

the official closing date of the season. This regulation has operated for two seasons, but so far the limit has not been reached.

For the season which has now opened (1947-48) it is understood that there will be 17 factory ships: Great Britain 3, South Africa 1, Norway 9, Netherlands 1, U.S.S.R. 1, and Japan 2. The same regulations will be in force as for the 1946-47 season, and it is clear that, if the factories are as successful as in the previous season, the limit of 16,000 units will be reached before the closing date. It will be interesting to compare the catches in 1947-48 with those in the two preceding seasons. It is assumed that some recovery of the stock took place during the virtual cessation of whaling during most of the war years, but the poor catches of 1945-46 gave no indication of recovery. It seems likely, however, that oceanographic and weather conditions were abnormal. The good catches of 1946-47 were encouraging, and young Blue whales appear to have been well represented. It is hoped, however, that a clearer view of the condition of the stock will be obtained when the catches for 1947-48 can be examined.

In an article in *Norsk Hvalfangst-tidende* (September 1947) the satisfactory catches for 1946-47 are attributed to the favourable weather and the fatness of the whales, but it is pointed out that the average production per catching boat per day is not so high as in the most successful seasons before the war.

N. A. MACKINTOSH

RECENT ARGENTINE AND CHILEAN DECREES RELATING TO THE ANTARCTIC

[The texts of certain decrees relating to Argentine and Chilean territorial claims in the Antarctic were reproduced, with a map showing the extent of these claims, in the *Polar Record*, No. 32, July 1946, pp. 412-17. The texts of some more recent decrees are printed below. It may be noted that the western limit of the Argentine claim, shown as longitude 68° 34' W. in the map mentioned above, has since been indicated on official Argentine maps as longitude 74° W.]

ARGENTINE DECREES

Translation:

Argentine Decree No. 14,062 of 24 June 1947^{1,2}

“In view of the necessity for collecting all records which exist in the country regarding Argentina’s irrevocable rights over the Falkland and South Georgia Islands, and considering that the findings presented by the National Antarctic Committee which functions under the direction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, were inspired by the same purpose as that of the ‘Gobierno Superior’ [Government], to protect and recover the territorial estate which legally belongs to the Republic,

¹ Ministerio de Marina General Order No. 157.

² In this Decree, South Georgia has been separated from the other Falkland Islands Dependencies and grouped with the Falkland Islands. The implication appears to be that South Georgia is Argentine territory under *de facto* British occupation; and as such, differs from the South Orkneys and those other territories in the Dependencies which are already considered by the Argentine Government to be under Argentine jurisdiction.—Eds.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE ARGENTINE NATION

DECREES:

"Article 1.—Under the direction of the 'Comisión Nacional del Antártico' [National Antarctic Committee] the 'Subcomisión Islas Malvinas e Islas Georgias del Sur' [Falkland Islands and South Georgia Sub-Committee] has been appointed to collect and study the records which exist in the country about the aforesaid island territories, whose principal duty will be to prepare a report of an official character on the Argentine rights in these islands.

"Article 2.—Dr D. Pascual La Rosa, President of the 'Comisión Nacional del Antártico', Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, has been elected President of the 'Subcomisión Islas Malvinas e Islas Georgias del Sur'.

"Article 3.—The following have been appointed to form the Sub-Committee in question to represent: Ministry of War, Colonel D. José María Maldonado, Commander of the First Military Region; Ministry of Marine, Commander (Retired) D. Hector Ratto; Ministry of Justice and Public Instruction, Sub-Inspector General of Instruction of that Department, Professor D. Ricardo Piccirilli; and of the Aeronautics Secretariat, Commodore D. Guillermo Zinny.

"Article 4.—Dr D. José María Consentino, Embassy Counsellor, has been appointed Secretary of this Sub-Committee; and Mr D. Rolando Dorcas Berro, Cultural Attaché, as Assistant Secretary.

"Article 5.—The President of the 'Subcomisión Islas Malvinas e Islas Georgias del Sur' will be able to call upon the Ministry of Foreign Affairs when its services are required, and is authorised to take outside advice when this is considered necessary.

"Article 6.—This decree will be legalised by the Secretaries of State in the departments of Foreign Affairs, of War, of the Navy, of Justice and Public Instruction and of Aeronautics.

"Article 7.—Inform, publish, note in the National Register and file.

[Signed] PERON—J. Atilio Bramuglia—Humberto Sosa Molina—Fidel L. Anadón—Belisario Gache Pirán—Bartolomé de la Colina.

Commander Carlos Korinblun, Chief of the 2nd Division in the absence of the Chief of the Ministry Secretariat."

Translation:

Argentine Decree No. 39,638 of 18 December 1947¹

"In accordance with the Report No. 1-E, 2086 'PR'/947, submitted by the Ministry of Marine, and

"CONSIDERING:

"The importance acquired as a result of the work carried out and the activities being developed by the establishment set up and maintained by the Navy in the Melchior Archipelago (Antarctic) and the military personnel attached to that Organisation which is permanently stationed there:

¹ Ministerio de Marina General Order No. 348.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE ARGENTINE NATION

DECREES:

"Article 1.—The establishment set up in the Melchior Archipelago (Antarctic) will henceforth be called the 'Melchior Naval Detachment' (Destacamento Naval Melchior).

"Article 2.—The 'Melchior Naval Detachment' will come under the Ministry of Marine, who will maintain a military force of the Ministry of War permanently stationed there.

"Article 3.—Inform and publish in General Order of the Ministry of Marine and file under General Staff.

