

Town of Milbridge Shellfish Management Plan

This Shellfish Management Plan is a working document, which sole purpose is to act as a guide for the action, policy and regulations concerning the sustainable management of the shellfish resource in the mudflats and waters within the jurisdiction of the Town of Milbridge.

This document also addresses the concerns for water quality control of non-point source pollutants along with state laws concerning the conservation of shellfish in the state of Maine.

Section One: Regulations and Management Actions

A. Minimum size of Clams:

1. It is unlawful for any person to possess soft-shell clams within the Town of Milbridge that are less than 2" inches in the longest diameter except as provided by sub section 2 of this management plan
2. Any person may possess soft-shell clams that are less than 2" inches if they comprise less than 10% of any lot. The tolerance shall be determined by numerical count of not less than one peck of the entire lot if it contains less than one peck.

Terms

"Lot" the word lot used in this section, means the total number of soft-shell clams in any bulk pile. Where soft-shell clams are in a box or other container the contents of each box, barrel or container constitutes separate lot.

"Possess" for the purpose of this section possess means dig, take, harvest, ship, transport, hold, buy and sell retail and wholesale soft shell clam shell stock.

** Regulations for size limits for the shellfish management plan are in compliance with the Town of Milbridge Shellfish Ordinance and Maine Marine Resource Laws 6681. **

B. Time Of Harvest:

1. There is no set time schedule for clam harvest, but for night digging, no artificial light will be permitted.

C. Amount of Clams Harvested:

Set limits on shellfish licenses can be estimated by using average daily yields per digger, the amount of clams available in the town's flats and dividing them into daily allotments. The number of licenses to be issued is determined by dividing the number of daily allotments by the average number of days a harvester digs.

There are four types of licenses that can be purchased they are:

Resident Commercial License: This license is available to the residents of Milbridge and entitles the holder to dig and take any amount of shellfish from the shores and flats of this Municipality.

Resident Recreational License: This License is available to the residents and real estate taxpayers of this Municipality and entitles the holder to dig and take no more than one peck of shellfish in any day for the use of himself/herself or his/her family.

Non Resident Commercial License: This License is available to non-residents of this Municipality and entitles the holder to dig and take any amount of shellfish from the shore and flats of this Municipality.

Non Resident Recreational License: This License is available to any person not a resident of this Municipality and entitles the holder to dig and take no more than one peck of shellfish in any one day for the use of himself/herself or his/her family.

License must be signed in order to be valid

D. Clam License Types and Fees

- **Commercial:**

Resident Commercial \$50.00

Non Resident Commercial \$100.00

- **Recreational:**

Resident Recreational \$25.00

Non Resident Recreational \$ 50.00

**Licenses are issued by the Town Clerk or designee for a fee of \$1.00. All fees received for shellfish licenses shall be used by the town for shellfish management, conservation and enforcement. **

Section 2: Conservation Activities

A. Annual Estimate of Clam Populations on all flats within the jurisdiction of the ordinance and plan.

1. Different size clams per unit of area

"Market Size" "Seed" "Young of the Year"

2. Estimate the clam density of number of different size clams per unit of area

" HIGH" "MEDIUM" "LOW"

3. Growth rate estimated for each flat

"BEST" "GOOD" "AVERAGE"

4. Record Landings flat by flat from warden's report during the season.

B. Population Density Analysis

A Clam population Survey can measure population density.

Step One:

For all plots count and record the total number of clams in each size range. Pace off 100Ft. or distance between each plot, dig and collect

samples in a bucket. Keep track of and record the total number of samples taken.

Set Two:

Calculate the total number of clams removed in the entire survey.

Calculate the percentage of each size class represented "market" "seed" "young of the year".

The total number in one size class is to be divided by the total number of clams by 100.

To Calculate the Density of Commercial size crops:

Add density estimates for all plots and divide by the total number of plots to obtain the average density

(bushels per acre) of commercial size clams in the survey area.

C. Opening and Closing of Flats

Purpose:

1. Flats may be opened or closed for claming based on the need to provide seasonal (summer and winter) claming opportunities within this management plan.
2. Conservation areas will be established to enhance and protect clam populations on specific flats.
3. Openings and closing to harvest will be determined by the Shellfish Management Committee in conjunction with the Board of Selectmen to

spread harvesting efforts throughout the management area and to avoid concentrating efforts of harvesting in specific areas.

4. Public notice of openings and closing of flats will be done as described under Re-seeding (below).

D. Re-Seeding:

1. Survey clam populations should be done in some way to determine which flats to seed and to determine when harvest should be allowed on those specific flats. Public notice should be given at the town hall and in public newspapers.

Section 3: Water Quality

A healthy clam fishery depends on an "opened" or "approved" classification on as much of the clam flat acreage within the Town of Milbridge as possible.

