

**SECRET** C.S.O.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(Formerly)

SUBJECT:

SEALING IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

(Albion Star)

1955	0
0 1 5 7/ I I	1
	5
	7/II

### CONNECTED FILES.

#### NUMBER AND YEAR.

120/26	Sealing F.I. Season 1925/26.
589/27	Grant of Licence to F.I. Sealing Co. Ltd.
75/35	F.I. and Dependencies Sealing Co.
10/44	Sealing in the Falklands enquiries from Mr. Rowe.
21/45	W.J. Hutchinson applies for licence to kill.
119/45	C.W. Bertrand " " " " "
0376	The Falklands and Dependencies Sealing Co. Ltd.
0497	Sealing - Enquiries by Couper Friend and Co.
D/28/47	Cia Argentine De Pesca-General.
D/9/57	Sealing & Fishing Coy K.S. Police-Butler.
1859	Proposals for competitive Sealing licences
D/8/57	Sealing Legislation
NOTE: D/3/60.	Albion Star

See files 1859 and  
D/9/57

for proposals regarding the future of the sealing industry  
in South Georgia and the Falkland Islands.

No further action should be taken on this file with  
regard to the Albion Star Company without reference to those  
papers.

(Intld.) A.G.D.T.

13.3.58.

14/IV new cover  
when action taken 2/12/58

CONFIDENTIAL

EXTRACTS FROM MINUTE FROM H.C.S. TO <sup>h</sup>X.E. of 29. 4. 55.

Y.E.

You will see from p. 108 on the attached file D/28/47 that Pierce-Butler is apparently proposing to apply for a sealing concession in the Falklands and Dependencies on behalf of Pesca.

The present position is therefore that we have two concerns considering sealing operations in these waters :-

1) Cia Argentina de Pesca.

P. 106  
0820.  
On 2nd December, 1954, you informed Pierce-Butler, in reply to an approach he made to you on the question of an exclusive sealing licence in the Falklands and Dependencies, that so far as you were aware no other exclusive licence or option had so far been actually issued to any other Company, and if the Compania Argentina de Pesca wanted such a licence, it should put forward proposals without delay.

2) Salvesens

.....  
Consequently and so far as I am aware we are committed to neither, morally or on paper. Assuming however that Salvesens are seriously considering the project - there appears to be no doubt whatsoever that we would prefer a sealing project under Salvesen to one operated by Ryan. The reasons are probably obvious but it is perhaps worth listing the principal factors as I see them -

- (i) Salvesens is a British registered Company. Salvesen himself is an able and, I imagine, influential man. The more British capital and financial influence we can get invested in the Falklands and Dependencies, the stronger our political and economic links with the U.K. become. The implications are clear.
- (ii) There would, in Salvesens case, be no international complications and a successful project would not only improve our financial position but it would probably result in an improvement in our communications with South Georgia, with the mainland and internally - without international complications.

On the other hand:-

- (i) A sealing project administered by Ryan in existing circumstances would inevitably lead to international problems and difficulties - difficulties that might be enhanced if they operate also in Dependencies waters. So long as Ryan is subject to Peronista pressure and manipulation it seems likely to me that it will in the end make very little difference where the sealing concern is registered. Certainly a new company would be preferable to a subsidiary of Pesca - but even then there would probably be political and economic implications.

In arguing along these lines, however, I am assuming that Ryan is not contemplating abandoning the Argentine since it appears that financially he is committed to the hilt in the Argentine - even though Pesca's financial position has improved. On this question of registration you will recall that when the question of registering Pesca in the Colony arose in 1950, the Foreign Office considered that such registration might be a mixed blessing (p. 43 on D/28/47 refers).

/Assuming



2.

- 2 -

Assuming then that both companies are seriously interested, and bearing in mind the danger of falling between two stools, it seems to me that we shall in any event, and before any final decision is taken with regard to the grant of a sealing licence, have to:-

- (i) Consult Executive Council
- (ii) Consult the Secretary of State
- (iii) If Pesca is involved - Foreign Office and the B.A. Embassy would have to be brought into the picture.

If you agree that it would be preferable to have Salvesens - ..... then I suggest that we take the following line with Pierce-Butler:-

- (i) There is another concern interested in a sealing licence in these waters, but we are at present under no commitment.
- (ii) Before a final decision were made - Executive Council and the Secretary of State would have to be consulted (irrespective as to who the applicant was).
- (iii) Before such consultations took place, it would be for the company to put up detailed proposals and full information on the project for Government's consideration.
- (iv) We are ready to give Pierce-Butler the relevant information regarding the law, licences, access to land and taxation (see Aide Memoire attached) on which he could base an official approach to Government.
- (v) We are not at the moment in a position to give a firm date by which a decision could be expected, assuming that proposals were submitted.

3-4

If Pierce-Butler gives us the impression that Ryan will still be interested, we should I think:-

- (a) advise Colonial Office demi-officially as to what is in the wind.
- (b) write to Salvesen .....

Finally, I assume Y.E. will be prepared to see Pierce-Butler.

(Intld) A.G.D.T.

29/4/55

Thank you.

I'll see him 11 a.m. Monday.

Pl. tell P.A.

(Intld) O.R.A.

30/4/55

Bjelland's Application for sealing Rights in  
the Falkland Islands and Dependencies excluding  
South Georgia. (References are to file 1607).

Original  
application

The application was submitted in November, 1953, and made the following points:-

- (1) Sealing operations would be conducted from floating factory with motor boats and seal carcasses would be utilised in their entirety.
- (2) Operations would be conducted in strict conformity with the sealing regulations and within zones as defined by Government.
- (3) The licence would be expected to cover all types of seals, with the exception of fur seals, with a maximum of 50,000 seals for the first year of which not more than 10,000 would be elephant seals and of which not more than 1,000 of such seals would be taken in the Falkland Islands. Not more than 10,000 sea-lions were to be taken in the Falkland Islands.
- (4) The Company, if formed, would require relief from taxation for the first two years of operation.

Taxation.

In January 1954 (folio 19) ~~the~~ Executive Council advised that the venture should be exempted from company tax for the first two years of operation but not export tax.

Note: (1) The sealing company, unless exempted, would be liable to the duties set out in Cap. 16, i.e. (duty assessed on the average market price per ton of seal oil for the season of first grade oil and at the rate of 6d. per barrel of 40 gallons for each £5 or part of £5, of such average market price). But the point has been made and confirmed by Sir Henry Webb (folio 42) that oil products produced outside territorial waters could not be taxed under the Customs Order (Vol. II, page 143). Sir Henry Webb advised that if Government desired to tax pelagic oil, then in drawing up an agreement for the company concerned a clause should be inserted which would ensure that tax was paid on seal oil and products produced outside territorial waters.

- (2) Company tax is at present at the rate of 3/6 in the pound and exemption could be granted under the provisions of section 90 of Cap. 32. Such exemption would, however, be subject to the approval of the Governor in Council.

Rights of  
Entry for  
Sealing  
Purposes.

Executive Council was advised in January, 1954, (folio 39) that the local position regarding the right of entry to private land for sealing purposes was as follows:-

Government or any person duly authorised by Government may enter on private land for the purpose of hunting taking and killing seals.

/The



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The only areas excluded from the above, apart from Gazetted seal reserves, are lands purchased prior to 1903 and these comprise:-

- (a) Lafonia and adjacent islands.
- (b) Certain Falkland Islands Company land North of Choiseul Sound.
- (c) Roy Cove.
- (d) Part of Pebble Island.
- (e) Compulsory purchase Grants made prior to 1903.

The compulsory purchase Grants comprise areas of approximately 160 acres sited in each Section of the Colony - such Sections being shown and numbered on the coloured map of the Colony.

For practical purposes therefore it could be said that there is a right of entry on to all land for sealing purposes other than those listed in (a), (b), (c) & (d).

The authority is contained in Section 21 of the Land Ordinance 1903 and Section 28 (2) of the Land Ordinance, 1949.

Licences.

A draft licence was prepared and is filed at folio 25.

A. 9.7.5  
29/4.



CONFIDENTIAL

RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR  
AND LIEUT. COLONEL K. S. PIERCE-BUTLER AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
ON THE 2ND MAY, 1955.

Lt. Col. Pierce-Butler informed His Excellency that acting on instructions from Mr. Ryan, the Chairman of the Compania Argentina de Pesca, he intended to submit a formal application to Government for the sole sealing rights in the waters of the Falkland Islands and the Dependencies (excluding South Georgia). He stated it was the intention that the application should be made by the Albion Star Company Limited of Gibraltar but as an alternative, and if Government so desired, his principals would be prepared to form a separate company registered in the Falkland Islands.

Lt. Col. Pierce-Butler went on to explain that if the company was granted the concession it would build a sealing factory ship which would be operated in company with two smaller sealing vessels. The company was anxious to proceed with the construction of the sealing factory ship as soon as possible.

His Excellency informed Lt. Col. Pierce-Butler that another concern was interested in developing the sealing industry in the Falkland Islands and Dependencies and if Lt. Col. Pierce-Butler submitted a formal application it would be considered together with the proposals made by any other interested concern.

His Excellency made it clear that Government was in no position at the present time to enter into any firm commitment but would give serious and early consideration to any formal proposals that might be submitted.

Lt. Col. Pierce-Butler was also advised that any sealing concession would be subject to existing rights (particularly those of the Falkland Islands Company in Laetonia).

Lt. Col. Pierce-Butler advised His Excellency that he would submit formal proposals accordingly and said that he quite understood that no immediate decision could be made.

In the course of discussion Lt. Col. Pierce-Butler indicated that it was the intention of the Compania Argentina de Pesca to transfer control of its whaling assets to the United Kingdom or Gibraltar.

A.171  
7/5  
7/5



(Original returned to H.C.S.)

.....  
I wired you about Butler. Pesca wants to take on the Bjelland sealing venture including the Falkland Islands and either form a local company or run it with a subsidiary Gibraltarian Company. They would operate a factory ship and two catchers and not a land station & would use Lithuanians & Poles from Argentine - not locals.

I advised him to proceed with his plan to visit the Colony as there will be many points coming up which could best be discussed orally.

I told him

.....  
(b) As regards Bjelland's scheme for the rest of the Dependencies we had supported this in principle but we (in actual fact S/S) required further details of the operations which Bjelland had not supplied. I said the field was still clear as Bjelland had withdrawn.

(c) As regards F.I. that he might have difficulty in muscling in there & anyway the F.I.C. were very largely concerned owing to their exclusive LaFonia rights.

My opinion on Butler's proposals are

(a) That Pesca is an old established firm in the Dependencies & they have always behaved very properly and have been helpful to us.

(b) The scheme to exploit seals in the rest of the Dependencies can only be good for revenue & sovereignty.

(c) If, as Butler hinted, Ryan would eventually try and transfer the Pesca Company to the new Company (which will be British) this will help weaken Argentine claims to any part of S. Georgia.

(d) The scheme which proposes to make the fullest use of carcasses is progressive & should be encouraged.

The stumbling block in the F.I. is Salvesen's intention to play at Albemarle. He has in my opinion an implied first refusal for an exclusive licence in the Colony as a result of his discussions with H.E. I think he should be asked to make up his mind before anyone else enters the field or he will accuse us again of chicanery. Personally I think a factory ship employing foreigners is much more preferable than a shore station employing locals - & F.I.C. may think so too.

.....  
(Sgd) Yours

Colin.



34  
357

THE ALBION STAR COMPANY LIMITED,  
GIBRALTAR,  
c/o Messrs. Wm. Brandt's Sons & Co.Ltd.,  
36 Fenchurch Street,  
London.  
4th May, 1955.

The Honourable,  
The Colonial Secretary,  
Port Stanley,  
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to apply for a licence under the Seal Fisheries (Consolidation) Ordinance 1921, granting this Company the sole rights to take Elephant Seals and Sea Lions from the Falkland Islands and their Dependencies, with the exception of certain areas of the Falkland Islands, the owners of which also hold the sealing rights, and the island of South Georgia. I have to request that this Company shall be permitted to retain the licence for a period of 15 years from the date of it's issue.

I am to request that the licence shall include permission to take the following number of seals annually :-

Falkland Islands.....1,000 Elephant Seals.  
10,000 Sea Lions.  
The Dependencies  
(excluding South  
Georgia).....10,000 Elephant Seals.

I am to state that provided this Company is granted the above mentioned licence, it is our intention to carry out sealing operations using a floating factory ship of about 3,000 gross registered tons and two seal catchers, each of about 200 gross registered tons. These ships would operate along the coasts of the Falkland Islands and the islands and territories within the Dependencies, the seal would be taken from the beaches and processed on board the floating factory ship. Full utilization would be made of all carcasses and the main products would be Seal Oil and Meat and Bone Meal.

It is appreciated by the Company that as regards to export duties on such products, the floating factory ship would be liable to similar taxation as a land station and the Company would be prepared, as a condition of the grant of the licence, to enter into an agreement with Government to that effect.

The Company agrees to provide food and accomodation on board the floating factory ship or the seal catchers for a Government Sealing Inspector and to make available for him all information he may require regarding the catch and production.

This Company would also approach the Falkland Islands Company requesting permission to carry out sealing operations in the Lafonia area of the Falkland Islands as defined in Crown Grant No. 134 of 28th September, 1859 and any other private

Reply at 9

3d. Vol. laws.  
Page 547  
Vol. I.



2.

company which also holds the sealing rights to their lands in the Falkland Islands. The total number of seals taken, however, would not exceed those mentioned above.

I am to state that this Company would employ British or Norwegian labour on board the floating factory ship and the seal catchers and would not employ local Falkland Islands labour except with Government's approval.

In the event of my Company being granted the licence, it is also our intention to investigate the practicability of operating an industry recovering and processing kelp for export and we feel that this may be of some interest to you. We would also be prepared to undertake a census of the Fur Seal population in the Falkland Islands and Dependencies, at our own expense during the sealing operations.

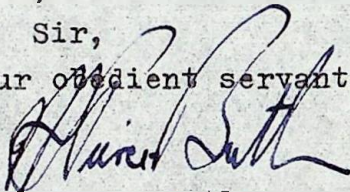
If Government consider it advisable to transfer this Company from Gibraltar to the Falkland Islands or to register a new company locally in order to obtain the above mentioned licence I am to say that we would be quite prepared to do this.

Finally I am to state that my Company is prepared to assist the Colony as regards the transport of personnel, stores and mail if it is so required, during the voyages to and from Europe of any of the Company's ships.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

  
K.S. Pierce-Butler.  
Managing Director,  
The Albion Star Co. Ltd.



5th May,

55.

Sir,

7-8 ~~34~~ ~~35~~ I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 4th of May, 1955, on the subject of a sealing licence for the Falkland Islands and Dependencies and to inform you that the matter is receiving attention and a further communication will be addressed to you in due course.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(340) A. C. Denton-Thompson

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Lt. Col. K.S. Pierce-Butler,  
Managing Director,  
The Albion Star Company, Ltd.,  
STANLEY.

JB/VP



J. E.

~~38~~ 10

- 1). A draft record of your discussion with Butler is on back cover for your review.
- 2). I will put this on your working list for London - you will no doubt wish to discuss the whole matter with the C.O. when you have seen Salomon.

A. G. T.  
5/5.

Thank you. Very good. PC. set Lt. B. to agree to  
the draft record. DAA 5-

LT. COL. PIERCE-BUTLER.

Open

c/o William Brandt's Sons & Company Ltd.,  
36, Fenchurch Street,  
LONDON, E.C.4.

Private.

c/o Lloyds Bank Ltd.,  
40 Victoria Street.



Original filed in 0157 -  
Sealing in the Falklands.

Brief No. 8.

Copy in 0762/II - H.E.'s visits  
to U. Kingdom.

SEALING.

Compania Argentina de Pesca.

On the 2nd of December, 1954, Col. Pierce-Butler in reply to an approach he made to the Governor on the question of an exclusive sealing licence in the Falkland Islands and Dependencies was advised that no other exclusive licence or option had at that stage been actually issued to any other Company. Col. Pierce-Butler was told that if the Compania Argentina de Pesca wanted such a licence it should put forward proposals without delay.

Salvesen.

On the 12th of December, 1954, the Governor advised Salvesen that if he wished to put forward proposals for a sealing project he would be assured of fair treatment. Subsequently on the 15th December, Captain Salvesen wrote to the Governor saying that he was interested in the possibilities.

A copy of the record of the discussions between the Governor and Col. Pierce-Butler which was held at Government House on the 2nd of May, 1955, is attached to this note. The original was approved by the Governor and initialled by both Col. Pierce-Butler and the Colonial Secretary.

Also attached to this note is a copy of Pierce-Butler's firm application (which is in the name of the Albion Star Company of Gibraltar) for a licence under the Seal Fisheries (Consolidation) Ordinance, 1921. This has been acknowledged with an intimation that the matter was receiving attention. Captain Salvesen was advised in a letter dated the 6th of May, 1955, that there was a rival in the field and it was suggested that a meeting might be arranged between Captain Salvesen and the Governor.

The present position therefore is that both Pierce-Butler and Captain Salvesen are aware of the fact that another interested party is in the field but neither of them have been told who that party is. Doubtless, however, they have this information.

