

BULKLEY FALLS INVESTIGATION REPORT

On June 18th 1949 Inspector Elliott accompanied the writer to the Bulkley falls on Bulkley River. The purpose of the investigation was to give an engineers report on the conditions which exist at the falls and to determine whether or not it would be feasible to improve them.

The Bulkley Falls occur at mile $63\frac{1}{2}$ on the C.N.R. track measured west from Endaco. They are about nine miles below the Bulkley Lake.

There are two channels at the falls which form a large island as shown on the accompanying sketch. The total fall of water at the falls is 15 feet over a distance of 100 feet. The South West channel is the main channel and varies in width from 20 to 30 feet at the island. The North East channel is approximately 10 feet wide, and it is this channel which would be an ideal location for a fish ladder. This channel could be improved by cutting a series of steps and building up pools in the rock bed. The flow in the North East channel would have to be increased during low water, as Inspector Elliott informs the writer that this channel dries up during low water, when the fish are in the river. This could be remedied by cutting the channel back at the top of the falls and installing stop logs to control the flow of water. The accompanying sketch gives an approximate idea of the conditions existing at the falls.

(see also
photos
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During the spring flood this year the water backed up at the falls and flooded part of C.N.R. tracks and it would be in their interest also to have these falls improved.

Large numbers of Coho, Spring, and Sockeye salmon used to frequent this part of the Bulkley River according to spawning reports, but during the last few years the runs have dropped off considerably. Spring salmon ascend the falls and Coho can when the water is fairly high.

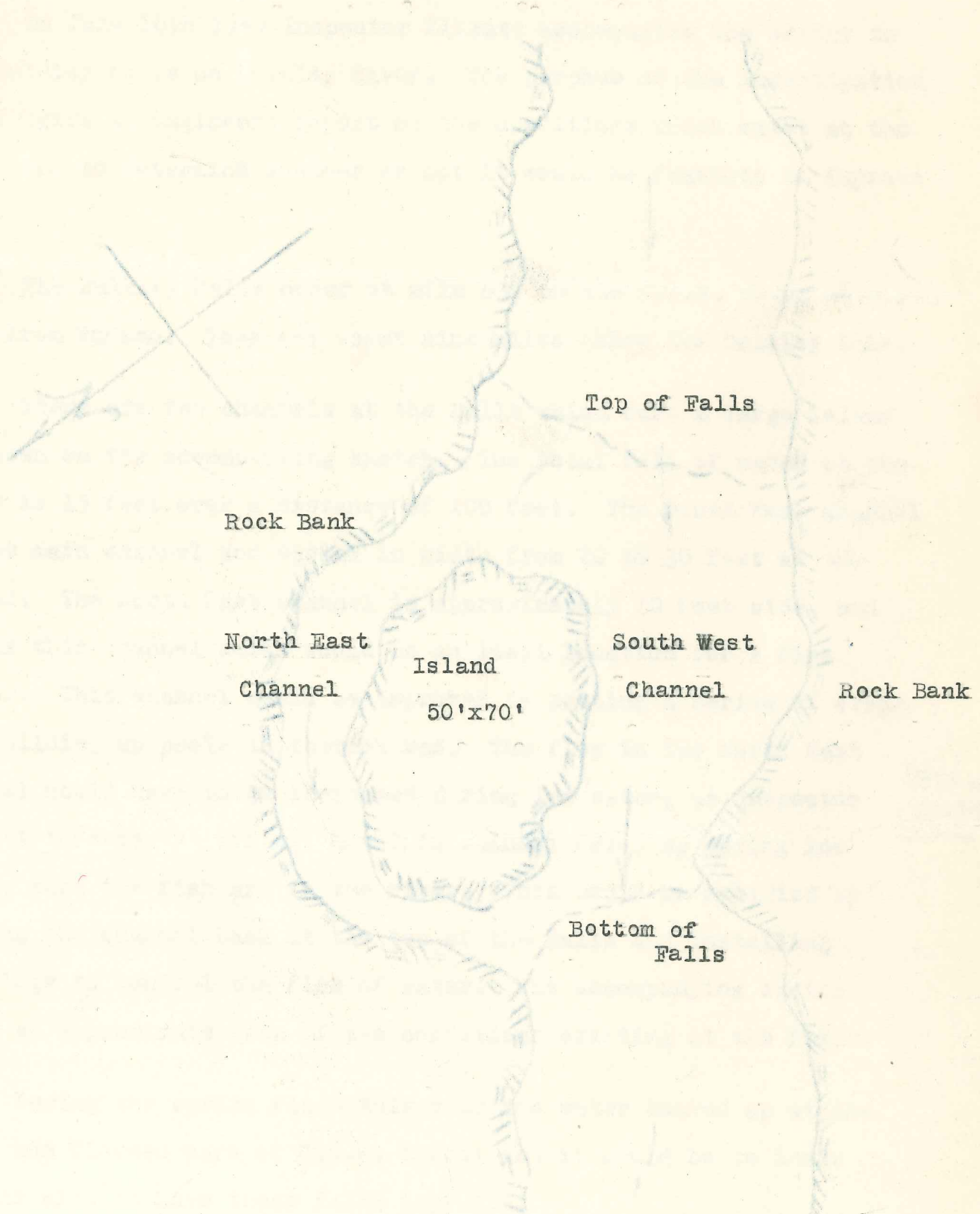
Inspector Elliott informed the writer that there is a large number of log jams on the Bulkley River above and below the falls and it may be these jams which are hindering the fish and preventing them from reaching the falls.

In conjunction with work at the Moricetown falls, improvement of the Bulkley falls would enable the salmon to reach the Bulkley Lake, and from there into the Maxam River and Lake. There is approximately nine miles of Spawning beds between Bulkley Falls and Bulkley Lake, and about seven miles of spawning beds in the Maxam River.

Jack B. Dyson
Junior Engineer

SKETCH MAP OF BULKLEY FALLS
(mile 63½ C.N.R.)

Scale:- 1"-30 ft.(Approx)



Top of Falls

Rock Bank

North East
Channel

Island
50'x70'

South West
Channel

Rock Bank

Bottom of
Falls