



Sullivan pauses while salmon fishing in the Uganik Bay in 2014.

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bolstered his ability to induce emotion in his readers.

“I (write) about the inner landscape of fishing, not the environment itself. But of course the environment informs your inner life,” he said. “In a way, fishing is just a vehicle to tell a human story.”

By the late ‘90s, Sullivan had a poem published in the Alaska Fishing Journal, catching the attention of Jon Broderick who, coincidentally, had been making some of the first calls for the first FisherPoets Gathering in 1998. Since its inception, the event has been held every year for fishermen to come together as a community and share their written works with one another. Naturally, Sullivan has been a long-time participant.

Throughout the years, Broderick, who lives in Cannon Beach, has become Sullivan’s friend. Broderick said Sullivan is a thoughtful and insightful creator.

“Almost nobody can hold a crowd in a bar or the Voodoo Room, or any of our places where we meet . . . with a narration,” Broderick said. “(Sullivan) can read for 15 minutes and keep you spellbound.”

Sullivan is one of this year’s FisherPoets Gathering performers. In tandem with the FisherPoets Gathering, the Astoria Visual Arts Gallery is featuring an exhibit titled “When Crab Was King” from the Kodiak Maritime Museum, which Sullivan manages as the director. The exhibit is a compilation of oral histories from the people, including Sullivan himself, who experienced the Kodiak King Crab Fishery at its height.



Sullivan during a performance at a previous FisherPoets Gathering.

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