

Priority Wetland Listing

for

New England

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region I

October 1986



PRIORITY WETLAND LISTING FOR NEW ENGLAND

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION I

OCTOBER 1986

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I. Introduction

The Environmental Protection Agency has begun a national effort to identify priority wetlands and waterbodies across the country. EPA will use its regulatory authorities to protect these areas more vigorously and consistently. This list, compiled by Region I of EPA, identifies wetlands and other aquatic resources that we consider to be high quality or which are vulnerable to environmental degradation.

New England's wetlands are an irreplaceable natural resource. Comprising but a small portion of the total land area they are essential to the survival of our fish and wildlife populations, and are increasingly being recognized as important in maintaining water quality through the uptake or control of sediments, nutrients and pollutants. Wetlands often act as natural flood storage areas and, along the coast, provide a buffer against storm damage and erosion. Biologically, wetlands are among the most productive and diverse ecosystems on earth. Two-thirds of the commercial fish species harvested on the Atlantic coast depend on coastal estuaries and wetlands for food and spawning grounds; many freshwater fish depend on inland lakes and wetlands. Wetlands also provide habitat and food for furbearers such as muskrat, otter, mink, racoon and beaver.

Despite their value and relative scarcity, our wetlands continue to be destroyed at an alarming rate and wetland protection continues to be controversial. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that we lose over 300,000 acres of wetlands per year throughout the nation. While New England's wetlands continue to shrink, they are not disappearing as rapidly as those in other regions for several reasons: our states have strong laws protecting wetlands, New England has fewer wetlands left to sacrifice, and our population often is more environmentally aware than elsewhere. Nevertheless, each year proposals surface to fill wetlands for highways, shopping malls and agriculture. Historical losses occurred mainly in coastal wetlands but now much more development pressure is felt in freshwater areas. While considerable attention through the years has been focused on chemical water pollution and water quality standards, this is only one aspect of the more general problem of wetlands protection. Undoubtedly, the most critical problem associated with wetlands deterioration is loss of habitat. Direct habitat loss usually results from dredging and filling operations. Indirect loss may occur from changes in the wetland hydrology or isolation of an area from the full ecosystem.

Perhaps the very nature of wetlands engenders much of the controversy about their protection. Transitional between water and land, they exhibit both "wet" and "dry" characteristics. Scientists note their connection to the regional surface and groundwater systems and their importance to fish and wildlife; both the benefits of wetlands and the impacts associated with their destruction extend beyond their borders. Developers, however, point to the "dry" characteristics of wetlands when attempting to "improve" their land and exercise their property rights. This inherent clash between resource conservation and development pressures has produced a colorful legislative and judicial history and an intensity of feeling unusual even among environmental programs.

The 404 permit program, enacted as part of the 1972 Federal Water Pollution Control Act and amended during reauthorization of the Clean Water Act of 1977, regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. Perhaps

originally conceived as a subset of the larger 402 NPDES permit program, 404 evolved from an emphasis on water quality issues into the primary federal program protecting wetlands. The increasing role of 404 in wetlands protection in the late 1970's and early 1980's was mandated by several important court decisions and by our rapidly expanding knowledge about wetland values and losses. Most types of development or construction in the nation's waters involve some discharge of material and thus require a 404 permit. Marinas, highways, residential and industrial development dams, bulkheads, and stream relocation typically fall under the purview of the program. "Waters of the United States" reaches to the extent permissible under the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution and includes rivers, lakes, streams, ponds and wetlands (swamps, marshes, sloughs, bogs, fens, etc.). Section 404 is not a comprehensive wetlands protection law, however, as excavation and drainage--major causes of wetland loss--are not regulated under the program; §404, like the rest of the Clean Water Act, is concerned only with the discharge of pollutants, specifically dredged or fill material.

EPA and the Corps share program responsibilities under Section 404. The Corps administers the program on a day-to-day basis and retains final authority to issue, deny or modify permits. EPA writes and interprets the 404(b)(1) Guidelines, the regulations which the Corps must apply in their evaluation of permit applications. EPA and the Corps have parallel authority to enforce against unauthorized discharges and violations of permit conditions.

EPA has several other authorities with which to provide additional protection to priority resources identified in this document. Under §404(c) of the Clean Water Act, EPA may prohibit or restrict dredge or fill discharges into waters of the United States, including wetlands. Although commonly thought of as our "veto" authority over Corps permits, 404(c) can be used to designate areas in advance of any discharge. EPA can also initiate a planning process called "Advanced Identification of Sites" (AIS), described in Section 230.80 of the EPA 404(b)(1) Guidelines. AIS allows EPA and the Corps, in cooperation with state and local authorities, to identify sites as being unsuitable (or suitable) for the discharge of dredged or fill material. Again, this mechanism can be used prior to the receipt of permit applications by the Corps of Engineers. Unlike 404(c), an AIS designation does not prohibit or restrict work in a given area, but provides an advance indication of whether a permit application is likely to be approved or denied. Hence, AIS does not involve any formal regulatory action; its chief value is for internal program management and public education. Both authorities can protect valuable resources while reducing the controversy that now often surrounds major 404 permit applications, since developers should be aware of these designations before committing resources to a project. We normally expect to select potential AIS and 404(c) sites from our priority list although a site need not appear here in order to receive protection under 404(c) or AIS.

The New England List

This list was first developed in 1985 and updated in 1986. At both times Region I, EPA sent letters to federal, state, and local agencies as well as private groups known to be known to be involved with wetland protection in New England. Appendices I and II contain respectively a copy of the regional form letter and copies of the responses received. Not surprisingly, the level of detail and the organization of the replies varied among the respondents. This reflected the different perceptions

people have about what constitute a "priority" wetland and the many ways in which a priority list could be organized. Some respondents felt that our 1985 list was either too broad, including areas that were not both valuable and vulnerable or too narrow, omitting some important sites.

The environmental value and degree of vulnerability of the wetland resources were the criteria used to develop the list. Any area which we know to be both important environmentally and threatened in some way were automatically included on the list. However, such cases are relatively rare. More frequently, we know of areas that bear watching because they are environmentally important or areas which are potentially threatened but not necessarily of high value. For instance, we have listed Hartford County in Connecticut based on our experience that a number of environmentally damaging projects have been (or will be) proposed there. Of course, not all wetlands in the County are of high value or threatened, but to discriminate further is too time-consuming at this point.

This list, then, is not a priority ranking of sites distilled from a comprehensive inventory of all of New England's wetlands. To construct such a catalogue would indeed be an enormous, perhaps impossible, task requiring expertise and manpower far beyond the level of Region I EPA. Rather, this list identifies known or suspected "troublespots" in New England. No doubt there are areas not appearing on the list which ought to; we simply cannot know everything happening in the region at any one time, much less accurately predict future trends. In general, value is easier to establish than vulnerability. Clearly, these areas that are both valuable and vulnerable deserve immediate attention. We believe it is prudent in some cases to include areas based on their known environmental values since threats may manifest themselves in the future. We have not, however, included areas which we already know are afforded adequate protection such as wildlife refuges or state parks, even though they often contain wetlands of exceptional value.

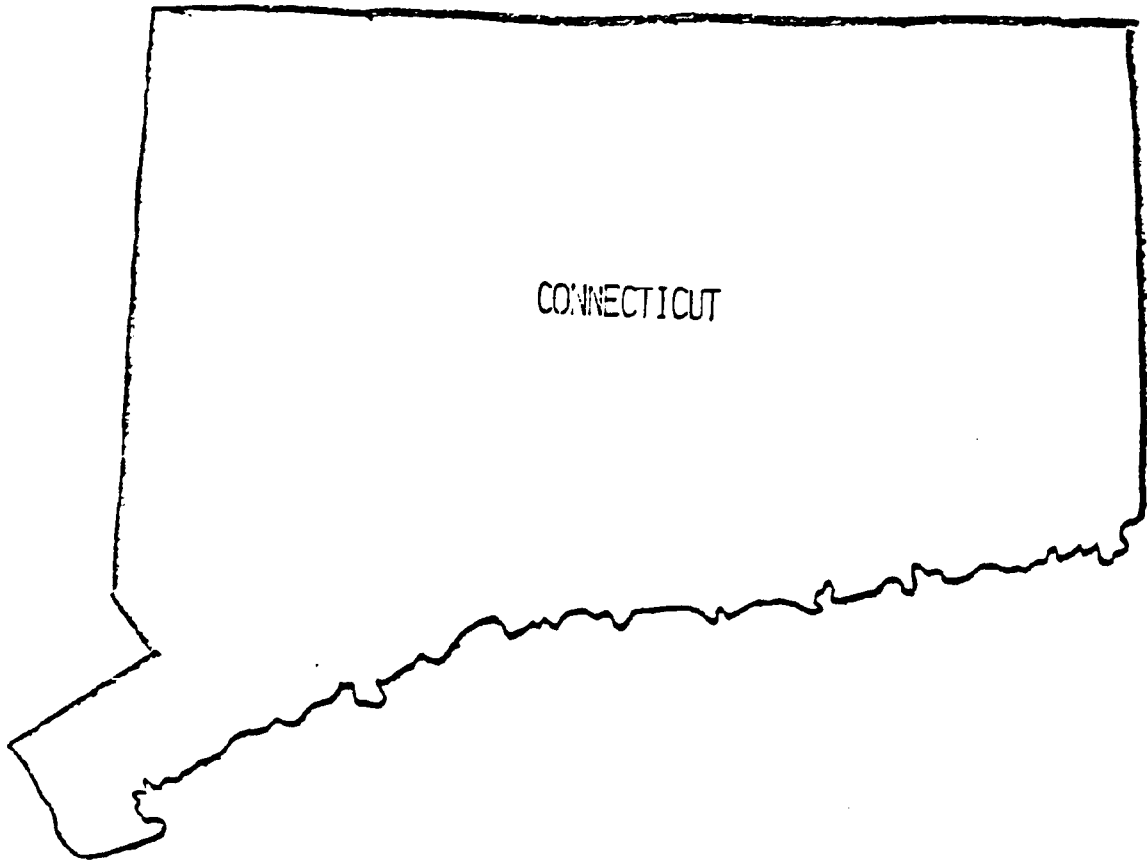
We found it difficult to develop a rigid format which could both adequately present our own conceptions of what constituted priority areas and yet remain manageable. To balance the competing needs for flexibility and an ordered approach, we adopted a two-tiered approach for the list: a general category for generic items of concern and broadly defined geographical regions; and a specific category for entire or partial river or lake systems, or particular wetlands of concern. For instance, we listed wetlands which overlie EPA designated sole-source aquifers in the general category. Listing by a county or town basis is another example of a general item. Areas appearing under the specific wetland category should be self explanatory. Maps of the listed areas are provided where appropriate. Items are presented, in alphabetical order by category, on a state-by-state basis. Note that while this document has for the sake of convenience been called a "wetland" priority list, it may include any aquatic areas of concern (e.g., mudflats, lakes, streams, etc.) and is not restricted to vegetated wetlands. For ease of locating any particular item, an index is provided in Section III.

That an area does not appear on the list in no way implies that it should receive less than full protection under the Section 404 regulatory program. Similarly, listed areas are not guaranteed to receive further EPA attention. However, considering that special protection beyond existing regulatory programs cannot be given to all wetlands, it is logical to identify candidate areas on which we can

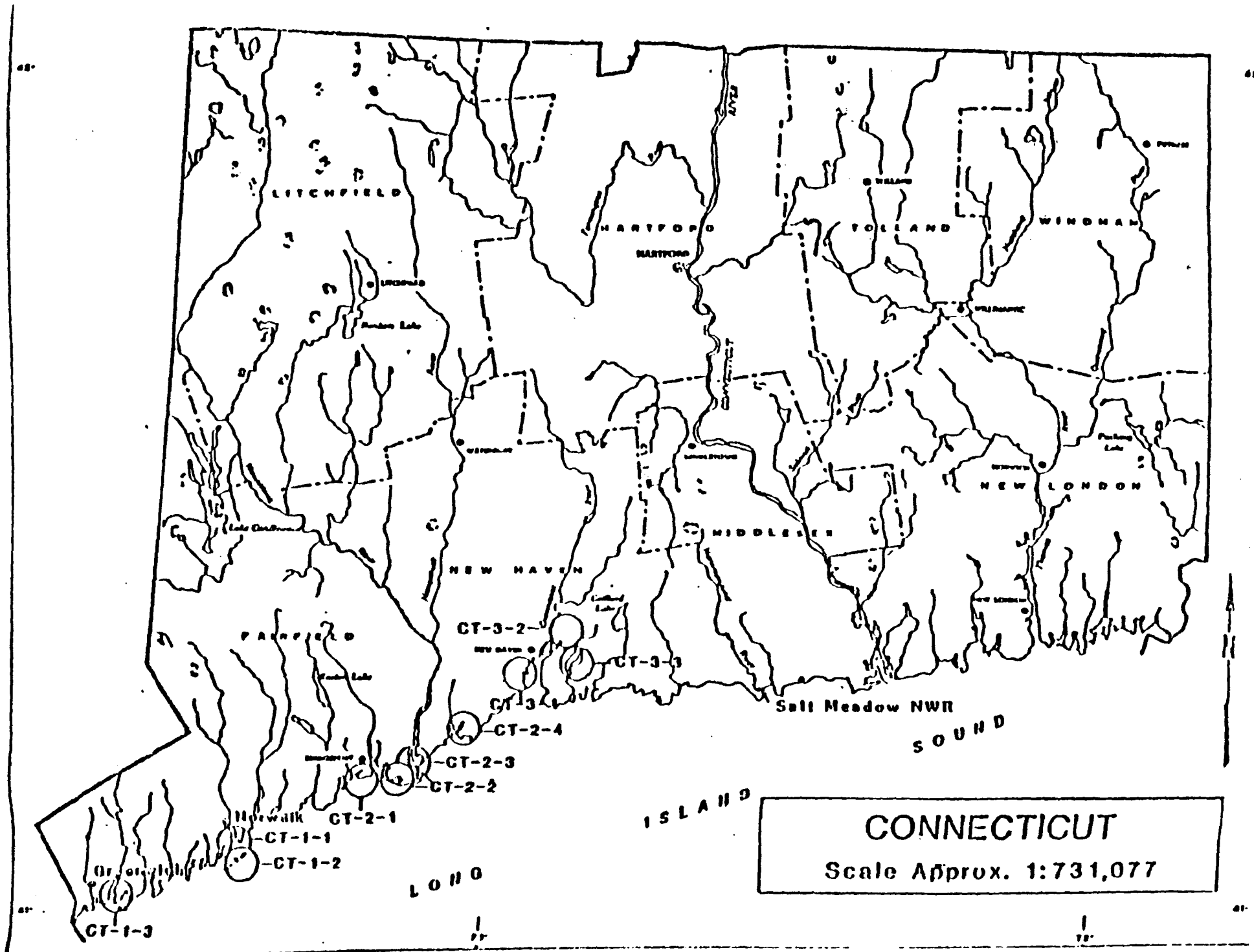
focus our efforts. A listing of such areas may help to prevent the unfortunate situation where a developer commits resources to a project unaware that the area in question may be considered valuable by EPA. Our goal is to protect valuable resources while reducing the controversy that often surrounds major 404 permit decisions. In addition, we will attempt to utilize our 404 authorities in a manner which accomplishes several environmental goals at once. We believe there is considerable potential, for instance, to use the AIS and 404(c) authorities to preserve wetlands that naturally protect drinking water supplies and provide waterfowl habitat at the same time. In addition to using the list for predesignation work, it would be logical to focus our enforcement efforts on these areas of high concern.

The list itself will be subject to modification through time. Areas will be added as appropriate and some of the broader listings may be refined or narrowed to more specific areas of concern. Other areas may be dropped entirely if they are afforded sufficient protection under EPA's authority or by some other mechanism. We anticipate next updating the list in 1988.

STATE- BY- STATE LISTING



GENERAL LISTING



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Coastal Marshes identified by FWS in the Concept Plan for Preservation of Black Duck

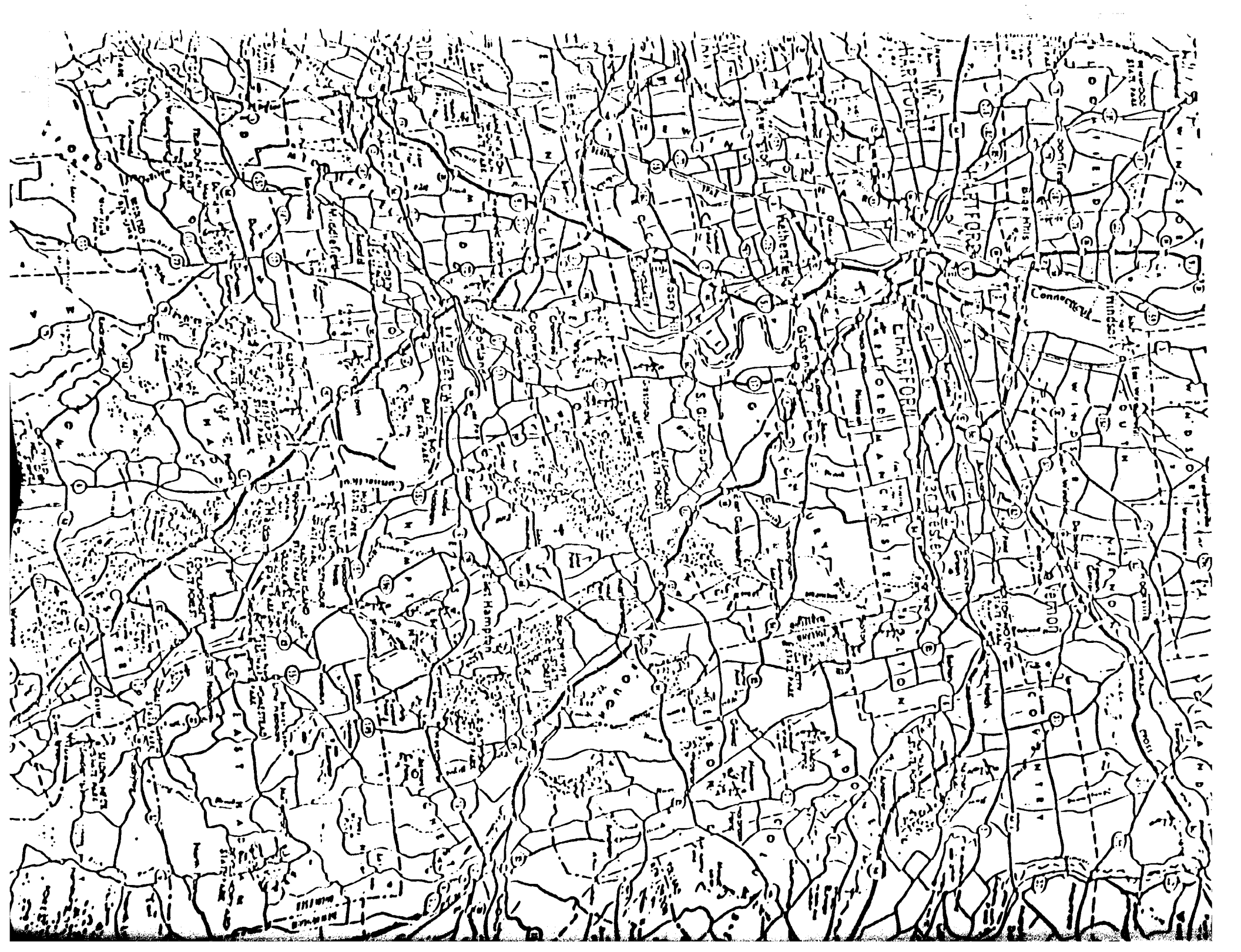
Geographic Limits: Quinnipiac Meadows (800 acres)
Norwalk Islands (300 acres)
Lordship Area (220 acres)

Resource Values: Quinnipiac Meadows- wintering black ducks
Norwalk Islands- wintering black ducks, diving ducks, wading bird nesting on uplands
Lordship Area- least tern nesting, wintering black ducks

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Quinnipiac Meadows- possibly threatened
Norwalk Islands- possibly threatened
Lordship Area- possibly threatened

Comments: FWS (reality) uses three categories of threat: highly threatened
possibly threatened
mostly protected

These areas are by no means a FWS priority list of wetlands for New England, but rather coastal wetlands important to wintering black ducks, a FWS National Species of Special Emphasis.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Inland waterbodies and wetlands

Geographic Limits: Hartford County; Northern Middlesex County

Resource Values: Warmwater fisheries; waterfowl flyway; water quality maintenance; aesthetics; flood storage.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Many proposed highway construction and stream channelization projects; serious cumulative impacts.

Comments: This area is a likely candidate for AIS or 404(c) designation.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Special Aquatic Sites in Coastal Middlesex County

Geographic Limits: Towns of Branford, Guilford, Clinton, and Westbrook

Resource Values: These towns are situated in meandering river systems with adjacent wetlands. The estuarine habitats are healthy and the existing water quality is good. Important for fish and wildlife concerns, storm protection, and recreation.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Most of the available shoreline without tidal wetlands has been utilized. Therefore, further development pressure may affect wetland areas.

Comments:

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Special Aquatic Sites within the Immediate Watersheds of Surface Drinking Water Impoundments

Geographic Limits: Variable. Approximately 880 such impoundments (539 community supplies; 341 non-community supplies) exist in New England.

Resource Values: Wetlands in these areas will often be important in maintenance of water quality. Likewise, work in these wetlands has the potential to seriously impact water supplies.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Difficult to predict. Threats to these wetlands are uncommon, but are potentially serious. Highway projects, as well as industrial and commercial development seem to be most common.

Comments: Work in these areas should automatically trigger careful EPA review and full coordination with the Water Supply Branch. Special Conditions will likely apply to any permitted projects.

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Wetlands identified as important on state breeding and bird censuses

Geographic Limits: Variable.

Resource Values: These wetlands have been identified as important for breeding birds.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Variable and site-specific; Any 404 regulated work in these areas would require close scrutiny.

Comments: These censuses are in various stages of publication. Further information about particular species is available from the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Wetlands Overlying Areas with Groundwater Classification GAA (Potable Groundwater Supplies)

Geographic Limits: Shown on Connecticut's Water Quality Classification Mapping

Resource Values: Maintenance of water quality in groundwater recharge or discharge.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Land uses have potential to affect the potable water quality.

Comments: Water Quality Classification Maps are available to the public on a county basis at 1:50,000 scale from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's Publication Sales.

SPECIFIC LISTING

6366 III NE
(WESTPORT)

2 MI TO CONN 15

4559

10'

4558

INTERCHANGE 23

INTERCHANGE 21

INTERCHANGE 14 MI
WESTPORT 6 MI

STANDARD 14 MI
WESTPORT 6 MI



L O N G

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

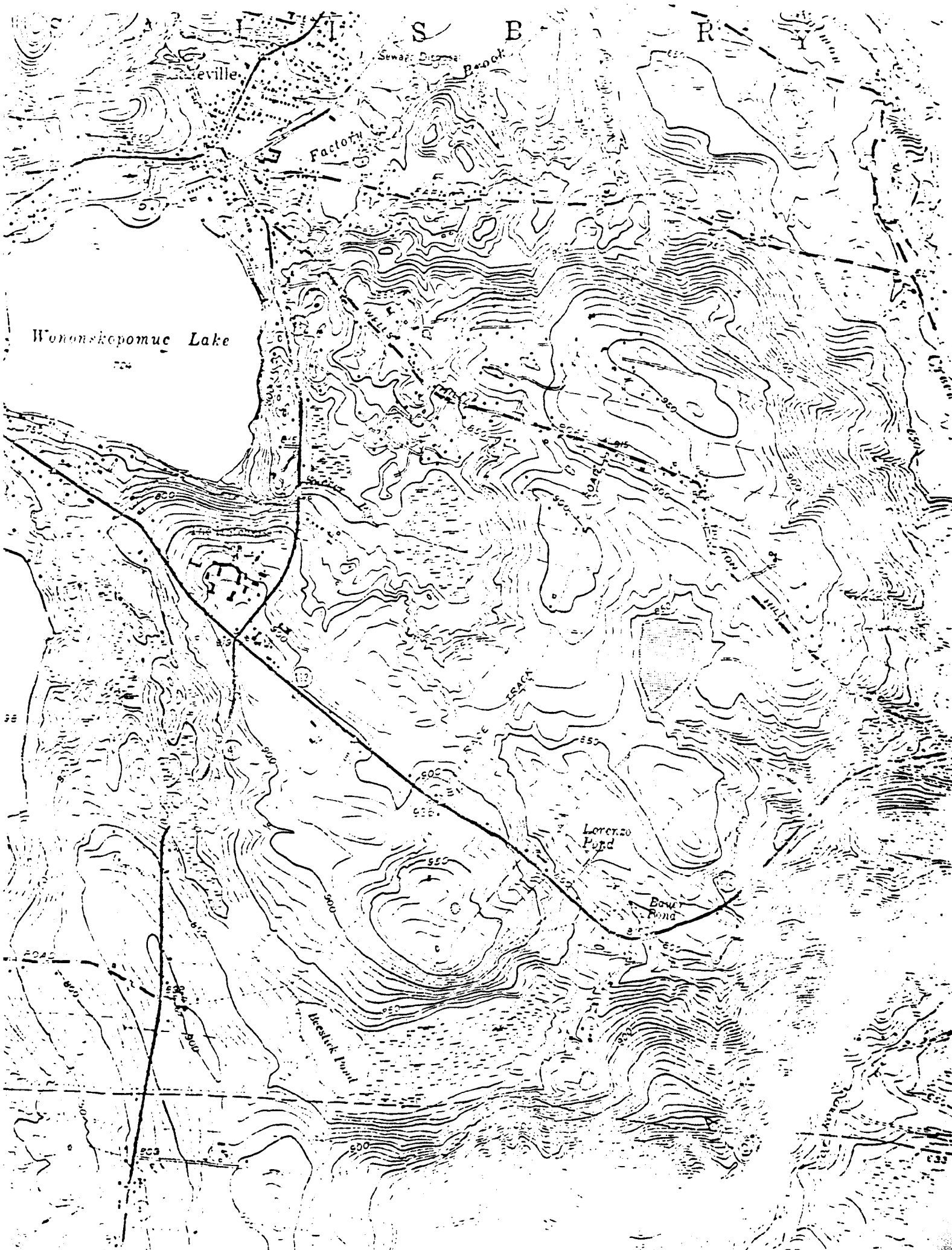
Name: Ash Creek

Geographic Limits: Town of Fairfield

Resource Values: Small, but nevertheless significant, island of unditched high marsh located at the mouth of Ash Creek estuary.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Unknown.

Comments: Identified by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection as a high quality tidal wetland.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Bauer Pond and vicinity

Geographic Limits: Town of Salisbury

Resource Values: Diverse calcareous wetland.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Water quality deterioration.

Comments: This area is partially owned by The Nature Conservancy.

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

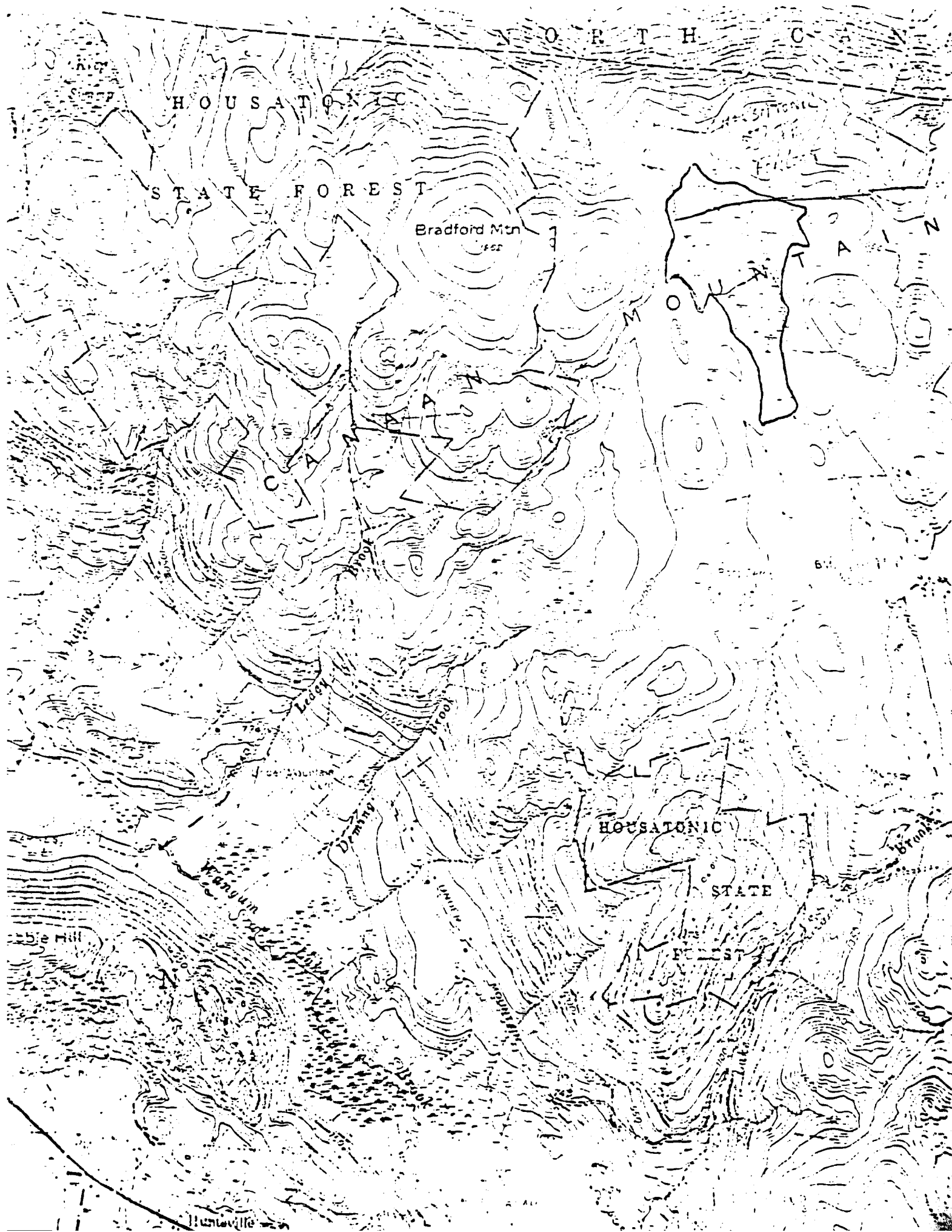
Name: Benton Hill Fen

Geographic Limits: Town of Sharon

Resource Values: Diverse calcareous wetland and fen.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Potential for water quality deterioration.

Comments: This area is partially owned by The Nature Conservancy.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

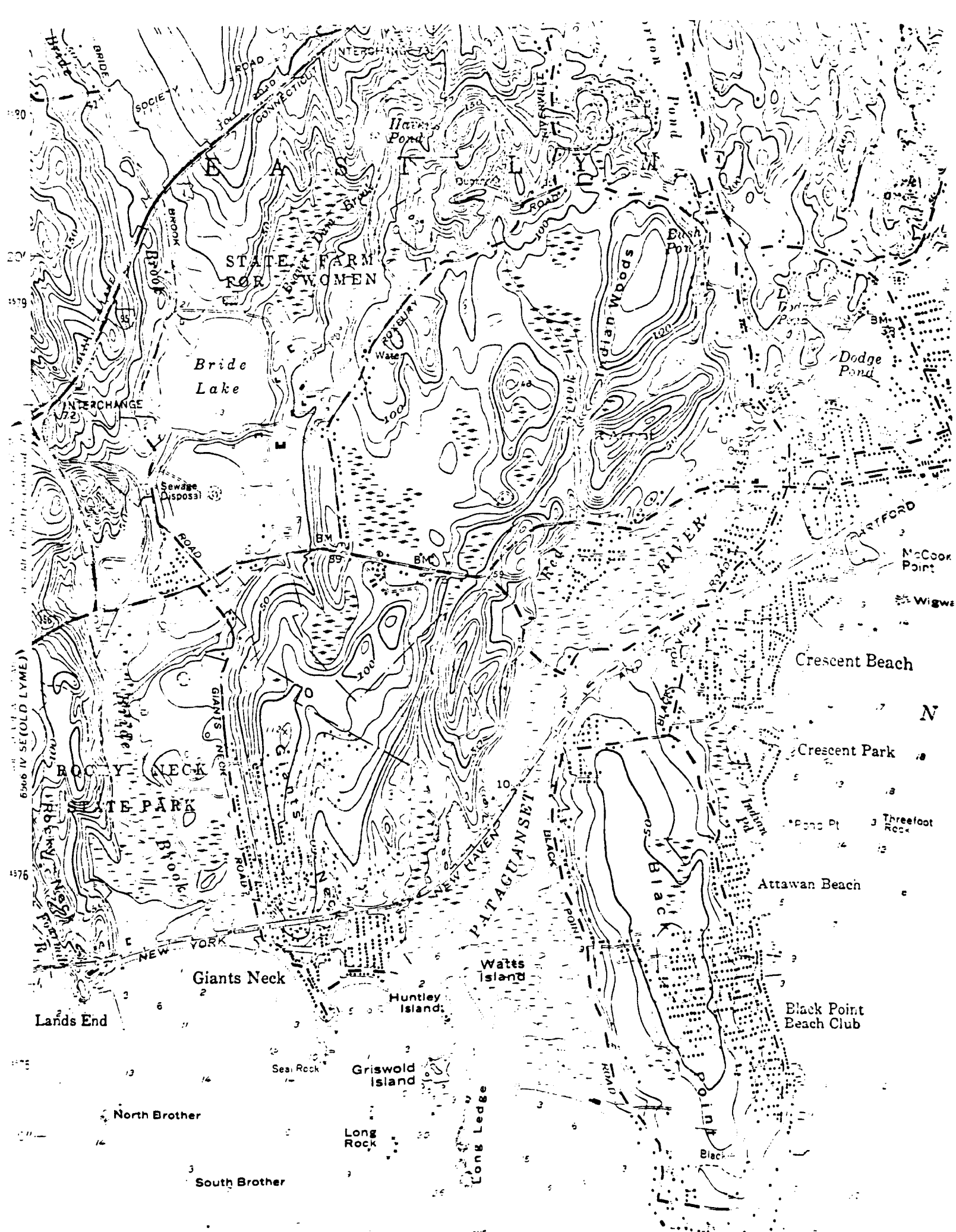
Name: Bradford Mountain Swamp

Geographic Limits: Litchfield County, east of Bradford Mountain

Resource Values: High altitude swamp dominated by small hardwoods and shrubs with heavy sphagnum ground cover; breeding record for Great Blue Heron.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Various development proposals have surfaced over the years.

Comments: Northern portion of the swamp is owned by the state of Connecticut.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

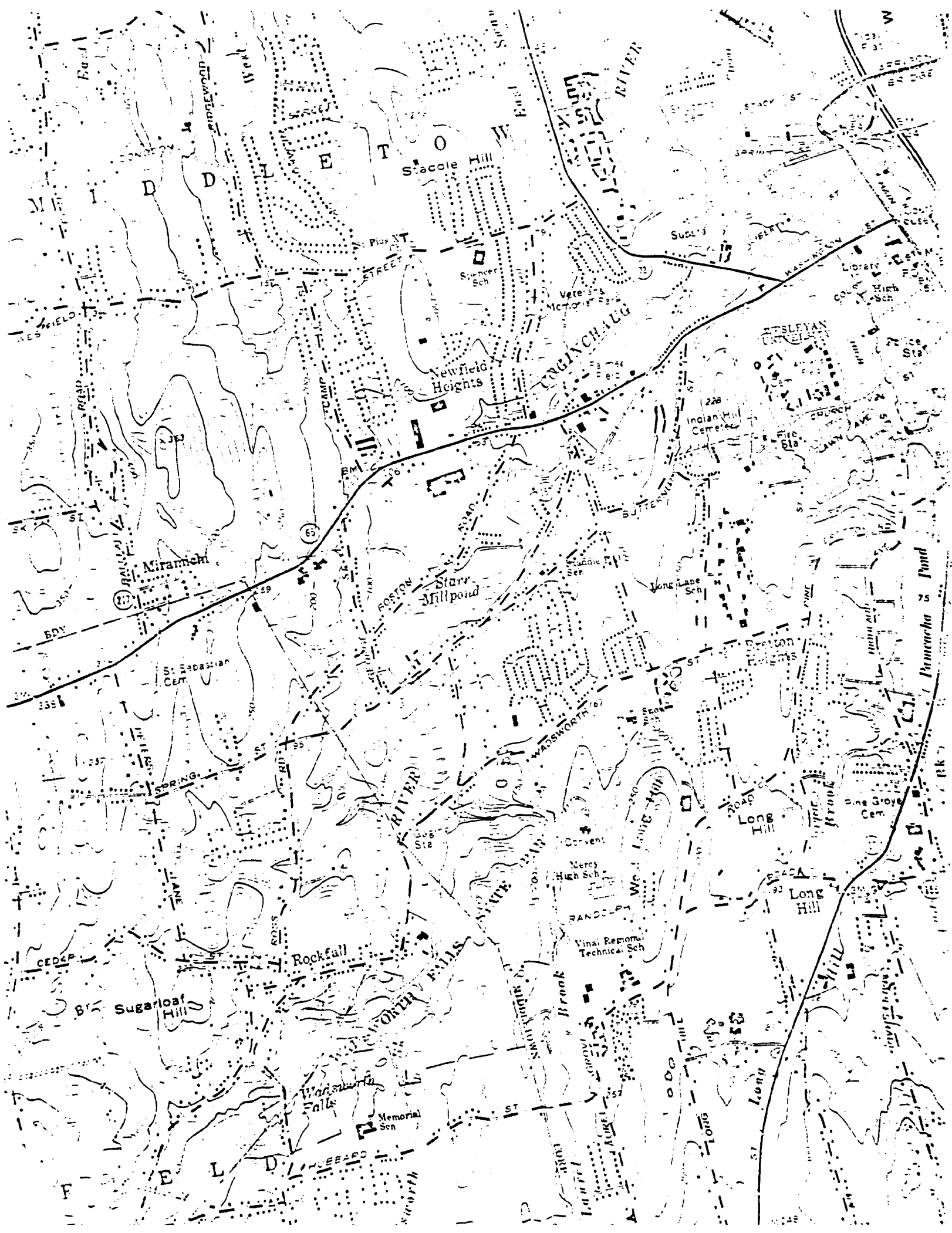
Name: Bride Brook Estuary

Geographic Limits: Town of East Lyme

Resource Values: Extensive and unusual tidal wetland ecosystem; rare birds.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Unknown.

Comments: Identified by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection as a high quality tidal wetland.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Coginchaug River

Geographic Limits: Towns of Middlefield and Middletown

Resource Values: High value wetlands for wildlife.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Susceptible to residential and industrial development; illegal discharges of waste material.

Comments:

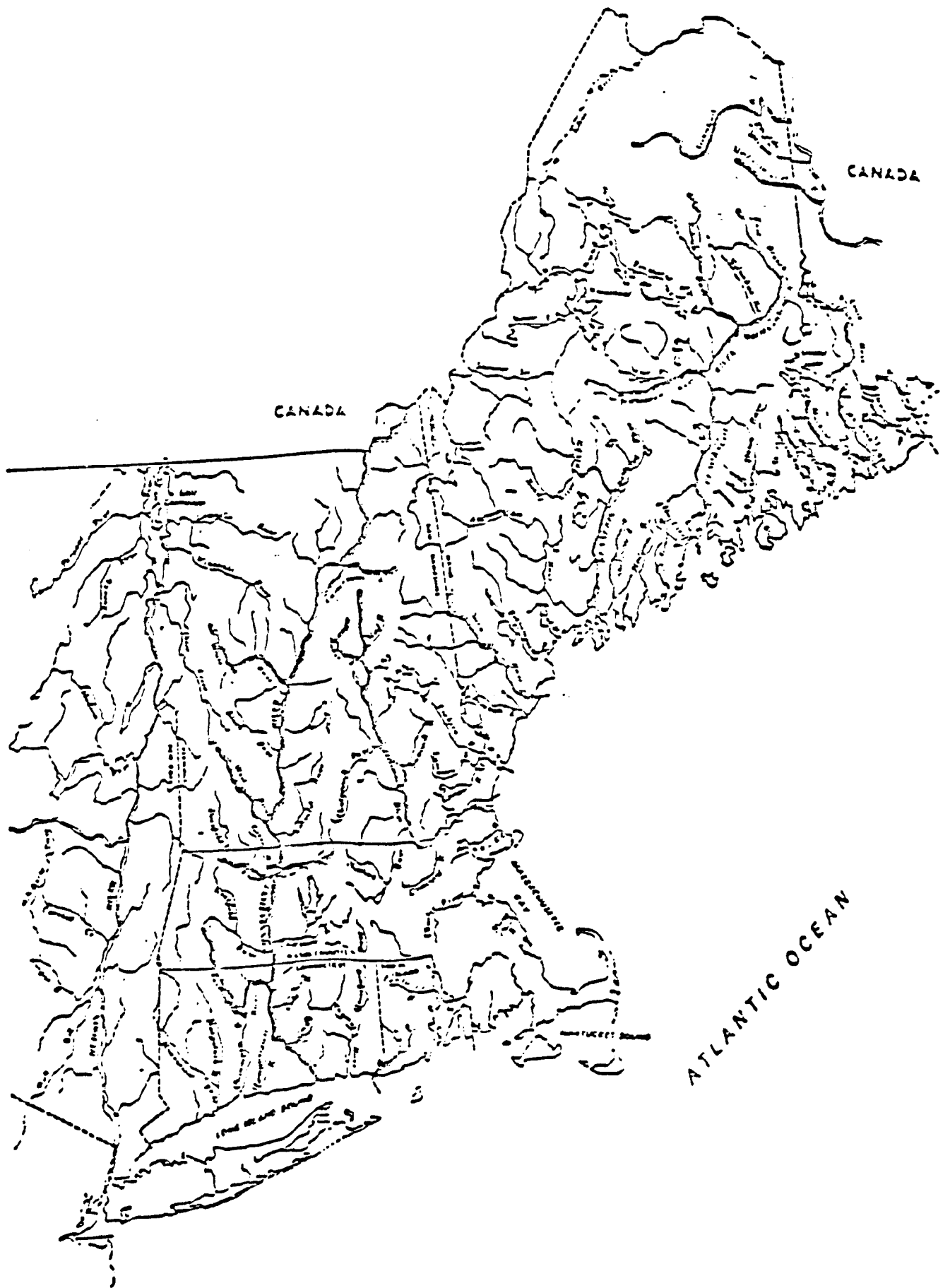


FIGURE III-1. RIVERS INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED ACTION.

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

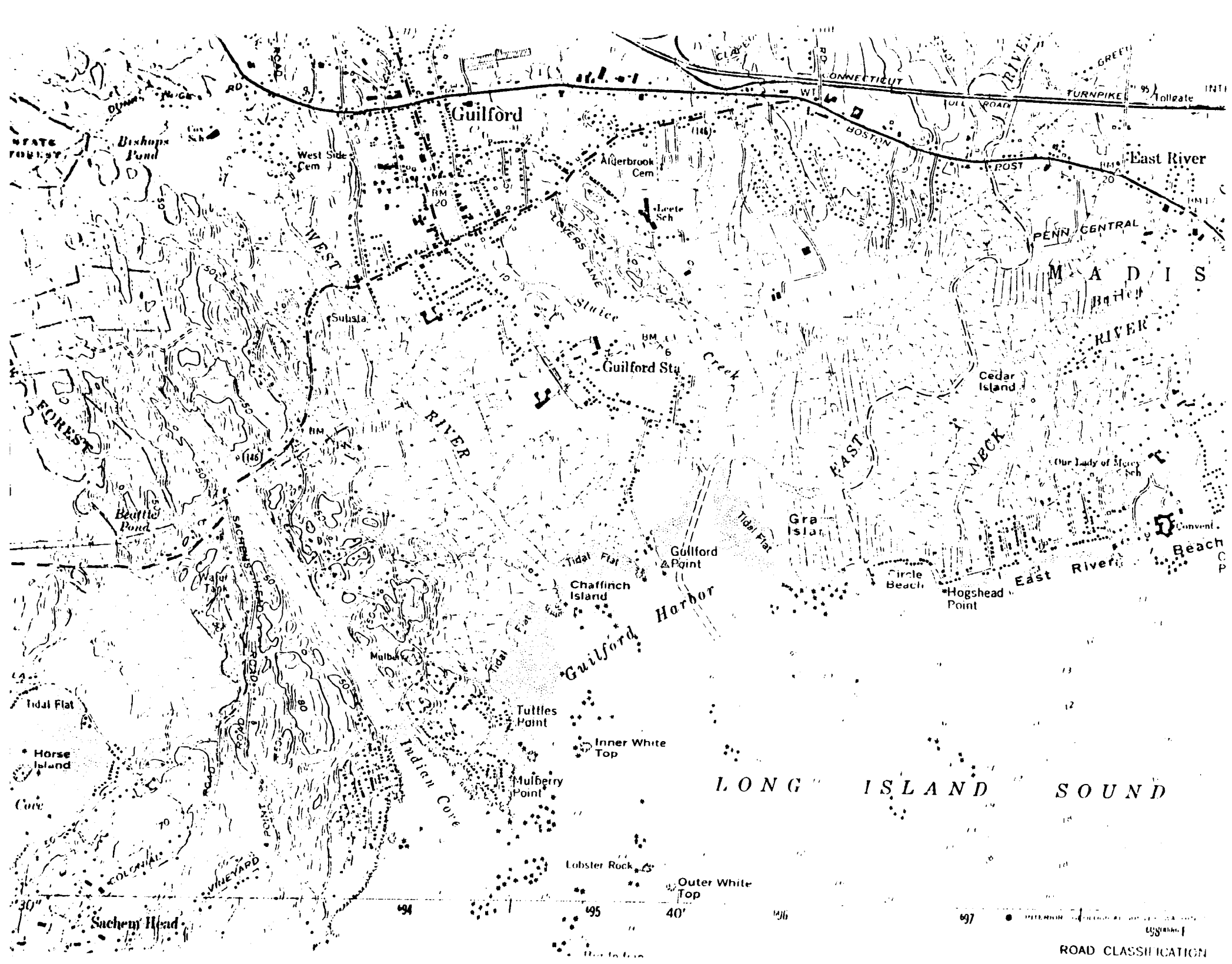
Name: Connecticut River

Geographic Limits: The river proper and special aquatic sites within the floodplain

Resource Values: New England's largest river; warm and cold water fisheries; flood storage; anadromous fish; shellfish in the lower reaches; recreation. Major role in FWS Atlantic Salmon restoration plan. Largest population of shad in the northeast. Habitat for several species of federally proposed threatened invertebrates and one endemic vetch. Also numerous plants, animals, and natural communities of state and regional significance; tidal wetlands- an assemblage of polyhaline, mesohaline, oligohaline and fresh tidal wetlands.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Highly variable, ranging from agriculture activity to road and bridge projects to commercial developments. Water-dependent activities such as marinas and hydropower also generate environmental concerns. Proposed diversion of water from the river for use in the Boston area.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

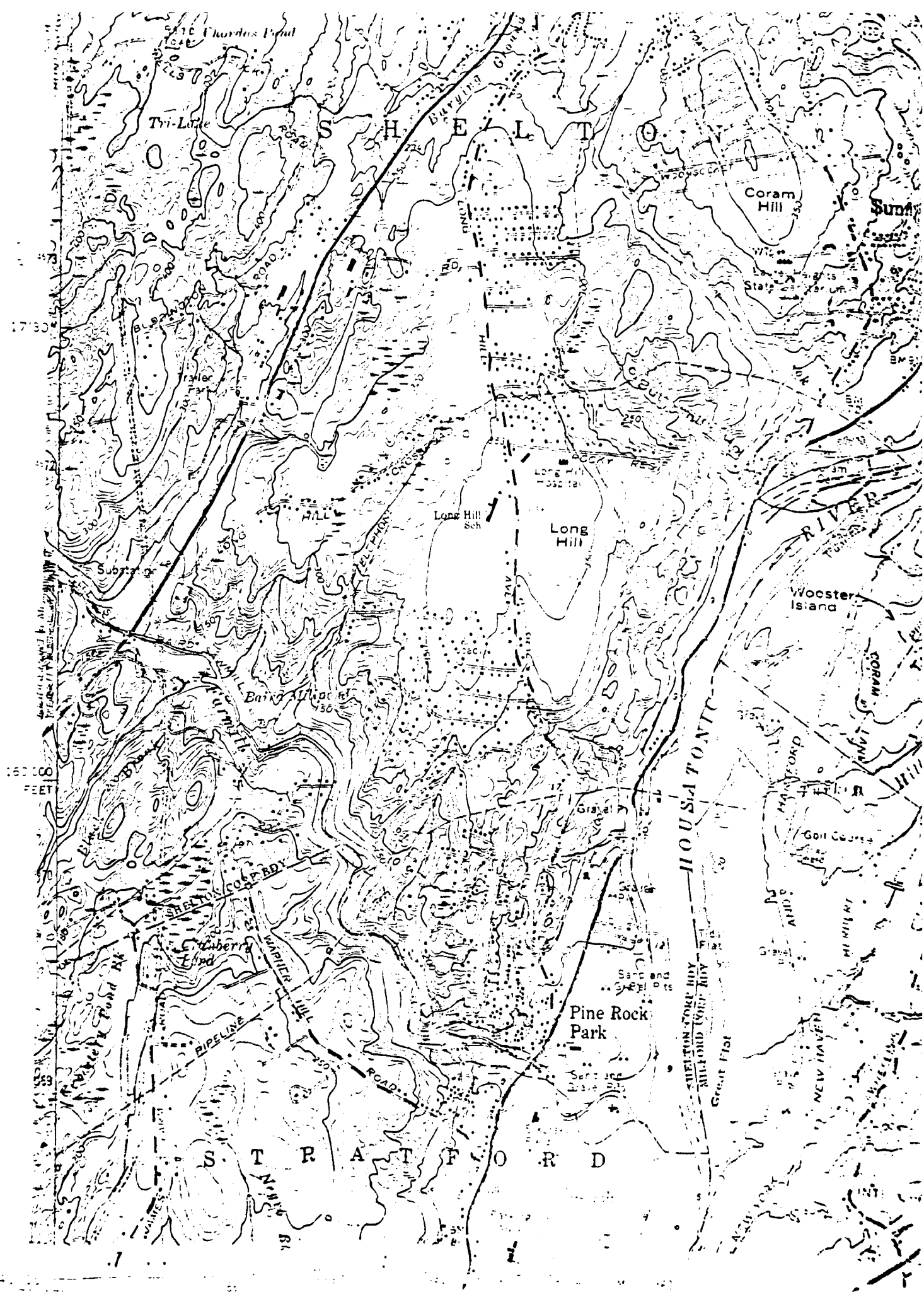
Name: East River

Geographic Limits: Town of Madison

Resource Values: Extensive, mostly polyhaline tidal wetlands dominated by high marsh vegetation.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Unknown.

Comments: Identified by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection as a high quality tidal wetland.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

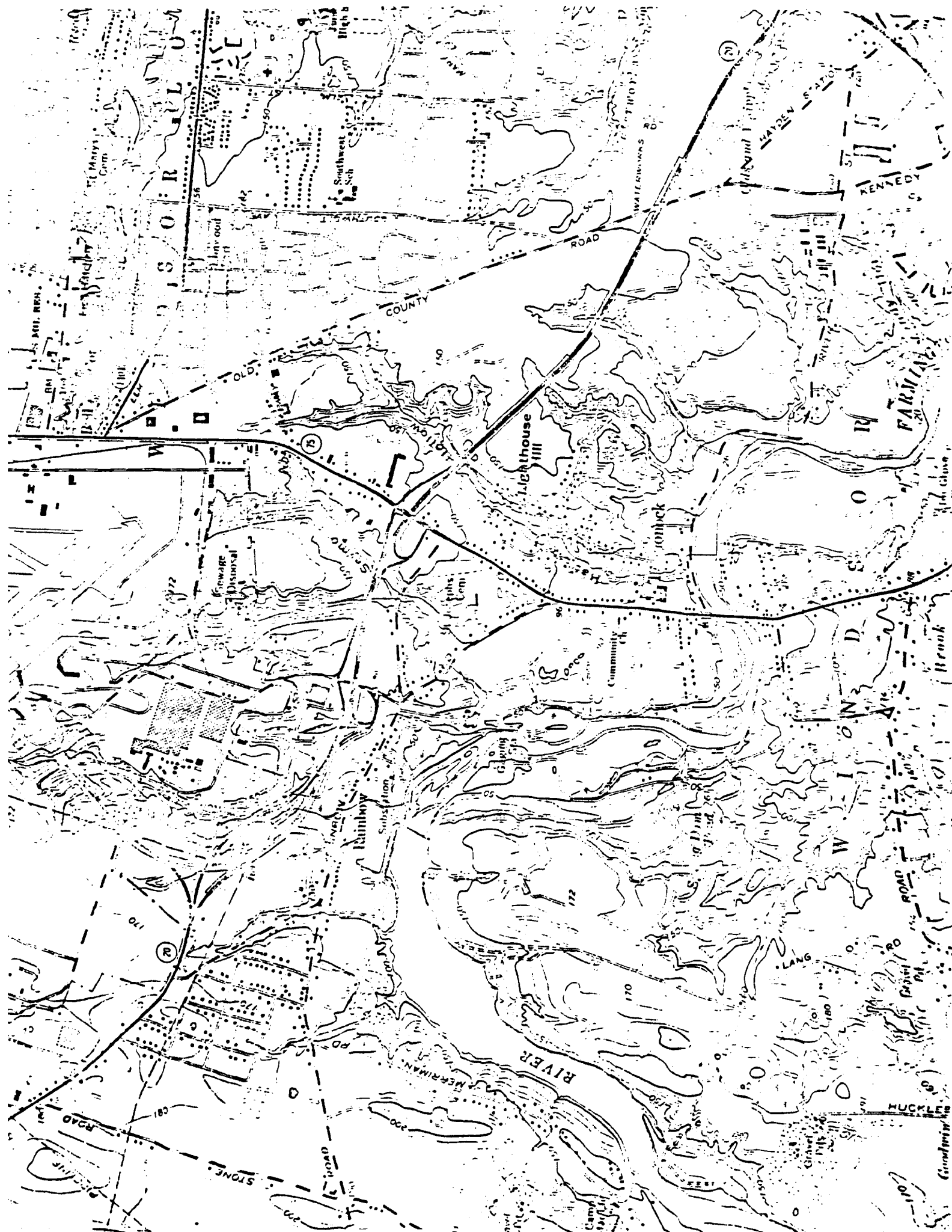
Name: Farmill River

Geographic Limits: Town of Stratford

Resource Values: Oligohaline tidal wetland; this is the only such example on the Housatonic River; rare plants.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Unknown.

Comments: Identified by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection as a high quality tidal wetland.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

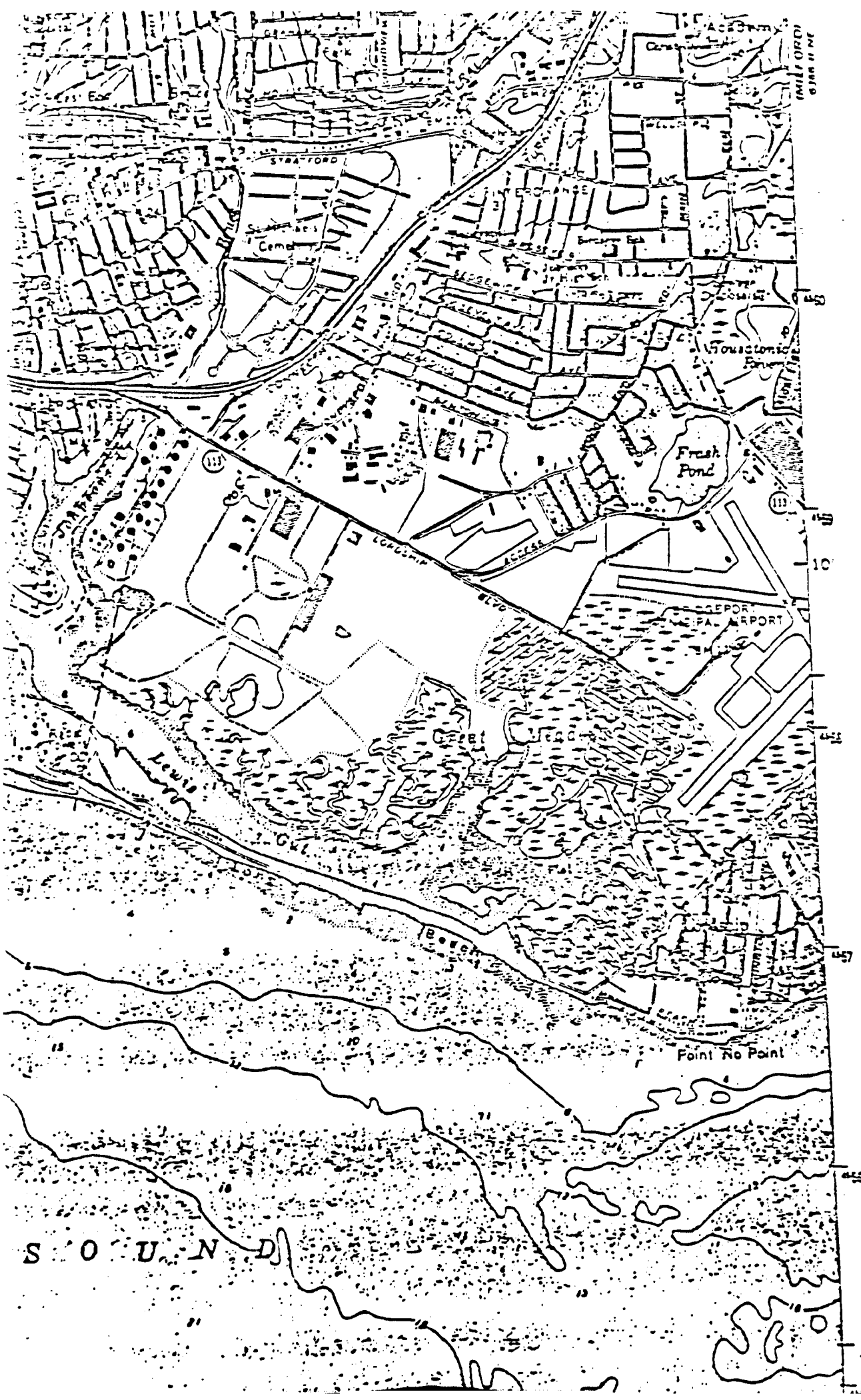
Name: Farmington River

Geographic Limits: Town of Windsor

Resource Values: Good quality, diverse floodplain forest and alluvial marsh.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Agricultural expansion; roads; landfills.

