



2505

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

Henry S. Pritchett, Superintendent.

State: *Alaska*

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DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. *2503*.

LOCALITY:

Kolofuin Sound

1900.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

J. J. Gilbert

2505

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topography of Norton Sound.

Sheet No. 7.

GOLOFNIN BAY.

Scale = 1-40,000.

NO. 7
52381

This Sheet embraces all of Golofnin Sound,-the "Sound" refering to all above the spits at head of Golofnin Bay.

I would recommend the dropping of the "Sound" and to apply one name to cover all the bay, both below and above the spits.

The Sound was found to be of about one third the area shown on the most recent charts, and altogether a much less important body of water than was supposed. It covers an area of about sixty square miles, about half of which is very shallow.

There is a good beach on both sides of the bay, from the spits to the marsh land at the head. Across the head of the Sound, which is quite wide, it is marshy, and pierced by numerous more or less important outlets of the Fish River, which made progress slow, because the shoals prevented the ready use of the boats.

The immediate shores on both sides, are low, but rise gradually to the high hills and mountains which surround the bay.

All the streams flowing in at the head are various outlets of the Fish River:-probably all the channels are available for small boats, but the small stern wheel steamers that run up the Fish River, use only the S.W. channel,-that entering the West angle of the Sound.

I understood that these small steamboats run up the river some fifteen miles above its mouth, where the freight is transferred to smaller craft.

The only settlement above the Sound is "Council" on the Neuckluck river, which empties into the Fish River about 15 miles above its mouth, -it is the center of considerable mining interests.

There is also some development further up the Fish, and on several of its tributaries. The Fish River, and its tributaries, above the outlets shown on this sheet can be obtained from the Geological Survey, Mr. Barnard having surveyed them.

On the North spit, at the entrance to the Sound, there has grown up quite a settlement; steamers from Nome and St. Michael touch here regularly, landing freight and passengers bound up the Fish River.

The name of the original settler "Dexter", attaches to this Settlement, which is located alongside of the native village of Chinick.

Besides Dexter's store, which is also the post-office, there is a large store belonging to the Alaska Exploration Co. a restaurant, a church, and several dwellings. Vessels not drawing more than 12 or 14 feet can find shelter in any storm between, or near the spits.

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