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Overview of the Valorization, Protection and Preservation of Elements of Traditional Fishing in the Adriatic Sea

The paper provides an overview of the current activities on the valorization and protection of elements of traditional fishing in the Adriatic Sea with general recommendations on its further preservation. All three categories of cultural heritage are included: immovable and movable cultural property, and intangible cultural heritage. The objective of the paper is to contribute to a holistic approach to the protection of cultural heritage and to encourage reflection on future projects with the aim of appropriate presentation, further research and (re)valuation of traditional fishing in the Adriatic Sea.

Keywords: fishing, fishing structures, fishing tools, cultural property

INTRODUCTION

The life of people in Dalmatia and the wider area is strongly defined by the Adriatic Sea, which borders its shores in a length of 6,278 kilometers (Vokić Žužul and Filipović 2015: 16) including the coastline with 1,244 islands, islets, rocks and ridges (Faričić et al. 2010: 145), and in a peculiar way it is determined by fishing, navigation, boat building and customs and beliefs characteristic of that maritime area. For centuries, the sea played a dominant role in life on the coast, creating a strong connection, moreover, man's love for the sea. Existence often depended on the catch, the weather conditions, or the circumstances at sea. The acquired skills of millennial coexistence were crucial for survival and form an indispensable part of identity and culture (Županović 1995), in some places already faded. The life by the sea has remained woven into the substance of coastal settlements and buildings, everyday objects and religious objects as well as in everyday life and tradition, in some places very well preserved. However, with the change in the way of life due to modernization, especially intensified since the middle of the second half of the 20th century, we are witnessing the gradual disappearance of the above elements.

Ethnographic traditional objects are exposed to the most intense changes, sometimes even disappearing, due to the nature of their material, and even more fishing skills and knowledge, such as the making of traditional vessels and fishing tools. Consequently, given the direct mutual connection between tangible and intangible cultural heritage, the aforementioned changes affected the intangible aspects of fishing.

The topic of this paper was conceptually inspired by the initiative of the French association *Territoires imaginaires* (Territoires imaginaires [s.a.]),¹ that promotes fishing structures to save them from oblivion. The aforementioned initiative was the impetus for initial analyzes of protected fishing structures that are part of fishing tools or structures intended for cleaning boats in the territory of the Republic of Croatia. This also resulted in considering other material elements that are the core of fishing, such as fishing vessels, tools, fishing structures, ports, heritage landscapes, as well as intangible elements such as traditional fishing, vessel crafting, and customs and beliefs that reflect the fishing lifestyle.

An inspection of the Register of Cultural Property of the Republic of Croatia² showed the segmentation of protected elements of traditional fishing. For this reason, only within the framework of legally protected elements, it is not possible to fully perceive the richness of traditional fishing in Croatia. The topic of fishing and related traditional knowledge and skills has been dealt with by many authors, and some have also provided a more general insight (Lorini 1903, Basioli 1984, Županović 1995, Finka 1997, Vuković 2014). Without going into a comprehensive historical and ethnographic review of fishery and its complex issues in Croatia, this paper will emphasize the level of recognition of the importance of material and non-material aspects of fishery in the Adriatic Sea, as well as the level of their preservation and legal protection based on the Act on the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Property of the Republic of Croatia (1999). The intention is to encourage new efforts towards systematic valorization, which, we believe, would be followed by new ways of protection as well as a change in the paradigm of long-term preservation and the establishment of a unique place of presentation, considering the importance of fishing and everything related to it as an indispensable part of the cultural identity of Croats and national minorities living on the Adriatic Coast.

FISHING SKILLS IN THE ADRIATIC SEA IN THE PAST AND TODAY

The complexity of fishing includes a number of different activities, means and techniques used to catch sea fish, molluscs, crabs, marine mammals and to collect sea plants, as well as numerous ways of exploiting the catch and its processing for food and industrial purposes (“Ribarstvo, morsko” 2021). In the Croatian part of the Adriatic Coast, fishing has been present since pre-historic times and, along with other activities, contributed significantly to the existence of the local population, as it still does today. The first mention of fishing in Croatia dates back to the year 995, when the nobility of Zadar gave the Benedictine monastery of St. Krševan several fishing spots (“Ribarstvo, morsko” 2021). In the following centuries, fishing in this area, depending on geopolitical events, had its ups and downs, but it left an indelible mark on the identity

1 More about the association *Territoires imaginaires* which promotes fishing structures at the European level through various activities at: <https://territoires-imaginaires.fr/>.

2 The Register of Cultural Property of the Republic of Croatia is available to the public on the website of the Ministry of Culture and Media: <https://registar.kulturnadobra.hr/#/>.

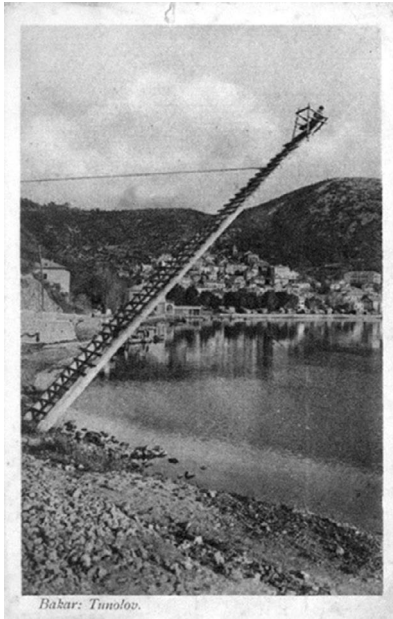


Figure 1. Tuna fishing in Bakar; postcard photo by Josip Čaklović, Zagreb; Naklada M. See Mifka, Bakar; inv. no. 2.3.5, Photo Library of the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia

Figure 2. Panorama of the town and bay; postcard from 1937, received in the Institute in 1948; inv. no. 2.3.8, Photo Library of the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia



of the people of that region, as well as on the identity of the Croatian people as a whole, which is also symbolically supported by the depiction of albacore on Croatian 2 kuna coin prior to the introduction of the euro, given that albacore is the most important fish for the Croatian economy (Figure 1 and 2) today as well as in the past (“2 kune” 2015). The fact that the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries in Split was founded in 1930 as the first national scientific research institution dealing with the sea and fisheries in a multidisciplinary manner (“O institutu” [s.a.]) speaks of the importance of this branch of the economy.

In addition to classic fishing techniques, it is also necessary to emphasize the less common techniques of picking or collecting corals and sponges or shellfish farming, which, due to their specific requirements, have remained isolated only in certain areas. For example, the island of Zlarin is known for coral farming (Kružić and Teskeredžić 2002), while sponge farming, which appeared in this area in the 17th century, the inhabitants of the island of Krapanj try to preserve even today (Pećarević and Bratoš Cetinić 2005). The shellfish farming in the Bays of Ston and Lim is still being nurtured, although endangered due to tourism and other factors (Sudarević 1993).

