



FWS Photo by Robert McVey

Figure 3. Winter view of Thom's Lake. Light colored areas are snow-covered muskeg.

Thom's Lake

Thom's Lake possesses a surface area of 380 acres and a maximum recorded depth of 108 feet. The depth contours of figure 4 were obtained with a Bendix depth recorder by running seven cross transects and two longitudinal transects in an outboard-powered skiff. The lake's outline was enlarged from a U.S.G.S. topographic map, and depth contours were drawn in from the recorded data.

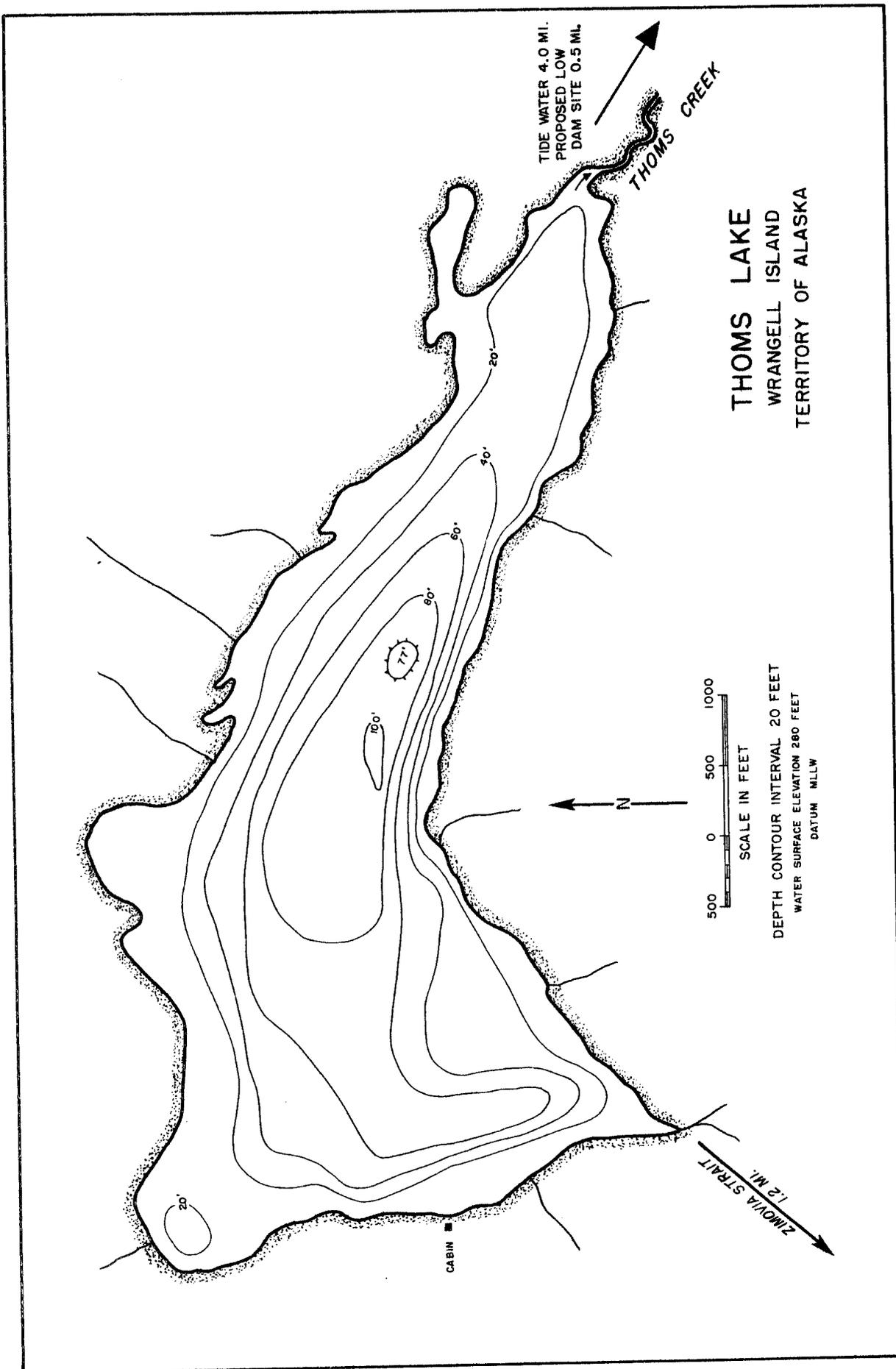


Figure 4. Project Area

Around most of the lake's margin, beaches are not present, being replaced by vertical banks which drop two to six feet to the lake's surface. Some shallows are found in the cove areas along the northeast shore, and silty shoals are present in the northeast and southwest corners of the lake near sites of recent beaver activity (figure 5). The mouths of streams discharging into Thom's Lake are so modified by beaver work as to be nearly imperceptible when viewed from the lake. A band of dead trees was noted in the water along one stretch of shoreline, suggesting an increase in the lake's level in recent times. A 3-foot beaver dam found on Thom's Creek 100 yards below the lake's outlet may account for this apparent rise in the lake's level. Seeps and small flows from the surrounding woods (figure 6) are present in many places along the shoreline.



FWS Photo by Frederick Rabe, III.

Figure 5. Beaver lodge in southwest corner of Thom's Lake.



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Figure 6. Small flow into Thom's Lake from surrounding woods.

Aquatic vegetation was limited to the littoral zone, which supported water lilies (figure 7), pondweed, and bladderwort.

The waters of Thom's Lake appear deep blue to brown in color and are moderately transparent, as indicated by a Secchi disc reading of 10 feet.

Surface water temperatures were taken by means of a Taylor pocket thermometer at midday and ranged from 58°F. to 61°F. during the 9-day survey (July 22 to July 30, 1957). Air temperatures fluctuated between 53°F. and 65°F., with sky conditions varying from clear to overcast and drizzling.