Interview 1

So for the purpose of this study, we'd like to learn

about your experiences commercial fishing.

The goal is to improve marine safety in

(00:52.4 - 00:55.0)

Norton Sound, and we hope to use your

(00:55.1 - 00:57.2)

stories and knowledge to share with the community

(00:57.3 - 01:00.0)

here and in other fishing communities.

(01:00.5 - 01:03.3)

So to start, can you tell me the

(01:03.4 - 01:06.6)

areas you have fished and the types or

(01:06.7 - 01:09.4)

type of commercial fishing you've done?

Okay.

(01:09.4 - 01:10.8)

For Norton Sound,

(01:12.4 - 01:17.0)

basically I have commercial fished in Norton Sound,

but

(01:19.3 - 01:23.9)

my main capture, was subsistence use.

(01:24.4 - 01:27.6)

But uncle always hired me or dad

(01:27.7 - 01:34.8)

or mom. They needed a deckhand. I've herring fished

in Norton Sound

(01:34.9 - 01:40.8)

also, probably for 30 years.

(01:42.8 - 01:46.5)

I have at least 30 years of commercial fishing locally.

(01:48.2 - 01:52.6)

I fished Norton Sound King Crab for three years.

(01:57.9 - 02:01.0)

I tendered fish on the Yukon for about five years.

(02:03.9 - 02:07.3)

Lower Yukon: Y one and Y two

(02:07.4 - 02:09.2)

is basically what it is, I guess.

(02:11.1 - 02:13.2)

And then I fished in Bristol Bay for

(02:13.2 - 02:25.4)

two years. And a lot of subsistence locally.

(02:25.5 - 02:38.8)

So both for herring kelp, for herring eggs and

 king crab, home use, you know.

(02:39.0 - 02:40.9)

So I play out in the ocean a lot.

(02:44.9 - 02:47.9)

Why do you fish where you fish?

(02:49.2 - 02:53.9)

Because I'm at home and basically if I went down

(02:53.9 - 02:55.6)

to Bristol Bay, I went to go make money

(02:55.6 - 02:57.6)

and that's where the fishing is the best.

(02:59.7 - 03:01.4)

The Yukon used to be the best because

(03:01.5 - 03:03.8)

that's where I tended thousands and thousands of

(03:03.8 - 03:06.3)

pounds of king salmon or dog salmon.

(03:07.1 - 03:16.9)

But that was in the eighties and nineties.

(03:18.0 – 03:19.8)

And the other fisheries? You prefer to fish near

home?

(03:19.9 - 03:23.2)

Yeah, well, see, if I fish anywhere else, I got to

(03:23.2 - 03:25.7)

fly all this stuff home to put in my freezer.

(03:25.9 - 03:29.1)

It's just so much easier that I fish right here locally

(03:29.7 - 03:32.4)

and I don't have the big expense of flying fish to

(03:32.5 - 03:33.3)

and fro

(03:36.9 - 03:38.5)

Like I said, we got a lot of species.

(03:38.6 - 03:41.4)

And I do a lot of trout fishing up.

(03:42.8 - 03:44.3)

Me and my buddy will go out and catch

(03:44.4 - 03:46.9)

a whole sack in a day, maybe two sacks.

(03:47.2 - 03:51.8)

But we try to catch the trout because

(03:51.9 - 03:53.6)

they eat a lot of salmon fry.

(03:54.4 - 03:55.8)

They eat a lot of salmon fry,

(03:55.8 - 04:00.3)

so me and my buddy are always trying

 to catch us trout.

(04:06.0 - 04:07.9)

Can you describe the boats?

(04:08.1 - 04:11.6)

For now, just focus on commercial fishing.

(04:11.8 - 04:16.6)

Well, I fished in 32 foot herring boats locally.

(04:16.7 - 04:20.6)

And for salmon it's like a 22 foot

(04:20.6 - 04:22.5)

boat, I guess is what it would be.

(04:25.1 - 04:26.5)

That was for herring.

(04:27.2 - 04:28.8)

The herring was a 32 foot

(04:28.8 - 04:29.2)

boat.

(04:29.2 - 04:31.0)

and then the salmon trolling?

(04:31.2 - 04:33.3)

No, salmon was just a gillnet.

(04:33.9 - 04:38.2)

Gillnet, like you said, 22 ft.

(04:41.1 - 04:42.4)

With salmon Gillnet.

(04:42.5 - 04:43.8)

Is that set netting?

(04:43.9 - 04:45.9)

Yes, that is set netting.

(04:53.1 - 04:54.3)

And then Bristol Bay.

(04:54.4 - 04:55.3)

That was Gillnet?

(04:55.4 - 04:57.6)

Yes, gillnet out of a drift boat.

(04:57.6 - 05:07.8)

Okay. What about King crab?

(05:09.5 - 05:10.5)

Just a home.

(05:10.6 - 05:14.0)

This is a regular Bristol Bay boat that was bought

 down

(05:14.1 - 05:16.5)

there and brought up to fish Norton Sound here.

(05:17.5 - 05:19.8)

And like I said, we fished it for three years.

(05:21.2 - 05:22.0)

Okay.

(05:24.1 - 05:26.0)

But I also kept it running for ten years.

(05:26.1 - 05:29.7)

So why would the boat was always captained by

 somebody

(05:29.8 - 05:32.7)

else, but I kept it running basically, is what it is.

(05:32.9 - 05:33.6)

Okay.

(05:36.3 - 05:38.5)

And what got you into fishing from

(05:38.5 - 05:41.2)

when you first started commercial fishing?

(05:46.4 - 05:50.2)

Well mom owned a permit, my brother owned a

permit, and all

 my uncles owned

(05:50.2 - 05:52.9)

permits, so somebody always needed a deck hand.

(05:55.1 - 05:57.6)

So I've been fishing since I

(05:57.6 - 06:00.3)

was basically five, six years old.

(06:00.4 - 06:03.1)

But I've been in the ocean since I was a

(06:03.1 - 06:06.0)

baby because that's where mom and dad would always

(06:06.0 - 06:08.0)

take us out for camping or go pick berries.

(06:08.1 - 06:11.0)

We always have to travel someplace to

get our foods.

(06:12.3 - 06:15.5)

The foods just here throughout the whole

Norton Sound.

(06:15.6 - 06:18.7)

We use up pretty much 90% of the Norton

(06:18.8 - 06:23.9)

Sound for subsistence use. Or commercial use,

(06:24.0 - 06:25.4)

you could put it that way too.

(06:27.8 - 06:29.3)

Did you enjoy fishing?

(06:31.4 - 06:33.1)

Yeah, I enjoyed fishing.

(06:34.0 - 06:36.4)

Like I said, middle of the winter, it's nice to have a

(06:36.4 - 06:40.1)

piece of dried fish or have a steak, bake a salmon.

(06:40.2 - 06:43.8)

You can't do that if you ain't got it.

(06:54.0 – 06:54.7)

Let's see.

(06:54.8 - 06:56.4)

Let's start with herring.

(06:57.5 - 07:01.0)

What was your position on that boat?

Deck hand.

(07:01.1 - 07:02.3)

Well, I was a skipper too.

(07:02.4 - 07:04.9)

I owned a permit and a boat, but I sold out.

(07:06.0 - 07:08.3)

It was only more feasible for me to get out

(07:08.4 - 07:10.9)

and just be a deck hand because it paid better,

(07:11.0 - 07:12.8)

I didn't have to deal with the taxes.

(07:17.7 - 07:19.6)

In the herring fishery, can you describe the steps

involved

(07:19.7 - 07:21.7)

in a typical day fishing?

(07:22.5 - 07:24.0)

What you do when you're out?

(07:24.2 - 07:27.4)

Well, back in the day we, I ran

(07:27.4 - 07:29.4)

into a group of fishermen from Oregon.

(07:29.5 - 07:31.9)

So these guys knew what they were doing.

(07:32.6 - 07:36.8)

A typical day is get the boat ready.

(07:38.2 - 07:39.9)

We had an airplane in there who

(07:39.9 - 07:41.3)

would always put us on the fish.

(07:41.4 - 07:43.3)

So we're guaranteed to get the fish.

(07:43.4 - 07:45.9)

We would wait til our pilot come back to see where

(07:45.9 - 07:50.9)

the fish were and then our group of ten would go

(07:51.0 - 07:55.4)

and concentrate on the fish that looked best to the

pilot.

(07:55.6 - 07:57.8)

Because she was one of the best spotters in the

(07:57.8 - 08:01.3)

state, so she knew what she was looking for.

(08:02.9 - 08:04.6)

After that, it was just go and

(08:04.6 - 08:06.2)

catch all the herring we can get.

(08:06.7 - 08:08.9)

Some years we might have fished for five days and

(08:09.0 - 08:11.0)

some years we might have fished for 8 hours.

(08:12.9 - 08:15.2)

All depends on the quality of the fish

(08:15.2 - 08:17.8)

and the amount of fish that come in.

(08:20.2 - 08:22.7)

But we would go get 100 tons in 8 hours.

(08:22.8 - 08:24.4)

A lot of local people don't want to get

(08:24.5 - 08:27.5)

20 tons because they didn't have the capabilities like

(08:27.6 - 08:29.8)

the guys from Oregon who knew how to do this

(08:29.8 - 08:33.0)

stuff I mean, they’ve been doing it all their lives.

(08:33.2 - 08:39.6)

Yeah, after that it was just

(08:39.6 - 08:40.8)

clean the boat and we're done.

(08:40.9 - 08:44.5)

Let's just bring it to the tender and offload it

(08:44.6 - 08:46.6)

and if we're done clean up the boat and put

(08:46.6 - 08:51.7)

it away for next year you know? But it would last

anywhere

(08:51.7 - 09:02.7)

from 8 hours to five days at the max,

That was based out of here?

(09:02.8 - 09:04.7)

We would always be end up fishing like in St.

(09:04.8 - 09:09.8)

Michaels or in Shaktoolik or over towards Elim.

We fished in Golovin and Bay once but it was always on

(09:14.6 - 09:17.1)

the southern end of Norton Sound that was usually

the best

(09:17.1 - 09:22.3)

producing spot and Denbe also and that's why I go pick

(09:22.4 - 09:24.5)

my kelp is from the southern end I mean, every year I

(09:24.5 - 09:29.1)

go get at least 25, 30 gallons of kelp

yeah.

(09:31.8 - 09:35.3)

What about salmon fishing?

(09:35.7 - 09:42.6)

It's a set net. When the period opens, it's open for 48

(09:42.6 - 09:45.2)

hours so a period would open at six on a Monday and

(09:45.2 - 09:47.9)

close six on a Wednesday so your net is out there for

(09:48.0 - 09:51.6)

48 hours it's just a matter of you going to your spot

(09:51.7 - 09:57.2)

where you think is the best spot here in Norton Sound

you sit and check

(09:58.6 - 10:01.8)

and some days you be rough, some days would be calm,

it just

(10:01.9 - 10:10.1)

varies from season to season

so can you describe what a typical

(10:10.2 - 10:13.3)

day would look like with the set netting?

