

# BOOTH FISHERIES COMPANY

ALASKA  
DEC 20 1923  
FISHERIES

## GENERAL OFFICES

205 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE  
OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

CHICAGO December 17, 1923.



Henry O'Malley, Esq.,  
Commissioner of Fisheries,  
Bureau of Fisheries,  
Washington, D. C.

*Noted  
JRM*

My dear Mr. O'Malley:

Replying to your letter of December 5th in regard to the fishing operations at Sitka, Alaska in 1923.

The "Zapora" and "Commonwealth" belong to the Booth Fisheries Company but operate out of Seattle and the fishing gear owned by these boats is operated out of there. As I presume you have similar report from Seattle to the one you secured from Sitka, the boats, fishing equipment and men will be shown on that report. The Sitka plant would not report anything they did not have jurisdiction over. A company operated as ours is must require the branch on whose books the boat appears and where their wages and expenses are paid to make the report, and naturally Sitka could not do this as they would have no record showing the number of men on board these vessels: Seattle would have to report that.

I do not know whether your representatives secured their report direct from Sitka or not: if so, I think it was a mistake as I believe all reports from this company for information you desire should be sent to this office and we will secure the information for you and in that way can prevent duplications and omissions.

As regards the Herring that was secured at Sitka; all of it was purchased from independent boats as we have no boats fishing for herring at that point; none of them were taken by company nets.



QUALITY AND SERVICE

Henry O'Malley, Esq. #2.  
12/17/1923.

As a matter of fact, all fish taken from the "Commonwealth" and "Zapora" were purchased from them at Sitka by the Sitka branch on the same basis they are paying outsiders and returns derived from this sale were reported to the Seattle branch by the "Zapora" but not by the "Commonwealth" as the "Commonwealth" is operated independently: we do not bear any of the expense of the "Commonwealth" as we lease it out to a captain on a share basis, but all records and clearances are made through the Seattle Office.

Furthermore, Sitka is under the jurisdiction of the Seattle Manager who has signed the report I am returning herewith so it is self-evident Seattle has included the tonnage of the "Zapora" in the Seattle report but of course the "Commonwealth" discharges her cargo at Sitka, Ketchikan, Prince Rupert or Seattle, wherever the Captain may elect as the boat is practically leased to him and is not under our jurisdiction.

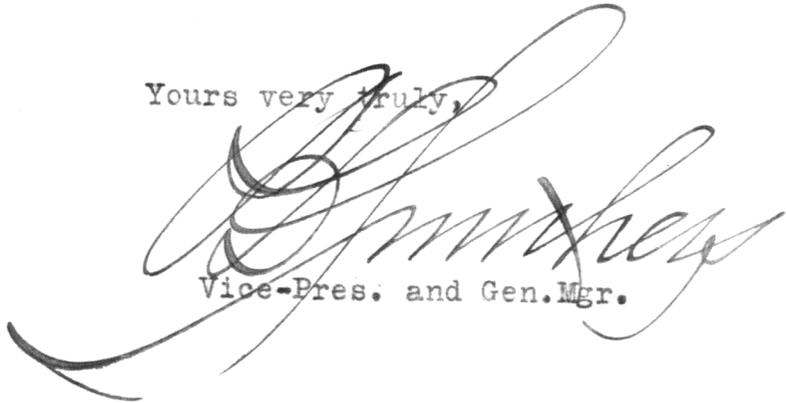
Recently when one of your representatives called at this office and left a pencil memorandum asking for information regarding St. Paul and Minneapolis, which I referred to you for additional information before furnishing it, I indicated at that time I felt it was a mistake for your people to visit our individual branches because it is not possible for them to understand the ramifications of the practical operation of an organization scattered over the United States, Canada and Alaska.

If the information given you herein is not just what you desire, please advise further and we will be very glad to give you any additional information you may want in connection with the operation of our company

Henry O'Malley, Esq. #3.  
12/17/1923

at all points, but, as stated, we believe you will receive it in a much more accurate state if you will have all requests come to this office first and let us send them to the respective points.

Yours very truly,



Vice-Pres. and Gen. Mgr.

PLS.R.

~~Mr. O'Malley:~~ Mr. Powell

The attached from

Mr. P. L. Smithers refers to a returned Alaska fishery statistical report. You may desire to read it.

W.S.B.

Mr. Ball  
W.S.B.

12/21/23.