

3955

G. & G. SURVEY

L. & A.

APR 27 1917

Acc. No.

Draw. Cht. No. 8551-2

Form 804

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

State: *Alaska*

11-5613

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Hyd. Sheet No. *3955*

LOCALITY:

*Onca Inlet from
Spica Id to Haw
kins Id Aluff
Princeton Id.*

1917

CHIEF OF PARTY:

E. E. Smith

3955

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET NO.

ORCA INLET FROM SPIKE ISLAND TO
HAWKINS ISLAND CUTOFF.
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND ALASKA

The high water shore line on this sheet is practically all rocky and on the Hawkins Island side very precipitous. The low water lines are the banks of the various channels through the mud and sand flats to be described later.

In the neighborhood of Point Whitshed wireless station and northeast therefrom the direction of the current differs according to the stage of the tide, that is whether the flats are covered or the water still running through the channels and whether the sound tide is at a higher or lower stage than the tide outside. As a rule the current runs to the southward for two or three hours after high tide and flows to the northward two or three hours after low tide. The current averages from one to two knots with a few exceptions, notably around the northeast point of Hinchinbrook Island and in some of the channels at a low stage of tide where it will flow from one to three knots. See Report on Currents, Orca Inlet and Copper River Delta.

closely

There is a channel following along the northeast or Hawkins Island shore through which thirty five feet may be carried as far as Conoe Pass. This channel is 600 meters wide at its northern end and varies from 800 meters to 200 meters, its width at Conoe Pass. Southeast of Conoe Pass the channel follows the shore line but dwindles away.

A small slough connects the above mentioned channel with the main channel entering at Point Bentinck with eight feet of water but it is in places but 100 meters wide and is so crooked as to require considerable marking to make it usable. This connecting slough runs about N 10 E true from the northeast point of Hinchinbrook Island.

Another slough connects the same two channels with ten feet of water and a least width of two hundred meters. It is larger and more navigable than the above mentioned crossover but is away from the shore line for a great distance and would also require considerable marking.

From a point on Hawkins Island about N 25 E true from Big Point a channel crosses in a direct line to Big Point. It is 300 meters wide at its narrowest place and carries twenty feet to within 500 meters of Big Point. It is by far the most easily navigated route from Cordova toward the wireless station. It is the same distance as the channel (described below) now in use by fishing vessels and others. A range on Big Point (see Coast Pilot Notes) may be easily picked up and carried across the Inlet .

From Spike Island the above mentioned channel in use from Cordova to the wireless station follows the south or east shore to Bluff Point in a nearly straight line. Then from that point to the junction with the previously described channel from the Hawkins Island side it is narrower and crooked having a width of about 150 meters with nine feet through the best water. Half a mile southwest of Big Point the channel narrows to 130 meters and holds this width to the wireless station. 13 Feet depth may be carried to Gravel Point. Beyond that there is three feet of water in the channel flowing around the point in front of the wireless station, thence southwestward to join the big slough just east of Mummy Island.

There is a possible passage with 5 feet of water between Big Point and Hawkins Island Shore at Conoe Pass. It is very irregular. The width at its narrowest place is 150 meters.

A vessel may anchor anywhere in the channels that her length and draft permits. The best protection for small boats from the easterly gales and the prevailing easterly winds is in the channel between Big Point and the wireless station, the light draft boats that work in this vicinity usually anchoring between Gravel Point and the wireless station in about six feet of water, mud bottom. This place was not disturbed at any time during the past season by gales and it was usually quiet here when quite boisterous just outside of the wireless station or on the northwest side of the Inlet. Squalls and willawaws frequently blow out of the bay just east of Big Point and from Eyak Lake.

dangerous

No rocks or obstructions were found in the channels or on the mud flats. Between the channels and sloughs the mud flats are exposed at low tide. There are a number of rocks about Mummy Island but these are surrounded by extensive flats and are harmless. There is a small sharp rock in the mud flat a mile and a half west true from Mummy Island. It is covered by the tide but is too far from navigable water to be dangerous.

No names could be obtained for the islet a quarter of a mile southwest of Mummy Island and the one a mile northwestward, nor for the rocks a mile south of the west end of Mummy Island the highest point of which is Triangulation Station Pin. There is a small group of rocks, covered at high tide, in the flats just west of the last mentioned station but they are not a source of danger.

