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*Launching through the Surf* Traveling Exhibit Panel 13: Blessing of the Fleet

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Launching through the Surf: The Dory Fleet of Pacific City

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Memorial Wall Ceremony

Like most fishing communities, Pacific City dory fishers, families, friends, and other residents gather annually to honor the fleet, including fishers both past and present. They also ask for bountiful fishing and protection for those who venture forth on the ocean. Although a blessing has been incorporated into other events throughout the years, the PC Blessing of the Fleet in its current format began in 1999. Weather permitting, the blessing concludes with the fishers launching towards Haystack Rock where they form a circle with their dories and place flowers in the water in memory of those who have passed away. In inclement weather the flowers are scattered in the surf.

The annual Memorial Wall Ceremony takes place during Dory Days. Begun in 2009 with the dedication of the memorial, the ceremony honors the dories of the fleet while also incorporating a focus on individuals whose names have been selected for inclusion on the wall. These men and women made major contributions to the fleet and the community. Nominations are reviewed by the Pacific City Dorymen’s Association Board of Directors and elected by the membership. During the ceremony family members and friends recount stories and details about the honored men.

Blessing of the Fleet
Memorial Wall Ceremony