

**A Littoral Archive:  
Point Judith Commercial Fishing Oral History Index**

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## INTRODUCTION

### Preface:

Whether you are a schoolteacher considering an oral history project for your students, are interested in learning more about commercial fishing, or are doing some research on your local community, the Point Judith Commercial Fishing Oral History Index is a good place to start. This index focuses on the oral histories of commercial fishermen and lobstermen out of the port of Point Judith, Rhode Island. Even so, their stories open a window into the wider history of this region, its cultures, and how they have changed over time. Perhaps you are interested in how marine ecosystems have evolved since the 1920s or what it was like to be a woman on board a fishing vessel in the 1990s. Have you ever wondered what it was like after World War II or how the Cold War was present even in Narragansett Bay? These interviews can even offer insight into contemporary debates about offshore wind energy and natural resource management.

This project, the ‘Littoral Archive’, came out of a desire to make the content of oral history interviews more accessible and to encourage people to refer to them as meaningful sources of information. While the interviews themselves are not included, this guide hopes to spark curiosity and to encourage the reader to seek them out. Each person listed within this index gave their stories, their time, and their consent to being recorded and archived for posterity. But what is the good if we do not return to these stories and consider their meaning? It takes time, close attention, and compassion to listen to someone else’s story. While these interviews were created for the purpose of understanding and preserving their narratives, very little time has been spent to consider what they can offer decades after their creation.

In his article, first published in 1979, oral historian Alessandro Portelli enumerated the “different credibility” of oral history sources.<sup>1</sup> These oral narratives contain verbal and nonverbal information that can be analyzed much like literature. Additionally, these narratives are composed of people’s memories of events that convey their subjective meaning. Historian David Glassberg explains that individuals place themselves into relation with events of the past and that recalling these events contributes to their “personal identity and sense of self [...] that combine recollections of the events with how they thought history should have turned out.”<sup>2</sup> Our subjective expectations, perceptions, and values fall along the fault lines of different versions of history and so, studying oral histories in conjunction with other sources enables us to examine the interaction of these various versions of history.<sup>3</sup>

Oral histories bring the past to life. But they must also be examined with care. Just like any historical source, an interview only represents a snapshot of the past. How we remember an event can change over time. We change over time. Not only must we critically and compassionately listen to the voices in these archives, but we must also recognize that not all voices are present and never will be. Some choose not to participate in an interview project for one reason or another and others are never encouraged to participate at all.

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<sup>1</sup> Alessandro Portelli, “What Makes Oral History Different,” in *The Oral History Reader*, Routledge, 2002, 48.

<sup>2</sup> David Glassberg, “Public History and the Study of Memory,” *The Public Historian*, vol. 18, no. 2 (Spring 1996): 10.

<sup>3</sup> David Glassberg, “Public History and the Study of Memory,” *The Public Historian*, vol. 18, no. 2 (Spring 1996): 21.

I was first introduced to the commercial fishing port, Point Judith, in 2021. Point Judith is a port town in Rhode Island, nestled along a rocky coastline laced with kettle ponds and saltwater marshes. It is equally situated between the mouth of Long Island Sound and Cape Cod, giving fishermen relatively easy access to fish as far south as the Chesapeake and as far north as Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. I had just gotten a grant-funded job at the South County Museum in Narragansett, Rhode Island, to manage a community oral history project. The goal was to collect the life histories of “old timer” Point Judith commercial fishermen. The museum developed this project with the goal of creating an exhibit about the disappearing multigenerational fishing families and decline in the Rhode Island fishing industry.

In 1947, Point Judith fishermen organized a fishermen’s cooperative. It would become an important catalyst for the port’s fishing industry and by the 1970s was considered to be one of the most successful fishermen’s co-ops in the country.<sup>4</sup> It worked closely with the University of Rhode Island, located in an adjoining town, to advance fisheries science, technology, and policy. Their partnership inspired numerous cooperative research initiatives between Point Judith fishermen and research institutions. One of the by-products of such arrangements is that there is a wealth of records about co-op fishermen and their activities.

I was first struck by the breadth of oral history collections that already existed on Point Judith fishermen. While I was tasked with the job of adding to these collections, it felt important to understand their contents and to use them to inform subsequent interviews. I began by creating a list of all the interviews I could find and realized that many of them were with the same fishermen multiple times over the years, often recycling the same questions. Additionally, I observed that, at the time, no published research had analyzed these as secondary sources. Without critical engagement with the pre-existing oral histories, further research-creation felt inattentive to the possible extractive and exploitative dynamics that interviewing could create. I therefore embarked on a project to identify, analyze, and annotate the available interviews on Point Judith commercial fishermen with the goal of making them more accessible.

\* \* \*

Were you ever asked to record an interview with a grandparent? Or perhaps you yourself participated as an interviewee for a student’s school project? Did you ever wonder where that recording went? It is common practice within the social sciences and humanities for a researcher to produce their own oral history interviews - in the form of analog or digital audio or visual formats - as primary sources. This is the “single interviewer-researcher” method of interview creation.<sup>5</sup> While creating oral histories is a powerful method of research, the “deep dark secret”, oral historian Michael Frisch has noted, is that once these recordings are archived, they rarely get used ever again. He says:

Everyone recognizes that the core audio-video dimension of oral history is notoriously underutilized. The nicely cataloged but rarely consulted shelves of audio and video cassettes in even the best media and oral history libraries are closer than most people

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid., 41.

<sup>5</sup> Steven High, “Going Beyond the ‘Juicy Quotes’ Syndrome”: Living Archives and Reciprocal Research in Oral History,” in *Going Public: The Art of Participatory Practice*, eds. Elizabeth Miller, Edward Little, and Steven High. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2017, 118.

realize to that shoebox of unviewed home-video camcorder cassettes in so many families – precious documentation that is inaccessible and generally unlistened to and unwatched.<sup>6</sup>

Oral historians across the social sciences and humanities note that one of the primary reasons for this is the limited level of accessibility of these recordings.<sup>7</sup>

The “digital turn” in oral history has vaulted this barrier in many respects. By developing digital databases for - not only preserving but also - rendering audio and visual interviews searchable online, oral historians and archivists are generating innovative ways to promote access.<sup>8</sup> Oral history indexing (OHI) refers to the means by which interviews are made searchable. Douglas Lambert, leading innovator in digital oral history indexing methods, has pointed out that indexing practices are by no means prescriptive. Instead, each index reflects the unique dimensions of the project.<sup>9</sup> And yet, at its foundation, an oral history index functions, much as the index at the back of a book, to direct the searcher to the locations of information within the source. Instead of relying solely on reading the verbatim transcript or on listening all the way through - often long - recordings, the index provides a condensed overview of an interview’s contents, as well as timestamps for where to find the information within the recording.

Even so, the question remains whether an index actually enables people to meaningfully use these interviews again. Oral historian Steven High and David Sworn have raised important ethical and methodological questions around interview indexing. Fundamentally, the work of creating an index contradicts the shared authority of co-creating an interview with the narrator.<sup>10</sup> An index is made up of categories of topics and markers of important details and it is the *indexer* who determines what is worth categorizing and marking. In making these decisions, High and Sworn argue that there is a risk of “concealing the idiosyncrasies and digressions” that contextualize and provide nuance to the meaning of the narrative within the interview.<sup>11</sup> The richness of this qualitative information - such as a meaningful pause, the use of colloquialisms, repetition, and non-verbal communication - can often only be identified by listening to or watching the interview for yourself. Not only must an index user pay attention to what is being left out, but they must consider the ethics of interpreting these interviews. As many oral historians can attest, “our relationship to people’s words is largely dependent on the nature of the encounter. [...] One leaves an interview with a sense of obligation to the person who has

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<sup>6</sup> Michael Frisch, “Oral history and the digital revolution,” *The Oral History Reader* 103 (2006): 223.

<sup>7</sup> Kristopher Turner, “Creating history: a case study in making oral histories more accessible in the digital age,” *Digital Library Perspectives* vol. 33 no. 1 (2017): 49.

<sup>8</sup> Douglas Boyd, “I Just Want to Click On It’: Oral History archives, orality, and usability,” in *Oral history and digital humanities: voice, access, and engagement*. (New York, NY : Palgrave Macmillan, 2014): 132; Douglas Lambert, “Oral History Indexing,” *The Oral History Review*, vol. 50 no. 2 (2023): 170, DOI: 10.1080/00940798.2023.2235000

<sup>9</sup> Douglas Lambert, “Oral History Indexing,” *The Oral History Review*, vol. 50 no. 2 (2023): 184.

<sup>10</sup> High, S., & Sworn, D. “After the Interview: The Interpretive Challenges of Oral History Video Indexing,” *Digital Studies/le Champ Numérique*, 1(2) (2009): 2-3, accessed: DOI: <http://doi.org/10.16995/dscn.110>; for more on shared authority in oral history creation, start with Michael Frisch’s *A Shared Authority: Essays on the craft and meaning of oral and public history*. Suny Press, 1990.

<sup>11</sup> High, S., & Sworn, D. “After the Interview: The Interpretive Challenges of Oral History Video Indexing,” *Digital Studies/le Champ Numérique*, 1(2) (2009): 2-3.

entrusted you with their story.”<sup>12</sup> There are thus two concerns with making oral histories more accessible: the first is the *why* and the second is the *how*.

This leads us to the “methodological skepticism” within the field about using interviews as secondary sources and for something other than the express purpose of their creation.<sup>13</sup> This is relevant to this particular project because the interviews included were not all developed for the same purpose nor by me, the indexer. Therefore, you and I are both arriving at these interviews through secondary analysis. This index came out of years of sitting with these interviews, only some of which I conducted myself. By taking the time to listen to understand, I believe anyone can approach these interviews compassionately without having to have done them personally. An index does not replace the recording, or the transcript, and it is still important to go back into the original interview to interpret the source holistically.

Transparency about how an interview was produced is perhaps the most important dimension in secondary analysis. Without this information, there is a risk of obscuring not only the reasons for its creation, but also the labor that went into producing it and the legal parameters by which it should be examined. In her reflection on using interviews from the Millenium Memory Bank, April Gallwey explains that one of the challenges she faced was that the database lacked “supporting literature which would assist researchers” in better understanding the ethnographic dimensions of the interviews.<sup>14</sup> Critical interpretation of interviews as secondary sources thus requires analyzing how they were created. This includes analyzing the interviewer as much as the narrator. Secondly, such analysis must respect and understand the terms under which these interviews were produced. Steven High describes how interviews from his Montreal Life Stories project were used in secondary analysis by others. This was a project grounded in intentional community-University research collaborations which were often not taken into consideration by outside researchers. Not only did he critique such re-use as rendering the labor of these researchers - who were often members of the communities for which the life stories were intended to capture - invisible, but secondary analysis often recycled the interview questions as their own.<sup>15</sup> Avoiding appropriation is the responsibility of every researcher when they encounter oral histories in the archive.

The interviews that are indexed below are all publicly accessible, albeit in a range of formats and locations. Most often when oral histories are indexed, they are linked to a digital copy of the recordings. Unfortunately, this was not a possibility at this stage of the project. But, through thorough use of timestamps and page numbers, this index aims to effectively point the reader in the right places to look. Compared to oral history collections that are developed by a single researcher or housed in the same database, collections such as those on the Point Judith commercial fishing community are likely more common. Cassette tapes boxed in the attics of libraries and digital interviews saved on personal computers; the sources that make up local history are often fragmented before the researcher even gets a hold of the recordings. Often, small institutions do not even have the means to house digital collections, never mind promote

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<sup>12</sup> High, S., & Sworn, D. “After the Interview: The Interpretive Challenges of Oral History Video Indexing,” *Digital Studies/le Champ Numérique*, 1(2) (2009): 5.

<sup>13</sup> Steven High, “Going Beyond the ‘Juicy Quotes’ Syndrome”: Living Archives and Reciprocal Research in Oral History,” in *Going Public: The Art of Participatory Practice*, eds. Elizabeth Miller, Edward Little, and Steven High. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2017, 118.

<sup>14</sup> April Gallwey, “The rewards of using archived oral histories in research: the case of the Millennium Memory Bank,” *Oral History* vol. 41, no. 1 (2013): 48.

<sup>15</sup> High, “Going Beyond the ‘Juicy Quotes’ Syndrome,” 119.



them on digital platforms. Thus, the solutions to making these interviews accessible cannot be left to the digital database. It is my hope that this offers a meaningful alternative.

Sophia Richter,  
South Kingstown, Rhode Island

## **How to use this index:**

This index is designed to offer multiple points of entry into the interviews: by the last name of the narrator; by the archive at which the interview is stored; and by the keyword index in the back of the guide. In addition to indicating how best to use this guide, I outline some of its limitations.

### *Search by Last Name:*

To start, each interview is organized alphabetically by last name. Every entry starts with the metadata required to find its original archived source, as well as important interpretive information such as the name of the interviewer, the date of the interview, the name of the project under which it was created, and the duration and format of the interview accessible to the public. Secondly, each interview is decomposed into a list of segments that are titled and summarized to offer the reader a window into the topical information and the arc of the narrative. Time stamps or page numbers provide the reader with the exact location within the interview at which each segment can be found.

My method for creating these segments was through deep listening and through the use of the qualitative analysis software NVivo. NVivo allowed me to take notes, highlight, and categorize themes and events that surfaced in the recordings and the transcripts. Instead of creating a new segment at regular intervals throughout the interview, I only indicated a new segment when the topic of conversation shifted. Because of this, each interview is summarized differently. While some interviews are summarized through many different segments, others are only composed of one or two. The narrative arc of most interviews is not linear. Often a topic will resurface or be interrupted by another. Instead of creating a new segment for every time a topic changed, I often consolidated them for clarity.

### *Search by Archive:*

Secondly, there is a chapter on each archive with information about each project under which the interviews were created. Here you can find contextual and interpretive information about these collections to aid in your own search. This is a good place to look if you are planning your visit to the archives.

### *Search by Index Term:*

The last point of entry is at the back of the index where a list of keywords - including place names, institutions, dates, events, and topics - are organized alphabetically with links to the page numbers to the relevant interviews within this guide. By providing both summaries of each interview and a cross-interview index, I hope to guide the reader to examine the cross-currents between these diverse projects and archives. This is the index of the index, if you will.

These keywords were developed through the software NVivo, which refers to them as “codes”. This software promoted consistency by enabling me to track these key terms across all the interviews. Some of these words are found verbatim in the recordings and the transcripts and others are paraphrasing and thematic terms to encompass trends and sentiments that seemed worth tracking. Where the interview summaries of each segment convey the breadth of an interview, these key terms indicate specificity and depth.

*Limitations:*

While there are many limitations to the very nature of this index (i.e. it is not linked to the original recordings), there are a few specific choices I made that should be taken into consideration. Most importantly, my approach to analyzing these interviews was foregrounded by the project scope set out in the grant-funded position I held at the South County Museum. While we have since expanded the analysis over time to include a material analysis of textiles and clothing, there are plenty of topics contained in these interviews that I likely overlooked. Secondly, I chose not to provide summaries or markers of non-verbal cues. This can be a rich source of information to analyze but I did not have the capacity to include it in this index. In order to attain this level of information, I recommend seeking out the original recordings.

## **ARCHIVES:**

### **South County Museum:**

The most extensive collection of oral histories with Point Judith fishermen are held by the South County Museum in Narragansett, Rhode Island. They include interviews conducted by school students from 2001-2002 as well as interviews by other community members, of which I was one of them in 2021.

#### *Voices of the Ocean Museum Exhibit Oral History Project*

Ten interviews were conducted during the summer of 2021 under a Rhode Island Council for the Humanities grant to follow up on the interviews produced by the Narragansett High School. This goal of this project was to follow up with the interviews conducted at the Narragansett High School in 2001-2002, with a specific focus on “decline” in the industry and the challenges fishermen face to adapt to change.

#### *Narragansett High School’s Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection*

The 2001-2002 interviews were organized by teachers and often matched students with a family member. They revolved around an assigned reading of *The Perfect Storm*, by Sebastian Junger which seemed to have been widely read by the interviewed fishermen as well. While every interview contained the name of the narrator, they did not always date of the interview or the names of the interviewer.

The 2001-2002 interviews tended to convey similar chaotic dynamics but instead of fishermen being interviewed by academics, they were being interviewed by high schoolers who were sometimes family members. This added its own layers of complexity. At times fishermen clearly self-censored or exaggerated their stories. In other cases, fishermen felt inspired to take up space in the 2001-2002 interviews and to answer questions with a level of detail that the interviewees were often not prepared nor at times patient enough to receive.

### **NOAA Voices:**

The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) ‘Voices’ archive can be accessed online. The interviews in this database were conducted over many decades as part of diverse projects. NOAA Voices has two purposes. The first is to collect social and economic data about the impact that regulations are having on fishing families. Secondly, it serves as a digital repository for a lot of community archival projects, some of which were done by high schools, at working waterfront festivals, or by historical societies. Thus, such oral history projects are diverse in how they were produced and why. Most of them were collected by people representing government interests and addressing concerns pertaining to fisheries management which play into the types of responses that fishermen gave. NOAA Voices interviews were often conducted by trained social scientists who structured the interviews like a survey. They were at times clinical and lacking reflexivity. In the worst of cases, there would be multiple interviewers in the room with the fisherman and would compete for attention or would disrupt the flow of conversation without pausing the interview. The impact of such behavior was salient in the transcripts. Fishermen might shut down or pivot in mid-sentence to a different topic.

*Oral Histories from the New England Fisheries:*

Principal Investigator: Lisa L. Colburn, Kate E. Yentes. This project examined how the fishing industry affects individual fishermen and their families. It considered the impact that management regulations had on the social and cultural aspects of people in the fishery. This project was designed to contribute to a social impact assessment.

*Sector Management in New England:*

Principal Investigator: Lisa L. Colburn. This project examined how fishery management impacted individual fishermen, their households and their communities. This project was designed to contribute to a social impact assessment.

*Women's Oral History Project:*

Principal Investigator: Patricia Pinto da Silva. Through these interviews with women in the industry, this project aimed to capture and preserve their contributions to the fishing industry. These women played diverse roles in the industry, including as fishers, industry leaders, researchers, policy makers, and family members. This project was designed to contribute to a social impact assessment.

**University of Rhode Island Archive and Special Collections**

The oldest oral history interviews with Point Judith fishermen are a collection of twelve held at the University of Rhode Island's Archive and Special Collections. These interviews are available online.

*Galilee Fishermen Oral History Tapes*

These interviews were the result of a project carried out by URI students of a 'History Research Methods' class in the spring of 1979. In the collection is a box with contextual information such as newspaper clippings, notes, and project reports written by the students. They tended to ask the same questions and at times read like a survey. Despite this, the project interviewed prominent members of the Point Judith co-op, multigenerational fishing families, and in particular, women in the industry. These tapes were digitized in 2018.

## ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS:

### Alexander, Sr., Wayne

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Aleks Brown

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 3 pages

Keywords: Trip fishing; accidents; New Jersey; Long Island; Massachusetts; Nantucket; Captain; Family; Work Culture; Hurricane; Shellfish; Quahogs; Communication Technology; Value of Work; Regulations.

#### *Segments:*

**1. Title: Fishing work within his family**

Page: 1

Summary: Wayne Alexander has raised a family as a fisherman and worked with his older brother for 23 years. As of the time of this interview, Alexander was working out of Atlantic City.

**2. Title: Work as a fishermen**

Page: 1

Summary: Alexander describes some basic aspects of his work: how long he works per day, how long his boat is out on the water. He does not clarify whether he day or trip fishes but fishes as much as the weather provides. He recounts finding a Mastodon tooth and that he lent it to URI.

**3. Title: Superstitions**

Page: 2

Summary: Alexander describes some of the superstitions he knows of. Whistling, throwing silver into the water, wearing yellow oilskins, and shooting seagulls are things not to do.

**4. Title: Aspects of running a boat**

Page: 2

Summary: Alexander describes the places he has fished and some of the aspects of being a captain on his boat. He doesn't own it, he runs it for someone else, and he has a 5 person crew. But he has fished all up and down the Atlantic eastern seaboard from Cape Maine to Atlantic City.

**5. Title: Life at Sea**

Page: 2

Summary: Alexander describes what he misses while out at sea and what it is like to ride through a hurricane.

**6. Title: Work on the clam dragger**

Page: 3

Summary: Alexander provides in detail what work is like on his 106 ft boat. They drag for clams and it is all he has done in the last twenty years. He reflects on the attitude of his brother who focused on just making money and that fishing has become just a job for

him. He reflects that he has to record everything he does for the government in order to stay on the right side of regulations. He also describes the responsibilities of being a captain and how the crew work together.

## **Anderson, Al**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Luke Anonymous

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 10 pages

Keywords: Magnuson Stevens Act; 1990s; Sense of Ecosystem; Rhode Island State Legislature; Role of Government; Government power; Financial Incentives; Charter Fisherman; 1960s; Striped Bass; Tuna; Swordfish; Block Island; Long Lining; Gill Net; Harpooning; Regulations; NMFS; 1970s; Russia; Poland; Germany; New England Fisheries Management Council; Massachusetts State Legislature; University of Rhode Island Oceanography Institute; Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association; Japan.

### *Segments:*

#### **1. Title: Introduction to fishing career**

Page: 1

Summary: Al Anderson is a commercial charter fisherman with extensive experience in recreational and commercial dragging. He got into the charter industry back in the sixties in Point Judith. He describes what it was like to get his charter license and the many people he worked for. He reflects that his uncles were supportive of his path.

#### **2. Title: Comparing health of fish stocks then and now**

Page: 2-3

Summary: Al describes the kinds of fish he specializes in catching, namely striped bass and tuna. He recounts a memory of his father going to catch a swordfish in order to emphasize how the species has been fished down so intensely. They used to catch between 400-1000 lb swordfish and Block Island used to have a billfish sporting tournament. He describes the types of fishing techniques that have more and less negative impact on the health of the stock. Long lining and drift gill net effort have overfished the species whereas harpooning, he argued, was more sustainable.

#### **3. Title: Fisheries and Regulations**

Page: 4-5

Summary: Al reflects on the efforts to regulate the fishing industry. He recounts seeing Senator Kennedy of Massachusetts (a few days ago) discussing the policies of fisheries management (NMFS) and the commercial fishermen controlling them for further weakening the cod fish stocks. He points out that NMFS is being sued by multiple conservation groups for not doing their jobs well. He remembers the Magnuson Act in the 1970s: and how it was about pushing back the foreign fleets from Russia, Poland, Germany, who you could see from Block Island. He recalls what it would look like to fish near them and that he taught him that they were negatively impacting the resources. Seagulls were an indicator of whether a vessel was American or not. He also points to the underutilized fish that would get pushed back in the water because there was no market

for them. Al describes the conflicts of interest and the commercial attitude of the council and MA and RI state government during the last couple decades.

**4. Title: Education and Passion for Science**

Page: 6-8

Summary: Al's curiosity for the natural world and for science can be traced back to his childhood. He did his undergraduate degree in fisheries and later went to URI to work at the Oceanographic Institute to study fish behavior in 1968. He describes the relationship between the tagging program and the PJFCA. Taggers who caught a fish that they couldn't use would sell it to the co-op commercially. While he admits to doing that a few times, he mostly would just let them go. He also tagged sharks in the Cooperative Shark tagging lab in Narragansett. He reflects that this knowledge was disturbing and that it has led to an international commission on the conservation of tuna. While many nations aim to protect the species, it is difficult to enforce when other countries poach immature fish. He points to the high-dollar industry in Tokyo Japan for bluefin tuna.

**Anonymous**

Archive: NOAA Voices

Project: Women's Oral Histories Project

Interviewer: Lisa Colburn and Azure Westwood

Date: March 11, 2008

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 15 pages; 56 minutes, 6 seconds

Keywords: Sense of Community; Point Judith; Family Life; Income; Married Relations; Federal Buy-Back Program; Regulations; Scallop; New Bedford, MA; Cape Cod, MA; Maine; Captain; Work Culture; Substance Abuse; Stress; Health; Health Insurance; Coast Guard; Communication Technology; 1980s; IRS; 2000s; Income; Work Culture; Share System; 1990s; Flounder; Lobster; Squid; North Carolina; 1970s; University of Rhode Island; Gender; Elks Club; Fishermen's Memorial; Newport, RI; Entering the Industry; Social Services; Unemployment; Looking Ahead; URI Fisheries Program; Narragansett, RI; Belonging; Fairness; Fisheries Management; Modernization; Blessing of the Fleet; Day-boat.

*Segments:*

[00:06:10]

Residence

Education

URI

Charter Boat

Long Island, NY

Family

[00:09:12]

Family

Multiple jobs

Multigenerational Fishing

[0012:18]

School Teacher

Social Work



Lack of Food  
Drug and Alcohol Addiction  
[00:15:20]  
Family  
Impact of fishing on Family Life  
School Teacher  
Social Services  
Oil Spill  
[00:18:17]  
Sense of Community  
Sense of Place  
Newport, RI  
[00:22:19]  
Point Judith, RI  
Sense of Community  
Elks Club  
Women in Fisheries  
Married Relations  
[00:25:49]  
Family Life  
[00:27:10] Turns Recorder Off  
[00:00:00]  
1970s  
How they got into the fishing industry  
Squid  
Long Island, NY  
Mate  
Fishing Grounds  
[00:03:16]  
Squid  
Yellowtail Flounder  
Fluke  
Organizations- Fishermen's Associations  
Politics of Fishing  
Participation and Leadership  
Income  
Point Judith Point Club  
Health Insurance  
Married Life  
[00:06:55]  
Boat  
Share system  
Point Judith, RI  
[00:10:08]  
Vessel Technology  
Income

Tensions within the fishery  
[0:12:35] p. 11  
Looking Ahead  
Participation and Leadership  
Core Values  
Family  
Communications Technology  
Married Relations  
[00:16:02]  
Married Life  
Point Judith, RI  
[00:18:47] Turns of Recording  
[00:00:00]  
Married Relations  
How the fishing community was perceived  
[00:04:05]  
Crew  
Work Culture  
Impact of Regulations  
Captain  
Point Judith, RI  
Looking Ahead  
Feeling and Understanding  
New Bedford, MA  
[00:10:49]  
Boat  
Financial Incentives

**Benson, Christopher**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Anonymous

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 6 pages

Keywords: Reflections; Family Life; Impact of Regulations; Sense of Ecosystem; Tension between fishermen and Government/ Management; Globalization; Import-Export Trade; 200-mile Limit; Point Club; Income; Shell Fishing; Education; Stress; Quonset, RI; Lobster; New York, NY; Philadelphia, PA; Baltimore, MD; Scup; Butterfish; New Jersey; Fishing Grounds; Trip Fishing; Studs-Madison Act; Mill; Spain; Portugal; Italy; Cod; Georges Banks; Whiting; Hard Work Pride; Work Culture; Moral Economy; Sense of Place; Role of Government.

*Segments:*

**1. Title: Introduction**

Page: 1

Summary: Christopher Benson was introduced to fishing -- shellfishing -- while in college at Brown University. He worked a wide variety of factory and service jobs and found fishing to be the one that suited him. He says he was in the industry for twenty-five years, so perhaps he started in the late 1970s. Reflecting on how the industry has changed during the last ten-fifteen years, he says that fish scarcity and aging made the work difficult for him and others who did not have secure jobs. Being a deckhand was far less secure than being a mate or a captain or owning your own boat.

**2. Title: Fishing Grounds**

Page: 1

Summary: Benson "fishes for dollars" and spends most of his time trip fishing south of New England and off of New Jersey. He describes the southern cities of New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore as the important markets for his fish and that he has started catching squid that has increasingly become available.

**3. Title: Raising a family while fishing**

Page: 2

Summary: Benson describes the challenges of raising a family and how responsibilities are distributed between him and his wife. He himself did not grow up in a fishing family and so reflects on how it was different for him as a child.

**4. Title: Work on the fishing boat**

Page: 2-4

Summary: Benson describes the process of fishing, naming and describing the gear used and the steps taken. He describes that a fleet of twenty-three boats was built right after the 200-mile limit act, and his was the thirteenth. And when the fleet went out of business, he bought one of the boats in the fleet. He then goes on to describe some of the challenges of his work. One of them is financial, in terms of the instabilities of running a small business. The other is working with fisheries managers. He recounts some of the disparities in understanding about how to manage the fisheries based on what is known about the fish stocks. He provides an assessment of how fishermen perceive the fisheries resources as renewable and exhaustible and how that varies or has evolved over time. He reflects on how hard it must be to start out in the industry now. Insurance is a big issue. He describes the ripple effect of the downturn in the market for fish with the flight of insurance companies. He also describes the work of PJ fishermen to organize the Point Club. He then describes some of the efforts on the part of fishermen to hire their own scientists to do surveys and explains the tensions around fisheries management and the strain it puts on the fisheries workers.

**5. Title: A Global Industry**

Page: 5

Summary: Benson reflects on whether he'd have chosen to be a fisherman, knowing what he knows now. He focuses on the natural resource aspect of the industry that makes it unique, especially during a time when the industry went from being virtually unregulated to regulated in a short span of time. He describes the global element of the industry, the supply chains linking Point Judith to Japan and Portugal.

**Benson, Ken**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Gillian Howlett

Date: June 1, 2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 10 pages

Keywords: Organizing and Advocacy; 2000s; Galilee, RI; Impact of Regulations; Technology; Tension within the fishery; Gear Conflict; Navigation; Quota System; Block Island; Charter Fishing; Striped Bass; Safety; Family Life; NMFS; 1970s; Snug Harbor, RI; Lobstering.

*Segments:*

**1. Title: Tuna and Shark Tagging**

Page: 1

Summary: Ken Benson has been involved in tagging tuna and sharks since 1971. He describes where the fish come from and by which fishing technique they are brought in. With the support of NMFS, tags are supplied for them to insert in the fish. This helps us better understand their behavior.

**2. Title: History of fishing career pt. 1**

Page: 1-2

Summary: Benson grew up fishing in Point Judith and Snug Harbor. He worked on several commercial boats: dragging and lobstering in the winter and sport fishing in the summer. Benson describes how commercial fishing has been better work for the financial benefits but that sport fishing was always more fun and what he enjoyed. He recounts the many places he has gone for sport fishing.

**3. Title: Interesting Catches**

Page: 2

Summary: Benson describes some interesting things he has seen: in one instance he found a trapped sea turtle in a net and helped it free.

**4. Title: Life as a fisherman**

Page: 2

Summary: Benson describes his work: he has four crew and a 50ft boat. His father was a fisherman but not commercial. He says that he always went fishing with his uncle. Benson has two daughters, neither of whom fish. He describes some of the injuries he has gotten while fishing. Ken was born and raised in Providence, RI and then moved "here" when he joined the service.

**5. Title: Superstitions**

Page: 4

Summary: Benson recounts some stories of superstitions on fishing boats.

**6. Title: Materiality of fishing**

Page: 4-6

Summary: Benson describes the things he does to get ready for a fishing trip including the clothes he brings, the safety gear, etc. Benson continues to describe the importance of safety checks and recounts an instance of having to rescue someone. He comments on the substance abuse that goes on in the port and how you have to select your boats carefully.

**7. Title: Fishing in Bad Weather**

Page: 7-8

Summary: Describes a storm that he was in while lobstering off of the Cape. Benson tells another story of experiencing malfunctions on his vessel while out at sea.

**8. Title: Working as a Charter fisherman**

Page: 8

Summary: Benson goes through some photographs of the 1970s and 1980s when he chartered boats to go tuna fishing. He describes with incredulity the attitudes of people who didn't appreciate the giant tunas they were catching.

**9. Title: Photographs of Fishing Trips**

Page: 9-11

Summary: Benson continues to go through photographs of tournaments and charter fishing, catching sharks for tagging and striped bass. He caught sharks off the coast of South Africa and fish caught at the Black Island fishing tournament. His daughter would join him sometimes as the mate. He casually mentions a protest in Galilee to do with regulations.

**10. Title: Danger in fishing and Regulations of the resource**

Page: 13-14

Summary: Benson considers the regulations are being made by politicians, not fishermen, and therefore are clueless. He points to the flaws of some of the recent regulations with weekly quotas and how they are backfiring. He also describes the dangers of fishing that have to do with weather and the gear that fishermen have to work with.

**11. Title: Gear and Vessel**

Page: 14

Summary: Benson describes some of the finances of his work and the gear that he uses. His radar is the most important piece of equipment on his boat.

**12. Title: Looking Ahead**

Page: 15

Summary: Benson reflects on how he thinks the industry will be 20 years from now. He reflects on the benefits and dangers of stronger technology in the fishing industry and the conflict between scallops and ground fishermen.

**Bessette, Elaine**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Danielle Wormald

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 10 pages

Keywords: Women in Fishing; 1970s; Providence, RI; School Teacher; Value of Work; Safety; Eel; Accidents; Lobster; Family Life; Clothing; Impact of Regulations; Oil Spill; 1990s; Block Island; Income.

*Segments:*

**1. Title: Introduction to the fishing industry**

Page: 1

Summary: Elaine moved down from Providence to South County around 1977. She describes her transition to the fishing industry from the seafood restaurant industry. She provides some information about what she likes about work as a fisherman.

**2. Title: Dimensions of fisheries work**

Page: 2

Summary: Elaine touches on some of the things she likes and doesn't like about her work as well as what it takes to avoid the dangers of fishing.

**3. Title: Dangers on the Job**

Page: 2-4

Summary: Elaine describes some of her experiences of danger while at sea lobstering.

**4. Title: Working together as Husband and Wife**

Page: 5

Summary: Elaine describes her thirty year history working alongside her husband and the different kinds of things they have done together.

**5. Title: Raising a family**

Page: 6-7

Summary: Elaine describes some of the aspects of raising a family as she and her husband are both working in the fishery.

**6. Title: Dressing for the job**

Page: 7

Summary: Elaine describes the type of clothing she wears on fishing trips.

**7. Title: Bay fishing in a storm**

Page: 8

Summary: Elaine tells a story about fishing during a storm off the coast of Jamestown, RI. She also provides information about the species they target and the fishing grounds they visit.

**8. Title: 1996 Rhode Island Oil Spill**

Page: 9

Summary: Elaine describes the impact that the oil spill had on the lobster fishery in Rhode Island. Because of the decline of the RI lobster fishery, regulations have not played out in her work very actively.

**9. Title: Financial Challenges of Lobstering**

Page: 10

Summary: Elaine reflects on the challenges of not having a steady income as a fisherman.

**Bourgauet, Peter**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Jon Freitag

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 7 pages

Keywords: Coast Guard; 1990s; Accidents; Woods Hole; New Bedford; NMFS; RIDEM.

*Segments:*

**1. Introduction to the Coast Guard**

Page: 1

Summary: Peter joined the Coast Guard in November 1993. He describes some of the aspects of his job such as his rank and responsibilities, experiences of rescuing vessels, enforcing fisheries regulations, and searching for illicit substances. He describes what it

can be like to rescue vessels and the stress of having to deal with these challenges. He describes the interpersonal dynamics between fishermen and the Coast Guard. While technically the Coast Guard is perceived as the "bad guys" in the port, everyone gets along pretty well.

## 2. Training and Daily Rhythm

Page: 5

Summary: Peter describes what training for the Coast Guard was like and some of the instances of rescues that exemplify his job.

### **Brown, Christopher**

Archive: NOAA Voices

Project: Sector Management in New England Project

Interview: Azure Cygler

Date: November 18, 2011

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: [00:51:28]

Keywords: Sector Management; Perceptions; How Fishermen Perceive an Issue; Value of Work; Leadership; Looking Ahead; NMFS; Tension between fishermen and Government; Impact of Regulations; Fisheries Management; Climate Change; School Teacher; Blame; Graying Fleet; Health; Health; Fluke; Quota System; Moral Economy; Business Acumen; Northeast Seafood Coalition; Common Knowledge; Yellowtail Flounder; Common Pool Management; Adapting; Leasing Quota; Stock Assessment; Stanley Dumarie Foundation; Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association; Rhode Island Commercial Fishermen's Association; Point Club; African American; New England Fisheries Management Council; Gloucester; Health Insurance; Consolidation; Blessing of the Fleet; Cod; Swamp Yankee.

#### *Segments:*

[00:00:00]

Residence; Home Port of Point Judith, RI; Vessel Technology; Age; Squid; Family; Education

[00:03:23]

How they got into the fishing industry; Fishing Grounds; Day fisherman; Work Conditions; Reflections; Quota System

[00:05:58]

Sense of Place; Family Life; Work Culture; Multigenerational Fishing Family; Reflections

[00:09:00]

Look Ahead; Sector Management; Feeling and Understanding; How they got into the industry; Futility; Status Quo; Magnuson Stevens Act; Government Power; Tension between Fishermen and the Government/ Fisheries Management

[00:12:33]

Tensions; Pride for Hard Work; How fishermen perceive an issue; Quota System; Fish Commodity; How the work makes them feel

[0:15:13]

Family; Sector Management; Feeling and Understanding; Participation and Leadership; Fluke

[00:19:09]  
Sector Management; Participation and Leadership; How they feel about it; Sense of Community

[00:21:12]  
Participation and Leadership; Benefits; Shrinking Labor; Point Judith, RI

[00:24:30]  
Participation and Leadership; How they feel about it; Change; Sense of Community; NMFS-NOAA; Belonging

[00:27:11]  
Stanley Dumarie Foundation

[00:29:58]  
Sector Management; Communications Technology; Feeling and Understanding; Access

[00:33:00]  
Sector Management; How Fishermen perceived an issue; Access; Catch Shares; Yellowtail Flounder; Core Values; Participation and Leadership; Northeast Seafood Coalition; Shrinking Labor; Tensions between Fishermen and Government/ Fisheries Management; Fluke

[00:36:48]  
Core Values; Fluke; How fishermen perceived an issue; Tensions between Fishermen and Government/ Fisheries Manage; Government Role

[00:39:22]  
Health; Work Culture

[00:42:07]  
Sector Management; Reflections; Fluke; External Impacts; Income; Days-at-sea

[00:45:03]  
Family; Sense of Ecosystem; Retirement

[00:47:49]  
Sense of Community; Tensions between Fishermen and Government/ Fisheries Management; NMFA-NOAA

## **Brown, Chris**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 9 pages

Keywords : Perception of Fishermen; Education; Point Judith, RI; Fishing Grounds; Rhode Island Commercial Fishermen's Association.

### *Segments:*

#### **1. Getting into the fishery and change over time**

Page: 1

Summary: Chris Brown was introduced to the fishing industry by his mother's side of the family when they moved down to Point Judith when he was a child. He has been in the industry all his life as a day-fisherman. He reflects on some of the long-term benefits of regulations he has begun to see.



## **2. Accidents and Death**

Page: 2-4

Summary: Chris describes some of the accidents and deaths he has witnessed and experienced while fishing over the years. Chris continues to recall some of the accidents and deaths that have happened to people in his life within the fishing industry.

## **3. Perceptions and Reality of the fishing industry**

Page: 4-5

Summary: Chris recounts the way the fishing industry is represented in media and how that impacts people's perceptions and willingness to enter the industry. He also reflects on how substance abuse -- while prevalent in fishing -- is more of a societal problem than exclusive to fishermen.

## **4. Quality of Life as a fisherman**

Page: 5-6

Summary: Chris reflects on what he feels about his quality of life as a fisherman. This includes his married life and financial wellbeing.

## **5. Raising a family and married life**

Page: 6-7

Summary: Chris describes what life has been like for his wife who had to learn about the fishing industry and lifestyle when they got married. He also describes what it has been like for them to raise a family.

## **6. Narragansett and South Kingstown schools marine tech**

Page: 8-9

Summary: Chris reflects on how South Kingstown used to have a marine tech program for their students to introduce them to the commercial fishing industry. It no longer exists. He explains that he is the president of the Rhode Island Commercial Fishermen's Association and that they hope to work with schools to expose students to the commercial fishing industry.

## **Brown, Maryellen**

Archive: NOAA Voices

Project: Oral Histories from the New England Fisheries Collection

Date: December 15, 2008

Interviewer: Azure Westwood

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 13 pages; 53 minutes 18 seconds

Keywords : Fisheries Data ; Fisheries Management; Health Insurance; License and Permit; Point Club; Stress; 2000s; Married Relations; 1970s; 1980s; Multigenerational Fishing Family; Point Judith; 1950s; Leadership; Regulations; School teacher; Northeast Seafood Coalition; Family Life; URI; Maine; Cape Cod; Lobstering.

### *Segments:*

[00:00:00]

Married Relations; Dates; Age; Residence; Family

[00:03:15]

Point Judith; How they got into fishing; Captain; Dates; Boat; Multigenerational fishing family; Lobstering; Work Conditions

- [00:06:17]  
Vessel Type; Fluke; Yellowtail; Sector Management; Participation and Leadership;  
Rhode Island Commercial Fishermen's Association; Core Values; Work Culture
- [00:09:31]  
How the Fishing Community was Perceived; Women in Fisheries; Value for labor and  
work; Married Relations; Finances of Fishing
- [00:12:18]  
Family; Bread-Winning Dynamic; Income; Gender Roles; School Teacher
- [00:15:14]  
Impact of Regulations; Income; Work Benefits; Point Judith, RI; Point Judith Point Club;  
Sense of Community
- [00:18:37]  
Married Relations; Boat Insurance; Safety in Fishing; Multigenerational Fishing
- [00:21:18]  
Work Conditions; How fishermen perceive an issue; Participation and Leadership; Squid
- [00:27:12]  
Participation and Leadership; Politics in Fishing Industry; How they feel about it;  
Tension between Fishermen and Government/ Fisheries Management
- [00:30:38]  
Cooperative Research; Educational Background; Married Relations; Impact of fishing on  
Family Life; Raising Children while fishing
- [00:36:24]  
How fishermen perceive an issue; Tensions between fishermen and scientists; Fish  
Scarcity; Boat; Crew
- [00:39:49]  
Health issues; Stress
- [00:42:24]  
Stress; Participation and Leadership; Sector Management; Impact on Family Life
- [00:46:08]  
Lobster; Retirement; Tensions between Fishermen and Government/ Fisheries  
Management; Participation and Leadership; New England Fisheries Management Council
- [00:49:25]  
How Fishermen perceive an issue

### **Campanale, Robert**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Michael Charlton

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 9 pages

Keywords : Inshore ; Lobster ; 1970s ; 1980s; Block Island, RI; Entering the Industry; Accidents;  
Death; Offshore; Competition; Hague Line; North Carolina; Nova Scotia; Georges Banks;  
Substance Abuse; Health; Cod; Squid; Flounder; Whiting; Role of Government;  
Environmentalists; Impact of Regulations; Sense of Ecosystem; Government Power; How  
fishermen perceive issue.

*Segments:*

**1. Getting into the fishing industry**

Page: 1

Summary: Robert Campanale grew up trap fishing with his father in small wooden boats around the harbor refuge in Point Judith after school and in the summer. When he was a teenager, his father was able to buy a 32 foot wooden inshore lobster boat. They set around 400 pots around Block Island with his brother and father. By 1978 he was an inshore lobsterman and then in the 1980s transferred to being an offshore lobsterman.

**2. Dangers in Offshore Lobstering**

Page: 2-5

Summary: Robert describes some of the dangerous dimensions of offshore lobstering. He defines offshore fishing as: fishing anywhere from 40 fathoms to 190 fathoms deep. Every fathom is six feet he says. He also indicates some of the fishing grounds he has been to, including off of Cape Hatteras.

**3. Dimensions of the lobster fishery out of Point Judith.**

Page: 6

Summary: Robert provides some details about the lobster fishery: number of boats, types of regulations, fishing grounds, and competition in Point Judith.

**4. Substance Abuse Challenges**

Page: 7

Summary: Robert recalls the state of the port in terms of substance abuse and how this issue has changed over time. The 1980s were worse than they are now, according to Robert.

**5. Health of the Marine Ecosystem and Regulations**

Page: 8

Summary: Robert provides a window into his perception of the dynamics of the marine ecosystem that account for rises and declines of fish stocks. He doesn't think the ocean is being overfished and therefore that restrictions by the government are not in the best interest of the fishing industry. He also provides insight into the differing jurisdictions that lobstermen deal with from State to Federal levels.

**6. Multi-vessel business**

Page: 9

Summary: Robert lists the names of the four vessels that he owns in his lobster business.

**Chagnon, Mitch**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Nicholas Gorham

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF transcript

Duration: 7 pages

Keywords: Value of Work; Work Culture; Independence; Tuna; Sense of Ecosystem; Maintenance; Impact of Regulations; Perception of the issue; Strike; Organizing and Advocacy; Tensions between conservation and workers; tensions between fishermen and government/management; 2000s; Charter Fishing.

*Segments:*

**1. Getting into the fishing industry**

Page: 1

Summary: Mitch grew up in a fishing family where his father fished. This was how he was introduced to the work. He describes what he likes most about it -- the independence. He appreciates the simplicity of making his way by his own hand and that it's no one's fault but his own if he fails. This is a sense of independence that does not consider the interconnectedness of the systems he lives within.

**2. Dangers of fishing**

Page: 2

Summary: Mitch describes some of the dangers of working on a fishing boat, including bad weather and being further out on the water.

