Columbia River Gillnetter

Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union *Spring 2003 / Vol. 34, No. 1*

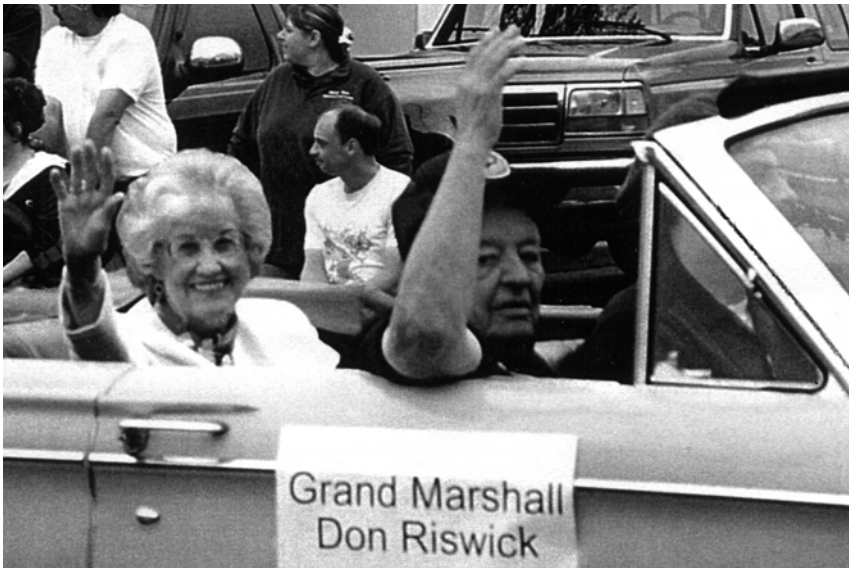
w w w . c r f p u . o r g

1904

This photo from around 1904 shows Gilnet boats anchored in what was then known as "Hungry Harbor" located above Pt. Ellice which is where the Astoria bridge now reaches the Washington shore. North Shore cannery facilities can be seen in the background. These boats had no engines-only a sail. During the strong part of the tide, fishermen would rest under the canvas in the bow. At times there could be 200 boats anchored here. Many fishermen lived on their boats and only returned home on weekends

Sally the Salmon Says...

"They wanted me to be Queen for a Day, but I told them a Royal Chinook is a queen every day!"



Dorothy and Don Riswick at Regatta Grand Parade, Astoria, August 2002

Articles in this issue: *Don Riswick says goodbye – More Tangle-Nets – Story of 200 Fishermen - Net-Pen News - The Spoils of Dredging – Snakeheads - Chilean Salmon Dumping - Bristol Bay Record Lows ...*

Also, join us on the web: *Discover our new web site at www.crfpu.org where, in addition to the articles of this issue, you will find more news articles and old photographs as well.*

Columbia River Gillnetter

One of the Oldest Conservation Unions on the West Coast—Since 1884

EDITOR Don Riswick
Post Office Box 511, Astoria, OR 97103
503/325-2507

PRESIDENT
Gary Soderstrom
22665 Cedar Grove Rd, Clatskanie, OR 97016
360/430-3317

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
Alan Takalo
93491 Aldrich Point Rd, Astoria, OR 97103
503/458-6654

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
Bruce Crookshant
8542 Elderberry SW, Rochester, WA 98579

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY Jack Marincovich
37712 Parker Lane, Astoria, OR 97103
503/325-2504

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503/458-6518

Gerald Westerholm
P. O. Box 2075, Gearhart, OR 97138
503/738-7609

DISTRICT 8
Abby Ihander
92146 Lewis & Clark Rd., Astoria, OR 97103
503/325-4865

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Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union
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P. O. Box 56, Astoria, Oregon 97103
Don Riswick, Editor - Phone (503) 325-2507

Foreword

This paper is being published for the express purpose of keeping the public and the fishermen informed of the **true facts** and happenings in regard to the Columbia River Fishing Industry and all people connected with it. The advertisements which appear within make it financially possible to publish this paper and we hope you will in return patronize and thank the business people who contributed to this cause. Anyone who wishes to contribute articles, pictures stories, or ads, please contact the editor at P. O. Box 511, Astoria, OR 97103 or call (503) 325-2507

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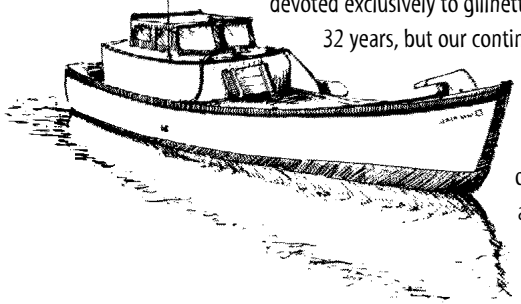

The Columbia River Gillnetter is the only remaining publication on the west coast devoted exclusively to gillnetting. We have been making a difference for 32 years, but our continued existence is threatened by increasing production and mailing costs. Now more than ever, we need a voice to represent our side of the issue, and the Gillnetter is our only contact with fishermen, lawmakers and the general public.

If you would like to help, send donations to Columbia River Gillnetter

The following individuals have made a cash contribution to the Columbia River Gillnetter Publication, which will be used to continue the publication and mailing of this free informational newsletter. We thank them for their support!

June 2002 — March 2003

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This paper was started for your benefit 33 years ago-to keep you informed and help fight the battles for you. As we are non-profit, we depend on advertizing and donations to keep publishing and mailing this newsletter. Many of you have donated generously over the years, but others haven't. If you like the work we do, I urge you to please send a small donation to help us continue. Think about it. Thank you.
Please make your contributions to: Columbia River Gillnetter, P. O. Box 511, Astoria, OR 97103

From The Editor

The year of the Tangle-Net is still with us

Commercial Gillnetters still have to attend an Oregon department of fisheries class to learn how to handle fish and qualify for a green card before being allowed to fish on the Columbia River. Gillnetters also have to have a fish box on the bow of the boat to revive wild fish using a pump which circulates water from the river into the fish box. Fishermen are allowed to keep hatchery fish, but must return wild fish to the river (if the adipose finn is clipped, it is a hatchery fish, if the finn is present, the fish is wild).

With all of this we hope Oregon Fish and Wildlife will provide more fishing time than they have in the past 2 years to prevent a large hatchery fish surplus of the valuable spring salmon on the Willamette and the Columbia. We also hope ODFW will allow larger mesh gillnets with adequate provisions for endangered stocks to avoid problems with Steelhead. Finally, we are looking forward to more consistency in regulations to avoid additional costs each year as the rules change.

Oregon and Washington fisheries regulatory authorities should also start considering the need for sportsfishermen to install fish boxes during the spring and summer seasons as well, just as the gillnetters do. They catch just as many fish as we do at times. In addition, due to poor oversight of regulations, sportsfishermen can catch a lot more than the limit if they return home with the caught fish and return later the same day.

Finally, because of the tremendous amount of imported fall farm fish (with no tariff), fish prices offered to gillnetters dropped as low as 30¢/lb. last fall. Many commercial fishermen have quit fishing because at these prices, and with all of the restrictions and need for new gear, it is impossible to make enough money even to cover expenses.

At this time, I am announcing that I will be stepping down as editor of the Columbia River Gillnetter Publication, my good friend Jon Westerholm will take on this role as of the next issue. I will remain available as consultant for the publication and will assist Jon with the transition.

I started this paper in 1969 and have enjoyed publishing it while serving the needs of our local commercial fishery and helping out the fishermen the best I could. I am now going on 86 years old and was recently remarried May 8th of 2002. Both of us are the same age and hope to have many good years together.

Many thanks to our advertisers and supporters, and thank you for continuing to read the Columbia River Gillnetter Publication.

—Don Riswick

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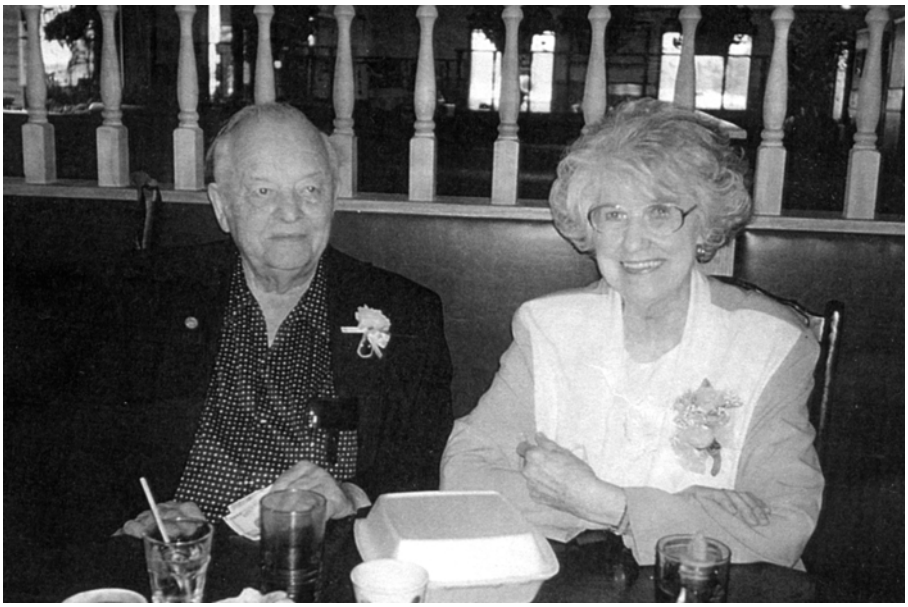

JOIN YOUR UNION

In January, the CRFPU board authorized a new membership price of just $50.00/year.
A Union card will be issued to any Commercial Gillnetter. Fill out or copy the form below and send in your dues to CRFPU c/o Jack Marincovich, Executive Secretary, Rt 2 Box 67A, Astoria, OR 97103
Any fisherman who fishes in any of the net-pen fishery is urged join and attend our meetings to have a voice in our future. We need your support. Call (503) 325-2504 for more information.

I wish to become member of CRFPU

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(enclose $50.00 dues for 1 year)

To the Editor

Allocate water to the fish

Despite being a national wildlife refuge with more bald eagles than anywhere else in the lower 48 states, the Klamath Wildlife Refuge is being managed for potatoes, not fish and wildlife. The Bush administration policy for the basin is to give water to farms first, even on the refuge.

What water is left for salmon and eagles? Warm water laden with farms' pesticides trickles down the Klamath River killing thousands of chinook and coho salmon. This loss of fish will be felt throughout the region, particularly by local Native Americans.

Why hasn't Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore., helped protect the wildlife refuge? Even in an election year with Smith desperately wanting to look green, he is unwilling to protect salmon and bald eagles in this rich but delicate ecosystem.

Water must be used to fill the Klamath River and marshes or we will continue to see thousands of salmon dying.

CATRIONA MADILL Southeast Portland

Dams are central to salmon problem

In his letter to the editor, Brig. Gen. David Fastabend of the Army Corps of Engineers' Portland office seems to have ignored your editorial, to which he said he was responding (The complicated salmon struggle, Oct. 11). He also told us Floridians that we did not understand the complicated situation with salmon and the Snake River dams, but at the same time contended that we should understand because we have much in common with them because we are undertaking restoration of the Everglades.

We do understand. Here are the facts his letter ignored:

All species of Snake River salmon are on the endangered species list, thanks primarily to the four lower Snake River dams in Washington state. State, federal and tribal scientists continue agreeing those dams are the biggest culprit in the decline.

For decades, the corps has been spending millions of dollars to save salmon on the Snake River, and everything it has tried has failed. Some measures, like trucking salmon around the dams, are downright silly. The main thing these projects have accomplished is putting millions of dollars into the corps' budget.

The people of the Northwest are not uniformly supporting the corps' continued dam operation on the Snake River. Thousands of people support breaching the dams, including taxpayer advocates who are tired of the pointless waste of our money; anglers who want to preserve their sport; family fishing businesses who depend on the salmon; and native Americans whose treaty with the U.S. government is violated by the dams' decimation of salmon.

It is even peculiar that the general referred to Everglades restoration, because it is our equivalent of breaching those dams. Most of the massive Everglades restoration involves reversing the damage done primarily by dams, sluices and canals built by the Army Corps of Engineers.

The RAND report, "Generating Power in the Pacific Northwest," mentioned in the *Times* editorial, concluded that removing the four lower Snake River dams and investing in clean energy would create up to 15,000 jobs and improve the environment.

The corps needs to spend more time examining new ideas like those in the RAND report, which could benefit everyone, and less writing letters trying to justify past mistakes.

