

C.S.

1926.

SEALING

No. I 20/26

C. S. O.

SUBJECT.

1926

28th January.

Previous Paper.

174/25.

Fur Seal Report, Falkland Islands.
1925/26.

MINUTES.

Letter from Master H.M.C.S. Afterglow of 28th January. 1926

Letter from Master H.M.C.S. Afterglow of 3rd February. 1926.

Report by Acting Government Naturalist 28 June 1926.

J.E. Submitted.

O/S Sect.

9 Aug. 1926.

O/S Sect.

It will be necessary to send the usual annual Report on the conditions of the Fur Seal herds of the Falkland Islands to the Secretary of State.

2. Acting Government Naturalist should see (1) and (2) and furnish any observations he may care to make.

3. Mr. Bennett should see also despatch No. 74 of 1st July 1925 (N.P. 174/25) and if possible amplify his report of 28th June (3) 147 to enable a comparison to be made between

Subsequent Paper.

143/27.

~~Anderson's Island at Dean Island in 1925~~
and those found recently.

21 Aug. 1926

Ag. Government Naturalist,
Referred.

W.L.H.

Dissect.

23 Aug. 1926.

Hon Col Secy

2 copies of my obs. on the Fur Seal.
herewith.

The data to go on is not extensive.

I have gained some information recently on
the Beuchenes, & I gather from it that either
that island has been poached during recent years,
or that the one day spent there by "Afterglow" in
1924/5 was insufficient time to find the Furs.

Beuchenes are alive with sea-lions which makes
anything like a systematic search difficult &
positively dangerous to carry out, as there is so
much tussock grass on its fringe. This must
be traversed to reach the shore - the hauling
ground of the Fur-seal

AGB emm
27/8/26

Y.L.
Submitted.

W.L.H.

Dissect.

31 Aug. 1926.

Minute Paper.

O/c Secy

Draft despatch attached.

J

13 Sept. 1926

5-11. Despatch No. 100 to S. of S. dated 14.9.1926.

y.e.

y.e. will ~~again~~ desire that 20 seals should be taken during the breeding season of 1926-1927 as during the breeding season of 1925-1926? (The point arises specifically in connection with the preparation of the draft estimate of Revenue for 1927 Head VIII Miscellaneous "Sale of Seal skin". I understand that the estimate for 1926 was inserted in error. The estimate paper M.P. 360/26 is submitted simultaneously.)

JMS

4.10.26.

H.C.

As at present advised, I do not propose that Seals should be taken during the breeding season 1926-27

2. A nominal sum - say £10 - might be inserted in the Estimates, however, to provide

for any casual receipts may be brought
to account under Revenue, Head VIII Misc. Item 11.

B.
6 Oct. 1926

Sov. Naturalist

To note

W. L. L.

Q. L. L.

6.10.26

For Col. Secy:

Thank you. Noted.

Ag. Secy

Q. L. L.

7.10.26

Office of Scientific Staff

R.S.S. - William Lusk

(L.C. Macdonald Esq. A.R.C.S. B.Sc.)

As arranged in conversation I send
you this paper to see by this meeting's
decision.

W. L. L.

Q. L. L.

7.3.27.

Inside Minute Paper.

P.S. I am to add to my much else
that should be opportunity present staff a
report for you on the present condition
of the four-seal machines in the Falkland
Islands would be greatly appreciated.

7/3

Vide Report by Mr. N. A. Mackintosh. d/25 March 1927.
Reds 0-2 in M. P. 143/27. GR

12-13. Dispatch from S. of S. No. 14 of 24/2/27.

J.E. Submitted.

GR
By Csec
12 May 1927.

Off. to. Ld.

Seen : I have heard one
set of the prints to D' Kemp. Please
ensure the other to be placed in the
folder - ref 12 herein.

Done.

GR 12/3/27

2. This 110 should then be

passed to W. C. J. Bennett, Esq. Col. Lehmert,
to see attached to P.C. 143/27 (with my check
of one lakh Rupee).

Ind

19. 5. 27

Mr. A. S. Bennett.

Sent to you accordingly with.

M. P. 143/27. G. H. B.
D. S. C.
19 May 1927.

Dear Sir

Thank you. The U.S.A. Com. of Fisheries reports
contain some valuable figures. I have merely
glanced at one or two.

The 1920 Report shows that skins in St Louis
are worth about £20 each against the U.K. 12/6³

Could I please have this paper to hold for some time,
from the reports I can compile a mass of figures that
may help us much.

Alf Bennett
as Act
20/5/27

Dear Sir

I have now culled the figures I want. It is unnecessary
now to have this M.P. back.

Alf Bennett
21. 5. 27

Inside Minute Paper.

48.

Go see.

G.R.H.

Off. Sec.

22 May 1927

Off. Sec.

