



Marvin Scott King Salmon Fishing

Photographer: Marvin Scott

Date: July 1, 2013

Location: Out on the Ocean

Marvin Scott is a 3rd generation commercial fisherman who operates with his father, Wilbert Scott, on the *Jenny Marie*.

“There’s nothing like fishing for Kings on the first of July. Location? Out on the ocean.” –Marvin Scott

Fishing Vessel *Finn* in Rough Shape

Photographer: Robert Adams, Ketchikan

Waterfall Cannery - Prince of Wales Island - 1952

“Working on (a) commercial dive boat out of Waterfall Cannery (I) caught this photo of the *Finn* which was tied to a sister ship (*Mildred* or *Molle*) running tied together at the end of the season. The three boats were a skow bottom design and fairly new to the fleet.



Just south of the Skookum Creek (Telvek Narrows) they plowed into the side of a power skow in the dark. All hands were safe and the boat was saved by the other ship and the power skow *Egil B.* The *Egil B.* sustained a couple insignificant dents.”

Deborah Mercy running the seine skiff



Top Left: "Libby 8 closing up the set, shot from my skiff"

Top Right: "Margaret E. Fishing"

Bottom: "Me in the skiff closing up (Bringing the skiff end of the net back to the boat)"

"I was the "skiffman" with the *Libby 10* in 1976. Bill Manos was a first year skipper. After two weeks into the season, he decided to move jobs around and offered me the skiff job. It was an unusual decision on his part because at that time, the power skiff was not a common job for women. It was a challenge for me. I had never operated any sort of boat and we didn't have a radio for communication, we used hand signals. But I learned and continued to drive skiff that year and for the two more years that I worked for Bill purse seining. Several years later I joined him and another person in Bristol Bay to work on driftnet fishing. Beyond those years I have also fished with others, longlining for halibut and black cod. I have always been grateful to Bill for giving me the chance to break some glass ceilings in the commercial fishing world."

Cape Falcon during Sac Roe Seine Opening near Sitka

Kevin Kristovich - Sitka, Alaska - Spring, 1975

“The quota for the '75 season was 550 tons. My uncle, John Kristovich, who owned the *Cape Falcon*, caught the whole quota in one set. It was a record haul for the history books of Sitka herring unbroken for years.

The *Christian* was skippered by Leland Daniels, a local Ketchikan-raised fish buyer. He also hauled meats, fruit and vegetables from Seattle to Ketchikan and outlying logging camps and communities for years and many local people still remember that to this day.

My dad and his brothers were top fishermen in Ketchikan for decades. Many a deckhand earned their stripes on the back deck of one of the boats coming to their own as skippers later in life. They're hard but fair men who taught you fast and worked you until you were exhausted. I fished with all 3 of them.”
- Kevin Kristovich



Photo 1 – The *Christian* has just topped off the hatch and is getting ready to deck load. John is seen on the back deck in the orange rain slicker; on the cork line bailing themselves full are my other uncle Pat on the *Theresa-K*. The *Lovely Joann* in the background is another local boat skippered by Joe Demmert, Jr.



Photo 2 – The *Christian* is totally deck loaded and my dad Tommie is alongside the corks bailing himself full after uncle Pat plugged out.

“Everyone thinks, 'oh yeah - we got 'em!' But in reality, it's them who got you until you get them out of the net and into the boat.” - Kevin Kristovich

