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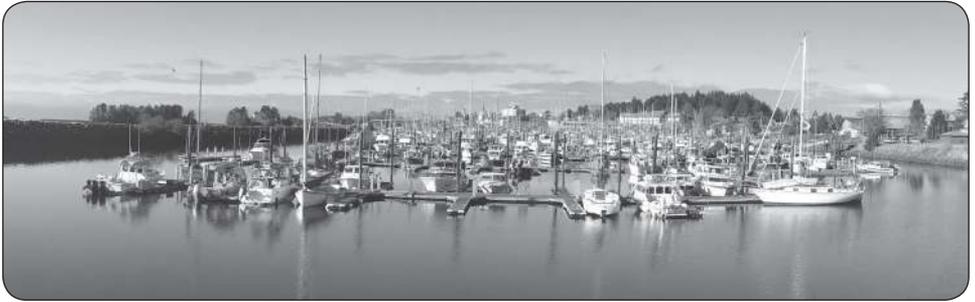
SITKA HARBOR GUIDE

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2020 HARBOR NOTES



Crescent Harbor, Winter 2019

Crescent Harbor is being re-built – installation of the timber floats is “going really well,” per Sitka Harbormaster Stan Eliason.

Eliason is hoping to get boats back into their stalls as soon as possible. The Harbor Dept. has a time-lapse camera recording the progress of the renovation and reviews the footage once-a-month. This will provide an archivable record of the project.

“The utility portion,” says Eliason, “will be substantially complete by June 12th. That will be the final portion. We are actually hoping to get boats returned to stalls earlier.” During the project, boats are spread out through the Sitka Harbor system.

Specifically, the current project involves an upgrading of structures and services. Timber floats 1-4 are from the late 1960s and those are the ones being replaced. Floats 5-7 are cement and from the early 1970s – that will be Project Phase 2 – “we are hoping that it will

make a roomier situation.”

What is happening with the other harbors? Well, says Eliason, the next small job is “to install anodes on the steel pilings at Thomsen Harbor.” This should happen “in the near future, which will be good, because it will mean less corrosion on the steel pilings.”

Moorage rates did go up on 7/1/19. In 2020, additional moorage rate increases are expected, between 3-5% (to be decided) and again to take place on July 1st.

There are no plans at the moment to de-commission any infrastructure.

Charges for use of the Eliason Harbor Drive-Down Load Dock and the Tidal Grid have been implemented. The Load Dock is NOT to be used as moorage – it is not free after the first 24 hours.

The Harbor Dept. did receive the FY 2019 Raw Fish Tax but will not know about this year until September or later.

Cover watercolor “Giant Pacific Octopus” by Pat Kehoe.

The Sitka Harbor Guide is published yearly by Will Swagel Ink LLC. The Harbor Guide may be found year-round at the Harbormaster’s office, LFS Marine Supplies, City Hall & at the fuel docks during the fishing season. For info call 907-747-7595. SitkaHarborGuide.com

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Stories of Seafood Processing: Workers Who Add Value

by Suzanne Portello

A Job for the Young?

Some folks get their start in seafood processing at a tender age. Now a policy engagement director for the Sitka Conservation Society, Katie Riley worked in the Packing Room at Sitka Sound Seafoods (SSS) for two summers at age 18. She started by printing labels that gave the weight, price, etc., to go on 50# boxes of frozen fish heading south – her title was “Labeler.” The second year she became “Labeler & Expediter.” This was in 2011, between college terms, says Katie – the “heyday of the J-1 Visa Program” when college students from all over the world came to work in Alaska. Katie keeps some of those friends to this day.

“It was a male-dominated environment,” she says, and “the coolest thing was ‘breaking the racks’ and testing my strength. The racks were 5’ x 5’ plastic sheets in

metal frames where you would lay the fish and they would go up high into the blast freezer.” Katie acts out the procedure in her current office. “Later, you’d take the racks out of the freezer and slam them down, and maybe if you were lucky, they’d break apart.”



*Juvencio Garcia, SPC worker,
loads bait onto the F/V Endurance.*

The Crazy Eighties

Katie is following a family tradition – her dad Tim Riley worked at SSS from 1987 to 2000. Moving to Sitka in 1986 from Iowa via Washington state, his first job was as a docent at the Isabel Miller Museum. SSS hired him “in the middle of winter, to help with inventory

– counting boxes & labels...” He progressed into processing bait herring, Tanner crab and roe herring. The commercial herring fishery was focused on harvesting herring eggs, or roe, for marketing in Japan.

Tim worked on “the frozen end” of fish processing – moving racks

of fish, boxing and weighing the boxes. Tim also describes “breaking the racks” – “at that time, steel trays – heavy and LOUD when you pulled them out of the freezer and slammed them down to break the fish loose.”

In 1994, Tim became the “Foreman of the Packing Room.” Those days, he came into work early – 4:15am. Over a year he would average about 3,000 hours (a normal 40-hour work week would yield 2,000 hours per year). But the cycle of the year was irregular - 40-hour weeks for half the year, 100-hour weeks at the height of the



Katie Riley in her office at SCS, 2020

season, with a month-long-ish break in Nov.-Dec.

Shortly after, the fishing world would undergo “a tectonic shift” with the introduction in 1995 of IFQs (individual fishing quotas). Fish-catching and processing were no longer subject to the influences of

compressed openings and derby-style fisheries. It was a time of enormous change - more safety precautions, growing computer use and practical & tech advances in all facets of the work.

Management proved a challenge



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for Tim. He managed 35-50 people at a time, some “on the edge - people you had to bail out of jail so they could come to work” – and others “smart, educated like a student physicist who worked at the Fermilab or professor at the local college.” Tim worked hard and expected his workers to, as well. “I was merciless, and there was the fact that the work you were asking people to do (might) hurt them.” The move toward greater safety



Two Sitka Sound Seafood employees carry a rack of frozen fish.

© Jana M. Suchy 1980s

precautions was partly financial – they were “motivated to make sure we were safe because of rising insurance costs.”

The progression from hard worker to hard-working manager seems

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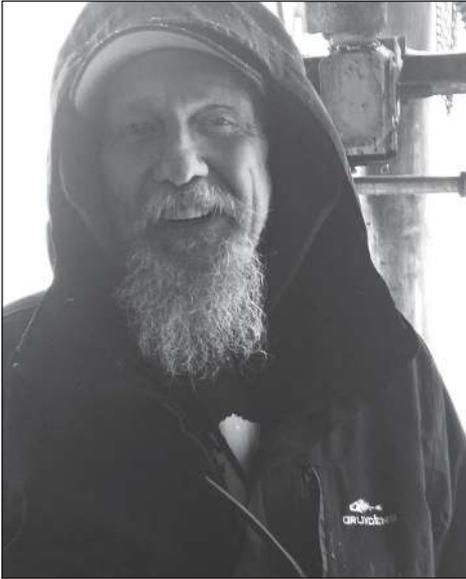
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SPC "Iceman" & Dock Manager Don Koston

common in the fish-processing world. Seafood Producers Coop (SPC) Plant Manager Ruben Torres has been with the company for 28 years. He started out "on the line, just like everybody." He worked in the icehouse, was a mechanic for the fillet machine and a fillet supervisor. As manager, at the height of the season he can work from 5am-7pm. His most memorable challenge? "Processing roe herring was hard – 2pm to 6am or 10am the next day." His greatest reward?

"It's been good to be with the same company all this time – they're like a family – 70% of our workforce is local – there are 30 returning employees this Spring."

The Iceman Cometh

Another long timer with SPC is "Iceman" Don Koston. 2020 will be his 27th summer.

Don was seriously busy on the dock. He and co-worker Juvencio Garcia were loading bait onto the F/V Endurance. Using a mechanized hoist, they offloaded a 3400 lb. pallet with frozen bait and salt. Hail was falling and it was bitter cold, even in Don's tiny dock office (room for a kitchen chair and small shelf where Don's computer showed the vessels expected each day).

While Don is "universally referred to as the Iceman" his official title is "Dock Manager." He used to work year-round, but now winters are slow. He's off for part of November-December, then starts up again in January. Most of his work is out on the dock. "I supply ice and bait to the fleet and coordinate unloading

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(of boats).” Nowadays, he uses a computer to track all this (before, everything was on paper). SPC deals with a couple hundred different boats during the main trolling season.

Hard Work is a Source of Pride

One person who worked with Don at SPC “back in the day” was Sitkan Nathan Bernhardt. Nathan worked in seafood for 26 years, starting in the late ‘80s, through all of the 90s, up to 2009. He describes himself with pride as “a hard worker” and describes many roles over the years. Unloader, grader, processor. “I’d unload fish from a boat and grade it by weight and condition.” The fish house “slime line” would clean the halibut, black cod, rockfish, and “certain people who could handle a

knife were filleters. A lot of the slime line were women between 30 and 60, like (longtime Sitkan) Margaret Gordon, and they were really good. They could clean a fish like there was no tomorrow.”

Nathan explained how the work changed. “First there were openings and derbies; later, there were IFQs. In the late 90s, they also came in with lots of new machines. We got a whole new building, just for filleting salmon. My first day I went home smiling because I like working hard...even though it was long hours with ice and water running down your back, standing in ice and water – you were always cold. But it was very social, like a family, with lots of camaraderie.”

“They used to call me ‘Kid’ since I



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was 19 when I started.” Bernhardt worked under the grader Reg Mork from Pelican; the “Kid” recalls a dream he once had about the older man. “(In my dream) Reg was standing down at Crescent Harbor, looking up at the stars...He wouldn’t look at me, and then when I stuck my face up close in his, he turned into a bear.”



*Pedro Rieta & Mary Durgan on the Slime Line at SSS.
© Jana M. Suchy 1980s*

Hands-on Management - Versatile and Flexible

Dock Supervisor Adela Uddipa has been at SSS almost 20 years. Her job and personality are so pivotal to the smooth functioning of things on the dock that she’s interrupted and called out on her VHF multiple times during the interview. Her office is the “Scale Shack” where a stream of workers and skippers stop by to consult her. One who stopped by but never sat down was Adela’s husband Junior - he was too busy transporting loaded pallets on a forklift.

