

EDWARD M. KENNEDY
MASSACHUSETTS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

Mr. Robert H. Brown
24 Hawthorn Road
Marblehead, Massachusetts 01945

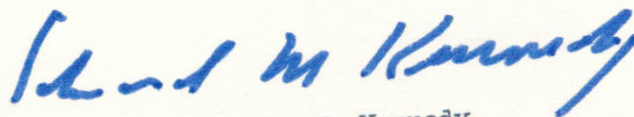
Dear Mr. Brown:

In reference to our recent correspondence, I am enclosing the reply I received to my inquiry in your behalf.

The attached is, I hope, self-explanatory, and I trust you will find it both informative and helpful. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

With best regards and my thanks again for contacting me.

Sincerely,



Edward M. Kennedy

Enclosure

Robert H. Brown
24 Hawthorn Road
Marblehead, Mass.
01945

August 13, 1970

The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
United States Senate
Washington, D. C., 20510

Dear Sir:

I am a lobster fisherman currently fishing at the edge of the Continental Shelf. I have been fishing in this area since the first of June, 1970.

On July 27, 1970, I observed four Polish trawlers in the area of my lobster traps. I approached the Polish trawler, "Wigry" SWI 173 and asked for the captain. The captain made himself known whereupon I asked him if he spoke English. Having answered in the affirmative, I inquired if he saw the markers in the area in which he was towing. He replied he did. My next question was did he have a chart of the area, which was also in the affirmative. At this point the captain left the area of the bridge before I could inquire further. My next question was going to be, would it be possible to come aboard and mark the area in which I was fishing so we might jointly fish there without conflicting.

My next attempt at saving my lobster gear was speaking to the captain of the trawler, "Sejno" SWI 178, The vessel was towing at the time and continued to do so while I "spoke" them. I repeated what I had told the "Wigry" and the captain indicated he saw my markers having lookouts on the bridge with binoculars at this time.

Since this was my last scheduled day on the fishing grounds, and there was nothing further I could conceive of doing, I left the area for Harwichport on the Cape where my operation is based.

Upon returning to the fishing grounds on August 3, 1970, I found I had suffered serious gear loss. The total number of traps lost was 119 plus lines and markers. The value of the lost traps is \$5,000. The loss of income from not having the traps for about one month is \$8,000. It will take approximately four trips (one a week) carrying thirty traps a trip to replace the gear.

In view of the fact I had notified the Polish draggers they were in the area of my lobster traps and they indicated they understood, I feel I should be compensated \$13,000. minimum.

These are the facts as they happened. I will put my reputation as a fisherman and a gentleman upon them. I feel you most would be interested in this matter as an International incident occurring as it did on the edge of the outermost geographical limits of the U.S.A.

I have notified the Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, at Gloucester, Mass. They are sending a report to the Secretary of State. I feel although they have been duly notified, your action in this matter is sorely needed.

Your reply and prompt action would be fully appreciated by myself and all fishermen on the East Coast.

Sincerely yours,

Robert H. Brown