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Diag. Cht. No. 9370

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

Henry S. Pritchett, Superintendent.

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State: *Alaska*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Hydrographic Sheet No. ~~2448~~ ²⁴³⁹

LOCALITY:

*Scammon Bay to
St. Michael*

*See also
Topic 2431*

1899.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

G. R. Putnam

2439

Sheet 2448 having been canceled
this report is filed with Mr. Putnam's
other sheets of Scammon Bay 2439 etc.

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U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

Henry S. Pritchett, Superintendent.

State: *Alaska*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Hydrographic Sheet No. 2439

LOCALITY:

Scammon Bay.
also
(See Topo Sheet # 2431)

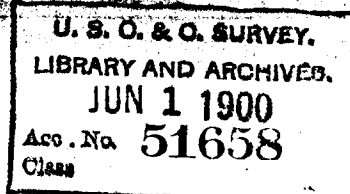
1899.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

S. R. Putnam

2439

JUN - 1, 1900. 09300



Seammon Bay to St. Michael, Alaska; Hydrographic reconnaissance

Descriptive report to accompany hydrographic sheet No. 2448.

Although not included in the instructions, advantage was taken of the voyage from the Kwiklowak mouth to Seammon Bay, and from Seammon Bay to St. Michael, to obtain additional lines of soundings, and these are plotted on a copy of chart No. 9870. These lines should be considered in the nature of reconnaissance, for they are controlled only by their end positions and by log and compass courses between, with two astronomical observations on the longer voyage. The latitude observations obtained off the Kawanak mouth was quite unsatisfactory on account of the condition of the horizon (misty), but the crossing of the Kawanak Channel (located by Assistant Faris' hydrography) was quite clearly marked in the line of soundings. The latitude for the morning and afternoon time obsⁿ was therefore derived from this crossing. There was apparently little set between Seammon Bay and the Kawanak mouth, but from there on there was a considerable set into Norton Sound. The discrepancy was distributed back through the line.

Although it was the intention to keep between the two and three fathom curves up the coast, the steamer "Yukon" got in behind the shoals at the Kawanak and Kwikpak mouths, of which at that time there was no information as to the extent. On July 28 the steamer was caught on these shoals in a rapidly falling tide and was left in water so shoal that the men could wade around her. The weather was good and the "Yukon" came off at high tide and continued her voyage.

For 25 miles north from Kawanak channel, crossed irregular bottom, apparently cut by channels and shoals. From there eastward toward St. Michael, and also between Seammon Bay and the Kwiklowak mouth the bottom was fairly regular on the lines sounded.

17 miles N. by W. from Kawanak mouth crossed a deep channel apparently leading into Norton Sound, with 39 feet of water. This was very sharply defined in appearance.

During this voyage of 200 miles, although keeping close in with a steamer drawing less than five feet of water, the shore of the delta coast was never sighted.

Specimens of sea water were taken on this voyage and their densities determined, and they are plotted on this sheet. They show an almost normal amount of salinity off of and south of the Kwiklowak mouth, but a very low percentage of salt to the northward and into Norton Sound.

The green line on this sheet is a plotting of the coast line as published prior to the work of 1898, the red line being the changes made by the surveys of 1899. The coast is moved seaward as much as 35 miles in one place, and the area included between the old and the correct shore lines is about 3000 square miles.

G. R. Putnam
Assistant

May 31, 1900.