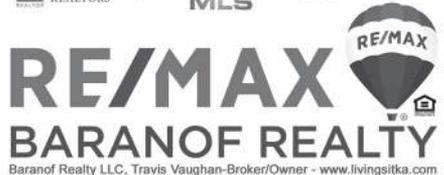
SSS Production Supervisor Gordon Grant has done seafood work since he was 8 years old. “I got my first official paycheck in 1975, doing piecework - popping herring eggs at PFI” (Petersburg Fisheries/Icicle Seafoods, which bills itself as the oldest operating seafood plant in Alaska...continuously since 1899). The young Gordon made \$19.36 in a half hour. He started at SSS

in 1976 (at age 9), when his family came over to Sitka “to “help Tommy Thompson take over the company... My father, my mother (downstairs as office manager), my brother and

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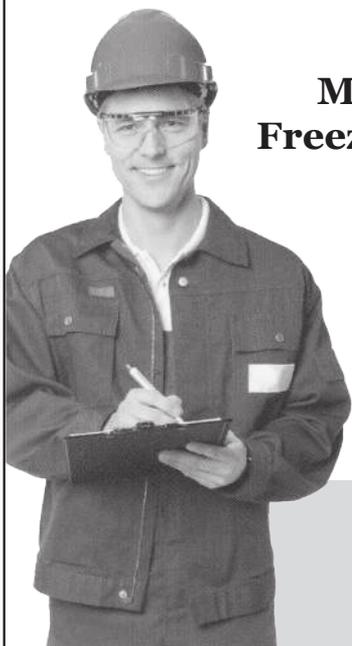
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my sister.”

Gordon does (or has done) a little bit of everything: “piece worker, grounds & buildings (emptying wastebaskets), crab processing & cooking, grading fish, driving a forklift, operating a hoist, heading halibut, machine operator, warehouseman and fabricator in the welding shop.”

The need for versatility is even more important with Sitka’s smaller processors, like Sitka Salmon Shares. June, July, August at the Smith St. plant, Production Lead Ken James averages 60-65 hours per week, while Yard Manager George Houghton gets up to 80 (half regular hours, half overtime). In addition to seafood processing, both also do maintenance and

improvements on the facility. Ken says, “You can’t see a wall in here without seeing something I did. I hung most of the lights in here... I don’t get bored, that’s for sure.”

Follow the Talent

Another person who’s done a bit of everything is SSS Fish House Supervisor Dave Thomas. Thomas started in the summer of 1999, “as a tote washer at a place called Alaska Bounty.” The following year, he became a filleter. He started at Sitka Sound in 2001 and has “been here ever since.”

To some, filleters are looked upon as the “talent” in fish processing. Ken James says, “During the season, I am the lead filleter...I’m at the table, fleshing 4,000 lbs. of

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fish a day. Most of the time I'm the only filleter. Other people are ribbing, we've got 12 people cutting at the table, but I'm getting the whole fish, cutting the fillets off... cause that's my job, teaching everybody what to do, one step to the next. Some guys are really 'crackerjack' and I can kind of lean on them to help teach the others. I'm talkin' 12-16 hours a day."

"Ken is super talented, George isn't that talented," says co-worker Houghton.

When the Sitka Maritime Heritage Society honored "the slime line" in



SSS Production Supervisor Gordon Grant & Fish House Supervisor Dave Thomas

help with boxing the fresh fish.

"Then, we have big minus 40-degree blast freezers, nine of them. We load the (fish to be frozen) onto the racks

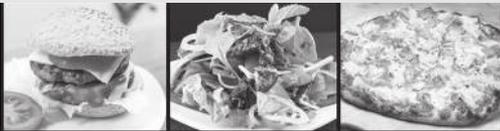
2019, perhaps the most colorful presentation was Dave Thomas' filleting demo. When asked to describe his work as Fish House Manager, Dave says he grabs "whatever fish Gordon calls for (fresh, for example)" and cleans them (re-cleans them, as the fishermen do it first) and grades them, making sure they are of good quality. "If I am not doing too much, I like to

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- fillets are laid out a certain way, whole fish are laid out a certain way - and we pack them into the freezer. The faster you freeze something, the better the quality. We're equipped to do that here."

"Even the new hires around here learn very quickly to do multiple things. When we hire, it's not 500 people, we hire 150 people. That's one thing I like about the job - it is NOT boring in any way."

When asked about the SSS workforce, Gordon explains, "We've had groups of Russians come through, folks from Turkey, Puerto Rico. But we hire locally as much as possible." He notices a trend over recent years of not having the ability (for summertime local hire) readily available.

Asked what's coming up in the calendar, Gordon says (almost in one breath): "That'll be IFQs from mid-March through mid-November - the halibut and black cod fisheries - and then the spring king salmon fishery. Shortly after, we'll get into Dungeness crab. There'll be a little bit of shrimp, then gillnet will start up, then come July 1st we'll get into seine fish. Throughout this,

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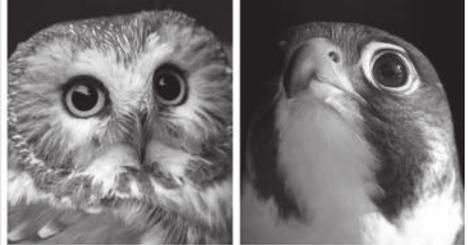
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Fishing & the Art of Documentation

Jana Suchy first came to Alaska at 26, “found Sitka and pounded the docks, looking to crew-on,” in spring 1983.

She’d taken one photography course in college: “I learned from a master, who said ‘no camera is smarter than you are,’ so I didn’t learn on an automatic.” For three years, working the back deck, she grabbed a camera when she could.

After her friend Victor Jenny was lost at sea, a fire was lit in Jana to write a book about fishing Alaska; eventually she went south to journalism grad school in Montana to see if she could learn how. Returning to Sitka, “I started writing & taking pictures, reporting for the fish papers of the day, mostly ‘Alaska Fishermen’s Journal’ and ‘Pacific Fishing’” The cub reporter worked on steno pads and an electric Smith-Corona, and shot film with a couple of manual Pentax K-1000 “battle-axe” cameras, one for color, one for B&W.

Not for another 30 years did Jana realize what she’d documented in three years writing fish stories and taking 1000s of photos: “An era that nobody else has. Nobody else was on the docks every day, capturing life as it was in the fleet. Turns out it was a unique and fleeting era in the ‘80s unlike any other before, since, or ever again.”

In 2015 she self-published the book “Alaska Fishing Gold Rush of the 1980s” and says she’s “thrilled that it will not all be forgotten—what those men and women endured during the brutal 24-hour longline derbies—because now it takes its place on the timeline of Sitka history and will not be lost.”

the IFQ fishery continues (includes hook-&-line and pot fishery). The seine/gillnet fishery dies off about mid-Sept. Through that time there’s also jig fishing for ling cod; troll-caught salmon; directed pelagic fishery (rockfish). In October we get into sea cucumber, then back into Dungeness for the fall opening. We also do a little bit of bait herring fishery in January.”

Like a Family - One Way and Another

What Don Koston likes most about his job at SPC is “what my job has created, which is a lot of long-term relationships with fishing families. It took me a couple of years to memorize the first name, last name and boat name of all the skippers



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and crews. Then, there's the pleasure of watching the kids grow up."

Dave Thomas remembers "lots of good stories involving Dungeness because that's always fun, very energetic and like to pinch you." But mostly he remembers the people. "Being from Sitka, I never got out and saw the world when I was younger, but I got to experience the world through all these people from Turkey, Eastern Europe, Russia. I met my wife here – she's Russian – she was one of the last J-1s on a work Visa."

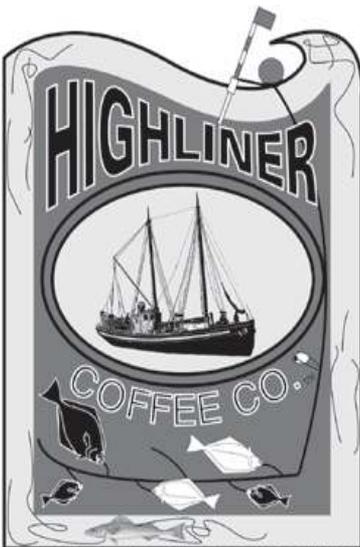


Sitka Salmon Shares Production Lead Ken James

Ken James talks about "the sense of pride in where I work, who I work for and the product we put out. I've kind of taken a sense of ownership in this place. A lot of times you don't have hands-on with your owners. Marsh Skeel is local boy, one of the co-founders. These guys are hands-on. (At other places) you don't usually see (upper management) getting their hands

dirty cutting fish down on the table."

Co-worker George Houghton says he wants to "Have FUN in my work - that's why I am here."



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Passing the Baton: Sharing Marine Mammal Science Across Generations

by Suzanne Portello

These days, in marine science education in Southeast Alaska, turns out that “sharing” is the name of the game.

Much of the philosophy (and some of the structure) of scientific sharing that now exists in this place is largely the offspring of Sitkan Jan Straley. Having lived in Alaska since 1979, Straley is famous for her decades-long research, writing and photography about whales. Equally important, though perhaps less well-known, is Jan’s influence on at least two generations of Alaskan scientists.

On one day in early 2019, I spoke with Jan Straley and two Sitka-born-and-raised scientists who work closely with her – Lauren Wild and Chohla Moll. Straley, who is a professor at UAS (University of Alaska Southeast) in the Department of Natural Sciences, and on the faculty at UAF (University of Alaska Fairbanks), also operates an independent, partially grant-funded marine

research lab here in Sitka. Characteristically, the three women partnered in a sort of round-table discussion to create a composite picture of the work they do.

Lauren Wild spoke first: “I started interning with Jan in the mid-2000s which led to a research assistant position with her. Through working with her I got my masters and I am now a PhD student in her lab. So, I went from intern to technician, to running portions of her lab, to student, back to technician and now back

to student. And Jan has been my main mentor in all those phases, currently as a member of my graduate committee.”

