Interview 8 Transcription

All right, so we would like to learn

(00:16.7 - 00:20.0)

about your experiences commercial fishing, and the goal

(00:20.0 - 00:22.6)

is to improve marine safety in Norton Sound.

(00:22.8 - 00:25.0)

We hope to use your stories and knowledge to share

(00:25.1 - 00:27.9)

with the community here and in other fishing communities.

(00:29.0 - 00:31.4)

Can you start off by telling me the areas you

(00:31.4 - 00:34.8)

have commercial fished and the types of commercial fishing?

(00:36.4 - 00:39.9)

I fished in Norton Sound here in Unalakleet,

(00:41.0 - 00:42.8)

since I was a kid with my dad.

(00:43.6 - 00:47.7)

So that has to be at least 35 years here.

(00:48.3 - 00:56.5)

And then that's for salmon gillnet set fishing.

(00:59.4 - 01:01.4)

I've done set net herring fishing

(01:01.5 - 01:06.4)

fishing, and I'm a commercial crabber.

(01:12.7 - 01:14.4)

And then why do you fish

(01:14.5 - 01:19.9)

where do you fish for those?

As far as

(01:20.2 - 01:25.3)

specific areas or is it just fishing here?

Either.

(01:25.4 - 01:29.7)

Yeah, well, of course here I'm in Unalakleet, and

(01:29.8 - 01:31.9)

so it's just like I got to stick within

(01:31.9 - 01:37.7)

the district that we're in, but I go

(01:37.7 - 01:45.2)

to different areas knowing where the best fishing is

(01:45.2 - 01:47.3)

going to be for each different type of species.

(01:51.1 - 01:52.6)

Can you describe your boats

(01:52.7 - 01:54.3)

for those different fisheries?

(01:56.2 - 02:04.1)

For salmon, I currently am using a 22-foot skiff.

(02:05.1 - 02:10.4)

It's a flat bottom, and for crabbing, I

(02:10.5 - 02:18.3)

use a 30-foot purse seiner, which has

(02:18.3 - 02:25.0)

a cabin, and both boats are outboard powered.

(02:31.6 - 02:33.5)

Is the herring also the 22-ft?

With the herring, I was actually just a deck hand.

(02:37.0 - 02:39.3)

And so, I don't own a herring permit, but

(02:39.9 - 02:44.3)

I was a deck hand for several openers.

(02:46.3 - 02:50.6)

So that was kind of my next question is what position

(02:51.6 - 02:54.7)

do you have on board for each of those fisheries?

(02:55.1 - 02:57.0)

For herring I was a deckhand.

(02:58.3 - 03:03.1)

For salmon, I was a deck hand for my dad for

(03:03.1 - 03:09.0)

many years, and I purchased my own permit in 2017.

(03:09.0 - 03:19.2)

And for crabbing, I purchased the vessel,

(03:19.8 - 03:23.8)

the pots, the LLP, in 2018.

(03:23.8 - 03:32.1)

And then what got you into fishing?

(03:33.0 - 03:34.8)

Just growing up and doing it. [laughs]

(03:39.6 - 03:41.0)

You started with your dad?

Yeah.

As a deckhand?

(03:41.1 - 03:47.2)

Yeah, and so I never saw it as work.

(03:47.3 - 03:49.0)

It was just something to get out and do.

(03:49.2 - 03:54.0)

I’ve even, I've done subsistence fishing on

(03:54.0 - 03:55.9)

the Yukon, which is totally different.

(03:57.2 - 03:59.2)

So, yeah, I've been fishing all different

(03:59.2 - 04:01.8)

types of fishing throughout my entire life.

(04:04.3 - 04:05.3)

How old were you when

(04:05.4 - 04:07.9)

you first went commercial fishing?

(04:10.6 - 04:13.8)

When I first started helping, I think I was five. [laughs]

(04:20.5 - 04:23.5)

That may be a record. [laughs]

Yeah, no, I was very persistent to go with

(04:23.5 - 04:25.4)

my dad anywhere when I was a kid.