MELISSA METCALFE, Southeast organizer, Endangered Species Coalition, St. Petersburg, FL.

Helping salmon survive

Two Tampa Bay congressmen could play important roles in passing legislation needed to save the wild salmon of the Northwest from extinction.

Salmon on the lower Snake River in Washington state are nearing extinction, and the only solution is to breach four hydroelectric dams. Floridians might wonder what this has to do with them, but two local members of Congress, Rep. C.W. Bill Young, R-Largo, and Rep.Jim Davis, D-Tampa, could play key roles in passing an important piece of legislation that would let a salmon rescue plan go forward.

It would be a national shame to lose a species as magnificent and valuable as the salmon. It could also be expensive. While the dams provide cheap electricity and ample water for agricultural irrigation, they threaten significant fishing and tourism industries in the region. In fact, two of the groups leading the fight to save the salmon are recreational and commercial fishermen.

Yet there is an even greater financial threat hanging on the outcome.

The U.S. government has treaties with Native Americans along the Columbia River (the Snake River is a tributary) that guarantee tribal rights to harvest salmon in established quantities. Federal action (or inaction) that led to salmon extinction could violate the treaties and open the government, and all taxpayers, to claims in the billions of dollars.

Then there is the cost of trying to help the salmon survive the dams. The problem is this: Salmon traversing the Columbia and Snake rivers must get past eight dams, four on each river. Each dam claims a portion of the fish population so that few make it past the final four dams on the Snake River. Twelve species of salmon are listed as endangered or threatened, and the Snake River population has plunged by nearly 90 percent.

The solution devised by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is an exercise in futility. It scoops up young salmon and hauls them past the dams by truck or barge, depositing them on the lower Columbia. The process is hugely expensive. Next year's proposed budget would spend $506-million on salmon restoration, compared with only $245-million for Everglades restoration. Yet the effort is a failure. Shipping causes the young salmon to suffer shock and disorientation so that survival rates fall far short of what is needed to avoid extinction.

A real fix is at hand. RAND, an independent research firm, released a report recently that shows the generating power lost from breaching the dams could be replaced with new wind and solar sources. However, the Corps of Engineers claims it does not have the authority to breach the dams, which requires removing only a portion of the dam near the shore.

That is where Reps. Young and Davis come in. According to Save Our Wild Salmon, a coalition of business and environmental groups, their support could be crucial to getting the Salmon Planning Act heard. Young is chairman of the Appropriations Committee, and Davis is a leader of the New Democrat Coalition, which has 74 members. The act would order the government to complete a dam removal study and give the Corps authority to carry out the plan. It should appeal to both representatives' interest in avoiding waste in government spending and protecting our vanishing environment.

St. Petersburg Times

2003 Sturgeon Allocations and Spring Salmon Alterations

The most sought after stocks of fish available to the Gillnetter in the Columbia River the past few years has been the White Sturgeon and Winter/Spring salmon. Because of the soft economic market for fish later in the year,primarily due to imported aquaculture products and good projected prices for Spring Chinook and Sturgeon, next year will be no exception. As a result great interest is being paid to both the new 3 year Sturgeon allocation discussions and alteration to the Winter/Spring Salmon fishery with its Endangered Species specification.

Biologists are concerned in both Oregon and Washington with seemingly static legal size Sturgeon numbers and it is expected that Fish & Wildlife Commissions from both states will reduce the allocation by 20 %. Using the same 80/20 sport commercial split formula as the past few years, this means 32 thousand fish per year for recreational anglers and 8 thousand for the commercial fleet. This along with the new move to put Green Sturgeon on the Endangered Species list certainly "pecks" away and reduces the economic window of opportunity that has been a "boon" in a depressed fishery.

There have also been some alterations and changes initiated by the agencies, in the ESA controlled Spring Chinook fishery for 2003.

A variation of the last two years Tangle Nets will again be used, along with the Recovery Boxes, to help keep down the impact on unmarked Chinook headed for the upper Columbia, Snake, and Willamette rivers. Primarily because of Steelhead encounters from last season the maximum mesh size has been reduced to 41/4 inches. In addition, for those fishermen who choose to hang in 12 inch mesh excluder section on the surface, they may increase the length of their net from 50 to 175 fathoms. As last year, each boat will be required to have an operational recovery box on board to help recover stressed Wild Salmon or Steelhead before returning them to the river.

There are positive projections, again for a continuation of the good Spring salmon~runs of the past two years, for 2003. There were good jack returns in 2002. That, on top of increased federal hatchery Adipose Fin clip returns should add up to a decent season for the Gillnetters on the river and the processors on the waterfront. Then we can project the CEDC Youngs Bay, Tongue Point, Blind Slough, Deep River, and Steamboat Slough in addition.

Jon Westerholm, Gillnetter, Svensen, OR
CRFPU Board Member, District 7

Sports sturgeon fishery will include closures to manage harvest

Oregon and Washington fish managers reached agreement Thursday on a one-year lower Columbia River sport sturgeon season, which includes two separate closures to manage a reduced harvest for 2003.

Sport fishers will be allowed to catch 32,000 fish this year, down from 40,000 fish last year.

The lower Columbia River is divided into two areas. Upriver from the Wauna power lines, retention of sturgeon will be closed seven days a week from March 24 to June 30. In the river estuary, below Wauna, retention will be closed from July 10 to Sept. 30.

Annual bag limits remain at 10 fish per angler, but the states will consider a reduction to a five-fish annual limit through a permanent rules process.

Catch-and-release sturgeon fishing may continue during the retention closures.

Milton Gudgell, owner of Pacific Salmon Charters in Ilwaco, Wash., said the lower Columbia River economy gets a needed boost from sport fishermen who come to catch sturgeon.

"Most of it occurs in the month of June," Gudgell said, "when we really need it."

The plan allocates 60 percent of the recreational harvest (18,000 fish) to the estuary, and 40 percent (12,000 fish) to the area upriver from the Wauna power lines.

This is a good compromise for this year and ensures that conservation needs are met," said Ed Bowles, Fish Division administrator for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. "Oregon will re-assess the fishery using a full public process that summer and fall, with the goal of developing a three year agreement."

BC Lifts Salmon Aquaculture Moratorium

The Fishermen's News, October 2002

Claiming that the British Columbia government is implementing the "most comprehensive regulatory regime and protective framework for finfish aquaculture in the world," Canadian Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries John van Dongen announced, on September 12th, that British Columbia would be lifting the seven-year aquaculture expansion moratorium, effective immediately.

"[The] decision is based on our government's commitment to a scientifically based, balanced and principled approach to environmental management that ensures sustainability, accountability, responsibility and continual improvement," van Dongen said.

The new regulations apply to all fish farms and include provisions for registration, waste discharge standards, pre-stocking requirements, domestic sewage requirements, best management practices, monitoring and reporting, remediation, and offenses and penalties. The regulations are also to be reviewed within three to five years to evaluate effectiveness and to consider if amendments are necessary.

Additionally, a CAD $5.1-million fund has been established to support three independent research partnerships on aquaculture and the environment. Of these monies, CAD $3.75 million will be used to improve aquaculture practices, while CAD $1.25 million will be used to establish a chair in aquaculture and the environment at the University of British Columbia. The aquaculture research and development committee of the Science Council of BC is to co-ordinate the research.

"We know aquaculture is an expanding industry with markets around the world," said Monty Little, chair of the Science Council's aquaculture committee. "The government has acknowledged the importance of ensuring this growth is based on good science by having the Science Council oversee this research."

While the decision to lift the salmon aquaculture moratorium was applauded by some, as it is expected that the expansion could lead to more than CAD $1 billion a year in economic value and create 9,000 to 12,000 new jobs over the next decade, it was also blasted by others.

In a release issued the same day of the Minister's announcement, the David Suzuki Foundation, located in British Columbia, called the new regulations "nonsense," while Alaska's Governor Tony Knowles stated that he (and the State of Alaska) will "continue to challenge British Columbia's decision to allow the expansion" of open-ocean net pens.

"Alaska prides itself on the management of our wild salmon... and I think others will ultimately recognize the wisdom of our decision to prohibit salmon farms because of the very real environmental threat they pose," Knowles said.

"The health of our oceans is threatened by this invasive species of salmon that have appeared as far away as Chignik. I'm saddened by the decision of the BC government to expand this industry and will look at every option to change this ill considered decision."

Fisheries project produces big results

After a quarter of a century, the Clatsop County Economic Development Council Fisheries Project is taking a big leap forward and changing its focus from strictly research to production.

The Clatsop County program plans to double production of spring chinook to 1.2 million in Youngs Bay. Additional increases are likely as the project develops its ability to rear and release fry from net pens.

"This is good news for the commercial and sports fisheries in the lower Columbia River," said Tod Jones, project manager of the CEDC Fisheries Project.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has given approval for the CEDC Fisheries Project to switch its hatchery operations on the South Fork Klaskanine River from coho to spring chinook.

ODFW officials gave the go-ahead for the transition after months of analysis by various state and federal agencies involved in the protection and propagation of Columbia River salmon.

Local business leaders started the CEDC Fisheries Project in 1976 to bolster the fishing industry as native salmon runs on the lower Columbia diminished. The idea was to develop a new fishery of premium quality salmon without adversely affecting endangered stocks and which can be harvested without limit.

Today, most commercial and sport fish caught in Youngs Bay are produced by the Fisheries Project and ODFW's three lower Columbia River hatcheries.

CEDC raises fingerlings supplied by state hatcheries in net pens in Youngs Bay, at Tongue Point and on Blind Slough. Net pens consist of small-mesh net suspended from a floating polyethylene pipe-frame secured to pilings. During their time in the net pens, the fish imprint to the scent of the bay, giving them the homing instinct to return to that location for harvest. The project releases more than 4 million smolts in the three sites.

CEDC also receives eggs for incubation at its fresh water operation at the Klaskanine hatchery.

"We have clearly shown that the select area sites where we have been releasing chinook and coho can sustain an intensive gillnet and sports fishery without adversely affecting the endangered upriver stocks," Jones said.

Funding for the CEDC project comes from Bonneville Power Administration through its Select Area Fisheries Evaluation Project, ODFW and grants from ODFW's Restoration and Enhancement Program. The purpose of the SAFE program is to identify sites and strategies for release of salmon smolts to mitigate habitat losses upriver.

Fisheries Technician Keith Warren feeds fish at one of CEDC's net pens

In addition, local gillnetters pay a self-imposed, voluntary 5 percent assessment on the value of their catch, which is matched by the fish processors.

For now, CEDC's goal is to boost spring chinook production to 3.8 million smolt releases and fall chinook production to 2.5 million, Jones said. One method will be to pond chinook fry directly into net pens in Youngs Bay and at Tongue Point, instead of having them reared at upriver hatcheries. If it's successful, ODFW's Gnat Creek hatchery would be able to provide more fish to the project as fry in the spring, and the CEDC South Fork hatchery could supply fry in addition to its smolt production, Jones said.

This brood year of coho will be the Fisheries Project's last at the Klaskanine hatchery.

"We may retain a few for small research projects, but from now on all of our coho will come from upriver hatcheries," Jones said.

Coho production is likely to remain at approximately 2.75 million smolts until economic incentives improve, he added.

"Clearly there has to be consideration of the variety of impacts this could have, not the least of which is the interaction of the smolts with other salmonids in the estuary, the ability to manage the harvest of the returning adults, and other ecological considerations," Jones said. "We have to be good stewards of the environment, and much of that is out of sight, not as easily observed as one might think."

For that reason, several divisions within the ODFW and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality reviewed CEDC's proposal, he said.

"We have well-identified standards to maintain that include avoiding accumulation of sediments below our net pens, minimizing straying of adults and maximizing the harvest of adult returns," he said.

The CEDC Fisheries Project is part of the county's Community Development Department.

MEDIA CONTACT: Tod Jones, project manager, (503) 325-6452

The Daily Astorian 09.04.2002

The spoils of dredging

By BENJAMIN ROMANO
The Daily Astorian, 11.22.02
bromano@dailyastorian.com

Leaders struggle to find a home for 7 million cubic yards of dredged sand every year

Forget the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' plan to deepen the Columbia River shipping channel by three feet, because that project would only require the disposal of 14.5 million cubic yards of dredged sand.

Instead, try to come up with a place for the 7 million cubic yards dredged from the Columbia River Estuary alone every year.

That's the task set before a group of representatives from government, fishing, environmental and development interests, which began meeting earlier this year as the Lower Columbia Solutions Group.

