

3308

Diag. Ch. No. 1222-2

Form 504

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Type of Survey *Hydrographic*

Field No. Office No. *3308*

LOCALITY

State *Virginia*

General locality

Locality

1941

CHIEF OF PARTY

*S. Torrey*

LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

DATE

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Department of Commerce and Labor  
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

Superintendent.

State: Va

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Hyd. Sheet No. 3308

LOCALITY:

Eastern shore - Va peninsula  
Chincoteague Inlet and Sea  
Teague Anchorage

1901

CHIEF OF PARTY:

S. Horney

3308

Hyd = 3308

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

O. H. Tittmann, Superintendent.

Topographic Revision

of

Fishing Point  
and  
Hydrographic Examination  
of

Chincoteague Entrance,

Assateague Anchorage,

and approaches.

Eastern Coast of the

Virginia Peninsula.

1911.

Scale 1/20,000.

Chief of Party.

*Wetman Young*  
*Asst-C H. Young*

TOPOGRAPHY.

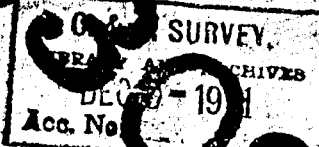
The old shore line is shown in pencil; the new in black ink.

HYDROGRAPHY.

SOUNDINGS. The soundings show the depth at mean low water, plane of reference. They were referred to the tide gauge at the U. S. Life Boat House, Fishing Point, and are expressed in feet.

TIDES.

The tide gauge used for the reduction of soundings was put in position according to bench marks established by the party of <sup>S</sup>AST. E. W. Rhodes, in 1902. The plane of reference is the mean of 44 low waters and corresponds to tide gauge reading of 3.32 feet. ~~IN~~ The mean high water was taken from 36 high waters and corresponds to tide gauge reading of 7.12 feet. The mean range of tide at this



station is therefore 3.80 feet. The highest tide observed was a reading of 8.80 feet and the lowest was 1.90 feet.

Personnel of Hydrographic Party.

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

F. F. Harbour, Aid, Tide Keeper.

C. T. Bussell, Observer and Anchor Tender.

G. C. Tull, Leadsman,

G. T. Roberts, Boat Steerer.

BOAT USED, 7 H. P. Gasoline Launch "EDNA".

3308

STATISTICS.

DATE, 1911.	LETTER.	VOL.	POSITIONS.	SOUNDINGS.	NAUTICAL MILES.	VESSEL.
July 29.	x	5	20	290	8.50	Launch "EDNA"
July 31.	y	5	28	387	11.75	"
August 1.	z	5	54	668	20.00	"
August 2.	a°	5	44	426	15.25	"
August 3.	b°	5	49	364	10.84	"
August 7.	c°	5 & 6	30	520	11.50	"
TOTAL			225	2655	77.84	

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

O. H. TITTMANN, SUPERINTENDENT.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY

TOPO-HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET No. <sup>4</sup> ~~1~~.

TOPOGRAPHIC REVISION

OF

FISHING POINT

AND

HYDROGRAPHIC EXAMINATION

OF

CHINCOTEAGUE ENTRANCE,

ASSATEAGUE ANCHORAGE

AND APPROACHES.

EASTERN COAST

OF THE

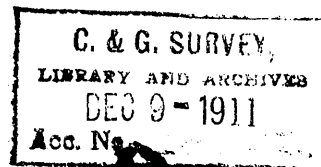
VIRGINIA PENINSULA.

SCALE 1:20,000.

1911.

FISHING POINT.

(a) GENERAL DESCRIPTION. Fishing Point is very low and sandy. The northern end is covered with sand dunes which are grassy and reach an altitude of twenty five feet. There are no trees on Fishing Point proper but to the northward about two miles distant, the southern part of Assateague Island is covered with pine trees. These ~~XXXXXX~~ trees and Ass ateaque Lighthouse are the first landfalls in making this ~~land~~ <sup>Part of the Coast</sup>. The trees are fairly even in hight with now and then one which stands above the rest. The lighthouse is a dark red, brick structure, the base of which is not visible from seaward on account of the surrounding trees.



On the southern part of the point there is a beacon light (red and white) mounted on a single pole about twelve feet high and painted white. On the south side of the pole a ladder is fastened. Just south of the pole and about ten feet distant is a small oil house, white, and six feet square.

Northeast of this beacon and three hundred meters distant, is the wreck of a fishing-smack. The hull is intact except for a hole which is cut in the western side below the water line.

About three hundred meters northeast of this wreck there are two small wooden fishermen's shanties., These are not painted and are unoccupied.

