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Department of Commerce and Labor  
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

*O. K. Wittmann*  
Superintendent.

State: *Alaska*

## DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

*H* Sheet No. *3019*

LOCALITY:

*Controller Bay -  
Okalee Spit and  
Wingham Islands.*

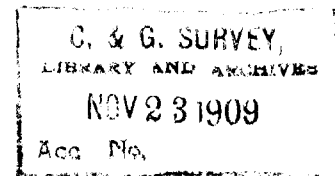
*1909*

CHIEF OF PARTY:

*H. C. Benson*

3019

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Department of Commerce and Labor  
Coast and Geodetic Survey  
O. H. Tittmann, Superintendent

Descriptive Report  
to accompany  
Hydrographic Sheet of  
South of Okalee Spit  
and  
East of Wingham Island  
Controller Bay, Alaska  
Season 1909  
Paul C. Whitney, Assistant  
Hydrographer  
H. C. Denson, Assistant  
Chief of Party  
U.S. C. & G.S. Str. Patterson  
Field Sheet "F"

This sheet includes the water of Controller Bay, Alaska, east of Wingham Island, and the approach to the Bay, south of Okalee Spit. The locations of signals depend upon triangulation executed this year, based upon the work of 1903 and 1906.

Approach to Controller Bay, south of Okalee Spit

This entrance is of very little value for anything but small boats, on account of shoal depths north of Kayak Island, which blocks any exit north of Wingham Island. The bottom southeast of "Northeast Rock" is very lumpy and there may exist pinnacles which have less depths than shown on this survey. A diagonal system was run across the north and south lines to more fully develop this doubtful locality. There is a dangerous rock three miles south of signal Late, which bares about two feet at lower low water. The large group of rocks in the entrance are high, the highest point being about seventy-five feet, and are very prominent. They can be seen many miles out to sea, affording an early landmark for coming up, to round them. The group is connected by rocky ledges, bare at Low Water and breakers extend about two hundred fifty meters off "Mid" in a westerly direction. This group should be given a berth of at least one-third of a mile, <sup>to the northeastward.</sup> owing to the uncertainty of the presence of pinnacles.

Extending off the Northeast Point of Kayak Island there is a rocky reef which at low water uncovers. Between this reef and Northeast Rocks the bottom is foul and lumpy and it is not recommended. The shore line at the Northeast Point is receding rapidly. The bight between signal Bert and signal Cut is unimportant and a heavy sea sometimes piles in, with breakers extending well out. During a violent storm with low tide, the breakers probably extend completely across to Northeast Rocks. The rock off signal Cut is well inshore and offers no danger as it is well out of the track for entering south of the spit.

North of a line between Cut and Northeast Rocks the bottom becomes sandy, with very even soundings, and no indications of lumps. As a whole the bottom south of the Spit slopes off very gradually to the southern limits of the survey.

East of Wingham Island and North of Kayak Island.

This area is generally shoal, with very even soundings. Going west the water becomes shoaler until a line is reached between the north end of the small spit and the west end of Okalee Spit, when the soundings deepen. There is an extensive shoal which bares at lower low water, west northwest of Okalee Spit. <sup>distant 1 mile</sup> Sextant angles were obtained on the southern edge of it. This shoal extends to Okalee Channel.

Between the shoal northeast of signal Wing, distant one and one-half miles and the large shoal on which signal Hum is located there is a small boat channel which can be advantageously used by small boats making a run from Okalee Channel, southward, when the stage of the tide will not permit of running across the flats. This saves going around the western shoal, thereby avoiding the tide rips off the point of Wingham Island. Four feet may be carried through at low water. To enter this channel from Okalee Channel bring the western tree line of Kanak Island in range with the middle of three peaks in the front range of mountains back of Point Hey and steer S.E. x S. 1/2 S. (mag).

Immediately east of Wingham Island, making around the north point of the Island there is a deep but narrow channel. This channel follows the trend of the shore-line, but decreases in depth to the southward.

The eastern shoreline of Wingham Island is generally wooded to the high water line, and has a rather steep beach. At the north end, however, it consists of a bold bluff with deep soundings close in.

The area east of the small spit making north from Kayak Island bares at low water. The salt water lagoon bares about two hours after high water. There is a good stream here where fresh water may be obtained at high water.

Tides. In the entrance south of the spit the tidal current runs ~~west~~ with an ebb tide and <sup>east</sup> ~~in~~ with the flood. The velocity does not exceed two knots. In the area east of Wingham Island

*Whitney says these are reversed, N.C.*

there is very little current excepting near the northern end of the island where it ~~ma~~es round the point with considerable velocity.

There is some local chop in the Bay with a strong wind, but no outside swell comes in. There are heavy breakers on the shoal northeast of Wingham Island and at low water the first breaker line makes well to the westward as shown on Chart 8513. There is no swell coming in the entrance south of Okalee Spit or in the entrance south of Wingham Island.

Weather. During the summer observations were made for temperature, pressure, and state of wind and weather every hour. these observations may be found in the tide books. The prevailing winds were east northeast to east. The barometer was of no value for forecasting weather conditions. Heavy easterly gales would blow on a rising or falling barometer, a high steady, and a low. The finest weather during the season was accompanied by a rapid fall to the lowest reading of the summer. Gales of force ten were experienced several times during the season. Westerly winds blew light to moderate and of short duration. These were infrequent. Fog was present only one or twice and cleared off before noon.

NOV 24 1909

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STATISTICS FOR HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET F.

Date 1909	Volume	Let- ter	Miles	Sound- ings	Posi- tions	Vessel
June 10	I-Reynard	a	6 3/4	226	52	Alpha
June 11	I	b	4	222	43	"
June 12	I	c	19	697	151	"
June 26	II-D	h	4	157	35	"
July 6	IV-D	m	8 1/4	389	61	"
July 7	IV-D	n	10 1/4	462	84	"
July 9	II	o	33	989	191	"
July 13	II	p	31 1/4	965	163	"
July 14	III	q	32 1/4	875	147	"
July 15	III	r	16	427	97	"
July 16	III	s	8	153	67	"
July 16	IV	s	12 3/4	386	94	"
July 17	IV	t	21	799	153	"
July 19	IV	u	16 1/4	584	126	"
July 22	V	x	20	616	136	"
July 29	V	z	10	276	51	"
July 31	V	a'	12	481	98	"
Aug. 12	VI	g'	18 1/2	593	282	"
Sept. 22	VI	x'	22 1/4	440	112	"
Sept. 23	VI	y'	12	284	55	"
Sept. 23	VII	y'	9 1/2	237	45	"
Sept. 24	VII	z'	24 1/2	508	144	"
Sept. 27	VII	a"	26 1/4	734	144	"
Sept. 28	VIII	b"	31 1/4	809	171	"
TOTAL-----			409	12309	2702	

STATISTICS FOR HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET F.

Date 1909	Volume	Let- ter	Miles	Sound- ings	Posi- tions	Vessel
June 4	I	a	15	579	145	Reynard
Aug. 13	III-D	g	1	77	14	"
Aug. 25	II	m	<u>3</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>20</u>	"
Reynard . . . . .			19	740	179	
Alpha . . . . .			<u>409</u>	<u>12309</u>	<u>2702</u>	
		Total -----	428	13049	2881	