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Form 504
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
State: _____
11-5813
DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.
<i>256</i> Sheet No. <i>3565</i>
LOCALITY:

191
CHIEF OF PARTY:

3565

Descriptive Report of Plane Table Survey

F I D A L G O B A Y P R I N C E W I L L I A M S O U N D

A L A S K A

Str. Taku, Gilbert T. Rude, Ass't, Comdg. September, 1916.

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Descriptive Report of Plane table Survey

F I D A L G O B A Y ; A L A S K A

Prince William Sound,

September, 1915

This survey was made during the latter part of September and just before the good weather broke in Prince William Sound, Alaska. A few good clear days made it possible to get cuts to distant peaks inshore, so that almost the entire sheet is contoured.

Extent of The Sheet

This topographic survey began on the south side of Fidalgo Bay at a point about one mile east of Irish Cove, and on the north side at a point about one half mile east of Fish Bay. From these points the work extended to the head of Fidalgo Bay. A scheme of triangulation had just been completed over this same area and the signals were still standing, so these points served to locate the plane table by the three point problem.

Nature Of The Topography

The Bay is bounded on both sides by a range of partly barren mountains, which in few cases have their tree line more than twelve hundred feet. Their peaks are a brownish rock formation and are in places very rugged. However the slopes of the mountains are gradual and this locality is almost free of any bluffs.

The Shore Line

Starting at the western extremity of the survey, and working toward the head of the bay, the shore line is low with boulder covered beaches, with an occasional rocky point. As far west as Whalen Bay on the south side of

Fidalgo Bay , the shore line is fairly strait and clear of reefs, however there are a number of close inshore rocks awash as shown on the sheet. There are no changes until reaching the point about one and one half miles north of Whalen Bay, where the shore line becomes more bold and rocky, and continues as such for about three miles. From here it continues as before with boulder covered beaches and winds around into a deep lagoon at the head of the bay.

On the north side of Fidalgo Bay the shore line is quite simular in appearance to that of the south side of the bay. About midway along the stretch, it recedes toward the northard and winds around in back of a group of islands that stand well out toward the center of the bay. In this locality, as shown on the sheet, there are two low flats extending out from shore. Farther back toward the head of the bay, the shore line becomes low with boulder covered beaches.

The Islands On The Sheet

The only islands are those located about midway on the sheet. These are low and heavily wooded with rocky shore lines. On the north side of the group, the area is foul with rocks awash.

Prominent Topographic Features

Mount Denson, which is just north of Fish Bay, stands out as one of the most prominent features of the locality. It is rather symetric with a sharp snow caped peak.

North east of the head of Fidalgo Bay, There is a group of high rugged mountains which have snow covered peaks during the whole year.

Near the northwestern limits of the sheet, there is quite a large area marked "Lake ? ". Owing to the fact that this work was done during the last days of the season and that the Str. Taku was waiting for its completion, time was not available to explore this region and verify same. Every indication from sea level shows that there is a basin here, and a large mountain stream flowing from it would ~~xx~~ lead on to believe that a lake existed here.

Joining the head of the Bay is a lagoon which is quite different from the ordinary type of lagoons found in this region. It has a rocky shore line and the water appears to be rather deep. There is a narrow passage connecting this lagoon with Fidalgo Bay. Only ~~at~~ slack tide can one get through here and then only in a small boat, because the tide ^{flows} ~~is~~ very swiftly through here. The passage is also partially closed by rocks awash at low water.

Methods Used In Making The Survey

The shore line was run in almost entirely by means of three point locations. Where ever traverses were necessary the stations were checked when possible by an azimuth from some triangulation station.

Contours were drawn ever 100 feet, sketched in by eye after the elevations and locations of the mountain peaks were completed. The mountain peaks were located by three or more cuts. Care was taken to check the contouring from as many station as possible to avoid any discrepancies.

The tree line was sketch in by eye while near the respective localities.

The hydrographic signals located by this survey were in most cases white wash marks or small banners and were located by plane table cuts. The signals were named by the hydrographic parties.

Conclusion

Fidalgo Bay during the time of this survey was seldom visited by any one except a few men employed at the Fidalgo Mining Co. There may in the future be a new start made in copper mining which might help to develop the locality rather extensively. Two mines now exist here and money is being spent to keep them in repair, so no doubt the grade of ore is of a paying quality.

The Bay also looks as though it might some day be used as a cannery site.

The inking of this sheet was done mostly by myself in the Washington Office and no important detail has been omitted in the regard to rocks, shore line etc, so far as I have discovered.

Respectfully,



Assistant, C.&G. Survey

This sheet turned in to archive before completion of making and writing of descriptive report on account chief of party leaving Washington hurriedly to take the train & Mr. Joachim detailed to signal building party in S. C. & Ga.

This sheet to remain in the archive in present condition till return of Mr. Joachim from signal building trip. The sheet will then be completed by him & descriptive report written.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

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Topographic sheet no 3565

Fidalgo Bay, Prince William Sound, Alaska.

Season 1915 Steamer Taker

Gilbert T. Under Chief of Party

A. Joachim Topographer.

Checked by Joachim Luce. 3/25/16

Topography executed September 1915

Heights in feet above

Contour interval 100 feet