

BRING CROATIA TO THE USA

— PORT TOWNSEND, USA —

Maritima Educare is going to celebrate Croatian heritage at a prestigious wooden boat festival ...and you can join us!



9 - 11. 9. 2022

Port Townsend,
Washington State, USA

At the festival, you
will have the
chance to:

- promote heritage tourism
- launch a small Croatian fishing boat...a "batana"!
- market your Croatian products...wine, fish, olives
- meet the local Croatian-American community
- tell heritage sea stories
- party & have maritime fun
- experience the beautiful Pacific Northwest



DOVEDITE HRVATSKU U SAD

— PORT TOWNSEND, USA —

Maritima Educare slavi hrvatsku baštinu na prestižnom festivalu drvenih brodova ...i Vi nam se možete pridružiti!



9 - 11. 9. 2022

Port Townsend,
Washington State, USA

Na Festivalu ćete
imati priliku:

- promovirati baštinski turizam
- otisnuti mali hrvatski ribarski brod...batanu!
- predstaviti svoje hrvatske proizvode...vino, ribu, masline
- upoznati lokalnu hrvatsko-američku zajednicu
- ispričati naslijeđene morske priče
- zabaviti se na morski način
- iskusiti predivni sjeverozapadni Pacifik





Who are we and why are we doing this?

The Brač' Island nonprofit organization Maritima Educare (MEA) has been asked to represent Croatian maritime heritage at a prestigious festival in America; and has accepted the invitation!

During the summer of 2022, MEA members will partner with the Northwest Maritime Center of Washington State in developing a Croatian Fishing Village exhibition which will be the centerpiece of the Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival in September 9, 10 & 11.

Some of the best of Croatian & Croatian American maritime culture will be highlighted; the skills, the stories, the food, the music and other valued traditions....including a "batana"; a traditional Croatian fishing skiff which MEA will build in America throughout the Summer of 2022 and be launched at the Festival.

MEA believes the Festival is an opportunity worth supporting and participating in; as it will help in the promotion of sustainable heritage tourism within Croatia's island communities by introducing it to a new audience of maritime enthusiasts, cultural preservationists and travelers.

Maritima Educare is currently volunteering staff time in preparation for this event. And, it will be using some of its resources for travel and lodging costs; with a few MEA members funding their own expenses. However, additional funds are needed to support and expand efforts in representing Croatian culture and sustainable heritage tourism.

That's why we are contacting you!

You can be involved by joining us with financial support and in-person involvement. We are asking for you to contribute, and inviting you to become part of our Festival Team. If you are interested in learning more and discussing ways to participate, please contact:

Ivan Matić
ivanmatich987@gmail.com
+385 91 333 2448

Michael Vlahovich
mvlahovich1950@gmail.com
+385 996 427 986
www.maritimaeducare.org



Tko smo mi i zašto ovo radimo?

Neprofitna bračka organizacija Maritima Educare (MEA) pozvana je predstaviti hrvatsku maritimnu baštinu na prestižnom američkom festivalu – poziv koji smo prihvatili!

Tijekom ljeta 2022., članovi MEA-e će u suradnji sa Sjeverozapadnim maritimnim centrom države Washington (Northwest Maritime Center) razvijati i pripremati izložbu “Hrvatsko ribarsko selo” koja će biti središnji dio Festivala drvenih brodova u gradiću Port Townsend 9. – 11. rujna 2022.

Na festivalu ćemo predstaviti najvrijednije vještine, priče, gastronomiju, glazbu i ostalu tradiciju hrvatske i hrvatsko-američke maritimne baštine. Posebna atrakcija bit će batana, tradicionalna hrvatska ribarska brodice, koju će izgraditi članovi Maritime Educare te porinuti tijekom Festivala.

Vjerujemo da je festival izvrsna prilika vrijedna Vaše podrške i sudjelovanja, jer ćemo time doprinijeti promociji održivog kulturnog turizma hrvatskih otočnih zajednica predstavljajući ih novoj publici maritimnih entuzijasta te putnika i zaljubljenika u kulturnu baštinu.

