

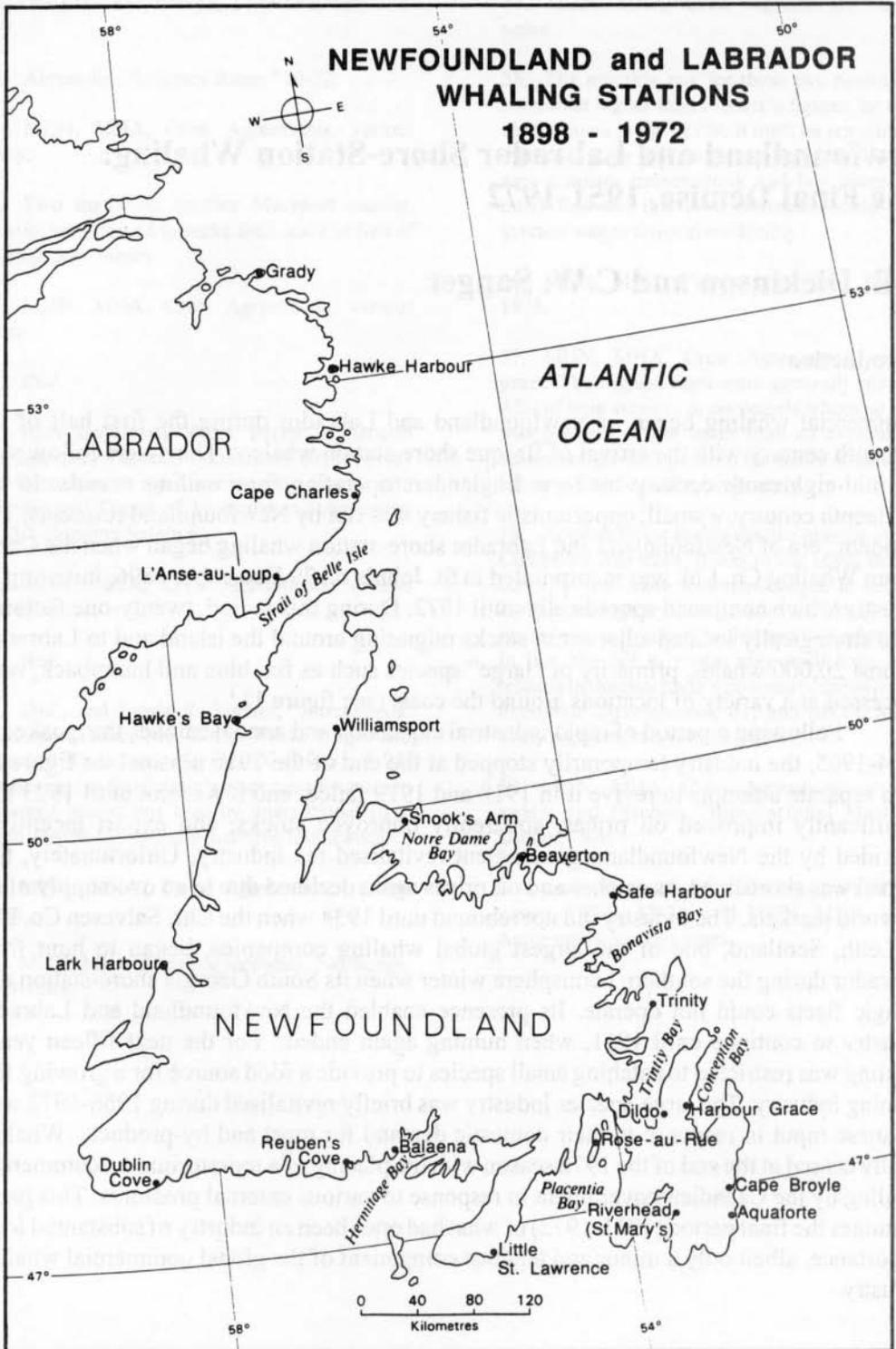
# **Newfoundland and Labrador Shore-Station Whaling: The Final Demise, 1951-1972**

