



Photo by Jai Schrof

CroatiaFest Newsletter

**A Celebration of Croatian
Culture and Folkways**

CroatiaFest Newsletter
Spring 2007

CroatiaFest - October 6 & 7, 2007

Dear Friends of CroatiaFest,

CroatiaFest proudly moves into its fourth year! We can all look with pride on our past three years of presenting CroatiaFest at Seattle Center, where we brought together Croatian-Americans and visitors from across the state and beyond!

This fourth year brings new artists, new performers and new activities. We will start off Saturday with a folkdance workshop, followed by a dance where we can have some good ol' fun with friends and family! And we hope you'll join us for our Gallery opening Saturday evening.

It is important we continue to explore new ways to showcase our culture for ourselves and for the community at large and that we continue to educate and entertain.

The CroatiaFest committee consists of few dedicated individuals who volunteer their time and energy to share the Croatian culture and show pride in their country of origin.

Visit the official CroatiaFest website! We have posted a link to 2004-2006 event photos and our very own *CroatiaFest Yellowpages* where you can locate fellow Croatian business listings. Contact us if you would like to add your business information to the list!

As CroatiaFest draws near we will post the CroatiaFest schedule, including stage performances, films & lectures. Go to: www.croatiafest.org.

Please contact the CroatiaFest Committee if you can volunteer or share your talents in any way!

I wish to thank all the many volunteers, performers, and presenters. We especially want to thank the generous donors for their contributions. Without your sponsorship CroatiaFest would not be possible.

We look forward to your support & participation in CroatiaFest 2007.

Very truly yours,

Alma

Alma Plancich, CroatiaFest Coordinator

CroatiaFest 2007 Pays Tribute to Croats in the Pacific Northwest Maritime Industry

By Marija Grgurević
Yerkovich

The late 1800's in Croatia were tough; famine and political turmoil sent thousands overseas in search of daily bread and security. All of Croatia, but especially the Dalmatian islands, Lika, Gorski Kotar and Herzegovina, saw the beginning of a heartbreaking exodus that would continue steadily for over a

century. Today, over a hundred years later, the flow has finally reversed – there is now a flood of foreigners who want to buy land in Croatia at any cost and Croats from all over the world are coming back to reclaim their forefather's land.

This seems like an appropriate time to look back over the last 100+ years; to celebrate and remember

the ones who left their ancestral homes and families to go out into the world in search of their daily bread, "trbuhom za kruhom." They did much more than just find their daily bread in the New World. Their contributions helped found and shape the New World; they became successful members and leaders in their new communities, making significant economic and cultural

contributions to the development of the Americas.

CroatiaFest is a wonderful venue to take a closer look at the contributions of our Croatian community to the growth and development of the Pacific Northwest.

Croats from different parts of the country came with distinct skills and went on to settle different areas of the Pacific Northwest depending on what they knew how to do. In order to give proper attention to

Continued on page 2, Maritime

CroatiaFest

October 6, 2007

Late Afternoon

Folkdance

Instruction &

Evening

Dance Party!

5-10pm

October 7, 2007

12noon – 8pm

Seattle Center

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each community, it seems important to look at maritime, logging, and mining communities one by one.

Beginning in 2007, each year CroatiaFest will feature a particular industry in which our people contributed significantly. Thus, CroatiaFest 2007 will center on the maritime industry, and in the following years we will take a closer look at the mining and logging communities of the Pacific Northwest.

We have touched on these ideas every year with the wonderful historical exhibits various communities have been contributing to the festival. This year we will expand this focus; we will use artifacts, photographs, old magazine and newspaper clips, books, art, and live oral histories in order to really find out of what it was like back then. These men and women came from the Adriatic Sea to the New Continent with their knowledge of how to make a living from the sea as their only asset. How did they overcome the differences between the warm Adriatic sea of their youth and the cold northern ocean of their future to establish themselves as a leading force in the maritime business – fishing, sailing, ship building, and seafood processing?

Call For Contributions And Participants Because CroatiaFest is a

community event, the committee is always open to new participants, new ideas and new materials. So, with this year's maritime theme in mind, if you or any of your family or friends have pictures or artifacts to lend, or stories to tell--please contact us.

Better yet, maybe you have someone in mind who could participate in a panel discussion or reminisce about past or present maritime activities involving Croatians. Let us know!

Here, for example, is one such story:

A Seattle fisherman's grandson went back to visit the home of his forefathers in Komiza. One day he saw the old fishermen fixing their nets. He sat right down with them and helped them mend their nets using the exact same technique they were using. They could not believe their eyes. He could not speak much Croatian, but his deft needlework spoke for him. The link to the old world had remained unbroken over two generations.

It is the stories like this that inspired this festival!

Help us maintain and strengthen this link by taking part in expanding our community.

CroatiaFest 2007 Activities

Saturday, October 6

Late Afternoon

Folkdance workshop by
Željko Jergan

Evening

Center House Dance — Dance to your favorite kolos and Croatian pop music played by local musicians & visiting bands

Sunday, October 7

All Day

Art Gallery

Center House Stage Performances

Community Historical Displays

Croatian Language Lesson

Folkdance Instruction

Food

Lectures

Maritime Display

Movies for kids

Vendors

Vocal Workshop

Visit: www.croatiafest.org

For the full schedule coming soon!

All activities are FREE, open to the public, and held in the Seattle Center House.

Event Coordinators: Alma Franulović Plancich & Maria Plancich Kesovija

2007 CroatiaFest Committee: Joanne Abdo, Dr. Frank Brozovich, Nancy Freeman, Robert & Peggy Gunovick, Louise Petrich Iverson, Maria Kesovija, Greta Kos, Kristen LeMieux, Priscilla Lisicich, Nikki & John Lovrić, Bret Lunsford, Richard Major, Darci McKinley, Cathryn Morovich, John Morovich, Veronica Mratinich, John Petrinovich, Maria Petrish, Alma Plancich, Mike Rancich, Beverly Read, Janet Segur, Antonija Stipetić, Kristin Tarabochia, Richard Tarabochia, Igor Vuletić, Marija Grgurević Yerkovich

*CroatiaFest is produced by the local Croatian American Community and is part of Seattle Center's **Festál**, a year-long series of world cultural events presented by **The Seattle Times** that honors the richness and diversity of our region.*

CroatiaFest

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Phone: 206-443-1410
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A special thank you to all CroatiaFest participants & volunteers!

Email: ehc@seattle.gov
www.croatiafest.org
www.ethnicheritagecouncil.org

CroatiaFest Logo by John Lovrić

Newsletter Editor: Maria Kesovija

CroatiaFest Newsletter is a publication of the CroatiaFest Committee. Please send submission materials to the EHC office via mail, fax or email, attn: Maria Kesovija. If you wish to be removed from the CroatiaFest mailing list, or have corrections, please contact: 206-443-1410; ehc@seattle.gov.

Croatian Fishermen Project

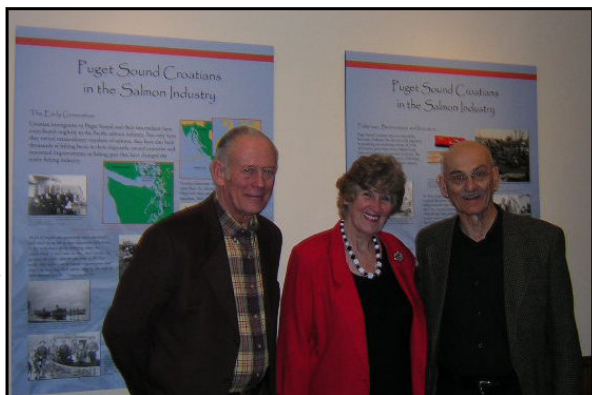
By Peggy Mojaš Gunovick

Little did I know what I was getting into nine months ago when I agreed to be part of a team to create a project documenting the history of Croatian fishermen in Puget Sound. The unveiling of our project took place January 28th at the Seattle Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI) and this is the story of how this all unfolded.

This project called simply, "Washington Stories" was funded by a grant from Humanities Washington in collaboration with Ethnic Heritage Council and MOHAI. Seven diverse ethnic groups from Washington State took part in this project, creating stories with text and pictures which were then transferred to two 3 x 5 foot panels. Our project is titled "Puget Sound Croats in the Salmon Industry". After the January opening at MOHAI, and a month's showing there, these panels will travel throughout the state for six months; then they become the property of their creators, in our case, the Seattle Croatian Fraternal Union.

