

Native Oysters, Ostrea lurida, in Checleset Bay

A report of a survey 1978 to provide data
relevant to Application No.279

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Report to the Ecological Reserves Unit

June 1, 1979.

Introduction

The following notes provide data on the native oyster obtained during surveys for sea otters in 1978 - see our separate reports.

Also included are documents relevant to inventory of the native oyster in the area. - See letter from D.W. Smith and charts.

Results

The tidal lagoon on the Bunsby Islands, as shown in the Smith chart, was explored on several days during June 1978. In spite of an intensive search throughout its length, only one live specimen of native oyster was taken, and this attached to rocks under a covering of large Mytilus californianus. Rock oysters Pododesmus macrochisma were also present. A few shells of the native oyster were taken, but the species appears to be rare there.

Report to Ecological Reserves re: Record of Native Oysters in
Checleset Bay Proposal
by B. Emerson

Date: July 30, 1978

Location: Cuttle Islets, SE Acous Peninsula, Checleset Bay

In tide pool on islet 95 (see chart extract for exact loc.)
Pool located at the east base of the most westerly rock
promontory on this islet

Description: See Figure 1 for pool topography

Organisms present:

Ostrea lurida ✓
Tegula funebris ✓
Metridium senile ✓
Pisaster ochraceus ✓
Patiria miniata ✓
Hemigrapsus nudus ✓
Limpets
Sculpins
Whiteish corraline algae
Codium (unattached)
Fucus (unattached)

24 live Ostrea lurida could be seen in the area indicated in Figure 1. Turning over a couple of rocks showed oysters also living on the undersides. Rocks out of water at the N. end of the pool also had oyster shells attached.

