

83  
STA

3563

C. & G. SURVEY  
L. & A.  
FEB 23 1916  
Acc. No.

Form 501  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

State: \_\_\_\_\_

21-5013

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

*Tap.* Sheet No. *3563*

LOCALITY:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

191

CHIEF OF PARTY:

\_\_\_\_\_

3563

U.S. COAST & GEODETIC SURVEY

W. LESTER JONES, SUPERINTENDENT

\* \* \* \* \*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

To accompany

TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET 3573

Of

PART OF THE WEST COAST OF

BIG KONTIUI ISLAND,

SHUMAGIN ISLANDS, SOUTHWEST ALASKA.

Surveyed during August, September & October, 1915

By Party of U.S.S. Patterson

H.C. Denson, Ass't. Commanding

M.O. Nelson, Aid, Topographer

Under Instructions from the Superintendent,

dated March 18, 1915.

\* \* \* \* \*

Scale: 1/20 000

Contour Interval :- 100 ft.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET OF PART OF THE WEST SHORE  
OF BIG KONIUJII ISLAND, SHUMAGIN ISLANDS, SOUTHWEST ALASKA.

\* \* \* \* \*

LIMITS. The work on this sheet includes the west shoreline from Peninsula Island south to the most prominent headland north of the extreme south end of Big Koniuji Island (about 1 mile distant).

DESCRIPTION OF COAST. Peninsula Island is a turtle-shaped and turtle back profiled island. The little rounded hill on the north end of the island, the turtle's head, is about 450 ft. high. The neck is about 300 ft. high. The crown of the grass-covered shell back is 1190 ft high; and the Southeast extremity, a shale ridge less than 100 ft. The 400 ft tail, composed of small grayish, rounded boulders, is covered at extreme high water, almost to the shell. The shores of Peninsula Island are lined with talus from the abrupt dark slaty cliffs.

A little north of true east from the spit on the south end of Peninsula Island, and distant about 1 1/2 statute miles, lies a low knob-like rocky point of about 100 ft elevation, marking the northwest end of a bold headland peninsula, separating two extensive east to west bights, each over 1 1/2 statute miles long. A gradual grass-covered slope extends southeast to a 1127 ft pyramid hill, the southwest end of the headland. The shore along the west face of this headland is marked by abrupt dark, iron-stained cliffs, hardly exceeding 250 ft at any point.

The first bight to the south has a fairly regular shoreline on the north side; with two shallow bights on the south side. Hills of over 1000 ft with granite outcrops and talus are numerous. The slopes are thickly scattered with rough granite blocks tumbled down in all fashions and shapes.

The southwest end of the first bight rounds off into a bare grey granite headland, with a triangular notch in its southwest tangent. From the northwest quadrant, the surmounting hills (from 1174 to 1430 feet elevation) present a close-jumbled appearance of rounded peaks, which viewed from the southward take on more the appearance of the rim of a crater.

The bight extending to the eastward and southward from this headland is the deepest bight on this side of the island. Its southern shore is over 4 statute miles in length. The southwest tangent is due south of Peninsula Island. The shores of the inner bight are all talus or boulder lined. The grassy hill slopes are strewn with granite weatherings from the numerous hill peaks. The two westerly miles of shoreline present two high (from 800 to 1000 ft) deeply trenched shale-rock triangular bluffs facing to the northward. These bluffs are backed by hills over 1100 feet in elevation.

The ridges of the two peaks which form the bold peninsular headland between the deepest bight to the northward, and the 3-mile bight east of Spectacle Island, diverge at right angles, one terminating in the previously mentioned 1000 ft bluff, to the northward, and the other in a lower long sharp rocky point of steeply shelved cliffs, to the southward.

The promontories of the wide bight east of Spectacle Island are steeply sloped with thick outcrops and rough jagged block talus, where the valleys usually have small boulder beaches, with grassy stretches, and alders thruout the drainage basins.

Low saddles and ridges stretching across the eastern ends of all these bights between the hills and peaks form a more or less straight north and south spine down the island.

Between the high deeply fluted bluff forming the southwest tangent of this

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET OF PART OF THE WEST SHORE  
OF BIG KONIUJI ISLAND. SHUMAGIN ISLANDS. SOUTHWEST ALASKA.

