

WHALING

(Reports)

1922

SGAWHA/2 # 12

No.

569/22

Magistrate, S. Georgia,

SUBJECT.

1922

SOUTH GEORGIA

Report on Whaling Season
Ended 31st May, 1922.

June,

Previous Paper.

879/21

195/22

MINUTES.

Letter from Magistrate S. Georgia of 10th June 1922 - Encl ①

Y.S.

Submitted.

The photographs are wonderfully good

ttttt 14/8/22

Ynr Naturalist

In your observations.

J.S.

16 August 1922

Hon. Col. Sec.

My observations herewith
please.

J. Hamilton
Govt. Naturalist
6th Sept 1922

- Encl. ②

Subsequent Paper.

596/23

H.C.S.

I have discussed this report with W. Hamilton
he will be making some amendments to his
observations + will send in final copies: Can should
be taken that amended copies go on with ~~the~~ dispatch
to S of S of which draft is attached: Photopgraphs should
go with dispatch.

2. Draft of a Telegram to Nagasaki is attached.
It should be sent by W/T to Southern Isles when
reporting him about 27th & 28th September.

J.H.

8 Sept 1922

Dispatch No 103 of 13th Sept. 1922 to S. of S. — Encl. (3)

J.S.

Submittal

May copies of (2) and (3) go to the
Nagasaki?

J.H. 15/9/22

J.H.
14 Sept 1922

P.S. There was a draft of a Telegram to Nagasaki
(see memo 8th Sept) but it is no longer on the paper +
there is no record of it having been copied.

Telegram to Nagasaki, So. Georgia of 22nd Sept. 1922
— Encl. (4)

Y.S.
Submitted with copy of telegram sent
yesterday.

ttttt
M.
25 Sept 1922

In copy of
(2) and (3)
to 1/12

Letter to Magistrate So. Georgia of 25th Sept. 1922
— Encl. (5)

Letter from Magistrate S. Georgia of
1st November 1922 — Encl (6)

Y.S.
Submitted for information

ttttt 16/1/23
M.
16 January 1923

S of S. despatch No 3 of 5th Jan 1923
with enclosure 'A' — Encl (7)

Y.S.
Submitted
With reference to para. 2 of
the letter to the B. M. an
endeavour might be made to
telegram to the Magistrate requesting
him to report as permitted is used

ttttt 16/2/23
M.
17 February 1923

Telegram

gram to Magistrate So Geo 19 Feb 1923

Bk. in return of Whaling Office
S. Highlands

19/2/23

Letter from Magistrate, S. Georgia
of 11th December 1923 - Encl (8)

Letter from Magistrate South Georgia

30 March 1923 (10)

Govt Naturalist.

For your observations.

L.N.S.
Ojese.
14 April 1923.

Hon. Col. Sec.

Mr. Binnie appears to have exercised discretion in the issuing of Humpback permits.

2. It appears that this species must have been plentiful since 306 were taken in one month (17 Dec - 17th Jan). This number is greater than the catch of Humpbacks in any season since 1916-17 in S. Georgia.

3. So far as I am aware there is no proof as to the identity of the Humpback herds of the Dec - pendencies with those of Africa, although there may be a considerable degree of probability that it is so.

4. The totals of the various African Cos. named amount to 1205 Humpbacks for 16 catches in 14 months or 19 per catcher per month, the S. Georgia catches averaged 13 per catcher for their one month.

5. The argument appears to be that since they are killed in Africa they might as well be killed in S. Georgia, but even in the best fishing a catcher has a limited capacity, and therefore if whales are plentiful some are bound to escape. It is these which would be killed in S. Georgia.

6. I do not consider that for the present any change in the permit system is desirable.

J. H. Hamilton.

Govt. Naturalist.

25/4/23.

Submitted

W. H. B.
O.S.C.S.O.
23 April 1923

B.H.

O.S.C.S.O.

It will be necessary to make reference in dispatch covering report from S. Georgia regarding whaling season 1922-23, to temporary licence for humpbacks B.H. accordingly.

24 April 1923.

Returned to
Mr Hamilton
7/6/23



1213

①

S.G. No 63/22.

The Magistrate's Office,

South Georgia,

10th. June 1922.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith my report on the whale oil industry of South Georgia for the season ended 31st. May 1922 for the information of His Excellency the Governor.

2. During the season under review a total catch of 3350 whales was made, yielding in all 245762 barrels of oil as against 3705 whales and 176997 barrels of oil of the previous season, shewing a decrease of 355 whales and an increase in output of 68765 barrels of oil. The total value of the seasons output in oil may be placed at £1,228,800, making the value of each whale about £367, an increase in valuation over the previous season of £343815 in oil and £127 per whale, The number of bags of Guano obtained was 5077 as against 11811 of the 20-21 season.

3. The average output of oil per whale during the season was 73.36 as against 47.8 of the previous season, shewing an increase of 26.28 barrels per whale. The months of January to March proved as usual the best months for Blue whales which made the average for those months rise considerably. The Blue whale being in best condition in February made the average rise to 98 barrels per whale in March, as the catch is always slightly in advance of the output.

The Honourable,

The Colonial Secretary,

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

WHALING.

SOUTH GEORGIA.

The following statement shews the number and class of whales captured with the quantity of oil etc., obtained therefrom, by the SOUTHERN WHALING & SEALING COMPANY LTD. during the Season..1921/1922

No. and class of Whales captured each month.

	Blue.	Fin.	Sei.	Bottle Nose.	Other.	Total
September	-	-	-	-	-	-
October	83	7	-	-	-	90
November	160	16	-	-	12	188
December	100	66	-	-	-	166
January	131	31	-	-	-	162
February	107	6	-	-	-	113
March	116	2	1	-	-	119
April	44	32	8	-	-	84
May	5	3	3	-	-	11

Production of Oil.

