

Artifact 1

Side 1



Side 2



Artifact 1 Information

Stone net weight

Found in Wollochet Bay, Gig Harbor

The rope of a net would go through the hole in the middle of the stone. It would weigh the net down and make it easier to throw out over the water or weigh it down across a creek to catch fish. The rope would have been made from cedar fibers or roots.

Members of the Puyallup and Nisqually tribes lived at Wollochet Bay.

Harbor History Museum Collection

Artifact 2



Artifact 2 Information

Wooden paddle

Late 1800s

Native American carved canoe paddle, given to Dr. Alfred M. Burnham by the carver. Dr. Burnham came to Gig Harbor in 1884 from the Midwest. He was Gig Harbor's first professional doctor. In 1888 he and his wife filed the legal map for the City of Gig Harbor. Gig Harbor, and more specifically the Native village site and hunting grounds near and including their land, was the land of the *sx̣'əbabš*, the "swift-water people," a band of the Puyallup Tribe. The area was called *tx̣'aałqət*, "place where game exists." Native fishers used paddles like this to power canoes for fishing.

Harbor History Museum Collection

Artifact 3



Artifact 3 Information

Tarpot

Early 1920s

Owned by the Castelan fishing family.

Pot used for soaking cotton fishing nets in hot tar. The tar would help the net last longer. After soaking the net would go through a trough and mangle (wringer) to squeeze out the excess tar, then be spread out to dry.



Tarpot trough and mangle (wringer)

Harbor History Museum Collection

Artifact 4



Artifact 4 Information

Cork net floats

1900 – 1950s

These floats were used to hold up the top of a purse seine fishing net in the water. Weights on the bottom of the net sink it down so it hangs vertically. A small boat (skiff) drags the net around the fish, then the fishing boat pulls the net closed and up into the boat.

Cork has been used for fishing floats since ancient times. In the Puget Sound region, they were used up until the 1950s - 1960s when plastic floats became more available.

Cork comes from cork oak trees in southwest Europe. Harvesting the cork does not kill the tree.

Harbor History Museum Collection

Artifact 5



Artifact 5 Information

Metal net weights

1928 – 1966

Small net weights made in the Bujacich netshed for their purse seiner fishing vessel *Majestic*.

Weights like these were strung on a rope line like beads to weight the bottom of a seine net. Floats or “corks” were strung on the top line of the net to hold it vertically in the water. A small boat (skiff) circles the net around a school of salmon, then the bottom closes like a drawstring bag or “purse.” The fishers, with the help of a power block since the 1950s, lift the fish into the boat like they are in a big net bag.