Comments:



BRIDGEPORT, C

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

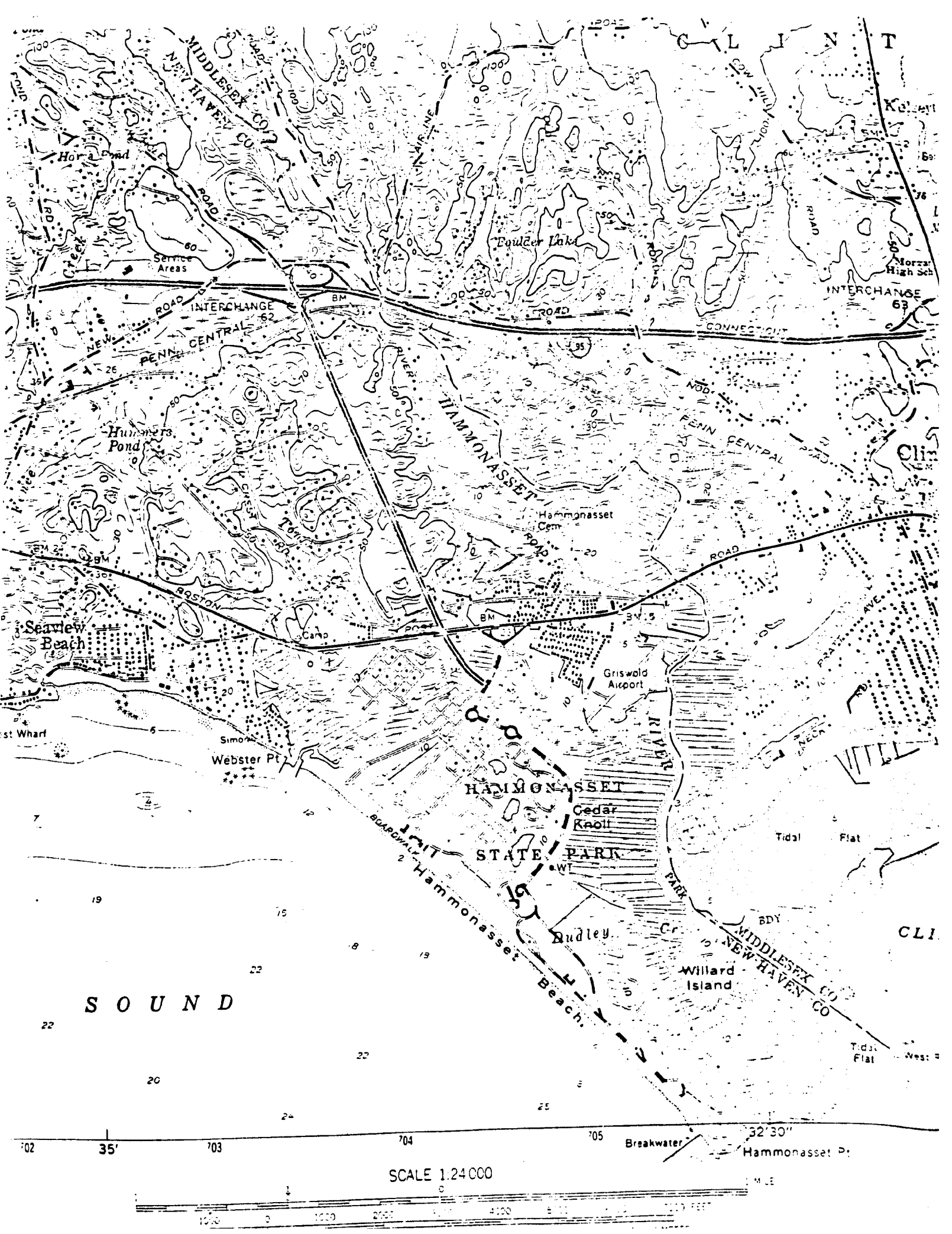
Name: Great Meadows

Geographic Limits: Town of Stratford

Resource Values: Largest expanse of coastal wetlands in Connecticut; habitat for shorebirds and other wildlife; habitat for several Connecticut Species of Special Concern.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Encroachment from piecemeal development for industrial use; major historical loss and cumulative impact.

Comments: One major wetland fill (Stratford Land and Improvement Company) has already been permitted; another (Francis D'addario) pending.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

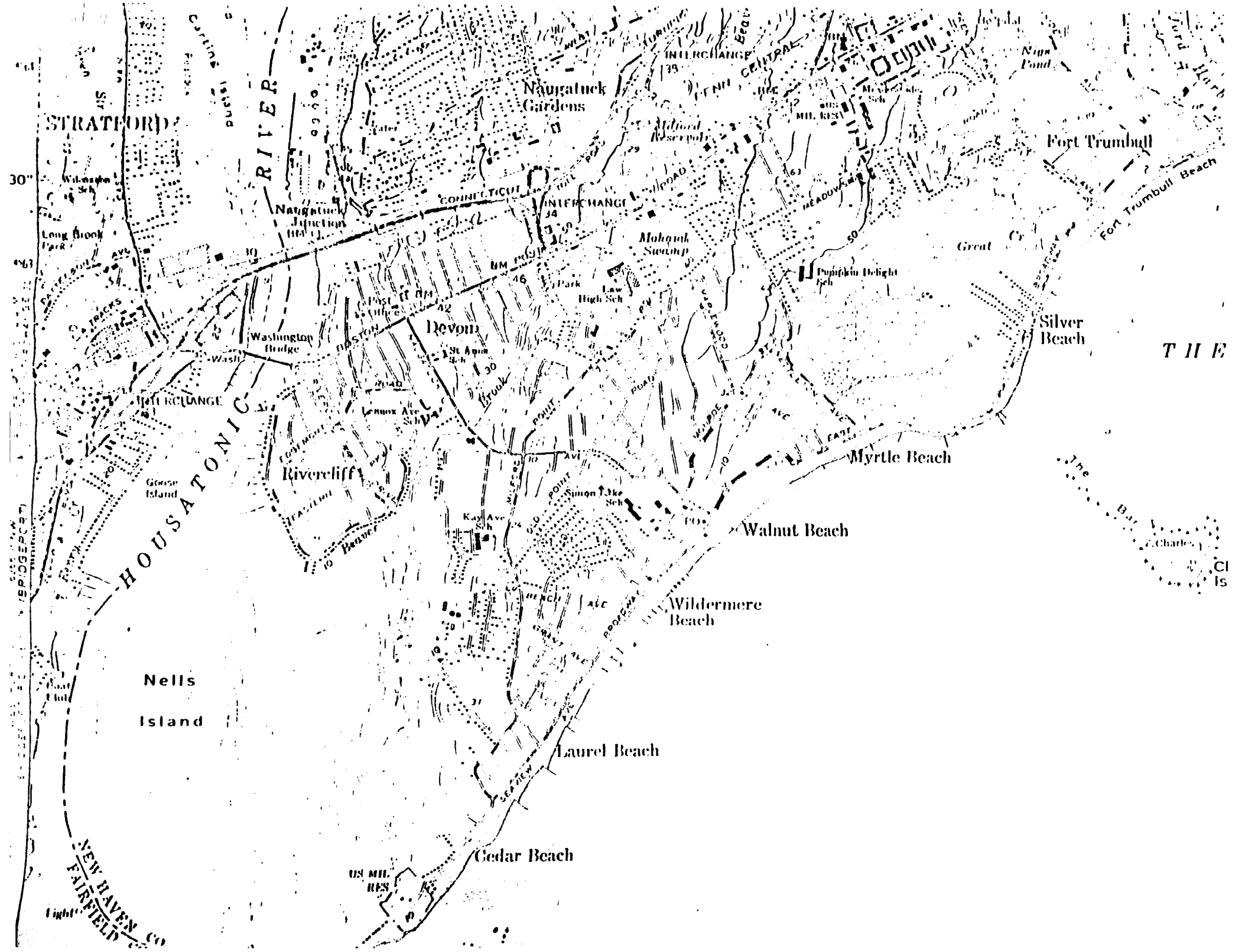
Name: Hammonasset Marshes

Geographic Limits: Towns of Clinton and Madison

Resource Values: Extensive polyhaline marsh dominated by high marsh vegetation; rare birds; area designated as a state natural area.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Unknown.

Comments: Identified by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection as a high quality tidal wetland.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Housatonic River

Geographic Limits: Lower Housatonic River in Stratford, including adjacent wetlands

Resource Values: Anadromous fish; shellfish; mammalian wildlife.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Ongoing in-river sand and gravel mining operations.

Comments: These mining operations not only change the substrate but may alter the hydrology of the overall system with adverse impacts on the biota.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

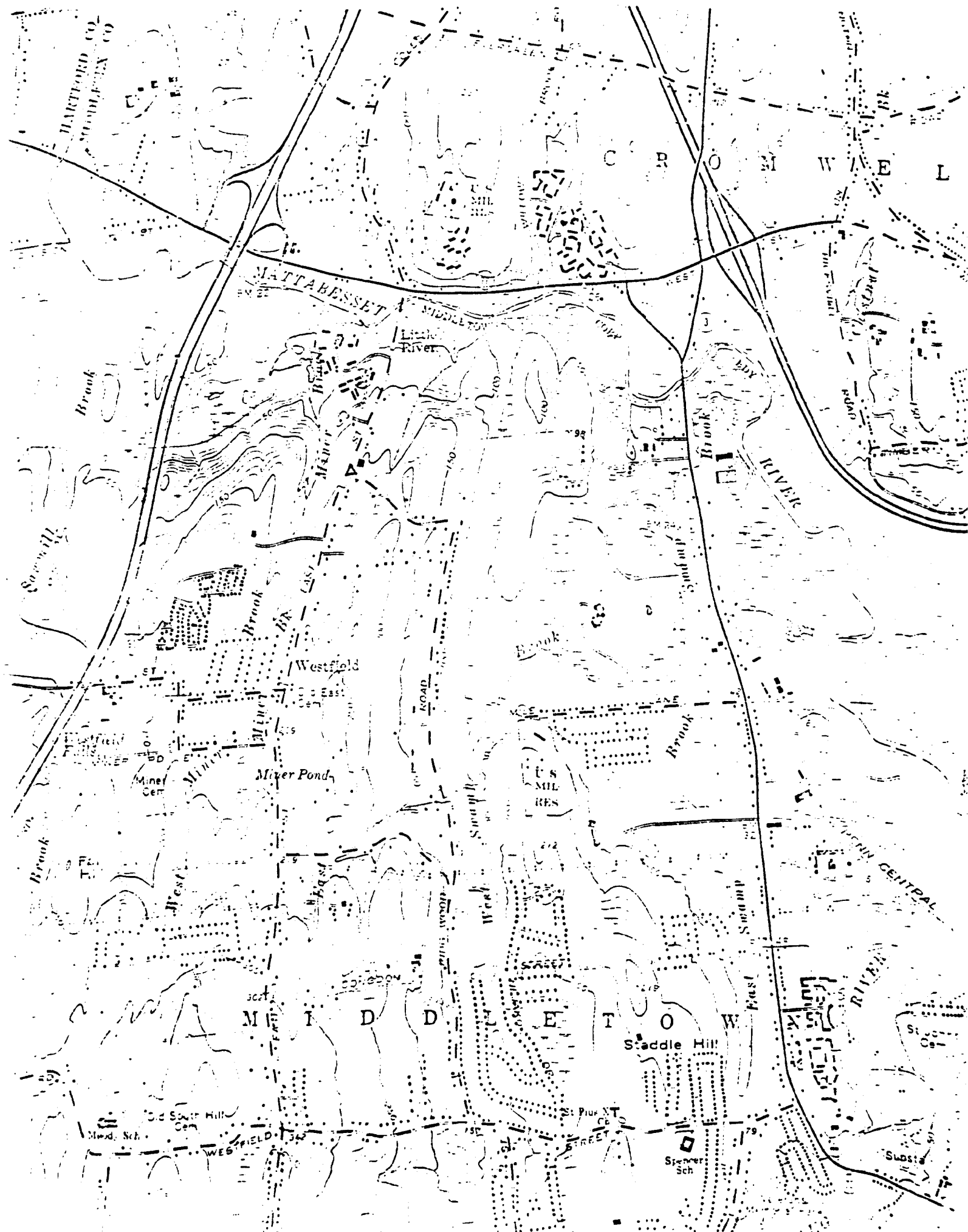
Name: Little Narragansett Bay

Geographic Limits: Town of Stonington

Resource Values: Extremely productive bay for shellfish and finfish; extensive eelgrass beds; high water quality.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Unknown.

Comments: Identified by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection as a high quality tidal wetland.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Mattabesset River

Geographic Limits: Towns of Middletown and Cromwell

Resource Values: High value wetlands for wildlife.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Susceptible to industrial development; landfill.

Comments:

[illegible]

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

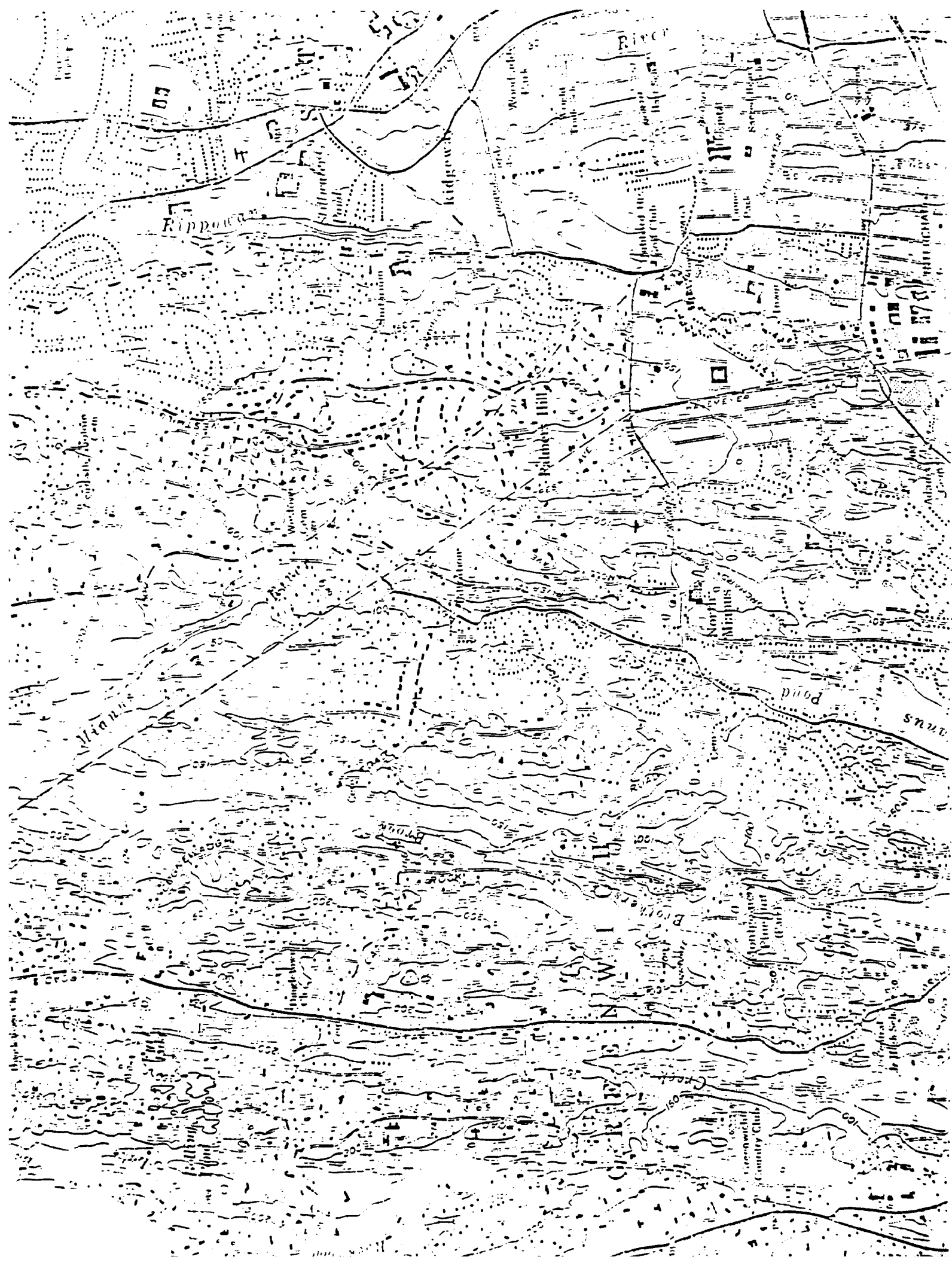
Name: Menunketesuck River

Geographic Limits: Towns of Westbrook and Clinton

Resource Values: Oligo- to polyhaline tidal wetlands; rare plants.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Unknown.

Comments: Identified by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection as a high quality tidal wetland.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

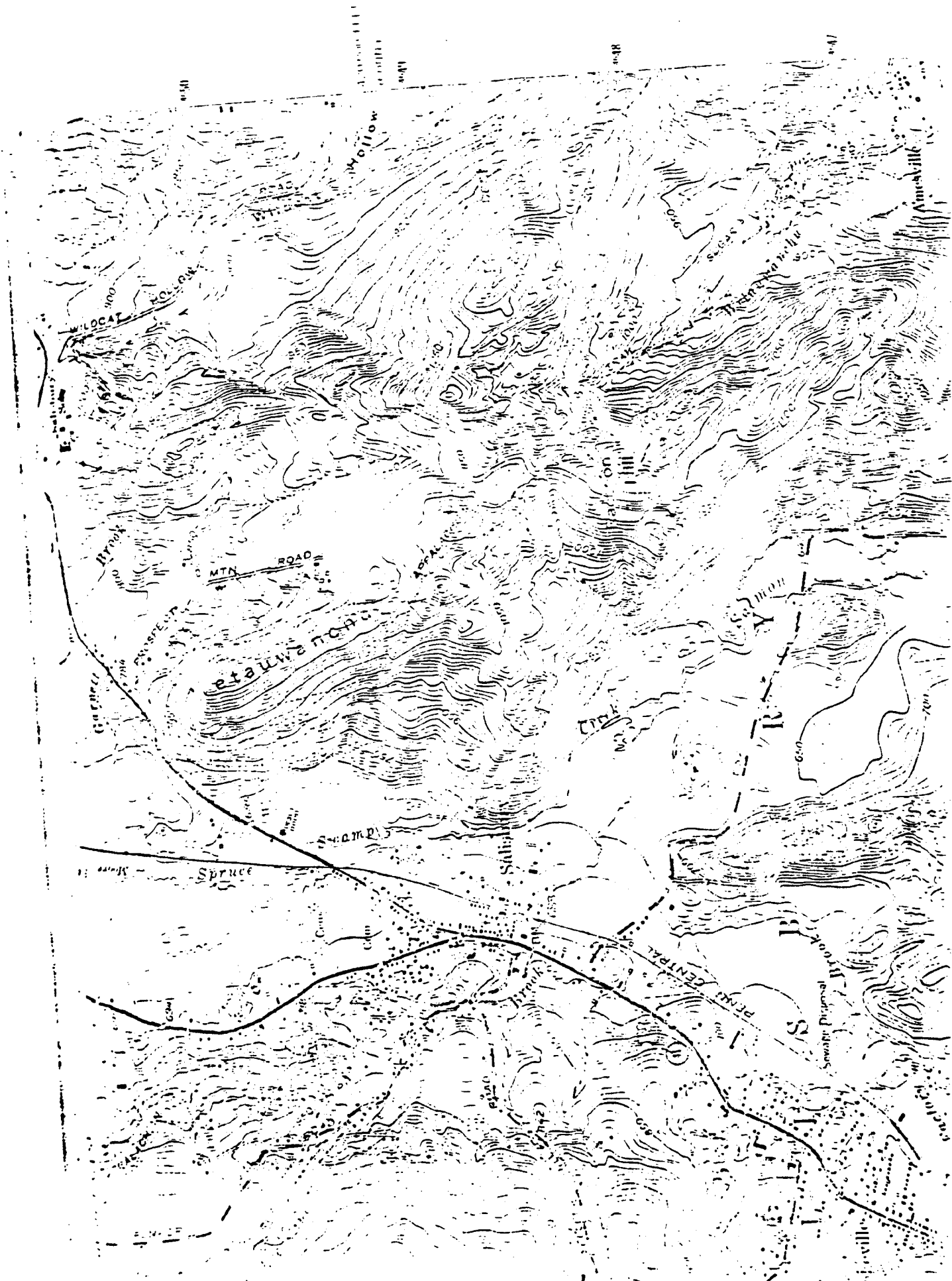
Name: Mianus River

Geographic Limits: Tidal marshes, intertidal flats and shallows on the west side of the river, south of I-95 and the east side north of I-95,

Resource Values: Feeding and nursery habitat for shorebirds; anadromous fish passage for sea-run brown trout and smelt; potential for local water quality renovation; open space and aesthetic values.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Past development has resulted in major cumulative impacts, but small pockets of healthy marsh remain. There will likely be pressure to fill what little remains.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Moore Brook and vicinity

Geographic Limits: Town of Salisbury

Resource Values: Diverse calcareous wetland.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Potential for water quality deterioration.

Comments: This area is partially owned by The Nature Conservancy.

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

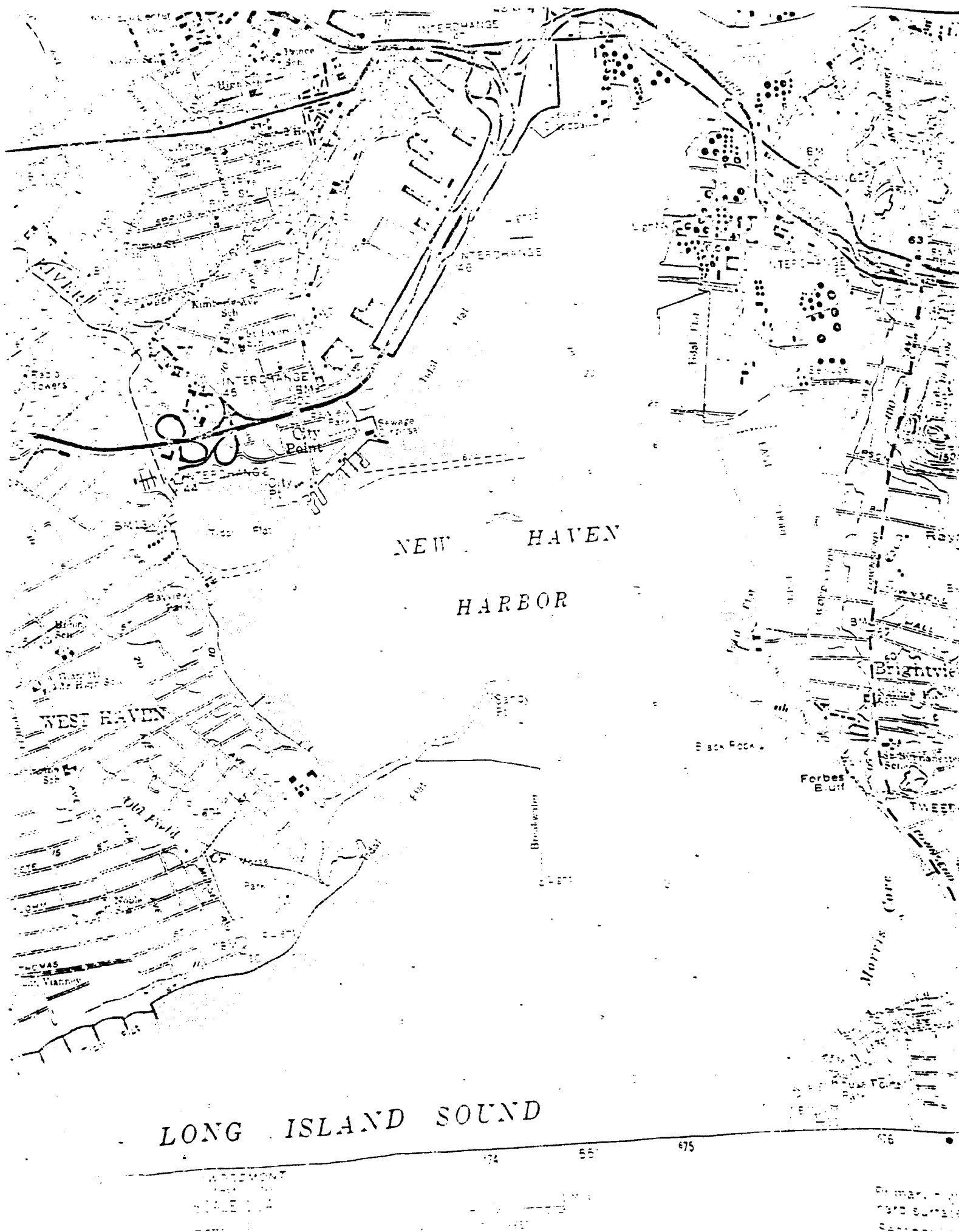
Name: Mystic River

Geographic Limits: Towns of Groton and Stonington

Resource Values: Anadromous fish; waterfowl habitat; shellfish; winter flounder; recreational use; water quality.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Industrial and commercial development; high demand for residential development.

Comments: This area is zoned for low density residential but there is potential for high density housing due to a nearby naval base.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

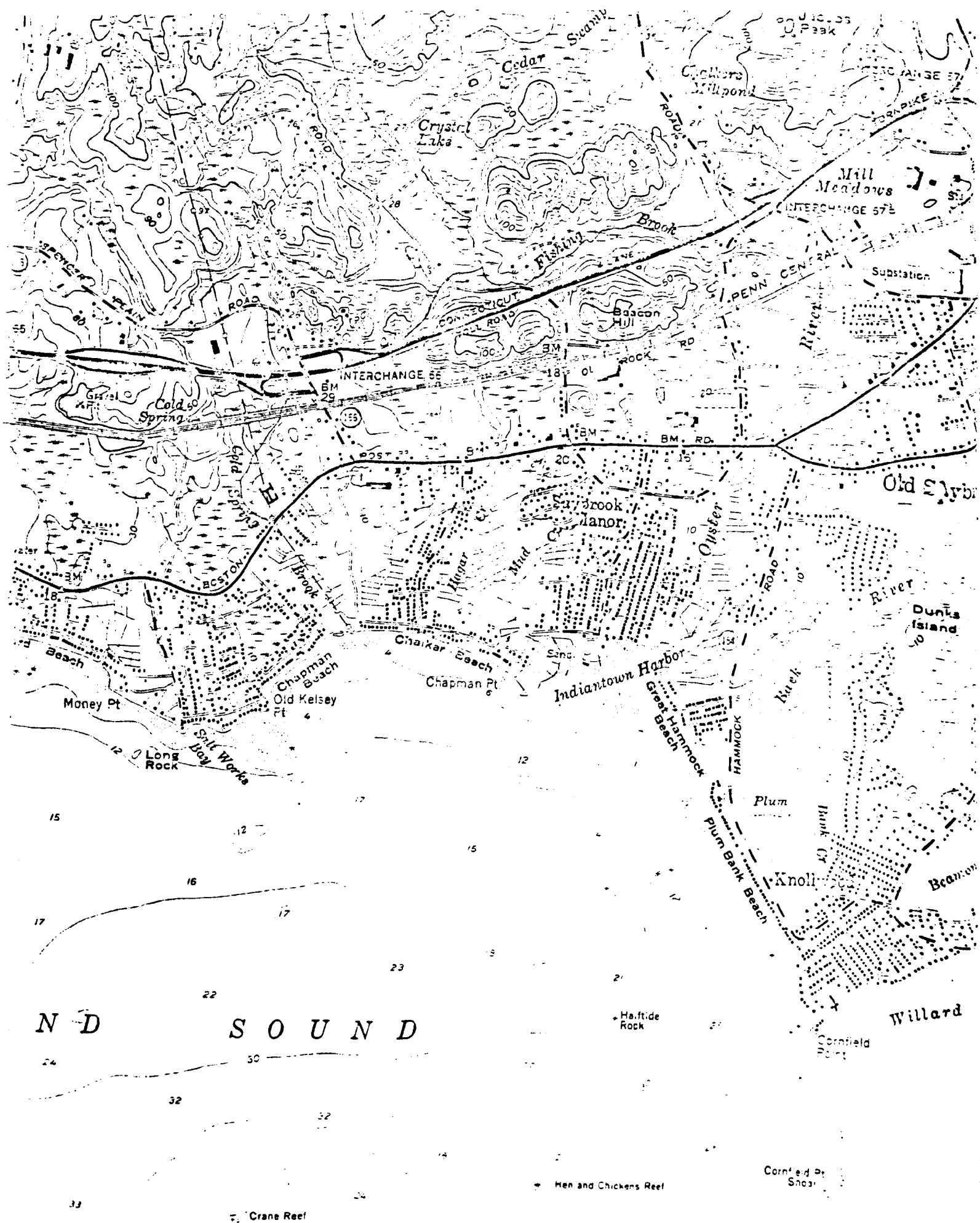
Name: New Haven Harbor

Geographic Limits: Tidal mud flats in New Haven and West Haven

Resource Values: Resting area for shorebirds and waterfowl; wintering black duck and scaup; fisheries; maintenance of water quality; shellfish industry; recreation; aesthetics.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Unknown, however, any activities that might affect water quality or sedimentation could impact the invertebrate life forms of the mud flats.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Oyster/Rick Rivers

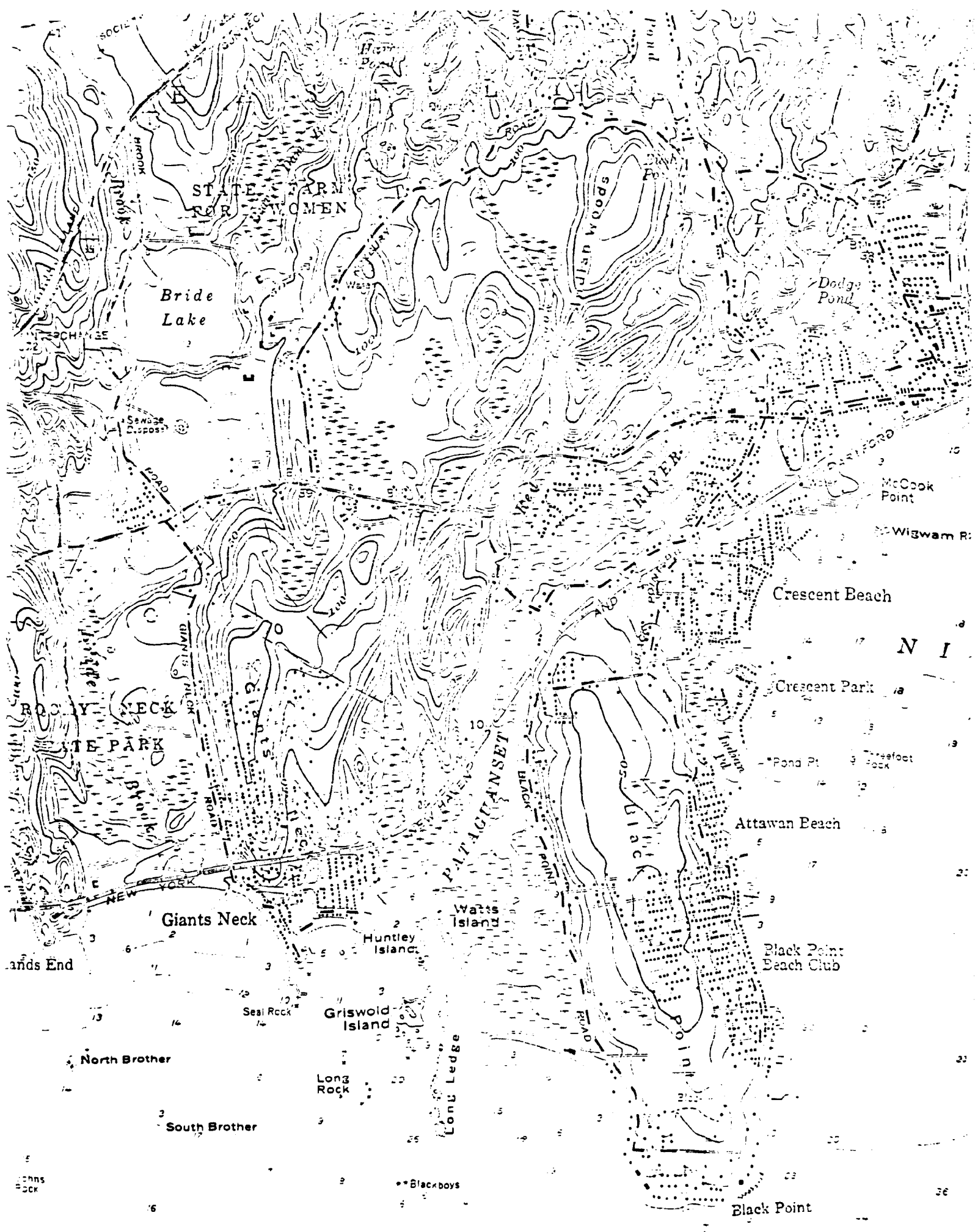
Geographic Limits: Town of Old Saybrook

Resource Values: Extensive polyhaline tidal wetland dominated by high marsh vegetation.

Known/Potential Unknown.

Threats to Resource:

Comments: Identified by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection as a high quality tidal wetland.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

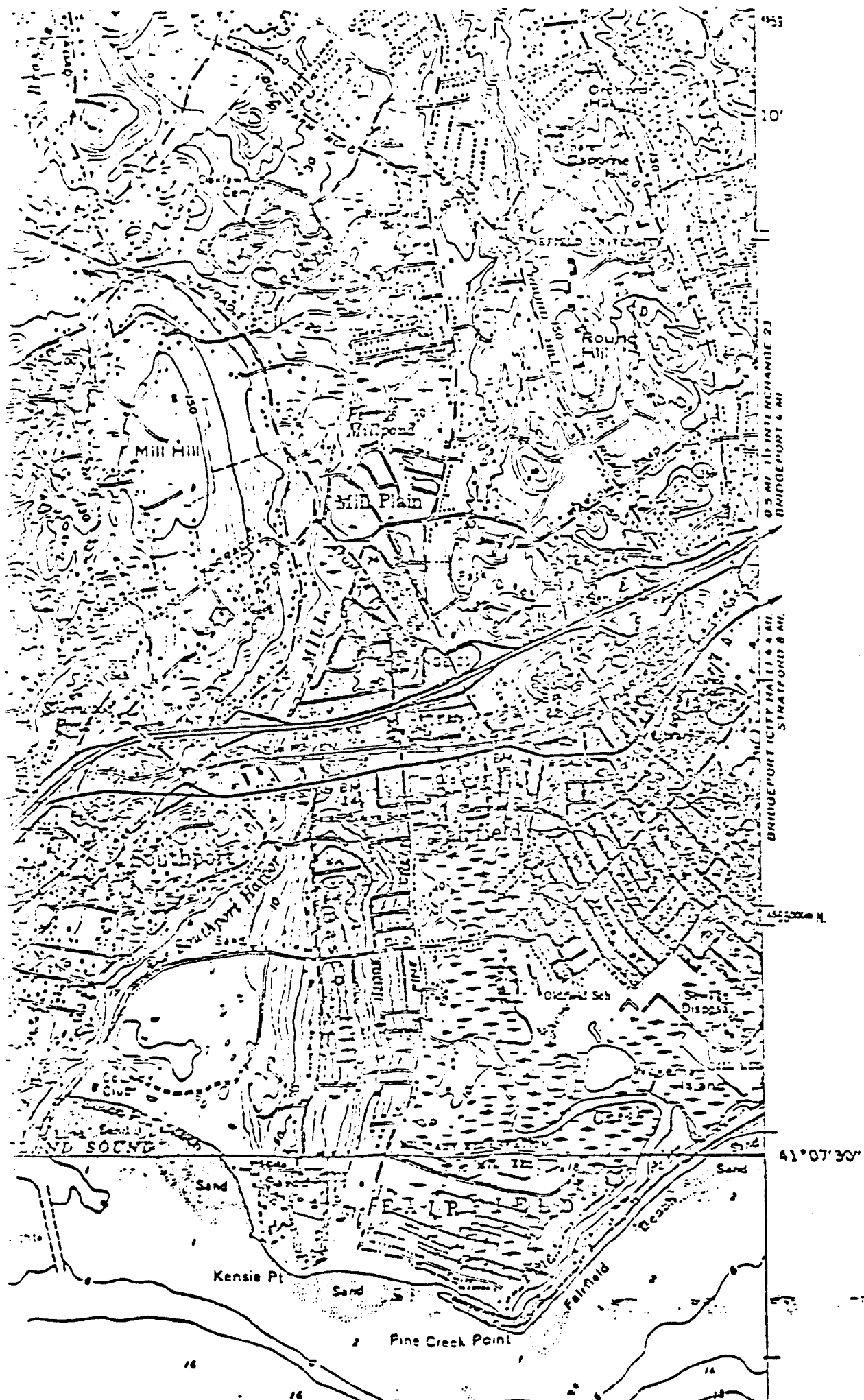
Name: Patagansett River Estuary

Geographic Limits: Town of East Lyme

Resource Values: Very high quality tidal wetland system with limited disturbance; research; rare plants and animals.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Unknown.

Comments: Identified by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection as a high quality tidal wetland.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Pine Creek

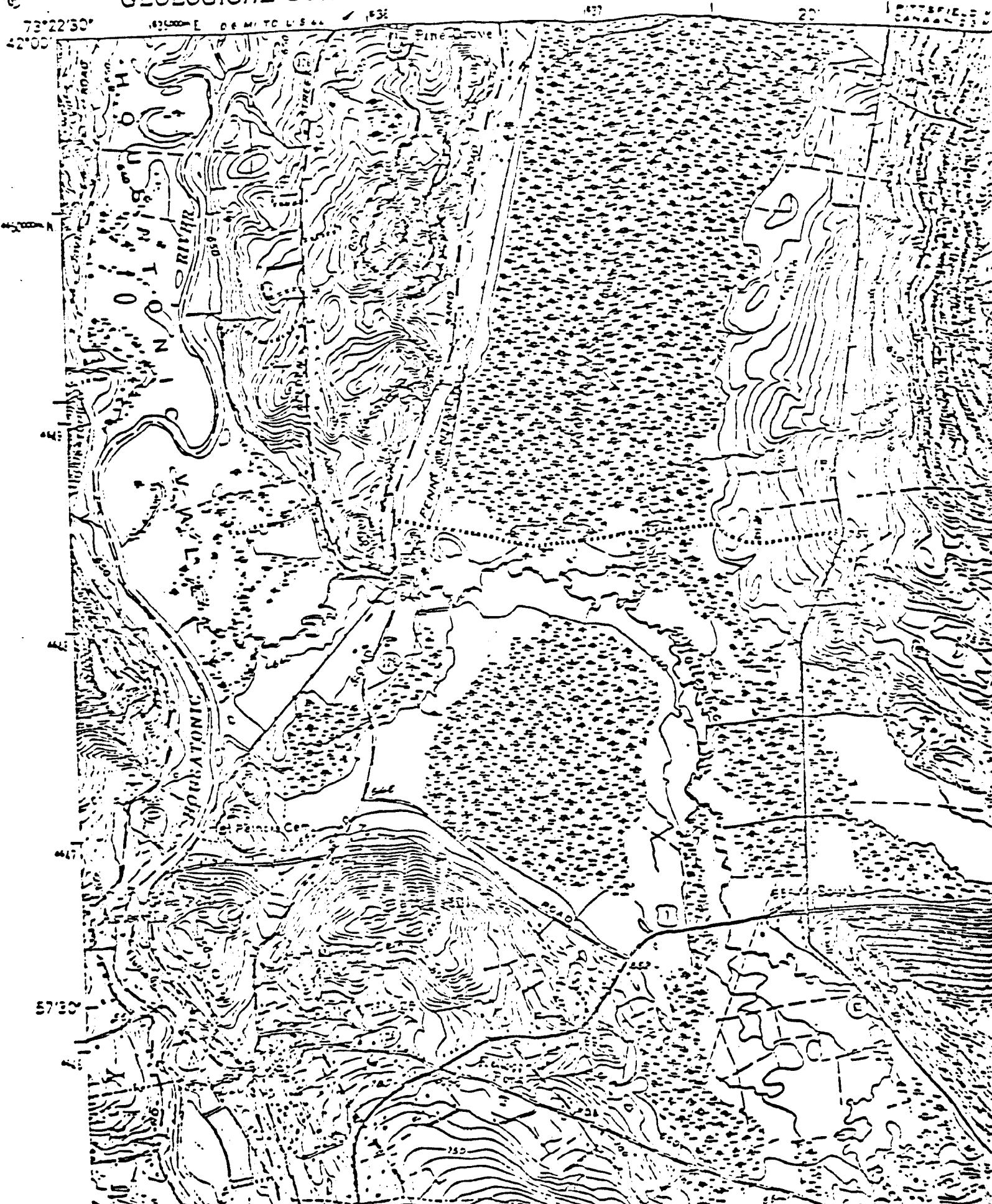
Geographic Limits: Lower Pine Creek in Town of Fairfield

Resource Values: Important estuarine and saltmarsh habitat for fish, shellfish and birds; storm flood protection.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Possible development of a marina and golf course by the Town of Fairfield.

Comments:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

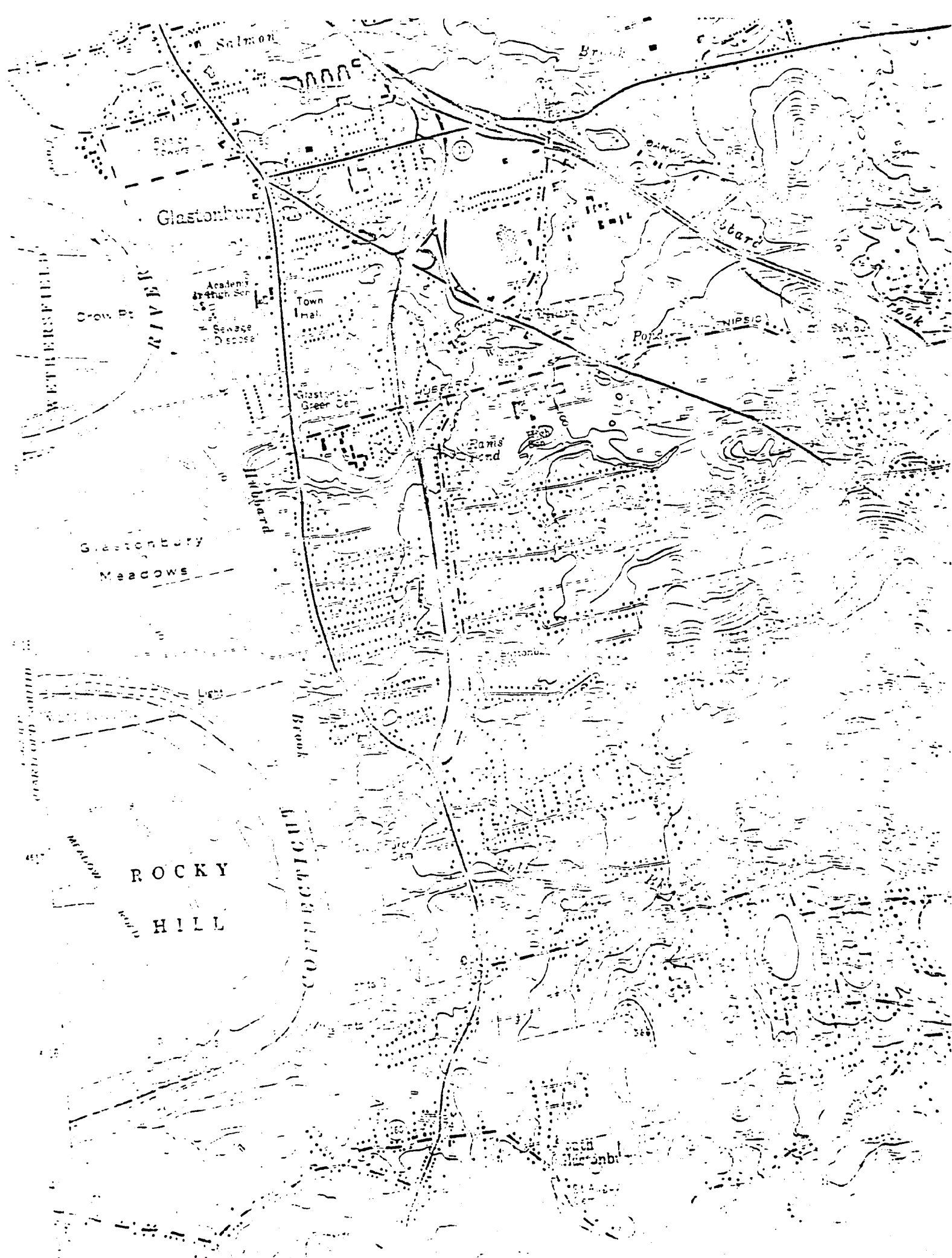
Name: Robbins Swamp

Geographic Limits: Litchfield County, about 2 miles south of Canaan

Resource Values: The most extensive northern white cedar swamp in the state; many Connecticut Species of Special Concern, as well as one species on the federal endangered and threatened plant list.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: This area has already been cut over and may suffer from further disturbance.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

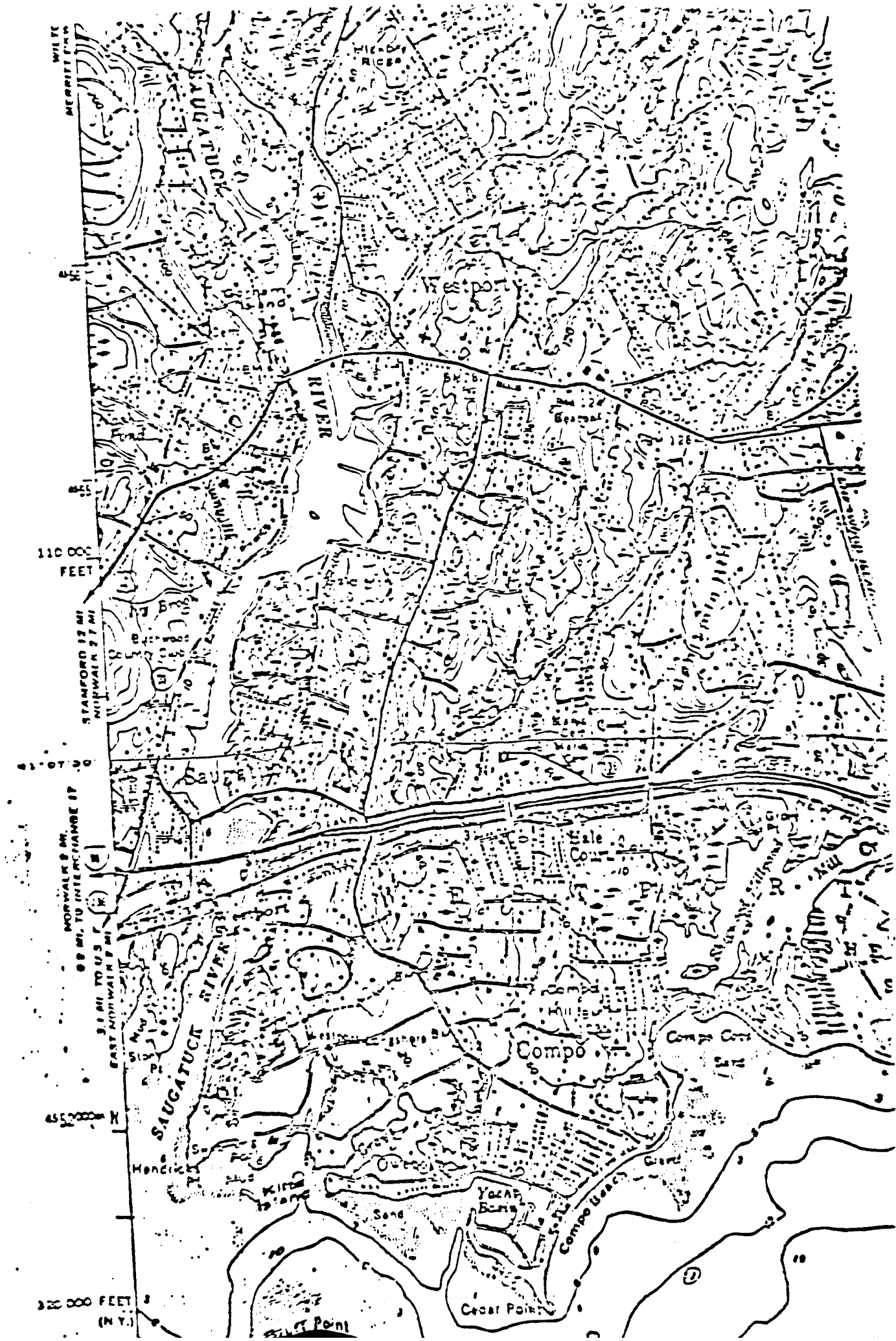
Name: Saugatuck River

Geographic Limits: Lower Saugatuck River in Town of Westport

Resource Values: Diverse, healthy estuarine habitat; fish and wildlife value; shellfish; aesthetics; storm/flood protection.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Existing and proposed commercial and residential development.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

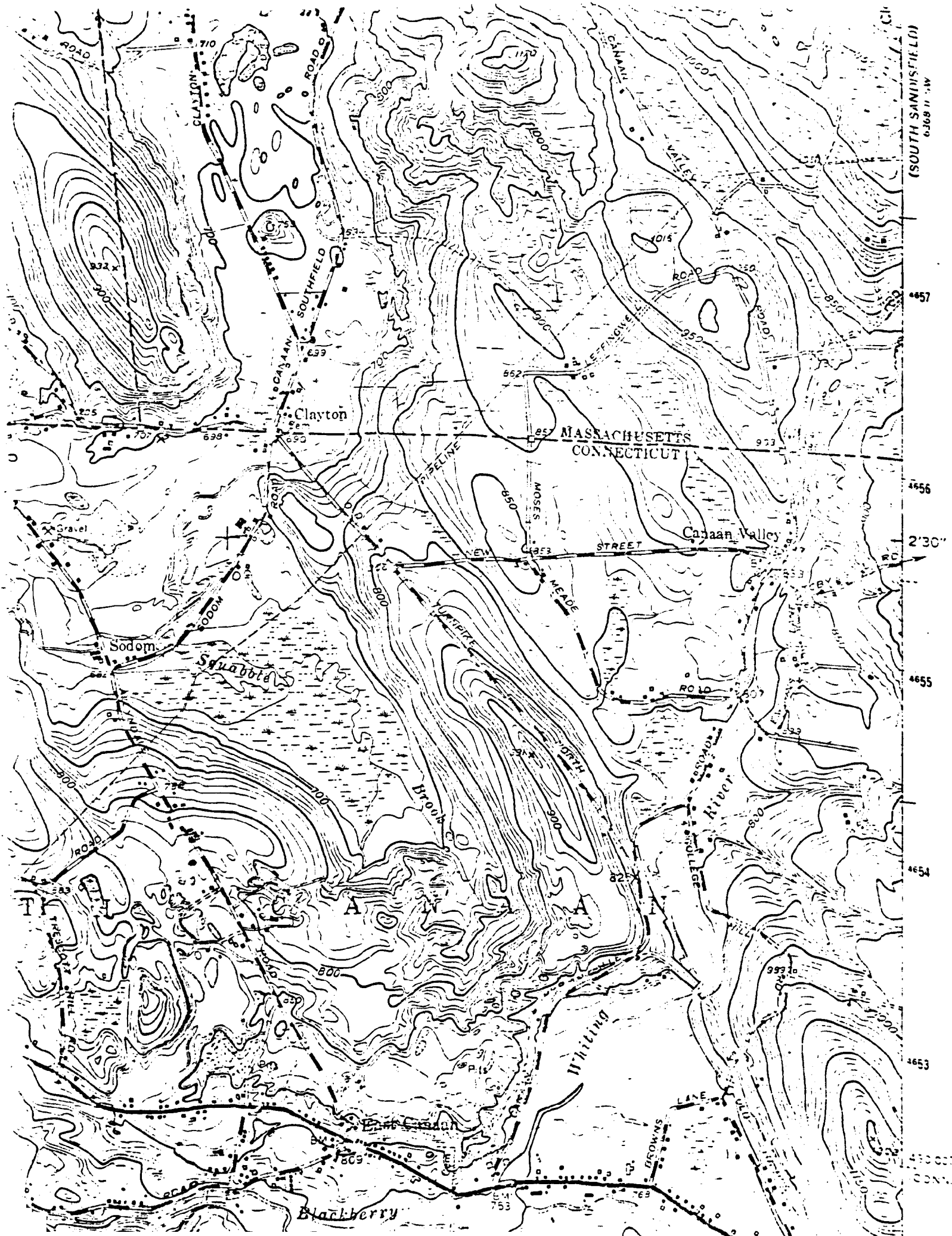
Name: Rocky Hill/Glastonbury/Wethersfield Meadows

Geographic Limits: Glastonbury

Resource Values: Diverse floodplain forest and alluvial marsh.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Agricultural expansion.

Comments: This area was recommended by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection as a priority area.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

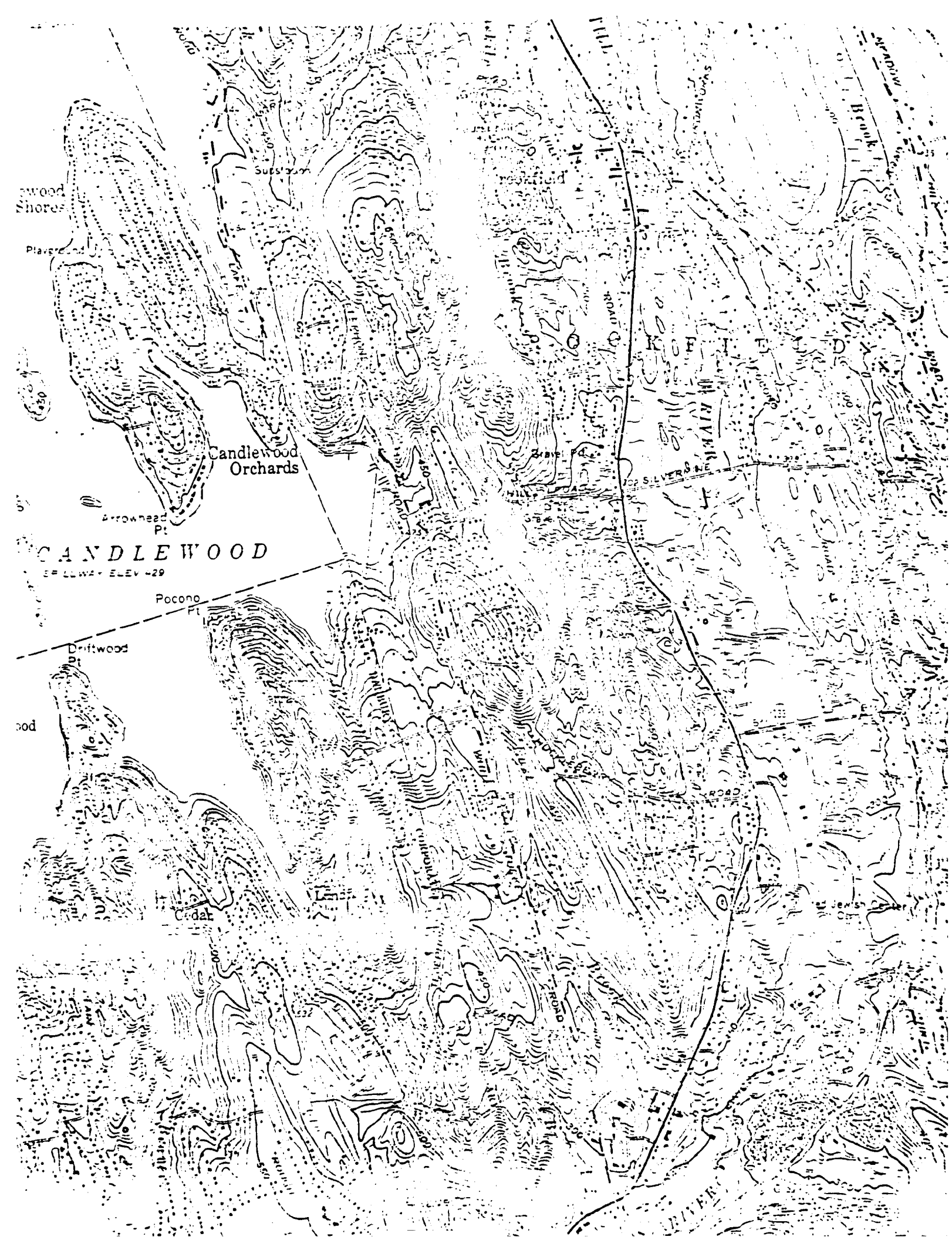
Name: Squabble Brook and vicinity

Geographic Limits: Town of North Canaan

Resource Values: Diverse calcareous seepage swamp.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Agricultural expansion; draining.

