Interview 10 Transcription

So we would like to learn

(00:17.7 - 00:21.1)

learn about your experiences commercial fishing. Okay.

(00:21.2 - 00:23.8)

And the goal of the study is to improve

(00:23.8 - 00:29.8)

marine safety in Norton Sound and then I hope

(00:29.8 - 00:33.9)

to use this to share lessons learned with fishermen

(00:33.9 - 00:37.6)

here and then maybe in other communities in Norton

(00:37.7 - 00:41.5)

Sound and maybe even in other fishing communities where

(00:41.6 - 00:45.4)

it's relevant and hopefully to improve training.

(00:45.5 - 00:46.3)

H

Oh yeah.

(00:47.7 - 00:50.0)

And do you want me to introduce myself.

(00:51.9 - 00:55.3)

Well, no, since you said you want to keep

(00:55.4 - 00:57.5)

it private then you don't even have your name.

(00:57.6 - 01:00.9)

H

Okay.

But can you tell me…

H

what I do?

(01:00.9 - 01:03.8)

The types of fishing you do and where you’ve fished?

(01:04.4 - 01:06.3)

H

First of all, I started off when I

(01:06.3 - 01:10.1)

was very young because I enjoyed gill netting

(01:10.4 - 01:14.2)

with my folks and friends of mine.

(01:14.7 - 01:16.4)

I must have started off when

(01:16.4 - 01:17.7)

I was about twelve years old.

(01:17.8 - 01:23.3)

And from then it did develop into a fishery

(01:23.4 - 01:26.2)

where I can get involved with a commercial fisher.

(01:26.2 - 01:31.4)

Because a buyer came up in the early sixties, I think.

(01:31.5 - 01:33.9)

Yeah, it was by early sixties

(01:35.0 - 01:36.8)

I might even think further back.

(01:36.9 - 01:39.3)

I think the first buyer we had was

(01:39.3 - 01:44.4)

about 1955, 57, some place around there.

(01:44.9 - 01:50.2)

But anyway, he bought our kings and Chums and all

(01:50.3 - 01:57.7)

the salmon that we have and he brought a processing

(01:57.7 - 02:04.0)

boat, a little barge, that was probably a former military

(02:04.6 - 02:11.1)

ship and transferred into a fishing processor.

(02:12.0 - 02:15.0)

Anyway, the boat's name was Kayak.

(02:17.4 - 02:20.7)

It did a lot of fishing all along the coast, I think,

(02:20.8 - 02:22.8)

I mean buying along the coast.

(02:23.2 - 02:24.2)

I've heard of it,

(02:24.2 - 02:27.2)

the last place that I heard of it was Togiak.

(02:27.6 - 02:30.0)

But that was the early days.

(02:30.1 - 02:34.8)

And from there on I became more interested

(02:34.9 - 02:37.7)

in fishing other places other than Unalakleet.

(02:37.7 - 02:42.9)

And I went fishing in Bristol Bay 1965.

(02:43.6 - 02:48.2)

That was my first year with a college friend of mine.

(02:48.2 - 02:50.2)

Anyway, he said he had a boat, so

(02:50.2 - 02:52.6)

I went down and became his helper.

(02:53.0 - 02:56.0)

I learned a lot in that first year because it exposed

(02:56.1 - 03:00.0)

me to the big fisher down there compared to Unalakleet.

(03:03.3 - 03:05.4)

I didn't go back the following year.

(03:05.5 - 03:10.3)

What happened is a friend of mine in college invited

(03:10.4 - 03:12.5)

me down to Juneau and he said, yeah, we have

(03:12.6 - 03:17.3)

a little person, small boat, trolling salmon down there.

(03:17.9 - 03:19.5)

So he said, “Why don't you come along?”

(03:19.5 - 03:24.2)

So I did and we bought old skiffs and old motors there.

(03:24.3 - 03:29.8)

Kind of like a Craigslist type, but they were reasonable.

(03:32.7 - 03:34.7)

They held together through the whole season.

(03:34.7 - 03:36.9)

So we went down from Juneau, we drove

(03:37.0 - 03:39.7)

down about 100 miles down to where they

(03:39.8 - 03:43.6)

called Tebenkof Bay and we started trolling.

(03:44.4 - 03:48.0)

And my first experience with trolling was there.

(03:50.2 - 03:52.7)

And I was there to try to

(03:52.8 - 03:55.1)

make enough money for going to college. And I did.

(03:55.2 - 04:00.7)

But first of all it was king salmon and I

(04:00.7 - 04:04.5)

learned about that and I figured out what and during the

(04:04.5 - 04:10.3)

day we jig for halibut and we did get both

(04:10.4 - 04:16.3)

kings and halibuts and I hit the jackpot a couple

(04:16.3 - 04:18.9)

of times there so I was really lucky.

(04:18.9 - 04:22.9)

But anyway, that experience exposed me to that type of

(04:22.9 - 04:26.1)

fisher down there but I never did go back.

(04:26.3 - 04:30.2)

I sold my little skiff and, came back up

(04:30.3 - 04:32.6)

this way and I started fishing here locally

(04:32.6 - 04:37.2)

in Unalakleet. Igot more involved with it.

(04:37.3 - 04:40.8)

And by that time this was in the early sixties

(04:40.8 - 04:47.6)

and seventies and the Japanese started coming around

(04:47.7 - 04:51.1)

and they started showing interest. They knew we had a good

(04:51.1 - 04:56.6)

herring run here so they started getting the interest up

(04:56.6 - 04:59.6)

and it took a couple of years but eventually the

(04:59.6 - 05:03.9)

fishermen got all geared up for herring fishing and we

(05:03.9 - 05:10.1)

were able to start that type of fishing because we

(05:10.2 - 05:13.1)

do have a lot of herring here in Norton Sound.

(05:17.7 - 05:21.6)

And all that time after the herring season is over I'd

(05:21.6 - 05:28.7)

be out fishing and I got involved with a cousin of

(05:28.7 - 05:31.9)

mine down in Bristol Bay, said he needed a helper.

(05:31.9 - 05:34.2)

So I came down, I went down to Bristol

(05:34.2 - 05:37.9)

Bay and I spent 20 years down there after

(05:38.0 - 05:42.3)

that first season and eventually became a captain there

(05:43.1 - 05:46.2)

and ran into all kinds of experiences down there, you know:

(05:46.3 - 05:49.2)

rough water and lots of fish and everything else.

(05:49.3 - 05:55.3)

And it was good for me. I enjoyed it and I

(05:55.4 - 05:59.1)

profited from it enough to where I could make a living.

(06:00.0 - 06:04.1)

But after 20 years I thought it was time for me

(06:04.2 - 06:08.1)

to go home so I came back up. My wife

(06:08.1 - 06:12.6)

already had a permit in Norton Sound and I told her I'm moving

(06:12.6 - 06:16.3)

back up with her and I became her helper for a

(06:16.3 - 06:20.6)

while but then I ended up buying a herring, I mean

(06:20.7 - 06:26.1)

a salmon permit for Norton Sound and we fished together for

(06:26.2 - 06:38.1)

quite a few years there. All that time there's lots of

(06:38.2 - 06:42.8)

things involved in fishing that were marginal.

(06:43.3 - 06:47.1)

We have rough water here pretty much when it's west wind

(06:47.1 - 06:53.5)

or south wind, but we fished within reason. But there

(06:53.5 - 06:58.0)

was this one day that it got a little rough and

(06:58.0 - 07:04.3)

our net was still out and this is a personal thing

(07:04.4 - 07:09.3)

But also I can make it kind of like a little family

(07:09.4 - 07:16.6)

joke, but all those years we had two permits by that time.

(07:16.8 - 07:19.5)

I had a salmon permit and she had a salmon permit.

(07:19.6 - 07:26.5)

We were allowed to fish four shackles of gear. But one day

(07:26.5 - 07:29.1)

we had our nets out and it got rough during the night

(07:29.2 - 07:32.0)

and I told her we have to go out and pull our

(07:32.1 - 07:35.3)

net because it's going to get, the fish are going to spoil.

(07:36.1 - 07:46.5)

But I had been training my grandkids and my nephew were

(07:46.5 - 07:52.7)

Fishing, but they were just junior high kids and I told

(07:52.8 - 07:56.3)

her well, she told me we're not taking the grandkids at

(07:56.3 - 07:58.7)

all because they're too young for that water.

(07:58.9 - 08:04.6)

So I said well, that's okay, because I called

(08:04.6 - 08:08.1)

up my nephew and he was a man by

(08:08.1 - 08:10.2)

that time, and he was physically fit.

(08:10.9 - 08:13.8)

And we started out and my wife kept

(08:13.9 - 08:16.5)

saying, “Let's turn back, let's turn back.”

(08:21.1 - 08:26.5)

I just love to tell the story because it's a family thing,

(08:27.3 - 08:30.4)

it's kind of like a joke, but really it wasn't.

(08:30.7 - 08:33.3)

So we got to the mouth and we started hitting the

(08:33.3 - 08:36.7)

waves, and I got a little close to the beach.

(08:37.1 - 08:39.9)

My motor started sputtering, so I turned back around

(08:40.0 - 08:43.2)

immediately, but I knew what the problem was, so

(08:43.2 - 08:46.2)

I fixed the problem and went back out.

(08:46.3 - 08:48.9)

And she kept saying, “Let's turn back, let's go home.

(08:49.0 - 08:50.9)

Let's turn back, let's go home.”

(08:51.1 - 08:56.5)

And I was a captain and I was concentrating on every

(08:56.5 - 09:02.3)

wave, so that it didn't sink into my brain at all.

(09:02.8 - 09:06.8)

And she kept saying that, “Let’s turn back.”

(09:07.6 - 09:10.3)

I think my mind says I had enough.

(09:10.4 - 09:12.2)

So I hollered out.

(09:12.4 - 09:13.5)

“Shut up.”

(09:14.3 - 09:15.3)

She did.

(09:16.3 - 09:18.5)

And we got to the net, we pulled our net out.

(09:18.5 - 09:20.9)

We had about two or 300

(09:21.0 - 09:24.1)

silver salmon, and they were still good.

(09:24.2 - 09:25.6)

And we went back into the

(09:25.6 - 09:27.4)

river and cleaned the net out.

(09:27.4 - 09:30.7)

And we commonly came, we delivered the fish and

(09:30.8 - 09:33.8)

came into the house and we started drinking coffee.

(09:34.4 - 09:38.0)

Then she calmly told me, “I'm done.”

(09:39.0 - 09:44.7)

So that was the end of her fishing career and it was because I hollered at her only once.

(09:44.8 - 09:47.7)

All those years.

(09:47.8 - 09:51.9)

But it just happened so that I

(09:51.9 - 09:54.2)

had to concentrate on every wave.

(09:55.7 - 10:00.5)

I couldn't listen to extra talk, but this is

(10:02.4 - 10:05.7)

what happened anyway as far as the family fishing. I

(10:05.7 - 10:09.9)

started fishing with my grandkids and nephews after that.

(10:10.2 - 10:13.2)

I started training them when they're awfully young,

(10:14.0 - 10:20.7)

but gradually my first lesson was to try

(10:20.7 - 10:22.8)

to keep them from getting seasick.

(10:24.0 - 10:27.1)

It worked the way I did it, anyway.

(10:27.2 - 10:31.6)

I'd let them drive the motor when we got into

(10:31.7 - 10:37.0)

the deep water, and if they feel like they're a

(10:37.0 - 10:40.8)

captain, they never bothered getting seasick to it.

(10:40.9 - 10:42.8)

That's kind of solved that problem.

(10:45.7 - 10:47.1)

How old were they?

(10:47.8 - 10:53.6)

I think he was my grandson was the youngest.

(10:53.7 - 10:57.1)

He started off when he was about ten years old, and

(10:57.2 - 11:00.2)

my nephew was about eleven years old when he started.

(11:00.8 - 11:03.4)

And my granddaughter was a little older.

