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/ Diag. Chart No. 9370

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

Henry S. Pritchett, Superintendent.

State: Alaska

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Hydrographic Sheet No. 2452

LOCALITY:

Lower Apoon Pass

(See Topc. 2429)

18⁹⁹.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

R. L. Faris

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1899

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Yukon Delta Alaska

Lower Apoon Pass Topographic Sheet.

This sheet includes Okwiga Pass and Apoon Pass from Kanakalinguk Slough to the sea coast. The Apoon is the smallest and narrowest of the principal passes of the Yukon Delta. The banks at, and near the coast are scarcely above ordinary high tide. They gradually become higher on going up stream, being about eight feet high at "Kanakalinguk" Slough, a distance of 16 miles from the mouth of the pass. Marsh grass and "tundra" is the only vegetation seen at the mouth of the pass. A thick growth of alder bushes (small trees) cover the banks of the pass to within about 3 miles of its mouth, where for about two miles further toward its mouth are seen small clumps of low scrubby bushes. There are no bushes within about one mile of the

Coast at the mouth of the pass.

But little driftwood is met with on the lower part of Apoon Pass, yet there is a small wood yard at Kottik, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles up the pass from the Coast.

At Kottik is the residence of a Russian trader by the name of Komkoff who is the only white inhabitant in this region of the Delta. The village of Kottik consists of three or four log dwellings, a rude greek church and a sort of a store or trader's warehouse owned by Komkoff. The village sets back from Apoon Pass about 400 yards on Kottik River, but can readily be seen, when up abreast it, from Apoon Pass. There are also a few natives living at Kottik. Konogkelyakamiut, or Bill Moor's is the only other village on the Apoon within the limits of this sheet. This village is on the right bank of the pass $10\frac{1}{2}$ miles above Kottik, or 16 miles from mouth of pass. The natives live in these villages in winter as well as summer. Dogs are also found in these villages suitable for drawing the dog sleds in winter.

Natives were found at Bill Moor's who had a fair speaking knowledge of English, and a good understanding of the waters and passes of the Delta. As elsewhere in the Delta these natives live by fishing and hunting. They are strikingly good natured and friendly and possess inexhaustible curiosity. Most of them are also remarkable for their generally dirty appearance and fishy odor - the odor being quite similar to that of dried salmon which they often make use of as food.

Apoon Pass, from its mouth to where the Okwega branches off from it is very narrow with a maximum depth of about 13 feet, just above Kotlik, and a minimum depth in the channel of 4 feet at the foot of the island at the mouth of Kotlik River. The crossing at the foot of this island $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles from the mouth of the pass, is the most difficult part of the pass to navigate. The channel here is extremely narrow and carries 4 feet of water at low tide; ordinary high tide increasing this to $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet. The best water is found by keeping close around

the foot of the island. Kottik River has about 9 feet of water at its mouth but it shoals up to about 2 feet just below Kottik. It is best not to try to avoid the crossing at the foot of the island, by going up Kottik River.

There is 9 feet of water in the channel where the Okwega makes off from the Apoon, 3 miles above Kottik, here the channel about 150 yards wide and passes between bars on either side, these bars being generally plainly visible. From Kottik to head of Apoon Pass no difficulty is met with in navigation. From the head of Okwega Pass to the mouth Apoon Pass is scarcely more than a tidal canal, most of the water of Apoon Pass going out the Okwegas.

One and one-half miles up from the mouth of Apoon Pass there is a submerged sand bar in the middle of the pass running up stream $\frac{3}{4}$ mile parallel to the axis of the stream. Steamers can pass close to the right bank or close the mud island on the left. The best channel is on the island side.

Okwega Pass, from its head to the

Coast is $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles long. It is much wider than the lower part of Apoon Pass and carries a better depth of water. The minimum depth found, running down the channel, was about 2 fathoms. For most of the distance the channel keeps nearer the right bank, crossing to the left bank just before reaching the coast. Nothing is known of the depth of water on the flats at the mouth of this pass, though indications promise deeper water than that on Apoon Bar.

The Apoon Bar has already been described by Assistant J. F. Pratt. Sailing directions over this bar are also given in our Coast Pilot for 1900, as well as the ice and weather conditions on Apoon Pass

R. L. Faris

- mch 30-1900 -