

412

SOUTH ATLANTIC SEALING CO. LTD.

(COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION)

FACTORY SITE:
PORT ALBEMARLE
FALKLAND ISLANDS



REGISTERED OFFICE:
35 JOHN STREET
PORT STANLEY
FALKLAND ISLANDS

14th February, 1956

The Hon. The Colonial Secretary
Port Stanley - Falkland Islands.

Dear Sirs,

I have been endeavouring for some 18 months or so to find a buyer for the 'assets' of the South Atlantic Sealing Co. Ltd. at Albemarle. The ideal solution to this unfortunate investment of the Colonial Development Corporation would be for some person or persons or entity to acquire those 'assets' complete and re-commence a sealing industry in the Colony.

I had hopes last year that Messrs Salvesen of Leith would take the matter up - they shewed keen interest for some months and then informed me that they had decided to drop the idea.

The next phase was that the C.D.C. were notified that the Sealing Licences in favour of this company had been cancelled. Simultaneously I learnt that a strong entity (the Compañia Argentina de Pesca of Buenos Aires and South Georgia) had applied to the Colonial Government, either in their own name or in that of a subsidiary, for a Sealing Licence - and that this was being seriously entertained by the Colonial Government and also the Colonial Office in London.

I thereupon approached the London Bankers of Messrs Comp. Argentina de Pesca and they agreed to place before Mr. Alfredo Ryan the possibility of acquiring the 'assets' at Albemarle and incorporating that equipment into the sealing venture that he wished to establish in these waters.

So far I have not had any definite reply from Buenos Aires (Mr. K. Pierce Butler, however, who represents the Pesca interests at South Georgia has indicated to me that they would only be interested in two pieces of machinery at Albemarle)./

Now there is no doubt whatever that it is possible to work a sealing venture in the Falkland Is. profitably, because of the large herds of Sea Lions (reported to be 380.000 head by an official pamphlet) and the bouyant price for Whale and/or Seal Oil, which is now quoted in Europe freely around £87 to £90 per ton.

The C.D.C. sunk no less than £168.000- in Albemarle. Money which I understand will be lost by the Taxpayers in the UK. less whatever small amount it may be possible to retrieve by the sale of the 'assets' at Albemarle.

Under present circumstances I am inclined to try now

Reply of 416, 417. See 57 in 0157/9 and.

413

to interest some person or persons in Norway, who might be tempted to take over the said assets and revive the industry at Albemarle.

But it is no use me writing to people in Norway merely for them to purchase the 'assets' at Albemarle unless the Colonial Government is also prepared to revive the "Sealing licences" that were cancelled last year.

406-407
in Vol. III

I estimate that at least 5 months have gone by since a sealing licence was provisionally assigned to the Compañia Argentina de Pesca (or Mr. Ryan's interests) but there does not seem to be any definite news yet as to whether Mr. Ryan will or will not establish his proposed sealing venture in the Colony

What I particularly desire to know is whether that new venture is going to be established. The moment that this is established, and they still refuse to make me a reasonable offer for the 'assets' at Albemarle, then I must proceed without further delay to sell up those 'assets' piecemeal and wind up the S.A.S. Company.

But if Mr. Ryan's interests are not going to establish a sealing industry in the Colony, then I may still entertain hopes of getting some Norwegian concern to take over Albemarle PROVIDED the Colonial Government will revive the Sealing Licences previously held by S.A.S. Co. Ltd.

I have spent many months trying to prevent the 'assets' at Albemarle from becoming worthless - if they are sold piecemeal they will fetch very little - if they can be sold, even for a small price, to some entity that will revive the local sealing industry the U.K. taxpayer may still get very little back of that £168,000- but the Colony will benefit by the establishment of a sealing industry.

I trust that I may be favoured with such news or views as may help me to make some decision as to my best method of procedure.

I have the honour to be,

Yours faithfully,

for South Atlantic Sealing Co. Ltd.

[Signature]

Agent.

Alb

*What is the case
we have re Albion S.A.S. Sealing venture, P.*

[Signature]

*Ref 8/11/44
HCS
Pl see 37
in 01571A 424.*

414

Y.E.

412 - 413.

We have not heard anything from
or about the Berlin Star project since
29. in 0157/A att. & if Y.E. agrees
I propose to reply to Mr. Rose as
in draft at G.C.

S
1/3.

Y.E.
4/3.

Original in 0157/A

415

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From GOVERNOR to SECRETARY OF STATE

Despatched: 2/3/56 Time 1600 Received: Time

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

See 418

Be. 3/3
9/3

29 u
0157/A

416.

7th March,

56

Sir,

412

I am directed to refer to your letter of 14th February, 1956, regarding sealing in the Falkland Islands and to inform you that negotiations are proceeding with the Albion Star Company with a view to the granting of a sealing licence to that firm. A telegram enquiring the present position has been despatched and a further communication will be addressed to you on receipt of a reply.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) J. Bound.

Acting Colonial Secretary

The Agent,
South Atlantic Sealing Co. Ltd.,
STANLEY

JB/MF

Bu 27/4
Bu 3/3 (4/5)
Bu 7/4/56

DECODE.

COPY.

Original os m. 1A

419

TELEGRAM SENT.

From GOVERNOR to SECRETARY OF STATE

Despatched: 24/3/56

Time: 0945

Received: : : :

Time: : : :

415

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

Grateful learn when reply may be expected.

GOVERNOR'S DEPUTY

419.

See

GTC:IR

COPY.

Original in 0157/A.

418

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

No. 11.

From RYAN, ALBION STAR COMPANY.

To HIS EXCELLENCY HIS GOVERNOR

Despatched : 6th April, 19 56 Time : 1020

Received : 6th April, 19 56 Time : 1130

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

IR

COPY.
DECODE.

Original in 01571A 419

No.70.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR

Despatched : 6.4.56

Time : 1725

Received : 7.4.56 Time 0900

417

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

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

SECRETARY OF STATE

R.U.F.
(INTLD) J.B.
7/4

P/L
IR

See 421.

COPY.

DECODE.

No.121.

Original in
0157/A.

TELEGRAM.

451
420

From.....PIERCE BUTLER, SOUTH GEORGIA

To.....GOVERNOR, FALKLAND ISLANDS

Despatched : 7th April, 19 56 Time: 2345

Received : 8th April, 19 56 Time: 1100

Sealing Licence. Reference Colonial Office letter WAF/621/529/01 dated 8th October, 1955. Albion Star Company of Gibraltar request herewith 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
IR

COPY.

Original in
0157/A.

452
421

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR

Despatched: 14.4.56 Time: 1950 Received: 15.4.56 Time: 0900

419

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

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

418 + 420

SECRETARY OF STATE

P/L
IR

copies filed in 0157/A and 8/2/52.

444
422

0497/IV.

18th May,

56.

Sir,

412

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.

100 2/2/56
100 1/1/56

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

No. A/2.

MEMORANDUM.

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

2nd August, 19 56,

The Auditor,

Stanley.

From Collector of Customs
and Harbour Master.

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Back to SUBJECT :-

ARREARS OF REVENUE.

With reference to your Query No. 30/55-56. I attach for your information the Customs File S/20 which covers the present position.

- (a) At page 1 is copy of letter addressed to Mr. Rowe on the 25th March, 1953.
- (b) See page 18 of File S/20.
- (c) 37 Sea-elephant hides appear to have been exported before the Order-in-Council was amended as my predecessor has levied the duty on weight (6d per 100 lbs.)
- (d) See page 1, para 3. This was I believe a sample shipment.
- (e) See page 6 and 7 of file also page 32.

L. J. Grison
Collector of Customs and
Harbour Master.

No. A/2.

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



MEMORANDUM.

14th August, 1956.

To The Honourable,

The Colonial Secretary

Stanley.

From Collector of Customs &
Harbour Master

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

SUBJECT :-

ARREARS OF REVENUE.

Attached to this Memorandum are copies of correspondence between the Auditor and this department covering arrears of revenue due to Government by the South Atlantic Sealing Company.

When taking over the duties of Collector of Customs in 1952, it was found that quite a number of accounts with the S.A.S.C. needed tidying up (See page 32 in file attached), and before the Company closed down every effort was made to get these accounts settled, and with the exception of those mentioned by the Auditor we were fairly successful.

The two items mentioned (a) about £10 in respect of 100 Sea Lion Hides, as far as could be ascertained these Hides were not sold, possibly because of their condition. Item (e) the sum of £17 is correct.

I am therefore, in accordance with the Auditor's suggestion to ask your approval that no further action be taken in trying to collect this amount.

W. J. Grisen
Collector of Customs and
Harbour Master.

425.

1) Petting C.T.

2) Auditor.

When you have any proposals or ideas on this -
I can see no alternative but to write off?

L.G.
1.9.56.

Hon. C.

I think on this we can do is W.O.

Hon. C.S.

Jr
25/9/56.

No proposals, or ideas.

L.G.
26/9/56.

Hon. C.T.

I approve write off. Pl. advise Mr. Collector of Customs
and Auditor in writing accordingly.

Hon. C.

Both officers have been
advised

A.G. J.T.
29/9/56.

29.9.56.

Cap

No.

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



MEMORANDUM.

2nd. March 1957

From. Agricultural Officer

The Hon.

The Colonial Secretary

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

SUBJECT:- Albermale Rental; South Atlantic Sealing Co.

I wish to draw your attention to the fact that the South Atlantic Sealing Company (for whom Mr. E.G. Rowe is agent) are in arrears for the Albermale Lease rental as follows:-

1955.	£100
1956.	£100
1957.	£100

The rental is payable in advance.

2. Your instructions regarding the collection of the monies due will be appreciated.

Edward. T. Leon
Agricultural Officer

But.
4/3

As. *not 1957 - the Lease rental is on a month to month basis.*

2. Has the Agent declined to settle for 1955 & 1956 as?

2 1/2

427
H.C.S.

An account for £200. has been
sent to the Agent. covering 1955-1956.

Swan
A.O.
3/4/57.

428

Bu. 30/4
2
4/4.

ao.

Has the Agent declined to settle pe?

8

1/5.

429

H.C.S.

No! the Agent has not declined to settle, but has
referred the matter to Mr Rowe, who is at present,
in the United Kingdom. He in turn, has cabled
back that he can do nothing until he has seen
a certain C.D.C. gentleman, who is on holiday
at the moment. It may well be, that a certain
amount of procrastination is taking place.

S.T.F. A/O 12/7/57.

430

See p. 2471
17.7.57.

426-429 J. i. p. - I will be in
a month's time to K.I.V.

Q
16/7

431

See

429-430.

I have spoken to the local agent &
he tells me that he has no further word
from Mrs. Rowe, R.

Q
17/8.

432.

This is all very typical of Rowin's tactics. I think we
can await his return. But U.I.V. for further action and
a b.u. date in October might be the best thing.

I am not quite certain why Rye's Dept. was handling
this. It is better dealt with by Treasury.

2471
19.8.57.

See 7/X.
Q
22/8

See 16/8
Q
17/9

0497

433

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**33 HILL STREET
LONDON W 1**

112/002

6th September, 1957

His Excellency E.P.Arrowsmith, Esq, CMG,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief of
the Falkland Islands,
Government House,
Port Stanley,
Falkland Islands.

Sir,

You may remember that I had the pleasure of a talk with you when you were in this office about our problems in connection with the disposal of the base of the South Atlantic Sealing Co Ltd at Albermarle.

There appears to be no hope of disposing of the base as a going concern. As you know the sealing licence originally held by the company was rescinded in June last year and a new licence issued to a commercial concern. Although this firm has not yet undertaken sealing operations in the Islands it has told us that it is not interested in acquiring the base.

We are forced to the conclusion, therefore, that we must realise what we can piecemeal in order to save costs on care and maintenance. Even this exercise is proving extremely difficult owing to the limited market available.

I shall be very grateful if you will examine the question as to whether any of the assets could be taken over by the Government. There are 150 tons of fuel oil and some Braithwaite tanks in particular which might be useful - possibly other items.

434 .../We would

On file.
27.9.57.

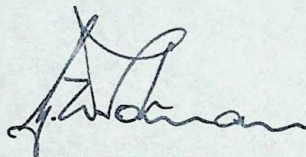
His Excellency E.P.Arrowsmith, Esq, CMG

5th September, 1957

We would like as soon as possible to give up occupation of the land in order to save the rent charge, although we do not want to prejudice the possibility that someone might come along and make offers for equipment.

Our Agent in the Island, Mr E.G.Rowe of Estate Louis William, is shortly returning to the Falkland Islands and will seek an interview with you. I should be very grateful if you could see your way to discuss with him ways and means of assisting the Corporation in the disposal of the remaining assets.

Yours faithfully,



G.W.TOTMAN

Controller of Finance

GWT/BFC

reply at 437.

Y.E.

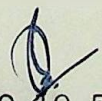
Folio 433 and 434 refer. This is rather a difficult question and there is not very much that we can do at this stage. I have no doubt that Rowe will seek an interview with you at a very early stage and press you to take over certain of the assets.


2. So far as Government is concerned we might be interested in the fuel if we can arrange transport and we might be interested in the Braithwaite tank which has been inspected by the Civil Engineer and which he considers to be in a satisfactory condition. There is I believe a house there which is at present occupied by the caretaker. This might be useful if Albemarle is developed as a small ranch but it is too early to say yet. So far as the Braithwaite tank is concerned there are two possible uses to which we can put it:-

- (i) to replace the present high level water tank (also a Braithwaite) in connection with the closing stages of the water scheme for Stanley;
- (ii) to hold bulk supplies of fuel oil for supplying the Hospital and any other installations which are equipped with oil firing furnaces.

3. I personally do not believe that in the case of the Falkland Islands a land based Sealing Station will ever be an economic proposition. I have always said that and I still hold to that view. The ships have to go too far afield to collect an adequate number of seal carcasses. In South Georgia it is very different. In my opinion the only hope for sealing in the Falkland Islands is a small pelagic vessel from which catcher boats work in shore to the beaches. I can see no buyer for Albemarle as a going concern. Salvesen is not interested nor is Ryan. In the circumstances I do not think that Rowe can do anything else but realise the assets piecemeal and so far as they are concerned we might take the Braithwaite tank and the oil (which it contains) if we can arrange transport for the oil but our oil firing is still in the experimental stages and the hospital has yet to be equipped.

4. So far as Government is concerned I can see no objection really to reducing the rent for the land on which the sealing station stands from the present £100 per annum to a pepper corn rate in view of the fact that the Station is not operating and until we really require it.


19/10.57.

*Done by HES. & initialled
in his absence.*

21/10.

AGDT/MC

436

B.U. 1.11.57 if no approach made by
Mr. Rowe before then.

THA 21.10.57.

6d. airletter.

Government House, 437
Stanley,
Falkland Islands.
14th October, 1957

Dear Mr. Totman,

433.
Thank you for your letter of the 6th September
about your sealing base at Alhermarle. I shall certainly
go into the problems with Mr. Rowe when he returns to the
Islands and see what I can do to help.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) E. P. Amos Smith

G. W. Totman, Esq.,
Controller of Finance,
Colonial Development Corporation,
33 Hill Street,
LONDON, W.1.

Bu. 1/11/57

438

nos.

436.

Dieu bel acc. - Mr. Rose
sailed on "Darwin" yesterday.

Q/

439

B. U. 12.1.58

24/7

1/21/57

T.D.

24/7

13/1/58

440.

NOTE

Mr. Rowe saw me this morning about the C.D.C. property at Albemarle. He said he had not taken any action so far because he had hoped that if the freezer at Ajax Bay were sold he might be able to dispose of the equipment at Albemarle to the buyer of the Ajax Bay freezer.

Mr. Rowe went on to say that he still considered that a shore based sealing factory in the Falklands was a feasible and paying proposition. Earlier sealing adventures had failed because the price of seal oil went down to an extremely low level, and the C.D.C. venture failed because of bad management.

I told Mr. Rowe of our plans for granting a licence for a pelagic operation taking in both South Georgia and the Falklands. I said that the indications of this coming off were more favourable than they had been for some time. I said that if a company were granted the necessary licence it was just possible that they might find some use for the property at Albemarle, although I considered this no better than just a chance. I suggested, however, that until a decision had been reached it would be as well not to dispose of the property piecemeal at the present time, nor to let it fall into decay.

Mr. Rowe then raised the question of the rent being paid by the C.D.C. I agreed that the present rental of £100 a year was not justified while the property was merely being maintained without working, and agreed that a nominal rent of 3d. an acre would be charged for the present financial year and for the future. Mr. Rowe also mentioned the use of the property in the event of Albemarle being run by an independent farmer, and I told him of the steps Government was taking to set up machinery for the financing of farming operations.


GOVERNOR.

Friday, 2nd May, 1958.
EPA/PT

441

H. Ag. C. S.

Reference f.440 : My interview with Mr. Rowe.

You will see that I agreed to the reduction of the rent for the Albemarle property from £100 to 3d. an acre for the present financial year and for the future. I think it would be as well if you were to write to Mr. Rowe confirming this officially. It will mean that a rental at £100 a year is payable up to the end of the 1956/57 financial year, and thereafter at 3d. an acre.

RA

2nd May, 1958.
EPA/PT

5th May,

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your recent interview with His Excellency the Governor in connexion with the rent of the land occupied by the South Atlantic Sealing Company Limited at Albemarle and to confirm that, as from the 1st July, 1957, the rent of \$100 a year will be reduced to a nominal sum of 3d. per acre.

2. Arrears to the 30th April, 1958, are as follows:-

1955 at the old rate	-	\$100
1956 " " " "	-	\$100
1st Jan, 1957 - 30th June, 1957	50	
1st July, 1957 - 30th April, 1958		
at 3d. an acre.	1.	0. 10d.
	<u>£251</u>	<u>0. 10d.</u>

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) S. G. Trees.

ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

E. G. Rowe, Esq.,
Agent, South Atlantic Sealing Co. Ltd.,

STANLEY.

SGT/MF

bu 30/5

443

SOUTH ATLANTIC SEALING CO. LTD. (COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION)

FACTORY SITE:
PORT ALBEMARLE
FALKLAND ISLANDS



REGISTERED OFFICE:
35 JOHN STREET
PORT STANLEY
FALKLAND ISLANDS

6th May 1958.

The Hon. The Colonial Secretary
Stanley
Falkland Islands.

Sir,

442

I have the honour to own receipt of your letter
No.0497/IV of yesterday's date, reading:-

"I am directed to refer to your recent interview with
His Excellency the Governor in connexion with the rent
of the land occupied by the South Atlantic Sealing
Company Limited at Albemarle and to confirm that, as
from the 1st July, 1957, the rent of £100 a year will
be reduced to a nominal sum of 3d. per acre.

2. Arrears to the 30th April, 1958, as follows:-

1955 at the old rate	-	£100
1956 " " " "	-	£100
1st Jan. 1957 - 30th June 1957		50
1st July, 1957 - 30th April 1958		
at 3d. an acre.		<u>1. 0. 10d.</u>
		<u>£251. 0. 10d.</u>

I am, Sir, etc.

(signed) S. Trees

ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

I am happy to state that the gist of my interview with H.E.
the Governor has already been reported by air-mail to C.D.C.
in London.

I have at the same time suggested to the Colonial
Development Corporation that the necessary funds be remitted
to me in order to settle that adjusted account. (The
S.A.Sealing Co.Ltd. having no cash resources under my control.)

Again thanking H.E. the Governor for kind conside-
ration and courtesy, I remain,

Yours faithfully,
for South Atlantic Sealing Co.Ltd.

E.G.Rowe,

Agent.

Handwritten signature and date 27.5.58

Handwritten signature and date 27/5

444

A.C.T.

440 to 443 for inf. p.

Q
9.5.58.

445

Mr. G. A.

Noted, thank you.

L.G.
9/5/58.

et

446

Any movement? (443 refers)

bu 30/10/58

Q
30/10/58.

447

A.C.T.

Has payment as set out in 443 been
expected?

Q. 30/10/58

A.C.T.

448

not necessary to date or through the C.A.A.
up to 30th Sept.

L.G.
30/10/58

30/12/58.
17/11/58
31/12/58
h. Tread

449

A.C.

I believe that no love is now in the
Camp. Re. Bill his for Albemarle sent
as at 443 (unless payment has been
made through CMA.)

P. 31/11/58

CSO 0497/IV

16th January, 1959

Gentlemen,

442 I am directed to transmit for your information the accompanying copy of a letter addressed in May, 1958, to Mr. E. G. Rowe, Agent, South Atlantic Sealing Co. Ltd., in connexion with the outstanding rent of the land leased from this Government at Albemarle.

443 2. In his reply of the 6th May, 1958, Mr. Rowe stated that he had suggested to the Colonial Development Corporation that the necessary funds be remitted to him to enable the account to be settled.

3. Following his recent return to the Colony Mr. Rowe has again been approached about the arrears of rent and has stated that he has neither the authority nor the funds to effect settlement.

4. Arrears to the 31st December, 1958, are as follows:-

1955 at the old rate	£100. 0. 0.
1956 at the old rate	100. 0. 0.
January to June, 1957 at the old rate	50. 0. 0.
1st July, 1957 to 31st December, 1958, at 3d an acre	1. 17. 6.
	<u>£251. 17. 6.</u>

5. I am to request that the Colonial Development Corporation will now consider remitting the necessary funds to Mr. Rowe to enable him to settle this account or, alternatively, if the Corporation would effect payment through the Crown Agents.

*Para 5 above
see 462*

I am,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) S. G. Trees.
COLONIAL TREASURER

Colonial Development Corporation,
33, Hill Street,
LONDON, W. 1.

SGT/MF

451.

27th May, 1959.

As you know there are something like 120-150 tons of fuel oil at Albermarle. Everyone (C.D.C. Rowe and Government) are anxious to see it disposed of.

The only people who could use it and buy it are the Company. Is there any prospect whatsoever of the Company playing on this one?

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) A.G. Barton-Thompson

Hon. A.G. Barton, Esq., C.B.E., J.P.
Stanley.

AGDT/SM

See 452

RU 10/6/59

The Falkland Islands Company, Limited.

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER 1851.)

REGISTERED 1902.

AGENTS FOR LLOYDS.

TELEGRAMS "FLEETWING PORTSTANLEY" VIA RADIO.

Stanley,

3rd June, 1959.

Sir,

We have for acknowledgement your letter of 27th May concerning fuel oil at Albemarle.

Mr. Cahill inspected the Sealing Station at Albemarle on 18th/19th December, 1956 with a view to advising our London Office on the condition of Plant and Equipment held there.

Mr. Cahill paid special attention to the fuel oil tank and estimated the contents by sounding to be 150 tons. The vertical seams of the tank are leaking and approximately 20 tons had been lost in the $3\frac{1}{2}$ years since it was erected.

Having studied Mr. Cahill's Report, London Office decided that in view of the demurrage that might be incurred by a ship putting in to pick up oil or machinery it would be unwise to make an offer for the Station as it stood, and the matter was dropped.

We agree that it is a pity to see 150 tons of fuel oil going to waste but at the same time it would be expensive to put "Darwin" to Albemarle on the off chance that valves, pipe line, flexible hose connections are all in working order and even if they were, it might take 48 hours to run the oil down by gravity.

"Darwin" fuels in Montevideo at a present cost of £7. 15. 6. per ton delivered but if an offer of £3. 10. - for every ton taken on board at Albemarle by our own endeavours would interest the Owners we will investigate further.

Shipment would be either in the second half of August or November.

I am,
Sir,
your obedient servant,

A. G. Barton

Manager,

His Honour

The Officer Administering the Government,
Stanley.

4th June, 1959.

452
Thank you very much for your letter of the
3rd June, about the fuel oil at Albermarle. I
am getting in touch with Rowe about your offer
and will let you know the outcome as soon as
possible.

Yours sincerely,

A.G. DentonOThompson (sgd)

The Hon. A.G. Barton, Esq., C.B.E., J.P.
Stanley.

ACDT/SM

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SENT

454

W. A. S. LTD.

Number

Office of Origin

Words

Handed in at

Date

4:6:59

To

MACSEABLE PARA ROME MONTEVIDEO

1/4 NO

FOLLOWING FROM DENTON-THOMPSON COMPANY HAVE OFFERED THREE POUNDS TEN SHILLINGS
REPEAT THREE POUNDS TEN SHILLINGS PER TON TAKEN ON BOARD AT ALBERMARLE BY THEIR
OWN EFFORTS STOP I CAN SEE NO ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF DISPOSING OF THIS OIL AND
SUGGEST OFFER MIGHT BE ACCEPTED STOP SHIPMENT WOULD BE IN SECOND HALF OF AUGUST
OR NOVEMBER STOP PLEASE ADVISE

D.A.S.

bu. 12/6/59

Time

455

Communications to be addressed to
THE CROWN AGENTS
FOR OVERSEA GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS
the following reference and the date
of this letter being quoted.



4, MILLBANK,
LONDON, S.W.1.

