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**COPY of a REPRESENTATION**  
of the Lords Commissioners for Trade  
and Plantations to His MAJESTY, re-  
lating to the *Newfoundland* Trade  
and Fishery; dated 19th December  
1718.

To the KING's Most Excellent MAJESTY.

May it please Your MAJESTY,

**T**HE Fishery at Newfoundland having been obstructed and discour-  
aged for many Years past, not only by the late Wars, but by the  
Irregularities of the Inhabitants, Traders, and Fishermen, who reside in  
and resort to that Island;

We have, in Obedience to Your Majesty's Commission, whereby we  
are directed to enquire into the several Obstructions of Trade, and the  
Means of removing the same, considered the past and present State and  
Condition of the aforesaid Fishery, in what Manner it was formerly and is  
now carried on, and by what Regulations and Laws it has been and still is  
directed and governed.

And thereupon we most humbly crave Leave to represent to Your  
Majesty,

That the Fishery in Newfoundland was at first settled by Merchants and  
other Adventurers inhabiting the Western Parts of this Kingdom, and  
succesfully carried on for many Years, under the Restriction of such Cus-  
toms and Laws as were agreed upon by the Fishermen among them-  
selves.

That although the Harbours and Fishing Places were for some Time  
left open and free to all Nations (without Prejudice, however, to the So-  
vereignty of Your Majesty's Royal Predecessors) nevertheless great Num-  
bers of Ships and Seamen were Annually employed by the said Advon-  
turers, some in fishing, and others in supplying them with Salt from France  
and Portugal, and in carrying their Fish to Foreign Markets; which Ships  
being furnished with Provisions and all other Necessaries of English Pro-  
duction and Manufacture for the whole Voyage, it was not only a parti-  
cular Advantage to the Western Counties, but likewise to the Nation in