

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

F. M. Thorne Superintendent

State: *Wash. Terr.*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Hydrographic Sheet No. *1887.*

LOCALITY:

Bellingham Bay

1888

CHIEF OF PARTY:

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

IN REPLY ADDRESS THE DIRECTOR
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
AND NOT THE SIGNER OF THIS LETTER

AND REFER TO No. 25-ab

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

WASHINGTON

February 28, 1927.

To: Chief,
Division of Tides and Currents.

From: L. P. Shidy,
Associate Mathematician.

Subject: Plane of reference for hydrographic sheet 1887.

In reply to the memorandum request of the 23rd instant, from the Cartographic Section, I transmit herewith a statement of the correction required to reduce the soundings on hydrographic sheet 1887 to the plane of mean lower low water.

Perhaps it may not be amiss to add that according to a memorandum I came across, Topographic Sheets 2069 and 2070 also contain hydrography.

I return the tube for hydrographic sheet 1887 with this letter.

L. P. Shidy
Associate Mathematician.

Forwarded Feb. 28, 1927

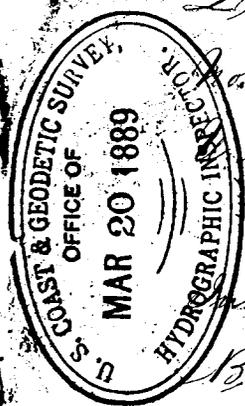
G. H. H. H.
Chief, Division of Tides and Currents

This sheet covers Bellingham Bay, Washington, by H. T. Mayo,
U. S. N., 1888.

The plane of reference used for the reduction of soundings on hydrographic sheet 1887 was the mean of five selected low waters, corresponding to a reading of 3.6 feet on the tide staff in Chuckanut Bay. To reduce the soundings to the plane of mean lower low water, add 1.3 feet, or $\frac{1}{4}$ fathom.

February 26, 1927

Descriptive Report to accompany Hydrographic Sheet
No. 1887 of Bellingham Bay, W. I. by Lieut. A. D. Mayo,
S. W. Comdg. Supt. "Earnest."



In this sheet is included the Hydrography of Bellingham Bay north of the parallel passing through Viti Rock.

The Bay is generally of moderate depth from six to fourteen fathoms, but deep water is found along shores of Lumini and Eliza Island, and into Hale's Passage.

At the mouth of the Nooksack River are extensive flats extending two miles from shore, with little or no channel into the river. The small bay north of Point Francis is nearly all shoal and useless. At Whatcom a flat caused by Whatcom Creek, the outlet of the Lake of the same name extends nearly a mile from shore.

The currents in Bellingham Bay are very moderate and regular, and there are no strong tide rips anywhere.

Anchorage:— Nearly all of Bellingham Bay is good anchorage ground, with mud bottom, but quite a heavy swell is sometimes raised by a S. E. or S. W. wind. Chuckanut Bay affords fine anchorage and protection. Good anchorage and shelter are also found in the

bight at N. E. end of the Bay from Fairhaven to Schome. A small bight on E. side of Lummi Island known as Inati Bay affords limited anchorage and complete shelter. The bottom is all mud and the holding ground excellent in all parts of Bellingham Bay.

Dangers:— The Samish flats extend for a short distance into the southern end of this sheet. The flats at the northern end of the sheet have already been referred to. Starb. Rk. between Bellingham and Schome, is 350 metres off shore. It is a small rocky ledge with a least depth of six feet on it and has from five to six fathoms around it.

Due north of the west end of Eliza Island is a small rocky shoal having a least depth of five feet on it, with from seven to nine fathoms between it and shore of Eliza Island.

About $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles north of south end of Lummi Island and about $\frac{100}{\text{yards}}$ off shore is a small rocky shoal having five feet on top and from four to six fathoms between it and shore of Lummi Island.

Directly off the entrance to the small bight known as Inati Bay is another rocky ledge about $\frac{100}{\text{yards}}$ long in a

N. and S. direction. The shoalest part is a wash at low water. From six to nine fathoms are found inside the shoal. Between Point Francis and Eliza Island, and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from N. point of Eliza Island, was found a single boulder having eight feet on top and eighteen feet alongside.

Between Chuckanut Island and Chuckanut Rock, is found a ledge of rocks extending south from Chuckanut Rock. These are bare except at high water.

On the old chart, a three fathom spot is shown east of the south end of Gummi Island, and midway to Eliza Island. No trace of this could be found. The position was transferred from chart to the working sheet, and a depth of $\frac{33}{\text{fathoms}}$ found there.

The water around south and west sides of Point Francis is shoal; the three fathom curve being about half a mile from High Water Mark.

Cities, towns - &c.

The towns on Bellingham Bay are clustered together at N. E. end of Bay, and are Whatcom, Sehome, Bellingham, and Fairhaven. All are growing, having taken up a rapid growth the past summer, and they will probably be merged into one city. At the

mouth of the Nooksack River is a small village known as Lummi, and directly opposite, on the Indian Reservation is an Indian village.

On the Nooksack river are two or three so called towns, the most important of which is Ferndale.

In Chuckanut Bay is a quarry of excellent building stone which is extensively worked, supplying Seattle & other Sound Cities.

In the country back of Bellingham Bay are large deposits of coal and iron, but no mines are operated at present. The Nooksack Valley is a rich agricultural region. The river trade is now carried on by small stern wheel steamers, but the Railroads now building will provide a convenient outlet.

The trade of Bellingham Bay is now carried on by steamers, three regular lines running to Seattle. Other lines connect with Port Townsend and the islands of Washington Sound.

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant

In the
Superintendent G. & G. Survey
Washington, D. C.

H. T. Mayo. Capt. U. S. N.
Chief of Party.

Hydro 1895

See Japc. 1895