Harbor History Museum Collection

Artifact 6



Artifact 6 Information

Wood net needle

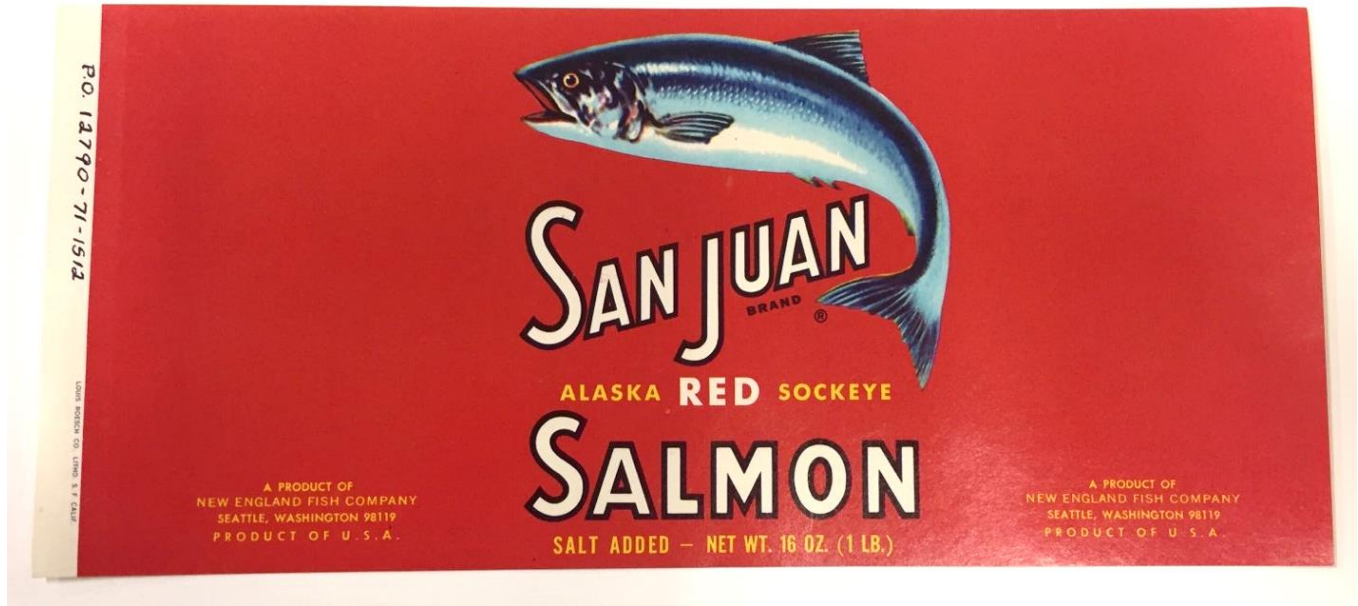
Before the 1940s

Hand-carved

People on fishing boats use net needles to mend tears and holes in their nets. They are also used to connect sections of fishing net together. Starting in the 1940s, most net needles are now made of plastic.

Harbor History Museum Collection

Artifact 7



Artifact 7 Information

Canned salmon label

1950s

16 ounce can of San Juan Brand Alaska Red Sockeye Salmon, a product of New England Fish Company, Seattle Washington.

Gig Harbor fishermen have caught and still catch salmon in Alaska that is canned and sold around the world. In 1962, when Alaska banned fishing boats over 58 feet long, most of the Gig Harbor boats were too long. Some switched to fishing in the San Juan Islands and some got shorter boats.

Harbor History Museum Collection

Artifact 8



Artifact 8 Information

Skiff release

1943 - 1966

From the purse seine fishing boat *Majestic*, owned by the Bujacich family.

A skiff release, also called a pelican, releases the rope from the skiff (the small boat that pulls the fishing net), to set the net.

Harbor History Museum Collection

Artifact 9



Artifact 9 Information

Aluminum and steel boat hook

Used on *Shenandoah*, which operated 1925 - 1995

Used to push or pull objects from the fishing net, to push off pilings, or to retrieve ropes.

Harbor History Museum Collection

Artifact 10



Artifact 10 Information

Metal hooked lure

Unknown date. Manufactured by Luhr-Jensen, Indiana.

Mooching rig type fishhook. This is for use with an individual fishing pole, not for commercial fishing. This lure was collected from the fishing vessel *Fort Bragg* just before it was demolished in 2019. The *Fort Bragg* was built in 1919 and owned by Gig Harbor fisherman Martin Skrivanich from 1929-1935.



Close-up of tag

Harbor History Museum Collection

Historical Image 1



8935 INDIANS ON PUGET SOUND, WASHINGTON.

Native Canoes on Puget Sound, Washington, 1888

Three native canoes pulled up along the bank, packed possibly to move to fishing or berry grounds. Other canoes out on the water may be fishing.

Harbor History Museum Collection

Historical Image 2



Fishing in the harbor, ca. 1885-1889

This view is looking into Gig Harbor with the sandspit to the right and Sam Jerisich's house at left. Peter Skansie's boat in the foreground with Johny Jerisich, son of Sam, in the stern. Sam Jerisich was an early immigrant settler to Gig Harbor from Montenegro. Harbor History Museum Collection

Historical Image 3



***Aeroplane.* ca. 1912**

Andrew Skansie owned the purse seiner fishing boat *Aeroplane*. It launched in 1910. At that time all nets were hauled in by hand and the skiff (the small boat that sets the net) was powered only by oars. Harbor History Museum Collection

