

C.S.

Confidential

1924.

No.

4/24

Soys Confidential

SUBJECT.

1923

3 December

Previous Paper.

unreliability of Statistical Returns furnished by Messrs Salvesen & Co.

Report by Director Bgr Museum.
M.P. 375/23

MINUTES.

Soys Conf Dec 3rd Dec 1923 (1)

Lr. from Sir S.F. Harmer 23rd Nov 1923 (1a)

Memorandum by Sir S.F. Harmer 23rd Nov 1923 (1b)

Y.E.

Submitted

G.R.H. 13

On file

19 Jan 1924

Plan refer to the Assistant Sec Naturalist in the first place

W.H.H. 23 Jan. 24

Assistant Government Naturalist
Referred.

G.R.H. 13

on file

24 Jan 1924

Subsequent Paper.

11/25

Qin C./C. 50

The doubts in the mind of Sir S. Harmer are, from my experience, undoubtedly justified.

It is most difficult to bring home to this, or any other Company, such charges of "studied defiance," but for the benefit of the industry generally, (and I honestly believe that it is only by means of accumulated truthful scientific data that a practical control of whaling can be brought about,) I submit that grave inaccuracies should, as far as possible, be eliminated, for without the greatest care being exercised in the compilation of the figures asked for, a totally wrong line of action may be taken to preserve whales, - at a time too that may be too late to be of material good ^{either} ~~both~~ to the whales or the industry.

The figures - returns, are in the form of a barometer, which when understood should indicate what is to be expected in the future

Submitted
not that
23.2.24 (2)
Lr to Magistrate Soer. 27 Feby 1924

Submitted for your Excellency's approval

G. H. 17
D. J. See
27 Feby 1924

Mr J E Hamilton

His Excellency has instructed that this paper should be referred to you for consideration and report.

G.H. 13

As/pcu

10 March 1924

Hon. Col. Sec.

In support of Sir S. Hammett may I submit the following.

2/ Out of 160 Fin Whales examined by me during the present season 75 were females.

A routine inspection of the genital organs was made which resulted in the finding of 12 foetuses. This is roughly 16½%.

3/ The returns of the S. Georgia Company show about 50% pregnant females, those of the other companies 125 in 1252 whales, roughly 10%.

4/ This figure is comparable with mine of 16½% although it was taken from Blue as well as Fin Whales, whereas 50% is far removed from it.

5/ With reference to foetal lengths the lack of steady gradation is illustrated by the 12 foetuses.

6/ They were all measured

but were the 7th January and

The 23rd of February.

In order to avoid complicating the matter I give the lengths to the nearest 6 inches although the originals are more accurate.

7/. Lengths in feet $6\frac{1}{2}$, $5\frac{1}{2}$, 11, $7\frac{1}{2}$, $6\frac{1}{2}$, 9, $6\frac{1}{2}$, 9, 10, $8\frac{1}{2}$, 3, $7\frac{1}{2}$.

The first eight were in January and run from $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 11 feet, the four in February from 3 to 10 feet.

8/. The accuracy of measurements is, I consider, less open to question since it is not difficult to measure features to within one or two inches.

But if the features never existed at all the question of the accuracy of their total lengths scarcely arises.

9/. Sir Sidney has by this time a great ~~large~~ volume of records from South Georgia and any exceptions to the general conditions require most careful consideration.

J. S. Hamilton.

Govt. Naturalist

19/3/24.

Draft of letter to Messrs Selwen and to J. of S.

Copy under confidential cover to Messrs
Barlas asking him to maintain a
close watch on the specimens from the South
Georgia Company

tttttt 24/3/24

Letter to Maj. So. Geo. 25/3/24 (2)

Letter to Chr. Salvesen, 25/3/24 (3)

Confidential Despatch to S. of S. 25/3/24 (4)

Y.S. submitted for information

ttttt 25 Aug 24

M.

30 May 1924
Confid Letter fr. Henry Salvesen d/9 Feb (5)

Y.S. submitted.

A copy to be sent to the S of S
for the information of Sir Sidney
Hamer.

ttttt 8 Nov. 24

Confidential Despatch of 10/11/24 to
S. of S. — Encl. (6)

Y.S. Despatch submitted for purpose
of signature

ttttt 11 Nov. 24

Conf. letter p. of Kapitani S. Georgia of 23/6/24
 Return of specimens 1923-24 South Georgia G.
 " Southern W. I. C.
 " Westfold C
 " Timberg
 " Agulhas
 " Boyde + Dahl.

