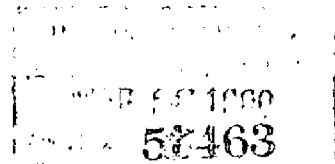




2427



U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

Henry S. Pritchett, Superintendent.

State: *Alaska*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. *2427*

LOCALITY:

St. Michael Island

1899.

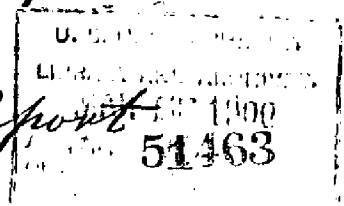
CHIEF OF PARTY:

R. L. Faris

2427

St. Michael Island. Topographic Sheet

Descriptive Report



The region included in this sheet is the north side of St. Michael Island from Rock Point around the coast through Stephens Pass to within four miles of Canal Point which is the West end of the island.

From Rock Point around to the village of "Stebbins" the coast is for the most part rocky bluffs from 30 to 60 or 70 feet high. From the hill beyond Stebbins to Canal Point the coast is low and marshy. St. Michael and Stephens Mts are the two most prominent elevations of the island, the former which is near the centre of the island is 472 feet high, and the latter about 2 miles from Stephens Pass is 331 feet high.

Stephens Mt. serves as a guide for steamboats making through Stephens Pass. A rocky reef makes off from Rock Point for a distance of $\frac{2}{3}$ mile. Steamboats should give this a berth of one mile.

Within in about one mile from Cape Stephens on the east side there are rocks awash about 500 yards off shore. There are no other off-shore dangers. There is a good anchorage for steamboats in the Cove abreast Stebbins village, in from 9 to 12 feet of water, and there is 6 feet of water within 100 feet of the shore. The bottom is soft mud and sand, and the beach in front of "Stebbins" is sandy and extends for a mile south along the coast. The bottom of this Cove at its south end is full of sunken rocks and is shoaler than abreast "Stebbins".

Stephens Pass, between St. Michael and Stuart Islands is about one mile wide with rocky shores on either side. There is five fathoms of water in the middle of the pass, but which shoals up to 10 feet soon after going through to the southward.

A tidal current of about two knots per hour sets through Stephens Pass to southwestward on falling tide; the set is to the northeastward on rising tide with a less velocity than above given, but with northeasterly

winds this set is eastward around Cape Stephens, and vessels should keep clear of the Cape Stephens side of the pass in such weather. In northeasterly weather and with a rising tide the sea is rougher in the pass than anywhere else along the coast of the islands.

There are numerous small fresh water lakes scattered over the island, but all of which contain some alkaline and vegetable matter, yet the water is fair for domestic purposes, but is made more palatable and wholesome by boiling.

Other features about this island, St Michael Harbor and town have been noted already in the Coast Pilot of this region and in the reports of Asst. J. F. Pratt in 1898.

R. L. Farris

[3-21-1902]