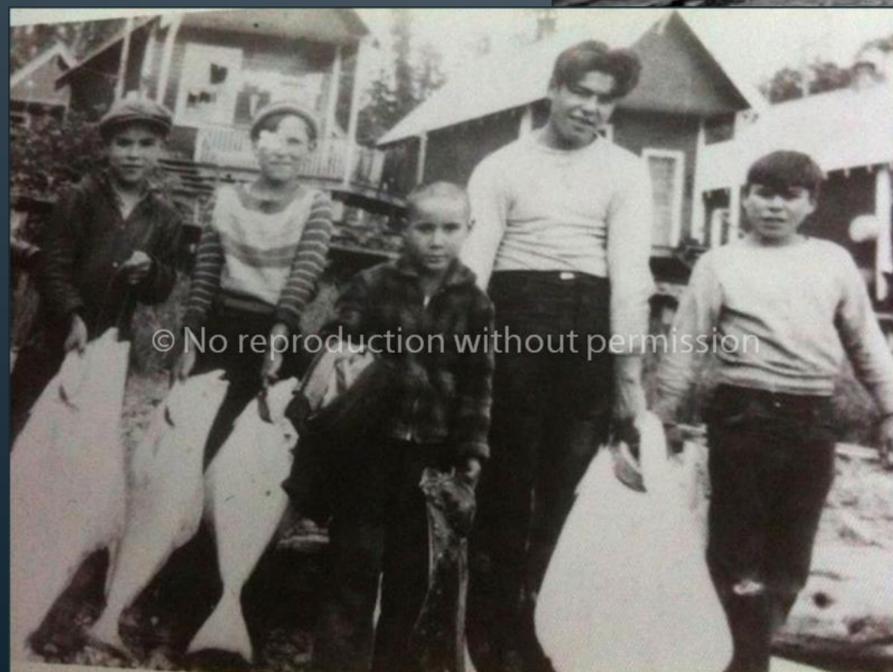
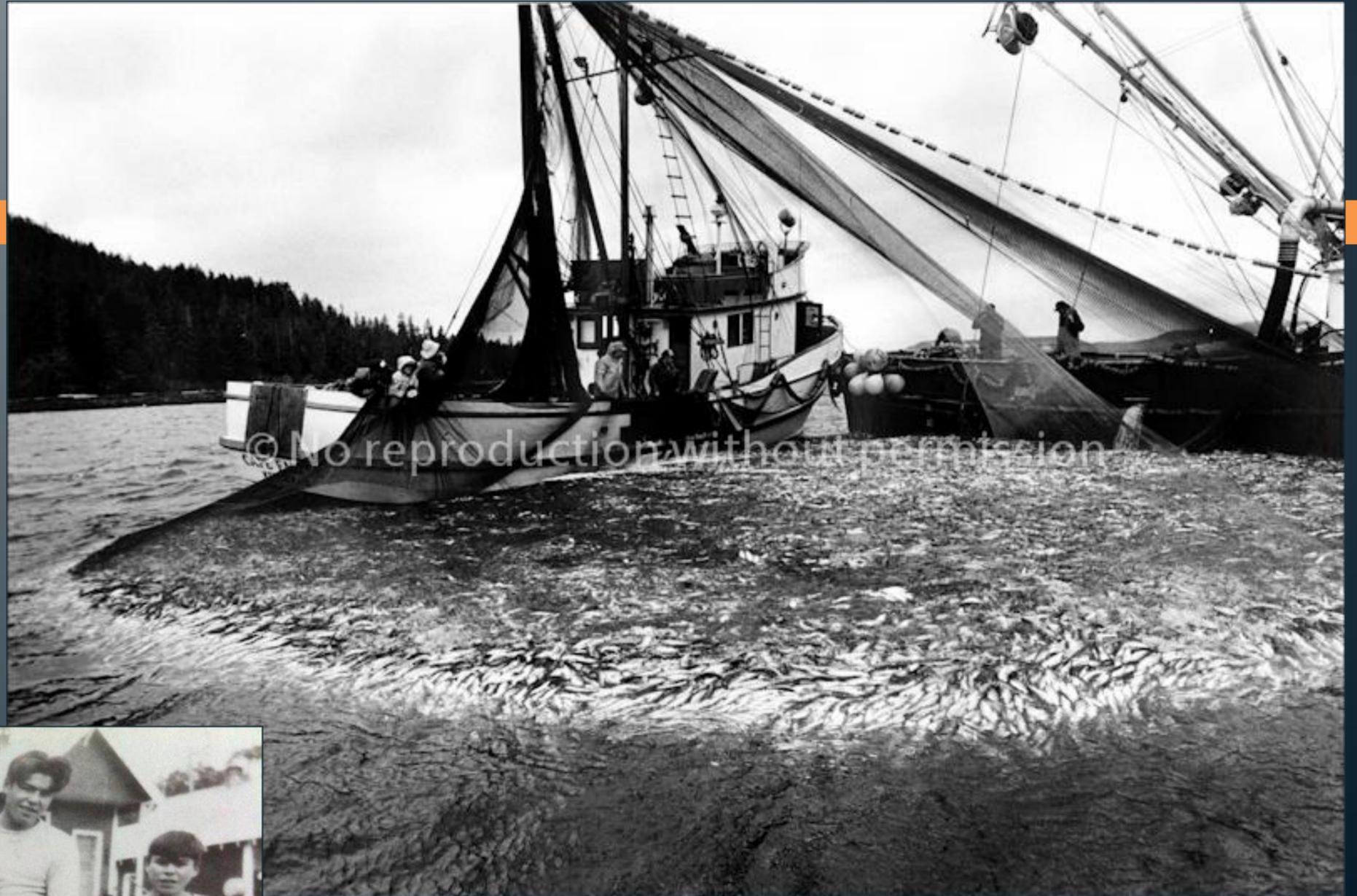


Photo 3 – Uncle Pat is off to the side watching as the madness continues. This single set loaded 8 boats!

