



# **LONG FORM FISHING COMMUNITY PROFILE**

## **Garibaldi, Oregon**

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## **Garibaldi, OREGON Long Form Fishing Community Profile**

This profile was created as a result of a collaborative research project conducted during 2007. The project was designed and implemented with the help of the commercial fishing community working in partnership with scientists from Oregon State University (OSU) and Oregon Sea Grant.

The idea for this collaborative project originated in Port Orford, Oregon. The project took an innovative approach and involved members of the fishing community interviewing their own peers, providing a depth of information not frequently available to scientists. The data gathered was intended to supplement NOAA Fisheries “short form” community profiles (see: [http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/assets/25/6718\\_01082008\\_153910\\_CommunityProfilesTM85WebFinalSA.pdf](http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/assets/25/6718_01082008_153910_CommunityProfilesTM85WebFinalSA.pdf)). This “long form profile” contains information not included in NOAA profiles. The intention was to provide information that would help fisheries managers, decision makers, fishing community members, and the public to better understand the community of Garibaldi and the potential impacts of ocean-related policies on the fishing community there.

Leesa Cobb of the Port Orford Ocean Resources Team, and Bryan Tilt and Flaxen Conway of OSU, were the co-principal investigators to the project. Christina Package was the Graduate Research Assistant and she conducted 1 of the 15 interviews. This collaborative research project was the foundation of her thesis for a Masters of Arts degree in Applied Anthropology at OSU. Billy Schreiber served as the Community Researcher; he conducted 14 of the 15 interviews and helped with the design and outreach of the project. Each interview lasted between 30-90 minutes and was recorded and transcribed verbatim. Although we couldn’t interview everyone, we tried to make sure that all groups were represented: all fisheries (crab, salmon, groundfish, etc.), owners of vessels and crewmembers, full-time commercial fishermen (fishermen deriving their full income from fishing), retired commercial fishermen, fishermen’s wife/partner, Port manager/workers, charter fisherman, shoreside business workers (processors, fuel/dock workers, filleters, marine suppliers, etc.), those who had spent various lengths of time in community, various levels of production, income, ages, and gender.

There are eight sections to this profile:

- Importance of Fishing to the Community of Place
- Characteristics of Fishing Community Members and their Families
- Boundaries: Connection between the Fishing Community and the Community of Place
- Communication within the Fishing Community and between the Fishing Community and Others
- Perspectives on Management and Effects of Management
- Change in Fishing and Seafood: Economics and Fishing Effort
- Perceptions of the State of the Ocean and its Resources
- Perceptions of the Future

Each section of this profile contains a **summary** of perspectives and information provided from the interviews conducted in Garibaldi. Where indicated with quotations, we have included verbatim comments from transcribed interviews to add depth and color.

The authors would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our partners, and Karma Norman and the NOAA Fisheries Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Oregon Sea Grant, and Oregon State University Sustainable Rural Communities Initiative for funding this important work. Most importantly, the authors would like to thank those members of the fishing community who shared their thoughts, feelings, and perspectives with us.

## Importance of Fishing to the Community of Place

Fishing is very important to the community of Garibaldi. As one community member remarked, “Without fishing Garibaldi wouldn’t hardy exist. It’s a noted fishing community and it’s a destination.” Tourists are drawn to Garibaldi to sport fish.

It’s the closest port community (about 80 miles) to the metropolis of Portland, Oregon. People travel from Portland to purchase seafood and to fish recreationally around Garibaldi for species such as tuna, crab, halibut, and salmon. Recreational fishing draws in a lot of business for the town; especially for the hotels, motels, tackle shop, and the Port of Garibaldi. There are more sport fishing guides in Garibaldi than there used to be; there has been an upsurge in this kind of activity.

Commercial fishing also contributes substantially to the economy of Garibaldi by creating and providing jobs for fishermen and cannery workers, in the fuel that is purchased locally by commercial fishermen, and in fishermen patronizing local businesses.

Fishing has been important to Garibaldi throughout history. One resident mentioned, “Traditionally this area, the Tillamook County area has been economically dependent on timber and fishing, as well as agriculture”; however both fishing and timber have been restricted by management decisions. Timber has been substantially cut-back in the area, with one mill currently operating in the town.