G6/595/57

7th May, 1959.

TELEGRAMS { INLAND : "CROWN, SOWEST, LONDON."
OVERSEA : "CROWN, LONDON."

TELEPHONE : ABBEY 7730.



Sir,

I am directed to inform you that the Colonial Development Corporation have advised the Crown Agents that they are holding a quantity of 150 tons of Fuel Oil at Albetmarle in the Falkland Islands, and are anxious to dispose of it. The Corporation are endeavouring to obtain further details about the quality of this oil, which was delivered some time ago by the Admiralty, and this information will be passed to you as soon as it is received.

In the meantime, the Crown Agents would be interested to know whether you would wish to take over this oil, at a price to be arranged, for use in the Falkland Islands. It is, of course, quite likely that you are aware of this stock and of the difficulties of moving it from Albetmarle, which it is understood, cannot accommodate craft of any great size.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

D. Stacy

456.

*Rec. when reply is recd.
from Mr. Rose re
FIC's offer.*

The Colonial Secretary,
Falkland Islands.

[Signature]

10/14/6/59

DS/AG

Reply at 460.

Copy of telegram received by E.L.W. from London.

A.D.C.

454

"Authorise sale fuel oil at Albermarle to F.I.C.

70/-d. per ton. Removal by their own effort."

Sadler.

Can you get me the file and I will
confirm to F.I.C. in writing.

D. G. H. F.

11.6.59.

12th May 1955 458
724
(Dear Mr. Barton)

With further reference to my letter of the 4th June, the Colonial Development Corporation have now authorised the disposal of the Albernarle oil to the Falkland Islands Company at a price of £3. 10. -d. for every ton taken on board by the Company's own efforts. I understand that you will probably arrange to take the oil in the second half of August or in November.

2. I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Reive of Estate Louis Williams so that he can take the necessary steps to inform the caretakers. If there is any change of plan perhaps you could let him or me know.

Yours sincerely
A.G.D.T. (sgd).

The Hon. Mr. A.G. Barton, C.B.E., J.P.
Stanley House,
Stanley.

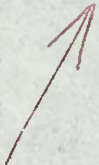
Copy to Mr. Reive,
Estate Louis Williams,
Stanley.

15th June,

59

Gentlemen,

455. I am directed to refer to your letter G6/595/57 of the 7th May, 1959, regarding the disposal of a quantity of Fuel Oil held at Albemarle and to inform you that this oil has now been sold to Messrs. Falkland Islands Company Limited.



I am,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) D. R. Morrison.

for ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY

Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations,
4, Millbank,
LONDON, S.W.1.

JB/MF

Rn LISO 17/7/59

no mail
20.7.59

218
10

21/7/59

Li.

for

Mr. G. A.

462

20.7.59

20.7.59

How much been paid?

450

450

461

463

The Falkland Islands Company, Limited.

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER 1851.)

REGISTERED 1902.

AGENTS FOR LLOYDS.

TELEGRAMS "FLEETWING PORTSTANLEY" VIA RADIO.

Stanley,

25th November, 1959.



Sir,

ALBEMARLE OIL FUEL.

451, 452, 453, 458.

We corresponded on this matter in May/June 1959 and can now report that R.M.S. "Darwin" lay at Albemarle overnight 22nd/23rd November with hoses connected to the shore tank pipe-line and received $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons only, consuming approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons during the period, from her own bunkers.

The oil is thick, almost to the consistency of tar, and unless some means can be found of heating it we doubt whether it can be taken from the tank except by drumming, a laborious process in which, of course, we are not interested.

I am,
Sir,
your obedient servant,

A.G. Newton

Manager.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary,
Stanley.

464.

*I want to reply to this when
I get back.*

C. H. J.

27.11.59

BU 29.12.59

Ack'd
C
27/11/59.

31st December,

59

Gentlemen,

460
463
I am directed to refer to my letter No. Q497/IV of the 15th June and to forward for your information the enclosed copy of a letter from the Falkland Islands Company reporting on the condition of the Fuel Oil at Albemarle.

I am,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) A. G. Denton-Thompson.

COLONIAL SECRETARY

Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations
4, Millbank,
LONDON, S.W.1.

0497/IV

466

31st December,

59

Sir,

463

I am directed to refer to your letter of the 25th November, and to express Government's appreciation of your efforts to make use of the Albemarle oil and regret that it is apparently of little use or value.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) A. G. Denton-Thompson,

COLONIAL SECRETARY

The Manager,
Falkland Islands Company Ltd.,
STANLEY

AGDE/RT

Pg 0

467.

Mr. Dave Stearns. What he was hoping is that
if Mr. Mc Laren obtains the lease of Alchemade
he will take on his lease and the buildings
action will proceed as 2038.

see

8/4/60

~~Ben to WIV~~

~~Ben~~

~~Ben~~

12 11 60

H.E.'s Dossier for Visit to the U.K. in July, 1951.

Item: 13 . SOUTH ATLANTIC SEALING COMPANY.

1.

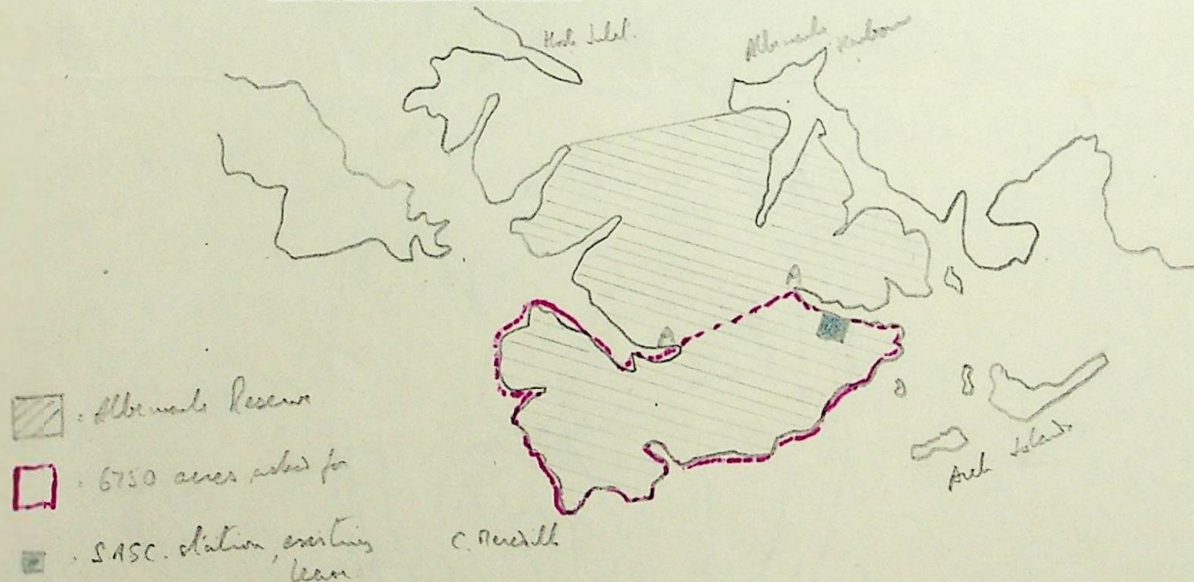
0497
Mr. Tilbury has asked for an extension of the area of his lease at Albemarle in order to run his own sheep to feed the station instead of having to rely on neighbouring farms, especially F.I.C., Port Stephens. They at present consume 350 sheep per annum, but he estimates that an extension of his plant might result in his annual requirement increasing to 600. To keep that up, with a lambing %age of 85, would mean keeping 706 sheep. Assume 4 acres to a sheep and he asked for another 3,000 acres. (His present lease is only for 100 acres).

In ~~at~~ a later letter he says that it would be more convenient and would save fencing etc. if he could be granted a larger area, shown on sketch map below, and estimated at 6750 acres.

The land is part of the Albemarle Reserve and is at present held on a year to year basis by the F.I.C. It is believed to be good ewe ground.

Tilbury has been informed that we view his (original) application kindly but that we are unable to make a final decision until after the return from leave of the Agricultural Officer.

Rough Sketch Map.



A-A - shaded fence!

Item 14.

2.

Y.E. promised to inspect a mechanical playing tool in which Mr. Tilbury is interested. Details are:

"Kingsley Flaymaster" pneumatic playing tool.

Makers: Kingsley Equipment Ltd:
345, Oxford Street,
London W.1.

CDC cancelled and very keen on Tilbury going in for sheep farming for fear of antagonising FIC!! He can take it up again if he wants to.

468.

Harbour marks

Albermarle Harbour 100 acres of
crown land is leased to L.D.C.

We shall have to decide whether we
want to keep this or sell it.

Please consider whether it would be useful
to us & speak in the course

8/5/62.

469.

Y.H.

you have discussed with H.M., pl?

B

7. 6. 62.

470

Discussed.

H.M. has it will be no use to us.

However I am inclined to think that we
might have more small bits of land taken than
selling them

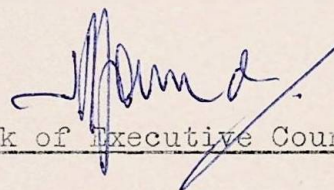
8/6/62.

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

HELD ON 31st JULY, 1962.

2. Sealing.

The Officer Administering the Government informed members that Mr. C. Bundes had applied for permission to take six hair seal skins as an experiment leading towards a possible application for a licence to exploit the hair seal industry for skins only. Council advised that Mr. Bundes' application should be granted and that no charge should be made in this instance.



Clerk of Executive Council

Record

FH

Phoned Mr Bundes and advised him as above.

↓ 28.62

Bn. 15.1.63

(Kiv-result of Mr B's application)

09581A 137
472
724
25 DE MAYO 510
MONTEVIDEO

EDWIN G. ELLIS

GENERAL SHIPCHANDLER
IMPORT. EXPORT.

ASILLA DE CORREO 609
CABLES: MACADAM



21st September, 1962. -

The Colonial Secretary,
The Colonial Government,
Port Stanley - Falkland Islands.

Sir,

Having recently received a seal-skin from a Mr. Chris Bundes for the purpose of enquiring into the possibilities of finding a market for this type of goods in Montevideo, I would inform you that there is considerable interest in importing them from the Falkland Islands and I have a tentative order for three thousand hair-seal hides subject to availability and conformity with certain pre-requisites.

135-126 I am enclosing a copy of correspondence forwarded to the above named gentleman, and would be interested to know whether a venture of this nature would have the approval of your Government.

Yours faithfully,

Edwin G. Ellis
Edwin G. Ellis

See 142.

473.135

EDWIN G. ELLIS

GENERAL SHIPCHANDLER
IMPORT. - EXPORT.

ASILLA DE CORREO 609
CABLES, MACADAM

704
25 DE MAYO 510
MONTEVIDEO

21st. September, 1962. -

Mr. Chris Bundes,
Port Stanley - Falkland Islands

Dear Chris,

This is to acknowledge receipt of the seal-skin which I received through the courtesies of Captain Archibald on the last trip of the "DARWIN". I immediately started to study the possibilities of placing skins from the Falkland Islands on the local market, and on sounding out one or two contacts I was able to discover that one of these parties is very interested for them right here in Montevideo.

The skin you sent me was studied and analyzed, and it was found that the wrong type of salt had been used on that particular skin - seemingly, it has to be pure salt (sodium chloride) otherwise the hair-cells decompose with the subsequent loss of the hair or fur. It was because of this that I sent the following radiogram through Peter -

EDDY SAYS USING WRONG SALT FORWARDING SAMPLE STOP REQUIRES
PRICE HAIRSEAL AND FURSEAL CIF MONTEVIDEO STOP HAS TENTATIVE
ORDER THREE THOUSAND AS SAMPLE MUST HAVE SAMPLE FURSEAL

I have forwarded through Peter a sample of the correct salt with which the skins should be treated, the price of which on the local market is 38 cents Urug. currency (roughly 3 pence), but am sure that in quantities it would work out cheaper. It is reckoned that each hide requires about 5 kilos of salt.

The people with whom I have had the preliminary talks have made a tentative order for three thousand (3000) skins similar to the one you sent me. I would point out that their use is fairly restricted, and can only be used in the industrial market for the manufacture of working gloves, etc., since cowhide is not so pliable. I understand that these hides are generally marked or scarred from fighting and it is seldom possible to use them for anything other than as mentioned.

They are, however, very interested in fur-seal skins, and this would seem to be a worthwhile line: however, before taking about quantities you must let me have a sample and the price either f.o.b. Stanley, or c.i.f. Montevideo. (A figure of ten thousand was casually mentioned, presumably seasonal if the skins come up to expectations).

Another article in which they are interested is the seal oil. It is reckoned that local seals yield 10 to 12 litres of oil, but due to the greater cold in the Falklands it would be nearer to 15 litres. Don't know whether there are facilities for oil extraction down there, but you might look into this angle too, it could be highly profitable.

The skin sent up was badly skinned, and it is important that this is done correctly with both types of seal. We would be prepared to send down an expert to study the possibilities of killing, who could assess you on the technical side of tackling breeding grounds, sorting types, and actual skinning.

It is therefore essential that you obtain the exclusive rights to tackle this line from the Government, and would appreciate your confirming your willingness to handle this business through me in Montevideo as your sole Agent. Since all business would be handled through an accredited bank, and payments made through them against documents on the basis previously agreed upon, you can rest assured that your best interests will be served to our mutual benefit.

474.

136

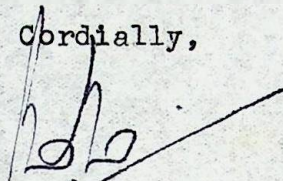
Mr. Chris Bundes (continued)

21st. September, 1962.

I am enclosing a Question Sheet which I would appreciate your filling in and returning at the earliest possible opportunity.

Looking forward to hearing from you next trip, I remain,

Cordially,



Edwin G. Ellis

137 475

Can be put in to file R W C

x/ must be representation by Chris Bundes
JZ.

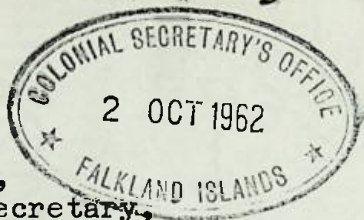
26/9/62

By 26.10.62 - x/ above.

~~26~~

Mare from 134

perdo 1/2 1/2 a 1/2 1/2



3 Villiers Street,
Stanley,
27th Sept. 1962.

476

The Honourable,
The Colonial Secretary,
STANLEY.

Sir,

I respectfully submit application to obtain a Sealing licence for sealing purposes in and around the Falkland Islands for hair seal only.

The reason for my application is that I am negotiating to export 3,000 hair seal skins to an Agent in Montevideo during the 1963 sealing season.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

CR Bunch

See 141

477

134

Notes. Previous figure for 150 for 9000

lines re 2000 elephants. For 30 afterwards
all (168 is 497/11) taken otherwise

15 000 lines re 1000 elephants

We could consider goats a figure for ~~all~~
for 3000 lines at about $\frac{1}{2}$ his figure. But
it seems wasteful. we have the oil at all.

Personally I doubt for ~~134~~^{492 475} 36
which may well be intended in only 3000
have ~~it~~ shown it was his really
seen to be after - for 10 000 for 2000 is

quite out of the question..

140

478

It may however be unreasonable to turn
down what is after all a fairly harmless
request. This ~~can~~ would involve 4-3 votes
or less in 10. ~~perhaps~~ ~~and~~ ~~as~~
it will be considered by Gov in due course

(See also 497/111
tent hē).

2 3/10/62

8

October,

62.

Sir,

138

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 27th September, 1962, and to say that your application for a Sealing Licence will be considered by Government in due course.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) H. L. Bound.

for COLONIAL SECRETARY

Mr. C. Bundos,
3 Villiers Street,
STANLEY.

HLB/FH

480 142
5th October, 62.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 21st September, 1962, regarding the exploitation of the sealing industry in this Colony and to inform you that the matter is now under consideration.

2. A further communication will be addressed to you at a later date.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) H. L. Bound.

for COLONIAL SECRETARY

Edwin G. Ellis, Esq.,
25 De Mayo 724,
MONTEVIDEO.

HLB/FH

Sy 12.10.62 (140)

BW ~~Ex~~ J. E. n. l. m. 18.10.62 (140)

g. e.

Mr. Chris Bundes wanted to take 6 fur seals experimentally and after reading Mr O'Gorman's report at G/C of 0958/A I wrote 126 (the details are not important.) He then cried off fur seals and the result was to be a decision at 471 and now we have got papers from 472 - 476.

Since I wrote notes 477 & 478 I have been thinking further & I think we should turn this down.

(a) There is no indication in 473 & 474 that he expects of him seal skins with no constituents a proterous indication for the colony.

(The object of 471 was to find out what his bag would fetch but we have not been told this.)

(b) The applicant has not got a reputation for being a stickler. He is not prepared to put anything much into his enterprise.

(c) The slaughter of seal seals only for their skins is a waste of the colony's resources and causes the unjustified slaughter.

(d) there is a danger of abuse.

I think enough but in view of 471 it should be considered by the Co.

22/10/62.

484
482


EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 6/62 OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

HELD ON THE 30TH & 31ST OCTOBER, 1962

0497/IV

8. APPLICATION FOR SEALING LICENCE

An application from Mr. C. Bundes to take and kill 3,000 hair seal for the purpose of exporting the skins was discussed and it was considered that permission to kill only six hair seal should be granted at this stage. The skins to be properly dressed and exported to Montevideo in order that the selling price could be established so that Council could satisfy itself that the venture would prove a worthwhile commercial proposition. Council further ordered that no fur seal should be taken.


Clerk of Executive Council

9th ^{November}~~October~~,

62.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to my letter 0958/A of the 5th October, 1962, regarding the exploitation of the sealing industry and to inform you that after careful consideration this Government has granted a further permit to Mr. Bundes to take and kill six hair seals on the condition that the skins are properly dressed for export and that he advises this office of the price obtained. Further consideration will then be given to his request to take 3,000 animals.

2. I am further to advise you that there can be no question of a licence being granted to take fur seal.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) ^{JS} R.H.D. MandersCOLONIAL SECRETARY.

Edwin G. Ellis, Esq.,
25 De Mayo 724,
MONTEVIDEO.

HLB/IM.

November
9th October,

62.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to my letter 0958/A of the 5th October, 1962, and to inform you that after careful consideration of your application to take 3,000 hair seals Government considers that a full licence should not be granted at this stage but would be willing to allow you to take a further six hair seals on the condition that the skins are properly dressed for export and that you inform Government of the price obtained.

2. On receipt of a satisfactory report from you further consideration will be given to the granting of the licence you request.

3. The seals should not be taken from Kidney Island, Bird Island or the Flat Jason, South Jason or Elephant Jason Islands.

4. I am however to observe that Messrs. Edwin G. Ellis in their letter have referred to the possibility of purchasing something in the neighbourhood of 10,000 fur seal skins and I am to make it quite clear that there is no possibility of this being allowed.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) R.H.D. Manders

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Mr. C. Bundes,
3 Villiers Street,
STANLEY.

WLD/IM.

KIV 482.
Pa

485

CONFIDENTIAL

For consideration at the
next Meeting of Council.

SMP 0497/IV
5th November, 1963.

MEMORANDUM NO. 51/63 FOR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Sealing

The following is an extract from the Minutes of Meeting No. 6/62 held on the 30th and 31st October, 1962 -

"An application from Mr. C. Bundes to take and kill 3,000 hair seal for the purpose of exporting the skins was discussed and it was considered that permission to kill only 6 hair seal should be granted at this stage. The skins to be properly dressed and exported to Montevideo in order that the selling price could be established so that Council could satisfy itself that the venture would prove a worthwhile commercial proposition. Council further ordered that no fur seal should be taken."

1486+
487
2. Mr. Bundes has made verbal application to take hair seal of not less than 1,000 in number and as evidence of the commercial prospects of such a venture he has submitted the attached two letters received from the Hudson's Bay Company. The first dated 22nd July tells him that there is a high demand for all hair seal skins and the second dated 9th October reports on the four skins that he sent to the Company. He has stated that the other two skins were sent to Denmark but that to date he has received no comment about them.

3. Mr. Bundes has explained his plan to take not less than 1,000 bulls some old some young from various parts of the islands. He does not wish to limit his hunting ground to the Arch Islands from where he has said the Albemarle venture obtained practically all its seal.

4. He would only take skins: he knows of no commercially satisfactory way of disposing of the blubber and carcasses.

5. Honourable Members will be asked to consider this application at the forthcoming Meeting of Council.

L. Greenaway
Acting Colonial Secretary.

CONFIDENTIAL

Issued to all Ex. Co
Members today.

496

COPIES OF LETTERS SENT TO MR. C. BUNDES FROM HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

22nd July, 1963

Dear Sir,

We thank you for your air letter in which you notify us that you have sent us four salted Seal skins we shall be most interested to receive these sample skins. The seal market in Europe is at a very high level and the demand for all hair seal skins is very strong, almost dangerously so at present. We are able to sell immediately by Private Treaty all the hair seals that we can obtain. Naturally there can be no guarantee that this demand will continue indefinitely but there is no immediate sign of any weakness in the market.

Before we can value your sample skins we shall have to have them fleshed and dried, we shall then cable you our valuations and if, after receiving these values you find them attractive we would strongly suggest that you take immediate steps to ship as many skins as you can obtain in order to take advantage of the good market conditions.

We are most interested in this initial consignment and we hope that it will lead to valuable business for both of us.

Yours faithfully,
for Hudson's Bay Company
Fur Sales Limited

(Sgd.) P.L. Davies

Manager

9th October, 1963.

Dear Sir,

We refer to your recent sample consignment consisting of 4 seals. We have now been able to examine these and our report is as follows:-

These 4 skins are Tropical Seals, which zoologically belong to the Fur Seal family but are regarded by the Fur Trade as more similar to Hair Seals.

The 2 smaller skins, had they been clear in colour, would probably have been usable as furriers, but are badly stained and for that reason suitable only for use by leather merchants. They are rather small and we would place their value at or about 100/- each.

The 2 larger skins are tainted and of unattractive patterns, also having a mane over the neck and shoulders; they too are suitable only for leather. They are of good size and are worth approximately 150/- each.

The deblubbering of these skins appears to have been carried out in a perfectly satisfactory manner.

We regret that we are unable to inform you regarding the cause of the taint found in 2 of the pelts. It can only be assumed that the deblubbering and salting was not commenced soon enough after the pelts were taken, or that they deteriorated during transit.

We trust that our comments will be of some assistance to you, and we confirm that we are prepared to accept any further quantities of these skins

that you/.....

487

that you are able to provide since there is at present a fairly ready market for almost all types of Seal. It should be noted that the valuations given are those that we would expect to obtain for a sizeable parcel of pelts; to dispose of a small quantity may prove a little more difficult.

We look forward to receiving your instructions regarding these skins in the near future.

Yours faithfully,
for Hudson's Bay Company
Fur Sales Limited

(Sgd.) J.P. Simmons

Consignment Manager
General Furs

BW Xco 15.11.63

IM.

Y. E.

I have spoken to Mr. Bundes on the matters raised in Executive Council regarding his application to kill sea lions around the beaches of the Colony. I explained to him that Government would only grant a licence to kill on beaches where the Manager of the farm involved was in favour. He accepted this - a little grudgingly I thought.

Mr. Bundes said it was the accepted thing that all carcasses and intestines would be dragged into the sea after each slaughter. Questioned on the method of slaughter, he explained that corrals would be built on the selected beaches and groups of sea lions would be driven into them. These would be slaughtered and skinned, the carcasses etc. disposed of and then a further lot driven in. All hides taken would be transported by sea. There was no question of any overland transport. Mr. Bundes preferred islands for killing grounds, explaining that mainland hauling up places were usually very rocky and abounding in high cliffs. As possible places for slaughter he suggested Arch Islands, Ten Shilling Bay Island near Port Stephens, the Weddell Area, Barren Island and Blind Island. I mentioned the possibility of the William Islands and he said he would be interested in these as well. I told him that Kidney Island was definitely out.

Mr. Bundes, like myself, was under the impression that killing should not take place during the breeding season but from reference to the notes extracted from Dr. Hamilton's papers it seems that the seals are best taken during the breeding season, that is December, January and February, except that killing should only be done outside the breeding colonies.

If Mr. Bundes is to be able to make the best of the current season we should press on quickly with the granting of a licence and with this in mind I have drawn up the attached specimen for consideration. I think it should be made clear to Mr. Bundes that any breach of the licence conditions would mean its immediate cancellation; the venture as he has outlined it is comparatively small and taking into account the revenue likely to arise from these operations it is quite out of the question to appoint a sealing inspector. It is in Mr. Bundes' interests as well as those of Government that the conditions of the licence be strictly adhered to; we must rely upon his common sense to realise this but at the same time leave no doubt in his mind that Government can and will take effective action if he proves unworthy of the confidence that is being placed in him.