The reason for the disappearance of certain fishing traditions is primarily the change in the way of life of the local population, especially in the second half of the 20th century due to new socioeconomic circumstances (cf. Božanić 2014). At the beginning of the 20th century, this was preceded by the motorization of vessels, and later by technological modernization in terms of the use of new, more resistant materials, primarily plastic, in addition to traditional wood. The aforementioned changes had an impact on the previously rich Croatian boat building tradition and, consequently, on the decline of some centuries-old centers of traditional boat building (cf. Božanić 2014). This trend can be followed continuously until our days when we witness new trends in fishing as well as a new regulatory framework after Croatia became a member of the EU. In order to reduce the fishing fleet to prevent overfishing in the countries of the European

Union, which has already reached 80% of the fish stock, the Operational Program for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Croatia 2014 – 2020 (“Operational Program” 2014) provided funds for compensation to owners of fishing vessels for the permanent suspension of fishing activities. The program foresees a permanent suspension by destroying and scrapping of vessels or by its repurposing for another activity outside commercial sea fishing and suspension with the aim of preserving maritime heritage (“Operational Program” 2014) with significant financial support.³ For some owners of wooden vessels, being rooted in tradition, the activity of destruction was not acceptable and they tried to find some other purpose, often as part of tourism activities.

Controversy caused by the mentioned overfishing in the EU and the need to recognize local population who have been fishing in the Adriatic Sea and other seas in the European Union for centuries have opened the possibility of protecting traditional fishing in Europe and Croatia. The entry of *Traditional Fishing Skills, Customs and Beliefs on the Adriatic Coast* (Z-6869) as an intangible cultural asset in the Register of Cultural Property of the Republic of Croatia in 2016 fulfilled the prerequisite for convincing the European Parliament to recognize traditional forms of fishing along with its modern economic aspect (“Mali obalni ribolov” 2016). This resulted in the recognition of traditional fishing and fishing tools in the legislation of the European Union (“Report on Fisheries” 2021) and in the national Marine Fisheries Act (2017).

Despite the mentioned unfavorable trends and especially radical changes in the way of life by the sea, key elements and phenomena are still preserved, which are jointly recognized by the professional community and society, and which are largely reflected in the traditional fishing on the Adriatic Sea. This paper will present them as an incentive for additional research, promotion, as well as raising awareness of the importance of all individual forms such as fishing structures, vessels, collections of fishing tools, fishing skills and knowledge, the resources it requires, as well as for the purpose of understanding its comprehensiveness. The topic of traditional fishing must also be considered in the context of the development of new technologies and the opportunities they provide us, especially the promotion and transfer of knowledge via social networks.

PRESERVED ELEMENTS OF THE RICH TRADITION OF FISHING SKILLS ON THE ADRIATIC COAST

THE ART OF TRADITIONAL BOAT BUILDING AND BUILDING STRUCTURES FOR STORING VESSELS - INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE REGISTERED IN THE REGISTER OF CULTURAL PROPERTY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

A total of six assets of intangible maritime cultural heritage have been registered in the Register of Cultural Property of the Republic of Croatia until 2022. In addition to the above-mentioned comprehensive protection of the totality of fishing skills, customs and beliefs on the Adriatic Coast (Z-6869), three intangible cultural assets are registered as the art of building traditional vessels (Z-3626, Z-6554 and Z-6955), one includes the art of building and the art of sailing with traditional boats (Z-7587), then the art of sailing with lateen sail and lugsail along the Croatian coast (Z-7630) and one cultural asset related to the knowledge and skills of building boat cranes (Z-7544) are protected.

3 The support amounted to EUR 11.6 million, of which EUR 4.7 million was intended for scrapping (“Operational Program” 2014).



Figure 3. Traditional fishing, photo: Archives of the Directorate for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia

Given that fishing is one of the most important economic branches in the Croatian part of the Adriatic Coast, with a deep-rooted history and living traditions, knowledge and skills, techniques, customs, as well as beliefs in the community, these elements were recognized by the professional community and entered in the Register as one intangible cultural asset⁴ (Figure 3). The aim of this protection is to preserve the described knowledge and skills in order to stop the trend of partial or complete oblivion in certain micro-environments and to preserve the necessary material elements. The registration prescribes protection measures aimed at the accessibility of the tradition to the general public, primarily at educational and promotional activities, and the continuation of research and documentation of key knowledge and skills.

1. Traditional fishing skills, customs and beliefs on the Adriatic Coast

“Croatia’s coastline and numerous islands stand out for its unique fishing tradition. For example, the oldest written confirmation of fishing with nets dates to the end of the 10th century. Fishing, which uses various tools, implies knowledge of techniques of their crafting, use and various sailing skills based on knowledge of the geomorphological, oceanographic and meteorological characteristics of specific water areas. The bearers of traditional values related to fishing on the Adriatic Sea preserve many components of intangible cultural heritage, and it is necessary to enable the intergenerational transmission of these knowledge and skills. Therefore, it is justified to consider traditional fishing, which includes old knowledge and skills related to fishing with

4 CLASS: 612-08/16-06/0215, REG.NO.:532-04-01-03-02/3-16-1 from December 16. 2016, under number Z-6869, Archives of the Ministry of Culture and Media.

traditional tools, customs, beliefs, language, diet, and more, as an intangible cultural asset, and to raise awareness of its importance, as well as to encourage additional scientific research and conservation projects.⁴⁵

It is worth mentioning the inextricable connection between protected fishing and knowledge and skills with another protected intangible cultural asset, *the Mediterranean diet on the Adriatic Coast, islands and part of the hinterland*, conditioned by ecological, climatic, historical and cultural factors, which was also included in the UNESCO's Representative list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity ("Mediterranean diet" [s.a.]). It represents the integration of the sea and the activities related to it in the life of the people of the islands and coastal areas, which is manifested in the consumption of fresh seafood and indirectly in the recognizable gastronomy and way of life in the wider Mediterranean region and thus on the Adriatic Coast. Several products of the Mediterranean diet related to the sea, the coast and the hinterland are protected individually (see the Register of Cultural Property of the Republic of Croatia) and by special labels issued by the Ministry of Agriculture⁶.

We highlight three excellent examples that combine the natural, technical and human prerequisites embedded in the intangible cultural heritage of crafting vessels at their sources: Rovinj, where the art of crafting the boat *batana* has been preserved, Betina on the island of Murter, whose port and nearby museum promotes the art of crafting of the boat *gajeta*, and Komiža, where the art of crafting the boat *gajeta falkuša* has been preserved along with a number of customs. Three different and distant localities, three different approaches, three current focal points of preserving the traditional craft of building vessels preserved on the foundations of some of the five main and recognizable traditions of Croatian boat building⁷ are imperative for a discussion on this topic.