**3. Reflecting on Regulations**

Page: 3

Summary: Mitch describes his perception of regulations and the dynamics between government, industry, and the environment as a pendulum. He recalls the demonstration that took place (last week) in Point Judith in response to regulations.

**4. Dimensions of Charter Fishing**

Page: 4-7

Summary: Mitch is primarily a charter boat fisherman. He describes what he likes about the job. He explains the type and history of his boat.

**Champlin, Jr., Paul**

Archive: URI Archive and Special Collections

Project: The Galilee Fishermen Oral History Tapes

Interviewer: Catherine Doran

Date: March 28, 1979

Format: Audio mp3 recording

Duration: 01:35:39

Keywords: Block Island, RI; Butterfish; Day-Boat; Energy; Fish Preservation; Hurricane; Quota System; Swamp Yankee; Stress; Trap Fishing; 1950s; Entering the Industry; Value of Work; Multigenerational Fishing Family; Income; Women in Fishing; Work Culture; Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association; Hurricanes; Block Island; Trip Fishing; URI; Technology; Lobstering; Japan.

*Segments:*

**1. Introduction to Living and Working in a Fishing Family**

[00:00:00] - [00:16:14]

Summary: Paul Champlin, Jr. was born on August 20, 1951 to June and Paul Champlin in South County hospital. He is a son of a fisherman and recounts his family's fishing history. Even before graduating high school, Paul was learning to fish by hanging around the docks and learning to lobster with his grandfather. While he would have liked to go to a trade school, he went right to work in fishing after high school in order to start making money. He married Deborah, whose father was a boat carpenter, and they have raised a family in South Kingstown. He reflects that she has to be both mother and father for their children because he is gone a lot, trip fishing. Paul is also a welder and woodworker. He

describes the financial benefits of working as a fisherman as opposed to hourly wage work, which he tried while working for Electric Boat. They have two sons and Paul hopes to take them out fishing. He recalls fishing sayings from his family.

**2. Women in the industry**

[00:16:14] - [00:21:40]

Summary: Paul reflects on why women are not as involved in the fishing industry and says that the work on a fishing boat is too intimate for women to be present. The dynamic of trip fishing in which people sleep together in addition to work together complicates the narrative. He claims that fishermen's wives jealousy is the main reason women aren't hired. For himself, Paul wouldn't want to have a woman work with him. He describes that women do work other jobs in the industry - more so on the docks unloading and packing fish. But they have a hard time keeping up with the heavy lifting and the fast pace. The women that "make it" are less effeminate and are "big girls".

**3. Working on the boat**

[00:21:40] - [00:24:33]

Summary: Paul works for his father who is the captain of their four-person dragger. He describes the roles people play on deck. The interviewer asks questions that keep returning back to whether they drink alcohol.

**4. The Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association**

[00:24:33] - [00:29:26]

Summary: Paul Jr. is not a member of the co-op while his father is. He is waiting in line to be able to join. He recalls the ways that fishermen can check on whether the co-op is doing a good job for its members and the benefits it has offered the port. He explains the share system and the difference between fishing as a co-op boat and as a non-member boat. He describes the improvements to the co-op: the pump technique used to unload the boats faster, the addition of the ice machines

**5. Hurricanes**

[00:29:26] - [00:32:34]

Summary: While Paul grew up hearing stories about hurricanes, he has only been caught in the blizzard/ northeaster of 1978.

**6. Modernization of the Point Judith fleet**

[00:32:34] - [00:36:38]

Summary: Paul expresses what he thinks about the growth of the industry, specifically concerning the larger sizes of vessels. Importantly, they are easier to work on, safer, and have more efficient equipment. He says they go out further than they used to. Whereas they used to fish around Block Island, now those grounds are for smaller boats. Even bigger boats - 87-100 feet - are coming in made of steel. Paul points to the differences between owner-operator and absentee-owner vessels. You can tell which boats are making money based on how well-cared-for the boats are. Paul says that some co-op boats have absentee-owners.

**7. Specter of War**

[00:36:38] - [00:37:56]

Summary: While Paul grew up after the end of WWII, he recalls stories told to him about spotting submarines and salvaging them.

**8. Intimacies: Living and Working in a fishing family**

[00:37:56] - [01:30:06]

Summary: This section meanders. Paul explains how being a trip fisherman affects his married relationship and how communication technology aids them. The conversation then slips into how Paul grew up and works in a tight-knit and big fishing family. He explains the share system and the hierarchy of positions from cook to captain. He additionally explains what his goals are as a fisherman and why he prefers being a crew-member as opposed to aspiring to be a captain. The conversation turns to how the fisheries program at URI has impacted the industry at Point Judith in terms of technology and techniques. Reflecting on how the industry has changed over time, Paul recounts how his grandfather witnessed a decline in lobster stocks. Freezing fish and the frozen fish market have also impacted the industry. Paul shares what he does when not working and raising their children. He and his wife discuss the Champlin family and the co-op scholarship fund.

#### **9. Reflecting on the fish market**

[01:30:06] - [01:35:39]

Summary: Paul explains that the impact that the government has had with quotas has improved prices of fish. Government facilitated making deals with other countries to sell fish that they didn't have before the 200-mile limit. The quotas that are based on boat size, Paul says, are also helpful for better distributing access. Fast-food and frozen fish markets have expanded the demand for fish and products like pet food, fertilizer and oils demand fish as well. Culture impacts the industry too: Catholics and lent, dieters.

### **Champlin, Leon**

Archive: URI Archive and Special Collections

Project: The Galilee Fishermen Oral History Tapes

Interviewer: Catherine Doran

Date: March 28, 1979

Format: Audio mp3 recording

Duration: 01:35:34

Keywords: Lobster; Family Life; Multigenerational Fishing Family; Entering the Industry; Hurricanes; Sense of Place; Technology; Japan; Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association; Value of Work; Business Acumen; Swordfish; Fishing Grounds; Income; 1920s; 1950s; 1960s; Fish Scarcity; URI Fisheries Program.

#### *Segments:*

1. [00:00:00] - [00:11:00]:  
Summary: Background information: family background, childhood, typical day fishing, married life, early education, fishing family, learning about fishing,
2. [00:06:10] - [00:06:15]:  
Summary: 1911: Leon left his family's farm and began fishing. Has fished ever since.
3. [00:06:38] - [00:06:50]:  
Summary: Leon appreciated being his own boss, not having to work for anyone else.
4. [00:10:22] - [00:11:12]:  
Summary: Often fishermen talk about how "learning" was very much a community-oriented thing...whether with many family members or other families in the community.
5. [00:11:40] - [00:14:40]:  
Summary: Sayings, superstitions, songs, stories

6. [00:14:40] - [00:16:00]:  
Summary: Women in fishing, perspective on gender
7. [00:16:00] - [00:16:27]:  
Summary: Fishing vessel used early on
8. [00:16:27] - [00:17:46]:  
Summary: Early fishing career: crew, his position, typical day out on the boat, technology, communication.
9. [00:17:46] - [00:25:30]:  
Summary: Fishing during the war, German submarines, the Coast Guard, Providence, Block Island, New London, Perspectives and Memories of the war.
10. [00:25:30] - [00:33:50]:  
Summary: Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association
11. [00:33:50] - [00:36:00]:  
Summary: Hurricane of 1938
12. [00:36:00] - [00:40:27]:  
Summary: Changes of time in fishing: technology, types of fish caught, crew
13. [00:40:27] - [00:43:20]:  
Summary: Foreign vessels, factory ships, memories and perspectives on competition in fishing
14. [00:43:20] - [00:45:00]:  
Summary: How life in Galilee has changed over the years. Childhood memories of the docks, housing developments
15. [00:45:00] - [00:52:00]:  
Summary: Married life, family, raising children, difficulties of fishing with a family, children in fishing.
16. [00:52:00] - [00:58:29]:  
Summary: Changes in fishing, technological changes, income over time, difficulties with predicting weather, crew social dynamics
17. [00:58:29] - [01:04:05]:  
Summary: Social life, health, reflections on quality of life, family
18. [01:04:05] - [01:16:05]:  
Summary: Reflecting on how the industry and the community have changed over time, incomes, restaurants, housing, fishing techniques.
19. [01:23:30] - [01:29:35]:  
Summary: Fish scarcity, family, fishing during the Depression
20. [01:30:00] - [01:33:30]:  
Summary: Qualities of a good fisherman, URI fisheries program, reflections on education

### **Champlin, Mrs. Kenneth**

Archive: URI Archive and Special Collections  
 Project: The Galilee Fishermen Oral History Tapes  
 Interviewer: Jennifer Saila  
 Date: March 28, 1979  
 Format: Audio mp3 recording  
 Duration: 00:59:35

Keywords: Sense of Place; Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association; Impact of Regulations; Tension between local and foreign fishing fleets; Navigation; Communications; Magnuson Stevens Act; Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association; Quota System; License and Permits; Government power; Tension between fishermen and government/management; Looking Ahead; Fishing Grounds; Technology; Nursing; Butterfish; Fluke; Japanese; Business Acumen; Fisheries Unions; Cull Board; Processing; New Bedford; Tension between fishermen and scientists; Trip Fishing; Entering the Industry; Blame; Leadership; Fish Scarcity; Fulton Fish Market; Boston, MA.

*Segments:*

1. [00:00:00] - [00:05:00]:  
Summary: Background information: family background, childhood, typical day fishing.
2. [00:07:10] - [00:30:00]:  
Summary: Labor and her husband's experience in the fishing industry
3. [00:32:00] - [00:45:00]:  
Summary: Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association; vessel type; quota system; fisheries unions; cull board; lumper; New Bedford; Fulton Fish Market, NY; Boston, MA; tensions between workers and scientists; impacts of regulations; tensions between local fishermen and foreign fishermen; butterfish; fluke; Japanese fishermen; Flooding local markets; business acumen; fish processing
4. [00:45:00] - End:  
Summary: Technology for navigation and communications; Magnuson Stevens Act; licenses, permits, and quotas; tensions between fishermen and management; government power; Jacob Dykstra; Hurricanes; Fish scarcity; blame.

**Champlin, Paul**

Archive: URI Archive and Special Collections

Project: The Galilee Fishermen Oral History Tapes

Interviewer: Catherine Doran

Date: March 27, 1979

Format: Audio mp3 recording

Duration: 01:06:03

Keywords: Breakwater; Competition; Hurricane; Stress; 1920s; Swamp Yankee; Family Life; Multigenerational fishing family; Farming; Great Depression; Married Relations; Hurricane; Technology; Safety; Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association; 1940s; Independence; Income; Fisheries Data; Nantucket; New York; URI Fisheries Program; Entering the Industry; Tension between local and foreign fishermen; Shrimp; Texas; Florida; Trap Fishing; Lobster; Development.

*Segments:*

**1. Introduction: Demographics of Family**

[00:00:00] - [00:05:59]

Summary: Paul Champlin is the son of Leon M Champlin, a lobsterman and Madeline Champlin from Lafayette, North Kingstown, RI. His grandmother was Irish but he describes his ethnicity as 'Swamp Yankee'. One of his grandfather's (on his mother's side) is from Lafayette and worked in a mill there. The other grandfather (on his dad's



side) lived down in Point Judith, back when there used to be 7 farms over the Point. Paul describes that in addition to his father, all his brothers - except one - and his son are also all fishermen. Paul started fishing in the summers when he was 14 or 15 and soon after left school in South Kingstown to work as a fisherman. Fishing was a way of life for him. He saw it more as "relaxation" than work as a kid and recognized that his family never starved during the Great Depression. Growing up in North Kingstown, he would travel down to Wakefield often which is where he met his wife, June. June raised their children while he worked.

**2. Intergenerational fishing**

[00:05:59] - [00:09:03]

Summary: Paul explains how he taught his son what he learned from his own father. His daughter is not a fisherman and his wife has not worked on the boat with him, aside from them participating in scalloping for fun.

**3. Women in fishing**

[00:09:03] - [00:10:28]

Summary: Paul explains that there are a few women who fish in Point Judith but that it is hard for them to get jobs. He attributes this to the societal pressure that working men face from their wives who would not approve of them hiring women. He was pretty non-committal when it came to expressing whether he thought that women could be fishermen, preferring not to make assumptions without seeing them work for himself.

**4. Work on the boat**

[00:10:28] - [00:12:11]

Summary: Paul explains that he is the captain of a 65 foot eastern rig dragger and has three other people working for him on the boat. They got trip fishing.

**5. Fishing over the years**

[00:12:11] - [00:16:26]

Summary: Paul reflects on the changes over time to the industry, primarily brought on by technological improvements. While navigation technology such as the radar have impacted daily life, Paul says that fishing techniques haven't changed that much. The number of crewmen over the years has not changed for his vessel, while some boats are five or six handed because they stay out longer. The navigation equipment, the radar, or the sounding machine have all contributed to Paul feeling safer on the water. Despite these improvements, Paul does not travel further to go fishing.

**6. The Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association**

[00:16:26] - [00:20:37]

Summary: Paul was a charter member of the co-op. Even though he had a good year in terms of his business the year before the co-op opened, he reflects that the co-op made it a lot easier to handle the business. He recalls the period when the co-op was being organized, in 1946. Organizers met with other fishermen on the docks and set up meetings to share the idea and to mobilize fishermen to pledge. Paul jokes that when he pledged \$200, it was to impress his wife's father. Overall, Paul feels that the co-op benefited Point Judith. He only attends meetings that are "vital" and explains that because members can elect their board of directors, they have power. The primary purpose of the co-op, according to Paul, is to make more money for the fishermen and that they have achieved this. Despite this, the co-op is not a corporation and thus is not interested in its own profit but that of the members. An example of this is the patronage refund.

## **7. Living and working in a fishing family**

[00:20:37] - [00:31:05]

Summary: The Champlin family is prominent in Southern Rhode Island and Paul grew up around his aunts and uncles, cousins, and grandparents in the fishing industry. They see each other often. And fishing is all he has known. When he gets tired of the work, he changes up his style of fishing and he is driven by the competitive aspect of the work. Champlin's Fish Market, run by Jim, does not exclusively work with Champlin fishermen, and Champlin fishermen sell to him and to the co-op. The family manages to be financially independent. And yet, it's been hard for his wife, raising the family alone and being socially isolated. While the industry has grown, it has also become more expensive so he isn't sure that he makes more money than his father did. Explains his rhythm of work, socializing with other fishing families, and the improvements in techniques for fishing and tracking data. Describes where, when, and what he fishes. His son fishes with him.

## **8. Learning how to fish**

[00:31:05] - [00:44:00]

Summary: Paul recounts the benefits of the URI fisheries program and the impact it has had on the port. While it is good that students get a baseline knowledge before getting a job, they are often over-confident for the limited amount of experience they have. Paul recalls the lessons learned over the years and how they are a tacit knowledge that cannot be gained from reading a book or in a classroom. Luck and persistence are two other variables in being a successful fisherman. Paul himself learned to fish by hanging around the docks when he was young. He describes these early years growing up with other fishermen's children. Paul's uncle would take him out in the mornings to go trap fishing by the Breakwater. While Paul didn't graduate high school, he learned to fish for a year or so before joining the military service, along with a few of his brothers. Paul started fishing for his uncle and lobstered for a few years until he got into dragging.

## **9. Continuation of Living and working in a fishing family**

[00:44:00] - [00:47:12]

Summary: In addition to the work mentioned, Paul worked for the telephone company to protect the cables that were being repaired. That was the longest time he was away for work - two weeks on and two weeks off.

## **10. Submarines**

[00:47:12] - [00:54:47]

Summary: Paul recalls sighting submarines in the water coming out of New London and describes the event where a German sub was impounded off the coast of Newport from WWII.

## **11. Continuation of Living and Working in a fishing family**

[00:54:47] - [01:06:03]

Summary: Paul and his family spent a year down in Texas on a shrimping boat. And he often fished between New York and Nantucket. He reflects on what makes fishing out of Point Judith so convenient. When they went to work in Texas, his immediate family came with him but he missed working with his family and was homesick. He recalls that Mexican workers used to process the shrimp. The interview shifts back to his childhood and Paul recounts the role that his mother played when his dad was on the water. She was always there. But when his father would come home, his mother would report on his bad

behavior to his dad who would punish him. Lastly, Paul describes the changes that have taken place in Point Judith over the decades.

## **Christopher, Al**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Brian Beauvais

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcripts

Duration: 4 pages

Keywords : Lobster ; How fisherman perceive issues; Sense of Ecosystem; Value of Work; Leadership; Work Culture; Impaction of Regulations; Licenses and Permits.

### *Segments:*

#### **1. Getting into the fishing industry**

Page: 1

Summary: Al Christopher was born in Providence and has lived most of his life in Warwick. He would spend childhood summers in East Matunuck which got him into fishing. He started working commercially as a lobsterman in summers when he was a school teacher to supplement his income. The financial incentive was only one reason though. The money was alright but he enjoyed it as well. Eventually it evolved into work he would do full time.

#### **2. Superstitions and Dangers at Sea**

Page: 2

Summary: Al describes some of the superstitions and what they mean for fishermen. He also describes some of the dangers involved in his work.

#### **3. Reflections on a life of laboring**

Page: top 3

Summary: Al describes some of the interesting things he had experienced while lobstering. He reflects on what the work has come to mean to him and what he values in the labor compared to other types of jobs. The flexibility to work more or less according to his needs is a high priority for him.

#### **4. Regulations and Reflections**

Page: 3-4

Summary: Al reflects on the importance and impacts of regulations. He sees them as essential while recognizing the tendencies to over-regulate. He considers the future of the fishing industry. Rise and decline in fisheries is still contingent upon Mother Nature, says Al. Fishermen feel as though there is a decline in lobster stocks currently, which could have a multitude of reasons. Al continues his reflections on the dynamics of regulations and political decision-making within the fisheries. He discusses the difficulties of entering the industry such as the cost of entering: vessels, permits.

## **Conley, Norma**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Ariane Buffum

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 4 pages

Keywords : Family Life ; Women ; Married Relations; Multigenerational fishing Family; Entering the industry; Income; Social Services; Value of Work; Restructuring; Fish Scarcity; Graying Fleet; Health Insurance; Vessel Insurance; Unemployment; Retirement; Point Club; Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association; Communications Technology; Tuna; Lobstering; Block Island; Swordfish.

*Segments:*

**1. Raising a fishing family**

Page: 1

Summary: Norma Conley is the wife of a fisherman, since retired. She describes some of the work he did in his fishing career. As a fisherman's wife, Norma describes what it was like to raise a family, much of which was in his absence. She points to some of the challenges and responsibilities it entailed.

**2. Communications technology, between land and sea**

Page: 2

Summary: Norma describes the technology used to aid in contacting her husband when he was out on the water. She explains what it was like before cell phones.

**3. Children in the family**

Page: 3-4

Summary: Norma explains that she has two sons, one of whom is also a commercial fisherman. She says that while one of her sons fishes, she wouldn't advise anyone to enter the industry now. She describes some of the challenges that recent fishermen have to face who enter the industry. The biggest change is that now, fishermen are self-employed. Even if you don't own the boat, you are self-employed. They get a paycheck and have to determine on their own how to divide it up to cover taxes, unemployment, and healthcare insurance. Fish scarcity is another major challenge. You may make a lot of money now but it is a difficult industry to enter and there are a lot of regulations to stay on top of. Not having a retirement plan is another challenge of fishing today.

**Conley, Robert**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Nichole Pelletier

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 14 pages

Keywords : Impact of Regulations ; How fishermen perceive issue; Fishing Grounds; Magnuson Stevens Act; Work Culture; Block Island; Government Power; Jurisdiction; Rhode Island State Legislature; Married Relations; 1970s; Social Services; Health Insurance; 1950s; Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association; Multigenerational Fishing Family; Tensions between local and foreign fishing fleets; Death and Accidents; Camaraderie; Masculinity; Absentee Owner; Captain; Looking Ahead; Tensions between fishermen and government/management; Military.

*Segments:*

**1. Fishing Family Traditions**

Page: 1

Summary: Robert Conley traces his family's history back to Block Island since the 1750's, as fishermen. He describes the tradition of going swordfishing on George's Bank and up in Nova Scotia. While the 200-mile limit ended their ability to catch swordfish in Nova Scotia, they still travel up there every year to maintain the tradition. Robert describes the other places his family has fished, including as far south as Florida. He has been fishing for all kinds of species, dragging and long-lining.

**2. Benefits and Challenges of fishing**

Page: 2

Summary: Robert describes the financial structure of fishing with regard to benefits. He and his wife -- who is also in the room during the interview -- recall how 1975 was a time when their legal status as laborers changed. While not describing how they were categorized before, they state that this was a time when they began to be considered "self-employed" and therefore had certain taxation responsibilities that they previously hadn't had. While taxes were high for them, they didn't have healthcare benefits. Robert was a co-op member in 1947. He describes how dangerous the job is and the effort that crew members take to look after one another.

**3. 200-mile Limit and reflections on regulations**

Page: 3

Summary: Robert was fishing before and after 1976 when the 200-mile limit was passed. He describes the impact that this had immediately on his fishing. Because he was a Banks fisherman and traveled all the way up to Nova Scotia and down to Florida, his access was considerably hindered by the regulations of the 200-mile limit. He also connects the passage of that regulation to the discovery of oil on George's Banks. He thinks that the 200-mile limit was favored by the government because of its connection to nationalizing those oil grounds, as opposed to the possible benefits it might have had to the fishing industry.

**4. Life on a fishing boat**

Page: 4-5

Summary: Robert shares some of the day-to-day dimensions of fishing: hard work, entertainment on the boat, adapting to changing weather. He says that it was the only profession on Block Island when he was growing up. He also spent four years in the Navy.

**5. On regulations: The future**

Page: 6

Summary: Robert considers the future of the industry and how regulations are likely impacting the near future. He describes how captains/owners of vessels experience the pressure of regulations differently than crew and how that impacts people's interest in entering or staying in the industry.

**6. Technique: Finding Fish**

Page: 6

Summary: Robert describes what it was like to try to find fish before the newer technologies became common-place.

**7. Injuries, Accidents, and Dangerous Conditions**

Page: 7-8

Summary: Robert describes some of the accidents he experienced along with the dangers of fishing in stormy conditions. He also recounts a swordfishing trip.

**8. Communications technology**

Page: 9

Summary: Robert describes some of the technology he uses to communicate while out at sea and why he would use them.

**9. Social dimensions of fishing: Crew and Family life**

Page: 10-11

Summary: Robert describes the social dynamics of having a crew and raising a family as a fisherman. He reflects on the challenges and how he navigates them. Robert continues his reflection on the gender dimensions of being a fisherman in terms of his responsibility as a male bread-winner in his family.

**10. Materiality of preparing for a fishing trip**

Page: 11

Summary: Robert describes the kinds of clothing he would bring with him, along with other personal items. He provides more information about the technology they would use and the groceries they would get for long trips.

**11. Day-in-a-life on the boat**

Page: 12

Summary: Robert gives details about the day-to-day rhythm of working on his fishing boat.

**12. Target species and bait species**

Page: 13

Summary: Robert describes the species of fish he targets as well as the types of species he uses for bait.

**13. Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative**

Page: 14

Summary: Robert describes the early history of the co-op and its impact on the fishing industry in Point Judith. He describes what the fishery looking like during those years and the value the co-op offered.

**14. Inshore fishing and net-making**

Page: 15

Summary: Robert describes the work he does now that he doesn't go offshore fishing as often. He describes the inshore scallop and quahogging business and working for other lobstermen to make nets for their pots.

**Conley, Ron**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Jeff Eaton

Date: 2001-2022

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 3 pages

Keywords : Commercial diving ; Accidents ; Value of Work; 1970s; day boat.

*Segments:*

**1. Dangers on the job**

Page: 1

Summary: Ronald Conley was a commercial diver. He starts the interview describing the dangers of his job.

**2. Changes in Galilee**

Page: 2

Summary: Ron started fishing commercially when he was 16 in 1976. He reflects on the introduction of regulatory measures in fishing and calls it "an experiment" in bringing fish stocks to healthy levels. In addition to commercial diving, he worked on a 130 foot freezer trawler for eight years.

**3. Family life**

Page: 3

Summary: Ron shares some memories of raising his children in which he realized that he wanted to get a job where he could spend more time at home. He reflects on what he would have done differently if he had the chance to go back in time.

**Conley, Norma & Bob**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Amber Newbauer

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 6 pages

Keywords: Block Island; family Life; Income; 1950s.

*Segments:*

**In a fishing family**

Page: 1-3

Summary: Norma and Bob Conley grew up on Block Island. Bob was a commercial fisherman and Norma stayed home to raise their children. They discuss what it was like to have a family while he was gone all of the time. Norma and the children would help by buying the groceries for his trips and bringing them to the boat when it was getting ready to go out. One of their son's is a commercial shellfisherman.

**Connery, Chris**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Kayla Deschenes

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 14 pages

Keywords : Processing Plant ; New York; Quonset, RI; Philadelphia; Globalization; Decline; Contraction; Fishing Grounds; Navigation Technology; Flounder; Fluke; Tuna; Impact of Regulations; Role of Government; Tension between fishermen and government/management;

Days-at-Sea; Quota System; Squid; 1980s; Accidents and Death; Coast Guard; Mesh Size; Scup; bluefish; Scup; Fish Preservation; Lobster; Share System; Family Life; Gloucester; New Jersey.

*Segments:*

**1. Introduction to a life of fishing**

Page: 1

Summary: Chris Connery does not come from a fishing family. He has done trip and day fishing for the last seventeen years in Galilee.

**2. Materiality of Fishing**

Page: 2

Summary: Chris describes the daily rhythm of fishing, the technology he uses on his vessel, the size and type of boat he has, and the dynamics of his crew.

**3. Selling Fish**

Page: 3

Summary: Chris describes where they sell their fish. He points to the independence as the element of fishing he appreciates the most and to regulations as the aspect of his job that he likes the least. He recalls what recent regulations were implemented. These restrictions impacted the type of gear he could use and the amount of time he could spend on the water fishing. To supplement his income, he has started fishing for squid as well.

**4. Injuries and Accidents**

Page: 4

Summary: Chris describes some of the accidents he has heard of.

**5. Injuries and Accidents, pt 2**

Page: 5

Summary: Chris continues describing experiences of injury on the job.

**6. Superstitions**

Page: 6

Summary: Chris describes some of the superstitions he knows of among fishermen.

**7. Mesh Rule**

Page: 7

Summary: Chris describes the details of the new mesh rule that aims to allow juvenile fish to escape the end of the net.

**8. Equipment on the vessel**

Page: 8

Summary: Chris describes the technical dimensions of the net they use and the refrigeration methods on the boat.

**9. Processing the fish**

Page: 9

Summary: Chris describes the process of blast freezing and vessels' ability to freeze hundreds of thousands of pounds of fish. Processing is not done so much on the boats since they are able to so effectively freeze them. Chris also talks about crew sizes and how they have changed over time. From 5 man crews in the "old days" the size has been cut down due to the cost of the business. The share given to the boats have been increasing due to overhead costs increasing.

**10. Processing the fish, pt 2**

Page: 10



Summary: Chris recounts that most fish taken out in Galilee end up being sold in New York and Philadelphia. Freezer boats take out at Sea Freeze in Quonset and sell their own fish. He says that the Norwegians are bringing in a processing plant to Quonset that will process Herring into fish meal.

### **11. Accidents and Death**

Page: 12-14

Summary: Chris describes some of the deaths that have happened recently in the port and dangerous experiences he has witnessed or helped people out of.

### **Corey (Champlin), Sandra**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Samantha Cullen-Fry

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF transcript

Duration: 9 pages

Keywords : 1940s ; Lobster

#### *Segments:*

#### **1. Fishing Family**

Page: 1

Summary: Sandra Champlin was born December 16, 1947 to a fishing family in which her father, uncles, and grandfather were all fishermen. She herself has not been a fisherman. She explains that she has a disability. But she has worked stringing bait.

#### **2. Fishing Family, pt 2**

Page: 2

Summary: Sandra continues to explain her family's multi-generational connection to the fishing industry. Her uncle used to own Champlin's Seafood but he has since sold it. Her son, Richard, is a lobsterman/fisherman.

#### **3. Dangers and Accidents at Sea**

Page: 3-9

Summary: Sandra describes an accident that took place on her brother's fishing boat.

### **Daley, Trevor**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Patrick O'Brien

Date: May 15, 2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 6 pages

Keywords : Entering the Industry ; Tuna; Charter Fishing; Accidents; Storms; Block Island; URI; Nova Scotia; Swordfishing; Georges Banks; Coast Guard.

#### *Segments:*

#### **From Australia to Nova Scotia**

Page: 1-6

Summary: Trevor Daley started his fishing career as a charter fisherman in Australia. When he moved to Rhode Island, he continued fishing. He describes swordfishing off of the NS coast, the challenges of making a career out of fishing, and some of the dangers of the job.

## **Davis, Walter**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Voices of the Ocean Museum Exhibit Oral History Project

Interviewer: Sophia Richter

Date: July 2021

Format: Audio mp3 recording

Duration: 01:30:12

Keywords: Block Island, RI; Energy; Fish Preservation; Herring; Mackerel; Military; Offshore; Death; Accidents; Gender; Swordfish; Work Culture; Sense of Place; Old Timers; Fishing Grounds; Family Life; Military; Married Relations; Hard Work Pride; Fairness; Income; Russian; Menhaden; Multigenerational Fishing Family; Value of Work; Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association; Scup; Poggies; Health; Fisheries Data.

### *Segments:*

#### **1. Growing up in a fishing community**

[00:00:00] - [00:24:07]

Summary: Walter Davis was born in 1941 and grew up in Point Judith, Rhode Island. He shares some of his earliest memories learning and playing on the docks alongside the Champlins and the Westcotts. His father was a fisherman for a while until an accident to the head and his mother worked at the Point Judith Fisherman's Co-op. She trimmed and packed fish. She started work there in the 1950s. Walter describes the demographics and geography of the Point during his childhood years. He describes his relationship to the other fishing families and how they took care of his family. After graduating from South Kingstown high school in 1959 he went fishing until he was drafted into the army to fight in the Vietnam war in 1964. Walter worked from a young age and he describes how he viewed work and what it meant to him. In the 1950s, his father's accident changed their family dynamic, preventing him from working. His mother was the breadwinner and caretaker.

#### **2. Life during and after the war**

[00:24:07] - [00:29:23]

Summary: Walter starts with a description of what work was like in those early years of his fishing career. He recounts the technology and techniques used. Walter describes what his experience fo the war was like and how it impacted his family and community. He explains that it was hard at first to go back home and how he went back fishing after the war.

#### **3. Deckhands and the Co-op**

[00:29:23] - [00:39:15]

Summary: Walter was always a deckhand, the way he liked it, and he describes what it was like to find work, to adapt to boats with different dynamics, and what types of challenges he faced finding a good crew to work with. He was never a member of the co-op but he remembers what it was like working on co-op boats.

#### **4. Married Life**

[00:39:15] - (from end of First file to beginning of Second file) - [00:04:23]

Summary: Walter has been married since 1970. His wife raised their children while he was away fishing. She worked for Rhode Island College and University of Rhode Island. He describes some of his memories of their social life and their relationship to other fishing families. Neither of his kids got into the fishing industry.

#### **5. Perceptions: Foreign fleets and regulations**

[00:04:23] - [00:08:35]

Summary: Walter describes his perceptions of regulations and the politics of the industry in the 1970s and 1980s. He felt that being a deckhand gave him less of a full picture of the impacts of regulations but he describes his memories non-the-less. He recounts some of his memories fishing alongside ships from Russia. He explains the differences in fishing capacity between the fleets.

#### **6. Materiality and Mortality in Fishing**

[00:08:35] - [00:21:11]

Summary: Walter recounts more memories of what day-to-day life was like working on the water fishing for different kinds of species. He explains the changes in unloading fish at the co-op over the years and what the work was like on the deck. Walter left work after a back injury. He also recounts incidents of death and near-death accidents while he was out on the water.

#### **7. Memories: Pride in his work, pride in his community**

[00:21:11] - [00:45:08]

Summary: Walter shifts through his memories as he describes some of the swordfishing trips he went on, some of the ways that his community kept up with the "old timers", and how he thinks back on his time on the water. He reflects on how the demographics have changed in the port and explains the importance of place for him. He recounts the names of fishing grounds that he used to fish on and the beauty of the swordfish they would hunt. He shares some of the reasons he loved his work on the water. He also reflects on what was difficult about it and how he navigated those times with his family. Walter also reflects on the Roann that is being preserved at the Mystic Seaport Museum.

### **DeSalvo, Douglas**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Alexander Thibodeau

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 4 pages

Keywords: Entering the Industry; Value of Work; Lobster; Flounder; Fluke; Cod; Accidents; Storms; Income; Swordfish; Family Life;

#### *Segments:*

##### **1. Entering the Industry**

Page: 1

Summary: Douglas DeSalvo shares that he was a commercial fisherman for around ten years groundfishing and lobstering. As he says, everyone entering the industry at the time

did it for the money. He discusses the vessels he worked on and what crew dynamics were like.

## **2. Accidents and Storms, pt 1**

Page: 2-3

Summary: Douglas shares some of the dangerous experiences he had out at sea. Douglas continues his stories about fishing in a storm. He also discusses his income and what it was like to not always know if you were going to make the money you intended going out.

## **3. Family**

Page: 4

Summary: Douglas discusses what he missed about fishing and what it was like to fish with a family.

### **Doliber, Robert**

Archive: URI Archives and Special Collections

Project: The Galilee Fishermen Oral History Tapes

Interviewer: Tony DeMeo

Date: March 30, 1979

Format: mp3 audio recording

Duration: 01:12:06

Keywords: Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association; Income; Tension within the fishery; Tension between fishermen and government; New Bedford, MA

#### *Segments:*

1. [00:00:00] - [00:06:40]:  
Summary: Background: family, getting into fishing, married life
2. [00:08:00] - [00:14:00]:  
Summary: Day-in-a-life of fishing; vessel and crew
3. [00:14:00] - [00:16:00]:  
Summary: Hurricane of 1938
4. [00:16:00] - [00:25:00]:  
Summary: Changes in the industry: technology, vessels, catch
5. [00:25:00] - [00:26:00]:  
Summary: Factory fishing vessels
6. [00:26:00] - [00:35:00]:  
Summary: Impact of government on fishing
7. [00:35:00] - [00:44:00]:  
Summary: Point Judith Fishermen's Co-op
8. [00:44:00] - [00:48:00]:  
Summary: Women in the fishing industry
9. [00:52:00] - [00:53:20]:  
Summary: Hurricanes
10. [00:55:00] - [01:18:00]:  
Summary: Coast Guard during WWII, German U-boats

## **Dougherty, Jon**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Voices of the Ocean Museum Exhibit Oral History Project

Interviewer: Sophia Richter

Date: July 2021

Format: PDF Transcript and audio recording

Duration: 73 pages; 2 hours 4 minutes

Keywords : Accident; Black Seabass ; Block Island, RI; Boston, MA; Butterfish; Closure; Clothing; Cod; Competition; Development; Energy; Finance; Fluke; Haddock; Health Insurance; Herring; License and Permit; Mackerel; Magnuson-Stevens Act; Quota System; Sense of Place; Skate; Dougherty; Work Culture; 1980s; 1990s; Catch shares; Fisheries Data; Navigation; Value of Work; Married Relations; Squid; Fish Scarcity; Trap Fishing; Tension between Fishermen and Government/ Management; Consolidation; Financialization; tension between fishermen and conservationists; Looking Ahead; Magnuson Stevens Act; Optimization; Modernization' Safety; Long Island, NY; Tension between fishermen and residents.

### *Segments:*

#### **1. Introduction**

Page: 1-5

Summary: Robert Jonathan Dougherty was born in 1965 in Quonset Point, North Kingstown, RI and now he lives in Charlestown. His father's side of the family is from Kansas and came up to Quonset after WWII. His mother's side of the family is from Narragansett. Jon got into fishing through his uncle who was a fisherman, starting at age 16. He spent his childhood in Matunuck, along the salt ponds.

#### **2. Family History**

Page: 5-9

Summary: Jon reflects on how his family would have understood his affinity for machinery. His grandmother used to make all her kids' clothing, Jon's parents always worked. Kenneth Ketchum is the uncle who took Jon fishing. Ken came up from a Long Island fish trapping family and went to URI's fisheries program. Jon's mother worked in a store near the Narragansett News down by the old Post Office building before the town was revitalized in the 1960s. Jon reflects on the importance of the newspaper in the mid-twentieth century, before the internet. Jon graduated from South Kingstown high school in 1983 and took a Marine Tech program there. When he was done, he went fishing.

#### **3. Entering the Industry**

Page: 9-19

Summary: Jon shares his early memories of starting to fish on his uncle's boat when he was still in high school. His uncle would unload at the co-op and kids from school would be lined up to help unload. He reflects that when he was a kid, you were either a professor at URI, a fisherman in Galilee, or working in the mill. When Jon got into fishing after high school, it was the early '80s and he was aware of the way the government was shaping the industry at the time. He recognized the impact of the massive investments changing the composition of the fleet: from wooden boats to steel. As a kid, Jon remembers that fishermen had a hard time because banks didn't want to invest in the industry, so they would borrow from family members. Jon describes what it was like for him and other young people to get into the industry in the 1970s-1980s. Jon

explained memories and technicalities of Eastern and Western rigged boats and the species they targeted.

**4. Labor**

Page: 19-37

Summary: Jon reflects on his labor: what it means to him, what it has offered him, the challenges and lessons learned. He worked as a contractor in addition to fishing and reflects on the fisheries management regulations that he's had to navigate. Jon paints a picture of the class divide in South County and what he thinks about it. This section holds a lot of details about the industry: techniques, target species, prices, etc.

**5. Between work and home, now and then**

Page: 37-42

Summary: Jon discusses the ways that fisheries management uses technology and the challenges that this presents. Reflects on the difference between growing up in the early 60s versus growing up today in terms of technology, things to do, and family life. Jon also shares some of the ways that his affinity for machinery helps him in life at home, raising a family.

**6. Crew Relationships**

Page: 42-48

Summary: Jon recounts the good and hard times of being a captain and developing connections with his crew over the years. He describes some of the social and structural challenges as well as the personal relationships that meant a lot to him. Towards the end of this section he brings up his technique for talking about his work and how to manage the constantly fluctuating income dynamics with his wife and crew members.

**7. Intimate life and family**

Page: 48-55

Summary: Jon recounts his marriage history and stories about raising a family. He reflects on his childhood expectations for what he wanted his adult life to look like and the gifts and challenges of making that happen. He and his wife, who he has known since the '70s raised a family while he was fishing and she worked on an off many different service industry jobs.

**8. Laboring and change**

Page: 55-64

Summary: Jon reflects on how the industry has changed over time: the change in species that fishermen in Point Judith catch; the impact that regulations have had and the experience of adapting to them; the differences between entering the industry today versus when he was young and the work culture that people expect.

**9. Closing Reflections**

Page: 65-75

Summary: Jon gives his definition of what makes a good fisherman and shares stories about how he learned some of these qualities. He discusses his relationship to the ocean and to the marine resources within it. He reflects on fishing as a job and fishing as a steward.

**Dougherty, Jon**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Andrew Ketcham

Date: May 20, 2001

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 7 pages

Keywords : Butterfish ; Clothing ; Finance ; Haddock; Quota System; Family Life; Captain; Maintenance; Energy; Value of Work; Income; Independence; Sense of Ecosystem; Menhaden; Communications Technology; Sense of Place; Clothing; Navigation Technology; Squid; Fluke; Impact of Regulations;

*Segments:*

**1. Introduction**

Page: 1

Summary: Jon Dougherty discusses the type of fishing he does; reflects on the impact his work has on his family, and recounts some of the interesting things he has found in his net. He also describes how he feels about his children growing up to become fishermen and the dangers of the job.

**2. Daily Life**

Page: 2-7

Summary: Jon describes the daily tasks that his work involves and the types of equipment he uses. He describes the food and clothing they bring on long trips. Jon also recalls some of the challenges of finding a good fit with the crew. He reflects on the costs and benefits of using increasingly powerful technology.

**Dykstra, Bill**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Rachel Dulude

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 15 pages

Keywords : Work Culture ; Gender ; Multigenerational Fishing Family; Value of Work; Masculinity; Hard Work Pride; Perception of Fishermen; Death and Accidents; Family Life; Married Relations; Sense of Place; Belonging; Restructuring; Modernization; Tuna; Gloucester; 1910s; Oysters; Poggies.

*Segments:*

**1. Review of a Career Fisherman**

Page: 1

Summary: Bill Dykstra starts the interview by describing the evolution of his career working in the fishing industry, from starting out crewing to becoming a captain. He provides details about what these different jobs entail - from towing and maintenance on land - on a dayboat dragger and what a typical day is like. Bill became a captain, owning his own boat in the mid-seventies.

**2. Accidents on the Water**

Page: 2

Summary: Bill describes some of the accidents he has experienced while working on the water.

### **3. Alternative Work**

Page: 3

Summary: Bill describes some of the other things he has done and how they compare to fishing for him. He is a carpenter and was in the Navy for four years. But fishing has always been the thing he really wanted to do. If not commercially, he says he would still be on the water.

### **4. Raised in and Raising a Fishing Family, pt 1**

Page: 4

Summary: Bill elaborates on what it has been like to raise a family while working as a fisherman. He grew up in a fishing family and so it was a familiar lifestyle for him. His family came from Long Island as oystermen to Point Judith in the early 1900s, around World War I. He explains that it was harder on his wife. He explains how they divided responsibilities and navigated some of the challenges of him being away so often. He reflects on some of the adjustments he had to make around being a father and being away in order to fit into the lives of his family. He reflects on the qualities of his wife that have enabled them to successfully raise a family.

### **5. Raised in and Raising a Fishing Family, pt 2**

Page: 5

Summary: Bill has only two daughters. But that didn't stop him from bringing his children out fishing with him. He describes some of their experiences being out with him and what that means for him as their father and as a man in the fishing industry. He reflects on his sense that women in fishing families aren't supportive of the children growing into commercial fishermen. He shares some information about how he spends his leisure time - of which his religious life, maintaining his boat, and gardening are some of the most important. He also explains the importance of spending time with each of his children individually. He reflects on fatherhood and what that means to him.

### **6. Dangers of Commercial Fishing and Technology**

Page: 6

Summary: Bill enumerates the many dimensions of fishing that are dangerous, including dealing with heavy machinery, working in tight spaces, and making decisions while confronting bad weather. He describes some of the communications and navigation technology that he uses on the water.

### **7. Appreciation for and Materiality of Fishing**

Page: 7

Summary: Bill reflects on what he loves about fishing which prompts some interesting information about the dynamics between crew and captain on the vessel; the material challenges of finding fish and getting a good price for the catch. He also provides information about the size of his crews over the years. He says that he fishes with a minimum of two people and maximum of nine. It depends on the vessel you are using and the type of fishing you are doing. He worked with eight other people when they were fishing on a 110 ft vessel out of Point Judith, going whiting. The manual labor and need to work in shifts necessitated having a larger crew. He then goes on to consider what the ocean means to him. Opposed to having a spiritual connection to the ocean, he



appreciates being able to experience and witness marine life that most people don't have the opportunity to do.

## **8. The Perfect Storm**

Page: 9

Summary: Bill reflects on the movie 'The Perfect Storm' and describes what elements were accurate or fictive in his experience. These reflections give a window into the dimensions of hiring; the social and power dynamics of the crew and captain; the "personalities" of fishermen and their tight-knit communities; how they navigate conflict on the boat; and some of the bad weather they experience. He reflects on the difficulty of making decisions for the other crewmen on the boat who rely on him to make a living. He gives some stories about losing vessels. He refers back often to the movie to vividly paint the scenes.

## **9. Aging and Work**

Page: 13-15

Summary: Bill recalls his grandfather saying that he would retire when he could no longer get his foot over the railing. But Bill isn't so sure what retirement will look like for him. He considers his experience of getting older while working and that he will likely keep working in the inshore fisheries - crabbing and shellfishing - into old age. He reflects on fishing as a lifestyle more than a job. He considers how other people view his work and why there is such a discrepancy in the value of "hard work". He provides insight into how he thinks about work and time spent doing it differently than someone socialized in the 9-5 working world.

## **Dykstra, Bill**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Jennifer Demers

Date: May 8, 2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 17 pages

Keywords : How fishermen perceive an issue; tension between fishermen and government/management; sense of ecosystem; tension between conservation and fishermen; Licenses and Permits; Fish scarcity; Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association; Leadership; Organization and Advocacy; Gender; Work Culture.

### *Segments:*

#### **1. Growing up in a fishing family and hard work**

Page: 1

Summary: Bill Dykstra grew up in a fishing family and explains how he came into fishing for himself. The hard labor is very satisfying to him. He describes a day-in-a-life of being a fisherman and the kinds of tasks that are involved. In great detail, he describes this work and the impact it has on your body after a while. He continues on to describe the work of preparing the boat for a trip. The co-op used to have a little store where they would buy their gloves and other supplies.

#### **2. Raising a family while fishing**

Page: 2-6

Summary: Bill describes raising his family and his perspective on being away from home while his daughters were younger. He describes how the wife of a fishing family takes a leading role running the household and the family. He recounts the dynamics of when he comes home - he cannot just take the place of leader, he has to mesh with his wife's leadership role.

