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

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Type of Survey: Topographic
Field No.: Office No.: 2175

LOCALITY
State: Alaska
General locality: Oscar
Locality: River

CHIEF OF PARTY
John E. M. Geath

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DATE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

T. C. Mendenhall, Superintendent.

State: Alaska.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. 2175.

LOCALITY:
Cesar River to the Yichte River.

1894.

CHIEF OF PARTY:
John E. McGrath.

Assistant.
Descriptive Report on the coast showing results of the
sounding taken from the Osar River to the Yakutat River made
in June and July 1894.

This survey was made along the beach in front of the
Malaspina Glacier and except for the section taken up by the
Gletscher Bluff a fairly continuous stretch of sandy beach was
encountered all the way—no heavy glacier in builders makes travel difficult
except immediately in front of the Gletscher Bluff. The principal
drawback to the traveller here is the great number of streams
draining the glaciers intersecting the beach.

The country between the Manly and Osar Rivers is covered with a dense
growth of spruce timber in which will be found many small ponds or
lakes. These lakes were near the foot of the moraines much of the forest
is dead, having been destroyed by some advance of the moraine but
it appears now the glacier was retreating again—The Manly has
several arms which unite within the area near the point of the same name,
but the mouth of the main stream and the elevation of it arms vary
where they unite is not fixed and may vary from year to year.

The topographical features are put in as nearly as possible
according to the work projected but the writing ambition of the
writer when we did much of this work made it impossible
to secure much that would be desirable—Then we started into
the Manly were great spewing and its whole delta was ruined.
with ice and snow through which only the tides and some waves could penetrate. This will explain many of the white spaces which appear in the map.

The most difficult part of the beach to pass was that in front of the Deltic Delta. Here, the Glacier comes to the very water line, and a great mass of boulders of all degrees of size from masses containing 5000 to 1000 cubic feet to small pebbles forms its base. The boulders have a very thin coat of mud and broken stone and at half high water bring the surf up on this very face. Passage along here is extremely difficult.

Just beyond the boulders another fine ruined delta is in aridated plains. Which the various arms of the Fox River wander. Another wooded stretch with considerable clear sand beach in front of them, the Mackinac river one of the largest of the streams that drain the Glacier at present, all the water of the Mackinac enters the ocean from one mouth, but as there is only a slight sand ridge which separates it from the sea, another ocean may develop another mouth.

Between the Mackinac and each mouth of the Deltic Delta is another stretch of dense woods which appears to extend inland for a mile and a half. The delta of the Deltic Delta is a very extensive one and a great deal of water seems to come out of it through (at present) three mouths.

In this delta is considerable marshland—great marsh...
flats behind a sandy beach that is several hundred yards wide. The most important feature of this part of the coast is a small islet which seems to be the forerunner of an arm of the mainland which extended down from the glacier. Behind this islet is a good anchorage for small hunting vessels and a good landing place for boats. Off the whole coast, herein shown, the water is shallow and vessels drawing sixteen or eighteen feet of water cannot safely anchor within a mile. There does not seem to be any outlying rocks, but the effect of a great number of rapid streams all heavily loaded with sediment constantly pushing into the sea has been to create a sandy shoal in front of them.

When arranging for the construction of this map, the projection was made with the expectation of showing the relative position of W.S. Libby to the shore line, but it was afterwards found that the limit of the chart selected would not permit this, and as the shore line was moved bodily upwards and more does not have any relation to the projection. The purple line anywhere on the chart between this uncharted Baya Key lake and the only reached by the Indians when hunting sea otter.

John E. McGrath

Assistant U.S. 1873