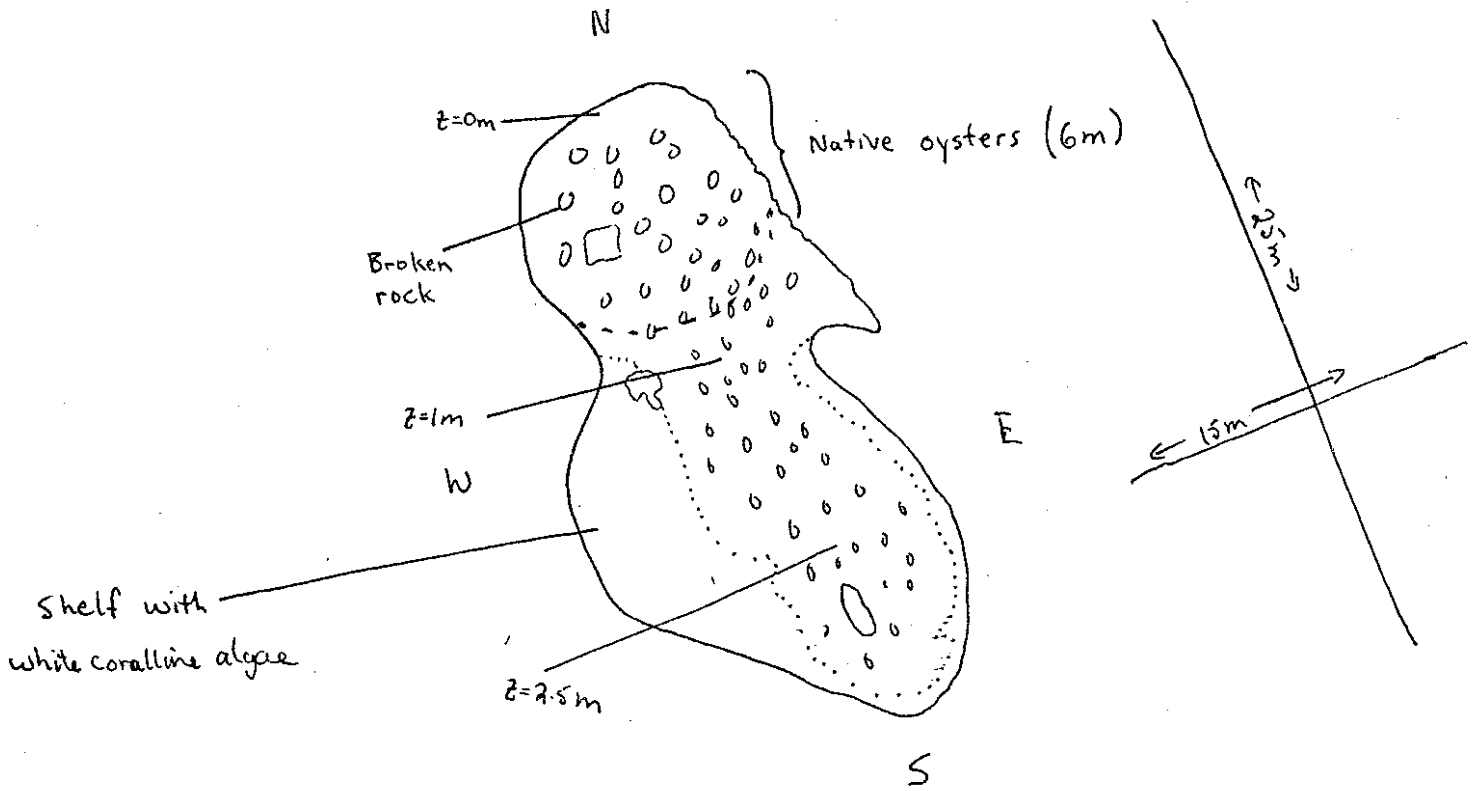
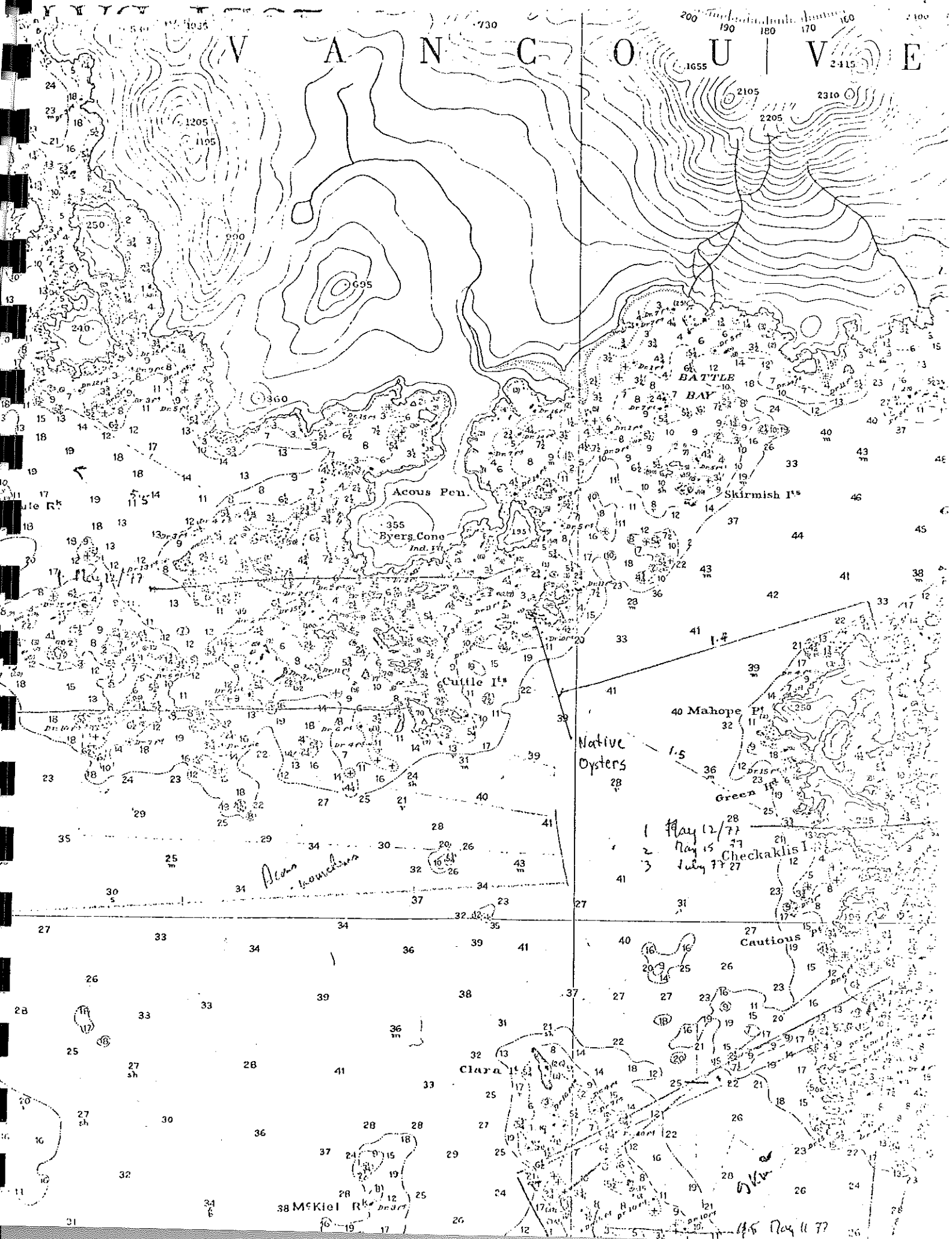


Fig. 1. Diagram of Native Oyster (*Ostrea lurida*) habitat.



