

2544

945
STA
2544
1901

RY
VRS

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

Q. H. Gittmann, Superintendent.

State: *Alaska*

U. S. C. & G. SURVEY,
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

OCT 28 1901

Acc. No.

Class

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topo. Sheet No. *2544*
and *Hydro.* *2541 + 2544*

LOCALITY:

*Unalaska, Birka
and Unalga ids
(Fox id. passes)*

1901.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

J. J. Gilbert

2544

Oct

NOV 28 1901

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT .

SHEET NO. 1 .

U. S. C. & G. SURVEY,
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES.

OCT 28 1901

Acc. No.

Class

Sheet No. 1. - Part of Unalaska Island, Unalga, Biorka, Egg and small islands.

Shore-line is generally rocky, -with here and there a patch of sandy or gravel beach; -usually the rocky spurs project, at frequent intervals across the beach, interrupting progress along the shore.

The interior is mountainous, rocky ledges cropping out at all points, and much of the surface covered with broken rock. -Where there is soil the coarse grass grows, rankly, during the short summer.

During the greater part of the year, the hills are covered with snow, and, during the winter, it extends down to the water.

Kalekita Head and Priest Rock are the best known land marks in this entire region, and are readily recognized. - The Head is 900 feet high, and the Rock 200 feet.

About 600 meters off the shore, near Priest Rock, and about North, true, is a small cluster of rocks, in deep water, -several of them are bare at low tide, and there is always a break over them. - This is the outermost danger, and it is safe to run within 100 meters of the break, in any direction.

Kalekita Bay is open to the N.E. but affords shelter from N.W. and Southerly winds. The water is deep, close to shore, and all dangers are visible, or marked with kelp.

The shoreline, from Kalekita Bay to English Bay is bold and rocky, but there are no dangers to navigation of shore.

English Bay is a good harbor, in any weather, -the upper anchorage, in 6 or 7 fathoms is the best.

Near the head of this Bay we found the location for our Base-Lane.

In the little nook under Fisherman's Point, is a camp of whites and Natives, engaged in fishing;- they watch for the schools from the top of the point.

It is very foul just off this point, and along to Brundage Head;- but all the rocks are in sight, and there is deep water and safe navigation outside the kelp.

Flood tides sweep around Brundage Head like a mill race, -and some of the heaviest tide rips are found off this point.

One of the most extensive reefs discovered, is two miles South of Brundage Head, -it extends about half a mile off shore, and is marked by kelp, and a break.

Deep bay affords a good anchorage in Northerly weather, -the water is deep unless close to shore.

Food Bay is characterized by a number of reefs on the westside, but there is abundance of clear water for anchorage.

From Portage Bay there is a trail across to the village of Unalaska much used by the Biorka Indians.

All the bays around the head of Beaver Inlet are deep and safe;- we anchored in several of them. - (An anchor, on the sheet, marks every place where the Pathfinder was anchored over night:-and this remark applies to all the other sheets.)

Idagak Strait is narrow, but safe.- We ran through it three times.

The rocks off the South spit at the narrows, are three points of a large reef, -and one or more of them always visible;-kelp marks the limits of the reef,

Off the North spit, the water is rather shoal, and it is well to keep rather more than half-way over to the other shore.

I am satisfied that we can carry not less than 14 fathoms through the narrows, and twice that the balance of the way.

The anchorage un Idagak Bay is safe and landlocked.

The South shore of Biorka Island,--from Idagak Strait to the inner Signal, was run with sextant angles from the Steamer.--owing to the great distance of the signal most used, (Rootok Mtn.) the work is not as satisfactory as I would wish, but is not seriously in error.

With this exception the entire sheet was plane table work.

On the North side of Biorka is a small native village, where was once a station of the Alaska Commercial Co.

Unalga Island is 640 feet high, and covered with high grass,--at this season:--the snow disappeared during July.

In Unalga Cove, at the N.W. end of the Island is snug anchorage in Southerly weather. No directions necessary, but to keep out of the kelp;--and this rule applies to all these little bays.

The group of small islands which Lt. Jarvis mentions as "Gull Rocks" are more than rocks, and covered with fine vegetation. - Before I had noticed Lt. Jarvis' nomenclature I had surveyed them and named them the "Baby Islands," and will leave it at that. There are "Gull Rocks" everywhere, and the name is neither appropriate or descriptive.

Baby Pass is clear and straight, with a least depth of about 11 fms. Cone Rock, off S.E. end of Unalga is quite conspicuous, along shore, from either side.

Egg Island is 550 feet high, with bold, rocky shores, and has no outlying dangers.

The two rocks known as Old Man Rocks, are in deep water, with no indication of a reef. There is good water between the rocks and Egg I.

The inner Signal is a high pinnacle rock, (180 feet high,) and the reef extends some distance each side of it.

Between the outer Signal and the inner there appears to be no danger, but we did not make an examination.

The outer Signal is from 40 to 50 feet high, with no indication of an extensive reef. The smaller rock near it is 10 or 15 feet above ~~tide~~ tides, only, and the seas wash over it.

There are no dangers between the outer Signal and Biorka Head.

Respectfully submitted,

Assist. C. & G. Survey

Chief of Party.