	No. 0.	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3/4.	Total.
September	-	-	-	-	-
October	-	2036	167	2064	4267
November	-	6265	1506	4656	12427
December	-	5548	3042	2922	11512
January	-	6039	3831	2959	12829
February	-	4051	2198	2963	9212
March	-	3840	1822	2524	8186
April	-	2395	408	1987	4790
May	-	518	254	684	1456

Stock from 1920/21 Season and earlier 14603
 Total amount of oil produced during the season..... 64679 barrels. 79282

Total amount of oil Exported during the season..... 56714 barrels.

Amount awaiting shipment on the 31st May, 1922..... 21672
 Loss through settlings etc 896 79282

No. of bags of Guano obtained.....

No. of whale catchers employed. 5 From Oct 5th to Dec 1st.

4 " " Dec 2nd to May 6th.

s.s. "So. Princess" s.s. "So. Maid" s.s. "So. Sky" s.s. "So. Sea"
 s.s. "So. Breeze"

I solemnly declare the foregoing statement to be correct to the best of my knowledge.

Date..... May 16th..... 1922....

A. R. Bostock

Manager.

WHALING.

SOUTH GEORGIA.

The following statement shews the number and class of whales captured with the quantity of oil etc., obtained therefrom, by the Vestfold Whaling Company..... during the Season 1921-22....

No. and class of Whales captured each month.

	Blue.	Fin.	Sei.	Bottle Nose.	Other.	Total
September	-	-	-	-	-	-
October	-	-	-	-	-	-
November	18	14	-	-	-	32
December	104	70	-	-	-	174
January	146	36	-	-	-	182
February	167	12	-	-	-	179
March	88	1	-	-	-	89
April	25	6	13	-	-	44
May	-	-	2	-	-	2

Production of Oil.

	No. 0.	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3/4.	Total.
September	-	-	-	-	-
October	-	-	-	-	-
November	320	-	37	122	479
December	5230	-	971	4384	10585
January	6440	554	2245	5136	14375
February	5516	226	3409	3647	12798
March	4573	-	3174	2817	10564
April	1216	-	1091	462	2769
May	164	-	24	397	585

Total amount of oil produced during the season.. 52155.....barrels.

Total amount of oil Exported during the season.. 35679.....barrels.

Amount awaiting shipment on the 31st May, 1922.. 20501

No. of bags of Guano obtained.....400..

No. of whale catchers employed.....5.....

s.s. "Norrøna 1" s.s. "Norrøna 2" s.s. "Pagadroma" s.s. "Karakatta
"Morelos"

I solemnly declare the foregoing statement to be correct to the best of my knowledge.

Date.....5. May.....1922....

(Signature)
.....
Manager.

WHALING.

SOUTH GEORGIA.

The following statement shows the number and class of whales captured with the quantity of oil etc., obtained therefrom, by the South Georgia Co., Ltd...... during the Season..1921...1922.

No. and class of Whales captured each month.

	Blue.	Fin.	Sei.	Bottle Nose.	Other.	Total
September	-	-	-	-	-	-
October	-	-	-	-	-	-
November	34	12	-	-	-	46
December	94	43	-	-	-	137
January	128	45	-	-	-	173
February	149	6	1	-	-	156
March	76	2	-	-	-	78
April	23	15	9	-	-	47
May	10	38	18	-	-	66

Production of Oil.

	No. 0.	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3/4.	Total.
September	-	-	-	-	-
October	-	-	-	-	-
November	1230	-	620	970	2820
December	5525	-	2135	4300	11960
January	5740	-	1945	5290	12975
February	5500	→	1370	4550	11420
March	2700	-	1280	2450	6630
April	700	-	110	600	1410
May	1000	-	85	700	1785

Total amount of oil produced during the season..49,000....barrels.

Total amount of oil Exported during the season....46,862....barrels.

Amount awaiting shipment on the 31st May, 192.....25 315 "

No. of bags of Guano obtained.....

No. of whale catchers employed...4.....

s.s. " **Subra** " s.s. " **Sedna** " s.s. " **Shova** " s.s. " **Sorka** "

I solemnly declare the foregoing statement to be correct to the best of my knowledge.

Date..30...of..May...1922..

L. A. Hunter
.....
Manager.

WHALING.

SOUTH GEORGIA.

The following statement shews the number and class of whales captured with the quantity of oil etc., obtained therefrom, by the A/S. TØNSBERGS HVALFANGERI... during the Season... 1921/22...

No. and class of Whales captured each month.

	Blue.	Fin.	Sei.	Bottle Nose.	Other. SPERM	Total
September	-	-	-	-	-	-
October	-	-	-	-	-	-
November	-	-	-	-	-	-
December	54	38	-	-	-2	94
January	118	25	7	-	-	143
February	113	4	-	-	-	117
March	105	1	1	-	-	107
April	32	13	4	-	-	49
May	10	40	14	-	-	64
	432	121	19	Production of Oil.		2

	Sperm & oil	No. 0.	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3/4.	Total.	Aver age
September	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
October	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
November	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
December	64	2208	235	1617	1402	5526	58,8
January	4	4108	842	3343	2434	10731	75
February	-	3426	1063	3331	1827	9647	82,5
March	-	1607 4082	2798 1687	1602 3738	11502	11079	103,5
April	-	1573	831	1413	1251	5068	103,4
May	-	425	1040	291	1242	2999	47,-

Total amount of oil produced during the season.. 45050.....barrels. **aver: 78,5**

Total amount of oil Exported during the season.. 49239.....barrels.

Amount awaiting shipment on the 31st May, 1922.... 5912

No. of bags of Guano obtained.. 2001...

No. of whale catchers employed. 3...and from 12 March 4

s.s. " VIKING " s.s. " SPERM " s.s. " RUGGEN " s.s. " HERKULES "
from 12/3

I solemnly declare the foregoing statement to be correct to the best of my knowledge.

