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Salt Marshes of Port Valdez, Alaska, and Vicinity:
A Baseline Study

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Abstract

In 1974 and 1975, 62 baseline locations were selected for intensive study in the salt marshes of Port Valdez and vicinity. The sites are intended to reflect the impact of oil transport activities. Vegetation and soil characteristics were emphasized. The sites were selected as representative of a wide variety of major communities and were widely distributed over the region to enhance the likelihood of oil spill documentation. Seventeen Community Complexes were identified and correspondence was found between the Community Complexes and habitat characteristics. This may prove to be useful in identification of areas elsewhere that are highly susceptible to oil spill damage; it was useful during the course of this study. In addition, the Community Complexes may be used in salt marsh mapping. Gold Creek and Sawmill Creek, both in Port Valdez, appear to be the marshes most susceptible to major oil spill damage, but all the marshes studied are threatened to some degree. An oil spill associated with seasonal high tides or during the winter when fresh water outflow is minimal would increase the potential hazard to the less vulnerable marsh areas. In order to differentiate between natural successional trends and oil spill effects it will be necessary to systematically restudy selected baseline sites over the coming years.

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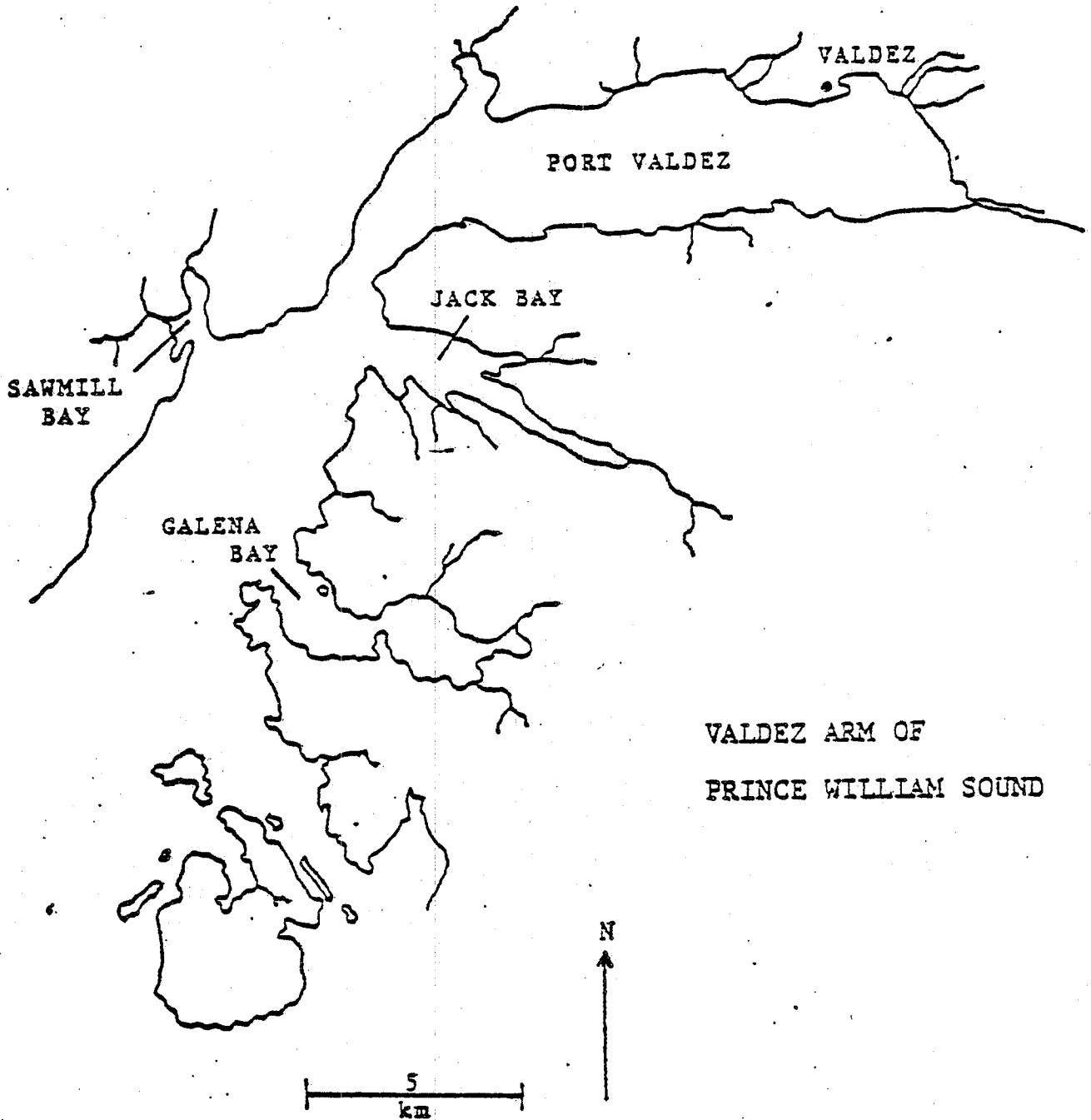
Introduction

Many persons have focused their interests on the activities associated with the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. When Pipeline and Terminus construction was begun, like most salt marshes of the Alaska Pacific Coast, very little was known about the salt marshes of Port Valdez and vicinity (Crow, in press). The need for baseline data was clearly understood by the Department of the Interior. In late July of 1974, research began to establish a collection of baseline data pertaining to the salt marshes of Port Valdez and vicinity (Fig. 1).

This report summarizes the overwhelming bulk of the baseline study. The original expectation had been for the establishment of approximately 40 baseline sites. Excellent weather in 1974 allowed greater production than anticipated. The number of sites ultimately selected came to 62. This number provides a baseline data set with significantly greater community diversity. Naturally it has taken more time to complete the laboratory and computer work.

The value of this research can be enhanced if a follow-up study of relatively small magnitude is undertaken. To begin with, without revisitation of a select number of sites over the next couple of years, it may not be possible to quantitatively separate natural changes from man-related perturbations. After successional trends have been established, revisitation once every 5 to 8 years should be sufficient. At such times the plot markers can be repaired or replaced if necessary.

Fig. 1. Principal study areas of Port Valdez and vicinity.



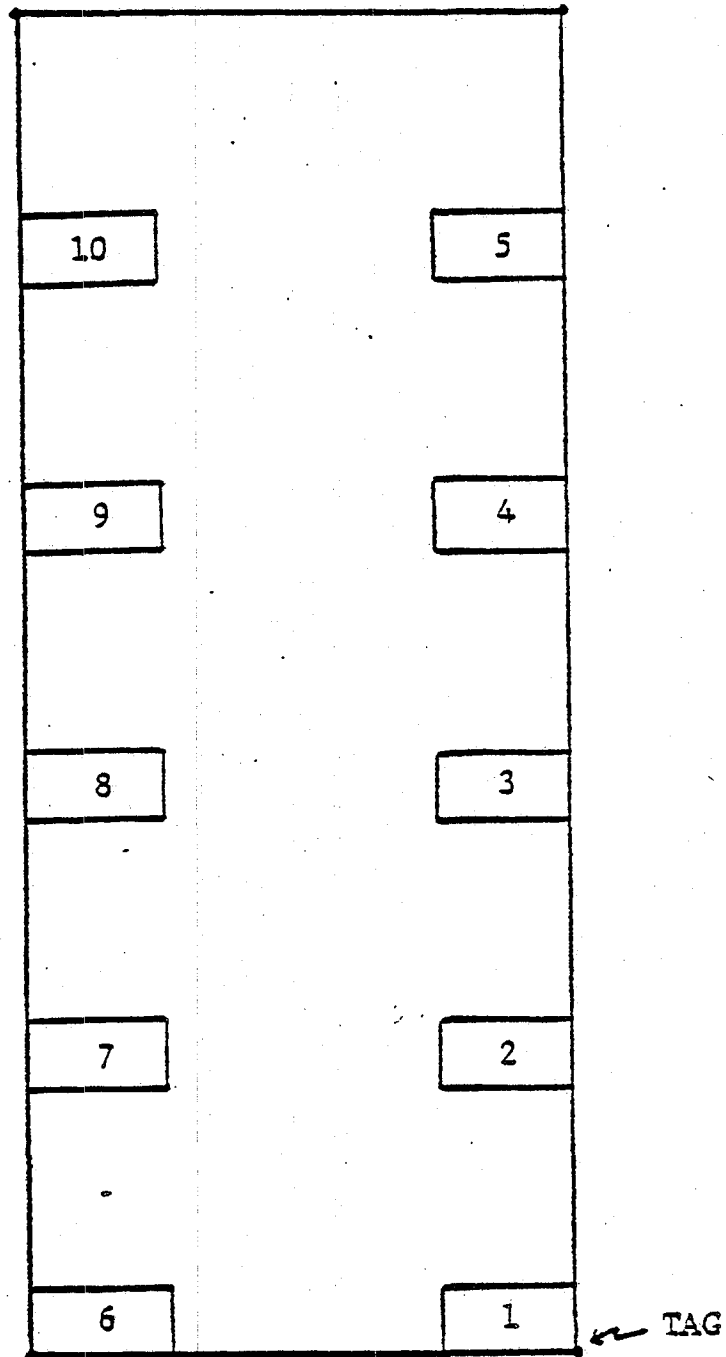
Methods

In 1974 the major emphasis was placed upon reconnaissance. This was done in order to become familiar with the study area, to select representative sites for further study, and for economy of time. Vegetation reconnaissance data were gathered by means of a canopy-coverage technique (Crow 1971, Daubenmire 1959). Habitat features such as local physiography and soils were noted. This approach is compatible with the general approach of the U. S. Forest Service in the western United States (Franklin and Dyrness 1969) as well as with other salt marsh studies by this investigator. Some reconnaissance work was necessary in 1975.

Intensive work in 1974 and 1975 followed the methodology of Daubenmire (1959) as employed by Crow (1971). A rectangular macroplot, ordinarily measuring 2 x 5 m, was marked with stakes at all four corners and labeled (Fig.2). Within the macroplot, a series of 2 x 5 dm microplots was used to obtain coverage and frequency data. The number of microplots need only exceed the minimum sampling area requirements, ordinarily 1 to 3 microplots for the Port Valdez salt marsh communities, but 10 was the standard number used. Soil samples were taken adjacent to the macroplots.

In selected locations a series of 2 x 5 dm microplots were placed along a meter tape for use in transect studies. Such studies are sometimes useful to document the nature of shifts in vegetation that correspond to changes in space.

Fig. 2. Layout of a macroplot including ten microplots.



Soils were routinely analyzed for pH and conductivity, which is a standard salinity measurement. Most soil samples were analyzed for two or more of the following ions: calcium, magnesium, potassium, and sodium. In a few instances, tests for chloride, sulfate, or phosphorus were made.

Nomenclature is according to Welsh (1974), except for Puccinellia and Atriplex, which follow Hulten (1968).

Results

The principal salt marshes of Port Valdez and vicinity include five marshes in Port Valdez proper, four in Jack Bay, three in Sawmill Bay, and one marsh in Galena Bay (the remainder of this Bay has not been studied). Every one of these marshes was studied and baseline data gathered in nearly all of them. The following is a list of the principal salt marshes by name or location:

Port Valdez

Valdez - East Marsh and Terminus

Valdez - West Marsh

Mineral Creek

Gold Creek

Sawmill Creek

Jack Bay

Head - large

Head - south side, lateral

First Cove, South Side

First Cove, North Side

Sawmill Bay

Head

Stellar Creek

Mouth - west side, very small

Galena Bay

Mouth - north side

Baseline sites were chosen to represent a diverse sample of the salt marsh vegetation. The locations of the marshes and baseline sites are presented in Figures 3 to 6.

The salt marshes of the region are complex and relatively diverse in terms of frequently occurring species (Table 1). The bulk of the plant species were graminoids and succulent forbs; the former are grass-like species and the latter are the remaining fleshy herbaceous flowering plants.

Each plant community on the marsh consists of a collection of species. Without some organization of these communities into a hierarchy it is very difficult to simplify the results into something meaningful. Many kinds of communities were identified and these were organized into Community Complexes. Each Community Complex may include one or more kinds of communities having important taxonomic similarities. Ultimately it may be possible to develop a reliable taxonomy below the level of the Community Complex, but it was not practical for the purposes of this research.

Seventeen Community Complexes have been identified and named (Table 2). A detailed summary for the baseline sites is provided in Appendix I. Each Complex consists of closely related salt marsh communities. Within any one Complex the presence, absence, or abundance of species may have significance that can be interpreted or correlated with environmental parameters. For example, the Puccinellia hultenii/Glaux maritima Community Complex tends to be correlated with saline conditions; i.e., conductivity values near or exceeding 4.0 mmhos/cm. Within the Puccinellia/Glaux Complex, however, the presence of Deschampsia beringensis corresponds to a

Fig. 3. The salt marshes and baseline study sites of Port Valdez; one inch equals one mile (U.S.G.S. map).

