

Notwithstanding for the greatest and best Parts of the Fishing Coast belongs exclusively to the English, and the French are limited, and to the worst Parts, whilst ours is without Bounds.

That France has a certain Yearly Increase of 2,670 Seafaring Men from their Fishery, whilst we lose One or Two thousand that run every Year to America, and no Rule observed for increasing our Seamen, or preventing the Fishermen and Seamen running to America.

That the French Fishermen kill as much Fish *per* Man as our Inhabitants, notwithstanding our boasted Advantage of carrying it on by Inhabitants. It must also be noted, that in the Limits to which the French are confined between Cape Bonavista and Point Riche, they have scarce Half the Time for catching Fish that our People have to the Southward, where the Fish is equally abundant during that double Time for catching and curing.

That great Part of the Fishing Conveniencies on the prime Part of the Coast for Fishing is lost, by the Inhabitants possessing them, as Property; few or none of them employing Half the Number of Boats and Men as Ship Fishers would on the same Places, besides the many Conveniencies that lie Waste, because of the infinite Number of disputed Claims to Places which none of them can make out a Right to, being originally Ships Rooms; yet they exclude the Ships.

That in those Harbours to the Northward, where we have this Year had a few Fishing Ships, those Ships who brought out their own Men killed Two Thirds as much more Fish as our Inhabitant Fishers in the same Harbours: This Gain in the Quantity of Fish is, I apprehend, greater and more certain Profit to those concerned, and to the Public, than what is got by peddling monopolizing Trade of supplying a few slothful miserable Wretches for the Winter's Subsistence, and in Idleness; besides, the Employers of the Men in Ships would always likewise have the Benefit of supplying them at Home, by which the Men will get their Necessaries cheaper, consequently Wages then will fall, and they will expend no Foreign Manufactories.

Thus it appears the Public would be a very great Gainer, though no more Men than at present should be employed; but if the Fishery was to be laid open and free to all His Majesty's Subjects, as by Law it ought to be, the Ship Fishers encouraged, supported, and restored to their Privileges, there would be so many more Places, so much more Time, and so many more and better Men employed, as would, without the least Doubt, cause double the Quantity of Fish to be taken; consequently the Public Gain, and the King's Revenue, would be doubled, besides the far more important Acquisition of 30,000 Men, in constant Readiness to Man our Fleets for Security of the State; and give us such a noble Superiority over our Enemies or Rivals, as would be a certain Means of preventing War: But whilst the French manage their Fishery so well, and we ours so ill, they will always be able to harra's us with fresh Wars every Four or Five Years.

On the Fishery on the Coast of Labrador, within the Gulph of St. Lawrence only, was employed 117 Sloops and Schooners, with 1,563 Men, who killed 104 Whales, which yielded on an Average 140 Barrels of Oil, and 2,000 Weight of good Bone, all killed within a Space of 30 Leagues, and between 14th May and 10th July. The Winter Seal Fishery on the same