

Figure 26. Outlet of Triumph Lake.



Figure 27. Triumph Lake.



Figure 28. Triumph River at lake outlet.



Figure 29. Small steelhead captured at lake outlet.

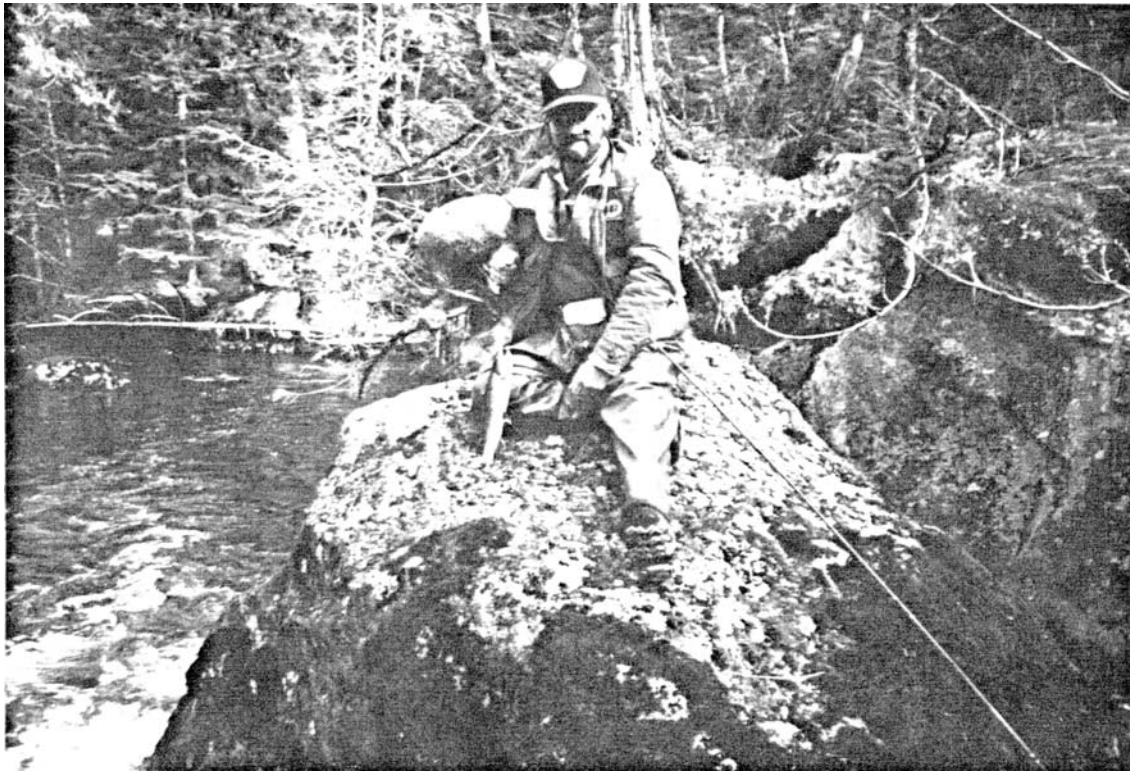


Figure 30. Cutthroat caught just below lake outlet.