Fishing is also important socially in that many generations of Garibaldi residents have been fishermen. As one person explained, “my father was a fisherman, he taught me, and my son wants to be a fisherman.”

Garibaldi is dependent on commercial fishing and recreational fishing, and both are described as needing to be protected.

*“The survival of the town is directly related to the fishing industry and how that industry is regulated.”*

## Characteristics of Fishing Community Members and their Families

Full-time commercial fishermen in the community of Garibaldi are hard-working and dedicated, “willing to work a lot of hours to do what they need to do.” They are always working on their boats and waiting to go fishing when they’re not out on the water.

Full-time commercial fishermen in Garibaldi are resilient. Some have diversified and are engaged in multiple fisheries. This engagement in multiple fisheries is necessary because it has become difficult to only target one species of fish and make a living.

*Fishermen here will “crab in the winter, salmon fish, tuna fish...do whatever it takes to make that home payment and get little Johnny a pair of shoes.”*

Yet the fleet is varied. There are also some commercial fishermen who do not fish full time and others that are retired and will fish occasionally. Some wealthy boat owners have also purchased a commercial license and fish occasionally in Garibaldi.

Most fishermen in Garibaldi have a high school education. Fishermen are mostly male; very few women are commercial fishermen. Boat owners / captains are about 40-60 years old; a lot of the salmon troll fishermen are older.

Boat owners own the business and are responsible for making the boat payment and are, therefore, committed. Some boat owners hire a captain to run the boat and handle the maintenance, but it’s more common in Garibaldi for the owner to also be the captain. Both skippers and crewmembers work hard.

Crewmembers are younger, usually in their 20s and 30s. One person remarked that there are “not a lot of younger guys coming into the commercial field” due to limited opportunity including running the boat because of insurance issues (need to have prior experience in order to be insured to be an alternate skipper). There used to be more career crewmen and the good ones were highly sought after.

Today fewer fishermen are looking to become captains and it’s theorized that crewmen aren’t as interested in the future of the industry. A lot of crewmembers “just come and go” from boat to boat, and sometimes have an addiction of some sort. They are required to put in hours to prepare the gear and vessel before fishing, and are often told to “be there during the off-season or they don’t get paid anything, very little if any... so they donate their time whenever they are needed down there.”

There are some one-man operations in Garibaldi; however the larger vessels still often have three or four crew members on them. One person mentioned that with Albacore fishing it is common to see a retired (or even not retired) couple working the boat together.

Most of the commercial fishermen in Garibaldi had parents that were in the fishing industry and many claimed to “have been almost all my life in Oregon fishing.” Fishermen in Garibaldi band together and stand up for each other.

### Fishing Families

In the past, it was typical for many members of the family to be involved in the family fishing business. The children were often involved in fishing on the family boat at some point; sons involved in the family business often grew up and ran vessels of their own. The wives would take care of everything in the household while the fisherman was away.

*“A lot of times it is the whole family that is involved in the business. The kids will be down working on the boat helping out. The wife will be doing the book work and all the other support work. It is a way for families to stick together.”*

### Changes over Time

Family involvement is changing and more. Today there are fewer family businesses in Garibaldi which involve everyone in the family.

The wives of Garibaldi fishermen have outside jobs for the most part, to supply a steady paycheck and health insurance for their family. Many shared that “most of the wives have to work full time to support the family because you can’t [make a family wage] with just fishing.” Still, it is common for the wives to continue to do the bookkeeping for the family fishing business even if they hold outside jobs.

One person interviewed wagered a guess that about thirty percent of the fishing businesses in this port are fishing family businesses; the rest are “independent, owned by individuals and not families.”

More and more, families are encouraging their children to go to college and have an occupation outside of fishing because fishing has become less stable with less guaranteed income. This is not because they are not proud of their industry or the history of family involvement. Rather, it has become harder to make a living in fishing and a lot of the young people coming into the field – including the sons of fishermen – have had to move on to other careers, “because it is difficult to come in here as a young twenty-five, thirty year old man, and take on the responsibilities of a boat and make an honest living with the restrictions that are in place now.”

