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Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

C. & G. SURVEY,
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
NOV 23 1910
Dep. Sec.

Superintendent.

State: *Virginia*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topic Sheet No. *3095*

LOCALITY:

Eastern Shore of Virginia
Peninsula - Metombkin
Inlet to Little Machapungo
Inlet

19*10*

CHIEF OF PARTY:

Stelman Forney

3095

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,Original

Descriptive, Report

To Accompany

Topographic Sheet #3094

Revision of Coast Shore Line
Eastern Shore of Virginia Peninsula

From

Metomkin Inlet to Little Machapongo Inlet

And partial Hydrographic Examination

Of

Wachapreague Inlet

1910

Scale' 1/20,000

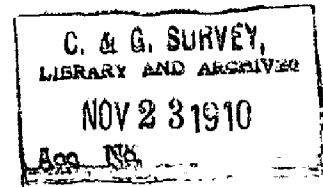
Surveyed by the party of

Stehman Horney

Assistant, C. & G. Survey

Chief of Party

3095



(1)

(a) General appearance of the Coast Shore,

The general appearance of the shore from Metomkin Inlet to Little Machipongo Inlet, is low, backed by sand dunes from ten to thirty feet in height, with a few scattering pines and cedars Cedar Island,

On Paramore Beach Island, The sand dunes reach an altitude of thirty five feet and are covered with a thick growth of scrub pine and Cedar, backed by stagnant water ponds and marshwhere millions of mosquitos lie in wait to devour every thing that comes along, after passing through this army of torture one is met on the sand hills by millions of Horse flies, whose stings are as vicious as that of a hornet.

About one third the way from the northern end of the island to the southward on the beach, is located the U, S, Life Saving Station, here the crew have to wear masks and leather gloves day and night to protect them from the mosquitos and Horse flies,

The ^{Cedar Island} Wachapreague Life Saving Station is located at the Southern end and on the western shore of Cedar Island, with a broken down decayed worm eaten wharf, A summer hotel, annex to the Hotel Wachapreague, is also located here.

Revel's Island, which is inside and at the southern end of Paramore beach Island is low and sandy with a hammock of pines at its northern end. Here is located the Revel's Island Club House, owned and operated by a Philadelphia and Pittsburg hunting club,

The northern end of Hog Island is a low sandy shore backed by sand dunes thirty feet high, back of these salt marsh with a net work of creeks and stagnant ponds infested with mosquitos and horse flies,

(e) Change of Coast Shore line Between Metomkin and Little Machipongo Inlet since the survey of 1871,

Southern point of Cedar Island Has made out in to Wachapreague Inlet 275 Metres,
N, E, Point of Paramore Beach Island has made out 375 Metres,
Central part of Paramore Beach Island Has made out in to the Ocean 230 Metres

(2)

Southern part of Paramore Beach Island , on the coast, has eroded 530 Metres
A sand spit 300 Metres wide, has made out from the southern end of Paramore Beach Island 2650 Metres into Little Machipongo Inlet.

Northern end of Hog Island has eroded 150 Metres.

N, E, Point Of Hog Island has made out 600.

400 Metres south of Fletcher (2) Δ signal on the sea side of Hog Island there has been no change in the shore line since the survey of 1871,

(w) Survey Methods.

The projection and Δ ng points were carefully traced from Original topographic sheet No 1200 surveyed in 1871, and carefully transferred to this sheet, As my triangulation progressed the new points were computed and plotted on the field sheet.

The new shore line was run by plane table traverse lines , starting from a Δ ng point^d along the coast and checking on interior Δ ng signals.

The shore line shown in blue^d , represents the survey of 1871, and that in black represents the survey of 1910, The new shore line was extended inside of the inlets until it joined with the shore line of 1871.

Hydrographic Examination,

There was a partial examination made of Wachapreague Inlet, not having a suitable sounding boat, I abandoned this work August 1st 1910, In ~~my~~^{my} letter of August 9th to the superintendent I advised him of what I had done, giving my reasons in detail, and suggested that with a suitable launch I could make Hydrographic examinations of all the inlets to which I have never received a reply, consequently the hydrographic examination of Wachapreague Inlet was not completed or that of the others taken up, The motor in the 16 foot Yawl boat, attached to my party was not reliable,

(3)

The day I abandoned the work, the sounding ^{boat} came near capsizing at the edge of the breakers, just at the critical moment when I needed the work of the motor it balked and refused to back, and the men had to resort to their oars to back her out of the surf.

Partial Hydrographic Examination of Wachapreague Inlet

Changes in depths since the late corrections were made on chart No 129, Chincoteague to Hog Island,

Middle of channel off Cedar Island point Chart No 129, shows 61 feet my survey 52 & 58 feet near by, Entrance to Horse Shoe Lead and Finneys Creek, no changes were developed, 31 & 32, & 25 & 25 on both,

Soundings,

The soundings were made in an 16 foot Yawl boat propelled by a 6horse power Gray Motor, (that was constantly balking) With observer-recorder leadsman and engineer, The boat positions were determined by sextant angles taken from the boat on well determined signals on shore,

The plane of reference was derived from 12 low waters observed on a plane staff gauge, located at ^{Cedar} Wachapreague Island Life Saving Station wharfe, (the mean of the 12 low waters were used for the plane of reference) The soundings on the sheet are expressed in feet and show the depths at mean low water,

The inlets on this sheet are of very little commercial value, The channel at Little Machipongo Inlet is treacherous - shallow and changeable, and should never be attempted by sail boat, unless with a steady and strong fair wind, the currents on the flood and ebb tides are strong and swift. The North & South channels at Wachapreague inlet are good for boats drawing 6 & 7 feet, sailing boats should not attempt to come in or go out , except under the most favorable conditions of wind and tide.

Stetman Jones
Comd. U. S. S. Albatross

VEC
Apr. 6, 1911.

TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET 3095.

Metomkin Inlet to Little Machipongo Inlet, Virginia,
by Asst. Stehman Forney, 1910.

TIDES.

	Wachapreague L.S.S. ft.
Mean low water, or plane of reference on staff	4.7
Lowest tide observed " "	3.8
Highest " " " "	9.7
Mean range of tide	3.9

~~Coast and Geodetic Survey~~

APR 6 1911

TIDAL DIVISION