

6270

U. S. COAST & GEODETIC SURVEY
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Form 504
Ed. June, 1928
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
R. S. Patton, Director

State: CALIFORNIA

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Topographic } Sheet No. G
~~Hydrographic~~

LOCALITY

~~Central California Coast~~

Point Sal & Vicinity

1934

CHIEF OF PARTY

O. W. Swainson, H. & G. E.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1923

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

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REG. NO.

TOPOGRAPHIC TITLE SHEET MAY 7 1935

Acc. No.

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

Field Letter GREGISTER NO. **6270**State CaliforniaGeneral locality ~~Central~~ California CoastLocality Point Sal & VicinityScale 1:10,000 Date of survey May & June, 19 34Vessel U.S.C. & G.S.S. PIONEER.Chief of Party O. W. Swainson.Surveyed by H. ClarkeInked by H. ClarkeHeights in feet above MHW to ground to tops of trees~~Contours Approximate contours~~ Form line interval 100 feetInstructions dated November 18, 1932, 19

Remarks:

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

TO ACCOMPANY TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET NO. G.

Point Sal,
Central California Coast,
Latitude 34° 54' to 34° 58'.

AUTHORITY

This work was done in accordance with instructions dated November 18, 1932, to the Commanding Officer of the PIONEER, for Project No. 120 and also those dated April 4, 1932, to the Commanding Officer of the GUIDE, Project No. 101. Work was done during the latter part of May and the first part of June, 1934.

CONTROL

The control was established by occupying and taking cuts on triangulation stations located previously by F. G. Johnson in 1933 at an approximate maximum distance of two miles along the coast line. Traverses were run between these station with the following errors of closure.

- △ Cliff, 1933, to △ Pt. Sal, 1933 - Flat.
- △ Pt. Sal, 1933, to △ Mussel, 1933 - Short 6 meters.
- △ Mussel, 1933 to △ Whale, 1933, Flat for distance, out 5 m. orientation.

Offlying rocks and backlying land features were located by cuts. Elevations of prominent peaks and knolls were determined and contours were checked from a form line standpoint.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This section is characterized by sharp cliffs at or adjacent to the shore line with a backlying ridge running east and west and also by rocky projecting points with offlying rock groups and islands.

△ Cliff, 1933, is located on a grassy knoll about 210 feet high. The cliff is abrupt and composed of dark gray rock, culminating at the base in a narrow beach of boulders. Immediately north thereof is about 1000 meters of sand beach (referred to locally as Casmalia Beach). As indicated, some remains of the old landing are still standing, and the road ends on this beach. The cliff back of this beach varies in elevation from 100 to 170 feet and is composed of light brown soil broken up by a short stretch of blue clay.

At the north end of this beach is high rock cliff of blue gray rock, where the shore line changes from northwesterly to westerly trend to Point Sal. This cliff follows the sand beach and projects at points, which points are characterized by a profusion of offlying rocks and short inshore reefs. The rock cliff decreases in height to about 15 feet, but this general character of shore line of rocks, rocky cliff at points and short stretches of sand

beach continues to Seal Rock. This shore line approximately parallels the line of the ridge, the toe of the ridge being, of course, Point Sal, and the high point being just east of Δ Peak, 1867, the elevation ^{of} this point being 1259 feet.

Seal Rock, elevation 54 feet, is white in color with sharp rock cliffs dark at the base. West of Seal Rock is an extensive group of awash and sunken rocks and about 500 meters west thereof is another rock group with a small, low island therein.

Opposite Seal Rock, the rock cliff, now about 100 feet elevation, dark gray and black in color, marks the shore line. At the base of the cliff is a continuous narrow reef.

At Point Sal are several offlying rocks awash and two small, low islets, the latter two being nearly a part of the mainland. The steel hull of a wrecked ship rests against the rock cliff of the larger island and of the mainland. Δ Point Sal is located on the higher of two knolls, elevation 393 feet. The lower and most westerly knoll, elevation 202 feet, marks the end of the long ridge from Δ Peak, 1867, to Point Sal. This ridge is generally rocky and covered with low brush. About 600 meters east of Δ Peak, 1867, the peaks become less sharp and are grass covered rolling humps.

