



# 2501

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

*Henry S. Pritchett*, Superintendent.

State: *Alaska*

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY  
NOV 28  
1900  
52377

## DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

*Topographic* Sheet No. *2501*

LOCALITY:

*Norton Sound - Junction  
Creek to Island Point*

*1900*

CHIEF OF PARTY:

*J. J. Gilbert*

# 2501

# DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

## Topography of Norton Sound,

Sheet Number 3.

Scale = 1:40,000.

52377

This Sheet begins at a point on the shore-line twelve miles North of Station Ikvoia, and embraces all the shores, including Cape Denbigh, as far as Station Pussy, in Norton Bay.

Besboro Island, which is included on this Sheet, is a crescent shaped island lying N. and S. with the cup toward the East. On the outward, Westward, face, the bluff is high and precipitous, - while on the opposite face there is a gradual slope. The island is, distinctly, a portion of the rim of an old crater. The highest point is about 1000 feet above the sea.

The shore-line for about three or four miles from the South limit of the sheet is rocky, - with high, precipitous bluffs, and massive mountains back of the bluffs. At this point the hills trend away from the shore-line, across the low land, toward the East shores of Norton Bay. From the point where the hills leave the shore, there is a long stretch of broad sand and gravel beach, extending fifteen miles, to the mouth of the Shaktolik river. - There is a ridge, about ten or twelve feet high, along the shore-line, back of which the land is low and marshy, and full of small lakes.

I did not ascend any of the small rivers entering Norton Sound, and cannot speak positively about them; - My belief is that the Shaktolik, proper, is the first outlet West of Station Shaktolik, that its source is far back among the mountains to the East and North; and

and that it is navigable for small boats several miles above the mouth. There are two more outlets in this vicinity, the first about two, and the other about six miles West from the Shaktolik. I think it probable that all these are are sloughs, rather than rivers, (I say these, because there are several sloughs or streams uniting above each outlet) and that one or more of them may extend across the low land and connect with the sloughs emptying into Norton Bay near Station Pussy.

Stations Denbigh and Reindeer are on hills at either end of the head-land at S.E. entrance to Norton Bay. There were several hundred Reindeer ranging over these hills wherefore I have designated them Reindeer Hills on the sheets.

From Cape Denbigh to the point North of station Reindeer, the shore-line is very bold, with here and there a gravel beach. Much of this stretch was necessarily surveyed from the top of the bluff, -which was nearly perpendicular.

After rounding the Reindeer Hills into Norton Bay, the shore-line is again low, and the approaches to the shore are very shallow: -the beach widens, and sand and gravel at first, it gradually becomes more or less muddy. Signal Pussy is on a low hill, not more than fifty feet in height, and standing isolated, on the shores of Norton Bay.

There is no fir timber on the Reindeer Hills, but in many of the ravines is the usual vine-like brush, characteristic of this region. -it reminds one of the vine-maple so common on Puget Sound, but the fiber is much softer, while not less tough than the vine-maple.

*J. J. Gilbert*

Assist: C. & G. Survey, Chief of Party

## NAUTICAL CHARTS BRANCH

SURVEY NO. T. 2501

### Record of Application to Charts

[illegible]

M-2168-1

A basic hydrographic or topographic survey supersedes all information of like nature on the uncorrected chart. Give reasons for deviations, if any, from recommendations made under "Comparison with Charts" in the Review.