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Department of Commerce and Labor  
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

*H. Gittmann*  
Superintendent.

State: *Alaska*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

*T* Sheet No. *2963* + *2964*

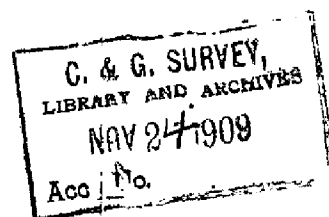
LOCALITY:

*2963 Controller Bay,  
Cape Suckling to Strawberry Pt.  
2964 Kayak Island -  
Southern Part*

*1909*

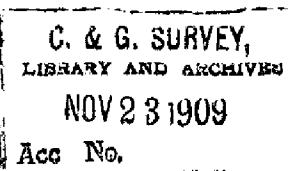
CHIEF OF PARTY:

*H. C. Benson*



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Department of Commerce and Labor

Coast and Geodetic Survey

O. H. Tittman, Superintendent,

Topographic Survey of

Controller Bay, Alaska,

from Cape Suckling to Katalla *Strawberry Pt.*

by G. A. Stanton,

H. C. Denson, Chief of Party,

Steamer Patterson

June--July, 1909.

Scale  $\frac{1}{40000}$

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY TOPOGRAPHIC SHEETS OF  
CONTROLLER BAY AND KAYAK ISLAND.

Upon approaching Controller Bay from the eastward Cape St. Elias, the southern end of Kayak Island is the first land sighted. This is a very bold rocky headland 1665 ft. high and can be seen for a distance of forty miles on a clear day. This headland is light gray and has no vegetation upon it except at the base on the western side. The top is a sharp saw toothed ridge about one mile in length extending in a north and south direction. It is very seldom clear of mist. The sides are nearly perpendicular for several hundred feet upward from the base. About one quarter of a mile south of the cape there is a pinnacle rock 494 ft. high with sides nearly perpendicular. This rock is plainly visible at a distance of twenty miles and is nearly always clear of mist on cloudy days. Pinnacle Rock is black and of a different formation from the Cape. The island immediately north of the headland is only about 200 ft. high. From this saddle it gradually rises to peaks from 1000 ft. to 1300 ft. in height. From Pyramid Peak northward the island flattens out into a wooded ridge about 500 ft. high. The extreme north end is level and is covered by a peat bog about 6 ft. in depth.

Cape Suckling is low and wooded and can not be seen from a distance of ten miles. Just to the northward of Cape Suckling is a low range of mountains from 1500 to 2500 ft. high which extends N. E. from the Cape a distance of about eight miles. This range looks like a separate island when seen from a distance of twenty-five miles off shore. From this range N. W. to Campbell Mt. the country gently slopes upward to the Behring Glacier.

Several offshore rocks were located on the topographic sheet. The charted rock called South East Rock was cut in; also two or three ledges that bare at low tide were located about 1 1/2 miles E. N. E. of Cape St. Elias. Another rock was found three miles south of

Late; it bares about 2 ft. at L. L. W. spring tide. South east of  $\Delta$  Limb a distance of 1840 meters are three rocks close together. the swells between these rocks and the bluff bearing N. E. were peaked up so that it was not considered safe to run a launch through. Four miles south of  $\Delta$  Bert and one mile off shore are two rocks; the northern most is 10 ft. above H. W. and was located by triangulation. The other is flat and bares at half tide. It is called Sig Tab on the sheet. The bottom between these two rocks is foul - several rocks showing at extreme low water.

To the northward of Cape St. Elias on the east shore the beach bares a distance of three-quarters of a mile off the H. W. line. The bottom is hard sand and is covered with many large boulders which are awash at half tide. This makes it dangerous to approach the shore in a launch at high tide. From a point six miles north of the Cape to the northern end of the island the beach at low tide is flat bare rock and bares from 100 to 200 meters off the H. W. line. This flat rock has been eroded away leaving dykes several feet in height and boulders so thick that landing at low tide is almost impossible. The H. W. line in most places is coarse shingle. Near the middle of the island rises in a steep sliding earth bank from 50 ft. to 300 ft. in height. The western side of the island from Cape St. Elias

northward for about ten miles rises in a sliding earth bank from 50 to 1000ft. in height. The beach is covered with detached boulders.

There is a very good landing place at Cape St. Elias just to the eastward of a small point extending outward towards the Pinnacle Rock. At this point there was no surf when a four to five foot southeasterly swell was running outside. The best approach to this point is from the westward, keeping close to the shore of the island to avoid a ledge which extends northwest from the Pinnacle Rock.