Five Brothers II

Kevin Kristovich, Ketchikan

Right: This photo of the *Cape Falcon*, owned by my Uncle John Kristovich, and *Miss Blu* was taken in Sitka in 1987 at Old Sitka Rocks. On deck: Mark Bowman, John Kristovich, and John's daughters Yolanda (Dell) and Lazonia Kristovich. 450 tons of herring were caught.



Left: "My dad's boat was named *Five Brothers II* after the 5 Kristovich boys. Pat, John, Tommie, Jimmy and Billy."

F/V *Eleanor* Taking Splits

Submitted by Jim Bacon
Off of Craig near Tranquil Point
1985 (approx.)



Shown Above: Captain: Jim Bacon,
On Deck: Mike Lingren and
Chris Hunter.

“In this photo, there were so many
fish in the net we had to take splits
to get the whole haul loaded.”

Left: The *Eleanor* was built in
1935 in Tacoma, Washington
and was the “Super Seiner of
Saxman” at the time.

In 2012, the *Eleanor* sank off
of Jakolof Bay, near Homer.

Jim Bacon is now the Captain
of the F/V *Wavedancer*.

Prosperity Crew at Ward Cove

Submitted by: Jerry Froeschle

Photographer: Patrick Drickey

Ward Cove, Alaska - 1976

“This is a shot of the *Prosperity* crew in June 1976 at Ward Cove. Flying bridge: Captain Jeff Golden. Left to right: Jerry Froeschle, Nadine Simonelli, Paul Chausse, Rich Schuerger, Jim Bacon, Willie Antonsen.

Jeff, Rich and Jim are still fishing with permits in various fisheries. The seiner, *Prosperity*, once a ‘Brindle boat’ in the Ward Cove fleet broke up on the rocks in 1979. It was a great summer, not much money, but a group that has stayed in touch.”



Pihlman Family on Troller *Okeh*

Photographer: Dale Pihlman
Ketchikan, Alaska - early 1950s



“Here is a picture of my family: mother (Ingrid), father (Walter), and brother Roy. I'm taking the picture. We are fueling up preparing for a trip, probably to our usual fishing grounds at Club Rocks south of Duke Island. Our boat was the *Okeh*, a 36' horseshoe stern troller. The four of us fished together for several summers from about 1951 to 1955. Since then, Roy has spent his life trolling, first with the *Toveri*, then the *Rauma* and finally with the *Amberlee*. I gillnetted for 15 years, two in Bristol Bay and 13 in Southeast with the *Talisman*.”

Jeannie-Rose

Will Bousley's First Gillnetter

Photographer: Will Bousley
Driest Point, about 3 miles outside of
Metlakatla - August 2011

"I am a Tsimshian Native of the Metlakatla Indian Community. (Starting as young men), all of my male family members have been gillnetting all our lives. The boat *Jeannie-Rose* was my very first gillnetter / bowpicker that I bought my sophomore year in high school. My little brother is running the boat in photo, and he took over the boat when I upgraded.

Finally, I was born in Seattle and have always been a fan of eagles, as well as being of the eagle clan. I blended the topics together by painting the Seahawks logo on the boat. What better timing, after they won the Super Bowl?"



