U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

O. H. Tittmann, Superintendent.

State: Alaska

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. 2567

Locality:

Icy Straits, Western sheet

1901.

Chief of Party:

E. J. Dickins
Treasury Department.

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

O. H. Pitman, Superintendent.

Descriptive Report of the Topographic Sheet entitled

By Strait, Western Sheet, from Port Bredin to St. Adolphe,

Alaska.

1901.

By the party of

E. F. Whipple, Assistant.

U. S. S. Oregon.

Plane-table survey by H. F. Flynn, Assistant.

Geographical positions from triangulation by the party of J. F. Pratt, Assistant, with additional points from triangulation by H. F. Flynn, Assistant, and W. H. Berger, Aid.
By Strait, Western Point.

This sheet shows the shore line of both sides of By Strait from Port Frederick to Pt. Adolphus. The south shore begins at a point where it connects with the point to the eastward and extends to a Hook, about two miles east of Pt. Constantin. The south shore begins at a Hook, where it connects with the Port Frederick Point, and extends to a Bay on the west side of Pt. Adolphus.

The control is by triangulation points furnished by J. F. Proot, Assistant, with additional points by triangulation by H. F. Fhyman, Assistant, and W. H. Burger, Bld. The shore line of By Passage depends on a plane table triangulation.

The shore line is from plane table survey by H. F. Fhyman, Assistant.

Most of the names on the chart are taken from the reconnaissance chart of By Strait by F. Westdahl, Assistant. Robertson River seems to be a well established local name and Fymn Cork is named by E. F. Dickens, Assistant.

Very few heights were determined and the only contours are on the small islands. They are at 100 foot intervals. All heights are above high water mark.
The channel consists for the most part of rocky cliffs varying in height from ten to forty or fifty feet, reaching in a few places to two or three hundred feet. The beach is generally narrow, consisting of the great range in the tide, and consists with rocks varying in size from cobbles to up to several feet in diameter. In the neighborhood of the larger streams the beach is generally found and gravel as it is also at the heads of the bays.

The whole country is covered with a dense growth of fir and pine, extending to a height of 1200 or 1500 feet. The tops of the highest mountains are covered with snow the whole year.

Streams are numerous but generally small. The water is excellent except in the larger streams with current fast enough for the salmon to swim. These are found during the time the salmon are running.

The north shore runs nearly north from 0° west. It is nearly straight and consists of rocky cliffs with very narrow beach. There are two streams of some size, one half a mile north of 0° Egg and one half a mile north of 0° Rain. These two streams bear small and flat at their mouths.

The north shore of Fox Passage from Excursion
Salt to the small point about a mile west of Osage is also formed of rocky cliffs but has a wider stretch of sand and broken rock. Beyond this to the westward the character of the shore changes entirely. It is low and the high water mark is extremely indefinite. The horizon is patching and mostly of a deciduous nature. There is a good deal of undergrowth and grass. Beyond the high water line are extensive grassy flats and outside of these sandy flats whose extent will have to be determined by soundings. Streams are numerous, one of them, called Salmon River is about 100 feet wide and 3 or 4 feet deep. The mouth of the channel leading into the river through the flats is marked by the Indians with a pole which was determined and used as a signal. It is called "Moruk" or the sheet.

Pleasant Island is a large island lying between Big Strait and Big Passage. It is comparatively low but has one high rounded knob near the middle of its southern side. This knob, known as Pleasant Island Knob is 860 feet high and forms a prominent and distinctive land mark for this whole region.
The north shore of Pleasant Island is mostly low with gravel beaches in many places. Noon Point is a long gravel spit near the middle of the north side of the island. The end of the point is rocky. Off the east end of the island is a small rock, hard at all times, on which the rock plants. There are several other rocks near this which show at lower stages of the water.

The south shore has a considerable portion of rocky cliffs and is characterized by numerous pillars of rock standing clear of the cliffs. The stations Pan and No stand on outlying rocks. At the west end of the island is a rocky point on which dark plants.

At the mouth of Fox Passage at the east end is a group of islands, called the Porpoise Islands. The longest of these, lying to the south east, is nearly a mile long. At its southern end it terminates in a bare yellow cliff about three hundred feet high. The north end is a long low point terminating in a sand point extending nearly to the next island of the group. There are three other islands in this group, all small. There are several outlying rocks covered at high water in the vicinity. These
islands.

On the north shore off a rock is a rocky reef extending to the eastward. Nearly two miles to the eastward of this rock is a large indentation in the shore. It is filled by a sand flat dry at low water. A little more than a mile west of this is another indentation also dry at low water, except for several ploughs running through it. This flat is covered by a growth of coarse grass.

Four miles west of this rock is the entrance to "Flynn Cove," at the head of the cove is a small sand flat separated from the shore by a low narrow neck which connects the peninsula on which the is low plains with the mainland. The peninsula is rocky and at the southeast end is an outlying rock which forms an inlet at high water.

In the entrance to the cove is an island and two rocky reefs. The island is small and rocky and has a few pomegranate trees on it. One of the reefs is near the east side of the entrance and the other is about 1/4 mile west of the island. The shores of the cove are mostly rocky cliffs except at the head where there is a sand beach and another sand beach at the western end.

Off the point to the westward of the cove are two
small islands connected with the main land at low water and also with each other. The smaller of these is merely a rock and the Eagle stands upon it. The other and larger one lying to the westward is thickly wooded. As high is on this island.

There are three or four large streams emptying about three quarters of a mile beyond the Eagle. They are close together and there is an extensive sand flat in front of them. About a mile and a half west of these streams is another large stream with sand flats extending off its mouth. Just beyond it is a low rocky point, bare except for a few low trees, on which the Bell stands. The second Bell is on a similar rocky point to the westward and at the eastern side of Rattlesnake. Rattlesnake is a shallow dirt with a gravel beach at its head.

The cliff half way between the Eagle and the Bell is very high, attaining an elevation of probably some hundred feet. There are two small streams falling over it in cascades.

Heron Island is regular in shape with rocky shores. The cliff on the eastern side is about 70 foot high. Half way between Heron Island
and Scruggy Island is a pointed rock bare at low water.

The only habitations in this sheet are a few scattered Indian huts. Two of these are on the south side of Hoornick Island, two on the west side of Pinta Cove, one near a horn, one on Salmon River and two just north of a horn. There is said to be an Indian village on Salmon Island.

Respectfully submitted

H. P. P. Ivy
Acting C.O. W.