

C.S.

INDUSTRIES.  
(Fishing.)

19 38.

No. 168/38.

Agricultural Adviser.

SUBJECT.

19 38.

20th July.

QUESTION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF A REGULAR  
FISH SUPPLY FOR STANLEY.

Previous Paper.

Ref: 94/43.

MINUTES.

Minute from Agricultural Adviser of 20th July, 1938.

①

Y.H. Submitted. I think the ordinary crew of "Alert" should be sufficient but I understand from the Agric. Adviser that he does not think the Supmaster would be so personing as a younger man. No one has better knowledge than B. Ratcliffe where fish are likely to be found in Stanley Harbour Port within a Berkeley Sound. The boat is idle most of the time and I think his employment in

Subsequent Paper.

22/40  
135/43

getting fish would be fully  
justified since no one is doing  
so by private enterprise.

WCH  
22.7.58

I am glad to see this suggestion  
for the A.C.

Supplies for Govt House and  
officials will be sold at the same flat  
rate as to the public. The crew will  
of course have their pay. With any such  
expenses shd. be cleared

ttttt 22/7/58

Harbour Master.

Please see me with  
this.

WCH es,  
22.7.58

Harbour Master.

To note. I spoke with  
you about this. Five fine  
opportunities the "Alice" should  
go out and if notified, the  
Agua: Advicei will lend me a  
two men - if required. There would  
I think be more chance of  
success in Berkeley Sound (Fish  
Creek Put Louis and Chelms Creek  
Johnston Harbours) but the  
Supermaster will know best.



58/38

Show 1

Any fish obtained to be sold  
at customary rates to Govt.  
House, officials and otherwise.

W.H.  
C.S.

25.7.38

Hon Col Sec.

Arrangements have been made for  
this service to commence on the first  
suitable day, viz. Port William first.

W.H.  
C.S.  
25/7/38

Agree: Adviser.

To note. Efforts made  
yesterday were not successful.

W.H.  
C.S.

26.7.38

Hon Colonial Secretary,

My offer of two men from my department was  
the outcome of a desire to consider the Ratcliffe Bros. It  
would not be fair to ask men of their age to wade about in  
gum boots, handle nets, and get wet and remain so for perhaps  
long periods.

Two of my men working in spare time only have been  
fishing successfully in various creeks lately and have had  
fish for sale. Were they to be provided with water transport  
to work full days, they should be able to obtain fish in  
substantial quantities.

W.H.  
Agricultural Adviser.  
8th August, 1938.

Harbour Master.

To see. I understand  
that Mr. Smith is the  
successful fisherman who

Succeeds where others fail.  
Mr. Hutter should go out in  
"Alec" when necessary she goes.

W.H. Ch.

9. 8. 38

How to see.

Noted. Superintendent has been  
informed.

W.H. Ch.  
9/8/38.

Minute from Agricultural Adviser of 9-8-38.

C.C.

To note.

W.H. Ch.  
10/8/38.

Harbour Master.

Please see red (2). From  
this it would appear that the  
"Alec" will not be required as  
Mr. Hutter has his own boat.  
The fishing will be under the  
control of the Agric. Dept.

W.H. Ch.  
10. 8. 38

How to see.

Noted. The amount of 16/6  
received for fish sold yesterday will  
be handed to the Agric Dept.

W.H. Ch.  
11/8/38.

Mr. Master.

Thank you.

W.H. Ch.  
12. 8. 38

How to see.

Noted. W.H. Ch.  
13/8/38.

PA  
12/8/38

(3) Minute from Agricultural Adviser of 23.9.38.

Agri. Adviser.

Confirmed. The hut is not Govt. property really. It was put up by the late W. Deane from old materials he got from the P.W.D.

WCH  
cl.  
26.9.38

Hon. Col. Sec.

Thank you.

Deane  
AA 24/9/38

P.H.  
30/9/38

Ag. Adviser

Hon. Col. Sec.

Reference to my minute at ref 3. C.S.O. file No. 168/38 and your confirmation 26/9/38 on the same file, I have to advise that it appears that James White has recently done wilful damage to the interior of this hut.

A report from the Common Ranger, Mr B. Fleuret is attached for your information.

Police proceedings are to be instituted against White.

(4)

Deane  
Agricultural Adviser.  
2/6/39.

The Comr should be asked to issue an order prohibiting the use of the hut.  
WCH

Agri. Adviser

Please proceed.

WCH  
cl.  
26.9.

Non sol. see.

noted

K. S. A. V.  
A. A. 2/6/39

29  
5/6/39

Minute from Government Secretariat of 13/5/41. 5-6.

E. E.

For your observations please as to (b) of Para (b).

C. J. J.  
14/5/41

Honourable Colonial Secretary.

The question of part time employment in this case presents very difficult problems. Inter alia (1) the days when fishing was not possible one may assume outdoor work would be impossible & lost time would be paid without any work being done for the department. (2) It is a difficult matter to have to employ an odd man at any odd time without destroying the "balance" & "make-up" of various gangs. While I am therefore very reluctant to employ this man as suggested I am very much in favour of the proposition & would like to assess if practicable. Could it be given a short trial of say 2-3 weeks, so that the extent of the practical difficulties could be better assessed.

C. W. F.  
C. W. F.

Y/E.

Submitted.

1. Your Excellency will approve.

C. J. J.  
16/5/41

Pl. refer to Dep. of A. for figures in W. W. line in order to see if it is a paying proposition. A. D. 16/5/41

D. of A.

Refer to you.

J.S.  
C. for C.  
17/5/41.

Col. I am informed that following expenditure & receipts were associated with fishing in 1939

Wages	July 1939	£6-15-4
	June 1939	£1-17-4
	Total	£8-12-8

Receipts for fish sold.	July	£0-13-2.
	June	£0-18-4
	Total	£1-11-6.

J.S. 17/5/41

Y/E.

Submitted.

J.S.  
C. for C.  
19/5/41.

I have seen Govt. Nat. - Hittle will be engaged by his Dept. @ £2.12.6 p.w. + 25% commission. Revenue to Head IX Item 8. With Com Hittle to be in charge of G.N. - Hittle to supply his own boat & also other details will be settled by Govt. Nat. without any reference to us. S.W. to issue for £90 Head XIV Item 2.

J.S. 19/5/41

Hon. J.S. 20/5/41

Govt. Naturalist,

no note. J.S. 20/5/41.



als. Noted. Mr. Hinkle will start as soon as he has finished his present contract - in June.

J.S.D.  
S.V.  
25. V. 41

E.E.

to note:

A.C.S.

C. J. Ford  
2/6/41.

Noted.  
W. H.  
3. VI. 41

P.A.

A.C.S.

Hinkle began his work for my desk on July 9.

2/ S.W. in triplicate herewith please J.S.D. S.V. 14. VII. 41  
(H.E.'s minute of 17. V.)

yfb.

Special Warrant submitted for signature.

C. J. Ford  
15/7/41.

P.A.

Minutes from Naval Office in charge, of 7/11/41. 7.

yfb.

Rec D submitted as requested.

C. J. Ford  
15/11/41.

Govt. Nat. to see.

J.S.D.  
10/XI/41

Govt. Noted.

Referred to you.

C. J. Ford  
15/11/41.

H.C.S.  
Before going further I should like to be informed  
(a) what sort of gear it is intended to use.  
(b.) where it is intended to operate.

J.S.D.  
S.V.  
9. XI. 41

Noted. Referred.

C. J. Ford  
17/11/41

W.C.S.

(a) Seine net. (b) Generally speaking at any suitable spot in E or W Falklands outside P. Stanley if William depending on the particular passage being made, when this is not possible it is proposed to visit head of Berkeley Sound. R.B.S. 11. 11. 41



Ent. Naturalist

to sec.

C. J. G. 11/11/41

acc. my own view  
however please  
C. J. G.  
13. XI. 41

8. Minute from Government Naturalist of 13/11/41.  
Noic.

Have you any comments please  
on Ent. Naturalist's memo. of 13/11/41.