It has been agreed on the files that the Colonial Office should be consulted with regard to these applications and the implications of Ryan's organisation working in the Falklands should be fully considered with Colonial Office officials and no doubt the Foreign Office.

For your information the addresses of the two principals in the matter are as follows:-

Captain Salvesen,  
29, Bernard Street,  
Leith,  
SCOTLAND.

/Lt.



Lt. Col. K.S. Pierce-Butler,  
c/o William Brandt's Sons & Company, Limited,  
36, Fenchurch Street,  
LONDON, E.C.4.

There are two further points. As far as can be ascertained the Albion Star Company are seriously interested and concerned. On the other hand, there is nothing to show as yet that Captain Salvesen has really approached the stage of making definite proposals and there might be some doubt as to whether in fact he is really seriously interested. From the files it seems that the Albion Star Company has the advantage of wishing to start and start soon and the disadvantage of Argentinian connections. Salvesen probably has the advantage of a more efficient and experienced organisation but does not appear to be quite so interested at the present stage. Secondly the choice as to whether the new "Pesca" Company should be registered in Gibraltar or in Stanley has been left very largely to Government and Col. Pierce-Butler has intimated (see record of discussion) that if the Government so wished his principals would be willing to register in Stanley. In this connexion it will be recalled that when the question of registering Pesca in the Colony arose in 1950, the Foreign Office at that time considered that such registration might be a mixed blessing on the grounds that the registration of a former Argentinian company in the Falkland Islands might provoke the Argentinian authorities to adopt an even more intractable attitude towards your assets than they were doing at that time and this might lead to international complications. It should be noted that this aspect does not apparently worry Pierce-Butler or you and on balance I can see no particular objections to allowing the registration of the new company, if it gets the concession, to stand with the Albion Star Company of Gibraltar. This aspect might be considered with the Colonial Office.

The next move, if the Colonial Office see no objection, is for concrete proposals from both sides (assuming Salvesen makes such proposals) to be submitted to Executive Council for a decision as to which company gets the concession.

43 un

D/28/47



EXTRACT FROM TELEGRAM FROM H.E. THE GOVERNOR THRO' FOREIGN  
OFFICE OF 16. 8. 55.

(Original filed in 0762/II - Visits of H.E. the Governor).

No. 90.    Confidential.

.....  
*Salvesen not interested in sealing rights next few years.*  
Have told Pesca that if they want exclusive rights they  
must make offer of money. Mere officer to pay duties  
which must be done in any case is not good enough.  
.....

X

N.F.A. I have written on X .....

(Intld) A.G.D.T.

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

15

0157

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR

Despatched: 27.8.55 Time: 1130 Received: 27.8.55 Time: 1130

No. 96. Sealing.

Application received from new company called The Albion Star Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of Compania Argentina de Pesca for exclusive licence to undertake pelagic sealing in Falkland Islands and their Dependencies. Company offers £300 per annum as fee for exclusive rights.

2. Company have requested licence to cover following:-

- (1) Falkland Islands 1,000 elephant seal, 9,000 sea lions
- (2) South Georgia 6,000 elephant seal,
- (3) Dependencies other than South Georgia 10,000 elephant seal

3. Scientific Adviser favours (1) and (2) but not (3) which is considered to be biologically undesirable. Company have been informed and have asked whether in lieu of quota elephant seals in Dependencies other than South Georgia quota for latter could be increased to 8,000 or 9,000 elephant. Pending survey however increase of South Georgia quota not advised.

4. Matter discussed with Governor who suggest licence might be given for South Georgia to cover 6,000 elephant seal with understanding this might be increased if survey which F.I.D.S. might undertake showed this to be desirable. Grateful for your observations.

SECRETARY OF STATE

17  
See 44.0  
Reply at 45 18

G.T.C. V.P., D.R.M., W.H.  
TYPED: I.R.



7. H.

15

14

~~43~~ (we are informed at ~~42~~ that Salvages are not interested so this leaves Albion Star as the only starter).

2. I see no objections to the proposal in para. 4 although Deepins has told me that it will be 2 or 3 years before the results of a survey are known. A biologist and assistant would be required.
3. A report on the last survey by Laws is at 1-36 in D/2/52 attached. The South Georgia kiler is restricted up to and including 1956, to 6,000 a year. After that, it may be possible, subject to a survey, to increase the number to 9,000 (page 36 of Laws Report).
4. Pesca, the parent company of Albion Star, have been granted a licence for the 1956/57 season in South Georgia (they have held it annually since 1910). I assume Pesca would relinquish their licence to the subsidiary Albion Star unless the latter are unable to commence operations until a later year.
5. Draft reply submitted at 6.0.

C.S.

T/L. speaks.

29/7/57

5/9.

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

17  
~~14~~

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR

Despatched : 14.9.55      Time : 1756      Received 15.9.55      Time : 0900

15

112

No.107.    My telegram No.96 Sealing.    I shall be grateful for an early  
reply.

SECRETARY OF STATE

F/L  
IR



DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

18 ~~45~~

From GOVERNOR to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Despatched: 16.9.55. Time: Received: Time:

DRAFT

No. 147 Your telegram No, 96. Sealing.

15

Matter has been discussed by Executive Council and proposal is welcomed. [I am advised however that sealing licence granted to South Atlantic Sealing Company for fifteen years with effect from 1st August, 1950, is still technically in force. Licence however is not transferable and is subject to cancellation upon breach of any of conditions. Company is of course no longer operating and in any event annual licence fees are now heavily in arrears. Consequently it is proposed to cancel the licence but I should be grateful if C. D. C. may be given prior warning of our intention. Now that Salvesen is no longer interested I can see no prospect of any other concern taking over Albemarle

Comments on details of Albion Star's application are as follows:

(1) Falkland Islands. No objection to number proposed but in order to avoid subsequent misunderstanding I think it desirable that although company is aware of them, reference should be made in official correspondence at this stage to following general reservations and factors to which licence would be subject:-

- (a) Sealing in Lafonia, adjacent islands and certain areas north of Choiseul Sound would be subject to agreement between operating company and Falkland Islands Company.
- (b) Similar reservations would have to be made in the case of certain other areas which are known to the company but which should not present any major difficulties.
- (c) Operating company would have to undertake not to employ local Falkland Island labour without prior authority from Government. This condition is essential in view of labour shortage and further deterioration in labour supply to farms would have

serious/

Reply at 32

[I] extended  
to 409 m  
04 97 | III

168 in  
04 97 | III

G.T.C.



76  
19

serious repercussions on basic economy. It is however understood that the company intends to employ British and Scandinavian personnel.

- (2) South Georgia. It is agreed that South Georgia sealing should be restricted to 6,000 on the understanding that F.I.D.S. would endeavour to arrange a survey and that the number would be increased above 6,000 if survey results rendered such increase desirable. It is assumed that if necessary parent company would relinquish to Albion Star the licence granted for South Georgia in respect of 1956/57 season.
- (3) Dependencies other than South Georgia. I note that Scientific Adviser regards 10,000 elephant seal as biologically undesirable. I should be glad to know whether his objection extends to all sealing or whether an interim and more moderate figure, say 2,000 or 3,000 per annum would be equally undesirable assuming that a number of this order would constitute economic proposition. If a more moderate number were permissible and consequently company operated in other dependencies it might prove possible and desirable for seal survey in South Georgia to be extended as a long-term measure and in conjunction with F.I.D.S. to cover wider area in Dependencies. I should in any event be glad of Scientific Adviser's views on practicability and implications of extending the scope of the survey in due course.
- (4) Taxation. Licence would include a clause to the effect that pelagic sealing would be liable to similar taxation as in the case of a land-based station. Alternatively this might form subject of separate agreement. Company recognise and accept this reservation.
- (5) Duration. In earlier correspondence company proposed that duration of exclusive licence should be 15 years. This is acceptable.
- (6) Proposed fee of £300 per annum in consideration of exclusive licence is acceptable.
- (7) Albion Star Company should transfer its registration to Stanley. In view of revenue aspects considerable importance is attached to this condition which I understand is acceptable to the Company.
- (8) Draft licence is being prepared and will be forwarded for consideration.

2/3.

O—A—G.



R.S.

You receive this file in connexion with (8) at the foot of 19

*b*  
20/  
5.

Hon. Col. Sec.,

We spoke. Draft Colony and South Georgia sealing licences submitted in <sup>triplicate</sup> ~~duplicate~~, pl.

2. Colony licence:

- (a) 16 of the new licence replaces 14 of the existing licence, to which in my opinion the licensee could quite rightly object on account of the ~~Sealing~~ Fishery Officer being placed in the position of supervising all operations
- (b) 7, 10, 12, 18 and 19 are additional to those contained in the existing licence.

No. (c) Should 12 of the existing licence be retained?

(d) 18, "Colonial Treasurer" or "Collector of Customs"?

3. South Georgia licence:

(a) 5. As South Georgia is divided into Sealing Divisions and apparently the number of seal taken from each Division, varies annually, I thought it advisable to leave the number to be taken from each Division to the discretion of the Administrative Officer. I understand one Division is rested each season.

(b) 8. I am not certain whether the word to be used should be "rookery" or "Sealing Division" in this instance.

(c) 14 may not now be necessary?

(d) 16 "Colonial Treasurer" or "Collector of Customs"?

J.B.  
Registrar  
21. ix. 55.



Y. H.

As I'm awfully bogged down with C.D.S.W.,  
surgery & local "bumps" I wonder whether you  
would mind looking at the draft licences at 64.  
(then should go in the next mail leaving on the 8<sup>th</sup> Oct?)  
Existing Pesca licences are at 64 a.b. & c. We're  
receiving in due course from the A.O. copies of the  
licences issued for 1955.

As regards Sect 5 of the South Georgia licence,  
the number of seals to be taken from each  
Division is laid down at 38 in D/2/52 but  
only up to and including the 1956 season. The  
reason for the taking of tests (Surv 14) was to enable  
an assessment to be made as to whether the herds  
were increasing - pages 35 & 36 of O'Leary's Report in  
D/2/52 refer. The tests are sent to D<sup>r</sup> Jacks - 55  
in D/2/53 refers. There is a letter at 59 in D/2/52  
from the A.O. - apparently he saw O'Leary in  
England.

We do not know when Albion Star propose to  
start operations - it is unlikely to be during the  
1956 season in which case Pesca will presumably  
continue. Whether Pesca or Albion Star operate  
in 1957, the number of seals taken from each  
Division must be decided. I suggest that  
D<sup>r</sup> Jacks be asked for his views and that the  
A.O. be informed of the action taken.

SI. 2819

Could I have this  
back immediately  
on return pl. *llh/7/11/4*

Hon. Col. Sec.,

H. H. spoke. Re. drafted licences submitted, pl.

H. B.  
Registrar  
13.x.55.

Y. H.

Re. submitted



22

C.S.

I think we have now narrowed  
down the outstanding points - one or two  
remain and I should like to discuss with  
you and the Registrar as soon as convenient.

C.G. 7/7  
17/4.

Discussed. Draft licence set  
to R.S.C. for amendment on lines agreed.

P. 11/10



FAULKLAND ISLANDS.SAVING TELEGRAM.

From: The Officer Administering the Government.

To: The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Date: 24th October, 1955.

No. 154. COLONY. CONFIDENTIAL.

18  
My telegram No. 147. Albion Star Company.

6-28  
I enclose copies of the proposed Sealing Licences in draft form and I should be grateful if your Scientific Adviser's comments on the terms and conditions set out in these Licences may be obtained. In particular I should be glad of his views on the following specific points:-

(i) Sections 7 and 9 of the Colony Licence and Section 8 of the Dependencies Licence.

The killing of seals has, under the provisions of these Sections, been confined to Sea Lions of 72 or more inches in length and the Elephant Seals of 135 inches or more in length. I should be glad to know whether these specifications conform with your Scientific Adviser's views.

(ii) Sections 8 and 11 of the Colony Licence and Section 9 of the Dependencies Licence.

There is reason to suppose that the reservation that at least 10% of the adult male seals shall be left alive at each rookery requires closer definition, inasmuch as it can be interpreted in such a way as to permit a progressive reduction of the original 10% left alive on the occasion of the first visit to a rookery in the course of a second or subsequent visits to the same rookery. Consequently I shall be glad of advice as to whether the draft proviso adequately safeguards the position.

See 37

OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.



24

DRAFT.

COLONY OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS  
SEALING LICENCE.

A licence under section 5 of the Seal Fishery Ordinance (Cap.62), is hereby granted to the Albion Star Company, Limited, (hereinafter referred to as the licensee) to take seals mentioned herein and subject to the following terms and conditions:-

1. This licence shall be in force for fifteen years from the                      day of                      , 195 , and shall be an exclusive licence for the Falkland Islands, except those areas specified in the Schedule hereto, so long as it remains valid.

2. An annual Licence Fee of ~~1200~~                      shall be paid in advance to the Colonial Treasurer on the                      day of                      in each year.

3. This licence shall be valid in the Falkland Islands, except those areas specified in the Schedule hereto, for the taking of sea lions, elephant seals and leopard seals only:

Provided that the licensee may, with the consent of the landlord, enter upon the areas specified in the Schedule hereto for the purpose of taking sea lions, elephant seals and leopard seals.

4. Not more than 9,000 sea lions and not more than 1,000 elephant seals shall be killed in any one season in the Falkland Islands.

5. The quota specified in clause 4 hereof, may be reviewed annually by the Governor and as a result of such review may be revised; provided, however, that any revision of the quota shall be subject to the general principle that there shall be no reduction unless technical and scientific advice tendered to the Governor renders such reduction advisable and necessary.

6. Sea lions shall be killed only between the 1st May and the 30th September in each year.

X 7. No male sea lion of less than 72 inches in length shall be killed.

8. At least 10% of the adult male sea lions over 72 inches in length shall be left alive at each rookery:

Provided that the number of adult male sea lions over 72 inches in length so left alive at the first killing in accordance with this section shall not be progressively reduced on any subsequent visit or visits to the same rookery during any one season.

9. Elephant seals shall be killed only between the 1st November and the 15th January next following.

X 10. No male elephant seal of less than 135 inches (3.5 metres) in length shall be killed.

X 11. At least 10% of the adult male elephant seals over 135 inches (3.5 metres) in length shall be left alive at each rookery:

Provided that the number of adult male elephant seals

over/



25

over 135 inches (3.5 metres) in length so left alive at the first killing in accordance with this section shall not be progressively reduced on any subsequent visit or visits to the same rookery during any one season.

12. The killing or capturing of female sea lions or female elephant seals must be avoided as far as possible.

13. The killing or capturing of pups or young seals is prohibited.

14. Leopard seals may be killed without restriction.

15. The licensee must ensure that seals are driven and killed in the most humane way practicable. Seals must be shot and not clubbed to death.

16. The whole carcass of every seal killed shall be utilised, so far as possible, for the extraction of oil, meat and bone meal and/or other marketable products.

17. The licensee shall render an accurate account annually and when otherwise required of all seals taken and report and locate on the chart where such seals were found in large numbers or rookeries or where others were observed. This account to include the amount of oil and other products (separately) obtained and such other reasonable information as may be required by Government.

X 18. The lower canine tooth of every 20th sea lion and elephant seal taken must be collected and forwarded to the Colonial Secretary, Stanley. The projecting part of the tooth to be cut off with a hacksaw at gum level.

19. The Governor may appoint a Seal Fishery Officer, who shall be fully maintained (except for salary) at the expense of the licensee on board any vessel or vessels employed by the licensee, to ensure that the provisions of the Seal Fishery Ordinance (Cap. 62) or any regulations made thereunder and that the conditions of this Licence are complied with.

20. The licensee shall not employ local Falkland Islands labour without the prior authority of the Governor.

21. <sup>The</sup> This licensee shall pay to the Collector of Customs, export duty at the rate in force from time to time during the currency of this Licence, upon all seal oil and seal products other than seal oil which shall be obtained or produced from seals taken under this Licence, whether such seal oil or seal products other than seal oil shall or shall not have been actually produced within the Colony or the territorial waters thereof.

22. This Licence is not transferable.

23. In the case of a breach of any of the conditions of this Licence, or any of the provisions of the Seal Fishery Ordinance (Cap. 62) or of any regulations made thereunder or any Ordinance or regulations amending or replacing the said Ordinance or regulations, the Governor may, by notice in writing, summarily revoke this Licence, and thereupon all rights conferred hereby or enjoyed hereunder shall cease as from the date mentioned in such notice.

Dated this                      day of                      , 195 .

Colonial Secretary.



26

SCHEDULE

East Falklands.

Lafonia and adjacent islands, excluding 1,000 acres Crown Reserve at Bull Point.

Land on the North shore of Choiseul Sound.

Brenton Loch.

1,160 acres. Darwin Harbour.

160 acres. Port Harriet.

160 acres. Uranie Bay.

160 acres. West head of Bluff Cove.

160 acres. South-east arm of San Carlos.

160 acres. North shore of Port Sussex.

Sea Lion Islands.

Horseshoe Bay (Whittington's Rincon).

Teal Inlet (Evelyn Station).

Navy Point, Port Stanley.

West Falklands.

Roy Cove including West Point, Bense, Rabbit and Hummock Islands.