19th December, 1963
LCG/FH

L.G.
19.12.63

South Atlantic Co Sealing licence on at 168 in 1197/11.

L.G.

489

Wages

We spoke. Bundes may go ahead on Govt. islands. You will be writing to owners of others.

GPA 19.12.63

450

J.E.,

Mr. Bunder called yesterday to discuss proposed licence. He raised two points.

1. The number of deer he may kill is not stated.

2. The season is unsuitable.

With regard to 1. this was an oversight and council advised that 3,000 would not be too many in any one season.

The season of December - February came from the notes taken from Dr. Hamilton's reports. The N.A.A. Co. were permitted to kill between 1st April and 31st December. Bunder wants this to be a winter occupation as the summer months are taken up with sheep farming. There seems to be no reason why he shouldn't kill during the winter and I suggest 1st April to 30th November as a period most suitable to him. May I amend draft licence accordingly please.

L.G.

24.12.63

451

J.H. This file presumably came down from G.H. recently. Mr Bunder did not press for a licence this year but may make formal application shortly, in order to prepare for the season commencing 1.12.64

noted
G.H.
13.5.64

12.5.64

452

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

13th May, 1964.

Dear Sir,

I have received an enquiry from Mr. C. Bundes of Stanley regarding the purchase of a portable machine for de-blubbering seal skins. He believes that such a machine exists but is experiencing difficulty in locating a market. Would you please be good enough to ascertain whether they are available on the British market and at what cost.

It may well prove that these items are not manufactured in Britain, in which case you may be able to refer me to a European or American source. Norway appears the most likely.

Yours faithfully,

(U.K. Trade Correspondent)

the Export Services Branch,
Board of Trade,
Millgate House,
5 Old Bailey,
LONDON. E.C.4.

LB/IM.

Reply at 454 & 455.

CABLE ADDRESS:
NIPPON SUI TOKYO
CODES USED:
ACME
BENTLEY

NIPPON SUISAN KAISHA, LTD.

3-2, MARUNOUCHI 2-CHOME
CHIYODA-KU, TOKYO
JAPAN

455
TELEPHONE:
231-3541 (20 Lines)

TELEX:
20-23771
Answer Back Code
<NISSUI TOK>

OUR REFERENCE
YOUR REFERENCE

TOKYO, April 16, 1964

Messrs.
H. L. Bound
C/O The Colonial Secretary
Port Stanley
Falkland Islands

Dear Sir,

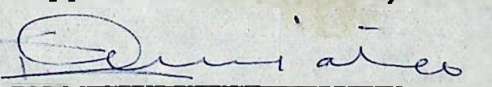
Machine for DE-Blubbering Seal Skins

When staying with falkland Islands, I accepted your sincere favours in many points. On this letter I express deep appreciation to your kindness.

With reference of the above subject, as soon as had come back to Japan, I have inquired towards whom it may concern as possible as I can and searched for such machines. But I found that in Japan it is difficult to gain machine for DE-Blubbery seal Skins. Apologizing that I can't meet your request.

Faithfully yours,

Nippon Suisan Kaisha, Ltd.


Capt. T. MIYATA
Managing Director

bu 287



BOARD OF TRADE

Export Services Branch

Hillgate House, 35 Old Bailey, LONDON E.C.4

Telegrams: Exserbra London E.C.4

Cablegrams: Advantage London

454
61

Overseas Trade No.:

Our reference: E.S.B. /17983/64.

Your reference: HLB/TM.

22nd June, 1964.

Dear Trade Correspondent,

452

I refer to your letter of 13th May, received on 9th June, concerning a portable machine for de-blubbering seal skins.

I have not yet been able to locate a British manufacturer of this type of machinery. I am continuing the search and hope to let you know the final result very shortly.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. E.E. Smith)

The Colonial Secretary,
(British Trade Correspondent),
Stanley,
Falkland Islands.

MS



AR Mau

455

BOARD OF TRADE

Export Services Branch

Hillgate House, 35 Old Bailey, LONDON E.C.4

Telegrams: Exserbra London E.C.4

Cablegrams: Exserbra, London E.C.4



Overseas Trade No.:

Our reference: E.S.B. 17983/64

Your reference: HLB/IM

① This is
C. Bunched.

25th June, 1964.

Dear Trade Correspondent,

452

454

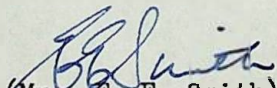
I refer to your letter of 13th May and mine of 22nd June concerning a portable machine for de-blubbering seal skins.

The Engineering Industries Division have been able to locate a company that can supply the necessary equipment. This company, Flaymasters Limited, received a similar enquiry from the Hudson Bay Company of London and have supplied a copy of the letter, quotation and literature which are enclosed.

b.c.
...

Flaymasters state that the prices quoted have been cut to the minimum in order to help the prospective buyer and they are confident that their machine is the only one that would give complete satisfaction for this particular job of skinning seals, as it is most essential that the machines and blades are very strong.

Yours faithfully,


(Mrs. E. E. Smith)

See 456

The Colonial Secretary,
(British Trade Correspondent),
Stanley,
Falkland Islands.

②

c/c Anti
+ thank Bel to
Trade for their
assistance
S.

Enclosures sent to
Mr. Bunched.

486
Ref: 0497/IV.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

30th July, 1964.

455
Dear Madam,

I refer to your letter ESB 17983/64 of the 25th June, 1964, and wish to thank you for your assistance in obtaining particulars of a de-blubbering machine.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) D.R. Morrison

COLONIAL SECRETARY

for

Mrs. E.E. Smith,
Board of Trade,
Export Services Branch,
Hillgate House,
35 Old Bailey,
LONDON, E.C.4.

PAA
30.7.64

DRM/IM.

Montevideo, October 27th, 1964.

The Government of Falkland Islands,
Falkland Islands.

Dear Sirs,

The undersigned, Erik Lennart Sten Ove Holmberg, born December 16th, 1928 in the city of Malmö, Sweden, hereby formally applies to the Government of the Falkland Islands for a yearly license of 6000 seals to be hunted under Government inspection and at times allowed.

For such a purpose the applicant intends to incorporate a firm in the Falkland Islands and fully accepts Her Majesty's Sovereignty over all operations to take place if such a license would be granted. Furthermore the applicant would ask to be relieved of taxation during the first two years of operation to be able to bear costs for initiating operations.

Sincerely,

Sten Holmberg
Sten Holmberg,
Orinoco 5154
Montevideo,
URUGUAY.

Repay 21476

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

From O.I.C. SIGNY ISLAND

To ANTARCTIC PORT STANLEY

Despatched : 3rd November 1964 Time : 1415Z

Received : 5th November 1964 Time : 1443Z

H/366/64 93/75A following is summary of information received by R/T October 14th. Private Expedition to explore possibilities exploit commercially mainly pups but also the Adult of Crabeater seals. Heavy demand for seal skins on European Markets. Process firms worried over the exploitation and possible future restrictions on sealing in the North Atlantic and expedition organised to attempt to find new areas to exploit. Ship encountered pack August 25th. Explored area between just north of Elephant Island in the West to about 43W 59S in the East working edge pack to find seals. No landings planned., Use helicopter to aid search. Commercial trip not successful as seals not in congregations as hoped but very scattered. Also too early as only one born upu found so far but many unborn ones. Scientific trip successful and Biologist gathering much data particularly on Crabeater and Leopard seals. Up to October 14th expedition had taken about 0900 seal, 4 or 5 Elephants, 1 male fur, 5 or 6 Ross, 56 leopard and rest crabeater of which 150 were pregnant females. Ship cleared ice October 22nd. Another R/T November 2nd; ship left Antarctic November 2nd for home via Montevideo due to lack of fuel. Biologist repeated satisfaction from his point of view but considered not commercial proposition to exploit crabeater. Grand total seals collected 1,400 including 15 Ross. Full report will be sent by next mail possible.

Bailey 020001Z

GTC/FS

Copy to Col Sec. for info.

KIV 457

Polanau

Seals, Journal 52
458

9. 11. 64

bu 15 1.65

459

C.S.

See 457.

Meanwhile Mr. Bender has applied
to go ahead with his plan to take 3000.
May be draft hence at b.c. now issue?

23.11.64.

File.

CONFIDENTIAL

460

SMP 0497/IV
15th December, 1964.

MEMORANDUM NO. 58/64 FOR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Issue of Sealing Licences.

Honourable Members are referred to Council Minute No. 29 of 1963.

A licence, a copy of which is attached at appendix A, has now been issued to Mr. C. Bundes. Attention is drawn to Clause 4 of the licence where a limitation of 1500 seals has been imposed. This is half the quantity asked for by the licensee.

Until the result of Mr. Ian Strange's investigation into the present state of the seal population of the Falkland Islands is known it might be unwise to allow a greater killing.

Honourable Members are asked to note a further application for a licence which has been received from Mr. Sten Holmberg of Montevideo (Appendix B).

Holmberg is being told that no further licences can be issued for the time being and until the investigation referred to above has been completed.

W. H. Thompson

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

WHT/TB

Issued today.

R 16/12/64

CONFIDENTIAL.

(a)

FALKLAND ISLANDS

Seal Fishery Ordinance (Cap. 62.)

A licence under section 5 of the Seal Fishery Ordinance (Cap. 62), is hereby granted to Robert John Christian Bundes, of Stanley, Falkland Islands (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 from the 1st day of ~~April~~^{May}, 1965 to the 30th day of ~~September~~, 1965, and shall be an exclusive licence for the areas named in the Schedule hereto, so long as it remains valid.

2. This Licence shall be issued free of charge.

3. This licence shall be valid for the taking of adult male Sea Lions (Otaria Byronia) only: no other seal shall be taken.

4. The number of adult male Sea Lions (Otaria Byronia) taken shall not exceed 1,500 in the aggregate.

5. At least 10% of the adult male Sea Lions (Otaria Byronia) shall be left alive at each rookery:

Provided that the number of adult male Sea Lions (Otaria Byronia) so left alive at the first killing shall not be progressively reduced, on any subsequent visit or visits to the same rookery.

6. The killing or capturing of female Sea Lions (Otaria Byronia) must be avoided as far as possible.

7. The killing or capturing of pups or young Sea Lions (Otaria Byronia) is prohibited.

8. The licensee must ensure that Sea Lions (Otaria Byronia) are not driven long distances and killed in the most humane way practicable. Sea Lions (Otaria Byronia) must be shot and not clubbed to death.

9. All killing shall be done on beaches and the intestines and carcasses disposed of into the sea.

10. The licensee shall not later than the 1st day of ~~October~~^{January}, 196~~5~~⁸ render an accurate account of all sea lions taken and report where such sea lions were found in large numbers or rookeries or where others were observed.

11. This licence is not transferable.

12. This licence does not authorize the licensee to enter upon areas 1 - 4 mentioned in the Schedule hereto, except for the purpose of taking sea lions. Authority to enter upon areas 5 - 6 mentioned in the said Schedule must be obtained by the licensee from the owners thereof.

13. 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

, 196~~7~~⁷.

COLONIAL SECRETARY

See schedule number

between the license holder & the
licensing authority

5.

unless otherwise agreed, at least 15%
of ~~adult~~ male Sea lions (Otaria Byronia)
shall be left alone at each rookery.

Provided

follow on the 'ster' ranged
in pencil

11 This license does not authorise the holder
to enter upon or any land mentioned in
the schedule nor does it abrogate any
existing rights in respect of which the
holder ~~is himself responsible~~ must obtain
a sub-licence from the existing right-holders.

SCHEDULE

1. Arch Islands
2. Ten Shilling Bay Islands (Port Stephens)
3. Weddell Islands.
4. Split Lagoon (Beaver Islands)
5. Barren Island (Speedwell Islands)
6. Blind Island (Lafonia)

1. Emily Island
2. Blind Island
3. Split Island.

HLB/TB.

COPY

Montevideo, October 27th, 1964

The Government of the Falkland Islands.
Falkland Islands.

Dear Sirs,

The undersigned, Erik Lennart Sten Ove Holmberg, born December 16th, 1928 in the city of Malmö, Sweden, hereby formally applies to the Government of the Falkland Islands for a yearly licence of 6000 seals to be hunted under Government Inspection and at times allowed.

For such a purpose the applicant intends to incorporate a firm in the Falkland Islands and fully accepts Her Majesty's Sovereignty over all operations to take place if such a licence would be granted. Furthermore the applicant would ask to be relieved of taxation during the first two years of operation to be able to bear costs for initiating operations.

Sincerely,

Sten Holmberg,
Orinoco 5154
Montevideo,
URUGUAY.

Copied TB

15th December,

64.

Dear Sir,

For your information Mr. R. J. C. Bundes of Stanley has been issued with a Sealing license for the period 1st April, 1965 to 30th September, 1965 for the areas:

1. Arch Islands
2. Four Shilling Bay Islands (Port Stephens)
3. Weddell Islands
4. Split Lagoon (Beaver Island)
5. Barren Island (Speedwell Islands)
6. Blind Island (Lafonia)

The terms of the license make it clear to Mr. Bundes that he may not enter into these areas except for the taking of sea lions, and in all cases he must first contact the owner or manager concerned.

Yours faithfully,

W H T.

COLONIAL SECRETARY

Mr. C. Robertson, J.P.,
FOX BAY

WH/TB.

Copy to Mr. Bundes

15th December,

64.

Dear Sir,

For your information Mr. R. J. C. Bundes of Stanley has been issued with a Sealing License for the period 1st April, 1965 to 30th September, 1965 for the areas:

1st May 1967

December 1967

1. Arch Islands
2. Four Shilling Bay Islands (Port Stephens)
3. Weddell Islands
4. Split Lagoon (Beaver Island)
5. Barron Island (Speedwell Islands)
6. Blind Island (LaFonia)

The terms of the license make it clear to Mr. Bundes that he may not enter areas 1 to 4 except for the purpose of taking sea lion, and that he must obtain your authority to enter areas 5 and 6. In all cases he must first contact the owner or manager concerned.

Yours faithfully,

W.H.T.

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

The Manager,
Falkland Islands Company Limited,
STANLEY.

Copy to Mr. Bundes

WHT/TE.

copy to Mr. Bundes

15th December,

64.

Dear Sir,

For your information Mr. R. J. C. Bundos of Stanley has been issued with a Sealing License for the period 1st April, 1965 to 30th September, 1965 for the areas:

1. Arch Islands
2. Four Shilling Bay Islands (Port Stephens)
3. Weddell Islands
4. Split Lagoon (Beaver Island)
5. Barren Island (Speedwell Islands)
6. Blind Island (Lafonia)

The terms of the license make it clear to Mr. Bundos that he may not enter into these areas except for the taking of sea lions, and in all cases he must first contact the owner or manager concerned.

Yours faithfully,

WHT.

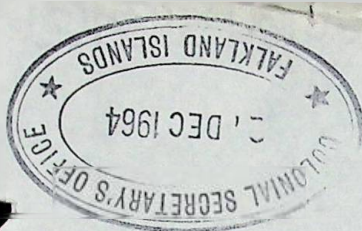
COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Mr. T. Felton,
WEDDELL ISLAND.

The Manager,
WEDDELL ISLAND. *aka* Mr. C. Robertson
WHT/TB. *aka* FOXRAY.
BEAVER ISLAND *aka*

Reply in 467

copy to Mr. Bundos.



The Falkland Islands Company, Limited.

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER 1851.)

REGISTERED 1902.

AGENTS FOR LLOYDS.

TELEGRAMS "FLEETWING PORTSTANLEY" VIA RADIO.

Stanley,

17th December, 1964

Your Ref: 0497/IV

The Colonial Secretary,
Stanley.

Dear Sir,

463 With reference to your letter of the 15th December, 1964, and our subsequent conversations, we have to advise you that we have informed Mr. R. J. C. Bundes that we are not prepared to authorize him to enter the areas of Barren Island (Speedwell Island), and Blind Island (Lafonia) for the purpose of taking sea lions under the terms of the Licence granted to him by the Colonial Government.

I enclose a summary of the long drawn out negotiations that have been carried out regarding the Company's Sealing Rights in Lafonia.

I request that Government issue us with a blank Licence to cover the taking of sea lions in Lafonia. On the issue of this Licence the Falkland Islands Company will then licence Mr. R. J. C. Bundes, subject to our agreeing a Royalty, imposing conditions similar to those embodied in the Licence already issued to him by the Colonial Government.

Yours faithfully,

Manager.

Enc.

470
Reply at 462

464
Off m
Lee
5,
26.1.65

174
464/A

Summary of Negotiations Concerning Sealing Rights in Lafonia

6
in 250/33

The Judgement dated 23rd July, 1864, of the Privy Council, on the appeal of the Falkland Islands Company, held that the Crown Grant for the areas known as Lafonia gave the Company the power to hunt, kill or tame all live stock in Lafonia. Arising from this Judgement it was agreed by the Colonial Government in the Acting Colonial Secretary's letter of the 8th June, 1934, reference 250/33, that in accordance with instructions received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Falkland Islands Company was recognised as being entitled to take seals on the main land and islands within the boundaries of Lafonia as shown on the official chart on record, and a sealing Licence was issued on the 6th November, 1935, without any conditions, although a covering letter from the Colonial Secretary of the same date, reference No. 250/33, expressed the hope that no immature seals or females would be taken, and requested that we supplied details for the Governments information of the number of seals taken and the quantity of oil extracted.

On the 14th November, 1935, the Falkland Islands Company granted a Licence to seal in Lafonia to the Falkland Islands & Dependencies Company, Limited, embodying the restrictions contained in the Sealing Ordinance.

23 in
250/33

The Acting Colonial Secretary's letter of the 1st September, 1936, reference 205/33 advised the Company that it was the Government's view that they had the right to make restrictions in the terms of any licence issued, and informed us that the licence issued on the 6th November, 1935, would be terminated on the 31st December, 1936, and that a fresh licence would be issued free from payment or bond at any time thereafter on application.

30
in 250/33

On the 6th May, 1937, we advised the Colonial Government that we were referring the question of restrictions embodied in the Licence granted on the 8th April, 1937, to London Office for further instructions. The Colonial Secretary's undated personal letter, reference 205/33, to the then Colonial Manager reads as follows:-

"I have to inform you that if as is proposed a Licence is granted for a period of seven years no question would arise of modifying or altering the conditions without the consent of the Licensees. Meanwhile the question of conditions appears to be largely academical. It is appreciated by your Company that they are imposed solely in the interests of the industry and the Governor understands that you are prepared to acquiesce in them. On your verbal assurance of agreement His Excellency is quite prepared to substitute this year a blank Licence for sealing in Lafonia."

35

Our letter of the 7th July, 1937, confirms that if the Colonial Government would issue a blank Licence for sealing in Lafonia, we would then grant a Licence to the Falkland Islands & Dependencies Sealing Company, Limited to seal, and impose conditions similar to those embodied in the Licence previously issued to the Falkland Islands Company; a blank Licence was duly issued to the Company on the 26th July, 1937.

In 1950, the South Atlantic Sealing Company was formed and the Manager, Mr. Tilbury, advised us on the 4th November, 1950, that he proposed to take sea elephants on Barren Island under the terms of his Licence issued by the Colonial Government, and on the 18th November, 1950, we advised our

/contd.

Head Office that the Colonial Secretary had obtained advice from the Secretary of State to the effect that the South Atlantic Sealing Company as Licencees of the Government had the right to enter Lafonia for the purpose of taking and killing seals. We are unable to trace the Colonial Secretary's letter referred to.

We now come to a gap in our records, but it appears that we consulted our solicitors and obtained a reversion of the Secretary of State's opinion, as on the 27th November, 1951, we wrote to the Manager of the South Atlantic Sealing Company advising him that unless he ceased sealing on Lafonia and compensated us for damage and loss which we had sustained, we would take further proceedings to protect our legal rights.

133 in 250/33
140 in 250/33
On the 8th March, 1952, we applied to the Colonial Secretary for a Licence to seal in Lafonia, and the Colonial Secretary's letter of the 24th March, 1952, reference 250/33 advised us that a Licence would be granted. Various draft Licences were exchanged between the Government and the Company during the period 24th March, 1952 and 17th October, 1952, and before the actual Licence was issued, the South Atlantic Sealing Company had ceased operations.

See 170 in 250/33
On the 1st December, 1952, our Head Office instructed us to request the Colonial Government to place on their records the fact that Lafonia is excluded from any Sealing Licence that the Government may issue in the future to any other party. On the 13th January, 1953, we advised our Head Office that we had made this request, but are unable to trace the exchange of correspondence with Government

In June 1955, a possibility arose that the Albion Star Company might apply for a Sealing Licence in the Colony, and we have a copy of the Telegram to the Secretary of State undated, but obviously referring to this problem, reference the Secretary of State's telegram No. 96, and reads as follows in part:-

"In order to avoid subsequent misunderstanding I think it desirable that although Company (presumably Albion Star) is aware of them comma 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 comma adjacent islands and certain areas to North of Choiseul Sound would be subject to agreement between operating Company and Falkland Islands Company."

This telegram carries the initials G.T.C.

Extract of Minutes of Meeting of Executive Council held on the 20th, 21st and 22nd November, 1964.

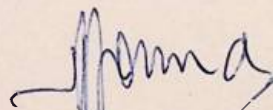
0497/IV

29. SEALING LICENCE (Memo. No. 51/63)

An application from Mr. C. Bundes to carry out sealing operations was approved in principle. Final consideration would be given to the project on receipt of full and more detailed plans from the applicant.

Conditions of the licence, if granted, would include -

- (a) Seals must be killed near the beach and the bodies disposed of in the water.
- (b) Bulls only to be killed and at least 10% male animals to be left on the rookeries.
- (c) No fur seals to be taken.
- (d) Killing areas to be confined to those approved by Government.
- (e) The licence would be issued free for the first year of operation.



Clerk of the Council

SEA LION HARVESTING

466

file
S.

Qf.

What is his
paper please?

ls
11/12

Hamilton's paper herewith covers most points:

1. There is a great surplus of male animals which may safely be exploited. The available figure is about 6.5% of the total number of counted cows. Hamilton in his second paper estimated that 10,000 bulls could be taken annually, given competent management.
2. I think salient points are -
 - (a) 4 or 5 year old immature males are the best to take. At this age they are easily distinguished from the females but are not scarred by fighting.
 - (b) Seals are best taken during the breeding season (December - February).
 - (c) Sealing should only be done outside the breeding colonies. Sealing in such an area during the breeding season should inevitably take only non-breeders and all the larger animals in such places will be male. Non-breeding beaches are easily recognised by the absence of the harem system.
 - (d) The season should end on March 1st after which moulting begins.
3. It is worth noting that Hamilton gives regional counts (second paper, p.156-7) and I suggest the first season's work is restricted to three of these areas. I suggest one area be a permanent sanctuary and the other five rotated so that only 3 are worked in any one year. Note that the figures in Hamilton's table are pup counts and since each female produces 1 pup only, this is also about the total of cows. Hamilton's discussion allows a reasonable harvest estimate to be made.

NOTE: These areas are not of equal size and so should be re-defined as 1 sanctuary and 3 others rotated 2 per annum.
4. According to Hamilton sea lions do not eat fish in significant quantity, but feed on squid and crustacea. However they undoubtedly disperse fish shoals.
5. It would be wise for a census of all areas visited to be made, for a competent inspector to accompany the harvesting and for one canine tooth to be taken from every tenth seal killed, so that its age could be checked.

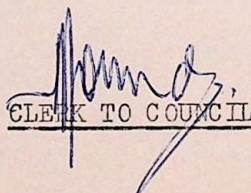
EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 4/64 OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD

ON THE 30TH DECEMBER, 1964.

0497/IV

4. SEALING LICENCES - BUNDES AND HOLMBERG (Memo 58/64)

Council advised that a licence to kill 1,500 seals be granted to Mr. Bundes but that no further licences be granted until Mr. Strange had completed his investigations into the present state of the seal population of the Falklands.

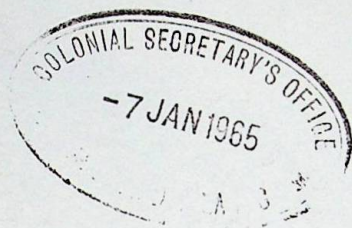

CLERK TO COUNCIL

KN 465

468

18th Dec. /64

The Governor of the
Falkland Islands Dep.
Commercial Dept.



Dear Sir,

I should be much obliged
if you could let me have
the ^{names of the} main Dealers and Shippers
of Sealskins in the Falkland
Islands. Do you have
any other furskins for export
overthere? Happy Christmas!

Thanking you in advance,

Yours faithfully

B. Feldmann,

6, St. St. Thomas

Apartle,

London, E.C.4

Recd 469

Sender's name and address:

B. Feldmann,
6, St. Thomas
Apostle,
London, E.C. 4

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY
ENCLOSURE; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

First fold here

Second fold here



The Governor of the
Falkland Islands
Commercial Dept.
Falkland Islands
Dependency.
off South America

Ref: Q497/IV.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

21st January, 1965.

