

copy

Fishery Office,
Campbeltown, 21st Febr'y, 1896

Sir,

With reference to your letter of 19th inst enclosing copy of a letter from Mr. G. Beeching, Fleetwood, to Sir Matthew White Ridley; and requesting me to furnish you with my observations thereon,

I beg to state that Mr Beeching's letter is considerably exaggerated, even the direction given of the wind on the day in question is untruthful, the gale was blowing from N.W. to W., and not N.E. W. as stated by him. It is quite easy for Beeching to say the vessel was fishing 25 miles west of Dubhartach in the North Channel, but it is generally believed that the vessel was fishing on this coast, or they would not have taken shelter in this bay from a N.W. gale, because it would have taken the vessel 8 to 10 hours to come from the fishing ground mentioned.

When the trawler "Bassein", 4138, arrived in this bay on 15th ulto, I boarded it along with two fishermen, and on getting aboard I asked the master why he was fishing without his vessel being properly numbered, and he replied that he was not fishing in Scotch waters, but I remarked that the vessel was not numbered for fishing in any British waters. He informed me, he intended fishing in the Sound

The Secretary,
Fishery Board for Scotland
Edinburgh.