**A.B. Dickinson and C.W. Sanger**

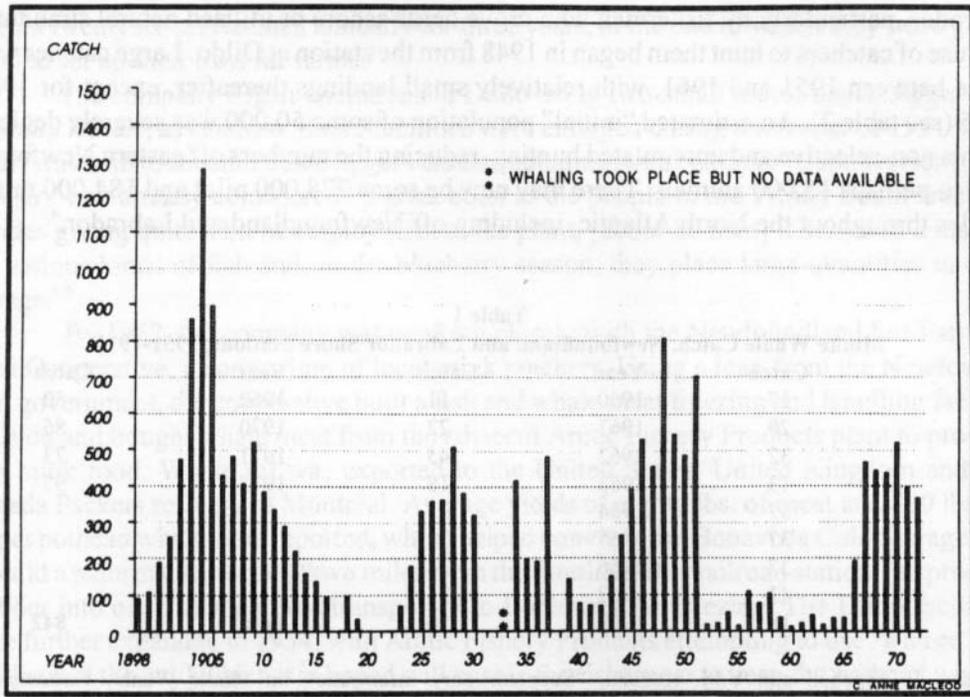
## **Introduction**

Commercial whaling began in Newfoundland and Labrador during the first half of the sixteenth century with the arrival of Basque shore-station whalers. They were followed in the mid-eighteenth century by New Englanders operating from sailing vessels. In the nineteenth century, a small, opportunistic fishery was run by Newfoundland residents. The "modern" era of Newfoundland and Labrador shore-station whaling began when the Cabot Steam Whaling Co. Ltd. was incorporated in St. John's on 29 December 1896, initiating an industry which continued sporadically until 1972. During this period, twenty-one factories were strategically located adjacent to stocks migrating around the island and to Labrador. Almost 20,000 whales, primarily of "large" species such as fin, blue and humpback, were processed at a variety of locations around the coast (see figure 1).<sup>1</sup>

Following a period of rapid industrial expansion and annual catches that peaked in 1904-1905, the industry temporarily stopped at the end of the 1916 season (see figure 2). Two separate attempts to revive it in 1918 and 1919 failed, and it was not until 1923 that significantly improved oil prices, apparently improved stocks, and export incentives provided by the Newfoundland government revitalised the industry. Unfortunately, this revival was short-lived, as catches and oil prices again declined due to an oversupply of oil on world markets. The industry did not rebound until 1934 when the Chr. Salvesen Co. Ltd. of Leith, Scotland, one of the largest global whaling companies, began to hunt from Labrador during the southern hemisphere winter when its South Georgia shore-station and pelagic fleets could not operate. Its presence enabled the Newfoundland and Labrador industry to continue until 1951, when hunting again ended.<sup>2</sup> For the next fifteen years, whaling was restricted to catching small species to provide a food source for a growing fur-farming industry. The large-species industry was briefly revitalised during 1966-1972 with Japanese input in response to their domestic demand for meat and by-products. Whaling finally ceased at the end of the 1972 season with the placing of a moratorium on commercial whaling by the Canadian government in response to various external pressures. This paper examines the final period (1951-1972) of what had once been an industry of substantial local importance, albeit only a minor and tenuous component of the global commercial whaling industry.



Source: Courtesy of the authors.



Sources: IWC, Nfld. Annual Fisheries Reports, and Newspapers (various).

Figure 2: Newfoundland and Labrador Whale Catches, 1898-1972.

Sources: IWS, Nfld. Annual Fisheries Reports, and Newspapers (various).

### The "Small-Whale" Industry

The two most commonly killed "small" whales were the minke (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*) and the long-finned pilot (*Globicephala melaena*), usually called the pothead in Newfoundland and Labrador. The minke is the smallest rorqual or baleen whale in Canadian waters and is widely distributed on the continental shelf either alone or in small groups, and often in close association with fin whales. They were primarily hunted from Newfoundland stations during 1951-1972 (see table 1). Catching occurred from early May to early August (1969-1971: sixty in May, 105 in June, forty-two in July, two in August) when the animals were deep in bays in pursuit of their primary food, capelin (*Mallotus villosus*).<sup>3</sup> Minke whales segregate by age and sex more than other species, with females remaining closer inshore than males. Consequently, the Newfoundland industry primarily captured females (often pregnant) and juvenile males (1971: 79.2% female, 20.8% male). There was no quota or minimum size limit.

Pothead whales are widely distributed in the North Atlantic and arrive off Newfoundland and Labrador during mid-June and remain until mid-November. Their main wintering ground may be in the North Atlantic Current, east of the Grand Banks. Migration into coastal waters coincides with the arrival of their main food, the short-finned squid (*Illex illecebrosus*). Potheads had long been exploited opportunistically in Newfoundland and

Labrador, particularly by fishermen who drove herds ashore or utilised natural strandings. The use of catchers to hunt them began in 1948 from the station at Dildo. Large catches were made between 1951 and 1961, with relatively small landings thereafter, except for 1964-1965 (see table 2). An estimated "initial" population of some 50,000 was severely depleted by this non-selective and unregulated hunting, reducing the numbers off eastern Newfoundland to perhaps 15,000 animals. There may now be some 778,000 pilot and 184,000 minke whales throughout the North Atlantic, including off Newfoundland and Labrador.<sup>4</sup>

**Table 1**  
**Minke Whale Catch, Newfoundland and Labrador Shore Stations, 1951-1972**

Year	Catch	Year	Catch	Year	Catch
1951	17	1960	11	1969	50
1952	20	1961	22	1970	86
1953	32	1962	45	1971	73
1954	13	1963	18	1972	97
1955	57	1964	35		
1956	37	1965	29		
1957	37	1966	28		
1958	42	1967	25		
1959	18	1968	50	<b>Total</b>	842

Sources: E. Mitchell and V.M. Kozicki, "Supplementary Information on Minke Whale, *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*, from the Newfoundland Fishery," *Journal of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada* XXXII (1975), 985-994; and E. Mitchell, "Review of Biology and Fisheries for Small Cetaceans," *Journal of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada*, XXXII, No. 7 (1975), 889-983; and *International Whaling Statistics* (Oslo, 1951-1972).

