# Adult Coastal Cutthroat Trout Movement and Habitat Use in the Lower Columbia River

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*Vancouver, WA*

# Objective

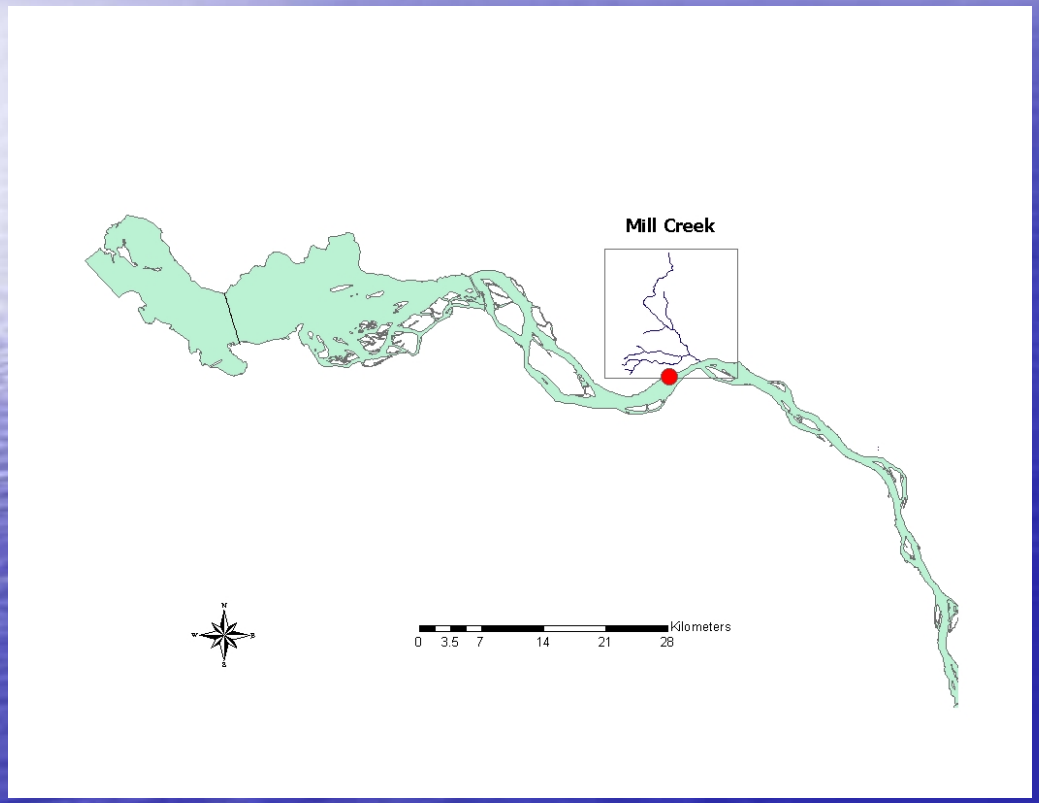
- Identify areas of mainstem habitat use by migratory adults

# Approach 2004

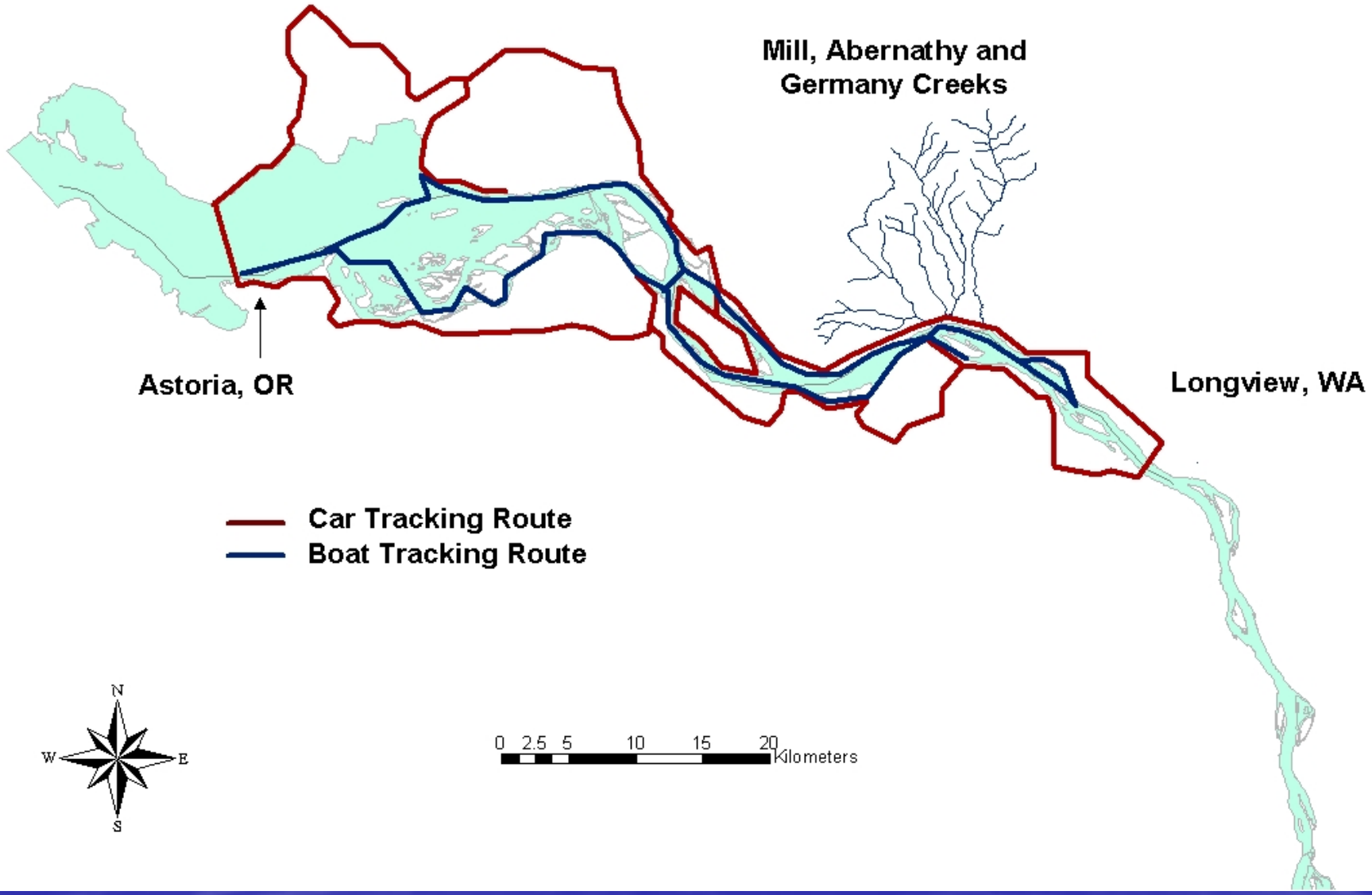
- Capture and radio tag 23 adult coastal cutthroat trout (kelts) in winter 2004
- Install stationary receiver site to monitor fish movement
- Conduct mobile tracking by boat (twice weekly) and car (once weekly) between Longview, WA and Astoria bridge to document movement of individual fish

# Capture and Radio Tag Adults

# Stationary Receiver



# CCT Radio Tracking



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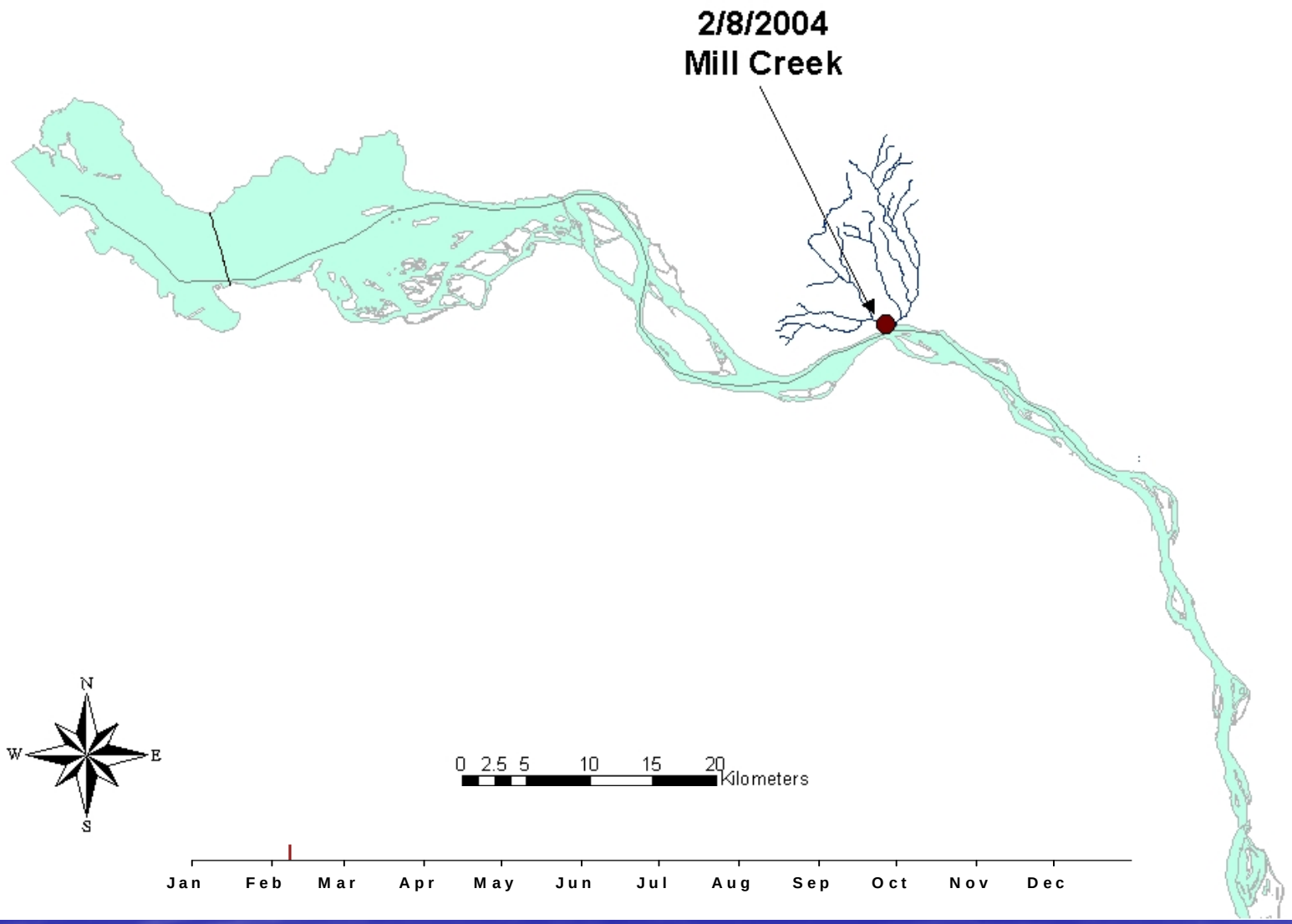

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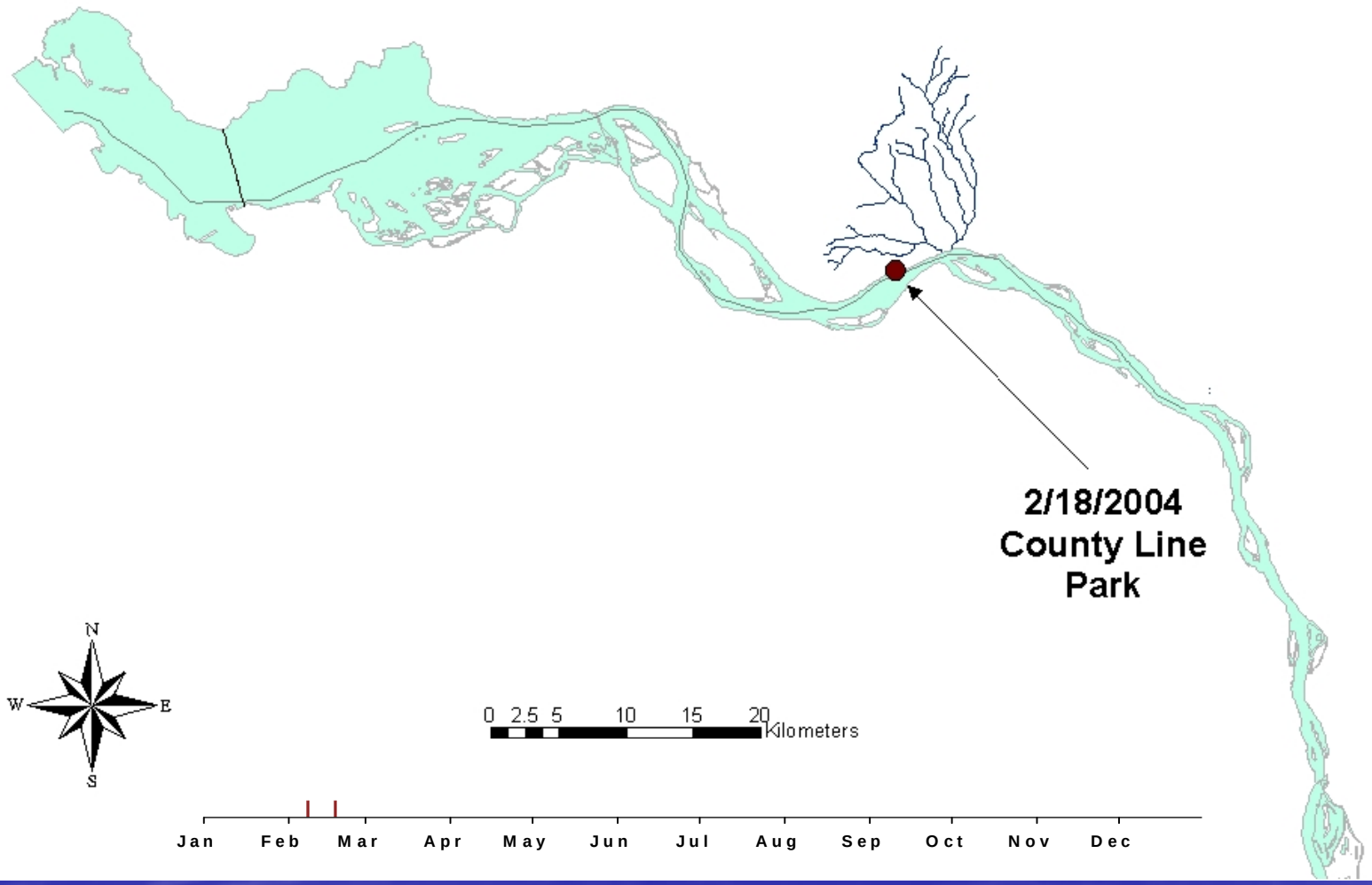

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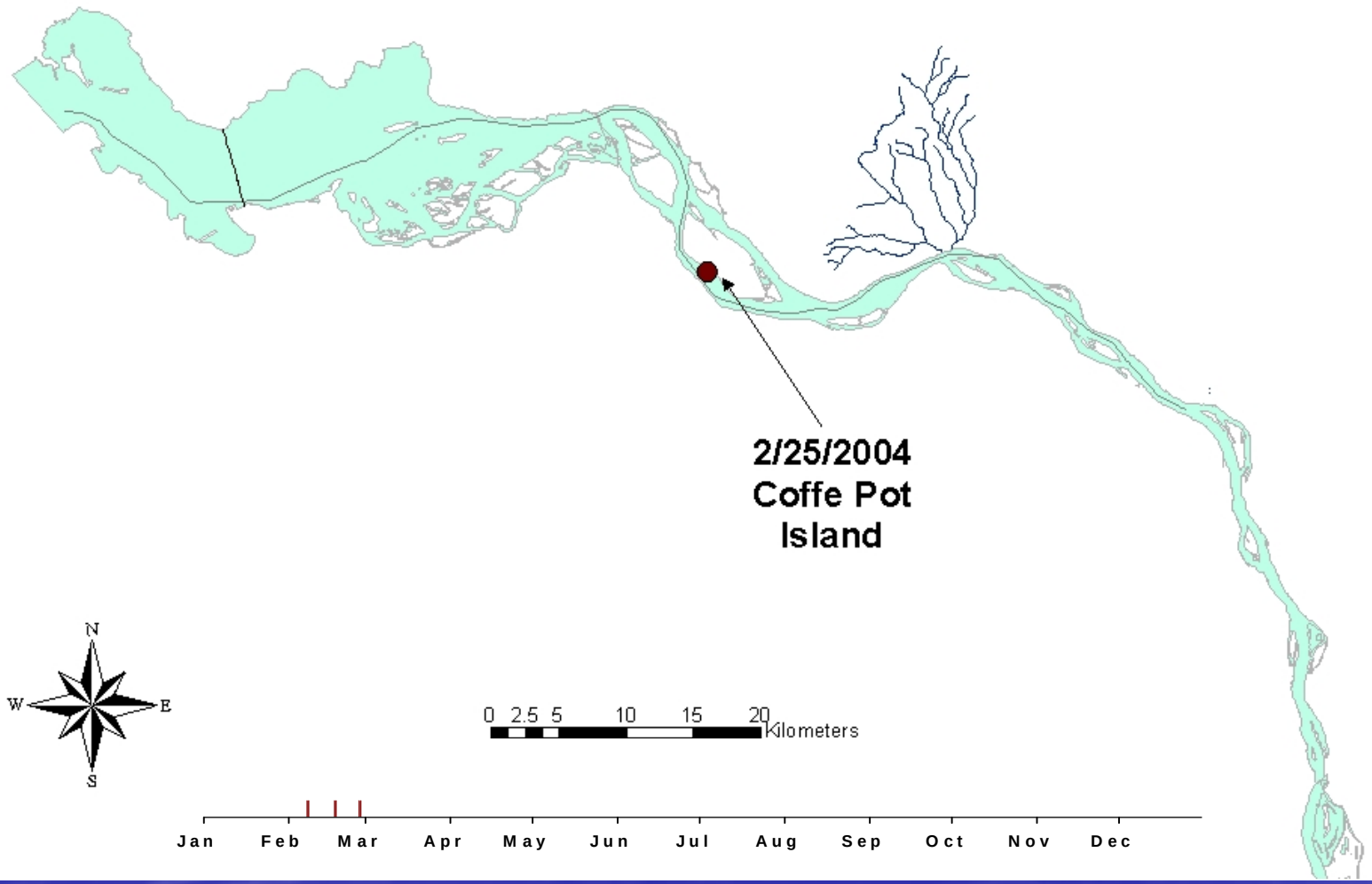

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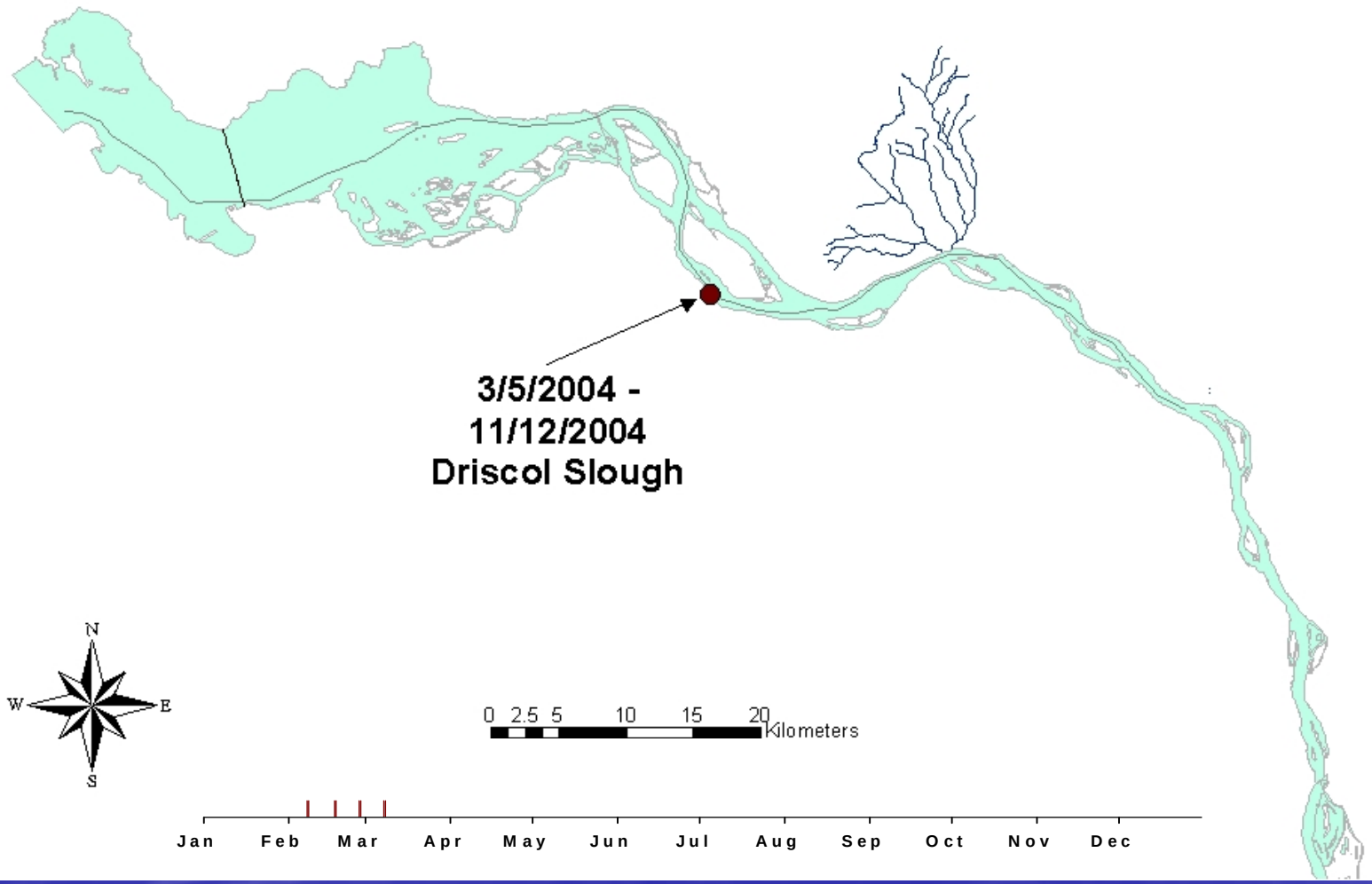

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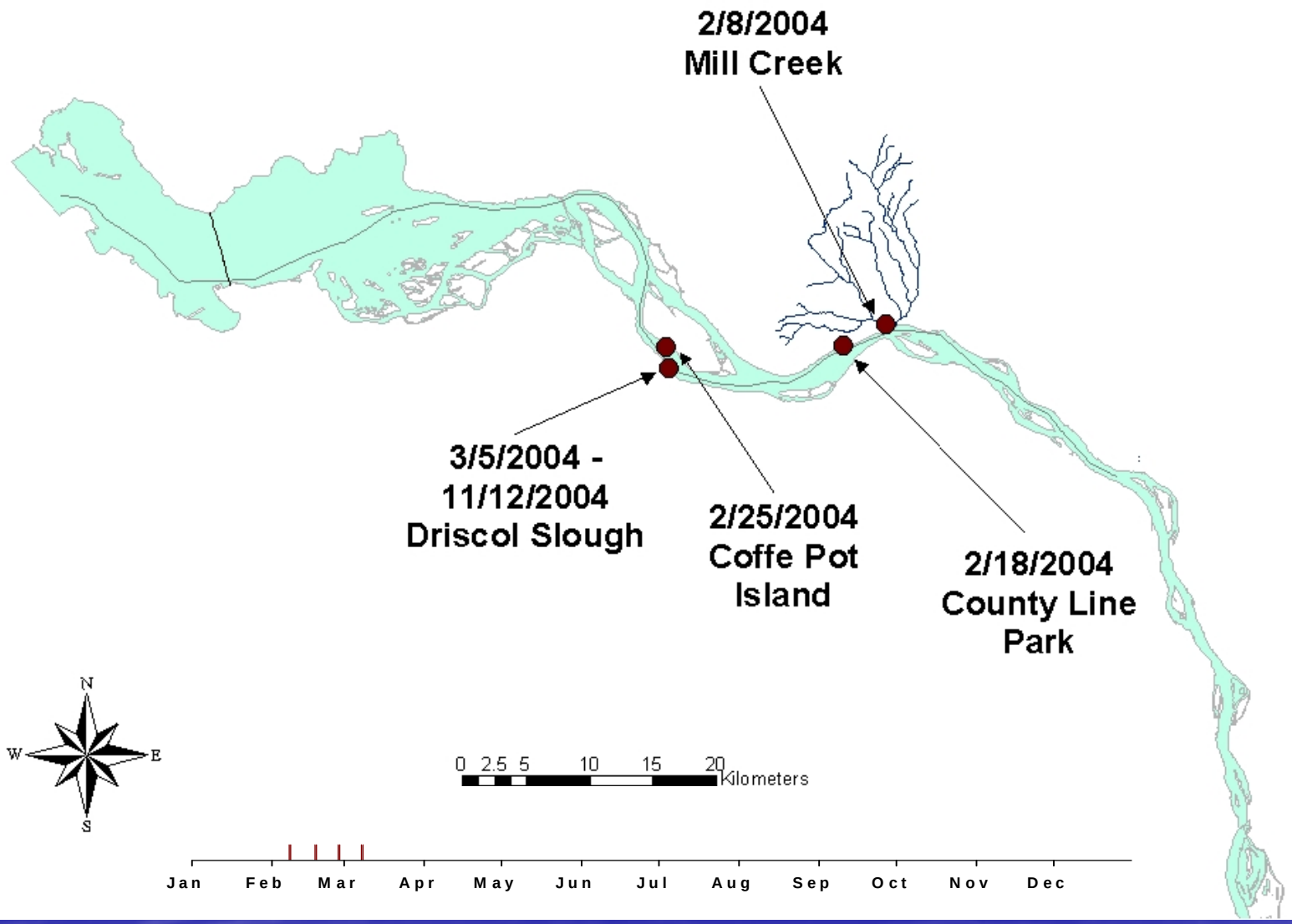

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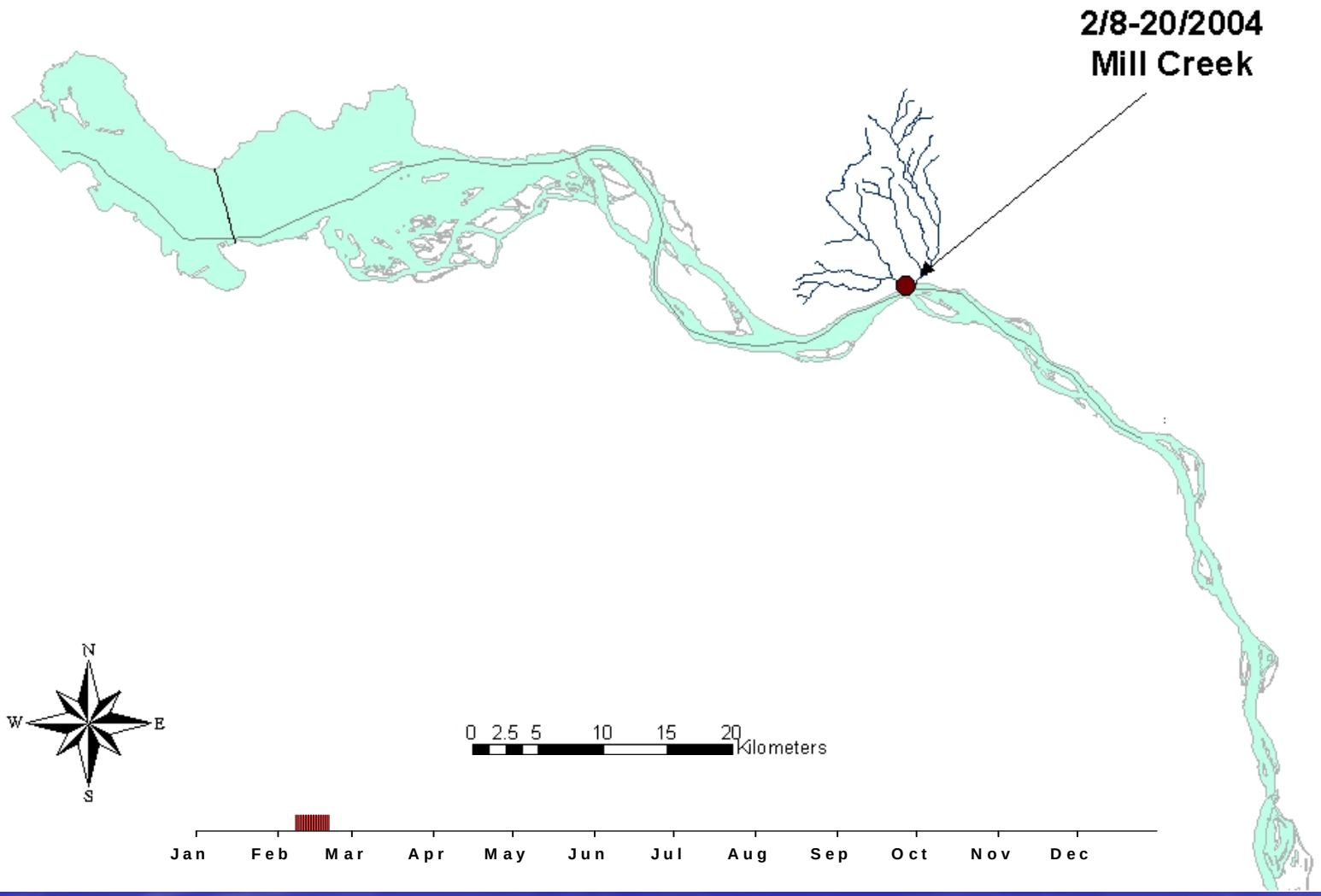

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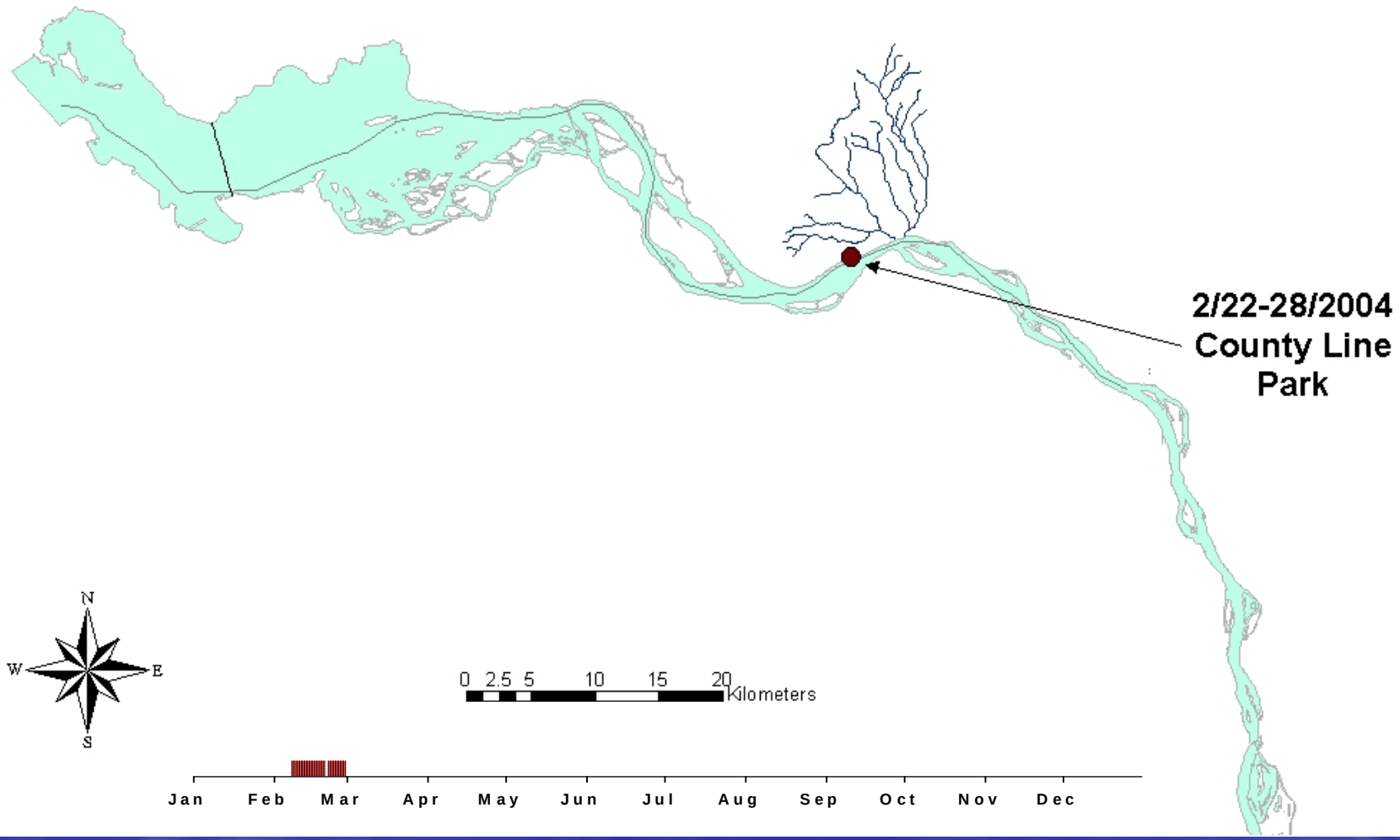

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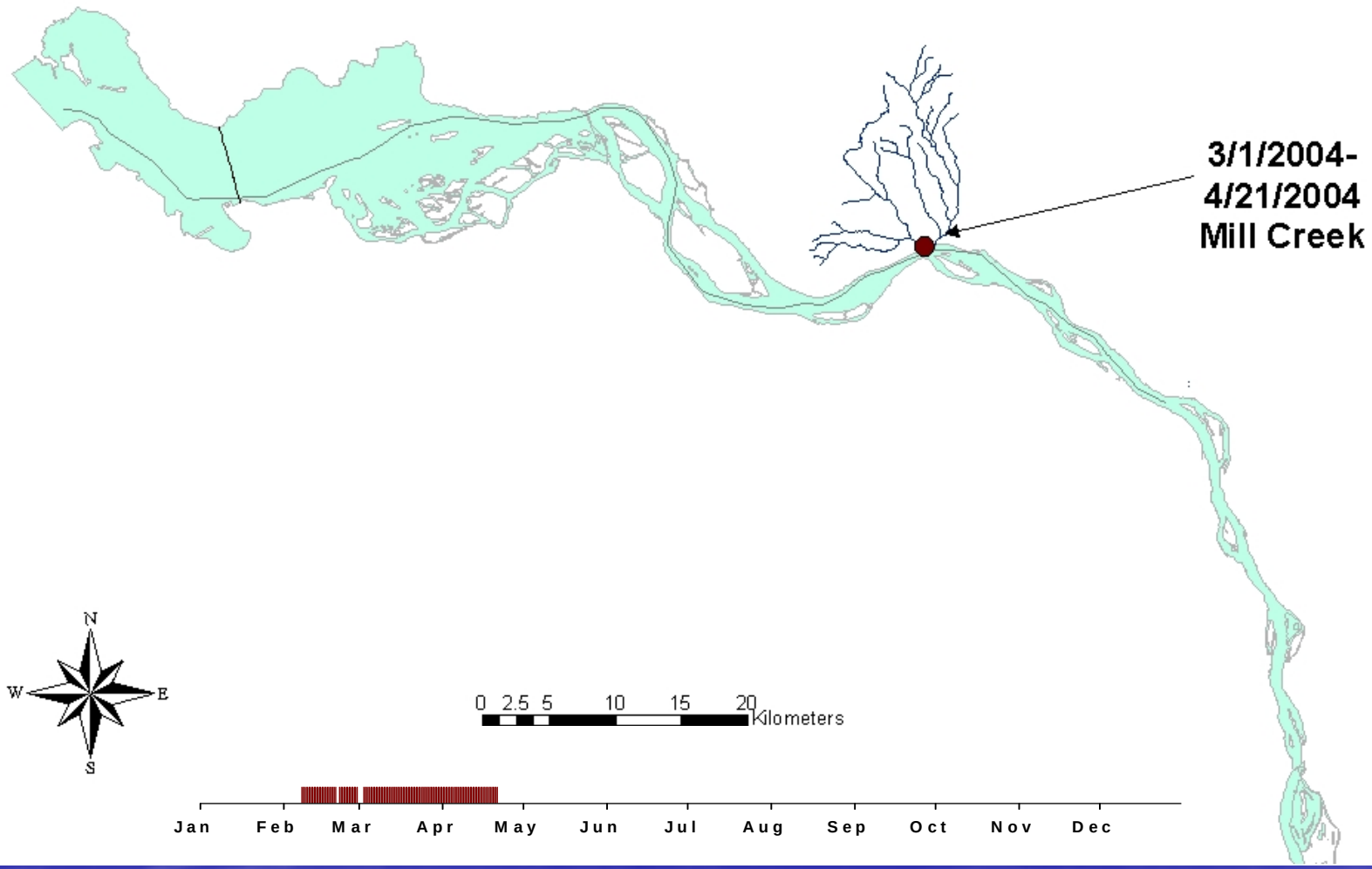

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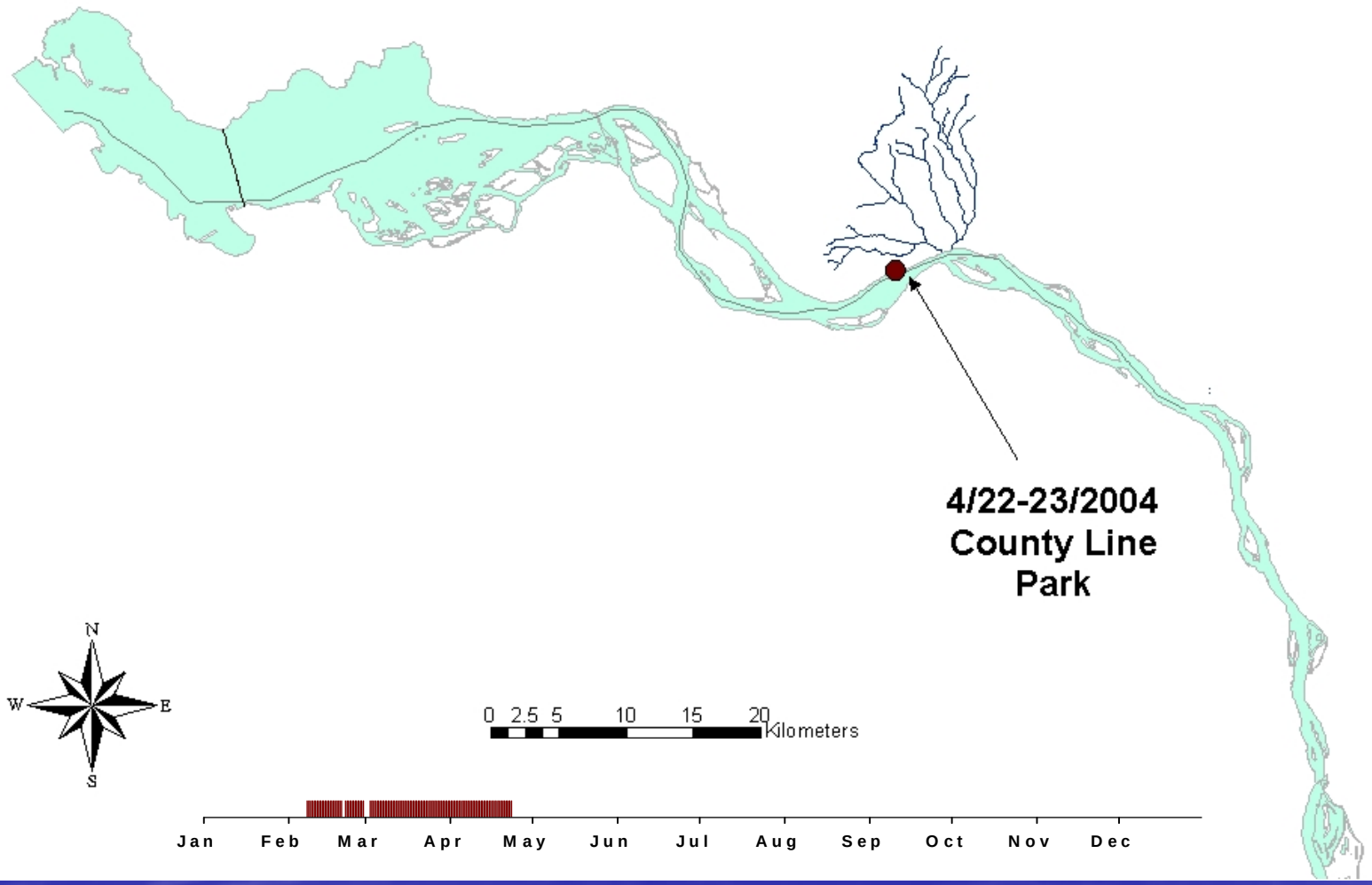

