

Ossokmanuan and Smallwood Reservoirs (George River access from Trans-Labrador Highway)

Introduction

The George River was (re)named in 1811 by two Moravian missionaries Benjamin Gottlieb Kohlmeister and George Kmoch. The Moravian Church (its members known as Hussites - followers of Jan Hus) was founded in the fifteenth century Bohemia (currently the Czech Republic). These two missionaries came first to Labrador, then to Ungava Bay with a vision to evangelize the Inuit. They wrote in their diary: "We then proclaimed the name of the Kangertlualuksoak henceforth to be 'George River' ". The Moravian brothers wanted to honour George III, king of Great Britain and Ireland from 1760. It was under his reign that the United States got their independence. The George River is also called "Kangirsualujjuap Kuunga" (river of the great bay) in Inuktitut, or "Mushuan Shipu" (River without trees) in Naskapi and "Metsheshu Shipu" (Eagle River) in Innu.

The George is a big, wide river. Compared to other major rivers of this area, it offers relatively easy and inexpensive access to Ungava Bay, hence its popularity. The George originates about 175 kilometres east of Schefferville in Lac Janniere, between bogs and swamps. The headwater lakes are shallow, connected by rushing rapids. After Lake Advance, the river runs through heavy whitewater until it reaches beautiful Indian House Lake, which stretches 60 km if measured by Canadian topo maps, or 100 km if measured by its flatwater character. After Indian House Lake, the George really starts to flow. It offers an abundance of rapids with various levels of difficulty until it reaches Kangiqsualujjuap close to Ungava Bay. Because of its easy access, many people without the necessary experience and skills have travelled this river and unfortunately lost their lives. The river is big and powerful - the french word "Fleuve", also used to describe the St. Lawrence, describes it's character better than the word "Riviere". The power of the George leaves no room for error. Climatic conditions are ideal for hypothermia. Canoeists have to contend also with serious tidal effects in the last 40 km.

Words of Caution

These maps are based on the notes of Philip Schubert (2008). The author of these maps did his job according to the information provided, but he has not paddled these waters himself. There is no guarantee that these maps do not contain numerous errors. Use the information provided here with caution. YOU are the only one responsible for your own decisions and for your own safety. The area described here is wild and very remote. Weather can be also very tough. Nobody is taking any responsibility for the information provided here or for your safety.

Distances

The distance on these maps is calculated from Kangiqsualujjuap, an Inuit village at the end of the George River.

Credits

Source

Philip Schubert (2008)

Base Topographic Maps

Copyright Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, Department of Natural Resources. All rights reserved.

Map work/Text

Lester Kovac, summer 2008

Charles Leduc, fall 2008 (formatting)

Distribution

Authorized, provided the content remains unchanged and the distribution is done free of charge. Available from www.cartespleinair.org.