(04:26.5 - 04:31.0)

I've taken my kids out fishing with me, and my son

(04:31.2 - 04:35.1)

was three years old when I had him help me. So.

(04:39.9 - 04:41.4)

What kind of things did he do to

(04:41.4 - 04:45.8)

help?

Pull the net and move the fish.

(04:48.8 - 04:50.5)

And he could do it? With his little hands?

Yeah, he did.

(04:50.5 - 04:52.1)

He was able to do it. [laughs]

(04:53.4 - 04:54.7)

It was amazing.

(04:54.9 - 04:57.4)

I actually got a picture of it, if you want to see.

Yeah.

(04:57.5 - 05:03.3)

I got to find it.

(05:20.7 - 05:22.0)

Do you want a coffee re-fill?

I can get it.

(06:03.6 - 06:07.1)

I got him helping me load the boat, but when we're

(06:07.1 - 06:09.9)

out in the waters, I'd have him do the lead line.

(06:12.6 - 06:15.7)

Oh, yeah, he looks like a professional. Yeah, that’s awesome.

(06:17.9 - 06:19.0)

He was like, I want to help.

(06:19.1 - 06:21.1)

And so I told him that he can,

(06:25.5 - 06:28.7)

and then he was actually during subsistence crabbing,

(06:30.8 - 06:33.6)

he was helping me.

(06:39.9 - 06:40.9)

Oh, wow.

(06:42.0 - 06:42.8)

What's he doing?

(06:42.9 - 06:44.4)

Pulling the crabs out. [both laughing]

(06:47.4 - 06:50.3)

I showed him more to grab the crabs, and

(06:50.3 - 06:52.8)

so he was just like, I'm doing that.

(06:59.7 - 07:02.6)

So, I don't tell them no when they want to do stuff.

(07:06.7 - 07:07.3)

Do you have other kids?

Yeah.

(07:07.5 - 07:09.9)

He has three older brothers.

(07:11.0 - 07:12.5)

Did you fish with them?

(07:13.1 - 07:15.3)

I did, but they weren't as adamant as

(07:15.4 - 07:17.4)

helping, and so I'd have them help.

(07:17.4 - 07:19.1)

I'd let them help, but it was like,

(07:19.2 - 07:20.7)

after a bit, they'd want to stop.

(07:20.8 - 07:25.0)

But him, he was always the one that was like

(07:25.0 - 07:28.2)

me, wanting to keep going and going through the entire process.

(07:41.4 - 07:42.6)

How old is he now, still three?

No, he’s seven.

Ohh. So he’s a fisherman.

He is. He wants to come back.

(07:42.7 - 07:47.7)

He didn't come last year because it's the

(07:47.7 - 07:50.1)

same situation as it is right now.

(07:50.2 - 07:53.1)

I looked at the tickets, and his mom was like,

(07:53.1 - 07:54.5)

“I want all of us to go up there.”

(07:54.5 - 07:56.0)

Like, I am not going to sit here and

(07:56.1 - 07:58.7)

spend $20,000 for you guys to be here for

(07:58.8 - 08:00.3)

three months or not even three months.

(08:00.3 - 08:01.4)

It was like a month and a half.

(08:01.5 - 08:03.1)

Like, I ain't spending that much money

(08:03.1 - 08:06.6)

just for that short amount of time.

Yeah.

(08:14.2 - 08:15.1)

Who else,

(08:16.0 - 08:18.4)

have you had other family fish with you?

(08:19.2 - 08:20.2)

I have.

(08:22.6 - 08:27.0)

In 2018, one of my sons was helping

(08:27.1 - 08:29.2)

me on the crabbing boat, and two of

(08:29.2 - 08:31.1)

them were helping me on the crabbing boat.

(08:33.8 - 08:36.8)

And in 2019, I had two of them

(08:36.9 - 08:40.8)

helping me, but I made them go home. [laughs]

Why?

(08:45.6 - 08:48.9)

They were getting in the way more than helping, and so

(08:49.8 - 08:51.5)

I just told them, I was like, I had enough.

(08:51.7 - 08:53.9)

It was like, two to three weeks within the season.

(08:54.0 - 08:57.2)

I said, I don't want to get mad at you guys.

(08:57.3 - 08:58.5)

I don't want to snap at you guys,

(08:58.5 - 09:00.0)

so I have to send you home. [laughing]

(09:04.1 - 09:04.6)

Yeah.

(09:04.7 - 09:06.6)

I didn't get mad at them.

(09:06.8 - 09:11.0)

I can just feel myself just, like, getting irritated.

(09:11.2 - 09:14.5)

And so I called their mom and

(09:14.6 - 09:15.7)

I told them, what's going on.

(09:15.8 - 09:17.5)

And I said, I'm taking them home

(09:17.6 - 09:19.5)

and they're not coming back with me. [laughs]

(09:22.0 - 09:22.6)

Yeah.

(09:22.7 - 09:27.0)

And so I had to explain to my son that's a few

(09:27.0 - 09:30.3)

years older than him who wanted to go, and I said, no.

(09:31.4 - 09:33.4)

The first year, he was awake and really

(09:33.4 - 09:35.0)

helping out, but the second year, he was

(09:35.0 - 09:37.7)

sleeping more and just taking space and not

(09:37.7 - 09:40.6)

allowing my other crew member to really rest.

(09:40.6 - 09:42.2)

And so I said, I need the space in the boat.

(09:42.3 - 09:44.2)

I need my crew members to rest well and so.

That was crabbing?

(09:49.3 - 09:50.1)

Mmhmm. Yeah.

(09:53.5 - 09:55.2)

And then I had my nephew helping

(09:55.3 - 09:58.7)

me in 2019 as my deck handed crabbing.

(10:02.9 - 10:05.8)

This year, I am going to have my

(10:10.2 - 10:14.3)

first cousin once removed as my deck hand.

Okay.

Yeah.

(10:14.4 - 10:17.4)

So I kind of like to keep it kind of family oriented.

(10:19.4 - 10:22.7)

Initially, I had my second cousin lined up to be

(10:22.8 - 10:26.1)

my deck hand, but he had family obligations to where

(10:26.1 - 10:29.7)

he could not come out on the boat with me.

(10:29.7 - 10:32.2)

And so I talked with my cousin and I asked his son

(10:32.3 - 10:34.1)

if he wanted to come out and be my deck hand.

(10:34.1 - 10:35.2)

And he said, Yeah.

(10:41.4 - 10:43.4)

The younger relatives that you've taken fishing,

(10:43.4 - 10:46.3)

have you tried to mentor them?

Mmhmm, I do.

(10:46.3 - 10:48.6)

And I sit there and I tell them, I said if there’s these things

(10:48.6 - 10:50.4)

and I have inside my vessel, how

(10:50.4 - 10:52.5)

to do Mayday calls and everything else.

(10:54.7 - 10:57.1)

If there's any kind of issues I have, them, I

(10:57.2 - 11:00.1)

make sure that they know everything within the boat.

(11:04.8 - 11:09.5)

Yeah.

Yeah. Yeah.

And then has anyone taught you? Well your dad.

Yeah.

(11:11.4 - 11:14.8)

Can you think of any specific lessons that he’s

(11:14.8 - 11:20.7)

taught you, especially being safe out on the water?

(11:22.9 - 11:24.1)

Just to pay attention to the

(11:24.1 - 11:25.8)

weather is the biggest thing.

(11:25.8 - 11:28.5)

It's paying attention to the weather and knowing what

(11:28.5 - 11:31.1)

you can handle and what your boat can handle.