Thursday night, about 40 people gathered at the Port of Astoria offices to hear a presentation from the solutions group and participate in a conversation on alternative dredge material disposal sites, hosted by the Port and the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce."We have a math problem," said CREST Director Matt Van Ess. The channel has to be dredged to maintain its current depth, but the estuary is running out of places to put the sand. "This is all of our concern."

Some of the dredged material disposal sites endorsed by the solutions group:

• Bradwood: Many point to this former mill town across the channel from Puget Island as the ideal beneficial use site. This summer, after a great deal of inter-agency cooperation and paperwork, just under 300,000 cubic yards of sand was pumped on land by the Port of Portland's dredge Oregon. Land owner Ken Leahy recently loaded eight railcars full of sand for a test run to Hillsboro, where he intends to sell it for use in construction. Leahy noted how slim the profit margins are for selling dredged sand. The cost for shipping sand by rail is paid by time, not by mileage, he said. If the train carrying his sand to market went 10 mph instead of 25 mph, the shipping costs would be too high to make it financially viable.

• Benson Beach: Also heralded as a beneficial use success, this project saw 40,000 cubic yards of sand pumped over the North Jetty to nourish the gaunt beach. The solutions group wants to expand the project as a counter to beach erosion and an outlet for some of the 5 million cubic yards dredged from six miles of the channel in the Columbia River's mouth annually.

• Ross Island: A spent gravel quarry in Portland is being reclaimed and is in need of fill material. There are other sites like it up and down the Columbia River, Van Ess said.

• Klickitat County: The solutions group wants to explore opportunities in this Washington county for cleaning, reselling and transporting dredge materials to other areas using excess rail capacity.

• Rice Island: This 228 acre island about 3 miles northeast of Tongue Point has received nearly 20 million cubic yards of dredged sand since 1963. Van Ess said he wants to see it

"recycled" as a dredge disposal site, meaning sand currently on the island would be sold and replaced by new dredged material.

Davis Moriuchi, deputy district engineer for Project Management in the Corps' Portland District, said the quantity of sand to be removed from the river each year is the challenge. The projects suggested are "more like singles ... We should be going for some home runs."

The solutions group has to find markets for the huge volume of sand and contend with the high cost of transporting it. A cubic yard of sand weighs 2,700 pounds and sells for an average of $3.

Some possible large-volume outlets floated Thursday include the San Francisco airport, which needs 20 million cubic yards of fill to extend its runways.

Closer to home, land owner John Dean, who with his father owns 80 acres of land in the Youngs Bay area, said there are many property owners in that area who are looking for large volumes of fill to raise their land above the flood plain – a requirement for new development. Port Executive Director Peter Gearin has also advocated for the use of dredged materials for this type of beneficial use. He acknowledged that environmental restrictions stand in the way of the kind of large-scale land creation that made space for the ports of Portland, Vancouver, Longview, Wash., and Astoria.

Navigating through the government bureaucracy at the local, state and federal level, with its associated maze of laws and regulations pertaining to work in the Columbia River, is another obstacle facing those who would like to implement large-scale beneficial use projects swiftly.

The still-unknown costs of many of these projects are expected to be higher than the standard disposal techniques employed by the Corps, but many object to the way the Corps calculates its costs.

"The bottom line can't be counted as the most inexpensive way to move sand around any longer," said Port Commissioner Larry Pfund.

Dale Beasley, president of the Columbia River Crab Fishermen's Association, has repeatedly decried the Corps' dredge materials disposal practices for destroying crab habitat and imperiling small boat navigation around the mouth of the Columbia River.

Beasley, who wasn't at the meeting, said earlier that beneficial use projects require hard work to identify and implement, but they're important for finding a balance between dredging and protecting the crab fishing industry.

"All these things are options for them so that they have the opportunity to get rid of all the sand that they want to get rid of and not hurt our industry."

SENATORS BLAST FISH COUNT METHODS

By BENJAMIN ROMANO
The Daily Astorian, 12.18.02
bromano@dailyastorian.com

Smith and Wyden seek inquiry into the way fish stocks are counted

Fishers have long quarreled with scientists about the number of fish in the sea, but both groups agree that the way fish are counted is inadequate.

Oregon's U.S. senators have taken a step toward remedying that.

Republican Gordon Smith and Democrat Ron Wyden asked the investigative arm of Congress to examine the reliability of data used by scientists and fisheries managers to assess the health of groundfish stocks.

The senators sent a letter to the General Accounting Office Dec. 4, listing seven data collection and analysis issues they would like the office to investigate.

Stock assessment data is critical. "This is vital to people's livelihoods and to communities," said Peter Huhtala, executive director of the Pacific Marine Conservation Council. "If we're making some huge mistakes here, we're putting people through a whole lot of unnecessary suffering."

Based on stock assessments that found canary, bocaccio, yelloweye and darkblotched rockfish to be imperiled, fisheries managers dramatically reduced harvest of these and other species caught together for 2002 and 2003. "Fishermen are being forced to forgo other harvests in order to provide the level of protection needed," Wyden and Smith said in their letter to the GAO.

Wyden's spokeswoman, Carol Gutherie, said this morning that the senator is "concerned that past decisions may have been made on incomplete data." She said Wyden sent the request to the GAO because he wants to ensure "that at a minimum ... the data on which those decisions are made is accurate."

Fishers complain that the data used to make these management decisions is incomplete or just plain inaccurate. And scientists often agree, as Wyden and Smith note.

"The stock assessments, while peer reviewed, are based on sparse and sometimes questionable sources of data," the senators said. "Every report made by assessment reviewers includes recommendations for additional research."

So if the GAO agrees to dig in to this issue, and it's likely that it will, what will an investigation turn up?

Currently, swept-area trawl surveys are performed on the Pacific Shelf once every three years. Two questions the senators asked the GAO to answer: Are surveys once every three years sufficiently frequent to track the imperiled species? If so, why are surveys conducted every year in other fisheries in the United States?

Joe Easley, administrator of the Oregon Trawl Commission, said it's not only the relative infrequency of the surveys, but the method that produces poor data.

"We need a new box," said Easley, who was sent a copy of the senators' letter, "something besides swept-area surveys for rockfish. They're totally inadequate for rockfish.

"We need at least annual surveys and we need good analysis of the data as soon as possible. Lots of times there's a two or three year lag before it gets used … It'd sure be nice if we could compress that."

Huhtala said a GAO investigation that finds stock assessment data unreliable could give more credibility to fishers and the National Marine Fisheries Service, when they request more money for stock assessment programs.

That may be the answer to some of these problems, but there's another, more ambiguous element that undermines fishers trust in stock assessment data.

Easley calls it "an 'us and them' atmosphere, as opposed to what used to be a very cooperative one on this coast."

He said that fisheries scientists have stopped talking to fishers and are relying heavily on models and statistical analysis.

"They don't have the amount of data they need to make those models work well," Easley said. Rather than relying heavily on data, Easley said scientists should get out and listen to what fishers have to say about fish stocks.

"I've noticed that the fishermen are at least two or three years ahead of the scientists in spotting the trends," Easley said.

Until the gap between scientists and fishers is narrowed, more money won't solve the problem by itself, he said.

"I think you could have all the funding in the world," Easley said, "and if you still had 'us and them,' you wouldn't have a very successful management system."

Both Easley and Huhtala said the senators' action showed they have concern for fishers and fishing communities.

The GAO typically takes six weeks to two months to respond to inquiries such as the one Smith and Wyden sent.

Some of the questions the senators posed to the GAO, summarized:

- Does the survey methodology used provide an accurate measure of the abundance of the four imperiled rockfish species and other commercially and recreationally important species?
- Do the current methodologies for data collection, recording and analysis provide the necessary degree of confidence to allow fisheries managers to make reasonable and equitable management decisions? How could the process be improved?
- If adjustments are necessary, what funding level is needed to do the surveys correctly?

No quick answer to salmon crash

WORKSHOPS: Biologists gather to probe nature's delicate balance.

By Doug O'Harra
Anchorage Daily News 01.04.2003

Big, fat king salmon swarmed into the Columbia River last year, producing the largest run of fish observed since 1938 and climaxing a four-year surge in returning fish. An Oregon newspaper trumpeted rising catches.

"They called it the Year of the Chinook," oceanographer Hal Batchelder told a gathering of about 500 people Monday during the first day of a marine science conference in Anchorage.

But over the same period, Alaska salmon runs have dropped and economic disasters have been declared. The 2002 statewide catch of about 130 million fish was the lowest since the late 1980s, the state Department of Fish and Game reported.

The two regions are connected, Batchelder said, through a complex seesaw relationship that reaches across 1,000 miles of ocean. It hinges on vast cycles in currents, temperatures, winds, storms, melting snow, river runoff and the saltiness of the sea.

The quick explanation sounds simple: The ocean may have cooled in the Northeast Pacific in the late 1990s, possibly triggering a regime shift in which animals will thrive and which won't, Batchelder said. A warming trend in the late 1970s had the opposite effect: Alaska salmon runs shot up and Pacific Northwest returns crashed. The nature of marine life throughout the region changed.

But figuring out what triggered the shift, possibly part of a 100-year cycle, is more difficult.

"In order to understand these long-term, large-scale changes, we need to decipher the nature of these ecosystem shifts," said Batchelder, a key scientist in an investigation into how climate variability affects sea life.

Over the next four days at the Hotel Captain Cook, biologists will present 160 technical talks and participate in workshops about Steller sea lions, climate change and oceanography, fisheries, plankton and biochemistry. Results from about 100 scientific studies have been posted on the walls.

On Monday, a series of speakers took a big-picture approach, explaining studies that try to understand the vast climactic engines that drive the ocean and its marine life. The details are complex, but speakers kept emphasizing how the Gulf of Alaska, with its location and huge inflow of fresh water, is especially sensitive to climate shifts.

University of Alaska Fairbanks scientist Thomas Weingartner talked about how the spinning of the Aleutian-low storm system helps create upwelling of cold, salty water. That nutrient-rich water is necessary to trigger the annual blooms of plankton and tiny sea life during spring's sunny days.

Biologist Suzanne Strom of Western Washington University described how that plankton bloom occurs only when the right conditions converge — just the right mixing of the ocean's layers, just the right amount of sunlight. Those tiny animals and plants then form the basis of a complex food web that feeds juvenile fish like pink salmon.

Ted Cooney, a University of Alaska Fairbanks researcher who studied the ecosystem of Prince William Sound, explained how researchers gradually came to a more sophisticated understanding of the relationship between pink salmon and those little critters over the past 25 years. Predators play a big role.

They once believed that salmon thrived when they found enough food. But pollock and herring, trying to eat the same food, can turn on the young salmon and eat them up. In the end, no simple mechanism controlled salmon survival in the Sound.

"We learned that Mother Nature is sophisticated and robust," Cooney said. "We also saw that asking for a silver bullet was, in the words of the Borg, futile."

The conference runs through Friday. It has been organized by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustees Council staff with sponsorship from the U.S. Global Change Research Program, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the North Pacific Research Board, North Pacific Marine Research Institute and Pollock Conservation Cooperative Studies.

Doug O'Harra can be reached at do'harra@adn.com and 907 257-4334.

A schedule for the Marine Science in the Northeast Pacific Symposium can be viewed at www.oilspill.state.ak.us/events/Symposos.html

Fisherman lands the big one

A Grants Pass man made fly-fishing history this week when hooked and landed a fall chinook salmon that officially weighed 71 1/2pounds.

Grant Martinsen's salmon - captured on the lower Rogue River - is more than 8 pounds heavier than the all-time record for fly-casters set 15 years ago on northern Oregon's Trask River. And once certified by the International Game Fish Association, the salmon and Martinsen will get global publicity.

The excitement has stretched all the way to Florida, where the International Game Fish Association already has fielded inquiries about possible fly-fishing records from Oregonians who have caught fish in the 50 to 60 pound range on flies last fall.

"Man, that thing is so impressive," says Jim Carey, proprietor of Gold Beach's Rogue Outdoor Store, where Martinsen took his catch. "You would not believe the excitement this thing has generated. We're as proud of that fish as he could be."

Grant Martinsen of Grants Pass holds a fall chinook salmon he caught on the lower Rogue River.

Lower Columbia Salmon Season Falls Short of August Quota

By Mike Strom

The 2002 lower Columbia River August salmon fishery fell short of its quota by nearly 50%. The fishery that was scheduled for three nights - August 4, 6, and 8 - was extended two 12 hour periods, the evenings of August 9 and 11, and the catch was small. No further periods were opened on the lower river and the lower river quota rolled over into the late August 2S fishery below Bonneville dam.

