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Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

O. T. Tamm
Superintendent.

State: *Alaska*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

T Sheet No. *2799*

LOCALITY:

Ogden Passage
Chichagof Island

1906

CHIEF OF PARTY:

E. F. Dickinson

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O G D E N P A S S A G E .

CHICHAGOF ISLAND, S.E. ALASKA. 1906.

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Ogden Passage (named after Herbert G. Ogden, late Assistant, Coast & Geodetic Survey) is the passage extending in a northwesterly direction from the western ends of Crook Channel and Mills Pass. For the first two miles it varies from 1 to 1-1/2 miles in width, and its southern and western shore is formed by a chain of low timbered islands through which there are numerous small channels, giving occasional glimpses of the sea.

The northwestern shore is formed by the mainland of Chichagof Island and numerous small islands lying close along shore, all bold, rocky and heavily timbered.

About three miles above the Southeastern entrance, the passage narrows down to a width of about 1/4 of a mile and extends in a northerly direction for about a mile, then turns sharply to the northeast and widens out to 1-1/2 miles in an easterly and westerly direction and about 3/4 of a mile north and south.

There are several small islands in this broad portion.

After crossing this bight, the channel narrows to less than 1/4 of a mile, turns again to the northward for about 3/4 of a mile where it divides, the western arm narrowing down into a channel about 100 yards in width leading to Portlock Harbor.

The eastern arm opens into a fine bay and anchorage which we named Hirst Cove after a merchant in Sitka. There is a mining

Ogden Passage (2)

camp at the head of this cove.

A mid-channel course up this passage is deep and free of all dangers, except at its head between Dippy and Fitz Islands where there is a rock in mid-channel which bares at low water but by favoring the shore of Fitz Island deep water will be found and the danger avoided.

Shale Rock is a bare rocky ledge, about 15 feet high and forms the dividing point between the two entrances named Crook Channel and Mills Pass from Khaz Bay into Ogden Passage. The clear water of Crook Channel is between Shale Island and a group of bare rocky ledges 10 to 15 feet high, beginning $1/8$ mile southwest of Shale Rock and extending south across the channel in a crescent shaped ledge with deep water and sunken rocks between marked by kelp.

Vein Point is $7/8$ of a mile W N.W from Shale Rock, and appears as a black rocky double ledge making out from the southern point of a small wooded island off the north shore of Ogden Passage. The rock is seamed with numerous small veins of quartz.

Trip Point is a rocky ledge on same island about 200 yards west of Vein Point and was used for a triangulation station seeing to Frog Rock.

Frog Rock is a steep grass topped rock about 35 feet high, one mile N.W. from Trip Point and 2 miles from Shale Rock and about $1/8$ of a mile off the north shore of Ogden Passage. Looking northwest from Trip Point it shows as the

Ogden Passage (2)

the outermost of a small group of islets and makes a good landmark from its characteristic shape.

Indian Settlement On the northeast shore between Trip Point and Frog Rock in a small cove are a number of Indian shacks and some graves, which from their substantial appearance are no doubt used for Winter habitations. They were not occupied at the time we were there.

Drip Point is the low timbered point on the west end of a small wooded island about $7/8$ of a mile N.W. from Frog Rock and 3 miles from Shale Rock, and forms the eastern entrance point to the narrow part of Ogden Passage leading northward.

Barnacle Rock is a partly sunken ledge, lying close to the west shore of Ogden Passage, opposite Drip Point and about $1/4$ of a mile W x S from it. Two detached points of this ledge are about 3 feet above high water, the larger one having a few tufts of grass growing in the crevices on top. This rock makes the western entrance point to the narrow part of Ogden Passage, leading Northward. A kelp patch about 100 yards off-shore and the same distance S.E. from Barnacle Rock marks a sunken rock with about 1 fathom over it.

Snipe Rock is a small flat topped grass covered rock 10 feet high, part of a long sunken ledge, lying off the entrance to a long narrow channel* to the westward. It is about $1-1/4$ miles S x E from Drip Point and 3 miles W x N from Shale Rock. A small pinnacle rock lies about $1/4$ mile E.S.E. from Snipe Rock and bares at half tide.

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Passage
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Ogden Passage (4)

Bluff Point is a high rocky cliff about $7/8$ of a mile N.N.W. from Drip Point on the west shore of Ogden Passage and makes the N.W. entrance point to the narrow channel. An Indian hut in a small bight about 30 yards S.W. from the cliff will help to identify Bluff Point.

The channel between Drip Point and Bluff Point is clear but narrow having an average width of $3/16$ of a mile, then widening out into a bay extending about one mile east to the Foot of Doolthk Mountain and having an average width of $5/8$ of a mile. A number of steep wooded islands lie close to the south shore of this bay which is indented by several small coves, the most easterly one having a fair anchorage for small craft in 3 fathoms water, soft bottom, but has a narrow crooked entrance.

Duck Island is a small wooded island showing in the middle of Ogden Passage looking North from mid-channel off Drip Point and is about $1/4$ of a mile North from Bluff Point.

Steep Island is a small rounded island, timbered, $3/8$ of a mile N.E. x N. from Bluff Point. The east and south shores are smooth and steep, with deep water close in to shore. The clear channel is on the southeast side of Steep Island.

Hoot Point is a bare rocky point about $7/8$ of a mile N.N.E. from Bluff Point and forms the southwest entrance point to the second narrow channel of Ogden Passage. A small rocky wooded island lies about 80 yards west of the point.

Ogden Passage (5)

Hell Point is a steep rounding bluff about 25 feet high with a high detached block of stone about 5 feet from the bluff and directly opposite Hoot Point. It forms the south-east entrance point to the narrow channel. The water is deep close in to the point.

The Passage northward from here is quite narrow being only $1/8$ of a mile at Hoot Point, widening toward Dippy Island $7/8$ of a mile North which is a small wooded island dividing Ogden Passage which here turns sharply to the westward with a channel on either side of the island.

Fitz Island is $1/8$ of a mile east of Dippy Island in the entrance to Hirst Cove and forms its southeast entrance point. It lies close the East shore of Ogden Passage and at extreme low water is connected by a gravel flat.

Mid-channel Rock- A rock which bares 2 feet at low water is in mid-channel between Dippy Island and Fitz Island. There is deep water on either side of the rock but the east channel close to Fitz Island is the better one.

Hirst Cove is a fair-sized landlocked bay extending east from Fitz Island for a distance of about $1/2$ mile to the foot of Doolthk Mt. and has a width of about $1/4$ of a mile. The camp of the Hirst Mine is located on the east shore of the cove. A sand and gravel flat makes out from this shore for a distance of about 100 yards, but there is a good anchorage in from 7 to 9 fathoms of water with soft sticky bottom from 300 to 400 yards off the camp.

OGDEN PASSAGE (6)

Looking west from Hirst Camp the narrow channel to Portlock Harbor shows clear for a distance of 2 miles.

The Passage to Portlock Harbor on the north side of Dippy Island is about $1/4$ of a mile wide to Shoot Point a distance of $3/4$ of a mile west, where it narrows again to a width of about 150 yards. The passage on the south side of Dippy Island is between 200 and 300 yards wide. A small gravel flat makes out from the shore about 200 yards to the westward of Fox Point for about 50 yards into the channel.

A shoal spot with $2-1/2$ fathoms, rocky bottom, is about 100 yards west of Dippy Island and about 40 yards S.E. from the small island west of Dippy Island. The N.W. point of this small island has a rocky ledge extending about 20 yards off-shore.