

C.S.

<i>Scientific</i> ( <i>Research Whaling</i> )
No. <i>631/21</i>

S. of S. Des No 54

SUBJECT.

1921

18<sup>th</sup> May

Previous Paper.

Killer Whales.

Reduction of numbers of:

G.O. 238/20  
 G.O. 428/19. CS. 886/19

MINUTES.

S. of S. Despatch No 54 of 18<sup>th</sup> May 1921 Enclosed

H.E. the Governor,

Submitted.

2. C.S. 886/19 which contains S. of S. No. 96 of the 18th September 1919, is not at present in C.S.O. also recorded in G.O. 428/19.
3. G.O. 238/20 deals with the report of the Dependencies Committee
4. The enclosed despatch is referred to in S. of S. No. 66 in C.S. 637/21.

*W. Thompson*  
 A. C. S. 25/7/21.

H.E.S.

Will you please refer to Mr Binnie for any observations which he may wish to offer.

Subsequent Paper.

2. Will Mr Binnie at same time please report

*2/11/21*  
*15/10/25*  
*27/11/21*

what arrangements can be made at South Georgia  
for sending to British Museum skulls & flippers  
of killers & any of other smaller whales

for  
27/7/21

P.S. Papers must go later to Magistrate South Shetlands  
for with regard to arrangements for collection of specimens there.

Mr. Binnie,  
(Nag: Sth: Georgia)

For the favour of your report please and

W. Thompson  
A. C. S. 27/7/21.

Hon. Col. Secy.

The observation asked for in  
His Excellency's Minute of 27/7/21, I have made  
separately & attach hereto. Encl: (2)

E. W. B. Binnie  
29/7/21

H. E. the Governor

Submitted  
W. Thompson  
A. C. S. 29.7.21

H.E.S.

vide Mr Binnie please arrange for specimens of  
skulls & flippers & any other smaller whales to  
be sent to British Museum from South Georgia.

2. Papers therefore to go to Magistrate South  
Shetlands for any observations he may have to  
offer on correspondence & for suggestions with  
regard to furnishing specimens from S. Shetland for  
30/7/21.

C.S.O. No. 631/21

Inside Minute Paper.

Mr. Binnie,  
(Mag: Sth: Georgia)

Sheet No. 21.

Will you kindly comply with the instructions contained in His Excellency's minute, & please pass papers to Mr. Hamilton (Mag: Sth: Shetlands) for his report.

*A. C. S.*  
A. C. S. 30/7/21.

Hon. Col. Sec.

Notes accordingly.  
E. B. Binnie  
2/8/21.

Magistrate S. Shetlands.

Pass to you.  
E. B. Binnie  
Ag. Postmaster  
17 Aug. 1921

Hon. Col. Sec.

During the 1920-21 season I enquired as to possibility of industrial development of the smaller cetaceans of South Shetland, and was informed by various persons that it would not be profitable. Capt. T. Sinclair of Neke informed me that Killer whales give less than a ton of oil, "Bottlenose" if in good condition would ~~give~~ give a ton. "Minkie" (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*) is occasionally killed for meat, but none were taken last season.

I have seen only the first and last species and never in any numbers. The Killers 3 or 4 at a time, Minkie generally singly.

To my knowledge one and a half whales (both dead) were destroyed by the Killers. I consider that it never attacks uninjured whales and that there is no necessity for steps to be taken to reduce its numbers.

There should be no difficulty in acquiring specimens, as indicated by the British Museum, of these three species in S. Shetland but I suggest the payment of a bonus to each grunter.

should be made since the time  
occupied in making them would  
probably be occupied in making  
or at least hunting the more  
valuable species.

The bonus might be as high  
as £80 (£3-40) which is that for  
a fin whale. but two specimens of  
the killer should be taken since  
there are stated to be a "yellow" and  
a "white" variety.

The crews of the catchers would  
very probably expect a bonus also,  
but I am not aware to what ~~amount~~  
would amount, but I do not think  
to as much as the punners.

J. S. Hamilton,  
Stipendiary Magistrate  
South Shetland.  
18<sup>th</sup> Aug 1921

H.E. the Governor,

Submitted.

W. W. Thompson  
A. C. S. 18/8/21.

H.E.S.

Repts of N. Bismie & N. Hamilton  
can go on to Sqs & at same time  
Sqs can be informed the arrangements  
are being made for collections of specimens.

2. Mr Hamilton should today that he  
wishes to add to his report type  
transmission to Sqs. Then refer to  
Mr. Hamilton who should see the arrangements.

An. Made for collection of specimens in South Shetlands even though he may not visit dependency this year.

2. BONES may be paid as recommended presumably British Museum will refund

HTH

13 Sept 1921.

Mr. Hamilton,

Please see para. 2 above

HTH 14/9/21

Hon. Col. Sec.