It should always be kept in mind that boat building implies other related professions such as sail builders, blacksmiths, rope makers, *kalafats* (boat builders) - almost extinct crafts of old craftsmen, so protecting the art of crafting traditional boats directly promotes their preservation and development.

2. The art of crafting a boat *rovinjska batana*, Rovinj, Z-3626

"The art of crafting a boat *rovinjska batana* reflects the continuity of the local intangible and material maritime and fishing heritage. *Rovinjska batana* is the most common traditional boat in Rovinj. It has been built for years without a design or blueprint; a true craftsmen know how to draw the basic lines without a blueprint. The basic proportions and method of crafting have been passed down from fathers to sons, and from craftsmen to apprentices. *Rovinjska batana*, along with *rovinjski batel*, Venetian gondola, *neretvanska trupa*, *komiška sandula* and other boats, belongs to the numerous family of flat-bottomed boats."⁸

5 Ibid.

6 The list of protected products is available on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture ("ZOI/ZOZP/ZTS" [s.a.]).

7 More about the main centers of traditional boat building in: Hrvatski pomorski registri 18. stoljeća: novo-objavljeni izvori o svakodnevi na Jadranu – vrste brodova kao jedna od mogućih analiza (*Croatian maritime registers of the 18th century: newly published sources about everyday life on the Adriatic Coast - types of ships as one of the possible analyses*), Zrinka Čizmek, Naše more / Mare nostrum (1069. - 2019.), 2022.

8 <https://registar.kulturnadobra.hr/#/details/Z-3626>.



Figure 4. Cranes for boats, photo: Robert Bilić, Archive of the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia, Conservation Department in Pula

3. The art of crafting a boat *betinska gajeta*, Z-6554

„The art of crafting a boat *betinska gajeta* is a special tradition of Betina on the island of Murter. *Betinska gajeta* is a wooden boat with a length varying between 5-8 meters and a width of 2-2.60 m. *Gajeta* is propelled by the sail. The historical continuity of this art can be precisely dated to 1745, when the boat builder from Korčula Paško Filipi moved to Betina and founded a shipyard with his sons. The art of crafting a boat *betinska gajeta* has remained relatively unchanged from the middle of the 18th century until today. Some of the typical, recognizable characteristics of the boat are oar grips (*soha*) with a characteristic “U” shape. Another recognizable detail is the “step” on the bow, an element that made it easier for people to get on board. The primary purpose of this ship was the transport of various types of cargo (food, agricultural products, animals, materials for building houses, etc.), as well as the fishing. *Gajeta* was also a family boat, all family members, including women and children, had to know how to steer it. For this reason, it had to be a combination of several boats in one, and such a combination could only be created by local craftsmen. This type of boat building greatly influenced the urban development and appearance of the island of Murter since many docks, warehouses and shipyards for *gajeta* boats were built, so a huge number of small stone piers have been preserved to this day. Together with the development of boat building, in Betina was developed a specific ship building nomenclature, as well as traditional customs and dances (“Kolo od kanate”). Indirectly connected with this art is the celebration of “Our Lady of Tarca”, when the local population in a kind of festive procession sails to the small church of Our Lady of Tarca on Kornati.“⁹

9 <https://registar.kulturnadobra.hr/#/details/Z-6554>.

4. Experience of *gajeta falkuša* - folk values related to *gajeta falkuša* from Komiža (art of crafting, navigation, sailing, fishing, language), Komiža, Z-6955

„*Falkuša* – *gajeta* with side strakes called *falke*, *ofalkono gajeta* is a boat for offshore fishing invented by fishermen from Komiža that intrigues with its design solution - the union of two boats in one form. It is inextricably linked to the centuries-old way of life and economic activity of the people of Komiža forming part of their identity. *Falkuša* is an exceptional contribution to Croatian maritime culture that connects Komiža with other maritime traditions, especially those of Mediterranean countries.“¹⁰

Preservation of the maritime heritage on the example of three microlocations, Rovinj, Betina and Komiža, connects us with other maritime traditions of the indivisible Mediterranean basin and truly represents the living Mediterranean history and tradition.

5. Knowledge and skills of building boat cranes (*grue, pai, stupovi*), Z-7544

“The knowledge and skills of building boat cranes (*grue, pai, stupovi*) represent a unique art of a reliable way of storing vessels, recorded only on the coasts of northwestern Istria. The art is conditioned by the need of the local population to protect boats without moorings in a safe harbor or the possibility of natural shelter from gusts of wind (*libeccio*) along the shallow and rocky coast, characteristic of the Umag region. This type of storing vessels is present exclusively in the coastal settlements of the City of Umag - Bašanija, Savudrija, Crveni Vrh, Zambratija, Umag, Đuba and Lovrečica, except for a few of them also present on the coastal part of the neighboring City of Novigrad (Dajla) and the municipality of Brtonigla (Karigador)” (Figure 4)¹¹

6. Art of sailing with lateen and lugsail along the Croatian coast, Z-7630

“The art of sailing with lateen and lugsail along the Croatian coast implies the art of steering a vessel using the power of the wind. In addition to the knowledge related to the boat equipment and steering the vessel (navigation), and knowing the characteristics of the winds and the geography of the sea, the art of sailing includes a number of other skills and knowledge: knowledge of materials suitable for making sails, sail tailoring, making masts and rigging, rudders and other equipment. In addition to practical knowledge, the art of sailing with a lateen and lugsail includes the knowledge of the maritime language, as well as the beliefs and practices to ensure safety at sea. The earliest confirmation of a lateen in Croatia was found near Donji Humac on Brač, in the church of St. Luke, on wall paintings dating back to the end of the 11th/beginning of the 12th century. Equipping and operating a sailboat is a skill that is passed down through experience within the family and community. Sailing with traditional sails is popular along the entire Adriatic Coast. The bearers are most often members of associations dedicated to preserving maritime heritage. The associations are joined by some sailing clubs with special sections or annual programs dedicated to valuing and passing down traditional sailing. The intangible value of cultural property is reflected above all in the processes of creating a maritime identity on the Croatian coast: passing down from generation to generation the skill of sailing with traditional sails, the techniques of building vessels with sails, making and storing sails, names and rituals.” (Figure 5)¹²

10 <https://registar.kulturnadobra.hr/#/details/Z-6955>.

11 <https://registar.kulturnadobra.hr/#/details/Z-7544>.

12 <https://registar.kulturnadobra.hr/#/details/Z-7630>.