C. J. G.  
14/11/41

Hon. Col. Sec.

My innocent suggestion seems to have raised an unexpected storm and to have been completely misunderstood. No question of the Navy 'competing' can possibly arise (one day per month!) nor would this be countenanced by the Admiralty. When I made the original suggestion to the Government Naturalist, I had the idea that his Department's interest was "scientific" and not "financial" which latter could not be, as surely no Government Department can benefit in this way at the expense of the Admiralty. The question of the need or otherwise of a local Navy sports fund, in lieu of a N.A.A.F.I. Canteen fund, is entirely a matter for my decision and I fail to see how it concerns the Government Naturalist. The Royal Navy has always appreciated the great kindness of the Falkland Islands to which the Government Naturalist refers, but it is not ~~always~~ altogether pleasant to be FORCED to rely on charity at all times, especially if it has to be asked for. I and those under my command take great exception to any suggestion that we should commence doing so now.

RBM

NOIC F.I.  
17-11-41.

Y/E. Remarks of G.N. and Noic submitted.

C. J. G.  
20/11/41

Let them settle their mutual differences or  
p.a.

Anyway the R.N. can do what it pleases  
& get what it needs without interference, so far as  
I can see, with the civilian markets.

AD 20/XI/41

N.O.C.  
Gov. Naturalist, No. XI. 41

to note.  
C. J. P. S.  
20/11/41

WCS. Noted. Rebels Note. P.A.  
21-11-41.

Summary of Fishing Investigations Dec. 1940/41. 9-11.

Y.E. (13)  
Submitted:  
R.A.  
J. S. P. A.  
6/3/42.

Letter from Commander R.B. Burton of 15/7/43. B.  
g.r.o.  
19. VIII. 43

No.

MINUTE.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute, the above Number and the date may be quoted.)

20th July, 19 38

From The Agricultural Adviser,

To The Honourable

The Colonial Secretary,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Stanley.

I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency the Governor recently asked me to look into the question of the possibility of a regular fish supply for Stanley.

Apparently there is some difficulty in securing fish at this time of year, which rather discourages private enterprise.

I could send two men who have had experience fishing to join the crew of the 'Alert' say once a week, and the catch if any, could be retailed to the Public at the jetty. It may be that the boat would have to go as far as Port Louis or Johnson's Harbour, but on the other hand, fish may be obtainable much closer to Stanley.

*Banker*  
Agricultural Adviser.

No.

MINUTE.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute, the above Number and the date may be quoted.)

9th August, 1938

From The Agricultural Adviser,

To The Honourable

Colonial Secretary,

Stanley.

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Confirming our telephone conversation of even date and reference my minute of 8th instant, I have to advise that I have arranged for Mr. R. Hirtle and a mate to go fishing, in order to endeavour to supply the people of Stanley with fish.

Mr. Hirtle who is an expert fisherman, has arranged for a boat of his own, and in the meantime he and his mate will be paid from the labour vote of the Agricultural Department, and a small allowance will be paid to him for the use of his nets.

The sale of the fish will be controlled by this department at the water jetty.

This is in the nature of an experiment to find out whether or not fish can be obtained in numbers at this time of year.

*Stanley*  
Agricultural Adviser.



No.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute, the above Number and the date may be quoted.)

MINUTE.

23rd September, 1938.

From The Agricultural Adviser,

To The Honourable

Agricultural Department,

The Colonial Secretary,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Stanley.

Confirming our recent telephone conversation in regard to a hut at Watt Cove which Mr. J. White alleges you presented to him, and which you pointed out to me was not correct, I have to advise that I have taken possession of it as instructed by you for the fishermen of the Agricultural Department. Please therefore let me have your endorsement of my action.

We have cleaned up the building, which after all is not of great monetary value, and have renovated it. So long as it is occupied by this Department the hut will be well cared for.

*B. A. Men*  
Agricultural Adviser.

