

Gazetteer: Karluk Lake and River Landmarks

Alder Creek: Lateral creek on east shore of Karluk Lake 3 km north of Lower Thumb River.

Barabara Point: Land point on east shore of Karluk Lake 1.5 km northwest of O'Malley River.

Bare Lake: Small lake 25 km southwest of Karluk Lake that was experimentally fertilized by the FWS during 1950–56. Bare Lake discharges into Bare Creek, a tributary of the Ayakulik River.

Barnaby Mountain: Name used in 1937 by Thomas Barnaby (notebook) for the mountain south of Camp Island, but later officially named Mount Shuman on U.S. Geological Survey maps.

Barnaby Ridge: Mountain just south of the Portage and bordering the west bank of the Karluk River. This name was first given by FWS biologists William Morton and Allan DeLacy (Morton notebook, 17 May 1941) and continued to be used from the 1940s–1950s (Nelson 1950 notebook) to present time by fishery biologists and personnel of the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. It was known by various other names before 1941, including **Hungerford Mountain** or **River Ridge** (Rich 1926 notebook) and **Lookout Mountain** (Morton 1940 notebook).

Barnaby Lake: Small lake west of Barnaby Ridge that flows via a west bank tributary into the middle Karluk River. Karlstrom et al. (1969) called this **Pinguicula Lake**.

Big Bear Creek: Lateral creek on east shore of Karluk Lake between Cottonwood and Alder Creeks.

Boulder Point: Land point on east shore of Karluk Lake 0.8 km south of Cottonwood Creek.

Bluff Point: Land point on west shore of Karluk Lake 1.5 km south of Eagle Creek. Gilbert first used this name (1921 notebook).

Camp Island (also called **Thumb Island**): Large island in the middle of Karluk Lake that biologists used as a base camp for their fisheries studies (since 1889) because of its central location and partial protection from bears. At first, biologists camped in tents or sheltered in a Native barabara, but in 1927 the USBF built a cabin on Camp Island and more facilities were added in later years.

Camp Point: Land point on Camp Island first named by Barnaby in the 1930s (1930–1937 notebooks).

Canyon Creek: Terminal tributary at south end of Karluk Lake, once flowing directly into the lake a short

distance east of the O'Malley River mouth, but now entering the lower O'Malley River. Its channel changed course in 1928. Gilbert and Rich first named this creek in 1922 (notebooks). Gilbert originally called this **Head Creek** (1921 notebook).

Cape Karluk (Karluk Head): Prominent mountain escarpment 3 km west of Karluk Spit and fronting on Shelikof Strait.

Cascade Creek: Lateral creek on the west shore at south end of Karluk Lake. Gilbert and Rich first named this creek in 1922 (notebooks). Gilbert originally called this **Willow Creek** (1921 notebook).

Coffee Point: Prominent land point on the north shore of Karluk Lagoon 4 km upstream of Karluk Spit. Clinton Gurnee used this name on a 1903 map. Name not currently used.

Cold Creek: Small branch of Spring Creek located at north end of Karluk Lake 0.8 km east of the lake's outlet. Gilbert (1921 notebook), Barnaby (1944 map), and Bevan (1951 FRI unpublished report) used this name.

Cotoid Creek: Small lateral creek in the vicinity of Little Lagoon Creek first named by Barnaby (1931 notebook). Name not currently used.

Cottonwood Creek: Lateral creek on east shore of Karluk Lake 4 km north of Camp Island. Gilbert called this **Windy Creek** in 1921 and **Defeat Creek** in 1922 (notebooks).

Cottonwood Point: Land point on east shore of Karluk Lake near Cottonwood Creek. Gilbert called this **Windy Point** (1921 notebook).

Deep Hole: Name originally used for two locations in the Karluk River basin: 1) a name used by Gilbert (1922 notebook) and Nelson (1946 notebook) for a deeper than normal spot in the upper Karluk River where adult Chinook salmon congregated (also called the "King Hole"), located 3–5 km downstream from the lake's outlet; and 2) a name used by USBF biologist Fred R. Lucas in 1922 for an area at the east end of Karluk Lagoon having deeper than normal water.

Discovery Creek: A lateral creek at the northeast end of Karluk Lake named by Rich (1922 notebook) and possibly the same as Moraine Creek. Name not currently used.

