



Julian May

**Porteous with Dave Densmore in 2014.**

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different from the way they would have done it hundreds of years ago.”

“I love fishing and fishing people,” Porteous said.

Her time fishing led to her deep reverence for the way of life and culture. She said that she connects with “the rawness of experience of being out there on the seas and the way that puts you in touch with the really important things in life.”

Porteous has a small model of a fishing boat called a ‘coble’, which were traditional, open wooden boats around 30 feet in length. Cobles represent a largely bygone era of traditional fishing in the Northumberland region. Part of her calling to write about fishing comes from the changes she’s observed in her village and the disappearance of traditional fishing culture.

**Stories about the sea**

The tradition and power of reading

poetry aloud as public storytelling is of great importance to Porteous. She reflected on the FisherPoets Gathering as a storytelling event.

“Although it’s all individuals telling their stories and sharing poems they’ve made up, there’s a strong communal feel. That’s where poetry comes from. It’s an ancient art form. Poetry and storytelling about the sea are actually among the oldest poems and stories we have,” she said.

Porteous has published several volumes

of poetry but she most enjoys presenting her work in person or through an audio medium such as radio.

“Radio is a lovely medium for poetry because that enables an intimacy between the person hearing it and the speaker,” Porteous said.

She is eager to present poetry at the 2021 FisherPoets Gathering and to listen in to old friends, legends and new faces. She said she is humbled to be presenting alongside legendary fisherpoets.