As we got into our research, we discovered that Croatian immigrants and their descendents have contributed tremendously to the Puget Sound Salmon industry with their netting extraordinary amounts of salmon, building thousands of fishing boats, owning canneries and inventing fishing gear that has changed the whole salmon industry over the past 140 years. These Croatian fishermen, mainly from Croatia's Dalmatian coast, brought to America their skills and talents and applied their knowledge of fishing and greatly impacted the fishing industry, especially the salmon industry. The Adriatic coast of Croatia is similar to Puget Sound with its enclosed waterways and string of Islands.

Our team of three, Dick Major, my husband, Bob Gunovick and myself under the arm of Seattle's Croatian



Richard Major, Peggy & Bob Gunovick

the computer person, typing and transmitting the text and pictures to Helen Divjak of MOHAI who was our coordinator for nine months. Prior to this, we attended three days of classes and workshops instructing us on how to prepare our material. Helen is part of the staff at MOHAI who are experts in preparing documentaries and for nine sometimes grueling months we wrote and re-wrote the material until all of us wanted to pull our hair out, but these are the experts in this field and we all wanted our two panels to be perfect and accurate in every tiny detail and with Helens guidance, we created our two panels.



get written permission from all of our sources and many times dealt with copywrites and paid a fee for many of our pictures. More than once we three got together and shared our ideas and made decisions about our final 15 pictures.

Fraternal Union, each took distinct roles – Dick was pretty much the author of the text and picture captions; Bob made contacts for acquiring all the pictures; and I was

We want to thank all the individuals who gave us information and pictures for our project.

For me, this whole project has been a tremendous learning experience and I was thrilled to see the final product on January 28th along with the six other panels. The panels will be on display at CroatiaFest 2007 on October 7. Come and look at them and learn a little about these wonderful men and their families who made such an impact on Puget Sound salmon fishing!



Washington Stories—A project of **Humanities Washington** in collaboration with the Ethnic **Heritage Council** of the Pacific Northwest and **Museum of History & Industry**. Opening Reception & Performances were held January 28, 2007 at MOHAI.

Event photos by Jal Schrof, visit: http://www.pbase.com/jal/washington_stories

Event photos by Steve Borzilleri, visit: <http://public.fotki.com/StripedFries/>

Washington Stories Traveling Exhibit Schedule

The Washington Stories Exhibit, comprised of all 14 panels is traveling areas of western, central and eastern Washington over the next few months:

March 2 – April 8, 2007 Cowlitz County Historical Museum, Kelso

April 20 – May 20, 2007 Kittitas County Historical Museum, Ellensburg

May 25 – 28, 2007 Northwest Folklife Festival, Seattle

June 4 – 8, 2007 Norm Dicks Government Center, Bremerton

June 15 – Aug. 26, 2007 Yakima Valley Museum, Yakima

Sept. 4 – 21, 2007 NW Museum of Arts & Culture, Spokane

Visit: www.humanities.org; Call: 206-682-1770.

Anacortes Sister City Association

Vela Luka Sister City Committee

By Nikki Lovrić, VLSCC Chair

The Anacortes Sister Cities Association had a great 2006! We started our summer with a visit from five students from Vela Luka, Croatia. Nina Andreis, Ivana Gugic, Jan Nypl, Ante Borovina & Ivana Ljubic. This trip is the 3rd set of students we have hosted & out of that 10 students have come to Anacortes since 2003. Their three week visit was just as awesome as all the rest. We made it to the waterslides in Birch Bay, stayed in a penthouse suite, visited Seattle, had a car wash, etc...

As soon as that trip was over we sent our first four American students to Vela Luka for a visit. Steven Hudak, Brianna Bikker, Sonja Kassa & Krys Lijek. They all had such a good time that they did not want to come home. I certainly understand that! The beaches, the food, the people, what an amazing experience!

In September ASCA welcomed 34 performers from Vela Luka (and one

that lives in Australia). Let me tell you that this was one of the most amazing experiences ASCA has ever produced! The performances were absolutely astounding. The Guest performances at CroatiaFest were remarkable! As soon as the bubnjar (drummer, Ivan Bajat) started to play it instantly sent chills up the audience's spines! Then the Misnjicar (bag pipe, Hrvoje Marinovic) started playing and more chills! Then all the handsome men started to march in, there was never a dry eye in the house! The members of Klapa Vela Luka with their pure beautiful voices made us tear up every time.

