



## Bristol Bay Double-Ender Libby McNeil & Libby #23

### Boat History

- Built in 1914, probably in Astoria, Oregon.
- Called a “double-ender” or gillnetter
- This boat fished in Bristol Bay for Libby, McNeill & Libby cannery at GRAVEYARD KOGGIUNG (*cog-ee-ong*), at the mouth of the Kvichak (*kwee-jak*) River until 1951
- Beginning in 1951, Bristol Bay gillnetters were converted to gas engines
- Libby, McNeil & Libby #23 was purchased from the cannery at Graveyard in about 1953 by John Coray, a Nondalton schoolteacher. Coray brought the boat up the Kvichak River and across Iliamna Lake, powered by a small outboard engine mounted on the stern. After being trucked over the Newhalen Portage, it was launched on Sixmile Lake.
- Later purchased by the Woodward family, the boat was used for recreation in the 1960s and 1970s. The family donated the boat to Lake Clark National Park and Preserve in 1997.
- In 2006, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve dedicated a new exhibit, featuring #23 fully restored to its original condition, as it once sailed in the historic Bristol Bay fishery.

### Boat Facts and Stats

- Weight: 3,500 –4,000 pounds
- Length: 29—30 feet
- Planking made of Port Orford cedar
- Ribs and comb made of white oak
- Keel made of oak or ironbark wood
- During the Bristol Bay sailing glory days, the boat could carry up to 3,000 red (sockeye) salmon. The fish weighed about six pounds each, for a total of 18,000 pounds per boat.
- Each boat was operated by a two-person crew.

**Maritime Exhibit Dedication  
Lake Clark National Park and Preserve  
June 10, 2006**



Lake Clark National Park and Preserve exists to protect the watershed necessary for the perpetuation of the red salmon fishery in Bristol Bay, to maintain unimpaired the scenic beauty and quality portions of the Alaska Range and the Aleutian Range and to protect habitats for and populations of fish and wildlife. Lake Clark National Park and Preserve protects and preserves natural and cultural resources while providing for traditional use, inspiration, recreation, subsistence and scientific study for the enjoyment and benefit of current and future generations.