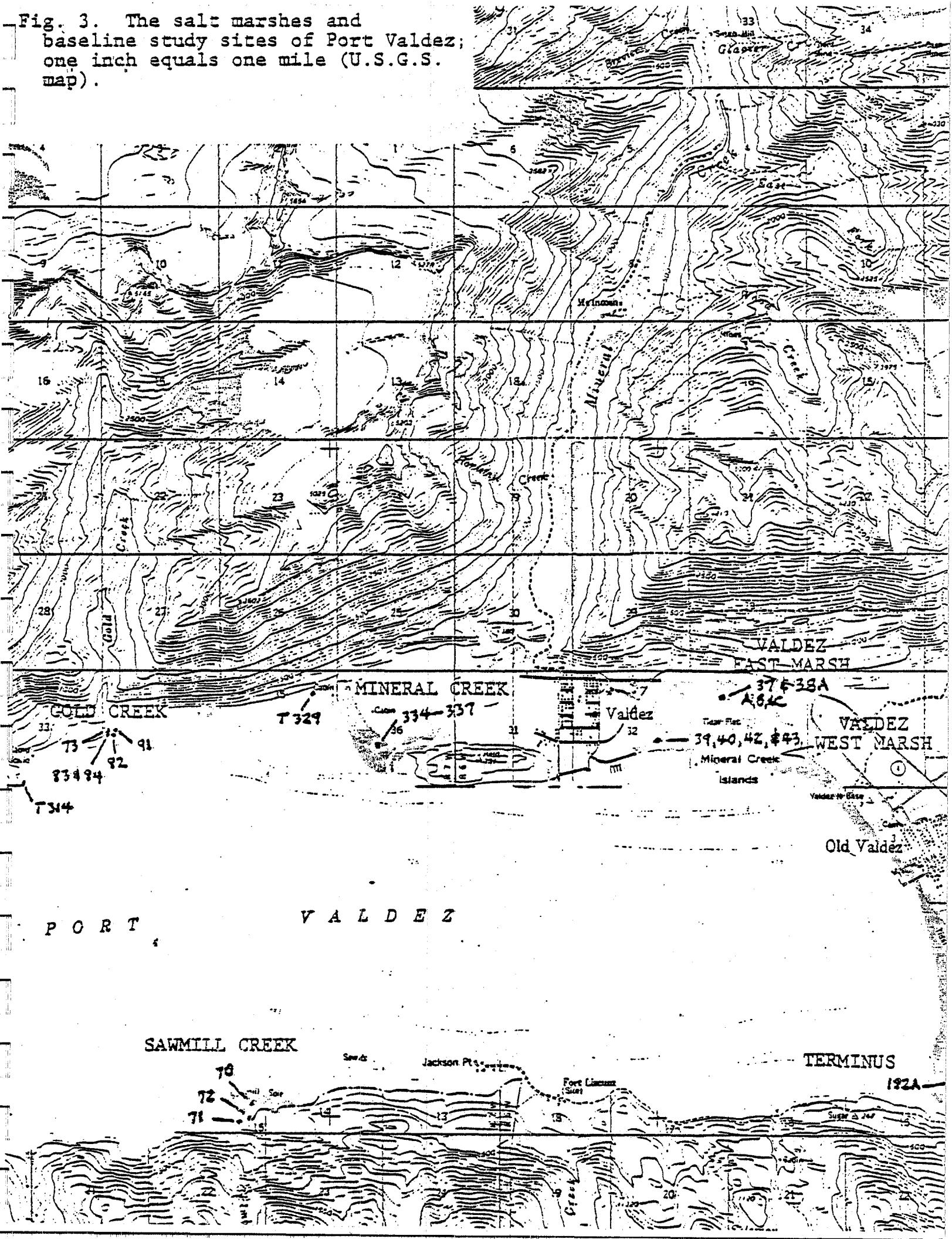


Fig. 4. The salt marshes and baseline study sites of Sawmill Bay; one inch equals one mile (U.S.G.S. map).

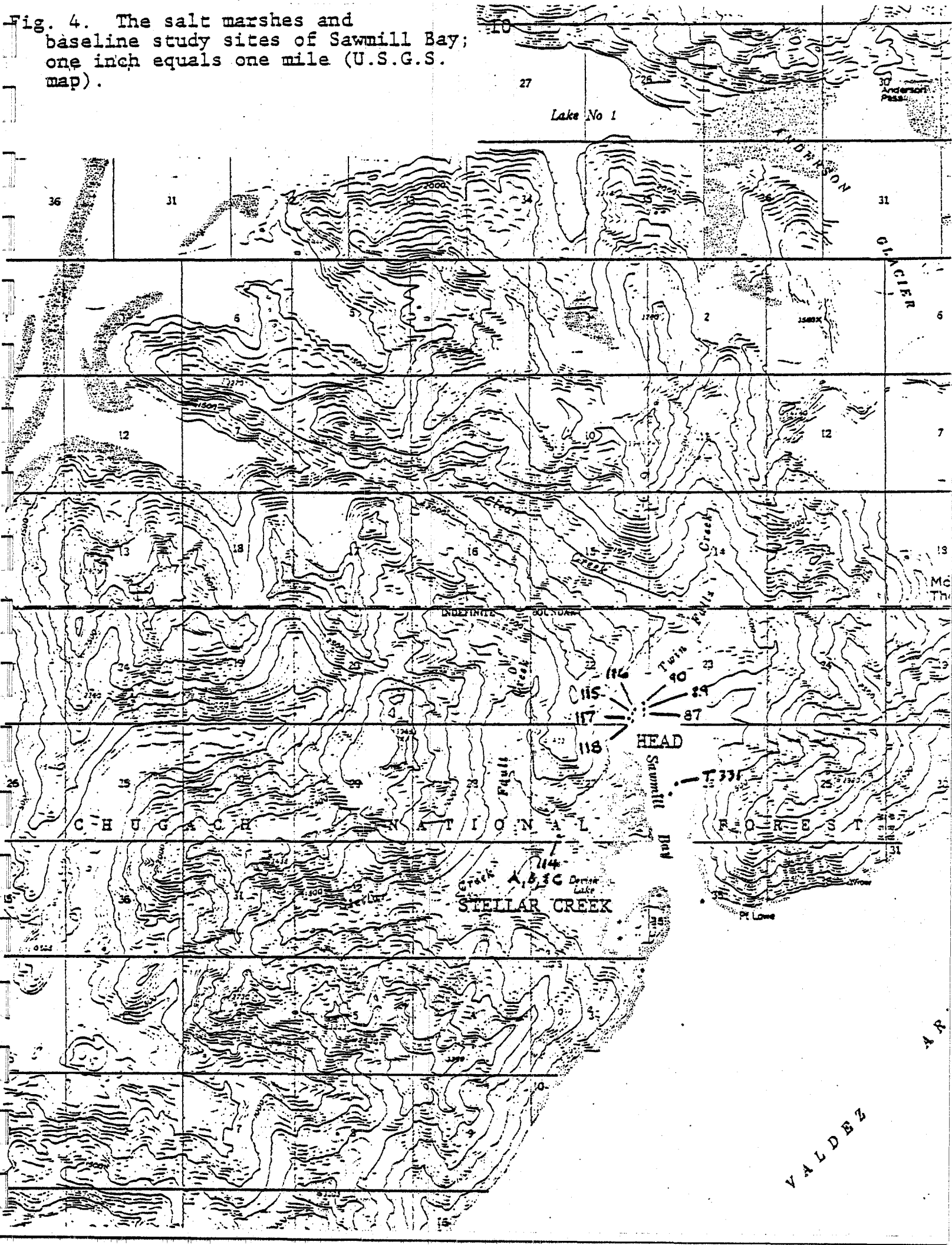


Fig. 5. The salt marshes and baseline study sites of Jack Bay; one inch equals one mile (U.S.G.S. map composite).

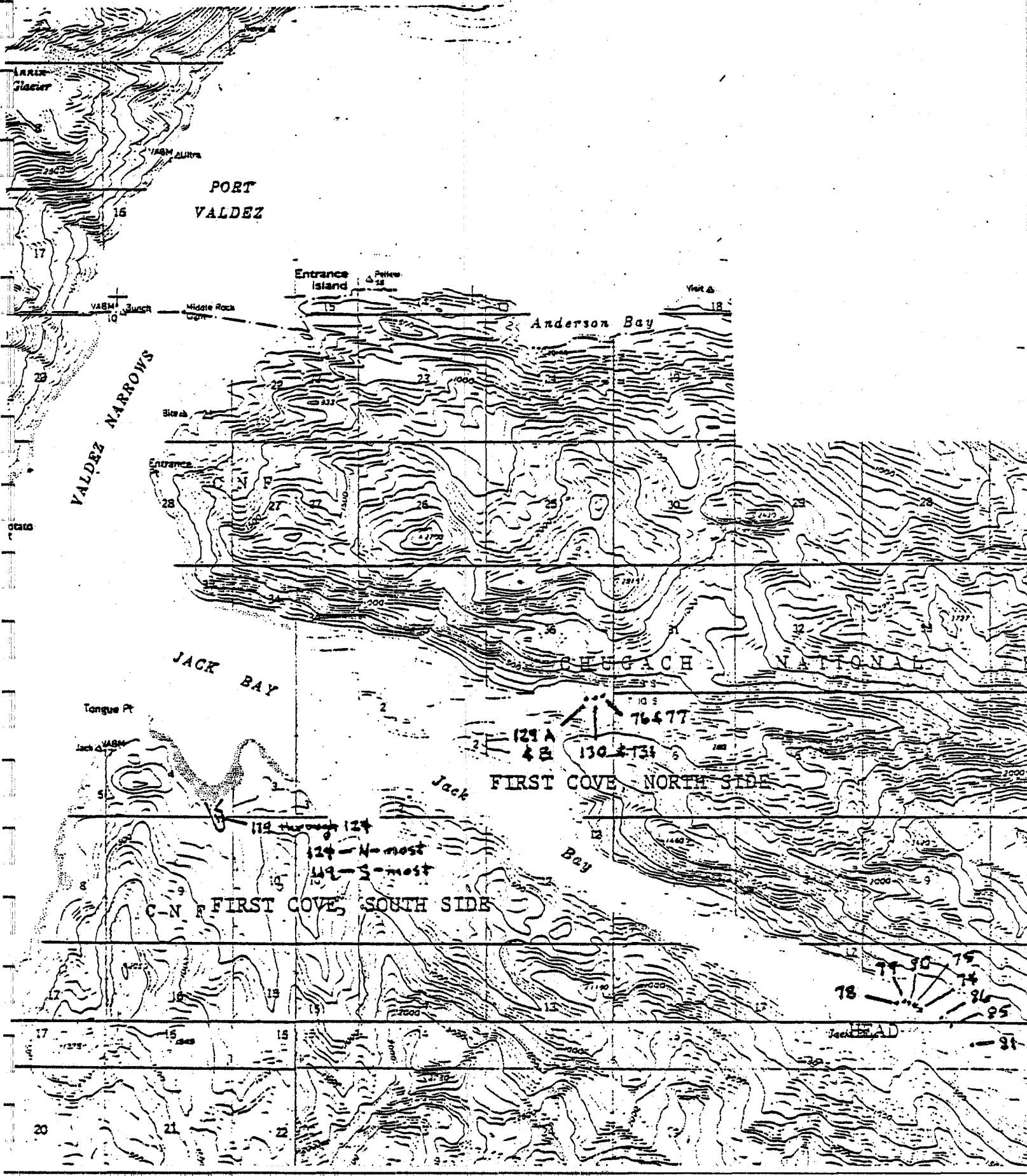
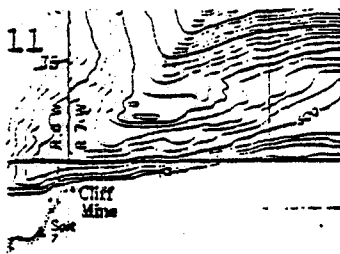
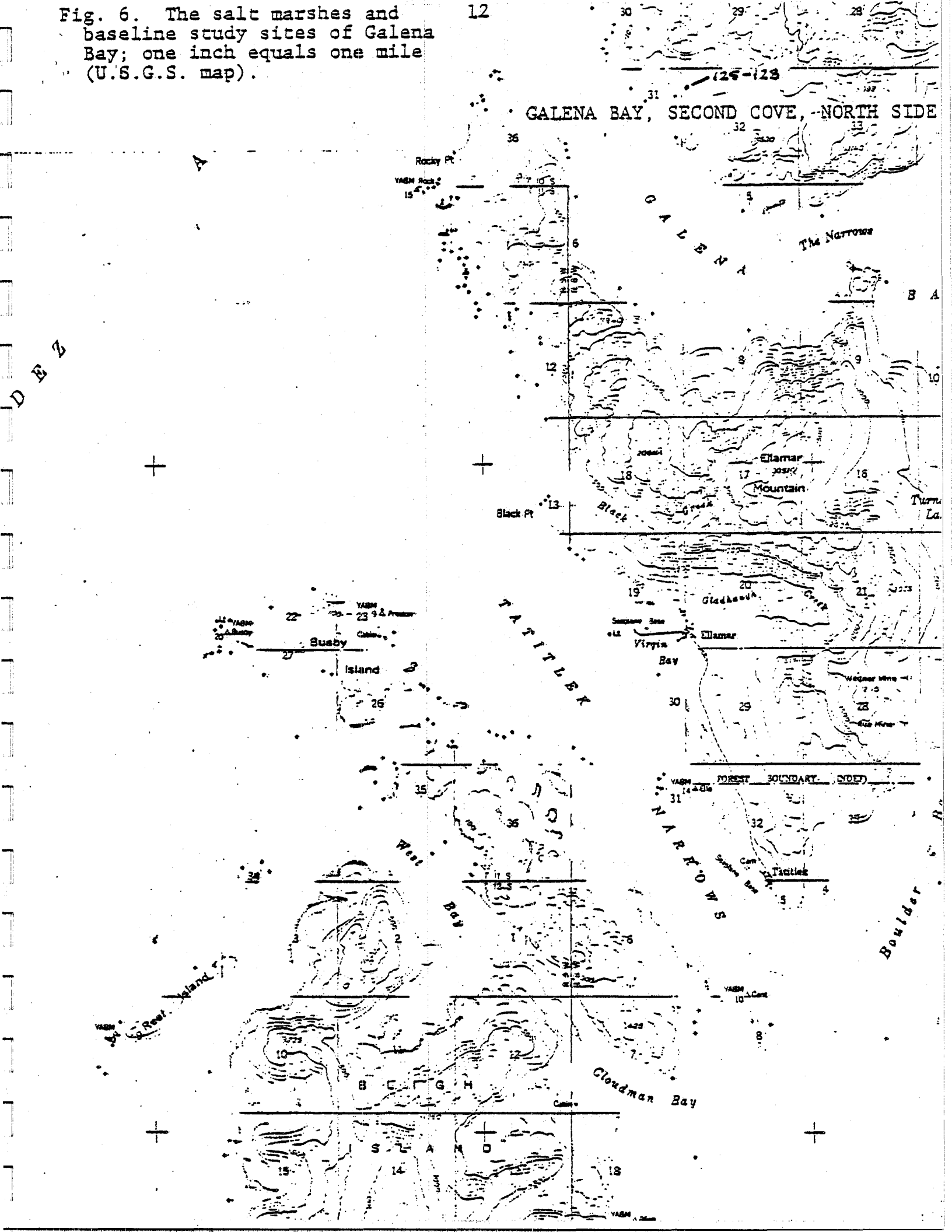


Fig. 6. The salt marshes and baseline study sites of Galena Bay; one inch equals one mile (U.S.G.S. map).



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Table 1. Scientific and common names of frequently occurring salt marsh species in Port Valdez and vicinity.

Succulent Forbs

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| <i>Arenaria peploides</i> | Beach Sandwort |
| <i>Atriplex patula</i> var. <i>obtusa</i> | Spearscale |
| <i>Chrysanthemum arcticum</i> | Arctic Daisy |
| <i>Cochlearia officinalis</i> | Scurvy Grass |
| <i>Dodecatheon pulchellum</i> | Pretty Shooting Star |
| <i>Glaux maritima</i> | Sea Milkwort |
| <i>Ligusticum scoticum</i> | Hulten's Sea Lovage |
| <i>Plantago maritima</i> | Goose Tongue |
| <i>Sagina crassicaulis</i> | Beach Pearlwort |
| <i>Spergularia canadensis</i> | Canada Sand Spurry |
| <i>Stellaria humifusa</i> | Low Chickweed |
| <i>Triglochin maritima</i> | Seaside Arrowgrass |
| <i>Triglochin palustris</i> | Marsh Arrowgrass |

Non-Succulent Forbs

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| <i>Achillea millefolium</i> ssp. <i>borealis</i> | Boreal Yarrow |
| <i>Conioselinum chinense</i> | Western Hemlock Parsley |
| <i>Cornus canadensis</i> | Bunchberry |
| <i>Fritillaria camchaticensis</i> | Indian Rice |
| <i>Polygonum viviparum</i> | Bulblet Bistort |
| <i>Potentilla anserina</i> | Pacific Silverweed |
| <i>Ranunculus cymbalaria</i> | Marsh Crowfoot |

Table 1 (Cont.)

Graminoids

Calamagrostis canadensis

C. deschampsoides

Carex glareosa

C. lyngbyei

Eleocharis kamschatica

Elymus mollis

Festuca rubra

Poa eminens

Puccinellia hultenii

Fucoids

Fucus spp.

Bluejoint

Small Reedgrass

Clustered Sedge

Lyngbye Sedge

Kamtschatka Spikerush

Dunegrass or Beach Rye

Red Fescue

Large-flower Bluegrass

Hulten's Mudgrass or
Alkaligrass

Rockweed

Table 2. Salt marsh community complexes
of Port Valdez and vicinity.

Puccinellia hultenii/*Spergularia canadensis*

Puccinellia hultenii/*Fucus* spp.

Puccinellia hultenii/*Arenaria peploides*

Puccinellia hultenii/*Glaux maritima*

Potentilla anserina/*Poa eminens*

Carex pluriflora/*Deschampsia beringensis*

Carex lyngbyei/*Calamagrostis canadensis*

Calamagrostis canadensis/*Galium trifidum*

pure *Carex lyngbyei*

Carex lyngbyei/*Eleocharis kamschatica*

Eleocharis kamschatica dominant

Carex lyngbyei/*Potentilla anserina*

Potentilla anserina/*Dodecatheon pulchellum*

pure *Arenaria peploides*

Elymus mollis/*Arenaria peploides*

Elymus mollis/*Festuca rubra*

Elymus mollis/*Cornus canadensis*

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distinctly non-saline habitat. In addition, the more saline Puccinellia/Glaux habitats correlate with relatively high species diversity (seven or more) and greater than 50% coverage of Puccinellia hultenii.

The Community Complex names should be very useful in the development of maps from aerial photographs and as an economical means of describing salt marshes. The following marsh-by-marsh discussion summarizes the most important characteristics and should help in an assessment of the region's salt marsh resources. The vegetation portfolio previously submitted (Crow, 1976) may be useful as a visual aid.

Valdez East and West Marshes

The marshes of Valdez proper have been divided into two parts, the West Marsh and the East Marsh, on the basis of slight geographic separation. These marsh areas share a number of characteristics. The soils are characterized by fine silts and clays and the inter-channel landscape is quite flat. It follows that drainage is poor and a mosaic of plant communities has developed in response to varying wetness at any particular tidal level. The habitat-plant community interaction is such that there is a marked trend to saline conditions and at the same time acid pH. In such cases there is a tendency for high sulfate to correspond with low pH (Crow, in press).

The two marshes differ in several respects. The West Marsh is small and mostly above the tidal levels of the East Marsh. In addition, the West Marsh is characterized by communities having high total coverage and frequency and ordinarily having a diversity of seven or more species; the communities sampled belonged to the Puccinellia hultenii/Glaux maritima Community Complex (Table 3). On the other hand, the majority of the East Marsh is covered by communities having a species diversity of only one to three species; 'pure' Carex lyngbyei and Carex lyngbyei/Eleocharis kantschatica and Eleocharis kantschatica dominated Complexes (Table 3).

In both cases the uppermost zones of the marshes have been severely disturbed. The East Marsh is cut by a highway and the West Marsh has been affected by sewage development, direct

Table 3 . Dominance of plant species found in the Community Complexes at the Valdez East, West, and Terminus locations.

| Taxa | Community Complex | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----|-------|
| | Pu/Gl | C1 | C1/Ek |
| <i>Puccinellia hultenii</i> | +++ | | |
| <i>Carex lyngbyei</i> | +++ | +++ | P |
| <i>Glaux maritima</i> | ++ | | |
| <i>Potentilla anserina</i> | ++ | | |
| <i>Triglochin maritima</i> | ++ | | |
| <i>Stellaria humifusa</i> | + | | |
| <i>Plantago maritima</i> | + | | |
| <i>Eleocharis kamschatica</i> | P | | +++ |
| <i>Chrysanthemum arcticum</i> | P | | |
| <i>Ranunculus cymbalaria</i> | P | | |
| <i>Zannichellia palustris</i> | | | P |
| <i>Potamogeton pectinatus</i> | | | P |

Pu/Gl = *Puccinellia hultenii*/*Glaux maritima*

C1 = 'pure' *Carex lyngbyei*

C1/Ek = *Carex lyngbyei*/*Eleocharis kamschatica* and *Eleocharis kamschatica* dominated vegetation.

(+++) signifies dominant or co-dominant species, ordinarily high coverage/frequency values; (++) common, important; (+) minor, coverage is low, present in most locations; (P) present in some communities, may have high or low coverage/frequency values.

disturbance, etc. The proximity of the Valdez marsh areas to disturbance makes them less useful as short term baseline sites than sites selected elsewhere. For example, the development of an artificial spit in the East Marsh area resulted in silt and clay particulates covering the plants of the East and West Marshes. Damage was apparent in 1974. By 1975, the effect had lessened as the sea further reclaimed the artificial spit. Because of disturbances such as those described one cannot expect these marshes to have the value as baseline sites as has the majority of the other marsh locations.

In 1970, baseline sites 39, 40, 42, and 43 were established on the Valdez West Marsh by this investigator. By the time this work was begun in 1974, local disturbances from town runoff, garbage, sewage, human traffic, and an attempt to develop an artificial spit resulted in obvious degradation of the Valdez West and East marshes. In 1974 it seemed that the use of these marshes to monitor the effects of Terminus construction and oil transport would introduce an unacceptable bias. At that time, Mr. L. Sowl of the Department of the Interior walked and examined the West marsh with this investigator. Mr. Sowl participated in the successful relocation of the 1970 sites. It was agreed that emphasis of the Valdez East and West marshes would probably jeopardize the value of the baseline study. Nevertheless, a few baseline sites were developed and the 1970 sites restudied in 1974 and 1975. The data are presented in Appendix II. The vegetation changed erratically in terms of coverage and frequency as well as the presence of plant species. This appears to have confirmed the judgements made by Mr. Sowl and

myself. At some later date it may be important to make comparisons with other marshes of Port Valdez and vicinity. Furthermore, the possibility does exist that the Valdez marshes may stabilize and become more useful.

Valdez Terminus

This is a small marsh area characterized by Carex lyngbyei-dominated vegetation. Only one stand was studied in detail and this belonged to the 'pure' Carex lyngbyei Community Complex. The soils, primarily clay with silt, had acid pH values of about 5.4 and were non-saline but evidently washed with brackish tides (conductivity about 2.6 mmhos/cm). The level of sodium was moderate, 431 ppm.

This monospecific Carex lyngbyei vegetation had coverage and frequency values of 100 per cent or nearly that high in most locations. Table 3 includes the data for the Terminus study area.

Sawmill Creek

Sawmill Creek can be best described as a fan-like gravel marsh. In contrast to most salt marshes, the soils of this one are characterized by gravels at the surface. Moderately high pH values (7.0 to 8.0) and rather low salinity (conductivity values less than 1.0 mmhos/cm) are characteristic of this marsh. In places such as this, where the soils are coarse and drainage is good to excellent, the salts leach away easily between successive inundations. The net result is that the soils associated with the prominent vegetation at Sawmill Creek are not saline; i.e., less than 4.0 mmhos/cm. It should be noted, however, that highly saline tidal waters do cover this marsh frequently.

At the time of the field work this area was free of apparent disturbance or damage to the vegetation. Since its location is adjacent to that of the TAPS Terminus it should be an excellent baseline area.

Exclusive of the strand vegetation, the vegetation is dominated by two plant Community Complexes, Puccinellia hultenii/Fucus spp. and Puccinellia hultenii/Glaux maritima (Table 4). In both cases, the vegetation has a conspicuously succulent character and Arenaria peploides is a noticeable element even though it does not attain high coverage/frequency values. It should be noted that three species are highly constant in the communities studied: Puccinellia hultenii, Glaux maritima, and Arenaria peploides (Table 4).

Stands of the Puccinellia/Fucus Complex dominate this marsh and vary modestly from spot to spot. In the lowest zones, Fucus

Table 4 . Dominance of plant species found in the Community Complexes at Sawmill Creek.

| Taxa | Community Complexes | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------|
| | Pu/Fu | Pu/Gl |
| <i>Puccinellia hultenii</i> | +++ | + |
| <i>Fucus</i> spp. | ++ | |
| <i>Glaux maritima</i> | +++ | + |
| <i>Arenaria peploides</i> | ++ | + |
| <i>Potentilla anserina</i> | ++ | |
| <i>Plantago maritima</i> | + | |

Pu/Fu = *Puccinellia hultenii*/*Fucus* spp.

Pu/Gl = *Puccinellia hultenii*/*Glaux maritima*

(+++) signifies dominant or co-dominant species, ordinarily high coverage/frequency values; (++) common, important; (+) minor, coverage is low, present in most locations; (P) present in some communities, may have high or low coverage/frequency values.

spp. frequency is highest, up to 90%, but it remains an important element nearly everywhere. Puccinellia hultenii and Glaux maritima are in evidence nearly everywhere and in typical stands their coverage varied from 38 to 41% for the former and 15 to 19% for the latter; Puccinellia coverage ran as low as 1% in the limited Puccinellia/Glaux sites. Frequency values for both species were around 100% nearly everywhere. Other species had lower coverage and frequency values, including Potentilla anserina, the sole non-succulent forb present, and Arenaria peploides, which was relatively conspicuous.

The localized representatives of the Puccinellia/Glaux Complex are essentially confined to the habitats adjacent to the fresh-water streams. This is very sparse vegetation with only three species, all with scant coverage and low frequency of occurrence (Table 4).

Gold Creek

The marshes of Gold Creek are protected from the sea by a natural gravel spit. The marsh portion of this area is dominated by gravels covered with a layer of silt and clay; gravels being more evident in selected lower habitats and on the margin of the spit itself. Like the Sawmill Creek Marsh habitat, the soils are not saline but the pH values are somewhat higher in places, up to 8.0. It would seem that the pH elevation corresponds with slightly higher conductivity figures than those associated with Sawmill Creek; refer to the Appendix for details pertaining to the soils. As might be expected there is a tendency for lower pH values, to 6.7 in the highest areas tested.

Three salt marsh plant community complexes were sampled which were well represented at Gold Creek: Puccinellia hultenii/Fucus spp., Puccinellia hultenii/Arenaria peploides, and Puccinellia hultenii/Glaux maritima (Table 5). Species diversity is fairly good, from 5 to 9 species per stand, with coverage and/or frequency high for several of these species, notably Puccinellia hultenii, Plantago maritima, Fucus spp., and Glaux maritima (Table 5). In addition to Puccinellia hultenii, which had 100% frequency in all stands studied, a few species deserve mention. Plantago maritima, a succulent forb, was a major species in all stands studied at Gold Creek. This species is common in the community complexes characterized by Puccinellia hultenii but drops out entirely from all the stands at Port Valdez and vicinity where Puccinellia hultenii is lacking. The presence of Carex lyngbyei

Table 5. Dominance of plant species found in the Community Complexes at Gold Creek.

| Taxa | Community Complex | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------|-------|
| | Pu/Fu | Pu/Ar | Pu/Gl |
| <i>Puccinellia hultenii</i> | +++ | +++ | +++ |
| <i>Fucus</i> spp. | +++ | | |
| <i>Arenaria peploides</i> | | + | + |
| <i>Glaux maritima</i> | + | + | +++ |
| <i>Plantago maritima</i> | +++ | +++ | ++ |
| <i>Potentilla anserina</i> | + | P | +++ |
| <i>Stellaria humifusa</i> | + | P | + |
| <i>Spergularia canadensis</i> | ++ | P | |
| <i>Cochlearia officinalis</i> | + | + | |
| <i>Atriplex gmelini</i> | + | | |
| <i>Triglochin maritima</i> | | | ++ |
| <i>Carex lyngbyei</i> | | | ++ |

Pu/Fu = *Puccinellia hultenii*/*Fucus* spp.

Pu/Ar = *Puccinellia hultenii*/*Arenaria peploides*

Pu/Gl = *Puccinellia hultenii*/*Glaux maritima*

(+++) signifies dominant or co-dominant species, ordinarily high coverage/frequency values; (++) common, important; (+) minor, coverage is low, present in most locations; (P) present in some communities, may have high or low coverage/frequency values.

in the uppermost zone sampled, a rather complex stand of Puccinellia/Glaux, is most likely related to the presence of fresh water as a significant factor in portions of the marsh; the pH in this zone was 6.7 and the soils not saline.

Mineral Creek

Near Valdez, this marsh is characterized by a few hectares of the Potentilla anserina/Poa eminens and Potentilla anserina/Dodecatheon pulchellum Community Complexes, the former occupying the lower ground. The soils are dominated by the fine separates, silt and clay. All sites were slightly acid and nearly all sites non-saline, although clearly influenced by brackish tidal waters ; most soils had conductivity values between 1.7 and 3.0 mmhos/cm with one stand of the Potentilla/Poa Complex as high as 5.7 mmhos/cm, clearly saline.

Species diversity provided strong contrasts between the stands of vegetation at Mineral Creek (Table 6). Some Potentilla/Poa localities had as few as three species while many examples of the Potentilla/Dodecatheon Complex had up to ten species. Potentilla anserina, Poa eminens, and Carex lyngbyei were found at all sites studied and the vegetation clearly lacks the fleshy character of the marshes such as Gold Creek and Sawmill Creek.

