

83
SHB
3304
1911
F

3304

C. & G. SURVEY,
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
NOV 23 1911
Acc. No.

Diag. Cht. No. 1231-2

Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

Superintendent.

State: *Virginia*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Hyd. Sheet No. *3304*

LOCALITY:

Eastern Shore - Virginia Peninsula
Wachapreague Inlet and
Little Wachapreague Inlet

1911

CHIEF OF PARTY:

Stetson Torrey

3304

1

Sheet examined in Div.
of Hyd'y & Jap'y.

H. 3304.

Small area of hydrography in two localities, the sheet appears
satisfactory.

3304

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

O. H. TITTMANN, SUPERINTENDENT.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

TO ACCOMPANY

HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET No. X 3304.

HYDROGRAPHIC EXAMINATION

OF

LITTLE MACHIPONGO

AND

WACHAPREAGUE INLETS.

EASTERN SHORE

OF THE

VIRGINIA PENINSULA.

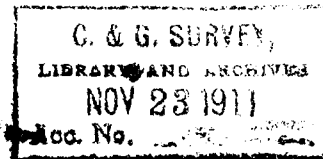
SCALE 1:20,000.

1911.

LITTLE MACHIPONGO INLET.

(a) GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COAST. The general appearance of the coast as viewed from seaward is rather low. To the northward the high sand dunes, about four miles north of the inlet on Paramere's Beach Island, are the first landfalls in making the land from the north. These reach an altitude of forty or fifty feet. They are covered with stunted pines and cedars making them show up darkly against the horizon. The southern end of Paramere's Beach Island is so low as to be covered by very high tides.

Revel's Island shows up over the southern end of Paramere's ^{Beach} Island as a clump of trees. It may be recognized by ~~an~~ a windmill and two or three clubhouses which are situated on the south eastern end of the island. In front of the clubhouses



is a small wharf with a beathouse at the feet of it.

Southward the shore is bare of trees until at a distance of about four miles south of the inlet on Heg Island a clump of pine trees begins. These trees together with the old and new lighthouses on Heg Island are the first landfalls in making the inlet ~~fxax~~ from the southward. North of these trees the island is covered with shifting sand dunes which sometimes reach an altitude of twenty feet above mean high water.

(b) OUTLYING DANGERS AND ISLANDS. There are no offshore islands or dangers. The breakers on the bar are so heavy in easterly gales as to render ~~ix~~ the inlet impassable. In extremely severe gales breakers occur in a depth of four and five fathoms. The inlet is roughest on the ebb tide with the wind southeast. There are no tiderips.

(a) PILOTS. There are no licensed pilots in this locality. Strangers coming from the northward and desiring to enter this inlet may sometimes get a local pilot at Wachapreague L. S. S. or Paramore's Beach L. S. S. The latter is five and a half miles north of the inlet. Any of the oystermen or fishermen in this neighborhood may be relied on as pilots.

Approaching the inlet from the southward a local pilot may sometimes be obtained from Heg Island L. S. S. or the little village on the island. There are no tugs in this locality.

(e) REFUGE. With the wind from the southward, run for Assateague Anchorage (Tom's Cove). In northerly gales run for Chesapeake bay or Hampton Roads.

(f) CURRENTS. The currents are tidal but are greatly influenced by the winds. Easterly winds cause an increase in the height ~~of~~ of the tides. The current sets fair with the channel. (This paragraph was written after tidal observations were sent to the Washington office, hence length of time of ebb and flood currents after low and high water could not be given. See tidal observations Heg Island Lighthouse Wharf Tide Gauge, Heg Island, Virginia, 1911.)

(g) WEATHER. In very severe winters the water^{ers} tributary to this inlet freeze

up but remain so for very short periods .

(h) DESCRIPTION OF THE SHORE. The northern end of Heg Island is low and sandy terminating in a rounded point. It is covered with sand dunes.

The southern end of Revel's Island is low and sandy covered with trees . Parts of the island are marshy.

The southern end of Paramore's Beach Island for a distance of a couple of miles is very low. The island terminates in a sharp point which is so low as to be covered by very high tides. This part of the island is low and sandy.

(i) LANDMARKS. There are no well defined landmarks in this locality. There is a line of breakers on the north and south side of the inlet which clearly defines the ~~channel~~ channel.

(k) WRECKS. The wrecks usually occur off Paramore's Beach L. S. S.

~~REMARKS~~ (m) BARS AND CHANNELS. Least depth 17 feet at mean low water .

The best time for entering this inlet is on ~~XXXX~~ the flood tide. The bars and channels are continually shifting to a certain extent which reaches its maximum in northeast gales . With the wind from the eastward the breakers sometimes break clear across the ^{mouth of the} inlet. x The effect of the tide running ~~against~~ against the wind is to increase the sea.

