLANSON: Okay.  
 16 JUDGE COUGHLIN: So, aside from some of the  
 17 earlier Respondent exhibits that were included in the  
 18 pre-hearing exchange, those are certainly available to  
 19 you, but nothing new.  
 20 MR. ERLANSON: Okay.  
 21 JUDGE COUGHLIN: So, just ask questions at  
 22 this point.  
 23 BY MR. ERLANSON:  
 24 Q Do you know of any bull trout spawning in  
 25 the South Fork Clearwater River between Crooked River

1 confluence and Newsome Creek confluence?  
 2 A No. Bull trout are not a main stem spawning  
 3 species. They spawn --  
 4 Q Okay.  
 5 A -- in the tributaries of the South Fork.  
 6 Q Do you know of any spring Chinook spawning  
 7 and rearing in the South Fork Clearwater River?  
 8 A I'm aware that that has been documented,  
 9 yes.  
 10 Q Where?  
 11 A My understanding it's mostly up on the --  
 12 the part of the river on BLM in the Elk City Township.  
 13 Q So, it's not down from Crooked River down to  
 14 Newsome Creek?  
 15 A I said, my understanding it's mostly. I  
 16 cannot say that there's not been any spawning of  
 17 spring Chinook in the area you mentioned.  
 18 Q Okay. How about the West Slope Cutthroat?  
 19 Has there been any spawning in the main fork of the  
 20 South Fork Clearwater River between Newsome Creek and  
 21 up in Crooked River?  
 22 A West Slope Cutthroat are also tributary  
 23 spawners.  
 24 Q How about the steelhead trout?  
 25 A I have not --

1 Q Same, same area, Crooked, you know, the  
 2 Newsome Creek.  
 3 A My understanding of steelhead trout spawning  
 4 in the South Fork Clearwater River is that it is  
 5 ubiquitous in the river in that -- but that I have not  
 6 seen any direct spawning counts or that sort of thing.  
 7 Q That's correct. You mentioned the sediment  
 8 from the dredge through the tailings piles. Would it  
 9 be correct to say that sediment is essential to our  
 10 river systems, that organic matter is important for  
 11 the biological integrity of navigable waters in the  
 12 United States?  
 13 A May I ask for your definition of "sediment"?  
 14 Q It would be the erosion, natural erosion of  
 15 spring banks would be one of the big factors producing  
 16 sediment. It would be an on-source point of  
 17 pollution.  
 18 A I guess in my field sediment would include  
 19 everything from boulders on down to silt and clay  
 20 particles. So, it's not a central part of the stream  
 21 system. It is just that is the way it is. That is  
 22 the way the physics work.  
 23 Q So, you disagree with the -- you disagree  
 24 with that statement that I just mentioned, that  
 25 sediment is an essential part of our river systems?

1 MR. MOORE: Objection. I think that's asked  
 2 and answered.  
 3 JUDGE COUGHLIN: I think so but I'm not sure  
 4 because we kind of got off on a little bit of --  
 5 MR. ERLANSON: I'm not sure either.  
 6 JUDGE COUGHLIN: -- a definition of  
 7 sediment. So, I think you did answer the question.  
 8 But I guess just out of caution, I'll overrule the  
 9 objection. So, just ask it again and let the witness  
 10 respond.  
 11 BY MR. ERLANSON:  
 12 Q Okay. Is it true that sediment is essential  
 13 to our river systems, that that organic matter is  
 14 important for biological integrity of navigable  
 15 rivers? That is what I'm asking you. Is that true?  
 16 Is that a true statement?  
 17 JUDGE COUGHLIN: And I'm going to ask you to  
 18 in responding to that, use your own definition that  
 19 you've just explained for the record of what sediment  
 20 is.  
 21 THE WITNESS: Okay.  
 22 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Because you started  
 23 out with perhaps difference of opinion. So, just  
 24 answer based on your definition of what sediment is.  
 25 THE WITNESS: Sediment by my definition of

1 pieces of mineral and organic material are an  
 2 inevitable part of the South Fork system, and they are  
 3 part of the environment that the organisms in the  
 4 South Fork have evolved and adapted to.  
 5 BY MR. ERLANSON:  
 6 Q Okay. Thank you. Would you agree that  
 7 suction dredging is a best management practice which  
 8 includes many benefits to the environment that can be  
 9 achieved without restrictive and unnecessary  
 10 regulations? Could you agree with that statement?  
 11 A No.  
 12 MR. ERLANSON: Okay. Your Honor, I conclude  
 13 with this witness.  
 14 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. All right. Any  
 15 redirect, Mr. Moore?  
 16 MR. MOORE: Yes, a few questions, Your  
 17 Honor.  
 18 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.  
 19 REDIRECT EXAMINATION  
 20 BY MR. MOORE:  
 21 Q Mr. Kenney, can I have you turn to Exhibit  
 22 37, please, Complainant's Exhibit 37 and specifically  
 23 Page 1523?  
 24 A All right.  
 25 Q We spent a bit of time with this on your

1 direct testimony, but I think it's worth clarifying.  
2 Can you describe what's depicted in the bottom two  
3 photographs of this page?

4 A Yes. The bottom left photo is one that I  
5 took from the Hughes report taken on July 22nd of  
6 2015, and according to the Hughes report it shows Mr.  
7 Erlanson in his dredge in the South Fork. The photo  
8 on the right is one that my technicians took on  
9 October 8th of 2015 showing an area somewhat  
10 downstream of the main focus of the -- of the  
11 left-hand photo and at a slightly different angle.

12 Q Can you remind us what the stars denote in  
13 these photographs?

14 A Yes. In my examination of the -- of Mr.  
15 Hughes' photos and of the photos that my technicians  
16 took, I was -- I believe able to identify the star --  
17 excuse me -- the rock that is underneath that star in  
18 those photos as being the same rock in the same  
19 location.

20 Q In the photograph on the left can you  
21 observe Mr. Erlanson creating a dredge pile?

22 A I see someone dredging. Mr. Hughes  
23 identifies that person as Mr. Erlanson.

24 Q And can you see them creating a dredge pile  
25 in that photograph?

1 A That dredge pile?

2 Q Yes.

3 A Yes, I can see a dredge pile that looks to  
4 be -- the main part of it looks to be actually two --  
5 towards the wooded shoreline of the discharge of the  
6 dredge.

7 Q And can you see that dredge pile in the  
8 photograph on the right?

9 A I can see a dredge pile that is in the same  
10 general area based on the instream rocks which are  
11 visible in both photos. They are not starred. They  
12 are both -- and both of those there to the right of  
13 the starred rock.

14 Q How do you know that that dredge pile is the  
15 same?

16 A Well, just from the examination of my photos  
17 and comparison of the features that are visible in  
18 those photos with the features that are visible in the  
19 photos that Mr. Hughes took.

20 Q Did you label that dredge pile in your  
21 reports?

22 A The dredge pile?

23 Q Yes.

24 A I believe I -- I believe I did label it in  
25 the -- on Page 1519 on the page for my citing the

1 14th.

2 Q And what number did you assign it?

3 A 15 -- I'm sorry. The -- the page?

4 Q What number did you assign that dredge pile?

5 A Oh, I'm sorry. I assigned -- my crew  
6 assigned that as Tailings Pile Number 7, and the hole  
7 is Hole Number 5.

8 Q Can you state with any degree of confidence  
9 that Hole 5 is the same as the one that Mr. Erlanson  
10 is photographed dredging in the Hughes report?

11 A I believe based on my examination of the  
12 photos that are in the record here and also photos  
13 that were taken at the same time on October 8th and  
14 other photos in Mr. Hughes' report that the position  
15 of the tailings pile and the hole are essentially --  
16 they're essentially constant or in -- in relation to  
17 each other, and they -- on 1519 the Hole Number 5 is  
18 shown as just upstream of Tailings Pile Number 7.

19 MR. MOORE: Thank you, Mr. Kenney.

20 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Hold on one second. I  
21 think Mr. Erlanson might have an objection. I just  
22 want him to finish his answer.

23 MR. ERLANSON: I don't have an objection.

24 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.

25 MR. ERLANSON: I'd like to stipulate that

1 Mr. Moore's questions on Hole Number 5 and Hole Number  
2 7, that that's me in that hole, and I did start that  
3 hole, and I did start the tailing piles. I'll  
4 stipulate that right now.

5 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.

6 MR. ERLANSON: So, we don't have to go  
7 further on that.

8 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Is that -- are you  
9 agreeable?

10 MR. MOORE: EPA will stipulate as such.

11 JUDGE COUGHLIN: All right.

12 BY MR. MOORE:

13 Q Mr. Kenney, Mr. Erlanson spent some time  
14 asking you about whether you had photographed the site  
15 of his dredging prior to Mr. Hughes' report and I  
16 believe your answers were "no". How familiar are you  
17 with that -- with the South Fork Clearwater River?

18 A Moderately. This is not my normal area of  
19 influence on the Forest. However, I did put together  
20 the Biological Assessment. I have done delineations  
21 of -- of permitted dredging on the South Fork in 2016  
22 and 2017 and conducted inspections of many of the  
23 dredge sites during those years.

24 Q Do you feel like photographs prior to that  
25 dredge season are necessary in order to draw your

1 conclusions on the impacts caused by Mr. Erlanson?  
 2 A No, not to form some conclusions anyway.  
 3 Q And can you tell whether the features in  
 4 your reports were created in 2015?  
 5 A The dredge piles -- could you repeat that,  
 6 please?  
 7 Q Yes. Have you concluded that the features  
 8 that you analyzed in your 2015 report were created in  
 9 2015?  
 10 A Yes. In addition to Mr. Hughes taking  
 11 photos and observations of dredge piles being created,  
 12 dredge holes and dredge piles being created in July,  
 13 the characteristics of a relatively fresh dredge hole  
 14 or dredge tailings pile are distinctive. And as I've  
 15 discussed in my second report, the changes that  
 16 occurred to those holes and piles are distinctive from  
 17 one -- between if there's a high flow event especially  
 18 intervening.  
 19 Q Mr. Erlanson pointed out that he dredged in  
 20 the thalweg of the river. Can you define what  
 21 "thalweg" is?  
 22 A Yes. A thalweg is a term used in hydrology  
 23 for the portion of the stream where the stream flow is  
 24 most concentrated in highest velocity, and it can vary  
 25 in a particular site depending on the -- the discharge

1 level of the stream.  
 2 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Can you -- can you spell  
 3 that?  
 4 THE WITNESS: Thalweg. It's a German word,  
 5 T-H-A-L-W-E-G.  
 6 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Thank you. It helps  
 7 me. I don't know if it will help the court reporter,  
 8 but go right ahead, Mr. Moore.  
 9 BY MR. MOORE:  
 10 Q And if a miner is dredging in the thalweg,  
 11 is it more likely that sediment that's dredged would  
 12 travel farther in a portion of the river that has  
 13 higher velocity?  
 14 A Yes. If the dredge is operating within the  
 15 thalweg of the stream at that particular time, that is  
 16 the area with the highest velocity and any suspended  
 17 material would tend to travel farther than if the  
 18 dredge were operating in an area of lower velocity.  
 19 Q Thank you. Mr. Erlanson spent some time  
 20 talking about best management practices associated  
 21 with suction dredge mining. Would you consider some  
 22 of the mitigation measures in your Biological  
 23 Assessment consistent with best management practices?  
 24 A Yes, I would. There are -- in various  
 25 fields there are slightly different meanings for

1 mitigation measures, best management practices, the  
 2 best management practices, that sort of thing. But  
 3 they're -- they're all intended to be activities that  
 4 would tend to reduce some effect or another of a  
 5 particular -- of a -- of a desired activity.  
 6 Q And in your opinion, did Mr. Erlanson comply  
 7 with the mitigation measures in the BA?  
 8 A He may have complied with some that he felt  
 9 were best management -- excuse me -- mitigation  
 10 measures, but I don't -- I can't say -- I -- we -- we  
 11 discussed some of the mitigation measures that were a  
 12 part of the Biological Assessment and noted that he  
 13 did not comply with -- with many of those, and there  
 14 were many other measures that he perhaps did or did  
 15 not comply with.  
 16 Q You again characterized some of your data as  
 17 approximations. Is that characterization primarily  
 18 based on the fact that you were using linear  
 19 measurements to measure things that aren't square?  
 20 A Yes, that is part of it.  
 21 Q Did you do anything to account for that?  
 22 A Yes. I adjusted the measurements, in  
 23 particular the areas by reducing the measurement, the  
 24 square footage by 20 percent as an approximation of  
 25 what it would be rounded.

1 Q And remind the Court when you did your first  
 2 post-dredge study after the dredging season in 2015.  
 3 A That was October 7th and 8th, 2015.  
 4 Q And what was the date of Mr. Erlanson's  
 5 dredging?  
 6 A The dredging that was documented by Mr.  
 7 Hughes was July 22nd, 2015.  
 8 Q In your opinion, was Hole Number 5 smaller  
 9 during your visit than it was immediately after the  
 10 dredge season?  
 11 A I am not -- when do you mean by directly  
 12 after the dredge season?  
 13 Q Was -- was the hole in October smaller than  
 14 it would have been in August?  
 15 A Was the hole in October smaller than it  
 16 would have been --  
 17 Q In August.  
 18 A In August? Oh, I see, directly after the  
 19 IDWR dredge season. Is that what you mean?  
 20 Q Correct.  
 21 A I see. It's impossible for me to know what  
 22 the size of the hole was at the end of the dredge  
 23 season in August.  
 24 Q In your reports what were your general  
 25 findings about how the size of holes changed with time

1 after dredging?

2 A In my 20 -- in my report on the 2015  
3 dredging that is based on the sampling in October of  
4 2015 I -- that was the baseline for later measurements  
5 in 2016 and in 2018. So, I -- I did not make any -- I  
6 don't believe I made any statements other than general  
7 ones that -- that the features would suffer some  
8 attenuation of -- by high-flow events.

9 Q In 2016 were the holes somewhat smaller?

10 A Yes, yes, it was. The hole and the -- the  
11 tailings pile were both smaller than they were in 2015  
12 as measured in -- yeah.

13 Q When you conducted your Biological  
14 Assessment and you were analyzing the impacts of  
15 suction dredge mining, were you focused on permitted  
16 or unpermitted suction dredge mining?

17 A Permitted and not just by Forest Service but  
18 by the EPA and the state.

19 Q Is it likely that impacts from unpermitted  
20 suction dredge mining would be greater than those of  
21 permitted suction dredge mining?

22 A It is often going to be the case. Of  
23 course, it depends on -- on what practices the  
24 individual miner takes.

25 Q Mr. Erlanson spent some time having you

1 address the likelihood of spawning of certain species  
2 in the South Fork. Is there spawning of fall Chinook  
3 salmon in the area where Mr. Erlanson dredged?

4 A It is possible. Well, it depends on what  
5 you mean by the area. There are fall Snook salmon  
6 that spawn, especially in the last ten years or so, in  
7 the South Fork Clearwater River, but it's primarily  
8 downstream of where Mr. Erlanson dredged. There is  
9 not -- there are -- there are annual aerial counts of  
10 fall Snook salmon runs in the South Fork Clearwater.  
11 But because the folks that do that don't believe that  
12 the density of runs above a certain point is worth  
13 flying for, it's impossible for me to say whether  
14 there were -- have been any fall Snook salmon runs in  
15 the area of Mr. Erlanson's dredging.

16 Q Can suction dredge mining cause adverse  
17 impacts to ESA-listed species, even if the species  
18 doesn't spawn in the specific area where the dredging  
19 occurs?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And if a species doesn't spawn in a  
22 particular reach of the river, does that mean -- does  
23 that necessarily mean that the species doesn't use  
24 that section of the river?

25 A No, no, no.

1 Q Is your definition of "sediment" the same as  
2 Mr. Erlanson's definition?

3 A I'm -- I'm not sure what he meant.

4 Q Regardless, would you classify your  
5 definition of "sediment" the same as it would be  
6 defined in the Clean Water Act?

7 A As I said, I'm not -- that's not entirely my  
8 area of expertise. But when it comes to impairment of  
9 water bodies, it is the finer sediments that are  
10 considered to be impairment. So, that is not exactly  
11 consistent with what I said.

12 Q In your opinion, can sediment cause an  
13 adverse impact to ESA-listed species?

14 A Fine sediment can. Larger sediment  
15 typically is not.

16 MR. MOORE: No further questions. Thank  
17 you, Mr. Kenney.

18 JUDGE COUGHLIN: All right. Thank you. Mr.  
19 Erlanson, any questions?

20 MR. ERLANSON: Yeah, just a couple, Your  
21 Honor.

22 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.

23 RE-CROSS EXAMINATION

24 BY MR. ERLANSON:

25 Q We talked about Hole Number 5 and Tailings

1 Number 7 again, and I stipulated that I started those  
2 holes. But you cannot again at this time enter in --  
3 into any evidence or testimony that says that I  
4 completed those holes. Is that correct?

5 A I can't say exactly what the testimony has  
6 been. I don't have any personal evidence of --

7 Q Okay.

8 A -- when you dredged there.

9 Q That's fine. You mentioned in this last  
10 exchange with EPA counsel about the high-water event,  
11 and you -- we've also discussed about the suction  
12 dredge with the silt. EPA counsel mentioned, does the  
13 silt hurt ESA-listed species? How much of the South  
14 Fork Clearwater River is impacted by suction dredge  
15 activities on a yearly basis?

16 A Are you referring to recently or --

17 Q I'm saying an average since 2009 till today,  
18 to the present time.

19 A I'm only really aware of the suction  
20 dredging activity on the South Fork since Mr. Hughes'  
21 report and not so much last year either.

22 Q Okay. I'll rephrase the question. Is it --  
23 is it correct to state that less than .2 percent of  
24 the South Fork of the Clearwater River is impacted by  
25 suction activities on a yearly basis?

1 A I -- I -- there has been permitted dredging  
2 on the South Fork in the years that I talked about,  
3 and there has been some unpermitted dredging. I don't  
4 know the full area of it, and I don't recall the exact  
5 number that it would be.

6 Q That's correct. That's fair, Mr. Kenney.  
7 Would you say in your expert opinion that a high-water  
8 event like a spring runoff contributes much more  
9 sediment, suspended solids, turbidity, rock, gravel  
10 displacement within a river ecosystem than a suction  
11 dredge working --

12 A At what scale?

13 Q I'm talking the whole river compared to 2  
14 percent of the river. A high-water event is 100  
15 percent of the water level. So, would you -- would  
16 you consider -- we're talking about the ESA species  
17 and how they can survive and how it seems to me like  
18 testimony has been given throughout the whole court  
19 process here where suction dredging is -- is -- is  
20 harmful for these fish, that they cannot survive  
21 because of -- or there's serious impacts about it --  
22 about suction dredging with these ESA-listed species.

23 But if a suction dredge only pertains to 2  
24 percent of the South Fork Clearwater River and a  
25 high-water event contributes to 100 percent of that

1 Clearwater River, how do these species survive? I  
2 mean, to me, from 2 percent to 100 percent is quite a  
3 --

4 MR. MOORE: Your Honor, I just object to the  
5 extent that this is testimony now about a specific  
6 number as related to impact, and there's no way for us  
7 to contextualize or authenticate those numbers, and I  
8 think that Mr. Kenney has already testified that he's  
9 not familiar with that data.

10 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. I -- I think it's --  
11 that's a sustainable objection, but I also think that  
12 you're trying to get at really a critical question for  
13 this hearing which is the extent of harm caused by  
14 suction dredging.

15 MR. ERLANSON: Exactly.

16 JUDGE COUGHLIN: So -- and that -- you know,  
17 it might be too general because we're -- we're getting  
18 into a lot of details here. But I think -- I think  
19 where Mr. Erlanson is going is with regard to -- if --  
20 how to quantify that relative to other sources of  
21 harm. Did you have a question or --

22 MR. MOORE: Just offering that I think our  
23 next witness is definitely prepared to answer those  
24 types of questions.

25 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Okay. Great. Thank

1 you. That's helpful. Do -- are you -- based on your  
2 expertise, do you feel you can weigh in on that in  
3 some way?

4 THE WITNESS: Yes.

5 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Not necessarily with a  
6 number per se, but just with really the -- the  
7 ultimate point which is the extent of harm that  
8 suction dredging may or may not cause relative to  
9 other factors regarding these threatened species.

10 THE WITNESS: Yes, I think I can and I think  
11 I -- I did to some extent yesterday. I explained the  
12 natural processes with high flows and sediment moving  
13 or sediment -- substrate particles moving and that  
14 occurring at a different time of year than when the  
15 suction dredging would occur under different  
16 conditions, that the organisms that live in the South  
17 Fork are adapted to -- to surviving during high-flow  
18 events.

19 For example, fish will move to the edges of  
20 the stream to stay out of the high water. They might  
21 -- if the water's high enough, they might move into  
22 the trees or the bushes. So, they -- the organisms  
23 that are present and have been present in the South  
24 Fork for millennia are adapted a rhythm that occurs in  
25 the -- in the stream conditions of the South Fork.

1 The typical conditions, the typical natural conditions  
2 in the summer when the dredging would occur are  
3 different than those and are not something they're --  
4 they're specifically adapted to for the most part.

5 Now, that's not to say that there aren't  
6 high-flow events in the summer sometimes if you have a  
7 heavy thunderstorm or something like that. Stream  
8 flows can come up, the turbidity can increase, that  
9 sort of thing. But the organisms, as I said,  
10 including the fish, the endangered species have a way  
11 of maintaining themselves with natural, fluctuating  
12 natural conditions that maybe if you look at a -- the  
13 whole river at the peak flow, that may be -- that is  
14 a -- a larger impact in any particular spot than  
15 suction dredging on that spot, but it's in a different  
16 context.

17 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Thank you. Mr.  
18 Erlanson.

19 BY MR. ERLANSON:

20 Q The only last question I have. It's been  
21 mentioned about a 150-foot dredge plume was brought  
22 out in testimony. It -- the monitoring team -- the  
23 suction dredger is supposed to monitor -- monitor the  
24 turbidity plume, the dredge plume, and it should not  
25 exceed 150 feet. But that 150 feet, is that -- is

1 that according to the water quality standard for the  
 2 South Fork Clearwater River? I was under the  
 3 impression it was 500 feet.  
 4 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Hold on one second.  
 5 Do you have an objection?  
 6 MR. MOORE: I do. I don't think that this  
 7 subject was covered in my redirect, so it's outside  
 8 the scope.  
 9 JUDGE COUGHLIN: With regard to the length  
 10 of feet?  
 11 MR. MOORE: I don't think that we talked  
 12 about turbidity specifically in my redirect, and we  
 13 certainly didn't talk about water quality standards.  
 14 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Was that covered in  
 15 your direct, though?  
 16 MR. MOORE: Yes.  
 17 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.  
 18 MR. MOORE: Not water quality standards but  
 19 turbidity, certainly.  
 20 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Yeah, I thought --  
 21 that's what I thought, too. Okay. Technically you're  
 22 correct, but I'm going to overrule the objection just  
 23 to allow some questions that maybe weren't asked  
 24 before.  
 25 MR. MOORE: Understood. Thank you.