Pinnacle Rock, the triangulation station, is the sharp peak of a large rock rising with abrupt sides from the water. It is about eighty five feet high. Almost contiguous to it on the north side is another large rock not quite so high. They show very prominently in this vicinity.

From Cordova to Point whits~~ed~~ and on Hawkins Island from Grass Island to a point near signal Scar and Mummy Island the shore line is transferred from this season's topographic sheets. The remainder of the shore line was furnished by the Washington office from records on file. On Hawkins Island the sounding lines ran very close to the bold shore. Part of this shore was sketched where it didnot seem correct and is shown in dotted lines.

In depths of ten feet and less a pole was used for sounding, elsewhere, the usual hand lead.

A good conception of the country may be obtained from the photographs taken by the party of Assistant Homer P. Ritter in 1898 and 1899 and filed in the archives.

There is a clam cannery at Cordova and one a mile north of the Point Whitshed wireless station (officially known as Cordova). Piles for another were being driven in Boswell Bay when the party left the working grounds. The clams are dug from the flats between Point Bentinck and the wireless station.

The Carlisle Packing Company at Cordova, Built last Spring, packed 130,000 cases of salmon during the Summer. They compete with the fishermen of the Northwestern Fisheries Company at Orca and the Conoe Pass Packing Company at the Cordova dock. In early summer red salmon are sought on the delta flats and later hump backs are caught in the sound, fishing as far away as Eshamy Bay. Also during the past season the three canneries had fishermen in the Copper River at the railroad bridge near Alaganik and at the bridge between Miles and Childs Glaciers, the catch being sent out daily by rail. At the close of the season the Conoe Pass Packing Company was looking for a new site. Another company was searching for a site for a clam cannery.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) G.C.Jones, Aid C.& G.SURVEY.

Date 1916	Letter	Volume	Positions	Soundings	Miles- Statute	Vessels
June 1	a	1	73	505	12.0	Whaleboat
" 2	b	1	11	112	2.8	"
" 5	c	1	23	158	4.8	"
" 6	d	1	30	156	8.2	"
" 12	e	1	9	76	2.5	"
" 14	f	1	13	63	2.9	Taku
" 21	g	1	19	144	3.5	Whaleboat
" 21	g	2	3	18	.5	"
" 22	h	2	27	213	8.5	Taku
" 26	j	2	21	110	8.3	"
" 27	k	2	38	280	7.2	Dingy
" 28	l	2	79	498	17.7	Taku
" 30	m	2	32	186	3.8	Dingy
July 6	n	3	31	191	6.3	Whaleboat
" 10	p	3	27	132	6.2	Taku
" 15	q	3	47	447	6.8	Whaleboat
" 22	r	3	86	912	18.6	"
" 22	r	4	40	350	6.2	"
" 24	s	4	108	1115	25.2	"
" 29	t	4	19	143	4.2	"
" 29	t	5	63	588	12.8	"
Aug. 7	u	5	91	699	15.7	"
" 12	v	5	28	338	4.2	"
" 12	v	6	26	275	4.1	"
" 14	w	6	33	362	9.2	"
" 15	x	6	41	197	4.9	"
" 18	y	6	80	630	14.0	"
" 18	y	7	12	63	2.2	"
" 21	z	7	98	869	22.3	"
" 28	a'	7	66	467	11.9	"
" 28	a'	8	40	328	8.0	"
" 29	b'	8	126	1250	29.0	"
" 30	c'	9	147	1256	32.5	"
Sept. 1	d'	9	31	211	10.0	"
" 1	d'	10	107	878	19.7	"
" 6	e'	10	65	631	12.3	"
" 6	e'	11	62	596	11.5	"
" 8	f'	11	62	399	7.2	"
" 30	g'	12	140	1121	27.1	"
TOTALS.....			2054	16967	414.6	

ADDRESS
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

REFER TO NO. 5-VEC

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

WASHINGTON

October 9, 1917.

3956
✓

✓ Division of Hydrography and Topography: *W*

Division of Charts:

Tidal reductions are approved in
12 volumes of Sounding records for

HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET 3955

Orca Inlet and vicinity, Alaska
E.E. Smith in 1916

Plane of reference is
Mean lower low water, reading

4.3 ft. on tide staff at Point Whitshed.

L. P. Shidy

Acting Chief, Section of
Tides and Currents.