

5707

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Form 504  
Rev. Dec. 1933  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY  
R. S. PATTON, DIRECTOR

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

~~Topographic~~ Sheet No. 9  
Hydrographic

State ALABAMA

LOCALITY

Bon Secour Bay

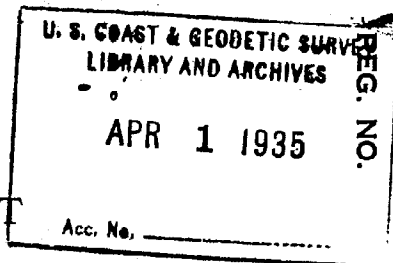
Entrance  
Vicinity Bon Secour River Mouth

1935

CHIEF OF PARTY

I. E. Rittenburg

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY



HYDROGRAPHIC TITLE SHEET

The Hydrographic Sheet should be accompanied by this form, filled in as completely as possible, when the sheet is forwarded to the Office.

Field No. 9

REGISTER NO. 5707

State Alabama

General locality Bon Secour's Bay

Locality ~~Cyster Bay~~ Bon Secour's Bay and River Entrance

Scale 1:10000 Date of survey Jan. Feb. 1935, 19

Vessel Shore Party 15

Chief of Party I. E. Rittenburg

Surveyed by J. A. Kinghorn

Protracted by J. R. Walsh

Soundings penciled by J. R. Walsh

Soundings in ~~fathoms~~ feet

Plane of reference Mean Low Water

Subdivision of wire dragged areas by

Inked by

Verified by

Instructions dated Nov. 30, 1934, 19

Remarks:

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET FIELD NUMBER 9, 1935  
BON SECOURS BAY AND RIVER, OYSTER BAY, ALABAMA: PROJECT H & T # 196.

1 AUTHORITY

This survey was made in accordance with instructions received from the Director and dated Nov. 30, 1935. Field work was done during the months of Jan. and Feb. 1935. ✓

2 Area Covered

The area covered by this sheet is all of Oyster Bay and portions of Bon Secours Bay and Bon Secours River. This sheet joins with the Intracoastal waterway dredged cut at the eastern end of the sheet and runs beyond the one fathom curve in Bon Secours Bay, the western end of the project assigned this party. The entrance to Bon Secours River was also obtained. ✓

3 Control

The triangulation of Lieut. J.G. M.H. Reese, 1934 was the basic triangulation for this survey. This triangulation was supplemented by graphical control on aluminum mounted topographic sheets for locating the signals necessary for hydrography. These topographic signals were transferred from Graphical Control sheet letter "C" back. This survey is on the final adjusted North American 1927 Datum. Shoreline was obtained from the air photo reduction party of Lieut. J.G. M. H. Reese. ✓

4 Methods

Standard hydrographic methods were employed throughout this survey. Three point sextants fixes were used entirely. Soundings were taken with a 10 lb hand lead graduated into fathoms and feet. Sounding lines were run as close as possible to shore with an outboard motor attached to a skiff. All the depth curves were not drawn on the smooth sheet for fear of confusing the verifier. ✓

5 Dangers

Numerous shoals exist on the edges of the dredged cuts. These shoals can easily be avoided by giving all beacons a clearance of about 35-40 meters. with the exception of the 6 ft. sounding midway between beacons 109 and 111. Bottom characteristics indicate a soft bottom composed of mud and sand. ✓

6 Channels

The existing dredged channel is well marked by beacons and the project depth of 9 ft. can easily be carried for the entire sheet into Bon Secours Bay. Shoal water of a constant depth of 2 ft. is found in Oyster Bay south of the dredged channel across the bay at the northern end. Because of this shoal depth sounding lines were spaced about 200 metres apart and a cross line 16 L to 22 L was run to prove that no narrow channel was overlooked. ✓

7 Landmarks For Charts.

7 Landmarks for Charts.

There are no features prominent enough for charting in this area. However there are sufficient aids to navigation and these are listed on a separate form and attached hereto. ✓

8 Coast Pilot Notes

The coast Pilot Notes to Beacon 91 have been given to Lieut. Commdr. H. A. Cotton as directed. The Coast Pilot Notes from Beacon 91 to the western limit of this sheet are attached hereto as a separate report. ✓

9 Tides

A portable automatic tide gage was operated at Nelson Landing and shown on the smooth sheet by means of a blue circle. This ~~gage~~ gage was operated for the entire duration of the survey and furnished the tide reducers for the reduction of the sounding records. Mean Low Water as furnished by your office was 1.4 ft. ✓

10 Statistics

Statute miles of sounding lines	105.2
Number of soundings taken	4012
Number of positions taken	1008

J. A. Kinghorn, Surveyor,  
Hydrographer.

I. E. Rittenburg, Lieut. C&GS  
Chief of Party.

This is to certify that all the records and sheets have been examined and approved.