### **3. Accidents and Injuries**

Page: 10-17

Summary: Bill describes some of the accidents that he has experienced on his fishing boats. One of his boats sank. He describes the rescue.

## **Dykstra, David**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Voices of the Ocean Museum Exhibit Oral History Project

Interviewer: Sophia Richter

Date: July 2021

Format: mp3 audio recording

Duration: 02:04:00

Keywords: Blame; Block Island, RI; Butterfish; Coast Guard; Death; Debt; Energy; Fluke; Health Insurance; Herring; License and Permit; Mesh Size; Monk fish; Military; Skate; Impact of Regulations; 1980s; 1990s; 1960s; 1970s; Fisheries Data; Entering the Industry; Russians; Magnuson Stevens Act; Fish Scarcity; Restructuring; Finances; Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association; Leadership; New England Fisheries Management Council; Multigenerational Fishing Family; Sense of Place; Modernization; Navigation Technology; License and Permits' Sense of Ecosystem; Squid; Whiting; Flounder; New York, NY; URI Fisheries Program; How fishermen perceive issue; Value of Work; Mesh Size; Exiting the Industry; Tension between local and foreign fishing fleets; Graying Fleet.

### *Segments:*

#### **1. Family History**

Page: 1-7

Summary: David Dykstra was born in South County Hospital on April 10, 1952. He has one sibling, younger sister Julianne, and they grew up with their parents in Snug Harbor, where he still lives today. David describes how much Snug Harbor has changed over the years, explaining in detail the environmental character of the area and the demographics of those who used to live there. David explains his mother and father's family backgrounds. His mother's family were Sicilian dairy farmers in Westerly and his father's were Dutch fishermen and oystermen from Holland by way of New York, Long Island. He describes the oyster business that his grandfather had and what it was like growing up in this family as a child. His reflections point to the connection that fishermen had with farmers in South County.

#### **2. Growing up in the fishing industry**

Page: 7-13

Summary: David recounts his early exposure to fishing, setting eel pots in the salt pond with his grandfather. He continues to describe his family's history of fishing and how integrated their work was in their family's life while he was growing up.

#### **3. The World at Point Judith's Doorstep**

Page: 13-17

Summary: The interview briefly pivots to the backdrop for the 200-mile limit. David describes some of his memories fishing alongside Russian factory trawlers. While they mostly kept separate, David recounts some of the occasions when he boarded their vessels or witnessed the cultural differences between the Soviet and local fishing.

**4. Narragansett vs. Matunuck social dimensions**

Page: 17-20

Summary: David describes the social dynamics between kids in Narragansett and those from Matunuck when he was young. He conveys that he grew up separate from most of the kids who were from fishing families due to differing school systems.

**5. Working for his father**

Page: 20-28

Summary: David describes the tension between how he got into fishing versus how he imagined getting into the industry. He started his career when his father needed a crew member. David notes that during the political movement around winning the 200 mile limit, many fishermen were taken away from their vessels. David's father was left without a crew so David stepped in. David reflects on the URI fisheries program.

**6. Early Co-op Memories**

Page: 28-32

Summary: David describes some of his early memories unloading and attending meetings at the co-op. He reflects on what it was like to not know what the port would be like without the co-op, that it was everything he knew.

**7. Education and Learning**

Page: 33-34

Summary: David reflects on the cultural differences between his experiences learning and other students in school coupled with the expectations he grew up under.

**8. Religion and Work in his Fishing Family**

Page: 35-45

Summary: David recounts the lives that his children have grown into and how fishing was not something his son could viably do as a career. One of his daughters is married to someone in the industry but other than that, the decline of fishing in the '90s impacted his family in this way. He recounts how the industry changed over the 70s, 80s, and 90s in terms of what fish were caught and how, how the business ran, and the challenges of remaining day-fishermen. David describes his background as a Jehovah's Witness and how that impacted the kinds of techniques his family used to fish. He also explains the value system and what he was raised to believe about what good behavior is.

**9. 1990's at the co-op and adapting to regulations**

Page: 45-50

Summary: David describes what it was like during the years when the co-op started to struggle under pressure from an over-capitalized industry. David reflects on the reasons for why fishermen were turning away from the co-op model and how their fishing techniques changed with the introduction of mesh-size regulations.

**10. Record-keeping**

Page: 50-51

Summary: David describes the data that fishermen collect and how he developed his approach over the years. He reflects on the tension between great record-keeping and technology and his one sentiment that fishing is still an elusive process.

**11. Nature of the job**

Page: 51-56

Summary: David describes what it takes to be good at his job and some of the challenges he faces to do so. He points to some of the developments in technology that have been introduced to the fishing industry.

**12. Father-Son Relationship**

Page: 56-62

Summary: David describes some of the health issues that his father faced and the challenges to their relationship as his father's health got worse. Fishing was central to their relationship.

**13. Impact of regulations on family and the co-op**

Page: 63-68

Summary: David describes the kinds of regulations that were coming in in the 90's and the changes to fishing they imposed. The co-op shut down at the height of these difficulties. David recounts his relationship to money and what it looked like to live modestly and at times to struggle. His family stayed loyal to the co-op but he reflects that it probably didn't make a difference. David describes some of the changes to the fisheries such as introducing monkfish and skate. For all his years, he and his father fishing on wooden boats. He recounts the challenges that wooden boats involve and the insurance costs.

**14. Changes to the fishing community**

Page: 69-70

Summary: David describes the mounting tensions within the port that arose during the challenging years in the industry and reflects on how the fabric of the community has changed over time from family-based to more individual.

**15. Title: Traditional Practices**

Page: 71-83

Summary: David describes many of the traditional fishing practices and his affinity for them. He recounts many of the tasks such as mending nets, that he learned to perform and what it was like to fish in a world increasingly removed from those traditions. He shares some information about place and local knowledge that sheds light on his love for his home.

**Dykstra, David**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Zac Smith

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 5 pages

Keywords: Blame; Block Island, RI; Cod; Fluke; Monkfish; 1970s; Long Island, NY; Oysters; Multigenerational Fishing Family; Hurricane; 1950s; Accidents; Skates; Flounder; Fluke; Lobster.

*Segments:*

**1. Of a Fishing Family**

Page: 1-2

Summary: David Dykstra is from a fishing family of many generations dating back to Long Island and Holland before that. He describes the oyster business his grandfather came to Rhode Island to start. Oystering in the salt ponds was considered ideal and he would dig trenches through the marsh to grow oysters.

**2. A Boat Sinks**

Page: 3-5

Summary: David recounts the recent event where his boat sank. He continues with other examples of the dangers he has experienced while fishing.

**Dykstra, Jacob**

Archive: URI Archives and Special Collections

Project: The Galilee Fishermen Oral History Tapes

Interviewer: Karen McDougall

Date: March 29, 1979

Format: Audio mp3 recording

Duration: 01:48:46

Keywords: Consolidation; Cull Board; Military; Entering the Industry; Leadership; Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association; Work Culture; Independence; Tension between fishermen and government/management; Fish Scarcity; Impact of Regulations; Import-Export Trade; New Bedford, MA; New York, NY; How fishermen perceive issue; Tension between local and foreign fishing fleets; Bureau of Commercial Fisheries; Globalization; Charter Fishing; Income; Finance; Role of Government.

*Segments:*

1. [00:00:00] - [00:07:16]:

Summary: Background

2. [00:07:16] - [00:25:00]:

Summary: Dykstra talks about getting into the fishing industry, working for the co-op, and early political involvement in the industry

3. [00:25:00] - [00:45:00]:

Summary: Adapting to changes in the industry; growth of the co-op over time; role of government; fisheries collapse

4. [00:45:00] - [00:49:57]:

Summary: How the co-op is structured; how to become a member; how the co-op functions

5. [00:49:57] - [00:55:00]:

Summary: How to become a member, logic behind what makes a good member, reflections on the responsibility that the co-op has towards its members. Protecting members/ income oriented decision-making versus promoting successful cooperative organization.

6. [00:55:00] - [00:58:36]:

Summary: How the co-op is structured; how to become a member; how the co-op functions

7. [00:58:36] - [01:00:26]:  
Summary: Retiring members and the cost of becoming a member.
8. [01:00:26] - [01:02:24]:  
Summary: Dykstra mentions that it is to the benefit of the co-op for members who retire from fishing to also turn in their membership. The co-op even developed a mechanism to incentivize this. But so many fishermen did not want to retire their membership. Based on these numbers of members versus active members, the co-op clearly decided to accommodate them as opposed to pressuring them to leave. I wonder if this will be a common way of addressing conflict and if that expresses a certain pro-community rationale....as opposed to being hyper-rational.
9. [01:02:24] - [01:09:07]:  
Summary: This is a great section where Dykstra explains the impact that the co-op had on the way fishermen, their families, and the community perceive them and the fishing industry. He explains how this perception became much more positive thanks to the co-op. Additionally, at 1:18:16 mark there is a very clear sound of a bell that I'd like to find out about. If I did an audio story, it would be a cool thing to include.
10. [01:09:07] - [01:12:27]:  
Summary: Impact of the co-op on the fishing industry of Rhode Island; expansion
11. [01:12:27] - [01:14:28]:  
Summary: Future of the industry: bigger vessels
12. [01:14:28] - [01:48:46]:  
Summary: Impact of the government (federal and state) on the fishing industry.

## **Filippini, Junio**

Archive: NOAA Voices

Project: Oral Histories from the New England Fisheries

Date: December 16, 2009

Interviewer: Kate Yentes

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 14 pages; 54 minutes, 17 seconds

Keywords : Brazil ; Coast Guard ; Finance; Flounder; Fluke; Health Insurance; Monkfish; Trip Fishing; Navigation; Income; Family Life; Married Relations; Women; Multigenerational Fishing Family; Value of Work; Fluke; Weakfishing; Impact of Regulations; Yellowtail Flounder; Social Services; Whiting.

### *Segments:*

Page 1: Residence, West Kingston

Page 2: Education

Page 3: Perceptions of industry troubles; Value of work; Income

Page 4: Working multiple jobs; Whiting; Monkfish; Fluke; Immigration; Brazil

Page 5: Family life; Entry into the industry

Page 6: Fishing techniques; father; Brazil; trip fishing; Captain-Owner

Page 7: Perception of industry troubles; Trip fishing; Married relations; Women; Crew

Page 8: Gender; Married Life; Work Benefits

Page 9: Sense of Community; Value of Work; Health

Page 10: How fishermen were perceived; Income; Family  
Page 11: Family; Brazil; Navigation technology  
Page 12-14: Captain-owner; Education

## **Gallagher, Mike**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Rosina Tonzi

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 10 pages

Keywords: Organizing and Advocacy; Leadership; Pawtucket; 1970s; Impact of Regulations; Bycatch; Independence; Flounder; Scallop; Yellowtail Flounder; New Bedford, MA; Trip Fishing; Accidents; Block Island, RI; Family Life; Old Timers; Maintenance; Looking Ahead; Sense of Ecosystem; School teacher; Income; Value of Work; Tensions within the fishery; tensions between residents and fishermen; perception of fishermen; how fishermen perceive the issues; Strike.

### *Segments:*

#### **1. Entering the industry and change**

Page: 1-2

Summary: Mike Gallagher was born and raised in Pawtucket. He moved down to Point Judith with his brothers and their family in 1978. His brothers entered the industry first and he soon followed and has been there for the past twelve years. Mike describes the impact of regulations on the fishing industry but does not see them as overly restrictive. By-catch, mesh sizes, regulation twine and cod-ends are all by-products of regulations.

#### **2. Injuries**

Page: 2-3

Summary: Mike recounts some of the accidents that have happened during his career.

#### **3. Daily Rhythms of a fishing family**

Page: 3-6

Summary: Mike describes the daily rhythm of fishing. He also reflects on the way his work has changed over the years in order to be around more for his family.

#### **4. Time and Technology**

Page: 6-7

Summary: Mike describes how he spends his time on the boat and the types of technology used for running the boat, navigation, and communications.

#### **5. Seasonality and Looking into the Future**

Page: 7-8

Summary: Mike describes the differences between fishing in the summer and winter. He considers the future of the industry and reflects on the importance of stewardship today. His worries are more for the local industries as opposed to the fish stocks.

#### **6. Challenges of finding crew**

Page: 8-9

Summary: Mike describes the challenges of finding a steady reliable crew. He points to the camaraderie and solidarity that exists between crew and between vessels when you're on the water.

## **7. Protests in Point Judith**

Page: 10

Summary: Mike describes the reason for the protest. Conservationists have sued the NMFS for not doing enough to protect the marine ecosystem. Meanwhile, fishermen are feeling the pressure of regulations and are pushing back against the possible increased restrictions to come out of this lawsuit.

## **Gamache, Jay**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Chris Gamache

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 13 pages

Keywords : Income ; Entering the Industry; Value of Work; 1990s; Exiting the industry; Decline; Fish Scarcity; Family Life; Work Culture; Georges Banks; Storms; New Bedford, MA; Substance Abuse; Camaraderie; Navigation Technology; Communications Technology; Accidents; Death; Clothing.

### *Segments:*

#### **1. Getting into the Industry**

Page: 1-3

Summary: Jay Gamache started fishing while he was in high school during the summers. The money was good and he decided to stay in the industry. He says that he wishes he had stayed at the University of Rhode Island to continue his education because it would have made it easier for him to transition out of the fishing industry.

#### **2. Education and Hard Work**

Page: 3-4

Summary: Jay went to Bishop Hendricken for high school. He was accepted to Brown University but ended up fishing and going to URI instead. Fishing has gotten harder to make a living. He describes the physically demanding aspects of the job.

#### **3. Raising and Family and Exiting the industry**

Page: 4-5

Summary: Jay left the fishing industry in 1992, right as it was going downhill, he says. He describes what it was like to fish as a father and all of the important family things he missed. He left the industry after being caught in a major storm, a perfect storm. After surviving, he swore to never go out again.

#### **4. Social Dimensions on the boat**

Page: 6-8

Summary: Jay describes what it was like to work for his father when he was still learning versus working for someone else. He recounts some of the challenging experiences he had when crew members didn't get along with him. He describes his good fortune and the



attention he had to pay to hiring crew members to make sure his boat would be safe. Jay recounts the camaraderie on the water when a vessel needs something like fresh water or cigarettes.

#### **5. Injuries and Death**

Page: 8-11

Summary: Jay describes one of the worst injuries he had. He broke his back and was on medical leave for six months in 1987. No one else on his vessels have been seriously injured. Jay continues on to describe the death of one of his good friends, Bruce Loftes.

#### **6. Work Rhythms**

Page: 11-13

Summary: Jay describes a typical day in detail.

### **Handrigan, Timothy**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Julie Vega

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 3 pages

Keywords : Health ; Captain ; Lobster ; Offshore; Family Life; Value of Work; Accidents; Safety.

#### *Segments:*

##### **1. Entering the industry**

Page: 1-2

Summary: Timothy Handrigan grew up in a fishing family. He started when he was sixteen years old in his family's business. Now he is the captain of an off-shore lobster boat, trip fishing, and owns the Wharf Fish Market in Galilee.

##### **2. Title: Dimensions of Fishing**

Page: 2-3

Summary: Timothy fishes off of the Atlantis Canyon. He describes the work on his ship using technology, adapting to weather, superstitions on board the boat, missing family, and how NAFTA impacted his business.

### **Haverly, Richard**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Kelly Vaughn

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 6 pages

Keywords: Lobster; Maintenance; Storms; Income; Work Culture; Independence; Pride; Offshore; Clothing; Cod; Crabs; Seabass; Mystic Aquarium; Whales; Dolphins; Sea Turtles; Safety; Maintenance; Tuna; Swordfish.

*Segments:*

**1. Nature of the Job**

Page: 1-2

Summary: Richard Harvey describes his work as a lobster fisherman and the dangers involved.

**2. Entering the Industry**

Page: 2

Summary: Richard fell into fishing. At sixteen he began fishing commercially, never continuing his formal education after that. He believed fishing was the best option for him.

**3. Cycles of Seasons and Crew**

Page: 3-4

Summary: Richard describes the way that the weather impacts his work and recounts the social dynamics between crew members. It sounds like he had high turn-over.

**4. Materiality of fishing and Superstitions**

Page: 4

Summary: Richard describes the clothing he wears at work, the types of fish he has caught, and the superstitions that are common in this port.

**5. Accidents and Intrigue**

Page: 5

Summary: Richard describes the blue lobsters he has found in his pots. He also describes some of the accidents he has experienced on the job.

**6. History of Galilee**

Page: 6

Summary: Richard shares some recent history of the port. He discusses the processes of modernizing the docks.

**Ketcham, Ken**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Rob Bowman

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 8 pages

Keywords: Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association; 1980s; 1990s; Independence; Tension between fishermen and government and management; Impact of regulations.

*Segments:*

**1. From a Fishing Family**

Page: 1

Summary: Ken Ketcham is from a fishing family in Long Island. He moved to Rhode Island after attending URI's fisheries program. He learned to fish from his father and now takes his nephew out as well. He is a dragger day-boat fisherman and has raised a family. The interview discusses his techniques, accidents he has been in, and regulations. He shares information about superstitions, the life cycles of squid, and a brief history of the fishermen's co-op.

## **2. Business and Technology**

Page: 2

Summary: Ken describes some of the communications and navigation technology they use to find fish. He also describes how they sell fish. He points to the Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative and the Point Judith Fishermen's Company, which used to be the co-op, where he sells his fish.

## **3. Risks, Accidents, and Work on the Water**

Page: 3-4

Summary: Ken describes some of the daily maintenance he does and the possibility of injury on the job. He compares his work to trip fishing and the reasons that he chose day-fishing.

## **4. Reflecting on Regulations**

Page: 5

Summary: Ken describes how the quota system works and the relationship between the science of fish stock assessments and government regulations. He points to the extreme overfishing in the 1980s and early 1990s and the tension between letting stocks recover and letting fishermen fish. He provides information on squid, fluke, and scup.

## **5. The State and the Fishing Industry in Rhode Island**

Page: 6

Summary: Ken affirms that the fishing industry is an important industry to Rhode Island but that it needs more support to keep it going.

## **6. Storms**

Page: 6

Summary: Ken recalls a memory of fishing in a storm.

## **7. Family and Point Judith History**

Page: 7

Summary: Ken describes his family's historical connection to fishing and how that has impacted his own choice to become a fisherman. He also provides some information about the Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative.

## **8. Materialities of Fishing**

Page: 8

Summary: Ken describes his day-to-day life as a fisherman, including shoreside maintenance. He considers the benefits of fishing, which to him include being your own boss. Regulations are thus impeding his ability to receive this direct benefit of the job.

### **Kissick, Doug**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Jen Gonzalez

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 4 pages

Keywords : 1970s ; Swordfish ; offshore ; lobster; inshore; Trap Fishing; Quahogs; Maintenance; North Carolina; Nova Scotia; Storms; Squid; Income; Impact of Regulations.

*Segments:*

**1. A Local Fisherman**

Page: 1-4

Summary: Doug Kissick has been a fisherman in Point Judith for 30 years - since 1972. He has done all kinds of fishing and is currently a deck-hand on a squidding boat. He describes the dangers and challenges of his work. When asked about any problems in PJ, he points to drugs such as cocaine, heroine, as a main problem. Looking ahead, its the new fishermen who will have the hardest time, he reflects.

**Long, Bill**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Jayme Haverly

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 22 pages

Keywords: Impact of Regulations; consolidation; 1990s; Haddock; Government power; Entering the industry; Scallop; Long Island, NY; Masculinity.

*Segments:*

**1. Long Island to Rhode Island**

Page: 1-9

Summary: Bill Long has been fishing for over thirty-five years in Point Judith, namely as a lobsterman. He runs his own boat and has one deckhand who has worked with him for over ten years. He describes what the daily rhythm of work is like for him, the dangers of the job, some of the interesting things that have been pulled aboard in their nets, and some of the gear and technology they use. He describes the clothing they wear in summer versus in winter. He says that when he arrived in Point Judith in the late 60's, there was mostly dragging for lobster, nothing offshore.

**2. Regulations**

Page: 10-22

Summary: Bill describes his outlook on regulations. He is mostly concerned with the way that the government is aiming to consolidate the fishery and thus make it harder for young people to enter the industry.

**Long, Kevin**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Sarah Kissick

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 9 pages

Keywords: 1970s; Accidents; Death; Safety; Coast Guard; Fisheries Data; Impact of Regulations; Farming; Storms.

*Segments:*

**1. A Recent Entry into Fishing**

Page: 2-9

Summary: This interview is with Kevin Long, raised in Massachusetts, and now two years into working full-time in Point Judith. He was formerly a cook for ten years on land and needed a change of pace. He describes some of the dangerous situations he has been in and his general outlook on the industry. It has made having a social life or romantic relationships difficult and he is concerned that regulations are based on out-dated data. But other than that, his reflections are mostly about laboring and anecdotes about accidents on the water.

**Marchetti, Mike**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: James Joseph

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 7 pages

Keywords : Lobster ; Trap Fishing ; Quahog; Scallop; Perceptions of the issue; Government Power; Impact of Regulations; Tension between fishermen and government/ management; tension between fishermen and conservationists; Death; Accidents; Lobster; offshore; Competition; Income; Decline; Quota System; Sense of Ecosystem; Maine.

*Segments:*

**1. Introduction to Lobstering**

Page: 1

Summary: Mike Marchetti has been in the fishing industry since high school. His father owns a paving business but Mike fell in love with the water. He describes the different fisheries he worked in over the years including pond scalloping, trap fishing, and quahogging. He owns three boats and the biggest challenge of the business is running the crews.

**2. Conflict with Government and Conservationists**

Page: 2

Summary: Mike is the president of the Lobstermen's Association (of Rhode Island, perhaps) and describes his responsibility to ensure the viability of the lobster industry. To him, this includes pushing back against regulations that aim to restrict lobstering activities. He explains the meetings that he attends between environmentalists, regulators, and industry people. Other fishermen are the hardest to deal with though, he says.

**3. Dangers and Challenges of lobstering**

Page: 2-3

Summary: Mike describes some of the accidents and deaths that he has witnessed or that have happened to people in his life. He also discusses some of the financial challenges of running his business. In response to whether the ocean is being overfished, Mike points to the complexity of what that term means, how it is measured, and what the different impacts are.

**4. Supply Chains and Interdependencies**

Page: 3-5

Summary: Mike describes the supply chain of the fisheries and how interconnected the industry is with the rest of the economy. He points to the importance of the fishing industry to Rhode Island and the impact it has on other industries like tourism and trucking. He says that 9/11 impacted his business.