Dear Sir,

468 I refer to your letter of the 18th December, 1964, and would refer you to Mr. C. Bundes of Villiers Street, Stanley who has on occasions, exported seal skins. Other pelts available in the islands are sheep skins and bullock hides. There are no furs exported.

Yours faithfully,

COLONIAL SECRETARY

Mr. B. Feldmann,
6 Gt. St. Thomas Apostle,
LONDON, E.C.4.

HLB/IM.

RIV 464

0497/IV.

470

28th

January,

65.

Dear Sir,

I refer to your letter of the 17th December, 1964.

I now enclose a licence allowing you to sub-licence Mr. C. Bundes, should he make an application to you.

As agreed you will make it quite clear to Mr. Bundes that any seal taken under your licence are part of, and not in addition to, the total of 1,500 seal allowed him under the licence already granted to him by me.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd) W. H. Thompson

COLONIAL SECRETARY

The Manager,
Falkland Islands Co., Ltd.,
STANLEY.

Reply at 471
469

WHT/IM.

470
400/10

FALKLAND ISLANDS

Seal Fishery Ordinance (Cap. 62.)

A licence under section 5 of the Seal Fishery Ordinance (Cap. 62), is hereby granted to the Falkland Islands Company Limited, of Stanley, Falkland Islands (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 from the 1st day of April, 1965 to the 30th day of September, 1965, and shall be an exclusive licence for ^{Dec 1965} the Lafonia area, ^{May 1966} so long as it remains valid.

2. This Licence shall be issued free of charge. A sub-licence under this licence may be issued to Robert John Christian Dundas of Stanley, Falkland Islands, but to no other person.

3. This licence shall be valid for the taking of adult male Sea Lions (Otaria Byronia) only: no other seal shall be taken.

4. The number of adult male Sea Lions (Otaria Byronia) taken shall not exceed 1,500 in the aggregate.

5. At least 10% of the adult male Sea Lions (Otaria Byronia) shall be left alive at each rookery:

Provided that the number of adult male Sea Lions (Otaria Byronia) so left alive at the first killing shall not be progressively reduced on any subsequent visit or visits to the same rookery.

6. The killing or capturing of female Sea Lions (Otaria Byronia) must be avoided as far as possible.

7. The killing or capturing of pups or young Sea Lions (Otaria Byronia) is prohibited.

8. The licensee must ensure that Sea Lions (Otaria Byronia) are not driven long distances and killed in the most humane way practicable. (Sea Lions (Otaria Byronia) must be shot and not clubbed to death.

9. All killing shall be done on beaches and the intestines and carcasses disposed of into the sea.

10. The licensee shall not later than the 1st day of October, 1965 render an accurate account of all sea lions taken and report where such sea lions were found in large numbers or rookeries or where others were observed.

11. This licence is not transferable.

12. 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.

Da ted this 28th day of January, 1965.

(Sgd) W.H. Thompson

COLONIAL SECRETARY

BU 15 4 63 (457)



471

The Falkland Islands Company, Limited.

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER 1851)°

REGISTERED 1902.

AGENTS FOR LLOYDS.

TELEGRAMS "FLEETWING PORTSTANLEY" VIA RADIO.

Stanley.

2nd February, 1965

The Colonial Secretary,
Stanley.

Your ref: 0497/IV

Dear Sir,

468 We thank you for your letter dated 28th January, 1965,
and for the licence attached there to. Comments contained in
in the final paragraph of your letter have been noted.

Yours faithfully,

(A. Sloggie)
Assistant Manager.

The Falkland Islands Company, Limited.

Bu 15.4.65

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON AN AERIAL SURVEY OF
THE FALKLAND ISLAND SEA LION HERD. 1965.

BY

R. WILLIAM VAUGHAN and IAN J. STRANGE

During the months of January and February 1965 the authors were able to carry out a pilot survey of sea lion colonies around the Falkland Islands. This survey was carried out by chartering a Beaver floatplane from the F.I. Government Air Service, which charter was financed by a grant from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. This survey was thought to be necessary since present information on the seal stocks of the Falklands is rather dated, and especially in view of the fact that a licence has recently been granted for the taking of 1500 sea lion.

The only previous census of the herd was carried out by J.E. Hamilton in the thirties, he was able to visit most of the colonies and count the animals over a period of three years. The present survey while not pretending to be quite so accurate, has at least located most of the present day breeding colonies of sea lion, and also gives a fairly good idea of the population.

Methods

The survey was carried out from the air, all flying being done in a De Havilland Beaver floatplane belonging to the Government Air Service. On each flight apart from the pilot there were three observers equipped with maps, binoculars and cameras. The method used was to fly along the coast at about 200 feet and about 100 knots, in practice the groups of seal were very easily distinguished, and on the first run over, the numbers were estimated and a photograph taken (using Rolleiord 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ square), a second run was then made and this time the observers made a careful count, or estimate if the numbers were large. After the flight these numbers were

compared and good agreement was generally found. The colony was marked on the map, and the aircraft then proceeded along the coast. Many of the rookeries were located on rocky areas and there was no difficulty encountered in spotting all the seal, however in the case of rookeries bounded by tussac, there were generally animals to be seen in the tussac. Fortunately the aircraft frightens these animals and they move from the tussac onto the beach and then into the sea if further disturbed. If on any occasion it was thought that seal may have been missed a third run was made over the area to look for more seal in the tussac. From the photographs, and from the Count/Estimate made at the time of observation it is possible to estimate both the total number of seal in the group, and also the number of pups.

For most of the areas covered by the aerial survey, figures are available from Hamilton's 1938 Report and these provide a most interesting comparison.

Results

TABLE I. COMPARATIVE COUNTS OF PUPS.

AREA	HAMILTON 1937	AIRSURVEY 1965
The Fridays	2500	60
Flat Jason	5000	350
North Fur Island	8000	120
Sedge Island	2900	200
South Fur Island	5000	150
Port Egmont Cays	1900	150
Split Island	3300	200
	<u>29,600</u>	<u>1,230</u>

Note that these figures refer to pups only.

From these figures above which only show a few of the larger rookeries visited by Hamilton it is obvious that the herd is rather different today from what it was thirty years ago. Even allowing for the fact that many pups could have been missed from the air, doubling or even tripling the figures from the aerial survey does not bring them anywhere near those obtained by Hamilton.

Discussion

From these very early results it is obvious that the herd as a whole has declined considerably since Hamilton's day. At that time he suggested that 10,000 seal could be taken annually without causing a reduction to the breeding herd. It is certain that today the situation is very much different, but until the survey is completed it will not be possible to give either an estimate of total population or a figure of the number of seal available for commercial utilisation.

It is hoped that the survey can be completed by the end of February, when it should be possible to give some of the figures required, if rational exploitation of the herd is to be contemplated.

PORT STANLEY
FEBRUARY 1965

473

C.S.

I saw Mr Vaughan on 27/2/61 about the FUR seals of the fjords. His view is that making use of the Crown land fjords for sheep is not likely to disturb the fur seals on the off-lying rocks. Indeed, the fact that the sheep would have to be visited from time to time would mean that there were increased opportunities for observing the fur seals.

It occurs to me that the answer is to preserve the actual groups of rocks where fur seals are found and to deal with the question of grazing sheep on the islands as a separate issue. Let us have a look at the 1:50,000 map.

LB

1/3/61

2. Sea lion censuses. For the benefit of EXCO we must make certain that we obtain from Mr Vaughan before he leaves shortly for South Georgia his figures for his second and third flights. Folio 472 only deals with the first of 3 flights.

LB 1/3



4741
S.
9/3
STANLEY,

24th February, 1965.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary,
STANLEY, Falkland Islands.

Dear Sir,

I refer to the Sealing Licence recently granted to me for the period 1st April to 30th September, 1965 and respectfully request that the licence be extended to permit the taking of a limited number of lion pups.

I understand that a market exists for these skins for use in the fur trade whereas skins taken from adult animals can only be used for leather.

I would also request that the operational schedule be extended to include the taking of seal from the Volunteer Point area and the Top & Bottom Islands. I refer of course to hair seal only.

Yours faithfully,

C. B. Under

Reply at 479.

Record

2

475

Mr Bundes has been given permission to take two each Elephant & Hair Seal (Lions) from Pt. Starnet Point, provided FIC agree to his operating in this area.

The purpose of the operation is to test the new deblubbering equipment & to ascertain whether machine cleaned fells attract a better market.

Discussed with C.S.

Approved: put in
S. W. B.
KIV 1

27.2.65

RK

0497/IV.

474
476

5th March,

65.

Dear Sir,

457 I refer to your letter of the 27th October, 1964, and have to inform you that no further sealing licences will be issued by this Administration until an examination of the seal population of the Islands has been completed.

A further communication will be addressed to you after the awaited report has been studied.

Yours faithfully,

COLONIAL SECRETARY

Mr. S. Holmberg,
Orinoco 5154,
Montevideo,
URUGUAY.

HLB/IM

Kiw 473

John 477 lent to
Mr. Strange to copy the
maps.

16. 666

KIN 143

6/6
22
476

With regard to the licence that has recently been granted I should like to make the following suggestions.

3. The clause referring to adult male sea lion only should be changed to read male sea lion only but excluding juveniles. The best skins are those obtained from animals about 4-5 years old and these can hardly be called adult. Skins from adult animals are too badly damaged by fighting to be of any commercial value.
8. The killing of seal ought to be carried out in the most humane way possible, but this is not necessarily shooting, to do so in a bunch of corralled animals would cause far panic and disturbance than clubbing. Clubbing is the normal procedure in the Pribilof Islands with the fur seal, and I feel that the clause ought to be amended to permit clubbing, but retaining the part about as humanely as possible.
6. This clause I feel should be included with 7 and that the killing of females and pups should be prohibited. There is no excuse at all for killing females, and ignorance can not be accepted as a plea.

The permitted number of 1500 I see no reason to alter at the present time, I very much doubt if he will obtain this number, if however he does the need to change the quota may possibly arise. Until the results of the aerial survey have been fully investigated I would not be prepared to state a definite figure, but will do so at a later date.

Suggestions made in the report on the aerial survey about the establishment of a seal reserve for study purposes should be given every consideration, I feel that Flat Jason would be an ideal area for such a reserve.

One final suggestion that is worth bearing in mind is that of inspection, to have a full time inspector is probably out of the question at the moment, but the number of skins taken can easily be checked if the skins are counted before shipment, at the same time the licensee could be asked to produce a baculum for each skin.

The baculum is a bone that is found in the penis of Otaria and its length varies with the length of the individual and hence its age. It would be an easy matter for the man skinning to remove the baculum and fling it in a bucket and hand it in when the skins are checked. This would ensure against female pelts being passed off as male pelts and also if the bacula were measured give an indication of the age of the animals killed.

R.W. Vaughan

R.W. Vaughan. B.Sc.
Biologist.

Kiv 473

478

C.S.

My note on sealing
as requested.

R.V. 6/3.

6th March 1965.

With respect to Mr. Bundes application of 24/2/65 I

should like to make the following recommendations.

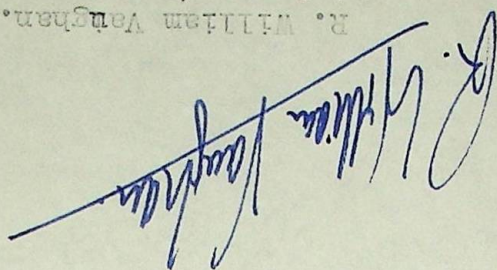
The extension of his licence to take sea-lion pups I would most definitely oppose on the following grounds. The results of the recent Altruway have shown that the numbers of sea-lion around these islands have decreased sharply over the past twenty five years, and they may still be declining. If this is the case the herd must be very carefully handled if it is to be preserved. The killing of pups requires great care at the breeding population is not to suffer in future years, and I feel that at present pups would be best left alone. I have seen no evidence whatsoever that the pups are killing each other as Bundes claims. In conversation with Bundes he told me that he intended to apply for permission to take male pups only, I see that he does not mention this in his letter. Furthermore it is virtually impossible to distinguish male and female seal at six months of age without handling them, and at this age they are certainly too large to do this.

His remarks about the market for pup skins need a little amplification, the price for a good quality adult skin, for leather, would be between 40 and 60 depending on size, and the price for a pup belt, for fur, would be up to 25 depending on quality and size. This means that he will make the same amount from his skins for rather less effort and considerably more danger to the herd - at he takes pups.

His second request to extend the licence to cover the Volunteer Point area and Top and Bottom Islands I would also oppose most strongly. Volunteer Point is one of the main breeding areas for fur seal and does not support a very large population of sea-lions. The area is scheduled as a seal reserve under Section 7 of the Seal Fishery Ordinance (Cap. 62), primarily for the protection of the fur seal. The taking of sea-lion in this area would cause a great deal of disturbance to the fur seal. In any case the number of sea-lions suitable for pelting would only be about 50 - 40 at the most, but there are in excess of two thousand fur seal on the rocks. Top and Bottom Islands are a slightly different problem, although not reserves they are the breeding grounds for the seal that inhabit Midway Island, and I feel that these islands should be given every protection at Midway Island is to be preserved as a Nature Reserve.

I understand that Bundes was originally permitted to seal only outside a certain distance from Stanley, and I feel that this should be adhered to, and that the local seal populations should be preserved and in the hope of interesting local people as well as visitors in the wild life of the islands.

R. William Vaughan, B.Sc.
Biologist/Sealing Inspector.



47801

11K

March,

65.

Dear Sir,

474 Thank you for your letter of the 24th February, 1965,
concerning extensions to your present sealing licence.

Until such time as the results of the present researches into
the seal population of the Falkland Islands are known I regret
no extensions can be granted.

I would point out that under Section 7 of the Seal Fishery
Ordinance, the Volunteer Rocks are a scheduled seal reserve, and
Top and Bottom Islands are the breeding grounds for seal which
inhabit Kidney Island.

Yours faithfully,

W. B. THOMPSON

COLONIAL SECRETARY

Mr. C. Bundes,
STANLEY.

WHT/IM.

Put on main
file

BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY

BIOLOGICAL UNIT

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY,
QUEEN MARY COLLEGE,
MILE END ROAD, LONDON, E.1.
TELEPHONE: ADVANCE 2313

12th February 1965

W.H. Thompson Esq.,
Colonial Secretary,
STANLEY,
Falkland Islands.

Dear Thompson,

I have just learned by devious means that Falkland Islands Government has issued a licence for the taking of sea-lion (Otaria byronia) in the colony this year. I think it right that you should know that I have already received one letter from a colleague in the United States enquiring about this and asking particularly whether this exploitation is based on any reliable scientific assessment of the stocks concerned. My feeling is that Hamilton's survey is now so out-dated and the later estimates of population size so sketchy that one cannot claim that we have the information to plan a sound harvest of this animal. I do not think that anybody can criticise the taking of a small sample (that is 100 or so) of animals so that the marketable qualities of the skins can be assessed and the method of handling them perfected, but I do urge you most strongly to restrain the Government from issuing licences for any more extensive operation until a critical scientific evaluation has been completed. At the same time, I think you should know that alarm has been expressed lest any fur seals (Arctocephalus australis) are taken before their stocks have been properly examined.

There are particular reasons why there is likely to be comment in the event of Falkland Islands Government going ahead with sealing at this time. The Organisation of American States is holding a meeting on wild life conservation in the Americas and is likely to consider sealing in the Antarctic and circum-Antarctic regions in this context. You will be well aware of the unfortunate situation which could develop were United States biologists to comment adversely on the British management of natural resources in the Falkland Islands at a meeting of this kind, in the presence of an Argentine delegate whose Government pays considerable lip service to controlled harvest of their seals ! Furthermore,

Reply at 481

W.H. Thompson Esq.

12th February 1965.

we are now on the brink of a thing called the International Biological Programme whose principal object is to look at the natural productivity over the world in relation to human needs. One of the Sub-Committees, and a very active one at that, is concerned with the conservation of terrestrial communities. This Sub-Committee has as chairman Dr. E.M. Nicholson, Director General of the Nature Conservancy (and hence head of the U.K. Government's official advisory body on conservation matters) and I am one of its members. We shall be meeting in Washington in April and one of the agenda items is the regulation of Antarctic sealing, while another is the need for the conservation and study of islands around the world, especial attention being paid at this time to those in the Southern Ocean. A considerable campaign for such conservation is likely to grow over the next few years. To say the least it would be embarrassing to have to start with any adverse comments on a British Administration.

From all this you will see that concern over the proper management of natural resources is increasing, and that a great deal of talk about it is going to go on in the near future. Conservation interests do not oppose the taking of a crop from an animal community. They are only concerned to see that the cropping is done in a way which does not threaten the continued existence of the resources. Our aim is, in fact, to provide advice which will allow Governments to regulate industries like sealing at the level of maximum sustained yield, but this cannot be done unless, before exploitation gets under way, a proper scientific study of the unexploited resource is carried out. We have seen at South Georgia how the proper management of a sealing industry in strict conformity with good scientific advice pays off, and we bask happily in the light of favourable world opinion. We have also seen in the whaling industry how not to go about the business, since at the present time, in flagrant contravention of some of the most able advice obtainable, the Russian and Japanese Governments are busy destroying an important international resource and are attracting thereby a great deal of well deserved criticism. My purpose in writing to you is to urge, as far as I can, that in the Falkland Islands the development of the sealing industry follows the lines so wisely laid down at South Georgia, thereby enhancing our reputation for the wise use of natural assets. Since (although they are technically

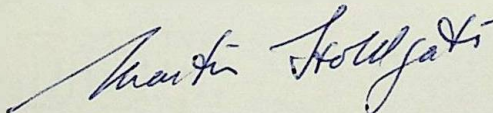
W. H. Thompson Esq.

12th February 1965.

not my business) I shall undoubtedly be held responsible by my colleagues for biological matters in the Falkland Islands, I do have an additional personal desire to do what I can to see that developments there follow the best possible course. Consequently, I shall be delighted to do anything I can to help you in the collection of information, and if possible I suggest a valuable step would be next season to attempt the organisation of a proper colony census of Otaria together with certain studies of population structure which are necessary for rational management. I know that Ian Strange is devoting much spare time to this work, and has consulted Bill Vaughan, but think it might still be worthwhile recruiting a government biologist for the Falkland Islands, as was done for South Georgia, to work in the colony for two or three years and advise the Government on the management of its sealing operations. This man could also play a valuable part in suggesting conservation policy and might be able to become associated with any inshore fisheries exploration you may be contemplating.

I hope you will not consider it impertinent of me to tackle you on all these points, but I am extremely concerned to see that the reputation which Britain at present enjoys in the field of conservation and rational management of natural resources is kept up, and at the same time to do what I can, as an interested scientist, to see that what could be a most valuable asset to the economy of the Falkland Islands is developed optimally.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. W. Holdgate', written in a cursive style.

M. W. Holdgate.

481

19th March, 1965.

Dear Holdgate,

480

Thank you for your letter of the 12th February, 1965, about seal stocks in the Falkland Islands.

We were fortunate enough to have Vaughan stranded here for a couple of months, and he and Ian Strange did a lot of work re assessing Hamilton's figures, visiting some beaches, and flying over and photographing the others.

Vaughan agrees that our decision to grant one licence to take sea lion this year is a reasonable one, and has stated in writing that he can see no reason to alter it in anyway at the present time. He has also made some extremely useful suggestions for any future licences, but Executive Council has already agreed that no further licences will be issued until such time as we have received Vaughan's evaluation of his seal counts, and his recommendations as to any percentage which might be culled.

Far from having to warn off what the world will think about us, we have had several congratulatory messages on all our latest efforts to conserve our wildlife. Two new and far reaching Ordinances (Wild Animals and Birds Protection and Nature Reserves) have gone through in the last eight months, two Nature Reserves, and four bird and animal sanctuaries have been created. This isn't exactly a bad record. We are also reviewing our seal reserves and it is possible that we shall set aside Top and Bottom Islands as a breeding area, and further protect Volunteer Rocks which although covered as far as fur seal are concerned, also have sea lion on them.

The one licence we have issued for sea lion is hedged around with every protective device we have been able to think of, and the very few areas allowed have been very strictly defined.

1.

M.W. Holdgate, Esq.,
British Antarctic Survey,
Department of Zoology,
LONDON, E.1.

See 482

It is to be hoped that before the Organisation of American States (to which of course we do not belong) starts criticising us and jumping to conclusions we shall be asked to provide some facts. We reckon we outshine most countries large and small in our efforts and continuing desire to protect our wildlife and to use it properly.

I am afraid that we are facing a very difficult financial problem and we shall be quite unable to afford a biologist of our own.

Both Strange and Vaughan have said how satisfied they are with our efforts and plans for the future. You may rest assured that we shall look after our seals and allow no unrestricted exploitation.

Yours sincerely,

WHT/LS

Bu 15/4/65 (457)

BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY

BIOLOGICAL UNIT

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY,
QUEEN MARY COLLEGE,
MILE END ROAD, LONDON, E.1.

TELEPHONE: ADVANCE 2313

29 March 1965

Your ref: 0497/IV.



W. H. Thompson Esq.,
Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley,
Falkland Islands,
South Atlantic.

Dear Thompson,

481 Thank you very much for your most useful letter of 19 March replying to my enquiry regarding seal stocks. I have also had correspondence with Bill Vaughan and Ian Strange. All of you have provided me with most useful information which will certainly allow me to allay anxiety among our overseas colleagues, and will forestall any criticism at the meeting in Washington which I am attending next week. Nobody can quarrel with the line of conduct which you outline, and you are quite right in claiming your recent nature reserve ordinances and wild animals and birds protection ordinances as important advances in their field. I am receiving the relevant copies of your Gazette, and also the proposals for establishment of reserves from the Foreign Office as these are made, and so am now being kept well posted of these developments.

I shall, of course be briefed by Bill Vaughan when he gets home, but I think it would be a very great help, in order to keep me correctly orientated, if I could have any reports you may issue concerning the sea-lion census and culling work and a note of licences which it is proposed to issue. It is very useful to know for example the protective devices you have built into such licences and the areas which have been defined. I can, of course, treat such information as confidential:

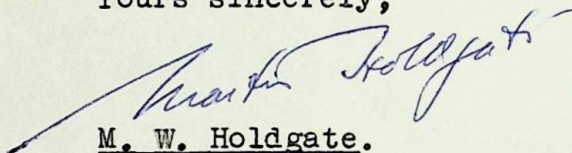
W. H. Thompson Esq.

29 March 1965

its main use is to see that I can be a useful and fair minded National Member of the Biological Working Group of SCAR and those other international conservation committees with which I am involved.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. W. Holdgate", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the left.

M. W. Holdgate.

PAA

Bu 24/6/65 please

lt 14/6

28th September,

65

Dear Sir,

I take this opportunity to remind you that under the conditions of the licence to take seals you are required to furnish me with a report of your operations, by the 1st October, 1965.

Yours faithfully,

for D. C. M.
COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Mr. C. Bundes,
STANLEY.

IM.

Reply at 484
✓ 5.10.65

484

Port Stanley,
Falkland Islands.
6th October, 1965.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary,
Port Stanley, Falkland Islands.

*licence was for
1500 seal.*

*W1 CA
9/10 9/10*

Dear Sir,

483 Thank you for your letter of the 28th September. I regret I have not been able to submit my report on sealing at an earlier date as my delayed return to Stanley has prevented this.

Durnigh late August I visited the Arch Islands and in accordance with the terms of my licence I limited my selection to male sealions above the estimated age of two years. In all I was able to take 110 pelts which are now salted in casks and ready for shipment by the next sailing of A.E.S.

A previous experiment of 37 skins was sent in salted bundles on A.E.S. deck but due to the vessel calling and being delayed at a Brazilian port the pelts deteriorated and only realized £4 each on the London market.

On the recommendation of the buyers I have taken the precaution to have the present sendings freighted in barrels and it is hoped that the final result will be more ~~encouraging~~ encouraging and when the figures are available I will advise you.

During my visit to Arch Islands I estimated the total seal population in this group to be something in the region of 2,000.

Yours faithfully,

C. Bundes
(C. BUNDES).

12

CS.

Lee wfa 485
G. 18th

I would suggest that a note might be sent to Holdgate informing him of the file of Bundes' letter at 484. This should reassure Holdgate that we are being prudent about our seal resources.

At 477 Vaughan and Brang estimated 40 pups at Ach Islands - Bundes estimates at 484 2000 seals of all ages.

When the time comes to issue another licence, if it does, I suggest that the points made in 476 be considered.

Agreed.

Lee 9/10

13th October, 1965.

Dear Holdgate,

Further to an earlier correspondence on local seal stocks and seal licences for 1965. I thought you might like to know that a total of only 147 sealion were taken, and all of these from the Arch Islands where it was estimated there were about 2,000 seal.