To achieve the goals of getting all the flats approved for safe harvest by the (DMR) Department of Marine Resources the Shellfish Management Committee shall establish priority water quality areas for work during the coming year.

Work to get these flats approved will be coordinated with the DMR and Municipal Officials.

Mandatory Closures

Sawyers brook

The Shellfish Warden will present a report on water quality issues to the Shellfish Committee and the Town Manager, which will include the annual report from the DMR water quality laboratory and any alerts on "Troubled Areas" within Milbridge.

The DMR can set up a volunteer program for water quality testing to assist with the warden's duties.

Section 5: Changes in the Shellfish Management Plan

1. Initiation:

A proposal for change to this management plan may be initiated by the following:

- A. A recommendation of the Shellfish Management Committee
- B. A recommendation of the Board Of Selectmen

2. Municipal Review:

Any proposal for a change to this Management Plan shall be made in writing to the Shellfish Management Committee or to the Board of Selectmen, stating the specific changes requested. Requests presented to the Board of Selectmen shall be reviewed by the Shellfish Committee for a recommendation.

Areas of concern for the Town of Milbridge

I. The Reasons for Closures

The reason for the State Closures of the clam-flats in Milbridge is due to a bacterium often referred to as fecal coliform or E. coli. The presence of fecal coliforms in the water indicates recent fecal pollution by animals or man, and the possible presence of other disease causing organisms that may potentially infect those that come into contact with the water or contaminated shellfish.

In urban areas, major sources of pollution are combined sewer overflows, sewage treatment plant bypasses, sewage treatment plant effluent, runoff from urban streets and rural areas from animal sources, illegal sewer hookups, and malfunctioning septic systems.

II. The Health Risks of Bacterium Contamination

The health risks of bacterial contamination can result in a number of different infections. Drinking, consumption of contaminated foods or swimming in bacterial contaminated water can result in infections of the ears, eyes, nose, and throat. From studies done on bacteria contaminated water, fecal coliform concentrations of 200 cfu's (colony forming units) per 100 mL would cause 8 illnesses per 100 swimmers in fresh water streams. Drinking water guidelines suggest that there should not contain more than 10 cfu's per 100 mL of water.

III. Areas of concern for the Town of Milbridge

I have found over this past summer areas in the Town of Milbridge that needs immediate attention. They are as follows:

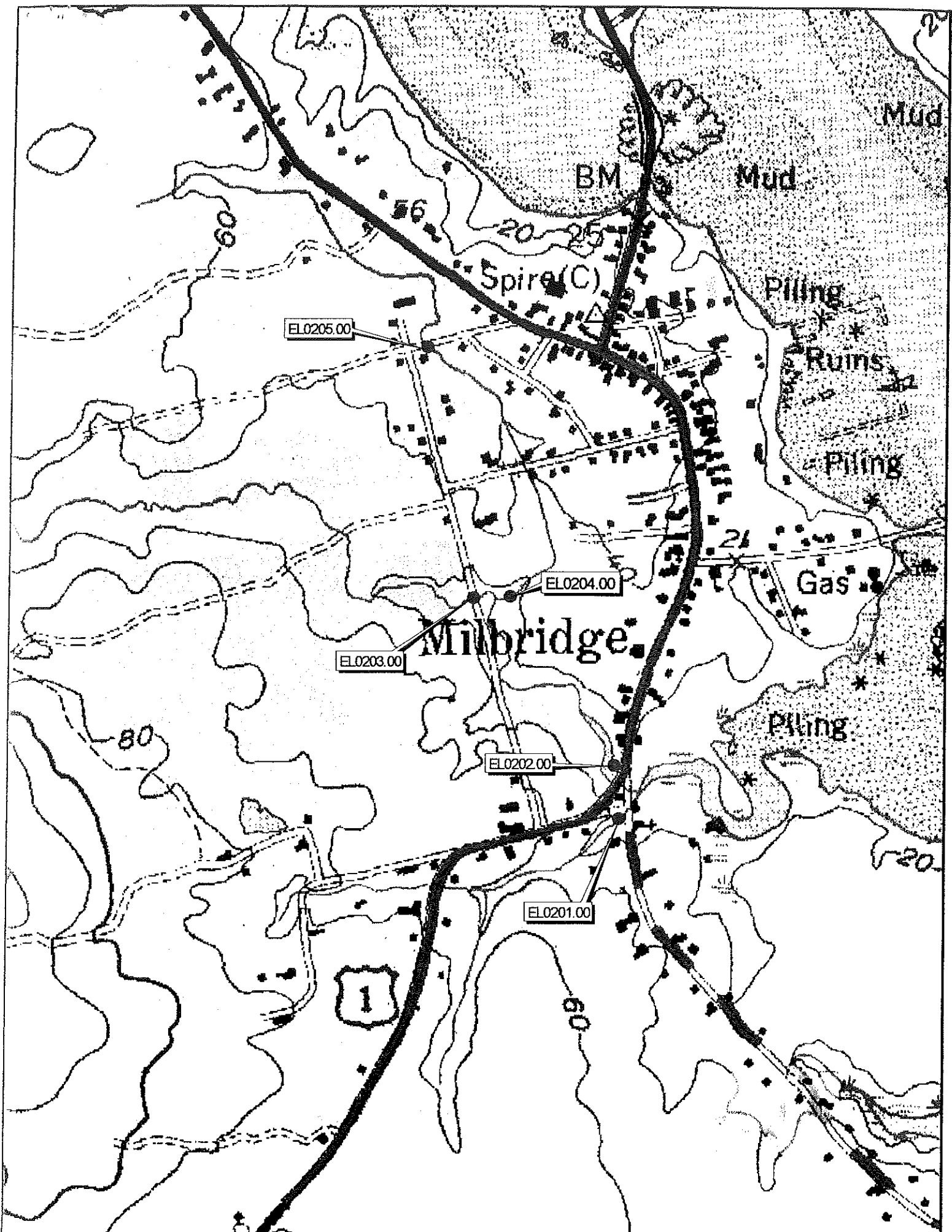
1. The first site is along Washington Street. There are two sites in this location, the first is Sawyers Brook right at the bridge (203.00) and the second is about twenty feet along the bank of the brook on the left side, it is a small tributary that drains in to the brook (204.00). *These sites are listed as 203.00 and 204.00 on the town map and tracking history.*
2. The second site is located on the left side of Route One right at the bridge. There is a storm drain that flows into the mouth of Sawyers Brook. This site is 202.00 on the town map.
3. The third site is across from the triangle on Route One. This is a small brook that flows into the Narraguagus. It is located on the town map as 201.00.
4. Sites 148.20, 148.23 and 149.10 are found at the Wymans Rd. and Factory rd. intersection. 149.10 is located on the flat.
5. The fourth group of sites are located off of Tom Leighton Point Rd. and were monitored by the DMR. Failing septic systems were located and reported.