**Table 2**  
**Pilot Whale Catch, Newfoundland and Labrador, 1951-1971**

Year	Catch	Year	Catch	Year	Catch
1951	3102	1959	1725	1967	739
1952	3155	1960	1957	1968	311
1953	3584	1961	6262	1969	123
1954	2298	1962	150	1970	155
1955	6612	1963	221	1971	4
1956	9794	1964	2849		
1957	7831	1965	1520		
1958	789	1966	887	<b>Total</b>	54168

Source: *International Whaling Statistics*, 1951-1971.

### **Arctic Fishery Products Co. Ltd./Newfoundland Fur Farmers Feed Cooperative**

The first attempt to exploit local minke and pothead stocks on an organized commercial basis began in 1946 following the formation of Arctic Fishery Products Co. Ltd. with an operating capital of \$10,000. The company intended primarily to produce meat and meat by-products to help ease an animal food shortage on Canadian mink and fox farms. This included Newfoundland, where the Commission of Government that same year introduced a scheme

to train twenty ex-servicemen annually for three years, at the end of which they were given \$500 to set up their own fur farms.'

The company began operations at Dildo using two small motor boats, *Jigger* and *Dorothy Winter*, as catchers. Shore facilities were enlarged during the winter of 1951 and a wharf was built to accommodate larger vessels, including *Arctic Skipper* (Capt. Iversen). The industry was already considered "a great boon to the people in the Trinity South area, for besides giving quite a bit of employment at the plant, [about 30 men] it serves as a market for various kinds of fish and, in the blueberry season, they place large quantities in cold storage."<sup>6</sup>

By 1952, the company was working closely with the Newfoundland Fur Farmers Feed Cooperative, a consortium of local mink ranchers. Using a loan from the Newfoundland government, the cooperative built a fish and whale meat freezing and handling facility at Dildo and bought whale meat from the adjacent Arctic Fishery Products plant to process into mink food. Whale oil was exported to the United States, United Kingdom and the Canada Packers refinery in Montréal. Average yields of eighty lbs. of meat and 530 lbs. of fat per pothead whale were reported, which helped convince the Bonavista Cold Storage Co. to build a plant at Charleston, "two miles from the Southern Bay railroad station," to process blubber into oil. The meat was transported to Bonavista for freezing. The Dildo facilities were further expanded in 1954, with Arctic Fishery Products attempting to use "a large 'bar net' [across the bay] which it is hoped will enable the fishermen to keep the pothead whales alive and supply the plant with meat and fat as the plant can process same." Electrocuting of pothead whales contained within large "booms" was also proposed.

A scarcity of potheads in Trinity Bay during that same year was attributed to their having "migrated far out into the Atlantic, and finding bait plentiful there, were reluctant to return to the bays." Arctic Fishery Products thus expanded its hunting into Bonavista Bay, where "Capt. Iversen was fortunate in landing a large school of pothead whales in Southern Bay." This apparent abundance was an incentive for mainland mink breeders to transfer their operations to Newfoundland.'

The importance of pothead and minke whale meat to the growing mink industry was further emphasised when the Newfoundland government made a commitment in April 1955 to experiment with "small whaling operations in deep waters...as a means of locating a permanent food supply for the mink ranchers." Some concern was voiced, however, that increased pothead whaling to supply the demands of an expanding fur-farming industry could lead to over-exploitation of the whale stocks. Many also considered it inappropriate for the provincial government to subsidise an industry heavily dependent on volatile fur markets and subject to competition from synthetic substitutes. Others expressed concern that an expanded whaling industry might cause health risks for nearby communities, with the dumping of carcasses and offal at sea resulting in "drinking wells near the sea [being] filled with maggots, and thus unfit for human use." Nonetheless, Newfoundland Premier Joseph R. Smallwood continued to promote his government's case, which included a commitment to bring to the island more mainland ranchers "selected from a list of literally hundreds of applications which he now has on file." The industry did not live up to Smallwood's high expectations. In 1957, for example, three of the five ranches operating at New Harbour, Trinity Bay, closed because of high operating costs caused by the inability of the cooperative at South Dildo to deliver enough low-priced feed.<sup>9</sup> This may have been due to a localised scarcity of pothead whales or stock depletion brought about by over-exploitation.<sup>10</sup> To offset

the high cost of commercially prepared food, some ranchers began to mix their own. One particular recipe called for "five percent pothead meat, five percent minke whale meat, ten percent horsemeat, ten percent chicken by-product, two percent whale liver, five percent beef liver, two percent brewers yeast, thirty percent fish, [and] twenty one percent cereal." There also appears to have been an increased emphasis on oil production. A 4000-gallon tank was built at Dildo in 1957 to take the place of several smaller tanks, and a conveyor belt was also constructed to speed up the movement of blubber, previously hand-carried in buckets, from the flensing plant to the digesters.<sup>12</sup>

The Newfoundland Biological Station, operated by the government of Canada, also warned of the possible dangers of over-developing the mink industry, arguing that its ultimate dependence on squid, the primary food of pothead whales, would make it difficult to develop a stable industry because of annual fluctuations in squid. Nevertheless, the federal government continued to renew the hunting licence issued to the "Provincial Department of Fisheries on behalf of the Newfoundland Fur Farmers Feed Cooperative." Despite a "reduced catch" in 1957, which was attributed to a decreased availability of squid, but more likely was due to over-hunting, the meat requirements of local mink ranchers were satisfied, with some left for export. Arctic Fishery Products and the cooperative processed 1,000,000 lbs. of meat from eighteen minke whales and 309,000 lbs. from 546 pothead whales in 1959, enough to feed the 60,000 mink being raised on the sixty local ranches."