Dreadnaught City (also called **Dreadnought City** and **Wamberg's**): A homestead, apparently owned

by Mr. Wamberg, with three small cabins located at the west end of Larsen Bay at the ocean end of the Karluk River Portage trail. The USBF later leased or purchased this site to support their Karluk research program. During 1921–50, USBF and FWS personnel used these facilities to store supplies and a tractor and as temporary shelter while traveling to and from Karluk Lake and River. Gilbert identified this site as early as 1921 (notebook) and Rich showed its location on a sketch map of the Karluk region (notebook, 31 May 1929).

We have found only one person, FWS seasonal biologist Arthur Freeman, who remembers how Dreadnaught City got its name:

[FWS seasonal biologist Arthur Freeman discussing his summer experiences at Karluk in 1947–1948] But there was another player, too, who didn't participate in the Karluk projects, but on many occasions served as a host and communication intermediary. That player was Archie Brunton, whom we knew as "Scottie". He had emigrated from Scotland to Kodiak at some time in the distant past. At Karluk our communication with our base at Kodiak (Village) was maintained by transmitting to radio KOT (Larsen Bay), operated by Scottie, who in turn could communicate with Kodiak. Our 1.5 watt forest service radio at Karluk had a range of 15 miles. It was Scottie who told me how Dreadnaught City got its name. There was a homesteader who build the cabin and the barn there, and may have had a cow or two because there was still hay in the barn long after the homesteader had gone. The homesteader, according to Scottie, often told of his intentions of digging a canal to connect Larsen Bay with the Karluk River, a canal so big that a ship as big as a "Dreadnaught" (an early version of a British battle ship) could navigate through the canal. Of course, the notion is so far-fetched that it makes no sense, until you understand that exaggeration is much a part of wilderness humor. So much for the version of "Dreadnaught City". [Freeman letter, 24 October 1998 to Richard L. Bottorff]

Dumbell Island: See **Gull Island**.

Eagle Creek: Small lateral creek on west shore of Karluk Lake 3 km north of Meadow Creek. Barnaby used this name in 1930 (notebook).

Eagle Point: Land point on west shore of Karluk Lake just south of Eagle Creek. Gilbert first used this name (1921 notebook), followed by Rich (1927 notebook).

East Fork of Upper Thumb River: East tributary branch of the Upper Thumb River that originates 10–11 km southeast of Thumb Lake. After joining the North Fork it forms the main Upper Thumb River that flows 0.8 km into the east end of Thumb Lake.

Egg Island: See **Gull Island**.

Egg Islet (see also **Tern Island** and **Murray Island**): Rich used this name for the small island in O'Malley Lake (1926 notebook).

Falls Creek: Creek at the south end of Karluk Lake that flows into the upper O'Malley River just downstream of the O'Malley Lake outlet (Gilbert 1921–22 notebooks). There is evidence that Falls Creek has shifted its channel several times over the years, discharging either into O'Malley Lake or the upper O'Malley River. Apparently the channel shifted in 1927, but a major change occurred in September 1947, forcing the creek to enter O'Malley Lake. ADF biologists diverted Falls Creek back to its original channel in 1953 by building a low dike, but this washed out in a 1954 storm and the creek flowed into O'Malley Lake. Recent maps show that Falls Creek enters the upper O'Malley River. First named by Gilbert and Rich in 1922 (notebooks).

Fry Creek: Small creek flowing into the Karluk River 180 m downstream from Karluk Lake's outlet. First named by Barnaby in the 1930s (1930–37 notebooks), but this term is not currently used.

Grassy Point: Land point on west shore of Karluk Lake 3 km northwest of Camp Island. First named by Gilbert and Rich (1922 notebooks). Gilbert originally called this Halfway Point (1921 notebook).

Grassy Point Creek: Lateral creek on west shore of Karluk Lake 3 km northwest of Camp Island. First named by Gilbert and Rich (1922 notebooks). Gilbert originally called this Halfway Creek (1921 notebook).

Grove Point: Land point on east shore of Karluk Lake 0.8 km south of Moraine Creek (shown on FRI map).

Gull Creek: Lateral creek on east shore of Karluk Lake between Long and Barabara points. USBF biologist Seymour P. Smith used this name in 1927 (notebook) while surveying the salmon streams, being first attracted to the creek by its large number of gulls. Barnaby also used this name in 1930 (notebook). Name not currently used.

Gull Island (also called **Egg Island**, **Dumbell Island**, and **Outer Island**): Small island in Karluk Lake just north of Camp Island. Rich called this **Outer Island** in 1922 (notebook) and then **Dumbell Island** in 1926–29 (notebooks) because of its unique shape. Barnaby also called it **Dumbell Island** in the 1930s. It was referred to as **Egg Island** and **Gull Island** in later years for its many nesting gulls.

