

5789

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

# DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

~~Geographic~~ } Sheet No. 2  
Hydrographic }

State Louisiana

### LOCALITY

Atchafalaya River,

Morgan City to Atchafalaya Bay

1934 and 35

### CHIEF OF PARTY

Thos. B. Reed

1710  
A Report  
by  
Reed

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

REG. NO.

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. 2

REGISTER NO. **5789**

State Louisiana

General locality Atchafalaya River

Locality Morgan City to Atchafalaya Bay

Scale 1:20,000 Date of survey Nov. 26, 1934 to Jan. 26, 1935

Vessel Field Party No. 4.

Chief of Party Thos. B. Reed

Surveyed by J. C. Tribble, J. F. Mollwain.

Protracted by H. L. Proffitt

Soundings penciled by H. L. Proffitt

Soundings in ~~fathoms~~ feet

Plane of reference M. L. W.

Subdivision of wire dragged areas by

Inked by E. F. Greene, Jr.

Verified by E. F. G.

Instructions dated June 26, Sept. 15, 1934

Remarks:

H 5789

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT  
to accompany

Hydrographic Sheet No. 2, Atchafalaya River and Part of Atchafalaya Bay

Louisiana

Field Party No. 4.

Thos. B. Reed, Chief of Party.

Project H. T. 156.

DATE OF INSTRUCTIONS: June 26 and September 15, 1934; Telegram dated August 14, 1934; Letter dated December 24, 1934 No. 22-RS 1990 (4).

DATE OF SURVEY: November 26, 1934 to January 26, 1935.

SURVEY METHODS:

This survey was made by the usual launch hydrographic methods, using a standard lead line with 15 pound lead for the deeper soundings and a pole for soundings up to about 11 feet. There was usually a current of 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  knots downstream during the time of sounding, and in order to avoid a long spacing between soundings and maintain speed enough on the launch for steerageway, most of the deep lines in the River were run against the current.

DISCREPANCIES:

Discrepancies in the records necessitating changes of objects or angles by the smooth plotter are noted in the sounding records. In general, depths on crossing or overlapping lines were good, with the exception of a few taken on the sides of the steep slopes. In a few cases discrepancies in the crossings were the result of the sounding launch running from deep into very shoal water, or vice versa, causing a slowing down or speeding up of the launch between positions. In these cases it is recommended that preference be given to the soundings on the lines on which this did not occur.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

This sheet includes Bayou Shaffer and the Atchafalaya River from the vicinity of Morgan City to its mouth including a part of Atchafalaya Bay. There are scattered trees along the shores of the Atchafalaya River and Bayou Shaffer as far south as Sweet Bay Lake. South of Sweet Bay Lake the shores are marsh, covered with high marsh grass.

The line of sounding between positions 132dd to 140 dd was run about 50 meters west of a line of brush stakes marking the channel. This channel is very narrow being only about 20 feet wide and has been dug out of the mud and kept open largely by propeller action of tug boats of an oyster shell dredging Company which make almost daily trips between Morgan City and their dredging operations on Point au Fer Reef, east of Eugene Island.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS SURVEYS:

Copies of hydrographic sheets of the 1888 survey are not available for making a comparison. A general comparison with Chart No. 199 shows only small changes in the deep water channel of the river. However all shoal areas such as \*Bateman Lake and \*Sweet Bay Lake have shoaled considerably since the old survey. The eastern part of Bateman Lake has been seen at low tide as a mud flat extending all the way from the line of 1 foot soundings to the shore. It is not known if the channel shown on the Chart No. 199 extends out of the south mouth of Bayou Progue but if so it does not connect with the river channel by several hundred meters. There is a considerable amount of marsh grass growing in the water in the northeastern end of Bateman Lake. <sup>Changes of as much as 10 feet noted in spots.</sup>

\* Should 1 to 3 feet in shoal flat areas. *Wynn.*

JUNCTION WITH CONTEMPORARY SURVEYS:

This sheet joins on the north in the river and in Bayou Shaffer with Sheet No. 1. In Atchafalaya Bay a junction is made on the west with Sheet No. 3 and on the south with Sheet No. 4.