Comments: This land is partially owned by The Nature Conservancy.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

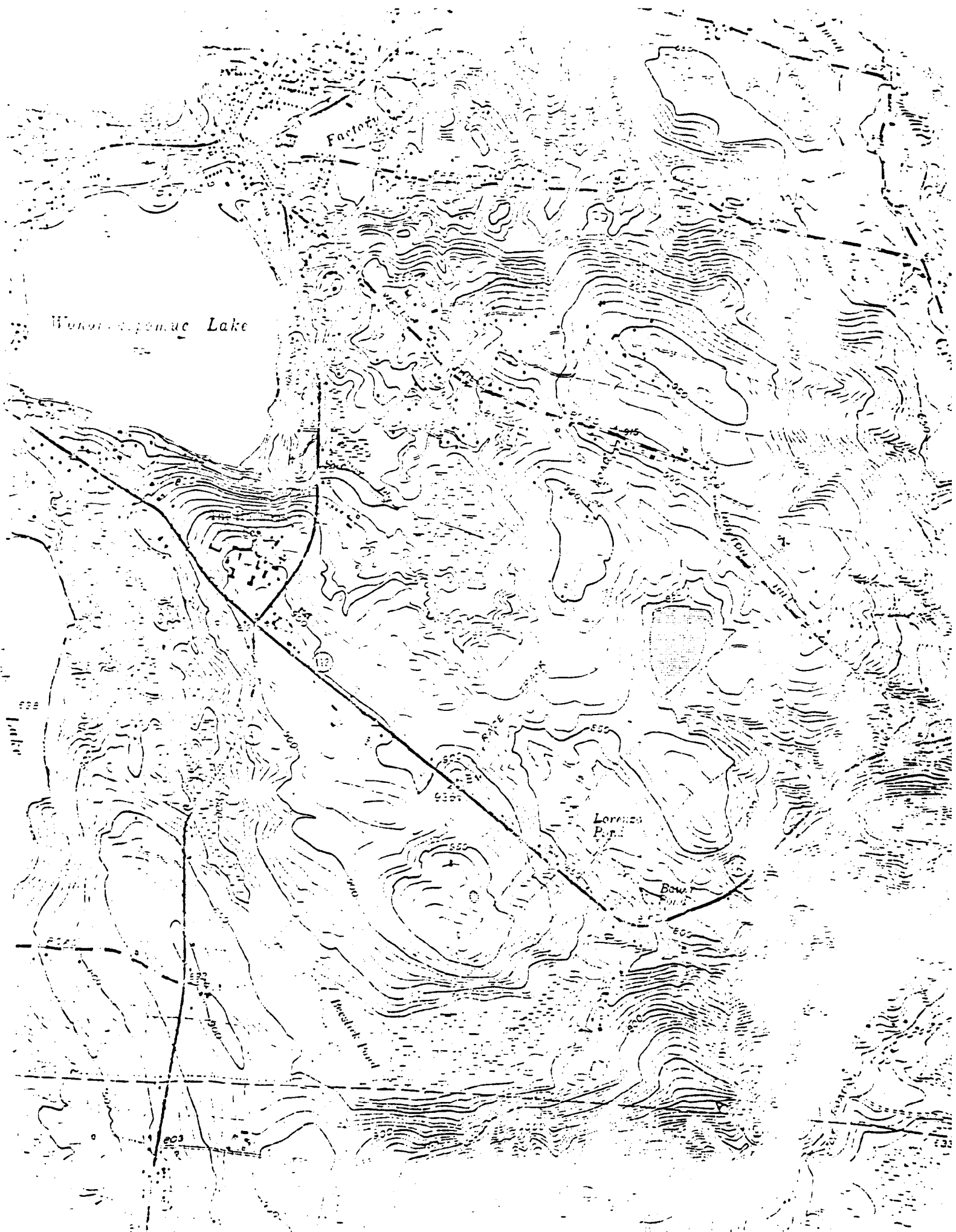
Name: Still River

Geographic Limits: Towns of Danbury, New Milford and Brookfield

Resource Values: High value wetland for wildlife and waterfowl.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Residential and industrial development.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

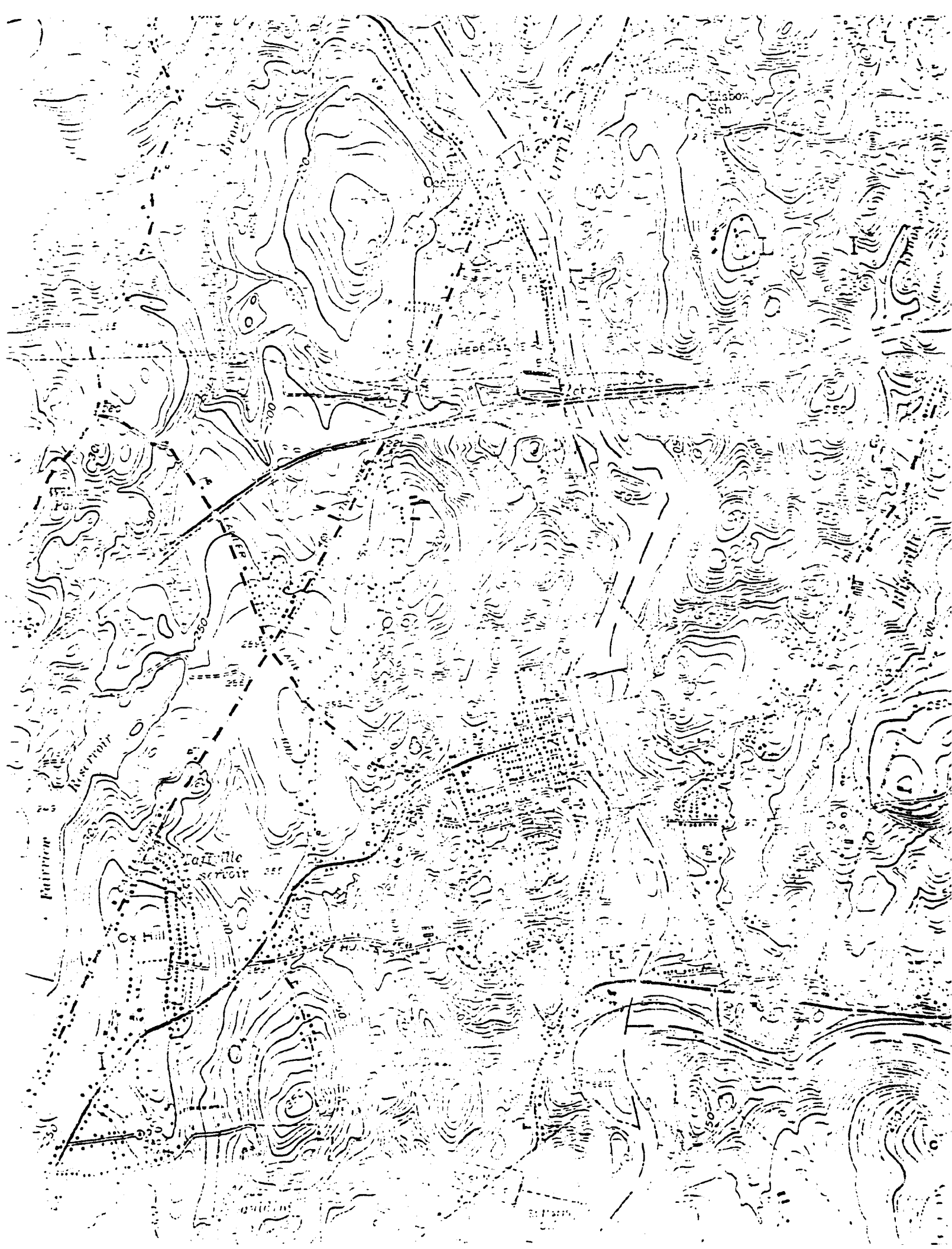
Name: Sucker Brook and related wetlands

Geographic Limits: Town of Salisbury

Resource Values: Diverse calcareous wetland and fen; one of the best sites in the state.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Unknown.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Thames River

Geographic Limits: The Thames, Shetucket, and Quinebaug Rivers and their tributaries

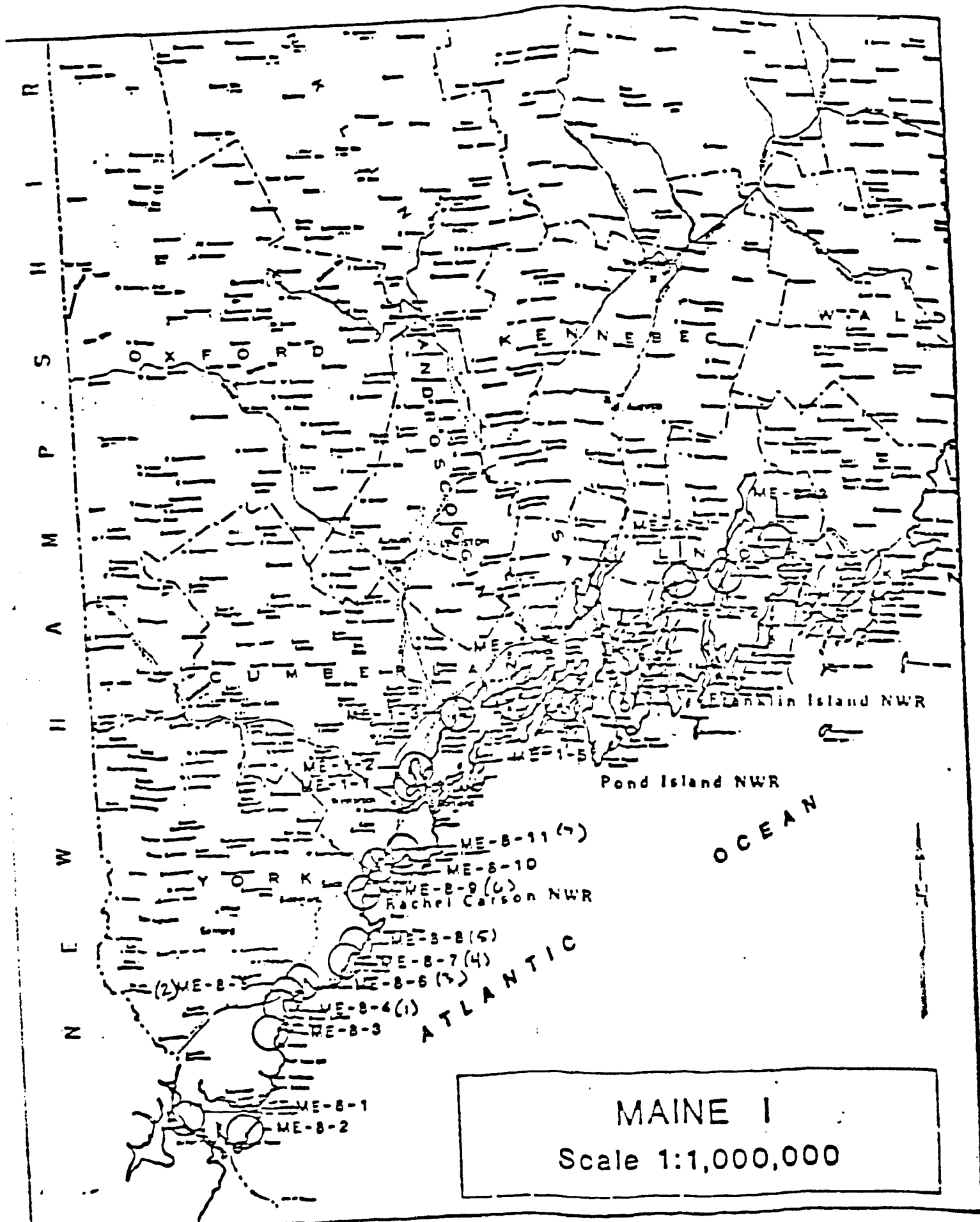
Resource Values: Warm and cold water fisheries- encompasses the major domestic trout fishery in Eastern Connecticut; anadromous fisheries; marine fisheries within the estuary; high potential for American shad and Atlantic salmon restoration.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Commercial, industrial, and residential development; hydropower, especially "small hydro"; cogeneration.

Comments: "A Preliminary Plan for the Restoration of Anadromous Fisheries in the Thames River Basin" has been produced by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Fisheries.



GENERAL LISTING



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Coastal Marshes identified by FWS in the Concept Plan for Preservation of Black Duck Wintering Habitat

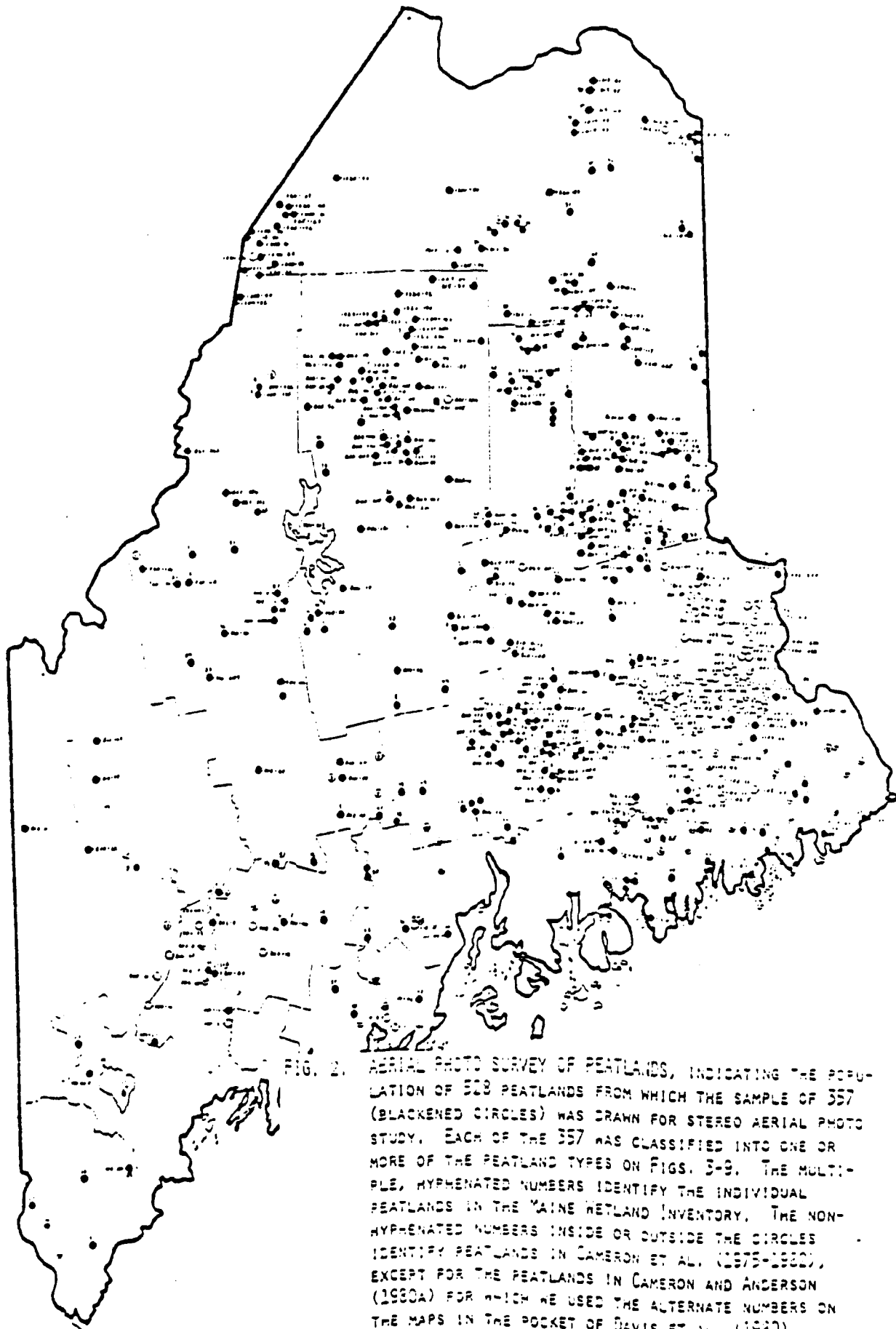
Geographic Limits: Lower Wells Marsh (400 acres) Goosefare Brook Marsh (195 acres)
Upper Wells Marsh (180 acres) Spurwink Marsh (200 acres)
Mousam River Marsh (103 acres)
Goose Rocks Marsh (315 acres)
Little River Marsh (172 acres)

Resource Values: Lower Wells Marsh- Wintering black duck, least tern nesting (adjacent upland)
Upper Wells Marsh- Wintering black duck
Mousam River Marsh- Wintering black duck
Goose Rocks Marsh- Wintering black duck, least tern nesting (adjacent upland)
Little River Marsh- Wintering black duck
Goosefare Brook Marsh- Wintering black duck
Spurwink Marsh- Wintering black duck

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Lower Wells Marsh- possibly threatened- second home development
Upper Wells Marsh- possibly threatened- second home development
Mousam River Marsh- possibly threatened- second home development
Goose Rocks Marsh- possibly threatened- second home development
Little River Marsh- possibly threatened- second home development
Goosefare Brook Marsh- highly threatened- contaminants
Spurwink Marsh- possibly threatened- second home development

Comments: FWS (realty) uses three categories of threat: highly threatened
possibly threatened
mostly protected

These areas are by no means a FWS priority list of wetlands for New England, but rather coastal wetlands important to wintering black ducks, a FWS National Species of Special Emphasis.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

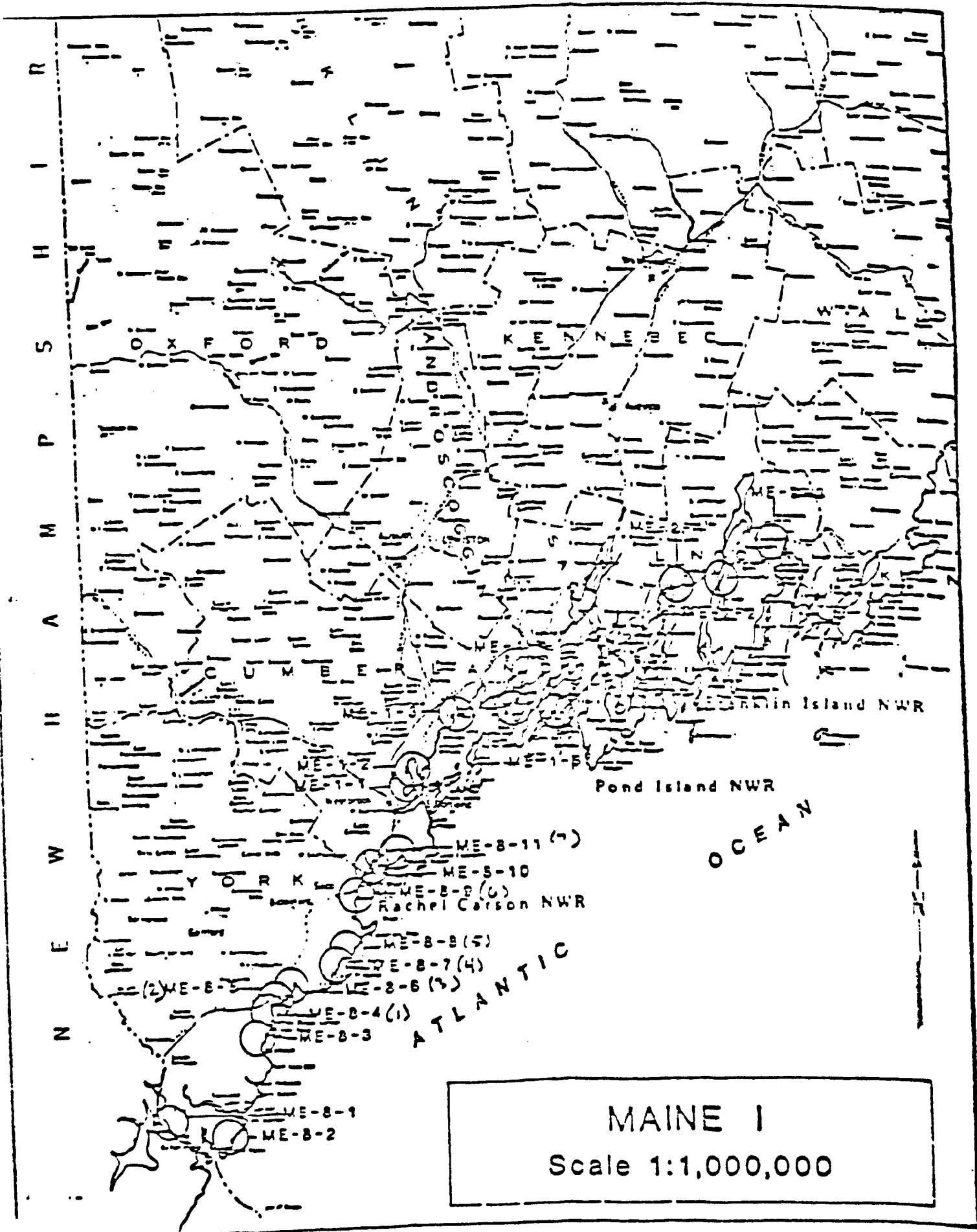
Name: Coastal Raised Peatlands

Geographic Limits: Maine Coastal Zone

Resource Values: Uncommon peatland type worldwide with unique and rare flora and fauna.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Peat development- mining for fuel and agriculture.

Comments: Examples: Jonesport North Unit (Jonesport)
Kelly Point Peatlands (Jonesport)
Carrying Place Cove (Lubec)



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Eelgrass (Zostera marina) beds

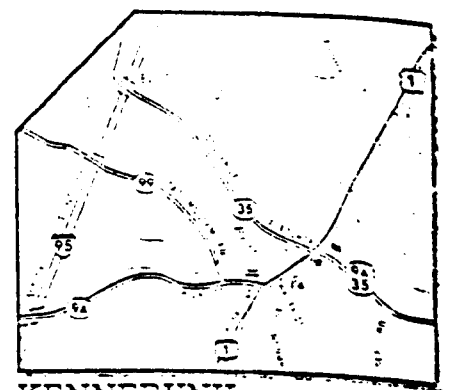
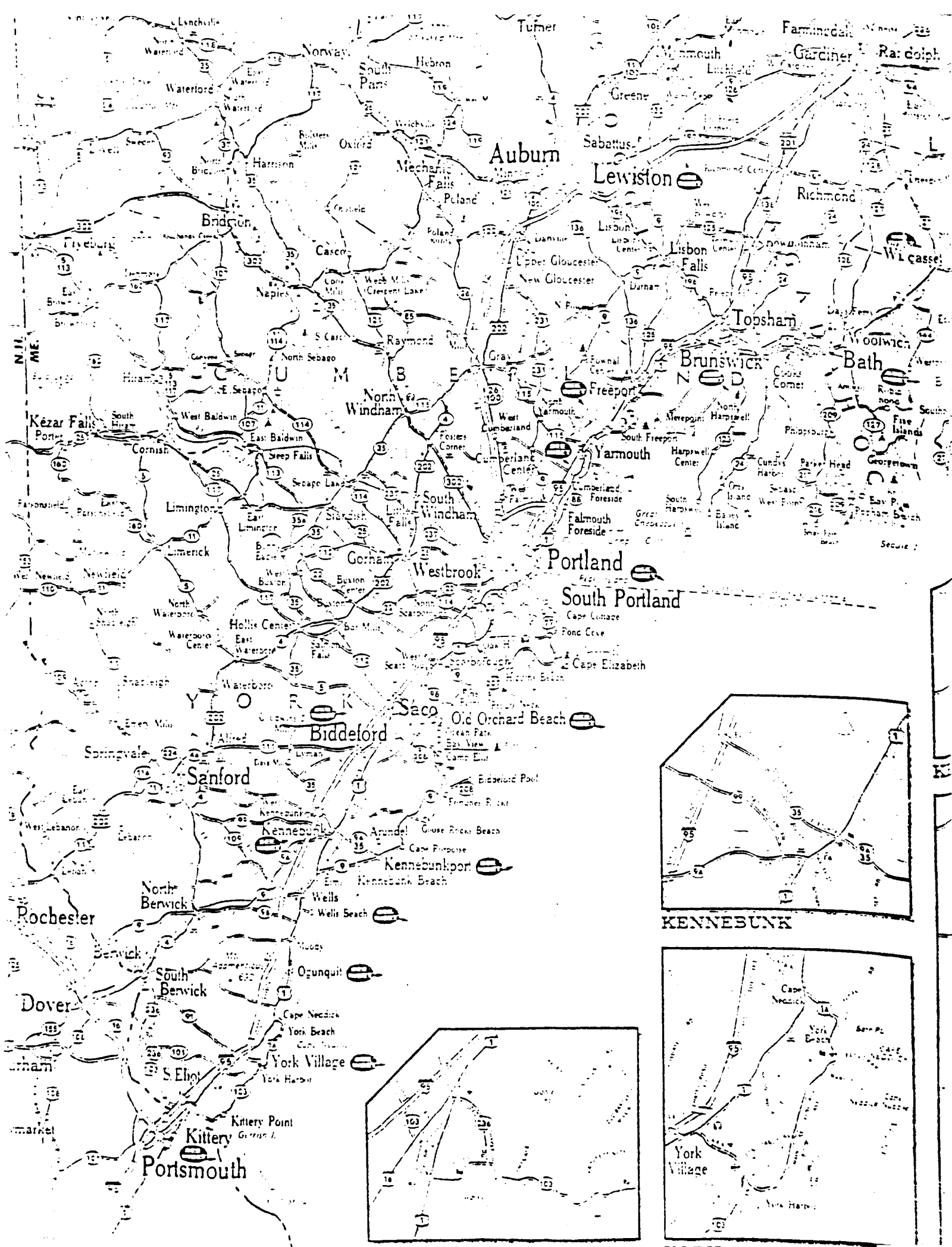
State(s): Maine

Geographic Limits: Coastal zone; Mean Low Water to 18 foot contour

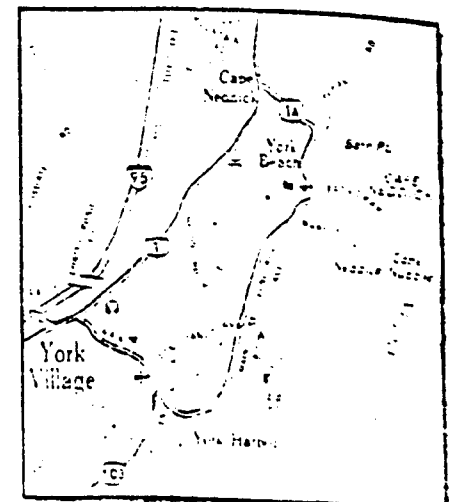
Resource Values: Primary productivity, natural cover and sediment stabilization

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Dredging/filling resulting in removal or burial of plants or causing changes in current flow and/or increased turbidity.

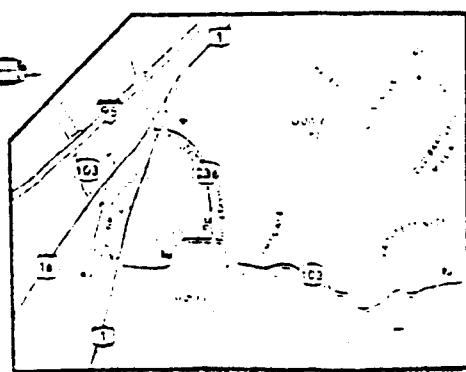
Comments:



KENNESUNK



YORK



KITTERY

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Estuaries Identified as Important to the Preservation and Enhancement of Anadromous Fish Resources

Geographic Limits: Watersheds of the rivers/estuaries

Resource Values: Nursery areas for anadromous fish including: rainbow smelt, alewife, blueback herring, striped bass, American shad, river herring, shortnose sturgeon (endangered), Atlantic salmon, Atlantic sturgeon, brook trout, bluefish, juvenile sea herring, groundfish

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Hydropower development; water quality degradation

Comments: Rivers include: York River estuary, Piscataqua River, Dunstan/Scarborough River complex, Saco River, Presumpscot River, Royal River estuary, Kennebec/Androscoggin estuary, Sheepscot River estuary, Damariscotta River, St. George River estuary, Penobscot River estuary, Union River estuary, Narragausus and Pleasant River estuaries, Machias and East Machias River estuaries, Denny's River estuary, Aroostook River, and St. Croix River estuary

These rivers were identified by Maine Department of Environmental Protection and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

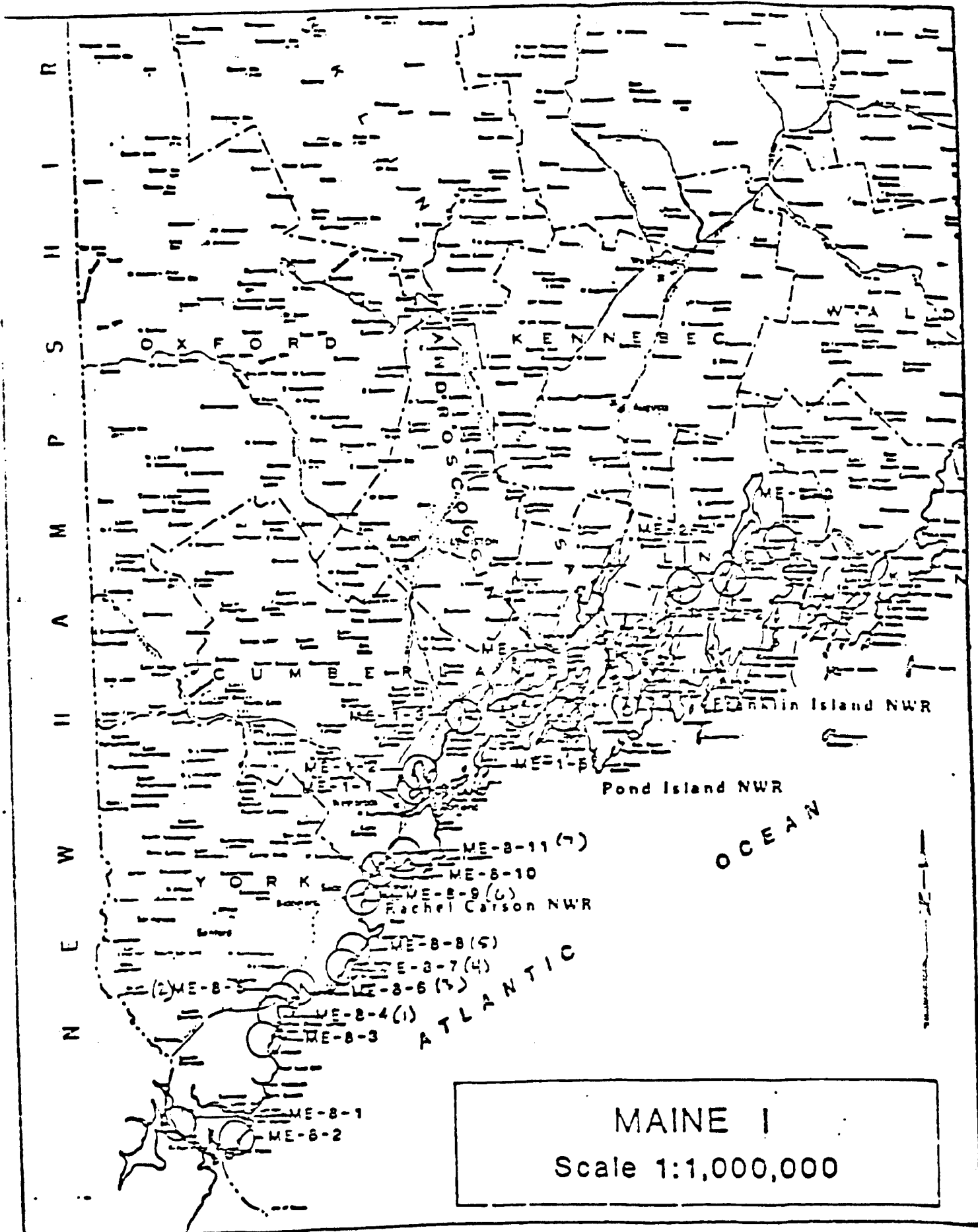
Name: Special Aquatic Sites within the Immediate Watersheds of Surface Drinking Water Impoundments

Geographic Limits: Variable. Approximately 880 such impoundments (539 community supplies; 341 non-community supplies) exist in New England.

Resource Values: Wetlands in these areas will often be important in maintenance of water quality. Likewise, work in these wetlands has the potential to seriously impact water supplies.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Difficult to predict. Threats to these wetlands are uncommon, but are potentially serious. Highway projects, as well as industrial and commercial development seem to be most common.

Comments: Work in these areas should automatically trigger careful EPA review and full coordination with the Water Supply Branch. Special Conditions will likely apply to any permitted projects.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Tidal/freshwater transition zones

Geographic Limits: Maine coastal zone

Resource Values: These relatively rare and poorly understood systems may be very important for uncommon wildlife species and play important roles in stabilizing the local physical and hydrological environment. These areas are also important for nesting wintering bald eagles and provide habitat for many rare plants.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: First and second home development. Maine State laws are protective of tidal wetlands, but they have no comprehensive inland wetland protection. Consequently, the temptation exists to develop right to the edge of tidal influence and eliminate the important transition zone.

Comments: Specific examples of this type of area include:
Merrymeeting Bay
Machias Bay/ East River estuary
Cobscook Bay
Lubec Flats/ West Quoddy Head

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Wetlands identified as important on state breeding and bird censuses

Geographic Limits: Variable.

Resource Values: These wetlands have been identified as important for breeding birds.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Variable and site-specific; Any 404 regulated work in these areas would require close scrutiny.

Comments: These censuses are in various stages of publication. Further information about particular species is available from the Fish and Wildlife Service.

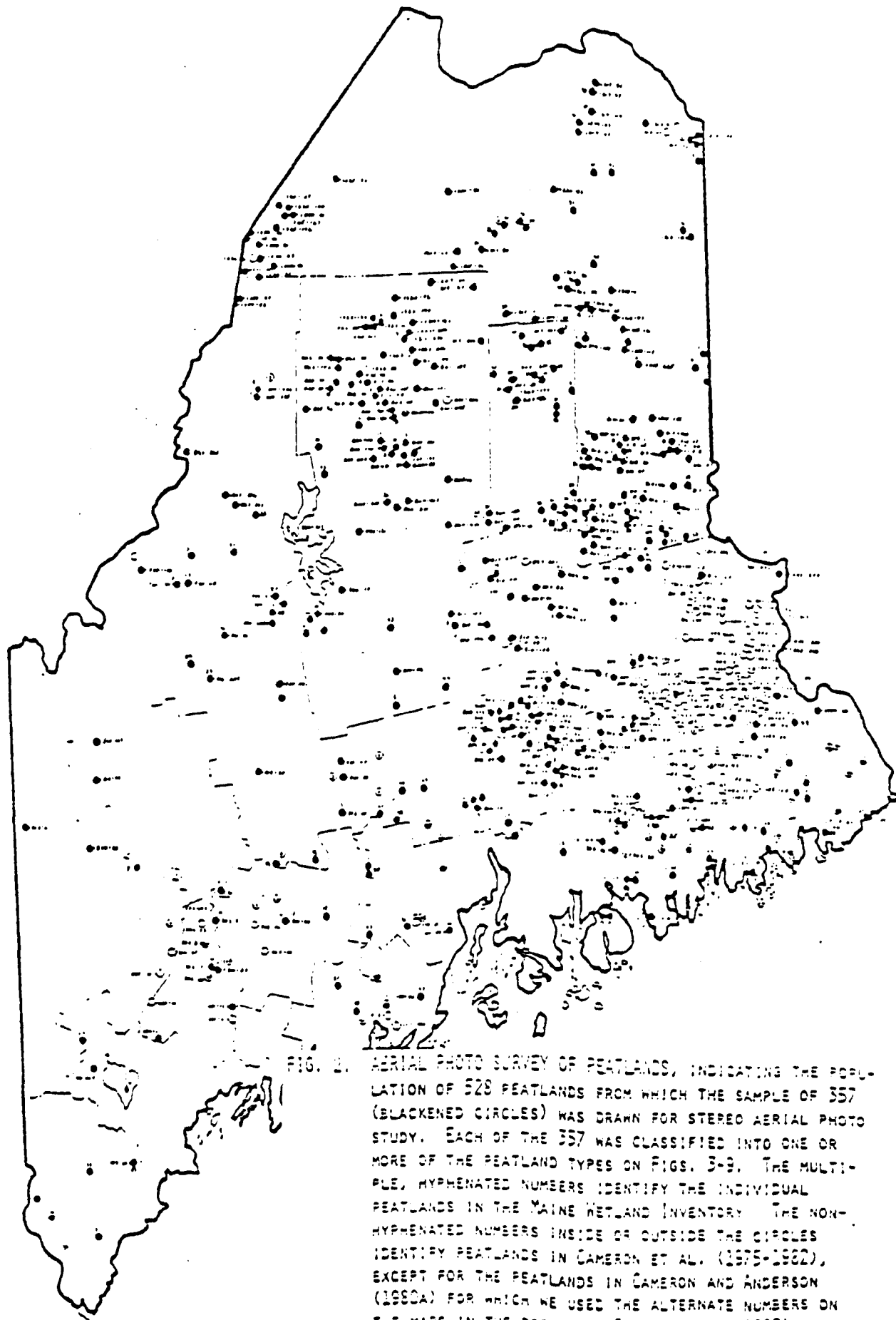


FIG. 2. AERIAL PHOTO SURVEY OF PEATLANDS, INDICATING THE POPULATION OF 528 PEATLANDS FROM WHICH THE SAMPLE OF 357 (BLACKENED CIRCLES) WAS DRAWN FOR STEREO AERIAL PHOTO STUDY. EACH OF THE 357 WAS CLASSIFIED INTO ONE OR MORE OF THE PEATLAND TYPES ON FIGS. 3-9. THE MULTIPLE, HYPHENATED NUMBERS IDENTIFY THE INDIVIDUAL PEATLANDS IN THE MAINE WETLAND INVENTORY. THE NON-HYPHENATED NUMBERS INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THE CIRCLES IDENTIFY PEATLANDS IN CAMERON ET AL. (1975-1982), EXCEPT FOR THE PEATLANDS IN CAMERON AND ANDERSON (1980A) FOR WHICH WE USED THE ALTERNATE NUMBERS ON THE MAPS IN THE POCKET OF DAVIS ET AL. (1980).

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Wetlands Included on Maine's List of "Ecologically Significant Peatlands"

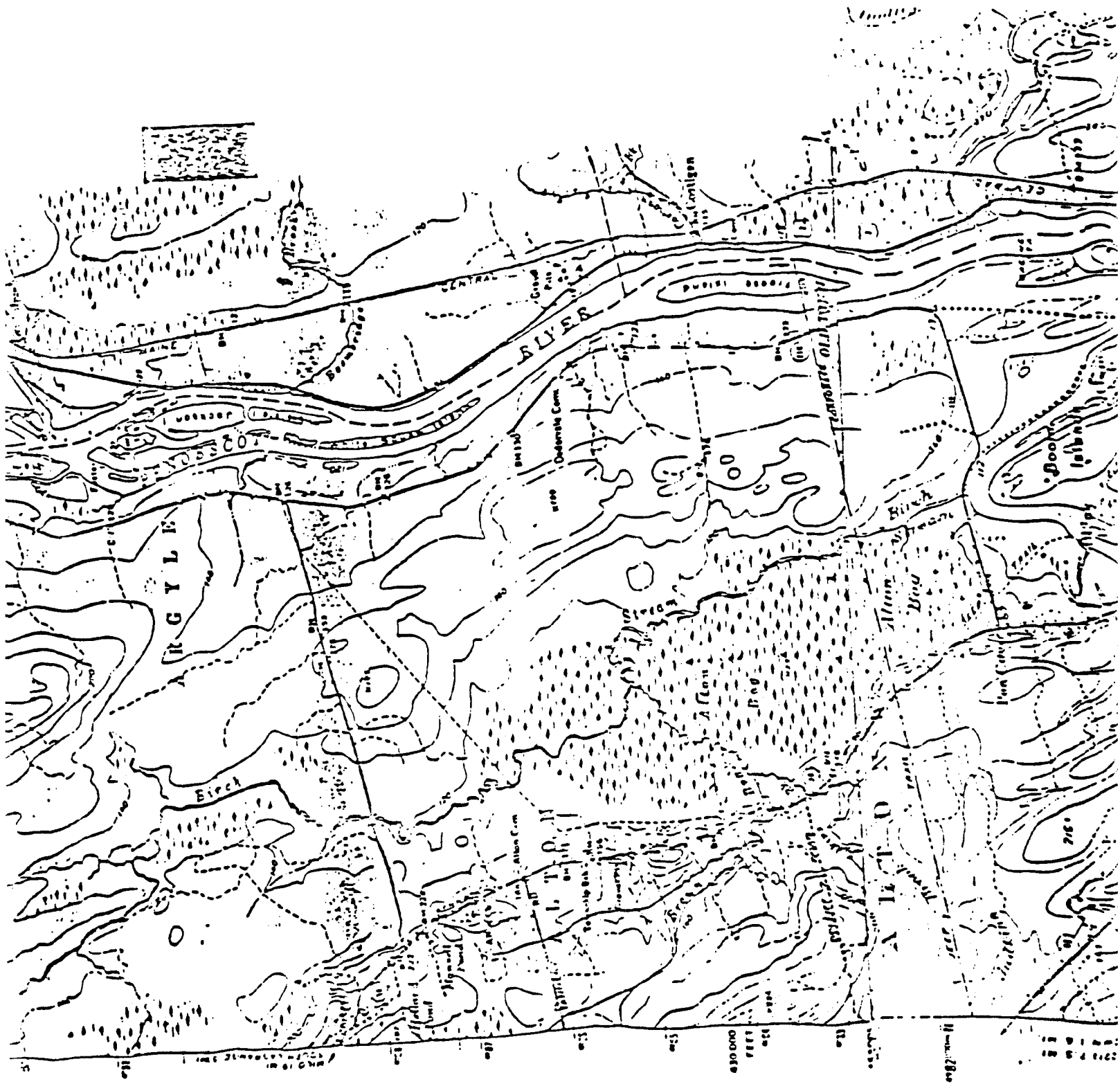
Geographic Limits: Those areas identified by the Natural Resources Council.

Resource Values: Fish and wildlife habitat; aesthetics.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Peat mining.

Comments: Peatlands included are: Wells Heath, Sand Pond, Saco Heath, Kimball Pond, Lovewell Pond, Great Sidney Bog, Kanokolus Bog, Caribou Bog, Sunkhaze Bog, Passadumkeag Bog, Bog near Greenville Junction, Great Heath, West Jonesport Heath, Maddyhamps Heath, Thousand Acre Heath, Smith Brook Deadwater, Mattawamkeag River, Little Crystal Fen, Marble Fen, Ellis Bog, Big Ten Complex, Salmon Brook Lake Bog, Orchard Bog, and Cross Lake Fen.

SPECIFIC LISTING



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Alton Roy

Geographic Limits: Penobscot County; Orono, Maine

Resource Values: Extensive open heath community; aesthetics.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Bisected by I-95; potential for secondary impacts, although no immediate threats are reported.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Chemo Bog

Geographic Limits: Town of Bradley

Resource Values: Pristine fully farmed "raised" bog with values for fish and wildlife; aesthetics; rare community type.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Proposed "wet harvesting" of peat could destroy most of this bog.

Comments: This bog received a high rating in "Evaluation of Maine Peatlands for Their Unique and Exemplary Qualities" prepared for the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Dunstan/Scarborough River

Geographic Limits: Lower Scarborough River and adjacent wetlands

Resource Values: Important fisheries and shellfish habitat (American shad, river herring, eastern oyster); nursery area for anadromous fish; productive saltmarshes; food web support; aesthetics; rare plant species.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Residential development.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

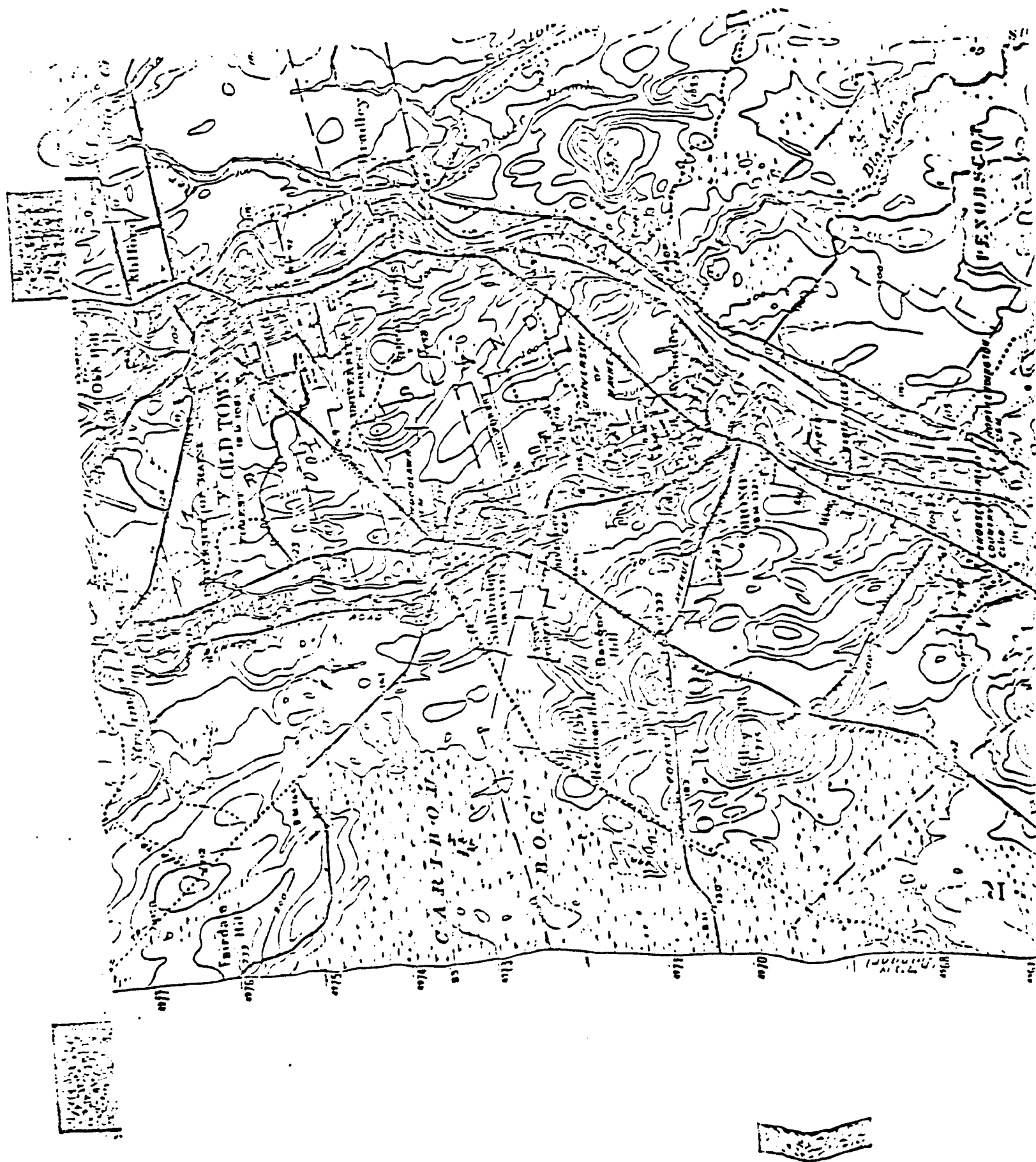
Name: Old Orchard Beach

Geographic Limits: Backwater marsh areas adjacent to and in the vicinity of Old Orchard Beach

Resource Values: Very valuable area for fish and wildlife; high productivity; food web support; identified as a priority area by Maine DEP.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Second home and condominium proposals; a great deal of development in adjacent lands.

Comments: The State of Maine is presently doing a study of threats to this area.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

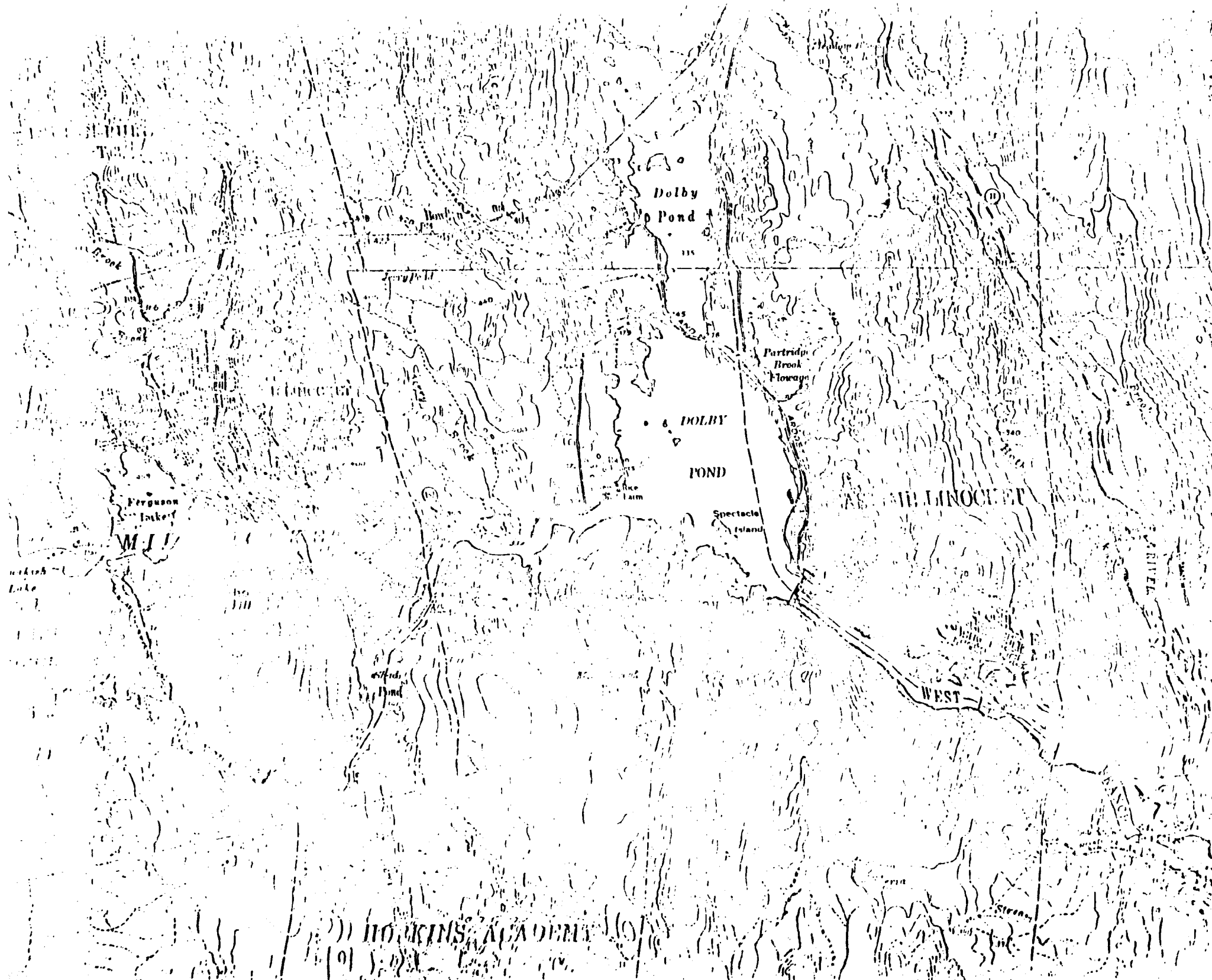
Name: Orono Bog/Caribou Bog

Geographic Limits: Penobscot County, 1 mile south of Orono

Resource Values: Research; educational study; aesthetics; diverse vegetative community; rare plant species.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Secondary development from nearby highway, timber harvesting, residential development.

Comments: This bog received a high value in "Evaluation of Maine Peatlands for their Unique and Exemplary Qualities" prepared for the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.



HOOKINS ACADEMY

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Penobscot River

Geographic Limits: West branch of the Penobscot, Piscataquis County

Resource Values: Recreation; fishery; aesthetics; identified by FWS as a key river in their Atlantic Salmon restoration program.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Great Northern Paper Company had proposed to construct a dam for a hydroelectric generator at Amberjackus Falls (Big "A" dam). This proposal has been withdrawn; no future projects have been announced at this time.

Comments: This stretch of river contains some of the best whitewater canoeing and rafting in the eastern United States.

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

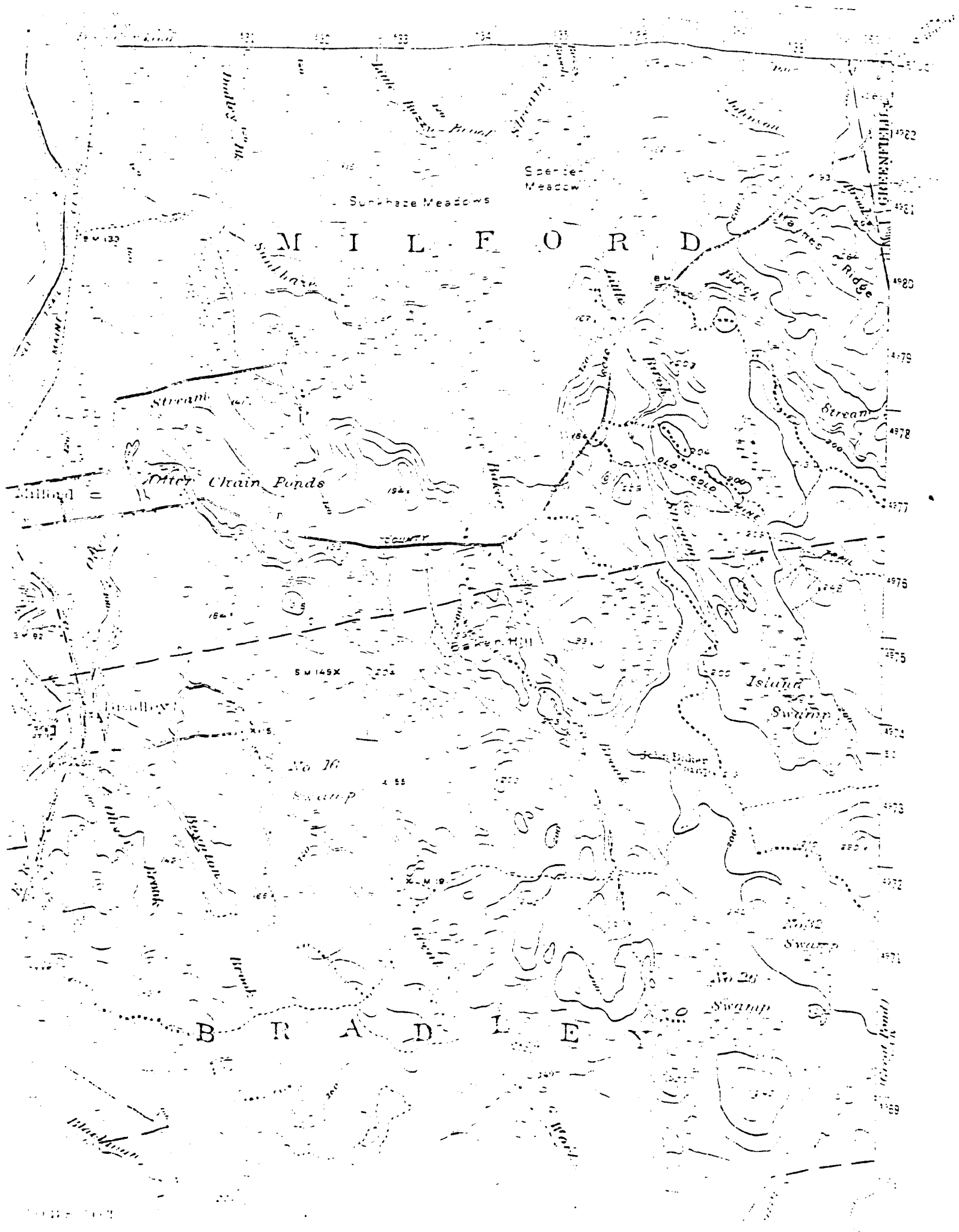
Name: Saco Heath

Geographic Limits: York County- York, Maine

Resource Values: One of the most southerly raised bogs in Maine; contains Atlantic White Cedar, a rare species in Maine; research; education; aesthetics.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Peat mining; 435 acres of commercial quality peat.