Pebble Island.

160 acres. Kepple Island (Bold Point)

Packe's Port Howard including West Swan Island.

693 acres. White Rock, Port Howard.

160 acres. New Island (Cliff Peak).

100 acres. New Island (Ship Harbour).

Seal Reserves.

Elephant Jason Island.

Bird Island.

Volunteer Rocks.

Beauchene Island.

- - - - -



27

Draft.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

DEPENDENCY OF SOUTH GEORGIA

Sealing Licence.

A licence under section 5 of the Seal Fishery Ordinance (Cap.62), is hereby granted to the Albion Star Company, Limited, (hereinafter referred to as the licensee) to take seal mentioned herein and subject to the following terms and conditions:-

1. This licence shall be in force for fifteen years from the                      day of                      , 195    , and shall be an exclusive licence for the Dependency of South Georgia, so long as it remains valid.

2. An annual Licence Fee of                      shall be paid in advance to the Colonial Treasurer, Stanley, Falkland Islands, or to the Administrative Officer, King Edward Cove, South Georgia, on the                      day of                      in each year.

3. This licence shall be valid in the Dependency of South Georgia for elephant seal only.

4. Not more than 6,000 elephant seal shall be killed in any one season in the Dependency of South Georgia.

5. The quota specified in clause 4 hereof, may be reviewed annually by the Governor and as a result of such review may be revised; provided, however, that any revision of the quota shall be subject to the general principle that there shall be no reduction unless technical and scientific advice tendered to the Governor renders such reduction advisable and necessary.

6. The number of elephant seals taken from each of the Sealing Divisions specified in the Schedule hereto during any one season shall be at the discretion of the Administrative Officer, South Georgia:

Provided that the number shall not exceed 6,000 in the aggregate.

7. Elephant seals shall be killed only between the 1st March and the 30th November in each year.

8. No male elephant seal of less than 135 inches (3.5 metres) in length shall be killed.

9. At least 10% of the adult male elephant seals over 135 inches (3.5 metres) in length shall be left alive at each rookery:

Provided that the number of adult male elephant seals over 135 inches (3.5 metres) in length so left alive in accordance with this section at the first killing shall not be progressively reduced on any subsequent visit or visits to the same rookery during any one season.

10. The killing or capturing of female elephant seals must be avoided as far as possible.

11. The killing or capturing of pups or young elephant seals or Weddell's seals is prohibited.

12. The licensee must ensure that elephant seals are driven and killed in the most humane way practicable. Seals must be shot and not clubbed to death.



13. The whole carcass of every elephant seal killed shall be utilised, so far as possible, for the extraction of oil, meat and bone meal and/or other marketable products.

14. The licensee shall render an accurate account annually and when otherwise required of all elephant seals taken and report and locate on the chart where such elephant seals were found in large numbers or rookeries or where others were observed. This account to include the amount of oil and other products (separately) obtained and such other reasonable information as may be required by Government.

15. The lower canine tooth of every 20th elephant seal taken must be collected and forwarded to the Administrative Officer, South Georgia. The projecting part of the tooth to be cut off with a hacksaw at gum level.

16. The Governor may appoint a Seal Fishery Officer, who shall be fully maintained (except for salary) at the expense of the licensee on board any vessel or vessels employed by the licensee, to ensure that the provisions of the Seal Fishery Ordinance (Cap. 62) or any regulations made thereunder and that the conditions of this Licence are complied with.

17. The licensee shall not employ local Falkland Islands labour without the prior authority of the Governor.

18. The licensee shall pay to the Collector of Customs, Stanley, Falkland Islands or to the Administrative Officer, South Georgia, export duty at the rate in force from time to time during the currency of this licence, upon all seal oil and seal products other than seal oil which shall be obtained or produced from elephant seals taken under this Licence, whether such seal oil or seal products other than seal oil shall or shall not have been actually produced within the Dependency of South Georgia or the territorial waters thereof.

19. This licence is not transferable.

20. In the case of a breach of any of the conditions of this Licence, or any of the provisions of the Seal Fishery Ordinance (Cap. 62) or of any regulations made thereunder or any Ordinance or regulations amending or replacing the said Ordinance or regulations, the Governor may, by notice in writing, summarily revoke this Licence, and thereupon all rights conferred hereby or enjoyed hereunder shall cease as from the date mentioned in such notice.

Dated this                      day of                      , 195 .

Colonial Secretary  
or  
Administrative Officer.

#### SCHEDULE

##### Sealing Divisions.

- Division I. Cape Nunes to Cape North excluding Willis and Bird Islands.
- Division II. Cape Buller to Cape Saunders including Prince Olaf Harbour but excluding Leith Harbour, Stromness Harbour and Husvik Harbour.
- Division III. Larsen Point to Cape Disappointment excluding the reserve at Dartmouth Point to East Cumberland Bay.
- Division IV. Cape Disappointment to Cape Nunes.



# Savingram

0.57/A

C.O. 1

FALKLAND  
ISLANDS.

From the Secretary of State for the Colonies.  
To the Officer Administering the Government of

Date 10 OCT 1955

No. 108

Colonial Office reference WAF.621/529/01.

Your reference

With reference to my despatch  
your savingram No.  
telegram

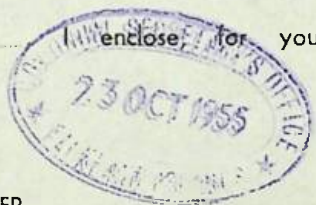
of the

enclose for your

information,

~~consideration~~, a copy of the paper noted below.

~~observations~~.



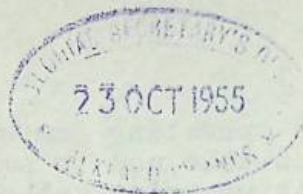
SECEP

Originator and date	Subject
Colonial Office 8.10.55.	Copy of letter to the Elbian Star Company Ltd

0.4.7.1  
24/7

See 45





30

WAF/621/529/01

8<sup>th</sup> October, 1955

See @ 50

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Lennox-Boyd to refer to Colonial Office letter of 11th July, 1955, on the subject of your Company's application for a licence for all sealing in the Falkland Islands and Dependencies and to inform you that generally speaking your proposal is welcomed by the local authorities.

2. No difficulty is likely in regard to the grant of such a licence for the Falkland Islands and South Georgia but acting on the advice of his scientific advisers, the Secretary of State regrets that he is unable to recommend the grant to you of a licence to take elephant seals in the Dependencies other than South Georgia.

3. The licence would be subject to the following general reservations and factors:-

- (1) Sealing in Lafonia, adjacent islands and certain areas north of Choiseul Sound would be subject to agreement between the operating company and the Falkland Islands company and similar reservations may not be necessary in other areas.

(11)

THE ALBION STAR COMPANY, LIMITED

See 77



- 31
- (ii) The Operating Company would have to undertake not to employ local labour without prior authority from the Government of the Falkland Islands.
  - (iii) It is assumed that Compania Argentina da Pesca would relinquish to the Albion Star Company the licence already granted for 1955/56 season in South Georgia.
  - (iv) The licence would include a clause to the effect that all sealing carried out under the licence would be liable to similar execution as in the case of a land based station.
  - (v) The duration of the licence would be for 15 years in the first instance.
  - (vi) The Albion Star Company should transfer its registration to Port Stanley.

4. Your comments are requested, on whether your Company would be willing to abide by the conditions detailed above.

I am,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant

Sgd. M.A. Willis

*Recd*

*To Sec 23 onwards, P.*

*Bu*  
Hon. Col. Sec.

Seen t. y.

H.B.

Registrar

27.X.55.

*P.A. [initials] 3/11*

*25/X*



**Savingram**

DUPLICATE ✓

C.O. 1

From the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

FALKLAND  
ISLANDS

To the Officer Administering the Government of

Date

12 JUL 1955

No.

79

Colonial Office reference

MED. 55/212/01

Your reference

With reference to my despatch  
your savingram No.             
telegram

of the



enclose, for your

information,

consideration, a copy of the paper noted below.

observations,

SECR

Originator and date	Subject
COLONIAL OFFICE. 11. 7. '55.	COPY OF A LETTER TO THE ALBION STAR COMPANY LTD., (GIBRALTAR), C/O. WM. BRANDT'S SONS & CO., 36, FENCHURCH STREET, E.C.3.  RE SEALING RIGHTS IN THE COLONY & DEPENDENCIES.



COPY

MED.55/212/01

33

11th July, 1955.

Sir,

7  
I am directed to refer to your letter of 4th May, 1955 addressed to His Excellency the Governor of the Falkland Islands and Dependencies submitting for his approval a plan for pelagic sealing in the Colony and Dependencies.

2. The Governor is seeking the advice of the Secretary of State's advisers on the technical aspects of your proposal. Meanwhile, in connection with your Company's request for sole and exclusive rights to all sealing in the Colony and Dependencies, I am to draw your attention to the fact that the sealing rights in a large part of the colony are already in the possession of the Falkland Islands Company. It is also noted that you make no mention of the payment to the Falkland Islands Government of a fee for the granting to your Company of these exclusive facilities and I am to enquire whether you would be agreeable to the payment of such a fee and what you would suggest as a suitable figure.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) M.A. WILLIS.

THE ALBION STAR COMPANY LIMITED,  
(GIBRALTAR),  
c/o Wm. Brandt's Sons and Company,  
36 Fenchurch Street,  
E.C.3.

16  
21/7



DISCODE.

TELEGRAM.

From.....Pierce-Bulter

To.....Colonial Secretary

Despatched : 23rd December, 19 55 Time : 1710

Received : 24th December, 19 55 Time : 1100

Reference Colonial Office letter WAF/621/529/01 dated 8th October, paragraph 3 (vi). Have you any objection registration Albion Star Company, South Georgia also how quickly can we register please.

PIERCE BULTER

P/L:IMR

Are there any snags in this & if not what procedure do you require.



55  
TELEGRAM

Hon. Col. Sec.,

The Albion Star Co. may be registered in South Georgia, as the Companies and P. P. Ordinance has been applied to the Dependencies.

2. The time within which the registration can be effected depends upon how quickly the Memorandum and Articles of Association are presented to the D. O. who would, in this case take the place of the Registrar of Companies.

3. I think we also should have a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association filed in the Central Registry here.

J. B.  
29. xii. 65.



36

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

From Colonial Secretary

To Administrative Officer, South Georgia

Despatched : 5th January, 19 56 Time : 1100

Received : ... .., 19 .. Time : ....

No.4. Confidential. Following received from Pierce-Butler begins.

Reference Colonial Office letter WAF/621/529/01 dated 8th October paragraph 3 (vi). Have you any objection registration Albion Star Company South Georgia also how quickly can we register please. *ms*

vi

2. Paragraph 3 of the Colonial Office letter refers to the grant of a licence for sealing in the Falkland Islands and Dependencies and states that licence would be subject to the Company transferring its registration to Port Stanley.

3. Grateful your views on Butler's query and whether you consider there are any unforeseen implications.

SECRETARY

GTC:JB/IR

*Reply at 3 am 5/12/40*

*Butler reply 10/1/50*



0157/A  
D/28/47  
37  
SAF. 621/529/01  
✓  
**Saving**

From the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

To the Officer Administering the Government of THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

Date 13 December, 1955.

No. 143 Saving (COLONY).

23 Your Savingram No. 164 Colony of 24th October 1955.

Albion Star.

38-42  
---- The draft licences enclosed with your savingram under  
reference have been passed to my Scientific Advisers and  
---- enclosed are copies of two letters containing their  
comments.

2. Your attention is drawn to:-

- (a) the need to increase the percentage of bulls to 20% over 152 inches in total length and -
- (b) the need for a further programme of scientific work.

X | With regard to the latter I am informed that a suitable candidate might be available for one season and the work could be combined with the duties of inspector.

SECEP.

See 87



# NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY

TEL. WORMLEY 370, 371 & 372  
RLY. STATION: WITLEY.

WORMLEY, NR. GODALMING,  
SURREY.

OUR REF.

YOUR REF.

24th November, 1955.

W.O. Sloman, Esq.,  
Colonial Office,  
The Church House,  
Great Smith Street,  
London, S.W.1.

Dear Sloman,

Thank you for your letter of November 16th and the draft licences for the Falkland Islands and South Georgia. I have been on leave and was unable to reply sooner.

In reply to your specific points:-

(I) Sections 7 and 10 of the Colony licence and Section 8 of the Dependencies Licence.

These lengths are quite acceptable and the elephant seal minimum length is that proposed by me. I think it would be as well to specify in the case of sea lions "less than 72 inches in length, measured in a direct line from nose to tail....." The same might apply to the elephant seal, though it would be better to specify "less than 152 inches (3.9 metres) in total length...." In the elephant seal total length, from nose to tip of hind flippers, is probably more practicable as a measure for the sealers. I would not be surprised if they interpret the present wording as referring to total length whereas it was intended to apply to nose-tail length.

(II) Sections 8 and 11 of the Colony licence and Section 9 of the Dependencies Licence.

This is a difficult problem, without any satisfactory solution. When the previous licence was drafted (Seal fishery (Consolidation) Ordinance, 1921) no provision was made for leaving 10% of bulls on the beaches, although it is generally believed to be a condition of the licence. In fact this appeared only in the master's declaration which states "at least 10% of male seals were left on each occasion." As the term male seals refers to all ages this declaration afforded no legal protection. No doubt the original purpose was to



39

protect 10% of the adult males. In those days the average number of cows in a harem was about twelve (deduced from Matthews (1929) and this was the harem size at Signy Island with one dominant and five subordinate bulls to 12 cows, that is 2 cows to 1 bull. In 1951, even in the reserve at Dartmouth Point the average harem size was 25 and there were on average about two bulls per harem (one dominant and one subordinate) i.e. 1 bull to 13 cows. In the sealing areas examined the average harem size was between 40 and 50 cows, and there was one bull to 30 cows. (N.B. In the Northern Fur Seal which is much better adapted to the harem system by virtue of a great disparity in size between the sexes, "The ratio of Harem maintaining males to breeding females was 1:39 but the mean harem size was only 16 because half or fewer of the females were ashore at any one time" (Bartholomew & Hoel, 1953)). At Signy Island and South Georgia formerly, let us say there were 10 bulls to 20 cows; kill 9 bulls and a harem of 20 cows is left with one bull. In Dartmouth Point Reserve there were 10 bulls to 130 cows; kill 9 bulls and a harem of 130 cows is left. At South Georgia in sealing areas in Cumberland Bay there were 10 bulls to 300 cows. Actually there are a number of subordinate bulls in the water which haul out and replace those bulls killed and probably for every bull on land there is at least one younger mature bull in the water which will haul out. It is therefore probable that the present 10% limit is sufficient to maintain harems of the present size, but it might be advisable to increase the percentage to be left on the beach.

A further point to be considered in framing the regulations is that sealing begins in September but the peak period of mating does not occur until early November and it seems that in undisturbed colonies bulls haul out in increasing numbers through the season. I think it would be advisable to alter Section 11 in the Colony licence and 9 in the Dependencies Licence to read "At least 20%..... over 152 inches (3.9 metres) in total length.....", and substituting these figures in the next sentence. Otherwise this section is probably satisfactory. The figure of 10% for sea lions is probably alright, and in any case they are not the main haul during the breeding season.

I would point out here that one is handicapped by lack of knowledge of conditions in Divisions III and IV at South Georgia. Most of my detailed work was done single handed in a small part of Division III in a period of about two months. The proposals which I made in 1952 were intended as provisional measures to be followed up by further work including the following investigations:

- (1) Census of pups born in each Division by direct count. At present only known for Div. I and II.
- (2) Counts of the number of females and dominant and subordinate males on a series of beaches in each division, so as to determine the average harem size.

I strongly urge that this work be included in the programme of scientific work for F.I.D.S. It would require a biologist to visit the beaches with the sealers during the period of three months from September to November which is one part of the sealing season.



There are several other small points about the licences.

(III) Section 18 Colony Licence and Section 15 of the Dependencies Licence.

A better wording might be "One lower canine tooth....."

As regards the sea lion teeth, it has not yet been established that age can be determined from these by rings in cross section. It may be that annuli on the root are more suitable (which would necessitate a different method of collection) or that the teeth are not suitable for age determination, in which case it would be a waste of time to collect them.

Some provision must be made for the examination of both elephant seal and sea lion teeth if they are to be of any use in regulating sealing operations and protecting the stock.

I hope these comments are helpful to you. I would like to emphasise the need for appointing a biologist to provide further information on which to base a re-examination of these problems. In my opinion the programme of F.I.D.S. or the Colony should have provided for at least one permanent biologist to undertake such work.

I hope you have not forgotten my modest claim for travelling expenses for the July meeting.

WAK 623/62 Your letter of November 23rd has just arrived but I will answer it separately.

Yours sincerely,

Dick Laws.

R.M.Laws.

P.S. I think you may like to see the enclosed paper. It doesn't necessarily represent my present views.



Telephone:—  
KENSINGTON 6323.

NAME:—  
NATHANUS, SOUTHERN, LONDON.



BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY),

CROMWELL ROAD,

LONDON, S.W.7.

Ref. W.A.F.621/529/01.