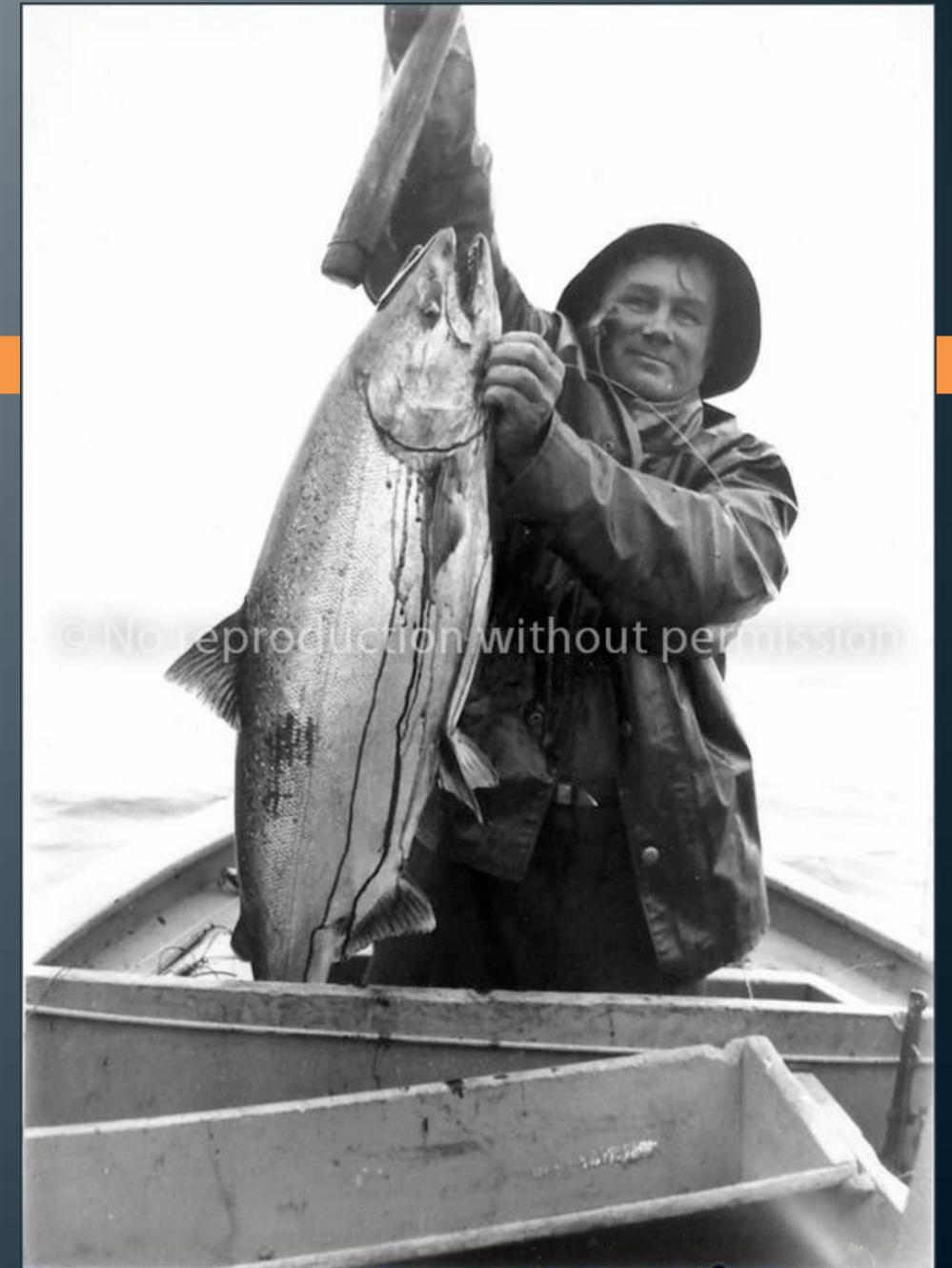
Johnson Fishing Duo

Submitted by: John Stewart

According to John Stewart, Ruby Johnson was known as the toughest woman in Ketchikan. Want proof? Every year she won the 4th of July Rowboat Races. Want more? She would then defeat all contenders in the whipsaw races, sawing through a massive log in record time. Let's hope Gene was always staying on her good side!



Ruby Johnson in cockpit of *Blunty*
with King Salmon
Photographer: Gene Johnson
Whiskey Cove, mid 1950s



Gene Johnson near Hall Cove
on board *Sharpy*
Photographer: Ruby Johnson
Duke Island, late 1940s



“Let’s see...the photo was taken about ten years ago, twelve at most. I was fishing for spot prawns in Behm Canal on the *Wavedancer* with Wally Kubley as deckhand and we had some especially large shrimp that day so I took a photo with one of the giant shrimp, one that was a 'normal' sized jumbo, and a reference item most folks could identify with - the Rainier can. It might be of interest, too, that shrimp change sex. They start life as males and when they reach a certain size/age they switch teams. That is why nearly all jumbo spot prawns are female.”

Behm Canal Shrimp

Photographer: Chris Snyder
Behm Canal - (2000 – 2003)

Ole & LaDonna Gundersen on Gillnetter *LaDonna Rose*

Photographer: Daniel Badgley

Southern Southeast Alaska - August 2013

“Alaska is stunningly beautiful, and our ‘backyard’ is as picturesque as you would expect. Every day we see something amazing: breaching whales, eagles swooping down to catch salmon, or incredible sunsets over the mountains. It never gets old. We are constantly saying how lucky we are to live and work together in such an awesome environment. We would not trade it for anything in the world.”

-Ole & LaDonna Gundersen



The Launching of *José Maria*

Submitted by: Marty Perez

Tongass Boat Works, Ketchikan - November 1947



The troller *José Maria* was built for Martin Perez, Sr. It was converted to a seining boat in 1950 at Libby's cannery in George Inlet.

