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Intangible cultural heritage: Fishing and knitting of fishing tackle - millennium craft in the Burgas Bay

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2016

Regional historical museum Burgas



Gulf of Burgas or Burgas Bay between the coastline and the straight line joining Cape Emine and Cape Maslenos is the largest bay of the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast and one of the largest in the Black Sea.

Millennia long History

Its location near the seaside and the favourable conditions in the fertile Burgas valley have always attracted inhabitants. The unique archaeological findings are proof of the millennia of history in the area – settlement mounds from the Neolith, Thracian tombs, remains of roman cities and ports, Medieval monasteries and Ottoman facilities.



Foros

The Predecessor of Burgas



Ancient and medieval fortress Foros was built around a large port at the innermost part of Burgas Bay. The settlement existed from the 2nd c. AD. up to the 18th c. Archaeological finds - knitting tools, weights for nets and more, found on Cape Foros testified that this craft was practised in Burgas Bay since ancient times.



Fishing - traditional craft in Burgas Bay

Fishing plays an important place in the livelihood and culture of Bulgarians living in coastal areas. Regional Historical Museum Burgas has undertaken a study of this activity of the local population, as the "knitting of fishing tackle" today is dying off in its traditional form.







Chengene skele

The last fishermen village along the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast, which still preserves the old traditions



The Living Tradition

Fishing tackle - mermetosvne

The knitting of fishing nets is one of the main activities of the old inhabitants in the fishermen village Chengene skele in Burgas Municipality. It is practiced mostly during winter when the fishermen fix up their tack for the active fishing season in spring, summer and fall. Very often when fishing, nets wear out and need repair.

“*Mermetosvane*” is an ancient technique to fix them with a special net sewing needle, which is called “*laket*” and is made from cornel.

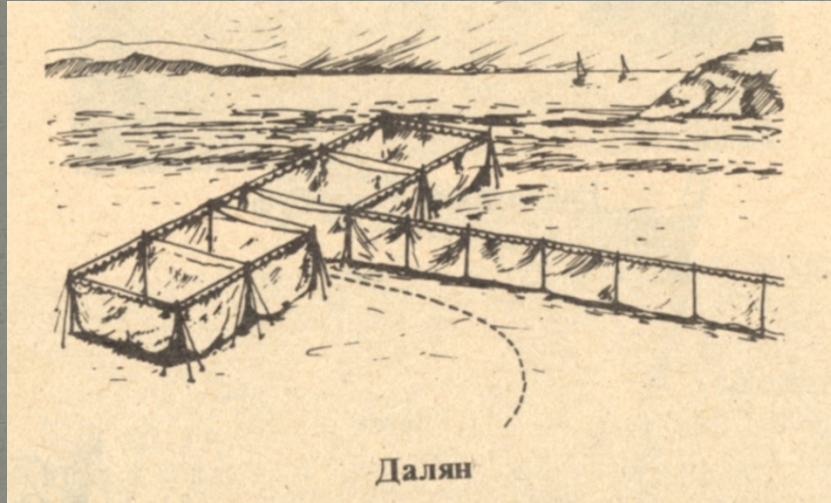


Grib

One of the main devices for enclosing the fish is the “grib” net for seine fishing. This is a flexible device consisting of a bag, nets and ropes.