(10:14.1 - 10:17.7)

Well, like I said, the period would open at six and

we'd

(10:17.7 - 10:20.7)

be sitting there waiting for 06:00 o’clock to set our

net after we

(10:20.7 - 10:25.6)

set our nets, if they're not hitting we just leave it,

(10:25.8 - 10:29.2)

so we might go back 12 hours later, 8 hours later and

(10:29.2 - 10:33.4)

go check it but if the fishing was hot, we would just

(10:33.5 - 10:35.8)

pick em, go through and that's awesome.

(10:36.0 - 10:40.0)

Just pick it and that's what it comes down to. Whoever

can

(10:40.1 - 10:42.6)

pick the most fish the fastest is the guy who's making

the

(10:42.6 - 10:45.8)

money, just like in Bristol Bay, the guy who catches

the most

(10:45.9 - 10:50.4)

fish. If you can clean your net, you’ve got a heck of

(10:50.4 – 10:53.5)

a good crew, but if it takes a long time to pick

(10:53.5 - 10:56.6)

a net and I guess you're not making too good of money.

(10:56.7 - 11:05.2)

right. And then can you describe for king crab?

(11:05.7 - 11:07.4)

Well, if we got ice out in the

(11:07.4 - 11:11.7)

middle of the winter for subsistence use… or for

commercial?

Commercial.

(11:13.9 - 11:17.6)

Commercial it's like a six hour drive out of Unalakleet

to

(11:17.6 - 11:24.5)

get to the ground. We would set our 40 pots then

(11:24.6 - 11:27.7)

two to three days later we go back and check them

(11:28.3 - 11:31.0)

and that's like I said, that's a six hour drive out,

(11:31.4 - 11:36.1)

4 hours to go through the 40 pots, another six hour

(11:36.2 - 11:39.7)

drive back then we'd have to pack them and ship

them

(11:39.8 - 11:43.4)

out on the next available airplane because we

wouldn't sell to

(11:43.4 - 11:47.7)

the local people, the local buyer, because we

would get a

(11:47.7 - 11:49.9)

better price out of Anchorage.

(11:50.6 - 11:53.5)

So we might have put a lot more work into it.

(11:53.5 - 11:57.6)

But we got 50 cents, 75 cents a pound more.

(11:58.6 - 12:01.2)

So to us that was worth every pound.

(12:04.5 - 12:09.0)

So every year we might have delivered once to

(12:09.0 - 12:12.5)

the local plant in Nome, but that was it.

(12:12.6 - 12:13.5)

We just didn't like that

(12:13.6 - 12:17.1)

other six hour drive going west. Then we got to do

(12:17.1 - 12:19.6)

a twelve hour drive back if we go to Nome.

(12:20.4 - 12:22.5)

So that's a long time out in the ocean.

(12:22.7 - 12:25.3)

Boy, they can get rough at times.

(12:26.2 - 12:28.4)

I've been out in Norton Sound

(12:28.5 - 12:30.6)

where I've seen 25, 30 foot waves.

(12:33.0 - 12:36.9)

So I fell off the boat crabbing once.

(12:37.0 - 12:39.5)

Actually, I jumped off the boat.

Oh, no.

(12:40.3 – 12:41.6)

I had no choice.

(12:42.2 - 12:43.5)

When you didn't hook it?

(12:43.6 - 12:46.1)

Well, what else are you gonna do?

(12:46.1 - 12:48.7)

You got to get away from that 50 ton boat you know?

(12:48.8 - 12:52.4)

30 ton boat. Because it was maybe an eight

(12:52.4 - 12:56.8)

foot wave, I guess . It was a good experience.

(12:57.1 - 12:59.9)

After that, my captain never went back out.

(13:00.7 - 13:04.0)

I scared him, I guess.

Wow.

(13:04.3 - 13:05.6)

How did that happen?

(13:05.8 – 13:08.7)

Well, I was going to hook the puller.

(13:08.9 - 13:10.9)

So I'm standing on the edge of the boat

(13:11.3 - 13:15.3)

to hook it, to hook the line to the

(13:15.4 - 13:20.0)

puller, and I missed and somehow had the momentum.

Oh you fell?

(13:21.6 - 13:23.1)

I didn't fall, I jumped.

(13:23.1 - 13:24.2)

I got away from the boat.

(13:24.2 - 13:25.5)

I was holding on to the line.

(13:25.6 - 13:28.7)

My buddy had the buoy, had the other end of the line.

(13:28.8 - 13:30.5)

The pot is on the bottom of the ocean,

(13:30.5 - 13:32.7)

yet. I just hung out to the line.

(13:32.8 - 13:35.5)

And when I came back up out of the water,

(13:36.1 - 13:38.4)

there was my buddy pulling me to the boat.

(13:41.8 - 13:44.5)

And like I said, it was an experience.

(13:44.7 - 13:46.0)

Like I said, my skipper never

(13:46.0 - 13:47.6)

went back into the ocean again.

(13:47.9 - 13:51.5)

Well, he's probably what, 80 years old now,

(13:51.6 - 13:57.2)

and this happened six years ago.

(13:59.6 - 14:02.9)

I wanted to go back out, but he didn't want to.

(14:03.0 - 14:03.7)

He was done.

(14:03.8 – 14:05.6)

Was that your last time fishing crab?

(14:07.7 – 14:10.8)

No I do it. Subsistence

(14:10.8 - 14:13.9)

How did you get back on board?

(14:18.7 - 14:20.2)

Well, it was timing.

(14:21.0 - 14:23.1)

It was timing with everything because the boat

(14:23.2 - 14:27.3)

is so heavy that when we lean to

(14:27.4 - 14:29.4)

the next wave come up, brought me up.

(14:29.5 - 14:31.4)

Then all I had to do was grab out to the boat.

(14:31.5 - 14:33.1)

My buddy grabbed me by the back of

(14:33.1 - 14:35.9)

my shirt and pulled me back in.

(14:36.0 - 14:37.7)

And I told him, well, let's keep going.

(14:38.2 - 14:40.2)

Like I said, it scared the skipper.

(14:41.1 - 14:45.5)

And after that he had them shingles.

(14:45.7 - 14:47.1)

He just was never the same.

(14:47.2 - 14:48.4)

It scared him.

(14:51.3 - 14:52.9)

I mean, you're the only boat out there,

(14:53.0 - 14:54.9)

you don't see anybody else.

(14:55.1 - 14:57.4)

Some days it's just that way.

(14:57.5 - 15:00.2)

Other days you might see the whole fleet out there.

(15:01.5 - 15:03.4)

But that day we're out there and

(15:03.5 - 15:05.0)

I guess it just scared him.

(15:05.1 - 15:06.2)

We never went back out.

(15:06.2 - 15:07.5)

Well, we went to pull the pots,

(15:07.5 - 15:10.7)

but I've never seen him crab again.

(15:12.9 - 15:15.5)

Were you wearing a life jacket?

No.

(15:19.1 - 15:20.5)

But you’re a good swimmer?

Well, I grew up on the water.

(15:20.6 - 15:22.8)

Yeah, I mean, if you grew up on

(15:22.8 - 15:24.5)

the water, If you grow up on the water, you got

to learn to swim.

(15:24.7 - 15:27.2)

As kids, we grew up on the beach swimming

anyway,

(15:28.2 - 15:30.4)

and I grew up on the ocean driving the boats.

(15:30.5 - 15:32.7)

My dad would soon as I was able to drive the

(15:32.7 - 15:34.8)

boat, that's what I want to do, is drive the boat.

(15:34.8 - 15:37.2)

As soon as I turned six, seven years old, I

(15:37.2 - 15:39.6)

would say, we're going this way, and just point.

(15:41.4 - 15:42.9)

That's why I would take mom and dad.

(15:42.9 - 15:43.8)

Where were they pointing?

(15:43.8 - 15:45.1)

We're going this way.

(15:49.2 - 15:52.0)

Can you describe what boat life is like?

(15:52.2 - 15:54.3)

And if it helps, think of sounds

(15:54.4 - 15:57.7)

that you heard, smells, physical sensations.

(15:59.7 - 16:01.6)

Boat life is a tough life.

(16:01.8 - 16:03.0)

You're either moving or

(16:03.0 - 16:04.9)

you're doing absolutely nothing.

(16:05.4 - 16:08.8)

And you're either working hard or you're resting

(16:08.9 - 16:12.1)

up is what crabbing is all about.

(16:13.7 - 16:15.9)

Because you’re either traveling or you’re

(16:16.6 - 16:18.1)

tending to your 40 pots.

(16:18.1 - 16:19.6)

And after that you get to the beach,

(16:19.7 - 16:21.7)

you tend to your crab and you're done.

(16:21.8 - 16:26.0)

But salmon fishing is a whole ‘nother story.

(16:26.0 - 16:28.5)

Because if it's rough out well, do

(16:28.5 - 16:29.6)

you really want to go out?

(16:29.6 - 16:32.5)

Is your life worth $100 a fish?

(16:36.6 - 16:38.3)

So there's pros and cons.

(16:38.8 - 16:39.9)

I love the ocean.

(16:40.0 - 16:41.4)

I grew up on the ocean so.

(16:45.9 - 16:50.8)

How many people do you typically fish with

(16:50.8 - 16:53.8)

On a set net salmon will only be two of us

the skipper and I.

(16:54.0 - 16:56.4)

Then on the crabbing it's usually three:

(16:57.3 - 17:01.9)

captain, two deckhands or three deckhands,

depending

(17:01.9 - 17:04.1)

on how much you want to share.

(17:05.6 - 17:07.8)

If you like your buddy, hire your buddy.

(17:10.6 - 17:12.9)

Although I see guys go out there by themselves and

(17:12.9 - 17:14.5)

try to do it, and they don't make any money.

(17:14.5 - 17:16.2)

They're trying to get too greedy.

(17:17.6 - 17:18.9)

You can't do it by yourself.

(17:19.0 - 17:20.7)

You fall over well, there ain't

(17:20.7 - 17:22.1)

nobody there to save you.

(17:23.2 - 17:24.0)

Yeah.

(17:24.8 - 17:26.2)

What about herring?

(17:27.0 - 17:29.0)

Herring was fast and furious.

(17:29.8 - 17:31.5)

Like I said, I've seen it

(17:32.4 - 17:36.1)

eight hour openings or we're gone for five

days trying

(17:36.1 - 17:39.5)

to get our quota because maybe the fish weren’t

(17:39.5 - 17:43.4)

there for the season. But we'd always go camp.

(17:44.2 - 17:46.4)

Wherever we thought was the best spot.

(17:47.0 - 17:49.3)

We knew the herring were coming in at Black

Point,

(17:49.4 - 17:52.3)

we went to Black Point. If herring were coming

in at St.

(17:52.4 - 17:52.7)

Michael,

(17:52.7 - 17:54.2)

we went to Saint Michael. If the herring were

coming in at

(17:55.6 - 17:56.2)

Denbigh.

(17:56.2 - 17:57.1)

We went to Denbigh.

(17:57.2 - 17:58.7)

It all depended on where they're

(17:58.7 - 18:01.1)

coming to spawn.