In total, lower river fishermen landed 7,947 Chinook, averaging 21.5 lbs., and 1,373 white sturgeon, averaging 33.7 lbs. There were no green sturgeon landings because there is a petition to put green sturgeon on the endangered species list.

Breaking from recent tradition, the compact set a 5-sturgeon limit per boat per day during the first three days but suspended this limit for the 2-day extension. Pat Frazier, Columbia River Harvest Manager for the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife said, "Last year we took 4,500 fish in one day... a catch like that would have wiped out any sturgeon fishery for the fall. We wanted to spread out the sturgeon harvest. It's better for the market."

While it might have been better for the market, less glut for the processors and a larger window for fresh sturgeon, for the big producing fishermen it meant a drop in income. Gary Soderstrom, president of Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union (CRFPU), said, "**It's communistic, the way the Compact distributed the fish**. It takes the incentive out for big producers. It takes money out of their pockets. The only time they should use a small limit is **toward the end of the quota. For clean up.**"

Jerry Westerholm, president of Salmon for All, commented, "The quota system tends to spread the sturgeon out, which is better for processing. It also allows more fishermen to participate in the harvest."

In response, Frazier explained, "The five fish quota was an effective tool to do what was necessary. We caught salmon and we controlled the sturgeon catch so that we will continue to have sturgeon available later in the year. Last year we took 4,500 sturgeon in one day and we found that the markets found the glut hard to handle. There [has been] testimony to provide sturgeon for September and October. We responded to that."

On the grounds, fishermen found ex-vessel prices were low for salmon - upriver brights were bringing $.50 a pound and lower river tules brought $.05-$.20 a pound.

"It's upside down," said lower river fisherman Jon Westerholm. "The glut on the salmon market has been hit by aquaculture. -The aquaculture price war in Chile has taken the wheels out of the wild salmon market. The price on upriver brights should be a $1.50 to $2.00."

Price is still an issue on the Columbia River and gillnetters watched the vast majority of a **700,000 August run** go past the lower river and harvested about one percent of the total run. Fisheries managers are limited by upper river impacts in the amount of fish they can allot to the fishermen and as Frazier said, "It's all driven by the Boldt decision."

CRFPU's Soderstrom pointed out that the way the quotas were calculated for salmon that the 7,000 fish that were not caught in the 15,000 fish lower river allotment would roll over into the 2S allotment but would be counted at a rate of 3 to 1 against the Snake River impact rather than 5 to 1 as figured in the lower river allotment.

This roll over resulted in a loss of 2,900 salmon for harvest to Columbia River fishermen and at a depleted 2S price. Ex-vessel prices at 2S were reported at $.40 a pound for brights and $.08 a pound for tules. Word on the dock was that they were cutting about 50% brights... making the average price of fish about $.24 a pound. One fisherman said it was a good price for 1960.

In the lower river, the average price per pound was around $.30, Jerry Westerholm said. So, again there was more loss to the fishermen. Frazier explained that it was too risky from a management point of view to turn the gillnetters loose on the river during the peak of the run. He said that the fishing power on the lower river can grow to 150 boats, and with a big run in the river the risk is too great that the catch would far exceed the quota in one day. He explained that they just didn't have the data to support a late August lower river opener.

California Crabbers report boom for dungeness, worry about prices

A booming season for Dungeness crab along the Central California coast has forced fishermen to stop fishing for the crustaceans and could soon send prices for consumers plunging.

The crab surplus has also overwhelmed processors, obliging fishermen to store about 150,000 pounds on boats. Along Fisherman's Wharf Thursday, behind the restaurants and crab hawkers, boats lined Pier 45 two deep at some points, waiting to be unloaded. The larger boats are equipped with tanks with fresh seawater constantly pumped into them to keep the crabs alive, for about a week.

"Most times there's been a glut on the market, the price has plummeted," said Rick Metheny, who has been crabbing for 25 years. Metheny still had about 3,000 pounds of crab left on his boat, which he operates for San Francisco's famous seafood restaurant, Scoma's.

Fishermen have been waiting since Sunday for seafood processors to move the abundance so they can finish unloading boats and head back out. They're also hoping the price they get for their catches stays up. Buyers are paying $2.25 a pound for the crab. But for consumers, the glut means that the price could decrease. One restaurant on Fisherman's Wharf was selling crab for $6.50 a pound.

This time last year, the same restaurant was selling Washington state crab for $8.75 per pound. But by this time last year, California crab fishermen still hadn't started their harvest. They were striking for a higher per-pound price for their catches, eventually settling, after three weeks, for $1.88 per pound.

This year's harvest caught many by surprise. The season started this weekend and ends in June, but the best crabs are caught at the beginning, said Half Moon Bay crab fisherman Duncan MacLean.

"There was a pretty good influx and (buyers) got overwhelmed by it all," MacLean said.

Joe Cincotta, general manager of the San Francisco division of processor Pacific Seafood, said the processor was one of the last ones buying crab Thursday and unloaded some of the crab on David Shogren's boat Rubicon. "I don't think-anyone thought the volume was here," he said.

The surplus, which a rough estimate put at about 150,000 pounds has much to do with excellent ocean conditions, said Zeke Grader, executive director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations.

Heavier rainfall the past few years has meant more freshwater in estuaries, which is what baby crabs use as their nurseries. And good upwellings, which happen when currents bring nutrients up from the bottom of the sea, have resulted in more food in the ocean.

That means there are a lot of crabs and to prevent the glut from continuing, fishermen are considering limits on the amount they can bring in each day. That also could help prolong the season, MacLean said. Crabs are in demand around Thanksgiving in San Francisco, and there's also a big demand for them during Chinese New Year, often in February, but frequently, there's not enough crab left for that market, he said.

STORY OF TWO HUNDRED FISHERMEN

Fifty years ago two hundred fishermen on the Oregon shore of the Columbia estuary resolved to can the Royal Chinok they caught in their nets.

These fishermen were the founders of our company. They organized The Union Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Company in 1896 in order to assure themselves a fair return for their fish and to provide the consuming public the best in canned salmon.

This cooperative enterprise was established in troubled times. The future of the industry appeared uncertain. Our founders rislced their savings and their labor, convinced thot their undertaking would succeed because it would give the fishermen a just return for his solmon and it would offer to the consumer a fine product.

Fishermen had just ended a disastrous strike against fish prices they deemed too low. In the thirty years of salmon conning on the Columbia up to 1896, inferior fish had been sold to the public under the fancy spring Chinook label. It was the fishermen who paid the ultimate cost of debasing the Royal Chinook label becouse the public lost confidence and was unwilling to poy the premium price for the best of salmon.

Leaders Were Top Fishermen

Associated in the establishment of The Union Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Company were farsighted men who had the general welfare of the Columbia's great industry at heart. Among these leaders was **Sofus Jensen**, secretary of the Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union in 1896. He was also the leading spokesman for conservation of fisheries resources in which he was aided by fishermen, the public and broad-minded packers.

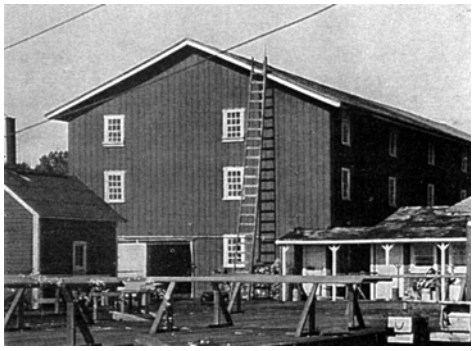
On October 12, 1896, inspired promoters of this fishermen's hope for a better day on the Columbia proposed to incorporate under the name of The Union Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Company and elected the following as incorporators: Sofus Jensen, Anton Christ, Ole B. Olsen, J. W. Angberg and Anton Bang.

The charter members on January 8, 1897, elected as their first board of directors Charles Wilson, Sofus Jensen, John Ostrom, Ole B. Olsen, J. B. Nice, A. E. Minard, Anton Christ, J. W. Angberg and Matt Raistakka.

Charles Wilson Made President

J. B. Nice, the first president of the Columbia River Fishermen's

Above-Neatly clad, white gloved women fillers pack fishermen Johansens' big fish at the company cannery in Astoria, Oregon. Below-Helen Johnson is dreaming of fine canned salmon as she assists Alan Nilsson and Donald Perry case cans



Wallace fish station near Clatskanie

Benefit Aid Society, was named president of the board, but was soon succeeded by Charles Wilson. Mr. Nice was unable to attend meetings. Mr. Jensen was named manager and secretary. Frans KankLonen, architect and builder of the company's cannery, became cannery superintendent.

With their savings for capital, our founders entered into the highly competitive and well-financed salmon packing industry of the Columbia. On January 16, 1897, the company purchased the site for the cannery and made preparations for erecting the plant, which was approximately 50 by 200 feet. Building of the net racks, except for pile driving, was done without charge by stockholders. They received $1.50 a day working on the cannery.

They were eager and capable craftsmen. Many had been brought up in Scandinavia and Finland where they had learned trades under masters. All were imbued with the cooperative movement then taking root in western Europe. They had acquired a practical understanding of what it means to run a cooprative business successfully.

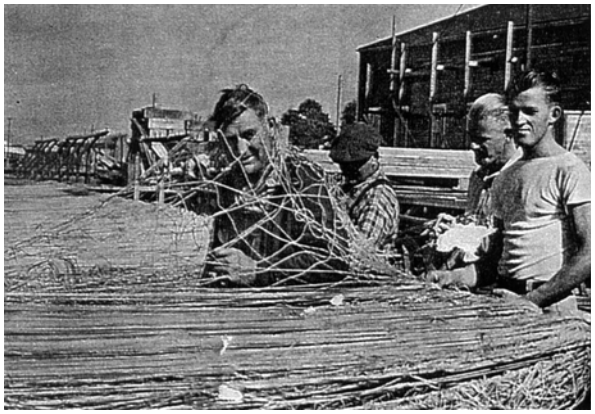
Home of "Gillnetters Best," The Company Cannery

Founders Loyal To Cooperatives

The cooperative structure of our company appealed to them. Each fisherman received not so much for each fish he delivered, but his share of lihe company's proceeds. Hence strikes for higher fish prices were hoped to be eliminated. In time stockholders retired and many have died, and non-members joined the company's fishing fleet, but much of the cooperative spirit remains.

Active in the new cannery were the oustanding fishermen on the Columbia. Mr. Wilson, the president, had been a boat builder in Kokkola, Finland, before he came to Astoria in 1880. An outstanding gillnetter, he built fishing boats and cannery tenders during the winters. He improved the design of the sailing gillnet boat, making it more seaworthy in the hazardous bar fishing. He served as president until ill health forced him to retire on January 26, 1915. During this same period of the company's vigorous growth, his brother, Frans Kankkonen was with the company as superintend and later, manager.

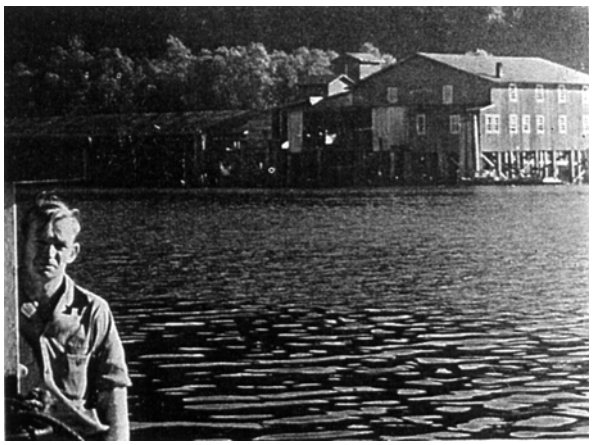
John Johansen takes time out for photographing big fish. At the oars is his son Ralph Johansen



August J. Mattson, working on his net at cannery while young fishermen, Arvi and Martin Severson look on

Among the two hundred founders of our company were men who knew the new art of canning salmon. Frank Norberg was the first salmon cook a particularly responsible and painstaking job in pioneer days of the industry.

J. W. Angberg, who promoted the



Mayger fish station near Clatskanie

formation of the company, had broad experience in cannery operation and held various positions in the plant until he became superintendent. He remained in our employ until retiring on February 8, 1932. Anberg served as second and first vice president af the corporation. In July 1906, he resigned as director to become refrigeration engineer, another difficult task in the infancy of cannery refrigeration.

Fisherman Tom Nelson Busy

The patriarch of Columbia river packers today, Tom Nelson was a charter member and an early fisherman of the company. He was secretary from January 3, 1901 until he resigned on January 22, 1906. He retired as manager in January 1914 and directed the packing operations of the firm through the First World War and post war period until his resignation on February 15, 1921.

It was a proud moment to our founders on the morning of April 11, 1897, when one hundred ninety one sailing gillnet boats tacked in to the new cannery, loaded with salmon. Packing of fish was done mostly by Chinese, furnished by a lobor contractor who received thirty-four cents for talls and thirty-nine cents for flats. Satisfied with their treatment, a few Chinese remain with the company today.

Well established and assured of a market, the company on April 29, 1899, announced its prices for the season's pack, talls at $1.25, flats, $1.40, and halves, $.80. By 1902, the company had for brokers in New York, Turle & Skidmore, and in San Francisco, Calif., the early center of salmon brokerage, C. W. Pike & Company, J. K. Ormsby & Company, and Griffith Durney Company, and in Chicago, T. J. O'Bryne & Company.

The Union Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Company's broker in New York now is Haviland & Boyce, which is the continuation of the brokerage firm of Turle & Skidmore, A. B. Villaplait Company, David Hunt & Company and Haviland & Boyce. Since February 14, 1905, H. J. Blodgett Company has been the company's broker in Boston.

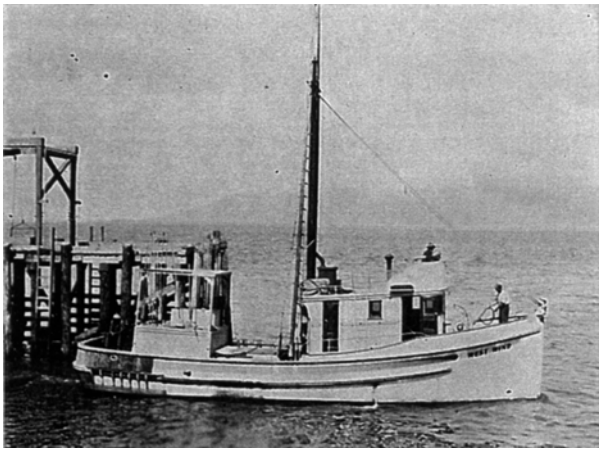
Smith Point warehouse and bunkhouse

First Stenographer Welcomed

In the first several seasons, the entire work of conducting the corporation's business, fell upon the manager and secretary. They swept out the office as well.

Miss Frances Norberg is remembered at the Union Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Company. gratefully for relieving Mr. Nelson, manager at the time, and Mr. Anet, secretary, of some of-the duties of handling the company's affairs. She was the first woman employe in the office.

Cannery machinery was of pioneer type. Most of the work was still done by hand. Cans were run through solder machines for sealing. Since vacuum machines had not been invented, the cans were heated in retorts and the steam was released by punching holes in the tops. Then the tops were sealed again with solder.



The "Westwind" leaving cannery station

"Gillnetters Best" Label Born

Quality of the new cannery's pack and its high standard of grading salmon aided in marketing its product despite aggressive competition. In 1902 the company first had regular brokers. A part of the first pack was offered for sale to Everding & Farrell of Portland, Ore., and The Manchester Cooperative Wholesale System of Manchester, England. One carload was consigned through the Astoria Savings bank to Chicago.

For the second season, two labels, "Gillnetters Best" and "Cooperators Best " were purchased. They have established themseives in the trade as leading brands of the finest

Columbia river salmon. Later, as the company's production increased, new labels were adopted, such as "Golden Anchor," "Merito," "Southern Beauty, " "Oceanic, " "Orb, " "Lantern," "Lex," "Governor," "Lightship."

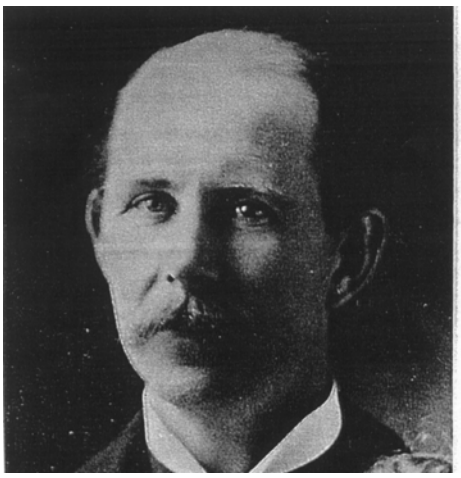
The office has grown. Mrs. Ellen Sarpola is secretary to the manager. Miss Ellen Tahkolo looks after the fishermen's ledger, Mrs. Jenia Jenkins, fish ledger and fish receipts, and Mrs. Sylvio Langham is secretary to the cannery superintendent. Mrs. Lempi Niemi is in charge of accounts receivable and accounts payable.

For the past ten years Ralph Kaarle, the company paymaster, has signed the company's checks. Among new employes is Bill Hummasti, timekeeper.

— Receiving scows for our fishing fleet were early stationed at Jetty Sands, Sand Island, Point Ellice, Tongue Point ond Frankfort. At present the company has receiving scows at Jetty Sands Point Ellice, Svensen, Brownsport and Tenasillihee Island. In 1904 our fishermen began changing over from sail to power boats. A 600-gallon fuel tank was installed at the cannery dock in 1909 for accommodation of fishermen.

Our company early looked after the needs of its gillnet fishermen. They brought in all its salmon until the time of the First World War when trollers began to deliver salmon to us. Receiving stations on the Columbia were erected. In January 1900, property at the foot of Thirty-first street was purchased for a storage warehouse, net racks and a receiving station. Later these focilities were enlarged.

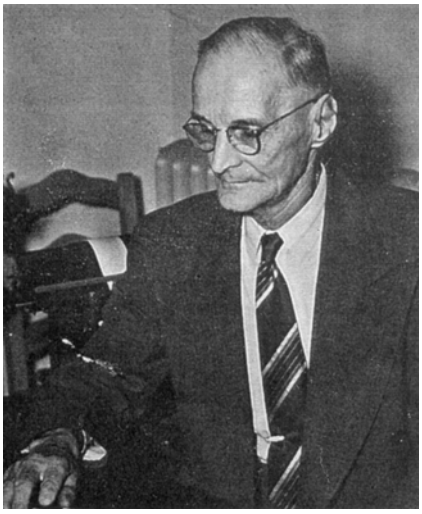
In the third year The Union Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Company started mild curing salmon, a major phase of Astoria's fisheries when salmon were abundant. Secretary Jensen sailed for Europe, negotiating for business connections and made arrangements with L. Ritz & Company of Hamburg for selling



Sofus Jensen, first secretary

Tom Nelson, early manager

Edward Poysky, the sales manager



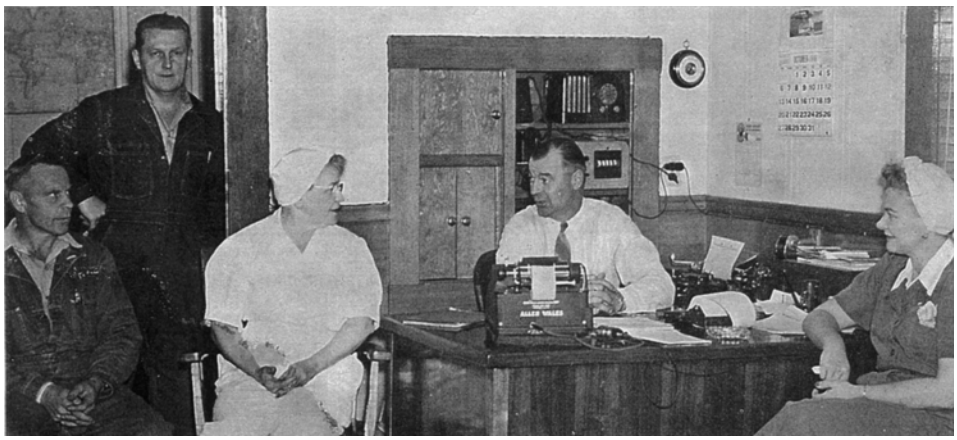
Charles Anet, corporation secretary

pickled as well as frozen fish.

Construction of a cold storage building of 1.200 tons capacity was authorized by the board of directors on September 14, 1903. Alex Yrell, a charter member, was engaged as salmon splitter and later as cold storage superintendent. Already the company had shipped on July 13, 1903, fifty tierces of salmon and six tierces of salmon heads to buyers in Helsinki. Frithiaf KankLonen, youngest of the three brothers, supervised building of the cold storage which was provided with a sharp freezer which brought the temperature down to ten degrees. Steelhead were glazed.
For storage of fish and for the mild cure pack, the new building had a cold room and two storage rooms with a temperature of twenty-eight degrees. Later the company's cold storage capacity was doubled and recently refrigeration equipment has been modernized.

In better years the mild cure pack reached 1400 tierces. Frans Kankkonen made a trip in 1904 to Europe in the interest of the mild cure trade, opening up new markets in Germany, Holland, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. He contacted buyers on his return in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and Sioux City. -

Frans Kankkonen, the cannery's first superintendent, became manager in April 1902, and again assumed superintendency of the cannery in March 1903, when the cold storage expansion was considered. The office of general manager, which



Arne Juola, cannery superintendent, meets with supervisors, left, Vic Urell, cold storage, William Hummasti, timekeeper, Lydia Rosenberg, tuna floor, Juola and Sylvia Lundholm, salmon floor

eliminated dual control of the company's affairs by the manager and superintendent, was established in 1907.

Frans Kankkonen was appointed as first general manager. He remained general manager until he retired in 1913.

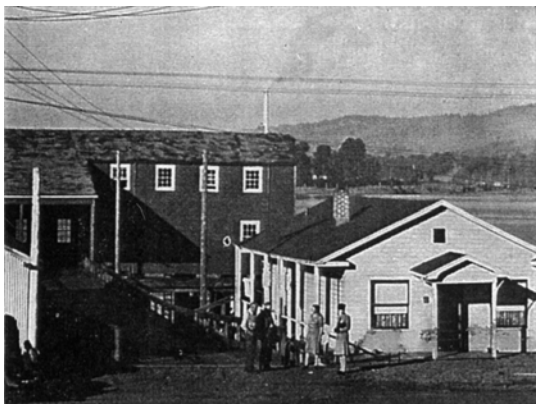
Broker Established Widely

Mild cured salmon from the new plant was sold in 1905 to K. A. Jensen, in Norway, and Carlson & Weslin, in Sweden. In the following year, C. Waldman and The Klevenhusen Packing Compony bought the company's mild cured salmon for the German market. Our salmon brokers in 1907 included A. B. Villeplait of New York City; T. J. O'Bryne & Company of Chicago; Kelly-Clarke of Seattle, Cartan Jeffry of Omaha; H. J. Blodgett & Company of Boston; and A. G. Riffell of New Orleans.

Anton Sorensen, general manager

Charles Anet secretary of the corporation since January 1914, joined the company as bookkeeper on April 4, 1903. He has been longer in the service of the company than any other employe. Mr. Anet went to Europe on leave from his position in 1908. In Hamburg he examined twine manufacturing, which was of much interest to fishermen.

Rebuilt station at Rainier



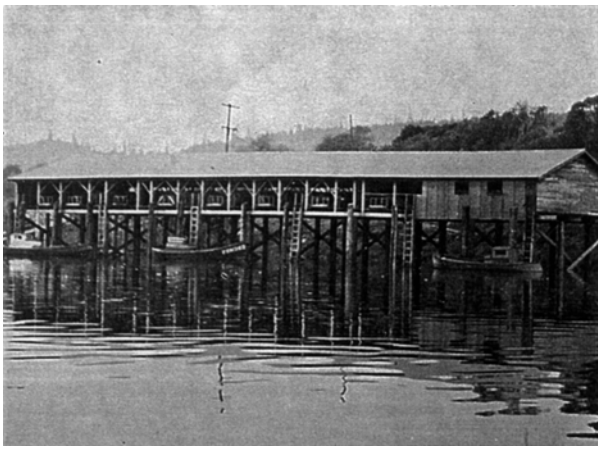
In the years immediately prior to the First World War, The Union Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Company extended its operations to the Coast, Grays Harbor and up the Columbia river. A cannery and cold storage, built in Wheeler, Ore. were operated through the war and sold in 1921. A new office and supply room were built in Astoria. For kippering salmon, the company constructed a smoke house, also in Astoria.