North of Point Sal is a broad beach, very abrupt at the high water line. At the back of this beach is a low rock cliff about 20 feet high with green grass immediately above and overhanging the cliff. This is apparently due to water seepage over this cliff. Immediately over and apart therefrom are light sandy bluffs sparsely covered with low brush and grass. This higher bluff, 250 to 300 feet high, at spots encompasses the low vertical rock cliff and ends directly in the sand beach. At the north end of this long beach is another rocky point, Mussel Point. The dark rock cliff, being in general the high water line, is about 30 to 40 feet in elevation and projects out from the higher cliff of light brown clay. This cliff is generally bare with isolated spots of low brush. Mussel Point is characterized by offlying reefs and rocks, the strata of these reefs being tilted at about 45°, northerly edge down, and southerly up.

At Mussel Point, the bare dunes start and continue to the Santa Maria River.

~~abrupt~~ The beach north of Mussel Point is of undulating character, being ~~abrupt~~ at the high water line. At the back of the beach is a stretch of low grassy dunes, this being in turn backed up by a grassy sand bank with occasional rock outcroppings and bare, gradual slopes of buff colored sand. This cliff continues about 1400 meters north of Mussel Point where it disappears.

Δ Whale, 1933, the north terminus of the sheet, is located in a bare hollow surrounded by a narrow stretch of low grassy dunes.

The beaches throughout this sheet are generally ~~sharp~~^{abrupt}, of coarse sand, soft underfoot below the high water line and are characterized by riptides.

Point Sal and Mussel Point are both virtually inaccessible by automobile, roads being no more than ruts in the sand. Foot trails lead to both.

CHANGES IN COAST LINE

At Δ Cliff, the buildings and railway, and north thereof the buildings, railway and pier, indicated on the original survey do not exist. A few piling stand on the beach indicating the existence of an old landing.

From Δ Cliff, 1933, to Δ Mussel, 1933 the coast line maintains the approximate character of that indicated on the old topo sheet, but with occasional discrepancies of individual features, particularly at Point Sal and at Mussel Point. The shore line and rocks as indicated on the new survey should be used.

North of Δ Mussel, 1933, the high water line along the sand beach is more undulating than indicated on the old topographic sheet, being inshore or offshore at points, and falling on the old survey line at others. At Δ Whale, 1933, the high water line is unchanged.

The contours check exceptionally well except at Δ Mussel, 1933. Just south of this station is a small stream enclosed by a deep canyon not indicated on the old sheet. The changes in contours are indicated by red lines. Absence of inked contours means that the old ones have been checked ~~and~~^{are} correct.

The knolls indicated by Δ Point Sal, 1933, elevation 393 feet, and that of 202 feet elevation, 217 meters south~~west~~^{west} thereof, are quite prominent and should be indicated on the charts, as should the ridge extending down from Δ Peak, 1867, elevation 1203 feet.

STATISTICS

Shore line 8.9 statute miles. Highway 1.0 statute miles.

Harold Clarke
Harold Clarke,
Topographer.

Forwarded:

O. W. Swainson
O. W. Swainson,
Chief of Party,
Commanding PIONEER.

Note: As this is a complete new survey of offlying and inlying features and shoreline, it ~~will~~^{should} be given preference over previous surveys.

O.W.S.

LANDMARKS

SEAL ROCK

This island, 54 feet elevation being of rock devoid of vegetation, white on top and dark at the base of its steep cliffs is prominently visible from the south and the west and should be charted.

SHARP PEAK, EAST Δ PEAK, 1867

This peak represents the highest point of elevation (1259 feet) on the range west of Mount Lospe, is a very sharp tip visible from all directions, and should be charted.

Prominent Knoll, (Pt. Sal, 1933) Elevation 393'.

Prominent Knoll, Elevation 202'.

These knolls forming the toe of the ridge extending down from Δ Peak, 1867, are quite prominent from all directions, serve as a distinctive identification of Point Sal and should be charted.

