

**MARITIME WASHINGTON NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA**

# Skagit County Partner Launch Event: Participant Feedback

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*Note: if a story/item/resource was submitted by several participants, the number in parentheses notes how many times it was mentioned.*

**What's a maritime story from Skagit County that you feel deserves a larger platform?**

- Influence of Croatians (x2)
  - o Would like to bring Croatian boatbuilders exhibit to Anacortes in conversation with community here
- Tug heritage (x2)
  - o Crowley, Foss, and smaller tug companies
- Anacortes fishing industry and commercial fishing histories (x2)
- First people (Samish) daily life here before settler arrivals
- Samish Nation developing and partnering on ecological, preservation, and resiliency work
- The story of smuggling/bootlegging during prohibition
- Betty Lowman & canoe Bijaboji journey to Alaska
- Corebuilders America's Cup
- Fish processing plants
- Luvera's original commercial fishing provisioning store to Cap Sante Marie
- Working fishing fleet heritage: Trident, Coastal, O'Hara Corp, Aleutian Spray
- Steamboats
- Shellfish
- Conservation and habitat restoration; keeping our waters clean and clear
- More maritime history and activities at Seafarers Park
- History of logging
- M/V Coho (last of the Blackball ferry line) annual maintenance at Dakota Creek, a small family owned shipyard in Anacortes
- Robust career paths for employment in maritime trades apprenticeship

**What is one program, event, or organization in Skagit County that you're particularly proud of and would like to share with the rest of Washington?**

- Anacortes Waterfront Alliance (x2)
- Dakota Creek's maritime trades apprenticeship program
- Skagit Foundation for Academic Endeavors
- Betts Boats and Beiker Boats are world class designers and builders in Anacortes
- Anacortes Museum Project
- Maritime Heritage Center and W.T. Preston
- Northwest Career and Technical Academy: Northwest Maritime Academy

**What is one big issue you're struggling with related to preservation and interpretation of maritime heritage?**

- Access to waterfront activities for people who live inland and underserved communities
- Adequate facilities for working on and storing boats, especially small boats
- Helping owners understand options and not fear preservation organizations
- Cost of living, workspaces, and housing materials
- Gentrification of working waterfronts
- Maintaining ability to build and repair vessels
- Anacortes has the best and safest waterfront between Everett and Bellingham—people need access!
- Time and funding