Form 504

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

11—5613

State: S. E. Alaska

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Sheet No. 3686

LOCALITY:

1917

CHIEF OF PARTY:

C. J. Joachimsen

Sheet "B"

U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

E. Lester Jones, Superintendent.

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Descriptive Report

of

Topographic Survey 3686

of

FREDERICK SOUND

south of Point Frederick,
S.E.Alaska.

Compiled by

George. L. Bean, Aid.

October 24,

1917

WIRE DRAG PARTY No.3

A. Joachims, Chief of Party.

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Plane Table Survey of Frederick Sound South of Point Frederick.

Sheet "B" S.E. Alaska.

Wire Drag Party No.3 August 1917. A. Joachims, Chief of Party.

Survey by George L. Bean, Aid.

Introductory notes.

This survey was made on a twenty thousand scale. It was done during rainy weather. Contours for the whole area was desired but lack of clear weather and time made the completion of this work impractical.

Limits of the sheet.

This sheet connects with sheet "C" about one mile west of Point Frederick on the south, and at Horn Cliffs, at triangulation station Bob on the north.. It continues southeast into Dry Straits to a point about three miles east of Cosmos Point and a point opposite on Dry Island..It includes Coney, Pocket, Hidden, and Camp Islands, and Dry Island from the south side of the north mouth of the Stikine River to a point about three miles east of Cosmos Point. From triangulation station Bob it continues southeast into Le Conte Bay about one mile, and from a point opposite on the south shore of Le Conte Bay to the north side of the north mouth of the Stikine River.

Control of the sheet.

The triangulation station Rock was recovered and the survey started from this point, using an orientation line to triangulation station Island. Triangulation stations Bob, Bluff, and Add were not recovered but were found to check accurately enough for topographic purposes. With this as a basis the rest of the signals were checked by the plane table, Prom, Mid, Ledge 2,Coney and Banner were plotted by triangulation cuts and checked by the plane table, the last mentioned signals having previously been located by direct and reverse cuts of triangulation. The whole scheme at a later date tied onto triangulation done by Mr. Eickelberg.

Method.

From triangulation station Rock, traverses were run in both directions, checking with a three point fix whenever possible, and at stations Ledge 2, Mid and Prom. Likewise the balance of the shore line was traversed, checking the traverse with a three point fix wherever one could be obtained. The western side of Pocket Island was surveyed by cutting in whitewash marks placed at intervals of 100 to 200 meters and the shore line between them sketched. While traversing Hidden Island the opposite shores of Dry Island and Pocket Island were run. Coney Island was done by tangent cuts and sketching.

Nature of shore line.

From the western limit of the sheet on the north to a point about two miles southeast of Point Frederick the shore line is precipitous, composed of slate and granite ledges. From this point southeast to Cosmos Point the shore is low with sand and gravel beaches, sprinkled with outcroping ledges and boulders. Here and there small quantities of quartz were observed. The tree line extends to the high water line. From Cosmos Point southward into Dry Straights the points have steep rocky shores and the bays have low flat beaches. Coney,Pocket, Hidden and Dry Islands have rocky shores from the high water line, the last three being surrounded by mud flats which go dry at low water. East of Camp Island from the mouth of the Stikine River to Le Conte Bay the shore line is low with large marshes covered with rank grass and mud sloughs. The tree line is some distance inshore. Inside Le Conte Bay and from the Bay northwest to the limit of the sheet the shore is rocky and precipitous. At the mouths of small streams, flat beaches occur but these are covered with boulders and ledges. Horn Cliffs at the northern limit of the sheet rise up from the water's edge to an elevation of about 1800 feet at the foot of a high mountain, which is a part of the range which extends from Le Conte Bay.

Flora.

The trees of this vicinity are principally fir with a few yellow cedar. Everywhere is a dense undergrowth of berry bushes devil's club, alder and ferns. On the Mitkof Island side it is heavily wooded, but often large meadows are found covered with swamp grass and stunted trees.

General resources.