I would like to thank all of you who were involved in this trip & tour. There are so many people to thank & I don't want to forget anyone so I won't attempt to list everyone's name. To the Vela Luka Sister City committee, the home stays, all the numerous volunteers, drivers, ASCA members, Kumpanija, Klapa Vela Luka, Mafrina, Directors of all en-



Darcy McKinley (far left), John Lovrić with son Kazimir & Nikki Lovrić (far right) with visiting students from Vela Luka, summer 2006.

sembles, Guest performers of the Pacific Northwest, and last but not least thank you to CroatiaFest for letting us be a part of your magical day! I thank all of you for your patience, time & energy.

Please mark your calendars for the ASCA's annual **SPRING ZABAVA - April 28, 2007** at the Fidalgo Bay Resort Clubhouse. Live music, dancing, great food & more! For more information email: lovric@comcast.net, or call Nikki at 360-293-8530.

Anacortes American Croatian Club

Dear Friends:

This year we celebrate our 36th year as a club. The Anacortes American Croatian Club was formed in 1971, as a non-profit organization to perpetuate our Croatian culture and heritage. We continuously strive to help keep our culture alive, and to give back to our Croatian community. Your support as members has enabled us to make many improvements to the club. This past year we are proud of the following achievements:

1. We sent two girls of Croatian descent to Croatia.
2. We also hosted a farewell dinner for our members, host families, and the dance group Kumpanija and Klapa Vela Luka. It was a wonderful evening of dinner and dancing. Many of the members were able to get acquainted or reacquaint themselves with relatives from the old country.
3. Most importantly, we were able to promote the Croatian culture in our community, a benefit that is invaluable to not only our Croatian-American population, but friends of other backgrounds and experiences.

We feel grateful for a place that we can all gather and help us stay connected as a community.

As always, we will continue to host monthly dinners featuring wonderful Croatian food as well as our annual fall and Spring Festivals. We appreciate all the goodwill from our community and we look forward to seeing you at the club soon!

If you would like to contact us, our address is 1202 - 7th Street, Anacortes WA, 98221. Or feel free to email us at croatianclub@comcast.net

Dovidenja! Vidimo Se....

Colleen Mavar

Colleen Mavar
Anacortes Croatian Club President

Annual Croatian Club Spring Gala! Please join us for an evening of Fantastic food, Friendship, and authentic music and Dance—Roasted lamb, pork, veggies, salad and delicious Croatian pastries

Saturday, April 21— Doors open at 6:30pm, dinner at 7:00pm. **MUSIC BY TVRTKO!** \$27.50 adults -- \$15 children. Call: Anka Kolega, 360-293-6774 or Colleen Mavar, 360-293-5582.
<http://home.comcast.net/~croatianclub/Dinners.html>

Slavonian Hall Building of Tacoma Celebrates 100 years

By Priscilla Lisicich

Members of the Slavonian American Benevolent Society celebrated the 100th anniversary of their building's dedication on January 6, 2007, the same day as the original ceremony in 1907.

The hall at 2306 North 30th was filled with the traditional revelry of its members, much as it was at its christening a century earlier. President John Petrinovich broke a bottle of champagne at the hall, an act that was a nod to the rite carried out by the first President Prosper Jurich.

The Slavonian American Benevolent Society was organized in 1897 and the hall, built and furnished for \$10,000, was originally christened January 6, 1907.



During the celebration this year members were treated to a full course traditional Croatian dinner and pastries. The event was attended by the majority of the 220 members. Father Seamus of St. Patrick's Catholic Church gave a wonderful speech about the hall and its significance in the community before he blessed the building. President Petrinovich recognized the 100 years and acknowledged our longest standing member, Winnie Cvitanovich who celebrated her 96th birthday that day.

President John Petrinovich celebrated the hall's 100th anniversary with members Helen Kokich (right) and Winnifred Cvitanovich (left). Mrs. Cvitanovich celebrated her 96th birthday the same day.

Vela Luka Croatian Dance Ensemble



Sunday, **June 3**, come to Gig Harbor for the **Blessing of the Fleet Celebration and Taste of Gig Harbor**. Events held at: Jerisich Park & Dock and Skansie Brothers Park. There's plenty to do, plenty to eat and plenty to enjoy!

Vela Luka Croatian Dance Ensemble and Ruže Dalmatinke are proud to participate in this annual event once again.

Vela Luka & Ruže Dalmatinke performances include:

May 26 or 27: Northwest Folklife Festival at Seattle Center. (See: www.nwfolklife.org for schedule.)

