

2501

Diag. Chart No. 8551-1

Treasury Department,
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

Henry S. Pritchett
Superintendent.

State: *Alaska*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Hydrographic Sheet No. *2501*

LOCALITY:

Cordova Bay - Malakka
R. to Head of Sheep Bay

1900

CHIEF OF PARTY:

Homer P. Ritter

2501

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Washington, D.C.
Dec. 18, 1903.

Descriptive Report
to accompany

Hydrographic Sheet
No. 2501.

Homer J. Ritter
assistant.

Title:

Treasury Department
U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey
Henry J. Pritchett, Supt.
Cordova Bay.

Makaka Pt. to Head of Sheep Bay
Alaska

Homer P. Ritter, Assistant, Chief of Party

June 4 to 29 - Sept. 3 to 7

Scale $\frac{1}{40000}$.

Shoreline drawn by H. P. Ritter.

Positions plotted by " " "

Soundings reduced and inked by H. M. W. Edmonds

Verified by J. J. Watkins

Lettered J. N. Baker

Register No. 2501.

Statistics.

Date 1900	Letter	Number of				Vessel.
		Vol.	Angles	Soundings	Geog. Miles	
June 4	a	1	67	317	17.0	Gasoline Launch
" 6	b	1	64	139	14.7	"
" 8	c	1	17	33	6.2	"
" 9	d	1	58	176	18.0	"
" 12	e	1	52	172	19.1	"
" 16	f	1	61	137	10.3	"
" 20	g	1	35	152	15.9	"
" 26	j	1	12	17	12.5	Str. Taku
" 29	k	1-2	62	122	20.5	Gasoline Launch
Sept. 3	u	3	5	7	1.5	"
" 7	w	4	10	67	1.5	"
Total		11	4	443	137.2	70 □ Miles

Note: The soundings are expressed in feet and show the depth at the plane of reference, (Harmonic Tide Plane for this region) This plane is 8.4 feet below Mean Sea Level - 3.5 feet below Mean Low Water - 13.2 feet below Mean High Water.

The plane of reference reads 1.2 feet on Camp April side Staff.
Mean rise and fall of tides = 9.7 feet

For description of Tide Staff - B.M.s., reduction of soundings etc. see Tide and Sounding records Prince William Sound - 1900.

The 18 foot curve is shown thus, _____
 " 60 " " " " " " } _____
 " 120 " " " " " " " } _____
 " 300 " " " " " " " } _____
 " 600 " " " " " " " } _____

The part of Cordova Bay shown on Hydrographic sheet 2501 is bounded on the north by the mainland and on the south by the northern shore of the western half of Hawkins Island.

The hydrography embraces that part of the bay which extends from Gravina and Makaka Points on the west, where it joins Hyd. sheet no. 2503, to Sheep Pt. and Windy Bay on the east where it joins Hyd. sheet no. 2328, it also takes in Sheep Bay, which is one of the northern arms of Cordova Bay extending inland in a northeasterly direction.

The distance between Makaka and Gravina Points is 6½ miles; midway in the stretch it is 6 miles, while at the eastern end the distance between Sheep Point and the opposite shore of the bay is only 2⅓ miles (naut.)

In the middle of the bay the depth of water over a large area ranges from 60 to 90 fathoms.

Close to the outlying rocks in front

of the rocky point forming the western extremity of Windy Bay and extending half way across towards Sheep Point the water is over 100 fathoms deep.

Northern shore of Cordova Bay from Point Gravina to Sheep Bay.

The distance in a straight line between Point Gravina and Sheep Pt. is seven miles.

From Point Gravina the shore takes an easterly direction for $1\frac{2}{3}$ miles; then it swings more to the northeastward for a little over 2 miles and continuing in the same general direction forms the northern shore of Sheep Bay, to the head.

The land contiguous to shore is mountainous; ^{the lower slopes densely wooded;} the shore in general rocky; the beach between high and low water line thickly strewn with boulders, many of them of ponderous size;

Point Gravina:

This point forms the eastern extremity of Gravina Bay.

The point is a low mountain spur terminating in a gravel spit with deep water close to shore at the end of the spit.

Inside of Gravina Bay and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles northwest of the point is a small wooded island with anchorage in 10 fathoms between the island and the point.

Sheep Bay:

Four miles east of Point Gravina is a bay extending inland about 7 miles.

