

MENHADEN F/V RAPPAHANNOCK 1930'S

LENGTH: 121.0 ft. BREADTH: 19.9 ft. DEPTH: 8.2 ft.

OFFICIAL NO: 111445

GROSS TONNAGE: 146

NET TONNAGE: 71

BUILT: Pocomoke City, Maryland - 1903 of wood construction

Crew of 32 - 225 horse power steeple compound steam engine

Used Coal as fuel

Named after the beautiful Rappahannock River.

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; of average size 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 330,000 menhaden fish deckloaded.

Captain Al Grenell from Middlesex County was the boat's Captain, he was tall and thin with a long neck. He was called the wild man because he would set on small, large or any size schools of fish. He wore his boots all the time never took them off around the factory and on the vessel.

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1932 Menhaden Fish Factory
Taft Beach - White Stone, Virginia

SERIES

Painting No. 3 of 7 titled "Makin' The Set" (Men in purse boats netting school of 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