

The Cagayan River is the largest river in Luzon. The bar at its mouth generally has from 15 to 18 feet over it at low tide, and the channel is continually changing with the currents caused by the river and the winds. The bar should not be attempted without a pilot. Pilotage for the port of Aparri is compulsory, and pilots are always in attendance when it is possible for vessels to enter (see appendix, p. 340, for special regulations). At times during the northeast monsoon the bar is impassable, and vessels are obliged to seek shelter in Port San Vicente until the weather moderates. Vessels awaiting a pilot may drop an anchor under foot, or keep under way, taking care to keep Linao light bearing southward of 270° (270° mag.) and the church in Aparri southward of 146° (146° mag.). Linao lighthouse (a cylindrical iron tower standing alongside a white stone dwelling) is near the town of Linao on the western side of the mouth of the Cagayan River. It stands about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the river and about $\frac{3}{8}$ mile from the sea; and from a distance the tower and dwelling appear as a single large white rectangular building. The light shows one white flash every second, is visible 11 miles, and is 36 feet above high water. A red buoy is northeastward of the foul ground on the western side of the approach to the entrance to the Cagayan River. Owing to its exposed position this buoy is liable to drag and therefore it should be passed with caution.

Aparri (chart 4260), the principal port in northern Luzon, is on the eastern side of the mouth of the Cagayan River and is very prominent. The best anchorage off Aparri for vessels which do not intend to cross the bar is in 10 or 12 fathoms, sand and mud bottom, with the church in Aparri bearing 180° (180° mag.) and Linao light bearing 247° (247° mag.).

The usual anchorage for vessels after entering the river is in the western channel opposite the town of Aparri. The eastern channel in front of the town can be entered only by small craft and usually only from upstream.

Twelve feet can be carried 12 miles up the Cagayan River to Lallo, which is the head of navigation for seagoing vessels. At times freshets occur, causing the river to rise rapidly, so that it is necessary to take precautions against the velocity of the current and the debris brought down by the river.

From the mouth of the Cagayan River the coast, which is low and sandy, trends northwesterly for 14 and 17 miles to the mouths of the small rivers, Abulug and Pamplona, and thence 14 miles farther in the same direction to Pata Point. A sand bank, on which the sea breaks heavily in bad weather extends a considerable distance off the mouths of the Abulug and Pamplona Rivers. This is the only known danger on this part of the coast.