(7)
 (7a)
 (7b)
 (7c)
 (7d)
 (7e)
 (7f)

Y.E. Submitter

Mr. Barlas has taken much trouble over this matter and is to be thanked? I do not think that anything he says substantially affects what we written to Messrs. Barlas. The percentage of pregnant female whales is certainly considerably higher than Mr. Hamilton. One would expect the average of whales found pregnant at shore stations to be higher than in floating factories where presumably ten can get examination is made. There is a remarkable drop in N.S. Georgia Co's percentage of pregnant whales.

This view is supported by return from Messrs Boyle, Dahl (7f) J.M.

17 Jan. 25

H.P.S.

All of the files about Mr Bauls who must have taken much trouble on this matter.

2. The copy can be forwarded to Sqs for information of Sir S. Hume

Sh.

14 January 1925

Letter to Ag. Mag. So. Geo. 20/1/25. Enc. (8)
Despatch to S. of S. (Confidential) of 27th January, 1925: Enc. (9)

Y.S.

Submitted with confidential despatch for the favour of signature

TTTTT 2 Feb. 25

Sh.

2 Feb 1925

(9.08.5/24)

①

DUPLICATE

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Downing Street,

CONFIDENTIAL.

3 December 1923.

*End 12 in
M P 375/23*

Sir,

In continuation of my despatch No. 85 of the 10th October, I have the honour to transmit to you, for such action as you may think desirable and for subsequent report to me, a copy of a letter from the Director of the Natural History Museum regarding the statistical returns submitted by Whaling Companies operating at South Georgia and the South Shetlands.

23rd Nov. 1923.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble Servant,

(Signed) DEVONSHIRE

THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

British Museum (Natural History),
Cromwell Road,
London, S.W.7.

November 23rd, 1923.

Dear Mr. Darnley,

I recently mentioned to you in conversation that I had reason for distrusting one or two of the series of Statistical Returns submitted by whaling companies in South Georgia and the South Shetlands. My reason for coming to this conclusion is that the records are at variance with those received during the present and earlier whaling seasons from other whaling companies. You were good enough to say that you would have enquiries made officially on this subject.

I had the advantage yesterday of talking the matter over with Mr. W. B. Binnie, who expressed the opinion, from his knowledge of the two companies I specially referred to, that their records were very likely to be untrustworthy. In communicating with the companies, it would be advisable to give them no clue to my reasons for doubting the correctness of their Returns. I enclose, however, a confidential Memorandum which will probably be useful to the Officer who is making the enquiry. The two companies I have specially in mind are the South Georgia Company (operating at South Georgia), and Salvesenaad Company, second licence SS. Sevilla (operating at the South Shetlands), both in the Season 1922-23.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) S. F. HARMER.

E. R. DARNLEY, ESQ.,

COLONIAL OFFICE, S.W.1.

CONFIDENTIAL.

British Museum (Natural History),

Cromwell Road,

London, S.W.7.

MEMORANDUM ON RETURNS OF FOETAL SPECIMENS. SEASON
1922 - 23.

SOUTH GEORGIA.

SOUTH GEORGIA COMPANY.

The records of this Company appear to be questionable for the following reasons:-

(a) The statistics for the several months show a gradual increase in the length of the foetuses which is too regular to be convincing. Thus, in the case of the Blue Whale, all the records for October are from about 1'-3', for November 2'-6', for December 5'-9', January 6'-9', February 6'-11', March 8'-13'. While the occurrence of these lengths in the several months is by no means improbable, it is contrary to my previous experience to find that at each period the lengths are so definitely restricted.

(b) The percentage of females recorded as pregnant is abnormally high. In the species already referred to the South Georgia Company record the capture of 425 females, of which 245 are recorded as containing a foetus. The corresponding numbers for all the other companies together are 1252 females, 155 with a foetus.

(c) The foetal lengths are recorded with what appears to be a higher grade of accuracy than in any of the other companies. The length is stated to the nearest inch, whereas the other companies content themselves with a record in feet only.

It seems not unlikely that this Company has tried to produce a good impression by recording a large number of foetuses and by appearing to give specially accurate measurements.

SOUTH SHETLANDS.

