

4157

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Form 504
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
State: <u>S.W. Alaska</u>
11-2613
DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.
Top. Sheet No. <u>4157</u> ^E
LOCALITY:
Alaska Peninsula
Deer Island and
Fox Island
1926
CHIEF OF PARTY:
R.F. Luce

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY SHEET "E" - TOPOGRAPHY OF FOX ISLAND
AND THE NORTHERN HALF OF DEER ISLAND, SOUTHWEST ALASKA.

Date of Instructions: March 20th 1925.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This topography, extending from triangulation ^{station} DOE to triangulation station DOE, embraces all of DEER Island except about two-fifths of its area and shore line in the southern and southeastern part of the island. In general the country is a mass of conical peaks scattered without any apparent range system. The hillsides are green during the summer season except in the few places where they are strewn with rock or are too steep for the growth of grass or moss. There are a few stretches of sand beach but for the most part the space between high and low water is covered with large boulders. In some places, notably in the vicinity of WEST CAPE on Deer Island and on all but part of the northeasterly shore of Fox Island, sheer rock walls extend directly into the sea, leaving no beach at all.

OUTLYING DANGERS

In general the east and west coasts of Deer Island are very foul, but fortunately the section facing Deer Island Passage seems to be free from dangers to navigation. All inshore dangers are shown clearly on the topographic sheet, and all outlying dangers discovered have been developed on the hydrographic sheets for this area.

LANDMARKS

Many of the high peaks on Deer Island are so nearly of the same elevation, and they are so often concealed in clouds, that they are not of great value to the navigator as landmarks. The flat-topped sugar loaf over West Cape, however, has an elevation of about 600 feet, and is quite prominent as Deer Island is approached from the westward. Fox Island is low and green, and does not stand out prominently except in clear weather. With a ship as near as Thin Point, however, both the summit of the Island and the light (shown as triangulation station "BLINK" on the topographic sheet) serve as excellent landmarks. Another sugar loaf about twice as high as that on West Cape lies due south of triangulation station STAG or about a mile and a half southwest of the end of the low sand spit known as STAG POINT. If this flat-topped summit is not hidden by clouds it forms a useful landmark to the navigator passing between Deer Island and the Peninsula. The peaks visible from the eastward have not heretofore been located, but the new form lines on this sheet will prove of considerable value to vessels approaching Deer Island from the eastward.

ANCHORAGES

The only anchorage for vessels of large size is the one described in the Coast Pilot as FOX ISLAND ANCHORAGE. Good holding ground may be obtained in depths as great as twenty fathoms by anchoring further north with the east tangent of Fox Island approximately in range with West Cape, although the protection afforded by Fox Island is naturally diminished as the distance from that island is increased. Small vessels drawing only 4 to 5 feet may anchor in southerly or westerly weather in the entrances to the two small coves northeast of station FOX, if care is taken to keep clear of

the rock ledges that surround these coves; and it is probable that a good anchorage can be found east of STAG POINT sand spit in southerly and southwesterly weather. In easterly and northerly weather small vessels can probably find anchorage in the cove south of West Cape unless the wind drawing through the valley leading northeast behind West Cape is too brisk. In general however, in northerly weather it would be well for vessels of all sizes to seek shelter in recommended anchorages either in King's Cove or in Belkofsky Bay.

SURVEY METHODS

The topography was executed in the usual method by means of a standard planetable. The location of peaks and other points whose elevations are noted on the sheet were obtained either by plane/table or by sextant angles plotted in most cases in a launch anchored in sight of the terrain in question. The elevations themselves were measured by sextant angles from at least two, and generally three or four, positions. From the close check obtained from these angles it seems likely that the final elevations are generally accurate within 5 or 10 feet. The traverse closures were in all cases so exact that the errors were not noticeable on the sheet, so that no adjustment was required.

Sheet inspected by Commanding Officer on June 19, 20, July 2, 31, Aug. 27, Sep. 4, 1925
" approved " " " Dec. 23, 1925.

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. 4157¹⁵

4157

State SW Alaska
General locality Alaska Peninsula
Locality ~~Deer and Fox Islands.~~ Deer Island and Fox Island
Chief of party R. F. Luce
Surveyed by Edward P. Morton
Date of survey July - September 1925
Scale 1 : 20,000
Heights in feet above ~~Mean Sea Level~~ High water.
Contour interval 100. . feet.
Inked by Edward Morton Lettered by J.B.G. and E.P.M.
enc//
Records accompanying sheet (check those forwarded): Photographs,
Descriptive report, ☒ Horizontal angle books, Field computations,
Data from other sources affecting sheet

Remarks: Approved Oct. 23, 1925
R.F. Luce
Comdg. St. Pinner