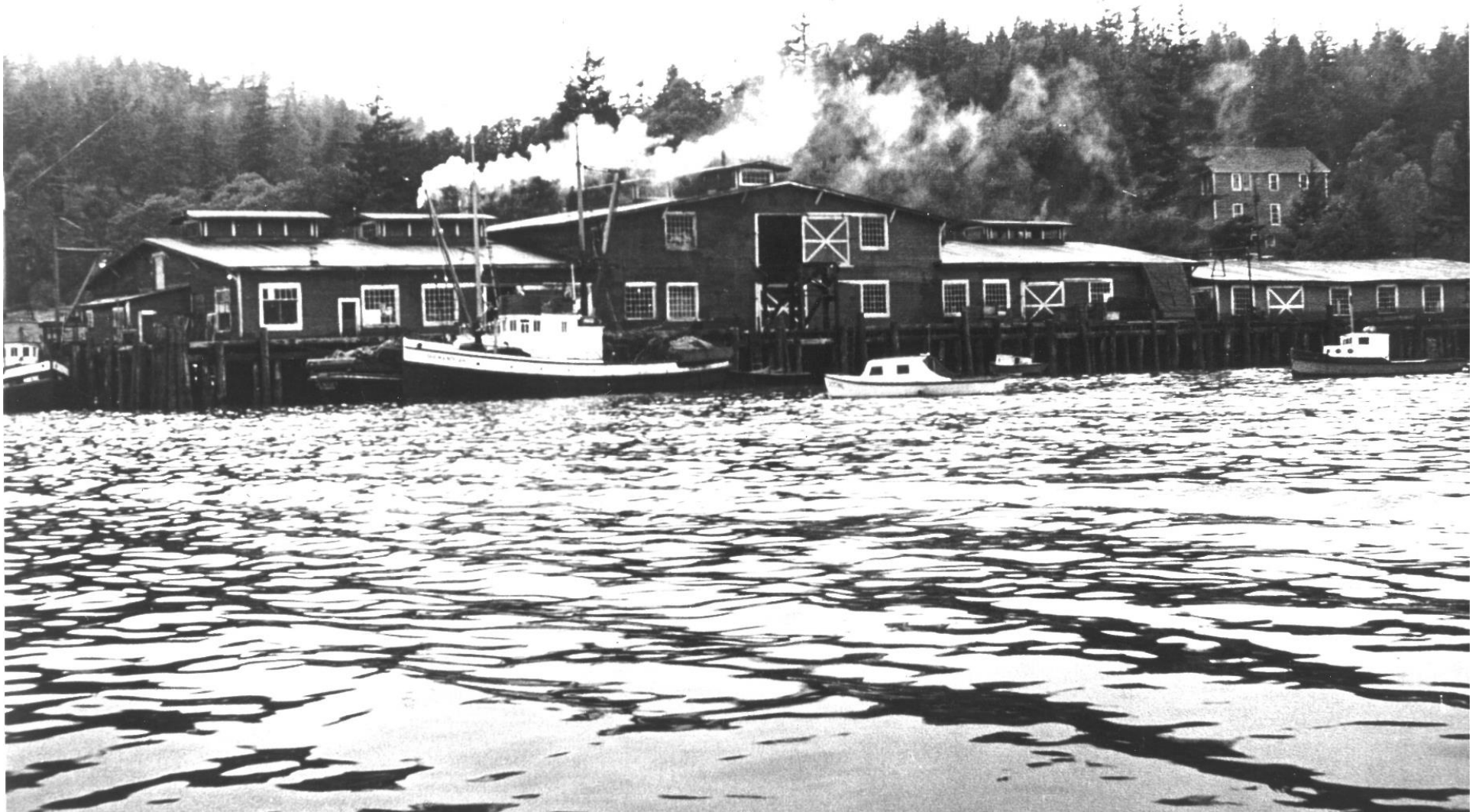
Historical Image 4



***Monitor*, ca. 1930**

The purse seiner fishing boat *Monitor* was built in 1915 and owned by Spiro Janovich. In this scene, the seine skiff (small boat) is managing the cork line of the net while the crew hauls and piles the web (net) on the boat. The fish are still in the net in the water next to the boat. Harbor History Museum Collection

Historical Image 5



***Shenandoah* at a Cannery, 1930 - 1940**

Fishing vessel *Shenandoah* at a salmon cannery in Friday Harbor or Anacortes, Washington. *Shenandoah* was built in 1925 for Pasco Dorotich and his son John. It was first a tender delivering salmon to the cannery and then a purse seine fishing boat. Harbor History Museum Collection

Historical Image 6



North Pacific Packing Company floating cannery in the San Juan Islands, ca. 1930

Fishing boats from Gig Harbor fished for salmon in the San Juan Islands.