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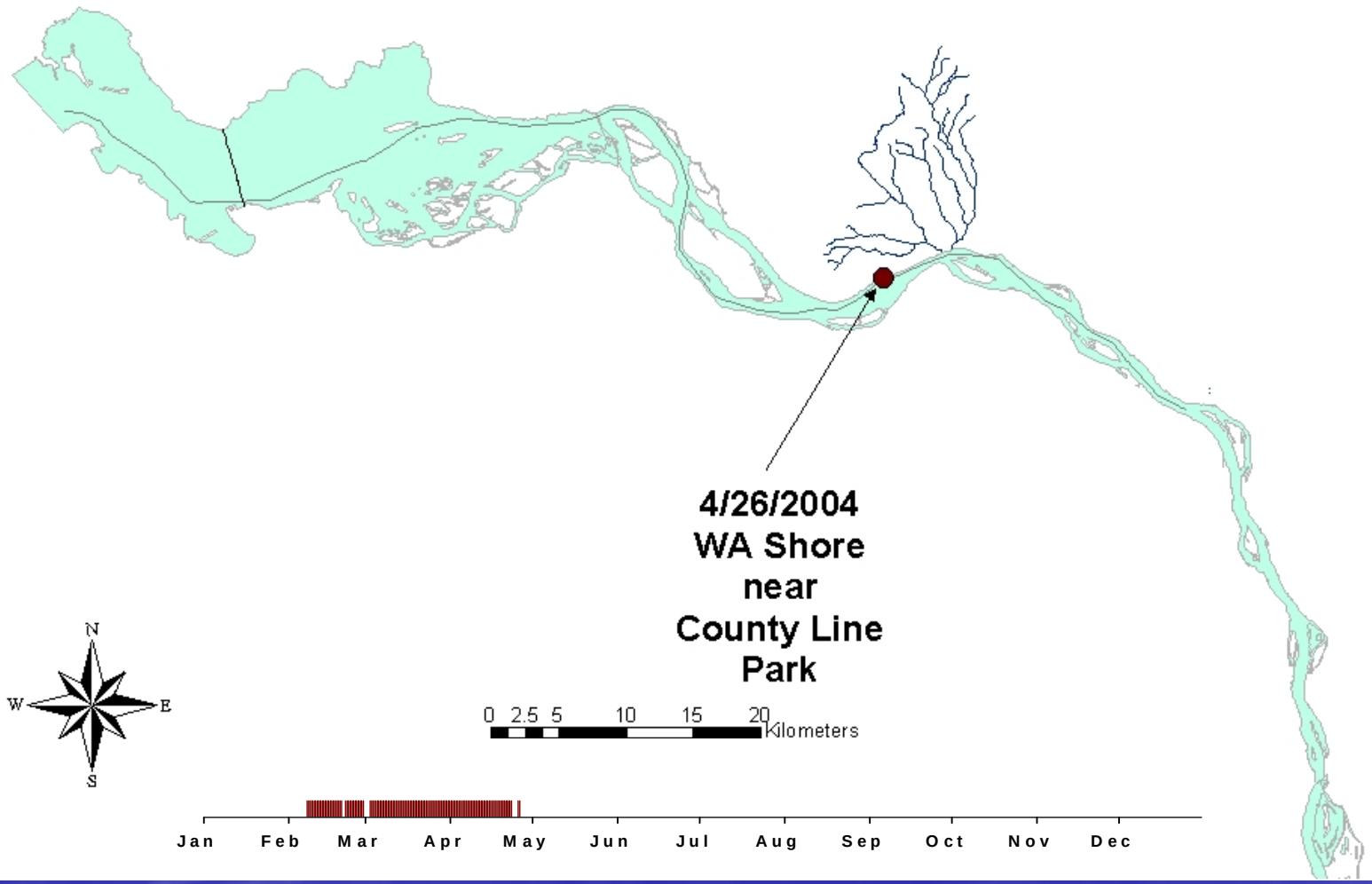

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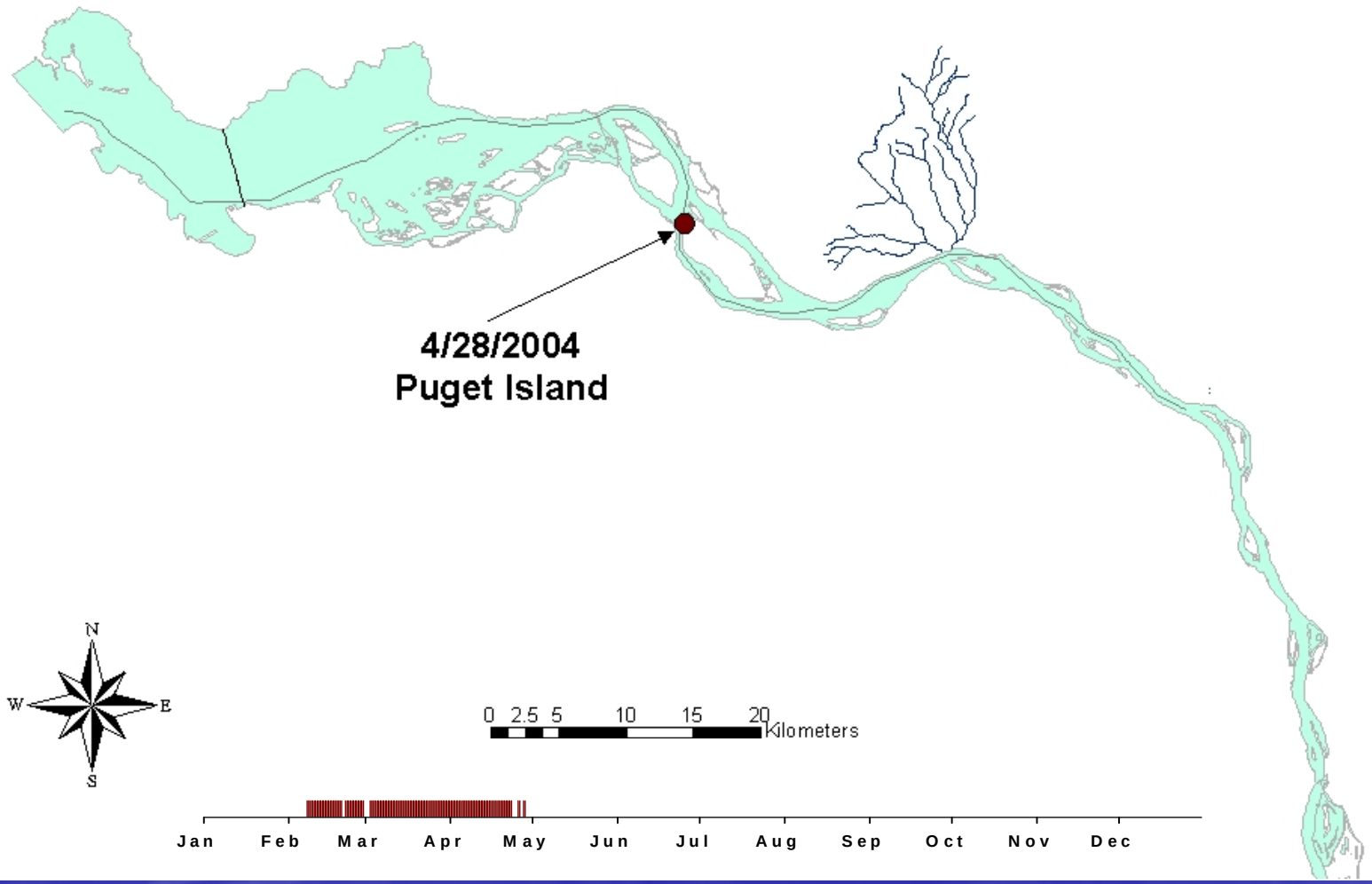

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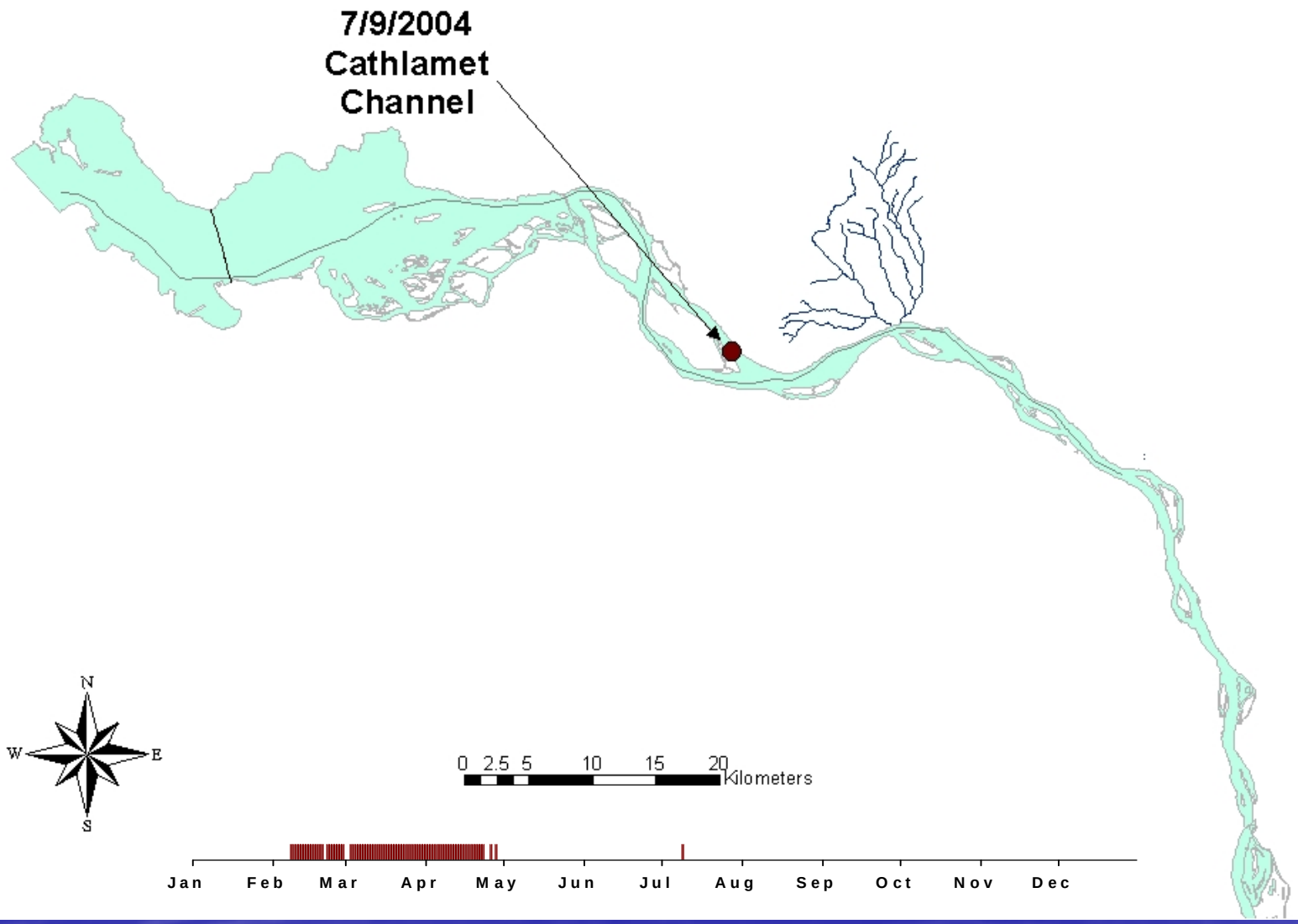

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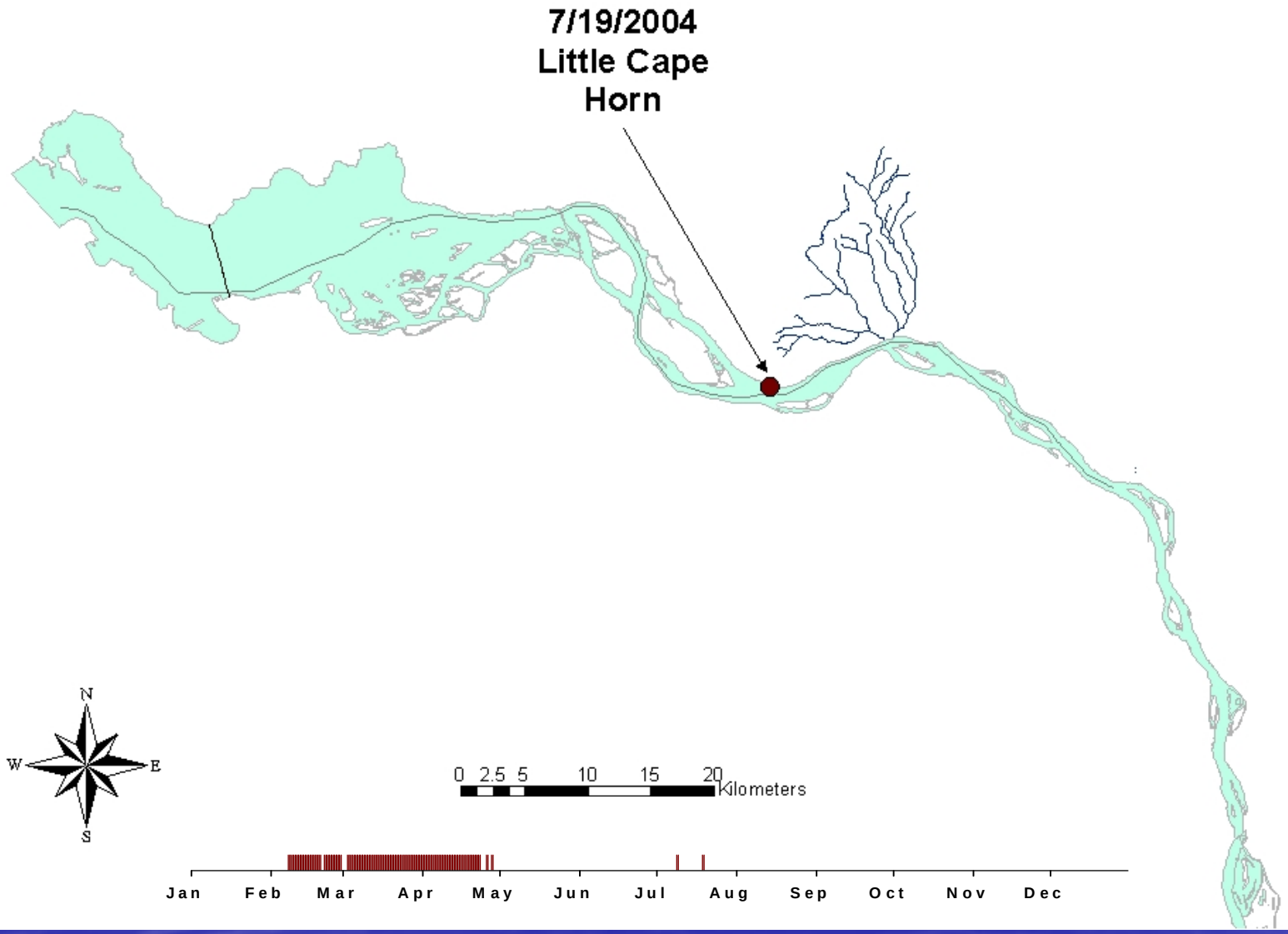

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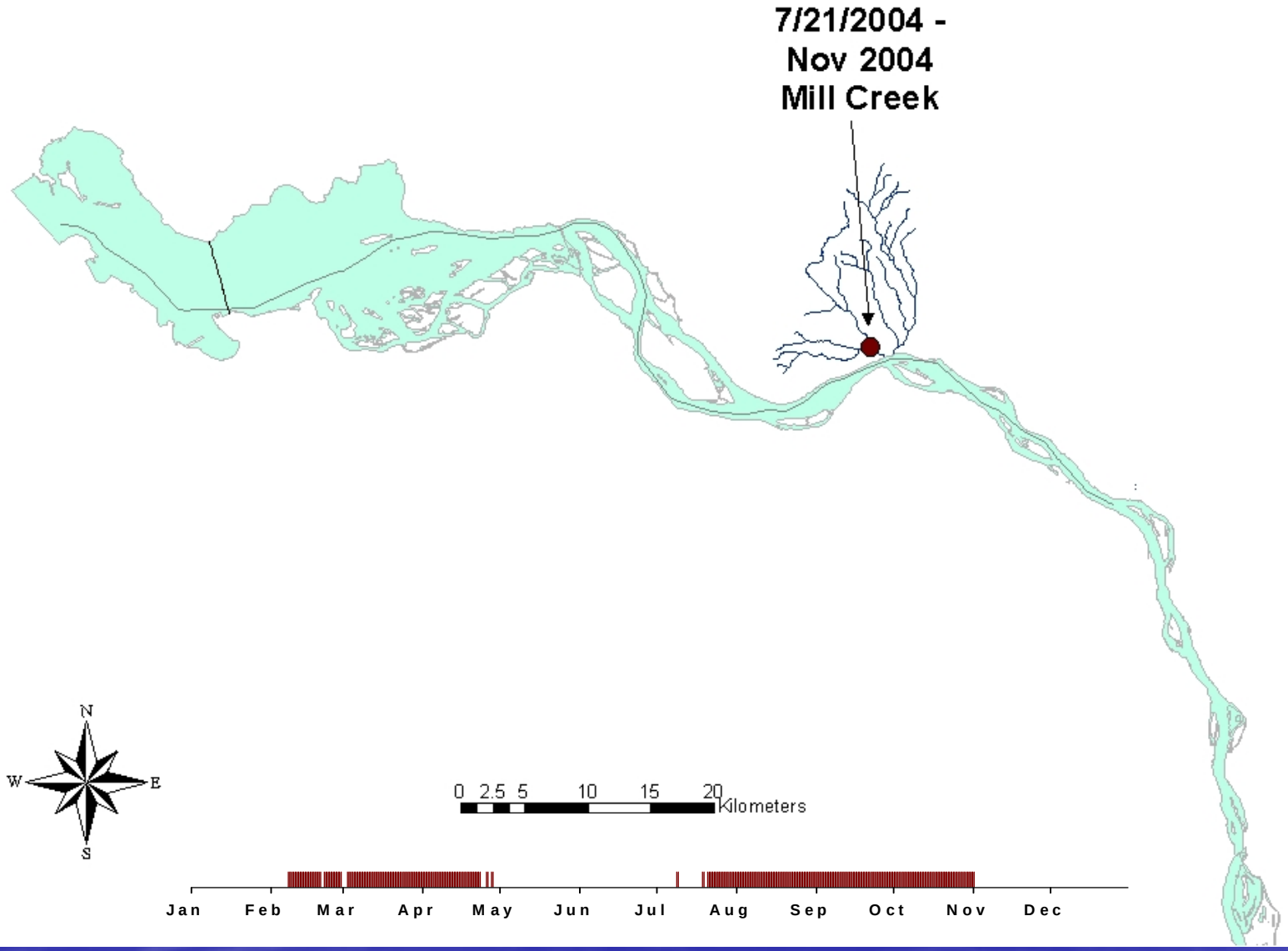

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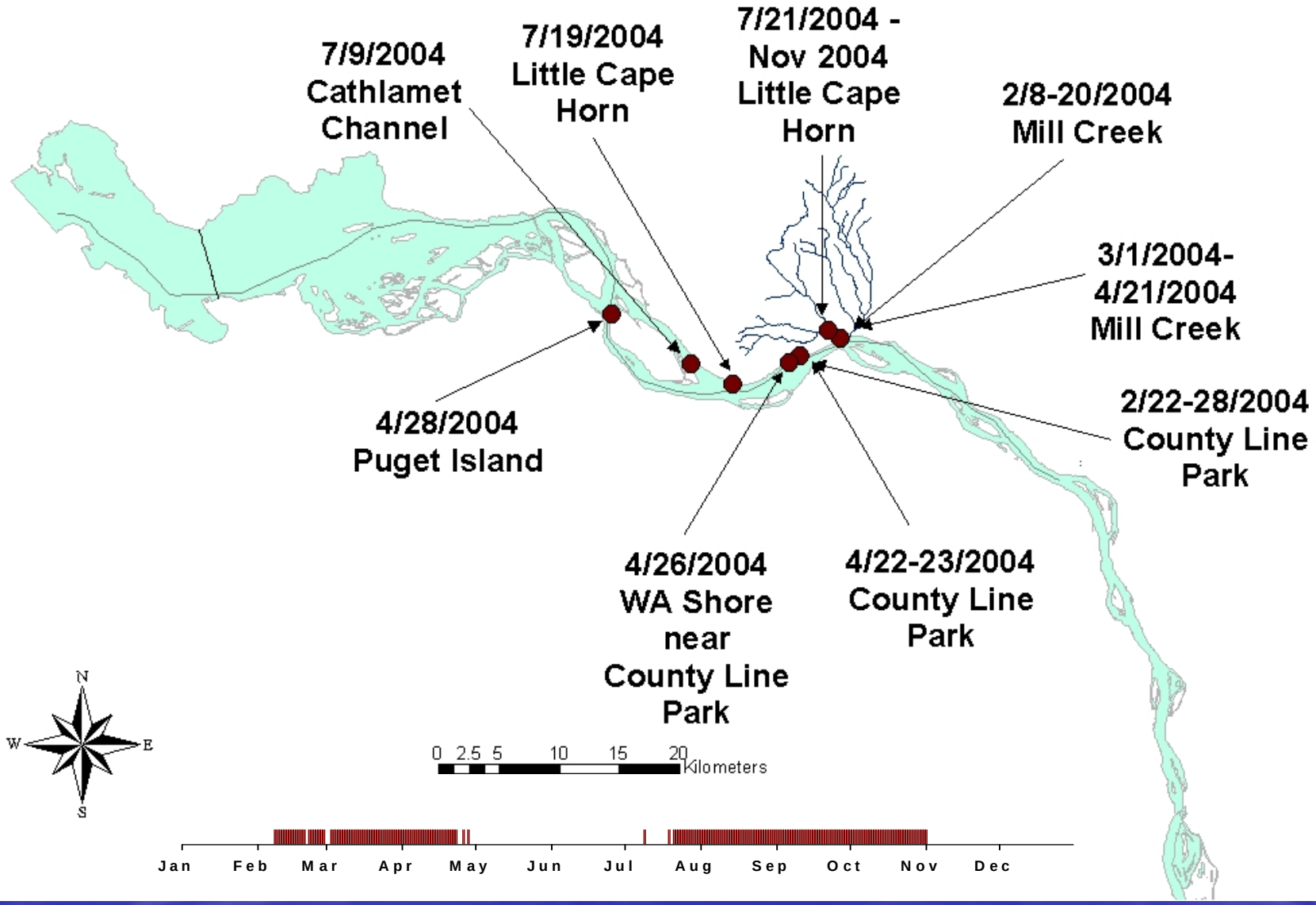

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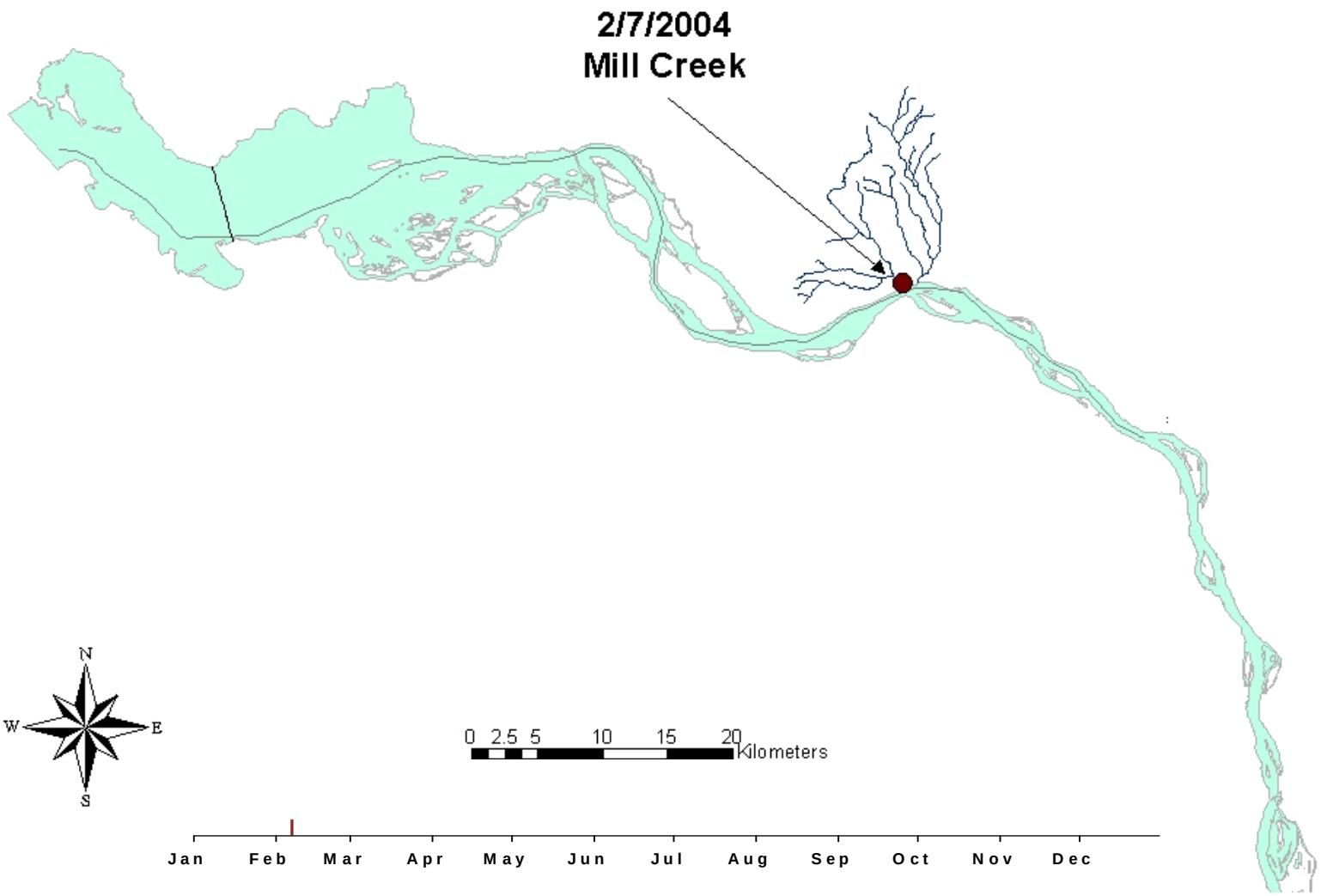

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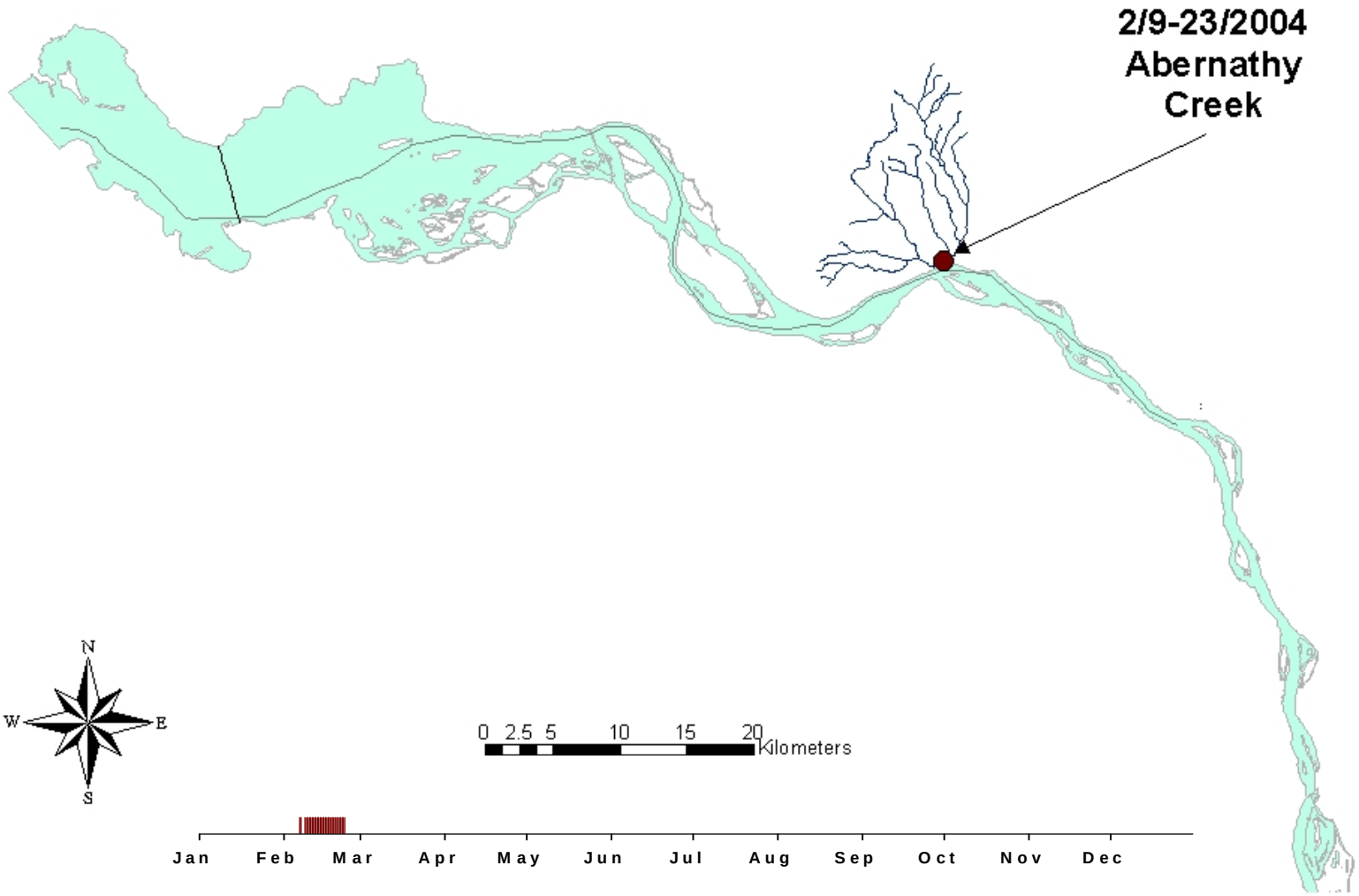

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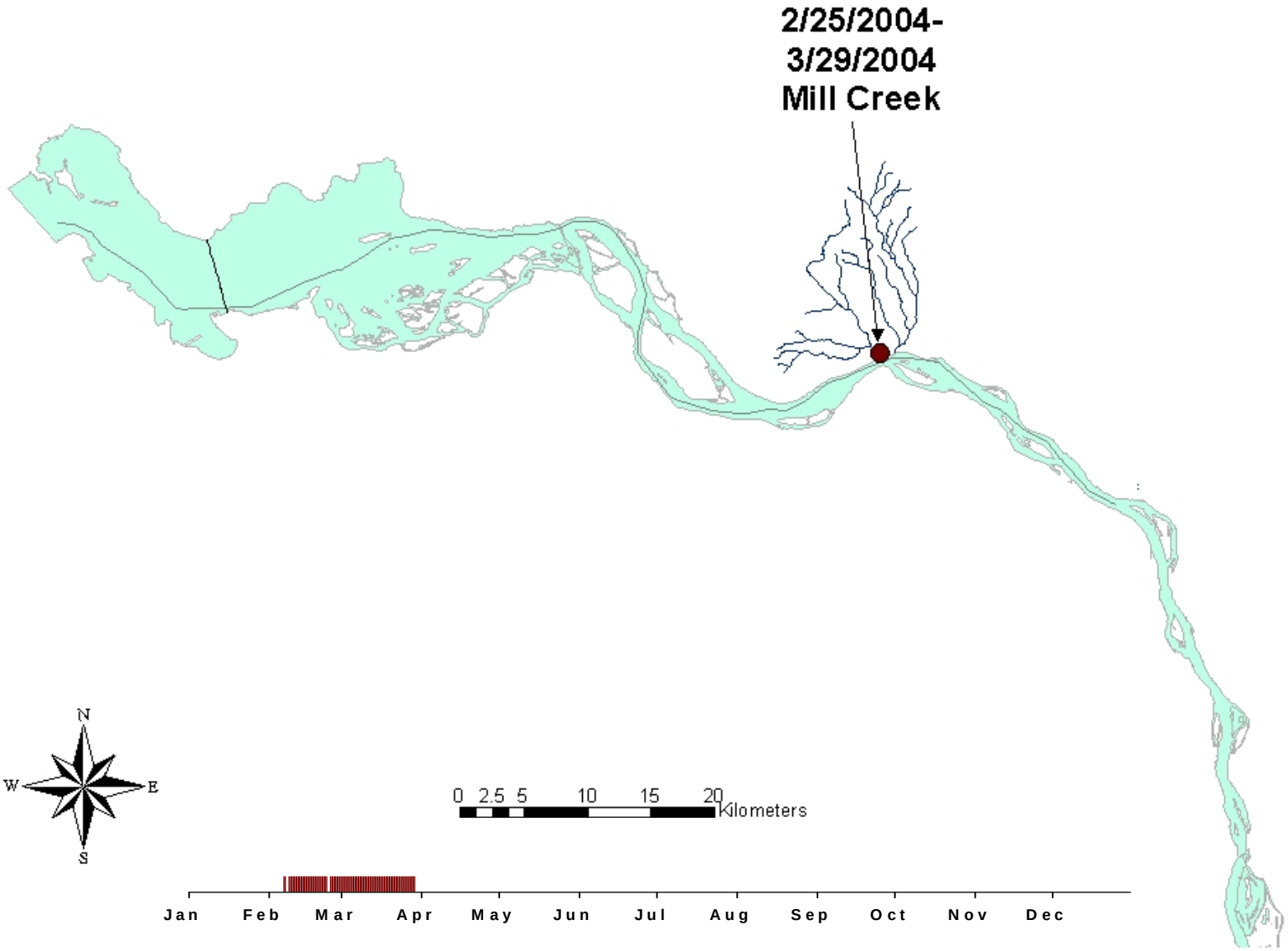

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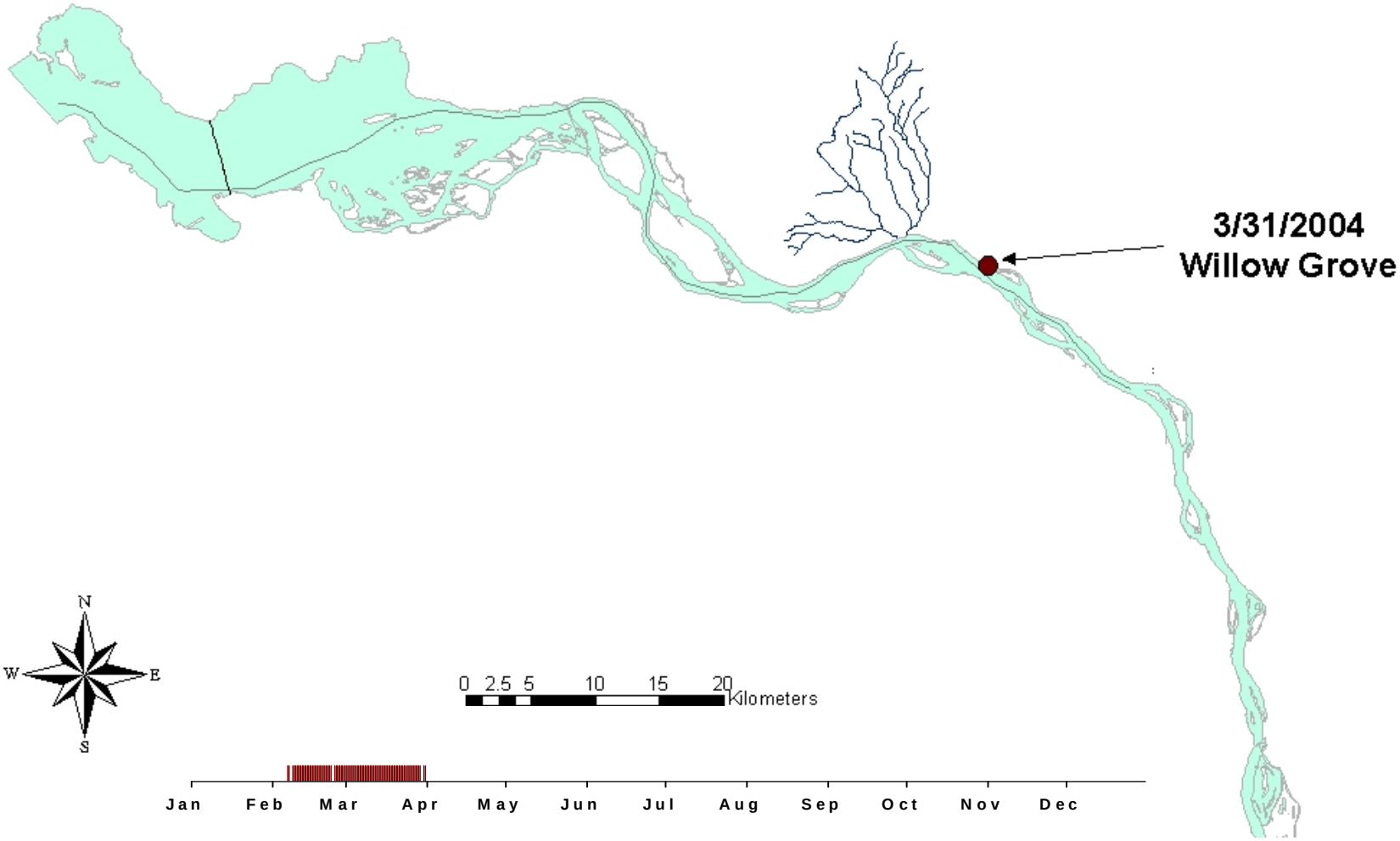

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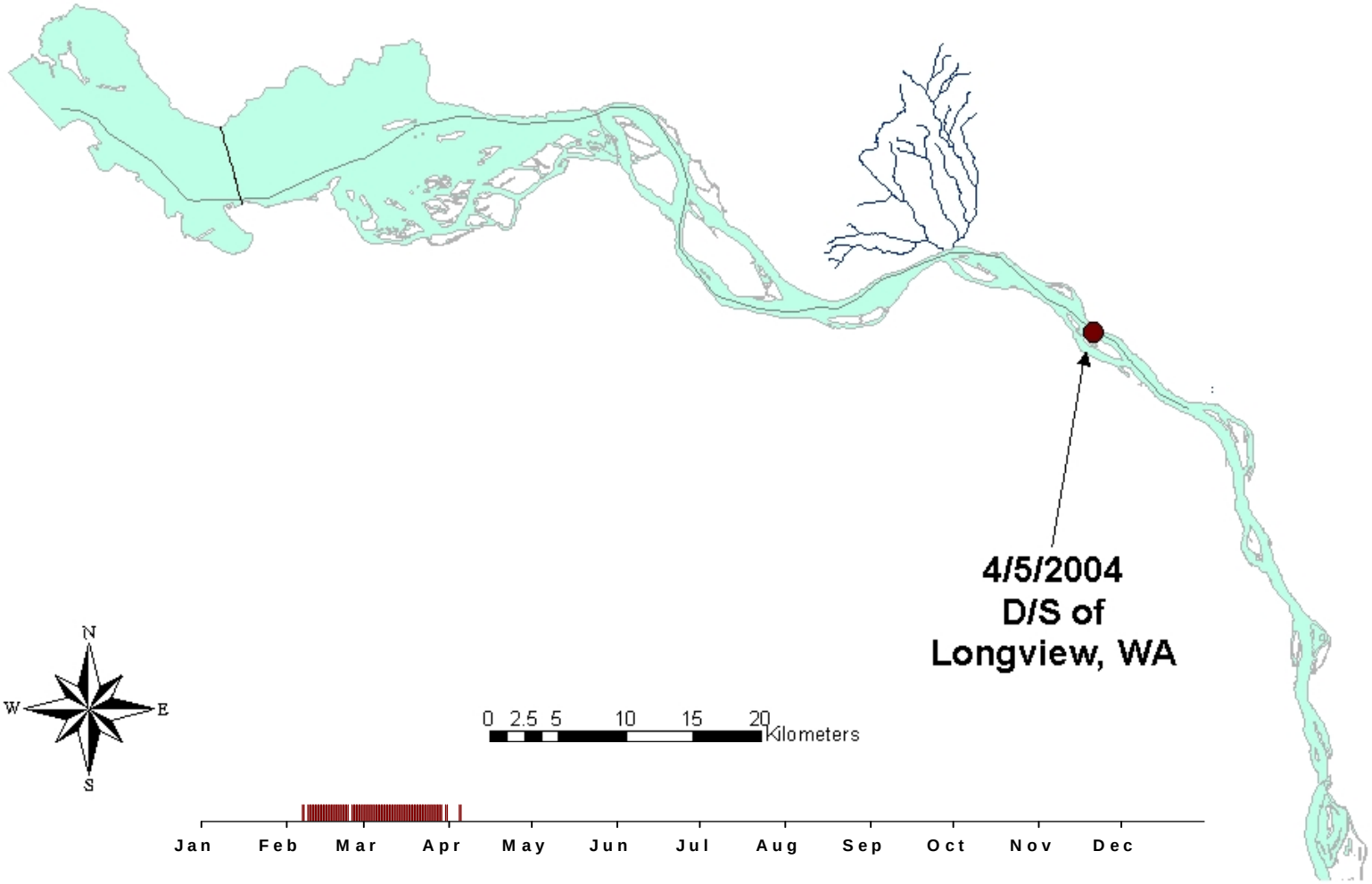

