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Preliminary assessment of landslide-induced wave hazards:

Tidal Inlet, Glacier Bay National Park, Alaska

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Abstract

A large potential rock avalanche above the northern shore of Tidal Inlet, Glacier Bay National Park, Alaska, was investigated to determine hazards and risks of landslide-induced waves to cruise ships and other park visitors. Field and photographic examination revealed that the 5 to 10 million cubic meter landslide moved between AD 1892 and 1919 after the retreat of Little Ice Age glaciers from Tidal Inlet by AD 1890. The timing of landslide movement and the glacial history suggest that glacial debuttressing caused weakening of the slope and that the landslide could have been triggered by large earthquakes of 1899-1900 in Yakutat Bay. Evidence of recent movement includes fresh scarps, back-rotated blocks, and smaller secondary landslide movements. However, until there is evidence of current movement, the mass is classified as a dormant rock slump. An earthquake on the nearby active Fairweather fault system could reactivate the landslide and trigger a massive rock slump and debris avalanche into Tidal Inlet. Preliminary analyses show that waves induced by such a landslide could travel at speeds of 45 to 50 m/s and reach heights up to 76 m with wave runups of 200 m on the opposite shore of Tidal Inlet. Such waves would not only threaten vessels in Tidal Inlet, but would also travel into the western arm of Glacier Bay endangering large cruise ships and their passengers.

Introduction

A large detached mass of rock and debris ([fig. 1](#)) above the northern shore of Tidal Inlet, Glacier Bay National Park in southeastern Alaska ([fig. 2](#)) was recognized in 1964 by geologist David Brew (pers. commun., 2002). Brew et al. (1995) suggested that this perched mass of rock posed a threat similar to what occurred in Lituya Bay, Alaska ([fig. 2](#)). On July 9, 1958, a magnitude M 7.9 earthquake on the Fairweather Fault triggered a rock avalanche at the head of Lituya Bay. The landslide generated a wave that ran up 524 m on the opposite shore and sent a 30-m high wave through Lituya Bay sinking two of three fishing boats and killing two persons (Miller, 1960). In 1995, after Matthias Jakob recognized the unstable mass of rock above Tidal Inlet, he submitted a proposal (EBA Engineering, 1997) to the National Park Service (NPS) to assess the potential risks that this landslide posed to visitors and ships. Between May and September cruise ships carry several thousand passengers daily past Tidal Inlet. In 2002 the NPS supported this investigative field research team to assess the potential hazards and risks in Tidal Inlet. This preliminary report focuses on the hazards posed by the Tidal Inlet landslide; a later report will include a detailed wave model analysis and risk assessment.

Geographic Setting

Glacier Bay National Park, located in the northern part of southeast Alaska, is a land of glacier-clad, snow-capped mountain ranges rising to over 4,500 m, coastal beaches, deep fjords, tidewater glaciers, and freshwater lakes. A wet and cool climate supports thick vegetation through much of lower Glacier Bay where vegetation has reclaimed land recently covered by glaciers, while the upper bay is covered by shrubby vegetation. Summer daytime temperatures range between 45 and 65°F, but at night may be near

freezing. In 1794 Captain George Vancouver visited the region and discovered that Glacier Bay was largely covered by glacial ice to the outlet into Icy Strait ([fig. 2](#)). John Muir noted in 1879 that the ice had retreated about 78 km. Tidal Inlet is located ([fig. 2](#)) about 55 km up Glacier Bay, on the east side of the west arm.

Glacial History

Cool temperatures, ample precipitation, and complex high topographic relief of Glacier Bay National Park have resulted in extensive ice fields. Massive cordilleran ice sheets cyclically expanded and swept seaward across this terrain throughout the Pleistocene. The last glacier maximum came to a close in this region between 10,000 and 12,000 years ago (Miller, 1975; Mann, 1986; Goodwin, 1988) and was followed by the non-glacial Hypsithermal Interval of the Holocene, which ended about 6000 y BP.

The region experienced several cycles of glacier expansion and contraction during the late Holocene, beginning about 3000 years ago (Goodwin, 1988; Motyka and Beget, 1996). The most recent advance, the Little Ice Age (LIA), spanned a period lasting from the mid-13th century to the late 19th century in this region, and is of particular importance to this study. The LIA advance appears to be the largest of the late-Holocene advances, as no recognizable older moraines lie beyond the LIA maximum. The LIA expansion filled both arms of Glacier Bay with over 1-km thick ice and extended into Icy Strait (Goodwin, 1988; Molenaar, 1990; Larsen et al., 2002) ([fig. 2](#)). It is not known when the glaciers reached their LIA maximums.

Although the LIA continued well into the 19th century in many parts of Alaska, a region-wide glacier retreat from the LIA maximum in southeast Alaska began during the mid to late 18th century (Goodwin, 1988; Post and Motyka, 1995; Motyka and Beget, 1996). Non-tidewater glaciers retreated very slowly through the late 18th and 19th centuries and a few even experienced standstills and slight readvances (Motyka and Beget, 1996; Motyka et al., 2002). In contrast, tidewater glaciers in Glacier Bay rapidly retreated by calving during the same period (Goodwin, 1988). Once tidewater calving glaciers retreat into deep water, they become unstable and undergo catastrophic retreat that is independent of climate, as part of the “tidewater glacier cycle” (Post and Motyka, 1995). The main trunk glaciers at Glacier Bay retreated about 120 km from Icy Strait to the head of the west arm of the bay in just 180 years ([fig. 2](#)), ranking it as the fastest and most prolonged historic tidewater calving retreat in Alaska. This retreat caused rapid glacial unloading, causing isostatic regional rebound (Larsen et al., 2002). Tidewater glacier retreat finally slowed and some tidewater glaciers in Glacier Bay even began readvancing during the 20th century (Molenaar, 1990). In contrast, the rate of net loss of non-tidewater glaciers in the region increased significantly during the 20th century (Arendt et al., 2002; Motyka et al., 2002).

Little Ice Age History of Tidal Inlet

Most of the Tidal Inlet ([fig. 3](#)) was covered by ice during the LIA. Till that is several meters in thickness and deposited by LIA glaciers, mantle valley walls at elevations as high as 600 m above the northern

shore of Tidal Inlet. The source region for the ice in Tidal Inlet is most likely a combination of the 1,000+ m high mountainous region north of the inlet and ice from the east arm of Glacier Bay. Photo interpretation of LIA lateral moraines indicate that this ice from Tidal Inlet coalesced with adjoining icefields flowing into the west arm trunk glacier. The ice dam created by the main trunk glacier at the mouth of the inlet helped impound ice in Tidal Inlet.

Deglaciation of Tidal Inlet probably proceeded simultaneously with the calving retreat that rapidly depleted ice in both arms of Glacier Bay during the 19th century. Thinning of ice in the main arms reduced heights of ice dams blocking tributaries, allowing them to accelerate flow and draw down their respective icefields. The terminus of the west arm glacier had retreated up bay beyond the mouth of Tidal Inlet by AD 1880 (Molenaar, 1990). Maps by Reid (1896) show that Tidal Inlet was devoid of ice by AD 1890 except for a remnant glacier at its head.

Dendrochronology

In order to obtain minimum estimates of post-LIA reforestation of the area, and therefore a minimum age for deglaciation, we cored several Sitka spruce trees (*Picea sitchensis*) that are growing in a low-lying area, south of the entrance into Tidal Inlet ([fig. 3](#)-Pts. 1, 2). Standard increment borers were used and extraction heights on the tree stems were about 0.7 m. Only the largest and presumably oldest spruce trees were chosen. The base elevation of trees sampled was well above any coastal emergence that might have taken place as a result of post-LIA glacier rebound (Motyka, 2003). The cores from the sampled trees gave nearly uniform tree-ring counts (68 to 74) suggesting nearly contemporaneous colonization. To correct for tree age to the height of core extraction (0.7 m), we used an estimate of 13 years, based on work by Fastie (1995) on post-glacial succession in Glacier Bay. Thus, minimum germination age for these Sitka spruce is on the order of AD 1915 to 1920. Fastie (1995) found that ecesis for Sitka spruce, i.e., the time lag between deglaciation and germination, averaged about 15 years in the east arm during the early 20th century. Using this value, the south lowland entrance into Tidal Inlet would have to have been free of ice by about AD 1900 to 1905. However, Reid (1896) showed Tidal Inlet free of ice by AD 1890. Thus, ecesis may have been ten years longer here than in the east arm.

Two spruce trees were cored on the lowland valley at the eastern end of Tidal Inlet ([fig. 3](#)-Pt. 3). Using the procedures outlined above, these trees gave germination ages of AD 1938 and 1932. Deglaciation of this region appears to have lagged behind that of west Tidal Inlet by a couple of decades when ecesis is taken into account. This finding agrees with Reid (1896), which shows remnant ice existed in this region in AD 1890. A large rock avalanche deposit is located in a valley that drains from the north into Tidal Inlet near its mouth ([fig. 3](#)-Pt. 4). Two trees that are growing on these deposits were cored. The older tree germinated around AD 1922, which provides a minimum age for deposition of this rock avalanche. It also indicates that the valley in this region was ice free by about AD 1900, which agrees well with Reid (1896).

Geology of Tidal Inlet

Lithology

The geology of the Tidal Inlet region originally mapped by Rossman (1963) has been modified by Brew (written commun., 10/02). The geology in the vicinity of the landslide along the northern shore of Tidal Inlet ([fig. 4](#)) consists of two main geologic units—the Pyramid Peak Formation (Devonian or Silurian) and the Tidal Formation (Late Silurian) covered in places by Surficial Deposits (Holocene and (or) Pleistocene). The Pyramid Peak Formation comprising the slopes above the landslide is made of thin- to thickly-bedded limestone with a locally massive appearance; individual beds are 2 cm to 1 m thick, with most 5 cm to 50 cm thick; light-gray to very dark-gray (Brew, written commun., 10/02). The Tidal Formation near the shoreline on the slopes below the landslide and higher on the slope in the main scarp consists of thin-bedded argillite, calcareous greywacke, and minor limestone; individual beds are < 1mm to several cm thick, generally brown to brownish gray. These rocks contain dipping sedimentary structures that are believed to belong to turbidite-fan complexes.

Surficial Deposits

Glacial-till deposits several meters in thickness mantle the slopes of the northern shore of Tidal Inlet in many places up to elevations of 600 m. These deposits have been deeply eroded by incised gullies forming steep linear ridges and deeply incised furrows ([fig. 5](#)). In contrast, on the landslide, rotational movement has formed steep back-facing scarps, which has displaced the till. Otherwise the till shows little sign of surficial erosion. The high erodibility of the till along the margins of the landslide, where surface drainage and runoff was not interrupted by the main scarp, and many secondary back-rotational scarps, suggest that the till has eroded since the landslide moved.