Date... 31st May.....1922...

S. Galmar Andersen
Manager.

WHALING.

SOUTH GEORGIA.

The following statement shews the number and class of whales captured with the quantity of oil etc. obtained therefrom, by the **Compañía Argentina de Pesca** during the Season **1921 - 22**.....

No. and class of Whales captured each month.

	Blue.	Fin.	Sei.	Bottle Nose.	Other.	Total
September						
October						
November						
December	12	32				44
January	95	13				108
February	129	12				141
March	55	7				62
April	11	9	6			26
May	13	23	22			57
	310	94	28		Total	438
	Production of Oil.					

	No. 0.	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3/4.	Total.
September					
October					
November					
December	275	734	151	712	1.852
January	3.056	748	1.634	3.254	8.692
February	3.552	997	3.273	2.275	10.097
March	2.207	748	2.653	2.778	8.466
April	127	200	740	797	1.864
May	212	536	1.629	1.320	3.697
Total	9.509	3.953	10.280	11.136	34.878

Total amount of oil produced during the season..... **34.878** barrels.

Total amount of oil Exported during the season..... **23.532** barrels.

Amount awaiting shipment on the 31st May, 192..... **2678.4** barrels

No. of bags of Guano obtained.....

No. of whale catchers employed.....

s.s. "**Granat**" s.s. "**Albatros**" s.s. "**Poca**" s.s. "**Don Ernesto**"

I solemnly declare the foregoing statement to be correct to the best of my knowledge.

Date..... *31 May*.....1922.....

..... *Edoardo Acosta*
Manager.

WHALING.

SOUTH GEORGIA.

PERIOD 16th Sept..1921...to 31st May..1922...

SEASON....1921-22.....

The following statement shews the number and class of whales captured each month by the various companies operating.

	Blue.	Fin.	Sei.	Bottle Nose.	Other.	Total
September
October	83	7				90
November	212	42			x 12	266
December	364	249			2	615
January	618	150				768
February	665	40	1			706
March	440	13	2			455
April	135	75	40			250
May	37	104	59			200
Totals	2554	580	102		14	3350

The following statement shews the Number of barrels of oil of various grades obtained from the above catch of whales each Month.

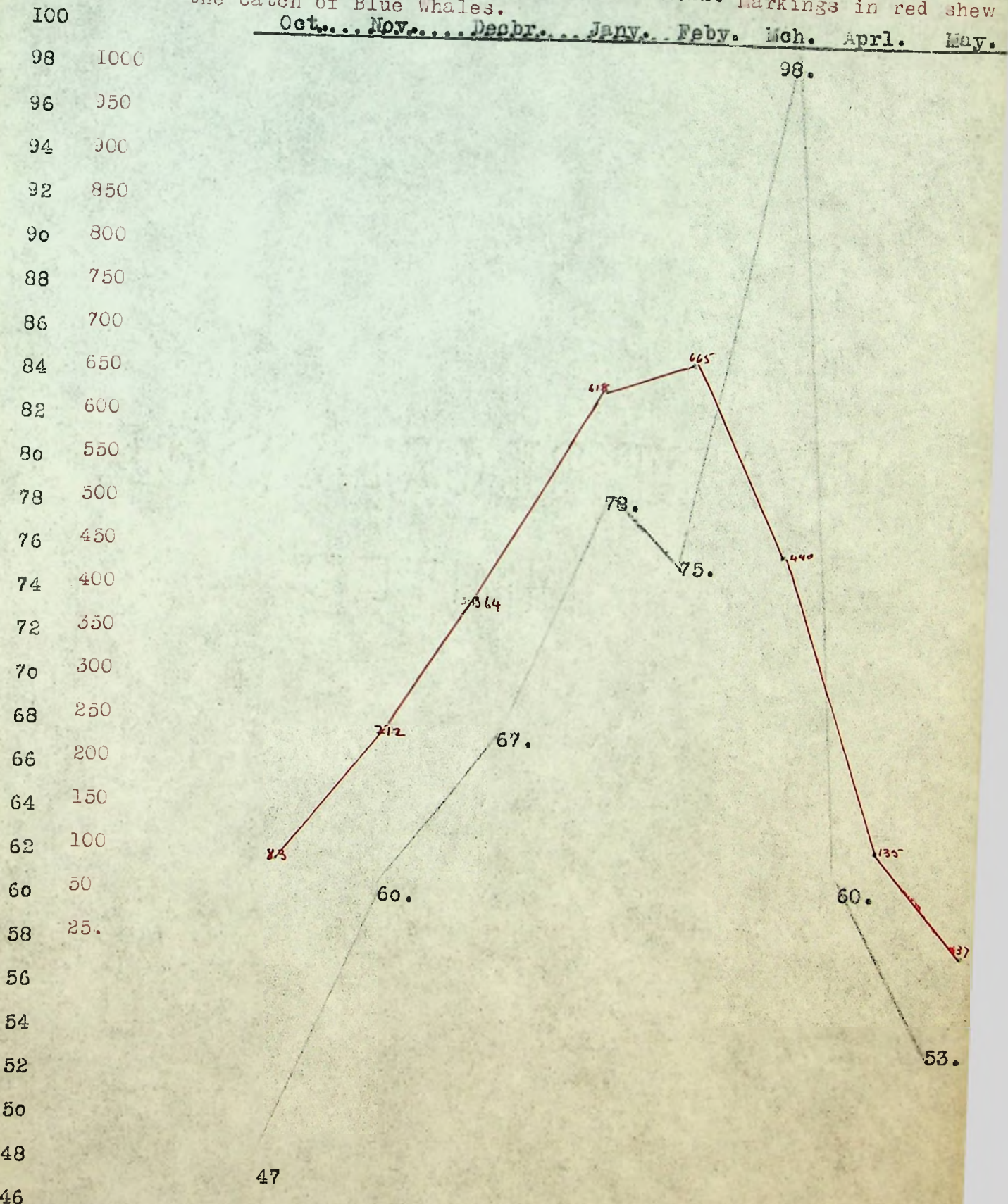
	No. 0.	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3/4.	Total.
September					
October		2036	167	2064	4267
November	1550	6265	2163	5748	15726
December	13302	6507	7916	13720	41445
January	19348	8183	13198	19073	59802
February	17994	6337	13581	15262	53174
March	13652	5275	12627	12071	44925
April	3618	3426	3762	5097	15901
May	1801	2095	2283	4343	10522
Totals	71263	40124	55697	77378	245762

x 10 Humpbacks and 2 Sperm, taken before notification of the prohibition, had been received. 588.

