

Wm. Young Esqr  
Dear Sir

- 7
- agreeable to your Request I have thought a little on the present Depressed State of our Fisheries and the Remedies which appear to want Satisfaction on this important Subject are the following - viz
- 1 - In the present State of our Fisheries is Bounty necessary to keep them alive and induce Capitalists to embark in them?
  - 2 If Bounty be necessary to what Cause is there Necessity to be traced?
  - 3 If Bounties are given on Salt Fish, or Turneps Employed will this Mode of Relief answer the End Contemplated in giving it and if not what other Remedy can be proposed to Extend our Fisheries and Secure their Stability?

On the Head of these Subjects I need only remark that the present Miserable Condition of our Fisheries sufficiently manifests the Assertion that Bounty or some other more Efficient Remedy ~~is~~ is absolutely necessary to induce the Capitalist to embark in a Trade which otherwise affords little prospect of Repaying him for Risking his Capital -

but when I came to Enquire into the True Cause of  
this necessity it appears to me to originate wholly  
in the last Treaty of Peace with the United States  
by which the whole British North American Fisheries  
are virtually ceded to their Country - by this  
Convention I believe the privilege was allowed  
to take fish within 3 Miles of our Shores but not  
to Dry or Cure them on our Shores Except on an  
inhabited Shoar - but I must have they have ob-  
served this Stipulation and with what avidity  
they have availed themselves of the advantage  
it presents - Possessed of an our Slavery Licence  
they have bound out Slaves to induce be  
Subjects to Embark in this valuable Trade  
to an Extent which completely Excludes us  
from a fair Competition - admitting even  
that the whole Revenue of this Province were  
given for the Encouragement of the Fishery  
it would by no means answer the End  
or serve to the Subsistence of Nova  
Scotia those Natural advantages of  
which they are deprived by the Rush  
acts of Ignorant Statesmen - it is in vain  
they have told us that for our Security they  
have Excluded the Americans from partici-  
-ating in

and West India trade in fish - the <sup>Integrity</sup> ~~Effect~~ of  
these stipulations is completely destroyed by  
the facility with which they are enabled to  
monopolize the European Markets in fish  
~~the~~ immediate Effect of which is ~~with~~ ~~the~~  
that our fish trade has been chiefly con-  
fined to our west India Plantations

Under the present Encouragement held forth  
to the American Fishermen they have done  
both in West India to all our Shores  
most particularly to the Labrador Coast  
and the Magdalen Islands - they have  
now completely possessed themselves of the  
Labrador Fishery and have got many  
Extensive Establishments on Shore -  
they fish within the Harbours and  
in many Cases have been known to  
treat the few British Fishermen with  
the greatest Contempt - and even  
to take their Callows from them  
and Drive them away - in one  
Instance last Spring they took complete  
possession of the best Herring fishery  
in the Magdalen Islands - they stocked

their Nets & Sines completely across the  
~~Narrow~~ Entrance of the Harbours by which  
means they prevented the fish from going  
inside until they had their own vessels  
filled when they withdrew after having  
completely ruined the fishing ground by  
throwing their Garbage overboard in the  
Water which is contrary to all fishing  
Regulations —

admitting then that Bounties are ne-  
cessary to Encourage our fishing, it would be  
unwisely to be an imprudent waste of  
Public Money unless it could be given to  
an extent to enable us to enter into  
competition with the Americans in  
those Countries where the fish of both  
Countries are admitted to Entry

from clearly of a opinion that so long  
as the Obnoxious Clause ~~is~~ in the late  
Conventions remaining in force against  
us no Encouragement which our Liberty  
means can afford will have the  
desired Effect of giving either extent or  
Prevalency to our Fishing —

from now come to their feet which  
should propose a Remedy to the Evils Com-  
plained of here here please Congress  
that your beloved and can see none  
within our reach - it is true that we  
have a Constitutional Right to Com-  
plain <sup>to his Majesty</sup> of the aggressions of the unwary  
and by a Respectful Petition pray  
for Redress - but how far would this  
avail us? no further at best than to  
compel them to a strict observance  
of stipulations which when attained  
to take their intended course deprive  
us of our Exclusive Right to our Natural  
Law of Wealth - must therefore  
Repeat it that all Remedies which may  
be proposed for the Benefit of our  
Fishing must be ultimately abandoned  
as hopeless until we are put into the  
Exclusive Possession of this our Natural  
Right for which in the late war our  
Countrymen fought & Bled & Died

it has always appeared to me as Extraordinary  
that the Probability of these remaining did not  
demonstrate in a Manly Manner against  
this intrusion before it passed into a Law  
it is in fact an Extraneous indirect Tax  
imposed on us by the Mother Country with  
out dividing the Smallest Encumbrance from  
it herself - I mean there by allowing the  
Americans <sup>who are much Richer than we are</sup> to participate in our Fisheries  
they have laid us under the painful necessity  
of either lending aid to <sup>the House of</sup> the Whigs which  
abandons our own Trade and in our Day - or  
Extend our Public Money to Enable us to Carry  
on a fair Competition - this I call an  
indirect Tax (imposed upon wharves) even  
upon a people who are so jealous of their  
Rights that they would soon to submit  
to a Direct Tax from the Mother  
Country - and yet Tamely submit to  
it in the present form  
From the Reasons I have already  
stated for your Decidedly against

Bounty in whatever shape untill our fishing  
ground became exclusively our own and  
then they will not require any bounty,  
Some have asserted that Nova Scotia  
Neither Pays Capitate nor Fishermen  
to carry on an extensive fishery - I am  
well satisfied however that neither of  
these assertions are well founded - we  
are told that the French when in Possession  
of Cape Breton valued the Fishing of  
that Island alone at a Million  
Sterling a Year and if so shall we  
be told that at this time Nova Scotia  
and Cape Breton united shall not be  
able to raise Fishermen & Manry to  
Carry on as valuable a Trade

it would afford me a great  
Deal of Pleasure to <sup>see</sup> a Statement Published  
of the ~~Quantity~~ Quantity of Fish Caught for a  
few years back by this Province and  
also if it could be come at the  
Quantity Caught by the Subjects of the  
United States for in our Seas and in

our Slaves — together with the Tonnage  
of the Shipping Employed by them ~~in them~~  
and the Number of Men — if you  
could Come at these Records it would  
be no Harm to lay them before the Public

Yours very Respectfully

James O'Connell

J. O'Connell

Letter to

Mr Young Sen  
on the 10th

1824