

4033

77 25 1923

Form 504  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

State: ~~Southwest Alaska~~  
11-5613

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. 4 4033

LOCALITY:

S.W. Alaska, Shelikof Strait

~~Portage Bay,~~

Portage Bay

~~Shelikoff Straits,~~

~~Southwest Alaska.~~

191  
1923

CHIEF OF PARTY:

H. A. Seran

## I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

### 1. The Mountains.

Portage Bay lies between Capes Igvak on the West and Cape Kanatak on the East. The shore line from Cape Igvak to the head of the bay runs generally true North and South; from Cape Kanatak to the head of the bay generally true Northeast and Southwest.

Cape Igvak is the first landfall; it is the southerly end of a prominent range of mountains extending in a northerly direction. The lowest peak on the cape is about 1200 feet high. The range rises directly behind and to the north to 2000 feet, thence to Mt. Becharof ( a break in which lies Kanatak Lagoon intervening ) at 3400 feet. From here the mountains lower to 2500 and 2000 feet, swinging around to the eastward behind the head of the bay. The mountains at the head of the bay are about one mile back from shore. On the flat land at the foot of the mountains lies the village of KANATAK. Swinging around to a southeasterly direction, and just to the east of the village of Kanatak, the mountains form a prominent in-shore bluff about 1050 feet high, rising to the south. Just east and southeast of the bluff are two heights of 1600 and 1650 feet, gently sloping at the top; the last decreasing gradually in altitude toward Cape Kanatak, a bluff of about 30 feet. The land from Cape Kanatak rises gradually in a northwesterly direction from 30 feet to the aforementioned 1600 feet in a distance of about two miles. Clouds usually hang over the mountains around PORTAGE BAY at an elevation of about 1000 feet.

## 2. The Shoreline.

The shoreline is generally bold and rocky and very steep except at Cape Kanatak and the head of the bay where lies the village. At Cape Igvak the mountains slide down steeply into the water. There are offlying reefs, rocks, and ledges. Between Cape Igvak and Kanatak Lagoon are two valleys with two plainly visible stream entrances in each. Between the last valley and the entrance to Kanatak Lagoon is a conspicuous waterfall; the valley here is very steep and the mountains on either side prominent. A small island lies off a point surrounded by rocky ledges just south of the entrance to Kanatak Lagoon. There is no passage to the westward between the island and the mainland. The entrance to the lagoon lies to the north of the island. Another small island lies off the north shore of the entrance to Kanatak Lagoon. The reef is bare at low water between this island and the mainland.

From Kanatak Lagoon to the head of the Bay the shore is bold with rocky ledges and boulders. The north shore of the bay is a sand and gravel beach where the village lies. On the northeast shore of the bay is a promontory with two peaks about 100 and 150 feet high. Off the promontory and stretching in a southwesterly direction is an kelp bed, covering rocks awash at extreme low water to a distance of about one half mile. The kelp bed swings back in closer shore, and follows a bold rocky coast to Cape Kanatak. Just around Cape Kanatak lies a double small cove with sand beaches at the heads.

### 3. Kanatak Lagoon.

The shoreline in Kanatak Lagoon is steep sloping mountain sides except at the head of the inlet where there is considerable valley. There are two waterfalls on either side and a stream at the head of the lagoon. On the south shore rocks frequently slide down the mountain sides into the water. A ship can obtain water here by means of boats.

## II. THE TOWN OF KANATAK.

KANATAK was originally a native Aleut village on the south bank of Kanatak Creek, below the entrance of little Kanatak Creek. Just behind the native village is a church and cemetery. There are two groups of houses built by settlers which represent the present town. One group, the old town, lies to the west of the native village and Little Kanatak Creek. The other, the proposed new town, lies to the east of the Little Kanatak.

At present ( August 1923 ) there is considerable activity at Kanatak on account of the prospective oil fields behind the mountains. Two wagon roads and a trail lead to the fields. Tractors are driven over the roads. The westerly road Pass is about 800 feet high ; the easterly about 500 feet.