Map 1
WGS 1984
20U

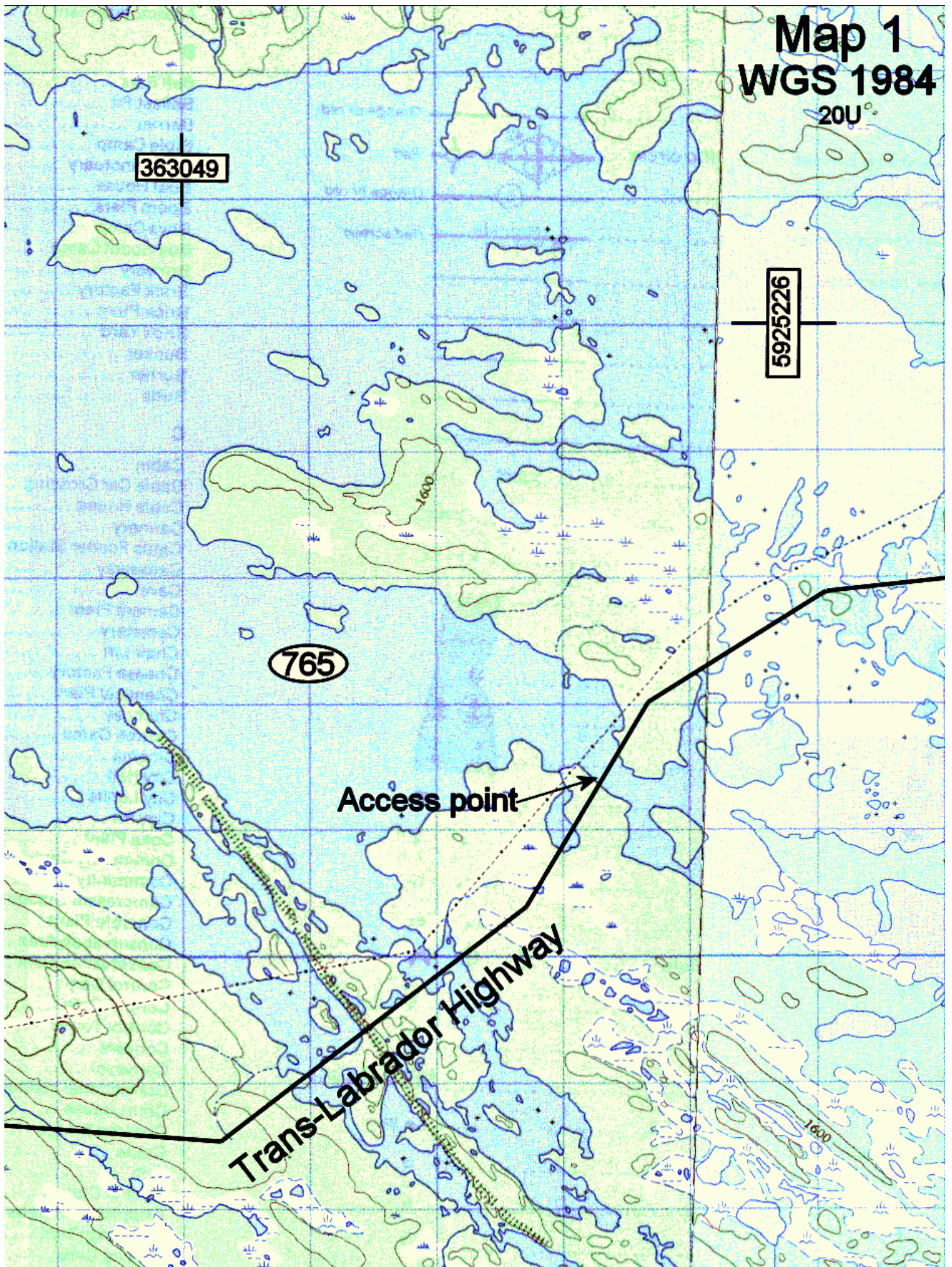
363049

5925226

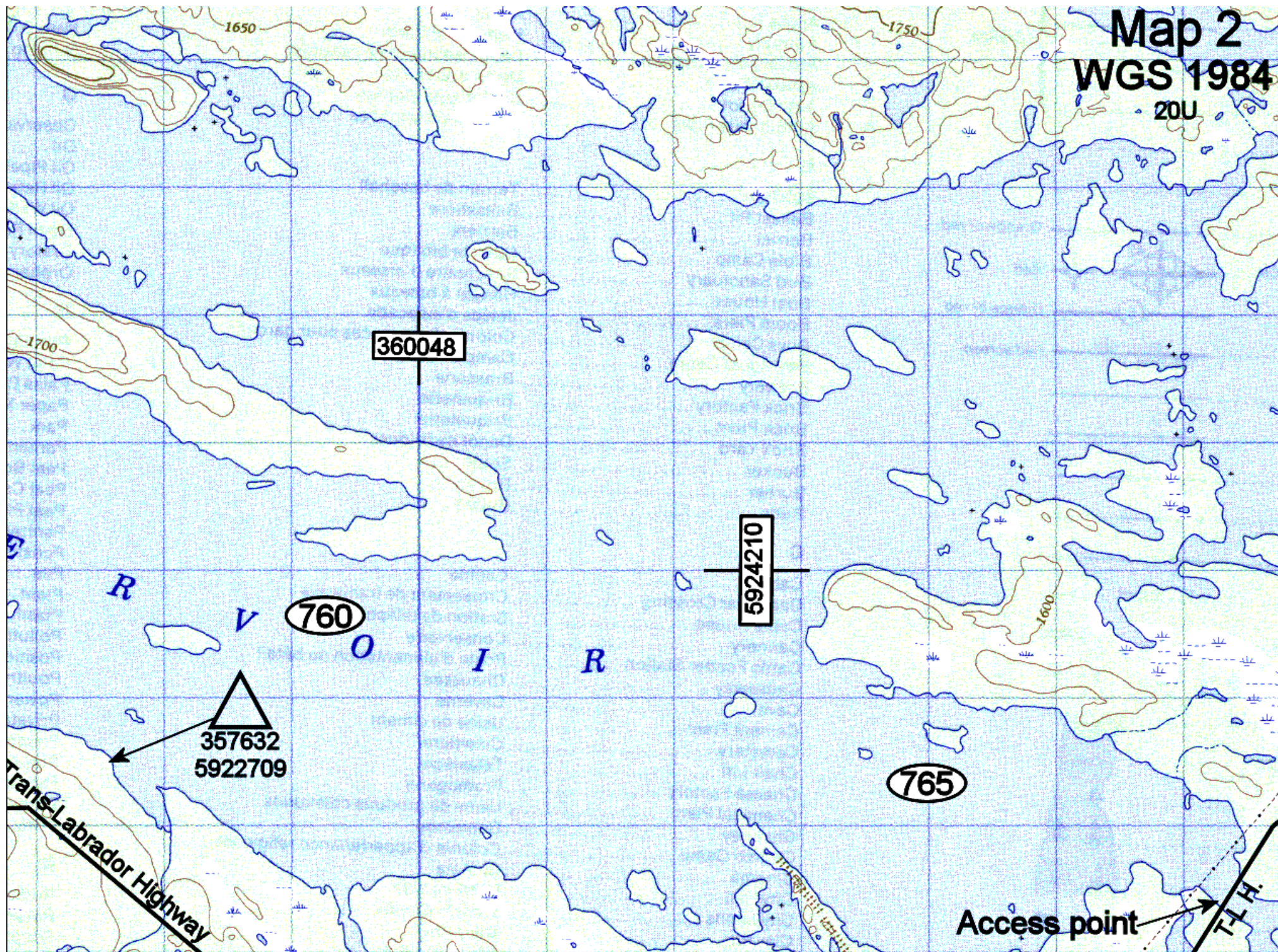
765

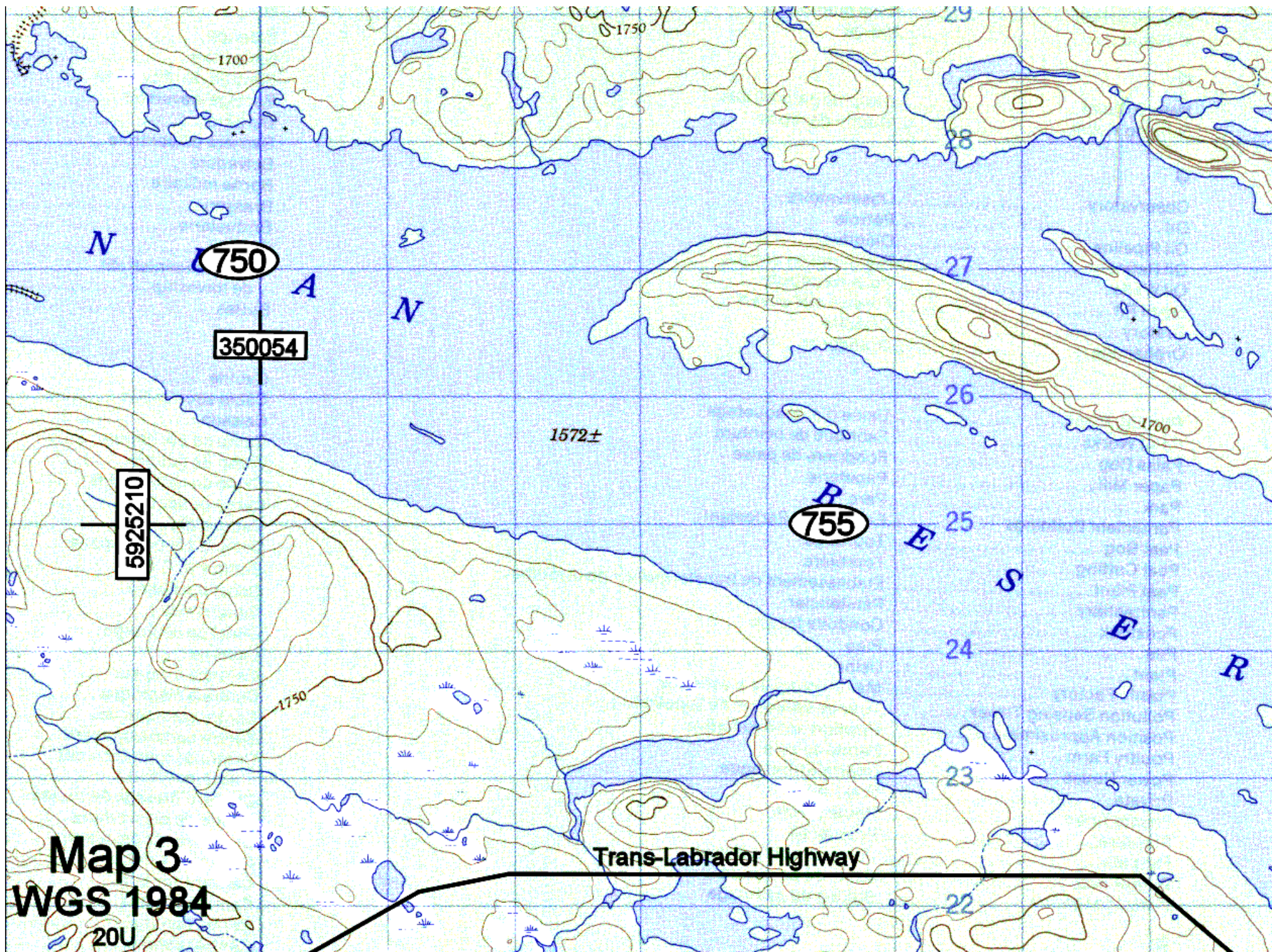
Access point

Trans-Labrador Highway



Map 2
WGS 1984
20U