Among the sites representing the Potentilla/Dodecatheon Complex, eight species were present in all sites considered in the reconnaissance and in the two chosen for intensive study (Table 6). The coverage and/or frequency values are rather high for several of these, namely Potentilla anserina, Poa eminens, Carex lyngbyei, Stellaria humifusa, and Triglochin maritima. Lesser but significant amounts of the remaining species was usual. In short, these stands are diverse, dense, with high species frequency a reliable character;

Table 6. Dominance of plant species found in the Community Complexes at Mineral Creek

| Taxa | Community Complex | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------|
| | Pa/Pe | Pa/Dp |
| <i>Potentilla anserina</i> | ++ | +++ |
| <i>Poa eminens</i> | +++ | +++ |
| <i>Dodecatheon pulchellum</i> | | ++ |
| <i>Carex lyngbyei</i> | +++ | +++ |
| <i>Stellaria humifusa</i> | P | ++ |
| <i>Festuca rubra</i> | P | P |
| <i>Triglochin maritima</i> | P | ++ |
| <i>Triglochin palustris</i> | P | |
| <i>Calamagrostis deschampsoides</i> | | ++ |
| <i>Chrysanthemum arcticum</i> | | ++ |
| <i>Conioselinum chinense</i> | | P |

Pa/Pe = Potentilla anserina/Poa eminens

Pa/Dp = Potentilla anserina/Dodecatheon pulchellum

(+++) signifies dominant or co-dominant species, ordinarily high coverage/frequency values; (++) common, important; (+) minor, coverage is low, present in most locations; (P) present in some communities, may have high or low coverage/frequency values.

30
e.g., in baseline site 335, the two most infrequent species,
Festuca rubra and Conioselinum chinense, had frequency values of
50 per cent.

Sawmill Bay

Head

This is a very interesting marsh including many hectares of salt marsh. Most of this marsh has soils in which the silt and clay separates dominate but limited portions are influenced by gravels at the surface. The latter are ordinarily covered by stands of the Puccinellia hultenii/Fucus spp. Complex. Selected stream-side levee habitats also have coarse soils ranging from sandy to gravelly in nature. These nearly always correspond with Elymus mollis-dominated Complexes. In the reconnaissance three such Elymus mollis-dominated Complexes were represented but only one was selected for intensive study, the lowest one, believed to be more likely to be affected by oil spillage.

The soils tended to be slightly to distinctly acid and the influences of brackish tidal waters were evident with conductivity values averaging about 0.8 mmhos/cm in the Potentilla anserina/Poa eminens Community Complex. The Carex lyngbyei/Potentilla anserina Community Complex, which is very well represented, tends to be slightly acid, saline, and has over 700 ppm of sodium. The 'pure' Carex lyngbyei Community Complex was similar but somewhat more acid and had far less sodium, 88 ppm. In the slightly higher zones of the marsh the conductivity tended to drop below the saline levels and the pH rose. The low gravelly areas, characterized by Puccinellia hultenii/Fucus spp., are apparently covered by brackish tides but drainage is good and the conductivity 1.02 mmhos/cm; the pH is slightly acid and sodium evident, but only 115 ppm.

This marsh is relatively diverse in terms of species and Community Complexes present; 15 species were found in the five Community Complexes that were sampled (Table 7). Community Complex differences are marked. The zonation of Complexes is represented in Fig. 7 . In most cases there are sharp, identifiable transition zones between the various kinds of vegetation present.

Frequency values of the dominants tend to be nearly 100 per cent and coverage values of dominants rather variable depending upon the Community Complex. Carex lyngbyei is perhaps the most conspicuous plant on the marsh. In most stands where it appears the coverage is 95 per cent or higher. Other species with high coverage in some localities include Poa eminens, Potentilla anserina, and Calamagrostis deschampsoides. These are all found together in a number of representatives of the Potentilla anserina/Poa eminens Community Complex. Potentilla anserina coverage exceeds 60 per cent in many Carex lyngbyei/Potentilla anserina Community Complex stands.

It should be noted that there is quite a lot of bare ground in representatives of the Puccinellia hultenii/Fucus spp. Community Complex, often about 70 per cent bare ground. In Sawmill Bay, Cochlearia officinalis is dominant in this Complex and very conspicuous; coverage/frequency values of 24/100 are representative.

In most Elymus mollis-dominated vegetation, the Elymus may attain virtually 100 per cent coverage and 100 per cent frequency values. As a rule, the high diversity types correspond with lower Elymus coverage values.

Table 7. Dominance of plant species found in the Community Complexes at Sawmill Bay, Head.

| Taxa | Community Complex | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------|-----|-------|-------|
| | Pu/Fu | Pa/Pe | Cl | Cl/Pa | Em/Fe |
| <i>Puccinellia hultenii</i> | ++ | | | + | |
| <i>Fucus</i> spp. | + | | | | |
| <i>Carex lyngbyei</i> | | +++ | +++ | +++ | |
| <i>Potentilla anserina</i> | | +++ | | +++ | ++ |
| <i>Poa eminens</i> | | +++ | | | |
| <i>Festuca rubra</i> | | ++ | | P | +++ |
| <i>Elymus mollis</i> | | | | | +++ |
| <i>Stellaria humifusa</i> | | ++ | | ++ | |
| <i>Spergularia canadensis</i> | + | | | | |
| <i>Cochlearia officinalis</i> | +++ | | | | |
| <i>Sagina crassicaulis</i> | + | | | | |
| <i>Carex glareosa</i> | | P | | | |
| <i>Calamagrostis deschampsoides</i> | | P | | | |
| <i>Galium trifidum</i> | | P | | | |
| <i>Triglochin palustris</i> | | | | P | |

(Continued)

Table 7 (Cont.)

Pu/Fu = Puccinellia hultenii/Fucus spp.

Pa/Pe = Potentilla anserina/Poa eminens

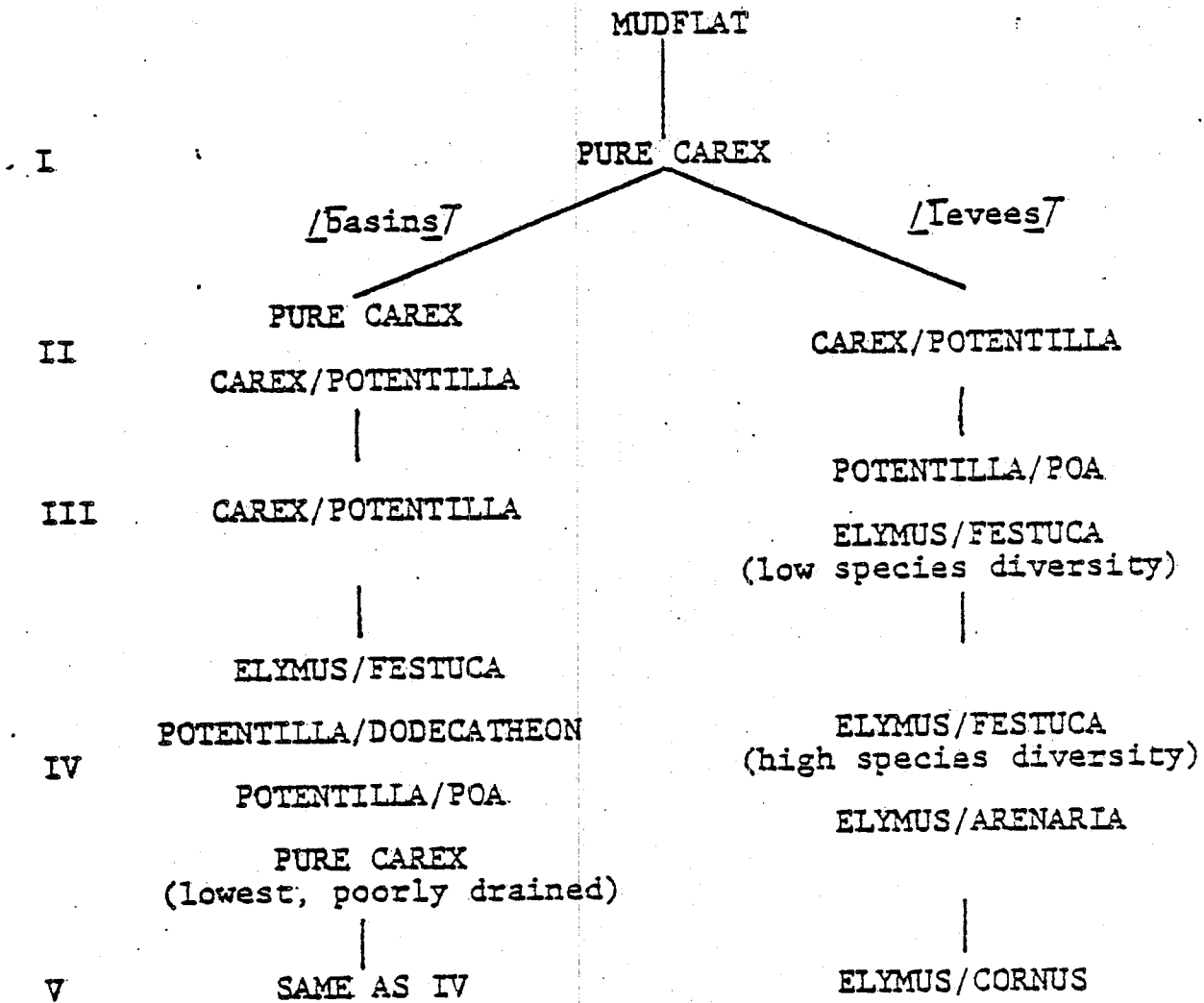
Cl = 'pure' Carex lyngbyei

Cl/Pa = Carex lyngbyei/Potentilla anserina

Em/Fe = Elymus mollis/Festuca rubra

(+++) signifies dominant or co-dominant species, ordinarily high coverage/frequency values; (++) common, important; (+) minor, coverage is low, present in most locations; (P) present in some communities, may have high or low coverage/frequency values.

Fig. 7. Marsh at the head of Sawmill Bay. I to V are low to high zones respectively.



Stellar Creek

This very small marsh area was sampled in order to document the nature of three stands belonging to two high species diversity Community Complexes in which fresh water influences were dominant. In addition, the adjacent stream was filled with Pink Salmon and was said to be the richest stream in Prince William Sound (Larry Haddock, on-site communication, 1974).

The three stands studied form a catena that runs from the bank of the marsh up to the woods. Actually three plant communities are easily identifiable, with the two nearest the forest belonging to the Carex pluriflora/Deschampsia beringensis Community Complex and the stream-side vegetation belonging to the Carex lyngbyei/Calamagrostis canadensis Community Complex. The former Complex has a distinctly acid pH, as low as 4.0 in places, and conductivity values between 0.2 and 0.4 mmhos/cm. The latter Complex has higher pH and conductivity values. The soils are fine textured, with lots of organic matter and apparently high exchangeable base potential. All contained moderate levels of sodium, 500 to 2000 ppm, and other basic cations in moderate to high levels. This is a somewhat unusual combination.

The species diversity is rather high for the Port Valdez region. Selected stands of the Carex pluriflora/Deschampsia beringensis Community Complex had as many as 12 species. Carex pluriflora had virtually 100 per cent coverage and 100 per cent frequency with high values for Deschampsia beringensis and Calamagrostis deschamoioides in some stands. Calamagrostis canadensis, Cornus canadensis,

and Rubus stellatus are high in the other locations - adjacent to the forest. The remaining species had low coverage values but most had a high frequency of occurrence.

Nearest the stream, Carex lyngbyei is dominant averaging nearly 90 and 100 per cent values for coverage and frequency respectively. In the Carex lyngbyei/Calamagrostis canadensis Complex, the Carex pluriflora is absent but other species attain up to 100 per cent frequency values. These are Calamagrostis canadensis, Festuca rubra, and Poa eminens. Measured coverage values were substantial, at 88, 69, and 24 per cent for the three species respectively. Most locations observed had all the seven species listed in Table 8.

Table 8 . Dominance of plant species found in the Community Complexes at Stellar Creek, Sawmill Bay.

| Taxa | Community Complex | |
|--|-------------------|----------------|
| | Cl/Cc | Cp/Db |
| <i>Carex lyngbyei</i> | +++ | P |
| <i>Carex pluriflora</i> | | +++ |
| <i>Deschampsia beringensis</i> | + | ++ |
| <i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i> | +++ | p ^a |
| <i>Festuca rubra</i> | +++ | ++ |
| <i>Poa eminens</i> | +++ | P |
| <i>Calamagrostis deschampsoides</i> | ++ | p ^a |
| <i>Galium trifidum</i> | + | P |
| <i>Stellaria humifusa</i> | | + |
| <i>Trientalis europaea</i> | | + - |
| <i>Carex glareosa</i> | | P |
| <i>Epilobium palustre</i> | | P |
| <i>Conioselinum chinense</i> | | P |
| <i>Cornus canadensis</i> | | p ^a |
| <i>Rubus stellatus</i> | | p ^a |
| <i>Achillea millefolium borealis</i> | | P |
| <i>Sphagnum sp.</i> | | P |

(Continued)

Table 8 (Cont.)

^aMajor species in some communities.

Cl/Cc = Carex lyngbyei/Calamagrostis canadensis

Cp/Db = Carex pluriflora/Deschampsia beringensis

(+++)
(++)
(+)
(P)

signifies dominant or co-dominant species, ordinarily high coverage/frequency values; (++) common, important; (+) minor, coverage is low, present in most locations; (P) present in some communities, may have high or low coverage/frequency values.

Jack Bay

First Cove, South Side

Community Complex diversity was relatively high in this salt marsh of only a few hectares and the stream contained large numbers of Pink Salmon during the spawning period. The soils were dominated by silt and clay, at least near the surface. In special habitats associated with gravel spit locations, the soils were dominated by gravels; these coarse soil habitats were characterized by Arenaria peploides or Elymus mollis. The soil pH tended to be in the range of 6.4 to 7.5 and none were found to be saline. The only stand to show extremely high sodium belonged to the Elymus mollis/Festuca rubra Community Complex and was on the order of 2300 ppm. Other sites ranged from 54 to 560 ppm, as would be expected from the influence of brackish tides.

Although Community Complex diversity is high, species diversity is rather low in the Complexes represented. Species diversity ranged from one to five. The dominants had very high coverage and frequency values and the subordinants very low values. The character of the vegetation is determined almost entirely by only one or two species in each of the Community Complexes present (Table 9). Puccinellia hultenii, Potentilla anserina, Poa eminens, Arenaria peploides, Elymus mollis, and Calamagrostis canadensis are the most important plant species on this marsh, giving it a simple grass-forb character.

Table 9. Dominance of plant species found in the Community Complexes of the first cove on the south side of Jack Bay.

| Taxa | Community Complex | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------|-------|-----|-------|-------|
| | Pu/Gl | Pa/Pe | Cc/Gt | Ar | Em/Ar | Em/Fe |
| <i>Puccinellia hultenii</i> | +++ | | | | | |
| <i>Glaux maritima</i> | + | | | | | |
| <i>Potentilla anserina</i> | +++ | +++ | | | | + |
| <i>Poa eminens</i> | | +++ | | | | |
| <i>Arenaria peploides</i> | + | | | +++ | +++ | |
| <i>Stellaria humifusa</i> | + | + | | | | |
| <i>Elymus mollis</i> | | | | | +++ | +++ |
| <i>Galium aparine</i> | | | | | + | |
| <i>Festuca rubra</i> | | | | | | + |
| <i>Carex lyngbyei</i> | | + | | | | |
| <i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i> | | | +++ | | | |
| <i>Galium trifidum</i> | | | + | | | |

Pu/Gl = *Puccinellia hultenii*/*Glaux maritima*

Pa/Pe = *Potentilla anserina*/*Poa eminens*

Cc/Gt = *Calamagrostis canadensis*/*Galium trifidum*

Ar = 'pure' *Arenaria peploides*

Em/Ar = *Elymus mollis*/*Arenaria peploides*

Em/Fe = *Elymus mollis*/*Festuca rubra*

(+++) signifies dominant or co-dominant species, ordinarily high coverage/frequency values; (++) common, important; (+) minor, coverage is low, present in most locations; (P) present in some communities, may have high or low coverage/frequency values.

First Cove, North Side

Several hectares of marsh are characterized by three Community Complexes in this Jack Bay location. The soils examined were all clay and silt dominated. They were all circumneutral to acid, as low as pH 5.0. There was a downward trend in conductivity from about 3 to less than 1 umhos/cm that corresponded with the Puccinellia hultenii/Spergularia canadensis, Puccinellia hultenii/Arenaria peploides, and Potentilla anserina/Poa eminens Complexes in that order. Sodium was measured as high as 1000 ppm in the Puccinellia/Spergularia Complex and as low as 126 ppm in one of the Potentilla/Poa stands.

Where Puccinellia hultenii characterized the vegetation, species diversity varied from four to six. Community Complex differences were distinct and transition areas between communities sharp (Table 10). Much higher species diversity was found in the Potentilla/Poa Complex, about 10 species per stand. The density of the vegetation is noticeably greater and the frequency of assorted grasses and sedges very high; namely Poa eminens, Festuca rubra, Carex lyngbyei, and Carex glareosa, which were as high as 100 per cent in places. These same species tended to have quite variable coverage values. Only Festuca rubra was over 50 per cent in all Potentilla/Poa localities in this marsh. Potentilla anserina and Parnassia palustris attained frequency values as high as 100 per cent. Coverage values nevertheless tended to be quite low, however, with most below 4 per cent.

Table 10. Dominance of plant species found in the Community
Complexes of the first cove on the north side of Jack Bay.

| Taxa | Community Complex | | |
|--|-------------------|-------|-------|
| | Pu/Sp | Pu/Ar | Pa/Pe |
| <i>Puccinellia hultenii</i> | ++ | +++ | |
| <i>Potentilla anserina</i> | | + | ++ |
| <i>Spergularia canadensis</i> | ++ | P | |
| <i>Fucus</i> spp. | + | | |
| <i>Triglochin palustris</i> | + | | |
| <i>Carex lyngbyei</i> | pa | | ++ |
| <i>Arenaria peploides</i> | | + | P |
| <i>Stellaria humifusa</i> | | P | P |
| <i>Sagina</i> | | + | |
| <i>Poa eminens</i> | | | ++ |
| <i>Festuca rubra</i> | | | +++ |
| <i>Carex glareosa</i> | | | ++ |
| <i>Parnassia palustris</i> | | | + |
| <i>Calamagrostis</i> <i>deschampsoides</i> | | | + |
| <i>Juncus arcticus</i> var. <i>balticus</i> | | | P |
| <i>Epilobium palustre</i> | | | P |
| <i>Galium trifidum</i> | | | P |
| <i>Deschampsia beringensis</i> | | | P |

(Continued)

Table 10 (Cont.)

^aIn some locations very high coverage and frequency values, absent in other locations.

Pu/Sp = Puccinellia hultenii/Spergularia canadensis

Pu/Ar = Puccinellia hultenii/Arenaria peploides

Pa/Pe = Potentilla anserina/Poa eminens

(+++)
(+++) signifies dominant or co-dominant species, ordinarily high coverage/frequency values; (++) common, important; (+) minor, coverage is low, present in most locations; (P) present in some communities, may have high or low coverage/frequency values.

Head

The marsh at the head of Jack Bay covers many hectares and was characterized by clay and silt dominated soils with a few locally sandy sites. There was narrow variation in soil pH characteristics among complexes; all the sites were acid, pH 5.6 to 6.2. Wide variation was found for other soil chemical characteristics. Although no site had extremely high sodium concentration, most locations measured between about 400 to 530 ppm. Salinity ranged from very low values of about 0.4 mmhos/cm in the higher portions in the back of the marsh to nearly 9.0 mmhos/cm in the 'pure' Carex lyngbyei vegetation in the lowest zone of the marsh. It should be noted that large numbers of salmon were observed spawning in 1974 and 1975 in the streams that are a part of this marsh.

There are five Community Complexes that are well represented in this marsh. The lowest zone is dominated by 'pure' Carex lyngbyei. In the middle zone, Carex lyngbyei/Potentilla anserina predominates in the wetter habitats, but the Potentilla anserina/Poa eminens and Potentilla anserina/Dodecatheon pulchellum Complexes, occupying progressively better drained sites, are conspicuous and important. The Potentilla/Dodecatheon Complex is very well represented in the upper portion of the middle zone and usually covers the crests of the channel banks. The uppermost vegetation sampled, Elymus mollis/Cornus canadensis Complex, would seem to be at or very near the upper limit of tidal waters.

Species diversity is 6 to 10 per stand over most of the salt marsh, with exceptions in the monospecific 'pure' Carex lyngbyei

and the Elymus/Cornus Complex which had 15 species (Table 11). Over the entire marsh, Carex lyngbyei is the most frequently occurring plant. Where it is important, the frequency is nearly always 100 per cent and the coverage comparably high, 77 to 100 per cent. In most stands, Potentilla anserina had very high coverage/frequency values, as did Festuca rubra. Where Poa eminens grows it is a dominant or co-dominant but its distribution is less widespread than the preceding species. Stellaria humifusa also deserves mention; it is not a dominant but was found, even if in very small amounts, in every stand studied except those belonging to the 'pure' Carex lyngbyei. Species such as Calamagrostis canadensis, Elymus mollis, Cornus canadensis, and Achillea millefolium borealis are of no consequence outside of the Elymus/Cornus Community Complex, where they are major species.

Table 11. Dominance of plant species found in the Community Complexes at the head of Jack Bay.

| Taxa | Community Complex | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Cl | Cl/Pa | Pa/Pe | Pa/Dp | Em/Co |
| <i>Carex lyngbyei</i> | +++ | +++ | +++ | P | ++ |
| <i>Potentilla anserina</i> | | ++ | +++ | +++ | |
| <i>Festuca rubra</i> | | ++ | ++ | +++ | |
| <i>Stellaria humifusa</i> | | ++ | + | + | + |
| <i>Poa eminens</i> | | | +++ | +++ | |
| <i>Dodecatheon pulchellum</i> | | | | + | |
| <i>Calamagrostis deschampsoides</i> | | | + | ++ | |
| <i>Deschampsia beringensis</i> | | P | | P | +++ |
| <i>Conioselinum chinense</i> | | | + | P | + |
| <i>Triglochin palustris</i> | | P | | | |
| <i>Eleocharis kamschatica</i> | | P | | | |
| <i>Chrysanthemum arcticum</i> | | | | P | |
| <i>Arenaria peploides</i> | | | | P | |
| <i>Elymus mollis</i> | | | | | +++ |
| <i>Cornus canadensis</i> | | | | | ++ |
| <i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i> | | | | | +++ |

(Continued)

Table 11 (Cont.)

| | Cl | Cl/Pa | Pa/Pe | Pa/Dp | Em/Co |
|--|----|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <i>Achillea mille-</i> <i>folium borealis</i> | | | | | +++ |
| <i>Galium trifidum</i> | | | | | ++ |
| <i>Ligusticum</i> <i>scoticum</i> | | | | | ++ |
| <i>Fritillaria</i> <i>camchatcensis</i> | | | | | + |
| <i>Sanguisorba</i> <i>sitchensis</i> | | | | | + |
| <i>Hordeum</i> <i>brachyantherum</i> | | | | | + |
| <i>Trientalis europaea</i> | | | | | + |
| <i>Polygonum</i> <i>viviparum</i> | | | | | + |

Cl = 'pure' *Carex lyngbyei*

Cl/Pa = *Carex lyngbyei*/*Potentilla anserina*

Pa/Pe = *Potentilla anserina*/*Poa eminens*

Pa/Dp = *Potentilla anserina*/*Dodecatheon pulchellum*

Em/Co - *Elymus mollis*/*Cornus canadensis*

(+++) signifies dominant or co-dominant species, ordinarily high coverage/frequency values; (++) common, important; (+) minor, coverage is low, present in most locations; (P) present in some communities, may have high or low coverage/frequency values.

Galena Bay

Only one small marsh area in Galena Bay was sampled. Gravel was evident in the lowest zone of this marsh which was covered with representatives of the Puccinellia hultenii/Fucus spp. Community Complex. In the higher zones the soils were dominated by the clay and silt separates. The middle zone was characterized by Puccinellia hultenii/Glaux maritima. Stands of the Potentilla anserina/Poa eminens Complex grew on the highest ground. The soils were circumneutral to alkaline, pH 7.0 to 8.0. Some locations in the Puccinellia/Fucus Complex were highly saline, 7.80 mmhos/cm, with the lowest values in the Puccinellia/Glaux vegetation, 0.53 mmhos/cm. It is most interesting that the soil salinity transitions are very abrupt. Extremes like those just presented routinely occurred within a spatial change of a meter or two. All the soils showed substantial quantities of sodium, up to 14,940 ppm.

Puccinellia hultenii was of significance in all the stands studied but had very high coverage/frequency values in the Puccinellia/Fucus Community Complex (Table 12). Potentilla anserina had 100 per cent frequency and medium to high coverage in every location except the lowest portion of the Puccinellia/Fucus habitat. Plantago maritima had very high coverage/frequency values in the low and middle zones. Glaux maritima had high to very high frequency but modest coverage in the low and middle zones. It is absent from the upper zone. Deschampsia berinensis and Potentilla anserina dominate the upper zone with 98/100 and 60/100 coverage/frequency values respectively. In the upper zone Triglochin maritima and Poa eminens are also important species.

Table 12. Dominance of plant species found in the Community Complexes at Galena Bay.

| Taxa | Community Complex | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------|-------|
| | Pu/Fu | Pu/Gl | Pa/Pe |
| <i>Puccinellia hultenii</i> | +++ | ++ | ++ |
| <i>Potentilla anserina</i> | P | +++ | +++ |
| <i>Fucus</i> spp. | +++ | | |
| <i>Glaux maritima</i> | ++ | ++ | |
| <i>Plantago maritima</i> | +++ | +++ | |
| <i>Poa eminens</i> | | | ++ |
| <i>Deschampsia beringensis</i> | | + | +++ |
| <i>Atriplex gmelini</i> | | | + |
| <i>Triglochin maritima</i> | | | ++ |
| <i>Festuca rubra</i> | | | + |
| <i>Stellaria humifusa</i> | P | | + |
| <i>Carex lyngbyei</i> | | | + |
| <i>Spergularia canadensis</i> | ++ | | |

Pu/Fu = *Puccinellia hultenii*/*Fucus* spp.

Pu/Gl = *Puccinellia hultenii*/*Glaux maritima*

Pa/Pe = *Potentilla anserina*/*Poa eminens*

(+++) signifies dominant or co-dominant species, ordinarily high coverage/frequency values; (++) common, important; (+) minor, coverage is low, present in most locations; (P) present in some communities, may have high or low coverage/frequency values.

Both have frequency values of 80 per cent and nearly identical coverage, 19 and 18 per cent respectively.

Diatom studies were peripheral to the major thrust of this investigation. Nevertheless, samples were taken to expand the baseline data as it was little trouble to collect them from the soil surface. Table 13 lists the major diatom taxa identified. Diatoms were identified by Dr. J. D. Koppen, Department of Botany, Newark College of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University.

Strand vegetation is a variant of salt marshes that may inhabit the sea-land interface. In Port Valdez, this vegetation grows on beaches and spits composed of gravels or cobble-sized rocks. Most of the strand is characterized by Elymus mollis. This grass is prominent in at least one zone of nearly every development of strand vegetation. Other important species are listed in Table 14.

In spite of the fact that strand was not central to this research, baseline transects were established for this kind of vegetation and are summarized in Appendix III.

Table 13. Major diatom taxa from Port Valdez marsh communities.

CENTRALES

Biddulphia aurita

Melosira nimmuloides

PINNALES

Araphidineae

Synedra tabulata var. *fasciculata*

S. tabulata var. *tabulata*

Tabellaria flocculosa var. *flocculosa*

Monoraphidineae

Achnanthes breviceps var. *intermedia*

A. hauckiana var. *hauckiana*

Cocconeis costata var. *costata*

C. scutellum var. *scutellum*

Biraphidineae

Amphipecten rutilans var. *obtusus*

A. rutilans var. *rutilans*

Amphora coffeaeformis var. *acutiuscula*

Caloneis bacillum var. *inconstantissima*

Diploneis ovalis var. *ovalis*

Frustula vitrea var. *vitrea*

Gyrosigma eximium var. *eximium*

G. fasciola var. *fasciola*

Mastigloia elliptica var. *elliptica*

Table 13. Continued

Navicula cryptocephala var. *cryptocephala*

N. peregrina

N. pygmaea var. *pygmaea*

N. sp.

Nitzschia frustulum

N. panduriformis

N. sigma

N. sigma var. *clausii*

Pleurosigma salinarum var. *salinarum*

Table 14. Scientific and common names of frequently occurring strand species in Port Valdez and vicinity.

Succulent Forbs

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Arenaria peploides</i> | Beach Sandwort |
| <i>Atriplex patula</i> | Spearscale |
| <i>Ligusticum scoticum</i> | Hulten's Sea Lovage |
| <i>Mertensia maritima</i> | Beach Bluebell or Oysterleaf |
| <i>Senecio pseudo-arnica</i> | False Beach Arnica |
| <i>Stellaria humifusa</i> | Low Chickweed |

Non-Succulent Forbs

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| <i>Angelica genuflexa</i> | Angelica |
| <i>Conioselinum chinense</i> | Western Hemlock Parsley |
| <i>Epilobium angustifolium</i> | Fireweed |
| <i>Galium aparine</i> | Cleavers |
| <i>G. trifidum</i> | Small Bedstraw |
| <i>Heracleum lanatum</i> | Cow Parsnip |
| <i>Lathyrus maritima</i> | Beach Pea |
| <i>Potentilla anserina</i> | Pacific Silverweed |
| <i>Sanguisorba sitchensis</i> ^a (<i>Sanguisorba stipulata</i>) | Sitka Burnet |

^aNot *Sorbus sitchensis* as indicated in the original table.

Table 14 (Cont.)

Graminoids

Calamagrostis canadensis

Carex lyngbyei

Deschampsia beringensis

Elymus mollis

Festuca rubra

Hordeum brachyantherum

Poa eminens

Puccinellia hultenii

Fucoids

Fucus spp.

Bluejoint

Lyngbye Sedge

Bering Hairgrass

Dunegrass or Beach Rye

Red Fescue

Meadow Barley

Large-flower Bluegrass

Hulten's Mudgrass or
Alkaligrass

Rockweed

Discussion and Recommendations

The diversity of plant species and their abundance in assorted kinds of vegetation were documented. In addition to a sizeable number of frequently occurring species, about 28 to 30, the diversity of common Community Complexes was rather high (17). For the most part, the marshes show a fresh to brackish water character and there is much less development of the Puccinellia/succulent species Community Complexes that are abundant in places like Kachemak Bay. Nevertheless, evidence of saline influences was present at all sites.

This is important for several reasons, since in the event of an oil spill, the degree of salt marsh damage is expected to vary with factors such as degree of tidal influx, tide level, location, season, and, of course, extent and duration of a spill. The factors that seem to be primary in an assessment of potential oil spill hazard are location and degree of tidal influx. For example, a site with tremendous fresh water outflow tends to be less likely to have oil carried over it than one in which the saline tidal waters that may carry oil dwarf the amount of fresh water outflow. In other words, exposure of the vegetation and soils to spilled oil is most probable and of primary concern in circumstances where the sea water is not greatly diluted with fresh water.

The following marshes seem to be of greatest concern:

Sawmill Creek - Port Valdez;

Gold Creek - Port Valdez;

nearly all the strand of Port Valdez,
the Narrows, and the main shores of
adjacent areas within Prince William
Sound.

These marsh areas are characterized by Puccinellia/succulent
vegetation and are near the Terminus or transport route.

Some caution should be observed in an assessment of other
areas, especially in the winter when fresh water outflow may be
minimal and oil in a tide could flow over areas that would not be
subject to such hazards in the summer months. With this reser-
vation, the remaining marsh areas would seem to be less worrisome.
Possible exceptions are the Valdez East, West, and Terminus marsh
sites; these marshes do have substantial salt water influences
from time to time and are rather close to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline
Terminus.

At this time it would seem that the greatest concern should
be for spills occurring simultaneously with monthly or seasonal
high tides.

The marshes of Jack Bay are probably the safest in terms of
potential oil spill hazards of those in the vicinity of Port Valdez.
These marshes are characterized by vegetation that corresponds
with a decided net outflux of fresh water. In addition, the largest
and most important marshes are well back into the Bay, thereby

reducing the probability of impact. In the event that oil is spilled into Jack Bay, a greater time (several days) should be available for a thorough clean-up operation.

One exception is the small marsh in the first cove on the south side of Jack Bay. Although there is a substantial outflow of fresh water, this marsh is at the head of the Bay and is much closer to the Narrows and possible spill locations. Let me point out that this marsh was the site of rather dense Pink Salmon spawning when checked in 1974.

The marshes of Sawmill Bay are of an intermediate degree of concern with respect to oil spill damage. Although fresh water influences prevail, the principal marsh (at the head of the Bay) is not far from the Narrows and the main bay of the Valdez Arm. Seasonal high tides and winter monthly high tides would seem to be times when the likelihood of oil encroachment on the vegetation is greatest.

It should be noted that Hell's Hole, Prince William Sound, was visited briefly in 1974 and found to have an abundance of Puccinellia/succulent vegetation. Although not in Port Valdez, it is possible that Hell's Hole and similar areas elsewhere along the route of oil vessels may be equally susceptible to oil spill damage. Hell's Hole is reported to be important to sea birds and other animal species (L. Sowl, vive voce).

Two primary recommendations seem essential if the impact of oil transport and related activities is to be documented. First, a systematic revisitation of selected plots is necessary. Without such continuing research it is likely that the separation of oil impact from normal successional changes will be impossible.

Second, baseline plots should be placed in many additional locations within Prince William Sound and in selected locations along the entire coast of Alaska.

In addition, oil damage vegetation tests should be performed in the marshes to aid in the evaluation of oil spill damage and to further quantify oil spill hazards.

Reclamation-oriented research is also advocated. Tests on germination, growth, vegetative reproduction, and the like may some day be valuable in the reestablishment of vegetation damaged by oil.

Summary

The salt marsh resources of Port Valdez and vicinity were found to be substantial and 62 locations were selected as baseline sites. The sites were spread widely over the region and include 17 distinct plant Community Complexes that may serve to document the regional impact of oil transport from Port Valdez. Identification of the Community Complexes should be useful in salt marsh mapping. Most of the areas revealed major fresh water influences, a factor that seems to lessen the vulnerability of the marshes to oil spill damage.

The marshes appearing to be most vulnerable to oil spillage were found in Port Valdez. These two marshes, Gold Creek and Sawmill Creek, are characterized by Puccinellia hultenii/succulent vegetation and are regularly inundated by saline or brackish waters.

A selection of the baseline sites must be revisited from time to time in order to characterize natural successional trends. In the absence of such continuing research, it may be impossible to separate natural from oil spill related changes.

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APPENDIX I

For each set of Complexes, it is suggested that they be laid on a table top as a set to facilitate examination. The position of each page is indicated by the numbers in the upper right hand corner. The first number indicates the row and the second number the column. For example, the layout for set A is:

A-1,1 A-1,2 A-1,3 A-1,4

A-2,1 A-2,2 A-2,3 A-2,4

Note that the order of plant species is the same for any given set.

Symbols

** = To be determined

+/ = 0.5% coverage or less

+ = Not found in any of the microplots but present within the macroplot.

Set A

1,1

Puccinellia hultenii/
Spergularia canadensis Complex

| Stand number | 129A | 129B | 132B |
|------------------------|------|------|------|
| Soil | | | |
| pH, paste | 5.0 | 6.5 | 7.5 |
| pH, extract | 6.5 | 5.6 | 7.9 |
| Conductivity, mmhos/cm | 3.60 | 2.40 | 3.30 |
| Ca, ppm | 300 | 450 | 1175 |
| Mg, ppm | 212 | 276 | 300 |
| K, ppm | 29 | 38 | 80 |
| Na, ppm | 800 | 1000 | 1160 |

| Species | Coverage/Frequency | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|------|--------|
| <i>Glaux maritima</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Potentilla anserina</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Plantago maritima</i> | - | - | +/20 |
| <i>Puccinellia hultenii</i> | 50/100 | 2/50 | 88/100 |
| <i>Fucus</i> spp. | 4/90 | 6/80 | - |
| <i>Spergularia canadensis</i> | 16/100 | 2/40 | 1/40 |
| <i>Arenaria peploides</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Cochlearia officinalis</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Sagina crassicaulis</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Stellaria humifusa</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Atriplex gmelinii</i> | - | - | - |

Puccinellia hultenii/Fucus spp. Complex

| 133 | 87 | 125 | 84 | 126 | 70 | 72 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 7.5 | 6.7 | 7.5 | 7.1 | 7.7 | 7.0f | 7.7 |
| 7.4 | 6.7 | 7.3 | 7.8 | 7.0 | 7.28 | 7.9 |
| 2.70 | 1.02 | 3.70 | 3.10 | 7.80 | 0.81 | 0.75 |
| 350 | 59 | 975 | 67 | 1275 | 150 | 30 |
| 287 | 645 | 1070 | 600 | 1200 | 450 | 415 |
| 73 | 12 | 178 | 60 | 190 | 18 | 10 |
| 880 | 115 | 1760 | 569 | 2600 | 590 | 1173 |

Coverage/Frequency

| | | | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| + / 20 | - | 3 / 60 | + / 10 | 14 / 100 | 19 / 100 | 15 / 100 |
| - | - | - | + | 55 / 100 | 14 / 60 | 16 / 30 |
| 13 / 90 | - | 43 / 100 | 40 / 100 | 86 / 100 | 2 / 30 | 2 / 10 |
| 88 / 100 | 2 / 100 | 92 / 100 | 20 / 100 | 73 / 100 | 41 / 100 | 38 / 100 |
| + / 10 | 2 / 70 | 14 / 100 | 57 / 100 | 2 / 30 | 7 / 90 | 2 / 20 |
| 1 / 40 | + / 20 | 8 / 100 | 6 / 100 | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | 8 / 30 | 9 / 40 |
| - | 24 / 100 | - | + / 20 | - | - | - |
| - | + / 10 | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | 3 / 30 | - | - | - |
| - | - | + / 10 | + | - | - | - |

f = Field Determination

Set A

1,3

Puccinellia hultenii/Arenaria peploides Complex

| Stand number | 82 | 83 |
|------------------------|------|------|
| Soil | | |
| pH, paste | 7.0 | 7.6 |
| pH, extract | 7.5 | 8.0 |
| Conductivity, mmhos/cm | 3.10 | 2.70 |
| Ca, ppm | 98 | 160 |
| Mg, ppm | 630 | 460 |
| K, ppm | 42 | 26 |
| Na, ppm | 552 | 451 |

| Species | Coverage/Frequency | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------|
| <i>Glaux maritima</i> | 1/40 | 1/50 |
| <i>Potentilla anserina</i> | 10/80 | 2/30 |
| <i>Plantago maritima</i> | 77/100 | 48/100 |
| <i>Puccinellia hultenii</i> | 86/100 | 74/100 |
| <i>Fucus</i> spp. | - | - |
| <i>Spergularia canadensis</i> | - | + / 30 |
| <i>Arenaria peploides</i> | 16/50 | 2/10 |
| <i>Cochlearia officinalis</i> | - | + |
| <i>Sagina</i> | - | - |
| <i>Stellaria humifusa</i> | + / 10 | + / 20 |
| <i>Atriplex gmelinii</i> | - | - |

Puccinellia hultenii/Arenaria peploides Complex

| 76 | 77 | 73 |
|----|----|----|
|----|----|----|

| | | |
|------|------|------|
| 6.0 | 6.3 | 7.1 |
| 6.8 | 7.0 | 7.4 |
| 1.45 | 1.21 | 1.15 |
| 75 | 37 | 41 |
| 760 | 550 | 490 |
| 4 | 4 | 21 |
| 230 | 230 | 166 |

Coverage/Frequency

| | | |
|--------|--------|--------|
| - | - | 2/60 |
| +/10 | +/20 | - |
| - | - | 48/100 |
| 12/100 | 24/100 | 42/100 |
| - | - | - |
| - | +/20 | 9/100 |
| 2/30 | 10/70 | 4/10 |
| 38/100 | 18/100 | - |
| 2/80 | 2/90 | - |
| - | 2/20 | - |
| - | - | - |

Puccinellia hultenii/
Spergularia canadensis Complex

| Stand number | 129A | 129B | 132B |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| <i>Atriplex drymarioides</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Carex lyngbyei</i> | - | 93/100 | - |
| <i>Triglochin palustris</i> | 9/100 | +/10 | - |

Puccinellia hultenii/Fucus spp. Complex

| | | | | | | |
|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|----|
| 133 | 87 | 125 | 84 | 126 | 70 | 72 |
|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|----|

| | | | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| +/10 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Set A

2,3

Puccinellia hultenii/Arenaria peploides Complex

| Stand number | 82 | 83 |
|------------------------------|----|----|
| <i>Atriplex drymarioides</i> | - | - |
| <i>Carex lyngbyei</i> | - | - |
| <i>Triglochin palustris</i> | - | - |

Puccinellia hultenii/Arenaria peploides Complex

76

77

73

-

-

-

-

-

-

-

-

-

Puccinellia hultenii/Glaux maritima Complex

| Stand number | 132A | 71 | 122 |
|------------------------|------|------|------|
| Soil | | | |
| pH, paste | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.5 |
| pH, extract | 8.0 | 7.7 | 7.6 |
| Conductivity, mmhos/cm | 3.70 | 0.69 | 1.23 |
| Ca, ppm | 425 | 30 | 1250 |
| Mg, ppm | 222 | 295 | 380 |
| K, ppm | 71 | 4 | 79 |
| Na, ppm | 1520 | 69 | 560 |

| Species | Coverage/Frequency | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|------|--------|
| <i>Glaux maritima</i> | 38/100 | +/20 | +/10 |
| <i>Puccinellia hultenii</i> | 4/90 | 1/40 | 42/100 |
| <i>Triglochin maritima</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Potentilla anserina</i> | - | - | 98/100 |
| <i>Carex lyngbyei</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Stellaria humifusa</i> | - | - | +/10 |
| <i>Plantago maritima</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Eleocharis kantschatica</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Chrysanthemum arcticum</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Ranunculus cymbalaria</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Arenaria peploides</i> | - | 2/30 | 10/20 |