(11:03.4 - 11:06.3)

She was twelve or 13 by that time.

(11:06.3 - 11:08.9)

And she enjoyed it because she was

(11:08.9 - 11:11.8)

making a few dollars during the summer.

(11:12.1 - 11:15.7)

They live someplace else other than Unalakleet, so they

(11:15.7 - 11:17.8)

come here for the summer with us.

(11:17.9 - 11:20.2)

We do have a granddaughter, but she's

(11:20.2 - 11:23.1)

in college now, which makes it nice.

(11:24.2 - 11:26.5)

She told me, “I'm done too,

(11:26.5 - 11:28.8)

papa, I'm not going fishing anymore.

(11:28.9 - 11:30.5)

Grandma is not going fishing.

(11:30.6 - 11:31.6)

I'm not going fishing.”

(11:31.7 - 11:34.2)

So I lost two crew members that day,

(11:36.3 - 11:38.5)

So that wasn't too long ago that happened?

No, just a couple of years ago.

(11:41.4 - 11:46.6)

Anyway, I said, well, that's fine if you feel like it.

(11:50.1 - 11:52.4)

So she graduated high school in the meantime,

(11:52.5 - 11:54.2)

and last year was her first year in

(11:54.2 - 11:57.5)

college, and we're supporting her on that.

(11:57.6 - 12:00.2)

So she's doing well there.

(12:00.3 - 12:02.8)

And she does have a job right

(12:02.9 - 12:05.9)

now which pays better than fishing.

(12:10.6 - 12:16.9)

My whole intentions were to train the grandkids and nephews to

(12:16.9 - 12:20.5)

do the same thing that I did all those years.

(12:20.7 - 12:22.2)

But within reason.

(12:22.9 - 12:28.0)

I had to make sure that they didn't go out when

(12:28.0 - 12:33.6)

it was rough, and I tried, I put that as a rule.

(12:33.8 - 12:35.3)

I didn't take him out when it

(12:35.3 - 12:38.2)

was rough, but I took older people.

(12:43.2 - 12:46.3)

Anyhow, that was all salmon fishing.

(12:46.9 - 12:50.8)

Now, herring fishing was big here in Unalakleet at one time

(12:50.8 - 12:54.0)

when the market

(12:54.0 - 12:56.8)

was good, the Japanese were coming in and

(12:56.8 - 13:00.4)

they were paying pretty good price per ton.

(13:02.1 - 13:03.4)

Of course, we're not going to sit

(13:03.5 - 13:05.1)

down and watch it go by.

(13:05.3 - 13:08.0)

So we both got our solas permits.

(13:10.7 - 13:20.5)

I already had a 28-foot boat and we converted that into a

(13:20.6 - 13:24.7)

good ten-ton herring boat, so I could carry that much.

(13:25.7 - 13:31.4)

Anyway, we bought her a salmon boat, which we still

(13:31.5 - 13:35.2)

use today, and that's a 26-foot aluminum boat.

(13:38.2 - 13:41.5)

We both got involved in herring, and as

(13:41.5 - 13:44.8)

a family, we made it paid out.

(13:46.3 - 13:49.1)

But there are times when we had

(13:49.2 - 13:51.3)

to be really careful out there.

(13:54.9 - 13:56.7)

I tend to overload a little

(13:56.8 - 13:59.6)

bit because I'm a typical fisherman.

(13:59.6 - 14:01.6)

The more you get, the better you

(14:01.6 - 14:03.6)

pay, better off you get paid.

(14:04.3 - 14:08.7)

And for me, it was the rule.

(14:09.4 - 14:11.0)

In hearing fishing, I always

(14:11.0 - 14:13.4)

went for the maximum amount.

(14:15.0 - 14:17.4)

So anyway, that herring lasted

(14:17.5 - 14:19.9)

for about 15 to 20 years.

(14:20.4 - 14:22.9)

I'm not too sure how many, but

(14:23.5 - 14:28.4)

it helped our economy a lot here.

(14:36.5 - 14:40.8)

But, I haven't told you the other things I've done.

(14:41.7 - 14:45.0)

When crabbing started, I got involved with that, too.

(14:48.0 - 14:50.3)

That was further out in the

(14:50.3 - 14:52.7)

ocean, about 70 miles from here.

(14:53.5 - 15:05.3)

And of course, I'm familiar with all the rough waters that the

(15:05.3 - 15:09.4)

nature will throw at us, so I was ready for it.

(15:10.8 - 15:16.1)

I used my herring boat for the first four years,

(15:16.2 - 15:20.5)

I think. Four or five years of crabbing, and

(15:20.6 - 15:22.4)

it was a good boat for that.

(15:22.5 - 15:25.7)

But then later on, I bought an old

(15:25.8 - 15:29.0)

Bristol Bay boat from my brother in law.

(15:29.4 - 15:31.5)

He said he wanted to get out of

(15:31.6 - 15:33.5)

crabbing, so I said, well, I’ll buy your boat.

(15:33.6 - 15:38.4)

So I ended up with a 32 foot Bristol Bay boat.

(15:38.6 - 15:42.1)

That helped a lot, but it's awfully slow.

(15:43.0 - 15:55.1)

So I spent what, 15, 20 years of crabbing and that was nice.

(15:57.9 - 16:02.5)

Everything that I did was all the fishing I did

(16:02.5 - 16:06.4)

was I'm a retired pilot, so that was my job.

(16:06.5 - 16:07.6)

That was my regular job.

(16:07.7 - 16:11.4)

So I had to try to squeeze all that fishing in between.

(16:12.6 - 16:18.0)

But I finally decided I retired from flying, so

(16:18.2 - 16:23.2)

I had 100% full time for concentrating on fishing.

(16:23.7 - 16:31.2)

I do all my hanging by myself, and my

(16:31.4 - 16:34.3)

brother in law of mine built both, so I

(16:34.4 - 16:37.4)

bought a boat from him, aluminum boat.

(16:37.5 - 16:40.9)

So we're still using it.

(16:43.4 - 16:45.5)

It's a safe boat out there,

(16:45.6 - 16:48.1)

so I'm really happy with it.

(16:49.3 - 16:51.6)

I operate within reason, though.

(16:52.0 - 16:55.1)

So when I see the forecast is going to get rough

(16:55.1 - 16:58.9)

water, I'm always going out to pull out my gear.

(16:59.5 - 17:03.3)

Because by the time the fish are picked after

(17:03.4 - 17:08.0)

a rough day or two, they aren't worth selling.

(17:08.1 - 17:10.6)

So I don't worry about that.

(17:10.7 - 17:13.7)

So if I pull my nets out, I don't worry

(17:13.7 - 17:16.5)

about whether I'm going to get fish out or not that are

(17:17.1 - 17:22.0)

sellable. But if you have any questions about

(17:22.1 - 17:25.0)

some of the activity I had, you know,

(17:25.5 - 17:28.5)

the crabbing required all that safety gear.

(17:34.1 - 17:39.9)

We had to have emergency life raft and we had to have immersion suits.

(17:42.3 - 17:44.0)

You know what I'm talking about.

(17:44.1 - 17:45.1)

That's what we call it. Immersion suits.

(17:45.1 - 17:47.0)

H

Every crew member had one.

(17:47.6 - 17:50.1)

And we had all this safety equipment.

(17:50.2 - 17:54.6)

We had fire extinguishers, and I can name them all

(17:54.6 - 17:58.6)

because I learned it so much with the Coast Guard.

(17:58.7 - 18:01.7)

I've had Coast Guard come and check my boat.

(18:03.1 - 18:07.0)

My boat seemed to have flying colors,

(18:07.0 - 18:09.1)

so I was always ready for them.

(18:10.0 - 18:12.0)

The only thing about all that is that

(18:12.1 - 18:15.7)

it's so expensive to operate a crabbing boat.

(18:15.8 - 18:18.2)

People didn't realize that. How

(18:18.2 - 18:20.5)

much is involved with that.

(18:21.1 - 18:25.5)

And the safety requirement is the one that I

(18:25.6 - 18:30.3)

spent a lot on. Once I bought the gear and

(18:30.3 - 18:33.6)

the boat, I just had to maintain that.

(18:34.1 - 18:37.2)

And if I can maintain it properly,

(18:37.3 - 18:38.8)

I wouldn't have to spend that much.

(18:38.9 - 18:42.6)

But the initial investment is quite a bit.

(18:42.6 - 18:46.6)

And I survived through all that.

(18:48.4 - 18:53.7)

But eventually I found it, that I was getting

(18:53.7 - 18:55.6)

a little too old to do all this stuff.

(18:55.6 - 18:57.5)

So I started slowing down.

(18:58.8 - 19:00.7)

But I still go out and do a

(19:00.7 - 19:04.1)

little salmon fishing, you might say.

(19:04.9 - 19:07.8)

And the last fishery was from last year.

(19:07.9 - 19:10.9)

We had a pretty good sized humpy

(19:10.9 - 19:13.1)

run, so I got involved with that.

(19:13.2 - 19:14.6)

So I'm still out there.

(19:16.4 - 19:18.5)

This is my wife, Linda.

Hi.

(19:18.7 - 19:20.8)

And she's the other half of the fishermen.

(19:20.8 - 19:22.9)

She's the one that's…

W

Nice to meet you.

(19:23.8 - 19:25.4)

I was listening to Church. I said, I should go out and do my little bit. Because both of us fished. I fished about 25 years.

(19:32.4 - 19:35.8)

H

She's the one that told me quietly, “I'm done.”

(19:37.7 - 19:39.2)

W

I was too crippled. [laughs]

(19:40.0 - 19:42.6)

Can you tell me why you decided to stop?

(19:42.7 - 19:46.0)

W

I had knees that were so bad that I couldn't move fast.

(19:46.1 - 19:47.8)

And it was too risky for him and

(19:47.8 - 19:49.3)

for me to be in the boat.

(19:49.9 - 19:52.3)

And now he's at the point where his back is so

(19:52.3 - 19:55.8)

bad that I told him he has to think about retiring.

(19:55.9 - 19:57.8)

He's going to be 80.

Yeah.

(19:58.0 - 20:01.3)

Fishing is a lifestyle, and it's hard for me

(20:01.3 - 20:05.1)

to put it aside, and that's where I'm at.

(20:05.2 - 20:07.0)

W

What is the purpose of your?

(20:07.1 - 20:08.7)

This is to try to

(20:08.7 - 20:13.1)

improve marine safety in Norton Sound, commercial fishing.

(20:13.3 - 20:15.6)

And also I'm going to try to

(20:15.7 - 20:18.6)

adapt to training for fishermen here.

(20:20.0 - 20:21.7)

W

Right now, the only thing that's being

(20:21.8 - 20:26.1)

done is NSEDC, in cooperation with NOAA.

(20:26.3 - 20:29.6)

Always sends out the yearly safety.

(20:29.8 - 20:31.4)

And there's a little placard.

(20:32.2 - 20:36.2)

And then NSSP has CPR and first

(20:36.2 - 20:38.4)

aid training that they give their employees.

(20:38.5 - 20:48.3)

You know, that? But I think that Fish and Game could do something a little

(20:48.4 - 20:53.0)

bit of that and the NSSP could do better.

(20:53.1 - 20:55.6)

And what else could be done>

H

Oh yeah, there's lots

(20:55.7 - 21:00.1)

of things that well,

W

I'm going to just

(21:00.1 - 21:06.4)

move my 4-wheeler so I can sit.

H

It's all regulated stuff, I guess.

(21:11.8 - 21:14.1)

There's a guy that puts all the buoys out

(21:14.1 - 21:17.3)

here, the channel buoys, but that doesn't seem to

(21:17.4 - 21:21.6)

work sometimes because the high water or rough water

(21:21.6 - 21:25.0)

will move them, so they're not really in place.

(21:29.6 - 21:31.0)

W

I just had my knees oh,

Oh, you're going to

(21:31.0 - 21:33.7)

sit on the…

W

Yeah, I just had my knees done.