The one fathom curve in Bon Secours Bay was considered to be the western limit of the project assigned this party. The entrance to BonSecours River was obtained as at the time this survey was made it was uncertain just how long this party would continue after the first of March and the instructions for this project had laid out certain areas which were to be given priority. Bon Secours River was not one of these areas.

I. E. Rittenburg,  
Chief of Party C&GS

Sheet # 10 page at Helena Landing Area MLW = 1.44

A-day Jan. 20	B-day Jan. 21	C-day Jan. 22	D-day Jan. 23	E-day Jan. 24	F-day Feb. 1	G-day Feb. 4	H-day Feb. 5	I-day Feb. 6	K-day Feb. 7	L-day Feb. 8
11:00 - 3:15	10:30 - 3:00	11:00 - 3:00	12:30 - 3:15	10:30 - 2:50	11 - 2:40	10:30 - 3:00	10 - 3:15	10 - 3:30	10 - 3:15	10:45 - 3:10
11 - 1.5	10:30 - 1.4	11 - 1.6	12 - 1.7	10 - 0.8	10 - 0.6	10 - 0.75	0 - pull day	0 - 1:15	0 - 1:00	-1/2 - 1:20
12 - 1.6	12 - 1.3	12 - 1.7	1 - 1.9	11 - 0.8	11 - 0.9	11 - 0.65		-1/2 end.		-1/2 - 1:20
1 - 1.7	1 - 1.6	1 - 1.9	2 - 2.0	12 - 1.0	12 - 1.2	12 - 0.8				0 end.
2 - 1.8	1 - 1.8	2 - 2.0	3 - 2.0	1 - 1.3	1 - 1.3	1 - 1.05				
3:45 - 2.0	3 - 2.1	3 - 2.2		2 - 1.6	2 - 1.5	2 - 1.3				
0 - 1:00	0 - 1:30	0 - 1:30	0 - 1:30	3 - 2.0	3 - 1.8	3 - 1.3				
-4/2 pull day	-1/2 surf.	-1/2 end.	-1/2 end.	+1/2 - 12:20	+1 - 10:20	+1/2 - 1:10				
				0 - 8:20	+1/2 - 11:40	0 end.				
				-1/2 end.	0 - 8:40					
					-1/2 - 8:40					

M-day  
Feb. 9

9-50 - 11:00

-1 all day

Field Records Section (Charts)

HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET NO. **5707**

The following statistics will be submitted with the cartographer's report on the sheet:

Number of positions on sheet	..... <sup>8</sup>
Number of positions checked	..... <sup>26</sup>
Number of positions revised	..... <sup>0</sup>
Number of soundings recorded	..... <sup>4017</sup>
Number of soundings revised	..... <sup>13</sup>
Number of signals erroneously plotted or transferred	..... <sup>0</sup>

Date: *June 10, 1935.*

Verification by *Jam. Cornick*  
Entered by *J. Horick*  
Review by *V. D. Behn*

Time: *8 hrs.*  
*10 1/2 hrs.*  
Time: *9 hrs*

Date April 3, 1935

**GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**  
ALABAMA

Survey No. H5707

Chart No. 1266

Diagram No. 1266

Approved by the Division of Geographic Names, Department of Interior. ✕

Referred to the Division of Geographic Names, Department of Interior. R

Under investigation. Q

Status	Name on Survey	Name on Chart	New Names in local use	Names assigned by Field	Location
	<u>BON SECOUR BAY</u> ✓				
	<del>Bon Secours Bay</del> ✓	Same			
	<u>BON SECOUR RIVER</u> ✓				
	<del>Bon Secours River</del> ✓	"			
	<u>Intracoastal Waterway</u> ✓	"			
	<u>Oyster Bay</u> ✓	Same			

APPROVED NAMES  
UNDERLINED IN RED  
H. L. Fleming



Rae

TIDE NOTE FOR HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET

May 11, 1935

Division of Hydrography and Topography:

✓ Division of Charts: Attention Mr. E. P. Ellis

Tide Reducers are approved in  
4 volumes of sounding records for

HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET 5707.

Locality . Bon Secours River Entrance, Mobile, Alabama.

Chief of Party: I. E. Rittenburg in 1935  
Plane of reference is mean low water reading  
1.4 ft. on tide staff at Nelsons Landing  
3.4 ft. below B.M. 1

Height of mean high water above plane of reference is 1.6 feet.

Condition of records satisfactory except as noted below:

Chief, Division of Tides and Currents.

Verrier's Report on H-5707.