FCF/RSG

2nd December, 1955

W.O. Sloman, Esq.,  
Colonial Office,  
The Church House,  
Great Smith Street,  
London, S.W.1.



Dear Mr. Sloman,

In reply to your letter of November 16th about sealing licences for the Falkland Islands and the F.I. Dependencies, I have examined the drafts and agree in general with the terms and conditions.

The efficiency of the proviso connected with leaving 10% killable bulls on each beach will depend on adequate supervision by the sealing officer.

The minimum size limit of killable bulls is related to average size at sexual maturity and should be all right.

I do not like the phrasing of section 10 in the Dependencies draft and section 12 in the Falkland Islands draft. It seems to me that, as the killable bulls should be recognisable as such, the words "as far as possible" might be omitted.

I attach the copy of a letter I sent to Dr. Fuchs last year about the leopard seal. If unrestricted permis-

sion.../



42

sion to kill these animals is given the numbers slaughtered  
ought to be kept under careful review.

Have arrangements been made for the divisioning  
of the Falkland Islands for sealing as at South Georgia?

Yours sincerely,

*F.C. Fraser*

F.C. Fraser  
Deputy Keeper  
Department of Zoology

encl:



for filing on 015714.  
DECODE.

336

Original filed on D/28/47 - Pesca-  
General Correspondence.

42A

TELEGRAM.

From The Administrative Officer, South Georgia

To The Colonial Secretary

Despatched : 20th January, 19 56. Time : 15.15

Received : 21st " 19 " Time : 09.00

131 in  
D/28/47  
No. 18. CONFIDENTIAL. Your Telegram CONFIDENTIAL  
No. 14. Re-registration of Albion Star Company.

It has been <sup>confirmed in writing that in the</sup> ~~dates will be communicated later~~  
~~writing that in event transfer Albion Star Company would~~  
accept all liabilities and assets Pesca and therefore  
become automatically responsible for any outstanding debts.  
A clause to this effect would be inserted in transfer  
agreement. Securities in South Georgia consist only of  
whaling station, catchers and equipment.

See 41  
Reply 135-D/28/47  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER.

GTC/VP

to Telegram sent to for 21/1/50  
checked by A.O. S.S. 22

Yes R B  
22/1



43

A

S/F

37-42 - for Jason of your  
observations, p.

Q  
15/2

B.

A.C.S.

Above. I consider we should accept Lewis  
recommendations.

X at p. 37. While in London I interviewed  
the candidate and had him medically examined - he  
was turned down as a T.B. suspect. If C.O. can  
find a suitable biologist and the work can be combined  
with the work of inspector, I can see no reason why the  
proposals should not be included in F.I.S. work. U.K. will no

P.B. 17/2/52

further

necessary

the

possible

should



S/F

Thank you.

Perhaps you would take the  
matter up with H.E. on return.

Q  
18/2.

Recalled  
25/2/56



On album Stan file pl.

44A  
WAVERLEY HOUSE,  
PORT STANLEY,  
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

17<sup>th</sup> February 1956

Dear Mr. Treas,

Reference our conversation of the other day when "Ryan" & "Pesca" were mentioned. I now see that on 10<sup>th</sup> December last the Provisional Gov. in B. Is. issued a Decree for the "Recovery of National Patrimony" & giving a long list of names accused of having acquired "illicit wealth" during the Perón regime.

Both these names appear in that list:- LUCIO ALFREDO RYAN

Compañía Argentina de PESCA S/A.  
That no doubt accounts for the disappearance of "PESCA" shares from the daily quotations in the B. A. Stock Exchange.

The Decree stipulates that all the "assets" of all persons named & all shares in Companies named remain "interdicted"

KIV 44



~~44B~~  
44B  
and those prison affected  
are given 30 days in which  
to present themselves before a  
special commission to explain  
the acquisition of their wealth.

I have not found out  
how this is working but it  
would seem that the process  
is "disgorge" or we simply  
take it all over.

Yours sincerely

W. H. H.

KIV44  
//



copy in 04971/IV

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

45

From GOVERNOR to SECRETARY OF STATE

Despatched: 2/3/56

Time 1600

Received: .. .. Time :....

29 No.39. Your Savingsgram No.108 of 10th October ,1956.

In order to attempt to sell in Norway South Atlantic Sealing Company's assets as going concern they have asked whether sealing licence could be renewed. I should be glad to learn position vis-a-vis Albion Star Company.

GOVERNOR

GTC:ORA/IMR

47  
See ~~11~~



46

Office

37 was there a few up  
on this mine?

$\frac{1}{4/3}$

S/F.

37 with 44 - pl. see S/S; Sample No. 9 (FibP)  
of 10.2.56 which I believe is to be filed in  
from F. 85/10 (?)

$\frac{1}{2/3}$

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From GOVERNOR to SECRETARY OF STATE

Despatched : 24/3/56

Time : 0945

Received : . . . . Time : . . . .

45

No. 52. My telegram No. 39. Albion Star Company.

Grateful learn when reply may be expected.

GOVERNOR'S DEPUTY

Reply at 49

B. U.  
31/3/56.  
BU 7/4/56

G.T.C. JB/IR



DECODE.

11.

Copy in 049717  
48  
TELEGRAM.

From Ryan, Albion Star Company.

To His Excellency the Governor.

---

Despatched: 6th April

19 56

Time: 1020

Received: 6th April

19 56

Time: 11-30

Reference Albion Star application sealing licence  
deferring decision until consulting Pierce Butler  
Europe due understudy take over Pesca fleet and installations  
Grytviken.

Ryan

B.U.F.

(INTLD) J.B.

7/4

P/L  
MF

See 51

DECODE.

70

TELEGRAM SENT.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR

Despatched: 6.4.56

Time: 1725

Received: 7.4.56 Time: 0900

No.49. Your Telegram No.52. Albion Star Company.

Hope to let you have Company's decision within a week.

SECRETARY OF STATE

BUF

(INTL)( J.B.

P/I

7/4

MF

See 51.



Copy in 0497/IV.

50

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

No.121.

From.....PIERCE BUTLER, SOUTH GEORGIA.....

To.....GOVERNOR.....

Despatched: 7th April, 19 56 Time: 2345

Received: 8th April, 19 56 Time: 1100

30. Sealing Licence. Reference Colonial Office letter WAF/621/529/01 dated 8th October, 1955. Albion Star Company of Gibraltar request here with sealing licence for Falkland Islands and South Georgia in accordance with conditions laid down in above mentioned letter. Fee for licence will be paid through Magistrate here.

PIERCE BUTLER,  
ALBION STAR

P/L:IMR

Y.E.  
To see 48-50 - I think we shd.  
await the follow up to (49) before  
proceeding?

£  
M.H.

BV if we don't hear  
in a fortnight OKA 13

Bel. 2.11  
Ox 14

DECODE.

*Copy in 0497/IV.*  
TELEGRAM SENT.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR

Despatched: 14/4/56

Time: 1950

Received: 15/4/56 Time: 0900

49. No. 54. My telegram No. 49. Albion Star Company.

48.50 Understand Ryan cabled you direct on 6th April  
regarding Sealing Licence.

SECRETARY OF STATE

P/L:IMR



Repos ~~Stes~~ - Bu. for consideration  
on 10/5

Q  
2/5

W.C. 1. It see so application for Reaching  
licence by Albion Star Corp  
JRM  
10/5/50

The Albion Star Company have now formally applied to us for the sealing licence in the Colony (f. 50) S. of S. are now out of it (f. 51).

The matter was fully discussed in Ex. Co. while you were in the U.K. last year and the proposal welcomed. F.16 represents Ex. Co. views and the safeguards we considered necessary. The general principles were conveyed to the Company at f.30.

We drafted detailed licences at f. 24-28 and these have received the general approval of the Secretary of State's Scientific Advisers - some minor modifications will have to be made in the light of f.37 and enclosures - but these do not present any difficulty.

You will perhaps remember that in the case of the South Atlantic Sealing Company we ran into a great deal of trouble over the details of the licence after sealing operations had begun - and even before they had begun. I think we should be particularly careful to avoid any repetition and ensure that every detail of each licence is understood and agreed between the Company and Government. In that case I would suggest for your approval:-

1. We now inform Pierce-Butler that Government agrees to the issue of the licences in principle, but the details of the draft licences should be considered by the Company and Government in detail and agreed between the parties before final approval. I have in mind that the drafts could be taken down to South Georgia by first opportunity and discussed with Pierce-Butler (? frigate if he is still there and an opportunity occurs) or by "Protector" and perhaps if you go down you would do it. He should be there then.

I do not see any particular difficulties over delay as they could not start in the Colony until next year and they have their licence for South Georgia. In any event we shall have to find a Sealing Officer. In the meantime Sec. F.I.D.S. has in hand the question of further scientific work in South Georgia and we shall have to look around for somebody for the Colony.

2. We should inform Rowe - as representative of the South Atlantic Sealing Company - that it is regretted that we are unable to renew the Company's licence.
3. Inform Secretary of State that we are granting the licence.

There is one final point. There is some difficulty over registration. We insisted on registration of the Albion Star Company as a sealing company in the Falklands. There would be no particular difficulty over registration in South Georgia, provided we ensure that revenue due from Falklands sealing accrues to the Colony. We should I think agree particularly if it is going to facilitate transfer of Pasca whaling to Albion Star. But this remains to be resolved and does not affect the main issue on this file provided we ensure that we have the sealing Company registered in South Georgia or Stanley and not elsewhere.

I am following up the question as to whether transfer of registration has already taken place on the appropriate file (D/28/47) where the matter is at the moment left in the air.

A. G. I.  
C.S.

12/5/56.

I wasn't here

yes

yes

If he wants to start we can make some interim arrangement. But I don't expect he does. Please ask.

yes

yes

I don't think this should be a difficulty

P.C. has been informed.

MA  
13



DECODE.

Original filed in D/28/47.  
Cia Argentina De Pesca - General

TELEGRAM.

54

From COLONIAL SECRETARY

To ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, SOUTH GEORGIA

Despatched : 15th May, 19 56 Time : 1500

Received : ....., 19 .. Time : ....

CONFIDENTIAL.

42A

No.88. Your Confidential telegram No.18.

Albion Star Company. Grateful to

know what re-registration position is.

SECRETARY

Reply at 55

KIV 53

G.T.C.

AGD-T/IMR

DECODE.

No.273.

Original filed in 5/28/47  
Cia Argentina de Pesca - General. 55

TELEGRAM.

From ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, SOUTH GEORGIA

To COLONIAL SECRETARY

Despatched : 21st May, 19 56 Time : 1940

Received : 22nd May, 19 56 Time : 1000

CONFIDENTIAL.

54  
No.81. Your confidential telegram No.88.

Albion Star Company. Before Butler sailed for the United Kingdom on April the 10th he was under the impression that Ryan had taken all necessary action to transfer Pesca to Albion Star. Butler will no doubt pursue matter when he arrives in London.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

G.T.C.  
IMR



DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

56

From GOVERNOR to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Despatched : 31.5.56. Time : 1200 Received : : Time : :

CONFIDENTIAL.

51

No:102. Your telegram No:54. Albion Star Company.

Company have now submitted formal application for licence and I should be grateful if following may be conveyed to Pierce Butler c/o Wm. Brandt's Sons & Company, 36 Fenchurch Street, London. Begins:-

30. Falkland Islands Government are prepared to grant sealing licence on basis of conditions laid down in Colonial Office letter WAF/1621/529/01 of 8th October 1955 provided Albion Star Company is registered either in Stanley or South Georgia. Government wishes however to discuss details of draft licence with you or other authorised representative before licence is finally approved and issued. It is suggested that convenient opportunity would be when you return to South Georgia or alternatively Governor may have opportunity to discuss with you in August this year in London. It is assumed you will not be in a position to begin sealing in Falklands this season but if you do there would be no objection to you doing so in advance of final issue of licence on basis of terms and conditions already conveyed to you provided registration of your Company is transferred to Stanley or South Georgia before operations begin. ends.

GTC : PT.

See 58

Copy to file D/28/47/139.

Reply 67.

Spate

57

2nd copy's filed in 0497/15, and D/2/52.

0497/IV.

18th May,

56.

Sir,

412' 0497/IV  
I am directed to refer to your letter of 14th February, 1956, in connexion with the assets of the South Atlantic Sealing Company, Limited.

2. Your interest in endeavouring to preserve the assets of the Company and your attempts to dispose of them to the best advantage of the Colonial Development Corporation and the Colony have been greatly appreciated by Government and your proposal with regard to reserving the sealing licence has been very carefully considered.

3. Government has, however, decided to make other arrangements and intends to enter into an agreement with another concern for the exploitation of the sealing resources of the Falkland Islands. In these circumstances therefore it is regretted that Government is unable to issue a new licence or revoke the cancellation of the previous licence issued to the South Atlantic Sealing Company.

4. It is appreciated that the delay in replying to your letter under reference will have caused you some inconvenience, but Government has only very recently been in a position to provide you with a definite answer.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) A.G. Denton-Thompson

Colonial Secretary.

E.G. Rowe, Esq.,  
Agent, South Atlantic Sealing Company, Ltd.,  
c/o The British Club,  
MONTEVIDEO.

AGDT/OBH.



## GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDSSENT

57a

0157/A

Number

Office of Origin

Words

Handed in at

Date

PSY STAT

29.6.56

To

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, SOUTH GEORGIA

DEPA/C

WHEN IS BUTLER EXPECTED BACK STOP REPLY URGENTLY REQUIRED.

SECRETARY

Reply at 57 b

Time

DEPA/1000

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

No. 343.

From ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, SOUTH GEORGIA

To COLONIAL SECRETARY

---

Despatched : 30th June, 19 56 Time : 1145

Received : 1st July, 19 56 Time : 0945

PRIORITY.

I assume Butler will be returning shortly before the commencement of the whaling season on October 1st but regret nobody locally is able to confirm this.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

See 57 a.

P/L  
IMR



58

13th July, 56.

Sir,

56 I am directed to confirm the following telegram that was recently despatched to you through the Colonial Office in connexion with the proposed grant to the Albion Star Company of sealing licences for the Colony of the Falkland Islands and the Dependency of South Georgia:

30 "Falkland Islands Government are prepared to grant sealing licence on basis of conditions laid down in Colonial Office letter WAF/1621/529/01 of 8th October, 1955, provided Albion Star Company is registered either in Stanley or South Georgia. Government wishes however to discuss details of draft licence with you or other authorised representative before licence is finally approved and issued. It is suggested that convenient opportunity would be when you return to South Georgia or alternatively Governor may have opportunity to discuss with you in August this year in London. It is assumed you will not be in a position to begin sealing in Falklands this season but if you do there would be no objection to you doing so in advance of final issue of licence on basis of terms and conditions already conveyed to you provided registration of your company is transferred to Stanley or South Georgia before operations begin".

60-64 2. I enclose copies of two licences in draft form that have been drawn up by this Government. They have received the approval of the Secretary of State and his Scientific Advisers. It is considered that the licences should be discussed in detail between the representative of your Company and the Administrative Officer, South Georgia, prior to their issue.

3. The date upon which these licences come into effect will of course depend upon when your Company intends to begin sealing operations in the Falkland Islands in the case of the Colony licence and the date upon which it makes the necessary arrangements to transfer the licence at present held by Compania Argentina de Pesca to the Albion Star Company in the case of the Dependency of South Georgia. In this connexion Government would welcome further information as to when the Albion Star Company intends to proceed with the sealing project in the Falkland Islands and the transfer of the sealing licence of Compania Argentina de Pesca.

4. In conclusion I am to inform you that His Excellency the Governor will be in the United Kingdom from 25th July, to the end of August and will be ready to discuss the project with you. His address will be:-

36, Argyll Road,  
LONDON, W. 8.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Lt.Col. K.S. Pierce-Butler,  
c/o William Brandt Sons & Company,  
36, Fenchurch Street,  
LONDON.

(Sgd) H.L. Stanton-Thompson



60

COLONY OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

SEALING LICENCE.

A licence under section 5 of the Seal Fishery Ordinance (Cap.62), is hereby granted to the Albion Star Company, Limited, (hereinafter referred to as the licensee) to take seals mentioned herein and subject to the following terms and conditions:-

1. This licence shall be in force for fifteen years from the day of \_\_\_\_\_, 195\_\_\_\_, and shall be an exclusive licence for the Falkland Islands, except those areas specified in the Schedule hereto, so long as it remains valid.

2. An annual Licence Fee of £200 shall be paid in advance to the Colonial Treasurer on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in each year.

3. This licence shall be valid in the Falkland Islands, except those areas specified in the Schedule hereto, for the taking of sea lions, elephant seals and leopard seals only:

Provided that the licensee may, with the consent of the landlord, enter upon the areas specified in the Schedule hereto for the purpose of taking sea lions, elephant seals and leopard seals.

4. Not more than 9,000 sea lions and not more than 1,000 elephant seals shall be killed in any one season in the Falkland Islands.

5. The quota specified in clause 4 hereof, may be reviewed annually by the Governor and as a result of such review may be revised; provided, however, that any revision of the quota shall be subject to the general principle that there shall be no reduction unless technical and scientific advice tendered to the Governor renders such reduction advisable and necessary.