Sunset Set
Purse seiner *Melissa Lynn*
1991
Photographer: Kris Hansen



“The purse seiner *Melissa Lynn* hauls gear by sunset off the coast of Dall Island, on SE Alaska's west coast. On Alaska's outer coast, idyllic summer weather can quickly give way to high winds, large swells, and dangerous fishing conditions - though stormy weather can also produce the largest catches (1991).
– Nathan Hoff



Dave Pitcher and his young son, Sam,
at the wheel of the F/V *Nevada*
Submitted and Photographed by: Karen Pitcher
West Coast of Noyes Island - 1989

“Commercial salmon trolling is often a family affair. Dave and Karen Pitcher fished together for 27 seasons starting in 1975. Their son, Sam, joined them for his first season when he was just four months old. It was an enjoyable family lifestyle; sometimes it was profitable and sometimes it was not. There were many changes in the fishery during the years they fished including the length of seasons, closures, and the care taken of fish including the length of time the fish could be kept on ice on board the vessel before selling. Dave supported fish cooperatives’ hatcheries and served as president of the board for SSRAA (Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association). The goal was always to keep the fish population strong and deliver a quality product to the market.”

- Karen Pitcher

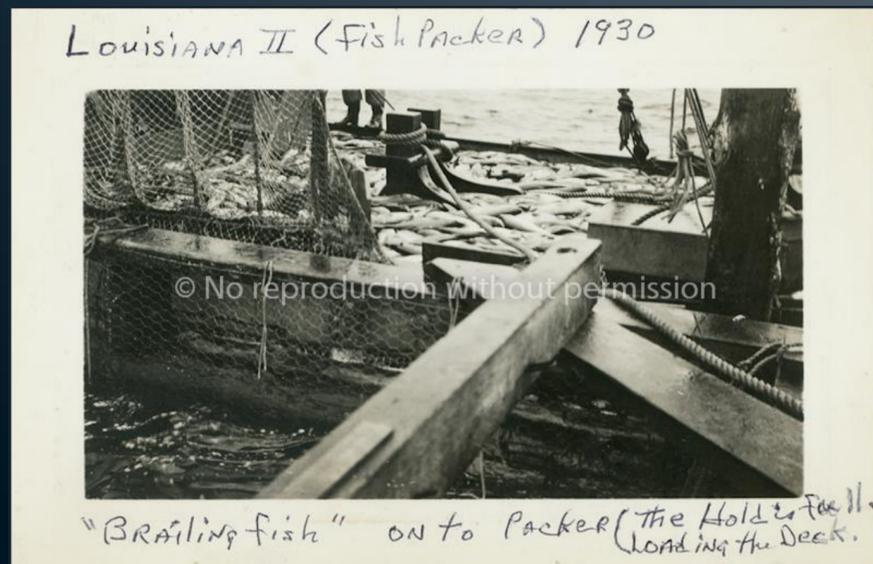
Fish Packer *Louisiana II*

Submitted by: Nancy Tew Heacock,
(McKenzie's Granddaughter)

Photographed by: Harky Tew
(McKenzie's son)