1 JUDGE COUGHLIN: And if -- you know, I mean,  
 2 if you need to follow up at all -- I know we typically  
 3 end with recross, but because of the leniency I'm  
 4 allowing, should that require you to do any follow-up,  
 5 I'll extend that to you as well.  
 6 MR. MOORE: Thank you, Your Honor.  
 7 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Go ahead, Mr.  
 8 Erlanson.  
 9 BY MR. ERLANSON:  
 10 Q I was just -- I was under the impression  
 11 that the -- the NPDES permit allows for a 500-foot  
 12 mixing zone and that the turbidity NTU units at that  
 13 level would be less than 50. So, I -- I was concerned  
 14 by the counsel's reference to 150 foot, and I was just  
 15 wondering how that 150 foot gets into this mix. I  
 16 don't understand where the 150 foot gets into the  
 17 regulatory scheme of things here. So, I'm -- I'm  
 18 hoping you can give me some insight here.  
 19 MR. MOORE: Your Honor, I think Mr.  
 20 Erlanson's question is related to EPA measures of the  
 21 general permit which Mr. Kenney I don't think  
 22 testified about in direct.  
 23 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Yeah, I don't -- I  
 24 don't recall. Did you testify about any of that on  
 25 your direct, about the -- the feet and the -- and

1 EPA's general permit of 150 feet?  
 2 THE WITNESS: No. I -- I testified as to  
 3 what was in the BA and -- and the -- there were  
 4 mitigation measures, one that mentioned 150 feet and  
 5 one that mentioned the 800-foot spacing between  
 6 dredgers.  
 7 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Again, technically a  
 8 sustainable objection.  
 9 MR. ERLANSON: Yeah.  
 10 JUDGE COUGHLIN: So, I'll sustain it. But  
 11 let me just ask you if you know where that 150 is  
 12 derived, from what it's derived, if you know? And if  
 13 you don't, then that's fine too.  
 14 THE WITNESS: Yes, I could speak to that.  
 15 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.  
 16 THE WITNESS: So, the -- as I previously  
 17 stated, there are other suction dredging areas on the  
 18 Forest, and we have conducted consultations previously  
 19 on these other suction dredging areas. And to tell  
 20 you the truth, I inherited a set of mitigation  
 21 measures that I basically kind of pasted into our BA  
 22 when I went from consultation to consultation just for  
 23 the ease of -- ease of adoption and -- and monitoring  
 24 and that sort of thing. And so, the original  
 25 Biological Assessments that I put together in 2013 for

1 the Moose Creek Project area and the LoLo Creek  
 2 Project area -- the previous Biological Assessments  
 3 which have been done, I think the last one was in 2009  
 4 or 2010, something like that, had that 150-foot --  
 5 150-foot measure that related to visible turbidity and  
 6 the miner stopping when he observed -- when the miner  
 7 observed a -- a turbidity plume of more than 150 feet.  
 8 Now, the -- as far as I know -- and I could  
 9 be wrong about this -- this wasn't tied to the NPDES  
 10 permit. I think it does actually say in the BA that  
 11 it is, but I might -- anyway, I'm not sure about that.  
 12 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.  
 13 THE WITNESS: But the -- the mitigation  
 14 measures that we put in the BA and that are in the EA  
 15 also are sometimes a compromise between the actual  
 16 potential impacts and the ability of in this case the  
 17 miners to comply with intended results and for the  
 18 Forest Service to -- to, you know, constantly observe  
 19 and inspect these sorts of things. So, we could have  
 20 put something else in there. But for whatever reason  
 21 that was originally in there, the 150 feet was chosen.  
 22 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. And that -- and I  
 23 think you indicated right from the get-go that was  
 24 something you inherited.  
 25 THE WITNESS: I -- that -- that is my

1 recollection. It's been a while since I originally  
 2 put that put that in, but I believe we have 150 feet  
 3 in each of the one, two, three, four, five, six -- I'm  
 4 sorry -- five Biological Assessments.  
 5 JUDGE COUGHLIN: All right. Thank you. Go  
 6 ahead, Mr. Erlanson.  
 7 BY MR. ERLANSON:  
 8 Q So, is that -- is that a rule of the Forest  
 9 Service, it's this 150 foot, is that an extra rule, or  
 10 is it just part of a Biological Assessment?  
 11 A By a rule as far as I know -- by a rule it  
 12 is not in any sort of, you know, Code of Federal  
 13 Regulations or any Forest Service handbook or anything  
 14 like that. It is specific as far as I know to this  
 15 Forest and the processes that we've done as far as  
 16 consultation over the years.  
 17 MR. ERLANSON: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Kenney.  
 18 I'm -- I'm -- I'm fine with it. I'm done.  
 19 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. No more questions?  
 20 MR. ERLANSON: No more questions, yeah.  
 21 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Did that raise anything you  
 22 needed to delve into, Mr. Moore?  
 23 MR. MOORE: I don't think so, Your Honor.  
 24 Thank you.  
 25 JUDGE COUGHLIN: All right. Okay. Mr.

1 Kenney, thank you very much for your testimony.  
 2 THE WITNESS: You're welcome.  
 3 (Witness excused.)  
 4 JUDGE COUGHLIN: So, you're up to your next  
 5 witness, right, your last one?  
 6 MR. MOORE: Yes.  
 7 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Would you all like a  
 8 brief break before we launch into that?  
 9 MR. ERLANSON: Yeah.  
 10 MR. MOORE: I think five minutes would be  
 11 appreciated.  
 12 MR. McLAREN: Yes. And can I ask one  
 13 clarifying question?  
 14 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Sure.  
 15 MR. McLAREN: For the purposes of  
 16 preparation I'd like to know if Mr. Erlanson has  
 17 changed whether he plans to take the stand after our  
 18 final witness.  
 19 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Mr. Erlanson?  
 20 MR. ERLANSON: No, I'm not.  
 21 JUDGE COUGHLIN: You're not going to  
 22 testify?  
 23 MR. ERLANSON: No, I'm not.  
 24 JUDGE COUGHLIN: And what about introducing  
 25 any of those exhibits?

1 MR. ERLANSON: Those exhibits were entered  
 2 by my attorney before. So --  
 3 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Right.  
 4 MR. ERLANSON: -- I don't see any reason why  
 5 they can't be part of the record or whatever.  
 6 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. So, do you -- and  
 7 just to clarify whether you want to introduce them  
 8 into evidence at this hearing as exhibits as opposed  
 9 to keeping them as part of the case record being  
 10 mindful of the fact that my decision will only be  
 11 based on what has been produced by this evidentiary  
 12 hearing. So, the witnesses that testified --  
 13 MR. ERLANSON: Sure.  
 14 JUDGE COUGHLIN: -- the exhibits that are  
 15 admitted into evidence as opposed to what's contained  
 16 elsewhere in the larger case record.  
 17 MR. ERLANSON: I think they can be admitted  
 18 into evidence. I mean, I -- they were admitted  
 19 before. I mean, I was -- I'm just --  
 20 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Well, yeah, it's -- it's a  
 21 legal distinction. Your attorney provided them as --  
 22 MR. ERLANSON: Okay.  
 23 JUDGE COUGHLIN: -- part of the Respondent's  
 24 pre-hearing exchange.  
 25 MR. ERLANSON: Okay.

1 JUDGE COUGHLIN: And so, they're -- they've  
 2 already been exchanged. So, there's nothing new.  
 3 MR. ERLANSON: Okay.  
 4 JUDGE COUGHLIN: You know, Complainant has  
 5 been aware of them, has been able to prepare which is  
 6 kind of a point. That's why I'm not allowing anything  
 7 new to come in for both of you.  
 8 MR. ERLANSON: Right.  
 9 JUDGE COUGHLIN: So, I wanted to let you  
 10 know that if you want me to consider them at all, then  
 11 they ought to be offered into evidence at this  
 12 hearing, and again referring just to RX-2 and then  
 13 RX-4 through RX-9.  
 14 MR. ERLANSON: Yeah.  
 15 JUDGE COUGHLIN: That said, did Complainant  
 16 have any objections to those coming in?  
 17 MR. McLAREN: If this is a question of  
 18 whether he will be permitted to introduce them without  
 19 testimony or authentication --  
 20 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Presumably. I -- if -- I  
 21 assume no witnesses. So, you're not going to testify,  
 22 no witnesses to testify. So --  
 23 MR. ERLANSON: That's correct.  
 24 JUDGE COUGHLIN: So, it gets into kind of  
 25 what I was talking about earlier with regard to how

1 much weight. But you -- you can still offer them in.  
 2 MR. ERLANSON: Go ahead.  
 3 MR. McLAREN: If I may -- if Mr. Erlanson  
 4 would like to admit those, I -- I believe 2 and then 4  
 5 through 9, EPA is probably comfortable with that so  
 6 long as we can admit one other item from the record.  
 7 It had been previously exchanged. It's something with  
 8 which Respondent's familiar. So, I'm fine with that  
 9 sort of exchange.  
 10 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.  
 11 MR. McLAREN: I'm a little bit less  
 12 comfortable if it's Mr. Erlanson just proposing all of  
 13 these exhibits to be introduced without any context  
 14 authentication, et cetera. So, if -- if we are  
 15 considering previously entered items in the record,  
 16 there's just one other item we'd like to add on top of  
 17 that.  
 18 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.  
 19 MR. McLAREN: And that --  
 20 JUDGE COUGHLIN: I'm not -- yeah, I'm not  
 21 sure I'm -- I understand whether you object. I mean,  
 22 obviously there are going to be authentication --  
 23 there's going to be a -- the extent to which I can  
 24 afford weight.  
 25 MR. McLAREN: Certainly.

1 JUDGE COUGHLIN: But I'm also mindful of the  
 2 fact, I think, that in Complainant's rebuttal  
 3 pre-hearing exchange there were some references to  
 4 some of the Respondent's exhibits.  
 5 MR. McLAREN: Yeah.  
 6 JUDGE COUGHLIN: And so, it seems to me that  
 7 it -- it's at least fair to afford him the opportunity  
 8 to introduce them into evidence. Obviously if there  
 9 are questions about who authored them and whether  
 10 they're here to testify, that doesn't happen. But I  
 11 can -- I may be able to provide some weight, albeit in  
 12 a limited capacity or perhaps no weight. But that  
 13 comes after when I review and subject to argument post  
 14 hearing. So, really what I'm asking you is whether  
 15 you wish to object to those exhibits coming into  
 16 evidence.  
 17 MR. McLAREN: No, Your Honor, so long as  
 18 they're not RX-1 and RX-3 or any of the later  
 19 exchange, I -- I won't object to those coming into  
 20 evidence. Again, I'll say less cryptically  
 21 simultaneously something on which you relied in your  
 22 order on motion for accelerated decision, a  
 23 declaration submitted by Mr. Erlanson. I'll offer  
 24 that as well.  
 25 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. That's -- sure, I

1 understand. That's fine.  
 2 MR. McLAREN: Perfect.  
 3 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Well, so why don't  
 4 we do this? Let's take a break.  
 5 MR. McLAREN: Certainly.  
 6 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Do you have a copy of -- of  
 7 those exhibits?  
 8 MR. McLAREN: We do. I have a copy right  
 9 here. So -- and we have several copies.  
 10 JUDGE COUGHLIN: So, you're good with -- we  
 11 don't -- I mean, you didn't bring copies. So, I'm  
 12 again trying to provide some leniency here. Are you  
 13 comfortable working off of the copies you have? We're  
 14 all going to be doing that, I think. So --  
 15 MR. McLAREN: That's right. I -- I believe  
 16 we're comfortable for the purposes of my own issues.  
 17 I'll go over all the exhibits one more time just to  
 18 make sure I'm not leaving anything out.  
 19 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Sure.  
 20 MR. McLAREN: And then towards the end of  
 21 this once we reach the end of our testimony, I'll say  
 22 finally, yes, we're comfortable this coming in.  
 23 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Totally fine.  
 24 MR. McLAREN: Thank you, Your Honor.  
 25 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Do you want a little more

1 time than a five-minute break, just so you're not -- I  
 2 don't want you to have to multitask while people are  
 3 testifying.  
 4 MR. McLAREN: We'll probably break for lunch  
 5 after Mr. Arthaud's testimony I'd imagine.  
 6 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.  
 7 MR. McLAREN: So, I could do that over the  
 8 course of the -- does that work?  
 9 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Sure, that's fine. I mean,  
 10 If you're not going to be testifying, you know, you  
 11 may want to consider --  
 12 MR. McLAREN: End it here?  
 13 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Yeah. I mean, unless you  
 14 really want to come back after lunch, but it might  
 15 --  
 16 MR. McLAREN: Then I ask for maybe a  
 17 20-minute, a 15-minute break.  
 18 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Sure, yeah, yeah. Well,  
 19 let's do 20.  
 20 MR. McLAREN: Okay.  
 21 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Give you plenty of time.  
 22 And if you need another one, just let me know because  
 23 I -- you know, I -- I don't want to derail things  
 24 here.  
 25 MR. McLAREN: Certainly.

1 JUDGE COUGHLIN: But I'm just trying to be  
2 as lenient as possible to everybody.  
3 MR. McLAREN: Thank you, Your Honor.  
4 JUDGE COUGHLIN: All right. I'll see y'all  
5 back in about 20 minutes then.  
6 MR. McLAREN: Thank you.  
7 JUDGE COUGHLIN: All right. Thank you.  
8 MR. ERLANSON: Thank you.  
9 (Whereupon, a brief recess was taken.)  
10 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. We're back on the  
11 record. It's a little bit more than 20 minutes but  
12 close. And I -- I know we're going to pick up with  
13 the last witness, but do you want to deal with the  
14 exhibits now? Would you prefer to do it later?  
15 MR. McLAREN: I'd prefer to do it at the end  
16 of this case.  
17 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Sure. Do you -- if you  
18 need more time at any stage, just let me know.  
19 MR. McLAREN: I will.  
20 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. All right. Very  
21 good.  
22 MR. McLAREN: Thank you, Your Honor.  
23 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Sure. So, your next  
24 witness.  
25 MR. MOORE: EPA Calls David Arthaud.

1 JUDGE COUGHLIN: And can you -- the  
2 pronunciation again on the last name.  
3 MR. MOORE: Arthaud.  
4 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Arthaud? Okay. Great.  
5 Thank you.  
6 Whereupon,  
7 DAVID ARTHAUD  
8 having been duly sworn, was called as a  
9 witness and was examined and testified as follows:  
10 DIRECT EXAMINATION  
11 BY MR. MOORE:  
12 Q Good morning, Mr. Arthaud.  
13 A Good morning.  
14 Q Can you please state your full name and  
15 spell your last name for the record.  
16 A David Lee Arthaud, A-R-T-H-A-U-D.  
17 Q And are you employed, Mr. Arthaud?  
18 A Yes.  
19 Q Where do you work?  
20 A National Marine Fishery Service in Moscow,  
21 Idaho.  
22 Q And what's your title there?  
23 A Fishery biologist.  
24 Q Can you describe for the Court the topics on  
25 which you've been asked to testify today.

1 A I've been asked to testify of the adverse  
2 impacts of the suction dredge on July 22nd, 2015 from  
3 Mr. Erlanson.  
4 Q And have you reviewed any documents in  
5 reaching your expert opinion?  
6 A Yes, many.  
7 Q Can you generally describe the kinds of  
8 documents that you reviewed?  
9 A Well, the exhibits and then dozens of -- of  
10 primary literature on scientific literature, on  
11 sediment, sedimentation, turbidity, at those types of  
12 things.  
13 Q Excellent. And can you briefly summarize  
14 your conclusions on the topics that you've been asked  
15 to testify?  
16 A That suction dredging causes adverse  
17 effects, and that this incident is a typical suction  
18 dredging type of activity that would cause those  
19 effects, and they would affect the water column, the  
20 substrate, and there would be direct effects, also.  
21 (The document referred to was  
22 marked for identification as  
23 Complainant's Exhibit No.  
24 33.)  
25 //

1 BY MR. MOORE:  
2 Q Because EPA's offering you as an expert  
3 witness, I'm going to discuss some of your  
4 qualifications. In doing so, I'll turn you to  
5 Complainant's Exhibit 33.  
6 (Pause.)  
7 Q Do you recognize this document?  
8 A Yes. It is my resume.  
9 Q EPA moves to admit Complaint's Exhibit 33  
10 into evidence.  
11 JUDGE COUGHLIN: (Coughs.) If I can stop my  
12 choking. Do you object, Mr. Erlanson?  
13 MR. ERLANSON: No, ma'am, Your Honor.  
14 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. CX-33 is admitted.  
15 So sorry. Dry -- dry cough.  
16 (The document referred to,  
17 previously identified as  
18 Complainant's Exhibit No. 33,  
19 was received in evidence.)  
20 BY MR. MOORE:  
21 Q Mr. Arthaud, from what university did you  
22 obtain your undergraduate degree?  
23 A University of Missouri.  
24 Q And what degree did you obtain there?  
25 A A Bachelor of Science in fish and wildlife

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1 management.

2 Q And can you describe the types of courses

3 that you took in obtaining that degree?

4 A Ichthyology, geology, ornithology,

5 mammalogy, ecology.

6 Q And in what year did you graduate?

7 A 1989.

8 Q Did you go on to do any post-graduate

9 education?

10 A Yes, I did. I went to the University of

11 Idaho.

12 Q And what degree did you obtain there?

13 A Master of Science and Fishery Resources.

14 Q In what year?

15 A 1992.

16 Q Can you describe the types of courses that

17 you took in obtaining that degree?

18 A Ecology of aquatic invertebrates, ecology of

19 water pollution, advanced fisheries management, fish

20 physiology.

21 Q You mentioned that you currently serve as a

22 Fisheries biologist for NMFS. How long have you been

23 in your current role?

24 A Nineteen years.

25 Q And what are your duties in that role?

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1 A Primarily to -- Section -- to consult with

2 action agencies, Section 7 of the Endangered Species

3 Act, if -- wherever those activities might harm fish,

4 cause adverse effects on fish listed species.

5 Q And in that consultation process are there

6 documents that you draft?

7 A Yes.

8 Q What are those documents?

9 A There's usually two letter of concurrence

10 and biological opinions.

11 Q And in your current role how many biological

12 opinions have you authored?

13 A Fifteen about.

14 Q And of those how many involved your analysis

15 of impacts on salmonids?

16 A All of them.

17 Q In your current role with NMFS, has your

18 work ever related to the South Fork of the Clearwater

19 River?

20 A Yes.

21 Q In what way?

22 A I worked on the suction dredging program

23 with Forest Service and BLM. I've worked on mining

24 restoration projects and technical assistance for

25 stream flow and other things.

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1 (The document referred to was

2 marked for identification as

3 Complainant's Exhibit No.

4 16.)

5 BY MR. MOORE:

6 Q I'll turn you to Complainant's Exhibit 16

7 now.

8 A Okay.

9 Q Do you recognize this document?

10 A Yes. It's a letter of concurrence for EPA's

11 small suction dredging general permit for the State of

12 Idaho.

13 Q And what was your role in creating this

14 document?

15 A I led the consultation and drafted this

16 letter.

17 MR. MOORE: EPA moves to admit Complainant's

18 Exhibit 16 into evidence.

19 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Any objection, Mr.

20 Erlanson?

21 MR. ERLANSON: No. No, Your Honor.

22 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. CX-16 is admitted.

23 //

24 //

25 //

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1 (The document referred to,

2 previously identified as

3 Complainant's Exhibit No. 16,

4 was received in evidence.)

5 (The document referred to was

6 marked for identification as

7 Complainant's Exhibit No.

8 17.)

9 BY MR. MOORE:

10 Q I'll have you turn now to Complainant's

11 Exhibit 17.

12 A Okay.

13 Q Do you recognize this document?

14 A Yes, I do.

15 Q What is it?

16 A This is the Biological opinion and Magnuson

17 Stevens Fishery Conservation Management Act on

18 essential fish habitat response for the South Fork

19 Clearwater Small Suction Dredging Program.

20 Q And did you have a role in creating this

21 document?

22 A Yes. I led the consultation and wrote the

23 bi-op.

24 MR. MOORE: EPA moves to admit Complainant's

25 Exhibit 17 into evidence.

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1 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Any objection, Mr.  
 2 Erlanson?  
 3 MR. ERLANSON: No, Your Honor.  
 4 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. CX-17 is admitted.  
 5 (The document referred to,  
 6 previously identified as  
 7 Complainant's Exhibit No. 17,  
 8 was received in evidence.)  
 9 BY MR. MOORE:  
 10 Q Mr. Arthaud, I'm sorry to jump around, but  
 11 I'll turn you back to your resume, Complainant's  
 12 Exhibit 34.  
 13 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Thirty-four or 33?  
 14 MR. MOORE: I'm sorry. Thirty-three.  
 15 You're correct.  
 16 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.  
 17 THE WITNESS: Okay.  
 18 BY MR. MOORE:  
 19 Q Can you briefly describe the position that  
 20 you held immediately prior to your current position?  
 21 A Yes. It was Fisheries biologist also  
 22 working for NMFS but on the California Coastal Team in  
 23 1998 and '99.  
 24 Q And what were your general responsibilities  
 25 in that role?

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1 A Very similar. Section 7 consultations under  
 2 the SA and technical assistant through various  
 3 projects with state and other federal agencies.  
 4 Q And before your role with NMFS and Santa  
 5 Rosa, what was your job before that?  
 6 A I worked for the Shoshone Bannock tribe in  
 7 Fort Hall, Idaho. I was Anadromous Fisheries  
 8 biologist.  
 9 Q And can you describe your duties in that  
 10 role?  
 11 A I managed anadromous fisheries for the  
 12 tribes and habitat restoration throughout the Columbia  
 13 Basin. And also I was there from -- from -- let me  
 14 think -- from 1998 back to '96.  
 15 Q And before 1996 what was your job?  
 16 A I worked for the -- as a resident Fisheries  
 17 biologist for the Shoshone Bannock tribes in Fort  
 18 Hall, managing wild trout fisheries on the Fort Hall  
 19 bottoms and restoring habitat.  
 20 Q And have you ever received any awards that  
 21 commended your service in the various roles that you  
 22 mentioned?  
 23 A Yes, I did. I received the Bronze Medal  
 24 award from NOAA in 2003 for leading a team of  
 25 scientists on the Potlatch Mill biological opinion and

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1 consultation.  
 2 Q Have you ever published any scientific  
 3 papers on the topics that you're testifying on today?  
 4 A I have. Two.  
 5 Q And generally what were the -- what were the  
 6 topics of those papers?  
 7 A The first one was on aid to juvenile  
 8 survival primarily related to stream flow and early  
 9 rearing habitats in the Lemhi River, and then it also  
 10 related that survival to the whole life cycle of the  
 11 salmon. So, we were able to look at the returning  
 12 adults also.  
 13 MR. MOORE: At this point, Your Honor, I'll  
 14 tender this witness as an expert specifically in  
 15 ESA-listed species in the South Fork Clearwater River  
 16 and the impacts of suction dredging on those species.  
 17 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. And Mr. Erlanson, do  
 18 you have any objection to that?  
 19 MR. ERLANSON: No, Your Honor.  
 20 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. So deemed.  
 21 BY MR. MOORE:  
 22 Q Mr. Arthaud, can you turn to Complainant's  
 23 Exhibit 17?  
 24 A Okay.  
 25 Q And I believe you already testified that

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1 this document is the biological opinion that you  
 2 authored regarding small scale suction dredging on the  
 3 South Fork Clearwater River. Is that right?  
 4 A Yes.  
 5 Q What's the -- what's the purpose of drafting  
 6 this document?  
 7 A The purpose of this document is to summarize  
 8 the existing science and knowledge on an issue that  
 9 could have adverse effects to fish and to provide our  
 10 opinion on it and offer ways to mitigate the harms,  
 11 the potential harms and adversity and those usually  
 12 fall under terms and conditions in the monitoring  
 13 plan.  
 14 Q What year was the biological opinion  
 15 completed?  
 16 A 2016.  
 17 Q And to be clear, in 2015 was suction dredge  
 18 mining allowed in the South Fork Clearwater River?  
 19 A No.  
 20 Q Why not?  
 21 A Because the general permit that we already  
 22 looked at from EPA excluded it without a Land  
 23 Management Agency's ESA consultation for that area.  
 24 Throughout the rest of the Idaho was okay but not in  
 25 the Clearwater.

1 Q Please turn to Page 995 of the same exhibit.  
 2 Are you there?  
 3 A No.  
 4 Q Sorry.  
 5 A Okay.  
 6 Q At the bottom of the page, Section 2.2 is  
 7 titled "Range Wide Status of the Species and Critical  
 8 Habitat." In general, what topics are discussed in  
 9 this section of the bi-op.