6. Sea lions shall be killed only between the 1st May and the 30th September in each year.

7. No male sea lion of less than 72 inches in length, measured in a direct line from nose to tail, shall be killed.

8. At least 10% of the adult male sea lions over 72 inches in length shall be left alive at each rookery:

Provided that the number of adult male sea lions over 72 inches in length so left alive at the first killing in accordance with this section shall not be progressively reduced on any subsequent visit or visits to the same rookery during any one season.

9. Elephant seals shall be killed only between the 1st November and the 15th January next following.

10. No male elephant seal of less than 152 inches (3.9 metres) in total length shall be killed.

11. At least 20% of the adult male elephant seals over 152 inches (3.9 metres) in total length shall be left alive at each rookery:

Provided that the number of adult male elephant seals over 152 inches (3.9 metres) in total length so left alive at the first killing in accordance with this section shall not be progressively reduced on any subsequent visit or visits to the same rookery during any one season.

12. The killing or capturing of female sea lions or female elephant seals must be avoided.



61

13. The killing or capturing of pups or young seals is prohibited.
14. Leopard seals may be killed without restriction.
15. The licensee must ensure that seals are driven and killed in the most humane way practicable. Seals must be shot and not clubbed to death.
16. The whole carcass of every seal killed shall be utilised, so far as possible, for the extraction of oil, meat and bone meal and/or other marketable products.
17. The licensee shall render an accurate account annually and when otherwise required of all seals taken and report and locate on the chart where such seals were found in large numbers or rookeries or where others were observed. This account to include the amount of oil and other products (separately) obtained and such other reasonable information as may be required by Government.
18. One lower canine tooth of every 20th sea lion and elephant seal taken must be collected and forwarded to the Colonial Secretary, Stanley. The projecting part of the tooth to be cut off with a hacksaw at gum level.
19. The Governor may appoint a Seal Fishery Officer, who shall be fully maintained (except for salary) at the expense of the licensee on board any vessel or vessels employed by the licensee, to ensure that the provisions of the Seal Fishery Ordinance (Cap. 62) or any regulations made thereunder and that the conditions of this Licence are complied with.
20. The licensee shall not employ local Falkland Islands labour without the prior authority of the Governor.
21. The licensee shall pay to the Collector of Customs, export duty at the rate in force from time to time during the currency of this Licence, upon all seal oil and seal products other than seal oil which shall be obtained or produced from seals taken under this Licence, whether such seal oil or seal products other than seal oil shall or shall not have been actually produced within the Colony or the territorial waters thereof.
22. This Licence is not transferable.
23. In the case of a breach of any of the conditions of this Licence, or any of the provisions of the Seal Fishery Ordinance (Cap. 62) or of any regulations made thereunder or any Ordinance or regulations amending or replacing the said Ordinance or regulations, the Governor may, by notice in writing, summarily revoke this Licence, and thereupon all rights conferred hereby or enjoyed hereunder shall cease as from the date mentioned in such notice.

Dated this

day of

, 195 .

Colonial Secretary.

SCHEDULE .

EAST FALKLANDS.

Lafonia and adjacent islands, excluding 1,000 acres Crown Reserve at Bull Point.

Land on the North shore of Choiseul Sound.

Brenton Loch.

1,160 acres. Darwin Harbour.

160 acres. Port Harriet.

160 acres. Uranie Bay.

160 acres. West head of Bluff Cove.

160 acres. South-east arm of San Carlos.

160 acres. North shore of Port Sussex

Sea Lion Islands.

Horseshoe Bay (Whittington's Rincon).

Teal Inlet (Evelyn Station).

Navy Point, Port Stanley.

WEST FALKLANDS.

Roy Cove including West Point, Bense, Rabbit and Hummock Islands.

Pebble Island.

160 acres. Kepple Island (Bold Point)

Packe's Port Howard including West Swan Island.

693 acres. White Rock, Port Howard.

160 acres. New Island (Cliff Peak).

100 acres. New Island (Ship Harbour)

SEAL RESERVES.

Elephant Jason Island.

Bird Island.

Volunteer Rocks..

Beauchene Island.

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FALKLAND ISLANDS.

DEPENDENCY OF SOUTH GEORGIA.

Sealing Licence.

A licence under section 5 of the Seal Fishery Ordinance (Cap.62), is hereby granted to the Albion Star Company, Limited, (hereinafter referred to as the licensee) to take seal mentioned herein and subject to the following terms and conditions:-

1. This licence shall be in force for fifteen years from the day of , 195 , and shall be an exclusive licence for the Dependency of South Georgia, so long as it remains valid.
2. An annual Licence Fee of £100 shall be paid in advance to the Colonial Treasurer, Stanley, Falkland Islands, or to the Administrative Officer, King Edward Cove, South Georgia, on the day of in each year.
3. This licence shall be valid in the Dependency of South Georgia for elephant seal only.
4. Not more than 6,000 elephant seal shall be killed in any one season in the Dependency of South Georgia.
5. The quota specified in clause 4 hereof, may be reviewed annually by the Governor and as a result of such review may be revised; provided, however, that any revision of the quota shall be subject to the general principle that there shall be no reduction unless technical and scientific advice tendered to the Governor renders such reduction advisable and necessary.
6. The number of elephant seals taken from each of the Sealing Divisions specified in the Schedule hereto during any one season shall be at the discretion of the Administrative Officer, South Georgia:  
  
Provided that the number shall not exceed 6,000 in the aggregate.
7. Elephant seals shall be killed only between the 1st March and the 30th November in each year.
8. No male elephant seal of less than 152 inches (3.9 metres) in total length shall be killed.
9. At least 20% of the adult male elephant seals over 152 inches (3.9 metres) in total length shall be left alive at each rookery  
  
Provided that the number of adult male elephant seals over 152 inches (3.9 metres) in total length so left alive in accordance with this section at the first killing shall not be progressively reduced on any subsequent visit or visits to the same rookery during any one season.
10. The killing or capturing of female elephant seals must be avoided.
11. The killing or capturing of pups or young elephant seals or Weddell's seals is prohibited.
12. The licensee must ensure that elephant seals are driven and killed in the most humane way practicable. Seals must be shot and not clubbed to death.
13. The whole carcass of every elephant seal killed shall be utilised, so far as possible, for the extraction of oil, meat and bone meal and/or other marketable products.

#### Division IV. Cape Disappointment to Cape Nunes.



68

JH

There is nothing else  
you require this for?

We await the outcome of  
Col. P. Butler's discussion.

Yours

17/1/56

copy  
plot of the monument. Put off right by 2.4. in  
September. Will wait to get copies down with  
me.

B.L. for me when I  
go down to S.G. B.L. due  
early October.

R.G.F.-

23.7.56

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

66

From OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.

To ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, SOUTH GEORGIA.

Despatched : 21st July 1956 19 Time : 0930

Received : : 19 Time : :

No: 129. Sealing.

Government has agreed in principle to issue of a sealing licence for the Falkland Islands to the Albion Star Company. It has also approved in principle the transfer of the present sealing licence for South Georgia held by Pesca to Albion Star. In both cases issue of licence is contingent upon Albion Star being registered either in South Georgia or Stanley. Draft licences which have been approved by Secretary of State have been sent to Pierce Butler, copies will be forwarded to you at earliest opportunity. Idea is that they should be discussed in detail either between:-

- (a) Governor and Pierce Butler in United Kingdom
- (b) You and Pierce Butler in South Georgia, or
- (c) Pierce Butler and myself when I come down to South Georgia later in the year.

We are anxious that details of the licences should be agreed between Company and Government before issue. If Pierce Butler has not been able to discuss in United Kingdom with Governor, please go through the licences with him on his arrival in South Georgia and telegraph comments.

I would emphasize Government will insist on Albion Star being registered in Stanley or South Georgia as pre-requisite to issue and transfer of licences.

GTC : PT

BUC 15/12/56



DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR

Despatched: 2.8.56. Time: 1245 Received: 2.8.56. Time: 1430

CONFIDENTIAL.

No: 118. Your tel. No: 102. Following from Governor begins:-

X/ Have seen Ryan and Butler. Because of difficulty with Argentine Government Ryan would prefer sealing licence in respect of South Georgia to issue this year in name of Argentina de Pesca. I have agreed that licence for 1 year should be issued to Pesca and that it should be made clear in covering letter that this licence will not be renewed but similar licence will be issued for remaining years in name of Albion Star Limited provided company is registered in Falkland Islands or Dependencies.

Company does not propose to start sealing in the Colony until the 1957/58 season by which time Albion Star Limited should be registered. Arrangements in respect of Colony can therefore stand. ends.

GTC : PT

68

ACS/

But Presn already have the lanes for sealing  
in South Georgia. I mean give the reference to it.

Office

Repr me to Prescat  
Sealing licenses  
Done  
4/8/56

C. G. J.

3.8.56

ACS

Please see <sup>file</sup> 90/36.

Copies of Sealing licenses  
to be furnished to the  
Colonial office.

JR



DECODE.

No. 3.

TELEGRAM.

From Compania Argentina de Pesca, Montevideo

To Colonial Secretary

Despatched : 4th August, 19 56 Time 1620

Received : 5th August, 19 56 Time 0945

We beg to apply for license employ up to seven  
whale catchers next season also renewal sealing license  
for 1957 season.

COMPANIA ARGENTINA DE PESCA

P/L:IR

See 71 answer 72

69.

20

JH

68 A copy of the actual licence is at  
65 in 90/36.

69. Permission to use 7 catches may be  
granted as in former years. Draft tel. submitted  
but do you wish to say the price about future  
licences or write to Lesca?

DL  
5/6/56



DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

From OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.

To ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, SOUTH GEORGIA.

Despatched : 9th August 1956 19 Time : 1530

Received : : 19 Time : :

CONFIDENTIAL.

No: 137.

Pesca have applied for renewal of sealing licence for 1957 season. This has been approved but Governor has personally made it clear to Ryan and Butler that it will not be renewed thereafter but that similar licence based on draft referred to in my telegram No:129 will be issued in future years to Albion Star Company provided latter registers either in South Georgia or Falkland Islands. Please make this clear in writing to Company's Manager in due course and confirm by telegram when you have done so. For your own information Company are unlikely to start sealing in the Colony until 1957/58 season. Pesca. have also applied for permission to use up to seven catchers next whaling season and this has been granted.

GTC : PT

original filed at 0157/A/71

Copy filed at D/9/47/121

u - 1 D/32/189

See 75

# GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SENT

72

Number

Office of Origin

Words

Handed in at

Date

9th August 1956

To

COMPANIA ARGENTINA DE PESCA, MONTEVIDEO

a/c H.O.

YOURTEL 4TH AUGUST STOP PERMISSION GRANTED USE SEVEN CATCHERS  
ALSO RENEWAL SEALING LICENCE 1957 SEASON.

SECRETARY.

Original filed at 0157/A/72

Copy filed at D/9/47/122

Time

" " " D/32/47/90

See 73

See 69

Inform AO  
if not sent from  
master file  
Address above will  
be insufficient.  
Has tel been registered  
See 73



## GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SENT

73

Number

Office of Origin

Words

Handed in at

Date

11.8.56

To

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, SOUTH GEORGIA

DEPA/C

No.158. PESCA GRANTED PERMISSION FOR SEVEN CATCHERS 1957 SEASON  
AND SEALING LICENCE 1957 APPROVED.

SECRETARY

Original filed at 0157/A/73

Copy filed at D/9/47 123

" " " D/32/47/91

Time

IR

Reply at 7.56.

J.H.

Are you replying to 67?

a

74

Don

11/8/56

No. I don't think a reply is called for but have  
put the A.C. fully into the picture.

b

E.H.

14.8.56

BU 2/10/56  
(65)

c

Kiv letter (67)

J.H.

X on 67 resubmitted pl

d

Don

28/8/56

A.C.S.

Surely n.f.c. is called for now?

e

Would you have any comments to be made for  
my South Georgia visit.

f

E.H.

29.8.56

BU 1/10/56 h. Kiv



DECODE.

75

TELEGRAM.

No. 84

From Administrative Officer, South Geogria

To Colonial Secretary

Despatched : 5th September, 19 56 Time : 2235

Received : 6th September, 19 56 Time : 0945

71.

No.128: Your telegram No.137 confidential. Sealing Licences for 1956 season were issued on 3rd September and Manager has been informed in writing concerning the transfer of present licence to Albion Star Company in accordance with your above telegram.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Copy filed in D/9/47  
" " " D/32/47

GTC.PT

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

No. 168

From Administrative Officer, South Georgia

To Colonial Secretary

Despatched: 11th September, 19 56 Time: 1715

Received: 12th September, 19 56 Time: 0945

73

No. 130: Your telegram No. 138. Grateful you confirm that the permission to use seven catchers refers to the 1956/57 season only and that the sealing licence is approved for the 1956 season only. Sealing licences were issued on the 3rd September and sealing for this year will end on the 30th November my telegram No. 138 refers.

See at 69 call  
it 1957 season which  
is where we went  
20th 12/9/57

75

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Reply at 78

Copy filed at D/9/47  
" " " D/32/47

See 44 in  
0157

P/L:IMR

File to be returned to Secretary for  
on above.



77

StC

We shall have to reply today  
to R. D. G. Draft tel ofc. I think we  
were misled by Heson referring to 1957  
season when in fact it is 1956.

DLW  
19/10/56

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

From COLONIAL SECRETARY.

To ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, SOUTH GEORGIA.

Despatched : 20th October 1956 19 Time : 1130

Received : : 19 Time : :

URGENT.

No:165. Your telegram No. 130. Permission to use catchers refers to 1956/57 season. There is some misunderstanding over the question of the sealing licence the reasons for which I will explain when I come down. Current sealing licence is of course approved and there is a commitment for next year. We have now however just received application of Albion Star Company for registration in South Georgia and this is in hand. Consequently as soon as formalities are completed and agreement is reached on the licence Albion Star will take over Pesca's licence as from the beginning of the next sealing season.

SECRETARY.

GTC : PT.

Office  
Note on the discussion  
has pl. Done 20/10/56  
Noted on discussion light  
help

Rec 80



AIDE-MEMOIRE No. 4.

Sealing Licences.

0157/A  
D/32/47

60-64

Copies of Sealing Licences South Georgia and Falkland Islands attached.

Consequent on receipt of Administrative Officer's telegram No. 130 which reads

76

73

"Your telegram No. 138. Grateful you confirm that the permission to use seven catchers refers to the 1956/57 season only and that the sealing licence is approved for the 1956 season only. Sealing licences were issued on the 3rd September and sealing for this year will end on the 30th November my telegram No. 128 refers."

Hon. Colonial Secretary sent in reply

78

"No. 165. Your telegram No. 130. Permission to use catchers refers to 1956/57 season. There is some misunderstanding over the question of the sealing licence the reasons for which I will explain when I come down. Current sealing licence is of course approved and there is a commitment for next year. We have now however just received application of Albion Star Company for registration in South Georgia and this is in hand. Consequently as soon as formalities are completed and agreement is reached on the licence Albion Star will take over Pesca's licence as from the beginning of the next sealing season."

*Mr. Power letter  
now filed at G.A.  
D.R.  
20/11/56*

*Bu 23/12/56 X*



DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

No. 64.

From Ryan, Care Brandtsons, London.

To His Excellency the Governor.

Despatched : 6th December, 19 56 Time 1325  
Received : 7th December, 19 56 Time 0900

A

Much regret to learn of disturbances caused Grytviken by crew steamer "Harpon" please accept my sincere apologies for trouble caused magistrate. Taking all steps to punish offending crew members and will prohibit their return to South Georgia. You will realise our transporting programme makes it necessary for us to continue voyages "Harpon", "Conquistador" Buenos Aires, South Georgia but will see that all necessary precautions are taken avoiding further trouble our vessels. Meanwhile negotiating outright sale of Pesca Factory to Albion Star on the understanding you will agree transfer lease sealing and whaling licence at end of present season.

RYAN,

CARE BRANDTSONS,

LONDON.

A.B.S.

11 N.A. at the moment, i.e.o. 56 + 67. 11/12

C.

no action yet. I understand C. is discussing with Piers. rather the matter of transferring the licences. S.W. on his return from South Georgia

11/12

Bu 21/12



DECODE.

COPY.

original filed in D/7/56 81  
copy filed in D/28/47

TELEGRAM SENT.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR

Despatched : 13.12.56 Time : 2350 Received : 14.12.56 Time : 0930

PRIORITY

SECRET

4 in D/7/56 No: 186. Your telegram No: 274

Ryan was sent for and interviewed with following results

- (a) Chief Officer and crew Harpon will be dismissed.
- (b) In future all transports will be searched for liquor before leaving Argentine.
- (c) Ryan agreed that sealing and whaling concessions should be withdrawn from Pesca and given to Albion Star Company. I understand in a telegram to you that he has already asked permission for sealing and whaling licences for next season to be transferred to Albion Star Company. He is instructing Pesca Manager to apply again for transfer of licences.
- (d) Ryan also agreed that if licences were transferred to Albion Star Company he would do his utmost to man the transports with British or Scandinavian crews but he could no guarantee full British or Scandinavian crews for next season.