Map 4
WGS 1984
20U

Map 5
WGS 1984
20U



715

350070

720

348070
5951117

5950229

O S S 725 M A N U A N

Map 6
WGS 1984

730

20U

LQ

Map 7 WGS 1984

20U

5970232

340053

690

695

700

705

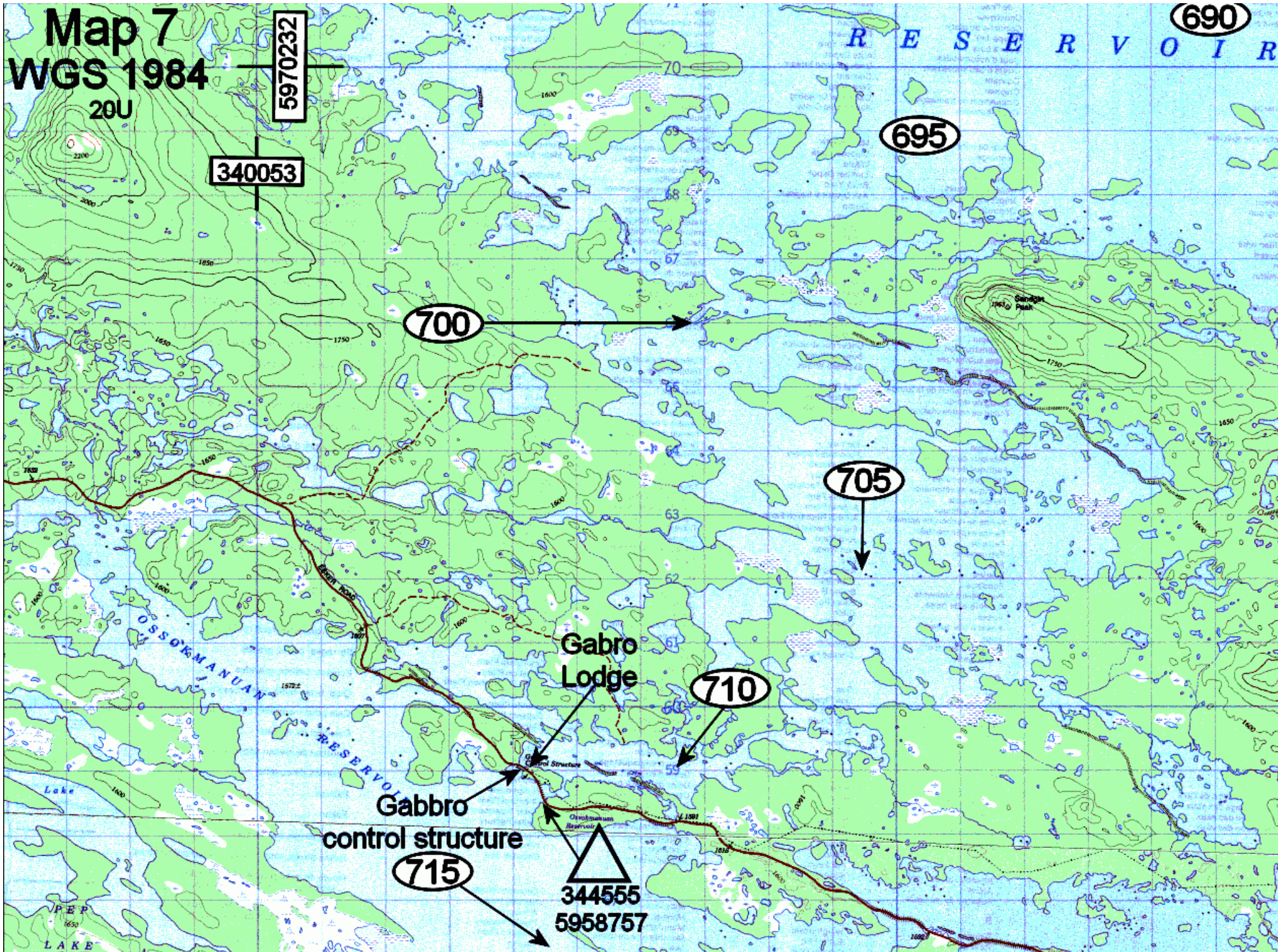