V A N U A T U

Acous Pen. Battle Bay Skirmish I.

Byers Cone Ind. I. Cuttle I.

Native Oysters 40 Mahope Pt. Green I.

1 May 12/77
2 May 15 77
3 July 77

Checkaklis I. Cautious

Clara

38 McKel Rk. 11/5 May 11 77

Sept 30, 1976



DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MARINE RESOURCES (COMMERCIAL FISHERIES) BRANCH
VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Our file: 5-8

May 28, 1975

Mr. Jim Pojar,
c/o Director, Ecological Reserves,
Dept. of Lands, Forests and Water Resources,
Parliament Buildings,
VICTORIA, B.C.

Dear Jim:

During our meeting of May 26 in John Sector's office pertaining to Estuarine Ecological Reserves, I was extremely interested in a couple of sites you suggested along the north-west coast of Vancouver Island.

My concern is that the Native oyster, Ostrea lurida, is becoming very scarce mainly due to the destruction of its habitat. This bivalve is most susceptible as it is located in estuarine habitat and tidal lagoons that generally receive first priority in respect to development.

I am enclosing a couple of maps of the areas that have been known to have populations of Native oysters and I believe that these areas coincide with your plans. The Klaskish Basin at the head of the Klaskish Inlet and Johnson Lagoon in Nasperti Inlet are two of these areas as well as the Bunsby Islands, south of Bottle Bay, with its large tidal lagoon providing good habitat for native oysters.

The Tahsish Inlet was also an area you mentioned and I am a little concerned with establishment of an ecological reserve in this area as it is a producer of Butter clams and has excellent potential for oyster culture (McKay Cove).

I hope to participate to some extent in your project and if I can be of any assistance, please let me know.