## Boundaries: Connection between the Fishing Community and the Community of Place

Garibaldi fishermen often live in neighboring communities (such as Tillamook), but fish out of the Port of Garibaldi. Local fishermen are dependent on other communities for the purchasing of commercial gear and boat repair services; however a lot of the boat repair is done by the fishermen themselves. Some limited boat repair services are available in the community. Table 1 below lists services available in Garibaldi and nearby.

One processor is located in the community along with a few other buying stations which for the most part ship the products outside the community for

processing. A few large processors have shut-down in the community in recent decades.

The availability of commercial ice in the community is a major issue because of its limited availability and it's sometimes necessary to purchase ice from other communities during peak times.

Fuel is available within the community, as are some legal and professional services. However some fishing community members travel to other communities in the county for legal services and for book keeping services. Yet it was mentioned that the pastor of the local church is a fisherman and local restaurants stay open for extended hours during peak fishing seasons to cater to the fishermen.

**Table 1: Services and Where Available**

Service	Community Where Available
Gear	Recreational gear/tackle is available, but the availability of commercial gear is very limited in Garibaldi (most is shipped in). It is necessary to go to Newport or Astoria to purchase any major commercial gear or, if one is not in a hurry, a truck travels to the community about once a week and delivers commercial gear.
Fuel	Fuel is available in Garibaldi at a few places at the docks (including from a processor/buyer and the boathouse) and also from a fuel truck. There are two recreational fuel stops and one commercial fuel stop.
Ice	Ice for sport fishing is available but limited. Ice is available at two processors, but the machines are small. If not selling to a processor it's very difficult to get ice. Some buy ice in peak times from Tillamook.
Boat Repair	Garibaldi lost the dry docks that used to be available for the larger commercial vessels (the area has been turned into a recreational marina). The one boat repair facility in Garibaldi mostly caters to recreational fishermen. One individual does diesel repair in the off-season and there's a welder that does repairs above the waterline. Overall, it's necessary to go to other ports for boat repair or most fishermen do repairs themselves.
Processors	One large processor is located in Garibaldi (Smith Pacific Shrimp) which processes tuna, salmon, shrimp, and does custom processing of sport fish. A few other smaller facilities are located in Garibaldi, but a lot of the product is trucked out to be processed. It is mostly a buying station port now. Two of the main processors were lost in the early 90s and 80s.
Bookkeeping	A lot of fishermen in Garibaldi do their own book keeping; some go to other places in the county.
Legal Services	There is one local attorney in Garibaldi; some go to Tillamook for legal services.
Social Contacts	Trollers Restaurant is located at the Port and is a meeting place for fishermen. Garibaldi has several churches, schools, etc. where residents socialize as well.

## **Fishing Community Communication**

### Communication within the fishing community

The communication process within the fishing community in Garibaldi is mostly informal with a lot of one-on-one communication. “Ninety-five percent of all talk is informal; fishermen to fishermen, processor to processor, processor to fishermen.” Fishermen communicate with each other at the docks, on the water, and at gathering points such as the Trollers Restaurant or local taverns.

Some of the fishermen in the community attend meetings (such as fishery management council meetings) and share the information/decisions made there with the other fishermen in the community. This informal passing of information from fisherman to fisherman is the way that it seems to work best because with “formal...the schedule just doesn’t seem to work.” Everyone talks and if something occurs or changes, then it is passed along the fishing community pretty quickly.

However, the problem with informal communication can be “getting all the facts. By the time the next person hears it ... [it] may not be exactly the way it is.” Regarding formal communication within the fishing community, there are conference calls at the beginning of crab season (through the Fisherman’s Marketing Association) where fishermen from Garibaldi communicate with the rest of the West Coast crab fleet. However, because Garibaldi is a “non-association crab port” sometimes they are left out of the meetings. Fishermen do receive some mailings from the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission, and there are meetings of this commission and others (Salmon and Albacore) which can be attended.