[Signed] PERON—Fidel L. Anadón."

Translation:

Argentine Decree No. 3416 of 5 February 1948¹

"In accordance with Report No. 1-O. 192 'PR'/948, and proposal made by the Ministry of Marine, and

"CONSIDERING:

"That the Navy has installed a permanent Naval establishment on Deception Island (Argentine Antarctic Sector), which is manned by executive personnel of that institution, and

"That in view of its permanent character and the importance of the work completed and the functions being carried out, it is convenient to establish its dependency and title:

THE PRESIDENT OF THE ARGENTINE NATION

DECREES:

"Article 1.—The Naval establishment installed on the Argentine Antarctic Sector of Deception Island will be named Deception Naval Detachment.

"Article 2.—The Deception Naval Detachment will come under the Ministry of Marine, who will maintain there a naval executive force.

"Article 3.—Inform, publish in Ministry of Marine General Order, and file in Operations Division of Naval Staff (General Staff).

[Signed] PERON—F. Anadón."

CHILEAN DECREES

Translation:

Chilean Decree No. 587 of 30 May 1947

"CONSIDERING:

"That by Decree No. 1541² of 7 September 1939, a Committee was created entrusted with the study of all questions relating to the Antarctic;

"That after a detailed and complete study of our legal titles in the polar region this Ministry issued Decree No. 1747² of 6 November 1940 which fixed the boundaries of the Chilean Antarctic Territory;

¹ Ministerio de Marina General Order No. 34.

² For text of these Decrees see the *Polar Record*, No. 32, July 1946, p. 416.—Eds.

"That the membership and tasks of the Chilean Antarctic Committee were laid down in Decree No. 548 of 27 March 1942;

"That after the completion of the official expedition with its clear aims of exploration and the affirmation of sovereignty in the Republic's Antarctic sector it has become necessary to call for the co-operation and make use of the knowledge of all those persons whose experience is needed by the fatherland in order to secure legal titles and to unite to the rest of the country in the most definite manner that southerly part of the national territory;

"IT IS DECREED THAT:

"1.—The present Chilean Antarctic Committee be reorganised and in future be composed of:

"The Minister of Foreign Affairs, who will preside;

"The Minister of National Defence who will act as Vice-President in the absence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs;

"One member of the Senate;

"One member of the Chamber of Deputies;

"Two ex-Ministers of Foreign Affairs;

"Two Professors of International Law;

"An officer of the army of the rank of Colonel or above, on the active or retired list;

"An officer of the navy of the rank of Captain or above, on the active or retired list;

"A representative of the Chilean Historical and Geographical Society;

"2.—The following persons will act as advisers to the Chilean Antarctic Committee:

"The Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs;

"The Under-Secretary of the Interior;

"The Under-Secretary of the Navy;

"The legal adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

"The Director of the Diplomatic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

"The Director of the Military Geographical Institute;

"The Director of the Department of Navigation and Hydrography of the Navy;

"3.—Two members of the Diplomatic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will act as secretaries to the Chilean Antarctic Committee.

"4.—The tasks of the Committee will be:

"(a) to recapitulate and assemble geographical, historical, legal, diplomatic and administrative facts dealing with the Antarctic, especially with the Chilean Antarctic or Chilean Antarctic Territory;

"(b) to give such information as may be requested or as it may seem necessary to issue on the subject of concessions or grants (permission) connected with the Chilean Antarctic Territory;

“(c) to encourage such studies, investigations, preliminary surveys and exploration as may be thought necessary for the fuller exploitation of the said territory;

“(d) to prepare for Chilean participation at meetings, conferences, and international exhibitions connected with polar affairs;

“(e) to give opinions on any question connected with the Chilean Antarctic Dominion which may be submitted for its consideration.

“5.—The Chilean Antarctic Committee will carry out its work in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its members and advisers will discharge their duties *ad honorem*.

“6.—The Committee will be able to consult, if it thinks necessary, other persons or members of the public service.

“7.—The Chilean Antarctic Committee may demand from the various Ministries and Public Offices such documents as may be considered necessary for the more efficient discharge of its duties.

“Take note, register, communicate, publish and insert in the Bulletin of Laws and Government Decrees.

[Signed] GONZALEZ VIDELA
R. JULIET.”

Translation:

Chilean Decree No. 598 of 31 May 1947

“In view of the contents of the Supreme Decree No. 587 of 30 May 1947, published by this Ministry, which reorganises the Chilean Antarctic Committee,

“IT IS DECREED THAT:

“1.—The following persons are nominated as members of the Chilean Antarctic Committee in the office indicated:

“D. Humberto Alvarez Suárez, as the Member of the Senate;

“D. Alfonso Campos Menéndez, as the Member of the Chamber of Deputies;

“D. Antonio Huneeus Gana, as ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs;

“D. Ernesto Barros Jarpa, as Professor of International Law;

“D. Julio Escudero Guzmán, as Professor of International Law;

“Major-General D. Ramón Cañas Montalva, as general officer of the Army;

“Captain (R) D. Enrique Cordovez Madariaga, as flag officer of the Navy;
and

“D. Ricardo Donoso Novoa, as representative of the Chilean Historical and Geographical Society.

“2.—Senores D. Alvaro Droguett del Fierro and D. Oscar Pinochet de la Barra, members of the Diplomatic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, are nominated as secretaries to the Chilean Antarctic Committee.

“Take note, register, communicate, publish and insert in the Bulletin of Laws and Government Decrees.

[Signed] GONZALEZ VIDELA
R. JULIET.”