

November 1941. In 516 days she had covered a total distance of 87,000 nautical miles.

The damage done by the two raiders had been considerable. The *Komet* had sunk nine ships, totalling 57,000 tons gross, and captured one merchantman of 7300 tons. In addition to capturing the whaling fleet, with 22,500 tons of whale oil on board, and sinking by her mines at least two vessels off Sydney, the *Penguin* had destroyed a total of 136,550 tons of British and Allied shipping.

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### THE ANTARCTIC WHALING SEASONS OF 1948-49, 1949-50, AND 1950-51

A note in the *Polar Record*, Vol. 5, Nos. 35/36, 1948, p. 222-23 described the antarctic whaling seasons of 1946-47 and 1947-48, although when it was written the catch results of the latter season were not available. Figures for all the post-war pelagic catches up to 1950-51 are now given below in Table I.

The antarctic pelagic catches are limited by international agreement to 16,000 Blue Whale units (1 Blue = 2 Fin = 2½ Humpback = 6 Sei Whales), but the International Whaling Commission which normally meets once a year is empowered to raise or lower this figure and to modify other regulations. It will be seen from Table I that the number of factories (pelagic factory ships) has increased in nearly every season since 1945-46, but in the last three seasons the catch has been stabilized at approximately the required limit. In 1945-46 and 1946-47 the limit had not been reached by the end of the open season, which is also fixed by international agreement: from 1947-48 onwards whaling had to be stopped before the end of the season because the limit had been reached. The operation of the limit has been very successful. Weekly catch reports are sent by each factory to the Bureau for Whaling Statistics in Oslo, and when the total is approaching the limit a week's notice is given for all factories to cease whaling. While it is impossible to ensure that the final total will be exactly 16,000 units, the forecasts for the last week's whaling have so far been very accurate and the totals very near 16,000 units.

TABLE I. *Post-war Antarctic pelagic catches*

Season	Blue	Fin	Hump- back	Sei	Sperm	Total	Units	Fac- tories	% Blue (of B + F)
1945-46	3526	7729	—	3	216	11474	7391	9	31.33
1946-47	8865	12877	1	2	1298	23043	15303	15	40.77
1947-48	6862	18999	2	12	2494	28369	16364	17	26.53
1948-49	7399	17202	13	15	3692	28321	15929	18	30.08
1949-50	6168	18061	2117	101	2570	29017	16062	18	25.46
1950-51 provisional	6929	17412	1625	367	4739	31072	16346	19	28.47

Table 2 shows the number and nationality of the antarctic factories. The factory which operated under the flag of Panama in 1950-51 is the *Olympic Challenger*. Panama is not at present a party to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling.

In addition to the factory ships there are at South Georgia one British,

one Norwegian, and one Argentine land station which have operated during the seasons under review. Full details of the catch for 1950-51 are not yet available, but in the two preceding seasons it was slightly over 1200 Blue Whale units.

Some comments may be made on the catches of the various species shown in Table 1. The ratio of Blue Whales in the catches has tended to decline, but the significance of this is complicated by variations in the opening date of the season and the areas of hunting. Fin whales have constituted more than half the catch in recent years. In 1949 it was agreed to allow the taking of a limited number of Humpback Whales, which had been protected in the Antarctic since 1938. The reason for the increase in Sei Whales is not very

TABLE 2. *Nationality of pelagic factory ships*

	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51
Norway	6	7	9	10	10	10
U.K.	2	3	3	3	3	3
South Africa	1	1	1	1	1	1
Netherlands	—	1	1	1	1	1
U.S.S.R.	—	1	1	1	1	1
Japan	—	2	2	2	2	2
Panama	—	—	—	—	—	1
	9	15	17	18	18	19

certain, but they are usually found in high latitudes only when the water is at its warmest. The catches of Sperm Whales have increased in the last three seasons, and are well above the pre-war figures. The limited antarctic season applies only to baleen whales, and Sperm Whales can be taken before the opening date.

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### NEW REGULATIONS FOR THE NORWEGIAN-SOVIET FRONTIER, 1950

[From the *Press Bulletin (Norway)*, 2 December 1950. A full translation of these regulations is available at the Scott Polar Research Institute.]

The Norwegian Government has recently published regulations concerning what is permitted and not permitted in the neighbourhood of the Norwegian-Russian frontier. Cultivation of soil and construction of buildings are not permitted within 4 metres of the frontier. Prospecting and exploitation of mineral deposits are not permitted within 20 metres of the frontier without special permission from the Norwegian frontier-commissioner. It is forbidden to photograph Russian territory, or without special permission from the frontier-commissioner to be in possession of a camera within 1000 metres of the frontier. It is forbidden to fire shots across the frontier or commit similar actions directed against Soviet territory or against persons, animals, or objects in Soviet territory. It is forbidden at the frontier to behave in an offensive manner against the Soviet Union or its authorities. It is forbidden to cross the frontier by land, water, or air without special permission from the frontier-commissioner. Vessels in rivers along the frontier are, however, allowed to use the main channel even if this does not strictly correspond to the frontier