



Purse seines hauled by a power block

<http://www.fao.org/fishery/equipment/powerblock/en>

SIXTY ANNIVERSARY OF PATENTING POWER BLOCK - SHORT STORY ON MARIO PURATIĆ (1904-1993)

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POWER BLOCK-MARIO PURATIĆ

Power block is a mechanized pulley used to haul in nets, purse seine, etc.

During the last decades, fishermen and deck equipment manufacturers introduced various ingenious innovations aimed to reducing manpower on board and facilitating the working procedure during fishing operations. One such innovation was the **power block**. No single invention has contributed more to the success of purse seine net hauling than extensive line of **Power Blocks**.

First introduced in the 1950's the **Puretic Power Block** line became the linch-pin in the mechanization of purse seining. Combined with fluid hydraulic power technology and new large synthetic nets, it changed the whole character of purse seine fishing. The original **Puretic power block** was driven by an endless rope from the warping head of a winch.

Such **power blocks** seem to be now used rarely, if at all. Nowadays, as a rule, power blocks are driven by hydraulic pumps driven from the main or auxiliary engine.

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POWER BLOCK-MARIO PURATIĆ

Mario Puratić (Sumartin, Island Brač, Croatia, 26 June 1904. – Santa Barbara, California, USA, 6 January 1993.) – **Croatian fisherman from Brač becomes and American inventor** – (usually spelled Puretic or Puretich in English)



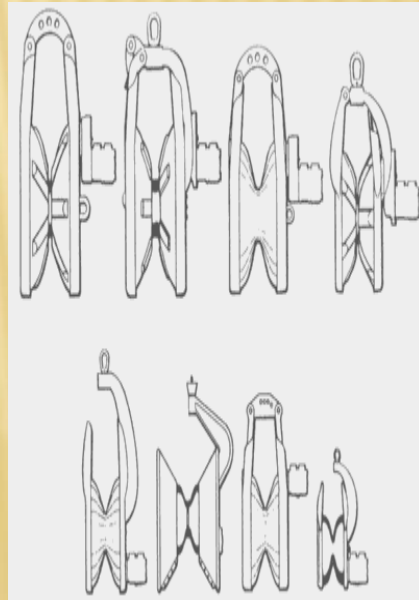
Birth house



Mario Puratić

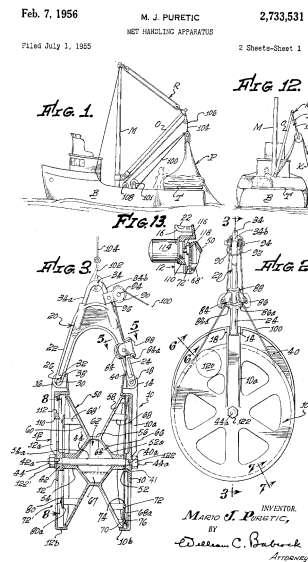
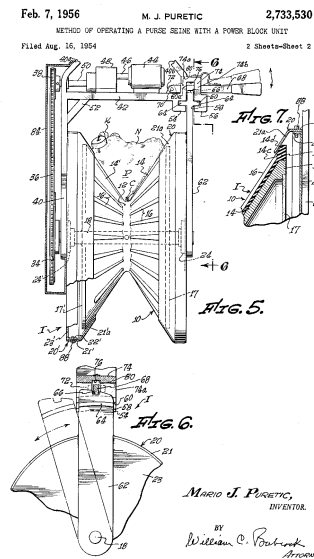
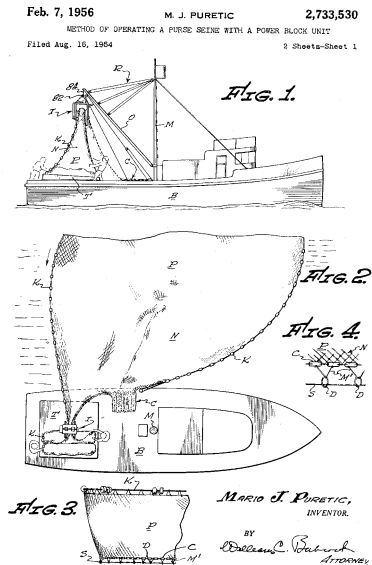
POWER BLOCK-MARIO PURATIĆ

