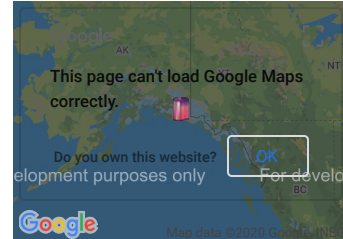


## Yakataga Mine (between Cape Yakataga and White River), Yakataga District, Valdez-Cordova Borough, Alaska, USA

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|                                 |                                      |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Latitude & Longitude (WGS84):   | 60° 3' 29" North , 142° 19' 19" West |
| Latitude & Longitude (decimal): | 60.05806,-142.32194                  |



Location: This beach placer mine area is the 7-mile long segment of the present Gulf of Alaska beach from Cape Yakataga to the mouth of White River. The map site is the approximate midpoint of this beach segment. The location is accurate. It was included in locality 5 of Cobb (1972 [MF 373]; 1979 [OF 79-1246]).

Geology: The placer gold in Yakataga-area beaches was discovered in 1897 or 1898, and small-scale mining started in 1899 (Maddren, 1914). Rocker and sluice operations continued to WW II. Drill prospecting of raised beaches occurred after WW II (Thomas and Berryhill, 1962), as did sporadic attempts at small-scale mining.

Most of the post-WW II mining was west of Cape Yakataga (see BG005; Miller, 1971). The gold in the Yakataga area, naturally concentrated in heavy-mineral accumulations by storm waves, is fine and flat. Other heavy minerals include amphibole, garnet, chromite, native copper, hematite, magnetite, pyroxene, rutile, sphene, ilmenite, zircon, and probably some monazite (Maddren, 1914, Thomas and Berryhill, 1962; Foley and others, 1995). The iron and titanium oxide contents of reconnaissance samples of beach sand from the Yakataga area were reported by Thomas and Berryhill (1962). These samples contained as much as 6.2 pounds of iron per ton but mostly less than 2 pounds of iron per ton. Their titanium oxide content was less than 2 pounds per ton in the magnetic fraction and as much as 7.3 pounds, but mostly less than 2 pounds, per ton in the non-magnetic fraction. Foley and others (1995) processed 94 samples from 51 locations, including some raised beaches, along this segment of the Yakataga shoreline. Spiral concentrates from these samples contained less than 0.028 grams (64 samples) to 0.790 grams gold per ton (one outlier sample was reported to contain 12.219 grams of gold per ton), 0.34 to 1.65 percent titanium, and 95 to 2029 ppm zirconium. Heavy-mineral concentrates from five samples (3.91 to 7.47 weight percent of the original samples) contained 0.001 to 0.031 percent magnetite, 0.106 to 0.232 percent ilmenite, 0.193 to 0.629 percent garnet, 0.001 to 0.032 percent rutile, and 3.32 to 7.22 percent other minerals. Flotation concentrates from two samples contained 7.253 and 15.86 grams of gold per ton, 0.008 and 0.0085 gram platinum per ton, and 0.017 and 0.056 gram of palladium per ton. The placer gold in the Yakataga beaches may be derived from reworking of marine-glacial deposits of the Cenozoic Yakataga Formation (Reimnitz and Plafker, 1976).

Workings: Small-scale rocker and sluice operations took place from 1899 to WW II. Drill prospecting of raised beaches occurred after WW II (Thomas and Berryhill, 1962), as did sporadic attempts at small-scale mining. Most of the post-WW II mining was west of Cape Yakataga (Miller, 1971).

Age: Quaternary.

Production: A part of the 15,000 to 16,000 total ounces of gold produced in the Yakataga district was recovered from this area.

Commodities (Major) - Au, Ti; (Minor) - Cr

Development Status: Yes; small

Deposit Model: Placer Au-PGE (Cox and Singer, 1986, model 39a)

### Mineral List

**Filter Mineral List** [Reset](#)

Valid Species  Al  Au  Ca  Cl  Cr  Cu  F  Fe  H  O  Si  Ti  Zr

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|   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Amphibole Supergroup</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Chromite</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Copper</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 'Garnet'</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gold</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hematite</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ilmenite</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Magnetite</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 'Monazite'</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 'Pyroxene Group'</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rutile</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Titanite</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Zircon</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

10 valid minerals.

### Regional Geology

This geological map and associated information on rock units at or nearby to the coordinates given for this locality is based on relatively small scale geological maps provided by various national Geological Surveys. **This does not necessarily represent the complete geology at this locality** but it gives a background for the region in which it is found.

Click on geological units on the map for more information. [Click here to view full-screen map on Macrostrat.org](#)



|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>Holocene<br/>0 - 0.0117 Ma</p>            | <p><b>Water</b><br/><b>Age:</b> Anthropocene (0 - 0.0117 Ma)<br/><b>Reference:</b> Wilson, F.H., Hults, C.P., Mull, C.G, and Karl, S.M. (compilers). Geologic map of Alaska. doi: 10.3133/sim3340. U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Map 3340, pamphlet 196. [21]</p>   |
| <p>Neogene - Paleogene<br/>2.588 - 66 Ma</p> | <p><b>Sedimentary; Clastic: deltaic and nearshore</b><br/><b>Age:</b> Cenozoic (2.588 - 66 Ma)<br/><b>Description:</b> Okhotsk, Bering Sea, Pacific Alaska, Coast Mountains<br/><b>Comments:</b> Orogen, magmatic arc/suite; Wilson &amp; Hults, unpublished compilation, 2007-08<br/><b>Lithology:</b> Sandstone, siltstone, shale, coal; plant fossils<br/><b>Reference:</b> J.C. Harrison, M.R. St-Onge, O.V. Petrov, S.I. Strelnikov, B.G. Lopatin, F.H. Wilson, S. Tella, D. Paul, T. Lynds, S.P. Shokalsky, C.K. Hults, S. Bergman, H.F. Jepsen, and A. Sollis. Geological map of the Arctic. doi:10.4095/287868. Geological Survey of Canada Map 2159A. [2]</p> |

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## References

Cobb, E.H., 1972, Metallic mineral resources map of the Bering Glacier quadrangle, Alaska: U.S. Geological Survey Miscellaneous Field Studies Map MF-373, 1 sheet, scale 1:250,000. Cobb, E.H., 1979, Summary of references to mineral occurrences (other than mineral fuels and construction materials) in the Bering Glacier, Icy Bay, Middleton Island, and Yakutat quadrangles, Alaska: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 79-1246, 41 p. Foley, J.Y., La Berge, R.D., Grosz, A.E., Oliver, F.S., and Hirt, W.C., 1995, Onshore titanium and related heavy-mineral investigations in the eastern Gulf of Alaska region, southern Alaska: U.S. Bureau of Mines Open-File Report 10-95, 125 p. Maddren, A.G., 1914, Mineral deposits of the Yakataga district: U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 592-E, p. 119-153. Miller, D.J., 1971, Geologic map of the Yakataga district, Gulf of Alaska Tertiary Province, Alaska: U.S. Geological Survey Miscellaneous Geologic Investigations Map I-610, 1 sheet, scale 1:125,000. Reimnitz, Erk, and Plafker, George, 1976, Marine gold placers along the Gulf of Alaska margin: U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1415, 16 p., 1 plate. Thomas, B.I., and Berryhill, R. V., 1962, Reconnaissance studies of Alaskan beach sands, eastern Gulf of Alaska: U.S. Bureau of Mines Report of Investigations 5986, 40 p.

Mineral  and/or Locality

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