

Preserving Local Fisheries Heritage: Jonesport, ME \$15,920 (partial funding; \$28,050 requested) *In conjunction with the NOAA/NMFS Local Fisheries Knowledge (LFK) Pilot Project, develops a local heritage center in the Peabody Memorial Library, Jonesport, ME. Provides equipment to record oral history interviews, preserve photographs and documents, make cultural heritage presentations, and computer support for the above.*
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This project funded Jonesport Historical Society's (JHS) purchase of computer equipment for the newly created digital Jonesport Heritage Center (JHC), located in Jonesport's Peabody Memorial Library, Jonesport, Maine, and for use in making public presentations about Jonesport's cultural heritage. The equipment supports the JHS's continuing local fisheries heritage preservation activities. These activities complement the NOAA Fisheries' Local Fisheries Knowledge Pilot Project (see <http://www.st.nmfs.gov/lfkproject/>) at Jonesport/Beals High School, Jonesport, ME, and the more recent Voices from the Fisheries Project (see <http://voices.nmfs.noaa.gov/>) that is an outgrowth of the LFK Project.

The project has been highly successful. More than 10% of the local Jonesport community of about 1300 people have become members of the JHS, many regularly attending meetings to hear presentations on local fisheries heritage and other local heritage topics. Attendance at their monthly public historical society meetings averages 20 to 25 per meeting. They have had 22 meetings since March 2007 when the computer equipment was first installed in the new digital Jonesport Heritage Center in the library. The local elementary school program now includes class visits to the Jonesport Heritage Center by 5th through 8th grade students to learn how to use the computers to locate information on their community and local region. The JHS estimates that at least 500 people have utilized the Heritage Center resources since their installation based on written and other enquiries they have received. Because it is located in the public library they report that it has been hard to know exactly how many people have utilized the resource, so the number may be higher. The JHS leadership continues to improve the digital collections included in the databases housed on the computers. At this writing the database archives store five types of collected materials: photographs, videos, audio clips, PowerPoint slide presentations, other text. These include descriptions of the local boat building industry and the dominant fishing industry, interview videos and photographs produced by the Jonesport High School students participating in the LFK project, hundreds of historical photographs including family album photos, and a genealogy database including more than 80,000 entries among other heritage materials.

At this time they have not been able to establish a live web link because internet service to the area is too slow. When internet service speeds improve, they intend to establish a web site with live access.

~Susan Abbott-Jamieson



The last surviving building that housed a sardine packing plant in Jonesport. Once there were four sardine factories operating in the town. It's now used for storage. Photo by Susan Abbott-Jamieson.