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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.
~~ASST. IN CHARGE, Department~~
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

O. H. Tittmann,
Superintendent.

State: *Porto Rico*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Hydrographic Sheet No. 2686

LOCALITY:

Boqueron Bay
West Coast of
Porto Rico.

CHIEF OF PARTY:
J. C. Lander, Asst.

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DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Hydrography of Boqueron Bay, West Coast of Porto Rico.

The hydrography covers the bay and adjoining coast, out to the channel dragged by the Steamer Bache, special attention being given to the limits of the reef across the entrance of the bay and the two channels through it.

The northern channel, about 250 meters off Point Guaniquilla carries 4 fathoms of water with a width of 150 meters. The channel would be about 300 meters wide but for a shoal, about 350 meters from the point, on which 21 ft. was the least water obtained. There is also a channel about 120 meters wide between this shoal and the main reef. The main channel is easily followed by noting the color of the water, and by reason of its nearness to the point.

The south channel is 1-1/4 miles (nautical) south of this and 3/4 of a mile from the south shore of the bay. This channel carries six fathoms in the center and 5 fathoms for a width of about 300 meters, shoaling rapidly on both sides to 2 fathoms. Being so far off shore this channel is not easily followed without buoys.

The reef is bare at low water where the signal in the middle of the entrance was located, and at other places contains coral rocks only slightly covered: Where not rocky, on the sides of the reef, the bottom is partly sandy and partly grassy. The sandy places form holes about 1 or 2 feet deeper than the adjoining grassy parts. The soundings are thus very irregular. The edges of the reef are steep, especially on

the outside.

The reef from the south channel to the point on the south side of the bay is of similar construction with many exposed or slightly covered coral rocks.

Inside the reef is a good harbor with 5 fathoms of water over an area about 1-1/2 by 1/2 miles. The bottom is sticky and good holding ground. The winds in the bay are variable but are mostly easterly and are strongest afternoon. The sea inside is thus merely local and the reef affords protection from any westerly weather.

There is a small shoal about 1 mile east of the south channel and 3/8 of a mile from the small dock at the salt ponds on the south shore of the bay. 8-3/4 feet was the least water obtained on this shoal.

The north shore of the bay is fringed with coral rocks outside of the mangroves, to near the head of the bay where it becomes muddy shoals. There is also a rocky spot near the middle of the head of the bay. There is a shoal off the entrance to the salt ponds at the southeast corner of the bay, and along the south shore to near the point ~~to~~ where the reef extends northward, the bottom is mostly sandy and grassy. The coast south of Melones Point is also mostly sandy and grassy. There is a shoal of considerable size extending out from Point Moja Casabe. This is limited by breakers when there is any considerable sea. There is considerable tidal current through the channels and north or south along the outside of the reef.

Respectfully submitted,

J. C. Lawless
And Co. J. S. - Chief of Party.

Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
Washington

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November 21, 1904.

Mr. Andrew Braid,

Assistant in charge of the Office.

Sir:-

I forward herewith Hydrographic Sheet No. 2686, "Bequeron Bay, P. R.", by Aid Landers in 1904, 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.

Report.

The lines cross well, the ground is well covered and the bars are well developed. The shoal east of the Main Entrance, about one mile, shows a least depth of 8-3/4 ft., while a note in sounding book gives a depth of 6 ft. as the least water on shoal. This note at pos. 113-0 day, is = "Least water on shoal about 6 ft". As no way of locating this depth is given a note is made of the sounding book remark, on the sheet.

F. C. Donn. (Signed).

Respectfully,

Assistant and Chief, Drawing and Engraving Division.