

FISHERMAN'S LIFE MUSEUM

MANDATE AND MISSION

- » To portray the rural life of an inshore fisherman and his family in the first quarter of the 20th century (stressing independence and self-sufficiency) through the medium of a typical, modest home and small farm.
- » To present the nature of the inshore fishery and the experiences of a typical inshore fisherman.

PROPOSED CONTENT

*Note: Topics are drawn from the NS Interpretive Master Plan Content Framework.

I. CONTENT TO MAINTAIN

B. EVOLVING

B.5 Response to Place

- Coastal Communities: Context of the Atlantic shore.

E. LIVING

E.1 Life at Home and Work

- Childhood Experiences: Struggles of family life in the 1920s; story of the 13 girls.

E.2 Communities

- Coastal Towns/Villages: Special nature of settlements looking to the sea; employment, business, and commerce.

II. CONTENT TO ENHANCE

C. EXPLOITING

C.2 Resource Development

- Agriculture: Subsistence farming.
- Fishing: Nature of the inshore fishery; the work and the fish.
- Forestry: The seasonality of inshore fishing required fishermen to work in the lumber camps during the off-season.

C.3 Industry

- Boat Building: The boats and their use (oars, sails).

D. RELATING

D.4 Communications

- Other Forms

E. LIVING

E.1 Life at Home and Work

- Gender Roles and Home Life: Keeping a home and farm during absence of male family members.
- People in the Workplace: Working together in the inshore fishery.
- Food on the Table: Home grown food; bartering.

E.4 Cultural Expression

- Folklore and Celebrations: Traditions, legends, and stories of the fishery.

- Clothing and Costume: Early 20th century clothing.

III. NEW CONTENT TO DEVELOP

A. FORMING

A.3 Climate

- Causes and Influences: What is normal? Changing climate of the eastern shore.
- Weather: Realities for the inshore fisherman.

A.4 Ocean Environment

- Currents and Tides: What made the inshore fishery possible?
- Continental Shelf Environments
- Coastal Intertidal Environments

B. EVOLVING

B.1 Vegetation

- Diversity of Plant Life: Land environment.

B.2 Birds, Fish, and Animals

- Bird Environments and Habitats: Fauna of the coast.
- Diversity of Birds and Fish: Inland, Coast, Sea

B.6 Agents of Change

- Rural Depopulation since 1945

C. EXPLOITING

C.6 Environmental Values

- Depletion of Natural Resources: Heyday of the fishery; realities today.

E. LIVING

E.4 Cultural Expression

- Cuisine as Cultural Expression

CONCLUSIONS

Nature of the inshore fishery merits further exploration. There is an opportunity to introduce natural history interpretation on the extensive property. Although not noted as new content to develop, the topic "Indigenous Peoples" (part of D.1 Peoples of Nova Scotia) is an important talking point that should be addressed at this site.