

Journal of a Whaling Voyage by Thomas C. Pease

1841 Ship Grand Turk January Arrived Cape Cod Lat Long South West

Thurs 1 A light breeze seen a great many right whales to day we tried them on a new plan that is known as the first lowered the starboard but she could not get near him. We then lowered the waist boat for an other, but they were not more successful. As soon as they got near them they would instantly start to landward. We tried this to night in order to get to the south but all the while seem to be going that way a great deal of that showed the ship's purpose.

Frid 2 Last night a dead cald to day a light breeze before break fast low and starboard boat got close to a right whale started at him but was too deep under water lowered bow boat for an other but could not get near enough to strike we lowered the starboard for an other but with no better success then we lowered starboard and waist boats for the fourth but he was like the others the whales are very wild it is almost impossible to get on them saw plenty all round the ship a strong breeze in the afternoon.

Sat 3 Last night the wind shifted at 11 o'clock blowing a heavy gale with rain at 5 AM moderate made sail seen a great many hump and fin backs but no right whale saw a school of sperm caught a young phony of but all round the ship. Hope we shall see and get some whales tomorrow it is about time we had one we are all eager to have a knock at them.

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Sun 10 A very strong breeze in the morning lowered starboard and waist boats for right whale starboard boat struck got her knock ed the boat swung overboard but did not hurt him then we lowered the bow boat got close to him dard but was not near enough to fasten the starboard boats were fastened but he got clear could not get near him again. Seen other whales afterwards but it was too rugged to lower. Today I was ordered to steer the starboard boat.

Mon 11 A strong breeze all night made sail at day light lowered starboard waist and bow boats for right whale could not get near enough to strike also saw a great many fin backs a light breeze in the afternoon.

Tues 12 A light breeze in the morning in the afternoon blowing a heavy gale both in fore and mid topsails close up the main parted the foresail part of mast stay sail then parted in a very heavy rain squall now a new one this was the heaviest squall we have had the voyage saw right whales but we could not trouble them starboard harks a board.

Wed 13 Raised a school of sperm whales lowered starboard waist and bow boats starboard boat struck then lowered starboard boat Mr. Denter killed the whale bow boat struck killed by Mr. Jackson waded him and struck again he took the line got both along side. Slight breeze killed a porpoise.