

# SALMON RIVERS OF NEWFOUNDLAND

## West Coast – Bay of Islands to Strait of Belle Isle

from C.H. Palmer's 1928 book of the same name



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**Publishing information**

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Cover: The 1928 edition included a folded, onionskin paper, hand-drawn map of the Island; in 2005 the map was reproduced and personalized with the owner's name. The cartographer probably was a railway or government employee, and is very accurate when compared to later 20<sup>th</sup> century maps.

**SALMON RIVERS OF NEWFOUNDLAND**  
**West Coast – Bay of Islands to Straits of Belle Isle**

**Vol. 2 of 6**

**COOK'S BROOK**

**LOWER HUMBER RIVER**

**UPPER HUMBER RIVER**

**TROUT RIVER**

**EAST RIVER**

**WEST BROOK**

**PORTLAND CREEK**

**TORRENT RIVER**

**RIVER OF PONDS**

**EAST RIVER**

**CASTORS RIVER**

**SOUTH BROOK**

**SOUTH RIVER**

**24 other rivers and brooks**

**Introduction**

Palmer's 1928 SALMON RIVERS OF NEWFOUNDLAND remains popular. Much sought after, in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, original copies were selling for as much as \$500. Mobilewords Limited re-published Palmer in 2005, using most of the information, maps and pictures and added a gazetteer of rivers in Labrador which Palmer didn't fish.

Palmer fished each river from its mouth to its headwaters, usually by boat, and occasionally, by train. His hand-drawn maps show the pools, falls, steadies, rocks, campgrounds, and other features. Most maps are oriented with the ocean at the bottom ascending up the page as one would go *upriver*.

In this extraction, Palmer's maps are annotated with general geographic information such as tributary names, where the river rises, topographic map references, and a list of pools taken from the map. Some items from 1928, which were left in the 2005 edition, are now removed.

Pictures from the 1928 edition, colour images of salmon flies found on the Internet and relevant map sections are included for reference.

continued

Someone sold the idea to the Newfoundland Government and it was published by a partnership between the government tourism department and the Newfoundland Railway. In some ways it is another in the long history of Newfoundland writing, tracing its roots back to the *Discourses* of John Mason, Richard Whitbourne and William Vaughan some three centuries earlier, extolling the island for its many natural virtues.

The original and re-published *Salmon Rivers of Newfoundland* included the whole island in one volume. Issued as a collectible in 2005, some purchasers indicated their interest was primarily in the rivers of smaller regions. This volume, then, is one of six extracted from the complete volume, each a separate region as set out here below.

West Coast – Port aux Basques to Bay of Islands, Vol. 1

**West Coast – Bay of Islands to Strait of Bell Isle, Vol. 2**

East Coast – Hare Bay to Exploits Bay, Vol. 3

East Coast – Notre Dame Bay to Bonavista Bay, Vol. 4

South Coast – Cape Race to Lawn Bay, Vol. 5

South Coast – Fortune Bay to Port aux Basques, Vol. 6



## COOK'S BROOK

### ***Location—***

In Humber Arm, Bay of Islands, West Coast.

### ***General Remarks—***

This brook can be fished from any of the hotels in Bay of Islands. A nice run of salmon frequent it and many local sportsmen from Bay of Islands fish here.

### **Tributaries:**

Burnt Hill Brook	12A/13 –12 B/16
Little Feeder Brook	12A/13 –12 B/16
Black Gulch Brook	12A/13 –12 B/16
Snooks Brook	12B/16

### **Notes:**

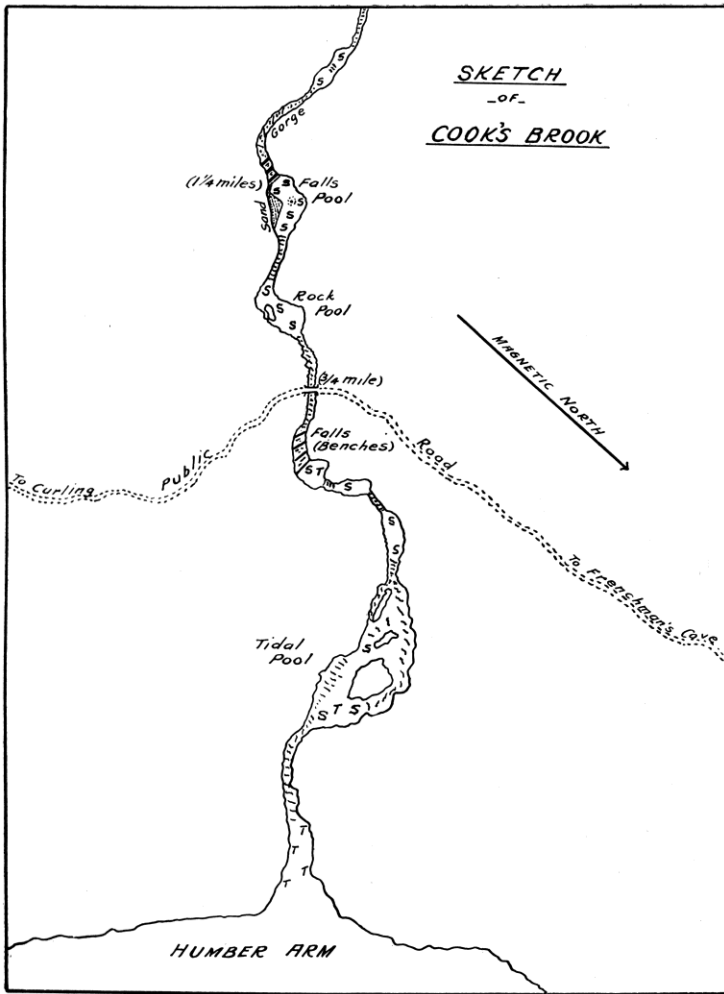
Rises in Big Cooks Pond 12B/16

### **Pools:**

Tidal Pool, Falls, Rock Pool, Falls Pool, 5 unnamed pools



SKETCH  
-of-  
COOK'S BROOK



## LOWER HUMBER RIVER

### **Location—**

On West Coast, empties into Humber Arm, Bay of Islands,.