Figure 5. The boat *leut tratarica Sv. Andrija* sailing at the regatta of traditional boats in Mošćenička Draga, Archives of the Maritime and Historical Museum of the Croatian Littoral Rijeka and the Association Tradicijska jedra Kvarnera i Istre

7. Art of crafting and sailing in traditional boats of Kvarner, Z-7587

“The art of crafting and sailing in traditional boats of Kvarner is a combination of several traditional maritime trades, skills and knowledge that together form an inseparable whole. This refers to the skills related to the crafting of wooden boats and includes making sails, pulleys, oars and ropes, while sailing itself implies the skill of steering a boat using the power of the wind, oars or engines, as well as knowing the geography of the sea and winds. Therefore, the community of the Kvarner region perceives crafting boats and sailing as a unique art.” (Figure 6)¹³

FISHING STRUCTURES, VESSELS, FISHING TOOLS, AND KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS REGISTERED IN THE REGISTER OF CULTURAL PROPERTY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Legal protection is one of the prerequisites for the preservation of tangible and intangible heritage, which gives certain rights and obligations to the owners, that is, the bearers of cultural heritage. Prescribing protection and conservation measures such as conservation and restoration work, promotion of knowledge and skills and educational activities about fishing with the aim of passing down certain skills are extremely important for raising awareness of the importance of fishing as an identity element for the Republic of Croatia, including national minorities living in Croatia.

After the analysis of legal protection of material elements related to fishing registered in the Register of Cultural Property of the Republic of Croatia, we arrive at more than 40 protected cultural assets, of which three are immovable cultural property - fishing structures on the coast, and eight individual movable cultural properties, mostly traditional vessels and more than 20 mu-

13 <https://registar.kulturnadobra.hr/#/details/Z-7587>.



Figure 6. The art of crafting and sailing traditional boats of Kvarner, the restoration of *leut tratarica* by shipbuilder Loris Rubinić, the Archives of the Maritime and Historical Museum of the Croatian Littoral Rijeka and the Association Tradicijska jedra Kvarnera i Istre

seum collections which acquired the status of cultural property by entering the museum object in the inventory book¹⁴. In addition to the three fishing structures, it is also listed the expired preventive protection of *Piers with boat cranes in Savudrija* was since it is the only protection of material heritage directly related to the intangible cultural asset *Knowledge and skills of building boat cranes (grue, pai, stupovi)*. Out of a total of 16 vessels registered in the Register of Cultural Property, in this overview we have singled out eight traditional wooden vessels, one of which is part of the museum holdings of the Maritime Museum in Split. Data on individual collections of fishing tools that belong to the museum's holdings were obtained based on data collected during research and on the basis of the Oreg system managed by the Museum Documentation Center, thus reaching about twenty collections in museum institutions mainly located on the coast. The analysis defined the parts of the museum holdings that contain fishing tools, but the exact number of museum objects is difficult to determine.

FISHING STRUCTURES ON THE SEA COAST

1. Ethnographic unit *Bakaračke tunere (structures for tuna fishing), Bakarac, Z-6682*

„The existence of *tunera* in Bakarac dates back to the 13th century, when one of the mainstays of economy of the Knežija Vinodolska and Gospoštija Hreljin were the standing structures for tuna fishing in Bakarac. The same structures were kept in use for the longest time (until the 70s of the 20th century) within the entire Kvarner region. They were sporadically restored (since they were made of low-quality materials) in 1986, and then in 2007. Their restoration represents a kind of memory of both the historical presence and the working process of this type of fishing tools on the Adriatic Coast. *Bakaračke tunere* undeniably contribute to the visual identity of the landscape.“¹⁵

14 Based on amendments to the Act on Amendments to the Act on the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Property, Article 10. (*Official Gazette no. 90/18*), the procedures for determining the properties of cultural assets for museum materials and museum documentation is conducted by the public museum by entering it in the inventory book of the public museum, and museum materials and museum documentation acquire the status of cultural property.

15 <https://registar.kulturnadobra.hr/#/details/Z-6682>.

2. The remains of fishermen's dwellings for watching tuna on the peninsula of Malta, Lukovo, Z-837

„On the peninsula of Malta in Lukova near Senj, we find the remains of several stone fishermen's dwellings and special facilities for watching tuna made of wood. A fisherman used to stay on them and signaled the arrival of tuna in the bay. Written sources mention this complex in the 18th century, but an earlier date is also possible. Architectural remains and reconstructions of this intact preserved locality fully present the fishing tradition of this area.“¹⁶

3. Tunera, Caska, island of Pag, Z-5293

“*Tunera* is located on the eastern part of Caska Bay. It has a regular cylindrical shape, has a rectangular entrance, and at the top, at a height of about 15 meters, there is a small observation post. It has four floors divided by a mezzanine structure. It was built in the 19th century of hewn stone with abundant use of plaster. *Tunera* in Caska belongs to the corpus of *tunera* structures in the Croatian coast that can be in the form of ladders laid diagonally over the bay (Lukovo, Kraljevica) or solid stone buildings in bays, such as the *tunera* in question. *Tunera* in Caska is a unique building of its type on Pag, and a valuable monument of fishing tradition on this island.“¹⁷

4. Piers with cranes for boats, Savudrija, P-5153

“Some fishing boats that did not have a mooring in a safe harbor, so the danger of damage in the event of a storm prompted the inhabitants of Savudrija to find an alternative solution to secure their vessels. The boats were taken out of the sea using special pulley cranes made for this purpose and hung by ropes on the upper part of the auxiliary crane. The whole mechanism was originally made exclusively of acacia wood due to its durability and longevity, while today there are also examples made of iron.“¹⁸

The preventive protection of the piers with cranes from Savudrija has expired, therefore the procedure for permanent protection should be started.

TRADITIONAL VESSELS

For centuries, vessels were the backbone of life on numerous Adriatic islands, and they still are. With the development of other means of transport during the 20th century, the need for building wooden vessels gradually decreased, resulting in the disappearance of numerous knowledge and skills of crafting basic types of vessels in regions of Istria and Primorje such as *bragoc*, *batel*, *batelina* and *sandul*, and in the region of Dalmatia *leut*, *gajeta*, *guc* and *copul*. Today, only a few vessels are protected as cultural property, not taking into account underwater archaeological sites of preserved shipwrecks in the Adriatic Sea.

Depending on the type of vessel, *kaić*, *guc*, *bracera*, *gajeta* and wooden motor boat and wooden sailing ship *trabakul* are protected. Protected vessels do not provide a complete overview of all types and forms of traditional vessels of the Adriatic, but they are still a good start for creating a more comprehensive list.

16 <https://registar.kulturnadobra.hr/#/details/Z-837>.

17 <https://registar.kulturnadobra.hr/#/details/Z-5293>.

