

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

A. M. Thorn, Superintendent.

State: *Wash. Terr.*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Hydrographic Sheet No. 1886.

LOCALITY:

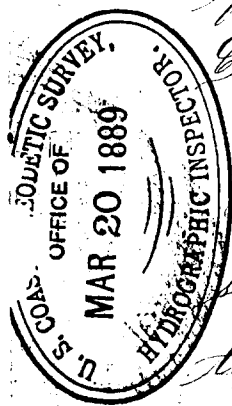
*N. W. Coast of
Whidbey Island.*

1888.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

Lieut. H. T. Mayo, U.S.N.

Descriptive Report to accompany Hydrographic Sheet No. 1886
of N. W. Coast of Whidbey Island by Lieut. W. D. May, U. S. N.,
Comdg. and Y. S. Schooner "Earnest."



This sheet includes the Hydrography from Deception Pass south to Point Partridge, and from Whidbey Island west to the limit of the work done by Stm^t "Vassler", making nearly a triangle, 12 miles long and from 1 to 5 miles wide. Except near Deception Pass, the shore of Whidbey Island has small sand flats extending from $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ mile from High Water mark. The shores near Deception Pass are low and sandy, but, going to southward soon become a succession of high bluffs of sand and gravel. The deepest water on this sheet is 62 fathoms, found 1 mile directly West of Deception Pass, and from this Point south the depth gradually decreases. There are no anchorages on this sheet.

Dangers: Lawson Reef, two miles west of Deception Pass, is a rocky shoal having a least depth of 17 feet. The ten fathom curve about this shoal encloses a space one mile long by $\frac{1}{2}$ mile wide. The shallowest part of the Reef is indicated by numerous small patches of kelp, but the strong current draws this under except near slack water.

Midway between Lawson Reef and the S. E. end of Lopez Id.

another rocky shoal was found with five fathoms as least depth found, this sounding being on a boulder. No kelp grows on this shoal and the tide current over it is very strong. The entrance to Deception Pass south of Deception Island has but little over three fathoms of water. Off South side of Deception Island are several bunches of rocks bare except at high water. These are 1/2 mile due south of the Island. 1/2 mile west of the south point of the entrance to the Pass is a bunch of rocks which are awash at low water. All these rocks are surrounded by kelp. The tide currents are very strong and tide rips frequent. The ebb current from the Pass uniting that from Rosario Straits causes heavy tide rips between Deception Island and Lopez Island, and meeting the ebb current from Admiralty Inlet, causes tide rips between Smith's Island and the shore of Whidbey Island. There are no towns nor Post Offices on this sheet, only a few farms along the shore of Whidbey Island. These communicate with the outside world by way of Coupeville or Port Townsend.

Very respectfully,

H. T. Mayo,

Lieut. U. S. N. Chief of Party.