

Figure 40. Kiltuish River 2 km upstream of estuary.

## **WEEWANIE CREEK**

Weewanie Creek flows from the Coast Mountains into Devastation Channel 36 km south of Kitimat (Fig. 41). The creek was surveyed by M. Beere, S. Hatlevik, J. Lough and R. Tetreau on April 19, 1989.

### **1.0 Physical Description**

Only the lower 3 km of the Weewanie was investigated in this survey. This section was characterized by a relatively high gradient, ranging between 0.7 and 1.5%. Our survey took place at a moderate discharge and the flow pattern at that stage consisted of cascades alternating with deep slower moving pools (Fig. 44). Sets of falls at 2.5 and 14.5 km are both passable by coho (Manzon and Marshall, 1981). The wetted width of the Weewanie ranged between 15 and 30 meters and had a flood width ranging between 15 and 40 meters.

The Weewanie substrate consisted of mostly cobble, boulder and bedrock. Fines substrates and gravel suitable for spawning was only present in a few locations in the lower 3 km. This is contrary to the reported excellent spawning gravel in the lower 0.5 to 7.0 km reported by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (Manzon and Marshall, 1981). Above the canyon, the stream was also reported to have excellent spawning gravel (Manzon and Marshall, 1981). This was not investigated during the present survey.

The presence of piles of large organic debris outside the wetted channel on the banks of the Weewanie, suggested frequent high water and bank erosion. Large organic debris in favourable locations was noticeably lacking and large boulders provided the vast majority of cover.

Typical of many coastal streams, the Weewanie appeared to be oligotrophic and was tannic in colour during the survey (Fig. 45). The estuary was rather truncated.

The Weewanie watershed was logged approximately 20 years prior to our investigation.

### **2.0 Fisheries Values**

The Weewanie had good parr habitat throughout the lower 2.5 km and an adjacent swamp and beaver pond had ideal habitat for cutthroat and coho juveniles.

The only fish observed on the Weewanie was a single steelhead juvenile (approximately 10 cm fork length) caught 2.5 km upstream from tidal waters. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans most recent spawning escapement catalogue estimated 1980 salmon runs of 750 coho, 200 chum, and 1500 pink. They also report a "very good"

run of steelhead in the spring of 1974 (Manzon and Marshall, 1981) but unfortunately escapement estimates were not recorded.

The lack of adult steelhead in the Weewanie suggests that we may have been too early in our investigation. Due to a late spring in 1989, early to mid May would probably have been a better time to examine this stream. Another reason for the absence of steelhead could have been our survey location. Dieter Abrahms (pers. comm.) reported good steelhead water well above the area we investigated. If this were the case, we may have not travelled far enough upstream to find concentrations of fish.

There were roughly three pieces of good steelhead holding water with another six fair fishable areas within the section of river surveyed.

### **3.0 Wildlife Values**

No large mammals were observed, although we encountered an active beaver dam that appeared to be attended. We also noted moose, deer and wolf sign.

### **4.0 Accessibility**

The Weewanie was accessible by boat to its estuary but beyond that point the creek was not navigable by jet boat or raft. An old logging road on the north side of the river provided a path to travel upstream by foot. The road was overgrown and unsuitable for vehicular travel. Other than the estuary, there are no helicopter access points on the lower 3 km of the creek.

### **5.0 Other Attractions**

The aesthetic value of the lower Weewanie was moderate due to a lack of spectacular mountains and the presence of logging. The ocean shoreline is the greatest attraction in the area. In the bay adjacent to the Weewanie estuary, the Ministry of Forests had built a concrete bathhouse filled with clean warm water piped from a nearby hot spring. The bay had a series of anchored buoys which would provide good moorage. A large clearing just north of the estuary once supported an old building (possibly part of the logging operations) that would be suitable for camping.