Additional notes on minute here with pleasure. Encl 3

2. I shall attend to the matter of collection of specimens when the whalers come down at the beginning of the season.

J.H. Hamilton.

16/7/21.

M.H. Submitted.

2. I do not think that there is any doubt about the British Museum refunding the bones. The authorities have stated in ~~another~~ letter recently with reference to collections of sea lion skulls etc. that they would "of course" pay all reasonable expenses incurred.

HTH 19/9/21

Report can now be made to Secy. Adm. 19 Sept 1921

Y.B. Draft despatch submitted

ttttt 21/3/22  
28 Sept 1921.

Despatch to S. of S. No 82 of  
1st October 1921 . . . . . Enclosed

Y.B. Despatch submitted for favour of  
signature

ttttt 1/10/22  
10 Oct 1921.

Hon. Col. Sec.

During the past whaling season  
Mr. A.G. Bennett, Whaling Officer in  
South Shetland, secured a skeleton  
of the "Bottle-nose" of more waters  
(Berardius).

2/ The very large case containing  
it is now on the Public Jetty, may  
I forward it per Losada, through  
the Falkland Islands Company,  
3/ freight might be paid from  
the Contingencies but Head of  
my Department (XII. B. 3) ? (if not too  
great).

4/ I have had an address board  
made by the P.W.D.

J.R. Hamilton.  
Government Naturalist

13/5/22

S of S. Despatch No 67 of 13<sup>th</sup> June 1922 — Enc 2 (5)

Y.S.

Submitted.

The Govt. Naturalist might be asked to advise further on the scale of payments. He has already suggested £ 3.4 for the summer and suggested a payment to the crew. Perhaps a round sum to cover all payments would be the best; it could then be divided paid & presumed to the manager and divided in the usual ratio by him.

ttttt 21/8/22

Dr.

21 August 1922

Govt. Naturalist

Accounting

ttttt 22 Sep.

Hon. Col. Sec.

My suggestions herewith please (no 6).

Encl (6)

J. Hamilton.

Govt Naturalist.

7<sup>th</sup> Sept. 22

Draft despatch. attached

Am

9 Sept 1922

Despatch No 102 to Govt of 11 Sept. 1922 Incl. (7)

Copy to Magistrate S Georgia

Letter to Magistrate S. Georgia of 19 Sept. 1922 - Incl. (8)

Letter from Magistrate S. Georgia of 12 Dec 1923 - Incl. (9)

Government Naturalist.

For your observations.

M.H.B.  
12 Dec 20  
12 April 1923

Hon. Col. Sec.

My suggestion was that the crews of the catchers should be paid according to the rate for Fin Whales, if a given company pays a rate for Fin Whales different from another company, its own rate should be paid.

2. As to the suggestion at the end of Mr. Binnie's letter, I never supposed that catchers would go out for the express purpose of collecting the smaller cetacea, and the difficulty of estimating the proportion of the expenses on account of a specimen would be considerable.

Thus if a catcher had one Blue, two Fin and a Killer Whale I do not see how the share of the latter could be estimated.

3. It seems unlikely that the managers of factories would concern themselves with such small amounts.

J. Hamilton  
Govt. Naturalist  
21/4/23



V.E. Submitted  
G.H.G.  
O.S.C./C.S.O.  
23 April 1923

O.S.C./C.S.O.

Suggestions for rates of payment have been put  
before Trustees of B.M. & reply is awaited.

2. Question raised by Mr Benini in concluding  
para of his letter does not affect those companies  
who are willing to assist <sup>voluntarily</sup> but B.M. in  
collection of <sup>specimens of</sup> before whale: several companies  
are willing to assist voluntarily.

P.A.

GA.

24 April 1923

Death with  
M.M.P. 22/2/24  
G.B.

Telegram from Mr J.S. Hamilton of  
9<sup>th</sup> April 1924

~~10~~ 10

(1)

631/21

COPY.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 54.

DOWNING STREET,

18th May, 1921.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copy of correspondence with the whaling interests and the British Museum (Natural History), regarding the desirability of taking action to reduce the numbers of "killer whales" and a suggestion that a separate fishery should be established for the lesser species of whales.

2. I concur in the doubt expressed by the Trustees of the British Museum in their letter of the 14th January as to the practicability of pursuing the matter in present conditions but the question should be borne in mind and further information furnished from time to time as suggested by the British Museum.

3. I should be glad if you would give instructions with a view to complying, if possible, with the wishes of the Trustees as regards the sending home to the British Museum of skulls and flippers of "killers" or of any of the other smaller whales.

4. The specimens should be sent direct to the Natural History Museum: and it is assumed that the Trustees will be prepared to defray any reasonable expenses which may be incurred in this connexion, as in the case of the specimens of the skulls of Antarctic Seals and Sea Lions referred to in my predecessor's despatch No. 96 of the 18th September, 1919.

