29th April 1921.

Messrs B. C. Salmon Canners Association,

Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sirs;-

In accordance with the wishess of the Fraser river canners I visited Bellingham on Wednesday and interviewed Messrs Deming and Welsh regarding the adoption of joint regulations to permit salmon a free passage to the Fraser river spawning areas this season.

Mr Deming informed me they had previously had a meeting of representative Puget Sound interests and the consensus of opinion had been that nothing in the way of weekly or monthly closed seasons could be arranged as regards the 1921 sockeye fishery. It was not a question of lack of authority of their Fishery Board, or its ability to enforce such rulings as it might make. The Board had ample power and ample funds for policing purposes, and all impressions to the contrary were erroneous. But the Act creating the Fishery Board was passed so late that it would work great hardship on those whose commitments for piles, web, cans, labour contracts, etc., were final, and there was no question but that in view of the opposition which undoubtedly would arise the Board could not promulgate too drastic changes in the existing regulations. Therefore the canners meeting had decided it was impractical to try for a closed season for July, or even from 20th July to 1st August. They feel that the rehabilitation of the 1921 sockeye fishery must depend entirely upon artifical propagation efforts, and they are prepared to do their share in this respect on the lines discussed by their Fishery Board with Messrs Whitehead, Burke, Powell and myself, on the recent visit of the Board to Vancouver.

Mr Deming however thought steps should be taken to conserve the humpback salmon run and that in view of the unfavourable market outlook a closed season for this species could be effected. He suggested that all fishing be prohibited for the month of September, and felt satisfied the Sound interests would endorse this suggestion. I was of the opinion that more effective results could be obtained if the closed time was from 15th August to the end of September, and in this view both Messrs Deming and Welsh concurred. If this cannot be arranged I thought they should make the closed time from 25th August ~~to the end of September~~, pointing out that this was already in force in B. C. and if the Washington Fishery Board made it the law for Puget Sound there would be no question of our government suspending the B. C. regulations as they have done in recent years. Mr. Deming will discuss this with the other Sound canners and if it can be done he will formally make the proposition to the Fraser river fishing interests.

Messrs Deming and Welsh further advised me that only 16 canneries were likely to operate on the Sound this year, (against 45 in 1917); only about 100 purse seines, (against about 400 in 1917); and that traps would also be considerably reduced in number as compared to the last "big" year. They thought the price for sockeyes caught with independent gear would be 35 cents per fish.

I trust the above information will enable some mutually satisfactory agreement to be arrived at, and if I can further assist in any way my services are at your command.

Yours very truly

HD/P.