RECOVERABLE PLANE TABLE POSITIONS

Rod	34° 53'	979 m.
	120 38	365
Metz	34 53	1755
	120 38	890
Arc	34 55	1238
	120 39	1174
Sue	34 56	221
	120 39	925

Diagram No. 5302-2

Approved by the Division of Geographic Names, Department of Interior. ✕

Referred to the Division of Geographic Names, Department of Interior. R

Under investigation. Q

[illegible]

REVIEW OF TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY No. 6270

Title (Par. 56) *Point Sal & Vicinity, California*Chief of Party *O.W. Swainson* Surveyed by *H. Clarke* Inked by *H. Clarke*Ship *Pioneer* Instructions dated *Nov. 18, 1932* Surveyed in *May-June 1934*

1. The survey and preparation for it conform to the requirements of the Topographic Manual. (Par. 7, 8, 9, 13, 16.) ✓
2. The character and scope of the survey satisfy the instructions. ✓
3. The control and closures of traverses were adequate. (Par. 12, 29.) ✓
4. The amount of vertical control that the Manual specifies for -contours-formlines- was accomplished. (Par. 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23.)
Check elevations taken - Previous contours changed where necessary
5. The delineation of -contours-formlines- is satisfactory. (Par. 49, 50.)
See Par. 4
6. There is sufficient control on maps from other sources that were transmitted by the field party to enable their application to the charts. (Par. 28.) *None Submitted*
7. ~~High water line on marshy and mangrove coast~~ is clear and adequate for chart compilation. (Par. 16a, 43, 44.) ✓
8. The representation of low water lines, reefs, ~~coral reefs~~ and rocks, and legends pertaining to them is satisfactory. (Par. 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41.) ✓
9. Rocks and other important details shown on previous surveys and on the chart were verified. (Par. 25, 26, 27.)
See reverse side
10. ~~The span, draw and clearance of bridges are shown.~~ (Par. 16c.)
11. Locations and elevations of summits are given. (Par. 19, 51.)
See Par. 4
12. The tree line was shown on mountains. (Par. 16g.)
Not shown

NOTE: Strike out paragraphs, words or phrases not applicable and modify those requiring it. Paragraph numbers refer to those in the Topographic Manual. Use reverse side for extending remarks.

Paragraph 9

Tl055 (1867)

Although the scale of Tl055 is 1:5,000 the details are not as clear as on a more thorough survey Tl595 which follows. The rocks, reefs and general shore line are in good agreement with T6270.

Tl595 (1879)

The present survey is in good agreement with Tl595 except as follows:

North of Mussel Point the present survey is in good agreement with Tl595.

Off Mussel Point, west of \odot Rop about 200 meters there is a ~~rock~~ shown on Tl595. ~~This does not appear on T6270 but is shown as tide rips on the contemporary hydrographic survey H5743.~~ ^{are shown}

group of small dots -
The dots have not been brought forward.

Off Point Sal, outside the foul area line there is another rock shown on Tl595 that is not shown on T6270 but is shown on H5743 as a shoal sounding.

The sunken rock and breaker symbol at Lat. $34^{\circ}-54'.1$ Long. $120^{\circ}-40'.6$ is shown as a very shoal sounding on the contemporary hydrographic survey H5743 (See D.R. of H5743).

6270 supersedes Tl055 and Tl595 in part.

Chart 5302

The present survey is in good agreement with Chart 5302 except as noted.

13. The descriptive report covers all details listed in the Manual, in so far as they apply to this survey. (Par. 64, 65, 66, 67.) ✓
14. ~~The descriptive report also contains additional information required in aero-topography relative to type of photographs, method of compilation and type of ground control.~~
15. The descriptions of recoverable stations and references to shore line were accomplished on Form 524. (Par. 29, 30, 57, 67 except scaling of DMs and DPs, 68.) *4 cards submitted*
16. A list of landmarks for charts was furnished on Form 567 and plotting checked. (Par. 16d, e, 60.) ✓
17. The magnetic meridian was shown and declination was checked. (Par. 17, 52.) *No evidence of having checked declina toire*
18. The geographic datum of the sheet is *N.A. 1927 (Adjusted)* and the reference station is correctly noted. (Par. 34.) ✓
19. Junctions with contemporary surveys are adequate. ✓
Joins T 6271 (1934) on the North
Joins T 6047 (1934) on the South
20. Geographic names are shown on the sheet and are covered by the Descriptive report. (Par. 64, 66k.) ✓
21. The quality of the drafting is ^{*very*} good. (Par. 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50.) ✓
22. No additional surveying is recommended. ✓
23. The Chief of Party inspected and approved the sheet and the descriptive report after review by ✓

24. Remarks:

Reviewed in office by *Chas. R. Bush Jr. May 29, 1936*

Examined and approved:

E. K. Green
Chief, Section of Field Records

L. O. Lobert
Chief, Division of Charts

Fred. L. Peacock
Chief, Section of Field Work

G. W. Wade
Chief, Division of Hyd. and Top.