

bay whaling, for humpbacks, in the extensive inland harbours and bays along the east coast. Rogers transferred to the *Atlas* where he took eight humpbacks between April and June but lost at least as many again, mainly through bad weather. Of the other tenders, the *Franklin* lost several and saved three, while the *Maria* took at least four in June alone.

Though right whale captures are recorded on 17 July (80 barrels), 13 August (100 barrels), and 19 September, the record for the latter part of the season is not clear, partly because from 19 July to 31 December 1852 the journal is kept not by Rogers but by his first mate, John Beaumis. Rogers spent this period in Pot Harbour aboard the *Corinthian*.

However it should be mentioned that just before relinquishing his journal, and presumably his command of the *Atlas*, Rogers had deserted bay whaling for a week's cruise in her from 10 to 17 July to check the southern and south-eastern beaches for stray sea elephants. One hundred and twenty were taken there, while, presumably, other schooners and cutters may have made similar unseasonal forays on other beaches around the island.

The only full elephanting season of this voyage was from 13 September to 31 December 1852 during which time Beaumis kept the *Atlas* busy landing, provisioning and collecting gangs along the southern coasts, especially the south west, though some visits were also made briefly to the east and northern coasts. Again a meticulous record was kept of the catch but without similar data for the same period at other points of the coast, an overall analysis is not possible. Suffice to say that the journal gives ample evidence of a highly successful season for the *Atlas* made frequent trips to Pot Harbour to discharge blubber for mincing and boiling on the ships, and also, from time to time, some barrels of oil from blubber boiled down by the gangs ashore or on the *Atlas* itself.

A second off-shore whaling season commenced in the *Corinthian* on 12 January 1853 and lasted until 7 March. Rogers took at least five right whales and a calf in January and eight in February. But in each month at least three others were lost before they could be brought to the ship and 'cut in'. Where recorded the average yield per adult whale was 64 barrels. On 4 March, Captain Rogers told Captain Morgan of the *Julius Caesar* that he had taken fourteen whales that season and remarked, with justified pride, that he required only one more to fill his ship.¹²

The *Julius Caesar* left Desolation for home that day with 2,391 barrels of 'whale oil' and 10,500 lb of whale-bone. The *Corinthian* followed on 20 March with a very rich cargo of 3,058 barrels of 'whale oil' and 1,000 lb of whale-bone.¹³ En route home a week was spent at Moca-medez in Angola. The *Corinthian* reached New London on 24 June 1853, a full ship after a voyage of less than two years.