(18:03.1 - 18:06.5)

Like I said, we have a lot of spawning from Stebbins

(18:06.5 - 18:10.5)

all the way Stuart Island, all the way up to Tolstoi.

(18:10.5 - 18:14.2)

And the beach takes over, and our cliffs

(18:14.2 - 18:16.4)

start back up in Shaktoolik, Denbigh.

(18:16.4 - 18:18.6)

And they spawn in that area, too.

(18:18.7 - 18:20.7)

And they spawn over in Elim side where all

(18:20.7 - 18:23.3)

the rock is. They do not spawn in sand.

(18:24.2 - 18:26.8)

So we go find the rocks.

(18:28.2 - 18:32.5)

And that's what herring fishing was all about, was

(18:32.5 - 18:35.2)

having a good pilot and having a processor.

(18:35.5 - 18:37.8)

How many crew members?

(18:37.9 - 18:41.2)

It's usually just two: captain and a deck hand.

Okay.

(18:42.7 - 18:46.9)

Can you describe the crew that you remember for

herring?

(18:47.4 - 18:49.6)

Well, my skipper.

(18:49.8 - 18:54.0)

He's from Oregon, but he was one of

(18:54.0 - 18:56.4)

the best captains that I fished with.

(18:56.8 - 19:01.9)

It was all about catching fish, and he was good

at it.

(19:04.4 - 19:09.5)

He fished in Bristol Bay 25 years at least.

(19:10.9 - 19:12.8)

I know he was good at that

(19:13.5 - 19:15.2)

because he was just a captain. H had a lawyer

who owned a boat and he had a lawyer who owned

a permit.

(19:15.4 - 19:24.2)

They didn't know how to drive a boat, so they hired

him.

(19:28.5 - 19:30.2)

Oh. So the skipper wasn't the owner?

(19:30.3 - 19:32.3)

No, he was just a driver.

(19:32.8 - 19:34.1)

Somebody pay you good money?

(19:34.2 - 19:35.7)

Well, I got paid good money to drive

(19:35.8 - 19:38.0)

a snow machine, you know, drive a boat.

(19:39.6 - 19:42.7)

You don't get me wrong, $500 days ain't too bad.

(19:45.5 - 19:49.7)

But when you start making 8-hour period, walking

(19:49.8 - 19:52.6)

away with $25,000, then it's worth it.

(19:56.5 - 19:59.7)

Can you describe the crew on your set net boat?

(20:00.7 - 20:03.5)

Well, it was always with family, with salmon set net.

(20:03.5 - 20:07.0)

It was always, uncle needed a deck hand, or

(20:07.1 - 20:09.4)

mom needed a hand, or Brother needed a hand.

(20:09.5 - 20:10.9)

It was whoever needed a hand

(20:10.9 - 20:11.9)

at the moment.

(20:16.9 - 20:18.1)

It was always good.

(20:18.1 - 20:20.2)

Salmon fishing was good until they started taking

(20:20.2 - 20:24.8)

all the trawling in the Pacific Ocean.

(20:24.8 - 20:26.7)

After that, we're losing.

(20:27.0 - 20:29.8)

They don't even want us to eat salmon anymore.

(20:30.6 - 20:32.0)

It's pretty sad.

(20:34.1 - 20:36.5)

Did you notice that at a particular time

(20:36.6 - 20:38.8)

that it got worse for the trawling?

(20:40.8 - 20:46.0)

Yeah, it started in the 90’s because we had hay days

70’s

(20:46.0 - 20:48.5)

80’s, all the way up until the 90’s when

(20:48.6 - 20:53.0)

they started trawling bad and it only got worse.

(21:00.3 - 21:01.5)

It's just tough.

(21:04.4 - 21:07.5)

All the villages along the coast from Bristol Bay on

(21:07.5 - 21:13.1)

up, rely on the salmon because we all have rivers.

(21:13.9 - 21:18.3)

All the communities live by rivers that produce salmon.

(21:19.7 - 21:21.8)

And if we can't even catch a salmon because

(21:21.9 - 21:25.8)

somebody else is killing them and throwing them

overboard,

(21:28.0 - 21:29.9)

what's the point of even catching fish?

(21:38.1 - 21:39.3)

You look at the price at

(21:39.3 - 21:40.7)

the store, what are they paying?

(21:40.7 - 21:43.3)

$32 a pound for king salmon?

(21:43.5 - 21:45.0)

That's downright crazy.

(21:55.2 - 21:57.5)

Can you think back to when you're fishing with your

(21:57.5 - 22:01.4)

mom and describe what she was like fishing with?

(22:03.2 - 22:05.9)

Well, mom was always mom, she was the boss.

(22:06.0 - 22:07.6)

Mom's always the boss.

(22:10.7 - 22:13.4)

Dad was working, so mom wanted to make some

money,

(22:13.5 - 22:16.2)

so she sent for her permit and she got one.

(22:16.2 - 22:18.2)

But she didn't get it for her

(22:19.7 - 22:21.8)

duration because the state had points.

(22:22.3 - 22:23.7)

Both my brother and mom

(22:23.7 - 22:26.3)

lost their permission to points.

(22:27.7 - 22:30.4)

I get frustrated at that because

(22:30.5 - 22:31.7)

I didn't inherit the permit.

(22:31.7 - 22:33.6)

The state basically took it back

(22:35.2 - 22:37.5)

on both my mom’s and my brother’s.

(22:38.0 - 22:41.0)

So basically after eight years of

(22:41.0 - 22:43.2)

fishing, you were cut off.

(22:43.5 - 22:45.1)

You could only fish for eight years?

(22:45.2 - 22:47.5)

Well, in my head, I kind of thought that's what

it

(22:47.5 - 22:49.6)

went to, was like an eight-year program, and

then if you

(22:49.6 - 22:53.9)

didn't make enough points, you weren’t given the permit.

(22:56.7 - 22:57.2)

So the points were based on how much fish you sold?

Yeah.

(22:57.3 - 23:01.6)

How much fish you catch and if you put an

(23:01.6 - 23:03.6)

effort, I guess, is what it came down to.

(23:03.7 - 23:06.2)

And we did put the effort, but like I

(23:06.2 - 23:08.3)

said, the state never gave me the permit.

(23:08.5 - 23:11.3)

So after that, it was go find

(23:11.3 - 23:12.6)

somebody else to go fishing for.

(23:12.7 - 23:16.4)

Go tender fish on the Yukon, go

(23:16.5 - 23:18.0)

process fish at the Unalakleet plant.

(23:18.1 - 23:22.4)

I worked at the fish plant for ten years, at least two.

(23:26.4 - 23:28.7)

What was it like fishing with your uncle?

(23:29.4 - 23:31.2)

That was the best, because it was

(23:31.2 - 23:33.4)

$100 bill every time I went out.

(23:33.8 - 23:35.4)

Here's your cut for the day.

(23:36.0 - 23:39.2)

Ten years old, owning a $100 bill.

(23:39.9 - 23:41.7)

Go get anything you want to buy.

(23:42.3 - 23:50.7)

But, yeah, it was good because both my uncles, after

20

(23:50.7 - 23:53.2)

years of fishing, they knew where the best spots

were.

(23:59.7 - 24:03.5)

Did you have anyone mentor you for fishing?

No.

(24:03.7 - 24:05.5)

Like I said, I grew up on the ocean

(24:05.5 - 24:09.7)

with my mom and dad, just traveling, camping, so

(24:09.8 - 24:17.7)

water wasn't… I'm not scared of water. Only because

(24:17.8 - 24:20.9)

I've been to all these marine safety courses.

(24:24.3 - 24:26.0)

In Kodiak, Juneau, not Juneau but Anchorage, Seward…

(24:37.1 - 24:39.2)

Do you have anyone that you taught your

(24:39.2 - 24:42.6)

fishing skills to or knowledge about safety?

(24:44.2 - 24:47.1)

I've taken a lot of people out in the

(24:47.1 - 24:50.4)

ocean, and I teach them one thing only.

(24:50.5 - 24:52.1)

Safety is what

(24:52.2 - 24:54.5)

it's all about. Safety.

(24:54.7 - 24:57.0)

If you don't come back home, what's the point

(24:57.1 - 24:59.1)

of even trying to learn safety, you know?

(25:01.9 - 25:03.1)

I guess I should have thrown him [Reflecting on his

son’s drowning]

(25:03.1 - 25:04.0)

in the water a couple of times.

(25:04.1 - 25:05.7)

Maybe he would have learned to swim.

(25:08.7 - 25:11.0)

As kids, we just grew up on the ocean.

(25:11.1 - 25:13.2)

We'd always be in the ocean.

(25:13.7 - 25:16.3)

My grandma and grandpa owned a cabin

(25:16.4 - 25:19.9)

15 miles from here, that's another little

(25:19.9 - 25:22.3)

river that would always have the fishing.

(25:23.8 - 25:27.1)

That's where we can put away our year’s supply of

dry fish.

(25:33.4 - 25:36.7)

So when you have crew members, was there any

(25:36.8 - 25:39.9)

lesson you tried to teach them to be safe?

(25:40.1 - 25:45.3)

Well, on the water, it's all about safety.

(25:51.2 - 25:52.7)

Like I said, all it takes is one

(25:52.7 - 25:54.8)

goof up and anybody could be done.

(25:54.8 - 25:59.6)

I've seen it happen in our mouth many of times.

(26:00.1 - 26:04.3)

We lost, I lost my son in \_\_\_\_\_\_ Just going

swimming.

(26:08.2 - 26:09.8)

That's why I said I should have throw him in

(26:09.8 - 26:11.5)

the water when he was just a little kid.

(26:11.9 - 26:13.7)

Maybe he would have learned to swim.

(26:13.9 - 26:15.7)

And he tried to learn when he got out

(26:15.7 - 26:19.0)

of high school, and that's too late you know? By then

(26:19.1 - 26:19.9)

you're scared of the water.

(26:20.0 - 26:21.7)

You'll always be scared of the water.

(26:23.6 - 26:26.0)

I mean, I teach my nephew, now you go

(26:26.0 - 26:29.7)

play in the water, but he's only two.

(26:30.4 - 26:31.8)

He loves to go in the water, but

(26:31.8 - 26:33.6)

I told him, no, water is dangerous.

(26:33.8 - 26:35.9)

He understands that I don't go play.

(26:36.0 - 26:39.2)

I let him go throw rocks in the water, and

(26:39.2 - 26:41.4)

I’ll teach him how to drive a boat.

(26:42.5 - 26:46.4)

I don't teach too many other family people, family

members,

(26:46.8 - 26:50.0)

how to take care of themselves, because I'm usually

the

(26:50.0 - 26:52.4)

one that's driving the boat anyway, so I'm there.

(26:54.8 - 26:59.4)

Why would I want to teach somebody how to drive a

boat?

(26:59.5 - 27:00.6)

It's a dangerous job.

(27:00.7 - 27:01.6)

I've done it.

(27:03.0 - 27:04.8)

I drove a boat from here to Bristol Bay.

(27:04.8 - 27:07.3)

I drove that boat back from Bristol Bay to here.

(27:08.2 - 27:09.5)

I drove a boat from here to

(27:09.5 - 27:13.7)

Russian Mission and drive it back.

