

# 3911

Diag. Cht. No. 8201-2

Form 504

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

## DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Type of Survey HYDROGRAPHIC

Field No. .... Office No. H-3911

### LOCALITY

State ALASKA

General locality CLARENCE STRAIT

Locality WEST COAST OF ETOLIN ISLAND, POINT

HARRINGTON TO POINT STANHOPE

19 16

CHIEF OF PARTY

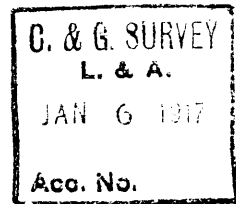
C. G. Quillian

LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

DATE JANUARY 6, 1917.

B-1870-1 (1)

# 3911

Descriptive Report to Accompany Sheet No. **3911**

West Coast of Etolin Id., Point Harrington to Point Stanhope,  
Clarence Strait, Southeastern Alaska.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION. Point Stanhope is the southern end of a net work of small Islands covered with trees and having an average height of about a hundred and forty feet to the tree tops. The general aspect when approaching from the south is that of one low island lying close to the main shore. This is caused by the narrow passage between the group of islands containing Stanhope Id. and the small islands at the southern extremity of Etolin Id. This passage apparently closes up after coming abreast of it.

Farther north and lying about half a mile off shore is a fringe of wooded islands, about 120 feet high to the tree tops, occurring at intervals nearly up to Point Harrington. This fringe comprises Abraham Id., Screen Id., Marsh Id., and a small wooded island about 100 feet high, just north of a bare rock twelve feet above high water. This island is apparently called Steamer Rock on chart #8160 but it is recommended that the name be changed to Steamer Island as the name "Steamer Rock" is misleading.

At the northern end of the sheet the mountains rise close to the shore to a height of 1989 feet. These mountains are tree covered nearly to the summit.

Water is very scarce along this shore. Except after a heavy rain, the only place at which it may be obtained is in a small cove, locally called Johnson's Cove (spelling uncertain), just east of the northern end of Screen Ids. Water may be obtained here at all times except in cases of extreme drought. High water is the best time for getting water here as the head of the cove goes bare at L. W.

OUTLYING DANGERS AND ISLANDS. The southern end of that portion of Etolin Id. which is in the vicinity of Stanhope Id., comprises many small islands not shown on chart #8160. These islands are all within the limits of land shown on Chart #8160, but this land is broken up into many smaller islands, nearly all of which are covered with trees.

The islands lying off shore about half a mile have bold shores with the exception of the Abraham Id. group. The north end of Screen Id. is foul for a distance of 200 yards from the island. Marsh Id. is foul on the west side for a distance of 250 yards from the island.

There are no tide rips in this locality but southeasterly or northwesterly winds blowing against the tide frequently make it very rough along this shore.

A ROCK bare **6** feet at M. L. L. W. lies <sup>200</sup>~~420~~ yards, <sup>255</sup>~~270~~ degrees,

true from signal AIM.

A ROCK bare **5** feet at M. L. L. W. lies <sup>420</sup>~~200~~ yards, <sup>270</sup>~~274~~ degrees

true, from signal AIM.

A ROCK bare two feet at M. L. L. W. lies 530 yards, 274 degrees true, from signal OVAL.

TWO ROCKS bare about 10 feet at M. L. L. W. lie 215 yards, 230 degrees true, from signal GOLD.

A SUNKEN ROCK with about 2 fathoms on it at M. L. L. W. lies 350 yards, 320 degrees true, from signal FOG.

A SUNKEN ROCK with about 2 fathoms on it at M. L. L. W. lies 475 yards, 225 degrees true, from signal DUL.

A SUNKEN ROCK with about 2 fathoms on it at M. L. L. W. lies about 720 yards, 144 degrees true, from signal ICE.

A SUNKEN ROCK shown on chart #8100 with  $2\frac{3}{4}$  fathoms on it, plots 800 yards, 182 degrees true, from signal DUL. The position of this rock was plotted on the boat sheet when the hydrography was being done. A sounding <sup>line</sup> was run very close to the plotted position of the rock and a careful lookout kept for kelp or other signs of a rock but nothing was found. The least depth found in the vicinity of the rock was about 26 fathoms. No special attempt was made to prove the existence of this rock other than the line run as mentioned above.

TWO SUNKEN ROCKS with about one fathom at M. L. L. W. lie about 400 yards, 235 degrees true, from signal STANHOPE.

A SUNKEN ROCK with about 5 feet at M. L. L. W. lies 530 yards, 220 degrees true, from signal STANHOPE.

A SUNKEN ROCK with about one fathom on it at M. L. L. W. lies about  $\frac{2}{3}$  or a nautical mile, 207 degrees true, from signal STANHOPE.