### Communication with fisheries managers

As stated earlier, some fishing community members attend meetings of the Pacific Fishery Management Council. These community members often brief other fishermen in the community on the fisheries changes determined at the meetings.

*It’s good that there is formal and informal communication in the community because there are some in the community that prefer not to be at formal meetings. That’s not their lifestyle.”*

Attending these meetings is very costly because they are often in far-away locations, and are difficult to attend because “for fishermen when the weather’s good you always have to go [fishing].” It can be difficult to take time away from fishing to attend fisheries management meetings. However, many “are learning that if we want to keep a piece of our ocean to fish and make a living then we have to become politicians pretty much...be involved, very involved.” Yet many talked of frustration with these meetings because it seems that the decisions have already been made by managers (or fishery council members) prior to the public participation portion of the meeting. One person explained, “my feeling when I go there [is] most of the decisions have been made before any testimony is made. Most of the decisions are part of ongoing or long-going processes, that for most people to do good research and find out what is going on would be overwhelming. I know it is overwhelming for me. I have a stack of papers and notes and different study things that I have gotten over the last couple of years that is probably two and a half, three feet high.”

Information is also distributed to members of the fishing community from

fisheries managers in the form of mailings, websites, or over email. “A lot of fishermen get their information direct from ODFW, NOAA, or whatever the governing body might be.”

#### Communication with Coast Guard

Fishermen have a good rapport with the Coast Guard and recognize the Coast Guard as being “very, very important” especially with the unsafe bar conditions during certain times of the year because of the disrepair of the jetties. The Coast Guard Auxiliary works closely with fishermen for safety. Coast Guard personnel are known personally throughout the community and this creates an informal relationship. They are “top-notch; they jump when they are called.”

The Coast Guard has held large community meetings in the past for things such as buoy changes. It’s difficult for all fishermen to attend because the meetings “are going to be in the middle of somebody’s fishing.” Coast Guard members sometimes come down to the port and inspect vessels, or have informal conversations with members of the fishing community, but they are also busy with their own agendas. The minority opinion was that communication with the Coast Guard could be better and that it would be nice to have a representative from the Coast Guard attend fisheries meetings when they are held in town.

#### Communication the City and others

The fishermen in Garibaldi are integrally-related to the Port of Garibaldi. The Port is part of the Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association and can communicate information to and through this association. Garibaldi is also part of the Pacific Northwest Waterway Association (PNWA – a lobbying group) which is a group comprised of ports along the coast

which travels to Washington D.C. (to push for the repair of the jetty, etc.).

A lot of people don’t recognize the Port of Garibaldi as being part of the City of Garibaldi. Sometimes the community of Garibaldi and the fishing community have conflicts. Some members of the fishing community don’t reside in Garibaldi – they live in Rockaway, Bay City, or Tillamook and therefore spend a lot of time in the port but not a lot in the city.

### **Perspectives on, and the Effects of, Management**

With different fisheries becoming less lucrative over the years (such as shrimp and salmon), it is more common to diversify and be involved in numerous fisheries. However, the changes in management (limited entry) have made it more difficult to do this.

*“Being able to diversify has kept the commercial fleet alive. If they don’t allow this, then we aren’t going to have commercial fishermen.”*

The allowable catch is also an issue; it has been cut down to lower and lower limits over time which makes it hard to make a living. There was some concern over the future possibility of creating processor quotas (fish that must be delivered to a certain facility) because it would increase the power of a company. There was also some concern over fisheries assessments and making decisions without proper information. Some management actions could have been conducted so that both the fish stocks and fishermen could have survived a little bit better. In recent years, managers have been working more closely with fishermen and this has been beneficial and should continue. Several specific management topics were brought up in

interviews; both impacting the Garibaldi fishing community.

### Salmon disasters

Salmon disasters are declared during years of complete closure for salmon fishing, when the amount of the weakest stock along the coast dictates whether or not fishing for all stocks of salmon is closed. There have been two official salmon disasters declared in the past (mid 1990s and 2006; 2008 was considered an extension of the 2006 disaster for salmon fishermen with disaster relief aid delivered then as well).