We examined the shorelines within Tidal Inlet to determine whether previous landslides had generated waves. We found no evidence of wave runup on the southern shore of Tidal Inlet opposite the landslide ([fig. 3](#)-Pt. 2). Turbidite bedrock is exposed at elevations of less than 30 m on the southwest shore. Further upslope from the shore, we found glacial erratics, e.g. granitic boulders, at least one meter in maximum dimension, overlying glacial sandy till (20 cm thick) over gray silty sand extending to a depth of 90 cm. Sitka spruce began colonizing this area in the beginning of the 20th century. Further southwest, (south of Tidal Inlet) lies a pass of about 60-m elevation, where a large wave generated by a landslide from the northern shore of Tidal Inlet could have traveled overland. On the shore in the west arm beyond the lowpoint ([fig. 3](#)-Pt. 1), we found sandy pebbly gravel till or colluvium overlying a 2-3 cm thick layer of light gray silty sand at a depth of about 80 cm. Had this sand layer been deposited by a sudden large landslide-generated wave that traveled overland from the northern shore of Tidal Inlet, it is unclear how 80 cm of colluvium or till could have been deposited on top, unless the event predated the LIA.

At the eastern end of Tidal Inlet ([fig. 3](#)-Pt. 3) we found glacial till up to 5 m thick overlying bedrock on both the southern and northern sides of the creek, at elevations of less than 30 m. We also examined the

northern shore of Tidal Inlet from about the center of the landslide westward to the braided stream entering the inlet ([fig. 3](#)-Pt. 4) and did not find any evidence of wave runup. A large wave generated by a landslide into Tidal Inlet would likely strip vegetation up to a certain height on the opposite slope, similar to the trim lines documented in Lituya Bay (Miller, 1960). Nowhere along the shores of Tidal Inlet did we find any trim lines or notice trees that showed evidence of destruction or distortion from wave runup. Based on the lack of trimlines and wave-related surficial deposits it is unlikely a large landslide impacted the inlet after it became glacier free in the late 19th century. However, landslides could have run out onto a glacier occupying the inlet during the waning stages of the LIA. Signs of such slide deposits would have vanished into the fjord after the ice melted. In addition, we cannot rule out pre-LIA landslide-induced waves.

Structure and Discontinuities

The bedrock structure within each of the geologic units in the vicinity of the Tidal Inlet landslide is moderately uniform. According to Brew (written commun., 10/02), the Pyramid Peak Formation above the landslide strikes roughly parallel to Tidal Inlet in an east-west (E-W) direction and dips to the north at 40-50 degrees ([fig. 4](#)). At the base of the landslide near the northern shore of Tidal Inlet the Tidal Formation strikes into the slope in a NE-SW direction with a wide variation of dips to the west ranging from 55-60 degrees (in the field we observed a wider range of dips). The contact between the Pyramid Peak and Tidal Inlet formations is an unconformity that is obscured in many places by glacial till and by talus covering the mid- and lower- parts of the hillside due to landslide movement ([fig. 4](#)). During our field examination of the main scarp of the landslide, strikes were found in the NW-SE direction, with steep dips in both the south and north directions (not depicted on [fig. 4](#)).

Several faults were identified in the Tidal Inlet area by Rossman (1963) and Brew (written commun., 10/02). Within the Tidal Inlet region two predominate sets of faults are prevalent: one set trending in the E-W direction, similar to the direction of Tidal Inlet; the other set ranging from N-S to northwest-southeast (NW-SE) ([fig. 4](#)). Several additional prominent discontinuities or lineaments were identified on the northern shore of Tidal Inlet on aerial photographs and subsequently confirmed in the field. Three of these lineaments (L1, L2, and L3), depicted in [figure 6](#), are in proximity to or cross the main scarp or left flank (eastern side) of the landslide. These lineaments ranging from 500 to 1000 m in length are generally shorter than those mapped by Rossman (1963) and Brew (written commun., 10/02). Field examination of lineament L1 revealed evidence of movement that could be associated with either recent faulting or slope movement. Lineament L1 can be traced at least 1000 m in an E-W direction, similar in trend to the previously identified set of discontinuities (Brew, written commun., 10/02) ([fig. 4](#)). These lineaments are distinctly visible on aerial photographs taken in 1948 and subsequent photos. Lineament L1 has a moderately steep uphill facing (antislope) scarp, with offset similar to that of a normal fault, ranging from 50 degrees to near vertical, with from 0.5 to 2.0 m of vertical offset ([fig. 7](#)). The E-W trend of the lineament remains remarkably straight despite topographic changes, indicating a near vertical dip of this lineament. The steep escarpment lacks any large vegetation and lacks evidence of severe erosion, such as gulying suggesting a moderately recent origin. A shallow pit excavated into the escarpment revealed that displacement offset colluvium at the surface. Lineaments L2 and L3 are nearly

parallel with some bedding trends in the NE-SW direction. Additional field work is needed to determine whether lineaments L2 and L3 show signs of displacement.

The displacement of the L1 lineament does not align itself with the direction of movement of the Tidal Inlet landslide; however, the displacement could be indicative of another kind of slope movement: sackungen, a type of massive slope movement in mountainous terrain creating a trough parallel to a ridge. Studies near Mt. Currie, British Columbia of a conspicuous linear vertical scarp across an alpine ridge have indicated massive slope movement rather than tectonics caused the scarp (Thompson et al., 1997). Mountain-top gravitational deformation or sackungen similar to that at Mt. Currie is common in many other parts of the world (Bovis and Evans, 1996; Varnes et al., 1989). However, unlike most sackungen, L1 is at midslope rather than near the ridge top. Thus whether L1 is related to gravitational displacement versus tectonic movement is unknown.

Seismicity and Faults

Glacier Bay National Park is a region of high seismicity with several major active faults in the vicinity. The Fairweather fault (FWF) system which merges to the south with the Queen Charlotte Islands fault system along the western edge of the park is a major right lateral strike-slip fault that forms part of the plate boundary between the North American and Pacific Plates along the coast of southeastern Alaska ([fig. 2](#)). This transform boundary has been the locus of four large magnitude, $M > 7.0$, earthquakes during the 20th century (Brew et al., 1995). During the 1958 $M=7.9$ earthquake, a maximum of 3.5 m horizontal and 1.0 m vertical fault displacements were measured (Brew et al., 1995). The 1958 earthquake triggered a 30 million m^3 rockslide which was responsible for a landslide-induced wave in Lituya Bay, Glacier Bay National Park (Miller, 1960).

The active portion of the Denali fault is far to the northeast of Glacier Bay, beyond the area shown in [fig. 2](#). Consequently, significant seismic activity from the Denali fault affecting Glacier Bay region is unlikely (Brew, written commun., 2003). North of the Glacier Bay National Park (beyond Fig. 2) where the Yakutat Block collides with the North American Plate, the FWF undergoes a transition into a series of thrust faults (Fletcher and Freymueller, 1999). Several $M > 8.0$ earthquakes have occurred in this region during historic times. On September 4, and 10, 1899 two earthquakes ($M_s = 8.5, 8.4$) and on October 9, 1900 ($M_s = 8.1$) an earthquake occurred along the Fairweather fault near Yakutat Bay, about 200 km northwest of Tidal Inlet (Plafker and Thatcher, 1982). No epicenters of historic large earthquakes have been recorded near Tidal Inlet in Glacier Bay (Brew et al., 1995). However, the proximity of Tidal Inlet to these major fault systems makes it highly susceptible to strong shaking.

Historical Landslide-induced Waves

Landslides that rapidly move into bodies of water, e.g. bays, lakes, fjords and reservoirs, can generate high, rapidly moving destructive waves. Slingerland and Voight (1979, Table III) summarized numerous worldwide examples of destructive landslide-induced waves. Southeastern Alaska is particularly

susceptible to landslide-induced waves because of steep topography, high seismicity, and recent glacial retreat removing slope support. Several Lituya Bay landslides and the subsequent waves have been intensely studied by researchers (Miller, 1960; Fritz et al., 2001; Mader and Gittings, 2002). From dendrochronologic analysis of trees and observations of trimlines along the slopes of Lituya Bay, Miller (1960) was able to identify at least four landslide-generated waves that had occurred in the bay: July 9, 1958, October, 1936, about 1874, and 1853-1854. The July 9, 1958 landslide-induced wave with a runup of 524 m on the opposite shore and a 30-m wave passing beyond Lituya Bay is the largest landslide-generated wave ever documented worldwide. As described by Miller (1960, p. 53), the 1958 earthquake was strongly felt on a boat at anchor in Glacier Bay about 100 km east from Lituya Bay. Rocks fell into the water from steep cliffs nearby, causing small waves of not more than one meter on the shore; however, no large waves were seen. This location would likely have been about 20 km south of Tidal Inlet. No observations were reported of landslide-induced waves in Tidal Inlet.

Tidal Inlet Landslide

Landslide Features

Although it is not known exactly when the landslide on the northern shore of Tidal Inlet first moved, the current major landslide features first appear on a portion of a July 28, 1919 photograph of Glacier Bay taken by J.B. Mertie ([photo J.B. Mertie 706](http://libraryphoto.er.usgs.gov/startlib1.htm) on the USGS Library Photo archives web site, <http://libraryphoto.er.usgs.gov/startlib1.htm>). On the far left edge of this photograph the mountains above the northern shore of Tidal Inlet are visible, including a recent main scarp and toe of the eastern part of the landslide. An 1892 photograph by H.F. Reid (#346 from the archives of the National Snow and Ice Data Center, Boulder, Colorado) is a northerly view across Glacier Bay that shows the area above the northern shore of Tidal Inlet where the main landslide scarp later developed. Some evidence suggests that prehistoric (pre LIA?) landslide movement had occurred, but no signs of recent landslide movement are visible on this photograph. This photographic evidence brackets the period of recent landslide movement between 1892 and 1919. The recent landslide features show most clearly on an aerial photograph ([fig. 8](#)) taken in 1948. More than 50 years later, although slightly eroded, the main scarp ([figs. 9, 10, and 11](#)) and the other landslide features still remain distinctly visible. No signs of recent renewed movement, such as slickensides, appear at any location along the base of the main scarp. The crown of the main scarp is arcuate, but irregular along its length, with the highest part of the crown at an elevation of about 700 m ([figs. 6, 9](#)). The main scarp has a slope of 45 degrees and exposes thinly layered bedrock ([figs. 10 and 11](#)). This scarp has a fairly uniform range of height, 20-40 m, suggesting that the body of the landslide detached rigidly. Although small amounts of snow were still observed on portions of the slopes above the main scarp in mid-July, no springs were identified along the length of the main scarp suggesting that the ground water level was generally deeper than the base of the main scarp.

