

3814

Diag. Chit. No. 8102-2

D.R. 3814

ALASKA.

Danger passage.

1915

C.G. Quillian.

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DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

TO

ACCOMPANY HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET OF

DANGER PASSAGE AND VICINITY, - SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA.

UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT,
DATED MARCH 24, and APRIL 30, 1915.

S E A S O N 1 9 1 5 .

Party of U S S McARTHUR,
C. G. QUILLIAN, ASSISTANT, C. & G. SURVEY,
COMMANDING.

HYDROGRAPHY BY LAUNCH "DELTA:"

J. W. Maupin, Assistant, In Charge.
W. D. Sutcliffe, Aid, Left Angle.
F. R. Webb, Assistant Surgeon, Recorder.

Mr. Sutcliffe was in charge several
days in absence of Mr. Maupin.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET OF
DANGER PASSAGE AND VICINITY, SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA.

- LIMITS AND AREA -

This work was done on one sheet, scale 1/10,000, and includes Danger Passage, Cat Passage, (between Cat Island and Grave Point), Ponds Bay, and part of Reef Harbor. To the westward the work joins the 20,000 Sheet of Felice Strait. The work on the eastward of Cat Island extends about half way to Whale and Little Rock. The actual space over which soundings were taken covers an area of about 15 square miles.

- GENERAL DESCRIPTION -

The area covered by this sheet is very foul and there are many rocks and shoals. A vessel navigating in this locality should do so with extreme caution.

Danger Passage, which leads between Mary Island and Cat Island joins Revillagigedo Channel with Felice Strait.

Cat Passage (newly named) also joins the same two bodies of water and leads between Cat Island on the north and Duke and Dog Islands on the south.

Ponds Bay is between Dog Island and Duke Island, and Reef Harbor is between Duke and Duck Islands.

- DETAIL DESCRIPTION -

DANGER PASSAGE:

Is about 1/4 mile wide in its narrowest part. It is very much broken up by shoal patches. Vessels of moderate draft may use this passage, by careful navigation.

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There are two islands on the south side of the channel called Lane and Fripo Islands. Lane Island is about 1/6 mile in diameter; and Fripo Island about 1/4 mile in diameter. On the north side of the channel there are many small islands, rocks, and shoals.

CAT PASSAGE:

Is so full of rocks and dangers it is not recommended. There is enough water between the rocks for vessels of moderate draft to pass, but there is constant danger of running on a submerged rock.

PONDS BAY:

Is a good harbor but difficult to enter. The best entrance is between Grave Point and the reef extending off of Cat Island. There are two shoal spots in the entrance which are marked by kelp. Just before entering Ponds Bay there is a dangerous reef extending from a small island in a southwesterly direction about half way across the entrance toward Dog Island. Vessels of shallow draft may use the passage from the westward between the Double Islands and Dog Island.

REEF HARBOR:

The work done in Reef Harbor is intended to supplement the work previously done. This harbor may be used as a temporary anchorage.

- ANCHORAGES -

Vessels may anchor in Ponds Bay in about 10 fathoms of water, mud bottom, about one mile from the south end of the bay.

Vessels may also anchor to the northward of a small island on the west side of Cat Island, in 4 or 5 fathoms of water, hard bottom, and be sheltered from a southerly blow.

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- SAILING DIRECTIONS -

DANGER PASSAGE:

Vessels may pass through Danger Passage using three courses, but careful navigating is required. From the westward a course of 127° (Mag.) should be steered with the center of Fripo Island dead ahead. When within 500 yards of Fripo Island the course should be changed to 52° (Mag.) leaving Lane Island about 200 yards on the starboard beam. When 600 yards past Lang Island (proper) the course should be changed to 124° (Mag.) leaving the S. Tang., of the largest island on the north side of channel dead astern.

