

brunt of this whaling) and in the North Pacific. The first gives a brief account of the origins of modern whaling in the Russian Far East. The second (reproduced from Clapham and Baker, 2002) gives a summary of reported vs. actual catches for all species in the Southern Hemisphere (see also Clapham et al., In review, for a detailed breakdown of humpback whale catches, by factory fleet). The final appendix provides a partial accounting of catches of large whales in the North Pacific from 1961 to 1979; the true catch records from this ocean are less complete than for the Southern Hemisphere. We hope that this additional information serves to provide a clearer picture of Soviet whaling as related here by Fred Berzin.

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## A. A. Berzin and His Memoir

Alfred A. Berzin began to study whales in 1955 at the Pacific Research and Fisheries Center (TINRO) in Vladivostok where he is still working at the present time.<sup>1</sup> In the years before the rapid development of Soviet whaling only two fleets (*Aleut* and *Second Kuril*) were hunting whales.

In the winter of 1955, Berzin took part in an exploratory expedition aboard a catcher boat in the area off the Kuril Islands, and in the fall of 1956 he was on the scientific vessel attached to a Bering Sea expedition organized by the U.S.S.R. Academy of Science.

In 1958, TINRO created a laboratory to study marine mammals, and Berzin became its director. In 1959, he led the scientific expedition that surveyed the waters around the Aleutian Islands and Bristol Bay, where for the first time large concentrations of humpback and right whales<sup>2</sup> were discovered. Subsequently,

he took part in many scientific expeditions on Soviet, American, and Japanese ships in different areas of the central North Pacific, in the Okhotsk Sea, and in the eastern North Pacific.

At the end of the 1950's, Berzin began a study of whales from the *Aleut* whaling fleet and at land stations in the Kuril Islands. In 1961–62, the author led the work on one of the Antarctic whaling fleets, the *Sovetskaya Rossia*. In subsequent years he continued studies from the northern whaling fleets.

Berzin defended his dissertation for the degree of Candidate of Biological Science<sup>3</sup> in 1964. In 1971, he published a large monograph<sup>4</sup> dedicated to one of the main exploited species, the sperm whale. This monograph was translated into English in 1972<sup>5</sup> and received wide international recognition.

<sup>1</sup>Translator's note: The Soviet (and now Russian) system of scientific degrees is different from the one used in the United States, the Candidate degree is broadly equivalent to a Doctor of Science.

<sup>2</sup>Berzin, A. A. 1971. *Kashalot. Pischevaya Promyshlennost*, Moscow.

In 1974, Berzin was granted the degree of Doctor of Biological Science for this monograph. He authored more than 100 scientific papers, many of which were published in foreign countries, primarily in the reports of the Scientific Committee (SC) of the International Whaling Commission (IWC).

This memoir is written in popular science form, and it represents the first attempt of a witness to relate the crimes of Soviet whaling. It is an objective description of the outrages that were happening on the factory ships in the Antarctic, with examples of their heartless vandalism. The memoir is well-written.

The combination of the scientific reliability of the account, together with the testimonies of the witnesses to these events, make this memoir unique; furthermore, it represents the first honest exposition of the secrets of Soviet whaling.

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<sup>3</sup>Berzin, A. A. 1972. The sperm whale. Transl. E. H. Z. Blake, *Israel Prog. Sci. Transl.* Keter Press, Jerusalem, Israel.

<sup>1</sup>Translator's note: Alfred (Fred) Berzin died in April 1996.

<sup>2</sup>Genus and species of whales are listed in Appendices II and III.