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SECTOR 10 — CHART INFORMATION

SECTOR 10

JAN MAYAN

Plan.—This sector describes the island of Jan Mayen from Sorkapp, the SW extremity, to Nordkapp, the island's north-easternmost point. The sector also describes the numerous bays of Jan Mayen.

General Remarks

10.1 Jan Mayen lies about 250 miles E of the E coast of Greenland and about 300 miles NE of the NE extremity of Iceland. The island is about 30 miles long and lies in a SW to NE direction. Its narrowest part, which is less than 2 miles wide, is in the central region. The island is important chiefly because of its strategic position for weather forecasting.



Jan Mayan

The island, which apparently originated entirely by volcanic processes, is divided into three distinct portions. The NE part is almost entirely occupied by Beerenberg, an active volcano over 30 miles around the base. Beerenberg is one of the largest known volcanic cones. The crater, over 1 mile in diameter, is filled with a glacier which escapes by a break in the N wall and cascades down to the sea. The highest peak in the crater is 2,277m high.

Beerenberg dominates the island from all directions and is visible from a great distance in clear weather. In fog, the summit is sometimes suddenly revealed

The low central region consists of many lava flows and volcanic sand deserts, with almost no vegetation. There are a

number of long beaches of dark volcanic sand, mixed with shining olive green crystals and strewn with driftwood, probably from the great rivers of N Siberia. In the NE part of this region are two lagoons, or fresh-water lakes, separated from the sea by narrow sand bars.

The SW region consists of scattered peaks, which rise to an elevation of 768m, and then, in most places, fall steeply to the sea. In some of the valleys, there are numerous small volcanic cones which interrupt the natural drainage from the hillsides to form small lakes. Mist is common in this area.

The vicinity of land may be indicated by sea birds, which swoop down in great numbers around a vessel. The cries of these birds on land is like the distant roaring of a cascade and may be of assistance in warning vessels of the proximity of the cliffs they inhabit.

Winds—Weather.—The prevailing wind direction is E. Gale winds and storms are usually from a NE to NW direction, although NE winds are not very common. From June through August, frequently the wind is out of the S to SW. Calm weather is rare, but occurs mostly from May to August.

Fog occurs most frequently in calm weather or with E to SE winds. Frequently, there is fog during most of the summer. The island can be wrapped in fog for weeks. When fog hovers close over the sea around the island in calm weather, the wind will hold it back against the weather side of the island, while the lee side remains clear. With N or S winds, however, the fog can be piled over the low central part of the island, whereas the mountains on Nordjan and Sorjan force it high aloft so that it drifts in the lee as light clouds. This means that one side of the island can have extremely poor visibility, while there is clear weather with sunshine on the opposite side.

Precipitation occurs very frequently, although not in large quantities. September and October are the wettest months, whereas May and June are the driest. Precipitation mostly falls as snow. However, it is rare for a precipitation to fall exclusively as snow during a month's interval, even during the winter months.

Ice.—The island is usually affected by sea ice from mid-November to mid-April. In severe seasons, the island may be affected as early as late October and as late as early August, and in a warm year, the island may be affected by ice perhaps for only several weeks during winter months

Encountering mist is very common around Jan Mayen and visibility is often poor. The temperature of the surface water should be taken frequently, perhaps hourly. Extreme caution should be taken of encountering the ice barrier, especially when the seawater temperature falls to or below 3°C.

From mid-July to mid-August is the best time for finding an opening in the ice around the island and for making a landing. During this time of year, the sea around the island is often calm or there exists a light breeze off the land. Making a landing is extremely difficult or impossible with a swell or any waves that break along the shore.



Beerenberg

Tides—Currents.—Jan Mayen lies in the boundary water between the East Greenland Current and an eddy from the Gulf Current and the North Atlantic Current, both running in the same direction, and causing a SW main current.

The tidal range varies between 50 and 120 cm and causes a N current with rising water and a S current with falling water.