The Union Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Company financed the Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Company at Aberdeen, Wash., and built a warehouse at South Bend, Wash. Our fishermen from the Columbia took their boats for fall fishing in the Chehalis river. A receiving station was provided on Puget island.

Fish Launches Constructed

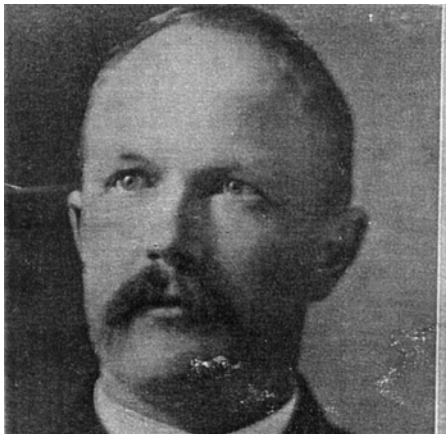
The expansion continued. In 1912, the company purchased fall salmon from the Tillamook Ice & Cold Storage Company. The company bought salmon on the Rogue river during the next year. It financed the Umpqua Cooperative Packing Company to put up mild cured salmon. When the war began in 1914, the company was buying fish in Bay City, Ore., and three years later financed packing of salmon for the Gerttula Nyman Cooperative.

The launch Globe, taken over from the Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Company in 1914 sailed for the Columbia to join the company's

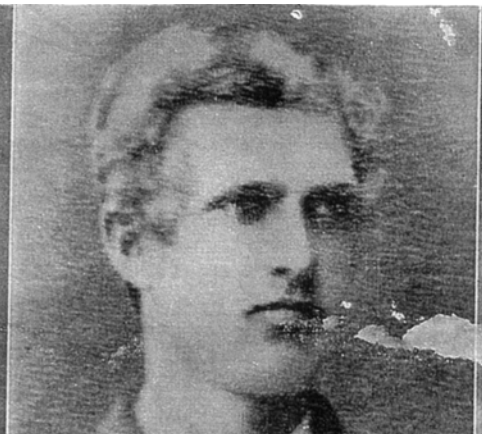


Willow Grove station near Longview

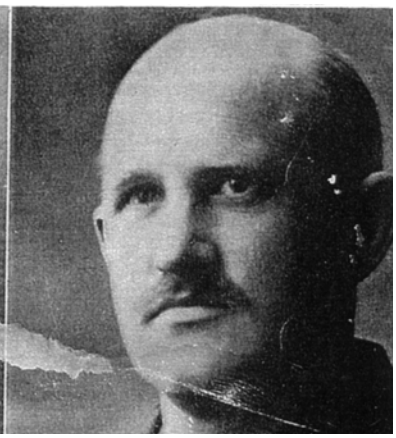
Independence I, built in 1897, and the Independence II, built in 1910, both at Wilson Boat Shop. Early skippers were Tim Christ, Harry



Charles Wilson, the first president

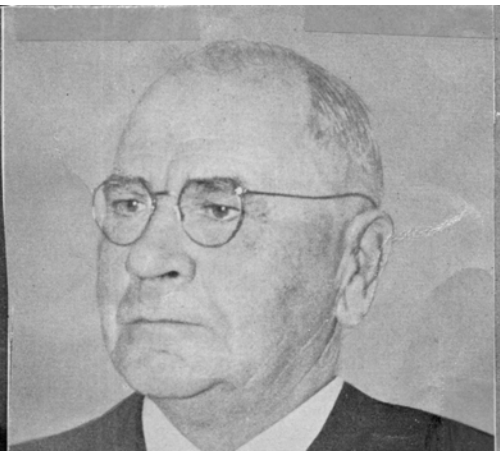


Frans Kankkonen, first general manager



Frithiof Kankkonen, retired general manager

Carl O. Moberg, president of the board



Arvo Niemi, 1st vice president

Uuno Koskela, 2nd vice president

Al Pentilla, cannery receiver

Arne Juola, cannery superintendent

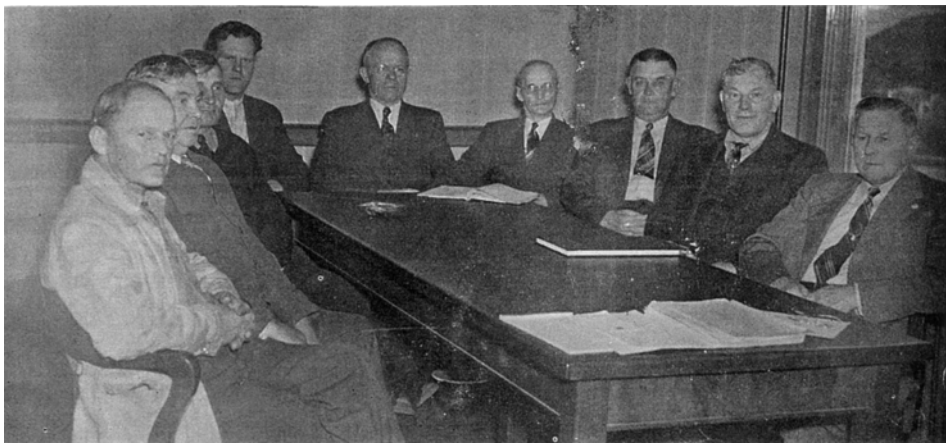
Eldon Niemi, warehouse foreman

Alex Sarpola, fishermen dept. head

Herman Nyman, machine shop foreman

Edward Potreck, cannery mechanic

Clerical force at main office in Astoria, from left, Mrs. Ellen Sarpola, Mrs. Lempe Niemi, Mrs. Jenia Jenkins, Mrs. Sylvia Langham, Ralph Kaarle and Ellen Tahkola working after morning Coffee An'



Discussing new rockfish production of Union Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Company, board of directors meets, left to right, Ilo Penttila, Matt Korpela, Andrew Markus, Uuno Koskela, second vice president; Carl O. Moberg, president; Charles Anet, secretary; Uuni Sjoroos and Thomas Jorgensen, and Anton Sorensen, manager

Original stockholders attending the 1945 annual meeting, first row left to right, Peter Suomela, Hilda Saarinen, Fred Juntti, Albert Nikka, Fred Niemela, Chris Dalls, Alex Yrell; second row, Charles Laity, Victor O. Carlson, Thomas Nelson, Alfred Jurma, Henry Toikka, Arvid Niemi and Sakri Lopakka

Olsen and Tom Hihnala. The present skipper of Independence II is Matt Wilson, with the company since 1923. William Hendrickson, skipper of the Globe, joined the company since 1916.

Machinery for making sanitary cans was purchased by the company in 1912. Charles Stellright who had been employed to install the equipment and supervise can making, became foreman of the machine shop when it was enlarged in 1914, a position he held until he resigned in 1943. Herman Nyman, coming to the can shop with Mr. Stellright looked after can making and took charge of the machine shop upon Mr. Stellright's resignation. The company has a new modern machine shop today, built in 1945.

Mr. Potreck Came To Stay

Edward Potreck who was engaged to take care of the early cannery machinery on April 22, 1907, is still today looking after the machinery, which is now of the latest design.

Management of the company returned to the Kankkonen family on February 10, 1921, when Frithiof Kankkonen, who had supervised construction of the cannery and cold storage at Wheeler, was named manager. The Aberdeen operations were closed and sold on September 29, 1922 in the short period of adjustment after the war. A station was erected at Mayger in 1927 and a warehouse for fishermen at Brownsmead.

No crisis in the history of the industry compares with that brought on by the collapse of the stock market in 1929. The only investment that paid dividends for the company during the depression was the conservative management of its affairs in preceding years.

Company Rode Out Depression

Refusing to weaken the tumbling market, the company held its 1931, 1932 and 1933 packs in warehouses.

Thousands of cases were stacked in

the Taylor warehouse. In 1932, fancy Chinook sold for $1.25 a dozen, near fancy, $.75 a dozen, and kippered salmon at nine cents a pound. In the wake of these prices came the strike of 1933, which was settled at eight cents a pound for salmon, two cents above the 1932 price.

Three young men in the company at this time were Arne Juola, long familiar with canning, who was appointed cannery superintendent on September 1, 1935. upon the retirement of Mr. Angberg, Edward Poysky, sales manager, who was engaged in 1933; and Alex Sarpola, for years with the company, who today is in charge of the fishermen's department and has held various positions in the past. Juola has been with the Union Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Company for 30 years. He started to work as an elevator operator in 1917, then went onto the second floor can factory, and finally "worked" his way downstairs.

New Plant Built For Albacore

Canning of tuna in the company's new tuna plant, whose construction Manager Kankkonen supervised, began in 1938 and developed into an important part of the company's fish production. In 1945 this plant proved practical for cleaning and packing of rockfish in which The Union Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Company has taken a lead.

Sons of the founders, who learned to fish in their fathers' boats, today are leading fishermen of The Union Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Company. Among early gillnetters, a number now dead whose sons fish for the company today, are Victor Carlson, son V. O. Carlson, J. P. Matta, son Carl Abram Erickson, son Wayne, John Jackson, sons Alex and Ed; Andrew Kantola, sons, Toivo and Rudy.

Among later fishermen who have sons fishing for the company, are Matt Korpela, sons, Emil, Ilmari and Wilho, and grandsons, Eldon and Bill Korpela; Kalle Koskela, son Uuno Koskela, who is second vice president of the corporation.

Axel Kaleva, who fished for the company in 1901, put in his forty-fifth season on the Columbia in 1946. And Fred Niemela, boatpuller for Mr. Wilson in 1898, is still gillnetting and plans to get a new boat.

Despite difficulties in obtaining material and labor during the Second World War, the company proceeded with building of a warehouse and receiving station at Rainier, Ore., for its middle river fishermen.

Through the years that The Union Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Company has held an important place in the industrial life of this community, its control has largely remained in the hands of the men who caught the salmon that its cannery processed.

President of the board of directors from January 26, 1915, when Charles Wilson resigned, until 1920, was Andrew Olsen. J. E. Penttila, became president in 1921 and held the position until 1924. An original stockholder, he was second vice president from 1925 to 1927. A director since 1921, Arvo Niemi, has served four year as second vice president and for 11 years as first vice president.

The present president of the board of directors, C. O. Moberg, who is superintendent of Columbia Hospital

in Astoria, has been second vice president for two years, first vice president for two years, and president of the board for seven one-year terms. He fished many seasons for the company

Anton Sorensen, present manager, who was appointed auditor of the corporation on January 26, 1914 and held that position until February 5, 1934, has been vice president for two terms and president for ten years. During all these years he gillnetted for the company until his appointment as manager in 1945. Mr. Sorensen has been for years city commissioner in Astoria.

Uuno Koskela, one of Union Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Company's leading gillnetters, has been second vice president of the boord for eight years. Henry Reinikka, has served as director since 1937. Ilo Penttila, became a director on February 21, 1944 and is on the board today. Another veteran gillnetter, Charles Laity has been a director for six terms until February 7, 1921 and from February 4, 1929 to the present time has been an auditor of the corporation. Andrew Markus, who is on the present board, has been director for 14 years. An original stockholder, Henry F. Toikka has served as director at various times.

For the past 20 years, Matt. Korpela, himself a fisherman with sons and grandsons fishing for the company, has been on the board. Charles Markow, a director from 1916 to 1926, served four terms as second vice president, and eight terms as vice president.

It is recalled in the review of the company's careful management of business in the days before the stock market crash of 1929 that a bit of perhaps justifiable extravagance was tolerated on the thirtieth anniversary of the organization. Cigars were authorized to be furnished the stockholders, but when the meeting was called, there was nothing to pass around to the women members. None had been expected present.

In the first lavish gesture of the stockholders, the women members were voted a dinner, which grew into a, banquet. In charge of this affair, held at the Hotel Astoria on February 7, 1927, were, Henry F. Toikka; Anton Sorensen and Thomas Nelson. All stockholders were invited. A. W. Norblad, the company's attorney, served as toastmaster.

Direction of The Union Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Company by management brought up in the fishing industry has given the firm practical leadership through the various trying changes in the competitive enterprise of processing and marketing fisheries products.

The company has been alert to the problems rising from decline in fish runs of the Columbia.

It has been devoted to conservation measures and its fishermen have taken deep interest in development of scientific hatchery programs. Biological studies have been strongly recommended as a means of rehabilitating fish runs and maintaining those that have survived the modern hazards to fish life rising from pollution, irrigation and construction of dams without provision for adequate escapement.

The Union Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Company: has supported general research in the preparation of new fisheries products which has opened up the utilization of the bottom fishery at a time when the annual salmon catch of the Columbia has fallen off.