SOUTH SHETLANDS. SALVESEN & COMPANY, SS "SEVILLA".

The records of this company are of an entirely different nature. Thus in the Blue Whale all foetuses recorded in the months of December, January and February (first half) are of lengths from 13'-17'. In the latter half of February 3 foetuses appear, from 7'-9', and these are the smallest recorded in the whole season. This distribution of lengths is entirely different from that of other companies, both in the season and locality under consideration and in Returns previously received.

23rd November, 1923.

(Signed) S. F. HARMER.

Confidential 4/24.

25th March,

24.

Sir,

I am directed by the Acting Governor to attach herewith copies of correspondence, relating to the question of the reliability of the statistical returns submitted by Messrs. Chr. Selvesen & Company and the South Georgia Company, Limited, for the season 1922-1923, and to request that you will maintain a careful watch on the returns from the South Georgia Company.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. R. L. Brown,
for Colonial Secretary.

William Barlas, Esq.,
Deputy Magistrate,
South Georgia.

Fr. Director
Br. Museum
23rd Nov. '23
To. Messrs.
Selvesen,
25th Mar. '24.

(4)

FALKLAND ISLANDS.
CONFIDENTIAL.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
STANLEY,
25th March, 1924.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Duke of Devonshire's Confidential despatch of the 3rd of December, regarding the statistical returns furnished in respect of the 1922-1923 whaling season by the South Georgia Company and Messrs Salvesen and Company. I have caused Messrs Salvesen and Company to be addressed in the matter and a copy of the letter which has been sent to them is enclosed.

To Messrs Chr.
Salvesen dated
25th March, 1924.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

H. Henniker-Heaton.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

J. H. THOMAS, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

(3)

ENCLOSURE TO FALKLAND ISLANDS CONFIDENTIAL DESPATCH
OF THE 25th of March, 1924.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Confidential.

25th March, 1924.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Acting Governor of the Falkland Islands to inform you that considerable doubt exists in the minds of this Government as to the reliability of the statistical returns furnished by the South Georgia Company in South Georgia and the s.s. "Sevilla", in respect of the 1922-1923 season.

2. The South Georgia Company show in the statistics very unusual gradual increases in the length of the foetuses. In the case of the Blue Whale all the records for October are from about 1' to 3', for November 2' - 6', for December 5' - 9', January 6' - 9', February 6' - 11', March 8' - 13'. Actual measurements of twelve foetuses taken by the Government Naturalist between the 7th of January and the 23rd of February this year gave the following results, in feet, to the nearest six inches:- 6½, 5½, 11, 7½, 6½, 9, 6½, 9, 10, 8½, 3, 7½. Eight taken in January ran from 5½' to 11' and four in February from 3' to 10'.

3. The percentage of females recorded as pregnant by the South Georgia Company was abnormally high. In the case of the Blue Whale, of 425 females caught, 245 are shown as containing a foetus, or

57.64/

Messrs Chr. Salvesen & Company,
29 Bernard Street,
Leith.

57.64 per cent; the corresponding returns furnished by all the other companies together gave 1252 females, 155 or 12.38 per cent having a foetus. The Government naturalist examined 73 female Fin Whales during the present season. Foetuses were found in 12 of these, or 16.43 per cent.

4. The s.s. "Sevilla" returns gave the length of the foetuses in the months of December, January and the first-half of February as being from 13' to 17'. In the latter half of February three foetuses appear, from 7' to 9' in length. These are the smallest recorded in the whole season. This distribution of lengths is entirely different from that of other companies in the season and locality, and in returns previously received.

5. The Acting Governor assumes that your Company is aware of the importance of accurate returns and of the desirability that statements furnished by responsible persons in your employ should be above suspicion. He is confident that any failure to maintain this standard would be directly contrary to your wishes, and that you will therefore take such measures as may seem proper to elucidate the matter.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. R. L. Brown.

for Colonial Secretary.

29 BERNARD STREET, LEITH.
82 GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.
CUSTOM HOUSE BUILDINGS, GRANTON.

TELEGRAPH ADDRESS, "SALVESEN, LEITH."
TELEPHONES, LEITH 450, 290 & 274.

CHR. SALVESEN & CO.,
ESTABLISHED 1846.

Partners—

J. T. SALVESEN.
F. G. SALVESEN.
T. E. SALVESEN.

5
29 Bernard Street.

Leith 9th July. 1924.



