

MENHADEN F/V A. BROOKE TAYLOR - 1930's

Length: 146.0 ft.                      Breadth: 23.3 ft.                      Depth: 11.0 ft.

OFFICIAL NO.                      211345

GROSS TONNAGE:                      205

NET TONNAGE:                      159

Built: Wilmington, Delaware - 1913 of wood construction

Crew of 32

Powered by: A 500 Horse Power Triple Expansion Steam Engine

Used coal as fuel

Named after: A. Brooke Taylor, a Norfolk native in the real estate business and a man well-liked and well thought of.

This boat fished mainly the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries catching millions of fish which were bailed aboard the fish boat, then taken to the fish factory where they were processed into fish meal and oil which in turn was used mainly for fertilizer and oils for paint.

She was one of 5 fish boats operated by Menhaden Products, Inc., owned by Captain Ben Colonna, Sr, and Captain Will Colonna, Sr. of Norfolk, Virginia and fished from their fish factory at Taft Beach, White Stone, Virginia during the mid 1930's. She was a typical menhaden fish boat of her day but larger than most and said to have had good fishing qualities.

The fish were spotted from the crow's nest at the top of the mast then the purse boats were rowed by hand to circle, set and catch the fish. When the fish were caught in the net and brought alongside the fish boat, they were bailed into the fish hold with a large bailing net powered by a steam operated donkey windlass.

Top speeds ranged from 12-15 knots with cruising speeds of 11-13 knots light and would hold approximately 400,000 menhaden fish deckloaded.

Harry Armistead was Captain. He was of average height but a little stocky. Considered a gentlemen and one of the top fisherman on the Chesapeake Bay.

=====

1932 Menhaden Fish Factory  
Taft Beach - White Stone, Virginia  
SERIES  
Painting No. 1 of 7 titled "Headin' Out" (Dawn in the Chesapeake Bay with choppy seas and full speed in search of the menhaden.

NOTE:                      The history of this operation is in two parts and should be viewed together.  
Part No. 1 consists of a written history  
Part No. 2                      (7) paintings by Casey Holtzinger

-----

This Exhibit Produced, Owned and Displayed by Colonna's Shipyard, Inc. Norfolk, Virginia  
Established 1875