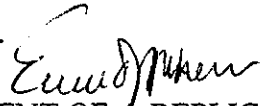


FOR INFORMATION ONLY

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
Department of Recreation and Parks

October 17, 2001

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

FROM: ELLEN OPPENHEIM, General Manager 

SUBJECT: PRESENTATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF A REPLICA OF THE FISHING INDUSTRY MEMORIAL

This report is to inform the Board that the members of the Fishing Memorial Committee have presented the Department with a miniature replica of the Fishing Industry Memorial. This gesture was made in appreciation of the Department's efforts in helping to secure a location for the Memorial, which commemorates the significant contribution of the fishing industry to the development of the Harbor area.

History

The fishing industry has played a paramount role in defining the history of the local community. It has helped influence the economy of the region and has had great impact on the people who settled in the local area. The fishing industry in San Pedro was originated by fishermen from many nations, who brought fishing techniques and knowledge from their own native lands. For many decades, from the end of the nineteenth century through the second half of the next, many persons made their livelihoods from the fishing boats and canneries which were once a predominant part of the local landscape.

In 1892, Southern California Fish Corporation was established as the first fish cannery in Los Angeles Harbor. A newer, and improved technique was introduced at the first of the twentieth century to can sardines, mackerel, and bluefin, yellowfin and albacore tuna. This, in turn, had a corresponding growth effect on canneries and other related fishing industries. A decade later, the first fresh fish market was opened in San Pedro, which helped open up the critical demand chain even further, so that local fishermen were able to supply both fresh and ice-packed fish throughout the nation.

Soon large fleets of purse seine boats from other parts of the West Coast were plying the waters near San Pedro, to take advantage of the local marine bounty and the expanded consumer market for fish. As other methods of catching and gathering fish were devised, Los Angeles Harbor became the largest fishing port, nationally. As the largest employer in the area, over 6,000 people were employed by the fishing industry in the decade following the Depression. During World War II, the industry was considered at its peak. However, in the late twentieth century, a variety of factors lead to the gradual diminishment of the local fish population, and the corresponding decline in the local fishing and fish-related industries.

In 1992, the Fishermen's Fiesta Committee conceived of a plan to erect a memorial to local fishermen to commemorate the important role they played in the history and development of their community. From this original group, a committee was formed of descendants and local fishermen to oversee this project. A bronze memorial was conceived and commissioned. The full scale memorial to local fishermen was dedicated on April 25, 1999, through the efforts of the Committee and with the assistance of Councilmember Rudy Svorinich and the Department of Recreation and Parks.

The Memorial Committee felt that it would be appropriate to recognize the contribution of the Department in the project by presenting it with a model, which was built as part of the Cultural Affairs approval process, and which was also shown to prospective donors of the donor's wall. The bronze scale model, which is enclosed in a glass case and sits on an oak pedestal, has been placed in the lobby of the Pacific Region Administration building where it was presented by the Committee.

Prepared by Linda Clifford, Management Analyst II