

## Icon: Fishing

The fishing industry is central to the history of the Northumberland coast. Almost every village by the sea had a harbour and its own fleet. Originally, fishing was only done in small boats. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the industry grew as larger boats and driftnets were used to catch large shoals of herring for export to Europe.

While you explore the coast look out for evidence of the fishing industry.

### Harbours



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### Lobster and Crab Pots



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**Shiels (basic shelters used by fishermen who were sailing down the coast)**



### Fisherman's Cottages



**Boats used as sheds on Holy Island**



### Fisherman's huts



## The coble

Fishing boats in the North East have a particular narrow shape with high sides, (designed to keep the boat straight as it crashes through surf when landing on the beach) and flat bottoms (to make it easy to pull up onto the shore).

'Cobles' are small boats for two or three fishermen, going out for the day, using fishing lines. In the past they would catch cod and haddock in winter and lobsters, crab, salmon and sea trout in the summer. Now, the coble fishermen put out pots to catch lobsters and crab. Because boats today are powered with engines (not lug sails as in the past) they can be handled by one person.

Look out for cobles and draw them from different angles, to understand their design.



### Find out more

- To see more boats and compare the coble to boats from around the world, visit World of Boats at Eyemouth. <http://www.worldofboats.org/about/>
- If you want to experience going out to sea for fishing, you can try <http://www.dawsonofseahouses.co.uk/>