Newfoundland continued to be promoted locally as a prime site for mink breeding, due both to the availability of cheap food and the absence of disease. A general air of optimism and prosperity prevailed, particularly after Arctic Fishery Products took over the whale hunt from the Newfoundland Fur Farmers Feed Cooperative in the spring of 1959, built a new factory at Southern Harbour and made further improvements at Dildo. Its vessels, *Arctic Skipper* and *Erikson*, hunted in Trinity Bay, while *Arctic Venture* was deployed to Bonavista Bay. By 1962, however, the scarcity of pothead whales renewed fears that mink food supplies could not be guaranteed. The whaling industry was now "virtually non-existent," with the following year being the "worst on record." Mink farming, in turn, declined to about twenty ranches in 1964, the operators now "keeping their fingers crossed and hoping that the supply of minke whales continue to offset the scarcity of the potheads," especially since it was now necessary to import whale meat for re-sale at twelve cents per pound, compared to four to six cents per pound for the local catch. A further blow to the mink farming industry came in 1965 when over 400 mink valued at \$20-\$25 apiece were killed by a virus. By 1967 mink breeders were faced with an additional problem: food costs were rising and small producers were flooding the world market and lowering skin prices."

The financial difficulties being experienced by both the whaling and mink farming industries were exemplified by the decision of Arctic Fishery Products to put *Arctic Skipper* up for sale in early 1968, and the following year to begin using the Dildo factory to process seal skins for the Carino Co. Ltd. of Halifax, a subsidiary of the Norwegian buyers G.C. Reiber of Bergen. Some mink farming continued on a reduced scale, with 1400 animals imported in 1970 to ranches near Dildo. The number of pothead whales killed by catchers from Dildo (324, 1948-1971) was small compared to those caught during hunts in several adjacent communities, where animals were driven into shallow waters by motor boats and lanced to death. Carcasses were flensed on the beach, and the blubber and meat taken to Dildo for processing for the mink farms and for human consumption as "arctic steak." The accumulation of carcasses on the beaches, however, "did not encourage visitors to linger in

the strong atmosphere!" The blubber was rendered locally and sold to oil dealers. Although there was some local debate about the need to continue this form of hunt, construction of the factory increased the processing capability and thus the scale of the hunt, which now employed whaling vessels to herd the animals into the shallows. Most of the 54,168 pothead whales killed in Newfoundland between 1951 and 1971 were taken following this inshore drive. The especially large catches of the mid-1950s caused local concerns about the survival of the stock since there were no limits on catch sizes. Relatively small landings thereafter, except for 4369 in 1964-1965, suggest that such concerns were warranted. Some 842 minke whales were also killed during 1951-1972 by the company's small catchers *Arctic Skipper* (1951-1967), *Arctic Venture* (1955-1957?), *Matthew II* (1952-1959), *Eriksen* (1960-?) and *Shirley and Gladys* (1970-1972). *Matthew II* was an "experimental off-shore fishing boat...designed for Danish seining and other modern fishing methods," owned and operated by the Newfoundland government but turned over to Arctic Fishery Products to help with whaling. *Eriksen* was built at Dildo in 1960 under a provincial government assistance scheme.<sup>15</sup>

**The "Large-Whale" Industry**

The contemporary Newfoundland and Labrador whaling industry was dominated by the "small whale" catch. Only twenty-six "large" whales were taken by *Arctic Skipper* and *Arctic Venture* for Arctic Fishery Products between 1951 and 1965 (table 3). This was due in part to limited processing facilities but also because the seasonal occurrence of large numbers of potheads made "pursuit of the larger species of whale unnecessary, and these boats are now being used to assist the smaller boats in the game of beaching the potheads."<sup>16</sup> A killer whale that ran aground at Chapel Arm in June 1955 was also processed, although another school of twenty-five trapped by the pack ice could not be used since they were too large and positioned on the beach in a manner which prevented flensing.<sup>17</sup>

Table 3  
Large Whale Catch, Dildo, 1951-1965

Year	Fin	Sperm	Hump	Sei	Total
1951			2		2
1952	1		1		2
1953	1				1
1955	2				2
1957	1				1
1958	3		1		4
1960	1	1			2
1961				1	1
1964	1			1	2
1965	6		1	2	9

Source: *International Whaling Statistics*, 1951-1965.

**The Hawke Harbour Whaling Co. Ltd., 1956-1959**

The Hawke Harbour station was closed in October 1951 by Chr. Salvesen Co. Ltd. at the end of its whaling operations in Newfoundland and Labrador. It was reopened in 1956 by the

Hawke Harbour Whaling Co. Ltd., largely owned by Capt. Johann Borgen, who operated the station with the ex-Salvesen/Polar Whaling Co. Ltd. catchers *Sposa* (until 1958) and *Southern Foam* until 12 September 1959, when the station burned down. The company caught 150 whales (table 4) during its short-lived existence. Although it was reported that it had large export and domestic orders for meat from mink farmers, the oil markets were poor. As a result, an attempt to form a new enterprise, the Newfoundland American Whaling Production Company, to continue operations from the station did not materialize for lack of funding. *Southern Foam* was damaged in late 1959 by a submerged rock, but was repaired and tied up in Conception Harbour with *Sposa.18*

**Table 4**  
Hawke Harbour Whaling Co. Ltd., Catch and Oil Production, 1956-1959

Year	Fin	Hump	Sei	Sperm	Total	Whale oil (bris)	Sperm oil (bris)
1956	7		2	13	22	269	598
1957	23		5	14	42	960	760
1958	55	4		7	66	1246	285
1959	14		5	1	20	640	82

*Note:* Two of the fin whales caught in 1959 were sold to the Fur Farmers Feed Cooperative Society Ltd. of Trinity Bay, which in turn sold the whaling company a sei whale. The Co-op produced twenty-three and eight barrels of whale oil in 1959 and 1960, respectively, and nineteen barrels of sperm oil in 1960. Twenty-nine tons of meat were also produced.

