

# Nineteenth century commercial shipping losses in the northern Bering Sea, Chukchi Sea, and Beaufort Sea

John R. Bockstoce<sup>1</sup>

*Entre 1849 et 1899, 169 navires ont été portés disparus dans le nord de la mer de Bering, dans la mer de la Tchoukotka et dans la mer de Beaufort. Mis à part 20 baleiniers brûlés par un navire de guerre confédéré en 1865, environ 67 pourcent des disparitions ont été causées par la glace; 27 pourcent des navires ont fait naufrage en raison de rafales, de brouillard ou d'erreurs de navigation. Dans les autres cas, la disparition des navires est attribuable soit au feu soit à des collisions entre navires.*

## Introduction

In the first half of the nineteenth century very few commercial voyages reached as far as the waters of the northern Bering Sea. The first known voyages took place after Otto von Kotzebue reported his discoveries in the Bering Strait region, thus providing the stimulus for the cruises of the American trading brigs *General San Martín* in 1819 and *Pedler* in 1820.<sup>2</sup> The next commercial penetration of the region occurred with ships of the Russian American Company, first with the V.S. Khramchenko's reconnaissance aboard the brig *Golovnin* in 1822,<sup>3</sup> then with A.E. Etholen's voyage aboard the *Chichagov* in 1830,<sup>4</sup> and later, after the establishment of Mikhailovskii Redoubt (today, St. Michael, Alaska) near the delta of the Yukon River in 1833, via irregular visits of supply ships to Bering Strait.

In 1848, however, the relative isolation of the region was shattered when Captain Thomas Roys of the bark *Superior* of Sag Harbor, New York, discovered the rich stock of

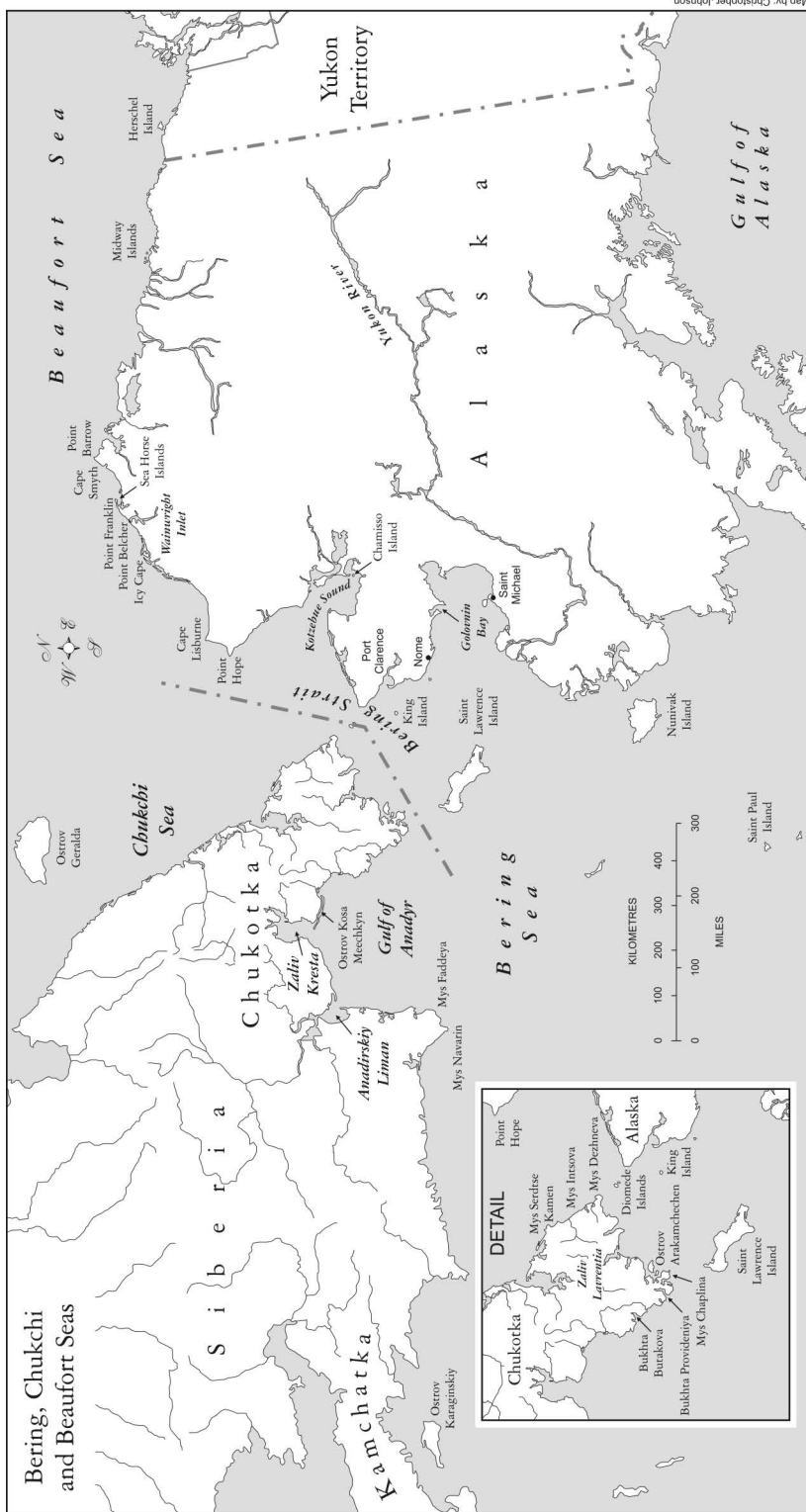
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1 I am grateful for the help of William Barr and Judith Navas Lund in compiling this list.

