



# 3672

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Department of Commerce and Labor  
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

*O. H. Pittman*  
Superintendent.

State: *Alaska*

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DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

*Hyd.* Sheet No. *3672*

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LOCALITY:

*Expansion Inlet*  
*and Porpoise I*

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191*4*

CHIEF OF PARTY:

*T. S. Patton*

11-4645

# 3672

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
COAST & GEODETIC SURVEY.  
O. H. TITTMAN, SUPERINTENDENT.

HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET NO.,.....*3672*

EXCURSION INLET

ICY STRAITS, ALASKA.

SCALE: 1-20000.

HYDROGRAPHY by

R. S. PATTON, ASS'T.

H. A. COTTON, ASS'T.

A. R. HUNTER, W. O.

Steamer "EXPLORER"

R. S. PATTON, CHIEF of PARTY.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

TO ACCOMPANY HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET NO. 3672

EXCURSION INLET & PORPOISE ISLANDS.

SCALE: 1 - 20000.

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In the survey of Excursion Inlet and Icy Passage,, the work was done upon two sheets of a different scale. It had originally been intended to do it all on the scale 1-40000, but as the work progressed it became apparent that there was some of it which could not be shown in sufficient detail on such a scale. The portions here included, therefore, namely, Excursion Inlet proper and the vicinity of the Porpoise Islands, is plotted on a scale 1-20000.

The work done requires no elaboration in this report. With two exceptions the waters of Excursion Inlet were found to be clear:

The first of these, near the middle of the entrance, is a 19 fathom sounding with 50 around it. A search in this locality revealed nothing which could ever be a menace to navigation.

In the second case, a careful search was made for the rock reported in a recent Notice to Mariners, as lying southeast from the southern extremity of the peninsula separating the two arms of the inlet. No indications were found in the immediate vicinity mentioned in the report, but what was undoubtedly the rock in question was found about 340 metres to the eastward and slightly north of the point.

The vicinity of Porpoise Island was given a close development, as the passes between the various islands are used by the

cannery launches, and as there is a good anchorage on the western side of the largest of the islands.

In executing this hydrography both ship and launch were used, the major part of the work being done by the launch, the work of the ship being confined to a few lines in Excursion Inlet in the direction of the channel, to afford a check on the accuracy of the launch soundings.

#### ANCHORAGES:

No good anchorage could be found in Excursion Inlet, the water being too deep throughout. Even off the flats at the head, the bottom drops off so steeply that it is not possible to find both bottom and swinging room. Vessels might possibly anchor at the head of the left hand arm of the inlet in 18 to 20 fathoms of water, riding to a short scope of chain, but their position would be precarious in case of any wind drawing up the inlet.

Good anchorage may be found, however, off the western side of the largest of the Porpoise Islands, with the northernmost point of the island bearing North 40 East True, distant one half mile. Here will be found about 15 fathoms, mud bottom. This anchorage, however, should be approached with caution, since, as shown on the sheet, there are rocks both to the northward and southward of it.

Additional anchorages in Icy Passage will be mentioned in the description of work in that locality.

DANGERS:

As already indicated, the only menace to navigation in Excursion Inlet is the rock off the southern end of the peninsula separating the two arms. The mid-channel course, however, takes one clear of this rock. In fact, one is safe as long as the wharves at the upper cannery are in sight, as a line from these wharves tangent to the eastern shore of the peninsula passes about 200 metres outside of the rock.

A table of statistics of the work done is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "R. S. Patton".

CHIEF OF PARTY.

<u>Date.</u>	<u>Letter</u>	<u>Vol.</u>	<u>Positions.</u>	<u>Soundings.</u>	<u>Miles, Statute.</u>	<u>Vessel.</u>
1914.						
May 20	A	1	111	109	18.	Ship.
" 21	B	1	74	74	14.75	"
" 27	C	1	82	82	13.	"
" 14	a	1	133	133	17.2	Launch.
" 15	b	1	57	57	6.1	"
" 16	c	1	105	104	13.3	"
" 18	d	1	130	181	12.2	"
" 23	e	2	90	90	11.9	"
" 25	f	2	210	210	9.5	"
" 26	g	2	138	138	10.5	"
" 27	h	3	156	156	9.1	"
" 29	k	3	89	86	10.7	"
" 29	k	4	59	56		
June 1	l	4	149	210	19.-	"
" 2	m	4	54	52	7.3	"
" 3	n	5	<u>87</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>4.5</u>	"
Totals, . . . .			1724	1825	177.05	

Soundings in fathoms; reductions in feet.

Tide gauge at Upper Cannery.

Plane of Reference, Mean lower low water.

" " " reads 5.0' on staff.

Highest tide observed, June 8, reads 22.4' on staff.

Lowest " " " 8, " 1.48' " "

VEC

Dec. 11, 1914.

L. P. S.

HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET 3672.

Excursion Inlet, Icy Strait, Alaska, by  
Assistant R. S. Patton in 1914.

TIDES.

	Excursion Inlet ft.
Mean lower low water, or plane of reference on staff	5.0
Lowest tide observed " "	1.5
Highest tide " " "	22.5
Mean range of tide	12.4

Verification of Hyd. Sheet 3672.

The crossings on this sheet are good with the exception of line 3 A. to 10 A. which are from 5 to 9 fathoms shallower than the cross lines show. Also line 29 C. to 37 C. seem to be 3 to 8 fathoms shallower than the crossings.

Coral bottoms are noted in vicinity of position 32-33 B. It being exceedingly doubtful that coral exists in this latitude it is presumed that Co. has been used erroneously for some other abbreviation, probably Ct.

Henry S. Galloway

given in records as Co Grv, probably  
meant for coarse gravel  
H.S.G.



H. 3672 Joining 3661.

The area surveyed appears to be well covered with soundings,  
well spaced.

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

A large rectangular area with horizontal ruling lines, intended for a survey report or data recording. The lines are evenly spaced and cover most of the lower half of the page.