Članovi Maritime Educare trenutno volontiraju u pripremanju za SAD, i koristit će određeni iznos vlastitih sredstava za troškove putovanja i smještaja. Unatoč tome, potrebna su nam dodatna sredstva za podršku, kako bismo hrvatsku kulturu i održivi kulturni turizam predstavili što bolje i obuhvatnije. Nadamo se da nam upravo Vi možete pomoći!

Pozivamo vas da nas podržite bilo financijski bilo osobnim angažmanom te da se pridružite našem festivalskom timu. Ako želite saznati više informacija o Festivalu te o načinima kako nas možete podržati, slobodno kontaktirajte:

Ivan Matić
ivanmatisch987@gmail.com
+385 91 333 2448

Michael Vlahovich
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+385 996 427 986
www.maritimaeducare.com

NORTHWEST MARITIME CENTER

Port Townsend, Washington



Nov 3, 2021

Celebrate Croatia like never before!

We are thrilled to announce that Croatia will be the theme country of the Wooden Boat Festival in Port Townsend, Washington State, USA Sept 9-11, 2022.

This event will connect thousands of festival visitors to the rich maritime traditions of Croatia. Visitors will celebrate that unique culture and its origins together with special Croatian guests and Croatian American families that began emigrating to the West Coast and Puget Sound region over 150 years ago. Showcasing Croatian wooden boatbuilding, traditional cultural practices and highlighting Croatia's many contributions to the fishing industry will help to define the 2022 festival offerings.

To assist in the planning and hosting of this event, the Croatian nonprofit Maritima Educare (aka: MEA/Maritime Education Association) of Sumartin, island Brac' has been selected to represent Croatia at the festival. MEA, in cooperation with the Northwest Maritime Center and other supporting organizations and individuals, will develop a small Croatian Maritime Village venue that will include:

Hands on demos & interactive activities

- Storytelling
- Presentations
- Vendors
- Wine tasting
- Olive oil tasting
- Speciality foods
- Dance performances
- Music performances

We believe this will be an event unlike any other since the Wooden Boat Festival is the premier celebration in the United States of it's kind. We are especially excited to bring our experience, leadership and track record of success to showcasing the marvels of Croatia and to the deepening kinship of our peoples.

We are looking for partners and sponsors for this epic event.

If you would like to be a part of this once in a lifetime festival celebrating Croatia in The United States, please contact:

Barb Trailer
Director
Wooden Boat Festival
barb@nwmaritime.org

Michael Vlahovich
Vice President
Maritima Educare
mvlahovich1950@gmail.com



A "batana"



The launching



Storytelling

January 5, 2022

On behalf of the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, I am writing to enthusiastically support the participation of Maritima Educare at the 2022 Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival. The Washington Trust is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving the places that matter in Washington State and the only statewide advocacy organization working to build a collective ethic that preserves historic places through education, collaboration, and stewardship. One method for fostering this ethic is cross-cultural collaboration: by sharing our respective traditions, we learn about the customs and practices of other nations which in turn engenders a greater appreciation for our own heritage. The opportunity for Maritima Educare to highlight Croatian maritime heritage at the Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival is a prime example of this type of collaboration.

First held in 1977, the Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival has grown to be the largest such event in the United States and is internationally renowned. Each year, the festival selects a different country to highlight and for 2022, Croatia will be the featured country. Maritima Educare, and its co-founder Michael Vlahovic, have been asked by the Festival Director to help coordinate efforts in Croatia and within the Croatian American community in the USA regarding the design and development of a Croatian Maritime Village at the event. I first met Mr. Vlahovic when the Washington Trust became engaged in efforts to save the Wawona, a century old fishing schooner with ties to the Pacific Northwest region. A master shipwright, his knowledge of traditional boat building impressed everyone involved. A few years later, I had the privilege of working directly with Mr. Vlahovic on a youth engagement program we host each summer. His passion for the preservation of maritime-related resources was infectious and the students involved raved about their adventure on the water with Captain Mike aboard the historic purse seiner Commencement as the highlight of the program. His dedication to the building and preservation of Croatian wooden boats and heritage, in both America and Croatia, make him the ideal candidate to help guide this project.

