

## AP06 Assynt Fishery Oral History



### Project Overview:

Coigach & Assynt Living Landscape Partnership (CALLP) has several heritage projects that have increased the understanding of local heritage. The Partnership has also created greater links between the area's historic and natural heritage and the tourist organisations of Coigach and Assynt.

This project will build on the Coigach Fisheries Oral History and foster a greater appreciation and understanding of the richness of the area's marine environment and the community's historic interaction with the sea. The oral history findings from the project will be disseminated through documentation and presentation.

**Project lead organisation and other organisations involved:** Historic Assynt

**Project Location:** Assynt

**Project dates:** Jan 2021-Sep 2021

## Project Outputs

Measure	Target	Delivered	Notes
Assynt Fisheries oral histories interviews with past and present fishers completed	10	Y	
Assynt Fisheries oral histories interviews summarized for general dissemination	10	Y	
Assynt Fisheries oral histories history interview recordings lodged with Historic Assynt Archive with limited access (Access will be restricted until GDPR limitation on the interviews expire)	10	Y	
Booklet charting the evolution of fishing practice and livelihoods over at least the last 50 years in Assynt in A5 format or similar	1	Y	130 page book published with over 333 copies in circulation as of Dec 2021.
Produce Display on foam board/pop up banner	4 x A1 layout	N	Boards were not created as due to COVID-19, public meetings presently conducted over the internet
Presentation of the summary of the Fishing in Coigach for validation with interviewees and wider community of Coigach	1	1	Project findings were presented at Historic Assynt AGM on 13 Oct 2021

## Scheme Outputs

How has the project contributed to the CALLP Scheme Outcomes:

	1. The key features of the Coigach and Assynt Landscape will be better understood and restored with a fit for purpose system in place to ensure the benefits are sustained.
	2. Where appropriate the connectivity and diversity of selected habitats will be mapped.
Y	3. Increased awareness and understanding amongst all individuals and groups of what makes Coigach and Assynt special and the threats to the unique heritage. <i>An increased level of awareness of the culture and importance of fishing in Assynt and the changes that have occurred in the recent past.</i>
Y	4. Important elements of the built, cultural and natural heritage will be recorded, improved, made publicly accessible and celebrated by the local community. <i>Published book and interviews reside with Historic Assynt.</i>
	5. People will have gained new skills in researching, restoring and understanding their heritage.
Y	6. Collected data, information and interpretation will be more accessible in the public domain including posting on appropriate websites. <i>Book of the Assynt Fisheries Oral History is now being circulated.</i>
Y	7. Local groups and individuals understand, enjoy, value and take action in the Coigach and Assynt area in ways they did not at the outset. <i>The community has become involved in the oral history submitting resources and oral history.</i>
	8. Increased access to infrastructure at key strategic locations enabling people to enjoy the natural and cultural heritage of the area.
	9. Increased opportunities for informal recreation that promotes health and well-being benefits.

### Reflecting on the last 5 years, what's the one thing that you're most proud of that has come from your project being part of CALLP?

Bringing memories to back to life! CALLP has been fantastic in enabling projects like this to connect with the community, help one generation reminisce and bring their memories to a new generation.

### What difference has this project made to the built, cultural and natural heritage of Coigach and Assynt?

It has meant that many people have been able to share their memories of an industry that is now very different and allowed us to explore the recent past and connect with people locally.

## What difference has this project made to People?

Particularly in the older generation it has brought smiles to many faces as they were able to share their memories and stories of their youth. I think perhaps it is best summed up in the many (thousands) of photographs which were never requested in the project brief, but which were shared so that others could see the vibrancy of the fisher lives.