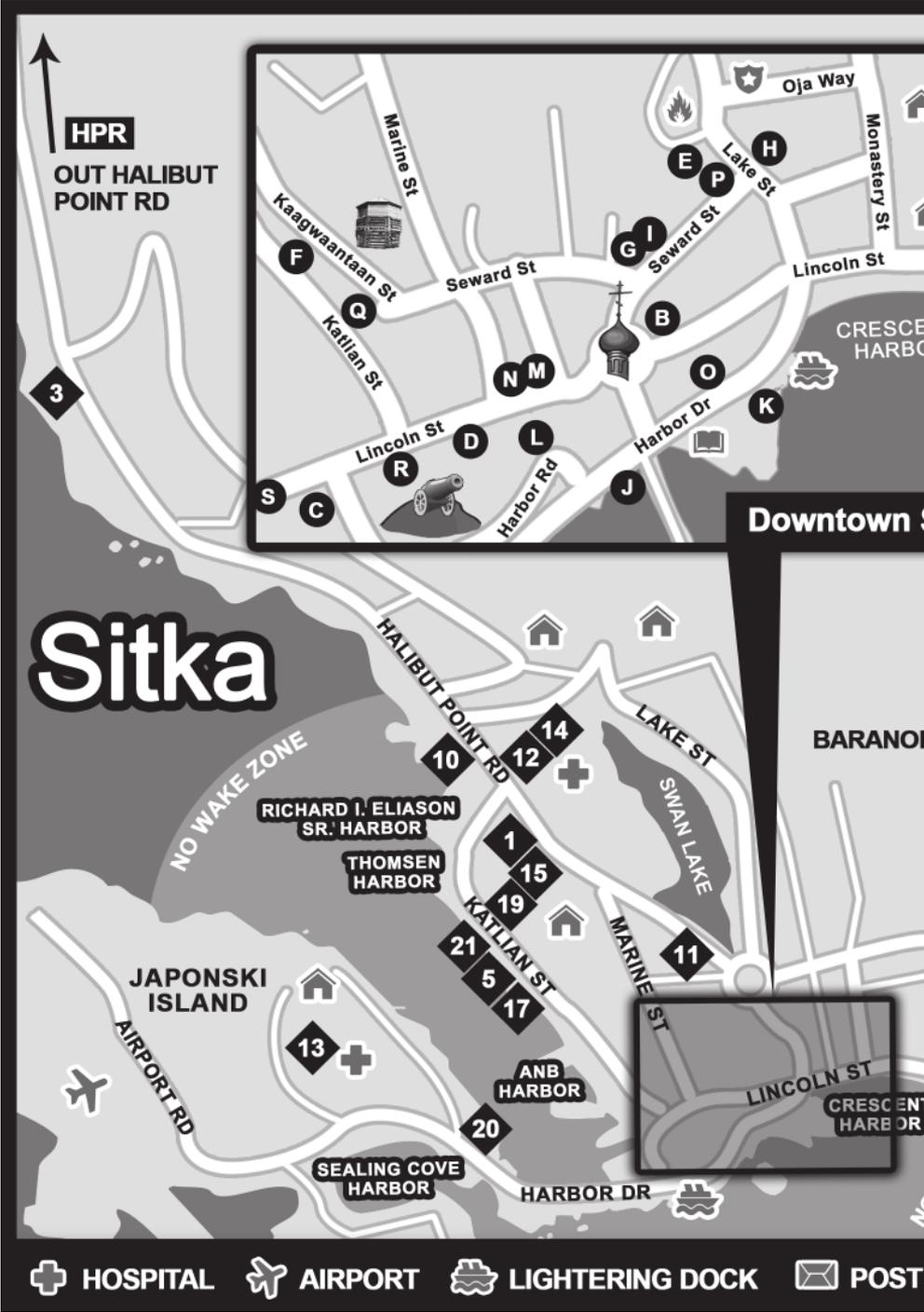
Suzanne: “Then, Chohla is a science teacher at Mt. Edgecumbe High School.”

Chohla: “So, my relationship with Jan started when I was in high school, in 1997 - she was my mentor for my senior project. The



Sitka WhaleFest Science Director Jan Straley talks to guests on wildlife cruise, 2013. (photo courtesy of Sitka WhaleFest)

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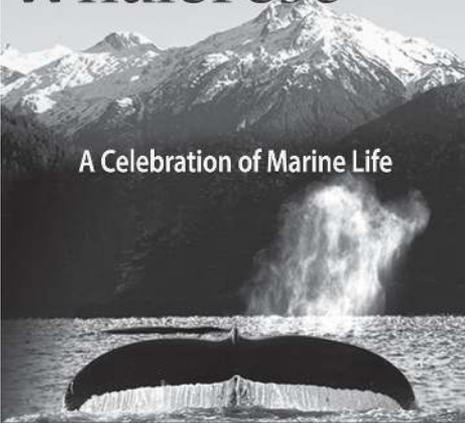
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- Sitka Harbor Department **21**
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Sitka WhaleFest

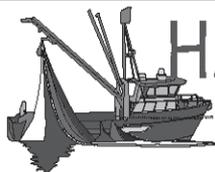
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continued from page 19

work that I did with Jan kind of kept me going through college; I would look back on it when I was in organic chemistry and physics... and I would tell myself, well, I have to do this really hard chemistry and physics stuff before they'll allow me to do the biology I really love."

"Because of the work I had done with Jan I was able to get a job at Glacier Bay National Park during my (college) undergrad time, and I got additional research experience there. I moved back to Sitka in 2005 to teach at Mt. Edgcumbe High School and have been working with Jan ever since, to try and create experiences for my students, authentic experiences like I had gotten as a high school student."



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Lauren: “A couple of other (graduate) students in our lab have similar ‘Jan’ stories. One is Ellen Chenoweth – she was originally from Michigan and wanted to study whales, so she moved to Glacier Bay and got in with the whale research group (who knew) Jan from her humpback whale monitoring. Ellen got in touch with Jan and ended up in Sitka working as her lab tech starting in 2008 or 9. After several

years, Ellen worked with Jan to get into a PhD program at UAF. Jan was on her graduate committee and Ellen got her PhD in August of 2018. Now she’s working with the university and working in Jan’s lab.”