### **General Remarks—**

This is one of the largest rivers on the Island. Motor boats can go up this river to Deer Lake. A large and heavy run of salmon go up this river, many fish between 30 to 40 lbs. being caught. There are splendid salmon pools and camping sites.

### **Tributaries:**

Duncan Brook	12A/13
East Steady Brook	12A/13
Matthews Brook	12A/13
Parsons Brook	12A/13
Steady Brook	12A/13

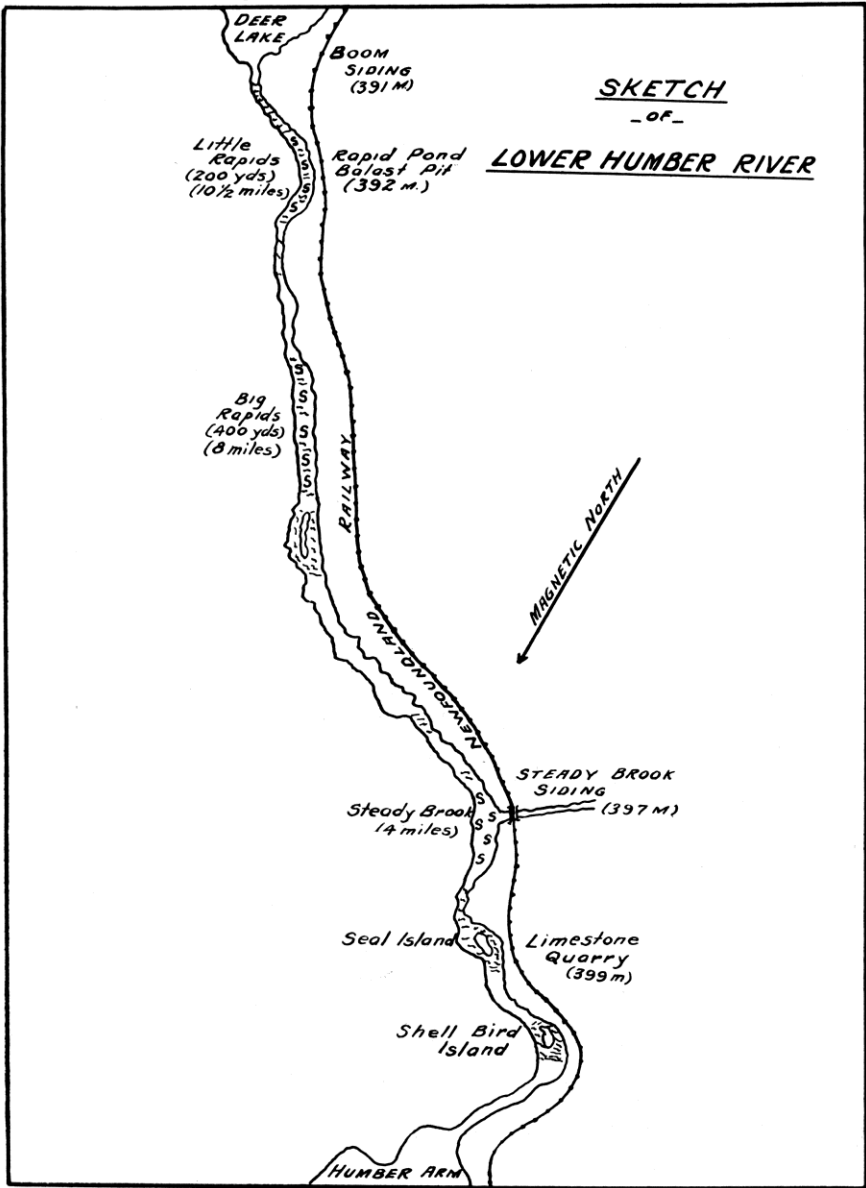
### **Notes:**

The Humber River flows out of Deer Lake to Humber Arm, Bay of Islands. It is commonly, and incorrectly, called Lower Humber to distinguish it from Upper Humber, its extension north of, and emptying into, Deer Lake.

### **Pools:**

Shell Bird Island, Limestone Quarry, Seal Island, Steady Brook, Big Rapids, Little Rapids







## UPPER HUMBER RIVER

### **Location—**

On West Coast. Flows into Deer Lake.

### **General Remarks—**

This river offers a splendid canoe as well as fishing trip. There are numerous pools along its course, the two most important being John's and Big Falls. The trip up the river from Deer Lake at Big Falls is 25 miles in length and can be readily accomplished by canoe (poling the rapids) with one or two portages. Large salmon up to 40 lbs. in weight have been caught on the river.

### **Tributaries:**

Crooked Feeder	12H/3	Wigwam Brook	12H/6
Junction Brook	12H/3	Big Falls Brook	12H/6
Nichols Brook	12H/3	Little Falls Brook	12H/6
Glide Brook	12H/3	East Adies River	12H/11
Rocky Brook	12H/3	Gales Brook	12H/11
Trout Brook	12H/3	Northeast Adies River	12H/11
Drill Hole Brook	12H/6	Taylors Brook	12H/11
Harrimans Brook	12H/6		
Joes Brook	12H/6		

### **Notes:**

Rises in Middle Barrens, east of Gros Morne 12H/3

### **Pools:**

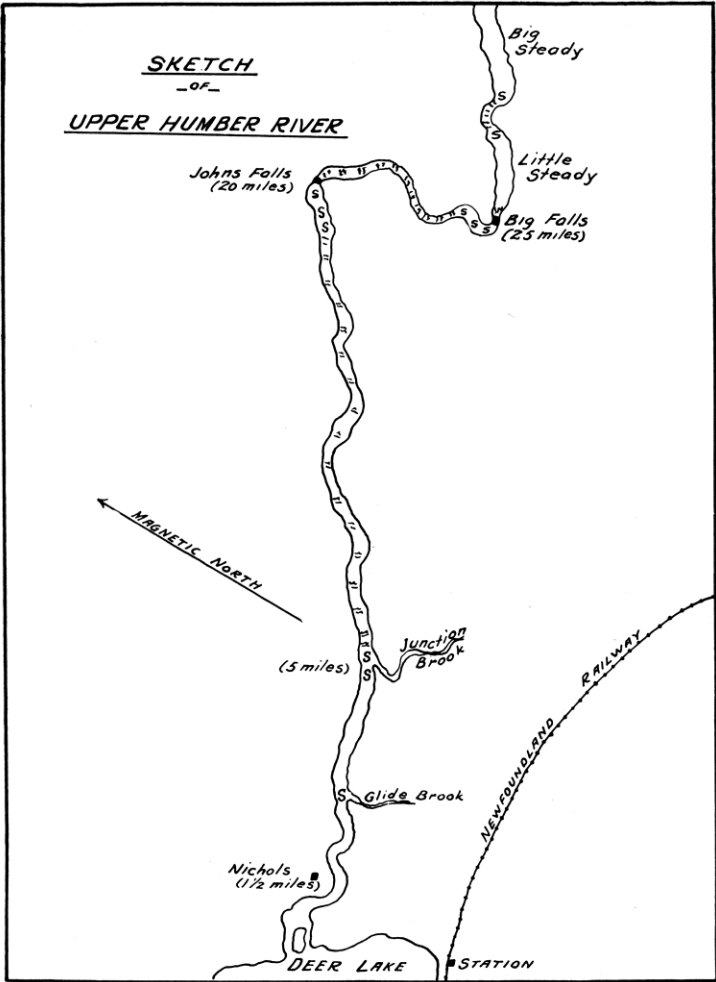
Glide Brook, Johns Falls, Big Falls, Little Steady, Big Steady



SKETCH

-OF-

UPPER HUMBER RIVER



## TROUT RIVER

### **Location—**

On West Coast between Bay of Islands and Bonne Bay.

### **General Remarks—**

Trout River is only 1½ miles long from the outlet of First Trout Pond to the sea. A road parallels the river along its North Bank. Good camping sites are available adjacent to road and river. Fish ranging in weight from the grilse of 4 or 5 lbs. to salmon of 40 lbs. frequent this river. On rising evening tides in the month of July splendid sea-trout fishing can be had at the river's mouth.

### **Tributaries:**

Fox Point Brook	12G/8
Grassy Point Brook	12G/8
Long Point Brook	12G/8
Rocky Point Brook	12G/8
Burnt Brook	12H/5
Middle Trout River	12H/5
North Trout River	12H/5
Overfall Brook	12H/5

### **Notes:**

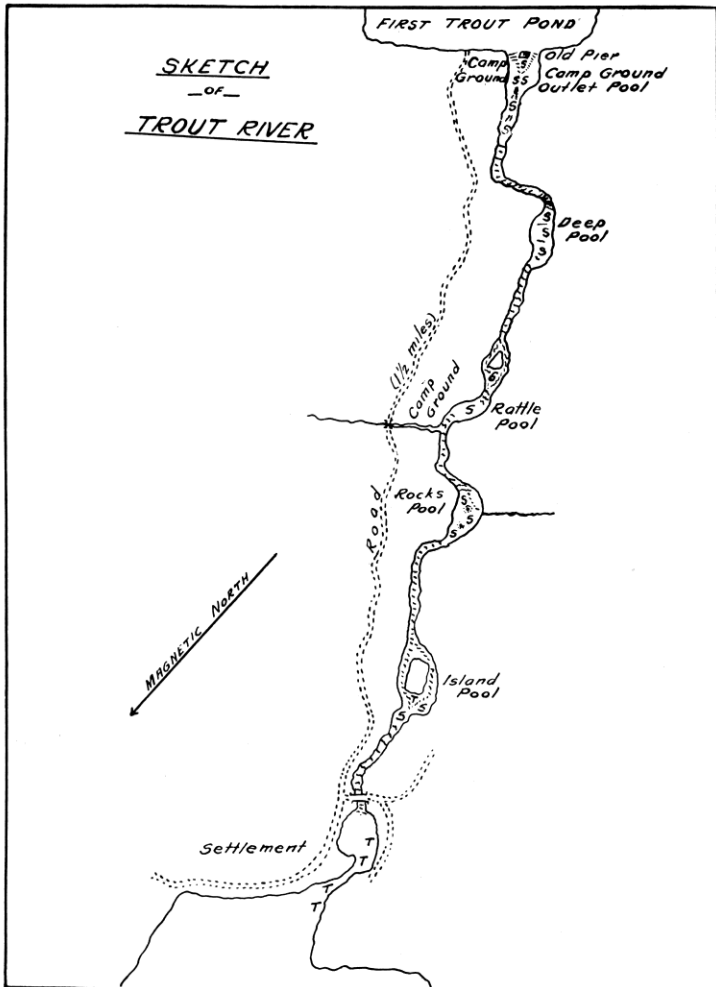
Rises north of Mount St. Gregory 12H/5

### **Pools:**

Island Pool, Rocks Pool, Rattle Pool, Deep Pool, Outlet Pool



SKETCH  
-of-  
TROUT RIVER



## EAST RIVER

### ***Location—***

On West Coast. Bottom of East Arm, Bonne Bay.

### ***General Remarks—***

A road traverses the river from Lomond. Best salmon pools are located 3½ miles up the river from Lomond. The mouth of the river is practically a low lying flat at low tide. Salmon from 10 to 25 lbs. in weight frequent the river.

### **Tributaries:**

East Lomond River	12H/5
Three Tom Brook	12H/5
White Hill Brook	12H/5
Sandbar Brook	12H/5

### **Notes:**

Now Lomond River.

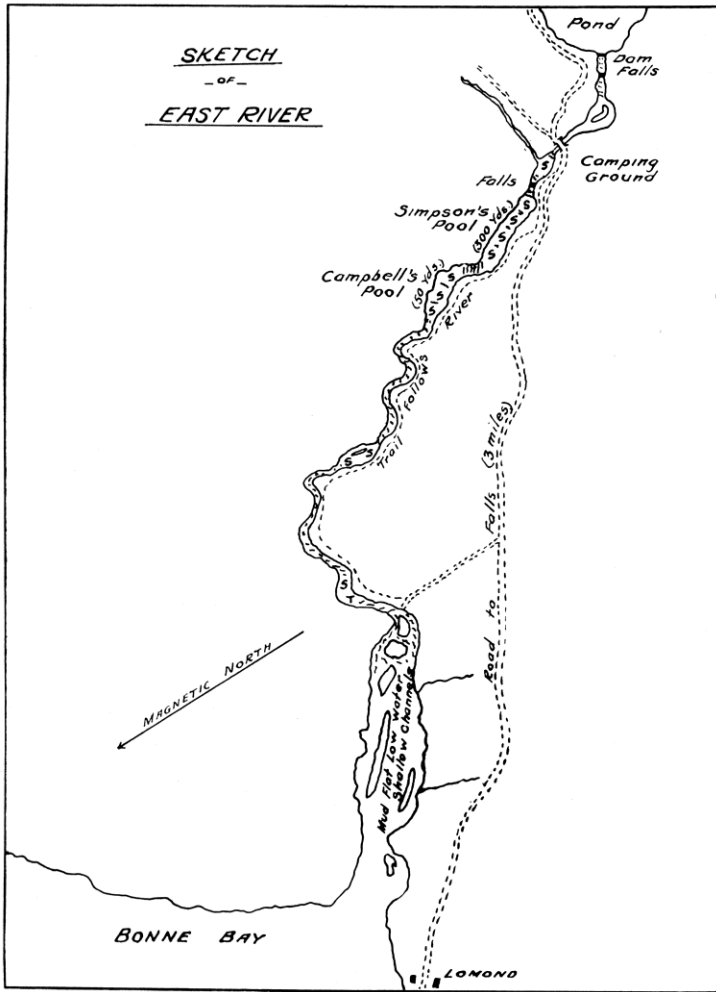
Flows through Little and Big Bonne Bay Ponds.

### **Pools:**

Campbell's Pool, Simpson's Pool



SKETCH  
- of -  
EAST RIVER



## WEST BROOK

### ***Location—***

On West Coast, approximately 15 miles north of Bonne Bay.

### ***General Remarks—***

The river is approximately 3 miles long and winds its way through flat lying country from its source in West Pond to the sea. It carries a nice run of salmon, of average weight of 7 lbs., and is noted for its sea-trout fishing, many large catches (sea trout) having been taken from its numerous pools, fish as large as 7 and 8 lbs. being caught.

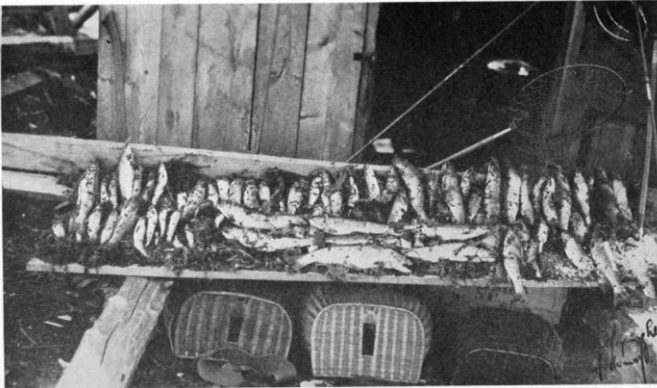
### **Notes:**

Now Western Brook.

Rises in Western Brook Pond, Western Brook Gorge.

### **Pools:**

9 unnamed pools



SKETCH  
-of-  
WEST BROOK

← MAGNETIC NORTH

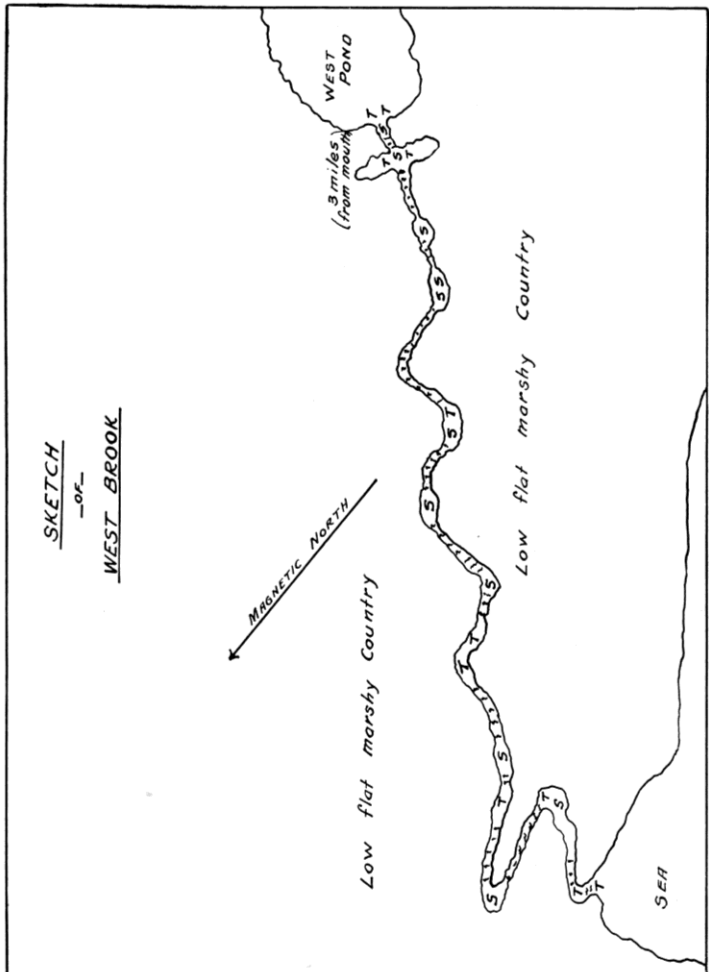
3 miles  
(from mouth)

WEST  
POND

Low flat marshy Country

Low flat marshy Country

SEA





## **PORTLAND CREEK**

### ***Location—***

On West Coast, approximately 100 miles from Curling in Bay of Islands, the nearest railway station.

### ***Accessibility—***

Daniel's Harbour, 4 miles north from the river's mouth, is a port of call for the coastal steamers.

### ***General Remarks—***

The main river from First Pond to the sea is only one mile long. This is a wide heavy stream, the fish lying behind the numerous large boulders in the river and below the numerous eddies so formed. Boats or canoes are required for fishing here. The South West Feeder, which empties into First Pond, 2 miles east from the outlet, contains many fine pools. These are readily accessible by means of a trail up the side of the river. These two rivers carry a large run of fish ranging from 10 to over 40 lbs. in weight. The "Narrows," between the First and Second Ponds, is a splendid place for sea trout.