Fish packer *Louisiana II* moored at the McKenzie fish trap. 1930

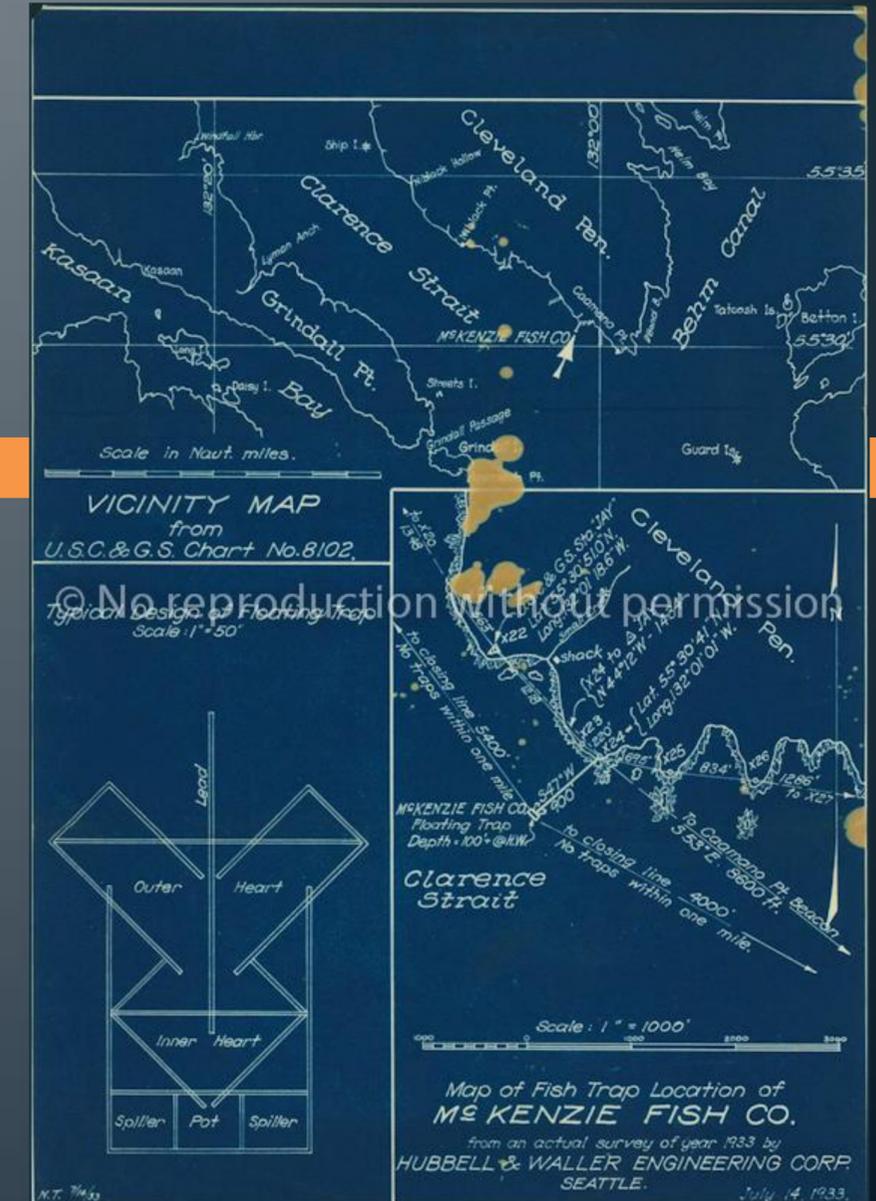


Fish packer *Louisiana II* brailing fish onto packer from trap. The hold is full, so fish must be loaded on deck. 1930

The *Louisiana II* was commissioned in Seattle to be built as a fish-packer and was named upon completion. When the original commissioner cancelled the ship order, the shipwright advertised the vessel for sale. It was purchased by the McKenzie Fish Company to be used at the company's salmon trap just north of Ketchikan.

Angus McKenzie skippered the *Louisiana II* to Ketchikan in February 1927, where the boat would make berth for the remainder of its service. As the fee to change the boat's original name was a whopping \$35.00 and the previous name of Angus McKenzie's wife was Mrs. Tew, the name was kept as a perfect fit!

Mrs. Tew's son Harcourt ("Harky") Tew, Nancy's father, skippered the *Louisiana II* servicing the McKenzie salmon trap until the trap was sold. When fish traps were made illegal in 1959 upon statehood, the boat began servicing logging camps and towed log rafts to the Ketchikan Spruce and Ketchikan Pulp Company mills until she was sold in 1975.



Map of McKenzie Fish Co. fish trap location and design on Caamano Point, Cleveland Peninsula. The trap fished 1927 – “before paperwork was required. (This map) may have been prepared for a sale.” 1933.



What's for Dinner?