Whaling, South Georgia,

1921-22.

Table shewing the average number of Barrels of oil extracted from each whale during the season 1921.22. Markings in red shew the catch of Blue Whales.



N.B. The catch is shew to be slightly in advance of the output.

2.

The following shews the number of barrels of oil extracted from the catch of whales each month by the individual coys:

	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mch.	Apr.	May.
S.W.& Seal.	47.	66.	69.	78.	81.	68.	57.	132.
Vestfold.		14.	61.	79.	71 $\frac{1}{2}$.	118.	63.	292.
So.Georgia.		62.	87.	75.	73.	85.	30.	27.
Tonsberg.			58.	75.	92.	103.	103.	47.
Pesca			42.	82.	72.	136.	71.	64.

The following shews for comparative purposes the general average for the past 5 seasons:

1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20	1920-21.	1921-22.
66.0	53.2	49.8	47.8	75.36

It will be observed above that in the month of November the Vestfold shew an average of 14 barrels to the whale, which is explained as follows; This Company did not commence operations till the last days of November, i.e., 27th, on the 30th. Nov. the catch was 52 whales, including 14 Finners, but I doubt if more than 10 had the Blubber stripped off and 5 or 6 entirely disposed of, hence the low average; likewise in the month of May an average of 292.0 is shewn, and in that month only 2 whales were taken, and those Sei whales, which render at most about 20 barrels each, so that the output is really from whales taken in April.

The following shews the catch of whales, by each company, the production of oil, and average per whale, with the no of Catchers employed:

Co.	Whales.	Oil.	Average.	No of Catchers
S. W. & Seal.	933	64679	69.3	5 & 4
Vestfold	702	52155	74.0	5
So.Georgia	703	49000	69.7	4
Tonsberg	574	45050	78.5	3 & 4
Pesca	438	34878	79.6	4

4. The Vestfold Company began operations on the 27th, November and concluded on the 5th. May 1922; during this time 702 whales were taken from which was extracted 52155 barrels of oil, showing an average of 74,0 barrels per whale, in addition 400 bags of Guano were made, no serious effort was taken in this direction by any of the companies, all were more or less late in arriving at South Georgia, and every effort was made to make the output of oil a record. Since this company took over the Ocean company's station at New Fortuna Bay, and had it removed to Stromness Hbrm and rebuilt, it may be looked upon as the best equipped station in South Georgia, from the beginning of December till May, no stop was made work was continued night and day and the full capacity was loaded every 24 hours.

The capacity of this station is as follows:

10 blubber boilers	each	12' x 8'
10 open boilers for re boiling refuse		5' x 8'
6	do	12' x 8'
7 pressure boilers		14' x 8'
4	do	12' x 8'
38	do	10' x 8'
11	do	9' x 8'

a total cubic capacity of 42,232. 78 c.f.

5. The Southern Whaling and Sealing company began operations on 3rd. October 1921, and concluded on the 6th. May 1922, during this time a catch of 933 whales was made of which 746 were Blue the average for the season being the lowest of all the companies operating, namely 69.32 barrels per whale, There has undoubtedly been considerable waste on this station, as will be seen from the number of Blue whales, 44 Blue whales more than the total catch of the Vestfold company. I made several surprise visits but on each occasion found the station quite free from refuse of any kind which is also a demonstration of waste somewhere, on another occasion Mr Barlas made a visit and reported 47 whales at the buoy, needless to say the catchers

catchers, were immediately stopped. I remonstrated with the management who denied having caused any waste, although it was reported to me by other companies that the spare whale had been seen towing carcasses to sea. It is quite clear considering the enormous catch of whales, the capacity of the station and the comparatively small number of men employed during the first months, that it would be impossible to work up the catch of 5 boats, hence the reason for taking away the 5th, Catcher.

The capacity of this station is:

10 blubber boilers	each	13' x 7' 6"
7 Pressure boilers		8' x 12'
4	do	11' x 7' 6"
14	do	13' 6" x 7' 6"
4	do	12' 6" x 8' 6"
6 Bone boilers		11' 6" x 8'
6	do	11' x 7' 6"

8 steam boilers with a heating surface of 5847 sq.ft.
A Guano Plant was imported in 1919 but is still lying on the shore where it was landed.

6. The South Georgia commenced operations on about the 20th. November and made very good progress until the month of March when their Pressure boiler factory burned down consequently causing a good deal of waste material and reduced the average in April to 30 barrels per whale, in April and May the greater part of the catch was Fin and Sei whales, which not much could be expected from, as it took 20 Sei whales to fill all the boilers on the station. There was practically no blubber worth mentioning but the meat was excellent and many tons were used on the station for food. The So. Georgia company operated with 4 catchers and found on many occasions necessary to take them off catching so as not to overload the station with whale matter. The present capacity of this station is:

Station No 1. 18 blubber boilers 12' x 7'
 8 pressure boilers 12' x 7'
 12 clearing tanks of various sizes.
 1 Guano Drier 52' long 5'6" diameter.
 4 vertical drying kilns 15' high 128 dia.
 Heating surface of steam Boilers 7700 sq.ft.

