

- the existing Potomac environment"; indicates that the Department has made a "deferral in this instance * * *"; and states that "If a permit is to issue in this case * * * potential conflict should be avoided by excluding" a triangular area approximately three-fourths of an acre in size.
13. Letter, April 30, 1968, Howard P. Hoffman Associates, Inc., to Corps of Engineers, with attached plat—agrees to modification of application so that the fill area will not extend beyond the east line of Royal Street extended.
 14. Permit issued May 29, 1968, by Corps of Engineers to Howard P. Hoffman Associates, Inc.
 15. Memorandum of understanding between the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of the Army, dated July 13, 1967—concerning review of applications for dredging, filling, and excavation of navigable waters.
 16. Excerpt from Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended by the act of Aug. 12, 1958 (Public Law 85-624; 72 Stat. 564; 16 U.S.C. 662 (a) and (b)).

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE,
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE,
Atlanta, Ga., June 17, 1964.

DISTRICT ENGINEER, U.S. ARMY, CORPS OF ENGINEERS,
Baltimore, Md.

DEAR SIR: Reference is made to your letter of May 20, 1964, concerning our objection to the issuance of Department of the Army permits to Howard P. Hoffman Associates, Inc., and Hunting Towers Operating Co., Inc., for the construction of bulkheads and placement of fill in Hunting Creek at Alexandria, Va. Your request therein for detailed data with regard to the effects of the proposed fill upon fish and wildlife in Dyke Marsh and in the waters of Hunting Creek is hereby acknowledged.

The applications in question request permits to bulkhead and fill wedge-shaped adjoining tracts jutting about 2,000 feet from the northwest shore into the mouth of Hunting Creek. This 36-acre fill will extend across the frontage of Jones Point, an area under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service.

Dyke Marsh is an intertidal area, most of which is emergent during low tide. Vegetation is composed entirely of fresh marsh or swamp species. Waterfowl utilizing the marsh for feeding and resting are predominantly puddle ducks such as mallard, black duck, pintail, teal, shoveller, and wood duck. In addition, a few diving ducks and a great variety of marsh birds, shore birds, song birds, gulls, and fur animals frequent the area. A detailed description of Dyke Marsh and adjacent waters is given in the appended report entitled, "Plants and Animals Noted in Dyke Marsh and Adjacent Waters Along the Tidal Potomac River, Fairfax County, Va., With Suggestions Regarding Development for Aquatic Wildlife in That Area."

Waters in the mouth of Hunting Creek east of George Washington Memorial Parkway are generally shallow and average 2 to 3 feet deep. Although these waters are fresh, they exhibit tidal influence of about 2½ feet. This area is bordered on the north and south by National Park Service lands (Jones Point and Dyke Marsh) and urban development and on the west by a highway causeway.

The shallow waters in the mouth of Hunting Creek are generally turbid and thereby limit the growth of aquatic vegetation. A combination of soft bottom and high fertility provides excellent habitat for native mollusks, Japanese snail, midge larvae, and killifish. The great volume of food these species provide attract numbers of gulls, terns, and diving ducks, primarily ruddy duck, greater and lesser scaup, ring-necked duck, canvasback, and bufflehead. Approximately 3,000 to 5,000 scaup and ruddy ducks overwinter in the general area. The following excerpt from Christmas counts conducted by the Audubon Naturalist Society is indicative of the numbers and variety of waterfowl utilizing Hunting Creek.