(11:34.0 - 11:35.7)

Those were the major ones.

(11:37.4 - 11:44.0)

And what I’ve learned from my grandpa, and this is for

(11:44.1 - 11:47.7)

when I'm out crabbing mostly, is that he said, pay attention

(11:47.7 - 11:51.9)

to everywhere you go so that way you don't get lost.

(11:53.7 - 11:55.7)

Because that's in case, like, your GPS goes

(11:55.7 - 11:58.6)

Down, that you can sit there and look

(11:58.6 - 12:01.2)

at your surroundings and know where you're at.

(12:03.1 - 12:12.9)

How far offshore are you when you’re crabbing?

A minimum from here,

(12:13.0 - 12:16.1)

A minimum of 60 miles.

(12:16.9 - 12:19.0)

And out of Golovin, we're like

(12:19.1 - 12:23.5)

40 miles out of Golovin minimum.

(12:25.0 - 12:27.5)

It depends on how you triangulate it

(12:27.5 - 12:29.8)

or where you're fishing out of.

So if you’re 60 miles out, how do you know where you are without GPS?

(12:40.0 - 12:42.6)

Because I still can see the outlines of the hills. [laughs]

(12:42.8 - 12:43.5)

You can? That’s really far? [laughing]

(12:43.6 - 12:46.2)

Yeah, it is.

(12:46.4 - 12:48.6)

It's like if I go down to St.

(12:48.7 - 12:53.8)

Michael's, which is like, at the turning point in Norton

(12:53.8 - 12:55.9)

Sound, where you turn in and start going into the

(12:55.9 - 12:59.0)

Yukon area, is that I can actually see the tip of

(12:59.0 - 13:01.1)

Denbigh and Denbigh a little bit.

(13:11.5 - 13:13.3)

And I actually guided, well, it was me and my dad and my brother.

(13:13.4 - 13:19.8)

We were out bearded seal hunting,

Ugruk?

Yeah.

(13:20.0 - 13:22.7)

And we were by Egg Island.

(13:22.9 - 13:25.4)

And I saw that fog pushing in, and

(13:25.4 - 13:27.3)

we were just about done cutting it up.

(13:27.9 - 13:29.8)

And the last thing I notice, I looked

(13:29.9 - 13:32.9)

at how we were positioned to Egg Island.

(13:33.1 - 13:34.9)

And then it just got white out.

(13:35.9 - 13:37.6)

And we didn't have any GPS.

(13:37.8 - 13:39.6)

And I was paying attention to the waves

(13:39.7 - 13:41.4)

and how they were kind of just rolling,

(13:41.4 - 13:43.4)

and I knew which direction they came from, and so

(13:44.6 - 13:46.6)

my brother was driving and I was

(13:46.6 - 13:48.2)

guiding him which way to go.

(13:50.3 - 13:52.3)

And so I told my dad, I said,

(13:52.4 - 13:53.7)

I kept telling him to turn left.

(13:53.8 - 13:55.4)

And he was making a joke and say, no, you're trying

(13:55.4 - 14:00.4)

to make us go to Shaktoolik, which is north and

(14:00.7 - 14:02.3)

I just said, No, I know what you're doing.

(14:02.3 - 14:03.1)

I know how you're driving.

(14:03.1 - 14:04.4)

I can feel the ways,

(14:04.4 - 14:05.4)

I can feel the boat, and so

(14:05.5 - 14:11.4)

we got like, four to 5 miles out of

(14:11.4 - 14:16.5)

town, and I felt the change in the waves, and I

(14:16.5 - 14:20.1)

felt him veering right, turning right a little bit.

(14:20.3 - 14:22.4)

And I looked at my dad and I said, when we

(14:22.4 - 14:24.4)

come out of this fog, we're going to be right outside

(14:24.5 - 14:28.2)

of Big Lake, the lake down south of here.

