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1909
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Diag. Cht. No. 5502-1

Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

A. Tittmann
Superintendent.

State: *Cal.*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Type C Sheet No. *1463^c*

LOCALITY:

*Edwards southeast
of Ft. Ross Cove*

C. & G. SURVEY,
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1909

CHIEF OF PARTY:

Walter C. Dibrell

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Regarding this doubtful rock, see also

Topog. sheet No. 1430^b, which gives position of rock with notes
"supposed position of sunken rock rarely breaking.

Letter No. 208 of 1908. Newspaper reports of examination of loss of
steamer *Porona*, March 17, 1908. No exact position given,
no statement that bearings or angles were taken.

Letter No. 464 of 1908 and Notice to Mariners No. 35 of 1908, regarding
establishment of whistling buoy.

~~Letter~~ No. 370 of 1908 p. 16, Westcott says matter should be
investigated.

Letter No. 577 of 1909, preliminary report by Gibrell.

COAST AND GEOD. SURV. RECEIVED
NOV 30 1909 BY ASSISTANT IN CHARGE
AND REFERRED TO
Assistant in Charge

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DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FIELD SHEET A

Scale 1 -10000

Off Ft. Ross, Cal.
1909.
St. Explorer

This sheet embraces the results of a hydrographic examination made near Fort Ross Cove, Coast of California in the vicinity of a sunken rock of doubtful existence shown on the charts one mile south of Fort Ross Reef and one mile off shore. The rock is mentioned in the Coast Pilot on pages 94 and 95, and it is there stated that the rock is supposed to have over it a depth of ten feet.

2. At the time of writing this report no smooth sheet of the work has been plotted. The boat sheet is forwarded to the office and as it shows with sufficient accuracy and clearness all that the field work was intended to develop, it is somewhat doubtful if it is worth the time and labor to replot the work. The boat sheet is on a scale of 1 -10000 and projection lines, signals, shore line, depth curves, etc. were taken directly from a tracing of the original hydrographic sheet. New soundings are in red and are given to nearest quarter fathom without tidal reduction. Soundings in black are those furnished by the former survey.

3. The positions all depend upon sextant angles observed upon stations Rail (\odot), Pinnacle Rock (Δ) and Fort Ross (Δ). The last two are old triangulation points; the first is a new signal determined for this work by observing the three angles of the triangle, Rail, Fort Ross Δ and Chapanal Δ . The station was plotted geographically on the boat sheet. Dixon Δ was also recovered and a signal erected, but ^{it} was not used.

4. The soundings were taken from the whaleboat under oars with an ordinary lead line, the depth being read to the nearest foot. The examination was made with care. Parallel lines were run approximately

perpendicular to the shore line and a position was taken on each sounding. On account of the depth it was necessary to stop the boat for each cast. The lines average a little less than one hundred meters apart and extra soundings were made near the plotted position of the rock. Positions and soundings were plotted in the boat while the work was in progress.

5. The position of the supposed rock indicated on the boat sheet by a dot and small circle is taken from the hydrographic tracing upon which it had been plotted by Assistant Westdahl, by geographical coordinates scaled from the chart. I verified the position, plotting by direction and distance from the pinnacle rock on Fort Ross Reef and by distance off shore. My position was 150 or 200 meters inshore (toward Dixon \triangle) of the other, but a definite position cannot be assigned on account of the great enlargement of scale.

6. The examination covered an area about $3/4$ square mile with the position of the supposed rock near the center of the square. Allowance is therefore made for uncertainty of position. A very regular depth of from 24 fathoms to 32 fathoms was found, the bottom as a rule being sticky. No evidence whatever of a rock or shoal was found. While the party was working in the locality there was a moderate to heavy swell, and it is believed that the swell was heavy enough to break in four fathoms, and to indicate any outlying danger having a depth of five fathoms.

7. The officers sent on shore for signal building or observing made inquiries of persons whom they met, and all stated that they had no belief in the existence of the rock. The people interrogated include the Call Brothers, residents for many years of Fort Ross; two captains of vessels who had been running to Fort Ross for years; and the foreman of the new mill, who had an excellent position from which

(3)

to note any breaking or heaving of the sea near the charted position of the rock.

8. During the morning of November 10th, while running the lines of soundings, a noticeable set to north-westward was experienced. An estimate of the velocity of the current would be very approximate, but it is believed to be as great as one knot. During the afternoon of the same day there was no appreciable current, the suspension of the current apparently taking place at noon. On the afternoon of the preceding day there was no current. The ship at anchor just inshore of the limits of the soundings did not swing to the current observed by the hydrographic party.

9. The new saw mill was cut in and is shown on the boat sheet. It is a noticeable object from off shore.

10. The sounding record pertaining to this work contains also the horizontal angles observed, and includes all the field notes referring to the work.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter C. ...
Assistant, C. & G. Survey,

Chief of Party.

To the Superintendent,

Coast & Geodetic Survey,

Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

Coast and Geodetic Survey

O.H. Tittmann, Supt.

Hydrographic Sheet No. 1463^c

(Field Sheet A)

Near Fort Ross, California

Steamer EXPLORER

Assistant Walter C. Dibrell, Chief of Party.

Begun: November 9, 1909.

Completed: November 10, 1909.

Scale 1- 10,000

Hydrography in charge of Walter C. Dibrell, Assistant.

Positions and Soundings plotted on boat sheet by

W. B. Dunning, Aid.

Verified by AHS

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Hydrographic Sheet # "A"
1463^c

Observers:

Walter C. Dibrell, Assistant

W. B. Dunning, Aid.

Recorders:

William Duker, Wr. 2 cl.

Leadsman:

Emil Moen, Qmr. 1 cl.

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Hyd. sheet # "A"
1463c

STATISTICS.

1909 Date	Vol.	Let.	Miles (Stat.)	Sdgs.	Angles	Boat
Nov. 9	1	<i>a</i>	3 1/2	51	102	Whaleboat
" 10	1	<i>b</i>	8 1/2	127	258	"
Totals	1	2	12	178	360	

Area = 3/4 square miles.

V.E.C.
Dec. 15, 1909.

HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET NO. 1463^c.

Near Fort Ross, California, by Assistant Walter
C. Dibrell in 1909.

TIDES.

Mean lower low water,
of plane of reference below mean sea level = 3.2 ft.
Mean rise and fall of tides ----- = 3.7 "
Predicted tides were used for reduction of soundings.

Coast and Geodetic Survey
DEC 15 1909
TIDAL DIVISION

adjusted 4/14-1911
A.E.

Section
to
copy

Hyd. Sheet No. 1463^c

July 15, 1910.

This spot is well covered. There is no indication of a shoal within the limits of the area examined.

A. L. Simmons