710

Gabro
Lodge

Gabbro
control structure

715

344555
5958757



Map 8 WGS 1984 20U



Map 9
WGS 1984
20U

5980225

S M A L L W O O D

R E S E R V O I R

380059

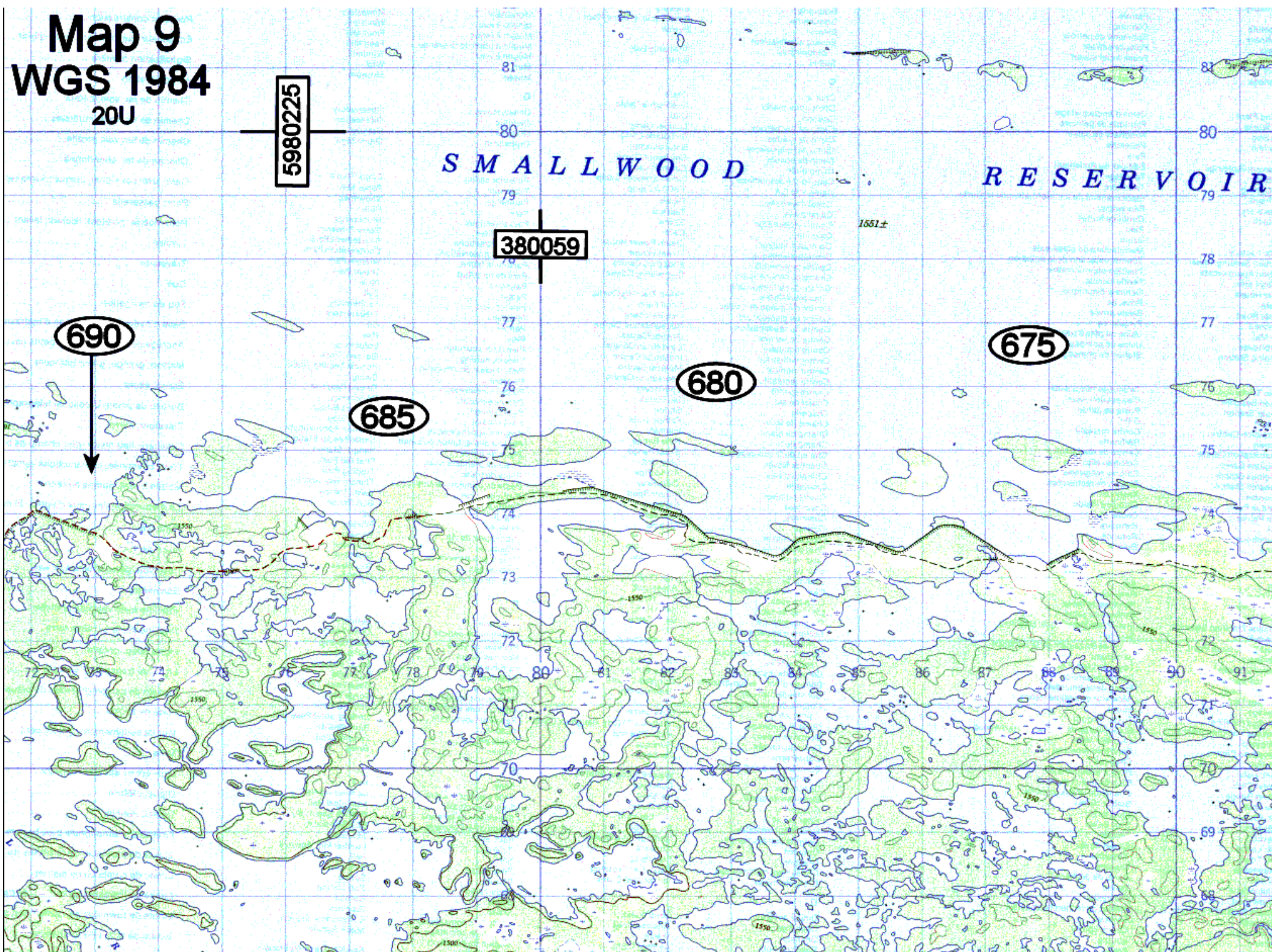
1551±