Station No 11. 8 blubber boilers 14' x 7'7"
 4 do 13' x 6'5"
 46 Pressure boilers 12' x 8'
 6 do 10' x 7'
 1 Sperm reducing pot.
 2 clearing tanks 12' x 6'
 2 do 9' x 14'

Heating surface of steam boilers 7400 sq.ft.

No Guano was manufactured as the station no 1 had not been properly put in order since its partial demolition in 1921 by a snow slide.

7. The Compania Argentina de Pesca began operations in Decbr. using at first one catcher, later adding one, and in January two new Catchers, The catch made by this company was 438 whales from which was extracted 34878 barrels, the catch consisted of 314 Blue, 96 Fin and 28 Sei whales, the average production per whale being 79.6 barrels, being the best average of all companies. During the first two weeks, they were engaged in shifting the Meat hoists from Steam power to electric, and were only making use of one Pressure boiler factory, which accounts for the low average in December of 42 barrels per whale, which was followed in the ~~pre~~^{suc}ceding months by, 82. 72. 136. 71. and 64. The second Guano Drier was erected during the season and trials were successful, though little time was given to the making of Guano 2676.4 bags of 100 kilos each was the total production. The capacity of this station is as follows:

20 blubber boilers	9' x 12'
10 pressure boilers	8' x 14'
4 do	8' x 9'
22 do	8' x 8'
10 do	8' x 12'
2 Bone boilers	8' x 8'

capacity of station continued:

2 horizontal driers and one Guano Mill, the possible output in one day is 200 bags of 100 kilos each.

7 steam boilers with a heating surface of 7692 sq.ft.

In addition to steam power electric is used, for the Blubber cutting, Slipway, Engineers repairing shop, Meat hoists etc, in all 40 motors are in use, which makes a saving of some 3000 tons coal per annum.

8. The Tonsberg whaling company, operated from the 3rd. December 1921, to 30th. May 1922. From the 3rd. December with 3 Catchers and from 12th. March with 4. The 4th. Catcher only took about 25 whales during the three months, it being slow and out of date compared with the modern boats. The total catch made by this company was 574 whales, of which 432 were Blue, 121 Fin, 19 Sei and 2 Sperm, from which was obtained 45050 barrels or an average per whale of 78.5 barrels, the highest average for the season was in March and April when 103.4 and 103.5 was reached. This Company had much trouble with the Catchers during the season which necessitated them all being slipped some for long periods. The capacity of this station is:

12 blubber boilers	12' x 7'6"
24 Pressure boilers	12' x 7'6"
8 do	14' x 7'6"
4 do	108 x 7'6"

4 Meat driers for Guano Factory, capable of producing 250-300 bags per 24 hours,

In course of erection: 6 Press. Boilers 14' x 7'6"
4 do 10' x 7'6"

This station is very well laid out and capable of a production second to no other station, supposing it to adequately supplied with material.

9. The month of November was, as far as weatehr conditons

conditions, were concerned, the best month of the season, and large schools of Blue whales and Humpbacks were reported about 30 miles to the Nw. in addition a few Sperms were also seen, from the 22nd, to the 25th, the weather changed to a Heavy sea and strong winds, the whales shifted then to the NE. about 22 miles off shore, but were still numerous, both Blue and Humpbacks.

10. In December when all the Catchers were hunting, the weather during the whole of the month with but few exceptions was stormy. Fin whales were observed to remain practically the whole time in the NE. of Cape George from 10 to 30 miles off shore, until the 20th, when they moved to other feeding grounds and were replaced by Blue whales and Humpbacks the latter in great numbers. The Catchers hunting to the NW report large numbers of Humpbacks, Blue whales are decreasing in numbers having gone Eastwards, a few Finners arriving at the NW feeding grounds, weather at this time continual snow and fog.

11. January was a month of continued storms snow and fog, with accompanying heavy sea, The Blue whale was still in the vicinity of Cape George, sometimes near land but usually about 30 miles off to ENE, Humpbacks were reported to be still plentiful, and the Blue whales that were taken were found to be in excellent condition, the stormy nature of the weather prevented the smaller catchers hunting, only the large modern catchers were able to deal with the large whales in heavy sea.

12. During the first week in the month of February, the presence of fog was remarkable, accompanied with a high sea the whales were travelling in all directions, food being in abundance, many Blue whales were taken between Larsen point

Larsen point, or West Cumberland Bay and Cape Charlotte also off Cooper Island about 20-30 miles. The whaler "Sperm" of the Tonsberg whaling Company encountered a Sperm whale off Cape Saunders, after hunting for a quarter of an hour, the whale came to the surface and charged the Catcher hitting her in the bow, the impact was so great that the boat began leaking at once and was obliged to run for the station on arrival the Fore Peak was found to be full of water, on further examination, there were some 50 -60 rivets loosened and a dent in the plate.

13. In March the weather did not change and no matter in what direction the wind was it blew very hard and worked up a high sea. It began from the NE and went to NW and changed about from SW and W, to South. A school of Fin whales was encountered by one catcher whose Gunner informed me, he had never seen so large a school, and was able to take 5 without greatly disturbing them, the five were all females, 3 of which were observed to have just left their young and as milk was still in evidence and they were without foetus, the other two were practically dry. I was unable to find out from which direction these whales came, but they travelled to the Eastward feeding as they went.