RECOMMENDATION FOR ADDITIONAL FIELD WORK:

On both sides of the Atchafalaya River and included within the area of New Chart No. 1276 there are a large number of bayous, practically all of which are navigable. While the amount of navigation in them at present is small, they should be charted to make the New Chart complete. It is recommended that after the air photo survey of the area is completed, these bayous be sounded.

GEOGRAPHIC NAMES:

Geographic names shown on the sheet were obtained from the U. S. Engineers' Quadrangles covering the area. These names were checked with local residents and found correct except that the short section of Deer Island Bayou Southeast of Deer Island is known locally as Deer Island Bayou instead of Round Bayou as shown on the Engineers' Point au Fer Quadrangle. It is recommended that, where a difference occurs, the names shown on the hydrographic sheet supercede those shown on Chart No. 199.

TIDE REDUCERS:

Tidal reductions are shown on the attached sheets.

Respectfully submitted,



Thos. B. Reed,  
Lieut., C. & G. Survey,  
Chief of Field Party No. 4.

Note: The cable shown on Chart 199 down the Atchafalaya River from Morgan City to the Gulf has been removed and should no longer be shown on the Chart. This cable was salvaged about 5 years ago and the cable station was moved to Galveston. *TBR*

STATISTICS FOR SHEET NO. 2

YEAR 1934-35	DAY	VOL.	STATUTE MI.	NUMBER	NUMBER	
DATE -----	LETTER -----	NO. -----	SDG. LINES --	SOUNDINGS --	POSITIONS --	
Dec.	10	a	1	11.9	296	75
"	11	b	1	4.8	174	49
"	12	c	1	17.5	383	102
"	13	d	1	17.5	397	109
"	14	e	1 & 2	22.1	720	110
"	17	f	3	0.5	30	10
"	18	g	3	4.0	125	20
"	19	h	3	17.1	600	110
"	20	j	3	19.7	676	126
"	21	k	3 & 4	12.1	479	88
"	28	l	4	6.2	221	45
"	29	m	4	14.5	405	61
"	30	n	4	13.0	423	77
"	31	p	4 & 5	16.4	450	79
Jan.	3	q	5	7.1	242	40
"	4	r	5	23.5	737	148
"	5	s	5	14.6	487	78
"	6	t	6	17.5	513	103
"	7	u	6	8.9	470	58
"	8	v	6	13.6	349	81
"	9	w	6 & 7	30.4	836	153
"	10	x	7	40.1	996	135
"	11	y	7 & 8	27.1	719	108
"	12	z	8	27.6	699	92
"	13	aa	8 & 9	51.0	1294	184
"	14	bb	9	46.5	1153	155
"	23	cc	10	19.5	487	60
"	24	dd	10	46.2	1040	180
"	25	ee	10 & 11	56.1	1388	190
"	26	ff	11 & 12	51.1	1278	171
Nov.	27	a	13	18.5	428	77
"	28	b	13	12.0	270	52
TOTAL -----			688.6	18,765	3,126	

No. Sq. Miles area of soundings --- 50.0

HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY NO. H5789

Smooth Sheet 1

Boat Sheet 1

Sounding Records 13 Vols. \_\_\_\_\_

Descriptive Report Yes

Title Sheet Yes

List of Signals Yes in Vol. 1

Landmarks for Charts (Form 567) No yes (see Chart Letters)

Statistics Yes

Approved by Chief of Party T. B. Reed

Recoverable Station Cards (Form 524) \_\_\_\_\_

Special Chart for Lighthouse Service \_\_\_\_\_  
(Circular Nov. 30, 1933)

Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Field Records Section (Charts)

HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET NO. ...5789

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

Number of positions on sheet	4326.
Number of positions checked	...80.
Number of positions revised	....0.
Number of soundings recorded	18765.
Number of soundings revised	....0.
Number of signals erroneously plotted or transferred	....0.