2. For your information Ryan hopes to visit South Georgia sometime in January.

Cypher 'E' : PT

Typed MF

has

Com 80. p. 17/12.

Comments on the Albion Star Sealing Licences.

South Georgia Licence.

Para. 8. If "total length" means nose to tail it removes the I - V year classes from the possible seals. If it means nose to tip of hind flippers then the position is approximately the same as on the previous licences.

Para. 9. In South Georgia the beaches are generally visited for the first time before the rookeries have formed. Hence a beach which later may accomodate 500 cows will perhaps have only five bulls on it at the first visit. This would mean that the survival group not to be progressively reduced would number one. The problem is very difficult to tackle. The ideal solution would be to leave a constant and adequate proportion of bulls to cows, but this is hardly practicable as the sealers have neither the time nor the inclination to count the cows. In the absence of direct supervision the gunners would almost certainly ignore this clause.

Para. 10. This would perhaps be better if it read "The killing or capturing of female elephant seals is prohibited" instead of "..... must be avoided".

Para. 13. Albion Star could not carry out these requirments without purchasing a floating factory.

Para 16. Could this be made to read ".....Seal Fishery Officer or Officers," as in the event of a large number of catchers being used one Officer would not be able to provide adequate supervision.

Schedule.

Division II. Cape Buller to Cape Saunders does not include Leith, Stromness or Husvik as these are on the Division III side of Cape Saunders.

Division III. The reserve should be described more exactly. I suggest "..... the reserve at Dartmouth Point, that is, from the western limit of the Nordenskjöld Glacier to the eastern limit of the Harker Glacier." (The second "to" in this sentence is surely an error for "in").



Falkland Licence.

Para. 9. The season suggested is the period at which the seals could be expected to be in the worst condition. Probably the sealers would do as much of the sealing as possible early in November, when they would cause the greatest disturbance to the breeding cows. (Assuming that the breeding season is much the same as in South Georgia.)

Paras. 10, 11, 12. As for South Georgia Licence.

Para. 14. Is no protection at all to be offered to the Falkland leopard seal?

Paras. 16, 19. As for South Georgia Licence.

ALBION STAR COMPANY

Offer of \$500 made for exclusive licence to undertake pelagic sealing in Falkland Islands and their Dependencies.

Company asked that operations for first two years should be tax free. Government has taken no action with regard to this question.

Further three copies of each licence at back cover.

Seals in print of seal



The following amendments should be noted:-

(A) South Georgia, Clause 1. This clause should read "This licence shall be in force for 15 years from the 1st day of March 1957 and shall be an exclusive licence for the Dependency of South Georgia so long as it remains valid."

Clause 2. The annual licence fee should fall due on the 1st day of March of each year.

Clause 8. This clause should be amended to read as follows:-

"No male elephant seal of less than 152 inches (3.9 metres) in total length shall be killed. For the purpose of this clause total length shall be defined as being measurement from nose to tip of hind flippers."

Clause 9. Both the Company and the Sealing Inspector have represented that the figure of 20% of the adult male elephant seals to be left alive at each rookery shall be reduced to the current figure of 10%, this is being referred to the Secretary of State for the advice of his Scientific Advisors.

Clause 10. This clause should be amended to read as follows:-

"The killing or capturing of female elephant seals is prohibited"

Clause 11. This should be amended to read as follows:-

"The killing or capturing of pups, young elephant seals, weddell seals and fur seals is prohibited."

Clause 16. This clause should be amended so as to provide that the Governor "may appoint up to two Seal Fishery Officers."

The Schedule. The definition of division 2 should just read:-

"Cape Buller to Cape Saunders".

Division 3. Definition should be amended to read as follows:-

"Larsen Point to Cape Disappointment excluding the reserve at Dartmouth Point, that is, from the western limit of the Norden-skjöld Glacier to the eastern limit of Harker Glacier."

(B) Colony Licences, Clause 1. This should be filled in to provide that the licence shall be in force for 15 years from the 1st day of May 1957.

Clause 2. Should be filled in so as to provide annual licence fee of £200 shall fall due on the 1st day of June in each year.

Clause 6. The Company have representated that the killing period should be amended to the 1st of June - 15th September in each year. It has been proposed to the Secretary of State, for the advice of his Scientific Advisors, that the period should be 1st of June to the 30th September so as to give them little leeway.

Clause 9. This clause should be amended so as to provide that elephant seals shall be killed between the 1st June and the 30th September in each year so as to combine it with the sea lion killing period. This point has been referred to the Secretary of State for advice.

Clause 10. This clause should be amended to read "no male elephant seal of less than 152 inches (3.9 metres) in total length shall be killed. For the purpose of this clause total length shall be defined as being the measurement from nose to the tip of hind flippers."

Clause 11. Representations are being made to the Secretary of State that the figure of 20% of the adult male elephant seals to be left alive at each rockery shall be reduced to 10%.

Clause 12. This clause should be amended to read "the killing or capturing of female sea lions or female elephant seals is prohibited."

Clause 13. This clause should be amended to read "the killing or capturing of pups, young seals, weddell seals or fur seals is prohibited."

Clause 14. This clause should be amended so as to provide for the appointment of up to two seal fishery officers.

Note. Company have asked us to provide them with a marked map of the Colony showing the areas into which they cannot enter without the consent of an Admiral. Registrar should do this job.



SAVING TELEGRAM.

*From:* The Officer Administering the Government of the Falkland Islands.

*To:* The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

*Date:* 15th January, 1957.

No. 14. SAVING. COLONY

Sealing Licences.

37 Your Savingram No. 143 (Colony) of the 13th December, 1955.  
Sealing Licences.

The draft Sealing Licences have now been discussed in detail with the Manager of the Compania Argentina de Pesca in Grytviken, who will be the Manager of the Albion Star Company (now registered in South Georgia). They have also been discussed with the Administrative Officer, South Georgia, and Mr. Nigel Bonner, Sealing Inspector. Two points of some importance have arisen as a result of these discussions and I should be grateful for further advice.

(1) Clause 9 of the Dependency Licence and Clause 11 of the Colony Licence.

The Company have pressed strongly for the retention of the figure of 10% and argue that they can see no justification for the substantial increase from 10% to 20%. This point was referred to Mr. Bonner who intimated that as a result of his own season's work and having regard to such information and previous records as are available, he was quite satisfied that:-

(a) numbers are not being progressively reduced by the present rate of killing;

(b) that there is not sufficient justification for increasing the percentage to 20% and that from conservation aspects the present figure of 10% is quite satisfactory and adequate.

This, as one of your Scientific Advisers has pointed out, is a matter of considerable difficulty and it is certainly one of importance both to Government and the Company. Having regard, however, to the views expressed by Mr. Bonner, I feel that the existing figure of 10% should be retained unless the arguments in favour of the higher percentage are still considered to be overwhelming.

(2) Colony Licence - Killing Periods (Clauses 6 and 9)

The draft Colony Licence provides that sea lions be killed only between the 1st of May and the 30th of June in each year (Clause 6) and that elephant seals shall be killed only between the 1st of November and the 15th of January following (Clause 9.)

The gap between the two killing periods has serious advantages from the point of view of management and efficiency. It will mean a lapse of one month between sea lion killing period and the elephant seal period during which staff and ships will be idle.



This will undoubtedly have the effect of quite seriously reducing the economic potentialities of the project. An additional factor is that Mr. Bonner has pointed out that the killing period proposed in the case of elephant seals is that in which the seals could be expected to be in their worst condition and from all points of view, including that of conservation, he advocates an earlier season. I have also sought the advice of Dr. Hamilton, a former Government Naturalist in the Falkland Islands, and he also holds the view that an earlier killing period would be desirable on condition that the licence is so worded as to provide for adjustment if, in the light of experience, some adjustment of periods during which the seals can be killed is found to be desirable.

The Company wish to operate in Colony waters during the period 1st of June to mid September of each year in respect of both sea lions and elephant seals. This would be a prelude to the South Georgia season when they usually operate from mid September to the 30th of November and crews could be transferred from the Falklands to South Georgia.

In the circumstances I should be very grateful if the views of your Scientific Advisers may be obtained on the possibility of amending the draft Colony licences so as to provide that both sea lions and elephant seals may be taken during the period 1st of January to the 30th of September of each year, subject to adjustment if the needs of protection and conservation makes such an adjustment necessary.

*June*

GOVERNOR'S DEPUTY.

ADT/MC



SAVING TELEGRAM.

From: The Officer Administering the Government of the Falkland Islands.

To: The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

1st February 1957

9

DEPENDENCIES.

Seal Investigations and Inspectorate, South Georgia.

Your telegram FILED 257 of the 21st December 1956 and previous correspondence on the subject of the appointment of a biologist to undertake further seal investigations in South Georgia refers.

2. I have seen Mr. Nigel Bonner personally and discussed with him his season's work and, in outline, his ideas as to the future programme. I am not in a position of course to anticipate his final recommendations and those of your Scientific Advisers but, from what Mr. Bonner has told me, it seems quite clear that there is a strong case for follow-up scientific work next season.

3. In addition, from the point of view of the sealing industry, it is important that we should have a Sealing Inspector who can be relied upon by Government, who has the confidence and respect of the whaling companies and sealers and who is interested in and concerned with the conservation aspects. From reports and discussions I have had in South Georgia I am satisfied that Mr. Bonner has carried out his duties in this respect in a thoroughly competent manner.

4. As it is apparently also the view of your Scientific Advisers that in any event a further season's work would be profitable, I am anxious, in order to ensure continuity in the seal investigations, at the same time making certain of the services of a reliable and experienced Sealing Inspector, to endeavour to make early arrangements for Mr. Bonner to return to South Georgia later in the year. I have also in mind the long term prospect of possibly utilising his services if and when the Albion Star Company begin sealing in the Falkland Islands.

5. I have tentatively discussed with Mr. Bonner the possibility of a further season's work in South Georgia. He informed me that he was attracted by the idea but pointed out that having recently got married he would find it difficult to contemplate a further temporary appointment unless he could be assured of some increase in his emoluments. I feel there is some force in his arguments and in any event I shall be submitting proposals, in connexion with the 1957/58 estimates, for a revision of salaries in South Georgia which, if we are to maintain essential services and to continue to recruit technical and scientific staff such as wireless operators and meteorological officers, has now I am afraid become quite inevitable. Consequently an adjutant in his case, in his capacity as Sealing Inspector, would be in keeping with proposed increases in the case of other Government staff in South Georgia.



6. Mr. Bonner will be returning to the United Kingdom in April or early May to work up results and will be retained for this purpose in the usual manner and on the usual terms and conditions on the advice of the Scientific Bureau. In the circumstances outlined above, however, and unless you see any objection, I propose to offer him a contract for a further period of work on the same conditions and at the maximum of the scale (£540 p.a. all found) but with an additional allowance of £200 p.a. in respect of residential service in South Georgia as Sealing Inspector. This arrangement would provide Mr. Bonner with a reasonable increase in his emoluments, which would be in keeping with his additional responsibilities as Sealing Inspector, but would not give rise to complications vis a vis other scientific staff such as glaciologists who are employed on the £400 - £540 p.a. scale and who are paid at that rate plus 15/-d. per day while working up their results in the United Kingdom.

I also intend to make arrangements, if possible, for Mr. Bonner's wife to accompany him and for married accommodation, if available, to be provided at the Point in Grytviken.

AGIT/PT

Original filed at D/3/56/114  
Copies to: 0157/19  
FIDS P/148. /123



No. 0157/A

MEMORANDUM.

It is requested that, in any reference to this memorandum the above number and the date may be quoted.

91 92  
20th February 19 57

To:

From:

Officer Administering the Government.

The Registrar.

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

SUBJECT :-

You will remember that some time in 1955 you drew up a list of scheduled areas for the draft sealing licence applied for by Pesca for operations in the Falkland Islands.

If I remember correctly you said at the time that it was practically impossible to pin down with exactitude the position of many of these scheduled areas. Mr. Pierce Butler has asked:-

- (1) Whether Government could let him have a map showing at least the approximate position of these localities, and
- (2) Whether Government would be prepared to seek and obtain the permission of the farms concerned for the Company to enter the areas and take seals.

I don't know how far we can go to meet this request but the first move is obviously to try and get on to a map as much information as we have got. I am sorry to have to burden you with this but I don't know of anybody else who could do it. I have in mind that we should have something ready for Pierce Butler by the time he arrives here from South Georgia on or about the 10th April.

AGDT/PT



CONFIDENTIAL

92

97

To:  
Director of Civil Aviation.

Aerial Plotting of Seal Rookeries.

As you may be aware, Government and the Albion Star Company (now registered in South Georgia) are negotiating over the issue to the latter of an exclusive sealing licence for the Falkland Islands. It is possible (but I must emphasise that the matter is still very much in the air) that the Company will begin operations in 1958 although they have applied for a licence to take effect from the 1st June of this year.

One of the points that has arisen is that of obtaining detailed information about seal rookeries and Mr. Pierce Butler, Pesca's manager at Grytviken, who will probably be running the business, has enquired whether it will be possible for some aerial plotting of the rookeries to be done on behalf of the Company.

Assuming of course that something could be done without in any way contravening safety regulations or endangering the aircraft, the best thing would be for the Company to charter a Beaver for 3 or 4 days, perhaps a week. This is a matter which the Company would have to decide but I should be glad to know:-

- (a) Whether it would be possible having regard to safety factors, and
- (b) What sort of charter price might be specified.

In the meantime it occurred to me that the pilots might be able to accumulate a certain amount of ~~the~~ information in the course of their ordinary flights without going very far out of their way or incurring too much additional expenditure. I should be glad if you would look into the possibility and let me have your comments. Dr. Hamilton would, I think, very readily give you any information you might require on the locality of existing rookeries which are known.

O.A.G.

20th February 1957.

AGDT/PT

Y.H.

The spotting of seal rookeries from the air can be carried out without contravening Air Regulations. The safety factor would not be affected in any way as spotting operations would be carried out over coastlines, or very ~~short~~ inland penetrations, it would not be necessary to fly at heights of less than 500 ft. as seal can be easily spotted at that height.

On 17<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1950. the Colonial Secretary issued a public notice quoting the charter fee for NORSEMAN as quote "Six full passenger fares for the single journey plus sixpence per mile for all miles flown on charter flight" unquote. Since the Beaver is a smaller aircraft I would suggest a fee equivalent to 4 full fares plus 3 pence per mile flown during charter.

P.T.O.



92A

As stated in your last para. a considerable amount of information could be obtained during ~~normal~~ flying operations with very little deviation from flight plan, and only in three or four cases would it be necessary to deviate more than twenty miles.

Should it be decided to carry out spotting during normal flying operations, I would suggest a charge of 2/- per mile for every mile flown off route.

I will contact DR. HAMILTON the location of known rookeries. I will also try to find out from MR. F. ANDERSON (the most recent sealing skipper in the Falklands) the location of the lesser known rookeries. With this information a lot of unnecessary flying can be avoided.

*[Signature]*

D.E.A.

26/2/52.

A Second Report on the Southern Sea lion  
by J. E. Hamilton. "Discovery" Reports 1937-1940-  
1941. C.U.P. (?) 12/6

2./ See folded map at end of above report.

3./ What is meant "seals" in our connection?

4./ What fee is offered?

*[Signature]*

CONFIDENTIAL

93

To:

Mr. H. L. Bound, Income Tax Office

The Albion Star Company at South Georgia are proposing to start sealing operations in 1958. They have been told that they would get an exclusive licence and the matter has been approved by Executive Council.

They have enquired, however, whether or not Government might consider allowing them to operate for the first 12 months tax free. I assume any profit made as a result of sealing in the Falkland Islands would be subject to our income tax as the Company is registered in South Georgia. Another or additional way we could do it would be to waive the condition of the licence which subjects the Company to ~~pay the~~ duty on seal oil although in fact the seals will be drawn off the beaches and will be processed on a factory ship outside territorial waters.

The first point to consider, however, is a waiver of taxation for the first year's operations and this would have to go to Executive Council. Would you please comment on this proposal and let me have the references and relevant information on which I can base an Executive Council memorandum.

*C.A.G.*  
O.A.G.

20th February 1957

AGDE/PT

To be sent out when file 0475/4 is returned by D.C.H.



94

I.C.A.

92 pe.

Q.  
2 1/2.

A.E.S.

92. noted and observations added. *at 92 A**Ken*  
D.E.A.  
24/2

Mr. H. L. Bond

93 pe.

- I think something similar was  
done for S.B.S. Co? If so, you may  
wish to borrow the files?Q.  
1/3.Thank you  
10.3.57.

Hou.C.S.

I imagine the new Company will operate solely in these dependencies waters, in which case the total profits will become assessable to F.I.s. tax. I mention this because we have already experienced difficulty with other companies engaged in the sealing and whaling industries viz: Salween & Tonsbergs. The problem here is that we can only legally collect tax from these two companies on the profits attributable to the working of the land stations & in both cases the accounts are prepared in books showing the total profits of the working of both land & pelagic operations. I would therefore suggest that should the Albion Star Co. propose extending their operational field beyond our limits they should be informed from the beginning that it will be essential for taxation purposes to keep a separate account of all revenue derived from F.I.s. & Dependency sources.