Sir,

We have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Confidential letter No. C.4/24 dated 25th March regarding the statistical returns furnished by the South Georgia Co, Ltd, South Georgia and the "SEVILLA" in respect of the 1922/23 season.

We have gone into this question very carefully with both the Manager of the South Georgia station and the Master of the "SEVILLA". They state positively that every effort is made to ensure accuracy in the returns, but we have taken the opportunity of impressing upon them the importance of this matter.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servants, -
per pro Chr. SALVESEN & Co.
NG Salvesen

The Colonial Secretary,
Stanley,
Falkland Islands.-

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

CONFIDENTIAL.

6
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

STANLEY,

10th November, 1924.

Sir,

In continuation of Mr. Henniker-Heaton's Confidential despatch of the 25th of March, I have the honour to transmit a copy of a letter which has been received from Messrs Chr. Salvesen & Company, in reply to the communication addressed to them on the subject of the reliability of the statistical returns furnished by the South Georgia Company, Limited, and Messrs Salvesen & Company, in respect of the whaling season 1922-1923.

From Messrs Chr. Salvesen & Co. dated 9th July, 1924.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

J. Middleton.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

L. C. M. S. AMERY, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

CONFIDENTIAL 4/24

S.S. B 105/24

Magistrate's Office,
South Georgia.
23rd June, 1924.

Sir,

With reference to your confidential letter No. 4/24 of the 25th of March, I have the honour to inform you that I have carefully gone through the British Museum Returns furnished by the Companies operating here and to forward herewith statements shewing the number of Female whales taken during the Season together with the percentage found pregnant.

2. It will be seen from these statements that, as far as the gradual increase in length of the foetuses is concerned, there was nothing very remarkable in the South Georgia Company's Return for the preceding season. With reference to the number of pregnant females taken there is a marked decrease in the South Georgia Company's Return for this season.

3. With reference to Mr. Hamilton's figure of 16% mentioned in an enclosure to your letter, I do not think it possible that this can be taken as the normal percentage of whales pregnant. This figure, in my opinion, cannot cover the natural death rate even supposing every foetus lived to maturity. The percentage of pregnant females varies from month to month and it is possible that/

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary
Stanley.

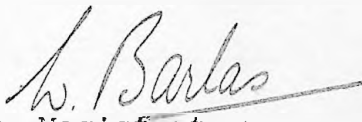
that Mr. Hamilton was unfortunate in striking a bad month.

4. It will be seen from the attached statements that the use of inches occurs fairly often in the returns from Companies other than the South Georgia Company.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,


Ag. Magistrate.

STATEMENT SHEWING THE NUMBER AND THE LENGTHS OF FOETUSES
RECORDED BY THE SOUTH GEORGIA COMPANY FOR EACH MONTH DURING
THE 1923-24 SEASON. (The lengths are given in feet except
where otherwise stated and are as given in the British Museum
forms furnished by the Company)

.....

<u>OCTOBER.</u>	Nil
<u>NOVEMBER.</u>	5, 2, 3, 5, 4, 2½, 3, 4, 5, 10 inches, 2, 5, 14 ins., 1, 14 ins., 5. <u>Total 16.</u> <u>Lengths:- 10 inches to 5 feet.</u>
<u>DECEMBER.</u>	4, 3, 6, 7, 3, 2, 4, 8, 4, 14, 4, 5 ins., 4, 4, 9, 6 ins., 5, 15, 17, 16, 10, 15, 20, 18, 8, 10, 20, 15, 15, 12, 10, 10 ins., <u>Total 32.</u> <u>Lengths:- 5 inches to 20 feet.</u>
<u>JANUARY.</u>	6, 4, 20, 10, 12, 8, 6, 5, 10, 9, 6, <u>Total 11.</u> <u>Lengths:- 5 to 20 feet.</u>
<u>FEBRUARY.</u>	16, 18. <u>Total 2.</u>
<u>MARCH.</u>	13, 11. <u>Total 2.</u>
<u>APRIL.</u>	12, 10, 12, 8, 9, 12. <u>Total 6.</u> <u>Lengths:- 8 to 12 feet</u>
<u>MAY.</u>	Nil.

.....
Total number of Foetuses recorded:- 69.

Total number of Female whales recorded:- 294.

Percentage of pregnant females:- 23.47%.....

Statement shewing the number of pregnant females taken each month.

Month.	Females.	Pregnant.	percentage.
October.	15	-	-
November.	51	16	31%
December.	63	32	47%
January.	51	11	21%
February.	41	2	5%
March.	25	2	8%
April.	34	6	18%
May.	9	-	-
Totals	294	69	23.47%

STATEMENT SHEWING THE NUMBER AND LENGTHS OF FOETUS ES
RECORDED BY THE SOUTHERN WHALING & SEALING COMPANY FOR EACH
MONTH DURING THE 1923-24 SEASON. (The lengths are given in
feet)

.....

OCTOBER. $1\frac{1}{2}$, 2, $1\frac{1}{2}$, 2, $1\frac{1}{2}$, 1, $1\frac{1}{2}$, 3, 2, 4, $1\frac{1}{2}$, 2, 3, Total 13
Lengths: 1 to 3 feet.

NOVEMBER. 1, $1\frac{1}{2}$, 2, $1\frac{1}{2}$, 1, $1\frac{1}{2}$, $1\frac{1}{2}$, $1\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, $2\frac{1}{2}$, $2\frac{1}{2}$, 2, 5, 3, 2,
2, $2\frac{1}{2}$, 2, 4, $1\frac{1}{2}$, 1, $2\frac{1}{2}$, $3\frac{1}{2}$, 2, 4, 3, 3, 2. Total 29.
Lengths: 1 to 5 feet.

DECEMBER. 3, 6, 4, 5, $4\frac{1}{2}$, 4, 3, 4, $3\frac{1}{2}$, 3, 4, 6, 4, 4, 4, 5, $4\frac{1}{2}$,
4, $5\frac{1}{2}$, 5, $4\frac{1}{2}$, 6, 4, 5, 4, $4\frac{1}{2}$, $4\frac{1}{2}$, $4\frac{1}{2}$, 5, $4\frac{1}{2}$, 6, 5, 6,
5, $4\frac{1}{2}$, 4, 5, 5, $5\frac{1}{2}$, 9, 7, 7, 6, Total 43.
Lengths: 3 to 9 feet.

JANUARY. 7, 6, 2, $4\frac{1}{2}$, 5, 4, 5, 6, 12, 9, 9, 8, 11, Total 13.
Lengths: 2 to 12 feet.

FEBRUARY. 15, 9, 15, 12. Total 4. Lengths: 9 to 15 feet.

MARCH. 10, $10\frac{1}{2}$, 12, 13, 13, 10, 11, $10\frac{1}{2}$, 11, $11\frac{1}{2}$, 10, 11, $10\frac{1}{2}$,
 $10\frac{1}{2}$, 10, 11, 11, 10, Total 18.
Lengths; 10 to 13 feet.

APRIL. 14, 15, 15, $11\frac{1}{2}$, 11, 13, 12, 12, $12\frac{1}{2}$, 13, $12\frac{1}{2}$, 12, 14,
12, 10. Total 15. Lengths: 10 to 15 feet.

MAY. Nil.

.....

Total number of Foetuses recorded:- 135.
Total number of Female whales recorded:- 416.
Percentage of pregnant Females:- 32.47%

.....

Statement shewing the number of pregnant females taken each month.

Month.	Females.	Pregnant.	Percentage.
October.	24	13	54%
November.	55	29	53%
December	79	43	54%
January.	95	13	13.7%
February.	57	4	7%
March.	42	18	43%
April.	64	15	23%
May.	-	-	-
Totals	416	135	32.47%

STATEMENT SHEWING THE NUMBER AND LENGTHS OF FOETUSES
RECORDED BY THE VESTFOLD COMPANY, FOR EACH MONTH DURING THE
1923-24 SEASON.