\* \* \* \* \*

largest southwesterly bight of the island and the low rough rocky point a little less than two miles south of it (on which triangulation signal "Scare" is located), the immediate shoreline is very rough and generally studded with big jagged boulders.

About 1/4 mile southeast of the south point, shown on the sheet, and in the bight to the south and east of it is a prominent water fall about 75 ft high.

DANGERS & ISLANDS. See descriptive report of Hydrographic Party.

It was noticed that the tide rips and tidal chop thruout West Koniuji Strait were very strong and uncomfortable for small-boats, and a moderate wind from the northwest quadrant caused a high swell off the west shore making landings difficult.

As a general rule, inshore dangers are indicated by kelp where not directly visible. Very little kelp is to be found more than 200 meters outside of visible off-shore rocks. A party landing in a small boat may expect to run across sunken rocks and boulders as far as 100 meters from shore, anywhere.

LANDMARKS. In general, the headlands of the frequent bights, together with the tangents of Peninsula, Spectacle, and Turner Islands, render sufficient points for location, anywheres in the Strait, for navigation. The higher mountain peaks are too far inshore to be seen except occasionally from the water, and during July, 1915, were noticed to be in the fog or surrounded by mist for weeks at a time.

BARS & CHANNELS. The only bar on the sheet is that extending in a generally easterly direction from the southeast end of Peninsula Island. This is well marked by kelp, extending out several hundred meters beyond the visible spit. With this kelp left to the westward, an ample passage is left for a vessel of any draft. This bar will break with a moderate sea from any direction.

ANCHORAGES. No really dependable anchorages are to be found on the west side of Big Koniuji Island. There is hardly any shelter from winds out of the northwest quadrant. From winds from the northeast to southeast quadrants some shelter may be had in the deeper bights, altho very severe willy-waws sweep down from the mountain ridges at times, and stiff winds were met at the head of the bights under apparently ideal weather conditions.

DANGERS SHOWN ON OLD CHART. The old chart shows a bar off the southeast end of Peninsula Island, extending over to an adjacent peninsula of Big Koniuji Island. The topographic party has crossed over this supposed bar repeatedly, close in to the spit. The Hydrographic sheet shows the details of the passage.

SURVEY METHODS. Frequent triangulation intersection stations furnished ample control. The shoreline was put in by very short traverses closing on triangulation stations, and from three-point fix locations.

The usual Coast Survey Plane Table equipment was used exclusively.

That .5 mile of shoreline lying south of triangulation signal "Scare" was read in from the hyd. signal on the pinnacle in the bight, by vertical angles, distances computed by hypsograph and plotted, since the landing was too difficult for the rodmen, the boat swamping on attempting landing for the purpose of rodging in the shoreline. Therefore, the shoreline is liable to an error of 20 meters.

M. Q. Nelson, Aid

# Statistics.

Area, Square Statute Miles	.7
Shore line " "	30.5
Rivers, Creeks " "	3.2
Lakes, Ponds " " (shore line)	2.4
Top. Stations (number)	60
Top. and Hyd. Signals located	66
Number of elevations determined	53

## Plans Table Positions

<u>Object and Description</u>	Lat.	D.M.	Long.	D.P.	Height ft.	Remarks
25 ft. Pinnacle Rock 100 m. offshore - in bight	55°03'	625	159°38'	975	25	Highest Point
15 ft. Boulder on top edge Cliff 10 m. from <b>A</b> Score		1460	39	270	71	" pt. -grass top
Rock off small point	04	1040	38	665	10	" "
Rock 30 m. offshore	06	70	36	925	6	" "
Rock 30 m offshore ( <b>A</b> Iron)		540	37	747	20	" "
Irregular pinnacle (largest) in group of awash rocks	06	1208	38	40	35	" "
Pinnacle rock 15 m. off shore	07	376		787	15	" "
Jet <b>A</b> Rock					15	" "
Rock 30 m. off shore	08	266	38	304	10	" "
Pinnacle 40 m. off shore	07	1650	37	410	15	" "
Boulder just off NW Beach	06	430	34	1050	8	" "
Pin. rock 13 m. off shore from <b>A</b> Round	09	1250	35	682	7	" "
Mountain Peak E of S end	09	1585	35	1127	1127	
Pen. Id. on point						
The Summit Peak of Pen. Id.	10	1525	39	1476	1190	

Applied to chart 8859 Dec. 1942 J.M.A.