

2658

Diag. Cht. No. 8551-1

Form 504

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Type of Survey *Hydrographic*  
Field No. .... Office No. *2658*

LOCALITY

State *Alaska*  
General locality *Prince William*  
Locality *Sound*

1903

CHIEF OF PARTY

*H. P. Ritter*

LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

DATE .....

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

*O. H. Tilkemann*  
Superintendent.

State: *Alaska.*

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MAR 4 - 1904  
No. No. *2658*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

*Hydrographic* Sheet No. *2658*

LOCALITY:

*Prince William Sound*

*Fidalgo Arm Entrance.*

1903

CHIEF OF PARTY:

*H. P. Ritter.*

2658

Post-Office Address:

Telegraphic Address:

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Department of Commerce and Labor  
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

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Washington, D.C.  
March 3, 1904

Library and Archives

Descriptive Report  
to accompany  
Hydrographic Sheet  
no. 2658

Homir P. Ritter  
Asst. C. & G. Survey

Title:

Department of Commerce and Labor

Coast and Geodetic Survey

O.H. Tittmann, Superintendent.

Prince William Sound

Fidalgo Arm Entrance

Alaska

Surveyed by H.P. Ritter Asst. Chief of Party.  
June 10 to Sept. 12 1903.

Scale  $\frac{1}{20000}$

Register no. 2658.

## Notes:

Soundings are expressed in feet to the 18 ft curve, beyond in fathoms, and show the depth at the mean of the Lower Low Waters.

The 6 foot curve is shown thus — (green)  
 " 12 " " " " " — (carmine)  
 " 18 " " " " " — (blue)  
 " 10 fath. " " " " — (scarlet)  
 " 20 " " " " " — (yellow)  
 " 50 " " " " " — (purple)  
 " 100 " " " " " — (carmine)

Tides ..... Snug Corner Cove .....

Mean lower low water or plane of reference on staff	3.72 feet
mean high water " "	14.85 "
" low " " " "	5.13 "
Lowest tide observed " "	1.10 "
Highest " " " " "	18.80 "
Mean rise and fall of tides	9.72 "

Positions plotted by Homer O. Ritter  
 Soundings " " H. L. Simons

# Statistics for Steam Launch

Totals: 2629 Angles - 5137 Soundings - 292.1 Miles -

Sq. Miles.

Date 1903	Letter	Volume	Vessel
June 10	a	1	Steam Launch 28
" 11	b	1	"
" 12	c	1	"
" 13	d	1	"
" 16	e	1	"
" 17	f	2	"
" 18	g	2	"
" 20	i	2	"
" 23	k	2	"
" 24	l	3	"
" 26	m	3	"
" 27	n	3	"
" 29	o	3	"
" 30	p	3	"
July 3	q	4	"
" 9	r	4	"
" 10	s	4	"
" 16	t	4	"
" 18	u	4	"
" 21	w	4	"
" 22	x	5	"
" 23	y	5	"
" 24	z	5	"
" 29	3'	5	"
" 31	d'	5	"
Aug 7	e'	5	"
" 8	f'	5	"
" 10	g'	6	"
Sept. 4	h'	7	"
" 11	i'	7	"
" 12	r'	7	"

The hydrography shown on Hydrographic Sheet no. 2658 extends along the eastern side of Prince William Sound, from the southern end of Bligh Island, where it joins the hydrography executed during the previous season (Hyd. sheet 2628); across and including the entrance to Fidalgo Arm, and thence to Knowles Head where it joins Hyd. Sheet no. 2503.

The soundings extend from shore out to the deep (200 fathoms or more) water of the Sound.

The area sounded also includes "Inug Corner Cove" and the waterway between the mainland in the vicinity of Knowles Head, and Goose Island, and that part of Fidalgo Arm extending from the entrance inland for about 8 nautical miles, where it joins Hyd. Sheet no. 2663.

Knowles Head:

Knowles Head is the southwestern extremity of the mountainous range separating Fidalgo Arm on the north from Cordova and Gravina Bays on the south.

The head was named after Capt. Knowles (now deceased), one of the principal owners of the "Arctic Works", and "Pacific Steam Whaling Co." and engaged in the Salmon Cannery Industry in this vicinity some years ago.

The seaward face of the head is steep and bold, rising from the waters edge to an elevation of over 1500 feet.

It is densely wooded with spruce and hemlock from the waters edge to the top. On the face of the bluff a conspicuous land slide starting from near the top and reaching to the bottom has stripped off the timber, exposing the rock which is of a grayish yellow color.

This slide is very prominent and



is often a guide to the mariner in recognizing the Head in thick weather.

Knowles Head is one of the principal points looked for by the mariner on entering Prince William Sound.

The shore in the vicinity of the Head is very rocky with numerous exposed and submerged rocks close to shore.

Outside of this rocky belt there is a good depth of water which gradually increases as you leave land.

When wind and tide are favorable it sometimes gets very rough in this vicinity.

### Knowles Head to Porcupine Pt.

Going northward from Knowles Head the general direction of the shore is northwesterly for about 5 miles when it makes a sharp turn to the eastward, forming what is known as Porcupine Pt.

One mile to the westward of the middle of this stretch is

a small island known as  
Goose Island

The channelway between the mainland and the island has in the middle a rocky islet and connecting reef known as Gull Isd.

Between Gull Isd. and Goose Isd. the best water is found.

To the eastward of Gull Isd. and all along the shore of the mainland and a considerable distance from shore are numerous submerged rocks and reefs.

The land contiguous to the shore of the mainland after leaving the immediate vicinity of Knowles Head is low and consists of tundra meadows with occasional patches of conifers. The beach consists of gravel, shingle and boulders.

As you approach Porcupine Pt. the land again becomes high and densely wooded with rocky shore and beach.

Goose Island:

Goose Island is a small island  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles long and  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile wide. The highest part of the island is about 320 feet.

Its northern end is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles southwest of Porcupine Pt.

The general direction of the island is parallel to the shore of the adjacent mainland.

The island is heavily wooded with the usual spruce timber.

The shore is rocky with the exception of a sandspit and shingle beach near the northeastern end; here are several dwellings, bathhouses and foxhouses. A settler and his family reside here and are engaged in raising foxes, the island having <sup>been</sup> stocked by him with the so-called blue foxes.

Depths of water and other characteristic features are shown on the sheet.

Inug Corner Cove:-

Between Porcupine Pt. and a sharp point of land 3 miles to the eastward is a triangular shaped bay extending inland for a distance of 3 miles.

This bay is known as "Inug Corner Cove", which name was given it by Captain Cook in 1778 when he discovered and named Prince William Sound.

At the extreme head of the bay and on the eastern side there are shallows, rocks and rocky reefs, while deeper water is found in the middle and on the western side.

Two miles from Porcupine Pt. was the camping ground of the party in 1901 and 1903.

In front of the camping ground a good anchorage was found and was used by the Str. Taku during the Survey in this vicinity. The Coast & G. Survey Str. Patterson anchored here one night in the latter part of September 1903.

The bay, with the exception at Porcupine Pt. is surrounded by a strip of low land,  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile wide, covered with tundra meadows, bogs and a few spruce and hemlock.

The low land generally extends to the foot of the steep mountain slopes which are mostly covered with spruce.

At the head of the bay a low valley with steep sides extends all the way through to the Sound just east of Knowles Head. Midway in the valley a low divide (about 100 ft. in elevation) separates the drainage.

Another low depression extends from the Camp anchorage towards the westward into the narrow waterway just east of Goose Island.

Porcupine Pt. is a rounded wooded bluff between 8 and 9 hundred ft. high with a rocky shore and having submerged rocks some distance beyond the extreme northern end of the Point. These rocks should be looked for and avoided when

coming from the westward and making for Inug Corner Cove; the long steamers of kelp which cover them can usually be seen, though storm waves occasionally tear them off.

Considerable timber was being cut on the shores of the bay during 1902 and 1903. The logs were rafted and towed to Valdez.

During our stay at Inug Corner Cove plenty of Codfish could be caught in the bay at all times.

Ducks, geese and grouse were plentiful; also a number of bears were seen, one of which was killed by a member of the party.

### Fidalgo Arm Entrance:

The part of Fidalgo Arm shown on the sheet extends from the entrance inland for about 8 miles.

The southern shore of Bligh Island and part of the mainland here form the northern boundary, while a

comparatively narrow and mountainous neck of the mainland forms the southern boundary of the Arm.

The southern entrance to Tatitlack Narrows and Landlocked Bay connect with the Arm on the north, while Inug Corner Cove and Bowie Bay indent the south shore of the Arm.

The general direction of the Arm is east and west. At the entrance the Arm is about 5 miles wide, gradually becoming narrower as you go inland.

Deep water in the middle and extending close to shore on either side is found in this stretch.

### Southern Shore of Bligh Island:

The southern side of Bligh Island; with the exception of a short valley extending inland in the vicinity of the western end of the island, is bold and precipitous.

The shore is rocky with numerous exposed and submerged rocks close to shore, but outside of this rocky belt there is a good depth of water which rapidly increases as you leave land.

Close to the rocky shore at the southwestern extremity of the island is a fine locality for catching black bass.

Homer J. Ritter

asst. C. S. Surry.



Report  
on  
Hydrographic Sheet  
No. 2658,  
Prince William Sound,  
Fidalgo Arm Entrance,  
Alaska,  
Assistant Ritter,  
1903.

