**WHALE FISHERIES ACT 1840**

Full title: *An Act for the Regulation and Protection of the Whale Fishery*

The key provisions in this act are covered in the following preamble:

Whereas various Fishing Stations have been established in or near to several of the inlets or Bays of this Province for the purpose of killing and taking Whales and a considerable number of vessels and boats are engaged in such fishery therein and also on the High Seas: And whereas disputes often arise as to the property in fish when struck by several harpooners and also respecting the settlement of the accounts of the persons engaged in the said fisheries : And whereas it is expedient that for affording encouragement to the said Fisheries the rights of the several persons engaged therein should he better defined and a summary remedy be given for the punishment of misconduct on the part of the men engaged in such Fisheries and also for protecting them in their rights.

Note: Prior to 1857 the colony of SA was ruled by a Governor responsible to the British Crown. Legislation was enacted by the Governor following consideration by a five person Council of Government and later expanded to seven and called the Legislative Council. No Hansard was prepared.

Acts passed between 1836 and 1857 are covered on this History of Agriculture site with the full title and summary of the key provisions of the Act.