

U.S. GOVERNMENT
Memorandum

TO : Files

DATE: September 21, 1976

FROM : John I. Hodges, Eagle Management Studies

SUBJECT: Eagle Surveys near Valdez

A shoreline survey of birds in Port Valdez, Sawmill Bay and Jack Bay was completed between September 14 and September 16, 1976, by Special Studies Team Mike Jacobson and Dirk Derksen with Jack Hodges (Eagle Management Studies). This is a summary of the eagle nests found and the eagles counted. The weather condition was heavy rain throughout the survey.

Sawmill Bay

The survey was from the west entrance point to the beginning of the Twin Falls Creek tidal flats on the west shore. The survey was continued from the beginning of the Twin Falls Creek tidal flats on the east shore to Point Lowe.

Adult Eagles	13
Immature Eagles	6
Nests	2
Miles of Shoreline	7

Jack Bay

The survey included all of Jack Bay inside Tongue Point and the north entrance point directly across from Tongue Point.

Adult Eagles	33
Immature Eagles	13
Nests	7
Miles of Shoreline	19

Valdez Arm

Point Lowe to Middle Rock on the west shore and Middle Rock to the north entrance point at the mouth of Jack Bay.

Adult Eagles	7
Immature Eagles	0
Nests	5
Miles of Shoreline	7



Port Valdez

Survey includes all of the shoreline inside of Middle Rock except for the Lowe River flats south of Old Valdez.

Adult Eagles	20
Immature Eagles	3
Nests	10
Miles of Shoreline	37

Grand Total

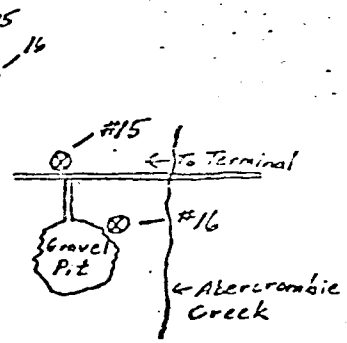
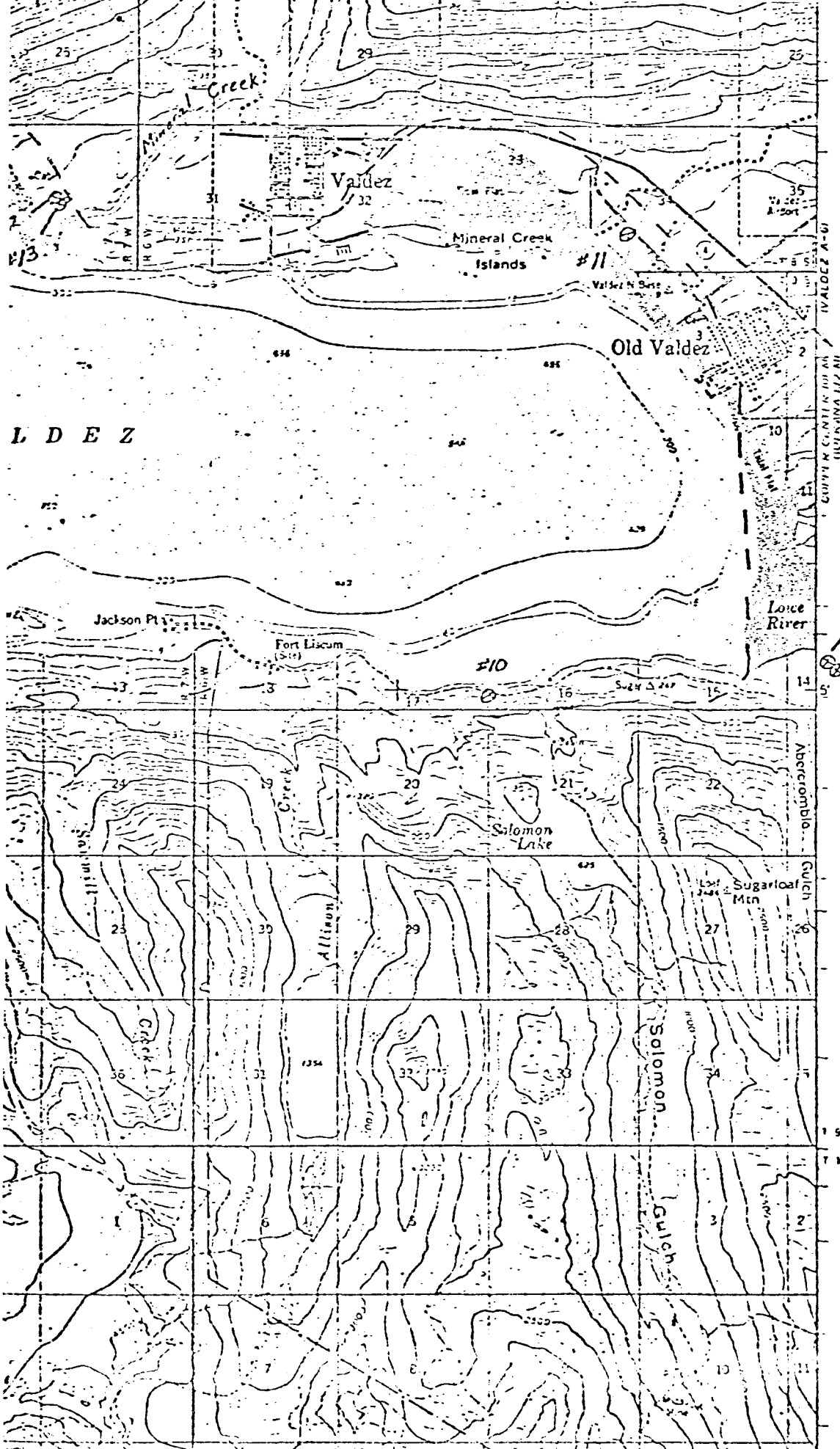
The survey includes all shoreline north of and including Sawmill Bay and Jack Bay except for the Twin Falls Creek flats and the Lowe River flats.