- born in a family of farmers and fishermen
- as many of his countrymen, he left his home in 1925 to seek a better life in the United States, where he was a hard-working fisherman on large tuna purse seiners
- in 1954 he invented fishing equipment that revolutionized the technology of hauling fishing nets; patent approval was on 7th Feb 1956
- Until then fishing nets had to be manually drawn by eight to ten people, which was an extremely difficult job. The Marco Seattle company developed Puratic's idea, and it soon became a standard mean of fishing in the whole world.
- Another phase of fishing history had begun!!!!
- *Puratic Power Block has a form of a pulley with a central rotating element wrapped in hard rubber*

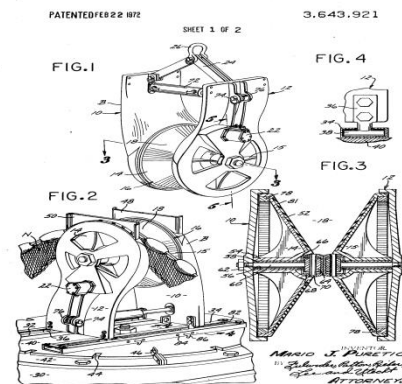
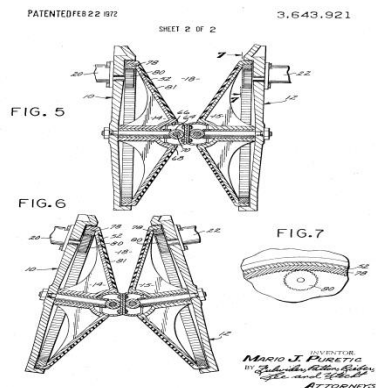


Detailed patent figures

He was an honorary citizen of many countries, including Iceland.



"King of Purse
Seine Fishing"



Mario Puratić, the father of
the fishing industry,
inventor of the *Puretic Power
Block*

- A Croatian who has done
more than any other man to
change the face of the
fishing industry

POWER BLOCK-MARIO PURATIĆ

- for his invention Puratić was given the National Inventor of the Year Award by the American Association for the Advancement of Invention and Innovation in 1975; he was elected among hundred greatest USA inventors of the 20th century
- in 1972 the National Bank of Canada issued a new series of 5 dollar banknotes with the Puretic Power Block on a fishing boat-salmon seiner drawn on the reverse side



When Mario Puratić died, his remains were brought from the USA to his native town of Sumartin in 1994.

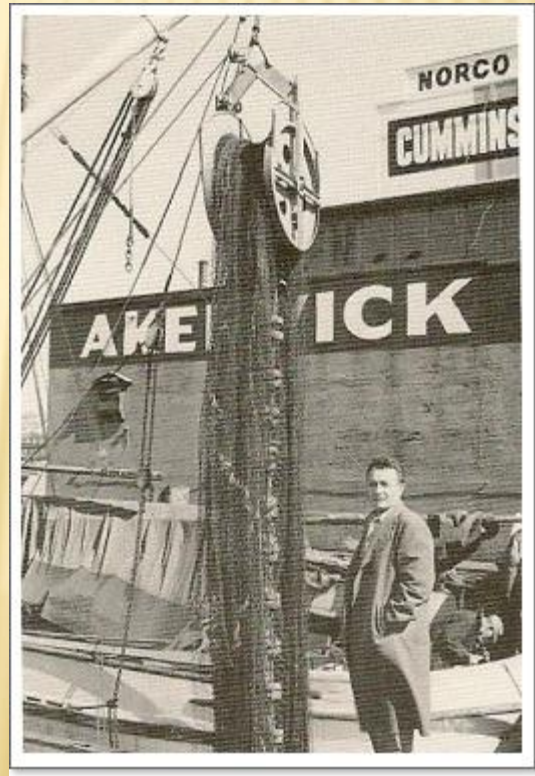
<http://www.croatianhistory.net/etf/puretic.html>

On the memorial board is staying (among others):