Harbor History Museum Collection

Historical Image 7



***Majestic*, 1943 - 1966**

Fishing vessel *Majestic* was owned by the Bujacich family.
Harbor History Museum Collection

Historical Image 8



John Jerkovich, Sr., Gig Harbor, 1955

He is working on a fishing net using a net needle.

John (1896 – 1974) came to Gig Harbor from what is now Croatia in 1913. He married Mary Castelan in 1924.

John owned several purse seine and gill net fishing boats over the years, fishing from Alaska to California for sardines and herring. His sons carried on the family business, which still operates a fleet of fishing boats today.

Historical Image 9



***Avalon* by Karen Putas, 1986**

From the Peninsula High School "Hot Shots" competition. The purse seine fishing boat *Avalon* was built in 1929 for Andrew Skansie. His sons Antone and Vince fished it until the 1980s.
Harbor History Museum Collection

Karen Putas '86

Historical Image 10



Legend, 1997

On reverse: "Daren Goulding, Nancy Jerkovich, and Steve Lorovich." The purse seine fishing boat *Legend* was built in 1929 and owned by Pete and Nick Marinkovich. Nancy Jerkovich bought it in 1994. Nancy was from a fishing family and was one of the first woman skippers in the area. You can see the Puretic power block (motorized pulley) holding up the fishing net.

Harbor History Museum Collection

Historical Image Card 1



8935 INDIANS ON PUGET SOUND, WASHINGTON

Historical Image Card 1 Information

Native Canoes on Puget Sound, Washington, 1888

Three native canoes pulled up along the bank, packed possibly to move to fishing or berry grounds. Other canoes out on the water may be fishing.

Harbor History Museum Collection

Historical Image Card 2



Historical Image Card 2 Information

Fishing in the harbor, ca. 1885-1889

This view is looking into Gig Harbor with the sandspit to the right and Sam Jerisich's house at left. Peter Skansie's boat in the foreground with Johnny Jerisich, son of Sam, in the stern. Sam Jerisich was an early immigrant settler to Gig Harbor.

Both chum and silver salmon return to Gig Harbor's creeks to spawn. The harbor mouth at low tide created a natural funnel for the fish and an easy catch.

Harbor History Museum Collection

Historical Image Card 3



Historical Image Card 3 Information

Aeroplane, ca. 1912

Andrew Skansie owned the purse seiner fishing boat *Aeroplane*. It launched in 1910.

At the time, all nets were hauled in by hand and the skiff (the rowboat that drags the net out to set) was powered only by oars. At the back of each boat is a turntable that allowed them to set the net out the back and haul it in over the side

Harbor History Museum Collection

Historical Image Card 4



Historical Image Card 4 Information

***Monitor*, ca. 1930**

The purse seiner fishing boat *Monitor* was built in 1915 and owned by Spiro Janovich.

In this scene, the person in the seine skiff (small boat) is managing the cork line of the net while the crew hauls and piles the web (netting) on the boat. The fish are still in the net in the water next to the boat. The cork circles on the top of the net make it float while metal rings on the line at the bottom of the net make it sink and therefore hang vertically in the water.