Comments: The previous owner tried to mine the peat. Another mining proposal is currently active.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

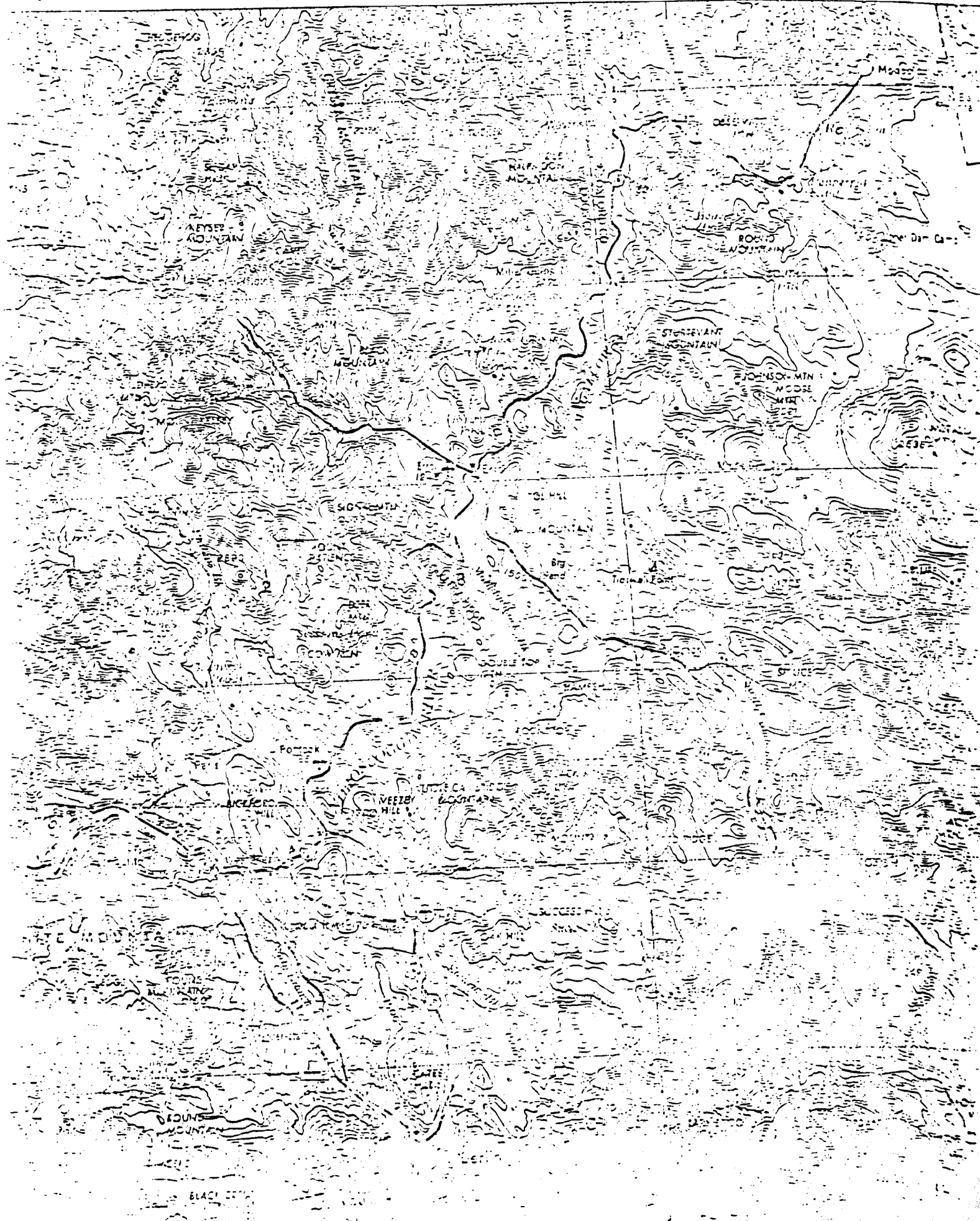
Name: Sunkhaze Bog

Geographic Limits: Adjacent to the Sunkhaze River, in the Town of Milford

Resource Values: Pristine fully farmed "raised" bog with values for fish and wildlife; aesthetics; rare community type.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Proposed "wet harvesting" of peat could destroy most of this bog.

Comments: This bog received a high value in "Evaluation of Maine Peatlands for Their Unique and Exemplary Qualities" prepared for the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

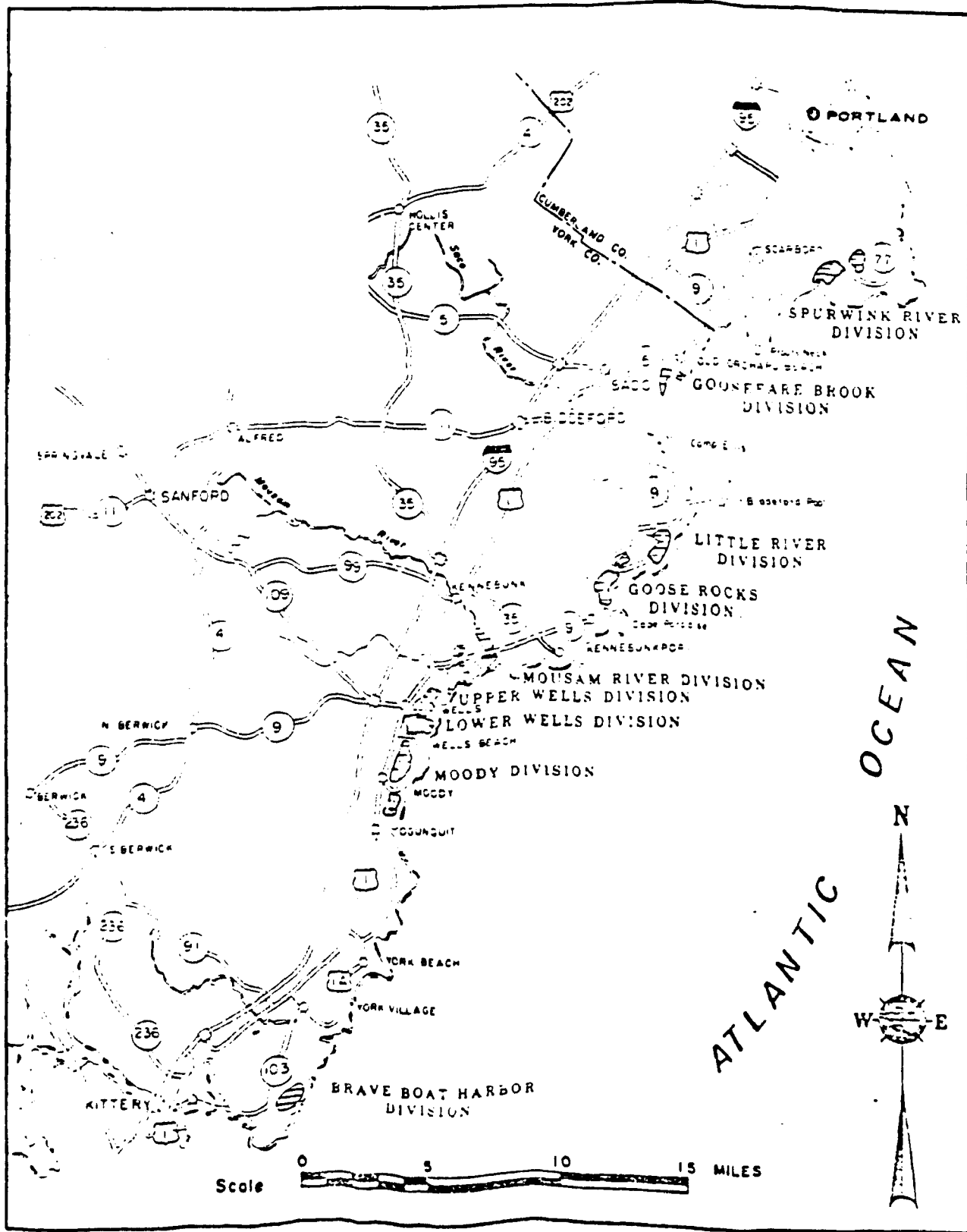
Name: Lake Umbagog

Geographic Limits: The lake and its watershed

Resource Values: Little development; outstanding wildlife habitat.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Proposed hydro development; twice targeted for diatomaceous earth dredging.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

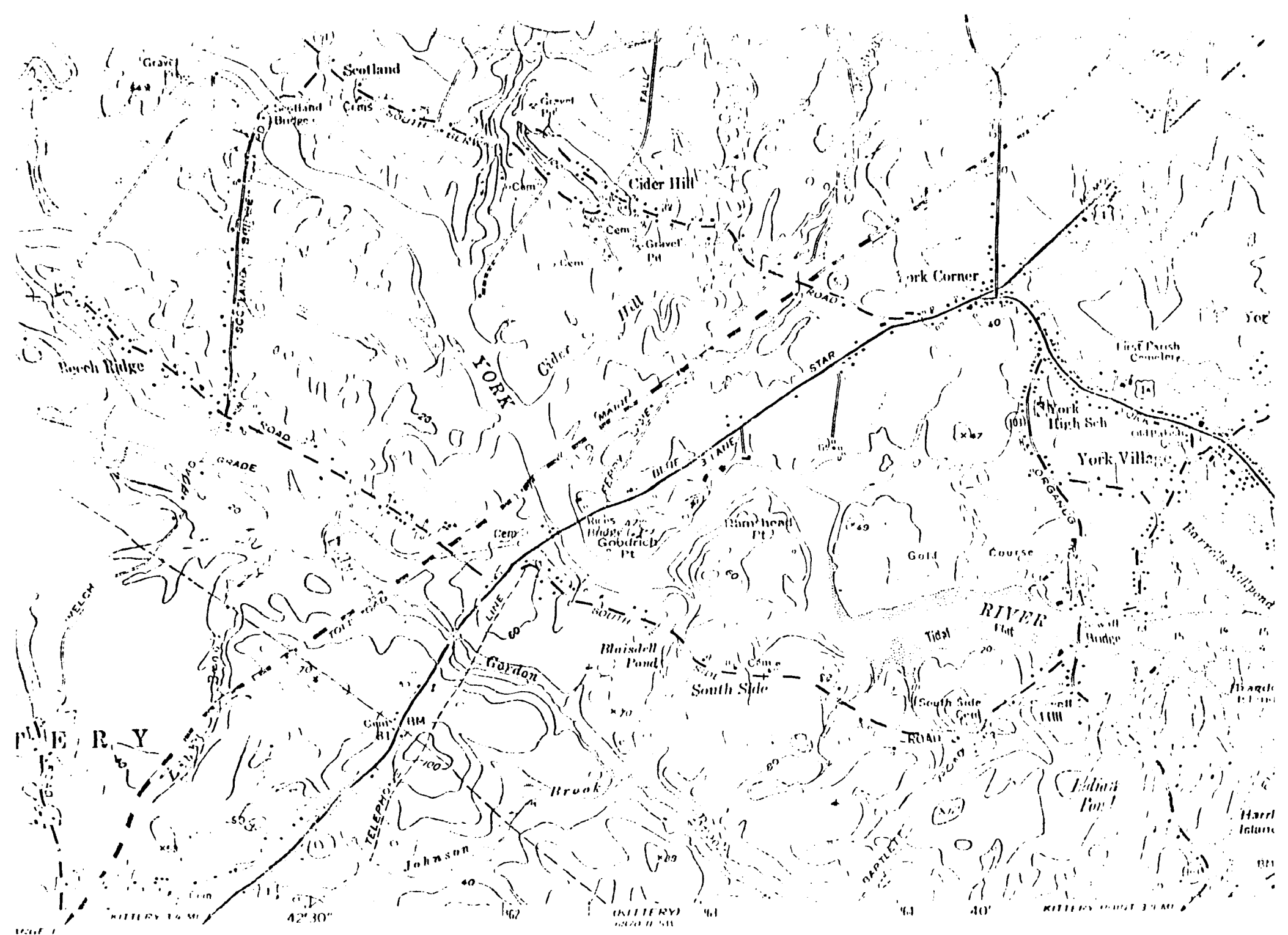
Name: Wetlands bordering the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge

Geographic Limits: Wetlands and aquatic sites adjacent to or in the vicinity of the refuge

Resource Values: Buffer zones; wildlife habitat; water quality maintenance; aesthetics.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Major piecemeal filling has occurred up to and sometimes over the refuge boundary, primarily for residential development.

Comments: A 1982 report by the Concord Field office of the FWS documents the filling activity, most of which is illegal, occurring in this area. The AIS process has been initiated for this area.



SCALE 1:24000

1 MILE

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

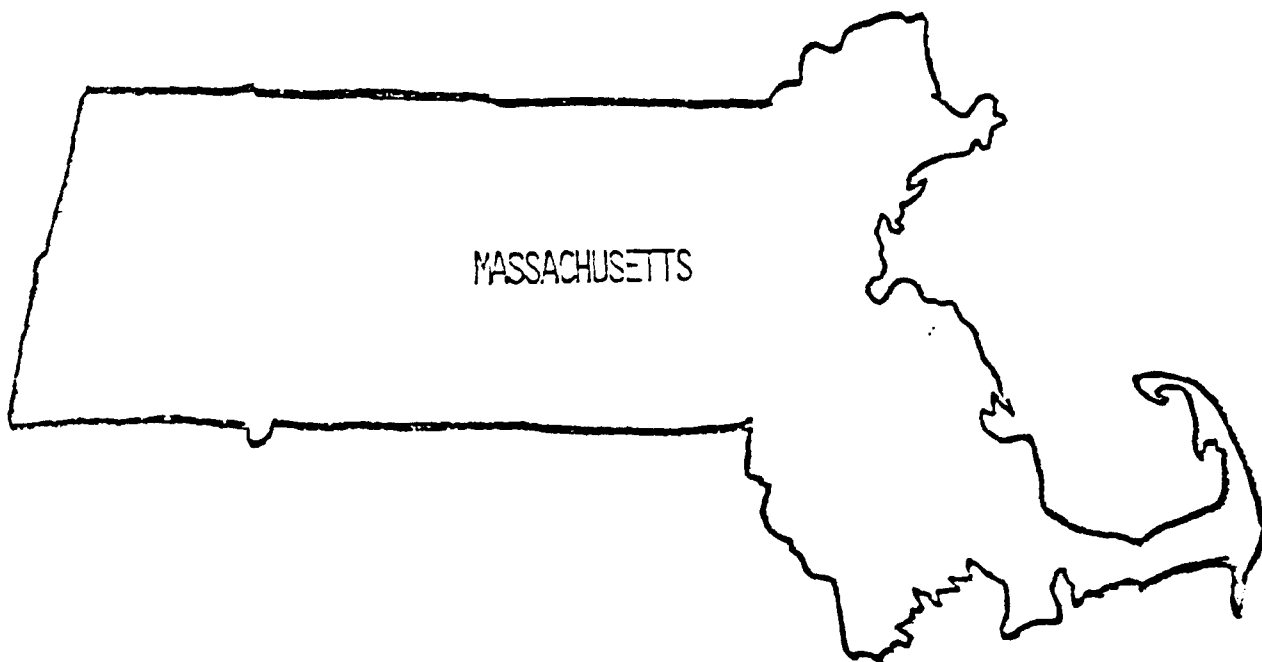
Name: York River

Geographic Limits: Town of York

Resource Values: Oysters and clams are harvested in the lower estuary; rainbow smelt nursery area.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Marsh headwaters are relatively unprotected from fill and contamination resulting from the extensive building pressure in York County.

Comments:



GENERAL LISTING



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Coastal marshes identified by FWS in the Concept Plan for Preservation of Black Duck Wintering Habitat

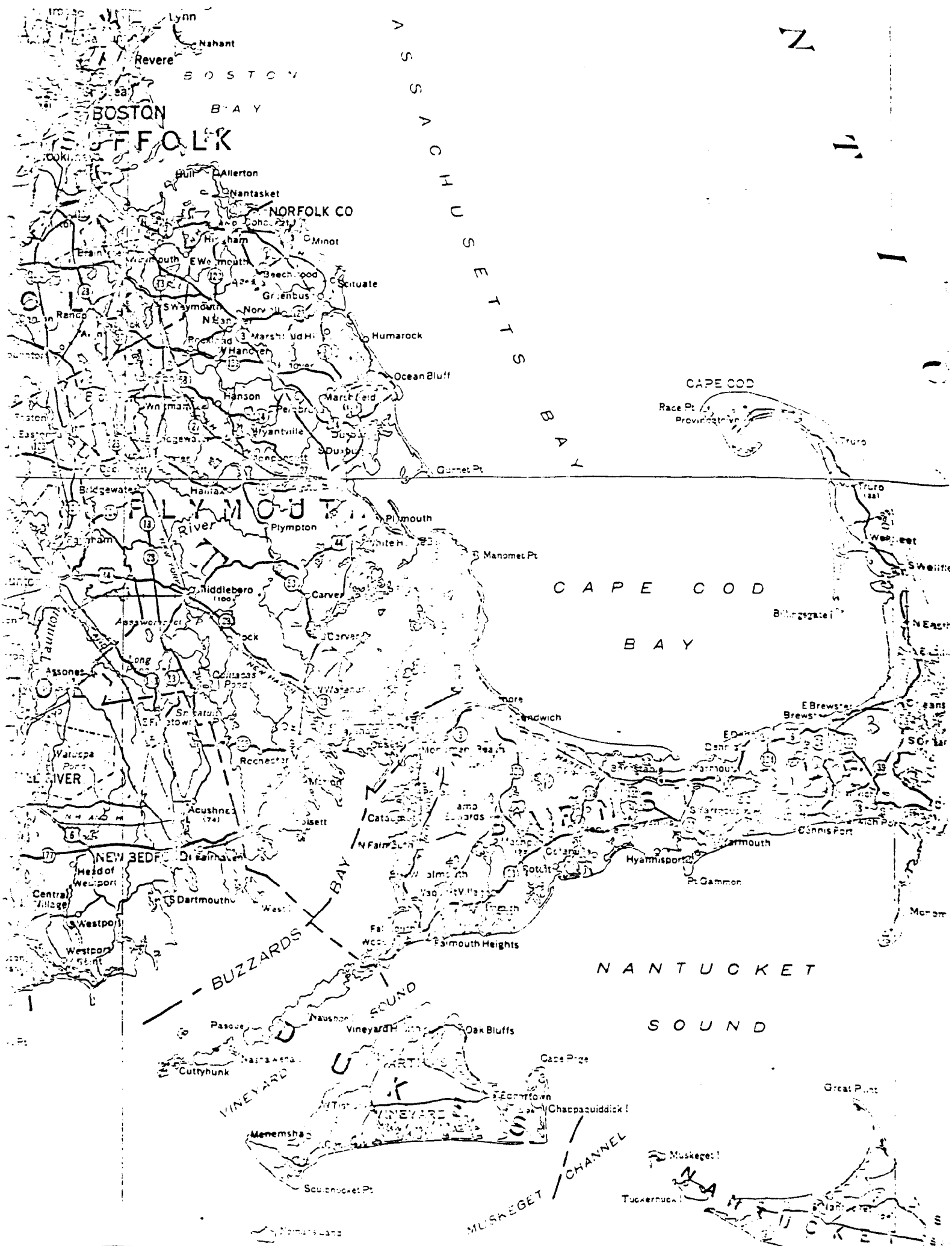
Geographic Limits: Salisbury Marshes (2400 acres)
Essex Marshes and Merrimack River Tidal Flats (5000 acres)
Duxbury Marshes and Bay (750 acres)
Barnstable Marshes (5300 acres)
Orleans Bay (950 acres- mostly estuarine flat and marsh)

Resource Values: Salisbury Marshes- wintering black duck
Essex Marshes and Merrimack River Tidal Flats- wintering black duck; common tern nesting
Duxbury Marshes and Bay- wintering black duck; other dabbling ducks; wading birds nesting
Barnstable Marshes- wintering black duck; common, roseate and arctic tern nesting
Orleans Bay- wintering black duck; common and least tern

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Salisbury Marshes- possibly threatened- illegal filling, development
Essex Marshes and Merrimack River Tidal Flats- possibly threatened- filling
Duxbury Marshes and Bay- possibly threatened
Barnstable Marshes- possibly threatened
Orleans Bay- possibly threatened

Comments: FWS (really) uses three categories of threat: highly threatened
possibly threatened
mostly protected

These areas are by no means a FWS priority list of wetlands for New England, but rather coastal wetlands important to wintering black ducks, a FWS National Species of Special Emphasis.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

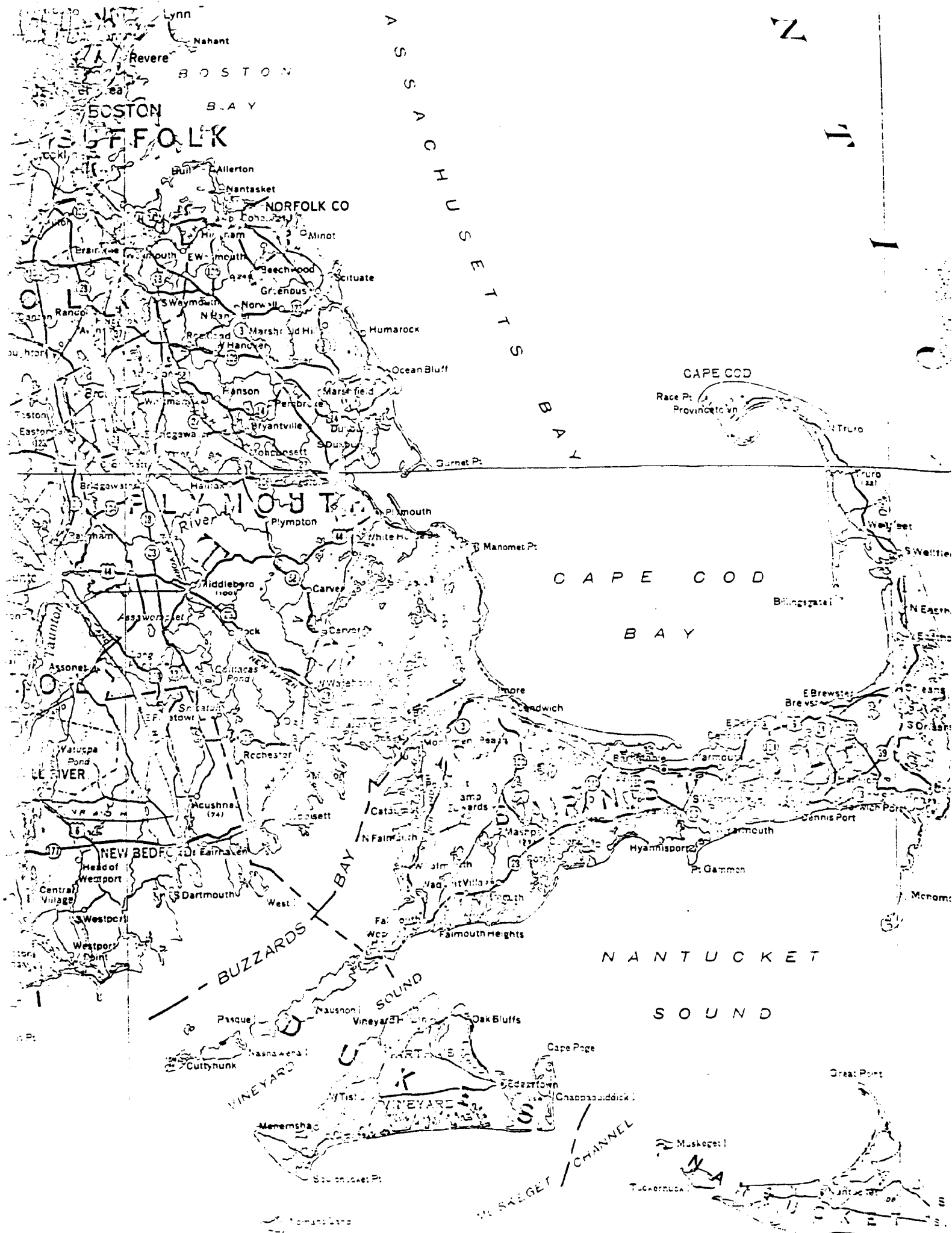
Name: Coastal Plain Backshore Community

Geographic Limits: Plymouth and Cape Cod

Resource Values: Over 20 species of rare plants; many regional and some of national rarity.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Potential for lowered water level by use of nearby wells; recreational and developmental pressures.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Special Aquatic Sites Overlying Sole Source Aquifer Areas

Geographic Limits: Cape Cod; Nantucket Island

Resource Values: Recharge/discharge; water quality maintenance; many of these wetlands also have important values for wildlife and recreation.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Residential development, particularly the construction of vacation and retirement homes. New roadway construction on Cape Cod is also a concern.

Comments: The actual potential for adverse impacts to the aquifer varies on a site-specific basis and must be analyzed in each case.

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

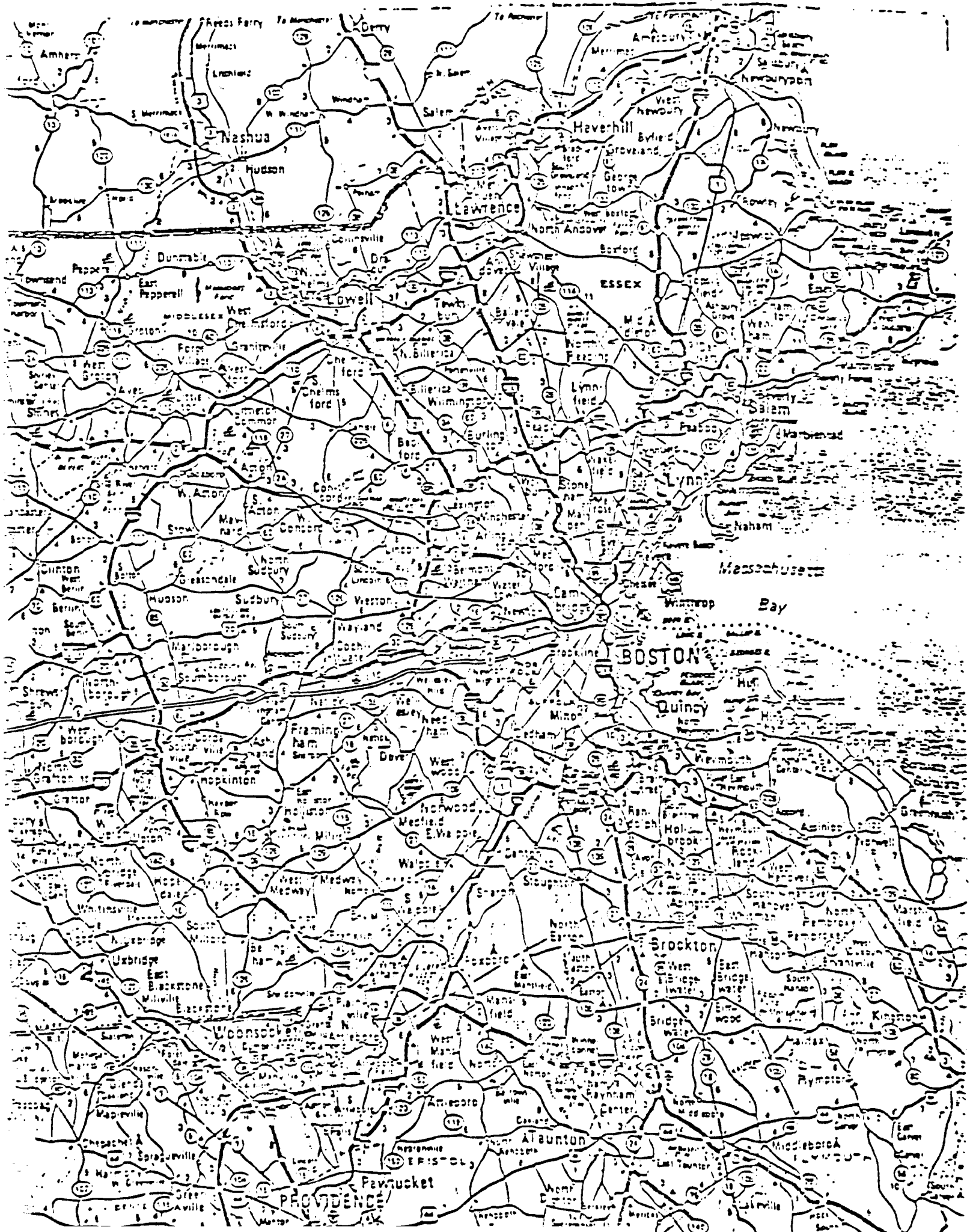
Name: Special Aquatic Sites within the Immediate Watersheds of Surface Drinking Water Impoundments

Geographic Limits: Variable. Approximately 880 such impoundments (539 community supplies; 341 non-community supplies) exist in New England.

Resource Values: Wetlands in these areas will often be important in maintenance of water quality. Likewise, work in these wetlands has the potential to seriously impact water supplies.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Difficult to predict. Threats to these wetlands are uncommon, but are potentially serious. Highway projects, as well as industrial and commercial development seem to be most common.

Comments: Work in these areas should automatically trigger careful EPA review and full coordination with the Water Supply Branch. Special Conditions will likely apply to any permitted projects.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Wetlands adjacent to and between Routes 128 and 495

Geographic Limits: The crescent shaped area enclosed by Routes 95 (128), 495, and 24 in eastern Massachusetts

Resource Values: Water quality maintenance; flood control; urban oasis effect; aesthetics.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: This area has been subject to explosive growth during the past decade resulting in severe pressure on the remaining wetland systems. Local control is patchwork and inconsistent in quality.

Comments: Threats may diminish if local protection efforts increase.

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Wetlands identified as important on state breeding and bird censuses

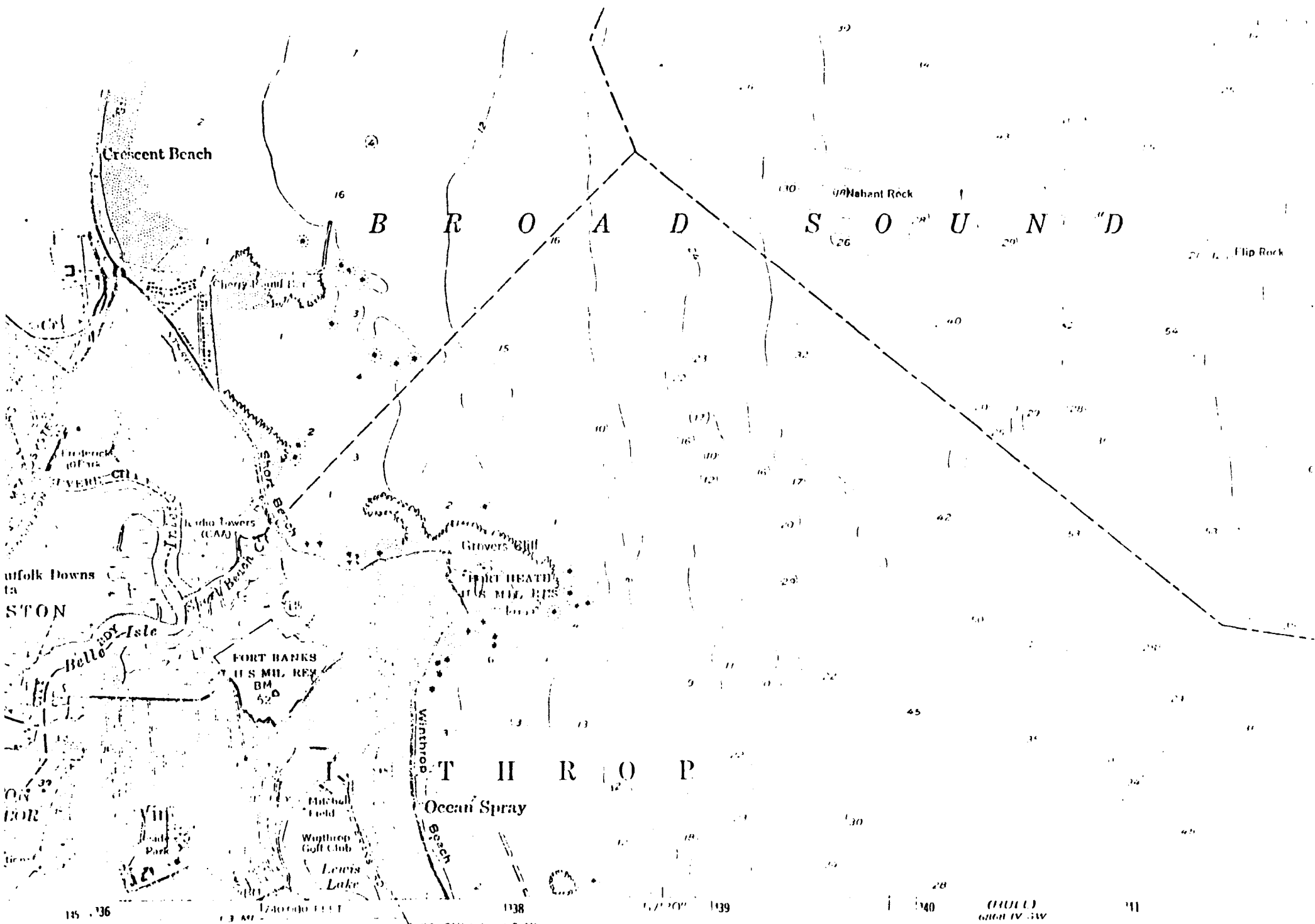
Geographic Limits: Variable.

Resource Values: These wetlands have been identified as important for breeding birds.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Variable and site-specific; Any 404 regulated work in these areas would require close scrutiny.

Comments: These censuses are in various stages of publication. Further information about particular species is available from the Fish and Wildlife Service.

SPECIFIC LISTING



1. edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, and
 the U.S. Navy.

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

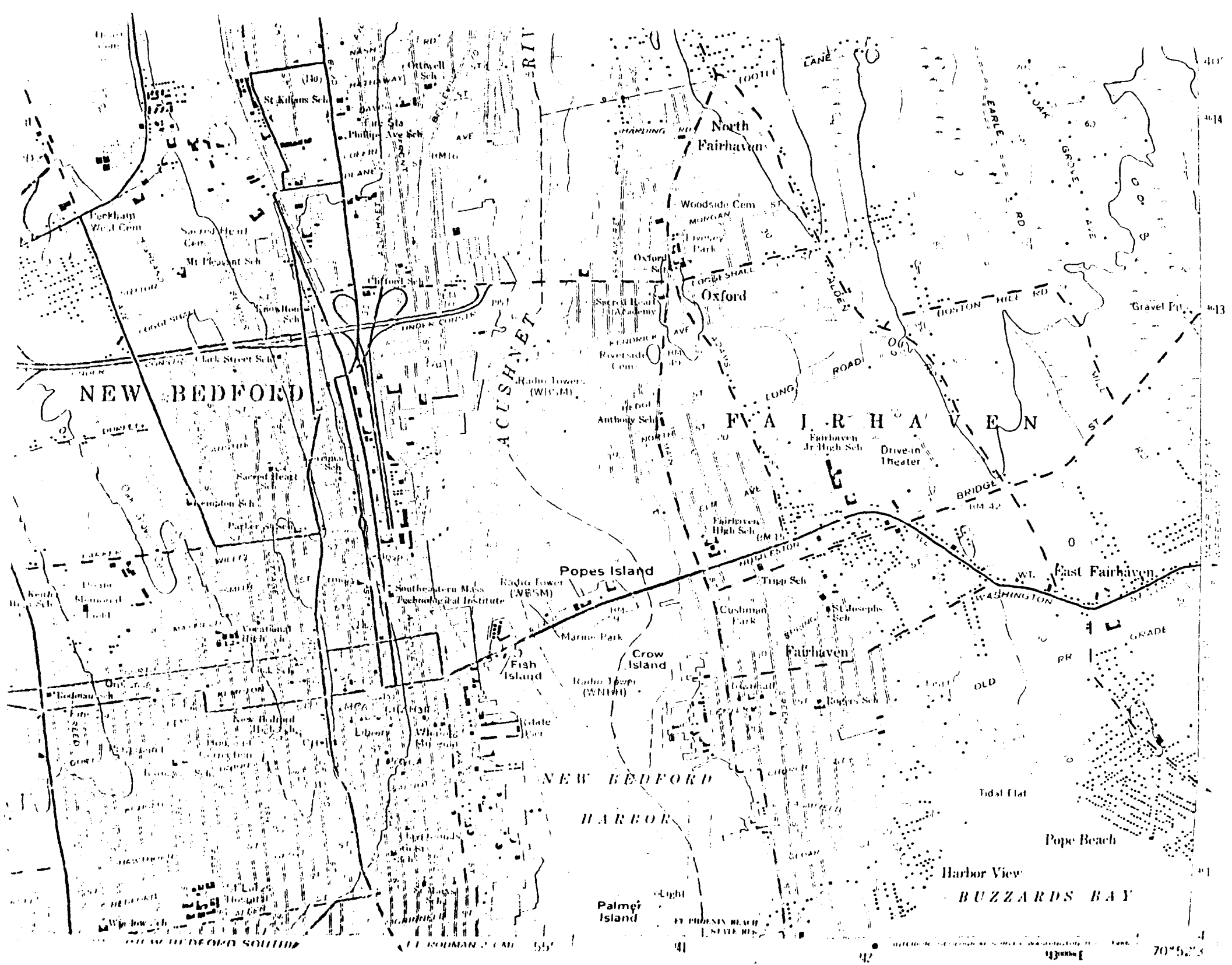
Name: Belle Isle Marsh

Geographic Limits: Boston, Revere, and Winthrop

Resource Values: One of the last relatively large salt marshes in Boston Harbor.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Numerous private properties which abut the marsh system can result in activities that are relatively small but, nevertheless, create cumulative adverse impacts over a long period of time.

Comments: A portion of this system is in public ownership.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

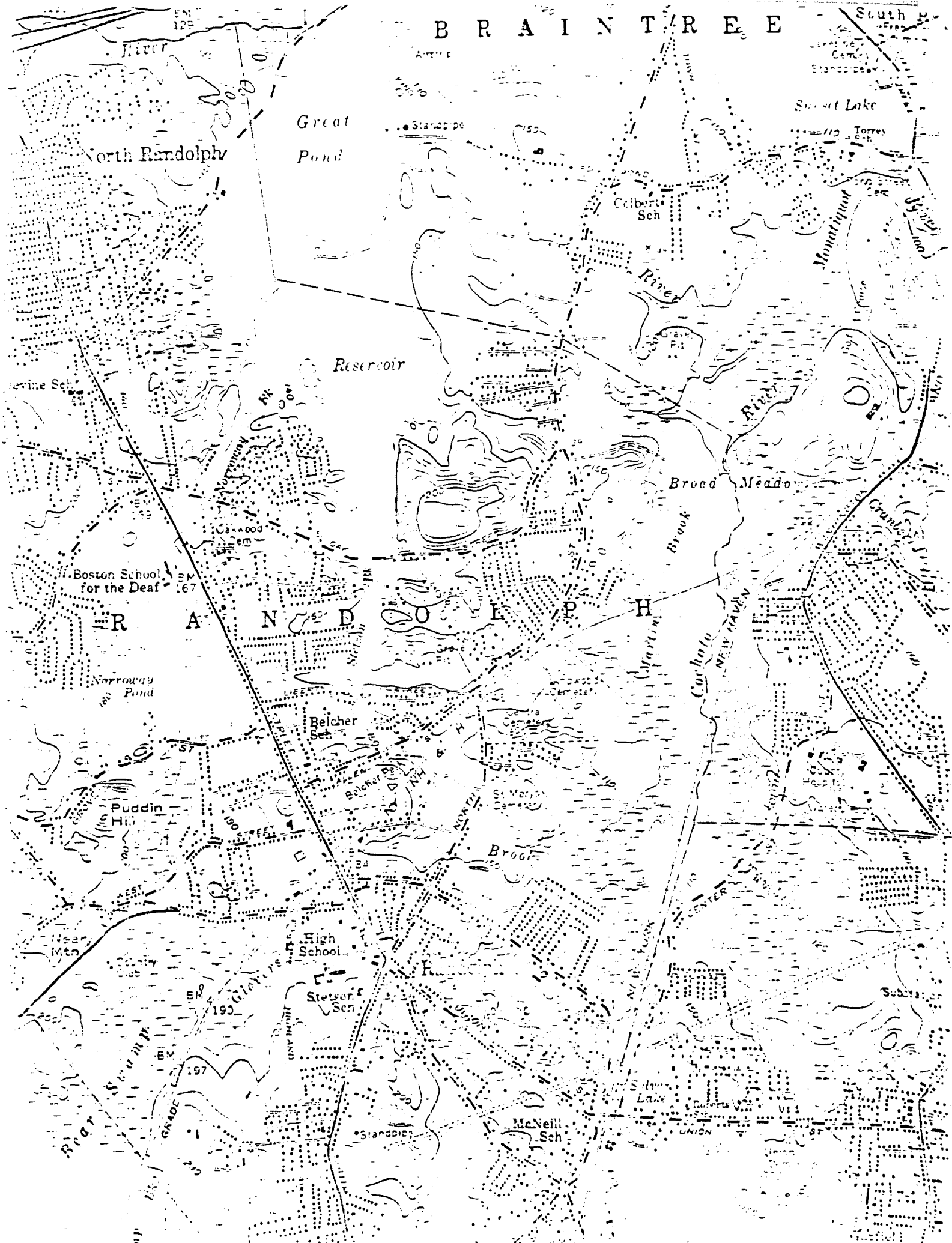
Name: Buzzard's Bay

Geographic Limits: Wetland systems surrounding the bay

Resource Values: Variety of coastal wetland systems; fisheries.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Increasing development pressure (mostly residential), especially in tidal flats and submerged tidal lands.

Comments: The bay is currently the focus of a federal-state-local planning program to develop an Environmental Master Plan for the bay.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

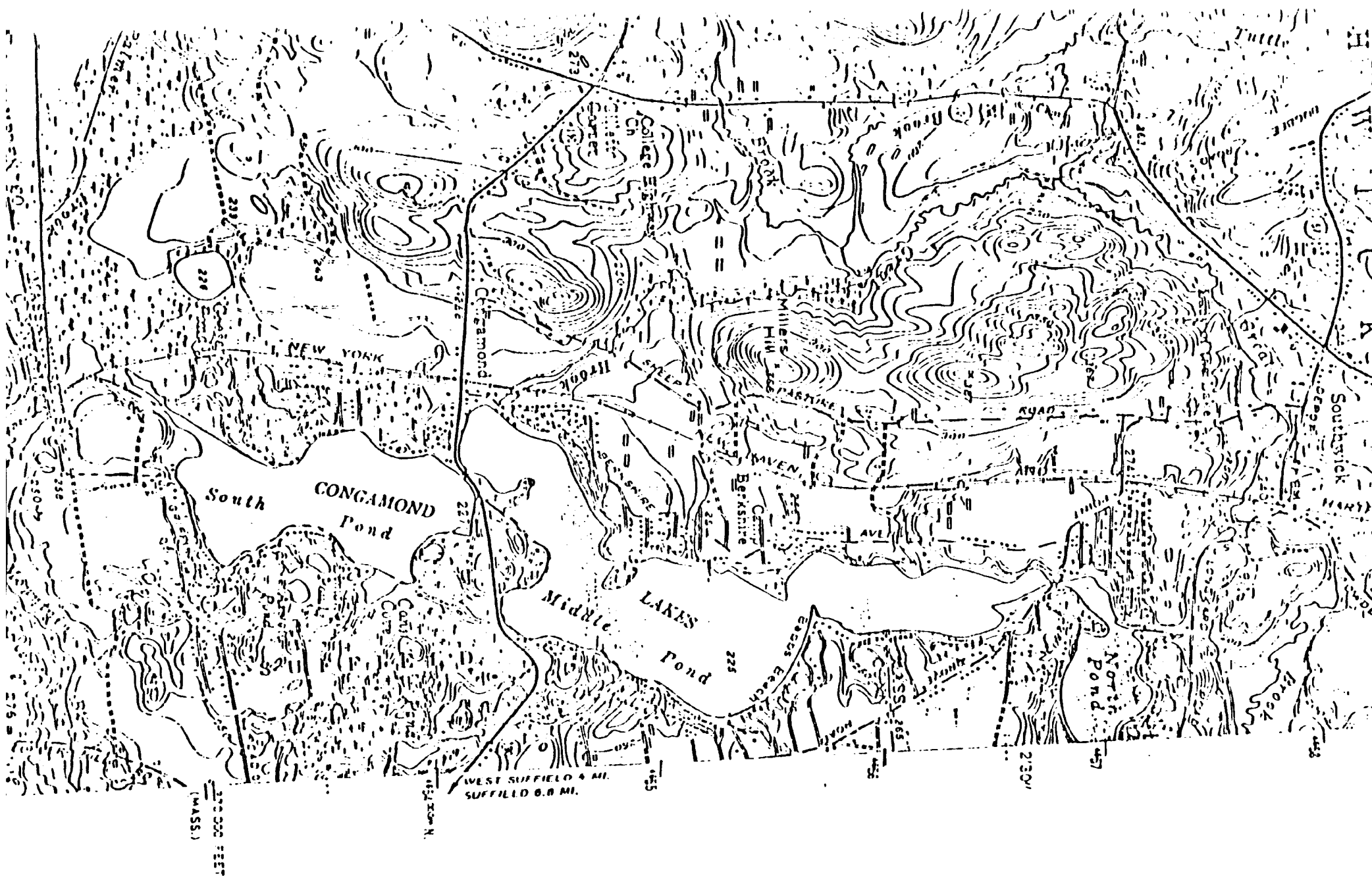
Name: Cochato River

Geographic Limits: Within Towns of Holbrook, Randolph, and Braintree

Resource Values: Water quality maintenance; flood control; waterfowl; some warmwater fisheries value.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Various non-water dependent fill projects have been proposed in the watershed (e.g. housing, light industry).

Comments: Baird and McGuire, a hazardous waste site of the NPL exists in the headwaters.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Congamond Lakes and Bog

Geographic Limits: Hampden County; Southwick, Massachusetts

Resource Values: Lakes are still good shape, but area is being rapidly developed. The bog between South Pond and Spencer Pond is a fine lowland bog. The area overlies the Great Brook aquifer which is used for water supply for the region.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Encroachment from garbage dump and solid waste disposal; pressure from residential development; inadequate erosion control structures result in excessive runoff from agricultural and industrial areas.

Comments:

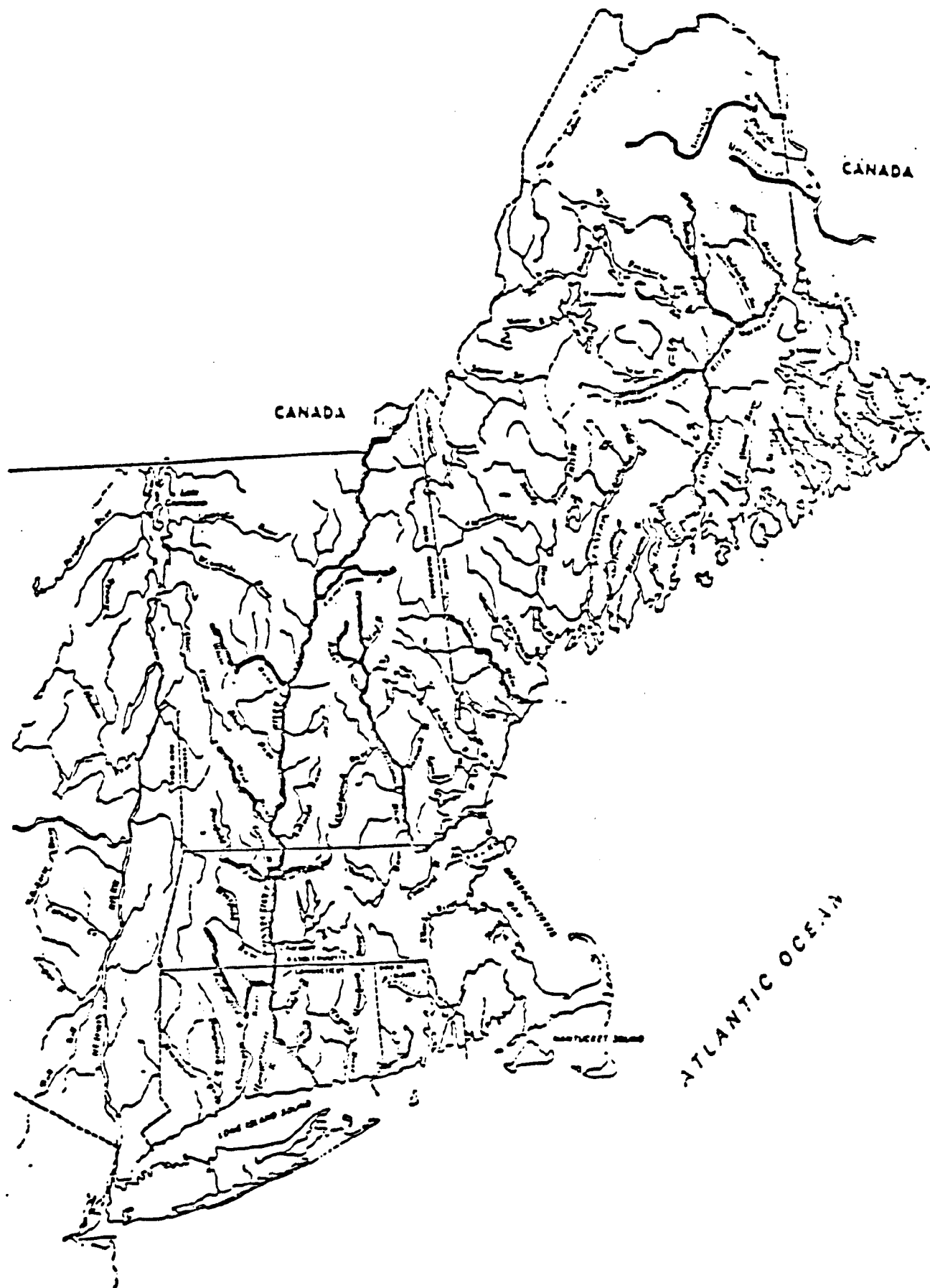


FIGURE III-1. RIVERS INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED ACTION.

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

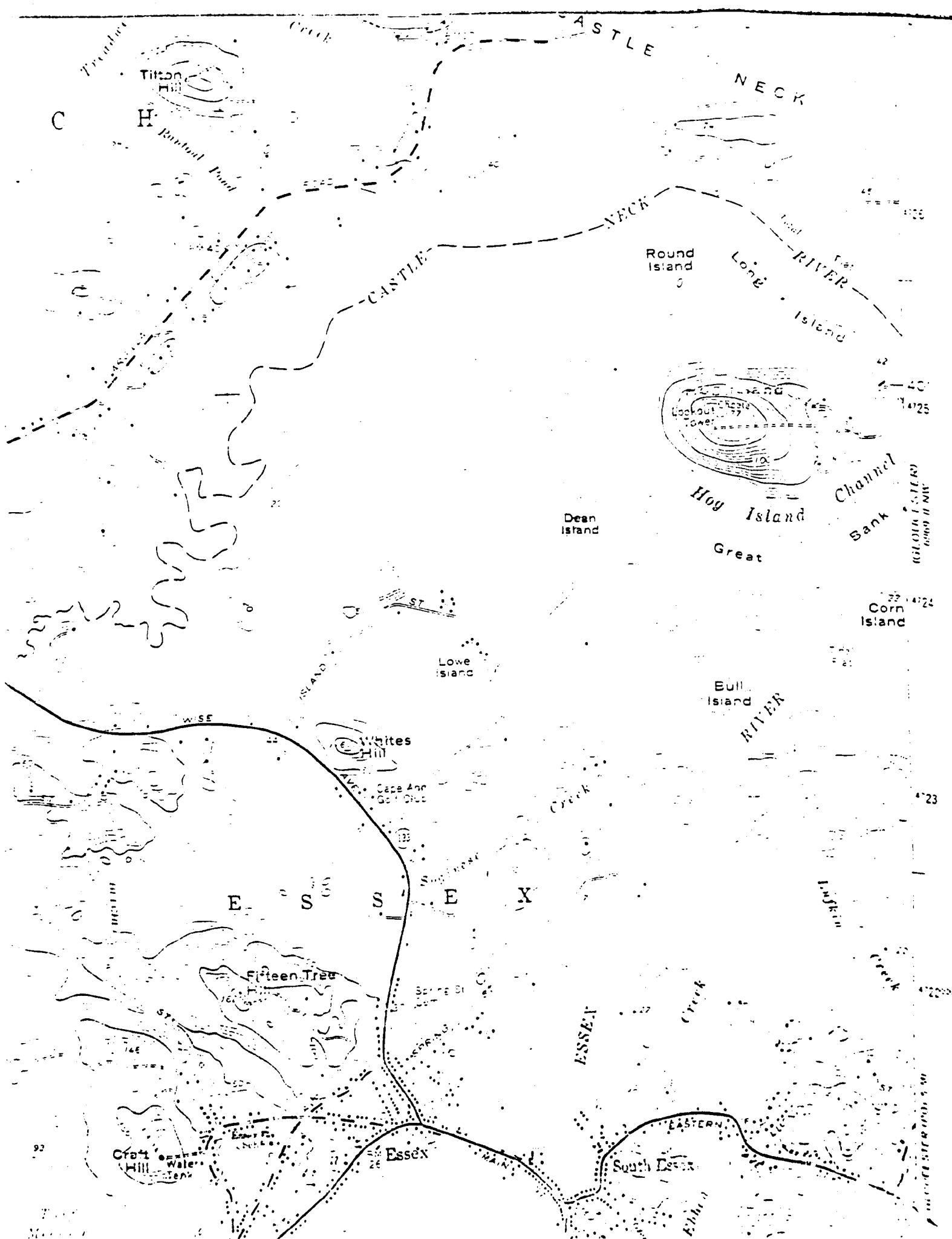
Name: Connecticut River

Geographic Limits: The river proper and special aquatic sites within the flood plain

Resource Values: New England's largest river; warm and cold water fisheries; flood storage; anadromous fish; shellfish in the lower reaches; recreation. Major role in FWS Atlantic Salmon restoration plan. Largest population of shad in the northeast. Habitat for several species of federally proposed threatened invertebrates and one endemic vetch. Also numerous plants, animals, and natural communities of state and regional significance.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Highly variable, ranging from agriculture activity to road and bridge projects to commercial developments. Water-dependent activities such as marinas and hydropower also generate environmental concerns.

Comments:



C

Tilton Hill

Round Pond

Creek

CASTLE

NECK

CASTLE

NECK

Round Island

Long River

Island

Hog Island

Dean Island

Channel Bank

Great

Corn Island

Lowe Island

Bull Island

RIVER

Whites Hill

Cape Ann

ESSEX

Fifteen Tree

Spring St

Spring C

Craft Hill

Essex

South Essex

EASTERN

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Essex River

Geographic Limits: Town of Essex, including adjacent wetlands and direct tributary systems

Resource Values: Soft shell clams; anadromous alewife and smelt; productive saltmarsh habitat.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Development pressure from residential and "dockominium" proposals; mosquito control projects.

Comments: The area is theoretically protected under the Massachusetts Area of Critical Environmental Concern program.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

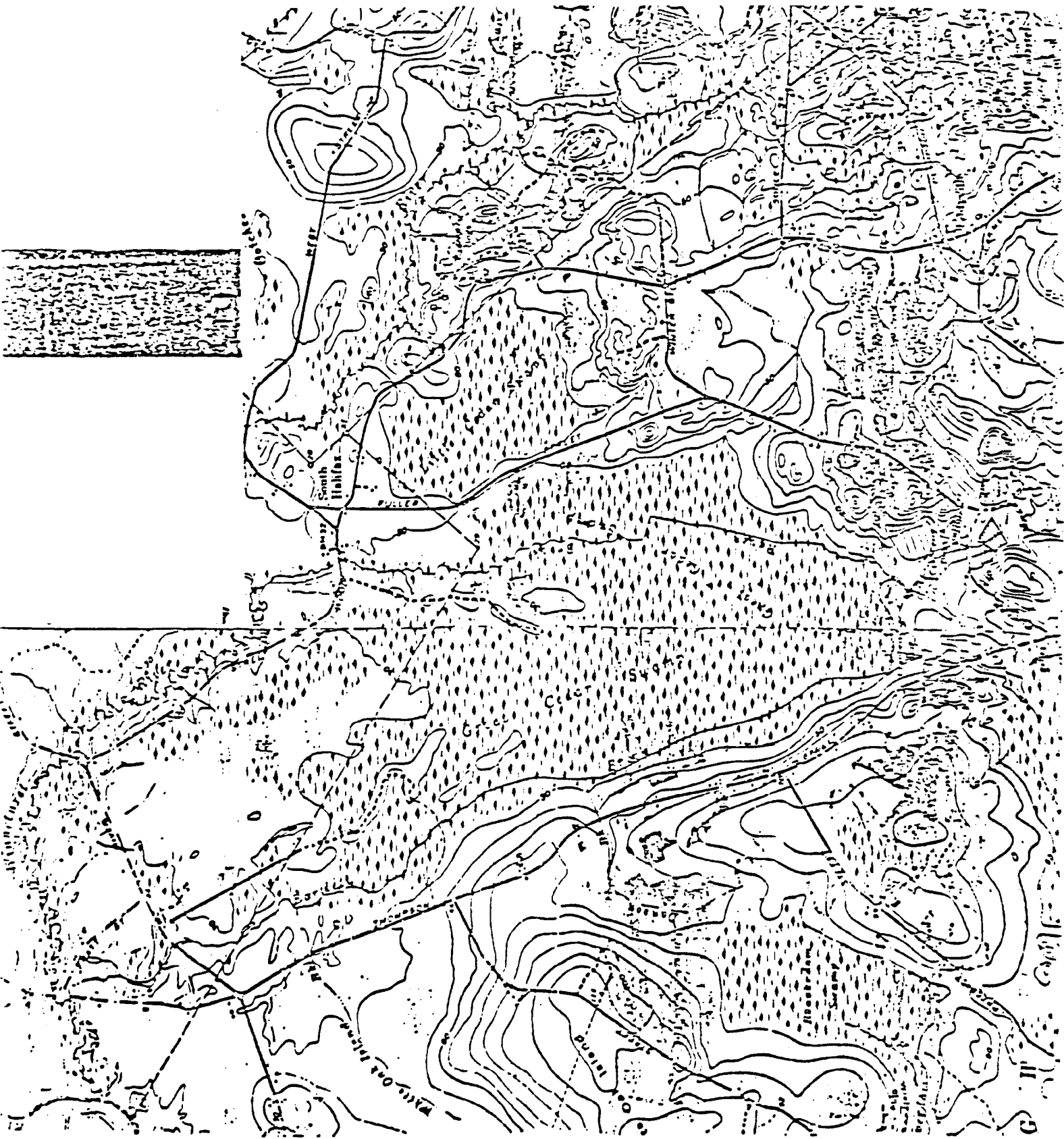
Name: French River

Geographic Limits: Town of Oxford

Resource Values: Flood storage; waterfowl; water quality maintenance.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Significant municipal and industrial discharges within the watershed.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

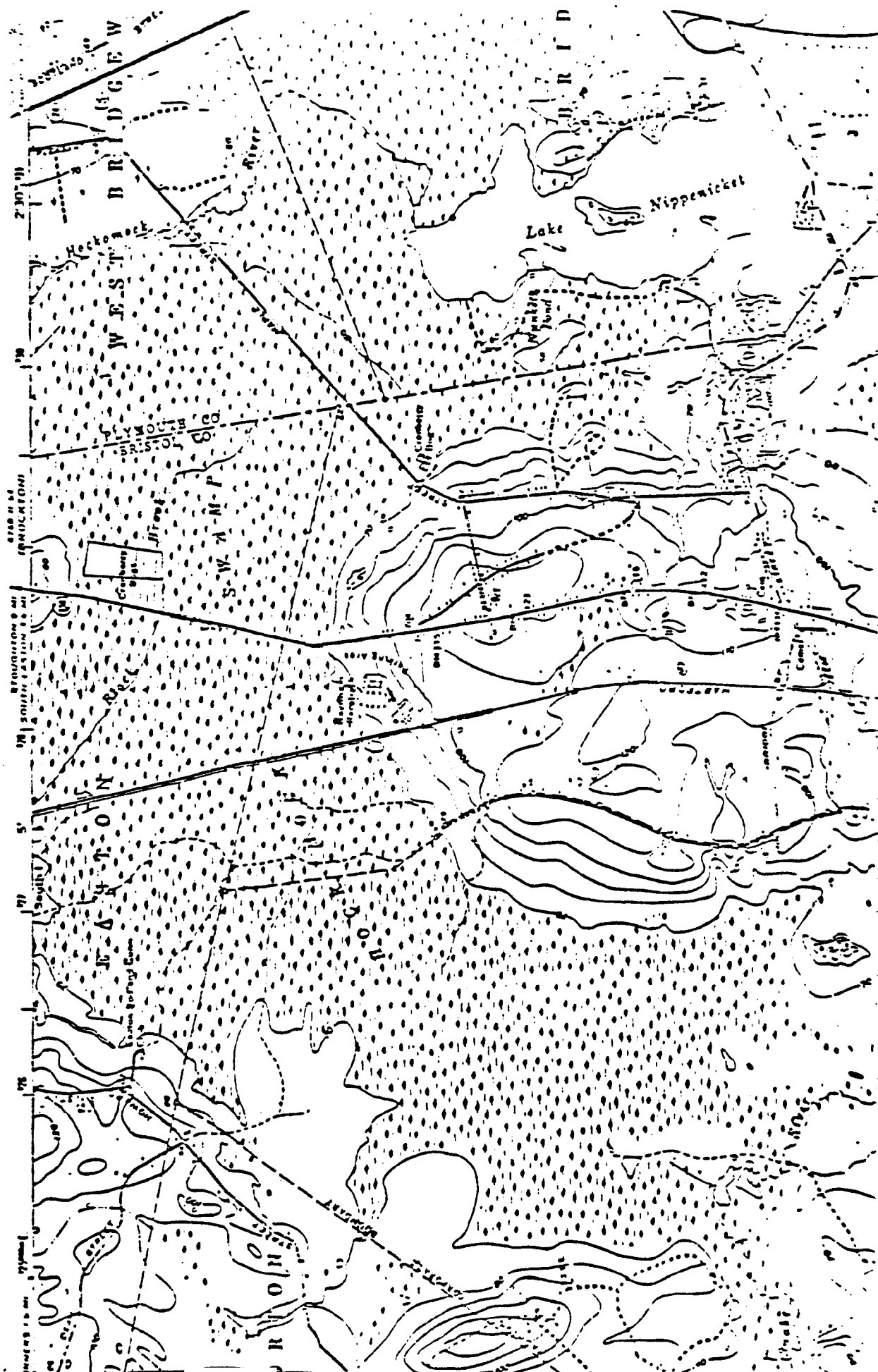
Name: Great Cedar Swamp

Geographic Limits: Town of Middleborough

Resource Values: Flood control; low-flow modulation; water quality maintenance; fisheries; wildlife.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Cumberland Farms, Inc. has converted several thousand acres of this wetland to pasture for grazing.