The western side of Wingham Island is a high precipitous bluff from 50 ft. to 300 ft. in height. There is no beach at the base of it except in the small coves.

Okalee Spit is low and covered with small sand dunes about 5 ft. in height. There is practically no vegetation except at the eastern end. The beach on the Controller Bay side is hard sand and very flat so that the low water line was left for the hydrographic party to determine.

The country on the eastern side of Controller Bay is a low grassy plain only slightly above high water for a distance of at least one mile back from the edge of the grass line. It was reported by the Chief Engineer of the Alaska Petroleum and Coal Company that spring tides cover the surface back about one and one-half miles beyond the edge of the grass line. The high water line as placed upon the topographic sheet is the edge of the grass line wherever this was at all definite. In some places however where the line of vegetation was very indefinite, small grass patches being well out beyond the average high water line, the outer limit of vegetation was marked on the sheet by the marsh symbol. All the rivers and sloughs flowing

into Controller Bay are tidal; the channels leading out to the central channel are from 1 ft. to 4 ft. deeper than the surrounding mud flat. Quicksand was found in the channel at the mouth of the Edwardes River.

The shore at Strawberry Point appears to have receded about 200 meters since the survey of 1903.  $\odot$  Bit as plotted by office data not furnished to the field officers falls in the middle of the present channel. The east side of Kanak Island has receded about 40 meters since the last survey. The houses on this shore located by the survey of 1903 have disappeared, the present shore line being well inside their positions. A braced pole signal was found on the north end of Kanak Island about 250 meters northwest of  $\triangle$  Cinch of 1903. It was impossible to determine whether or not this was  $\triangle$  Cinch of 1903 as no description of the station was sent to the field officers. Its location was determined by triangulation this season and it was called  $\odot$  Cinch by both the Hydrographic and Topographic party.

The deserted village of Kayak on Wingham Island was not placed upon this sheet because of the recent survey of this vicinity.

# Plane table Positions

Object and description	Latitude	P.M.	Longitude	D.P.	Height	Remarks
	° ' "	Meters	° ' "	Meters	Feet	
House	60 09	1755	144 - 23	182		Small house on wharf
Oil Derrick	60 10	504	144 - 23	578	50 approx	Pop
Oil Derrick	60 11	1545	144 - 18	576	50 -	Pop
Spur	60 03	10	144 - 23 <sup>3</sup>	859	75	Top of spur sloped rock
o Tan	60 02	1372	144 - 24	415		West tangent to small island
o Lump	60 02	1130	144 - 24	220	15	Small spur sloped rock
o It (whitewash on rock)	60 02	805	144 - 24	200		
o Nix (white washed spot)	60 01	775	144 - 23	840		
o Tri (Banner on tree)	60 01	110	144 - 23	385		
o Out (whitewash)	60 00	805	144 23	600		
o Ban (Banner on tree)	59 59	1195	144 23	737		
o Mist (whitewashed rock)	59 55	1805	144 26	710		
o Dull	59 55	320	144 26	810		
o Good	59 54	1570	144 27	220		
o Plain	59 54	604	144 28	06		
o Bad	59 53	1523	144 29	110		Banner on inclined tree
o Pop	59 57	527	144 22	640		Base of inclined tree
o Lad	59 53	768	144 29	670		Boards nailed across tree
o Nell (whitewashed rock)	59 53	448	144 30	104		
o Yellow	59 52	1840	144 30	710		conspicuous yellow rock
o Gas (whitewashed rock)	59 52	1010	144 31	570		
o Rot	59 51	1840	144 32	445		
o Stump	59 51	1030	144 33	50		Stump at H.W. line

# Plane table Positions

Object and description	Latitude	D.M.	Longitude	D.P.	Height	
o Club	59-51	333	144 33	845	25	easterly of two club shaped rocks.
o near (whitewashed spot)	59-51	30	144 34	77		
o Egg " "	59-50	278	144 34	560		
o Dub " "	59 49	555	144 35	118		vertical line between black & white cliffs
Black	59 47	1325	144 36	70	100	
Waterfall	59 51	768	144 29	880		
Waterfall	59 54	1106	144 24	25		
Double Peak (north)	59 54	1182	144 26	700	1255	
" " (south)	59 54	1028	144 26	830	1262	