

3815

C. & G. SURVEY,  
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Diag. Chart - No. 8551-2

3815

Form 504  
 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
 U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

State: Alaska

11-5813

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Hydrographic Chart No. 3815

LOCALITY:  
Prince William  
Sound

1915

CHIEF OF PARTY:  
G. T. Rude

746.5  
159.8  
717.8

The finished hydrographic sheet is to be accompanied by the following form, properly filled in, when the sheet is turned in to the office.

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY  
Register No. 3815

STATE Alaska  
GENERAL LOCALITY Prince William Sound  
LOCALITY vicinity of Knowles Head.  
Surveyed by G. T. Rude.  
Chief of Party G. T. Rude, Asst.  
Date Aug. - Sept. 1915.  
Scale 1 : 20,000.

SOUNDINGS IN Fathoms.

Plane of reference M. L. L. W.

Protracted by R. L. Schoppe.

Soundings plotted by R. L. Schoppe.

Inked by J. D. Torrey

Verified by " " "

The 6 foot curve is shown thus  
" 12 " " " " " R  
" 18 " " " " " R  
" 30 " " " " " R  
60 " " " " " R

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

to Accompany

HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET No. 3815

VICINITY KNOWLES & RED HEADS, PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND, ALASKA

Steamer "TAKU" Gilbert T. Rude, Commanding.  
Gilbert T. Rude, Hydrographer. Instructions dated March 24, 1915.

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General Description of Coast:

The coast line around Knowles Head and Red Head is bold and rocky, as also along the shore from signals "Rim" and "Liz". The deep indentation just inside of Knowles Head is bordered by flat shores and ends in a lagoon. Between signals "Pet" and "Liz" the shoreline is low and flat and has a sloping sand beach.

Land Marks:

Knowles Head and Red Head are two very prominent land marks. Tho' not of great height (the elevations may be obtained from topographic sheets of this vicinity) they are prominent in that they stand out alone and do not merge into any higher hills close to as is so often the case in this section. The south face of Knowles Head is reft by a very prominent landslide down the whole height of the hill. This slide may be seen for many miles and is easily identified.

Currents:

The currents are tidal and set fair with the axis of Orca Bay except close inshore off Red Head. At this place a flood current, of moderate velocity, sets out of the hollow just west of the point. A stronger off shore current, probably reaching two knots on big tides, sets out of Port Gravina on ebb tide, over the shoal

water off the southeast side of Red Head.

Shoal water extends off Red and Knowles Head, but the bottom is regular.

A strong southwest wind setting across current off Knowles Head causes a very lumpy and confused sea. This wind is a good weather wind in this section and causes small boats trouble around Knowles Head. Small craft as a rule plan to round this point late in the afternoon or early evening, as this southwest wind generally begins decreasing about 3:00 O'clock, dying out almost entirely about sundown. Southeasterly wind, which always brings bad weather, makes this passage very bad for small craft.

Anchorage:

Though the depths along these shores permit of anchoring, it is too much exposed to the southeast and southwest winds and is never used.

Survey Methods:

This work is controlled by the three triangulation stations "Red Head", "Knowles" and "Cask", and signals between located by plane table cuts, the plane table party running west from Red Head around the point till all signals in the bight could be seen. This was also done around Knowles Head and the traverse continued till sufficient check cuts were obtained. The positions of these signals may be obtained from the topographic sheet of this locality. The signals northeast from Red Head are on topographic sheet of Port Gravina.

Names:

All names used in this descriptive report are accepted ones

taken from chart 8550.

Limits of Work:

This work joins, on the west, hydrographic sheet of Assistant Ritter; on the east hydrographic sheet of Port Gravina, executed in 1915 and it extends from shoreline between Red and Knowles Heads out to the fifty fathom curve.

Respectfully submitted,

*Gilbert J. Rude*

Assistant, U.S.C. & H. Survey,  
Chief of Party.

VEC  
Apr. 17, 1916

*L. P. S.*

HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET 3815.

Prince William Sound, vicinity of Knowles Head,  
Alaska, by Assistant G. T. Rude in 1915.

TIDES.

	Snug Corner Cove ft.
Mean lower low water, or plane of reference on staff	8.4
Lowest tide observed " "	4.7
Highest " " " "	23.2
Mean range of tide	9.5

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Hydrographic Sheet No. 3815.  
Vicinity of Knowles Head, Prince William Sound, Alaska.

The positions for the work covered by this sheet were projected in the office by Mr. R. L. Schoppe and have been taken as correct.

The soundings were pencil plotted by the same party and found to be generally accurate.

The work appears good and sufficient for a good development of the bottom and as this locality appears clear of rocks or danger spots additional work would appear unnecessary. Plotted in fathoms.

John D. Torrey.  
9/22/16

LIBRARY

Place with descriptive report  
of hydrographic sheet No. 3815

J.D.T.

Drawing Section.