June 3, Sunday: Blessing of the Fleet Celebration, Gig Harbor.

June 24, Sunday: Ruže Dalmatinke performs in Post Falls, Idaho.

July 14, Saturday: Ruže Dalmatinke performs at Crossroads Market Stage: www.crossroadsbellevue.com.

(Visit: www.velaluka.org soon for more information.)

Don't miss VLCDE's annual fundraiser this summer in Anacortes! Support Vela Luka during the **Anacortes Arts Festival, August 3-5!** Follow the signs and the scrumptious aroma of čevapčići on the grill.

Photo by Jal Schrof: Emily (Martinis) Evanston performing dances of Medimurje with VL Children's Ensemble.

Seattle Junior Tamburitzaans

Seattle Junior Tamburitzaans present Kavana 2007 this June! Celebrating 37 years! Kavana 2007 will be held **June 2, 2007**, John F. Kennedy Memorial High School, 140 S. 140th St., Burien. Doors open at 4pm; dinner at 5:30pm; SJT performance at 7:00pm; and dancing following the performance.

Upcoming performances include:

April 14: Maennerchor Adelweiss Spring Concert, Bonney Lake

April 28: Spring Zabava, sponsored by the Anacortes Sister City Association, Fidalgo Bay Resort Club House

June 2: KAVANA 2007, John F. Kennedy High School

Contact: Toni Stipetić: 253-813-8477.

Photo by Jal Schrof: SJT performing dances of Posavina at CroatiaFest 2006



CroatiaFest 2006 Photo Album



Folklorno Društvo Kumpanija

Guest appearances by **Kumpanija** & **Klapa Vela Luka** at CroatiaFest 2006 were made possible by the Anacortes Sister City Association

Photo by Jal Schrof

Blue Adriatic—performers Mate and Petra - performed for the Saturday night dance and Sunday event closing, where guests joined them on the stage in an impromptu sing-a-long!



Bokréta Hungarian Dance Ensemble performed a dance of Croatians in Hungary

Photo by Seattle Center



Left to Right: Mrs. Barbir; Maria Kesovija; Croatian Consul General, Ante Barbir, from Los Angeles; Kristen (Žuvela) LeMieux; Alma Franulović Plancich; & Rade Dragojević, City of Vela Luka representative.

Photo by Tony Dominis

To view event photos by Jal, visit: <http://www.pbbase.com/jal/croatiafest2006>

CroatiaFest 2006 Photo Album



Harrison Street Gallery hosted works by visiting artist **Miho Šimunović** & local sculptor **Mario Oblak**.

Photo by Seattle Center

"Seattle Center has enriched Seattle by having various ethnic festivals. We went today to the Croatian Festival and it was wonderful. I most especially loved the dancing and so many children and young people—all ages really-involved. This is important. ... (events like this) make Seattle a special place as well, for those who live in the area and for those who only visit."

In a letter to Seattle Center - 2004

CroatiaFest 2006 showcased vendors - **Adriatica Croatian Lavender, Balkan Market, Dalmatian Kitchen, & Heart of Croatia**

Photo by Seattle Center



Local Croatian artists & friends of Croatia shared their artwork along with displays of traditional handwork in addition to an extensive presentation on the Croatian crest "grb".

Photos by M. Kesovija



Commercial Fishing In Everett Sails To Oblivion

Reprinted with permission By Mike Benbow, Herald Writer. The following article is from a series by Mike, published the week of October 23, 2006, The Herald. See page 10 for web links to the full series on Everett's fishing industry.

Though separated by centuries, Anton Mardesich and the famed explorer Marco Polo had several things in common.

Both were born on islands off what's now called Croatia, and both had a yen for world travel.

Polo, the first European to write about visiting China, inspired generations of people to follow him there. Mardesich is considered the first Croatian fishermen to come to Everett, arriving in 1898 - five years after the city's incorporation. He, too, encouraged people to come - one by one - spawning a commercial fleet that once helped feed the world with the bounty from Puget Sound and the coastal waters off Alaska, Oregon and Washington.

Today, that fleet has dwindled to just a few fishermen berthed at docks once crammed with fishing vessels. Nearby is a row of 21 net sheds made of corrugated metal scabbed with rust - places Port of Everett commissioner Don Hopkins calls little more than bingo halls for retired fishermen.