2 John R. Bockstoce, "The Opening of the Maritime Fur Trade at Bering Strait," in *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society*, Vol. 95. Part 1 (Philadelphia, 2005).

3 V.S. Khramchenko, MS. *Zhurnal vedenyi na brige Golovnine v 1822m godu flota michmanom Khramchenko* [Journal kept on the brig *Golovnin* in 1822 by naval midshipman Khramchenko], Microfilm reel 2, item 12, Shur collection, Alaska and Polar Regions Department, Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Original in State Archives of Perm Oblast', Russia, fond 445, opis' 1 ed. Khr. 74.

4 P.A. Tikhmenev, *A History of the Russian-American Company* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1978), 181-183.



Map: Bering, Chukchi and Beaufort Seas

bowhead whales (*Balaena mysticetus*) in the Bering Strait region. Roys quickly filled his ship and returned to Hawaii, where the report of his discovery set off an oil rush to Bering Strait. In 1849 fifty whaleships cruised there, and the number increased annually until in 1852, when the largest whaling fleet, 224 ships, cruised in the region.

By 1852 the hunting pressure had already substantially reduced the bowhead population, making the fishery less profitable. From then, although the size of the whaling fleet fluctuated because of shipping losses, the price of whale oil and baleen, and temporary whaling opportunities elsewhere in the Pacific Ocean, it was in overall decline, and by 1899 the fleet comprised only 16 vessels. In all, more than 2500 annual whaling cruises were carried out to the northern Bering Sea, and beyond, from 1848 to 1899.<sup>5</sup>

The whaling fleet comprised American, French, German, Hawaiian, and Australian vessels. It was by far the largest foreign presence in the region. Other than that – with the exception of the Gold Rush activities of the last few years of the century – the only foreign vessels in those waters were a few Russian, British, and American discovery ships, the British fleet searching for Sir John Franklin’s lost expedition,<sup>6</sup> the Western Union Telegraph expedition, a small number of trading vessels and mining tenders, and, in the latter years of the century, a few private expeditions and Russian and American government patrols. No losses are known to have occurred in those waters prior to 1849, and, other than whaleships, the only vessels lost were a few traders and freighters, with the exception of USS *Rodgers* (see below, 1881).

Nevertheless, shipping activity in those waters increased exponentially after the Yukon Gold Rush of 1897 and the founding of Nome, Alaska, in 1899. With these events came a massive influx of vessels of all types (with considerable variation in their states of seaworthiness), which carried passengers, freight, mail, supplies, and trade goods throughout the region.

### **Causes of the Losses**

In the first years of the bowhead whale fishery the whaling fleet enjoyed good success during the spring and summer in the comparatively ice-free waters near Bering Strait, and in the two decades from 1848 to 1867, the twenty-eight confirmed, non war-related losses amounted to less than approximately two percent of the total annual cruises.<sup>7</sup>

In the third decade of the fishery (1868-1877), however, the loss of ships increased dramatically. It is unlikely that changing weather conditions contributed significantly to these losses. Unfortunately there is little data about decadal-scale changes in weather and ice

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5 John R. Bockstoce, *Whales, Ice, and Men: The History of Whaling in the Western Arctic* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1986); John R. Bockstoce, and Daniel B. Botkin, “The historical status and reduction of the Western Arctic bowhead whale (*Balaena mysticetus*) population by the pelagic whaling industry, 1848-1914,” *Report of the International Whaling Commission (Special Issue 5) SC/32/PS16* (Cambridge, UK, 1983), 115.

6 John R. Bockstoce (ed.), *The Journal of Rochfort Maguire, 1852-1854. Two years at Point Barrow, Alaska, aboard H.M.S. Plover in the search for Sir John Franklin* (London, Hakluyt Society, 1988), 14-49.

7 From 1848 to 1867 there were 1488 known whaling cruises to those waters plus a very small, but unknown, number of trading cruises.

conditions during the second half of the nineteenth century in the Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort seas, but in any case it is doubtful that such putative changes would have been a major factor when compared with the greater risks to which the ships were exposed in the third decade of the fishery. Likewise, no significant changes in technology or navigational practices took place until 1880, when a few steam auxiliary whaleships entered the fleet, allowing those ships greater maneuverability.<sup>8</sup>

In the third decade of the fishery the declining number of whales seems to have been the most important cause of the losses. Faced with the increasing scarcity of the bowheads, to make a profitable voyage the ships were forced to go farther into the Chukchi Sea, in closer proximity to the ice, while taking greater risks and remaining north longer in the dangerous weather of autumn. The result was that the number of confirmed losses versus annual cruises jumped to approximately 14 percent in the years 1868 to 1877.<sup>9</sup> The large majority of these losses occurred when ships were trapped by encroaching pack ice in two events: in 1871 thirty-two ships were abandoned along the northwest coast of arctic Alaska, and in 1876 eleven were abandoned north of Point Barrow, Alaska.<sup>10</sup>

In the following two decades, although the bowhead population was continuously reduced, it would seem that the whaling masters became more prudent, for the ratio of losses of ships versus total cruises fell to approximately seven percent for the years 1878 to 1887<sup>11</sup> and approximately six percent for the years 1888 to 1897.<sup>12</sup>

The other great episode of losses took place in 1865, at the very end of the Civil War in the United States, when the Confederate raider, CSS *Shenandoah*, burned twenty whaleships.<sup>13</sup>

Prior to 1898 (and the arrival of the Gold Rush fleet), of the reported causes of losses in those waters, ice (both collisions and entrapments) accounted for about sixty-seven percent of the losses, and groundings (from gales, fog, and navigational errors) accounted for about twenty-seven percent of the losses. The other losses were the results of fire and collisions between ships.

