

# 2562

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U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

*D. H. Tittmann*, Superintendent.

State: *Alaska*

## DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

*Hydrographic Sheet No. 2562*

LOCALITY:

*Icey Strait, S. E. Alaska  
Chatham Strait to  
Point Adolphus*

*1901*

CHIEF OF PARTY:

*E. F. Dickins*

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DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

HYDROGRAPHY

of

ICY STRAIT, S. E. ALASKA

from

CHATHAM STRAIT TO POINT ADOLPHUS

by the

Party in charge of E.F. Dickins, Assistant

Steamer Gedney

Begun July 13th 1901

Ended Sept: 28th 1901

Scale  $\frac{1}{40,000}$

Icy Strait is the Eastern portion of the Northernmost passage connecting the Pacific Ocean with the inland channels of South Eastern Alaska. The portion covered by this survey extends from the Western limit of the work executed by the party on the Steamer "Patterson" in 1890 at the junction of the Strait and Chatham Strait to Point Adolphus, a distance of about 25 miles. The Strait varies from 5 to 8 miles in width and the depth in the channel varies from 60 to 230 fathoms. The bottom is very irregular but generally free from dangers.

The Sisters are two, low, rocky, wooded islets, lying in about the middle of the Strait, S W by W, about 6 1-2 miles distant from Rocky Island, off Point Couverden. In approaching The Sisters from the Eastward or Westward they appear as three islands instead of two, on account of the grouping of the timber. The group is about 7-8 of a mile long in a N W and S E direction and the largest island is about 150 feet high. A rocky ledge which bares at low water extends about 1-8 of a mile off the North end of the island. There is a deep channel about 3 miles in width between the group and the North shore of the Strait.

Sisters Reef lies about 1 1-8 miles S W by W 3-8 W from the North end of The Sisters Islands and nearly on range with that point and Rocky Islet. This reef bares about half tide and shows as two separate heads. There is deep water between the reef and the islands.

Spasskaia, or Three Tree Island, as it is locally called, lies about 2 miles S by E 1-4 E from the South end of The Sisters, with a deep channel free from dangers between them. There is also a good channel about a mile wide between this island and the South

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shore of the Strait. The Island is small and rocky and divided into two parts at high water, is only about 30 feet high and is easily recognized by a clump of three small trees. The North shore of the Island is bold and free from dangers, but on the South side there is a rocky reef or ledge which bares about half tide and extends about 3-8 of a mile off shore. There are also two rocks to the Southward and Eastward which show at low water; one lies S E 1-2 E about 3-8 of a mile off and the other one E S E about 5-8 of a mile off the Island. It is not safe to approach this island nearer than half a mile on its South side.

The North shore of the Strait, from about a mile West of Swanson Harbor to abreast of the Porpoise Islands, a distance of about 11 miles, is quite bold and free from dangers, the 3 fathom curve being less than 1-4 of a mile off shore, except in a small cove abreast of The Sisters off which there are two rocks which bare at half tide. The outer one is about 1-4 of a mile S W of the yellow bluff at the East end of the cove.

Porpoise Islands are a group or cluster of four small islands lying on the North side of the Strait and in about the middle of the Eastern entrance to Icy Passage. The largest and most Southerly one is about 7-8 of a mile long by 3-8 of a mile wide, and about 400 feet high. The other islands are very much smaller. There is a white bluff or cliff on the South side of the largest island and a detached clump of trees on the narrow neck at the N W end of the Island. Between this group and the main shore to the Eastward there is a deep channel about 1 1-2 miles wide. The channel between the group and the East end of Pleasant Island is about the same width, but has not been examined and should be avoided.

There are two rocks which bare at low tide about 1-4 mile off the South shore of the largest island.

Pleasant Island is a large, heavily timbered island on the North side of Icy Strait. It is about 6 1-2 miles long by 3 1-2 miles wide, and the highest knoll or hill is about 880 feet in elevation. About 7-8 of a mile South of the middle of the island there is quite an extensive reef or shoal which is generally marked by kelp. The shoalest spot we found was 6 feet. There is a deep channel about 3-8 of a mile wide between the shoal and the island which may be used in case of thick weather when it is desirable to keep in touch with the shore, but it is safer to keep a mile and a half off the Island, which will clear all dangers.

Icy Passage is the channel to the North of Pleasant Island. It has not been examined yet. There are extensive flats making out from the North shore near its Western entrance, and the deepest water is along the Island shore.

