

4340

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Form 504	
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE	
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY	
State: <u>Alaska</u>	
11-5613	
DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.	
Topographic	Sheet No. <u>4340</u>
LOCALITY:	
<u>Kuiu I. and Kupreanof I.</u>	
<u>Keku Strait-Entrance Island to</u>	
<u>Beacon Island</u>	
<u>1927</u>	
CHIEF OF PARTY:	
<u>H.A. Cotton</u>	

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

to accompany

TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET NO. 4340

(Field Letter "L")

ENTRANCE ISLAND

to

BEACON ISLAND

KEKU STRAIT, S. E. ALASKA

U. S. S. EXPLORER,

SEASON OF 1927.

Scale 1:10,000.

**AUTHORITY:**

This topography was executed under Instructions to the Commanding Officer, U.S.C. & G.S. Ship EXPLORER, dated February 18, 1927.

**LIMITS:**

This sheet covers the islands and the shoreline on both sides of KEKU STRAIT from a point about two statute miles south of POINT CAMDEN to a point five and one half statute miles farther south. The islands include ENTRANCE ISLAND and BEACON ISLAND and all those lying in between.

**CONTROL:**

Control for this work was furnished by fourteen triangulation stations along the main channel. Control for BIG JOHN BAY and its northern and southern arms was carried forward by planetable triangulation from base DIN-KEL with AMY as a check.

**ELEVATIONS:**

Elevations are to the tops of the trees and indicate the height above mean high water level. Elevations of rocks which are not covered at high water are shown in red ink inclosed in parentheses. The trees within the limits of this sheet average about 100 feet in height.

#### METHODS:

The usual planetable methods of survey were used, but location by intersection and resection were used more than other methods on account of the easily accessible triangulation stations.

For BIG JOHN BAY and its two arms an independent planetable triangulation scheme was run while the sheet was still new. The details were filled in later.

All details of the shoreline and off-lying rocks were rodded in. Positions of important rocks were checked by cuts from triangulation stations wherever possible. Positions of hydrographic signals were established by azimuth and stadia distance and checked by intersections from triangulation stations.

#### CHARACTER OF SHORELINE:

The coast line for the whole of this sheet is flat. The character of the beach varies from a mixture of sand and gravel to one of sand and shale. Most of the shale is found along the shore north of ENTRANCE ISLAND between signals "LIT" and "WAS", and along the south shore of HORSESHOE ISLAND. The beaches of the smaller islands are made up of outcropping bedrock. In BIG JOHN BAY the low water area consists of sand and gravel with small boulders near the outlet to BIG JOHN CREEK.

#### DESCRIPTION OF COUNTRY:

Back of the shoreline the country is low and

wooded, except for two regions of noticeable elevations at the southern edge of the sheet. Forests consist of spruce and hemlock, with a fringe of small alder trees and brush near the shoreline.

There is one place of permanent residence within the limits of this sheet. It is a fox ranch on HORSESHOE ISLAND. There is also an abandoned fox ranch on ENTRANCE ISLAND. The two other cabins shown on the sheet, one at the western entrance to BIG JOHN BAY and the other at the mouth of BIG JOHN CREEK are occupied by Indians during only a part of the year.

#### PROMINENT OBJECTS AND RECOVERABLE POINTS:

Two stations, "FOG" and "JON" are marked - see Form 524 attached.

Beacons Nos. 16, 18, 20, 21, 22 and 23 were located by triangulation. Their positions were plotted on the sheet from the triangulation data. Beacons Nos. 21 and 23 are spindles and were used for orientation at times.

The island on which signal "SAD" is located is quite prominent when seen after passing Beacon 22 going south, and the small round hill at the southern edge of the sheet marked with elevation 812 feet is quite prominent from a point several miles north of the limits of this sheet.

