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Launching through the Surf Traveling Exhibit Panel 02: Historical Highlights

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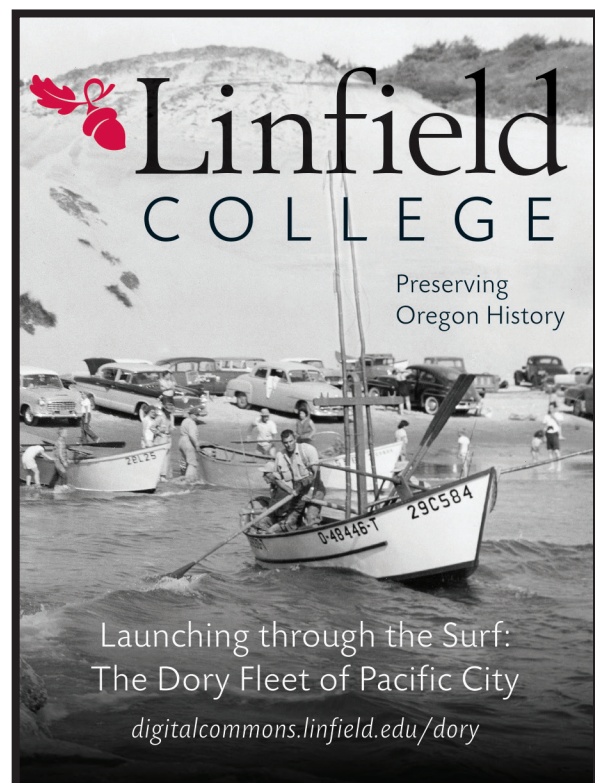


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Launching through the Surf: The Dory Fleet of Pacific City

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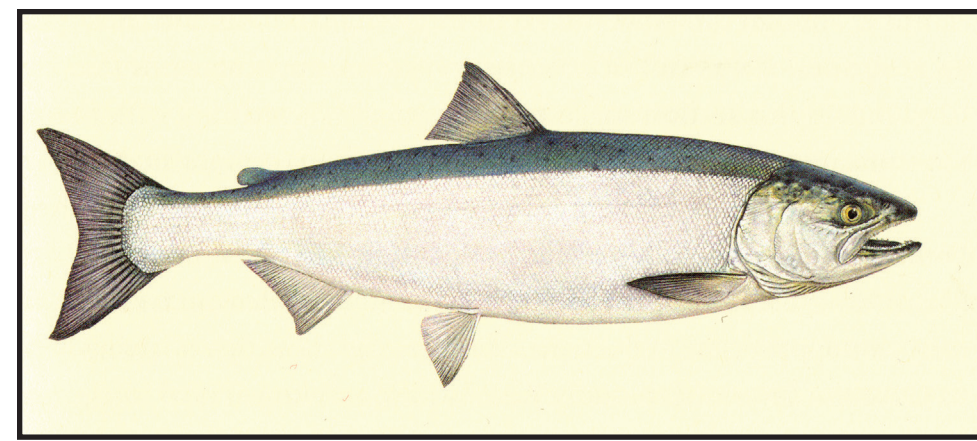


Illustration by Joseph K. Tomlinson, Oregon Science Department, Oregon State University, 2014.

Coho (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), or silver salmon as the dory fishers of Pacific City fondly refer to them, have always been the premiere fish of the fleet. Fishing fortunes have risen and fallen in sync with the fate of the silvers. Even today if one is “really” fishing, one is angling for silvers.

Historical Highlights

Referred Bill—Referendum Ordered by Petition of the People

Referred by the Nestucca Local of the Tillamook County Fishermen's Union, Tillamook, Oregon; H. W. Southmayd, president, Woods, Oregon; John T. McLaughlin, secretary, Woods, Oregon; and by Cloverdale Grange No. 355; G. D. Sanders, master, Cloverdale, Oregon; Arella Jensen, secretary, Hebo, Oregon—**NESTUCCA BAY FISH CLOSING BILL**—Purpose: To prohibit the taking or fishing for salmon or other food fish in Nestucca bay and its tributaries at any time, by any means whatsoever, except with hook and line, commonly called angling; said bay and tributaries having been heretofore open to commercial fishing below tide water during certain periods of the year.