Recently, the United States Congress designated Washington's saltwater shoreline as the Maritime Washington National Heritage Areas. The National Heritage Area program is a program of our National Park Service, but it is managed by a local coordinating entity. The Washington Trust is privileged to serve as the coordinating entity for the new Maritime WA NHA. One of our goals in operating the NHA is to create a network of maritime-related organizations and entities throughout Washington's Puget Sound region. Traditional boatbuilding is a theme we plan to highlight throughout the NHA. Washington has several coastal communities with strong Croatian ties – these stories and family names are very much alive within our maritime culture, and we envision the proposed Croatian Village at the Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival serving as an opportunity to strengthen these ties. The Maritime WA NHA is excited to support the efforts of Maritima Educare and I urge you to consider investing in this opportunity in any way possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chris Moore
Executive Director



A "batana"



Crowd at the festival



Ships caulking demonstration

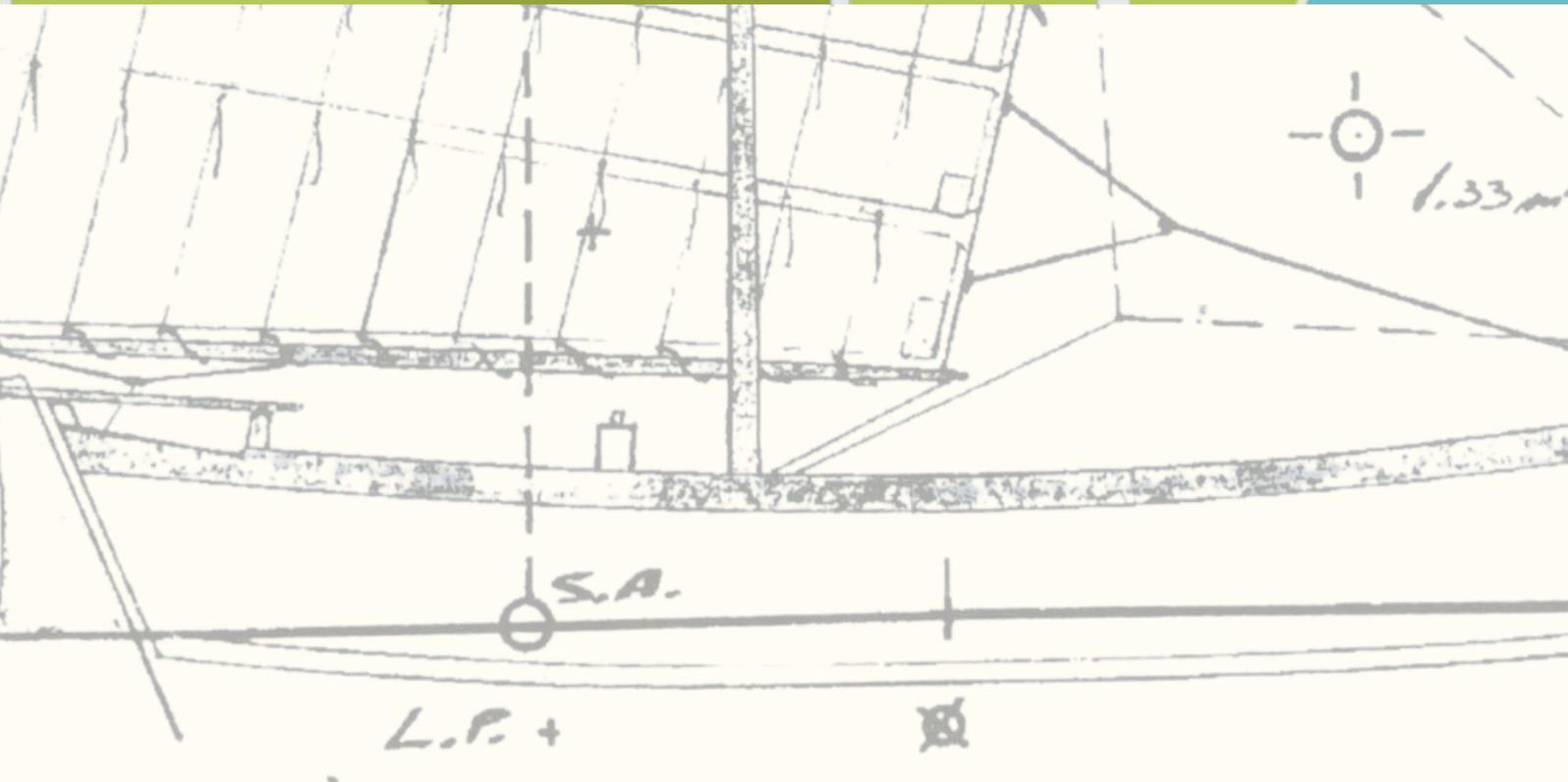
THE MAP OF THE FESTIVAL

EXHIBITORS

- THE POINT**
Chesapeake Light Craft
Fiberglass Supply
PropElic Electric Boat Motors Inc
System Three Resins
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
West System
Wolf Publishing
- ARTIST ROW**
Bobbie's Boat Sauce
Crispin's Import Gallery
Ivory Jacks
- COMMONS**
Bar tender Boats
Small Craft Advisor
KPZ
- FESTIVAL HQ**
Festival Merchandise
Jefferson County Marine Resources
WSU Extension
SEA Marine
Northwest Water Wellness
Medical
Vendors Are We
- TRADES**
Gilman Thermographic Solutions
Beyond the Negative
H2Oat
Port Townsend Boat Co.
Port Townsend Marine Trades
- CULTURE CORNER**
Harbor History Museum
Historic Whiskey
Maritime WA National Heritage Area
The Artful Sailor
- ARMORY**
Best Coast Canvas
