

Their Greenland fishery has certainly not declined; some writers are of opinion, that it is greater at present than ever it was; while the English possessed a share of theirs, it amounted to a vast sum.

In forty-six years, ending 1721, they employed in it	6,995 ships.
Caught, _____	* 32,908 whales.
Value, at 500 <i>l.</i> each †, _____	16,000,000 <i>l.</i>
The medium crew of the ships is forty men and boys; the total number therefore ‡ _____	279,800
Ships per annum, _____	151
Seamen, ditto, _____	6,000
Value, ditto, _____	347,826 <i>l.</i>
Value of the herring and whale fishery per annum, according to the last and least account of the former, _____	2,047,826 <i>l.</i>

A very little reflection will be sufficient to shew the vast importance of fisheries which bring in such prodigious sums, and employ such numbers of seamen; nor are the seamen the only people employed, the number on land in building, fitting out, and repairing the ships, and making the numerous nets and fishing implements, must be incredibly great.

The Baltic trade is the most considerable carried on by the Dutch in Europe, and immensely great; employing constantly no less than 1200 sail of large ships||. Prodigious magazines of all the Baltic products are ready in Holland for the southern markets, which they almost wholly supply. The ships used in this trade are all bulky, and of great burden, so that we cannot estimate them at less than 300 tons upon an average, which makes 360,000 tons of shipping; and the seamen, reckoned at no more than 12 to the ship, amount to about 15,000.

To these branches of their commerce, we should add their trade to Britain, France, and all the southern parts of Europe, Baltic produce excepted; likewise, their African and West Indian commerce: all these are of consequence, and must undoubtedly employ a great number of ships; particulars of them, however, I cannot discover.

\* Postlethwayte's *Dictionary*, Art. *Greenland*.

† Anderson's *Deduction*, &c. vol. ii. p. 350.

‡ Elkin's *Memorial to Sir John Eyles*.

|| Nugent's *Grand Tour*, vol. i. p. 28.