DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

State: Washington

LOCALITY:

Pacific Coast
Mouth of Quillayute River

Clallam and Jefferson Counties

Washington

1924

CHIEF OF PARTY:

Fred E. Jeckel
Descriptive Report

to accompany

Topographic Sheet No. 4090.

1. Instructions: Instructions of the Director to the Inspector, Seattle Field Station, dated Dec. 4, 1924.

2. General Description of Shore Line and River Banks: The entrance to Quillayute River is marked by James Island on the north and a group of islets and rocks around Quillayute Needle on the south. James Island appears as a round bluff, rising abruptly from the water, about 120 feet high, with a few trees and considerable brush growing on it. There is a light on the south side of the island maintained only during the fishing season in summer. Just north of James Island are several rocks which stand prominently out of the water. Quillayute Needle is easily recognizable on the south with a group of rocks about it, some standing very prominently out of the water as those about James Island.

The mouth of Quillayute River is just behind James Island to the north eastward. James Island should not be approached too closely on the seaward or westward side. Ships coming down from the north should not get inside of a range between the seaward tangents of Jagged Island and Cake Rock until well past James Island and about halfway between James Island and Quillayute Needle Rocks. Coming up from the south the danger to be avoided is Quillayute Needle Rocks. Making the mouth of the river from either direction, ships should not turn in toward shore until about halfway between Quillayute Needle Rocks and James Island; at this point head N.E. true for the sand beach ahead until just past James Island, and then head for the inner tangent of James Island and the mouth of the river.

The bar at the mouth of Quillayute River is subject to change with the storms of the sea, and the freshets of the river, but the deepest channel at the entrance has for some years been close to James Island. It is best to go close to James Island on the seaward side when entering the mouth of the river.

A long, low sand and gravel spit forms the northwest bank of the river for about a mile. The spit is covered with drift and logs, with a little brush at about its center. On the southeast bank of the river at its mouth is the Indian Village of LaPush. There are several white families living here. There are two stores and a hotel which is open in the summer. There is a Post Office at LaPush, and daily communication with Port Angeles by motor bus and boat, carrying both passengers and freight. Below LaPush and to the southeastward along the sea shore, the land rises rapidly at a distance of about 50 yds. from high water. The elevation of this first rise is about 25 feet. Between the high water...
and the rise are logs and drift deposited by storm waters. Northward of La Push along the river bank is a low area covered with logs, drift, and stumps. This land is flooded by storm water and high stage of the river.

Just at the beginning of the long spit, and underneath a high bluff the river turns to the eastward. Here there is a bar and the river is the shoalest. In summer with a big tidal run out there is only about 2 feet of water left across the bar. The river bottom is gravel, and subject to change with the freshets. On the opposite bank from the head of the spit is a large tidal flat, mud, sand and a little gravel and drift. The slough running across this flat connects up with the river again about one quarter mile above Mora. Tide backs up through this slough. The Paper Pulp Company whose interests are involved here has spent considerable money to hold the river in its present banks and assure that it will not make a channel through this slough.

At the mouth of Dickey Creek is Mora, a U.S. Post Office. There is a store here, and stage lines (motor buss) carry passenger and freight daily to Port Angeles. In the summer it is an admirable vacation spot and frequented by tourists. Small boats and fishing craft obtain their gas and oil from a barge tied up here.

3. Survey Methods: Direct topographic control was established from the line La Push to James Island (1914 triangulation). Attention is called to tidal bench mark no. 3, which is a standard disc set in concrete. This mark is in a position to control the mouth of the river, and can be triangulated in from James Island and La Push. The location is marked T.B.M. on the topographic sheet.

The rocks or reefs lying west of James Island are only approximately located by planetable and sextant cuts, likewise the rocks north of Quillayute Needle. The original topographic sheet will doubtless give an exact location of the extent of these reefs. Traverse was carried up the river past Dickey Creek.

Fred E. Joekel,
Jr. H. & G. Engineer.

R.S. Atwood
Inspector Coast and Geodetic Survey.
204 Burke Building.
Seattle, Washington.
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
WASHINGTON
March 17, 1925.

SECTION OF FIELD RECORDS
Report on Topographic Sheet No. 4090
Quillayute River, Washington
Surveyed in 1924
Instructions dated December 4, 1924.

Chief of Party, R. B. Derickson.
Surveyed and inked by F. E. Joekel.

1. The records conform to the requirements of the General Instructions.
2. The plan and character of the survey satisfy the General Instructions.
3. The plan and extent of the survey satisfy the specific instructions.
4. The junction with the previous survey is satisfactory.
5. No further surveying is required within the area of the sheet.
6. The character and scope of the surveying are excellent.
7. Reviewed by E. P. Ellis, March, 1925.
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

TOPOGRAPHIC TITLE SHEET

The finished Topographic Sheet is to be accompanied by the following title sheet, filled in as completely as possible, when the sheet is forwarded to the Office.

U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Register No. 4090

State ... Washington

General locality ... Pacific Coast

Locality ... Mouth of Quillayute River, Mora, Washington

Chief of party ... R.B. Herickson

Surveyed by ... F.E. Joosol

Date of survey ... Dec. 22, 1934, to Dec. 31, 1934

Scale ... 1:10,000

Heights in feet above Mean Sea Level

Form Line Center interval ... 100 feet

Inked by ... F.E.J. ... Lettered by ... F.E.J.

Records accompanying sheet (check those forwarded): Photographs, Descriptive report, Horizontal angle books, Field computations, Data from other sources affecting sheet...

Remarks: