

Save the last tunnyman from Groix

Biche

Association for the safeguard of the Biche

Association “Les Amis du Biche”

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The last testament to an era
of craftsmanship and skills which shaped
the image of the Atlantic fishermen. She is the classic
embodiment of generations of builders and sailors.

The Biche

*The Biche. Dundee Tunnyman from Groix built in 1932 at Chaffoteaux shipyard, Sables d'Olonnes for the owner
Ange STEPHAN named "Biche".
Lenght 21 meter, width: 6.6m
Part of the National Heritage*

The Biche
stands out as a true **masterpiece** ready to live again.
As an important part of our **national heritage**
her lines spread worldwide, as seen through a wide range of visual medium
such as reproductions, paintings, models and photographs.

Beyond a working tool

“The concept of maritime heritage afloat embraces the single traditional ship in which is found the evidence of a particular civilisation or significant development as well as traditional sailing, seamanship and maritime workmanship.” (Article 1, Barcelona Charter)

“The Intention in preserving and restoring traditional ships in operation is to safeguard them whether as work of art, as historical evidence or for perpetuating traditional skills.” (Article 3, Barcelona Charter)

Symbol of a culture under threat, the *Biche* was doomed to an **inevitable destruction**.

What we needed to do:

To preserve this vessel as a testament to the craftsmanship unparalleled up to today.

To successfully complete the restoration incorporating the original features.

Make her sail again.

Aims

*“The process of restoration is a highly specialised operation.
Its aim is to preserve and reveal the aesthetic, functional, and historic value of traditional ships and is based on respect for original material and authentic documents. ...” (Article 7, Barcelona Charter)*

It's not only the “Biche” itself as a physical object that we want to save but
the **oral and technical heritage** that we also want to develop

Preserve the memory of the sailors from Groix

Save and hand down the skills threatened by the passing of time

Provide a legacy of a real culture around a symbolic object from the social and economic history of the **Atlantic coast**

Why ?

“A traditional ship is inseparable from the history to which it bears witness and from the waters it sailed. Therefore its heport and area of operation ideally should be in the regions of its former usage.”
(Article 6, Barcelona Charter)

How?

To arouse the interest of specialists, politicians and the public at large by:

1. Involvement of scientific and cultural authorities:

River and Maritime Heritage Foundation, DRAC, FRCM, Chasse-Marée, Museum

2. Commitment of the coastal community:

The Greater Lorient, Morbihan, Brittany Region, Coastal towns with tuna fishing tradition

3. Creation of associative structures:

Association for Saving the Biche, sponsored by Gérard D'Aboville.
Association "Les Amis du Biche", sponsored by Lucien Gouronc (300 members today)

4. Participation of patrons:

The Navy, the Morbihan Sailing Society, SEM Keroma, Auray Pneus, Numerous contacts in hand
Creation of a "club" of shipowners in project.

Make sure the boat is safely transported from Douarnenez to Lorient by the Navy:

Using a BSR type platform. Consolidation of the hull. Building of a cradle

Locate the works in Lorient Keroman's harbour:

Permanent exhibition open to the public, at the heart of the harbour

Delegate the restoration to a well-know and competent shipyard

With the necessary expertise and certified by cultural departments and French museums

Take this opportunity to create a professional training site

in boat building, facilities and maintenance, sails, rigging and naval engineering, all in collaboration with the companies working on the site

The Restoration stages

“The preservation, restoration and operation of traditional ships must have recourse to all the sciences, techniques and facilities that can contribute to the study and safeguarding of the maritime heritage afloat.” (Article 2, Barcelona Charter)

Thankfully, due to the revival of **traditional sailing, the necessary skills are already there:**

This will allow us to:

Hire a **crew**: a captain and experienced sailors

Gather together, interview and involve the **last sailors** of this centuries-old career

Organise to **take on board**:

Fishing schools, companies, private people etc...

To sail for a day, a training cruise or tuna voyages

The Biche sails: operation

“Making use of traditional ships for some socially useful purpose always facilitates their preservation. Such use is therefore desirable but it must not significantly change the exterior layout of the ship. Modifications demanded by a change of function should be kept within these limits.” (Article 5, Barcelona Charter)

First of all :

Technological and human involvement
in the **industrial port of Lorient Keroman** which has the appropriate facilities.

Throughout the project, welcome the public and organize events in a **modern and efficient harbour**.

National and International **dialogue** on the project in this high quality environment.

Bring to the Greater Lorient **private and public** funding, French and European.

Then:

Operating the boat to the advantage of the *cultural, human and economical* region of **Groix** and the whole **Atlantic** area.

