



FACT SHEET

Bellingham SeaFeast showcases and celebrates our rich maritime heritage, thriving working waterfront, commercial fishing and seafood industries, and the culinary bounty of our corner of the Pacific Northwest.

WHY: To offer the opportunity to EAT – PLAY – EXPLORE the abundance of our Salish Sea bounty.

WHEN & WHERE:

Friday, Sept. 30 — Downtown Bellingham

Saturday, Oct. 1 — Zuanich Park in Squalicum Harbor on [Bellingham Bay](#)

WHO: This inaugural Bellingham SeaFeast, with FREE admission, appeals to all ages, backgrounds, and interests.

WHAT: *A ton of experiential activities, fresh seafood (and other fare), while experiencing **Nature's gift of Bellingham-by-the-Bay.***

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Salmon bbq competition (pro and amateur divisions)
- Boat Tour
- Demos (knot-tying, net-mending, survival suits, filleting, crab-cracking, & more...)
- Races & contests (Grab-a-Crab Tank, Oyster Shucking & more...)
- Salmon tossing
- Live music & juried art displays
- Food, brews-with-a-view, food, and more food (including open pit grilled salmon demo by [Lummi Nation](#))
- Film Premier featuring the journey "from the sea to your plate."
- SeaFeast Finale – a symphony of seafood (ticketed)

EVENT DETAILS:

Friday, Sept. 30 afternoon & evening – FisherPoets-in-Bellingham

Stroll through downtown Bellingham and listen to old salts – local fishers accustomed to mending and hauling nets, instead plucking guitar strings and adjusting their spectacles to read poems, stories, and songs in the 1st Annual **FisherPoets-in-Bellingham**. In this take-off on the renowned FisherPoets Gathering in Astoria, Ore., FisherPoets-in-Bellingham promises to produce smiles and laughter as fishers share their tales over local ales (brewed right in the setting). A popular local dance band will follow into the night.

Saturday, Oct. 1 all day & evening

- Witness the first **International Salmon Barbecue Contest** where professionals and amateurs compete for prizes by grilling their salmon for presentation to celebrity chef judges.
- **Commercial Fishing Activities in the working harbor of Bellingham Bay:**
 - Meet-the-Fishers opportunities include **Boat Tours, Dock Walks, visits with Celebrity Fishers.**
 - Cheer as fishers & friends compete in **Survival Suit Demos & Races.**
 - Try your hand at **Knot-Tying and Net-Mending** after watching Demos from the Pros.
 - Learn from local professionals **how to fillet and prepare our delicious Salish Sea seafood**, and watch fish-filleting, crab-cracking, and oyster shucking demonstrations.
 - Enjoy the **melt-in-your-mouth delicacies of salmon grilled** in the traditional Native American, open-pit manner prepared by members of nearby Lummi Nation. Also, taste other seafood and locally-grown produce.
 - **Cooking Demonstrations** – learn easy, family-friendly ways to prepare our local seafood for healthy meals.
 - Try your skill at the **Grab-a-Crab Tank Derby** and watch the **Oyster Shucking Contest.**
- **Board a certified tour passenger vessel and ride across the Bay to Bellingham Cold Storage** for a tour of the largest food-processing & storage facility on the West Coast, situated in the heart of the Port of Bellingham.
- **Brews-with-a-View** – enjoy beer, ale, and hard ciders while watching the waves lap at your feet.
- Participate in **family-friendly, hands-on educational and fun activities** to learn about the key connections between our healthy waters, healthy seafood, and a healthy YOU.
- Appreciate **arts displays and sales** from juried artists throughout the Great Northwest.
- Enjoy **live music at its best**, featuring popular regional bands on stages set against the backdrop of our Salish Sea.
- **Kayaks, Stand-up-Paddle Boards, Outrigger Canoes & more** provide adventurous recreational choices – all safety-certified and managed by professionals.
- **SeaFeast Finale** – Enjoy a Symphony of Seafood, cheer as the winners of the first International Salmon Barbecue Contest are announced, stroll through arts displays, and watch the premier film showing of the path our quality Salish Sea Seafood journeys from the Sea to the Plate to You.

PARTNERS:

[The City of Bellingham Tourism Commission](#) is a founding partner of Bellingham SeaFeast, providing seed money to launch this signature festival.

Additional Sponsors:

- [Bornstein Seafoods Inc.](#), the presenting sponsor.
- [Bellingham Cold Storage](#) – Platinum Sponsor of the boat rides and tours.
- [Visit Bellingham](#) – Bronze Sponsor
- In-Kind Partners -- [Port of Bellingham](#), [Allied Arts](#), [Boundary Bay Brewery](#), and [San Juan Cruises](#)

PLANNING TEAM:

The Planning Team comprises representatives from the commercial fishing and seafood industry, Port of Bellingham, City of Bellingham, The Bellingham Whatcom Chamber of Commerce, Allied Arts of Whatcom County, Lummi Nation, and proactive citizens, organizations, and businesses.

GET INVOLVED: Food & Beverage vendor, arts & crafts exhibitor, salmon barbecue competitor, volunteer, FisherPoet presenter, sponsorship, and more opportunities are available.

CONTACTS:

Mike McKenzie, Marketing Director
P.O. Box 30678
Bellingham, WA 98228
(979) 571-8555
mike@bellinghamseafeast.com

Deb Granger, General Manager
P.O. Box 30678
Bellingham, WA 98228
360-223-3994
deb@bellinghamseafeast.com

STAY TUNED: Bellingham SeaFeast expects to launch a website April 27, 2016 as well Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts.