



TRIP REPORT - ALEUTIAN CANADA GOOSE SURVEY -  
ALAID/NIZKI

by  
Klett, Evan V.

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

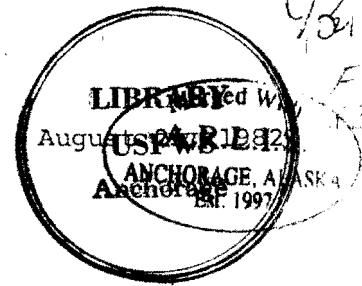
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

# Memorandum

TO : Refuge Supervisor(s), Anchorage

DATE: August 24, 1982

FROM : Assistant Refuge Manager, Adak

SUBJECT: Trip Report - Aleutian Canada Goose Survey - Alaid/Nizki;  
May 18 - May 27, 1982

From May 18 to May 20, Don Drago and I assisted the others in our field crew conduct seabird transects aboard the charter boat "Sea Spray" between the Islands of Adak and Agattu.

On May 20th we assisted in offloading gear and supplies necessary to support the field crew that would be staying on Agattu. We then proceeded via "Sea Spray" to Shemya to pick up gear left by John Martin and Larry Calvert that was needed to continue the Aleutian Canada goose survey on Alaid/Nizki. We could not land at Shemya due to bad weather. Anchored off of south shore.

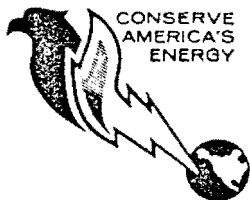
May 21 - Proceeded from "Sea Spray" to south beach of Shemya via zodiac to pick up another zodiac, motor, gas and other gear. Unloaded gear at campsite on Nizki. Stored gear and prepared camp.

May 22 - Don and I hiked from camp to the north side of Nizki (map #1) going by lake #8, 42 and 37. We then hiked by "JONES" to Lake #48 and returned to camp by way of the high ground above the south beach. Three Aleutian Canada geese were located on Lake #8 behind camp; numbers 524, 543 and 561.

May 23 - Nine Aleutian Canada geese were on the beach by the camp when we woke up. All were new birds; numbers 673, 726, 728, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735 and 737. The other three geese found yesterday were still on the lake behind camp, giving a total of 12 geese observed. Hiked north from camp (map #2) along the beach until it looked like we were entering a rocky cliff area. We reversed direction and checked lake #14 south of camp. Later in the evening the three geese from the lake flew to the beach and were soon joined by the nine geese, number 296 and an unbanded wild bird. Total Aleutian Canada geese recorded to date now stands at 14.

May 24 - Seven Canada geese on beach in morning; numbers 524, 543, 561, 728, 732, 733 and 734. Took zodiac to Alaid. Checked the four lakes and the beach in the vicinity of "WAC" (map #3). No goose sign observed.

May 25 - hiked along north shore line of Nizki, checked lake numbers 8 and 50 and returned to camp (map #4). Goose droppings were found on the shore line of the cove north of lake #37. As we were eating supper, six Aleutian Canada geese arrived on the beach below camp; numbers 524, 543, 561, 728, 732, 733 and 734.



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May 26 - Four Canada geese on beach; numbers 728, 732, 733 and 734. Took zodiac to Alaid. Checked beach and large lake near "IVY", the north shore, and returned to landing spot (map #5). No goose sign seen.

May 27 - Loaded gear on "Sea Spray" and departed Alaid/Nizki. Part of crew dropped at Shemya to catch Reeves flight back to Adak. Picked up three new members for field crew. "Sea Spray" departed for Buldir.

#### Aleutian Canada Goose Sightings

Nizki - Fourteen geese observed during five day stay; numbers 296, 524, 543, 561, 673, 726, 728, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 737 and an apparent wild un-banded bird. All geese were observed in vicinity of the camp. A large amount of goose droppings were found in a cove on the north side of the island. Many of these geese were also recorded on Agattu.

Alaid - No geese or sign found.

#### Arctic Fox

No animals, tracks, trails or dens noted on either island. Meat scraps and egg shells, left adjacent to the camp site were untouched.

#### Other Birds

Common Loon - Two on lake #37, Nizki on 5/22. Two on big lake near "IVY" on Alaid on 5/26.

Cormorants, Red-faced and Pelagic - abundant, nesting colonies found on all rocky cliff faces on both islands.

