The Texas Maritime Museum has been educating visitors about the rich maritime history of Texas for over 25 years! Enjoy Texas history focusing on exploration and settlement, boatbuilding and shipbuilding, the search for offshore oil and gas, and sport and commercial fishing.

When most people pair Texas and food together they think steak and cattle but, with the 6th largest general coastline in the US stretching 367 miles, marine life plays a big part in Texas’ economy too. Commercial fishing alone brings in over $200 million each year without taking into account the popular sports fishing tournaments and recreational pastimes of coastal inhabitants and visitors. In 1989 industrial fishing reached its highest level bringing in about 90 million tons of seafood, but yields have been on the decline ever since. Why? Scientists believe that large ocean fish like tuna have been reduced to just 10% of their former population and could go extinct within the next 35 years. Texas had a crisis of its own, when a type of boat called a scow nearly emptied the bays, until in 1952 a law was passed essentially putting the scows, and their method of fishing, completely out of business, making ours the only one of its kind left in the state. Visit the Museum to learn more!

Your Mission is to visit the Texas Maritime Museum and:

1. Find and learn about our scow sloop ‘La Tortuga’ being refurbished in our outdoor displays.

2. Our scow is white with blue trim and a red bottom. Color your own with a coloring page, crayons and clipboards available at front desk. What color would you like yours to be? Most were painted bright colors like yellow, green or blue.

3. Visit the Allure of Fishing exhibit on the second floor and answer the 3 questions below.
1. Match the descriptions with the three greatest dangers of the fishing industry:

   Bycatch
   Overfishing
   Habitat Destruction

A. Fishing faster than the fish can naturally reproduce:

B. Method of fishing leaving the fish without anywhere to live and recover:

C. Name for species of unwanted fish that can get caught in fishing nets and are later discarded or thrown back:

2. Fishing began as subsistence (an activity to provide food for family to eat), but became a small market for coastal communities to provide jobs. The invention of two new industries turned this market into a national one. Can you name the two new inventions/industries?

   A. _________________________  B. _________________________

   A. Transportation (railroads & highways)  B. Refrigeration (ice plants)

3. Before the 1950s and a shift to Gulf shrimping, most fishing was done in our bays and estuaries. Can you name the two main fish which were caught? (Hint: Mr. Covarrubias sold them for $0.05 per pound)

   A. _________________________  B. _________________________

   A. English E. Trout