## **5. Change**

Page: 5-7

Summary: Mike reflects on how the industry has changed and what has remained the same over the years. He points to fishing gear versus technology in which the gear and techniques have remained largely the same while navigation and communications have improved dramatically. Looking into the future, he is concerned that regulations are going to favor environmentalists who would like to see fishermen no longer in New England waters.

## **Mattera, Fred**

Archive: NOAA Voices

Project: Sector Management in New England

Date: November 8, 2011

Interviewer: Azure Cygler

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 20 pages

Keywords: Block Island, RI; Coast Guard; Cod; Competition; Consolidation; Death; Debt; Energy; Fairness; Fish Preservation; Fish Data; Flounder; Fluke; Haddock; Health Insurance; Hurricane; License and Permit; Monkfish; Point Club; Quota System; Skate; Swamp Yankee; Stress; Sector Management; Northeast Fisheries Sectors; Impact of Regulations; Looking Ahead; Safety; How fishermen perceive issue; Income; Tensions within the fishery; Leadership; Work Culture; Tension between small boats and big business; Married Relations; Finance; Northeast Safety Training Company; Tensions between fishermen and scientists; Insurance; Northeast Seafood Coalition; Family Life; License and Permits; Yellowtail Flounder; Whiting; NMFS; Fish Preservation; Work Culture; Consolidation; New Bedford, MA; Days at Sea; Squid; Rhode Island Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation; Value of Work; Sense of Place; Italian; Debt; Fishing Grounds.

*Segments:*

### **1. Introduction**

Page: 1-2

Summary: Fred discusses his fishing techniques and going for squid. He discusses the history of his crew and how it has changed over time. Mattera describes where he lives and gives a sense of the fishing community within which he is embedded.

### **2. Conflict within the Industry**

Page: 3-5

Summary: Mattera explains the atmosphere within the fishing industry towards issues of fisheries management. He discusses the impacts that regulations have had and how fishermen have perceived them. Some of the additional challenges to fishermen include financial and health issues.

### **3. Sector Management**

Page: 5-12

Summary: Mattera discusses the establishment of the sector management system within the Northeast. He discusses the Northeast Seafood Coalition and the kinds of tensions that the sector management system has caused within the fisheries. Mattera discusses the types of species he targets and the challenges he faces on the business-end of the industry.

#### **4. Insurance**

Page: 12-14

Summary: Fred Mattera discusses the changes he has experienced in vessel insurance over the years. He points to how changes in regulations - such as permits, licenses, and quota - are linked to changes in insurance.

#### **5. Health, Safety, and the Point Club**

Page: 15-18

Summary: Mattera explains the way changes in the industry have impacted his health. He says that he navigates stress effectively. He also discusses his work to establish the Point Judith Point Club, a vessel insurance group. Mattera was also the vice president of the Rhode Island Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation and discusses the work it does. Lastly, Mattera describes how he got involved in occupational safety issues for the fishing industry and the work he does to improve fishermen's conditions. There are many barriers to improving safety and Mattera discusses some of the ways he has navigated them.

#### **6. Looking Ahead and Community**

Page: 18-20

Summary: Mattera looks ahead at the state of the industry and of Point Judith. He discusses some of the tensions that remain difficult to navigate, such as small boat fishermen versus big business models. Coming from an immigrant family, Mattera also discusses what it was like for him to enter the Point Judith fishing community and the value he gained from it. He tells stories about his early days adapting to the culture and lifestyle of Point Judith.

### **Mattera, Fred**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Voices of the Ocean Museum Exhibit Oral History Project

Interviewer: Sophia Richter

Date: July 2021

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 45 pages

Keywords : Accident; Block Island, RI; Boston, MA; Butterfish; Clothing; Coast Guard; Cod; Competition; Death; Energy; Fairness; Fisheries Management; Flounder; Fluke; Mesh Size; NMFS; Point Club; Quota System; 1980s; 1990s; Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association; Safety; Old Timers; New England Fisheries Management Council; Camaraderie; Fairness; 1960s; 1970s; Hard Work Pride; Belonging; Insurance; Restructuring.

#### *Segments:*

##### **1. Introduction: Family, School, and Entering the Industry**

Page: 1-6

Summary: Frederick Joseph Mattera was born October 9, 1951 in Providence, Rhode Island. He now lives with his wife Patricia in Richmond, Rhode Island, who he met while studying at URI in the early 1970s. Fred got into fishing while still a student of Political Science because his friend worked on a boat. He was invited for a trip which convinced him to go down this path. From an Italian recent immigrant family, Fred reflects on the lessons he learned while growing up in this family that he has carried into his adult life. Leaving school to become a fisherman caused tension in the family, which he recounts.

## **2. Early years Fishing: Learning and Developing Relationships**

Page: 6-12

Summary: Fred describes what it was like to become a student of fishing, to learn on the job. His family came around to support him, despite not fulfilling their expectations of him. He explains some of his early mentalities and perceptions of the industry and recounts stories of meeting some of the older fishing families. Fred describes the experience of getting his first boat in the mid 1970s. He also reflects on his experience being an "outsider" and describes it as a racialized experience as well.

## **3. The Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association**

Page: 13-22

Summary: Fred recounts his experience joining and fishing as a member of the co-op. He describes his early perceptions of what the co-op meant to people. Becoming a member of the co-op was a way for him to feel like he belonged in the community. Fred gives examples of how the co-op was the voice of the industry for Point Judith and beyond. He gives a sense of where on the ocean regulations were impacting fishermen. He reflects on some of the pros and cons concerning implementation of the Magnuson Stevens Act and early regulations and how they impacted people in Point Judith. The co-op, Fred explains, was also a network for circulating scientific knowledge within the laboring community. Towards the end, Fred describes the final years and the aftermath of its closure. Fred lost a lot of money due to the financial difficulties that co-op was facing. He describes how he navigated those challenges. Fred is proud of this.

## **4. Labor Sentiments and Vessel Social Dynamics**

Page: 23-27

Summary: Fred explains his mentality as a captain and the social dimensions of running a crew compared to being a crew-member. He describes the banks who were giving financial incentives to the industry to buy bigger, more modern boats and how he navigated financial decisions with his financiers.

## **5. Confronting Danger: Family, Accidents, and Interventions**

Page: 27-33

Summary: Fred describes the dangers of working in the fishing industry and the social and political climate in the late '90s and early 2000s concerning injuries, substance abuse, and safety protocols. He recounts the challenges that the co-op faced with providing insurance to members and what they ended up developing for the fishermen. In the early 2000s, after a deadly accident that Fred was involved in, he spearheaded an effort to properly train the fishermen of Point Judith on safety measures to mitigate accidents. He describes the challenges to convince people to participate and what other fishermen's mentalities were about safety. Fred points to the efforts of women to raise awareness about the dangers of the industry that could be mitigated and the work it took for their calls to be heard.



## **6. CFCRI, Renewable Energy, and Environmental Stewardship**

Page: 33-43

Summary: Fred describes his transition to the Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island and the work that the center does to advocate against transitioning to offshore wind. Fred explains the position of fishermen from political, economic, social, and environmental perspectives. This conversation sheds light on the tensions between science, the market, and natural resource dependent industries. His main critique is the lack of leadership from the state to intervene with a comprehensive renewable energy plan. The conflict over marine resource use is not only between fishermen and environmentalists but now the energy sectors. He describes some of those early tensions when cables were dug between the mainland and Block Island that interfered with fishing. Fred explains what environmental stewardship means to him and what sustainable use means in fishing.

## **7. Conclusion**

Page: 43-45

Summary: Fred shares his projection of what Point Judith will look like in the future.

### **Mercier, Paul**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Danielle Kapp

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 8 pages

Keywords : Multigenerational Fishing Family ; Block Island, RI; Coast Guard.

#### *Segments:*

### **1. A fisherman's son**

Page: 1-8

Summary: Paul Mercier grew up around commercial fishing but after a year of doing it commercially himself, he describes wanting to transition to a land-based job. He discusses what it has been like to work for his father and what he plans on doing next.

### **Mitchell, Mike**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Travis Pratt and Pat Westcott

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 5 pages

Keywords : Death ; Quahogs ; Safety ; Income; Shell Fishing.

#### *Segments:*

### **1. Accidents and Death Shellfishing**

Page: 1-2

Summary: Michael Mitchell is a shellfisherman and he describes the death of one of his friends who was diving for clams.

## **2. Materiality of Shellfishing**

Page: 2-3

Summary: Mitchell describes what it takes to get into shellfishing. A boat, dry suit, respirator valves, docking fees, the license. He continues describing some of the dangers of the job and the seasonal shifts in income.

## **3. Dimensions of Regulations in Shellfishing**

Page: 4-5

Summary: Mitchell describes the impact that regulations have had on the shellfishermen. He says that overall, limiting licenses to full-timers has helped him.

### **Moran, Michael**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Joseph Reppucci

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 6 pages

Keywords : Independence ; Lobster ; Family Life; Communications Technology; Safety; Death; Canada; Storm.

#### *Segments:*

### **1. Lobsterman and Father**

Page: 1-6

Summary: Michael Moran, a south kingstown local, started fishing right after high school. He took South Kingstown high school's marine tech program and in 1975 or 1977 he began fishing on a dragger on the seawall. Eventually he transitioned to lobstering and runs his own day boat. He discusses the challenges and daily tasks of being a lobsterman while raising a family. Without getting too deep into discussions about regulations, Michael points to the lack of confidence he has in the future of the industry. For him, he takes it day by day.

### **Nesmith, Jay**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Chad Coffin

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 7 pages

Keywords: Lobster; Accidents; Death; Maintenance; Family Life.

#### *Segments:*

### **1. A Lobster-Charter fisherman**

Page: 1-7

Summary: Jay Nesmith is a charter and lobster fisherman depending on the seasons. He describes his daily life, the dangers and challenges, and how it impacts his social life. He is a crew member and drifts between boats. He is hoping to leave the industry to become a firefighter. He says that if he weren't fishing, he would probably be in carpentry, construction, or landscaping.

### **Niles, Charles**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Linda Nutini

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 5 pages

Keywords: Entering the Industry; Lobster; Whiting; Squid; Mackerel; Impact of Regulations; Death; Family Life; Trip Fishing; Independence; Storm; Tuna; Swordfish; Safety; Coast Guard; Quota System; Days at Sea; Looking Ahead; Graying Fleet.

#### *Segments:*

##### **1. Brief Encounter with a PJ fisherman**

Page: 1-5

Summary: This interview is with Charlie Niles who began fishing after high school, 32 years ago. He started fishing in New York and then 25 years ago he moved to Point Judith. Currently he is the captain of a 70 foot dragger. He does not own the boat though. He points to the improvements in safety training in the fishing industry compared to ten years ago. While he thinks that regulations are too strict, he is optimistic about the future. The graying of the fleet is his biggest concern.

### **O'Rourke, Mary**

Archive: NOAA Voices

Project: Oral Histories from the New England Fisheries

Date: December 16, 2009

Interviewer: Kate Yentes

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 14 pages; 54 minutes, 17 seconds

Keywords : Butterfish ; Cod; Day-Boat; Energy; Fairness; Health Insurance; NMFS; Processing Plant; Stress; Women; Work Culture; Decline; New Bedford, MA; Immigration; Looking Ahead; Entering the Industry; Perception of the Issues; Married Relations; Tension between fishermen and government/ management; Central Americans; Value of Work; Tug Boats; New York, NY; Maine; Quonset, RI; Health; New Jersey; URI; Family Life; Squid; Income; Scallop; Provincetown, MA; NMFS; Providence; Butterfish; Fluke; Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association; Debt; Fisheries Data; Belonging; New London, CT.

*Segments:*

1. Page 1: Trawlworks; New Bedford, MA; How she entered the industry; Newport, RI; Squid; URI; Cod; Butterfish; Fluke; Residence; New Jersey;
2. Page 2: Value of Work; Trawlworks; Tug boats; Married relations; Maine; Sense of place
3. Page 3: Shrinking Labor; working culture
4. Page 4: Shoreside industry; income; URI; NMFS-NOAA
5. Page 5: Work culture; women in the industry; Ellen Schomer; New Jersey; Core values
6. Page 6: Scallops Provincetown, MA; Hawaii; Women in the industry; New Bedford, MA; Fish processing; Shrinking labor; How fishermen perceived the industry; Bait Company
7. Page 7: Point Judith, RI; New York, NY; Maine; New Jersey; New London, CT
8. Page 8: Central Americans; Fish Processing; Immigration; New Bedford, MA; Point Judith Fishermen's Co-op
9. Page 9: Women in the industry; Trawl Works; Immigration; Central Americans; Shoreside industry
10. Page 10: Women in the industry; work culture; shoreside industry;
11. Page 11: value of work; Tensions between fishermen and government/ management
12. Page 12: Looking ahead; debt; Health; shrinking labor
13. Page 13: Work culture; married relations; tug boats; multiple jobs

**Page, Ed**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Peter Travers

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 19 pages

Keywords : Impact of Regulations ; Family Life; Value of Work; New York, NY; Boston, MA; Japan; Baltimore, MD; Philadelphia, PA; License and Permits; Share System; 1980s; Navigation Technology; How fishermen perceive issue; Jurisdiction; Rhode Island State Legislature; Flounder.

*Segments:*

**1. Introduction to fisheries**

Page: 1

Summary: Ed Page started fishing with his father who ran or captained a boat when Ed was young. He started professionally by lumping fishing boats - unloading - on the docks of Point Judith. He has been fishing for 25 years as of 2001.

**2. Fishing and Regulations**

Page: 1-2

Summary: Ed describes the Days-at-Sea quota system for groundfish. They had 88 days at sea allocated to them at the time. But they also fished for squid, butterfish, mackerel, scup, and sea bass.

**3. Maintenance on the job**

Page: 2

Summary: Ed describes some of the work that has to be done on a fishing vessel regularly, particularly repairing nets.

#### **4. Storms and Days-at-Sea safety concerns**

Page: 3

Summary: Ed describes some of the counter-intuitive impacts of days-at-sea regulations that force fishermen to risk their safety on the water. If they caught more than a day's worth of quota, they would have to stay out for every extra day's worth of quota they caught, even if it means weathering a storm.

#### **5. Work and Play on the boat**

Page: 3-4

Summary: Ed describes the gear that they use on their dragger. He also explains what they do for fun on the boat.

#### **6. Fishing and Family**

Page: 5

Summary: Ed describes some of the dynamics within the family that are impacted by his work as a fisherman. He explained how they keep in contact and the sacrifices that the family has to make. He also reflects on what he thinks about his sons growing up to become fishermen. Due to regulations, he says, he wouldn't wish it upon them.

#### **7. Finances of Fishing**

Page: 6-7

Summary: Ed describes some of the financial aspects of fishing - how fish are sold by the pound, how those prices have changed over time, and how many people tend to work on deck.

#### **8. Work Rhythm and Compensation**

Page: 6-7

Summary: Ed describes some of the non-fishing work that crew are responsible for. He also explains the share system that is used to compensate for their work.

#### **9. Crew Dynamics**

Page: 7-8

Summary: Ed describes the dynamics between crew members, the rate of turn over, and some of the recent challenges with finding good crew.

#### **10. A fishing Boat and its Gear**

Page: 9-11

Summary: Ed describes where fishing boats get built, how each varies from the other, and how much it costs to buy and rig a fishing boat.

#### **11. Fishing Technology**

Page: 9-11

Summary: Ed describes the changes in technology that occurred in the 1980s, allowing fishermen to track fish more efficiently. He reflects on what he likes about using more powerful technology.

#### **12. Safety**

Page: 12-14

Summary: Ed describes some of the safety measures that they take in the event of accidents.

#### **13. Local and International markets for PJ fish**

Page: 14

Summary: Ed describes the market for Point Judith fish. Most of it goes to Philadelphia, New York, and Boston, Baltimore, but also to Japan.

#### **14. Licenses and State Permits**

Page: 15-16

Summary: Ed describes the licensing structure at the moment and the differences between state and federal jurisdiction. He conveys the value of fishing permits and the impact that their high costs have on people entering the industry.

#### **15. Fishing as Job Security**

Keyword: 17

Summary: Ed describes the dynamics for many fishermen in which they end up staying in the job because it is the best paying work for the education level they have. It can be hard to transition to another job with their skillset and make as much money.

#### **16. Onboard the boat**

Page: 18-19

Summary: Ed describes the fishing boat he works on and the way the gear is set up and how it works.

### **Pearsall, Niles**

Archive: NOAA Voices

Project: Oral Histories from the New England Fisheries

Date: November 15, 2011

Interviewer: Azure Cygler

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 14 pages; 54 minutes, 17 seconds

Keywords: Blessing of the Fleet; Black Seabass; Blame; Block Island, RI; Butterfish; Coast Guard; Energy; Fairness; Fish data; Flounder; Fluke; Health Insurance; Nursing; Point Club; Quota System; Stress; Sector Management; Navigation Technology; Consolidation; Impact of Regulations; Catch Shares; Quota System; Work Culture; Tensions between small boats and big business; Sense of Ecosystem; Shoreside Infrastructure; Fairness; Blame; Northeast Seafood Coalition; Development; Income; Independence; Energy; Snug Harbor, RI; Value of Work; Restructuring; Social Services; New Bedford, MA; Role of Government; Leadership; Russia; NMFS; License and Permits; Hard Work Pride; Health; Yellowtail Flounder; Hague Line; Squid; Point Club.

#### *Segments:*

1. Residence; vessels; Home port; Northeast Seafood Coalition
2. Entry into the industry; Point Judith, RI; Squid; Groundfish; Vessel; Education; Family
3. Sense of Place; Catch Shares; Fairness
4. Catch Shares; Crew; Value of Work; Sense of Community
5. Sense of Community
6. Sense of Community; Father; Quota system; Impact of regulations
7. Tensions between Workers and Scientists; Impact of regulations; How fishermen perceive the issue; Research; Income; Value of Work; Quota; Tensions between fishermen and management
8. Quota; Tensions between fishermen and management; Work culture; Licenses and Permits; Looking ahead
9. New Bedford, MA; Business Acumen; Consolidation; Sector Management; Work culture; tensions within the fishery; Christopher Brown

10. Sector Management; No waste; Yellowtail flounder; Sense of community
11. Sector Management; Impact of regulations; Insurance; fuel costs
12. Work culture; Sector management; tension within the fishery
13. Northeast Seafood Coalition; Consolidation; Shoreside infrastructure
14. Shoreside infrastructure
15. Development
16. Development
17. Sector Management; Impact of regulations
18. Impact of regulations; Consolidation; Sector Management; Core values; Fisheries data collection
19. Stress; Health
20. Stress; How fishermen perceived the issue; Tensions between workers and scientists
21. Tensions between workers and scientists; Tensions between fishermen and management; Blame; Fairness; Development; Russia; Hague Line; Role of government
22. Sense of Community; Snug Harbor, RI; Multigenerational fishing
23. Value of work; Sense of ecosystem; Consolidation; Tensions between small boats and big business; Independence; Politics; NMFS-NOAA; Pride
24. Consolidation; Tensions between small boats and big business

## **Raposa, Ruth**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Jennifer Flesia

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 6 pages

Keywords : Impact of Regulations ; Income; Days at Sea; Fishing Grounds; License and Permits; Looking Ahead; Clothing; Fish Scarcity; Modernization; Fairness; Blame; Tension between Fishermen and Government/ Management; Tension between Fishermen and Residents; Restructuring; Development; How fishermen are perceived.

### *Segments:*

#### **1. Introduction to a fishing family**

Page: 1

Summary: Ruth Reposa's husband Peter is an offshore trip fisherman. He started out lumping boats and eventually began work on his brother's and father's boats. Now he is a captain on his own boat.

#### **2. Work life**

Page: 1-2

Summary: Ruth explains the social dynamics of him going out fishing and missing family events, as well as the social dimensions on the vessel between crew. This section includes how they divide up tasks on the boat and the role that Ruth herself plays in the business. Ruth is a fish dealer and manages the business side of selling her husband's catch.

#### **3. Materiality of Fishing**

Page: 2-3

Summary: Ruth describes some of the equipment, clothing, food, and technology that are involved in fishing trips. Her husband is captain of a 90ft boat, which is pretty big in Point Judith. Usually they have between 4 and 5 people working on the boat. She describes some of the risks involved in working on the boat, particularly the kinds of gear they use.

#### **4. Impact of Regulations on Family Life**

Page: 4-6

Summary: Ruth describes the current management plans on groundfish that are adjusting the days-at-sea regulation. She worries how it will impact their lives financially. While they have managed to live a comfortable life, she notes that fishermen have to keep going further out to fish and that their work is more expensive than before.

### **Smith, Bob**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Voices of the Ocean Museum Exhibit Oral History Project

Interviewer: Heather Kisilywicz

Date: July 8, 2021

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 45 pages

Keywords : Blessing of the Fleet, Blame; Block Island, RI; Boston, MA; Canada; Clothing; Coast Guard; Cod; Finance; Fisheries Management; Flounder; Fulton Fish Market; Magnuson-Stevens Act; Tension between conservation and fishermen; how fishermen perceive issue; Looking Ahead; Married Relations; Business Acumen; 1980s; 1990s; Jurisdiction; Leadership; Fishing Grounds; Spanish; Work Culture; Financialization; German; Japanese; Russian; Consolidation; Eels; 1960s; 1970s; Independence; Flounder; Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association; Lobster; Globalization; Exiting the Industry; Income; Polish; Magnuson Stevens Act; Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council; Quahogs.

#### *Segments:*

##### **1. Introduction**

Page: 1-2

Summary: Bob Smith was born November 14, 1936, the eldest son. His father was a part-time lobsterman in the summer. Bob started fishing with him in 1946, when he was 10 years old. He would get seasick and hated lobstering. When he was 21, he bought a house and managed to pay it off in 5 years by fishing full time.

##### **2. Finance Sentiments**

Page: 2-7

Summary: Bob recounts some of his perceptions of fishermen's relationships to money.

##### **3. Married Life**

Page: 7-12

Summary: Bob Smith married Gertrude Crossley (sp?) in 1958. She raised their family when he was out fishing and she took care of his finances in the fishing business. When he retired from offshore fishing in 1987, she joined him to fish in the salt ponds. In her old age, Bob refers to an ailment that has affected her memory and reflects on the recent challenges it has imposed on their relationship.

##### **4. Entering Politics**



Page: 13-15

Summary: Bob recounts some of his involvement in pushing for the Magnuson-Stevens Act starting in the 1960s. He explains how he and Jake Dykstra divided up their work between Federal and State levels of advocacy. He describes the importance of the "defense fund" that the co-op financed.