All of the rocks mentioned above were surrounded by kelp, more or less, but as the kelp goes away in winter or very heavy gales, it may be misleading to show as a permanent feature of a chart. There were a number of extensive kelp patches seen in the vicinity of Point Stanhope during the month of August. All kelp patches seen are either plotted on the boat sheet or are noted in the sounding record. The limits of kelp patches are put on the smooth sheet in pencil with a few exceptions.

CURRENTS. The currents are tidal but not very strong. They run fair with the channels among the small islands at the southern end of the sheet. Along the main shore of Etolin Id. the current sets fair with the passage between the smaller islands and Etolin Id.

INSHORE DANGERS. Strangers should keep at least 300 yards off shore when cruising along the shore. There are numerous rocks lying within this distance of the shore along the entire sheet.

A ROCK with about 2 feet on it at M. L. L. W. lies 315 yards, 354 degrees true, from signal MER.

A SUNKEN ROCK with about one foot on it at M. L. L. W. lies 190 yards, north true, from signal DEL.

A ROCK with about 2 feet on it at M. L. L. W. lies 220 yards, 350 degrees true, from signal MARSH.

A ROCK with one foot on it at M. L. L. W. lies 420 yards, 183 degrees true, from signal HOW

A ROCK bare 3 feet at M. L. L. W. lies ~~about~~ 285 yards, 190 degrees true, from signal HOW.

TWO ROCKS bare two feet at M. L. L. W. lie 335 yards, 350 degrees true, from signal CAP.

A ROCK bare 11 feet at M. L. L. W. lies 180 yards, 270 degrees true, from signal APE.

A ROCK bare at high water lies 175 yards, 225 degrees true, from signal APE.

A ROCK bare 6 feet at M. L. L. W. lies 275 yards, 98 degrees true, from signal CAP.

A ROCK awash at M. L. L. W. lies 310 yards, 170 degrees true, from signal CAP.

A ROCK bare about 3 feet at M. L. L. W. lies about 160 yards, 24 degrees true, from signal Sa].

A ROCK bare 8 feet at M. L. L. W. lies 225 yards, 190 degrees true, from signal <sup>UB<sup>o</sup></sup>~~PIL~~.

A ROCK bare 7 feet at M. L. L. W. lies 220 yards, 184 degrees true, from signal PIL.

A LEDGE bare 15 feet at M. L. L. W. lies 300 yards, north true, of signal DIM.

A LEDGE bare 12 feet at M.L.L.W. lies 520 yards, 320 degrees true, from signal BIT and extends southward to the shore of the comparatively large island on the east side of the small passage running northward south in this locality. It should be passed to the northward in going through the main channel in this vicinity.

A ROCK with about 2 feet of water on it at M. L. L. W. lies 115 yards, 210 degrees true, from signal SIX.

A ROCK with about 2 feet of water on it at MLLW. lies 105 yards, 155 degrees true, from signal SIX.

CHANNELS. there is a clear channel midway between Abraham Id. and Etolin Id. The channel between Screen Ids. and Etolin Id. has a few dangerous rocks in it but may be safely navigated if the vessel is kept within 200 yards of Screen Ids.

The mid-channel course inside of Marsh is clear for navigation.

A mid-channel course may be held inside of Steamer Rock (preferably Steamer "Island") by smaller vessels.

At H. W. fishermen and small craft drawing 2 or 3 feet sometimes go from Clarence Strait to Rocky Bay through the passage indicated on the smooth sheet by a dotted line. This channel starts on the Clarence Strait side about 300 yards, 155 degrees true, from signal NOT. When the tides are running very full, navigation of this channel is possible only at very nearly high water. The channel ends on the Rocky Bay side about 250 yards west of signal FLOOD.

The main channel, between the group of islands comprising Stanhope Id. and the group of islands forming the extremity of Etolin Id., and which starts in on the Clarence Strait side immediately north of signal DIM, is apparently a clear channel with about 5 or 6 fathoms through it. In going through this passage keep to the north west side of the channel near the islands. Especial care should be taken to keep clear of the LEDGE extending 300 yards north true from signal DIM and bare 12 to 15 feet at low water.

But by far the most dangerous LEDGE in this channel is the LEDGE which bares 12 feet at M.L.L.W. and extends from the shore northward to a point about 500 yards, 317 degrees true, from signal BIT.

It is recommended that the channel referred to in the preceding paragraph be called "THREE WAY PASSAGE" in order that confusion of localities be prevented. No local name of any kind was heard for this passage.

ANCHORAGES. There are no anchorages for vessels drawing over 4 feet of water except immediately south of "THREE WAY PASSAGE". This passage <sup>to the south</sup> has plenty of water and fine holding bottom but not very much swinging room. It is sheltered from all directions and is clear of rocks. In its widest part this anchorage has a width of about 150 yards. In case of great need a vessel of considerable size could be warped in in the day time and secured to both sides very snugly. The main entrance to this anchorage is from the north by way of THREE WAY PASSAGE and is very clear and plain. There is a difficult entrance which may be used at high water by small craft, drawing about three feet, at the southern end of the passage.