A little less than a mile northeast of the beacon which is on the pinkx southern part of the point, is a boathouse and wharf belonging to Assateague Beach L. S. S. The boathouse is covered with unpainted shingles. Close to this boathouse and on the southern side is an iron framework beacon about thirty feet high above mean high water. The beacon has its base in a small house about ten feet high.

Three hundred and seventy-five meters west of the boathouse and beacon mentioned in the preceding paragraph, is an old wreck which is bare at ordinary high tides. On the eastern end of this wreck there is a pole about twelve feet high with a small platform on top <sup>on</sup> ~~on~~ which a bug light was originally kept. This ~~is~~ has been discontinued.

Almost due north, magnetic, and about twenty four hundred meters distant, is Assateague L. S. S. It is about twenty one hundred meters west of the coast line. Here are situated within a radius of a hundred meters, a small green bungalow, an unpainted dwelling house, a flagpole, the station itself and just south of the station on the shore of Assateague Anchorage, a small boathouse for the surf boat. The station <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ painted lead color and has a small lookout on top.

(u) CHANGE OF COAST LINE. Abreast of Fishing ~~POINT~~ Point Boathouse  $\Delta$  on the ocean side, the shore line coincides with that of the former survey.

Half-way between Fishing Point Boathouse  $\Delta$  and Beacon on Point, on the sea

side, the shore has made out 40 M.

Just south of Beacon on Point the coast line has eroded 25 M.

The extremity of Fishing Point has moved 450 M. in a northwesterly direction.

Just north of Beacon on Point the shore has made out 150 M.

Halfway between Fishing Point Boathouse  $\Delta$  and Beacon on Point, on the  $\text{KK}\Delta\text{KK}$  Assateague Anchorage side, the point has made out 325 M.

At Fishing Point Boathouse wharf the shore line has made out 50 M.

About a kilometer north of Fishing Point Boathouse wharf, on the western side of the point, the shore line coincides with the original position as shown on Topo-hydrographic Sheet No. 4/.

(w) SURVEY METHODS. The methods used for executing the work were those adopted and laid down by the Superintendent in the "General Instructions for the  $\text{KK}$  Field Work of the Coast and Geodetic Survey".

#### ASSATEAGUE ANCHORAGE AND CHINCOTEAGUE INLET.

(a) GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COAST. Approaching the Anchorage from the northward, the general appearance of the coast is rather low but well covered with pine trees. A narrow strip of sandy land runs along between the sea and the sand trees. Sand dunes are scattered along the beach and are sometimes found as high as twenty feet, but are continually shifting and changing.

The first landfall in making this land is  $\text{KK}\Delta$  Assateague Lighthouse and the trees in which it stands. The lighthouse is a dark red, brick structure, rising from a clump of trees of a dark green color. To the northward Assateague Island has a number of very high sand dunes which show up white against the trees.

Assateague Anchorage, or Tom's Cove, is formed by Fishing Point which is a narrow strip of land running out from Assateague  $\text{KK}$  Island in a general southwest direction for a distance of about two and a half miles. This point is narrow, low and sandy with a few sand dunes on the southern end. There are no trees on the point proper but the southern part of Assateague Island is very well covered

with pine trees.

Approaching the inlet from the southward the general appearance of the shore is low right at the shore line but the mainland shows up in the background covered ~~covered~~ with pine trees that reach an altitude of fifty feet. There is a narrow fringe of islands, which forms the rearguard of the mainland, running from ~~Yarr~~ the south side of Chincoteague Inlet <sup>Cape Charles</sup> clear to ~~the Chesapeake Bay~~. Between this strip of islands and the mainland there is a bay of varying width. This bay is nothing but very shallow water and marshes and just south of Chincoteague Inlet is about two and a half miles wide.

(b) OUTLYING DANGERS. These are the shoals which lie to the southward and eastward of Fishing Point and are clearly shown on the published charts. Some of them are readily located in heavy weather by the breakers which are caused by them. There are no offshore islands.

There are no ~~tidal~~ <sup>tidal</sup> ~~rips~~ at this inlet. The ebb tide increases the sea when the wind is from the eastward. In very heavy weather the breakers break clear across the bar so as to prevent entrance to the inlet.

(c) DIRECTIONS for passing the the outlying dangers. No sailing directions are submitted owing to the frequent changes which take place in the bars during the easterly gales.

(d) PILOTS. There are no licensed pilots at this inlet but a local pilot may be obtained by laying to abreast of Wallop's Beach L. S. S. or Assateague Beach L. S. S. with signal set. Any of the oystermen and fishermen in this locality may be relied upon to perform this service. There are no towboats at this inlet but small ~~gasoline~~ gasoline launches of about ten H. P. may sometimes be obtained to help vessels over the bar in calm weather.