**5. Early years between family and fishing**

Keyword: 16-21

Summary: Bob recounts his early years drifting away from education and getting into the fishing business and what having money meant to him. He describes the lessons he had to learn outside of school in order to be successful in his life. His sense of the value of education is understood through this lens. He reflects on his relationship to his parents and how they perceived fishing as a job.

**6. 200 mile limit and industry expansion**

Page: 21-24

Summary: Bob describes the climate on the water as foreign vessels increasingly came to fish along the New England coast. Bob says that the height of this was between 1970-1980. He also describes what it was like as a fisherman to work with banks and how their loaning policies changed to encourage fishermen to take out more loans. He was against this change.

**7. Point Judith Fishermen's Co-op Early and Middle Years**

Keyword: 24-30

Summary: Bob recounts some of his sense about why the co-op got started and some of the pressures that the co-op faced. He played a role managing the finances at one point and describes some of the experiences of having to chase down the money owed to them from fish dealers. He also describes the network of buyers with whom the co-op engaged. He points to a woman who worked for the co-op but the transcript does not write down her name.

**8. Fisherman and Management: Council Politics and Perceptions**

Page: 30-38

Summary: Bob describes the decision making process of working within the state and federal council systems. This provides a sense of his perception of power dynamics and the opportunities that fishermen had to be involved in decision-making. He points to the tensions within fisheries management around reducing bycatch, small-boat fishermen versus corporate boats, environmental activists versus fisheries businessmen, reinforcing regulations.

**9. After the Co-op**

Page: 38-46

Summary: Bob reflects on what makes a "successful" fisherman and traces some of his class-based sentiments. He describes his sense of the future of the industry as at risk due to the closure of the co-op because there is no longer a fair price for fishermen to anticipate receiving. He points to some of the social and political tensions within the former co-op membership and how that has persisted despite the co-op's closure. This speaks to the cash-flow issue that the co-op has. He elaborates on this problem. He then tells a story about when he was financed from the bank to buy a new boat. He describes the process of deciding what to get.

**10. Renewable Energy Politics**

Page: 47- 55

Summary: Bob discusses the tensions that lobster fishermen experience concerning Right whales. He explains some of the solutions that have been brought to the table and provides a sense of fishermen's perceptions of the issue and the solutions. Bob talks about the political tensions involved in the offshore wind industry developing in fishing grounds. He also points to solar power being implemented in local rural communities and his wariness about these developments.

### **11. Stewardship in the Shadow of the Co-op's Failure**

Page: 55-63

Summary: Bob returns to the topic of by-catch and the role of observers on fishing vessels. He points to the difficulty for fishermen to address the issue of bycatch productively. He also points to some of the other pressures that fishermen face that impact their ability to be stewards. Bob says that many of the boats in the port are owned by dealers now. He addresses the globalization of the fish supply chain and believes firmly that the industry would have developed differently if the co-op were still around to regulate the port's market. He points to the "golden years" of the co-op and describes the period when Jake and Leneord would travel the country educating communities on how to develop fisheries co-ops. He returns then to the final years of the co-op and the financial decisions that were made that cost the co-op its longevity. He points to the tensions that divided the co-op membership over how to expand.

### **Smith, Bob**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Gianna Gray

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 5 pages

Keywords: Blessing of the Fleet; Blame; Block Island, RI; Boston, MA; Tension between Conservation and Fishermen; Value of Work; Work Culture; Impact of Regulations; Sense of Ecosystem; Healthcare; Leadership; New England Fisheries Management Council; Globalization; Health; Lobster.

#### *Segments:*

#### **1. A leader in the fishing industry**

Page: 1-5

Summary: Bob Smith shares some of his experiences growing up in the port, where he has worked since the 1950s.

### **Smith, Dan**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Voices of the Ocean Museum Exhibit Oral History Project

Interviewer: Sophia Richter

Date: July 2021

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 45 pages

Keywords : Accident; Block Island, RI ; Bluefish; Boston, MA; Brazil; Coast Guard; Cod; Day-boat; Finance; Fish Preservation; Fishermen's Retraining Program; Health Insurance; Hurricane; Military; Mussels; Offshore; Stress; Unemployed; URI Fisheries Program; New Bedford, MA; Exiting the Industry; Death; Financialization; Family Life; Development; 1980s; 1990s; Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association.

*Segments:*

**1. Introduction - Getting into the industry**

Page: 1-4

Summary: Dan Smith was born in Coventry, Rhode Island in June 1962. He attributes his father to getting him into fishing because of all the time they would spend out on the water shellfishing and fishing for bluefish for fun when he was young. After high school, Dan worked part time driving commercially for clams to supplement his income and then joined URI's fisheries program. Though he didn't finish, he describes the demographics of the other participants and why he ended up leaving. In order to supplement his income, Dan worked summers for lobster boats, strung bait, and worked at the co-op unloading boats. This was during the early 1980s.

**2. Memories of Working Years**

Page: 4-18

Summary: Dan works through his memories to recall chronologically his work on various boats. This section gives you both a sense of the laboring dynamics down on the port for a new crew member and a sense of the fluidity of his memories of those years. Through kinship ties, friends of friends, and good luck, Dan found his place on many boats: draggers and lobster boats. In addition to crewing on offshore vessels, Dan also worked to harvest mussels off of Jamestown and even went to fish up in Jonesport, Maine. He describes some of the challenges of finding a good vessel to work on. Captains with financial troubles, crew with drug abuse issues, and finding his place in fishing communities made up of tight-knit families of which he was not a member. He also gives a glimpse of how having a family of five children shapes his work decisions.

**3. URI Fisheries Program and Learning on the Job**

Page: 19-23

Summary: Dan continues his description of his work and shares about the URI fisheries program that he attended. He describes the skills he learned and the benefits it gave him in getting work. He also describes the social dimensions of the program and the skills that he felt could only be learned on the job. After working in Jonesport, Dan began transitioning out of fisheries. He got his 100 ton license to captain boats and began working for ferries.

**4. Transitioning to Tugboats**

Page: 23-29

Summary: Dan transitioned to work on ferries and then tug boats. He describes the diversity of projects he worked on from doing local work with dredging and repairing bridges in Narragansett Bay to heading south: Charleston, New Orleans, and Haiti among them. He helped New Orleans right after hurricane Katrina and Haiti right after an earthquake.

**5. Storms and Family**

Page: 30-35

Summary: Dan recounts his experience fishing in a "perfect storm" which was pretty much the end of his fishing career. He explains the difference between working for tugboat companies and fishing, financially and in terms of raising a family. He explains how he and his current wife met and how his life took him to live in North Carolina. He then goes on to explain where all of his children have ended up in their lives. None got into fishing but one of the five also works for the same tugboat company.

## **6. Working on Changing Coastlines**

Page: 36

Summary: Dan continues with descriptions of some of the work he did tugging and helping to reinforce coastlines that change with tides and after storms. He reflects on what that work means to him in the big picture. Through his descriptions you get a sense of the geography he interacts with and what his laboring social networks are.

## **7. Comparing Tugging and Fishing; Why he left the fishing industry**

Page: 37-48

Summary: Dan explains some of the differences in working as a fisherman versus for a tugboat company that were important to him. He provides more information on the financial differences and how that impacted his well being. He reflects on the intervening years for the fishing industry when the government's regulations started ramping up and explains the kinds of impacts they were having. He describes the types of people getting into the industry and how this was shaping the port. He finishes by sharing some final anecdotes about working on the water and sharing photos on his phone.

## **Smith Robert**

Archive: URI Archive and Special Collections

Project: Galilee Fishermen Oral History Tapes

Interviewer: Karen McDougal

Date: March 19, 1976

Format: Audio MP3

Duration: 1 hour 33 minutes

Keywords: Block Island, RI; Butterfish; Coast Guard; Cod; Cull Board; Debt; Finance; Financialization; Flounder; Fluke; Herring; Mackerel; Quota System; Skate; 1960s; 1970s; Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association; Competition; Women; Married Relations; Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council; Jurisdiction; Navigation; Butterfish; Fluke; Scup; Herring; Quota System; Maine; Fishing Grounds; Magnuson Stevens Act; Sense of Place; Captain; Work Culture; Yellowtail Flounder; Bluefish; Skate; Blessing of the Fleet; Baltimore, MD.

### *Segments:*

#### **1. Family background**

[00:00:00] - [00:09:30]

Summary: Robert Smith was born November 14, 1936 in South Kingstown, RI to Helen Francis Kimber and Leroy Douglas Smith Jr. His mother did not have a formal occupation and his father was a fisherman. Robert married Marguerite Crowsley who was born October 7, 1938, in May 1958. Robert's grandparents grew up in South Kingstown as well but his great great grandfather was a sailing merchant out of Stonington, CT and he had a grandmother on his father's side directly from England, arriving in 1915. Family

on his mother's side have been in the US for a couple of 100 years. The sailing merchant grandfather, allegedly, had two ships that he lived and worked on, sailing between CT, South America, and the West Indies trading enslaved people. He had a family who worked farms in South Kingstown. He has two brothers. One is an accountant and the other is in real estate in California. His father used to work in a mill but then switched to lobstering 45 years ago.

**2. Growing up and raising a fishing family**

[00:09:30] - [00:14:55]

Summary: Robert started lobstering with his father but found he preferred dragging. He grew up around the industry, starting with selling quahogs he dug to local restaurants when he was 12 or so. He bought a boat when he was 15. He describes how he met his wife and what it took for them to afford to buy and fix up a house to live in. He reflects on married life and what it may have been like for his wife. Marguerite does chime in to share her perspective.

**3. Typical day fishing**

[00:14:55] - [00:18:36]

Summary: Robert reflects on the early days when he and Marguerite worked opposite schedules. He describes his way of assessing the weather and the seasonality of his work.

**4. Fishing town culture**

[00:18:36] - [00:24:46]

Summary: Robert reflects on some cultural dimensions of growing up and living in a fishing community. He describes some superstitions and sayings, the Blessing of the Fleet festival, and points to some of his experiences bringing women to work with him on his vessel.

**5. Women in the fishing industry**

[00:24:46] - [00:30:11]

Summary: Robert reflects on women working in the industry and shares how he personally feels about it.

**6. Technology and technique**

[00:30:11] - [00:45:29]

Summary: Here Robert shares information about his vessel, crew size, technology he uses, types of fishing he does, and dynamics of work on deck. He also reflects on the dangers of the job and how he mitigates those risks.

**7. The Point Judith Fishermen's Co-op**

[00:45:29] - [01:32:58]

Summary: Robert discusses the ins and outs of the co-op. He joined as a member in 1960 because it was the thing to do when fishing in Point Judith at the time. In 1960, the co-op was not taking very many members. Robert recalls that out of the 60 people waiting on the list, the co-op only took in 7. Despite the challenges with accommodating and growing the fleet, Robert attributes 90% of Point Judith's success as a port to the co-op. Even though Robert doesn't know exactly how it started, he describes the general logistical requirements. He describes the market supply chain in the port between boats, dealers and the co-op, and fish markets. There are tensions along this supply chain concerning the co-op that Robert illuminates on. Robert also explains the benefits to crew to be members of the Point Judith co-op. He also describes the different leadership roles.

He was 1966 VP. He describes employees and the unloading process, responsibilities and future prospects.

### **Smith, Trudy**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Bethany Volk

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 10 pages

Keywords: 1970s; 1980s; Rhode Island State Legislature; Leadership; Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council; New England Fisheries Management Council.

#### *Segments:*

##### **8. Inshore and Offshore**

Page: 1-3

Summary: Trudy Smith, wife to Bob Smith, describes some of the nature of her husband's fishing over the years. He had experience working in many different fisheries, including eeling and crabbing.

##### **9. Political Participation**

Page: 3-10

Summary: Trudy gives a brief description of some of Bob's participation and leadership in the political terrain of fisheries management. He was on the RI Marine Fisheries Council and was appointed by the RI governor's task force in 1976. He was also on the New England Fisheries Management Council for nine years. He also worked on the Mid-Atlantic Council. Trudy joined him for some of the meetings where he would travel for multiple days.

### **Sorlein, Parker**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Caitlin Clement

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 15 pages

Keywords : Tensions within the fisheries; how fishermen perceive issue; tension between local and foreign fishing fleets; Impact of Regulations; Tensions between Conservation and Fishermen; Processing Plant; Looking Ahead; Globalization; Fish Scarcity; Tension between Fishermen and Government/management; Value of Work; Work Culture.

#### *Segments:*

##### **1. Introduction to fishing**

Page: 1-2

Summary: Parker grew up in Narragansett and was introduced to commercial fishing as a teenager. He has fished out of Point Judith mainly but he also had experience fishing out of other New England ports.

**2. Physical demands of labor and Dangers on the job**

Page: 3-4

Summary: Parker describes some of the aspects of his job that are physically taxing and some of the dangers crew are at risk on the job.

**3. Trip fishing and Family**

Page: 4-7

Summary: Parker describes his work trip fishing and lobstering and how that impacts his private life and the crew dynamics on the vessel. Parker also describes his time working for the Coast Guard doing search and rescue.

**4. Difficulties in the industry**

Page: 8-11

Summary: Parker describes the difficulty of finding crew members. He points to not only drugs as a challenge going through the port but also the general lack of regular and experienced workers.

**5. Regulations and Social Life**

Page: 11-16

Summary: Parker describes some of his reflections on regulations and overfishing the ocean. He also reflects on the social dynamics on the vessel amongst crew. He also reflects on where he sees himself in the spectrum of businessman and environmental steward. He reflects on the tension between environmental activist and laborers.

**Stasikewitz, Leonard**

Archive: URI Archive and Special Collections

Project: Galilee Fishermen Oral History Tapes

Interviewer: R. Petrocelli

Date: March 28, 1976

Format: Audio mp3

Duration: 2 hours 13 minutes

Keywords: Boston, MA; Butterfish; Clothing; Cod; Competition; Consolidation; Day-Boat; Development; Energy; Fairness; FCZ; Finance; Fishing Ground; Fish Preservation; Fish Scarcity; Fisheries Management; Flounder; Fluke; Haddock; Health Insurance; Herring; Hurricane; Limited Entry; Mesh Size; Offshore; Quota System; 1960s; 1970s; Magnuson Stevens Act; Impact of Regulations; Yellowtail Flounder; Tension between Fishermen and Scientists; Business Acumen; Work Culture; Plant Processing; New Bedford, MA; New England Fisheries Management Council; Gender; NMFS; Boston, MA; Government Power; Jurisdiction; Gloucester; Optimization; U.S. Department of State; Russia; Limited Entry; National Federation of Fishermen; Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association License and Permits; Menhaden; Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council; Fairness; Fishing Grounds; Globalization; Women; Absentee Owner; Peru; Haddock; Squid; Whiting; Scup; Restructuring; Law of the Sea; Swordfish; Immigration.

*Segments:*

**1. Introduction**

[00:00:00] - [00:02:48]

Summary: Leonard was born May 3, 1931 in South Attleboro, MA to his parents who were born in Poland. When they immigrated, they first came through New York and then went to Central Falls, RI, where many polish immigrants were moving at the time. Before working for the co-op, he had had no ties to the fishing industry or culture. His education and training was to be a CPA and he started auditing in South County in 1956. In 1967 he started working for the co-op as the general manager.

**2. How he came to work for the Co-op**

[0:02:48] - [00:16:56]

Summary: Leonard describes the philosophy of the co-op in terms of the relationship between members, employees and managers. There was a high turnover of managers at the co-op before Leonard came along. He addresses the structural business aspects of the co-op that he cleaned up.

**3. Point Judith's fishing industry before and after the formation of the co-op**

[00:16:56] - [00:54:14]

Summary: Leonard discusses the dealers that worked the Point before the co-op and the mechanics of a Marketing and Purchasing co-op. He reflects on the geographic advantages that Point Judith has as a fishing port compared to ports in other states such as Maine. He compares the philosophy of this port/ the co-op compared to other ports like Gloucester and New Bedford. Leonard describes the relationship that the managers at the co-op have with fishermen in informing them of market dynamics. He also compares the demographics of Point Judith fishermen compared to other ports, impacted by being a fishermen's co-op, not a boat owners' co-op.

**4. The business dimensions of the industry**

[00:54:14] - [01:19:13]

Summary: Fishing for prices instead of specializing in species. Why people enter the industry in Point Judith vs. why they enter it in other ports like New Bedford or Gloucester. The size and dynamics of trip fishing and day-boat fishing in the Point. Expansion in the fleet and of vessel sizes: different reasons why fishermen invest in the growth of their business. How the co-op is trying to adapt to these changes in the industry. The dynamics of capital in the co-op and fishing industry in general. Exporting fish to Japan, multinationals, frozen fish, and industrial fish. The behavior of good fishermen in Point Judith.

**5. Women in the Industry**

[01:19:13] - [01:30:51]

Summary: Leonard doesn't have much to say on this topic but he provides some information about women working in the Point Judith port. He mostly speaks in generalizations and doesn't get into any interpersonal memories or reflections.

**6. Government and Management in the fishing industry**

[01:30:51] - [02:13:55]

Summary: Leonard discusses the 200 mile limit, the roles of leading fishermen in the co-op and himself in engaging with government at various scales, and the dynamics of fisheries management and decision-making. He addresses some of the tensions around foreign fishing fleets and competition with Canada as well as pressures from State versus Federal government. He addresses tensions around management topics like quota, limited entry, Federal Conservation Zone, licensing, and Council committee participation.



Leonard reflects on the fishery management philosophies and the tensions between them and their real-world impacts. This resonates with what he says about fishermen making their own decisions that navigate economic, environmental, and ethical pressures.

## **Strout, Melville**

Archive: URI Archive and Special Collections

Project: Galilee Fishermen Oral History Tapes

Interviewer: Karen McDougall

Date: March 22, 1976

Format: Audio mp3

Duration: 2 hours 13 minutes

Keywords: Boston, MA; Breakwater; Competition; Day-Boat; Fish Preservation; Hurricane; Trap Fishing; 1930s; Sense of Place; Trap Fishing; New York, NY; Modernization; 1940s; Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association; 1920s; Tension between small boat and big business; Hurricane; New Bedford, MA; Woods Hole, MA; Mill; Competition; Value of Work; Married Life; Retirement; 1960s; 1970s; Philadelphia, PA; Norfolk, VA.

### *Segments:*

#### **1. Introduction**

[00:00:00] - [00:10:00]

Summary: Melville Strout was born September 19, 1905 in Wakefield, RI to Genevive McGlone Strout and Robert Bruce Strout. His mother was from Ireland while his father is from South Kingstown, RI. Melville recounts that his grandmother was born in Peacedale in 1860. He has a grandfather who was from Newport and his family dates back to Salem, MA in the 1700s. His grandfather worked on a whaleship out of Newport and that his father was a privateer out of Salem. He had family members who were teachers in Fall River and worked as a nurse during the Civil War in Newport. Melville graduated from high school as his highest formal education but he was fishing from age 14 or 15 out of a skiff in the bay. He reflects that his parents didn't think very highly of fishing as a profession because it wasn't very prosperous back then. He describes the early days of fishing in Galilee as trap fishing gangs in the 1920's. He got married and was working during the depression in the fishing industry

#### **2. Inter-war period Galilee**

[00:10:00] - [00:44:25]

Summary: Melville describes what the geography of Galilee and Jerusalem was like before the 1938 hurricane and how the tidal dynamics impacted their fishing before the breakwater and dredging were completed. He also describes the work he did outside of fishing. At times he worked as a contractor with a family member and also tried working at a woolen mill in Camden, MA and ran a spinning mill. He also worked at the American oil company in Providence and was in charge of maintenance. He quit the factory around 1940. Each place he worked, his family moved with him. He describes fishing in the 1930s and 1940s and his sense of having no prospects of retiring when he was working. He describes the industry at the time.

#### **3. Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association**

[00:44:25] – [02:13:00]

Summary: Melville describes how the industry was before versus after the co-op began in Point Judith. He recounts Mr. Gross's involvement in bringing fishermen together at meetings and what the steps were to organize, including the support they got from the government. Melville reflects on what it was like to borrow money from a bank at the time that the co-op started and how they got enough money to open. He reflects on the impact that Jake has had and how Melville himself balanced his role in the co-op and his fishing. He addresses the issue of the fleet outgrowing the co-op logistically and the co-op's financial challenges. But he also points out the safety net the co-op offers its members and his outlook for the future.

## **Swaboda, Karen**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Kelly O'Brien

Date: May 9, 2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 13 pages

Keywords : Impact of Regulations ; How fishermen perceive issues; 1990s; Fairness; Tension between fishermen and government/management; lobster; Work Culture; Canada; Competition; Globalization; Looking Ahead.

### *Segments:*

#### **1. Husband and Wife**

Page: 1-2

Summary: Karen Swaboda describes her husband's early days in the lobster industry and how it impacted their relationship. Safety was the most important thing they had to negotiate.

#### **2. Regulations and the Oil Spill**

Page: 3

Summary: Karen describes some of the recent things that have negatively impacted her husband's business. He says that the reduction of the number of pots reduced his income significantly and that the oil spill also greatly impacted their lives. Karen recalls the oil spill and what it was like immediately after. She explains that they kept their business costs low in order to remain flexible in the events of economic downturns.

#### **3. Dangers and Family Life**

Page: 4-8

Summary: Karen describes some of the ways that her husband's fishing has impacted their social life - difficulty with planning far in advance, encouraging children to steer away from fishing, communicating when weather is getting bad, etc.

#### **4. Oil Spill Settlement**

Page: 9-10

Summary: Karen describes the legal disputes that took place after the oil spill and the settlements that were offered to lobstermen and fishermen.

#### **5. Impact of Recent Regulations**

Page: 10-13

Summary: Karen describes her perspective about the relationship between her husband's loss of income and the increase of management and science jobs. She explains her frustration with having to see her husband worry about needing to get another job compared to his previous expectation that he could retire having worked full-time as a fisherman.

## **Sweet, Claire**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Lisa Chin

Date: May 20, 2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 7 pages

Keywords : Work Culture ; Restructuring ; Captain; Gender; Camaraderie; President Bush; Tension between fishermen and government; How fishermen perceive issue; Government Power; Trip Fishing; Value of Work; Catch Shares; Tension between conservation and fishermen; Leadership; Strike; Impact of Regulations; Income; Health; Development; Role of Government; Multigenerational Fishing Family; Clothing; Family Life; Masculinity; URI.

### *Segments:*

#### **1. Introduction: Challenges of being in a fishing family**

Page: 1-2

Summary: Claire Sweet is the mother of a fisherman and either her father or her father-in-law was also a fisherman in Point Judith. That man participated in the Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association. Claire says that the hardest thing about being in a fishing family is that you can't plan any types of gatherings in advance. She doesn't wish that her son didn't go into fishing, rather, she recognizes that fishing is a common job in the area for people who like to work outside. She recalls that he started fishing in or just after high school. He was in the URI fisheries program until it was discontinued, by which time he also left URI and just went full time fishing.