Able research in new procedures for processing bottom fish has been undertaken by Seafoods Laboratory in Astoria. This work has been under the competent direction of Dr. E. W. Harvey, head of the new laboratory. The company has been associated in the joint support of this worthwhile institution and has cooperated in rendering whatever assistance it could in the field.

Aided by the work of the laboratory, The Union Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Company was able to proceed rapidly in the canning of rockfish, which is processed differently than either tuna or salmon. Once more the company has produced a superior product, which is of vital importance to the bottom fishery since it must have an adequate outlet for its large catch.

The past fifty years have claimed many of our founders. Those who survive have the satisfaction of realising that faith in common effort and a fine product has been justified.

For an enterprise built up by 200 fishermen, our company has done well. Since its incorporation it has paid stock dividends of $343,184.51 and fish profits of $660,354.36.

And loyalty to the traditions of our founders promises to pay dividends in the future as it has done in the past.

Environmentalists Sue Federal Fisheries Managers to speed up Endangered Species Act protection for the Green Sturgeon that spawn in the Klamath River

Craig Wingert, a National Marine Fisheries Service senior fisheries biologist, said biologists from Native American tribes and state fisheries agencies finished the status review on the North American green sturgeon over its entire range a month ago, and regional biologists from the fisheries service were nearly done with their review before sending it to Washington, D.C., for final clearance.

Wingert said he expected the findings to be published in the Federal Register within about six weeks.

Among the issues being considered are the impacts of harvest, habitat loss, and whether to break any listing down to specific river basins, rather than the species as a whole, Wingert said.

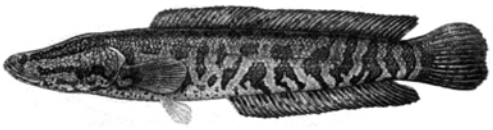
Unlike the more common white sturgeon, the green sturgeon is not targeted by any West Coast commercial fisheries. The 900 that were caught last year were taken by tribes and inadvertently by sports and commercial fishermen Wingert said.

"There aren't good population estimates," he said. "what we do have doesn't tell us we've got plummeting populations."

Green sturgeon can live 70 years reaching 350 pounds and 7.5 feet long. They range from Mexico to Alaska in marine waters and are known to spawn in the Klamath, Rogue and Sacramento rivers, and perhaps the Umpqua. They spend most of their time in marine waters and do not spawn every year. They no longer spawn in the Columbia, South Fork Trinity, Eel or San Joaquin rivers.

The fish congregate in the summer in estuaries of Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor in Washington and the Columbia River, but scientists, don't know why, Wingert said. The fish don't feed or spawn when they get together in those places.

The most research has been done by Yurok Tribe biologists in the Klamath River, where information has been gathered for 20 years on fish taken by tribal fishermen, Wingert said.



Native to parts of Africa and Asia, the snakehead has made its way to U.S. waters

Air Breathing Snake-fish on a Rampage

As if the invasion of Chilean farmed salmon into the U.S. wasn't enough, residents of California, Hawaii, Florida, Maryland, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Maine are dealing with an equally dangerous invasion—snakeheads.

The snakehead is a non-native, invasive specie harboring an air sac in its digestive system that allows it to absorb oxygen so it can flop across muddy land. The fish can grow to three feet long and it is carnivorous, feasting on anything it can fit in its jaws. It's not like these things are going to take a swimmers leg off, but biologists and legislators fear that the fish might spread like other non-native animals, such as hogs, rats, starlings and sparrows.

A native of the Yangtze River in China, the slithery fish is considered a delicacy in Asian markets. Here, it is considered a pest and the Bush Administration wants it gone. If the fish is reclassified as "injurious wildlife", its importation to the U.S. would be banned. No current law prohibits importation of the fish. However, possession of snakeheads is illegal in 13 states.

Proposed ban takes aim at snakehead importation

"There is no freshwater habitat in the United States where snakeheads couldn't find a home." —Walt Courtenay, U.S. snakehead expert

The carnivorous, air-breathing, walking relative of a catfish called a snakehead may soon find it difficult to immigrate to the United States since government scientists, including a man affectionately known as "Dr. Snakehead," suggested the family of fish is a danger to native species and fisheries and is proposing a national ban on imports of the species.

Bristol Bay gillnetters trapped in bad 70s flashback

Fish farm onslaught keeps dock prices down while a weak sockeye run hampers harvest

Bristol Bay fishermen and Wall Street stockbrokers were thinking the same thing in July:
How low can it go?

A combination of poor dock prices and a weak run left the world's flagship sockeye salmon fishery with its worst result since the disastrous seasons of the 1970s. The commercial harvest totaled 10.5 million fish, which paid a base price of 40 cents a pound for a total fishery value of $25 million.

That's a terrible outcome for a fishery that only a decade ago produced payoffs in excess of $200 million and hauls of more than 40 million fish.

Expecting a poor season, fishermen avoided Bristol Bay like WorldCom stock. About 700 of the bay's 1,900 licensed drift gillnet boats stayed high and dry in boatyards.

One of the season's strangest sights surely was the cargo barge heading down the Naknek River on the fishery's traditional peak, the Fourth of July, laden with half a dozen 32-foot gillnetters.

"Those are the boats of fishermen who have given up," said Terry Gardiner president of Seattle-based NorQuest Seafoods Inc. Like the fishing fleet, fewer canneries and processing ships operated this season.

Aside from the vagaries of nature, the bay's main problem is foreign fish farmers whose prodigious salmon and trout output has hammered the value of Alaska's once dominant wild sockeye in Japan.

In early August, Alaska's senators and the Bush administration announced plans to possibly spend more than $100 million for job retraining and economic development in fishing towns.

Wesley Loy

Netpens Get MWPPC Approval

In a meeting, in Spokane, of the Northwest Power Planning Council (NWPPC), the Select Areas Fisheries Project (SAFP) management team, comprised of Clatsop Economic Development Council (CEDC) and the Departments of Fish and Wildlife of both Oregon and Washington, came girded for battle. What they walked away with was a recommendation for two more years of funding and a verbal commitment from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to accept the NWPPC's recommendation.

It's always a battle when fighting for part of BPA $440 million-a-year pie, and the 10-year project for select area netpens had nearly run it's course. The NWPPC had also requested an economic analysis of the project to justify further funding.

The joint Select Area Fisheries Project team were, John North, Oregon Manager of the SAFP, Mark Miller, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife project manager, Todd Jones from CEDC, Pat Frazier, Columbia River Project Manager for the Columbia River Salmon, and Guy Norman, from Oregon Department of Fish &Wildlife. Also testifying on the economic benefits to the lower Columbia River project were a group of industry representatives - Steve Fick, owner of Fishhawk Fisheries, Brian Tarabaccia, a gillnetter and salmon buyer, Kurt Englund, owner of England Marine, and Lovenia Warren and Oliver Waldman, both representing Salmon for All.

The present project was initiated in 1993 to build on the success of Youngs

Bay Terminal Fisheries Project, which started out with the Youngs Bay netpens in 1976 with Oregon State biologists Duncan Law and Jim Hill working as project directors. The project grew from a test project until it became the netpens that expanded production capabilities.

"The goal of the project is provide a harvest while protecting upriver stocks," North explained in an interview in Astoria. "This we have done, 2002 was a record year. We are coming up on the tenth year of the evaluation [and] future work will be to focus on what works and what didn't and to maximize economic benefit for the region."

In 1994, the budget of the project was $400,000, and by 2002 had grown to a budget of $1.5 million. The netpen project expanded with success as netpens were opened at Deep River, WA, Tongue Point, OR, Steamboat Slough, WA, and Blind Slough, OR. North explained that the 2002 economic value, as of late October, was $740,000 in ex-vessel payments to fishermen and a total coastal income of $2.6 million for the lower Columbia Area.

The 2002 season also showed the highest landing figures since the project began and is based on three species: spring chinook, netting $438,000 from 10,911 springers, fall chinook, bringing in $75,000 from 8,679 fish, and coho, with a value of $222,000 from 68,000 salmon. A $.30/lb. Exvessel price hurt the coho figures and the fall chinook brought only $.45/lb.

By the end of three days of meetings and extensive presentations, the group got what they wanted: a recommended budget for $1.6 million and a $100,000 increase from the 2002 budget. North explained that the highly successful 2002 season gave the group plenty of ammunition, but still it wasn't a walkthrough as other projects were competing for funding.

While the PWPPC approved the extension, they underlined the fact that the future of the project was on the line. The next two years are critical for the Select Areas Project managers to prove that the project is economically viable. The PWPPC mandated that the 2004 annual report will have to include a longterm plan and a detailed economic analysis of the entire program.

So as the project has shown to be successful, fishermen and netpen workers are working on a slender thread. The project is still dependent on Bonneville funding and it is BPA who signs the check. One netpen worker smiled and said, "I'm glad to be working, it's good to have a job that you can see the results of. We raise the fish and see them come back. I guess you can say it's sort of hand to mouth."

Mike Strom is a commercial salmon fisherman and usually fishes in the Columbia River and in Cook Inlet, Alaska. He currently resides in Astoria.

Taking Fish Farming to the limit

Alaska Fisherman's Journal

There's no denying that the Japanese want to kill more whales and if international forces won't let them harvest the number of wild whales they desire, the Japanese will just raise them in net pens, like farmed Atlantic salmon.

That's the word out of Hirado, a traditional whaling city located about 100 miles south of Tokyo. According to a report from the Associated Press, the city plans to capture minke whales with nets and create a huge aquaculture whale farm covering 200 square kilometers of its coastline. The whales will be bred for "research purposes" and to help attract tourists for whale watching.

A Japanese whaling fleet is now on an expedition to Antarctica to harvest 440 minke whales, which is permitted by the International Whaling Commission under the title of "research purposes."

Whale Recovery?

The National Marine Fisheries Service reported the first sighting of a northern right whale calf in the eastern North Pacific for perhaps a century. The northern right whale is the world's most endangered whale. It was hunted extensively in the early 1900s because it was easy to catch and floated after being killed. Between 1900 and 1994, only 29 reliable sightings of right whales were reported in the eastern North Pacific.


Alaska Govenor Calls for Action against Chilean Salmon Dumping

The Fishermen's News • October 2002

In a letter addressed to US Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans, Alaska Governor Tony Knowles called for the International Trade Administration (ITA) to take a look at recent export practices by the Chileans and take action to hold the salmon exporters accountable, saying Alaska fishermen need protection against the illegal dumping of Chilean salmon in the US.

"In recent years, Alaska salmon has come into direct competition with Chilean salmon because consumers do not currently distinguish Chilean farmed Atlantic salmon and Alaska wild Pacific salmon," Knowles said in his letter. "This competition is evidenced by the fact that prices of Alaska salmon have been pushed downward as Chilean dumping led to a glut of low-priced salmon in the US market."

"Record low prices resulting from competition with dumped Chilean exports harm Alaska's estimated 17,000 salmon fishermen," Knowles said. "Alaska fishermen are left idling on the docks because the price of salmon has dropped so low as to make fishing unprofitable; almost 4,500 have already been forced to leave the industry in recent years.

"Many of Alaska's remote coastal and Native communities are economically dependent on fishing," Knowles added. "Low salmon prices and unemployed fishermen have crushed these economies and left the communities without tax revenues, which they use to provide municipal and social services."

Disease blamed in die-off of 360,000 hatchery salmon

Nearly 360,000 young hatchery salmon have died of a disease caught from naturally spawning fish, state Department of Fish and Wildlife officials say.

The disease is caused by a parasite that infests the skin and gills of fish, said Bob Rogers, a Fish and Wildlife fish health specialist.

Few of the parasites—Ichthyophthirius multifilis—were found in the 4-inch-long juvenile summer Chinook salmon when they were moved from a hatchery near Rocky Reach Dam to the Similkameen River rearing pond outside of Oroville, WA,.

A week later, the fish began to die, despite efforts to treat them, he said. Rogers anticipates 5,000 to 10,000 of the fish will survive.

High water temperatures caused by this fall's extremely low flow in the Similkameen gave the parasite perfect conditions for reproducing, he said. River temperatures reached 59 degrees this month, compared with the usual range of 47 to 54 degrees.

More naturally spawning adult salmon returned this year, creating a greater likelihood of transmitting the parasite, Rogers said. The fish were from Methow and Okanogan river hatchery stock and scheduled for release into the Okanogan River system in April.