*Source:* *International Whaling Statistics*, 1956-1959.

### **The British Columbia Connection, 1955-1967**

The virtual ending of large-species whaling in Newfoundland between 1951 and 1956 resulted in further Newfoundland involvement in the British Columbia industry, as had been the case before World War I. Experienced personnel moved to the province to work at the Coal Harbour factory operated by the Western Whaling Co. Ltd. for British Columbia Packers Ltd., and were selected for their work ethic and seamanship. Recruitment began in 1955, and was largely done through Capt. Arne Borgen and Wallace Anstey, then whaling for BC Packers. Wages were excellent and the scheme was supported by the federal and provincial governments.<sup>19</sup>

Despite the availability of steady seasonal employment, the Newfoundland whalers voted as members of the United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union (UFAWU) not to participate in the 1959 BC hunt unless a new contract was signed with their employer to replace the 1956 agreement under which they were operating. Specific demands included increased monthly salaries (from \$265 to \$575 for engineers, \$265 to \$510 for cooks, and \$250 to \$490 for firemen and deckhands), a change in bonus payments from a system based on rank to a flat payment of \$2 per whale, and provision of return rather than one-way travel. The settlement reached included a monthly salary increase of \$20 for 1959 and \$15 for 1960. The presence of Newfoundlanders was not welcomed by the local UFAWU branch on the grounds that the large number of unemployed BC seamen should receive hiring preference.<sup>20</sup>

Nonetheless, Newfoundland whalers continued to be valued employees and in 1959 each earned an average of \$3800.<sup>21</sup> The company stopped whaling after the 1960 season, and the Newfoundlanders remained at home. A contingent was recruited in 1962 to work for the Western Canada Whaling Co. Ltd., a consortium formed that year between BC Packers and the Japanese whaling company Taiyo Gyogyo KK to operate Coal Harbour to produce frozen whale meat for the Japanese market. Japanese companies were now making sizeable investments in global whaling due to a growing domestic demand for whale meat.<sup>22</sup> But frozen whale meat could not be exported from Vancouver to Japan for domestic consumption "due to currency controls" and was thus sold more cheaply to US mink ranchers. As a result, the disgruntled Newfoundlanders received only \$2000 and had to pay \$500 towards their travel costs, with the employer paying only \$75! This situation was redressed for the 1964 and subsequent seasons, and Newfoundlanders continued to participate in the west coast whaling industry until it closed in 1967.<sup>23</sup>

### The Mid-1960s: The Last Revival

The decline of the British Columbia industry coincided with a resurgence of Newfoundland whaling. The BC Packers' vessel, *Westwhale 4*, was removed from service as part of fleet modernisation, refitted as a purse seiner and sent to Harbour Breton as a herring catcher. A sister ship, *Westwhale 8*, was bought by Arctic Fishery Products and sailed to Dildo by Capt. Borgen and a crew of expatriate Newfoundlanders. The vessel worked there until Canadian whaling ended after the close of the 1972 season.<sup>24</sup>

Operations from Dildo received a boost in 1966 (table 5) when the East Coast Whaling Co. Ltd. began exploratory hunting. Its catcher, *Kyo Maru #17*, worked from mid-September to mid-November, but only within 140 miles of Dildo due to the need to freeze whale meat quickly for human consumption in Japan. The vessel was also chartered by the government of Canada to assess the size and distribution of local whale stocks?

Table 5  
Large Whale Catch, Dildo, 1966-1972

Year	Fin	Sperm	Hump	Sei	Total
1966	164	2			166
1967	174			4	178
1968	219			4	223
1969	188	5	1	3	197
1970	181	2	9	1	193
1971	117		10		127
1972	115	2			117
Total	1178	12	16	25	1231

Source: *International Whaling Statistics*, 1966-1972.

Some hunting of "small" whales continued using *R.D. Evans* (1967-1970) and *Happy Adventure* (1969-1972). The meat was exported to the US for animal food until imports were banned from December 1970 after whales were placed on the endangered species list by the Department of the Interior. Although the Japanese were primarily interested in whale meat for their domestic market, quality control appears to have been a

problem in Newfoundland. Regardless, those blubber and ventral groove cuts that were considered a delicacy did find a market there.<sup>26</sup>

Fishery Products Ltd. and Taiyo Gyogyo KK also entered into a partnership in October 1966 as the Atlantic Whaling Co. Ltd. and re-opened the station at Williamsport in 1967. Thirteen of the eighty shore employees were Japanese, including the station manager. Its catcher, *Fumi Maru #15*, carried a fourteen-man crew, seven of whom were Newfoundlanders. They pursued catch quotas imposed by the federal government of 267 fin whales in 1969, 225 fin and three humpbacks in 1970 and 200 fin and ten humpbacks in 1971. Whaling ended at Williamsport when the station burned down after the 1972 season (table 6). Construction of a new factory began at a more accessible site near St. Anthony, but it was not completed before the imposition of a whaling moratorium.<sup>27</sup> In addition to the shore-station operations at Dildo and Williamsport, a small Norwegian pelagic fishery also took 983 small whales from Labrador waters during 1969-1972 (table 7).

