ANNO DECIMO TERTIO

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. LXXII.

An Act to permit the free Importation of Cod Fish, Ling, and Hake, caught and cured in *Chaleur Bay*, or any other Part of the Gulph of *Saint Lawrence*, or on the Coast of *Labrador*.

WHEREAS by an Act, made in the Second and Third Years of the Reign of Her late Majesty Queen Anne, (intituled, An Act for the better securing and regulating the Duties upon Salt), Cod Fish, Ling, or Hake, caught and cured at Newfoundland, or Iceland, are permitted to be imported, brought in, or landed, under certain Restrictions and Regulations therein particularly mentioned: And whereas it may tend to the Increase of the Trade and Navigation of this Kingdom, if the like Permission were granted of importing and bringing in Cod Fish, Ling, Preamble. Act 2 & 3 Annæ

Ling, or Hake, caught and cured in Chaleur Bay, or any other Part of the Gulph of Saint Lawrence, or on the Coast of Labrador; may it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That from and after the passing of this Act, it shall and may be lawful to import, bring in, in British-built Vessels, navigated according to Law, and subject to the Rules prescribed in an Act of the Tenth and Eleventh Years of the Reign of his late Majesty King William the Third, (intituled, An Act to encourage the Trade to *Newfoundland*), and to land in Great Britain, all Cod Fish, Ling, and Hake, caught and cured in Chaleur Bay, or any other Part of the Gulph of Saint Lawrence, or on the Coast of Labrador, so as Oath be first made before the Landing thereof, by the Owner or Proprietor of such Fish, or the Master of the Vessel bringing the same, before the Officer for the Duties on Salt, in the Port or Place where such Fish shall be imported or brought in, (who is hereby required to administer the same without Fee or Charge), that all the Fish so imported or brought in came from the Gulph of Saint Lawrence, or the Coast of Labrador, and were caught and cured there; and so as the said Fish be, at the Landing thereof, and before the same be removed from the Shore, tendered to the Officer of the Port or Place for the said Duties, to have Part of the Tail of every such Cod Fish, Ling, or Hake, cut off, that no Allowance for such Fish may be obtained upon Exportation; and the said Officer is hereby impowered and required to cut off Part of the Tail of all such Fish on the Landing thereof: And in case any such Fish shall be landed or removed from the Shore before the same shall be tendered to the Officer, to have Part of the Tail cut, as aforesaid, all the Fish so imported and landed shall be forfeited, and Double the Value thereof, to be recovered of the Importer, Proprietor, or Master of the Vessel.

After passing this Act, all Cod Fish, Ling and Hake, caught in *Chaleur Bay*, &c. may be imported, subject to the Rules in Act 10 & 11 *Gul.* III.

Oath being made by the Master of the Vessel, that the Fish brought in, came from the Gulph of *St Lawrence*, &c.

Penalty on removing Fish from the Shore before tendered to the Officer.

And whereas, in the curing of Cod Fish, Ling, and Hake, considerable Quantities of Salt are necessarily thrown over them, when shipped, to preserve them from spoiling, and a great Part thereof falls off in unloading the Vessel, and it hath been too common a Practice for the Owner or Master of the Vessel, and People belonging thereto, to collect such loose and foul Salt together, and clandestinely convey it on Shore, and sell it at an under Price, whereby his Majesty's Revenue has been considerably injured; be it therefore enacted, That from and after the passing of this Act, the Master of every Vessel laden with Cod Fish, Ling, or Hake, either coming from Newfoundland, the North Seas, or Iceland, or the Gulph of Saint Lawrence, or the Coast of Labrador, into any Port or Place in Great Britain, shall, and is hereby required to throw, or cause to be thrown, overboard, and destroyed, all the Salt that shall so fall off, or be in the Vessel, at the Time of the unloading or landing of all or any Part of her Cargo, in the Presence of an Officer for the Duties on Salt; and if the Master of such Vessel shall neglect or refuse so to do, it shall and may be lawful to and for the Salt Officer on Board, by himself, or with such Assistance as may be necessary, to throw all and every Part thereof overboard, or otherwise destroy the same, and the Master, for such Neglect or Refusal, shall forfeit the Sum of Twenty Pounds, and Costs; and if any such Salt shall be landed or run on Shore, the same, and every Part thereof, shall be forfeited, and Treble the Value thereof; and all and every Person and Persons in whose Custody the same shall be found, and all and every Person and Persons who is, are, or shall be aiding or assisting in the Landing or Running thereof, shall forfeit the like Sum of Twenty Pounds, and Costs; One Moiety of all which Forfeitures shall be to the Use of his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, and the other Moiety to such Officer or Officers who shall seize, prosecute, or inform for the same; to be recovered and levied in such Manner and Form, and with such Power of Mitigation, as any Fine, Forfeiture,

The Master of every Vessel with Fish coming from *Newfoundland*, *&c.* to destroy all the foul Salt on board, in the Presence of a Salt Officer.

Penalty on Refusal or Neglect 20 *l.*

Persons in whose Custody such Salt is found, *&c.* to forfeit 20 *l.*

Forfeitures how to be applied.

feiture, or Penalty, is or may be recovered by any Law or Laws of Excise, or by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint, or Information, in any of his Majesty's Courts of Record at Westminster, or in the Court of Exchequer in Scotland, wherein no Essoin, Protection, or Privilege, Wager of Law, or more than One Imparlance, shall be allowed.

FINIS.