(27:16.2 - 27:18.3)

Long boat rides.

 Yeah.

(27:19.4 – 27:23.5)

Three days to Bristol Bay, two days to Russian

Mission.

(27:24.5 - 27:25.6)

That was fun.

(27:26.7 - 27:29.9)

I said it's all about safety. For me it was always

about safety. My parents lived a long life out in

the ocean. But they travelled from Elim, Nome,

Koyuk, Shaktoolik, Unalakleet. And always back

up. Every year, we’d go camping.

(27:30.0 - 27:49.7)

It was all about food.

(27:50.5 - 27:52.2)

Go get some herring eggs there.

(27:52.2 - 27:55.3)

Go get some trout from there.

(27:55.4 - 27:57.4)

Just to go visit relatives.

(27:58.6 - 27:59.8)

They're camping over there.

(27:59.9 - 28:02.6)

Well, let's go camp with them for a week.

Yeah.

(28:06.3 – 28:10.3)

Can you think about an opener that sticks

(28:10.3 - 28:15.1)

out in your mind and describe the weather…

(28:16.4 - 28:20.2)

Well, for herring it was an eight-hour period.

(28:20.3 - 28:23.5)

We had the pilot and she put us on the fish.

(28:23.6 - 28:25.6)

Well, we got our $7,000 tons

(28:25.6 - 28:29.0)

in 8 hours, the whole fleet.

(28:31.1 - 28:34.8)

So it was nice to be done

(28:34.8 - 28:39.1)

in 8 hours and season is over.

(28:40.9 - 28:43.1)

Clean up the boat, put it away, we're done.

(28:43.5 - 28:45.5)

Happy to be out there for only

(28:45.5 - 28:47.1)

8 hours instead of a week,

(28:47.2 – 28:4

two weeks, because it just costs

(28:49.7 - 28:51.2)

you more money,

(28:51.9 - 28:55.6)

One week versus 8 hours.

Yeah.

(28:55.7 – 28:59.2)

So you don't spend as much money, I guess.

(29:01.6 - 29:04.6)

What were you wearing on that trip?

(29:05.4 - 29:07.9)

I never put on a life jacket, but there was

always

(29:08.0 - 29:14.7)

so many tenders and other herring boats

that were around.

(29:15.9 - 29:19.5)

Everybody was aware of who was, you

 always kept an eye

(29:19.5 - 29:22.1)

out for who was loaded [lots of fish in boat]

 and you always kept an eye

(29:22.1 - 29:27.3)

out for somebody who was, you know?

For some odd reason

(29:27.4 - 29:28.9)

safety was always the number one

(29:28.9 - 29:30.8)

thing throughout the whole fleet.

(29:31.2 - 29:35.1)

We didn't want to lose anybody locally,

but we've seen

(29:35.2 - 29:42.0)

where divers went diving into a purse

sein and never come back up.

(29:42.1 - 29:45.2)

Well, that's diving for you. They were

purse seining and their net

(29:49.2 - 29:50.8)

got stuck on a rock and

(29:50.8 - 29:53.2)

he thought he can go loosen it.

(29:53.4 - 29:55.1)

He never made it back up.

(29:56.6 - 29:57.9)

Was that out here?

Mhm.

(29:59.0 - 30:00.3)

Was that a local person?

(30:00.4 - 30:02.4)

No, they were outsiders.

(30:02.5 - 30:07.5)

What do you guys do then?

(30:08.8 - 30:11.7)

What do you do to try to feel safer out on the water?

(30:12.0 - 30:15.0)

You said one thing you mentioned was being aware

(30:15.0 - 30:16.9)

of other both that could pick you up.

(30:17.4 - 30:20.5)

Well, I was just aware of who's doing what.

(30:20.9 - 30:22.2)

It's being aware.

(30:23.4 - 30:26.6)

Some people just don't pay attention.

(30:26.8 - 30:28.4)

They just keep doing what they're doing.

(30:28.5 - 30:31.1)

And you got to pay attention

(30:31.2 - 30:32.5)

when you're out in the ocean.

(30:36.6 - 30:39.7)

No, I got 50 years of boating around in

Norton Sound, so.

(30:42.8 - 30:44.1)

What kind of things do you pay attention to?

(30:47.6 - 30:49.7)

Which way the wind is going to blow from.

(30:49.9 - 30:53.4)

Where is the storm gonna come from. Very

important.

(30:53.5 - 30:54.5)

I mean, you can go into the

(30:54.5 - 30:55.5)

waves or you can come with them.

(30:55.5 - 30:58.9)

Otherwise there's places in Norton Sound

where you literally

(30:59.0 - 31:01.2)

can't go to the beach because it's too rough.

(31:01.8 - 31:04.0)

So you need to pay attention to where you're

(31:04.0 - 31:07.3)

at and which way the storm is coming from.

(31:11.2 - 31:13.4)

I've always paid attention to the weather because

(31:13.5 - 31:16.5)

it's what I do when I take a

(31:16.5 - 31:18.0)

snow machine out in the middle of winter.

(31:18.1 - 31:19.6)

You got to know where you're going.

(31:21.0 - 31:23.5)

Same thing in the summertime, fog rolls in.

(31:23.7 - 31:25.3)

You got to know where you're going.

(31:28.7 - 31:31.3)

The best one for me is what my uncle told me.

(31:31.5 - 31:35.0)

The sun always rises in the east and sets in the west.

(31:36.2 - 31:37.7)

Can't go wrong there.

(31:39.0 - 31:40.8)

Whether it's in the middle of the summer or

(31:40.9 - 31:42.9)

middle of the winter, the sun still rises in

(31:42.9 - 31:44.5)

the east and sets in the west.

(31:46.4 - 31:48.3)

And that's basically what saved me a few

(31:48.3 - 31:51.6)

times, just knowing that, hey, it's setting.

(31:51.8 - 31:56.2)

I know that's west. Or it’s rising.

(31:56.2 - 31:57.2)

I know I got to go that way.

(31:57.2 - 31:58.5)

That's the way home is.

(31:58.9 - 32:03.3)

I floated in ice middle of when

(32:03.4 - 32:05.4)

we’re hunting, camping for the night.

(32:05.4 - 32:06.9)

Get up next morning and it’s [the ice] torn apart.

(32:07.0 - 32:10.4)

Well, we’ve got a prevailing north

(32:10.4 - 32:12.8)

wind, the sun rises in the east.

(32:13.4 - 32:15.0)

We knew we got to start coming from the

(32:15.0 - 32:17.3)

south, so we know we should have south wind.

(32:17.5 - 32:20.5)

Common sense little things that people

(32:20.6 - 32:22.4)

should pay attention to, I guess.

(32:27.8 - 32:30.4)

Can you think back to a specific event?

(32:31.9 - 32:34.4)

It could be the one you already talked about,

where

(32:34.5 - 32:38.5)

you fell or jumped overboard, or a different

one, but

(32:38.6 - 32:41.5)

an event that seemed dangerous and described

what happened.

(32:43.9 - 32:48.0)

Well, I've seen where people loaded their

herring boats

(32:48.1 - 32:51.6)

too much and literally take one wave and the

(32:51.6 - 32:58.5)

boat sinks. You overload your boat or

you're too

(32:58.6 - 33:00.6)

choppy to get to the tender.

(33:01.1 - 33:04.1)

I've seen guys literally sink their boats.

(33:06.3 - 33:08.6)

Me, I've been lucky enough that I haven't.

(33:09.0 - 33:11.3)

We were always, captain and myself, we're

(33:11.3 - 33:15.0)

always a little cautious, but we're

(33:15.0 - 33:17.3)

always aware of watching other people.

(33:19.6 - 33:21.9)

That's just part of survival in Alaska, I guess.

(33:22.0 - 33:24.3)

You always keeping an eye on somebody else.

(33:26.6 - 33:29.0)

What did you learn then, from that boat that

you saw capsize?

(33:32.1 - 33:34.4)

Well, they overloaded their boat.

(33:37.2 - 33:38.8)

They got a little greedy.

(33:39.1 - 33:40.6)

One more ton of herring.

(33:41.0 - 33:43.4)

That's common sense little things.

(33:50.8 - 33:54.2)

How did you feel emotionally after that?

(33:56.2 - 33:59.3)

Well, it was just scary for me, for the people

(33:59.4 - 34:06.3)

that were in the water, because there was

already people

(34:06.4 - 34:09.0)

there helping them out, pull out the gas tanks,

pulling

(34:09.0 - 34:12.0)

out whatever they could, drag the line over

to the

(34:12.0 - 34:14.8)

tender and the tender would literally lift the

whole boat

(34:14.8 - 34:17.6)

out of the water, dump it all and get them

(34:17.7 - 34:18.7)

back up and running.

(34:19.6 - 34:21.0)

But it was quite an experience to

(34:21.0 - 34:23.3)

see boats go under, literally, people floating.

(34:23.5 - 34:25.1)

But they had their life jackets, and there

(34:25.1 - 34:27.4)

was other boats around, so they were literally

(34:27.5 - 34:29.1)

picking the people out of the water.

(34:33.6 - 34:40.0)

It was just the idea that a little more common

sense and it wouldn't have happened, you know?

Right. It could have been avoided.

(34:43.9 - 34:46.2)

Yeah, it could have been avoided many times.

(34:49.0 - 34:51.9)

I lost quite a bit of friends to the

(34:51.9 - 34:56.1)

ocean, but that's just the way life is.

(34:56.7 - 34:59.8)

You live by the ocean, well, you're gonna lose a few.

(35:01.6 - 35:03.7)

You know, back in our day, when I was growing

(35:03.7 - 35:06.5)

up, we had a pool, which is a good thing.

(35:07.1 - 35:09.3)

We jump in a pool and we know we weren't drowning.

(35:09.3 - 35:10.9)

There's always somebody there.

(35:11.6 - 35:14.3)

There is no pool that the kids can go jump into,

(35:14.3 - 35:18.7)

but there's a whole beach of water, a whole river of water.

(35:20.2 - 35:21.7)

It's not like a pool.

(35:21.9 - 35:24.4)

It's you jump in maybe the current will take you away.

(35:24.5 - 35:26.4)

There is no current in the pool.

(35:27.7 - 35:29.3)

There's lots of current in the ocean,

(35:29.4 - 35:31.0)

lots of current in the river.

(35:36.5 - 35:39.9)

Can you describe if physical or

(35:39.9 - 35:43.9)

emotional conditions were difficult with fishing,

(35:44.8 - 35:46.8)

how did you manage morale or positive attitude?

(35:49.0 - 35:53.2)

Well, I guess when you do a lot of picking

(35:53.3 - 36:00.1)

your hands, get, they get locked, so they're

no more good.

(36:00.7 - 36:02.9)

You can't grab onto stuff no more.

(36:05.8 - 36:12.9)

It was just like I said, being aware.

(36:14.0 - 36:16.0)

My family was always aware.

(36:21.9 - 36:28.2)

Uncles, Dad, brothers, always paying attention

to

(36:28.2 - 36:29.7)

what somebody else is doing.