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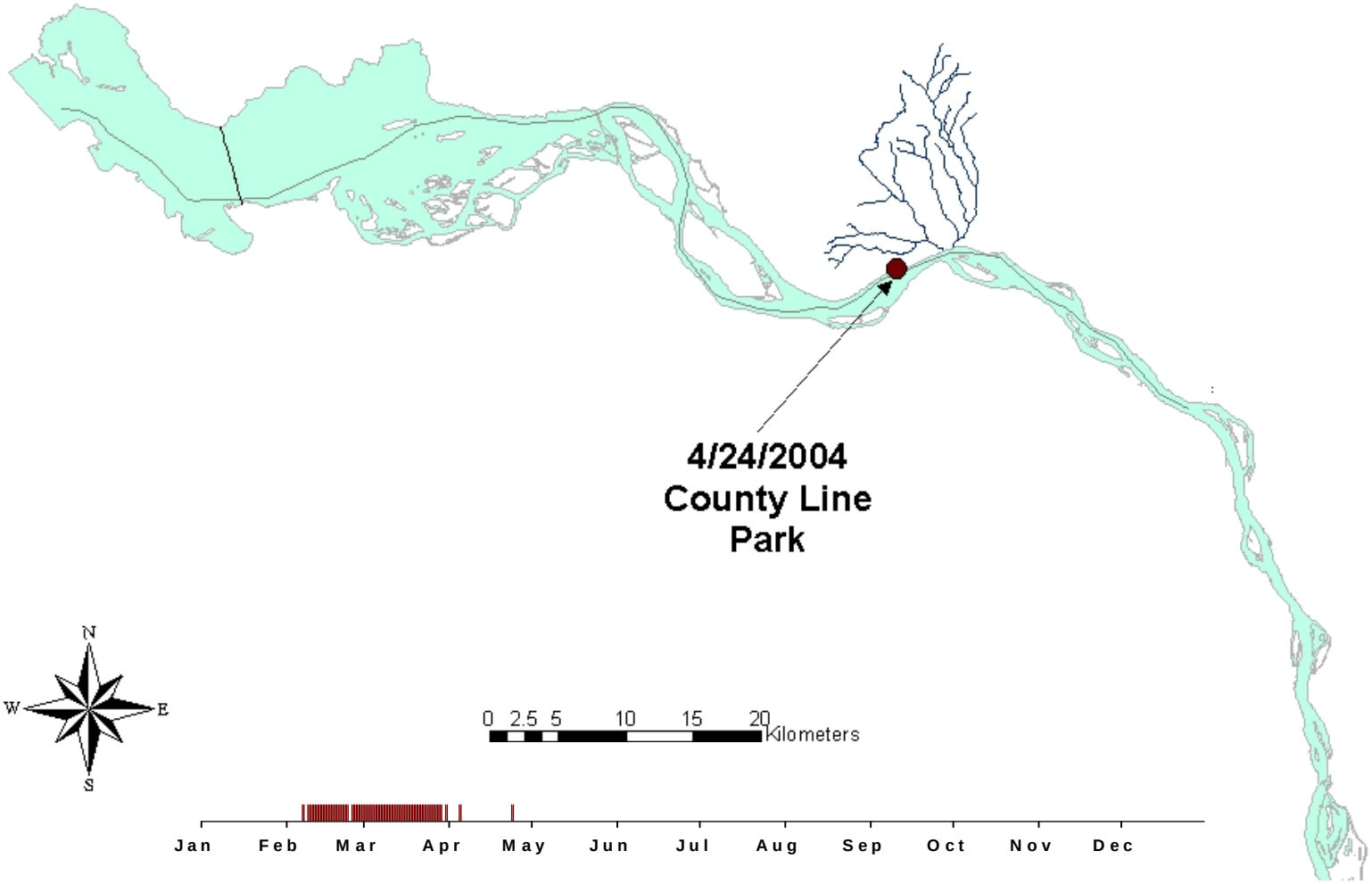

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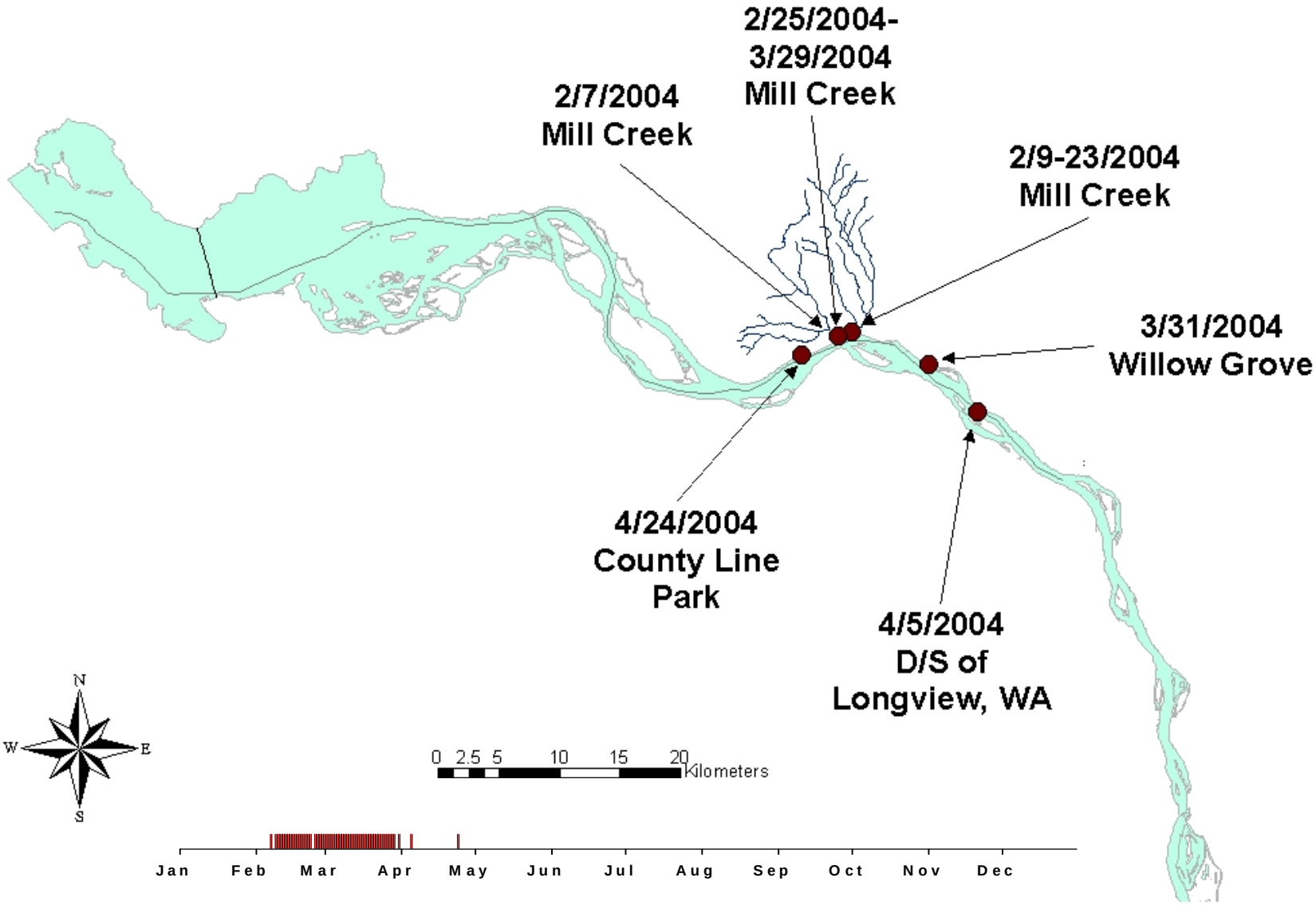

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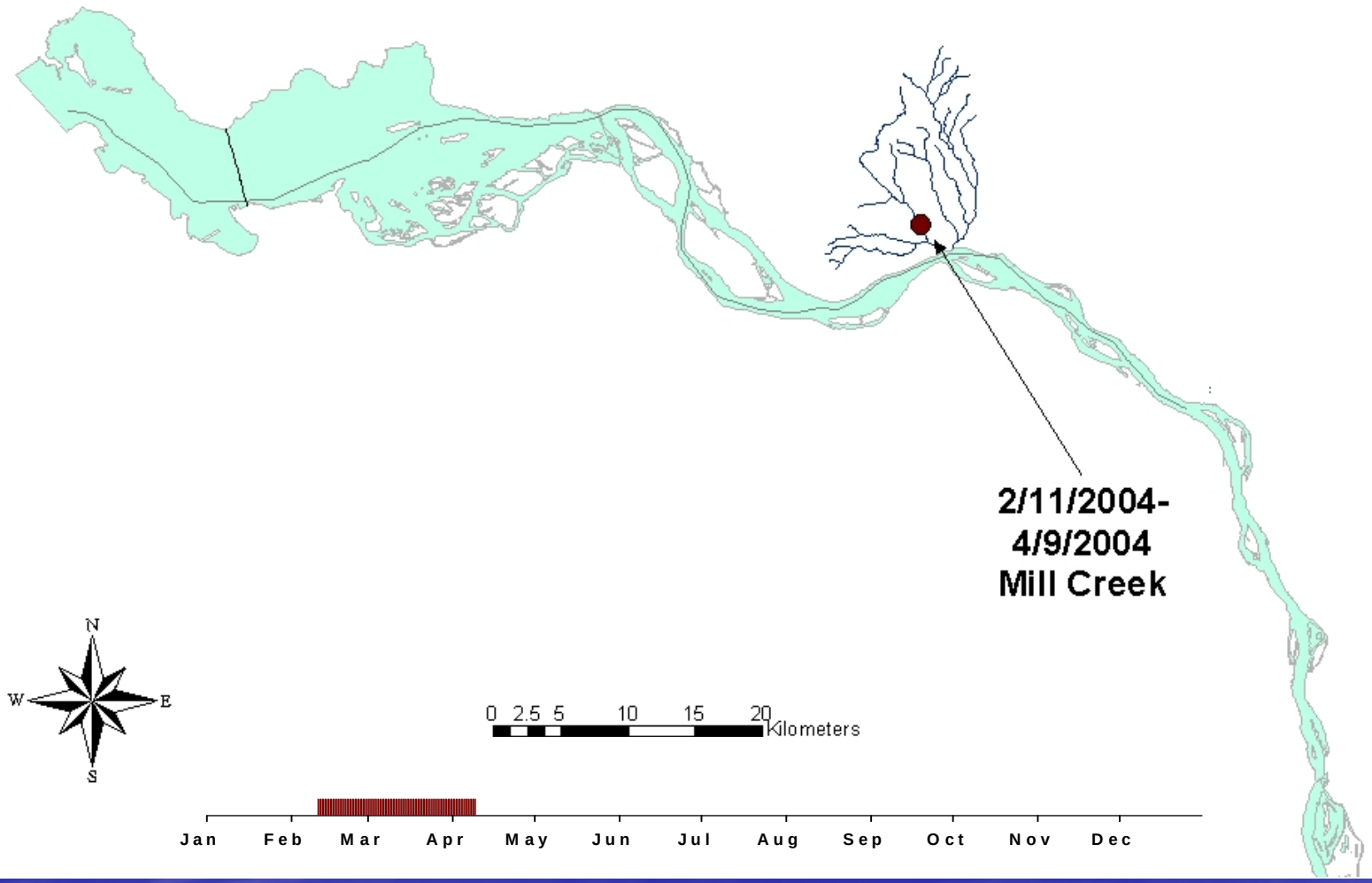

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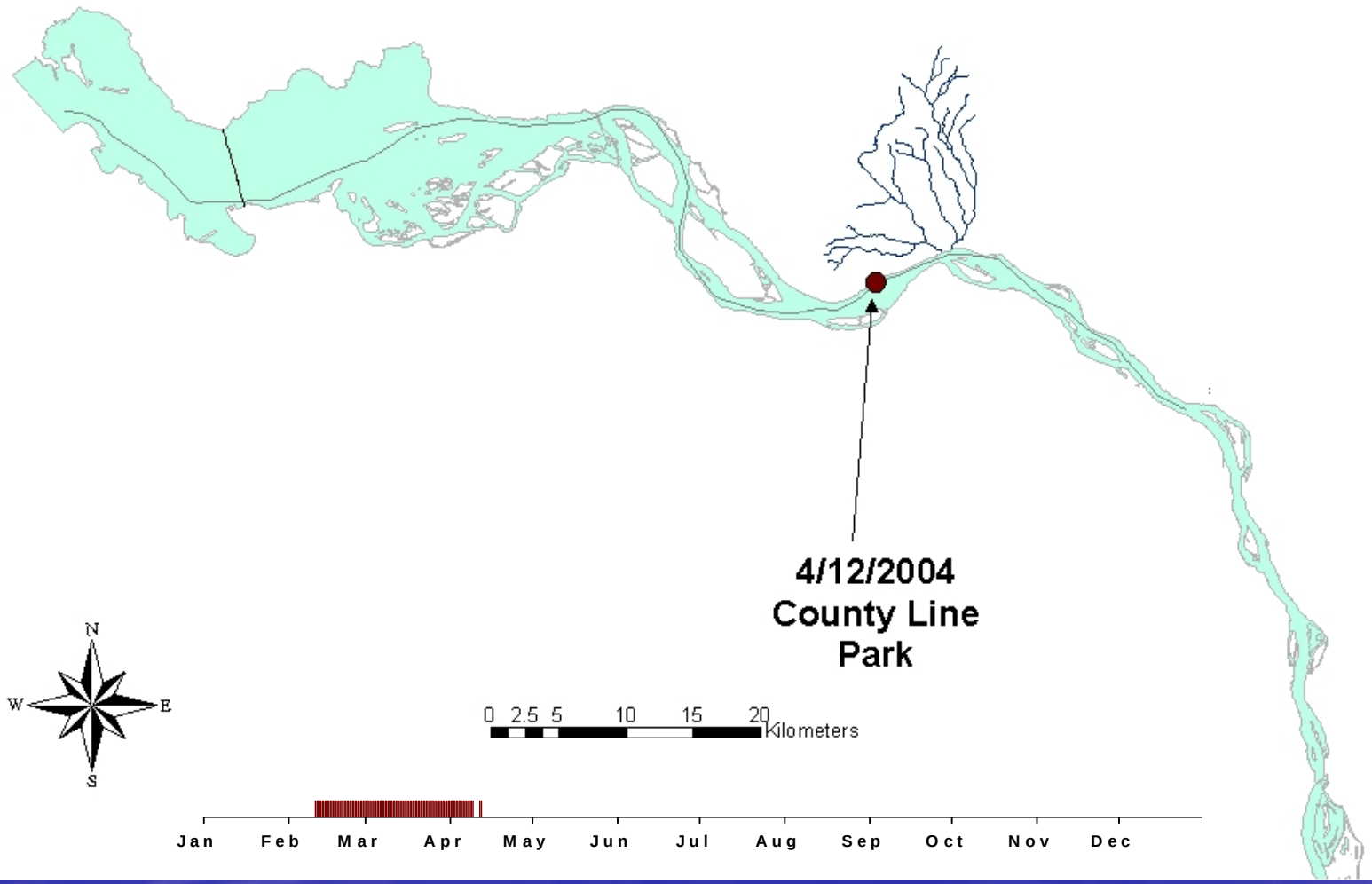

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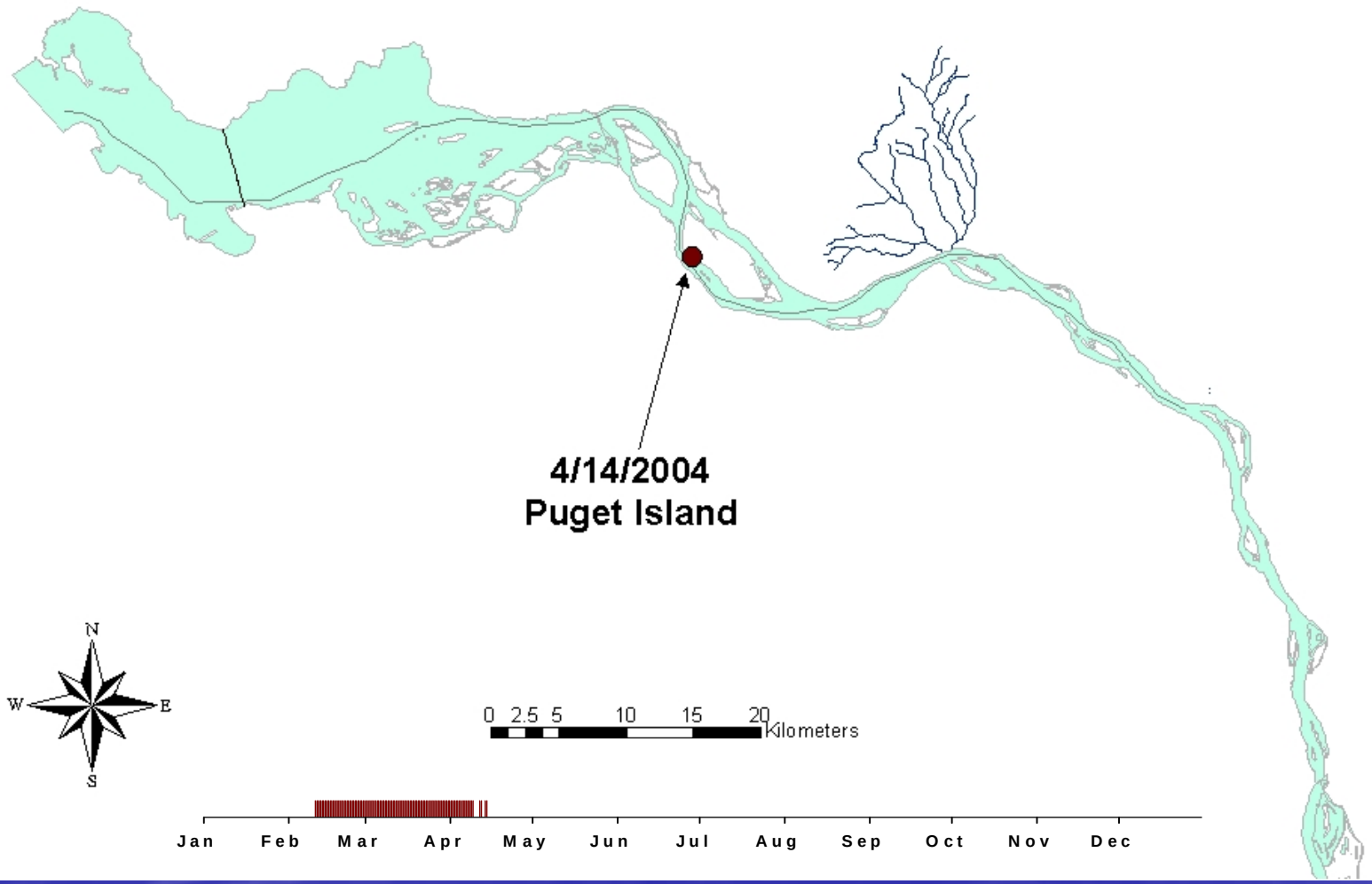

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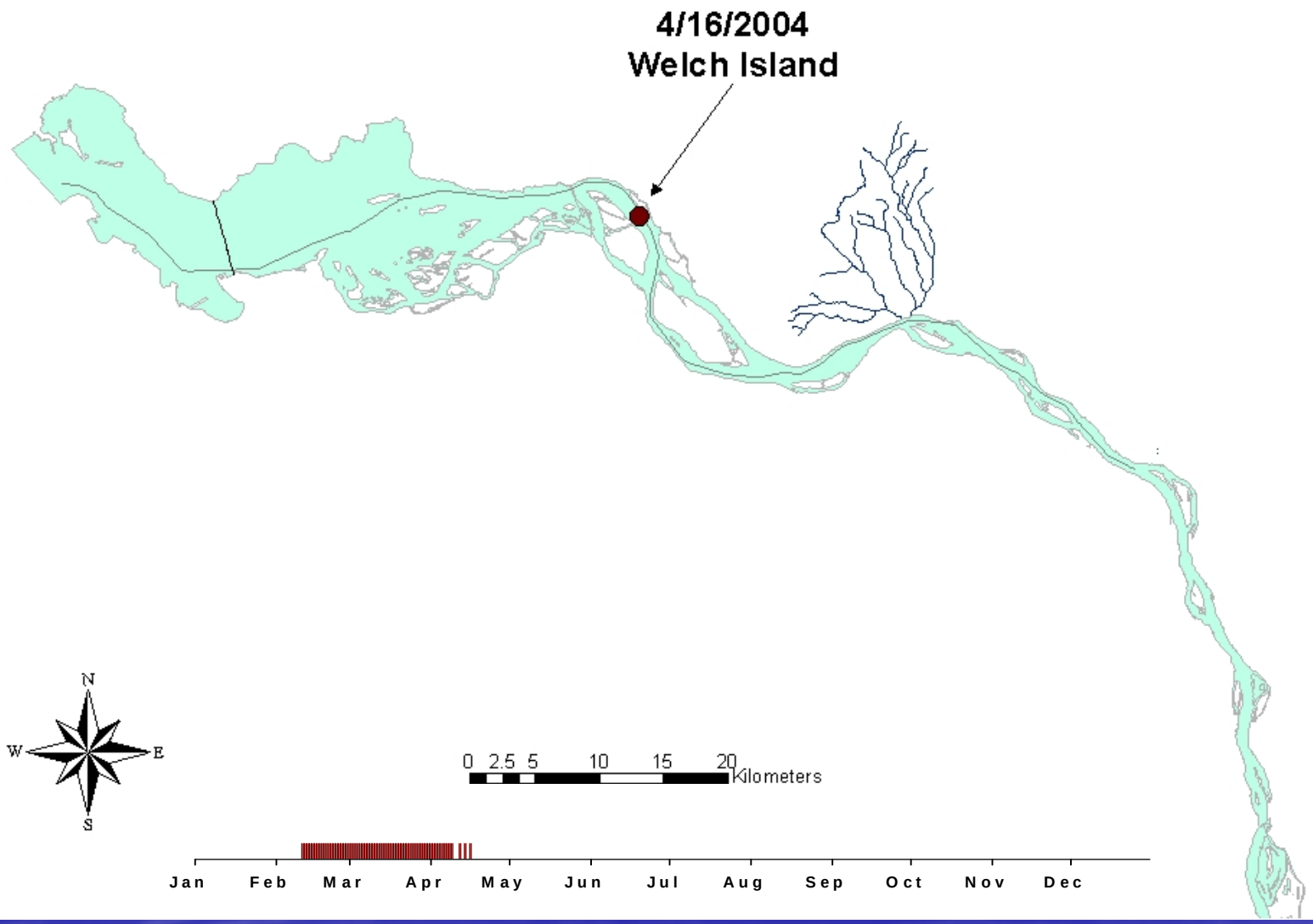

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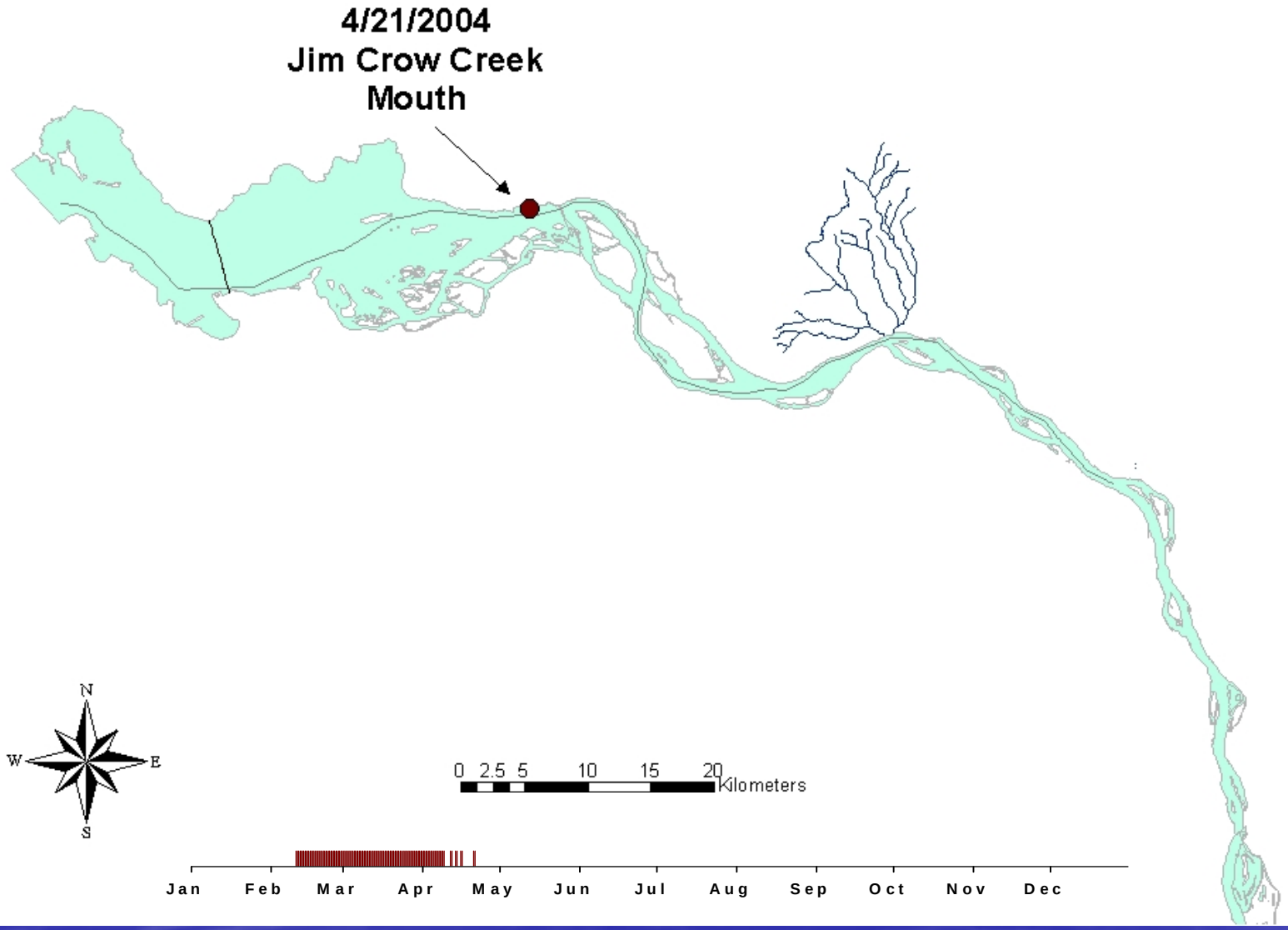

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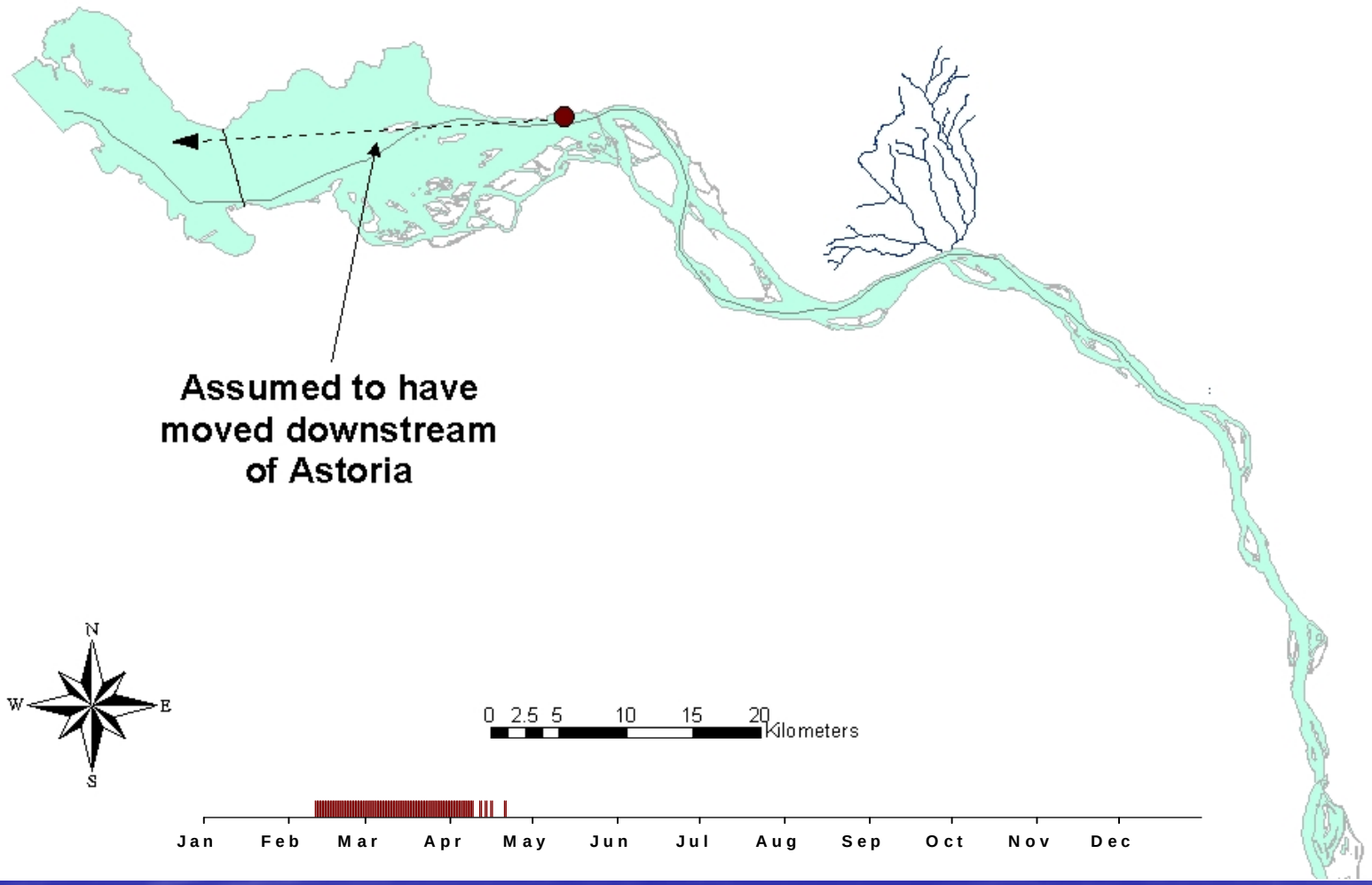

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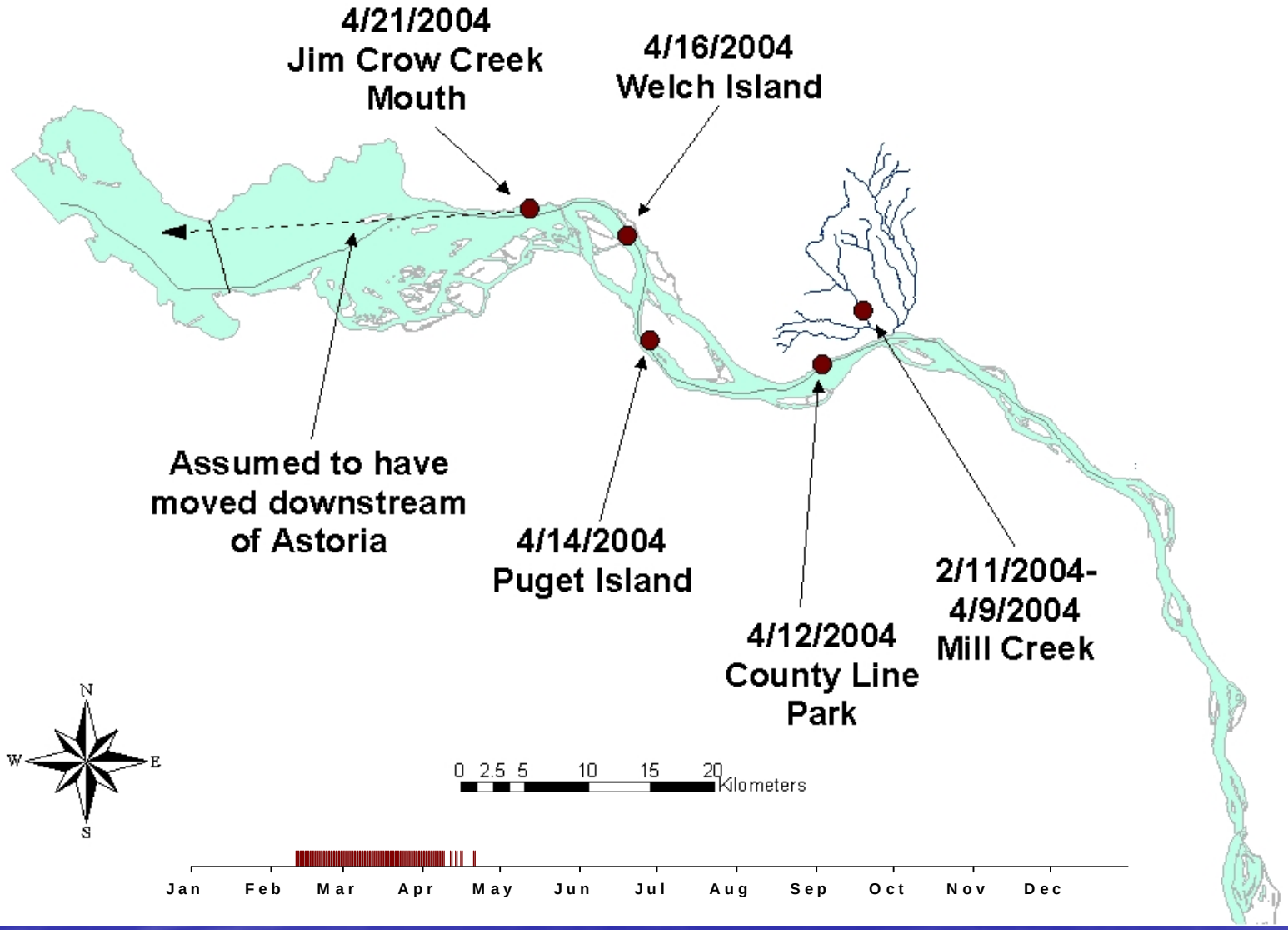
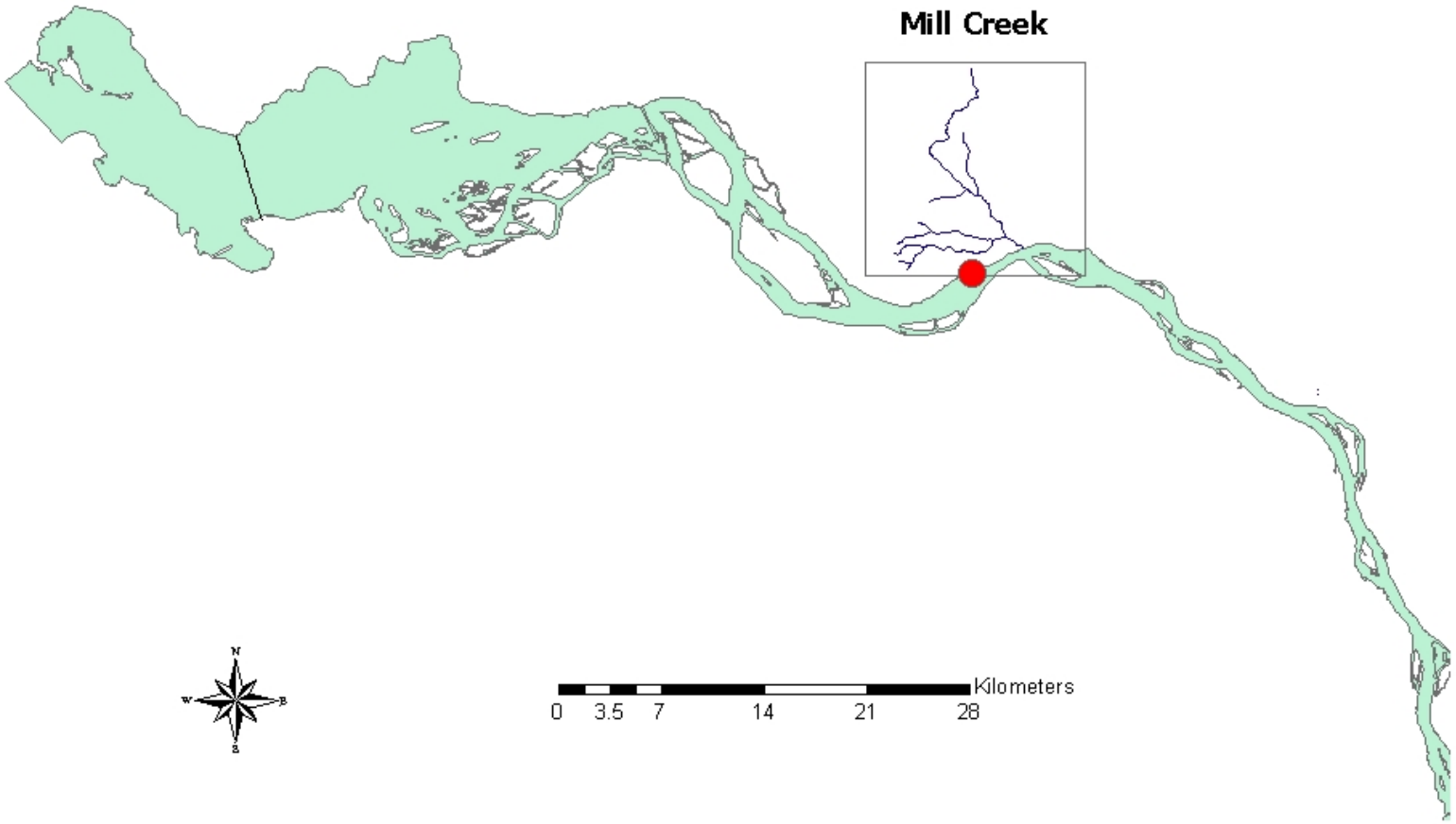


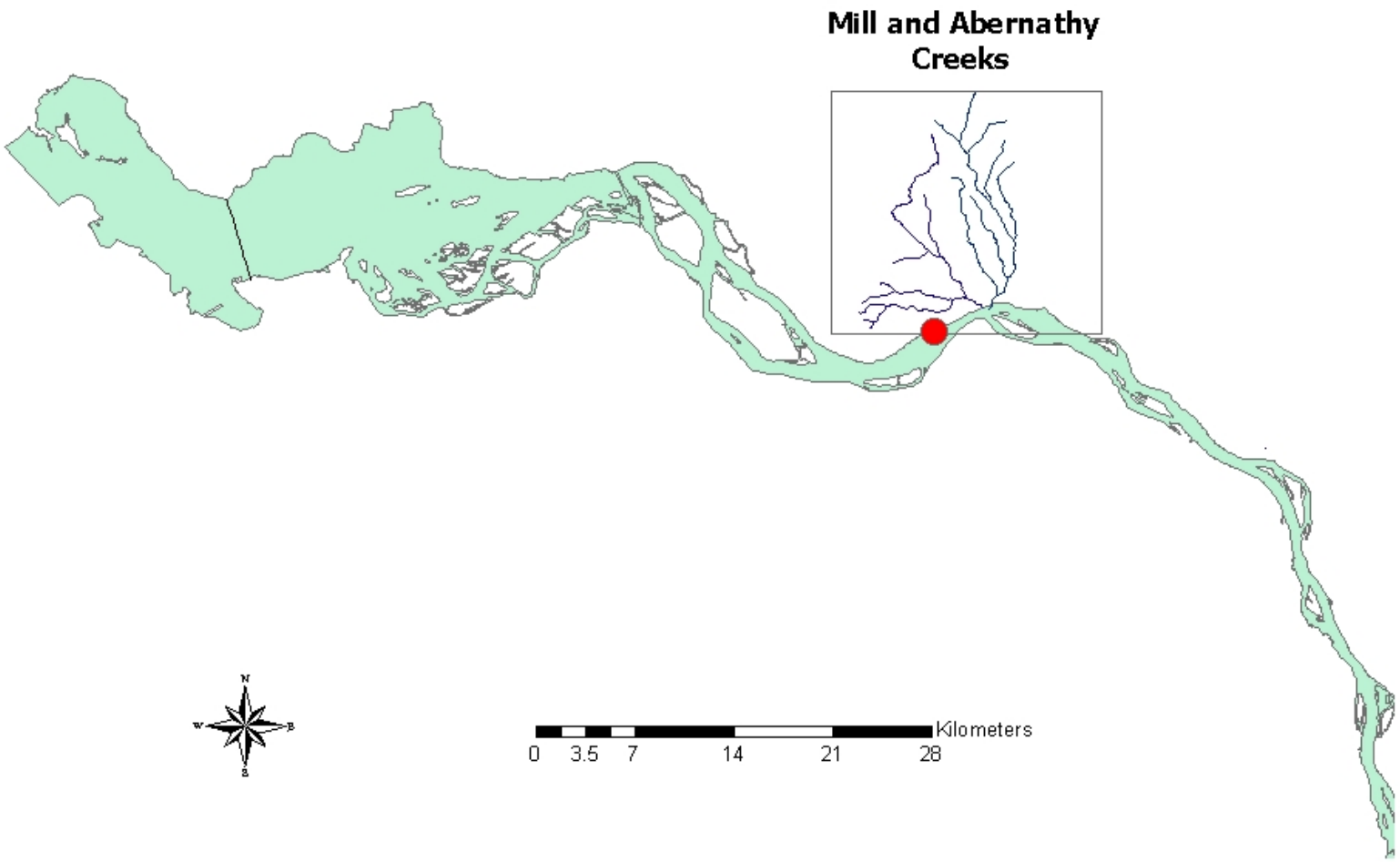
# Migratory Adult Summary - 2004

- Adults move upstream and downstream of Mill Creek
- Adults use a variety of habitats associated with the mainstem lower Columbia River
  - Shipping channel
  - Sloughs
  - Multiple tributaries

# Approach 2005

- Capture and radio tag 35 adult coastal cutthroat trout (kelts) in winter 2005
- Install additional stationary receiver sites to monitor fish movement
- Conduct mobile tracking daily to document movement of individual fish