## Chronological List

The primary sources for this list were reports in several maritime newspapers: the *Whaleman's Shipping List and Merchant's Transcript* of New Bedford, Massachusetts; two Hawaiian journals, *The Friend* and the *Pacific Commercial Advertiser*; as well as a number of San Francisco journals. These records were augmented by information in the papers of

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<sup>8</sup> John R. Bockstoce, *Steam Whaling in the Western Arctic* (New Bedford, MA: New Bedford Whaling Museum, 1977).

<sup>9</sup> From 1868 to 1877 there were 351 known whaling cruises to those waters, plus a rough estimate of fifty trading cruises. There were fifty-seven confirmed losses.

<sup>10</sup> Bockstoce, *Whales, Ice, and Men*, 143-179.

<sup>11</sup> For the years 1878 to 1887 there were 325 known whaling cruises to those waters, plus a rough estimate of fifty cruises by traders and other commercial vessels. There were twenty-six confirmed losses.

<sup>12</sup> For the years 1888 to 1897 there were 358 known whaling cruises to those waters, plus a rough estimate of fifty cruises by traders and other commercial vessels. There were twenty-three confirmed losses.

<sup>13</sup> Bockstoce. *Whales, Ice, and Men*, 103-128.

Daniel Wood, a New Bedford insurance broker, the records of the Atlantic Mutual Insurance Company, and a large number of reports in logbooks and journals from the arctic whale fishery. The information was then checked against the compendia compiled by Hegarty,<sup>14</sup> Lund,<sup>15</sup> Starbuck,<sup>16</sup> and Tornfelt and Burwell.<sup>17</sup>

In the list that follows the information on each loss is described in the following order: name of vessel, rig, tonnage, homeport, master, date of loss, location of loss, and remarks, if available. All vessels are whaleships unless identified otherwise.

1849

*Richmond*. ship, 437, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, Philander Winters, August 2, 12 miles south of Zaliv Lavrentia ("St. Lawrence Bay"),<sup>18</sup> Chukotka, went aground.

1851

*Acushnet*. Ship, 359, Fairhaven, MA, Thomas C. Bradley, August 16, St. Lawrence Island, went ashore in fog.

*Ajax*. Ship, 474, Le Havre, France, Letellier, August 16, near St. Lawrence Island, grounded on rocks.

*America*. Ship, 464, New Bedford, MA, Charles Pinkney Seabury, July 13, Gulf of Anadyr, hit ice and stove a hole in bow.

*Arabella*. Ship, 367, New Bedford, MA, William M. Maxfield, July 14, 25 miles north of Mys Dezhneva ("East Cape"), Chukotka, struck ice in fog and sank in three hours.

*Armata*. Ship, 413, New London, CT, Caleb Strong Holt, July 10, near Ostrov Arakamchechen, Chukotka, grounded on a reef.

*Cosmopolite*. Ship, 600, Le Havre, France, ?, July 17, Bering Strait, went ashore in fog.

*Globe*. Ship, 479, New Bedford, MA, Asa Taber, ca. August 10, north side of Mys Dezhneva ("East Cape"), Chukotka, went aground in thick fog.

*Henry Thompson*. Ship, 315, New London, CT, Joseph H. Holm, July 14, 50 miles north-northeast of the Diomed Islands, stove by ice.

*Mary Mitchell*. Ship, 354, San Francisco, CA, Sayer, July 1, 30 miles northwest of King Island, Alaska, stove by ice.

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<sup>14</sup> Reginald B. Hegarty, *Returns of Whaling Vessels Sailing from American Ports 1876-1928* (New Bedford, MA: Old Dartmouth Historical Society, 1959).

<sup>15</sup> Judith Navas Lund, *Whaling Masters and Whaling Voyages Sailing from American Ports* (New Bedford, MA: New Bedford Whaling Museum, Kendall Whaling Museum, and Ten Pound Island Book Company, 2001).

<sup>16</sup> Alexander Starbuck, *History of the American Whale Fishery from its Earliest Inception to the Year 1876* [Report of the U.S. Commission on Fish and Fisheries, Part 4] (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1878).

<sup>17</sup> Evert E. Tornfelt and Michael Burwell, *Shipwrecks of the Alaska Shelf and Shore* (Anchorage, AK: US Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service, OCS Study MMS 92-0002, 1992).

<sup>18</sup> John R. Bockstoce and Charles F. Batchelder, "A gazetteer of whalers' place names in the Bering Strait region and western Arctic," in *Names. Journal of the American Name Society*, 26:3 (1978), 258-270.

