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**Surf** from 1A

Volunteer instructors provide a one-to-one ratio in the water, both as a safety precaution and also to help strengthen the mentorship and learning experience of the participants.

According to Chapman, the surfing portion of the program is not only fun, challenging and active, but it also provides a medium for helping youth develop character skills such as courage, discipline and compassion.

During the camp, the youth participated in a beach cleanup where they collected, sorted and evaluated the trash.

Instructors also led youth through the process of water quality testing, where partici-



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

pants collect and analyze samples to monitor the health of the oceans and beaches.

Together, these activities challenge youth to recognize human impact on the coastal ecosystem and instill an awareness of the role each person can play in caring for the planet.

**Warm Current's Surf Camps teach youth how to interact with the ocean in a positive and enriching way.**

Warm Current runs yearly one-day surf camps on the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California. The camps are

free of charge. For more information on the Warm Current Program, visit [warmcurrent.org](http://warmcurrent.org).



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**Otter** from 1A

One thing has remained the same during that time, however, and that is the Otter.

At more than a century old, the boat is one of the few things in Florence that is a working example of an earlier and simpler lifestyle.

"The Otter was built in San Diego in 1913 and I bought it in 1953. I really wanted a fishing boat, but there were none available at the time, so my brother and I converted this one," Fossek said. "Wooden boats were my hobby before I got into fishing. I've always liked wooden boats and it's kind of neat when you can combine your hobby with your work."

Fossek worked as a commercial fisherman for 40 years, earning his living, as did most of his friends and neigh-

bors, by working the land and the water — a lifestyle no longer available to most residents of Florence.

"When I first came to the coast in 1944, tourism and retirement weren't the big thing it is today. Everybody was busy logging, sawmilling, farming and fishing," he said.

Fossek doesn't consider himself retired, but he hasn't commercially fished in 1994.

He takes the Otter down to Reedsport Machine and Fabrication for a semi-annual bottom painting job.

Fossek pointed out the durability of the Otter, as well as the need for continual maintenance.

"Wooden boats will last a long time if you take care of them. I spend a good deal of my time puttering around with it. If it's sunny weather, I usually come down here and do some painting and mainte-

nance," he said. "Most of the woodwork on the boat is done by hand. That's because it is odd shaped; it's not like doing cabinetwork."

According to Fossek, very few of the wood joints are square.

"Steaming works good for bending and shaping it, or even boiling the wood will work good," he said.

Fossek has mixed feelings about all the changes he and Otter have seen take place around them over the last half century, especially the dramatic shift in the economy.

"It's a little scary for the area to have all of it's eggs in one basket, but I guess tourism is pretty secure and probably won't go away," he said. "It's just a little sad, I wish there was just a little more of the old still around to mix with the new, but I guess that's just the way things go."

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