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Skiffs used in early days were "double-ended", with sharp bow and slightly squared-off stern. Nets pulled over stern by hand. Had a lean-to in the bows, usually a mattress and primus stove. Stayed out for 5 days at a time. Skiffs were used exclusively for gill netting. Mostly built of cedar.

Single cylinder gas engine boats came in around 1910/11. Easthope and Vivian engines. Vivian was foreman for Easthope's at one time.

Seining was done with larger boats, up to 50 feet, dating from 1918.

"Moonlighting" common throughout Fraser River's history. Full-time fishermen find it hard to make a living from Fraser River, have to go further afield.

Interior design of boats now quite elaborate, and hulls are now mostly being made in aluminum and fibreglass. Steel popular for a time but maintenance costs too high. Maintenance of wood boats now expensive.

Change to diesels - seiner in mid-20's - gill netters not until 40's - many gill netters still gas powered but with high speed engines. First high speed engines were from Star Motor Car. Chrysler started producing boat engines in late 30's.

Methods of hauling net - gill netter had a vertical nigger-head, around which the net was wrapped, and piled by hand. In

1936 drums were introduced and caught on very quickly - the piling of nets is done by power.

Seine boats had power-driven rollers at first - used as an "assist", still much work involved. In 1954, a "power block" was introduced - this hauls, and net is then piled by hand. Now all Seine boats have gone over to drums - have progressed through mechanical drive, to chain drive, now all hydraulic. Today's prices - drum for seine boat could cost \$20,000. 34 foot aluminum boat costs \$18,000 to build.

Nowadays Steveston fishing fleets go further afield, largely to west coast of Vancouver Island. Many stay away all season.

Some of the larger vessels (50' to 60') built around 1910 are still in use. Sometimes a boat may be half rebuilt one year, other half next year. Cheaper than buying new boat.

Boatbuilders have individual designs - can tell what yard a boat has come from. Naval architects sometimes used, but mostly boatbuilders design own boats.

Some university graduates among fishermen these days.

A. Moir