With the addition of the variable depth conditions, irregular current conditions are thereby produced around the island. Generally, there is a SW flow of 0.5 to 1 knot, sometimes rising to 1.5 knots, although accurate observations have not been made.

During spring tides, inshore along the NW coast, the flow may become N. Because of bottom conditions, irregular flows or eddies occur, particularly S of the island in the vicinity of Sorkapp and Strumflakect, a small body of water close to and S of Sorkapp.

Depths—Limitations.—Except when in the vicinity of Sorkapp, and Losbaten, a small islet on the SE coast, a vessel, by keeping a distance of about 1 mile offshore, will be outside the 20m danger curve off Jan Mayen. It is recommended that vessel navigate at least 2 miles offshore when in the vicinity of Sorkapp or Losbaten.

In the N, the great depths run right into the island from Soraustkapp to Nordvestkapp.

Lvndquistflaket stretches NW about 15 miles from the center of the island toward Marobanken, with a depth of 133m in the shallowest part.

Stimen, a shoal ridge about 2 mile WNW of the W extremity of Sorjan, runs about 4 miles in a NE to SW

direction. There is a series of shoal heads here, with a least depth of 123m.

Hoybergrenna, between the shoal ridge and land, has increasing depths from 350 to 700m to the S. There are also peaks that reach up to 200m above the surrounding bottom.

From Sorjan, Jan Mayenbanken stretches S out to sea with increasing depths. The depth is thus about 500m at a distance of about 40 miles S of the island.

Straumflaket stretches from about 4 miles S of Sorjan for 10 miles S. The shallowest part of the bank is Bouwensonbaen, with a depth of 6m, which lies about 9 miles SSE of Sorkapp. A 6m shoal, whose position is doubtful, was reported to lie about 1 mile S of Bouwensonbaen. There are also other shoals on this bank which reach up to depths of as little as 12m.

Sarsbanken extends about 20 miles E from Jan Mayen, with depths of 250 to 300m. The bottom then falls away to great depths on the N side of Sarabanken.

Southeast Coast

10.2 For about 6 miles between Sorvestkapp and Kapp Wier, there is a continuous, undulating cliff about 150 to 300m high, falling vertically down to the sea or a rather narrow beach. Small landslides into the sea often occur along this coast.

The W point of Sorvestkapp, 214m high, ends in a sharp bill as a kind of portal over a remarkable 20m high hole right through the rock.



Beerenberg and surrounding vicinity

Sjuskjera stretches about 0.5 mile W from Sorvestkapp. This skerry lies 0.2 mile from land and is a 27m high inaccessible rock with a profile like a goose. A couple of the other skerries are about 3m high and are almost like large stones to look at, while the others are rocks, awash.

Sorkapp (70°50'N., 8°59'W.) is the S extremity of the island. It is foul within 0.3 mile from land. Due S of the point, the 20m bank runs out to about 1 mile from land, with a 13m depth at its extremity. Sorkappgrunnen, a 10m shoal, is located about 0.2 to 0.3 mile outside the 20m curve, slightly more than 1 mile S of Sorkapp.

From Sorkapp, the coast continues 1 mile ENE toward Hjelmen, 341m high, with the easily-recognized points and skerry of Kjeglene lying off.

Northeast from there is Fugleodden, which forms the W limits of Hornbaekbukta. To the E, the bay is bounded by Kapp Wien and is about 2 miles wide. Vessels find a good lee in Hornbaekbukta against winds from the NW quarter, anchoring in depths of 10 to 20m.

The N part of the bay has an uneven bottom, with somewhat shallower, sharp peaks. In the E part of the bay, about 0.5 mile

S of Kapp Wien, there is Fyrtarnet, a 47m high rock that is narrower at the base than on top. It is perhaps the most remarkable natural landmark on the coast.

The conical Flykollen, 419m high, standing inside Kapp Wien, is also easy to recognize where it runs in an even curve down to the cape itself, which in turn is comparatively low and divided at its end.

There is a stretch of about 3 miles, from Kapp Wien to Kapp Traill in the NE, that is very foul to about 0.7 mile from land in Brotvika, just on the NE side of Kapp Wien.