In 1953/54 tentative inquiries were made by Messrs. Bjelund & Olsen of South Georgia regarding the possibility of establishing a sealing company in these waters together with a request for remission of tax on the first two years' working. The scheme, although it did not materialise, was encouraged by this Administration on 4th January 1954 Ex. Co. approved the exemption of Company tax for the first two years of operation. See C.S. 1607 page 19 - attached.

The South Atlantic Sealing Co. did not apply for remission as indeed this was not necessary for at no stage did they ever produce a profit. In any case the initial cost of the Albion Star venture could easily result in a deficit on the first year's operation & no doubt this is the reason for a two year period being mentioned at 84 in this file.

Provision for the remission of tax is made under Section 90 Cap 32. ✓



A

Y.H.

92 &amp; 93.

Pl. see 92A &amp; 94.

8  
5/3.

B

1 D.C.H.

I am much obliged to you.

Would you be good enough to accumulate and plot as much as you can - without deviation - and be ready to discuss when Pinn Butler comes through in a month's time. We will then make a plan (but Pinn are not behaving very well at the moment)

2. PLS.

Please note this file for discussion with Pinn Butler when he comes up here on Piscoe about 9 April.

Done  
J.

C.

L.G.H.  
2.3.57.

Y.H.

I will issue instructions to Mr TOYE to report all seal rookeries spotted during normal flying, and start plotting charts as soon as information is available.

Jew  
D.C.H.

14/5/57.



0157/A.

96

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR

Despatched : 13.3.57

Time : 1055

Received : 14.3.57 Time : 0900

87.

No: 36. Your Savingram No: 14.

Sealing Licence.

FRAZER?

Have consulted ( ? ) British Museum and Dr. Laws.  
No strong objection seen by anyone to operation A1 period  
January 1st to September 30th for both sea lions and elephants.

2. Bull residue position not so easy to reduce size of  
harem which in 1951 and 1954 when seen by him was dangerously  
high and he doubts whether Bonner's studies enable him to express  
reliable opinions on this aspect. He would rather await  
discussions with Bonner before giving definite opinion on  
proposed increased taking of bulls.

3. Fraser agrees with Hamilton on killing period and is  
unable to advise on the bull residue.

SECRETARY OF STATE.

GTC:FBR  
Typed MF

Y.4.

C on 95 f.i.

2. 96 submitted, PL.

8.173

see 101

97

I suspect this is nonsense. T.H. note for  
S.W. about 10 April when Pina Puntler is  
here.

L.H. 7/7

19.3.57

file read

June  
rose  
12/3

Bull. 10/4  
1/4



Government House,  
Stanley,  
Falkland Islands.

13th April 1957

Sir,

I have to refer to our discussions on Wednesday, 10th April, on the subject of sealing licences in South Georgia and the Colony.

I informed you and now confirm that with regard to the Colony licence for the Albion Star Company Limited, which is now under consideration, the Secretary of State has agreed that there would be no objection to the Company operating in Colony waters in respect of both sea lions and elephant seals during the period 1st June to the 30th September. The licence will be amended accordingly.

I informed you also that the Secretary of State, on the advice of his scientific advisers, had raised objections to the proposal that the figure of 10% in respect of the percentage of the adult male elephant seals that must be left alive on the beaches should be retained.

I informed you that I proposed to make further representations to the Secretary of State to the effect that this figure should not be increased to 20% until such a time as scientific evidence points conclusively to the desirability of increasing the percentage.

We discussed also the question of tax exemption in respect of the first two or three seasons' operations in Falkland Islands waters and I informed you that the matter would be submitted for the consideration of Executive Council as soon as this Government is assured and is provided with evidence that the Albion Star Company seriously proposes to proceed with the project.

There are two further matters to which I think it desirable your Company should give urgent consideration. According to the latest official advice available to this Government, it is your Company's intention to commence sealing in Falkland Islands waters in 1957. You did, however, advise me recently in South Georgia that it was unlikely that the Albion Star Company

/would be in 1957

Colonel K. S. Pierce-Butler,  
STANLEY.



99

would be in a position to begin until 1958. In the circumstances Government would be quite prepared to hold open the option of an exclusive licence until the end of 1958 but I trust you will appreciate that there would be serious difficulties in the way of continuing this concession and it is in fact doubtful whether Government could see its way to holding open the option beyond the 1958 season. In the circumstances I should be much obliged if you would inform this Government of your Company's intentions.

The second point of some importance is that of carcass utilisation. You will appreciate that in the draft Dependencies licence the principle of maximum utilisation of the seal carcass has been incorporated. A similar provision has been incorporated in the draft Colony licence. You will appreciate, of course, that it is this Government's responsibility to ensure that the economic potentialities of both Dependencies and the Colony are exploited to the full and with maximum efficiency. In Government's view it is essential that very much more serious consideration should be given by the Albion Star Company than has hitherto been given by the Company Argentina de Pesca to the question of whole carcass disposals and I should be very glad if you would be good enough to inform me as soon as possible what steps the Albion Star Company proposes to take to ensure that in fact seal carcasses are utilised to the maximum.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient servant.

1747/1  
OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.

AGDT/PT

Original filed at 0157/A.  
Copy filed in D/3/56/17



26th April, 1957

D/O

I am enclosing for your information copies of two savingsgrams I have sent to the Secretary of State in connexion with Nigel Bonner's work in South Georgia.

D/O/SB/14  
and  
4/10/57/101

I won't bother you with details and Nigel Bonner will no doubt discuss his report with you, at the same time explaining where he and Laws differ with regard to the suggestion that has come from Laws to the effect that we should amend the Sealing Licences so as to require the sealers to leave 20% (instead of the present 10%) of bull alive on a beach.

But be that as it may - and you will see that I consider that scientific advice should be a lot clearer and more definite before we make things more difficult for the Company (and a lot of money is at stake) - my main point in writing to you is that I want to see Bonner back if possible.

Sealing is an important economic proposition in South Georgia. To watch over the business I consider we need a man with a scientific bent and approach and at the same time a man who appreciates and can enforce sensible conservation measures without being a "conservation at all costs" fanatic. I feel Bonner fills the bill admirably and that for at least another season (and probably longer) he could do a lot of valuable work, combining it with the duties of Sealing Inspector. I very much hope you will agree with this point of view and do your best to persuade Bonner to return. We for our part will make it as easy as possible for him to do so. If he won't I should be glad to know whether you have another good man in sight.

(Signed) AGD-T.

Sir Raymond Priestley,  
Scientific Bureau,  
Queen Anne Chambers,  
Broadway,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

AGDT/PT

Original filed at 0157/A/100

Copy to D/3/56/19

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~



101  
501

26th April, 1957

87

COLONY.

96

Your telegram No: 36. South Georgia Sealing Licence.  
Bull residue.

I appreciate Laws' arguments with regard to the 10% residue problem and he is of course the accepted authority. On the other hand Bonner has undertaken a very detailed season's programme of work in close conjunction with the sealers. In addition as Laws himself admits in his letter of the 24th November, 1955, the 10% residue question is a particularly difficult one and the problem is well illustrated in Bonner's report.

The present draft licence does not propose anything in the way of an increased take. It follows what is in fact existing practice and it is Laws that has proposed a decrease in the take on any one beach by raising the percentage to be left alive from 10% to 20%.

I have discussed this matter again with the Administrative Officer as I did late last year with Bonner. As a result of these discussions and as it appears that there is, or is likely to be, some difference of opinion between Laws' views and those of Bonner, I feel that this Government would be justified in retaining the figure at 10% at the same time providing for revision once scientific opinion and recommendations are a little more definite. In fact I feel the principle should be that the permissible percentage should not be increased unless scientific opinion can show quite clearly that an increase is necessary.

Until such a time as definite conclusions can be reached as a result of Bonner's work in South Georgia, I suggest the 10% figure be retained in both the Falkland Islands and the South Georgia licences but the relevant clauses should be amended so as to provide that the percentage may be reviewed by the Governor and may be revised on the understanding that any revision shall be subject to the general principle that there shall be no increase unless technical and scientific advice tendered to the Governor renders such increase advisable and necessary.

Some such amendment would meet the views of the Company which quite naturally considers that a stronger case should be made out for the proposed increase in the percentage and it would provide the necessary flexibility having regard to the equally important and inter-related factors of long term conservation and the seasonal economics of the industry. Once scientific opinion on the question has ~~has~~ crystallised then the figure could be revised if revision is clearly necessary. In such circumstances revision would be readily accepted by the Company as, under present management in South Georgia, it accepts the importance, in its own interests, of long term conservation. In the circumstances I hope you will find it possible to agree with this solution to the problem.

Bonner is submitting his report to the Scientific Bureau of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey London Office. It will no doubt be some time before its value and recommendations are assessed but in particular I should be grateful for early advice on his recommendations with regard to the distribution of the quota as it will be necessary to put them into effect by September of this year if they are to be accepted.

of 4/6  
AGM/PT  
D/2/56/29.





King Edward Point,  
South Georgia,  
6th April 1957.

From the Administrative Officer,  
South Georgia,  
To the Colonial Secretary,  
Port Stanley,

The sealing industry in South Georgia

I understand from Mr N. Bonner, Sealing Inspector (Biologist) that he gave you a copy of his comments on the draft South Georgia sealing licence for 1957 when you visited South Georgia in November, 1956. I have discussed the draft and other sealing matters with him and I submit below my comments and proposals.

2. The annual yield by present methods from 6000 seals is about 1975 tons of seal oil. Mr Bonner calculates that a seal factory ship could step up the oil production from the same number of seals by about 250 tons. At present the almost useless grax, which is the residue of the cooked blubber, is added to the whale products at the factory. He calculates, after making trials on some seal carcasses, that if the whole carcass is used 1500 tons of meat meal could be produced. The following comparison of the worth of 6000 seals in terms of world market prices is interesting :-

<u>Present method</u>	<u>Seal factoryship method</u>
1975 tons seal oil @ £90 a ton.	2225 tons seal oil @ £90 a ton
Grax = : : : say <del>£177750</del> £1000	= . . . . £200250
<del>£178750</del>	1500 tons meat meal
	@ £50 a ton . . £ 75000
	<u>£275250</u>

This indicates an increased value of £96500 for fully used seal carcasses. Mr Bonner's calculations do not vary widely from Mr Laws' and he is prepared to substantiate them with detail.

3. It is proposed that a 15-year exclusive licence should be issued for South Georgia. But there is no indication that Pesca/Albion has bought or begun to fit a seal factory ship. Clause 13 of the licence does not say in so many words that the holder must use a factory ship for this 15-year licence. It is however most desirable that this should be so because of :-

- a) Government's general responsibility to see that the best possible use is made of the available natural resources.
- b) At present a substantial quantity of potential revenue is being allowed to rot on the sealing beaches of South Georgia.

If this license is refused to any applicant without a factory ship it may mean that there will be no sealing for one year. That in itself would not mean necessarily a loss of revenue. More and fatter seals would be available the next year.



Such action would stimulate the financial backer of Pesca/Albion into fitting out a Seal factory ship in all probability. If he does not, either of the other two applying companies might ~~xxxxx~~ undertake to do so and obtain the licence. I suggest that this should be ~~xxxxxxxx~~ done ~~xxx~~ for 1958 and Pesca informed forthwith that this is to be so. You will see Mr Pierce Butler in Stanley shortly and I think that he will not be averse to such action. For 1957 I suggest that an annual licence should be issued. I suggest that if ~~these~~ line of action is approved ~~that~~ Salvesen's and Tonsberg be informed of ~~this~~ as a definite line of policy in about September or earlier unless Pesca/Albion definitely undertakes to fit out a factory ship before then.

4. This is to be a licence to kill 6000 adult male elephant seals. I suggest that clause 4 should be altered to say so. i.e. the words "Adult male" inserted between "6000" and "Elephant".

5. If this amendment is accepted clauses IO and II become redundant. But there would be no harm in pointing out their omission in a letter covering the issue of the licence for the first time in the new form.

6. Clause 8. Mr Bonner states that in the licences of recent years "Total length" has meant the measurement between nose and tip of tail, not measurement between nose and tip of flipper when it is given as 138 inches (3.5 metres). The effect of this is that seals of less than 5 years of age, unless they put on abnormal growth, are protected. He maintains that this is the best description because :-

- a) It describes length of body
- b) The elephant seal has a clearly definable tail
- c) Sealers know this description and change is confusing.
- d) There is no good reason for changing it.

I agree with his reasons and suggest that clause 8 should read :-

" 8 No male elephant seal of less than 138 inches (3.5 metres) in length ~~xxxx~~ measured from nose to tip of tail shall be killed "

7. Clause 16. The words "The Governor may appoint" are superfluous to a licence. They are covered by Section 3 of the Ordinance and there is no point in inserting unnecessary verbiage. But Section 3 does not empower the Governor to require a seal factoryship master to carry in his ship a Seal Fishery Officer. As I read it he might tell the Seal Fishery Officer to come by all means but not in his ~~xxxx~~ ship. For 1957 the matter is academic. But I suggest that the Ordinance may require amendment here.

8. Clause 18 appears cumbersome, as also does clause 14 which however may have been drafted thus in a deliberately vague manner. But clause 18 can be ~~xxxx~~ misread to the extent that it means that no duty is payable on seal oil from elephant seals, which is the opposite of the intention.

I suggest that beginning from the third line it should be amended to read :-

" ..... currency of this licence, upon seal oil and other seal products which shall be obtained or produced from elephant seals taken under this licence whether such seal oil or other seal products....."

The proposed amendment is underlined.

9. The schedule, Division II.

Leith Harbour, Stromness Harbour and Husvik are not in Division II or any other Division. It is not necessary, therefore, to exclude them, as has been done in the draft.

*J. Matthews*  
Administrative Officer,  
South Georgia,



DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

106

From COLONIAL SECRETARY.

To A.O. SOUTH GEORGIA.

Despatched : 18th July, 1957 19 Time : 0930

Received : : 19 Time : :

No: 125. Sealing.

After consideration Bommer's report by Scientific Committee Secretary of State has recommended following distribution of quota for 1957:-

Division I	nil.
Division II	1,350
Division III	2,050
Division IV	2,600

Killing should stop on the 10th November this year. You should await further communication from me before any sealing licence is issued. For your information it is likely that a licence for 1957 only will be issued to Albion Star Company leaving question of long term exclusive licence for further consideration when number of points connected with draft licence and position of Albion Star have been clarified. You may inform Manager accordingly.

SECRETARY.

GTC : PT

Original filed in 90/36/69.  
Copy to 0157/A/106

See  
p 27 in  
2/1/56

TELEGRAM.From Secretary.To Administrative Officer, S.C.

Despatched : 21/8/57. 19 Time : 1430.  
 Received : 19 Time :

Page 161 of D/9/47

No: 149. Following telegram received from Ryan begins

Grateful you issue usual sealing licence to Pesca for this season  
 and licences for following whalecatchers Calarsen Foca Marval R1  
 R2 R3 R4 <sup>RS</sup> Busen 1 Busen 3 Busen 4 Busen 5 accounts paid in South  
 Georgia. Letter follows confirm care Brandt Sons, London. ends

No objections to issue of whale catcher licences. With regard  
 to sealing licence position with regard to Albion Star is still  
 obscure and we are still corresponding with London over the question  
 of bull residue percentage. In circumstances please issue usual  
 annual licence to Pesca repeat Pesca subject to following

- (1) Killing to stop 10th November
- (2) Sealing division as in my telegram 125.
- (3) Bull residue to be left alive to be 10%.

Please act accordingly and confirm <sup>to</sup> Ryan C/O Brandt and Sons  
 36 Fenchurch Street, London. Bonner should go ahead with his  
 tagging programme.

Secretary.

ACDT  
MKG.

Original filed D/9/47.

Copies filed 90/36. ~~8337/47~~ D/3/56.

Reply at 108



Original filed D/9/47.  
DECODE.

Copies filed 90/56. 0157/17. D/3/56.

108

## TELEGRAM.

From .....  
Administrative Officer.

To .....  
Secretary.

Despatched :	24/8/57.	19	Time :	1250.
Received :	26/8/57.	19	Time :	1030.

108

NO:186. 624. Your telegram No 149 acknowledged. Complying.

Administrative.

B.U.F.

(Incl) JB.  
26/8.

F/L  
MIC.

DECODE. Copies filed 90/36.

D/3/56. Original filed D/9/57

109

## TELEGRAM.

From Administrative Officer.

To Secretary.

Despatched : No 2/9/57. 19 Time : 1730.

Received : 3/9/57. 19 Time : 1030.

107  
No 198. 635. Your telegram No 149 last sentence.

I assume Bonner has been informed and is arranging  
supply of tags.

Administrative Officer.

Early on file.

AGDT.  
3/9/57.

P/L  
MNG.



TELEGRAM.

110

From ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, SOUTH GEORGIA.

To COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Despatched : 25th October, 19 57. Time : 1730

Received : 26th October, 19 57. Time : 0900

236/620. Manager Pesca has applied for extension sealing season for indefinite period for division 4 only. Bonner and he agree Pesca will be about 1,000 seals short of quota on 10th November. Manager pleads -

- 98 - 9/32/47 |
- (a) lateness of notice of reduction of season to 10th November closing date;
  - (b) Pesca might have been consulted before reduction made;
  - (c) there is no evidence November sealing in past is resulting in either reduction average age seals killed or size total population.

