



3817

C. & G. SURVEY,
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3817

Form 504
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
State <i>Alaska</i>
11-5013
DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.
Hydrographic Sheet No. <i>3817</i>
LOCALITY:
<i>Fidalgo Bay</i>
<i>Prince William</i>
<i>Sound</i>
<i>1915</i>
CHIEF OF PARTY:
<i>G. T. Rude</i>

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
Register No. 3817

STATE Alaska
GENERAL LOCALITY Prince William Sound
LOCALITY Fidalgo Bay
Surveyed by U. S. S. TAKU
Chief of Party Gilbert T. Rude
Date Sept. 11 to Sept. 21, 1915
Scale 1:20,000

SOUNDINGS IN FATHOMS
At Mean Lower Low Water

Protracted by L. P. Raynor

Soundings plotted by do

Inked by

Verified by

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of hydrographic sheet No. 3817

GPT
Drawing Section.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

to Accompany

HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET No. 3817~~D~~

FIDALGO BAY, PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND, ALASKA

Steamer "TAKU"

Gilbert T. Rude, Chief of Party

Season 1915.

Gilbert T. Rude, Hydrographer

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General Description of Coast:

The shoreline is rocky on this entire sheet and closely wooded from just above high water line to the height of the limit of vegetation. This elevation varies, but is shown on the topographic sheet of this work.

The only prominent peak in this vicinity easily identified is Mount Denson, but it is so far back from Fidalgo Bay that it is of no importance as a landmark for navigators. This peak is very sharp, with a knife-like ridge extending to the southward. Its summit and well down the slope, is bare rock of dark, slaty color.

Outlying Dangers and Islands:

The only outlying rock which might be considered dangerous is about half a mile west (true) from Signal "Darb" at the head of the bay in the long east arm. This rock bares about half tide.

The islands are very closely connected with the shoreline.

Currents:

The only currents are tidal, set fair with the trend of the bay and are not of sufficient strength to be noticable.

Shoals:

The 10, 20 and 50 fathom curves swing well off shore at the points on which Stations "Junk" and "Tim" are located. The bottom

over these areas is sticky, blue mud.

The indications are that these shoals are lateral morains, dropped by the glacier as it made the bend through the narrows from the upper to the lower bay.

The main bay is very deep, ranging from 50 to 100 fathoms. The indentations, Whalen Bay, East and West Arms, are shoaler, having been filled by glacier mud brought down the valley by the glacier streams after the glaciers had receded up their valleys. The large stream at the head of Fidalgo Bay in the vicinity of Signal "Flat" has created a large flats, completely filling up the valley and extending out to the chain of islands.

Anchorage:

Anchorage for large vessels may be had near the head of the main bay between signal "Pot" on the south side and stations "Lar" and "Elf" on the north shore, in 14 to 17 fathoms, sticky bottom, with shelter from all winds. Small craft can find good anchorage in 5 to 6 fathoms, sticky bottom, at the head of the main bay and in Whalen Bay. The head of all these bays are mud flats bare at low water.

Control:

This work is controlled by a system of tertiary triangulation carried to the head of the bay this season from the line Irish-Fish, the last line into Fidalgo Bay executed by the party on the TAKU, season 1914. Additional signals were located by the plane table party, the locations of which may be obtained from the topographic sheet covering this area.

Names:

The names employed in this descriptive report are well established ones taken from chart 8550.

Respectfully submitted,

Gilbert J. Thode.

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

LAC
April 12, 1916.

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L.S.S.

HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET 3817.

Fidalgo Bay, Prince William Sound, Alaska, by Assistant
G. T. Rude in 1915.

TIDES.

				Fish Bay
				ft.
Mean lower low water, or				
plane of reference on staff				3.8
Lowest tide observed	"	"		2.4
Highest	"	"	"	17.5
Mean range of tide				9.5

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Hydrographic Sheet No 3817.
Fidalgo Bay, Prince William Sound. "Alaska"

Positions protracted by field party and taken as correct
usually. Checked occasionally only.

Soundings platted in pencil by field party and, in general,
found to be correct.

Work good and believed to be sufficient to develop conditions
satisfactorily. There are however quite a number of rocks shown some
of which were already located and inked, others indicated on the
boat sheet and still others on the Topographic sheet of this locality
and for which no location are given either by cuts or records notes.

Platted in fathoms

John D. Torrey
9/29/16.

Work not carried to the shoreline and area in the
vicinity of two islands at northern central part
of the sheet not developed. GPT

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