Mallard - One drake on lake #48, Nizki on 5/22. One hen with 10 class Ia ducklings in lake on Alaid on 5/24. Two drakes and one hen on big lake near "IVY" on Alaid on 5/26.

Eurasian Green-wing teal - One drake and two hens on lake #42 on Nizki on 5/22. One pair on small lake on Alaid on 5/26.

Eurasian Wigeon - Two drakes and one hen first observed in salt water cove and next in lake #8, north side of Nizki on 5/25. One pair on big lake near "IVY" on Alaid on 5/26.

Greater Scaup - One drake and six hens in lake behind camp, 5/22 and 5/25.

Tufted Duck - One pair in lake behind camp, 5/22 and 5/24.

Harlequin Duck - Common around rocky shore line on both islands.

Common Eider - Abundant. Found primarily along sandy beaches in each cove on both islands. Three nests located on Nizki, two adjacent to fresh water lakes, the other on a sea slope near the outlet of a fresh water lake. Nests contained 3, 3 and 4 eggs respectively.

King Eider, immature - Approximately 50 observed 5/25 on south side of Nizki, associated with Common Eider.

Black Scoter - Two hundred plus in strait between Nizki and Shemya on 5/26 and 5/27.

American Golden Plover - Fifteen on ridge top south of camp on 5/23.

Rock Sandpiper - Common on both islands.

Parasitic Jaeger - One dark phase and one light phase seen in the vicinity of lake #37 on Nizki on 5/22.

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Glaucous-winged Gull - very abundant on both islands, found nesting on beaches upland and around fresh water lakes. One nest with three pipped eggs observed on 5/25, when checked again on 5/27 the nest contained ~~USWS~~ young and one pipped egg.

Black-legged Kittiwake - Twenty-one on big lake near "IVY" on Alaid on 5/26.

Horned Puffin - One dead bird found on beach at Alaid on 5/26. This was the only horned puffin seen during our stay on Alaid/Nizki.

Tufted Puffin - Common, numerous colonies in grassy slopes above rocky cliffs.

Gray-crowned Rosy Finch - Common on both islands.

Song Sparrow - Common on both islands.


Lapland Longspur - Uncommon on both islands.

Snow Bunting - Common on both islands.