I have the honour to be,  
 Sir,  
 Your most obedient, humble servant  
 WINSTON S. CHURCHILL.

To Whaling Coys.  
22nd May, 1920.

From Salvesen & Co.  
22nd June.

From Assn/ Norwegian  
Whaling Coys.  
26th June.

From S. Whaling &  
Sealing Coy.  
26th Aug.

To Br. Museum  
21st Sept.

From " "  
14th Jan. 1921.

From S. Whaling &  
Sealing Coy.  
21st March.

To Br. Museum  
18th May.

GOVERNOR

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

COPY 24494/1920.

ENCLOSURE TO DESPATCH  
No. 574 OF 18 May

DOWNING STREET,

22nd May, 1920.

Sir,  
Gentlemen,

I am directed by Viscount Milner to invite your attention to paragraph 55 of the Report of the Interdepartmental Committee on Research and Development in the Dependencies of the Falkland Islands, in which it is suggested that "some destruction of the killers (which would yield oil and other products) might be desirable in the interests of the larger whales".

2. In this connection, Lord Milner is desirous of ascertaining the views of persons possessing practical experience of whaling operations in the Dependencies; and he would be much obliged if

(1) Your Association  
(2) & (3) you

would furnish him with an opinion whether some destruction of "killers" would (as suggested) benefit the larger whales, and whether the value of the oil and other products obtainable from the "killer" would repay capture. I am also to enquire whether

(1) Your Association  
(2) & (3) you

can throw any light on the question referred to in paragraph 55 of the Report whether the larger whales <sup>are</sup> frightened away from their feeding grounds by the arrival of a school of "killers".

3. It has been suggested that the whale catchers at present in use are not suitable for dealing with the "killer" bottle-nose and smaller whales, but that a separate fishery might perhaps be established for the lesser species. Lord Milner would also be glad to receive an expression of opinion on these points, and especially whether such a fishery, if

established, would offer any prospect of commercial success.  
I am, etc.,  
(Sgd) G. GRINDLE.

THE SECRETARY,  
ASSOCIATION OF NORWEGIAN  
WHALING COMPANIES.  
MESSRS CHR. SALVESEN AND COMPANY.  
SOUTHERN WHALING AND SEALING COMPANY.

COPY

CHR. SALVESEN & CO.,

29, Bernard Street,  
LEITH.

22nd June, 1920.

Sir,

"Killer Whales"

With reference to your letter No. 24494 of 22nd ult., we have the honour to inform you that we have had inquiries made regarding the above from various of our gunners who have served on whale catchers in the Dependencies. The results of these have now been received.

The "killers" are reported to be more numerous on the South Georgia whaling grounds than in the vicinity of the South Shetlands, where they are rarely seen. It is believed that they attack and kill, as their name implies, the larger whales of the finner type but especially right whales. Moreover, if a school of "killers" is on the feeding grounds, the gunners do not expect to find finner whales in the immediate neighbourhood. When tow-boats were employed, it was often found that the last whale of say 12 to 14 towed one behind the other from the stern would be more or less devoured by "killers"; no similar instance has ever been reported to us when whale carcasses have been towed to the station by the whale catchers. The whales when towed by the catchers are made fast alongside the boat. The use of tow-boats is not now allowed in the Dependencies.

The amount of oil obtainable from a large "killer" is roughly estimated at about a ton and would not repay capture. With a view to securing more precise information on this point, we have instructed our gunners at the Shetlands (North) to shoot "killers", if an opportunity offers, and a record will be kept of the amount of oil obtained.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,

COLONIAL OFFICE.

A

A reduction in the number of "killers" is certainly theoretically desirable but our gunners are agreed that while opportunities for shooting them occasionally arise, their pursuit would not result in the destruction of any appreciable number on account not only of their small size but also of their shyness and agility.

We do not consider that a smaller-whale fishery on the lines suggested in your letter would offer any prospects of commercial success.

We have etc.,

(Sgd) CHR. SALVENSEN & CO.

DEN NORSKE HVALFANGERFORENING.

The Association of Norwegian Whaling Companies.  
-----

Sandefjord, Norge.  
den 28th June, 1920.

Sir,

Your favour av 22d of May re destruction of the "killers" has been referred in the Association of Norwegian Whalers.

The Association of Whalers beg to give the following information:

The killer - grampus/norse: spekmugger/ - orca gladiator and orca minor - are to be found on all catching grounds where great whales are caught. It is however nowhere to be found in such a number that it has been considered a danger for the stock of whales which generally is caught by the whalers.

The grampus does attack bigger whales, and these do show visible signs of fear, when a school of grampus is approaching, but according to the experience of our whalers the tales of the depredations of the grampus and their number are very much exaggerated.

As to the grampus itself, it is exceedingly difficult to catch. It is easily scared and goes through the water with a tremendous speed. It has therefore never <sup>been</sup> thought worth catching by the norwegian whalers.