Date: July 12, 1935

Verification by E. F. Greene, Jr.

Time: 121 hours.

Review by H. W. Murray

Time: 13 "

Ver. Corrections by ..

54 "

July 12-1935.

1. The records conformed acceptably to the General Instructions.
2. It was possible to draw the usual depth curves with an acceptable degree of completeness.
3. The field plotting was completed to the extent prescribed in the Hydrographic Manual, except that a few pencil soundings were plotted erroneously and had to be changed by the Verifier.
4. Generally taken, the drafting was satisfactory.
5. Junctions with H-5788 <sup>(north)</sup> was satisfactory. H-5790 <sup>(southwest)</sup> was in the process of verification and could not be compared.
6. Concerning the curves drawn the field party; both a 24 foot and a 36 foot curve were drawn, by them, in various places on the smooth sheet and had to be erased, and 1/2 fathom curves were drawn indiscriminately throughout rows of 6 1/2 and 12 1/2 foot soundings. Pencil curves removed. X.M.M.

Remarks: On H-5789 many Topographic stations are located on the water side of the high water line. Where necessary, Recoverable Stations cards, T-6298 and T-6299 a+b, <sup>and the Boat sheet</sup> were consulted, and if a description of the station was obtainable, it was added to the smooth sheet in black ink, but when it was not obtainable, a notation (in green pencil) to that effect, was made near the location of the station on the smooth sheet. \* notes in green disposed of. X.M.M.

In general crossings were good. There is a 2 foot difference, however between lines k and j in  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \phi \ 29^{\circ} \ 35'.04 \\ \lambda \ 91^{\circ} \ 13'.30 \end{array} \right\}$  no discrepancy requiring comment noted here. X.M.M.

In this connection, attention is called to the 12 or 13 foot



channel in the southwestern corner of the sheet which lies within a bed of 7-foot soundings\*. Attention is further directed to <sup>the note on</sup> page 49 volume 10, which refers to the stakes that mark out this channel.  
→ note placed on smooth sheet. xxviii.

E. F. Green, Jr.  
Verifier.

\* Location of soundings and accompanying differences indefinite. However, it is noted that depths of 7 feet predominate along the edges of the channel. It is quite possible that the seven referred to is actually on the edge of the channel, is slightly misread and does not constitute a mensural variation. xxviii.

Date May 29, 1935GEOGRAPHIC NAMES  
LOUISIANASurvey No. H5789Chart No. 1116Diagram No. 1116

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>Lower Atchafalaya River</u>	<u>Atchafalaya River</u>			240
	<u>Morgan City Bayou Shaffer</u>	<u>Same Bayou Chayer</u>		2 times	140
	<u>Bayou Progue</u>	-----			
	<u>Intracoastal Canal</u>	-----			
	<u>Little Wax Bayou</u> ✓	<u>Same</u>			
	<u>Bateman Lake</u> ✓	<u>Same</u>			120
	<u>Big Wax Bayou</u> ✓	"			120
	<u>Bayou Penchant</u> ✓	"			100
	<u>Halfway Bayou</u>	-----			
	<u>Sweet Bay Lake</u>	<u>Same</u>			140
	<u>Honey Bayou</u>	-----			
	<u>Towhead Bayou</u>	-----			
	<u>Sword Bayou</u>	<u>Same</u>			
	<u>Chicken Island Bayou</u> ✓	-----			120
	<u>Cut Off</u>	<u>Cutoff</u>			
	<u>Cut Off Bayou</u>	<u>Cutoff Bayou</u> ✓			100
	<u>Shell Island Pass</u>	<u>Same</u> ✓		2 times	120
	<u>Deer Island Bayou</u>	----- ✓			120
	<u>Crooked Bayou</u>	-----			
	<u>Palmetto Bayou</u> ✓	-----			120
	<u>Plumb Bayou</u> ✓	-----			120
	<u>Creole Pass</u> ✓	-----			120
	<u>Atchafalaya Bay.</u>	<u>Same</u>			240

APPROVED NAMES  
UNDERLINED IN RED  
H. L. F. [unclear]

(4-136)

2ae

### TIDE NOTE FOR HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET

June 11, 1935.