From the air Vaughan estimated 40 pups on the same area, but unfortunately his preliminary report does not give a pup to adult ratio.

You need have no fears about our lack of prudence where sealing is concerned.

(W.H. THOMPSON)

M.W. Holdgate, Esq.,
British Antarctic Survey,
Department of Zoology,
London, E.1.

LS

487

Port Stanley,
Falkland Islands.
23rd October, 1965.

The Colonial Secretary,
STANLEY, Falkland Islands.

Dear Sir,

I wish to apply for an extension of my present sealing licence for a period of three years with permission to take up to 1500 animals annually. I should be most grateful if further consideration could be given to my request to take a limited number of male pups from each rookery operated.

In connection with this request I would welcome an opportunity to discuss my plans at some time convenient to you.

Yours faithfully,

C. B. Smith

488

The Falkland Islands Company, Limited.

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER 1851.)

REGISTERED 1902

AGENTS FOR LLOYDS.

TELEGRAMS "FLEETWING FORTSTANLEY" VIA RADIO.

WHY/SGC

The Colonial Secretary,
Stanley.



26th October, 1965

Dear Sir,

We are advised by Mr. A. Davis, Manager of Speedwell Island, that an island near Barren Island, known as Emily Island, is normally used to hold up to 14 head of cattle which are reserved for supplies of beef to R.M.S. "Darwin". The island will normally carry up to 12 bullock, but is now full of seal, mostly sea lions, who have flattened the tussack right out and the bullock have had to be killed as there is no food available for them.

We request that a licence may be granted to us enabling us to grant a licence to Mr. C. Bundes to take all the seal on the island including clappaches. We understand that there is a precedent and that a similar licence was granted in the time of the Falkland Islands Sealing Company, for a similar slaughter. We estimate that the total number of seal involved amounts to 800.

If the licence we request is granted we propose to charge Mr. Bundes only a nominal royalty on the skins he takes from this island.

Yours faithfully,

Noted for Exco 27.10.65

[Signature]
Manager.

See 490.

KIV 487

29th October, 65

Dear Sir,

487

Thank you for your application for an extension to your sealing licence dated the 23rd of October, 1965. The matter will be referred to an early meeting of Executive Council.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd) W.H. Thompson

COLONIAL SECRETARY

Mr. C. Bundes,
STANLEY

FA

29th October,

65

Dear Sir,

488

I refer to your letter of the 26th October, 1965,
concerning the removal of seal from Emily Island.

Your request will be referred to an early meeting
of Executive Council.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd) W.H.Thompson

COLONIAL SECRETARY

The Manager,
Falkland Islands Co., Ltd.,
STANLEY

Copy to ACS - please put on the
agenda for next
Ex. Co.

FA

KIV 487.

491

CONFIDENTIAL

Ref: 0497/IV

29th October, 1965

MEMORANDUM NO. 62/65 FOR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Emily Island

The following letter has been received from the Manager of the Falkland Islands Company Limited:-

"We are advised by Mr. A. Davis, Manager of Speedwell Island, that an island near Barren Island known as Emily Island, is normally used to hold up to 14 head of cattle which are reserved for supplies of beef to R.M.S. 'Darwin'. The island will normally carry up to 12 bullock, but is now full of seal, mostly sea lions, who have flattened the tussac right out and the bullock have had to be killed as there is no food available for them.

We request that a licence may be granted to us enabling us to grant a licence to Mr. C. Bundes to take all the seal on the island including clap-matches. We understand that there is a precedent and that a similar licence was granted in the time of the Falkland Islands Sealing Company, for a similar slaughter. We estimate that the total number of seal involved amounts to 800.

If the licence we request is granted we propose to charge Mr. Bundes only a nominal royalty on the skins he takes from this island."

Honourable Members are asked to advise on the policy to be adopted.

W. H. Thompson

COLONIAL SECRETARY

FA

BU Xes 25.11.65

CONFIDENTIAL

Issued to all Members today. JA 30/10/65



492

CONFIDENTIAL

Ref: 0497/IV

29th October, 1965

MEMORANDUM NO. 62/65 FOR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

*How for Ex 6
S.*

Emily Island

The following letter has been received from the Manager of the Falkland Islands Company Limited:-

"We are advised by Mr. A. Davis, Manager of Speedwell Island, that an island near Barren Island known as Emily Island, is normally used to hold up to 14 head of cattle which are reserved for supplies of beef to R.M.S. 'Darwin'. The island will normally carry up to 12 bullock, but is now full of seal, mostly sea lions, who have flattened the tussac right out and the bullock have had to be killed as there is no food available for them.

We request that a licence may be granted to us enabling us to grant a licence to Mr. C. Bundes to take all the seal on the island including clap-matches. We understand that there is a precedent and that a similar licence was granted in the time of the Falkland Islands Sealing Company, for a similar slaughter. We estimate that the total number of seal involved amounts to 800.

If the licence we request is granted we propose to charge Mr. Bundes only a nominal royalty on the skins he takes from this island."

Honourable Members are asked to advise on the policy to be adopted.

*It would appear necessary to
kill off seals on this island*

W. H. Simpson

COLONIAL SECRETARY

Robert Hunter

BW Xco 25.11.65

FA

CONFIDENTIAL

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SENT

P1677 P4416 8/64

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
--------	------------------	-------	--------------	------

Stanley

20.11.65

To

etat POLASURVEY LONDON

Hoa/c

From Thompson for Holdgate stop Vaughan promised report on Falkland
sealing by last July stop Must consider next years programme very
shortly stop Grateful expedite Vaughan Report for next mail if
possible

Colonial Secretary

TB

Reply at 494

Time

Lu(Xco) 25.11.65

DECODE.

No. 13.

TELEGRAM.

~~301~~
494

From Holdgate, London.

To Colonial Secretary, Stanley

Despatched : 22nd November, 19 65 Time : 1806

Received : 23rd November, 19 65 Time : 0900

Holdgate/Thompson five copies airmailed 2 November.

Holdgate

501.

—

23/11

P/L : LS
(Intld.) HLB

50 25.11.65

24th November,

Dear Sir,

Application of Sealing Licence

487 I apologise for the delay in replying to your application for an extension of your sealing licence but I have not so far received Mr. Vaughan's report on Sealing in the Falkland Islands.

I have sent a telegram to London to hurry it up and as soon as it is received, and has been read, I will discuss the matter further with you.

As you know your application must be referred to the Governor in Council.

Yours faithfully,

(W.H. Thompson)

COLONIAL SECRETARY

OK
Please discuss
14/12

Mr. C. Bundes,
STANLEY.

Ben 14.12.65
W1. 20.2.65

BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY

BIOLOGICAL UNIT

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY,
QUEEN MARY COLLEGE,
MILE END ROAD, LONDON, E. 1.

TELEPHONE: ADVANCE 2313

2 November 1965

H.W. Thompson, Esq.,
Colonial Secretary,
STANLEY
Falkland Islands.

See also files

472

477

476

11/12/65
5-24/12
over 10
added in file

Dear Thompson,

Thank you very much for your recent letter informing me about the total sea lion harvest last year. As you say, 147 is a very small crop, and well within the capacity of the herd.

After considerable prodding I have extracted from Vaughan the enclosed report. We have been happy to duplicate it here, following judicious (I hope !) editing, and I am sending you five copies. Also enclosed is a covering letter from Vaughan to the Governor, which perhaps you would kindly pass on with one of the copies. We have retained the stencil and will be delighted to provide as many further copies as you wish.

I am worried about the implications of this report. If the stock really is only one tenth of what it was in 1933 something very fishy has been going on. I doubt natural causes, because those that might have been effective, such as an epidemic, should have left traces. Conversely, poaching on so massive a scale would, one might think, leave signs and get known : secrecy is not a strong feature in small communities. The counts, both by Hamilton and Vaughan may be inaccurate, but I would doubt if they were out by more than a factor of 2, which would bring Hamilton's down to a minimal 150,000 and Vaughan's up to a maximal 60,000 - still a very large gap. I don't know if the Falkland grape-vine

Reply at 498

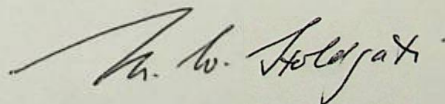
will yield you any informatin about what has been happening, but would be glad to discuss the problem with you further and consider any enquiries we might make at this end.

Verbally, Vaughan has also indicated his view that the fur seal populations in the west are down on the figures cited by O'Gorman, in an unpublished report we hold here. As you know, Strange found no fur seal on Beauchene in the last three years, although private diaries by B.B.Roberts and G.C.L.Bertram of the British Graham Land Expedition are positive as to the abundance of the animals off that island in the 1930s. Both Roberts and Bertram are highly competent and would no mis-identify the species. There appears therefore to be strong circumstantial evidence of poaching off Beauchene and a suspicion of it in the west. It's harder to see what you can do about it, but perhaps unscheduled and unannounced inspection flights in December-January (which are the key months for furseal poachers) over the western localities might act as a deterrent or provide some information.

This is your side, of course. But as you know, the Vaughan-Strange count was partly financed by World Wildlife Fund on the advice of the I.U.C.N. The W.W.F. is a vociferous body and may not be discreet over the report, which, since they supported the investigation, must ultimately go to them. I propose to hold up the report for a bit, and then to send it via Sir Hugh Elliott, Secretary of I.U.C.N. He is a former member of the Colonial Service (and was Administrator of Tristan), and is sensible in these matters. We have agreed that he will keep the paper away from W.W.F. until the Governor and yourself have read it and had a chance to consider what you want to do about it, and if possible I suggest it would be disarming of potential comment if, by the time it goes to W.W.F., you were able to comment from your side on what Falkland Islands Government's views and intentions were. A mere statement of concern, reference to your recent activities in the conservation field, and expression of Government's determination to be vigilant in the management of seal stock in the future would probably suffice. I'm sorry if this seems to be teaching you the sucking of eggs, but Elliott advised we should keep one jump ahead of W.W.F. and I hope you'll feel the suggestion helpful rather than impertinent.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



4961A
11/12/65

25

AN AERIAL SURVEY OF THE SEA LION (Otaria byronia)
STOCKS IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. 1965.

BY

R. WILLIAM VAUGHAN B.Sc. and IAN J. STRANGE.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Falkland Islands were discovered sometime in the sixteenth century, and an expedition led by Camargo in 1540 almost certainly landed there, describing for the first time "sea lions with hides 36 feet long" (Goebel 1927, in Cawkell et al 1960). Despite this early reference there appears to have been little interest in the animals, and while the early French and Spanish settlers wrote of various "sea monsters" and "sea wolves" they apparently did not make very much use of the seals for food or for their pelts. It was only after Cook's southern voyage in 1775 and the discovery of South Georgia with its huge fur seal herds, that sealing developed on a large scale. In the next fifty years well over a million fur seal skins were taken from South Georgia alone, and the beaches were virtually cleared. The Falklands partly escaped this heavy exploitation, and the first to seal on such a scale in the area was Fanning, who first visited the islands in 1792. At this time, the American Sealer 'States' from Boston, took 13,000 fur seal pelts, probably from the Falklands. During the next twenty five years the seal stocks in the Falkland Islands were severely reduced, the main industry being the taking of elephant seals for oil. In 1817 it was reported that 2,500 barrels of seal oil were taken, and in 1820 Daniel Jewitt reported that there were over fifty vessels sealing at the Falklands, but ten years later the numbers of seal had dropped drastically, and the sealers were hard put to obtain a full cargo. By 1881 elephant seal had not been seen around the islands for more than ten years. There was a slight revival during the late nineteenth century, when American and English sealers operated around the Falkland Islands, but ultimately falling prices and the scarcity of seals combined to bring the trade to an end.

In 1881 the British Government in the Falkland Islands imposed a close season for seals and had naval vessels to patrol the islands and enforce the regulations. A licence was required before sealing operations could be undertaken, and a royalty had to be paid on any skins or oil obtained. In the early part of the twentieth century Canadian sealers came south, and engaged in pelagic sealing around the Falklands. Since the seals were caught at sea the skins were not liable to royalty, and the sealers could not be controlled by the Administration. In 1903 over 22,000 skins taken in this way were shipped through Port Stanley. In 1921 an Ordinance was enacted to give fur seals absolute protection and armed guards were posted at the seal colonies to stop poaching. By this time the Canadian sealers were no longer operating in these waters, but poachers were running across from the South American coast, and a few enterprising Falklanders had their own sealing vessels.

In 1928 the Falkland Islands and Dependencies Sealing Company was formed and started operations at Albemarle in West Falkland, initially with a factory ship while a shore station was being built. They operated until 1931, closed down during the Depression, and then started again in 1935 for another three years. The main quarry was the sea lion (Otaria byronia), and during this period a total of 39,696 animals were taken for oil, the total production being about 2,600 tons. Initially oil prices were good at £27 per ton, but this dropped to £15 when the market became flooded with seal oil, and demand fell.

At this time the Discovery Committee, realising that the sea lion was of economic importance decided to investigate the resources of the herd, and J.E. Hamilton worked in the Falklands between 1929 and 1937. He produced two reports (Hamilton 1934, 1939), indicating a total population of about 380,000 of which 80,000 were pups. This is the only fairly detailed census of the species to have been made in the area prior to the present investigations.

Sealing operations were started again in 1949 by the South Atlantic Sealing Company, using the same base at Albemarle as before the war, and their aim was to utilise the sea lions fully by taking oil, pelts, and meat and bone meal. The first season was a failure, probably due to faulty equipment and inexperience, and in the following year the sponsors of the Company, the Colonial Development Corporation, took over the venture. By the end of 1952 they too had failed to make a success of the operation due to trouble with processing plant and a shortage of seals. This period of sealing from 1949 to 1952 only accounted for a total of 3,045 sea lions.

Ten years later, in 1962, interest was again revived and a licence was granted for 1500 sea lions to be taken for their pelts which were to be tanned for leather. At this stage virtually nothing was known about the size of the sea lion herd in the Falklands apart from what Hamilton had reported thirty years previously, and a later note by Laws (1953) in which he said that there was every reason to believe that Hamilton's figures were on the conservative side. His statement was not based on any actual census, but on Hamilton's figures, which he had taken as being the best available at that time.

W.N. Bonner, Sealing Inspector in South Georgia, was asked to allocate a quota for the killing of sea lions in 1958. His calculations were based on the Hamilton census, and he suggested that a quota of 15,000 adult males for the first three years and then 10,000 adult males thereafter would be a reasonable kill. He also pointed out that a pup census should be undertaken regularly, in order to check on the size of the herd, and any fluctuations in numbers could be immediately restored by adjusting the quota.

With the issue of a sealing licence in 1962 and its renewal the following year it was felt that some effort ought to be made

to determine how many sea lions there were in the Falklands, since a few of the local people had reason to believe that numbers had been much reduced in the past twenty years. If this were so, clearly the Hamilton census would no longer form a reasonable basis for the calculation of quotas for exploitation. During the early part of 1965 the authors were able to carry out an aerial survey of the Falklands, the object of which was to locate as many of the breeding places of the sea lion as possible and to try and determine as accurately as possible their present numbers.

II. METHODS

The aerial survey was carried out using a De Havilland Beaver floatplane belonging to the Falkland Islands Government Air Service. Four flights were made covering the greater part of the coastline and offlying islands of the Falkland Islands. These flights were undertaken between January 20 and March 5, 1965, the large time span being due to the fact that an aircraft could only be used when it was not required for passenger flights, and because good flying weather in the area to be surveyed was essential. The survey was supported by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and financed partly by the World Wildlife Fund and partly by the Falkland Islands Government.

The aircraft used for the survey flights was modified slightly by removing the window from the port side passenger door and so giving the observers a greater range of free vision and facilitating photography. A small wooden wedge at the leading edge of the window very effectively diverted the slipstream from the interior of the cabin.

On each flight the aircraft carried a pilot and three observers, one of whom sat in the co-pilot's seat with a map and noted the course flown, and the positions at which seals were found. The

other two observers occupied the rear of the cabin, and were equipped with camera, notebooks and binoculars.

The procedure found to be most effective was to fly along the coast at about 115 knots at an altitude of 200 feet, at which height and speed it proved easy to spot groups of seal well ahead. When a group was sighted the aircraft descended to about 100 feet and slowed to about 90 knots. On the first run over the observers noted the numbers of seal and the presence or absence of pups. The aircraft then circled and made a second run over the seals and a photograph was usually taken and the numbers checked. The effect of the first run was to alert the seals at the water's edge, and also to flush any seals that may have been lying in the tussock grass that flanks many of the beaches. On the second run the seals, being alerted, were all sitting up and more easily seen and photographed. A third run was sometimes made when there were large numbers of seal in the tussock, or when the first count was not thought to be reliable. When there were only very small numbers of seal on an exposed beach it was found that one run was sufficient to make a count.

On each occasion that a group of seals was seen the two observers would each make an independent count, or an estimate if the numbers on the beach were too great to count. These figures were then compared after the flight and the two estimates were usually found to be in very good agreement.

The photographs were used to check on the total numbers of seal, and to check that pups were present, as proof of a breeding group. All the photographs used for counts were taken with a Rolleicord camera, giving a $2\frac{1}{4}$ inch square negative. The film was Tri-X, exposed at 400 ASA and developed in Microdol. The negatives were examined by sandwiching them in glass and projecting onto a large sheet of white paper. The seals could readily be identified even in negative form, and each animal was then marked on the paper in pencil, so that after projection

the pencil marks could be totalled. This method ensures that no seals are counted twice, and makes counting easy by enlarging the original negative to a considerable size. Most of the negatives were later printed so that the presence of pups could be verified on those beaches that had been noted as breeding places during the flights.

III. RESULTS

Examination of the aerial photographs has shown that the estimates made from the air were quite reliable, the numbers obtained from the photographs being generally slightly less than the direct field count or estimate. This is explained by the fact that the negative usually did not quite fully cover the group of seals on the beach.

The total number of seals counted and estimated during the course of the survey was 18,876 of which 5,516 were pups and the remaining 13,360 were adult and juvenile animals. This figure needs some correction to allow for seals that were missed in the tussock and under overhanging rocks and ledges, while the first flights on January 20 also need a small correction to allow for those pups that would have been born after the survey was made. It is quite possible that a number of animals were missed because they were in the water, but almost all the pups would still be on the beaches at this period, and any swimming that they might undertake would be confined to streams and rock pools on the breeding grounds.

The numbers of seal counted on the various flights are tabulated below, the figure in brackets representing the corrected pup totals for the first two flights, which have been increased by 10% to allow for subsequent births.

<u>Flight</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Adult seal</u>	<u>Pups</u>	<u>%age of Pups</u>
I	20.1.65.	1902	651(716)	34 (38)
II	20.1.65.	660	120(132)	18 (20)
III	2.2.65.	7550	3290	43
IV	5.3.65.	<u>3248</u>	<u>1445</u>	45
TOTAL		13360	5516 (5593)	

A further arbitrary correction, for animals not seen from the air, of 5% gives a total of 5,872 pups and 14,028 adults. For convenience these figures may be rounded to 6,000 and 14,000.

With these figures from the aerial count it is now possible to look at the composition of the herd as a whole. Out of the total 14,000 adult animals one assumes that there are at least 6,000 cows to produce the 6,000 pups. The residue of 8,000 animals is made up of bulls, both adult and immature, a few virgin females who are on shore at this time to mate, and juvenile animals of both sexes. The average number of cows in each harem is about six, as determined from counts and photographs, and this is in agreement with Hamilton's results. Thus there will be 1,000 bulls, and a remainder of 7,000 immature animals. Apart from those animals on the beaches at the time of the census there will also be quite a large number, mostly of adult females and immature animals of both sexes, feeding at sea.

By now we have shown the sea lion herd to be composed of:-

Pups	-	6000
Cows	-	6000
Bulls	-	1000
Immatures	-	<u>7000</u>
Total		<u>20000</u>

In fact some of the 6,000 cows would be at sea feeding so that on the beaches the actual proportion of cows would be less, and the number of immature animals correspondingly higher. An

addition must now be made for those animals at sea, and assuming that at the very most 50% of the population was away feeding, at the time of census, this would give an additional 10,000 sea lions of various age groups - which gives us a grand total of 30,000 animals of all age groups. It must be emphasised that in all these calculations the numbers have been on the optimistic side. One can safely say that in 1965 the herd numbered 30,000 animals at the very most. Since Hamilton had calculated the population to total about 380,000 in 1935, there has evidently been a drastic reduction in the past thirty years.

A check on the accuracy of the 1965 aerial survey is provided by a number of careful counts made on the ground in the same season, and these substantiate the aerial census to a large degree. Low Island was counted during the breeding season, when there were 450 sea lions present, including all ages and both sexes. Hamilton in his census counted 3,316 pups on this same island. Similarly Split Island had a population of 400 sea lions in 1965, but in 1936 had 3,325 pups. In 1965 there were sea lions on Carcass Reef for the first time in many years, the total being 26 adults and 6 pups, but thirty years ago there were 226 pups in the same place.

IV. DISCUSSION

From the results of the aerial survey it is obvious that the sea lion population in the Falkland Islands has declined drastically over the past thirty years, and an explanation must be sought. Commercial exploitation, which was going on at the time of Hamilton's census, comes first to mind, but this is recorded as only accounting for a total of less than 40,000 sea lions, and with a herd as large as Hamilton estimated this should not have done any damage. The greatest number taken in any one year as far as the records show was 9,219 in 1935, and this number should have been more than adequately replaced by the 80,000 pups that Hamilton calculated to have been born in the same year.

Between 1936 and 1939 sealing, if Hamilton's figures are correct, was only accounting for 1.5% of the total population annually, and this is considered to be well within safe limits. The sealing operations were carried out mostly in the vicinity of the sealing station at Albemarle in West Falkland, and this could have depleted local stocks, but would have no effects on the seal on other parts of the islands. No sealing was carried out on a large scale between 1939 and 1949 and during this period the seal herd should have recovered from any possible effect of over sealing in the thirties.

During the operations of the South Atlantic Sealing Company in the years 1949-1952 there are slightly conflicting reports about the state of the seal stocks. On the one hand it is reported that the company did not make a success of the venture partly because of a shortage of seals, and on the other hand a report on the seals of the Falklands (Laws 1953) mentions, that in the view of the author, Hamilton's estimate of 380,000 was if anything too conservative, and in his summary he gives the seal population of the Falkland Islands as 400,000. Commercial exploitation at the level recorded does not seem to have provided a heavy enough mortality to explain the decline in seal stocks. There are a number of alternative explanations which must, therefore, be considered.

When a large and thriving animal population suddenly declines one possible cause is that food resources have suddenly disappeared or become very limited. This is considered most improbable in the present instance, since the richness of marine life in the South Atlantic waters around the Falkland Islands was demonstrated by the Discovery investigations, and there is no evidence of any subsequent major change. This area is not extensively fished by any commercial concern, nor has fishing developed appreciably since 1936, and observation and subjective estimates suggest that there is still abundant food to support the seals of the

Falklands and those on the adjacent South American coast. There is no evidence that stocks in the latter area have increased to a level at which they compete seriously with the Falkland population for food.

A second possibility would be that breeding space has been reduced in the last thirty years by the various local activities of man. This, once again, is evidently not the case; the areas inhabited by sea lions are mostly those places that are unsuitable for sheep or for any other use, while the human population of the Falklands is no greater now than it was in the nineteen-thirties. The main breeding area for the sea lion, in the western islands of the group, is largely unpopulated by either man or sheep.

The possibility that there has been a high incidence of disease or infestation by parasites cannot be overlooked. In the Pribilof Islands hook-worm is a major cause of mortality in the fur seal herd, especially among pups, but this infestation reaches high levels only when the density of seals on the beaches is very great. Because severely infected pups die ashore, many carcasses remain on the beaches and provide conspicuous evidence of an epidemic. Had there been such a series of natural disasters in the Falklands at the level necessary for the decimation of the sea lion stocks, it would surely have been noticed, at least in some localities.

It is extremely unlikely that the decline in numbers results from a mass migration since seals are extremely loathe to leave an established breeding place, as has been shown many times over in the past. Even when they are being exploited at far too high a level the remnants of the population still return to the same breeding places, a habit which has had disastrous effects in both northern and southern hemispheres in years gone by.

Human interference is by far the most likely cause of such a decline in the sea lion population of the Falkland Islands. Over the course of thirty years, illicit slaughter of animals at a

consistent and fairly high level could have had an appreciable effect on the size of the herd. Parts of the Falkland Islands are far from habitation and rarely visited, and could quite easily be divested of their seal stocks by well-organized poachers. Considerable efforts would have to be made to escape detection, but that some poaching has gone on is indicated by the situation at Beauchene Island which in 1936 was the haunt of many fur seals and sea lions yet now supports none of the former and only a small herd of the latter. There are virtually no records of any visits to this island in the past thirty years yet had the island genuinely been unvisited the undisturbed seal populations should have multiplied and should by now have reached high numbers.