The average slope angle of the existing landslide mass at Tidal Inlet between the base of the main scarp and the bottom boundary (toe) of the slide where the rupture surface is exposed in a bedrock escarpment is about 17 degrees. Due to rotation of the rock slump the original surface before sliding was steeper,

approximately 32 degrees. Likewise, should this landslide mass be reactivated, the movement of material beyond the toe of rupture would rapidly descend because of the steeper slope below the bedrock escarpment. Based on the 1:63,360 scale Mt. Fairweather topographic map, slope steepness from the approximate landslide center of mass to the edge of Tidal Inlet ranges from 35 to 40 degrees. This would be the degree of slope that the landslide would descend into Tidal Inlet once it leaves the toe near the rupture surface.

Within the main body of the landslide the surface topography is severely disrupted by many (13?) rotational blocks with prominent back-facing scarps ([figs. 6, 12](#)). In the upper portion of the main body the exposed portions of these blocks are within glacial till, but further downslope bedrock can be seen within the blocks. The back-rotated faces of these blocks are quite steep, ranging several meters in height with slope angles of 35 to 50 degrees. These north-facing backscarps are thinly vegetated in places suggesting relatively recent movement. The troughs formed by these blocks tend to collect snow and because of lack of downslope stream runoff, result in increased infiltration of water into the main body of the landslide. Several drainage channels through glacial till were found to be truncated at the crest of the rotational blocks, with the previous originally continuing channels displaced further downslope. Such disrupted drainage features indicate sudden rather than slow rotation, which would of course have allowed incision through the erodible till cover. Fluvial erosion could not keep pace with the upthrusting of the blocks, which now is leading to water accumulation in the ditches parallel to the elevation contours. Consequently, the degree of saturation and ground-water level(s) within the landslide mass remains higher than on adjacent slopes, which reduces the relative stability of the landslide mass. Below the escarpment at the toe of the landslide ([fig. 3](#)-Pt. 5), two springs were observed (07/16/02) flowing from the base of the landslide talus with an estimated rate of about 0.01 m³/s each. These springs had built up calcareous deposits on talus debris indicating that some groundwater flow was probably issuing from the limestone of the Pyramid Peak Formation above the main scarp of the landslide, although limestone is also present in the Tidal Formation.

The toe of the landslide is exposed as layers of outcropping bedrock where the rupture surface daylighted at midslope between the shoreline and the main scarp. Within the region of the toe a thin white layer of limestone (?) is clearly visible extending across the width of the landslide ([fig. 1](#)). This bedrock layer bulges slightly downward near the center of the toe perhaps indicating slightly greater displacement at the center of the landslide mass. No recent displacement is evident below this bedrock exposure where glacial till has eroded gullies extending to the shoreline.

In the center of the main body of the landslide there is evidence of a secondary landslide movement that has removed surficial material from some of the rotational blocks on the lower section of the landslide ([fig. 9](#)). The depth of this secondary landslide movement appears to be relatively shallow, and principally involves glacial till. The secondary movement appears on the 1919 Mertie photography, so the timing of the secondary movement in relation to the initial movement of the main body of the landslide is unknown. Cracks and fissures coincident with this secondary movement, with a maximum lateral displacement on the order of one meter, extend up through portions of the rotational blocks within the main body of the landslide.

On the right (west) flank of the landslide, two closely spaced sets of parallel open fissures were found in surficial soils extending beyond the termination of the main scarp (solid line), downslope towards the toe of the landslide (fig. 6). These fissures appeared relatively fresh within generally weak soils and would not be expected to be preserved for long periods of time under normal climatic conditions. In addition, revegetation would be expected to cover these fissures unless movements were recurrent. Additional field work is needed to determine whether these fissures represent lateral shear or collapse of surficial materials into piping voids.

Landslide Dimensions

The size of the Tidal Inlet landslide was estimated from field observations and examination of aerial photographs (fig. 6). The highest point on top of the main scarp is at an elevation of about 700 m, whereas, the base of the main scarp is at about 577 m in elevation. The estimated boundaries of the landslide (fig. 6) show a slide length of surface of rupture (distance from the base of the main scarp downslope to the center of the toe of the landslide block), L_r , of about 500 m and a maximum slide width of surface of rupture, W_r , of about 1230 m, subsequently referred to as slide length and maximum slide width. The terminology for the definitions of landslide dimensions and method for calculating an estimated volume are taken from Cruden and Varnes (1996). A secondary landslide has removed material from the center of the large landslide feature and deposited it as talus on the slope below the landslide boundary. These boundaries do not account for any increased amount of landslide material from the activation of the hillside region between the east flank and the lineament L1 higher on the hillside.

The depth or thickness of the landslide is more difficult to estimate. Using a GPS profile of the main scarp and minor scarps on the main body of the landslide (fig. 13), the maximum depth to the bottom, along the surface of rupture for a circular failure was estimated to be about 40 m, whereas an ellipsoidal shape would result in 20 m depth (perpendicular to the original ground surface). Although the till exposed in many of the minor scarps is weak, the bedrock (Tidal Formation) evident in the major escarpment at the toe of the surface of rupture (and some of the lower minor scarps), indicates stronger material at depth, suggesting an ellipsoid shaped rupture surface rather than a deeper circular failure. Given the uncertainty associated with depth estimates, a value of 30 m is assumed as an approximation of the maximum depth of the surface of rupture, D_r . Using a geographic information system (GIS) and correcting for slope angle, the area of the landslide is approximately 293,000 m².

The volume of the landslide depends upon its shape. The shape of the Tidal Inlet landslide with its maximum width coinciding with its lower boundary (or toe), resembles either a quarter ellipsoid-shaped mass or a block wedge. For a half ellipsoid-shaped landslide, the volume can be estimated by the formula (Cruden and Varnes, 1996, p. 42):

$$VOL_{ls} = (1/6) \pi D_r W_r L_r \quad \text{Eqn. 1}$$

where D_r is the maximum depth of surface rupture, W_r is the maximum width between the flanks of the landslide, and L_r is the minimum distance from toe of surface of rupture to crown.

The volume of the Tidal Inlet landslide can be estimated by taking half the value of volume calculated from Eqn. 1 because the shape of the landslide with a broad width at its toe only appears to be half the size of a half ellipsoid.

$$VOL_{ls} = (1/12) \pi D_r W_r L_r \quad \text{Eqn. 2}$$

Using thickness D_r of 30 m, width W_r of 1230 m, and length L_r of 510 m, Eqn. 2 yields a volume of approximately 5 million cubic meters.

However, if the renewed movement of the landslide resembles a block wedge either as a half ellipsoid or as a rectangular block, then the volumes could be calculated as follows. For a half ellipsoid, the landslide volume from Eqn. 1 would be approximately 10 million cubic meters. For a rectangular block with an average width, W , of 700 m, slide length L of 510 m, and maximum slide thickness, D , of 30 m, the landslide volume according to:

$$VOL_{ls} = D W L \quad \text{Eqn. 3}$$

results in a volume of approximately 10.7 million cubic meters. Thus, the minimum and maximum likely volumes of potential landslide reactivation, Vol_{min} and Vol_{max} , range from 5 to 10.7 million cubic meters.

Landslide Classification

Based on the many separate rotational movements within the body of the landslide and the bedrock materials involved along the sliding surface underlying the glacial till, the initial landslide would be classified as a rock slump (Varnes, 1978). The shallow secondary movement would be termed a debris slide involving principally the glacial till.

Landslide Properties

The density of a landslide depends upon the nature of the soil or bedrock involved in sliding, and once a landslide has moved, how much the displaced material dilates. Swelling factors of 33 to 67% (Church, 1981; Nicoletti and Sorriso-Valvo, 1991) will decrease the density of a landslide. No density measurements of the materials involved in the Tidal Inlet landslide have been made, and therefore we did not attempt to estimate the amount that potential swelling would have altered landslide density. A value of 2.6 is considered a reasonable assumption for the density of the Tidal Inlet landslide based on the specific gravity of shale (2.4-2.8) or limestone (2.3-2.8).

The level of groundwater within the landslide mass and the northern slope of Tidal Inlet is uncertain. The movement and disrupted slope surface of the landslide have created topography favorable to capture of precipitation and infiltration into the ground. In July 2002, snow was still found in depressions created by rotational movement along minor escarpments, although most other parts of the hillside were devoid of any snow below elevations of about 1000 m. No springs were observed within the scarps, or elsewhere within the landslide suggesting that infiltration is recharging the soil and bedrock without totally filling the voids. Surface gullies within the till suggest that during intense storms, surface runoff is prevalent. Consequently, water levels within the landslide mass will probably remain relatively low throughout most of the year, with the exception of periods of peak runoff associated with rapid snowmelt or intense storms.

State of Landslide Activity

History of Landslide Movement

We sampled three black cottonwood trees (*Populus trichocarpa*) rooted in back-slope trenches between slide blocks. These trees grow at an elevation of approximately 550 m. Two of the trees have fallen over and their trunks are now horizontal with vertical branches growing from them. It was unclear whether the trees were knocked over by individual falling rocks from the scarp above or whether the ground beneath the tree was rotated and the branches resprouted vertically. The former is expected because rocks littered the surrounding area and actually impinged on one of the trees. We did observe rocks of substantial size, capable of damaging trees, fall from the upper slopes during our field reconnaissance. The oldest tree gave a germination age of AD 1952 with compression wood starting at about AD 1973. The second tree germinated at about AD 1962 with compression wood starting about AD 1977. Compression wood forms when trees try to compensate for lean and therefore may mark the time when the trees were impacted by rocks. The third tree was the largest in the area and stood upright; it had an estimated germination age of AD 1952. This dendrochronologic data suggests recurrent rock-fall activity from the steep scarp above. In addition, the presence of a vertical tree indicates that renewed ground rotation has not occurred since germination in AD 1952.

GPS Detection of landslide movement

Four monuments were installed on the Tidal Inlet landslide to assess landslide movement ([fig. 13](#)). These points were surveyed with Trimble 4000 SI and SSI, geodetic-quality, GPS receivers and dual-frequency (L1/L2) antennas. GPS data were collected for durations of one hour and collection intervals of 30 seconds at each monument. Two base stations were set up over permanent benchmarks (CINCO and MART) along the shores of the west arm of Glacier Bay, and continuously collected data at intervals of 30 seconds for a period of about 7 days. These permanent benchmarks are being used in a project for monitoring crustal motion in the Glacier Bay region (Larsen et al., 2001), and their locations are known within a horizontal accuracy of 7 mm and a vertical accuracy of 13 mm. Very accurate baseline solutions between CINCO and each of the landslide monuments were calculated, yielding

accurate relative coordinates for each of the landslide monuments. Subsequent reoccupations of the base stations and landslide monuments in the summer of 2003 or thereafter are intended to measure landslide movement if it occurs.