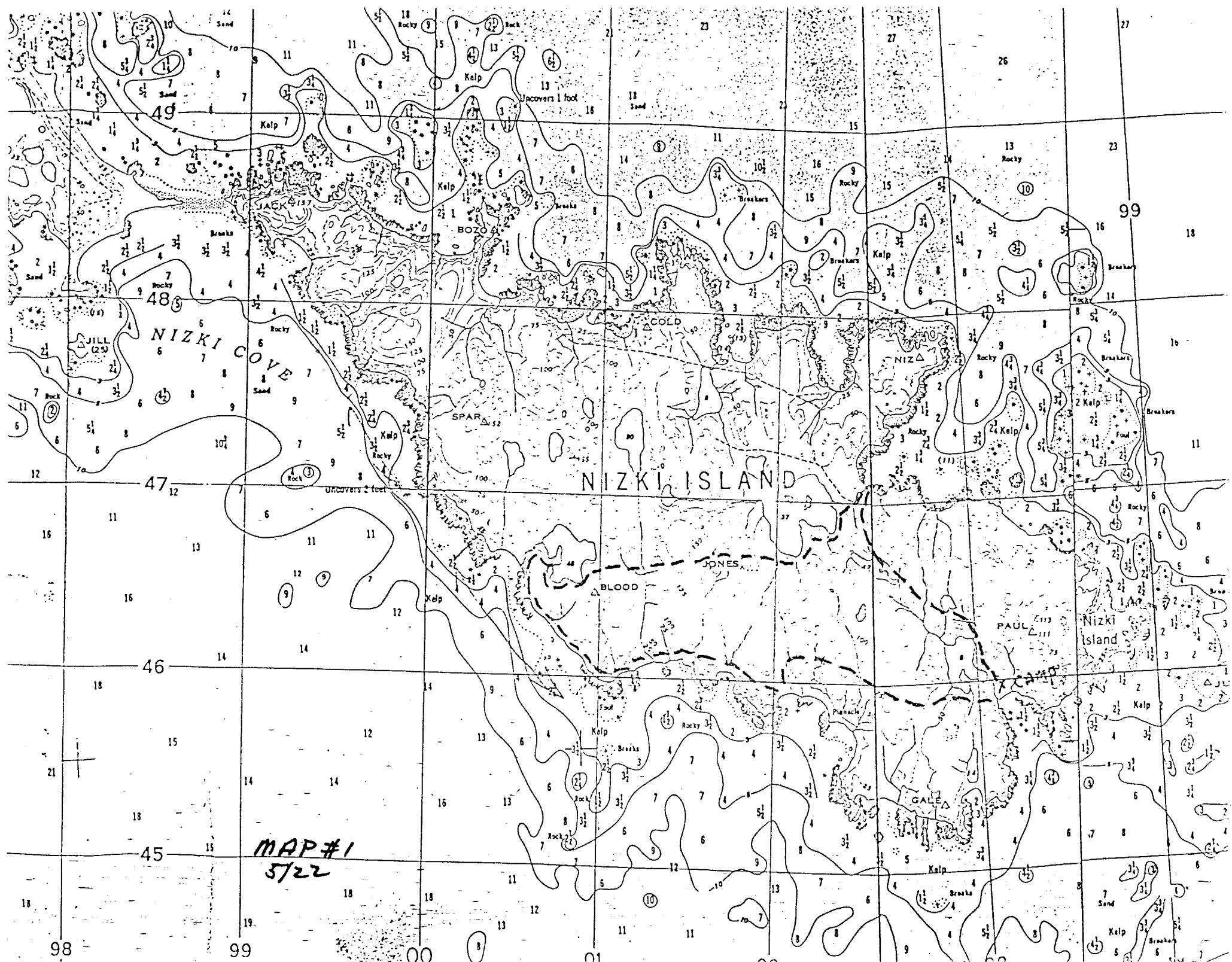
Marine Mammals

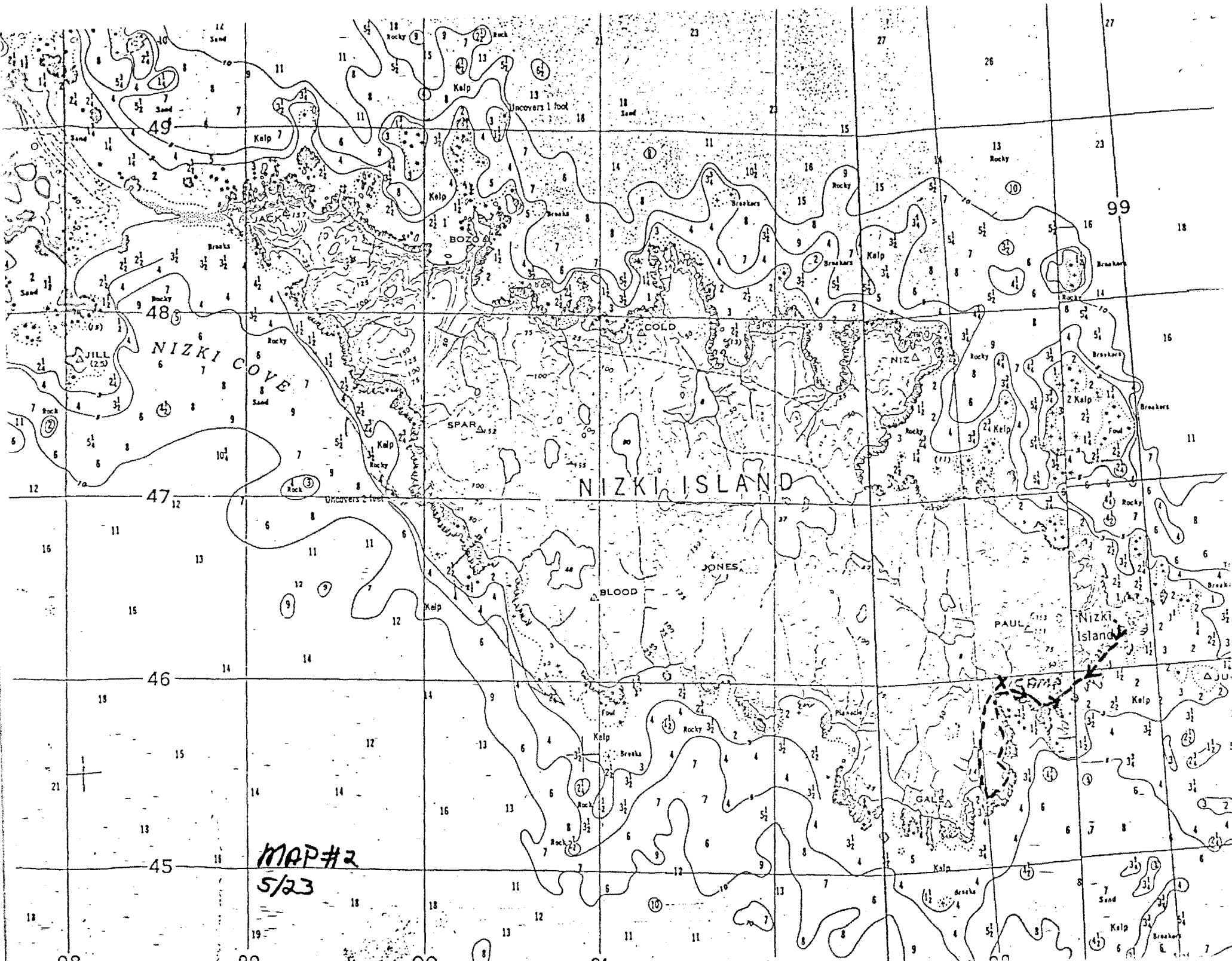
Harbor Seals - Ten off south shore of Nizki on 5/22. Twenty off south shore of Alaid on 5/24.