“Perfection of simplicity built into the winch has halved the torments of fishermen”



- If we paraphrase old Latin saying “**Navigare necesse est, vivere non est necesse!**” (in English: “To sail is necessary, to live, it is not necessary”) for the Croatian scientist Mario Puratić it would read: “**It is necessary to fish, not to live!**”
- Dalmatians have fishing in their blood...they have established fishery worldwide from Alaska to Magallanes. *Ante Dundov Kongo, Kali*



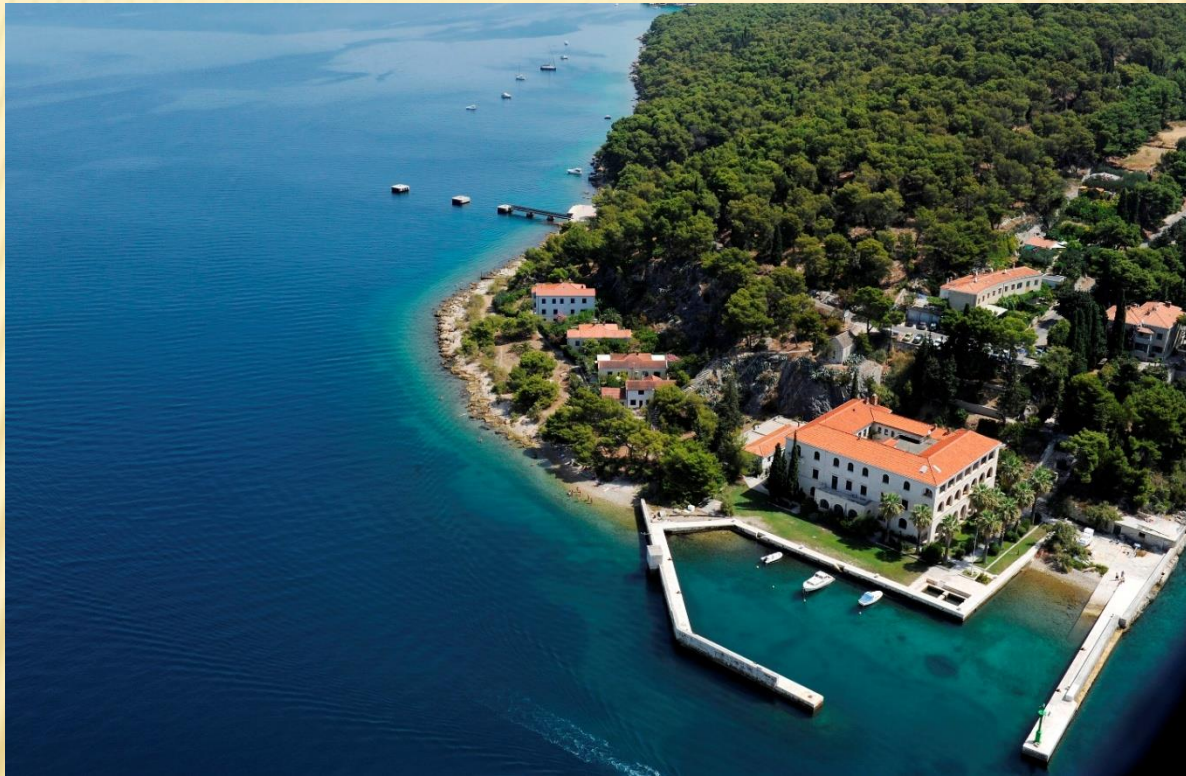
Jakov Kuljiš and **Ivan Dellaitti** produced the first acetylene lamps for night fishing;
Petar Dragić, the purse seine net, the precursor of today's monster nets;
Mario Puratić the power block, essential equipment on any fishing boat;
Ante Nižetić nylon nets, to replace those made with cotton;
John Rešić, the spray system to freeze fish.
They also revolutionized fish processing with **Martin Bogdanović** building the world's largest tuna cannery,
Star Kist and **Nikola Bezmalinović**, the first American floating fish factories.
Paul Martinis was proclaimed the king of Alaskan salmon fishing by President Eisenhower. ...



Dalmatian fishermen



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



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