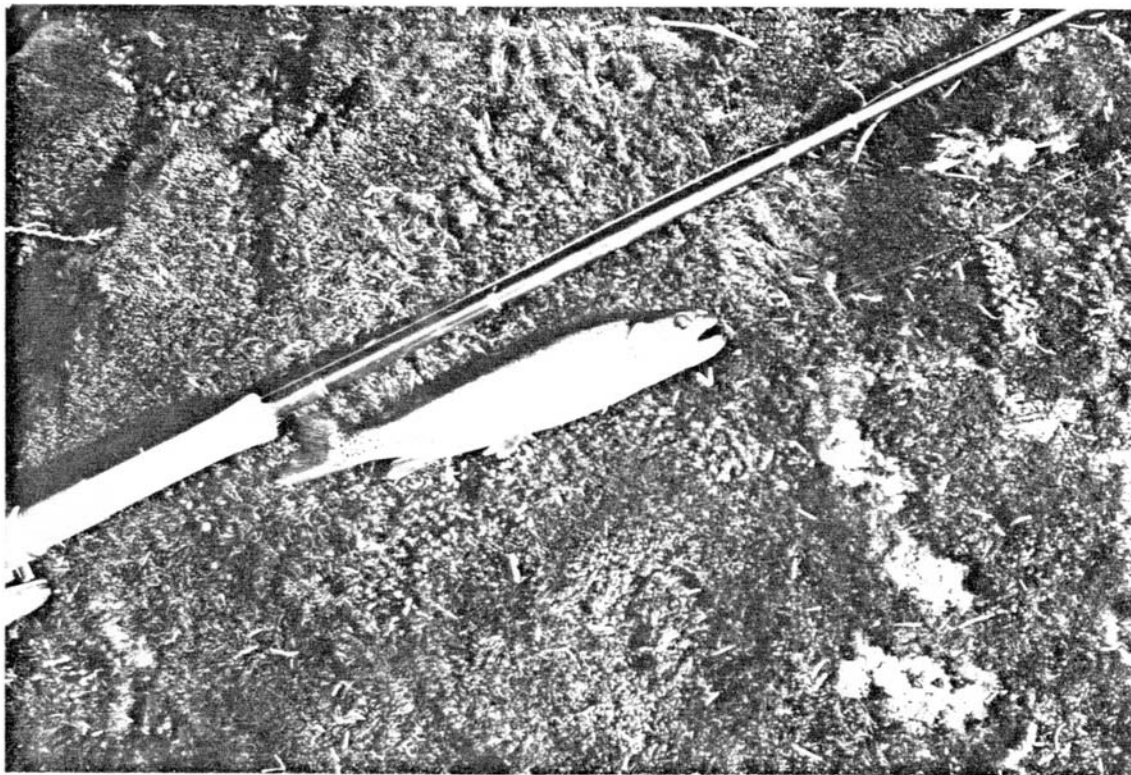


Figure 31. Triumph cutthroat.

KILTUIISH RIVER

The Kiltuish River originates in the Coast Mountains 50 km southwest of Kemano and drains into the tidal waters of Kiltuish Inlet, which joins Gardener Canal (Fig. 32). The Kiltuish was surveyed by M. Beere and J. Lough on April 18, 1989.

1.0 Physical Description

Investigations were limited to the lower 2.5 km of the Kiltuish: the only portion accessible to anadromous fish. Cascading falls at 2.0 and 2.1 km, with jumps no more than two meters in height, would be passable to steelhead (Fig. 33, 34). The survey was terminated at 2.5 km, where an impassable falls estimated to be 8 to 10 meters in height was located (Fig. 35). The average gradient of the area surveyed was estimated to be 0.6 to 0.9%.

The substrate typically consisted of cobbles (5 to 10 cm) interspersed with larger boulders. Smaller substrate materials, including spawning gravel, sand and silt, were not abundant in the upper kilometer of our survey.

The wetted width of the Kiltuish was estimated to range between 20 and 30 m in normal flows and, judging from the flood plain, between 25 and 40 m wide in flood. This stream looked as though it could generate torrential water flows but was moderately low and clear during this investigation (Fig. 36).

No major tributaries or evidence of timber harvesting was found in the lower 2.5 km of the Kiltuish.

2.0 Fisheries Values

Two adult steelhead and two adult cutthroat were angled during this survey. The steelhead, 1 male and 1 female, were estimated at 3.2 and 1.8 kg, respectively. The male, a bright fish, was caught below the impassable falls in a pool between the two cascades. The female was caught in a shallow run about 1 km from tidal water (Fig. 37). Both cutthroat were angled from a single pool roughly 2 km upstream of the estuary.

In 1971, the Kiltuish had a reported run of 400 steelhead (Manzon and Marshall, 1981). The low number of steelhead in the present survey, combined with persistently cold temperatures, suggest our investigations could have been early. Early May would likely have produced better catches. In support of this is the fact that neither of the steelhead caught had spawned and both were in a relatively early stage of sexual maturity. However, it is unlikely that this system has sufficient habitat to support a run of more than 200 fish.

One of the cutthroat captured (Fig. 38) may have been a kelt, indicating an earlier spawn timing (mid to late April) for these trout.

Three pieces of good steelhead holding water along with another six areas of fair fishing quality were found in the area downstream of the barrier. Given the relatively small number of fishable areas and probable small steelhead population on the Kiltuish, this river could not support a substantial fishery.