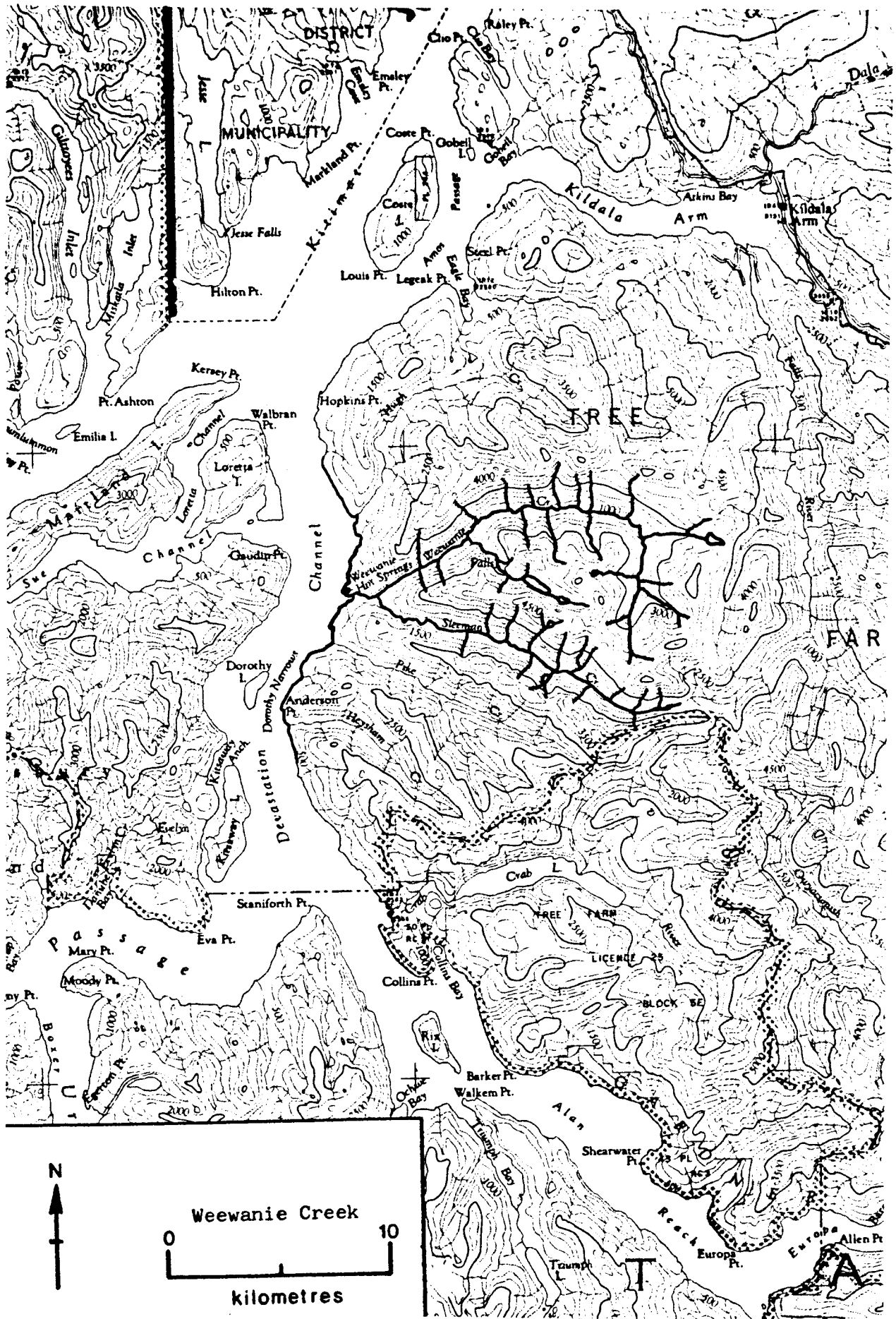


Figure 41. Topographic map of Weewanie Cr., 1:250,000 scale.



Figure 42. Weewanie Creek Estuary.

