

Journal of Ship William Thompson

Thursday July 16th 1843

Some fine weather at last. It is clear and pleasant but no fish as yet. There are two ships in sight heading the same way one seems to be looking for whales they have everything set out to do. One ship and three to the S.W. have seen nothing today.

Longitude 146° 7'

Latitude 55° 20'

Monday July 17th 1843

Thick fog and nothing in sight all round down below. Drifting and getting ready for another fish. I've ever got one at 2 P.M. while the Stephens of New Bedford sighted him. This season Captain Collins came on board for a game he has not seen any whales for 7 days & wants to go to see it and then away for home.

Longitude 148° 11' W

Latitude 55° 51' N

Tuesday July 18th 1843

Winds from S.W. heading S.E. at 5 P.M. tacked to the Westward. Employed setting up Shooks and getting ready for another whale. Nothing in sight but even a fin back. Got help up.

Lat 55° 49' N

Long by Chron 148° 12' W

Wednesday July 19th 1843

Very fine weather throughout the day heading to the Westward. Employed picking Bakum & Cooper at work setting up and repairing Shooks. Mr. Norton says something tells him the whales are off Long Charlotte Island. I think they off. Monday at 10 A.M. got under the Long Island returned to noon was 148° 20' W. By Chron 148° 8' W.

Lat by Chron 55° 46' N

Journal of Ship Wm. Thompson

Thursday July 20th

Winds and weather the same as on the preceding day. Steering West under all sail bent new Main Top sail. At 5 A.M. passed ship boiling, which makes us feel rather wolfish, not having seen a whale these 12 days. Hope to see some soon. Billy's belly getting hungry.

Lat by Chron 55° 31' N

Long by Chron 151° 15' W

Friday July 21st

Beautiful weather, this day has been one of the finest the season, two carcasses in sight, and lots of crabs and porpoises. but no whales. I'll leave the course S. East this morning in hopes to see them, but to no purpose, think the whales have all left the ground, passed several logs of wood during the day they all appear to have been at sea a long time. Several ships of green water.

Lat by Chron 55° 17' N

Long by Chron 151° 09' W

Saturday July 22nd

Charming weather with a light breeze from South. Steering S. East under all sail at 8 A.M. spoke ship Swedish Frigate of Bremen 10 months out 1000 lbs whale oil having taken 900 this season. Went on board and spent the day with Capt. Smith and Lady. He has not got a whale this ten days, thinks the whales are to the Westward. So thinks S. and away goes Billy after them.

Lat by Chron 54° 41' N

Long by Chron 151° 00' W

Sunday July 23rd

Fresh breeze from S.W. for the most part of the day heading to the S. East. Saw four ships heading to the Westward under all sail, a sure sign of no whales in this vicinity of the right kind. Very green water, great numbers of humpbacks and finbacks in sight. Lat by Chron 53° 40' N & Lat by Chron 54° 06' N. Mistake. Long by Chron 151° 57' W & Long by Chron 151° 15' W.