U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

Henry S. Drischell, Superintendent.

State: Alaska

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. 2501

Locality:
Norton Sound - Junction Creek to Island Point

1900

Chief of Party:
J. J. Gilbert
DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topography of Norton Sound

Sheet Number 3.

Scale = 1:40,000.

This Sheet begins at a point on the shore-line twelve miles
North of Station Ikvoia, and embraces all the shores, including
Cape Denbigh, as far as Station Pussy, in Norton Bay.

Besboro Island, which is included on this Sheet, is a crescent
shaped island lying N. and S. with the cup toward the East. On the
outward, Westward, face, the bluff is high and precipitous,—while on
the opposite face there is a gradual slope. The island is, distinctly,a portion of the rim of an old crater. The highest point is about
1000 feet above the sea.

The shore-line for about three or four miles from the South limit
of the sheet is rocky,—with high, precipitous bluffs, and massive moun-
tains back of the bluffs. At this point the hills trend away from
the shore-line, across the low land, toward the East shores of Norton
Bay. From the point where the hills leave the shore, there is a
long stretch of broad sand and gravel beach, extending fifteen miles,
to the mouth of the Shaktolik river.— There is a ridge, about ten or
twelve feet high, along the shore-line, back of which the land is low
and marshy, and full of small lakes.

I did not ascend any of the small rivers entering Norton Sound,
and cannot speak positively about them;— My belief is that the Shaktolik, proper, is the first outlet West of Station Shaktolik, that its
source is far back among the mountains to the East and North; and
and that it is navigable for small boats several miles above the
mouth. There are two more outlets in this vicinity, the first about
two, and the other about six miles West from the Shaktolik. I think it
probable that all these are sloughs, rather than rivers, (I say
these, because there are several sloughs or streams uniting above
each outlet) and that one or more of them may extend across the low
land and connect with the sloughs emptying into Norton Bay near Sta-
tion Pussy.

Stations Denbigh and Reindeer are on hills at either end of the
head-land at S. E. entrance to Norton Bay. There were several hundred
Reindeer ranging over these hills wherefore I have designated them
Reindeer Hills on the sheets.

From Cape Denbigh to the point North of station Reindeer, the shore-
line is very bold, with here and there a gravel beach. Much of this
stretch was necessarily surveyed from the top of the bluff, - which was
nearly perpendicular.

After rounding the Reindeer Hills into Norton Bay, the shore-line
is again low, and the approaches to the shore are very shallow; the
beach widens, and sand and gravel at first, it gradually becomes more
or less muddy. Signal Pussy is on a low hill, not more than fifty feet
in height, and standing isolated, on the shores of Norton Bay.

There is no fir timber on the Reindeer Hills, but in many of the
ravines is the usual vine-like brush, characteristic of this region.
- it reminds one of the vine-maple so common on Puget Sound, but the
fiber is much softer, while not less tough than the vine-maple.

J. J. Gilbert

Assist: C. & G. Survey, Chief of Party
NAUTICAL CHARTS BRANCH

SURVEY NO. T.2591

Record of Application to Charts

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<tr>
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<td>1956</td>
<td>9280</td>
<td>G. H. E.</td>
<td>Before After Verification and Review</td>
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A basic hydrographic or topographic survey supersedes all information of like nature on the uncorrected chart. Give reasons for deviations, if any, from recommendations made under “Comparison with Charts” in the Review.