

Dick Ogg – Commercial Fisherman, Bodega Bay, California

Dick Ogg, the son of an Army sergeant who moved around often as a child, settled in Sonoma County when he was in the fourth grade. He learned to fish during visits with his grandfather, a Ponca Indian, in Oklahoma, and spent his youth fishing the Sonoma coastline, taking up abalone diving as a teen.

Despite fishing all his life, he came late to the commercial industry, briefly running a martial arts school, then working more than 3½ decades as an electrician at Sonoma State University.

During his last six years at SSU, he also fished commercially, beginning with salmon. When he retired from the university 12 years ago, he transitioned into commercial fishing full time, filling in the gaps between crab and salmon seasons with black cod and albacore. He loves fishing and would never give it up for the world.

He owns the F/V Karen Jeanne, which he bought in 2013 and has plenty of room for his Lab-mix pups, Buster and Nessie.

Dick serves as a member of the California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group and is a member of the Bodega Bay Fishermen's Marketing Association. He is a proponent of best practices that reduce excess surface and vertical lines that may more easily entangle sea life. Ogg also has been a leader in a variety of other efforts to improve recovery of lost traps and to test new quick-release equipment that separates lines and gear under pressure if an entanglement occurs. He hopes they can develop affordable, commonsense strategies that will reduce the risk to whales while preserving the crab fishery.