

Letter Written by Slade Agent William Kelson on June 25, 1813 concerning Bird Island Cove

...The greater part of the Bird Island Planters now deal with me instead of going to St. John's or Bonavista and to encourage them I have already sent down 160 hhds. salt with a small assortment of goods and provisions and have no doubt of obtaining the whole of them. I calculate on procuring from thence (if the voyages turn out tolerably) the ACTIVE'S cargo of fish...I wish it were not such a wild place for ships to ride in , but I think it will answer very well if we can only get a store built at Catalina. I am told there is an excellent place in the latter Hbr. for vessels to lay close to wharves and stores which might be constructed and which have been unoccupied for several years past. I think I shall shortly go down there and, if I find it so, will try to spare two or three hands with a small boat to catch and make some fish merely for the sake of taking possession of a spot until we have an opportunity of building a room, or until I have your opinion concerning it. I think this will answer much better than your plan of sending to Goose Cove on the french shore next winter, as there is every prospect of obtaining all the Planters in that direction as well as many from Bonavista. Bonavista and the Bird Islands are allowed to be the best places on the whole coast for fish, and Catalina is said to be with respect to safety for shipping not inferior to Trinity, and it certainly has double or treble the chance that Trinity has of admitting vessels early in the spring ...

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Information Provided by Mr. Doug Cole