

INTERNATIONAL
WHALING STATISTICS
LXX

EDITED BY
THE COMMITTEE FOR WHALING STATISTICS



OSLO 1972

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PRINTED BY
GRØNDAHL & SØN, OSLO

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P R E F A C E

The present publication, International Whaling Statistics No. LXX, embraces the results of the Antarctic whaling during the season 1971-72.

The statistical data in this publication are based on catch reports sent to the Bureau of International Whaling Statistics, Sandefjord.

Oslo, December 1972.

Birger Bergersen.

Einar Vangstein.

INTRODUCTION

At the 23rd meeting of the International Whaling Commission held in Washington in 1971 the quota for the combined catch of fin, sei and Bryde's whales in the 1971/72 Antarctic season was set at 2,300 blue-whale units. (One blue-whale unit = 2 fin whales = 6 sei whales = 6 Bryde's whales).

The national quota allocation was agreed between the three countries as follows:

Japan	1,346	blue-whale units
U.S.S.R.	904	—,—
Norway	50	—,—
<hr/>		
Total	2,300	blue-whale units
<hr/>		

The most important regulations governing the pelagic whaling in the Antarctic were:

1. The open season for the taking of fin, sei and Bryde's whales should be from December 12th to April 7th, both days inclusive.
2. The open season for taking of sperm whales should be 8 months.
3. The open season for taking of minke whales should be 6 months.
4. It was forbidden to take fin whales under 57 feet, sei and Bryde's whales under 40 feet and sperm whales under 38 feet. Further it was forbidden to kill blue whales, humpback whales, right whales, and female whales accompanied by a calf.

In the 1971/72 season 4 Japanese and 3 Soviet expeditions participated in the Antarctic whaling. In addition a Norwegian combined catcher/factory ship operated south of 40° South for some few days only, and caught 3 sei whales in all. This expedition had to give up whaling because of engine trouble.

One of the 4 Japanese expeditions (the floating factory "Jinjo Maru" of about 9,000 gross tons and 4 catchers) caught minke whales only. The catch amounted to 3,000 whales. The whaling operations of this expedition included 85 days (from November 26th 1971 to February 18th 1972).

The table below shows the time spent on catching baleen whales, exclusive of small whales, in respect of each expedition:

Expeditions	Whaling period	Catching days
Japanese:		
Kyokuyo Maru No. 3	December 12th–March 27th	107
Nisshin Maru No. 3	December 12th–March 19th	99
Tonan Maru No. 2	December 13th–March 15th	94
U.S.S.R.:		
Sovietskaya Rossia	December 30th–March 6th,	94
	March 13th–April 7th	
Juri Dolgorukij	December 12th–March 30th	110
Sovietskaya Ukraina	December 12th–March 27th	107
		Average 102

The average catching period was 102 days as compared to 95 and 97 for the 1970/71 and the 1969/70 seasons.

Apart from the Japanese expedition engaged in the catch of minke whales only, the floating factories were the same as in the previous season. They used 84 catchers with an average gross tons and I.H.P. of 817 and 3,399 respectively.

The total catch and production in the Antarctic amounted to:

2,683 fin whales
 3 humpback whales
 5,456 sei whales
 3,021 minke whales
 3,366 sperm whales
 387,064 barrels of whale- and sperm oil.

In addition some of the expeditions hunted sperm whales in the waters north of 40° South Latitude on their voyage to and from Antarctic.

The total catch result for sperm whales was as follows:

	On voyage to the Antarctic N. of 40° S.		In the Antarctic S. of 40° S.		On voyage from the Antarctic N. of 40° S.		Total	
	No. sperm	Oil prod. Brls.	No. sperm	Oil prod. Brls.	No. sperm	Oil prod. Brls.	No. sperm	Oil prod. Brls.
Japan	860	22,341	126	3,865	—	—	986	26,206
U.S.S.R. . . .	1,860	53,200	3,240	129,512	1,219	41,606	6,319	224,318
Norway	30	800	—	—	—	—	30	800
Total	2,750	76,341	3,366	133,377	1,219	41,606	7,335	251,324

The catch of small whales in Antarctic has been insignificant up to the 1971/72 season. Statistics concerning small whales have been published in the uneven numbers of International Whaling Statistics, which almost exclusively include catches made outside the Antarctic (see tables Z²⁻⁹ in Nos. LXV and LXVII).