Some sheds still house working nets, but others are used by people working on their cars. One is a mini-warehouse for a neighboring brew pub. Soon they will all be gone, replaced by a \$400 million development that will include 660 condominiums, shops, restaurants, offices and a public amphitheater and walkway.

The condo development didn't kill Everett's fleet, but it's likely the last nail in the coffin for an industry that for nearly 100 years has meant more to the community than just dollars and cents.

The Croatians and the Norwegians who built Everett's fleet were large contributors to the city's ethnic cul-

ture, its church community and its leadership core. Many of their descendants are today's bankers, doctors, lawmakers and teachers.

Building the fleet

Fleeing political strife and a vineyard blight on the isle of Vis, Anton Mardesich left his hometown of Komiza at the age of 17, coming to Ellis Island as an immigrant, according to Barbara

Martinis Piercey of Everett, his granddaughter.

He had little money, but he'd heard of the Puget Sound area and its fishing prospects, so he "hoboed" it across the country by

riding the rails, said Jim Piercey, Barbara's husband.

Mardesich held many jobs before buying his own boat, the Sloga II, with Croatian countryman Paul Martinis Sr., a man who would later be crowned king of the Everett fleet and be lauded for his prowess and leadership by President Eisenhower. On an appreciation night at the Everett Elks Club, the president sent him a telegram describing Martinis' life as "a typical American story."

In those days, there were no navigational devices such as global positioning systems. Many of the smaller boats were oar-powered and the nets were pulled by hand. In the San Juan Islands, fishermen once spread the nets by rowboats and then used horses to pull the fish onto the beach, commercial fisherman Jim Zuvela said.

The San Juans were a rich fishing spot, partly because a massive run of prized sockeye salmon heading for Canada's Fraser River could be intercepted there. Other popular areas included Cape Flattery and Everett's own Port Gardner.

As the fishermen saved up a few dollars, they would send them to Croatia to bring over a brother. Paul Martinis was aided by Mardesich and eventually saved enough to bring over three

brothers, including Tony, Barbara Piercey's father.

The fleet swelled, forming a fish-buying cooperative called Fisherman's Packing Corp., which had 78 purse-seining members when it began in 1929. It later grew to more than 225 members. In addition to purse seiners, the city was host to a significant number of gill netters and bottomfish trawlers.

Spreading to Alaska

Using crude charts, part of the Everett fleet made its way to Alaska in the early 1900s on wooden boats of 50 to 60 feet in length, said Dr. Joe Mardesich, whose father Nick, (no direct relationship to Anton) was among the early travelers to the rich fishing grounds.

The trip, which now takes just a few days, took as long as three weeks in the early days, Mardesich said, noting that crews kept live chickens under nets in their skiffs and hung a side of beef from the rigging to eat until they could gather ice and fish from Alaska.

"They also were equipped with a compass that was at best somewhat accurate," he said, adding the combination of engine fumes and a crew that smoked heavily made it "uncanny that so many trips were made without incident."

Martinis first crewed on Anton Mardesich's boat, eventually leading a group of five vessels on the Alaska fishing grounds. The boats worked as a team and split the proceeds.

John Martinis, Paul's son, explained why his father was so successful.

"He was unbeatable," John Martinis said. "He understood tides, and he understood exactly how a species of salmon traveled in different areas."

Jim Piercey, who crewed with Paul's brother Tony, his father in law, said the Martinis team was highly competitive.

"Where the Martinises went, nobody else came," he said. You didn't dare set your net around them. You wouldn't get it out of the water." The team was masterful at "corking" other boats - placing their boats in your net so you couldn't pick it up, Jim Piercey said.

Continued on page 9, Everett Fishermen



The Sea Pride spreads the net during a set off Whidbey Island. Photo by: Michael O'Leary / The Herald

Making a move

Everett's fleet continued to thrive, but it got its first major blow in 1937, when Fisherman's Packing moved north to Anacortes, the heart of local fishing.

The fleet didn't know it, but the move was the start of a long decline.

"You have to have a local plant," said Pete Granger, the leader of the Washington Sea Grant program, which provides marine advisory services.

Wini Mardesich, 94, of Everett was among the last to work in the cannery. "It was a shock for Everett to lose that," she said.

Death by 1,000 cuts

Granger, also a fisherman off Lummi Island, visited the Everett docks recently to assess the decline. "I'm surprised at how little there is," he said.