Economic interest for the project

Through the creation of **events** on the yard itself

Through the **passing on of traditional skills**

Through the **opening of the yard** to the public at large

Through the creation of a **permanent exhibition**

Cultural interest for the project

This work

Covers essentially **educational and cultural** aims. It provides a nautical experience to the youth,
so badly needed by the **fishing and merchant fleet**.

It allows people to rediscover **seamanship almost forgotten**, and enhance the **preservation of endangered techniques**;

Learn and promote the **History and traditions** of the people/communities
living along the Atlantic coasts, Groix in particular.

Gets the people of the **professional** and traditional **maritime world** and those **passionate** about navigation,
involved in this programme

Two and a half years of rebuilding work in Lorient and six months of finishing work in Groix

The Association for the safeguard of the Biche

Estimated Budget 2004-2006

A 3-year rebuilding work budget

Estimated Expenses (in euros)

Lorient Restoration/Safeguard plus Convoying	74 759
Rent of a boathouse	45 750
Hull and deck restoration	627 909
Mast	69 705
Total Hull	818 123
Groix. Amenities/mechanization/ rigging/equipment	401 877
Total boat	1 220 000
Transfer/missions/receptions	15 500
Insurances/Information/Advertising	18 500
Administrative costs	12 000
Others	24 000
Total spent	1 290 000

Estimated Revenue (in euros)

Les Amis du Biche and sponsors	85 000
Club des Armateurs / patrons	45 000
AGEFIPH (employment & disability)	50 000
DRAC	180 000
Local Community	44 000
Regional Councils	250 000
Brittany Regional Council	120 000
Structural Fund	
ESF/ERDF/FIOM	516 000
Total gain	1 290 000

Estimation
after the GOUELIA and BELLE ETOILE project

Les Amis du Biche Association

ANNUAL ESTIMATED BUDGET

Annual Operation of the Biche

Expenses (in euros)

Wages and expenses: 1 boss, 1 mate 1 part-time secretary, 1 sailor	62 000
Petrol	5 000
Supply	13 000
Administrative Coasts	8 000
Insurances	4 000
Maintenance and repair	16 000
Taxes	5 000
Total expenses	113 000
Total receipt	113 000

Receipts (in euros)

Fishing voyages and other cruises 50 days at sea with 10 passengers	50 000
One day sailing: 25 days with 20 passengers 50 euros/day	25 000
Renting/receptions	5 000
DRAC. Important maintenance	8 000
Contributions and donations	10 000
Putting on sale by-products including fishing	15 000

1- The Biche Associations

commit themselves to follow the Barcelona Charter's spirit*

The Association for the Biche safeguard

*To conduct an **authentic restoration**.*

*To provide at the yard a **place of learning**, integration and information, a **professional training place** managed by a well-known and certified shipyard.*

Commitments

The Association « Les Amis du Biche »

*To rally together all the parties and institutional, economic and technical partners from **Lorient Keroman's harbour**.*

*To create an **ownership and company club** likely to help to achieve the project.*

Beyond this, to involve the ship in operations, means of communication and harbours and towns associated with tuna fishing.

*To conduct the ships **operation**;*

** **The Barcelona Charter: European charter for the conservation and restoration of traditional ships in operation. Established by the EMH on 20th April 2002 the Barcelona Charter resolved to adapt the Athens Charter of 1931 and the Venice Charter of 1964 to maritime heritage.***

2- DRAC (Regional Department of Cultural Affairs)

Guarantees and helps in co-financing

Follows up the progress of the report whilst with the French and European, private and government investors

Provides the access to funds and museum archives on tunnymen

Supervise the authenticity of the restoration with the intervention of experts in maritime heritage

3- Museums and Trust Division

Ensure that the 20 year safeguard agreement signed with the towns of Groix and Douarnenez is honoured according to its terms and conditions.

4- The Greater Lorient

Guarantee the co-financing and restoration over a three financial year period

Put at the disposal of the association the site and logistics (location , VDR boathouse) in order to facilitate a secure project at Lorient Keroman

Guarantee to make the Biche an object of interest and raise awareness by getting the public access to events and activities.

5- Regional and Departmental Collectivities

Involved in completing the project through annual grants

Involved in bringing together the different partners

Involved in the investment and restoration work

The last sailing fishermen, the remaining eyewitnesses of the Atlantic tuna adventure, follow with interest and emotion the revival of the Biche. It is in keeping with the continuity of a long lasting job.

It is a bridge thrown to generations of sailors. She carries the memory and great techniques that are today threatened, she embodies the established values of the maritime world.

Biche, this work of art, aims to be the flag and symbol of those living values and the link between the maritime traditions of Brittany and the Atlantic coast, past and future.

Restoring the Biche

A human reality, not an utopia