All testing sites have found high levels of coliform that are leaching to the mudflats along the coast of Milbridge.

Failing septic tanks were found along Cottage Street and Wymans Road. These locations were reported to the Town Manager and to the DMR.

IV. Positive Outlook for Milbridge

Corrections to the areas found with failing septic tanks can lead to possible reopening of Mitchell's and Turners Cove, also Milbridge Elementary School would be willing to help with the water quality testing sometime in the near future. With the help of volunteers and the Department of Marine Resource (DMR) water quality can be monitored on a regular basis and help correct the "troubled areas" in the Town of Milbridge.



Mud

BM

Mud

Spire (C)

Piling

EL.0205.00

Ruins

Piling

EL.0204.00

Gas

Milbridge

EL.0203.00

Piling

EL.0202.00

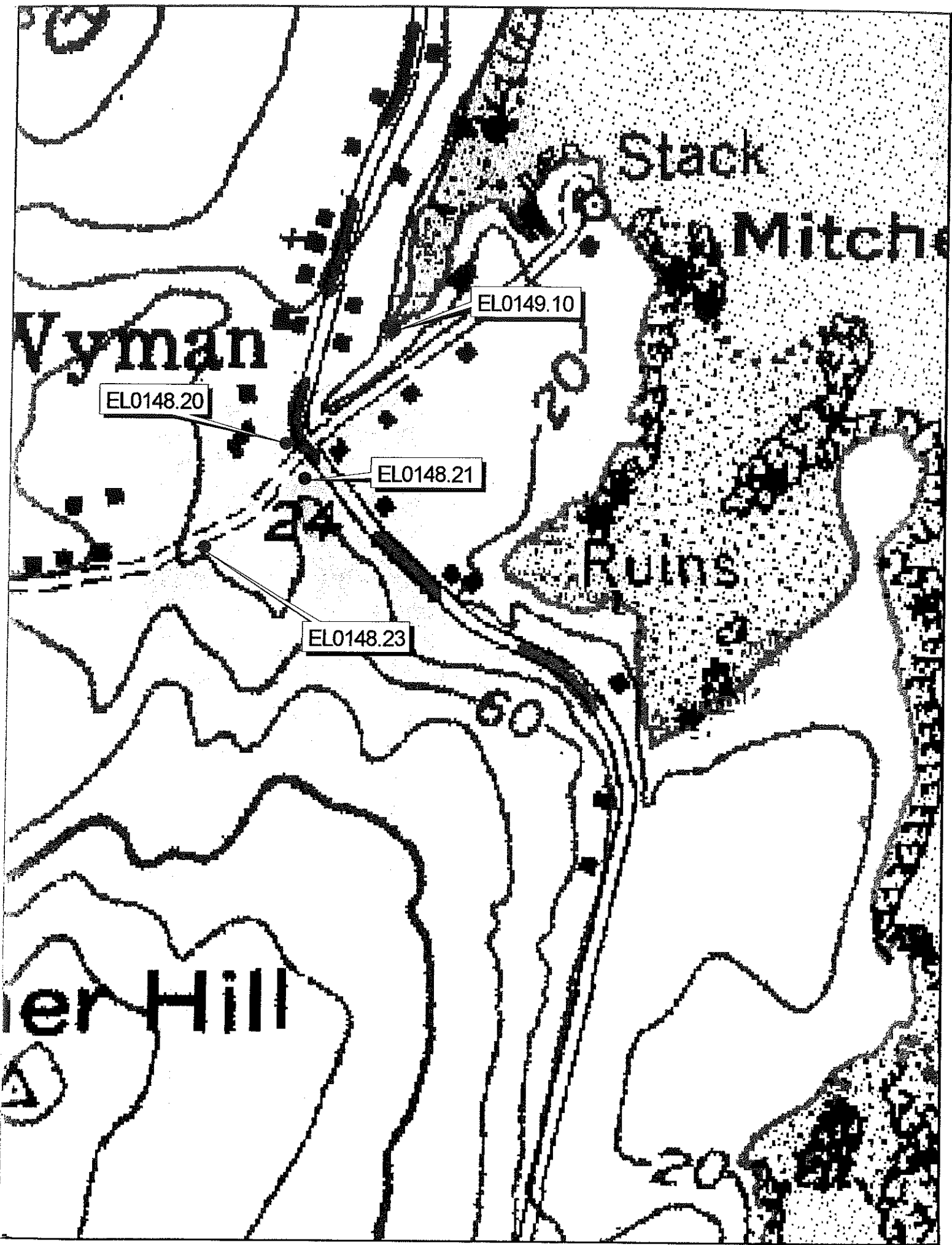
80

EL.0201.00

1

60

R-20



EL0148.20

EL0149.10

EL0148.21

EL0148.23

Stack

Mitch

Vyman

Ruins

er Hill

Stream Samples

DMR_ID	COLDATE	CONDITION	FLOW RATE	AICOL
EL0148.20	3/21/01	M	300	1100
Tributary that parallels dead end side road.				
EL0148.20	5/29/01	M	5	2.9
EL0148.20	6/5/01	L	10	23
EL0148.20	6/12/01		8	3.6
EL0148.20	6/19/01	M	12	15
