Incorporated in 1891, Anacortes has been active in:

Seafood Harvesting & Processing: Salmon, cod, crab, etc

Natural Resource Refining: Wood Products (then) & Oil (now)

Boat Building, Maintenance, Shipping, Harbor

Ferry Port & Tourism / Home Building & Retail Vitality

Maintaining Natural Beauty & Creating City Parks
What are now marinas were once the sites of wood product mills, which lined the Fidalgo Bay Shoreline from the 1890s until 1992.
Shingle mills, a pulp mill, lumber & box mills and a plywood mill occupied a dozen sites and combined to make the wood products industry the biggest local jobs source for most of the 20th century.
Seafood processing plants lined the Guemes Channel Shoreline from the 1890s and are still active.
Salmon, codfish, clams, crab, tuna and more were processed at a dozen sites, making Anacortes "the Salmon Canning Capital of the World."
Boat building has always been a part of Anacortes
When the waterways were the highways, Anacortes was a retail center - housing boomed to accommodate the largest population and workforce of Skagit County.
The arrival of Shell in 1953 and Texaco in 1957 created jobs for locals, and brought in a wave of newcomers to the community, filling gaps in the economy left by closure of several mills & canneries.
Preservation of our this area’s natural beauty is directly connected to why Anacortes is an international tourist destination.
Anacortes is well known for its festivals and celebrations.
A Tradition of Community

More than 1,200 Anacortes citizens participated in a 17-week study during 1953, inspired by Dr. Poston’s book *Democracy Is You*, ultimately issuing a 5 volume study “Anacortes In Action,” that was put into action with award-winning results.