

From Smith's Island inlet, or from the end of the channel-way which has been mentioned, there is no obstruction to the navigation of ordinary vessels for a considerable distance. The channel is on both sides narrowed by marshy islands, superposed on oyster shell rocks. These marshes afford a sure pledge, that, of whatever nature may be the aggressions of the sea, the channel encompassed by them will be safe and permanent. It is true that, in many places, they create a crooked, tedious navigation; as is the case at the Buckhorn, a part of the channel a few miles above Indian Landing, the port of Eastville. At some future period, when the use of these Sounds shall have become more general, the Commissioners would propose such alterations, by dredging and otherwise, as would tend to straighten and render easy the navigation, without affecting its permanence or depth. At present, as it is navigable, and with the assistance of the chart they are preparing, easily so, they would not recommend any attempt to better it.

From this place, (the Buckhorn) no actual survey has been made until Cat Creek is reached—the name given to a narrow, crooked, and shoal channel, connecting the waters of Wallop's Island Sound with those that are nearer the Assawoman and Gargathy inlets. The navigation, in some places, partakes of the appearances witnessed below; though the general character is that of much wider sounds and broad water. Matomkin Bay exhibits a sheet of water from four to six miles in breadth, and is navigable by a deep water channel, nearly a mile wide.

It is at Cat Creek that the Commissioners would recommend the first alteration in the channel at present. This has been carefully surveyed, the rise of tide ascertained—the points of most forcible impulse of the opposite tide currents only have not been fixed; this requiring a longer time than the Commissioners had to bestow, they have pretermitted until the construction of the work should appear more decided upon. In the mean time, they cannot doubt but that a simple dredging—a reduction, by merely straightening, of the length of the Creek to less than one half of its present extent—and a widening, in a small degree, of its existing average dimension of twenty feet, with the proper embouchure at each end, would be quite sufficient to convert