Mill Creek
Kilometers
0
3.5
7
14
21
28


Mill and Abernathy Creeks
N
W
E
S
Kilometers
0
3.5
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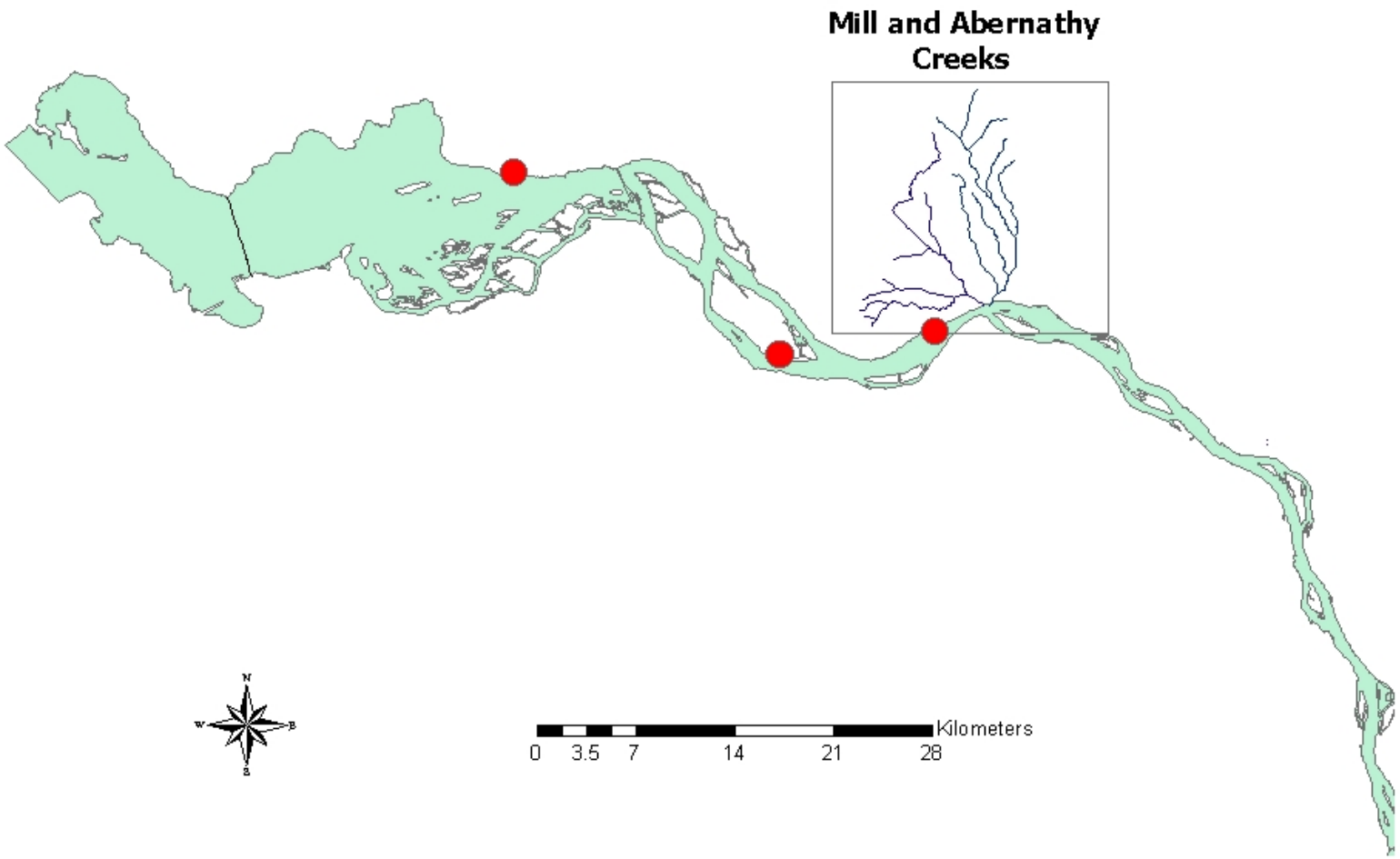
21
28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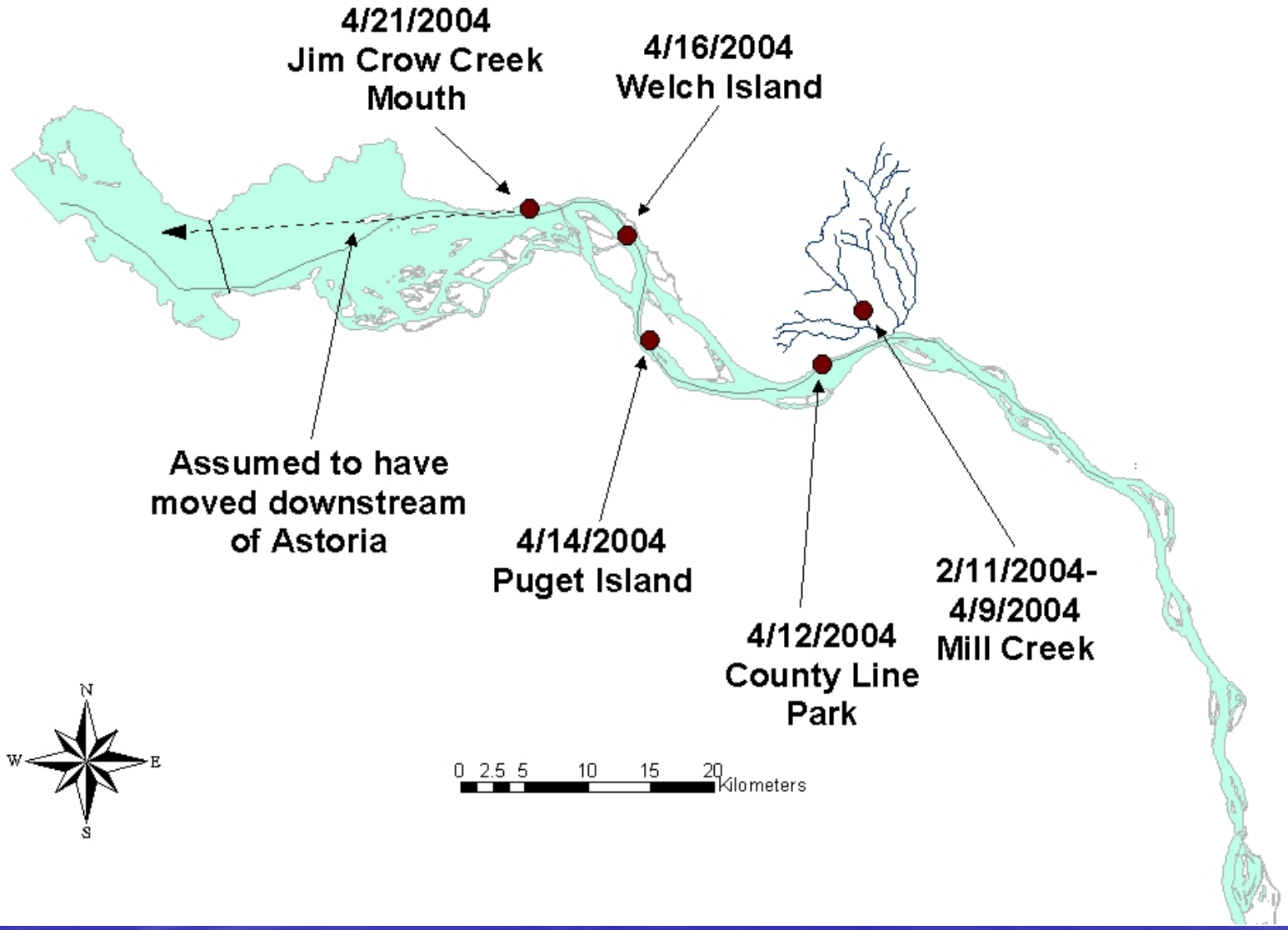

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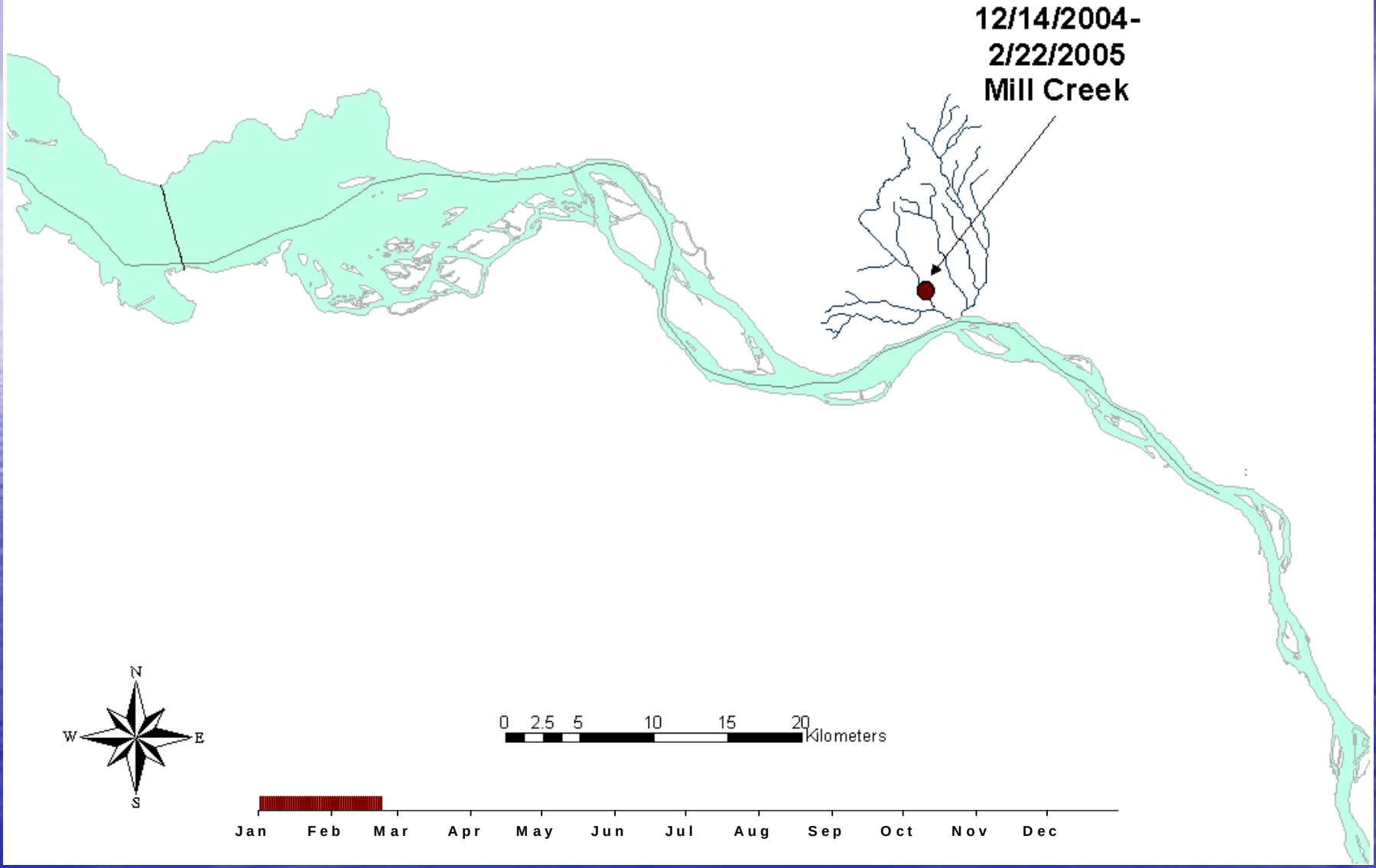

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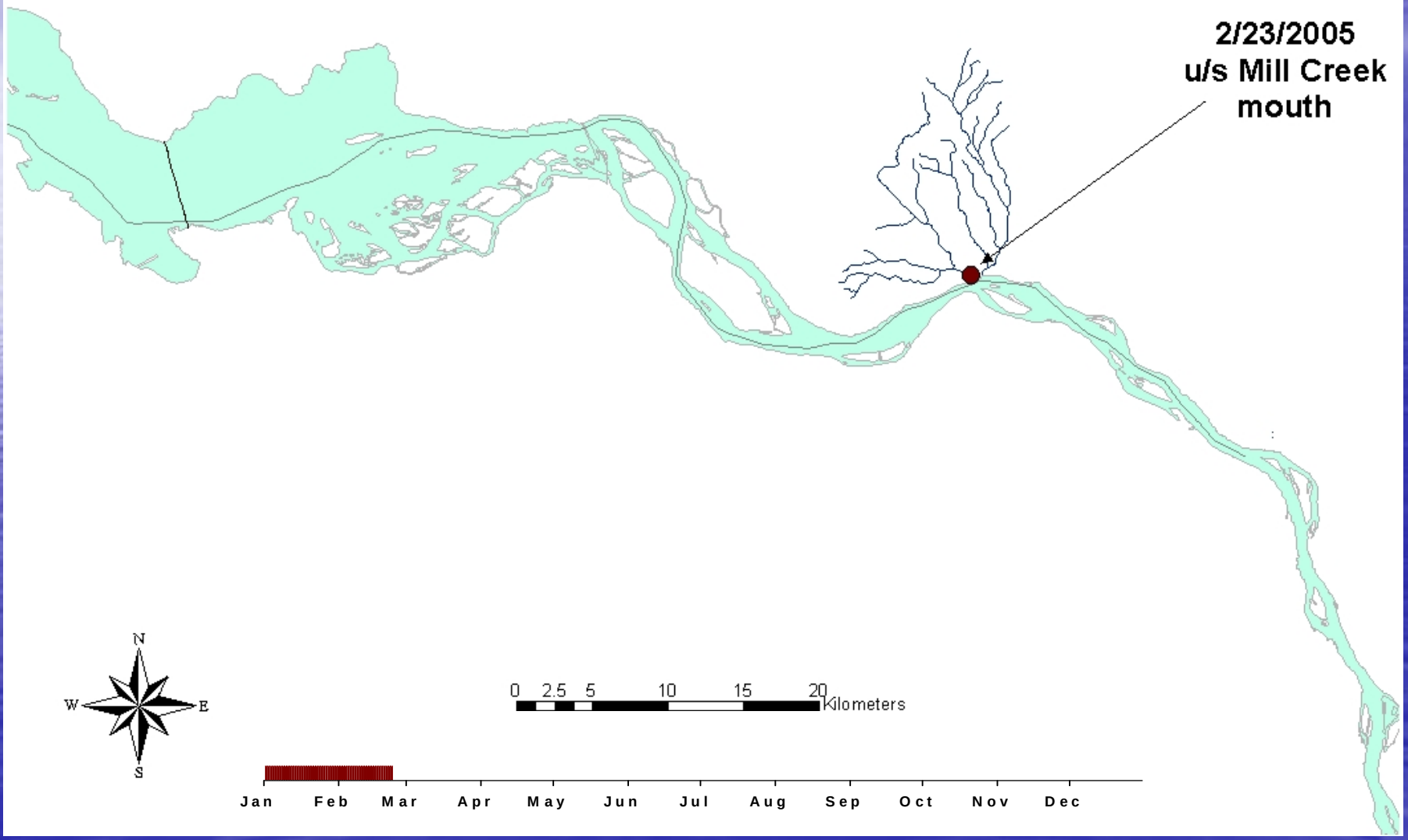

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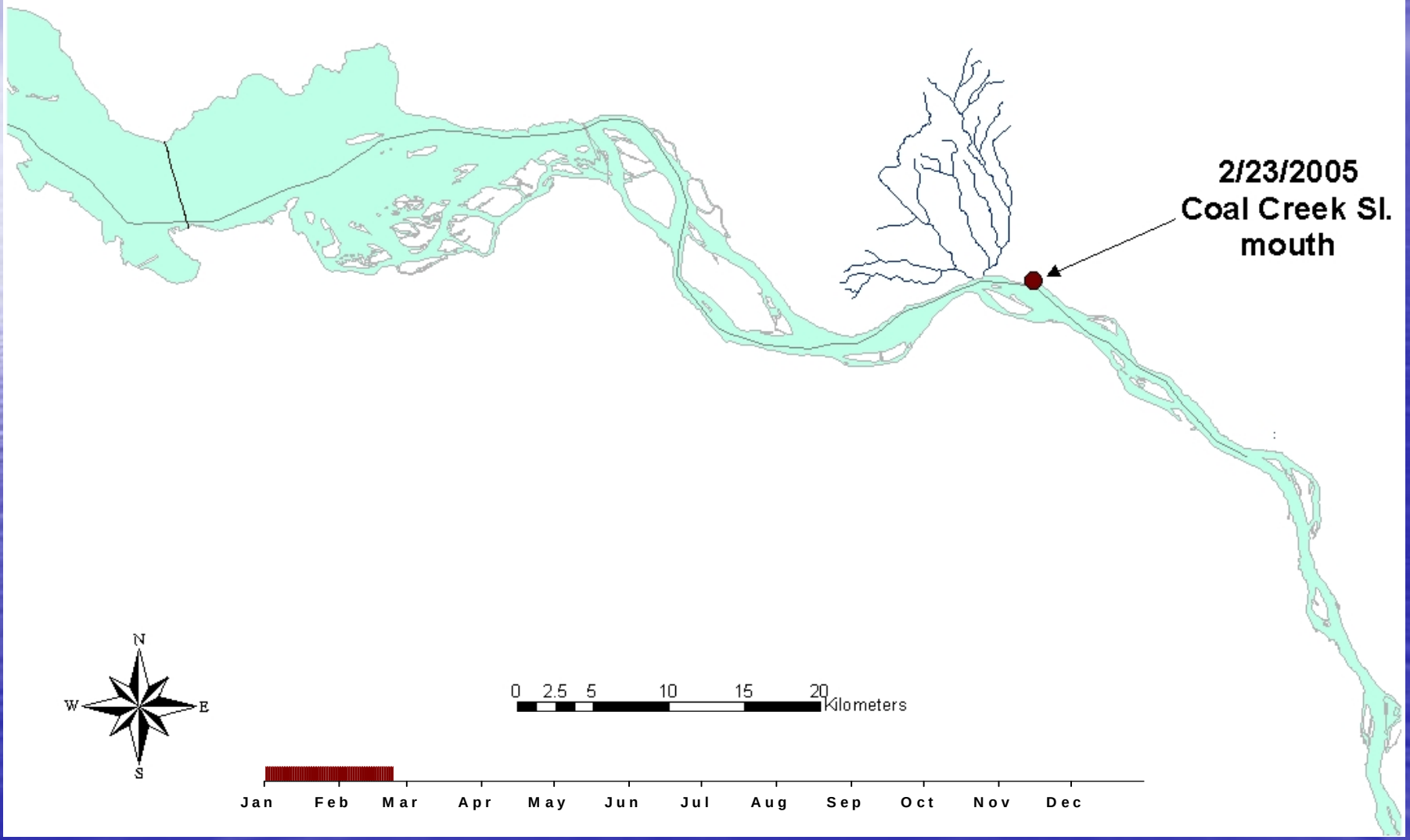

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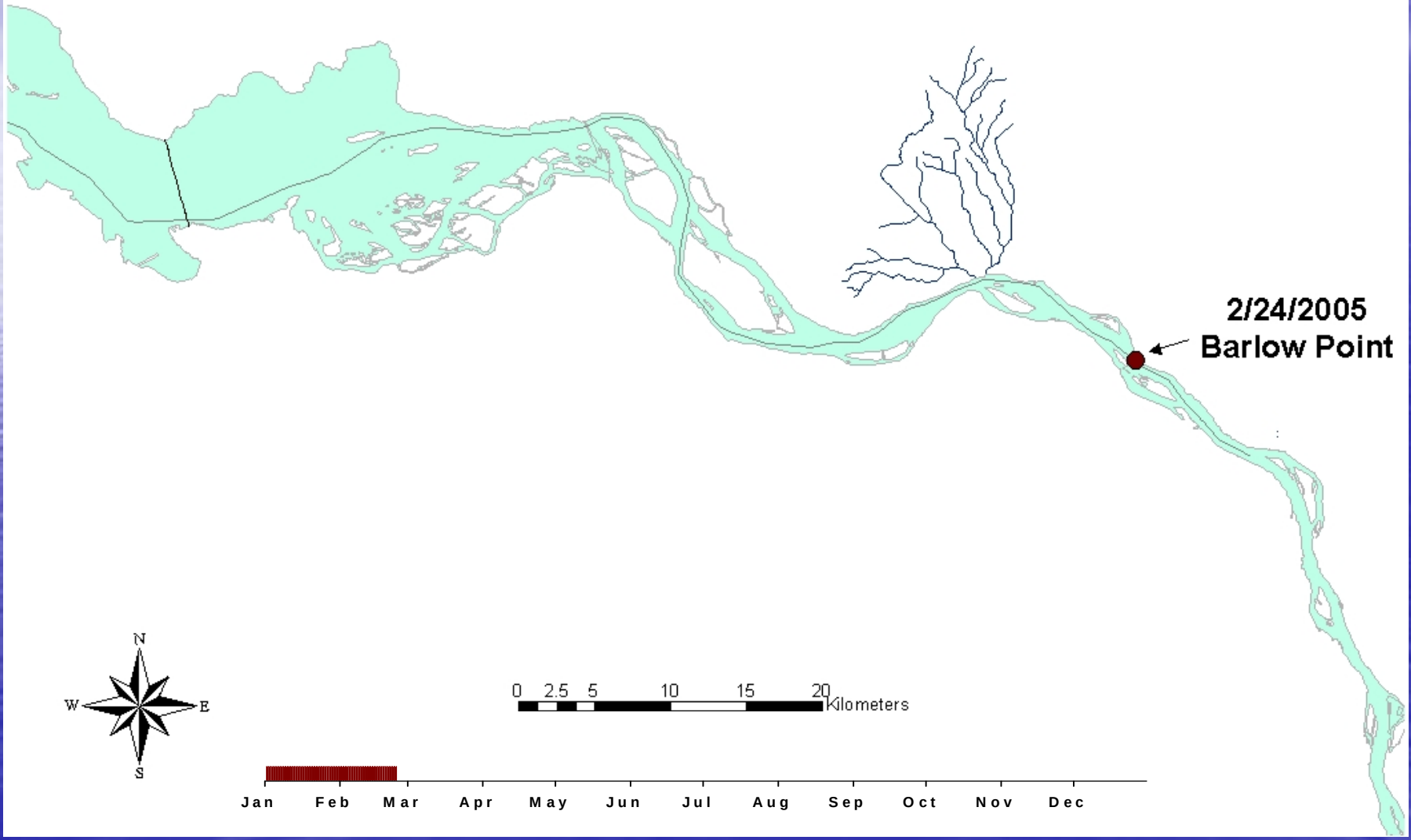

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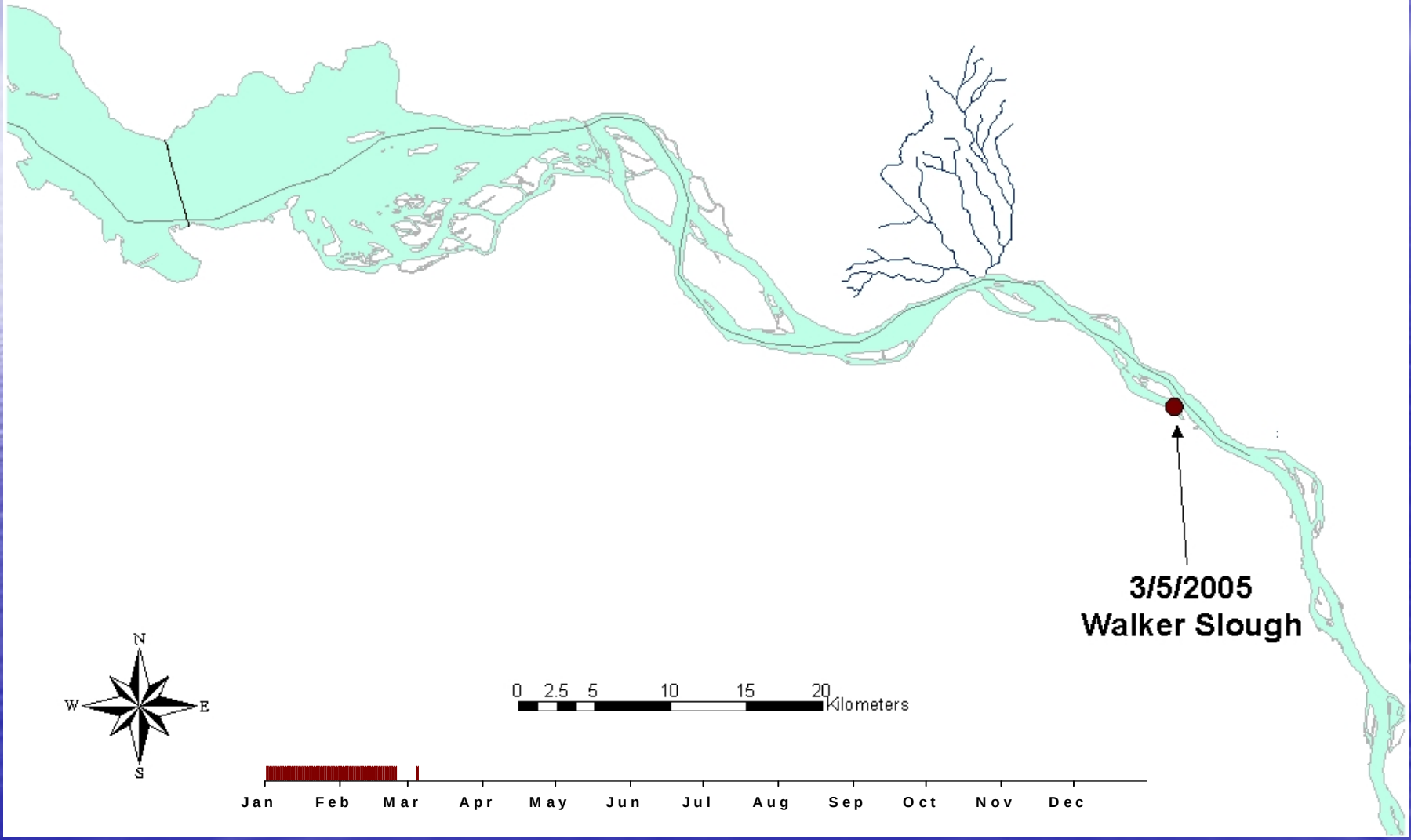

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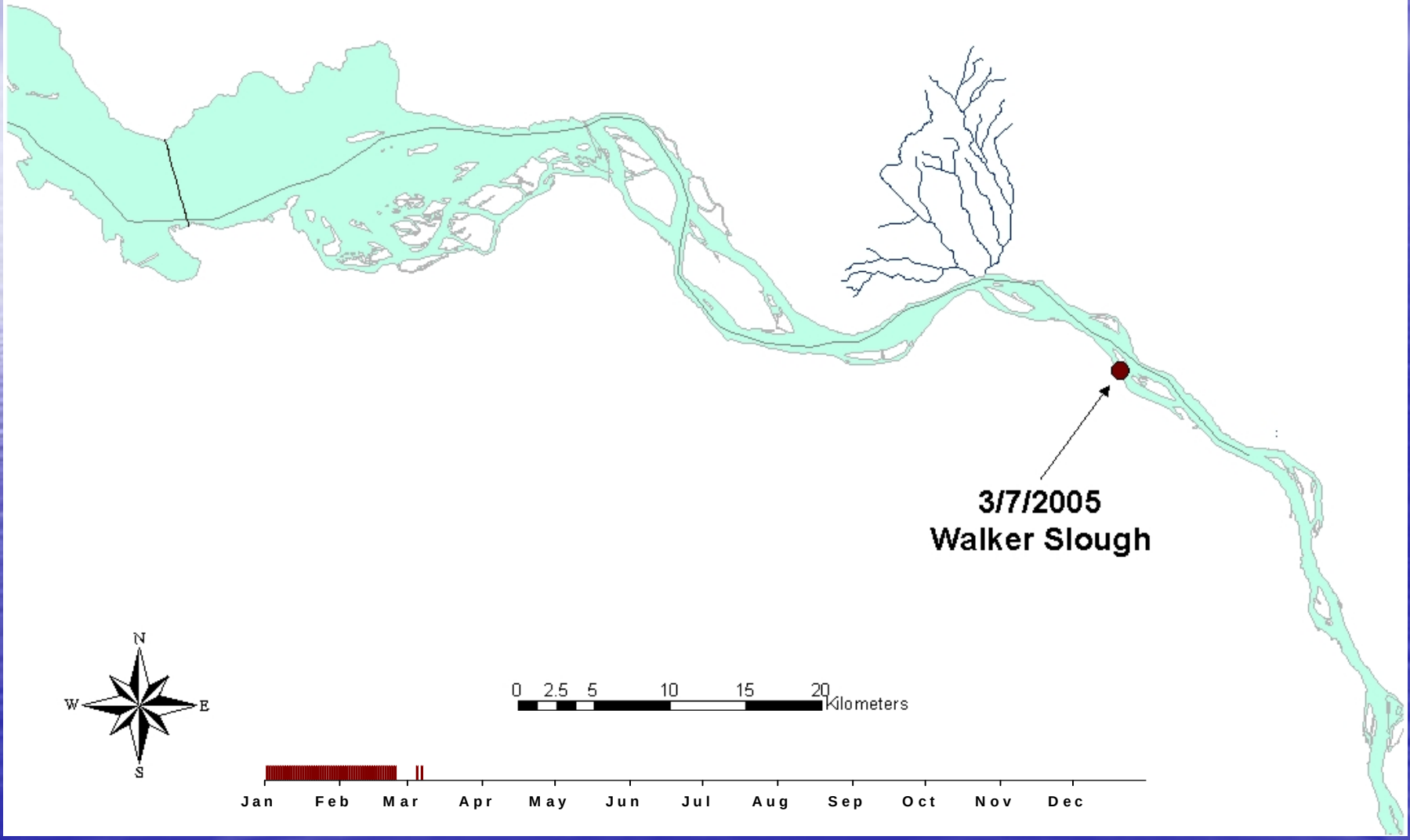

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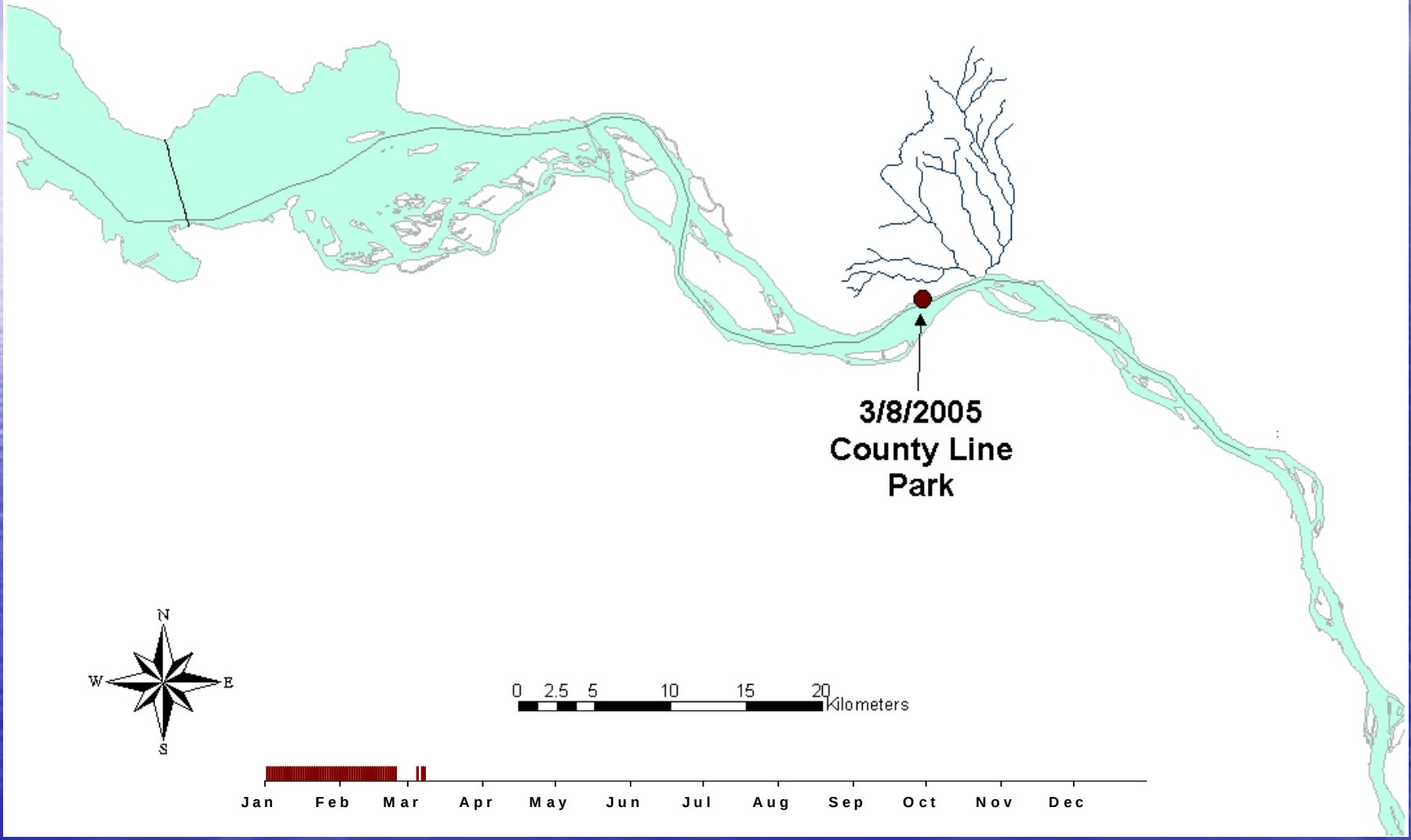

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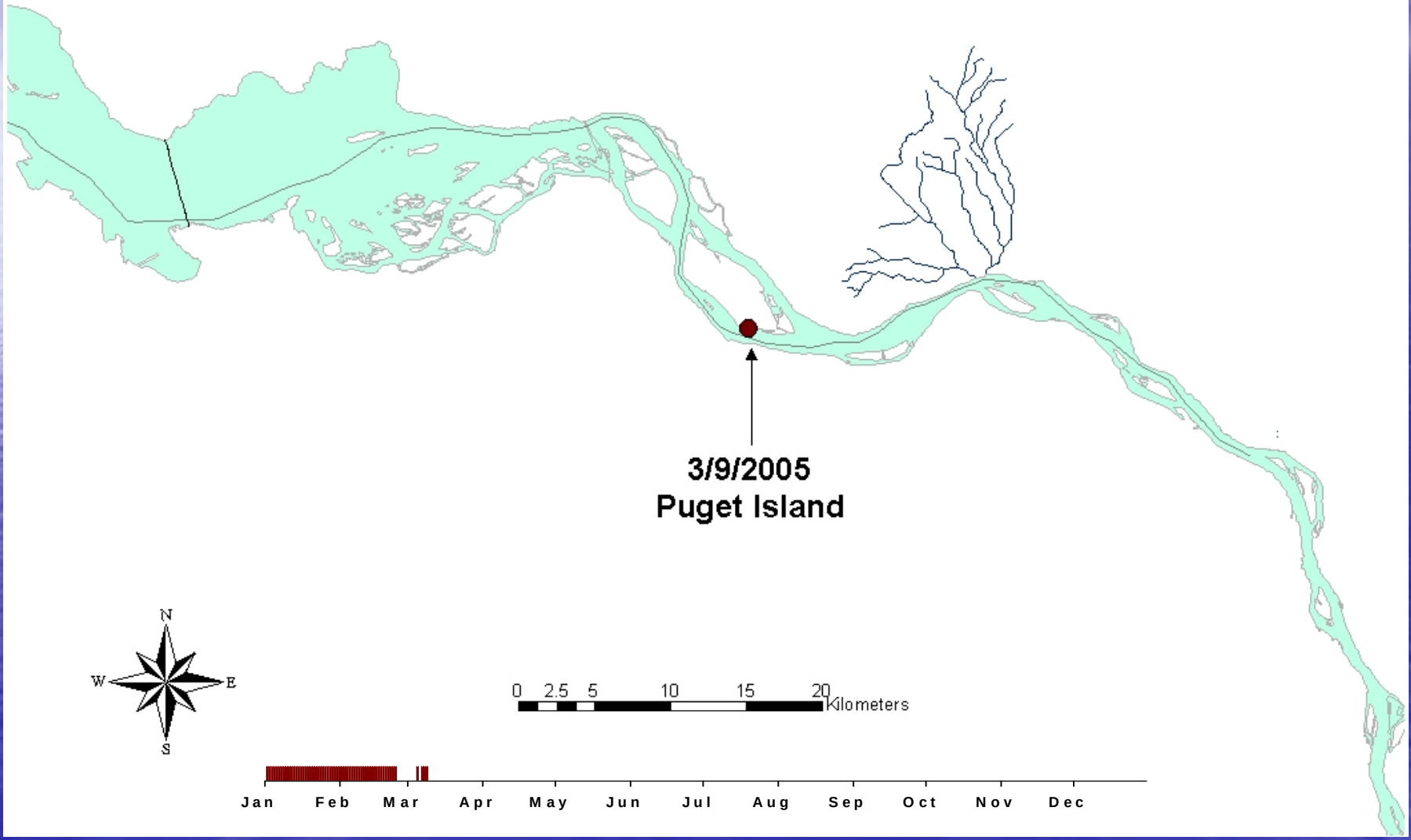

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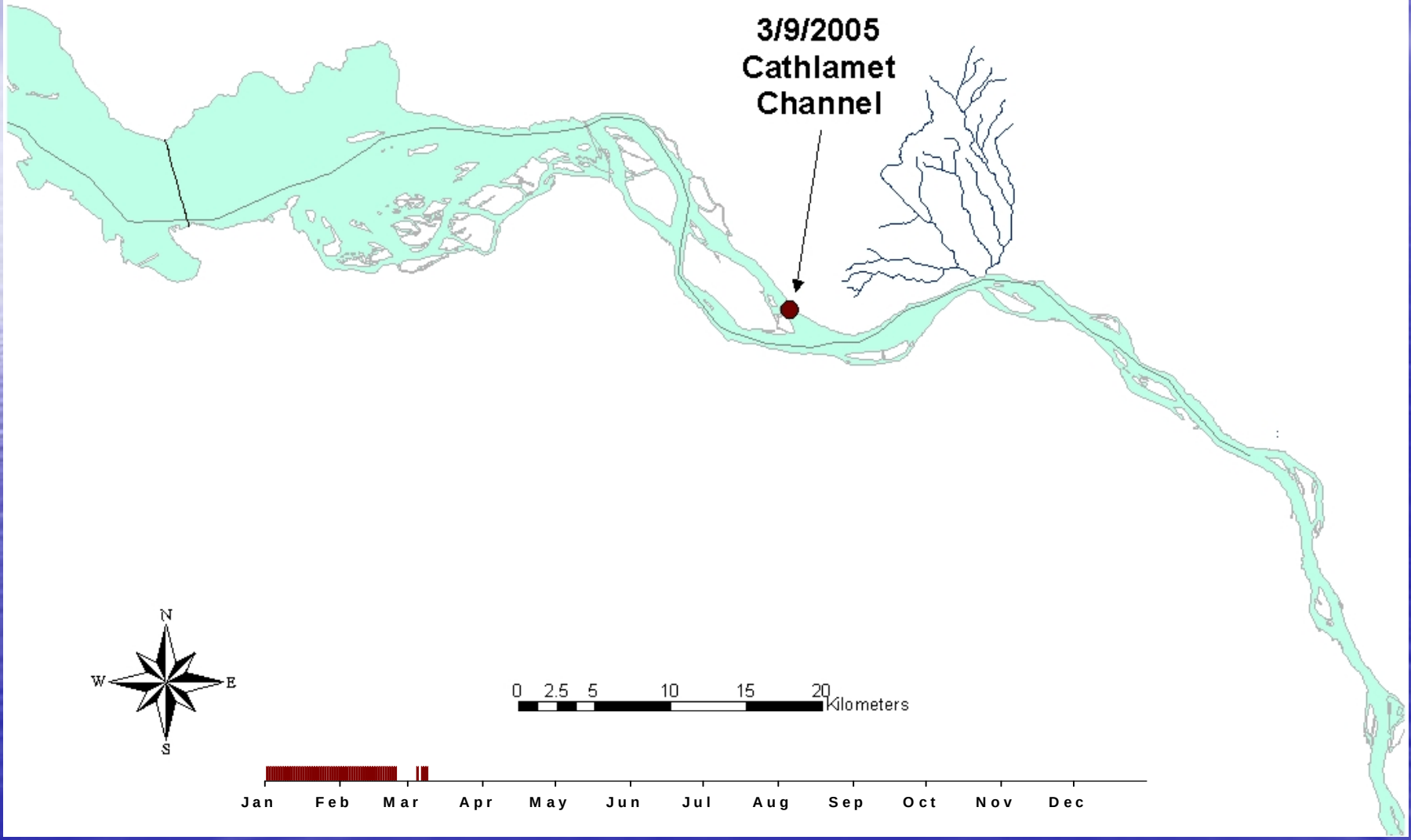