10 A In this section first it looks at the status  
 11 of the species. It relates current numbers and trends  
 12 to historic populations, and it also looks at the  
 13 status of critical habitat related to past conditions.

14 Q Can you please explain which endangered  
 15 species inhabit the South Fork?

16 A The fall Chinook salmon inhabit at least the  
 17 lower portions for spawning, and they may invade well  
 18 up into the system. Snake River Basin, steelhead, and  
 19 also Fish and Wildlife Service has bull trout listed.

20 Q Briefly describe how do each of those  
 21 species use the South Fork?

22 A The Snake River fall Chinook salmon move up  
 23 from downstream areas and spawn in the lower main stem  
 24 of the South Fork, and then their juveniles spread out  
 25 and rear throughout the main stem and then migrate out

1 within a year or two towards the ocean and then  
 2 return. Snake River Basin steelhead spawn and rear  
 3 throughout the South Fork and its tributaries, main  
 4 stream and tributaries, and then they migrate out and  
 5 return as adults. And then bull trout, they're mostly  
 6 in tributaries, but they also use the main stem South  
 7 Fork during the winter and at other times.

8 Q And can you describe what the current status  
 9 of these species, of these ESA-listed species, is in  
 10 the South Fork?

11 A All three of these are threatened.

12 Q And help us understand their general  
 13 population trends.

14 A Well, I should say they're threatened with  
 15 risk of extinction, and the general population trends  
 16 for Snake River Basin steelhead are -- well, both,  
 17 also fall Chinook, their range has been constricted  
 18 and their abundance has declined greatly from  
 19 previous.

20 Q Thank you. I'll have you turn to Page 1004  
 21 of the same exhibit.

22 A Okay.

23 Q The bottom section on that page is titled  
 24 "Status of Designated Critical Habitat." Has any  
 25 portion of the South Fork Clearwater River been

1 designated endangered species critical habitat?

2 A Yes. The entire main stem and most of the  
 3 links of most tributaries have been designated for  
 4 Snake River Basin steelhead. Most tributaries have  
 5 been designated for Snake River Basin steelhead as  
 6 critical habitat.

7 Q And why is that?

8 A Because they need those areas to maintain  
 9 the population numbers that they're at, and those  
 10 areas are also needed for their recovery.

11 Q And, generally, can you explain the current  
 12 status of critical habitat in the South Fork?

13 A It is degraded. It varies. Most people --  
 14 I would call it fair overall and that's it.

15 Q Thank you. I'll turn you to Page 1007 now.

16 A Okay.

17 Q There's a table on this page that lists  
 18 factors that limit critical habitat in the South Fork.  
 19 Can you go through each of these factors explaining  
 20 why they're limiting?

21 A Yes. The riparian and flood plume  
 22 conditions are poor, and they are mostly the result of  
 23 additional sediment that has come into the channel  
 24 which also affects the riparian vegetation, and  
 25 there's a constriction by the Highway 14 that runs the

1 length of the South Fork main stem. So, the flood  
 2 plain has been narrowed.

3 Q And so, I think you described why the  
 4 riparian and flood plain condition is a limiting  
 5 factor. Can you explain why temperature is a limiting  
 6 factor?

7 A Yes. Temperature is another limiting  
 8 factor. It is for -- from a reduction of -- of  
 9 vegetative shade is one aspect. But the main reason  
 10 for temperature being a problem in the South Fork is  
 11 that it has high volumes of sand in its channel bed,  
 12 and so, the habitat's simplified and there's not as  
 13 much shade from complex habitat.

14 Q And the next limiting factor listed is  
 15 migration barrier. Why is that a limiting factor?

16 A Because of heavy eroding in the basin.  
 17 There are many culverts and small bridges and  
 18 difficult passage areas, and so, that's part of it.  
 19 And another part of it is when a channel has high bed  
 20 loads of sand in it, it -- it causes all those  
 21 conditions to be exacerbated. It's harder to keep  
 22 passage open.

23 Q And sediment. Why is sediment a limiting  
 24 factor?

25 A For the reasons I just said, but it is -- it

1 is -- it reduces survival greatly for rearing and  
2 spawning. Like incubating eggs can be reduced 16  
3 percent survival by a 1 percent increase in fine  
4 sediment and the same way with early juvenile rearing.  
5 They need to have interstitial spaces under the  
6 cobbles that we've been discussing, and sediment fills  
7 those -- fine sediments fills those cobbles and  
8 simplifies the area and removes their habitat.

9 Q Does the table suggest that there's a high  
10 amount of sediment existing in the South Fork  
11 Clearwater River?

12 A It does. It's excess sediments throughout  
13 most of these limiting factors that contribute to  
14 them. And the very last one, habitat complexity, when  
15 you get a lot of sand and fine sediment in a channel,  
16 it fills the pools up and embeds the cobbles. There's  
17 sand around all the rocks or under them, and it makes  
18 the -- the channel simplified. It simplifies it.  
19 It's wherever you look, you have high embedded habitat  
20 with sand.

21 Q And briefly I'll turn you back to sediment.  
22 Why -- why does the South Fork have a high amount of  
23 sediment?

24 A It -- it has a high amount of sediment from  
25 legacy mining, placer mining that has occurred in the

1 past and that has taken 50 to 100 years to begin to  
2 recover. And there's also large timber harvest in  
3 uplands and additional roads, high densities of roads,  
4 and all those devolvments and activities tend to  
5 produce sediment, fine sediment.

6 Q Can you turn to Page 1036 of the same  
7 document.

8 A Okay.

9 Q So, the section on this page is entitled  
10 "The Magnuson Stevens Fisheries Conservation and  
11 Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Consultation."  
12 Can you explain the obligation of federal agencies  
13 under the MSA?

14 A Under this act the MSA federal agencies are  
15 required to consult with NMFS if their activities are  
16 likely to adversely affect essential fish habitat.

17 Q What's essential fish habitat?

18 A EFH is the -- the sum of habitat and all its  
19 components that are needed to produce strong  
20 populations of these salmonids which are commercial --  
21 highly valued commercial fisheries, and those  
22 components of habitat are the riverbed, the substrate,  
23 the channel shape and form, the riparian vegetation,  
24 passage, the sum of the -- mostly the limiting factors  
25 that we just read.

1 Q Is any portion of the South Fork considered  
2 essential fish habitat?

3 A Yes, it is. The entire South Fork watershed  
4 is EFH for Coho salmon and spring-summer Chinook  
5 salmon and fall -- Snake River fall Chinook salmon.

6 Q Why is it classified as such?

7 A Because it is essential for their  
8 productivity and survival.

9 Q Thank you. Sir, I want to turn now to talk  
10 about the impacts of suction dredging generally. In  
11 your opinion, does suction dredge mining cause adverse  
12 environmental impacts in the South Fork Clearwater  
13 River?

14 A Yes.

15 Q To break that down I want to talk about the  
16 kinds of adverse impacts it might cause. Does suction  
17 dredging cause direct disturbances to the river's  
18 substrate?

19 A It does.

20 Q How does it do that?

21 A First it's a -- it's an activity that recurs  
22 repeatedly, and it often involves heavy weights like  
23 the dredge maybe dragged across substrates and gravels  
24 than in contained -- aquatic invertebrates and even  
25 small fish or eggs, and the dredge miner will roll

1 large boulders out of the area. Any rock larger than  
2 five inches and smaller too probably but will need to  
3 removed from that area so it won't clog the suction  
4 dredge as he's -- as he's digging.

5 And then there's the direct effect of the  
6 hole. That was functioning habitat with an armor  
7 layer placed by high flows during the spring  
8 naturally, and they dig through that and then take  
9 that slurry of mixed cobbles and stones and sand and  
10 then drop onto -- they raise it up above the water and  
11 then drop it onto other habitats that are functioning,  
12 and that causes crushing of invertebrates and small  
13 fish. It's a burial and suffocation from the clogging  
14 of interstitial spaces when that happens.

15 Q So you talked about this a little bit in  
16 your response to my last question. But so, in  
17 addition to changes to the river substrate, does  
18 suction dredging cause direct disturbances to the  
19 organisms that are in the area?

20 A Yes, I did cover that a little bit. It --  
21 it -- it can -- can cover them, bury them, crush them,  
22 disturb and remove their habitat to displace them.  
23 Where they lived is no longer, that type of thing  
24 directly.

25 Q Are you aware of any scientific studies that

1 have looked at the direct disturbances that suction  
 2 dredging might cause?  
 3 A Yes.  
 4 Q And generally what are the results?  
 5 A Generally the results are that it's highly  
 6 lethal to eggs and the very young embryos, larval  
 7 fish, higher rates of mortality for them. And then  
 8 it's -- it's also lethal to younger stages of aquatic  
 9 invertebrates like first instars and the very young  
 10 larvae.  
 11 Q Thank you. Does suction dredging also cause  
 12 the suspension of sediments?  
 13 A Yes, it does.  
 14 Q And how does it do that?  
 15 A It -- as the hole is being excavated where  
 16 the miner's trying to access bedrock in places under  
 17 the stream where he might think there's gold, those  
 18 mixed cobbles and sands and fines are lifted up and  
 19 then dropped down out of -- run through the sluice and  
 20 dropped off the end of the dredge. And some of the  
 21 tailings stay right there because they're larger,  
 22 heavier, dense, and the finer particles are caught by  
 23 the current and -- and do not fall out of suspension  
 24 immediately and form a plume or cloudy turbidity plume  
 25 below the dredge.

1 Q So, does this suspension of sediments cause  
 2 behavioral changes in organisms nearby?  
 3 A It does. Some aquatic invertebrates, often  
 4 the preferred food of salmonids and salmonids  
 5 themselves are highly sensitive to suspended solids  
 6 and suspended grains of sand. Also, algae can be  
 7 affected by it also.  
 8 Q Focusing just on behavioral changes for the  
 9 moment, at what level of turbidity do you start to see  
 10 behavioral changes?  
 11 A They can -- they can occur at very low  
 12 levels of turbidity depending on the fish and the  
 13 situation, but I usually consider maybe 20 NTUs as a  
 14 threshold for more serious displacement and behavioral  
 15 changes by fish.  
 16 Q For those of us that don't know what's --  
 17 what are NTUs?  
 18 A Nephelometric Turbidity Units are -- it's a  
 19 machine that measures the light refraction through  
 20 water and particles that are in it. It's -- it's just  
 21 a -- it's a measure of turbidity.  
 22 Q Can the suspension of sediments also cause  
 23 physiological impacts?  
 24 A It can. As you -- as turbidity gets above  
 25 20 NTUs and approaches 50, there's increasing intense

1 behavioral impacts of, more fish will leave the plume  
 2 and fish that do stay in it may -- are more likely to  
 3 exhibit coughing and, you know, mucous of the gills  
 4 just like we would if we were breathing in sand.  
 5 Q Would you classify most of those as  
 6 sublethal impacts?  
 7 A Yes, at that level, yes.  
 8 Q Can turbidity cause lethal impacts?  
 9 A It can. Usually, that's around 100 NTUs.  
 10 Q Does suction dredge mining also cause  
 11 sedimentation?  
 12 A Yes, it does.  
 13 Q And what's the difference between  
 14 sedimentation and the suspension of sediments?  
 15 A Suspended sediments are just that. They're  
 16 suspended in the water column or in water beneath the  
 17 water column in the substrates, flowing through the  
 18 substrates, but they're still suspended in water.  
 19 Sedimentation is when they fall out of suspension and  
 20 lay on cobbles or fill up interstitial spaces and  
 21 stop.  
 22 Q So does sedimentation impact mollusks or  
 23 invertebrates in the area?  
 24 A Yes. Some of the species of mollusks and  
 25 snails are highly sensitive to it, and the literature

1 shows that even a depth of one inch will cause  
 2 mortality, and some of the mussels cannot even get out  
 3 of that.  
 4 Q Does sedimentation also impact plant life in  
 5 the river?  
 6 A Yes, it does. First off, the cloudiness  
 7 shades algae. In a flowing stream like this, there's  
 8 not vascular plants growing up out from roots. The  
 9 plants that are here are called diatoms, which are  
 10 algae, and they cling to rocks very tightly along the  
 11 cobbles. And so the turbidity shades their  
 12 photosynthesis, reduces their primary production and  
 13 growth.  
 14 Q And so how does this impact to mollusks and  
 15 invertebrates in plant life, how does that impact  
 16 other species in the area?  
 17 A Well, I should also mention that for algae  
 18 that it also covers it and buries that and causes, you  
 19 know, increased or reduced -- more reductions in  
 20 production. Could you repeat the question?  
 21 Q Yeah. No, thank you. You clarified a  
 22 previous answer. But how do these impacts to  
 23 invertebrates and plant life, how do those impact  
 24 other species, like ESA-listed species in the area?  
 25 A Yeah. So, to think in a ecosystem or a food

1 web, if you affect the primary producers and slow  
2 growth of that photosynthesis, then the vertebrates  
3 that graze on the algae will have reduced abundance in  
4 growth, and the invertebrates that feed on those  
5 invertebrates will also be reduced, and it works its  
6 way up the food chain to fish.

7 Q Does sedimentation impact the habitat of  
8 ESA-listed species?

9 A Yes.

10 Q What types of habitat might it impact?

11 A The most intensive effects that it has, the  
12 primary effects is to incubating eggs. They're  
13 underneath the gravel in substrates, placed in a nest  
14 by adults, and they're dependent upon the hyporheic  
15 flow or the subsurface flow that's actually flowing  
16 horizontally underneath the flow of the stream  
17 underground, and that's all the eggs have for  
18 aeration, for oxygen and fine sediment. It reduces a  
19 diffusion across the membranes for the eggs to even  
20 breathe oxygen. So it tends to reduce growth and  
21 reduce survival of eggs.

22 Q And so is that impact specific to spawning  
23 habitat?

24 A It is, but it also, what I just described  
25 is, but there's also the early rearing juveniles.

1 Q And what does that mean? What are rearing  
2 juveniles?

3 A So, when the eggs hatch and the larval fry  
4 emerge from the cobbles, they have to swim out through  
5 the cobbles. So, if it's clogged above them, they  
6 have more difficulty with that. It also reduces the  
7 growth of the eggs, so the young fry are smaller if  
8 they had less oxygen as eggs, and sometimes the eggs  
9 emerge -- the juveniles emerge early from the eggs.  
10 And so, those, all those effects.

11 Q Are the impacts caused by sedimentation  
12 long-lasting?

13 A Yes, they are, particularly with sand.

14 Q How long do they last?

15 A Well, in the South Fork with the heavy loads  
16 of sand, those were caused 50 and 100 and 30 years  
17 ago, and they're still there.

18 Q And why is it that those impacts last so  
19 long?

20 A Because sand does not readily move with  
21 natural peak flows. Rocks and gravel are typically  
22 lifted up and moved readily. Sand just tends to roll  
23 down one riffle.

24 Q Were you present yesterday for Ms. Martich's  
25 testimony regarding the toxicity of sediment?

1 A Yes.

2 Q Do you agree with her assessment that  
3 sediment is not toxic always?

4 A I agree that, typically, it's inert sands  
5 and silica and various other minerals, but it also  
6 includes heavy metals, which she did say that it was,  
7 sediment was a surrogate. The amount of sediment was  
8 a surrogate for how many of the sometimes highly toxic  
9 heavy metals are included within it. And then also it  
10 should be noted that almost anything taken to large  
11 degree or large doses can be toxic.

12 Q What are fluvial geomorphic impacts?

13 A Well, "fluvial" means running water and  
14 "geomorphic" is related to the types and the state and  
15 the shape and all the properties of the channel and  
16 the substrate and even the bedrock under the stream,  
17 and the valley that it flows through even is part of  
18 it.

19 Q And does suction dredging cause fluvial  
20 geomorphic impacts?

21 A Yes, it does. It digs right into the  
22 geomorphology of the stream. It digs holes, excavates  
23 down to bedrock. It exposes bedrock that wasn't  
24 exposed before. It piles. The holes can entrain  
25 current laterally and against the bank and cause

1 erosion. The tailings piles can be piled up, and they  
2 form dams and can drop increased sedimentation above  
3 them, where they slow the velocity of the water, and  
4 they can also steer laterally the current.

5 Q Do you consider these types of impacts an  
6 adverse environmental impact?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Why are they adverse?

9 A Because they are unnaturally caused  
10 oftentimes during low-flow base flow seasons. And if  
11 they would have been caused by -- you know, if they  
12 would have been caused by natural flows, they would  
13 have been sorted and graded by the flood.

14 Q Does suction dredge mining have the  
15 potential to introduce mercury into the river?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And how does it do that?

18 A By digging into inactive sediments below the  
19 stream bed, mercury that has been buried there over  
20 dozens and even centuries is brought up to the surface  
21 and exposed to oxygen. It's usually bound to sulphur  
22 and organic matter of some type.

23 Q And what happens to that mercury that's  
24 excavated?

25 A Then it is reactivated. It is brought up

1 into the active channel and mobilized through the  
 2 stream flow for miles potentially.  
 3 Q And is the reactivation of mercury an  
 4 environmental concern?  
 5 A Yes. It could be highly toxic  
 6 methylmercury, and the way that it's bound, it becomes  
 7 unbound to organic matter and to sulphur when it's  
 8 exposed to oxygen. So it's also a neurotoxin and has  
 9 chronic effects on fish. It also biomagnifies. It  
 10 bioaccumulates through -- so, if an animal eats it,  
 11 then another animal eats that animal, it gets all the  
 12 mercury that was stored in the fat of the prey, and  
 13 then it works all the way up to the highest level  
 14 predators and magnifies in the food web.  
 15 Q Describe the likelihood that a miner  
 16 actually excavates mercury while he's mining.  
 17 A It's likely, especially for other heavy  
 18 metals also, like copper, lead, zinc, but it depends  
 19 on the natural background of does this area naturally  
 20 have mercury in it. And it also depends on legacy  
 21 mining, how much it was used in the accessing of ore,  
 22 the separation of ore in history.  
 23 Q In your opinion, can suction dredge mining  
 24 benefit the environment by removing these legacy  
 25 metals and mercury?

1 A It can reduce the overall load of mercury to  
 2 some extent, but it mobilizes and misses more and  
 3 activates more so that, overall, it is not a positive  
 4 effect. It is strongly adverse.  
 5 Q In your opinion, are there any impacts  
 6 related to suction dredging that we haven't discussed  
 7 yet?  
 8 A Yes. There's like the miscellaneous. The  
 9 activity itself requires long-term camping off and on  
 10 Forest Service lands where -- that might be -- the  
 11 campgrounds might be overused. There's more foot  
 12 traffic and carrying of heavy loads and weights up and  
 13 down stream banks. So it can affect the riparian  
 14 vegetation and thin it out or reduce it. Also,  
 15 sometimes the miners move large woody debris which is  
 16 very important for young fish for cover. And they are  
 17 running two engines right against the water surface  
 18 for hours at a time, so the exhaust and the risk of  
 19 fuel spill can also reduce water and air quality right  
 20 near the river.  
 21 Q Specific to impacts to ESA-listed species,  
 22 are many of the impacts that you just discussed, would  
 23 you characterize them as sublethal?  
 24 A Yes. Beyond the crushing and the burial,  
 25 yes.

1 Q What does "sublethal" mean?  
 2 A "Sublethal" means less than lethal. But  
 3 what we oftentimes forget is that displacement as a  
 4 sublethal effect increases the risk of lethal  
 5 predation.  
 6 Q And have you performed any research related  
 7 to this subject in particular?  
 8 A Yes. Both of my articles dealt with it.  
 9 (The document referred to was  
 10 marked for identification as  
 11 Complainant's Exhibit No.  
 12 19.)  
 13 BY MR. MOORE:  
 14 Q Can you turn to Complainant's Exhibit 19?  
 15 A Okay.  
 16 Q Are you familiar with this document, Mr.  
 17 Arthaud?  
 18 A Yes. I'm the lead author.  
 19 Q And what's the document?  
 20 A It is "Contrasting Life Cycle Impacts of  
 21 Stream Flow on Two Chinook Salmon Populations," a  
 22 primary research paper in the Journal of  
 23 Hydrobiologia.  
 24 MR. MOORE: EPA moves to admit Complainant's  
 25 Exhibit 19 into evidence.

1 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Mr. Erlanson, any objection  
 2 to that coming in?  
 3 MR. ERLANSON: No. No, Your Honor.  
 4 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. CX-19 is admitted.  
 5 (The document referred to,  
 6 previously identified as  
 7 Complainant's Exhibit No. 19,  
 8 was received in evidence.)  
 9 BY MR. MOORE:  
 10 Q Mr. Arthaud, can you describe what you  
 11 intended to learn in conducting this study?  
 12 A I hoped to analyze and describe the impacts  
 13 of egg to juvenile, like smolt, like a one- or  
 14 two-year-old juvenile. So, from egg emergence to  
 15 that, I hoped to describe the early rearing impacts  
 16 that habitat in a nursery stream or natal tributary  
 17 where the fish were -- the eggs were laid that produce  
 18 the juveniles, how those affected the life cycle of  
 19 salmon.  
 20 Q And what were the results that you found?  
 21 A The results were that the condition of  
 22 nursery habitat essentially sets year class strength.  
 23 If it's poor, you're going to have a poor year class.  
 24 If it's excellent, you're going to have an excellent  
 25 year class. And that will carry through the remainder

1 of the lifecycle of salmon and allow some prediction  
2 of adult return just by knowing the conditions that  
3 the juveniles were reared in.

4 (The document referred to was  
5 marked for identification as  
6 Complainant's Exhibit No.  
7 20.)

8 BY MR. MOORE:

9 Q I'll turn you now to Complainant's Exhibit  
10 20.

11 A Okay.

12 Q Are you familiar with this document?

13 A Yes.

14 Q What is it?

15 A It is an article in Human and Ecological  
16 Risk Assessment, an international journal, that I  
17 co-authored.

18 Q And what was the topic of the --

19 A The title is "Extrapolating Growth  
20 Reductions in Fish to Changes in Population,  
21 Extinction Risks, Copper and Chinook Salmon."

22 MR. MOORE: EPA moves to admit Complainant's  
23 Exhibit 20 into evidence.

24 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Any objection, Mr.  
25 Erlanson?

1 MR. ERLANSON: None.

2 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. CX-20 is admitted.  
3 (The document referred to,  
4 previously identified as  
5 Complainant's Exhibit No. 20,  
6 was received in evidence.)

7 BY MR. MOORE:

8 Q Mr. Arthaud, can you describe what you  
9 intended to learn in conducting this study?

10 A We wanted to research if small reductions in  
11 growth, sublethal effects, the very small sublethal  
12 effects, what that ultimate impact would be on  
13 lifecycle or life, full life survival for salmon.

14 Q And what were the results?

15 A The results were very small reductions in  
16 growth from copper caused reduction in migration  
17 survival for the juveniles and then related all the  
18 way back to adult return survival for that year class.

19 Q So how does the information that you learned  
20 from these studies influence your opinions on the  
21 impacts of suction dredging in the South Fork  
22 Clearwater River?

23 A I learned that any degradation or  
24 improvement of early rearing, spawning, early rearing  
25 and the first year of over-wintering habitat are very

1 important for survival of salmon.

2 Q And how does that relate to suction dredging  
3 in the South Fork?

4 A Well, suction dredging in the South Fork  
5 simplifies early rearing and spawning habitat. It  
6 clogs it within the interstitial spaces. They --  
7 also, we didn't mention it, but the first year of --  
8 the first year or two of overwintering, the juveniles  
9 have to go under the ground all day long every day of  
10 the winter, and then they come out at night and feed.  
11 And so, if the sediments have -- or sand have bridged  
12 over those, they don't even need to clog the whole  
13 interstitial space, but they just simply bridge over  
14 it and prevent their access to it, the year class,  
15 there will be very low survival. They will either  
16 have to move and find habitat that's clean enough to  
17 get under the cobbles for a whole winter or they will  
18 die.