There are also a several high, basalt rocks in the sea.

Schiertzegga, 378m high, lies just S of Kapp Traill, with a stairway-shaped and splintered profile to the NE, and with a hat on the highest point.

As a rule, the lower ledge will be visible beneath the fog and is easily recognizable by a point which is separated from the rest of the land by a deep hollow.

10.3 Rekvedbukta (70°57'N., 8°34'W.) is a bay entered between Kapp Traill and Eggoya, 217m high. Along the first 2 miles NE from Kapp Traill, the coast consists of a low, heavily

splintered cliff edge. In the middle of this stretch is Batvika, a comparatively good boat harbor with a sandy beach on the N side, which provides room for hauling up boats. Batvika is the first landing place possible when proceeding on the NE stretch from Sorkapp, and serves as the nearest harbor for Olonkinbyen.



Olonkinbyin Weather Station

Olonkinbyen is the only inhabited place on Jan Mayer. It serves as the base for the staff of the LORAN station and the Jan Mayen radiostation. A road runs from Olonkinbyen across to Kvalrossbukta, on the opposite side of the island.

With E wind conditions, landing is difficult in Batvika. Under such conditions, Kvalrossbukta is an excellent harbor. There are masts for the radio and navigation systems erected in the shore area NE along Rekvedbskta, with the radio station itself right in the S part. There is an air strip just E of the radio station; S of this is an old, renovated hunting hut.

The shoreline along Rekvedbukta consists of a low, sandy plain. Inside the beach, there is the large Sorlaguna.

On the N side of the lagoon is Soyla, a large basalt rock, 114m high, which is a conspicuous landmark.

Losbaten (70°56'N., 8°40'W.) is a small islet lying S of the radio station, about 0.7 mile from land.

Losbatrevet is a shoal, about 3m deep, that extends 0.5 mile ESE.

Nansenflua, a 2m shoal, lies 1 mile offshore and 4 miles NE from Losbatrevet. Abnormal magnetic variations, to the extent of 20°, were experienced in the area about 5 miles E of Losbaten. Nansenflua is an underwater rock with a small top surface and about 20m high vertical sides.

Rekvedbukta is otherwise clear, with an evenly rising bottom, except for a 13m shoal about 1 mile NE of Losbaten. When vessels keep away from the shoals described, they can anchor throughout the bay in W to N weather. With such conditions, fog usually comes rolling across the low, central part of the island.

With W winds, vessels anchor best between Losbaten and Batvika, while with N winds the best lee is to the E of Eggoybukta. Smaller vessels can lie here with the wind due NE if they go far into the bay. With particularly strong winds, large clouds of sand swirl up from the plain and are driven outward.

10.4 Eggoya (70°58'N., 8°24'W.), 217m high, is the remains of an old crater, and is really a peninsula. The outer part is so cut away by the sea that it forms a bay between two steep points. From Eggoya, the coast runs 8 miles ENE to Soraustkapp. This stretch is fairly straight. The large, sandy plain behind Eggoya opens to the 1 mile wide Jamesonbukta.

Gouwernaerbaen is a 10m shoal that is about 1 mile S of Jamesonbukta. From Jamesonbukta E, there is a 1 mile wide belt of lava rocks. Turnbukta cuts in a little way in the N part of this. Some projecting points, together with several skerries, provide a considerable lee against swell, and the bay is therefore well-suited for hauling up boats.

To the ENE of this lava belt there is a new sand plain, Ullringsanden, with a lagoon beneath Kreklinghogda, red crater wall, 61m high. The sand plain then stretches to Kapp Hap as a narrow strip along the foot of the mountain.

Presidentsteinen, 12m high, is an easily-identifiable offshore islet about 1 mile WSW of Kapp Hap.

East Coast

10.5 Along a stretch of about 3 miles around **Soraustkapp** (71°01'N., 8°00'W.), the mountainsides plunge down into the sea from heights of up to 200m. Soraustkapp itself appears as a break in the cliff edge in about the middle of this area. The coast continues as steeply N to Austbukta.