Point Adolphus, at the Western limit of our season's work, is on the South side of Icy Strait and is the Northernmost point of Chichagof Island. It is quite bold and prominent, and heavily timbered, and rises to an elevation of 1900 feet about a mile back of the beach. The ice floes from Glacier Bay generally extend all the way across from Point Gustavus to Point Adolphus and make navigation dangerous in thick weather.

Pinta Cove is a small bight or cove about a mile to the Eastward of Point Adolphus. An anchorage can be obtained here in case of foggy weather, but it is not considered safe as it is entirely open to the Northward and often packed with ice. Anchor in the center of the cove about 1-4 mile off the beach in from 8 to 10 fathoms.

Flynn Cove is about 7 miles to the Eastward of Point Adolphus, and is about a mile in width by about 1-2 mile deep. In its mouth there is a small timbered islet and a rocky reef which bares at low tide. The anchorage is inside of these and is rather limited. There is a shoal which extends N W by N, about 300 yards from the West end of Burger Point. In entering from the Westward, after passing Eagle Point, follow the trend of the shore about 1-4 of a mile off, passing midway between the reef and the shore until the West end of Burger Point is abeam, and anchor in about the center of the bight in from 8 to 12 fathoms. In entering from the Northward and Eastward keep in mid-channel between Burger Point and the small timbered islet which lies about 3-8 of a mile to the Westward of the Point, until the East end of the cove is well open, and anchor in from 10 to 12 fathoms.

Hooniah Island is a rocky and heavily timbered island lying on the West side of the entrance to Port Frederick, about 11 miles to the Eastward of Point Adolphus and about 3-4 of a mile N N W 1-2 W from Crist Point. A reef with from 3 to 15 feet over it extends about 1-4 mile N W from the West end of the Island.

Scraggy Island is a small rocky islet about 35 feet high and sparsely timbered, lying on the West side of the entrance to Port Frederick, about 3-4 of a mile N E 3-4 N from Crist Point. About midway between Hooniah and Scraggy Island there is a rock which bares about half tide, with deep water around it.

Pinta Rock lies in the entrance to Port Frederick on range with Scraggy and Hooniah Islands, about 3-4 of a mile E by S 1-2 S from Scraggy Island. The least water we found on this rock was 9 feet. There is a deep channel about 1 3-4 miles in width between Pinta

Rock and Point Sophia which is the main entrance to Port Frederick.

Gedney Channel lies between Hooniah and Scraggy Islands and Crist Point. It is about 1-2 mile wide and free from dangers and can be used by vessels entering or leaving Port Frederick bound to or from the Westward. In entering this channel from the Westward, stand in about midway between Burger Point and Hooniah Island until the West tangents of Burger Point and Point Adolphus are on range, then steer E 1-4 S until the East tangent of Hooniah Island is abeam, then change course to E by S 1-4 S until the East end of Scraggy Island is abeam, then steer S E by S towards Inner Point.

Point Sophia is a bold timbered point on the East side of the entrance to Port Frederick. There are no dangers off this point and it can be kept close aboard. About 2 1-4 miles to the Eastward of this point there is a rocky reef or ledge which bares at low water. It lies about 5-8 of a mile E N E from the outer extremity of Neck Point.

Spasskaia Bay is on the South side of Icy Strait, about 3 miles Eastward of Point Sophia and about 2 miles South of Spasskaia Island. It is about 2 miles wide between the extreme points of the indentation and about a mile deep at its Western end. Pulizzi Island lies on the East Side of the Bay about 3-4 mile off shore. It is heavily timbered, and surrounded by rocky ledges. This end of the bay is rather shoal and foul, and the low water flats extend about 1-4 mile off shore. A shoal, marked by kelp, with 17 feet of water over it, lies about 1-2 mile E by N 1-2 N from Neck Point and about 3-4 mile N W by W 1-2 W from Pulizzi Island. An anchorage can be obtained in the West end of the bay, under Neck Point, in from 8 to 10 fathoms, but it is exposed to the Northward and

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Eastward. In entering from the Westward, keep Neck Point well  
aboard. In entering from the Eastward, keep about 1-4 mile off  
Pulizzi Island and steer E S E to anchorage.

Respectfully submitted  
S. I. Dickins, Lieut. C. & G. Survey  
Chief of Party