Gregory Zerbetz on F/V *Alsek*

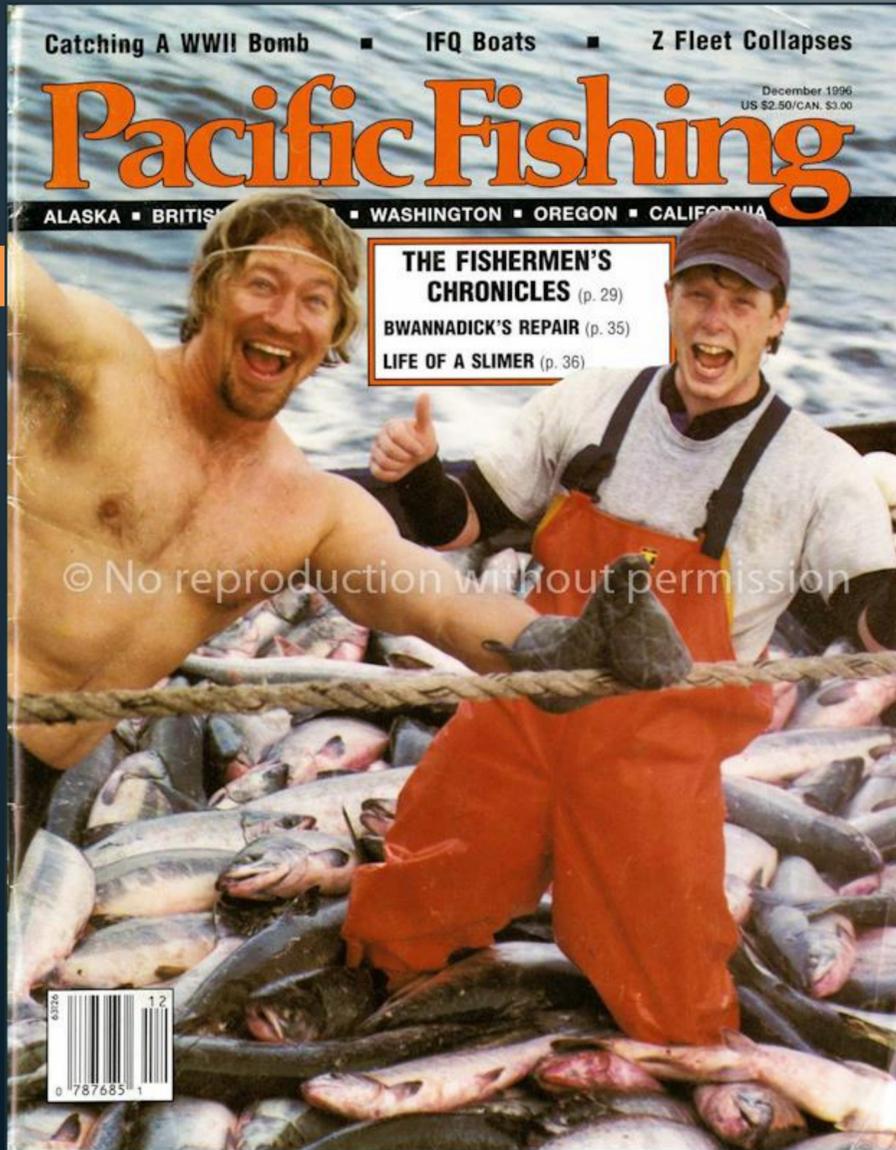
Winter 1978

Photographer: Curtis Bower

“While fishing Dungeness crab in the back of Behm canal it was not unusual to catch a fish in the crab pot. After being held off gear by inclement winter weather, we arrived to pull gear and found what could have been a simple supper treat...only to find it consumed by sand fleas, our loss...”

- Gregory Zerbetz

The Best The Worst



Good Day, 1996
Pacific Fisherman cover
photographed by Larry Jackson
Image use courtesy of *Pacific Fisherman*

“These two photos epitomize the highs and lows of a career in commercial fishing.”



Bad Day, 1995
Capsized *Baranof Queen*
Photographed by Ron Loesch
Image use courtesy *Petersburg Pilot*

Submitted by: Larry Jackson (continued)

The Best The Worst

(Continued) – The Story

“These two photos epitomize the highs and lows of a career in commercial fishing. I crewed for Dan Castle in the mid '90s. Dan purchased the *Baranof Queen* in '94. After a season in which every mechanical part had to be tinkered with and the hand tools never had a chance to get back in the tool box, we were looking forward to a smooth season in '95. As you can see, by the date, it wasn't meant to be. Luckily no one was injured in the capsizing. I was in the top house with Dan when the boat turned and laid on its side. I knew it wouldn't right itself. Dan and I climbed out the opposite side window and walked to the keel as the boat slowly rolled upside down. I never got wet. Darrel Welk and Paul Maradeth came out the galley door into the water. It took several days of effort that included beaching the capsized boat and pumping to float the boat again. I smelled like diesel for days afterward. We finished the '94 season on a old wooden seiner called the *Varibus*. We almost sank it on the first day of fishing.

During the off season Dan purchased another steel boat which he still owns today called the *Little Lady*. The *Pacific Fisherman* photo was taken by me almost 1 year after the capsizing of the *Baranof Queen*. Paul Maredeh, pictured bare chested, was on both boats. Paul Myerchin is in the rain gear. It was a fun day. This is a deck load of mostly chum in late June, highly unusual for that time of year. We were setting backward from a line up of 8 boats. No one noticed that we were rolling 10,000 pound sets and waddled by the line up at the end of the day doubling everyone's catch. The photo says it all (notice Maredeh's oven mitt and bare chest) oil cook stoves in galleys are hot in the summer! Like most business endeavors success is mostly achieved via hard work through ups and downs. In the words of commercial fisherman Wayne Jackson, "stick and stay and make it pay!"

- Larry Jackson, Ketchikan

Knute Entwit on the F/V *Coolidge* circa 1940's Submitted by Ed Entwit

Knute Entwit came to the United States from Norway in 1926. He spent two years fishing the North Sea in his youth before following five of his older brothers to the West Coast, where he worked in a sawmill. One year later, he and one brother moved to Prince William Sound to fish for herring.

In 1932, Entwit moved to Meyers Chuck and began trolling. The fishing was very good, but to help make it through the Depression, Knute also trapped mink, marten and otter for extra income.



Right: Side view of seiner F/V Coolidge

Left: Crew of Coolidge on back deck of seine – Knute Entwit is shown far left.



In 1940 Entwit was married to Thelma Jansen, the daughter of a trolling family who fished on her family's boat. That year he bought the *Herbert B*, a 47-foot troller built in 1918. The couple soon started a family. The lack of a regular school teacher in Meyers Chuck caused their move to Ketchikan in 1946. They settled in Refuge Cove near two of his brothers, Olie and Carl.

The brothers started a boat repair and herring-skiff building business and Knute continued to fish. He converted the *Herbert B* and seined from 1951 to 1959.

Unable to make enough money, Knute gave up fishing in 1960 and worked for Klawock Oceanside carpentering and building herring skiffs, and also working construction at the Ketchikan Pulp Co. site.

After retirement, he helped build a cold storage and continued shipwright work in Ketchikan. His three sons, Edward, Olaf and Leif have also remained in the area.

Knee-Deep!

3 Deckhands
on Purse Seiner
Stephanie Ann

Mid-1990s
Photographer:
James Castle



“Three deckhands share a jubilant moment on the purse seiner *Stephanie Ann* after deck loading the boat. Often, seine captains will try to get as many fish on board as possible without sinking the boat. Warm sunny weather and good fishing can be a welcome respite from the hardships of commercial fishing.”

– Nathan Hoff
(at left)

Brant and Caitlin Widness and their boat, *Wild Fire*

Ketchikan Area - Post 2010

Photographer:
Brant Widness



Photographer:
Craig Koch



Photographer:
Craig Koch

“Born and raised in Alaska but with no family history of commercial fishing, Brant and Caity chose to buy a boat and start trolling. After one year of fishing together on the *Wild Fire*, they decided to commit themselves to each other and a life full of fishing. So keep your eyes peeled between Cape Chacon and Cape Spencer for this fishy couple, because they’re hooked.”

- Hilary Koch

5 Southeast Trollers Livin' the Dream

Lituya Bay, Alaska - July 1979

Dennis Jay Moody

Five lifelong friends safely anchored in Lituya Bay, site of the highest recorded mega tsunami in modern times. A welcome sight after 3 days of fishing in rough seas on the Fairweather grounds.

Intruder – Stan Duncan

Infinity – Jim Mitchell

Lady Ann – Alan Burnett

Jay Louise – Dennis Moody

Nissa K – Jim White



Brad Washington

Ketchikan, AK

Submitted by: Barry Washington



Above: “That is dad’s boat (the same one with the fish) his wife Nancy (mom) & my older brother Ben. Based on his size the image was likely taken in the Spring of 1966.”



Left: “A proud day for troller Brad Washington, (Barry’s father). If I remember right, this was the largest King Salmon he ever caught at 63 pounds. We actually made a plaster cast of it & we used it to make a fiberglass replica when I was a wee lad. It hangs in my home.” Photo taken in 1971.

The James Family fishing on the seiner *Bertha*

Submitted by Frank James and Colleen James

Frank James first fished with his Dad and brothers on the seiner *Bertha* (Built 1913 in Hydaburg, sank 1955). Shown here is the family's boat, with George James, Sr., Frank James, Charles James, George Jr. and Robert.

In his first season at nine years old, Frank earned \$225 on a "side rigger" seiner.

Frank James last fished in 2002, landed 1.5 million pounds of fish.

Story told by Frank James and daughter Colleen James.



Merrie Colleen

Three generations of commercial fishermen

Submitted by Frank James and Colleen James



The *Merrie Colleen* (ex. *Patricia Joan*, built in Seattle in 1951) was built for Norwegian Thorvald Larson as a packer and halibut longliner in approximately 1954.

Second generation commercial fisherman Frank James sold fish to Thorvald Larson on the packer *Patricia Joan* for many years, and Thorvold told young James that one day he would own his boat.

After many years, Frank actually did buy the *Patricia Joan*. Thorvold would call Frank up regularly and ask when he was headed down to the boat and meet him there. Frank learned much about fishing and the vessel in the hours spent with his friend and mentor. And Thorvold enjoyed the company and remaining part of the fishing tradition.

Frank didn't change the name of the boat to *Merrie Colleen*, after his daughters, until Thorvold passed away. Merrie and Colleen both grew up on the fishing vessel, and Colleen later fished as well.

In 1993, when Frank was headed south to Seattle when a fire broke out causing a series of dramatic explosions. The *Merrie Colleen* sank at McFarland Island near Hydaburg.

Dennis K. Moody and son Bryan Dennis Moody 2nd and 3rd generation Fishermen

Duke Island
August 2011

Photographer:
Bryan Moody



A father and son share a moment after catching and cleaning over 400 Silver salmon on the fishing vessel *Jay Louise*.