#### **2. Social Life while Fishing**

Page: 2-7

Summary: Claire describes - what she sees as - the challenges of her son not having started a family of his own. She describes how his job impacts their family life and reflects on her relationship with her son.

#### **3. Title: Materiality of work**

Page: 2-3

Summary: Claire describes some of her son's work conditions. He has a captain's license and sometimes runs a boat and other times crews on them. He doesn't own his own boat and so hops between them. As a trip fisherman he is gone multiple days if not a week at a time. At the age of 38 now, he is getting older. Claire reflects on conversations they have had where she has tried to encourage him to prepare a plan B in the event that he needs to switch to a less physically intensive job. She worries that if he gets hurt on the job, he won't have anything else to fall back on. Her perception of fishing is that it is a good paying job and as long as he can get out, he can make a good living.

#### **4. Work and Government Regulations**

Page: 3-4

Summary: Claire describes how long his trips tend to be and alludes to the fact that he will unload in many different places, including New Jersey and Gloucester, MA. The interviewer asks about regulations and refers to a law that the then-Pres. Bush implemented it. Claire considers her son's perspective and says that he feels that the federal government doesn't understand enough about the fishing industry to be regulating it. Claire describes how long his trips tend to be and alludes to the fact that he will unload in many different places, including New Jersey and Gloucester, MA. The interviewer asks about regulations and refers to a law that the then-Pres. Bush implemented it. Claire considers her son's perspective and says that he feels that the federal government doesn't understand enough about the fishing industry to be regulating it. Claire describes the protest that took place in Galilee in May. She says that they were on strike but that she doesn't think they can afford to be. Claire reflects on both the critique and the benefit of the government stepping in to steward the fisheries ecosystem. She says that she can't have a nuanced conversation like that with her son, though.

#### **5. Social Dimensions of the captain and crew**

Page: 4

Summary: Claire recalls some of the things that her son has said about the social dimensions and power dynamics between him and his crews or him and his captain over the years. She points out that his crews are constantly changing and so he doesn't refer to them like friends.

#### **6. Health and Risk of Injury in Fishing**

Page: 4-5

Summary: Claire describes some of the instances of where he either got injured on the job or due to his work schedules couldn't get the kind of care he needed. The example of scheduling dental work sheds light on the material pressures that come from trip fishing in which a day off doesn't exist like in normal wage or salaried work.

### **Sykes, Rodman**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Voices of the Ocean Museum Exhibit Oral History Project

Interviewer: Sophia Richter

Date: July 2021

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 87 pages/ 2 hours 3 minutes

Keywords : Accident; Black Seabass ; Block Island, RI; Butterfish; Coast Guard; Cod; Day-Boat; Debt; Development; Elks Club; Energy; Fairness; Flounder; Fluke; Haddock; Herring; Licenses and Permits; Monkfish; Mussels; Quota System; Skate.

#### *Segments:*

##### **1. Introduction: Growing up in a Fishing Family**

[00:00:00] - [00:12:33]

Summary: Rodman Whaley Sykes was born in Wakefield Rhode Island on August 19, 1952. After graduating from South Kingstown high school. Rod went into the fishing business in 1970. Rod recounts some of his childhood memories growing up in Wakefield with his grandfather, a fisherman who had a cottage in Galilee. After school,

Rod and other young boys would hitch hike down to Point Judith from Wakefield to help unload fish. He recalls the conviviality of the port when he was a kid during which older fishermen would casually teach the younger ones.

**2. Title: Family, Boat, and town development history**

[00:12:33] - [00:27:39]

Summary: Rod recounts his family history. His great, great grandfather Joseph Whaley was a lighthouse keeper in the 1860s - he believes - and his son, Henry, took over but was transferred to Staten Island. Henry had children, of which Rod's grandfather was one, all born in the lighthouse in Staten Island. This is where Rod's grandfather met his wife. After they married, they moved back up here. In Wakefield, three generations of his family then lived in the same neighborhood. In the summers, they would move down to the cottages in Galilee to go fishing. Rod explains how much the port town has changed over the years since development. Fishermen generally can't afford to live in Galilee anymore and it has become so busy with tourism. Rod remembers family members talking a lot about fishing because so many members in their social network were also fishing. He points to the "club of wives who would provide support but that all of this has changed.

**3. Fish on the market**

[00:27:39] - [00:39:02]

Summary: Rod talks about the kinds of fish he has caught and the market that he works with. He describes the Japanese tuna auctions.

**4. Eating with the Ecosystem**

[00:39:02] - [00:48:35]

Summary: Rod describes the seafood that he grew up eating and some of the styles and species of eating seafood that is not as popular anymore. He reflects on the racial/ethnic differences when it comes to knowledge and demand for fish. For a while, Rod was on the board for Eating with the Ecosystem and helped run an event through the Elks Club to raise awareness for people about what kinds of seafood could be eaten and how.

**5. Between regulations and the market**

[00:48:35] - [00:53:32]

Summary: Rod describes the dynamics of the market and of regulations that shape his fishing behavior. He explains the tensions between prices that the market will offer versus what regulations dictate.

**6. Working on the Water**

[00:53:32] - [01:07:30]

Summary: Rod recounts his fishing career and the other work that he would do alongside. He describes his early years getting into the industry, learning the trade and with whom. Rod became a boat captain in 1984 on the Deborah Lee. He fished until the early 2000s. In the 1990s, Rod also began doing cable patrols when the fishing industry was recommending that people leave the business. Rod was also involved in cooperative research projects for which scientists and fishermen worked together. He describes working with NMFS on shark research. Rod's crew stayed with him for around 30 years. He describes all the places they would go and how they would include fishing in their other work. Charter fishing substituted his income as well.

**7. Regulations and Divisiveness in the Port**

[01:07:30] - [01:18:01]

Summary: Rod describes some of the events that have divided the port in recent years, namely offshore wind and sector management. He also explains some of the early developments around the groundfish and fluke sectors and the reasons for fishermen's distrust in NMFS method for allocating quota. Fishermen in Point Judith largely lost out in this process for the future. He explains the recent history of the permitting system and how the precariousness of their monetary value makes it a risky thing to invest money in.

#### **8. Labor Sentiments and Crew Dynamics**

[01:18:01] - [01:23:33]

Summary: Rod describes his crew and how their dynamics influences the kind of fishing he does compared to bigger vessels with bigger crews. He reflects on the costliness of his business and how much longer he wants to realistically put up with it.

#### **9. Fishing Grounds, Competition, and Adjusting to Change**

[01:23:33] - [01:39:00]

Summary: Rod describes his fishgrounds as a day-fisherman. He also points to some of the strategies used to develop regulations around fish migration, behavior, and reproductive cycles. He reflects on how these things are changing and therefore he is being pressured to change his fish grounds. Additionally, regulations have impacted the locations of his fishing. He describes the "ticking clock" in the back of his head that has to pay attention to how long he is allowed on the water. This started in the 1990s and then "days-at-sea" in 2005. He describes how these allocation regulations limited the fluidity that had been the labor force before them. He senses that dividing up the fisheries by species is pitting fishermen against each other, who are now competing for limited access. Lastly, Rod points to the log books he used as a method to keep track of all of his fishing activity and how they shaped his decisions as a captain.

#### **10. Capitalization of the Port and Point Judith over time**

[01:39:00] - [01:52:33]

Summary: Rod reflects on how the docks have changed over time and describes the dock he inherited along his family line. He explains how most fishermen have been pushed out of living close by and how the port's dynamic is shifting from being owner-operated to corporate fleets. Rod recounts some of the differences between corporate fleets that offer salaries and locally owner-operator boats paying in shares. He notes how costs of permits are a big reason for this change. He points to the concerns of monopolization in the port and the risk to small boats.

#### **11. Conclusion: Environment, the Co-op, and Supporting his Community**

[01:52:33] - [02:03:45]

Summary: Rod describes some of the social safety nets that the co-op developed for the fishing community. He points to the Memorial Foundation, the Scholarship Fund, and a golf tournament. He describes his relationship to the ocean and what makes a good fisherman.

### **Tarasevich, Mrs. (no first name used)**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Amber Newbauer

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 8 pages

Keywords : Exiting the Industry ; Married Relations; How fishermen were perceived; Sense of Ecosystem; Fairness; License and Permits; Tension between fishermen and government/management; Impact of Regulations; Gender; Multigenerational Fishing Family; Family Life; Looking Ahead; Clothing.

*Segments:*

**1. Raising a fishing family**

Page: 1

Summary: A local of South Kingstown, Mrs. Taraswich is married into a fishing family. She discusses some of the challenges of raising children with an absent father. Her husband is part of a multigenerational fishing family.

**2. Injury and Death at Sea**

Page: 2

Summary: Her husband is a trip fisherman and is gone regularly a few days at a time. Mrs. Taraswich describes her fear of her husband getting in an accident on the boat. She says she is more afraid of gear-based injuries than bad weather-based accidents. A close friend of hers was lost at sea due to capsizing.

**3. Interesting thing on the job**

Page: 3

Summary: Mrs. Taraswich describes some of the interesting finds that have come up on the net. She also explains why she would never want to be a fisherman. Conversation returns to some other interesting things that have happened while her husband was fishing.

**4. Exiting the industry**

Page: 4

Summary: Mrs. Taraswich explains how she convinced her husband to leave the fishing industry and go back to school. He sold his boat in November of this year and went back to finish his BA. She says how she regrets the times he was a fisherman and is happy they won't be impacted by that anymore.

**5. Impact of Regulations**

Page: 4-5

Summary: Mrs. Taraswich describes the impact of regulations on their income.

**6. Materiality of the Job**

Page: 6

Summary: Mrs. Taraswich describes some of the material aspects of fishing such as when the fishermen would buy food for a trip, the clothes they would wear, his position on the boat.

**7. Changes to the family after exiting the industry**

Page: 7-8

Summary: Mrs. Taraswich describes some of the impacts that her husband has had on the family once he left the fishing industry. She discusses the impact on her childrens' lives as well as her own feelings about him being home and no longer fishing. She expresses her sense of the future of the fishing industry and is glad they are no longer involved.

## **Tate, Judith**

Archive: URI Archive and Special Collection

Project: Galilee Fishermen Oral History Tapes

Interviewer: Jennifer Sailsa

Date: March 28, 1976

Format: Audio MP3

Duration: 00:59:01

Keywords : Butterfish ; Canada ; Cod; Day-Boat; Energy; Flounder; Fluke; Limited Entry; Offshore; Quota System; Skate; Value of Work; Women; Yellowtail Flounder; Gender; Tension between Fishermen and Government/management; Offshore; Lobster; 1970s; Impact of Regulations; URI Fisheries Program; Tensions between Workers and Scientists; Limited Entry; Tension within the fishery; Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association; New Bedford, MA; Fish Scarcity; Navigation Technology; Cod; Fluke; 1960s.

### *Segments:*

#### **1. Introduction: How she got into the industry**

[00:00:00] - [00:04:01]

Summary: Judith Tate was born September 13, 1953 in Warwick, New York to Alice and John Tate. Her mother is from Newport, RI and her parents met while John was working in the Navy as a Merchant Marine in Newport. Judith grew up in Portsmouth, RI, took two years of college courses before dropping out, and got her first job in Galilee picking crab meat. This is where she got exposed to the fishing industry. While there were very few women fishing in Galilee at that time, she wanted to go fishing. Sensing that it would be difficult to get hired with no experience, she wanted to go back to school and so joined URI's fisheries program.

#### **2. Early fishing days: Lessons and Challenges**

[00:04:01] - [00:12:51]

Summary: Judith explains the reputation of the URI fisheries program and the ways in which it prepared her for working in the industry. The interview explores Judith's childhood exposure to fishing and her gendered experience growing up and on fishing vessels. Judith's first fishing job was on a lobster boat and she got kicked off the crew when one of the members decided he didn't want to work with a woman. Judith reiterates the sense that it is fishermen's wives' jealousy that keeps the industry from hiring women. Prejudice based on gender was a common experience for Judith. Rhonda and Trisha are two other prominent female fishermen and Judith notes that there are a few women who have gone through the fisheries school and also there are a few who run little lobster boats out of Newport.

#### **3. Dynamics on Deck**

[00:12:51] - [00:29:00]

Summary: Judith explains the day-to-day rhythm of working on an off-shore lobster boat. Trip fishing, Judith says, is more common in Galilee than day boat fishing. And even still, there are quite a few small boats. Meanwhile, Judith explains that she took some time off from fishing to travel and to work shoreside repairing nets in 1976. In the summer, Judith would lobster and in the winter she would waitress. In October of '78 she quit. She explains why she liked trip fishing, what the physical labor was like, and how tasks were divided amongst the crew. She also reflects on the mental labor it took to be a



woman on board and deal with microaggressions toward her from her crew. Judith ended up quitting after feeling overwhelmed by the prejudice.

**4. Technology and Improvements**

[00:29:00] - [00:34:12]

Summary: Judith explains the types of technology used on the vessel to improve their fishing, navigation, and communication. She reflects on how these changes have impacted the amount of fish caught as well as the prices of fish.

**5. Repercussions of Growth**

[00:34:12] - [00:40:21]

Summary: Judith reflects on the growth in size and efficiency of vessels and the need for protections against depleting marine life. And she considers how Point Judith fleet's vessels are nowhere near as large or consolidated. And yet, she is hesitant to trust the government's assessment of the problem and whether quota's can be set correctly. Depletion of a stock could be a result of lots of things, she reflects. Government intervention hasn't gone over well amongst fishermen and Judith reflects on the negative fallout of certain regulations that the government imposed in which fish were wasted or efficiency was reduced. "Trash fishing" has been one market solution to waste fishing but it isn't very profitable.

**6. Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association**

[00:40:21] - [00:54:51]

Summary: The boat that Judith worked on was not a member of the co-op due to the overflow of boats at the Point. They weren't taking members at that time. The interview covers comparisons between prices that fishermen get from port to port between Newport, New Bedford, and Point Judith. Judith points to some dissatisfaction from boats with the co-op because of prices and the hassle of waiting in line to unload at the co-op. She explains some of the dynamics at the co-op for unloading the boats.

**7. Interiority and social life on deck**

[00:54:51] - [00:59:01]

Summary: Judith explains the dynamic of trip vessels and how people respect privacy in such close quarters. She also reflects on the dangers of her job and how it makes her feel. Being a fisherman impacts social life outside of the job as well. Planning for seeing friends is difficult and often Judith is cut off from the culture of land life. But she doesn't mind it.

**Thayer, Tricia**

Archive: URI Archive and Special Collections

Project: Galilee Fishermen Oral History Tapes

Interviewer: Jennifer Saila

Date: March 14, 1979

Format: Audio MP3

Duration: 58 minutes

Keywords : Accident; Blessing of the Fleet; Cod; Flounder; Fluke; Hurricane; Offshore; Quota System; Skate; Women; Entering the Industry; Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association; Impact of Regulations; Fish Scarcity; Married Relations; Tension between local and foreign fishing fleets; Magnuson Stevens act; Competition; Nantucket, MA.

*Segments:*

**1. Introduction**

[00:00:00] - [00:06:30]

Summary: Tricia Thayer was born in 1951 on Long Island to Karl Thayer. Doesn't mention mother's name. She came to Rhode Island when she went to school at URI. Tricia studied marine biology before switching plans to go into the fishing industry.

**8. Day-to-day trip fishing**

[00:06:30] - [00:19:54]

Summary: Tricia describes the distribution of work and crew positions on deck during the trips. She explains some specific changes that have impacted them since the yellowtail quota was implemented. Tricia discusses her gendered experience on deck and how doing work with heavy machinery is difficult for everyone. Tricia worked as a cook and engineer and describes these tasks. Addressing disagreements is an important responsibility for everyone in the crew. Tricia traces the techniques people use to manage their emotions. The section ends with Tricia describing the impacts that quotas have had and her perceptions of the government.

**9. Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association**

[00:19:54] - [00:23:48]

Summary: The captain of the boat is a member of the co-op and they take out at the co-op but Tricia herself is not a member. She does not explain why this is and the interviewer didn't ask. Trash fishing and bait fishing are two other target categories of fishing they do.

**10. Fishing culture and social dynamics**

[00:23:48] - [00:30:30]

Summary: Tricia describes her experience of the festival Blessing of the Fleet. There is a general sense that it is not an authentic festival for fishermen. This leads to a discussion about luck and Tricia's gendered experience in the fishing industry as a woman who is considered culturally "unlucky". Tricia shares stories of obscure things she has witnessed while out on the water and stories that fishermen tell amongst themselves when on land.

**11. Changes to the industry**

[00:30:30] - [00:44:40]

Summary: Tricia reflects on how the presence of foreign vessels has changed over time, specifically that they have come back since the 200-mile limit was implemented. Though they don't fish as close to shore as before. Now Tricia returns to the co-op and explains that the young age of her crew attributes to them not becoming members. This is partly because the co-op is not taking on new members but also there is a sense of cultural difference between the young crewmen who are not being adopted into the co-op as fervently as early members were. Tricia recounts the complex array of variables that contribute to prices and time it takes to unload.

**12. Impact of industry expansions**

[00:44:40] - [00:58:50]

Summary: Tricia explains the technological advancements to the fishing vessels and the reasons for why they fish further offshore now than before. She reflects on the implications for the trend that vessels are increasing in size on the industry and the resource. She explains the impact that trip fishing has on her social life. Tricia works with her husband Jim and she talks about their married life in relation to work and how they

distribute household responsibilities. She comments on the aspect of danger in the fishing industry that she has experienced or heard about.

## **Westcott, Nicholas**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Shannon O'Connor

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 8 pages

Keywords: Health; Sense of Place; Family Life; Masculinity.

### *Segments:*

#### **1. Working in a fishing family**

Page: 1-2

Summary: Nicholas is eighteen and he recently started fishing full time with his father and his uncle. He explains that his father is the captain and owner of the f/v Ocean State and he is a deckhand. Nicholas describes what this work entails. He says that it wasn't necessarily the job he imagined for himself. But he makes good money. He says \$80,000 per year.

#### **2. Interesting things about working as a fisherman**

Page: 2

Summary: Nicholas describes some of the interesting things that have been pulled up in their nets.

#### **3. Materiality of fishing**

Page: 3-4

Summary: Nicholas describes the material aspects of fishing: the gear they use, the navigation and communications technology on the vessel, who he works with and what he likes about it. He describes some of the risks and injuries that he has heard of among fishermen in his life. He also points out the challenges of having a family.

#### **4. Running a fishing business**

Page: 4-5

Summary: Nicholas describes some of the details of running a fishing business today. They discuss the pressures of being the first to unload so you can get the best price and how fish buyers have control over this system.

#### **5. The Perfect Storm**

Page: 6

Summary: Nicholas describes fishing in bad conditions.

#### **6. Substance abuse and other social dynamics**

Page: 7-8

Summary: Nicholas describes some of the substance abuse and other social dimensions that make the fishing industry a challenging place to work. He also reflects on what it is like to work with his dad and his uncle. He describes what it is like to work in close quarters and to not have a lot of privacy.

## **Westcott, Zela**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Sara Sherman

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 9 pages

Keywords: How fishermen perceive an issue; Married Relations; Blame; Work Culture; Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative Association; Looking Ahead; Sense of Place; Tension between fishermen and government/management; Strike; Development; Swordfish; Hague Line; Gender.

### *Segments:*

#### **1. Introduction to the Westcott fishing family**

Page: 1-2

Summary: Zela describes some of the aspects of what it was like to be the wife of a fisherman back in the day. Her husband is part of a long-term multigenerational fishing family.

#### **2. Dangers at Sea**

Page: 2-3

Summary: Zela describes some of the dangers of working on a fishing boat.

#### **3. Vessel history of the Roanne**

Page: 3

Summary: Zela recalls the history of the vessel the Roanne that was passed down along the Westcott family until it ended up at the Mystic Seaport Museum.

#### **4. Superstitions**

Page: 4-5

Summary: Zela describes some of the superstitions that her husband and his family had.

#### **5. History of Galilee**

Page: 5-6

Summary: Zela describes what life was like in Galilee over the decades. She describes the co-op, why it was started, and the impact it had on the fishing industry. She reflects on the current state of the industry, the impact of regulations, and the importance of fishermen voicing their needs.

#### **6. Raising a family**

Page: 7-8

Summary: Zela describes what it was like to raise a family while her husband was fishing.

#### **7. Fishing Stories**

Page: 8

Summary: Zela describes sad and interesting stories of her husband's times fishing.

#### **8. 1976 centennial Independence day celebration**

Page: 9

Summary: Zela recalls watching the tall ships sail up Narragansett Bay for the Independence Day celebration of 1976.

## **Woodmansee, Jay**

Archive: South County Museum

Project: Narragansett High School's Fishermen of Galilee Oral History Collection

Interviewer: Julian

Date: 2001-2002

Format: PDF Transcript

Duration: 5 pages

Keywords: Fish Scarcity; Decline; Entering the Industry; 1940s; 1960s; Magnuson Stevens Act; Tension between local and foreign fishing fleets; Leadership; Access; Globalization; Russian; Trip Fishing; Tension between fishermen and government/management; Income; Multigenerational Fishing Family; Butterfish; Sense of Place.

### *Segments:*

#### **1. Entering the Fishing Industry**

Page: 1-2

Summary: Jay Woodmansee, born in 1947 in Manson Massachusetts, was raised in South County, Rhode Island. He began fishing in the 1960s right after graduating highschool because "it was available". He lived in Narragansett and when he was ready to look for work, other jobs in town weren't as inviting as the fishing industry. He started by working on the docks, getting to know people. A couple of years later, he joined his first fishing trip. He describes what it was like to learn on the job and some of the dangers he faced while at sea.

#### **2. Living on a fishing boat and reflection on life choices**

Page: 2-3

Summary: Jay describes some of the aspects of what it is like to work and live on a fishing boat. He also reflects on what he would have done, if not for fishing. He says how there are really no other industries in Narragansett and he didn't want to work in the service industry. An alternative might have been to work in a machine shop in Providence.

#### **3. The Perfect Storm and interesting catches**

Page: 3

Summary: Jay describes some of the scary things he has witnessed on the water during storms. He then considers some of the interesting things he has seen in his net.

#### **4. Looking ahead at the fishing industry and looking back at regulations**

Page: 3-5

Summary: Jay considers where he thinks the industry will be in twenty years. He considers the relationship between government and fishermen to be essential for the future of the industry. He takes seriously the risk of overfishing and hopes that other fishermen do as well. He reflects on the power of the government to take fishing away from local people and put it in others' hands. He describes the impact that the 200-mile limit had on these dynamics. He also reflects on the impact that this all has had on incomes and the prospect of multi-generational fishing families.

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