Several glacier arms push down on this stretch; two of them have their fronts in the sea. The N front is really two parallel glaciers, Prince Haralds Bre and Frielebreen, which come together at the lower end.

On the stretch from these glacier fronts and further N to Austkapp, the coastline is new as a result of the lava masses which burst out during a volcanic eruption. Due to the effects of the sea and the steep sea bed, one cannot assume the shoreline is stable.

North of this new land, there is a low cliff edge between Austkapp and Nordkapp, which rises up to a height of about 70m midway between the capes.

The coast here forms the end of the ridge of Breerenberg to the NE with several craters. The two most conspicuous are Sarskrateret, 264m high, and Hohenlohekrateret, 121m high, nearest the cliff.

In no place off the E coast does the 20m bank reach further out than 0.5 mile.

Austbukta and Clandeboyebukta were formerly the only places around the island where vessels lay well in SW weather. Volcanic eruptions, however, may have changed the bottom conditions, which were previously steep outside the danger line. Strong katabatic winds can occur off the coast here.

North Coast

10.6 Nordkapp (71°10'N., 7°57'W.) lies 1 mile NNW of Austkapp and is moderately high, with a rugged background. From Nordkapp, the flat Kokssletta extends with a width of 600 to 1200m across to Krossbukta, about 2.5 miles W. Kokssletta is made up of coke like lava.

With S winds, Nordbukta, W of Nordkapp, provides good anchorage for smaller vessels, but the bottom falls off steeply outside the danger line.

Krossbukta, a better harbor, has sandy beaches. The bottom here rises evenly up from 50m and most often the wind is either out of the S or E.

Kapp Muyen, on the NW coast, is 7 miles SW of Krossbukta. Kapp Muyen is not recommended as a landing area, especially in the N part, where the mountain falls almost

vertically 400m. Three glacier arms emerge with fronts in the sea on this stretch. Weyprechtbreen is the largest.

West Coast

10.7 South of Kapp Muyen, the coastal plain gradually widens. There are some steep cliffs that meet the sea. Further down the coast, the buildings of the a former radio station stand at Libergsletta. S of Libergsletta, there is Nordlaguna which is separated from the sea by a low shore bank.

The coastal waters on this stretch are clear except, for a 10m shoal 0.3 mile offshore just S of Kapp Muyen; a rock, awash, about 183m off Fugleberget near Nordlaguna; and a 5m shoal about 0.1 mile from land N of Danielsenkrateret.

Fugleberget forms the separation between Stasjonsbukta and Maria Myschbukta, both of which are excellent anchorages when the weather allows.

Southwest Coast

10.8 Brielletarnet (70°58'N., 8°42'W.) 91m high, has the same formation as Fyrtarnet on the SE coast. It is connected to land by Kvalrossen, 157m high; together they form the most remarkable place on the W side of the island.

Kvalrossbukta lies on the S side of Kvalrossen and is the best harbor on the coast during favorable weather conditions.

The bays further S were used by whalers. Apart from Tommerbukta, the N bay, and Guineabukta, the S bay, they are not particularly suited as harbors. In many places, landing is inaccessible because of an almost continuous cliff edge, which is formed by the distinctively gray and wide Lavastraumen in the N. This comes from the mountains in the interior of Sorjan and ends at the edge of the sea at **Kapp Rudsen** (70°56'N., 8°53'W.).

From Kapp Rudsen, the waters SW are relatively foul, with many skerries near land and with shoals out to about 0.1 mile from shore. Fuglesoyla, 14m high, is a rock about 183m off the coast, 1.75 miles SW from Kapp Rudsen, which provides a good landmark.

Between Guineabukta and Sorbukta, there is Kraterflya, with Richterkrateret, 108m high; Hoyberg, 68m high; and Arnethkrateret, 111m high. The plain between the last two and Sorbukta has an overboiled surface, with upright figures in places.

Sorbukta is a much-used harbor, which provides excellent shelter against winds between the NNE and E.