Fortunately it is also very scarce and the value of the products to be expected from it is very small. The layer of blubber on these animals is very thin, and it is not to be thought of to make the catch of these animals paying the expenses.

In the § 55 of the Report of the Interdepartmental Committee of Research and Development in the Dependencies of the Falkland Islands tells us, that probably the big  
whales

whales can be driven away from their feeding ground by these grampuses. This is not supposed to be possible, anyhow not to any considerable extent. As previously mentioned the grampus is not to be found in any considerable number in the waters of South Georgia and South Shetland, and when the big whales find abundant "åte" i.e. food, they are not very easily driven away. It is not to thought of that the big whales should be driven away by a school of grampuses from their feeding grounds for any long time.

Our whalers shoot them time to time with a rifle, and a lot of these animals have been killed in this way. The whalers are of opinion that the grampuses can not be caught with a harpoon.

We are etc.,  
PER DEN NORSKE HVALFANGERFORENING  
(Sgd) F.Paulsen.

COPY

THE SOUTHERN WHALING AND SEALING COMPANY, LTD.

Temporary Address:-  
A.18, Exchange Bldgs,  
LIVERPOOL.

Royal Liver Building,

Liverpool. 28th August, 1920.

The Under Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

Sir,

We have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 26th inst., (Ref.32499/1920) referring to "killer" Whales.

We sent a copy of your letter of the 22nd May to our Manager at Prince Olaf Harbour, South Georgia Island, and asked him to go into the matter thoroughly with our Harpooners. We will give you a copy of his report as soon as we hear from him.

We are of the opinion that the value of the Oil and other products obtainable from the "killer" would not repay capture.

We do not think the larger Whales are frightened away from their feeding grounds by the arrival of a school of "killers" though, of course, the "killer" is responsible for the mortality of a small percentage of Whales during the Season.

It is very doubtful whether a Fishery to deal solely with the lesser Whales would be really practicable.

We have etc.,

THE SOUTHERN WHALING AND SEALING CO., LTD.

(Sgd) A. CHARLES WATT.

GENERAL COMMERCIAL MANAGER.



COPY 42809/1920.

DOWNING STREET,

21st September, 1920.

Sir,

I am directed by Viscount Milner to transmit to you for your information, and for any observations that you may wish to offer, copies of the accompanying correspondence with various whaling companies regarding "killer whales" and the question of the desirability of establishing a separate fishery for dealing with the lesser species of whale.

To Whaling Cos.  
22.5.20.

Salvesen & Co.  
22.6.20.

Assn of Norwegian  
Whaling Cos.  
28.6.20

Southern Whaling  
& Sealing Co.  
28.8.20.

I am, etc.,

(Sgd) H.J. READ.

THE DIRECTOR,

BRITISH MUSEUM,

(NATURAL HISTORY).

COPY

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

Cromwell Road,

London, S.W.

14th January, 1921.

Sir,

With reference to Sir H.J.Read's letter No.42809/1920 of 21st September, 1920, and enclosure, I have to state, for the information of Viscount Milner, that the Trustees of the British Museum infer from the correspondence submitted that the depredations of "Killer Whales" are not at the present moment of great practical importance in relation to the Whaling industry of South Georgia and the South Shetlands. It seems doubtful whether it would be worth while, under present conditions, to engage in any extended operations with the object of reducing the numbers of these animals; but they would suggest that it is desirable to obtain further information on the subject, from time to time.

With regard to the desirability of establishing a separate "fishery" for dealing with the smaller kinds of whales, it would appear that the species in question are those known by the following names (a) Killer Whale, (b) Bottle-nosed Whale, (c) Pilot Whale, otherwise known as Caa'ing Whale or by the Norwegian name of Grindhval, (d) Lesser Rorqual, and possibly (e) Pigmy Right Whale. The Bottle-nosed Whales, of which more than one species is known to occur in Sub-Antarctic waters, differ from the Whalebone Whales and from the others indicated in the above list in the constitution of their oil, which has a close resemblance to Sperm-oil, and has a recognised commercial value. It seems very doubtful, however, whether it would pay the Whaling Companies to hunt these relatively small Whales (which probably do not greatly exceed a length of 30 feet) so long as the supply of Blue Whales and Fin Whales remains sufficiently

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,  
COLONIAL OFFICE, S.W.1.

sufficiently large to enable a profit to be made. If it is not worth while to hunt Bottle-nosed Whales, it is even more unlikely that it would be profitable to equip vessels for the pursuit of the other smaller kinds.

The Trustees note that it is proposed to capture a few "killers" experimentally. If this should be done they would welcome the opportunity of obtaining skulls and flippers of these or of any of the other smaller Whales. The flippers should be removed at the shoulder-joint, without damaging the bone, or sent with the shoulder-blade and they should reach the Museum entire, without having the skin removed.