(14:28.9 - 14:31.4)

And sure enough, we were straight out from

(14:31.4 - 14:33.3)

Big Lake and had to take it.

(14:34.5 - 14:36.0)

I need to learn that. [laughs]

(14:37.6 - 14:38.1)

Yeah. [laughs]

(14:38.1 - 14:41.3)

And that goes back from like training of being out in

(14:41.3 - 14:43.8)

the waters and out in the country my whole life

(14:43.9 - 14:47.1)

and just taking that one small advice for my grandpa

(14:47.1 - 14:49.9)

to just pay attention to everywhere you go.

(14:49.9 - 14:53.5)

And it's just not you got to learn to

(14:53.5 - 14:56.7)

develop, like, a small GPS in your head.

(15:01.2 - 15:05.1)

When I went with my cousin to go and pull the crab

(15:05.1 - 15:09.4)

pots, I turned my GPS on as we were going out, and he

(15:09.4 - 15:11.9)

wanted to look at it, and so I give it to him,

(15:12.3 - 15:14.2)

and he kept looking at it, and I just kept driving.

(15:14.3 - 15:16.8)

I didn't grab my GPS at all.

(15:16.9 - 15:20.4)

And I said, after about 3 miles of driving,

(15:20.5 - 15:23.0)

I was like, “Am I driving the right way?” [laughs]

(15:24.7 - 15:26.5)

He's like, “you don't need this.”

(15:33.2 - 15:35.8)

Like I said, just being very cautious and very

(15:35.9 - 15:38.1)

observant of what you're doing and where you've gone.

(15:40.5 - 15:44.8)

I trained myself to have that as one of my safety

(15:44.8 - 15:48.9)

things when I go out is that I know where I'm at.

(15:51.3 - 15:54.0)

In terms of weather changing, what kind

(15:54.1 - 15:56.6)

of things do you look for? Do you have some rules?

(15:59.8 - 16:04.9)

I do. Any kind of surrounding, like, things in the

(16:04.9 - 16:07.1)

land that you can sit there and look, out at

(16:07.1 - 16:10.7)

Besboro and use that as a weather indicator.

(16:10.8 - 16:13.4)

Like, if you look at it the night before and you

(16:13.4 - 16:16.3)

see that it has this mirage and it looks like it's

(16:16.3 - 16:18.9)

floating, you don't want to go out in the ocean.

(16:19.0 - 16:21.2)

It's going to be north wind, and the

(16:21.2 - 16:22.7)

waves are going to be too big.

(16:27.5 - 16:30.5)

And then it's just like all of the traditional

(16:30.5 - 16:34.1)

ways that I was taught by just looking at

(16:34.2 - 16:37.6)

the clouds in the sky for indication that some

(16:37.6 - 16:42.4)

of them have changed. Like in the past.

(16:42.5 - 16:46.0)

I think with the Earth axis tilting, it's different now

(16:46.1 - 16:48.6)

because it's just like there are sun dogs, the sun

(16:48.6 - 16:54.7)

dogs at high when they're like, here, not into the

(16:54.7 - 16:58.6)

here, like more on the west, the sundog,

(16:59.3 - 17:02.3)

that will indicate that it's going to be calm

(17:02.4 - 17:04.6)

for at least two to three days, and it's

(17:04.6 - 17:06.0)

good to go out in the ocean.

(17:06.3 - 17:09.3)

But if you see a sundog at sunset, it's

(17:09.3 - 17:11.1)

going to be windy for three days, in which

(17:11.1 - 17:15.1)

it has been. Because it was three days ago

(17:15.1 - 17:18.3)

I saw, or two-to-three days ago, I saw sundog at

(17:18.3 - 17:24.1)

sunset, and I thought it was going to be decent, but

(17:24.1 - 17:26.7)

it was just like I forgot that it changed. [with the earth axis tilting]

(17:27.7 - 17:29.6)

Can you describe what a sun dog is?