Hale's Cove: Name used in honor of Senator Hale by Barnaby in 1934 (notebook) for a small beach embayment on the east shore of Karluk Lake somewhere north of Lower Thumb River. Name not currently used.

- Halfway Creek:** Lateral creek on west shore of Karluk Lake 2.5 km west of Camp Island. Gilbert called this **Cottonwood Creek** in 1921 (notebook).
- Hungerford Mountain** (see also **Barnaby Ridge**): Rich showed the location of Hungerford Mountain on a sketch map of the Karluk region (notebook, 31 May 1929) and Barnaby used the name in 1930 (notebook). Name not currently used.
- Island Point:** Prominent land point projecting into Karluk Lake just south of Camp Island.
- Jackpot Cove:** Beach cove on east shore of Karluk Lake 1.5 km south of Island Point. FRI fishery biologists used this name in the 1950s for the site where they successfully captured many juvenile sockeye in beach seines. Name not currently used.
- Julia Foard Point:** Land point on Shelikof Strait between Tanglefoot Bay and the Karluk River mouth. Named for the bark *Julia Foard* that was blown ashore and wrecked in rough seas on 27 May 1888.
- Karluk** (also **Kallut** (Alutiiq), **Kerluta**, **Karlack**, **Karlukaskaia**, **Karlook**, **Karlutsk**, **Carlook**): Various historical spellings of Karluk. The name “Karluk” is derived from the Alutiiq word “iqalluk,” a term used for fish.
- Karluk Lagoon:** Shallow tidally-influenced estuary comprising the lower 5 km of the Karluk River before it discharges into Shelikof Strait.
- Karluk Lake:** Large deep lake (19.6 km long, 3.1 km wide, 126 m maximum depth) on southwest Kodiak Island.
- Karluk Portage:** 1) Site on the Karluk River 3 km west of Larsen Bay, once used as a weir location for counting sockeye salmon and for taking steelhead eggs, and 2) the 3 km trail connecting Larsen Bay and the Karluk River.
- Karluk River:** Large river on southwest Kodiak Island discharging from Karluk Lake. It flows 40 km north and west and discharges into Shelikof Strait at Karluk Spit.
- Karluk Spit:** Narrow strand bar about 1 km long that separates Shelikof Strait and Karluk Lagoon. Karluk Spit was once the location of many canneries and intensive beach seining for sockeye salmon in the early fishery.
- Karluk Village:** Alutiiq community originally located near the northeast end of Karluk Spit (“Old Karluk”) where the Karluk River discharged into Shelikof Strait. Old Russian maps identified the village near the mouth of the Karluk River as **Nunakakhnak** (sometimes spelled **Nunakakhvak**). A new village (“New Karluk”) arose near the west end of Karluk Spit after the Karluk River changed its course sometime before 1850 and began discharging into the ocean at this new location. Karluk Village was moved inland (southeast) 1.5 km following a violent wind-storm in 1978.
- Katzinjammer Creek:** Unofficial name for a north bank tributary to the Karluk River 2.5 km upstream of the lower weir site. Rich first used this name in 1929 and recorded it on a sketch map (notebook, 31 May 1929). Barnaby also used this name in the 1930s (notebooks). USBF weir foreman Ray S. Wood referred to it as **Northeast Harbor Creek** in 1928. Name not currently used.
- Katzinjammer Lake:** Unofficial name of the small lake at the head of Katzinjammer Creek. Barnaby used this name in 1933 (notebook). Name not currently used.
- King Hole:** Deep pool in the Karluk River between the lake’s outlet and the Portage where adult Chinook (“king”) salmon accumulate during their migration to spawning areas in the upper river. Name used by Nelson in 1949 (notebook, 28 August 1949).
- Larsen Bay:** 1) a narrow ocean bay that extends inland 8 km from Uyak Bay to within 3 km of the Karluk River, and 2) the small community that grew up around the Alaska Packers Association cannery at the east end of Larsen Bay. In 1903 Rutter and Spaulding called this **Larsen Inlet**.
- Little Bear Creek:** Lateral creek on east shore of Karluk Lake 2.5 km north of Camp Island.
- Little Lagoon Creek:** Lateral creek on east shore of Karluk Lake directly east of Camp Island.
- Lookout Mountain:** Name used by USBF employee Fred R. Lucas on a 1922 sketch map for a mountain on the lower Karluk River and southeast of the lower weir site. Morton used this name in 1940 for **Barnaby Ridge**. Name not currently used.
- Long Point:** Land point on east shore of Karluk Lake 3 km northwest of O’Malley River. Gilbert originally called this **Point-no-Point** (1921 notebook).
- Long Point Creek:** Small lateral creek on east shore of Karluk Lake 3 km northwest of O’Malley River.
- Lower Thumb River:** Short terminal river outlet of Thumb Lake that discharges into Karluk Lake southeast of Camp Island.
- Meadow Creek:** Lateral creek on west shore of Karluk Lake 4 km northwest of O’Malley River mouth. First named by Gilbert and Rich (1922 notebooks). Gilbert originally called this **Green Point Creek** (1921 notebook).
- Meadow Point** (also called **Green Point**): Land point