(4)

C O P Y

22nd May, 1939.

M I N U T E .

From Stanley Common Ranger  
Stanley.

To The Agricultural Adviser,  
Stanley

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I beg to submit the following report on the Hut at Watt Cove:

For some months last year, Hirtle and Anderson were fitted up with boats etc, by this Department, also considerable work was put into this hut to make it fit to live in. The hut is Government property and I visited it on Saturday last and found that a fair amount of lining had been removed, and the door open. I arrived at the hut just behind R. Hirtle and Anderson. I asked them about the removal of lining and they informed me that James White had told them that he had taken the lining down to get a piece of tin from in behind the lining.

Signed - B. Fleuret

Stanley Common Ranger.

CAN.

Port Stanley,  
6th May, 1941.

Dr. J. E. Hamilton,  
Government Naturalist,  
Stanley.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the following request.

Will you, please, consider the possibility of allowing me the use of the Hut at Watt Cove, permission to repair and lock same, for the purpose of shelter and stowage of my nets and gear, for catching and supplying fish to residents in Stanley and the various ships stationed here?

I carried out this same work for Mr. Weir, during the winter months of 1938, as a full time job, being paid the usual labourer's rate of £2. 12. .6. per week, the Agricultural Department selling the fish.

In the event of my being granted permission to follow this occupation and to use the abovementioned Hut, I should like to have this arrangement revised as follows :

To be allowed to sell the fish caught as my own property, and on days unfit for fishing to be given work by the Government, or as an alternative for the Government to sell the fish, paying me the usual labourer's rate of £2. 12. 6. per week and allowing me a commission on the sale, as payment for the extra hours - i.e. day and night tides - that I should be obliged to work in order to make the above a paying concern.

As members of the public and ships stationed here have expressed their desire for fish, I should be grateful if one of the above arrangements could be made to enable me to follow this occupation during the coming winter season.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

R Hirtle

H.C.S.

I have received the attached letter from Mr. Robert Hirtle, who is an experienced fisherman.

I am in favour of granting this request in general and would add the following.

a. The lock fittings on the hut, whatever form is used, should be bolted through the appropriate timbers and secured with nuts on the inside, and the window adequately protected against breaking-in.

b. Mr. Hirtle should be allowed to sell all fish he may catch but I suggest that the question of part time employment is one for the P.W.D.

c. It should be a condition of the permit that at least half the weight of fish caught must be sold in the town.

d. Weekly report to be made to the Government Naturalist.

e. Mullet should be sold for a price not exceeding threepence per pound but other fish may be sold for what they will fetch.

f. Prices and other conditions of sale should be reviewed from time to time and altered as requisite.

verbal

*J. E. Hamilton*  
(J. E. Hamilton)  
Government Naturalist

13.V.41



(7)

Office of,  
The Naval Officer in Charge,  
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

7th November 1941.

No: E. 1/11.

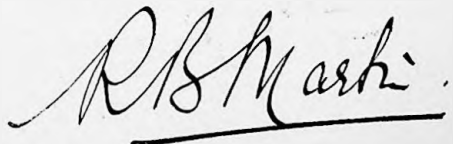
The Honourable Colonial Secretary,  
The Falkland Islands.

SUPPLY OF FRESH FISH FOR NAVAL PERSONNEL.

In view of the lack of local supplies, I am considering the possibility of supplying the Naval Personnel based on Stanley, approximately monthly, with fresh fish caught by Naval Craft whilst on patrol, using our own gear.

2. This fish would be issued free of charge and in order to raise funds for Sports, Concerts and various other amusements for the benefit of Naval Ratings, any surplus to be sold to the Public at a price to be decided on by the Competent Authority.

3. I should be extremely grateful if you would approach His Excellency as to his opinion.



COMMANDER, R.N.  
(Naval Officer in Charge)

H.C.S.

I cannot regard this proposal in its present form with any favour.