1852

- Bramin*. Bark, 245, New Bedford, MA, Peter Eldridge Childs, September 25, north of Mys Dezhneva ("East Cape"), Chukotka, rammed and badly damaged by *Adeline* and went ashore in a gale.
- Citizen*. ship, 464, New Bedford, MA, Thomas Howes Norton, September 25, near Mys Serdtse Kamen ("Cape Serge"), Chukotka, went ashore.
- Huntress*. Ship, 391, New Bedford, MA, George Gibbs, April 25, Ostrov Karaginskiy, Kamchatka, lost in a gale and thick fog.
- Superior*. Ship, 406, New London, CT, William Babcock, July 11, Zaliv Kresta, Chukotka, lost on a sandspit at "Holy Cross Gulf", probably Ostrov Kosa Meechkyn, Chukotka.
- Warren*. Ship, 383, Warren, RI, Nathan B. Heath, July 4, Gulf of Anadyr, caught fire, burned to water's edge and exploded.

1853

- Liverpool II*. Ship, 428, New Bedford, MA, Weston J. Swift, July 15, off Port Clarence, Alaska, struck a shoal, taken to Zaliv Lavrentia ("St. Lawrence Bay"), Chukotka, condemned, stripped, and burned.
- Marcus*. Ship, 286, Fairhaven, MA, Philip S. Shearman, mid-September, Bukhta Butakova ("Marcus Bay"), Chukotka, stove in bow striking ice, condemned.

1856

- Forward*. Schooner, ?, Honolulu, HI, ?, ?, Bering Sea, unconfirmed loss, probably a trading vessel.

1857

- Indian Chief*. Ship, 401, New London, CT, Huntley, August 25, Arctic Ocean,<sup>19</sup> probably north of Bering Strait, stove by ice.

1858

- Napoleon III*. Ship, 707, Le Havre, France, Morell, May 20, St. Paul Island (Pribilof Islands), stove by ice.

1859

- William Tell*. Ship, 370, Sag Harbor, NY, James L. Austin, July 12, north side of Mys Dezhneva ("East Cape"), Chukotka.

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<sup>19</sup> In whalemens' parlance the "Arctic Ocean" usually meant the Chukchi Sea and adjacent waters; Bockstoce and Batchelder, "A gazetteer of whalers' place names," 259.

1861

*Caulaincourt*. Ship, 657, Le Havre, France, Labaste, September 5, Point Belcher, Alaska.  
*Polar Star*. Ship, 475, New Bedford, MA, Daniel D. Wood, May 28, coast of Kamchatka.

1864

*Henry Kneeland*. Ship, 304, New Bedford, MA, John M. Soule, June 22, Chukchi Sea, struck ice, filled instantly.

1865

*Brunswick*. Ship, 295, New Bedford, MA, Alden T. Potter, June 28, near Mys Dezhneva ("East Cape"), Chukotka, captured while disabled, and burned by CSS *Shenandoah*.

*Catharine*. Ship, 384, New London, CT, Phillips, June 26, south of Mys Chaplina ("Indian Point"), Chukotka, burned by CSS *Shenandoah*.

*Congress II*. Bark, 376, New Bedford, MA, Daniel D. Wood, June 28, near Mys Dezhneva ("East Cape"), Chukotka, burned by CSS *Shenandoah*.

*Covington*. Bark, 351, Warren, RI, John L. Jenks, June 28, near Mys Dezhneva ("East Cape"), Chukotka, burned by CSS *Shenandoah*.

*Euphrates*. Ship, 365, New Bedford, MA, Thomas B. Hathaway, June 22, near Mys Faddeya ("Cape Thaddeus"), burned by CSS *Shenandoah*.

*Favorite*. Bark, 298, Fairhaven, MA, Thomas G. Young, June 28, near Mys Dezhneva ("East Cape"), Chukotka, burned by CSS *Shenandoah*.

*General Williams*. Ship, 419, New London, CT, William Benjamin, June 25, south of Bering Strait, burned by CSS *Shenandoah*.

*Gratitude*. Bark, 360, New Bedford, MA, Lewis N. Herendeen, June 26, forty miles from Cape Lisburne, Alaska, stove by ice.

*Gypsy*. Bark, 360, New Bedford, MA, Orlando G. Robinson, June 26, south of Mys Chaplina ("Indian Point"), Chukotka, burned by CSS *Shenandoah*.

*Hillman*. Ship, 383, New Bedford, MA, John A. Macomber, June 28, near Mys. Dezhneva ("East Cape"), Chukotka, burned by CSS *Shenandoah*.

*Isaac Howland*. Ship, 399, New Bedford, MA, Jeremiah Ludlow, June 28, near Mys Dezhneva ("East Cape"), burned by CSS *Shenandoah*.

*Isabella*. Bark, 315, New Bedford, MA, Hudson Winslow, June 26, south of Bering Strait, burned by CSS *Shenandoah*.

*Jireh Swift*. Bark, 454, New Bedford, MA, Thomas William Williams, June 22, Gulf of Anadyr, burned by CSS *Shenandoah*.

*Louisiana*. Ship, 297, New Bedford, MA, William H. Haskins, July 10, one mile north of Chamisso Island, Kotzebue Sound, Alaska, while evading CSS *Shenandoah*, grounded on a shoal, burned and sank.

*Martha II*. Bark, 360, New Bedford, MA, Joshua LeBaron Macomber, June 28, near Mys Dezhneva ("East Cape"), Chukotka, burned by CSS *Shenandoah*.