- OCTOBER. 3, 1½, 6½, Total 3.
- NOVEMBER. 4, 5, 3, 2, 7 ins., 5, 20 ins., 3, 5, 20 ins, 7 ins,
2, 6, 4½, 3½, 4½, 3½, 4½, 5, (2, 3½, twins) 3, 3½,
3½, 5, 6, 5¾, 3½, 4, 6, 6½, Total 30.
Lengths: 7 inches to 6½ feet.
- DECEMBER. 6, 4½, 7, 10, 6, 7½, 6½, 2½, 3½, 5, 6½, 3½, 2½, 6,
4½, 7, 4½, 7½, 10½, 5, 10ins., 5, 11, 12, 2½, 9, 6,
8, 10, 10ins., 8, 12, 10, 5½, 6½, Total 35.
Lengths: 10 inches to 12 feet.
- JANUARY. 7, 9, 4, 9, 9, 8, 9, 14, 11, 7, 6½, 6, 7, 10½, 2½,
8, 8½, 7. Total 18.
Lengths: 2½ to 14 feet.
- FEBRUARY. 8½, 9½, 14½, 5½, 17. Total 5.
Lengths: 5½ to 17 feet.
- MARCH. 9, 11, 14, 9, 10½, 13. Total 6.
Lengths: 9 to 14 feet.
- APRIL. 10½, 14, 9½, 15, 18, 13, Total 6.
Lengths: 9½, to 18 feet.
- MAY. Nil.

~~Total number of foetuses recorded 103~~

Total number of Foetuses recorded: 103
Total number of Female whales recorded: 336.
Percentage of pregnant Females: 30.7.

Statement shewing the number of Pregnant Females taken each month.

Month.	Females.	Pregnant.	Percentage.
October.	25	3	12%
November	60	30	50%
December	68	35	51%
January.	62	18	29%
February.	49	5	10%
March.	33	6	18%
April.	39	6	15%
May.	-	-	-
Totals	336	103	30.7.

STATEMENT SHEWING THE NUMBER AND LENGTH OF FOETUSES
RECORDED BY THE TONSBERG COMPANY FOR EACH MONTH DURING
THE 1923-24 SEASON.

OCTOBER. 4, 14 ins., 5, 4. Total 4. Lengths: 14 inches to 5 f

NOVEMBER. 2, 5, 3, 7, 20 ins., 5, 6, 3, 7, 8, 7, 4, 5, 7,
Total 14. Lengths: 20 inches to 8 feet.

DECEMBER. 4, 9, 6, 7, 5, 6, 6, 8, 7, 6, 7, 7, 5, 3, 9, 7, 6, 8,
10, 4, 10, 5, 7, 8, 8, 10, 10, 8, 4, 6, 7, 6, 3, 7, 8,
12, 9. Total 37. Lengths: 3 to 12 feet.

JANUARY. 7, 12, 8, 9, 8, 5, 10, 6, 6, 14, 10, 8, 10, 10, 5, 10,
14, 4. Total 18. Lengths: 4 to 14 feet.

FEBRUARY. 16, 12. Total 2.

MARCH. 13, 8, 10, 12. Total 4. Lengths: 3 to 13 feet.

APRIL. 10, 8, 10, 12, 18, 12, 14. Total 7. Lengths: 8 to 18 ft

MAY. 14. Total 1.

.....

Total number of Foetuses recorded: 87

Total number of Female whales recorded: 285

Percentage of Pregnant Females: 30.5%

.....

Statement shewing the number of Pregnant Females taken each month.

Month.	Females.	Pregnant.	Percentage.
October.	25	4	16%
November.	41	14	34%
December.	76	37	49%
January.	53	18	34%
February.	34	2	6%
March.	21	4	19%
April.	30	7	23%
May.	5	1	20%
Totals	285	87	30.5%

STATEMENT SHEWING THE NUMBER AND LENGTHS OF FOETUSES
RECORDED BY THE COMPANIA ARGENTINA DE PESCA FOR EACH
MONTH DURING THE 1923-24 SEASON.

OCTOBER. 16, 7, 14, 9, 15. Total 5. Lengths: 7 to 15 feet.

NOVEMBER. 5, 13, 17, 13, 9, 8, 12, 9. Total 8.
Lengths: 5 to 17 feet.

DECEMBER. 13, 4, 13, 8, 9, 13, 4, 14, 8, 7, 13, 8, 4, 8, 12, 4,
7. Total 17. Lengths: 4 to 14 feet.

JANUARY. 8, 14, 9, 14, 13, 13, 8, 9, 6, 16, 3, 12, 6, 14.
Total 14. Lengths: 3 to 16 feet.

FEBRUARY. 10, 14, 12, 9, 8, 12, 7, 14, 10, 11. Total 10.
Lengths: 7 to 14 feet.

MARCH. 8, 7, 8, 11. Total 4. Lengths: 7 to 11 feet.

APRIL. 6, 9, 11, 7, Total 4. Lengths: 6 to 11 feet.