(n) ANCHORAGES. The best anchorage is in North Inlet, just west of the north end of Heg Island . This is about five hundred meters ~~long~~ wide and three miles long. The holding qualities of the bottom are good and it is sheltered from all winds except very ^v severe northeast winds. In this case an undertow sets in around ~~TKX~~ the northern end of Heg Island which might make it uncomfortable. Should this happen smooth water will be found further up North Inlet.

(o) LANDING PLACES. With the wind off the land and in moderate weather landings can be made practically anywhere along the shore of Heg Island or Paramore's Beach. With the wind on the land it is practically impossible to make a landing unless there is very little sea on.

(q) WATERING PLACES FOR VESSELS. Water can be obtained in small quantities from the various lifesaving stations in the neighborhood. Water can be obtained from the clubhouses situated on the southeast end of ~~the~~ ^{Rivers} island provided the keeper is willing. Access can only be had to this place in small boats drawing about three feet of water.

(r) LIGHTS, LIGHTHOUSES, BUOYS, BEACONS, LIFESAVING STATIONS. There are none at this inlet. Five and a half miles north of the inlet on Paramere's ^{Beach} Island is located Paramere's Beach L. S. S. On the southern end of Hog Island is Hog Island Lighthouse visible from this inlet. Also on the southern end of Hog Island is a well equipped life saving station with an up to date power life boat.

(s) SAILING DIRECTIONS. No directions for entering or leaving this inlet are submitted owing to the frequent changes which take place in the bars during easterly gales.

(t) PORTS. There are no ports in this neighborhood of any importance. The closest store is at the southern end of Hog Island. All the life saving stations ~~xxxxxx~~ along the Virginia coast are connected by ^vprivate telephone.

(u) CHANGE OF DEPTHS. The channel which formerly ran northeast along Paramere's Beach is now closed up and a narrow point of land has made up clear across it ~~at~~ starting from the southern end of Paramere's Beach Island. There is only one channel at this inlet now. This has a depth of 17 feet at mean low water and runs southeast. This inlet was 2400 M. wide when chart 129 was made. My survey of 1911 shows it to be only 900 M. ~~wide~~ wide. The contraction of the channel was caused by the narrow ~~an~~ point of land which has made out from the southern end of Paramere's Beach Island in a southwesterly direction. The deep water inside of the inlet between the southern end of Paramere's Beach and the northern end of Hog Island is practically the same, there being 55, 54, 53, 55, 49, 45, and 43 feet now at mean low water.

(w) SURVEY METHODS. The survey methods used were those adopted and laid down

in the "GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE FIELD WORK OF THE COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY".
Hydrographic signals were determined with a theodolite using established triangulation points as a basis for the work.

WACHAPREAGUE INLET.

(a) GENERAL DESCRIPTION. Approaching this inlet from the northward the general appearance of the coast is unusually low. The narrow fringe of islands which form the rearguard of the mainland is dotted with small sand dunes. Some of them are as high as fifteen or twenty feet. In the background the mainland shows up dark green or blue, about five miles distant. The first landfall in making the land from the northward is the cluster of houses on the southern end of Cedar Island. Here are situated the old and new buildings of the Wachapreague L. S. S., both of which have cupolas, a summer hotel, and several smaller houses. The hotel is a rectangular, two storied frame house painted a light pea-green. The old life saving station is situated about one hundred meters southwest of this building. The station is painted lead-color with white trimmings. Seven hundred meters south of the old life saving station is the ^{new one} ~~station~~. It is about six hundred meters from the southern extremity of the island. Two hundred meters east of the new life saving station is a dark red, two storied, fisherman's shanty. Just west of the new L. S. S. is a "Y" shaped wharf on which there is a boathouse for the up-to-date power life boat which belongs to the station.

Approaching the inlet from the southward, the high, wooded sand dunes on the northern end of Paramore's Beach Island are the first objects to be seen. This island has a fringe of low, sandy shore between the dunes and the ocean. These dunes reach an altitude of forty or fifty feet and are covered with stunted pine and cedar trees. About two and a half miles south of the inlet is Paramore's Beach L. S. S. This is painted lead color with a high, sharp, cupola.

(b) OUTLYING ISLANDS. Right at the inlet on the north side of the channel a

small island has made up called Dersen's Shoal. This is on the north side of the East Channel and the east side of the North Channel. It is bare at high water. In easterly gales the breakers break clear across the bar. The ebb tide increases the sea in easterly winds.

(d) PILOTS. Same as at Little Machipenge Inlet.

(e) REFUGE. Same as at Little Machipenge Inlet.

The best place to beach a ship would be about half way between Wachapreague and Metekin Inlets or on the north end of Paramere's Beach Island just south of the buoys at the entrance to the inlet.

(f) CURRENTS. Same as at Little Machipenge Inlet.

(g) WEATHER. Same as at Little Machipenge Inlet.

(h) DESCRIPTION OF THE SHORE/. The northern part of Paramere's Beach Island is covered with high sand dunes from forty to fifty feet high. These dunes are covered with stunted pine and cedar trees which give it a dark green color. Between these dunes and the ocean is a narrow fringe of low sandy shore.

Dersen's Shoal is a small sandy island just above high water. There are no dunes or any vegetation on it.

The southern end of Cedar Island is low and sand ~~y/~~ ^{and} ~~asmakman~~ covered with small sand dunes which are sometimes grassy. ~~Thaxaxa~~ There are no trees on this island. A few buildings are scattered over the southern end while the northern end is nothing but a strip of sand dunes.

(i) LANDMARKS. The only natural landmark is the clump of high sand dunes on the northern end of Paramere's Beach Island already described as being forty or fifty feet high and covered with small pine and cedar trees. The trees give the dunes a dark green color.

(j) INSHORE DANGERS. These are visible at low water on both sides of the channel. They are defined by the breakers unless the sea is unusually smooth. Inside of the inlet there is a shoal in the middle of the channel which has 2,

2 1/2, 4 and 5 feet at mean low water. The ~~isakakajx~~ shoal is not buoyed out.

The best water is on the starboard hand in entering, close to the shore.

(k) WRECKS. Wrecks usually occur during easterly gales opposite Paramora's Beach L. S. S. and about a mile north of Wachapreague L. S. S. Unless they come ashore on an unusually high tide they very often break up in a short while unless rescued. Numerous vessels have been gotten off after having been ashore for a week.

(m) BARS AND CHANNELS. There are two channels here, the North Channel and the East Channel. The North Channel shows a depth of 7 feet at mean low water on my survey of 1911. The East Channel shows 9 feet at mean low water. This channel is buoyed out and in July, 1911, all the buoys were in their proper positions. The frequent changes in the bars which occur in easterly gales render them unreliable for strangers. In heavy easterly storms the breakers break clear across the bar and as far out as a depth of four or five ~~nathamx~~ fathoms. Ebb tide running a wind against the ~~sea~~ increases the sea. The best time for entering is on the first of

the flood tide.

(n) ANCHORAGES. Any place inside of the inlet is an excellent harbor for vessels drawing from six to eight feet of water. Smaller vessels can get accommodations further up the ~~inlet~~ main channel. The bottom has good holding qualities and the anchorage is sheltered from all winds.

(o) LANDING PLACES. Landings are very uncertain except in moderate weather or with the wind off the land. Circumstances ~~wixxi~~ will be the best guide in case a landing has to be made.

(q) WATERING PLACES FOR VESSELS. Water can be obtained in small quantities from any of the life saving stations in this neighborhood. It may also be gotten from the little town of Wachapreague which is ~~five~~ five miles up Black Rock Reach and Finney's Creek. Ten feet of water can be carried to the ~~thexxix~~ wharves. The water has to be pumped and carried to the docks from a distance of about four hundred meters.

(r) LIGHTS, LIGHTHOUSES, BUOYS, BEACONS, LIFE SAVING STATIONS. At this inlet there is a well equipped life saving station with an up to date power life boat.

There are no beacons or lighthouses at this inlet. The channel over the bar is buoyed out and the buoys were found to be in their proper positions in July, 1911.

(s) SAILING DIRECTIONS. No directions for entering or leaving this inlet are given owing to the frequent changes in the bars during easterly gales.

(t) PORTS. The little town of Wachapreague on Finney's Creek, five miles from the inlet, is the only town to be reached thru this inlet. Here are two churches, several stores where ship and mess supplies can be obtained, large summer hotel, doctor, postoffice, and telephonic connection with a telegraph line. The population is about five hundred. An extensive trade in fish and oysters is carried on here. The town is five miles from the N. Y. P. & N. R. R.

(u) CHANGE OF DEPTHS. Chart I29 shows 8 feet in the EAST CHANNEL. My survey of 1911 shows 9 feet at mean low water. This channel on chart I29 ran straight out almost due east. Now the channel makes a turn after it gets out clear of Paramore's Beach Island and runs about S. S. E. Five feet can still be carried almost due east out of the inlet if there is not much sea on.

Chart I29, shows 9 feet in the North channel. My survey of 1911 shows 7 feet at mean low water.

The shoal shown on chart I29 just east of the North Channel and just north of the East Channel in which there was then 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 feet of water is now bare at high water and is called Dersen's Shoal.

(w) SURVEY METHODS. Same as at Little Machiponge Inlet.