With the older salmon disaster, fishing (both sport and commercial) continued and was encouraged to continue even though the return of fish was poor that year and, according to one person, “they had to shut down...so it was actually one of those things where we kind of created our own problem by continuing to fish.”

Loans are offered to help out during salmon disasters, however many felt that this might not be a good idea because the fishermen are unsure if they’ll be able to pay it back “because there’s no guarantee that they are going to be able to fish in the future.” Good years help you survive the tough years. However for those people who just started fishing salmon it’s probably much more difficult.

*“The Klamath situation put a lot of people out of work that depend on salmon for their income. A lot of folks were tied up, a lot of boats were lost, and a lot of families were seriously hurt.”*

There was some disaster relief to fishermen but this aid was not much compared to the normal amount of money earned in a year

salmon fishing. A lot of fishermen diversified in order to make it through the disaster by picking up work in other fields (such as construction) or by fishing for another species.

### Groundfish disaster and the groundfish buyback

The groundfish disaster was declared in 2000. The groundfish disaster did not only impact the commercial fleet, it negatively impacted charter fishing businesses as well. As one person explained when the fleet was shut down before one of the busiest weekends of the year, “It killed us, we had millions of dollars lost on the coastline because of one person’s decision...Had they let it go through the weekend, we might have exceeded the limit of fish by a few thousand pounds, but it would not have hurt the fishery. Their decision devastated the entire coastline...it cost us millions of dollars. In this port alone we lost over a half a million dollars to charter guys because they closed the weekend before. They could have let us go through, but they did not.” The number of charter vessels operating out of Garibaldi in recent years has decreased (from about twenty boats to five boats) because of management decisions. In spite of this the remaining boats still bring in thousands of tourists each year for fishing.

The groundfish buyback was conducted in 2003 and intended to limit the number of boats involved in groundfish fishing (by purchasing boats and permits from their owners). Very little buyback money came to Garibaldi; whereas other ports had a lot of vessels that were bought out and this was confusing as to why certain boats were selected. Many community members felt that the buyback didn’t substantially decrease the number of vessels involved in the fishery, but rather allowed aggressive fishermen to use the buyback to finance a new vessel and permit in the same fishery.

As one person explained, “The buyback was kind of a restructure...it didn’t really accomplish much because you had people...that had an old wood boat and got lots of money for it and then bought a better steel boat....so I don’t really think it took ninety-two boats off...you put a big percentage of guys, aggressive fishermen right back in the driver seat of better boats.” It was also perceived that some fishermen made money off of the buyback by anticipating the buyback and purchasing a boat from someone that was about to go under and then selling that boat in the buyback, and so managers “got a boat out of the fishery that really wasn’t part of the fishery to begin with.”

### **Change in Fishing and Seafood: Economics and Fishing Effort**

“Garibaldi was a boom town in the early days.” Garibaldi was mostly a salmon port before the 1980s, yet fishermen there also targeted shrimp and groundfish.

From the 1960s to the 1980s, fisheries were open access with unlimited fish and unlimited seasons. Fishing was booming and the amount of salmon, shrimp, and drag fish that came into the community was amazing. In the 1980s there was a lot of fishing effort, “everyone threw it all in there because the port was making money.”

A lot of drag technology began showing up in the community and groundfish became bigger. There were three or four bottomfishing fillet stations in the community right before 1980 and two in Bay City and there were no limits on the amount that could be caught at that time.

Trolling increased tremendously from the 1970s to 1980s and that provided “the great economic boom.” At that time there were about 12 trollers, and trolling hit a peak in approximately 1987-1988 and has been decreasing ever since then.

Currently, “there are quite a few trollers that haven’t left the dock in a few years; it’s just not economically feasible for them.” Salmon gill-netting and set-netting also occurred in the community around the 70s and 80s.

The shrimp industry was booming in the 1980s. Fishermen were getting about seventy cents a pound for shrimp in the late 80s and there was a lot of work to be had with a lot of boats, dock workers, and crewmembers in Garibaldi. There were about 12-17 shrimp boats operating out of the community at that time.