Puget Soundkeeper Alliance
- WOODEN BOAT WAY**
WoodenBoat Publications
Benefit Optics
3D Wood Maps
Shipwrights Co-op
Author Tent
48" North
- MAIN GATE**
Northwest School Wooden Boatbuilding
Get the Edge Cutlery
- WOODWORKING**
Port Townsend School of Woodworking
Renova
Suzuki Tools
Woodcraft

STAGES

- 1 ADVENTURE STAGE
- 2 EXPLORER STAGE
- 3 DISCOVERY STAGE
- 4 BOAT BUILDING STAGE
- 5 WOODWORKING STAGE
- 6 BOAT YARD STAGE
- 7 SAIL LOFT





Greetings! This letter is provided in support of the Croatian NGO Maritima Educare (Maritime Education Association, MEA) of Sumartin island Brac'. Maritima Educare has been invited to represent Croatian maritime heritage at a prestigious Maritime Festival in the USA; taking place in September, 2022. Croatia will be the featured country at the Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival for this 3-day exciting event. For over 40 years, this Festival has been a popular attraction in Washington State and throughout the entire Pacific Northwest. It attracts more than 30,000 visitors annually. And the USA would be honored to have Croatia participate fully. We hope that you will consider supporting this opportunity.

Maritima Educare, its co-founder Michael Vlahovich, have been asked by the Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival Director to help coordinate festival efforts in Croatia and within the Croatian American community. Consequently, MEA and Mr. Vlahovich are working on the design and development of a Croatian Fishing Village venue at the event. From my experiences in Washington State and internationally, both at the Port of Tacoma and Sister Cities International, I have worked with Michael Vlahovich on maritime preservation projects and public events. We have known one another for over 30 years. His dedication to the building and restoration of Croatian wooden boats and to the preservation of Croatian maritime heritage, in both America and Croatia, make him an ideal person to help guide this project.