(21:38.6 - 21:42.1)

H

She’s one tough cookie. [laughs]

Well, you know what, one thing I'd like to ask about

(21:42.2 - 21:47.2)

is if you can talk more about what you teach the

(21:47.2 - 21:49.9)

younger people fishing, kind of how to fish safe.

(21:50.0 - 21:52.7)

And then also…

W

He's never told me what he's done.

(21:52.8 - 21:57.0)

He's trained generation of generations right now.

(21:58.1 - 22:00.1)

We started our granddaughter fishing

(22:00.1 - 22:03.5)

when she was about eight.

(22:03.7 - 22:04.9)

Yeah, eight years old.

(22:05.0 - 22:06.6)

And then we started paying her when

(22:06.6 - 22:08.2)

she was like in 8th grade.

(22:08.6 - 22:12.2)

And now we have our twelve-year-old.

(22:12.8 - 22:14.1)

Is he twelve now?

(22:14.3 - 22:16.1)

Our twelve-year-old grandson we started

(22:16.1 - 22:17.6)

fishing about two years ago.

(22:17.7 - 22:18.7)

H

Are you talking about Ryan?

(22:18.7 - 22:20.6)

Yeah, he's twelve.

W

Yeah.

(22:20.7 - 22:25.2)

But we have maybe a 16-year-old great

(22:25.3 - 22:29.5)

nephew who he trained to operate the motor.

(22:29.7 - 22:32.3)

And there's a lot of skill that's involved

(22:32.4 - 22:38.9)

with safety in the ocean, especially driving a skiff.

H

A skiff in rough water,

(22:39.0 - 22:42.2)

that's where I was a little hesitant at

(22:42.3 - 22:45.8)

first to let him control the motors at

(22:45.8 - 22:47.7)

one time, but I was seeing double.

(22:47.8 - 22:49.9)

I had problems with my eyesight

(22:49.9 - 22:52.3)

that year and I had cataracts.

(22:52.3 - 22:54.6)

It turned out that I had cataracts.

(22:54.6 - 22:57.0)

I got the surgery in the fall time after fishing.

(22:57.1 - 22:58.9)

W

Not only that, you had a retinol tucker.

(22:58.9 - 23:01.5)

It affects his vision, So I was getting at,

(23:02.9 - 23:06.2)

we would all sit at the bow when I was still fishing,

(23:06.3 - 23:09.6)

and I would tell the young kids, you guys have to make

(23:09.6 - 23:11.8)

a motion to Judy when we're going to hit a log.

(23:11.9 - 23:14.0)

Because there's always logs in the ocean at some

(23:14.0 - 23:16.6)

point or the other, so he wouldn't see them.

(23:16.8 - 23:19.0)

Or sometimes he would almost run over a net.

H

I did run over a net a couple of times.

(23:19.1 - 23:24.1)

W

So he got to the point where the

(23:24.2 - 23:27.1)

young 16-year-old is the main driver.

H

Yeah, I've trained him enough to

(23:29.4 - 23:33.1)

where I can trust him now.

(23:38.8 - 23:42.0)

I understand exactly what you're driving at.

(23:42.1 - 23:45.2)

And we do train young generations,

(23:45.7 - 23:48.3)

but we're mainly within family.

(23:48.9 - 23:50.0)

That's the thing.

(23:51.8 - 23:56.0)

I'm a little hesitant to go to other families

(23:56.1 - 24:01.0)

and ask them because I want the family, the parents to

(24:01.1 - 24:04.0)

be involved and a lot of times they're not.

(24:04.1 - 24:07.2)

So that's the important part for me.

(24:07.8 - 24:13.4)

W

I think there's an untaught safety about the wind and the tide

(24:14.1 - 24:19.0)

that takes

H

A pattern.

W

That takes years. No, not \_\_\_\_, years to develop

(24:19.1 - 24:22.5)

so that you know what to do when it gets rough and

(24:22.6 - 24:24.7)

where you can go for safety if you can't make it into

(24:24.7 - 24:27.7)

a harbor, because there are places. Like at,

(24:27.7 - 24:30.4)

have you ever been to the area out here?

I haven't been on the water yet here.

W

At Black Point.

H

It’s all open water.

W

There are islands and there are little peninsulas along the shore, where

(24:43.5 - 24:46.5)

if there's a southwest wind, you go to the north

(24:46.5 - 24:49.8)

side to be out of the wave, and if there's

(24:49.9 - 24:51.9)

a north wind, you go to the south side.

(24:52.4 - 24:56.3)

Or if it gets really rough, there are little

(24:56.4 - 24:59.9)

creeks that you can boat into and be out

(24:59.9 - 25:01.5)

of the storm until the high tide.

(25:01.6 - 25:03.5)

And it's things like that that the

(25:03.7 - 25:07.4)

younger kids don't realize there are options

(25:07.7 - 25:10.5)

other than coming all the way back.

(25:13.4 - 25:15.1)

H

She's talking about all that area,

(25:15.1 - 25:17.0)

but that's all herring country.

(25:18.1 - 25:20.2)

There's been accidents down there

(25:20.3 - 25:23.1)

recently, which is very unfortunate.

(25:23.2 - 25:24.9)

But my neighbor over here.

(25:27.3 - 25:31.9)

W

The boat isn't there. [they look over to where boat used to sit]

H

The boat isn’t there. But anyway, people don't realize

(25:34.2 - 25:38.6)

where there are rocks close to the surface.

(25:38.7 - 25:40.6)

W

And that’s another thing, we decide on a show.

(25:40.7 - 25:42.2)

You could put a little bright

(25:42.4 - 25:44.5)

spot where there's a reef.

(25:44.6 - 25:47.2)

H

Yeah.

W

I mean, the whole state could do that

(25:47.2 - 25:49.3)

because that goes on all over the state.

It’s not marked.

W

Dangerous areas. Especially at low tide.

(25:49.7 - 25:58.6)

It's not marked 25 miles south of here,

(25:58.7 - 26:03.3)

which is where it's basically Unalakleet country.

(26:04.0 - 26:06.8)

So that's our herring country down there.

(26:06.9 - 26:11.3)

Actually,

Actually, since I don't know if you

(26:11.3 - 26:15.7)

know his background, but he's done crabbing, herring, and salmon, and

(26:15.8 - 26:17.6)

he's done it as far as going all the way to

(26:17.6 - 26:20.4)

\_\_\_\_\_, all the way to Stewart Island.

(26:20.5 - 26:21.7)

And a lot of the older guys

(26:21.8 - 26:24.2)

his age have done all the fisheries.

(26:24.3 - 26:25.9)

The only one I haven't done is crabbing.

(26:26.0 - 26:27.5)

I refuse to go out crabbing.

(26:27.5 - 26:30.2)

I had my own skiff for herring, and I had my

(26:30.2 - 26:33.9)

own skiff for salmon, and I'm not the earliest one.

(26:34.1 - 26:36.9)

How many ladies have you talked to?

None.

W

Oh, really?

(26:37.0 - 26:39.4)

Yeah, I had two, but then they both canceled.

W

Who was the other one? Oh, Patty?

(26:42.4 - 26:44.5)

Oh, I can't say necessarily.

H

Yeah. Okay, it’s

(26:44.5 - 26:45.8)

probably Patty [laughs]

(26:47.1 - 26:49.7)

W

Well, if you have a chance, Patty

(26:49.8 - 26:51.0)

is the one to talk to.

(26:51.0 - 26:52.5)

Patty Hootah

(26:52.6 - 26:55.7)

is one of the highliners here.

(26:55.8 - 26:59.1)

And she's been..

H

She doesn't tell you ever since.

W

Yeah.

(26:59.2 - 27:02.4)

And she'd give you a good but she has

(27:02.4 - 27:04.3)

a medical condition, and I'm not sure if she'll

(27:04.4 - 27:10.0)

be able to

H

Yeah, I think she's feeling okay.

(27:10.1 - 27:11.9)

W

She might be in treatment right now. I don’t know if she’s here in town.

H

That's a problem.

(27:14.7 - 27:18.7)

W

But she's an amazing lady for this area.

(27:18.9 - 27:22.2)

She generally can hunt and fish better than most men.

(27:25.9 - 27:27.0)

H

It's interesting, you know

(27:27.2 - 27:30.4)

like I said, herring fishing brought out the women.

(27:30.5 - 27:32.7)

And there were a lot of women

(27:32.7 - 27:36.8)

captains with permits, including Linda and Patty.

(27:36.8 - 27:41.6)

And there are some girls I don't know if you

(27:41.6 - 27:45.9)

talked to any of those, but they had their own

(27:45.9 - 27:48.0)

boat, they had their own permits, and there was a

(27:48.0 - 27:55.0)

Lot. My mother in law, who's 93

W

She’ll be 93.

H

She fished herring when she was in her 70s.

(27:58.6 - 28:00.4)

She was one tough cookie. [laughs]

(28:01.4 - 28:04.1)

Why did hearing bring off the women more?

(28:04.5 - 28:09.9)

H

Because at that time

W

Here's the price

(28:09.9 - 28:11.8)

they pay now: $50 a ton.

(28:11.9 - 28:15.0)

At the time, they were paying $1,400 a ton.

(28:15.5 - 28:18.7)

H

So what attracts you? A few dollars.

(28:18.8 - 28:22.5)

You know? [everyone laughs]

W

That was probably the peak price.

(28:22.5 - 28:25.3)

But you always got and it was paid

(28:25.4 - 28:28.3)

based on the percentage roe recovery because it

(28:28.3 - 28:33.7)

was the Japanese kosiroku, the herring roe that they were buying.

(28:33.8 - 28:36.7)

H

Let me tell you the story about Linda and I.

(28:37.6 - 28:40.3)

We got married in what, in what, 79?

(28:44.2 - 28:50.7)

Well anyway in 1980, we went herring fishing, or 81 I think, 82 and we went

(28:50.7 - 28:54.3)

up to what they call Cape Denbigh, and we

(28:54.4 - 28:59.6)

had a first child and her sister was babysitting.

(28:59.7 - 29:01.8)

So Linda and I went out with

(29:01.8 - 29:04.2)

one boat, mind you, one boat.

(29:05.1 - 29:09.2)

Well, anyway, every time I got a certain load, maybe

(29:09.2 - 29:13.0)

half, like I said, I'm always going for the max.

(29:13.5 - 29:15.4)

Her motor is half full.

(29:15.5 - 29:17.6)

She said “it's time to deliver.”

(29:18.4 - 29:23.3)

And she constantly was on me about that. [W laughs]

(29:23.4 - 29:26.1)

We're getting too much fish, we

(29:26.2 - 29:28.7)

might sink, is what she's saying.

(29:29.1 - 29:32.1)

But I finally got, at the end of the season, I

(29:32.1 - 29:38.1)

said, “you're fired,” but I'm going to buy you a boat.

You fired her? [laughing]

W

No, I bought my own boat.

H

(29:43.6 - 29:44.2)

I don't know.

(29:44.3 - 29:48.6)

But the point is I fired you.

(29:48.8 - 29:51.4)

And the plan was to buy her boat.

(29:51.4 - 29:53.7)

She used that salmon boat. And you know what?

(29:53.8 - 29:55.1)

She was beating me.

(29:55.2 - 29:57.4)

She was getting more fish than I was.

(29:57.5 - 30:00.0)

Was she being safer than you?

H

What's that?

(30:00.0 - 30:01.3)

Was she being safer than you?

(30:02.2 - 30:05.0)

Probably not at that time, because I've seen her

(30:05.0 - 30:08.7)

with that much free board with herring full.

(30:08.8 - 30:13.4)

Because at that time everybody was full, though.

(30:13.5 - 30:16.9)

But we were blocked in the ice and it was flat calm

(30:17.0 - 30:18.9)

Anyway.

W

I have to tell you one

(30:18.9 - 30:21.3)

little story so you appreciate safety.