MAY. 8. Total 1.

.....
Total number of Foetuses recorded: 63.

Total number of Female whales recorded: 298.

Percentage of Pregnant Females: 21.1%
.....

Statement shewing the number of Pregnant Females taken each month.

Month.	Females.	Pregnant.	Percentage.
October.	16	5	31%
November.	39	8	20%
December.	69	17	25%
January.	65	14	22%
February.	51	10	20%
March.	24	4	17%
April.	31	4	13%
May.	3	1	33%
Totals.	298	63	21.1%

STATEMENT SHEWING THE NUMBER AND LENGTHS OF FETUSES RECORDED BY
MESSRS BRYDE AND DAHL, FOR EACH MONTH DURING THE 1923 - 1924 SEASON.
.....

<u>SEPTEMBER.</u>	11ft.	17ft.				<u>Total</u> 2.
<u>OCTOBER.</u>	16ft.					<u>Total</u> 1.
<u>NOVEMBER.</u>	10ft.	12ft.	18ft.			<u>Total</u> 3.
<u>DECEMBER.</u>	10ft.	17ft.	18ft.	14ft.	17ft.	16ft. <u>Total</u> 6
<u>JANUARY.</u>	15ft.	12ft.	13ft.	11ft.	10ft.	<u>Total</u> 5.
<u>FEBRUARY.</u>	14ft.	12ft.				<u>Total</u> 2.
<u>MARCH.</u>	9ft.	15ft.				<u>Total</u> 2.
<u>APRIL.</u>	Nil.					

Total number of Fetuses recorded. 21.
 Total Number of Female whales recorded. 227.
 Percentage of pregnant Females. 9.3

.....

Statement shewing the number of pregnant Females taken each Month.

Month.	Females.	Pregnant.	Percentage.
September.	17.	2.	11.8.
October.	26.	1.	3.8.
November.	58.	3.	5.2.
December.	43.	6.	13.9.
January.	40.	5.	12.5.
February.	20.	2.	10.0.
March.	23.	2.	8.7.
April.	-----		
Totals.	227.	21.	9.3.

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M.P. Confidential 4/24

S.G. 95/24

Magistrate's Office,
South Georgia.
31st May. 1924.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, Confidential 4/24, of the 25th March, 1924, forwarding correspondence on the subject of the question of the reliability of the British Museum Returns furnished by the South Georgia Company for the Season 1922-23.

2. In my Whaling Report for last Season I drew attention to the abnormal number of pregnant female whales in the returns submitted by this Company and added that I would speak to the Manager on the subject when he returned. This I did at the beginning of the Season and he informed me that the statistics, as far as he knew personally, were accurate. The work of obtaining the statistics was done by the Station Foreman, a trustworthy and reliable man.

3. Although the returns, compared with those furnished by the other Companies, certainly appear to be open to question, I cannot see what object the Company had in view or what advantage they hoped to derive from falsifying the returns by increasing the number of pregnant females taken; had it been the other way I should not have been so surprised. Further, if as Sir Sydney Harmer surmises, the intention was to create a favourable impression I scarcely think they would have been so foolish as carry it to such an extent that suspicion was inevitable and almost certain

to defeat the accomplishment of the object intended.

4. I will as directed keep as careful a watch on the returns furnished by all the Companies as possible.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. Barlas", written in dark ink. The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Ag. Magistrate.

C./4/24.

CONFIDENTIAL.

20th January,

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Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. S.G. B/105/24 of the 23rd June, 1924, and to thank you for the trouble you have taken in the matter of investigating the question of the reliability of the foetal records furnished by Messrs Salvesen & Company. Your report is being forwarded to the Secretary of State for the information of the Director of the British Museum.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. Henniker-Heaton.

Colonial Secretary.

The Acting Magistrate,
SOUTH GEORGIA.

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FALKLAND ISLANDS.
CONFIDENTIAL.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
STANLEY,
27th January, 1925.

Sir,

In continuation of Mr. Henniker-Heaton's Confidential despatch of the 25th of March, 1924, relating to the statistical returns furnished in respect of the whaling season 1922-1923 by the South Georgia Company, Limited and Messrs Christy Salvesen & Company, I have the honour to forward for the information of Sir Sydney Harmer, a copy by the Magistrate at South Georgia in the

In duplicate.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant

J. Middleton.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

C. M. S. AMERY, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.