CAT PASSAGE (SOUTH OF DOUBLE ISLANDS):

Vessels of shallow draft may use this passage by careful navigating, but it is not recommended for frequent use until buoyed. Entering from the eastward vessels should pass the shoals between Grave Point and the reef extending off the southeast point of Cat Island on a course of 239° (Mag.) with Tom and Fish Islands in range. When the northwest end of the largest of the islands on the reef is abeam the course should be changed to 221° (Mag.). This course should be held until the southwest end of the Double Islands is abeam, when it should be shifted to 268° (Mag.).

PONDS BAY (TO ANCHORAGE):

Vessels desiring to enter Ponds Bay, when on the above course of 221° (Mag.) should change same to 186° (Mag.) when the southwest end of the small islands on the east side of the entrance is abeam. When the center of the south one of the Double Islands is abeam the course should be changed to 149° (Mag.). When the north end of the second one of two small islands on starboard side is within 70 yards of being on the beam the course should be shifted to 188° (Mag.). This course should be held until within about 400 yards of the shore ahead, when it should be changed to 240° (Mag.). From this course vessels may come to an anchorage in the center of the bay channel in from 7 to 11 fathoms of water.

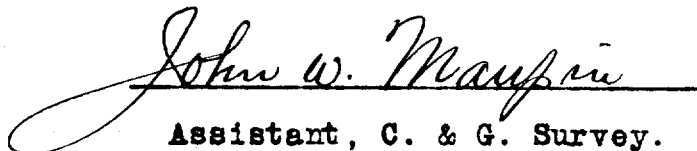
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- CONCLUDING REMARKS -

Like most all the area in this vicinity, it is thought advisable that the passages on this chart should be wire dragged and buoyed before same are recommended for constant usage.

It is estimated that a 3 knot current runs out of Danger Passage, although no observations were made. The currents through Cat Passage are not so strong.

Respectfully submitted,


Assistant, C. & G. Survey.

JWM/MDG.

File this with description report.

Statistics Sheet No. 3814.

Date 1915	Letter	Volume	Positions	Soundings	Miles (Stat)	Vessel used	In charge
Aug. 21	a	1	74	266	11.0	Launch Delta	Asst. J. W. Maupin
" 23	b	1	31	107	4.8	" "	" " "
" 24	c	1+2	108	488	15.6	" "	" " "
" 25	d	2	95	414	13.6	" "	" " "
" 26	e	2	94	348	15.0	" "	" " "
" 27	f	3	107	409	17.8	" "	" " "
" 28	g	3	73	294	9.0	" "	" " "
Sept 1	h	4	132	524	16.6	" "	" " "
" 8	J	4	98	408	12.5	" "	Aid W. D. Sutcliffe
" 9	K	5	125	495	16.5	" "	" " "
" 10	l	5	134	445	12.5	" "	" " "
" 11	m	5+6	106	375	12.0	" "	" " "
" 13	n	6	108	427	15.0	" "	Asst. J. W. Maupin
" 14	p	6+7	145	588	19.7	" "	" " "
" 15	q	7	130	541	16.5	" "	" " "
" 16	r	7+8	114	456	13.6	" "	" " "
" 17	s	8	16	62	2.2	" "	" " "
" "	a	8	75	215	3.0	Dinghy	Asst. C. G. Quillian
			1765	6862	226.9		

VEC
Apr. 21, 1916

P.S.
P.L.
H.C.

HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET 3814.

Vicinity of Cat Island, Felice Strait, S.E. Alaska,
by Assistant C. G. Quillian in 1915.

TIDES.

	Cat Island ft.	Ryus Cove ft.
Mean lower low water, or plane of referance on staff	3.5	5.4
Lowest tide observed " "	0.9	1.3
Highest " " " "	20.5	23.2
Mean range of tide	12.8	12.7

Hyd. Sheet No. 3814

Within the limits of the work, the ground is well covered and shoal indications developed.

The ground is very broken but has changed little since the last survey in 1892.

The shoal spot on the north east corner of the sheet, south-east of signal "Edge", should have been further developed.

On Hyd 2144, there are several rocks and islets, along the south shore of Mary Island, which are not shown on this sheet.

R. L. Johnston

Soundings shown in fathoms.

Protracted and plotted by H. D. Sutcliffe
Verified and inked by R. L. J.