A copy of Leaflet 161, bearing on the subject, is enclosed herewith.

I am, etc.,

(Sgd) S.F. HARMER.

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## DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

### OF THE

# “CAA'ING WHALE” AND OF “BOTTLE-NOSED WHALES.”

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#### 1. Caa'ing Whale (known also as “Pilot-Whale” or “Blackfish”).

This whale, which reaches a length of about twenty feet, is easily recognisable by the shape of its head, the length of its flippers and its colour. The head is remarkably swollen in front, where it is almost globular, with a very short “beak,” forming the tip of the upper jaw, but not projecting, or very slightly projecting, in front of the swollen part of the head.

The flippers are narrow and are much longer than in any other whale with which the Caa'ing Whale could be confused; their length exceeding three feet in adult specimens. The colour is black all over, except for a small amount of white on the under surface. About ten teeth, about half an inch thick,

are present on each side of each jaw. This whale is not a “Royal Fish” in Scotland and any carcass washed ashore in that part of the British Islands should not be buried at the expense of the Board of Trade.

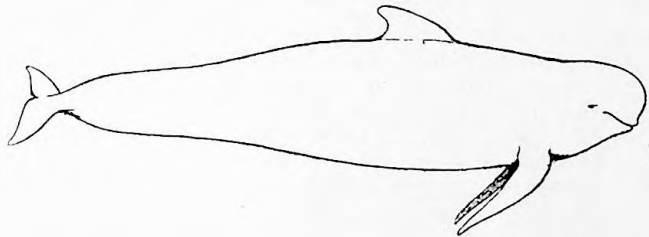


FIG. 1.—CAA'ING WHALE.

#### 2. Bottle-nosed Whale (or “Bottle-nose”).

This whale does not usually exceed a length of twenty-five feet. Old males, which, however, are very rarely met with in British waters, are larger, and may be as much as thirty feet long. The upper part of the head is swollen, but is less globular than in the “Caa'ing Whale.” In young specimens of either sex, and in females throughout life, it is comparatively little inflated; but in males it becomes more and more prominent as they grow older, and in old males it projects so much as to become almost vertical in front. The beak, which may be about six inches long, is a more distinct feature than in the Caa'ing Whale, from which the

Bottle-nose can easily be distinguished by three other characters:—(i) the flippers are small and short; (ii) the skin of the throat is marked by a pair of distinct grooves, forming a more or less  $\Lambda$ -shaped figure with the point in front; (iii) the jaws are not provided with a number of teeth, and usually appear to be quite toothless. A pair of fairly large teeth are, however, constantly present (occasionally two pairs) at the extreme front of the lower jaw, but they are in most cases completely concealed beneath the gum. In old specimens these teeth may project beyond the gums, particularly in old males. Some individuals show several very small and rudimentary teeth, which may project beyond the gums, further back in the lower jaw, or in the upper jaw.

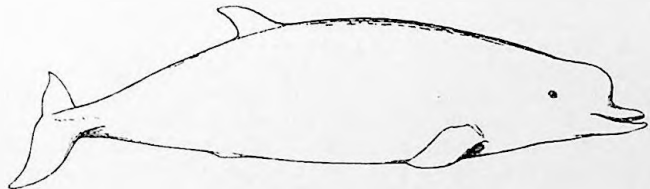


FIG. 2.—BOTTLE-NOSED WHALE.

The young Bottle-nosed Whale is said to be black, its colour becoming lighter with age; old individuals being almost yellow, with a greyish white belly, and sometimes with the

head and even the body quite white. Most specimens seem to be black or dark-coloured above, with a lighter belly. This whale is not a "Royal Fish" in Scotland and any carcass washed ashore in that part of the British Islands should not be buried at the expense of the Board of Trade.

### Other species which may be confused with the Bottle-nosed Whale.

The following three species, known in British waters, have a "Bottle-nosed" head more or less resembling that of a young specimen of the whale described above; and provided moreover with throat-grooves.

3. **Cuvier's Whale.**—This reaches about the same size as the Bottle-nosed Whale, but the characters by which it can be distinguished from it, in the living condition, are not well known. From evidence obtained by the British Museum (Natural History) there is some reason to believe that the position of the blow-hole gives a convenient means of distinguishing between the two species. It is merely necessary to measure (A) the entire length of the animal, (B) the distance of the blow-hole from the tip of the snout. In the Bottle-nosed Whale (A) appears to be from  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 7 times as long as (B), while in Cuvier's Whale (A) is from 8 to 10 times as long as (B). The beak seems to be less sharply marked off from the rest of the head than in the Bottle-nosed Whale, which it resembles in having two teeth at the extreme front end of the lower jaw. These are apparently concealed beneath the gum, throughout life, in females; but in old males they are large and thick, with a diameter of an inch or more, and they form very conspicuous objects, standing out beyond the gums. The colour seems to be variable, some specimens being dark above and light below, while others have the upper part of the head and of the back, as far as the back fin, quite white. This whale is probably mistaken, not infrequently, for the Bottle-nosed Whale.