Dalyan



The Place where Tradition lives



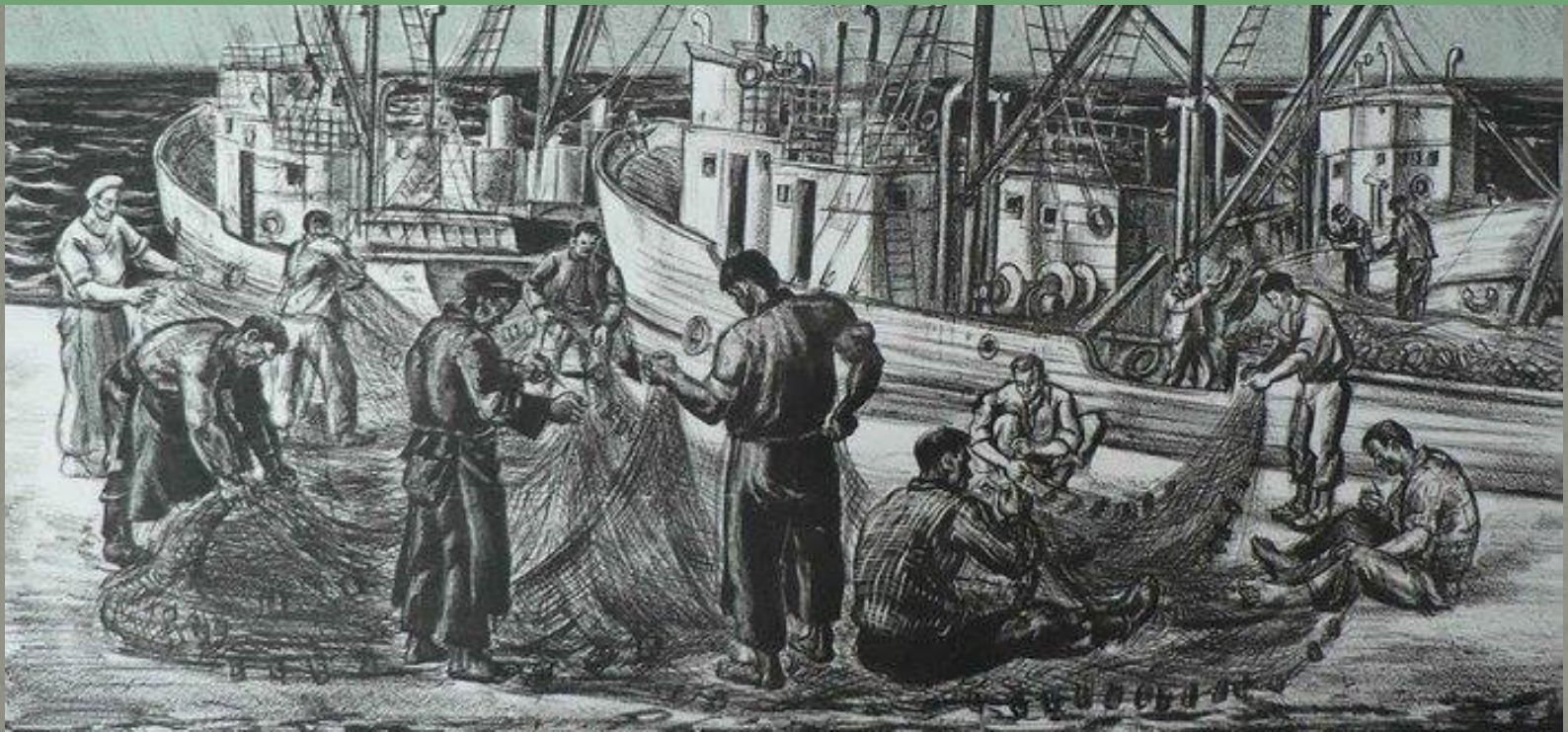
Burgas Municipality plays crucial role for preservation of this intangible cultural heritage. The city planning in the next years envisions construction of ethnographic complex in Chengene skele where the tradition bearers will be able to demonstrate and transmit it to new generations.

In the summer of 2016, the traditional craft "Knitting fishing tackle: millennial craft in Burgas Bay" is entered in the Bulgarian National List of intangible cultural heritage and is among the nominees, which will be proposed for inclusion in the list of UNESCO.



„The fishermen know that the sea is dangerous and the storm terrible, but they have never found these dangers sufficient reason for remaining ashore.“

Vincent Van Gogh



Thank you for your attention!