I urge you to consider supporting the efforts of Maritima Educare (MEA) and Mr. Vlahovich. You can help through promotion, in-kind services, funding and more. Sister Cities International believes taking the Croatian maritime story to this festival in the USA is a unique opportunity that Croatia will find worthwhile. Your involvement is needed and would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you very much for your attention to this important event!

Sincerely,
Clare Petrich
Owner, Petrich Marine Dock
President, Tacoma Sister Cities



It is my pleasure on behalf of The Gig Harbor North Rotary Club Foundation to provide you this letter in support of the Croatian NGO Maritima Educare (Maritime Education Association, MEA) of Sumartin, island Brac' regarding its participation in representing Croatian maritime heritage at a prestigious festival in the USA.

Each year the Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival selects a country to highlight, and in 2022 Croatia will be the country featured during this exciting 3-day event in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. The Festival has been a popular attraction in Washington State for over 40 years and draws more than 30,000 visitors; all of which are maritime enthusiasts. Many Croatian Americans will be involved in the festival, and all USA residents would be honored to have Croatia fully participate in this heritage event through your support.

Maritima Educare, and its co-founder and Vice President Michael Vlahovich, have been invited by the Northwest Maritime Center and its Festival Director to help coordinate efforts in Croatia and within the Croatian American community in the USA regarding the design and development of a Croatian Fishing Village venue at the event. I have known Mr. Vlahovich for a few years and have worked closely with him on the development of a Sister City relationship between Gig Harbor, which is proud of its active Croatian fishing community, and cities on the island of Brac' from where several of Gig Harbor's founders emigrated. Vlahovich's dedication to the building and preservation of Croatian wooden boats and heritage, in both America and Croatia, make him an ideal candidate to help guide this project on behalf of Croatia; but, he needs your help.

I urge you to consider supporting the efforts of Maritima Educare and Mr. Vlahovich through promotion, in-kind services, funding and more. The Rotary Club of Gig Harbor believes that taking the Croatian maritime story to the USA is a unique opportunity that is worthwhile for you to become involved in. Your presence at this Festival would be absolutely fantastic!