4. **Sowerby's Whale.**—A smaller whale, seldom exceeding fifteen feet in length. Males, unless very young, can be recognised by the presence of a single large, tusk-like tooth projecting upwards, in each half of the lower jaw, at about the middle of the length of the mouth. Females have similar teeth concealed beneath the gum, and they thus appear to be toothless. The colour of the skin may be black all over, sometimes with white, irregular blotches, but some individuals have a good deal of white on the body.

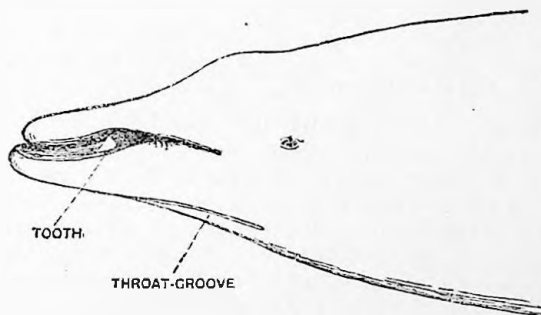


FIG. 3.—SOWERBY'S WHALE.

5. **True's Beaked Whale.**—A rare species, which seems to grow to a larger size (at least eighteen feet in length) than Sowerby's Whale. Its external appearance is not sufficiently known, but its most striking character is the position of the two teeth of the lower jaw, which are situated at the tip, as in the Bottle-nosed Whale. They appear to project beyond the gum in the old males, at least, and to be more flattened than those of the Bottle-nosed Whale; while in females they probably remain concealed throughout life, as in the species previously described.

Information regarding all three of these whales (3—5), and particularly True's Beaked Whale, is specially wanted by the British Museum (Natural History). Receivers of Wreck and Coast Guard Officers are requested to notify by telegram ("Nathismus Southken London") the stranding of any of these whales, and to complete and forward by post Form 136, supplied by the Museum, to the Keeper of Zoology, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7.

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

October, 1920

COPY

THE SOUTHERN WHALING AND SEALING COMPANY, LIMITED,

TEMPORARY ADDRESS,

A, 18, Exchange Bldgs,  
LIVERPOOL.

Royal Liver Building,  
Liverpool,

21st March, 1921.

The Under Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

Sir,

Your Ref. 24494/1920.

We have the honour to refer to your letter dated May 22nd 1920 which we duly acknowledged promising to obtain the views of the Manager at our Whaling Factory, South Georgia Island.

We give below a verbatim copy of his reply:-

"Killer Whales"

"No.1. As to the destruction of the killers. I quite agree that it would be of great interest of the larger whales".

"No.2. The presence of a school of killers will always frighten the whales away for a time but as soon as the killer has left, the whales will return.

"No.3. The killers and bottlenose do not exist in such great numbers in these waters, that a special fishery would have a commercial success

Our Whaling Manager is a Norwegian and you will observe that his English is a little peculiar but he makes his meaning quite clear.

If there is any further information you may require we shall be pleased, upon hearing from you, to endeavour to obtain the same for you.

We have, etc.,

THE SOUTHERN WHALING AND SEALING  
COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Sgd) A.CHARLES WATT.  
DIRECTOR.

in  
B.

13745/1921.

Downing Street,

18 May, 1921.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Churchill to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th January, regarding the questions which have arisen in connection with "Killer Whales" in the whaling grounds of the Dependencies, of the Falkland Islands, and to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a despatch which has been addressed to the Governor on the subject.

Gov. 18 May. 1921.

2. As regards the desire of the Trustees to receive specimens of the skulls and flippers of "Killers" or of any of the other smaller whales, Mr. Churchill will be glad to be informed that he is correct in his assumption that the Trustees will be prepared to defray reasonable expenses incurred in this connexion, as in the case of the specimens of skulls of Antarctic Seals and Sea Lions referred to

DIRECTOR,  
BRITISH MUSEUM,  
(NATURAL HISTORY).

in your letter of the 4th September 1919,

B.M.(N.H.) 1976/19.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(sd) *H. J. Read*





Honourable,

The Ag. Colonial Secretary.

In reply to His Excellency's Minute referring to the S.G.S. Despatch No. 54/18, I beg to submit my observations.