(17:31.9 - 17:33.9)

It’s,

you know, it's like that line that you, have you

(17:33.9 - 17:35.2)

seen it where you look at the sun and there's

(17:35.2 - 17:38.6)

that big circular orange line that goes around it?

(17:39.8 - 17:40.2)

Mmhmm.

(17:40.3 - 17:41.5)

That's a sun dog.

(17:42.6 - 17:42.9)

Yeah.

(17:43.0 - 17:45.9)

There's a big ring around the sun. Yeah.

Okay.

(17:47.5 - 17:51.5)

And then you said a sundog at sunrise?

(17:54.1 - 17:57.3)

I actually haven't seen a sundog at sunrise.

(17:57.3 - 18:02.9)

It's more like near setting, but it's on

(18:02.9 - 18:05.4)

the west side later in the evening.

(18:10.6 - 18:11.4)

Later in the evening.

(18:11.5 - 18:13.6)

And when it's on the east, then

(18:13.6 - 18:15.9)

it's going to be stronger east wind.

(18:19.5 - 18:22.2)

And then when it's a sundog at sunset, it's going

(18:22.2 - 18:24.3)

to be north wind for three to four days.

(18:24.4 - 18:25.6)

And then when you say if it's west

(18:25.6 - 18:29.1)

or east, you need the ring itself?

No. Where it shows up.

(18:29.1 - 18:32.5)

Like if you don't see it here and then you

(18:32.5 - 18:35.4)

see a sundog on this on the west side, then

(18:35.5 - 18:38.9)

that's an indication that it's going to. Because there's a

(18:38.9 - 18:42.1)

sundog that it doesn't always appear around the sun.

(18:42.1 - 18:44.4)

Like the sun can be high all day and then come

(18:44.5 - 18:47.9)

at sunset, and then the sundog will come around it.

(18:49.5 - 18:53.8)

And then if there's like a cloud that hovers

(18:54.3 - 19:02.3)

right above Besboro, like five years ago, it would

(19:02.3 - 19:05.8)

indicate west wind, but now it's indicating that it's

(19:05.8 - 19:07.6)

going to be more easterly wind.

(19:08.9 - 19:13.6)

So it's just small, little observations that I've seen. Because when I

(19:13.6 - 19:17.3)

was first told that, it was west wind for like two

(19:17.4 - 19:21.9)

to three days, but now it's like east wind for three

(19:22.0 - 19:26.2)

or four days.

And that's changing with the axis.

(19:28.8 - 19:29.6)

Yeah.

(19:31.8 - 19:34.7)

Can you think of an opener

(19:34.8 - 19:36.4)

that sticks out in your mind? And describe the day.

(19:38.3 - 19:39.4)

An opener?

(19:40.3 - 19:41.3)

A commercial opener?

Yeah.

Yeah, it was actually last year. It was pink season with

(19:52.0 - 19:59.6)

my nephew, and I was reluctant to go because the waves

(19:59.7 - 20:12.1)

weren't that big, but I just knew that with the winds

(20:12.1 - 20:14.0)

that we were having and we had to actually drive out

(20:14.1 - 20:20.0)

to the tender to deliver, we had over £4000 of pinks

(20:20.2 - 20:25.6)

in the boat, in my 22-foot skiff, and just being

(20:25.7 - 20:29.3)

able to read the waves and knowing that what my nephew

(20:29.3 - 20:31.3)

was doing in the boat, I knew I can handle it,

(20:31.4 - 20:34.7)

but he was sitting on the wrong side, and he was

(20:34.7 - 20:38.6)

actually intrigued watching water come onto the boat. [laughs]

(20:40.3 - 20:43.6)

But I told him to put his life vest on and because I just said,

(20:43.8 - 20:46.0)

“I know it's going to be a little

(20:46.0 - 20:48.3)

sketchy going out there,” so I had him move to the

(20:48.3 - 20:50.5)

other side and I was actually sitting on the other side

(20:50.5 - 20:55.3)

so the boat was, we were going out like that so the waves

(20:55.3 - 20:57.4)

wouldn't break and go over the boat, but yeah, I know

(20:57.4 - 21:02.5)

that was one of the parts where it was not only

(21:02.6 - 21:06.2)

that part, but water actually started coming in back of the

(21:06.2 - 21:09.5)

boat when we're taking fish out on the beach across there.