There is a Post Office at Kanatak, a steamer calling regularly once a month. Food, clothing and provisions to a certain extent are available. There is no provision for fueling or supplying water to ships. There are no docks or wharves.

### III. NAMES.

The people at Kanatak refer to the inlet on the west shore of the bay as Kanatak Lagoon. It has therefore been so named. The promontory mentioned in this description is recognized in Kanatak when referred to as Kelp Point. It has therefore been so named.

#### IV. SURVEY METHODS.

Survey methods as Prescribed in General Regulations, and in instructions referred to in this report.

## V. INSTRUCTIONS.

Instructions to Commanding Officer, Steamer "Discoverer",  
February 21, 1923.

Respectfully submitted

Fred E. Joekel  
Fred E. Joekel.  
Lieut. J.g.

Approved for Person  
County

The following is a list of recoverable planetable positions  
used for hydrography:-

Object and Description	Latitude--	D.M.	Longitude -	D.P.	Approx Height -	Remarks.
<u>Post- Cen-</u> ter window in upper story of Post Office	57 34	- 215	- 156 01	- 994	- 20	- Post Off- ice is in Madsen's Gen. Misa Store.
<u>Red- Cross</u> On red roof of church	57 34	- 45	- 156 02	- 407	- 20	- Native Church
<u>Hit- Center</u> window in white house	55 53	- 11 52	- 156 02	- 984	- 20	- House stands alone.
<u>Bluff- Light</u> streak in a dark bluff	57 33	- 706	- 156 02	- 708	- 20	- Clearly visible
<u>All-</u> waterfall	57 32	- 324	- 156 02	- 405	- 30	-
<u>Wet</u> waterfall	57 29	- 1465	- 156 03	- 24	- 30	-

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY November 10, 1923.  
WASHINGTON  
SECTION OF FIELD RECORDS

Report on Topographic Sheets 4031, 4032 and 4033 *Good*

Wade and Portage Bays, Alaska

Surveyed in 1923

Date of Instructions, Feb. 21, 1923

Chief of Party, H. A. Soren.

Surveyed by J. A. Bond (4031), P. H. White (4032) and F. H. Jockel (4033)

Inked by J. A. Bond, P. H. White and F. H. Jockel.

1. The records of all three sheets conform to the requirements of the General Instructions.
2. The plan and extent of development fulfill the requirements of the General Instructions. ~~It should be noted, however, that none of the sheets and descriptive reports give any indication of the character of the forest growth.~~
3. The plan and extent of the surveys satisfy the specific instructions.
4. The field drafting was completed to the extent prescribed by the General Instructions.
5. The junctions of the sheets are satisfactory. *contours and vegetation in the junctions*
6. ~~Ed. Bentarof is probably a useful landmark and cuts should have been taken to its summit.~~
7. No further surveying is required within the area covered by these surveys, except that there is a deficient area in the form lines on Cape Kayakint which should be supplied when work is resumed to the westward.
8. The character and scope of both the surveying and field drafting *are good* 15
9. Reviewed by E. P. Hillis, November, 1923.

*Approved-*  
*ALG*  
*js+sl*

*No timber*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

TOPOGRAPHIC TITLE SHEET

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. 4033<sup>4</sup>

State . . . ~~SOUTHWEST~~ ALASKA . . . . .

S.W. Alaska

General locality . . . . . SHELIKOF STRAIT . . . . .

Locality . . . PORTAGE BAY . . . . .

Chief of party . . H. A. GERAN . . . . .

Surveyed by . . . FRED E. JOEKEL . . . . .

Date of survey . . June and July 1923 . . . . .

Scale . . . 1 to 20,000 . . . . .

Heights in feet above . . mean sea level . . . . .

Contour interval 100 . . feet.

Inked by Fred E. Joekel. Lettered by . Fred E. Joekel . . . . .

Records accompanying sheet (check those forwarded): Photographs,

Descriptive report, Horizontal angle books, Field computations,

Data from other sources affecting sheet . . . . .

Remarks: