

Whaling Reports

SGA/WHA/2 # 5

C.S.

No. 535

S.M. So Georgia

SUBJECT.

1920

21 April

Previous Paper.

Whaling Report, So Georgia

Season ended 31 March 1920

MINUTES.

Submitted,

W.H.M.

22/4/20

②  
Seen. Dup. & Dup. copies of report  
attached for transmission to S. of S.

W.H.M.  
2/9/20

Subsequent Paper.

879/21

S.G.No.55/20.

The Magistrate's Office,

South Georgia,

21st. April 1920.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith my report on the whaling Industry of South Georgia ,for the season ended 31st March for the information of His Excellency the Governor.

2. During the period under review-1st October 1919 to 31st March 1920.a total catch of 2654 whales was made yielding in all 132322 barrels ,an average of 49.8 per whale. The total catch and output shews an increase over that of the same period 1918-19,of 178 whales and 528 barrels of oil,besides the output of oil 15889 bags of Guano were manufactured and 17½ tons of whale baleen prepared for export,the total value of the production being approximately £1400000.

3. The following statement shews the catch of whales for the past 4 seasons,with the output of oil and Guano for comparative purposes:

	Whales.	Oil.	Baleen.	Guano.	£ Value.
1916-17.	3629	197213	4	8640	715312
1917-18.	2751	182310	6	nil	1011748
1918-19.	2476	131794	3/8	6676	572304 ?
1919-20	2654	132322	17½	15889	1,400,000.

The following is a list of the Cos.Operating,with no.of vessels

Company.	Situation.	No of Catchers.	
S.W.&.Sealing Co,	Prince Olavs Harbour.	6	British
South Georgia co.	Leith Harbour.	6	British
Tonsberg whaling .	Husvik Harbour.	3	Norwegian
Sandefjord whaling	Stromness Harbour	3	do
Compañia Arg.de Pesca.	Grytviken	4	Argentine
Ocean Whalinh Co.	New Fortune Bay.	3	Norwegian

27 Catchers employed as against 34 in 1917-18.

*The Honorable  
The Colonial Secretary  
Falkland Islands*

4. The following statement shows the average number of barrels obtained from each whale during the past four seasons.

Company.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20
S. W. & Seal.			51.7	50.2
So. Georgia	55.4	67.3	46.4	43.2
Tonsberg co.	53.3	70.0	56.6	53.2
Sandefjord				51.4
Cia. de Pesca	53.0	72.0	56.9	49.8
Ocean whaling	60.0	75.0	66.4	54.9

Average on the total catch for the past four years.

1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
54.3	66.0	53.2	49.8

.....

These figures show a decrease in the total average production which is caused by the South Georgia company being so low as 43.2, though in the month of January the work was stopped for some days on account of a strike, there should have been time later to make up the production to at least 46-48.0, however this cos, returns show a minimum of Blue whales and a good percentage of Finners which accounts for a considerable amount of decrease. At the same time the class of men employed were mostly young inexperienced men who showed little interest more than receiving their meals at given hours and asking for more wages. It is difficult for me to say "there has been undue waste" because I have not noticed any during my periodical visits, but at the same time it is practically certain that waste has been indulged in. In the existing circumstances such a case is impossible to control without an officer stationed at Stromness bay. I am not in a position to make surprise visits having no boat at my service, therefore the visits made are always known beforehand. However with the proposed decrease in the number of whale catchers one may entertain hopes of normal conditions returning. The new station built in 1916-17 at Leith Hbr, has been partially put out of use so that in future 4 catchers for this company will be ample.

*note*  
all companies show a decrease in barrels per whale therefore lower average total cannot be attrib. w/d to S.G. Co's crew alone.

SOUTHERN WHALING AND SEALING CO.

This company made use of the whole of their station at Prince Olavs' harbour for the first time, in 1918-19, had hired the station of the Sandefjord whaling co, the station seems to be a good one, and possible of the best results, being well equipped with modern appliances, though it was partially destroyed in the month of February by fire, over 15000 barrels of oil were taken from the carcasses alone, their average per whale being 50.2. The manager informs me that, had it not been for the Bone factory burning down the average would have been at least 55.0%. This Co. was however fortunate in having a catch of 267 Blue whales, here also a reduction of 2 Catchers is very desirable. It is hoped that before the commencement of next season the Guano Factory will have arrived and been erected, during the war it was impossible to have it shipped from Norway. A good quantity of the bone and meat has been stored in readiness for its arrival. The total production of the Co. was kept back by a shortage of coal in February and March.

SANDEFJORD WHALING CO.

The transport vessel of this company arrived in the early part of December with labourers, coal, and provisions, and commenced operations at once and up to the 31st March had an output of 19329 barrels an average of 51.4 per whale, but unfortunately had no coke and were unable to use their Guano drier. For the period the catch and production with three boats is equal to the best, having experienced men, they were not troubled with strikes.

TONSBERG WHALING COMPANY/

The above company has always been one of the first in production with 3 catchers and an excellent plant, notwithstanding the strike period when the labourers did no work for about 14 days, there catch was 449 whales and output 23910, average 53.2 per whale.

per whale, besides 2586 bags Guano (ground).

COMPANIA ARGENTINA DE PESCA.

This being the Pioneer company in South Georgia their lease does not bind them to use the whole of the whale carcass. To this station has been added 20 pressure boilers of the largest dimensions and a Guano Mill during the present season only 12 pressure boilers were in use the whole of the time & latterly 36, owing to the bad weather conditions only enough whales were taken to keep the factory going. When the strike took place was the time of the greatest catch some 23 whales were at the buoys and the men took this opportunity of stopping work to ensure their demands being met with, it is probable that some 500 barrels were lost through this action. The station is now considered by experts to be the most up-to-date station in South Georgia.

OCEAN WHALING CO.

During the past 4 years this co. has shown the best output from the catch, with practically no waste, during the past season an average is shown of 54.9 barrels per whale and the greatest output of Guano, with the least number of whales, their output being 6329 bags. The difference between this comparatively small station and that of the South Georgia Co is enormous, the possibilities of the latter station with a properly organised staff and four catchers should be at least double, it is difficult, <sup>to catch</sup> how, nearly the opposite effect is produced.

OBSERVATIONS.

Whaling operations commenced on 1st October under comparatively good conditions, whales were not too plentiful but the weather conditions favourable and the result was a catch of 106 whales. In November there were numbers of Finners reported, but weather conditions were bad and only the very fast whalers could keep up the running with these whales, in December the Blue whale was

was very much in evidence and a catch of 203 was made which sent up the oil average to about 60-70 per whale, the month of January would have been a record had it not been for labour troubles, notwithstanding, a catch of 812 whales was made, during the months of February and March there was about 2 weeks only when whaling could be carried on, Fin whales were numerous and also Sei whales the latter proving to be in excellent condition, 46 Sei whales were taken in these two months. It is sad to note the number of Female whales killed in the course of a season, but this is impossible to control. The Ocean whaling co and Southern whaling and Sealing co, between them had a catch of 868 whales and 434 were females, (half). There is room for improvement in the manufacture of Guano and Bone meal the total output being only 15880 bags, and should have been from 70 to 80000 bags, the construction of the word utilization, should be made plainer to the companies. This however I intend dealing with separately. It is doubtful if whaling will be carried on during the winter months as the cos, here are closing down and sending the bulk of labour away. I am glad to see this idea adopted, it will in my opinion do a certain amount of good, it at least cannot be harmful.

The Amount of oil Produced during the season was	132322	brls
The amount of oil exported	do do	46718
Amount awaiting shipment on 31st March		124514
Amount of Guano produced		15889 bags,
Amount of Guano shipped		22494
Amount awaiting shipment on 31st March,		12772 bags.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*E. B. B. B. B.*  
Stipendiary Magistrate

Schedule A.

W H A L I N G  
South Georgia.

"Summer Season" October 1919 to March 20.

.....

The following statement shows the number and kind of whales captured together with the amount of oil of various grades extracted therefrom by the whaling companies operating during the above period.

No and kind of whales;

<u>Company.</u>	<u>RIGHT.</u>	<u>SPERM.</u>	<u>BLUE.</u>	<u>FIN.</u>	<u>H.BACK.</u>	<u>SEI.</u>	<u>Total</u>
S.W.& Sealing.	I		267	258	I4	IO	550
So.Georgia	4	5	I79	369	23	I2	592
Tonsberg		2	I66	256	II	I4	449
Sandefjord	I		I3I	224	I3	7	376
Cia. de Pesca	2		99	262	5	I	369
Ocean whaling	3		82	2I7	14	2	318
TOTALS	11	7	924	1586	80	46	2654
I9I8-I9I9.	4	13	1160	1232	64	3	2476

shewing a decrease in Sperm and Blue and increase in other classes.

WHALES CAPTURED EACH MONTH.

October		2	19	83	2		106
November		2	54	122	3		181
December	I		203	341	25		570
January	1		393	380	38		812
February	1		154	289	IO	IO	464
March	8	3	IOI	371	2	36	521
	11	7	924	1586	80	46	2654

*E. P. Binney*  
Magistrate.

Schedule B.

W H A L I N G  
South Georgia.

"Summer Season" October 1918 to March 1920

.....

The following statement shows the total output of each company with detailed account of the various grades of oil produced &.

Company.	Whales. No.	Oil. Barrels.	Baleen. Tons.	Guano. Bags.
S.W.&Seal.	550	27633	$\frac{1}{4}$	--
So.Georgia	592	25592	1	3563
Tonsberg	449	23910		2586
Sandefjord	376	19329		
Cia.de Pesca	369	18399		3411
Ocean	318	17459	16	6329
	<u>2654</u>	<u>132322</u>	<u>17<math>\frac{1}{4}</math></u>	<u>15889</u>

O I L.

Company.	No.0.	No.1.	No.2.	No.3/4.	Sperm.
S.W.&.Sealing		12592	2385	12656	
So.Georgia	11874		3342	10205	171
Tonsberg	8843	2459	6218	6274	116
Sandefjord	9538	718	3407	5666	
Cia.De Pesca	5784	2526	2956	7133	
Ocean whaling	1945	3976	2456	9082	
	<u>37984</u>	<u>22271</u>	<u>20764</u>	<u>51016</u>	<u>287.</u>

Total output of oil ~~132322~~ 132322 barrels 2654 whales >  
= 49.8 per whale.

*E. B. Bunn*

Magistrate.



WHALING.  
South Georgia

1919.  
period from 1st October to 31st March 1920.

The following statement shows the number and kind of whales captured by the SOUTHERN WHALING & SEALING CO LTD, during the above period, together with the amount of oil of various grades, guano etc. obtained therefrom :

WHALES :

	RIGHT	SPERM	BLUE	FIN	HUMPBACK	SEI	TOTAL :
1919							
October	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
November	Nil	Nil	11	21	1	Nil	33
December	Nil	Nil	50	60	4	Nil	114
1920.							
January	Nil	Nil	117	64	8	Nil	189
February	1	Nil	42	55	1	3	102
March	Nil	Nil	47	58		7	112
Total :	1	Nil	267	258	14	10	550

OIL PRODUCTION :

	No.0.	No.1.	No.2.	No.3/4	Sperm Oil	TOTALS :
1919						
October	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
November	Nil	613		645	Nil	1258
December	Nil	3007	137	3251	Nil	6395
1920						
January	Nil	4158	1126	3865	Nil	9149
February	Nil	2289	544	2090	Nil	4923
March	Nil	2525	578	2805	Nil	5908
Total :	Nil	12592	2385	12656	Nil	27633

GUANO PRODUCTION & WHALE BONE :

1919	
November	Nil
October	Nil
December	Nil
1920	
January	Nil
February	600 Lbs. Whalebone (Right)
March	Nil
Total :	600 Lbs. Whale bone (Right)

Amount of oil produced during the period	....	27633 Barrels.
Amount of oil exported - do -	....	8498 -"
Amount of guano produced - do -	....	Nil Bags
Amount of guano exported - do -	....	Nil do.
Amount of oil awaiting shipment on 31st March	....	19135 Barrels. *
Amount of guano and whale bone awaiting shipment :		600 Lbs.

I solemnly declare the foregoing particulars are to the best of my knowledge accurate.

For THE SOUTHERN WHALING & SEALING CO LTD.

*S. Andersen*  
Act. Manager

H.

\* This does not include 3000 barrels  
of oil at present



W H A L I N G

South Georgia.

1919  
Periods from October 1st to March 31st, 1920

Name of Co: THE TONSBERGS WHALING COMPANY.

The following statement shews the number and kind of whales captured with the amount of oil of various grades, guano etc., obtained therefrom by the above company.

	RIGHT.	SPERM.	BLUE.	FIN.	H'BACK.	SEI.	TOTAL.
1919 Octb.	0	0	4	27	0	0	31
Novb.	0	2	13	25	1	0	41
Dcbr.	0	0	34	53	4	0	91
1920 Jany.	0	0	66	60	4	0	130
Feby.	0	0	29	48	1	1	79
March.	0	0	20	43	1	13	77
Total:	0	2	166	256	11	14	449

OIL PRODUCTION.

	No. 0.	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3/4.	Sperm.	Total.
1919 Octb,	30	431	478	835	0	1774
Novb.	501	159	186	571	116	1533
Dcbr.	1926	547	1320	1451	0	5244
1920 Jany.	3484	397	1799	2069	0	7749
Feby.	1320	610	943	688	0	3561
March.	1582	315	1492	660	0	4049
Total:	8843	2459	6218	6274	116	23910

G U A N O .

		No. of Bags.					Total.
1919: Octb.	Novb.	Dcbr.	1920: Jany.	Feby.	March.		
0	0	0	576.	1112.	898.		2586.

Amount of Oil produced during the season 23910 barrels.

Amount of Guano produced -do- 2586 bags.

Amount of Oil exported during the season 19290 barrels.

Amount of Guano exported during the season 11600 bags.

Oil awaiting shipment on the 31st of March 19761 barrels.

Guano awaiting shipment on the 31st of March 5823 bags.

I solemnly declare the foregoing particulars are to the best of my knowledge accurate.

Husvik Harbour South Georgia,  
31st of March 1920

*Y. J. J. J. J.*  
Manager.

WHALING

South Georgia.

Period from 1.oct.1919 to 31st March 1920

Name of co. SANDEFJORD WHALING COMPANY.

The following statement shews the number and kind of Whales captured with the amount of oil of various grades, Guano etc, obtained therefrom by the above company.

	Righth.	Sperm.	Blue.	Fin.	H'Back.	Sei.	Total.
Oct.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19. Nov.	0	0	3	2	0	0	5
Dec.	0	0	27	44	3	0	74
Jany.	0	0	72	59	8	0	139
20. Feby	0	0	22	43	2	1	68
March.	1	0	7	76	0	6	90
Total.	1	0	131	224	13	7	376.

OIL PRODUCTION.

	No.0.	No.1.	No. 2.	No.3/4	Sperm.	Total.
Oct.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Decbr.	2055	116	138	1245	0	3554
Jany.	<del>3928</del>	572	1111	2170	0	7571
Feby.	1588	30	1325	755	0	3698
March.	2177	0	833	1496	0	4506
Total.	9538.	718.	3407.	5666.	0	19329.

GUANO.  
No of Bags

Oct.	Nov.	Decbr.	Jany.	Feby	March.
0	0	0	0	0	0

Amount of oil produced during the season 19329. Barrels  
 Amount of Guano produced Do Do 0 Bags  
 Amount of Oil exported during the season No Barrels  
 Amount of Guano exported during the season No Bags  
 Oil awaiting shipment on the 31st March No 19329 Barrels  
 Guano awaiting shipment on the 31st March No Bags

I solemnly declare the foregoing particulars are to the best of my knowledge accurate.

W H A L I N G:

South Georgia; Period from 1st Oct. 1919 to 31st March 1920.

.....

The following statement shews the number and kind of whales captured by the Compañia Argentina de Pesca, during the above period, together with the amount of oil of various grades, guano etc. obtained

W H A L E S:-

	Right.	Sperm.	Blue.	Fin.	Humpback.	Sei.	Totals:
1919							
October	-	-	9	26	-	-	35
November	-	-	7	29	-	-	36
December	-	-	26	72	3	-	101
1920.							
January	-	-	37	45	1	-	83
February	-	-	13	30	1	-	44
March	2	-	7	60	-	1	70
Totals:	2	-	99	262	5	1	369

O I L P R O D U C T I O N:-

	N° 0.	N° 1.	N° 2.	N° 3/4	Sperm.	Spermoil.	Totals:
1919							
October	390	263	176	607	-	-	1436 barrels.
November	692	159	263	831	-	-	1945 "
December	1763	392	927	1267	-	-	4359 "
1920.							
January	762	1096	802	2096	-	-	4756 "
February	768	254	320	665	-	-	2007 "
March.	1409	362	468	1657	-	-	3896 "
Totals:	5784	2526	2956	7133	-	-	18399 "

GUANO & WHALEBONE PRODUCTION:-

1919	Guano:	Whalebone:
October	446 bags	-
November	870 "	-
December	1573 "	+
1920.		
January	522 "	-
February	-	-
March	-	-
Totals:	3411 bags	-

Amount of oil produced during the period	18399	barrels
- " " - exported	15948	- "
- " " guano produced	3411	bags
- " " - exported	3407	- "
- " oil awaiting shipment on March 31st	15144	barrels
- " of guano awaiting shipment	1412	bags

.....

I solemnly declare the foregoing particulars to be to the best of my knowledge accurate.

G r y t v i k e n March 31st.-1920.

*O. J. ...*  
 .....  
 Manager Comp. Argentina de Pesca.

W H A L I N G

South Georgia. Period from 1st. October 1919 to 31st. March 1920.

The following statement shows the number and kind of whales captured by the OCEAN WHALING COMPANY, during the above period, together with the amount of oil of various grades, guano etc. obtained therefrom:

W H A L E S.

	<u>RIGHT.</u>	<u>SBERM.</u>	<u>BLUE.</u>	<u>FIN.</u>	<u>HULPBACK.</u>	<u>SEI.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
1919.							
October.			4	12			16
November.			5	17			22
December.			19	47	5		71
1920.							
January.			36	58	6		100
February.			16	40	3	2	61
March.	3		2	43			48
<b>totals.</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>82</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>318</b>

OIL PRODUCTION.

	<u>No.0.</u>	<u>No.1.</u>	<u>No.2.</u>	<u>No.3.</u>	<u>No.4.</u>	<u>Sperm oil.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1919.							
October.	100	162	102	361	39		764
November.	187	197	55	348	39		826
December.	254	1001	707	1959	154		4075
1920.							
January.	112	1721	1163	2746	287		6029
February.	685	400	214	1373	225		2897
March.	607	495	215	1329	222		2868
<b>totals.</b>	<b>1945</b>	<b>3976</b>	<b>2456</b>	<b>8116</b>	<b>966</b>		<b>17459</b>

GUANO PRODUCTION & WHALE BONE.

1919.						
October.			539			
November.			604			
December.			2504			
1920.						
January.			1344			
February.			86			
March.			1252		15 tons Blue & Finwhale-bone.	
<b>totals.</b>			<b>6329</b>		<b>1 ton Rightwhale-bone.</b>	

Amount of oil produced during the period 17459 barrels.  
 Amount of oil exported " " " 0 do.  
 Amount of guano produced " " " 6329 bags.  
 Amount of guano exported " " " 6033 do.  
 Amount of oil awaiting shipment on 31st. March 20645 barrels.  
 Amount of guano and whale bone awaiting shipment 1903 bags.  
 16 tons Whalebone.

I solemnly declare that the foregoing particulars are to the best of my knowledge accurate.

*J. Guinness-Jones*  
 ----- Manager.