19 Q And, Mr. Arthaud, I think a few times you've  
20 testified that suction dredge mining simplifies  
21 habitat.

22 A Yes.

23 Q What does that mean?

24 A It just means instead of having naturally  
25 deep pools and naturally shallow riffles of various

1 sizes and diversity of rocks and other types of cover,  
2 that the whole thing just becomes a medium glide of  
3 sand like a sandbox. It's very simple when you look  
4 at it. It's simple underneath of it. It's simple on  
5 it. It's simple.

6 Q Thank you. Can you turn now to  
7 Complainant's Exhibit 18?

8 MR. MOORE: And, Your Honor, for the record,  
9 this document was introduced by Ms. Martich on the  
10 first day of her testimony, and I think it's our plan  
11 now to authenticate this document through Mr. Arthaud.

12 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Thank you.

13 BY MR. MOORE:

14 Q Are you familiar with this document, sir?

15 A I am.

16 Q Can you describe what it is?

17 A It is a summary of suction dredging impacts  
18 that I wrote in 2014.

19 MR. MOORE: And it's evident -- this is  
20 already admitted into evidence, correct, Your Honor?

21 JUDGE COUGHLIN: It is.

22 MR. MOORE: Okay.

23 BY MR. MOORE:

24 Q Is your analysis of impacts in this report  
25 similar to the impacts that you've listed today?

1 A Yes.

2 Q And so, trying to take a step back and

3 looking at the goal of the ESA, when a species is

4 listed pursuant to the EPA -- or to the ESA, what's

5 the goal with respect to that species?

6 A To slow the harms that are occurring to it

7 that are making it trend towards zero and to maintain

8 those numbers so that recovery is not prevented or

9 delayed.

10 Q And can you describe how all these potential

11 impacts influence that slowing or that delay of the

12 restoration of the endangered species in the South

13 Fork?

14 A Right. So, altogether they reduce survival

15 of rearing salmonids for all the different habitat,

16 the simplification of the habitat and the sand and the

17 clogging of the interstitial spaces, and they delay

18 the potential for recovery, and it was also in a state

19 of -- the habitat was finally being restored naturally

20 over many years, and it very quickly reverses that

21 back to the sandbox.

22 Q Thank you. So now I want to turn to the

23 impacts related to Mr. Erlanson's activity in

24 particular. Have you ever been to the location that

25 Mr. Erlanson dredged in July 2015?

1 A Yes. I was there in early August 2014 and

2 then pretty much every year since.

3 Q Then you've also viewed the location in

4 photographs?

5 A And I've viewed the location in photographs

6 also.

7 Q Have you reviewed the report drafted by

8 Clint Hughes regarding Mr. Erlanson's dredging

9 activity?

10 A Yes.

11 Q And were you present to hear Mr. Hughes'

12 testimony regarding?

13 A Yes.

14 Q I'll turn you now to Complainant's Exhibit

15 No. 1 and specifically Pages 5 and 6. And just to

16 note for my next few questions, if you want to use the

17 enlarged photographs that I believe are still on the

18 witness stand, you're certainly welcome to do so. Are

19 there indications that the -- in these photographs,

20 are there indications that the location of Mr.

21 Erlanson's dredging could serve as habitat for

22 endangered species?

23 A Yes, there are.

24 Q And using the photographs, can you describe

25 what you see that would lead you to that conclusion?

1 A I can see --

2 Q And before you -- just identify which photo

3 you're looking at before you start.

4 A Thank you.

5 JUDGE COUGHLIN: You know, let me take a

6 second. Since these -- since both of you, both

7 parties have referred and the witnesses have referred

8 to these blown-up pictures of what's already contained

9 in the exchanged exhibits, so it's nothing new, but it

10 is an enlargement, if both parties would like these to

11 be included as exhibits, I will do that. I mean, I

12 know I've said nothing new. I'm only open to it

13 because these aren't new photos. They're blowups of

14 what's already in here. So, if both of you think it

15 would be useful to have these included as exhibits, I

16 can do that. If you both don't agree, I won't, and we

17 can just rely on the smaller images contained in CX-1.

18 MR. MOORE: Your Honor, Complainant believes

19 they would be useful.

20 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.

21 MR. ERLANSON: I agree.

22 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. So why don't I go

23 ahead and let's mark these and then -- and I think it

24 might -- I'll just identify for the record which they

25 relate to.

1 MR. MOORE: Sure.

2 JUDGE COUGHLIN: And that way, for future

3 reference -- I know we're almost at the end at this

4 point, but, you know -- so can we -- and I'm sorry to

5 interrupt you.

6 THE WITNESS: It's okay. I'm following

7 along with you.

8 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. So let's start with

9 the one you have in your hand.

10 THE WITNESS: That would be on Page 5,

11 previous years disturbance.

12 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Right. So this is CX-1.

13 So the challenge becomes how best to mark this.

14 MR. McLAREN: Should we mark it as the one

15 immediately following the latest CX that EPA has

16 introduced? That would be CX-44.

17 MR. ERLANSON: Which one are we talking

18 about?

19 MR. McLAREN: This is the one with the

20 highlighting, I believe.

21 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Right. Yeah, we could do

22 that. Sure, if you want it, if you want it. In fact,

23 we could do that. I mean, I don't know if you want to

24 tie it to the actual exhibit that it is contained in.

25 THE WITNESS: It might be better to say --

1 excuse me -- to just say the CX-5 --  
 2 JUDGE COUGHLIN: A?  
 3 THE WITNESS: Yeah, above or upper UL, upper  
 4 left.  
 5 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Yeah.  
 6 THE WITNESS: Or something like that.  
 7 JUDGE COUGHLIN: So I hate to interrupt your  
 8 Bates stamp that's already in there. Of course, I  
 9 guess it's going to anyway, isn't it?  
 10 MR. McLAREN: Yeah, but I think as long as  
 11 it's clear and the discussion's --  
 12 JUDGE COUGHLIN: On the record.  
 13 MR. McLAREN: -- on the record, I think that  
 14 it'll be clear enough.  
 15 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Then we'll be okay. I  
 16 mean, I went through this in a prior EPA case, so I  
 17 know it may be much ado about nothing, but -- so  
 18 should we call this CX-1A?  
 19 MR. McLAREN: Sure. I think we would agree  
 20 to that.  
 21 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Is that okay? Easy enough  
 22 to reference?  
 23 MR. McLAREN: Easy enough, yeah.  
 24 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. So I guess I'll mark  
 25 just my copies, but if you can mark a set to give to

1 the court reporter.  
 2 MR. McLAREN: Certainly.  
 3 JUDGE COUGHLIN: I can just use this as our  
 4 working copy, but the court reporter has the official  
 5 set of exhibits, right?  
 6 MR. McLAREN: And then we can submit an  
 7 electronic copy to Mr. Wright after the fact as well?  
 8 Would that be helpful?  
 9 (Pause.)  
 10 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Yeah, I don't know how  
 11 quickly you can burn a new CD, if it's -- we can  
 12 either handle it that way, marking it and burning a  
 13 new CD, or you can -- we can just give the paper  
 14 copies to the court reporter.  
 15 MR. McLAREN: Unfortunately, we don't have  
 16 CD-ROMs in our laptops.  
 17 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.  
 18 MR. McLAREN: So that would be difficult.  
 19 We can do the paper copies for the court reporter,  
 20 follow up with an electronic copy after the fact, and  
 21 then just mark them all physically right now.  
 22 JUDGE COUGHLIN: That's fine. I think  
 23 that's fine.  
 24 MR. McLAREN: Okay. Great.  
 25 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. So, again, I

1 apologize for the interruption in your testimony. So  
 2 the previous years disturbance photo is CX-1A, okay?  
 3 I'm using a capital A for what it's worth.  
 4 MR. McLAREN: As will we.  
 5 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. And you're following  
 6 this too so that after the hearing there's an  
 7 opportunity to submit post-hearing briefs. So, if you  
 8 want to be able to submit something in writing with  
 9 your arguments about what's been presented and you  
 10 want to refer to this, you want to make sure you refer  
 11 to the right thing. So you can even just mark your  
 12 own copy if you want. So that previous years  
 13 disturbance that's depicted in CX-1 on Page -- I'm  
 14 leaving out all the zeroes of the Bates stamp -- 5,  
 15 it's the upper left photograph that is now marked  
 16 CX-1A. Okay. Great.  
 17 (The document referred to was  
 18 marked for identification as  
 19 Complainant's Exhibit 1A and  
 20 was received in evidence.)  
 21 JUDGE COUGHLIN: And then the next one,  
 22 which one do you have, Mr. Arthaud?  
 23 THE WITNESS: I think this is the next one.  
 24 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. With both dredges  
 25 depicted?

1 THE WITNESS: Yeah.  
 2 JUDGE COUGHLIN: And --  
 3 THE WITNESS: And the sluice on the bank,  
 4 yes.  
 5 JUDGE COUGHLIN: And is that -- would that  
 6 correspond to the photo immediately to the right where  
 7 it says "Rice Green Dredge and Erlanson's Blue  
 8 Dredge," Dredges?  
 9 MR. McLAREN: Yes, Your Honor.  
 10 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. So, same CX-1,  
 11 again, Bates stamp Page 5, and this we can call CX-1B.  
 12 Okay. B as in Bravo.  
 13 (The document referred to was  
 14 marked for identification as  
 15 Complainant's Exhibit 1B and  
 16 was received in evidence.)  
 17 JUDGE COUGHLIN: And then lastly, yeah, so  
 18 I'm not sure which one because there are several here  
 19 that look close. So which one was this a blow-up of?  
 20 MR. McLAREN: The last one is on Page  
 21 CX-0006 and it's, we believe, in the top left, and Mr.  
 22 Hughes testified to that as well.  
 23 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. All right.  
 24 THE WITNESS: It matches.  
 25 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. So you've already

1 identified which photo it is, so we'll call this one  
 2 CX-1C for Charlie.  
 3 (The document referred to was  
 4 marked for identification as  
 5 Complainant's Exhibit 1C and  
 6 was received in evidence.)  
 7 MR. McLAREN: Yes, Your Honor. Thank you.  
 8 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. All right. Perfect.  
 9 MR. McLAREN: And pardon me for introducing  
 10 that confusion, by the way. I meant it for the ease  
 11 of the witness.  
 12 JUDGE COUGHLIN: No, no worries.  
 13 THE WITNESS: Yeah.  
 14 JUDGE COUGHLIN: I mean, they seem to have  
 15 been very useful to both of you and to the witnesses,  
 16 so it just makes sense to include them if you both  
 17 agree to do so, which you have. So it's fine.  
 18 (Pause.)  
 19 MR. MOORE: And, Your Honor, just a note on  
 20 timing.  
 21 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Sure.  
 22 MR. MOORE: This would be sort of a natural  
 23 stopping point. I imagine that I still have under an  
 24 hour but close to an hour of testimony with Mr.  
 25 Arthaud.

1 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.  
 2 MR. MOORE: And I leave it to your  
 3 discretion whether you want to push through for a late  
 4 lunch or if you'd take advantage of the natural  
 5 stopping point.  
 6 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Thank you for  
 7 bringing that to my attention. How do you all feel?  
 8 I mean, I don't want you to go through -- you know,  
 9 you might have some extensive cross and redirect and  
 10 all that, so I don't want you to power through for,  
 11 you know, what could be two hours or more. If you'd  
 12 like a break to eat, I'm happy to take one. How do  
 13 you feel? Mr. Erlanson, what's your thought?  
 14 MR. ERLANSON: I guess I'd go along with the  
 15 consensus, but I'd just as soon sit here and get it  
 16 done, other than maybe a five-minute bathroom break  
 17 for me.  
 18 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Complainant, how do  
 19 you feel?  
 20 MR. MOORE: I could certainly use a bathroom  
 21 break.  
 22 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.  
 23 MR. MOORE: And I leave it to your  
 24 discretion on whether we break for lunch now.  
 25 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Do you want a break

1 for lunch, period?  
 2 MR. MOORE: Eventually, yes.  
 3 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay, because that's really  
 4 the question. I think Mr. Erlanson's okay to power  
 5 through. Well, all right. So why don't we take a  
 6 brief break now for lunch and whatever, and then we  
 7 can reconvene. I think last time we took 45 minutes.  
 8 Is that enough? Do you need more time?  
 9 MR. McLAREN: That's more than enough for  
 10 us. You gave us the extended break earlier this  
 11 morning. So we could do 45.  
 12 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Forty-five is good? Okay.  
 13 So why don't we do that. We'll break for 45. So I  
 14 guess let's just call it 12:30 that we'll come back  
 15 and finish off then.  
 16 MR. MOORE: Thank you, Your Honor.  
 17 MR. ERLANSON: Thank you.  
 18 JUDGE COUGHLIN: All right. Great. Thank  
 19 you all very much.  
 20 (Whereupon, at 11:40 a.m., the hearing in  
 21 the above-entitled matter recessed, to reconvene at  
 22 12:30 p.m. this same day, Wednesday, May 15, 2019.)  
 23 //  
 24 //  
 25 //

1 AFTERNOON SESSION  
 2 (12:30 p.m.)  
 3 JUDGE COUGHLIN: We are back on the record,  
 4 right on time, and I think we're all ready to go with  
 5 your continued examination of Mr. Arthaud.  
 6 MR. MOORE: Yes, Your Honor.  
 7 JUDGE COUGHLIN: All right. Please go  
 8 ahead.  
 9 Whereupon,  
 10 DAVID ARTHAUD  
 11 having been previously duly sworn, was  
 12 recalled as a witness herein and was examined and  
 13 testified further as follows:  
 14 DIRECT EXAMINATION (RESUMES)  
 15 BY MR. MOORE:  
 16 Q Mr. Arthaud, before lunch, we began to  
 17 discuss the impacts of Mr. Erlanson's activity and I  
 18 was referring you to the photos that we're now calling  
 19 Exhibits CX-1A, 1B, and 1C.  
 20 A Uh-huh.  
 21 Q In those photos, are there indications that  
 22 the location of Mr. Erlanson's dredging could serve as  
 23 habitat for endangered species?  
 24 A Yes.  
 25 Q Starting with Exhibit CX-1B, can you use the

1 photograph to describe what those indications are?  
 2 A First, you can see some primary production  
 3 is going on there, and you can also see it in CX-1C  
 4 with the algae on the rocks, so that's a food base and  
 5 a refugia habitat for invertebrates. So they're going  
 6 to follow along. And then there's a good mix of large  
 7 cobbles throughout the area, so they provide some  
 8 stability and physical structure in a sand run stream.  
 9 And so that makes it more likely that there will be  
 10 mussels and fish in this habitat.

11 JUDGE COUGHLIN: And can you just -- where  
 12 you were just pointing -- I know it's difficult with  
 13 photographs. Can you just try and describe that for  
 14 the written transcript, those kind of -- I think those  
 15 larger --

16 THE WITNESS: Should I relate it to this?

17 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Yeah. We're talking about  
 18 CX-1B, but when you had just gestured to the larger,  
 19 like, boulders, if you will --

20 THE WITNESS: Oh, okay.

21 JUDGE COUGHLIN: -- just kind of relative to  
 22 where it appears on the page would suffice.

23 THE WITNESS: Okay. So, in the foreground,  
 24 you can see a mix of larger boulders and cobbles mixed  
 25 in with the sand and the gravels. And then, in the

1 background, on the left bank looking downstream in  
 2 this same picture, you can see larger rocks along the  
 3 bank, and those provide structure.

4 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Thank you.

5 BY MR. MOORE:

6 Q I'll turn you specifically now to  
 7 Complainant's Exhibit 1C.

8 A Okay.

9 Q In this photograph, do you see the turbid  
 10 plume that's in front of Mr. Erlanson's dredge?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Do you know who created the plume in that  
 13 photo?

14 A Yes. Mr. Rice.

15 Q And from your perspective, can you describe  
 16 for the Court the characteristics of that plume?

17 A It's quite turbid. You can still see  
 18 through it, but even in shallow water you can't see  
 19 all the way through it in many places. It's only  
 20 where there's shallow boulders sticking up in the  
 21 foreground, and it likely has a fair amount of clay  
 22 and silt in it, and that's what gives it this really  
 23 cloudy, almost like billowy clouds, or the very fine  
 24 grain sediment in there.

25 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.

1 BY MR. MOORE:

2 Q Are you able to approximately estimate the  
 3 level of turbidity in that plume?

4 A Yes. I would call it something medium high  
 5 that might be 30 or 40 NTUs, something like that.

6 Q And on what do you base that estimate?

7 A Just because I can't see through it in very  
 8 shallow water.

9 Q Do you have experience in estimating  
 10 turbidity?

11 A Yes. I've looked at many turbidity plumes  
 12 throughout the years, and oftentimes there's a  
 13 turbidity meter around and just compares -- by  
 14 comparison. And there's also Fultz 2008, the Forest  
 15 Service literature where they did the same thing when  
 16 they were removing culverts. They took a picture of  
 17 the plume and then measured it with a turbidity meter.  
 18 So --

19 Q Did that study inform your opinion on the  
 20 approximate --

21 A Yes, it did. It was a good recalibration  
 22 that, you know, you're in the range kind of thing for  
 23 me.

24 Q Based on your knowledge of the South Fork  
 25 Clearwater, are there any indications that dredging in

1 this area specifically would cause turbidity?

2 A Yes, because it has one of those primary  
 3 limiting factors of sand, heavy loads of sediment and  
 4 sand. My experience here is that even if it looks  
 5 like a really rocky area, it's not clean from sand.  
 6 It's mixed in. So all the boulders are partially  
 7 embedded into sand. So wherever you might dig you're  
 8 going to cause turbidity.

9 Q Thank you. So I'll turn you now to the  
 10 enlarged photographs, CX-1A and CX-1B. Can you  
 11 observe Mr. Erlanson's plume in these photos?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And in your experience, can you describe the  
 14 characteristics of Mr. Erlanson's plume?

15 A It's a further distance away, but his plume  
 16 is not as billowy cloudy as Mr. Rice's, and he is  
 17 dredging more in the thalweg. So Mr. Erlanson's plume  
 18 is more of a mix of larger sand and fine sand but not  
 19 as much clay and silt maybe.

20 Q And would you be able to estimate the  
 21 turbidity of Mr. Erlanson's plume based on the photos?

22 A The less fines there are the more difficult  
 23 it is to get it exactly right because our eyes don't  
 24 see silica as well as they do cloudy clay, but the  
 25 turbidity is still the same by measure. It's less

1 than Rice's, maybe 25 or 30 NTUs.  
 2 Q And on what do you base that estimate?  
 3 A For the same general reasons as I described  
 4 already, but the more specific reasons here is that  
 5 he's in faster current slightly, releasing the plume  
 6 even in the thalweg rather than putting it up on a bar  
 7 and so -- and I can see through it more even though  
 8 it's at a distance. So that I believe it has coarser  
 9 material in it, you know.  
 10 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Sorry. I just want to  
 11 interject because I may have misheard you. When you  
 12 estimated Mr. Erlanson's turbidity to be less than  
 13 that of Mr. Rice's, and you estimated it around 25 or  
 14 30 percent --  
 15 THE WITNESS: Twenty-five to 30 NTUs.  
 16 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Maybe I misheard  
 17 you. What do you estimate Mr. Rice's to be?  
 18 THE WITNESS: At 30 or 40, I think,  
 19 something like that.  
 20 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. All right. Okay.  
 21 Thank you.  
 22 (Pause.)  
 23 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Please go ahead, Mr.  
 24 Moore. Thank you, Mr. Arthaud.  
 25 //

1 BY MR. MOORE:  
 2 Q Does the proximity of Mr. Erlanson's dredge  
 3 to Mr. Rice's dredge inform your opinion of the  
 4 approximate turbidity of Mr. Erlanson's plume?  
 5 A Yes. You can see them side by side, so that  
 6 helps us, and then they're very close together, and  
 7 the plumes are mixing together downstream. This plume  
 8 is going right into that plume. And so, when that  
 9 occurs, there's basically an added-to effect. So NTU  
 10 plus NTU for the full, but they all are attenuating as  
 11 they go farther downstream. The NTUs are slowly  
 12 dropping the farther away from the dredge they get.  
 13 Q And I believe you testified that the  
 14 consistency of Mr. Erlanson's plume was different than  
 15 the consistency of Mr. Rice's in your opinion?  
 16 A Uh-huh.  
 17 Q Can you explain the difference again?  
 18 A That Mr. Erlanson's had more of a mix of  
 19 coarser and fine sands. There's also clay and silt in  
 20 it too almost certainly, but it had less clay and silt  
 21 relatively than Mr. Rice's.  
 22 Q Is the discharge of fine silt or clay more  
 23 visible than that of coarser material?  
 24 A Yes.  
 25 Q Why is that?

1 A Because it builds up almost to the surface  
 2 in the water column, and so it's very suspended, very  
 3 well suspended, whereas sand and coarser particles  
 4 tend to shoot or roll just above the cobbles. They  
 5 don't get as high in the water column.  
 6 Q Do the impacts of discharges of sand differ  
 7 from the impacts of discharges of finer material?  
 8 A Yes. As an overall group, they both have  
 9 the same general facts. But silt and clay fines can  
 10 be more lethal to eggs and younger fish, and they fill  
 11 interstitial spaces by entering under the substrate  
 12 and then sinking to the very bottom of the  
 13 interstitial space. It might be three feet below the  
 14 stream and then filling that space from the bottom up,  
 15 whereas coarse, a mix of coarse and fine sand, the  
 16 fine particles are filling from the bottom up, but the  
 17 coarse particles bridge over the very top of the  
 18 interstitial space right at the substrate surface or  
 19 just below, so that a mix of coarse and fine sand can  
 20 fill more interstitial spaces or block fish from those  
 21 spaces in a very rapid manner.  
 22 Q And which impact is worse?  
 23 A The mix. The mixed sand is worse because it  
 24 takes a lot of fines to fill all the interstitial  
 25 spaces from three feet below the water, let's say, or

1 below the substrate surface to the surface, whereas  
 2 the bridging of the larger particles of sand can fill  
 3 or can block the interstitial space right at the  
 4 surface very quickly.  
 5 Q Thank you. Have you reviewed the  
 6 post-dredge reports drafted by Dan Kenney?  
 7 A Yes.  
 8 Q And were you present for Mr. Kenney's  
 9 testimony regarding the studies that he conducted on  
 10 the site that Mr. Erlanson dredged?  
 11 A Yes.  
 12 Q And did you use those documents in forming  
 13 your expert opinion in this case?  
 14 A I did.  
 15 Q Can you please turn to Complainant's Exhibit  
 16 38 and specifically Page 1527.  
 17 A Okay.  
 18 Q According to Mr. Kenney's testimony, the  
 19 bottom left photograph is an October 2015 photograph  
 20 of the hole that Mr. Erlanson dredged. Does this  
 21 photograph help to form your opinion about whether Mr.  
 22 Erlanson's activities caused turbidity?  
 23 A Yes, because the cobbles and the substrate  
 24 that was there where the hole is is no longer there,  
 25 so it had to be transported somewhere, and probably

1 some of it was released as turbidity directly from the  
2 disturbance of his dredge. The rest of it was  
3 entrained through the dredge, put through the sluice,  
4 and then dropped onto other substrates which make up  
5 the tailing pile here.

6 JUDGE COUGHLIN: And the "here" is which?  
7 Is it --

8 THE WITNESS: Oh, figure the lower left just  
9 downstream from Hole Number 5 on the 2015 picture.

10 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.

11 THE WITNESS: And then I should say that  
12 because that activity occurred, not all the sediment  
13 are piled in this tailings pile. Roughly a half or  
14 two-thirds were suspended and sent downstream likely.

15 BY MR. MOORE:

16 Q And you approximated that the plume coming  
17 from Mr. Erlanson's dredge was about 25 to 30 NTUs.  
18 Can you describe what types of impacts would be caused  
19 by a turbidity of that level?

20 A Displacement, behavioral displacement. Some  
21 fish and sensitive invertebrates would leave that area  
22 of that plume. It's high enough NTUs where there may  
23 be coughing and other irritating effects on fish and  
24 invertebrates, and then many invertebrates have  
25 respiratory apparatus like siphons and tubes and ways

1 to breathe that are very small. And so it doesn't  
2 take too much turbidity to clog those and cause  
3 greater sublethal effects or even level effects  
4 depending on how well they got clogged. There's also  
5 some invertebrates that they spin nets to catch food,  
6 and the sediment clogs those nets.

7 Q And you testified that turbidity may cause  
8 some behavioral changes in fish, and I think you used  
9 the word "displacement."

10 A Uh-huh.

11 Q Do invertebrates have that same opportunity  
12 to leave an area where turbid discharge exists?

13 A Yes. Good question. The smaller fish, the  
14 background level is very clear if the water is clear  
15 under summer base flows and all this period of the  
16 dredging. So a very small fish or an invertebrate  
17 that loses its habitat, where it lives, its home was  
18 destroyed, it has to find somewhere else to hide as  
19 quickly as it can, or it will be immediately predated  
20 upon by larger fish or birds or anything, and that  
21 would be the result. I can't remember exactly what  
22 the question was.

23 Q One second. My question was that you  
24 testified earlier that when a turbid plume exists, it  
25 might cause behavioral changes in fish, and one of the

1 behavioral changes that you noted was displacement.  
2 And my question was whether invertebrates or smaller  
3 fish have the same opportunity to leave a turbid area?

4 A No. It's more difficult for them to get out  
5 of the cobbles itself to move, and then, once they do  
6 decide that they have to move because of habitat loss,  
7 then they're very vulnerable to predation.

8 Q Thank you. So I want to turn and talk about  
9 some of the other impacts that Mr. Erlanson caused.  
10 Mr. Kenney testified that the volume of the hole  
11 that -- Hole Number 5 that he measured in October 2015  
12 was approximately 15.4 meters cubed. On that Page  
13 1527 of Exhibit 38 --

14 A Uh-huh.

15 Q -- can you describe the likely impacts using  
16 the photo resulting from the creation of a hole that  
17 size?

18 A And the volume was 15?

19 Q 15.4 cubic meters.

20 A Okay. So, in this hole, 15 cubic meters  
21 were removed. They were excavated and they're no  
22 longer there. Some of that was released as turbidity  
23 from that activity. The rest of it was entrained and  
24 went through the dredge and the sluice. We see a  
25 portion of that volume here in the tailings, and then

1 the remainder of that volume of that hole was released  
2 and suspended and went downstream with the current. I  
3 should also say that when you dig a -- excavate a hole  
4 out of packed armored substrates, there's a swell  
5 factor of roughly 20 percent on average. So there's  
6 no way -- even if you were perfect at digging a hole  
7 of a certain size and putting all the sediment back  
8 into that hole perfectly, you would be left over with  
9 20 percent more volume than you started with that will  
10 not fit back in the hole.

11 Q And just for clarity's sake, can you explain  
12 what a swell factor means.

13 A "Swell factor" just means that when you lift  
14 the weight off of overlying sediments on top of other  
15 sediments, when you release that weight so that  
16 they're free to move in any direction, that's when the  
17 swell occurs.

18 Q And what's the likelihood that there were  
19 species present in the area that were impacted by Mr.  
20 Erlanson's activity?

21 A Highly likely.

22 Q And how do you know that?

23 A Because the reasons that it was good  
24 habitat. There was a diversity and mix of cobbles,  
25 that we had a shallow gravel bar in the foreground in

1 these pictures. We have a deeper thalweg with faster  
 2 current on the center left bank on these pictures. We  
 3 have some boulders. We have some bedrock. Those are  
 4 places that not only hold invertebrates because  
 5 they're pretty much ubiquitous throughout the stream,  
 6 but mussels and snails really go to those bedrock  
 7 areas because they're very stable, and fish really key  
 8 in to the bedrock areas because the water's cooler  
 9 there and the hyporheic flow, they have more spaces  
 10 under the stream bottom to access.

11 Q You just used the word "hyporheic flow."

12 A Hyporheic.

13 Q Can you define that for us?

14 A So, when we look at a stream, we see the  
 15 surface -- we see the bottom of the stream. That's  
 16 the substrate surface. And a few inches below that  
 17 surface that we can see, maybe down five or six  
 18 inches, is called the benthos or the benthic layer,  
 19 and that's mostly what we've been talking about. But  
 20 up to a meter below the substrate is the hyporheic or  
 21 the hyporheos, and that includes its own -- it's a  
 22 shallow underground flow of a stream. So, when we see  
 23 a stream flowing above a substrate, there's also a  
 24 stream below a substrate flowing through the substrate  
 25 and that's called the hyporheic zone.

1 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Mr. Jones, do you need the  
 2 spelling on some of that?

3 MR. JONES: I already got that one.

4 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Great. Thank you.

5 BY MR. MOORE:

6 Q Mr. Kenney also concluded that the tailings  
 7 pile that Mr. Erlanson created was approximately five  
 8 meters cubed. That was his adjusted volume. Using  
 9 that same photograph on the bottom left of Page 1527,  
 10 can you describe the likely impact resulting from a  
 11 tailings pile that is that size?

12 A Well, first off, the area around all of that  
 13 is the area that was covered of functioning habitat  
 14 before. It was functioning habitat that did not have  
 15 those sediments or tailings on it before he put them  
 16 there from his dredge. And then secondly, the pile  
 17 itself extends above the surface of the water. So we  
 18 know that it's causing a damming or a barrier for a  
 19 portion of the stream right there.

20 Q And can you identify in the photograph where  
 21 you see that?

22 A Yeah. It's on -- you see in the middle of  
 23 the tailings pile there's some larger rocks in a line.  
 24 Just in the foreground in front of the uppermost large  
 25 rock, you can see riffles where the tailings are

1 sticking up above the stream surface.

2 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Let me see where  
 3 you're pointing to in order to try and describe it.  
 4 Yeah, I don't think there's a blow-up of that one.

5 THE WITNESS: If you look, you can see that  
 6 it's so shallow that the gravel tailings are causing a  
 7 riffle right there.

8 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. So what Mr. Arthaud  
 9 is pointing -- has pointed to as I looked closer is --  
 10 I'll try to describe this and maybe with your aid so I  
 11 don't botch anything here.

12 THE WITNESS: Okay.

13 JUDGE COUGHLIN: But, as I look at that  
 14 photograph 2015, CX-38 and it's Page 1527, the bottom  
 15 left from 2015, not quite but almost dead center is  
 16 kind of what looks like this boulder sticking out of  
 17 the water, and you're referencing the riffles that you  
 18 identified just below that and slightly to the left of  
 19 that. Is there -- if there's a better way to describe  
 20 it, please go ahead.

21 THE WITNESS: Yeah, it's almost in the  
 22 direct center, absolute center of the photograph just  
 23 in front of the line of rocks, larger cobble, and you  
 24 can see a riffle point like where the top of the pile  
 25 is sticking up above or right to the surface.

1 BY MR. MOORE:

2 Q Thank you. And so I interrupted you, Mr.  
 3 Arthaud, but you were explaining the likely impacts  
 4 from a dredge pile that's the size of Dredge Pile  
 5 Number 7, and I think you talked about covered  
 6 habitat, and you were describing the importance of  
 7 those rocks that are piled above the surface. So  
 8 please continue.

9 A Okay. Thank you. Yeah. So we know that it  
 10 extends up from the substrate a certain amount, enough  
 11 to reach the surface of the water. So that's going to  
 12 be causing an impediment to the flow through that area  
 13 because the mound is large enough to -- so the hole is  
 14 going to direct it to the left in the far bank, and  
 15 the sediment pile is going to direct it to the left in  
 16 the far bank, and what's below or at this gravel bar  
 17 around this pile will receive less current because of  
 18 those tailings. And then I should also say that the  
 19 tailings, wherever they're more than an inch deep,  
 20 piled more than an inch deep on top of the substrates,  
 21 that brings into play higher mortality of mussels.

22 Q Thank you. Can you turn to Complainant's  
 23 Exhibit 37 and specifically Page 1519. I want to draw  
 24 your attention to the photographs at the bottom of  
 25 that page. Do the photos at the bottom of that page,

1 other than Hole Number 5 and Tailings Pile Number 7,  
 2 do those photos indicate that there were additional  
 3 impacts caused by suction dredge mining in this area?  
 4 A Yes. Hole Number 5 and 7 are not isolated.  
 5 There are several, what, four holes above them, very  
 6 close to them, and they each have -- most of them seem  
 7 to at least have tailing piles that go with them.  
 8 There are six tailing piles above the Tailing Number  
 9 7. The Hole 5 and 7 take up roughly half the width of  
 10 the stream, and the other holes are taking -- they're  
 11 crossing the entire stream in some occasions, like  
 12 Hole 3 and Tailing 5, and then just upstream from  
 13 there, there's multiple holes and tailings that are  
 14 affecting the entire width of the channel. And then  
 15 you can see from the drawing here that they're all  
 16 here in this same area. And just looking at the  
 17 drawing, I would say that disturbance between holes  
 18 and tailings minus the turbidity and the sedimentation  
 19 that would come from that, we're looking at over half  
 20 of the stream that's been disturbed in this reach.  
 21 Q And so you're focused on the percentage of  
 22 stream area that's been disturbed in these  
 23 photographs. Why is that an important metric?  
 24 A It goes to fluvial geomorphology that you  
 25 didn't disturb just one little place out in the middle

1 of a large stream. You disturbed it from bank to bank  
 2 or at least from large proportions of bank to bank,  
 3 like a third of it. So the water has to get around  
 4 those tailings piles and just the overall area of  
 5 habitat that's been lost either because the hole has  
 6 removed it or because the tailings are covering other  
 7 habitat, it becomes 50 percent of the stream if this  
 8 drawing is to scale.  
 9 Q And can you describe how that additive  
 10 impact might affect ESA-listed species in the area?  
 11 A Yes. A key factor is the environmental  
 12 baseline: is this habitat fully functioning, properly  
 13 functioning, or has it already been degraded to some  
 14 level and each new activity is a successive  
 15 degradation of a degraded habitat when making the  
 16 overall vehicle of a functioning habitat go further  
 17 downward. And so it's very important. We said -- I  
 18 said before that it's, you know, a fair habitat that's  
 19 recovering, and to add this much more fresh damage  
 20 onto it is going to have significant effects.  
 21 JUDGE COUGHLIN: And you were just gesturing  
 22 to the handwritten document.  
 23 THE WITNESS: Yes, my hand gesture is  
 24 following the curvature of the bend of the stream.  
 25 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Thank you.

1 BY MR. MOORE:  
 2 Q Were you present for Mr. Kenney's testimony  
 3 that approximately 55 percent of Hole Number 5 and  
 4 63 percent of the area of Piling 7 remained in 2016?  
 5 A Yes.  
 6 Q Were you also present for Mr. Kenney's  
 7 testimony regarding his visit to the site in 2018?  
 8 A Yes.  
 9 Q In preparation for this hearing, did you  
 10 review any photographs that Mr. Kenney took during his  
 11 2018 visit?  
 12 A I did.  
 13 Q And in those photographs, are there  
 14 indications that adverse impacts from Mr. Erlanson's  
 15 dredging continued in 2018?  
 16 A Yes. They were partially restored, but I  
 17 see a higher proportion of fines and sand mixed in  
 18 with those gravels than I believe would otherwise be  
 19 there if it was just open channel and the dredging had  
 20 occurred in the immediate vicinity.  
 21 Q And what are the impacts associated with the  
 22 continued presence of those features?  
 23 A The fine sediment, remember 1 percent  
 24 increase can reduce egg survival by 16 percent. So  
 25 all successive broods that come in to spawn for a

1 number of years will be affected and have lower egg  
 2 survival and lower early rearing survival than if this  
 3 had not occurred.  
 4 Q Thank you. I want to turn you back to  
 5 Complainant's Exhibit 17, please, and specifically  
 6 Page 1032.  
 7 A 1032?  
 8 Q Correct.  
 9 A Okay.  
 10 Q What was NMFS's overall conclusion regarding  
 11 the proposed action, specifically, allowing suction  
 12 dredging in the South Fork?  
 13 A Specifically regarding the Forest Service  
 14 and BLM program and all their protective measures and  
 15 the amount of effort and activity that occurs inside  
 16 that program, the conclusion is it's NMFS's biological  
 17 opinion that the proposed action is not likely to  
 18 jeopardize the continued existence of Snake River  
 19 Basin steelhead and Snake River fall Chinook salmon  
 20 and is not likely to destroy or adversely modify  
 21 designated critical habit for Snake River Basin  
 22 steelhead.  
 23 Q And is that determination hinged on certain  
 24 limitations in the approval?  
 25 A Yes. That all the protective measures are

1 followed with terms and conditions that require that  
 2 and that a monitoring plan is implemented that  
 3 requires the measuring of these piles and holes and  
 4 various other activities, that it be done every year.  
 5 Q Can you turn to Page 987 of this document?  
 6 A Okay.  
 7 Q This section is entitled "Mitigation and  
 8 Monitoring." Why does the biological opinion include  
 9 a discussion regarding mitigation and monitoring?  
 10 A Because it is very important to make sure  
 11 that the proposed -- the conservation measures, the  
 12 protective measures are followed and the monitor --  
 13 well, you asked for mitigation and monitoring, right?  
 14 Q Correct.  
 15 A Okay. So the mitigation is very important  
 16 because the mitigation is loaded with protective  
 17 measures that will reduce the likelihood of -- will  
 18 reduce harm and incidental take of the listed species,  
 19 and it will reduce harm or alteration of the critical  
 20 habitat from the activity. And then as I started off  
 21 to say that the monitoring is very important because  
 22 there's validity monitoring to make sure that the  
 23 action agencies implemented the program as they said  
 24 they would, and then there's effectiveness monitoring  
 25 to see if our protective measures actually protected

1 habitat and fish like we thought they would.  
 2 Q Does NMFS have some role in deciding what  
 3 mitigation measures end up in the biological opinion?  
 4 A Yes, we do. From the literature and from  
 5 the various adverse effects of certain activities, we  
 6 work with action agencies to minimize those potential  
 7 harms.  
 8 Q And were you present for Dan Kenney's  
 9 testimony regarding the proposed mitigation measures  
 10 that were intended to limit the type of impacts that  
 11 Mr. Erlanson caused?  
 12 A Yes.  
 13 Q And do you agree with Mr. Kenney's  
 14 characterization of the intent of those measures?  
 15 A Yes.  
 16 Q In your opinion, did Mr. Erlanson fail to  
 17 mine in a manner that was consistent with those  
 18 mitigation measures?  
 19 A Yes.  
 20 Q Is a miner's failure to comply with  
 21 mitigation measures, would that cause increased harm  
 22 to ESA-listed species in the South Fork?  
 23 A Yes.  
 24 Q Why?  
 25 A Because the mechanisms for adversity that

1 are known are not mitigated. They're just -- they're  
 2 left, and do you -- you don't want me to go through  
 3 specific ones?  
 4 Q No. Just generally.  
 5 A Yeah.  
 6 Q Thank you. Turning away from that subject,  
 7 are you aware of claims from miners regarding the  
 8 beneficial impacts of suction dredge mining?  
 9 A Yes.  
 10 Q I want to discuss some of those claims. Do  
 11 you agree that suction dredging has a beneficial  
 12 impact because it creates pools that might serve as  
 13 fish habitat?  
 14 A No.  
 15 Q Why not?  
 16 A A suction dredge hole is not a pool. It  
 17 does not have the functions of a pool. It's not being  
 18 fed by current where natural high flows and the  
 19 geomorphology of the channel created it to maintain  
 20 it. It's just a hole, like an empty well. So was it  
 21 just that? Was it a specific question for that one  
 22 thing?  
 23 Q I think you answered it, yes.  
 24 A Okay. Okay.  
 25 Q Do you agree that suction dredge mining is

1 beneficial because it might dislodge invertebrates  
 2 that could be prey for a species in the area?  
 3 A No. Invertebrates would never show  
 4 themselves in the daylight unless their homes were  
 5 being destroyed. And so that is an escape response to  
 6 go into the drift to try and avoid predation when you  
 7 can no longer hide.  
 8 Q So do you agree that some individual fish  
 9 might benefit from an easy meal when dredging is  
 10 occurring?  
 11 A Right, yes.  
 12 Q And so why isn't that a cumulative benefit?  
 13 A The problem --  
 14 Q Or is it a cumulative benefit?  
 15 A The problem like that, it's like leaving a  
 16 picnic out for bears or something. They get one  
 17 feeding of it and maybe a bad habit, but in this case,  
 18 the insects are reduced in abundance, and they would  
 19 continue to spawn repeatedly for the remainder of the  
 20 growing season and produce thousands of more insects,  
 21 and that all just got stopped. Not all of it, but  
 22 much of that was stopped. So, if they died from the  
 23 action, then they won't have a chance to reproduce  
 24 again.  
 25 Q Do you agree that tailings piles can create

1 additional substrate for spawning?  
 2 A No, because they do produce some clean  
 3 gravels, but they're -- they stick up from the  
 4 substrate of the stream, so it's a mound on the  
 5 substrate, and they're readily dislodged by higher  
 6 flows. So, if a fish comes in and finds some cleaner  
 7 gravels in a tailings pile and decides to spawn there,  
 8 the lowest high flows would -- the red would not be  
 9 stable. The nest would not be stable, whereas, in  
 10 natural conditions, fish come in, find the proper kind  
 11 of substrate and gravel, and they use their tails and  
 12 they dig out a hole, a depression in it, and spawn  
 13 inside that depression, and then the high flows go  
 14 over that depression and the nest remains safe.  
 15 Q Because I don't think we've done so as of  
 16 yet, can you define what "red" means.  
 17 A "Red" is a nest, a salmon nest, and they're  
 18 in the ground in the substrate.  
 19 Q And you talked about some instability where  
 20 that nest may be. What's the result of that  
 21 instability?  
 22 A If the red is -- if the gravel within the  
 23 red is vibrated or moved, eggs can be crushed. And if  
 24 the gravel that the nest is in is moved or displaced  
 25 or eroded, then the entire nest can be lost, and they

1 have usually, salmon, somewhere between 3500 and 4500  
 2 eggs per nest.  
 3 Q Do you agree that suction dredge mining may  
 4 be beneficial because it introduces cold water into  
 5 the river system?  
 6 A No. The cold water, as I explained earlier,  
 7 is already in the hyporheos flowing under the stream.  
 8 And the fact that a suction dredger excavates a hole  
 9 from the surface water column to the hyporheic or  
 10 below the hyporheic zone even, the fish and  
 11 invertebrates could already access that habitat before  
 12 if it wasn't clogged. So they're not really changing  
 13 anything for the good anyway.  
 14 Q And do you agree that suction dredge mining  
 15 might have a beneficial impact because it breaks up  
 16 stream bottom armor or embedded stream bottom?  
 17 A Yeah. So concrete aggregate where rocks get  
 18 embedded into hard clay and form a hard surface layer,  
 19 that is a lower production type of habitat compared to  
 20 open and clean, free-flowing separated gravels.  
 21 However, when a miner breaks up the aggregate, it  
 22 turns to sand and the whole thing is unstable and  
 23 there's no -- at least the concrete aggregate provided  
 24 a physical structure for invertebrates to anchor to or  
 25 hold. It's some form of habitat, whereas loose sand

1 is a much lower form of habitat.  
 2 Q And I just want to clarify for the record,  
 3 when you started your response, you said, yeah, and  
 4 then continued in your response. My question was, do  
 5 you agree that suction dredging may be beneficial  
 6 because it breaks up embedded stream bottom?  
 7 A I'm sorry. No.  
 8 Q And that's consistent with the remainder of  
 9 your response?  
 10 A Yes.  
 11 Q Do you agree that suction dredge mining  
 12 might have a beneficial effect because it can create  
 13 interstitial habitat that young fish or invertebrates  
 14 could use?  
 15 A No. I don't know how it would even do that.  
 16 Q Is it possible that suction dredge mining  
 17 would remove sediments in the system to create  
 18 interstitial spaces?  
 19 A Oh. No. It's not designed to go through  
 20 and carefully suck out interstitial -- or fines from  
 21 interstitial spaces. It's designed to excavate  
 22 relatively large areas and complete holes, and in that  
 23 process, there's always more fine sediment released  
 24 than there was before because of swell even.  
 25 Q Do you agree that turbidity created during

1 natural high-flow periods is greater than turbidity  
 2 caused by suction dredge mining?  
 3 A Yes.  
 4 Q And if that's true, why is it your opinion  
 5 that the turbidity caused by suction dredge mining is  
 6 an adverse environmental impact?  
 7 A Well, first off, the high flows are  
 8 occurring in a natural time with snow melt and spring  
 9 and winter rains when the water temperatures are very  
 10 cold. Remember that was a limiting factor is warm  
 11 temperatures. So it's easier on the fish to deal  
 12 with. The background of turbidity is not much  
 13 different between the peak flows and slightly lower  
 14 peak flows, and the fish are either spawned in the  
 15 fall and are old enough to move to the periphery of  
 16 the stream, and this water is high, so they can move  
 17 into riparian vegetation and forest along the  
 18 periphery of the stream and the banks, whereas suction  
 19 dredging is usually during base flows. The water is  
 20 very clear. So any small fish that tries to move is  
 21 at risk of predation. The base flows are so low that  
 22 the stream banks are not even wetted. They couldn't  
 23 even access the bank to get away from that turbidity.  
 24 And also, because the flows are low, all the other  
 25 interstitial spaces are being competed for by other

1 fish, and it's just hard to relocate in those  
2 conditions.

3 Q Can you describe the type of flow that would  
4 be experienced in the river in July 2015?

5 A It was a very low flow year. Two hundred  
6 CFS or less, right in there.

7 Q And what's CFS?

8 A Cubic feet per second.

9 Q Do you agree that scientists have differing  
10 opinions regarding whether suction dredge mining  
11 causes an adverse or a beneficial impact?

12 A Say the first part of that again especially.

13 Q Does -- does the -- do the -- sorry. Does  
14 the -- do scientists agree whether there's adverse  
15 impacts from suction dredge mining or beneficial  
16 impacts from suction dredge mining?

17 A There's large agreement of the adverse  
18 effects.

19 MR. MOORE: I have no further questions at  
20 this time, Your Honor.

21 JUDGE COUGHLIN: All right. Mr. Erlanson,  
22 are you ready to offer your questions, or would you  
23 like a break before doing so?

24 MR. ERLANSON: No. I'm ready, Your Honor.

25 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Go right ahead.

1 CROSS-EXAMINATION

2 BY MR. ERLANSON:

3 Q Okay. We'll go back to the beginning. You  
4 mentioned in the biological assessment, Mr. Arthaud,  
5 about a 2016 -- you mentioned current transverses  
6 restored goal levels of fish and habitats. And in  
7 there, you mentioned the threatened species as fall  
8 Chinook and Snake River steelhead and bull trout. You  
9 stated that bull trout were pretty much a tributary  
10 fish. You stated that the Snake River steelhead used  
11 the main stem in the South Fork River, and you said  
12 that the fall Chinook were pretty much a lower main  
13 stem of the South Fork River system. I might as well  
14 ask you, how many nests have you personally observed  
15 or have knowledge of in the area where I was dredging?

16 A In the area -- well, first I should clarify  
17 that's not the biological assessment. It's the  
18 biological opinion that I was talking about.

19 Q Oh, okay. Opinion.

20 A And I did say that bull trout use the main  
21 stem, not necessarily for spawning and early rearing  
22 as much as the others.

23 Q Right.

24 A And so, with that, I have -- I receive  
25 reports from the tribes and the co-managers and the

1 state, and there are many reports of spring-summer  
2 Chinook spawning throughout the reach where you mined  
3 and above it and below it. None for fall Chinook.  
4 And steelhead, it should be noted, and it didn't go  
5 there with Mr. Kenney's testimony, but they're spring  
6 spawners and they spawn during high turbid flows. So  
7 there's almost no reports of steelhead spawning  
8 anywhere.

9 The Chinook reds, they're fall spawners when  
10 the flows are very clear and low, so we could see them  
11 and count them, so they're readily available through a  
12 simple spawning survey. But the steelhead spawning  
13 surveys are rare to nonexistent.

14 Q Can I ask you how the steelhead could spawn  
15 in a high water event? We're talking about smothering  
16 the eggs with sand silt sediment. Explain that.

17 A That's a good question. They actually spawn  
18 after the high water event. So, on the downward --  
19 you know, if the flows are low and there are not very  
20 many peak flows, they'll go ahead and spawn out  
21 throughout the entire spring, roughly from end of  
22 March through the end of June or middle of June  
23 especially. But if the flows are -- if it's a much  
24 higher peak flow year, they will tend to wait because  
25 the water temperature is also colder during those

1 conditions, and they tend to spawn in May and June  
2 later. So it would be on the descending limb of the  
3 peak flows.

4 Q The South Fork Clearwater River is listed  
5 for water temperature, am I correct, for 303-impaired?  
6 That's one of the parameters?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And because of that fact, it's been my  
9 understanding, which could be wrong, so I want you to  
10 correct me because you're the expert. I'm certainly  
11 not. I'm just asking the question. That salmonids  
12 tend to not spawn in the area of Newsome Creek to  
13 about below Crooked River, and then, from there up,  
14 they -- I guess they spawn quite a bit. Is that your  
15 understanding of it or --

16 A No. It's salmonids, but there is a sweet  
17 spot right where your mining was occurring, but  
18 downstream from there, it's more of a canyon reach  
19 through 10 mile, 20 mile and Johns and all the way  
20 down. That's a steeper canyon with deeper pools,  
21 larger boulders, fewer gravel bars, more sandbars.

22 Q A lot of sand.

23 A So there's not as much spawning generally in  
24 that area. And then above your area, above Newsome,  
25 which is very near to the mouth of Crooked River and

1 Red River, and those have really large legacy mining  
2 damages to them that have really changed the flows and  
3 added lots of sand. So those tributaries are coughing  
4 out large volumes of sand into the main stem, and so  
5 there's a canyon below where you mined, and then  
6 there's sand at high volumes above where you mined,  
7 and there's like a eight- or nine-mile sweet spot  
8 right where you're at that's readily wadeable, which  
9 means it's consistently shallow for early rearing  
10 fish, and it's available for spawning, and that's the  
11 type of habitat they actually pick.

12 Q Okay. But you don't, like you said, you  
13 don't have any knowledge of any fish spawning there?

14 A For spring-summer Chinook, I do. They fall  
15 under essential fish habitat in the MSA but not under  
16 the ESA because they're not listed. And then, for  
17 steelhead, we have various reports from Fish and Game  
18 and the Nez Perce Tribe of seeing steelhead in the  
19 area, potential steelhead reds, but --

20 Q Potential.

21 A Right. But, when I actually analyzed the  
22 photographs, it's hard to tell that it's 100 percent  
23 certain a red because it's so muddy. You could see a  
24 clean spot there, but it's so muddy you just don't get  
25 the records of those reds. And we've actually had

1 them go out to do that, and they've just been turned  
2 back because they couldn't see into the water. So  
3 they quit the survey. They didn't try.

4 Q If it's so muddy, as you just stated, the  
5 question is, wouldn't the -- consider a suction dredge  
6 takes about -- all the suction dredge activities take  
7 about 2 percent of the South Fork and Clearwater River  
8 in a high water flow like the spring runoff just this  
9 year up there. It was quite significant and it covers  
10 the whole stream. Now would you agree it moves fine  
11 silt, sands, gravels downstream at that time?

12 A Okay. There was a couple of different  
13 questions in there. I don't know about the 2 percent  
14 part at the very beginning.

15 Q Yeah, .2 percent.

16 A That's what it says in the bi-op, and that's  
17 the size of the program given the entire 50-mile South  
18 Fork Clearwater. Unauthorized dredging, I have no  
19 idea how much that takes up. And then the second part  
20 of the question was that the turbidity's very high.  
21 How can they survive it? Well, the way they survive  
22 it is they move to peripheries of the stream into side  
23 channels behind islands up into the timber. On the  
24 South Fork snake, I've actually caught them well up  
25 into the timber alongside the stream when it was

1 flooded. And because it's cold in the spring and  
2 there's lots of water available above the banks and  
3 because that habitat's available, the fish will move  
4 to the periphery. They will go into tributaries or  
5 whatever they do. They will actually try to escape  
6 that flow.

7 Q Okay. How about the insects and micro-  
8 invertebrates that you say get smothered from suction  
9 dredging? Wouldn't these high water flows do the same  
10 thing but on a much greater scale?

11 A Yeah. The high flows -- the high water with  
12 them and the high turbidity with them, they don't  
13 readily -- they aren't readily able to move. So a lot  
14 of them go underground in the stables of areas that  
15 they can find, and they lock down to something solid  
16 and they weather the thing. They don't grow, they  
17 don't feed. But usually the floods are over, you  
18 know, after two or three days and the worst of the  
19 peak is over, and then they manage to survive through  
20 that, and then they also then spawn. Most of them  
21 spawn really quickly right after that or during the  
22 cold spring.

23 Q Well, considering that a high-water event  
24 constitutes 100 percent of the waterway and a suction  
25 dredge a wide plume, have you ever seen a suction

1 dredge on the South Fork operating that made the  
2 entire river turbid?

3 A On LoLo Creek and other small streams, yes,  
4 but you asked on the South Fork Clearwater main stem.  
5 Not the entire channel, but I've seen plumes that went  
6 a mile downstream visibly, and I've seen plumes that  
7 took up a third of the channel.

8 Q Okay. Thank you for that. In regards to  
9 the plumes and juvenile fish, is it your belief, sir,  
10 that juvenile fish have the ability to move out of a  
11 turbid plume if it is detrimental to their well-being?

12 A The older ones, yes. So, yearlings and  
13 two-plus age fish, they rove all around and do what  
14 they will because they're the biggest thing in a  
15 nursery stream. But, if you're a sub-yearling and you  
16 were only hatched from the red in late June and by  
17 July 2 you're not going to be very big, and in clear  
18 water and low flows, movement is very detrimental to  
19 that fish's survival.

20 Q Well, I agree with you 100 percent. I'm a  
21 lifelong fisherman. All those answers are -- well,  
22 I've got one last question there on this. The average  
23 size of spring Chinook salmon by June 1, what do you  
24 think the average size of the Chinook salmon?

25 A June 1, the Chinook -- so Chinook salmon are

1 fall spawners. So the reason they spawn in the fall,  
2 it gives them adaptive advantage over spring spawners  
3 because they've been alive and growing as eggs that  
4 much longer. So they typically emerge from the red in  
5 very early spring at, you know, maybe 40 millimeters  
6 fork-length, and with -- that would be two to three  
7 months of rearing, something like that before the  
8 early part of the summer. I would say many are  
9 approaching 80 millimeters fork-length, something like  
10 that. If it's a very dense year class, they won't  
11 grow as fast, and there might be plenty of like 60  
12 millimeter length fish in there. If it's a sparse  
13 year class with good conditions --

14 Q Would it be safe then for me to write down  
15 60 to 80 millimeter on an average?

16 A Sure, sure.

17 JUDGE COUGHLIN: And I think you used a term  
18 "fork-length," which I believe just from some  
19 exposure to NOAA already --

20 THE WITNESS: Yes.

21 JUDGE COUGHLIN: -- and other work that we  
22 do, a form of measurement of a fish, correct?

23 THE WITNESS: It's a form of measurement.

24 Thank you. It's a form of measurement of the length  
25 of a fish, and instead of measuring the total length

1 to the tips of its tailfin, they measure the total  
2 length to the center of the fork. They have a fork  
3 and tail, and they measure from the head to that fork.

4 MR. ERLANSON: Yeah.

5 BY MR. ERLANSON:

6 Q The suction dredging with the IDWR, who set  
7 the dates of July 15 to August 15 yearly -- it's been  
8 that way ever since I've been up there, I think  
9 2003 -- and they've had a few changes there. One time  
10 they altered it to six weeks. Another time they  
11 brought it down to three weeks. But considering that  
12 was -- that's the basic time frame, even today it's  
13 still, that's the basic timeframe, July 15, August 15.  
14 Does suction dredging on the South Fork then have an  
15 impact on any spawning, ESA-listed species?

16 A Those seasons were set based on thermal  
17 units of how fast the eggs would grow given the last  
18 date of spawning estimated and when the eggs would  
19 hatch and the very last eggs would hatch, and that's  
20 why you get the July 15 start, because we believe that  
21 like over 90 percent of the reds are already hatched  
22 and the fish emerged from them. There still are a few  
23 that hang on in there, but the risk of it is so low.  
24 And we have monitors in the program go with the  
25 suction dredgers to make sure they're not into one of

1 those. And at the end on August 15, it's set there so  
2 that -- because the Chinook spawning usually doesn't  
3 start 'til early September. And so, you're right,  
4 that is the open window where the least amount of very  
5 young fish would be harmed.

6 Q When you fishery people -- and I'm speaking  
7 in generalizations all over the northwest -- when you  
8 figure out a season, do you do it on a bell-shaped  
9 type deal where the most spawning is at the top of the  
10 bell and then there's spawning before the bell and  
11 there's spawning after the bell, and that's how you  
12 decide the season dates?

13 A That's a reasonable approach, yes, because  
14 the top of that bell is the best statistical number we  
15 can come up with, the median or the mean, central  
16 tendency.

17 Q Yeah, exactly.

18 A But then we also look at those percentiles  
19 on the descending limb of that run and we try not to  
20 lop off that last 5 or 10 percent if we can help it,  
21 because that's 5 or 10 percent of the run. And then  
22 you should know that given the year, if it's a very  
23 cold year, the whole bell might shift later into the  
24 summer, into the spring. And if it's a very warm  
25 drought year, the whole bell might shift earlier. So

1 those things are all at play.

2 Q Yeah, that's interesting there. I didn't  
3 realize that. It could shift then. Could you repeat  
4 just what you said? It could shift.

5 A If it's a cold, wet spring, the whole  
6 spawning distribution bell, a normal distribution  
7 could shift later into the season.

8 Q I got you.

9 A Yeah. And the other one would be earlier.

10 Q Thank you. Thank you very much. Let's see  
11 here. Do fish typically spawn in algae-covered  
12 gravel?

13 A Algae-covered gravel?

14 Q Yeah.

15 A What's that?

16 Q Gravel with algae on it, you know?

17 A Oh, algae-covered gravel.

18 Q Well, I mispronounced it. I'm sorry.

19 A I just misheard it. Yes, because they can  
20 clean it a little bit with their tails and the eggs  
21 are being placed below it. So they would like an area  
22 that is clean. But, if it's clean with some algae on  
23 the surface, that's good for them too, because they're  
24 going to put those eggs down four to six inches,  
25 wherever --

1 Q That's correct.

2 A -- they think they won't scour from high

3 flows.

4 Q Uh-huh, right. Have you, sir -- it sounds

5 to me like you've spent a lot of time up in the South

6 Fork, so I have a question here. Have you ever done a

7 water quality study on the South Fork from Newsome

8 Creek up to Crooked River? I mean a water quality

9 study for the plumes that are in the stream.

10 A Oh, like for heavy metals and things?

11 Q Yes.

12 A I have not done one myself, but I've read

13 several, including the best one, most recent probably

14 is the IEDQ flights where they flew over sampled --

15 I'm not sure how they made every sample. But,

16 basically, they sampled all the Clearwater streams,

17 the water itself, and then they used very fine

18 testing, like nanograms --

19 Q Oh, really?

20 A -- of amounts in the water, which tell them

21 how much is in the sediment below the water.

22 Q When was that? Could you tell me? Do you

23 remember?

24 A Fairly recent. 2012? I'm just totally

25 guessing. It's in the bi-op. What CX was that?

1 MR. MOORE: I believe it's 17. I also could

2 be wrong. Yeah, it's 17.

3 MR. ERLANSON: So that's under CX-17?

4 MR. MOORE: Correct.

5 BY MR. ERLANSON:

6 Q Wow, that's a good one.

7 A Okay. I believe it is -- I -- man, I'm not

8 sure which one of these reports it's in. But there

9 are several IDEQ, Idaho Department of Environmental

10 Quality, reports cited or referenced in the back of

11 the biological opinion. In one of those flights or in

12 one of those studies, I would guess it's maybe the

13 2010 or the 2003. And then also EPA has joined up

14 with IDEQ, and they've done a South Fork Clearwater

15 River sub-basin assessment and total maximum daily

16 load study. So --

17 Q Right. Uh-huh. Okay. Thank you. It's

18 good information. Are you aware that IDWR regulations

19 don't allow dredgers to remove woody debris from the

20 stream?

21 A I would say you can't hold me too firm to

22 every IDWR specific.

23 Q Okay. That's fine.

24 A But I would believe that's some type of

25 protective measure they would follow.

1 Q Okay. That's fine. Mr. Arthaud, did you

2 ever state in your career that the average amount of

3 hours a suction dredger operated was four to five

4 hours?

5 A I believe the biological opinion has

6 something. Is that where you got that statement from?

7 Q I got it from a FOIA request, but, yes.

8 A Yeah. If you wanted to look, CX-17 on Page

9 4 of the biological opinion, inside the proposed

10 action we grappled with this issue. From our

11 monitoring on LoLo Creek and Moose Creek and the

12 others, we saw a wide range. Some went out there to

13 hang out and hardly dredged at all. Others worked two

14 crews --

15 Q Yeah.

16 A -- sunup to sundown and moved a lot of --

17 Q Material.

18 A -- sediment --

19 Q Yeah.

20 A -- and cobble. And so, typically, when we

21 see things like that, we'll apply monitoring to the

22 problem to make sure what it is, and then we will

23 provide an expectation. So we expect it's somewhere

24 in the middle between those two extremes, and that's

25 probably what it came down to, a half a day, four

1 hours of dredging.

2 Q Right, uh-huh.

3 A Yeah.

4 Q Right. The total maximum daily load was

5 based not on your recommendation, but it was based on

6 eight hours a day, was it not?

7 MR. MOORE: Objection.

8 THE WITNESS: I don't remember the basis.

9 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Hold on. Hold on one

10 second. There's an objection.

11 THE WITNESS: Okay.

12 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Go ahead.

13 MR. MOORE: It's my understanding that Mr.

14 Arthaud is an employee of NMFS, had no involvement in

15 the setting of the TMDL.

16 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. So a preliminary

17 question is, do you even know the answer?

18 THE WITNESS: I don't know that specific

19 answer. It could have been. It made sense.

20 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Because there's no

21 need to speculate.

22 THE WITNESS: Okay. Sorry.

23 JUDGE COUGHLIN: So I'll sustain the

24 objection. And if you have another, please go ahead.

25 MR. ERLANSON: Okay.

1 BY MR. ERLANSON:

2 Q Okay. We covered that. Are there any ESA  
3 species that inhabit the South Fork that are allowed  
4 to be taken or caught by sports fishermen, either for  
5 threatened or endangered species?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Okay. Could you mention those?

8 A They would be part of -- typically part of a  
9 mixed stock fishery where there might be some unlisted  
10 and listed fish altogether moving up a stream down in  
11 a lower river or in the ocean. So there's commercial  
12 fisheries in the ocean that could take some. But you  
13 asked for sport fishing. There's sport fishing,  
14 carefully managed fisheries in the lower Columbia and  
15 Snake River. I don't think -- well, they probably go  
16 for steelhead up into the South Fork too.

17 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Is there a particular  
18 terminology associated with that type of taking?

19 THE WITNESS: It is --

20 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Is it a particular type of  
21 take?

22 THE WITNESS: It's an incidental take --

23 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.

24 THE WITNESS: -- because they cannot keep  
25 the wild fish in most -- in almost all those

1 fisheries. And if they have an adipose fin, they're  
2 required to immediately release them without removing  
3 them from the water.

4 MR. ERLANSON: Right.

5 THE WITNESS: But there's hatchery fish that  
6 are mixed in that sometimes are listed and other times  
7 aren't listed, and those are often allowed to be kept.

8 BY MR. ERLANSON:

9 Q Okay. Is it your experience as a fishery  
10 expert that when you catch a large fish and fight --  
11 you know, sport fishing you're fighting with a rod and  
12 reel -- that many times that fish, after it's  
13 released, no matter how careful you are with it, that  
14 it expires?

15 A I wouldn't say many times, but there are  
16 common sublethal effects that occur from a long fight  
17 or a hard-fought fight. So that is a form of  
18 sublethal effects on those. Typically, with salmon  
19 and steelhead, you either land them very quickly or  
20 you don't get them at all. So long fights that  
21 successfully end in a catch are sometimes rare.

22 Q Okay. We covered that already. Moving  
23 right through here. It won't take long.

24 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Take your time.

25 //

1 BY MR. ERLANSON:

2 Q I think we covered a little bit of this  
3 earlier. I don't think there's any sense in going  
4 over the steelhead thing here, Mr. Arthaud. Do you  
5 have any information on the other species, like  
6 Chinook salmon, either the fall or the spring run, how  
7 may reds have been observed since 2001 in that section  
8 of the river? I mean, I'm basically not talking my  
9 section or where this occurred.

10 A Just the whole river main stem?

11 Q I'm talking from Newsome Creek up to Crooked  
12 River.

13 A Oh, Newsome Creek up? The fall Chinook reds  
14 from Newsome Creek up, I can't remember how far they  
15 went. They went up into the canyon a ways. The  
16 spring-summer Chinook, yes, in that reach and  
17 downstream. They tend to be heaviest at the mouths of  
18 tributaries, and where there's thermal refugia or good  
19 quality water coming out of a tributary, they will  
20 distribute down the main stem below that area. But  
21 there's also scattered spawning throughout.

22 JUDGE COUGHLIN: And just for my own  
23 reference, those areas that you're referring to, where  
24 are they in relation to the area in which Mr. Erlanson  
25 was dredging?

1 THE WITNESS: They're above, below it, and  
2 through it for the --

3 JUDGE COUGHLIN: For the areas you were just  
4 responding to?

5 THE WITNESS: Yes.

6 JUDGE COUGHLIN: A couple scenarios?

7 THE WITNESS: Yeah, for spring-summer  
8 Chinook, they are spawning above and in and below the  
9 area that he's in.

10 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.

11 THE WITNESS: I believe Snake River basin  
12 steelhead are spawning throughout that area also, but  
13 we can't see them as readily.

14 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Okay.

15 THE WITNESS: But the fall Chinook are  
16 below.

17 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Thank you.

18 BY MR. ERLANSON:

19 Q You mentioned that -- you were asked about  
20 Mr. Rice's plume, turbidity plume.

21 A Uh-huh.

22 Q And you, from visual observation, you  
23 estimated that it was between 30 and 40 NTUs directly  
24 below the dredge there and going down the stream for I  
25 don't know how far, 150 feet or something. But that

1 still falls within the 500-foot mixing zone and would  
 2 be legal according to the regulations that are on the  
 3 books, correct?  
 4 A That's not correct.  
 5 Q Okay.  
 6 A Because EPA, under the general permit and  
 7 the Forest Service BLM program, the consultation that  
 8 allows that says it can be no longer than 150 feet  
 9 visible plume.  
 10 Q Right.  
 11 A So, if IDWR or somebody else says something  
 12 different, it's still is not correct.  
 13 Q Right. But, at the end of 150 feet, what is  
 14 the NTUs allowable?  
 15 A They don't -- the 150-foot is a surrogate,  
 16 is an observational surrogate for plumes that will  
 17 include harmful effects somewhere along their  
 18 distance. So, if the miner has a plume that's visible  
 19 more than 150 feet, he's required to stop or slow down  
 20 until that plume lessens in distance. And then we  
 21 expect all the way from nearly below his sluice  
 22 throughout the whole visible length of the plume that  
 23 it will be less than the harmful levels.  
 24 Q What is the harmful level?  
 25 A Well, as I said before, they start becoming

1 behaviorally harmful, an annoyance or irritation,  
 2 around 20 NTUs, and then they increase from there  
 3 until, by the time you're 40 or 50 NTUs, you know,  
 4 there's actually injurious effects of clogging in the  
 5 gills and coughing and --  
 6 Q I understand. When you say -- when you  
 7 mentioned harmful and you mentioned 20 NTUs, what is  
 8 the timeframe for those 20 NTUs? Is it -- what's the  
 9 extended timeframe? Is it one hour? Is it 11 hours  
 10 at 20 NTUs?  
 11 A Yeah. That's the thing. If we were doing  
 12 straightforward injuries, the duration would be very  
 13 important. But, when you are doing behavioral effects  
 14 like displacement, the first grain of sand that hits  
 15 them might cause some fish reasonably to move. You  
 16 know, the first wave of turbidity that hits them  
 17 may -- they're highly sensitive to it, they may leave.  
 18 So it's hard to say that, you know, this single point,  
 19 nothing will happen, and a few points higher than  
 20 that, all of it will happen. It's a continuum.  
 21 Q Okay. Thank you. Are you familiar with a  
 22 1988 G.R. Stern study on dredge plumes?  
 23 A Stern?  
 24 Q Yes.  
 25 A No, I don't believe so.

1 Q Well, he states that although visible,  
 2 dredge plumes have little direct consequences to fish  
 3 and invertebrates. That's a conclusion of his study  
 4 done in 1988.  
 5 A Was that --  
 6 Q You have a tendency to disagree with that.  
 7 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Hold on one second. Got an  
 8 objection.  
 9 MR. ERLANSON: Oh, I'm sorry.  
 10 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Go ahead.  
 11 MR. MOORE: I object to the extent that  
 12 that's testimony. If there is a study that Mr.  
 13 Erlanson has and wants to give the witness a chance to  
 14 review it, I might be okay with some questions. But,  
 15 without having him review it, I'm hesitant to allow  
 16 him to answer.  
 17 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. I think that's a  
 18 sustainable objection. Do you have the report?  
 19 MR. ERLANSON: No, I don't have all these  
 20 reports. It would take 500 pages. I don't have them,  
 21 no.  
 22 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.  
 23 MR. ERLANSON: I just have the conclusions  
 24 of the reports.  
 25 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Yeah, then I would

1 just move on to your next question then.  
 2 MR. ERLANSON: Okay, Your Honor.  
 3 BY MR. ERLANSON:  
 4 Q You mentioned -- oh, okay. You stated that  
 5 you were down in the area of these tailing piles, in  
 6 Number 5's and Number 7's, in 2014.  
 7 A Uh-huh.  
 8 Q At that time, did you notice any activity in  
 9 that area?  
 10 A In 2014, there were -- I just drove by and  
 11 pulled out and looked. I didn't get down in and wade,  
 12 but there were maybe a dredge or two below Newsome and  
 13 the slide area there, but most of them were at Newsome  
 14 and above.  
 15 Q Okay. This, of course, is above Newsome  
 16 Creek where we're talking here. Okay. Did you in  
 17 2015 visit the area before this dredging occurred?  
 18 A I did not.  
 19 Q So there was no -- apparently then, you  
 20 couldn't have done any biological testing on that area  
 21 before the dredging occurred?  
 22 A No, none was done.  
 23 Q Okay. You estimated the impacts of habitat  
 24 removal for the EPA, counsel for the EPA. But,  
 25 without measuring the hole previous to the dredging

1 activity, how could you accurately come up with a  
2 conclusion like that?

3 A I am basing it on the monitoring reports  
4 that were presented here and the pictures and the  
5 volumes that were measured therein.