(30:21.5 - 30:23.7)

We were at Cape Denbigh, and there's a line of boats

(30:23.8 - 30:27.1)

that goes behind the tender, following the tender to the

(30:27.2 - 30:29.9)

herring grounds or wherever we're allowed to fish.

(30:30.1 - 30:33.1)

And there were big sheets of ice. As

(30:33.3 - 30:35.0)

big as the side of this house.

(30:35.2 - 30:39.5)

And the tender was plowing through the ice, the ice came

(30:39.5 - 30:42.2)

under the boat, and the couple of

(30:42.2 - 30:45.3)

boats behind lifted up in the ice.

(30:46.6 - 30:47.8)

That's marine safety.

(30:47.9 - 30:50.1)

When you said you were doing that, that

(30:50.1 - 30:52.5)

actually happened.

H

Slide over the ice and then

(30:52.5 - 30:54.2)

finally get back into the water.

(30:54.3 - 30:55.8)

So the boats made it back in?

(30:55.8 - 31:00.8)

H

Yeah. I've seen a wooden boat

(31:00.9 - 31:02.8)

doing that down south here.

(31:02.9 - 31:06.1)

W

So talking about herring safety, remember the time we

(31:06.1 - 31:11.4)

were fishing up here and one of the boats, one of the fishermen

(31:11.5 - 31:13.9)

actually fell in and he was a huge man,

(31:14.3 - 31:16.0)

and they tried to lift him up manually.

(31:16.2 - 31:19.8)

Nobody could, actually they had to bring the tender boat

(31:20.0 - 31:22.4)

with the hydraulic lift to lift him up.

(31:22.8 - 31:25.8)

So you're actually talking about marine safety

(31:25.8 - 31:27.6)

and all the different things that go on.

(31:27.7 - 31:29.5)

Was he wearing a life jacket?

(31:29.7 - 31:31.9)

H

I'm sure he was, because he's

(31:32.0 - 31:34.5)

still floating for a long time.

W

Yeah.

(31:36.1 - 31:40.8)

H

But anyway, you talk about safety,

(31:40.8 - 31:46.5)

like I say that herring, it was a driver.

(31:46.6 - 31:48.9)

It drove people to the extreme.

(31:49.9 - 31:53.5)

W

Maybe I should tell her about herring up here.

(31:53.6 - 31:57.7)

Back in the 60s, when there were pilots flying, there

(31:57.7 - 32:02.2)

wasn't a commercial herring fishery up here, yet. The total

(32:02.3 - 32:05.6)

west coast herring fishery was developed by his college friend

(32:05.7 - 32:08.2)

who was a highliner out of homer.

(32:08.4 - 32:10.5)

He opened the Togiak herring fishery.

(32:10.7 - 32:12.7)

He was the man who pioneered it.

(32:12.8 - 32:15.6)

His friend,

H

You probably ran into him. I don't know.

(32:15.7 - 32:17.0)

He lives in Homer. Beaver Nelson.

(32:19.1 - 32:22.9)

W

Are you from Homer?

No. Sitka. Yeah.

(32:23.5 - 32:27.4)

W

Oh Sitka, yeah. Anyway, he did, he does Prince William Sound.

(32:29.7 - 32:31.4)

Is he out of Prince William Sound now?

(32:31.5 - 32:33.5)

He said he retired because he had a

(32:33.6 - 32:35.7)

back surgery, knee surgery and hip surgery.

(32:35.7 - 32:37.0)

They're the same age.

(32:37.9 - 32:40.3)

H

He finally retired last year.

(32:41.7 - 32:44.1)

I haven't kept track of what he was doing.

(32:44.2 - 32:48.7)

He still has his halibut quota to fill up.

(32:48.9 - 32:54.3)

I know he has that and he goes out.

(32:54.5 - 32:58.5)

I think his grandson is the one that's taking over.

(33:00.4 - 33:02.3)

An old man can be a captain

(33:02.4 - 33:05.1)

and still not do anything physically.

(33:09.1 - 33:11.8)

In fact, there are some guys who do that completely.

(33:15.1 - 33:17.7)

Can you guys think of how it’s

(33:17.7 - 33:20.4)

affected your body in the long term? Physically? Fishing?

(33:21.8 - 33:23.8)

H

For me, it was very healthy.

(33:23.9 - 33:25.9)

I think it was a healthy activity.

W

Except the wear on his back.

(33:27.0 - 33:28.6)

But the wear on his back is

(33:28.6 - 33:32.2)

both from…

H

Injuries,

W

Physical lifting that he did.

(33:32.9 - 33:34.8)

That's the thing to do is physical safety.

(33:34.8 - 33:37.7)

What you can do to protect your back and your body.

(33:38.3 - 33:40.5)

That's another safety issue you could consider.

(33:40.7 - 33:45.0)

Yeah, I would investigate the marine injuries

(33:45.0 - 33:47.3)

that happen and what can be done.

(33:47.4 - 33:51.9)

Because you can have actual vehicle, I mean, ship

(33:52.0 - 33:55.6)

injuries caused by operation of the equipment on board.

(33:55.7 - 34:00.5)

Or you can have like there was one lady

(34:00.6 - 34:03.1)

who fell in the boat, herring fishing and she

(34:03.1 - 34:05.8)

hurt her back falling in the bin.

(34:05.9 - 34:09.6)

There’s just the traffic in the ship. Or their

(34:09.6 - 34:15.4)

skiffs right here.

H

But herring fishing is pretty much over.

(34:16.5 - 34:19.5)

We just let the fish swim by.

(34:19.6 - 34:22.8)

There's a lot of herring out there.

W

But

(34:22.8 - 34:24.9)

we have seen enough over the years to

(34:24.9 - 34:27.4)

know that global warming has affected the mass.

(34:29.2 - 34:32.9)

H

Yeah, it’s changed a lot.

W

We used to have over two weeks of herring coming into this

(34:32.9 - 34:37.2)

area and there have been a couple of years where they come

(34:37.3 - 34:40.4)

and go and are gone in three or four days.

(34:41.3 - 34:43.0)

We don't have the biomass.

(34:44.2 - 34:46.5)

It's just amazing what's happening to the fisheries.

(34:46.5 - 34:48.4)

And then he's keeping track of the

(34:48.6 - 34:50.9)

Pacific cod that are migrating north because

(34:51.0 - 34:53.1)

the Bering Sea is getting too warm.

(34:53.2 - 34:57.6)

And we think that some of our fisheries in this area

(34:57.7 - 35:01.1)

are moving north because the waters are getting too cold.

(35:01.2 - 35:03.6)

Maybe four years ago we had the first time that

(35:03.6 - 35:07.5)

our river got warm and the humpies were drifting down

(35:07.5 - 35:10.7)

river dead because the water was too warm.

(35:11.3 - 35:12.5)

When was that?

(35:14.9 - 35:16.7)

H

Two or three years ago?

Yeah.

(35:17.0 - 35:18.9)

It was really sad to see all the

(35:18.9 - 35:24.3)

female humpies,

W

All the humpies.

H

All the humpies float by.

(35:25.8 - 35:28.7)

Thousands of them went floating by

(35:29.8 - 35:33.6)

Basically.

W

And over the last 15 years

(35:33.7 - 35:37.4)

we've seen the bird die off and we've

(35:37.4 - 35:39.6)

seen the population of the birds change.

(35:39.8 - 35:43.9)

We used to have cormorants at Denbigh and down

(35:44.0 - 35:46.7)

south and this year I never saw one Junie.

(35:47.2 - 35:49.0)

H

I haven't seen any either.

(35:49.2 - 35:51.9)

W

It's like the whole, all the cormorants

(35:52.0 - 35:54.1)

in this area have disappeared.

(35:54.5 - 35:56.4)

We'll very rarely see a puffin.

(35:56.6 - 36:03.7)

Now there's a change in bird habitat.

(36:03.7 - 36:05.6)

He keeps track of the little swallows.

(36:07.1 - 36:09.2)

There's a big boss over here and

(36:09.3 - 36:11.3)

they're saying maybe he's gone this year.

(36:11.5 - 36:13.0)

We call him the big boss.

(36:15.9 - 36:19.5)

Aww. Yeah, that was one of my questions, was not just

(36:19.6 - 36:24.6)

weather, but how fishing has changed, but also if you've

(36:24.6 - 36:29.9)

noticed changes in fishing from climate from 20 years ago,

(36:29.9 - 36:32.4)

40 years ago, or then stories from later?

W

(36:32.4 - 36:34.2)

This will be the fourth year where

(36:34.4 - 36:37.5)

there's no subsistence fishing in the Yukon.

(36:37.6 - 36:39.7)

I just talked to our sister in law who's from St.

(36:39.7 - 36:41.9)

Mary's and she said they already closed

(36:41.9 - 36:43.1)

it as of the 4 of June.

(36:43.2 - 36:44.9)

There's going to be no subsistence or no

(36:44.9 - 36:48.0)

commercial chum and king on the Yukon.

(36:48.2 - 36:52.3)

And we are affected by that because we think that

(36:52.3 - 36:57.2)

our fish feed in the same area as the Yukon.

(36:57.8 - 36:58.9)

They're from this area.

(36:59.0 - 37:00.6)

H

They all go out and feed on the

(37:00.6 - 37:04.0)

herring, spawn out herring and everything else.

(37:04.3 - 37:08.8)

So they're basically pretty much in the same area.

(37:08.9 - 37:10.7)

W

So this will be the fourth or fifth year

(37:10.8 - 37:15.1)

where maybe ten years ago the fishermen here could

(37:15.1 - 37:18.0)

make from $50 to $100,000 off of this.

(37:18.1 - 37:21.1)

H

Tell her the difference between the kings that

(37:21.2 - 37:25.0)

you processed when you were young and the ones

(37:25.1 - 37:28.0)

that we're trying to deal with now.

W

Okay.

(37:28.1 - 37:30.2)

When I was young, when I was in the 8th grade

(37:30.3 - 37:33.8)

that would have been in 1960, maybe it was 64 or

(37:33.8 - 37:40.9)

65. My dad brought us he allowed us to go down

(37:40.9 - 37:45.7)

to the Yukon, which was a strong fishery at the time.

(37:45.8 - 37:50.4)

They had the king run and the main

(37:50.5 - 37:53.7)

fishery at the time was out of Emmonak

(37:53.9 - 37:55.4)

You know where Emmo is?

(37:56.7 - 38:00.3)

Emmonak, it's a mouth of the Yukon

(38:00.5 - 38:02.8)

and the buyer was a Japanese fishery.

(38:04.0 - 38:05.8)

Back then I had the pleasure

(38:05.9 - 38:09.1)

of seeing the 100 pound kings.

(38:09.2 - 38:11.0)

You never see that anymore.

(38:11.1 - 38:15.2)

Huge king that would fill up the processing table.

(38:15.5 - 38:17.8)

Now sometimes we'll have the little

(38:17.8 - 38:19.7)

jack salmon that are £3.

(38:19.8 - 38:23.2)

Sometimes we'll have a king that is maybe £30.

(38:23.3 - 38:26.7)

We'll very rarely see the 30 or 40 pounders anymore.

(38:26.8 - 38:29.9)

The whole species have gotten smaller.

H

It’s all

(38:32.1 - 38:34.5)

Because, I don't know what's happening, but it’s so interesting.

(38:35.7 - 38:38.7)

W

I think regardless of what is happening, the high seas

(38:38.7 - 38:43.3)

fishery doesn't report as much by-catch as they should.

(38:43.5 - 38:46.3)

And I think the fish are also not coming back because

(38:46.4 - 38:48.6)

they don't have the feed that they used to have.

(38:49.9 - 38:52.9)

I don't think that they're covering the die off of

(38:52.9 - 38:58.9)

the high sea feed that all the salmon has.

(38:59.0 - 39:01.2)

I mean, those are my two.

(39:01.8 - 39:07.1)

And then one thing that we are always concerned

(39:07.1 - 39:12.7)

about, we had the pleasure of working under maybe

(39:12.8 - 39:15.3)

four generations of Fish and Game biologists.

