

Cruising for Right Whales



Tuesday May 9th 1843

Begins with rainy and foggy. Wind from N.E. at 3 PM clearing up. We ship at 5 PM. Whales in sight. Middle and after part clear and pleasant. Wind from W.S.W. Raised whips 2 points off. Weather low. Lowered 3 boats for them. Starboard boat fastened to one of them but the iron drew. We then came alongside, they told us that there were more whales off weather quarter, we stood for them. Bow Boat got fast to one, presently afterwards the Starboard boat got fast, then the waist boat. Starboard Boat then lowered for her share. Bow and Starboard Boats line got foul, in a short time afterwards a line cut the Starboard boat's line, he lost his whale. Bow Boat going to the windward, his boat pulled up and fastened to Waist boat's whale. We turned him up shortly afterwards. In the meantime the Bow Boat was going to the windward when a loose whale came up along side of the boat and as he went down he fetched his flukes down on the star bow of the boat and crushed her down. Broken the head received a slight touch from his flukes. The Starboard boat being handy she took the crew in her boat and towed the boat on board.

Lat by Obs 42.05 North

Long by Obs 149.44 E

Wednesday 10th

Begins with clear and pleasant weather. All hands employed getting the whale along side and cutting in. Wind from W.S.W. After part calm. Finished cutting in. Now boiling.

No Obs this day

Thursday 11th

All these 24 hours fine weather. Wind from E.N.E. Watch employed boiling out the whale. We ship at sundown. Whale will make about 100 lbs

No Obs this day

Right Whaling

Friday May 12th 1843

All these 24 hours very foggy and rainy. Employed boiling Co. Whales in sight close alongside.

Lat by Obs 42.42 N

Long 150.38 East

Saturday 13th

Commences with foggy and disagreeable weather. Wind from E.N.E. We ship at 6 PM. Whales in sight on our weather beam. After part clear and cold.

Lat 42.14 North

Sunday May 14th

Commences with heavy gales from E.N.E. Lying to under close reefed main topsail & Fore sail. I Wizen We ship at sundown after part moderate but considerable of a swell on. All hands employed stowing down oil. Wind from S.W. by E. Saw whales close alongside.

Lat by Observation 42.50

Monday May 15th

Commences with light winds from S.W. All hands stowing down oil. We ship at sundown. After part cloudy. We ship at 6 AM. Carpenters employed mending bow boat.

Lat by Obs

Tuesday May 16th

Commences with calm and thick weather at 2 PM lowered 3 boats for whales. Starboard boat dalted 2 Irons but missed, gallied the whales and came on board at 5 PM. Took in sail and laid her to for the night. Middle part calm and Rainy. After part clear and pleasant at 11 AM Raised Whips off to beam, made her and kept off for them. Rained a few back close alongside.

Lat 42.36 North

Long 150.16 East