Bonner states -

- (a) females come on heat early November for not more than 24 hours. Removal of all but 10 M/O Bulls particularly from large beaches means some cows come off heat before sufficient bulls reappear to impregnate them;
- (b) size of Harems is in any case several times that of natural state;
- (c) although there is no evidence November sealing has resulted reduction in total population there might be substantial increase if it was discontinued.

2. My view is that -

- (a) Pesca was informed clearly in my predecessors letter covering 1956 licence that that was last licence for Pesca. Next would be for ALBION STAR. Implicit in ALBION STAR was 15 year licence on condition full use made of whole carcase. Manager Pesca had draft. copy a S licence.
- (b) Pesca has done nothing to show serious intention to utilise whole carcase. On contrary Govt. misled over a S.
- (c) Pesca sealing arrangements are inferior to what they were up to loss of "Don Samuel" in 1951 which was never replaced in spite of fact Pesca disposed of 4 oldest whale catchers April 1957 by sale.

/(d) Sealing crews

Reply at 112

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

From .....

To .....

Despatched : 19 Time :

Received : 19 Time :

- 2 -

- (d) Sealing crews did not arrive until 12th September from South America thus missing at least 8 days sealing.
- (e) November oil yields per seal inferior to Sept. and Oct. therefore November sealing had policy economically.
- (f) Secers. biologist advisers recommendations though not based on thorough knowledge S Q seal biology or industry as laws at least admits, they are probably on right lines.
- (g) Not using whole carcase is extremely wasteful method. Govt. should see this natural resource used to better purpose and revenue increased accordingly. I recommend firmer policy leading to better use of elephant seals and no extension present season.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER.

P/L: MC



COPY.

## GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SENT

112

Number

Office of Origin

Words

Handed in at

Date

30/10/57.

To

ADMINOFF, SOUTHGEORGIA.

DEP A/C.

110

NO 203. YOUR TELEGRAM 236/620. SEALING. DECISION THAT  
 SEALING SHOULD STOP ON THE 10TH NOVEMBER IS BASED ON THE  
 ADVICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATES SCIENTIFIC ADVISERS. PESCAS  
 REPRESENTATIONS HAVE BEEN MOST CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BUT REGRET  
 NO EXTENSION CAN BE CONTEMPLATED.

SECRETARY.

AGDT/MNG

COPY FILED IN D/32/47.

74



113

Note

See file 1859 and

7/9/57

for proposals regarding the future of the sealing industry in  
South Georgia and the Falkland Islands.

No further action should be taken on this file with regard to  
the Albion Star Company without reference to those papers.

B.G.H.

13 March 1958.

114

Office

Please insert a copy of the above minute in and on the outside  
cover of this file 0157/11.

B.G.H.  
13.3.58

Done — 115 Pa,

17/3.



DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

From GOVERNOR.

To A.O. SOUTH GEORGIA.

Despatched : 4th July, 1958 19 Time : 1600

Received : : 19 Time : :

IMMEDIATE.

CONFIDENTIAL.

160. Following for Trees begins:-

Please bring back with you copies of any correspondence  
A.O. has had with Pesca over sealing licence since receipt of  
O.A.G.'s telegram No:137 of 9th August, 1956.

GOVERNOR.

GTC : PT

117  
5.7.68

Re

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR

Despatched : 6.10.58. Time : 1916 Received : 7.10.58. Time : 0930

*Reference made in D/28/47 "Pesca-  
General" to substance of this telegram.*

PRIORITY

SECRET

No: 94. Albion Star.

Letter on its way to you from Slaughter & May on behalf of William Brandt's and Ryan proposing capitalisation of Albion Star (South Georgia) Limited and transfer of Pesca land station and licences. Bank of England have seen and have no objection on exchange control grounds provided Falkland Islands control satisfied price to be paid for five whale catchers to be purchased from another of Ryan's companies reasonable. Ministry of Transport & Civil Aviation also no objection.

2. Prima facie this move should ease political tension in South Georgia especially as regards the Lesca visits and change of sealing licences. As regard the latter there is still the feeling that so long as Pesca still license holders proposed announcement of change from present system might offend Argentine Government. If therefore you approve proposals for taking over by Albion Star it might be better to wait until this effective before announcing new form of licence and invitation to tender.
3. Understand from Pierce Butler that mention of his name on page 3 of letter as first director Albion Star incorrect.
4. You will note emphasis of importance not to let Argentine authorities get wind of this move at this stage. It is thought they can still bring sufficient pressure to bear on Ryan to bring negotiations to a stop.
5. In view of urgency writers suggest you might telegraph your reply through me. If you see no objections grateful if you will do so.

SECRET.

Cypher 'E' : PT

118.

A.C.S.

1. Discussed with H.E. M.P.A. until we get Slaughter and May's letter.
2. This file will now have to be upgraded to

SECRET

*R.G.P. 7/10/58*

*reply at*



SLAUGHTER AND MAY.

A. M. WELSFORD.  
R. C. G. CLARKE. E. BELTON  
C. H. SCOTT. R. A. CLARK  
G. F. SHIPMAN. W. J. S. GURNEY.  
J. A. S. HAMILTON. E. LYALL.  
E. C. BRYDGES. T. P. WALMSLEY.  
F. W. EDMONDS. K. E. WRIGHT.  
C. F. COOPER. A. W. MALLINSON.  
P. MARRIAGE. R. G. NORTON.  
A. M. BELL. J. O. SIMON.  
C. MCFADYEAN.

YOUR REFERENCE
IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
AWM/TB

18, AUSTIN FRIARS,  
LONDON, E.C.2.

26th September 1958.

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

H.E. The Governor of the Falkland Islands,  
Port Stanley,  
Falkland Islands.

Your Excellency,

ALBION STAR (SOUTH GEORGIA) LIMITED

We have the honour to submit the following proposals for approval on behalf of our Clients Wm. Brandt's Sons & Co., Limited ("Brandt's") and Mr. A.R.L. Ryan.

Before setting out the proposals however, we think it advisable to set out details of the parties concerned. As you are no doubt already aware, Mr. Ryan is an Argentine citizen and resident. He is the Chairman of Compania Argentina de Pesca S.A. ("Pesca") of Buenos Aires. Pesca is an Argentine Company which has carried on the business of whaling and sealing in Antarctic waters with the consent of your administration for the best part of this century. At present it leases from the Crown a land-based whaling and sealing station at Grytviken in South Georgia, and in addition to operating its own vessels has chartered 5 whale-catchers from Compania de Navegacion Rosina S.A. ("Rosina") of Panama. It has also held for many years whaling and sealing licences issued by your administration.

Rosina is a Panamanian Company and is at present resident for Exchange Control purposes in Uruguay. We are instructed that it is owned (through nominees) and controlled by Mr. Ryan. Both Pesca and Rosina operate transferable accounts with Brandt's.

Brandt's have been London bankers for Mr. Ryan and Rosina since 1946 and have been Pesca's bankers and general European representatives

since 1914.

Albion Star (South Georgia) Limited ("A.S.") was incorporated on 19th October 1956 under the Companies and Private Partnership Ordinance of the Falkland Islands and its Dependencies, and its registered office is at Grytviken. Owing to a misunderstanding for which we must apologise, no formal Exchange Control approval to its incorporation was obtained. A.S. however has not commenced business since that date and only two shares have been issued, which are both held by persons in this office being subscribers to the Memorandum and Articles of Association, as nominees for Mr. Ryan. The authorised capital of A.S. at present is £100,000.

The proposals of our Clients for which we are instructed to seek your consent are as follows :

- (1) The issue for cash from transferable funds to Mr. Ryan (or his nominees) of 2 million Ordinary shares of £1 each in A.S. after the increase of the authorised capital of A.S. to £2,000,000. In this context your consent is also sought for the remittance of dividends in respect of these shares and the repatriation of capital together with any accretion thereto insofar as the shares are subscribed from transferable funds.
- (2) The purchase for cash by A.S. from Rosina at a price of £1,500,000 of the 5 whale-catchers previously mentioned, details of which are shown in the Appendix to this letter. Such whale-catchers will be transferred from Panamanian to British Registry.

Alternatively, A.S. will issue  $1\frac{1}{2}$  million Ordinary shares of £1 each to Rosina in consideration for the transfer of such whale-catchers, in which event, Mr. Ryan will only subscribe in cash for 500,000 shares of £1 each in A.S.

- (3) The purchase by A.S. from Pesca for cash at a price of approximately £100,000 of the latter's land station at Grytviken together with the buildings, machinery, plant and equipment.



This will involve the assignment from Pesca to A.S. of the Crown lease granted to Pesca in 1948 under the authority of the then Governor.

(4) The transfer from Pesca to A.S. of the existing whaling and sealing licences previously granted by your administration.

The balance of £400,000 not accounted for in the above proposals will be used for working capital as and when required.

The first directors of A.S. will be :

Colonel Kenelm Somerset Pierce-Butler and

Mr. Imre Komor.

The Secretary will be :

Mr. Erling Larsen.

We believe that these proposals in principle have already been mentioned to you by Mr. Ryan and Colonel Pierce-Butler. The Colonial Office are aware of Mr. Ryan's plans and have indicated that they have no objection to the proposals as set out above. We have also discussed these proposals informally with the Bank of England who have been good enough to state that there would probably be no objection to them under the Exchange Control Act, 1947.

We further understand from the Ministry of Transport in London that in principle there is no objection to the transfer of the 5 whale-catchers from Panamanian to British registry since we are instructed that Rosina in fact is controlled by Mr. Ryan and is not a "dollar company", provided that such whale-catchers are brought up to the necessary standard prescribed by the regulations of the Port of Registry. We are instructed to assure you that in the event of your consent being granted this of course will be done as soon as reasonably possible.

It is of the utmost importance to our Clients that the proposals should not be disclosed to the Argentine authorities in any way, and we should be glad if all those persons into whose hands this letter comes would treat it as strictly confidential.

Copies of this letter have been sent to the Colonial Office (Mr. Willis), the Bank of England (Mr. Stubbs) and the Ministry of Transport (Mr. Frosser).

We therefore have the honour to request your formal consent to the above mentioned proposals, and your retrospective consent to the incorporation of A.S. Since Mr. Ryan hopes to carry out these proposals as soon as possible we hope you will find it practicable to let us have your reply at an early date.

An extra copy of this letter is enclosed for your convenience.

We have the honour to be  
Your Excellency's obedient Servants,

*Slaughter May*

A P P E N D I X

Details, with approximate measurements, of the 5 whale-catchers owned by Rosina all of which are registered at the port of Panama. No official registry numbers are yet available in respect of the Panamanian registrations.

Name	Builder	Tonnage.		Length	Depth	Date of Building.
		Gross	Net			
R1	Werf de Hoog N.V., Rotterdam.	490.68	142.13	173.62	14.50	April 1957
R2	Jonker & Stars, N.V. Rotterdam.	490.68	142.13	173.62	14.50	July 1957
R3	Werf de Hoog N.V. Rotterdam.	490.68	142.13	173.62	14.50	July 1957
R4	N.V. Haarlemsche Scheepsbouw Haarlem	491.57	142.26	173.62	14.50	August 1957
R5	N.V. Haarlemsche Scheepsbouw Haarlem	491.57	142.26	173.62	14.50	August 1957



J.E.

J. 119.

Her Majesty's Treasury now I can see any objection to these proposals apart from the fact that the price to be paid for the catfishes (£1,500,000) is probably very much too high if one excludes the political factors and looks at the transaction purely from the financial angle. But this can only be an opinion and an opinion moreover, that is difficult to substantiate in the absence of definite information on their cost and expert advice on their probable value (I have an idea they cost £250,000 each to baited).

The Treasury have also drawn attention to the fact that of the alternative proposals for financing the Company and the purchase of the catfishes it would be to our long term advantage to insist on alternative (1) because this would mean, for death duties purposes, that Ryan and not Rosina holds the shares and the individual is liable for death duties whereas the Rosina Company would not be so liable (though I have little doubt that Ryan's lawyers would find some means of evading S.G. death duties in spite of Section 4(3) of Cap <sup>25</sup>~~24~~!). I would like to see a legal opinion on that point, however. Moreover, I am not quite sure whether our consent is really being asked or is required as to which of the two proposals on the financial structure will be implemented. I am not certain in fact whether we really have a yes or nay on this point.

For all that -

- (i) we should clearly support and encourage the transfer;
- (ii) the Colonial Office - the Bank of England and the Ministry of Transport have all intimated no objection -

Consequently I think we can agree the proposals and intimate we will transfer the lease and licence to the Albion Star as soon as you are advised that the necessary formalities have been completed and effective control has passed from Rosina to Albion Star. The lease runs for 21 years from October, 1948. Whaling business as annexed.

I think, however, as

stated the question of directors



in view of Pierre Butlers disclaimer.

I have drafted a telegram along the lines of this minute  
and it is at h.c. for your consideration. I am in two  
minds about telling the P.O. but I would not like him to hear  
from some other source - as is often the way in S. G. I would like  
therefore to tell him briefly what is in the wind under a "personal  
information only" telegram

R.G.F.

4/11/58

7A

4-11-58

R.G.F.

4/11/58

Mr. Tracy to  
envelope etc.



124  
DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From GOVERNOR to SECRETARY OF STATE

Despatched : 6.11.58. Time : 1200 Received : : Time : :

SECRET

117  
FIDEP 159. Your secret telegram No: 94. Albion Star.

119  
I have now received Slaughter and May's proposals. I think probably price of catchers is on the high side but in view of obvious advantages of proposed transfer I would not wish to raise objections on that score. Subject therefore to clarification on following points I agree to the proposals now put forward :-

(i) Who is to be the second director in view of Pierce Butler's disclaims?

*disclaims.*

(ii) I should be grateful for legal advice as to whether it would be desirable to insist (if in fact we are in a position to so insist) on the first of the alternative proposals for the financial structure being adopted since it would appear from the long term aspect of liability for death duties that the Dependencies Administration stands to gain more under arrangements envisaged by first alternative.

2. Subject to advice on above points I shall approve transfer of Pesca's lease and whaling and sealing licences to Albion Star as soon as you advise me that transaction has been completed and effective control of Pesca's affairs and assets has passed to Albion Star.

GOVERNOR.

Cypher 'E' : PT

Bu. 15/11/58  
h

see 12

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From GOVERNOR to SECRETARY OF STATE

Despatched: 3.12.58. Time: 1100 Received: : Time: :

124

SECRET

FIDEP 167. My telegram FIDEP 159. Albion Star.

Grateful to know whether there have been any developments.

GOVERNOR.

Cypher 'E' : PT

BU 15/12/58.

reply at 126.



126  
DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR

Despatched : 12.12.58. Time : 1918 Received : 13.12.58. Time : 1130.

SECRET

PRIORITY

FIDEP 133. Your tel FIDEP 167. 125

Albion Star.

Ryan has been unable to raise sufficient cash and now proposes finance transaction as follows:-

Albion Star will buy the 5 catchers from Rosina for one and a half million pounds, 10% of which will be paid in cash upon delivery and balance left on mortgage with Rosina to be paid off in due course. This will mean shares will not be issued to Rosina but share capital of £500,000 will all be subscribed for in cash as and when required.

2. Second director of the company will be a cousin of Ryan's by marriage named Charles F. Perkins O.B.E. of Newcastle.

3. Because of the risk of catchers being impounded and severely taxed if they call at Buenos Aires and Falkland Islands registration it is proposed that they should be transferred to Ryan's Gibraltar company (Albion Star Limited) shortly to be re-named Calpe Shipping Company Limited. They will be held by Gibraltar company for account of Albion Star (South Georgia) Limited and will show Gibraltar as their port of registry.

4. Please regraph whether you approve these alterations.

Cypher 'E' : PT

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From GOVERNOR to SECRETARY OF STATE

Despatched: 16.12.58. Time: 1600 Received: : Time: :

SECRET

FIDEP 180. Your tel. FIDEP 133. Albion Star.

I have no objection to registration of catchers in Gibraltar. No doubt you will obtain legal advice (which is not available here) on financial arrangements which on the surface appear to me to be acceptable.

GOVERNOR.

Cypher 'E' : PT

20/12/58

81.

Rep at 129



DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR

Despatched : 27.12.58

Time : 1230

Received : 28.12.58 Time : \_\_\_\_

SECRET

127 FIDEP 136. Your telegram 180 FIDEP.

Albion Star

There are reasons why transfer of Pesca licences at this particular moment may be inconvenient. Please give me prior notice of actual transfer to give me opportunity to consider whether should ask you to postpone it.

130

Early on 1/6

RHJ

31/1/58

Cypher 'E':RJB

130

J.E.

Another in the extraordinary "Willis" telegram.

I suggest a reply along the lines of the draft.

at b.c.

R.G.F.

3/12/58

~~31~~  
31.12.58

CLOSED. FURTHER ACTION  
ON D/3/60  
"Albion Star"

R.G.F.  
A. 260