

## S P A S S K A I A    B A Y

\* \* \* \* \*

ALASKA  
MAR 21 1925

Located on the Northeast Coast of Chichagof Island.

\* \* \*    \* \* \*

When this stream was first examined on July 12 there were perhaps 200 salmon (majority chums) escaping into the streams and many humpbacks jumping outside of the dead line. From residents in this locality I learned that there were many seine boats fishing practically in the mouth of the stream and they were catching all the fish they could haul away, prior to the stream being protected by a watchman.

From July 12 until July 21 approximately 2500 chums and 1000 humpbacks made their escapement. After July 21 the run of chums decreased and the run of humpbacks increased considerably. July 28 marked an unusual fine run, numbering thousands of fish, seen in pool near the mouth of the stream. The peak of this run was apparently between August 10 and 26. On August 18 an inspection was made for nearly one and one-half miles up stream where thousands of humpbacks were in evidence. Again on August 26 the river was full of humpbacks and in the shallows they were almost a solid mass.

The Cohoes commenced to appear in the bay August 19 which run lasted until early in September; however, the run of Chums and Cohoes did not prove to be nearly so large as the humpback run.

Byron A. Olson,  
Stream Watchman.

Season of 1924.

Extracts from Reports Submitted by  
Byron A. Olson.  
Stream Watchman, Spasskaia Bay.



\*\*\*\*\*

July 28, 1924.

There are lots of fish coming in here every day, both humpbacks and chums, mostly of the latter. From my own observations and what I can learn from the people who have lived here for the last seven years, this is a very important stream for spawning salmon. I am told they go back for four or five miles. Mr. Douglas, who lives here, tells me the seiners have raised havoc here making their hauls sometimes two and three hundred yards up from the mouth of the stream. There is a hole here where the fish seem to stay before going on up. Here, he says, late in the fall after the Cohoes have started up, the natives come with their seines and make some great hauls. He says the Coho run usually starts the latter part of August and sometimes lasts until almost the 1st of November.

As you no doubt know there is a fish trap operated by Libby, McNeill, and Libby, on the island in this bay, which certainly is diverting a great many fish from this stream. It is very near the dead line. Talked with watchman there the other day and asked how many fish they were getting a day and he said not many. When asked to be more explicit he replied about 700 a day.

\*\*\* \*\*

September 1, 1924.

I have also inclosed a rough sketch of Spasskaia Bay and surroundings. This, is of course, not at all accurate as far as distances are concerned, but it may serve to give you a better idea of the relative positions and lay of the country adjacent to this stream. I have sketched in only about a mile and a half of the stream. As near as I can find out it is between five and six miles long where it branches out into a number of smaller streams. Fish go clear to the head. It heads up into and drains a good sized valley. The old timers say there is always enough water the year around for the fish to get through. There are some windfalls higher up which start about a mile up but are no obstruction to the fish, in fact, I should think they would be a protection.

The tide backs up the stream about a mile and a half which is as far as I have sketched in.

In the first hole near mouth of the stream the seine boats in previous years used to fish every fall during the Coho run. They can easily get in here on high tides. The Cohoes seem to lay in these holes and go up on high tides. You seldom see them on the shallows during low tide, whereas the humpbacks and chums are going all the time, in fact seem to prefer the bars to the holes. Another thing I have noticed is you very seldom see a dead Coho. The dogs and humpbacks after spawning, all, of course, eventually die. There are lots of trout in the stream, both dolly varden and cutthroat.

From my own observation and what I have been told by old timers around here, I would consider this a very important fish stream, as it has all the natural advantages for their propagation.

As you will see by the accompanying sketch the fish trap operated by Libby, McNeill and Libby comes too near our dead line, in fact, at low tide, I am afraid it would be inside.