18 Data are available in the Archive of the Ministry of Culture and Media.



Figure 7. *Tunera*, Bakar, photo: Gordana Jerabek



Figure 9. *Tunera*, Caska, island of Pag, photo: Nediljko Vančo, Archive of the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia, Conservation Department in Gospić



Figure 8. Remains of fishermen's dwellings for watching tuna on the Malta peninsula, Lukovo, photo by Martina Ivanuš, Archives of the Ministry of Culture and Media, Conservation Department in Gospić

1. *Kaić* (a small boat) from the Maritime Museum in Split, Maritime Museum in Split, RST-278

“Boat - *kaić* made of wood, dim. 4.50 x 1.40 m. It had sails and oars, and it was used in World War II. Today it is in the Maritime Museum in Split.”

2. Boat of the *guc* type, Selce, RRI-112

“A wooden boat of the *guc* type with a capacity for eight people was built in Korčula in 1928, and is powered by an outboard motor, sail and oars. It was used in World War II.”

3. Wooden motorboat “*Dražica*”, Nerezinac, Z-4720

“The lugger ‘Nerezinac’ from Lošinj was built before 1948 in an unknown shipyard, and it has kept the authentic look and dimensions of that type of ship. Being a rarity, i.e. one of the last preserved boats of its type (wooden sailing boat, lugger from Lošinj) with highly preserved original construction and still functional, ‘Nerezinac’ preserves the memory of the small sailing boats of the Adriatic Sea in a unique way.”

4. Istrian *bracera* “*Kovren*”, Veli Lošinj, Z-4721

“The Istrian *bracera* ‘Kovren’ was built in 1945 in Piran of Istrian oak, and it has kept the authentic look and dimensions of that type of ship. Being a rarity, i.e. one of the last preserved boats of its type (wooden sailing boat, Istrian *bracera*) with highly preserved original construction and still functional, ‘Kovren’ preserves the memory of the small sailing boats of the Adriatic Sea in a unique way.”

5. Wooden sailing boat *trabakul* “*Larus*”, Rijeka, Z-5867

“The wooden *trabakul* ‘Larus’ was built in 1930 in the now-existent shipyard in Ankarani, and it has kept the authentic look and dimensions of that type of ship to this day: its bow and stern are rounded with a high hull (1.3 m), 22 meters long and 5.2 meters wide, with rounded sides, and with two masts with two gaffsails and three jibs on the bowsprit. Being a rarity, i.e. one of the last preserved boats of its type (wooden sailing boat) with highly preserved original construction, properly restored in 2002 -2004 and still functional, ‘Larus’ preserves the memory of small sailing boats of the Adriatic.”

6. Boat *bracera* “*Roditelj*”, Supetar, Z-6102

“This coastal cargo boat was used to transport oil, wine and stone until the Second World War, and was used in 1944 and 1945 to transport refugees from the Dalmatian coast and the islands of Bari on their way to El Shatt. During the shelling of Dubrovnik on November 10, 1991, it was sunk and later rebuilt in Korčula. Today, the boat is owned by the Tourist Office of the town of Supetar on the island of Brač and is used for excursions, and while docked, it is an open-air museum with exhibited photos, models and fishing tools. The name *bracera* for a traditional vessel on the eastern coast of the Adriatic relates to the name of the island of Brač (Brazza), so the boat ‘Roditelj’, docked in the port of Supetar, has been given an authentic historical and ambiental framework. The sailing boat typologically belongs to the dominant type of building wooden ships in the 19th and early 20th centuries and represents a first-class source for the study of Croatian maritime heritage.”

7. *Gajeta* “*Cicibela*”, Betina Museum of Wooden Shipbuilding, Z-6903

“The boat ‘Cicibela’ is an example of the first original type of *betinska gajeta*, with a flat column and a straight rib, it is a robust and very stable boat. It is 7.70 m long, 2.80 m wide, 1.00 m high, and has a gross tonnage of 2.67 tons. It was built in 1931.”

8. Boat of the *guc* type “Belona“, Privlaka P-6187

“The boat ‘Belona’ is a traditional *guc/gajetica* boat intended for fishing, transporting cargo, livestock and people. It is made of oak and pine wood and 5.60 m long, 1.80 m wide, and 0.70 m high. It is intended for the transport of ten people, and its carrying capacity is 2.30 tons. According to official documents, the boat registration decision from 1957, the boat was built in the shipyard in Kali in 1928. In 1908, the builder of ‘Belona’ Božo Kondurat learned the trade from Mate Filipi in the famous Betina shipyard. After preparing the documentation, the boat was restored in the shipyard ‘Čiro’ on the island of Murter in accordance with traditional techniques.

Apart from being depicted in artistic paintings, the memory of traditional vessels is also present in numerous models kept in museums, various institutions, as well as in private collections.

TRADITIONAL FISHING TOOLS

Just like wooden vessels, traditional fishing tools are gradually falling out of use. Until the middle of the 20th century, traditional fishing tools were an indispensable inventory of almost every coastal household. Today we can find them in use less often, and more often they are stored, put away or abandoned.

Without getting into defining and enumerating the many types of fishing tools, the goal was to single out all museums, collections, cultural centers, and private collections that contain thematically grouped items primarily related to fishing. Following that idea, more than 25 such establishments were singled out, in which the fishing past on the eastern coast of the Adriatic Sea is only partially reflected, while we can certainly find numerous individual items within the cultural and historical, especially local collections.

The only museum that contains the word fishing in its name is the Fishing Museum in Vrboska, part of the Museum of the Municipality of Jelsa on the island of Hvar. Active for more than 50 years, it is the oldest specialized museum with that theme in Croatia (Table 1).

The fishing tools preserved in the mentioned collections are diverse. There are fishing nets, wooden boxes for storing fish, long lines, tongs for picking date shells, pots of wicker, cork, lead for nets, hooks, fish spears, accessories for maintaining and starting the engine, pulleys for lifting the net from the sea, belts for pulling nets from the shallow sea, petroleum and gas lamps, oars, various tools used in the traditional crafting of wooden vessels, etc. The above-mentioned objects are essential in thematic exhibitions, such as the recently held exhibition *Alati i kalafati*, organized by the Dubrovnik Museums in the “Rupe” granary (“Alati i kalafati“ 2020).

NAZIV USTANOVE	NAZIV ZBIRKE PREDMETA
Creski muzej	Etnografska zbirka
Dubrovački muzeji – Etnografski muzej	Zbirka tradicijskog gospodarstva, rukotvorstva i obrta
Etnografski muzej Zagreb	Zbirka tradicijskog gospodarstva

Gradski muzej Makarska	Zbirka etnologije
Gradski muzej Sisak	Zbirka Orlić
Hrvatski pomorski muzej Split	Zbirka maketa
Hrvatski pomorski muzej Split	Zbirka plovila
Hrvatski pomorski muzej Split	Zbirka ribarstva
Muzej betinske drvene brodogradnje	Zbirka tradicijskog gospodarstva
Muzej Grada Crikvenice	Zbirka predmeta iz svakodnevnog života
Muzej grada Kaštela	Zbirka Marina Studina
Muzej grada Trogira	Pomorska zbirka
Muzej grada Trogira	Zbirka – Galerija Cate Dujšin-Ribar
Muzej Općine Jelsa – Ribarski muzej Vrboska	Ribarska zbirka
Muzej otoka Brača	Etnografska zbirka
Narodni muzej Zadar	Zbirka narodnog gospodarstva
Narodni muzej Zadar – Područna etnografska zbirka Veli Iž	Područna etnografska zbirka Veli Iž
Pomorski i povijesni muzej Hrvatskog primorja Rijeka	Zbirka predmeta od drva i metala
Ribarska zbirka Komiža	Ribarska zbirka
Samoborski muzej	Etnografska zbirka
Zavičajna zbirka Gradac	Zavičajna zbirka Gradac
Zavičajni muzej Donja Kupčina	Zbirka Zavičajnog muzeja Donja Kupčina
Muzej grada Rovinja – Rovigno / Museo della Citta di Rovinj-Rovigno	Zbirka pomorstva, ribarstva, brodogradnje na otoku sv. Andrije – Rovinj
Etnografska zbirka Općine Murter-Kornati, Turistička zajednica Murter-Kornati, Udruga Argonauti	Etnografska zbirka Marka Mudronje Rebca

Table 1. Data from the Oreg system of the Museum Documentation Center

A PERMANENT FOOTPRINT IN THE COASTAL AREA

The areas along the sea coast have been associated with the fishing lifestyle for centuries, indirectly shaping cultural landscapes whose genesis was conditioned exclusively using vessels of all types and the knowledge of the local population. Today, numerous landscapes bear witness to this, such as the landscape of the island of Baljenec (Kale 2016), called the island of stone drywall lace, or the Kornati Islands.

Certain activities such as shellfish farming contribute to the formation of specific landscapes of exceptional aesthetic value that include natural coastlines and the sea surface combined with fishing wooden structures or nowadays modernized buoys necessary for shellfish farming (oysters). Such landscapes in the Maloston Bay and the Lim Channel stand out for their beauty. To these landscapes also belong fishing structures, especially *tunere* that, raised high above the sea, defy the horizontal lines of the sea surface and the gentle lines of the relief, contributing to the creation of an unexpected, almost surreal landscape of the northern Adriatic.

Numerous peaceful harbors, naturally formed in the shape of moorings, were the starting point for the development of most coastal settlements, next to which breakwaters, shipyards, larger and smaller settlements, fish markets and all other elements of maritime culture were built. Once points of contact with the rest of the world, they are still centers of the gathering of the local population and their life together. Numerous photos and postcards from the beginning of the 20th century remind us of the picturesque harbors of that time with moored ships of all sizes and types that adorned most settlements, while today we can only experience it sporadically. However, in an equally intense way, as a result of the joint action of experts and local population, we can experience a glimpse of tradition in the harbor in Betina staged by moored traditional wooden boats. It is a unique open-air museum of the Betina Museum of Wooden Shipbuilding, where the most beautiful examples of wooden shipbuilding in Betina are moored next to each other and presented to the general public. A similar experience can be experienced during the organized local and international regattas of traditional vessels, organized in increasing numbers, especially in the northern Adriatic¹⁹.

In the landscape of the island and coastal areas, the benchmarks and the lighthouses²⁰ are indispensable, being of vital importance for the local population, as well as for all those who find themselves in our waters. Lighthouses are intriguing to every observer of seascapes lit by the sun, and their rhythmic light gives a painterly touch to night landscapes.

Numerous footprints of the centuries-old fishing tradition preserved in the coastal area, such as the old wooden houses for storing fishing equipment in the port of Kantrida in Rijeka, deserve in-depth analysis and valorization, as well as additional efforts for their protection and

19 Regattas of traditional sailboats (mainly *gajete*, *leuti* and *kaići*) with lateen sail: *Burtiž* (since 2007), Šepurina; *Krapanjsko idro* (since 2014), Krapanj; *Krčka jedra* (since 1998), Krčki zaljev; *Lantina* (od 2012.), Jezera; *Latinski idrun na kureja* (since 2006), Zlarin; *Latinsko idro* (since 1998), Murter; *Nerezinska regata tradicijskih barki na jedra* (since 1920), Nerezine; *Regata za dušu i tilo* (since 2003), Betina; *Rota palagružona* (since 2010), Komiža – Palagruža and *Rovinjska regata tradicijskih barki s oglavnim i latinskim jedrom* (since 2006), Rovinj (see note no. 25, Wikipedia, “Latinsko jedro”, [s.a.]).

20 There is a large number of preserved lighthouses, and 27 lighthouses are protected due to their architectural and technical value.

preservation. Those wooden houses in the harbor defined the character of the area, which was recognized by professionals and protected by the development plan of the city of Rijeka (“Development Plan” 2003/2005).

Traditions connected with the religious aspect of the maritime way of life on the Adriatic are also extremely valuable, manifested in numerous processions, worships and veneration of Mary and various saints (St. Nicholas, St. Vlaho, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Todor and others). The Festivity of St. Blaise in Dubrovnik has been an intangible cultural asset of the Republic of Croatia since 2007, and since 2009 it has been included in UNESCO’s Representative List. Particularly interesting are the maritime pilgrimages that include the transfer of the statue of St. Mary in boats and smaller vessels, depending on local tradition (*kaići, plazuļje, guci*, etc.), showing the connection of the local population with the sea (Katić et al. 2021). An example of a maritime pilgrimage (Katić and McDonald 2020) is the “Festivity of Our Lady of Zečevo”, in which the local population engaged in fishing participates and has been an intangible cultural heritage of the Republic of Croatia since 2013, and in Piškera Our Lady is called the “Queen of Fishermen”.

The renewed custom of electing a king on Veli Iž includes the spectacular arrival of the chosen king on a boat, mostly a gajeta, accompanied by fellow villagers dressed in traditional costumes, and his docking in the port (“Na otoku Ižu” 2022).

The inhabitants of the fishing settlements also paid tribute to the hard fishing life by building public sculptures. One of the most impressive is certainly the sculpture Fishermen, the work of the academic sculptor Fran Kršinić²¹ located in Bol on the island of Brač and in Bakar, representing two fishermen at the moment of pulling out their nets. In Klenovica, a fisherman’s sculpture was erected as a sign of gratitude for the saved lives (Ravlić 2019). A life-size sculpture of a fisherman was also erected in Milna, a settlement with a rich fishing tradition (Šimat 2021). The statue of a fisherman sewing a torn fishing net was placed on the newly renovated waterfront in Njivice (“Od malog ribarskog“ [s. a.]). In Primošten, in honor of the fishermen, in addition to the original bronze sculpture of a fisherman sitting on the waterfront engrossed in his work, in 2022 a sculpture of a *batana* boat with two fishermen was placed in the shallows as an eternal reminder of the moment of fishing with the help of light, both works of academic sculptor Teo Baučić²².