- on west shore of Karluk Lake 0.4 km south of Meadow Creek. Gilbert first used these names (1921 notebook), but they were not used in later years.
- Middle Island:** Small island in Karluk Lake between Gull and Camp Islands. Both Rich (1922 notebook) and Barnaby (1934 notebook) used this name.
- Moraine Creek:** Lateral creek on east shore at the north end of Karluk Lake 2.5 km southeast of the outlet. First named by Gilbert (1921 notebook).
- Mount Shuman:** Prominent mountain located 5 km southeast of Camp Island named in honor of FWS fishery biologist, Richard F. Shuman, who was killed in a plane crash in 1954. Shuman worked at Karluk Lake during 1943–49.
- Murray Island** (see also **Tern Island** and **Egg Islet**): Name first used by the ADFG in the 1970s for the small island in the middle of O'Malley Lake.
- Nickoli's Barabara:** Native shelter located at the Karluk River Portage.
- North Fork of Upper Thumb River:** North tributary branch of the Upper Thumb River that originates 5 km northeast of Thumb Lake. After joining the East Fork it forms the main Upper Thumb River that flows 0.8 km into the east end of Thumb Lake.
- Northeast Harbor Creek:** North-bank tributary to the lower Karluk River 2.5 km upstream from the lower weir site; first named by USBF weir foreman Ray S. Wood in 1928. Current U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps show that the lake origin of Northeast Harbor Creek flows into both Shelikof Strait and the Karluk River. This creek was also unofficially referred to as Katzinjammer Creek.
- O'Malley Lake:** Small lake (3.4 km long) tributary to the south end of Karluk Lake; first named by Gilbert and Rich in (1922 notebooks) for Henry O'Malley, U.S. Fish Commissioner. Gilbert originally called this **Upper Lake** (1921 notebook).
- O'Malley River:** Short terminal river outlet of O'Malley Lake that discharges into the south end of Karluk Lake. Gilbert originally called this **Lake Creek** (1921 notebook).
- Ouzel Creek:** Small creek on north shore of Thumb Lake. Barnaby first named Ouzel Creek in 1930 (notebook, 6 September 1930) and continued to use this name until 1934, but Bevan and Walker called it **Tuesday Creek** in the 1950s. Others called it **Thumb Lake Creek**. These names not currently used.
- Oxbow:** Curved side channel of the upper Karluk River 3 km downstream from Karluk Lake's outlet.
- Pinguicula Lake:** See **Barnaby Lake**.
- Rich's Lagoon:** Small spring-fed lateral creek entering somewhere near Little Lagoon Creek on east shore of Karluk Lake. First named by Barnaby in 1934 (notebook). During dry periods little surface water reached Karluk Lake from this source. Name not currently used.
- River Ridge:** See **Barnaby Ridge**.
- Russell Creek:** Small east-bank tributary of the Karluk River at the Portage. First named by Barnaby in 1930 (notebook) for USBF employee, J. R. "Bob" Russell, who each spring installed a temporary weir on the Karluk River to capture steelhead and take their eggs during 1927–32. Name not currently used.
- Russellville:** Fisheries research camp at the Karluk River Portage. Named for USBF employee Russell, who captured spring steelhead and took their eggs for hatchery incubation during 1927–32. Rich first recorded this name on a 1929 sketch map (notebook, 31 May 1929). The name continued to be used in the 1930s, but then gradually disappeared.
- Salmon Creek:** Lateral creek tributary to the south bank of Lower Thumb River just below the outlet of Thumb Lake.
- Seven-Mile Beach:** Long ocean beach located west of Uyak and running east-west for about 11 km (7 miles) along Shelikof Strait.
- Shasta Creek:** 1) Small (1.5 km) left-bank creek entering upper Karluk Lagoon. Karluk Lagoon hatchery (1896–1916) was located on this small creek (Moser 1902). 2) Small left-bank tributary of the Karluk River 8 km upstream from the lower weir site (USGS topographic map Karluk C-1).
- Silver Salmon Creek:** East-bank tributary of the Karluk River 5 km downstream of Karluk Lake's outlet.
- Spring Creek:** Small lateral spring-fed creek and small ponds at the north end of Karluk Lake 0.8 km east of the lake's outlet. First named by Gilbert (1921 notebook).
- Stony Point:** Land point on west shore of Karluk Lake 0.8 km northwest of Cascade Creek.
- Sugarloaf Ditch:** Ditch (2.5 km long) bringing water to the Karluk Lagoon hatchery (1896–1916) from the creek just to the east (Moser 1902). Clinton Gurnee called this stream Walom Creek on his 1903 map. Name not currently used.
- Sugarloaf Peak:** Mountain 1.5 km east of the Karluk Lagoon hatchery site (Moser, 1902). Name not currently used.
- Tanglefoot Bay:** Ocean bay on Shelikof Strait 2.5 km west of Karluk Spit. Site of Hume Canning and Trading Company's salmon cannery built in 1893.
- Tent Point:** Gravel land point on west shore of Karluk