Comments: Cumberland Farms, Inc. has been fined \$540,000 and is required to restore the area to its original condition. If restoration is satisfactorily completed by December 31, 1986, \$390,000 of the fine will be waived.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

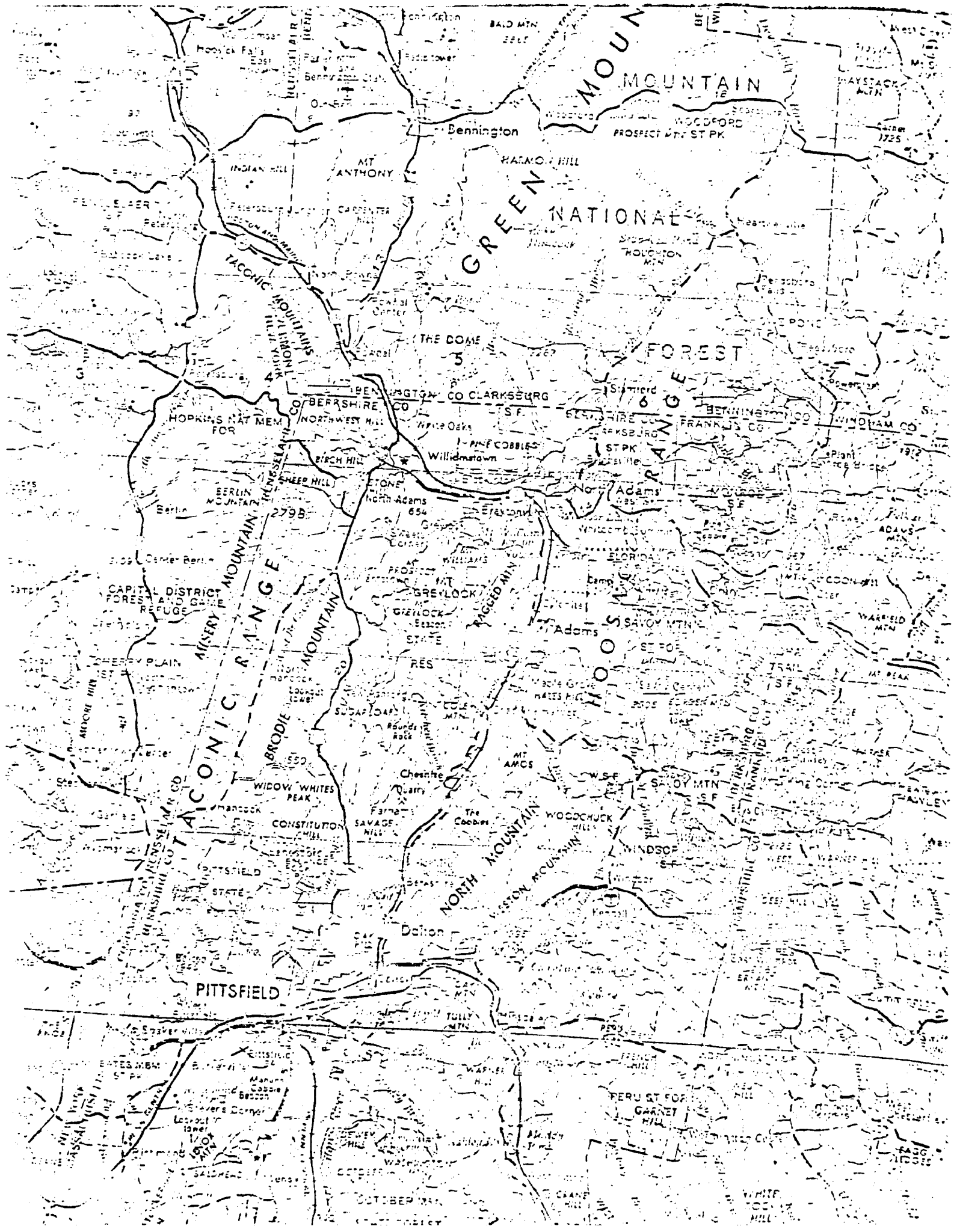
Name: Hockamock Swamp

Geographic Limits: Bristol County, 3-4 miles north of Taunton

Resource Values: Extensive cedar swamp; aesthetics; fish and wildlife habitat; rare community type; flood control; water supply.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Encroachments around the perimeter for industrial and residential development. Also secondary impacts from nearby highways.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

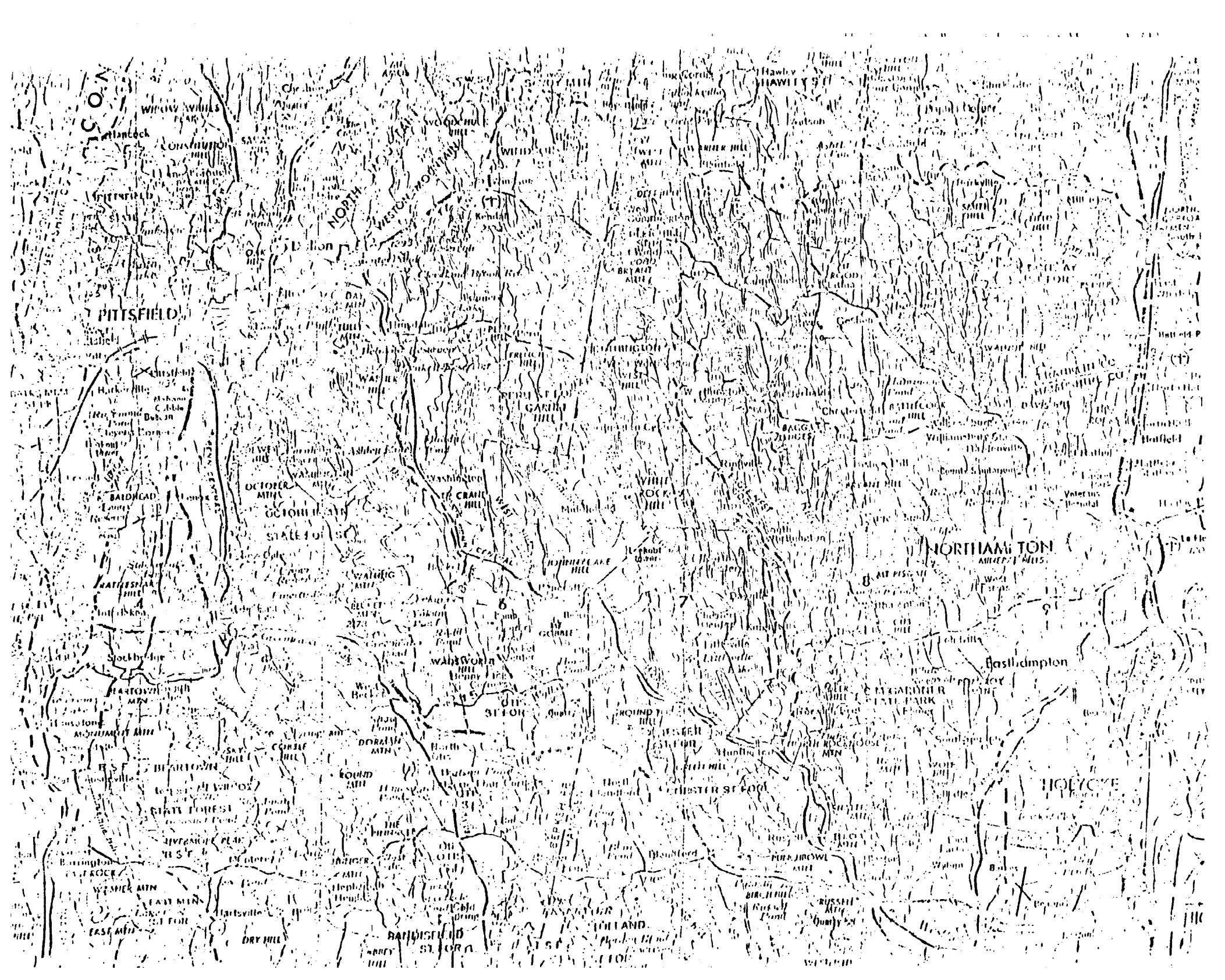
Name: Hoosic River

Geographic Limits: Chesire Reservoir to the Vermont State line

Resource Values: Cited by both Massachusetts Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Massachusetts Division of Wetlands Regulation as a valuable river/wetland system.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Unknown.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

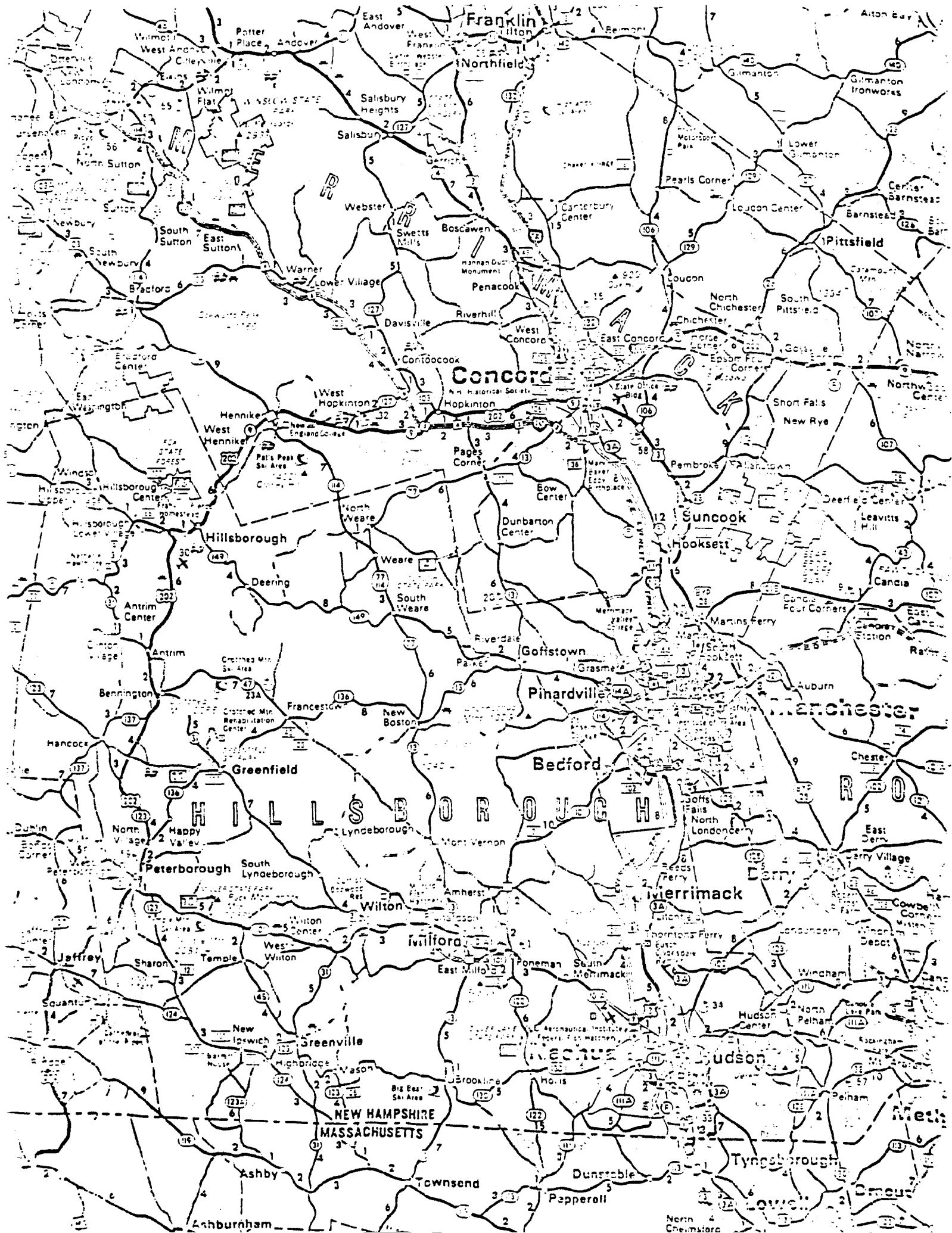
Name: Housatonic River

Geographic Limits: From Dalton, MA to the Connecticut River

Resource Values: High fish and wildlife value.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Wetlands could be adversely affected during operations to clean up PCB contamination in this stretch of the river and the adjacent wetlands.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

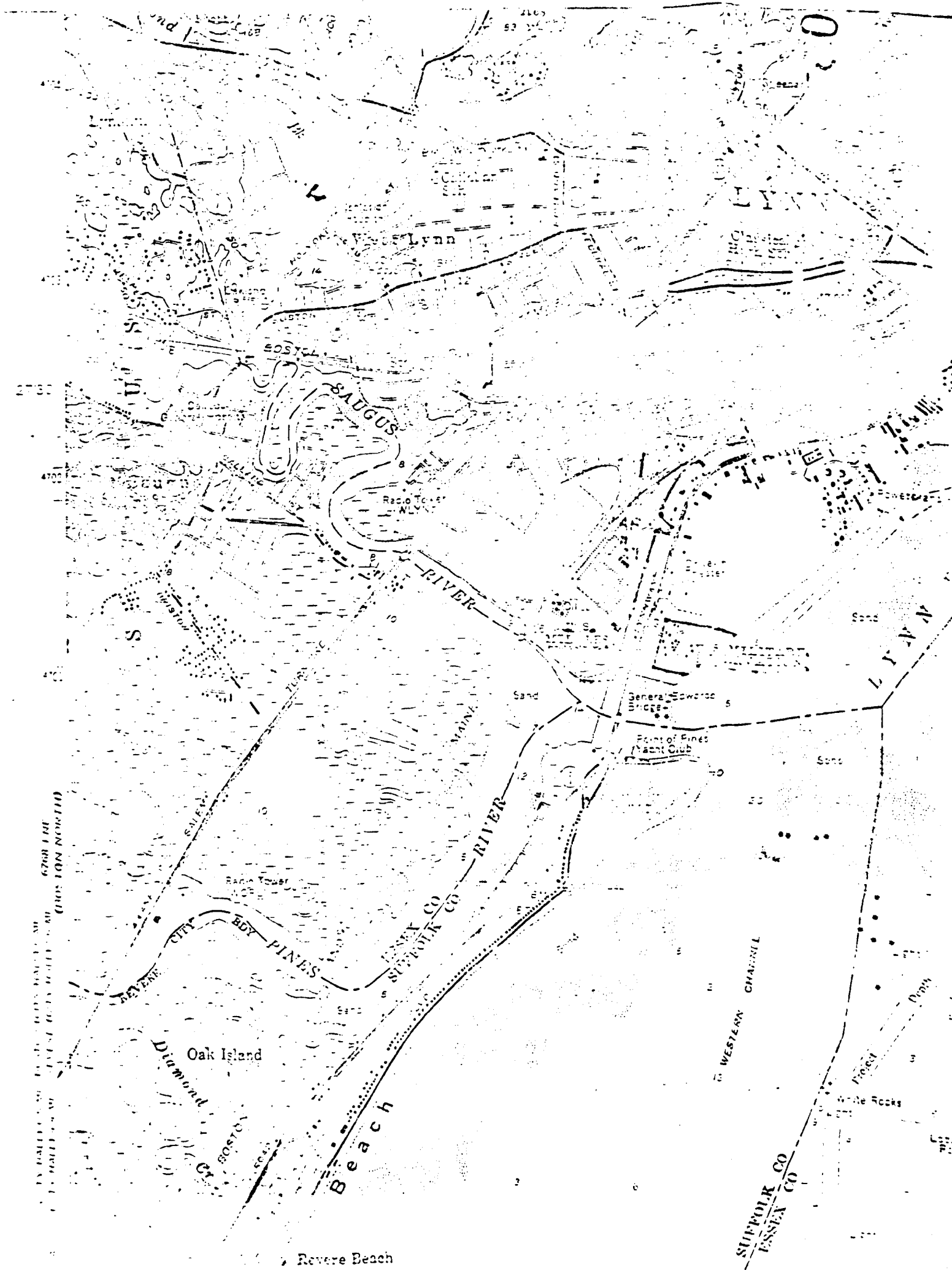
Name: Merrimack River

Geographic Limits: The reach from Lowell, MA to Franklin, NH, including adjacent wetlands and direct tributaries

Resource Values: Waterfowl; fisheries; flood storage and protection; anadromous fish; identified by FWS as a key river in their Atlantic Salmon restoration program.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: General residential/ industrial development pressure; hydropower development.

Comments: Protection of the river system is now fragmented.



Revere Beach

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Saugus, Revere and Pine Rivers salt marsh including Seaplane basin

Geographic Limits: Towns of Saugus and Revere, including adjacent wetlands and direct tributary systems.

Resource Values: Valuable saltwater marshes composed of altine flora and patens in and around Boston urban setting. Significant shellfish resources; anadromous fish; winter flounder; nesting for migratory waterfowl; seaworm fishery.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Commercial, industrial, and residential development; placement of unstabilized highway fill for I-95; the construction of the highway was later canceled. The State of Massachusetts is investigating alternatives for the removal of this fill; creation of federal navigation channel; expansion of marina facilities.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

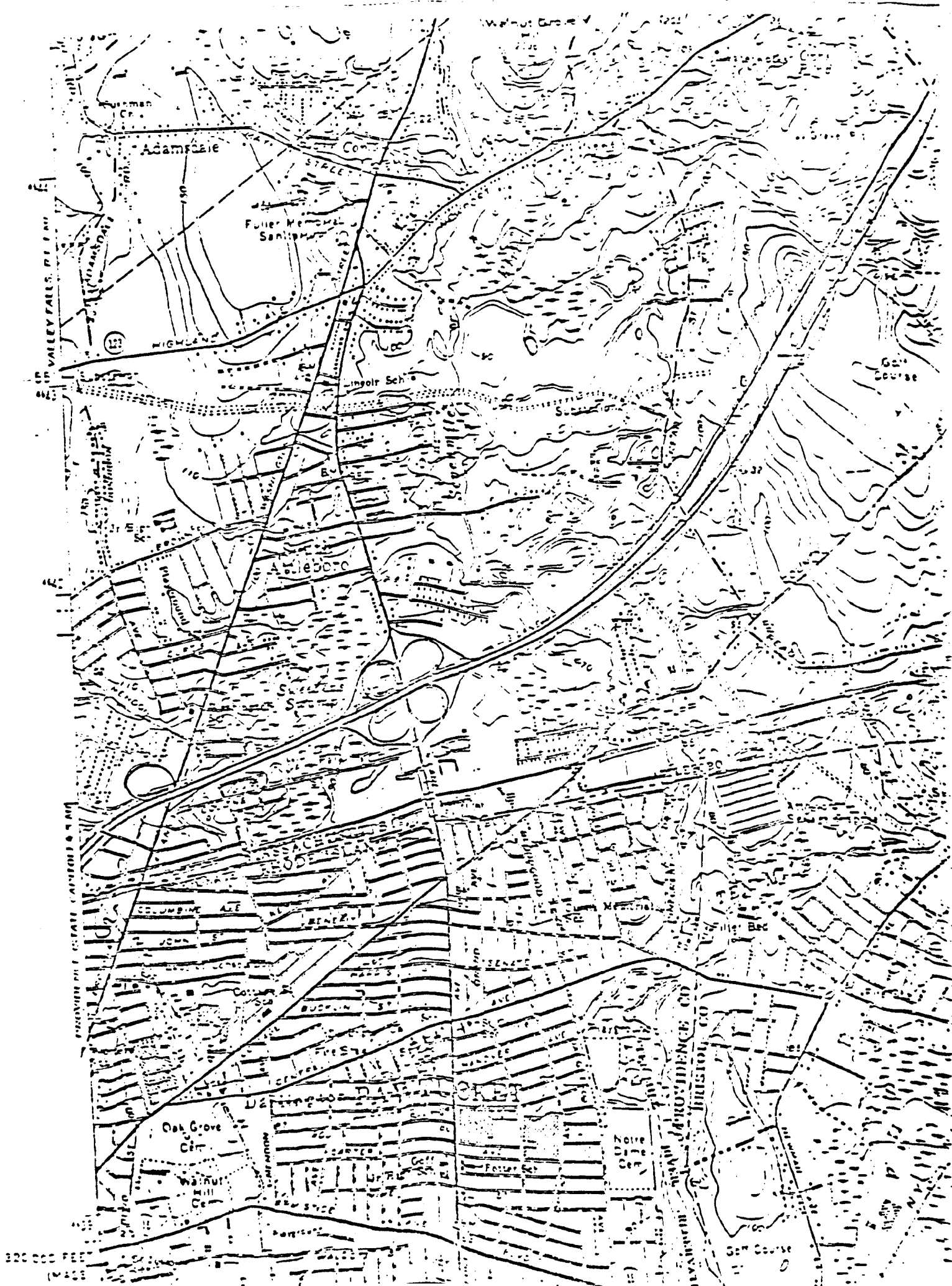
Name: Schenob Brook and Dry Brook system

Geographic Limits: Sheffield, MA

Resource Values: Over 25 species of rare plants and animals; one of the top calcareous wetlands in the state; unique habitat type.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: This area was once considered for a pump storage facility which would have inundated the system; second home development.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

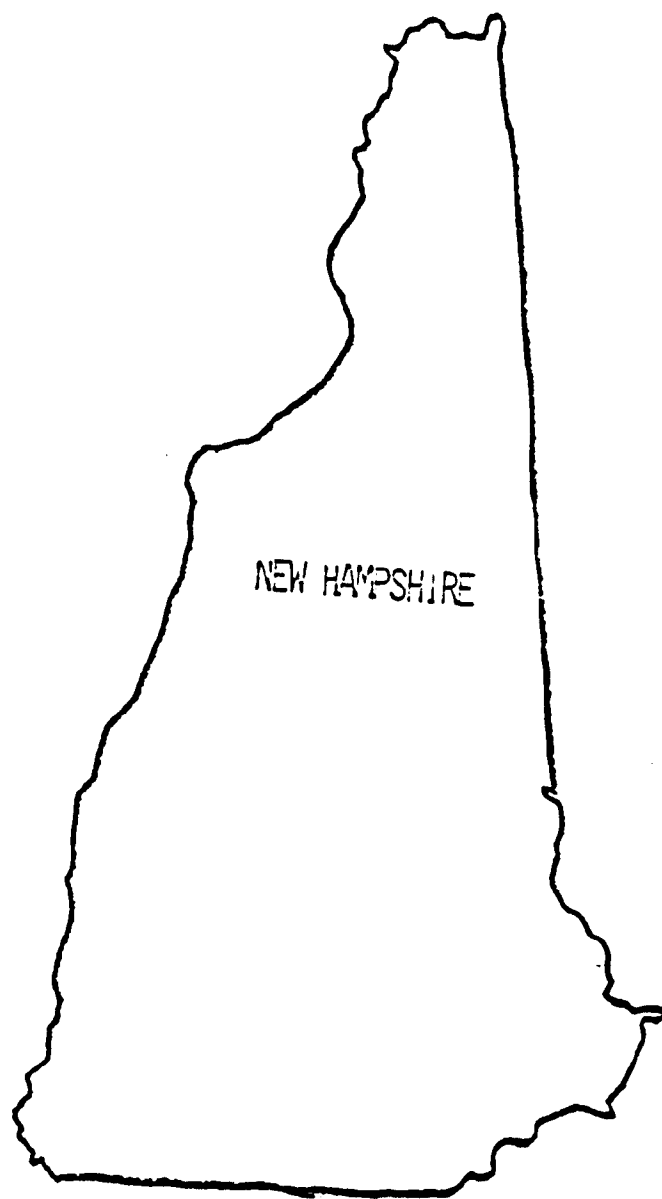
Name: Sweedens Swamp

Geographic Limits: Seven Mile River watershed in Attleboro, Massachusetts

Resource Values: Flood storage; water quality maintenance; low flow modulation; bird and small mammal habitat.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Proposed shopping mall would have destroyed 30 acres of this 50 acre red maple swamp.

Comments: On May 13, 1986, EPA exercised its 404(c) authority to prohibit use of this site for a shopping mall.



GENERAL LISTING

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

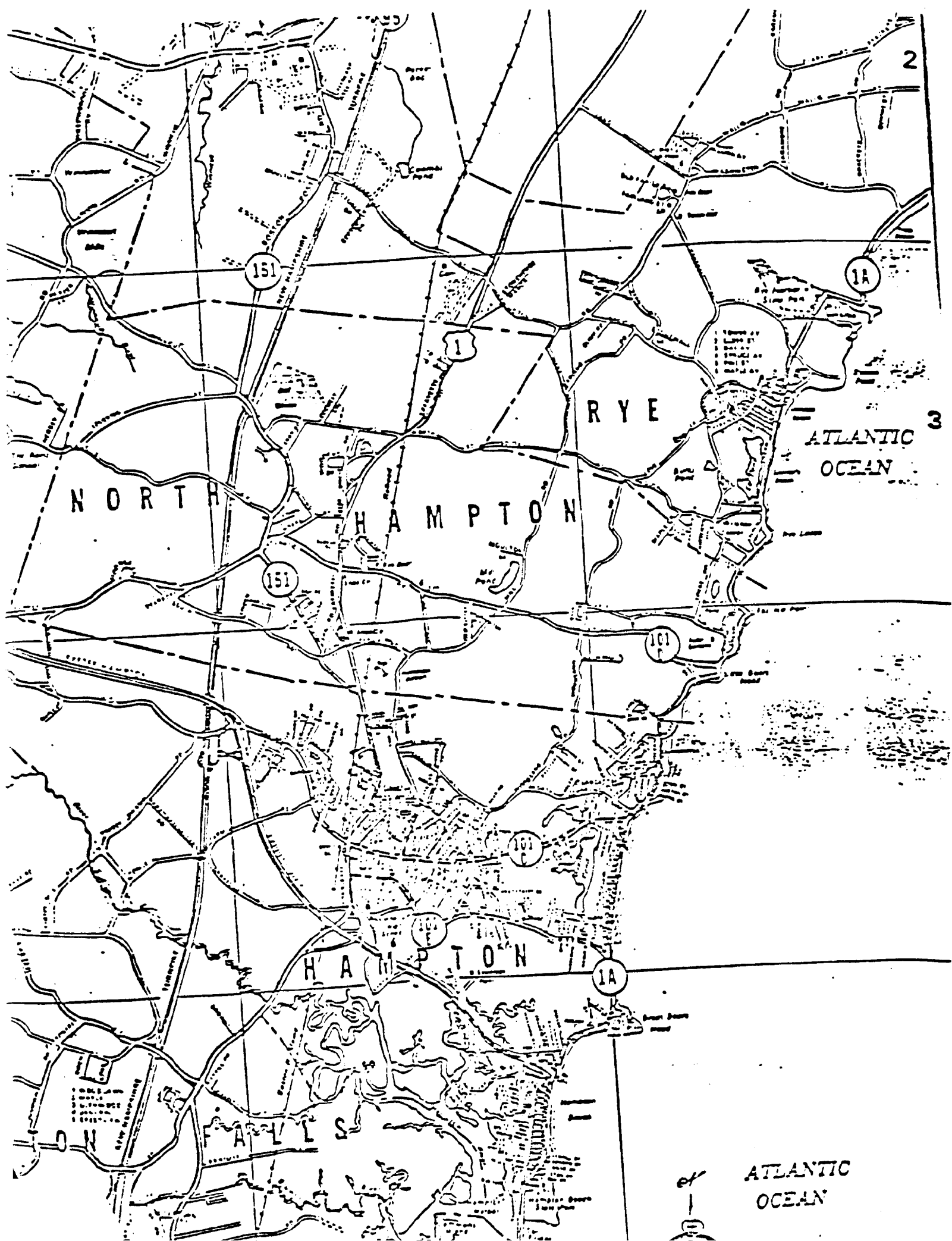
Name: Special Aquatic Sites within the Immediate Watersheds of Surface Drinking Water Impoundments

Geographic Limits: Variable. Approximately 880 such impoundments (539 community supplies; 341 non-community supplies) exist in New England.

Resource Values: Wetlands in these areas will often be important in maintenance of water quality. Likewise, work in these wetlands has the potential to seriously impact water supplies.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Difficult to predict. Threats to these wetlands are uncommon, but are potentially serious. Highway projects, as well as industrial and commercial development seem to be most common.

Comments: Work in these areas should automatically trigger careful EPA review and full coordination with the Water Supply Branch. Special Conditions will likely apply to any permitted projects.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

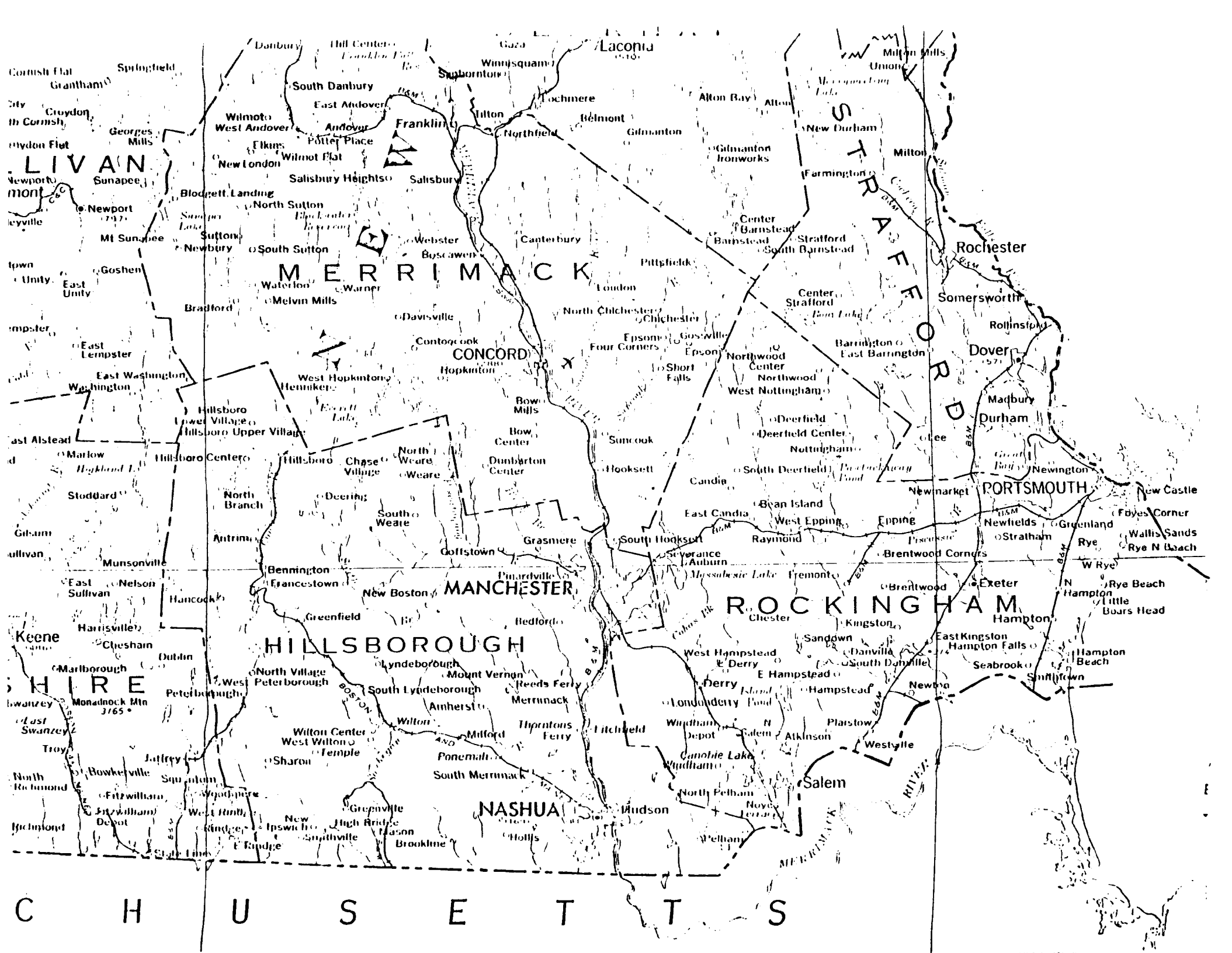
Name: Tidal wetlands in Hampton, Rye, and North Hampton

Geographic Limits: Towns of Hampton, North Hampton, and Rye

Resource Values: Productivity; fish and wildlife habitat; food web support; aesthetics.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Considerable piecemeal destruction for residential and commercial development.

Comments: Much unauthorized fill activity has taken place in this area.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Wetlands and waterbodies of Southeast New Hampshire

Geographic Limits: Southeastern New Hampshire (Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham, Strafford, and Sullivan Counties).

Resource Values: Fish and wildlife; flood control; water quality maintenance; recreation.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Industrial/residential development. This area is experiencing rapid growth as bedroom communities for Boston and Concord continue to expand.

Comments:

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Wetlands identified as important on state breeding and bird censuses

Geographic Limits: Variable. Cascade Marsh, New London, NH is an example of this. This marsh provides nesting area for pie-billed grebes and long rails

Resource Values: These wetlands have been identified as important for breeding birds.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Variable and site-specific; Any 404 regulated work in these areas would require close scrutiny.

Comments: These censuses are in various stages of publication. Further information about particular species is available from the Fish and Wildlife Service.

SPECIFIC LISTING

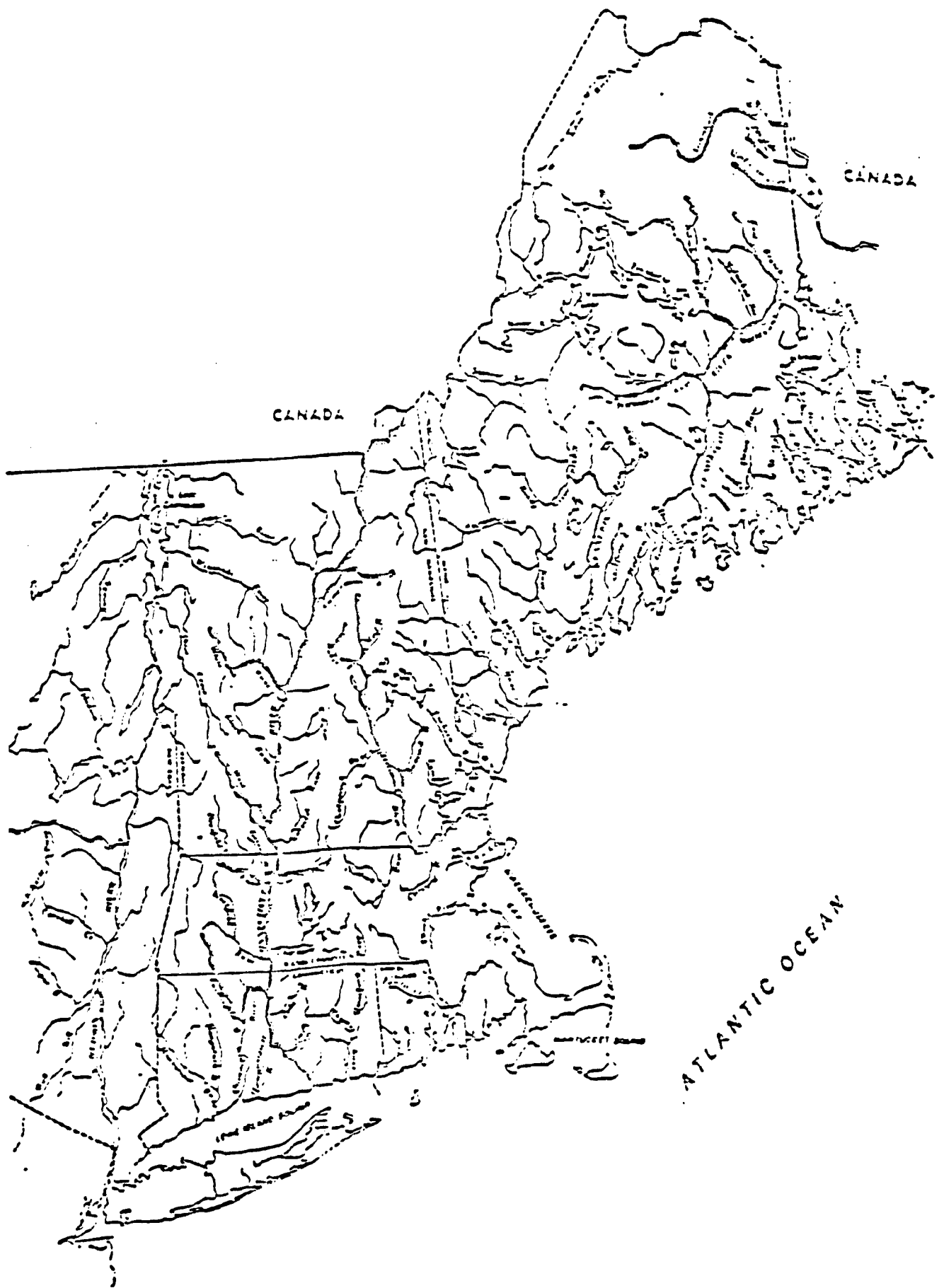


FIGURE III-1. RIVERS INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED ACTION.

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

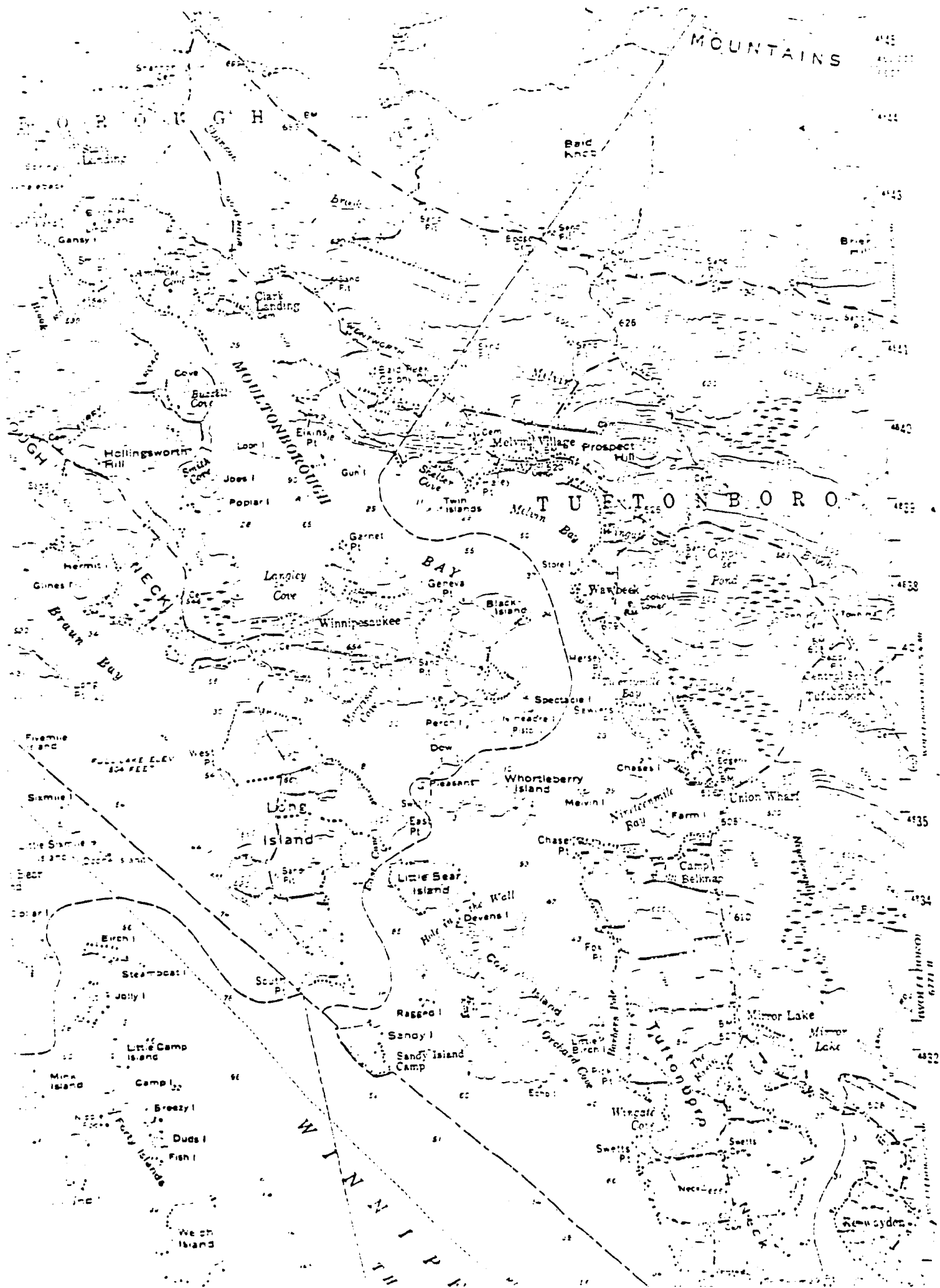
Name: Connecticut River

Geographic Limits: The river proper and special aquatic sites within the floodplain

Resource Values: New England's largest river; warm and cold water fisheries; flood storage; anadromous fish; shellfish in the lower reaches; recreation. Major role in FWS Atlantic Salmon restoration plan. Largest population of shad in the northeast. Habitat for several species of federally proposed threatened invertebrates and one endemic vetch. Also numerous plants, animals, and natural communities of state and regional significance.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Highly variable, ranging from agriculture activity to road and bridge projects to commercial developments. Water-dependent activities such as marinas and hydropower also generate environmental concerns.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Copps Pond and Copps Pond Marsh

Geographic Limits: Tuftonboro, NH

Resource Values: Identified by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department as a priority area. High quality habitat for fish and wildlife.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Encroachment from residential development.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

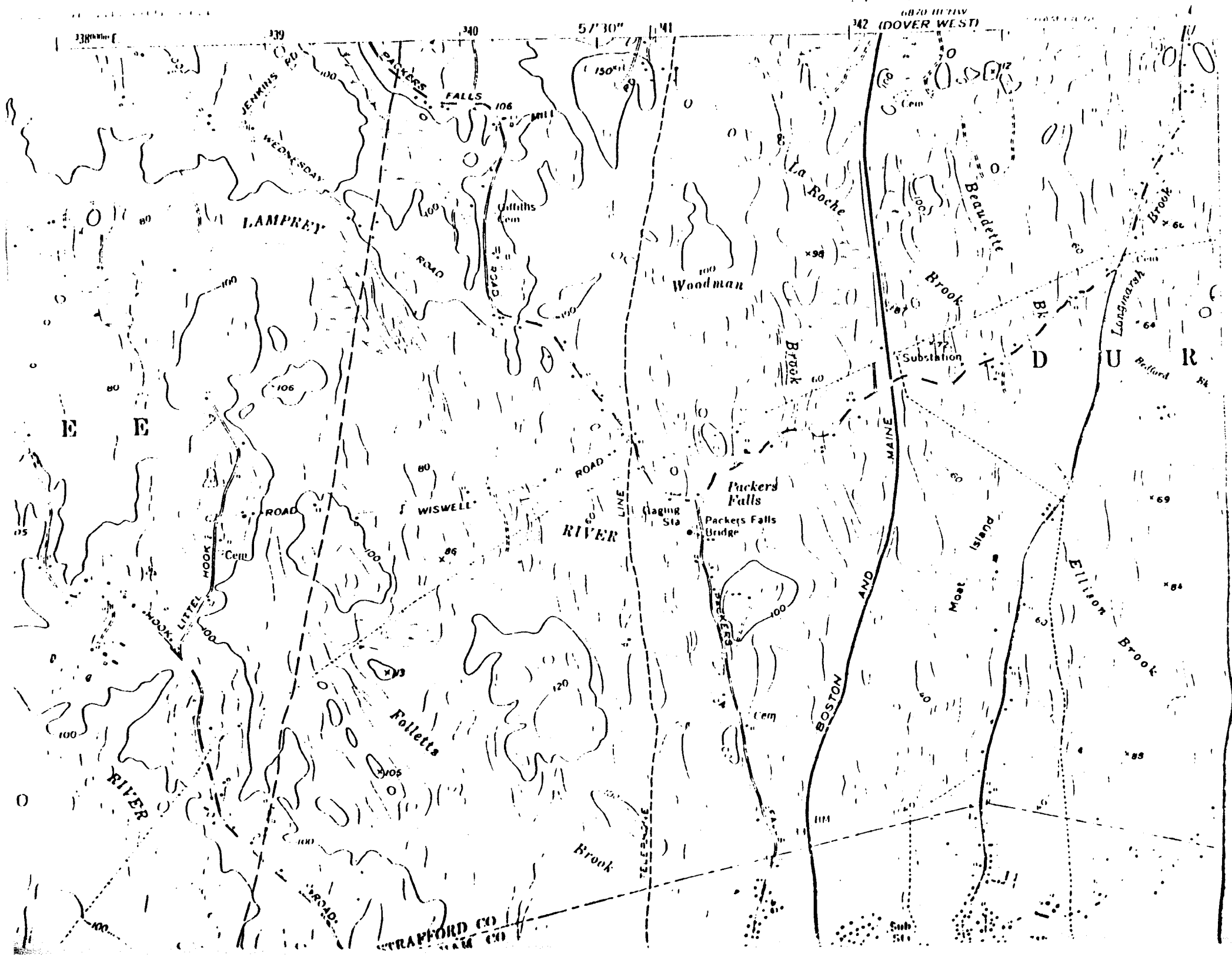
Name: Exeter River

Geographic Limits: Watershed of the river

Resource Values: Anadromous fish resources.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Hydrodevelopment.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

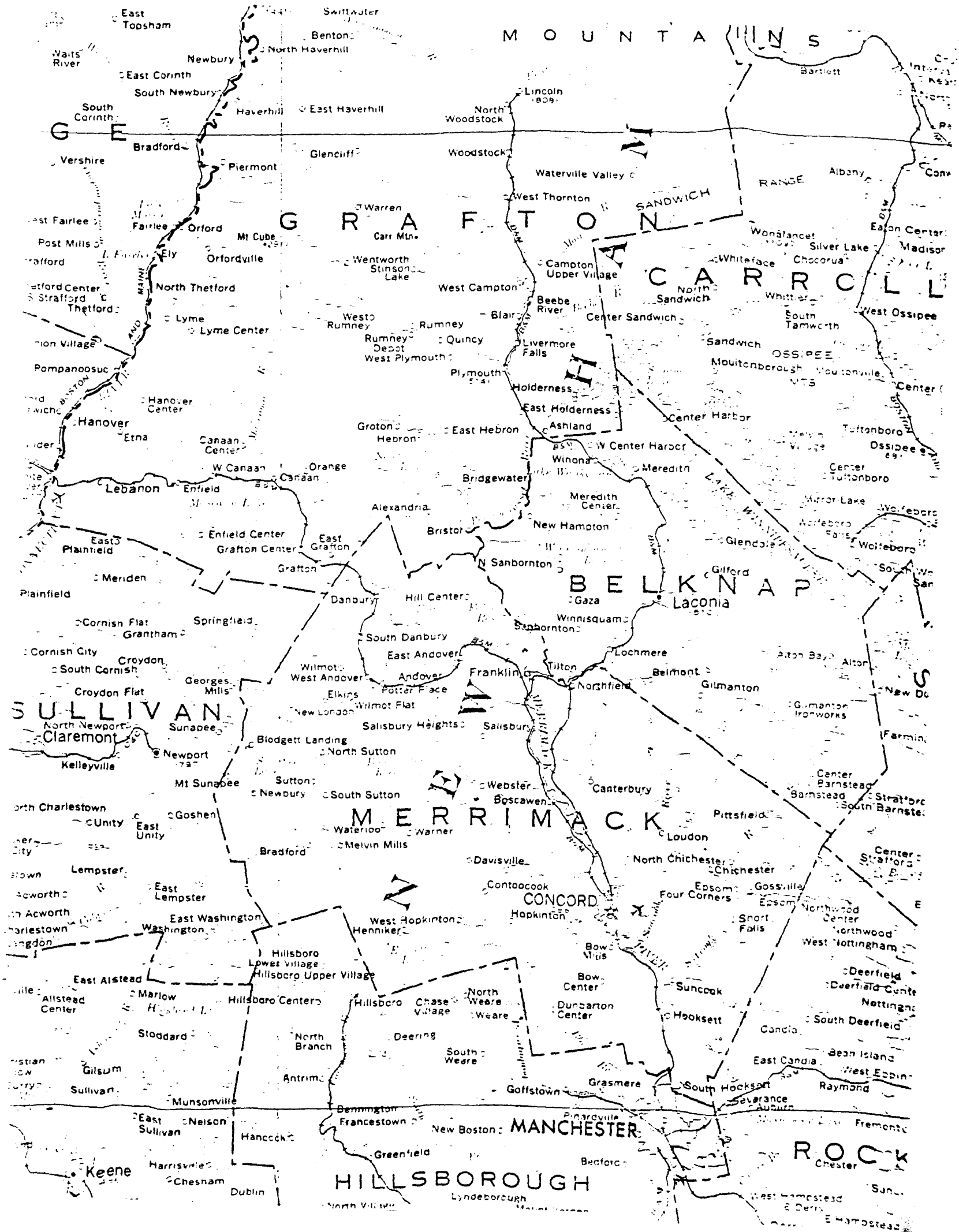
Name: Lamprey River

Geographic Limits: Watershed of the river

Resource Values: Anadromous fish including alewife, Coho salmon, and American shad.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Hydrodevelopment.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

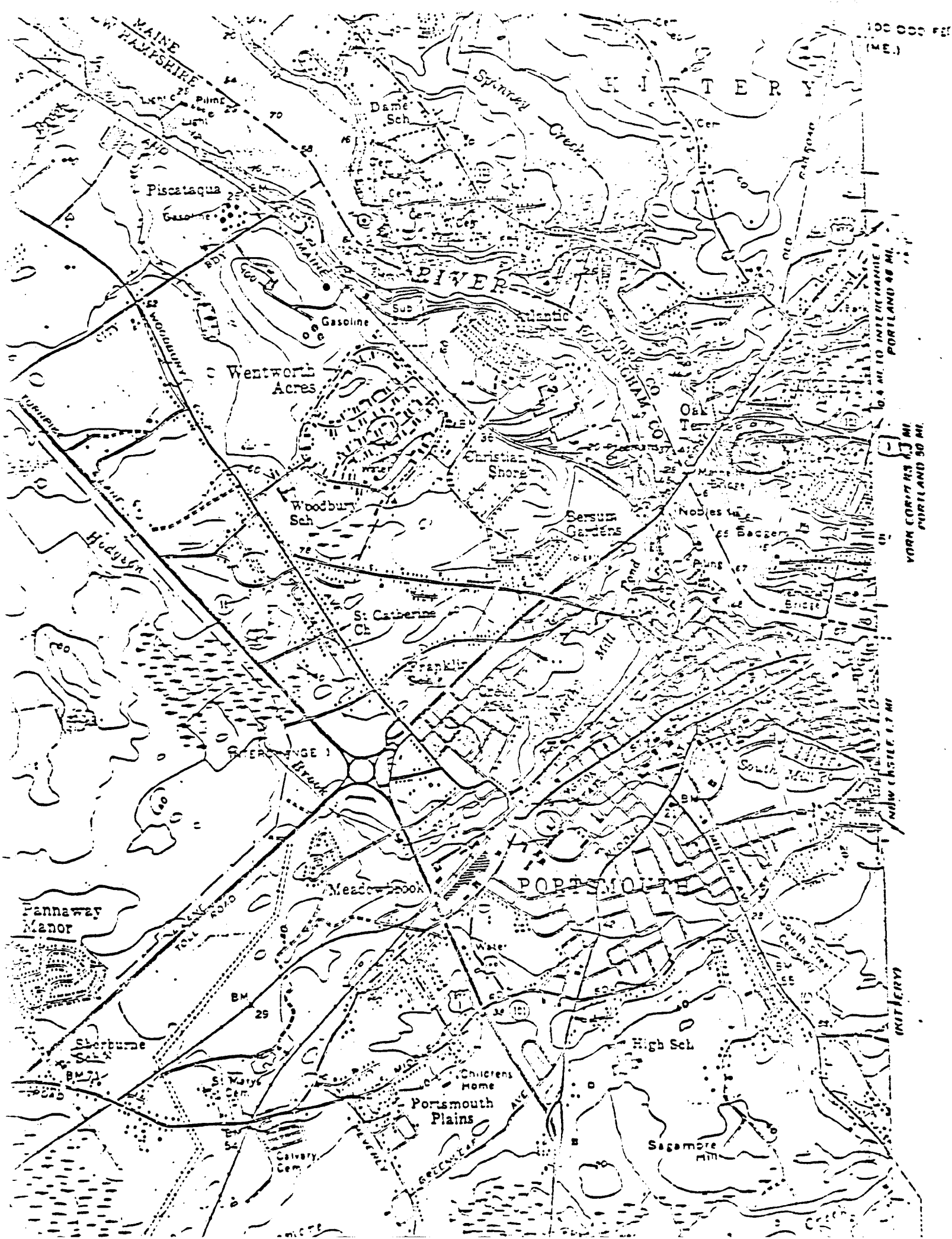
Name: Merrimack River

Geographic Limits: The reach from Lowell, MA to Franklin, NH, including adjacent wetlands and direct tributaries

Resource Values: Waterfowl; fisheries; flood storage and protection; anadromous fish; identified by FWS as a key river in their Atlantic Salmon restoration program.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: General residential/ industrial development pressure; hydropower development.

Comments: Protection of the river system is now fragmented.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: North Mill Pond

Geographic Limits: Tributary to the Piscataqua River near Portsmouth

Resource Values: Diversity of estuarine habitats; valuable for fish, shellfish, and wading birds; anadromous fish including Atlantic salmon, shortnose sturgeon, smelt, and shad.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Strong development pressure from, among others, the New Hampshire Port Authority and the City of Portsmouth to fill intertidal coves for fastland creation. Proposal to build dam was recently denied by the Army Corps of Engineers because of salt marsh habitat. There is also a problem with silting due to erosion.

