



[Calbost Fishing Boats and Drowning Accidents]

The following is an incomplete list of the fishing boats of Calbost. It is incomplete because the earlier records were lost and some of the existing records were classified as confidential on account of details of money borrowed by crew etc. However, most of the boats of the period from 1869 onwards are accounted for.

Most, if not all of these boats were share owned by the crew but they were registered to the skipper and his village of residence. All the boats in Marvig and Calbost were based on the excellent anchorage at Marvig and sometimes some of the share owning crew or the skipper might be from one of the other two villages.

The list divides into two categories, the smaller inshore boats of under 20 feet long which participated mostly in line fishing for white fish and seasonal winter herring in the sea lochs. These smaller boats were usually family owned and were hauled up onto the beach at Mol a Gho, Calbost. The larger offshore boats of between 25 and 80 feet long, which fished mainly for herring with drift nets, were moored at the sheltered anchorage of Loch Marvig.

Year	Name of Boat	Reg. No.	Skipper	Keel	Keel	Crew
1869	Rouse About	SY43	Norman Mackenzie	43ft		5
1869	Magdalene	SY688	Norman Mackenzie		16ft	6
1869	Mary Kennedy		Murdo Kennedy	33½ft		5
1869	Marg. Kennedy		Murdo Kennedy	38½ft		5
1869	Marg. Macleod	SY292	John Macleod	35ft		5
1869	N. Macleod	SY332	Norman Macleod		17ft	5
1869	Catherine	SY649	Roderick Smith		13ft	4
1869	Isabella	SY650	Angus Finlayson		16ft	5
1869	Nancy	SY682	Donald Mackenzie		16ft	5
1869	Anna	SY683	Malcolm Mackay		16ft	5
1869	Brothers	SY685	Kenneth Mackay	34ft		5
1869	Christine	SY1229	Kenneth Mackay		16ft	5
1870	Isabella	SY1252	Alexander Finlayson		15ft	5
1871	Smart	SY1237	Norman Mackenzie		14ft	4
1872	Kate	SY333	Murdo Nicholson		16ft	5
1873	Malinka	SY339	Norman Mackenzie	36ft		5
1873	Maggie Lizzie	SY49	Kenneth Nicholson	42ft		5
1874	Janet	SY1526	John Macleod	36ft		5
1875	Maid	SY1666	John Macleod		17ft	6
1875	Mary Macleod	SY292	Kenneth Nicholson	35ft		5
1875	Isabella	SY1252	Donald Finlayson		15ft	5
1878	Mary Macleod		Donald Macleod	35ft		5
1879	Try Again	SY39	John Macleod	39ft		6
1880	Maggie Lizzie	SY49	John Macleod	42ft		6
1882	Halcyon	SY97	John Macleod		17½ft	6
1883	Crocus	SY738	Kenneth Nicolson	45ft		6
1884	New Waverly	SY292	Donald Macleod	35ft		5
1886	Princess of Thule	SY757	Angus Smith		16½ft	5
1886	Gannet	SY774	Roderick Macleod		14½ft	5
1886	Beautiful Star	SY787	Kenneth Nicolson		14¾ft	5
1886	Crofter	SY797	Kenneth Macleod		18ft	5
1886	Ocean Queen	SY736	Kenneth Macleod		16ft	6
1889	Barbara	SY14	John Macleod		16ft	6
1889	Annie	SY449	John Morrison		16ft	5
1891	Jubilee	SY923	Malcolm Mackay	44ft		6
1893	Jane Sinclair	SY1009	Angus Smith	44ft		6
1898	Clan Macleod	SY1201	Norman Macleod		15ft	6
1899	Come On	SY840	Alexander Macleod		15ft	6
1899	Penguin	SY22	Roderick Smith		14ft	5
1899	Sea Rover	SY753	John Morrison	40ft		6
1901	Britannia	SY1065	Kenneth Nicolson	50ft		6
1901	Jubilee	SY923	John Kennedy		14ft	4

1907	Maggie Ann	SY27	Murdo Campbell	18ft	6
1912	Fearn	SY391	Kenneth Macleod	14ft	4
1914	Beautiful	SY237	John Macleod	19ft	4
1915	Thankful	SY226	Murdo Morrison	20ft	4
1915	Shamrock	SY241	Donald Kennedy	18ft	4
1917	St. Columba	SY319	Alex Macleod	39ft	6
1920	Ribhinn Donn	SY53	Kenneth Mackay	33ft	5
1922	Starlight Rays	SY460	Donald Kennedy	35ft	5
1923	Cawdor Castle	SY485	Donald MacIennan	73ft	6
1923	Vine	SY477	John Murdo Morrison	77ft	7
1924	Sceptre		Angus Finlayson	78ft	7
1928	Proceed (motor)	SY553	Angus Finlayson	67½ft	7
1933	Proceed 11(motor)	SY478	Angus Finlayson	72ft	7
1929	Honour Bright	SY16	John Macleod	79ft	7
1929	Welcome Home	SY123	Donald Macleod	38ft	5
1935	Shamrock	SY121	Peter Kennedy	15ft	4
1948	Trust	SY478	Angus Finlayson	41ft	5

However careful fishermen might be, the sea will inevitably claim the lives of some of them from time to time. Fortunately however there were no major drowning accidents in which most or all of a boats crew were lost in the history of the village such as there were in most of the neighbouring villages. There were however several single drowning accidents, which happened in various ways.

Roderick Finlayson b.1877, son of Donald Finlayson, 10 Calbost: He was a hired deckhand at the east coast herring fishing when he was lost overboard at Banff.

Hector Macleod b.1887, son of Kenneth Macleod, 6 Calbost: Was drowned at Lerwick where he was a hired deckhand on the drifter Trident in 1909 at the age of 22 years. He was swept overboard by the sail.

Iain Morrison (Donald) b.1902, son of Donald Morrison, 9 Calbost & **Iain Morrison (Neil)** b.1902, son of Neil Morrison, 9 Calbost: Both drowned on 1st November 1922 at the early age of 22 years at the mouth of Loch Shell near Lemreway on their way to resettle Steimreway with their parents and other families from Calbost. That was a very sad day in the history of Calbost when the struggle for land cost the lives of two young men as they were transporting building materials to Steimreway in order to escape the gross overcrowded living conditions in Calbost with well over 30 families living on the 14 crofts in the village.

Calum Macleod b.1930, son of Donald Macleod, 8 Calbost: In 1940 at the age of 10 years Calum went out to the common grazing at Rubha na Creaga Moiré to search for and bring home the family cow. On that day there was a strong onshore east wind, which sometimes brings flotsam onshore, and Mariad Macleod, 9 Marvig, saw Calum near the shore at Mol Na Braithrean. She warned him to be careful and not go near the sea. He took her advice but must have returned later because he was never seen again and despite a comprehensive daily search over a long period of time his remains were never found. It was a very traumatic experience for his widowed father who was left in 1936, four years earlier, with a family of four boys and two girls when his wife, Annie Macarthur, from Tolsta Chaolais died from complications in childbirth. The whole community grieved over his sad family tragedy and it was very touching to witness the father continuing to go round the shore for a long, long time, in the hope of finding some sign of the remains of his young son.

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