The bay is locally known as Sheep Bay, deriving its name from the wild sheep (wild goats?) found on the mountains at the head of the bay.

At its mouth the bay is 3 miles wide gradually becoming narrower as you proceed towards the head.

Three miles from the mouth the width of the bay is a little over a mile; from here on and for about 2 miles

The distance between the eastern and western shore is approximately a mile, but several large and a numerous small islands nearly fill the bay in this stretch.

The remainder of the bay now narrows up rapidly until the head is reached where the width is only a few hundred yards.

The land on the northern side of the bay is high and rugged, rising rapidly from the shore to heights of from 2500 to 3500 feet.

The lower slopes are densely wooded; the higher ones generally bare.

To the eastward of the bay the land is somewhat lower, a neck of land from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 miles wide and terminating in Sheep Point separates the bay from Simpson Bay.

In the lower half of Sheep Bay the depth of water ranges from 40 fathoms in the middle to 10 fathoms close to shore on each side.

In the upper part of the bay a

circuitous channel having about 10 fathoms of water extends to within $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the head of the bay; from here on the water becomes gradually shallower.

The head of the bay terminates in mud and gravel flats.

Two mountain streams of considerable size here enter the bay.

The shore of the bay in general is very rocky with many small islands and rocks along shore and some distance out into the bay; here and there is a shingle beach but generally strown and fringed with boulders.

Numerous streams coming down the mountain sides, forming some fine waterfalls, enter the bay.

Near the head of the bay on the eastern side are a few Indian huts, used by them during the fishing seasons.

The steamers of the Orca and Odiak salmon canneries sometimes come to the head of the bay with seines when in want of salmon of the humpback

variety, which at times are found here in large numbers.

Three fourths of a mile to the eastward of the southern extremity of Sheep Pt. is a small low rocky islet with scant growth of trees, known as "Hanks Island."

$\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile S.E. (true) of this island is a rocky reef the highest part terminating in a pinnacle rock a few yards in diameter and having only $13\frac{1}{2}$ feet of water on it at low water.

The rock is known as Gatherer Rock from a ship by that name striking it.

The rock was buoyed by the party during the survey (1900) but since that time the buoy has disappeared and is no longer visible (1903).

Southern shore of Cordova Bay from Makaka Pt. to Windy Bay.

From Makaka Pt., (the northwestern extremity of Hawkins Island) to Windy Bay the trend of the shore is easterly, gradually swinging towards the northward.

In the western half of this stretch of 10 (naut.) miles the land is comparatively low, gradually rising to the south and southeastward.

Large areas of tundra meadows with occasional patches of coniferous trees are the conspicuous features of the landscape.

Along the shore numerous lagoons, usually fronted by a narrow sand or gravel barrier having a narrow opening, indent the land.

Canoe Passage: Midway between Makaka Pt and Windy Bay the shore is indented by a small bay in which are a number of islets and rocky reefs. The southern end of the bay connects with a narrow waterway extending across Hawkins Island to Orca Inlet. This waterway is locally known as the "Canoe Passage".

The distance across from Cordova Bay to Orca Inlet is about 4 miles.

The Orca Inlet end of the waterway is nearly filled up by a marsh meadow a mile long, the deep water on each

side being connected by a narrow tidal stream, which is navigable for skiffs and canoes at high stages of the tide.

Eastward from the entrance to Canoe Passage the high land of the island approaches nearer to the shore and in a number of places ends in rocky bluffs.

Here the land is more densely wooded than it is farther to the westward.

A number of small islands and rocky reefs are found near shore.

Several small bays and coves afford fair anchorage in this vicinity.

About 2 miles west of the western end of Windy Bay, the party, when surveying in this vicinity, camped at the western end (Camp April) of a bow shaped shingle spit.

The spit is $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile long, from 25 to 50 yards wide and connects with a small outlying island on the east and the shore on the west forming a small landlocked basin having a narrow entrance

at the eastern end.

The Str. Taku made use of this shelter (entering, ^{and leaving} at high tide) when the storm was from the northward; as a large part of the basin goes dry at low water the place was utilized when copper painting the hull of the steamer.

In the bay outside of the spit good anchorage was found a few hundred yards from shore.

Homer P. Ritter

Asst. Comdr. Survey.