

Remembering Kevin Dunn

Kevin Dunn, commercial fisherman, emerging artist, and longtime advocate for the fishing community, passed away on March 20, 2026, leaving behind a legacy defined by courage, generosity, and plainspoken honesty. He was 67. Known to most as the captain of the *F/V Iron Lady*, Kevin made his living as a trawler fishing out of Warrenton and the Columbia River, where he earned a reputation as a skilled fisherman, an innovative thinker and someone who was never afraid to speak his mind. He spent more than 40 years on the water, roughly 26 of those as the Iron Lady's captain.

In his role as captain, he and his crew and the Iron Lady were featured in a [commercial](#) for Whole Foods Market that aired during the World Series in 2014. The commercial showed how well-managed fisheries can result in wins for fishermen, conservation, the environment and the public. It was around the same time that many groundfish species received Marine Stewardship Council sustainability certification.

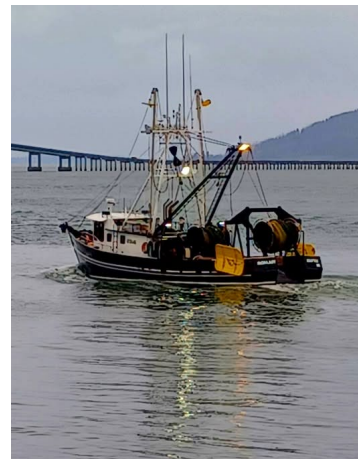
Kevin served for many years on the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP), where he was a strong voice for working fishermen. He believed in practical solutions and openly shared his ideas and criticisms. At the same time, he also practiced innovative net designs aimed at reducing bycatch and improving fishing efficiency and sharing those ideas with others. He spoke plainly, sometimes gruffly, but always with the goal of making things better for fishermen and the resource on which they depend.

Those who knew Kevin understood that beneath his gruff exterior was a deeply generous man with a big heart. He was known for showing up to the GAP with doughnuts, speaking up on issues he felt strongly about, helping others behind the scenes and supporting causes and people he believed in. He valued community — one built on helping each other, trading favors, sharing knowledge and looking out for one another.

Kevin also pursued an artistic passion later in life, creating fused glass artwork filled with color and light. It was a reflection of a creative side that surprised some but made perfect sense to those who knew him well. He loved dogs, good conversations, and the tight-knit fishing community that was such an important part of his life.



Kevin Dunn, 2018 Commercial Fishermen's Tour. Credit: Bornstein Seafoods



In 2025, Kevin was appointed to serve as the secretary for the Youngs River Water District Board of Directors. He'd also served as a board member of the Commercial Fishermen's Festival, participated in the Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival, served on the Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council and joined many other community events and conversations over the years.

The F/V Iron Lady. Credit: Astoria Riverwalk Fan Facebook group

Kevin will be remembered as a fisherman, an artist, a mentor, an advocate and a friend — a man who showed courage in all parts of life: when he was angry, when he was happy, and when the future was uncertain, especially during his later days. His grin, his voice, his ideas and his generosity will never be forgotten.

Kevin is survived by his daughter, Jessica Holt; sons, Mathew Williams and Kevin Dunn Jr.; six grandchildren; his dog Freya; and many close friends.

A celebration of life will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 12, the [Clatsop County Fairgrounds](#) (92937 Walluski Loop) in Astoria.



The F/V Iron Lady. Credit: Kevin Dunn