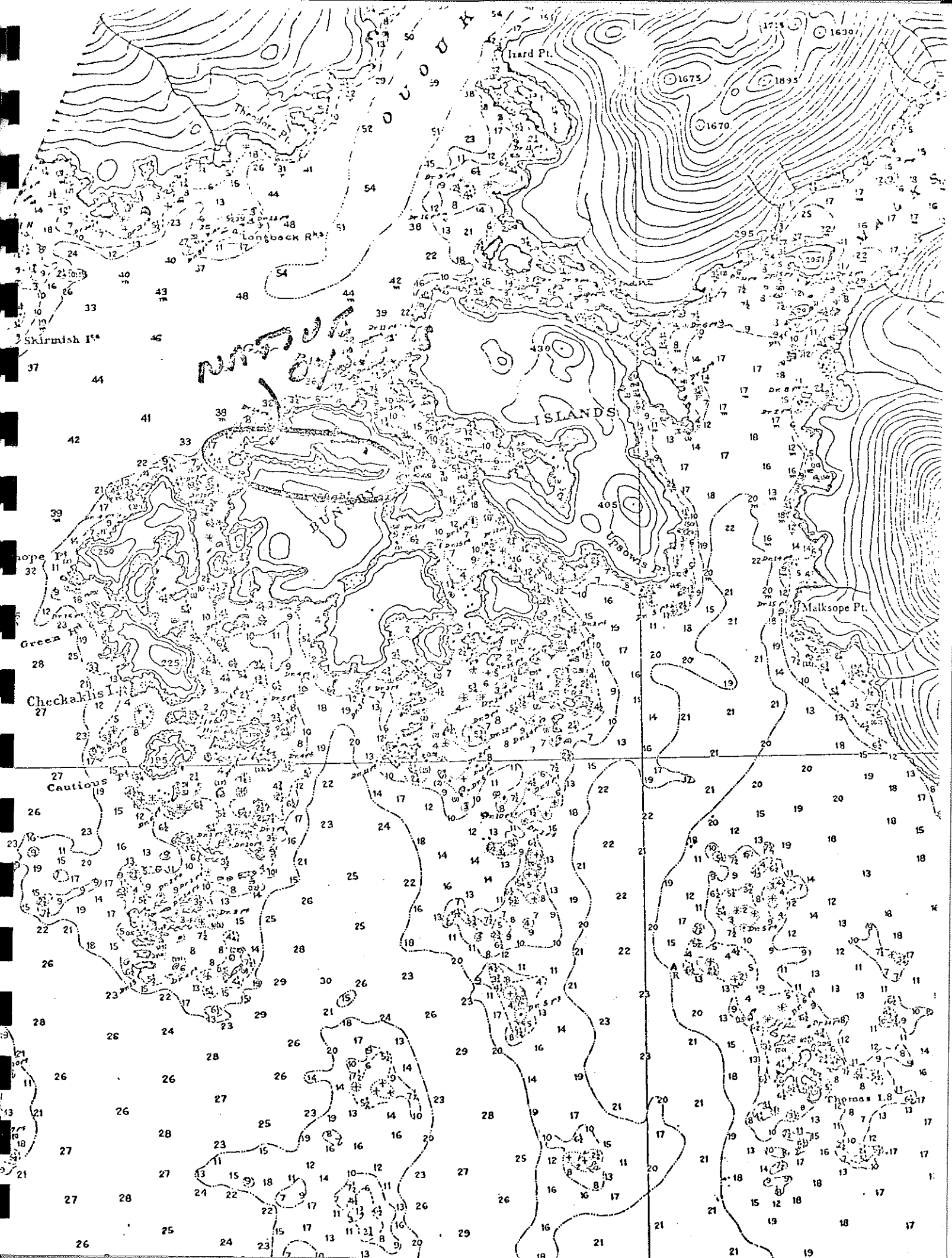
Yours truly,

D. W. Smith
Shellfish Biologist

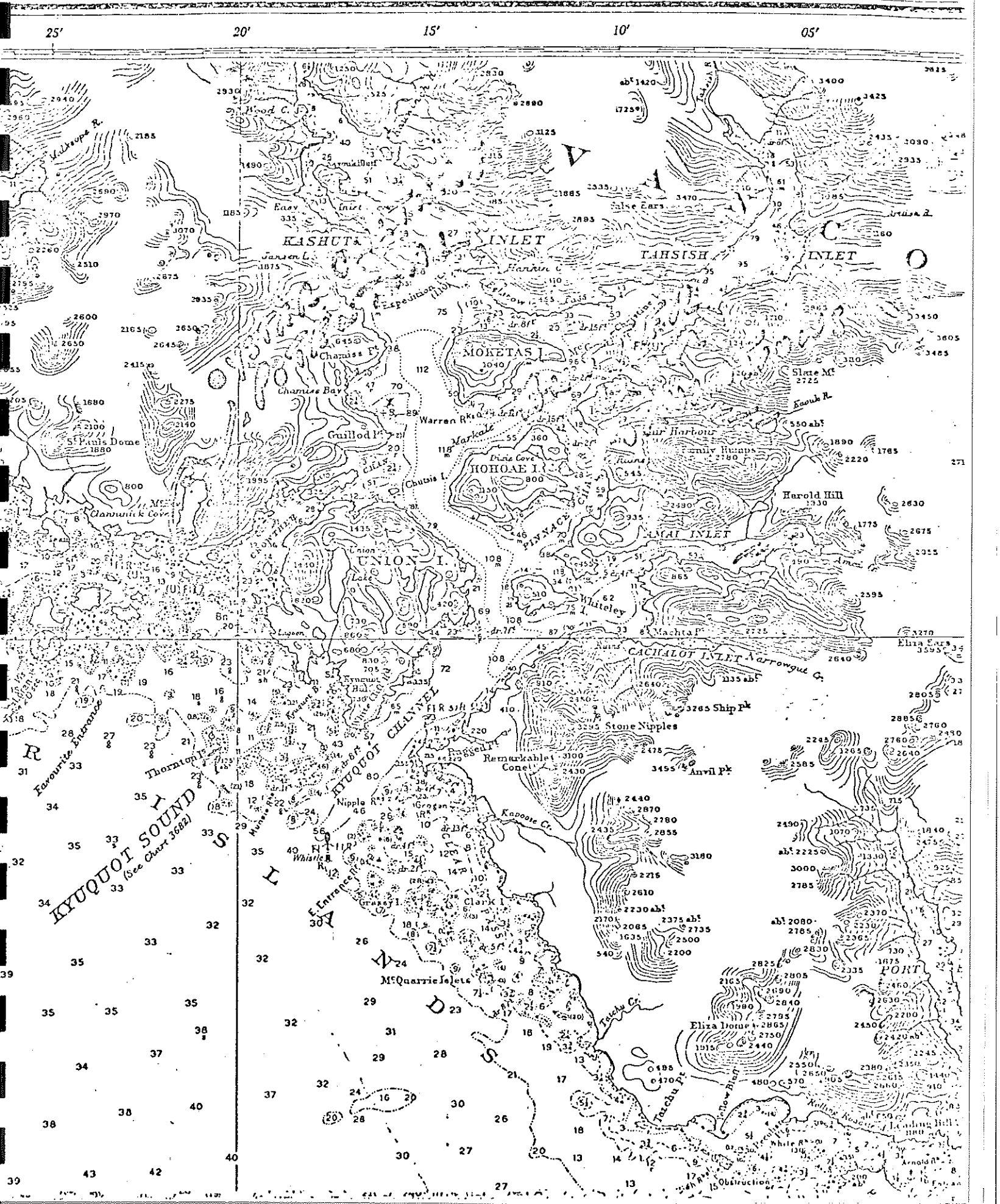
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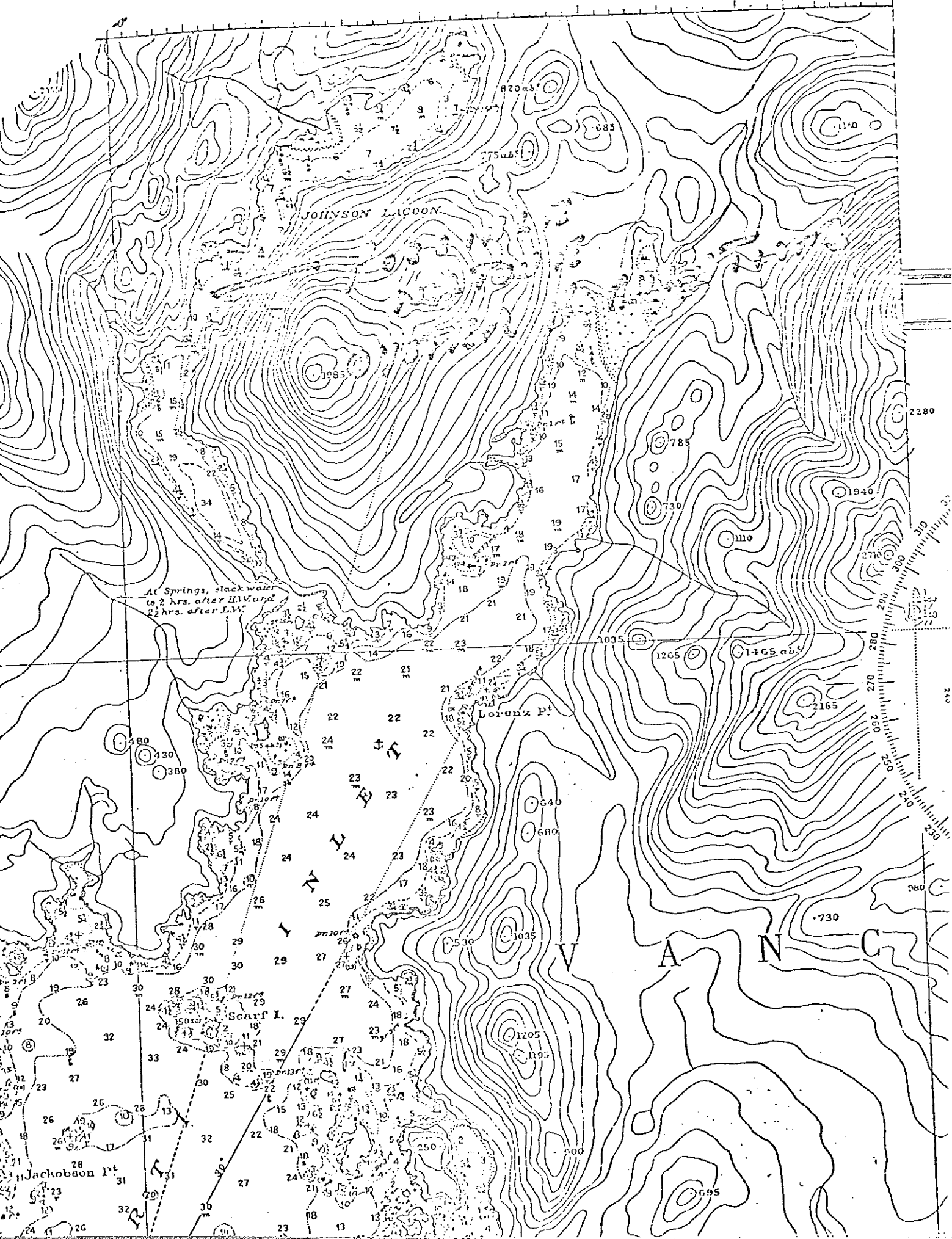
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1976
D. W. Smith



71151511





At Springs, slack water
16 2 hrs. after H.W. and
22 hrs. after L.W.

JOHNSON LAGOON

Lorenz Pt

Scarf I.

Jackobson Pt

Y
N
Y
V
A
N
C

