

For Immediate Release

NEW VIDEO RELEASE: *POTS OF GOLD* A HISTORY OF THE ALASKA KING CRAB FISHERY

If you were lucky, like I was, you found your destiny, otherwise, you found your fate...there's been as much sorrow as profit come out of the Bering Sea, that's for sure...

That's how one veteran fisherman described the remarkable Alaska king crab fishery that made millionaires out of men who had no particular qualifications other than a willingness to work 'round the clock whenever they were on the crab, and to risk their lives in one of the most dangerous occupations on earth.

Pots of Gold is a half-hour documentary that chronicles the history of king crabbing beginning with the World War II era when fishing pioneers like Lowell Wakefield used trawls and tangle nets to launch the king crab industry in the Bering Sea. The program follows the fleet from Seldovia to Kodiak to Adak to Bristol Bay during the glory years when fortunes were made practically overnight and fishermen at the Unisea Inn routinely tipped the waitress with \$100 bills after ordering a \$5 hamburger. And of course, it depicts the misery that accompanied the resource collapse that killed the golden crab and nearly scuttled the North Pacific fishing industry.

Produced in conjunction with Seattle's Nordic Heritage Museum, *Pots of Gold* one of nine programs in a series of documentaries on the history of commercial fishing inspired by retired seafood industry executive Bob Thorstenson.

The program features interviews with crab industry pioneers like Alec McGlashan, the 94-year-old Scots-Aleut native of Dutch Harbor who served as second harpooner aboard a whaling ship before signing aboard Wakefield's trawler *Deep Sea* in 1948; like Cap Thomsen who turned a \$1,600 investment in processing equipment into \$4 million in the 1960s and says, *that was real money then*; like Bob Resof, the crab industry tycoon who got his start at the poker table; like Joe Kurtz, who built the first crab pots out of surplus Army bed frames; and like Lloyd Cannon, another king crab legend whose first enterprise was selling king crabs one at a time on the street corners of Kodiak.

Produced by John Sabella & Associates, Inc. of Seattle, Washington, the *Thorstenson-Sabella Series* includes the Telly-award winning *Great Age of Salmon*; *The Days of Salmon Traps & Fish Pirates*; *The Longline Pioneers*; *The Salmon Capital of the World*; *Petersburg, The Town that Fish Built*; *Sockeye and the Age of Sail*; *Centuries of Fish*, *Seattle's Dynamic Distant Water Fishing Fleet* and *Anacortes, The Perfect Port*.

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