It is not the business of the present investigation to do more than indicate that there is a problem concerning the sea lion stocks of the Falkland Islands, and probably also concerning the even more valuable fur seals. Whether poaching alone accounts for the dramatic decline in numbers, or whether it has been allied to natural causes, would require a more detailed investigation to determine. Whether shore-based poaching, by residents or by intruders, has occurred, or whether pelagic sealing, taking the animals at sea, is responsible, is another uninvestigated problem. What is certain is that what was a valuable economic asset in 1935 is now almost valueless by comparison, and that management should now aim at securing an increase in seal stocks. A model is available in the Pribilof Islands fur seal herd which, once depleted to a minimum stock of 200,000, now numbers one and a half million and brings in 5 million dollars of revenue per annum.

V. CONCLUSIONS

Having established the fact that the sea lion resources of the Falklands have become very seriously depleted over the past thirty years, and discussed the ways in which this may have happened, we must now decide what must be done.

Firstly with regard to the present sealing licence, it is felt that considering the size of the herd, and the doubt as to whether numbers are increasing or decreasing at the present time, a total kill not exceeding 3% of the total herd, and consisting of adult males only, should be adhered to until further data have been obtained. 3% of 30,000 gives 900 animals, or, if rounded off indicates a maximum permissible total of 1,000 adult males in one season.

It is felt that there should be an effort made to make a further detailed census during the coming breeding season, ideally at the end of January. A careful and accurate count from the ground on a number of the more important beaches would be most desirable.

The fact that the sea lion resources of the Falklands have reached a dangerously low level has been established. The fact that they, together with the fur seals, could, if properly managed, become an important economic asset is obvious. If these resources are to be neglected, and perhaps be slaughtered unlawfully in consequence, the islands will lose a potential valuable source of income which it would probably cost little to maintain. Advice on these management and conservation aspects might well be sought from an experienced seal biologist in the near future.

REFERENCES

- Hamilton, J.E. 1934. The Southern sea lion Otaria byronia (de Blainville) Discovery Reports 8 : 269 : 318.
- Hamilton, J.E. 1939. A second report on the Southern sea lion Otaria byronia (de Blainville). Discovery Reports 19 : 121-164.
- Laws, R.M. 1953d. The seals of the Falkland Islands and Dependencies. Oryx, 2, 87-97.

(D)

4971A
LH
"12/65" SV on file pl

29, Innage Road,
Northfield,
Birmingham, 31.

20th October, 1965.

H.E. the Governor,
Falkland Islands.

Sir,

Enclosed is the report on the aerial survey of the Falkland Islands sea lion herds. As you will see the state is far from promising, numbers have dropped in the past thirty years by about 90%, and all the facts point to a certain amount of poaching. I would most strongly urge that action is taken to carry out a further census in the coming year, to confirm these results.

The results obtained from this aerial survey are of considerable scientific interest, and I should very much like to publish them in some appropriate scientific journal. Would you be agreeable to this? Perhaps you would let me have your views on the matter.

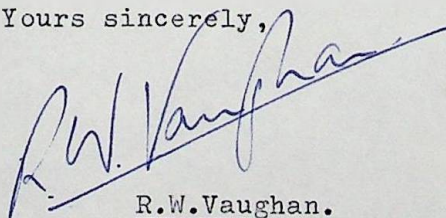
With regard to the probable poaching, I feel that some enquiry could probably be made in this country with the fur trade, skins from the Falklands would quite possibly find their way onto the London market and somebody must know where they are coming from.

I should be most interested to receive your comments on this report, and also to know what action might be taken in the coming year.

You may further be interested to know that I have recently taken up an appointment with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, at the Fisheries Laboratory at Lowestoft, to work on the problem of seals and their effects on fisheries.

Yours sincerely,

Repejal 499


R.W. Vaughan.

C.S. Please discuss. 26/11

497

BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY

FORMERLY FALKLAND ISLANDS DEPENDENCIES SURVEY

DIRECTOR: SIR VIVIAN FUCHS

30, GILLINGHAM STREET, S.W.1

TELEPHONE: VICTORIA 3687-8-9

TELEGRAMS: POLASURVEY, LONDON-SW1

*discussed with
H.E. afa.
BV on file
have seen
498.*

AS/187/1

17th November, 1965

*S.1
28/12*

Dear Governor,

I believe Holdgate has sent copies of Vaughan's Sea Lion Report to Thompson. It seems a sad story and if it became common knowledge could cause something of a furore in Wildlife and Conservation circles. I am not sure how this could be offset, but no doubt any trouble would first arrive at the Colonial Office. If it is possible to prime them with a reply it might be a good thing. If, for instance, the Falkland Islands Government could express their concern, point to the most recent Wildlife Protection legislation and state the intention to enforce it. Also if it could be said that Dr. E.A. Smith was being invited to check the population analysis and advise on seal management, it could suppress a potential outcry. You will remember that Smith is the man who was to go to South Georgia this year and in the end could not meet the dates. He may be able to go next year. I know the F.I.G. did not want him in the Falklands, but you may consider that Vaughan's report would justify reconsideration.

None of this is my business, but I thought you might welcome a suggestion as to how awkward questions to the Colonial Office could be anticipated and some answer prepared in advance.

*Yours sincerely
Vivian Fuchs*

V.E. FUCHS

H.E. The Governor,
Government House,
STANLEY
Falkland Islands.

497/k

COPY

2 November 1965

H.W. Thompson Esq.,
Colonial Secretary,
STANLEY,
Falkland Islands.

S
D1
W/1
an

Dear Thompson,

Thank you very much for your recent letter informing me about the total sea lion harvest last year. As you say, 147 is a very small crop, and well within the capacity of the herd.

After considerable prodding I have extracted from Vaughan the enclosed report. We have been happy to duplicate it here, following judicious (I hope!) editing, and I am sending you five copies. Also enclosed is a covering letter from Vaughan to the Governor, which perhaps you would kindly pass on with one of the copies. We have retained the stencil and will be delighted to provide as many further copies as you wish.

I am worried about the implications of this report. If the stock really is only one tenth of what it was in 1933 something very fishy has been going on. I doubt natural causes, because those that might have been effective, such as an epidemic, should have left traces. Conversely, poaching on so massive a scale would, one might think, leave signs and gwt known : secrecy is not a strong feature in small communities. The counts, both by Hamilton and Vaughan may be inaccurate, but I would doubt if they were out by more than a factor of 2, which would bring Hamilton's down to a minimal 150,000 and Vaughan's up to a maximal 60,000 - still a very large gap. I don't know if the Falkland grape-vine will yield you any information about what has been happening, but would be glad to discuss the problems with you further and consider any enquiries we might make at this end.

Verbally, Vaughan has also indicated his view that the fur seal populations on the west are down on the figures cited by O'Gorman, in an unpublished report we hold here. As you know, Strange found no fur seal on Beauchene in the last three years, although private diaries by B.B. Roberts and G.C.L. Bertram of the British Graham Land Expedition are positive as to the abundance of the animals off that island in the 1930's. Both Roberts and Bertram are highly competent and would not mis-identify the species. There appears therefore to be strong circumstantial evidence of poaching off Beauchene and a suspicion of it in the west. It's harder to see what you can do about it, but perhaps unscheduled and unannounced inspection flights in December-January (which are the key months for furseal poachers) over the western localities might act as a deterrent or provide some information.

This is your side, of course. But as you know, the Vaughan-Strange count was partly financed by World Wildlife Fund on the advice of the I.U.C.N. The W.W.F. is a vociferous body and may not be discreet over the report, which, since they supported the investigation, must ultimately go to them. I propose to hold up the report for a bit, and then to send it via Sir Hugh Elliott, Secretary of I.U.C.N. He is a former member of the Colonial Service (and was Administrator of Tristan), and is sensible in these matters. We have agreed that he will keep the paper away from W.W.F. until the Governor and yourself have read it and had a chance to consider what you want to do about it, and if possible I suggest it would be disarming of potential comment if, by the time it goes to W.W.F., you were able to comment from your side on what Falkland Islands Government's views and intentions were. A mere statement of concern, reference to your recent activities in the conservation field, and expression of Government's determination to be vigilant in the management of seal stock in the future would probably suffice. I'm sorry if this seems to be teaching you the sucking of eggs, but Elliott advised we should keep one jump ahead of W.W.F. and I hope you'll feel the suggestion helpful rather than impertinent.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

signed Martin Holdgate.

4971B

BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY

BIOLOGICAL UNIT

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY,
QUEEN MARY COLLEGE,
MILE END ROAD, LONDON, E.1.

TELEPHONE: ADVANCE 2313

22 November 1965

H.W. Thompson Esq.,
Colonial Secretary,
STANLEY,
Falkland Islands.



Dear Thompson,

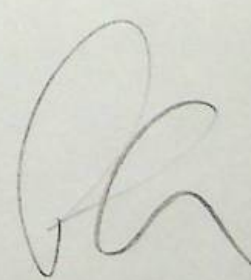
I hope very much that the copies of the Vaughan report I despatched on the 2nd will have reached you by JOHN BISCOE, but in case there is some mistake I am sending this off at once as an additional safeguard.

I trust that it gives you the information you require: you may be pleased to know that tranquility reigns at this end.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

M. W. Holdgate.



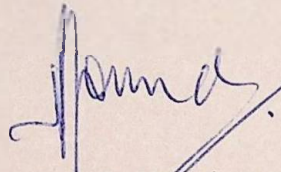
EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 9/65 OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
HELD ON THE 15TH AND 16TH DECEMBER, 1965

0497/IV

492

10. DESTRUCTION OF SEAL ON EMILY ISLAND (Memo. No. 62/65)

Council considered the Falkland Islands Company's request to destroy the seal herd on Emily Island but advised that final consideration be deferred until members were able to study the report on an aerial survey of the sea lion stocks in the Falkland Islands, 1965. Copies of the report would be circulated to members.



Clerk of the Council

23rd December, 1965.

Dear Mr. Young,

At the recent meeting of the Executive Council I told members of your kind offer not to press us for an immediate decision. This was duly noted.

I will make sure that this is not lost sight of and should things become desperate at your end please let me know.

Yours faithfully,

(W. H. THOMPSON)
COLONIAL SECRETARY.

W. H. Young, Esq.,
Colonial Manager,
Falkland Islands Co. Ltd.,
STANLEY.

TB

0497/IV

497d

23rd December, 65.

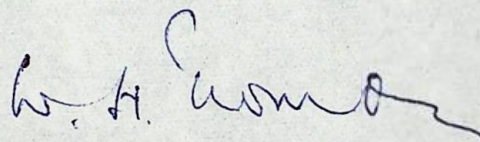
To: All Members of Executive
Council.

From: Colonial Secretary,

Sealing Report.

497e For your information I enclose a copy of the Vaughan
Report on sealing.

This report has not yet been discussed in Executive
Council.



COLONIAL SECRETARY

AN AERIAL SURVEY OF THE SEA LION (*Otaria byronia*)

STOCKS IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1965

BY

R. WILLIAM VAUGHAN B.Sc. and IAN J. STRANGE

1. INTRODUCTION

The Falkland Islands were discovered sometime in the sixteenth century, and an expedition led by Camargo in 1540 almost certainly landed there, describing for the first time "sea lions with hides 36 feet long" (Goebel 1927, in Cawkell et al 1960). Despite this early reference there appears to have been little interest in the animals, and while the early French and Spanish settlers wrote of various "sea monsters" and "sea wolves" they apparently did not make very much use of the seals for food or for their pelts. It was only after Cook's southern voyage in 1775 and the discovery of South Georgia with its huge fur seal herds, that sealing developed on a large scale. In the next fifty years well over a million fur seal skins were taken from South Georgia alone, and the beaches were virtually cleared. The Falklands partly escaped this heavy exploitation, and the first to seal on such a scale in the area was Fanning, who first visited the islands in 1792. At this time, the American Sealer 'States' from Boston, took 15,000 fur seal pelts, probably from the Falklands. During the next twenty five years the seal stocks in the Falkland Islands were severely reduced, the main industry being the taking of elephant seals for oil. In 1817 it was reported that 2,500 barrels of seal oil were taken, and in 1820 Daniel Jewitt reported that there were over fifty vessels sealing at the Falklands, but ten years later the numbers of seal had dropped drastically, and the sealers were hard put to obtain a full cargo. By 1881 elephant seal had not been seen around the islands for more than ten years. There was a slight revival during the late nineteenth century, when American and English sealers operated around the Falkland Islands, but ultimately falling prices and the scarcity of seals combined to bring the trade to an end.

In 1881 the British Government in the Falkland Islands imposed a close season for seals and had naval vessels to patrol the islands and enforce the regulations. A licence was required before sealing operations could be undertaken, and a royalty had to be paid on any skins or oil obtained. In the early part of the twentieth century Canadian sealers came south, and engaged in pelagic sealing around the Falklands. Since the seals were caught at sea the skins were not liable to royalty, and the sealers could not be controlled by the administration. In 1903 over 22,000 skins taken in this way were shipped through Port Stanley. In 1921 an Ordinance was enacted to give fur seals absolute protection and armed guards were posted at the seal colonies to stop poaching. By this time the Canadian sealers were no longer operating in these waters, but poachers were running across from the South American coast, and a few enterprising Falklanders had their own sealing vessels.

In 1928 the Falkland Islands and Dependencies Sealing Company was formed and started operations at Albemarle in West Falkland, initially with a factory ship while a shore station was being built. They operated until 1931, closed down during the Depression, and then started again in 1935 for another three years. The main quarry was the sea lion (*Otaria byronia*), and during this period a total of 39,696 animals were taken for oil, the total production being about 2,600 tons. Initially oil prices were good at £27 per ton, but this dropped to £15 when the market became flooded with seal oil, and demand fell.

At this time the Discovery Committee, realising that the sea lion was of economic importance decided to investigate the resources of the herd, and J. B. Hamilton worked in the Falklands between 1929 and 1937. He produced two reports (Hamilton 1934, 1939), indicating a total population of about 380,000 of which

80,000 were pups. This is the only fairly detailed census of the species to have been made in the area prior to the present investigations.

Sealing operations were started again in 1949 by the South Atlantic Sealing Company, using the same base at Albemarle as before the war, and their aim was to utilise the sea lions fully by taking oil, pelts, and meat and bone meal. The first season was a failure, probably due to faulty equipment and inexperience, and in the following year the sponsors of the Company, the Colonial Development Corporation, took over the venture. By the end of 1952 they too had failed to make a success of the operation due to trouble with processing plant and a shortage of seals. This period of sealing from 1949 to 1952 only accounted for a total of 3,045 sea lions.

Ten years later, in 1962, interest was again revived and a licence was granted for 1500 sea lions to be taken for their pelts which were to be tanned for leather. At this stage virtually nothing was known about the size of the sea lion herd in the Falklands apart from what Hamilton had reported thirty years previously, and a later note by Laws (1953) in which he said that there was every reason to believe that Hamilton's figures were on the conservative side. His statement was not based on any actual census, but on Hamilton's figures, which he had taken as being the best available at that time.

W. N. Bonner, Sealing Inspector in South Georgia, was asked to allocate a quota for the killing of sea lions in 1958. His calculations were based on the Hamilton census, and he suggested that a quota of 15,000 adult males for the first three years and then 10,000 adult males thereafter would be a reasonable kill. He also pointed out that a pup census should be undertaken regularly, in order to check on the size of the herd, and any fluctuations in numbers could be immediately restored by adjusting the quota.

With the issue of a sealing licence in 1962 and its renewal the following year it was felt that some effort ought to be made to determine how many sea lions there were in the Falklands, since a few of the local people had reason to believe that numbers had been much reduced in the past twenty years. If this were so, clearly the Hamilton census would no longer form a reasonable basis for the calculation of quotas for exploitation. During the early part of 1965 the authors were able to carry out an aerial survey of the Falklands, the object of which was to locate as many of the breeding places of the sea lion as possible and to try and determine as accurately as possible their present numbers.

II. METHODS

The aerial survey was carried out using a De Havilland Beaver floatplane belonging to the Falkland Islands Government Air Service. Four flights were made covering the greater part of the coastline and offlying islands of the Falkland Islands. These flights were undertaken between January 20 and March 5, 1965, the large time span being due to the fact that an aircraft could only be used when it was not required for passenger flights, and because good flying weather in the area to be surveyed was essential. The survey was supported by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and financed partly by the World Wildlife Fund and partly by the Falkland Islands Government.

The aircraft used for the survey flights was modified slightly by removing the window from the port side passenger door and so giving the observers a greater range of free vision and facilitating photography. A small wooden wedge at the leading edge of the window very effectively diverted the slipstream from the interior of the cabin.

On each flight the aircraft carried a pilot and three observers, one of whom sat in the co-pilot's seat with a map and noted the course flown, and the positions at which seals were found.

The other two observers occupied the rear of the cabin, and were equipped with camera, notebooks and binoculars.

The procedure found to be most effective was to fly along the coast at about 115 knots at an altitude of 200 feet, at which height and speed it proved easy to spot groups of seal well ahead. When a group was sighted the aircraft descended to about 100 feet and slowed to about 90 knots. On the first run over the observers noted the numbers of seal and the presence or absence of pups. The aircraft then circled and made a second run over the seals and a photograph was usually taken and the numbers checked. The effect of the first run was to alert the seals at the water's edge, and also to flush any seals that may have been lying in the tussock grass that flanks many of the beaches. On the second run the seals, being alerted, were all sitting up and more easily seen and photographed. A third run was sometimes made when there were large numbers of seal in the tussock, or when the first count was not thought to be reliable. When there were only very small numbers of seal on an exposed beach it was found that one run was sufficient to make a count.

On each occasion that a group of seals was seen the two observers would each make an independent count, or an estimate if the numbers on the beach were too great to count. These figures were then compared after the flight and the two estimates were usually found to be in very good agreement.

The photographs were used to check on the total numbers of seal, and to check that pups were present, as proof of a breeding group. All the photographs used for counts were taken with a Rolleicord camera, giving a 2½ inch square negative. The film was Tri-X, exposed at 400 ASA and developed in Microdol. The negatives were examined by sandwiching them in glass and projecting onto a large sheet of white paper. The seals could readily be identified even in negative form, and each animal was then marked on the paper in pencil, so that after projection the pencil marks could be totalled. This method ensures that no seals are counted twice, and makes counting easy by enlarging the original negative to a considerable size. Most of the negatives were later printed so that the presence of pups could be verified on those beaches that had been noted as breeding places during the flights.

III. RESULTS

Examination of the aerial photographs has shown that the estimates made from the air were quite reliable, the numbers obtained from the photographs being generally slightly less than the direct field count or estimate. This is explained by the fact that the negative usually did not quite fully cover the group of seals on the beach.

The total number of seals counted and estimated during the course of the survey was 10,876 of which 5,516 were pups and the remaining 13,360 were adult and juvenile animals. This figure needs some correction to allow for seals that were missed in the tussock and under overhanging rocks and ledges, while the first flights on January 20 also need a small correction to allow for those pups that would have been born after the survey was made. It is quite possible that a number of animals were missed because they were in the water, but almost all the pups would still be on the beaches at this period, and any swimming that they might undertake would be confined to streams and rock pools on the breeding grounds.

The numbers of seal counted on the various flights are tabulated below, the figure in brackets representing the corrected pup totals for the first two flights, which have been increased by 10% to allow for subsequent births.

<u>Flight</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Adult seal</u>	<u>Pups</u>	<u>Age of Pups</u>
I	20.1.65	1902	651(716)	34 (38)
II	20.1.65	660	120(132)	18 (20)
III	2.2.65	7550	3290	43
IV	5.3.65	3248	1445	45
TOTAL		13360	5516 (5593)	

A further arbitrary correction, for animals not seen from the air, of 5% gives a total of 5,872 pups and 14,028 adults. For convenience these figures may be rounded to 6,000 and 14,000.

With these figures from the aerial count it is now possible to look at the composition of the herd as a whole. Out of the total 14,000 adult animals one assumes that there are at least 6,000 cows to produce the 6,000 pups. The residue of 8,000 animals is made up of bulls, both adult and immature, a few virgin females who are on shore at this time to mate, and juvenile animals of both sexes. The average number of cows in each harem is about six, as determined from counts and photographs, and this is in agreement with Hamilton's results. Thus there will be 1,000 bulls, and a remainder of 7,000 immature animals. Apart from those animals on the beaches at the time of the census there will also be quite a large number, mostly of adult females and immature animals of both sexes, feeding at sea.

By now we have shown the sea lion herd to be composed of:-

Pups	-	6,000
Cows	-	6,000
Bulls	-	1,000
Immatures	-	7,000

Total 20,000

In fact some of the 6,000 cows would be at sea feeding so that on the beaches the actual proportion of cows would be less, and the number of immature animals correspondingly higher. An addition must now be made for those animals at sea, and assuming that at the very most 50% of the population was away feeding, at the time of census, this would give an additional 10,000 sea lions of various age groups - which gives us a grand total of 30,000 animals of all age groups. It must be emphasised that in all these calculations the numbers have been on the optimistic side. One can safely say that in 1965 the herd numbered 30,000 animals at the very most. Since Hamilton had calculated the population to total about 380,000 in 1935, there has evidently been a drastic reduction in the past thirty years.

A check on the accuracy of the 1965 aerial survey is provided by a number of careful counts made on the ground in the same season, and these substantiate the aerial census to a large degree. Low Island was counted during the breeding season, when there were 450 sea lions present, including all ages and both sexes. Hamilton in his census counted 3,316 pups on this same island. Similarly Split Island had a population of 400 sea lions in 1965, but in 1936 had 3,325 pups. In 1965 there were sea lions on Carcass Reef for the first time in many years, the total being 26 adults and 6 pups, but thirty years ago there were 226 pups in the same place.

IV. DISCUSSION

From the results of the aerial survey it is obvious that the sea lion population in the Falkland Islands has declined drastically over the past thirty years, and an explanation must be sought. Commercial exploitation, which was going on at the time of Hamilton's census, comes first to mind, but this is recorded as only accounting for a total of less than 40,000 sea lions, and with a herd as large

as Hamilton estimated this should not have done any damage. The greatest number taken in any one year as far as the records show was 9,219 in 1935, and this number should have been more than adequately replaced by the 80,000 pups that Hamilton calculated to have been born in the same year.

Between 1936 and 1939 sealing, if Hamilton's figures are correct, was only accounting for 1.5% of the total population annually, and this is considered to be well within safe limits. The sealing operations were carried out mostly in the vicinity of the sealing station at Albemarle in West Falkland, and this could have depleted local stocks, but would have no effects on the seal on other parts of the islands. No sealing was carried out on a large scale between 1939 and 1949 and during this period the seal herd should have recovered from any possible effect of over sealing in the thirties.

During the operations of the South Atlantic Sealing Company in the years 1949-1952 there are slightly conflicting reports about the state of the seal stocks. On the one hand it is reported that the company did not make a success of the venture partly because of a shortage of seals, and on the other hand a report on the seals of the Falklands (Laws 1953) mentions, that in the view of the author, Hamilton's estimate of 380,000 was if anything too conservative, and in his summary he gives the sea lion population of the Falkland Islands as 400,000. Commercial exploitation at the level recorded does not seem to have provided a heavy enough mortality to explain the decline in seal stocks. There are a number of alternative explanations which must, therefore, be considered.

When a large and thriving animal population suddenly declines one possible cause is that food resources have suddenly disappeared or become very limited. This is considered most improbable in the present instance, since the richness of marine life in the South Atlantic waters around the Falkland Islands was demonstrated by the Discovery investigations, and there is no evidence of any subsequent major change. This area is not extensively fished by any commercial concern, nor has fishing developed appreciably since 1936, and observation and subjective estimates suggest that there is still abundant food to support the seals of the Falklands and those on the adjacent South American coast. There is no evidence that stocks in the latter area have increased to a level at which they compete seriously with the Falkland population for food.

A second possibility would be that breeding space has been reduced in the last thirty years by the various local activities of man. This, once again, is evidently not the case; the areas inhabited by sea lions are mostly those places that are unsuitable for sheep or for any other use, while the human population of the Falklands is no greater now than it was in the nineteen-thirties. The main breeding area for the sea lion, in the western islands of the group, is largely unpopulated by either man or sheep.

The possibility that there has been a high incidence of disease or infestation by parasites cannot be overlooked. In the Pribilof Islands hook-worm is a major cause of mortality in the fur seal herd, especially among pups, but this infestation reaches high levels only when the density of seals on the beaches is very great. Because severely infected pups die ashore, many carcasses remain on the beaches and provide conspicuous evidence of an epidemic. Had there been such a series of natural disasters in the Falklands at the level necessary for the decimation of the sea lion stocks, it would surely have been noticed, at least in some localities.

It is extremely unlikely that the decline in numbers results from a mass migration since seals are extremely loathe to leave an established breeding place, as has been shown many times over in the past. Even when they are being exploited at far too high a level the remnants of the population still return to the same breeding places, a habit which has had disastrous effects in both northern and southern hemispheres in years gone by.

