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Form 504

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Type of Survey *Topographic*

Field No. \_\_\_\_\_ Office No. *1870*

LOCALITY

State *Washington*

General locality *Gulf of*

Locality *Georgia*

*1888*

194

CHIEF OF PARTY

*J. Gilbert*

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U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

*F. M. Thorn*, Superintendent.

State: *Wash. Terr.*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

*Topographic* Sheet No. *1870.*

LOCALITY:

*Gulf of Georgia.*

*1888.*

CHIEF OF PARTY:

*J. J. Gilbert.*

1870

Descriptive Report

Sheet No. 2

Topography of  
Gulf of Georgia

W. J.

1888.

J. J. Gilbert  
Assistant.

Descriptive Report

Sheet No. 2.

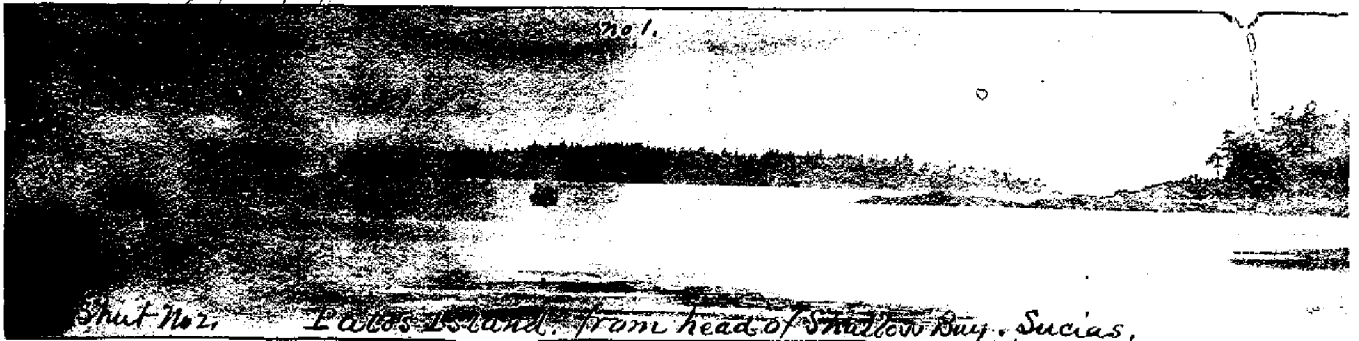
Topography of Gulf of Georgia, W. I.  
Register No. 1870.

This sheet embraces all of the islands of the Potos, Sucia & Matia groups, and a portion of the north side of Orcas Island:— from station Caterpillar eastward to a point  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile east of  $\Delta$  Thompson<sup>r</sup> where it joins sheet No. 1. Also Parkers Reef and other reefs lying near the islands.

The formation is entirely Sandstone, except a few patches of earth and gravel on Orcas Id. and the fossil banks of the Sucia group. Orcas Island to eastward of this sheet is igneous rock.

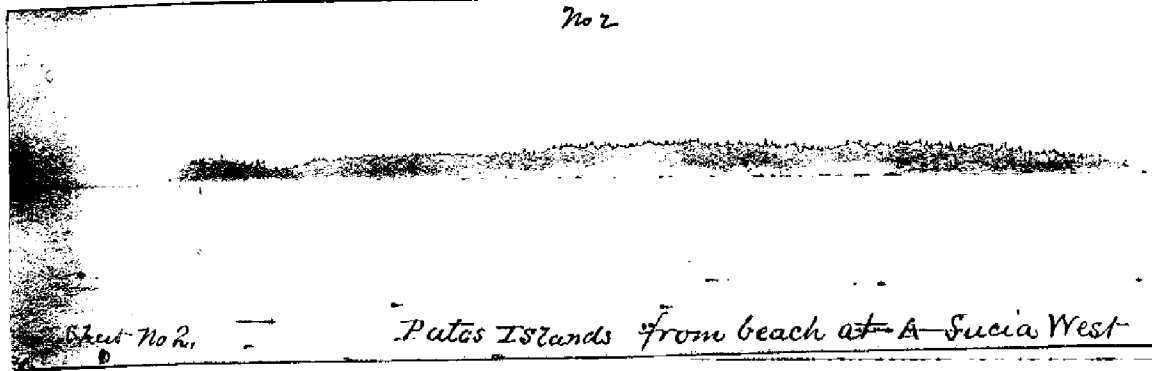
Parkers Reef, lying between Signal Thompson<sup>r</sup> and the S. end of the Sucas, appears to have been at or near the center of upheaval. But little of the reef shows at high, only one rock at the eastern extremity of the reef and a pile of shells near the center. But at low tide a large surface is bare. It looks as though the strata were exactly on edge, and worn flat on top. The strike is nearly East and West. Along the shore of Orcas Island the strata lie nearly