Chohla: “Ellen is actually mentoring some of my high school students. She’s kind-of running the Southeast (Alaska portion of the)

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BLaST Program, (which) connects mentors with students, who are receiving college credit. Lauren is also mentoring my students.”

Lauren: “The other (grad) student in our lab is Madison Kosma. She’s a master’s student and Jan’s on her graduate committee. Madison moved to Sitka as an AmeriCorps volunteer in 2012 to be at the Science Center and help run WhaleFest. Then, she became the director of WhaleFest, worked closely with Jan and got research opportunities. (Madison) research with Humpback Whales in our lab. Both she and I are funded for our graduate work through BLaST, which stands for “Biomedical Learning and Student Training”. It’s an NIH grant to UAF that’s all about getting rural, underserved

and minority students trained and experienced in biomedical learning and “One Health Paradigms” - connecting animals and humans in the environment - which is a lot of what we do in Jan’s whale lab.”

“As part of the BLaST program, we’re encouraged to mentor undergrad students. Sitka has kind of non-traditional undergraduate students. Back in 2017 Ellen and I started this unit with Chohla’s field research class, to teach them about stable isotopes – which are one way to look at diet in animals and humans. So, we built this little program with Chohla where we go into her class and we teach this unit on stable isotopes. Students compare their diets in their home communities to their diet at school in Sitka through stable isotopes in



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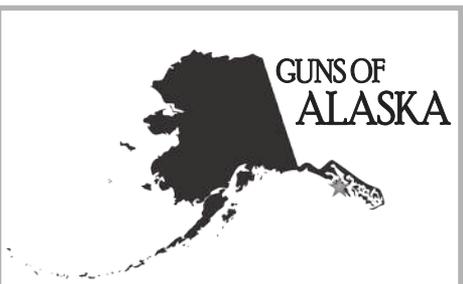
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their hair.”

Chohla: “One thing Lauren and Ellen do a very good job of, is working with my students on a really difficult subject like stable isotopes - definitely a high-level subject you wouldn’t normally talk about with high schoolers. So, they teach my students this unit and have them as interns in their labs, but they also let the students ask some of their own questions. One student from Nome was a big subsistence hunter, and he was interested in figuring out some of the stable isotopes that were in his food, so he had some food sent down – some (whale) bowhead and walrus samples from his freezer at home and he checked them out while working on an individual internship with Lauren in the lab.”

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“And he found some interesting things - preliminary, but it got him excited about expanding that project, and he was actually able to go up to Nome and Lauren went with him and (they) presented at the Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference. He was the only high school student to speak at the conference and it was in his home town of Nome, and Lauren supported him in that. It was a huge deal for a high school student to be able to contribute to the scientific community in that way...”

Lauren: “His name is Orlin Gologorgen. My other (high school) student last year, Annie Masterman, is now a freshman at UAS in Juneau, and she looked at squid species offshore using stable isotopes and where they fall in the food chain. She presented a poster of her project in January, up in Anchorage at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium...and she did an awesome job!

Jan: “You would have been proud of her, Chohla.”

Lauren: “When she moved to Juneau, we got her connected to some colleagues at NOAA doing research in Prince William Sound and she is continuing to do research. So, these are all students that are doing great things, originating from Jan’s lab.”

Jan: “But way more formalized, with Chohla there.”

Suzanne: “When I was reviewing the online literature about you three, I came across a few specific

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projects. One of them was called, 'Humpback Whale Predation on Juvenile Salmon at Hatchery Release Sites.'"

Jan: "That project is what Ellen Chenoweth has been working on, and now Madison Kosma is working with that interaction."

Suzanne: "Also mentioned online was the SouthEast Alaska Sperm Whale Avoidance Project."

Lauren: "So, that's the project I work with, that Jan, Tory O'Connell, and Linda Behnken co-founded (co-PIs) back in 2003. It is known as SEASWAP, which is

basically a collaboration between fishermen, scientists and managers to better understand sperm whales interacting with commercial longline fishing gear... specifically black cod - and (then) we work on minimizing those interactions. I started with them as a research tech in 2009. It's a kind of a collaborative group, so there's a lot of partner organizations involved - UAS (Jan), Sitka Sound Science Center (Tory O'Connell), Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association (Linda Behnken & Dan Falvey), Scripps Institution of Oceanography (Dr. Aaron Thode, acoustics), UAF (Lauren & Dr. Russ Andrews, whale tagging), and more..."

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Pat Kehoe: Fisher-Painter-Guardian-Nurse

An Artist Profile

Pat Kehoe's life might sound like a John le Carré book. We met one evening over a pint (after Pat's cherished tap dance class) to talk about how art and life had evolved.

Trained as both artist and nurse, Pat came to Sitka from Washington in 1980, specifically to go fishing. She'd been working as an RN in a "very intense setting" and needed to do something different.

She and a friend put their VW van on the ferry, got to Sitka on July 4th and settled in at Starrigavin campground. When the rainy season started, Pat's first gig was "housesitting at Bill Babcock's little modular home behind the hospital." Eventually, she rented Warren Christianson's A-frame island cabin, where he had "cut six trees off at the same height for a foundation – it was magical!" As was the cannery scow she renovated into a floathouse.



