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Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

A. H. Littmann
Superintendent.

State: *Virginia*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Hyd *3002* *3002*
3002 Sheet No. *3002a*

LOCALITY:

*Rappahannock River,
Chesapeake Bay, Va.*

1909

CHIEF OF PARTY:

A. W. Ferguson

3002 3002a

E. A. Bohr, Assistant
3002 & 3002^a

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,

COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY,

O. H. TITMANN, Superintendent.

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COAST AND
GEODETIC SURVEY

SEP 10 1909

REFERRED TO:

Resurvey of the Chesapeake Bay, Virginia.

Revision Of The Rappahannock River,
TITLE SHEET.

Descriptive Report of Hydrographic Sheets Nos. ~~2869 & 2870~~ *3002 + 3002^a*

Western Shore Chesapeake Bay, between

Latitude 37° 35' to 37° 40' N.

Longitude 76° 14' to 76° 32' W.

SCALE 1:20000.

From June 1, 1909 to August 9, 1909.

SCHOONER "MATCHLESS".

O. W. Ferguson, Assistant, C. & G. S. In Command.

OBSERVERS.

James E. Marsh, Mate, John W. Clift, Chief Writer,

C. P. Holland, C. B. M.

RECORDERS.

John W. Clift, Chief Writer; H. W. Godsey, W. 2cl.

LEADSMEN.

C. P. Holland, C. B. M.; B. E. Powell & A. C. Pinder, Seamen.

TIDE OBSERVERS.

C. P. Holland; C. B. M.; W. W. Holland & J. B. Ireland, Seamen.

POST-OFFICE ADDRESS: TAPPAHANNOCK, VA.,

TELEGRAPH ADDRESS:

EXPRESS OFFICE:

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND NAVY
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY, SCHOONER "MATCHLESS",

TAPPAHANNOCK, VA., SEPTEMBER 4, 1909.

Mr. O. H. Titmann,
Superintendent, C. & G. Survey,
Washington, D. C.

3002 + 3002

Sir:-

I have the honor to make the following Descriptive Report for Sheets ~~2860~~ and ~~2870~~, Register Nos., being the revision of Hydrography on that portion of the Rappahannock River included on the Topographic sheets by Stehman Forney, Assistant, covering the River from its mouth to Beach Point a distance of 19 miles.

2. The soundings were plotted, first on boat sheet and then on the Bromide sheets of Mr. Forneys for smooth sheets.
3. No work was done on the topography of this section, it having been done recently.
4. The development of the bars at the mouth of the river were made only sufficient to verify the published charts as a complete survey was made recently.
5. The system of transverse lines, a mile apart, was followed as directed in the instructions, and then the bars were developed which seemed to require more work- as, Mosquite Point, the shoal extending around Parrot Island and Grey Point, Shoal off Tolls Point and some special attention to Gerotoman River.

6. The control of this work was furnished by points located on the topographic sheets.

7. A list of the hydrographic signals used is supplied with this report and all are located in proper places and names written in red ink on the smooth sheets.

8. Near the mouth the ground is generally low and sandy and cut up a great deal with sloughs, farther up the river it becomes higher and rolling.

9. The steamboat landings on this stretch are WESTLAND,
 NORTH END, ———> MILL CREEK, ———> WHITE STONE,
 IRVINGTON, WEEMS, MILLENBECK,
 MERRY POINT, OTTOMAN, MORANS, *and*
 BURHANS.

10. The villages of importance are Irvington and Weems. Farming is generally carried on, the products being a few cattle, chickens, turkeys, wheat, corn, peas, tomatoes and general trucking, also Oystering and Fishing in their seasons. At West Irvington there is a factory making fertilizer out of the fishes taken out of the river and Bay in Purse Nets. One fish is counted 22 cubic inches. It may take ~~take~~ six or seven fish actually to make up this cubic count term. The Purse fishing season lasts from 1st. of May to the last of October. This year the fishes taken have been small—about 4 cubic inches to a fish. There are about a dozen of these factories stationed at different points on the lower part of the Bay and this year there are 44 steamers, termed Menhaden Fishermen, about 70 to 80 tons, net, and a good number of small sail vessels engaged in the same business. A steamer will take from

The 2,320,000,000 fishes will make
about 1,000,000 tons of the (quite)
dried fish chum
or fertilizer, worth
this year \$32 a ton
say 30.

(23200 of the small
fish to the ton
which is about
correct.