parallel with those at Parkers Reef, while the dip is to the southward, about  $45^{\circ}$ . On the islands the strike is approximately E. and W., and the dip to Westward, varying from  $30^{\circ}$  to  $45^{\circ}$ .



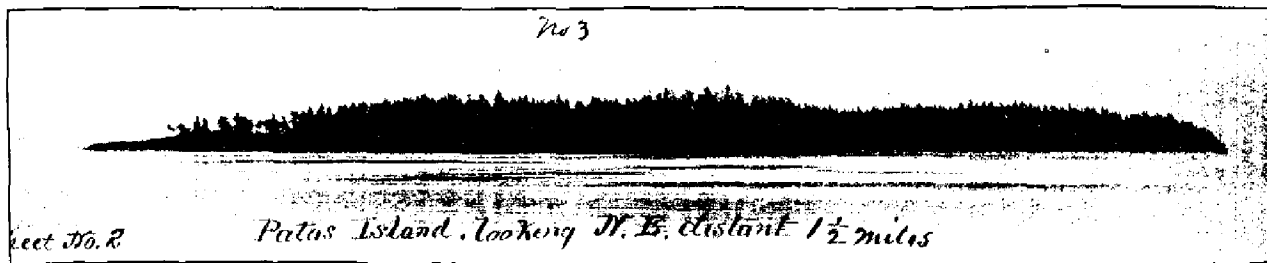
Sketch No. 1. Potos Island, from head of Shallow Bay, Sucias.

The Potos Group is composed of two islands; one main island, and a small island off the S.W. angle of the former. Between the two is a snug bay, and good anchorage, with the best and safest entrance from the westward. View No. 1. from Sucia Islands, shows the smaller island separate from the larger.

