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U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

Henry S. Pritchett, Superintendent.

State: *Alaska*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Tops & Hydro. Sheets Nos 2430
2453
2454

LOCALITY:

Upper Apoon Pass

1899.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

R. L. Faris

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Diag. Cht. No 9370

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.
Henry S. Pritchett , Superintendent.

State: Alaska

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Hydrographic Sheet No. 2453

LOCALITY:

Upper Apoon Pass

(see Topc. 2430)

18 99

CHIEF OF PARTY:

R. L. Faris

CCF

2454

Diag. Ch. No. 9370-

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

Henry S. Pritchett

Superintendent.

State: Alaska

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Hydrographic Sheet No. 2454

LOCALITY:

Yukon Delta, Sivikpak
and Kawanak Passes, from
Head of Kawanak Pass to
the Coast.

See Topc. sheet # 2430
1899.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

R. L. Faris

HCEN

1899
Yukon Delta, Alaska
Upper Apoon Topographic Sheet

Descriptive Report

MAI 31 1899
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This sheet embraces that part of Kivikpak Pass from Aroka Pass to head of Apoon Pass and the Apoon Pass from its head to Kanakalinguk Slough $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles below "Old Fort Hamilton" or 21 miles below entrance to Aroka Pass.

This sheet includes a portion of the route used by the Yukon River Steamboats

The banks of these passes are from 8 to 15 feet high and covered with a dense growth of willow or Alder trees varying in height from 15 to 30 feet with occasionally of trees that are a little higher than the surrounding ones.

Old Fort Hamilton is located on the Apoon Pass at the mouth of Nunachik Slough and $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles below the mouth of Little Apoon Pass. Here is the largest native settlement on the Apoon Pass, and was formerly a station of the North American Trading and Transportation Company.

Wood for Steamboat use can be found here for sale by the natives during the season of navigation. The village at Old Fort Hamilton is a permanent one the natives living there in winter as well as summer.

Native pilots can be found here at all times who are acquainted with the Apoon and Kwikpak Passes and possibly the lower Yukon River also.

Steamers find no difficulty in navigating the waters covered by this sheet except at the crossing about one mile above the head of Apoon Pass, and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles below where Kowamak Pass branches off from Kwikpak Pass. This is one of the worst crossings in the whole delta route. This crossing is full of shifting sand bars and the channel is constantly changing so that no definite directions can be given as to where the channel may be found for any length of time. The use of the sounding line is the only safe guide for this crossing. A depth of 5 or 6 feet can generally be carried across these shoals. Small steamers, drawing

4 feet or less, wishing to avoid these shallows can go through Little Apoon Pass, finding less current and saving a distance of three miles. The Little Apoon Pass carries sufficient water for larger steamers but it is so narrow and crooked that they cannot follow its bends without grounding. Length of this pass is a little under seven miles.

Some driftwood (pine, from up the Yukon) is found in this part of the delta, but most of it is gathered up by the natives and cut and placed in convenient places for sale to passing steamers.

Weather and ice and fog conditions in this region are the same as for other parts of the delta as already published in the C. & G. S. Coast Pilot for Bering Sea.

The population in this locality is exclusively natives (Eskimos) who live by hunting, fishing, woodcutting and piloting steamboats. Apoon Pass has less game and fish than any other pass of the Delta.

The current was found not to exceed

1.5 knots per hour, being less than this figure at high tide.

The survey of this section of the delta depended upon triangulation, (as did, also, the other sections surveyed) which was connected with that brought down the coast from St. Michael, the astronomical base station. The region covered by this sheet contains 78 triangulation stations, these stations being also made use of in the hydrographic work.

A. L. Laro

Mch. 29-1900