

# URGENT

## We must save the **Biche**, a tunnyman from Groix

\*The **Biche**, the last sailing tuna boat from Groix, has just escaped from being destroyed in Douarnenez. This type of boat was common on the French Atlantic coasts for a century and delighted generations of painters, photographers and of course sailors.

The most beautiful and important traditional boat from the technical and historical point of view, in France and perhaps even in Europe, needs to be saved.

The Association "**Les Amis du Biche**" has worked hard to preserve and rebuild her to her sailing condition. In perfect harmony with the **European Maritime Heritage** (EMH) and the **Barcelona Charter** principles, the association wants to preserve and promote:

- the art of hull drawing, fruit of centuries of experience.
- the art of building, and a type of process of restoration scientifically impeccable.
- the art of rigging, sail-making and sailing on this superb big and pure working boat. These dundeeds sailed until the 1950s. They seduced all of those who came across them and who share today their admiration.

■ the art of deep-sea and line fishing that kept the coasts and isles of the French Atlantic alive, respectful of the sea resources and the environment.

The Association urgently needs the **permission to preserve the hull** and proceed with the conservation work without any further delay (shoring, etc...), before the hull is taken away at the next spring tide. "**Les Amis du Biche**" **needs you to step in immediately and persistently** at the **town hall** and the **ship museum of Douarnenez\***, owners of the boat, so we can push the endless obstacles that are being put in the way of the association.

A **restoration project** over several years is actually being organized in the big fishing and industrial harbour of **Lorient** Keroman. Lorient links Port Tudy, **Groix** Island's main harbour and the final destination of the Biche, to the continent.

The Association is currently working on an English report on this project, which obviously has an **European significance**. This report will be addressed to the **EMH** and it requests its help and guidance to different European organisations competent in **maritime heritage** preservation matters and especially in **sciences and maritime popular techniques**.

Marc MAUSSION (GROIX)  
President Association

Jeff WAGNER  
EMH Safety Council  
8 rue du Carrefour  
29 100 Douarnenez  
France

\*The BICHE, Tunnyman from Groix (Morbihan, South Brittany, France) built in 1933 at Chauffeteau's shipyard, Sables d'Olonnes (Vendée).

Length:21m, Width: 6.6m, Dundee or Yawl

\*Addresses – Mairie de Douarnenez 16 Rue Berthelot 29174 Douarnenez  
Tel: (00) 33 (0)2 98 74 46 06 Fax : (00) 33 (0)2 98 74 46 09  
<contact@mairie-douarnenez.fr>

– Port-Musée de Douarnenez

Tel : (00) 33 (0)2 98 92 65 20 Fax : (00) 33 (0)2 98 92 05 41

– Association "Les Amis du Biche" 5 Rue des Thonniers 56 590 Ile de Groix  
Internet : biche.asso.fr