Here's a list from Granger and others of the problems commercial fishermen now face:

Lack of processors. "Everett has always had a problem keeping processors," Granger noted. The last one, Quality Seafoods, moved north to Burlington earlier this year, striking a severe blow to the remaining fisherman. The company supplied ice and froze the fleet's catch. "You have to have the ice and the processing of fish," said Lake Stevens gillnetter Roland Hublou. "Our support structure has disappeared." Company owner Fred Jahns said he "felt like we were forced to move because of the development situation."

Salmon treaties with Canada. Fraser River sockeye used to be the "money fish" in Puget Sound. But U.S.-Canada treaties reduced the U.S. nontribal commercial catch from 50 percent to 16 percent. "The biggest thing leading to our downfall was trading away those sockeye," said Everett fisherman Phil Cunningham. Canada agreed to cut down on the number of U.S. coho salmon that it intercepts, but those runs have declined so much in Puget Sound that they are no longer a significant commercial fishery.

The Boldt decision. The 1974 decision by federal Judge George Boldt granted Washington tribes 50 percent of the catch in historic fishing areas. At the time, the tribes didn't have enough commercial boats to catch all that they were allowed. But they now have a sophisticated fleet and support

staff. "There is a parallel government process of managing salmon these days that didn't exist in the 1970s," said Pat Pattillo of the Washington state Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Declining fish runs. John Martinis ran a sports fishing shop, spent 30 years in the Legislature and served five years on the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Council. He calls overfishing the biggest reason for the fleet's decline. "The (state) department of fisheries was not a resource manager," he said. "It was managed strictly for the commercial fishery." These days, salmon declines have dramatically reduced the number of fishing days and the numbers of fish that can be kept. In a 2000 report, the fisheries council noted that around the time Anton Mardesich came to Everett, about 45 million pounds of salmon was caught on the West Coast. By 1996, the catch had dropped to 13 million pounds.

Competition from farmed salmon. Salmon raised in net pens in British Columbia, Norway and Chile have "come on like gangbusters" recently, sending prices down, Granger said. According to the fisheries council report, in the 1970s and '80s, troll-caught chinook salmon were selling for \$4 to \$5 a pound. By 1996, the price had plunged to \$1.60, "largely because of an expanded farm salmon industry," the report stated. Granger noted that 2001 was a low point. "They've bounced back a little bit as wild fish made a comeback," he said. "But it's too late to help these guys." Commercial fishermen got a boost when Oprah promoted the health benefits of wild salmon on her talk show. "I love Oprah," said gill netter Pete Arnestad. "She's helped us a lot."

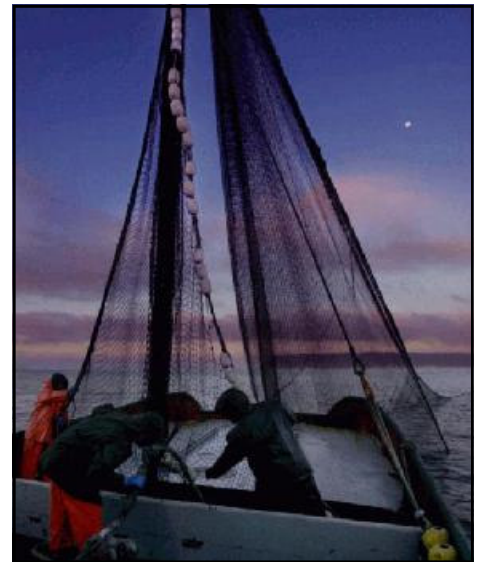
Too many commercial licenses. Declining runs have prompted the federal and state governments to buy back licenses. Before buybacks, there were 1,200 purse seiners and 400 gill netters in Washington state. Now there are 202 seiners and 75 gill netters, Hublou said. That may still be too many. "There isn't much left for the fisherman," John Martinis said.

Port support. Hublou and other fishermen believe the Port of Everett doesn't want them around. "They're converting our waterfront into yuppie city," he said. But Hopkins of the port noted that commercial boats have long received deeply discounted moorage rates. Port director John Mohr said there will always be berths for commercial vessels, although smaller equipment lockers will replace

the work sheds. "We're transitioning to a pleasure boat marina," added Port property manager Eric Russell. "It's always hard to see change happening, but the waterfront is changing just like the city of Everett is changing."

