

MENHADEN F/V G. S. ALLYN - 1930's

Length: 150.4 ft.                      Breadth: 20.0 ft.                      Depth: 10.7 ft.

OFFICIAL NO.                      85527

GROSS TONNAGE:                      211

NET TONNAGE:                      136

Built: Mystic, Conn. - 1878 of wood construction

Crew of 32 - 600 Horse Power Triple Expansion Steam Engine

Used coal as fuel

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.

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 450,000 menhaden fish deckloaded.

She had a reputation as a Tender boat, being very long and narrow she laid down easily while bailing fish or in winds. She was not considered a good quality boat.

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1932 Menhaden Fish Factory  
Taft Beach - White Stone, Virginia

SERIES

Painting No. 5 of 7 titled "Loaded and Headin' In" (Late evening with vessel deck loaded and tired men resting, approaching the fish factory.)

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

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