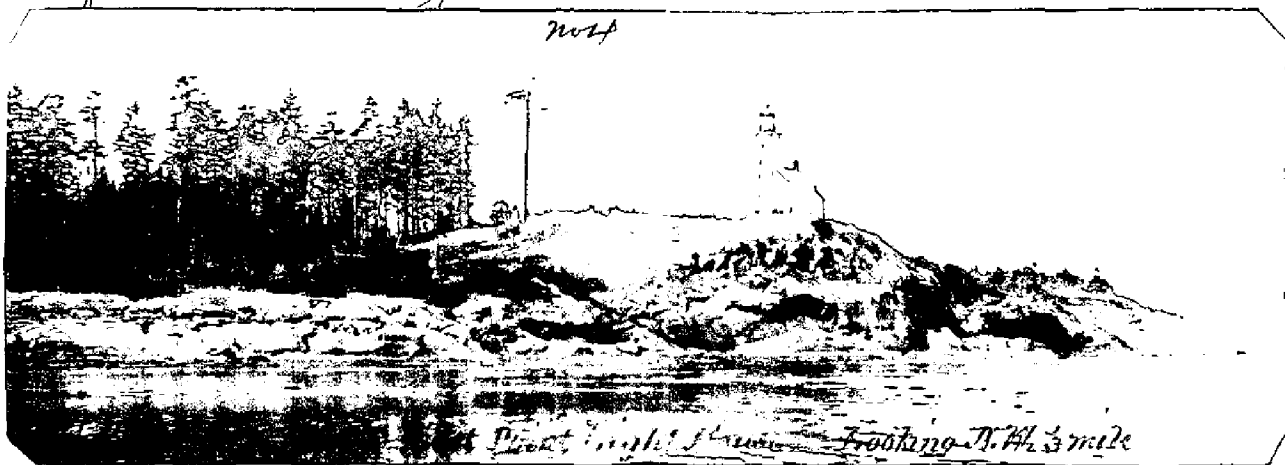


Sketch No. 2. Potos Islands from beach at A Sucia West

View No. 2. from Sucia West, shows the smaller island closed in upon the extreme point of the larger island, from which it is scarcely distinguishable, while in Sketch or View No. 3. it is projected against the larger



and not distinguishable from it. This view was taken from the Steamer, after having taken view No. 4. of East Point Light House, on Saturna Island in B.C.



This light is visible for a long distance up the Gulf, and down Canal de Haro.

At the East End of the Island, just S.W. of a Frigate is a good harbor for small boats,

The island is much lower than Suquia or Matia with bold water on the South side;— while the North side, at low tide is skirted with a broad beach, part gravel, but mostly of rock worn flat.

The Suicias are a very interesting group, both on account of their singular formation, and on account

of the many fossils found there. These fossils are only found in the banks S.W. of Fossil and Deep bays, and are scattered all along from  $\Delta$  Fossil to  $\Delta$  Lucia West, but are most abundant in the bluff to the E. of  $\Delta$  Fossil, and near  $\Delta$  Lucia West. The accu-



panying Bronica print, View No. 5. Exhibits Some Characteristic fossils. One shell marked a is so exactly represented in Dana by the figure of a Cephalopod. = Goniatites Marcellensis. That I am convinced it is the same, - a product of the Devonian Age. Several specimens of Ammonites were found see figs. 6. The

great majority of the fossils belong to the claw family, and these are very abundant and of several varieties. Fragments

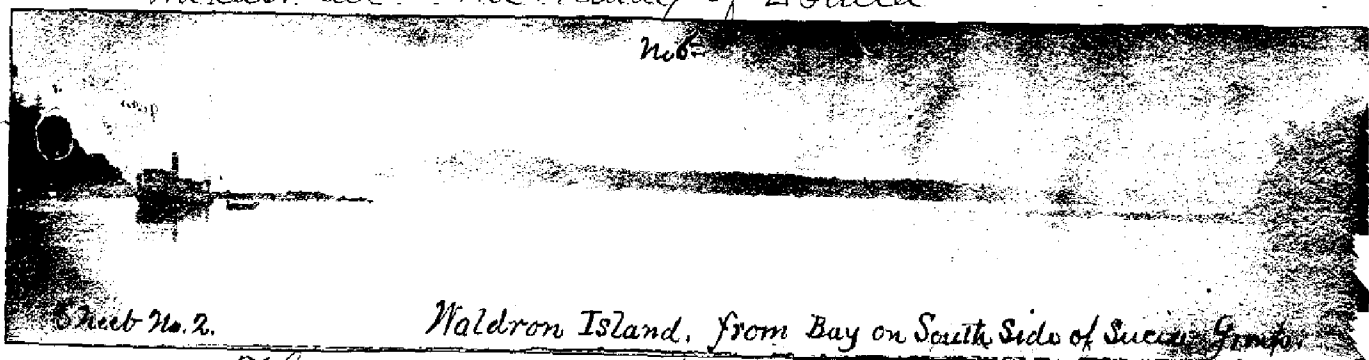
of the Cephalopod, figs C in view, are very abundant in the vicinity of Suecia West. The largest are about 4 in. in circumference, they are slightly tapering, the longest piece found was about 8 inches, and everything indicates a length of two feet or more; the shell is very indurated.

The banks in which these fossils are found are a hard silt, cracking and crumbling by long exposure to the weather. The broad flat rock skirting these banks, especially at Suecia West, indicate how much of the original islands have been worn away by the action of the waves and weather.