14. The following month April, was marked by the absence of Blue whales, and although I made repeated enquiries was unable to find out which direction they had gone, it was thought however that they had gone to the NE. Finners Sei, and a good number of Right whales were seen, the former in faulty condition, there were still Humpbacks and Sperm on the feeding grounds, but the weather was so rough that no great catches were made, the few Blue whales that were taken were found to be in excellent condition.

condition, many of them floating when killed not needing to be floated artificially. The Catchers at this time were hunting in all directions, the courses steered when leaving the harbours in the morning being NW. N. and NE. however after some $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours steaming this was altered and during the remainder of the day no special course was steered, at this time also the whales seemed to keep more together and in schools of the same species, and as far as one could judge of the same sex. It was still necessary to go a good distance from the land for whales although there was abundance of food near the shores about 10 miles off, on the West side where the current alters somewhat, the food is usually lying near the shore, at Wilson harbour the Right whales were seen within a few fathoms of the beach.

15. In the month of May Right Whales, Sei, and Finneers were numerous but a marked absence of Blue whales. The latter taken at this period were in such good condition that they gave up to and over 200 barrels. The weather still continued stormy and some of the companies decided to cease operations, the few catchers that continued hunting reported each time, large numbers of whales of all kinds, but were unable on account of the snow and fog, prevailing to make any catches, also the Finners had become very shy, Food was still in abundance and so also was the local fish known by the whalers as the "TORSKE large catches of this fish were made at 30 miles NE of Barff Point, one whaler bringing in 1500 as a few hours catch.

16. I endeavoured many times to ascertain the direction the whales were travelling during the latter months, but was informed that food was so plentiful that the whales

10.

whales, were travelling from NW to SE and vice versa, as they were hunted, although it is doubtless a fact that fresh batches appeared occasionally, which could be seen by the poorness of the specimens taken. It was also reported that Humpbacks were more numerous than they had been since 1912, The Ice conditions were similar to that of 1916-17, when a record catch was made at South Georgia, though in this case it was farther away from land, vessels arriving reported ice 100 miles to the North, and near the coast it was all to the East and SE. a few bergs were seen in the SW.

17. The production for the season was better than it had been for a long time, as a result of the regulation governing the number of carcasses to be on hand and the power given to the whaling officers to decide when sufficient whale matter was on hand. The production could have been very much better had the Southern whaling and Sealing co., used up their catch properly. I have been informed that from the 3rd. October till the arrival of the s.s. Woodville on 8th. December-which vessel brought 48 men to work the Pressure boiler factory- that these meat boilers had not been in use, when during this time they had taken no less than 300 Blue whales (as many as the Compania Arg. d e Pesca took the whole season) it is therefore obvious that waste has been indulged in to a serious extent.

18. The New regulations worked extremely well in South Georgia, the regulation governing the number of carcasses to be on hand at one time, proving an excellent check to waste, with those companies that are under observation. Prince Olaf Harbour, is so far away from the centre and Headquarters that I have considered the advantages of placing an officer permanently there or as often as possible

11.

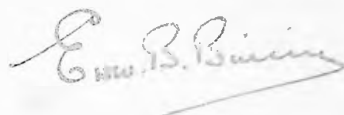
possible, and will endeavour to give effect to this next season.

19. I attach to this report a few photographs depicting the various stations in South Georgia which may be of interest.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "E. B. Billing". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Magistrate.

On the Report of the Magistrate, South Georgia, on the
Whaling Season 1921/22.

This report deals with a catch of 3350 whales which yielded 245,762 barrels of oil. Compared with the figures of the previous season this shows an increase of 32.4 % of oil, which amounts to 25.50 barrels per whale or 53.5 % per whale. There is a decrease of 9.0 % of whales taken.

2. The species taken have the following numbers:-Blue Whales 2554, Fin Whales 680, other species 116. Blue Whales constitute 76 % of the total catch and the actual number taken has only once been exceeded (in 1915/16).

Comparable features are observable in the South Shetland statistics for 1921/22 and 1915/16, but in 1921/22 Blue Whales formed only 51 % of the total catch.

3. The number of Fin Whales is low (680), a little more than one quarter of the previous season's figure (2652); whether this is due to a scarcity of the species or to the abundance of Blue Whales lessening the hunting of the Fin Whale it is not possible to say. I would suggest that the latter factor may be the more important. Mr. Binnie mentions that the Fin Whale was common in April and May, these months were also marked by a comparative scarcity of Blue Whales.

4. As in South Shetland in 1921/22 Murres were reported to be plentiful; the months of November, December and January are particularly mentioned.

5. On the basis suggested by Sir Sidney Harner in his observations on the South Shetland Report on the 1920/21 season

(M.P. 637/21) that a Blue Whale should produce 75 barrels and a Fin Whale 42.5, the oil production from the combined Blue and Fin Whales should have been 220,450 barrels. Allowance may be made for the less important species as follows:-

-Sei Whales, 102 at 20 barrels each (Mr. Binnie's figure)-----	2040
-Humpbacks, 10 at 20 barrels each-----	200
-Sperm, 40 at 60 barrels each (Report of the Interdepartmental Committee)-----	240
	<u>2480</u>

If the amount thus estimated, 2480 barrels, is deducted from the total oil, 245,702 barrels, the remainder, 243,222 barrels is the quantity of oil derived from Blue and Fin Whales alone.

This figure, 243,222, is 22,832 barrels in excess of the amount calculated from Sir Sidney Harner's figures which is 220,450 and gives a combined Blue and Fin Whale average of 75.2 barrels which is 7 barrels per whale more than the average estimated from Sir Sidney Harner's figures (68.1 barrels)

6. The very high figures for Vestfold Company's two whales in May are explained by Mr. Binnie as the product of whales actually captured in April, and this may also apply to the figures of the Southern Whaling and Sealing Company for May.

7. Attention must be drawn to the remarkable figures for the Vestfold, Tønsberg and Argentina de Pesca Companies for March and the Tønsberg Company for April. The average number of barrels per whale is given beneath the name of the month.