Bearing in mind the recent examples of erecting public sculptures of fishermen, we believe that their number will continue to grow, and that it is precisely these expressions of gratitude from local communities that add to the importance and timelessness of fishing themes in our area. This provides us with the possibility of further presentation of these settlements and their thematic connection through joint digital platforms.

NEW TRENDS OF PROMOTION AND REVIVAL OF TRADITIONS RELATED TO FISHING

As part of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018, the French association Territoires imaginaires²³, headquartered in the French city of Nantes and engaged in studying landscapes thro-

21 More about the author at the link: “Kršinić, Frano“ 2021.

22 „Dva čovjeka, čamac, osti i feral u plicaku u čast starim ribarima“, (s.a.), Večernji list, accessed March 25, 2023, <https://www.vecernji.hr/vijesti/dva-čovjeka-camac-osti-i-feral-u-plicaku-u-čast-starim-ribarima-1631402/galerija-532889?page=1>

23 In 2013, the association Territoires imaginaires organized the *First Night of Fishing Structures* in the town of Pornic on the west coast of France, and later the events spread to the areas around the estuaries

ugh artistic and cultural approaches, presented in its activities this special type of maritime heritage, specifically fishing structures along the sea coast. That year was presented the French *sucarrelet*, i.e., a fishing net cast from a ship or from a fishing structure along the coast of the Atlantic Ocean, from Britain to the province of Aquitaine in France. In addition, examples of similar structures, *padelloni* or *bilancioni*, from the Italian province of Emilia-Romagna were also presented.

One of the first promoters of traditional vessels was the *International Festival of the Sea*²⁴, held since 1996, where the main exhibits are vessels moored in the sea Croatia joined the festival in 1999.

Traditional performances of fishing skills, restoration of vessels and the use of fishing tools along the Adriatic coast are brought to life through already mentioned projects such as the open-air museum in Betina, the organization of regattas of traditional vessels (Betina), sailing in traditional vessels on Krapanj, the organization of tuna hunting in Bakar and other activities.

Global changes gave impetus to reflections on the recognition and protection of intangible heritage, translated into the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage from 2003, which also provided the opportunity to view many assets from a heritage perspective, of which the art of traditional fishing is of exceptional importance for Croatian identity and its continuity.

The Batana Ecomuseum and the Betina Museum of Wooden Shipbuilding with traditional ships in the port and an open-air museum represent the starting points of preservation and exchange of knowledge and the art of crafting traditional vessels in Croatia, and therefore society as a whole should recognize them and give them an important place not only in the cultural, but also in today's extremely important educational sphere, taking into account that they have been recognized by external experts and organizations.

At the global level, the Batana Ecomuseum project has been entered into the UNESCO's Register of good safeguarding practices due to its unique approach to the preservation of the overall tangible and intangible heritage related to the traditional wooden vessel *batana* in the city of Rovinj. A whole series of different activities initiated by the local community in cooperation with experts is aimed at protecting and preserving the art of crafting *batana*, as well as other customs related to the fishing life of this area, such as traditional *bitinada* songs, local speech, crafting different traditional everyday objects and other traditional values Rovinj ("Community project" 2016).

At the European level, in the category of education, learning and raising awareness of cultural heritage, the activity of the Bettina Museum of Wooden Shipbuilding was recognized and awarded the "Europa Nostra" European Heritage Award in the aforementioned category in 2019.

However, in addition to the already recognized places where the uniqueness of intangible knowledge and material elements is being nurtured, new initiatives and projects aimed at preserving the memory of fishing skills are increasingly emerging. The engagement of citizens' associations that recognize the importance of this topic for their micro-environments and whose activities

of the Loire, Charente and Gironde rivers. At these events, the audience of all ages has the opportunity to enjoy the landscapes, meditation, the combination of art and the environment. More at: Territoires imaginaires, [s. a.].

24 The *International maritime festival* is a festival intended to celebrate the sea, gathering sailors, musicians, artists, entertainers, ships and boats.



Figure 10. Fishermen, Frano Kršinić, Bol on the island of Brač, photo: Anuška Deranja Crnokić

influence the raising of awareness of the specificities of their region in the field of fishing, as well as in their promotion, is particularly noteworthy: Association “Latinsko idro”, Murter²⁵, Inicijativa za promicanje pomorske baštine Vela Luka (Urošević 2019), Association “Otočni sabor”²⁶, Association “Batana salvorina”²⁷, Association “Cronaves”²⁸, Association Jadranski pomorski institut (*Adriatic Maritime Institute*)²⁹ and many others. This shows that only with the involvement of local communities and citizens’ associations, cultural heritage, whether tangible or intangible, can find its place in modern life, thus ensuring its long-term and sustainable preservation and protection (ICOMOS Burra Charter 1979/1999, UNESCO Convention 2003, and other.).

25 “Latinsko idro”, (s.a.), Regate.com, accessed March 25, 2023, <https://www.regate.com.hr/index.php/novosti/najnovije/latinsko-idro>.

26 The association “Otočni sabor” in cooperation with the University of Zadar initiated the entry of “Traditional fishing skills, beliefs and customs in the Adriatic” in the Register of Cultural Property of the Republic of Croatia as a reasonable response to possible administrative obstacles arising from Croatia’s entry into the European Union. The intention was to encourage islanders and coastal population to continue small-scale fishing.

27 The association “Batana salvorina” focused its activities on the protection and preservation of *gruja* and intangible skills related to the characteristic method of removing small boats from the sea, specific to the area of Savudrija.

28 The association “Cronave” nurtures Croatian maritime heritage and organizes gatherings of traditional ships and the event “Dani u Vali” in Stari Grad on the island of Hvar.

29 The association provides and develops a training program for young people living on the Adriatic coast, but also on the rivers of continental Croatia. More at: “O nama”, 2016.

The interest of the general public, including those who are curious, as well as those steeped in traditional knowledge, is spontaneously and successfully aroused in relation to the topic of Croatian wooden ships and on social networks, for example on the Facebook/Meta network³⁰. It is a place for the exchange of knowledge, observations, the process of restoring vessels or recorded historical moments using digital technology, fitting the topic of traditional fishing into a digital environment. For example, the show *More of the Croatian Radiotelevision* has a prominent place when we talk about presenting the life of people from the coast and islands, life at sea, customs and cultural heritage, stories about settlements, conversations with local people, conversations with experts on maritime economy, shipping or fishing.

