

Journal of a Whaling Voyage in the Briggs Matchless

Saturday July 27th Lat 31-56 N Long 40-33 W
All of this day fine breezes from the E. & E. standing on the wind headings E. employed in ship's duty. Saw Porpoises and one Shark one Sail in sight.

Sunday July 28th Lat 31-44 N Long 41-50 W
All of this day fine breezes from the N.W. steering S.E. and W. Saw Porpoises one Sail in sight.

Monday July 29th Lat 31-09 N Long 41-22 W
first and middle part of this day light breezes from the S.W. heading to the Southward and Eastward. latter part calm, the water looking very good with tall drops, saw Grampas.

Tuesday July 30th Lat 31-05 N Long 41-32 W
All of this day light baffling air from the N.W. employed in ship's duty. the water very thick with tall drops, saw Grampas.

Wednesday July 31st Lat 30-52 N Long 41-21 W
first half of this day calm, latter part fine breeze from the E.N.E. standing to the S.E. the water looking the best that we have seen very thick with tall drops. Tall drops.

Thursday August 1st Lat 31-02 N Long 41-11 W
first part light air, latter part fine breezes from the E.N.E. heading to the S.E. saw Grampas and Porpoises, one Merchantman.

Friday August 2nd Lat 31-56 N Long 40-08 W
All of this day fine breezes from the E. & E. heading by the wind N.E. strong current setting to the Westward, saw Grampas.

Westerly Current

Whales Benjamin B. Handys Master August 1861

Saturday August 3rd Lat 32-54 N Long 40-58 W
All of this day fresh breeze from the E. & E. standing on the wind headings E. not very good seeing, foggy, saw Grampas.

Sunday August 4th Lat 34-10 N Long 40-20 W
first and middle part of this day fine breezes from the E. & E. standing on the wind heading N.E. at 4 P.M. the wind hauled to the westward heading N.W. very light.

Monday August 5th Lat 34-20 N Long 41-14 W
All of this day fine breezes from the N.W. heading to the Westward, until 4 P.M. were S.W. heading to the Northward and Eastward. saw two Merchant ships heading to the N.E. saw Grampas and white water.

Tuesday August 6th Lat 33-50 N Long 41-34 W
All of this day light breezes from the N.W. standing on the wind, heading to the Westward at 10 A.M. raised a school of sperm whales 7 in the school, heading to the E. & E. lowered the boats and got 4. the other 3 took their old course E. & E. had them alongside at half a past 6 P.M. row the cutting gear and set quarter watch.

Wednesday August 7th Lat 31-02 N Long 41-11 W
All of this day calm and smooth at daylight. commenced cutting in at half a past 11 A.M. had three of them cut in, got dinner and at 1 P.M. had the fourth one in commenced cutting up the body and at 4 P.M. started the works at half a past 6 set the Watch Starboard Watch first helms, and sail in sight, caught 2 dolphins.