- Nassau*. Ship, 408, New Bedford, MA, Samuel Greene, June 28, near Mys Dezhneva (“East Cape”), Chukotka, burned by CSS *Shenandoah*.
- Nimrod*. Bark, 340, New Bedford, MA, James M. Clark, June 26, south of Mys Chaplina (“Indian Point”), Chukotka, burned by CSS *Shenandoah*.
- Sophia Thornton*. Ship, 424, New Bedford, MA, Moses G. Tucker, June 22, Gulf of Anadyr, burned by CSS *Shenandoah*.
- Susan Abigail*. Brig, ?, San Francisco, CA, R.S. Redfield, June 23, Gulf of Anadyr, burned by CSS *Shenandoah*.
- Waverly*. Bark, 327, New Bedford, MA, Richard Holley, June 28, near Mys Dezhneva (“East Cape”), Chukotka, burned by CSS *Shenandoah*.
- William C. Nye*. Ship, 389, San Francisco, CA, Patrick H. Cooty, June 26, south of Bering Strait, burned by CSS *Shenandoah*.
- William Thompson*. Ship, 495, New Bedford, MA, Francis Cottle Smith, June 22, off Mys Faddeya (“Cape Thaddeus”), burned by CSS *Shenandoah*.

## 1866

- Golden Gate*. Bark, ?, San Francisco, CA, ?, after August 27, Anadirskiy Liman (“Anadyr Bay”), Chukotka, nipped by ice, carrying freight and passengers for Western Union Telegraph Expedition.
- Ontario*. Bark, 489, New Bedford, MA, William M. Barnes, September 28, Chukchi Sea at 70°25 N, wreck drifted south through Bering Strait in winter and went ashore nine miles north of Mys Chaplina (“Indian Point”), Chukotka.

## 1867

- Congress*. Ship, 329, New Bedford, MA, John A. Castino, May 14, Gulf of Anadyr, stove by ice.

## 1868

- Corinthian*. Ship, 390, New Bedford, MA, Valentine Lewis, August 30, Blossom Shoals, Alaska, driven ashore by a gale and abandoned, towed by *George Howland* to Zaliv Lavrentia (“St. Lawrence Bay”), Chukotka, and sank.
- Emeline*. Schooner, ?, Honolulu, HI, O.J. Harris, ?, Arctic Ocean, unconfirmed loss, probably a trading vessel.
- Hae Hawaii*. Bark, 368, Honolulu, HI, John Heppingstone, September 22, Sea Horse Islands, Alaska, driven ashore in a gale and bilged.

## 1869

- Eagle*. Bark, 336, New Bedford, MA, James H. McKenzie, September 30, Point Franklin, Alaska, stove by ice.



1870

- Almira*. Ship, 310, Edgartown, MA, Charles M. Marchant, August 26, twelve miles northwest of Point Barrow, Alaska, stove by ice, condemned, sold, and abandoned.
- Hibernia II*. Ship, 556, New Bedford, MA, Thomas William Williams, August 28, two miles southwest of Point Barrow, Alaska, stove by ice.
- Japan*. Bark, 322, Melbourne, Australia, Frederick Allan Barker, October 8, at Mys Intsova ("False East Cape"), Chukotka, ran aground in fog after a heavy gale.

1871

- Awashonks*. Bark, 380, New Bedford, MA, Ariel Norton, September 8, near Wainwright Inlet, Alaska, crushed by ice and abandoned.
- Carlotta*. Bark, 480, San Francisco, CA, Elijah Everett Smith, September 14, near Wainwright Inlet, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- Champion*. Ship, 367, Edgartown, MA, Henry Pease, September 14, near Point Belcher, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- Comet*, Brig, 255, Honolulu, HI, Warren, September 2, near Point Belcher, Alaska, crushed between a grounded floe and moving pack ice and abandoned.
- Concordia*. Bark, 368, New Bedford, MA, Robert Jones, September 14, near Point Belcher, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- Contest*. Ship, 341, New Bedford, MA, Leander Owen, September 14, near Point Belcher, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- Elizabeth Swift*. Bark, 327, New Bedford, MA, George W. Bliven, September 14, near Wainwright Inlet, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- Emily Morgan*. Bark, 365, New Bedford, MA, Benjamin Dexter, September 14, near Point Belcher, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- Eugenia*. Bark, 315, New Bedford, MA, Daniel B. Nye, Jr., September 14 or 15, near Wainwright Inlet, Alaska, abandoned in the ice, found burned, at Sea Horse Islands, Alaska, in 1872..
- Fanny*. Bark, 391, New Bedford, MA, Lewis Watkins Williams, September 13, six miles south of Point Belcher, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- Florida II*. Ship, 470, San Francisco, CA, Daniel R. Frazer, September 14, near Wainwright Inlet, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- Gay Head*. Ship, 300, New Bedford, MA, William H. Kelley, September 14, near Point Belcher, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- George*. Bark, 259, New Bedford, MA, Abraham Osborn, Jr., September 14, near Point Belcher, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- George Howland*. Bark, 361, New Bedford, MA, James K. Knowles, September 14, near Wainwright Inlet, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- Henry Taber*. Bark, 296, New Bedford, MA, Timothy C. Packard, September 14, near Wainwright Inlet, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- J.D. Thompson*. Bark, 432, New London, CT, Charles E. Allen, September 14, near Point Belcher, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.