### **Tributaries:**

Greavett Brook 121/4

### **Notes:**

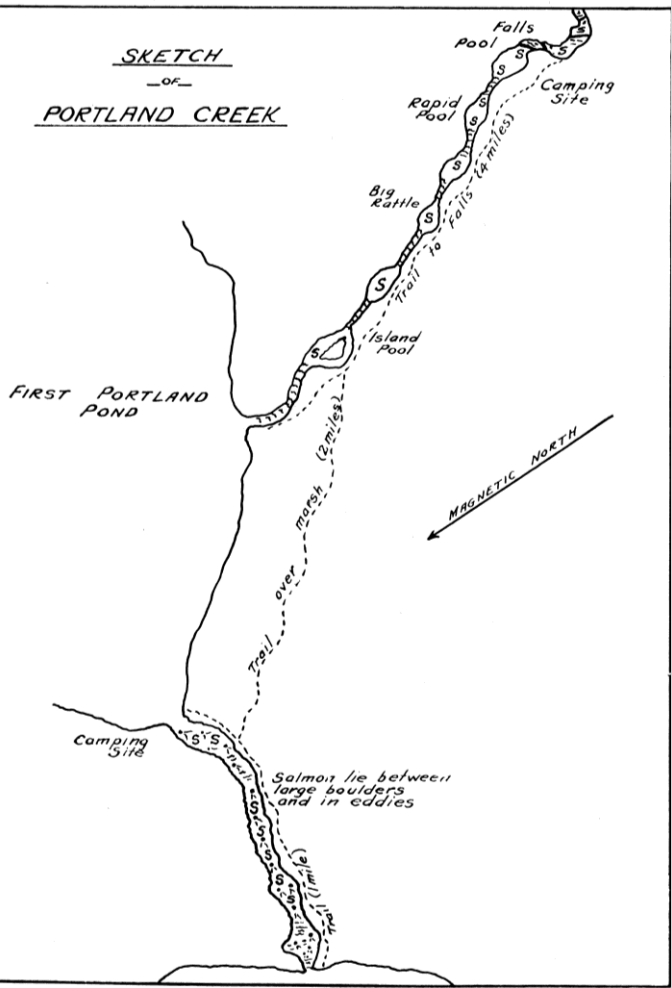
Now Portland Creek Pond and Inner Pond.

Rises north of Indian Lookout 121/3

### **Pools:**

Island Pool, Big Rattle, Rapid Pool, Falls Pool

SKETCH  
-of-  
PORTLAND CREEK



## TORRENT RIVER

### ***Location—***

This river is located in the bottom of Hawks Bay on the West Coast.

### ***General Remarks—***

This river is noted for its large fish. 12 fine fishing pools are located between the mouth of the river and the falls, a distance of 1½ miles. The salmon are unable to go farther up the river than the falls.

### **Tributaries:**

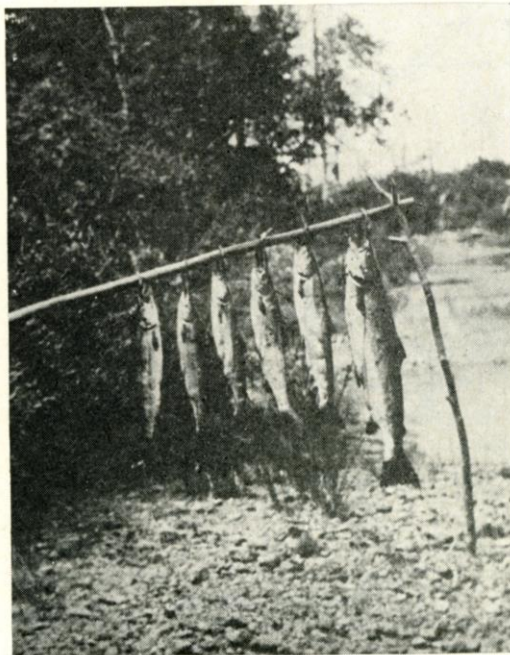
Lady Worcester Brook                      121/10

### **Notes:**

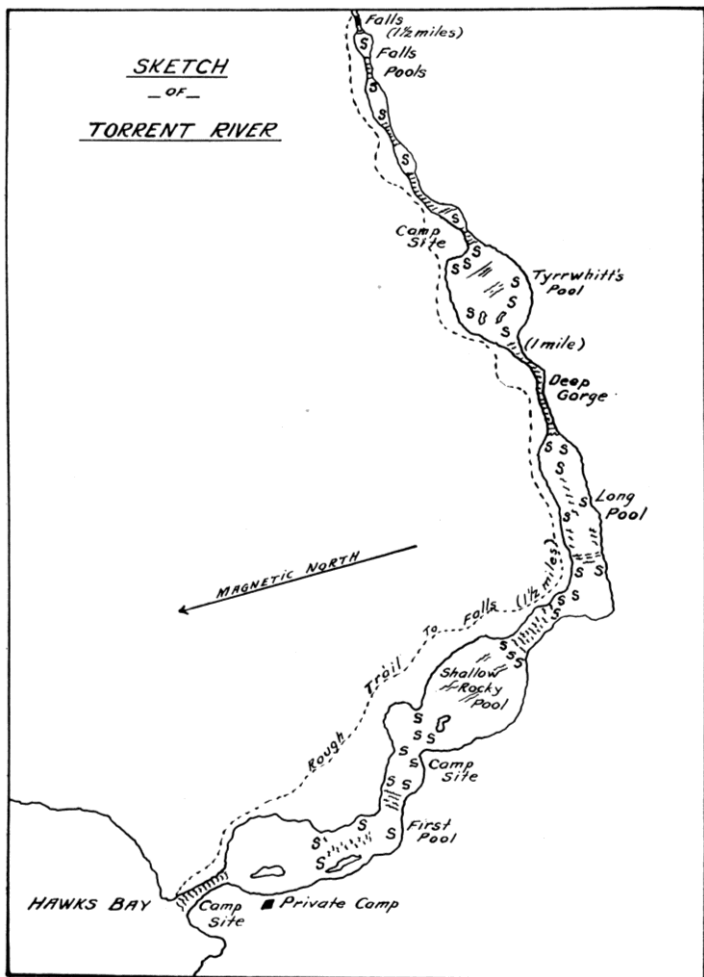
Rises high up in Long Range Mountains 121/10  
Hawks now spelled Hawkes.