(21:09.7 - 21:12.6)

Okay, so you came up to land…

To take

(21:12.6 - 21:15.9)

the fish out of the net because the net

(21:15.9 - 21:20.0)

was filling as quickly as we can check it.

Yeah.

(21:20.2 - 21:22.2)

And so I told my nephew, we're just pulling

(21:22.2 - 21:25.4)

it out, so that's what we had to do.

(21:25.5 - 21:26.7)

It was too rough, or?

(21:27.4 - 21:30.0)

No, we were getting too many fish.

(21:31.0 - 21:33.0)

It was like we were checking the net and it

(21:33.0 - 21:36.7)

was nearly sinking as we were going along, and I

(21:36.7 - 21:40.1)

didn't have any rope to tie the net up.

(21:41.2 - 21:43.8)

So, yeah, that was one of the ones where I

(21:43.8 - 21:49.3)

was more concerned about, was having that one of the

(21:49.3 - 21:52.6)

openers that actually sticks to my mind, because all the

(21:52.6 - 21:56.6)

other openers were not bad at all.

(21:56.6 - 21:58.7)

I haven't had any issues, but that was one

(21:58.7 - 22:02.1)

of the times that I was most concerned.

(22:05.9 - 22:07.4)

Do you wish you had anything going

(22:07.5 - 22:09.9)

into that day that you didn't have?

(22:15.1 - 22:16.6)

Not that I can think of, because

(22:16.7 - 22:18.4)

I tried to be prepared for everything.

(22:20.8 - 22:23.2)

So you had two crew members.

(22:31.9 - 22:34.3)

Yeah, me and my nephew.

How old?

18.

What all gear did you have on the boat?

(22:35.2 - 22:39.8)

Well, we just had our PFDs and I had the bilge pump.

(22:42.1 - 22:44.4)

And what else did we have?

(22:47.4 - 22:49.5)

I had more, but I can't remember. I think

(22:49.5 - 22:57.5)

I might have had the flares and the reflector.

The mirror? The signal mirror?

(23:01.7 - 23:04.2)

Yeah.

(23:09.2 - 23:12.2)

And after that day was over, can you describe

(23:12.4 - 23:15.5)

what it was like getting back to land?

(23:17.6 - 23:19.5)

I don't know, because I was so tired. [laughs]

(23:20.9 - 23:26.2)

Yeah, we dealt with like over £8000 of pink in 6

(23:26.2 - 23:29.4)

hours, and it was just the two of us.

(23:29.5 - 23:36.1)

And so he didn't do much because he's still like a greenhorn.

(23:36.2 - 23:45.8)

So I just remember coming back and

(23:46.1 - 23:48.5)

being a little irritated with my nephew.

(23:49.0 - 23:50.8)

And I was just so tired that I just

(23:50.8 - 23:52.3)

didn't talk to him within that day, I just

(23:52.3 - 23:55.8)

went home and laid down and rested.

(23:56.3 - 23:58.2)

But the next day I talked to him and

(23:58.2 - 24:01.1)

I said I actually went and I said, “you know, when

(24:01.1 - 24:03.5)

you see these things, you can't just sit there.”

(24:03.6 - 24:05.0)

I said, “what you were doing put

(24:05.0 - 24:06.7)

us in a really sticky situation.

(24:07.6 - 24:09.1)

It could have been a way worse

(24:09.3 - 24:11.0)

if I didn't tell you to move.”

(24:11.3 - 24:15.7)

So it was the stability issue?