Comments:



Scale : .250 000

20 Statute Miles

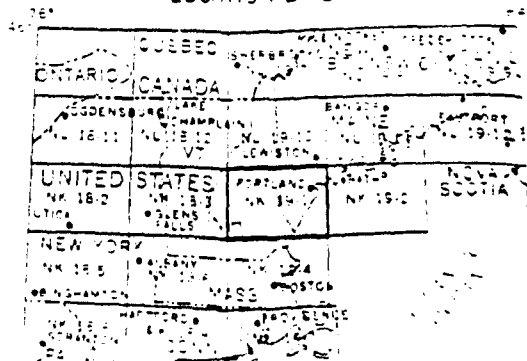
LOCATION DIAGRAM

CONTOUR INTERVAL 100 FEET
TERTIARY CONTOURS AT 50 FOOT INTERVALS

INVERSE MERCATOR PROJECTION

• TRUE NORTH FOR THIS SHEET VARIES FROM 15° 270 MILS: WESTERLY
 TO 17° 300 MILS: WESTERLY FOR THE CENTER OF THE EAST EDGE.

BIOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Piscataqua River, Great Bay and Little Bay estuaries

Geographic Limits: Tidal wetlands associated with these estuaries (Rockingham and Strafford Counties)

Resource Values: One of the largest estuaries in the country; anadromous fish.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Industrial and residential growth pressures.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Sugar River

Geographic Limits: The watershed in Sullivan, Merrimack, and Grafton Counties, including adjacent wetlands and their direct tributaries

Resource Values: Fisheries; waterfowl; water quality maintenance; recreational value.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: The SCS has proposed a complex of nine dams in the watershed ostensibly for flood control and recreation.

Comments: SCS reportedly has dropped six of the dams from consideration.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Lake Umbagog

Geographic Limits: Cambridge and Coos County

Resource Values: Little development; outstanding wildlife habitat.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Proposed hydro development; twice targeted for deatomaceous earth dredging.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

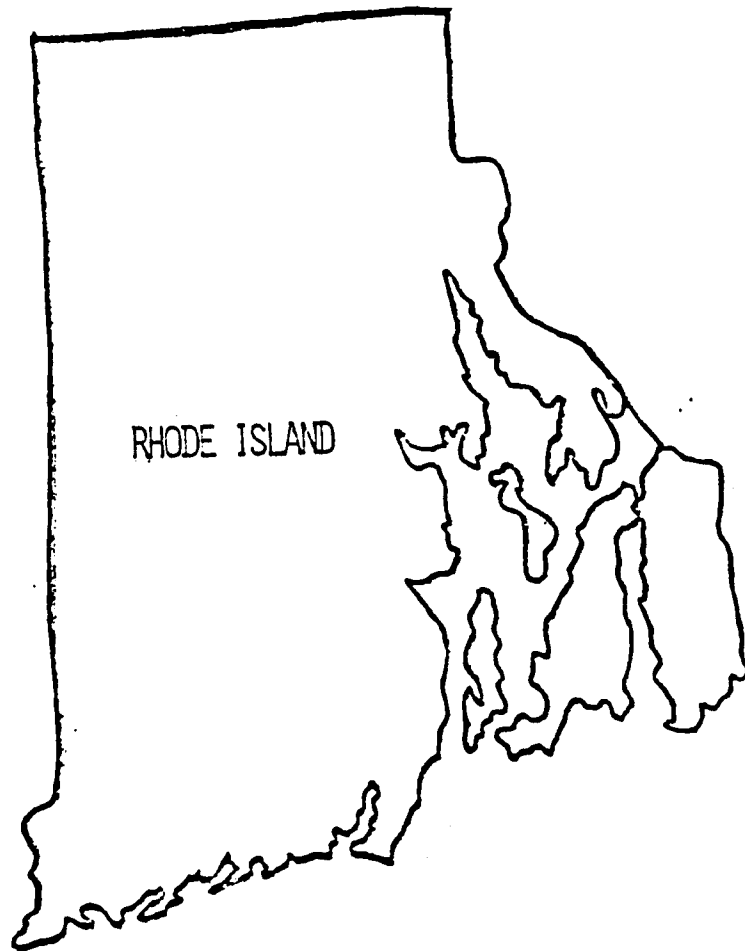
Name: Lake Winnepesauke area wetlands

Geographic Limits: Wetlands in the vicinity of Lake Winnepesauke, Belknap County

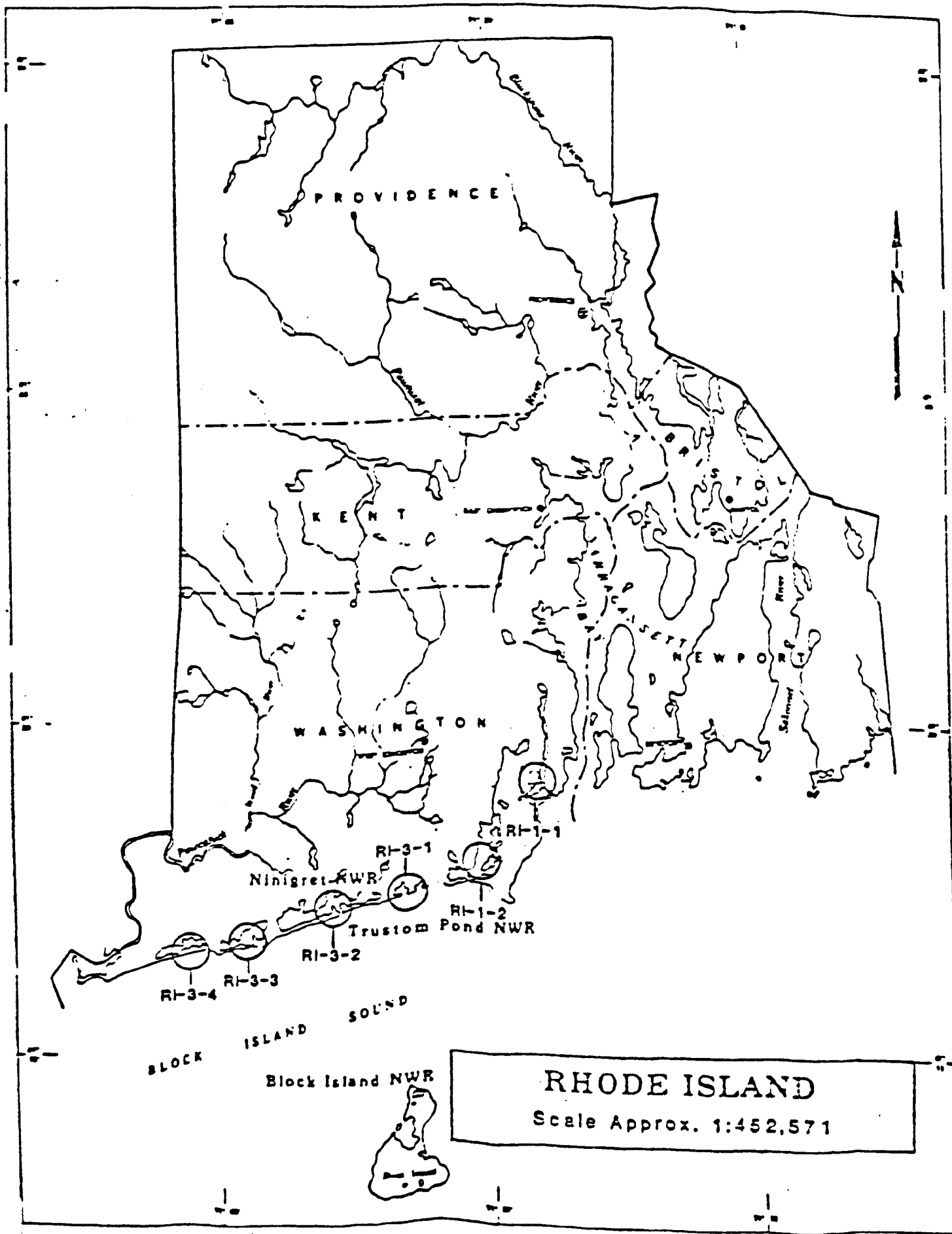
Resource Values: Water quality maintenance; aesthetics; fisheries.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Second home development is the primary threat.

Comments:



GENERAL LISTING



RHODE ISLAND
Scale Approx. 1:452,571

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Coastal marshes identified by FWS and RI Coastal Resources Management Council as important for the Preservation of Black Duck

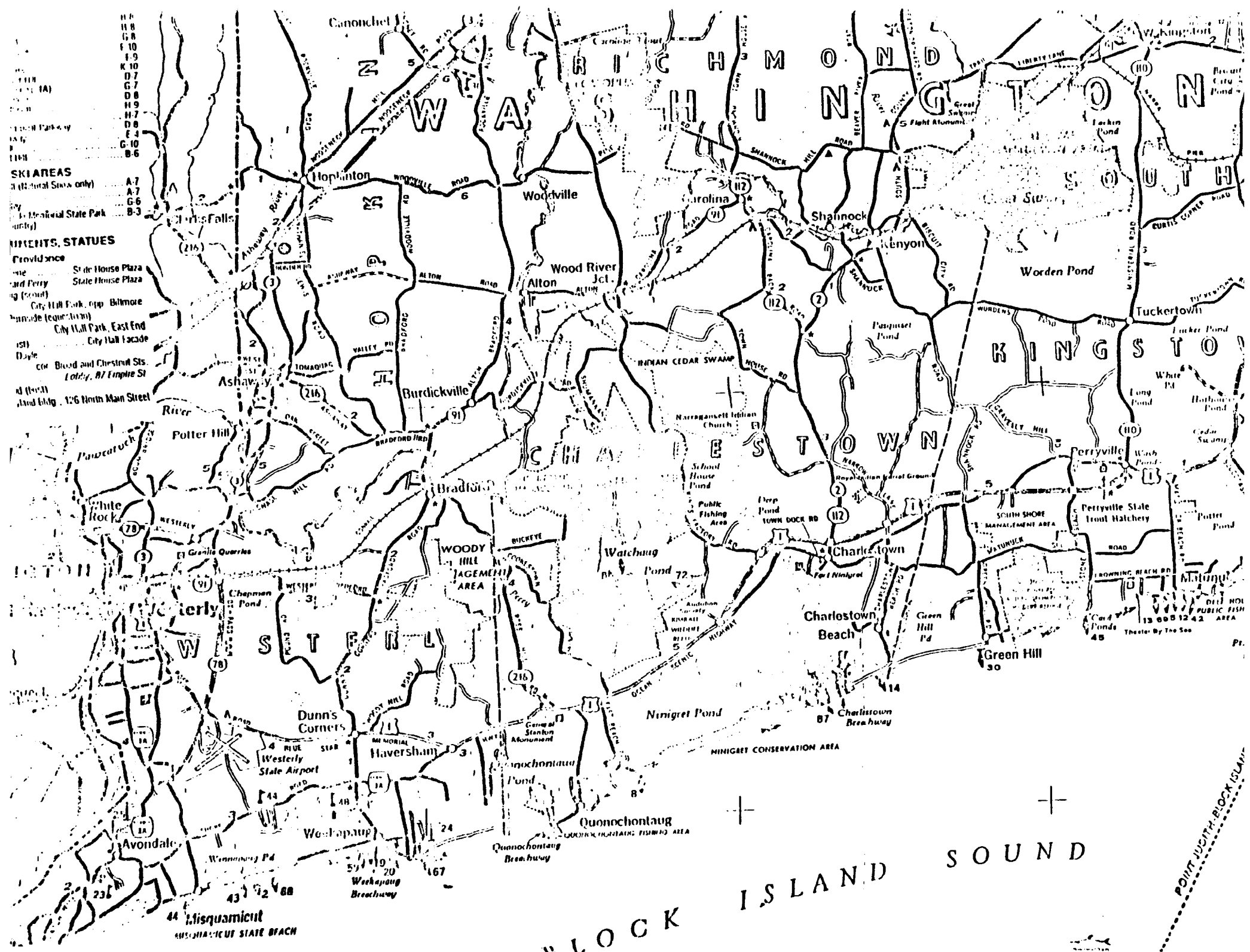
Geographic Limits: Pettasquamscutt Pond (200 acres) Sheffield Cove
Card Pond (100 acres) Mill Creek
Quonochontaug and Winnapaug Ponds (30 acres and 80 acres)
Great Creek Salt Marsh
Colonel Willie Cove

Resource Values: Pettasquamscutt Pond- wintering black duck
Card Pond- wintering black duck, canvasback, and redhead duck
Quonochontaug and Winnapaug Ponds- wintering black duck and canvasback
Great Creek Salt Marsh- black duck and canvasback
Colonel Willie Cove- black duck and canvasback
Sheffield Cove- black duck and canvasback
Mill Creek- black duck and canvasback

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Pettasquamscutt Pond- possibly threatened
Card Pond- possibly threatened
Quonochontaug and Winnapaug Ponds- possibly threatened

Comments: FWS (really) uses three categories of threat: highly threatened
possibly threatened
mostly protected

These areas are by no means a FWS priority list of wetlands for New England, but rather coastal wetlands important to wintering black ducks, a FWS National Species of Special Emphasis.



HI 8
HI 8
F 10
F 10
D 7
D 7
G 8
G 8
H 9
H 9
H 7
H 7
D 8
D 8
E 4
E 4
G 10
G 10
B 6
B 6

SKI AREAS
Al (National Snow only) A-7
Al (National Snow only) A-7
Al (National Snow only) G-6
Al (National Snow only) B-3

MONUMENTS, STATUES
Providence
Side House Plaza
State House Plaza
City Hall Park, opp. Biltmore
City Hall Park, East End
City Hall facade
Dayle
Cor. Broad and Chestnut Sts.
Loddy, N. Empire St
d (front)
d (back) 126 North Main Street

Westerly
Charlestown
Watchaug
Green Hill
Ninigret Pond
Quonochontaug
Westerly
Charlestown
Watchaug
Green Hill
Ninigret Pond
Quonochontaug

Westerly
Charlestown
Watchaug
Green Hill
Ninigret Pond
Quonochontaug
Westerly
Charlestown
Watchaug
Green Hill
Ninigret Pond
Quonochontaug

Westerly
Charlestown
Watchaug
Green Hill
Ninigret Pond
Quonochontaug

Westerly
Charlestown
Watchaug
Green Hill
Ninigret Pond
Quonochontaug

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Coastal Salt Ponds

Geographic Limits: South coast of Rhode Island with special attention to Porter Pond, Cards Pond, Point Judith Pond, Ninigret Pond, and Quicksand Pond. Also Great Salt Pond, Harbor Pond, and Shipcove Pond on Block Island.

Resource Values: Fish spawning; shellfish; shorebirds; high recreational and aesthetic value.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: A major increase in residential development including the necessary infrastructure is possible. Significant degradation of water quality will result from large-scale development.

Comments: Rhode Island has recognized the value of these areas in a special area management plan.

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Special Aquatic Sites within the Immediate Watersheds of Surface Drinking Water Impoundments

Geographic Limits: Variable. Approximately 880 such impoundments (539 community supplies; 341 non-community supplies) exist in New England.

Resource Values: Wetlands in these areas will often be important in maintenance of water quality. Likewise, work in these wetlands has the potential to seriously impact water supplies.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Difficult to predict. Threats to these wetlands are uncommon, but are potentially serious. Highway projects, as well as industrial and commercial development seem to be most common.

Comments: Work in these areas should automatically trigger careful EPA review and full coordination with the Water Supply Branch. Special Conditions will likely apply to any permitted projects.

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Special Aquatic Sites Overlying Sole Source Aquifer Areas

Geographic Limits: Block Island

Resource Values: Recharge/discharge; water quality maintenance; many of these wetlands also have important values for wildlife and recreation.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Residential development, particularly the construction of vacation and retirement homes.

Comments: The actual potential for adverse impacts to the aquifer varies on a site-specific basis and must be analyzed in each case.

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Wetlands identified as important on state breeding and bird censuses

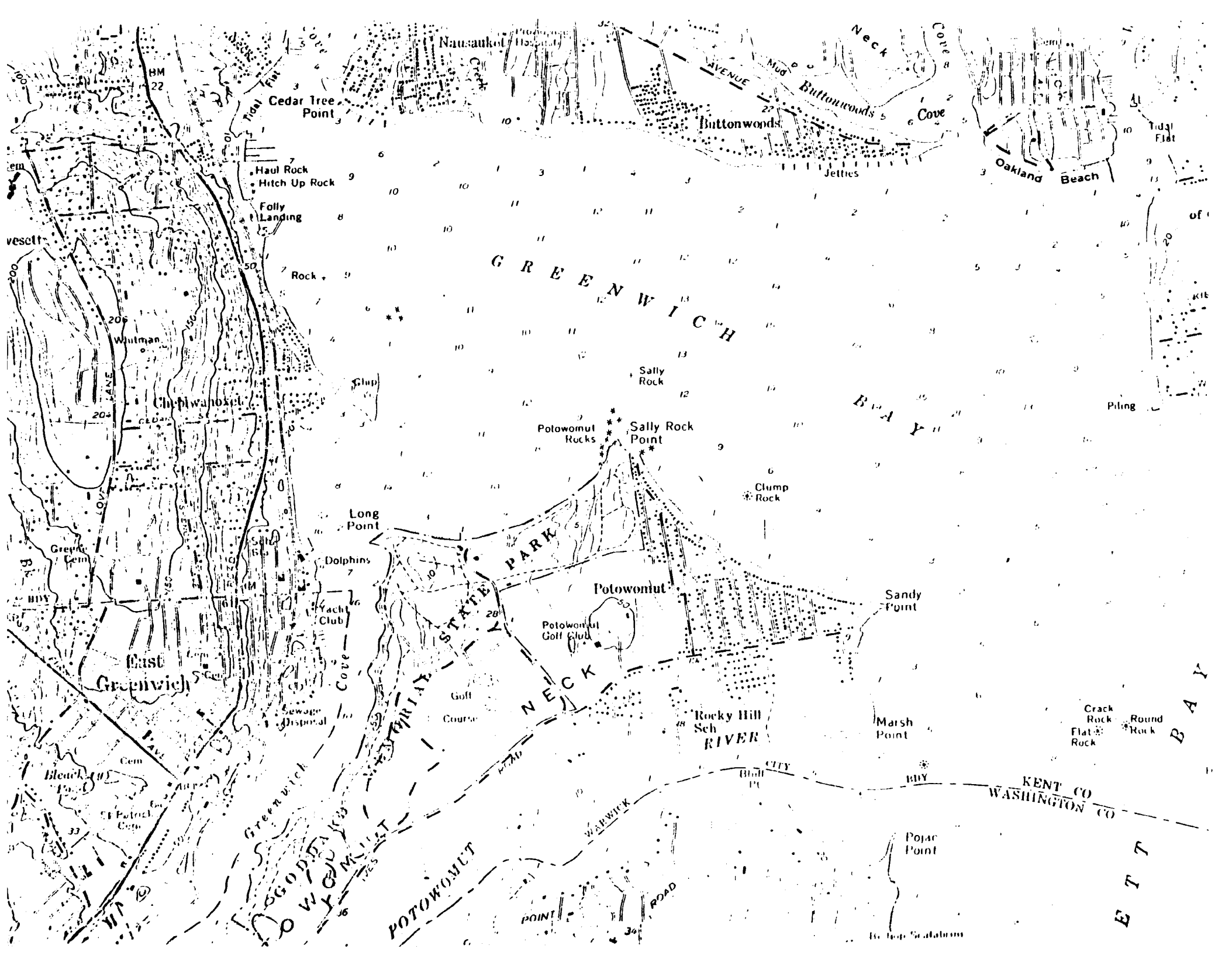
Geographic Limits: Variable.

Resource Values: These wetlands have been identified as important for breeding birds.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Variable and site-specific; Any 404 regulated work in these areas would require close scrutiny.

Comments: These censuses are in various stages of publication. Further information about particular species is available from the Fish and Wildlife Service.

SPECIFIC LISTING



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Greenwich Bay

Geographic Limits: coastal wetlands, especially Mary's Creek System

Resource Values: Important to shellfish management area productivity; larval fish development.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Wetlands encroached upon by commercial marina and private residential development.

Comments:

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: 100 Acre Cove/ Barrington River wetlands

Geographic Limits: Barrington and Seekonk

Resource Values: Important to shellfish management area; larval fish; threatened avian species.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Primarily residential development.

Comments: This area is impacted by development in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

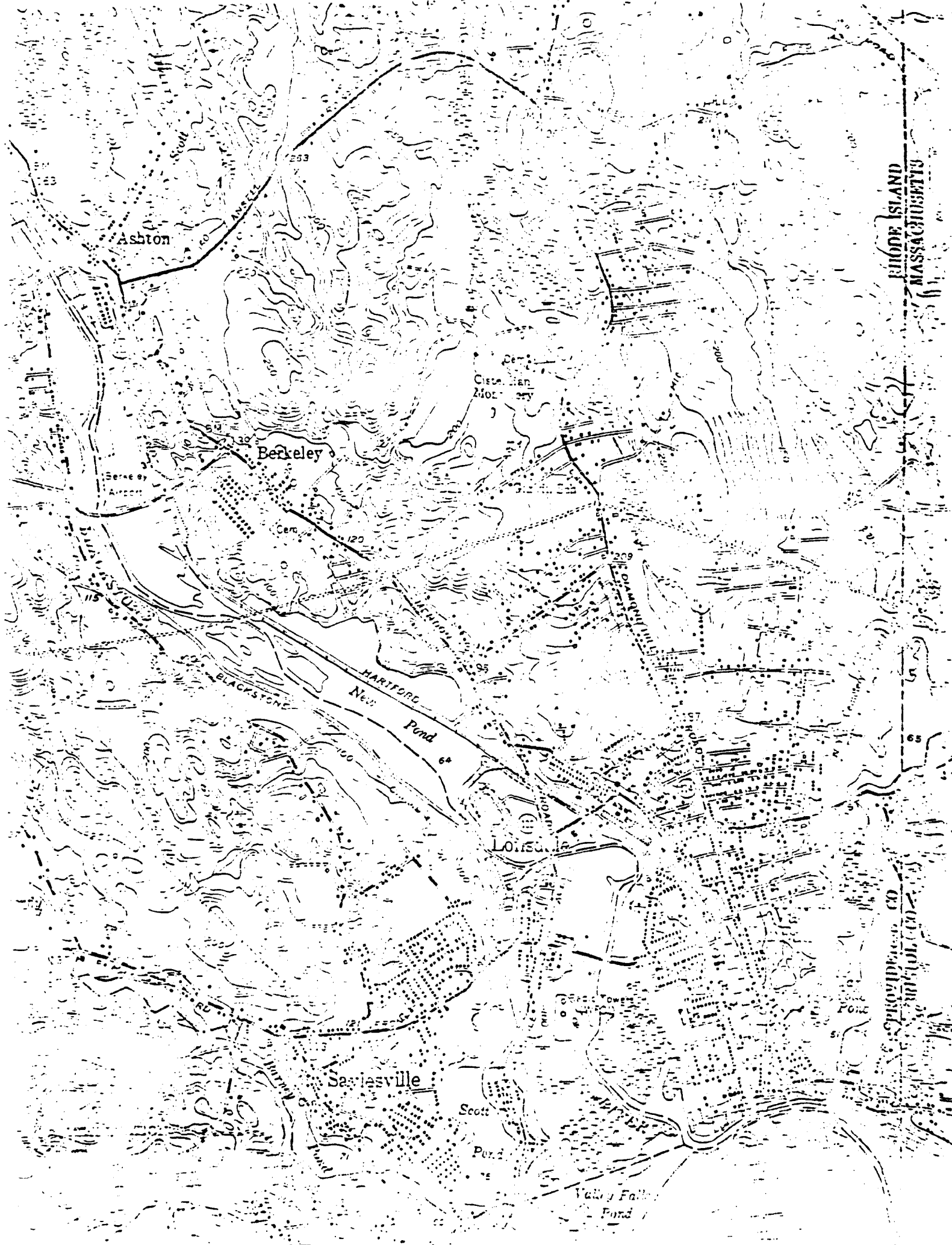
Name: Kickemuit River

Geographic Limits: Towns of Bristol and Warren

Resource Values: Anadromous resource; includes extensive salt marsh areas.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Primarily residential development.

Comments:



BRIDGE ISLAND
MASSACHUSETTS

BRIDGE ISLAND
MASSACHUSETTS

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

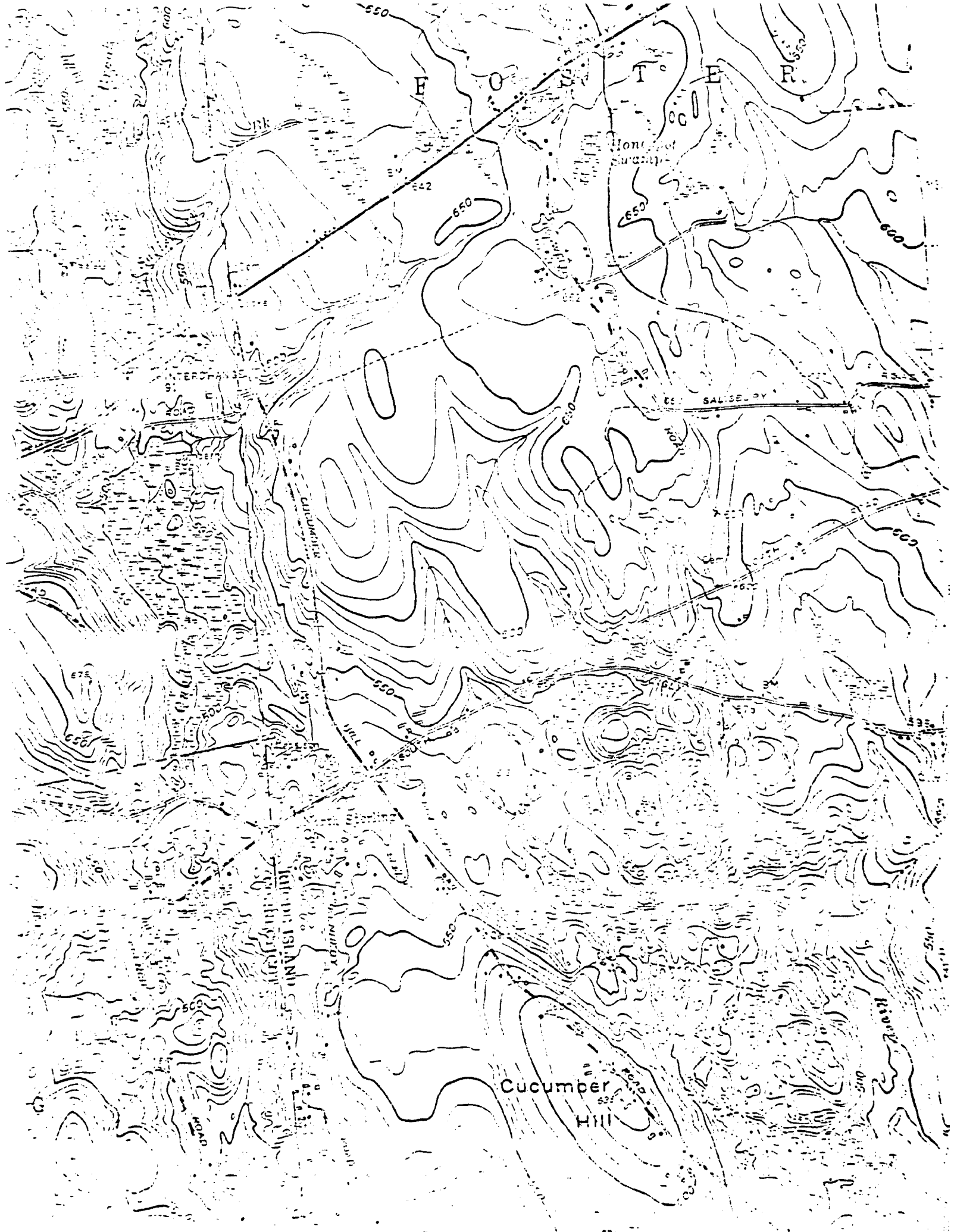
Name: Lonsdale Marshes

Geographic Limits: Providence County in Central Falls

Resource Values: Open floodplain on the Blackstone River, grass and sedge marsh of high value for waterfowl and muskrats.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Serious past encroachments have reduced the system to roughly 25 acres. Pressure from a variety of existing and proposed developments.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

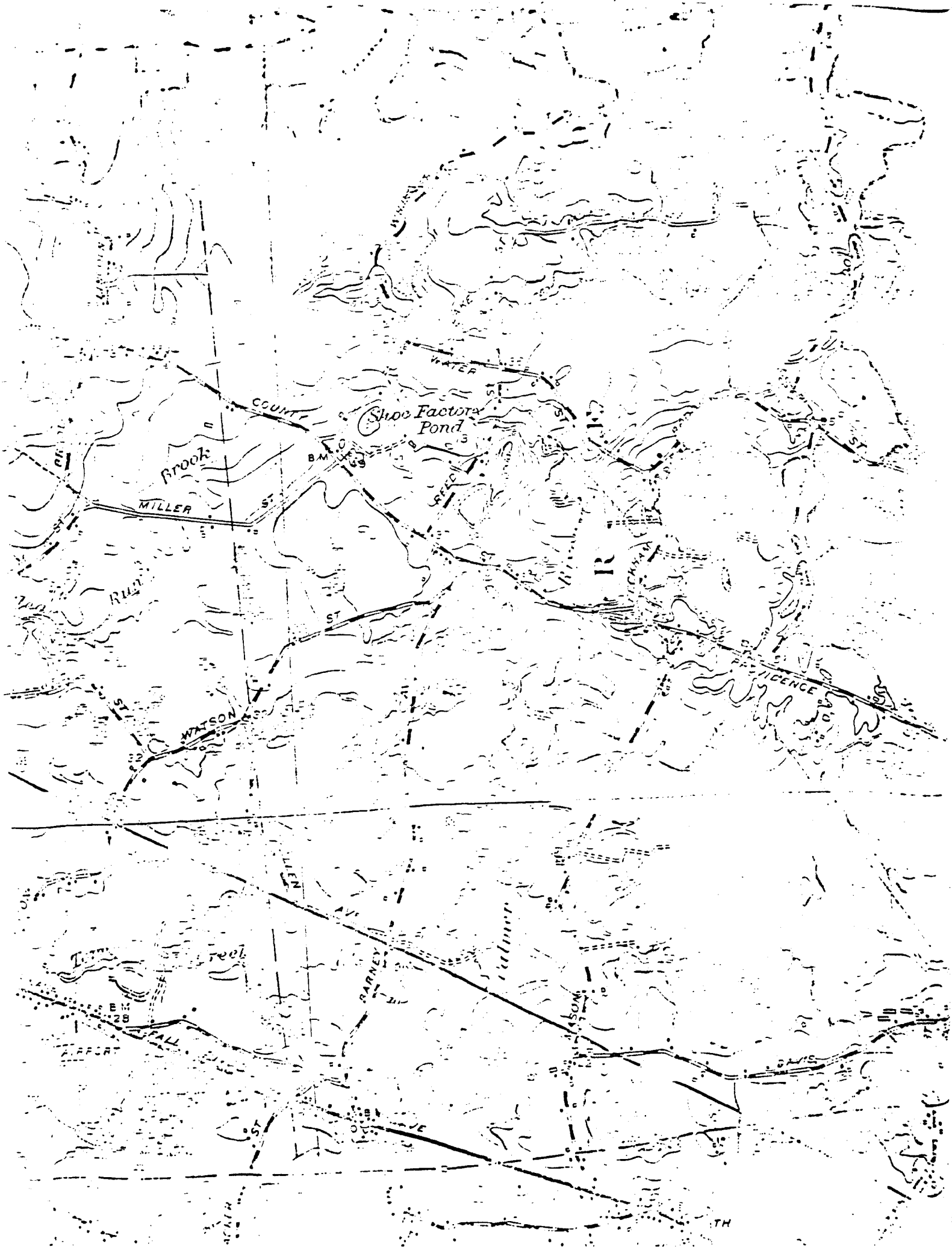
Name: Moosup River

Geographic Limits: Within Towns of Foster and Coventry

Resource Values: An intact, relatively undeveloped system; beaver and trout populations.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: No known immediate threats, but the area is not afforded any special protection.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

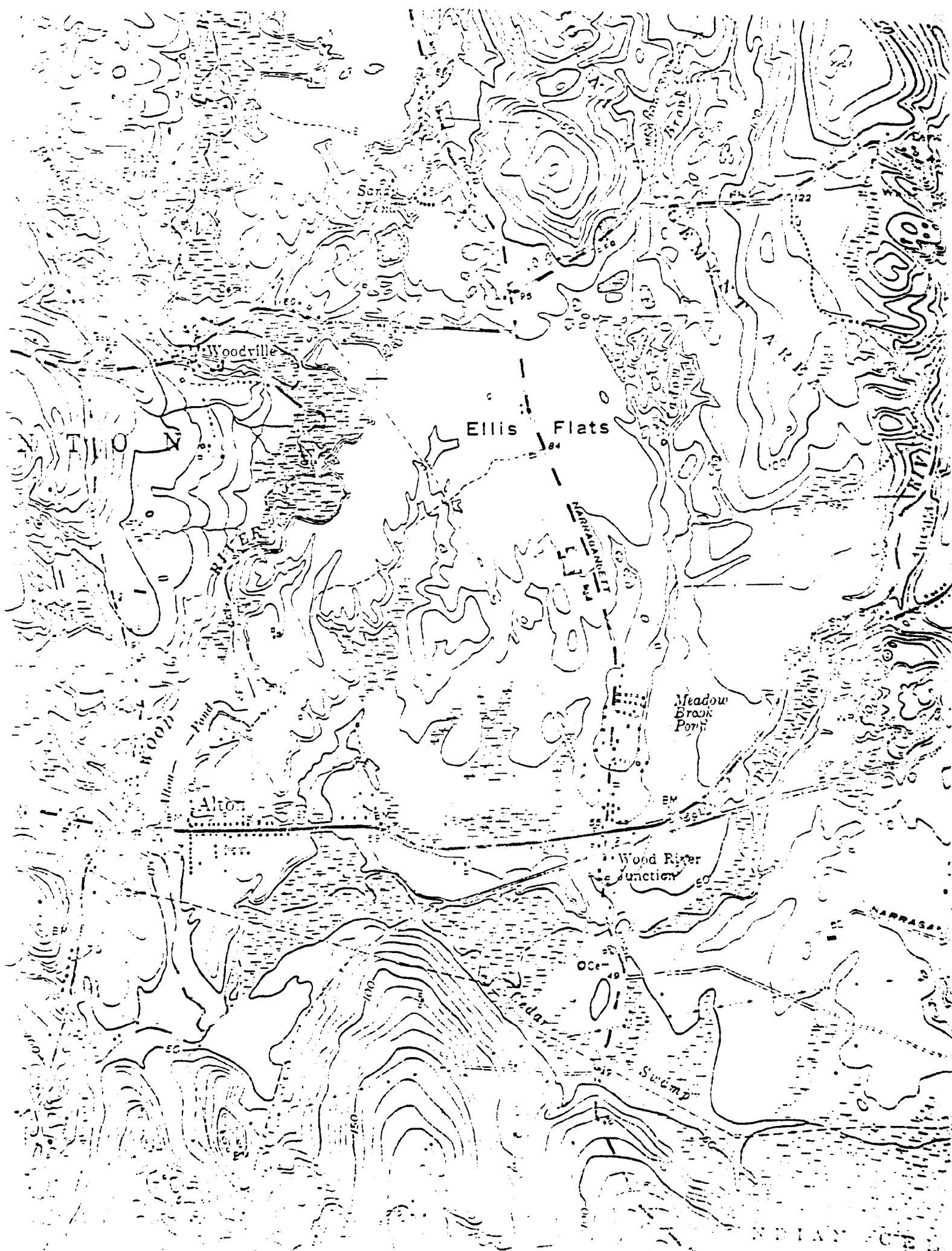
Name: Palmer River

Geographic Limits: Towns of Barrington and Warren

Resource Values: An unspoiled system where such areas are scarce; excellent diversity of community types; anadromous fish; rare plants and animals; Atlantic Salmon restoration.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Regulation by both Rhode Island and Connecticut; marina development; commercial and industrial discharges may affect water quality.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

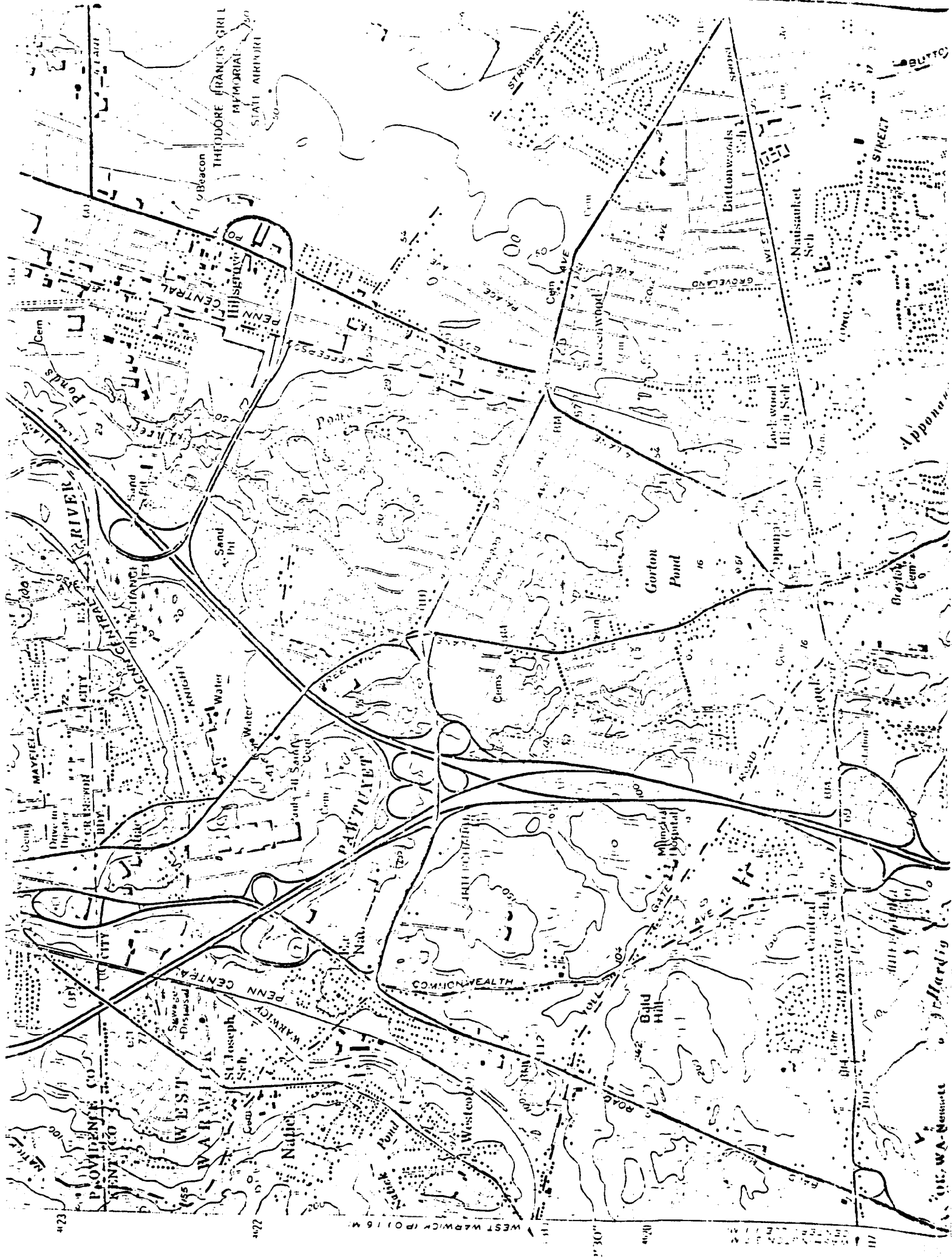
Name: Pawcatuck/Wood River System

Geographic Limits: Floodplain wetlands

Resource Values: Anadromous fish; identified by FWS as a key river in their Atlantic Salmon restoration program; warmwater fishery; recreation.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Piecemeal encroachments upon the floodplain and shoreline.

Comments: This system is on the Nationwide Rivers Inventory.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

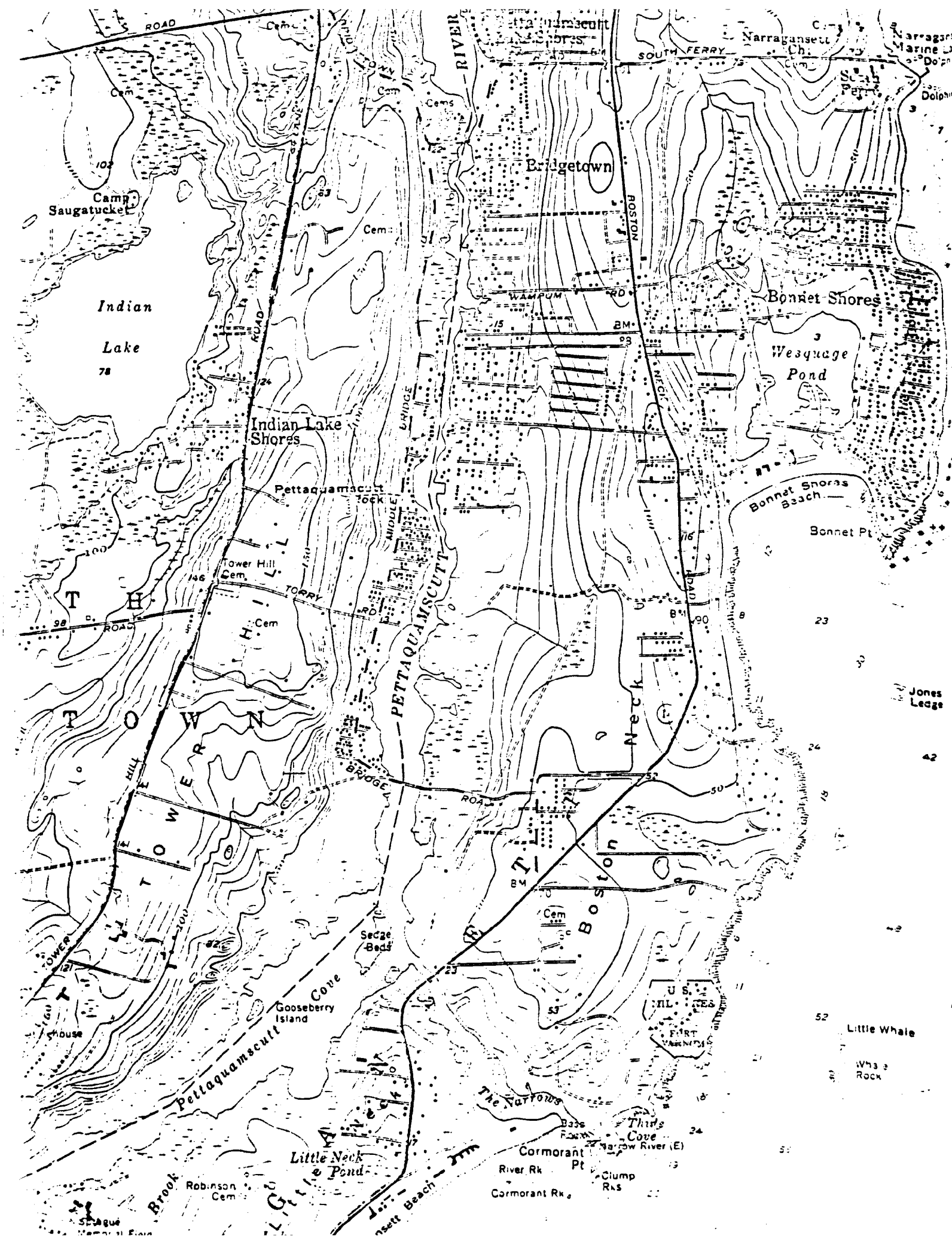
Name: Pawtuxet River

Geographic Limits: South branch of the Pawtuxet River

Resource Values: Large expanses of valuable freshwater wetlands, including deep and shallow marsh, wooded swamp, and free flowing tributary streams.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: The proposed Big River Reservoir project would inundate 570 acres of high quality wetland with major impacts to wildlife and recreation.

Comments: This is currently the largest proposed loss of wetlands in the region.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

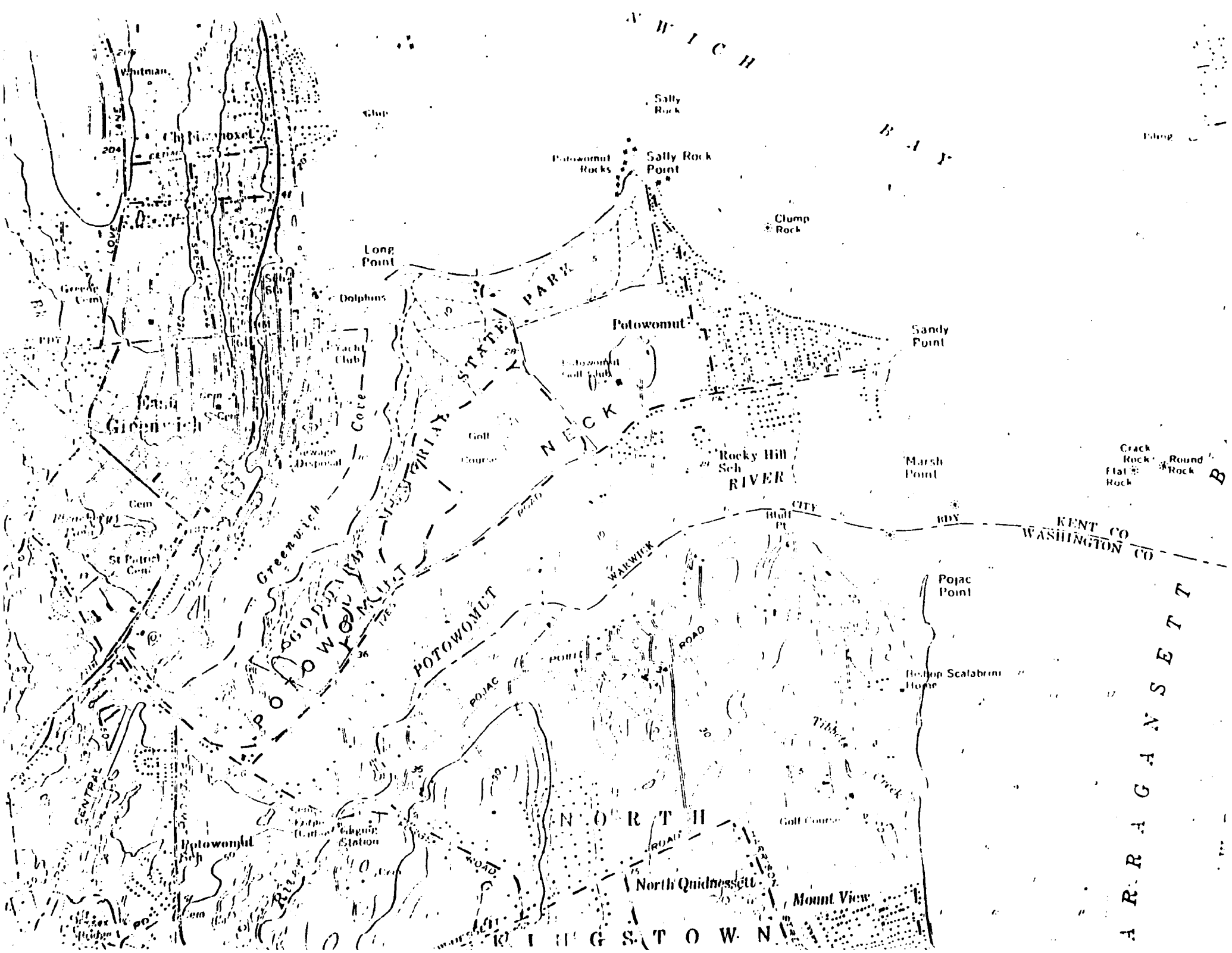
Name: Pettaquamscutt River

Geographic Limits: Within Towns of North Kingston, South Kingston, and Narragansett

Resource Values: Anadromous fish, especially alewife; winter flounder spawning habitat; striped bass habitat; eastern oyster; rare plant species.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Changes in zoning regulations and EPA funded sewer projects may lead to increased pressure from residential development; failure of existing septic systems is also a potential threat.

Comments: This area is classified by the RI Department of Environmental Management as a Shellfish Management area. It is also presently in draft stages for a special area management plan by the Coastal Resources Management Council.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Potowomut River

Geographic Limits: Warwick and North Kingston

Resource Values: Potential anadromous and waterfowl resource; low intensity use estuary includes a good proportion of salt marsh.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Residential development.

Comments:

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

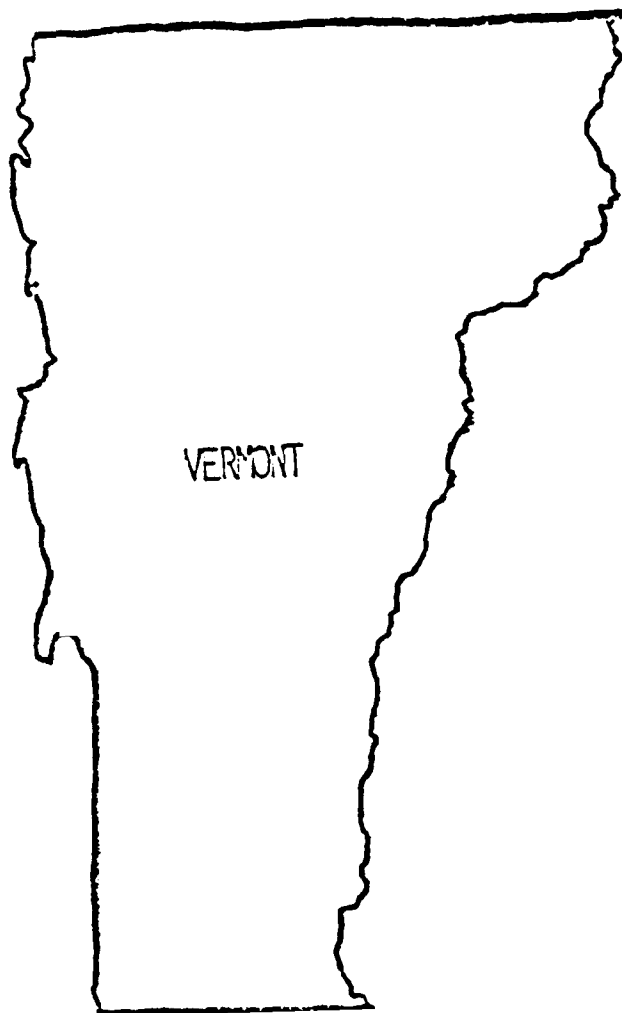
Name: Potts Bog

Geographic Limits: Washington and Kent Counties near East Greenwich

Resource Values: Typical southern New England bog.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Highway construction and a rapidly developing area.

Comments:



GENERAL LISTING

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Special Aquatic Sites within the Immediate Watersheds of Surface Drinking Water Impoundments

Geographic Limits: Variable. Approximately 880 such impoundments (539 community supplies; 341 non-community supplies) exist in New England.

Resource Values: Wetlands in these areas will often be important in maintenance of water quality. Likewise, work in these wetlands has the potential to seriously impact water supplies.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Difficult to predict. Threats to these wetlands are uncommon, but are potentially serious. Highway projects, as well as industrial and commercial development seem to be most common.

Comments: Work in these areas should automatically trigger careful EPA review and full coordination with the Water Supply Branch. Special Conditions will likely apply to any permitted projects.

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

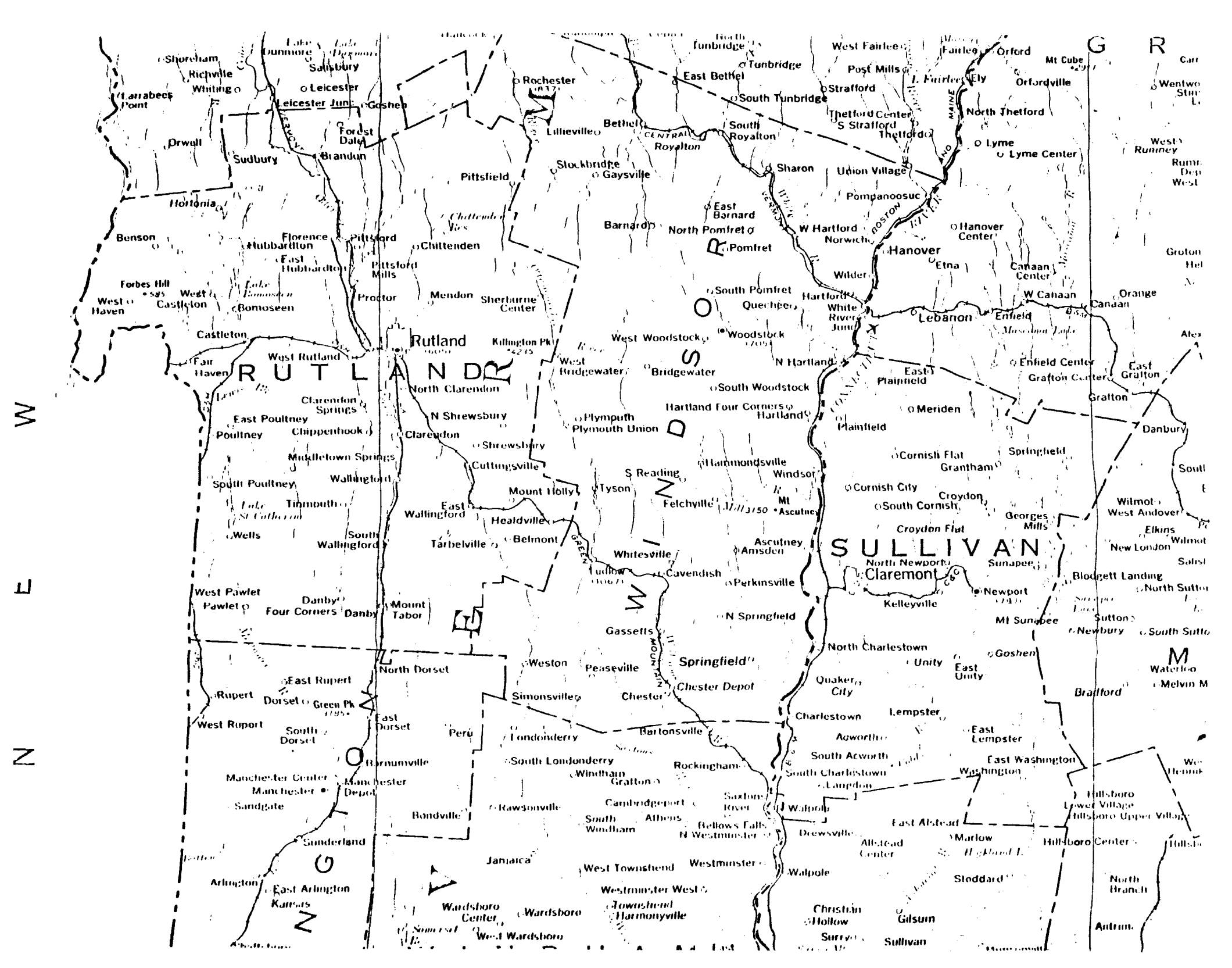
Name: Wetlands identified as important on state breeding and bird censuses

Geographic Limits: Variable.

Resource Values: These wetlands have been identified as important for breeding birds.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Variable and site-specific; Any 404 regulated work in these areas would require close scrutiny.

Comments: These censuses are in various stages of publication. Further information about particular species is available from the Fish and Wildlife Service.



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Wetlands of Rutland and Windsor Counties

Geographic Limits: County lines

Resource Values: Water quality maintenance; flood storage; fish and wildlife use; recreation.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Major impacts are from roadwork, shopping mall developments, agriculture, and expansion of ski areas and spinoff developments.

Comments:

SPECIFIC LISTING

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

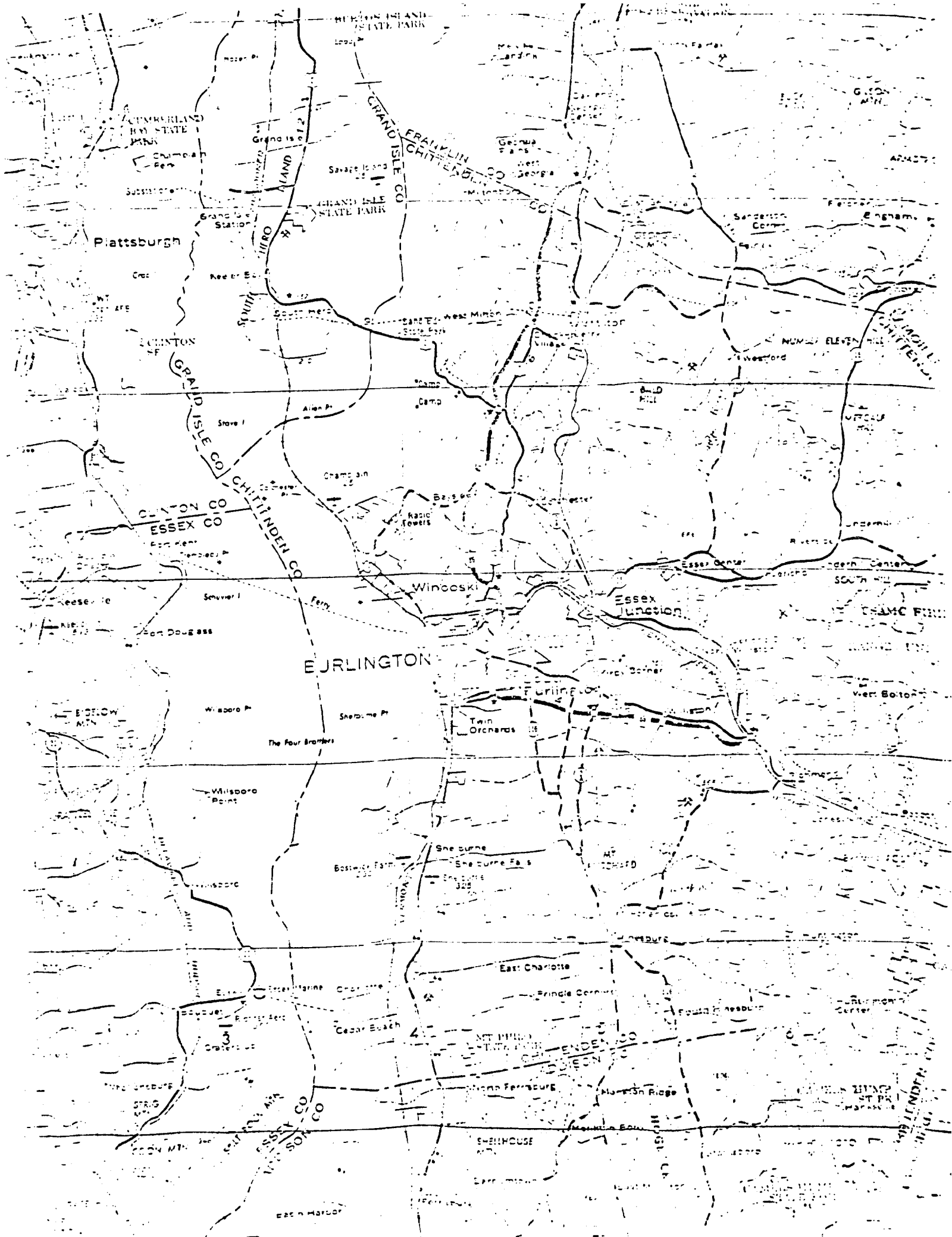
Name: Abbey Pond

Geographic Limits: Ripton, Addison County

Resource Values: Classified as a significant natural area by the Vermont Nature Conservancy and an area in need of protection by the Vermont Natural Resources Council.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Potential for pondshore development, although no proposals at this time.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Lake Champlain

Geographic Limits: Wetlands bordering the eastern shore of the lake (Chittenden, Franklin and Addison Counties)

Resource Values: Flood storage; nutrient control; aesthetics; water quality maintenance; fish and wildlife habitat; some invertebrate species unique to Vermont.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Burlington, Vermont is one of the fastest growing areas in the United States. New road construction, commercial development, home building, and marina development are all threats to the resource.