The accuracy of GPS-derived coordinates of monuments installed on the landslide depends on many factors which are equipment, site, and time dependent. These factors include baseline length, occupation time, number and constellation of satellites, ionospheric interference, etc., and are inherent to the GPS system, equipment used, and processing software. The data from the concurrent GPS occupations of the two permanent benchmarks were used to estimate the errors due to these factors during the surveying of the landslide monuments. In addition, there are small errors associated with the setup of GPS equipment (the stability of the setup throughout the duration of the occupation, and the ability to set up the equipment in precisely the exact same location at a later time). The stability of the monuments between successive occupations is also a factor; any instability such as displacement due to frost heaving can lead to error (or movement that could falsely be attributed to the landslide). The estimation for this error should be revised after it is assessed at reoccupation. Each of these components and the resulting total accuracy of the GPS data are summarized in Table 1.

	Horizontal Best Case (cm)	Vertical Best Case (cm)	Horizontal Worst Case (cm)	Vertical Worst Case (cm)
Inherent GPS Errors (due to equipment, number of satellites, etc.)	1.6	3.2	1.9	8.9
Equipment Setup Errors	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6
Monument Stability Error	1.0+	1.0+	2.0+	2.0+
Total GPS Accuracy	2.8+	4.5+	4.3+	11.5+

Table 1. Assessment of accuracy of GPS data for Tidal Inlet landslide monuments.

GPS solutions for the landslide monuments showed at least 4 satellites in common with base station CINCO at all times, and the variance ratios of the solutions ranged from 11.7 to 106.8. The variance ratio is a measure of the confidence in the GPS solution; generally a minimum value of 1.5 is expected; the larger the number the better, with 11.7 and higher being very good solutions. Therefore the accuracy of these surveys is closer to the "best case" columns in [Table 1](#).

The period of time necessary for determining the rate of landslide movement not only has to do with the accuracy of the GPS measurements, but depends upon the relative rate of movement. Landslide movement is characterized as extremely slow if moving at a typical rate of less than 1.6 cm/yr (Cruden and Varnes, 1996). Using the range of GPS total accuracy for best to worst case (2.8-4.3 cm), we will not be able to detect extremely slow movement over an interval of only one year. However, we should be able to determine rates of landslide movement between about 5.0 cm/yr and 16 cm/yr, which would fit the category of "very slow" velocity class (1.6-160 cm/yr). If after the first year, the rate of movement is below detection limits of GPS accuracy, then another set of GPS measurements 3-5 years later would be sufficient to determine if the landslide is moving "extremely slowly" (less than 1.6 cm/yr).

Glacial Retreat and Landslide Stability

Glacial retreat is widely recognized as a factor in increased landslide activity in glaciated regions due to debuttressing of bedrock slopes and deposition of glacial drift in unstable areas (Bovis, 1990; Evans and Clague, 1994; Abele, 1997; Berrisford and Mathews, 1997; Haeberli et al., 1997; and Ryder, 1998). In this study we hypothesize that glacial debuttressing is a causative factor in the recent movement of the Tidal Inlet landslide. A few topographic features on the northern shore of Tidal Inlet suggest that a landslide possibly existed prior to the recent (1892-1919) movement ([fig. 6](#)); however, the age and full extent of these features is not discernable. Previous landslide movement could also have been affected by the process of glacial retreat ([fig. 14](#)).

Glacial scour had steepened the slopes during the LIA; but did not result in instability because the glacier provided lateral support to the rock mass ([fig. 14a](#)). As the glacier waned, the support by glacier ice decreased until the ice completely vanished from Tidal Inlet. The limestone and turbidite rock formations comprising this terrain have been heavily fractured and are friable. The poor strength characteristics of the bedrock and the decrease of lateral support by the removal of ice may have led to dilation and progressive weakening of the rock mass. Simultaneously, isostatic rebound of several (2.5) centimeters per year in the Glacier Bay region (Motyka, 2003) may have led to further fracturing and destabilization.

LIA glacial drift mantles the back slopes of the rotated blocks of the Tidal Inlet landslide up to an elevation of about 600 m. Downhill facing scarps, however, are drift free indicating that the landslide blocks rotated after glacial retreat ([fig. 14b](#)). This observation leads to the question of why the rock slump did not transform into a rock avalanche. Perhaps the recent movement did result in some material breaking off at the toe with the loose debris proceeding to the shoreline, but movement stopped before too much of the material dislodged. Bathymetric data at the base of the slope does not show any distinct deposits below the Tidal Inlet landslide.

The occurrence of several large earthquakes near Yakutat Bay in 1899-1900 presents the possibility that seismic shaking triggered the Tidal Inlet landslide in the period of 1892 to 1919. According to historic correlations between the distances of landslides from earthquake epicenters as a function of earthquake magnitude, coherent landslides, such as rock slumps, have been documented at maximum distances up

to about 300 km from the epicenter of M 8 earthquakes (Keefer, 1984). The three Yakutat Bay earthquakes of 1899-1900 with magnitudes ranging from 8.1- 8.5 (Plafker and Thatcher, 1982) had the possibility of triggering a landslide at Tidal Inlet, at a distance of about 200 km from the epicentral region of Yakutat Bay.

With respect to future movement on the slopes above Tidal Inlet, two scenarios are conceivable. The first scenario suggests incremental failure of rotational blocks or portions similar to the secondary landslide movement recognized within the lower center portion of the landslide mass. High frequency – low magnitude failure events could send some individual larger rock blocks into Tidal Inlet. In this case, the hazard would only affect people on the lower slopes of the north shore of Tidal Inlet or small vessels and kayaks in close proximity to the lower slopes. The probability of the latter is unknown but relatively low. The second scenario would involve a complete failure of the landslide mass as a consequence of exceeding a strength threshold triggered by strong seismicity, large volume rainfall and/or high rainfall intensity possibly paired with rapid snowmelt. In this case, it is likely that the rock mass will slide for a short distance before transforming into a chaotic mass of rock that would entrain additional loose material on its downslope path before impacting Tidal Inlet. This later scenario, of course, bears much higher risk to vessels in Tidal Inlet and the adjacent western arm of Glacier Bay because of larger wave heights, wave velocities and wave runups. This second high-risk scenario is modeled in the following section.

Potential Landslide-induced Waves

A number of different methods have been used to evaluate the potential for landslide-induced waves based on studies of previous historical events. Several empirical and numerical models have been proposed to analyze waves generated by landslides using deductive or inductive approaches (Slingerland and Voight, 1979). More recently, interactions between landslides and bodies of water have been incorporated in a hydrodynamic model using force terms (Kofoed-Hansen et al., 2001). We examine the results of modeling waves in Tidal Inlet using previously developed models to derive a range of potential wave height, runup, and speed. However, we recognize that for more accurate estimation of wave characteristics in Tidal Inlet and Glacier Bay, it is necessary to develop more sophisticated models considering the detailed bathymetry in Tidal Inlet and three-dimensional wave propagation. The following section focuses on empirical models of landslide-generated waves.

Landslide Velocity

Our calculations of landslide velocity, wave height, wave velocity, and wave runup are based upon the measured parameters for the Tidal Inlet landslide listed in [Table 2](#). Values for landslide velocity in the following section are based upon the maximum estimated landslide volume. We have used several different briefly described methods and list the equations with their original terminology and symbols. The results of these calculations are summarized in [Table 3](#).

One of the first physical models used to simulate landslide-generated waves was created by Noda (1970)

using the following assumptions:

- § The landslide volume is small compared to the water volume ($V_L \ll V_W$)
- § The landslide is rectangular
- § The velocity-time history of the landslide movement is known
- § The fluid is incompressible and its motion non-rotational, and linear equations of surface gravity waves are applicable.
- § The horizontal fluid velocity under the landslide is not a function of z , the direction of the box drop.
- § Impact phenomena can be ignored.

According to Slingerland and Voight (1979), landslide velocity can then be modeled as:

$$v_s = v_0 + [2gs(\sin\beta - \tan\phi_s \cos\beta)]^{1/2} \quad \text{Eqn. 4}$$

where:

v_s = slide velocity computed as a mass sliding on a plane

v_0 = initial slide velocity (assumed to be 0 ms^{-1})

g = gravitational constant (9.81 ms^{-2})

s = landslide travel distance (450 m) from the toe of the landslide mass to the water's edge

β = slope angle in degrees (40°)

ϕ_s = angle of dynamic sliding friction including pore pressure and roughness effects. Value of $\tan\phi_s$ is assumed to be 0.25 ± 0.15 based on Slingerland and Voight (1979).

According to this formula, the impact velocity is 63 m/s or 230 km/h.

Wave Height

According to Noda (1970), the wave height can be modeled as:

$$\eta = F \lambda \quad \text{Eqn. 5}$$

where:

η = wave height (m)

F = Froude Number = $v/(gd)^{0.5}$

v = landslide velocity (63m/s)

g = acceleration of gravity (9.81 m/s²)

d = water depth (200 m)

λ = maximum thickness of landslide mass (30 m)

Using a velocity of 63 m/s, equation 5 yields a potential wave height in Tidal Inlet of 43 m.

Slingerland and Voight (1979) used data from a study on Mica Reservoir in British Columbia to refine a previously developed model and developed the following regression equation for wave height (first wave):

$$\log(\eta_{\max}/d) = a + b \log (\text{KE}) \quad \text{Eqn. 6}$$

where:

$a = -1.25$

$b = 0.71$

$$\text{KE} = 0.5 (lhw/d^3) (\rho_s/\rho) (v_s^2/gd) \quad \text{Eqn. 7}$$

where:

KE ($1 < \text{KE} < 100$) is the dimensionless kinetic energy,

l = landslide length (500 m)

h = landslide thickness (30 m)

w = average landslide width (700 m)

d = water depth (200 m)

ρ_s = landslide density (2.6 g/cm³)

ρ = water density (1.0 g/cm³)

v_s = slide velocity (63 m/s)

Substituting the above values into Eqn. 6 yields a KE value of 3.6, which in turn is substituted into Eqn. 6 to yield a wave height of 27 m.

