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U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

Henry S. Pritchett, Superintendent

State: *Alaska*

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DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Hydrographic Sheet No. 2478

LOCALITY:

*Norton Sound - St Michael
to Unalaklik*

1900.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

J. J. Gilbert

2478

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NORTON SOUND, ALASKA

D E S C R I P T I V E R E P O R T

H Y D R O G R A P H I C P R O J E C T I O N N O 2

S C A L E = 1-80,000

From St. Michael Bay to signal Waterfall.

From St. Michael Bay the coast trends twenty miles to the eastward and nineteen miles to the northward to Δ Waterfall.

The hydrography of this stretch of coast was developed by a system of lines run normal to the coast, about two miles apart and running out to the six fathom curve. An alco-vapor launch was used in the sounding work from Ikikiktoik to Waterfall, which was the beginning of hydrographic work for the season. Near the end of the season, the Str. "YUKON" being available, that vessel was used in the stretch of coast from St. Michael Bay to Ikikiktoik. The bottom of this section of the coast of Norton Sound is regular, gradually deepening from the one fathom curve, close inshore, to the six fathom curve, about five miles off shore.

In the bight to the eastward of Ikikiktoik an anchorage in southerly weather can be found in four fathoms of water with good holding ground, also in the bight to the southward of Black Point. In the bight to the northward of Flat Point a good anchorage was found for light draught vessels in southerly weather.

The only known danger to navigation in this section is a small reef, close inshore, about one fourth of a miles to the northward and eastward of Black Point.

The land may be approached comfortably by using the lead.

A noticeable feature of this country is the absence of fogs during the season open to navigation, they being extremely rare. There are no

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pronounced currents.

Egg Island, ten miles to the northward and eastward of St. Michael Bay, is used as a quarantine station. Vessels detained at the quarantine station anchor off the eastern shore, where good water is found. The water off the western shore is much bolder, six fathoms being carried close inshore. The Island is so small that it does not afford much protection in heavy weather, yet it is the only available protection in notherly gales.

September the 24th, an attempt was made to develop the bottom more thoroughly in this vicinity, but owing to a heavy sea and wind, this was found impractic^{ca}ble.

A tide station was established in the small, landlocked cove to the eastward of and near Black Point, twenty six miles to the eastward of St. Michael Bay on July 16th, 1900. Continuous observations were taken until August the twelfth. From data obtained at this section a plane of reference was formed, which was transferred to all other Gauges used in the season's work.

This gauge was used in the reduction of all soundings from Ikikiktoik to Cape Denbigh.

C. W. Hitchcock

2nd. Watch Officer, In charge of Hydrography.

J. J. Gilbert

Assist: C. & G. Survey, Chief of Party.