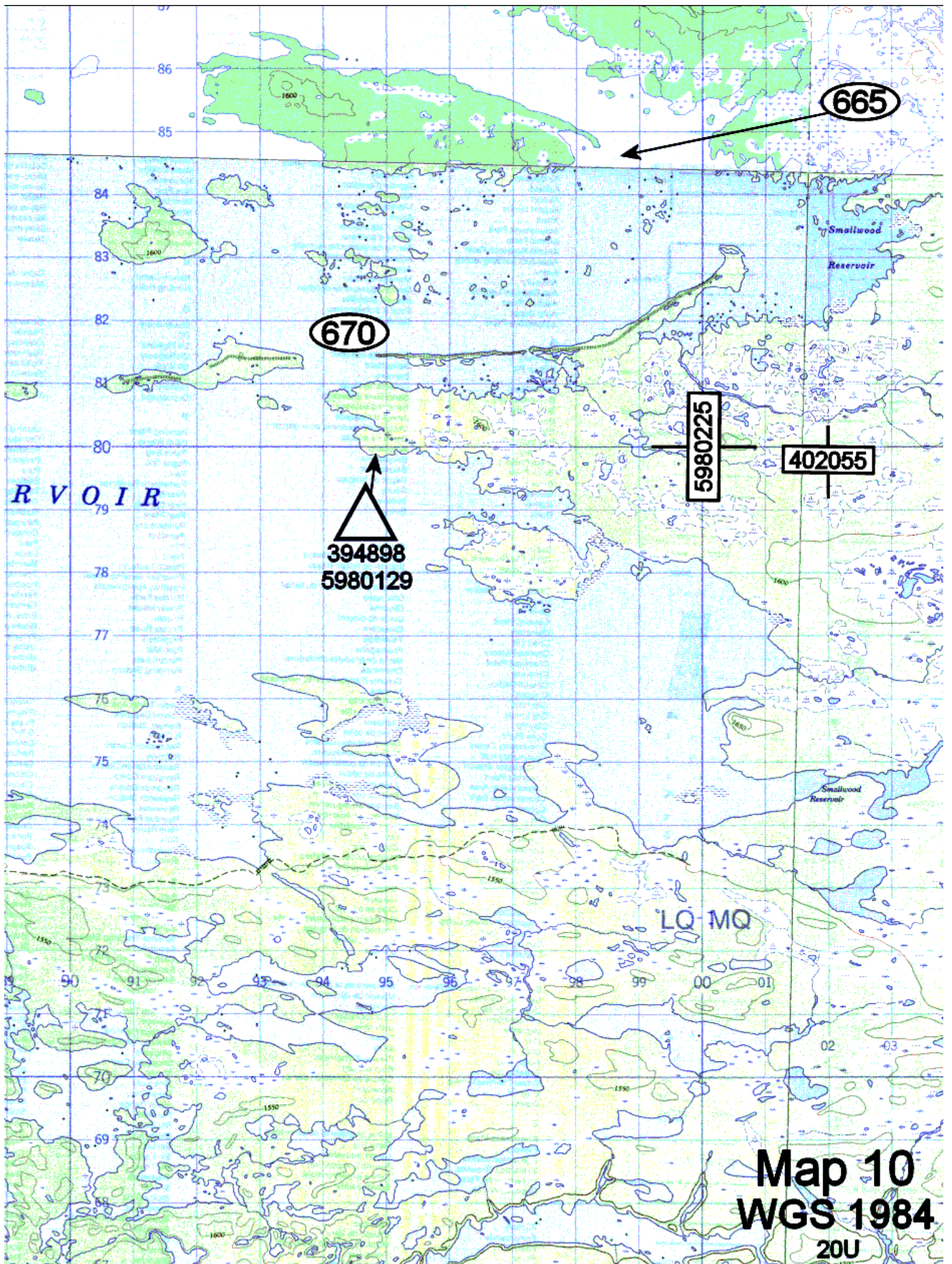
690

675

685

680



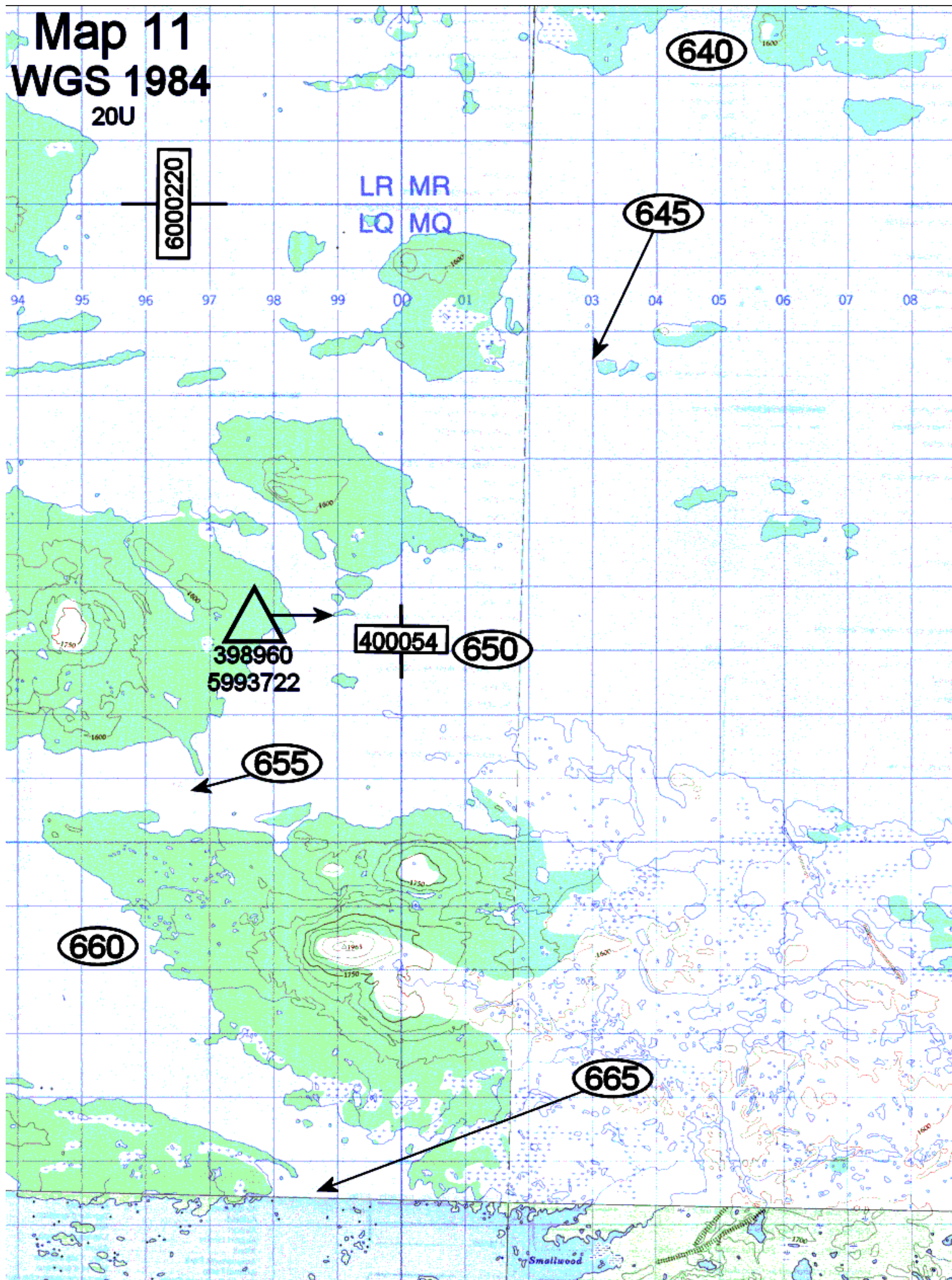


Map 10
WGS 1984
20U

Map 11

WGS 1984

20U



620

625

6012213

630

635

640

Map 13

WGS 1984

20U

600

605

610

615

410056

6030216