Stevenson Irving

Chief of Party

? prob. means "low" water. Should be shown as an island if bare at high water. R.L.G.

Original

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

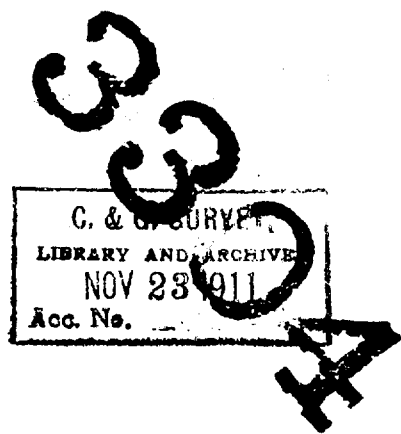
O.H. Tittmann, Superintendent.

Hydrographic Examination
of
Little Machiponge Inlet,

Wachapreague Inlet,

Eastern Coast of the

Virginia Peninsula.



1911

Scale 1/20,000.

Stehman Henry
Chief of Party.

SOUNDINGS.

The soundings show the depth at Mean Low Water, plane of reference. These at Little Machiponge Inlet were referred to the Hog Island gauge, and these at Wachapreague Inlet were referred to the Cedar Island gauge.

TIDES.

LITTLE MACHIPONGO INLET. The plane of reference is the mean of 21 low waters observed at Hog Island Light House wharf, southern end of Hog Island, and corresponds to tide gauge reading of 4.20 feet. The mean high water was taken from 19 high waters observed at the same gauge, and corresponds to a reading of 7.95 feet. The mean rise and fall at this gauge is therefore 3.75 feet. The lowest tide observed at this station was 3.35 feet, and the highest was 9.25.

WACHAPREAGUE INLET. The plane of reference is the mean of 19 low waters observed at Cedar Island L.S.S. wharves. Of these, 12 were observed in 1910, at the old L.S.S. wharf, and 7 in 1911, at the new LSS wharf, the two gauges corresponding in level. Plane of reference equals reading on gauge of 4.48 feet. The mean high water was taken from 17 high waters (10 in 1910 and 7 in 1911) and corresponds to a reading of 7.90 feet. The mean rise and fall at

This gauge is therefore 3.42 feet. The lowest tide observed at this station was 3.70 feet, and the highest was 9.70 feet.

PERSONNEL OF PARTY.

Stelman Ferney, Chief of Party, Recorder and in Charge of Boat.

F.F.Harbour, Observer and Tide Keeper.

C.T.Russell, Tide Keeper, Observer and Anchor Tender.

G.C.Tull, Leadsman.

G.T.Roberts, Boat Steerer.

C.Tull, Anchor Tender.

3304

BOAT USED, 8 H.P. Caseline Launch "Edna."

STATISTICS.

DATE 1911.	LETTER.	VOL.	POSITIONS.	SOUNDINGS.	NAUTICAL MILES.	VESSEL.
June 22	p	3	44	511	16.60	Launch "EDNA"
June 23	q	3	26	390	11.83	
July 5	r	4	34	215	5.86	
July 6	s	4	33	355	10.05	
July 7	t	4	35	487	13.40	
July 10	u	4	40	575	16.30	
July 11	v	4	35	260	7.20	
July 12	w	4	3	27	0.60	
TOTAL			250	2820	81.84	

POSITIONS.

3304

State

C. & G. SURVEY
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
NOV 28 1911
Acc. No.

	AZIMUTH. ° / "	BACK AZIMUTH. ° / "	TO STATIONS.	DISTANCE. Meters.	LOGARITHMS.

Do not write in this margin.

Approximate

GEOGRAPHIC

Locality Little Machipongo and Wachapreague Inlets.

Datum.

11-676

STATIONS.	LATITUDE.		Seconds in Meters.	LONGITUDE.		Seconds in Meters.
	°	' "		°	' "	
Scaled from Hydrographic Sheet #3.						
Pongo (Little Machipongo Inlet)	37	27	1368	75	40	332
Phonel " " ")	37	28	1431	75	41	171
Cupola Paramore's Beach L.S.S.	37	32	1752	75	36	1354
Out " " "	37	34	193	75	35	1209
Dot " " "	37	34	1398	75	34	209
Channel " " "	37	34	1429	75	36	1159
Point (Cedar Island)	37	35	200	75	36	1050
Cupola Cedar Id. L.S.S. (New)	37	35	547	75	36	1182
Tell (Cedar Island.)	37	37	157	75	36	368

Do not write in this margin.

POSITIONS.

State Virginia.

	AZIMUTH. " "	BACK AZIMUTH. " "	TO STATIONS.	DISTANCE. Meters.	LOGARITHMS.
<p>Do not write in this margin.</p>					

Do not write in this margin.

(2)