Set B

1,2

Puccinellia hultenii/Glaux maritima Complex

| 134 | 127 | 91 | 39-74 | 40-74 | 42-74 | 43-74 |
|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 8.0 | 8.0 | 6.7 | 6.2 | 5.5 | 3.9 | 5.0 |
| 8.4 | 7.9 | - | 7.0 | 5.6 | 4.0 | 5.0 |
| 2.60 | 0.53 | 2.45 | 3.3 | 12.0 | 15.1 | 14.0 |
| 575 | 250 | 59 | 36 | 126 | 153 | 258 |
| 353 | 440 | 690 | 85 | 370 | 675 | 650 |
| 78 | 166 | 64 | 24 | 122 | 130 | 238 |
| 720 | 840 | 360 | 685 | 3215 | 3470 | 4605 |

 Coverage/Frequency

| | | | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| +/10 | 5/90 | 26/100 | 4/100 | 2/90 | 2/50 | +/10 |
| 76/100 | 6/70 | 14/100 | 13/70 | 74/100 | 66/100 | 82/100 |
| - | - | 24/100 | 17/100 | 12/100 | 26/100 | 34/90 |
| - | 33/100 | 74/100 | 18/90 | 42/100 | 55/100 | +/20 |
| - | - | 16/90 | 93/100 | 98/100 | 98/100 | 33/80 |
| - | - | +/10 | +/20 | 4/90 | 14/100 | 2/10 |
| 69/100 | 84/100 | 15/100 | 3/100 | 5/60 | 9/70 | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | 21/100 | 2/30 |
| - | - | - | - | - | 8/80 | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | 5/50 | - |
| - | - | 2/10 | - | - | - | - |

Set B

1, 3

Potentilla anserina/Poa eminens Complex

| Stand number | 347 | 121 | 118 |
|------------------------|------|------|-----------------------|
| Soil | | | |
| pH, paste | 6.2 | 6.4 | 6.5f |
| pH, extract | 6.3 | 6.7 | |
| Conductivity, mmhos/cm | 3.00 | 0.84 | |
| Ca, ppm | 71 | 300 | Destroyed in shipment |
| Mg, ppm | 1200 | 241 | |
| K, ppm | 90 | 63 | |
| Na, ppm | 598 | 232 | |

| Species | Coverage/Frequency | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------|--------|
| <i>Glaux maritima</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Puccinellia hultenii</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Triglochin maritima</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Potentilla anserina</i> | 7/40 | 90/100 | 82/100 |
| <i>Carex lyngbyei</i> | 98/100 | 2/10 | 29/70 |
| <i>Stellaria humifusa</i> | - | + | 3/70 |
| <i>Plantago maritima</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Eleocharis kantschatica</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Chrysanthemum arcticum</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Ranunculus cymbalaria</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Arenaria peploides</i> | - | - | - |

f = Field Determination

Set B

1.4

Potentilla anserina/Poa eminens Complex

| | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 130 | 131 | 115 | 79 | 346 | 128 |
| 7.0 | 7.0 | 6.5 | 5.9 | 6.0 | 7.0 |
| 6.5 | 6.5 | 5.7 | 6.4 | 6.5 | 7.0 |
| 0.14 | 0.82 | 0.83 | 3.25 | 5.40 | 3.85 |
| 250 | 600 | 500 | 82 | 100 | 3900 |
| 131 | 390 | 305 | 760 | 2800 | 5560 |
| 27 | 36 | 100 | 58 | 92 | 1620 |
| 126 | 880 | 102 | 529 | 667 | 14940 |

Coverage/Frequency

| | | | | | |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | 12/40 |
| - | - | - | - | 11/60 | 19/80 |
| 2/50 | 33/100 | 58/100 | 82/100 | 16/90 | 60/100 |
| 3/30 | 90/100 | 95/100 | 77/100 | 84/100 | + |
| - | 2/80 | 2/80 | +/20 | 29/100 | +/10 |
| - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 32/90 | - | - | - | - | - |

Carex pluriflora/
Deschampsia beringensis
Complex

| Stand number | 1114B | 114A |
|------------------------|-------|------|
| Soil | | |
| pH, paste | 4.5 | 4.0 |
| pH, extract | 5.5 | 4.7 |
| Conductivity, mmhos/cm | 0.38 | 0.22 |
| Ca, ppm | 2000 | 2250 |
| Mg, ppm | 1575 | 1713 |
| K, ppm | 923 | 1075 |
| Na, ppm | 1836 | 510 |

| Species | Coverage/Frequency | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|------|
| <i>Glaux maritima</i> | - | - |
| <i>Puccinellia hultenii</i> | - | - |
| <i>Triglochin maritima</i> | - | - |
| <i>Potentilla anserina</i> | - | - |
| <i>Carex lyngbyei</i> | 10/40 | - |
| <i>Stellaria humifusa</i> | 1/40 | 4/40 |
| <i>Plantago maritima</i> | - | - |
| <i>Eleocharis kantschatica</i> | - | - |
| <i>Chrysanthemum arcticum</i> | - | - |
| <i>Ranunculus cymbalaria</i> | - | - |
| <i>Arenaria peploides</i> | - | - |

Carex lyngbyei/Calamagrostis canadensis

&

Calamagrostis canadensis/Galium trifidum
Complex

114C 119

6.2 7.0

6.0 6.2

0.86 0.42

2213 2032

1040 230

273 55

1000 480

Coverage/Frequency

88/100

Set B

2,1

Puccinellia hultenii/Glaux maritima Complex

| Stand number | 132A | 71 | 122 |
|-------------------------------|------|----|-----|
| Deschampsia beringensis | - | - | - |
| Poa eminens | - | - | - |
| Festuca rubra | - | - | - |
| Carex glareosa | - | - | - |
| Parnassia palustris | - | - | - |
| Calamagrostis deschampsoides | - | - | - |
| Juncus arcticus var. balticus | - | - | - |
| Epilobium palustre | - | - | - |
| Galium trifidum | - | - | - |
| Atriplex gmelinii | - | - | - |
| Carex pluriflora | - | - | - |
| Trientalis europaea | - | - | - |
| Conioselinum chinense | - | - | - |
| Calamagrostis canadensis | - | - | - |
| Cornus canadensis | - | - | - |
| Rubus stellatus | - | - | - |
| Achillea millefolium borealis | - | - | - |
| Sphagnum spp. | - | - | - |
| Triglochin palustris | - | - | - |

Potentilla anserina/Poa eminens Complex

| Stand number | 347 | 121 | 118 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|
| <i>Deschampsia beringensis</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Poa eminens</i> | 30/100 | 98/100 | 91/100 |
| <i>Festuca rubra</i> | - | - | 27/90 |
| <i>Carex glareosa</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Parnassia palustris</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Calamagrostis deschampsoides</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Juncus arcticus</i> var. <i>balticus</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Epilobium palustre</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Galium trifidum</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Atriplex gmelinii</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Carex pluriflora</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Trientalis europaea</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Conioselinum chinense</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Cornus canadensis</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Rubus stellatus</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Achillea millefolium borealis</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Sphagnum</i> spp. | - | - | - |
| <i>Triglochin palustris</i> | - | - | - |

Potentilla anserina/Poa eminens Complex

| 130 | 131 | 115 | 79 | 346 | 128 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| - | 3/20 | - | - | - | 98/100 |
| 4/90 | 48/100 | 28/100 | 88/100 | 19/90 | 18/80 |
| 56/100 | 92/100 | 7/40 | 32/70 | 12/40 | 6/40 |
| 60/100 | 6/40 | 16/70 | - | - | - |
| 4/100 | 2/70 | - | - | - | - |
| +/10 | 28/90 | 98/100 | +/10 | - | - |
| 22/90 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1/30 | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | 5/100 | 1/40 | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | +/20 |
| - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | 6/40 | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | 18/100 | - |

Carex pluriflora/
Deschampsia beringensis
Complex

| Stand number | 114B | 114A |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Deschampsia beringensis | 36/100 | 2/40 |
| Poa eminens | 8/40 | - |
| Festuca rubra | 14/80 | +/20 |
| Carex glareosa | +/20 | - |
| Parnassia palustris | - | - |
| Calamagrostis deschampsoides | 88/100 | - |
| Juncus arcticus var. balticus | - | - |
| Epilobium palustre | 2/60 | - |
| Galium trifidum | 2/80 | - |
| Atriplex gmelinii | - | - |
| Carex pluriflora | 98/100 | 98/100 |
| Trientalis europaea | 2/80 | 2/60 |
| Conioselinum chinense | +/20 | - |
| Calamagrostis canadensis | - | 57/100 |
| Cornus canadensis | - | 42/100 |
| Rubus stellatus | - | 52/100 |
| Achillea millefolium borealis | - | 8/20 |
| Sphagnum spp. | - | 17/20 |
| Triglochin palustris | - | - |

Carex lyngbyei/Calamagrostis canadensis

&

Calamagrostis canadensis/Galium trifidum
Complex

| 114C | 119 |
|--------|--------|
| 17/20 | - |
| 24/100 | - |
| 69/100 | - |
| - | - |
| - | - |
| 10/40 | - |
| - | - |
| - | - |
| +/20 | +/20 |
| - | - |
| - | - |
| - | - |
| - | - |
| 31/100 | 98/100 |
| - | - |
| - | - |
| - | - |
| - | - |
| - | - |

Pure
Carex lyngbyei
Complex

| Stand number | 38A | 78 |
|------------------------|-------|------|
| Soil | | |
| pH, paste | 5.0 | 6.2 |
| pH, extract | 5.1 | 6.8 |
| Conductivity, mmhos/cm | 9.2 | 8.90 |
| Ca, ppm | 108.5 | 220 |
| Mg, ppm | 630 | 865 |
| K, ppm | 36 | 70 |
| Na, ppm | 2710 | 1553 |

| Species | Coverage/Frequency | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------|
| <i>Carex lyngbyei</i> | 98/100 | 98/100 |
| <i>Potentilla anserina</i> | - | - |
| <i>Stellaria humifusa</i> | - | - |
| <i>Festuca rubra</i> | - | - |
| <i>Puccinellia hultenii</i> | - | - |
| <i>Triglochin palustris</i> | - | - |
| <i>Coaioselinum chinense</i> | - | - |
| <i>Poa eminens</i> | - | - |
| <i>Dodecatheon pulchellum</i> | - | - |
| <i>Calamagrostis deschampsoides</i> | - | - |
| <i>Deschampsia beringensis</i> | - | - |

Set C

1,3

Carex lyngbyei/
Potentilla anserina Complex

| Stand number | 89 | 90 | 86 |
|------------------------|------|------|------|
| Soil | | | |
| pH, paste | 6.9 | 6.1 | 5.9 |
| pH, extract | 6.9 | 6.8 | 6.7 |
| Conductivity, mmhos/cm | 5.02 | 5.70 | 4.02 |
| Ca, ppm | 110 | 150 | 130 |
| Mg, ppm | 780 | 795 | 645 |
| K, ppm | 80 | 117 | 69 |
| Na, ppm | 746 | 759 | 529 |

| Species | Coverage/Frequency | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------|--------|
| Carex lyngbyei | 98/100 | 98/100 | 98/100 |
| Potentilla anserina | 6/40 | 64/100 | 1/40 |
| Stellaria humifusa | 4/80 | 7/90 | 32/100 |
| Festuca rubra | - | + | 4/20 |
| Puccinellia hultenii | 3/70 | 1/30 | - |
| Triglochin palustris | - | 2/30 | 15/80 |
| Conioselinum chinense | - | - | - |
| Poa eminens | - | - | - |
| Dodecatheon pulchellum | - | - | - |
| Calamagrostis deschampsiioides | - | - | - |
| Deschampsia beringensis | - | - | - |

Set C

1,4

Carex
lyngbyei/
Potentilla
anserina
Complex

Potentilla anserina/
Dodecatheon pulchellum Complex

| 85 | 334 | 335 | 80 | 75 | 74 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 5.7 | 6.2 | 6.29 | 5.6 | 6.0 | 5.6 |
| 6.5 | 6.6 | 6.6 | 5.7 | 6.7 | 6.2 |
| 2.28 | 2.00 | 1.70 | 2.40 | 2.50 | 3.55 |
| 88 | 53 | 30 | 35 | 67 | 82 |
| 490 | 1500 | 710 | 550 | 445 | 490 |
| 42 | 78 | 47 | 13 | 26 | 27 |
| 393 | 540 | 472 | 540 | 414 | 520 |

Coverage/Frequency

| | | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 98/100 | 84/100 | 78/100 | 8/20 | 2/20 | - |
| 95/100 | 64/100 | 52/100 | 83/100 | 76/100 | 76/100 |
| 3/60 | 6/100 | 13/100 | 10/100 | 1/30 | +/20 |
| 8/70 | - | 2/50 | 94/100 | 94/100 | 98/100 |
| - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | 7/50 | 25/100 | +/20 | - |
| - | 55/100 | 23/100 | 76/100 | 45/100 | 64/100 |
| - | 3/30 | 20/90 | 2/60 | 2/20 | +/10 |
| - | 5/40 | 48/100 | 7/60 | 6/60 | 34/100 |
| 8/20 | - | - | - | 10/40 | 3/20 |

Pure
Carex lyngbyei
Complex

| Stand number | 38A | 78 |
|--------------------------------|-----|----|
| <i>Arenaria peploides</i> | - | - |
| <i>Chrysanthemum arcticum</i> | - | - |
| <i>Eleocharis kantschatica</i> | - | - |
| <i>Zannichellia palustris</i> | - | - |
| <i>Potamogeton pectinatus</i> | - | - |
| <i>Triglochin maritima</i> | - | - |

Pure
Carex lyngbyei
Complex

Carex lyngbyei/Eleocharis
kamtschatica &
Eleocharis kamtschatica
dominant Complex

182A

117

37A

37B

37C

-

-

-

-

-

-

-

-

-

-

-

-

92/100

98/100

66/100

-

-

1/30

-

-

-

-

-

2/20

-

-

-

-

-

-

Set C

2,3

Carex lyngbyei/
Potentilla anserina Complex

| Stand number | 89 | 90 | 86 |
|-------------------------------|----|----|------|
| <i>Arenaria peploides</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Chrysanthemum arcticum</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Eleocharis kamschatica</i> | - | - | 2/20 |
| <i>Zannichellia palustris</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Potamogeton pectinatus</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Triglochin maritima</i> | - | - | - |

Carex
lyngbyei/
Potentilla
anserina
Complex

Potentilla anserina/
Dodecatheon pulchellum Complex

| 85 | 334 | 335 | 80 | 75 | 74 |
|----|--------|--------|------|--------|------|
| - | - | - | - | 15/100 | 1/30 |
| - | 11/80 | 10/80 | 4/10 | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | 22/100 | 18/100 | - | - | - |

Pure
Arenaria peploides
Complex

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Stand number | 123 |
|--------------|-----|