Except these fossil banks, the Suecia Islands are all of sandstone, and generally covered with soil and fir trees.

There are a few patches of arable land between the ridges, but these are of small extent. The few people living here are fishermen with Indian wives.

The Group consists of six islands, and several islets or rocks, the last all in the vicinity of Suecia



Sheet No. 2.

Waldron Island, from Bay on South Side of Suecia Group

There are several bays with good anchorage



Deep Bay on S.W. face of group is one of these, it can be entered at either end of the small island, and there is good anchorage near the head. View No. 6 from the shore, looks out from this bay, and shows both points of the Southern entrance, with the Steamer at the anchorage, and Waldron Island in the distance, (Waldron Island also has fossil banks, No others are known on the Sound.)



Shallow Bay on the west face of the island has a narrow entrance, nearly closed with kelp; it is safe to enter in about 12 feet, and a good anchorage is found just inside of entrance, the bay is shallow. View No. 1, was taken from the head of this bay and shows both points of entrance, and steamer at anchor. View No. 7, is also taken in this bay, and shows a

Characteristic piece of shore-line.

Fossil Bay also has good anchorage, best near the N.E. side, towards the head it is shallow.

no 8.



Sheet No 2:

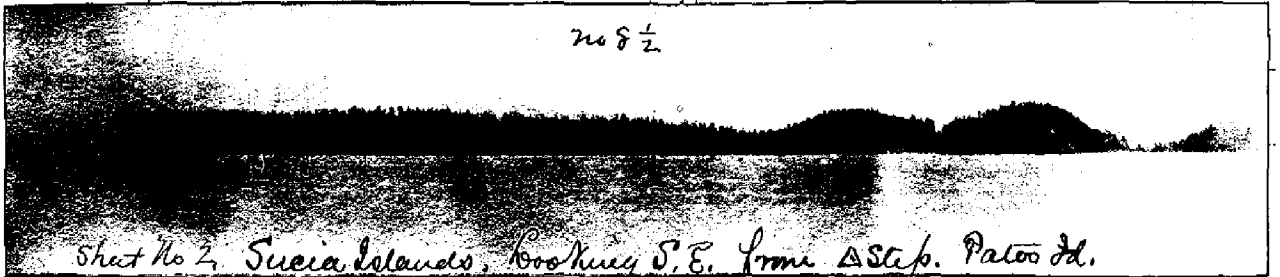
Looking N.W. across Fossil Bay from Fossil Point.

View No. 8, taken from Fossil Point, looking north across Fossil Bay, well illustrates the character of the shore-line.

Echo Bay, named from the very fine echo at a point near its head, is a good safe harbor, free from dangers, best anchorage near the head,

There is also good anchorage in the small bay just So. of Signal Lucia, entrance from Eastward, the S. side of bay being protected by a number of islets or rocks.

no 8 1/2



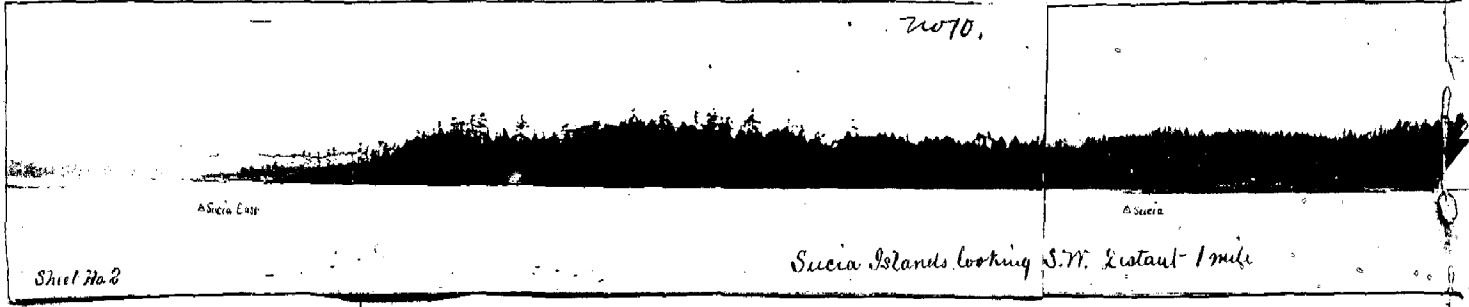
Sheet No 2, Lucia Islands, Looking S.E. from Δ Step, Patos Id.

