



Fishing in Gig Harbor: Exploring Change Over Time



HARBOR HISTORY MUSEUM

As you look at the fishing boats...

What changes do you see over time:

- In the size and style of the boats
- In the technology used on the boats



Native American Fishing Artifacts



Net Weight. Stone.

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.

Object ID: 2012.013.004

Harbor History Museum Collection



Net weight. Stone.

Object ID: 2001.001.103

Harbor History Museum Collection



Canoe anchor. Stone.

Object ID: 1986.021.001.

Harbor History Museum Collection



Small harpoon. Bone.

Found in the Gig Harbor area.

Object ID: 2007.039.004

Harbor History Museum Collection



Non-powered fishing boats in
the San Juan Islands, circa
1900.

Object ID: 1972.006.018
Harbor History Museum Collection



Aeroplane and another boat,
circa 1912.

Aeroplane was built in
Dockton, WA for Andrew
Skansie in 1910.

At the time, all nets were
hailed 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.

Object ID: 2001.063.012
Harbor History Museum Collection



Fairplay, 1912.

The nets are piled on the turntable. Nine men stand on board.

Fairplay was built at Martinolich Shipyard in Dockton, WA in 1910 for Peter Skansie.

Object ID: 1987.025.001
Harbor History Museum Collection



Katherine, 1914 – 1917.

Built by Skansie Shipyard in
1914 for Peter Skansie.

The nets are piled on the
turntable.

Object ID: 1993.011.009.001
Harbor History Museum Collection



Monitor, circa 1930.

Built in 1915 and owned by Spiro Janovich.

The person in the skiff is managing the cork line of the net while the crew hauls and piles the net on 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.

Object ID: 1990.018.022
Harbor History Museum Collection



Shenandoah, 1950s.

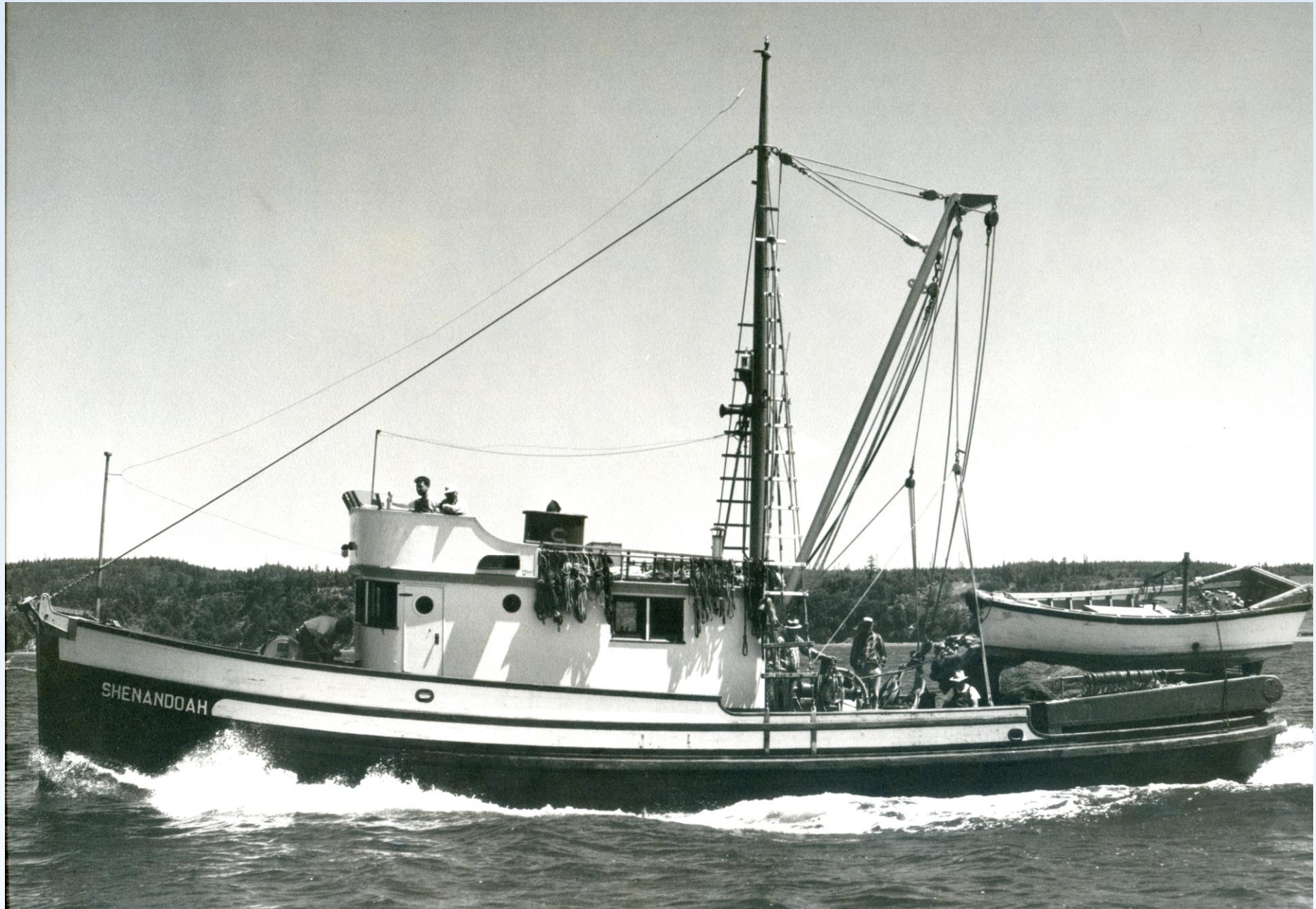
Built in 1925 by Skansie Shipbuilding Co. for Pasco Dorotich, later sold to Tony Janovich in 1967.

The skiff sits on top of the nets on top of the turntable.

Shenandoah is now on view in the Maritime Gallery of the Harbor History Museum.

Ken Ollar Photography.

Object ID: 1997.013.005
Harbor History Museum Collection



Fishing vessel *Wisconsin*, after 1953.

Anderson Shipyard in Gig Harbor built *Wisconsin* in 1920 for Peter Milos.

A Puretic power block holds up the nets. This motorized pulley, invented in 1953, made hauling in the fishing nets dramatically easier and allowed fishing crews to drop from 10 to 5 people.

Ken Ollar Photography

Object ID: 1988.030.008
Harbor History Museum Collection



Fishing boats at Union Oil Dock, circa 1978.

Wonderland, *Shenandoah*, and another boat at the dock. They all have Puretic power blocks.

East Gig Harbor in the background.

Object ID: 1998.004.001
Harbor History Museum Collection



Avalon, 1986.

The purse seine fishing boat *Avalon* was built in 1929 for Andrew Skansie by his brother Mitchell Skansie at the Skansie Ship Building Co.

By the 1980s, the Gig Harbor commercial fishing fleet was down to about 30 vessels, from about 70 in the early 1970s.

Photo by Karen Putas for the Peninsula High School "Hot Shots" competition.

Object ID: 2007.002.018
Harbor History Museum Collection



Karen Putas '86



Pacific Knight in Gig Harbor,
1980 – 1990.

Owned by John Jerkovich, Sr.
and Nick Jerkovich, Sr.

Note the advances in
technology on the boat.

Object ID: 2009.014.030
Harbor History Museum Collection



Legend, 1997.

On reverse: "Daren Goulding,
Nancy Jerkovich, and Steve
Lorovich."

Built in 1929 at Crawford
Shipyard, Gig Harbor under
the name *Emblem* 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.

Object ID: 2009.014.053
Harbor History Museum Collection



Pacific Raider, 2012.

Owned by Nick Jerkovich, Jr.

There have been five boats named *Pacific Raider* in the Jerkovich family. The family has fished the Pacific coast since 1926.

Photo from Facebook



Sea Fury, April 13, 2022.

Sea Fury, skippered by Gregg Lovrovich, demonstrates setting and hauling the nets for Crew School.

Approximately 30 fishing vessels work out of Gig Harbor today. 12-15 of them fish for salmon in Alaska every summer.

Photo by Kate Dorr

