

SKOKOMISH RIVER AND ANNAS BAY Setting

The Skokomish River flows from the Olympic Mountains into the southern part of the Hood Canal, discharging there through two main distributary channels. The lower Skokomish valley and delta are within the Skokomish Indian Reservation and are relatively undeveloped. The delta is used mainly for agriculture. The seaward tidelands include seal-hauling (resting) areas.

Shoreline and Wetland Changes

At the time the 1884 map was prepared the Skokomish delta was shown as marsh enclosed by forested upland. Patterns on the historical map that indicate parcels of cleared agricultural land are the only evidence of manmade change predating the early mapping. The shoreline configuration shown by the 1952 topographic map is similar to the shoreline of 1884 along most of the delta.

Although dikes are not shown on the 1952 topographic map, some diking apparently was begun about 1928 (Droker, written commun., 1978). Aerial photographs taken in 1975 show about one-third of the former marsh has been developed for agriculture; in the process, some of the natural sloughs were enclosed and filled, and others became ponds.

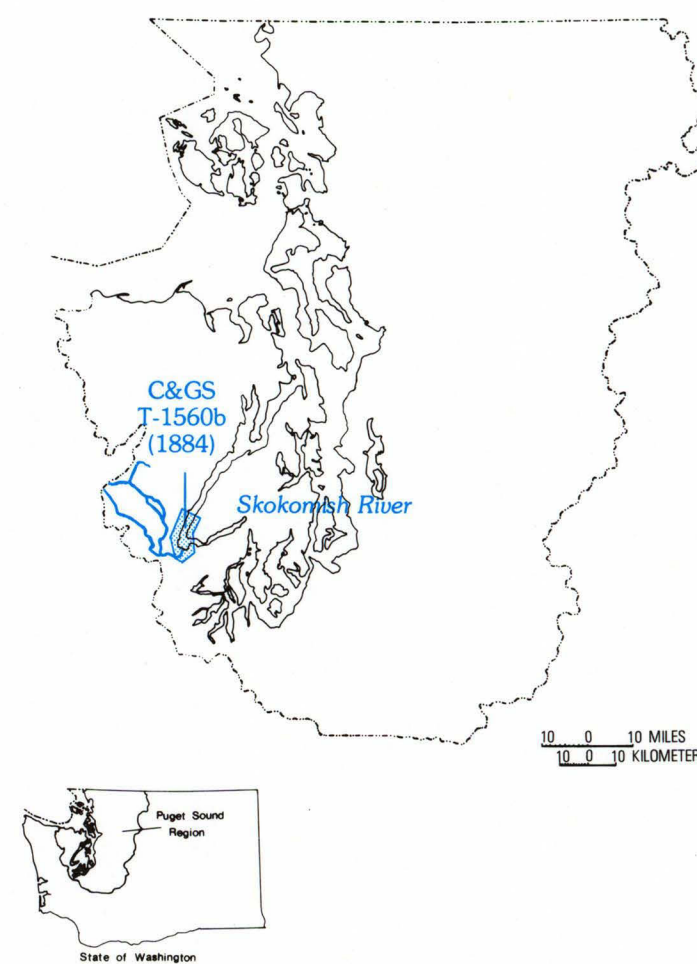
Compilation of Map

The 1884 topographic survey (T-1560b) was the source for the historical map information. The most recent U.S. Geological Survey topographic map suitable as a base map was the 1952 Potlatch quadrangle, at a scale of 1:62,500. Control for data transfer was mainly agreement of major topographic features along the east and west hillsides of the Skokomish valley. The only cultural feature used to provide control was an old road along the east bank of the river, assumed to correspond to the route of present day Highway 14.

| Symbols for historical map | Features | Symbols for present-day map |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| | Shoreline | |
| | Mean lower low-water line | |
| | Boundaries for agricultural plots | |
| | Subaerial wetland (salt-water or fresh-water marsh) | |
| | Intertidal wetland | |
| | Forested upland | |

Summary of Environmental Changes and Some Planning Considerations

| | |
|---|--|
| Progradation (seaward advance of shoreline) | Minor progradation has occurred near the river mouth. Probably about the same as the amount of recession elsewhere nearby. |
| Recession (landward retreat of shoreline) | Minor shoreline recession has occurred near the river mouth. |
| Channel migration | None apparent. |
| Channel straightening | None apparent. |
| Diking or substantial filling of subaerial delta land near salt-water shoreline | Dikes have been built on the eastern half of the subaerial delta land. |
| Diking or substantial filling near stream banks | Dikes have been built along the banks of the distributary channels. |
| Other artificial landfill on subaerial delta land | None apparent. |
| Landfill on intertidal delta land | None apparent. |
| Loss of subaerial wetland | None apparent. |
| Loss of intertidal wetland | Some. The present-day intertidal area is about 0.5 sq km less than that mapped in 1884. |
| Some planning considerations | The delta is in a relatively natural state, especially the western half. The remaining wetland and unmodified shoreline, if managed properly, can retain the benefits of valuable fish and wildlife habitat. |



SOURCE MAPS FOR COMPILATION OF HISTORICAL SHORELINE AND LOCATION OF RIVER-MOUTH DELTA

HISTORICAL CHANGES OF SHORELINE AND WETLAND AT SKOKOMISH RIVER AND ANNAS BAY, WASHINGTON

By

G. C. Bortleson, M. J. Chrzastowski, and A. K. Helgerson

1980