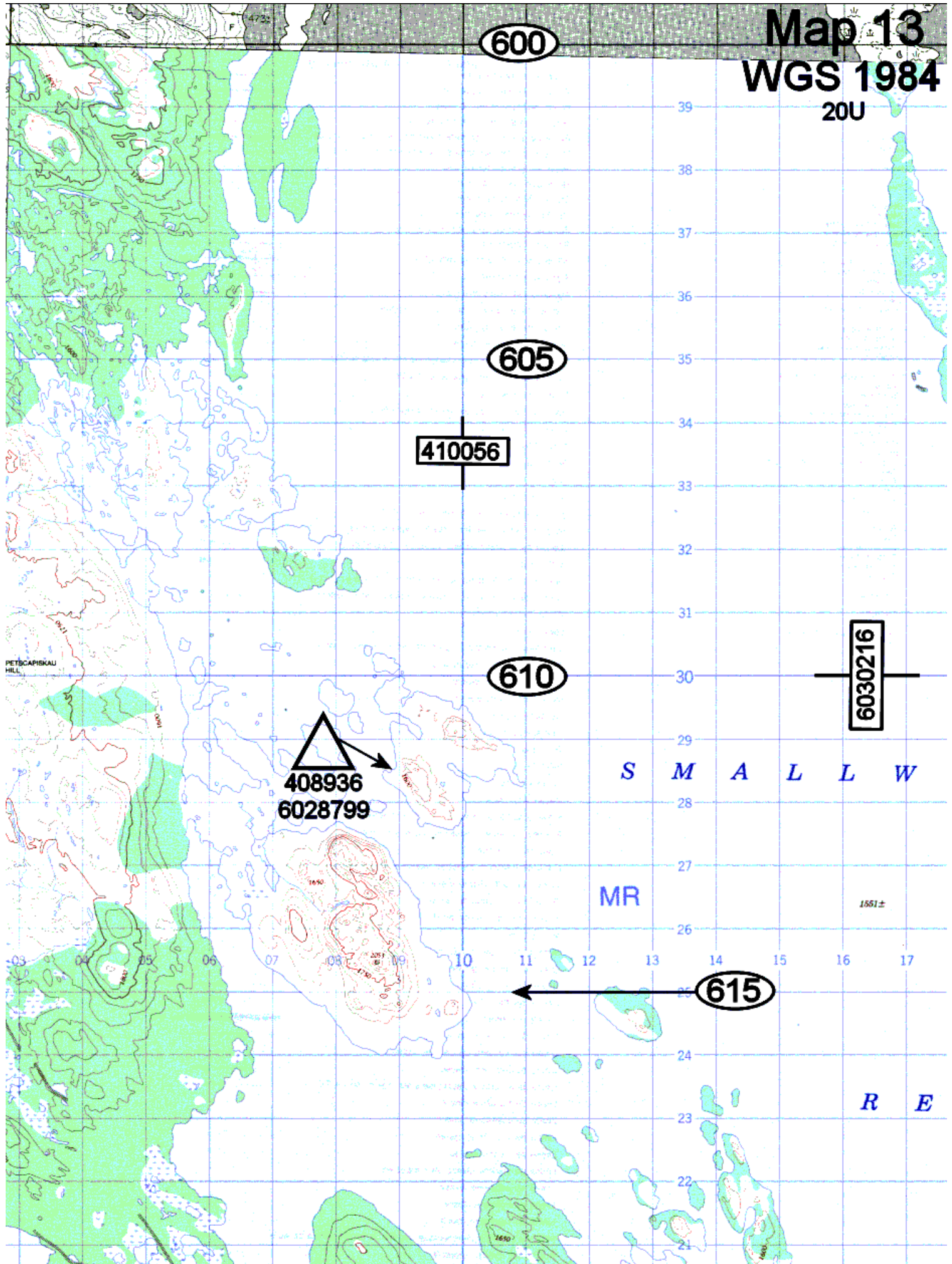
408936
6028799

S M A L L W

MR

1551±

R E



Map 14
WGS 1984
20U

Michikamats
Lake

6045200

595

very shallow area,
against the current

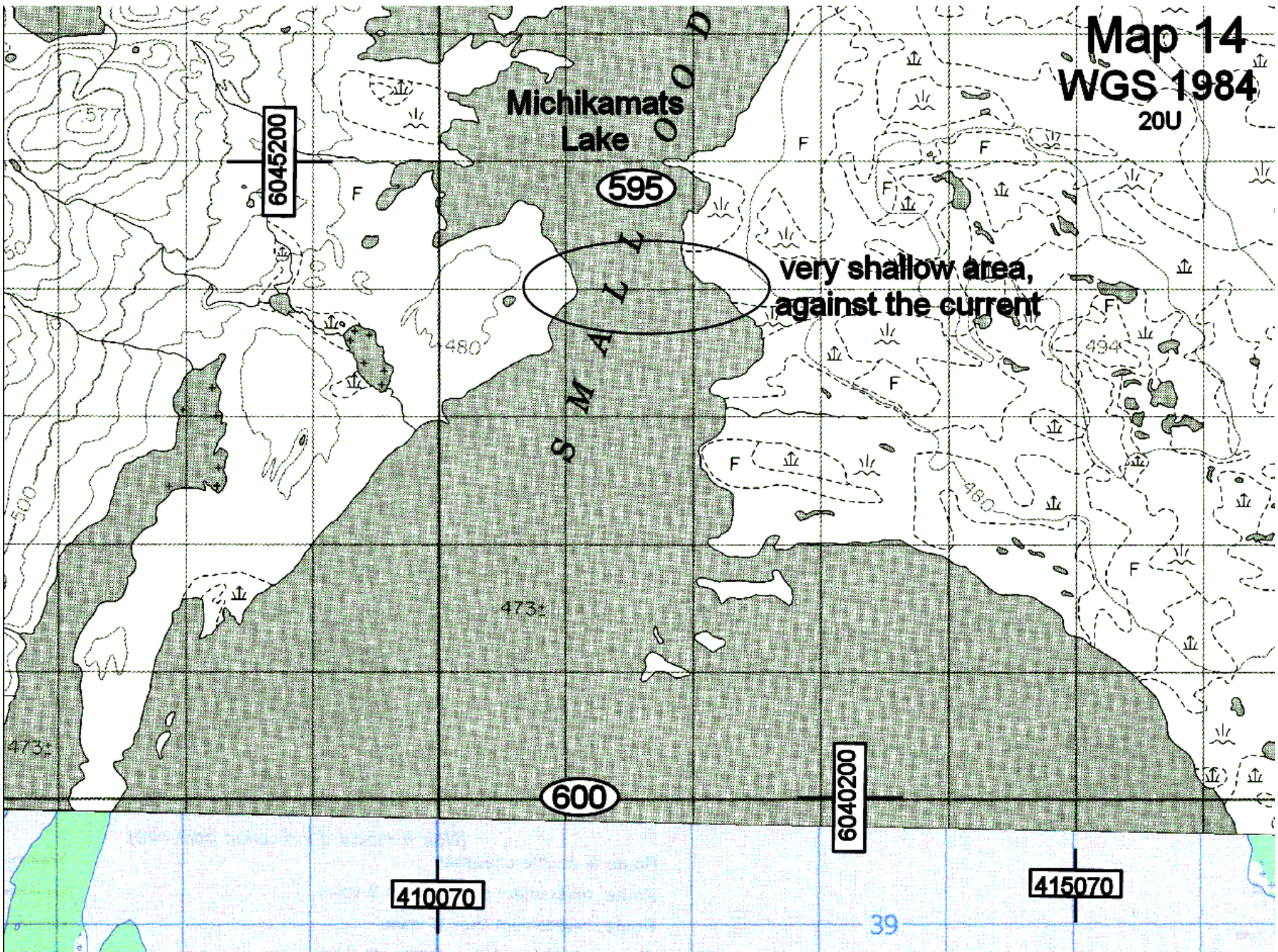
600

6040200

410070

415070

39



Map of the historic Ossokmanuan, Lobstick and Michikamau Lakes (now covered up by the Churchill Falls Hydro Project) and route to Michikamats Lake. The canoe route then continues to the George River and eventually to Ungava Bay. Note that the Ossokmanuan and Smallwood Reservoirs have been superimposed on a map dating from before the Churchill Falls Hydro Project.

Start of trip
(Trans-Labrador
Highway 500 where it
crosses Ossokmanuan
Reservoir)