Speaking Out for Wild Salmon

A small group distributed leaflets about wild and farmed salmon last October in front of a major US grocery store, to support the fish farm education campaign conducted on the same day in Scotland and UK. In Bellingham, Washington, a half dozen folks held colorful signs and handed out leaflets to interested shoppers on the plaza near the Costco Store and many people driving by gave a 'thumbs up'. Within 15-20 minutes, however, the store management came out and threatened to call the police. Costco Stores sell 600,000 pounds of farmed salmon weekly, mostly imported from Chile. The action was part of the growing global campaign to educate the public and policy makers about the hazards of industrial salmon farming.

A Wave Goodbye

Mark John Laukkanen
Cathlamet resident, 56

Mark John Laukkanen, 56, of Puget Island, Cathlamet, Wash., died Saturday, Nov.9,2002, in Longview, Wash. as a result of an accident.

Mr. Laukkanen was born Feb.12, 1946, in Paaslahti, Finland, to Einar Mikael and Katri Helena Rytkönen Laukkanen.

On Aug.14,1971, he married Mirjarni Pehkonen in Eno, Finland. She survives, residing on Puget Island.

On July 4, 1949, he moved to the United States, via Ellis Island, with his parents and siblings. He lived for a year in Wyoming before moving to Brownsmead. He attended Knappa High School where he was active in 4H, football, and was a state tree identification champion. He graduated in 1964 and received a scholarship to Clatsop Community College. He earned an associate degree in forestry in 1966 and worked for Crown Zellerbach as a forester before heading their timber acquisition team. From 1972, he was a commercial snag diver and started his own timber cruising/consulting business in 1978. Later, he gillnetted spending summers in Alaska, and starting Laukkanen Seafoods, a fish buying business. In 1995, he became a timber buyer for Banks Lumber Company. In the 1960s, he became a U.S. citizen and changed his name from Markku Juhani to Mark John.

He had been a volunteer firefighter for the Cathlamet and Puget Sound Fire Departments for many years and a Port of Wahkiakum Commissioner. He enjoyed his Finnish culture; scuba diving; water, alpine and Nordic skiing; ice skating and traveling to Finland.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sons, Heikki Laukkanen of Beaverton and Mikko Laukkanen of Los Angeles; two daughters, Kaisa Laukkanen of Chinook, Wash., and Liisa Laukkanen of Cleveland; two brothers, Mikko E. Laukkanen of Brownsmead and Dr. Hannu Laukkanen of Forest Grove; and a sister, Lea Falter of Castle Rock, Wash.

Arnold "Toots" Petersen
Gilnet fisherman, 86

Arnold "Toots" Petersen, 86, of Astoria, died Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2002, in Portland.

Mr. Petersen was born June 7 1916, in Portland, to Arnoldus and Petra Jensen Petersen. He grew up and attended schools in Astoria.

In November 1949, he married Arlie Lorraine Odenborg in Astoria.

She died in 1987.

Mr. Petersen served in the U.S. Navy during WWII. He then worked for Dairygold but was a gilnet fisherman for most of his life. He is on the cover of "Work Is Our Joy," a video on gilnet fishing at the Maritime Museum. He lived in Astoria most of his life, moving to Portland in 1998 to live near his family. He was a member of the Sons of Norway, Astoria Elks Lodge, American Legion and Lower Columbia Fisherman's Co-op.

He is survived by a son and daugh ter-in-law, Arnold "Butch" and Tronni Petersen of Scappoose; two daughters and sons-in-law, Karen Whitman and Brad Shiley, and Linda and Dan Olsvik, all of Portland, five grandchildren: Rick Whitman and Darren and Adair Olsvik, all of Portland, and Katie and Adam Petersen, both of Scappoose; four great-grandsons, Matthew and Jordan Olsvik, and Taylor and Justin Whitman, all of Portland.

Judge reduces Exxon Valdez damage award

ANCHORAGE—A federal judge on Friday reduced by $1 billion the damage award against Exxon for spilling 11 million gallons of crude oil into Prince William Sound 13 years ago.

U.S. District Judge Russel Holland reduced the $5 billion punitive damages award to $4 billion.

An Alaska jury in 1994 approved the original award in the Exxon Valdez spill, but the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals said the award was excessive and sent the case back to Holland.

Exxon says it will appeal the new figure.

Exxon argued that the company was effectively punished and deterred by the billions it had paid out in cleanup costs, compensation to hundreds of claimants and government fines.

Chinook thieves create one king-sized mystery

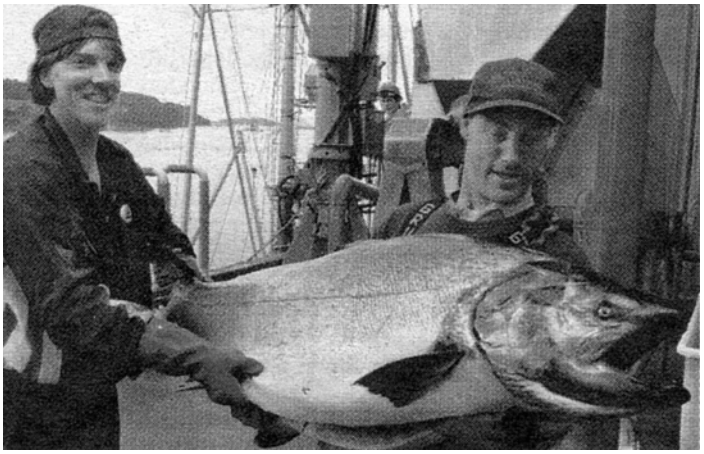
81 1/2-pound salmon stolen from freezer

A trophy chinook salmon got away in Sitka, Alaska — after its owner thought it was safely stowed in a freezer.

The town was abuzz on July 16 when skipper Paul Olson and deckhand Joey Carpenter of the troller Valiant Hunter delivered the lunker chinook to the Seafood Producers Cooperative plant. At a gutted weight of 81 1/2 pounds, it was one of the biggest king salmon ever caught in Southeast Alaska and paid the fishermen more than $100.

The fish was popped into the plant freezer, and lots of locals came down to see it, including some intrigued state biologists. Plant manager Craig Shoemaker said the plan was to mount the special fish, not sell it into the market.

THE MONSTER CHINOOK is displayed by troller Paul Olson (left) and deckhand Joey Carpenter, who landed the giant.

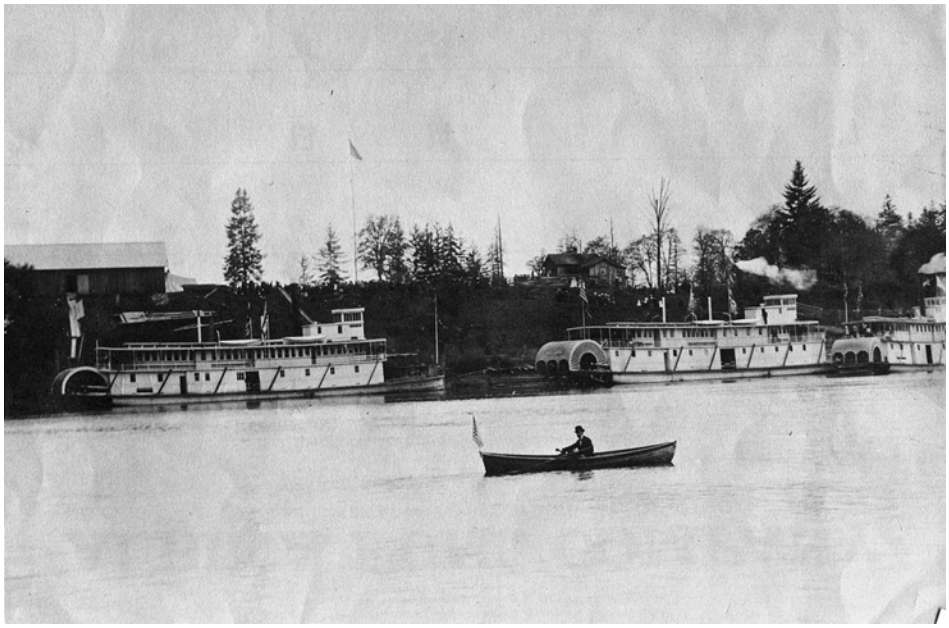


But sometime that night, somebody snatched that chinook. A night plant worker discovered the theft after seeing a couple of men in hooded sweatshirts leaving the warehouse

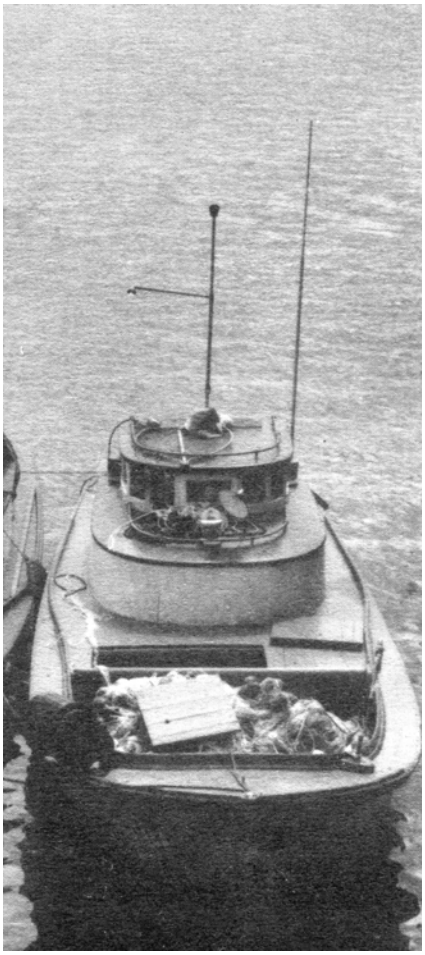
freezer area. But they didn't appear to be carrying anything and, besides, the plant operates round the clock with people coming and going. The freezers are not locked.

In August, Sitka police chief Bob Gorder announced a break in the case. Officials believed two or more men stole the fish, which was later filleted and disposed of.

About 20 people had known the suspects' identities and the chinook's location. No arrests had been made, but information was being collected to be turned over to the district attorney's office.

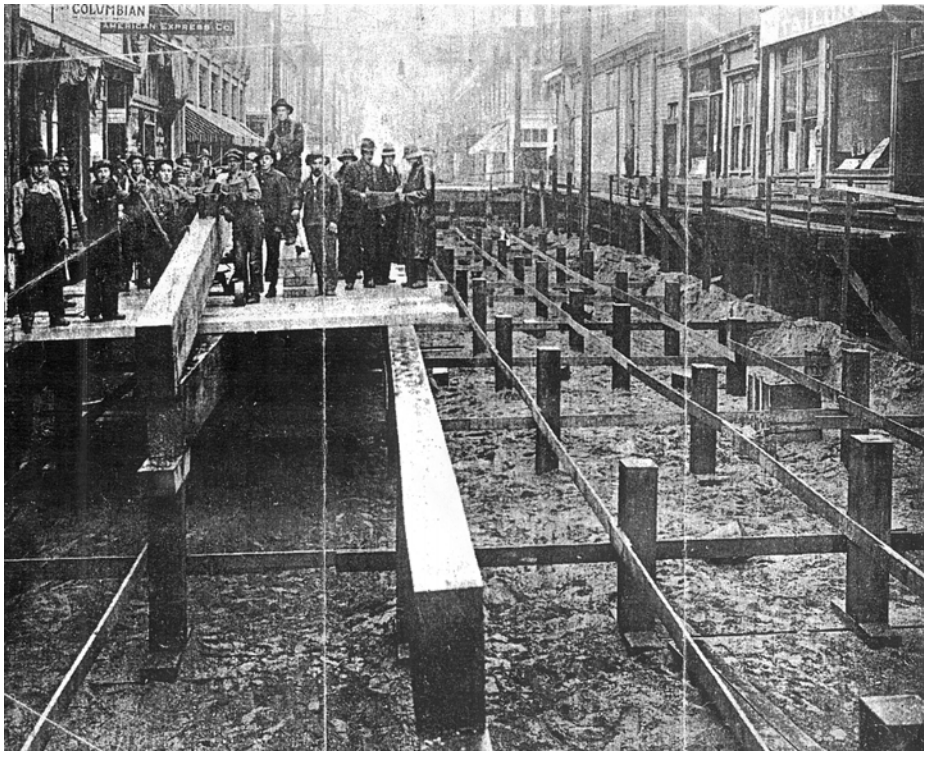


Sternwheelers at Oregon City, 1903



A Classic Columbia River Gillnetter in the 1960s

Building Astoria streets out of planks, 1900s



Port of Astoria 1900s

Columbia River Gillnetter

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