(e) REFUGE. Assateague Anchorage is the only harbor for vessels of from twelve to fourteen feet draft between Delaware Breakwater and Chesapeake Bay. This harbor is often seen in the winter time with twenty five and thirty vessels in it seeking shelter from northerly winds.



The best place to beach a ship would be as close to either Wallop's Beach L. S. S. or Assateague Beach L. S. S. as it would be possible to get.

(f) CURRENTS. The currents are tidal but are greatly affected by the winds. Easterly winds cause an increase in the height of the tides. Length of time of flood after high water and ebb after low water could not be given as this paragraph was written after tidal observations were sent to the Washington office. The current sets fair with the channel.

(g) WEATHER. Gales may be expected from any quarter. Inside of the inlet they are of the same degree of danger but in Assateague Anchorage S. S. W. winds are the most destructive.

(h) DESCRIPTION OF THE SHORE. Fishing Point is a low, sandy point running in a southwesterly direction from the southern end of Assateague Island. The point averages about five or six hundred meters in width and has a few small dunes on the northern part. In about the central part of the most southerly portion of the point there is a beacon <sup>(red and white)</sup> light mounted on a pole about twelve feet high. Just south of the beacon there is a house about six feet square used for storing oil. The beacon has a ladder on the south side and the whole thing, post, ladder, and house is painted white.

One hundred and fifty meters northeast of this beacon is the hull of a fishing smack which washed up in a storm. The hull is intact except for a hole which is cut in the western side below the water line.

Three hundred meters northeast of the beacon on the point there are two wooden shanties. These are not painted and are unoccupied.

About fifteen hundred meters northward from Beacon on Point, on the Assateague Anchorage side, there is a small wharf and boathouse belonging to Assateague Beach L. S. S. This boathouse is readily seen from seaward. The house is covered with unpainted shingles. On the south side of the boathouse and about ten meters distant, on a separate concrete foundation, the Bureau of Lighthouses has built an iron, skeleton framework beacon. This structure rises

thru a small house built about the base and used to store oil and supplies in.

Three hundred and seventyfive meters west of ~~ixi~~ this beacon ~~ixx~~, in the waters of Assateague Anchorage, is an old wreck. On this wreck there is a pole about twelve feet high which was once used as a support for a beacon. This beacon has been discontinued now and no light is kept in it.

These are the only objects of any prominence until, going northward, you come to Assateague Beach L.S. S. This is a wooden structure painted the usual lead color and having a small lookout on the top. About the station and within a radius of a hundred meters are clustered, on the eastern side, a small green bungalow, on the western side, an unpainted dwelling house and on the south ~~ixx~~ side, a flagpole painted white and a drill pole together with a small beathouse which is used for the surf boat belonging to the station.

Assateague Point is a narrow strip of land forming the southwest extremity of Assateague Island. It is covered with small grassy dunes and is quite bare of trees. A narrow stream of water called Assateague Inlet separates it from ~~K~~ Chincoteague Island.

Chincoteague Point is the southern extremity of Chincoteague Island. It is ~~u~~ low and covered with marsh grass. On the southwest side there are a few small sand dunes. A double line of ~~ixx~~ telephone wires runs ~~thax~~ to the extremity of the point. On the western side of the point there are the ruins of an old ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ "fish factory", an old boiler etc.

The northern end of Wallop's Island presents no ~~stxkkkj~~ striking features easily recognized by a stranger. It is, as most all of these islands are, covered with sand dunes and practically bare of trees. There is a hotel wharf on the northern end running out into the inlet. The northeastern point of the island is called Gunboat Point. Two lines of telephone wires cross the inlet at this place and run southward on Wallop's Island. One of the wires runs to a <sup>summer</sup> hotel and Wallop's Beach L. S. S. about a mile from the northern end of the island. Here are two iron windmills, two clubhouses, and some small out houses. Also the

station is about a mile south of the inlet. It has a tall flagpole in front of it. The station is painted lead color with white trimmings and has a small lookout on the top.

(i) LANDMARKS. The only natural landmarks in this locality that could be recognized by a stranger are the trees on the southern part of Assateague Island and the Anchorage itself. This is probably the most reliable since it is the only formation of this nature between the Delaware Breakwater and the Chesapeake Bay.

(j) INSHORE DANGERS. The shoals on each side of Chincoteague Inlet are the only inshore dangers in this locality. These are clearly defined by the breakers on each side of the channel unless the sea is unusually smooth. Some of ~~these~~<sup>these</sup> shoals are visible at low water while others have from one to two feet at mean low water.