The most recent records of salmon escapements in the Kiltuish consisted of 100 coho, 3000 chum and 500 pink in 1980 (Manzon and Marshall, 1981).

3.0 Wildlife Values

No large mammals were observed, although a bear hunter was encountered on the Kiltuish's rather extensive estuary. Birds were sighted frequently, with merganser, kingfisher, and water ouzel being the most common.

4.0 Accessibility

The Kiltuish can be accessed either by foot from the estuary or by helicopter. Helicopter access is somewhat limited as landing sites are few and far between; high water conditions could eliminate all landing sites. Jet boat access may be possible in extremely high flows and during high tides, but angling conditions would not be favourable at such times. During low flows the river would not be navigable by jet boat and even rafting would be difficult without some portaging. Boating to the estuary and then walking upstream would be the best method of access. There were no trails or roads along the river.

5.0 Other Attractions

The Kiltuish watershed has high aesthetic values. The falls in combination with the surrounding mountains are spectacular and are well worth the hike. The estuary is a favourable area for hunters, although overnighing would require a boat or tent as there are no cabins or shelters in the valley.

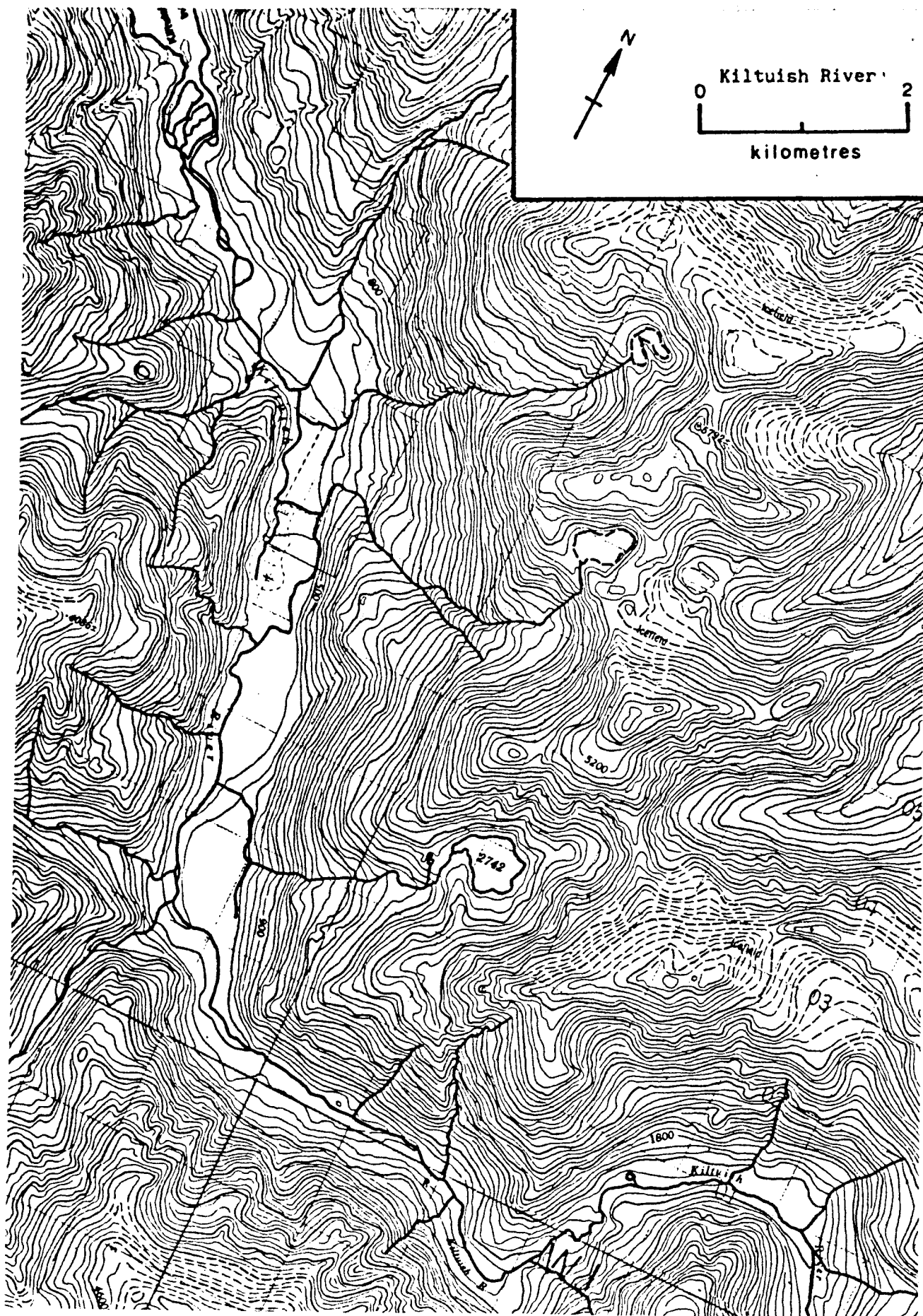


Figure 32. Topographic map of Kiltuish River, 1:50,000 scale.



Figure 33. Cascading falls located 2.1 km upstream of estuary.
A male steelhead was caught just below these falls.



Figure 34. Cascading falls at 2.1 km.



Figure 35. Impassable falls at 2.5 km.

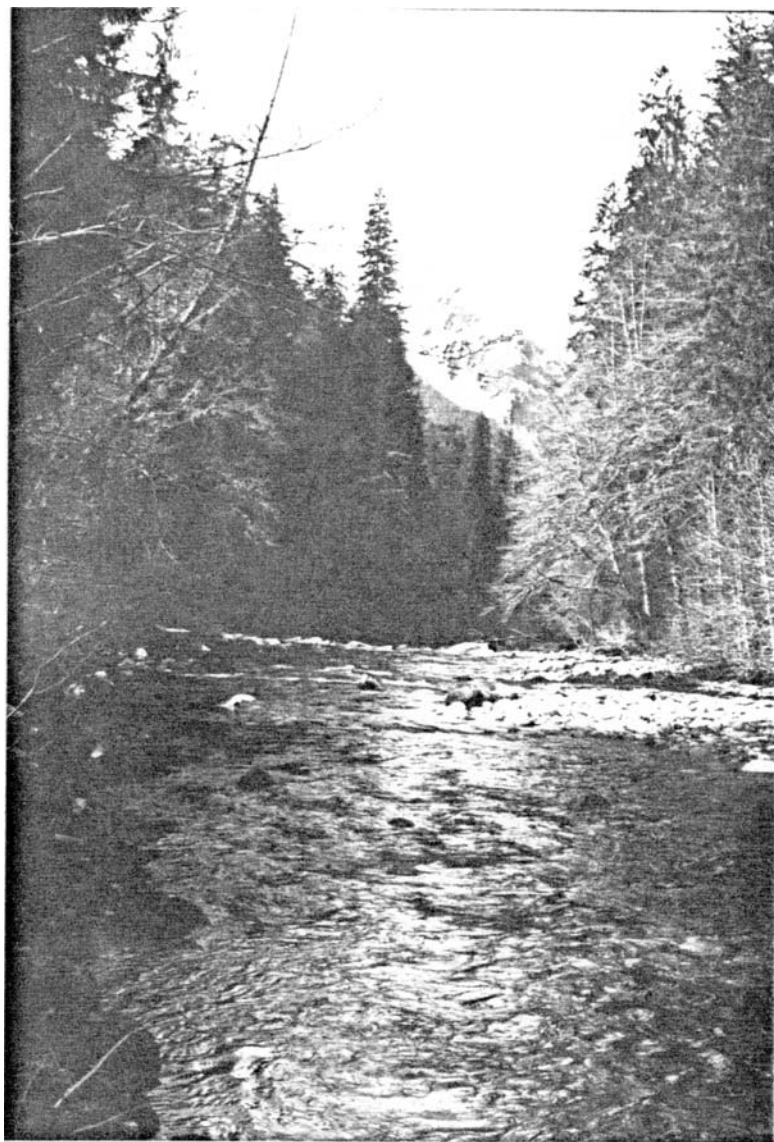


Figure 36. Typical habitat on the Kiltuish River, 1.5km upstream of estuary.