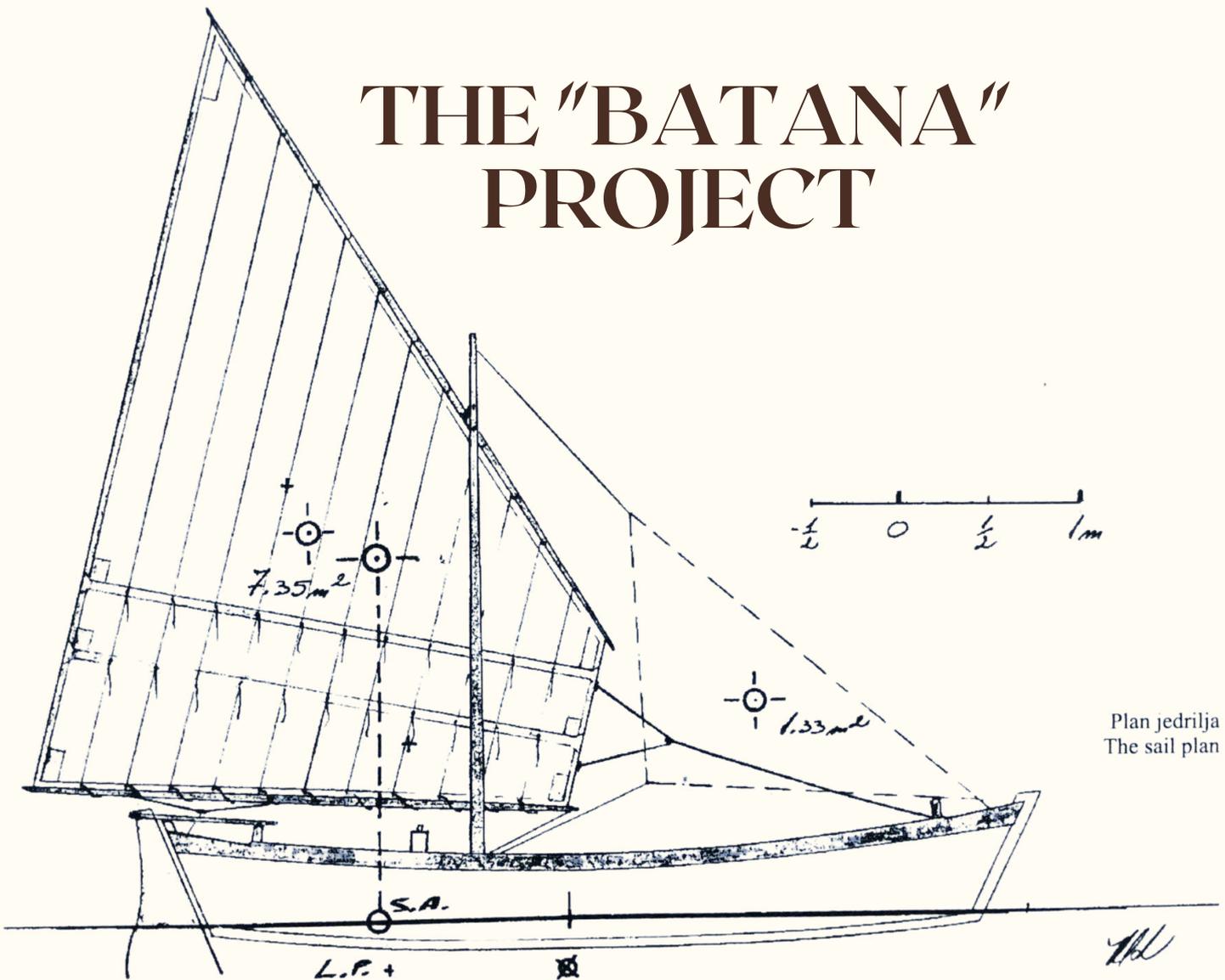
Thank you very much for your attention to this important event!

Sincerely,

Robert T Anderson

Robert Anderson
Chairperson Rotary Club of Gig Harbor North Foundation

THE "BATANA" PROJECT



Plan jedrilja
The sail plan

In a spirit of friendship and shared Croatian maritime roots, MEA will partner with the maritime non-profit Gig Harbor Boatshop in the construction of a historic replica of a Croatian fishing skiff known as a "batana".

This community-based international boat building project between Sumartin, island Brač, Croatia and the Croatian-American fishing community, Gig Harbor, USA, will demonstrate the merits of future cultural heritage exchanges.

With a focus on youth maritime education and community involvement, the "batana project" will become central to the "Croatian Fishing Village" venue at the Wooden Boat Festival. In addition, it will add momentum to the ongoing Sumartin-Gig Harbor Sister City initiative.

U duhu prijateljstva i zajedničkih hrvatskih korijena MEA i Gig Harbour Boatshop, neprofitna američka maritimna organizacija, udružiti će se te izgraditi povijesnu repliku hrvatske ribarske brodice poznate kao batana.

Ovaj međunarodni projekt izgradnje, temeljen na suradnji dviju lokalnih zajednica: Sumartina na otoku Braču u Hrvatskoj te hrvatsko-američke ribarske zajednice u Gig Harboru u SAD-u, predstavlja prednosti i potencijale buduće razmjene kulturne baštine.

S naglaskom na maritimnom obrazovanju mladih i uključivanju zajednice, "Projekt batana" bit će središnja točka "Hrvatskog ribarskog sela" na Festivalu drvenih brodova. Povrh toga, zajednička izgradnja drvene brodice zamišljena je i kao poticaj inicijativi bratimljenja općine Sumartin i grada Gig Harbour.