2. The Killer whale commonly known in Norwegian as the "Spekhugger" is not such a voracious animal as one is led to believe according to reports. From my experience and from reports received from the Masters of whale catchers in South Georgia; It is seldom that these so called "Killers" are known to attack live whales or even their young. If a whale is wounded they will come very quickly to the spot and, if allowed, will tear it to pieces. This is probably what becomes of whales that have been harpooned and either the Harpoon comes out or the rope breaks. Whale catchers towing whales to the station are generally followed by large numbers of these "Killers" who come alongside the whaler and strip the blubber off the whales, and have been known to take out the tongue, once they have tasted the blood they are not easily frightened away.
3. The Companies already licenced to catch whales and operating would not lose by taking a few occasionally, but for a new Coy. starting such an enterprise solely for the taking of the Killers in my opinion would not be repaid. The oil obtained from a Killer varies according to its size and condition, I would suggest from 6-10 barrels. It is not difficult for the present whale catchers to take Killers, though the Harpoon in present use is rather large however there are still Right whale guns and Harpoons in Norway which would I think be just what's needed.
4. The idea of the larger whales being frightened off at the approach of Killers. I think is a good deal imaginary.

5. With reference to the second paragraph of His Excellency's minute, I do not think there would be any great difficulty in obtaining such specimens as the British Museum would require. This could easily be arranged between the several Cos. operating, and the vessels taking the Oil cargoes to U.K. I am sure would not object to carry any such specimens.

*E. B. Binie*  
Ag. Col. Postmaster

29.7.21.

Additional notes on the Minke Whale (*Balaenoptera acutorost-rata*).

This species is common in South Shetland waters, occurring as far to the Southward as my observations extended, namely a little beyond 65 degrees. I saw a few specimens on nearly every occasion when I was out with the whale catchers; they were usually solitary, but on one occasion in Wilhelmina Bay there were five together.

The colour is dark yellowish brown, but whether this is due to the presence of diatoms or not I am unable to say since no specimens were taken during the 1920-21 season; the colour becomes lighter on the flanks. Apart from the small size this species is easily identified by its active movements and the rather large and sharply falcated dorsal fin, which has a bluntly rounded tip.

The period between each blow when the Minke is coming up at short intervals is about six seconds, the "blow" being very quick and the column of vapour thin and bushy.

This animal is very tame and shows no fear of the steam whalers.

*J.R. Hamilton*  
*Stipendary Magistrate*  
*South Shetland*  
*16<sup>th</sup> Sept 1921.*

(4)

631/21

FAIRLAND ISLANDS.

No. 85.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
STANLEY,

1st October, 1921.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 54, of the 19th of May, regarding the desirability of taking action to reduce the number of "killer whales" and to transmit copies of reports on the subject, which have been received from Mr. E. B. Pinnie, Magistrate of South Georgia and Mr. J. M. Hamilton, Magistrate of South Shetlands.

2. Instructions have been given for the collection, if circumstances permit, in South Georgia and South Shetlands of skulls and flippers of the smaller species of whales for the British Museum.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

J. Middleton,

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

W. L. S. CHURCHILL, M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

(5)

DUPLICATE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

NO. 67



DOWNING STREET,

13 June, 1922.

Sir, I am pleased to be the Trustee of the British

With reference to your despatch No. 83 of the 1st October, 1921 and connected correspondence, I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter from the British Museum (Natural History) on the subject of whaling operations in Southern Waters. 1st June 1922.

2. With regard to paragraph two I should be glad to be furnished with your observations on the proposed payments to be made to whalers for services rendered in accordance with the suggestion made by Mr. J.E. Hamilton in his report enclosed in your despatch under reference. I should also be glad if you would suggest some scale for such payments which could be submitted to the Trustees of the British Museum for their consideration.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

(Signed) WINSTON S. CHURCHILL

GOVERNOR,

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

etc., etc., etc.

Copy.

B.M.(N.H.)  
2104/22.

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY),

Cromwell Road,

London, S.W.

1st June 1922.

Sir,

I have submitted to the Trustees of the British Museum certain papers on the subject of Whaling Operations in Southern Waters, received from the Colonial Office since my letter of 31st October 1921.

2. With reference to the Memorandum 61149 of 11th January 1922, I am to inform you that the Trustees have received with pleasure the information furnished by the Governor of the Falkland Islands on the arrangements he has made for collecting the skulls and flippers of the smaller whales for the British Museum. They anticipate no difficulty in making such small payments as may appear reasonable to the crews of whalers, for services rendered, in accordance with the suggestion made by Mr. J. E. Hamilton, in his report. Should a suitable opportunity occur, it would be desirable to inform the Governor that the Trustees greatly appreciate the efforts which are being made in the Falkland Islands on behalf of the Museum. The opinion expressed in the Reports enclosed in the Memorandum, that the terror supposed to be inspired in the larger Cetacea by the presence of the Killer Whales has been exaggerated, is interesting and important.

3. In accordance with the understanding indicated in paragraph 2 of Sir G. Grindle's letter 54260/1921 of 30th January 1922, a letter has been written to the High Commissioner for the Union of South <sup>Africa</sup> on the subject of protecting

The Under Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office, S.W.1.

protecting Sperm Whales.

