



WESTERN CANADA
HERITAGE VESSEL
REGISTRY

Statement of Significance

Falcon Rock

1960



MARITIME MUSEUM
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Falcon Rock

Year built: 1960
Builder: McKay-Cormack Ltd.
Build Location: Victoria, B.C.

Vessel Type: Fisheries Patrol Vessel
WCHVR Category: B.C. Historic Vessel
Owner(s): George Karras

PRÉCIS:

The Fisheries Protection Vessel (FPV) ***Falcon Rock*** was the first in a series of “Rock” class boats built for the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans in the 1960’s to oversee and protect the local fisheries within the then 12-mile territorial limit. Designed by William Reid and built by McKay-Cormack Ltd of Victoria, ***Falcon Rock*** exemplifies the very high standard of working vessel design and construction found within BC in that period. Decommissioned by DFO in 1981 she was given to the Tsimshian Tribal Council to attend various native fisheries. The present owner acquired ***Falcon Rock*** in 1999 and has extensively restored her to the present fine condition.



Falcon Rock in her element

Statement of Significance

The ***Falcon Rock*** was the first of a series of “Rock” Class Fisheries Protection Vessels built for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in the 1960’s to oversee and protect the BC coastal fisheries within the then 12 mile territorial limit. Although now registered as a pleasure craft, she was built as a commercial workboat, crewed by Master, Engineer, deckhand and one Fishery Officer. The vessel was built to Transport Canada Marine regulations and inspected and certificated accordingly.

Her designer, William M. Reid, was a well-respected B.C. naval architect who was responsible for the design of many of the large steel seiners built in the 60’s such as the *Westward Ho*, research ship *Richardson Point*, as well as many wooden fishboats and tugs. In his own words, “an examination of the plans will show this vessel to have many of the desirable features and the proposed construction and equipment will be to a higher standard to operate within the Home Trade II waters of BC”. Indeed, her current Owner describes her as “a very fine vessel, heavy duty in every aspect, and most of all, sea kindly in all weathers without any roll dampening devices. She cuts through the water easily without creating much of a wake and keeps her head in any direction of weather with a deep keel and huge rudder. She is easily maneuverable in close quarters necessary to approach fishing vessels at sea and has perfectly proportioned stern for following seas. Mr. Reid was close to perfection on this design.”

Falcon Rock was built by McKay-Cormack Ltd. in Victoria, as hull no. 47. Her length on deck is 51 feet, beam 14 feet, draft of 5.8 feet. Gross registered tonnage is 25.96 and she displaces 37 tons. The keel is fir with stem and stern post made of gumwood. Frames are bent oak with yellow cedar beams, hull and deck planking. Propulsion is provided by an 8V-71 Detroit Diesel engine that pushes her to hull speed of 10.2 knots, but 1300 RPM gives a frugal and relaxing 8 knots. The full set of 13 drawings including the Stability Book are still available.

After being decommissioned by DFO, ***Falcon Rock*** was given to the Tsimshian Tribal Council for use attending roe kelp and other native fisheries. The present owner acquired her in 1999 and has extensively replaced all above waterline components; new stern, new hull planks around the bows above shear plank to stem, new foredeck, new bulwarks including various planks on the hull. This is a well-appointed boat, and well worth the effort to keep this fine example of a safe and comfortable vessel. She has cruised the entire B.C. coast and is recognized by all, whatever harbour she may put into.

Statement of Significance for:

Fishery Protection Vessel ***Falcon Rock***

**Prepared and acknowledged by the
Western Canada Heritage Vessel Registry**

Lead Assessor: Captain William Noon

Signature: _____

Date: September 3, 2026

SOURCES:

- Historic Notes from Owner George Karras
- Nauticapedia: <https://www.nauticapedia.ca/vessel.php?id=9526>



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