Huber and Hager (1997) attempted a forecasting model for impulse waves into reservoirs. The input parameters for their model were:

§ slope angle at the impact site

§ plunging slide volume V_s over a finite shore distance b , equal to the width of the slide at impact with water

§ slide velocity and direction at the impact site

§ water depth d near the impact site

§ water body bathymetry

§ distance x from the impact site to the location under consideration

The underlying assumptions of the analysis were that:

§ the ratio of wave height H to water depth d is smaller than the wave breaking limit ratio of 0.78

§ the relative wave heights are calculated for distances of $5 < x/d < 100$ for 2-D flume tests and $5 < x/d < 30$ for 3-D tests in the wave pool

§ slide velocity v_s is larger than about 50% of the wave velocity or celerity, C

§ slide angle α is between 28° and 60°. For $\alpha < 25^\circ$ friction inhibits the sliding of material

§ slide mass is a dense flow of debris (rather than a dense rock mass or fragmental rockfall)

According to Huber and Hager (1997), wave height H can be calculated as:

$$H = 0.88 \sin\alpha (\rho_s/\rho)^{0.25} (V_s/b)^{0.5} (d/x)^{0.25} \quad \text{Eqn. 8}$$

Using values previously stated for α , ρ_s , ρ , d , landslide volume V_s of 10,500,000 m³, a distance x of 350 m to the middle of Tidal Inlet, and a finite shore distance b of impact along the shore equal to the average width of the landslide of 700 m, Eqn. 8 yields a wave height H of 76 m. The wave height, H , is mainly influenced by the impact angle α , and secondly by the specific slide volume (V_s/b). All other factors in Eqn. 8 are of minor importance.

Wave Velocity

Landslide generated waves propagate in semicircles over an open water surface. H , the wave height, varies with propagation direction and travel distance. The largest waves travel in the direction of maximum momentum, while lateral waves traveling along the shore are significantly smaller. The following formula was applied by Wiegell (1964) to determine wave celerity (or velocity) C :

$$C = (g(d + H))^{0.5} \quad \text{Eqn. 9}$$

A water depth, d , of 200 m in Tidal Inlet and an average wave height H of 49 m (Table 3), result in a wave velocity C of 49 m/s.

According to the formulation of Huber and Hager (1997):

$$C = (g*d)^{0.5} \quad \text{Eqn. 10}$$

A water depth, d , of 200 m results in a wave velocity of 44 m/s.

Wave Runup

According to Chow (1960), wave runup on the slope of the opposite shore of Tidal Inlet can be calculated according to:

$$v_s^2 = 2gh, \text{ or } h = v_s^2/2g \approx 200 \text{ m} \quad \text{Eqn. 11}$$

According to Eqn.10, a landslide velocity v_s of 63 m/s results in a wave runup h of ~200 m. Accordingly, any vessel in Tidal Inlet which is in the impact area of the landslide, could be expected to

be displaced by as much as 200 m.

Huber and Hager (1997) also provided a calculation for wave runup based on work by Mueller (1995) and Huber (1997), as follows:

$$R/d = 1.25 (\pi/2\beta)^{0.2} (H/d)^{1.25} (H/L)^{-0.15} \tag{Eqn. 12}$$

Where R is the wave runup height over the level of the water body, β is the angle of steepness of the opposite slope (60°), H is the approaching wave height (76 m using Huber and Hager’s Eqn. 8 for wave height), L is the wave length (5 times the water depth d) and d is the water depth (200 m). Using these values, Eqn.11 yields a wave runup of 123 m on the shore opposite the landslide.

According to Synolakis (1987), solitary wave runup can be calculated as:

$$R/d = 2.831 (\cot\beta)^{0.5} (H/d)^{1.25} \tag{Equ. 13}$$

Using 60° for β , and 76 m for H, and 200 m for d, a potential runup of approximately 131 m is calculated for the slope opposite the Tidal Inlet landslide.

Hall and Watts (1953) calculated solitary wave runup using the following equation

$$R/d = 3.1 (H/d)^{1.15} \tag{Eqn. 14}$$

With wave height H = 76 m, and water depth d = 200 m, wave runup is calculated as approximately 208 m. If Eqn.8 and Eqn.12 are applied to determine the wave height and wave runup at Blue Mouse Cove (fig. 2), a distance, x, of about 7.25 km across Glacier Bay from the landslide impact into Tidal Inlet, a wave height of 40 m could be expected, with a wave runup varying between 40 and 67 m, depending upon the depth of water with Blue Mouse Cove at specific locations. This estimation of wave height and runup indicates that even at the other side of the western arm of Glacier Bay, people on land near Blue Mouse Cove and in cruise ships are potentially at risk.

Table 2. Tidal Inlet landslide characteristics and other values used in calculations.

	Elevation of top of scarp	700 m	
	Elevation of base of scarp	600 m	
	Slide Length (base of scarp to toe)	500 m	

Slide Width (Average)	700 m
Slide Width (Maximum)	1200 m
Slide Thickness (Average)	30 m
Landslide Travel Distance to shore of Tidal Inlet	450 m
Slide Density	2.6 g/cm ³
Maximum Slope Angle of Landslide to Tidal Inlet	40°
Average Slope Angle of Opposite Shore	60°
Landslide Area	293,000 m ²
Landslide Volume (Max) Block Shape	10,700,000 m ³
Landslide Volume (Min) Ellipsoidal Shape	4,928,000 m ³
Maximum Water Depth (Tidal Inlet)	200 m

Table 3. Tidal Inlet values of landslide velocity, wave height, wave runup on opposite shore, and wave speed based on range of volumes of a block-shaped landslide with minimum and maximum volumes of 5.25 and 10.5 million m³, respectively, calculated from the different formulas cited.

Calculated Property and Calculation Method Reference	Using Minimum Block Slide Volume	Using Maximum Block Slide Volume
Landslide Velocity		
Noda (1970)	63 m/s	63 m/s
Wave Height		

Slingerland and Voight (1979)	17 m	27 m
Noda (1970)	43 m	43 m
Huber and Hager (1997) (mid-inlet)	54 m	76 m
<i>Average Wave Height</i>	<i>38 m</i>	<i>49 m</i>
Wave Runup on Opposite Slope		
Chow (1960)	203 m	203 m
Huber and Hager (1997)	65 m	123 m
Synolakis (1987)	68 m	131 m
Hall and Watts (1953)	113 m	208 m
<i>Average Wave Runup</i>	<i>112 m</i>	<i>166 m</i>
Wave Velocity		
Weigel (1964)	48 m/s	49 m/s
Huber and Hague (1997)	44 m/s	44 m/s

Conclusions

1. Glacier ice in Tidal Inlet became ice-free by AD 1890. The removal of ice decreased lateral support for the hillside. Although a previous landslide could have existed prior to the end of the LIA, a landslide above the northern shore of Tidal Inlet recently moved sometime between 1892 and 1919 as determined from close examination of photographs. Several large earthquakes during 1899-1900 in the Yakutat Bay region could have triggered the landslide movement in Tidal Inlet.

The general lack of revegetation of back scarps and distinctness of the landslide features—main and secondary scarps, including rotational blocks, supports the assumption of recent movement of the landslide mass.

2. The majority of the Tidal Inlet landslide mass appears to be dormant. No evidence of ongoing movement was found along the base of the main scarp. A shallow secondary failure in the central portion of the landslide mass could have occurred at a different time than the main landslide within the period of 1892-1919. Along the right flank (western side) of the landslide mass, two sets of linear cracks within the soil mass indicate the possibility of recent slow movement or settlement of the landslide mass. GPS monitoring at several points on the landslide mass over a period of the next several years should determine whether the landslide is creeping slowly or is dormant. This determination is critical because the potential destabilization and triggering of more rapid landslide movement by earthquakes or other triggers is affected by the present stability.
3. The estimated volume of the Tidal Inlet landslide, ranging from 5 to 10 million m³, provides a range of values for calculating wave height, runup and velocity. A number of empirical methods are used to calculate wave height resulting in a maximum of 76 m and wave runups on the opposite slope up to 200 m assuming the maximum landslide volume impacting Tidal Inlet. Estimates of wave speed ranged from 45-50 m/s. Although these values are considerably less than those experienced during the 1958 landslide in Lituya Bay, the consequence to vessels or persons in Tidal Inlet and the adjacent western arm of Glacier Bay would be very high. More detailed three-dimensional wave modeling is needed to assess the potential wave height and velocity that would travel beyond Tidal Inlet into the western arm of Glacier Bay taking into account refraction and reflection of waves. In comparison to Lituya Bay, significantly higher risk exists at Glacier Bay due to the high frequency of cruise ships traveling within a few kilometers of the landslide site ([fig. 15](#)).

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Figure 2. Location map of Glacier Bay National Park, Alaska