- John Wells*. Bark, 357, New Bedford, MA, Aaron Dean, September 14, near Point Belcher, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- Julian*. Ship, 356, Honolulu, HI, John Heppingstone, September 12-13, near Wainwright Inlet, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- Kohola*. Brig, 270, Honolulu, HI, Almy, September 14, near Wainwright Inlet, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- Mary*. Ship, 373, Edgartown, MA, George A. Smith, near Wainwright Inlet, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- Massachusetts*. Bark, 356, New Bedford, MA, West Mitchell, September 14, near Point Belcher, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- Minerva*. Bark, 337, New Bedford, MA, Henry Hoxie, September 14, south of Wainwright Inlet, Alaska, abandoned in the ice, salvaged in 1872 by bark *Florence*, taken to San Francisco, CA, and sold..
- Monticello*. Bark, 356, New London, CT, Thomas William Williams, September 13, near Wainwright Inlet, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- Navy*. Bark, 385, New Bedford, MA, George F. Bauldry, September 14, near Wainwright Inlet, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- Oliver Crocker*. Bark, 305, New Bedford, MA, James H. Fisher, September 14, near Wainwright Inlet, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- Oriole*. Bark, 280, New Bedford, MA, Henry S. Hayes, late June, near Zaliv Lavrentia (“St. Lawrence Bay”), Chukotka, crushed by ice, towed to Bukhta Provideniya (“Plover Bay”) and abandoned.
- Paiea*. Bark, 386, Honolulu, HI, H.M. Newbury, September 14, near Wainwright Inlet, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- Reindeer*. Ship, 332, New Bedford, MA, B.F. Loveland, September 14, near Wainwright Inlet, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- Roman*. Bark, 358, New Bedford, MA, Jared Jernigan, September 1, near Sea Horse Islands, Alaska, crushed between a grounded floe and moving pack ice.
- Seneca*. Bark 328, New Bedford, MA, Edmund Kelley, September 14, near Wainwright Inlet, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- Thomas Dickason*. Bark, 461, New Bedford, MA, Valentine Lewis, September 14, near Wainwright Inlet, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- Victoria*. Brig, 149, San Francisco, CA, R.S. Redfield, September 14, near Wainwright Inlet, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- William Rotch*. Bark, 290, New Bedford, MA, Benjamin D. Whitney, September 14, near Wainwright Inlet, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.

1872

- Roscoe*. Bark, 313, New Bedford, MA, Edward Darwen Lewis, August 20, off Point Barrow, Alaska, stove by ice while at anchor and abandoned.

1876

- Acors Barns*. Bark, 296, New Bedford, MA, Stephen F. Hickmott, September 5, ten to fifteen miles east of Point Barrow, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- Arctic*. Bark, 431, Honolulu, HI, Whitney, July 7, off Sea Horse Islands, Alaska, crushed by ice.
- Camilla*. Bark, 328, New Bedford, MA, Ebenezer F. Nye, September 5, off Point Barrow, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- Clara Bell*. Bark, 196, San Francisco, CA, Thomas William Williams, September 18, a few miles south of Cape Smyth, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- Cornelius Howland*. Ship, 333, New Bedford, MA, Benjamin Franklin Homan, September 5, off Point Barrow, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- Desmond*. Bark, 301, Honolulu, HI, Frederick M. Green, September 5, off Point Barrow, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- Illinois*. Bark, 409, New Bedford, MA, David R. Fraser, May 22, south of Bering Strait, struck by *Marengo* and sank instantly.
- James Allen*. Bark, 349, New Bedford, MA John Keenan, September 5, off Point Barrow, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- Java II*. Bark, 290, New Bedford, MA, James H. Fisher, September 5, off Point Barrow, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- Josephine*. Ship, 363, New Bedford, MA, G.F. Long, September 5, off Point Barrow, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- Marengo*. Bark, 478, New Bedford, MA, William H. Kelley, September 5, east of Point Barrow, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- Onward*. Bark, 339, New Bedford, MA, Ezra B. Lapham, September 5, off Point Barrow, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.
- St. George*. Ship, 392, New Bedford, MA, James H. Knowles, September 5, off Point Barrow, Alaska, abandoned in the ice.

1877

- Cleone*. Bark, 346, New Bedford, MA, Ebenezer F. Nye, October 19, Zaliv Lavrentia ("St. Lawrence Bay"), Chukotka, parted chain in a gale and went ashore.
- Java*. Bark, 309, New Bedford, MA, Herbert D. Colson, June 7, northern Bering Sea, stove by ice.
- Three Brothers*. Bark, 357, New Bedford, MA, Leander C. Owen, September 10, off Point Barrow, Alaska, stove by ice.
- W.A. Farnsworth*. Schooner, ?, Honolulu, HI, Keenan, September 15, near Point Barrow, stove by ice.

1878

- Florence*. Bark, 245, San Francisco, CA, Lewis Watkins Williams, August 8, four miles south of Point Barrow, Alaska, stove by ice.
- William H. Allen*. Brig, 157, Honolulu, HI, George Gilley, August 2, off Cape Smyth, Alaska, stove by ice.

