Newport’s Commercial Fishing Community

Newport is home to approximately 250 commercial fishing vessels, making it one of the largest fishing communities in Oregon. These boats fish for Dungeness crab, albacore tuna, Chinook and Coho salmon, pink shrimp, whiting, sablefish, halibut, hagfish and various species of groundfish. There are also distant water vessels which are homeported here, but travel to other states, like Alaska, to catch seafood.

An Economic Anchor

Fishing is a major contributor to the Lincoln County economy. Fishermen sell their catch to consumers right off their boats and to local seafood processors who ship the bounty throughout the United States and overseas. With nearly 500 employees, commercial fishing is also one of Lincoln County’s largest employers.

It’s Not Just About the Fish

Newport’s fishing community has a unique history, with many long standing traditions and cultural practices. At the heart of this are the fishing families.

Most vessels are owned and operated by families, often multi-generational, making the fishing fleet a collection of small family businesses.

Families involved in fishing live a lifestyle that reflects commercial fishing activities. The cycle of departure, separation, homecoming, and reunion challenges each family, while building a strong, resilient community.

What’s In Season When?

- **Pink Shrimp**: April - October
- **Albacore Tuna**: June - October
- **Dungeness Crab**: December - August
- **Flounder, Sole, Rockfish**: Most anytime
- **Pacific Halibut**: Various times during the summer months
- **Chinook Salmon**: Various times May - October

Salty Superstitions

- DON’T change the name of a vessel
- NEVER start a fishing trip on a Friday
- DON’T whistle on a vessel as it will bring up the wind
- ALWAYS throw the change out of your pockets at the beginning of fishing season

Buoyed by Tradition

Since the 1800’s, Newport’s community traditions have been closely tied to the commercial fishing industry. At the Blessing of the Fleet in March, fishermen ask for prayers for protection at sea, bountiful catches, and peace of mind for the families at home. In November the fishing community comes together at a fishermen’s appreciation event to celebrate and give thanks to the fishermen as they gear up for the crabbing season.