

## DONOR LEVELS

Captain	\$200
Quartermaster	\$100
1st Mate	\$ 75
2nd Mate	\$ 50
Deckhand	\$ 25
Cabin Boy/Girl	\$ 1.00

Donors will receive one free museum pass for each \$25.00 donated.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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Please make checks payable to Besser Museum.

I have enclosed a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my VISA \_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_

In the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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## SAVE HISTORY SAVE THE KATHERINE V

- Preserve Fishing History
- Give Back to Your Community
- Restore a Legend
- Create a Better Future

## DONATE TODAY

The Katherine V exhibit will be part of the Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Trail. The Great Lakes fisheries reflect the story of people, fish, and fishing. The fisheries highlights our relationship to aquatic ecosystems, biodiversity, water quality, and environmental change, serving as a gauge for sustainable resources and our quality of life.

Great Lakes fisheries heritage sites throughout Michigan offer residents and visitors a unique opportunity to explore and experience hands-on the dynamic social, technological, and environmental changes shaping fishing and fisheries fishery as we know them today.

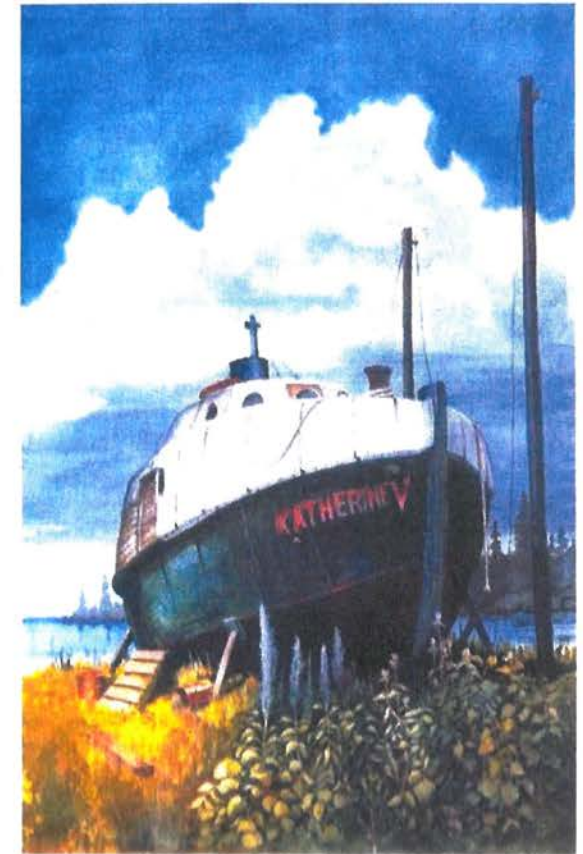


**BESSER**  
**MUSEUM**  
for Northeast Michigan  
ART • HISTORY • SCIENCE

491 Johnson Street Alpena, MI  
989.356.2202 www.bessermuseum.org  
Open: Mon-Sat 10am-5pm

## BESSER MUSEUM For Northeast Michigan

## Help Save The KATHERINE V



One of the last known wooden  
commercial fishing vessels  
*1928-1970*

Proceeds will preserve  
the rich heritage  
of Northeast Michigan fisheries

## OUR FISHERIES HERITAGE

Indigenous inhabitants employed stone fish traps in the waters of what is now Lake Huron in northeast Michigan at least 2,500 years ago. They continued to harvest fish from the lake as a major food source up until the time of the first European settlers. Only the fur trade predated fishing as a major commercial enterprise among those early settlers in this part of the country.



By 1835, before the first log drive down the Thunder Bay River, a commercial fishery was already established on

Thunder Bay Island. By 1846 thirty-one fishing boats were involved in the island's fishing activities. The island's community of 300 people was larger than that on the mainland and supported a school and a church. Some 12,000 barrels of salted fish were shipped from the island that year.



The industry continued to grow. By 1926, fishing boats had transitioned from sail to steam power and were in the process of changing to gasoline and diesel. The new propulsion systems not

only increased production, but allowed the fishery operations to move from the islands to mainland ports. Some 2.5 million pounds of great lakes fish were shipped from Alpena that year.



Alpena was, and still is, the largest commercial fishing port north of Saginaw Bay, but it was by no means the only one. Most Lake Huron ports in northeast Michigan have similar fishery settlement histories. Rogers City, the homeport for the Katherine V, continued to ship fish by railcar load into the 1950s.

Lake Huron continues to support an active fishery. By treaty and consent, tribal licensed Native Americans can fish in certain parts of the lake north of the 45th parallel, and other parts of the lake have seasons for state licensed commercial fishermen south of the 45th parallel.



Presque Isle County Historical Museum Photo  
The newly built fish tug Katherine V just prior to its launch at Rogers City on Nov. 3, 1928.

## THE KATHERINE V

During the late 1920's, two Native American brothers from Garden Island in Lake Michigan journeyed to Rogers City at the behest of Charles Vogelheim, a young Rogers City businessman, to construct a vessel to be used in the commercial fishing trade. There, on the shores of Lake Huron and using native white oak, the brothers, Henry and John Vincent, constructed, equipped and launched the Katherine V, named for Charles' wife, Katherine Vogelheim.

Fifty-three feet in length and with a net tonnage of twenty-three, the Katherine V was used by Charles and two of his sons to harvest lake trout, chubs and whitefish from Lake Huron for over forty years. Its original three-cylinder 75-90 horsepower Kahlenberg diesel engine provided the propulsion over its entire lifetime.



In 2003, descendants of Charles and Katherine donated the vessel to the Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan. The Katherine V, prototypical of the fish tugs that plied the Great lakes for much of the twentieth century, will be the centerpiece of the museum's Fisheries Heritage Exhibit.

## THE EXHIBIT

The Fisheries Heritage Exhibit will depict the artifacts, devices and dock sites of the commercial fishing industry as it began and matured along the northeast Michigan shores and waters of Lake Huron. The exhibit will highlight the early and mid parts of the twentieth century, the era of the Katherine V.