(36:31.0 - 36:32.3)

That way, you know, if they're going

(36:32.3 - 36:34.7)

to fall over if they need help.

(36:37.2 - 36:39.5)

It was fun, I enjoyed it.

(36:41.2 - 36:42.9)

I'm still driving the ocean today.

(36:43.0 - 36:44.5)

I'm the only one that drives the boat.

(36:44.5 - 36:47.6)

Everybody else is just, I don’t let nobody else

drive the boat.

(36:47.7 - 36:50.2)

Not when it comes to my life on the line.

(36:50.8 - 36:53.0)

I'll take the wheel over in a heartbeat.

(36:54.4 - 36:57.8)

I have lots of experience out in the ocean.

(37:01.2 - 37:03.6)

Can you describe anything that makes you feel

(37:03.6 - 37:05.4)

unsafe when you're out on the water?

(37:08.9 - 37:12.1)

Yeah, having a broken down motor. That’s the

only thing that would

(37:12.1 - 37:15.2)

make it unsafe is not being able to be mobile.

(37:17.0 - 37:18.4)

There were times we've done that.

(37:18.4 - 37:20.7)

Well, you pull out the old sail and try

(37:20.7 - 37:23.4)

to get to the beach, build a sail.

(37:26.0 - 37:27.4)

Have you ever had to do that?

(37:27.6 - 37:29.9)

Oh a couple of times, just to get to the beach.

(37:35.5 - 37:36.2)

Did it work well?

(37:36.2 - 37:38.7)

What did you use for sails?

(37:38.8 - 37:42.3)

Well, we always carry a tarp. You always carry

(37:42.4 - 37:44.2)

an oar, you always got rope in your boat,

(37:44.3 - 37:46.3)

so you can always rig something up.

(37:47.9 - 37:49.2)

Common sense, little things.

(37:49.3 - 37:52.2)

You always carry something you push your

boat out with.

(37:52.7 - 37:54.8)

Always carry extra lines.

(37:55.0 - 37:57.0)

If you can't reach the bottom with the anchor, you

(37:57.0 - 37:59.8)

can add on more lines to anchor yourself out.

(38:02.7 – 38:06.5)

So in terms of the common sense, keeping

(38:06.5 - 38:08.6)

certain things on your boat, can you list

(38:08.7 - 38:11.2)

those?

Well, we've always had a life ring

(38:11.3 - 38:14.0)

and everybody supported it according to them.

(38:14.5 - 38:17.8)

Not all of us follow the rules, but everybody

(38:17.8 - 38:20.6)

that I run into now has a life jacket

(38:23.0 - 38:25.2)

for everybody aboard, but it's just a matter of

(38:25.2 - 38:27.2)

the captain telling them to put them on.

(38:27.3 - 38:29.1)

“You should be wearing your life jacket.”

(38:30.0 - 38:33.2)

And they'll look at me like, ‘why do I have

(38:33.3 - 38:35.7)

to put one on it when you're not wearing one?”

(38:37.2 - 38:38.1)

Good point.

(38:38.2 - 38:42.9)

Well, I feel safer if I don't have to worry about it.

(38:43.1 - 38:45.4)

If I got to wear one, something's wrong.

(38:47.9 - 38:49.3)

You know what I'm trying to say?

(38:51.3 - 38:53.8)

I'm aware of it, it's there.

(38:55.2 - 38:59.5)

But if I gotta wear it, I'm

(38:59.6 - 39:02.4)

getting into situations that I shouldn't be in.

(39:05.8 - 39:08.5)

What situation would you put one on?

(39:10.3 - 39:14.7)

Well, I knew if my motor was broke down

and it was

(39:15.2 - 39:20.9)

blowing and spraying because spray I've

been out in the ocean where

(39:21.6 - 39:26.0)

I come back home and I'm one inch of solid

ice, but that

(39:26.0 - 39:29.5)

was my fault, doing stuff I shouldn't be doing.

(39:35.3 - 39:38.8)

Do you think the Norton Sound has conditions

that

(39:38.9 - 39:45.4)

are... or challenges or dangers compared to

other areas that are worse?

(39:55.5 - 39:57.1)

Norton Sound can get a lot of weather.

(39:59.0 - 40:04.4)

Like I said, I've seen Norton Sound get 25 foot

waves and I've seen Norton Sound

(40:04.6 - 40:13.2)

glass calm. So you don't pay attention to

the weather,

(40:13.2 - 40:14.7)

I guess it can get anybody.

(40:15.5 - 40:19.5)

I'm very observant. Got to be.

(40:21.7 - 40:23.0)

Because if I want to go to St.

(40:23.0 - 40:25.3)

Michael and if it’s blowing north wind, I don't

want to

(40:25.3 - 40:29.5)

go, because north wind down there is 35

foot ways because

(40:29.5 - 40:33.9)

they got the deep water port, whereas if it's

a north wind,

(40:34.0 - 40:35.9)

I don't mind going to Shaktoolik because

I know I can

(40:35.9 - 40:40.2)

follow the coast and there ain't no north

wind to bring

(40:40.2 - 40:42.6)

me the waves up, so it's all good, but as soon

(40:42.7 - 40:45.4)

as you get a west wind or southwest, all these little

(40:45.5 - 40:48.7)

communities got to face these bigger waters.

(40:52.3 - 40:56.5)

Now, did you learn all that from your own

experience going out,

(40:57.9 - 41:00.8)

or did some of that also get passed on to you?

(41:02.1 - 41:05.7)

Well, like I said, mom and dad did a lot

of camping,

(41:05.8 - 41:10.6)

so as soon as school got out, where were? Out camping

(41:11.3 - 41:12.6)

somewhere along the coast.

(41:12.6 - 41:15.3)

So dad had a lot to do with it.

(41:15.6 - 41:18.2)

Dad taught me the do's and don'ts of

(41:18.4 - 41:22.3)

the ocean. Don't do this, don't do that.

(41:23.0 - 41:25.1)

Can you remember an example? Don’t do…?

(41:27.5 - 41:31.0)

Well, like when we come out, like Denbigh, you don't

(41:31.0 - 41:34.3)

go right next to the coastline when it's rough.

(41:34.4 - 41:36.8)

You get out into the deeper water where there

(41:36.8 - 41:40.5)

aren’t two waves coming at you because you're so

(41:40.6 - 41:43.4)

far away from the breakers, that the wave...

(41:43.6 - 41:45.3)

Like at Denbigh, you see waves,

(41:45.4 - 41:47.1)

one wave going to the beach and one wave

coming off the beach [claps his hands].

(41:47.2 - 41:49.7)

They make a

(41:49.7 - 41:52.3)

single [wave] that can lift you a little out of

(41:52.3 - 41:55.4)

water and you're going to go either way.

(41:55.7 - 41:57.7)

Depends on where the boat is going to fall.

(41:59.8 - 42:02.0)

So, like I said, it's a lot

(42:03.1 - 42:04.9)

from my point of view is experience.

(42:05.1 - 42:08.1)

My dad had lots of experiences

(42:08.2 - 42:10.9)

and he's basically do's and don'ts.

(42:16.4 - 42:19.2)

Have you gotten any injuries while fishing

(42:19.3 - 42:20.7)

that stand out in your mind?

(42:23.3 - 42:24.8)

No, none really.

(42:26.7 - 42:28.5)

It's just tough on your knee joints

(42:28.5 - 42:30.0)

because you got to keep your balance.

(42:30.6 - 42:35.7)

You're always rocking, so it's

(42:36.4 - 42:38.1)

really tough on the body.

(42:38.5 - 42:39.3)

The motion?

(42:39.3 - 42:41.1)

Just the motion, just trying to keep your

(42:41.2 - 42:42.9)

balance, trying to keep you upright.

(42:43.0 – 42:44.2)

It's a lot of work.

Is that harder for set netting or is it

equal to all three?

(42:51.7 - 42:53.2)

Well, it depends on the weather.

(42:53.3 - 42:55.0)

It's equal to all three.

(42:55.7 - 43:01.5)

Although herring time, we’d never,

because it's springtime,

(43:01.5 - 43:03.3)

it's usually calm water.

(43:03.4 - 43:09.0)

Now we fish towards salmon season

and the fall weather

(43:09.1 - 43:13.3)

comes in, so it could be worse than

the springtime

(43:13.3 - 43:16.8)

because springtime is so calm and fall

time is usually

(43:16.9 - 43:19.4)

storm after a storm coming in.

(43:27.0 - 43:29.6)

Can you think back to how much sleep

(43:29.7 - 43:31.6)

you would get while you were fishing?

(43:31.7 - 43:32.8)

How much what?

Sleep

(43:35.5 - 43:37.1)

For set netting, you didn't stay overnight?

(43:39.4 - 43:41.9)

For salmon set net, usually, like I said,

we set up about six.

(43:43.1 - 43:45.5)

If the fish is good we might go all night.

(43:45.9 - 43:47.9)

It depends on if the fishing is good.

(43:47.9 - 43:49.1)

If we want to make money and

(43:49.1 - 43:50.2)

fishing is good, we're out there.

(43:50.2 - 43:53.6)

If there's no fish we let the net do its thing.

(43:53.7 - 43:54.8)

It's fishing.

(43:55.4 - 43:56.8)

It's not like we got to be there,

(43:56.9 - 43:59.3)

but if there's fish we're usually right there.

(43:59.4 - 44:02.6)

We want the fish, we want quality.

(44:05.3 - 44:07.7)

You leave your net in, you leave your

fish in for 12 hours, you

(44:07.7 - 44:11.3)

got a little less quality because they're still

(44:11.7 - 44:13.4)

alive trying to get out of the net.

(44:16.6 - 44:20.3)

There's no sleeping on the boat for set netting?

(44:20.3 - 44:23.3)

Very little. If you did it's a ten-minute nap

(44:23.4 - 44:25.7)

here, a ten-minute nap there. There's nothing there.

(44:25.8 - 44:29.4)

You don't got no bunks, you got an open skiff.

(44:31.6 - 44:34.3)

Can you think back to the crab boat and

(44:34.3 - 44:36.8)

how much sleep you would typically get?

(44:37.0 - 44:42.0)

Well, like I said, it's a six hour drive out so

(44:42.5 - 44:46.0)

whoever was at the wheel don't get no sleep

and everybody

(44:46.1 - 44:49.8)

else is sleeping because we know we got a

long day

(44:49.8 - 44:54.0)

ahead of us because you got 4 hours of

pulling, then

(44:54.0 - 44:57.3)

you got another 6 hours of driving back

and it could

(44:57.4 - 45:03.2)

be struggling, but it was always pretty

complex because we were

(45:03.2 - 45:07.9)

always weather watching, we knew when

to go out, common sense

(45:07.9 - 45:12.9)

little things that all of us were aware of.

(45:13.0 - 45:15.3)

We always timed it together, we always

talked about

(45:15.4 - 45:18.2)

it. When is a good time to go out?

Just you as a crew or with other boats?

(45:24.7 - 45:28.1)

Just as us as a crew we would all talk

together

(45:28.2 - 45:29.5)

every once in a while we might

run into a

(45:29.5 - 45:34.1)

couple of boats, but we don't want

them to know

(45:34.2 - 45:36.5)

how well we're doing so we stay away

from everybody, laughs.