**Table 6**  
**Catch Species Composition, Atlantic Whaling Co. Ltd., Williamsport, 1967-1972**

Year	Fin	Hump	Sei	Total
1967	262		3	265
1968	219			219
1969	188	4		192
1970	227	5		232
1971	184	6		190
1972	150		1	151
Total	1230	15	4	1249

Source: *International Whaling Statistics, 1967-1972.*

**Table 7**  
**Norwegian Small Whale Catch Off Labrador, 1969-1972**

Year	Minke	Bottlenose	Pilot
1969	9	237	
1970	2	436	
1971	11	151	
1972	120		17
Total	142	824	17

Source: T. Christensen, "Preliminary Report on the Norwegian fishery for Small Whales: Expansion of Norwegian Whaling to Arctic and Northwest Atlantic Waters and Norwegian Investigation of the Biology of Small Whales," *Journal of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada*, XXXII, No. 7 (1975), 1083-1094.

## Management Issues

Although the Newfoundland and Labrador shore-station whaling industry operated under various controls introduced in Acts of 1902 and 1927, these did not specify the need for catch quotas to address the issue of potential over-exploitation.<sup>28</sup> Since no scientific information was available on stock migrations, sizes or maximum sustainable yields, establishment of meaningful station or vessel quotas was impossible in any case.

Canada took an important step toward conserving whale stocks when it signed the International Whaling Convention of 1946 and became a member of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in 1949. Membership required that minimum length limits and catch quotas be introduced as conservation measures. The beginning of fin whaling for the first time at Blandford, Nova Scotia, in 1964 by the Karlsen Shipping Co., and the resumption of the commercial catching of large whales in Newfoundland waters during 1966, provided the opportunity for the Fisheries Research Board of Canada (FRB) to establish biological stock parameters through a combination of tagging, census cruises, catch analysis, and fluke pattern sightings. Information gained was used to establish national and station quotas for fin whales.<sup>29</sup>

Fin whales formed the basis of the contemporary industry, and an annual maximum sustainable yield of 400-500 for the Newfoundland and Labrador stock was proposed. The catch reduction from 1951 (483) to 1966 (164) suggests that this was too high. The smaller overall length of individual whales, an increased number of undersized whales, the need for vessels to hunt further away from Dildo and Williamsport, and reduced catches per unit from 1964 all supported this supposition. Catch quotas were introduced in 1967 and lowered annually until the industry ended in 1972. The total quota for all three operating stations (Blandford, Dildo and Williamsport) was attained only in 1968. The quota of 360 fin whales for 1972 was considered "close to the point where a profit could no longer be made." Quotas were not placed on sei, sperm, minke and pothead whales. The hunting of the other large oil-yielding species, the blues and humpbacks, ended after the 1951 and 1955 seasons, respectively. Forty-six humpbacks were taken under scientific permits from Newfoundland and Labrador stations (and seven from Blandford) during 1969-1971.<sup>30</sup> Fin and humpback whales are now designated "rare" in Newfoundland and Labrador waters by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada.<sup>31</sup>

## Conclusion

Twentieth-century shore-station whaling in Newfoundland and Labrador began with the establishment of the first whaling company in 1896 and the catching of the first whale in 1898. It was a highly speculative, periodic activity with well defined peaks in approximately 1903-1905, 1925-1930, 1945-1951 and 1966-1972.

The industry ended in 1972 following the ban on global whaling recommended by the UN Conference on the Human Environment. On 21 December the Canadian Minister of Fisheries declared a moratorium on commercial hunting. This followed Canada's stand as one of four countries which abstained from voting at the 24th Annual Meeting of the IWC in June 1972 against a US proposal for a ten-year moratorium on all whale hunting. Canada took the view that the resolution was too broad, since some species had been shown to be in no danger of commercial extinction. But the potential for continuation of the Newfoundland industry was destroyed in July 1972 when the US prohibited the importation of whale products under its Marine Mammals Protection Act. That Newfoundland and Labrador whaling by this time was a minor component of the global industry is shown by a comparative examination of the 1971 catch. The global fin whale catch totalled 4459, of which 2890 (64.8%) were taken in the 1970-1971 pelagic Antarctic season. The 301 taken from Dildo and Williamsport comprised only 6.7% of the global catch and 10.4% of those taken outside the Antarctic. With regard to the global catch of all species, Newfoundland and

Labrador had fallen to thirteenth on the list of twenty whaling areas used in a compilation of the statistical reports of the IWC. Similarly, 1972 oil production (3773 barrels, Dildo; 5124 barrels, Williamsport) accounted for only ten percent of the global production (88,825 barrels) of baleen whale oil. Although some local economies were affected, the closure of the Newfoundland and Labrador industry was of little global significance.<sup>32</sup>

Canada announced its withdrawal from the IWC in 1981 and introduced cetacean protection regulations under the Fisheries Act in July 1989. This Act requires anyone other than indigenous peoples to obtain a licence from the federal Minister of Fisheries to hunt whales. Since these are highly unlikely to be given, another episode in the history of the utilization of maritime resources in Newfoundland and Labrador was terminated. That there is still interest in commercial whaling is shown by the Norwegian government's announcement of a 1998 minke whale quota of 671 for the northeast and central Atlantic minke stocks, compared to 580 for the 1997 season. Thirty-six vessels were allowed to hunt, compared to thirty-two in 1997. Further, in October 1997 the Japanese Institute of Cetacean Research released 298 tons of minke whale meat (156 tons for direct canning, 111 tons for direct sale as fresh frozen meat, and thirty-one tons for a school lunch program) taken in its 1997 Northwest Pacific Ocean "research" program. The meat fetched a wholesale price of US \$27 per kilogram. The North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission, of which Canada is an observer nation, also agreed to an exchange of international observers for whaling and sealing activities beginning in 1998.<sup>33</sup> Although it is highly unlikely, this action leaves open the slight possibility that the hunting of small-whale species may someday resume off Newfoundland and Labrador.