View No. 8 1/2 is from Δ Step on Patos Island, and gives the profile of the Lucia group, looking S. East.

no 9

Sucia Islands looking N.W. Dist 3 miles

View No. 9. is from nearly an opposite direction to view No 8 1/2, being from about half way between Thompson's and Matia East. It shows Sucia West detached from the Main Island. - also shows opening through in the vicinity of Sucia, - it looks like an opening in the distance because the land is low and without large trees.



no 10

View No 10. is taken from the Steamer, looking S.W. and gives a profile of the entire group: - with a portion of Orcas Island, including the hill west of East Sound, in the distance, to the left.



View No. 11. is of the Point of Sucia Group looking nearly West. Fossil Point is on extreme left, and 1st Id in Echo Bay on right.

209

Sucia Islands looking N.W. Dist. 3 miles.

View No. 9. is from nearly an opposite direction to view No 8, being from about half way between Thompson's and Matia. East. - it shows Sucia West - detached from the Main Island. - also shows opening through in the vicinity of Sucia, - it looks like an opening in the distance because the land is low and without long trees.

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Sucia Islands looking S.W. Dist. 1 mile.

View No 10. is taken from the Steamer. looking S.W. and gives a profile of the entire group: - with a portion of Orcas Island, including the high part of East Sound, in the distance, to the left.



Point Bay

Point Bay

Scho Bay

View No. 11. is of the Point of Sucia Group looking nearly West. Fossil Point is on extreme left and 1st Id in Echo Bay on right.

The Matia Group is composed of three islands, one main island and a small one at each end, and a few detached rocks and reefs. It is composed of sandstone, and similar in its general characteristics to the other islands on the Sheet.

Stations Matia and Matia South are on the main island, and Stations Matia East, and Matia NW, are on the smaller islands, which may well have the same names as the



