March 19th,1918

Mr. G.J.Desbarats,

Deputy Minister of the Naval Service,

Ottawa,Ont.

Dear Sir:-

We have to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 12th inst., re fishing licenses at Bella Coola.

We think that on further consideration you will admit our correspondence has from the very beginning been quite consistent. As regards fishing licenses our attitude to-day is identical with that of May 1917: it is the announced policy of your Department which has undergone modifications.

The Inspector's letter of 10th May last states the Tallheo cannery license was only to be issued on the understanding that "no fishing licenses will be asked for in connection with the cannery". Our reply of the 11th May accepted the condition imposed and our operations in 1917 were so conducted. Our letter of the 8th March this year while asking for an increase in the total fishing licenses allowed to operate in this district did not seek to have any of them attached to the Tallheo plant. With all fishing licenses made independent we always were, and still are, prepared to take our chances of securing our fair share whether the total number issued be 70 or 110. Our letter of the 8th inst., was written to show what number of fishermen we thought the district should have, and could stand

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without detrimental effects on the fishery, but it did not suggest that if our recommendation was favourably acted upon any portion of the 110 should be issued in connection with, or attached to, our cannery.

We built our plant in 1917 without any attached fishing licenses, on the distinct understanding that all licenses would be made independent in 1918. We felt justified in doing so through the assurance your Department had given us. Had these assurances been made effective we would have no grounds for complaint, but, as you state in your letter of 19th Feby., "last year's arrangement ..... would work some unfairness to those who have built new canneries .....the owners of which were informed that the (attached) boat rating ..... would not be continued after last year." It is there-fore admitted that with the continuance of the old system for 1918 we are entitled to a sufficient proportion of the total boats fished to insure us a fair profit on the capital we have invested. This means that with the total number of licenses limited to 70, a portion of those licenses which in the past have been attached to the Bella Coola cannery must now be made available for us, or as an alternative, the total number increased so we can fish an adequate number without affecting the 49 licenses the Bella Coola cannery fished in 1917. Our investment in the Tallheo cannery is well over $60,000 and last

year we fished but 21 licenses. We cannot expect remunerative returns on our capital unless we secured a greater number of fishermen and we must look to your Department to secure us the necessary increase.

As far as our Company is concerned we are, and always have been, quite ready to discuss this question with the B.C.Packers Association. It is the latter Company who raises the objections, and we feel it will eventually be necessary for your Department to definitely arrange what number of licenses each of us may fish. For our part we are content to leave such division entirely in your hands and we will abide by your decision; all we ask being that when making your award you take into consideration the seining privileges our competitors enjoy and either grant us joint seining rights with them, or, in lieu thereof, a larger proportion of gill net licenses.

Yours truly,

Written by [illegible]