## NOTES

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1. Commercial whaling in Newfoundland and Labrador has been studied extensively by the authors. See, for example, "Modern Shore-Based Whaling in Newfoundland and Labrador: Expansion and Consolidation, 1898-1902," *International Journal of Maritime History*, II, No. 1 (1990), 83-116; "Expansion of Regulated Modern Shore-Station Whaling in Newfoundland and Labrador, 1902-1903," *The Northern Mariner/Le Marin du nord*, I, No. 2 (1991), 1-22; "A Newfoundland Floating Factory Whaling Expedition," *Polar Record*, XXVII (1991), 125-128; "Adolph Nielson: Norwegian Influence on Newfoundland Fisheries in the Late-19-Early 20 Century," *Newfoundland Quarterly*, XXVII, No. 2 (1992), 25-35; "Modern Shore-Station Whaling in Newfoundland and Labrador: The Peak Season, 1904," *International*

*Journal of Maritime History*, V, No. 1 (1993), 127-154; "The Origin and Development of North American Modern Shore-Station Whaling: Newfoundland and the Norwegians, 1898-1916," in B. L. Basberg, J.E. Ringstad and E. Wexelsen (eds.), *Whaling and History: Perspectives on the Evolution of the Industry* (Sandefjord, 1993), 91-100; "Commercial Whaling in Newfoundland and Labrador," *Encyclopedia of Newfoundland and Labrador* (St. John's, 1994), V, 546-551; "Renewal of Newfoundland and Labrador Shore-Station Whaling, 1918-1936," *International Journal of Maritime History*, VII, No. 1 (1995), 83-103; and "The Construction and Display of the First Full-Scale Model of a Blue Whale: The Newfoundland Connection," *Acadiensis*, XXVII, No. 1 (1997), 67-84.

2. A.B. Dickinson and C.W. Sanger, "Newfoundland and Labrador Shore-Station Whaling: The Third Major Phase, 1936-1951," *International Journal of Maritime History*, XI, No. 1 (1999), forthcoming.

3. *International Whaling Statistics* (Oslo, 1951-1972).

4. M.C. Mercer, "Modified Leslie-DeLury Population Models of the Long-Finned Pilot Whale (*Globicephala melaena*) and Annual Production Records of the Short-Finned Squid (*Illex illecebrosus*) Based upon Their Interaction at Newfoundland," *Journal of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada*, XXXII, No. 7 (1975), 1145-1154; E. Mitchell, "Review of Biology and Fisheries for Small Cetaceans," *Journal of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada*, XXXII, No. 7 (1975), 889-983; W. Templeman, "Marine Resources of Newfoundland," *Bulletin of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada*, XIV (1966), 83-115; D.E. Sergeant, "The Biology of the Pilot or Pothead Whale, *Globicephala melaena* (Traill) in Newfoundland Waters," *Bulletin of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada*, X (1962), 132; and International Network for Whaling Research, *INWR Digest*, XIII (1997), 1-4.

5. *Evening Herald* (St. John's), 11 May 1946; 27 August 1947; and 22 January 1949. Mr. J.C. Ellis and associates formed the company.

6. *Evening Telegram* (St. John's), 7 June 1946. Operations were managed by a Norwegian, Ivor Iversen, who "arrived here [St. John's] in an open motor boat from North Sydney. The trip was made in 60 hours." See also *ibid.*, 21 February 1957, which identifies Iversen and Victor Clouston as directors, with Eric Martin as plant manager. The harpoon gun used was imported from Norway and on one occasion it killed two whales with one shot, going clear through the first. *Ibid.*, 27 August 1947 and 30 March 1948. See also *Ibid.*, 26 May and 15 December 1951; and 11 December 1953;

7. *Ibid.*, 30 May and 20 September 1952; 18 November and 14 December 1953; 21 August and 22 November 1954; 26 April, 13 July and 10 November 1957.

8. *Ibid.*, 8 and 25 October 1954; and 6 April 1955.

9. *Ibid.*, 20 April, 2 May, 27 July and 5 August 1955; and 19 March and 10 September 1957.

10. Although the pothead catch in Trinity Bay was considered "satisfactory," with 150,000 lbs. of meat being exported to Illinois (*ibid.*, 6 August 1957), the killing of "10,000" animals in July-August 1956 (*ibid.*, 10 August 1957) must have had a negative effect on the stock, thus resulting in the "shortage" of potheads later reported (*ibid.*, 29 September 1958).

11. *Ibid.*, 8 January 1958 and 2 September 1963. The fish was purchased from the adjacent O'Brien Bros. fish plant.

12. *Ibid.*, 10 May, 11 June and 5 August 1957.

13. *Ibid.*, 31 May and 9 and 10 September 1957; and 2 January 1958. Some fishermen on the west coast of Newfoundland also participated in the industry, using the slipway of the abandoned whaling factory at Lark Harbour for hauling out and flensing carcasses. *Ibid.*, 4 August 1960.

14. *Ibid.*, 21 September and 4 October 1960; 23 August 1962; 16 October and 27 November 1963; 4 February and 24 July 1964; 5 August 1965; and 29 June 1967. Only 156,000 lbs. of whale meat were produced locally in 1963; 500,000 lbs. was considered necessary to sustain the mink industry.

15. *Ibid.*, 12 August 1930; 20 and 21 July 1939; 2 August 1947; 17 September and 12 November 1955; 13 June 1960; 8 March and 12 December 1968; and 10 April 1970; and *International Whaling Statistics*, various years.