Human interference is by far the most likely cause of such a decline in the sea lion population of the Falkland Islands. Over the course of thirty years, illicit slaughter of animals at a consistent and fairly high level could have had an appreciable effect on the size of the herd. Parts of the Falkland Islands are far from habitation and rarely visited, and could quite easily be divested of their seal stocks by well-organized poachers. Considerable efforts would have to be made to escape detection, but that some poaching has gone on is indicated by the situation at Beauchene Island which in 1936 was the haunt of many fur seals and sea lions yet now supports none of the former and only a small herd of the latter. There are virtually no records of any visits to this island in the past thirty years yet had the island genuinely been unvisited the undisturbed seal populations should have multiplied and should by now have reached high numbers.

It is not the business of the present investigation to do more than indicate that there is a problem concerning the sea lion stocks of the Falkland Islands, and probably also concerning the even more valuable fur seals. Whether poaching alone accounts for the dramatic decline in numbers, or whether it has been allied to natural causes, would require a more detailed investigation to determine. Whether shore-based poaching, by residents or by intruders, has occurred, or whether pelagic sealing, taxing the animals at sea, is responsible, is another uninvestigated problem. What is certain is that what was a valuable economic asset in 1935 is now almost valueless by comparison, and that management should now aim at securing an increase in seal stocks. A model is available in the Pribilof Islands fur seal herd which, once depleted to a minimum stock of 200,000, now numbers one and a half million and brings in 5 million dollars of revenue per annum.

V. CONCLUSIONS

Having established the fact that the sea lion resources of the Falklands have become very seriously depleted over the past thirty years, and discussed the ways in which this may have happened, we must now decide what must be done.

Firstly with regard to the present sealing licence, it is felt that considering the size of the herd, and the doubt as to whether numbers are increasing or decreasing at the present time, a total kill not exceeding 3% of the total herd, and consisting of adult males only, should be adhered to until further data have been obtained. 3% of 30,000 gives 900 animals, or, if rounded off indicates a maximum permissible total of 1,000 adult males in one season.

It is felt that there should be an effort made to make a further detailed census during the coming breeding season, ideally at the end of January. A careful and accurate count from the ground on a number of the more important beaches would be most desirable.

The fact that the sea lion resources of the Falklands have reached a dangerously low level has been established. The fact that they, together with the fur seals, could, if properly managed, become an important economic asset is obvious. If these resources are to be neglected, and perhaps be slaughtered unlawfully in consequence, the islands will lose a potential valuable source of income which it would probably cost little to maintain. Advice on these management and conservation aspects might well be sought from an experienced seal biologist in the near future.

REFERENCES

- Hamilton, J.E. 1934. The Southern sea lion Otaria byronia (de Blainville) Discovery Reports 8 : 269 : 318.
 Hamilton, J.E. 1939. A second report on the Southern sea lion Otaria byronia (de Blainville). Discovery Reports 19 : 121-164.
 Laws, R.M. 1953d. The seals of the Falkland Islands and Dependencies. Oryx, 2, 87-97.

24th December, 1965.

Dear

496
496a

Thank you very much for your letter and for prodding Vaughan for his report, which has produced an answer on the lines we expected. It helps to confirm the present view of our seal stocks, but does little to clear up the history of the decline, if indeed there has been a decline.

I suppose we are bound to start off with Hamilton's figures, but just how reliable are they supposed to be? Local talk certainly does not conjure up a picture of an active man visiting beaches and scrambling over rocks. He was regarded as somewhat lazy. I have spent a lot of time on the files trying to find out why the two post-Hamilton sealing ventures failed. They failed because of a lack of seal, but (and this frustrates me) I cannot find any figures which can be set alongside those of Hamilton. However, be that as it may, it does appear that over the post-war years our seal stock has been lower than that of the pre-war years. I wonder if large scale poaching from the Coast took place between 1939 and 1945? Unlikely but possible.

We can say with some confidence that the post-war pattern has been maintained, and as far as I can see, there is no strong evidence to show any alarming reduction over the past twenty years.

There can be few small territories with such comprehensive legislation for the protection of seal as we have. Our entire territorial waters are a declared reserve: we have a farming population which gives general, though sometimes passive, support to our preservation policy: we have licensed only one local boat in the past five years: we employed and paid Vaughan to produce his report for us: and we are very conscious of the need to present a good face to the scientific and wildlife world. Admittedly we are short of funds and we cannot effectively control poaching from the South American coast, but we do try very hard indeed.

The/ ..

Dr. M.W. Holdgate,
British Antarctic Survey,
Biological Unit,
Mile End Road,
LONDON, E.1

see 514

The Executive and Legislative Councils have yet to read, absorb, and discuss the Vaughan report, and in view of the fact that we sponsored it, and paid for it, any premature release would be undesirable locally. Naturally enough we do not want to hold things up for too long, but until shearing is over we cannot get down to it. Anyway Vaughan took long enough and I do not suppose a little longer will matter terribly much.

You refer to the W.W.F. part in the seal count. Perhaps you do not know that I am the local administrator of the W.W.F. grant for investigations into our endangered species, and I am very interested in all this. The W.W.F. did not sponsor the seal count. Vaughan was paid by us to do it during the time he was stranded here between ships to South Georgia. Strange only came in for his own interest and with our permission. The Falkland Islands Government paid for most of the air transport involved.

I do not wish to thrash this too much but when you talk of uproars in world wildlife circles, as does Sir Vivian in his parallel letter to the Governor, I must make it clear that we are every bit as interested and concerned as anyone else and we are doing our not inconsiderable bit about it all. Unfortunately our voice is tiny.

When the time comes I hope you will be able to impress on the Bodies concerned that poaching from the South American Coast is a real problem, but, (and this does raise a question on Vaughan's report) if there is poaching why do we not find carcasses on the beaches? He points out that if disease had killed off our seal we should be finding the remnants: would not beach poaching and poaching from small boats also leave remnants?

Beauchene is a problem of its own and is wide open to poaching, but sea lion stocks there, as observed by the Governor and by Strange on 18th and 19th of this month, are small anyway. Some fifty men landed from Protector at Beauchene for the afternoon on 18th December and no trace of poaching was reported. I think you know that Beauchene was declared a wild animal and bird sanctuary on 30th December, 1964.

Short of a seal protection patrol vessel (which we cannot even contemplate) there is little we can do about it.

Could we get a photostat of the O'Gorman report for our files?

As to the last few sentences of your letter I do not find them impertinent at all. We are doing our best; we are concerned; we have made seal licensing a matter for the Executive Council only; and we face the world in the knowledge that our interest in wildlife is genuine. Our sorrow is that on our budget, and with our small population, enforcement measures are slim.

Thank/ ..

Page 3

Thank you for your continuing interest and I hope you will
bat strongly on our side.

I shall be in London in late June and look forward to talking
all this over with you.

(W.H. THOMPSON)

LS

Kiv

499

11th January, 1966

Dear Mr Vaughan,

497 A

Thank you very much indeed for your letter of 20th October and your report on the aerial survey of the Falkland Islands sea lion herds.

I have read the report with great interest and I hope to write in reply to your letter while on board the John Biscoe, in which ship I leave tomorrow on a tour of the Bases.

G. Saterail

Dictated by the Governor prior to his departure and signed in his absence by the Private Secretary.

R.W. Vaughan Esq.,
29 Innage Road,
Northfield,
Birmingham 31

~~KIV 497b~~

BU Xa 5.2.66

CONFIDENTIALRef: Q497/IV

31st January, 1966

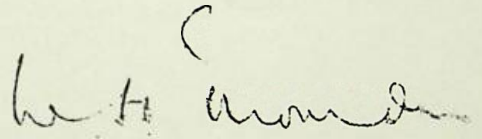
MEMORANDUM NO. 5/66 FOR EXECUTIVE COUNCILApplication for Sealing Licence

Mr. C. Bundes has applied for a licence to take up to 1,500 seals annually. He has also asked that he should be allowed to take a limited number of male pups from each rookery operated.

To some extent this ties up with the recent application from the Falkland Islands Company to denude Emily Island of seals including clapmatches as outlined in Memo 62/65.

Honourable Members are asked to refer to the Vaughan and Strango Sealing Report at page 12 wherein it is stated: "firstly with regard to the present sealing licence, it is felt that considering the size of the herd, the doubt as to whether the numbers are increasing or decreasing at the present time, a total kill not exceeding 3% of the total herd, consisting of adult males only, should be adhered to until further data can be obtained. 3% of 30,000 gives 900 animals or if rounded off indicates a maximum permissible total of 1,000 adult males in one season."

Honourable Members are asked to advise that a scaling licence, subject to annual review, of 900 adult male seal inclusive of all seal of all sizes and sexes on Emily Island, be issued to Mr. C. Bundes.

COLONIAL SECRETARY*Issued to all members**LS
1/2/66*

IS

CONFIDENTIAL

501

Stanley,
Falkland Islands,
South Atlantic.

2nd February 1966.

The Colonial Secretary,
Stanley,
Falkland Islands,

The Vaughan/ Strange Sea Lion Survey 1965

Dear Sir,

A draft copy of the above report was not unfortunately received by me prior to the final report being available for revision, I would therefor like to comment on the report before it is circulated. Special reference is made in this letter to the last paragraph of the conclusion.

Reference is made to the dangerously low level that the Sea Lion resources of the Falkland Islands have reached, this is a fact that has been established by evidence obtained over the last five years and with the survey mentioned above.

The reason for the decline we are however uncertain about, although I personally would doubt intrusion by man in general especially inshore poaching, the decline has been general not only in areas where poaching could be carried out in comparative ease, but also in areas very close to Stanley and settlements in many areas of the Falklands where poaching would hardly go undetected. It is true that pelagic sealing should not be ruled out completely, but this again would be a difficult task for those engaged in this work. My own observations are that unlike the Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus australis*) of these islands, the Sea Lion (*Otaria byronia*) is comparatively wary of man and would I consider be difficult to take at sea. One should also consider the size of vessel which would be required to work these isolated waters and the costs involved, it would seem very unlikely that such boats could afford to seal here.

Disease or a natural decline in the herds would appear to be the two most likely causes, in which case there would have perhaps been little that we could have done to save the herds. Investigations will however continue in an attempt to establish the cause of the decline with an open mind as to the results.

"The fact that they, together with the Fur seals, could, if properly managed become an important economic asset is obvious". I feel that this has been written in the wrong text, and could be open to criticism. It could infer to persons not familiar with these islands that the herds have been of no interest to the authorities and in consequence have been neglected. I think it perhaps correct to say that our seal have been taken very much for granted, due no doubt to the impression that there has been an abundance of seal at all times.

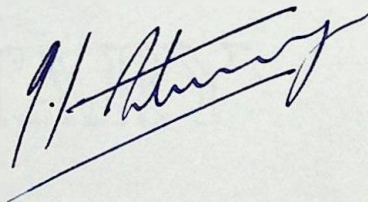
cont/

Due largely to the difficult terrain in which these creatures are often found they have not been observed as much in the last twenty years as they might have been, and in consequence their decline has gone un-noticed to many.

The question of management of the seal herds, the economic asset, and the costs of maintaining a sealing industry. All points mentioned in the final paragraph of the report, and ones which I feel require a further mention.

I would consider that having now travelled fairly extensively round these islands, seen the terrain where our seal herds are to be found, and experienced the difficulties of working in such areas, I could state with reasonable authority, that the management of our seal herds on a large scale would be extremely difficult and costly, and would make the economics of a sealing industry, large enough to maintain management facilities a very doubtful economic business. However, on the other hand a compromise might well be designed whereby our seal herds are studied and managed in order to keep ahead of the very small sealing business now attempting to operate, and most important, to maintain conservation interests of the species at a cost within our means.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'I.J. Strange', with a long horizontal line extending from the bottom of the signature.

I.J.Strange.

Sot
Sola

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 1/66 OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

HELD ON THE 9th, 10th & 11th FEBRUARY, 1966

0497/IV

2. VAUGHAN SEALING REPORT

Cyclostyled copies of the report of an aerial survey of the sea lion stocks in the Falkland Islands prepared by Messrs. Vaughan and Strange had been circulated to members of Council on 23rd December, 1965.

x/ Council noted that Mr. Vaughan was seeking permission to have the work published and advised that, as a number of the points made in the report did not appear to be fully supported by facts, any publication should be accompanied by the observations of this Administration. The Colonial Secretary undertook to write to Mr. Vaughan accordingly.

0497/IV

491

3. DESTRUCTION OF SEAL ON EMILY ISLAND (Memo. No. 62/65)

Council considered the application received from the Falkland Islands Company Limited for permission to destroy the seal herd on Emily Island. It was noted that the presence of the herd prevented the Company from using the island for grazing purposes.

Council advised that as an initial step permission should only be granted for the destruction of all male animals excluding pups. The Falkland Islands Company Limited should be asked to provide a report on the number of seals taken and the results achieved.

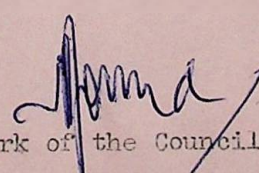
0497/IV

500

4. APPLICATION FOR EXTENSION OF SEALING LICENCE (Memo. No. 5/66)

Council was informed that in 1965 Mr. Bundes was granted a licence to take 1500 seal and actually took 147.

Council noted that Messrs. Vaughan and Strange recommended in their report that licences should be restricted to permit a maximum annual kill of 1,000 adult males and accordingly advised that for this season Mr. Bundes be permitted to take 900 adult male hair seals in addition to those male seals authorised to be taken from Emily Island. Council further advised that a minimum annual take of 900 adult male hair seals be authorised for the years 1967 and 1968. This would provide some guarantee of continuity for Mr. Bundes' enterprise.


Clerk of the Council

NOTE ON THE SEALING POLICY FILE

Write to all farm managers asking for their co-operation in identifying seal rookeries and giving some estimate of the seal population.

Executive Council on 9th and 10th February 1966 agreed that when next BAS Biologist is visiting we should ask him to investigate disease in seal. This will not be a major campaign.

15th February 1966

FA

C.D.I.
2/3

15th February

66

Dear Sir,

468

I refer to your letter of the 26th October 1965 in which you applied for permission to denude Emily Island of all seal.

2. The matter has been considered by the Governor, in Council, and it has been decided that a licence should be issued to you for the removal of all male animals excluding pups.

3. It is felt that this step may assist in the departure of female seal from the island. A complete slaughter might well cause reactions in world wild life circles which could do considerable harm.

4. If you decide to proceed with the removal of male animals you will be required to furnish me with a report showing the number of animals removed together with the summary of the result achieved.

5. You might care to talk this matter over before I issue a formal licence to you.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd) W. H. Thompson.

COLONIAL SECRETARY

The Manager,
Falkland Islands Company, Limited,
STANLEY

FA

15th February

66

Dear Sir,

487 I refer to your recent application for a sealing licence.

2. I am pleased to tell you that after consideration by the Governor, in Council, it has been decided to grant you a licence to take 900 male sea lion each year during the years 1966, 1967 and 1968.

3. It is regretted that a licence cannot be issued for the taking of any pups.

4. In addition to the 900 sea lion allocated for 1966 you will be permitted to take sea lion and seal from Emily Island on a sub-licence to be issued by the Falkland Islands Company Limited.

5. Government reserves the right to review and, if necessary, alter or revoke any licence issued to you at any time.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd) W. H. Thompson.

COLONIAL SECRETARY

Mr. C. Bundes,
STANLEY

FA

5
506

MEMORANDUM

Ref: 0497/IV

16th February 1966

From: The Colonial Secretary, To: All Members of Executive
STANLEY & Legislative Council

Vaughan Sealing Report

The following letter has been received from Mr. Ian Strange.

"A draft copy of the above report was not unfortunately received by me prior to the final report being available for revision, I would therefore like to comment on the report before it is circulated. Special reference is made in this letter to the last paragraph of the conclusion.

Reference is made to the dangerously low level that the Sea Lion resources of the Falkland Islands have reached, this is a fact that has been established by evidence obtained over the last five years and with the survey mentioned above.

The reason for the decline we are however uncertain about, although I personally would doubt intrusion by man in general especially inshore poaching, the decline has been general not only in areas where poaching could be carried out in comparative ease, but also in areas very close to Stanley and settlements in many areas of the Falklands where poaching would hardly go undetected. It is true that pelagic sealing should not be ruled out completely, but this again would be a difficult task for those engaged in this work. My own observations are that unlike the Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus australis*) of these islands, the Sea Lion (*Otaria byronia*) is comparatively wary of man and would I consider be difficult to take at sea. One should also consider the size of vessel which would be required to work these isolated waters and the costs involved, it would seem very unlikely that such boats could afford to seal here.

Disease or a natural decline in the herds would appear to be the two most likely causes, in which case there would have perhaps been little that we could have done to save the herds. Investigations will however continue in an attempt to establish the cause of the decline with an open mind as to the results.

"The fact that they, together with the Fur seals, could, if properly managed become an important economic asset is obvious". I feel that this has been written in the wrong text, and could be open to criticism. It could infer to persons not familiar with these islands that the herds have been of no interest to the authorities and in consequence have been neglected. I think it perhaps correct to say that our seal have been taken very much for granted, due no doubt to the impression that there has been an abundance of seal at all times. Due

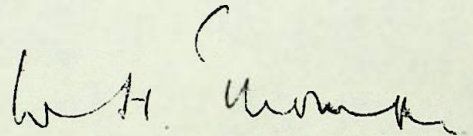
Issued today
25/2/66 JA

largely to the difficult terrain in which these creatures are often found they have not been observed as much in the last twenty years as they might have been, and in consequence their decline has gone unnoticed to many.

The question of management of the seal herds, the economic asset, and the costs of maintaining a sealing industry are all points mentioned in the final paragraph of the report, and ones which I feel require a further mention.

I would consider that having now travelled fairly extensively round these islands, seen the terrain where our seal herds are to be found, and experienced the difficulties of working in such areas, I could state with reasonable authority, that the management of our seal herds on a large scale would be extremely difficult and costly, and would make the economics of a sealing industry, large enough to maintain management facilities a very doubtful economic business. However, on the other hand a compromise might well be designed whereby our seal herds are studied and managed in order to keep ahead of the very small sealing business now attempting to operate, and most important, to maintain conservation interests of the species at a cost within our means."

2. It is not proposed to take any particular action on the Vaughan Report at this stage.



COLONIAL SECRETARY



FA

KIV 501a x1
502

508

BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY

BIOLOGICAL UNIT

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY,
QUEEN MARY COLLEGE,
MILE END ROAD, LONDON, E.1.

TELEPHONE: ADVANCE 2313

28th February 1966

W. H. Thompson, Esq.,
Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley,
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Dear Thompson,

508a I have received the enclosed reply
from Dr. R. M. Laws and I think it speaks for
itself.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

S. I. Darrell

88 M. W. Holdgate

Dictated by Dr. Holdgate
and signed in his absence

COPY OF LETTER RECEIVED FROM R. M. LAWS DATED 12TH FEBRUARY 1966

Dr. M. W. Holdgate,
British Antarctic Survey, etc.

Dear Martin,

Thank you for your letter of 11th January about the sea lion stocks in the Falklands.

As I have explained to Vaughan in reply to a query from him, my statement that there was reason to believe that Hamilton's figures were on the conservative side was derived from a re-analysis of his data, in particular his pup count related to the life history of the animal. I was never in a position to do any serious work on seals in the Falklands. I accompanied the C.D.C. sealing venture but in my opinion their failure was at least partially due to bad organisation and management. When I was with them they spent a lot of time merely acting as a cargo boat and ferrying sheep from island to island. I had hoped to visit with them most of the major fur seal colonies but was not able to do so. I would be surprised if there was much poaching in 1951/52, because the fur seals on New Island, Bird Island and off Elephant Jason were pretty abundant and these would surely have been the first target of any mainland poachers.

Unfortunately I do not have any of my Antarctic papers here in Africa.

I do not think you should entirely rule out the possibility of some natural change in the population, having contributed to the decline. After all thirty five years is quite a long period of time and there have been quite marked changes in other populations over this length of time.

I am sorry that I cannot really help you. What is needed of course, is a competent biologist to spend at least a year looking into the situation. Without this I do not see how we can come to any firm conclusions.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

R. M. Laws

BN 30.4.66
(507)

0497/IV

506

3rd March, 66

To: Officer-in-Charge,

From: The Colonial Secretary,

B.A.S. Office,

Stanley.

When you have another biologist staying over in the Falklands I would be very grateful if he could be asked to discuss disease in seal. Mr. Ian Strange has a theory that seal may suffer from tuberculosis and this could be the reason for the decline in the seal population.

We are not intending to amount a major campaign but we would like the benefit of some advice.

(WH. Thompson)

COLONIAL SECRETARY

LS

507
Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Ref: 0497/IV

4th March, 1966.

Dear

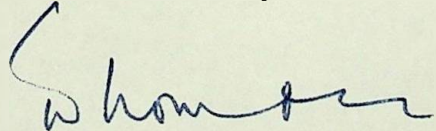
Various world authorities on wild life are forever asking us how many seal we have in the Falkland Islands. The only figures available to us are those produced by Dr. Hamilton well before the last war, and the indication is that his figures no longer stand up to inspection.

I do not want to put you to any trouble but I am asking your co-operation in identifying seal rookeries together with some estimate of their respective seal populations.

It would be a help when your employees are riding around if they could be asked to note seal rookeries and give some estimate of the population. If you could drop me a very brief note as and when the information is obtained we can, perhaps, over the next year or so build up some form of adequate picture. I do not ask you to organise any particular search for seal rookeries.

Your help will be much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,



COLONIAL SECRETARY

Issued 4/3/66

LS

All Farm Managers.

LS

BW 30.4.66

11th March, 1966.

Dear Mr. Young,

The attached is self-explanatory.

Would you be so kind as to inform Mr. Oliver that all is well.

If I had thought that I was doing anything other than is normally proper I would not, of course, have sent a circular to Mr. Oliver.

X

As a matter of courtesy I prefer not to be the recipient of notes in pencil, wrongly addressed and not signed.

If it is your wish that I only address your managers through yourself I will certainly do so.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd) W. H. Thompson.

COLONIAL SECRETARY

The Colonial Manager,
Falkland Islands Co., Ltd.,
STANLEY.

X no Personal huff!

IN

0497/12

5090.



HILL COVE,

FALKLAND ISLANDS,

S. ATLANTIC

11th March

Dear Sir,

We have no Seal Rookeries
at Hill Cove

Yours Faithfully

A J B Cline

Bu 30.4.66

~~507~~ 10



CHARTRES SHEEP FARMING CO. LTD.,

CHARTRES

FALKLAND ISLANDS

9th March 1966

Colonial Secretary
Stanley

Dear Mr Thompson,

~~507~~

Your circular of 4th inst Ref:0497/IV.

We have very little coastline and have no seal rookeries.

Yours faithfully

A. Linton

S.I.
16/3

Extract from letter from Mr. G.C.R. Bonner, San Carlos
to Colonial Secretary of the 11th March, 1966.
(Original filed in 1220/0)

0497/IV. There are no mainland seal rookeries on the land owned and farmed by the San Carlos Sheepfarming Company. We have reason to believe that there are rookeries on the offshore islands which are our property lying in the Falkland Sound. These islands are given quite a high population in the survey carried out by Dr. Hamilton and others shortly after the war, but as these islands are not stocked and therefore not visited or used at all, it is very difficult to confirm whether there are seal colonies extant on these islands or not. If the information is to be of any use I would have no objection to persons being landed on the islands during the breeding season or whenever it is considered an appropriate time to count the animals, for the purpose of carrying out a survey to estimate the seal population.

W 1 16/3
BU 30.4.66



512

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Ref: 0497/IV

4th March, 1966.

[Signature]
21/3

Dear Mr. Miller,

Various world authorities on wild life are forever asking us how many seal we have in the Falkland Islands. The only figures available to us are those produced by Dr. Hamilton well before the last war, and the indication is that his figures no longer stand up to inspection.

I do not want to put you to any trouble but I am asking your co-operation in identifying seal rookeries together with some estimate of their respective seal populations.

It would be a help when your employees are riding around if they could be asked to note seal rookeries and give some estimate of the population. If you could drop me a very brief note as and when the information is obtained we can, perhaps, over the next year or so build up some form of adequate picture. I do not ask you to organise any particular search for seal rookeries.

Your help will be much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

COLONIAL SECRETARY

Roy Love March 10th 1966.

1. On mainland no rookeries at all.
2. On Beuse Island, possibly 75-100 seals.
3. On ~~Whale Island~~ " " 50-100 " "
- Rabbit

All Farm Managers. N.B. Nos. 2 & 3 are not very positive as we are seldom on these islands, but I have never known more than the numbers (approx) quoted above.