It is a matter of a very few weeks since the N.O. i.C. informed me of his intention to co-operate with my Department in order to establish a fish supply. I welcomed the idea and as a result ~~xxxx~~ Hirtle with my dingy and net went in Afterglow to Bougainville Creek where approximately 1300 lbs. of mullet were taken. The Navy, including the San Casto, took all the fish they wished and through my Department the public benefited to the extent of about 700 lbs. and I had no reason to think that there was any dissatisfaction on either side.

As you are aware I have been ~~xxxxxxx~~ trying for some time, with one assistant (Hirtle), to establish adequate fish supplies and have encountered difficulties. I do not consider that the investigations are nearly concluded, but I am convinced that the entry, as a competitor, of the Navy with all the resources at its command, will go far to abolish the chances of success and further that the effect on Hirtle, who is the only professional fisherman in the Colony, would be such that he would abandon fishing for what labourer's work he could find.

This suggestion gives the impression, I trust erroneous, of complete indifference to the interests of the Department most nearly concerned, one with which co-operation was established to the benefit of both parties.

My aim is to establish a permanent fishery which, even if small, is bound to benefit the Colony, and highly as I esteem the Royal Navy I cannot believe that competition with civilian enterprise is one of its functions.

I am unable to see what money is required here to run Sports and Concerts which have always been self supporting in the Falklands. Concerts have usually been "in aid of" something ~~and~~ another and have shown profit; it is also well known that one of the Colony's outstanding characteristics is an open handed and generous hospitality especially towards the Navy and I would suggest that the necessity for expenditure on amusements is therefore the less necessary.

I would state that nothing could be more helpful than a continuation of the original project of co-operation with my Department.

My I express the ~~xxxx~~ earnest hope that the present suggestion will be discouraged and that the scheme of co-operation will be permanently adopted.

*J. S. Hamilton*  
*J.S.*  
13. XI. 41

*One must assume that it is proposed to fish regularly & send regularly. Other passages are extremely few and far between. J.S.H.*

SUMMARY  
SYNOPSIS OF FISHING INVESTIGATIONS.  
DECEMBER, 1940, TO DECEMBER, 1941.

During the period October 1940 to April, 1941, continuous experiments were made, in Stanley Harbour, with a view to accumulating data as to the seasonal distribution of fish.

tried

From October to the end of January only fish traps were used and from February onwards gill nets of ~~two or three~~ different meshes were used. These had originally been rigged as drift nets and some modifications had to be made when using them as fixed nets and they were too deep for the water in which they were used; an interesting result of this was that there were caught small numbers of a "conch" (Cyambola) which is excellent eating.

Fish Traps. The traps were made of wire netting and were about 4 feet by 22 inches. They were baited with sheep liver or occasionally fish: of these the former was the most attractive. Fish taken in the traps were with a few exceptions Nototheniids.

L/

The principal exceptions being two species of the locally named "eels" (~~Platea~~ and ~~Austrolea~~ VCUS) Of the Nototheniids fish of about 3oz. weight and upwards are of usable size and most important species are Notothenia wiltoni and N. tessellata, the former was taken up to 18ozs. and the latter up to 9 - a third species N. macrocephala appeared in late summer - with probably a weight of 1lb. and is a particularly good table fish, even better than the other two.

03. in weight h  
It attains

The greatest weight taken in one day with three traps was 6lbs. 10ozs. The provisional conclusion as to this method is that although 2 traps would probably supply a house with what fish it needed, the number of traps necessary to catch Nototheniids even on a moderate ~~scale~~ but marketable scale would be considerable. My traps were made with iron rings and 1/2-inch wire netting walls and were comparatively expensive costing say 15/- each, but later patterns have been made, although not yet used, with fencing-wire rings, and these seem as strong as the others and are much cheaper. The walls might well be made of pieces of fish net no longer serviceable in other ways. A cheap fish trap is a desideratum since bad weather will so easily carry away the mark floats of the traps themselves, and in either case the trap is almost certainly lost. A great number of Nototheniids too small for use were caught but returned alive to the sea.

