

NEW BATHYMETRIC MAP OFF CALIFORNIA

by

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The writer can report the completion of a series of new bathymetric maps extending all along the California Coast and covering the bottom out to 2000 fathoms. The maps are based on approximately a million of the new United States Coast and Geodetic Survey soundings. The sea bottom is contoured at 300-foot intervals and the same interval is used for the adjacent land.

These maps show what a remarkable topography exists off the coast. To the south there is a broad area comparable in general character to the topography of Southern California. Farther north a more normal shelf-and-slope topography is found, but with enormous submarine canyons cutting into it which can be traced outward to depths of 10,000 feet and more. Also great escarpments are found and mountains of volcanic aspect, some of the latter rising as much as 10,000 feet above their surroundings. The maps indicate the fertile field for geological study which awaits development.