As stated above the quota for fin, sei and Bryde's whales was set at 2,300 units, but only 2,250.8 units were taken. The Japanese and U.S.S.R. expeditions caught their quotas, but for reasons mentioned above the Norwegian combined catcher/factory ship caught only 0.5 unit of a quota of 50 units. This ship has now been converted to a factory trawler.

The number of blue-whale units taken between each 10 degrees latitude (series) is shown below. In serie D 1,514 units were taken, representing about 67 % of the total catch as compared to 79 % and 67 % in the two previous seasons.

	Number of blue- whale units	%
Serie D, 40-50° S. Lat.	1,514.3	67.3
Serie A, 50-60° S. Lat.	616.3	27.4
Serie B, 60-70° S. Lat.	120.2	5.3
Total	2,250.8	100.0

The following five synoptic tables contain the number of the various species of whales (whales lost excluded) caught in different series, areas and months.

Number of whales caught by series.

	Fin whales	Sei whales	Minke whales	Sperm whales
Serie D	1,251	5,329	1	2,155
Serie A	1,197	105	19	463
Serie B	234	21	2,999	737
Total	2,682*)	5,455	3,019	3,355

*) Excl. 1 whale.

Number of whales caught by areas.

	Fin whales	Sei whales	Minke whales	Sperm whales
Area I 60° W–120° W ...	131	22	3	270
Area II 0° – 60° W ...	271	270	2	1,042
Area III 0° – 70° E ...	1,534	1,171	354	1,114
Area IV 70° E–130° E ...	722	2,608	2,660	363
Area V 130° E–170° W ...	24	1,384	–	566
Total	2,682*)	5,455	3,019	3,355

*) Excl. 1 whale.

Mean length in Eng. feet by areas.

	Fin whales		Sei whales		Minke whales		Sperm whales	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Area I..	64.8	66.4	47.5	51.5	29.0	–	47.5	–
Area II..	64.4	68.1	46.2	48.8	22.0	–	45.0	37.2
Area III..	65.0	67.9	46.3	48.0	27.3	28.3	43.9	34.8
Area IV..	62.8	64.9	46.4	47.8	27.3	28.5	47.5	35.5
Area V..	64.9	66.0	46.5	47.7	–	–	44.5	37.8
Total	64.3	67.0	46.4	47.9	27.3	28.5	45.0	37.5

The catch of blue-whale units by catcher day by area.

Area I	0.21
Area II	0.16
Area III	0.24
Area IV	0.37
Area V	0.28
Total	0.27

Number of whales caught by month.

	Fin whales	Sei whales	Minke whales	Sperm whales	Total
November	—	—	105	216	322
December	153	2,348	1,195	397	4,092
January	604	2,098	1,031	1,095	4,828
February	1,061	540	675	706	2,982
March	861	441	13	706	2,021
April	4	28	—	235	267
Total	2,683	5,455	3,019	3,355	14,512

The production of by-products is shown in the table below. The figures include by-products from sperm whales caught by the Antarctic pelagic expeditions north of 40° South on their voyage to and from Antarctic.

	Whale meal	Whale liver	Liver oil Mill.units Vitamin A	Whale meat	Solubles	Other products
	L.tons	L.tons		L.tons	L.tons	L.tons
Japan	613	—	—	80,929	1,574	496
U.S.S.R. ...	12,784	1,791	1,253,000	23,509	—	610
Norway ..	—	—	—	—	—	105
Total	13,397	1,791	1,253,000	104,438	1,574	1,211

Tables showing catch material and catch results in the seasons 1961/62–1970/71 have been published in International Whaling Statistics No. LXVIII.

In earlier publications of International Whaling Statistics supplementary tables (historical tables) have been published in the Introduction (see tables a–k in publication No. LXVIII). These tables give information on catch and production, catch material, etc. for the past decade of seasons.

Historical tables are not included in this publication, but will be printed for the 1971/72 and 1972/73 seasons, in No. LXXII, which will also cover the Antarctic 1972/73 season. The 1973/74 season will be added in No. LXXIV, and so on until the next ten year period has been covered.

TABLES

Antarctic season 1971/72.

Table 1. — Whaling results for the various countries in the Antarctic in the season 1971/72.

Pelagic whaling.