EL0148.20	7/10/01		8	110
heavy sediment				
EL0148.21	6/12/01		0.5	3.6
EL0148.21	6/19/01	M	5	3.6
EL0148.21	7/10/01		0.5	7.3
EL0148.23	5/29/01	M	10	2.9
EL0148.23	6/5/01	L	30	3.6
EL0148.23	6/12/01		25	2.9
EL0148.23	6/19/01	M		31.4
EL0148.23	7/10/01		10	23
EL0149.10	6/13/95	M	30	93
Wyman Cv.				
EL0149.10	10/26/98	L	50	1100
EL0149.10	3/19/01	M	100	1200
EL0149.10	3/21/01	M	150	93
EL0201.00	3/21/01	M	400	460
EL0201.00	5/29/01	M	40	150
EL0201.00	6/5/01	L	70	150
EL0201.00	6/12/01		60	460
EL0201.00	6/19/01	M	40	93
EL0201.00	7/10/01		100	240
EL0202.00	3/19/01	M	200	240
From the culvert just upstream of the triangle.				
EL0202.00	3/21/01	M	150	93
EL0202.00	5/29/01	M	10	460
EL0202.00	6/5/01	L	40	43
EL0202.00	6/12/01		7	240
EL0202.00	6/19/01	M	9	240
EL0202.00	7/10/01			240
EL0202.00	9/25/01		15	1100
EL0203.00	3/21/01	M	1000	93

Stream Samples

DMR_ID	COLDATE	CONDITION	FLOW RATE	AICOL
EL0203.00	5/29/01	M	50	240
EL0203.00	6/5/01	L	100	43
EL0203.00	6/12/01		80	43
EL0203.00	6/19/01	M	80	23
EL0203.00	7/10/01		70	150
EL0203.00	9/25/01		20	93
EL0204.00	3/21/01	M	100	1200
EL0204.00	5/29/01	M	8	93
EL0204.00	6/5/01	L	10	93
EL0204.00	6/12/01		5	1200
EL0204.00	6/19/01	M	9	460
EL0204.00	7/10/01		7	1100
EL0204.00	9/25/01		0.5	43