Chas Phelps — Ochotsk Sea

Saturday May 12th 1849

Light winds from NE and heavy fog & Steering NNW under single reefed top sails and jib. Saw scattering pieces of Ice. At 3 saw a bein or two of small Ice. Took in sail and luffed to WNW. At 4 snow storm and calm. Middle part the same. Latter part at 6 breezes up smart from N. At 8 also reefed main top sail and furled fore sail. At 10 clear up. Blowing a moderate gale 57.04 154.19

Sunday May 13th

Blowing a moderate gale from the N and clear weather. Heading W under a close reefed main top sail. Passing small patches of Ice. Middle part moderates fast. Latter part light winds from N and beautiful weather. Stered SW & W all sail set. Ice to the N 56.53 153.53

Monday May 14th

Light winds from the N and fine weather all sail set heading SW. At 1 saw a Sperm Wh lowered and struck and the Iron broke and he run among the Ice and could not chase him. At 3 lowered for another but did not ketch him again. At 6 lowered for another and struck and a new line parted. Middle part light winds and hauling E. Latter part at 8 clear. Wind ENE. Saw several whales. At 5 thick fog. Lying with main yard aback. At 7 clear up. At 9 saw several whales. Lowered and struck one and after sounding out nearly two lines the first Iron drew and short warp parted. So way went whale 3 hrs. Heading off SW through patches of Ice 56.41

Tuesday May 15th

Light winds from the E and dark weather & heading SW. Saw several whales among the Ice. At 2 lowered for one but clear struck him and ran straight for the Ice. Killed him and at 5 got him to the ship and wore to the SSE. and set all sail as it is one solid mass of Ice to the leward SW. At 6 took in main sail, top sail and top gal sail and hooked on. Thick fog. At 8½ had the head gear off. At 10 snowing. At 10½ finished cutting. During the night heard many whales blow. Hauld S. Latter part a plenty of Ice and whales. Heading E under whole top sails. Cleared up at eight. At 9½ clear of the Ice but out two lines froze so that they cant be coiled. At 10 began boiling. It coiled lines 56.31 152.49

Wednesday May 16th

Light winds from SW and fine weather. Boiling. At 1 lowered for a whale that had been lying on the water for 4 hours struck killed him and at 2 got him along side and took in sail. Cleaning bone. Ice to the SW. At 6 foggy, heading SSE. Middle part spitting snow. Latter part at 7 cooled down and hooked on the whale and began cutting. At 8 fog clears up. Saw whales and Ice. At 11½ finished cutting and began boiling 56.23 153.20

Thursday May 17th. Light airs and fine weather. Smooth as glass. Boiling. Middle part the same. Latter part lively winds from SSW and dark weather spitting snow. Boiling and stowing down. Ice in sight to the SE

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Friday May 18th 1849

Lively winds from the SSW and dark cloudy. Heading SE under short sail with main yard aback. Boiling. Middle part moderates and hauls clear round the compass. Latter part light airs and spitting snow. Boiling and stowing. Ice to the S & W. Chocking the fore hold 56.41

Saturday May 19th

Light wind from E and good weather, Boiling. Heading N under short sail. Bracing. At 2 wore ship to SE. At 6 wore to the N on acct of Ice. At 8 finished boiling, took in fore sail. Latter part blowing a gale. At 9 wore ship for Ice & found a middle hot boiler 56.31 153.08

Sunday May 20th

Blowing a gale from the NE with a short ugly sea. Heading E & S under a close reefed main top sail. Middle part moderates. Latter part fresh breezes. At 7 wore ship and began to stow down in the after hatch 56.09 152.44

Monday May 21st

Light winds from NE and quite rough but smoothing down fast. Heading WNW under short sail. Stowing down and cleaning bone. At 3 wind shifts to S and breezes. At 6 finished stowing and wore ship to WSW and set the fore sail. Middle part moderate gale and spitting snow. At 5 took in the fore sail. Latter part a moderate gale from the S and rugged. At 9 damp heavy weather. At 9 moderates. Many land birds on board. Saw quantities of drift Ice. Rigging covered with Ice

Tuesday May 22d

Moderate winds from SSW and thick fog. Heading WS under a close reefed main top sail. Quantities of drift Ice and the rigging froze up. Middle part spitting snow. Latter part light winds from the NE and thick weather

Wednesday May 23d

Light winds from the NE and thick. At 2 wind shifts to NW and clear up. At 4 lowered and struck a whale and he run among the Ice and drew from him. Ice to the N. At 7 lowered and got one. Middle part moderate. Latter part cut him in

Thursday May 24th

Light winds from the N and dark weather. Cleaning bone. Lowered twice without success. Middle part good weather. Latter part the same. At 4 began boiling. At 4½ lowered struck and drew from a whale. At 6 boiled down to take out middle pot badly cracked. Employed on the works the rest of day 56.03 151.40

Friday May 25th

Lively winds from WNW and spitting snow. At 2 finished works and began boiling. Middle part the weather same. Latter part fog squalls. Heading E by N under short sail 56.06