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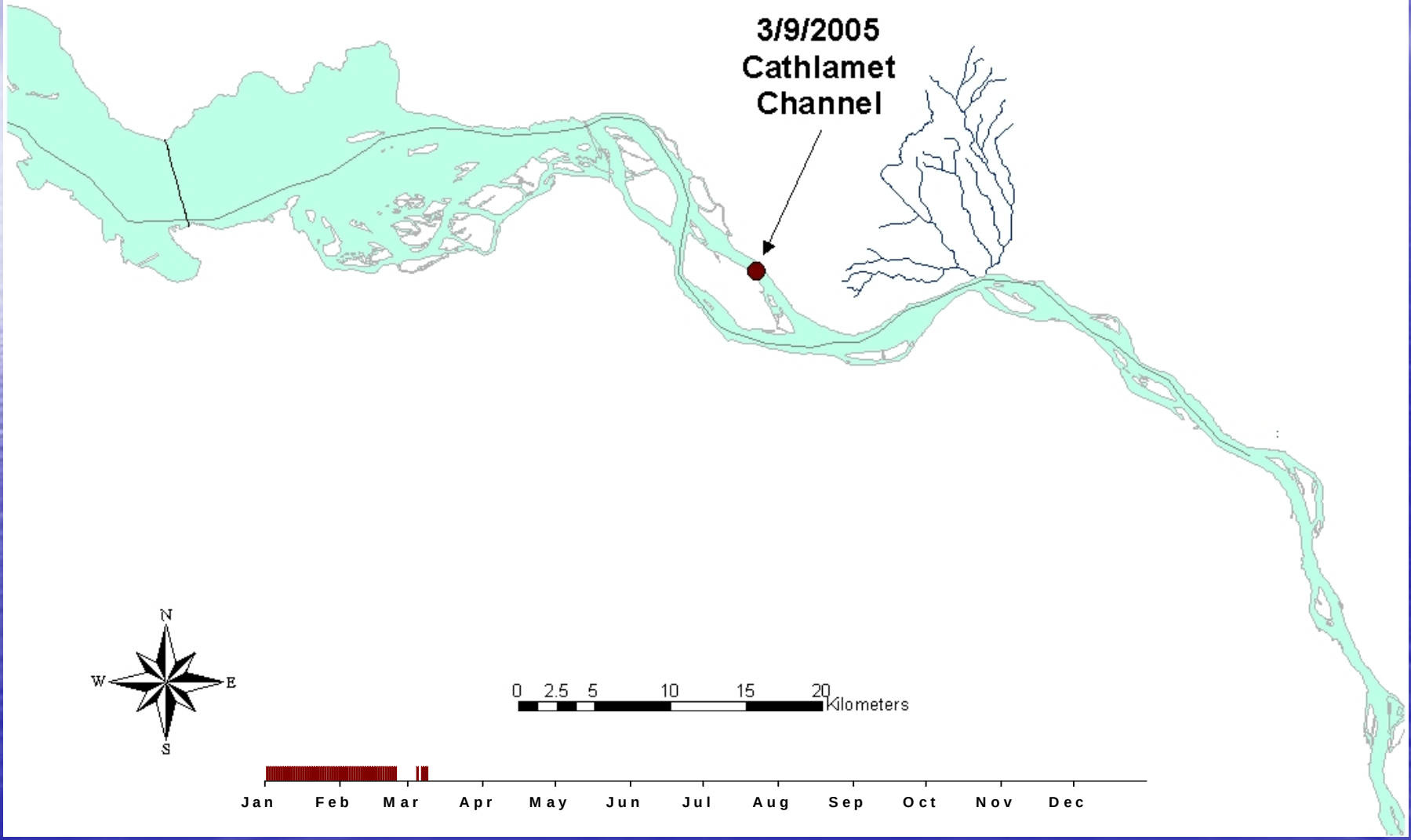

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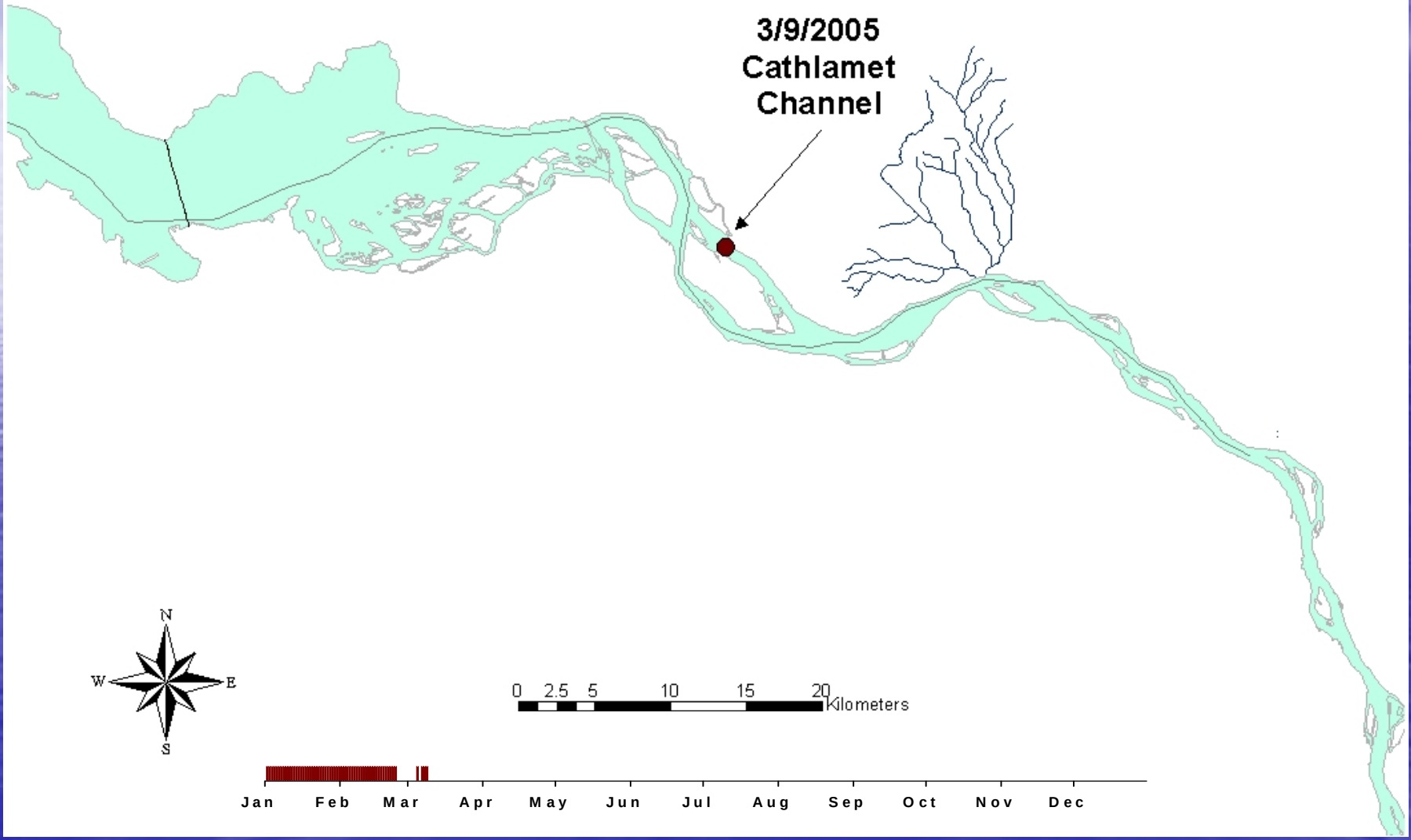

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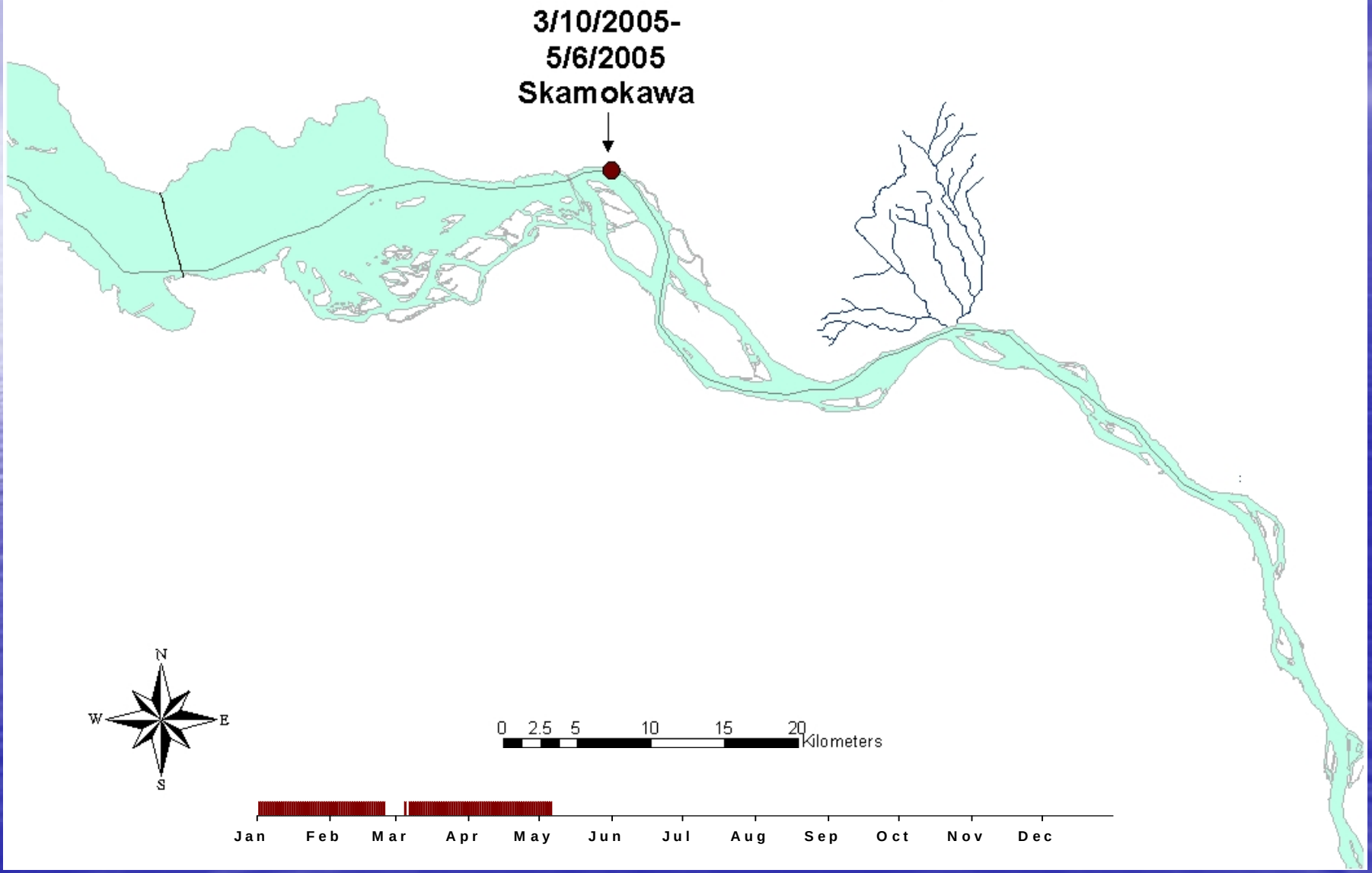

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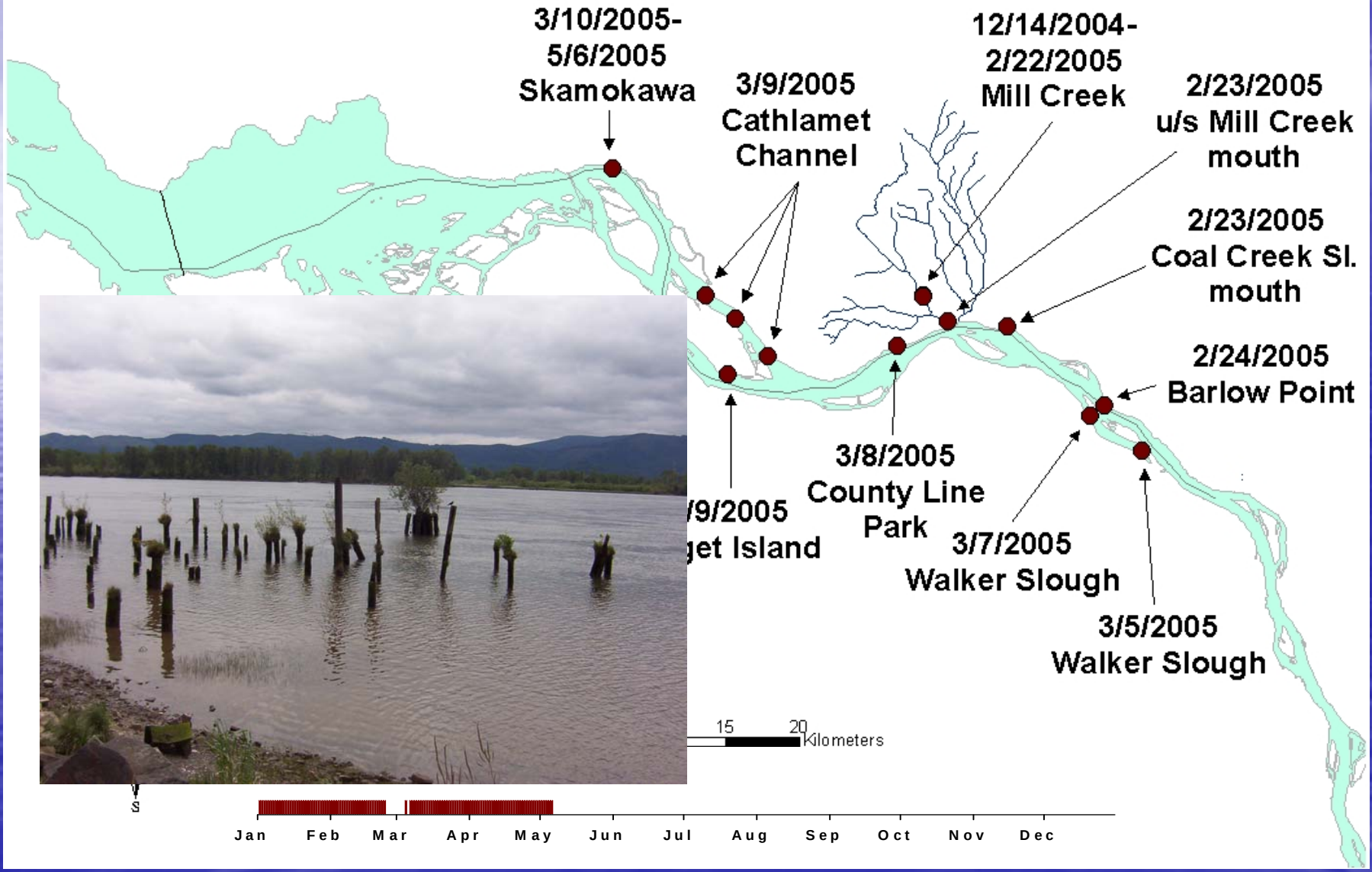

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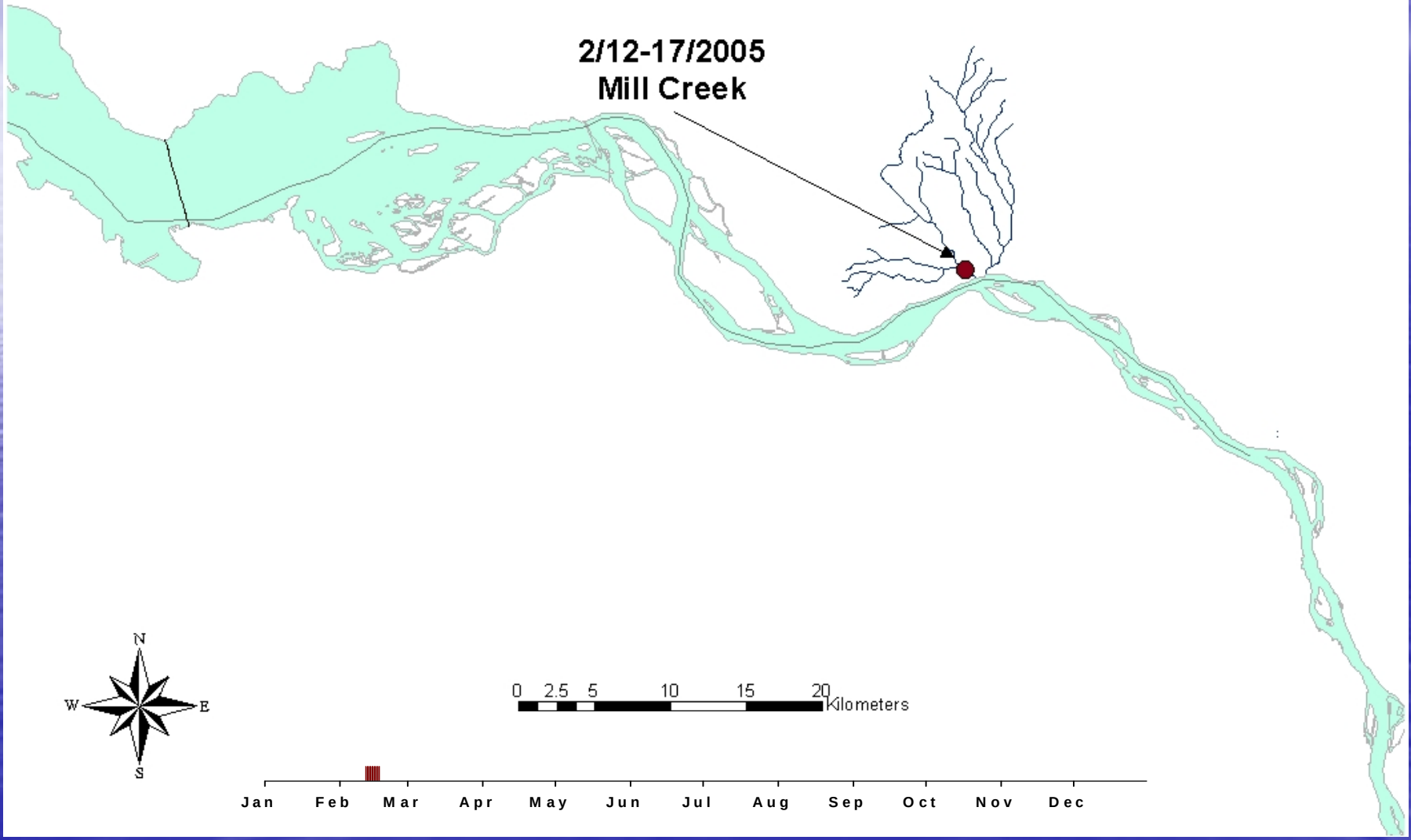

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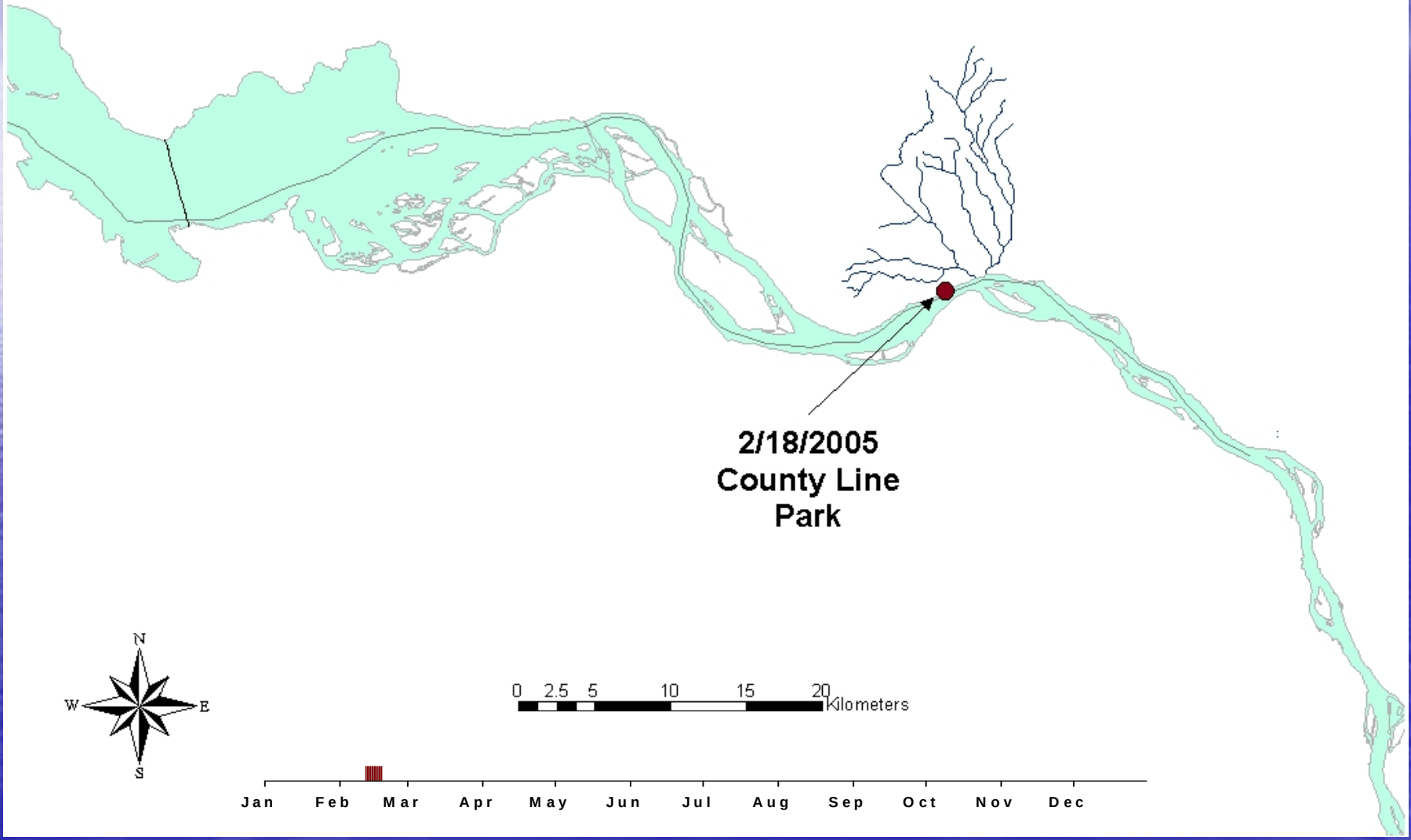

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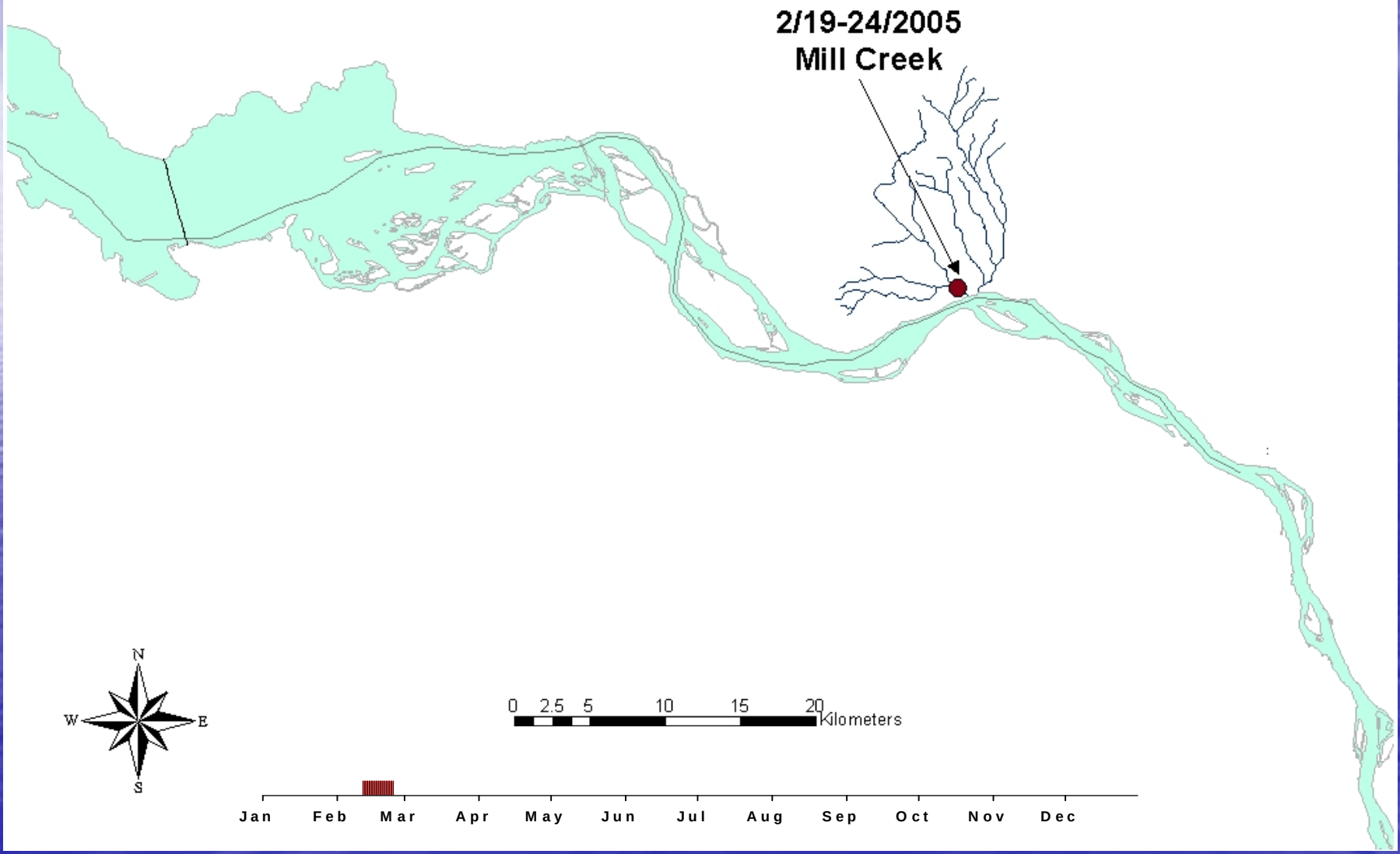

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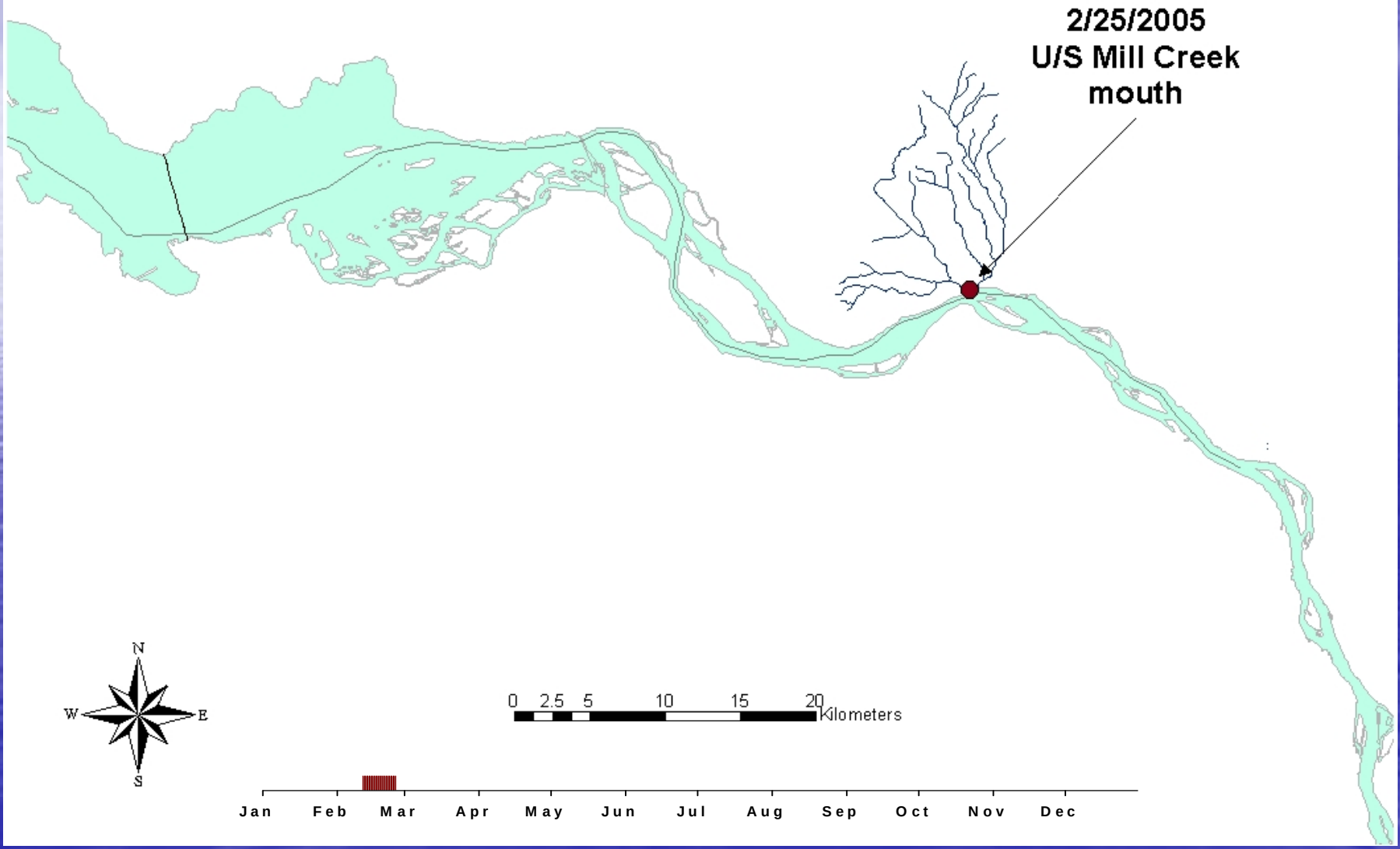

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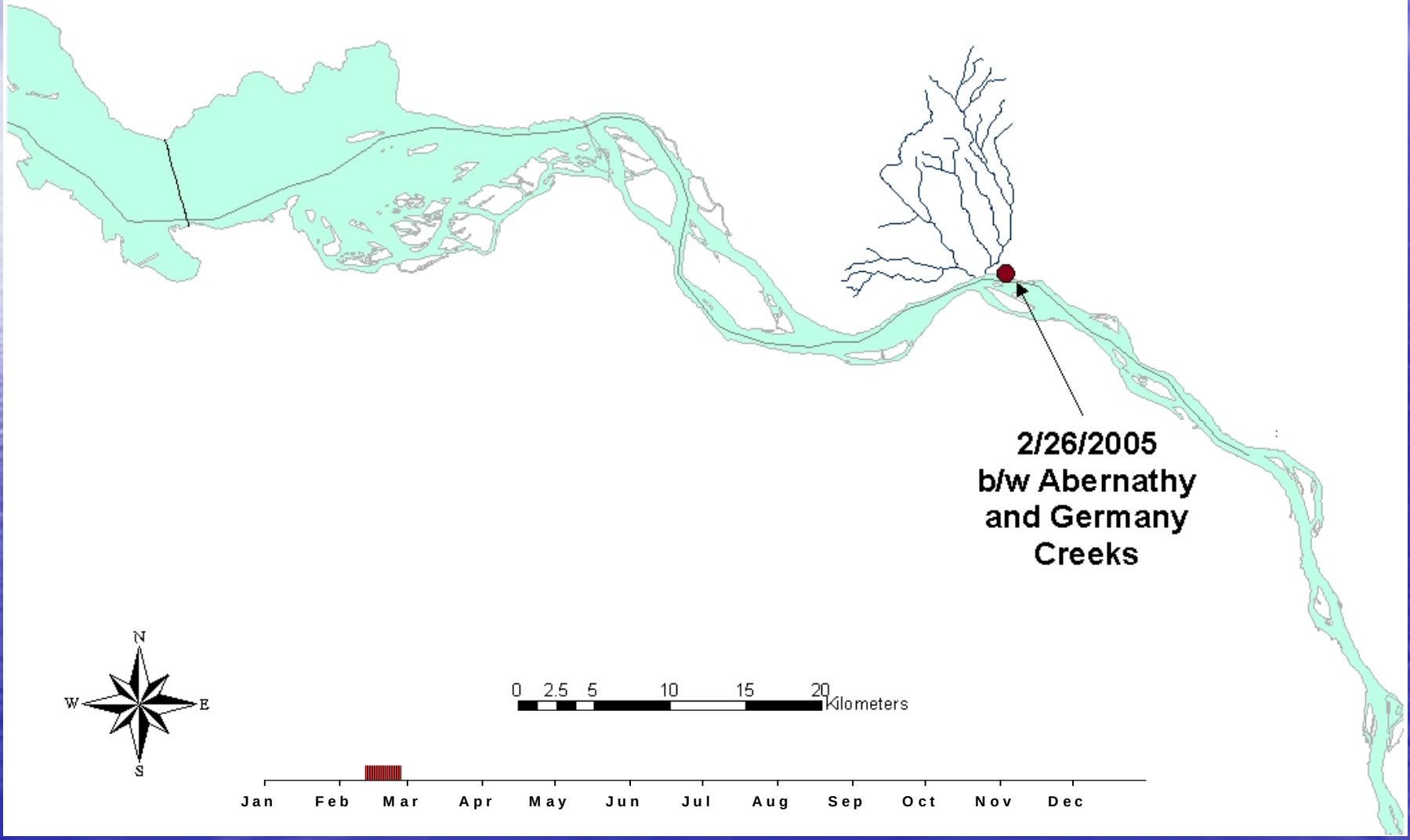

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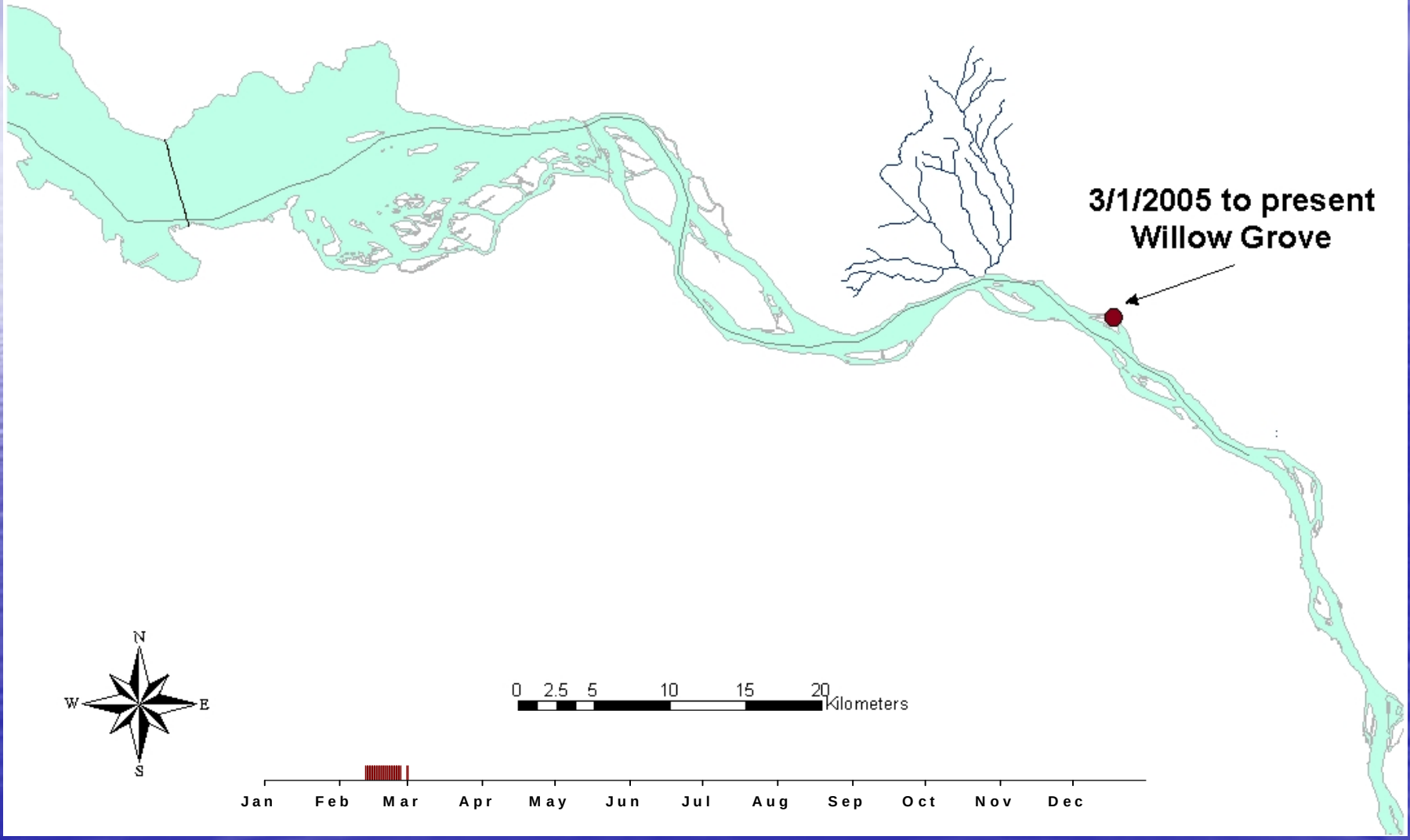

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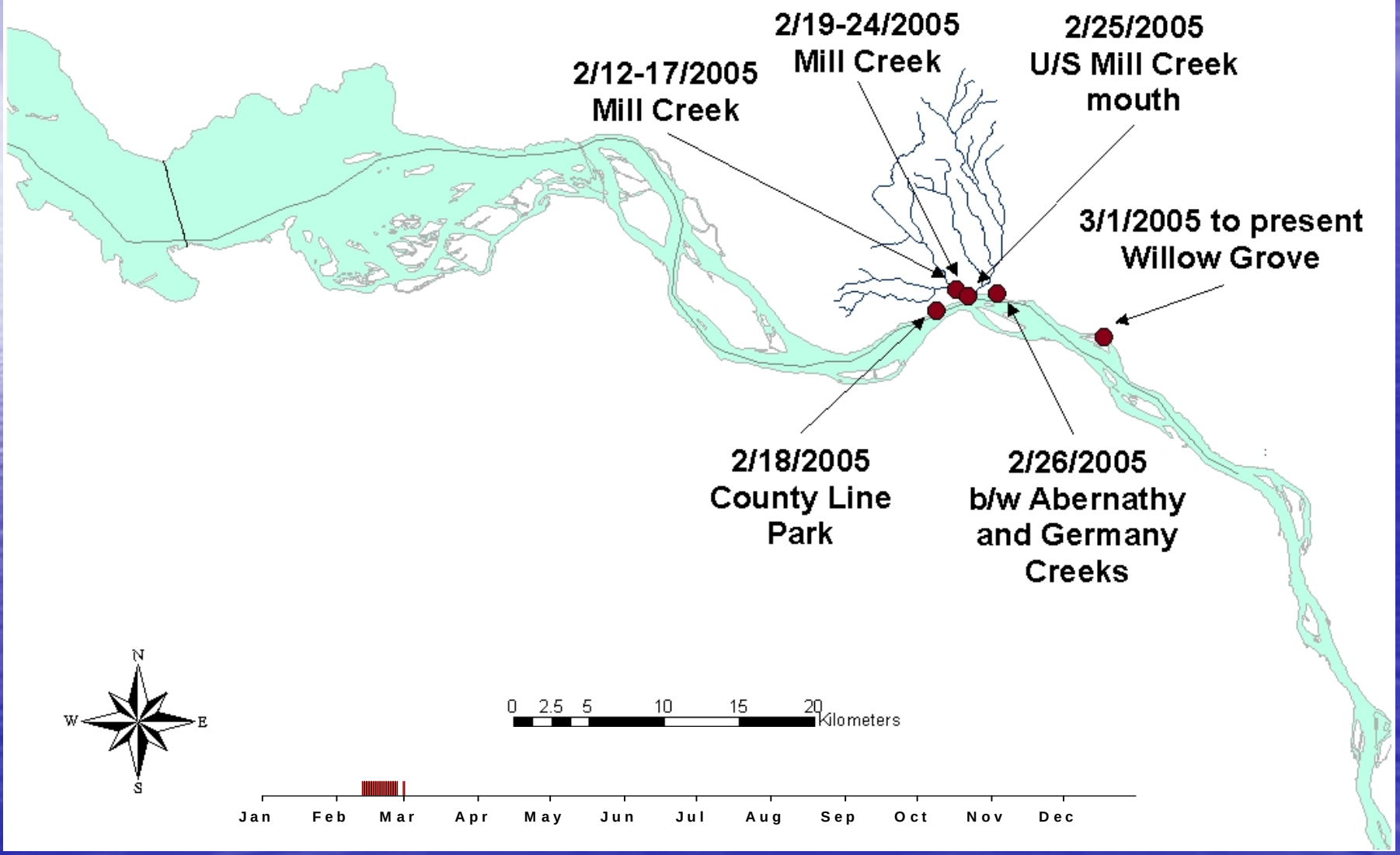

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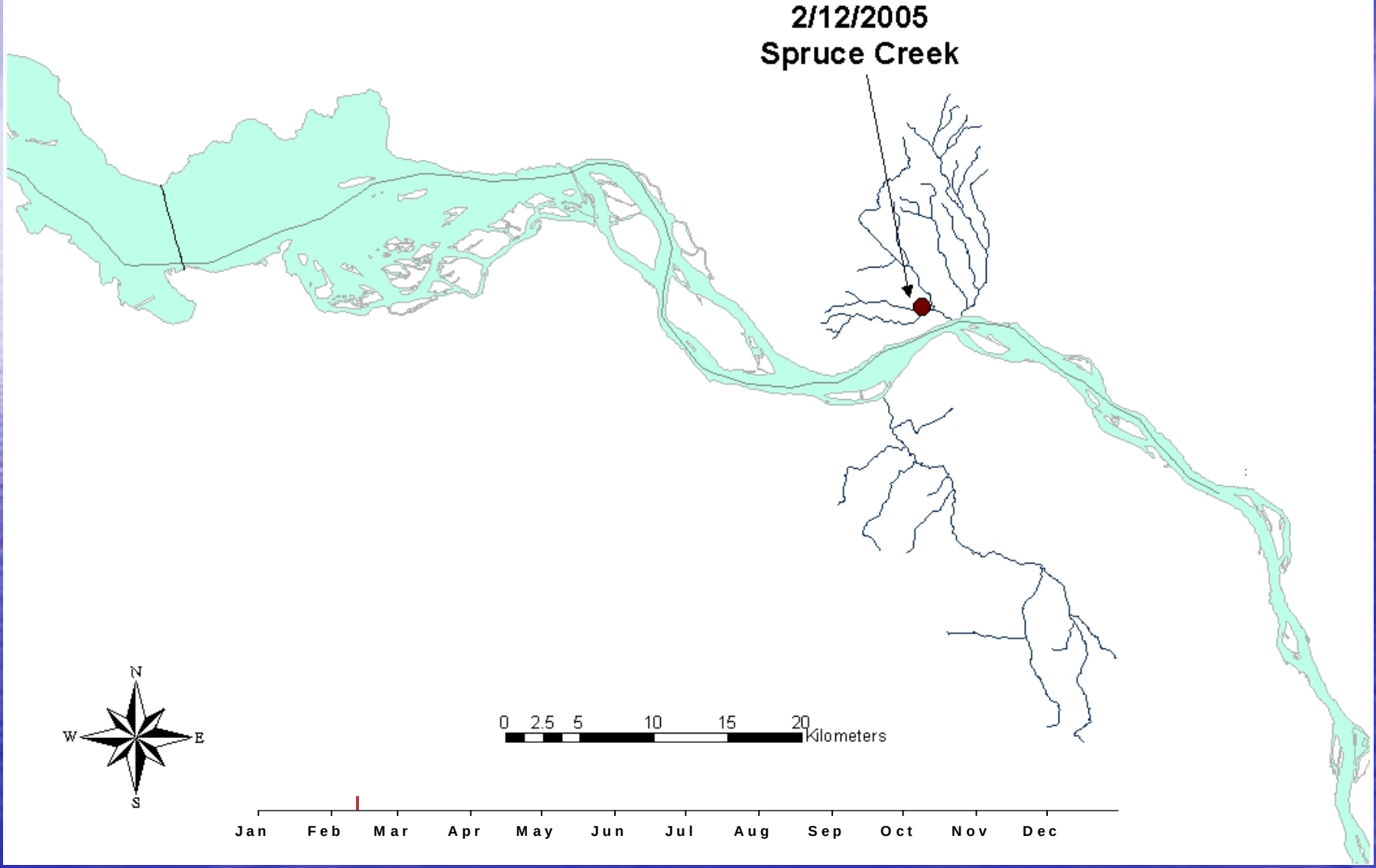