Unreliable crews. Working on fishing boats used to be a coveted summer job, especially by college students. "In the heydays they had tent cities in Bristol Bay with people all wanting a job," Arnestad said. Today, crews are paid much less, catches are uncertain and workers are hard to find.

Rising costs. Everything's going up, including fuel, food and insurance, said purse seiner Mike Borovina of his Alaska forays. "It's a little more of a gamble every time," he said.



Crew members carefully fold the net for the next set as its pulled in by a power block. Photo by: Michael O'Leary / The Herald

Looking to the future

The future of the fleet is uncertain, but a comeback is clearly a long shot.

Borovina, like his colleagues, wants to stay in Everett but expects he'll have to move to Seattle when the net sheds are razed.

The Fish and Wildlife Department's Pattillo, talking about the state's fleet in general, said commercial fishermen should try to be optimistic.

Pattillo describes the state's current fish allocation efforts as more of a "multiple ring circus" than a process. "We end up with an informed consensus that if we have to swallow the

Continued page 10, Everett Fishermen

Favorite Recipes

Jadranske Školjke Adriatic Mussels

4 lbs. Mussels
1/4 Cup tomato paste
2 Tbls. White wine vinegar
1/2 Cup olive oil
1 Clove garlic, minced
Salt and pepper to taste

Steam mussels for approximately 10 minutes. When they open, remove the shells. Combine tomato paste, white wine vinegar, olive oil, garlic. Marinade the mussels in tomato mixture in refrigerator for 2-3 hours. Serve chilled. Serves 4.

Dalmatinski Brodet Dalmatian Brodet

2 lbs. Assorted salt water fish
1/4 Cup olive oil
3 Tbls. Flour
3 Tbls. Olive oil
1/2 Cup sliced onion
1 Cup white wine
1 Clove garlic, chopped
1 Tbls. Parsley, chopped
1/2 lb. Sliced Tomatoes or 1 cup sauce
Salt and pepper to taste

Clean fish and cut into large steaks. Season with salt and pepper. Roll steaks in flour and fry them in hot olive oil. Saute onions in 3 Tbls. Olive oil. Add parsley, garlic, wine and the tomatoes/sauce. Simmer for 30 minutes. Add fish and enough water to cover. Simmer—do not stir. Serve on platter. Serves 4-5.

Everett Fishermen, from page 9

medicine, this is the best way to take it," he said of how fish runs are allocated.

Pattillo said the goal is to restore threatened salmon runs. And he said officials are seeking ways to improve catches through new techniques and seasons.

The Pierceys note that the loss of the fleet is a blow to the

whole community, not just Everett's economy.

"They had a definite effect on the culture (of Everett)," Barbara Piercey said. "The best example of it would happen around Christmas time. Every day, there would be an open house, not only for their fishermen friends, but also their American friends. There was just that feeling. And we don't have it anymore."

Mike Benbow: 425-339-3459; benbow@heraldnet.com.

Published 10/23/2006 [HeraldNet: Commercial fishing in Everett sails to oblivion](http://www.heraldnet.com/stories/06/10/23/100loc_a1fishing001.cfm)

Though separated by centuries, Anton Mardesich and the famed explorer Marco Polo had several things in common. http://www.heraldnet.com/stories/06/10/23/100loc_a1fishing001.cfm

Published 10/24/2006 [HeraldNet: No profit in empty nets](http://www.heraldnet.com/stories/06/10/24/100loc_a1fish001.cfm)

POSSESSION SOUND - It's barely after 6 a.m. on a recent Monday and Mike Borovina has joined Everett's southbound commute. http://www.heraldnet.com/stories/06/10/24/100loc_a1fish001.cfm

Published 10/25/2006 [HeraldNet: The fishing life comes fraught with peril](http://www.heraldnet.com/stories/06/10/25/100loc_a1fishing001.cfm)

The history of commercial fishing has a romantic element of men battling with nature to wrestle their livelihood from the sea. http://www.heraldnet.com/stories/06/10/25/100loc_a1fishing001.cfm

Published 10/25/2006 [HeraldNet: Fish was a family business](http://www.heraldnet.com/stories/06/10/25/100loc_a14fishside001.cfm)

EVERETT - Everett's early fishing industry didn't provide jobs for just the men in the family. http://www.heraldnet.com/stories/06/10/25/100loc_a14fishside001.cfm



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