Soil

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| pH, paste | 7.5 |
| pH, extract | 7.4 |
| Conductivity, mmhos/cm | 1.32 |
| Ca, ppm | 975 |
| Mg, ppm | 141 |
| K, ppm | 46 |
| Na, ppm | 212 |

Species

Coverage/Frequency

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Arenaria peploides | 98/100 |
| Elymus mollis | - |
| Galium aparine | - |
| Festuca rubra | - |
| Potentilla anserina | - |
| Calamagrostis canadensis | - |
| Cornus canadensis | - |
| Achillea millefolium ssp. borealis | - |
| Deschampsia beringensis | - |
| Galium trifidum | - |
| Ligusticum scoticum | - |

Set D

1,2

| <u>Elymus mollis/ Arenaria peploides Complex</u> | <u>Elymus mollis/ Festuca rubra Complex</u> | | <u>Elymus mollis/ Cornus canadensis Complex</u> |
|--|---|------|---|
| 124 | 116 | 120 | 81 |
| 7.0 | 7.2 | 7.5 | 5.6 |
| 7.4 | 6.0 | 6.5 | 6.3 |
| .44 | .57 | 0.57 | 0.41 |
| 1500 | 635 | 4860 | 41 |
| 108 | 375 | 2268 | 490 |
| 55 | 45 | 630 | 23 |
| 54 | 130 | 2320 | 49 |

Coverage/Frequency

| | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 65/90 | - | - | - |
| 90/100 | 98/100 | 98/100 | 60/100 |
| 2/10 | - | - | - |
| - | 48/60 | 4/10 | - |
| - | 5/90 | + /20 | - |
| - | - | - | 70/100 |
| - | - | - | 26/100 |
| - | - | - | 55/100 |
| - | - | - | 49/100 |
| - | - | - | 6/90 |
| - | - | - | 5/90 |

Pure
Arenaria peploides
Complex

| Stand number | 123 |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Carex lyngbyei | - |
| Fritillaria camtchatcensis | - |
| Sanguisorba sitchensis | - |
| Stellaria humifusa | - |
| Hordeum brachyantherum | - |
| Trientalis europaea | - |
| Conioselinum chinense | - |
| Polygonum viviparum | - |

| <u>Elymus mollis/ Arenaria peploides Complex</u> | <u>Elymus mollis/ Festuca rubra Complex</u> | | <u>Elymus mollis/ Cornus canadensis Complex</u> |
|--|---|-----|---|
| 124 | 116 | 120 | 81 |
| - | - | - | 22/90 |
| - | - | - | 8/60 |
| - | - | - | 13/50 |
| - | - | - | 1/40 |
| - | - | - | 7/30 |
| - | - | - | 1/30 |
| - | - | - | + / 20 |
| - | - | - | + / 10 |

APPENDIX II

Valdez West Marsh: Comparisons for 1970, 1974, and 1975

West Marsh: Comparisons for 1970, 1974, & 1975

| Stand-Year | 39-70 | 39-74 | 39-75 |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Soil | | | |
| pH, paste | 5.9 | 6.2 | 5.85 |
| pH, extract | 6.0 | 7.0 | 6.60 |
| Conductivity, mmhos/cm | 14.4 | 3.3 | 7.32 |
| Ca, ppm | 198 | 36 | 160 |
| Mg, ppm | 440 | 85 | 900 |
| K, ppm | 217 | 24 | 64 |
| Na, ppm | 4210 | 685 | 360 |

| Species | Coverage/Frequency | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------|--------|
| <i>Glaux maritima</i> | 6/100 | 4/100 | 6/100 |
| <i>Puccinellia hultenii</i> | - | 13/70 | 14/90 |
| <i>Triglochin maritima</i> | 20/100 | 17/100 | 6/70 |
| <i>Potentilla anserina</i> | + / 20 | 18/90 | 18/100 |
| <i>Carex lyngbyei</i> | 98/100 | 93/100 | 94/100 |
| <i>Stellaria humifusa</i> | - | + / 20 | 2/80 |
| <i>Plantago maritima</i> | 3/20 | 3/100 | 3/30 |
| <i>Eleocharis kamschatica</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Chrysanthemum arcticum</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Ranunculus cymbalaria</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Calamagrostis inexpansa</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>Triglochin palustris</i> | - | - | 2/30 |
| <i>Festuca rubra</i> | - | - | - |

 West Marsh: Comparisons for 1970, 1974, & 1975

| 40-70 | 40-74 | 40-75 | | 42-70 | 42-74 | 42-75 |
|-------|-------|-------|--|-------|-------|-------|
| 5.2 | 5.5 | 5.5 | | 5.4 | 3.9 | 5.3 |
| 5.2 | 5.6 | 6.0 | | 5.7 | 4.0 | 5.7 |
| 13.2 | 12.0 | 8.85 | | 7.6 | 15.1 | 5.30 |
| 154 | 126 | 98 | | 126 | 153 | 75 |
| 295 | 370 | 2500 | | 220 | 675 | 4500 |
| 142 | 122 | 102 | | 104 | 130 | 107 |
| 3360 | 3215 | 1495 | | 1830 | 3470 | 799 |

 Coverage/Frequency

| | | | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--|--------|--------|--------|
| 2/100 | 2/90 | 1/40 | | 3/60 | 2/50 | 2/40 |
| 13/90 | 74/100 | 8/100 | | 3/100 | 66/100 | 6/70 |
| 38/100 | 12/100 | 22/100 | | 52/100 | 26/100 | 33/100 |
| 43/100 | 42/100 | 50/100 | | 62/100 | 55/100 | 47/100 |
| 98/100 | 98/100 | 98/100 | | 95/100 | 98/100 | 94/100 |
| 2/60 | 4/90 | 5/90 | | 10/90 | 14/100 | 22/100 |
| 4/70 | 5/60 | 4/50 | | 26/100 | 9/70 | 8/70 |
| - | - | - | | 85/100 | 21/100 | 27/100 |
| - | - | - | | 7/70 | 8/100 | 3/70 |
| - | - | - | | 7/50 | 5/50 | - |
| - | - | - | | 2/20 | - | - |
| - | - | - | | - | - | 4/80 |
| - | - | - | | - | - | 1/40 |

 West Marsh: Comparisons for 1970, 1974, & 1975

| 43-70 | 43-74 | 43-75 |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 5.3 | 5.0 | 6.3 |
| 5.0 | 5.0 | 6.7 |
| 9.6 | 14.0 | 12.3 |
| 158 | 258 | 220 |
| 340 | 650 | 660 |
| 113 | 238 | 164 |
| 2520 | 4605 | 2220 |

 Coverage/Frequency

| - | + / 10 | + |
|--------|--------|--------|
| 98/100 | 82/100 | 91/100 |
| 23/100 | 34/90 | 40/100 |
| + / 20 | + / 20 | + / 10 |
| 4/30 | 33/30 | 44/100 |
| + / 20 | 2/10 | 3/60 |
| - | - | - |
| - | 2/30 | 2/100 |
| - | - | - |
| - | - | - |
| - | - | - |
| - | - | + / 20 |
| - | - | - |

APPENDIX III

The numbers that correspond with each species are coverage class values (Daubenmire 1959).

blank = not present

1 = 0 to 5 per cent cover

2 = 5 to 25 per cent cover

3 = 25 to 50 per cent cover

4 = 50 to 75 per cent cover

5 = 75 to 95 per cent cover

6 = 95 to 100 per cent cover

 T329 - Northwest of Minaral Creek

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| <i>Elymus mollis</i> | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| density | 29 | 38 | 30 | 27 | 34 | 25 | 14 | 24 |
| height | 190 | 180 | 175 | 160 | 160 | 169 | 133 | 180 |
| <i>Galium aparine</i> | | | 1 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| <i>Ligusticum hultenii</i> | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Alnus fruticosa</i> | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Urtica lyallii</i> | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Angelica genuflexa</i> | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Sorbus sitkensis</i> | | | | | | | | |

Microplots every 2 dm to 9.0 m (see Strand Locations)

T329 - Northwest of Mineral Creek

| | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 4 |
| 22 | 12 | 16 | 9 | 18 | 5 | 7 |
| 160 | 150 | 183 | 180 | 191 | 185 | 170 |
| 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 2 | |
| | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | | | | | | 3 |
| | | | | | | 4 |
| | | | | 1 | | 2 |
| | | 2 | 6 | 2 | | |

 T314 - Southernmost Area of Bowie Camp

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|
| <i>Elymus mollis</i> | | | 5 | 5 | 2 |
| density | | | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| height | | | | | 97 |
| <i>Arenaria peploides</i> | 2 | | | 1 | 3 |
| <i>Atriplex alaskensis</i> | | + | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Crucifer sp. | | | 1 | 1 | |
| <i>Galium aparine</i> | | | | 2 | 5 |
| <i>Mertensia maritima</i> | | | | 2 | 1 |
| <i>Ligusticum hultenii</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Trientalis europaea</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Heracleum lanatum</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Epilobium angustifolium</i> | | | | | |

Microplots every 2 dm

T314 - Southernmost Area of Bowie Camp

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 13 | 18 | 11 | 5 | | | | | 3 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 5 |
| 173 | 170 | 183 | 152 | | | | | 150 | 168 | 170 | 165 | 140 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|
| 3 | 1 | 3 | | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | | | + | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | |
| 2 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 63 | | |
| | | | | | 6 | | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | + |

T314 - Southernmost Area of Bowie Camp

| | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 10 | 9 | 15 | 4 | 10 | 16 |
| 163 | 132 | 137 | 138 | 118 | 125 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | |
| | | | | | 1 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| 1 | 1 | | 3 | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|

T331 - Sawmill Bay

Elymus mollis

density

height

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|-----|
| <i>Puccinellia nutkaensis</i> | 3 | 1 | | | 2 |
| <i>Arenaria peploides</i> | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | |
| <i>Fucus</i> | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | |
| <i>Carex lyngbyei</i> | | | 5 | | 3 6 |
| <i>Stellaria humifusa</i> | | | | | 1 |
| <i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Festuca rubra</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Poa eminens</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Galium trifidum</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Hordeum brachyantherum</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Potentilla anserina</i> | | | | | |

Microplots every 0.5m

T331 - Sawmill Bay

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|-----|-----|-----|--|----|----|-----|----|----|
| | 2 | 3 | 5 | 5 | | 6 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| | 2 | 5 | 8 | 10 | | 17 | 12 | 11 | 3 | 3 |
| | 10 | 110 | 100 | 120 | | 94 | 83 | 113 | 85 | 80 |
| 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | 4 | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | |
| | | | 2 | | | | | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| | | | | | | | | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 |
| | | | | | | 1 | | | | |

DRIFT LOG

DRIFT LOG

APPENDIX IV

Site Versus Location Cross-Reference Aid for Use with Appendix I

Set A*Puccinellia hultenii*/*Spergularia canadensis* Complex

| | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|
| 129 A | Jack Bay - First Cove, North Side |
| 129 B | Jack Bay - First Cove, North Side |
| 132 B | Hell's Hole |

Puccinellia hultenii/*Fucus* spp. Complex

| | |
|-----|--------------------|
| 133 | Hell's Hole |
| 87 | Sawmill Bay - Head |
| 125 | Galena Bay |
| 84 | Gold Creek |
| 126 | Galena Bay |
| 70 | Sawmill Creek |
| 72 | Sawmill Creek |

Puccinellia hultenii/*Arenaria peploides* Complex

| | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| 82 | Gold Creek |
| 83 | Gold Creek |
| 76 | Jack Bay - First Cove, North Side |
| 77 | Jack Bay - First Cove, North Side |
| 73 | Gold Creek |

Set B

Puccinellia hultenii/*Glaux maritima* Complex

| | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|
| 132 A | Hell's Hole |
| 71 | Sawmill Creek |
| 122 | Jack Bay - First Cove, South Side |
| 134 | Hell's Hole |
| 127 | Galena Bay |
| 91 | Gold Creek |
| 39 | Valdez - West Marsh |
| 40 | Valdez - West Marsh |
| 42 | Valdez - West Marsh |
| 43 | Valdez - West Marsh |

Potentilla anserina/*Poa eminens* Complex

| | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 347 | Mineral Creek |
| 121 | Jack Bay - First Cove, South Side |
| 118 | Sawmill Bay - Head |
| 130 | Jack Bay - First Cove, North Side |
| 131 | Jack Bay - First Cove, North Side |
| 115 | Sawmill Bay - Head |
| 79 | Jack Bay - Head |
| 346 | Mineral Creek |
| 128 | Galena Bay |

Carex pluriflora/*Deschampsia beringensis* Complex

| | |
|-------|----------------------------|
| 114 B | Sawmill Bay, Stellar Creek |
| 114 A | Sawmill Bay, Stellar Creek |

Carex lyngbyei/*Calamagrostis canadensis* and
Calamagrostis canadensis/*Galium trifidum* Complexes

| | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|
| 114 C | Sawmill Bay |
| 119 | Jack Bay - First Cove, South Side |

Set C

pure *Carex lyngbyei* Complex

| | |
|-------|---------------------|
| 38 A | Valdez - East Marsh |
| 78 | Jack Bay - Head |
| 182 A | Terminus, Valdez |
| 117 | Sawmill Bay - Head |

Carex lyngbyei/*Eleocharis kamschatica* and
Eleocharis kamschatica dominant Complexes

| | |
|------|---------------------|
| 37 A | Valdez - East Marsh |
| 37 B | Valdez - East Marsh |
| 37 C | Valdez - East Marsh |

Carex lyngbyei/*Potentilla anserina* Complex

| | |
|----|--------------------|
| 89 | Sawmill Bay - Head |
| 90 | Sawmill Bay - Head |
| 86 | Jack Bay - Head |
| 85 | Jack Bay - Head |

Potentilla anserina/*Dodecatheon pulchellum* Complex

| | |
|-----|-----------------|
| 334 | Mineral Creek |
| 335 | Mineral Creek |
| 80 | Jack Bay - Head |
| 75 | Jack Bay - Head |
| 74 | Jack Bay - Head |

113
Set D

pure *Arenaria peploides* Complex

123 Jack Bay - First Cove, South Side

Elymus mollis/*Arenaria peploides* Complex

124 Jack Bay - First Cove, South Side

Elymus mollis/*Festuca rubra* Complex

116 Sawmill Bay - Head
120 Jack Bay - First Cove, South Side

Elymus mollis/*Cornus canadensis* Complex

81 Jack Bay - Head