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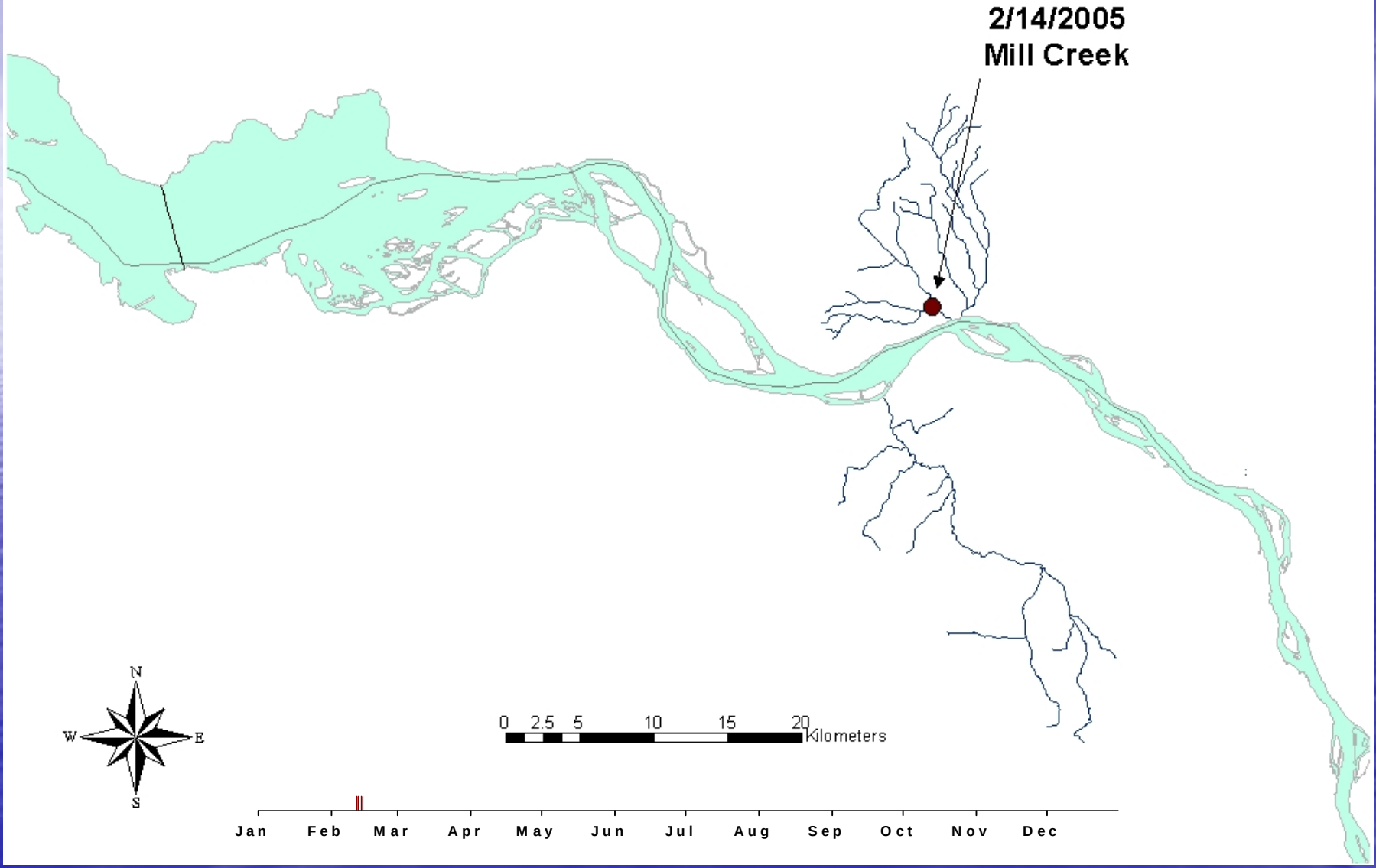

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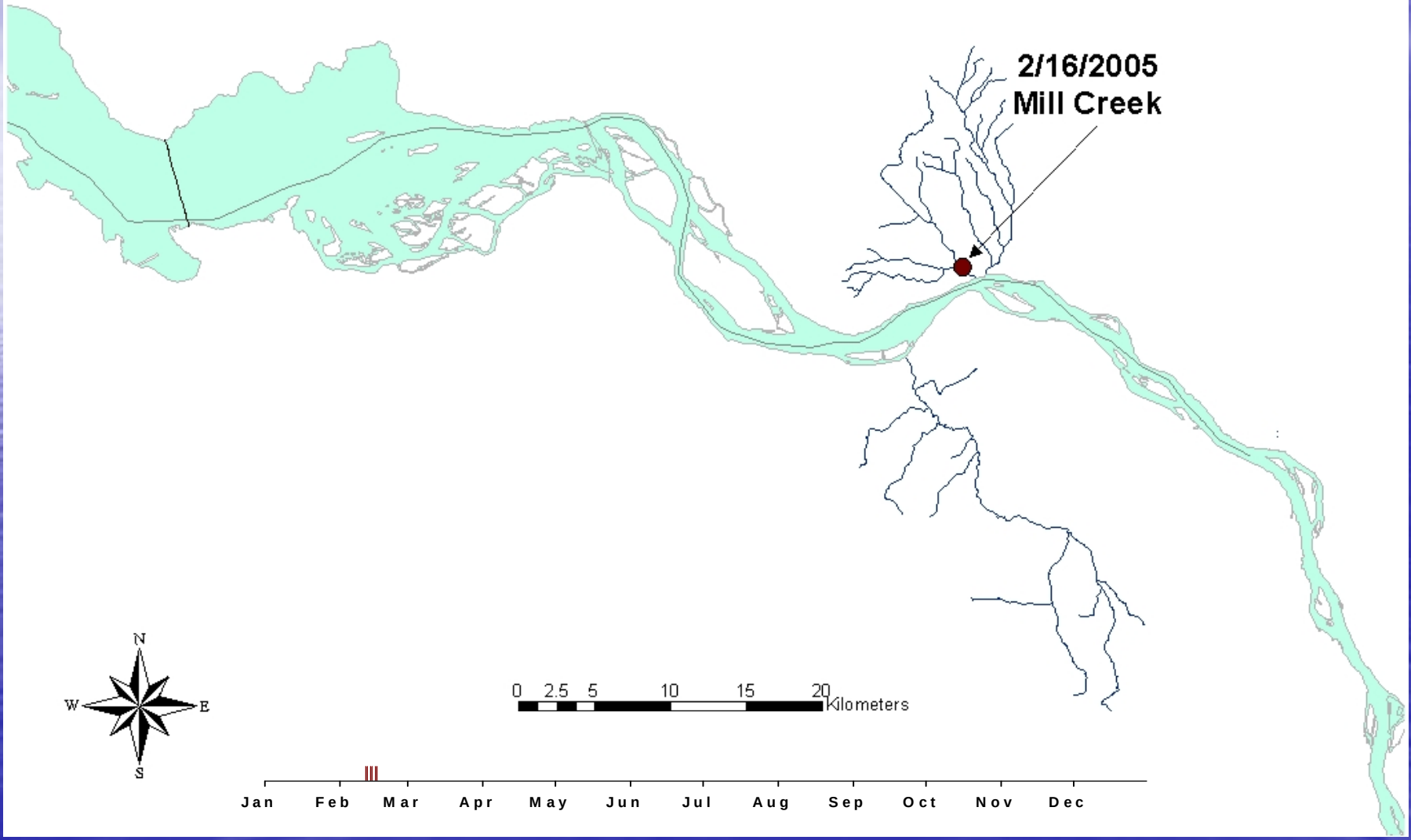

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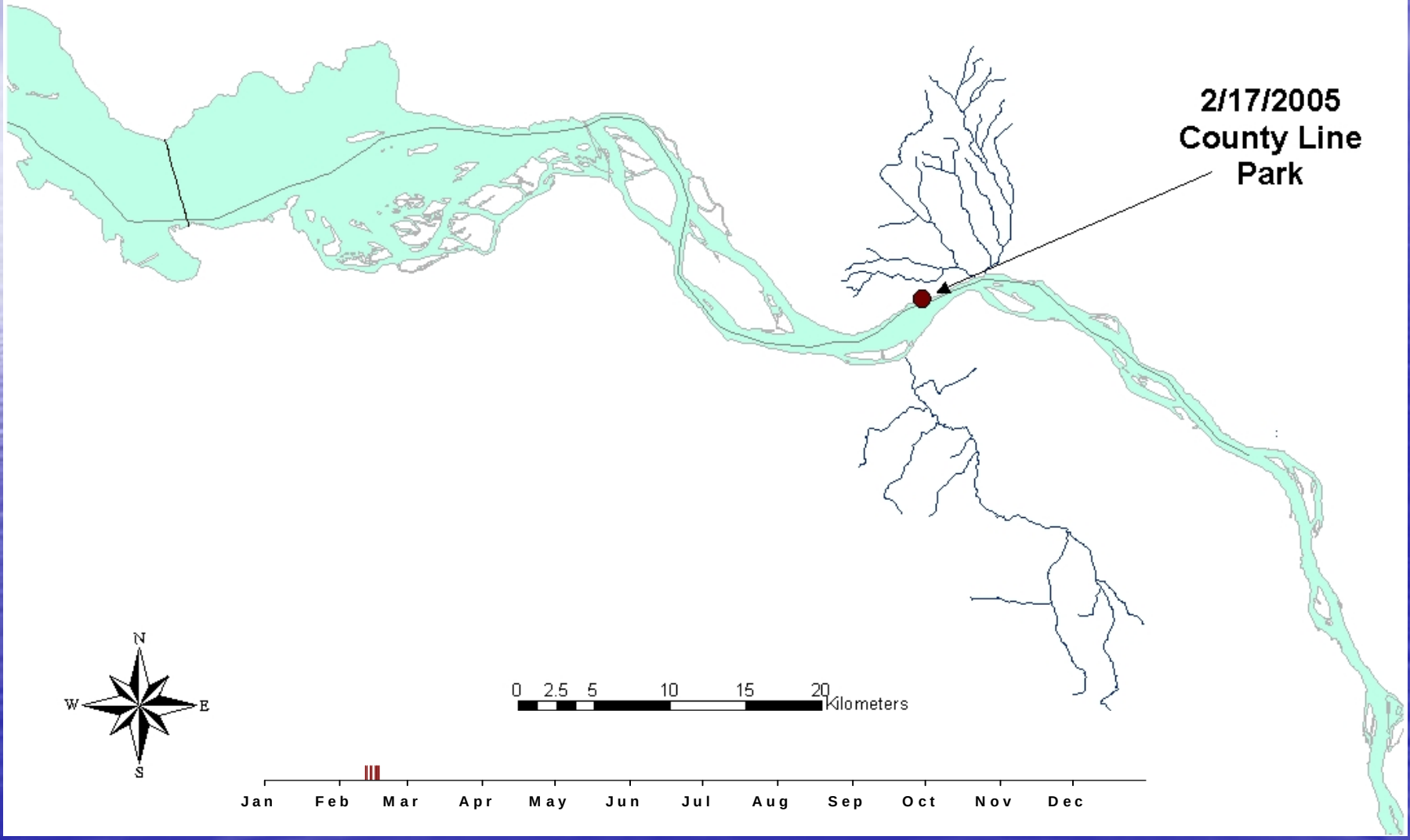

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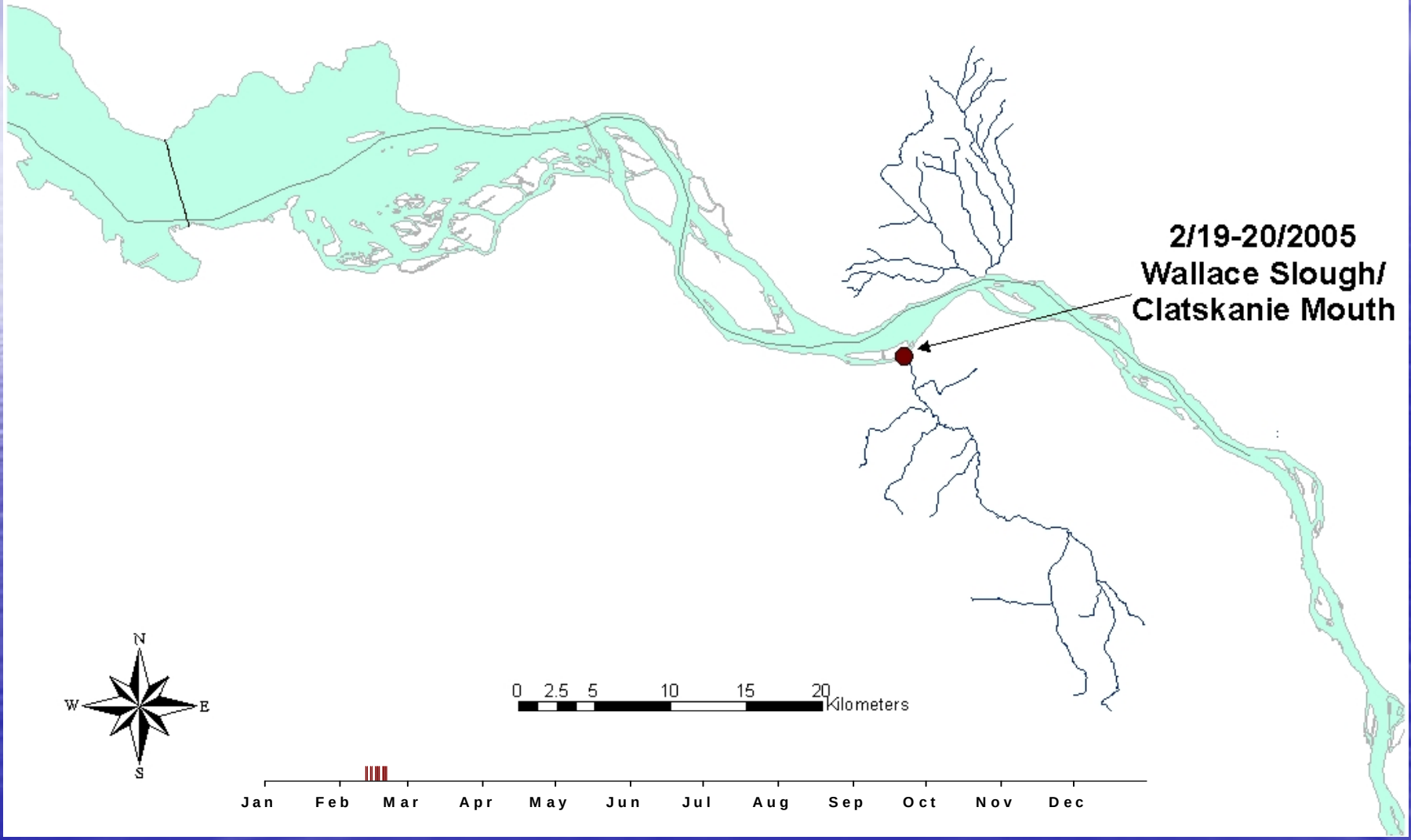

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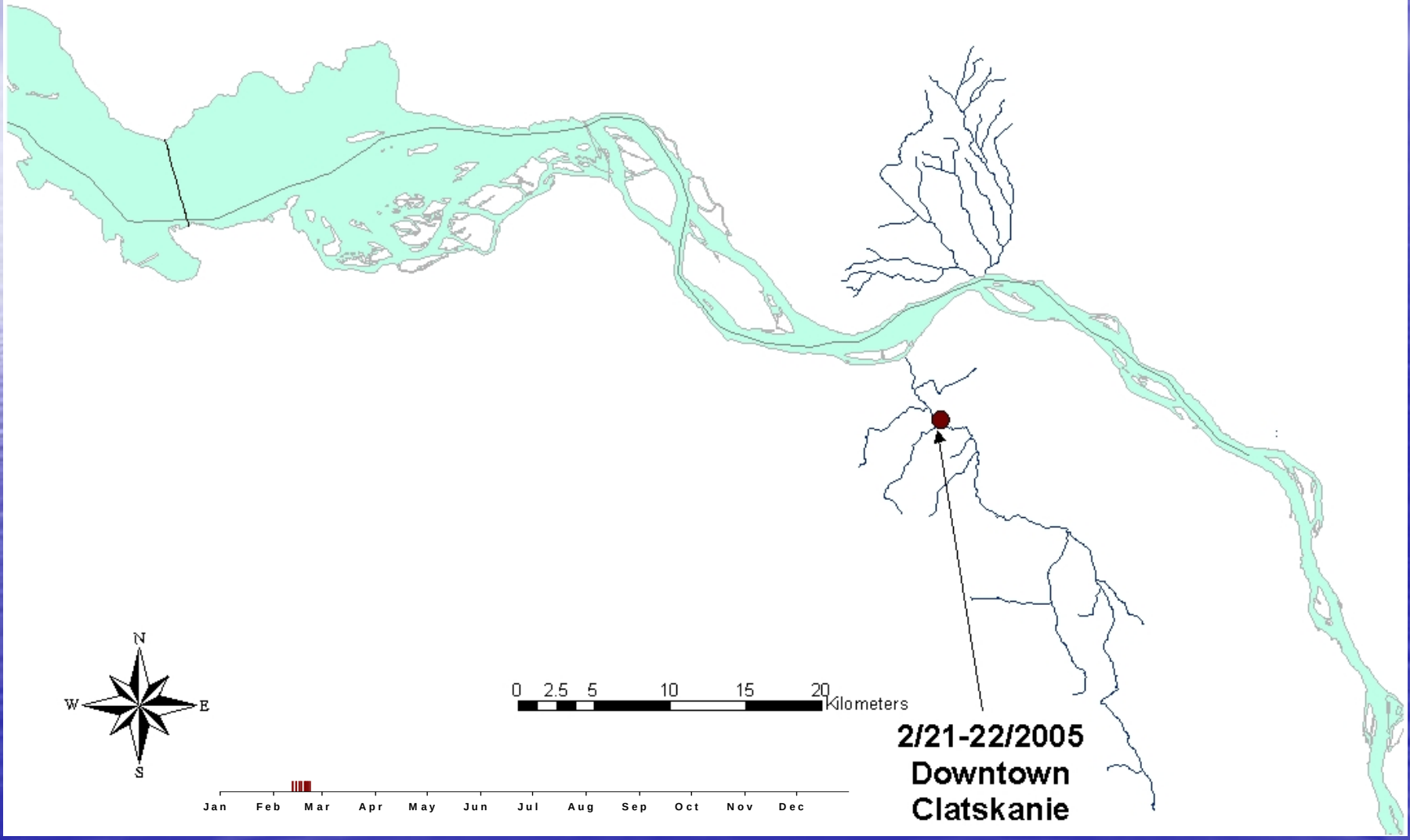

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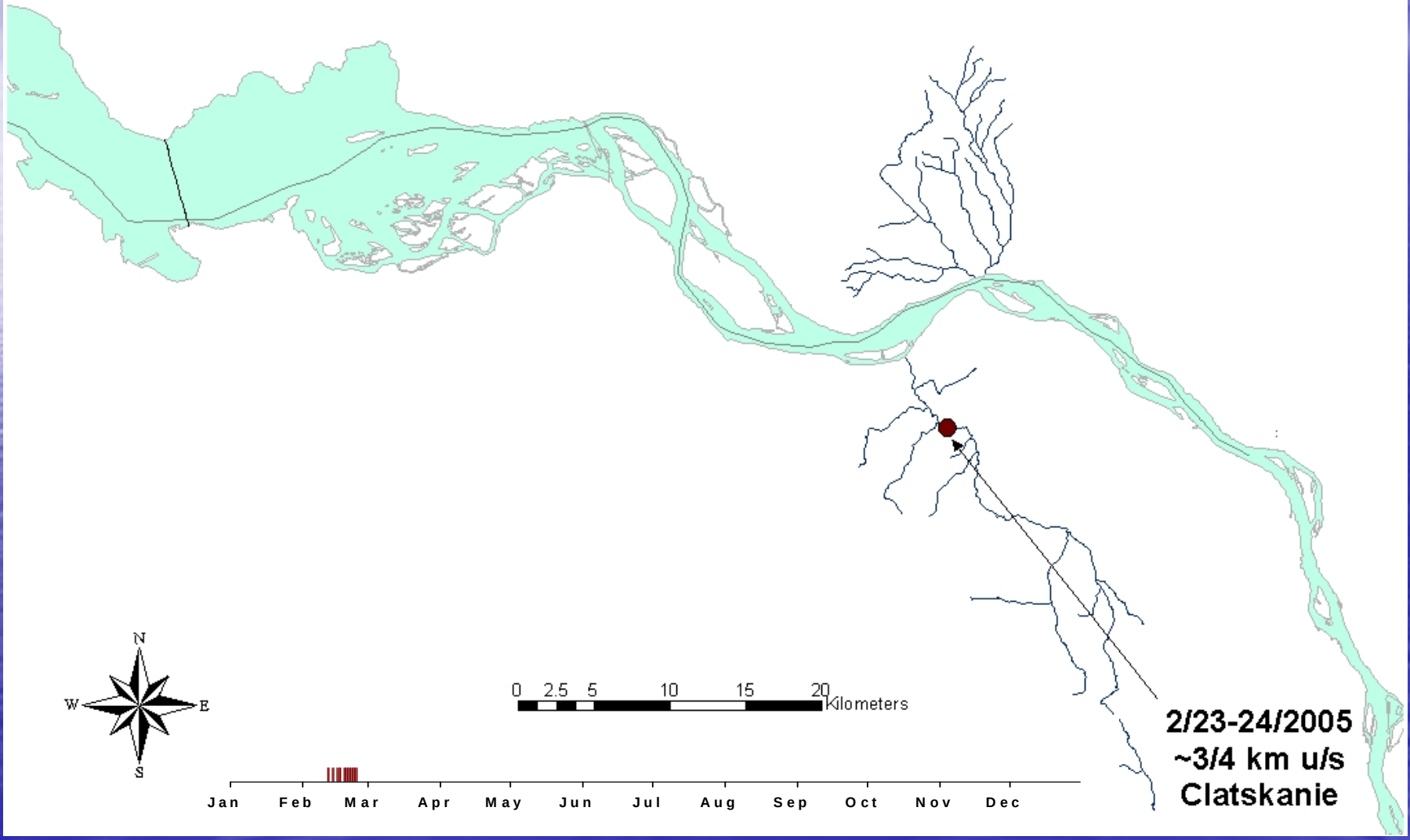

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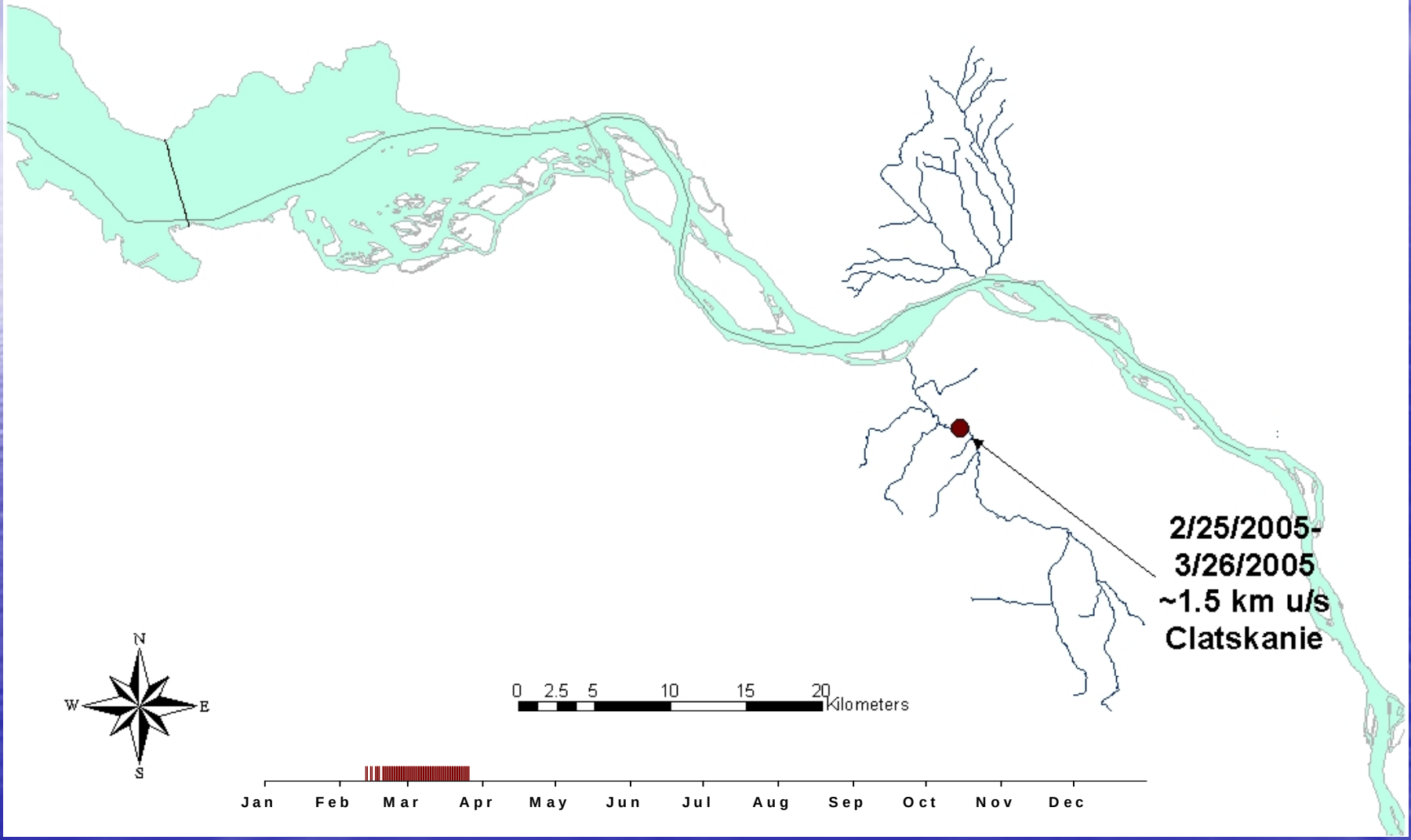

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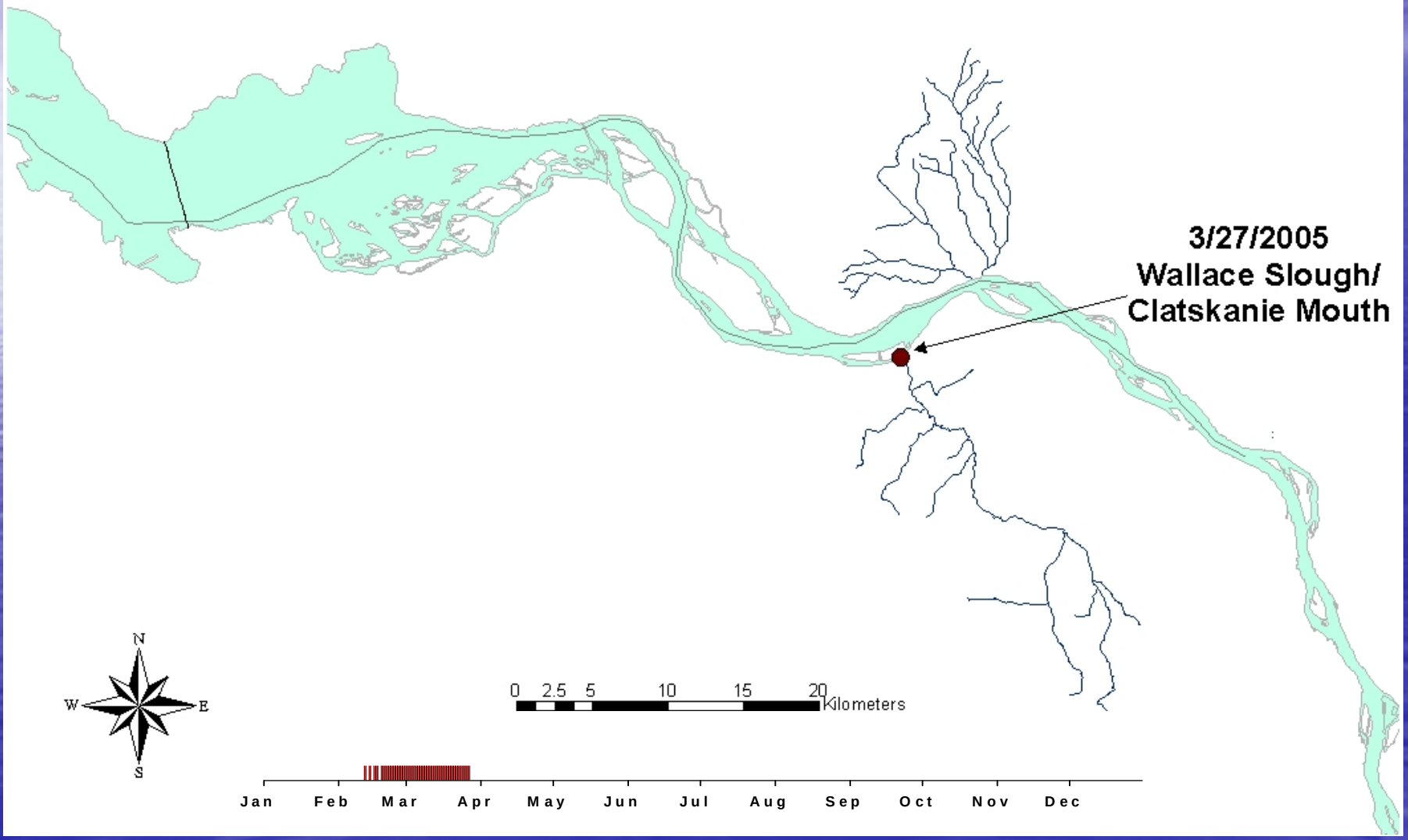

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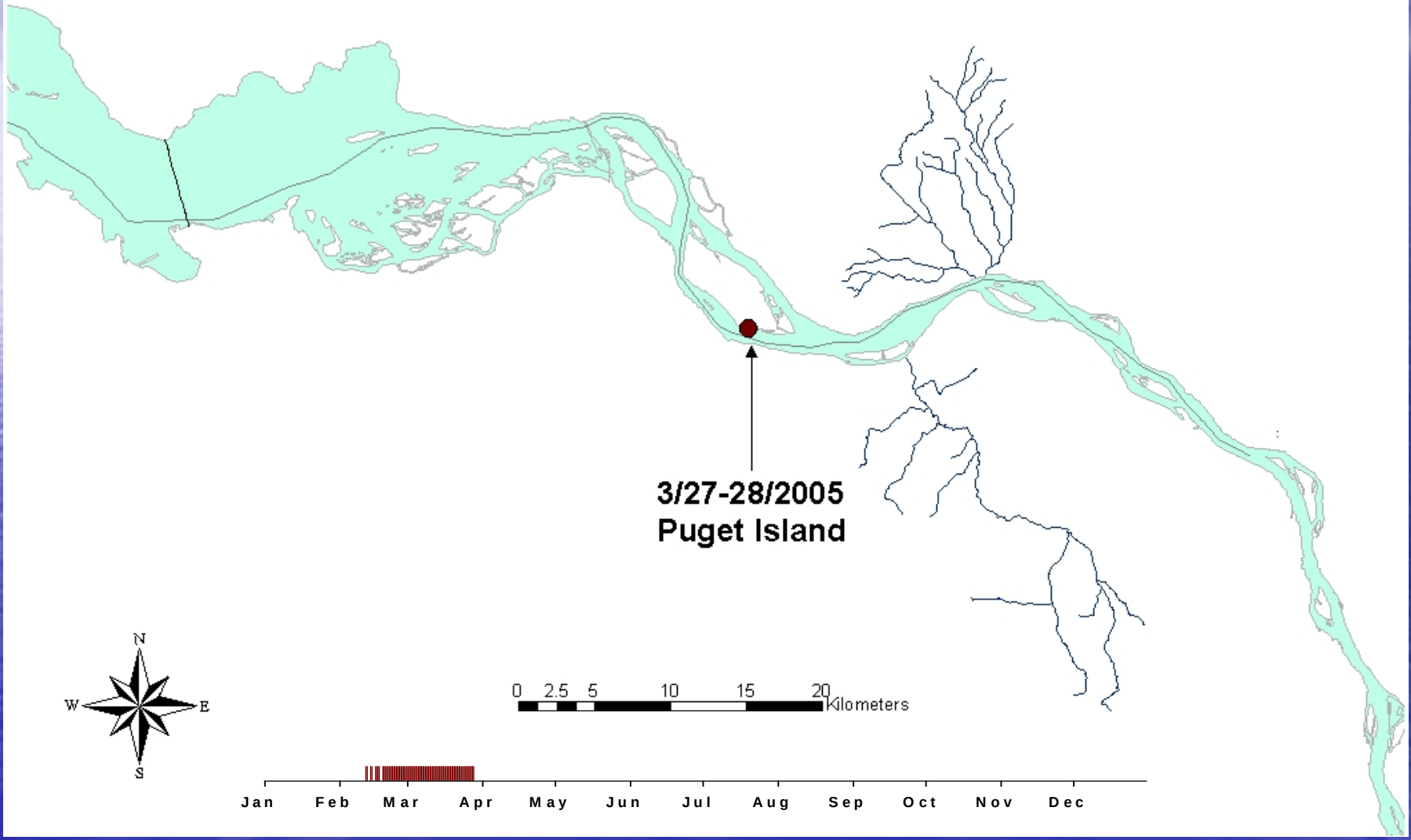

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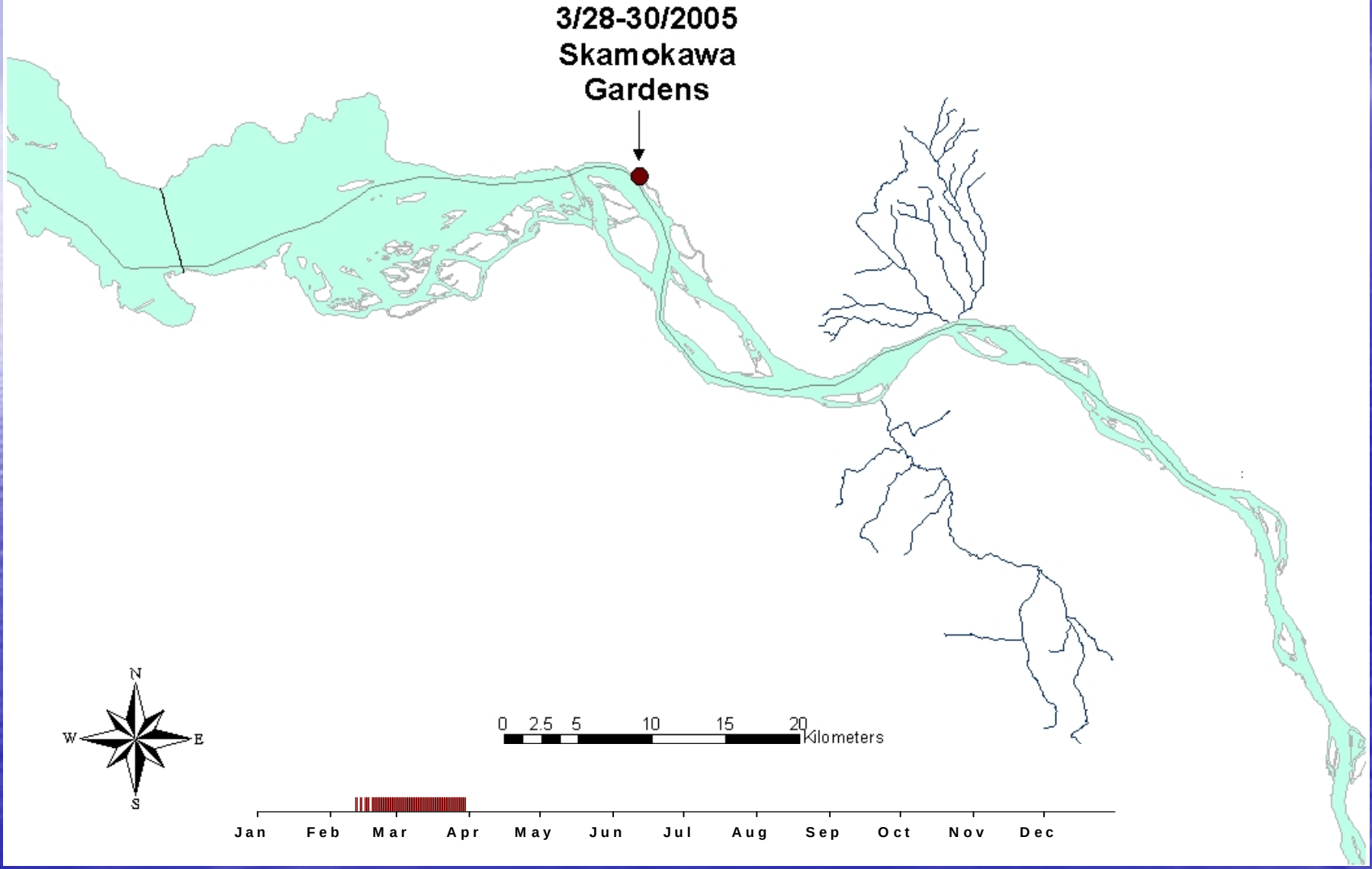

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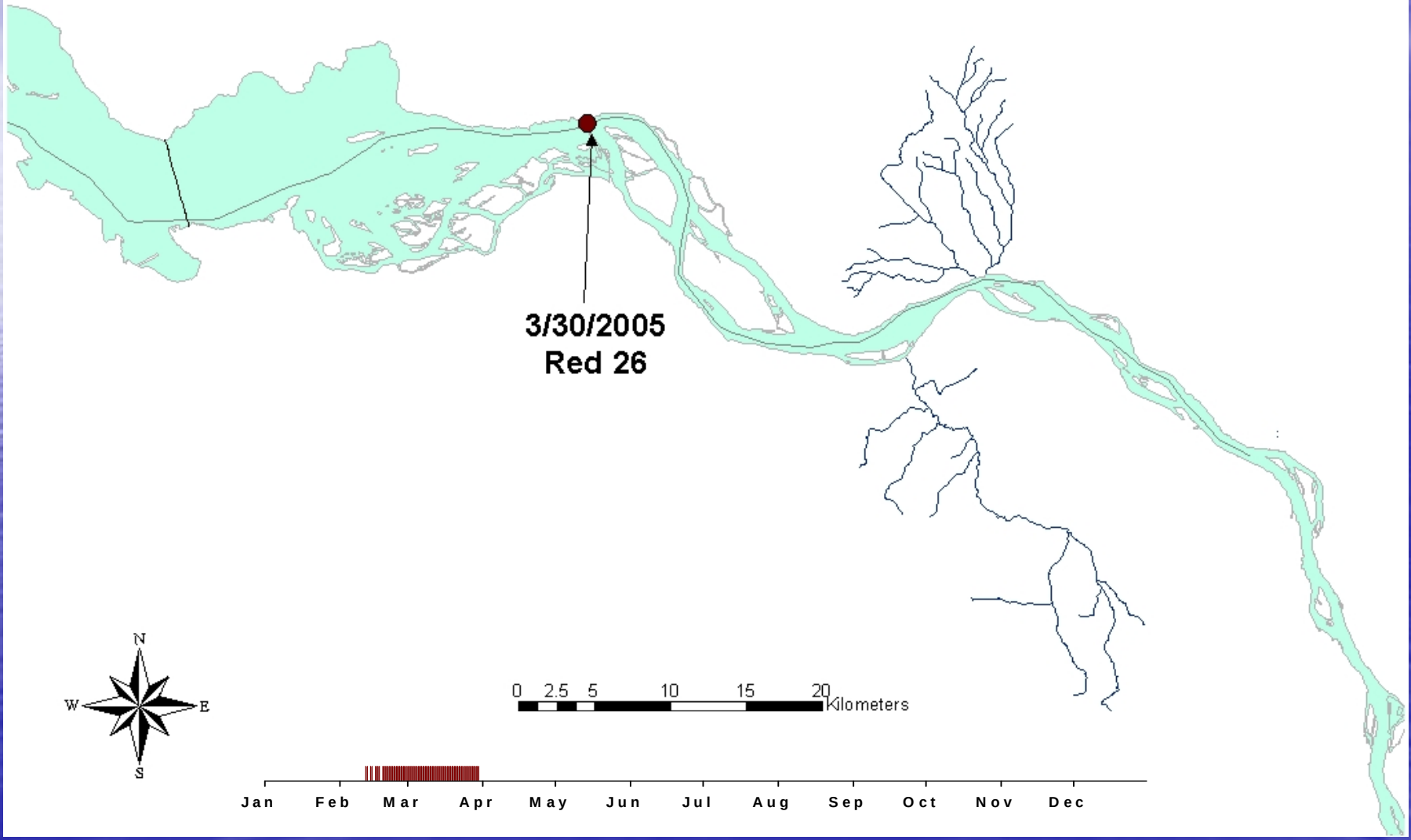

