



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Gig Harbor BoatShop

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Gig Harbor BoatShop Acquires Restored Skansie-built Purse Seiner *Veteran*; Schedules Two Public Unveilings

GIG HARBOR, WA – **Gig Harbor BoatShop**, a maritime non-profit organization, recently acquired Skansie Shipbuilding Company-built purse seiner *Veteran* as a donation. Launched in 1926, *Veteran* is a beautifully preserved sample of one of the nearly 100 Skansie-built purse seiners, one of the most iconic and recognizable vessel designs to emerge from Gig Harbor and Puget Sound. *Veteran* was donated to the BoatShop in 2017, coming “home” after a long career spent commercially fishing Puget Sound waters.

The BoatShop will utilize *Veteran* for experiential learning and educational programming that is open to the public. Planned programming includes dockside tours and short cruises called “Sound Stories” that are narrated by seasoned Puget Sound commercial vessel captains. Future programming may include training in subject areas such as large vessel handling, boat maintenance, navigation, heritage excursions to view Puget Sound commercial seine fisheries, and more. *Veteran* will also serve as a BoatShop and Gig Harbor ambassador by visiting other Puget Sound waterfront communities. All programs are designed to celebrate, share, and teach our local and regional maritime history, and to advance the BoatShop’s mission to *perpetuate working waterfront skills, uses, and traditions at the historic Eddon Boatyard and aboard classic vessels of Puget Sound*.

In order to introduce Gig Harbor community members and visitors to *Veteran*, the public is invited to “Welcome *Veteran* Home” at two upcoming events:

On May 20 and 21, *Veteran* will participate in the annual Tides Tavern Classic Boat Show. View the boat and learn more about her history. The Boat Show is free and open to all ages. Visit <http://www.facebook.com/events/1301142370006541/> for more information about the event.

During the weekend of June 3, *Veteran* will have a dockside space at the annual Maritime Gig Festival in downtown Gig Harbor. Members of the public are invited aboard where BoatShop staff and volunteers

will lead tours and answer questions. Visit www.maritimegig.com for more information about the event.

More information about *Veteran* and other offerings at the Gig Harbor BoatShop may be found at www.gigharborboatshop.org or by contacting the BoatShop at (253) 857-9344.

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