"*can't wait to read it. It will then go into our guest library. Thank you*" Local BnB Owner, Facebook Posted Comment

"*I'd like to get a copy to review in 'Fishing Boats' and maybe other places...*" Fishing writer, Facebook Posted Comment

"*could I please order copies for The Ceilidh Place Bookshop.*" Ceilidh Place Bookshop Ullapool, Facebook Posted Comment

"*Just sent you a message [to Historic Assynt] about getting copies for Ullapool Bookshop. Thanks.*" Ullapool Bookstore, Facebook Posted Comment

"*Good luck with book, going to order a copy online from UL bookstore*" Customer, Facebook Posted Comment

## Useful Links

<https://www.facebook.com/historicassynt>

Available for purchase at: <http://www.ullapooltrading.com/>

## Future Plans and Legacy

Hope at some point to produce a follow up book of photos of fishing. The legacy will be maintained in the communities' memories. For readers further afield the book has now been made available online through the Ullapool Bookshop.

## Lessons Learned

What are the three positive lessons gained from the scheme:

1. People you would never expect come out of the woodwork with gems
2. Memories are so personal and it is a joy when they are shared
3. Everyone has had a part to play in the story of fishing in Assynt.

What are the three negative lessons gained from the scheme:

1. Corona sucks and lengthens timescales
2. Not all memories should be shared
3. Will never be able to capture everything – well over 150 pages written and barely scratched the surface.

## Funding Partners



## Photographic Evidence

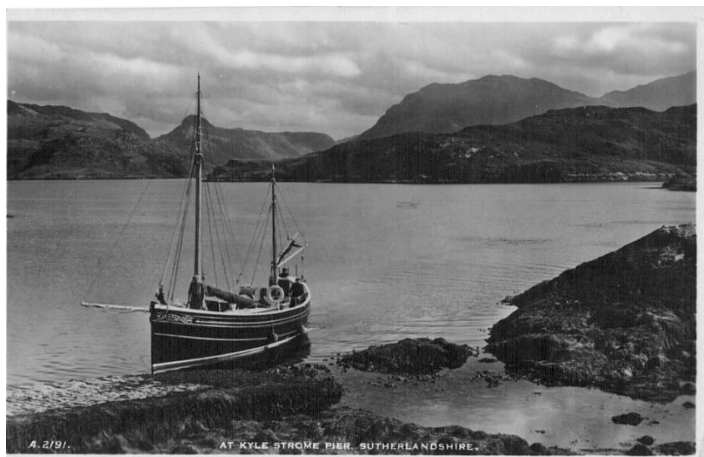
Both Jean and John are happy for us to use their images for any purposes.



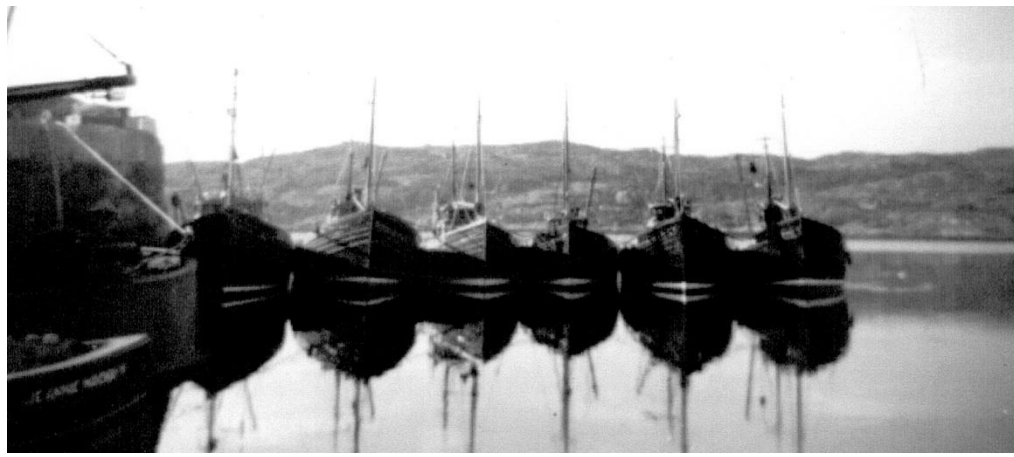
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