16. *Evening Telegram*, 23 September 1950. "Considerable difficulty" was experienced hauling a [fin?] whale up the slip in 1952. *Ibid.*, 28 June and 4 October 1952.

17. *Ibid.*, 17 June 1955 and 9 May 1957.

18. *Ibid.*, 8 April 1952; 1 June 1957; 1, 21 and 23 September and 5 October 1959; 6 October 1960; and 1 December 1961; and *International Whaling Statistics*, various years.

19. C.W. Sanger and A.B. Dickinson, "Newfoundland Involvement in Twentieth Century Shore Station Whaling in British Columbia," *Journal of Newfoundland Studies*, VII (1991), 97-121; Dickinson and Sanger, "Newfoundland and Labrador Shore-Station Whaling: The Third Major Phase;" and *Evening Telegram*, 4 April 1962. According to the *Evening Telegram*, 22 March and 10 October 1957, at least \$3000 could be earned for six months' work. Many of the first to go that year were from Grand Bank and Fortune, with more "signing up than were required."

20. *Evening Telegram*, 30 January and 4 March 1959; and R.L. Webb, *On The Northwest: Commercial Whaling in the Pacific Northwest, 1790-1967* (Vancouver, 1988), 275-276. Newfoundlanders working for the Western Whal-

ing Co. at Coal Harbour were also instrumental in causing the UFAWU to reject a proposal from the company to hunt in 1959 under the 1958 contract.

21. A record 869 whales were processed; *Evening Telegram*, 9 August 1962. Twelve Newfoundlanders were employed, all from Grand Bank. *Ibid.*, 2 October 1959.

22. *Ibid.*, 27 July and 18 December 1961; 16 April, 27 September and 17 October 1962; and J.N. Tønnessen and A.O. Johnson, *The History of Modern Whaling* (Berkeley, 1982), 582.

23. The company relented in 1963, subsequently paying the one-way air fare to Vancouver. *Evening Telegram*, 3 and 25 April 1963; 8 February 1965; 29 March 1966; and 13 December 1967. The Newfoundland contingent also received five-percent wage and five-percent bonus increases for the 1965 season, resulting in earnings of \$3000 to \$5000 each for six months' work from early April.

24. *Westwhale 8* was built in 1953 at Kaldnes Mek Verksted, Tønsberg, began whaling as *Suderøy XVII* with the Antarctic pelagic vessel *Suderøy* in 1952, and continued to the 1958-1959 season. Thereafter, it worked for A/S Kosmos until 1961 and was sold to Taiyo Gyogyo KK to become *Toshi Maru 22*. It arrived at Coal Harbour in 1963 and became *Westwhale 8*. D. Bakka, Jr., *Hvalfangsten, Eventyret tar slutt* (Larvik, 1992), 191. The vessel operated from Dildo until whaling ended in 1972. It was bought by R.W. Wilson of St. John's in 1974 and sold for scrap in May 1977 to Dartmouth Salvage in Nova Scotia. Borgen died in 1972 of natural causes when working in the Phillippines. Webb, *On the Northwest*, 285.

25. *Norsk Hvalfangst-Tidende*, No. 4 (1967), 85-89; R.P. Scaplen, *Observations on the Operation of the Whale Catcher Kyo Maru #17 off Newfoundland* (Ottawa, 1967); and *Evening Telegram*, 16 May 1966.

26. *Evening Telegram*, 8 and 22 August 1969; and 2 March 1971.

27. *Ibid.*, 30 May 1967; 13 June, 22 August and 28 November 1969; and 5 March 1971. The excavations for the foundations are still visible.

28. Dickinson and Sanger, "Modern Shore-Based Whaling in Newfoundland and Labrador: Expansion and Consolidation;" and Sanger and Dickinson, "Renewal."

29. For a discussion of whale management issues, see, for example, J.A. Gulland and L.K. Boerema, "Scientific Advice on Catch Levels," International Commission on Whaling, *23rd Report* (1973), annex A; and *Evening Telegram*, 30 November 1972. These activities began in 1966, when the FRB chartered *Kyo Maru # 7* to spend three months tagging whales in the western North Atlantic.

30. A comprehensive literature review is found in A.W. Mansfield, "Status of the Blue Whale, *Balaenoptera musculus*, in Canada," *Canadian Field-Naturalist*, XCIX, No. 3 (1985), 417-420. See also H. Whitehead, "Updated Status of the Humpback Whale, *Megaptera novaeangliae*, in Canada," *Canadian Field-Naturalist*, CI, No. 2 (1978), 284-294; K.A. Hay, "Status of the Humpback Whale, *Megaptera novaeangliae*, in Canada," *Canadian Field-Naturalist*, XCIX, No. 3 (1985), 425-432; and E.D. Mitchell, "Draft Report on Humpback Whales Taken under Special Scientific Permit by Eastern Canadian Land Stations, 1969-1971," International Commission on Whaling, *23rd Report* (1973), annex M.

31. See the comprehensive review in G.R. Meredith and R.R. Campbell, "Status of the Fin Whale, *Balaenoptera physalus*, in Canada," *Canadian Field-Naturalist*, CII, No. 2 (1988), 351-368; K.R. Allen, "Catch per Unit Effort of Northwest Atlantic Fin Whale Stocks," International Commission on Whaling, *23rd Report* (1973), annex H; and E.D. Mitchell, "Assessments of Northwest Atlantic Fin Whale Stocks," International Commission on Whaling, *22nd Report* (1972), annex L.

32. *Evening Telegram*, 12 and 30 June and 27 July 1972; *International Whaling Statistics*, various years; and W. Geddes and Co., *Oil Reports* (Edinburgh, 1972).

33. International Network for Whaling Research *INWR Digest*, XIV (1997) and XV (1998).