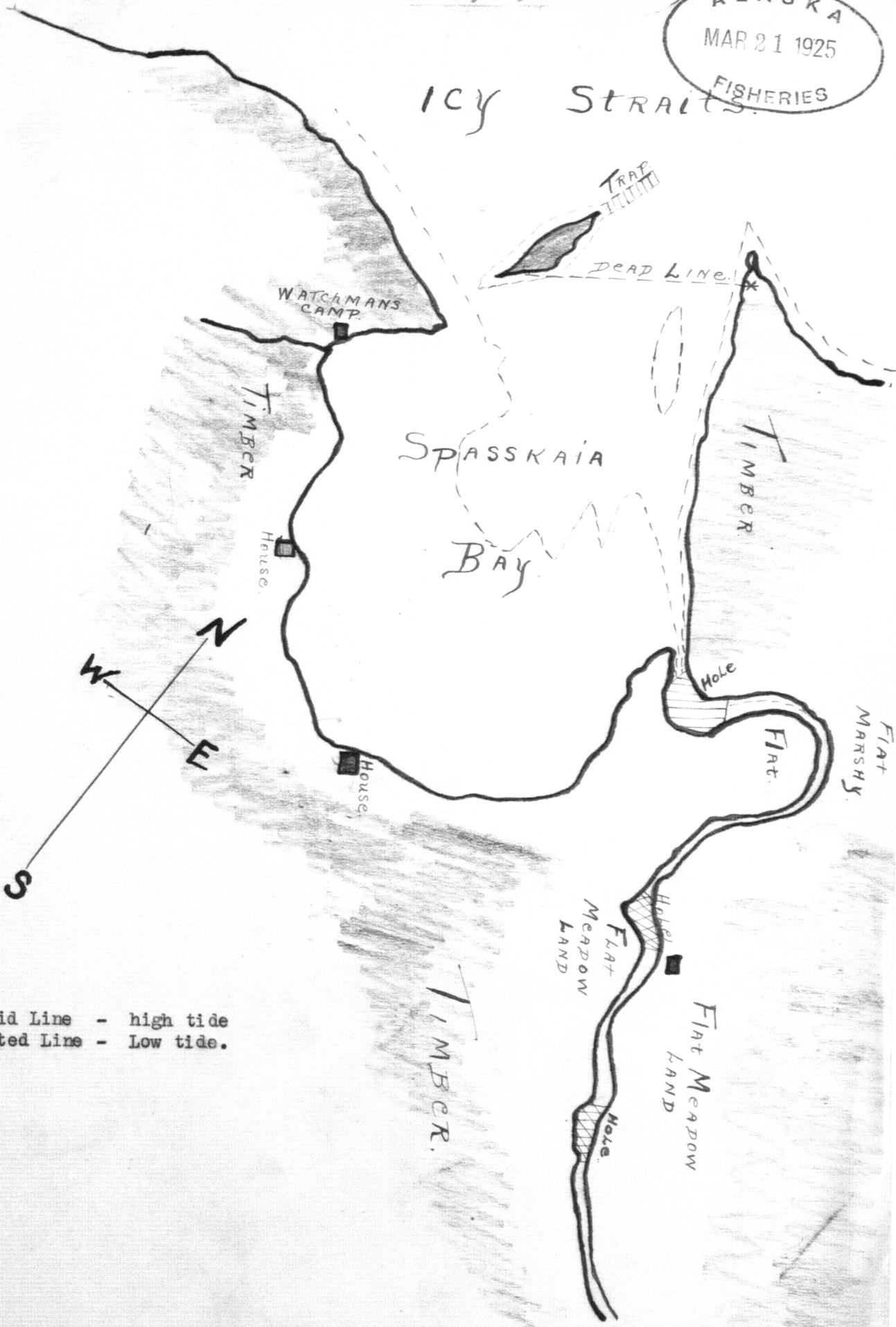
I have had no trouble so far with anyone in regard to fishing. Two or three fine boats have come in but as soon as they saw our markers have gone right out again.

Byron A. Olson,  
Stream Watchman.

Season of 1924.

ALASKA  
MAR 21 1925  
FISHERIES

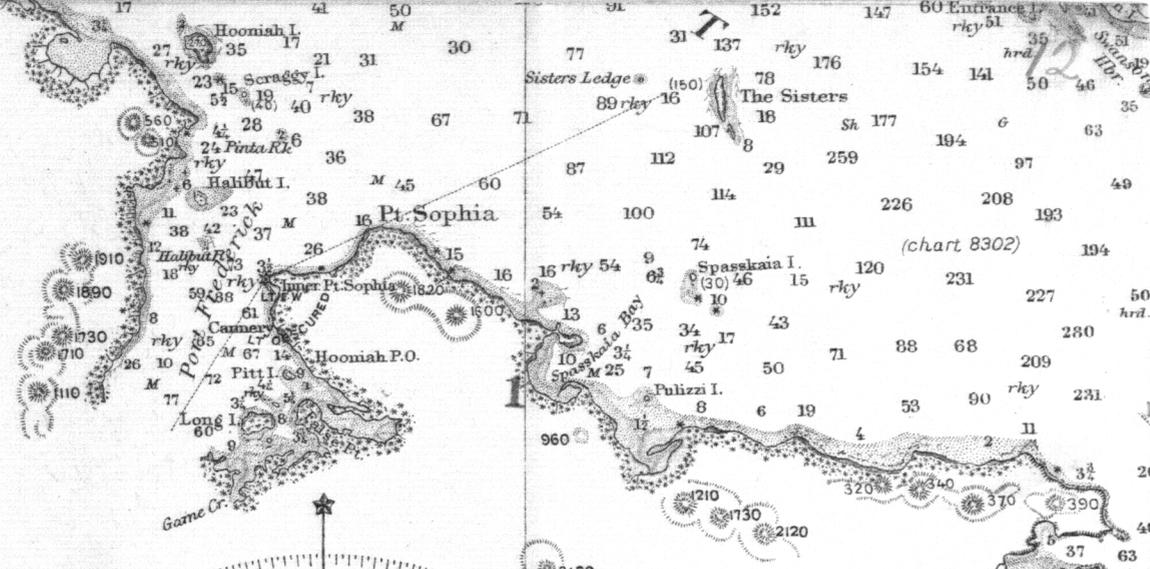
ICY STRAITS.