\$3,000,000. = Gross proceeds.

about \$1,000,000 = Net-profit to Co's

The fertilizer companies that buy
this "Chum" - ammonia use not
over 1/5 weight of this in their com-
mercial fertilizers which sell at
about \$22 a ton with a large impudence
of phosphate rock etc combined which
is bought @ \$6 a ton

So their profits on the fish chum
alone is perhaps \$3,000,000 net.

O. M. Ferguson.

7 to 14 million fish a year, averaging about 10 millions.

For the 44 vessels engaged this year 440,000,000

Adding for sail vessels	140,000,000
	680

It will require on an average	320
four fish to make a count of 1 fish	2,168,000,000 fish

taken out annually. These are mostly of the Bunker variety of fish, also called Porgie and "Olewife". They are of sporting habits, a cleanly fish with light scales, going in great shoals near the surface a great deal of the time. They are without doubt a good food fish, though like the herring, very bony and the larger ones quite oily. Some people say they like them as well as any fish. It would seem that such enormous catches would deplete the supply.

11. Good artesian water is found in flowing supply among these shores and it has been our constant supply for both the ship and launch. The shores of this river seem to be neither emerging or subsiding, but there is no doubt that the river is slowly growing wider. This has been going on since remote ages but more rapidly since the forests have been cut away.

SAILING DIRECTIONS.

The entrance at the mouth is without difficulty-governed by Windmill Pt. and Stingray Pt. Light Houses, which are 3.1 miles apart, and the center of channel is 1.1 mile from Windmill Point Lt. 30 feet of water can be carried at the entrance and over the entire length of these sheets.

Respectfully yours,

O. W. Ferguson.

Assistant, C. & G. Survey, Commanding.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

POST OFFICE ADDRESS:

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3002 & 3002^a

Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

SCHOONER "MATCHLESS",

TAPPAHANNOCK, VA., SEPT. 4, 1909.

3002 + 3002^a

LIST OF NAMES OF HYDROGRAPHIC SIGNALS USED ON SHEETS

~~2869~~ AND ~~2870~~ RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER, VA.

NORTH SHORE

SOUTH SHORE

BLAKE

BOX

RAY

TOL

GAB

STING

HOW

IT

NORTH

WATCH

CREEK

CON

BECK

ROUND

NO

MAN

TON

BELL

BATH

OR

MILL

SIG

BLACK

WOOD

RED

CUP

LIT

BARN

HOL

PAR

WIND

WHITE

ADAM

END

CHER

GREY

LED

STONE

BER

NEW

HOT

GRIN

DARK

MOS

YEL

FISH

POINT

RAP

OUT

NOB

THESE LOCATIONS ARE ALL BY PLANE TABLE

Statistics for Hyd Sheets 3002 + 3002^a
 Department of Commerce and Labor

Statistics for Hyd sheet 3002

<i>Date</i>	<i>Letter</i>	<i>Volume</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Soundings</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Vessel</i>
<i>June 3, 1909</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>188</i>	<i>6.1</i>	<i>Steam Launch</i>
<i>" 7, "</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>638</i>	<i>23.2</i>	<i>" "</i>
<i>July 27, "</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>2.5</i>	<i>" "</i>
<i>Totals</i>		<i>2</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>916</i>	<i>31.8</i>	

Statistics for Hyd Sheet 3002^a

<i>Date</i>	<i>Letter</i>	<i>Volume</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Soundings</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Vessel</i>
<i>June 2, 1909.</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>523</i>	<i>17.2</i>	<i>Steam Launch</i>
<i>" 3, "</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>113</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>" "</i>
<i>" 5, "</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>151</i>	<i>5.4</i>	<i>" "</i>
<i>July 27, "</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>5.0</i>	<i>" "</i>
<i>August 9, "</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>261</i>	<i>7.9</i>	<i>" "</i>
<i>Totals</i>		<i>2</i>	<i>175</i>	<i>1248</i>	<i>39.5</i>	

Recapitulation

<i>Sheet</i>	<i>Letters</i>	<i>Volumes</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Soundings</i>	<i>Miles</i>	
<i>Hyd. 3002</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>916</i>	<i>31.8</i>	
<i>Hyd 3002^a</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>175</i>	<i>1248</i>	<i>39.5</i>	
<i>Hyd 3002 + 3002^a</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>303</i>	<i>2164</i>	<i>71.3</i>	<i>Totals of both sheets</i>