6 Q Yeah, you -- sir, you mentioned that five  
7 meters, cube meters were taken out of the hole  
8 according to those reports that you cited in the  
9 testimony, and you mentioned that 20 percent of that  
10 would be -- it would be actually 20 percent less than  
11 that because of compaction factor, like when you're  
12 building a road and you're filling a culvert, it  
13 always sinks. You can fill it in with the same  
14 material and you'll have a hump on it and --

15 A Uh-huh.

16 Q -- it takes time to compact it.

17 A Right.

18 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Wait. Hold on one second.  
19 I want to make sure I'm following. Is this the  
20 reference to the testimony about swell?

21 MR. ERLANSON: Yes.

22 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Is that what you're asking  
23 about?

24 MR. ERLANSON: Yes, yeah. Compacted --

25 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. I'm not sure if it

1 was characterized in quite that way, but -- Mr. Moore?

2 MR. MOORE: I think it wasn't characterized  
3 exactly correct, and I could offer a correction if  
4 Your Honor would allow.

5 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. You mean in the  
6 midst of his -- okay. Real quickly maybe that will  
7 help clear things up.

8 MR. MOORE: I believe the testimony was that  
9 the volume of material removed from the hole was 15.4  
10 cubic meters, and there was a 20 percent swell of that  
11 volume.

12 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.

13 THE WITNESS: That is correct.

14 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.

15 MR. ERLANSON: Okay.

16 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Thank you. Go ahead with  
17 your question, Mr. Erlanson.

18 MR. ERLANSON: Okay. Where did I get five  
19 meters cubed at? Was that the tailing pile?

20 MR. MOORE: The tailings pile was measured.

21 MR. ERLANSON: Okay, because I wrote it down  
22 and I thought, boy, I'm a little off there, but 15  
23 units.

24 BY MR. ERLANSON:

25 Q You mentioned three rocks out there in 1527

1 bottom left. That's -- I know it's 1527.

2 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Yeah. I think that might  
3 be CX-38 maybe. I'm just looking at my notes, which  
4 may or may not be -- take a look at that exhibit, Mr.  
5 Erlanson, and see on Page 1527 if that's what your  
6 question's related to.

7 MR. ERLANSON: Yeah. There we go.

8 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.

9 MR. ERLANSON: Yeah, I've got it.

10 BY MR. ERLANSON:

11 Q You mentioned the rocks being an impediment  
12 to fish travel there. And considering all the fish  
13 would be free swimmers, do you -- can -- do you  
14 believe that the fish can't swim to either side of  
15 those rocks as they would an in-stream boulder or I --

16 A No, I do not believe that they can't do  
17 that. I think they can swim around something like  
18 this. Most of the fish at that age --

19 Q Right.

20 A -- and size, but it does provide a very  
21 shallow highly exposed substrate for them to have to  
22 swim across at risk of predation, or they have to go  
23 around to the thalweg over on the far side.

24 Q I agree. I agree. I just wanted to clarify  
25 that. So, when you look at -- oh, I guess we could

1 look at any one of these. Let's look at CX-1B. And  
2 we want to take a look -- what I want to look at is --  
3 we can still look down here at where it says "2015,"  
4 the same one on 1527. What I want to try and do is  
5 make a little comparison here. And what I'm trying to  
6 get at here, I'm going to ask you, do you see more  
7 gravel exposed on, let's call it the tree side of the  
8 picture? Do you see more gravel exposed in the  
9 picture on -- oh, I wish I had my glasses.

10 JUDGE COUGHLIN: 1527?

11 MR. ERLANSON: Thank you.

12 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. So let me just kind  
13 of jump in just to make sure the record's clear. So  
14 you're comparing CX-38 at Page 1527, and you're  
15 referring to that 2015 photograph in the lower left,  
16 right? Or I should say correct. And you're comparing  
17 that to CX-1B?

18 MR. ERLANSON: Yes, Your Honor.

19 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. And now, with that  
20 in mind, just restate your question if you would.

21 BY MR. ERLANSON:

22 Q Okay. Can you see more gravel, sir, on the  
23 side of the river looking upstream on the right side  
24 than in the picture taken by Hughes in July, the day  
25 of the incident? Can you -- in other words, I'm

1 asking you, by looking at these pictures, can you  
2 determine that the water has went down measurably?

3 A Yes, I believe I can in that the -- in the  
4 CX-1B, you could see more of Rice's tailings piles,  
5 and you can start to look at rocks along the shoreline  
6 until the water's slightly deeper than it is in the  
7 1527 lower left photograph.

8 Q Right, correct.

9 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Now I just want to hop in,  
10 though, because you made reference to this being a  
11 Hughes photograph.

12 MR. ERLANSON: I think Mr. Hughes took these  
13 photographs.

14 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Okay.

15 THE WITNESS: Yeah, yeah.

16 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Hughes, CX-1B being the  
17 Hughes photograph. Okay.

18 MR. ERLANSON: Oh.

19 JUDGE COUGHLIN: I thought you were  
20 referring to the one in CX-38.

21 MR. ERLANSON: Oh.

22 JUDGE COUGHLIN: So that's fine. Okay. You  
23 were referring to the CX-1.

24 MR. ERLANSON: Yeah.

25 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Thank you.

1 BY MR. ERLANSON:

2 Q Okay. So then you mentioned that half of  
3 the stream had been disturbed in this area. But, if  
4 the water went down, let's say, 15 inches, the stream  
5 would be -- wouldn't it be much wider, sir?

6 A If the water went down, the stream width  
7 would likely decrease. I don't think it went down 15  
8 inches. I could still see boulders on the far bank  
9 that match up, and it looks more like maybe six or  
10 seven inches.

11 MR. ERLANSON: Okay. It's opened up. So  
12 that -- I just -- that was a point, you know, I wanted  
13 to make. Okay. We took care of that. I'm done.

14 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Do you have some  
15 redirect?

16 MR. MOORE: Just a few, Your Honor.

17 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Sure.

18 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

19 BY MR. MOORE:

20 Q Mr. Arthaud, when you drafted the biological  
21 opinion and created the terms and conditions in that  
22 document, including things like the suction dredge  
23 time period --

24 A Uh-huh.

25 Q -- were you assuming that the impacts of

1 suction dredge mining were those from permitted  
2 activities?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And that those activities were in compliance  
5 with the terms and conditions of the bi-op?

6 A Fully, yes.

7 Q If I understood it correctly, you just  
8 testified that in Exhibit CX-01B, the water level is  
9 higher than the water level in the photograph in the  
10 bottom left of Page 1527 of Exhibit 38. Is that  
11 right?

12 A That's what I just said. If you can point  
13 me to a rock or a boulder that changes that --

14 Q Even if that is true, does that in any way  
15 affect your opinion regarding the impacts of Mr.  
16 Erlanson's dredging activity?

17 A No, it doesn't. It just means that there's  
18 still -- what I said before is still the same, that  
19 there's a hump there, and when the water level  
20 dropped, it was the first thing to go above the water  
21 level. The tailings are still extending above the  
22 water level --

23 Q Does it in any --

24 A -- surface.

25 Q I'm sorry.

1 A Above the surface.

2 Q Does it in any way call into doubt your  
3 conclusions regarding the presence of a pile in the  
4 bottom left photograph on Page 1527?

5 A No. I'm trying to say that it asserts that  
6 there is a pile there. I'm using that as evidence.

7 MR. MOORE: Thank you. No further  
8 questions.

9 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Did that raise  
10 anything else you needed to ask?

11 MR. ERLANSON: One question.

12 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.

13 RECROSS EXAMINATION

14 BY MR. ERLANSON:

15 Q On 1527 on that left-hand bottom photo,  
16 you're saying the dredge pile, the dredge tailings are  
17 out of the water. I do see one, two, maybe three,  
18 four rocks out of a surface area there of probably --  
19 I don't know -- you could estimate it. You're  
20 probably better at estimating than me, but I'd say  
21 there's 100 square feet there or something. But do  
22 you see the little yellow circle that I think denotes  
23 Hole Number 5. Do you see that, sir?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And then down below there's a tailing pile.

1 A Right.

2 Q There's one big rock right at the edge of

3 that hole that I'm sure that whoever was dredging

4 there at the time couldn't move, but that's beside the

5 point. But the rest of it's all tailings, and I only

6 see -- I mean, I see water going over them tailings

7 except for them, like I said, there's like three or

8 four rocks there, and they look like they're in a

9 pretty much straight downstream line. Is that --

10 A Yes. And now look a half inch in the

11 photograph below those lined up rocks just above the

12 upper rock and the line, and you'll see some riffling

13 areas.

14 Q Right.

15 A That's where the tailings pile is extending

16 above the surface or so close to the surface that it's

17 causing it to riffle. And so it's --

18 Q Right. But there's still water running over

19 it right there?

20 A Yes.

21 MR. ERLANSON: Okay. That's all I wanted.

22 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Anything else?

23 MR. MOORE: Nothing, Your Honor.

24 JUDGE COUGHLIN: All right. Thank you very

25 much, Mr. Arthaud.

1 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

2 (Witness excused.)

3 JUDGE COUGHLIN: We have some -- I assume no

4 further evidence from Complainant.

5 MR. MOORE: No, Your Honor.

6 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. And, Mr. Erlanson,

7 you're not planning to testify you said before.

8 MR. ERLANSON: No, Your Honor.

9 JUDGE COUGHLIN: So you're holding to that.

10 Okay. So we've just got some housekeeping things to

11 discuss. But, before we do that, would anyone like a

12 quick break, a bathroom break or anything, five

13 minutes?

14 MR. ERLANSON: How long does the

15 housekeeping session last?

16 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Maybe 15 minutes.

17 MR. ERLANSON: Oh, I'm good then.

18 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. All right. Is

19 everyone else all right to continue?

20 MR. McLAREN: I'm fine as well.

21 JUDGE COUGHLIN: You'd like a break?

22 MR. McLAREN: No. I can continue as well,

23 Your Honor.

24 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. All right. Thank

25 you.

1 MR. McLAREN: And, Your Honor, to clarify,

2 Complainant has no further testimonial evidence to

3 present.

4 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. All right. So were

5 you -- do you wish to make any kind of closing remark

6 or do you waive?

7 MR. McLAREN: We will waive and submit in

8 the form of a post-hearing brief if that's acceptable

9 to Your Honor.

10 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. That's fine.

11 MR. McLAREN: Okay.

12 JUDGE COUGHLIN: And, Mr. Erlanson, how

13 about you? I mean, you haven't actually presented a

14 case, but did you wish to make any closing comments

15 before we deal with housekeeping matters?

16 MR. ERLANSON: Well, I wrote down a couple

17 things.

18 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.

19 MR. ERLANSON: During my opening remark, I

20 mentioned that there was no NPDES permit available to

21 me on July 22, 2015. I think through the

22 cross-examination of EPA witnesses here I've proven

23 that. I think that the EPA failed to prove that the

24 Defendant, in fact, by himself made Hole 5 and

25 Tailings Number 7. I believe that EPA Witness Martich

1 stated that Erlanson's case was, she quoted "a usual

2 circumstance," which is an occasional disregard for

3 not having a NPDES permit. And so I'd like the Court

4 to consider those three things in her decision and in

5 the penalty phase of this proceeding. Thank you.

6 JUDGE COUGHLIN: All right. Thank you.

7 Okay. I just want to review the exhibits,

8 which I normally do anyway before we fully conclude.

9 But, with that in mind, Mr. Erlanson, did you wish to

10 introduce into evidence RX-2 and RX-4 through RX-9?

11 And by that, I've kind of gone over it a couple of

12 times, but --

13 MR. ERLANSON: Yeah.

14 JUDGE COUGHLIN: -- basically, then that way

15 I would consider it to the extent that I can in the

16 absence of any authentication or foundation in

17 reviewing everything. If you don't want to introduce

18 them, you don't have to. I'm just giving you that

19 opportunity.

20 MR. ERLANSON: Well, Your Honor, this might

21 sound funny, but after paying my attorney as much as I

22 paid him and he put them in there, I've got to get

23 something out of that guy. So I'll put them in.

24 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. And Complainant's

25 position on that?

1 MR. McLAREN: Your Honor contextualized that  
 2 very well. I will still lodge an objection for the  
 3 record on RX-2, RX-4 through 9. So, understanding the  
 4 choice to allow them in on the basis of leniency,  
 5 despite the fact that there's no testimony,  
 6 Complainant objects based on their relevance to the  
 7 questions at issue in this case, the fact that they've  
 8 not been authenticated by any witness, the fact that  
 9 Complainant has not had an opportunity to direct  
 10 examine or cross-examine a witness as to the veracity  
 11 or the contents thereof or the general reliability of  
 12 the exhibits themselves, and just quite generally  
 13 based on the prejudice to Complainant on the admission  
 14 of seven documents of evidence without any of the  
 15 typical introduction requirements. So, beyond that,  
 16 though, Complainant has no other objection.  
 17 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. And I get it.  
 18 MR. McLAREN: Right, right.  
 19 JUDGE COUGHLIN: I do and so I appreciate  
 20 it. I'm glad you put those on the record. They're  
 21 noted. I'm going to accept them into evidence.  
 22 //  
 23 //  
 24 //  
 25 //

1 (The documents referred to  
 2 were marked for  
 3 identification as  
 4 Respondent's Exhibit Nos. 2  
 5 and 4 through 9 and were  
 6 received in evidenced.)  
 7 JUDGE COUGHLIN: And, obviously, when you're  
 8 preparing your post-hearing briefing, apart from what  
 9 you've already stated, if you wish to make any  
 10 additional arguments as to what, if any, weight I  
 11 could attribute them, you can certainly do that.  
 12 MR. McLAREN: I understand, Your Honor.  
 13 JUDGE COUGHLIN: And, actually, Mr.  
 14 Erlanson, the same holds true for you with regard to  
 15 what's been accepted into evidence already by  
 16 Complainant. Parties are always able to argue how  
 17 much weight they submit the Judge should assign to any  
 18 particular piece of evidence.  
 19 MR. ERLANSON: When do you do this?  
 20 JUDGE COUGHLIN: In the post-hearing  
 21 briefing, which is what I'm going to get to in just a  
 22 second.  
 23 MR. ERLANSON: Oh, okay.  
 24 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Yeah. So, with that in  
 25 mind, we're working off of our existing copies of RX-2

1 and RX-4 through 9.  
 2 MR. McLAREN: And I believe we've submitted  
 3 a copy, what EPA had, to Your Honor and to Mr.  
 4 Erlanson. Is that correct? Do you have --  
 5 JUDGE COUGHLIN: I don't have a copy from  
 6 you, but I don't need one.  
 7 MR. McLAREN: Certainly.  
 8 JUDGE COUGHLIN: I actually -- we -- I have  
 9 it available already as part of the pre-hearing  
 10 exchange.  
 11 MR. McLAREN: Yes.  
 12 JUDGE COUGHLIN: My only concern was that  
 13 the court reporter had a copy. But I think you had an  
 14 extra that you had offered or no?  
 15 MR. McLAREN: We must. We have so many.  
 16 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Oh, okay. I don't mean to  
 17 impose that on you. It's not your responsibility,  
 18 but --  
 19 MR. McLAREN: It's the nature of the  
 20 circumstances.  
 21 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.  
 22 MR. McLAREN: Mr. Jones, did we give you a  
 23 copy of what looks like this? It would look like  
 24 this.  
 25 THE COURT REPORTER: No, I didn't get a

1 binder.  
 2 MR. McLAREN: Okay. We ought to have an  
 3 extra of these, and those are the exhibits -- if I  
 4 may?  
 5 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Yes, sure.  
 6 MR. McLAREN: Those are the exhibits that  
 7 Mr. Erlanson brought early yesterday.  
 8 THE COURT REPORTER: Right. They were not.  
 9 MR. McLAREN: Those were not admitted in. I  
 10 don't know if the court reporter nonetheless needs  
 11 them.  
 12 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Yes. I think they should  
 13 be included in what you have because my ruling on  
 14 excluding them was done at this evidentiary hearing,  
 15 and it's part of the transcript. Thank you. So yes  
 16 to that, and let's just --  
 17 MR. McLAREN: We're looking around for one  
 18 of our other copies of Respondent's exhibits.  
 19 MR. ERLANSON: I've got it here. Remember  
 20 you gave it to me.  
 21 MR. McLAREN: That might be yours, Mr.  
 22 Erlanson.  
 23 MR. ERLANSON: Well, you gave it to me. You  
 24 guys gave it to me.  
 25 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. So can you sacrifice

1 that then for the court reporter?

2 MR. ERLANSON: Sure.

3 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Let's go ahead and  
4 hand that to him right now.

5 MR. McLAREN: Great.

6 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Yeah. I knew there was  
7 some exchanging going on yesterday.

8 MR. MOORE: And for the record, Your Honor,  
9 that binder does include the exhibits that you  
10 excluded in response to our motions in limine.

11 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. So we're still on  
12 the record here. So the binder, if you could just  
13 hand that to Mr. Jones. Great. So that is the binder  
14 of Respondent's exhibits that had been proposed as  
15 part of the pre-hearing exchange. They're RX-1  
16 through RX-9. All I'm permitting to be admitted into  
17 evidence is RX-2 and RX-4 through RX-9. RX-1 and RX-3  
18 were previously excluded in my order in response to  
19 Complainant's first motion in limine. So, if it's  
20 helpful, we can pull those out. We can pull out RX-1  
21 and RX-3. You can do that? Okay. All right. Thank  
22 you, Mr. Jones. But, otherwise, I think it's very  
23 clear from the record. I've said it I don't even know  
24 how many times at this point, and the case record  
25 certainly reflects my order on the other two.

1 Okay. So something else before I confirm  
2 the exhibits?

3 MR. McLAREN: Complainant has one -- two  
4 other items.

5 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.

6 MR. McLAREN: Due to the sort of novel  
7 circumstances and Mr. Erlanson's swearing in at the  
8 very beginning of the hearing and the various  
9 assertions he's made throughout, Complainant has been  
10 unable to cross-examine him as to any of those  
11 assertions --

12 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Uh-huh.

13 MR. McLAREN: -- or be able to offer any  
14 evidence to impeach any of those assertions.

15 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Uh-huh.

16 MR. McLAREN: At this time, based on  
17 something that Your Honor said earlier this morning, I  
18 asked whether Your Honor would be willing to consider  
19 other items in the docket, specifically Docket No. 34,  
20 Attachment A, which is a declaration made by Mr.  
21 Erlanson dated August 1, 2017, and --

22 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Let me pull that up.

23 MR. McLAREN: Certainly.

24 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Those are in your proposed  
25 exhibits, right?

1 MR. McLAREN: It's not a proposed exhibit.  
2 It's an aspect of the publicly available docket. So  
3 it's not a proposed exhibit in this case.

4 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. So is that -- oh,  
5 dear. My computer's freezing up. It's not on the  
6 disk?

7 MR. McLAREN: It's not on the disk.

8 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.

9 MR. WRIGHT: It was filed.

10 JUDGE COUGHLIN: It was filed, though?

11 MR. McLAREN: It was filed.

12 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. But I just want to  
13 -- oh, darn. My computer's freezing up.

14 MR. McLAREN: I have copies.

15 JUDGE COUGHLIN: If you have copies, great.

16 MR. McLAREN: Yes.

17 JUDGE COUGHLIN: One for you, one for Mr.  
18 Erlanson, and any extras.

19 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Just for the court  
20 reporter.

21 MR. McLAREN: The court reporter? There you  
22 go, Mr. Erlanson.

23 MR. ERLANSON: Yeah.

24 MR. McLAREN: If I may approach?

25 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Yes.

1 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

2 MR. McLAREN: Your Honor.

3 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Thank you.

4 MR. McLAREN: And I bring this up at this  
5 time because Your Honor said earlier that you wouldn't  
6 consider other items in the administrative record for  
7 the purposes of your opinion following this hearing.

8 JUDGE COUGHLIN: That's correct. It's going  
9 to be based on what's admitted into evidence in this  
10 evidentiary hearing, so the testimony that's been  
11 offered and the documents that have been admitted into  
12 evidence. So --

13 MR. McLAREN: And I seek now to determine  
14 whether this can be admitted based on, again, the  
15 novel circumstances of the case, various assertions  
16 that Mr. Erlanson made or insinuated throughout the  
17 course of the hearing, and the lack of opportunity to  
18 challenge any of those assertions, the reliability  
19 here it was submitted by Respondent and Respondent's  
20 attorney himself, it's signed by Mr. Erlanson. It's  
21 dated August 1, 2017. I think none of the defects are  
22 present, and I'd just seek to determine whether this  
23 could be included as part of the record as well.

24 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Yes, I'm happy to entertain  
25 that.

1 MR. McLAREN: Okay.

2 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Mr. Erlanson, do you

3 recognize this?

4 MR. ERLANSON: Not really.

5 JUDGE COUGHLIN: I think it might have been

6 referenced.

7 MR. ERLANSON: Not really. I don't, Your

8 Honor, but I'm trying to read it over here.

9 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.

10 MR. McLAREN: And, again, the context here,

11 this was submitted along with Respondent's opposition

12 to Complainant's motion for accelerated decision. You

13 relied upon it in your order on that accelerated

14 decision, and a mistake made at the beginning of

15 hearing is I believe this was fair game for the

16 purposes of the entirety of the record.

17 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Yeah, Mr. Erlanson,

18 take a look at it because I'm inclined -- I'd like you

19 to just confirm that this is the declaration that had

20 been submitted by your attorney. And so take a look

21 over it, and I think actually maybe it might be

22 helpful to just take a 5-, 10-minute break.

23 MR. McLAREN: Certainly, Your Honor.

24 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Give you some time to

25 review it. You understand where this comes from?

1 This was when Complainant moved for accelerated

2 decision, which was the vehicle by which I granted it

3 and established liability for the charged violation.

4 Okay? That's kind of the buzz word there. In

5 response to their motion for accelerated decision, you

6 at the time had been represented.

7 MR. ERLANSON: Right.

8 JUDGE COUGHLIN: And there was a response to

9 that motion by your attorney on your behalf, and this

10 declaration by you was included.

11 MR. ERLANSON: Right.

12 JUDGE COUGHLIN: And, in fact, referred to

13 in my order on accelerated decision.

14 MR. ERLANSON: Okay.

15 JUDGE COUGHLIN: So this is what Complainant

16 is seeking to introduce into evidence since I've taken

17 in your exhibits and since you've been sworn and made

18 some statements here and there, to be able to respond

19 and defend against any of that. So take a look

20 through it. Let me know if you have any cause for

21 concern or anything like that.

22 MR. ERLANSON: Uh-huh.

23 JUDGE COUGHLIN: I've relied on it in the

24 past.

25 MR. ERLANSON: Okay.

1 JUDGE COUGHLIN: And they're basically

2 asking me to rely on it again in making a decision.

3 MR. ERLANSON: Yeah, I'll read it over.

4 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. So why don't we

5 take -- I don't want you to be rushed. Why don't we

6 take 15 minutes?

7 MR. ERLANSON: Five minutes is enough. If I

8 just have five minutes here, I could read this.

9 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. All right. We'll do

10 five minutes, come back then, and then we'll just

11 finish up.

12 MR. ERLANSON: Sure.

13 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Thank you.

14 (Whereupon, a brief recess was taken.)

15 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. We're back on record

16 after a brief break. So, Mr. Erlanson, any reason I

17 shouldn't accept your declaration as an exhibit?

18 MR. ERLANSON: Your Honor, I didn't sign

19 this, number one. Number two, I understand my

20 attorney apparently signed this in my behalf, but I'm

21 not familiar with half the stuff that's written in

22 here. I'm sorry. I mean, there's some stuff in here

23 that I think is fine, but I think there's other stuff

24 here that I don't know anything about it. I was --

25 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Did you read the last

1 sentence? "I hereby declare that the foregoing is

2 true and correct to the best of my knowledge and

3 recollection under penalty of perjury of the laws of

4 the United States"?

5 MR. ERLANSON: I understand that. I

6 understand that.

7 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Well, it was submitted. I

8 considered it in my accelerated decision.

9 MR. ERLANSON: Yes, I --

10 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Issued order.