4. The Trustees do not suggest any immediate action with regard to floating factories at the South Shetland Islands, referred to in paragraph 4 of the same letter, but in accordance with their habitual attitude of discouraging the unnecessary destruction of animal life, they think it desirable to keep constantly in mind the possibility that the waste which is associated with the use of floating factories may at any time prove to be a matter of urgent importance, should the stock of whales show serious signs of diminishing. They hope that no increase of whaling operations will be permitted without very careful consideration and with the fullest power of curtailing the increased facilities at any time. The question of a possible diminution of Blue Whales is mentioned below, in paragraph 7.

5. It does not seem necessary to comment specially on the new Whaling Regulations (1921) forwarded with Memorandum 11416 of 23rd March 1922, except to express satisfaction that they include definite and, it may be hoped, effective provisions for reducing waste.

6. I regret that I have been unable at present to find time for making a proper study of the new figures (1920/21) for South Georgia contained in the enclosure to Sir G. Grindle's letter 61155/1921 of 5th January, or for analysing the Statistical Returns (South Georgia) for the same period which have been received at the Museum from the Falkland Islands direct.

7. A preliminary examination of the most recent figures tends, so far as it goes, to support the suggestion that the Blue Whale may have passed its maximum (see paragraph 6) of my letter 31st October 1921). Of a total consisting of 3,626 Fin Whales, Blue Whales, and Humpbacks

obtained

obtained off South Georgia in 1920/21, 73 per cent were Fin Whales, 24 per cent were Blue Whales and 3 per cent were Humpbacks. Since I first drew attention to this matter, in paragraph 2 of my letter of 1st June 1921, each new set of figures which has been available for testing my suggestion, that the Blue Whales may already have passed its maximum, has added something to its probability. The matter clearly requires careful watching.

8. It may be of interest to the Colonial Office to be informed that arrangements are being made with the representatives of African Whaling Companies by which the records received from South Africa should be considerably improved in future returns.

I am etc.,

(Sgd) S.F.Harmer.



(6)

631/21

Minute.

To. Hon. Colonial Secretary.

With reference to the scale of payments to crews of catchers who bring in specimens of the smaller Cetacea, I would suggest that the same bonuses as are payable by the factories for Fin Whales would be sufficient inducement.

2. In 1920 the Norwegian Whalers Association and Messrs. Salvason agreed on the following scale:-

Gunner-----	Kroner 80	80
Mate-----	do. 12	12
Cook-----	do. 12	12
Seaman(4) at	do. 9	36
First Engineer	do. 15	15
2nd do.	do. 12	12
Firemen(2) at	do. 9	<u>18</u>
		<u>Kr185</u>

3. The latest rate of exchange of which I have knowledge is at the rate of Kr.24=£1, and the normal is about 18'5; at the former the total cost would be £7:14:0 and at normal rate, £10.

4. I would therefore suggest that the whaling officer concerned might find out the current rate of bonus for Fin Whales and offer that sum, which it seems unlikely would exceed £10 per specimen.

The rate of bonus may have fallen since 1920 along with wages.

*J. Hamilton.*  
*Govt. Naturalist*  
*7/9/22*

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 102.

7  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

STANLEY,

11th September, 1922.

Sir,

*In duplicate.*

With reference to your despatch No. 67 of the 15th of June, I have the honour to transmit a minute from the Government Naturalist relative to the scale of payments to be made to whalers for services rendered in the collection of specimens of the smaller whales and to suggest for the consideration of the Trustees of the British Museum that the scale of payments should be the same as that for Fin Whales.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

J. Middleton.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

W. L. S. CHURCHILL, M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

8

651/21.

19th September,

22.

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to forward to you the attached copy of despatch No. 102 of the 11th September, together with an enclosure, relative to the scale of payments to be made to whalers for services rendered in the collection of specimens of the smaller whales, which has been addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. Henniker-Heaton,

Colonial Secretary.

E. B. Binnie, Esq.,  
Stipendiary Magistrate,  
SOUTH GEORGIA.

9



B.G. 34/22

The Magistrate's Office,  
South Georgia,  
12th. December 1922.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter with enclosures, 631/21 of 19th. September on the subject of the payment to crews of whale catchers for bringing in specimens of the smaller whales.

2. The scale of payments to the crews for the present season is as follows:

<u>Salvesan and Co.</u>	<u>Fin Whales.</u>	
Gunner	30	
Mates	10	
Engineers	12	
Asst.	10	
Stewards	8	
Sailors & P'men	8	(6)

<u>Southern whaling &amp; Seal.</u>		
Gunners	70	
Mates	12	
Engineers	12	
Assts.	7	
Stewards	7	
Sailors & P'men	7	(7)

Should there not be some consideration made for coal provisions, wear and tear ?

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Magistrate.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary,  
Stanley.