*“You could see a deckhand on a short six-month or seven-month season pull a hundred thousand dollars out of his pocket. Now you don’t see that anymore.”*

However things were beginning to change. Historically, there were probably about 20-35 charter boats that operated out of Garibaldi, this decreased over time and today there are only about five. The Newport salmon fleet would come to the community in the spring during the 80s, and the effects of overfishing in salmon, shrimp, and drag fisheries started to become more obvious in the 1980s and 1990s. By the 1990s to 2000s, fisheries managers limited entry and required the permitting of vessels to fish for each fishery.

Permitting and limited entry changed everything and this change had a large negative economic impact on Garibaldi. Fishing quotas hit hard in the late-90s “and that put a stop to groundfish processing in Garibaldi pretty much except for a very limited basis.” The effort decreased in groundfish because of quotas. A fish processing plant shut-down in the

community in the 1990s, and the Coho salmon closure shut down both commercial and sport fishing; this “was a very dismal time (decade).” In the 2000s the dry dock closed in the community and the shrimp plant changed hands and eventually shut down.

However, it’s not been all bad. The sport fishing fleet in the 2000s had “a few more people with a little bit more money and bigger boats” that are able to go 25 miles offshore to target halibut or tuna. People are spending a lot of money in town to go sport fishing and they also target salmon now.

Crab fishing effort has increased exponentially in Garibaldi from the historical past to today. Reflecting on this trend, one community member said, “Thousands and thousands of pots fish off Garibaldi, not only from our local fishing fleet but from fleets up and down the coast; it used to be smaller individual or two or three man teams that would go out in forty foot and under boats, now quite a bit of the catch is being caught by larger boats.” A lot of people have switched to crab because it has been more lucrative recently. There’s an issue with bigger boats coming from the north and south and crabbing around Garibaldi when the bar is too rough for the local fishermen to get access to the water. Recently, pot limits have been put in place for crab.

The commercial fleet of Garibaldi in general, however has decreased since the 2000s. There are only about one or two shrimp boats in the community (from a high of 17 shrimp boats in the past), and salmon has decreased to the point where it’s difficult for fishermen to make a living.

Things have also become smaller in scale for fish processing. Now there’s only a couple of seafood processors in Garibaldi (one main processor and a few smaller facilities) and one in Bay City and “half the time we’ve only got one” processor in the

community of Garibaldi. Processors have to sometimes shut down right in the middle of the season. One large processing company controls most of the processing in Garibaldi and it is believed that their product is trucked outside the community to be processed.

The costs to fishermen (fuel, insurance, boat maintenance, etc.) have increased substantially in the last twenty years, whereas “twenty-two years later the price [for crab] has gone up a dime.” The price for shrimp has actually decreased from about 1985 when it was \$0.87 per pound, whereas today it is about \$0.40 per pound (and it had been \$0.25 per pound for years in between that – in the early 1990s).

There has been a change in technology over the years with more high tech equipment required. Communication on the water has improved with radios first then cell phones and satellite phones.

In the past fishermen could make a living fishing one fishery. Today it is necessary to fish multiple seasons and diversify in order to make a living. It can be difficult to cover all the expenses that go along with owning and operating boat.

## **Perceptions of the State of the Ocean and its Resources**

### Overall health of the ocean near Garibaldi

The perception is that the overall health of the fisheries in the Garibaldi area is good, “there is a lot of fish out there.” However it’s not as good as it was in the past. “Garibaldi has a very abundant supply of a lot of different fish.” Fishermen are fishing the same reefs that they did 25 years ago and haven’t had to move on to other areas. Some of the stocks that were in danger are really rebounding.

The stocks are healthy; however not as healthy as they used to be because of the impacts of bottom trawling. Bottom trawling, in the past, hurt a lot of species

because of its indiscriminate catch and destruction of the habitat, which will take a long time to repair. As one person explained, “If you destroyed the forest how do you expect the elk to come back? It is the same concept, and it is going to take millenniums for any kind of coral reef to develop out there anymore to give these fish the habitat to be back to what supposedly their virgin biomass was.”

In contrast to the belief that the fisheries are healthy (although not as healthy as they once were), a minority opinion is that the ocean’s fisheries are suffering and that many fisheries are overfished.

When broken out by species, the status of the stocks was described during interviews. For example, with rockfish, people shared that there are a huge number of rockfish now. One person explained it as “looks like the 70s out there.” Since the troll fishery went limited entry and some sold their permits, there are a lot more rockfish. Also, shrimpers have put excluders on their nets so that they don’t catch them. The creation of the Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) has helped rockfish stocks, but put some drag fishermen out of business. Since the RCA went into effect, black cod, ling cod, and redfish are plentiful. Another person remarked, “I hear charter boats telling me that the rockfish are just exploding.” However, a minority opinion was that groundfish stocks are being overfished.

Salmon stocks are healthy and certain species (coho) are rebounding. Many believe that the media makes it seem as if there are no salmon out there and that is the reason that the season is shut down. However it’s more complicated than that because when one area’s stock is not doing well, they shut down the whole fishery. As one person explained, “it was just one river, it was the Klamath River, and they didn’t want us to catch a Klamath fish, so they shut the

fishery down.” Still others believe that salmon are not as healthy as they could be because of past management decisions and changing overall environmental conditions. As one person explained, they “don’t see near the volume of salmon that I can remember seeing as a child.” A minority opinion was that salmon are slowly depleting.

The perspective on tuna is that there is more albacore closer to the coast now; whereas one used to have to travel farther (1200-1500 miles away) to catch them. It is pretty abundant when the water conditions are right. A lot of sport fishermen are starting to fish for tuna.

One fisherman described the state of the crab fishery by saying that “crabbing is basically a self-sustained fishery. We are catching non-breeding males. It is pretty well regulated. We now have pot limits; it’s limited entry.” Crab is a candidate for Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification as a sustainable fishery. Crab is cyclical and has bad and good years, but is currently coming back very strong.

The Shrimp fishery was just MSC certified. “To get the MSC logo on your product, the fishery has to be well-managed, it has to be a sustainable fishery, and it has to be a clean fishery.”

#### Cyclical ocean and fisheries systems

The ocean follows cycles of ups and downs. There are years where certain species are in a downswing and then it will upswing again after a few years.

*“There are ups and downs; shrimp are cycling, the salmon are cycling, the crab...all of them are going up and down in cycles.”*

As one person explained, “It is always changing out there; you are going to have

good years and bad years and as long as it doesn't go on for two or three years. Everything is self-sustained and it will come back, something... a plankton... will come in bigger next time and the fish will be there, they will be healthier so they can survive better and it is just the chain of life, circle of life."

#### Weather impacts such as El Nino

The ocean is constantly moving and different weather patterns (such as storms or El Nino or La Nina) affect the resiliency and survival of species in a certain year/cycle. As one person explained about the year 2007 weather, "This year we are going through a La Nina period when the water warms up at different times of the year. You are going to see changes in maybe shrimp, salmon. Other fisheries can change, because the sea. Albacore fisheries will change because of this. It is cyclic."

There are changes that could be related to global warming such as different fish being available at higher latitudes and the frequency of storms.

*"We are seeing more storms and as we are being educated more and more about global warming, I think we are going to start noticing changes."*

With changes in ocean temperature there could be a loss of local species that require colder water.

#### Need for science or different management techniques

Many in Garibaldi feel that there's a need to manage a stock according to its range, instead of by arbitrary state lines. Fishermen have knowledge of where the fish are (which could be used by biologists).

Many community members, especially those involved in the fisheries, feel that there's a lot of bad science out there. One example cited by some community members was the Klamath salmon situation. In this situation, fisheries managers really don't know how many fish are coming back and need to account for other variables such as predators and river conditions. Therefore the only thing they can control is the commercial harvest end of it, so they set stringent harvest levels.

### **Perceptions of the Future**

#### Imagined future

When participants were asked to describe the fishing community in Garibaldi five years from now, it was commonly expressed that fishing will either decrease or stay the same in Garibaldi. However, it was also commonly hoped that fishing will get better and rebound.