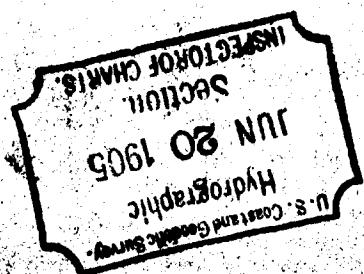
The soundings should have been plotted in fathoms only,  
not fathoms and feet.

The original record when in pencil should not be inked  
over subsequently. Though once the practice in the Survey,  
it was discontinued about a generation ago for obvious and  
very excellent reasons.

The system of lines for inshore work and details is not  
well chosen, and few of the shoal spots, ridges and indica-  
tions were developed as they required.

6/5/05.

J.T. Watkins.



Hydro 2658

Title:

Department of Commerce and Labor.

Coast and Geodetic Survey.

O. H. Tittmann, Supt.

Prince William Sound

Fidalgo Arm Entrance <sup>vicinity</sup>  
Prince William Sound,  
Alaska.

Surveyed by Homer O. Ritter, Assistant, Chief of Party.

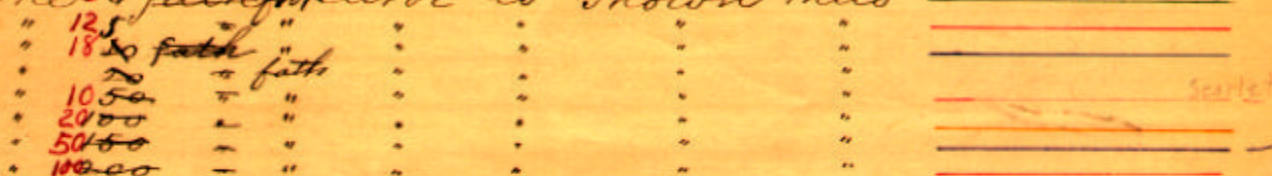
1903.

Scale  $\frac{1}{20000}$ .

Notes:

The soundings are expressed in fathoms and show the depth at the mean of the Lower Low Waters.

The ~~63~~ fathoms curve is shown thus



Tides: Snug Corner Cove Tide Gauge.

mean High Water on tide staff	14.85 ft
" Low " " "	5.13 "
" Lower Low Water " " "	3.72 "
Highest tide observed " " "	18.80 "
Lowest " " " "	1.10 "
Mean rise and fall of tide	9.72 "

Positions plotted by Homer O. Ritter

Sigs " " " H. L. Simmons

Verified J. W. Williams  
6-5-05

Soundings are expressed in feet to  
the 18 ft cuiver, beyond in fathoms, and  
show the depth at the mean of the  
Low-Low State, the plane of mean sea.

# Statistics

Date 1903.	Letter	Number of				Vessel
		Vol. No.	Angles	Sounding	Miles Geog.	
June 10	a	1	73	286	6.2	Steam Launch 28.
" 11	b	1	91	308	11.1	"
" 12	c	1	87	172	13.0	"
" 13	d	1	108	254	12.6	"
" 16	e	1	75	119	10.8	"
" 17	f	2	117	148	13.3	"
" 18	g	2	47	61	6.6	"
" 20	h	2	89	140	12.2	"
" 23	i	2	99	450	8.6	"
" 24	j	3	94	110	11.1	"
" 26	k	3	90	187	9.6	"
" 27	l	3	115	174	11.9	"
" 29	m	3	55	95	5.7	"
" 30	n	3	78	118	6.8	"
July 3	o	4	131	179	12.1	"
" 9	p	4	79	96	10.2	"
" 10	q	4	99	300	10.9	"
" 16	r	4	112	257	13.5	"
" 18	s	4	109	164	13.2	"
" 21	t	4	124	216	14.7	"
" 22	u	5	80	171	10.0	"
" 23	v	5	97	190	9.4	"
" 24	w	5	81	133	9.1	"
" 29	x	5	68	131	11.5	"
" 31	y	5	20	46	4.1	"
Aug. 7	z	5	57	140	10.0	"
" 8	a'	5	53	163	7.8	"
" 10	b'	6	85	221	12.1	"
Sept. 4	c'	7	76	38	1.0	"
" 11	d'	7	82	41	2.0	"
" 12	e'	7	58	29	1.0	"
<b>Total</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>2629</b>	<b>5137</b>	<b>292.1</b>	<b>□ Miles</b>

Bligh Island

Copper Point  
Landlocked Bay

Fidalgo Arm

Prince William Sound



Diagram of Names on sheet

Department of Commerce and Labor

The records of this work were not well kept especially the time of soundings. At several places the same time is given with different soundings making it impossible to determine the exact position of the soundings.

A. L. Simmons