

NEW VIDEO RELEASE: THE SALMON CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

In remote Southeast Alaska, where the salmon runs are as abundant today as at any time in history, diverse cultures and communities have always depended on the great fish for sustenance of the body and the spirit. The *Salmon Capital of the World*, a 30-minute documentary videotape, takes you to Ketchikan for a visit to the historic George Inlet Cannery and a first-hand look at how Southeast Alaska's native inhabitants, the Tlingit and Haida, and subsequent waves of immigrants from the far corners of the earth, have established lifestyles with a common bond—their reliance on salmon.

The program takes you back in time to the 1920s, when the cartels and conglomerates that dominated the salmon industry of the day loaded their windjammers with men, equipment and supplies and sailed north to wrest salmon canneries out of the Alaska wilderness. By the 1930s, canneries at remote sites like George Inlet resembled small towns that offered their inhabitants food, shelter, medical care, communications and—during the height of the summer salmon season—the burden of working almost around-the-clock to catch and process fish.

The canners supplied their operations by means of fish traps, the most efficient and controversial form of fishing gear ever devised. *The Salmon Capital of the World* features historic film of trap operations, plus interviews with both the watchmen who guarded the canners' finny assets, and the salmon pirates who brailed trap fish in the dark of night.

For the actual work of canning, the companies relied on men known as *China contractors* who assembled crews of oriental workers in Seattle or San Francisco and delivered them to the company vessel at the port of embarkation. In Alaska, the labor contractors fed and housed their charges...and provided the alcohol and opium used by some as relief from the drudgery.

From the early era to the present day, independent fishermen have braved the waters of spectacular Southeast Alaska to supply the canneries with fish, and *The Salmon Capital of the World* takes you aboard fishing vessels old and new for a first-hand glimpse of the salmon harvest.

Sponsored by the Cape Fox Corporation, *The Salmon Capital of the World* one of nine titles in a series of historical documentaries produced by John Sabella & Associates, Inc., of Seattle. Others include the Telly-award winning *Great Age of Salmon; The Days of Salmon Traps & Fish Pirates; The Longline Pioneers; Pots of Gold, The Profit and the Sorrow; 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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