(39:16.1 - 39:18.3)

My dad was a commercial pilot and he

(39:18.3 - 39:21.7)

flew Ron Regnard, who was the head Fish

(39:21.8 - 39:24.7)

and Game biologist for the Arctic Yukon Kuskokwim.

(39:25.0 - 39:27.9)

And at the time, in the early sixties, the

(39:27.9 - 39:30.3)

state didn't have the oil money at the time.

(39:30.5 - 39:34.7)

So what Ron would do is he would take the Fish

(39:34.7 - 39:38.8)

and Game Fund money that they gave him for salmon research

(39:39.3 - 39:44.2)

and they would start I don't know if my dad ever

(39:44.2 - 39:47.1)

did the Kuskokwim, but he did the Yukon.

(39:47.2 - 39:49.1)

And they would go from the mouth of the Yukon all

(39:49.2 - 39:53.2)

the way to the Canadian side, and then they would come

(39:53.3 - 39:57.0)

back and do all the salmon and all the major streams

(39:57.1 - 39:59.6)

of the Norton Sound, and then they would go up and

(39:59.6 - 40:03.2)

do all the salmon fisheries in the Arctic.

(40:03.3 - 40:04.4)

And this is history.

(40:07.0 - 40:08.1)

They did it in a 180.

(40:08.1 - 40:11.2)

And the only reason they did it in the 180

(40:11.3 - 40:15.5)

was they were doing what they call aerial surveys.

(40:15.7 - 40:19.5)

And it was continual surveying of every corner of

(40:19.5 - 40:22.6)

the river and looking down for balls of fish.

(40:22.6 - 40:26.3)

And they could actually, they're flying low and flying slow, and

(40:26.3 - 40:28.8)

they could actually tell what type of fish

(40:28.8 - 40:30.2)

it is by the size of the fish.

(40:30.2 - 40:34.1)

So you would look at a ball and at the time they

(40:34.1 - 40:38.1)

didn't have the what do they call those, the wears that they

(40:38.1 - 40:40.5)

have now, or the counting towers that they have now.

(40:40.7 - 40:42.7)

There was no money in this for that.

(40:42.8 - 40:45.2)

So what Ron would do is he had a little

(40:45.2 - 40:50.4)

Counter, 50 fish and he would count the school and

(40:50.5 - 40:55.8)

estimate how much, and they would have a survey done

(40:55.9 - 40:59.2)

and they would be gone a week or so.

(40:59.4 - 41:01.6)

He also was the one who did the

(41:01.8 - 41:04.9)

initial surveys of the herring and the capelin.

(41:05.3 - 41:11.7)

They never ever did a commercial harvest

(41:11.8 - 41:13.6)

of the capelin, but I don't know

(41:13.6 - 41:15.2)

if the schools of capelin still exists.

(41:15.2 - 41:17.1)

Do you know the fisheries in the ocean?

Yeah.

W

You know capelin?

No.

Okay, yeah.

(41:20.9 - 41:24.2)

Nobody does commercial harvests of capelin, but they actually are

(41:24.2 - 41:27.1)

as big a biomass as herring at the time.

(41:28.0 - 41:31.2)

Oh, and then the other thing that happened was all

(41:31.2 - 41:33.9)

these planes out there in the area in the

(41:34.0 - 41:36.4)

60s would always report to Fish and Game,

(41:36.5 - 41:38.7)

“Yeah, we can see the Japanese boats out there.”

(41:38.9 - 41:40.6)

They actually came in.

H

[laughs] They’d be stealing,

(41:43.1 - 41:44.4)

they knew about the herring.

(41:44.4 - 41:46.4)

So they'd be stealing all the herring

(41:46.4 - 41:49.7)

that falls.

W

Illegally, harvesting. In the spring.

(41:49.7 - 41:51.3)

That was when it would happen.

(41:52.0 - 41:54.4)

Before there was a commercial herring, there was

(41:54.5 - 41:58.5)

a Japanese harvest of herring because the commercial

(41:58.6 - 42:01.2)

fishery didn't start until the late 1970s.

H

The Canadians tried it too one time.

(42:01.3 - 42:05.0)

And I was

(42:05.0 - 42:10.0)

flying commercially and I was flying on to St.

(42:10.0 - 42:15.4)

Michael, I could see this purse sein had about 200, 300

(42:15.4 - 42:20.4)

ton set and apparently he didn't get away with that.

(42:20.4 - 42:22.3)

They pumped it all into a barge.

(42:22.4 - 42:26.6)

But then somehow the word got to the head biologist in

(42:26.7 - 42:31.1)

Nome, and they ended up confiscating all that herring.

(42:32.0 - 42:34.4)

W

So the next generation, I have to

(42:34.4 - 42:36.7)

mention these biologists because they were amazing.

(42:36.8 - 42:40.5)

Ron Regnard was head of commercial fisheries eventually,

(42:40.6 - 42:43.5)

and his son just retired because he's actually

(42:43.6 - 42:45.2)

taking care of his dad now.

(42:45.3 - 42:48.7)

But the one biologist that my husband and

(42:48.7 - 42:50.8)

I have a huge amount of respect for.

(42:50.9 - 42:52.9)

He's not retired from the state, but he

(42:52.9 - 42:55.2)

managed up here for over 20, 30 years.

(42:55.4 - 42:58.2)

His name was, Junie?

(42:58.6 - 43:00.7)

H

Are you talking about Charlie?

(43:00.8 - 43:01.8)

W

Yeah.

H

Charlie Lee.

(43:04.1 - 43:07.8)

W

Some of these state guys put in a lifetime of effort.

(43:08.3 - 43:10.8)

H

He cared about this area because he'd come

(43:10.8 - 43:12.8)

down here and spend a lot of time

(43:13.4 - 43:16.9)

and he managed herring very efficiently.

W

And the salmon.

H

He did everything.

As far as

(43:24.9 - 43:26.8)

safety among the young kids,

(43:27.4 - 43:32.2)

I think the biggest incentives would be for me to,

(43:32.4 - 43:35.7)

lots of kids grow up and being able to go

(43:35.7 - 43:38.3)

out and do things in the country here.

(43:38.5 - 43:40.3)

W

Making a living off of it, too.

(43:41.2 - 43:45.1)

I don't know if our salmon are going

(43:45.1 - 43:47.1)

to die off because of global warming.

(43:47.2 - 43:49.0)

That'll be the big yeah,

H

That's interesting.

(43:49.1 - 43:51.3)

We're at a big turning point right now.

(43:52.5 - 43:55.6)

Last year, silver salmon and chum

(43:55.6 - 43:59.1)

salmon was zero in their books.

(43:59.2 - 44:02.2)

We have books that she takes care of our

(44:02.3 - 44:06.2)

taxes and our tax money was from humpies.

(44:06.3 - 44:09.2)

But next year there'll be no humpies. I can see that.

(44:09.3 - 44:11.4)

Yesterday we took a ride up river.

(44:11.8 - 44:13.2)

Usually we see all the little

(44:13.3 - 44:15.6)

fingerlings coming down, but there's none.

(44:15.7 - 44:17.7)

And we had a big run last year.

(44:18.3 - 44:21.4)

What happened to the fingerlings in the meantime?

(44:21.5 - 44:30.3)

From last fall to now,

W

We usually go up to harvest now to set a net for some trout. And we set a net in just one

(44:30.4 - 44:33.1)

place because we had our little great nephew with us and

(44:33.1 - 44:36.0)

he wanted to go with us, so we said we'll do

(44:36.0 - 44:40.1)

just one because we had our great nephew and his grandma

(44:40.2 - 44:41.9)

and we were looking for wild rhubarb,

(44:41.9 - 44:43.0)

but we were also going to try

(44:43.0 - 44:44.5)

to set a net. In the place.

(44:44.6 - 44:46.7)

we normally set a net and normally see

(44:46.9 - 44:49.8)

hundreds of fish jumping in the little lagoon.

(44:50.0 - 44:52.0)

We saw maybe 20.

(44:53.4 - 44:55.8)

And then when you harvest the trout and you cut

(44:55.9 - 45:02.1)

the trout that we're catching in this, we call it the breakup trout, you

(45:02.2 - 45:06.1)

open the stomach and you literally can count 5200s of little humpies.

(45:09.8 - 45:11.1)

H

They're not there this year.

(45:11.1 - 45:12.3)

I don't know what happened.

(45:14.3 - 45:17.5)

Some years they have a tough spawning.

(45:17.6 - 45:19.3)

I mean, survival rate.

(45:19.6 - 45:24.4)

W

Actually, I think there's one I mentioned to

(45:24.5 - 45:27.3)

one of the biologists that in the last

(45:27.5 - 45:31.2)

15 years, maybe because of global warming, we

(45:31.2 - 45:34.0)

have increased precipitation in the fall.

(45:37.8 - 45:42.3)

There's so much rain that the water level

(45:42.3 - 45:46.8)

in the river is over the bank.

(45:46.9 - 45:48.9)

And over the bank in some cases

(45:49.0 - 45:53.5)

means higher than this shed over here.

(45:54.0 - 45:56.9)

The water should be down low, but it's at the shed.

(45:56.9 - 46:02.6)

So the eggs that are being laid in the small,

H

They get washed out.

W

(46:04.6 - 46:09.3)

They get washed out into the trees or out in the ocean.

(46:10.1 - 46:13.6)

So there's a big die off because of that.

(46:13.7 - 46:16.7)

And I'm sure it's the same on the Yukon, on

(46:16.7 - 46:18.8)

our rivers and on all the rivers on this side

(46:18.9 - 46:22.4)

because we never had rain like this in the fall,

(46:22.7 - 46:24.7)

if you have the time to check it.

(46:24.8 - 46:27.8)

I think someone should monitor the amount

(46:27.9 - 46:30.4)

of how much more water there is

(46:30.5 - 46:34.1)

in the river systems, killing the salmon.

(46:40.2 - 46:43.0)

Normally, we have two camps.

(46:43.0 - 46:46.1)

We have one camp that's only about, is

(46:46.2 - 46:49.6)

it 4 miles up the river? And then

(46:49.7 - 46:58.8)

we have another camp that's above Serosky.

H

No it’s only about three miles.

W

Three miles up the river and then we have another one that’s 30-40 miles upriver.

(46:58.8 - 47:02.0)

H

Yeah, we use them in different seasons.

(47:07.0 - 47:08.9)

Our boys, our family use them mostly for moose

(47:08.9 - 47:21.2)

hunting, but safety on salmon fishing…

W

Flotation. You have to…Nobody follows it.

(47:22.4 - 47:24.5)

H

It always depends on the family.

(47:24.7 - 47:26.0)

Do you guys wear PFDs?

(47:26.9 - 47:29.6)

He makes, he's seen it, and he makes everybody wear flotation.

(47:29.7 - 47:34.0)

W

I typically, in the river, will not wear a life vest much, but he does.

(47:34.2 - 47:35.2)

H

(47:35.3 - 47:39.8)

I have a floatation jacket. So I have one of those.

(47:40.0 - 47:42.5)

W

And he makes our grandchildren put them on.

(47:43.0 - 47:45.1)

They know they can't get in the boat without.

(47:46.1 - 47:48.4)

H

And we do that out in the ocean, too.

(47:49.7 - 47:56.2)

But sometimes when you work

(47:56.2 - 47:57.5)

too hard, you start sweating.

(47:57.6 - 47:59.9)

And usually I take my mine off for a little

(47:59.9 - 48:06.2)

Bit. So that's an important one right now.

(48:06.7 - 48:11.0)

I wonder if people had more options with

(48:11.1 - 48:13.3)

an inflatable, that it wouldn't be hot to

(48:13.3 - 48:15.4)

wear, like it just goes around your neck.

H

Yeah, we got some of those, too. But those, what do you call them?

W

Cartridges.

CO2.

H

(48:28.6 - 48:32.3)

They got to be replaced regularly.

(48:32.5 - 48:36.1)

Is that a deterrent to use them?