A number of large creeks and two lakes lie on this sheet. The creeks,while not large enough for navigation afford good water supplies and in a few cases might prove valuable as water power, for small plants. These streams are the spawning grounds of large numbers of salmon each year. The lakes, one of which lies southwest and the other one west of Ideal Cove, were not surveyed, but the former one was visited. It lies at an elevation of between one and two hundred feet, in a large rolling valley. It is surrounded by forests and several large grassy meadows. It is of considerable size and the water is of an excellent character.

Dry Straits, Le Conte Bay, and the Stikine River are excellent salmon fishing ground, and some halibut are caught about Coney Island. The large amounts of ice which come from Le Conte glacier are made use of by fishermen to preserve their catches. Game is plentiful on Mitkof Island and large flocks of wild fowl frequent the marshy tide flats of Dry Straits and the mouth of the Stikine River. Copper is said to exist in the vicinity of Le Conte Bay, but no depositess of value have been found.

Medium sized fir and yellow cedar trees are found close to the water's edge; their principal ,lumber value being for piling and rough building purposes.

Coast pilot.

Coast pilot.

A group of rocks were located to the south and a little to the west of Coney Island, about two hundred meters off the shore of Mitkof Island. These rocks are barely awash on a minus tide, and are marked by kelp.

On the west side of the entrance of Ideal Cove is a large rock which is awash at all stages of the tide except the highest spring tides.

Tide flats extend northwest from Dry Island for a distance of about three and one-half miles. Small boats are not in danger of going aground if kept northwest of a line drawn from Coney Island north to Red Creek.

Dry Straits is used as a channel by boats of small draft at high tide.

Ideal Cove is an excellent harbor for boats up to one hundred tons. It has good holding ground and is protected in all directions. Good holding ground is found about three miles northwest of Coney Island for fair weather anchorage, but no protection is afforded in a northwest or southwest storm.

The large icebergs coming from Le Conte Glacier are a constant danger to navigation in the vicinity from Camp Island northward to Frederick Point.

Conclusion.

Due to constant rains, lowhanging clouds and fogs, it was impractical to complete the contouring of this sheet. The north mouth of the Stikine River was not surveyed. This would have taken considerable time due to the nature of the country, and it was considered more important to take up other work.

Approved by,

Jr. Hyd. & Geodetic Engr.
Chief of Wir Drag Party No.3

Compiled by,

George L. Beam
Aid, C.& G. Survey

LIST OF STATIONS ON SHEET "B" 3686

Object	Latitude °	'	D.M. meters	Longitude °	'	D.P meters
White	56	47	1451	132	51	599
Ledge 2	56	47	1016	132	49	397
Mid	56	43	800	132	44	482
Prom	56	41	1641	132	41	45
Coney	56	41	1032	132	38	798
Add	56	41	852	132	38	503
Salt	56	39	1193	132	38	509
Banner	56	40	83	132	37	282
Camp	56	44	145	132	33	931
Hill	56	45	557	132	32	604
Bluff	56	46	1697	132	38	888
Bob	56	49	1546	132	45	681
Sit	56	39	1804	132	33	773

STATISTICS

Number of miles of shore line - 51

Area in square miles - 33 3/4

Number of miles of creeks - 1/2

Form 537a
11—5813

Wire Drag Party No.3

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

TOPOGRAPHIC TITLE SHEET

sheet No."B"

The finished Topographic Sheet is to be accompanied by the following title sheet, filled in as completely as possible, when the sheet is forwarded to the Office.

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Register No. 3686

State . SE ALaska . . . . . .

General locality . Frederick Sound . . . . . .

Locality . . . . . Vicinity of Dry Strait . . . . . .

Chief of party . . A.Joachims . . . . . .

Surveyed by . . . Geo.L.Bean . . . . . .

Date of survey . . Aug.,1917 . . . . . .

Scale . . . . . 1/20,000 . . . . . .

Heights in feet above . Mean h.w.mark . . . . . .

Contour interval .100. . feet.

Inked by . . G.L.B. . . Lettered by . G.L.B. . . . . .

Records accompanying sheet (check those forwarded): Photographs, Descriptive report, Horizontal angle books, Field computations, Data from other sources affecting sheet . . . . . .

Remarks:

Descriptive report has not been typewritten and will be forwarded at a later date.