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Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

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DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Hydrographic Sheet No. *2930^a*

LOCALITY:

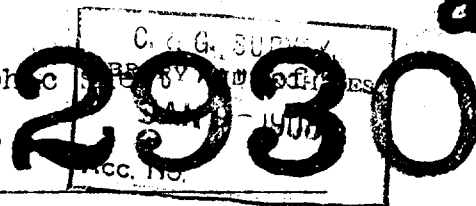
Seldovia Harbor

1908

CHIEF OF PARTY:

H. W. Rhodes

Descriptive Report to accompany Hydrographic
Seldovia Harbor, Alaska. Scale:1/10 000



A hydrographic reconnoissance of the entrance to Seldovia Harbor begun in 1906 and completed in 1907 has already been sent to the Office. During the season of 1908 the survey was extended to cover the whole harbor and as the tide reductions for the former work had been unsatisfactory, the lines covering the entrance have been rerun.

a) Description of shore line.

The shore line to the Southwest of Seldovia Harbor consists of low heavily wooded bluffs and foot hills fronting the higher mountains which rise to elevations of 2000 feet about two miles inland. There are a few detached rocks near the more prominent points but none far enough off to be dangerous to navigation. Kelp grows thickly on all the rocky points and has been observed more than 3/4 mile off shore and in depths greater than 10 fathoms. To the Northeastward the shore line is more irregular and broken, with a series of bluffs and wooded hills averaging from 200 to 400 feet in height fronting the higher mountains which, a few miles inland, rise to heights of from 4000 to 5000 feet.

b) Landmarks.

There are no prominent landmarks for the harbor when coming from the South'ard and stranger frequently cannot distinguish the entrance until well up to it. Seldovia Head, a precipitous bluff 200 feet high and wooded on top, lying at the N.E. point of the entrance is the most prominent mark at a distance,

but it is not unlike other bluffs further up the coast. West Head, 120 feet high and wooded, with a long stretch of low ground inside of it, is the most conspicuous landmark when approaching from the South westward, and at a distance of not more than six miles away.

c) Outlying dangers.

Excepting the three fathom shoal lying about 500 meters N.E. of West Head, there are no known dangers in the approach to the harbor. "Kelp Rock" (bare 7 feet at L.L.W.) lying on the East side of the channel $1/2$ the distance from the entrance to Watch Point, and "Portland Rock" with fourteen feet over it, lying about 175 meters S.E. ly from Watch Point, are the only known dangers in the entrance.

d) Sailing Directions.

Sailing direction for entering the harbor have already been furnished.

e) Anchorage.

The best anchorage is in 6 or 8 fathoms about 500 meters S.W. of the wharf with good shelter.

f) Fresh Water.

Fresh water can now be obtained at the wharf, piped from a tank reservoir with a capacity of about 4500 gallons. This tank is filled by a ram in about six hours time.

g) Survey Methods.

The shore line and position of the signals are from a plane table survey of the harbor, which in turn was based on a plane table triangulation from a telemeter base. The magnetic

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meridian was established from compass declinometer observations in 1907, on a line between two of the plane table stations. Tides were observed from April 30th. to October 8th. by an automatic gauge mounted on the wharf and all tidal data are from these observations.

Respectfully submitted,

H. W. Rhodes.

Assistant C. & G. Survey,

Commanding U. S. S. "McArthur".

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The harbor has been very well covered by the general system; but the development of shoal features is insufficient. Lines should have been run more closely over the channel at the mouth of the harbor between signals Green and Box.

The speed was excessive for whale boat work and the time interval was too short for the speed and depth. Two lines were found out of place while other positions had been protracted poorly. The time record at the beginning and ending of lines was not clear.

R. L. Johnston

Draftsman
3/27/09

Verified:

J. W.

4-7-09