

After Paragraph 4.49 1 line 11 *Insert:*

Rio del Rey

General information

4.49a

Description. The estuary of Rio del Rey is an open, shallow bay, about 13 miles in width and is entered between Cap Bakasi (4°30'49N 8°42'80E) and Pointe Betika (4°17'83N 8°55'09E), 18 miles SE. Rivers Fiari, Ofa or Ndian, Meta, Andokat, Massake, Lobe and Meme flow into the delta. Bananas and other produce are shipped into ocean-going vessels which anchor off Cap Bakasi. Rio del Rey settlement (4°44'00N 8°38'00E) is situated in a mangrove swamp on the W bank of Fiari River.

Fiari River is the W of four rivers which flow into the bay and is about 2 or 3 miles in width at its mouth. It is connected by several creeks to Akpa Yafe River and can be navigated by vessels of moderate draught.

Meta River enters the estuary between Presqu'île Erong (4°34'00N 8°46'00E) and Île Fiari (4°35'00N 8°50'00E), and is reportedly navigable for about 15 miles. The approach to Meta River is marked by beacons.

Andokat River is navigable for about 12 miles above its mouth, which is situated between Île Fiari and Presqu'île du Pélican (4°34'83N 8°54'45E), but its entrance is obstructed by Île Soden (4°32'00N 8°51'00E) and sandbanks.

Meme River is entered between the S tip of Presqu'île du Pélican and Pointe Kole (4°28'54N 8°53'66E), and is navigable as far as Duben Falls, about 31 miles from its entrance. The river is connected to Andokat River by a creek and by Massake River, both of which run through Presqu'île du Pélican.

Topography. The shore of the bay, on the E side slopes down from the Cameroun mountains (4.2) and that on the W side is formed by the SE extremity of Presqu'île Bakasi. The shores are well populated and the coastal villages are visible from seaward.

The coast S of the entrance to Meme River consists principally of low cliffs in which are many caves; two of the largest of these are connected by a gallery with its side pierced at equal intervals, so that, from a distance, this portion of the cliffs resembles a fort excavated in the rock.

Depths. There is a least charted depth of about 5 m across the bar, but this changes constantly and cannot be relied upon.

Tidal levels. Mean spring range at the river entrance is about 2.2 m; mean neap range about 1.1 m. See information in *ADMIRALTY Tide Tables Volume 8*.

Local knowledge is required.

Restricted area. See 4.7.

Tidal streams. In Fiari River, off Cap Bakasi, the tidal stream attains a rate of 1¾ kn at springs.

Directions

4.49b

Caution. Numerous oil platforms exist to seaward on both sides of the river entrance. See 1.41.

From the vicinity of No 1 Buoy (port hand) (4°21'41N 8°43'72E), at the entrance to Rio del Rey estuary, the track leads N, passing:

E of No 2 Buoy (port hand) (4°26'03N 8°44'65E). A wellhead is situated 8 cables ESE. Thence:

E of No 3 Buoy (port hand) (4°30'31N 8°44'56E).

Thence the track leads NNW, passing between Cap Bakasi and Presqu'île Erong (4°34'00N 8°46'00E). Beacons stand on both points. A stranded wreck lies on Presqu'île Erong.

Anchorage

4.49c

Anchorage for small ocean-going vessels may be found 1½ miles NE of Cap Bakasi (4°30'49N 8°42'80E) in a depth of about 6 m.

Anchorage and harbours

Baie de Bibundi

4.49d

Description. Baie de Bibundi (4°11'06N 8°58'30E) is entered between Pointe Madale (4°15'58N 8°56'11E) and Cap Debundsha, 10 miles SSE. Bibundi River enters the bay 4 miles SE of Pointe Madale. The entrance to the river is narrow and difficult to make out from seaward; it is situated between a sandy spit on the N side and a steep, rocky bank on the S side. The river is always accessible to boats, but a vessel drawing 1.5 m or more would have to wait until half in-going tide. Just within the entrance the river forms a small harbour.

Bibundi village, near which are some cocoa plantations, is situated 1 cable from the beach, and is concealed by trees; it is the trading centre for the country W of the Cameroun mountains.

Topography. North of Bibundi River the shore of the bay is composed of black mud on which are mangrove bushes; to the S it is rocky.

Madale Rocks are two rocks extending up to 1 mile SW of Pointe Madale. To the NW of the point is the extensive shallow mudbank which lies to seaward of the Rio del Rey delta.

Local knowledge is required.

Directions. From a position about 5 miles SW of Cap Debundsha (4°06'07N 8°58'56E), the track leads NNE into Baie de Bibundi keeping 1 to 1½ miles off the shore and in depths of not less than 10 m.

Anchorage may be obtained off Bibundi in a depth of about 11 m, mud, at a distance of 7 cables from the coast. Anchorage may also be obtained in the S part of the bay, in a depth of 15 m, sand and mud, with Cap Debundsha bearing about 189° and Njonje, a village bearing about 080°.