Countries	Species of whales caught						Oil production. Barrels of 170 kg	Expeditions	
	Fin	Hump-back	Sei	Minke	Sperm	Total		Floating factories	Catchers
Japan	1,252	—	4,320	3,013	126	8,711	159,610	4	41
Norway	—	—	3	—	—	3	36	—	²⁾ 1
U.S.S.R.	1,431	¹⁾ 3	1,133	8	3,240	5,815	227,418	3	47
Total	2,683	¹⁾ 3	5,456	3,021	3,366	14,529	387,064	7	89

¹⁾ Taken under special permit. ²⁾ Combined catcher/floating factory.

Table 2. — Average size of whales caught in the Antarctic in the season 1971/72.

Pelagic whaling.

Number of whales measured.	Company.	Average size.		
		Males.	Females.	Total.
Fin whales.				
Males 1,298 } Females 1,384 } Total 2,682	No. 1	64.5	68.0	66.6
	„ 2	65.6	66.9	66.2
	„ 3	64.5	67.5	66.0
	„ 4	64.7	67.2	65.9
	„ 5	62.5	66.3	64.6
	„ 6	63.4	65.8	64.6
	Average	64.3	67.0	65.7
Sei whales.				
Males 2,925 } Females 2,530 } Total 5,455	No. 1	47.1	49.6	48.3
	„ 2	46.7	48.6	47.7
	„ 3	46.3	49.0	47.7
	„ 4	46.4	47.9	47.1
	„ 5	46.5	47.3	46.9
	„ 6	46.1	47.2	46.6
	„ 7	44.5	49.0	46.0
	Average	46.4	47.9	47.1

Table No. 2 (continued).

Number of whales measured.	Company.	Average size.		
		Males.	Females.	Total.
Minke whales.				
Males 1,088 } Females 1,910 } Total 2,998 ¹⁾	No. 1	27.3	28.5	28.0
Sperm whales.				
Males 3,195 } Females 160 } Total 3,355	No. 1	45.6	37.2	45.2
	„ 2	45.2	35.8	44.8
	„ 3	43.9	—	43.9
	„ 4	45.4	38.8	42.2
	Average	45.0	37.5	44.7

¹⁾ Exclusive of 23 whales.

**Table 3.—Whales caught in the Antarctic in the season 1971/72,
by species, sex and size.**

Pelagic whaling.

Fin-whales.

Engl. feet	Number of		Total	Engl. feet	Number of		Total
	males	females			males	females	
49	—	1	1	72	24	81	105
52	—	1	1	73	10	102	112
53	1	—	1	74	4	58	62
54	2	4	6	75	2	56	58
55	4	2	6	76	—	41	41
56	2	3	5	77	—	17	17
57	69	77	146	78	—	17	17
58	71	45	116	79	—	3	3
59	80	46	126	80	—	1	1
60	57	50	107				
61	78	56	134	Sum	1,298	1,384	2,682
62	82	69	151				
63	75	54	129				
64	103	73	176				
65	113	61	174				
66	120	86	206				
67	106	64	170				
68	89	85	174				
69	104	79	183				
70	60	79	139				
71	42	73	115				

Average size:	{	Males 64.3 feet
	{	Females 67.0 „
	{	Total 65.7 „

Per cent:	{	Males 48.4
	{	Females 51.6

Table No. 3 (continued).

Sei-whales.

Engl. feet	Number of		Total	Engl. feet	Number of		Total
	males	females			males	females	
37	1	3	4	53	4	106	110
38	2	2	4	54	5	62	67
39	4	2	6	55	—	19	19
40	95	76	171	56	—	4	4
41	131	90	221	57	—	5	5
42	130	92	222	58	1	1	2
43	195	150	345				
44	194	146	340	Sum	2,925	2,530	5,455
45	232	161	393				
46	340	153	493				
47	408	199	607				
48	404	201	605	Average size: {	Males 46.4 feet		
49	379	243	622		Females 47.9 »		
50	234	289	523		Total 47.1 »		
51	117	248	365	Per cent: {	Males 53.6		
52	49	278	327		Females 46.4		

Minke-whales.

Engl. feet	Number of		Total	Engl. feet	Number of		Total
	males	females			males	females	
17	—	1	1	31	8	192	200
19	—	1	1	32	—	17	17
20	—	1	1	33	—	1	1
21	1	3	4				
22	5	9	14	Sum	1,088	1,910	¹⁾ 2,998
23	12	22	34				
24	20	35	55				
25	69	56	125				
26	160	111	271	Average size: {	Males 27.3 feet		
27	312	238	550		Females 28.5 „		
28	309	388	697		Total 28.0 „		
29	157	462	619	Per cent: {	Males 36.3		
30	35	373	408		Females 63.7		

¹⁾ Exclusive of 23 whales.