OK

hold

07 //

Nets: From February 1941 set nets were also used. The nets which became available were 6 drift nets of mesh varying from "sprat" size to "mackerel".  
Sprat Nets This was in use until the beginning of March. The species taken in it were "smelt" Austrom-~~XXXXX~~ enidea smitti and a herring (Clupea Magellanica) both of these excellent table fish.

lc /

lc /

Some damage resulted to the nets from the actions of (a) the weather, (b) motor boats driven by unobservant coxswains and (c) an immature sea lion. This animal was eventually shot and perhaps killed. A. smitti was taken approximately on two out of every three days while the nets were down. The largest was 1lb. and several were taken of about 1/2 lb. but the majority were considerably less, 1 1/2 - 2 ozs.

*lc /*  
Clupea magellanica: seen in small shoals from 2. XI. 40. to 15. 3. 41. and caught in the sprat net in very small numbers, it seems probable that the net was not in the course usually taken by the shoals. The few captured were about 1 oz. in weight: ~~of~~ this is the size of a medium sardine.

On December 82 lbs. of herring were secured by other methods ~~and they~~ were very popular. They were stated to be part of a vast shoal which appeared off Cape Pembroke.

*in ed*  
 A net of 1 1/2" mesh was used from February 14th to April 8th when the experiments were suspended. Elegnions was taken on 27~~th~~ of the 55 days. The largest catch amounting to 9 lbs. and the largest fish weighed about 1 1/2 lbs. The largest examples of A. smitti were caught in this net.

On July 18th experimental fishing was resumed on a larger scale. A sailing dinghy was bought and a local fisherman taken on at the local weekly wage, plus a bonus on fish caught to compensate for very irregular hours and as hardying money. This man is a Nova Scotian, born and brought up in a fishing family and had among other experiences seven seasons cod fishing on the Grand Banks of Newfoundland.

*net h*  
 He brought with him some nets of his own including 2 small trammels. The trammels were probably the most effective ~~nets~~; they were subsequently lost at sea

but are being replaced. Gill and seine nets have been in regular use ever since July. ~~The objects~~

*of his second phase*  
 The objects ~~have~~ <sup>of his second phase</sup> been primarily to increase the local consumption <sup>of fish</sup> for dietetic reasons by increasing opportunities for purchase but in addition it was expected that further data as to seasonal distribution would be acquired and that different methods of catching could be tested.

By the use of more extensive apparatus substantially increased ~~catches~~ catches have been made - of Elegnions <sup>in</sup> and Austromeniida. The former are sold at 3d. per lb., the latter were 6d. in the first place but this was reduced to 3d. when supplies increased.

Altogether 2061 lbs. of fish have been ~~caught~~ sold and thus after deducting the fisherman's bonus there was recovered £27. 15. of the £63 paid in wages up to December 27th. - last payment in 1941.

Actual figures are naturally not available but it is my opinion that the use of and demand for fish as an ordinary article of food has increased since last July and further, that saturation point has not been reached/



reached.

The open dinghy is much handicapped by the weather but it is hoped that arrangements ~~can~~<sup>will</sup> be made for the use of a decked vessel for this work and such arrangements should produce much better results. In this connection it may be remarked that in October an experimental arrangement was made with a small vessel making a journey to Berkeley Sound, about 30 miles, and that as a result almost 700 lbs. ~~was~~<sup>were secured and</sup> sold.

A ~~very~~ large fixed net working on the principal of the trap is in preparation with the intention of testing its efficiency for Elegnions, a creature of different habits from Notothenia.

Munidos: There are two species of this small, lobster like, ~~creature~~ which are ~~almost~~ abundant in the seas surrounding the Colony. A small catch of immature animals was made but ~~these~~ these, although excellent in aroma and flavour ~~they~~ proved to be too small in the meaty part to be eaten as shrimps. " " " The very much larger adults should be examined with a view to their utilization.

"Prawn" A report has just reached me of the appearance of considerable numbers of ~~what~~ a prawn. ~~Steps have been taken to secure it~~ it is hoped to secure specimens shortly.