#### BAYS, ANCHORAGES, CREEKS, ETC.

The large indentation extending in a northeasterly direction is known locally as BIG JOHN BAY. There is

good anchorage in the southeastern arm. The large indentation in HORSESHOE ISLAND furnishes very good anchorage. It is used by the fox rancher and various others as an accumulation point for logs. A long sand spit extends from the point where the house is located, but the end is marked by a pole. BIG JOHN CREEK and the creek that flows into the southeastern arm of BIG JOHN BAY are the largest creeks, but the creek of easiest access is near signal "FAL". There is a fall of about 50 feet and boats can take fresh water very easily. It still had a good volume after six weeks dry weather during July - August 1927.

GEOGRAPHIC NAMES: \*

BIG JOHN BAY is the local name for the large indentation mentioned above. It is a well established name among fishermen and the Indians at Kake Indian Village.

ENTRANCE ISLAND, HORSESHOE ISLAND, BIG JOHN CREEK, MALLARD PASS and BEACON ISLAND are names well established locally. These names are also contained in the records of the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Forestry, at Ketchikan, Alaska.

CHANGES AND DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN THIS AND PREVIOUS SURVEYS:

On comparing this sheet with the bromide of Sheet Register No. 2150, a great many changes and difference are noticeable. This bromide was taken into the field frequently and compared with the

\* See last sheet of report.

existing features - much to the discredit of the former work. In such a flat section some of the difference shown are possibly due to natural causes, such as filling in small gaps between islands and the mainland, but the omission of reefs and rocks are undoubtedly due to the hurried character of the former survey. A list of discrepancies follow:

- (a) The high water island where triangulation signal "GULL" is located, and the passage between it and the mainland, shows considerable change.
- (b) The passage known locally as MALLARD PASS, is not a passage except at higher high waters. There are two low water basins as shown, but not of sufficient depth to float boats of any size.
- (c) The rocks and reef off the point of land marked by signals "OP" and "POLE" are not shown on the bromide. A reef a little to the left of a line between triangulation stations "GULL" and "PET" shows a depth of 1-1/4 fathoms on the bromide.
- (d) The small grass covered island southeast of triangulation station "FLAT" is not shown on the bromide.
- (e) There is no indication of the small tree covered island marked by signal "SAD".
- (f) The long narrow point where triangulation station "BAR" is located is not indicated, and the reefs to eastward of it are shown only in a very general way.
- (g) There is a very noticeable difference in the number of islands and the shoreline southeast of triangulation station "DIN".

ADDITIONAL NAMES:

The following new names were assigned by the field party:

The long reef marked by Beacon #23 was named CUCUMBER REEF.

The small island marked by signal SAD was called BERRY ISLAND.

The rock marked by triangulation station KEL was named  
STADIA ROCK.



S T A T I S T I C S.

Statute miles shoreline - High water	61
Statute miles shoreline - Low water (rodded in)	23
Number of creeks	6
Area - Square statute miles	18
Number elevations	37
Number elevations per square statute mile	2
Number of Recoverable stations	16
Triangulations	14
Planetable	2
Positions occupied	138

Respectfully, submitted,

*Ira T. Sanders*

Ira T. Sanders,  
Jr. H. & G. Engr.,  
U. S. Coast & Geodetic Survey.

*Harold Alorton*

*Inspected and found adequate, the only criticism being that there are less than the number of elevations called for in the General Instructions.*

*E. P. Ellis, June, 1928*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

REG. NO.  
4340

TOPOGRAPHIC TITLE SHEET

The Topographic Sheet should be accompanied by this form, filled in as completely as possible, when the sheet is forwarded to the Office.

Field No. "L"

REGISTER NO. **4340**

State ALASKA

General locality Kuiu Island and Kupreanof Island  
Southeastern Alaska

Locality Keku Strait-Entrance l. to Beacon I.

Scale 1:10,000 Date of survey Sept. - Oct., 192 7.

Vessel U.S.C. & G.S. Ship EXPLORER.

Chief of Party Harold A. Cotton

Surveyed by Ira T. Sanders

Inked by Ira T. Sanders

Heights in feet above M. H. W. ~~to ground~~ to tops of trees

~~Contours, Approximate contour~~, Form line interval 100 feet

Instructions dated February 18., 192 7.

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_