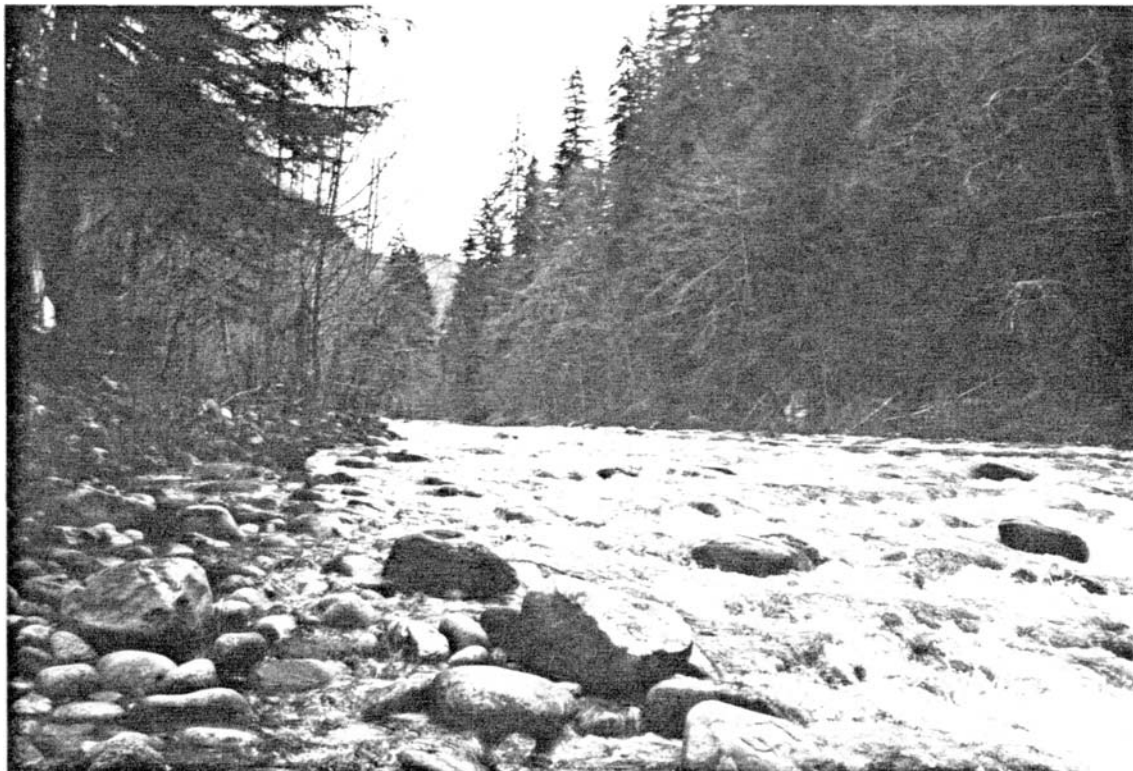


Figure 43. Lower Weewanie 1 km upstream of the estuary



Figure 44. Weewanie Creek 1.5 km upstream of the estuary



Figure 45, 46. Weewanie Creek 2 km upstream of the estuary.

## **LITTLE FOCH CREEK**

Little Foch Creek was surveyed on April 20 by M. Beere, S. Hatlevik, R. Tetreau, and J. Lough. It is located on the northwest side of Foch Lagoon in Douglas Channel (Fig. 47).

### **1.0 Physical Description**

Little Foch Creek is a lake headed system which flows 2.5 km from Foch Lake to Foch Lagoon. The lower 2 km of the creek was investigated on foot commencing at the estuary. At the 2 km point, there was a 6 meter two step falls which appears to be impassable to fish. The creek had an estimated gradient of 0.5 to 1.5% and a substrate of primarily cobbles, some bedrock and a few small sections of spawning gravel. The creek channel was quite straight, with a wetted width of 5 to 8 m and an estimated flood width of 20 meters (Fig. 49).

A hemlock, cedar, spruce forest bordered the creek closely. Timber harvesting was not evident, although future interest may be possible due to substantial amounts of apparently good quality timber in the valley.

### **2.0 Fisheries Values**

No fish were caught or observed in Foch Creek. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans makes reference to this creek in their stream catalogues (Manzon and Marshall, 1981) but the physical description and escapement estimates are so obviously incorrect, it is apparent they had mistaken this creek for another system.

There were very few fishable spots on the Little Foch. In the lower two kilometers, three small runs could have held fish but all would be rated as poor steelhead water.

### **3.0 Wildlife Values**

No signs of wildlife were noted during our investigation.

### **4.0 Accessibility**

The estuary of Little Foch Cr. is accessible by boat, float plane, or helicopter. However the creek itself is accessible only by foot. During our investigation, there was one to two meters of snow along the creek edge making any form of a trail impossible to find (Fig. 54).

### **5.0 Other Attractions**

Foch Lake, although not investigated, may have some recreational value if it has a resident fish population. The bay into which



Foch Creek drains is moderately sheltered and has possibilities for boat moorage.

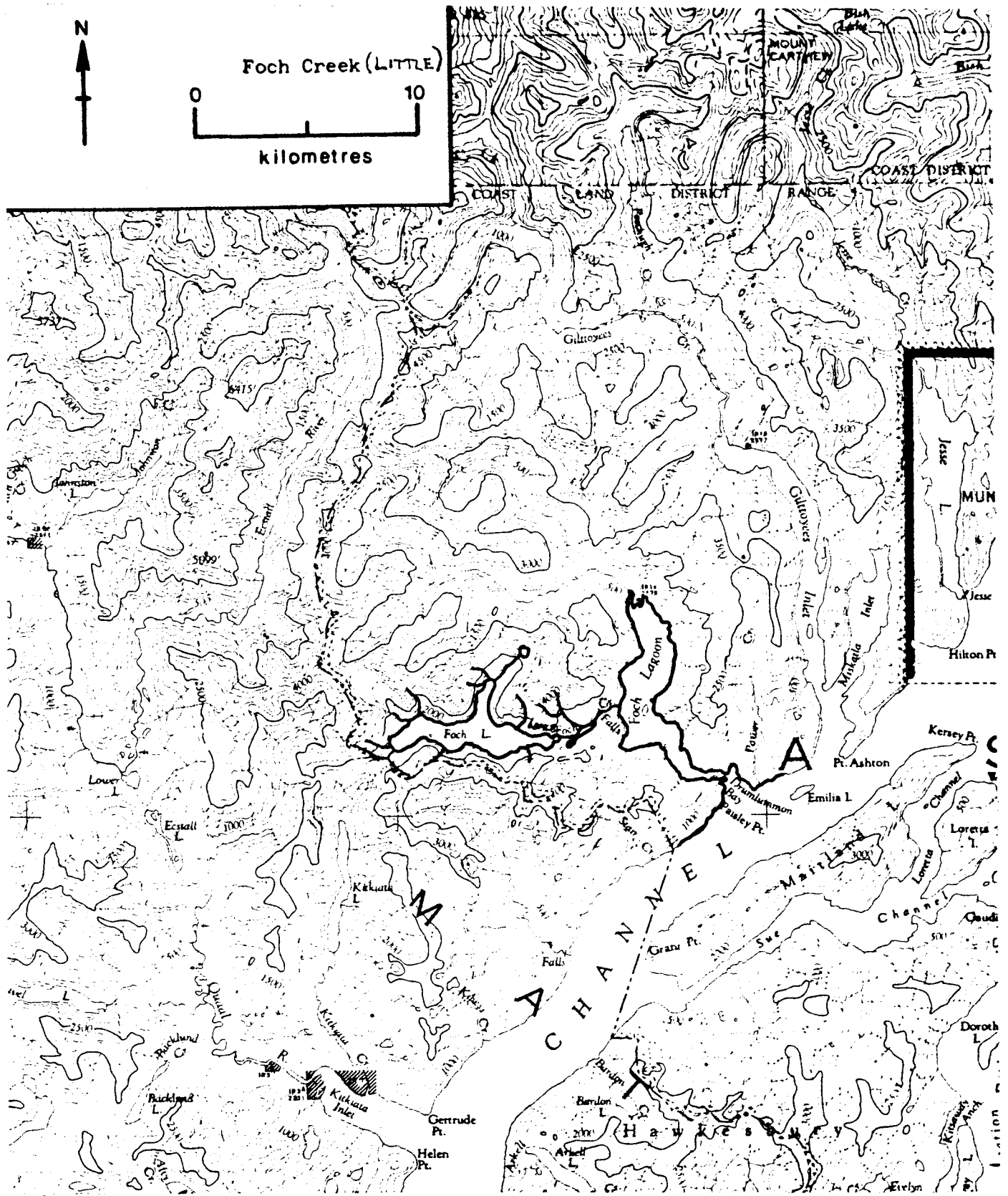


Figure 47. Topographic map showing location of Little Foch Cr., 1:250,000 scale.

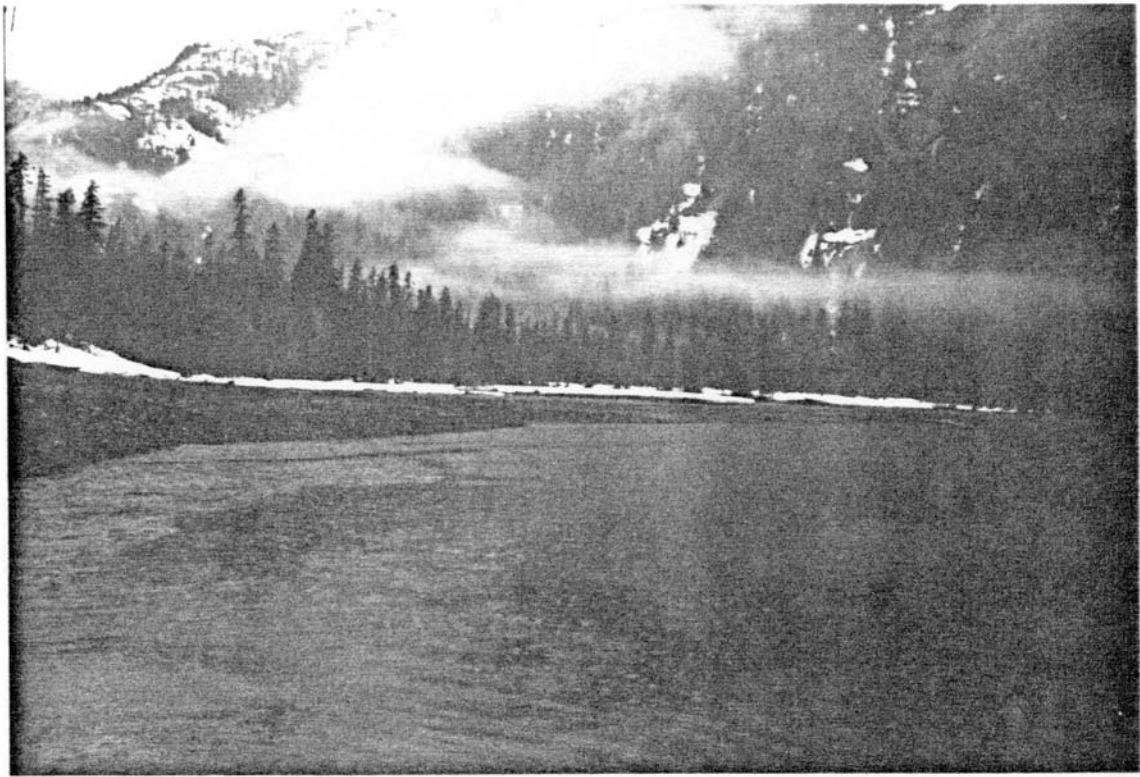


Figure 48. Little Foch Creek estuary.



Figure 49. Little Foch Creek about 1 km upstream.



Figure 50. Little Foch Creek, 1.5 km upstream from mouth.



Figure 51. One of the "pools" 1 km upstream from the estuary.