Steller's Sea Lion - Six off south shore of Alaid on 5/24. One hundred fifty plus, mostly bulls and a few cows, on north beach of Alaid on 5/26.

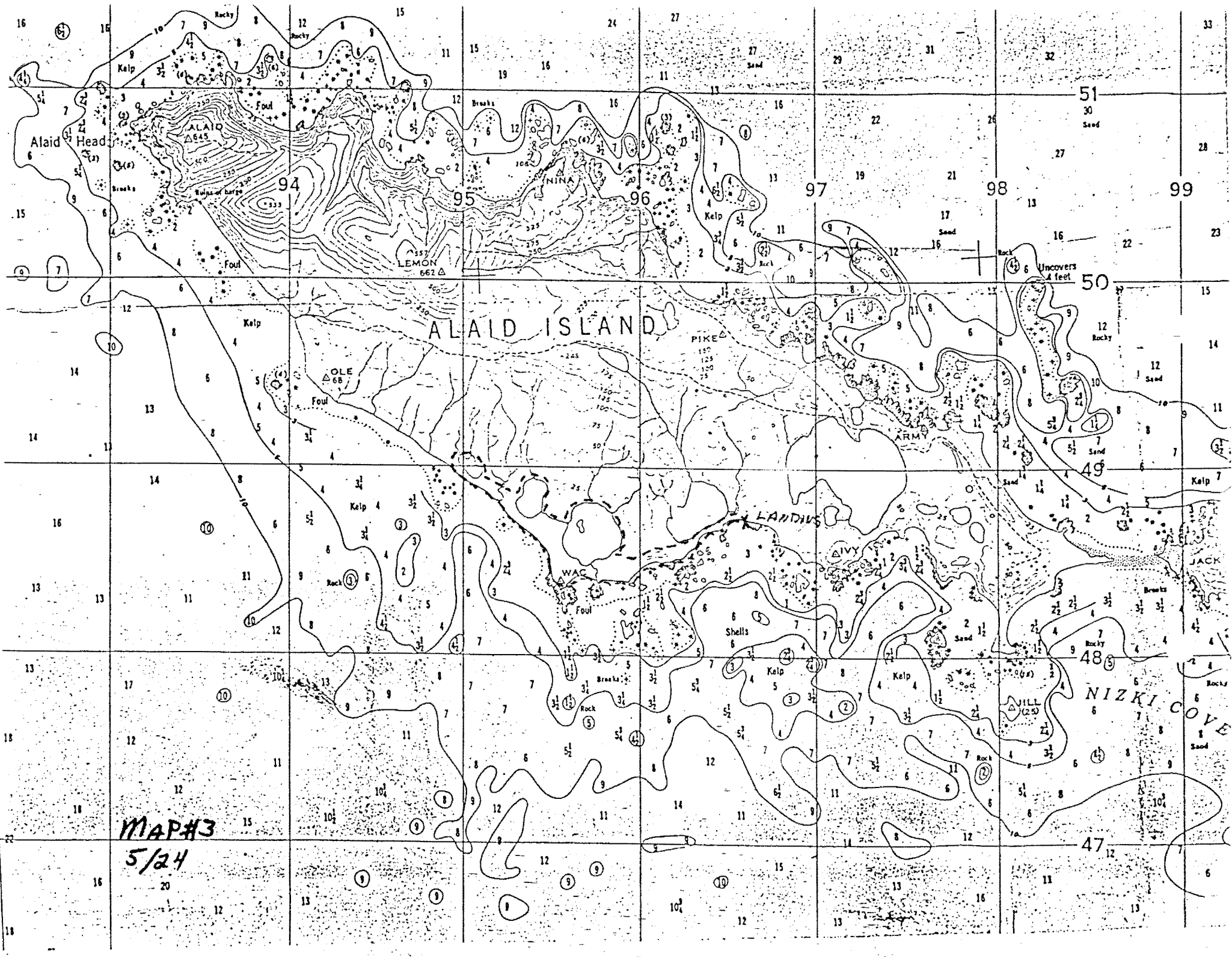
  
Evan V. Klett  
Assistant Refuge Manager

