

Boats set ablaze to protest fishing ban

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CHARLESTON (AP) — Fishermen set fire to a 30-foot salmon boat at this coastal town Friday to protest a proposed ban on coho salmon fishing this summer.

In a similar protest Friday evening at Pacific City on the northern Oregon coast, fishermen set two small trolling boats ablaze.

"We'll probably be called the same thing as those people that dressed up as Indians to throw tea off boats in Boston harbor," said Wayne Wolf, president of the Independent Troll Fishermen of Oregon at Charleston. "How long are we going to sit back and let agencies and bureaucrats take over our business?"

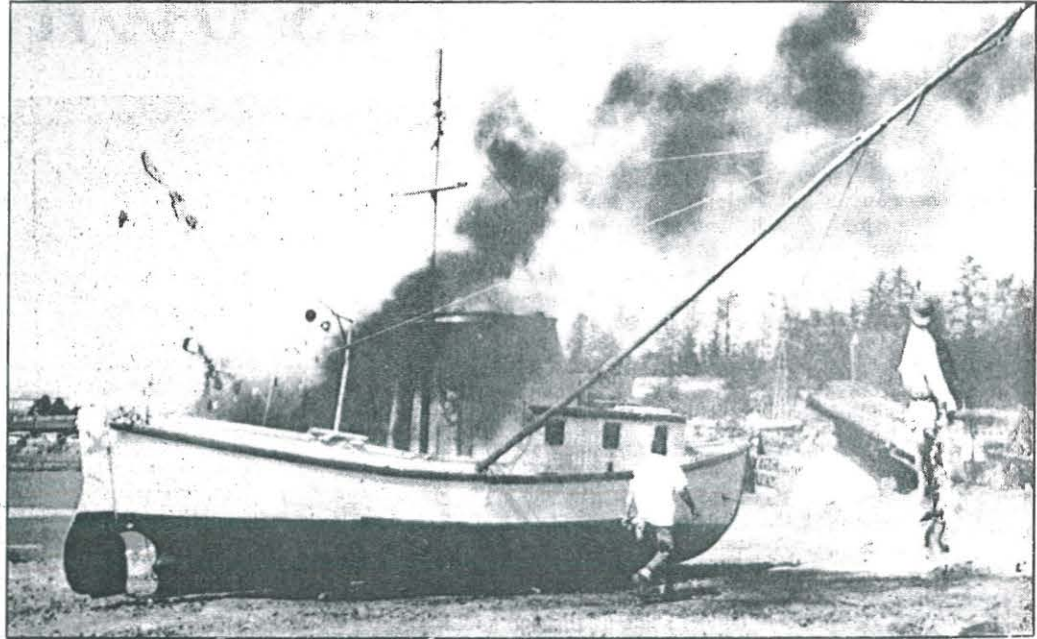
About 150 people, many of them wearing black armbands, turned out at Hansen's Landing in Charleston to watch the fishermen's cooperative protest. Fishermen set fire to a wood-hulled boat, known as a "double-ender," that had been donated by boat-yard operator Emory Hansen.

Speaking with a bull horn from the back of a pickup truck, Wolf said a proposal before the Pacific Fishery Management Council to not allow fishing for coho salmon this year would put fishermen out of business.

Suspended from booms on the boat were effigies of Gov. Vic Atiyeh and Jack Donaldson, director of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Jerry McDaniels, vice president of the 140-member fishermen's group, said the boat was worth "nothing on today's market."

McDaniels said council estimates of drastically low numbers of coho salmon are based on surveys with 35 percent margins of error.



Boat burns at Charleston as fishermen protest planned salmon fishing ban

Associated Press

"They are taking millions of dollars out of Oregon based on assumptions," MaDaniels said. He estimated sport and commercial salmon fishing contributes \$54 million to the Oregon economy annually.

McDaniels added that the coho fishing accounts for 60 percent of the fishermen's earnings.

The Rev. Malcomb Turnkington read a eulogy for the state's fishing industry as the white and red

boat, which had been stripped of its engine and equipment, was set afire.

"I had hoped for a long and useful life, but here I sit doomed," Turkington said, speaking for the vessel.

Mike Parmelee, wearing a black executioner's hood, lit a torch with a marine flare and tossed it into the boat, which had been soaked with fuel.

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