### **Pools:**

First Pool, Shallow Rocky Pool, Long Pool, Tyrwhitt's Pool, Falls Pools



SKETCH  
- of -  
TORRENT RIVER



## RIVER OF PONDS

### ***Location—***

On the West Coast, approximately 120 miles from Curling Station on Newfoundland Railway in Bay of Islands. Empties into Mal Bay.

### ***General Remarks—***

As the name implies, this river contains many ponds throughout its course, the inlets and outlets of these various ponds making splendid pools where the salmon and sea trout naturally rest on their way up the river to their spawning beds above. Camping sites are numerous.

From the sea to the first pond, about 2 miles, offers the best fishing, there being no less than 20 pools on this stretch of the river. Underground Brook Pool, at the head of the first steady above first pond, is a noted pool. Two private camps are located on this river.

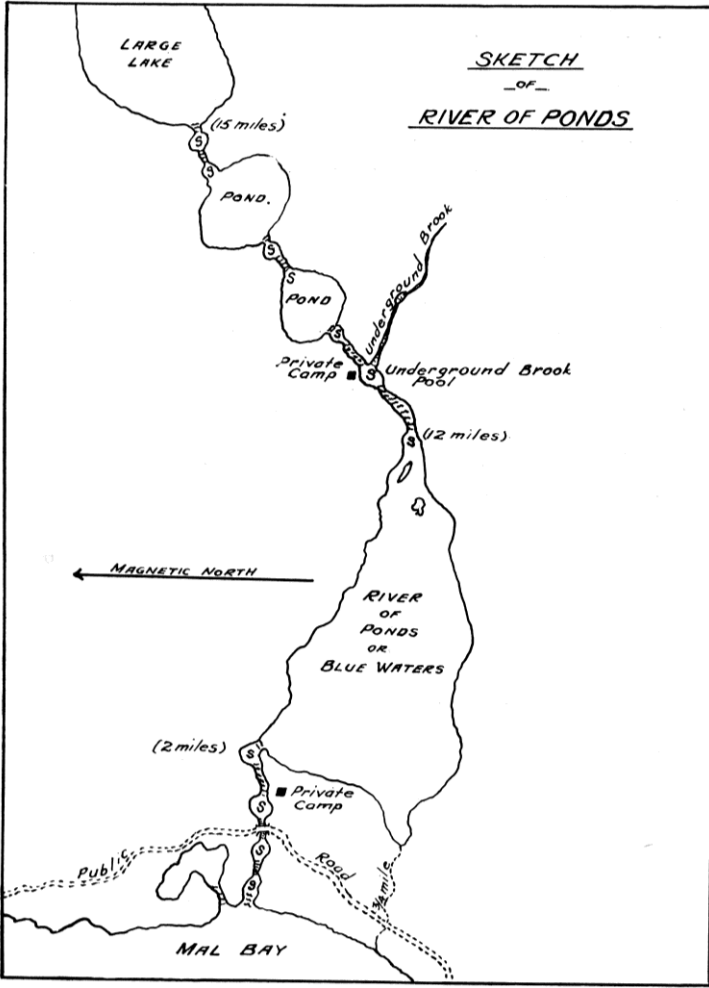
### **Notes:**

Rises in a series of interior ponds. 12/10

### **Pool:**

Underground Brook Pool, 9 unnamed pools [Palmer noted 20]





LARGE LAKE

SKETCH  
OF  
RIVER OF PONDS

(15 miles)

POND.

Private Camp

Underground Brook Pool

(12 miles)

MAGNETIC NORTH

RIVER OF PONDS OR BLUE WATERS

(2 miles)

Private Camp

Public Road

Road

MAL BAY

## EAST RIVER

### ***Location—***

This river is located in the bottom of Hawks Bay on the West Coast.

### ***General Remarks—***

A good salmon river with fine pools between the first falls and the mouth. The upper reaches are over flat lying country until the Big Falls are reached about 20 miles inland.

### **Notes:**

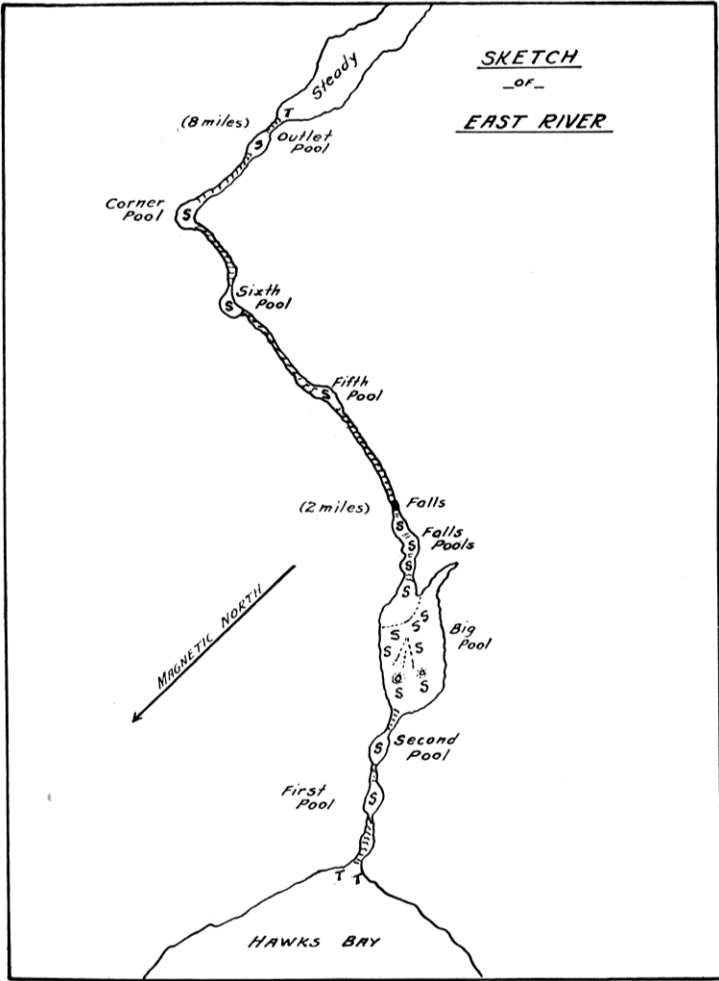
Hawks now spelled Hawkes.

