

Mid-November 2024

Fisherpoet Friends,

Still celebrating commercial fishing and its community through story, poetry and song, the 2025 FisherPoets Gathering starts Friday, February 21 and wraps up about noon Sunday, February 23. We hope you'll join us again or for the first time.

Get to town Thursday February 20, if you can, for our traditional no-host pre-function dinner and open-mic that evening.

New voices and reluctant ones are especially welcome. Just send us a brief commercial fishing bio and a sample of your stuff. Anyone who's ever earned a share on a commercial fishing boat, a wage in a boatyard or a salary in a fish plant can join us.

Everyone should remember our working roots. If you've been strictly a prose writer, in the best spirit of the Gathering, have a go at a poem anyway. You'll never find a more empathetic audience and we don't want to change our name.

If you've an idea for a Friday or Saturday workshop you'd like to present or see presented, let us know. We'll consider that, too.

Bring your chapbooks, cards, artwork, CDs and so forth. You can sell these, thanks to our volunteers, at no cost as always, at our FisherPoets Gathering Gearshack.

After we pay our bills, we'll divvy up the gate as always and send participants a modest travel stipend, graduated in consideration of those who travel farthest.

The 2025 FisherPoets Gathering arrives early in a short month. Planning a happy evening reading schedule is always a challenge, made easier the sooner we know who's coming. Can you help give us an idea? Amanda has included a quick survey here.

We'll keep a running official list of confirmed participants at our FisherPoets Gathering website www.fisherpoets.org. Check to see your name is there if you're coming. If you are and it's not, to avoid our terrific embarrassment at leaving you off the schedule, we need to know. Thanks.

We've lost Clem Starck and Jeff Stonehill this year, and perhaps others we'll be sad to learn of later so it will be sweet to see you, veterans, occasionals and greenhorns all, in Astoria next February. Best wishes to you and yours until then.

For the FPG planning committee,

Jon Broderick