

Linda S. Thibodeau

Director

Division of Libraries, Archives,
& Museums

lam.alaska.gov

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Robert C. Banghart

Chief Curator

Alaska State Museums

395 Whittier St.

Juneau, Alaska 99801-1718

907.465.2901

Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: January 20, 2012

JIVE-HO!
ASM Presents “Sailing for Salmon,”
History of Wind-Powered Fishing in Bristol Bay

JUNEAU – Hard to imagine Bristol Bay without any motorized fishing boats, and yet, as late as the 1950s—when the government lifted its ban on them—commercial fishermen made their living harvesting the world’s largest sockeye salmon run from sailboats.

Culled from Tim Troll’s recent book documenting the early years of commercial fishing in Bristol Bay “Sailing for Salmon: The Early Years of Commercial Fishing in Alaska’s Bristol Bay, 1884-1951” the new exhibit takes visitors on a nostalgic journey to a time when “double-ender” sailboats plied the bay.

Troll, who works as program director for the Nature Conservancy as well as serving as executive director of the Nushagak-Mulchatna/Wood-Tikchik Land Trust, blends photographs with eyewitness recollections and historical documents to evoke the practice as “foolish, hateful and dangerous, romantic and beautiful.” The exhibit also delves into history of the overall Bristol Bay commercial fishing industry, from the fishermen themselves to the town of Dillingham to the 50 industrial cannery complexes that came to dominate the area’s remote shorelines and rivers. While this exhibit has shown at museums in Homer, Dillingham, and Anchorage, this iteration is augmented by artifacts from the Alaska State Museum’s own collection. The exhibit opens on First Friday, February 3, with a special reception from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. and runs through March 10, 2012. Copies of Tim Troll’s book will be available for signing during the opening.

Following the reception, there will be a presentation at 7 p.m. by John Branson about John W. Clark, one of the founders of the fishery, a 20-minute film, and a panel discussion about the history of Bristol Bay Commercial fisheries.

The opening reception will be sponsored by:

- The Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association
- The Nature Conservancy
- United Fishermen of Alaska
- The Bristol Bay Native Corporation
- The Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
- The Nushagak-Mulchatna & Wood-Tikchik Land Trust

Winter hours at the museum are 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Discounted winter admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and under are admitted free of charge. An annual pass that allows unlimited visits to the Alaska State Museum and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka is available for \$15. Assistance is available for visitors with special needs. Please contact Visitor Services at 465-2901 before the visit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

395 Whittier, Juneau, AK

Phone (907) 465-2901 Fax (907) 465-2976

www.museums.state.ak.us