In the region of Kvarner and Istria, *the Coordination of Associations for the Preservation and Revitalization of the Maritime, Fishing and Shipbuilding Heritage of Kvarner and Istria* made a significant step forward by organizing twelve shows and regattas of traditional sailing boats, as well as other initiatives (“Prilog očuvanju” 2017). In this sense, we can observe that the activities related to the promotion of traditional fishing and vessels are intensive in the northern and central Adriatic (“Alati i kalafati” 2020), while they are of lesser intensity in the south of Croatia.

Since 2018, in Stari Grad on the island of Hvar, the international festival of ships, sea and sailors “Dani u vali” has been held, which, in addition to the presentation of traditional vessels from Croatia and the world, also offers tourist content in the form of exhibitions, concerts, workshops and gastronomy.

At the European level, the topic of fisheries and related activities is recognized as a topic that connects regions and is co-financed as part of the EU Slovenia-Croatia Operational Program 2007 – 2013. Through the implementation of the project *Mala barka – Turistička valorizacija pomorske, ribarske i brodograditeljske baštine Sjevernog Jadrana kroz stvaranje novih turističkih proizvoda* has been co-financed the Interpretation Center of the Fishing and Maritime Heritage of the Ecomuseum Mošćenička Draga opened in 2016 (“Otvoren Interpretacijski” 2016).

As part of the cooperation program Interreg V-A Slovenia - Croatia 2014 – 2020 was implemented a project *Mala barka 2 – Očuvanje pomorske baštine sjevernog Jadrana* and was the best European project of Croatian counties in the category of cross-border cooperation („Projekt Mala Barka 2“ [s.a.]). In the old historical center of the City of Krk, an interpretation center for the history of the maritime heritage of the island of Krk was opened in 2018 („Interpretacijski centar“ [s.a.]). The project *Mala barka 2*, with the help of the *Coordination of Associations for the Preservation and Revitalization of the Maritime, Fishing and Shipbuilding Heritage of Kvarner and Istria*, also carried out the project of the *Interpretation Center of the Maritime Heritage of the Island of Lošinj - the Nerezinac lugger*. As part of this project, an old wooden cargo ship saved from sinking, protected and registered in the Register of Cultural Property of the Republic of Croatia in 2010, was renovated based on the model of the Lošinj luggers from the end of the 19th century, and today represents a unique floating interpretation center on the island of Lošinj („Lošinjski loger“ [s.a.]; Pomorska baština 2022).

The project *Protection, promotion and touristic valorization of the Adriatic maritime heritage*, or shorten *Arca Adriatica*, is a kind of continuation of the successfully implemented previous projects *Mala barka* and *Mala barka 2*, this time as part of the INTERREG Italy - Croatia program.

30 „Hrvatski drveni brodovi - Croatian Wooden Boats“, (s.a.), Facebook/Meta, accessed March 25, 2023, https://www.facebook.com/groups/597454660276061/?locale=hr_HR

In addition to the general activities of increasing the accessibility of maritime heritage to the whole society, it includes activities of restoration of small boats with the aim of preserving living examples exhibited in harbors and for participation in regattas. Likewise, the result of this project is the construction and opening of several maritime heritage interpretation centers in partner countries. Thus, at the end of 2021 was opened the Interpretation Center of Maritime Heritage of Tkon on the Island of Pašman (Pašman 2021). In the exterior part of the center, restored old traditional boats are presented, along with accompanying information boards placed in the port area. In 2022, as part of the same project, another interpretation center called *DUBoak* was opened in 2022 (“Stalni postav“ [s.a.] in Dubašnica - Malinska, which speaks in an inventive and creative way about the unbreakable connection between man, oak and boat.

Numerous institutions are also active in this area, and one of the examples of good practice is the project/manifestation *Creski kaič* launched in 2019 with the aim of preserving and presenting the maritime heritage of Cres. As part of the project in 2020, the exhibition of the same name *Creski kaič – sjećanja majstora brodograditelja* was opened in the museum of Cres (“U Creskom muzeju“ 2020).

Among the latest, at the end of 2022, a new bilingual digital application of the Rab Virtual Museum of Fishing, Seafaring and Shipbuilding was presented to the general public as part of *Juxta Mare*, a project of the Rab Tourist Office³¹ (“Juxta Mare” [s.a.]), which reflects the recognition of the importance of the topic and engagement of the local community. With the help of new technologies, thirteen locations historically and traditionally connected to shipbuilding, fishermen and their families (“Juxta Mare” [s. a.]) were presented to the local population as well as their guests.

All the examples listed, and those that are currently taking place, but not listed, are clear positive indicators of the application of new promotion trends, as well as various activities to revive fishing traditions, which will ultimately contribute to their better visibility and preservation.

CONCLUSION

Fishing has largely marked the people and the Adriatic Coast, and is still present, but it is necessary to make additional efforts to preserve the material traces of fishing and to carefully nurture this delicate intangible traditional practices. It is necessary to encourage enthusiastic individuals, especially children and young people, citizens' associations and institutions to take action. It should be noted here that one of the key prerequisites for preserving the aforementioned traditions is the strengthening and/or establishment of high school educational programs for the training of shipbuilders for traditional wooden shipbuilding. Certain active associations of citizens have launched initiatives to preserve the profession of traditional wooden boat builders with the primary task of revitalizing the traditional shipbuilding and fishing heritage.

In line with digital development, it is necessary to make available, especially to the younger generations, content about traditional fishing, vessels, tools and customs in a new and innovative way since the way of accessing and using information has changed significantly.

The absence of a network platform that unifies information about traditional fishing opens space for action and unification of all relevant information for the experts of our knowledge centers

31 “Juxta Mare virtualni muzej ribarstva, pomorstva i brodograditeljstva grada Raba”, (s.a.), Juxta Mare, accessed March 25, 2023, http://www.juxta-mare.rab-visit.com/?s=scene_21&v=4&h=113&f=90&lang=hr

and for the general public, with the application of multilingualism as a key element in their exchange and enrichment. Indirectly, the establishment of a central digital site about fishing in Croatia with all related elements can contribute to the development of a specific segment of the tourist offer and increase the productivity of the Croatian economy.

Furthermore, with the help of new technologies, it is possible to revive fishing locations and fishing traditions through the development of virtual reality and hologram displays, especially the locations of stretching the fishing nets, which are today mostly forgotten.

The Adriatic Coast, with its specificities in traditional fishing, occupies a special place as part of the Mediterranean cultural circle, so further research, valorization, and the implementation of protection and conservation measures can significantly contribute not only to the preservation of certain elements of the fishing tradition, but also to the empowerment of local communities, along with long-term sustainable development.

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