See. I have talked with

D. Kap in this connection.

2. I shall be glad if V.

Bennett will see me with this D.P.

or ~~Tuesday~~ ~~Wednesday~~ Wednesday, next, June 1st at

11.30. a.m.

J.H.

29.5.27

Mr. A.G. Bennett

For info.

G.R.H.

Off. Sec.

30 May 1927

Spoke W. Bennett. Wish or leave in the
Wm. Kiplon this year W. Bennett will endeavor
to establish personal relations with the people
engaged in the fur seal skin curing trade

4.
8. 10. 11. 27

Le 1. 6. 27.

C.S.O.

C.S. O.
This paper does not refer to
reading but to the ~~subject~~ of
the Fair seal held 9-9-1911-47

Jan. 28th 1926

Sir

I beg. to Submit the following report.
On January 26th a landing was made on Jason Rocks.
64 Fur Seal Pups were branded. 3000 Fur Seal Pups
counted. 180 Hair Seal killed.

The Fur Seal appear to be increasing in number.
An inspection of the Guard House was made on the
Elephant farm. It seemed to be in good order.

The Asst. Harbour Master

F. Howells
Master H.M.C.S. Offington.

on; Col Secretary.

Submitted.

R. S. Barclay.

Feb 3rd 1926
H.M.C.S. Afterglow

Sir

I beg to submit the following report.
February 2nd. A landing was made on Volunteer Rocks
47 Fur Seal Pups were counted 10 Pups Branded.
50 Hair Seal killed.

We were unable to get a proper estimate of the
Pups owing to them taking to the water with the
cows. I should say there were many more Pups
this season than the season of 1925.

The number of Fur Seal appear to be increasing
greatly in number.

The Hair Seal are in large numbers but are
to the West of the Fur Rookenie and don't appear
to be disturbing the Fur Seal in any way.

To the Act Harbour Master

J. Nowatt

Voyage 91.

Master H.M.C.S. Afterglow

Hon: Col, Secretary.

Submitted.

W. W. Archibald

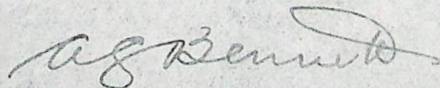
2.

7. This is the period of winter and the shortest days. It would seem that the first hours of day are devoted to feeding, or it may be the condition of the tide. I saw scarcely a dry seal, and almost all on the rock were close to the water, obviously just come ashore. There was some coming and going in progress. Not being the breeding season there is little to tie these animals to the rock. There was no suggestion of panic, in fact I have not before seen fur-seals so unconcerned as these were. From these observations it is safe to presume that they have not been molested.
8. Possibly these animals range far in the non-breeding portion of the year in search of food, and may be absent for long periods, this is known to be the case with the northern seals.
9. The semi-albino -cream-coloured female was on the rock.
10. It was not possible to land there, as there was no one left on board to lower or pull a boat, all being employed ashore with the gun. Probably most of the seals would have left the rock on the approach of a boat and no good purpose would have resulted other than the shooting of the five Sea-lions seen. This number are ^{about} scarcely worth troubling. An absolute calm prevailed, a most unusual condition at this oceanic rock.

I am,

Sir.

Your obedient servant.



Ag Government Naturalist.

Government Naturalist Office
Stanley.

28. June 1922.

Sir.

Following your instructions, I left Stanley in SS Fleurus on the night of 10th June to visit the Fur-seal rookery at Elephant Jason Island.

2. I beg to submit my report on this rookery herewith.

3. The trip was favoured throughout with excellent sea weather, there was considerable rain and cold, but no wind.

4. We arrived at the island on the 15th. Ideal conditions prevailed, and all items were landed. While this was being done I endeavoured to survey the rookery from the end of the island.

5. The rock inhabited by the Fur-seals is situated about a mile from the main island. Nothing really satisfactory can be seen at this distance even with good glasses. Two large "pods" of seal occupied the breeding end (N.E.) of the rock, there appeared to be some hundreds in each, and their position was high up. I could see none in the water.

6. At 11 am on the 16th (after a party had been landed from Fleurus to assist in gun carrying, and consisting of the crew of that vessel) we sailed down to the rock and partly round it. From the bridge I had an excellent view of the whole rock at close range. As we steamed very slowly along I made several counts of areas, owing to the number of gullies, and other irregularities very many seals are obscured from different angles of view.

From these counts I estimate that there was not less than 1500 Fur-seal on the rock, and there was a greater number in the water. A very conservative estimate is 3000 seal then on, or in the water at this rookery.

Yours honourable
the Colonial Secretary
Stanley.

(5)

Observations on the
Fur-seal stock of the Falkland Islands
estimated from the pups counted 1924/5
.....