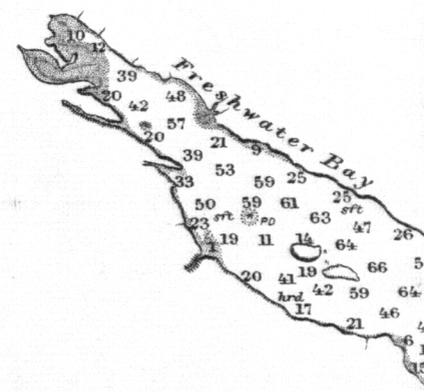
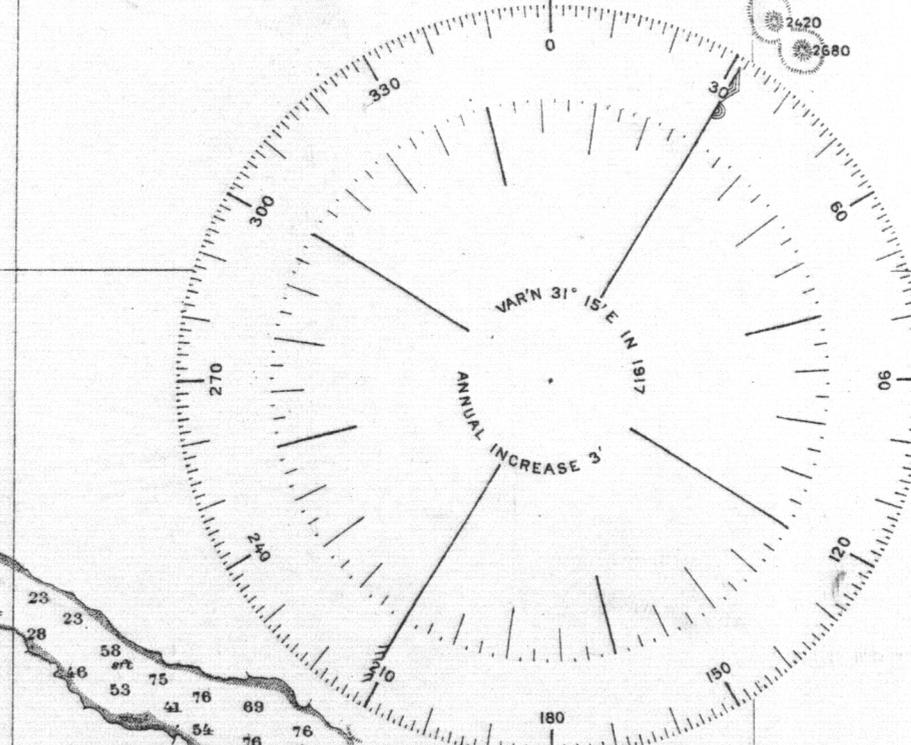
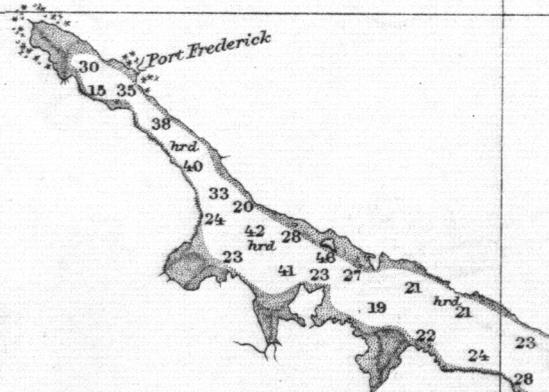
Solid Line - high tide  
Dotted Line - Low tide.

TIMBER.

ALASKA  
MAR 21 1925  
FISHERIES



58°00'



C H I C H A G O F I .