322 Yes. I vote for the proposed law. Vote YES or NO

323 No. I vote against the proposed law.

GENERAL LAWS OF OREGON FOR 1927
CHAPTER 199
(House Bill No. 282, Thirty-fourth Legislative Assembly)

AN ACT

To amend section 100, chapter 105, General Laws of Oregon, 1921, as amended by section 3, chapter 295, General Laws of Oregon, 1925, as amended by chapter 199, General Laws of Oregon, 1925.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

Section 1. That section 100, chapter 105, General Laws of Oregon, 1921, as amended

by section 3, chapter 295, General Laws of Oregon, 1925, as amended by chapter 199, General Laws of Oregon, 1925, be and the same hereby is amended so as to read as follows:

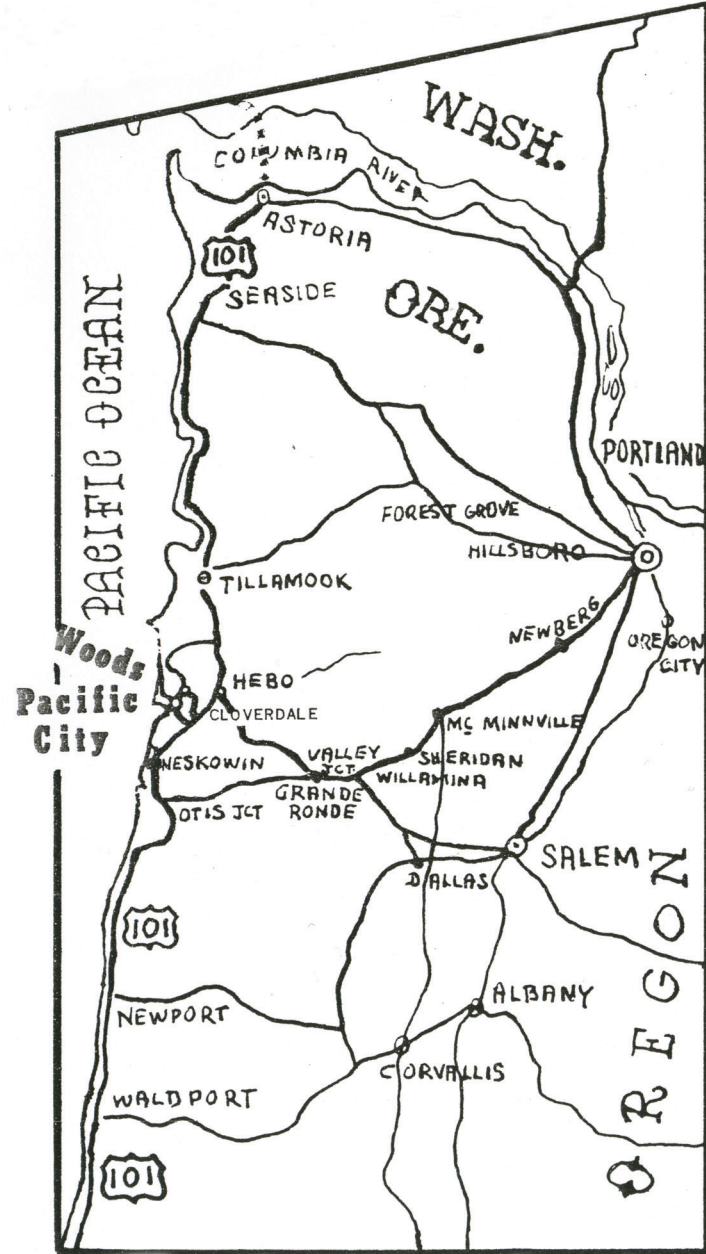
Section 100. *Nestucca Bay and Tributaries.* It shall be unlawful to take or fish for salmon or other food fish in Nestucca bay and its tributaries at any time, by any means whatsoever, except with hook and line, commonly called angling.

Approved by the governor February 24, 1927.

Filed in the office of the secretary of state February 24, 1927.

For negative argument see page 53.

Kore, Sam. Proposed Constitutional Amendments and Measures to be Submitted to the Voters of Oregon at the Special Election Tuesday, June 28, 1927. 1927. 52-53. Web.