On the basis that the known pups of the Fur-seal x by
3.16 gives the stock including the pups (Pribiloff Isd Report
U.S.A.) the following estimate is arrived at:-

Jason Isd

26/1/26 3,000 pups counted

Volunteer Rks

2/2/26 47 pups counted, but many taken to
the water with mothers

Total pups counted 3,047 gives the stock at 9628

From similar, but more extensive counts in 1924/5 8134 seal
was the estimate arrived at. This gives an increase of 1494
seals in one year. The counting of the pups was conducted by
the Master and crew of H.M.C.S. Afterglow in both seasons.

Pird Island, and the Beuchones were not visited in 1925/6
so that what seals were there, are not taken into account in
the present estimate.

I visited the Jason Rookery in June 1926. This is mid-
winter when most of the seals would be expected to have assumed
a pelagic form of life, and abandoned the rock, still there was
a population about the rock in the neighbourhood of 3,000 seal.

From the above it is evident that the stock is increasing
in a satisfactory manner.

A. G. Bennett
Ag Government Naturalist

27/8/26.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 100.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

STANLEY.

14th September, 1926.

Sir,

With reference to Sir John Middleton's despatch No. 74 of the 1st of July, 1925, I have the honour to submit the following report on the condition of the Fur Seal herds for the breeding season 1925-1926.

2. A visit of inspection was paid to Elephant Jason Island by H.M.C.S. "Afterglow" on the 26th of January and a count made then by the Master and crew of that vessel gave a total of 3000 pups; this is an increase of over 1000 on the pups counted in January 1925.

3. On the 2nd of February a landing was made from the "Afterglow" on Volunteer Rocks, but unfortunately conditions were unfavourable, and the Master in his report states that many pups took to the water with their mothers before any estimate of their numbers could be made, but that in his opinion there was a great increase since the previous season. Actually, 47 pups were counted, and 10 branded. At Elephant Jason, the opportunity was taken to brand 47 pups.

4. Bird Island and Beauchene Island were

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

not/

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

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

not visited during 1925-1926.

5. In my telegram of the 20th of July, I informed you that until such time as the "Afterglow" was in a position to resume her patrol duties, I had considered it advisable to re-establish a guard on Elephant Jason, to protect the rookery against poachers. The presence in local waters at that particular time of a number of alien schooners made this precautionary measure very necessary.

6. The despatch of the guard to Jason I by the s.s. "Fleurus" in June afforded an opportunity for the Acting Government Naturalist to pay a visit to the Fur Seal Rookery there. I enclose

28th June '26.

27th Aug. '26.

copy of a report by Mr. A. G. Bennett
a copy of a memorandum submitted by
nishing his observations on the F
the Falkland Islands based on the
counted during the last breeding

I have the honour

Sir,

Yc

13.
DUPLICATE

Downing Street,

24 February, 1927.

Sir,

File 11-5
With reference to your despatch No. 100 of the 14th of September 1926, I have the honour to transmit to you two copies of the Annual Reports of the Commissioner of Fisheries to the Secretary of Commerce, United States of America, for the years 1918-19 to 1925-26 which contains information as to the conservation of Fur Seals in the Pribiloff Islands. One set of the prints should be supplied to Dr. Keap for his use and information.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,
humble servant,

(Signed) L. S. AMERY

THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

(14)

U.S. Reports on the Pribilof Islands covering 1918 to 1926.
 extracts from for local information.

	Fur-seal skins	Average	Price	Fox skins	Price	
	old	Price				
1918	1917	46.34	9.10			
1919		91.35	12.14			
1920	9055		12.14			40
"	9100		27.12			
"	5752		15.2			
1921	10120		7.4			
"	10060		7.10	Plus	\$18.2	White \$7
1922	10078		6.8		19.16	6.14
"	12198		6.10			
1923	17194		6.8		19.2	9.8
"	18118		6.6			
plus 164	washed & dried					
37	raw salted		1.9d			
1924	2736		5.0		21.10	9.10
"	19804		5.6			
1925	sales complicated. No prices can be arrived at					
					13.0	12.0
1926	9186		9.0		9.0	7.6
"	14602		6.1			

The above skins are fully prepared for making up.
 The St Louis Mo. plant is superior to anything in Europe for dressing
 skins. Dressed wigs- old males, fetched the top price in 1919.

	Census	Killed	Pups born.
1918		33,881	142,915
1919	496,432	25,381	157,172
1920	552,718	27,821	
1921	591,453	23,671	176,655
1922	604,971	31,156	185,194
1923	653,008	15,920	
1924	627,158	17,219	
1925	723,050	19,860	

Stock sold alive, delivered at Unalaska, Alaska,
 Plus Foxes

1922 4 pairs \$ 18.2 each
 1924 12 only 35.12 "

New methods of skinning.

The usual cuts are made. Seal next fixed to the ground by an iron
 and the skin pulled off. As this took with it some meat, further cuts
 have been found necessary during the stripping. Flensers have been
 imported from the dressing Company in St Louis. Skins sea-water washed
 and salted

25/5/1927.

A.G.P.