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CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE AND FISHERIES
FISHERIES BRANCH

FILE No. 26-1
JUN 12 1937
LETTER No. 1899

Jim
11/17

Office of the Inspector of Fisheries

AT Smithers, B. C.

19

May 31st. 1937

Sir:-

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I am in receipt of your favor of the 29th. instant file 26-I with accompanying copy of letter from Louie Tommy of Moricetown to the Chief Supervisor and in reply beg to advise you as follows

You will note in Louie Tommy's letter the key to the whole situation, quoth "we can not stop fishing because lots of poor people and old age can not make any monig. just get his on fish in this canyon". I am too rough because I try to prevent commercialization of salmon.

I may say that the leading up to his letter came from the fact that I hated to see the waste of coarse fish from the fish trap at Lake Kathlyn and made arrangements with some of the Indians that they would be there when we were emptying the traps and take the fish. Some of the Indians including Louie Tommy came from Moricetown to Smithers and were around for a few days. They wanted to be on the fish which was perfectly alright. However some Indian lifted the trap one day by himself. Louie Tommy was around there that day and I was informed that he had had brought a number of fish into town from there. I questioned him about it and in the course of my conversation told him that the next Indian that put his hands on that trap, that I would land him into jail and leave him there. The fact that I would have to tell him that I would land him in jail makes me too rough.

They may have had 23 baskets at one time fishing but it has not been so in the last twenty eight years.

I would have no objection to Peter Michel putting in a trap if he and his son Peter Bazelle would look after it but I am not allowing another trap for Louie Tommy to commercialize with, which is the set-up that Louie Tommy wishes.

If the fishing at Moricetown was all done with baskets it would be the most economical method of catching the fish as there would be none destroyed as there are with gaffs. Under the present conditions it is not so good for the fisheries as it holds the fish that use that runway and makes them an easy prey to the Indians gaffing.

The trap is a source of friction at Moricetown among the other Indians and I recommended that it be done away with several years back. This advice was not acceptable to the Department.

The conditions under which the trap was first allowed in my time was that Louie Tommy was to supply any old Indians with fish free of charge. This was alright for some years but he has now gone high hat for the money and charges them all.

Louie Tommy now considers that this trap is an inherent right of his and that he is not being allowed any privilege.

I would suggest that the Chief Supervisor write him, telling him that he is enjoying a privilege under the conditions that he supply all the old Indians of the Reserve with fish free of charge; and that he must operate it under the instructions of the fishery officers, putting it in, lifting it, taking it out when he is told or otherwise the privilege will be cancelled.

I may say that if it were cancelled, it would not be working any hardship as Louie Tommy is a fraud as while he has some eyes he can gaff a fish or shoot a deer better than three fifths of the reserve

James Boyd, Esq.
Supervisor of Fisheries
Prince Rupert, B. C.

I am Sir:
Your obedient servant

A. R. McDouall



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COPY

Moricetown,

19 days of May 1937

to

J. A. Motherwell Esq
Chief Supervisor fisheries
Winch Building.
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear sir,

Now I just a few lines to let you know. we are a fishing at Moricetown canyon at Indian Vellage. A . R. McDonald he was too rouf on us about fishing here but we can not stop fishing because lots of poor people and old age can not make any monig. just he get his on fish in this canyon and a long time ago this Indian got altogether 23 fish basket trap but now we have only one fish trap. few years ago old Peter Michell he got one fish basket trap but now he can not put up and he can not get no fish because he is too old now. it is fish warden he trying to make us trouble about fishing because lots of poor people at this town. Please trying to hlep us to get plenty of fish. I am a sore my eye and blain I can not see nothing. Please your let me know what is going to be this summer. Please your let us know before the fishing season open.

We have only one fish trap at Moricetown canyon.

From Yours truly

Mr Louie Tommy
Moricetown B. C.