	March	Blue	Fin	Sei	Total
Vestfold	116	58	1	-	89
Tønsberg	103	105	1	4	167
Arg. de Pesca	136	55	7	-	62

	April	3.	Blue	Fin	Sei	Total
Tasooorg	103		32	13	4	49

The first two Companies have almost pure Blue Whale catches and their figures suggest that the Blue Whale is capable of producing considerably more than 75 barrels as an average.

It is known that the production of oil per whale in this species, as in the others, varies greatly in accordance with the size and condition of the animal, but the combined catches of the two Companies amounts to almost 200 Blue Whales in March.

8. It is unfortunate that the two British Companies are inferior to the three others by over 4 barrels per whale for the season, although their catches are the highest. The Southern Whaling and Sealing Company, which shows the lowest average of oil has also the highest percentage of Blue Whales (79.3 %), while the Compania Argentina de Pesca has the lowest number of whales, the lowest percentage of Blue Whales and the highest average oil production—79.6 barrels per whale.

There was a serious fire at the South Georgia Company's station in March which affected their average after it and consequently their whole season's average; the fire occurred in the pressure boiler plant.

9. In his paragraph 17, Mr. Sinnie attributes much of the high production figure to the effect of the Regulations of 1921, at the same time stating that it would have been better but for the inefficiency of the Southern Whaling and Sealing Company.

He further remarks on the satisfactory working of these Regulations in paragraph 18.

10. Although the evidence of a single season should be accepted with caution, the results from South Georgia strengthen the belief that the Regulations of 1921 are based on sound assumptions

4.

as has been stated in my notes on the Report on the South Shetland season of 1921/22, paragraphs 7 and 8.

11. Mr. Simsie proposes to station a customs officer at Prince Olaf Harbour, a step which should have a restraining effect on the wasteful methods which appear to be practised by this Company (Southern Whaling and Sealing).

12. I would submit that, having regard to the reports that the Humpback is numerous, the Magistrate might be empowered to permit fishing of this species if it should be necessary, but that he should not exercise the power if he can avoid doing so. As stated in my observations on the Report from South Shetland for the season 1921/22 whaling factories should have material sufficient to keep the crews at work, since the conditions of life in the Dependencies are so trying that untuly long periods of slackness may result in labour troubles.

J. Hamilton.
Government Naturalist
17. Sept. 1922.

SUMMARY.

1. The season was successful, 3350 whales produced 245,762 barrels of oil, an average of 73.36 barrels per whale.
2. 76 % of the catch were Blue Whales, the figure for Fin Whales was very low only 680 being taken.
3. Humpbacks were reported as plentiful in November, December and January.
4. Oil production shows an increase on the previous season's figure of 25.56 barrels per whale, and is in excess of what might have been expected, even allowing for the high proportion of Blue Whales.
5. The average production of three Companies was exceptionally high in March, Blue Whales greatly preponderated in their catches for that month.
6. The British Companies do not compare favourably with the others.
7. The Regulations of 1921 worked satisfactorily and much of the economy is attributed to them.
8. Mr. Binnie proposes the stationing of a Customs Officer at Prince Olaf Harbour, which is desirable.
9. It is suggested that the Magistrate be granted discretionary powers to permit Humpback fishing if necessary.

3

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 103.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

STANLEIGH

15th September, 1922.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a report from Mr. E. B. Nimble, Magistrate of South Georgia, on the Whaling Season 1921-1922, together with the observations of the Government Naturalist on the report.

In duplicate.

In duplicate.

2. The total catch of 3,550 whales, of which 76% were Blue Whales, yielded 245,762 barrels of oil. As compared with the previous season the average yield of oil per whale increased by 53.5% the yield for 1920-1921 being 47.8 barrels per whale and for 1921-1922 75.36 barrels. The highest average yield in any previous season was 66 barrels per whale in the summer of 1917-1918 when the total catch was 2751 whales of which 68.4% were Blue Whales.

3. I am causing the attention of the local Manager of the Southern Whaling and Sealing Company to be drawn to the low average output of the factory at Prince Olaf's Harbour and I understand that the Magistrate is in a position to arrange, if necessary, for a Whaling Officer to be stationed there.

4/

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

H. L. S. CHURCHILL, M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

4. In South Georgia, as in the South Shetlands, Humpback Whales are reported to have been plentiful during the season 1921-1922. Time has not permitted of my receiving your views and those of the Trustees of the British Museum on the recommendations of the Government Naturalist that temporary permits should be granted for taking Humpback Whales in the South Shetlands during the season 1922-1923, but for the reasons which are given in paragraph 12 of Mr. Hamilton's observations I propose to authorize the Magistrate of South Georgia to use his discretion in granting temporary permits to fish Humpback Whales if he considers that this is necessary in order to keep the Stations working steadily.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

Humble servant,

J. Middleton.

To Secretary of
State No. 68 of
15th May, 1922,
paragraph 4.

4

TELEGRAM.

From : The Colonial Secretary

To : The Magistrate, South Georgia.

Dispatched : 22nd September, 1922 Time. 3.15 pm

Received : 19 Time.

MAGISTRATE

SOUTHGEORGIA

WITH REFERENCE TO YOUR REPORT OF THE 10TH JUNE GOVERNOR GREATLY APPRECIATES MEASURES TAKEN FOR INCREASING PRODUCTION STOP REQUEST YOU WILL DIRECT THE ATTENTION OF THE MANAGER BRINCE CLAF TO LOW AVERAGE PRODUCTION WITH VIEW TO IMPROVEMENT STOP IN ISSUING LICENCES TO CATCHERS PROHIBIT BIGHT HUMPBACK WHALES STOP YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO USE YOUR DISCRETION IN GRANTING PERMITS FROM WEEK TO WEEK TO FISH HUMPBACKS IF THIS IS AT TIME IN YOUR OPINION NECESSARY IN ORDER TO KEEP A STATION AT WORK.

SECRETARY.

569/22

27th September,

22.