### **Pools:**

First Pool, Second Pool, Big Pool, Falls Pool, Fifth Pool, Sixth Pool, Corner Pool, Outlet Pool



SKETCH  
-of-  
EAST RIVER





## CASTORS RIVER

### ***Location—***

On the West Coast empties into Bay St. John.

### ***General Remarks—***

This river contains many fine salmon pools and is an excellent river for canoeing, there being many small ponds along its course. The Eastern Feeder is noted for its salmon pools and fishing, and the South East Feeder for its run of large sea trout.

### **Tributaries:**

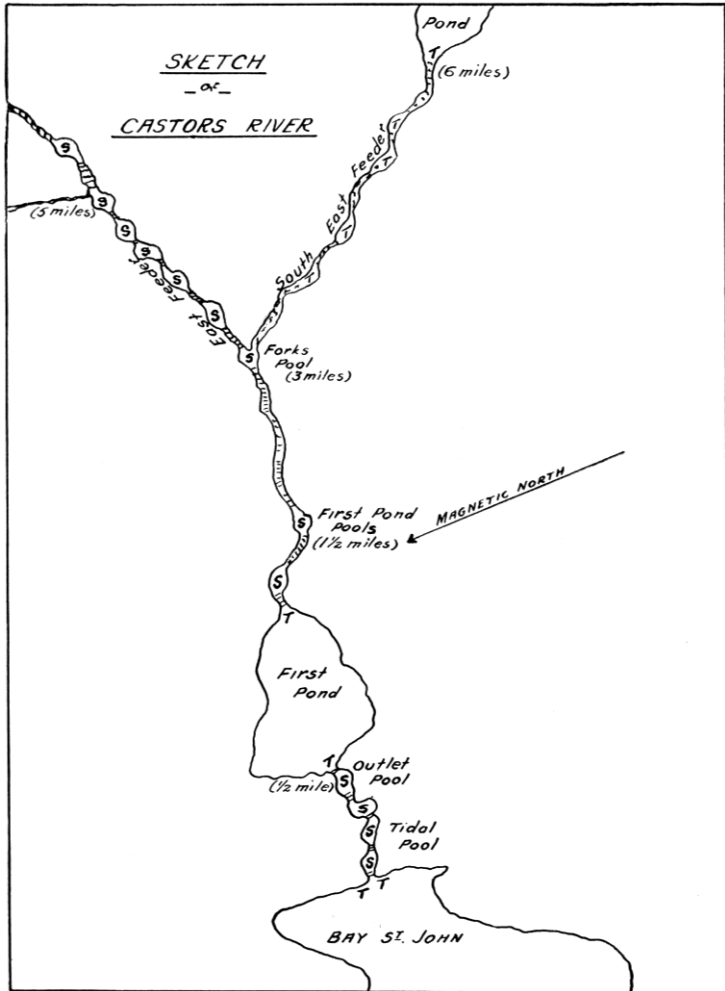
Middle Gulch Brook 12/15

North Branch, Middle Gulch Brook 12/15

### **Pools:**

Tidal Pool, Outlet Pool, First Pond Pools, Forks Pool, 6 unnamed pools on East Feeder and 4 unnamed trout pools on South East Feeder





# SOUTH BROOK

**Location—**

On the West Coast empties into St. Genevieve Bay.

**General Remarks—**

Contains numerous pools and runs, a short distance apart, over the entire 12 miles from its mouth to the first pond.

**Tributaries:**

Eight Brook	12P/2
Franks Brook	12P/2
Kellys Brook	12P/2
Manuels Feeder	12P/2
Manuels River	12P/2
Muskrat Brook	12P/2
Roses Feeder	12P/2
West Roses Feeder	12P/2

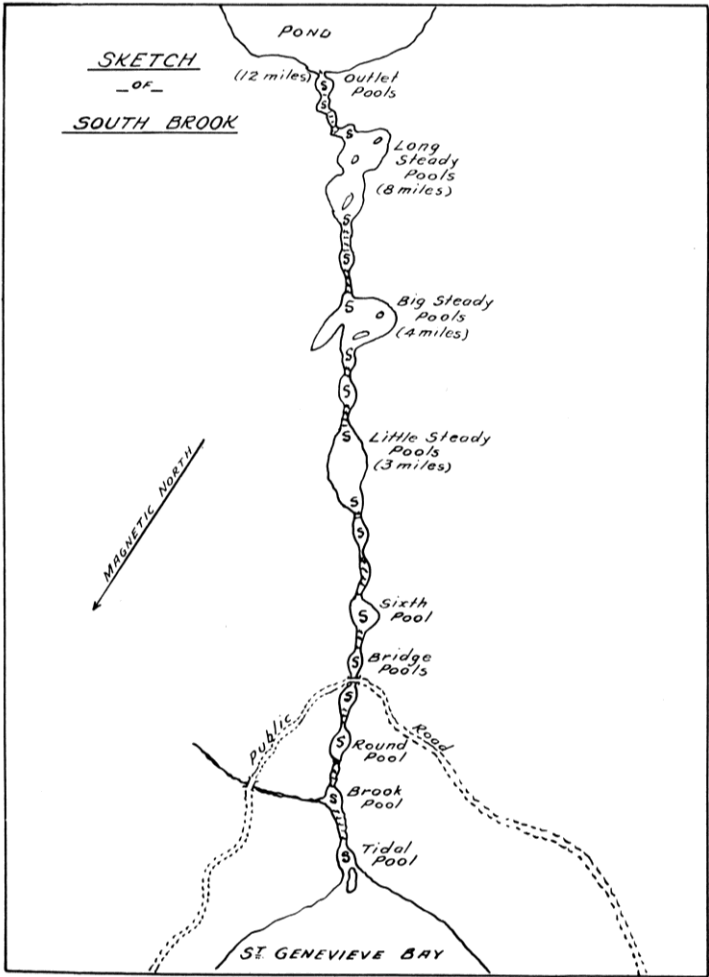
**Notes:**

Now Ste. Genevieve River.  
Rises in Ten Mile and Round lakes 12P/2

**Pools:**

Tidal Pool, Brook Pool, Round Pool, Bridge Pools, Sixth Pool, Little Steady Pools, Bid Steady Pools, Long Steady Pools, Outlet Pools





## **SOUTH RIVER**

### ***Location–***

On the West Coast in St. Barbe Bay.

