



November 30, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

In 1964, a young man explored the ruins of the Port Hobron Shore Whaling Station on Sitkalidak Island, within the Kodiak archipelago. He reached into the rafters, and found the America Pacific Whaling Company's Weekly Manufacturing Log. This log accounted for 10 years of commercial whaling out of Port Hobron, from 1926-1937. The log accounted for the whaling excursions of its catcher vessels, the number and species of whales hunted each day, and the amount of whale products created at the shore processing facility. Eventually, the log was donated to the Baranov Museum.

The bulk of the records of the American Pacific Whaling Co. are housed at the University of Washington in the William S. Lagan Collection. Marine mammal specialists have consulted these records to ascertain how many whales were taken from the waters surrounding Kodiak. At the Baranov Museum, we were curious to see if the Weekly Manufacturing Log within our collection contained different information than that available within the Logan Collection. We were also eager to understand the data within the log so that we could better interpret the history of Port Hobron and make the scientific information within more accessible to visitors as well as scholars.

Recently, thanks to a grant from the National Park Foundation, the Baranov Museum hired a cetacean scientist to analyze the log for the first time. Sophie Pierszalowski is a graduate student at Oregon State University's Cetacean Conservation Genetics Lab. Ms. Pierszalowski compared the data she extracted from the log to findings previously published about Port Hobron whaling results. Within, please find Ms. Pierszalowski's report, "Whaling at Port Hobron: Connecting Total Catches with Production."

In addition to the report, using Ms. Pierszalowski's findings, the museum produced a series of lesson plans for Baranov Museum, students. These lesson plans engage students in the history and science of Kodiak whales. In one lesson plan, students pretend to be on a research vessel, observing and photographing whales. Afterwards, the students must match photos taken of the same whales taken in different years. Another lesson plan uses reproduced images from the Weekly Manufacturing Log to teach students how to calculate mean, median, and mode. If you are interested in receiving copies of these lesson plans, please contact me at [anjuli@baranovmuseum.org](mailto:anjuli@baranovmuseum.org).

Please let me know if you have any questions about his project. Also, please feel free to share Ms. Pierszalowski's report with your colleagues.

Sincerely,

Anjuli Grantham  
Curator of Collections



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