(k) WRECKES. Wrecks usually occur on the shoals to the south and east of Fishing Point or along the beach abreast of Wallop's Beach L. S. S. or Assateague Beach L. S. S. Unless rescued promptly, vessels so unfortunate as to get ashore in easterly weather are very often lost.

(m) BARS AND CHANNELS. Seven feet can be carried in Chincoteague Inlet at mean low water.

Sixteen feet can be carried at mean low water into Assateague Anchorage to a point sheltered from all winds but very heavy ones from the S. S. W. The best time for entering ~~thant~~ these places is on the first of the flood tide. The bars at the entrance to Chincoteague Inlet make frequent changes in southeasterly gales. The breakers on the bars reach their maximum in easterly gales with the tide running ebb. The inlet is often impassable owing to the breakers.

(n) ANCHORAGES. Any place inside of Chincoteague Inlet is a good harbor for all vessels which can enter. It is sheltered from all winds. Assateague Anchorage, better known as Tom's Cove, is the refuge of practically all the vessels engaged in the coasting trade between New York and South Carolina under twenty feet of draft. The bottom is muddy and the holding qualities good. The worst wind for this place

is S. S. W.

(q) WATERING PLACES FOR VESSELS. Water may be obtained from any of the lifesaving stations in this locality in small quantities or it may be secured at the little town of Chincoteague <sup>on</sup> ~~the~~ Chincoteague Island.

(r) BEACONS, BUOYS, LIFE-SAVING STATIONS. The beacon which used to be kept on the old wreck just west of the beathouse on Assateague Anchor age has been discontinued.

The buoys at this inlet were found to be in their correct positions in August, 1911. Owing to the frequent changes which take place in the bars in easterly gales the ~~lax~~ buoys can not be depended on by strangers desiring to enter this inlet.

Assateague Beach L. S. S. is a well equipped station with a power life boat. Both Wallop's Beach and Assateague Beach L. S. S. are connected with the rest of the stations on the coast by telephone.

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

(t) PORTS. On Chincoteague Island and about three miles from Chincoteague Inlet is the little town of Chincoteague. The town and island has a population of about four thousand people. Here are several stores where ship and mess supplies may be obtained, two or three ~~XXXXXX~~ churches, doctors, a postoffice, a couple of schools etc. Also the town possesses a marine railway of one hundred and fifty tons ~~capacity~~ capacity. Telephonic connection with a telegraph on the main land can also be had. There are several oyster shucking plants on the island and the oyster <sup>or</sup> business is the chief source of revenue. The anchorage off the town is a good harbor and the holding qualities of the bottom are good. Water may be obtained at most any of the wharves. A unique article of export is the "beach" or "Chincoteague" pony. which ~~XXXXXX~~ <sup>runs</sup> wild on the island and possesses unusual endurance. There <sup>are</sup> ~~are~~ numerous docks at the town at which freight of most any kind may be landed. At some of them a vessel discharging a cargo would be ashore at low water.

(u) CHANGE OF DEPTHS. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Gunboat Drain now has four feet of water at mean low water.

THE CHANNEL JUST SOUTH OF RICHARDSON SHOAL which was shown on chart I28 as having 6 1/2 feet of water, now has 7 feet at mean low water. The channel however is very narrow.

The main channel, which is buoyed out, now has 7 feet at mean low water. Chart I28 shows ~~XXXX~~ 7 1/2 feet.

ASSATEAGUE ANCHORAGE shows practically no changes when compared with chart I28. My survey of I911 shows 18 feet at mean low water at Red Nun Buoy No. 6. Chart I28 shows 19 1/2 feet.

(w) SURVEY METHODS. The methods employed in executing the work were those<sup>of</sup> adopted by the Superintendent and laid down in the general instructions. That part of the work which lies on the south ~~xx~~ side of the main entrance to Chincoteague Inlet, is not as complete as desirable. On account of a heavy swell being on the bars during the entire time the party was engaged in this work, I was unable to get at and develop ~~the~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ ~~XXXX~~ thoroughly the channel under Wallop's Island which is called Gunboat Drain. Owing to there being only four feet at M. L. W. on the inside of Gunboat Drain, I decided not to expend any more time in its ~~development~~. development.

*Stehman Young  
Comd'g Party  
Chief of Party*

Hyd sheet No 3308.

This work is very good. The ground is well covered and the crossings excellent. Except at the point (Fishing Point) which is constantly changing, it agrees perfectly with the lines run by asst. Graves in 1910. (Hyd 3113).

The position numbers are written in very much too large. This trouble is common with nearly all sheets protracted in the field.

(R. L.) Johnston

March 23, 1912.

Verified, J. D. Torrey.