

Distributions

C.S.

Coatfish

No.

204.

S. of S. no 57

SUBJECT.

1918

2nd October

Previous Paper.

592/17

Asks for available information relative to life history of Notothenia Rossii (South Georgia coatfish).

MINUTES.

Copy to the Magistrate South Georgia and ask him to furnish any information he can on the subject, as asked for.

15. 3. 19

SY.  
Cor

Letter to S. M. South Georgia, 17. 3. 19.

File

Letter from D. M. South Georgia, 16. 6. 19.

Copy of magistrate's letter of 16/6/19 forwarded to Sec. of State under cover of despatch h<sup>o</sup> 119 of 18/9/19.

Subsequent Paper.

SY.  
18. 9. 19

204/19



2nd October, 1918.

BALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 57.

For C.S.O.  
13.3.19  
57.  
LW

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 38 of the 3rd April regarding the supply of fish in the waters of South Georgia, and to transmit to you, for your consideration, a copy of a letter from the Director of the British Museum (Natural History) asking that any available information may be furnished, relating to the life history of the Notothenia rossii.

2. I am consulting the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, as suggested by the Director, with regard to the methods employed in preserving oily fishes of this kind.

I have, etc.,

(Sgd) Walter H. Long.

GOVERNOR

W. D. YOUNG, ESQ., C.M.G.,

&c., &c., &c.

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

CROMWELL ROAD, LONDON, S.W., 7.

10th September, 1918.

B.M.(N.H.)  
1693/18.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 22nd of June last No.28566/18, enclosing copy of a despatch from the Governor of the Falkland Islands, 3rd April, together with a letter, 20th December, 1917, from the Stipendiary Magistrate, South Georgia, on the subject of Notothenia rossii, a fish of economic importance, it would appear that difficulties have been experienced in preserving the fish, owing to its oily nature. In this connection it may be stated that fishes rich in oil, such as Pilchards and Herrings, are pickled (salted) and exported in barrels. Application might be made to the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries for information about details.

Mr C. T. Regan, the Museum Fish expert, points out that it is important for the fishery that a knowledge of the life history of Notothenia rossii should be obtained. He thinks these fishes will probably be found to spawn, about April, on the bottom, in shallow water near the island; that they may spend the winter in somewhat deeper water further out, and become semipelagic in the spring. These points ought to be tested and it is suggested that the Governor of the Falkland Islands should be ~~required~~ requested to furnish the Natural History Museum with any available information on the subject.

I am, etc.,

(Sd. ) C. E. FAGAN.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

COLONIAL OFFICE.

204/19.

204/19.

17th March, 1918.

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to forward to you the attached copy of the Secretary of State's despatch No. 57 of the 2nd October, 1918, (with enclosure), and to request you to be so good as to furnish any information you are able relating to the life history of the *Notothenia Rossii*, as asked for in the enclosure to the despatch.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



for Colonial Secretary.

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

204/19



S.G.No. 92/19

The Magistrate's Office,  
South Georgia,  
16th. June 1919.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter no 204/19 of 17th. March, covering copy of Secretary of State's despatch No 57 of 2nd. October 1918, (with enclosure) on the subject of the NCTCHENIA RCSSII.

2. With regard to the information requested:

A trial has been made regarding the preservation of the -e fishes, in South Georgia, and the Pickling process salted has proved to be the better manner to ensure preservation for any length of time.

3. With regard to the points raised by Mr C.T. Regan These fishes have been found to spawn about the end of April, near the shores, and later, spend the time in deeper water. They are seldom if ever found near the Island after the end of May.

4. There are four distinct classes <sup>of fish</sup> to be found in the harbour, the average length being about 15 inches they are to be found from October up till July, when they disappear, coming back in large shoals in October.

Many thousands are taken every year for food purposes.

If the British Museum authorities would inform me of the best manner in which to preserve fish for trans-

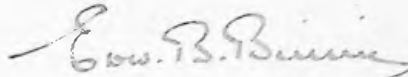
Honourable,  
The Colonial Secretary  
Falkland Islands

transportation to England for scientific purposes  
I would be glad to send samples of each kind in South  
Georgia.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

E. B. Binnie

Stipendiary Magistrate.