The reasons that it will decrease or the same people will likely remain involved in it (because they already own boats that are paid for) are because of things like the high cost of fuel, the lack of infrastructure, and the unsafe bar conditions or an inability to get out on the water in winter time. "There are fewer and fewer people that are willing to cross the bar... when it is easier to hop in my pick-up truck and go up the street and hammer nails."

New people (new boat owners/captains) will probably not be involved in fishing in Garibaldi because it "is just not economically feasible to think about." The tightening of regulations in recent years has decreased the amount of money to be made and new fishermen likely have a large amount of debt. Fishermen that have been long-time fishermen and have their debt down to a controllable level and those fishermen that have diversified will probably survive. A lot of the salmon fishermen are of retirement age and

hopefully some will be replaced with other people.

Fish processing will impact what the future is like in Garibaldi. The current processors are needed to support the current amount of fishermen in Garibaldi, but a lot of product might be shipped out of the community for processing. If one processor closes in the future it will likely impact the community in that either there are fewer options for delivering one's landings. Or if it is purchased by the large processing company that is purchasing more and more processors as they hit economic hardships, this company would have more control over fishing in Garibaldi. This large processor is starting to finance boats as well (that are having economic problems) and also gaining permits, and "he who controls the permits, controls the boats."

Many voiced the perspective that it's hoped that there won't be a situation in Garibaldi where commercial fishermen become share-croppers. The monopolization of the industry could impact the future of fishing, and it's likely that there won't be small mom-and-pop processors left in the community in five years. It's also likely that the number of fish buyers will decrease in the community; however it's desired that things would remain the same or that there would be more processing facilities in the community.

Ocean zoning was also hypothesized as something that might impact the future of Garibaldi. Examples included the siting of marine reserves and wave energy parks, and it's hoped that these will not limit access to the ocean. Changing the zoning as far as whether or not it's commercial or sport is also something that might affect the future "because once it is gone you don't get it back." However, a minority opinion was that there's room for growth for the port including yachts and mini-cruisers and this could theoretically benefit the fishing

community because they would dredge to do this and there would be deeper channels, which would attract more fishermen. This increase in sport fishing could result in little commercial involvement in Garibaldi in the future.

#### Desired future

When participants were asked to describe *what they would like* the future of the fishing community of Garibaldi to look like, a common response was that they would like to see an increase in the infrastructure in the community including more fish processing facilities or better ones (including facilities that process their product in the community instead of trucking it elsewhere to be processed). They would also like to see an expansion of the port and harbor including more ice machines and a greater availability of fuel. Availability of more ice and fuel would be beneficial for both sport fishermen on the weekends and commercial fishing vessels and would probably bring more commercial fishermen to Garibaldi to deliver their landings because of the availability of ice. The availability of boat repair is also desired.

A common response was also to increase fishing back to the level before it started to crash and to improve commercial fishing and the size of the commercial fleet in Garibaldi, but to have "a well-managed version." Some said to keep fishing at either the level that it's currently at or at some sustainable level. "To keep people employed and then bring that product, that value added product that we have in this beautiful seafood and bring it back to the town of Garibaldi, set-up a network where we can fill these niche markets." This could be a good relationship between newcomers to the community (who would like to purchase fresh fish) and the commercial fishing fleet. They would like to see the fishing

community continue as it is, but be able to make a living and not have to be as concerned with whether they will have the ability to pay bills and their moorage costs. If fishing improved, it could benefit the town because of the trickle-down effect.

Some would like to see charter/recreational vessels return to the level they used to be at or close to that level. They would like to not continue to see it decline. As one person explained, “it’s kind of like gas stations on the corner. The more [charter boats] there are, the more people will come here.”

It was also mentioned that more businesses that support tourists and also commercial fishermen would be beneficial such as grocery stores, restaurants, motels, service stations, moorages for boats, boat launches, and guide businesses. This, along with having a processor that processes locally, would all create more jobs for the community. Conversely one person mentioned that “we’re one of the last real fishing villages on the Oregon Coast and I would like to keep that feeling by not overdeveloping.”