H

Yeah.

(48:36.2 - 48:38.5)

W

Well, what happens with all of

(48:38.5 - 48:41.3)

the people flying to the bush,

(48:41.5 - 48:46.7)

they can't carry them on a passenger plane. They’re hazardous. So the

(48:46.7 - 48:49.9)

cost for those is prohibitive if you don't, if you

(48:49.9 - 48:52.4)

aren't willing to pay for the hazmat stuff.

(48:53.8 - 48:54.5)

Okay.

(48:59.1 - 49:03.3)

H

Overall, I think Unalakleet has had a good record, except for

(49:03.4 - 49:07.2)

maybe a few..

W

Oh, we didn't tell you about the reef.

(49:07.2 - 49:09.6)

We didn't finish a story.

H

About what?

(49:09.7 - 49:11.8)

W

About our neighbor. How he passed away.

(49:11.8 - 49:12.8)

H

Oh, yeah.

(49:13.0 - 49:15.7)

He was out trying to do some subsistent

(49:15.8 - 49:19.4)

king fishing down between here and St.

(49:19.5 - 49:22.9)

Michael, and on his way home, he hit a reef.

(49:23.0 - 49:24.7)

I think he hit a reef.

(49:24.9 - 49:28.3)

W

I'm pretty sure, because they figure out they looked

(49:28.3 - 49:31.6)

at the dent on the boat.

H

And the motor.

(49:32.0 - 49:34.0)

He's going at a higher rate of speed.

(49:34.1 - 49:36.2)

W

It was a 200 horsepower at least.

(49:37.2 - 49:41.1)

H

What happened was the motor instantly turned 90 degrees,

(49:41.2 - 49:45.6)

and that made a big, and he actually fell

(49:45.7 - 49:49.0)

into the rail of the boat, I think.

(49:49.4 - 49:52.2)

And he died instantly, I think.

(49:52.4 - 49:55.4)

And the other one died slower because

(49:55.5 - 49:59.2)

he got poked into…

W

The anchor.

(49:59.7 - 50:02.2)

H

There's a spokes and an anchor on the side.

(50:02.7 - 50:04.3)

Most anchors have that.

(50:04.5 - 50:08.5)

And apparently he went right through his stomach.

In the crash.

H

Yeah.

(50:10.1 - 50:11.1)

In the crash.

(50:11.9 - 50:15.6)

It was really extreme, the most extreme I

(50:15.6 - 50:18.7)

have ever seen in a boat accident here.

(50:19.4 - 50:24.6)

Otherwise, generally, it's pretty good, except that in the early

(50:24.6 - 50:27.7)

days, there were three young boys that tried to overload

(50:27.8 - 50:32.9)

their boat in the swells, and they got swamped, and

(50:33.0 - 50:38.1)

they all died.

W

With no flotation.

H

With no floatation at that time.

(50:38.3 - 50:40.2)

Since then, the state has gotten a little

(50:40.2 - 50:43.2)

tougher on flotation, so people are starting to…

W

(50:44.2 - 50:46.1)

That would have been in the 70s, that one.

(50:46.4 - 50:48.8)

H

Yeah, that was. Pretty much. I was fishing…

W

(50:49.4 - 50:52.7)

But our most recent one is not

(50:52.8 - 50:55.6)

paying attention to weather and wind forecast.

(50:55.8 - 51:01.4)

There was a local boat, a local guy who lived here with his girlfriend

(51:01.6 - 51:05.9)

from up north. And they were coming from Koyuk to here.

(51:06.1 - 51:09.0)

And the typical wave action with the north

(51:09.0 - 51:13.3)

wind at Cape Denbigh is high, dangerous waves.

(51:14.0 - 51:15.6)

It's always white cap.

(51:18.1 - 51:21.4)

He tried calling his grandmother.

(51:21.9 - 51:25.0)

My husband thinks that they were outside of Denbigh.

(51:25.2 - 51:26.5)

H

No, outside of Shaktoolik. Old site.

W

Oh, old site, okay.

(51:29.8 - 51:33.5)

And everybody thought he was outside the runway here.

(51:33.6 - 51:36.7)

See the big difference traveling in the late

(51:36.7 - 51:38.5)

fall when it gets dark at night, like

(51:38.6 - 51:41.2)

10:00 o’clock. Everybody started to look for them

(51:41.3 - 51:44.5)

and we spent maybe ten days searching.

(51:45.7 - 51:47.1)

H

Never did find him.

(51:47.2 - 51:52.4)

We found his girlfriend, but she was uh, they found her

(51:52.5 - 51:54.4)

with a helicopter, though.

W

She probably

(51:54.5 - 51:56.3)

had hypothermia in the north wind when the waves got all wet.

She was in a PFD?

I don't know if she had one. But we found the dog.

(52:03.9 - 52:05.0)

The dog they had.

(52:05.1 - 52:06.6)

We were in our boat when we found the

(52:06.6 - 52:08.7)

dog and we found some of their camping gear.

(52:08.8 - 52:12.1)

And he said maybe the reason for the accident,

(52:12.3 - 52:13.7)

we found the boat and he went and

(52:13.7 - 52:18.3)

checked the boat and the console was loose.

(52:18.4 - 52:21.0)

And he thinks that they hit a wave

(52:21.1 - 52:25.8)

outside of Shaktoolik and…

H

[loudly] Secure your steering console.

(52:25.9 - 52:32.0)

That would be a *real* important thing for safety.

(52:32.2 - 52:34.5)

It doesn't matter what kind of boat it is.

(52:34.8 - 52:36.5)

Most of those aluminum boats

(52:36.6 - 52:39.5)

have a welded steering console.

(52:39.7 - 52:41.2)

But this one had a wooden one

(52:41.3 - 52:43.2)

and it wasn't attached to anything.

(52:43.9 - 52:47.0)

And that's how the accident happened, I think.

(52:47.1 - 52:49.7)

So they lost maneuverability?

H

What's that?

(52:49.8 - 52:52.1)

They lost the ability to steer?

H

Yeah.

(52:52.1 - 52:57.0)

What happened was if you're going with the

(52:57.0 - 53:01.0)

waves, that type of boat tend to hit

(53:01.0 - 53:04.3)

one side and it'll just immediately turn.

(53:04.6 - 53:06.2)

Do you see what I'm saying?

Mmhm.

H

(53:06.6 - 53:10.8)

If you go over the wave and you're surfing and

(53:10.8 - 53:14.1)

you hit the other side and it will instantly turn.

(53:14.2 - 53:16.6)

And apparently he was thrown over.

(53:17.4 - 53:20.3)

He must have held onto his steering, but it was loose.

(53:21.7 - 53:23.9)

W

And the other thing that was bad for him

(53:24.0 - 53:26.3)

was they said, “well, what was he wearing?”

(53:26.4 - 53:39.4)

He was wearing one of those bibs with rain boots, it would

(53:39.4 - 53:41.3)

have filled with water and brought him down.

(53:41.4 - 53:42.4)

You can't wear those.

(53:42.5 - 53:44.4)

H

Not regular hip boots. What’s it called.

W

Waders.

(53:46.7 - 53:51.7)

H

Yeah, that's the one that made him sink right away.

(53:52.4 - 53:56.8)

W

So if you can picture where we found the um…

(53:59.5 - 54:03.9)

there's Cape Denbigh. Shaktoolik is 40 miles away.

(54:04.0 - 54:05.1)

Then there's Unalakleet.

(54:05.2 - 54:06.4)

And then down here there's a

(54:06.4 - 54:08.8)

little cape called Tolstoi Point.

(54:08.9 - 54:11.4)

And then there's another point called Black Point.

(54:11.6 - 54:14.9)

My husband and the other guys who have done crabbing

(54:14.9 - 54:18.3)

and herring fishing looked at the site where the boat

(54:18.4 - 54:20.5)

was found and they looked at where it came from

(54:20.5 - 54:26.2)

and they said that basically drifted from old site, Shaktoolik

(54:26.3 - 54:28.3)

all the way to where it was found.

(54:28.4 - 54:31.0)

She died of hypothermia

(54:31.1 - 54:37.3)

and she died drowning, because the waves were so rough.

(54:37.4 - 54:41.2)

There was no safe…

(54:41.4 - 54:43.3)

H

It must have happened instantly.

(54:44.8 - 54:47.0)

They had no clue as to what happened.

(54:47.4 - 54:50.0)

W

Her body was found, but his was never found.

(54:53.5 - 54:55.8)

H

This other guy right here, [their neighbor] he was an

(54:57.2 - 54:59.7)

employee of Fish and Game for a long time.

(54:59.9 - 55:01.6)

W

And he practiced safety all those years.

(55:01.6 - 55:04.8)

Yeah, of all the people, you know practicing safety.

(55:04.8 - 55:06.9)

Which accident was that one? Your neighbor?

(55:07.0 - 55:08.2)

The neighbor, yeah, the one

(55:08.3 - 55:10.5)

that crashed down at Blackpoint.

(55:10.6 - 55:12.6)

He hit a reef.

H

I think.

(55:12.6 - 55:14.3)

Yeah, he hit a reef, yeah.

(55:14.4 - 55:18.8)

W

And these are big volcanic rocks that you can't see

(55:18.8 - 55:23.2)

unless you're right above them. But this is a known

(55:23.2 - 55:27.9)

reef that is about half a mile offshore of Galsovia

(55:27.9 - 55:31.0)

and it should be marked because somebody else in

(55:31.0 - 55:34.0)

the next…

H

I wanted to go put a buoy

(55:34.0 - 55:38.4)

or something that could warn people.

(55:40.4 - 55:42.2)

W

We have too many storms that will move

(55:42.3 - 55:47.0)

it, a buoy.

H

Yeah, it's all rocky from what they call

(55:47.0 - 55:51.1)

Tolstoi Point from there on south, it’s all,

(55:51.7 - 55:59.2)

there's big volcanic boulders.

W

There’s rocks that are bigger than our canoe. Huge

(55:59.2 - 56:02.3)

volcanic rocks in the ocean.

(56:02.5 - 56:07.6)

Do people use a chart on their phone or a paper chart?

H

Yeah,

(56:08.4 - 56:13.0)

the younger generation is taking that into consideration. And I

(56:13.0 - 56:16.7)

think it's a good idea for everybody to learn to

(56:16.8 - 56:21.3)

how to operate GPS and navigation like that.

(56:21.4 - 56:22.6)

W

You should put that down.

(56:22.7 - 56:24.6)

That saves people's lives every year.

(56:24.7 - 56:32.2)

H

That is very important because at night when I was crabbing,

(56:32.4 - 56:36.2)

I'd say, okay, I never worried about it because I had

(56:36.3 - 56:41.2)

all my, the channel marked on my GPS, so I know exactly

(56:41.3 - 56:42.8)

which way to go and where to go.

(56:42.9 - 56:44.2)

So you did use that?

(56:44.3 - 56:45.9)

H

I did use it all the time.

(56:46.1 - 56:48.3)

From all the fisheries that you did?

(56:48.4 - 56:50.9)

W

No.

H

I don't use it for salmon.

(56:53.8 - 56:59.7)

W

When they first came out, the first emergency GPS that

(57:00.2 - 57:03.6)

Garmin made, there's a little Etrex, and we bought those for Caribou hunting.

H

That’s a real genuine little tool. Around here they do a lot of

snowmobiling and they have a lot of snowstorms,

(57:13.3 - 57:16.3), and if you're out where

(57:16.3 - 57:20.3)

there's no landmarks, GPS comes in handy.

(57:20.9 - 57:22.9)

So I've used it more than

(57:23.0 - 57:25.0)

once a lot of times, actually.

(57:25.1 - 57:31.0)

W

He told our son who was going closer to caribou hunting, past Koyuk, closer to Buckland,

(57:31.0 - 57:33.1)

that's how far they have to go now,

(57:33.2 - 57:36.6)

for caribou. For some odd reason, our son

(57:36.6 - 57:39.7)

turned on the GPS outside of Koyuk,

(57:40.3 - 57:41.6)

then they got the North Wind

(57:41.7 - 57:43.9)

storm, which is basically no visibility.