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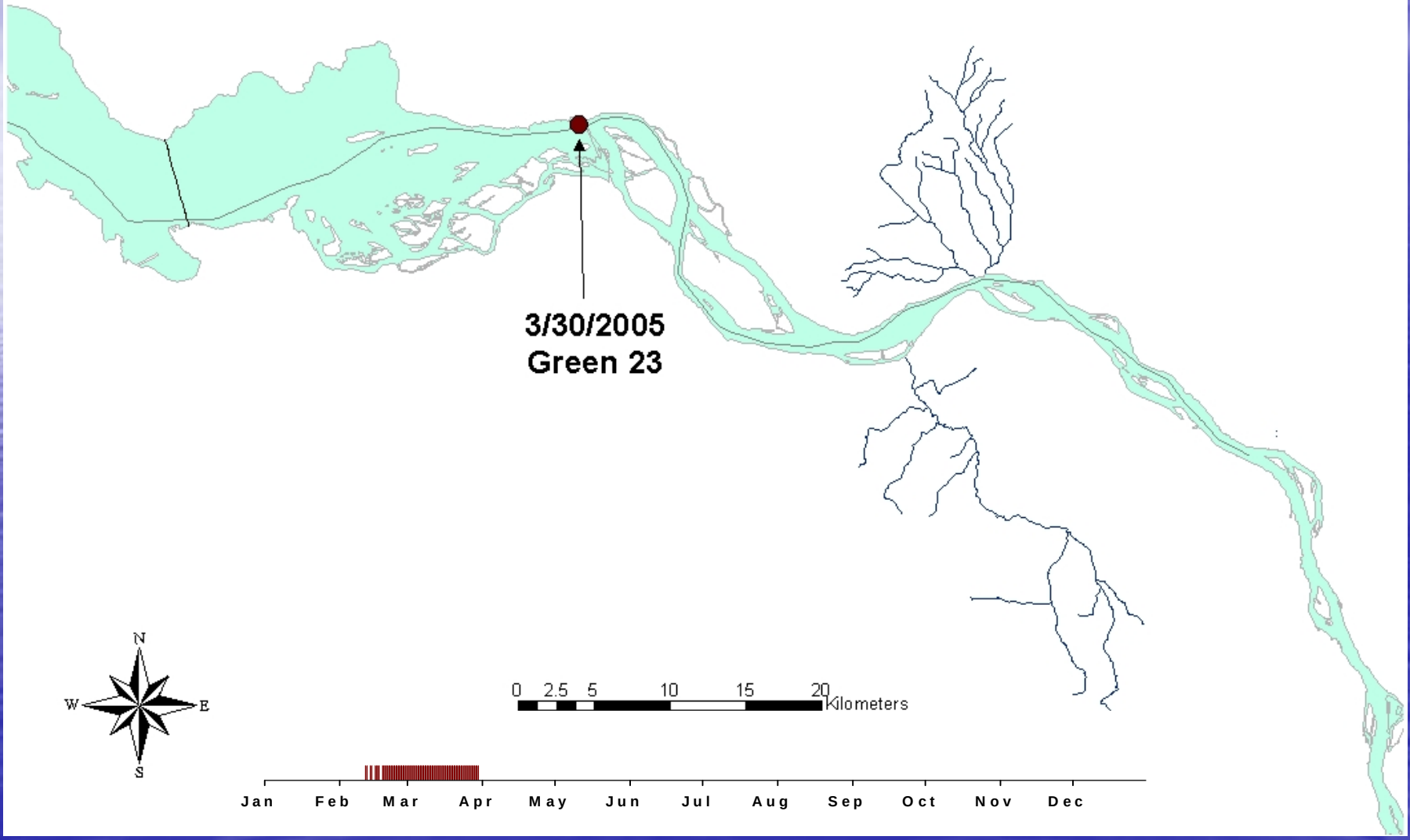

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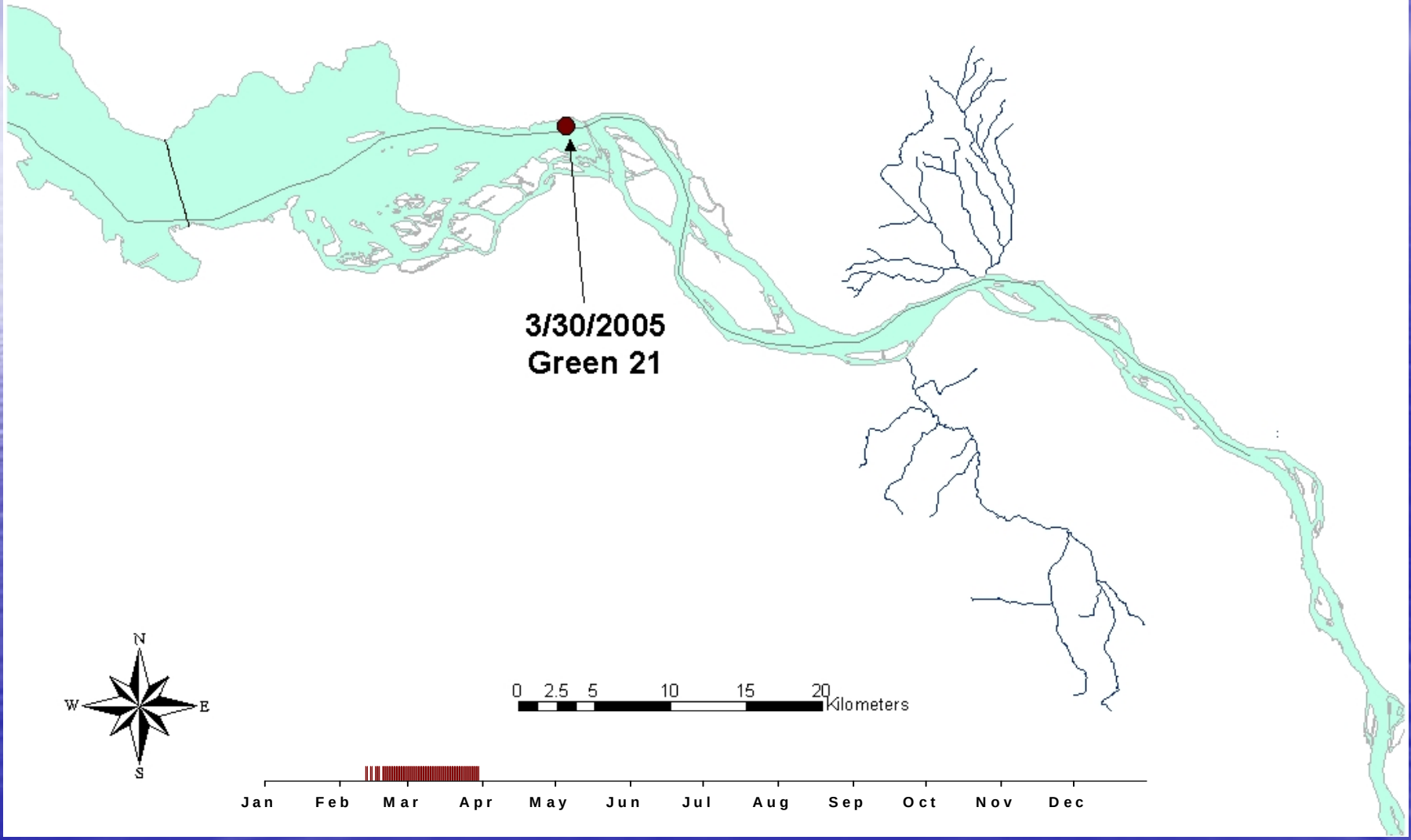

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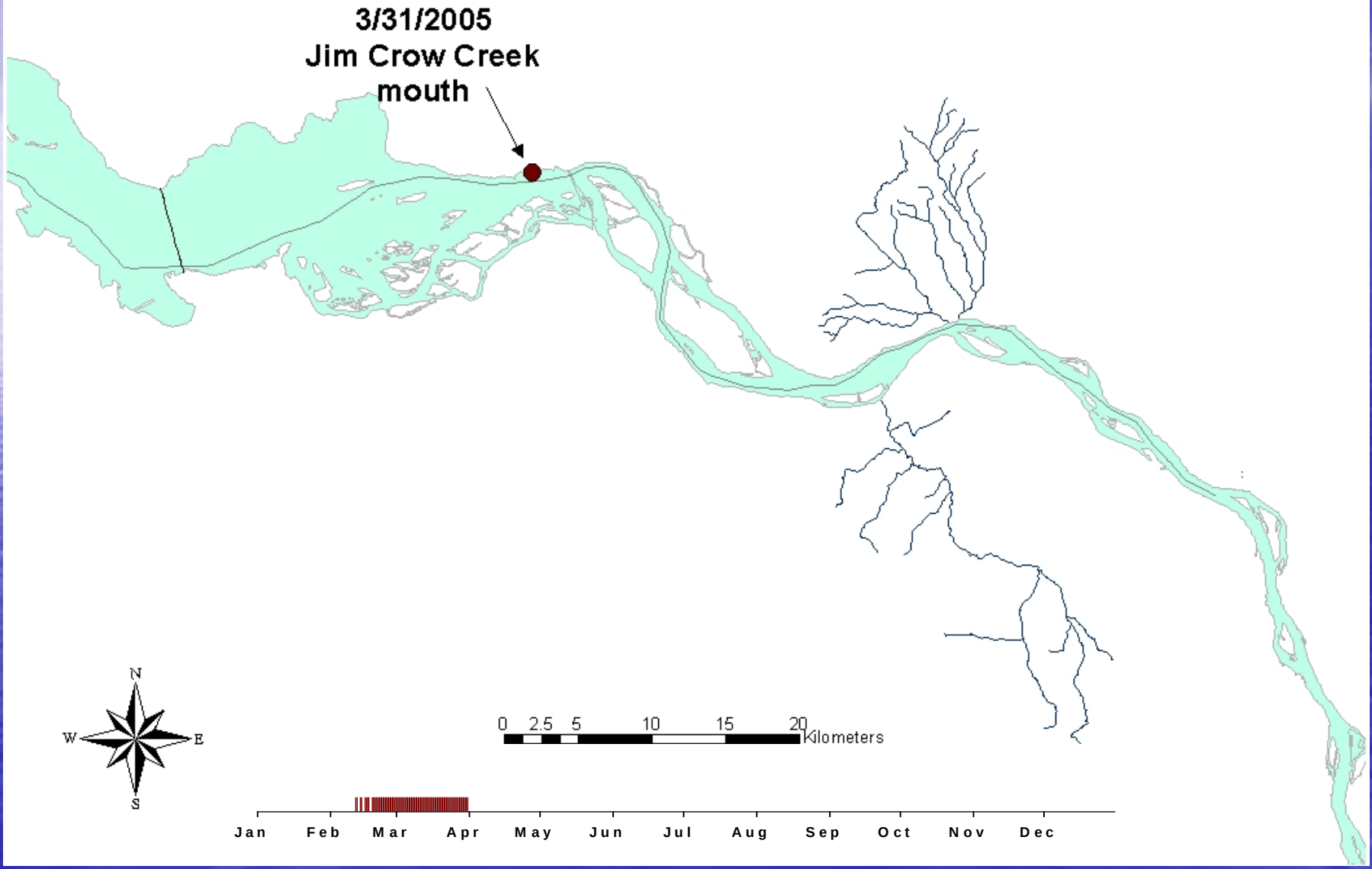

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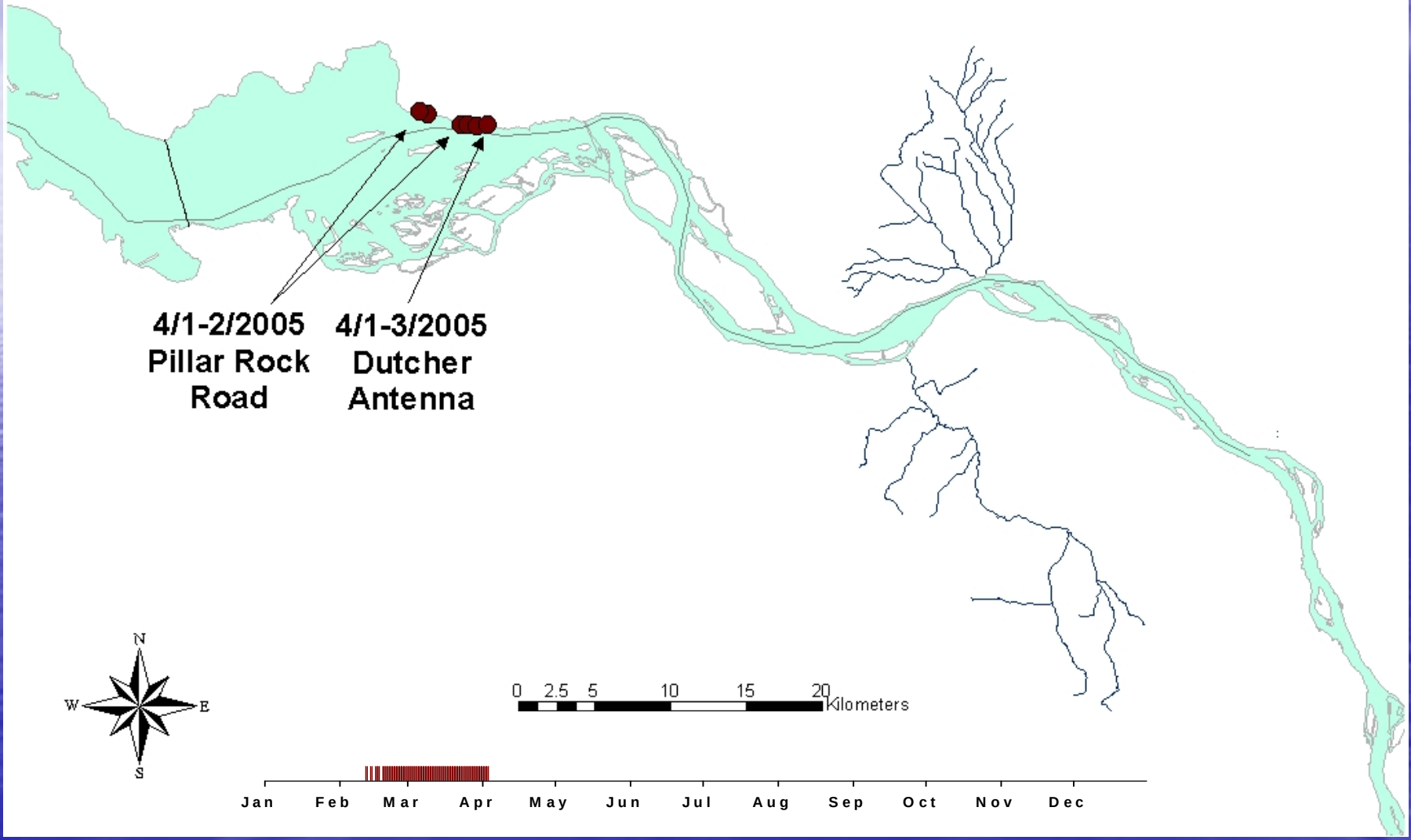

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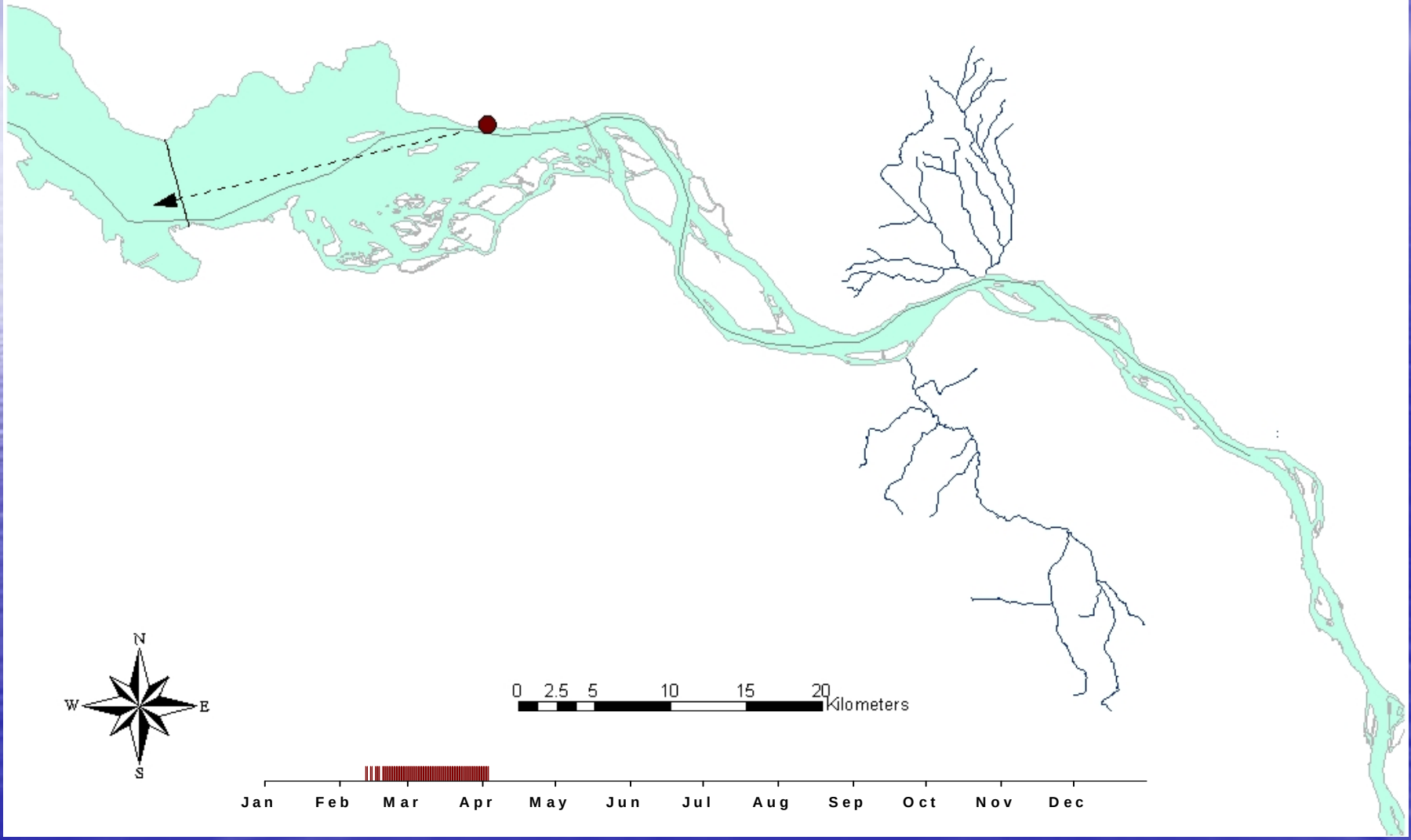

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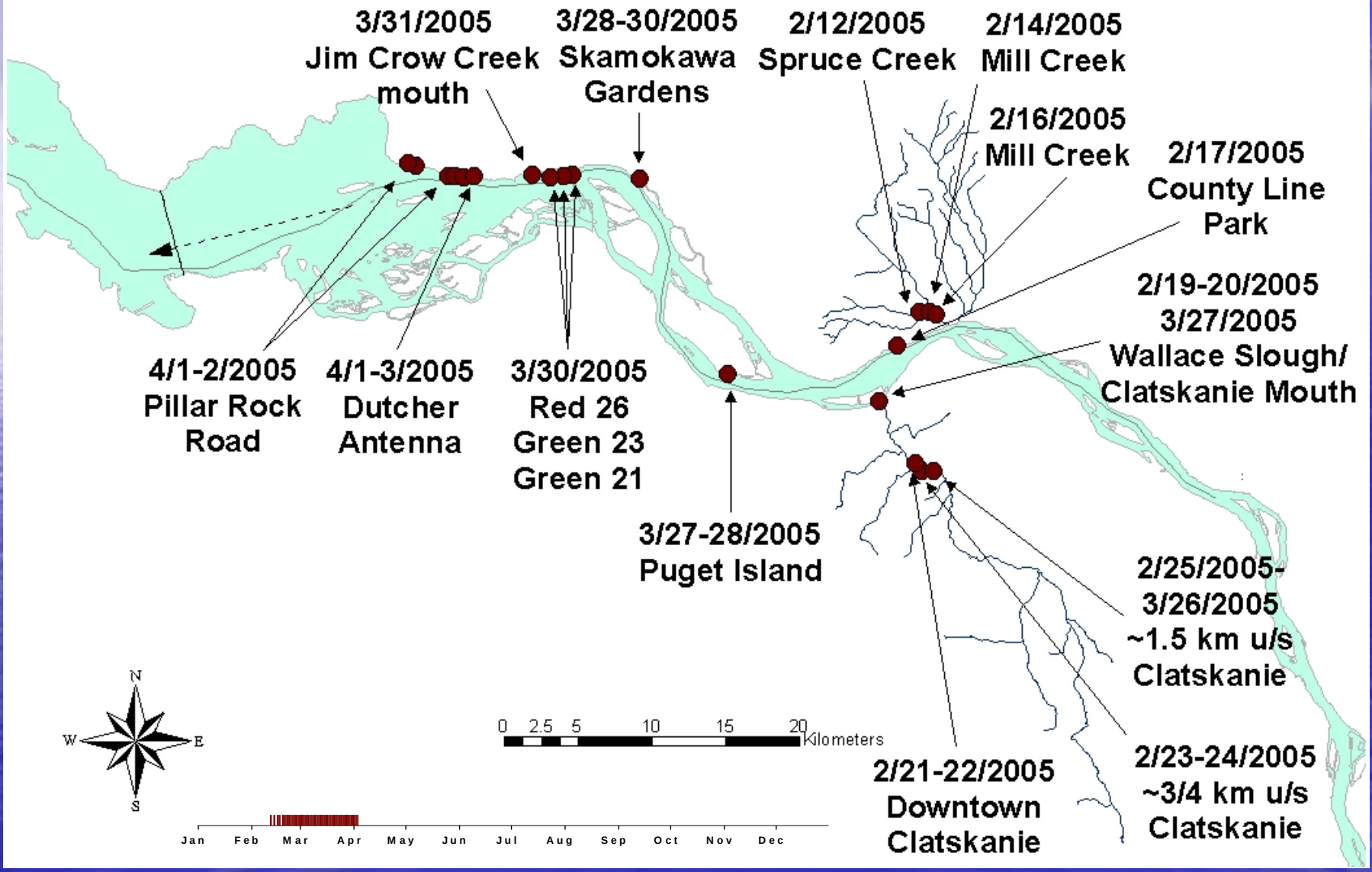

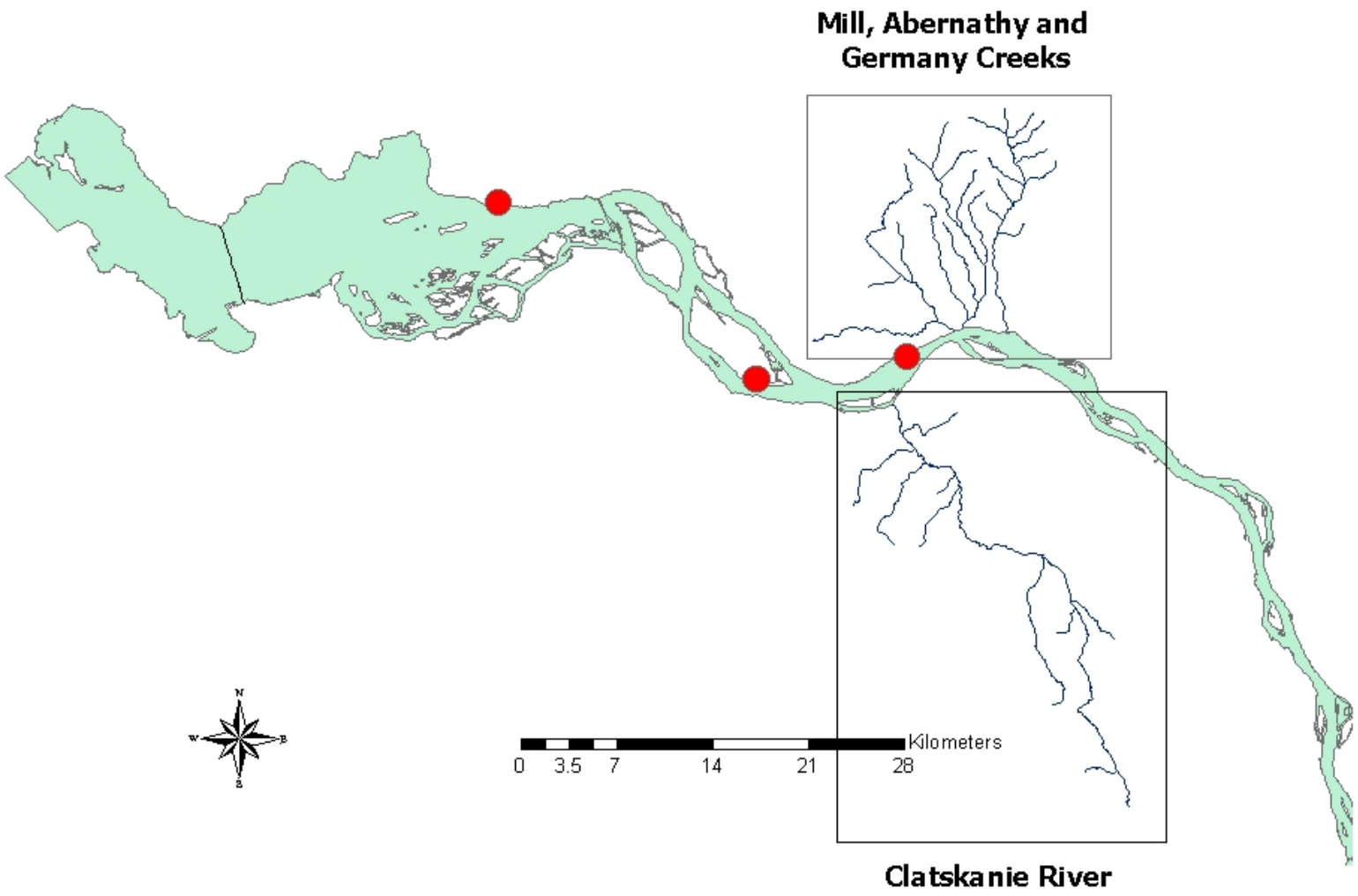
Mill, Abernathy and
Germany Creeks
Kilometers
0 3.5 7 14 21 28
Clatskanie River

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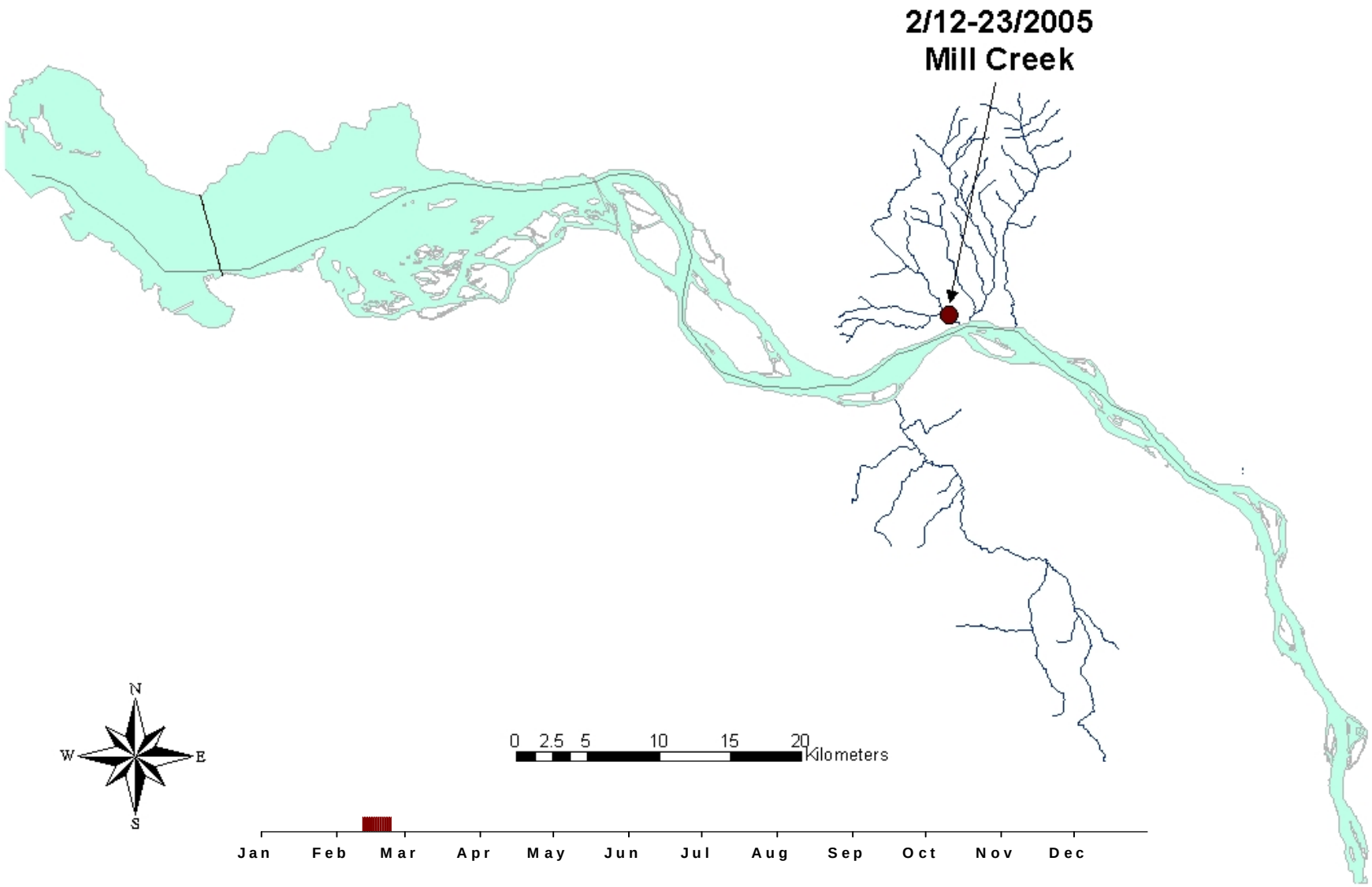

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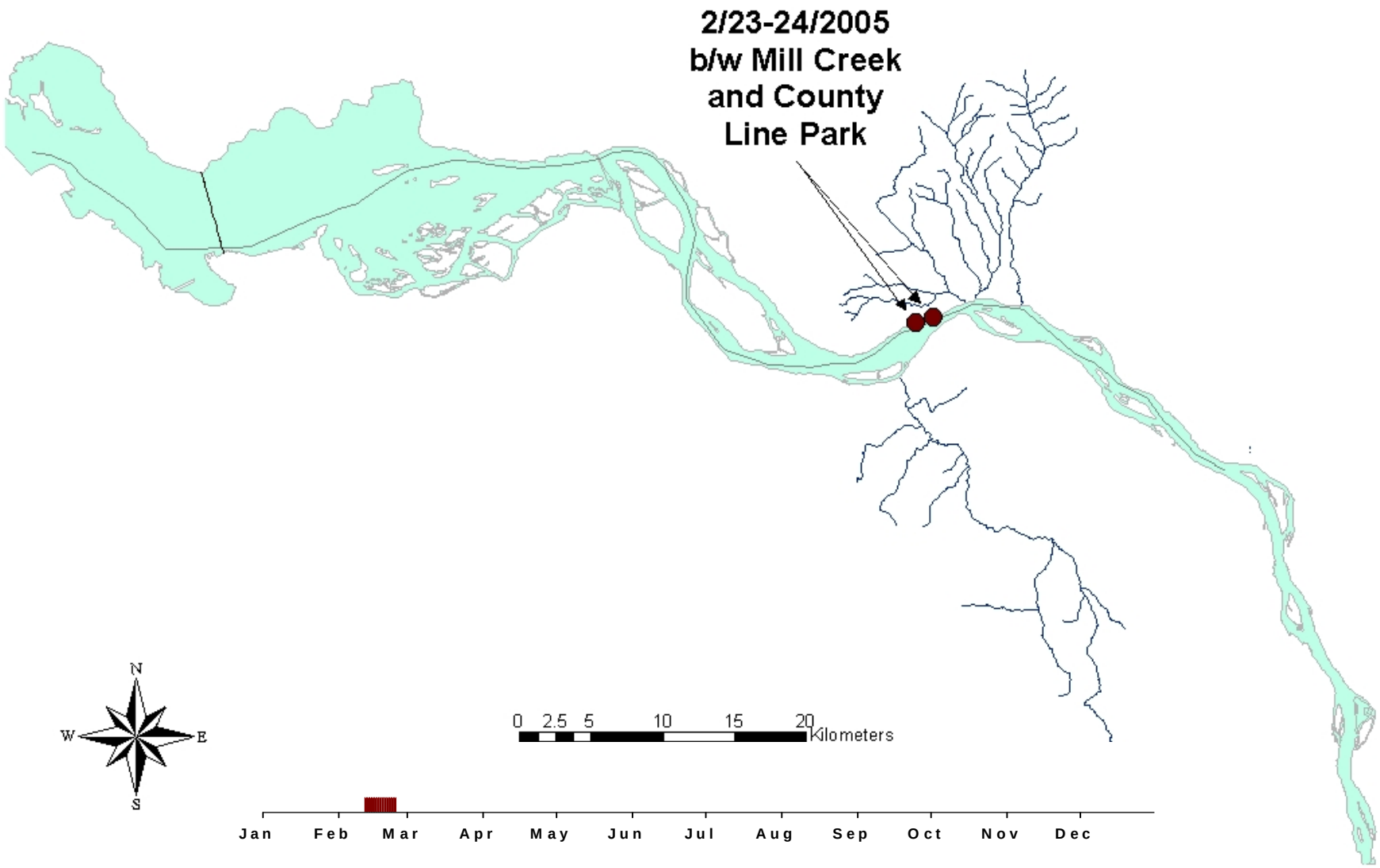

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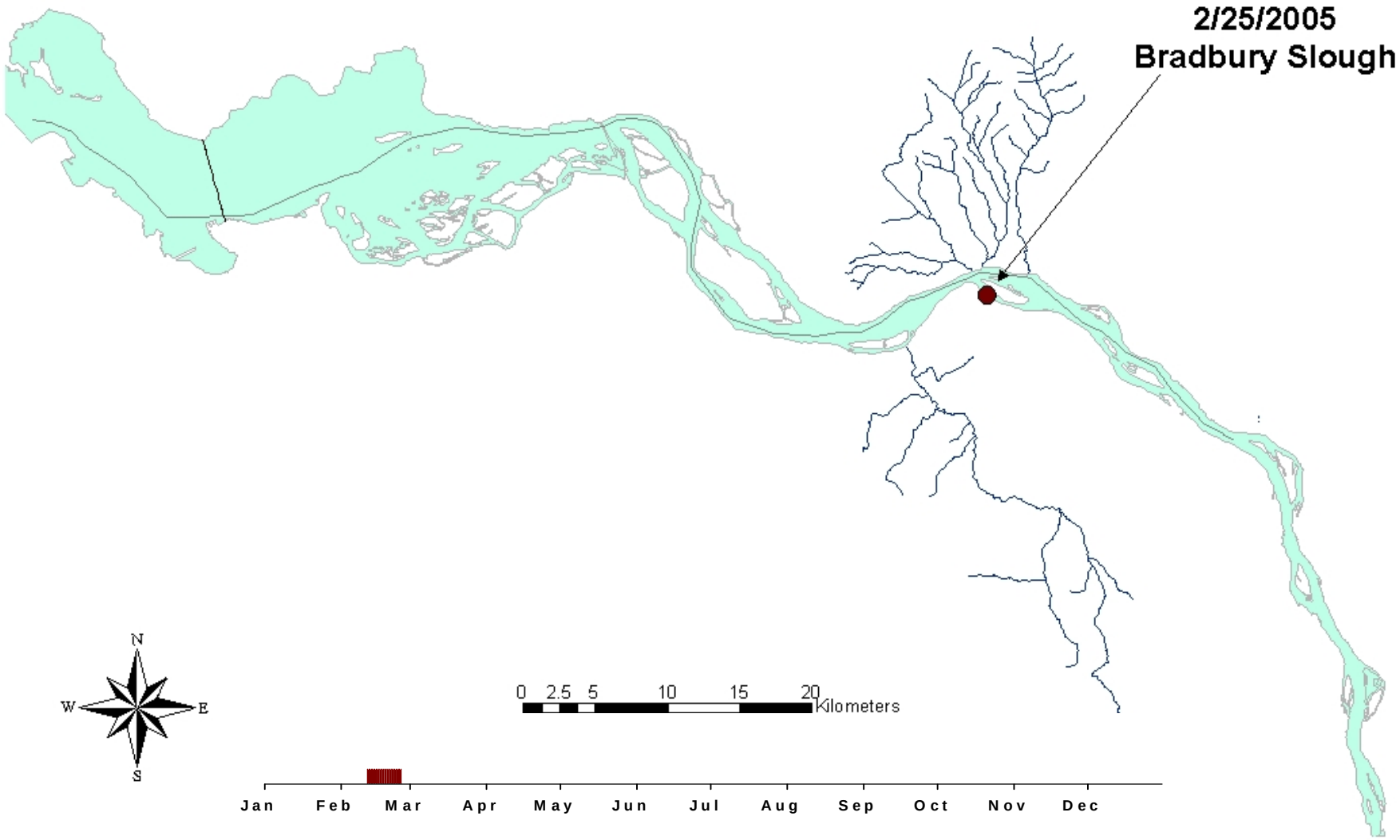

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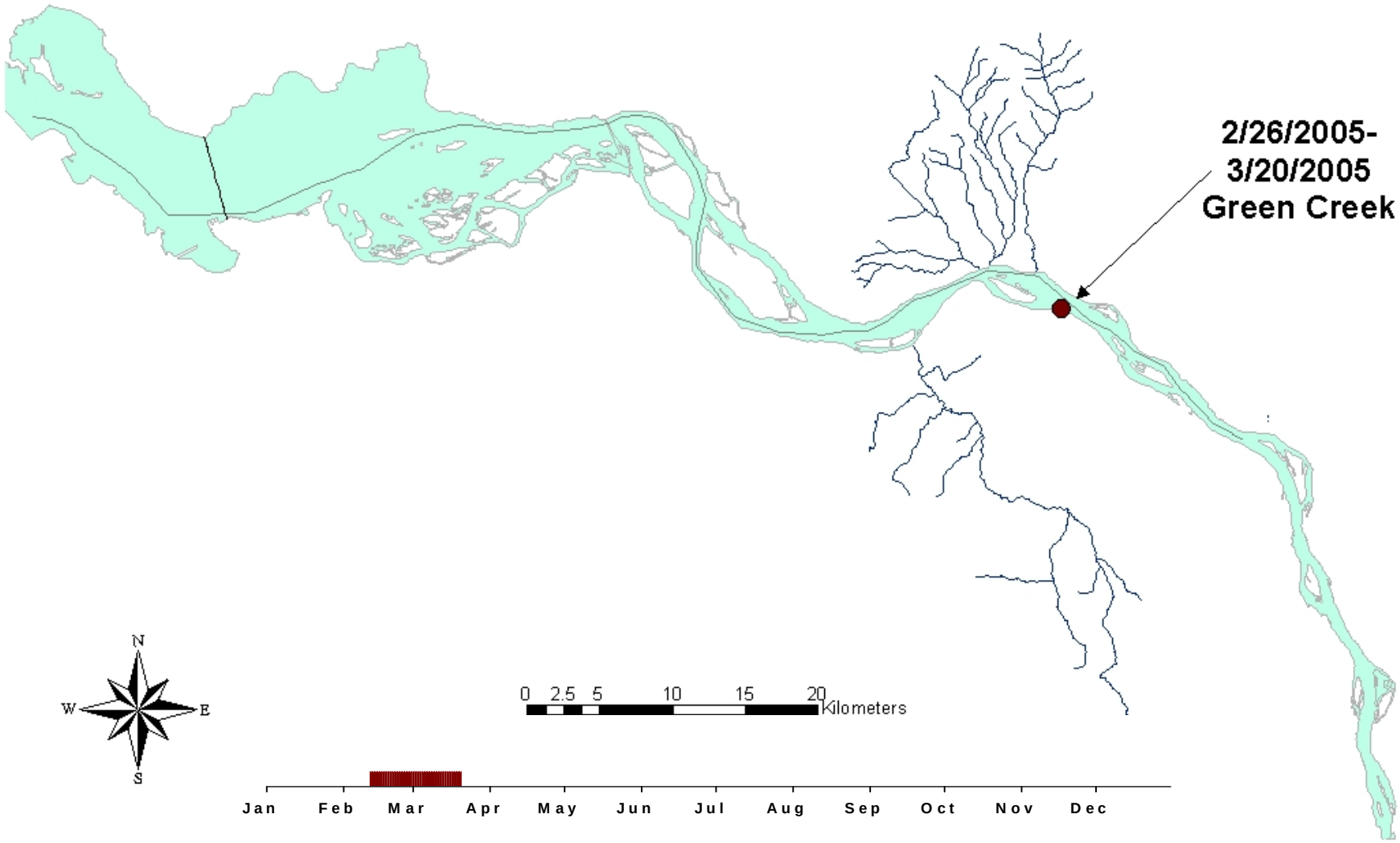