There is no fresh water obtainable here except soon after a rain. Small craft drawing about 3 feet may find a well sheltered anchorage, with limited swinging room, in the small cove which is about 300 yards, 155 degrees true, from signal NOT. There is room for only 2 or 3 small boats here. Water may usually be obtained from a small stream about 340 yards east true, of signal NOT. There is a small space near the stream which is clear of trees. The entrance to this little cove is free of dangers if the points and shore are given a berth of about 100 yards.



A small cove just east of the northern end of Screen Ids., locally known as JOHNSON'S (spelling uncertain) Cove, affords excellent shelter from all winds for as many as 4 or 5 small craft drawing about 4 feet of water. Swinging room is somewhat limited by a couple of LEDGES on the western side of the cove and shoal water toward the head of the cove. These LEDGES may bare at extreme low water but are usually covered. The entrance is obstructed by a rock bare at H. W. and which must be passed on the east side in entering. In entering keep about 50 yards from the eastern side of the mouth of the cove. In approaching the cove from the south, get about 200 yards east of the second island from the south of Screen Ids., group, and keep the north tangent of this island on range with the steel light tower on Lincoln Rock, NOT the fog signal station. This range will clear the ledges lying about 900 and 500 yards to the south of the entrance to JOHNSON'S COVE. Entering from the north, keep the rock which is at the entrance to JOHNSON'S COVE and is <sup>bare</sup> ~~bare~~ at high water, about 30 or 40 yards on the port hand side. Water may be obtained at all times except of extreme drought, at the head of JOHNSON'S COVE.

THE SUNKEN ROCK shown on chart 8100 with a depth of  $2\frac{3}{4}$  fathoms, 675 yards true south of signal DUL, was plotted on the boat sheet at the time the hydrography was being done and a line of soundings run very close to the plotted position of the rock. A close look-out was kept for kelp or indications <sup>p</sup> of a rock but no trace of a rock was found. The least depth on the line in the immediate vicinity of the plotted position of this rock was about 26 fathoms.

No further attempt was made to locate this rock. A rock was found with about 2 fathoms on it, about 875 yards, 135 degrees true from signal DUL and another rock with about 2 fathoms on it was found 450 yards, 225 degrees true, from signal DUL. It is impossible that either of these rocks might be the rock shown on chart #8100 but with its position more accurately determined.

SURVEY METHODS. Very little development was done on this sheet. This was due to the fact that the shores are as a rule very bold and the hydrography only covers a narrow strip of water inside of the limits of previous wire drag work. There are very few suspicious spots on the sheet which are in a position to warrant further outlay of work upon them.

The work is controlled by tertiary triangulation and topography using this triangulation system.

The work was executed in accordance with the Superintendent's instructions dated February 4, 1916.

NEW PLACE NAMES. New place names on this sheet are: JOHNSON'S COVE, which is the local name for the small cove on Etolin Id. just east of the northern end of Screen Ids. **THREE WAY PASSAGE**, the name suggested for the principal<sup>al</sup> channel connecting Clarence Strait with Rocky Bay and lying between the group of islands on the south comprising Stanhope Id., and the group of islands on the north forming the termination of Etolin Island.

Respectfully submitted

R. Russell,  
 Aid, U.S. Survey.

Statistics Sheet No.

West Coast of Etolin Island

Date, 1916	Letter	Volume	Positions	Sdgs.	Miles statute	Vessel
August 16	a	I	10	33	1.0	Launch Delta
August 17	b	I	59	189	9.2	"
" 19	c	I	41	137	6.1	"
" 24	d	I	47	145	6.5	"
" 25	e	I	95	312	12.8	"
" 26	f	I&II	65	211	9.0	"
" 28	g	II	81	245	9.3	"
" 31	h	II	52	176	8.7	"
September 1	j	II	25	79	3.2	"
" 2	k	II	40	122	6.0	"
" 15	l	II	21	164	5.0	"
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>1813</b>	<b>76.8</b>	

Ps.  
2.1.0.

VEC  
June 29, 1917

HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET 3911.

Clarence Strait, Alaska, by party of Assistant C. G.  
Quillian in 1916.

TIDES.

	Lake Bay Feet.
Mean lower low water, or plane of reference on staff	3.0
Mean range of tide	13.6

Draftsman's  
Criticism - Hyd. 3911.

The area has been evenly but not closely developed. As little inshore development was done, it is impossible to draw continuously the 1, 2, and 3 fathom curves. However, as the bottom drops rapidly from the shore, the 5 fathom curve is the first important one.

The soundings were plotted accurately, very few changes being necessary.

The records are well kept and legible.

E. K. Ellis,  
Draftsman.