12670 Ventura Blvd.,
North Hollywood, Cal.
9th May 1953.

Loyd A. Royal, Esq.,
International Pac. Salmon Fish. Comm.
New Westminster, B. C.

Dear Mr. Royal;-

I duly received your letter of 27th ulto., and the copies of "A Review of the Sockeye Salmon Problemns Created by the Alcan Project in the Nechako River Watershed" but delayed my acknowledging it earlier pending a comprehensive study of the latter work. This I have now completed.

This report is indeed a credit to the Commission and is deserving of far more consideration than, alas; I am afraid it will receive. It deals with a phase of the disaster which had not occurred to me but which is of the greatest importance. The photographs most graphically depict the irreparable damage done to the water flow while the report itself in the discussion of its effects on the Nechako River-Stuart Lake sockeye salmon runs is unanserable.

The stand taken by your Commission in the resolution it passed at its Ottawa meeting on 21st June 1948 and at subsequent meetings held since then have consistently condemned the deliberations and actions of the Dominion Government's Department of Fisheries. Yet despite the representations made by you, the Fisheries Council of Canada, the Press and individual protesters like myself, the fishery authorities of Canada violated their sworn obligations and have acquiesced in planning and proceedings which they were duty bound to have prevented.

In August 1948, before there was any announcement of what the Aluminum Company of Canada were contemplating, I wrote the Minister of Fisheries, Ottawa urging that no dams should be permitted in the Fraser River watershed that could adversely affect the salmon fishery. Again in September 1949 when the Company's application was filed with the B.C. government I again protested to Ottawa, and sent your Commission a copy of my letter. Later from time to time I followed this up with other letters,- copied of which you also received.

The only apparent effect these communications produced was a letter, dated 28th June 1950, from the Department in which they denied they had been in any way negligent in fulfilling their duties and implying a withdrawal of my charges would be in order. In reply I reiterated my contentions and gave verse and chapter for the conclusions on which they were based. Shortly afterwards as if to emphasize the correctness of my remarks the Department acquiesced in actions, if not also in words, in the Provincial Government's proposal to erect another dam, this time on the Quesnel River.

Amongst other derelictions of duty I pointed out that the Department of Fisheries, although responsible for the conservation, management and protection of the commercial fisheries resources had acquiesced in the Aluminum Company of Canada, acquiring rights in the Nechako area that adversely affected and partly extinguished the salmon runs to spawning areas above Prince George, and that it did so without any monetary consideration being asked for or received for the publicly owned natural resources the Company's operations would destroy.

In the February 1953 number of Pacific Fisherman it is reported that for the insignificant fishery rights of the Indians at Celilo Falls, Oregon, the American Government has agreed to pay the natives $8,245,000.00 for relinquishing their perpetual fishery rights in that locality. Thus the American Government, - it being the beneficiary in this hydro-electric development project - considered itself obligated to this monetary extent for a minor fishery resource while Ottawa let the Aluminum Company of Canada take natural resources worth MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ANNUALLY away from the Nation without any payment whatsoever for the publicly owned assets their activities were about to destroy.

It is on account of this complete disregard of their duties by the Dominion fishery authorities and the refusal of the Aluminum Company to do anything to relieve the situation that I feel this latest report of your Commission will be ignored.

By what I am sure was only a coincidence the news item concerning the extinguishing of the Celilo Indians rights was paralleled in the adjoining column by Senator Reid's recently expressed hope that British Columbia's Government "will bring down legislation providing for adequate protection for the fisheries in any future hydro-electric or river control projects that may be carried out. Such protection now depends primarily on the benevolence of the private interests concerned, says the Senator." Apparently Senator Reid too has given up relying on the Ottawa Government to honour its obligation to preserve, manage and protect Canada's salmon resources on the Pacific Coast.

I hope that in the coming season's humpback salmon runs particular note will be taken of that species progress up river, their arrival on their spawning grounds and the conditions existing in the latter areas. I am afraid the Aluminum Company's operations in the Nechako territory will result in repercussions far beyond their immediate vicinity. Your report shows the water flow of the Stuart-to-Nautley reach of the Nechako has been reduced 80 to 84%, and 40% less where the Nechako and Fraser rivers join. Last summer engineers reported to insurance companies interested in loaning money on Lower Fraser Valley farm mortgages but apprehensive that floods might adversely affect their securities, that this danger had been removed by the Nechako area deversion of water from the Fraser River. They reported

the effect of the Nechako dam was to reduce by 20% the Fraser river water flow at Hope and through this decrease flood water rises would no longer attain the danger level.

I wrote Dr. Thompson drawing his attention to the probable effect on humpback salmon spawning of lowering the water level of the lower Fraser river but apparently he was not interested. Nevertheless it seems more than likely a 20% reduction in water flow may make many spawning streams and areas inaccessable to ascending humpback salmon and a disaster created for that species comparable to what happened to sockeyes in the Fraser Canyon in 1912-1914. I think the situation should most certainly be watched carefully and if found as I anticipate you will have in your Commission authority to deal with the matter. I sincerely trust the American and Canadian governments before that time will augment your present powers by conferring on your Commission similar jurisdiction over the humpback fishery as you already possess over the sockeye salmon species. I also hope the power you now possess to make recommendations will be supplanted and enlarged so the Commission alone, instead of Ottawa or Washington, will have full legislative authority to conserve, manage and protect from exploitation or destruction all species of the salmon resources of the Province of British Columbia and the State of Washington.

Yours faithfully

HD/P.