"Giant Pacific Octopus"

In spring 1981, Pat went longlining for black cod and halibut, then trolling for salmon. Women were just then making inroads into what had been a male-dominated world and fishing welcomed people who might not have fit into more traditional jobs.



Pat & Howard icing up on F/V Wanderer at SSS before heading for Cape Edgecumbe. photo © Jana M. Suchy 1980s

Pat met her future husband, Howard Pendell, at the 1983 Juneau Folk Festival. They fished together in the summers, traveled (and she worked part time as a nurse) in the winters. Fishing was "perfect for us - we did it together as a family." They also built their home and homeschooled their two daughters on Galankin Island outside of Sitka.

After working as an RN at Sitka Pioneer Home, Pat returned for six years

fulltime, prior to retiring in 2019. "The best part of my job was listening to the elders telling their stories of exploring SE Alaska." She also spent many years as a Guardian *Ad Litem*, working for the best interest of children in the court system.

Pat had always drawn and painted but began watercolors when she moved to Sitka because they so expressed the marine environment. Now it's been 40 years, and she kept painting "around the edges of raising Coral and Katy and fishing commercially." Portable paints were the key. A founding member of the Island Artists Gallery (co-op) in 2013, Pat has since taken her art more seriously. She also facilitates a drawing group and an informal painting gathering that has met since the '70s.

Howard still has his boat, daughter Katy crews with him and Pat is the "third hand." So, what's next?

Says Pat, "Paint every day, foster more community art – maybe a mural project?"



Pat in front of Island Artists Gallery,
205 Lincoln St., March 13, 2020.
See more of her watercolors at the
gallery, at Julie's Fine Jewelry & Gifts
in Ketchikan, and online
at islandartistsgallery.com.

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Richard I. Eliason Sr. Harbor: off the north end of Katlian Street and extending north. Eliason Harbor is designated as the transient harbor where most transient vessels are temporarily moored.

Thomsen Harbor: off the north end of Katlian Street, south of Eliason Harbor.

Crescent Harbor: opposite the east end of Lincoln Street, near the Lincoln-Lake intersection. Transient vessels are not allowed in this harbor.

ANB Harbor: off Katlian Street, just north of downtown.

Sealing Cove: off the west end of O'Connell Bridge, off Airport Road.



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Contacting Sitka's Harbor Master

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Personnel: The Sitka Harbormaster is Stan Eliason, Deputy Harbormaster is Jeremiah Johnson, Office Staff is Alicia Patterson and Darla Hoff, Assistant Harbormasters are Tom Climo, Emy Sumauang and Nick Anderson. Harbor personnel are on duty seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. year round. Maintenance Personnel are Ron Pratt and Brian Bellows.

Location: The Harbor Department is located adjacent to Thomsen Harbor, at 617 Katlian St. **Phone: (907) 747-3439;**
Fax: (907) 747-6278; **VHF Channel 16;** www.cityofsitka.com.

Other Important Numbers

Sitka Police: 911 (emergency); 747-3245 (business)

Fire Dept. : 911 (emergency); 747-3233 (business & info)

Sitka Community Hospital: 747-3241

City & Borough of Sitka: 747-3294

Sitka Chamber of Commerce: 747-8604

SEARHC/Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital: 966-2411

Alaska Department of Fish & Game: 747-6688

(commercial); 747-5355 (sport)

U.S. Coast Guard: 1-800-478-5555 (emergency)

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The Harbor Department of the City and Borough of Sitka enforces Harbor Regulations in all five city harbors and other city facilities.



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Temporary Stalls: The Harbor Department may assign a vessel a stall on a temporary basis, depending on availability. This is called "hot berthing." Owners of vessels granted temporary assignment must be ready to move if requested by the Harbor Department.

Fees: Moorage fees will be assessed by the Harbor Department, based on the rate structure in the City municipal code. Moorage bills must be paid at the Harbor Office.

Registration of Transient Vessels: All transient vessels are required to register with the Harbormaster within 8 hours of arrival. Information on services and fees is available at the harbor office.

Moorage of Transient Vessels:

Transient vessels are advised by Harbor Department staff of the transient moorage areas available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Transient Fees: Transient moorage fees are \$1.12 per foot per day for vessels 0-80 feet in length. For 81-150 feet, \$1.92 per foot per day. For vessels more than 150 feet, \$2.88 per foot. All moorage must be paid in advance or prior to departure or fees may be doubled. Harbor policy requires that if a vessel is in the harbor on any portion of any day, it will be charged for moorage for that day. A 25 percent credit in daily transient moorage will be given to any commercial vessel actively loading or unloading fish and which produces a fish ticket or processor contract. The credit will be good for up to 10 days per fish ticket or contract.

Transient Services Water, garbage and waste oil service are available.

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is \$5.00 for in and \$5.00 for out. The annual calendar year permit is \$75.00 and is available at the harbor office. Launch ramps are located at Sealing Cove and Crescent Harbor.

Monthly (30 day) Moorage Permits Thirty (30) day moorage permits are available, paid in advance. The cost is \$19.25 per foot for vessels up to 150 feet in length, and \$28.86 per foot for vessels above 150 feet.

