

INTERVIEW WITH ROSA GALLARDO

Opmega pays tribute to its pioneers through drummer Rosa Gallardo

- Retired for three years, businesswoman and mother of 5 children, Rosa Gallardo (Muros, 1945) embodies the spirit of those women to whom the sea gave them economic independence and a profession that, although hard, was their day to day almost 40 years. years.

The woman has always been and is the main subject of the Galician mussel industry. One of them, until she retired two years ago, was Rosa Victoria Gallardo Martínez, whom the Galician Mussel Producers Organization honors today, March 8, International Women's Day, as a symbol of the work of women who have found sustenance in the trays. on the basis of his hard work. This muradana worked as a drummer for decades while raising her five children.

She was over 30 when her husband took over the concession of two rafts in the Ría de Muros and began going out to sea with him. He remembers those times as "hard but also very rewarding." He got up almost every day at six in the morning to go out on foot and then back home, "to take care of the children, to make food and things."

Bateeira was not an easy trade in those years: "We climbed the ropes by hand because at that time there were no cranes and each rope weighed



almost 200 kilos, nothing to do with the current one, which is much more bearable."

Years later, the older siblings took care of the younger ones and this lightened the workload a bit. A responsibility that fell on her when her husband could not continue working due to health problems and her eldest son took over,

Now retired for two years, she walks every day to the beach "one mile to go and another to return" to get rid of that "sea monkey" she claims to have since she left the raft.

Rosa Gallardo, who handles the mobile phone fluently and continues to show the same impetus as the family business, perfectly embodies the entrepreneurial spirit of many women who, without being the usual but not an exception, went out to sea as a family to cultivate mussel. For Rosa, this profession gave her the opportunity to fend for herself "and not ask anyone for anything."

Years of Galician mussel history have passed through his eyes. And that is why, on this International Working Women's Day, the Galician Mussel Producers' Organization wants to pay tribute to her as a symbol of all those mothers, sisters and daughters who have made this profession greater.