1879

- Mercury*. Bark, 311, New Bedford, MA, Stephen F. Hickmott, October 23, Herald Shoal, near Ostrov Geralda (“Herald Island”), Chukchi Sea, caught by ice and abandoned.
- Mount Wollaston*. Bark, 325, New Bedford, MA, Ebenezer F. Nye, after October 23, near Ostrov Geralda (“Herald Island”), Chukchi Sea, caught by ice and all hands lost.
- Newton Booth*. Schooner, ?, San Francisco, CA, Caughell, October 19, Emma Harbor, Bukhta Provideniya, Chukotka, driven ashore, a total loss, cargo and crew saved, a walrus hunting and trading vessel.
- Timandra*. Brig, 120, San Francisco, CA, W. Thomas, May 22, near west coast of Nunivak Island, Alaska, struck a reef in thick weather, a trading vessel.
- Vigilant*. Bark, 215, New Bedford, MA, Charles R. Smithers, after October 23, near Ostrov Geralda (“Herald Island”), caught by ice and all hands lost.

1880

- Loleta*. Schooner, 119, San Francisco, CA, Dexter, September 4, north coast of St. Lawrence Island, went ashore because of fog and current, a trading vessel.

1881

- Daniel Webster*. Bark, 327, New Bedford, MA, David Lewis Gifford, mid-July, five miles south of Point Barrow, Alaska, crushed by ice and sank instantly.
- W.F. March*. Schooner, ?, San Francisco, CA, W. Gallagher, August 15, north side of Golovnin Bay, Alaska, lost in a gale, tender to a mining company.
- USS *Rodgers*. Steam bark, 491, Robert Berry, November 30, 1881, Zaliv Lavrentia (“St. Lawrence Bay”), Chukotka, burned to the waterline while in winter quarters, not a commercial voyage, formerly the whaleship *Mary and Helen* of New Bedford, MA, purchased by the United States Government early in 1881 for use as a search vessel for the missing *Jeannette* expedition.<sup>20</sup>

1882

- North Star*. Steam bark, 489, New Bedford, MA, Leander C. Owen, July 8, two and a half miles off Cape Smyth, Alaska, crushed by ice.
- Sappho*. Bark, 263, San Francisco, CA, Herbert D. Colson, May 6, off Bukhta Provideniya (“Plover Bay”), Chukotka, stove by ice.

1883

- Cyane*, Bark, 296, San Francisco, CA, Baker, August 7, Point Belcher, Alaska, went ashore in fog.

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<sup>20</sup> Bockstoce, *Steam Whaling in the Western Arctic*, 80.

*John Howland*, Bark, 384, San Francisco, CA, Frederick M. Green, July 9-10, off Point Hope, Alaska, stove by ice, run ashore, condemned, and burned.

*Louisa*, Bark, 304, San Francisco, CA, W.H. Koon, September 24, off Point Hope, Alaska, struck ice in a gale.

1884

*Bowhead*. Steam bark, 533, San Francisco, CA, Elijah Everett Smith, August 11, thirty miles south of Icy Cape, Alaska, crushed by ice.

*Caleb Eaton*. Schooner, 110, San Francisco, CA, W.C. Holman, June 19, off Mys Chaplina ("Indian Point"), Chukotka, crushed by ice.

*Sophia Johnson*. Schooner, 28, San Francisco, CA, W. Lincoln, July, Bering Strait, stranded in a storm, a trading vessel and whaling fleet tender.

1885

*Amethyst*. Bark, 356, San Francisco, CA, Patrick H. Cooty, October, Arctic Ocean.

*Gazelle*. Bark, 273, San Francisco, CA, Edwin W. Newth, June 3, twenty miles south-southeast of Southwest Cape, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, crushed by ice.

*George and Susan*. Bark, 343, San Francisco, CA, James H. Knowles, August 10, nine miles north of Wainwright Inlet, Alaska, driven ashore in a gale.

*Mabel*. Bark, 188, San Francisco, CA, Thomas J. McLane, August 10, nine miles north of Wainwright Inlet, Alaska, fouled by *George and Susan* in a gale and driven ashore.

*Napoleon*. Bark, 322, San Francisco, CA, Samuel F. Smith, May 5, near Mys Navarin ("Cape Navarin, Koryak Coast"), crushed by ice, twenty-two men lost.

*Rainbow*. Bark, 351, San Francisco, CA, Bernard Cogan, April 14, near Mys Navarin, crushed by ice, sank in twenty minutes.

1886

*Clara Light*. Schooner, 179, San Francisco, CA, C.B. Kustel, after September 3, fifteen miles north of Point Franklin, Alaska, abandoned in the ice, a whaleship and tender.

*John Carver*. Bark, 319, San Francisco, CA, Horace B. Montross, June 21, twenty-five miles south of King Island, Alaska, crushed by the ice.

1888

*Fleetwing*. Bark, 328, San Francisco, CA, Charles F. Gifford, August 8, one mile northeast of Point Barrow, Alaska, went aground in a gale.

*Ino*. Schooner, 98, San Francisco, CA, Nicholas Wagner, August 8, Cape Smyth, Alaska, went ashore in a gale.

*Mary and Susan*. Bark, 327, San Francisco, CA, Leander C. Owen, August 3, four miles south of Point Barrow, Alaska, went aground in a strong gale.

*Ohio*. Bark, 206, San Francisco, CA, George E. Allen, October 3, Point Hope, Alaska, went aground in a gale and snow storm.

*Young Phenix*. Bark, 338, San Francisco, CA, Martin Van Buren Millard, August 3, Point Barrow, Alaska, beset in the ice and pushed ashore in a gale.