Comments:

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Chickering Bog

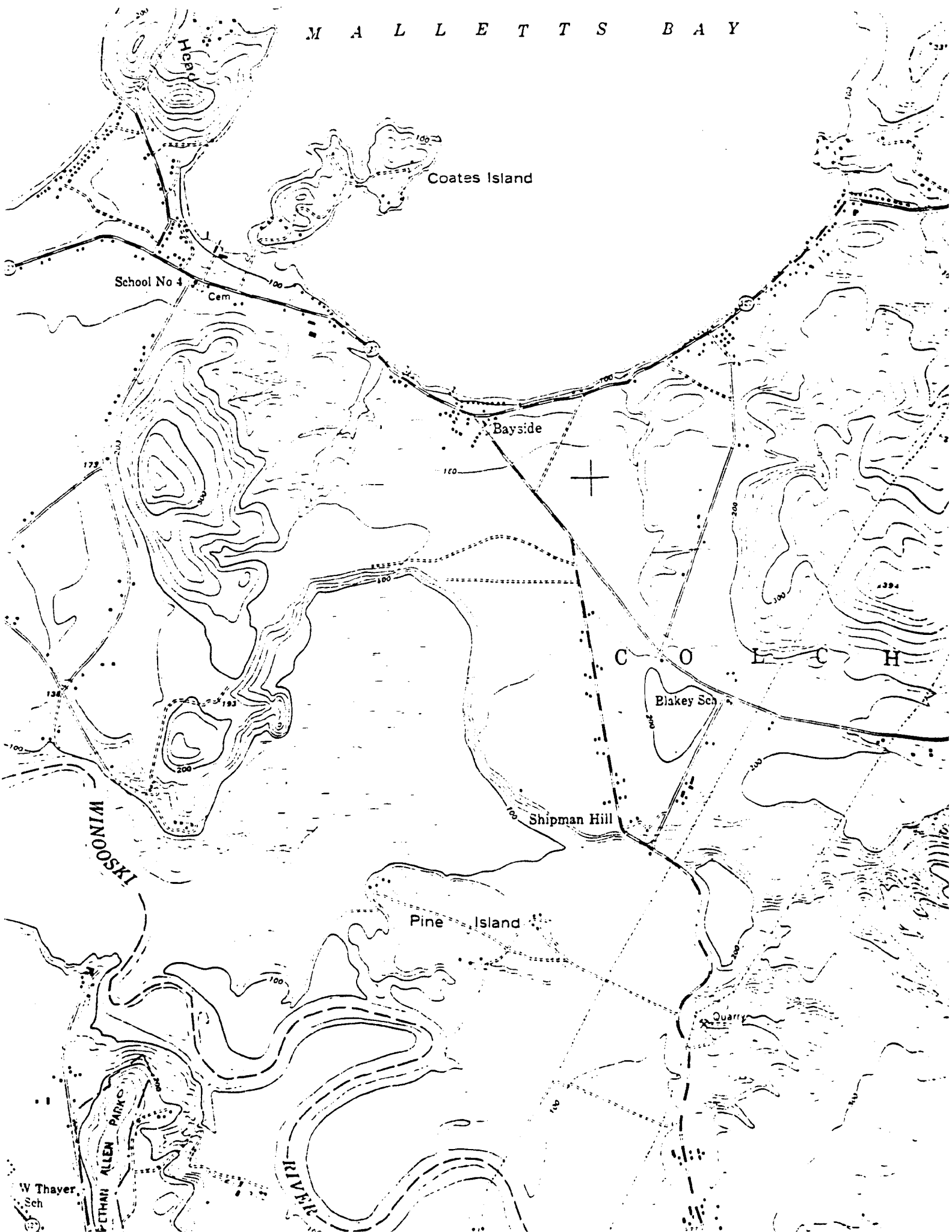
Geographic Limits: Calais, Washington County

Resource Values: Classified as a significant natural area by the Vermont Nature Conservancy and an area in need of protection by the Vermont Natural Resources Council.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Timber harvesting.

Comments: Part of this bog is owned by the Nature Conservancy.

M A L L E T T S B A Y



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Colchester Bog

Geographic Limits: Colchester, Chittenden County

Resource Values: Classified as a significant natural area by the Vermont Nature Conservancy and an area in need of protection by the Vermont Natural Resources Council.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: None known at this time.

Comments:

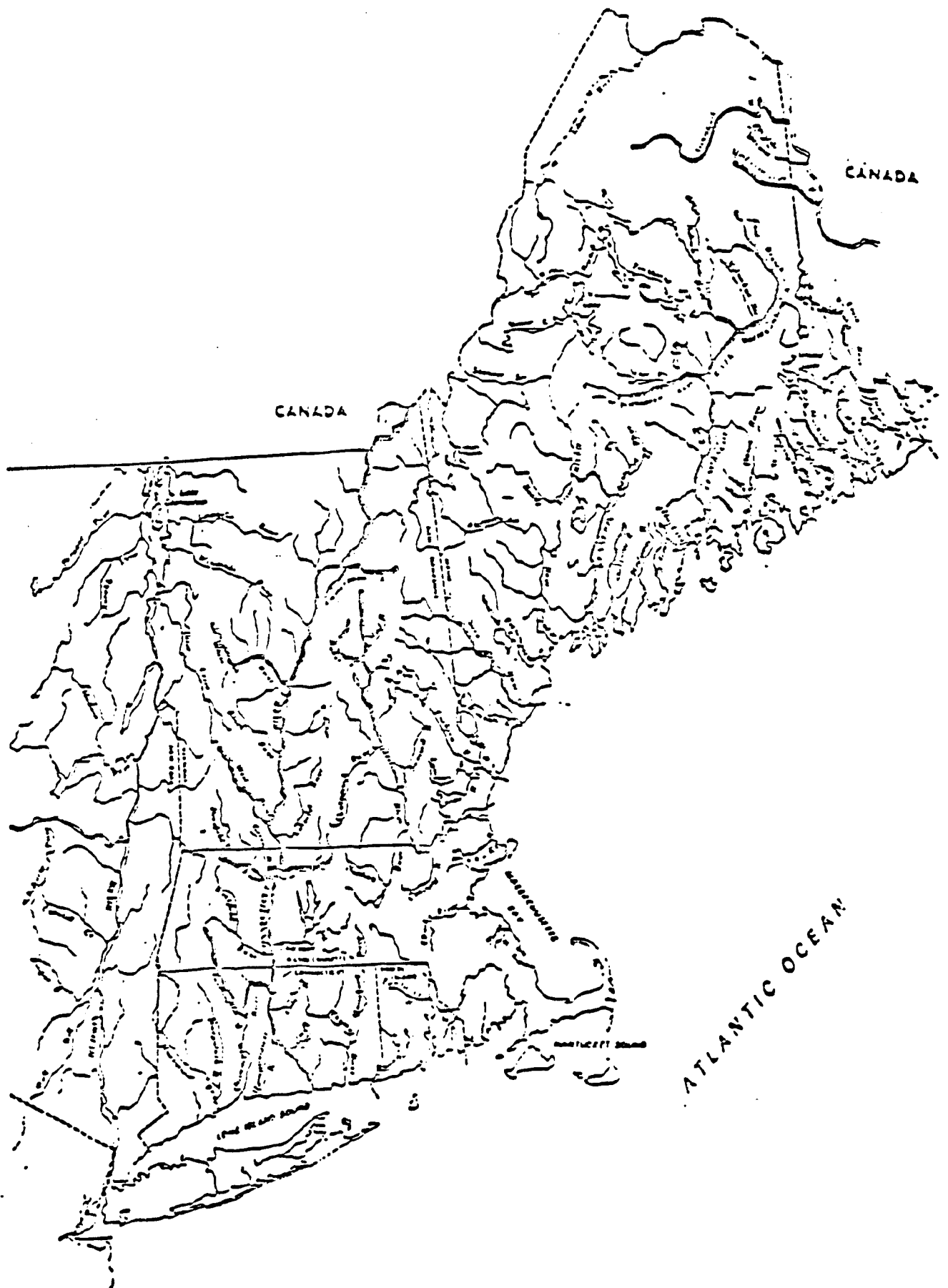


FIGURE III-1. RIVERS INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED ACTION.

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

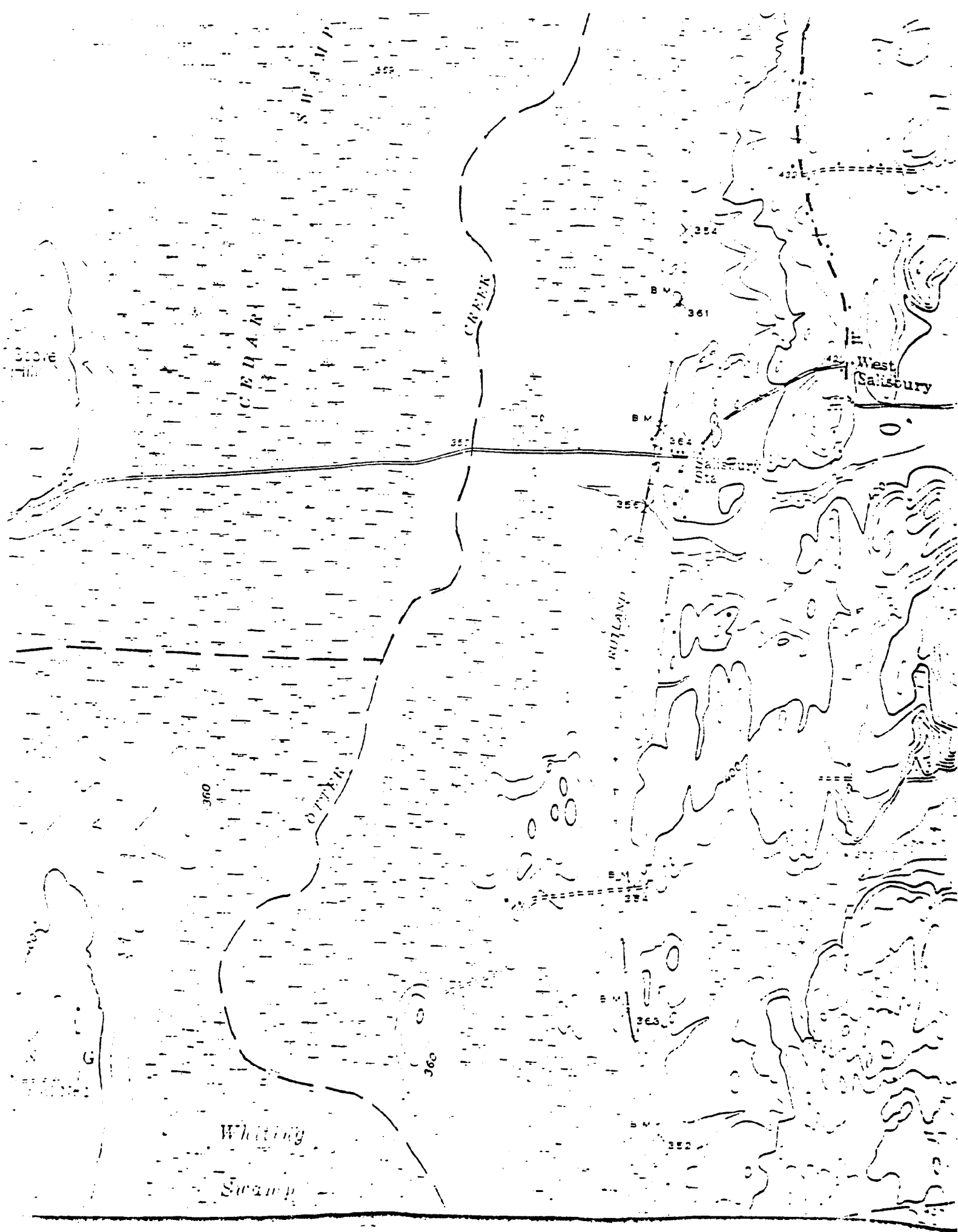
Name: Connecticut River

Geographic Limits: The river proper and special aquatic sites within the floodplain

Resource Values: New England's largest river; warm and cold water fisheries; flood storage; anadromous fish; shellfish in the lower reaches; recreation. Major role in FWS Atlantic Salmon restoration plan. Largest population of shad in the northeast. Habitat for several species of federally proposed threatened invertebrates and one endemic vetch. Also numerous plants, animals, and natural communities of state and regional significance.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Highly variable, ranging from agriculture activity to road and bridge projects to commercial developments. Water-dependent activities such as marinas and hydropower also generate environmental concerns.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Cornwall Swamp

Geographic Limits: Addison County, Cornwall, Vermont

Resource Values: Vast swamp dominated by red maple and seasonally flooded flatlands bordering Otter Creek; flood storage; recharge/discharge functions; fish and wildlife. Provides habitat for one federally proposed endangered plant species. Also numerous other plant species of state and regional significance.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Timbering and agriculture.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Dead Creek Marsh

Geographic Limits: Addison, Panton, Addison County

Resource Values: Classified as a significant natural area by the Vermont Nature Conservancy and an area in need of protection by the Vermont Natural Resources Council.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Potential for marsh shoreline development.

Comments:

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

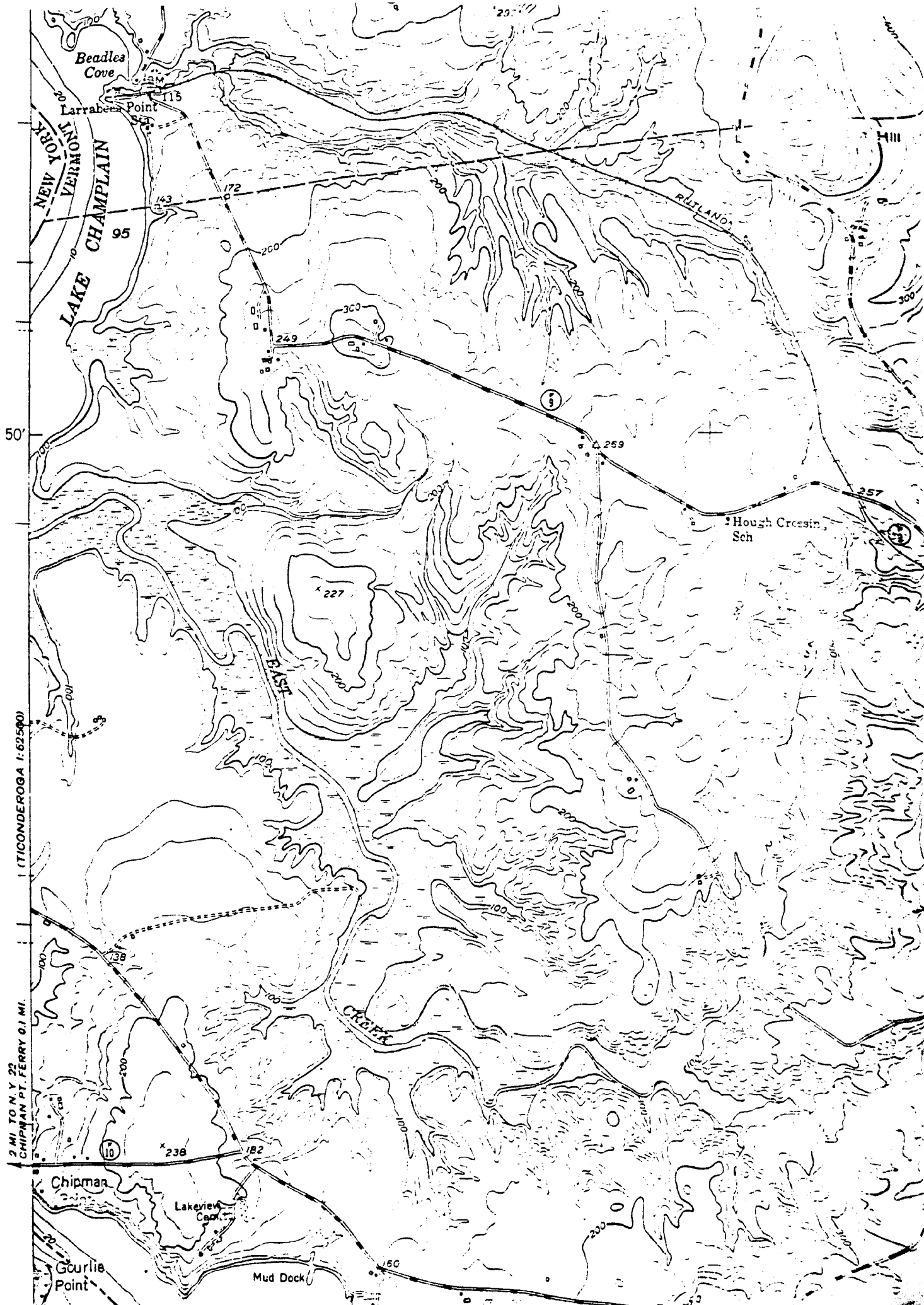
Name: Dorset Marsh

Geographic Limits: Dorset, Pennington County

Resource Values: Classified as a significant natural area by the Vermont Nature Conservancy and an area in need of protection by the Vermont Natural Resources Council.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Creation of fastland for second homes.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

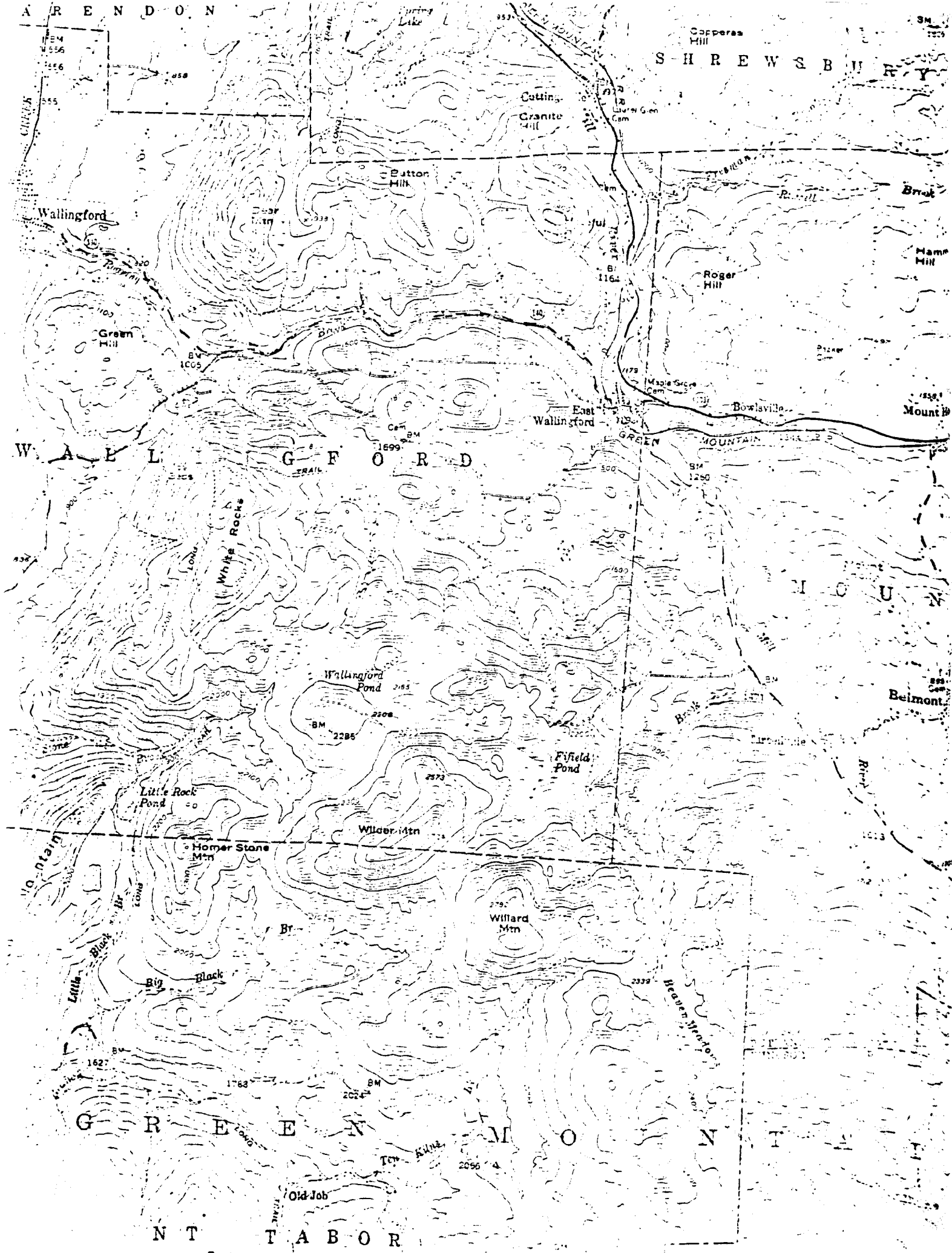
Name: East Creek Marsh

Geographic Limits: Orwell, Addison County

Resource Values: Classified as a significant natural area by the Vermont Nature Conservancy and an area in need of protection by the Vermont Natural Resources Council.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: None known at this time.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Fifield Pond Box

Geographic Limits: Wallingford, Rutland County

Resource Values: Classified as a significant natural area by the Vermont Nature Conservancy and an area in need of protection by the Vermont Natural Resources Council.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Timber harvesting.

Comments:

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Franklin Bog

Geographic Limits: Franklin, Franklin County

Resource Values: Classified as a significant natural area by the Vermont Nature Conservancy and an area in need of protection by the Vermont Natural Resources Council.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Timber harvesting.

Comments:

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name:

Intervale

Geographic Limits:

Burlington, Chittenden County

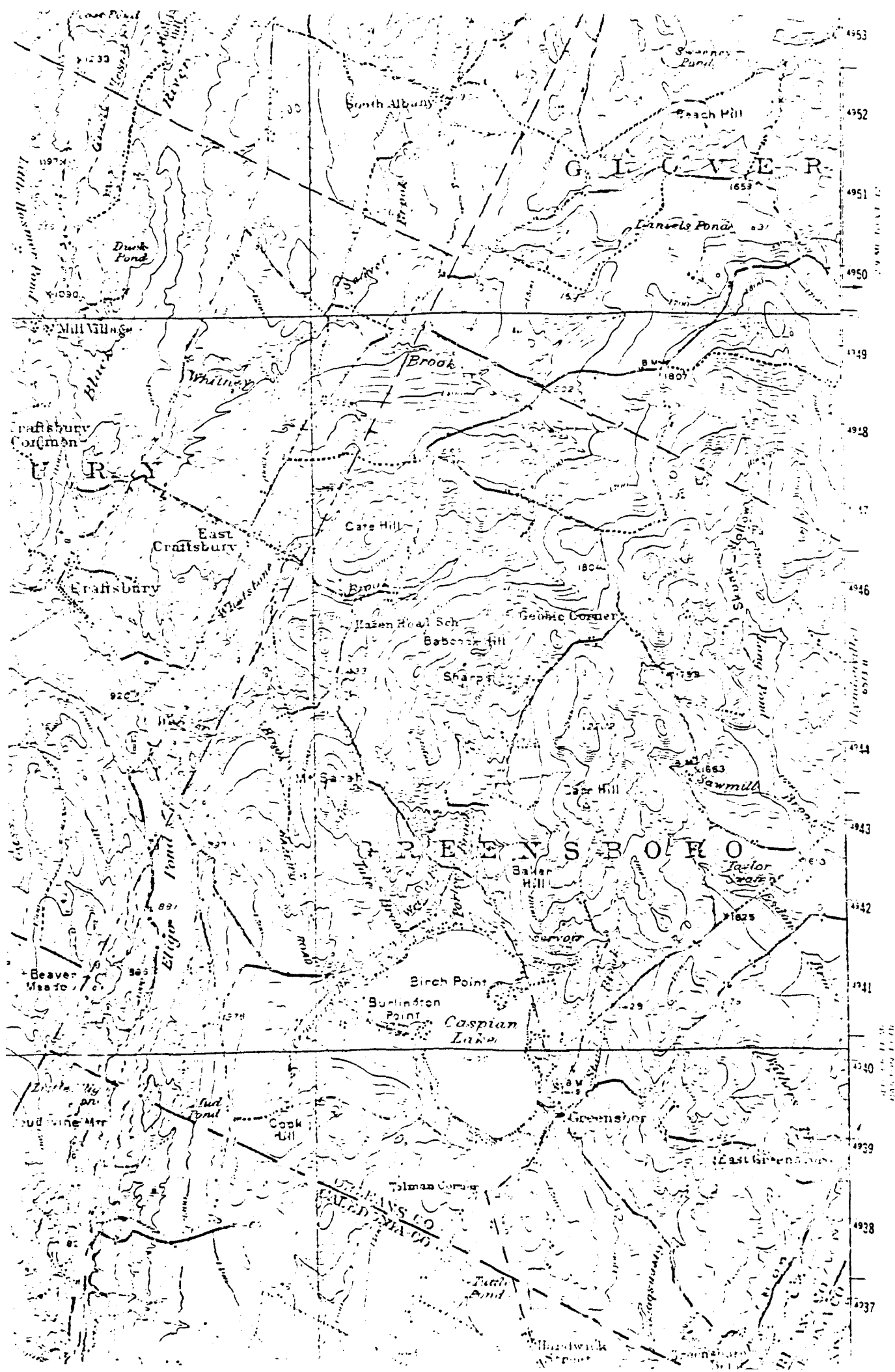
Resource Values:

Classified as a significant natural area by the Vermont Nature Conservancy and an area in need of protection by the Vermont Natural Resources Council.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource:

Landfill leaching; housing developments.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

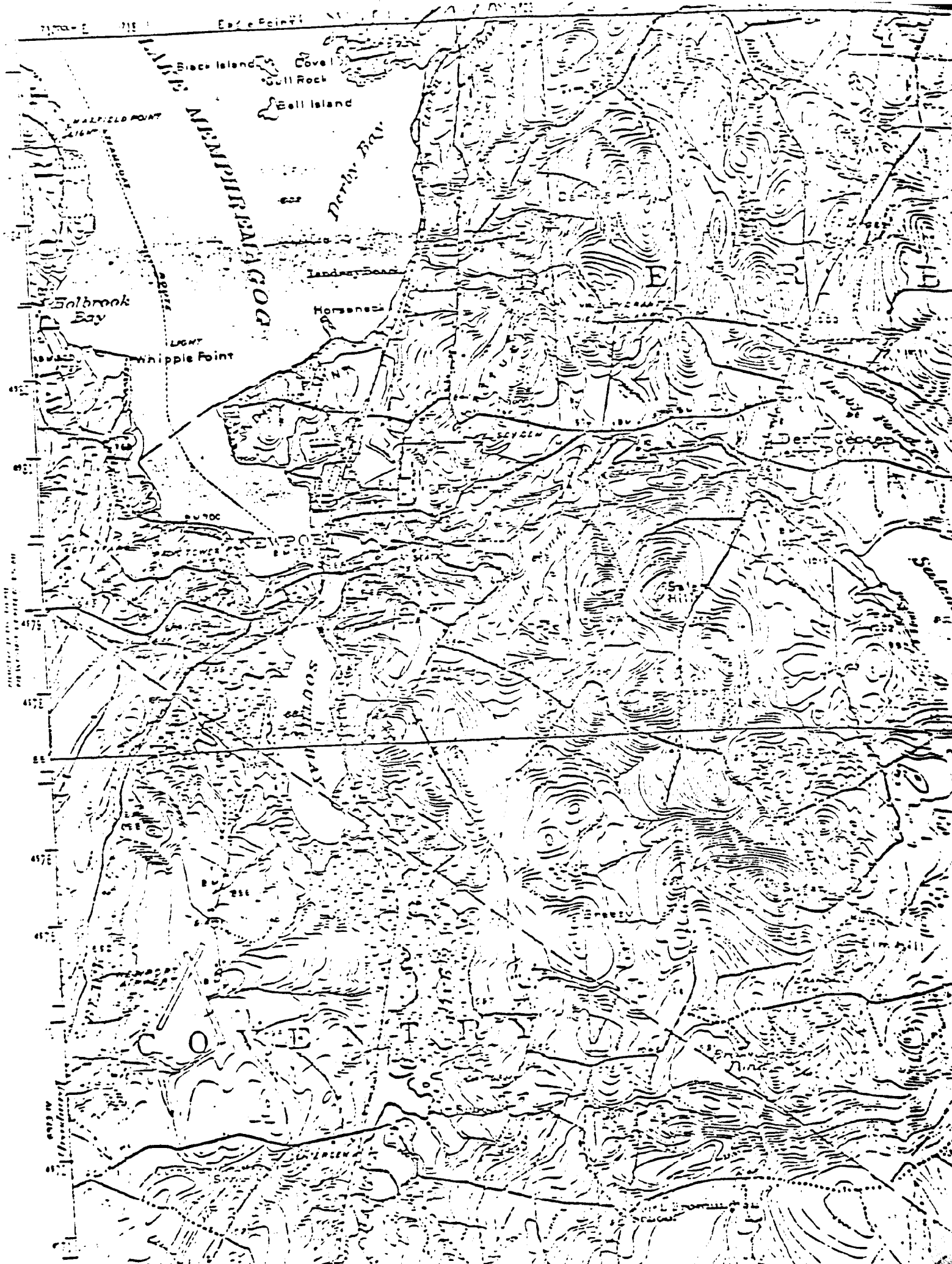
Name: Long Pond Swamp

Geographic Limits: Greensboro, Orleans County

Resource Values: Classified as a significant natural area by the Vermont Nature Conservancy and an area in need of protection by the Vermont Natural Resources Council.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Timber harvesting; shoreline development.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

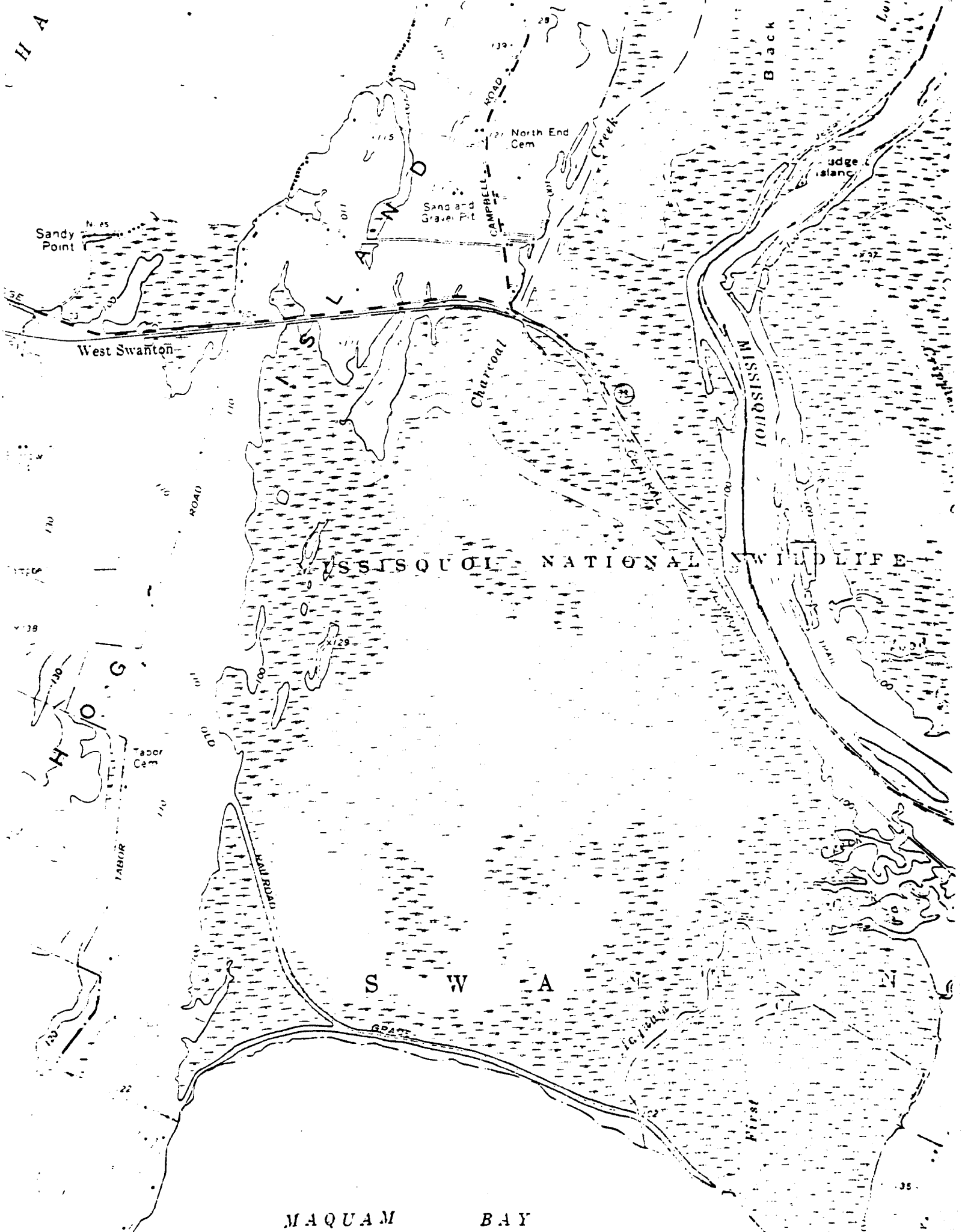
Name: Lake Memphremagog

Geographic Limits: The portion of the watershed lying within the United States including direct tributaries and adjacent wetlands. (Orleans County)

Resource Values: Cold water fishery; recreation; aesthetics; wildlife habitat.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Agriculture; residential development; water quality degradation.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Missisquoi Marsh

Geographic Limits: Swanton, Highgate, Franklin County

Resource Values: Classified as a significant natural area by the Vermont Nature Conservancy and an area in need of protection by the Vermont Natural Resources Council.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: None known at this time.

Comments:

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

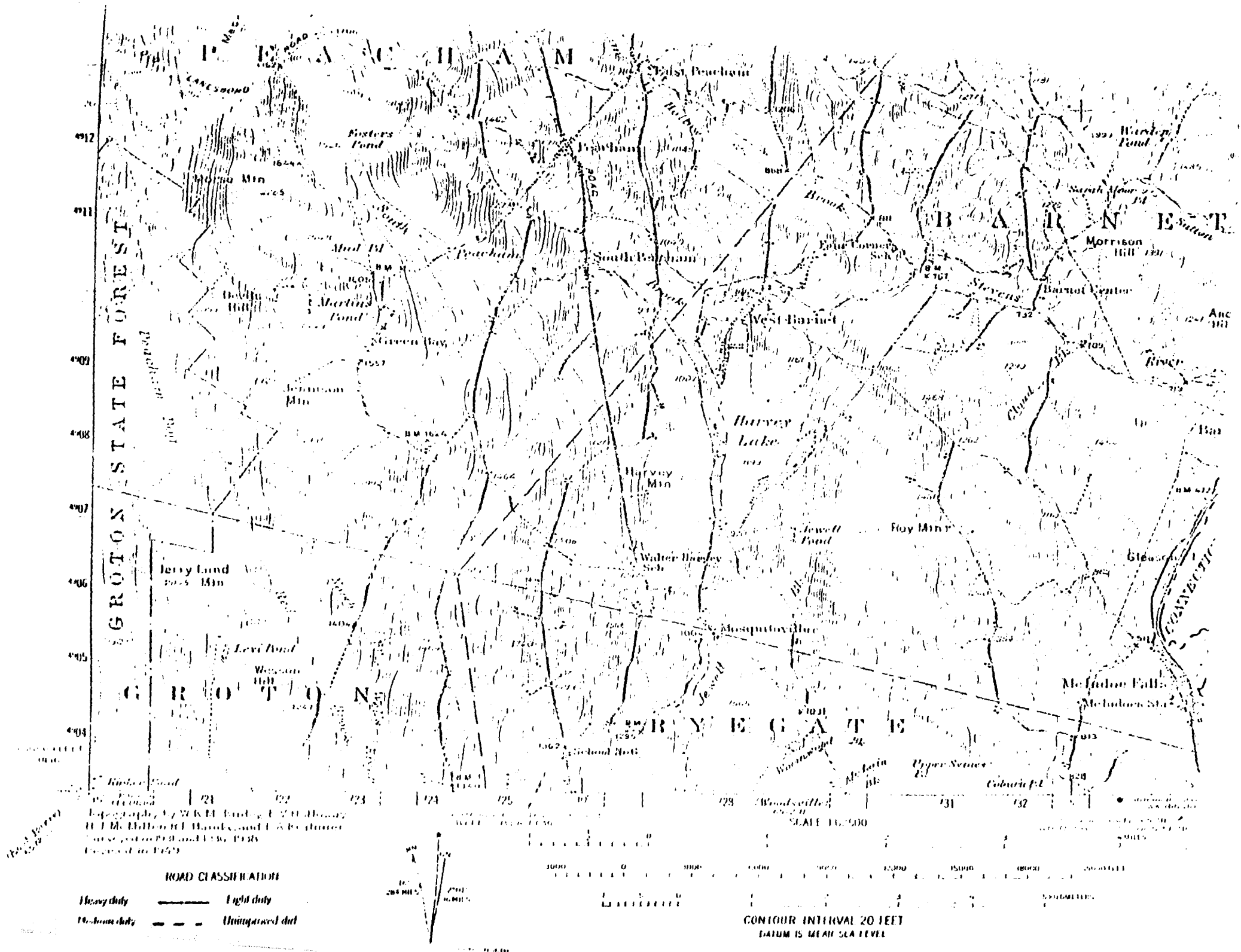
Name: Molly Bog

Geographic Limits: Morristown, Lamoille County

Resource Values: Classified as a significant natural area by the Vermont Nature Conservancy and an area in need of protection by the Vermont Natural Resources Council.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Housing developments; timber harvesting.

Comments:



Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Peacham Bay

Geographic Limits: Peacham, Caledonia County

Resource Values: Classified as a significant natural area by the Vermont Nature Conservancy and an area in need of protection by the Vermont Natural Resources Council.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: None known at this time.

Comments:

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Pownal Bog

Geographic Limits: Pownal, Bennington County

Resource Values: Classified as a significant natural area by the Vermont Nature Conservancy and an area in need of protection by the Vermont Natural Resources Council.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: None known at this time.

Comments:

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Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

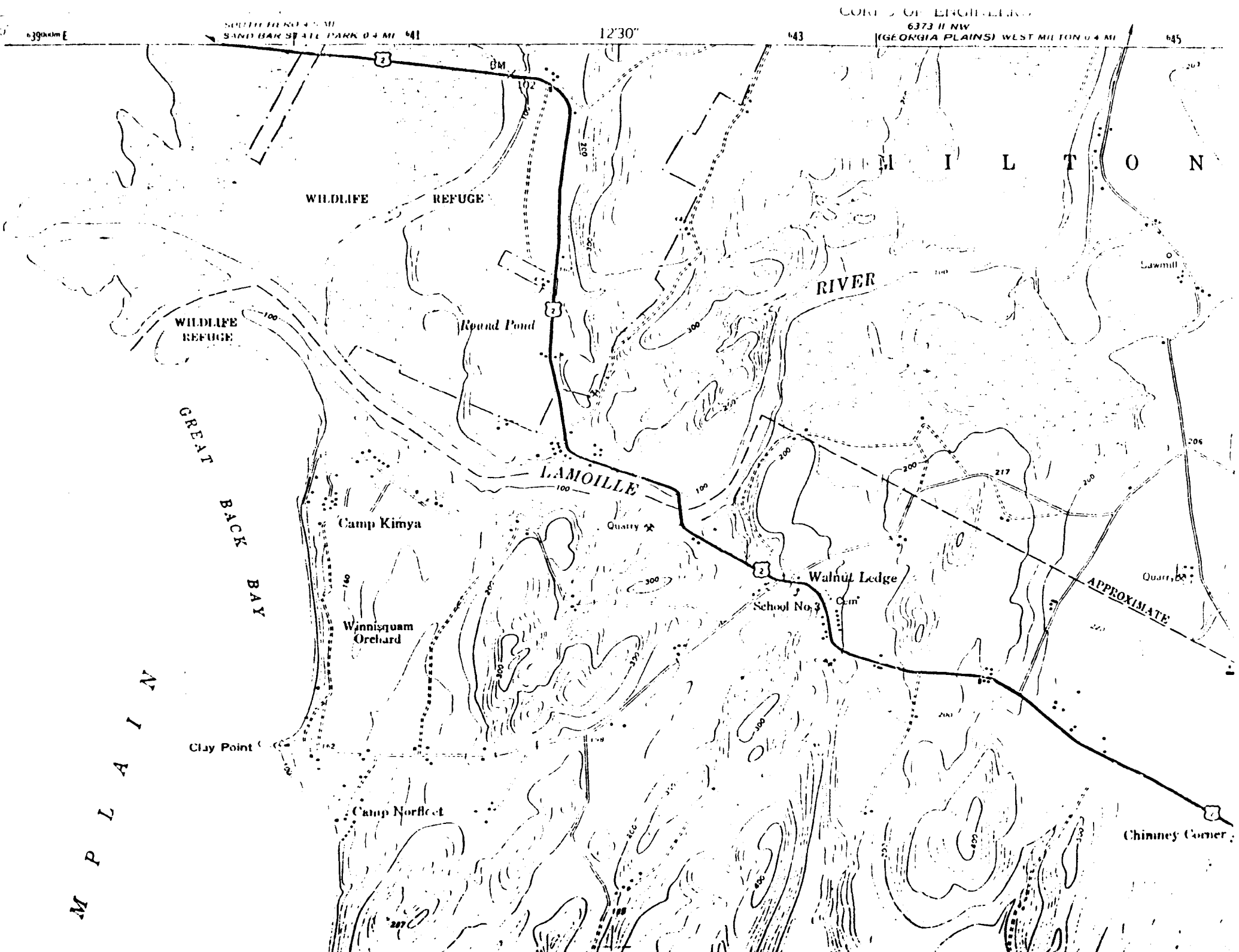
Name: Salisbury Swamp

Geographic Limits: Leicester, Salisbury, Addison County

Resource Values: Classified as a significant natural area by the Vermont Nature Conservancy and an area in need of protection by the Vermont Natural Resources Council.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Potential for timber harvesting.

Comments:



CORPS OF ENGINEERS

6373 II NW
(GEORGIA PLAINS) WEST MILTON 0.4 MI

SOUTH END 0.4 MI
SAND BAR STATE PARK 0.4 MI

M P L A I N

M I L T O N

APPROXIMATE

Chinney Corner

RIVER

LAMOILLE

WILDLIFE REFUGE

WILDLIFE REFUGE

GREAT BACK BAY

Camp Kimya

Wanniquam Orchard

Camp Norfleet

Walnut Ledge

School No. 3

Clay Point

Quarry

Quarry

Sawmill

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Sandbar Marsh

Geographic Limits: Milton, Chittenden County

Resource Values: Classified as a significant natural area by the Vermont Nature Conservancy and an area in need of protection by the Vermont Natural Resources Council.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: None known at this time.

Comments:

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Scanton Bog

Geographic Limits: Brandon, Rutland County

Resource Values: Classified as a significant natural area by the Vermont Nature Conservancy and an area in need of protection by the Vermont Natural Resources Council.

Known/Potential Threats to Resource: Water level alterations from damming.

Comments:

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: Vernon Black Gum Swamp

Geographic Limits: Vernon, Windham County

Resource Values: Classified as a significant natural area by the Vermont Nature Conservancy and an area in need of protection by the Vermont Natural Resources Council.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Timber harvesting.

Comments:

Priority Waterbody/Wetland Listing

Name: West Rutland Marsh

Geographic Limits: West Rutland, Rutland County

Resource Values: Classified as a significant natural area by the Vermont Nature Conservancy and an area in need of protection by the Vermont Natural Resources Council.

Known/Potential
Threats to Resource: Industrial development.

Comments:

APPENDIX I

COPY OF REGIONAL INFORMATION REQUEST LETTER

[ADDRESS]

Dear [NAME]:

The Environmental Protection Agency is revising and updating its List of Priority Wetlands for New England (copy attached). This list, first compiled in May, 1985, identifies wetlands and other waterbodies that we believe are of high value or which are in danger of environmental degradation. As such it identifies areas that may benefit from additional protection beyond what is provided by current state and federal regulatory programs. Those areas that are not currently on the list still receive full protection under the existing laws. This list was compiled after consultation with many knowledgeable people in New England.

However, the present list is by no means complete. There are probably areas that should be included that are not. There may also be areas that are listed as priority wetlands/waterbodies that should not be because they are already adequately protected by some other means or, unfortunately, have already been degraded or destroyed.

EPA has several authorities with which to provide additional protection to priority resources. Under §404(c) of the Clean Water Act, EPA may prohibit or restrict dredge or fill discharges into waters of the United States, including wetlands. Although 404(c) is commonly thought of as our "veto" authority over Corps permits, it is important to note that it can be used to designate areas in advance of any discharge. In addition, EPA can initiate a planning process called "Advanced Identification of Disposal Sites" (AIS). This procedure, described in Section 230.80 of the EPA 404(b)(1) Guidelines, allows EPA and the Corps, in cooperation with state and local authorities to identify sites as being unsuitable (or suitable) for the discharge of dredged or fill material. Again, this mechanism can be used prior to the receipt of permit applica-

tions by the Corps of Engineers. Unlike 404(c) an AIS designation does not prohibit or restrict work in a given area, but provides an advance indication of whether a permit application is likely to be approved or denied. Both authorities can protect valuable resources while reducing the controversy that now often surrounds major 404 permit applications since developers should be aware of these designations before committing resources to a project. Both of these approaches are excellent planning tools which mesh well with state and local wetland protection efforts. In cases where resources are threatened by illegal dredge and fill work, EPA could develop a strategy to improve our enforcement presence in the area.

Your assistance in updating this list of priority wetlands and waterbodies is essential. Because you are more familiar with the wetland resources in your area, we request that you review the existing list for accuracy and completeness, and suggest any needed changes. We would like to know the present status of the wetlands and waterbodies on the list. Should any of the entries be deleted? Which should be accorded further protection through AIS or 404(c)? Are there wetlands or other waterbodies in your area that are not on the list that should be? It is important that you include your reason for any suggested changes.

We would appreciate your response by August 10, 1986 as we must provide headquarters with an updated list by August 15, 1986. If you have any questions, please contact either Pam Shields (617-223-0766) or Tom Addison (617-223-0721). Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

David A. Fierra
Director, Water Management Division

Attachment

cc: J. Meagher, OFA (A-104)
G. Peck, OFA (A-104)

Mr. Michael A. Aurelia
72 Oak Ridge Street
Greenwich, CT 06830

Mr. J.A. Davis Banks
Preserve the Wetlands, Inc.
P.O. Box 8, Rowatton Station
Norwalk, CT 06853

Mr. Dennis Cunningham, Director
Water Resources Unit
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06115

cc: Rick Huntley
Marla Butts

Mr. Dennis P. DeCarli
Deputy Commissioner
Preservation and Conservation Division
Department of Environmental Protection
State Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Mr. Michael Ludwig
National Marine Fisheries Service
212 Rogers Avenue
Milford, CT 06460

Rea King McCarty
Heritage Land Preservation Trust, Inc.
Box 596
Torrington, CT 06790

Ms. Nancy Murray
Natural Resources Center
165 Capitol Avenue, Room 553
Hartford, CT 06106

Dr. John Reiger
Connecticut Audubon Society
2325 Burr Street
Fairfield, CT 06430

Mr. John F. Reilly III
Connecticut Wildlife Federation
27 Washington Street
Middletown, CT 06457

Mr. Art Roque
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
Planning and Coordination/ Coastal Management
71 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Ms. Suzanne C. Wilkins
Land Trust Service Bureau
Box MPM, Wesleyan Station
Middletown, CT 06457

Dr. Barry L. Wulff
Natural Resources of Connecticut, Inc.
234 Main Street
P.O. Box 72
Danbury, CT 06810

Spencer Apollonio, Commissioner
Department of Marine Resources
State Office Building
Augusta, ME 04333

Mr. Teco Brown, Director
Division of Licensing and Review
Bureau of Land Quality Control
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
State House, Station 17
Augusta, ME 04333

Mr. Charles Hewett
Maine Audubon Society
Gilsling Farm
118 U.S. Route One
Falmouth, ME 04105

Glenn H. Manuel, Commissioner
Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
284 State Street
Augusta, ME 04333

Mr. Don Witherill
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Land Quality Control
State House, Station 17
Augusta, ME 04333

Mr. Harold E. Woodsom
Maine Coast Heritage Trust
P.O. Box 426
Northeast Harbor, ME 04662

Mr. Gordon Abbott, Jr.
Trustees of Reservations
224 Adams St.
Milton, MA 02186

Dr. Henry Art, Chairman
Department of Biology
Williams College
Williamstown, MA 01267
Lincoln, MA 01773

Mr. Gerard A. Bertrand
Massachusetts Audubon Society
South Great Road
Lincoln, MA 01773

Ms. Lois Bruinooge, Director
Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions
Lincoln-Filene Center
Tufts University
Medford, MA 02115

Ms. Priscilla Chapman
Sierra Club
New England Chapter
3 Joy Street
Boston, MA 02108

Mr. Gary Clayton, Acting Director
Division of Wetlands and Waterways Regulation
Department of Environmental Quality Engineering
One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108

Mr. Philip G. Coates, Director
Division of Marine Fisheries
State Office Building
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02202

Mr. Richard Cronin, Director
Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
State Office Building
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02202

Mr. Richard Delaney, Director
Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02203

cc: Mike Penny

Mr. Paul Kress
Massachusetts Wildlife Federation
295 East Riding Drive
Carlisle, MA 01741

Dr. Aimlee D. Laderman
P.O. Box 689
Woods Hole, MA 02543

Mr. Howard Larsen, Regional Director
Fish and Wildlife Service, Region V
U.S. Department of the Interior
One Gateway Center, Suite 700
Newton Corner, MA 02158
Amherst, MA 01003

Dr. Joseph S. Larson
Environmental Institute
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003

Mr. William F. Lawless, Chief
Regulatory Branch
Operations Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New England Division
424 Trapelo Road
Waltham, MA 02254

cc: Mike Sheehan, Waltham COE
Al Laraway, VT COE

Mr. Chris Mantzaris
National Marine Fisheries Service
Federal Building, 14 Elm Street
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dr. Norton Nickerson
Department of Biology
Barnum Hall
Tufts University
Medford, MA 02155

Ms. Arleen O'Donnell
Massachusetts Audubon Society
Lincoln, MA 01773

Ms. Jenny Oemland
New England Rivers Center
3 Joy Street
Boston, MA 02108

Mr. Dennis E. Wolkoff
The Nature Conservancy
294 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

Dr. Alan P. Arman
U.S. Soil Conservation Service
Federal Building
Durham, NH 03824

Mr. Charles E. Barry, Executive Director
Fish and Game Department
34 Bridge Street
Concord, NH 03301

Mr. Lesley N. Corey, Jr.
Audubon Society of New Hampshire
P.O. Box 528B
3 Silk Farm Road
Concord, NH 03301

Ms. Jane Doughty
Seacoast Anti-Pollution League
5 Market Street
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Mr. Alan Crabtree, Executive Director
Fish and Game Department
34 Bridge Street
Concord, NH 03301

Mr. Delbert Downing, Chairman
New Hampshire Wetlands Board
State of New Hampshire
37 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dr. Martin Michener
126 Witches Spring Road
Hollis, NH 03049

Ms. Marjorie Swope
New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions
54 Portsmouth Street
Concord, NH 03301

Mr. Michael Annarummo
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
38 State Street
Providence, RI 02908

Mr. Victor Bell
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
38 State Street
Providence, RI 02908

Mr. John M. Cronan, Chief
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Washington County Government Center
Tower Hill Road
Wakefield, RI 02879

Mr. Alfred L. Hawkes
Audubon Society of Rhode Island
40 Bowen Street
Providence, RI 02903

Mr. Peter Janaros, Chief
Division of Land Resources
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
38 State Street
Providence, RI 02908

Mr. John Lyons, Chairman
Coastal Resources Management Council
State of Rhode Island
60 Davis Street
Providence, RI 02908-5080

Dr. E.B. Henson
102 Adams Street
Burlington, VT 05401

Mr. Stephen B. Syz
Water Resources Planner
Agency of Environmental Conservation
Department of Water Resources and Environmental Engineering
Montpelier, VT 05602

Norman E. Wright, Commissioner
Fish and Wildlife Department
State Office Building
Montpelier, VT 05602

APPENDIX II

COPIES OF RESPONSES TO REGIONAL LETTER

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



NATURAL RESOURCES CENTER
165 Capitol Avenue, Room 553
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
Connecticut Natural Diversity Data Base

For Shields
US-EPA
JFK Federal Building
21st Floor
Boston, MA 02203

July 17, 1986

Dear Ms. Shields,

The following is in response to your request for information on three areas in Connecticut, 1) Stratford-Great Meadows, 2) Cansan-Robbins Swamp and 3) Norfolk-Bradford Mountain Swamp.

The Data Base contains extant and historic locations of Federally endangered and threatened species, CT "Species of Special Concern", critical habitats, and Natural Area Inventory sites. Our information is the compilation of recent and historic data from museum collections, literature sources, field investigations and research projects. Data on endangered or threatened species or Species of Special Concern is very sensitive and not meant for general public knowledge.

In 1972, the CT Forest and Park Association, Inc. prepared a Natural Areas Inventory of 459 sites. These were nominated as significant areas for one or more of the following reasons: geologic, biologic, hydrologic, archeologic, aesthetic, cultural or research/educational aspects. A site receives no legal status or protection from inclusion on the Inventory.

The Stratford Great Meadows Natural Area is a significant biologic area. It is one of the last remaining extensive salt marsh habitats in the state. Salt marshes are considered a critical habitat in Connecticut as more than 50% of our coastal marshlands have been destroyed through development since the turn of the century. The Great Meadows also provide habitat for a number of CT Species of Special Concern. These are listed below.

Bartramia longicauda-Upland Sandpiper-Observed regularly in marsh from 1982-84.

Ixobrychus exilis-Least Bittern-Confirmed nesting in 1985.

Ammodramus maritima-Seaside Sparrow-interesting, habitat limited in CT. A 1918 record indicates possible breeding.

Phone:

165 Capitol Avenue • Hartford, Connecticut 06105

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Podilymbus podiceps-Pied-billed Grebe-Confirmed nesting in 1985.

Gallinula chloropus-Common Moorhen-1975 nesting record, no additional information.

Sterna antillarum-Least Tern- The terns use the tidal flats and marsh as feeding areas adjacent to their nesting grounds on Long Beach, Bridgeport.

Robbins Swamp Natural Area is also a highly significant area biologically and ecologically. The area is a dense hardwood swamp that includes a calcareous seepage swamp and a calcareous fen. It is nearly impenetrable in most areas. Robbins Swamp is the largest inland wetland in the state and has a great diversity of flora and fauna. The Nature Conservancy owns a segment of the swamp and the State also owns some scattered parcels. A number of CT Species of Special Concern are found here as well.

Nitella nuda-Lesser Miterwort-Collected in 1982.

Carex oligocarpa-Sedge, historically collected in 1952, only collection from this town.

Thuja occidentalis-Atlantic White Cedar- Collected first in 1902, 1925 & 1962. Observed again in 1985.

Cypripedium reginae-Showy Ladies'-slipper- This orchid was collected many times historically and relocated in 1982.

Carex castanea-Sedge-Collected in 1909, 1934 and 1982.

Scirpus pendulus-A Bulrush-Collected in 1909, relocated in 1982.

Petasites palmatus var. frigidus-Palmate-leaved Sweet Coltsfoot- Observed in 1982, again in 1984 "abundant".

Cardamine douglasii-Purple Cress-A few plants observed in 1983.

Schizachne purpurascens-False Melic Grass-Observed in 1984.

Quercus macrocarpa-Bur Oak-Observed in 1984.

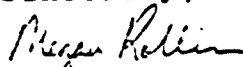
Trollius laxus ssp. laxus-Spreading Globe Flower-On the Federal Endangered and Threatened Plant list as a category 3C. Collected in 1954, 1982, 1984 and observed again in 1985.

