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Department of Commerce and Labor  
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

.....  
Superintendent.

State: *Alaska*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

*Hyd.* Sheet No. *3573*

LOCALITY:

*Prince William*  
*Sound (Southwest shore)*  
*Ekhamy Bay and*  
*Trinity*

1913

CHIEF OF PARTY:

*A. J. Rude*

11-4646

3573

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

to accompany

Hydrographic Sheet No. 3573

Eshamy Bay and vicinity, Alaska,

Steamer TAKU, season 1913.

This sheet covers Eshamy Bay, Fall Bay, Main Bay, and vicinity of Crafton Island, on a scale of one to twenty-thousand.

The hydrography is controlled by an extension of the triangulation of the Taku, seasons 1907 and 1912, and by topographic stations located by the plane-table party when the topographic work was in progress this season, 1913.

The steamer Taku was used on all this work except at the entrance to Eshamy Lagoon. Launch #41 was used in an attempt to sound this entrance, but it was considered unsafe for the launch and impossible on account of the swift current and foul ground at the entrance.

An ordinary hand lead, Bassnett Pressure Tubes, and registering sheave were used with a Cosmos sounding machine. The Bassnett tubes were not reliable at a greater depth than thirty fathoms and only in rare instances were they employed at a greater depth.

An automatic tide gauge with plain staff in connection was established in Eshamy Bay near the camp of the topographic party and all soundings on this sheet are referred to that datum plane. Three bench-marks were established and levelled in with the staff. These marks are regulation disc C. & G. S. bench-marks, thoroughly described. They may be easily recovered for future use.

Deep water, from 50 to 90 fathoms, extends along the shore of the mainland from Point Howell to the east point at the entrance to Eshamy Bay.

This should be followed by vessels entering the bay. A shoal extends about three-quarters of a mile to the northward from this point, on which the least depth of 15 fathoms was found near its outer end.

Crafton Island is surrounded by foul ground on its east, south and west sides. No work was done within this foul area, as it was considered unsafe for the steamer, and no launch suitable for hydrography was available. This area, however, is of no importance. A rock bare at about half tide lies one mile southeast (true) from the south end of Crafton Island, uneven bottom extending to the eastward from this rock about one mile.

The passage between Crafton Island and the mainland is foul along the shore of the island and at its south entrance. Three rocks bare at ordinary low water lie in the center of this entrance. This passage should be used only by small craft, favoring the west shore clear through.

Eshamy Bay affords no anchorage for large vessels. Small craft can find anchorage in 8 and 9 fathoms, rocky bottom, with shelter from all winds, in the small cove back of the islands and rocks in the southeast corner of the bay. The Taku generally entered this cove through the deep, narrow entrance east of the small islands, keeping in mid-channel.

Falls Bay affords no anchorage and is open to northeasterly weather. The main body of the bay is clear and deep. Rocks make out from the points at each side of the entrance, contracting it to a quarter of a mile.

Main Bay is deep and clear, the main depths ranging from 50 to 90 fathoms. Foul ground extends along the shore at the west point of the entrance. This bay affords no anchorage.

There are no mines or prospects within the limits of this sheet. There is a fish saltery at the head of Eshamy Lagoon. They have a steam launch which tows a scow out into the outer bay to meet steamers to ship of

receive freight. They have no dock of any kind and fish on a small scale.

Respectfully submitted,

*Gilbert J. Rude.*

Assistant, C. & G. Survey.

VEC  
Feb. 13, 1914.

HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET 3573.

Eshamy Bay, Prince William Sound, Alaska, by Assistant  
G. T. Rude in 1913.

TIDES.

	Eshamy Bay. ft.
Mean lower low water, or plane of reference on staff	6.6
Lowest tide observed " "	4.8
Highest " " " "	20.0
Mean range of tide	9.6

Hydrographic Sheet #3573

Eshamney Bay and vicinity. Prince William Sound.  
Alaska.

All positions on this sheet were plotted by the "field party" and have been taken as correct but an occasional check made as a matter of precaution.

The work is good and the ground sufficiently covered to develop the bottom with a degree of accuracy.

The records are in good condition and nothing indefinite appears.

The positions are designated with small circles instead of the usual ink dot as provide by General Instructions.

John D Torrey  
7. 2. 14

Ver. by A. D. Cotton 4/6/15

H. 3573.

The work shown on this sheet is sufficient to meet the needs of this locality at present. Sheet examined in Div. of Hyd'y & Top'y.

The soundings are uniformly spaced but additional work would be required to determine the safety of the passages between shoals and islands.