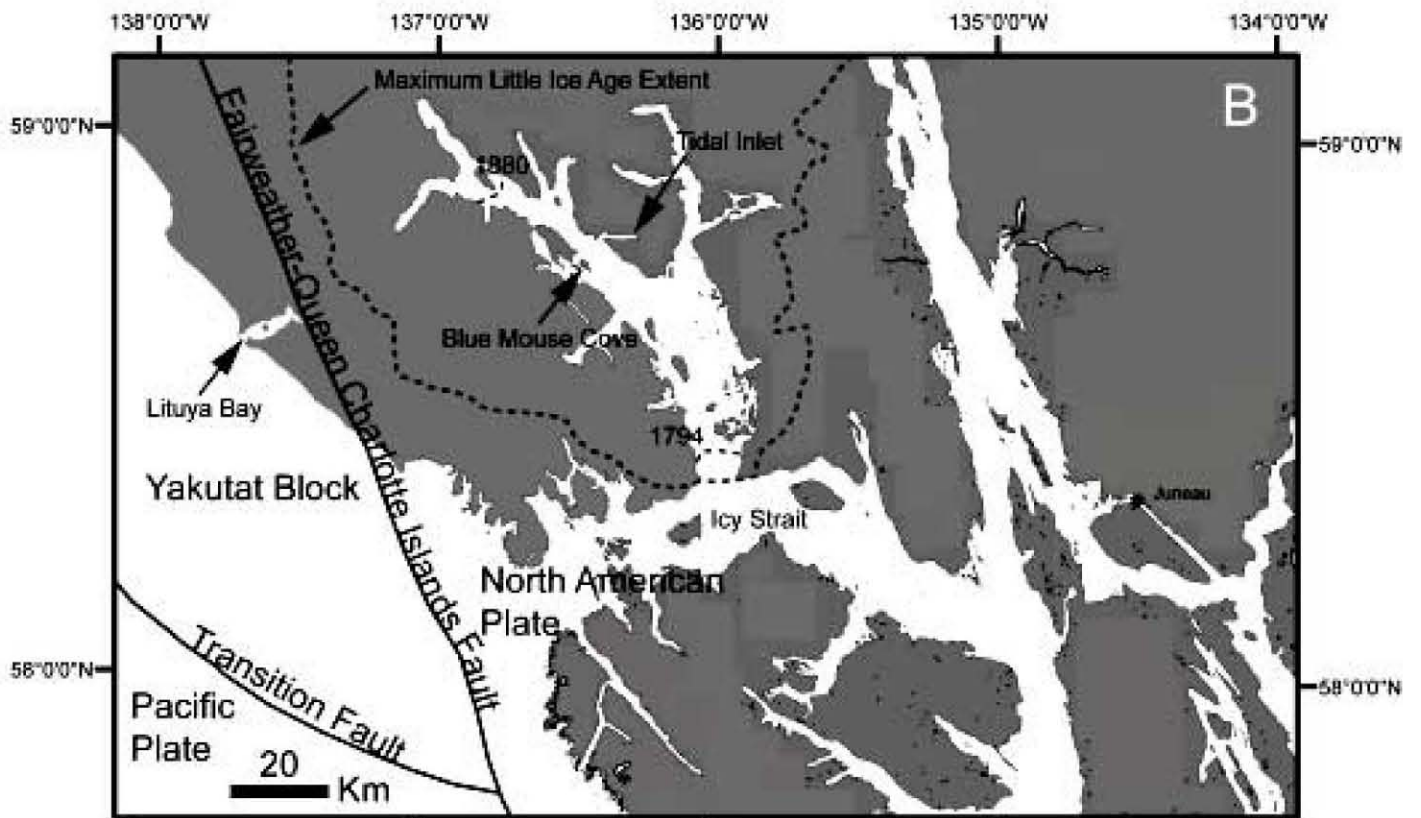
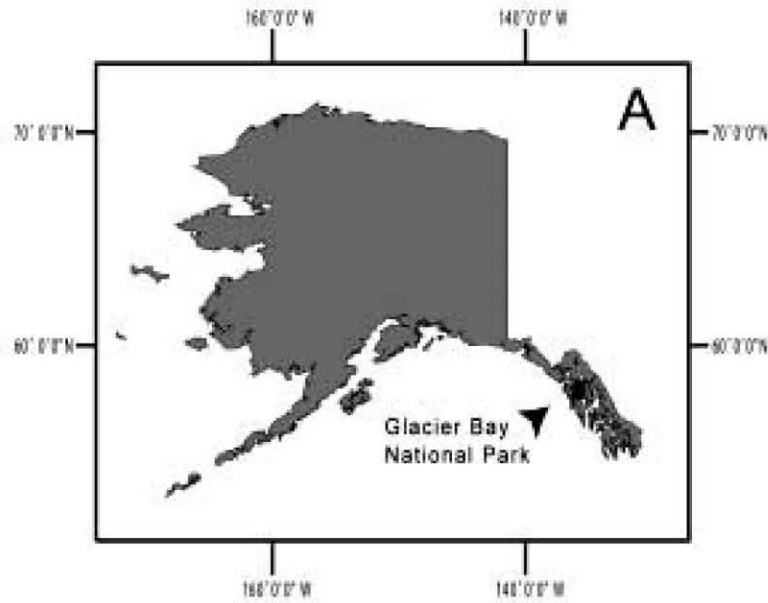


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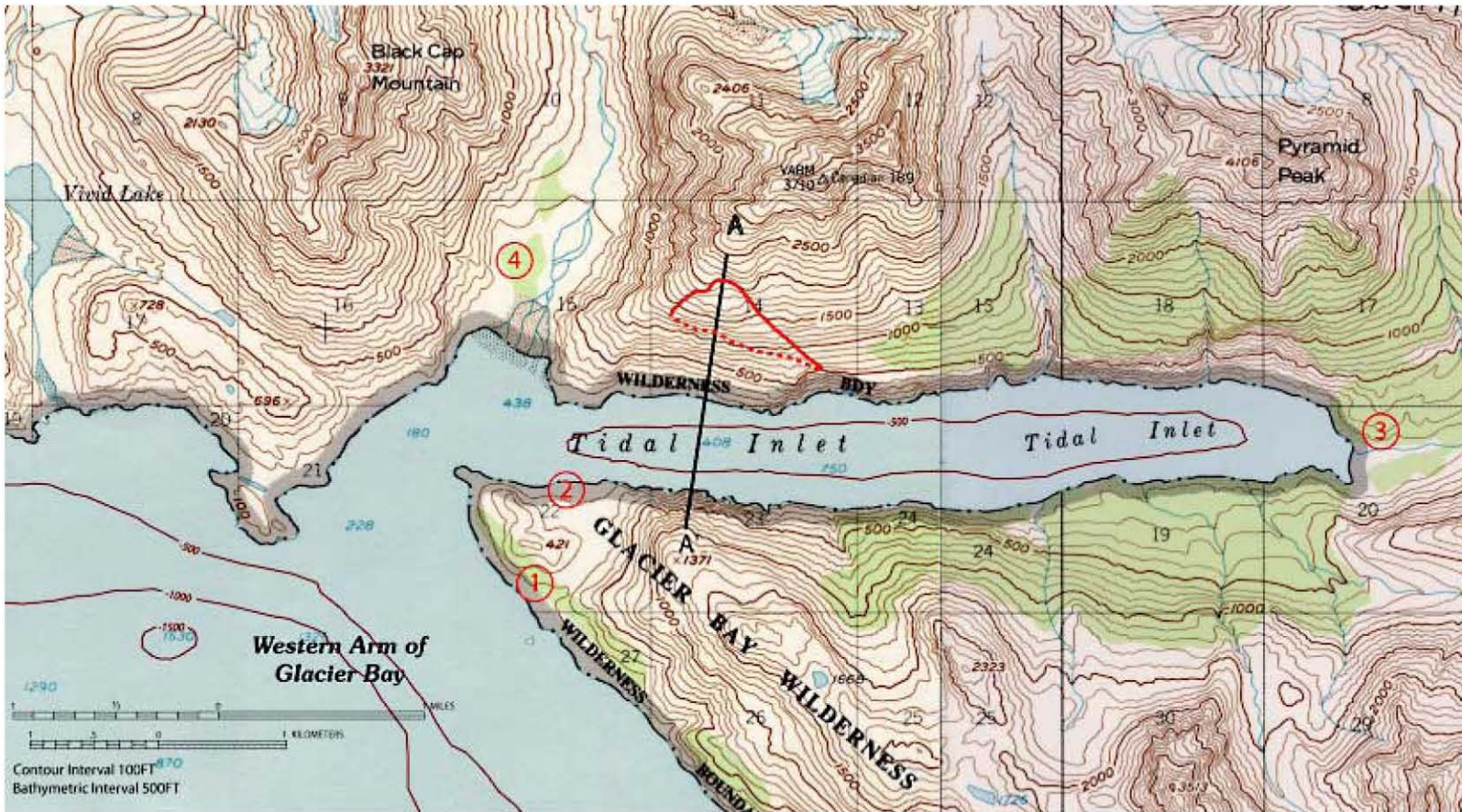


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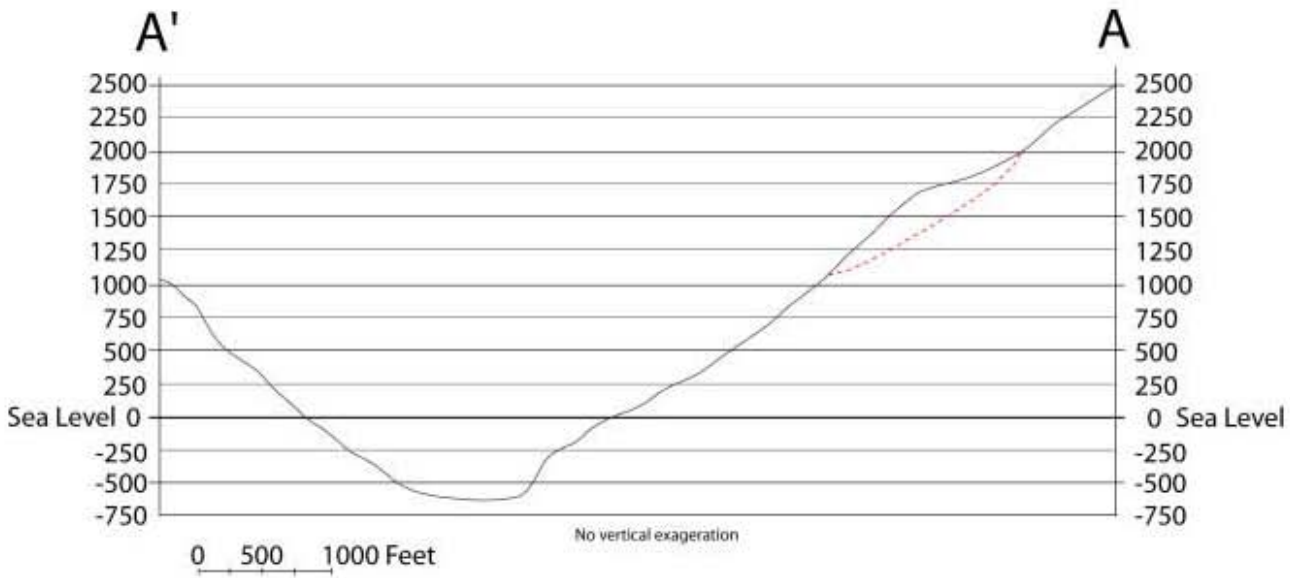