Division of Hydrography and Topography:

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

Tide Reducers are approved in  
13 volumes of sounding records for

HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET 5789

Locality Morgan City to Atchafalaya River, Coast of La.

Chief of Party: T. B. Reed in 1934

Plane of reference is mean low water reading

- 3.8 ft. on tide staff at Sword Point
- 1.5 ft. below B.M. 1
- 3.0 ft. on tide staff at Morgan City
- 5.2 ft. below P. B. M. 55
- 1.8 ft. on tide staff at Shell Id. Pass.
- 2.5 ft. below B.M. 1
- 2.6 ft. on tide staff at Deer Island Bayou Entrance
- 2.1 ft. below B.M. 1
- 2.6 ft. on tide staff at Bayou Shaffer and Bayou Chene
- 4.4 ft. below B.M. 1
- 3.3 ft. on tide staff at Bayou Shaffer and Bayou Boeuf
- 6.9 ft. below B.M. 1
- 4.1 ft. on tide staff at Big Wax Bayou Entrance (N. End Honey Id.)
- 2.9 ft. below B.M. 1

~~Condition of records satisfactory except as noted below:--~~

Height of mean high water above plane of reference is 0.9 foot at Sword Point; 0.8 foot at Morgan City; 1.0 foot at Shell Id. Pass; 1.1 feet at Deer Id. Bayou; 0.9 foot at Bayou Shaffer and Bayou Chene; 1.0 foot at Big Wax Bayou Entrance (N. End Honey Id.); 0.9 foot at Bayou Shaffer and Bayou Boeuf.

Condition of records satisfactory except as noted below:

*Atty Ham*  
Chief, Division of Tides and Currents.

Section of Field Records

REVIEW OF HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY NO. 5789 (1934-35) - FIELD NO. 2

Morgan City to Atchafalaya Bay, Atchafalaya River, Louisiana  
Surveyed in 1934 - 35

Instructions dated June 26, 1934 (T. B. Reed)

Hand Lead and Pole Soundings.

3 Point Fixes on Shore Signals.

Chief of Party - Thos. B. Reed.  
Surveyed by - J. C. Tribble and J. F. McIlwain.  
Protracted by - H. L. Proffitt.  
Soundings penciled by - H. L. Proffitt.  
Verified and inked by - E. F. Greene, Jr.

1. Condition of Records.

The records are neat and legible and conform to the requirements of the Hydrographic Manual except as follows:

- a. No geographic datum was shown on the smooth sheet. This was added in the office.
- b. A number of topographic signals fall outside the high water line but did not show the features on which they were located. Most of these were identified in the office and indicated on the smooth sheet.

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

2. Compliance with Instructions for the Project.

This is an excellent survey and conforms to the Instructions for the Project in all respects.

3. Shoreline and Control.

The shoreline shown on this sheet originates with plane table surveys: T-6298 (1934), T-6299a (1934), T-6299b (1934) and T-6323 (1935). The control used originates with the same surveys as well as several triangulation and sextant located signals.

4. Sounding Line Crossings.

Sounding line crossings are satisfactory.

5. Depth Curves.

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

6. Junctions with Contemporary Surveys.

- a. The junction on the west with H-5790 (1934-35) and on the north with H-5788 (1934-35) are satisfactory.
- b. The junction on the south with H-5824 (1935) will be considered in the review of that survey.