(57:44.6 - 57:48.4)

There were three guys hunting together and

(57:49.1 - 57:50.6)

they said, well, what shall we do?

(57:50.6 - 57:52.1)

Because the storm was so bad.

(57:52.1 - 57:53.7)

H

It's my little buddy there, [an ermine] by the

(57:53.7 - 57:56.4)

way, you see him on the ground?

(57:57.2 - 57:59.5)

There he is, it's my little buddy.

(57:59.6 - 58:11.9)

W

That's the ermine, he lives in that cash.

(58:11.9 - 58:17.1)

We have her mother's cash, but we kind of

(58:17.1 - 58:19.2)

use it now because her mother is in a

(58:19.2 - 58:24.0)

home, but that little ermine lives underneath.

(58:24.1 - 58:26.8)

He has probably a little nest, lots of

(58:26.8 - 58:30.0)

hay or something, but he's always out.

(58:30.0 - 58:32.9)

But he's lonesome, he needs a

(58:32.9 - 58:36.2)

Girlfriend [laughs]

You better find him one.

(58:38.5 - 58:43.0)

Oh, talking about the Etrex, that was a storm and the last guy couldn't

(58:43.0 - 58:45.9)

see the first guy, and sometimes the second guy

(58:45.9 - 58:47.7)

couldn't see the first guy, but they would all

(58:47.7 - 58:49.2)

try to keep their lights together.

(58:49.7 - 58:54.3)

That little Etrex brought them all the way to Koyuk. Saved their lives.

H

(58:54.5 - 59:02.4)

Visibility

W

During that same storm, there were older guys that

(59:02.4 - 59:07.2)

didn't use the Etrex, and that's a safety net.

(59:07.3 - 59:08.9)

They had to go searching for the other two

(59:09.0 - 59:12.8)

guys in the storm.

H

The older guys, supposedly knew the

(59:12.9 - 59:16.0)

country really well, but they got lost, and they were

(59:16.0 - 59:17.8)

lost for a couple of days.

(59:18.5 - 59:22.2)

Here's our son with this little Etrex, he

(59:22.2 - 59:23.8)

told the guy, “Oh, yeah, I forgot

(59:23.8 - 59:26.0)

I have this little Etrex, I have it in my pocket.

(59:26.1 - 59:26.8)

And I turned it on.

(59:26.9 - 59:29.3)

For some odd reason, I turned it on in Koyuk.

(59:29.5 - 59:31.3)

And he tracks it all the way to where they were hunting.

(59:31.3 - 59:32.3)

They were hunting.

(59:32.4 - 59:34.4)

They got their caribou, and they're just

(59:34.4 - 59:36.3)

about ready to start coming back home.

(59:36.4 - 59:37.9)

That's when the storm hit.

(59:38.9 - 59:40.9)

And he said, “Oh, yeah, I've got this.

(59:40.9 - 59:44.7)

And I could track I could probably go 5 miles an hour.”

(59:45.1 - 59:47.5)

I had given him this little Etrex.

(59:47.7 - 59:50.2)

I had given a flashlight, and I

(59:50.3 - 59:52.6)

had given him thin gloves.

(59:53.3 - 59:55.6)

And he said they all came in handy.

(59:56.5 - 59:59.2)

I don't know why it just happened that way, but

(59:59.6 - 60:05.0)

the Etrex should be used in the boat like crabbers.

(60:07.5 - 60:09.4)

They have to have it anyway to mark

(60:09.4 - 60:15.2)

their pots, anyway, crabbing starts next week.

(60:15.5 - 60:22.4)

W

I think that training classes for optimum use of those.

(60:22.6 - 60:24.6)

H

Yeah, that'd be really ideal

W

Because a

(60:24.6 - 60:27.5)

lot of people don't have the skills.

(60:27.6 - 60:29.5)

H

I don't anyway, but I have enough

(60:29.5 - 60:33.5)

to just talk about my experience.

(60:33.9 - 60:36.0)

You can tell her about it. [both laugh]

(60:42.0 - 60:44.9)

W

Yeah, it’s a funny story.

Our son told him to get the Garmin

(60:45.0 - 60:49.6)

inreach because it's a more modern GPS.

(60:49.8 - 60:51.9)

And I told him, well, you should spend money

(60:52.0 - 60:54.0)

on it, because I make him spend money.

(60:54.0 - 60:57.2)

Because all these years of fishing, we've done

(60:57.2 - 61:01.7)

the IRAs because he made too much.

(61:01.7 - 61:04.6)

So I just told him, we'll just save for retirement.

(61:04.6 - 61:07.2)

And I always tell him, towards the end of

(61:07.2 - 61:08.9)

the year, “you have to spend some money.”

(61:09.1 - 61:12.5)

And I told him maybe five, six

(61:12.6 - 61:14.6)

years ago to get the inreach.

(61:14.8 - 61:18.4)

So we bought it, and for a full year, he didn't use it.

(61:21.2 - 61:22.6)

Do you know Gary Eckenweiler?

(61:22.7 - 61:23.7)

Have you seen him?

No.

(61:23.7 - 61:25.1)

W

Oh, you should meet Gary if you can.

(61:25.2 - 61:27.8)

You should go to his house because it's one of a kind.

(61:28.4 - 61:29.7)

Jeff knows him.

(61:32.0 - 61:34.0)

He was one of my herring partners.

(61:34.4 - 61:37.9)

And then he went crabbing with my husband once.

(61:37.9 - 61:41.2)

But he also brought the 32 foot Bristol Bay

(61:41.2 - 61:43.4)

boat that my husband bought to go crabbing with.

(61:43.5 - 61:48.4)

Gary took it during a storm outside of the mouth

(61:48.4 - 61:51.2)

of the what? which river was he out of?

(61:51.3 - 61:52.8)

Coming up from Bristol Bay?

H

Kuskokwim, about 10 miles out.

(61:57.1 - 62:00.2)

W

And he called his wife, and she was able to

(62:00.2 - 62:02.4)

track him with something that they had, and she told

(62:02.4 - 62:07.6)

him how to get out of the shallow water.

(62:08.9 - 62:12.3)

So she had it?

H

She did it on the computer.

(62:13.5 - 62:14.7)

They were connected.

(62:14.8 - 62:17.2)

You can connect those in reaches with them.

(62:17.7 - 62:22.7)

Anyway, she directed him directly toward the Nunevac Island

On the cell phone?

W

On the satellite phone.

But anyway, I would holler at him to take

(62:35.6 - 62:41.0)

the inreach and late this spring when the water, when

(62:41.0 - 62:43.4)

the river ice was getting thinner, I told him, well,

(62:43.4 - 62:45.7)

if you're going to go upriver by yourself and I

(62:45.7 - 62:47.0)

never told him to go by himself.

(62:47.1 - 62:48.4)

I would always take someone.

(62:48.5 - 62:49.8)

He said, “Well, I'm going to go by

(62:49.8 - 62:52.4)

Myself. I can take care of myself.”

(62:53.4 - 62:54.9)

And he went by himself.

(62:55.0 - 62:57.8)

And I said well and I told him to take the

(62:57.8 - 63:03.7)

inreach and I checked it and I keep my iPhone with

(63:03.8 - 63:07.6)

him when he's out and I never got a call.

(63:09.5 - 63:17.1)

He said that his £600 snow machine tipped over on a

(63:17.1 - 63:22.5)

hill that was 1300ft and it pinned his shoe under the

(63:22.6 - 63:27.9)

snow machine by the ledge of the snow machine.

(63:28.7 - 63:32.0)

And he tried sending an emergency

(63:32.0 - 63:33.8)

message to me at 02:00.

(63:34.0 - 63:35.4)

He didn't know how to operate it

(63:35.5 - 63:39.1)

right, so he tried again at 05:00

(63:39.1 - 63:40.7)

after just laying under the snow machine

(63:40.8 - 63:43.0)

for 3 hours, I got that message.

(63:43.9 - 63:45.9)

It was at 4:59.

(63:46.5 - 63:48.3)

As soon as I got the message on my

(63:48.3 - 63:51.5)

iPhone, I called my son and he called his

(63:51.5 - 63:54.2)

other buddy and they always do search and rescue.

(63:54.3 - 63:56.7)

By 515 they were out of here.

(63:57.1 - 64:01.9)

We took a picture of the inreach,

(64:02.0 - 64:05.7)

satellite picture of where he was and

(64:05.8 - 64:08.3)

they both took their inreaches with them.

(64:08.4 - 64:09.9)

And they didn't even have to follow the

(64:09.9 - 64:12.7)

trail when they got past the river.

(64:12.7 - 64:14.5)

We call the Saroski River.

(64:14.6 - 64:16.0)

It's like 30 miles up.

(64:16.1 - 64:19.6)

They could just follow the GPS map directly to

(64:19.7 - 64:22.1)

him and they had to look a little bit,

(64:22.1 - 64:24.4)

but they knew about where he was off the

(64:24.4 - 64:29.0)

trail where he wasn't supposed to be. [both laugh]

H

Exploring.

(64:29.1 - 64:30.9)

W

So that's why he's so crippled.

(64:31.1 - 64:34.4)

You can see

H

It’s healed up but

(64:34.4 - 64:36.6)

this foot is actually pretty good now.

(64:36.6 - 64:42.0)

I can step on bear weight on it, but I thought I

(64:42.0 - 64:47.3)

had broken a bone because it shot up pain all the way up.

(64:47.6 - 64:51.3)

But it didn't turn out that way on the X ray.

(64:51.3 - 64:55.5)

So, was really lucky, but that's £650 of weight on me.

(64:55.8 - 64:56.9)

What do you think would have happened

(64:56.9 - 65:00.2)

if you didn't have the Inreach?

H

I don't know.

(65:00.3 - 65:02.3)

W

They would have been searching and rescuing him and it

(65:02.3 - 65:05.2)

would have taken over a day to find him.

(65:05.4 - 65:08.2)

I generally knew where he was going, but he was

(65:08.3 - 65:11.2)

not on any trail that they would normally

H

I was

(65:11.3 - 65:14.9)

away from the main trail activities.

(65:15.5 - 65:19.0)

I was going to go out and discover my own little,

(65:25.4 - 65:30.5)

but that's a safety issue there and once in a while

(65:30.6 - 65:33.0)

I'll take it with me out in the ocean.

(65:34.0 - 65:38.2)

But generally I just use a GPS when I'm out

(65:38.2 - 65:44.2)

there and I depend on the boat and the ability

(65:44.6 - 65:49.3)

to be able to take the waves that comes out.

(65:50.3 - 65:56.6)

With my experiences with all that stuff behind me,

(65:56.8 - 65:58.9)

I would tell myself I should be able to

(65:58.9 - 66:02.5)

drive myself home without any problems as long as

(66:02.6 - 66:04.0)

I don't have a motor problem.

(66:06.4 - 66:08.1)

W

He didn't tell you, but he’s got

(66:08.2 - 66:11.0)

20 years of drifting in Bristol Bay.

(66:11.2 - 66:13.3)

He quit there to come up here.

(66:13.4 - 66:14.5)

Here's a map.

(66:15.1 - 66:18.1)

I'll just come by you and show you the GPS.

(66:22.6 - 66:24.6)

So our cabin, this is the Saraski River.

(66:25.1 - 66:27.4)

And our cabin is right here where he was.

(66:27.5 - 66:29.6)

He told me he was going to go south.

(66:31.6 - 66:33.6)

The actual trail is further up.

(66:33.7 - 66:35.1)

He went on the tail of what

(66:35.1 - 66:36.6)

we call the whale back’s hills and they found him here [pointing]

(66:36.7 - 66:39.0)

I'll show you them, and they found him right here.

(66:39.1 - 66:40.4)

If they didn't have this map,

(66:40.4 - 66:41.7)

he would have been way off.