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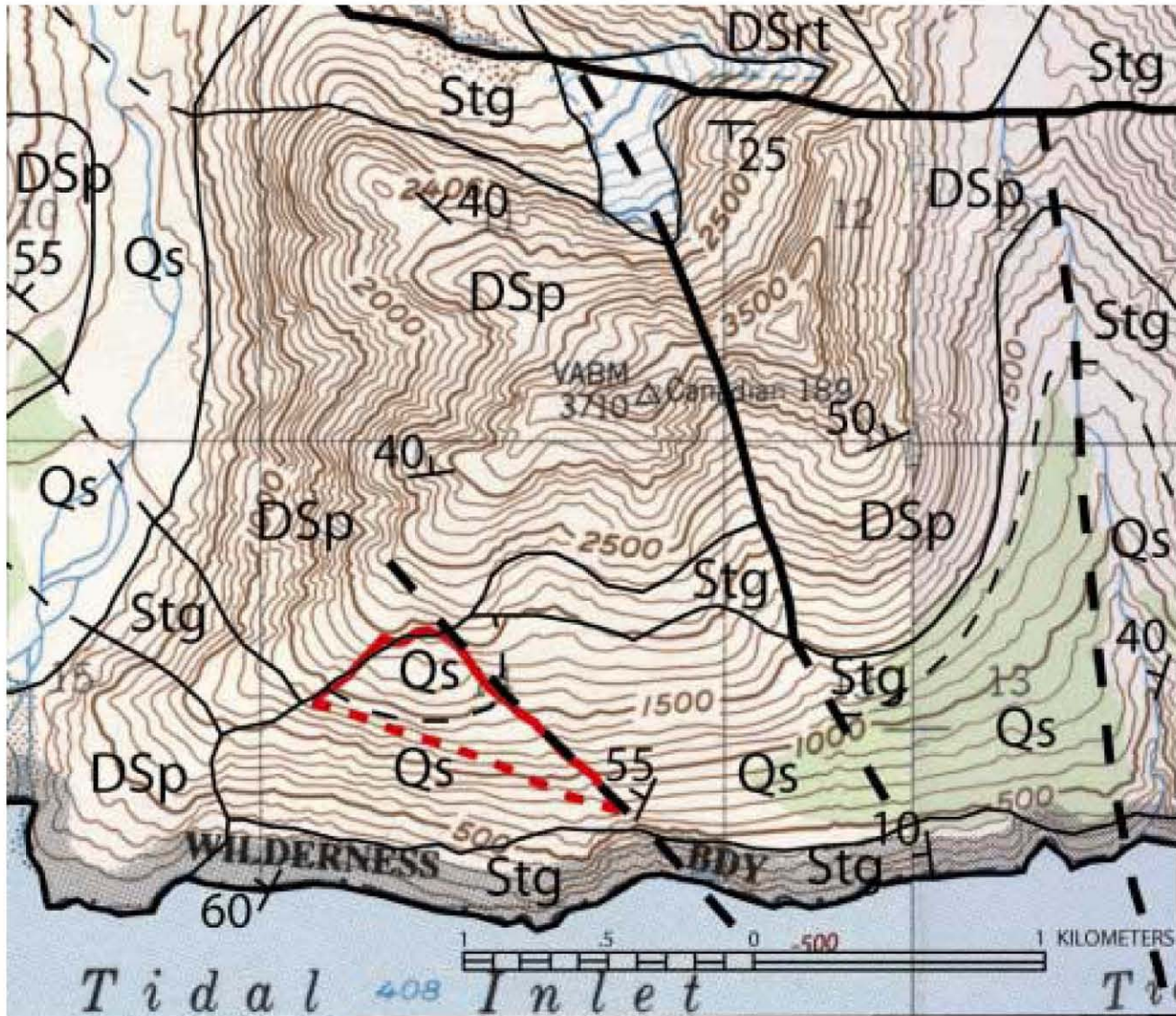


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Figure 5.-- Deeply eroded LIA glacial till below the left (east) flank and toe of the recent Tidal Inlet landslide. Distance between small ridge tops is about 15 m. View southeast towards Tidal Inlet.

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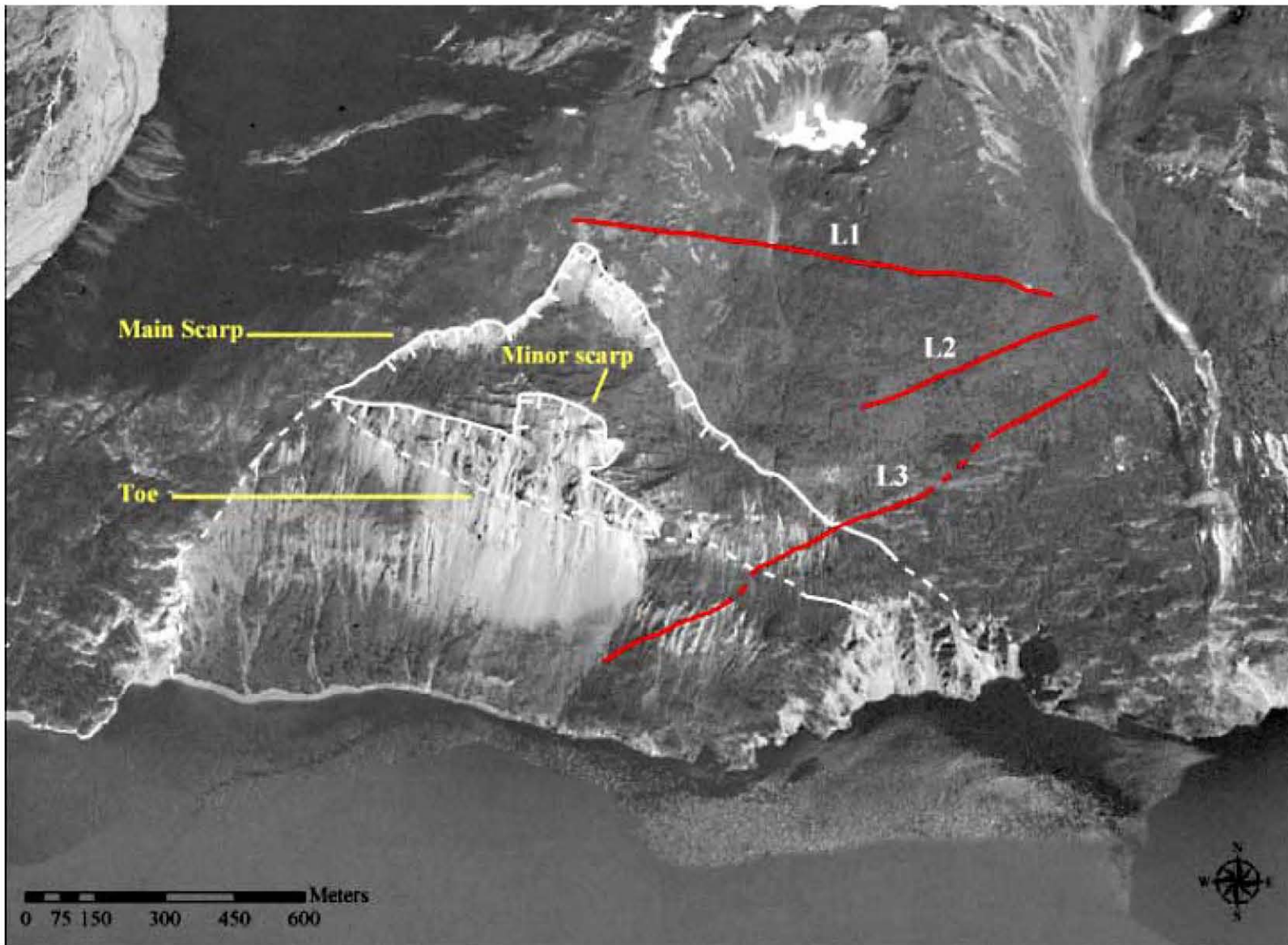


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Figure 7.-- View looking east along lineament L1 with its steep, backfacing escarpment. The general downslope profile can be seen from left to right along the horizon.

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Figure 8.-- Portion of aerial photograph showing Tidal Inlet and eastern side of west arm Glacier Bay taken July 6, 1948. Note talus (bright light color) below recent landslide mass above northern shore (upper left corner) extending from landslide toe to shore of Tidal Inlet below central portion of landslide. Photograph taken by US Navy at 1:40,000-scale.

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Figure 10.-- Eastern section of the main scarp. Note the subsequent accumulation of rockfall talus below the main scarp. Photograph taken July 15, 2002.

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Figure 11.-- Western portion of the main scarp in thinly layered, slightly folded and fractured bedrock, turbidite of Tidal Formation. Note the small revegetation (bushes) in the center of the escarpment. Photograph taken July 15, 2002.

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Figure 12.-- Back-facing rotational escarpments and resulting trough, roughly perpendicular to the downslope direction within the main body of the Tidal Inlet landslide. Direction of landslide movement is to the left, the same as the predominant downslope direction.

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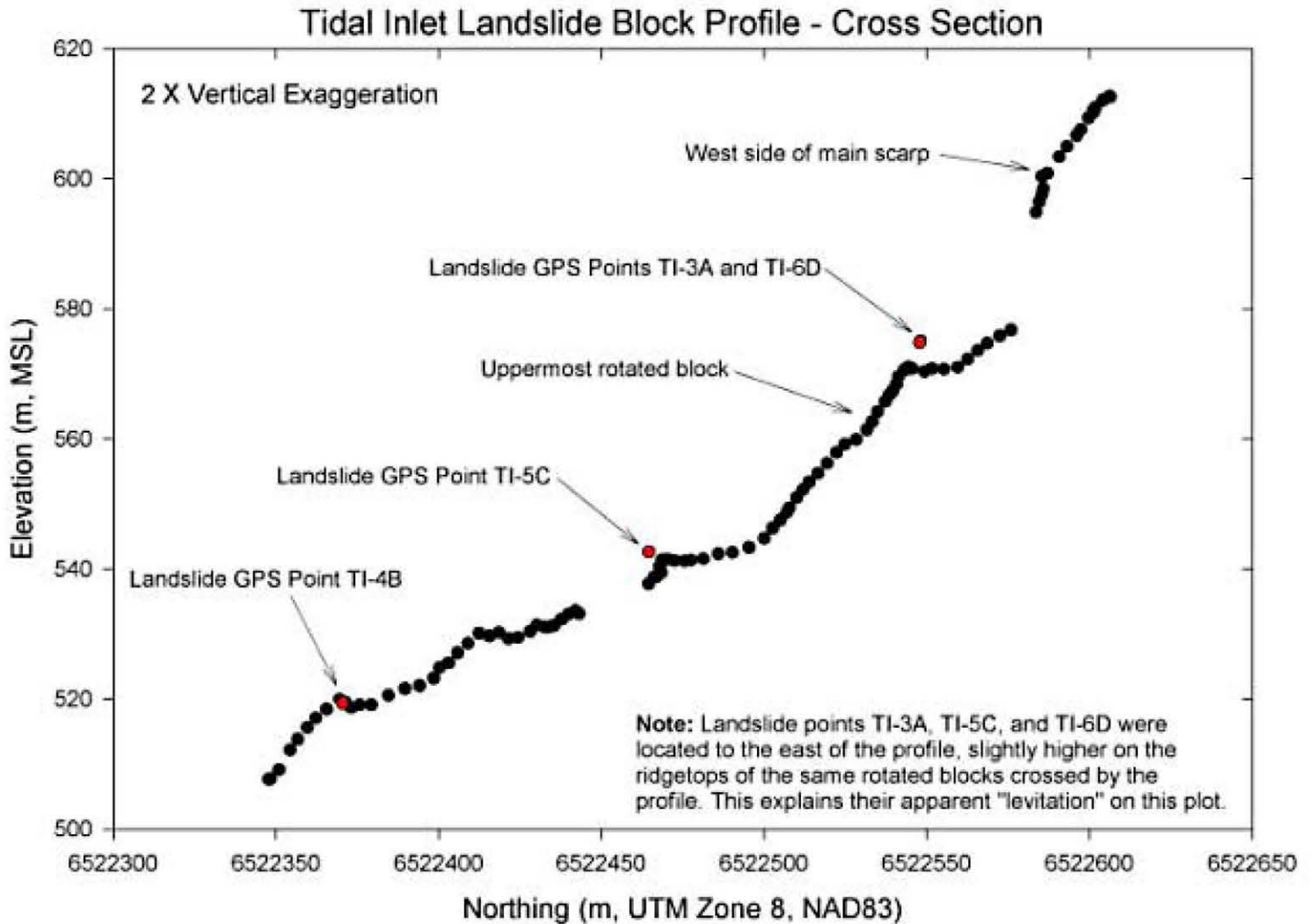


