

C.S.

WHALING AND SEALING

1924.

No.

503/24

Col. Secretary,  
Grenada.

SUBJECT.

1924

14th April.

Previous Paper.

Request for particulars of Whaling  
Industry in Falklands.

## MINUTES.

*Letter from Col Secretary, Grenada**of 14th April 1924**Encl ①**Put up copies of Regulations and the Ordinance  
and of the Landing Certificate**ttttt 6 Aug. 24**of Gov. Naturalist**Will you kindly draw up a  
short note on the industry which can  
be forwarded by this mail with most  
particular reference to the aspects which  
require special vigilance to prevent  
abuse**ttttt**26 Sept 24*

Subsequent Paper.

*Hon C.S.**Two copies of notes attached. with two forms  
in current use**Al Semmes*



Y.S.

submitted that the laws and regulations  
be forwarded together with Mr. Bennett's  
notice. Grenada should also have a  
copy of the interdepartmental Report? but  
we cannot spare one? To support application  
of the S.I.?

~~Y.S.~~ 29 Sept. 24

H.S.

Laws regulation + note by Mr Bennett via Jamaica.  
2. Now are only 3 copies of interdepartmental Report one of  
which is being sent for you over via as you have not a copy.  
The other two copies should be returned to Jamaica but Grenada can  
ask Sqs for a copy. H.S.

29 Sept 1924

Letter to the Colonial Secretary Grenada, 1st Oct 1924 (3)  
Letter from Colonial Secretary Grenada of  
30th January 1925 - encl (4)



Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Grenada.

14th April, 1924 .

Sir,

Negotiations are being made by a Norwegian Company with this Government through the Secretary of State with a view to the establishment of a whaling industry at Grenada, and as the result of a recent visit of an expert to these waters it is likely that a trial of a floating factory will be made from January next.

2. The Secretary of State has intimated to the Company that the industry would be subject generally to regulations on the lines of the Falkland Islands regulations of the 17th October, 1921, a copy of which has been forwarded to me. May I ask you to be so good as to send me a copy of your whale Fishery Ordinance, and particulars of your latest duties and tariffs connected with the industry. I should greatly appreciate any information which you think might be useful in the introduction of the necessary measures for control of the operations.

I have the honour to be,

sir,

Your obedient servant,

Administrator.

The Honourable,

The Colonial Secretary,

FAKLAND ISLANDS.

503/24.

1st October, 24.

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor of the Falkland Islands to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 408 of the 14th of April, requesting information regarding the measures which have been established for the control of the whaling industry in the Falkland Islands and its Dependencies, and to enclose herewith copies of the laws and regulations relative to the industry together with a copy of a note by the Acting Government Naturalist on whaling generally. It is regretted that a copy of the report of the Interdepartmental Committee on Research and Development in the Dependencies is not available for sending, and I am to suggest that you should apply to the Secretary of State for a copy of this report.

2. With regard to the taxation borne by the industry, towards the end of 1919 the export duty on oil was increased from 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 1/6 a barrel in order to provide funds for Research and Development in the Dependencies and in 1920 the duty was further increased for the same object to 5/- a barrel. The full amount of duty collected at the rate of 5/- per barrel has, however, not been retained owing to the collapse of the market in 1920, and each year since then a

The Honourable

refund/

the Colonial Secretary.

Grenada.

refund of duty has been authorized by temporary legislation. It is now proposed to place the basis of refund on a permanent footing and a copy of an ordinance which has been drafted for this purpose is enclosed herewith. It is the practice to make the refund on the receipt of the landing certificate required under the Customs (Export) Regulations, 1923.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. Hemiker-Heaton.

Colonial Secretary.

bones etc,

is much clearer, the former suggests oil made under pressure, which can be made from any portion of the whale including blubber.

7. There should not be a penalty imposed for a breach of this clause as it is impossible to judge the length of a whale in the water. Calves are generally recognised by the small blow as only a small part of the body is shown when blowing.

I think the Falkland Islands Whaling Regulations of October 1921 might be advantageously adopted in any British Colony where whaling is carried on.

I remain, Sir,

Yours sincerely



Use a separate form for each whale.

Brug forskellig form enhver hval.

1. Date .....  
Datum. *Windy*
2. Condition of, weather and sea.....  
Tilstand av veiret og sjöen.  
*Windy*
3. Condition of ice .....  
Tilstand av isen.
4. Direction in which whales travelling .....  
Hvilken vei var hvaler reising?
5. Number in school .....  
Number av flok.
6. Position of catcher (approximate).....  
Tilnaermelig position av hvalbaad.
7. Distance from land (approximate).....  
Avstand fra landen.
8. Were whales captured male or female }  
Hvar hvalen er skudt om hun eller han }  
Blue .....  
Blaa .....  
Fin .....  
Finn .....  
Humpback .....  
Knöl .....

.....(Signature)  
Signatur.

Whaleboat "....."  
Hvalbaad.

*Supplies to the Gunner of whale-boats  
in pads of 50. English & Norwegian*

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STANLEY.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

26 September 1924.

Notes on Whaling generally.

The usual practice in this Colony for the proper supervision of whaling by floating factories, and to obviate abuse of the Regulations, is, for a Customs Officer, or Whaling Officer to be appointed for the season. In the case of more than one, the senior usually has Magisterial powers.

An allowance is paid to the Officer, and one to the ship for the board and lodging of the officer.

A harbour, and a good supply of fresh water is necessary for the ship's operations.

It depends on the capacity of the ship for work, as to what constitutes a working margin of whales beyond those used up at once. Deterioration of whales is most rapid, even in very cold water and is greatly increased with fatness, and by long towing after death. Much oil is lost through whales being stale, the resulting oil is often of inferior grade, apart from the smell of the operation.

As much of the whale's carcass as is possible must be used up quickly, and in a fresh state. The tendency is to discard the poorer portions as being less profitable. This is most likely to take place when whales are abundant.

If any part of a whale's carcass is abandoned it should be towed far to sea. Should the piece be very large it might become a danger to small steamers.

I presume that special attention would be necessary in the tropics to the frequent washing down of a ship, especially if near dwellings, once, or twice per day.

Floating factories discharge very large quantities of residues:—blubber, meats, bone, from the boilers. This could be probably used as a manure, and at once dug into the ground, otherwise if allowed

to



to be dropped overboard in the orthodox way would in a hot climate, and a very short time, render the shores of the harbour exceedingly offensive, polluting a large area.

As a result of whaling large numbers of sharks might be anticipated, they are attracted by the blood exuded by the towed whale. Sharks, I am informed, were so numerous in the warmer waters of Australia that entire dead whales were consumed in a night.

Female whales accompanied with a calf are not permitted to be shot. Whales are presumed to visit the warmer waters for the purpose of parturition, and may be either in the act, or just completed it. The condition of the mammary glands are not certain evidence, as these are sometimes active before the young are born. Post mortem abortion seems to be common.

I attach a catch declaration form as required in this Colony. Also a copy of a whale-boat report that was introduced two years ago. From this latter, apparently valuable information of whale movements have been obtained, both plotted on a chart, and in tabulated form.

*A. J. Bennett*

Ag Govt: Naturalist.

In case of reply please quote  
the following reference

No. 126



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Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Grenada.

30th January, 1925.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of and to thank you for your letter No. 503/24 of 1st October last, supplying this Government with information regarding the whale fishery in the Falkland Islands, and forwarding also the notes from the acting Government naturalist, the whole of which is much appreciated.

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

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. Ferguson".

Colonial Secretary.

The Honourable,

The Colonial Secretary,

Falkland Islands.