(45:42.9 - 45:44.4)

You kind of mentioned this a little

(45:44.5 - 45:46.1)

bit with your hand, but were there

(45:46.1 - 45:49.4)

any other health challenges related to fishing?

(45:51.5 - 45:54.2)

Well what do you use?

(45:54.4 - 45:56.7)

Cramping is about the only thing that I

can think of.

(45:57.4 - 46:03.5)

Your hands get locked, especially like in

Bristol

(46:03.6 - 46:07.3)

Bay. You’re picking 40,000 pounds in

8 hours.

(46:07.5 - 46:10.6)

That's a lot of picking, but the more fish you

(46:10.6 - 46:14.5)

pick the bigger you check was, so I just kept

picking.

(46:21.7 - 46:25.2)

So when you're on land, what kind of things

(46:25.3 - 46:28.6)

would you do to prepare for a fishing trip?

(46:30.3 - 46:33.0)

Well make sure that you got no water in the

boat,

(46:33.2 - 46:36.9)

no water in the gas, because as soon as

you get water

(46:37.0 - 46:41.1)

in your fuel tanks, you're dead in the

water and you

(46:41.2 - 46:42.8)

don't want to be dead in the water out in the

(46:42.8 - 46:48.8)

ocean. When something breaks down and

you got to get towed

(46:48.8 - 46:56.1)

home and you got to call for help. But there

was always somebody who knew exactly where

 we were.

(46:58.4 - 47:03.1)

We always thought, well we're going to be out

72 miles, we're going

(47:03.1 - 47:07.0)

6 hours back, so expect us back in 12 hours.

(47:07.4 - 47:11.7)

I always let somebody know, family where we're at,

how long

(47:11.7 - 47:13.9)

it's going to take us to get there and come back.

(47:27.1 - 47:31.3)

Did friends and family help prepare you or help you

prepare

(47:31.4 - 47:34.1)

for a trip or help support you in any way?

(47:34.3 - 47:36.5)

While you were on land before you went out?

(47:37.2 - 47:39.9)

As I got older, it was all me.

(47:40.0 - 47:43.4)

Mom and dad were doing their things, doing what

moms and

(47:43.4 - 47:46.4)

dads do, put away food and take care of the home.

(47:46.7 - 47:48.2)

That's what mom and dad did.

(47:48.4 - 47:50.0)

If they didn't have to go out, they just:

(47:51.3 - 47:54.3)

“son I want ten fish”. Send you out the door.

(47:54.9 - 47:56.8)

That's what moms and dads are for.

(47:57.9 - 48:00.1)

Tell you what they want, when to go.

(48:02.3 - 48:05.7)

What about resources in town that

(48:05.7 - 48:07.2)

helped make fishing more safe?

(48:07.2 - 48:09.4)

Were there places to get safety gear?

(48:09.5 - 48:11.0)

Places to get training?

(48:14.8 - 48:16.6)

Well we, throughout my career, like I said,

there's always been classes.

(48:16.7 - 48:19.3)

It's just a matter of if you want to go to or not.

(48:19.5 - 48:21.1)

It was by your choice.

(48:23.1 - 48:24.8)

The only reason I went to all these safety

(48:24.8 - 48:29.9)

classes was because I was always, I guess, on

(48:30.0 - 48:32.2)

a tender boat, driving a boat. You needed to

be certified.

(48:34.2 - 48:35.8)

Well, my point of view, I need to be

(48:35.9 - 48:39.7)

certified to have my deck hand be on board.

(48:40.5 - 48:41.7)

If I knew CPR,

(48:41.7 - 48:44.9)

well, then I'm one plus on that.

(48:46.8 - 48:51.3)

If you know how to do other things medical,

(48:51.5 - 48:53.5)

you're a plus on the boat because there ain't

(48:53.6 - 48:55.8)

nobody that's going to help you on the boat.

(48:55.9 - 49:00.5)

When you're out there by yourself, you got to learn to

(49:01.1 - 49:05.9)

take the initiative and get back, become safe again.

(49:06.8 - 49:10.5)

Help somebody, whatever you have to do.

(49:12.1 - 49:14.7)

Bandage them up, stabilize them.

(49:15.7 - 49:16.8)

It's crazy.

(49:21.6 - 49:24.4)

When you were out on these trips, were

(49:24.4 - 49:26.3)

you able to communicate with people on land?

(49:26.5 - 49:27.9)

Like if there was an emergency?

(49:28.0 - 49:31.6)

Yeah, we had a VHF, we always had it.

(49:31.8 - 49:35.2)

We had SSB, single side band, too on the boat.

(49:36.9 - 49:41.8)

But nowadays a satellite phone is just satellite phone.

(49:44.3 – 49:45.9)

Inreach?

No, a satellite phone.

(49:49.7 - 49:52.2)

For set net, did you have both of those?

No.

(49:52.8 - 49:54.3)

I mean, you're so close to the beach, all

(49:54.3 - 49:58.5)

you might have is your cell phone,

(49:59.3 - 50:01.7)

but that will reach out 26 miles.

(50:01.9 - 50:04.0)

So that works for you?

Yes.

(50:06.6 - 50:08.5)

And you're always driving by somebody else.

(50:08.6 - 50:10.6)

There are 60 permits here locally.

(50:10.7 - 50:15.5)

So, there's always a boat within sight.

(50:20.7 - 50:25.5)

Do you ever ask for local tips or

(50:25.5 - 50:28.6)

weather from other fishermen before you go out?

No.

(50:31.2 - 50:35.8)

You literally rely on yourself and your partners

because you're the

(50:35.9 - 50:38.6)

ones that’s got to go out and do the work.

(50:40.0 - 50:43.0)

Your neighbor might know what the weather is going on, but

(50:43.0 - 50:45.3)

he or she's not going to be out there either.

(50:47.0 - 50:49.2)

Sometimes you just got to learn to don't rely

(50:49.2 - 50:51.5)

on nobody and just learn to rely on yourself

(50:51.6 - 50:53.5)

because you're the only one that's out there.

(50:53.5 - 50:55.9)

There's nobody else out there.

Yeah.

(50:58.3 - 51:02.4)

If you were to communicate a message of help, either

(51:02.5 - 51:06.1)

on your cell phone or the radio or the satellite

(51:06.1 - 51:10.2)

phone, what do you think the response time would be

(51:10.3 - 51:13.2)

for someone to help you in those situations?

(51:13.3 - 51:17.8)

Well, it depends on communication.

(51:18.0 - 51:19.4)

If you can get a communication,

(51:19.4 - 51:20.7)

then it don't take too long.

(51:20.8 - 51:25.2)

But if you don't have no communications and

it's people looking

(51:25.3 - 51:27.6)

for you, is what it's going to come down to.

(51:28.8 - 51:30.0)

And if they don't know where

(51:30.1 - 51:33.3)

you're at, it could be days.

(51:36.2 - 51:37.9)

Although it's another six-hour flight

(51:37.9 - 51:39.0)

for the Coast Guard to come flying up here

(51:39.0 - 51:44.3)

from Kodiak. That ain't no small flight.

(51:44.5 - 51:46.4)

That's quite a ways down there.

(51:47.5 - 51:49.1)

And it ain't cheap either.

(51:50.3 - 51:54.8)

I've heard people where they, the beacon goes up

(51:54.9 - 51:56.8)

and they don't know the beacon's going off.

(51:57.5 - 52:00.2)

Well, coast guard come flying right over.

(52:01.7 - 52:03.5)

Your beacons on. Wow.

(52:04.3 - 52:05.8)

Who pays for that flight?

(52:05.9 - 52:07.3)

For a boat not going down?

(52:07.4 - 52:08.6)

But the beacon’s on.

(52:10.2 - 52:14.5)

There's got to be a $20,000 airplane ride

just for the

(52:14.5 - 52:19.1)

coast guard to get off the ground, come

out here and fly back.

(52:22.3 - 52:24.2)

That's a long way to go fly.

(52:24.7 - 52:25.9)

Then you got to talk with the

(52:25.9 - 52:28.8)

local people before you even start searching.

(52:28.9 - 52:30.9)

Well, you can communicate by then.

(52:30.9 - 52:37.0)

They got communications going. But the cell phone

(52:37.1 - 52:39.7)

has brought so much, so much easier.

(52:39.7 - 52:43.2)

You can just put it on a stick and raise it up 5 feet.

(52:43.2 - 52:45.0)

You get another 5 miles.

(52:46.2 - 52:49.2)

We've seen people do that. “Help.”

(52:50.2 - 52:51.8)

You can't hear the help.

(52:51.9 - 52:53.5)

You don't know they need help.

(52:54.2 - 53:01.3)

So you put it on a stick to get some signal.

(53:04.1 - 53:06.9)

If you're were to call with your cell phone,

(53:07.4 - 53:09.9)

would family or friends be able to come out?

(53:11.0 - 53:13.2)

Usually you call your best buddy because

(53:13.2 - 53:15.5)

your best buddy is usually right there.

(53:15.9 - 53:17.4)

He's coming to get you.

(53:18.4 - 53:22.3)

I don't rely on family and too

(53:22.4 - 53:27.9)

much is because they're in stress already.

(53:27.9 - 53:29.0)

Why put them in more stress?

(53:29.0 - 53:31.5)

You call your buddy who knows exactly where

(53:31.6 - 53:33.4)

you are and where you're going, because you

(53:33.5 - 53:35.5)

always tell your best buddy where you're going.

(53:39.6 - 53:40.8)

That's all you want to do.

(53:41.0 - 53:44.2)

I would never call my father to put them in

danger. No.

(53:44.3 - 53:45.8)

You guys stay home and I'll deal

(53:45.8 - 53:47.3)

with what I got to deal with.

(53:51.0 - 53:52.4)

How many times have you had to do

(53:52.4 - 53:54.5)

that where you had to call a friend, call

your buddy?

(53:57.7 - 53:58.9)

At least twice.

(53:59.6 - 54:04.7)

Run out of gas 5 miles from home, east

wind’s blowing.

(54:04.8 - 54:05.7)

What do you do?

(54:07.5 - 54:08.7)

Go call my buddy.

(54:08.8 - 54:10.4)

Bring me five gallons of gas.

(54:12.3 - 54:13.6)

You thought you had everything.

(54:13.7 - 54:15.2)

You thought you brought enough gas.

(54:15.3 - 54:16.6)

Sometimes you don't.

(54:17.2 - 54:18.3)

You don't know if you're going to go

(54:18.3 - 54:24.2)

around the corner if something breaks down and

(54:24.2 - 54:25.3)

you blow up a little further.

(54:25.3 - 54:27.0)

And by the time you just had to come back

(54:27.1 - 54:31.3)

home, get it running, you're 5-10 miles off the beach.

(54:39.4 - 54:42.2)

What's the longest you've been out on the water?

(54:44.2 - 54:45.3)

Oh, jee wiz.

(54:45.4 - 54:55.2)

I see probably three days.

(54:57.7 - 54:59.6)

And that was in relation to

(54:59.6 - 55:03.4)

my Oogruk hunting, catching my seal.