(66:42.2 - 66:43.7)

How would they know where he was?

(66:43.8 - 66:45.6)

W

They would have known where he was.

(66:46.8 - 66:48.9)

So the big hills that you see when you're

(66:49.0 - 66:52.0)

flying in, we call it the whale backs.

(66:52.2 - 66:53.6)

We just call it whale backs.

(66:53.7 - 66:56.3)

He was at the tail end of the whale backs.

(66:56.7 - 67:02.9)

H

That's a safety issue there and I mean, stress

(67:03.0 - 67:05.2)

the fact that they should have some

(67:05.2 - 67:09.7)

sort of communication, especially the younger generation.

(67:09.9 - 67:11.2)

W

I have another one

when they're

(67:11.2 - 67:12.3)

too far from cell phone?

(67:12.4 - 67:16.5)

H

Yeah, generally on salmon, I fish only

(67:16.5 - 67:18.4)

within a couple of miles here.

(67:18.7 - 67:21.2)

Most of the fishermen, a lot of them

(67:21.3 - 67:23.8)

go about 15, 20 miles up north.

(67:23.9 - 67:28.3)

So it's a big move for them, but they know what to do.

(67:28.4 - 67:34.8)

W

I have some pet peeves for safety.

(67:34.9 - 67:38.0)

We should have an ore, we should have a spare anchor, and we should have

(67:38.0 - 67:41.8)

enough gas because he's so famous for running out of

(67:41.8 - 67:51.3)

gas and having to be towed by those things.

You are? [laughs]

W

So those things.

(67:51.7 - 67:54.6)

An ore, a spare anchor…

W

And enough gas.

(67:54.7 - 67:55.7)

Enough fuel.

(67:57.2 - 68:00.0)

H

A little bit of water, too.

(68:04.0 - 68:05.8)

I always carry a little bit

(68:05.9 - 68:07.5)

with me when I'm salmon fishing.

(68:07.6 - 68:11.3)

No matter how close I am, it comes in handy.

(68:11.4 - 68:13.9)

W

It's actually not in the ocean that he runs out of gas.

(68:13.9 - 68:15.2)

It's going upriver.

(68:17.2 - 68:18.4)

H

Well, she's starting to tell

(68:18.5 - 68:20.3)

you all that personal stuff.

(68:23.0 - 68:27.6)

We have made fishing a lifestyle early on when

(68:27.6 - 68:29.8)

we first got married, and it's always been

(68:29.9 - 68:33.8)

that way till she retired from it.

W

I didn’t realize I had to work 30 years of fishing.

H

We were always involved with it.

(68:39.8 - 68:41.7)

Obviously, we still are.

(68:41.8 - 68:44.0)

But I have all the equipment here.

(68:45.5 - 68:46.5)

W

I'm going to give her a

(68:46.6 - 68:49.9)

statistic because you said financial statistics.

(68:50.4 - 68:53.5)

Over the years, fishermen here could make from

(68:53.6 - 68:56.8)

40 to over $100,000 a year off of

(68:57.0 - 69:00.8)

commercial salmon and more during the herring.

(69:01.3 - 69:05.5)

Because for some of them, it was easy for

(69:05.5 - 69:08.9)

them to make over $60,000 during the hearing fisheries.

(69:09.4 - 69:11.9)

But in the last five years, we have had

(69:11.9 - 69:15.8)

the Yukon and the northern Stone disaster, salmon disaster.

(69:16.3 - 69:18.4)

We were talking to a fisherman from

(69:20.8 - 69:24.1)

Shaktoolik who says normally he would make

(69:24.2 - 69:26.9)

over $60,000 off of the salmon fishery.

(69:27.0 - 69:30.2)

He said, Last year, I didn't even make $1,000.

(69:31.2 - 69:37.5)

My husband paid his crew member, who normally makes a

(69:37.5 - 69:39.6)

couple thousand in the last couple of years.

(69:39.7 - 69:41.7)

I told him, Your crew member

(69:41.8 - 69:44.9)

didn't even make $150 last year.

(69:46.2 - 69:47.7)

This was two years ago.

(69:47.8 - 69:52.0)

Last year, his crew member made a good return for

(69:52.0 - 69:56.0)

this area because he was one of maybe seven fishermen

(69:56.1 - 70:00.2)

who went out and did the humpy fishery.

(70:00.3 - 70:02.0)

People don't like to fish for humpies

(70:02.1 - 70:03.6)

because humpies, in a set net,

(70:03.7 - 70:05.4)

you have to pull them one by one

(70:05.7 - 70:08.1)

H

And they weren’t paying very much, all those years.

(70:08.1 - 70:11.9)

But I think they're standing they're

(70:11.9 - 70:13.1)

starting to pay a little better.

(70:13.2 - 70:15.4)

So maybe there'll be more involved.

(70:15.9 - 70:17.8)

That's a big issue there.

(70:18.0 - 70:23.5)

Humpies are, [laughs] we were throwing away humpies.

(70:23.8 - 70:25.1)

How many years?

(70:25.3 - 70:26.2)

Ten years.

W

Because they never bought them.

H

They never bought them. But finally they

(70:32.9 - 70:34.7)

saw the value of a humpy.

(70:34.9 - 70:39.5)

So they're starting to pay more attention to that.

(70:40.7 - 70:43.8)

Do you think it being harder to make money

(70:43.9 - 70:46.2)

makes it more dangerous in any ways?

(70:46.6 - 70:49.1)

W

No, people will still want to go out.

(70:49.2 - 70:52.8)

But what's happened now that it's a fourth or

(70:52.8 - 70:57.7)

fifth year is there are actually fishermen who

(70:57.7 - 71:00.1)

are selling their permits and their boats like

(71:00.2 - 71:01.5)

they did quite a few years ago.

(71:01.6 - 71:04.2)

Like when herring was dying off, people

(71:04.3 - 71:06.7)

started to sell their big boats.

(71:08.1 - 71:11.1)

If you see the big fancy herring boats that

(71:11.2 - 71:17.2)

you can hardly see around here

H

Scrap aluminum.

W

The

(71:17.2 - 71:21.4)

fisherman who came up from Minnesota and Seattle, from

(71:21.4 - 71:24.3)

Washington and Oregon and maybe California for the herring

(71:24.3 - 71:26.9)

fishery, they just let their boats sit here and

(71:26.9 - 71:32.4)

finally, after 20 years, the city repossessed and they

(71:32.5 - 71:36.0)

sell them for not even 10% of their value.

(71:36.9 - 71:38.6)

That's what happened with the herring fishery.

(71:38.7 - 71:40.1)

Not the salmon fishery.

(71:40.4 - 71:46.3)

But with the salmon disasters happening the last

(71:46.4 - 71:49.9)

five years there's got to be fishermen hurting

(71:50.0 - 71:51.8)

if it's their only source of income.

(71:52.6 - 71:55.8)

It's got to be tough for the Yukon and for here.

(71:55.8 - 72:02.1)

For Norton Sound. So when they say it's a disaster,

(72:02.1 - 72:03.7)

it really was a disaster.

(72:04.6 - 72:07.8)

H

It's always a disaster every year up here.

(72:07.9 - 72:12.8)

And after being in Bristol Bay I asked myself for

(72:12.9 - 72:15.3)

the first two years, what am I doing up here?

(72:15.4 - 72:23.1)

I could have been hitting what they call when

(72:23.1 - 72:29.0)

we set a net, you call it the lane?

(72:29.5 - 72:38.9)

No, not the whole net sinks anyway.

(72:39.8 - 72:42.0)

Experienced that so many times down there.

(72:42.1 - 72:45.2)

There's so much fish oh, yeah.

You know what the forecast is for this year?

(72:50.4 - 72:52.0)

75 million.

(72:52.4 - 72:53.7)

That's unheard of.

(72:53.8 - 72:56.8)

When I was down there, it'd be about 40 million.

(72:56.9 - 72:58.8)

40 million would be high.

(73:00.1 - 73:02.3)

W

And I think the reason they keep having the

(73:02.3 - 73:04.3)

return is if you look at Lake Clark and

(73:04.3 - 73:08.9)

Lake Iliamna, those lakes are cold and they're deep.

(73:09.1 - 73:10.3)

They don't warm up.

(73:10.4 - 73:13.1)

Lake Iliamna is the deepest lake in the state of

(73:13.1 - 73:17.3)

Alaska and it's a deep lake.

H

They’re lucky in that way.

(73:17.3 - 73:18.9)

And then on top of that, there's

(73:19.0 - 73:20.9)

all the snow in the big mountains.

(73:21.5 - 73:25.2)

There's lots of snow down there north of Dillingham.

(73:26.2 - 73:28.5)

It keeps the water cool down there.

(73:28.9 - 73:31.1)

Their system is pretty much on the

(73:31.1 - 73:33.5)

normal side compared to up here.

(73:33.7 - 73:35.7)

We have no snow whatsoever.

(73:35.8 - 73:38.9)

Well, we got a little bit. But the water temperature

(73:39.0 - 73:42.4)

will zoom up as soon as everything is all gone.

(73:42.5 - 73:45.2)

So we don't have the runs up

(73:45.2 - 73:46.9)

here like they do down there.

(73:47.0 - 73:51.4)

But I enjoy it. It’s our home.

(73:51.9 - 73:53.8)

W

He has his fishing partner, his

(73:53.8 - 73:55.2)

first fishing partner in Bristol Bay said,

(73:55.2 - 73:57.9)

“Yeah, let's go cruising up the

(73:58.0 - 74:00.1)

Kvichak and go check out Lakey Iliamna.”

(74:00.1 - 74:03.6)

So they took their 32ft boat and they went all the way up.

(74:10.1 - 74:13.8)

H

But I was young then and I was more adventurous.

(74:14.7 - 74:18.0)

Now, I can just sit here and relax and not worry about it.

(74:18.3 - 74:24.3)

You got your friend, ermine [they laugh]

W

There's a

(74:24.3 - 74:26.4)

robin that doesn't have a mate and it sings every morning. (74:27.7 - 74:31.7)

H

It came by while we were talking, but he comes up

(74:31.7 - 74:36.4)

and sings a lot, looking for his mate, you know.

(74:37.3 - 74:40.9)

I started googling all the birds and I found

(74:40.9 - 74:43.8)

out their life span is about 20 years.

(74:45.4 - 74:49.8)

That robin, but the swallow’s is eight years.

(74:50.4 - 74:54.6)

And that one old man lost his mate, I think.

(74:54.7 - 74:59.5)

He goes into her house, I know exactly which house, which one

(74:59.6 - 75:02.7)

of those, and he goes and checks it out, but

(75:02.8 - 75:05.3)

he always ends up coming back out.

(75:06.9 - 75:08.1)

It's typical.

(75:09.4 - 75:11.1)

W

That's why he comes out here, watches the birds.

(75:15.3 - 75:19.2)

H

I tried to talk to them and my sister

(75:19.3 - 75:22.1)

down here lives down a little further down on.

(75:23.8 - 75:25.6)

She said, “Yeah, they dive at us when they get eggs”

Well, you don't have to let them dive at you,

(75:28.8 - 75:31.0)

all you have to do is talk to them.

(75:31.7 - 75:34.1)

And I talk a lot to these birds.

(75:34.3 - 75:37.7)

They don't bother us when they get their eggs.

(75:37.9 - 75:41.3)

They do the defensive move and she said, “Yeah,

(75:41.3 - 75:43.1)

they come really close to us down there.”

(75:43.1 - 75:46.1)

I said, “well, start talking to your birds.”

(75:47.7 - 75:49.5)

W

I didn't plant my garden this year because

(75:49.6 - 75:52.4)

my knees, I can't sit on my knees and

(75:52.4 - 75:54.1)

I'm debating whether to do it or not.

(75:54.2 - 76:03.8)

The rhubarb…

H

I think we covered pretty much what

(76:03.9 - 76:07.8)

you wanted

Yeah.

H

And I hope it goes through, you know, some of these ideas.