Cottus cognatus-Slimy Sculpin-Specimen taken in 1968 from Hollenbeck River, no additional information available.

The swamp at the base of Bradford Mountain has a 1976 breeding record for the Great Blue Heron, (Ardea herodias). The northern half of the swamp is state-owned. No other information is available for the site. Since it is not labelled on the topographic sheet, I have enclosed a map of this swamp in order to verify that it is the site you are interested in.

Thank you for contacting the Data Base, I hope this information is helpful and if you have any questions or we may be of further assistance do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,


Megan Rollins
Data Handler



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



COASTAL AREA MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

August 19, 1986

Mr. David A. Fierra
Director, Water Management Div.
Environmental Protection Agency
Region 1
J.F. Kennedy Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203

Dear Mr. Fierra,

Thank you for an opportunity to review and comment upon your "List of Priority Wetlands." Copies of your correspondence and the wetland listings were circulated to all units in the Department of Environmental Protection with wetland planning, management or regulatory functions for review and comment. Comments received from these units are attached and contained in appendices A through E. As you can judge from the comments, the criteria used to determine a wetlands of high value is variable. In the time allotted, it was not possible to develop uniform criteria and discuss these further amongst the units. Therefore I choose to transmit to the comments as they were received from the various units.

I anticipate that the new wetland listings of high value wetlands will contain a mix of wetland of high and low value and even favorite backyard wetlands. To minimize this problem, EPA should carefully critique nominated wetlands and assure they meet certain minimum requirements. In order to develop a complete and accurate list of wetlands of high value for Connecticut, EPA should consider convening a wetland workshop in Connecticut. Attendees should include staff from DEP, scientists from the academic institutions and other wetland experts located in Connecticut. A workshop would allow for discussion amongst the attendees for the purpose of deciding which wetlands are in fact of high value.

With respect to threatened wetlands, there is a general consensus in DEP that there are no tidal wetlands that are threatened as a result of new proposals because of the strength of the tidal wetlands act. No major or significant alterations of tidal wetland have occurred in Connecticut since 1969. In reviewing the annotations for most of the wetland sites in Connecticut pertaining to threat, it is clear that most of the recorded threats are not real or minor. EPA should carefully critique the information provided to them by commentators before listing an area as threatened or for the reasons provided.

Mr. Pierra

2

August 19, 1986

The EPA must be more careful in screening the information provided to them if the resulting list is to be useful and contain accurate information.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this initiative. If you have any comments regarding the attachments, please give me a call at 203-566-7404.

Sincerely,



Ron Rozsa
Ecologist

RR/rr
Enclosures

RECEIVED - EPA

WATER MANAGEMENT DIVISION

COMMENTS REGARDING THE 'LIST OF PRIORITY WETLANDS'

The first EPA's initiative generated a listing of wetland sites in May 1985 that were known to be threatened. Threat indeed is a relative term. Although there have been numerous projects proposed that would have destroyed valuable tidal wetlands areas for example, the strength of the Tidal Wetland Act has precluded all but minor activities with acceptable impacts. For the most part then, no tidal wetland is threatened by activities that would be considered significant. Parallel authority exists at the federal level which usually results in the same level of protection for tidal wetlands and coastal water habitats. For comments regarding the states inland wetland program, see comments compiled by the Water Resources Unit (appendix E).

Each wetland recorded in the list of priority wetlands are accompanied by a statement pertaining to 'Known/potential threats to resources.' For the most part, these statements are not correct and are misleading. Here are some examples for Connecticut:

1. Special Aquatic Sites in Coastal Middlesex County. New and significant marina development and expansion are not likely since most of the available shoreline without tidal wetland has been utilized. There is no condominium development in wetlands or aquatic habitats by virtue of the Tidal Wetlands Act, the Coastal Management Act and Section 404 of CWA. I know of no considerable unauthorized activities in this area.
2. Norwalk Islands. First, I see no connection with the designation of Chimon's Island as a wildlife refuge and increased property value. In recent years there have been a number of development proposals for these islands (which by the way are principally upland and not subject to 404 jurisdiction); the lack of adequate groundwater supplies, need for on-site septic systems, absence of bridges and the flood hazard nature of certain islands severely limit the amount of development that could occur in the Norwalk Islands.
3. Housatonic River. The mining activities in this River are relatively minor and benign. This is perhaps one of the most turbid tidal rivers in the state but the source of this turbidity is not clear. PCB's are a general problem throughout the river although I can not attest to the significance of the problem.
4. Morris Creek. Here too the state and federal permit programs have been and will be effective in curtailing destruction of valuable and productive wetlands. The area that will be filled by the Industrial Park is primarily an old COE dredged disposal area that was never properly dewatered. Today it is still wet and supports a monoculture of Phragmites, nearly 80

acres in extent. While this area might technically be classified as wetland, it possesses very few of the important wetland functions.

5. Mystic River. I know of no industrial development on this river. Residential development would be located on upland habitat and would not affect the quality of the aquatic habitats in this River.
6. Pine Creek. The mentioned proposals would require state and federal permits. The threat is a potential but not a real one.
7. Saugatuck River. Ineffective state protection is an incorrect statement. Permitted projects have allowed for minor alteration of degraded wetlands for acceptable activities. Wetland restoration has also been the requirement for a number of projects. However compensation has never been used to purchase the ability to destroy wetland.
8. Great Meadows. Most of the development is confined to wetland areas that were diked and filled prior to 1950 or so. No major wetland fill permits have been issued for this area since the passage of the tidal wetlands act.

EPA should carefully review the information that they are receiving from commentators and verify the accuracy of these statements.

Rather than establish a list of threatened areas which is a difficult or impossible task, EPA should consider the use of the Connecticut Geological and Natural History Survey's "Natural Diversity Database" for information when reviewing a project. See enclosed brochure regarding this program.

In addition to threatened areas, EPA is requesting information regarding areas of high value. Unless EPA applies carefully constructed criteria to the areas nominated as a result of this request, many backyard and ho-hum wetlands will be incorporated into the final list. Although EPA should consider the addition of an areawide listing for all tidal wetlands in Connecticut, below is a list of 'high value' tidal wetland areas from a statewide perspective.

TIDAL WETLAND AREAS OF 'HIGH VALUE'

1. Little Narragansett Bay, Stonington. Extremely productive bay for shellfish, finfish and extensive eelgrass beds. High water quality. 1300 acres

1. Patagansett River Estuary, East Lyme. Reputedly one of the highest quality tidal wetland systems with limited disturbance, several detailed scientific studies have been conducted of the estuary and tidal wetlands (Connecticut College); rare plants and animals present (342 acres)
2. Bride Brook Estuary, East Lyme. Extensive and unusual tidal wetland ecosystem, rare birds present
3. Connecticut River Estuary and Fresh Tidal River (see attached letter). An area of interstate and national significance; supports Connecticut's most important anadromous fisheries; restored water quality and fish ladders have allowed for restoration of Atlantic Salmon; Sturgeon are in or may be in the River; tidal wetlands - an assemblage of polyhaline, mesohaline, oligohaline and fresh tidal wetlands that are outstanding - such an ecosystem is found nowhere else in the northeast north of the Chesapeake Bay (the Hudson River supports a limited example of these); area supports a multitude of rare plants and animals

Threat: The most serious threat is the proposed diversion of water from the River for use in the Boston area. Diversion in spring and summer could change the position of average water levels which in turn could adversely affect the zonation of vegetation on the tidal wetlands. More importantly, diversion could cause the salt water wedge to move upstream and destroy prime freshwater tidal wetlands and replace these with brackish wetlands, perhaps dominated by Phragmites.

Listed below are outstanding wetland areas:

- a. Great and Upper Island, Old Lyme. Poly and mesohaline tidal wetland; one of the largest tidal wetland ecosystems in Connecticut; supports several rare plants and animals. Principal threat is the increase in Phragmites for no apparent reason. 1350 acres.
- b. Ragged Rock Creek. Mesohaline tidal wetland dominated by Typha angustifolia. Probably contains several rare species. 400 acres
- c. Hyde Point. Mesohaline tidal wetland, probably contains several rare species. 110 acres
- d. Lords Cove, Lyme and Old Lyme. Oligo- to mesohaline tidal marshes and it supports outstanding aquatic beds, several rare plants occur here. 650 acres
- e. Great Meadow (North Cove), Essex. Outstanding oligohaline tidal wetland; rare plants. 425 acres

- f. Selden Neck, Lyme. Outstanding freshwater tidal wetland, rare plants. 400 acres
 - g. Pratt and Post Coves. Outstanding freshwater tidal wetland, rare plants. 135 acres
 - h. Deep River. Freshwater tidal wetland. 70 acres
 - i. Chester Creek, Chester. Freshwater tidal wetland. 130 acres.
 - j. Whalebone Cove, Lyme. Freshwater tidal wetland. 110 acres
 - k. Chapman Pond, E. Haddam. Outstanding freshwater tidal wetland; rare plants; concentration for finfish during the cooler months. 415 acres
 - l. Salmon River, Haddam/E. Haddam. Freshwater tidal wetland; rare plants. 415 acres
 - m. Pecauset Meadows, Portland. Freshwater tidal wetlands.
 - n. Mattabasset River, Cromwell. Freshwater tidal wetlands. Impacts include encroachment by a landfill. 400 acres.
5. Oyster River/Back Rivers, Old Saybrook. Extensive polyhaline tidal wetland dominated by high marsh vegetation. 510 acres
 6. Menunketesuck River, Westbrook/Clinton. Oligo- to polyhaline tidal wetlands; rare plants. <350 acres
 7. Hammonasset Marshes, Clinton/Madison. Extensive polyhaline marsh dominated by high marsh vegetation; rare birds; area designated as a state natural area. 500 acres
 8. East River, Madison. Extensive mostly polyhaline tidal wetlands dominated by high marsh vegetation. 1040 acres
 9. Wheeler Wildlife Management Area, Milford. One of the most important tidal wetlands in the state; extensive low marsh habitat and a multitude of meandering tidal creeks and tidal pools - area has not been ditched for mosquito control purposes; outstanding wildlife usage especially by waterfowl, shorebirds and other marshbirds. 800 acres
 10. Farmill River, Stratford. Oligohaline tidal wetland, this is the only such example on the Housatonic River; rare plants.
 11. Great Meadows, Stratford. Outstanding polyhaline tidal wetland composed primarily of unditched high marsh. It is for all practical purposes the only unditched high marsh in the state; outstanding wildlife usage primarily as a result

of the number of meandering creeks and tidal pools. Tide gates on Lordship Boulevard have reduced tidal flows to wetlands located north of this road - these in turn have degraded into a marsh type dominated by Phragmites. 680 acres.

12. Ash Creek, Fairfield. Small but nevertheless significant island of unditched high marsh located at the mouth of the Ash Creek estuary.

B. Threatened Wetlands

1. Connecticut River Tidal Wetlands. The single greatest threat to these wetlands and the estuary as whole are proposal by Massachusetts to divert water out of the river for water supply purposes. This could not only change the position of halinity boundaries but might also affect the water table position in certain wetlands.
2. Wetland threatened by tidal flow restrictions. These include primarily areas that lie upstream of tide gates.
 - a. Burrough of Stonington wetlands
 - b. Latimer Point wetland, Stonington
 - c. Pequotsepos Brook, Stonington?
 - d. Palmer Cove?
 - e. Cold Spring Brook, Old Saybrook
 - f. Hammock River, Clinton - tidal flushing is gradually being restored by Vector Control
 - g. Sluice Creek, Guilford
 - h. Indian Cove, Guilford
 - i. Leetes Island, Guilford
 - j. Gigamogue Creek, Branford?
 - k. Sybil Creek, Branford
 - l. Carolina Creek, East Haven
 - m. Morris Creek, East Haven
 - n. Little River, New Haven
 - o. West River, New Haven
 - p. Old Field Creek, West Haven
 - q. Cove River, West Haven
 - r. Great Creek, Milford - being restored by the State of Connecticut
 - s. Great Meadows, Stratford (airport property)
 - t. Gorham Pond

APPENDIX B

COMMENTS PREPARED BY THE CONNECTICUT GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL
HISTORY SURVEY

Natural Resources Center
165 Capitol Avenue
Room 553
Hartford, CT 06106
203-566-3540

WATERSHED LISTINGS

Connecticut River (Specific ^{Regions} Sites)

Farmington River, mouth and vicinity. Windsor. Good quality, diverse floodplain forest. Threatened by agricultural expansion.

Rocky Hill/Glastonbury/Wethersfield Meadows. Diversity flood plain forest and alluvial marsh. Threatened by agricultural expansion.

Keeney Cove. Glastonbury, East Hartford. Diverse flood plain forest and freshwater tidal marsh and cove.

Dead Man's Swamp & Vicinity Rocky Hill. Diverse flood plain forest and alluvial marsh. Important bird breeding habitat.

Housatonic River (Specific Sites)

Housatonic Valley Flood Plain. Canaan, Salisbury. Diverse flood plain forest and back water sloughs. Threatened by agricultural expansion.

AREAWIDE LISTINGS

Calcareous Wetlands of Litchfield County (specific sites)

Squabble Brook and vicinity. N. Canaan. Diverse calcareous seepage swamp. Threatened by agricultural expansion and draining. Partially owned by The Nature Conservancy.

Moore Brook and vicinity. Salisbury. Diverse calcareous wetland. Threatened by water quality deterioration. Partially owned by The Nature Conservancy.

Bauer Pond and Vicinity. Salisbury. Diverse calcareous wetland. Threatened by water quality deterioration. Partially owned by The Nature Conservancy.

Benton Hill Fen. Sharon. Diverse calcareous wetland and fen. Threatened by water quality deterioration. Partially owned by The Nature Conservancy.

Sucker Brook. Salisbury. Diverse calcareous wetland and fen. One of the best sites in CT.

Robbins Swamp. Canaan, Salisbury. Very large, diverse calcareous wetland and fen. Mostly in State ownership. Needs to be consolidated.

Hartford County Wetlands (Specific Sites)

Manitook Lake bogs. Suffield. Threatened by filling and deterioration of water quality.

Congamond Lake bogs. Suffield. One of the best level bogs in Connecticut. Threatened by residential development.

Shaker Pond kettle wetlands. Enfield. Threatened by residential development and deterioration of water quality.

APPENDIX C

COMMENTS PREPARED BY THE WILDLIFE BUREAU

Franklin Wildlife Mgmt. Area
Franklin, CT 06254
203-642-7239

INTERDEPARTMENTAL
MESSAGE

DATE: 10/1/66
TIME: 10:00 AM

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Make Dollars and Sense through improved ideas.

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ideas to, Employees' Suggestion Award Program, 105 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Ct, 06103.

To:	NAME	George Wisker, Environmental Analyst	DATE	9/29/66
	AGENCY ADDRESS	D. E. P., Planning & Coord. Div.		
From:	NAME	Paul Marola, Wildlife Biologist	TELEPHONE	640-7230
	AGENCY ADDRESS	D. E. P., Wildlife Bureau		

Subject: EPA, List of Priority Wetlands

In addition to the areas listed, I would add:

1) New Haven Harbor - this area is one of the most important wintering areas in Connecticut for black duck and scaup. The tidal mud flats in New Haven and West Haven are used extensively by feeding ducks and shorebirds. Any activities that might affect water quality or sedimentation could impact the invertebrate life forms of the mud flats.

2) Watershed/River Systems of high value to wildlife:

Mattabesset River; Cromwell/Middletown: susceptible to industrial development, landfill

Coginchaug River; Middlefield, Middletown: susceptible to residential and industrial development

Still River; Danbury, Brookfield, New Milford: residential and industrial development. Field surveys show that the section of river in New Milford to be of highest value for waterfowl production.

PM/ck

cc George Brys

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OCT 1 1966
Dept. of Environmental Protection
Planning & Coord. Div.

APPENDIX D

COMMENTS PREPARED BY THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES

165 Capitol Avenue
Room 255
Hartford, CT 06106
203-558-4477

BUREAU OF FISHERIES

MEMORANDUM

Date: 8/04/86

To: George Wisker, Env. Analyst, P&C CAM

From: Robert A. Jones, Director

Subject: EPA list of Priority Wetlands

.....

A review of the subject list as requested in your memo of July 24 suggests that the Thames River Watershed should be added. Preliminary planning is underway for anadromous fisheries restoration in this system and it has substantial value as a major fisheries resource (both cold and warm water) in eastern Connecticut. Following is the suggested inclusion:

Name: Thames River

Category: Watershed

State(s): Connecticut

Geographic Limits: The Thames, Shetucket and Quinebaug Rivers and their tributaries.

Resource Values: Warm and cold water fisheries - encompasses the major domestic trout fishery in Eastern Connecticut; anadromous fisheries; marine fisheries within the estuary; high potential for American shad and Atlantic salmon restoration.

Known/Potential: Commercial, industrial and residential
Threats to development; hydropower, especially "small
Resources hydro"; cogeneration.

Comments: "A Preliminary Plan for the Restoration of Anadromous Fisheries in the Thames River Basin" has been produced by Connecticut DEP, Bureau of Fisheries, and should be used as guidance, particularly in regard to hydropower.

RECEIVED

SEP 6 1986

Dept. of Environmental Protection
Planning & Control Section, Hartford

APPENDIX E

COMMENTS PREPARED BY THE WATER RESOURCES UNIT

165 Capitol Avenue
Room 207
Hartford, CT 06106
203-566-7220

George Wisker, Coastal Geologist

8/7/88

Plan. & Coord./CAM, 71 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT

Denis Cunningham, Assistant Director

566-7220

Water Resources Unit, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT

EPA'S "Priority Wetlands Listing for New England"

This is in reply to your recent request for information to update EPA's "Priority Wetlands Listing for New England." My comments are being offered to assist EPA prioritize and direct its wetland protection efforts in Connecticut to areas of Statewide or regional importance. Although I agree that CWA Section 404(c) and CFR 230.80 404(b)(1) fill prohibitions or restrictions for specific sites provide valuable wetland and water resource protection tools, I am not prepared to recommend specific wetland sites at this time.

Connecticut has comprehensive wetland and water resource conservation and protection laws such that all 404 wetlands and surface waters of the State are covered by State and/or local regulation. The cornerstone of Connecticut's wetland program is the Inland Wetland and Watercourses Act which provides for delegation of regulatory authority over inland wetlands to towns. To date, all but 15 of Connecticut's towns have local agencies. DEP regulates the wetlands in these 15 towns and attempts to provide technical assistance and training to the rest. The scope of DEP's regulatory programs concerning 404 wetlands is described in the enclosed pamphlet titled "Water Resources Unit Regulatory Programs Permit Index." As an overseer of Connecticut's water resources, I believe our wetlands are effectively protected by the State laws described in the Index.

However, the level of protection provided by municipal wetland agencies varies widely from town to town based upon extent of local development pressures, technical skills of local agency members, presence or absence of local agency professional staff, and political climate. Much more effort is needed in providing technical assistance and training for municipal regulators to improve the technical and administrative quality of decision-making. The reason I raise this need here is that it's those wetlands in towns with untrained wetland regulatory agencies that need additional protection. Your thoughts on EPA's role in our technical training efforts for municipal wetland officials would be welcomed.

My sections's comments and suggestions for priority listings for Connecticut are as follows:

1. General Listing

- a. Add: wetlands with groundwater classification GAA (potable groundwater supplies) as shown on Connecticut's Water Quality Classification Mapping. Resource values - maintenance of water quality in groundwater recharge or discharge; land uses have potential to affect potable water quality. Water quality classification maps are available to the public on a county basis at 1:50,000 scale from DEP's Publication Sales (203) 566-7719.
- b. Add: rivers and streams and their contiguous wetlands which support important anadromous fisheries.
 - Development can destroy essential breeding and nursery habitat or obstruct migration of juveniles and adults. The enclosed list was developed by the DEP Bureau of Fisheries.
- c. Add: rivers and streams stocked with fish by DEP. Resource value - maintenance of water quality and habitat, aesthetics. In order to protect the State's investment and the fish stock, work needs to be controlled to avoid instream disturbance during the stocking and the intensive spring time fishing period. The attached list of stocked streams is taken from the Bureau of Fisheries Annual Report.
- d. Add: wetlands adjacent to landfills. Resource value - maintenance of water quality. These wetlands are threatened as a result of a need to expand sanitary and bulky water landfills.

2. Areawide Listings

- a. Add: freshwater tidal wetlands. Resource value - unique wildlife and fisheries habitats, high recreational value and aesthetics. Important freshwater tidal wetlands are located along the Connecticut River and its tributaries from the Farmington River to its confluence with Long Island Sound. Important vegetated tidal wetlands have been mapped by DEP as shown on the enclosed Map index.
- b. Add: coastal marshes and intertidal flats in, and tributary to, New Haven harbor located in West Haven, East Haven and New Haven. Resource values - resting and feeding areas for shorebirds and waterfowl, fisheries, maintenance of water quality, shellfish industry, recreation, aesthetics. Development pressures are increasing.
- c. Delete: page 6 reference to a perceived threat to water resources in Hartford County and the Northern portion of Middlesex County. While these areas are experiencing high development pressures, so are other regions of Connecticut. It is suggested that the watershed wherein the projects EPA is interested in are located be listed

in order to provide direction and purpose. If a highway project is a concern, then list the project.

3. Watershed Listings

- a. Water quality sensitive watersheds. The following river systems and others as may be identified in DEP's Water Quality Management Plan are water quality limited or are in need of additional attention to ensure that further degradation does not occur. These systems are experiencing heavy development pressure and loss of wetland area may diminish the ability of wetlands to renovate surface flows or otherwise maintain water quality. Loss of instream habitat may effect water quality, fisheries and recreation amenities. A deterioration of water quality may necessitate issuance of State orders to upgrade treatment facilities. The number preceding each river are taken from a map titled "Natural Drainage Basins in Connecticut" dated 1981.

6900 Naugatuck River; Torrington to its confluence with the Housatonic River.

7300 Norwalk River; Ridgefield to its confluence with Long Island sound

6600 Still River; Danbury to its confluence with the Housatonic River

4303 Still River; Winsted to its confluence with Sandy Brook

4500 Hockanum River; Headwaters to Connecticut River

5200 Quinnipiac River; Headwaters to confluence with New Haven Harbor

4315 Pequabuck River; Headwaters to confluence with Farmington River

7401 Five Mile River; Headwaters to confluence with Long Island Sound

3100 Willimantic River

3800 Shetucket River

3300 French River; Headwaters in Massachusetts to confluence with Quinebaug River

3700 Quinebaug River

6800 Pomeraug River in Southbury

5201 Eight Mile River; Headwaters in Bristol to confluence with Quinnipiac River in Southington

- b. The following watersheds are highly urbanized and subjected to severe flooding hazards to life and property. Additional attention to preserve the flood storage function of wetlands is needed in regulatory decisions.

7300 Norwalk River

5112 Farm River

7411 Byram River



MAINE AUDUBON SOCIETY

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The responsible voice for Maine's environment and natural resources.

August 13, 1986

David A. Fierra
Director, Water Management Division
Environmental Protection Agency
J. F. Kennedy Federal Building
Boston, Massachusetts 02203

Dear Mr. Fierra:

I was surprised at the incompleteness and inaccuracy of the portion of the List of Priority Wetlands that pertains to Maine. Before I recommend additions to the list I would like to make several suggestions.

1. The review needs to be expanded to include the appropriate individuals and agencies. At a minimum the following should be contacted:

Natural Resources Council, Attn: Jerry Bley
The Nature Conservancy, Attn: Lissa Widoff
Critical Areas Program, Attn: Hank Tyler
Department of Environmental Protection, Attn: David Studor
University of Maine, Attn: Dr. Ron David
Dr. George Jacobson
Dr. Malcolm Hunter
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Attn: Henry Hilton

I am probably in the best position to comment on wetlands for Maine Audubon because of work I've done on peatlands for the University and the State Planning Office.

2. Emphasize the link between this list and the EPA404(b)(1) to ensure that the priority listing receives the careful scrutiny it deserves.
3. Including lakes and rivers on the priority list of wetlands is extremely misleading. The approach that has been used makes it very easy for rivers and lakes to fall through the cracks. Other hydrologic features should be included on separate lists to be reviewed by individuals with the expertise required to do so.
4. Have a representative from Region I meet with key individuals in Maine to review the next list before it is made final.
5. On a conceptual note, given the widely accepted importance of wetlands, these ecosystems should automatically be given priority in the AIS procedure.

David A. Pierra
Page Two
August 13, 1986

I've enclosed a list of "ecologically significant peatlands" prepared by Lissa Widoff for the Natural Resources Council. The importance of the areas listed is recognized among the state's peatland experts. Please note that this list includes peatlands only. It does not include other types of freshwater wetlands. Nor does it focus on their wildlife values. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife should be contacted for this information.

I'd also like to recommend that the East Branch of the Penobscot River and the Rapid River be added to the list.

The AIS concept is an extremely important one--one that will undoubtedly save development and conservation interests a great deal of money. Its importance should be made clear to all who review the priority list and EPA staff should at a minimum make sure that the preliminary list of priority wetlands be directed to all appropriate individuals and agencies before drafting the final version.

Please let me know if you have any questions on the list I've provided. I would appreciate a copy of the updated list. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Janet McMahon
Land Steward

JM/cl

Enclosure

RECEIVED - EPA

AUG 18 1986

WATER MANAGEMENT DIVISION

*Report for the Wetlands Inventory of the State of Maine
1986. The report is still in draft form.*

TABLE 4: ECOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT PEATLANDS
RECOMMENDED FOR PROTECTION

<u>MAP</u> <u>Ref.</u>	<u>SITE NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
1	Wells Heath	York - Wells
2	Sand Pond	York - Sanford
3	Saco Heath* ✓	York - Saco
4	Kimball Pond*	Oxford - Fryeburg
5	Lovewell Pond	Oxford - Fryeburg
6	Great Sidney Bog	Kenn. - Augusta, Sidney
7	Kanokolus Bog	Waldo - Unity
8	Caribou Bog ✓	Peno. - Old Town, Bangor, Orono Hudson, Glenburn
9	Sunkhaze Meadows Bog ✓	Peno - Milford
10	Passadumkeag Bogs	Peno-Passadumkeag, Enfield, Lowell
11	Bog Nr. Greenville Jct.	Pisc - Little Squaw Twp
12	Great Heath (part)*	Wash - Columbia (only)
13	W. Jonesport Heath	Wash - Jonesport
14	Meddybemps Heath	Wash-Alexander, Meddybemps, Cooper
15	Thousand Acre Heath	Peno - T5R1 NEPP
16	Mattawamkeag River	Peno - Drew Plt
17	Smith Brook Deadwater	Peno - T1R8 Wells
18	Little Crystal Fen*	Aroo - Crystal
19	Marble Fen	Aroo - T6R8, T6R7, T5R8, T5R7
20	Ellis Bog	Pisc - T7R13, T6R13
21	Big Ten Complex	Some - Big Ten twp
22	Salmon Brook Lake Bog *	Aroo - Perham
23	Orchard Bog	Aroo - Caswell PH
24	Cross Lake Fen	Aroo - T16R5, T17R5



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
STATE HOUSE - STATION 21
AUGUSTA MAINE 04333

August 13, 1986

David Pierra, Director
Water Management Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region I
J.F. Kennedy Federal Building
Boston, MASS 02203

Dear Mr. Pierra:

Here, in response to your letter of July, 1986, regarding revisions to the List of Priority Wetlands for New England, are a number of suggested additions; they include five (5) Specific Wetlands, sixteen (16) Watersheds (although it is generally the lower watersheds that have our primary concern), and one (1) General Category addition.

Four (4) Specific Wetlands of the tidal Kennebec River estuary -

Threats to each of these is general development; more specific threats are noted.

General:

Kennebec River - freshwater tidal section from Chops Point (outlet of Merrymeeting Bay) to Augusta, including Merrymeeting Bay and the tidal sections of its tributaries: the Eastern, Abagadasset, Cathance, and Androscoggin Rivers.

a. Unique habitat

- 1) No other river system in the State of Maine contains anywhere near the amount of tidal freshwater habitat.
- 2) Important spawning and nursery habitat for all ten native anadromous fish species except striped bass. A restoration program for striped bass, shad, and alewives is underway.

CRITICAL/IMPORTANT WETLANDS AREAS
FOR SHORTNOSE ATLANTIC STURGEON

Kennebec River

- 1) Mid-estuary/Bath Region - feeding area for shortnose sturgeon, especially wetlands area around Winnegance Creek and Pleasant Cove (Sasanoa River); also all other areas of tidal flats with abundant aquatic vegetation.
- 2) Main River - South Gardiner to Augusta
 - a. Shortnose sturgeon and Atlantic sturgeon spawning habitat
 - i) Exact locations not known. Large concentrations of shortnose sturgeon in spawning condition have been found in South Gardiner and Gardiner.
 - ii) Ripe Atlantic sturgeon have also been captured in South Gardiner and Gardiner region.
- 3) Tidal Section of Androscoggin River
 - a. Important shortnose sturgeon spawning site, especially near head-of-tide.
 - b. Threats: housing development; highway bypass
- 4) Merrymeeting Bay
 - a. Feeding area for shortnose sturgeon
 - b. Threats: housing development - large subdivision on Browns Point (Abagadasset Point) in Bowdoinham

Specific Wetland - York River (headwaters freshwater marsh) -

Coliform bacterial levels in the York River have been reduced to levels that permit shellfish harvest; oysters and clams are cultivated and harvested in the lower estuary. Considerable effort has been made to recover the lower portions of the river, but the marsh headwaters are relatively unprotected from fill and contamination resulting from extensive building pressure in York County. *NOTE: the estuary was identified below as a rainbow smelt nursery area.

General Category -

<u>Name</u>	: Eel grass - <u>Zostera marina</u> - beds
<u>Category</u>	: Area wide
<u>State</u>	: Maine

Sheepscoot River estuary - an important nursery and/or feeding area for rainbow smelt, shortnose sturgeon, and striped bass. Also, this estuary is an important area for juvenile sea herring and a spawning area for groundfish. The Sheepscoot River also supports the southernmost self-sustaining native population of anadromous Atlantic salmon.

Damariscotta River - supports the largest population of anadromous alewives on the Maine coast and is an important recreational fishery for striped bass.

St. George River estuary - supports the second largest population of anadromous alewives on the Maine coast. A large winter and spring recreational fishery for rainbow smelt occurs from US Route 1 upstream to Warren Village. This river also supports an important striped bass recreational fishery.

Penobscot River estuary - The third largest alewife run in the state occurs in the Orland River. The largest anadromous Atlantic salmon run in Maine passes through this estuary to freshwater spawning grounds and ocean feeding areas. A very large rainbow smelt fishery occurs in the estuary from Bangor to Winterport. Rainbow smelt nursery areas occur from Bangor to Sears Island; American shad, river herring, and Atlantic sturgeon are dependent on this estuary as a nursery area. One shortnose sturgeon was captured in lower west Penobscot Bay (Northport) in the mid-1970's.

Union River estuary - This area contains river herring and rainbow smelt as well as a hatchery sustained sport fishery for Atlantic salmon.

Narraguagus and Pleasant Rivers estuaries - Atlantic salmon, rainbow smelt, American shad and river herring are important resources in this area.

Machias and East Machias Rivers estuaries - important areas for Atlantic salmon, rainbow smelt, American shad and river herring.

Dennys River estuary - same comments as provided on the Narraguagus/Pleasant Rivers.

St. Croix River estuary - This area has the potential to support the largest river herring run in Maine. Atlantic salmon, American shad and rainbow smelt are also important resources.

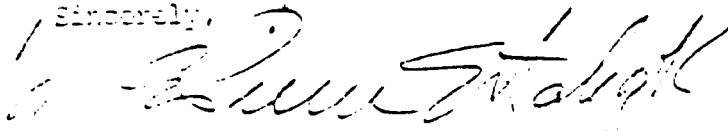
- Estuarine Limits : Maine coastal zone; MZM to 18' contour
- Resource Values : Primary productivity, natural cover and sediment stabilization.
- Potential Threats to Resource: Dredging/Filling - all resulting in removal or burial of plants or b, causing changes in current flow and/or increased turbidity.

Summary (16) Maine estuaries important to the preservation and enhancement of anadromous fish resources -

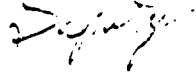
Each may be listed separately and placed as a Watershed; however, in many cases it is the lower watershed that is primarily utilized as a nursery area. The upper portions are utilized to varying degrees depending upon species and it is the quality of the upper portions that contributes to the quality of the lower portions.

- ✓ York River estuary - rainbow smelt nursery
- ✓ Piscataqua River - rainbow smelt, alewife, blueback herring, American shad
- ✓ Merrimack/Scarborough River complex - American shad, river herring
- ✓ Saco River - American shad, river herring; very important striped bass recreational fishery in this area
- ✓ Presumpscot River - American shad, river herring, rainbow smelt
- ✓ Royal River estuary - American shad, river herring, rainbow smelt
- Kennebec/Androscoggin estuary - all anadromous fish species. Critical habitat, particularly from the area of Parker Head upstream to Augusta and Brunswick, Merrymeeting Bay and tributaries (Eastern, Abagadasset, Cathance, and Muddy Rivers) are unique freshwater areas under tidal influence that support diverse populations of anadromous fish, such as endangered shortnose sturgeon, as well as Atlantic sturgeon, Atlantic salmon, American shad, blueback herring, alewife, rainbow smelt, brook trout, and striped bass. DMR is attempting to restore a self-sustaining population of striped bass in this area by stocking Hudson River fingerlings in Merrymeeting Bay. The state's largest winter recreational/commercial hook and line coastal rainbow smelt fishery occurs in the Merrymeeting Bay area. The lower Kennebec, from Bath downstream, is one of the most important recreational fishing areas for striped bass and bluefish on the coast of Maine.

Sincerely,



E. PERRY ESTABROOK
Commissioner



E. PERRY ESTABROOK
Deputy Commissioner

Encl.

cc



STATE OF MAINE

Department of Environmental Protection

MAIN OFFICE: FAY BUILDING, HOSPITAL STREET, AUGUSTA
MAIL ADDRESS: STATE HOUSE STATION 17, AUGUSTA, 04803

JOSEPH L. BRENNAN,
COMMISSIONER

KENNETH C. YOUNG, JR.,
COMMISSIONER

July 30, 1976

David A. Pierra
Director, Water Management Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
J.F. Kennedy Federal Building
Boston, Mass. 02203

Dear Mr. Pierra:

I have reviewed the List of Priority Wetlands which pertain to Maine. All wetlands listed should remain on the list with the possible exception of the West Branch of the Penobscot River in that the "Big A" dam proposal has been withdrawn.

One additional wetland should be considered for the list:

Name, Location: Saco Heath in York County, York, Maine

Values: One of the most southerly raised bogs in Maine;
contains Atlantic White Cedar, a rare species in
Maine.
Research, education, aesthetics.

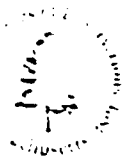
Potential Threats: Peat mining; 435 acres of commercial
quality peat.
Previous owner had attempted to mine the
peat and another mining proposal is
currently active.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Donald T. Withefill", is written over the typed name.

DONALD T. WITHEFILL, Wetlands Coordinator
Division of Licensing & Review
Bureau of Land Quality Control

DTW/bsh



The Trustees of Reservations
Conserving the
Massachusetts Landscape

RECEIVED
JUL 29 1986

Mr. David A. Fierra
Water Management Division
United States Environmental
Protection Agency
J.F. Kennedy Building
Boston, MA 02203

25 July, 1986

Dear Mr. Fierra:

I am responding to your request for information to update your "List of Priority Wetlands" in New England. Although we do not have information regarding specific sites that require your attention, we were surprised to find that no mention of areas on Martha's Vineyard or Nantucket was made. These islands provide critical habitat for many rare wildlife species, particularly least terns, piping plovers and short-eared owls. Ecologists often make reference to unique attributes found in island communities and these two islands are no exception. Unfortunately, the human growth rate on each island is astounding (approximately 400 new houses per year) and habitat destruction is the result. I am sure that priority wetlands exist but am not qualified to suggest specific areas for lack of necessary data. I suggest you contact Dr. Wes Tiffney at the U. Mass. Field Station, Nantucket and Mr. Gus Ben-David at the Felix Neck Sanctuary, Mass. Audubon Society, Martha's Vineyard for specific information.

Good luck with a very ambitious task and let me know if you need further assistance.

Respectfully,

Robert Dehlinger
Ecologist

RLD:lg

RECEIVED - EPA

JUL 29 1986

WATER MANAGEMENT DIVISION



August 11, 1986

Mr. David A. Fierre
Director, Water Management Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
J.F. Kennedy Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203

RE: Priority Wetlands

Dear Mr. Fierre,

I would like to respond to your letter of this spring to Dennis Volkoff of the Nature Conservancy, regarding the listing of priority wetlands in New England.

As you may know, the Massachusetts Natural Heritage Program was formed in 1978 through a cooperative effort of the Nature Conservancy and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Program, now part of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, is a statewide inventory of rare plants and animals and significant ecological communities. Our data base includes over 3,400 mapped and computerized records of these rare "elements", and is constantly being expanded through the work of the staff botanist and zoologist, and contract employees and cooperators.

These data on the locations, habitats, associated species, threats, and management needs of rare species and natural communities are used in a variety of research, environmental review, and planning activities. As rare wildlife and vegetation are considered valuable indicators of pristine or sensitive habitats, as well as intrinsically valuable, we frequently recommend areas pinpointed on our USGS topographic maps for land acquisition or other protection measures, through town open space planning, nominations to create or enlarge state-owned reservations or parks, designations of critical resource areas on publically owned lands, state Area of Critical Environmental Concern proposals, etc.

We have estimated that about 40% of all rare species in Massachusetts occur in, or depend on, wetland habitats. On the basis of our data, we could recommend many wetland types and specific sites for special protection. We would like to mention the following two as examples:

August 11, 1986
Mr. D.A. Fierre
Page Two

The Schenob Brook and Dry Brook system in Sheffield, Massachusetts provides habitat for no fewer than 25 occurrences of rare plants and animals, including several species listed as Endangered by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Every year, new discoveries of state-listed species indicate that this area is of increasing importance and is one of the top three calcareous wetlands in the state.

A second example of a wetland type of great importance is the Coastal Plain Pondshore community. The shores of these kettle ponds, found in Plymouth and on Cape Cod, support over 20 species of rare plants, many of regional and some of national rarity.

We would be happy to provide detailed information on these or other wetland types or specific sites. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Joanne Michaud

Joanne Michaud
Environmental Reviewer

JM/jm

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

List of Priority Wetlands

Name of Sanctuary:....Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary

Name of Wetland/Wetland System:.....Red Maple Swamp; river which flows to it
66

Category of Wetland/System: Watershed.....

Specific System.....X.

Areawide.....

Geographic Limits:.....Princeton, MA contingent to.....
..above sanctuary (part that Mass. Audubon does not ..
..own).....
.....

Resource Values: Water quality/supply.....X.....
Flood control.....X.....
Ecological productivity.....X.....
Wildlife habitat.....X.....
Fisheries habitat.....X.....
Recreation/aesthetics.....X.....
Ecological/biological rarity.....
Best representative ecosystems.....

Threats to Resource:.....Mrs. Ruth Smith of Princeton continues to...
..speak about selling off portions of this 100 acres.
.....

Comments:....If Mrs. Smith is contacted by the state, please do not.....
..mention that Mass. Audubon supplied this information
..as she may react unfavorably towards us.....

Joe Choiniere
Sanctuary Director

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

List of Priority Wetlands

Name of Sanctuary:..South.Shore.Sanctuaries.....

Name of Wetland/Wetland System:..Fynberry.Bay; North.and.South.and Jones river

Category of Wetland/System: Watershed.....

Specific System.....

Areawide.....

Geographic Limits:.....

.....
.....
.....

Resource Values: Water quality/supply.....

Flood control.....

Ecological productivity.....

Wildlife habitat.....

Fisheries habitat.....

Recreation/aesthetics.....

Ecological/biological rarity.....

Best representative ecosystems.....

development

Threats to Resource:.....

.....
.....

Comments:.....

.....
.....

David Clapp
Sanctuary Director



S. RUSSELL SYLVA
Commissioner

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Department of Environmental Quality Engineering
Division of Wetlands and Waterways Regulation
One Winter Street, Boston 02108

August 6, 1986

David A. Fierra
Director, Water Management Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 1
JFK Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203

Dear Mr. Fierra:

This letter is in response to your July 17, 1986 correspondence regarding revisions to EPA's List of Priority Wetlands for New England. Specifically, you have requested the DEQE Division of Wetlands and Waterways to review the existing list for accuracy and completeness, and suggest any needed changes.

Our comments include:

1. General Listing

Consider including wetlands identified as critical habitat for rare and endangered species. Most, if not all, New England states have identified plant and animal species that are rare, endangered or threatened within their respective jurisdictions. A number of these species are dependent on wetland habitat.

2. Areawide Listings

Consider including certain wetland systems surrounding Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts. This area is the site of increasing development pressure which can lead to degradation of wetland habitat, specifically non-vegetated wetland communities, e.g. tidal flats and submerged tidal lands. In addition, the Bay is currently the focus of a federal-state-local planning program to develop an Environmental Master Plan for the Bay.

Consider including certain wetland systems in the Berkshire Mountains area of Massachusetts. While large areas of these western counties in Massachusetts are in public ownership for conservation purposes, intensive real estate development pressure is currently focused on the remaining underdeveloped, unprotected land. These lands include wetland systems of particular sensitivity such as bogs and mountain stream habitats.

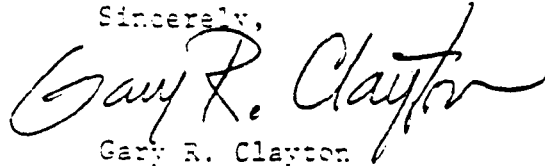
3. Watershed Listing

Consider including all other river systems in Massachusetts which are currently, or have been in the past, the subject of land management planning programs including the State Scenic Rivers Program and the Greenway Planning Program. These planning programs often include identifying critical wetland habitats; the results of these planning efforts should be more fully integrated with federal regulatory activities.

4. Specific System Listing

Consider including Belle Isle Marsh in Boston, Revere, and Winthrop Massachusetts. This urban salt marsh system is one of the last relatively large salt marshes in Boston Harbor. While a portion of this system is now in public ownership and all of the salt marsh is protected by stringent state regulations, enforcement remains a problem. Specifically, numerous private properties which abut the marsh system can result in activities that are relatively small but, nevertheless, create cumulative adverse impacts over a long period of time.

Sincerely,



Gary R. Clayton
Director

GRC/mes



New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions

54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301 (603) 224-7867

July 31, 1986

David A. Fierra, Director
Water Management Division
US EPA, Region I
JFK Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203

RE: List of Priority Wetlands

Dear Mr. Fierra:

I am not at all sure how the NHACC should respond to your request for comments on the List of Priority Wetlands you sent earlier this month. The copy you sent here did not include Appendix III, which appears to contain Region I's reaction to this federally mandated listing, so I am relying on the statement in the introduction "...it is a list of known or suspected trouble spots in our region". That is, the suggestions for possible expansion of the areawide list are areas which appear threatened rather than areas of highest intrinsic value compared to other NH wetlands or waterbodies.

Suggestions:

1. Areawide

- Great Bay, Little Bay and the Piscataqua River - (Dover, Madbury, Durham, Newmarket, Stratham, Greenland, Newington, Portsmouth in Rockingham and Strafford Counties) Estuarine system in high growth area (non-residential and year-round and seasonal residential development). The NH Coastal Program [Office of State Planning, 2 1/2 Beacon St, Concord, NH 03301 (603) 271-2155] has applied to extend the Program to this area and has assembled available information on the area in support of the application.

- Southern Strafford County - add to the SE New Hampshire category now covering Hillsborough, Rockingham and Merrimack Counties. Strafford County is listed with Sullivan as having areas of particular concern for fish and wildlife. I see no problem with that listing, but suggest that the 3 county listing is intended to highlight the area of the state that is experiencing the greatest growth pressures; southern Strafford County is part of this area as well.

2. Watershed (I think, but possibly specific system)

- Lake Umbagog (Errol, with a bit in Cambridge; Coos County, NH and Maine) This lake has almost no development and is an outstanding wildlife habitat. The Audubon Society of NH, NH Natural Heritage Inventory, and the Society for the Protection of NH Forests can provide documentation on species present. The current threat is from a hydropower project in Maine which will cause fluctuating water levels. There was a proposal to mine diatomaceous earth from the bed of the lake, which was stopped, at least temporarily, by the Army COE (under the Rivers and Harbors Act, rather than 404, I believe). It is difficult to say whether any future proposals might need 404 permits,

404

but, unlike the areas suggested above, it has environmental and habitat values superior to comparable water bodies in NH. (Comparable is probably the wrong word, since I can't think of a comparable water body...) In any event, it should be listed as an important area.

3. Areas of concern which may or may not be appropriately included somewhere on the list:

- NH lakes in general and the larger ones in particular. Winnepesaukee appears on the watershed list (p. 39, spelled incorrectly); it was the first lake perceived to be threatened by the "galloping condominium" phenomenon and still perceived as the most threatened. (One of the reasons for this is the Winnepesaukee Basin Sewage System, whose availability allows greatly increased development density.) However, other large lakes are beginning to perceive similar pressures, notably Sunapee and Newfound, and to a lesser extent (so far) Squam and Winnisquam. Should this concern about lakes in general be reflected somehow? If one were to include "the Lakes Region waterbodies" Lake Sunapee in New London, Newbury, and Sunapee would not be included. Perhaps size might be a criteria...

On the other hand, fill is not often proposed; dredge proposals to remove adjacent wetlands "interfering" with swimming and boating are much more common. Even if other lakes were listed, the impacting projects would be likely to be outside the jurisdiction of 404...

4. One final suggestion: Have you sent your list to the NH Natural Heritage Inventory for comments? They are still at 54 Portsmouth St., Concord, NH 03301 (603) 224-9945 but will be moving to DRED sometime soon. I know that they have found some rare mussels in the sw portion of the state and that portions of the Connecticut River are of particular concern...

Sincerely yours,



Marjory M. Swope
Executive Director

MMS/m

The Nature Conservancy

Vermont Field Office
138 Main Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05602
(802) 229-4425

August 11, 1986

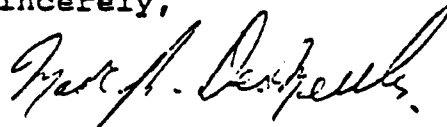
David A. Fierra
United States Environmental Protection Agency
J.F. Kennedy Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203

Dear Mr. Fierra:

We have enclosed an updated list of priority wetlands and waterbodies. Given the deadline of August 10 and our busy summer schedule, we scrambled to compile this list. There are numerous additional sites associated with ecologically significant areas which eventually should make their way to this list.

Please let us know if any questions need to be answered regarding our most recent submission.

Sincerely,



Marc R. DesMeules
Coordinator, Vermont
Natural Heritage Program

MRD/clb
encl.

CC: Elizabeth Thompson, Botanist
Vermont Natural Heritage Program

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AUG 13 1986

WATER MANAGEMENT DIVISION



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

ALLEN F. CRABTREE, III
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



34 Bridge Street
Concord, N.H. 03301
(603) 271-3421

August 4, 1986

David A. Fierra, Director
Water Management Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 1
J.F.K. Federal Building
Boston, Ma. 02203

Dear Mr. Fierra:

Thank you for the opportunity to revise and update the List of Priority Wetlands for New England, specifically New Hampshire. The following recommended changes are amendments to the April 1985 list of priority wetlands in New Hampshire, provided at your request.

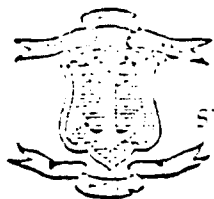
In Section III A: General Listing please include in rivers identified by FWS as Key Rivers in Their Atlantic Salmon Resotration Program, the Pemigewasset River. In the Watershed Listing please include the Exeter and Lamprey Rivers. Their anadromous runs are in possible jeopardy from hydro development. In the Specific Systems listings, please include Lake Umbagog and the Great Bay Estuary and its tidal wetlands. Lake Umbagog is in jeopardy from hydro development and twice has been targeted for diatomaceous earth dredging. The Great Bay Estuary and tidal wetlands is being subjected to industrial and residential growth pressures.

If you have any questions, you may contact Fisheries and Wildlife Ecologist, William Ingham, Jr. at (603) 271-2501.

Sincerely,

Allen F. Crabtree
Executive Director

WCI/AFC/jak



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

60 Davis Street
Providence, R.I. 02908

August 8, 1986

David A. Fierre
Director, Water Management Division
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region I
J. F. Kennedy Federal Building
Boston, Mass. 02203

Dear Mr. Fierre:

In reference to your letter received in this office July 17, 1986, the following are suggested inclusions based on our staff biologist review of the material you submitted:

p. 16. Coastal Ponds

-Add coastal ponds of Block Island (Town of New Shoreham), not presently under any state management plan:

1. Great Salt Pond
2. Harbor Pond
3. Trims Pond
4. Wash Pond
5. Sachem Pond
6. Trustom's Pond (S.K.)
7. Round Pond (Tiv.)
8. Shipcove Pond (Tiv.)

→ special area management plan

p. 17 Waterfowl Habitat

Possible inclusions for black duck and canvasback habitat are:

1. Great Creek Salt Marsh (Jamestown)
2. Col. Willie Cove (Westerly)
3. Sheffield Cove (Jamestown)
4. Mill Creek (North Kingstown)

Add:

Coastal Wetlands in Greenwich Bay - particularly Mary's Creek System - Important to shellfish management area productivity/larval fish development. Threatened by Development.

100 Acre Cove/Barrington River Wetlands - Important to shellfish management area/larval fish/threatened avian species.

David A. Fierra
Director, Water Management Division
August 8, 1986
Page Two

p. 41 Wood/Pawcatuck Watershed (X-Ref. to p.4)

Note: Resource value includes RIDEM Fish & Wildlife management for Atlantic salmon restoration, only watercourse in R.I. for this.
Regulation of activity on the Pawcatuck River is both R.I. (east shores) and CT (west shores).

Threats to resource include marina development and water quality, particularly commercial and industrial discharges.

p. 44 Pettaquamscutt Watershed

Note: Resources include eastern oyster (RIDEM Shellfish Mgt. Area).

Threats to resource include failure of existing septic systems, particularly east shores, Mettatumet area.

Under comments, this watershed is presently in draft stages for a special area management plan by CRMC and has been subject to a development moratorium since Sept. 1985.

Possible inclusions under Watershed category:

1. Kickemuit River (towns Bristol and Warren)—anadromous resource, potential for state management; includes rather extensive salt marsh areas; resource threat predominantly residential development.
2. Potowomut River (towns Warwick and N. Kingstown)—potential anadromous and waterfowl resource; low intensity use estuary includes a good proportion of salt marsh.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Grover J. Fugate (JW)

Grover J. Fugate, Executive Director
Coastal Resources Management Council

GJF/jv

*Irene
Kaminski
789-0281*

The University of Vermont

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
WATER RESOURCES BUILDING
SURLINGTON VERMONT 05405-0001 U.S.A



August 6, 1986

David A. Pierra, Director
Water Management Division
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region I
J. F. Kennedy Federal Bldg.
Boston, Massachusetts 02203

Dear Mr. Pierra:

Your letter concerning List of Priority Wetlands arrived in late July just prior to my being away for two weeks. Since my return I contacted Dr. Carl Pagel of the Vermont Department of Water Resources, who is actively engaged in wetland endeavors for Vermont. Dr. Pagel implied that the Agency has been so busy trying to protect wetlands in Vermont that they haven't been able to concentrate on an inventory.

However, in looking over the inventory you sent to me I can add these comments about some wetlands in Vermont I am familiar with.

1. All of the riverlike or deltaic wetlands bordering the eastern shore of Lake Champlain should be given priority status. They are significant with respect to flood storage, nutrient control, aesthetics and wildlife habitat. Some harbor aquatic invertebrate species unique to Vermont. Many of these border wetlands were well studied in 1976-1977 through funding from the I.J.C. investigating the possible impact of proposed lake level regulation. These could be individually documented given more time and funding.
2. There are some "behind dune" ^Psmaller wetlands along the Champlain shore whose status is questionable. I have been, and am studying two, of these. Their significance may not be directly proportional to their size.
3. The wetland adjacent to Shelburne Pond should be included in the priority list. Among other values it is of archeological interest.

I regret that with the present time frame I am not able to submit more input. I certainly support the efforts of the EPA to protect the endangered wetlands.

Sincerely,


E. Bennette Henson
Professor of Zoology

EBH/rdg

AUG 8 1986

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AUG 12 1986

WATER MANAGEMENT DIVISION



State of Vermont

AGENCY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

☐ 111 West Street
Essex Jct., VT 05450
(802) 876-2563

☐ 255 N. Main Street
Barre, VT 05641
(802) 826-2454

☐ R.R. #1, Box 23
N. Springfield, VT 05150
(802) 886-2215

☐ 186 Portland Street
St. Johnsbury, VT 05816
(802) 746-8787

☐ RFD 1, Pittsford Academy
Pittsford, VT 05763
(802) 453-2300

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation
Department of Water Resources & Environmental Engineering
State Geologist
Natural Resources Conservation Council

August 6, 1986

Mr. David A. Fierra, Director
Water Management Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 1
J.F. Kennedy Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203

Dear Mr. Fierra:

Thank you for your recent letter to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department concerning the current update of the list of Priority Wetlands for New England. Please note that we have a new Commissioner, Steve E. Wright, for whom this response is being prepared.

In reviewing the materials relative to Vermont, (excerpts extracted and enclosed separately) I found that several of our most important wetland areas and river systems for wildlife and fisheries were not included. Attached is a list of additional wetland systems, primarily rivers and lakeside marshes, which should be added to the E.P.A. listing for Vermont. Their locations are shown on Figure III-1 of your report (attached).

Please let me know if I can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Myers
State Waterfowl Biologist

cc: Benjamin W. Day, Director of Wildlife
Carl Pagel, State Wetlands Coordinator

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AUG 10 1986

WATER MANAGEMENT DIVISION

E.P.A. LIST OF PRIORITY WETLANDS FOR NEW ENGLAND

Additional listings of important wildlife and fisheries related wetlands for Vermont.

- ✓ 1. Lake Champlain-lakeside marshes and river delta wetlands
along eastern shore of Lake Champlain.
- ✓ 2. Lake Champlain-the "Narrows". Riverine type wetlands
comprising southern portion of Lake Champlain
from Benson Landing, south.
3. Missisquoi River-river and adjacent wetlands
4. Lamoille River-river and adjacent wetlands
5. Winooski River-river and adjacent wetlands
6. Little Otter Creek-river and adjacent wetlands
7. Otter Creek-river and adjacent wetlands
8. East Creek-river and adjacent wetlands
9. Lake Memphremagog-lakeside marshes, especially those of
South Bay.
- ✓ 10. Lake Memphremagog-Black, Barton and Clyde Rivers
11. White River and its tributaries(anadramous salmon restora-
tion program).



State of Vermont

AGENCY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Montpelier, Vermont 05602

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation
Department of Water Resources & Environmental Engineering
State Geologist
Natural Resources Conservation Council

August 11, 1986

Mr. David A. Fierra, Director
Water Management Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 1
J.F.K. Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203

Dear Mr. Fierra:

I am responding to your request for assistance from the State of Vermont in revising your List of Priority Wetlands. You should also have received a reply from our State Waterfowl Biologist, Thomas Myers.

Mr. Myers has added Vermont's most important wetlands to your list. Certainly there are other valuable wetlands in Vermont, but I am hesitant to add to the list for two reasons. First, I am uncertain of just what constitutes a "priority wetland." Your mailing provides some guidance but the selection is still quite subjective. I am not sure how far to go.

Secondly, a listing of this nature can not be completed hastily. Your material only recently reached my desk. To do a thorough job I would want enough time to solicit reviews and comments from each of our District Fisheries Biologists. Working within the time available, I feel Mr. Myers' list is reasonably complete.

Should a more in-depth effort be needed in the future, I would be happy to participate, given a little more time and detail. In the interim, I trust that Mr. Myers' revision is sufficient.

Sincerely,

Roderick Wentworth
Roderick Wentworth
Asst. Director of Fisheries

RD/tlg/37

cc. Carl Pögel, State Wetlands Coordinator



State of Vermont

AGENCY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Montpelier, Vermont 056
Department of Water Resources
and
Environmental Engineering

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation
Department of Water Resources & Environmental Engineering
Natural Resources Conservation Council
State Geologist

July 28, 1966

Mr. David A. Fierra, Director
Water Management Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
J. F. Kennedy Federal Building
Boston, Massachusetts 02203

Dear Mr. Fierra:

Thank you for your letter concerning the question of designating important wetlands under 404(c) and Section 230.80 of the EPA 404(b)(1) guidelines.

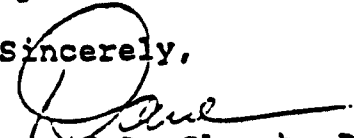
As I am sure you are aware, the Vermont General Assembly this year enacted a law for the protection of wetlands. Under that law the Water Resources Board is to devise a process by which to designate those wetlands which are so significant that they merit protection by the state. The Department is presently working on policies and rules with the Water Resources Board with the goal of designating wetlands for public consideration.

In view of this on-going process we would prefer leaving time for the Board and the public to make their preferences known about which wetlands they consider to be significant, rather than for the Department to prejudge this process. When the designation process is complete this information may further your work on advanced identification of important wetlands.

It is also our feeling that sites should not be designated pursuant to the process which you describe without an opportunity for the public in the area of concern to formally comment on your proposals. If you feel it is necessary to designate sites in Vermont in advance of actions by the Water Resources Board we will assist you in identifying parties who should be contacted as part of a public hearing notification process.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your work.

Sincerely,


David L. Clough, Director
Water Quality Division

DIC/SBS/vjb

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- Barrington River, RI (p. 97)
- Bauer Pond, CT (p. 8)
- Belle Isle Marsh, MA (p. 62)
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