### ***General Remarks–***

Not a large river, but one that has a large run of medium fish. Has two nice fishing pools near its mouth.

### **Notes:**

Now West River.

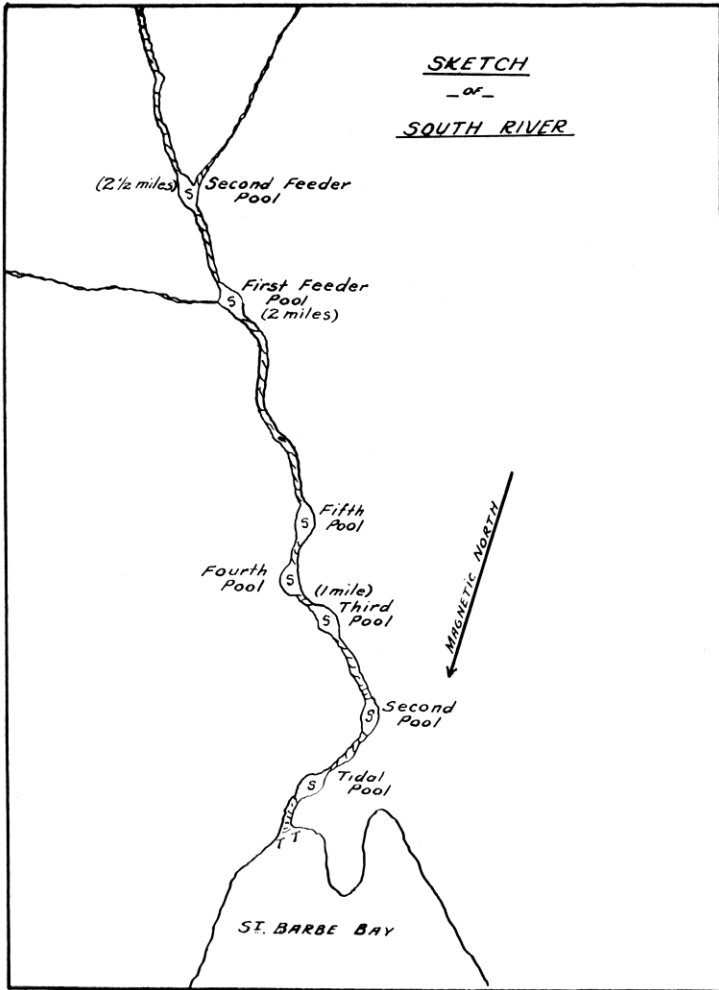
Rises in Western Brook and Owl Ponds 12P/2

### **Pools:**

Tidal Pool, Second Pool, Third Pool, Fourth Pool, Fifth Pool, First Feeder Pool, Second Feeder Pool



SKETCH  
- or -  
SOUTH RIVER



## **24 other rivers and brooks**

### **HUGHE'S BROOK [12A/13]**

In the bottom of Humber Arm, Bay of Islands. Good for sea trout and small salmon.

### **GOOSE ARM BROOK [12H/4]**

At the bottom of Goose Arm, Middle Arm, Bay of Islands. Good for sea trout and small salmon (grilse).

### **PENGUIN ARM BROOK [12H/4]**

At the bottom of Penguin Arm, Middle Arm, Bay of Islands. Good for sea trout and a few salmon.

### **CRABBS BROOK [Now Lower Crabb Brook;12H/1-12H/8]**

Inside the entrance at North Head, Bay of Islands. An excellent brook for sea trout.

### **GREGORY RIVER [12G/8]**

At Chimney Cove, 10 miles north of Bay of Islands. Splendid for sea trout; there are also a few salmon.

### **WALLACE'S BROOK [12G/9]**

Midway between Trout River and Bonne Bay. Good for sea trout.

### **SOUTHEAST BROOK AND DEER BROOK [12H/5]**

In Bonne Bay. A fine run of sea trout frequent these two brooks.

### **BAKER'S BROOK [12H/6]**

About 5 miles north of the North Point of Bonne Bay. Good for sea trout.

### **ST. PAUL'S INLET [Now St. Pauls Brook; 12H/13]**

About 20 miles north of Bonne Bay. Three small rivers flow into this inlet, all of which offer good sea-trout and grilse fishing.

### **STANFORD'S RIVER [Now Stanford River; 12H/13]**

Halfway between St. Paul's Inlet and Parson's Pond. Good for sea trout.

### **PARSON'S POND [12I/4]**

Midway between Bonne Bay and Hawks Bay. Three brooks flow into this pond. The North East Feeder offers good salmon and sea-trout fishing. The other two brooks, flowing into the head of the pond, offer excellent sea-trout and grilse fishing.

BELL BURNS BROOK [Now Bound Brook; 12I/5]

Between Portland Creek and River of Ponds. Excellent sea-trout fishing.

LITTLE BROOK [12I/11]

1½ miles north of River of Ponds. Carries a heavy run of medium salmon, with some excellent pools above the pond.

OTTER [12I/11] AND PORT SAUNDERS BROOKS

In Hawks Bay. Good for sea trout and small salmon (grilse).

DOCTOR'S BROOK [12I/14]

In Bay St. John. Good for sea trout and grilse.

EAST RIVER [12I/11]

In St. Barbe Bay. Good for sea trout and small salmon.

FRENCH ISLAND BROOK [12I/14]

Near Flower Cove, at entrance of Straits of Belle Isle. Good for sea trout and grilse.

GREEN BROOK

Inside of Green Island, Straits of Belle Isle. Good for sea trout and small salmon.

EDDIE'S BROOK [12I/11]

In Straits of Belle Isle. Excellent for sea trout and also carries some fine salmon.

HALFWAY-FOUR MILE AND MILE BROOKS [12P/8]

In Straits of Belle Isle between Eddie's Brook and Big Brook. All offer good sea-trout fishing in any but a very dry season.

BIG BROOK [12P/8-12P/9]

In the Straits of Belle Isle. A good salmon brook, with good pools from salt water to falls about 2 miles inland. Above falls, the brook is steadies and ponds.