Small Boat Electrical Service 30 amp single phase service may be available for a fee of \$7.00 per day. 50 amp single phase service may be available for \$15.00 per day up to 4 days. If staying 5 days or longer the meter can be read, which includes a \$10.00 in and \$10.00 out fee plus actual meter usage. Meter reads will be done for 50 amp 3 phase and 100 amp meters.

Temporary Use of Assigned Meter The Harbormaster may temporarily allow a transient vessel to plug into an assigned meter. The assigned meter holder's account receives credit. A note: Utilizing assigned meters is a privilege and the Harbormaster frowns on meter use without permission. Violators will be issued citations for illegal use of a meter.

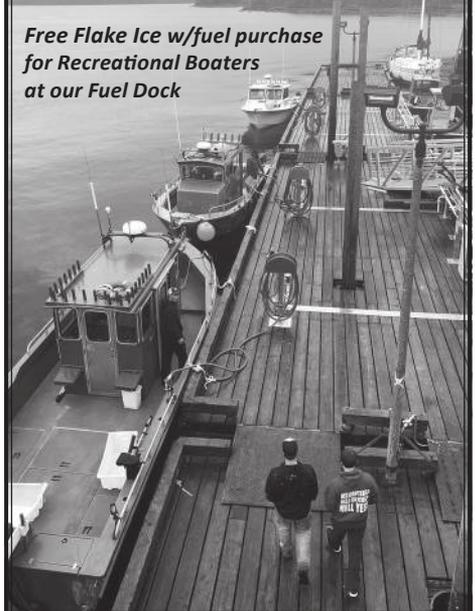
Garbage Dumpsters are available at all harbors for use by harbor patrons. Items too large for the dumpsters are to be taken to Jarvis Street Transfer Station. Items should not be left on the floats or fingers of any of the harbors.

Used Oil Disposal tanks are provided at all harbors. Please do not dis-



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pose of gasoline or solvents in these tanks. These should be taken to the Sawmill Cove Industrial Park scrap yard, where a special materials collection area is maintained. When dumping used oil, please clean debris and old filters off the screen when you are finished.

Water Potable water is provided at all harbors year-round.

Dumping Trash Into the Harbors Prohibited It is unlawful to do or cause to be done any of the following prohibited acts: No offal garbage or trash shall be dumped into the boat harbor. No trash, garbage or refuse shall be dumped on the tidal or upland areas along the beach or waterfront. It is unlawful to dump flammable wastes. Vessel owners shall

not leave spoiled bait, fish or gear on their vessels in the harbor.

Fishermen's Work Floats There are two work floats available. One is the seasonal float located at the end of Float 4 at Crescent Harbor. This float is available for work-related uses April 15-Sept. 15 annually. A year-round work float is located on Sitka Channel across from ANB Harbor. This float is equipped with both electricity and potable water. No overnight moorage without permission of the Harbormaster. No storage of any gear, nets or materials is permitted. All users of these floats are asked to clean up after themselves. **Fees:** No charge for the first 24 hours. Vessels 50 feet in length and under \$.80 per foot, per day. Vessels 51 feet in length and above \$1.00 per foot, per day. These

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Loading Zones There are several loading zones located throughout the harbors. They are easily identified by the white paint along the bullrails. Loading zones have a one-hour time limit. There are some 30-minute areas in Crescent Harbor. There is also a loading dock in Crescent Harbor that is used by commercial fishermen to load and unload gear. Some fishermen also use the covered area to mend their nets. Please contact the Harbor Office for usage. This covered area is also used at various times of the year for art shows, food booths and other activities.

Eliason Harbor Load Zone No charge for the first 24 hours. Vessels 50 feet in length and under \$.80 per foot, per day. Vessels 51 feet in length and above \$1.00 per foot, per day. These charges are in addition to the permanent tenant quarterly moorage rates, or, daily transient fees.

Fish Cleaning The cleaning of fish in any of Sitka's harbors is strictly forbidden. Please do not dispose of fish carcasses in the harbor jurisdiction due to Sea Lion issues. Fish cleaning should be done at designated fish cleaning tables. There are fish cleaning tables on the south end of Eliason Harbor breakwater for the cleaning of sport-caught fish. There are also fish cleaning tables on the float outside Sealing Cove Harbor. Fish waste bins are available at both cleaning



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stations. No commercially caught fish can be cleaned at any fish cleaning table at any of the harbors. Users are requested to clean up the areas after use.

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Jana Suchy with Blax.
(photo by Dave Jenny, 1984)

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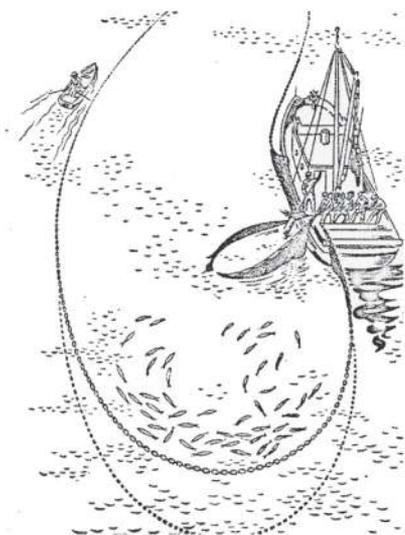
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