11 MR. ERLANSON: -- read that, Your Honor, but

12 I didn't sign it. I don't have a typewriter to sign

13 it even. So I don't -- my attorney might have put

14 this in in my behalf. I -- it seems like he did. I'm

15 trying to realize when -- what threw me off here is

16 No. 14 if you want to look at it. It said "A

17 joint" --

18 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Well, we don't -- I don't

19 -- I'm not looking --

20 MR. ERLANSON: Oh.

21 JUDGE COUGHLIN: -- to discuss it.

22 MR. ERLANSON: Oh, okay.

23 JUDGE COUGHLIN: You're not -- you've chosen

24 not to testify. So there's no need to engage in a

25 dialogue about it.

1 MR. ERLANSON: Well, if it's been --

2 JUDGE COUGHLIN: But it's concerning to me

3 that something that's represented --

4 MR. ERLANSON: Yeah, I --

5 JUDGE COUGHLIN: -- to be true and correct

6 with that declaration, if you're saying, in fact, it

7 isn't.

8 MR. ERLANSON: Your Honor, I'm not familiar

9 with some of the things in this that's written in

10 here. If Mark Pollot did it on my behalf and he did,

11 then he did. But, like I said, I'm not familiar with

12 some of this stuff in here, and I'm just, I'm trying

13 to use my brain to recollect, but I just -- I do now

14 understand I was denied a joint permit. We put a

15 permit in.

16 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Yeah, again, I don't want

17 to hear any -- I mean --

18 MR. ERLANSON: Yeah. So --

19 JUDGE COUGHLIN: -- I'm not interested in

20 any dialogue.

21 MR. ERLANSON: That's what --

22 JUDGE COUGHLIN: So --

23 MR. ERLANSON: That's what threw me off. So

24 I don't --

25 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Well, let me put it this

1 way.

2 MR. ERLANSON: I need to -- I need -- it's

3 been a while and I need to think.

4 JUDGE COUGHLIN: I'll give you some options

5 here. If you want me to consider again to the extent

6 that I even can in the absence of the presentation of

7 any case on your behalf here --

8 MR. ERLANSON: Okay.

9 JUDGE COUGHLIN: -- at this hearing, if you

10 want me to consider the exhibits that your attorney

11 proposed at some point during the pre-hearing exchange

12 process, and I've talked about them, RX-2 and RX-4

13 through 9 --

14 MR. ERLANSON: Right.

15 JUDGE COUGHLIN: -- then it's only fair for

16 me to receive into evidence the things that

17 Complainant is seeking to introduce in response to

18 that. If you really don't -- if it's not important to

19 you that I consider those Respondent exhibits, then I

20 won't and I'll dispense with this. Or did you wish --

21 MR. McLAREN: Your Honor --

22 JUDGE COUGHLIN: -- to offer it in response

23 to some of what came out at hearing anyway?

24 MR. McLAREN: Your Honor, I may have

25 misspoken when I said earlier sort of we would offer

1 this if he offers that. I believe, again, due to the

2 novel nature of his testimony and questions throughout

3 the course of the hearing, that items in the record

4 that would otherwise undermine those items or the

5 statements that he's made, not to mention something

6 that's a signed and sworn affidavit, should be

7 acceptable regardless of RX-2 and then 4 through 9.

8 So I would still posit to attempt to enter it for your

9 consideration in the absence of those items.

10 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. And, I mean, I

11 understand that.

12 MR. McLAREN: Certainly.

13 JUDGE COUGHLIN: But, to the extent there

14 were any statements made by Mr. Erlanson that you

15 might construe as testimony, I do not. So I would not

16 be relying on those statements. I mean, where there

17 were questions posed and answers given, that is

18 reasonably within the confine of cross-examination.

19 To the extent there were comments interspersed, I'm

20 not going to construe that as testimony because Mr.

21 Erlanson has elected not to testify.

22 MR. McLAREN: Certainly.

23 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay? I mean, if he had,

24 then we'd be talking about something else. But he has

25 elected not to, and that's his choice. I respect

1 that. It's not for me to decide. So rest assured

2 that I won't be considering those ancillary comments,

3 if you will, as testimony.

4 MR. McLAREN: Certainly, Your Honor.

5 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. So, for that reason,

6 I don't know that I necessarily need this in the -- I

7 was under the impression you wanted me to consider

8 this in response to those exhibits.

9 MR. McLAREN: No. Just considered as part

10 of the record.

11 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.

12 MR. McLAREN: Based on the fact it was

13 submitted on August 1, 2017, and it's the closest

14 thing we have to testimony in this hearing in the

15 entirety of this case.

16 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. So, given I guess

17 some of what you've stated, Mr. Erlanson, about this

18 declaration that, frankly, is concerning, do you even

19 wish that I consider the Respondent exhibits? I mean,

20 I kind of opened that door, honestly, because I am

21 trying to be as lenient as I could possibly be, but I

22 certainly don't want to force you to. So, if you

23 don't want me to even consider them, assuming I can

24 give them any weight, which is a stretch in the

25 absence of any foundational evidence about them -- if

1 I'm not going to consider them, then I just won't  
2 consider any of this declaration or those. So what do  
3 you want to do?

4 MR. ERLANSON: This case has went on so  
5 long, Your Honor, that life goes on and this case has  
6 been going on for four years. I read this in five  
7 minutes, and my mind wasn't on this. I think --

8 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Yeah. I'm not asking --

9 MR. ERLANSON: I think --

10 JUDGE COUGHLIN: -- you about the  
11 declaration right now.

12 MR. ERLANSON: I think what we'll do -- I  
13 think in the best interest of getting this resolved,  
14 we'll just take out those Respondent's 2 and 4 through  
15 7. Is that --

16 JUDGE COUGHLIN: 4 through 9.

17 MR. ERLANSON: Or 4 through 9.

18 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.

19 MR. ERLANSON: And we'll discontinue this  
20 because I haven't read this.

21 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. So let me -- this is  
22 a really kind of mixed up stage here. But I'm going  
23 to ask the court reporter to just give that binder  
24 back. So I won't consider any exhibits from  
25 Respondent.

1 (The documents referred to,  
2 previously identified as  
3 Respondent's Exhibit Nos. 2  
4 and 4 through 9, were  
5 withdrawn.)

6 JUDGE COUGHLIN: The declaration, I  
7 understand your points, but I don't think it's  
8 necessary because, as I've said, I'm not construing  
9 any of his comments to be testimony, and I won't be  
10 relying on them. To the extent there were questions  
11 posed and answers given as part of proper  
12 cross-examination, that's part of that witness's  
13 testimony. But I'm not construing anything as  
14 testimony on behalf of Mr. Erlanson because he has, in  
15 fact, elected not to testify in this hearing. Does  
16 that allay any concerns you had?

17 MR. McLAREN: To the extent this is a signed  
18 and sworn declaration and despite Mr. Erlanson's  
19 disavowal at the end of the hearing, this has been in  
20 the record since August 1, 2017. I just offer that  
21 information, in addition to the fact that we submitted  
22 this to Respondent or to Mr. Erlanson early last month  
23 to review along with many other items, and I have that  
24 copy of the cover letter for everything that was sent  
25 for his review. I simply posit that for the record,

1 but I, of course, accept whatever Your Honor decides  
2 here.

3 JUDGE COUGHLIN: I mean, when you say you  
4 sent it to him for his review, those were some kind of  
5 just internal exchanges or -- I -- because I don't  
6 necessarily recollect being part of that.

7 MR. McLAREN: When we proposed stipulations  
8 in compliance with Your Honor's order by I believe  
9 it's April 12, 2019 --

10 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.

11 MR. McLAREN: -- we did not share the  
12 proposed stipulations because those weren't agreed  
13 upon at that point. What we did do, though, to show  
14 that the good-faith efforts were continuing was we  
15 provided the cover letter that we sent dated and sent  
16 to Respondent, as well as the many filings that we  
17 provided to Respondent for his benefit to prepare for  
18 this hearing.

19 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Uh-huh.

20 MR. McLAREN: Among those were this  
21 declaration and several other items, and that was I  
22 believe April 1 of this year. So I only offer it to  
23 say that there are several statements about this being  
24 presented to him as a surprise and this is his first  
25 time seeing it and a disavowal. I would understand if

1 Your Honor doesn't want to enter anything else into  
2 the record. It remains the case, though, that the  
3 validity of this signed and sworn declaration  
4 submitted by Respondent in this record and the fact  
5 that we have not been able to cross-examine him would  
6 push me to ask for you to consider this declaration.

7 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Yeah. You know, the  
8 unfortunate part of it, though, is that with these  
9 declarations is they're often -- you know, they're  
10 submitted as part of a accelerated decision or what  
11 would be a canon civil procedure to be a summary  
12 judgment motion.

13 MR. McLAREN: Yes, Your Honor.

14 JUDGE COUGHLIN: There's actually no notary,  
15 no -- I mean, it's not an affidavit, if you will. And  
16 so, in the absence of someone under oath attesting to  
17 the truthfulness and accuracy --

18 MR. McLAREN: Certainly.

19 JUDGE COUGHLIN: -- of it, I don't know if  
20 it's really going to serve the purpose that you're  
21 aiming for. I agree, however, that it's concerning  
22 that something that was submitted during a formal  
23 federal administrative process and something that I  
24 relied upon to some extent in the order on accelerated  
25 decision is now being questioned. I share those

1 concerns. But it's not going to substitute for  
 2 testimony in the --  
 3 MR. McLAREN: I --  
 4 JUDGE COUGHLIN: -- in the absence of Mr.  
 5 Erlanson now being under oath attesting to the truth  
 6 and accuracy of it.  
 7 MR. McLAREN: I won't push the envelope,  
 8 Your Honor.  
 9 JUDGE COUGHLIN: I mean, I understand your  
 10 point and, you know, I'm glad you've made the comments  
 11 on the record.  
 12 MR. McLAREN: Certainly.  
 13 JUDGE COUGHLIN: I understand that, but I  
 14 don't think I can, in the absence of it being adopted  
 15 for this evidentiary hearing for which testimony must  
 16 be sworn, rely upon it in lieu of that.  
 17 MR. McLAREN: Certainly, Your Honor.  
 18 JUDGE COUGHLIN: If that makes sense. So  
 19 what I'll do is hand this back to you.  
 20 MR. McLAREN: I'll come get it.  
 21 JUDGE COUGHLIN: And, obviously, it's within  
 22 the case record, so there's certainly -- it's  
 23 certainly preserved there if you feel I've erred in  
 24 this ruling. You know, just as I've said to Mr.  
 25 Erlanson, you're welcome to argue about that on

1 review. But I don't feel like it's going to serve the  
 2 purpose of -- to replace testimony in this hearing.  
 3 MR. McLAREN: I understand, Your Honor.  
 4 Thank you.  
 5 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. So, all that said,  
 6 we're sort of back to square one. And what I will do  
 7 is I do want to just confirm quickly with Complainant  
 8 because --  
 9 MR. McLAREN: Yes.  
 10 JUDGE COUGHLIN: -- they're only  
 11 Complainant's exhibits that I have in here. I just  
 12 want to run down everything with you to make sure  
 13 that --  
 14 MR. McLAREN: I'll sit for this.  
 15 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Yeah, please do. That what  
 16 I have received into evidence is what you expect me to  
 17 have in evidence, okay? So I'll start with CX-1 and  
 18 then with the three enlarged photographs, CX-1A, CX-1B  
 19 and CX-1C. I have CX-2, CX-3 and CX-4. These are all  
 20 admitted into evidence. CX-6, CX-7, CX-8, CX-9, and  
 21 CX-10 all admitted into evidence. CX-12 admitted.  
 22 CX-16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22 all admitted.  
 23 CX-27, 28, and 29 all admitted. CX-31 admitted.  
 24 CX-33, 34, 35 admitted and CX-37, 38, and 39 admitted.  
 25 MR. McLAREN: I think that's consistent with

1 our understanding, Your Honor.  
 2 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Great. All right.  
 3 No Respondent's exhibits have been admitted. The  
 4 witnesses, that's all going to be clear from the  
 5 transcript. Any other housekeeping matter? I need to  
 6 just give a rundown on the post-hearing process, but  
 7 apart from that?  
 8 MR. MOORE: Yeah, I have one additional  
 9 evidentiary clarification, I think.  
 10 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Sure.  
 11 MR. MOORE: In Respondent's motion that was  
 12 dated April 5, 2019, the motion to file out of time  
 13 for additional witnesses, an affidavit of Ron Miller  
 14 was included. Pursuant to Rule 22.22(c) of the  
 15 consolidated rules, witnesses may admit written  
 16 testimony in lieu of oral testimony only if that  
 17 witness is subject to cross-examination. Obviously,  
 18 Mr. Miller was not presented here. And so we ask that  
 19 that affidavit not be included into the record.  
 20 JUDGE COUGHLIN: So it's -- it is -- because  
 21 we need to just be clear when we say "the record."  
 22 MR. MOORE: Thank you.  
 23 JUDGE COUGHLIN: It's not a criticism. It  
 24 happens a lot, but it is not part of this evidentiary  
 25 proceeding. There were -- there was no presentation

1 of a case on behalf of Respondent, no witnesses, no  
 2 exhibits. So I won't be considering that affidavit.  
 3 I believe in my order I excluded -- well, Mr. Miller  
 4 was previously identified, though, correct, which is  
 5 why you're going down that road? Okay.  
 6 MR. MOORE: He was.  
 7 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Yeah. I'm not going to  
 8 consider an affidavit at this point, and there's  
 9 really no reason for me to. He wasn't even offered.  
 10 There was no offer for me to consider that on behalf  
 11 of Respondent.  
 12 MR. MOORE: Thank you for the clarification.  
 13 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. All right. All that  
 14 said, what will happen now is once we finally conclude  
 15 and I leave the bench, this evidentiary hearing will  
 16 be closed, and what means is that no further evidence  
 17 may be offered. So I will be, as I've said now  
 18 probably too many times, I will be basing my decision  
 19 with regard to the penalty issue on what has been  
 20 presented here today. What will follow is I'll be  
 21 issuing a post-hearing scheduling order or something  
 22 along those lines, and it's going to afford the  
 23 parties an opportunity to file any motion to conform  
 24 the transcript to the actual testimony.  
 25 Before that deadline will be imposed, you'll

1 get a copy of the transcript. Once we get it from the  
2 court reporting service, we then send it to the  
3 parties. Is there a preference as to -- you may have  
4 covered this pre-hearing, but since I'm not involved  
5 in those pre-hearing conferences, let me just confirm.  
6 Is there a preference as to whether you receive that  
7 transcript electronically or on paper? From  
8 Complainant?

9 MR. McLAREN: We would like to receive it  
10 electronically, please.

11 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. And Mr. Erlanson?

12 MR. ERLANSON: To be honest with you, Your  
13 Honor, what's cheaper?

14 JUDGE COUGHLIN: It really doesn't matter.  
15 We send it to you, so it's just how --

16 MR. ERLANSON: Oh. There's no cost  
17 involved?

18 JUDGE COUGHLIN: No. It's how you'd like to  
19 receive it.

20 MR. ERLANSON: Oh, paper.

21 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Mike, you got that?

22 MR. WRIGHT: Yes.

23 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. All right. So we'll  
24 be sending you that. There will be, as I said, an  
25 opportunity to file any motion to conform the

1 transcript, and that's really more for just  
2 typographical errors and, you know, just like an  
3 errata type situation, not for any substantive changes  
4 generally. Do you have a question about that?

5 MR. ERLANSON: No, Your Honor, but -- so  
6 it's just typographical stuff that we're going to try  
7 and -- you can't change the transcript, right?

8 JUDGE COUGHLIN: I mean, there should not be  
9 significant substantive changes. Sometimes it's a  
10 question of -- often, with the use of acronyms and  
11 things like that, there can be slight misspellings or  
12 things like that.

13 MR. ERLANSON: Oh, okay.

14 JUDGE COUGHLIN: So it's really more for  
15 those types of corrections. I mean, if there's  
16 something really significant, then you could certainly  
17 alert me to it, but that's not often what transpires.  
18 It's usually just more of a typo.

19 MR. ERLANSON: What's that like when you say  
20 "significant"? What do you mean by that?

21 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Well, you be the judge. I  
22 mean, you read it --

23 MR. ERLANSON: Oh.

24 JUDGE COUGHLIN: -- through and if you feel  
25 like there are significant changes that need to be

1 made, you can file a motion to that effect and then  
2 I'll rule accordingly.

3 MR. ERLANSON: Am I allowed to call Mike and  
4 ask him a question about it, you know, whether this is  
5 significant or not or what do you --

6 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Yeah, it's really not for  
7 him to decide.

8 MR. ERLANSON: Oh, it's --

9 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Just read through the  
10 transcript and --

11 MR. ERLANSON: Okay.

12 JUDGE COUGHLIN: -- if you see any glaring  
13 errors, then you can write us and let us know. Okay?

14 MR. ERLANSON: Okay. Thank you. Yeah.

15 JUDGE COUGHLIN: All I'm trying to say is  
16 usually the types of errors that we tend to encounter  
17 are minor.

18 MR. ERLANSON: Okay.

19 JUDGE COUGHLIN: But it doesn't mean that  
20 something non-minor can't exist, I suppose. But you  
21 just read it and decide for yourself. Okay?

22 MR. ERLANSON: Okay.

23 JUDGE COUGHLIN: And then we'll also include  
24 some deadlines for the post-hearing briefing.

25 Typically, you know, I start with Complaint. I give

1 the Complainant the first initial briefing deadline,  
2 and that's simply because they tend to bear the  
3 initial burden in these cases, and so I have them go  
4 first. Then it'll be followed by a deadline for  
5 Respondent to submit his initial post-hearing brief.  
6 And then there will be the opportunity for reply  
7 briefs, again staggered with Complainant replying  
8 first and then Respondent replying thereafter.

9 You don't have to submit a brief if you  
10 don't want to, but it is available to you, and it is a  
11 point only to make argument because I won't be  
12 receiving any new evidence. Once this hearing closes,  
13 that closes the record of evidence that I'll receive  
14 and upon which I'll base a decision. So the  
15 post-hearing briefing is purely for argument about  
16 what has been presented.

17 MR. ERLANSON: Okay. Got you.

18 JUDGE COUGHLIN: After that, I then  
19 undertake the task of going through everything and  
20 issuing an initial decision, which I, you know, will  
21 do as quickly as I can, but I'm pretty thorough and  
22 I'd like to think pretty detailed. So it takes time.  
23 So I'll work as diligently and efficiently as I can,  
24 and then that'll be sent out to you once it's issued.  
25 Any questions before we depart?

1 MR. McLAREN: None from EPA.  
 2 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.  
 3 MR. ERLANSON: I have one, Your Honor.  
 4 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Sure.  
 5 MR. ERLANSON: Depending on the outcome of  
 6 the case, when you rule on the case --  
 7 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Uh-huh.  
 8 MR. ERLANSON: -- you send the parties the  
 9 information, your ruling.  
 10 JUDGE COUGHLIN: It'll be an initial  
 11 decision.  
 12 MR. ERLANSON: Okay.  
 13 JUDGE COUGHLIN: That's what it's called.  
 14 It's my decision and it's written.  
 15 MR. ERLANSON: Okay. And then do you  
 16 personally have information of how long I have to  
 17 write up an appeal?  
 18 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Yeah, we actually provide  
 19 that with the initial decision.  
 20 MR. ERLANSON: Oh, okay.  
 21 JUDGE COUGHLIN: There's a timeframe within  
 22 which you do have to appeal, and I think we tend to  
 23 also include a copy of the rules. Do we, with our  
 24 initial decisions?  
 25 MR. WRIGHT: I don't think we do.

1 JUDGE COUGHLIN: We don't? Okay. We do in  
 2 some other cases, other agency cases that we handle,  
 3 so sometimes I get confused about that. But there  
 4 will be language that talks about the appeal rights.  
 5 And, basically, the rules that discuss that have  
 6 already been referenced throughout this process.  
 7 There are consolidated rules of practice that have  
 8 been cited. So, you know, I mean, if you want a cite  
 9 right now, I could give it to you if you want to write  
 10 it down, but it's riddled throughout.  
 11 MR. ERLANSON: Sure.  
 12 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Our rules of practice are  
 13 at 40 CFR. CFR is, as you know, the regs.  
 14 MR. ERLANSON: Correct.  
 15 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. And it's Part 22 and  
 16 it's actually -- it's a very long title, but they're  
 17 the consolidated rules of practice governing the  
 18 administrative assessment of civil penalties and the  
 19 revocation/termination or suspension of permits.  
 20 Basically, it governs what we do and how we do it, and  
 21 I've cited to it in --  
 22 MR. ERLANSON: Yeah, I've seen it.  
 23 JUDGE COUGHLIN: -- I mean, I think just  
 24 about every order I've probably cited to it.  
 25 MR. ERLANSON: I've seen it quite a bit.

1 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Yeah.  
 2 MR. ERLANSON: Yeah.  
 3 JUDGE COUGHLIN: So that's where the appeal  
 4 language is, and I think, you know, we refer to it in  
 5 the initial decision, but you can -- it's publicly  
 6 available. You can just pull it up on the internet.  
 7 MR. ERLANSON: Yeah.  
 8 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay?  
 9 MR. ERLANSON: Thank you, Your Honor.  
 10 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. And, yeah, there are  
 11 timeframes, but that'll be specified too.  
 12 MR. ERLANSON: Okay. Appreciate it.  
 13 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Sure. And then what you'll  
 14 do is you'll appeal to the Environmental Appeals  
 15 Bureau, and I've actually kind of referenced that  
 16 already in one of my prior orders to you --  
 17 MR. ERLANSON: Yeah, I've --  
 18 JUDGE COUGHLIN: -- in response to one of  
 19 your motions about possible interlocutory appeal. I  
 20 know I have made reference to them already.  
 21 MR. ERLANSON: Right. Okay.  
 22 JUDGE COUGHLIN: So they review my decision  
 23 and determine if it was correct.  
 24 MR. ERLANSON: Okay.  
 25 JUDGE COUGHLIN: And they'll either affirm

1 it, reverse it, or remand it if they need me to do  
 2 something to fix a mistake. But they'll let you know  
 3 what that is when they review.  
 4 MR. ERLANSON: Does "remand" mean it comes  
 5 back to you?  
 6 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Yes.  
 7 MR. ERLANSON: Okay. I --  
 8 JUDGE COUGHLIN: It's one possibility.  
 9 Whether that happens, I don't know. That'll be --  
 10 that's in their discretion based on their review of  
 11 the record and of my decision and of what you or  
 12 Complainant might argue about. But those are the  
 13 three realms that, you know, the three options --  
 14 MR. ERLANSON: Okay.  
 15 JUDGE COUGHLIN: -- typically that they can  
 16 exercise.  
 17 MR. ERLANSON: Yeah. Thank you.  
 18 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Anything else before  
 19 we finish?  
 20 MR. McLAREN: Nothing from Complainant.  
 21 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay. Mr. Erlanson, you  
 22 all set?  
 23 MR. ERLANSON: I'm good.  
 24 JUDGE COUGHLIN: Okay.  
 25 MR. ERLANSON: All set.

1 JUDGE COUGHLIN: All right. Great. Thank  
2 you all very much. Appreciate your time. Safe travels  
3 home. I'll just be a few moments to pack up. Please  
4 don't discuss anything further with me about the case.  
5 And the hearing's concluded. Thank you.

6 MR. McLAREN: Thank you, Your Honor.

7 MR. ERLANSON: Thank you.

8 (Whereupon, at 2:50 p.m., the hearing in the  
9 above-entitled matter adjourned.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

DOCKET NO.: CWA-10-2016-0109

CASE TITLE: Dave Erlanson, Sr.

HEARING DATE: May 15, 2019

LOCATION: Rigby, Idaho

I hereby certify that the proceedings and  
evidence are contained fully and accurately on the  
tapes and notes reported by me at the hearing in the  
above case before the United States Environmental  
Protection Agency, Office of Administrative Law  
Judges.

Date: May 15, 2019

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