(55:05.0 - 55:06.8)

Just go to the pack, I said.

(55:07.6 - 55:10.3)

It never gets rough out there, so not during the

(55:10.3 - 55:12.9)

pack ice, but it can get stuck in the ice.

(55:14.1 - 55:20.0)

So three days

What type of fishing?

Just to catch

(55:20.0 - 55:24.4)

our subsistence food.

(55:27.2 - 55:28.5)

Does it feel like a long time

(55:28.5 - 55:30.5)

being out, or does it feel comfortable?

(55:31.1 - 55:34.8)

Well, I was comfortable because I had plenty of gas.

(55:34.9 - 55:35.8)

We had plenty of food.

(55:35.9 - 55:36.9)

We had water.

(55:37.3 - 55:39.7)

We had all the survival equipment we needed.

(55:39.8 - 55:41.7)

We're out there because we wanted

(55:41.7 - 55:43.7)

to catch the animal we're after.

(55:48.5 - 55:50.0)

Who are you out there with?

(55:51.4 - 55:54.6)

My two best buddies. My hunting partners.

(55:54.6 - 55:55.8)

I call them my hunting partners.

(55:55.8 - 55:58.3)

We've been hunting for 45 years at

(55:58.3 - 56:04.1)

least, and we know each other's moves.

(56:04.2 - 56:05.2)

I can look at him.

(56:05.2 - 56:07.6)

I know where he's going and what he's going to do.

(56:07.7 - 56:09.9)

I just can read his mind.

(56:11.4 - 56:13.3)

When you hang out with friends for that long,

(56:13.3 - 56:15.3)

you know exactly what they're going to do and

(56:15.5 - 56:17.1)

how are they going to do it.

(56:18.9 - 56:20.7)

So every now and then you give advice.

(56:20.8 - 56:21.5)

You should do it this way.

(56:21.6 - 56:22.8)

Make it a little quicker.

(56:23.0 - 56:24.1)

It helps out.

(56:24.2 - 56:25.8)

Everybody pitches in.

(56:28.3 - 56:30.0)

Were there ever crew members that you

(56:30.0 - 56:31.6)

had a difficult time getting along with

(56:31.6 - 56:35.3)

or long time on the water fishing?

(56:36.9 - 56:40.3)

Well, I guess there was only one trip.

(56:40.3 - 56:44.3)

I had my brother, and I had my best buddy, and they

(56:44.3 - 56:48.8)

were my deck hands, and them two never saw eye to eye.

(56:48.8 - 56:51.4)

So, yeah, there was a quarreling in the boat.

(56:51.6 - 56:55.2)

Me being the skipper, I just said, well, drop what

(56:55.2 - 56:57.4)

you guys are doing; I’m bringing the boat back home.

(56:57.5 - 57:00.2)

That's all I need you guys to do, is fight on deck.

(57:04.3 - 57:05.9)

They looked at me and said, what?

(57:06.0 - 57:07.4)

I said, I’m bringing you guys back home,

(57:07.4 - 57:09.2)

I don't need this on my deck.

(57:10.2 - 57:12.2)

I turned the boat, started coming back home, and

(57:12.2 - 57:15.5)

they just sat down and looked at each other.

(57:15.6 - 57:16.6)

Hey, we'll work it out.

(57:16.6 - 57:18.3)

We'll work it out. Turn it around.

(57:18.3 - 57:19.4)

Went back to the spot, you

(57:19.4 - 57:21.5)

know, after that, they were good.

(57:21.6 - 57:26.1)

They had their disagreements, but they

(57:26.1 - 57:26.8)

had to make it work.

(57:26.9 - 57:28.1)

Otherwise, I wasn't going to take it.

(57:28.1 - 57:29.8)

I wasn't going to go fishing with me.

(57:29.9 - 57:31.8)

It's not worth it for me to hear two people

(57:31.8 - 57:34.0)

argue, ready to throw each other over the boat.

(57:34.2 - 57:35.5)

I'm the only one left the boat,

(57:35.5 - 57:36.8)

what am I supposed to do?

(57:39.7 - 57:46.2)

No, I mean, the captain should have the ultimate say.

(57:46.7 - 57:48.3)

He does have the ultimate say.

(57:48.4 - 57:50.0)

You’re staying or you're going.

(57:50.1 - 57:51.4)

I don't like you.

(57:52.1 - 57:53.8)

You're not worth it on the deck.

(57:55.7 - 57:57.7)

The captain's got to make that choice.

(58:01.9 - 58:03.8)

Can you think about the long

(58:03.9 - 58:07.2)

term effects of fishing on you? Physically?

Yeah.

(58:07.3 - 58:08.4)

Don't do it.

(58:08.6 - 58:09.9)

Your joints.

(58:10.3 - 58:11.9)

Every joint in your body will

(58:12.0 - 58:15.7)

pretty much ache. Elbow joints, knee joints.

(58:15.7 - 58:17.7)

from just trying to stay vertical.

(58:20.8 - 58:23.8)

And then pull in the nets, use every one of your

(58:23.8 - 58:27.0)

muscles, and when it gets dropped out, just trying to hold

(58:27.0 - 58:29.7)

on to the nets, you literally stretch your joints.

(58:31.0 - 58:33.3)

I would recommend don't do it.

Okay

(58:33.4 - 58:35.3)

It's not worth fishing. Subsistence, yeah.

(58:35.3 - 58:38.4)

But commercial, I wouldn’t do it mostly again.

(58:42.1 - 58:43.9)

What about emotionally?

(58:45.5 – 58:47.0)

It's the best job in the world.

(58:47.1 - 58:48.9)

I would be able to do it every day

(58:49.0 - 58:54.0)

if I could, but, I enjoy the outdoors.

(58:54.1 - 58:56.0)

You can't beat the outdoors.

(59:02.0 – 59:05.3)

And then would you say there's a

(59:05.3 - 59:07.5)

relationship spiritually for you, for fishing?

(59:07.7 - 59:09.3)

What's that?

Spiritually?

(59:12.1 - 59:14.2)

No, I was never scared.

(59:16.0 - 59:20.2)

Like I said, my parents raised me in the ocean, so

(59:21.0 - 59:23.6)

raised all of us in the ocean but me especially.

(59:25.2 - 59:26.6)

How many siblings did you have?

(59:30.2 - 59:32.3)

I had seven. Two sisters and five brothers and now

(59:32.3 - 59:33.7)

I'm down to one brother.

(59:35.7 - 59:37.9)

Your family taught you more?

(59:38.9 - 59:40.8)

It was my father and mother that

(59:42.5 - 59:44.8)

they were there to mentor me.

(59:44.9 - 59:49.3)

Do's and don'ts, you can go here, you can go there.

(59:54.3 – 59:57.0)

Can you think about the main differences

between

(59:57.1 - 60:00.2)

fishing in the past and fishing now?

(60:02.2 - 60:05.5)

It could help to think of fishing 20 years ago

and then maybe 40 years ago.

(60:06.1 - 60:09.5)

Well, 20 years ago well now we have no fish.

(60:09.7 - 60:11.7)

20 years ago we had a little bit of fish.

(60:11.8 - 60:14.3)

40 years ago we had abundance of fish.

(60:15.5 - 60:17.2)

Is the way I looked at it.

(60:22.9 - 60:24.4)

That was the trawlers.

(60:24.6 - 60:26.2)

Well the trawlers are killing our

(60:26.2 - 60:30.8)

fish and throwing them overboard.

(60:32.0 - 60:33.6)

And that's where people on the west

(60:33.7 - 60:38.8)

coast got to sacrifice our lives because somebody

(60:38.9 - 60:40.7)

else wants to make a dollar bill.

(60:41.6 - 60:43.6)

Come on, there's something wrong there.

(60:44.1 - 60:49.3)

We just want to eat and they're making money.

(60:52.1 - 60:54.5)

Of course that's all this world

(60:54.5 - 60:56.0)

is about is making money.

(61:07.4 - 61:10.5)

Are there any experiences that you think

others could

(61:10.5 - 61:17.1)

learn from that you had in addition to what

you've already shared?

(61:20.5 - 61:28.9)

Well, you got to love what you're doing

no matter what.

(61:29.0 - 61:30.5)

If you don't love what you're doing,

you shouldn't

(61:30.5 - 61:33.4)

be doing it because it's a dangerous job.

(61:37.6 - 61:39.2)

Some people are scared of the ocean.

(61:39.2 - 61:42.0)

Some people are scared of the land.

(61:42.0 - 61:44.1)

Some people are scared of the airplanes.

(61:44.8 - 61:49.2)

You got to be thankful of where

(61:49.2 - 61:50.7)

you are and what you're doing.

(61:50.9 - 61:52.5)

It's just the way it is.

(62:03.5 - 62:05.3)

Is there any knowledge you would like to share?

(62:05.4 - 62:08.7)

For other commercial fishermen in Norton Sound or

(62:08.7 - 62:14.0)

in Unalakleet?

They have the knowledge already.

(62:14.8 - 62:19.7)

A lot about people, know the do's

(62:19.7 - 62:25.5)

and don'ts, yet some people do it.

(62:29.0 - 62:30.9)

Maybe they think they're better than the ocean,

(62:30.9 - 62:33.0)

but the ocean will eventually beat them.

(62:35.3 - 62:37.7)

Ocean is one place you don't want to mess with.

(62:52.9 – 62:55.3)

You think it's difference by age too.

(62:56.0 – 62:58.5)

Well, as you get older you get more knowledge.

(62:58.6 - 63:00.0)

You know your do's and don'ts.

(63:00.0 - 63:02.5)

You know your can and cannots.

(63:03.0 - 63:04.9)

I can do this because the

(63:04.9 - 63:07.2)

weather is halfway decent for me.

(63:08.7 - 63:09.9)

You can't do that because you

(63:09.9 - 63:10.9)

know the weather is coming in.

(63:11.0 - 63:12.5)

After years of experience, you know

(63:12.5 - 63:14.2)

what you can and can't do.

(63:23.2 - 63:24.8)

Is there anything else you'd like to

(63:24.8 - 63:26.8)

add from what we talked about?

(63:31.3 - 63:35.9)

No, I just wish they would quit killing

so much of our fish.

(63:36.2 - 63:36.7)

And not let us, I don't know.

(63:36.8 - 63:40.2)

It's just weird that we as native people

(63:40.2 - 63:43.8)

can't even put fish on our table because

(63:43.8 - 63:45.8)

somebody else got to make a dollar first.

(63:48.2 - 63:52.7)

Like their dollar come before my stomach. Come on now.

(63:52.7 - 63:55.1)

The fish are coming from my river.

(63:55.2 - 63:59.3)

They're not coming from anywhere else but this river

(63:59.3 - 64:01.5)

and they're going out to go get bigger.

(64:01.6 - 64:03.3)

And you guys are just killing them before

(64:03.3 - 64:06.3)

they even and come back to feed me. [upset]

(64:08.4 - 64:10.0)

That's just a sad point.

(64:16.0 - 64:17.4)

What would they say if I

(64:17.4 - 64:19.3)

went and go kill all their cows?