Records:

Records conformed with General Instructions. ✓

Drafting:

Drafting was excellent. ✓

Curves:

Depth curves were well refined. ✓

Junctions:

This sheet has no contemporary junctions. It adjoins H-4023 (1918), scale 1:40,000 on the west. Verrier did not make this junction, leaving it to the discretion of the ~~new~~ reviewer. ✓

Remarks:

Photo compilation was not available for comparison. ✓

June 10, 1935.

Submitted,

James Clornick

April 13, 1936.

Sheet was compared with photo compilation T-5497 and T-5534. T-5528 was not available but the small section of shoreline on T-5528 is not important. Paragraph 6b ~~two~~ of review should be changed to conform with air photo comparison.

James

Section of Field Records

REVIEW OF HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY NO. 5707 (1935) - FIELD NO. 9

Bon Secour River Entrance, Bon Secour Bay, Alabama  
Surveyed in January - February, 1935  
Instructions dated November 30, 1934 (I. E. Rittenberg)

Hand Lead Soundings.

3 Point Fixes on Shore Signals.

Chief of Party - I. E. Rittenberg.  
Surveyed by - J. A. Kinghorn.  
Protracted by - J. R. Walsh.  
Soundings penciled by - J. R. Walsh.  
Verified by - J. A. McCormick.  
Inked by - J. Honich.

1. Condition of Records.

The records are neat and legible and conform to the requirements of the Hydrographic Manual.

The Descriptive Report is clear and comprehensive and satisfactorily covers all matters of importance.

2. Compliance with Instructions for the project.

This survey complies with the instructions for the project. The spacing of sounding lines in the important and unimportant areas is evidence of good judgment.

3. Sounding Line Crossings.

Such cross lines as were run are in good agreement.

4. Depth Curves.

Within the limits of the survey the usual depth curves may be satisfactorily drawn.

5. Junctions with Contemporary Surveys.

There are no contemporary surveys adjoining this survey.

6. Comparison with Prior Surveys.

a. H-263 (1851).

A comparison with the present survey indicates that both natural and artificial changes have taken place in this area. In view of this and because of the comparatively large distances between soundings and the elapsed time between the two surveys, this survey should be disregarded in future charting.

b. H-4023 (1918).

A comparison between this survey and the present survey indicates that some change, mostly artificial, has taken place in the common area. In lat.  $30^{\circ}17.7'$ , long.  $87^{\circ}45.0'$  there is a notation "piles" (charted) which originates with a note "old piles" in the sounding records for H-4023 (1918). These piles are not shown on the new survey, nor are they referred to on the sounding lines which were run at zero tide. They also do not show on the U. S. Engineers' survey of 1931 (Bp. 27453). In all probability they have either been removed or have rotted away, and should not be used in future charting.

*These piles are shown on air-photo compilation, T-5497, and have been added to H-5707(1935)*

7. Comparison with Chart No. 1266.

a. Hydrography.

Within the area of the present survey this chart is based on surveys discussed in the foregoing paragraphs and 2 U. S. Engineers' Surveys of 1931 (Bp's. 27452 and 27453). Some change resulting from the dredging of the Intracoastal Waterway has taken place subsequent to these U. S. Engineers Surveys, in view of which they should not be used in future charting.

b. Controlling Depths.

The controlling depth of the Intracoastal Waterway, from Pensacola Bay, Florida, to Mobile Bay, Alabama, is charted as 9 feet as of April, 1934. 11 feet can be carried thru that portion, as shown on this survey, of this section of the Intracoastal Waterway.

c. Aids to Navigation.

The beacons east of and including beacon 123 on this survey are all charted. In general the charted positions disagree somewhat with those shown on this survey. These charted positions all depend on the location of the channel. The positions as determined by the new survey are considered more accurate and should supersede the present charted positions. Those beacons on the new survey west of beacon 123 are uncharted.

8. Field Plotting.

The field plotting and protracting are satisfactory and conform to the requirements of the hydrographic manual.

9. Additional Field Work Recommended.

This survey is complete and no additional field work is required.

10. Superseding Old Surveys.

Within the area covered the present survey supersedes the following surveys for charting purposes:

H- 263 (1851) in part.  
H-4023 (1918) " "

11. Reviewed by - V. D. Behn, June, 1935.

Inspected by - A. L. Shalowitz.

Examined and approved:

C. K. Green, *C. K. Green.*  
Chief, Section of Field Records.

*R. O. Pollock.*  
Chief, Division of Charts.

*J. S. Borden*  
Chief, Section of Field Work.

*G. W. Wade*  
Chief, Division of H. & T.

Appelina & Co 1266 - April 1936 - H.A. Gault  
APPLIED TO IWW # 872 Nov. 1947 A. J. HOFFMAN. ✓ was 1/7/48