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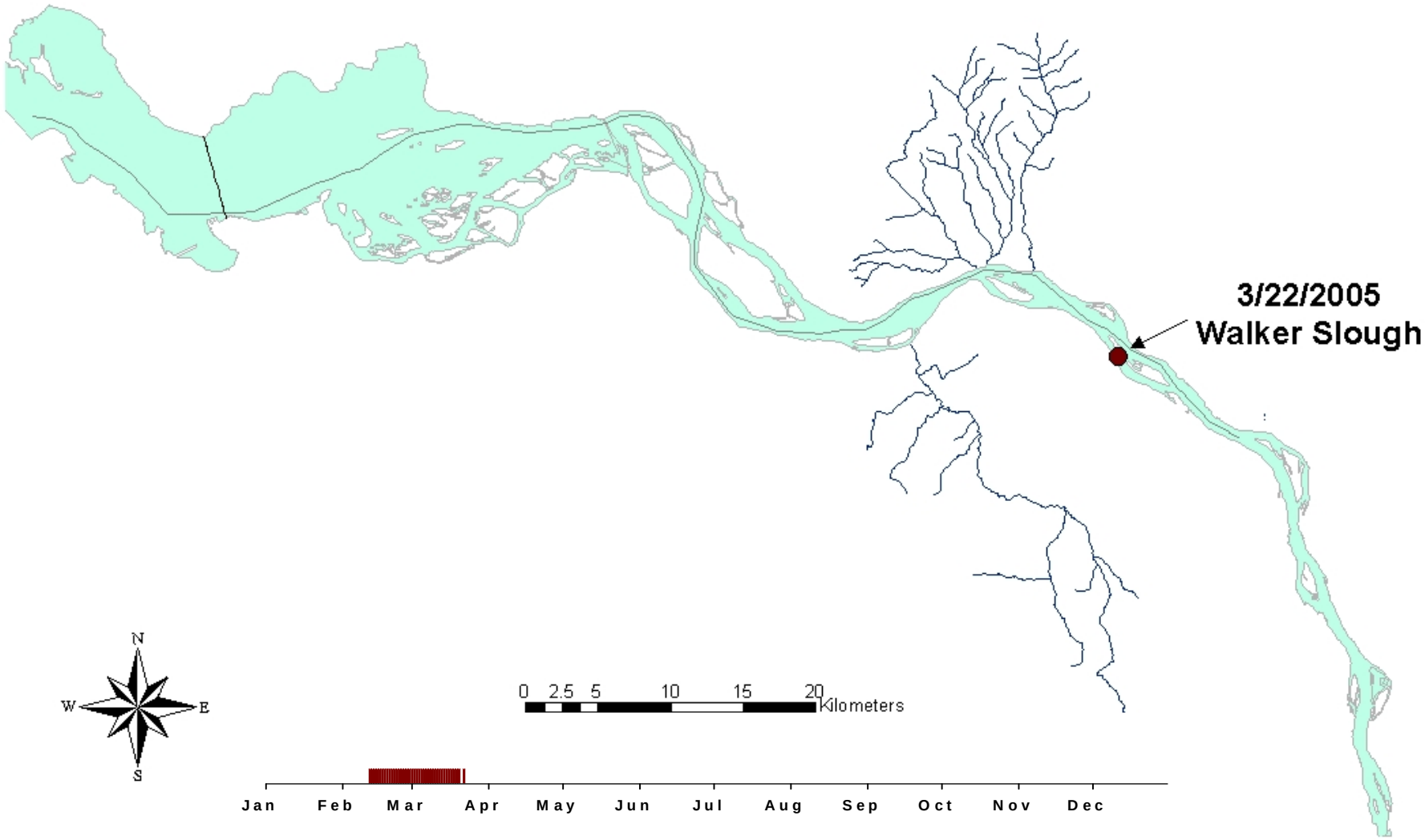

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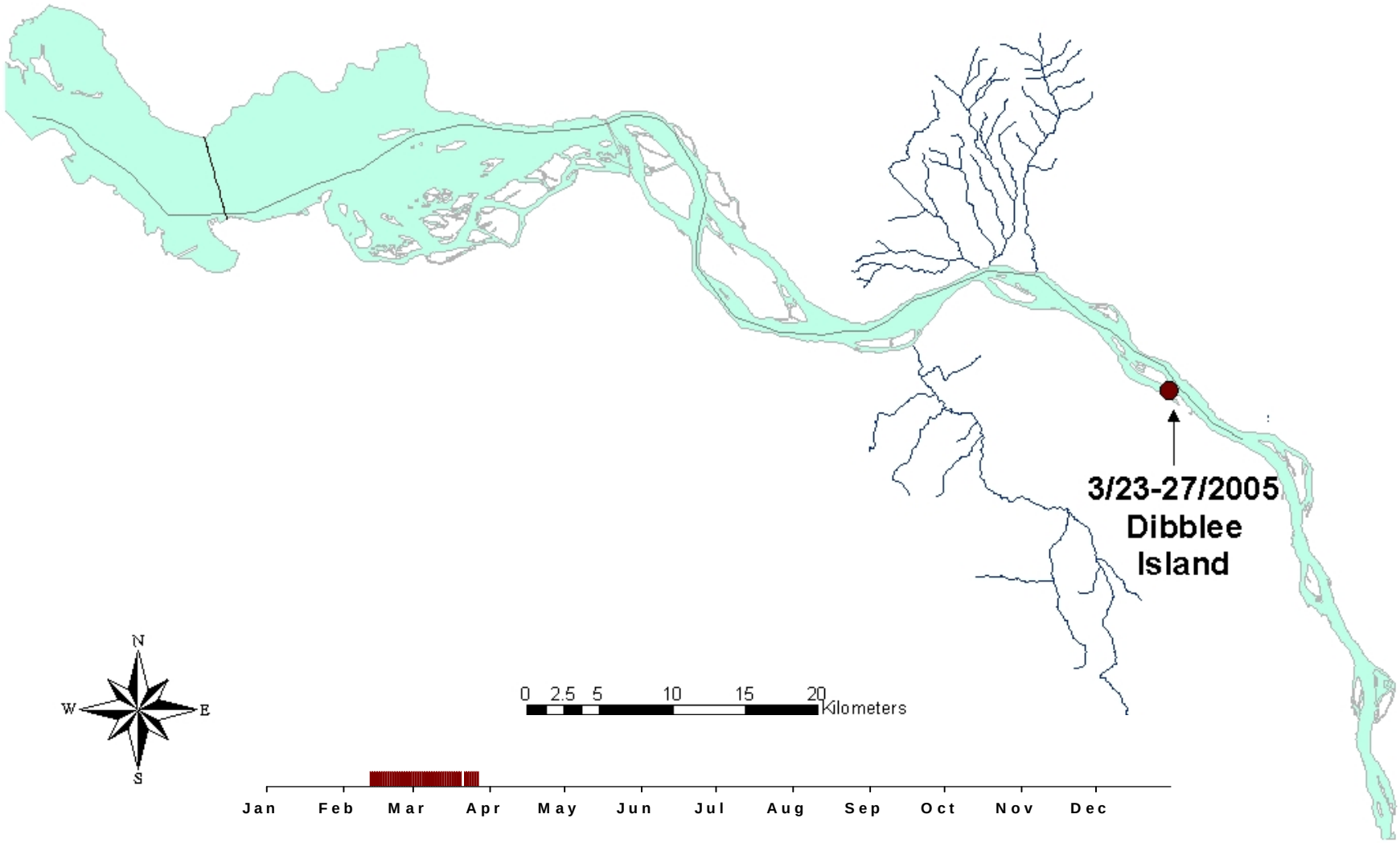

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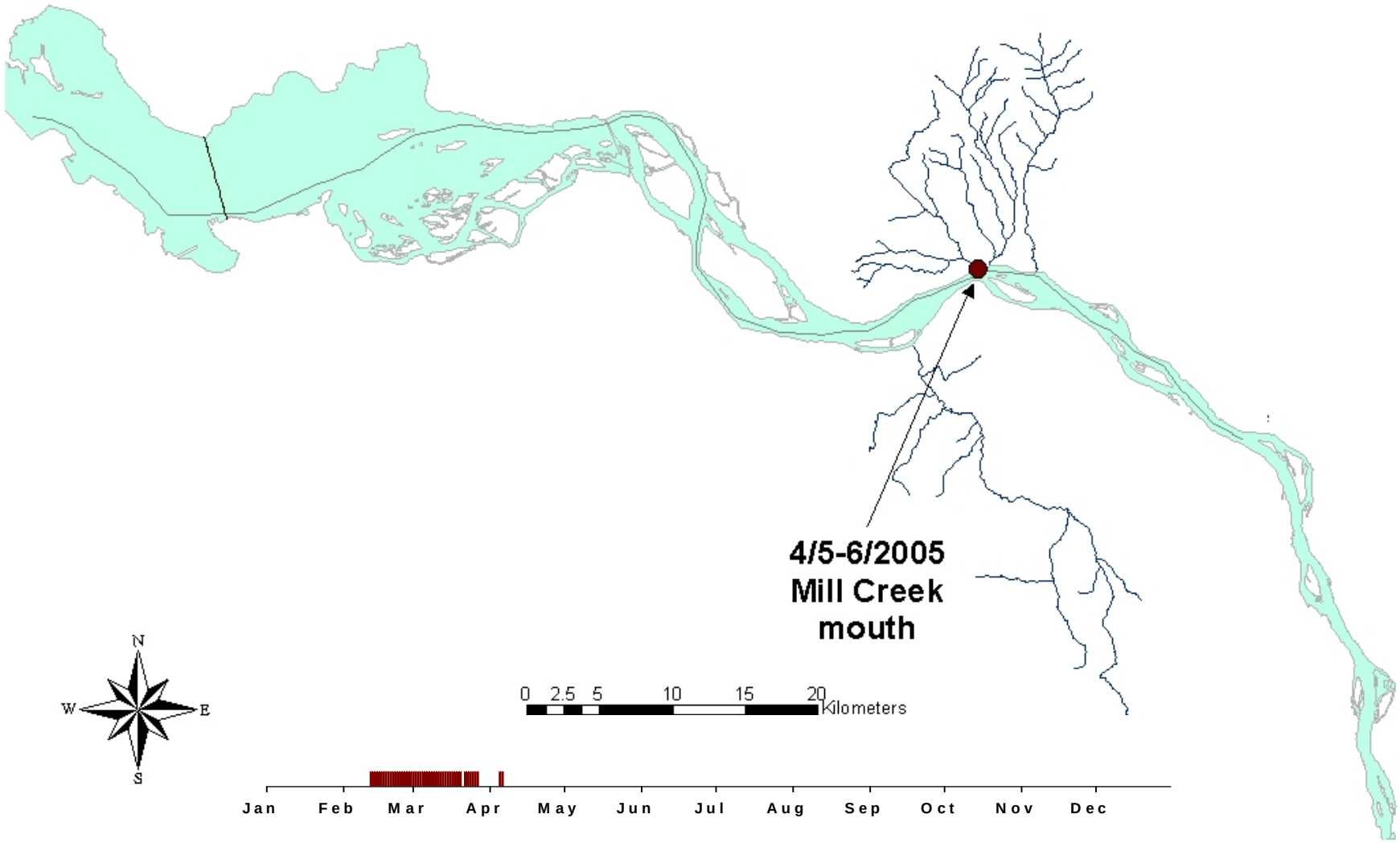

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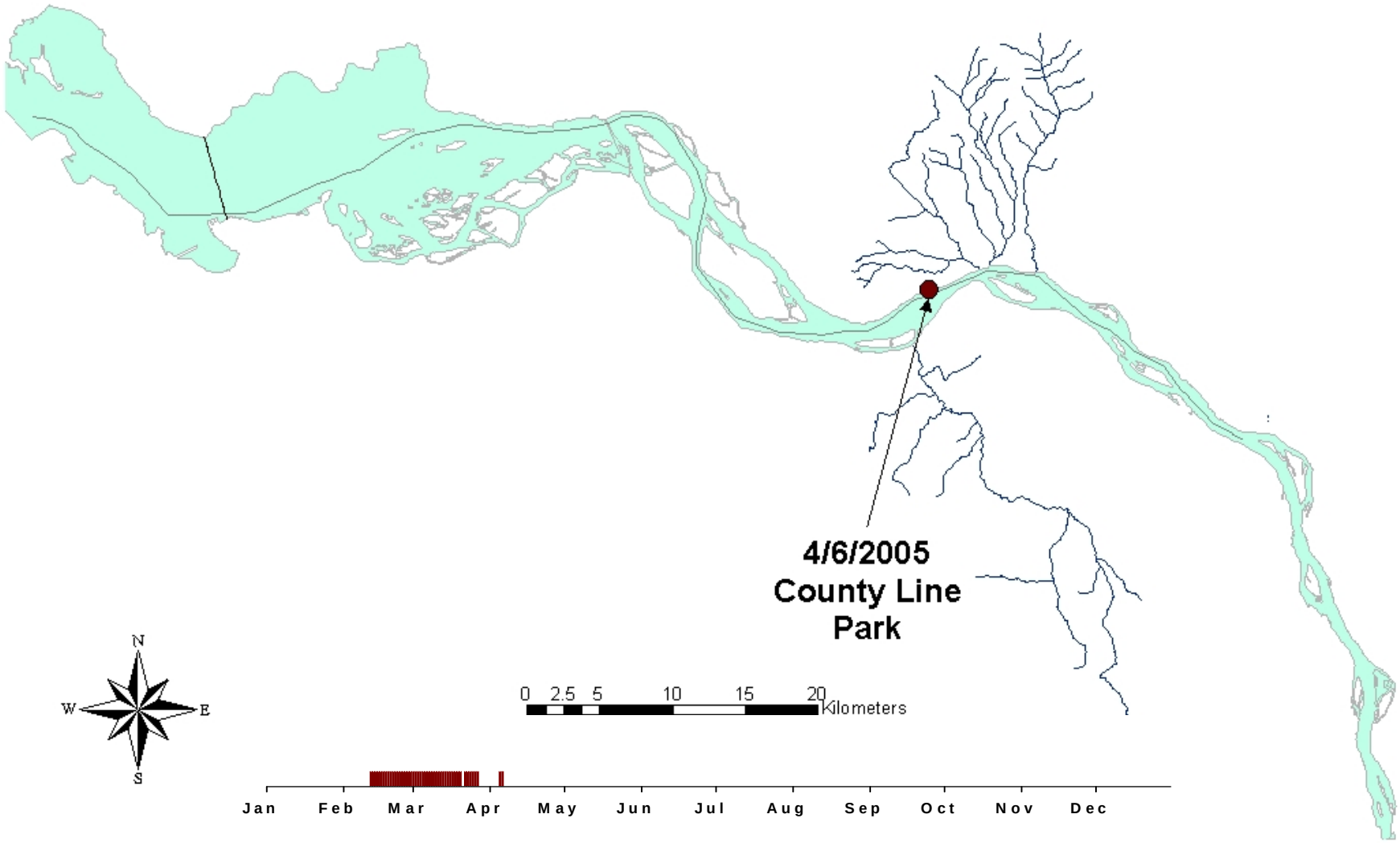

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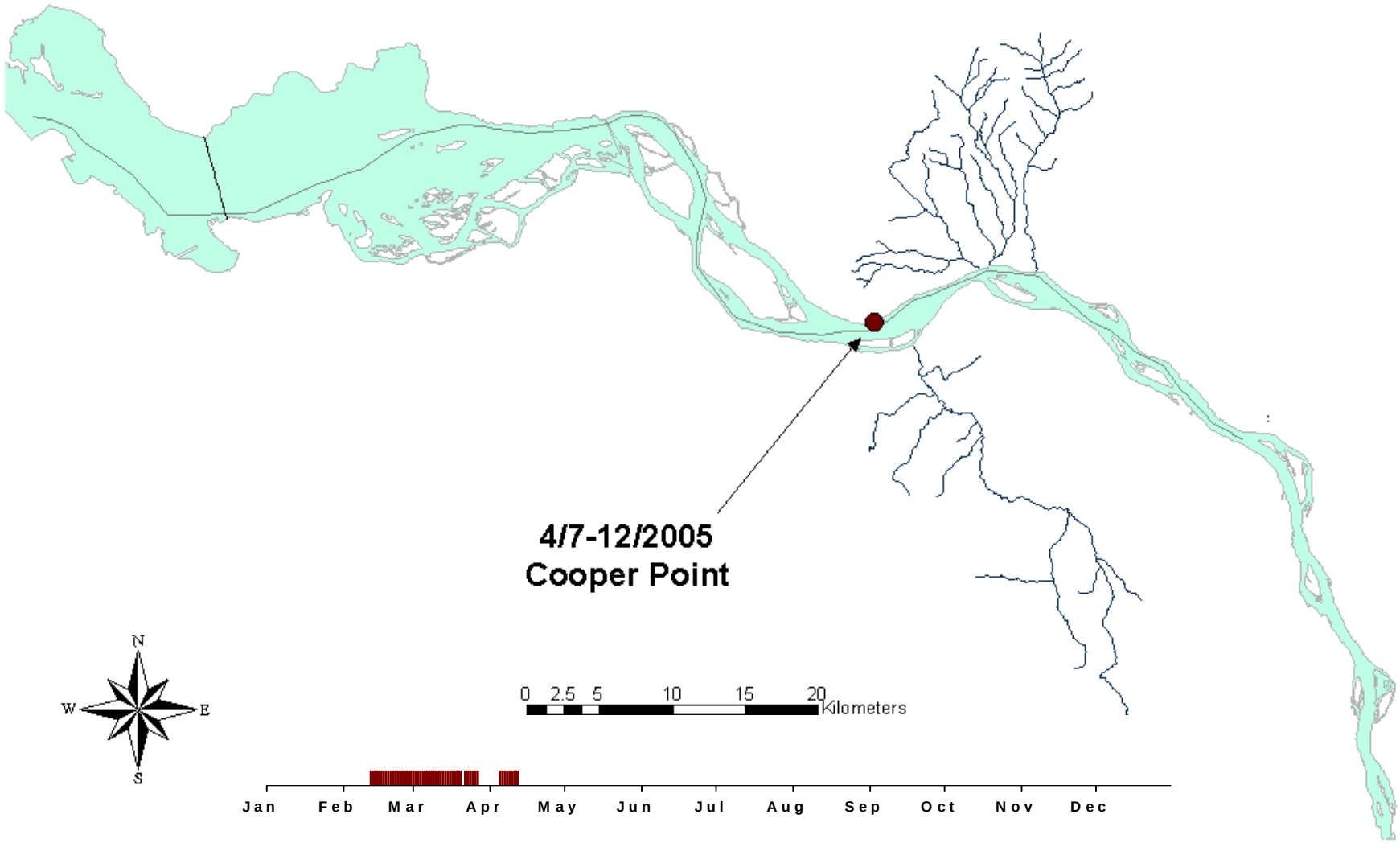

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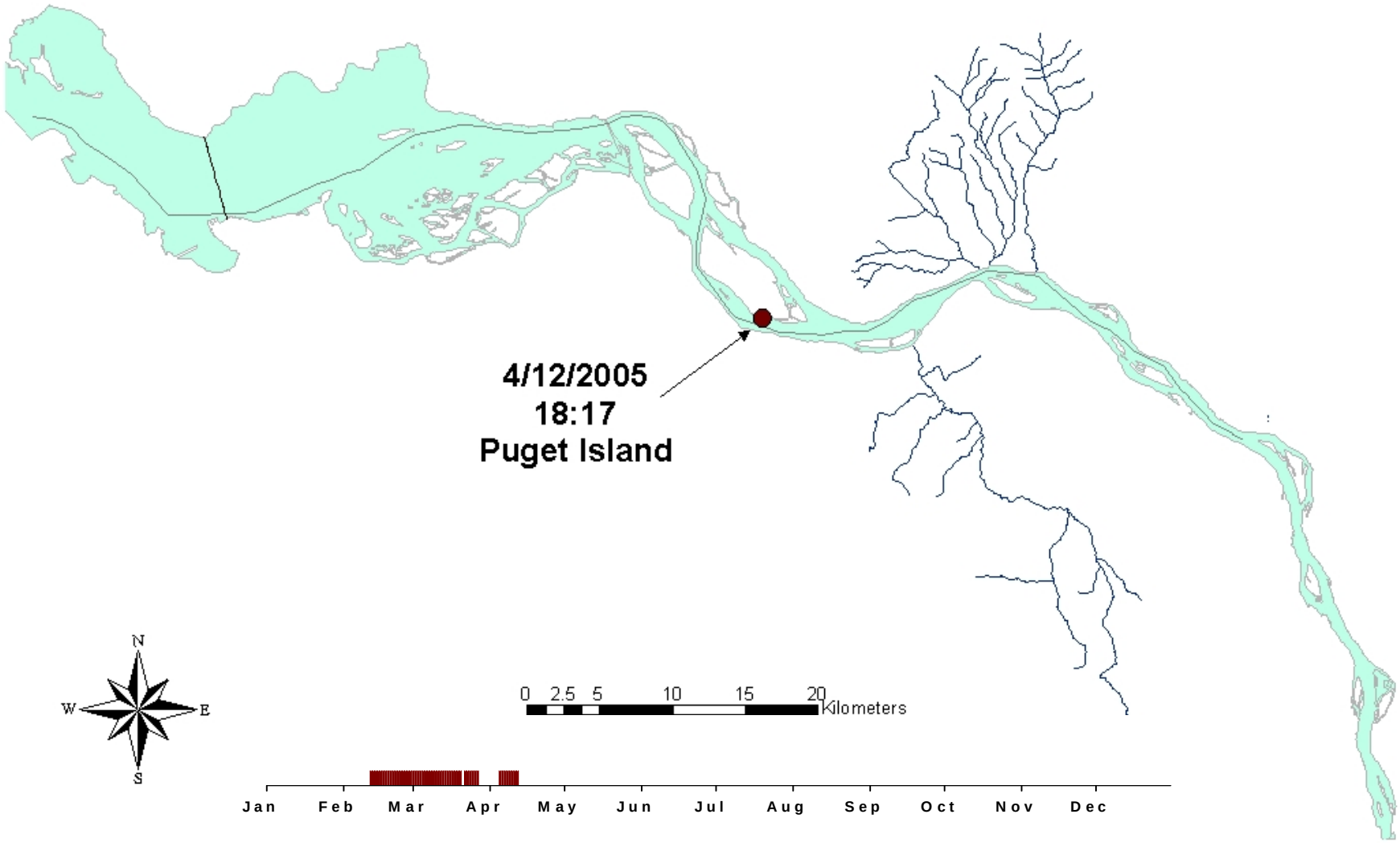

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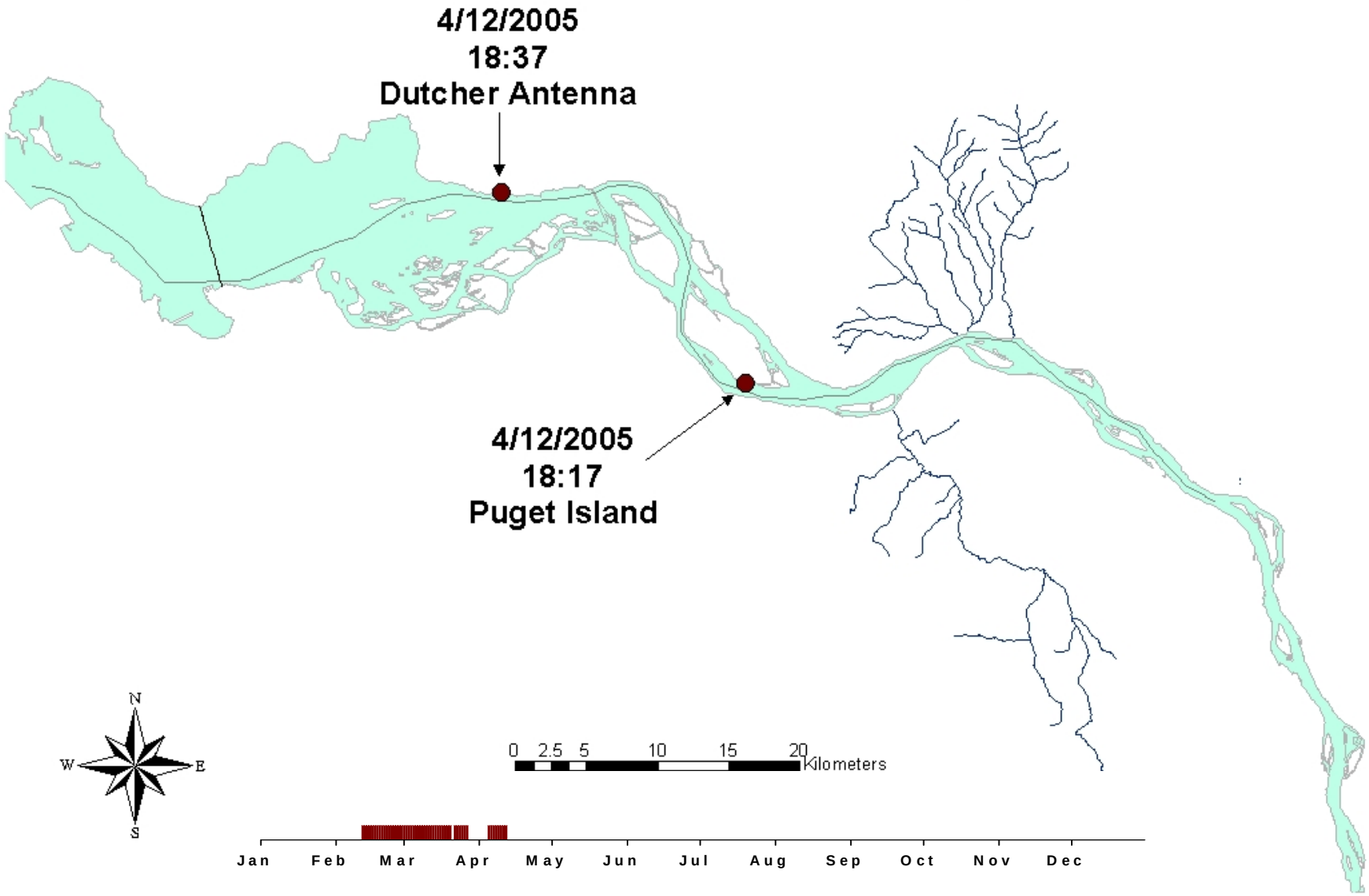

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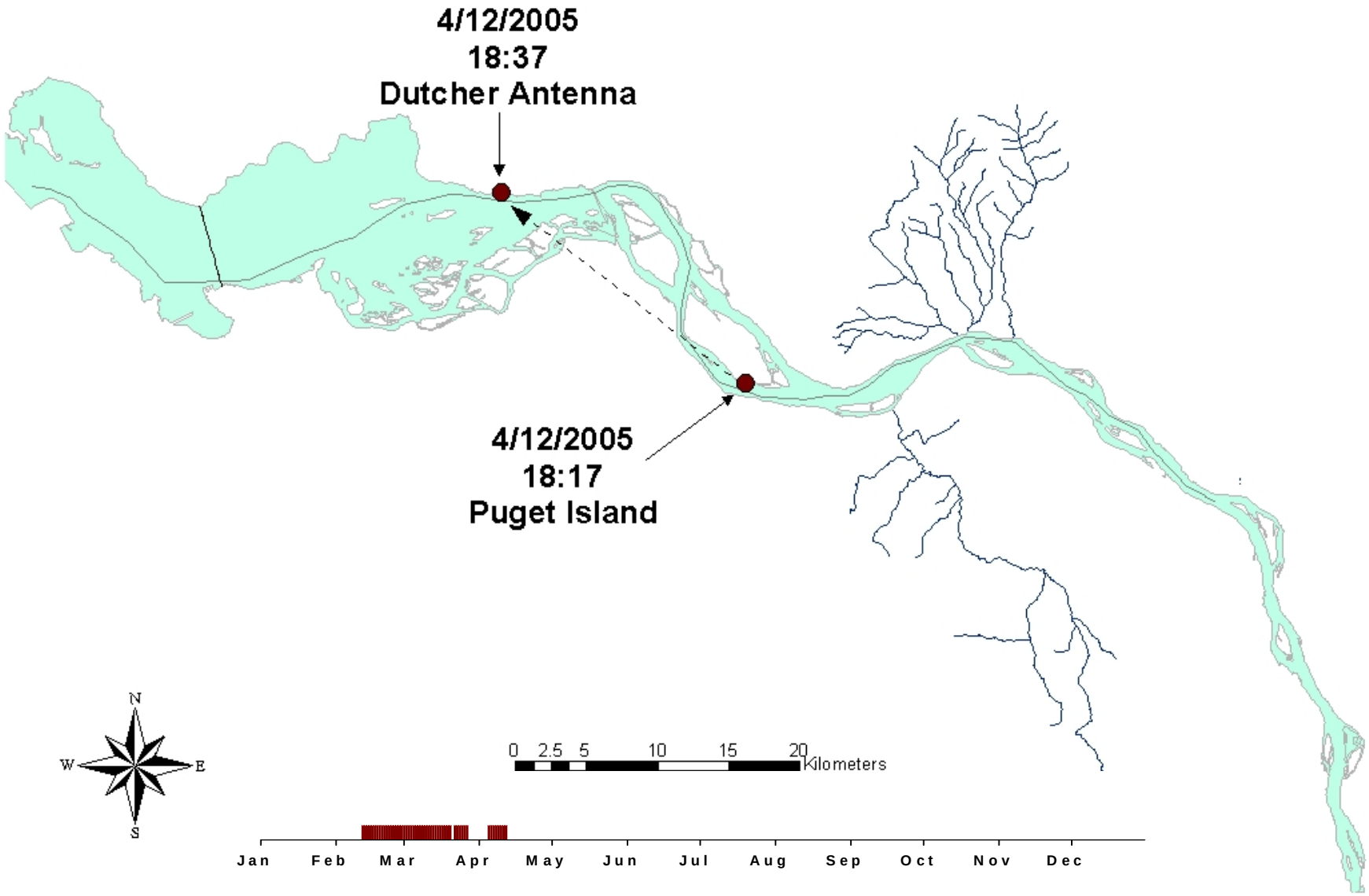

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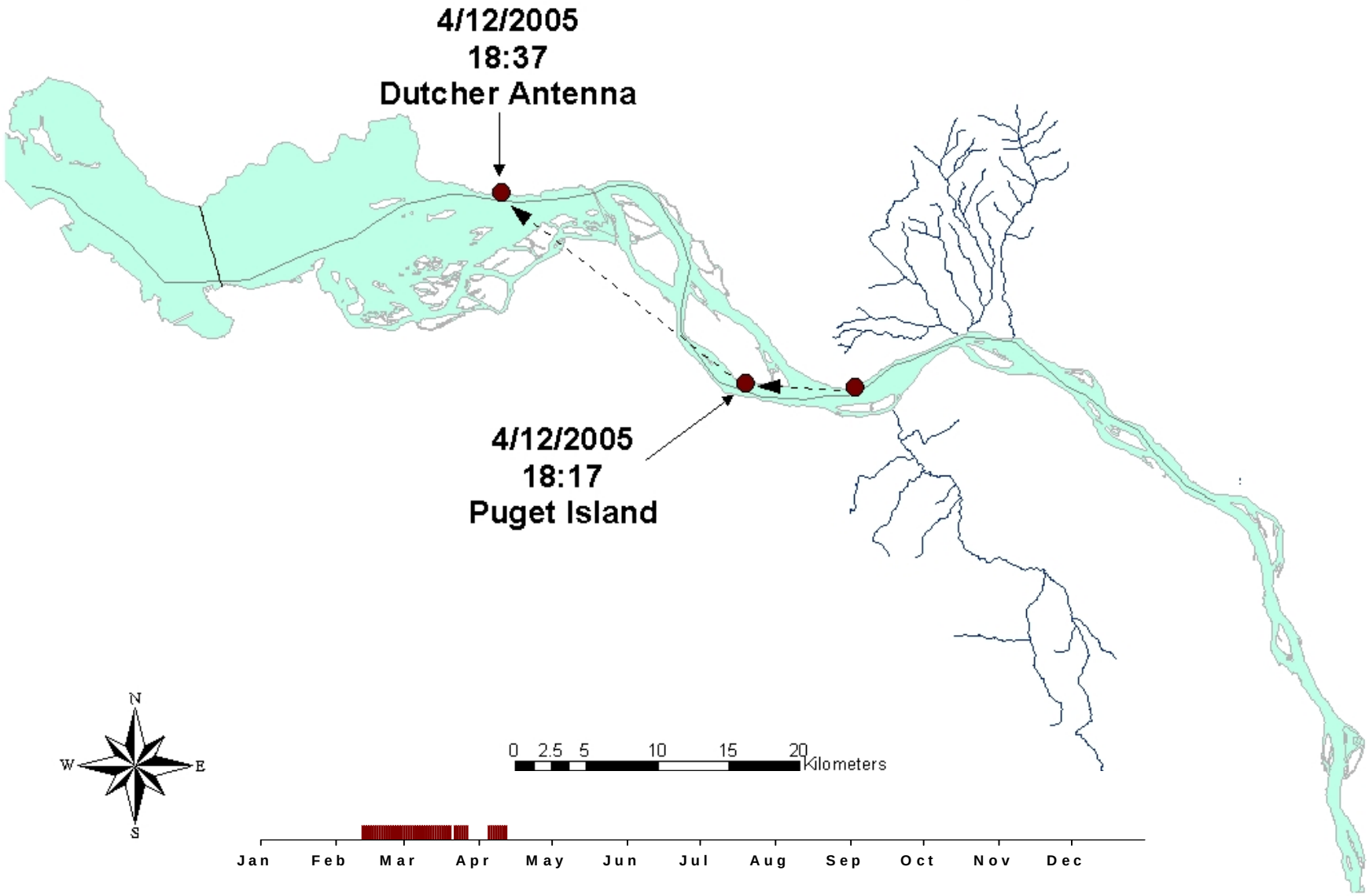

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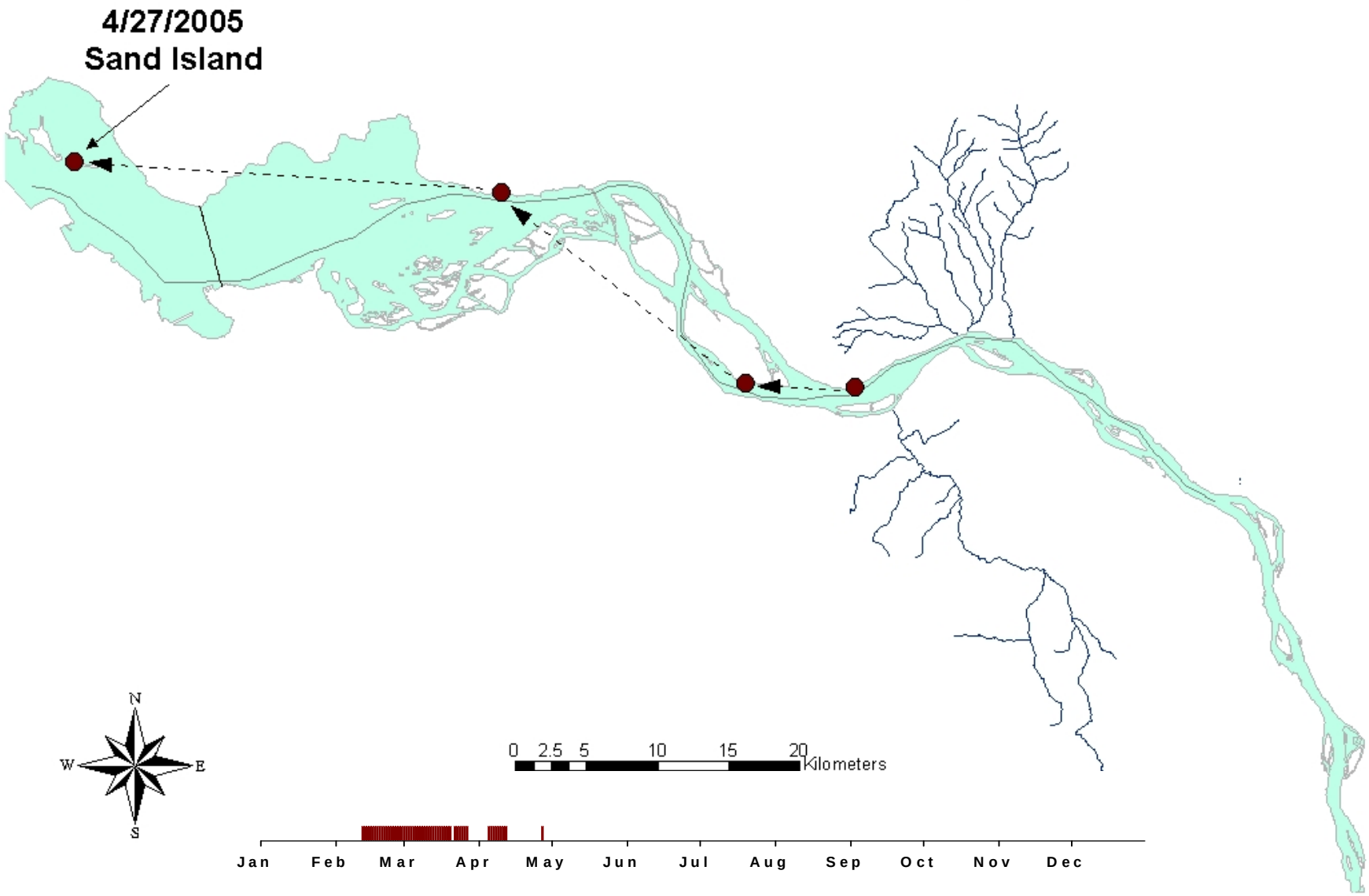

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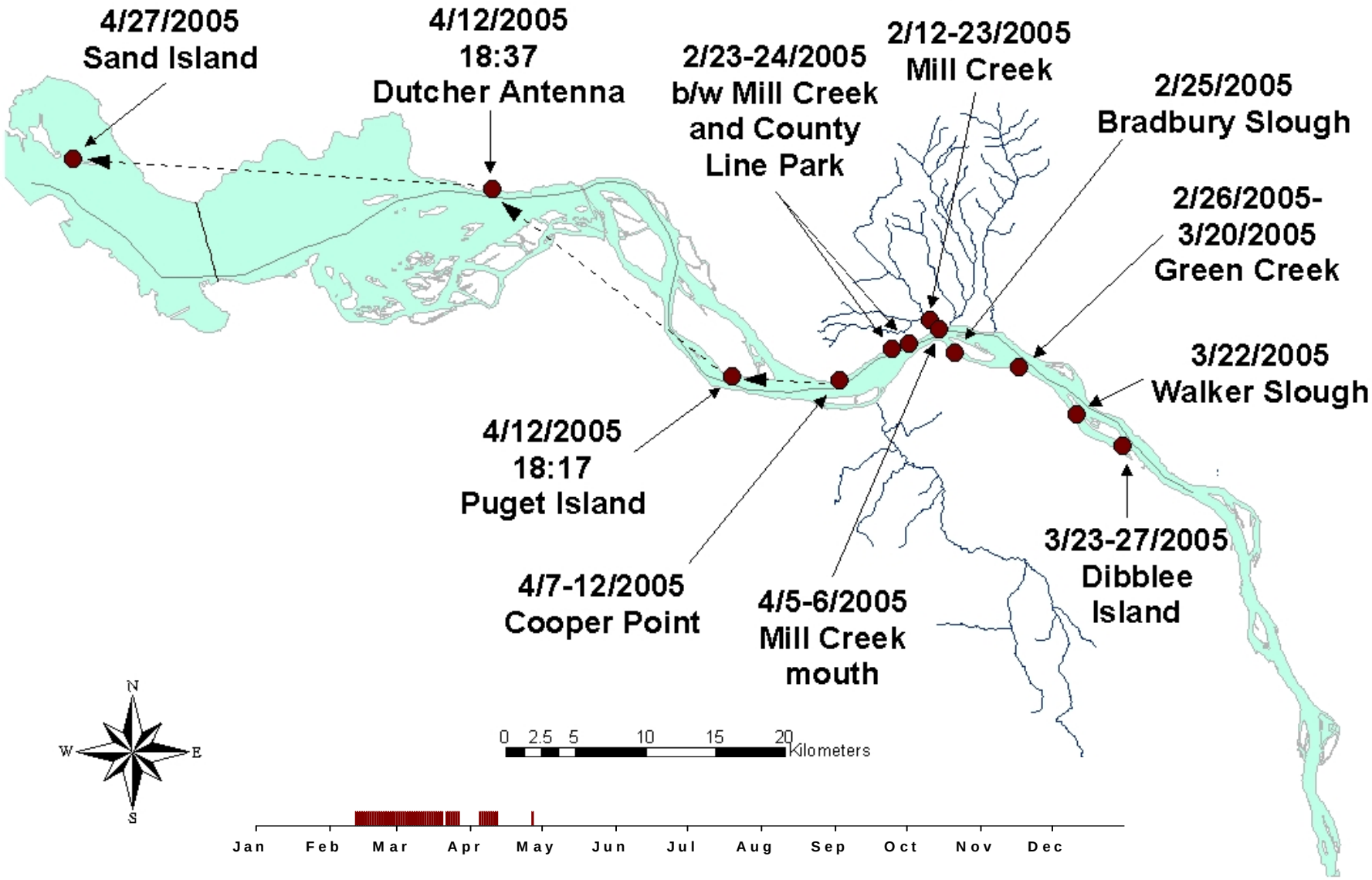

# Migratory Adult Summary - 2005

- Kelts may leave the tributary soon after spawning (less than two weeks) and as late as May
- Adults move upstream and downstream
  - This movement appears to be motivated by the prevalent tide
- Adults use a variety of habitats associated with the mainstem lower Columbia River throughout the entire year
  - Shipping channel
  - Sloughs
  - Multiple tributaries
- Adult returns may occur anytime between July and December

# Implications of Findings

- Multiple year classes of coastal cutthroat trout adults may be found in the lower Columbia River mainstem and estuary throughout much of the year

# Acknowledgements


- Danielle Warner, Ryan Sollee, Dale Dutcher, Jay Brightbill, Cowlitz County, Wahkiakum County, ODFW, WDFW, Lower Columbia River Watershed Council
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- Army Corps of Engineers