7. Comparison with Prior Surveys.

H-658 (1858)	H-1824 (1888)
H-1762 (1887)	H-2998 (1909)
<u>H-1823 (1888)</u>	<u>H-2999 (1909)</u>

A comparison between the above surveys and the present survey reveals general but small changes in depths and in shoreline. Because of the time elapsed between the earlier surveys and the present survey, the general character of the area and the nature of the bottom, a detailed comparison will serve no useful cartographic purpose. All shoal spots located on the old surveys are adequately covered by the present survey, the only exception being the  $\frac{3}{4}$  and (-)  $\frac{1}{4}$  foot soundings indicating a small bare shoal spot (charted) originating with H-1823 (1888) in latitude  $29^{\circ} 28.3'$ , longitude  $91^{\circ} 16.3'$ . These two soundings are spaced about 40 m. apart on a single line but could not be identified in the records of the 1888 survey. Two sounding lines with depths of 6 feet in sticky bottom were run almost directly over the spot on the present survey and no indications found. While no particular search was made by the present hydrographer, the hydrography is nevertheless sufficiently close to insure seeing the bare shoal spot, if it existed. The shoal spot is believed to be non-existent and should be disregarded in future charting. The shoreline has worn away 200 meters in this vicinity and the shoals have probably disappeared.

8. Comparison with Chart No. 199 (Corrected to Dec. 26, 1934.)a. Hydrography.

Soundings shown on the above chart originate with surveys discussed in preceding paragraphs and need no further consideration in this review.

b. Fixed Aids to Navigation.

- (1) Beacons located on the present survey are in practically the same positions as charted except Beacons "1", "2", and "7" in Atchafalaya River which vary 100 to 450 m. from the positions charted. The charted positions

originate with various Lighthouse Notices to Mariners of 1925, except Beacon "1" which is from Lighthouse Notice to Mariners No. 45 and 49 of 1925 and No. 2 of 1929, and are plotted by single bearings and distances to the nearest tenth of a mile. The beacon in latitude  $29^{\circ} 39.6'$ , longitude  $91^{\circ} 14.5'$ , originates with Lighthouse Notice to Mariners No. 44 (1934) and is spotted on the chart in relation to the topography on the north side of the channel, which topography differs slightly in geographic position from that shown on the present survey.

- (2). A number of channel markers, piles and one buoy located on the present survey are not shown on the chart. These aids are undoubtedly of local importance but in view of their temporary structures indicated by several descriptive notes on the smooth sheet by the field party, it is doubtful if they are of sufficient permanence for charting purposes.

c. Controlling Depths in Channels.

The controlling depth shown on the present survey in the ship channel in the vicinity of latitude  $29^{\circ} 26.4'$ , longitude  $91^{\circ} 19.4'$ , is 9 feet, which is greater than the charted depth of 6 feet as of June 1933. This same depth of 6 feet is reported by the U. S. Engineers as of June 30, 1935.

d. Submarine Cable.

The charted submarine cable extending from the Gulf to Morgan City via Atchafalaya River was salvaged about 5 years ago and should be deleted from the chart. (See descriptive report, page 2).

9. Field Plotting.

Field protracting and plotting are excellent and conform to the requirements of the Hydrographic Manual.

10. Additional Field Work Recommended.

This survey is complete and no additional field work is required. However, attention is directed to the Chief of Party's recommendation in the descriptive report, (page 2), regarding further hydrography in navigable streams not covered by the present project.

11. Superseding Previous Surveys.

Within the area covered H-5789 (1934-35) supersedes the following surveys for charting purposes:

H-658 (1858)	In part
H-1762 (1887)	Entirely
H-1823 (1888)	"
H-1824 (1888)	In part
H-2996 (1909)	" "
H-2999 (1909)	" "

12. Reviewed by - Harold W. Murray, October 9, 1935.

Inspected by - E. P. Ellis.

Examined and approved:

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

*L. O. Lobel*  
Chief, Division of Charts.

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

*G. H. Hude*  
Chief, Division of H. & T.





Applied to Chart 1050 May 1937

" " " 1276 Aug. 1937

" " " 881 March 1949

Applied to Chart 880 June 1949

Chas R. Bunker

H. J. Samsler

David Keeler

Helmer