Lake 2.5 km north of Grassy Point Creek. First named by Gilbert in 1921 (notebook).

Tent Point Creek: Small lateral creek on west shore of Karluk Lake just northwest of Tent Point. Gilbert and Rich first used this name in 1922 (notebooks).

Tern Island (also called **Murray Island** and **Egg Islet**): Small island in center of O'Malley Lake. First named by Rich in his 1926 notebook.

The Slides: Steep rugged mountain escarpment that plunges into Shelikof Strait 1.5 km northeast of Karluk Spit.

Thumb Bay: Bay or basin of Karluk Lake east of Camp Island and Island Point; first named by Gilbert in 1921–22 (notebooks). This arm of Karluk Lake was often referred to as “the Thumb” by Rich (1926–1927 notebooks).

Thumb Island: See **Camp Island**.

Thumb Lake: Small lake (1.1 km long) tributary to the east shore of Karluk Lake.

Thumb Lake Creek: Small creek on northwest shore of Thumb Lake, possibly the same as **Ouzel Creek** or **Tuesday Creek**.

Thumb River: Terminal river discharging into the east shore of Karluk Lake 1.8 km southeast of Camp Island. The Thumb River has different names for each of its four river sections: 1) Lower Thumb River: the 0.8 km reach between Thumb and Karluk Lakes; 2) Upper Thumb River: the 0.8 km reach between Thumb Lake and the North and East Fork junction; 3) North Fork: the river fork flowing in from the north; and 4) East Fork: the river fork flowing in from the east. Gilbert and Rich called this **Thumb Creek** (1921–22 notebooks).

Tree Point: Land point on west shore of Karluk Lake 0.8 km south of Halfway Creek. Gilbert first called this **Cottonwood Point** for the cottonwood trees growing there (1921 notebook).

Tree Point Creek: Lateral creek on west shore of Karluk Lake 0.8 km south of Halfway Creek. First named by Rich in 1922 (notebook).

Tuesday Creek: See **Ouzel Creek**.

Upper Thumb River: This name has been used in two ways: 1) the 0.8 km river section between Thumb



Sockeye salmon fishermen at The Waterfalls, 4 km NE of Karluk Spit on Shelikof Strait, Kodiak Island, Alaska, ca. 1890. (From Porter, 1893)

Lake and the North and East Fork junction, and 2) the entire river upstream of Thumb Lake, including the North Fork, East Fork, and main river between the forks junction and Thumb Lake. Gilbert and Rich called this **Upper Thumb Creek** (1922 notebooks).

Walom Creek: Small south-bank tributary to the Karluk River 0.8 km upstream of the east end of Karluk Lagoon. Walom Creek supplied water to Karluk Lagoon hatchery (1896–1916) through the 2.5 km Sugarloaf Ditch. Clinton Gurnee designated this stream as Walom Creek on his 1903 map. Name not currently used.

Waterfalls: Rugged coastal escarpment with two streams that cascade down its face into Shelikof Strait 3–5 km northeast of Karluk Spit. This was a prominent well-recognized landmark of fishermen working for the Karluk Spit salmon canneries in the early fishery.

Willow Creek: Name used for more than one Karluk Lake tributary. Gilbert used the name for **Cascade Creek** (1921 notebook), and Rich used it for **Alder Creek** (1926 notebook). Name not currently used.

Willow Point: Land point on east shore of Karluk Lake 2.5 km south of Island Point (shown on FRI map). Name not currently used.

