



Whaling along Oregon's coast



An enterprise during the 1960s

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Whaling took place all over the world. But the North Coast has a little-known history of being home to one of the last commercial whaling enterprises in the U.S.

Whaling was a thing of the past by the mid-20th century on the East Coast but it lingered longer in the West. In the 1960s, the industry became intertwined with Oregon's mink farms.

As wild horse herd populations dwindled,

mink farms across the state ran out of ways to feed their animals. Their solution was to turn to the oceans by developing a whale fishery that could provide them with a high quantity of nutrient-rich meat.

The proposal was a collaboration between the Oregon Fur Producers; BioProducts Inc. and its subsidiary Hvalfangst Oregon; and Frank Parker and Eben Parker, who owned the trawler Tom & Al that would become the company's whaling boat.

See Whaling, Page B5

ABOVE: BioProducts used a variety of tools to utilize every part of the whales.
BOTTOM: Workers haul up a whale at BioProducts in Warrenton.