Table No. 3 (continued).

Sperm-whales.

Engl. feet	Number of		Total	Engl. feet	Number of		Total
	males	females			males	females	
30	—	1	1	49	265	—	265
31	—	4	4	50	192	—	192
32	3	4	7	51	144	—	144
33	1	6	7	52	140	—	140
34	4	6	10	53	59	—	59
35	7	9	16	54	23	—	23
36	6	14	20	55	6	—	6
37	14	6	20	56	5	—	5
38	127	48	175	57	2	—	2
39	201	46	247				
40	213	9	222	Sum	3,195	160	3,355
41	250	5	255				
42	248	2	250				
43	218	—	218				
44	221	—	221	Average size: {	Males 45.0 feet		
45	205	—	205		Females 37.5 "		
46	201	—	201		Total 44.7 "		
47	208	—	208	Per cent: {	Males 95.2		
48	232	—	232		Females 4.8		

Table 4.—Average production of whale oil per blue-whale unit in the Antarctic in the season 1971/72.

Pelagic whaling.

Whales are converted into blue-whale units on the following basis:
 1 blue whale unit = 2 fin whales = 2½ humpbacks = 6 sei whales.

Expeditions	Blue-whale units ¹⁾	Oil production	
		Total	Average per blue-whale unit
No. 1	526.0	Barrels ²⁾ 62,559	Barrels ²⁾ 118.9
„ 2	410.0	45,121	110.1
„ 3	348.8	37,800	108.4
„ 4	315.2	33,782	107.2
„ 5	246.0	26,324	107.0
„ 6	410.0	42,153	102.8
„ 7	0.5	36	72.0
Total	2,256.5	247,775	109.8

¹⁾ This refers to whales worked up, incl. blue-whale units of 3 blue whales, 3 humpback whales and 4 sei whales caught under special permit north and south of 40° South. ²⁾ Barrel=170 kg. (Barrel=abt. 1/6 long ton, 1 long ton=1,016 kg.)

Table 5.—Size of pregnant female whales caught in the Antarctic in the season 1971/72.

Pelagic whaling.

Fin whales.

Length	Number of pregnant females	Length	Number of pregnant females	
Engl. feet		Engl. feet		
60	1	72	52	
62	5	73	53	
63	7	74	29	Number of foetuses measured 527
64	17	75	30	of which twin pairs 4
65	22	76	23	Length not stated 2
66	42	77	8	
67	40	78	10	
68	48	79	2	
69	45			
70	43	Total	525	
71	48			

Sei whales.

Length	Number of pregnant females	Length	Number of pregnant females	
Engl. feet		Engl. feet		
42	2	52	185	
43	2	53	67	Number of foetuses measured 991
44	4	54	42	of which twin pairs 8
45	17	55	14	Length not stated 5
46	23	56	3	
47	70	57	2	
48	79	58	1	
49	142			
50	159	Total	988	
51	176			

Minke whales.

Length	Number of pregnant females	Length	Number of pregnant females	
Engl. feet		Engl. feet		
24	1	30	366	Number of foetuses measured 1,430
25	8	31	189	of which twin pairs 9
26	46	32	16	Length not stated 180
27	183	33	1	
28	348			
29	443	Total	1,601	

Table No. 5 (continued).

Sperm whales.

Length	Number of pregnant females	Length	Number of pregnant females	
Engl. feet		Engl. feet		
30	1	37	3	Number of foetuses measured 58 of which twin pairs 2 Length not stated 2
31	1	38	16	
32	2	39	14	
33	3	41	2	
34	3			
35	7	Total	58	
36	6			

Table 6.—Whale foetuses measured in the Antarctic in the season 1971/72, by species and groups of size, in each month.

Pelagic whaling.

Fin whale foetuses.