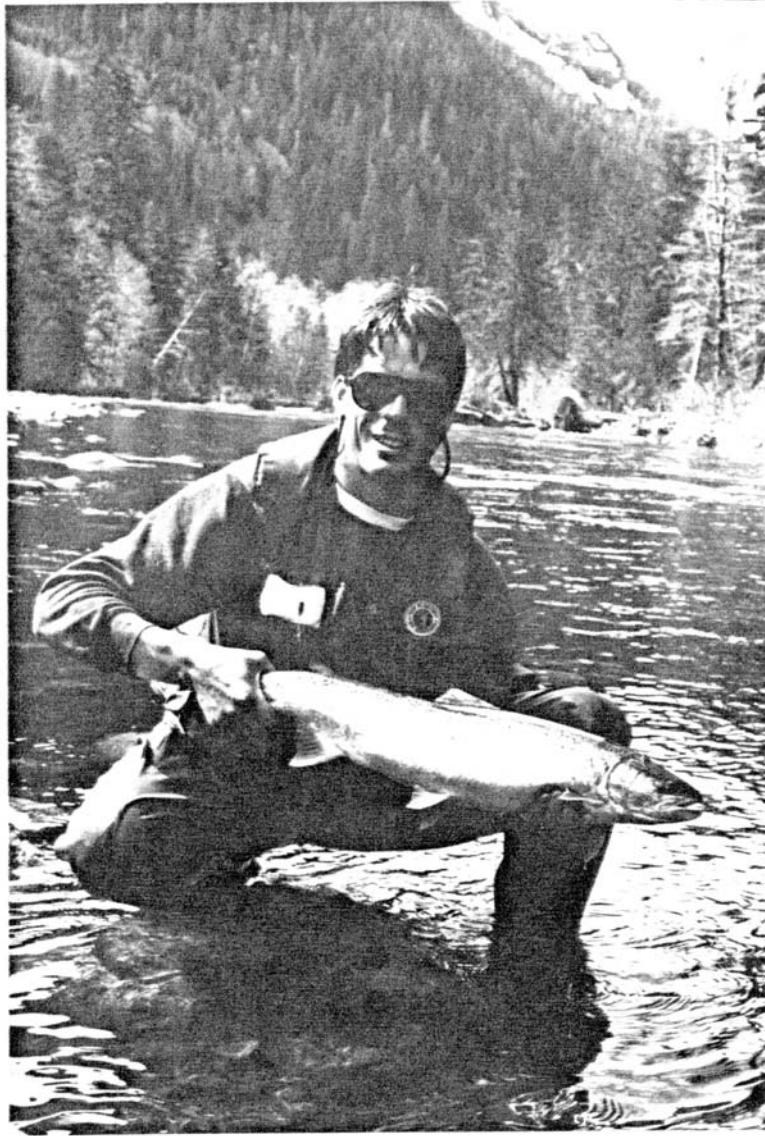


Figure 37. Female steelhead caught 1 km upstream of tidal water.

