

BODEGA BAY COMMUNITY

Safety First ! Coming Together to make Bodega Bay's Fishing Fleet Safer

Wave of Compassion Foundation (WOCF) steps up and leads the way.

Fishing is the heart of Bodega Bay, and unfortunately our fishermen are in trouble.

Salmon season, our primary catch has been closed for two years. The second largest catch Dungeness Crab, was hampered when the season opened late, well after the holidays when people gather and celebrate with the local delicacy.

Boats and their gear require constant maintenance, even when fishing season is closed. Costs are rising. Their livelihood is dangerous, wet and freezing cold yet fishermen are drawn to the sea to catch protein-rich, wild fresh fish.

Fire extinguishers need recharging & certification typically in Santa Rosa. WOCF eliminated the trip by bringing the service to Spud Point. And they paid for it.

Essential, strong, waterproof gear is survival gear. WOCF supplied "crab proof" gloves, boots, jackets, pants, hats and socks for 63 fishermen/women in our local fishing fleet.

Life rafts cost \$800 - \$2200 annually to update and pack. Lifesaving equipment like flares, emergency beacons and the equipment that automatically releases the life raft when a vessel sinks are essential.

Major funding support came from proceeds from Fisherman's Festival, the Bodega Bay Fire Foundation and generous individuals in our community. The work continues. You can contribute by going to: www.wavesofcompassionfoundation.org/donate. Using the drop down menu for fishermen.

We simply can't thank our community, Fisherman's Festival and Bodega Bay Fire Foundation enough for their donations. ■



Patty Ginochio & Carolyn Connors