IS

[Signature]

BU 30.4.66



AN AERIAL SURVEY OF THE SEA LION (*Otaria byronia*)
STOCKS IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1965.

BY

R. WILLIAM VAUGHAN B.Sc. and IAN J. STRANGE.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Falkland Islands were discovered sometime in the sixteenth century, and an expedition led by Camargo in 1540 almost certainly landed there, describing for the first time "sea lions with hides 36 feet long" (Goebel 1927, in Cawkell et al 1960). Despite this early reference there appears to have been little interest in the animals, and while the early French and Spanish settlers wrote of various "sea monsters" and "sea wolves" they apparently did not make very much use of the seals for food or for their pelts. It was only after Cook's southern voyage in 1775 and the discovery of South Georgia with its huge fur seal herds, that sealing developed on a large scale. In the next fifty years well over a million fur seal skins were taken from South Georgia alone, and the beaches were virtually cleared. The Falklands partly escaped this heavy exploitation, and the first to seal on such a scale in the area was Fanning, who first visited the islands in 1792. At this time, the American Sealer 'States' from Boston, took 13,000 fur seal pelts, probably from the Falklands. During the next twenty five years the seal stocks in the Falkland Islands were severely reduced, the main industry being the taking of elephant seals for oil. In 1817 it was reported that 2,500 barrels of seal oil were taken, and in 1820 Daniel Jewitt reported that there were over fifty vessels sealing at the Falklands, but ten years later the numbers of seal had dropped drastically, and the sealers were hard put to obtain a full cargo. By 1881 elephant seal had not been seen around the islands for more than ten years. There was a slight revival during the late nineteenth century, when American and English sealers operated around the Falkland Islands, but ultimately falling prices and the scarcity of seals combined to bring the trade to an end.

In 1881 the British Government in the Falkland Islands imposed a close season for seals and had naval vessels to patrol the islands and enforce the regulations. A licence was required before sealing operations could be undertaken, and a royalty had to be paid on any skins or oil obtained. In the early part of the twentieth century Canadian sealers came south, and engaged in pelagic sealing around the Falklands. Since the seals were caught at sea the skins were not liable to royalty, and the sealers could not be controlled by the Administration. In 1903 over 22,000 skins taken in this way were shipped through Port Stanley. In 1921 an Ordinance was enacted to give fur seals absolute protection and armed guards were posted at the seal colonies to stop poaching. By this time the Canadian sealers were no longer operating in these waters, but poachers were running across from the South American coast, and a few enterprising Falklanders had their own sealing vessels.

In 1928 the Falkland Islands and Dependencies Sealing Company was formed and started operations at Albemarle in West Falkland, initially with a factory ship while a shore station was being built. They operated until 1931, closed down during the Depression, and then started again in 1935 for another three years. The main quarry was the sea lion (Otaria byronia), and during this period a total of 39,696 animals were taken for oil, the total production being about 2,600 tons. Initially oil prices were good at £27 per ton, but this dropped to £15 when the market became flooded with seal oil, and demand fell.

At this time the Discovery Committee, realising that the sea lion was of economic importance decided to investigate the resources of the herd, and J.E. Hamilton worked in the Falklands between 1929 and 1937. He produced two reports (Hamilton 1934, 1939), indicating a total population of about 380,000 of which 80,000 were pups. This is the only fairly detailed census of the species to have been made in the area prior to the present investigations.

Sealing operations were started again in 1949 by the South Atlantic Sealing Company, using the same base at Albemarle as before the war, and their aim was to utilise the sea lions fully by taking oil, pelts, and meat and bone meal. The first season was a failure, probably due to faulty equipment and inexperience, and in the following year the sponsors of the Company, the Colonial Development Corporation, took over the venture. By the end of 1952 they too had failed to make a success of the operation due to trouble with processing plant and a shortage of seals. This period of sealing from 1949 to 1952 only accounted for a total of 3,045 sea lions.

Ten years later, in 1962, interest was again revived and a licence was granted for 1500 sea lions to be taken for their pelts which were to be tanned for leather. At this stage virtually nothing was known about the size of the sea lion herd in the Falklands apart from what Hamilton had reported thirty years previously, and a later note by Laws (1953) in which he said that there was every reason to believe that Hamilton's figures were on the conservative side. His statement was not based on any actual census, but on Hamilton's figures, which he had taken as being the best available at that time.

W.N. Bonner, Sealing Inspector in South Georgia, was asked to allocate a quota for the killing of sea lions in 1958. His calculations were based on the Hamilton census, and he suggested that a quota of 15,000 adult males for the first three years and then 10,000 adult males thereafter would be a reasonable kill. He also pointed out that a pup census should be undertaken regularly, in order to check on the size of the herd, and any fluctuations in numbers could be immediately restored by adjusting the quota.

With the issue of a sealing licence in 1962 and its renewal the following year it was felt that some effort ought to be made

to determine how many sea lions there were in the Falklands, since a few of the local people had reason to believe that numbers had been much reduced in the past twenty years. If this were so, clearly the Hamilton census would no longer form a reasonable basis for the calculation of quotas for exploitation. During the early part of 1965 the authors were able to carry out an aerial survey of the Falklands, the object of which was to locate as many of the breeding places of the sea lion as possible and to try and determine as accurately as possible their present numbers.

II. METHODS

The aerial survey was carried out using a De Havilland Beaver floatplane belonging to the Falkland Islands Government Air Service. Four flights were made covering the greater part of the coastline and offlying islands of the Falkland Islands. These flights were undertaken between January 20 and March 5, 1965, the large time span being due to the fact that an aircraft could only be used when it was not required for passenger flights, and because good flying weather in the area to be surveyed was essential. The survey was supported by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and financed partly by the World Wildlife Fund and partly by the Falkland Islands Government.

The aircraft used for the survey flights was modified slightly by removing the window from the port side passenger door and so giving the observers a greater range of free vision and facilitating photography. A small wooden wedge at the leading edge of the window very effectively diverted the slipstream from the interior of the cabin.

On each flight the aircraft carried a pilot and three observers, one of whom sat in the co-pilot's seat with a map and noted the course flown, and the positions at which seals were found. The

other two observers occupied the rear of the cabin, and were equipped with camera, notebooks and binoculars.

The procedure found to be most effective was to fly along the coast at about 115 knots at an altitude of 200 feet, at which height and speed it proved easy to spot groups of seal well ahead. When a group was sighted the aircraft descended to about 100 feet and slowed to about 90 knots. On the first run over the observers noted the numbers of seal and the presence or absence of pups. The aircraft then circled and made a second run over the seals and a photograph was usually taken and the numbers checked. The effect of the first run was to alert the seals at the water's edge, and also to flush any seals that may have been lying in the tussock grass that flanks many of the beaches. On the second run the seals, being alerted, were all sitting up and more easily seen and photographed. A third run was sometimes made when there were large numbers of seal in the tussock, or when the first count was not thought to be reliable. When there were only very small numbers of seal on an exposed beach it was found that one run was sufficient to make a count.

On each occasion that a group of seals was seen the two observers would each make an independent count, or an estimate if the numbers on the beach were too great to count. These figures were then compared after the flight and the two estimates were usually found to be in very good agreement.

The photographs were used to check on the total numbers of seal, and to check that pups were present, as proof of a breeding group. All the photographs used for counts were taken with a Rolleicord camera, giving a 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch square negative. The film was Tri-X, exposed at 400 ASA and developed in Microdol. The negatives were examined by sandwiching them in glass and projecting onto a large sheet of white paper. The seals could readily be identified even in negative form, and each animal was then marked on the paper in pencil, so that after projection

the pencil marks could be totalled. This method ensures that no seals are counted twice, and makes counting easy by enlarging the original negative to a considerable size. Most of the negatives were later printed so that the presence of pups could be verified on those beaches that had been noted as breeding places during the flights.

III. RESULTS

Examination of the aerial photographs has shown that the estimates made from the air were quite reliable, the numbers obtained from the photographs being generally slightly less than the direct field count or estimate. This is explained by the fact that the negative usually did not quite fully cover the group of seals on the beach.

The total number of seals counted and estimated during the course of the survey was 18,876 of which 5,516 were pups and the remaining 13,360 were adult and juvenile animals. This figure needs some correction to allow for seals that were missed in the tussock and under overhanging rocks and ledges, while the first flights on January 20 also need a small correction to allow for those pups that would have been born after the survey was made. It is quite possible that a number of animals were missed because they were in the water, but almost all the pups would still be on the beaches at this period, and any swimming that they might undertake would be confined to streams and rock pools on the breeding grounds.

The numbers of seal counted on the various flights are tabulated below, the figure in brackets representing the corrected pup totals for the first two flights, which have been increased by 10% to allow for subsequent births.

<u>Flight</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Adult seal</u>	<u>Pups</u>	<u>%age of Pups</u>
I	20.1.65.	1902	651(716)	34 (38)
II	20.1.65.	660	120(132)	18 (20)
III	2.2.65.	7550	3290	43
IV	5.3.65.	<u>3248</u>	<u>1445</u>	45
TOTAL		13360	5516 (5593)	

A further arbitrary correction, for animals not seen from the air, of 5% gives a total of 5,872 pups and 14,028 adults. For convenience these figures may be rounded to 6,000 and 14,000.

With these figures from the aerial count it is now possible to look at the composition of the herd as a whole. Out of the total 14,000 adult animals one assumes that there are at least 6,000 cows to produce the 6,000 pups. The residue of 8,000 animals is made up of bulls, both adult and immature, a few virgin females who are on shore at this time to mate, and juvenile animals of both sexes. The average number of cows in each harem is about six, as determined from counts and photographs, and this is in agreement with Hamilton's results. Thus there will be 1,000 bulls, and a remainder of 7,000 immature animals. Apart from those animals on the beaches at the time of the census there will also be quite a large number, mostly of adult females and immature animals of both sexes, feeding at sea.

By now we have shown the sea lion herd to be composed of:-

Pups	-	6000
Cows	-	6000
Bulls	-	1000
Immatures	-	<u>7000</u>
Total		<u>20000</u>

In fact some of the 6,000 cows would be at sea feeding so that on the beaches the actual proportion of cows would be less, and the number of immature animals correspondingly higher. An

addition must now be made for those animals at sea, and assuming that at the very most 50% of the population was away feeding, at the time of census, this would give an additional 10,000 sea lions of various age groups - which gives us a grand total of 30,000 animals of all age groups. It must be emphasised that in all these calculations the numbers have been on the optimistic side. One can safely say that in 1965 the herd numbered 30,000 animals at the very most. Since Hamilton had calculated the population to total about 380,000 in 1935, there has evidently been a drastic reduction in the past thirty years.

A check on the accuracy of the 1965 aerial survey is provided by a number of careful counts made on the ground in the same season, and these substantiate the aerial census to a large degree. Low Island was counted during the breeding season, when there were 450 sea lions present, including all ages and both sexes. Hamilton in his census counted 3,316 pups on this same island. Similarly Split Island had a population of 400 sea lions in 1965, but in 1936 had 3,325 pups. In 1965 there were sea lions on Carcass Reef for the first time in many years, the total being 26 adults and 6 pups, but thirty years ago there were 226 pups in the same place.

IV. DISCUSSION

From the results of the aerial survey it is obvious that the sea lion population in the Falkland Islands has declined drastically over the past thirty years, and an explanation must be sought. Commercial exploitation, which was going on at the time of Hamilton's census, comes first to mind, but this is recorded as only accounting for a total of less than 40,000 sea lions, and with a herd as large as Hamilton estimated this should not have done any damage. The greatest number taken in any one year as far as the records show was 9,219 in 1935, and this number should have been more than adequately replaced by the 80,000 pups that Hamilton calculated to have been born in the same year.

Between 1936 and 1939 sealing, if Hamilton's figures are correct, was only accounting for 1.5% of the total population annually, and this is considered to be well within safe limits. The sealing operations were carried out mostly in the vicinity of the sealing station at Albemarle in West Falkland, and this could have depleted local stocks, but would have no effects on the seal on other parts of the islands. No sealing was carried out on a large scale between 1939 and 1949 and during this period the seal herd should have recovered from any possible effect of over sealing in the thirties.

During the operations of the South Atlantic Sealing Company in the years 1949-1952 there are slightly conflicting reports about the state of the seal stocks. On the one hand it is reported that the company did not make a success of the venture partly because of a shortage of seals, and on the other hand a report on the seals of the Falklands (Laws 1953) mentions, that in the view of the author, Hamilton's estimate of 380,000 was if anything too conservative, and in his summary he gives the seal population of the Falkland Islands as 400,000. Commercial exploitation at the level recorded does not seem to have provided a heavy enough mortality to explain the decline in seal stocks. There are a number of alternative explanations which must, therefore, be considered.

When a large and thriving animal population suddenly declines one possible cause is that food resources have suddenly disappeared or become very limited. This is considered most improbable in the present instance, since the richness of marine life in the South Atlantic waters around the Falkland Islands was demonstrated by the Discovery investigations, and there is no evidence of any subsequent major change. This area is not extensively fished by any commercial concern, nor has fishing developed appreciably since 1936, and observation and subjective estimates suggest that there is still abundant food to support the seals of the

Falklands and those on the adjacent South American coast. There is no evidence that stocks in the latter area have increased to a level at which they compete seriously with the Falkland population for food.

A second possibility would be that breeding space has been reduced in the last thirty years by the various local activities of man. This, once again, is evidently not the case; the areas inhabited by sea lions are mostly those places that are unsuitable for sheep or for any other use, while the human population of the Falklands is no greater now than it was in the nineteen-thirties. The main breeding area for the sea lion, in the western islands of the group, is largely unpopulated by either man or sheep.

The possibility that there has been a high incidence of disease or infestation by parasites cannot be overlooked. In the Pribilof Islands hook-worm is a major cause of mortality in the fur seal herd, especially among pups, but this infestation reaches high levels only when the density of seals on the beaches is very great. Because severely infected pups die ashore, many carcasses remain on the beaches and provide conspicuous evidence of an epidemic. Had there been such a series of natural disasters in the Falklands at the level necessary for the decimation of the sea lion stocks, it would surely have been noticed, at least in some localities.

It is extremely unlikely that the decline in numbers results from a mass migration since seals are extremely loathe to leave an established breeding place, as has been shown many times over in the past. Even when they are being exploited at far too high a level the remnants of the population still return to the same breeding places, a habit which has had disastrous effects in both northern and southern hemispheres in years gone by.

Human interference is by far the most likely cause of such a decline in the sea lion population of the Falkland Islands. Over the course of thirty years, illicit slaughter of animals at a

consistent and fairly high level could have had an appreciable effect on the size of the herd. Parts of the Falkland Islands are far from habitation and rarely visited, and could quite easily be divested of their seal stocks by well-organized poachers. Considerable efforts would have to be made to escape detection, but that some poaching has gone on is indicated by the situation at Beauchene Island which in 1936 was the haunt of many fur seals and sea lions yet now supports none of the former and only a small herd of the latter. There are virtually no records of any visits to this island in the past thirty years yet had the island genuinely been unvisited the undisturbed seal populations should have multiplied and should by now have reached high numbers.

It is not the business of the present investigation to do more than indicate that there is a problem concerning the sea lion stocks of the Falkland Islands, and probably also concerning the even more valuable fur seals. Whether poaching alone accounts for the dramatic decline in numbers, or whether it has been allied to natural causes, would require a more detailed investigation to determine. Whether shore-based poaching, by residents or by intruders, has occurred, or whether pelagic sealing, taking the animals at sea, is responsible, is another uninvestigated problem. What is certain is that what was a valuable economic asset in 1935 is now almost valueless by comparison, and that management should now aim at securing an increase in seal stocks. A model is available in the Pribilof Islands fur seal herd which, once depleted to a minimum stock of 200,000, now numbers one and a half million and brings in 5 million dollars of revenue per annum.

V. CONCLUSIONS

Having established the fact that the sea lion resources of the Falklands have become very seriously depleted over the past thirty years, and discussed the ways in which this may have happened, we must now decide what must be done.

Firstly with regard to the present sealing licence, it is felt that considering the size of the herd, and the doubt as to whether numbers are increasing or decreasing at the present time, a total kill not exceeding 3% of the total herd, and consisting of adult males only, should be adhered to until further data have been obtained. 3% of 30,000 gives 900 animals, or, if rounded off indicates a maximum permissible total of 1,000 adult males in one season.

It is felt that there should be an effort made to make a further detailed census during the coming breeding season, ideally at the end of January. A careful and accurate count from the ground on a number of the more important beaches would be most desirable.

The fact that the sea lion resources of the Falklands have reached a dangerously low level has been established. The fact that they, together with the fur seals, could, if properly managed, become an important economic asset is obvious. If these resources are to be neglected, and perhaps be slaughtered unlawfully in consequence, the islands will lose a potential valuable source of income which it would probably cost little to maintain. Advice on these management and conservation aspects might well be sought from an experienced seal biologist in the near future.

REFERENCES

- Hamilton, J.E. 1934. The Southern sea lion Otaria byronia (de Blainville) Discovery Reports 8 : 269 : 318.
- Hamilton, J.E. 1939. A second report on the Southern sea lion Otaria byronia (de Blainville). Discovery Reports 19 : 121-164.
- Laws, R.M. 1953d. The seals of the Falkland Islands and Dependencies. Oryx, 2, 87-97.



513

CDI

WHY/SRP

21st March,

66

The Camp Manager,
DARWIN.

507

Dear Sir,

I enclose a circular which the Colonial Secretary sent to Mr. J. P. Oliver, together with Mr. Oliver's pencilled reply thereon. The Colonial Secretary has pointed out to me, quite rightly, that he considered he was carrying out a perfectly proper procedure in sending the circular to all section managers, and points out that as a matter of courtesy he prefers not to be the recipient of notes in pencil, wrongly addressed and not signed. I feel that Mr. Oliver's action in this matter has been quite wrong, apart from being rude, as if he had no idea as to the correct procedure to follow, he should have addressed his reply through you.

Yours faithfully,

Colonial Manager.

Copy to Colonial Secretary.

BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY

BIOLOGICAL UNIT

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY,
QUEEN MARY COLLEGE,
MILE END ROAD, LONDON, E.1.

TELEPHONE: ADVANCE 2313

11th January 1966

W.H. Thompson, Esq.,
Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley,
FALKLAND ISLANDS.



Dear Thompson,

498 Thank you very much for your most interesting letter of 24th December. I shall certainly look forward to a talk about it all late in June but for the time being here are some first reactions.

I agree that the Vaughan/Strange Report raises as many problems as it solves. Certainly the reliability of the Hamilton census is the first thing to test and his laziness is notorious. The fact remains that Laws, who is an extremely competent biologist, gave a paper on the seals of the Falkland Islands and Dependencies in which he referred to his own experience round the islands and considered Hamilton's sea lion figures as, if anything, an underestimate. Laws was round the islands quite long enough to have gained personal experience and it would not be like him to make a statement of this kind without evidence. I am writing to him today to ask him if he can now expand on his statement and copy to us any original notes which he might still have.

We seem to have rather more information about fur seals. The report of abundant fur seal at Beauchene in the 30's is based on a visit by Penola with Dr. B.B.Roberts and Dr. C.L.G.Bertram aboard. These two are unquestionably reliable and when they state that there were hundreds of fur seal round their ship one may take it that they meant hundreds and not just the odd one.

At a more recent date I hold a typescript report on the fur seal of New Island dated 1960 by O'Gorman and I see from the distribution list that you also have one of these. On page 10 he discusses poaching with a side reference incidentally to sea lion. Would it be possible to do a repeat check on the New Island fur seals to see if there is any evidence of a genuine population decline there. I would urge that this be done if possible.

2/.....

C.S. Please discuss X

- 2 -

CA 17/5/66

W.H.Thompson, Esq.

11th January 1966

I have asked Bonner to sound the London market about the arrival of Falkland Island skins to see if we can get any lead that way. The trade are notoriously close on such matters but it is just possible that one or other of them may be indiscreet. I have heard a rumour which I think came through one of our ships in Punta Arenas that Falkland Island skins had been known to come through that port but the evidence is not in my view reliable.

I would like to continue to make enquiries in this country to see if we can get more reliable evidence but I share your general diagnosis that mainland poaching is the likely answer and it could well be the war years were its peak period (although this would not explain the Laws figures which therefore assume critical importance). If the Laws figures undoubtedly tally with those of Hamilton then we may take it that there were plenty of sea lion around in 1950 and that local information is defective. Most of us who have worked with wild animal populations have come to find that one just cannot rely on farming communities for sound numerical statements. However, I am perplexed at the failure of the various sealing ventures for lack of seal. The whole thing is extremely confusing and there is a shortage of essential information.

Thank you for your very clear statement of Government concern for conservation which I accept with pleasure. I agree that the report should not be released until your Executive and Legislative Councils have had time to consider it. You have clarified the World Wild Life Funds part in the business and I have obviously been misinformed as to their cosponsorship. If, indeed, all the finance has come from your Government then I think you also own the copyright in the document and it is for you to decide its circulation list.

My proposal is that we all spend the time between now and June in accumulating as much information as we can at our respective ends of the communication system and that when you are in England we have a discussion on what can and should now be done. It would be helpful to bring into this discussion Vaughan and also E.A. Smith who is employed by the Natural Environment Research Council to study grey seal in Britain and would like to visit the Falkland Islands and South Georgia next summer. It looks as if NERC would pay and you may find him extremely useful.

I am afraid these are rather disjointed thoughts but I wanted to write quickly to assure you that I am indeed strongly on your side.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Thos H. Thompson

*Spoken
HE & agree
to leave
in the air
for the t.b.*

*SI
19/5*



0497

Fox Bay West,
20th. March 1966

Colonial Secretary,
Stanley.

Dear Sir,

507 I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 4th. instant regarding seal numbers.

We have no recognised seal rookeries on this section. A few seal occasionally haul up on the tussac islands to the west of Spring Pt. and also on the small islands in Lake Hammond waters. However, all of these islands are very seldom visited, and an accurate estimation would be difficult to give.

Within the last three years, I have been to all the above islands, just once and briefly, but from this one visit would very roughly say that, not more than a couple of dozen seals inhabit each of the islands at any one time, and probably only periodically throughout the year.

Yours faithfully,

J. Robertson
Manager.

Bu 304 66
(507)

517



Port Howard,
West Falkland Islands.

March 28th. 1966.

The Colonial Secretary,
Stanley.

Dear Sir,

I estimate the seal rookeries on this farm as approximately:-

80 - 100 Hill Gap Island.

50 - 60 Jersey Harbour Island.

20 - 30 Cave Tamar Point.

10 - 20 End " "

300 - 400 } " Penguin Point
Island off Penguin Point.

10 - 20 Pond Ridge.

60 - 80 South Side Purvis Rincon.

40 - 50 Boat House Point (River Island)

300 - 400 River Island Knob.

870 - 1,160 Estimated Total.

=====

Yours faithfully,

JAMES LOVEGROVE WALDRON LTD.

Amble Evans: FALKLAND MANAGER.

Bu 30.4.66 (515)

Colonial Secretary
Stanley.



R.B. Napier,
West Point Island
Falkland Islands
1st April 1966.

507
Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter in which you requested a seal count be made, on West Point Is. we have very few seal at the most a dozen or so, however on Dunbar and Low Islands there are quite a number, in the next month or so I will try to make a count and let you know more or less what numbers there are, however since Dunbar was stocked with sheep about seven years ago, the number of seal has fallen by at least 50%, and it seems that the last stronghold of the Hair Seal are the Jason Is, with fair numbers on Split, Third, and Fourth Passage Islands, all of which are not stocked with sheep.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "R.B. Napier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bu 30. v. 66
(518)

578
519

FALKLAND ISLANDS

Seal Fishery Ordinance (Cap. 62.)

A licence under section 5 of the Seal Fishery Ordinance (Cap. 62), is hereby granted to the Falkland Islands Company Limited, of Stanley, Falkland Islands (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 from the 1st day of May, 1966 to the 30th day of December, 1966, and shall be an exclusive licence for Daily Island as long as it remains valid.
2. This licence shall be issued free of charge. A sub-licence under this licence may be issued to Robert John Christian Bundes of Stanley, Falkland Islands, but to no other person.
3. This licence shall be valid for the taking of adult male Sea Lions (*Otaria Byronia*) only: no other seal shall be taken.
4. The killing or capturing of female Sea Lions (*Otaria Byronia*) must be avoided as far as possible.
5. The killing or capturing of pups or young Sea Lions (*Otaria Byronia*) is prohibited.
6. The licensee must ensure that Sea Lions (*Otaria Byronia*) are killed in the most humane way practicable.
7. All killing shall be done on beaches and the intestines and carcases disposed of into the sea.
8. The licensee shall not later than the 1st day of October, 1966 render an accurate account of all sea lions taken and report where such sea lions were found in large numbers or rookeries or where others were observed.
9. This licence is not transferable.
10. 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 9 day of May, 1966.

S. I.
COLONIAL SECRETARY

fa