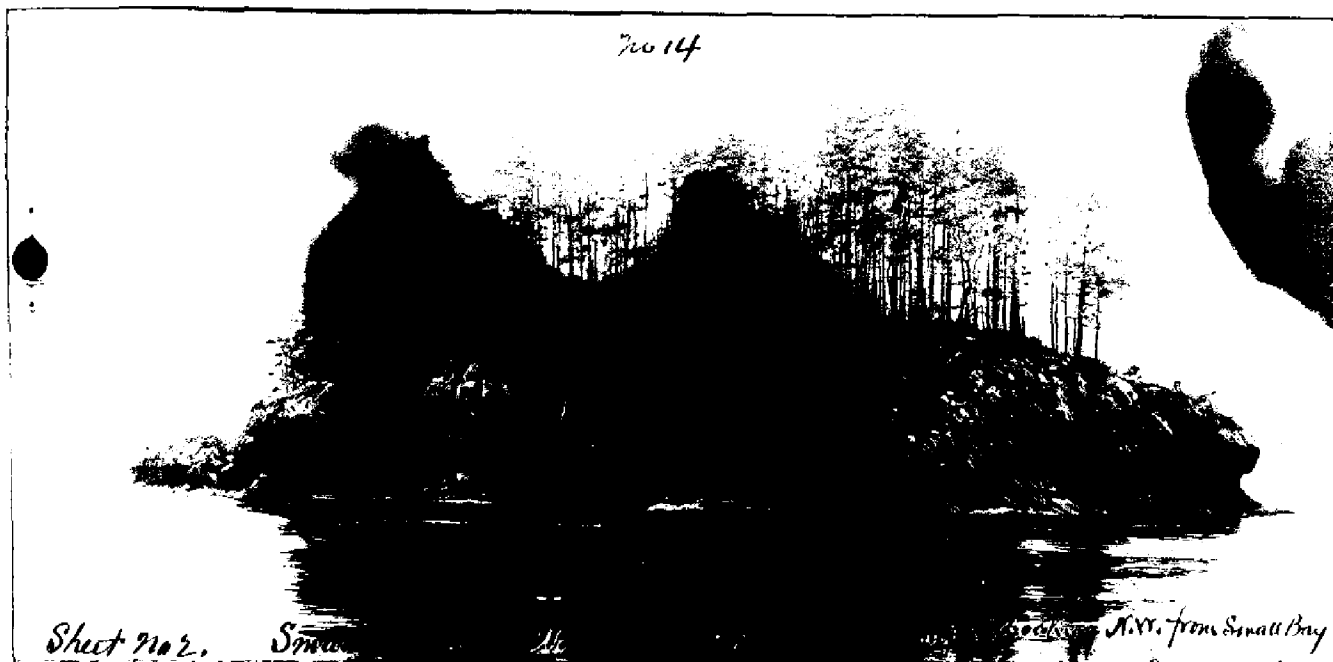
Sheet No 2

West End of Matia Island. West 1/2 mile. Looking E

View No. 13, is from the Steamer, looking east, and shows the two small bays in the west end of the group.

Both bays have good anchorage & protection for small vessels; the bay on the left is formed by the small island, Matia NW, the entrance from the North side is narrow and dangerous, but from the west it is unobstructed. Off the west end of the small island is a large bare rock, connected with the island at low tides.

View No 14 is taken from the head of the bay and



Shows the shape and formation of the small island, Matia NW, showing also the rock off its west end projecting beyond its west end.

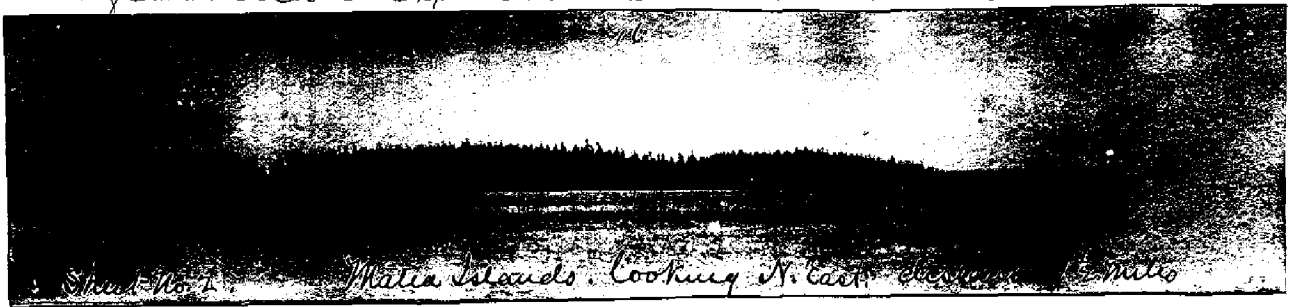


On the South side of the Main island there is a snug bay with anchorage. View No. 15 shows this bay. It was taken from the shore on N.W. side.

just opposite the entrance and takes in the head of the bay, showing the steamer at anchor, and the house of a fisherman at the head; this house was unoccupied while I was there.

View No. 2, accompanying Deser. Report of Sheet No. 1, was taken from the same spot as view No. 15, and in the foreground shows the reefs off South Entrance to this bay; these reefs are covered at high tide.

There is another anchorage in the bay just South of Signal Matia, Entrance close along So. side of Matia East.



Matia East is detached from the main island, with a channel between. View No. 16 shows its position. This view was taken while running across from Thompson to Matia, from the same position from which view No. 9 was taken.

Off the East end of the small island are two reefs, the larger nearly awash, (slightly covered)

at high tide. These are similar but more extensive reefs off  $\Delta$  Sucia. The largest entirely covered only at large tides.

The currents throughout this sheet are very strong, and there are many whirlpools and eddies. Flood tide sets to NW, along the islands, but sometimes sets to eastward along south side of Pato Id.

J. J. Gilbert  
Asst. S. G. Survey