Harbor History Museum Collection

Historical Image Card 5



Historical Image Card 5 Information

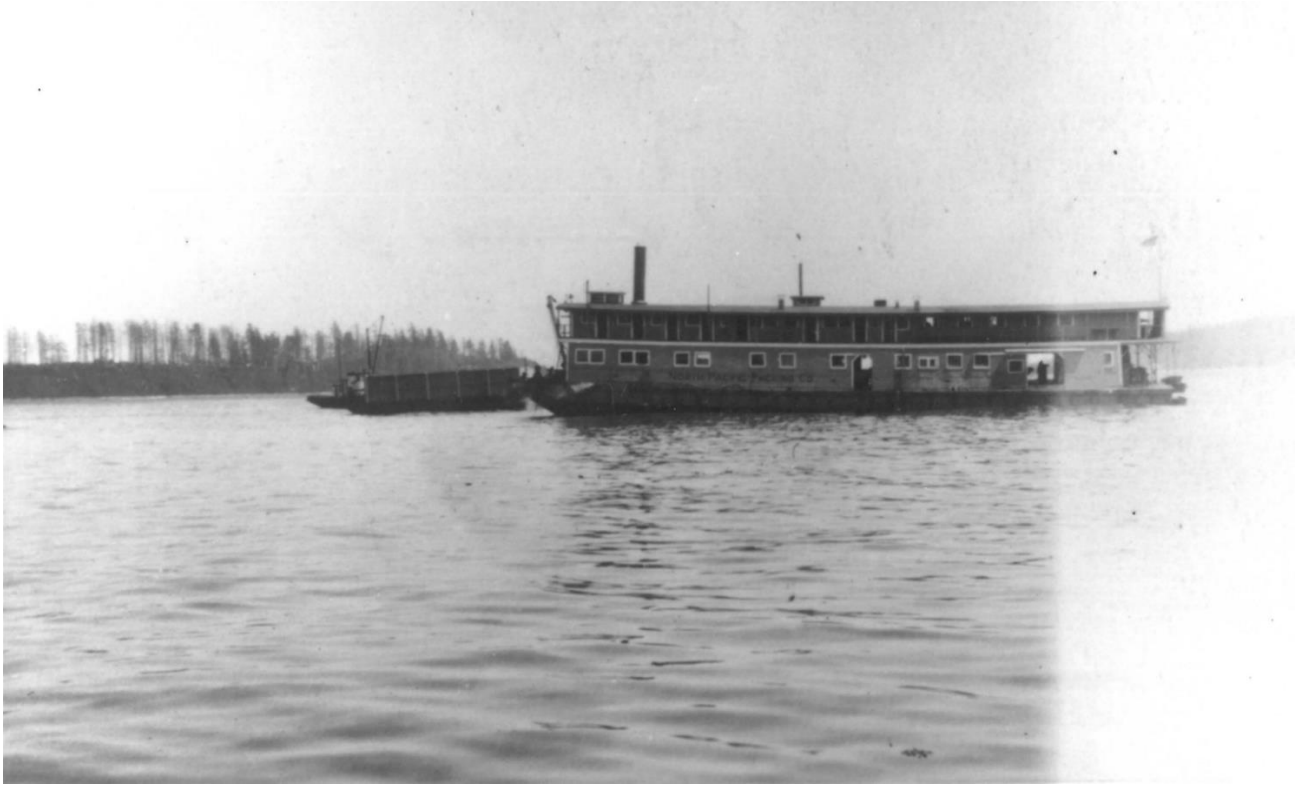
***Shenandoah* at a Cannery, 1930 – 1940**

Fishing vessel *Shenandoah* at a salmon cannery in Friday Harbor or Anacortes, Washington. *Shenandoah* was built in 1925 for Pasco Dorotich and his son John. It was a cannery tender and then a purse seine fishing boat.

Shenandoah has been conserved and restored and is now on display in the Maritime Gallery of the Harbor History Museum.

Harbor History Museum Collection

Historical Image Card 6



Historical Image Card 6 Information

North Pacific Packing Company floating cannery in the San Juan Islands, ca. 1930

Fishing boats from Gig Harbor fished for salmon in the San Juan Islands. Most of their catch went into cans to be shipped around the country.

Harbor History Museum Collection

Historical Image Card 7



Historical Image Card 7 Information

***Majestic*, 1943 – 1966**

Fishing vessel *Majestic* was owned by the Bujacich family.

Harbor History Museum Collection

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John Jerkovich, Sr., Gig Harbor, 1955

He is working on a fishing net using a net needle.

John (1896 – 1974) came to Gig Harbor from what is now Croatia in 1913. He married Mary Castelan in 1924.

John owned several purse seine and gill net fishing boats over the years, fishing from Alaska to California for sardines and herring. His sons carried on the family business, which still operates a fleet of fishing boats today.

Harbor History Museum Collection

Historical Image Card 9



Historical Image Card 9 Information

***Avalon* by Karen Putas, 1986**

From the Peninsula High School "Hot Shots" competition.

Mitchell Skansie at the Skansie Ship Building Co built the purse seine fishing boat *Avalon* for his brother Andrew Skansie in 1929. Andrew's sons Antone and Vince fished it until the 1980s.

Harbor History Museum Collection

Karen Putas '86

Historical Image Card 10



Historical Image Card 9 Information

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You can see the Puretic power block (motorized pulley) holding up the fishing net.

Harbor History Museum Collection