

MENHADEN F/V NORTHUMBERLAND - 1930's

Length: 134.2 ft. Breadth: 20.2 ft. Depth: 9.3 ft.

OFFICIAL NO. 130733

GROSS TONNAGE: 167

NET TONNAGE: 99

Built: Pocomoke City, Maryland - 1897 of wood construction

Crew of 32 - 350 Horse Power 2-cylinder horizontal compound Steam Engine

Used coal as fuel

Named after the County of Northumberland in the Whitestone-Reedville area.

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 375,000 menhaden fish deckloaded.

Johnnie Armistead from Matthews County was Captain, he was a stocky built man always looking for a big school of fish. He was considered a good fisherman.

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1932 Menhaden Fish Factory
Taft Beach - White Stone, Virginia
SERIES

Painting No. 4 of 7 titled "Bailing Aboard" (Bailing fish from
purse net aboard fish boat.

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