EVK:kdk



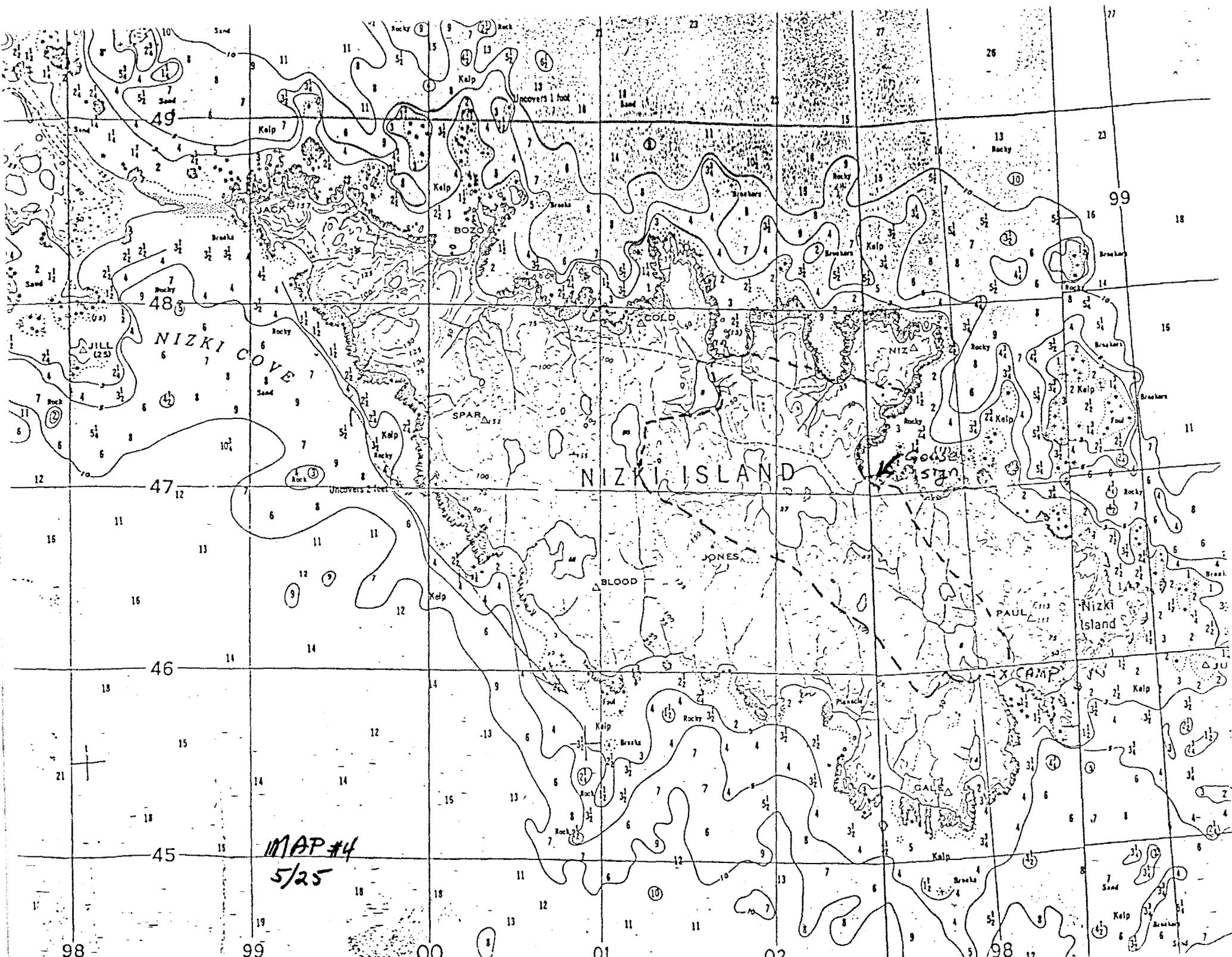


MAP #2  
5/23



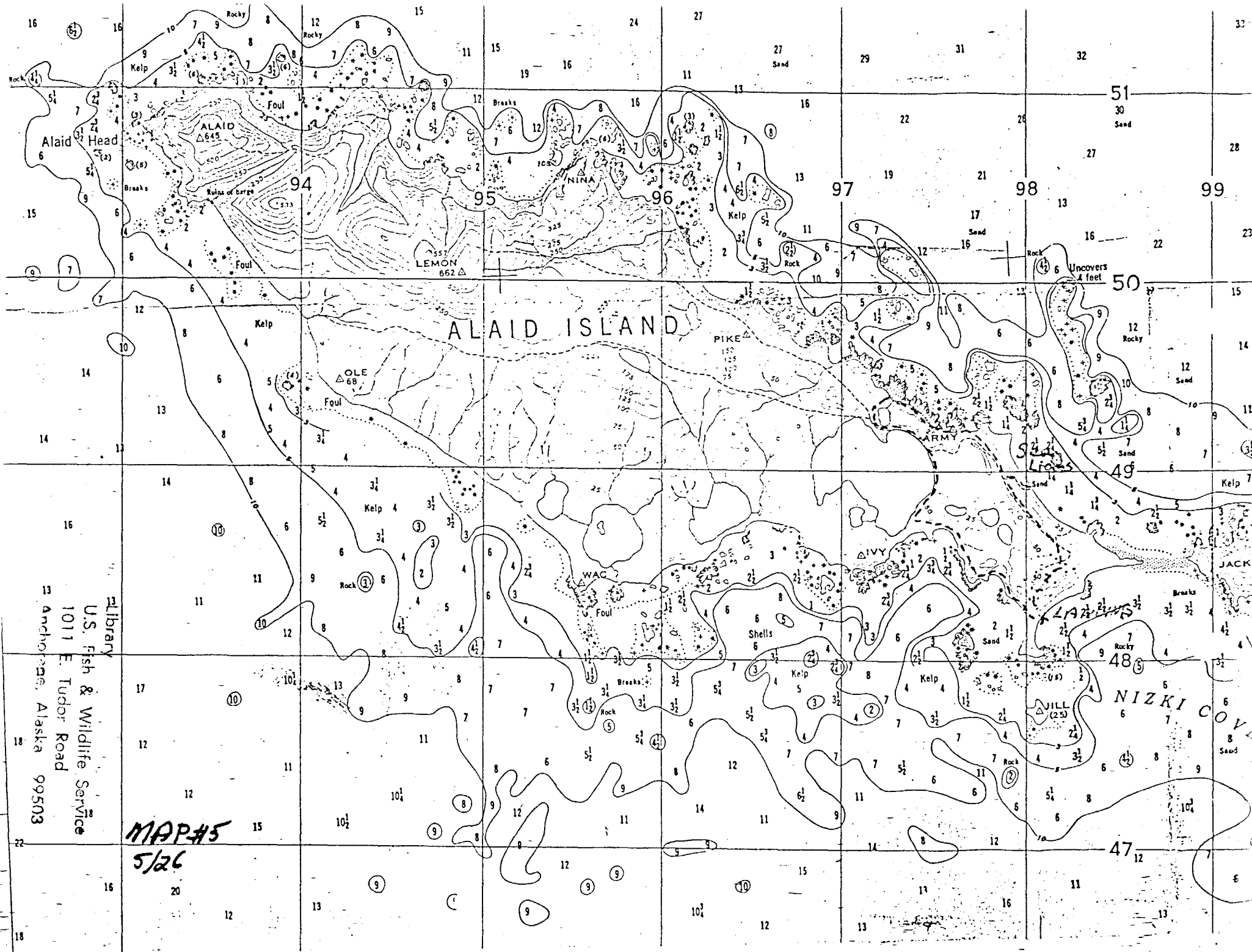
MAP #3

5/24



MAP #4  
5/25





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MAP#5  
 5/26