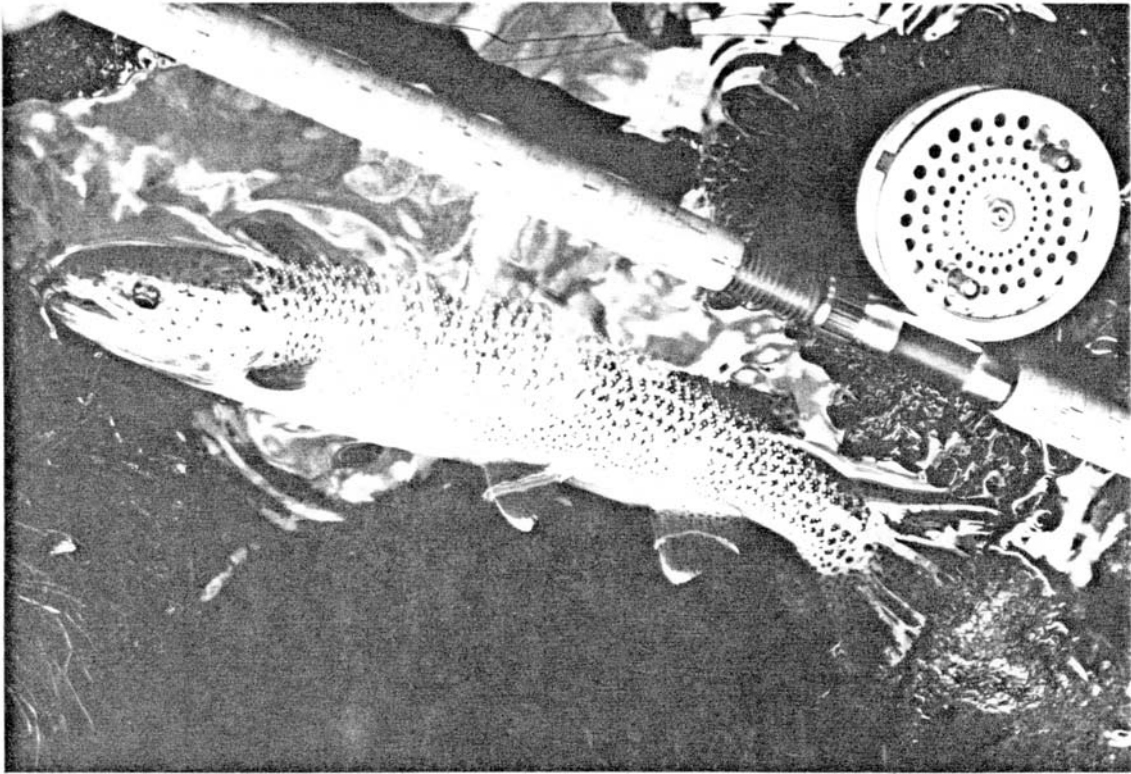


Figure 38. Kiltuish River cutthroat.

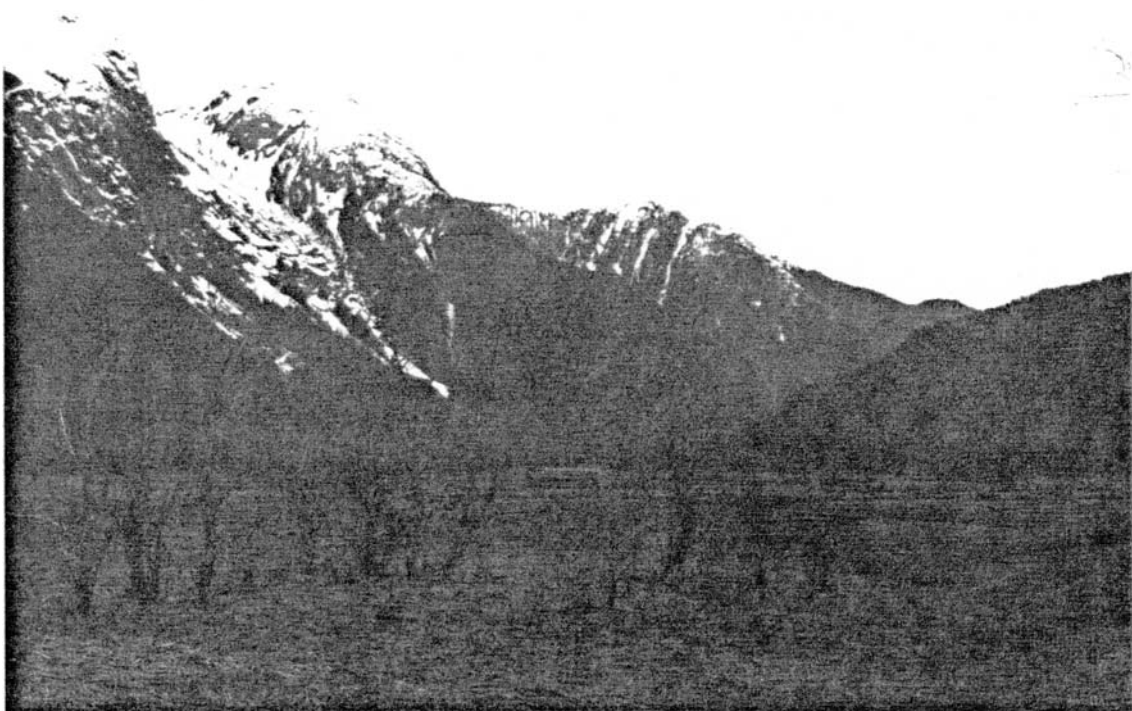


Figure 39. The Kiltuish River estuary.