

C.S.

SCIENTIFIC	
No.	236/26.

1926.

H.E. the Governor.

SUBJECT.

1926

6th May. 1926

Previous Paper.

HAIR SEAL.

Notes regarding: made by Mr. J. E. Hamilton.

MINUTES.

Minute from H. E. the Governor of 6th May. 1926.

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Subsequent Paper.

Hair Seal.

Application to catch sea lions only should be made to The Honourable Colonial Secretary Stanley, Falkland Islands. (S.America).

A description should be given, so far as possible, of the outfit for catching and boiling down the seals.

It should be stated what parts of the seal are to be used- e.g. skins, blubber, carcasses, and with reference to the last, if they are to be used for oil only, or for guano as well.

It should be understood that any licence would probably be given as an annual one and that it would have strict conditions as to the sort and age-stage of the seal to be killed. It is likely that only fully grown males would be permitted, These animals weigh perhaps 1000 lbs.

It is likely that the general lines on which the sealing would be run would be the same as those of the Elephant Sealing in South Georgia perhaps with divisions of the ground.

If possible some of the hands should be engaged in the Falklands, and if a share-company is formed shares should be offered for sale in those islands.

No other sort of seal could be killed except the sea lions.

A full report of places worked, number of seals killed and the amounts of the different products would have to be made at the end of each season.

I consider that the best way to work the seal would be with boats from a small floating factory, which could move about from place to place, since a land station would be so far from some of the good catching places that it would mean a day's steaming to get from one to the other, and of course another day back.

/ The seal

The seal are found on most of the small islands, of which there are a great many all round the Falklands.

The full grown sea lions have very heavily made skulls so that it does not seem likely that they could be clubbed. It is therefore almost certain that they would have to be shot or lanced. In the old days lances were used a great deal.

Wounded seal usually make for the water, so it would be best to take gaff-hooks and small hand harpoons for catching them there. Their skin is very thick.



From His Excellency the Governor

to The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

These notes regarding Heli seal, which were prepared for me by Mr J. S. Hemmellton may be found useful if there is any development in production of seal oil.

SH
6 May 1926