

2641

Diag. Cht. No. 6380-1

Form 504

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Type of Survey *Hydrographic*
Field No. Office No. *2641*

LOCALITY

State *Washington*
General locality *San Juan*
Locality *Channel Southern*
Entrance

1904

CHIEF OF PARTY

E. F. Watkins

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

O. H. Tiltmann

Superintendent.

State: *Washington*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Hydrographic Sheet No. *2641 bis*

LOCALITY:

San Juan Channel
Southern Entrance

190 *4*

CHIEF OF PARTY:

E. F. Dickins

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2641

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

HYDROGRAPHY

of

SAN JUAN CHANNEL,
SOUTHERN ENTRANCE,
WASHINGTON.

Scale 1/10,000

Steamer "Gedney"

E.F. Dickins, Assistant C & G. Survey
Commanding.

May 21st to 30th 1904.

The area covered by this sheet includes the approaches to the Southern Entrance of San Juan Channel, from Iceberg Point, Lopez Island on the East to Eagle Point, San Juan Island on the West and extending about 3 miles off shore, this sheet is not complete it being only intended to fill in and finish the work which was commenced in May 1903.

The Southern Entrance to San Juan Channel separates San Juan from Lopez Island and is about half a mile in width at its narrowest part. The water in the "Pass" as the narrow entrance is locally called is deep with no known dangers, the tidal currents have an estimated velocity of from 3 to 6 miles, with heavy swirls and tide rips which make it difficult to steer a compass course.

The Salmon Bank is quite an extensive shoal and the 10 fathom curve extends a little over 2 miles to the Southward of Cattle Point. The shoalest^{water} we found on the bank (18 feet) lies S. 1/2 W., magnetic, distant 1-3/8 miles from the Cattle Point Post Light. During the fishing season the bank is covered with Fish Traps.

A black spar buoy is placed near the outer end of this bank, in about 5 fathoms of water, and bears S 1/2 E., magnetic, distant 1-1/2 miles from the Cattle Point light.

White Rocks, a group of low bare rocks, are on the Eastern side of the main channel, about half a mile to the Westward of the Western end of Long Island, and 7/8 of a mile E. 3/4 N., magnetic, from Cattle Point. There is a shoal lying S by W., magnetic, about 3/4 of a mile distant from White Rocks, the least water we found on it was 4 fathoms.

In entering San Juan Channel, from the Southward, steer N. N. W., magnetic, for Cattle Point, until the rocky islets on the South side of Long Island are abeam, then steer so as to pass midway between Cattle Point and White Rocks and continue a mid-channel course through the

Descriptive Report, Hydrography, (2)

"Pass".

Small steamers and tugs often enter San Juan Channel by passing just to the Southward of Iceberg Point and standing in towards Richardson and turning to the Westward about midway between Round Rock and Richardson Point, then close along the Southern shore of Lopez Island, through Pearson Channel passing to the Northward of the Mummy Rocks and then entering the "Pass", "Norman Channel" is also used by small vessels but we would not advise a stranger to attempt either of these channels.

Richardson Landing is a regular calling place for the Mail Steamer, running from Seattle to Bellingham Bay, via San Juan Channel, it is also a supply depot for the fishing boats during the season, and is one of the principal shipping points for the ranchers on Lopez Island. The settlement consists of a General Merchandise Store and a few dwellings, and is connected by daily steamer with Seattle and all the principal ports on the Sound.

We found a good safe anchorage for all except Southerly weather, about a quarter of a mile off the Richardson Wharf and about midway between Round and Pearson Rocks, in from 4 to 6 fathoms, soft bottom. There is also good anchorage in Mackaye Harbor, in from 3 to 10 fathoms, soft bottom.

E. J. Dickins

Assistant C & G. Survey

Chief of Party.

← Castle Point

← Goose Is. & Bear Head is range

← West of Cape Horn Is.



SOUTH ENTRANCE, SAN JUAN CHANNEL,
Looking North through "Pass"

← *Thilo Rip Island*

← *Midle Roofs*

← *Goose Island*



*SOUTH ENTRANCE, SAN JUAN CHANNEL,
Looking South through the "Pass"*

Charles Island

Richardson Landing



Looking in towards Richardson Landing
from off Iceberg Point.

Charles Island

"Pearson Reef"

"Pearson Channel"

Old Battery, Harbor
entrance of Foul Bay

Richardson Landing



Looking West through "Pearson Channel"
from off Richardson Landing.

REPORT
on
HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET

NO. 2641.
San Juan Channel,
Southern Entrance,
Wash.
Assistant Dickins.
1903.

In this work the positions were well plotted and with a few exceptions the records were well kept.

The positions of the rock awash near 54m is shown by the records to be on the starboard side, but this is probably a mistake of the recorder as the change of course at this point would indicate that they had gone around the rock.

The island between 18k and 19k is on the port side instead of starboard, as the records show.

The line of piles south of Long Island could not be located from the data given.

H. L. Simons. (Signed).

EM

Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
Washington

2641

June 21, 1904.

Mr. Andrew Braid,

Assistant in charge of the Office.

Sir:

I forward herewith Hydrographic Sheet No. 2641,
"San Juan Channel, Southern Entrance, Wash.," by Assistant
Dickins in 1903, together with report on same. This sheet
is now ready for the approval of the Office, save that it
lacks the signature of the Chief of Party.

Respectfully,

Will Ward Duffield

Assistant and Chief, Drawing and Engraving Division.

* This sheet will not be ready for chart purposes until completed
by the addition of work done by Assistant Dickins this spring, the
sheets of which have not yet been received.

Work on Hyd. sheet 2641 ^{has} been
verified and transferred to 2641
G. L. A.

EM

Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
Washington

December 9, 1904.

Mr. Andrew Braid,

Assistant in charge of the Office.

Sir:-

I forward herewith Hydrographic Sheet No. 2641, "San Juan Channel, Southern Entrance, Wash.", by Assistant Dickins in 1903-4, together with report on 1904 work. The work of Assistant Dickins in 1904 has been transferred from Hydrographic Sheet 2641bis to this sheet and verified. This sheet is now ready for the approval of the Office, save that it lacks the signature of the Chief of Party.

Report on 1904 work.

All positions and soundings were transferred by minutes; also the signal positions that were new to the 1904 season. While the 1904 survey gives an additional and better development for the shoals, it is very probable that there is even less water than is shown. The bottom is covered with boulders, therefore only a drag will give the least water with certainty. This applies to all detached shoals shown by the 10 fathom curve. No mention is made of reefs on the shoals in the 1904 records.

F.C.Donn. (Signed).

Respectfully,

Walter Wood Beffield

Assistant and Chief, Drawing and Engraving Division.

