



FISHING BOATS

Traditional fishing boats were adapted to the characteristics of our coastline

In Galician coasts there existed until the first half of the last century several types of traditional fishing boats. Even though there were a lot of differences amongst them, all of them had common features, as high bows and soft lines to face the sea, or the use of bolt rope sails. They were built with oak timber for the keel and body and pine tree timber for the rest of the structure.

***Lancha xeiteira* or *relinga* (bolt rope boat)**

It was the most common type of boat in the whole of the Galician coastline. Its stylised lines made rowing possible when there wasn't any wind. Before its disappearance it was used for fishing sardine with driftnets, which in Galician language is called *xeito*, this is why this type of boat is also known as *xeiteira*.

***Bote polbeiro de Bueu* (Octopus fishing boat from Bueu)**

It was used in the surrounding areas of Bueu for octopus fishing. It was a small oval-shaped boat. They had a hammer shaped sail and very long oars that crossed while rowing.



Image courtesy of Milagros Riveiro

***Buceta* (small boat)**

It is a small boat from the north-western coast of A Coruña. It was similar to the bolt rope boat, it also used bolt rope sail and had three oars on each side. It was used for line fishing, for shellfishing...

Dorna

A specific type of boat from the Rías Baixas. It has Norman origins and it is still in use. Due to its special structure named *Calime* it is very light. They have two long oars that cross, what increases its effectiveness and minimizes effort.

***Gamela* from a Guarda**

A type of boat from the south-western coast of Galicia. It is the oldest type of Galician traditional boats still in use. Its structure is very simple, it has a flat bottom with a very big helm.

It had a square bow as well as the stern, and this structure gave it a lot of stability to sail in open seas.

***Traíña* (sardine fishing boat)**

This type of boat arrived to our coasts from the Cantabric Sea. It was used to fish sardine with the purse seine technique during the first half of the last century. It had from 8 to 10 oars on each side, so it needed a crew of 20 fishermen, a person in charge of the helm. It had a sail but the most common thing was seeing fishermen rowing as fast as they could towards the coast in order to be the first ones to sell the fish.