282—By MESSRS. McPHILLIPS AND RUSSELL—To amend section 100, chapter 105, General Laws of Oregon, 1921, as amended by section 3, chapter 295, General Laws of Oregon, 1925, as amended by chapter 199, General Laws of Oregon, 1925, closing Nestucca bay and its tributaries to commercial fishing at any time.

Read first time January 27, 1927.
Read second time and referred to Committee on Game January 28, 1927.
Reported back with recommendation that it do pass and report adopted February 8, 1927.
Rereferred to Committee on Fisheries February 8, 1927.
Recalled from Committee on Fisheries and placed on final passage February 9, 1927.
Read third time and passed February 9, 1927.
Passed the Senate February 16, 1927.
Signed by the Speaker February 18, 1927.
Signed by the President February 18, 1927.
Signed by the Governor February 24, 1927.



Looking north, this image shows the Nestucca Bay on the right fed by the Nestucca River, which then flows out to the ocean. You can see the surf on the left and Haystack Rock and Cape Kiwanda in the distance.

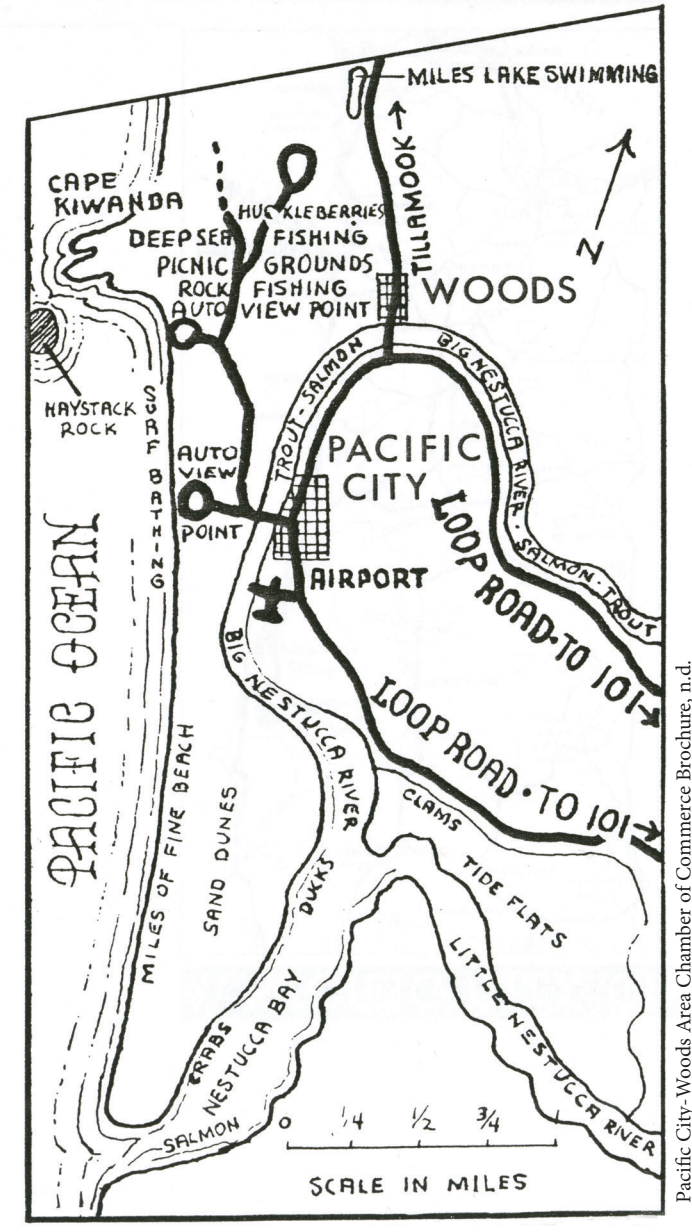


Photo by Tyrone Marshall
Pacific City-Woods Area Chamber of Commerce Brochure, n.d.

1855 - A treaty, negotiated by Joel Palmer, Superintendent of Indian Affairs in Oregon Territory, relegated Native Americans, including members of the Nestucca, Tillamook, Clatsop, and Nehalem tribes to a reservation in the Little Nestucca River Valley. The Native Americans established a fish culture focused on salmon.¹

1876 - Native Americans left the Nestucca Valley when the 1855 agreement was rescinded in order to allow Anglo-American settlers to homestead the area. As the region was populated, fishing and farming grounded the local economy and culture.²

Fishing was done primarily on the Nestucca River with gill nets. Some fishermen attempted to cross the treacherous Nestucca Bar to reach the ocean.

1881 - Joe and Mary Woods founded the village of Woods.³

1882 - A road was built from Grand Ronde to the Nestucca Valley.⁴

1884 - Thomas Malaney homesteaded 145 acres of land located inside the horseshoe that was shaped by the Nestucca River.⁵ He platted the proposed summer resort community of Ocean Park along the bank of the river directly across from Woods.⁶

1886 - The Linwebber and Brown Packing Company built a cannery on Nestucca Bay near Oretown. It operated from 1887-1889.⁷

The cannery was closed until 1899. During this time fishermen took their fish directly to the Willamette Valley (mostly Yamhill County) or sold to peddlers who did the same.⁸

1893 - The town of Ocean Park was recorded in the official abstracts.⁹

1894 - In the winter, a major flood completely covered Ocean Park. Although lots had been sold, buildings had not been constructed.

1894/1895 - After the flood, the town was moved downriver to higher ground and closer proximity to Nestucca Bay. It was called Malaney's Addition to Ocean Park. By this time Thomas Malaney had died and his sons, John and Albert Malaney owned the land. R. C. Magarell partnered with the Malaneys in the financial ventures of the town.¹⁰

As early as 1894, William Scott, George Miles, Rufus Whiteman and others began “rowing out from the surf-protected shore south of Cape Kiwanda” to avoid the Nestucca River Bar.¹¹

1899 - The cannery reopened as the Astor Packing Company and ran for three years.¹²

Early 1900s - Tensions increased between commercial fishermen (gillnetters) and recreational fishers (anglers) throughout the state.¹³

1904 - Upon discovering kelp ore, Thomas Brooten developed the famous Brooten Kelp Ore Resort, which flourished until the 1920s.¹⁴

1905 - The Elmore Packing Company purchased the cannery just before the season opened and operated it until 1919, except for the 1909 season. Chinese laborers from Astoria did most of the physical work.¹⁵

1909 - Confusion with a city in Washington named Ocean Park led to a name change for the town from Ocean Park to Pacific City. A post office was established.

1910-mid 1920s - Pacific City was “the place for tourists on the northern Oregon coast” and had “a vibrant commercial fishery.” Fishing was still done primarily in the Nestucca River.¹⁶

Circa 1915 - For two dollars per person, Walt Fisher began rowing passengers on the ocean to bottom fish.¹⁷

1917 - John and Frank Wortman of McMinnville built the first vacation home on Hill Street, known by locals as McMinnville Heights.¹⁸

1925/1926 - El Nino returned to the northern Pacific and salmon harvest in the Nestucca dropped from 605,578 pounds in 1925 to 385,863 pounds in 1926.¹⁹

Tensions between commercial fishermen (gillnetters) and recreational fishermen (anglers) mounted on the Nestucca River.²⁰

1927 [January 27] - State Representatives Arthur McPhillips and Walter Russell, both from McMinnville, introduced House Bill 282 to “outlaw all gear on the Nestucca other than hook and line, commonly called angling.”²¹

[February 24] - Governor Patterson signed HB 282, closing the Nestucca River to commercial fishing.²²

[May 27] - Measure 12 (Oregon Angling on Nestucca Bay Act) was filed by the Nestucca Local of the Tillamook County Fishermen's Union and the Cloverdale Grange No. 355 in an effort to overturn HB 282.²³

[June 28] - Measure 12 failed by 6,132 votes (53% to 47%) as Oregon citizens voted to uphold the law. The Nestucca River is still closed to commercial fishing.²⁴

1930 - The Salmon River Highway (Hwy 18) cutoff to Lincoln City provided tourists access to the central coast communities.

The new road to Lincoln City, the decrease in tourist dollars and other financial ventures caused by the Great Depression, and the closing of the river created a perfect storm that almost led to the demise of Pacific City.

A bridge was built over the Nestucca River, replacing the ferry that operated from about 1917 to 1930.

1935 - Small gas motors with a small box well appeared in the PC dories.²⁵