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your Whaling Report for the season 1921-1922, and to forward to you for your information the attached copy of Falkland Islands despatch No. 103 with enclosure.

2. I am also to inform you that the report contained one or two errors namely, the total Fin Whales taken was 680, not 580 and the increase in barrels per whale should be 25.56 and not 26.28 as shown. I am to request you, in future, to exercise the greatest care in compiling the statistics.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. Henniker-Weaton

Colonial Secretary.

The Stipendiary Magistrate,

South Georgia.

6

The Magistrate's Office,
South Georgia,
1st. November 1922.

569/22
S.G.83/22.



Sir,

I have the honour to report the receipt of the following telegram, received on September 25th.

"Magistrate South Georgia.

With reference to your report of the 10th. June Governor greatly appreciates measures taken for increasing production stop Request you direct the attention of the manager Prince Olaf to low average production with a view to improvement stop In issuing licence to catchers prohibit right humpback whales stop You are authorized to use your discretion in granting permits from week to week to fish Humpbacks if this at the time in your opinion necessary in order to keep a station at work-Secretary".

2. I have spoken with the manager of Prince Olafs with reference to the low production of last year, but as the management is quite changed locally, I have no fear of a repetition of last seasons waste.

3. Up to the time of writing, the whales taken have been Blue whales, with one or two Finners, no Humpbacks or other whales have yet been seen; it is of course difficult to imagine what the outcome of the season will be, as the whales at present being caught are believed to be the winter whales, the regular seasons supply not having as yet reached the feeding grounds.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

E. B. Binn
Magistrate.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary,
Falkland Islands.

FALKLAND ISLANDS

No 2

7

DOWNING STREET,

5 January, 1923.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 103 of the 13th September, forwarding the report on whaling operations at South Georgia during the season 1921-2.

2. I note with satisfaction the reported results of the new regulations in minimising waste, and hope that further experience will confirm their utility.

3. As regards paragraph 4 of your despatch, you will have received my predecessor's telegram of the 16th October in which he accepted your recommendations as regards the issue of temporary permits for the taking of Humpback whales during the season 1922-23. A copy of a letter on the subject which has been sent to the British Museum is enclosed herewith, and I would invite your attention in particular to the second sentence of paragraph 3 of that letter.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

Humble Servant,

(Signed) DEVONSHIRE

GOVERNOR

J. MIDDLETON, ESQ, C.M.G.

&c. &c. &c.

7a

56315/1923.

Downing Street,

5 January, 1923.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 27th July (B.M.N.H.3816/22) I am directed by the Duke of Devonshire to transmit to you, to be laid before the Trustees, the accompanying copy of a despatch from the Governor of the Falkland Islands forwarding ^a report from the Magistrate, South Georgia on the whaling operations of that Dependency during the season 1921-22, together with the observations of the Government Naturalist on the Report.

No.103.
13th Sept.

2. As regards the last paragraph of the despatch, I am also to enclose a copy of a telegram received from the Governor on the 14th October last, regarding the taking of Humpbacks; and to state that, in the circumstances represented, the Secretary of State did not feel justified in further opposing the view of the local authorities as regards the issue of temporary permits for the taking of this species during the season 1922-23,

and

THE DIRECTOR,
 BRITISH MUSEUM,
 (NATURAL HISTORY).

and therefore approved the Governor's recommendations in the matter. The Governor has been informed however that it is presumed that the reports of the whaling officers will record all permits granted and give reasons for their issue.

3. The Trustees will, no doubt, note with satisfaction the reported results of the new regulations in substantially minimising waste; and in this connexion I am to invite reference to the letter from this Department of even date regarding the operations of the Vestfold Company.

4. I am to request that the photographs accompanying the Governor's despatch may be returned to this Department in due course.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) H. J. READ

TELEGRAM.

From : The Colonial Secretary.

To : The Magistrate, South Georgia.

Dispatched : 19th February, 19 23 *Time.* 11.45 a.m

Received : 19 .. *Time.* ...

MAGISTRATE
SOUTH GEORGIA.

MY TELEGRAM OF 22ND SEPTEMBER, 1922, PLEASE
REPORT FULLY BY MAIL ON PERMITS ISSUED TO
FISH HUMPBACKS.

SECRETARY.



S.C. 92/22

MP. 569/22

The Magistrate's Office,

South Georgia,

11th. December 1922.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter with enclosures dated 4th^{27th} September, acknowledging my report on the whale oil industry at South Georgia for the past season.

2. I much regret the obvious clerical error in stating the number of Fin whales at 580 instead of 680, more care will be exercised in future to render these statistics as correct as it is possible.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Magistrate.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary

Stanley.

S.G.No 17/23.

The Magistrate's Office,
South Georgia,
30th.March 1923.



Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram with regard to permits given for the catching of Humpback whales at South Georgia.

2. In the month of November for a certain period, there was a scarcity of Blue and Fin whales and consequently applications were made to me for permission to take Humpbacks. However as it was early in the season and there was no reason to think that the whales had gone away entirely, so thought it better to hold over permits as long as possible. A little later Blue whales were again in evidence and no further mention was made of Humps until the middle of December, when there had been a scarcity of the larger species for quite a time. On the 17th. December I issued permits to all companies operating to take Humpbacks only on such occasions that they were unable to take the larger whales, or ~~that~~ in cases where no larger whales had been seen. This permit was extended for a month, and since the 17th. January no Humpbacks have been taken, although they are still reported fairly numerous.

3. The numbers taken during the month by each company

is as follows:	VESTFOLD	60	
	S.W. & Seal.	23	
	Tonsberg	56	
	So. Georgia	34	
	Pesca	75	
	Thor 1	<u>58</u>	306.

4. The opinion in South Georgia regarding the protecting of the Hump, is that they do not consider it equitable

Encl 8.
M.P. 569/22.