(64:20.9 - 64:22.3)

They wouldn't like that.

(64:24.6 - 64:27.1)

I don't eat cow anyway, so it's all good.

(64:31.1 - 64:33.0)

Can you think of a good way?

(64:33.8 - 64:36.2)

Well, I guess there's two parts.

(64:36.4 - 64:38.8)

There are two themes kind of from what you shared.

(64:38.9 - 64:43.0)

There's fish being taken away from the

(64:43.1 - 64:47.4)

trawlers and then there's the safety aspect.

(64:48.1 - 64:51.1)

But for the subsistence and for

(64:51.9 - 64:55.0)

fish being taken away and killed.

(64:55.5 - 64:58.1)

Is there a good way that we could share that?

(65:00.7 - 65:02.5)

Can you think of a way I

(65:02.5 - 65:04.9)

can use that information to be helpful?

(65:06.4 - 65:08.8)

I wasn't expecting to talk about it,

(65:08.8 - 65:10.5)

but it's probably going to come up.

(65:10.7 - 65:12.2)

It's going to come up anyway.

(65:17.6 - 65:19.3)

I'm not killing the fish. [angry]

(65:22.1 - 65:26.0)

I'm losing out because I can't put food on my table.

(65:26.4 - 65:28.1)

But I'm not killing the fish.

(65:28.5 - 65:30.9)

I'm letting these fish go up river to spawn

(65:32.6 - 65:38.7)

sacrificing my traditional foods, so I shouldn't bring it

(65:38.7 - 65:39.9)

up, but I bought it up anyway.

(65:40.0 - 65:47.2)

It just irritates me that I should be able

(65:47.2 - 65:50.6)

to put five king salmon away instead of them destroying

(65:50.6 - 65:53.8)

them over boat in the Pacific Ocean.

(65:54.4 - 65:55.5)

That's sad.

(65:55.7 - 65:56.6)

Who do I take on?

(65:56.7 - 65:57.7)

The federal government?

(65:58.2 - 65:59.8)

The state of Alaska.

(66:01.6 - 66:02.6)

It's crazy.

(66:04.0 - 66:05.8)

Who do I sue for

(66:05.8 - 66:07.7)

my food is not coming to my table.

(66:08.5 - 66:10.0)

I can't sue nobody.

(66:11.5 - 66:12.7)

They just tell me I ain't got

(66:12.7 - 66:14.3)

no hunting and fishing rights.

(66:26.2 - 66:29.6)

What about ways to share the

(66:30.8 - 66:32.9)

safety information that you've shared?

(66:33.0 - 66:35.3)

Can you think of a good way I

(66:35.3 - 66:37.4)

can share that or use that information?

(66:39.7 - 66:41.0)

Well, a lot of it has to

(66:41.0 - 66:43.7)

do with your own personal safety.

(66:43.9 - 66:45.2)

If you want to be safe, you

(66:45.2 - 66:47.7)

go and take the classes, you learn.

(66:49.0 - 66:50.3)

You just don't say no,

(66:50.3 - 66:51.4)

I know it already.

(66:51.5 - 66:53.6)

Well, they might teach you one little

(66:53.7 - 66:55.5)

trick that might saves your life.

(66:55.5 - 67:00.5)

Because it's 1 knot that won't slip.

(67:02.8 - 67:04.8)

Go to the classes, attend them.

(67:07.8 - 67:10.0)

It's their life on the line, not mine.

(67:10.1 - 67:12.3)

I went to the classes, I studied.

(67:15.7 - 67:17.0)

I got years of experience.

(67:17.2 - 67:18.4)

But sometimes years of experience

(67:18.5 - 67:20.0)

don't really matter at all.

(67:23.6 - 67:25.4)

You get into predicaments and you got to

(67:25.4 - 67:27.3)

get your way out of the predicaments too,

(67:27.4 - 67:34.1)

because of weather and good old common sense.

(67:34.2 - 67:35.1)

Pay attention.

(67:35.8 - 67:37.9)

That's all I can tell you is pay attention.

(67:38.5 - 67:39.8)

Listen to the weather.

(67:42.7 - 67:44.2)

I can sit here on a good day.

(67:44.3 - 67:46.3)

You can look at Besboro Island if it's got

(67:46.3 - 67:48.8)

a white cap, stay the heck off the ocean.

(67:49.4 - 67:53.8)

You know a storm is coming, just a matter of time.

(67:55.9 - 67:58.0)

The elders taught us all that.

(67:58.2 - 68:01.0)

Pay attention to the lay of the land.

(68:01.1 - 68:07.6)

You can see it. Like on days like today,

(68:07.6 - 68:10.2)

if we got a dark water on the ocean

(68:10.2 - 68:12.5)

side, we know that we got a north wind blowing.

(68:13.3 - 68:15.8)

We don't go play out in that kind of stuff.

(68:19.4 - 68:21.3)

Well, a lot of these kids nowadays,

(68:21.3 - 68:23.4)

they not being taught by their elders.

(68:23.5 - 68:24.5)

They're just going out and

(68:24.5 - 68:27.7)

learning on their own. Their elders

(68:27.8 - 68:29.3)

just buy them a boat and buy them

(68:29.3 - 68:32.6)

a motor and say, here you go, play out.

(68:33.9 - 68:34.9)

Go get me some food.

(68:34.9 - 68:36.3)

But they don't teach them how.

(68:38.1 - 68:40.5)

Get the kids their equipment, say, could

(68:40.5 - 68:41.4)

you go give me some fish?

(68:41.4 - 68:43.0)

And the kids ain't got the

(68:43.1 - 68:46.5)

experience, not like the old folks.

(68:48.4 - 68:56.0)

How come you think that is, that they’re

not teaching the young people?

(68:56.0 - 68:57.3)

If you ain't got no fish to catch, you

(68:57.4 - 68:58.6)

can't teach nothing.

(69:00.9 - 69:02.0)

That's what it comes down to.

(69:02.0 - 69:03.0)

If there's no fish to catch,

(69:03.0 - 69:04.8)

you can't go teach somebody

(69:05.3 - 69:06.5)

if it ain't there.

(69:09.6 - 69:11.5)

Water is always going to be there.

(69:18.1 - 69:19.6)

Is there anything you wanted

(69:19.7 - 69:23.3)

to add about subsistence fishing?

(69:23.5 - 69:27.1)

Or it could also be using a boat to

(69:27.2 - 69:30.9)

hunt, but mostly focused on marine safety.

(69:33.1 - 69:36.5)

Well, like I said, we catch a lot of trout

(69:36.6 - 69:38.5)

because the trout eat a lot of salmon fry.

(69:38.5 - 69:49.3)

So catch more trout, they eat a million fry.

(69:55.5 - 69:57.6)

Other than that, be prepared.

(69:57.7 - 69:58.8)

That's all you can do.

(69:58.9 - 70:00.0)

Be prepared.

(70:07.8 - 70:11.9)

Have an extra anchor in the boat. Gallon of water.

Stuff that you know you're going

(70:11.9 - 70:13.6)

to need. When you get out there and

(70:13.6 - 70:15.7)

you ain't got it, you're SOL.

(70:23.3 - 70:25.3)

I guess I've been lucky because, like I said, I had

(70:25.4 - 70:27.8)

a good teacher, mom and dad, and I'm still here.

(70:31.8 - 70:33.9)

Yeah, that's a lot of time on the water.

(70:35.0 - 70:37.3)

Yeah, like I said, I used to go to sleep in the

(70:37.3 - 70:42.0)

bow of the boat when I was three years old,

just because

(70:42.1 - 70:43.7)

I wanted to be in a bow of the boat.

(70:47.1 - 70:48.5)

And I traveled the whole Norton Sound

(70:48.5 - 70:50.3)

with mom and dad, too,

(70:50.3 - 70:52.7)

from Nome all the way to Stebbins, you know.

(70:52.8 - 70:55.2)

And after they taught me that, I went from

(70:55.2 - 70:57.3)

here to Bristol Bay a couple of times.

(70:59.0 - 71:00.9)

It's having respect for the ocean.

(71:02.7 - 71:04.6)

You don't respect it, stay off of there.

(71:04.7 - 71:05.7)

You respect it,

(71:05.8 - 71:08.4)

learn to get off of it when it's not time.

(71:14.5 - 71:15.7)

Is there anything else you'd like

(71:15.7 - 71:18.1)

to add before we finish up?

(71:18.5 - 71:20.2)

No, pretty good there.

(71:20.6 - 71:22.4)

Like I said, just be safe.

(71:22.5 - 71:24.2)

Ocean is a big ocean.

(71:27.1 - 71:30.0)

Wear a lifejacket.

(71:30.0 - 71:34.4)

I don't wear one, but well, see, I carry

my float coat.

Do you wear it?

Yeah.

(71:37.9 - 71:39.1)

I wear mine all the time.

(71:39.2 - 71:40.9)

It's one of those things that goes

(71:41.0 - 71:43.7)

on in Alaska because it's so warm. It's a Stearns and

(71:43.7 - 71:46.2)

I had it for 32 years now.

(71:47.2 - 71:49.7)

And it don't go anywhere without me when I'm out in

(71:49.7 - 71:52.5)

the ocean, you know, except that time I was cabin.

(71:52.5 - 71:54.0)

Because it was so warm out.

(71:54.2 - 71:57.2)

Yeah, it's all good.

(71:58.9 - 72:00.6)

Do you think more people would lifejackets if they

had float coats?

(72:10.9 - 72:13.0)

A float coat doesn't have quite as much buoyancy.

(72:15.1 - 72:17.4)

The float coat that I own is a Stearns.

(72:18.0 - 72:20.7)

It's made for that purpose, and retains the heat.

(72:20.7 - 72:27.0)

Floating in one of these (holds type III),

(72:30.8 - 72:32.3)

there's no warmth in that thing.

(72:32.3 - 72:33.6)

Which isn’t like, the Stearns,

(72:33.6 - 72:40.1)

got the sleeves.

(72:40.1 - 72:42.4)

Were you wearing that when you fell off the crab boat?

(72:42.5 - 72:46.0)

No, too warm. Like I said, it was 70 degrees,

(72:46.1 - 72:52.3)

and we were working. But it was a good experience.

(72:54.7 - 72:58.5)

I learned, be careful.

(72:59.8 - 73:00.7)

What else are you getting?

(73:00.8 - 73:02.9)

You learn from experience. I'm still here

(73:03.0 - 73:06.3)

today. I jumped off the boat.

(73:06.5 - 73:09.5)

I want to get away from this 30 tons

(73:09.5 - 73:12.2)

of boat that's getting beat up by the waves.

(73:13.4 - 73:15.2)

I wouldn't even get smacked and get

(73:15.2 - 73:17.1)

beat up by a wave in the boat.

(73:21.0 - 73:21.9)

You felt like it was safer off the boat?

(73:22.0 - 73:23.7)

Yes, away from the boat.

(73:24.6 - 73:25.8)

Because then I don’t got to pound my head

(73:25.9 - 73:29.8)

against aluminum.

(73:29.8 - 73:31.7)

Aluminum’s going to win every time.