Groups of size Engl. feet	Dec.	Jan.	Febr.	March	April	Total
0'— 0' 11"	—	1	3	1	—	5
1'— 1' 11"	3	5	—	3	—	11
2'— 2' 11"	5	6	8	6	—	25
3'— 3' 11"	3	7	12	4	—	26
4'— 4' 11"	8	16	13	6	—	43
5'— 5' 11"	2	19	13	8	—	42
6'— 6' 11"	5	23	23	14	—	65
7'— 7' 11"	2	11	26	13	—	52
8'— 8' 11"	1	10	19	19	—	49
9'— 9' 11"	—	12	28	16	—	56
10'—10' 11"	—	2	23	10	1	36
11'—11' 11"	—	3	20	16	—	39
12'—12' 11"	—	1	5	11	—	17
13'—13' 11"	—	—	10	17	—	27
14'—14' 11"	—	—	4	9	—	13
15'—15' 11"	—	—	5	9	—	14
16'—16' 11"	—	—	3	4	—	7
17'—17' 11"	—	—	—	2	—	2
18'—18' 11"	—	—	—	1	—	1
Total	29	116	215	169	1	530
Average size	4' 4"	6' 0"	8' 4"	9' 8"	10' 0"	8' 0"

Table No. 6 (continued).

Sei whale foetuses.

Groups of size Engl. feet	Dec.	Jan.	Febr.	March	April	Total
0'—0' 11"	7	2	—	—	—	9
1'—1' 11"	7	2	—	—	—	9
2'—2' 11"	45	11	1	—	—	57
3'—3' 11"	83	36	4	—	—	123
4'—4' 11"	131	54	6	—	—	191
5'—5' 11"	106	68	18	—	—	192
6'—6' 11"	49	85	19	6	—	159
7'—7' 11"	7	45	16	11	—	79
8'—8' 11"	2	27	15	12	1	57
9'—9' 11"	—	10	16	17	3	46
10'—10' 11"	—	—	6	21	1	28
11'—11' 11"	—	1	2	16	3	22
12'—12' 11"	—	—	1	14	—	15
13'—13' 11"	—	—	—	7	1	8
Total	437	341	104	104	9	995
Average size	4' 5"	5' 9"	7' 3"	10' 0"	10' 6"	5' 10"

Minke whale foetuses.

Groups of size Engl. feet	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Febr.	March	Total
0'—0' 11"	27	473	191	99	—	790
1'—1' 11"	5	288	197	67	—	557
2'—2' 11"	1	52	90	46	—	189
3'—3' 11"	—	10	22	20	—	52
4'—4' 11"	—	—	6	10	—	16
5'—5' 11"	—	—	—	3	—	3
6'—6' 11"	—	—	—	—	—	—
7'—7' 11"	—	—	1	1	—	2
8'—8' 11"	—	—	—	—	—	—
9'—9' 11"	—	—	—	—	—	—
10'—10' 11"	—	—	—	1	—	1
Total	33	823	507	247	—	1,610
Average size	0' 8"	0' 11"	1' 4"	1' 7"	—	1' 2"

Sperm whale foetuses.

Groups of size Engl. feet	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Febr.	March	April	Total
0'—0' 11" ..	8	—	—	—	2	—	10
1'—1' 11" ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
2'—2' 11" ..	—	—	—	—	6	1	7
3'—3' 11" ..	1	—	—	—	5	—	6
4'—4' 11" ..	—	—	—	1	5	—	6
5'—5' 11" ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
6'—6' 11" ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
7'—7' 11" ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8'—8' 11" ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9'—9' 11" ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10'—10' 11" ..	2	—	1	1	2	—	6
11'—11' 11" ..	5	—	1	—	—	1	7
12'—12' 11" ..	6	—	—	—	1	1	8
13'—13' 11" ..	3	—	—	—	—	1	4
14'—14' 11" ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Total	29	—	2	2	22	5	60
Average size ..	7' 3"	—	10' 9"	7' 0"	4' 6"	8' 11"	6' 6"

Table 7.—Whale fetuses measured in the Antarctic in the season 1971/72, by species and sex, in each month.

Pelagic whaling.

	Number of		Sex not determined	Total	Number of males per 100 females
	males	females			
Fin whale fetuses.					
December	14	15	—	29	93
January	50	66	—	116	76
February	112	100	3	215	112
March	90	79	—	169	114
April	—	1	—	1	—
Total	266	261	3	530	102
Sei whale fetuses.					
December	212	222	3	437	95
January	176	163	2	341	108
February	54	50	—	104	108
March	52	52	—	104	100
April	4	5	—	9	80
Total	498	492	5	995	101
Minke whale fetuses.					
November.....	10	21	2	33	48
December	350	381	92	823	92
January	211	246	50	507	86
February	113	98	36	247	115
Total	684	746	180	1,610	92
Sperm whale fetuses.					
November.....	17	11	1	29	
January	—	2	—	2	
February	—	2	—	2	
March	13	8	1	22	
April	4	1	—	5	
Total	34	24	2	60	142