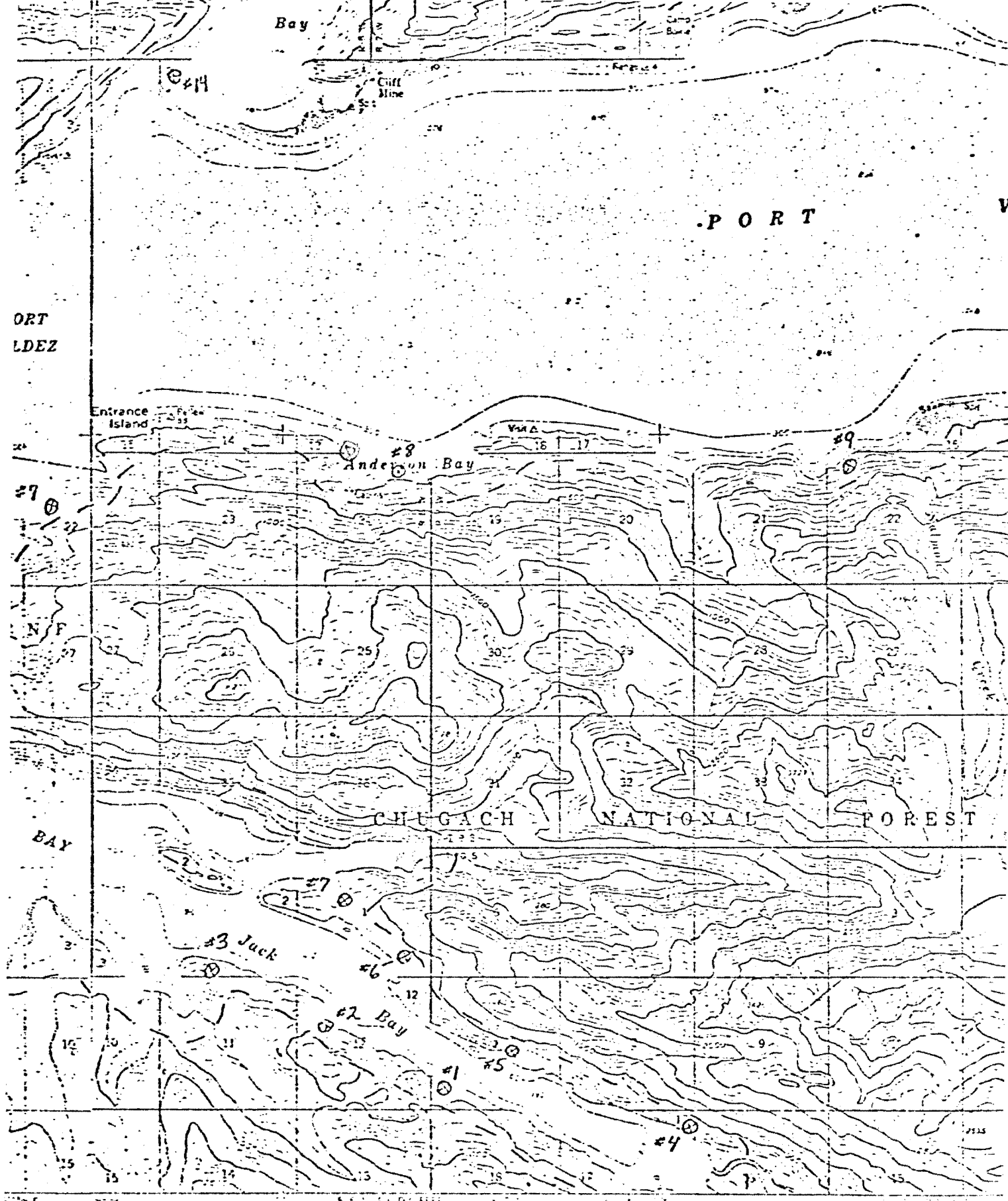
Adult Eagles	73
Immature Eagles	22
Nests	24
Miles of Shoreline	70

Conclusion

The average density of 1.04 adult eagles per shoreline mile in this survey is probably greater than the nesting density would be but as a comparison it is about 80 percent as high as the nesting density of adult eagles on the shoreline which has been surveyed in southeast Alaska. The nest density of .33 nests per shoreline mile compares to .83 nests per mile for the shoreline surveyed in southeast Alaska.

Of all species of birds seen on the survey, it is likely that the adult bald eagles are the most consistent. That is, the population estimate would have the lowest coefficient of variation between independent surveys. Some of the species of gulls and waterfowl had greater total numbers but the presence of large flocks creates a relatively large source of variability between independent surveys. Therefore, a smaller percent change could be detected with the adult eagles than with any other species. Other advantages of the adult eagle are that it is a large bird which is easily identified, it is directly dependent on the sea for its food and it is at the top of the food chain. For these reasons it appears the adult eagle would serve well as an indicator species as related to the effects of the pipeline terminus and the oil tankers.





Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
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ASSOCIATION: Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
 made in this area between 1957 and 1960. Map not field checked
 Sectional demarcation data come from US&GS

