

Chas Phelps

Board to the Ochotik Sea
Sunday April 29th 1849

Fresh breeze from the NW and very rugged and cold. Heading NW by N. Under whole top sails jib and main sail. Snow-flurried. At 11 Single reefed the top sails on acct of heavy sea; freezing on at 6. At 4 took in jib and main sail. Snow flurried. At 3 took in hauls to the W and moderated. Set jib and main sail. At 5 set whole top sails fly jib and main top sail. At 8 breezing. Look in for and top sail. At 10 Single reefed the top sails. 154.35

Monday April 30th

Strong breeze from the NW and topped with snow squalls. Heading NW under single reefed top sails jib and main sail. At 2 clear weather. At 3 set fly jib and main sail. At 5 took in top of sail. Middle part moderate and freezing. At 11 backed to SW. At 1 set whole top sails and main top sail. At 3 backed to NW. At 5 saw 3 whales bearing NW distant 30 miles. Ship heading for Kama 154.57

Tuesday May 1st

Fresh breeze from NW and smooth water with good weather. All sail set heading NW. At 2 died away calm and the ship about 1 mile to the N of Kama. At 4 light air at 2nd from the W. Worked out and stood to the S to look through between the Strait and Kama. At 11 in the passage. Light breeze during the night. Latter part light air from the NW. Working to the land. Sailed bearing S distant 25 miles.

Wednesday May 2nd

Light winds from the N. All sail set heading to the NW. Middle part smart breeze and snow squalls. At 3 took in the fore and main top of sails. Latter part smart breeze and smooth water. At 6 took in main top sail. Freezing weather. 50.13
154.52

Thursday May 3rd

Smart breeze from the NW and smooth water. Heading NW by N under whole top sails jib and main sail. At 4 took in hauls to the NW. Middle part wind moderated and breeze and hauls from the NW to NW. At 2 backed to the NW. All sail set. Latter part light air from NW. Saw finback. At 9 calm. At 11 a light air from NW. Heading NW 50.28
154.49

Friday May 4th

Light air from the NW and fine weather. All sail set heading NW. At 1 took in SW and foggy. At 2 wind S and cleared up. Steering NW. Middle part light wind. Latter part the same. At 5 run into a haze of fine ice. Hauled off to the S and ran along the edge of it through innumerable small pieces. Saw solid ice hanging from SW to NW. 51.57
154.30

Saturday May 5th

Light winds from the SSE. All sail set steering SE. Along the ice. At 2 breezing on thick and rainy. Took in top of sails fly jib and main sail. Heading S. At 6 the ship clear of the ice. At 7 took in sail heading S. At 11 took in S and fog. Latter part thick fog. Set whole top sails and stood NW. At 8 took in SW and snow. At 10 took in NW and cleared up and breezing on. Look in top gal sails and fly jib. No ice seen this forenoon 52.08
152.08

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Ochotik Sea
Sunday May 6th 1849

Strong breeze from the NW and clear weather. Heading NW under whole top sails jib and main sail. At 12th began to meet with ice. Breezing on. At 1 double reefed the top sails and took in the main sail. Running through large quantities of field ice. At 2 the ice appears to be very thick to the NW. More ship to the SW. Saw a whale. At 2nd took in sail and bore to heading SW. Middle part wind shifts to SW and moderates. At 11 wore ship and lay aback until 4. Then made all sail and steered NE. Saw ice to the NW. Saw many finbacks. At 9 fell in with loose ice again. Hauled off SW along and through the outer edge 53.20
153.17

Monday May 7th

Light winds from SW and good weather. All sail set steering SW along the outer edge of the ice. It appears to be mostly honey-comb. At 4 ice appears to be to the E of all ice. Steered NW. At 7 took in sail and ran under a double reefed main top sail and fore sail. At 11 backed to wind head yards aback. Wind hauling S. Latter part at 4 wind SW. Plenty of ice NW. Backed to SE. At 6 all sail. At 6 backed on. At 8 the wind shifts to the W and breezing on. Heading to windward. At 12 took in top gallant sails and fly jib 54.16
153.55

Tuesday May 8th

Strong breeze from the N and quite smooth water. Heading to windward under whole top sails jib and main sail. Plenty patches of drift ice to the NW. At 11 wore ship. Middle part wind NW and moderates. Latter part at 6 set sail and headed to NW. At 10 fell in with patches of drift ice. Worked a way through them. Saw several whales 54.18

Wednesday May 9th

Light winds from the NW and good weather. All sail set heading NW. Small pieces of ice all round us. Saw a whale. At 5 saw fields of ice to the NW. Wind hauled SW. At 7 shortened sail and ran until 9 then hauled aback. Middle part breezing. Latter part a lively breeze from the S. Set whole top sails and main top gallant sail. Steering to the NW and a little SW by the ice. A plenty of fields to the NW but very little to the S. Some ten feet high and fifteen feet square. At 10 took in top of sail 56.39
154.30

Thursday May 10th

Strong breeze from SW and good weather. At 1 single reefed the top sails and hauled up W. At 3 fell in with ice and steered NW. At 7 saw little ice in sight to the NW. Took in sail to a close reefed main top sail and stay sail. Middle part a moderate gale. Latter part the same and thick. At 5 wore ship to the NW by S. At 12 saw the ice ahead. More ship to SE.

Friday May 11th

Flowing a moderate gale from the S and thick weather. Heading SE under a close reefed main top sail and stay sail. Middle part moderate fast. At 2 wore ship and set jib and fore sail. At 4 calm. At 5 a light air from SE and thick fog. Watch employed 2 hours in beating ice off the rigging. At 8 set single reefed top sails. At 10 took in NW. Heading NW.