1889

*Lucretia*. Steam bark, 350, San Francisco, Joseph A. Whiteside, September 5, six miles northwest of Ostrov Geralda (“Herald Island”), Chukchi Sea, grounded on a shoal.  
*Ohio II*. Bark, 363, San Francisco, CA, Elihu G. Gifford, May 22, off Cape Mohican, Nunivak Island, Alaska, struck grounded ice and filled rapidly.

1890

*Eliza*. Bark, 282, San Francisco, CA, Joseph G. Belain, mid-October, northwestern St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, stranded in fog and a strong gale.  
*Spy*. Sloop, 17, San Francisco, CA, ?, July 28-30, Cape Smyth, Alaska, beached leaking heavily.  
*Thomas Pope*. Bark, 227, San Francisco, CA, J.W. Fisher, June 28, Point Hope, Alaska, driven ashore in a gale, a tender to the whaling fleet.

1891

*William Lewis*. Steam bark, 463, San Francisco, CA, Albert C. Sherman, October 3, Point Barrow, Alaska, driven ashore by piloting error.

1892

*Alexander*. Brig, San Francisco, CA, 136, William T. Shorey, April 12, north side of St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands.  
*Helen Mar*. Bark, 324, San Francisco, CA, Eugene O. Thaxter, October 6, Chukchi Sea, stove when forced onto an ice floe by strong winds and current.

1893

*Emily Schroeder*. Schooner, ?, San Francisco, CA, Peter Bayne, October 13, Marryatt Inlet, Point Hope, Alaska, driven ashore in a storm while preparing to over winter.<sup>21</sup>

1894

*Abraham Barker*. Bark, 361, San Francisco, CA, West Mitchell, May 6, forty miles south of Mys Navarin (“Cape Navarin, Koryak Coast”), ice stove a hole in her bow.  
*Mary H. Thomas*. Schooner, 94, San Francisco, CA, ?, ?, Arctic Ocean, a trading vessel.

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21 For wintering voyages see: John R. Bockstoce and Charles F. Batchelder, “A chronological list of commercial wintering voyages to the Bering Strait region and western Arctic of North America,” in *The American Neptune*, 38:2 (1978), 81-91.

*Mascot*. Schooner, ?, ?, ?, ?, Arctic Ocean, unconfirmed loss, a trading vessel.

*Reindeer*. Bark, 340, San Francisco, CA, Bernard Cogan, August 4, Reindeer Island, Midway Islands, Alaska, crushed by ice.

1895

*Triton*. Bark, 265, San Francisco, CA, William Clinton Hegarty, September 1, Herschel Island, Yukon Territory, condemned and beached in Pauline Cove.

*William H. Meyer*. Brig, 269, San Francisco, CA, Holland, August, Port Clarence, Alaska, driven ashore in at strong gale, a tender to the whaling fleet.

1896

*Hidalgo*. Brig, 175, San Francisco, CA, Charles F. Gifford, July 24, Point Hope, Alaska, forced ashore by ice.

1897

*Jesse H. Freeman*. Steam bark, 516, San Francisco, CA, William P.S. Porter, September 22, off Sea Horse Islands, Alaska, crushed in the ice and abandoned.

*Navarch*. Steam bark, 494, San Francisco, CA, Joseph A. Whiteside, mid-August, off Point Barrow, Alaska, caught in pack ice near Point Belcher and abandoned, hulk driven ashore east of Point Barrow in the autumn, accidentally set on fire by salvagers in January.

*Orca*. Steam bark, 628, San Francisco, CA, Albert C. Sherman, September 21, off Point Franklin, Alaska, crushed by ice.

1898

*Fortune Hunter*. Steam schooner, ?, ?, ?, ?, found waterlogged at sea by steamer *Tillamook* and towed to Golovnin Bay, Alaska, and beached, probably carrying miners.

*Moonlight*. Schooner, ?, Seattle, WA, ?, July 2, Kotzebue Sound, Alaska, grounded, carrying miners.

*Rosario*. Schooner, 149, San Francisco, CA, Edwin Coffin, July 2, Point Barrow, Alaska, frozen in ice in 1897, pushed ashore by ice and crushed in spring.

*Pioneer*. Schooner, 25, ?, ?, ?, Arctic Ocean, unconfirmed loss, probably a trading vessel.

1899

*Alaska Union*. Stern-wheel steamer, ?, ?, ?, December, St. Michael, Alaska, driven ashore in a gale, Yukon River passenger and freight vessel.

*Arcade*. Steam vessel, ?, ?, ?, ?, St. Michael, Alaska, driven aground in storm, probably a freighter.

*Caleb Curtis*. Schooner, ?, ?, ?, August, Nome, Alaska, not a whaleship.

*George Matthews*. Steam vessel, ?, ?, ?, June 25, Nome, Alaska, stranded and abandoned., probably a freighter.

*R. Eacrett*. Schooner, ?, ?, ?, November 3, St. Lawrence Island, not a whaleship.

*Willard Ainsworth*. Schooner, ?, ?, ?, July 2, Chamisso Island, Kotzebue Sound, Alaska, driven ashore in a gale, probably carrying miners.

*W.K. Merwin*. Stern-wheel steamer, ?, ?, ?, Nome, Alaska, driven ashore in a gale, probably a freight and passenger vessel.