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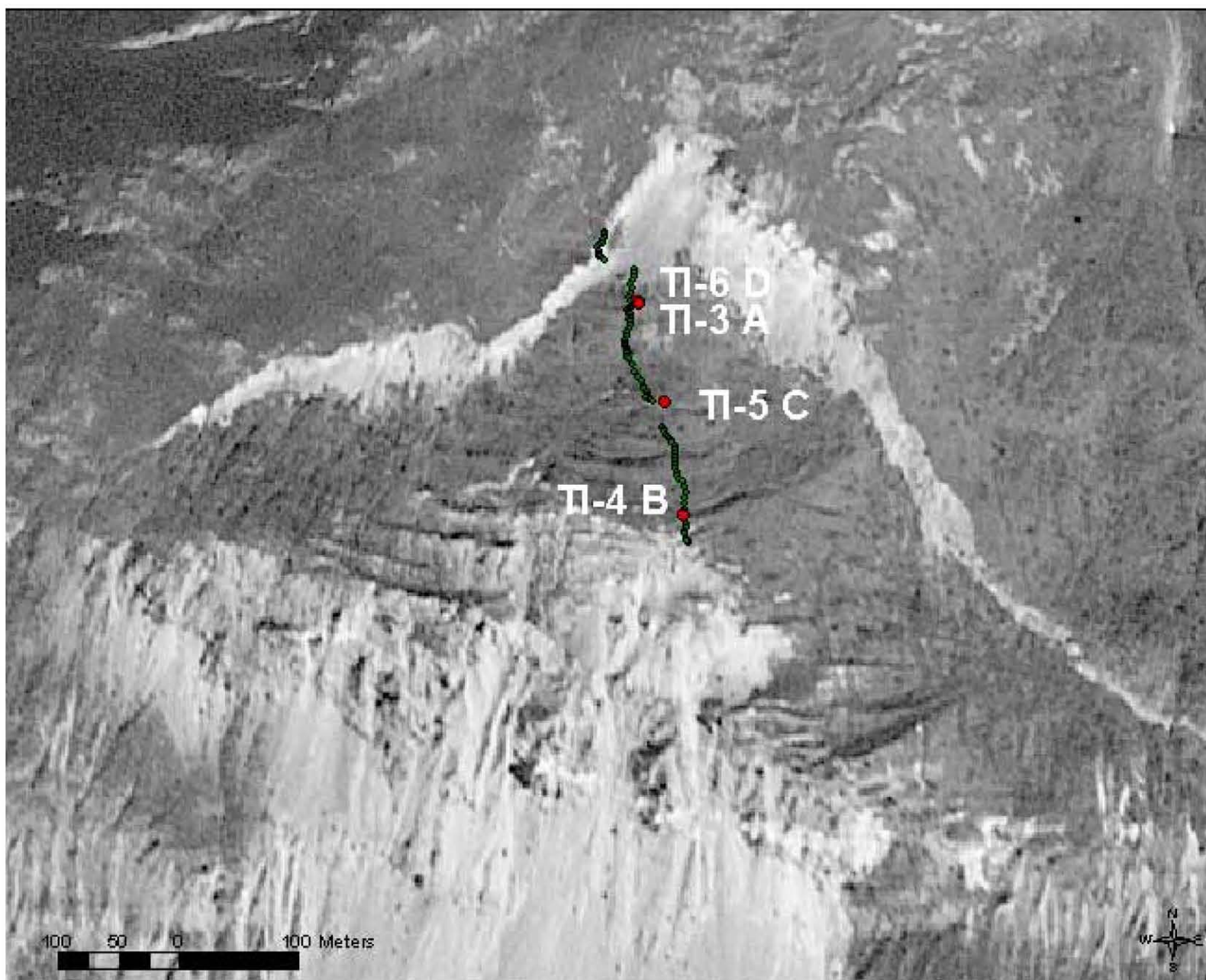


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Figure 14.-- Sketch showing hypothetical subsurface model for Tidal Inlet landslide

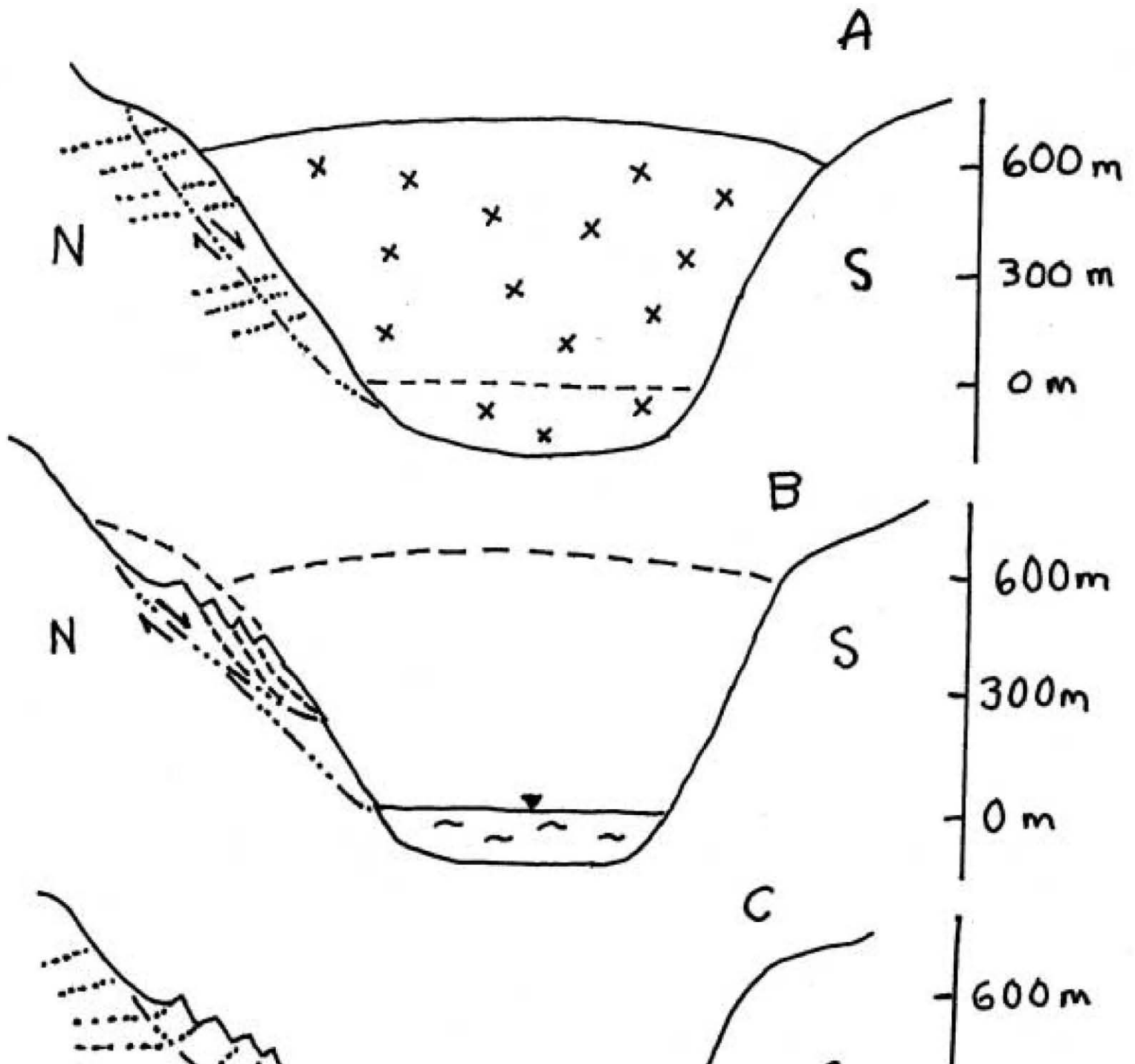


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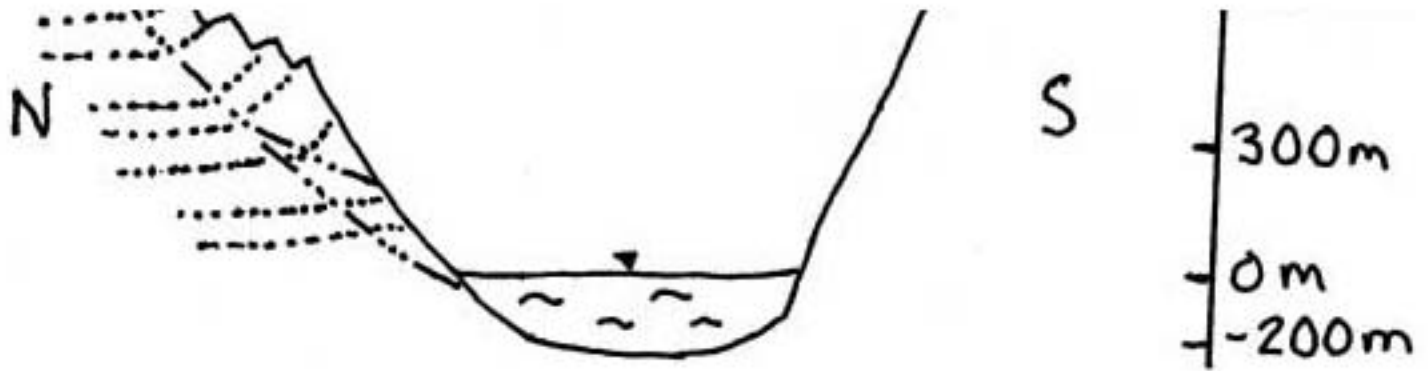


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