May 4th,1917

W.A.Found, Esq.,

Deputy Minister of Fisheries,

Ottawa,

Ont.

Dear Sir:-

I enclose herewith copy of letter from Rivers Inlet, which is being circulated there and which will doubtless reach you in due course, and I am writing you in connection with this letter so that you will have a full understanding of the situation when same reaches you.

In the first place (as I think I have pointed out previously) the permitting of gasoline engines in District No.2 will mean that a majority of the gasoline boats now operated on the Fraser river, will seek northern waters, thereby relieving the congestion on the Fraser and enabling the men to make more money in the northern fishing, with which they can liquidate the indebtedness they are now under to the Fraser river canners.

The argument advanced in the fourth paragraph of the enclosed letter as to the poor condition of the Fraser river fishermen, and the contrast of their situation to those in northern waters, is fully illustrates my contention, and the very fact that these Fraser fishermen are

in such an unenviable position is greater reason for their being permitted to improve their condition by getting return from their investment, which would follow the permitting of gasoline engines in the waters of District No.2

Paragraph two of the letter refers to the boats now in use not being strong enough for engines, but in this connection I would point out that all of the boats fished on Rivers Inlet are owned by the canners, so that the fishermen would have no property loss should they be discarded.

In no other section of District No.2 will there be found many fishermen willing to sign this letter. The reason that it is put forth in the Rivers Inlet District is explained when they state in their letter- "is that the salmon fishing season is so short that we "would have ..... a very expensive boat and out- "fit that we could only use about two months in a year." Rivers Inlet is the one place in District No.2 where the fishing is practically restricted to the sockeye species of salmon, and no other fish are taken in the Inlet in commercial quantities, consequently the industry there only occupies them for the period stated. Nearly all of the Rivers Inlet fishermen are farmers or settlers in the

neighborhood of Cape Scott, Sointula,and Hunter Island, and devote the balance of the year either to the taking of halibut and cod or to agricultural pursuits. If they have a motor boat available for work in their home waters their earnings would be considerably augmented.

The last paragraph of their letter is rather contradictory as they ask that you have the use of power boats in District No.2 prohibited for five years with the expectation that by that time they may save enough to fit themselves out. If the use of these boats will be so detrimental to their interests, why should they wish to save for the purpose of acquiring power boats?

I think the whole letter can be traced back to some of the canning interests who are using - to further their own selfish ends - the ignorance of the fishermen as to what use the power boats would be to them in their ordinary industry.

Yours truly,

HD/N