Not necessarily the

(24:15.7 - 24:17.7)

stability of it, but he was on the side

(24:17.8 - 24:19.7)

of the boat where the waves were breaking. And with the weight,

(24:19.9 - 24:24.3)

because he's not a small guy, he's taller than I am.

(24:25.1 - 24:26.8)

He was like, maybe 280.

(24:26.8 - 24:32.0)

And so with his weight on that side, it

(24:32.0 - 24:34.2)

was pushing that side of the boat down.

(24:35.0 - 24:36.8)

And so I had to get him to go on the other

(24:36.9 - 24:41.8)

side to lift the boat up to keep that side higher.

(24:41.9 - 24:43.6)

So when the waves hit, that they

(24:43.6 - 24:46.1)

were not coming into the boat.

(24:47.1 - 24:49.1)

But I was sitting there telling him, I said, and

(24:49.2 - 24:54.4)

like, when we're draining out the boat, he was sitting

(24:54.4 - 24:56.5)

there watching what I was doing, and water was coming

(24:56.5 - 24:57.7)

in as fast as it was going out.

(24:57.7 - 24:59.7)

And so I had to yell at him to move on the other side.

(24:59.8 - 25:01.4)

And I said, when you see these things, you

(25:01.4 - 25:06.2)

have to take the initiative to move and not

(25:07.2 - 25:09.8)

wait for somebody to tell you what to do.

(25:10.6 - 25:12.4)

So it was kind of training him on

(25:12.5 - 25:16.7)

just being more observant in safety matters. And so.

(25:20.8 - 25:22.4)

And you guys fished again together?

(25:22.5 - 25:24.1)

Yeah, we did.

(25:25.0 - 25:29.0)

Did you have another circumstance where

(25:29.0 - 25:30.7)

he then did the correct thing?

(25:32.1 - 25:36.1)

No, we didn't have that issue because we

(25:36.1 - 25:38.4)

didn't load the boat up like that again.

It’s because there were so many fish.

(25:40.5 - 25:41.0)

Yeah.

(25:41.0 - 25:46.0)

It was just the weight of the fish pushing and I had,

(25:46.2 - 25:50.1)

I want to say, like six inches of free board on the

(25:50.2 - 25:53.0)

boat and the boat is like 4ft. When I stand next to

(25:53.0 - 26:01.4)

it, when it's level with me, it's like 3ft off the ground.

(26:03.0 - 26:06.4)

The sides of the boat is 3ft up.

(26:07.6 - 26:09.4)

We were down like two and a half feet

(26:09.5 - 26:13.0)

in the water with the weight of the fish.

Yeah.

(26:16.3 - 26:19.5)

Would you do anything differently on that day?

(26:21.1 - 26:24.9)

I would have listened to myself. Before I

(26:25.0 - 26:27.0)

had to worry about pumping the boat out,

(26:30.0 - 26:31.9)

the tide was going out and the boat

(26:31.9 - 26:33.4)

was up on the sandbar like that.

(26:33.5 - 26:35.6)

And that's the reason why water started coming in, the back

(26:35.7 - 26:38.7)

end started going down with the way to the fish.

(26:38.7 - 26:42.9)

And in the back where the boat, there's a small hole

(26:43.0 - 26:46.3)

where I have all my wires going to my motor.

(26:46.3 - 26:48.7)

And so water was seeping through that.

(26:50.4 - 26:55.2)

And I would have listened to myself instead of

(26:55.3 - 26:57.5)

consulting with my nephew because I said, “maybe

(26:57.5 - 26:58.5)

we should push the boat out.”

(26:58.5 - 26:59.5)

And he looked and he said, “no,

(26:59.5 - 27:01.4)

it should be fine, we're almost done.”

(27:01.8 - 27:03.5)

And we were almost done.

Like maybe we should go to shore?

(27:07.0 - 27:09.0)

No, because we were actually on shore but as

(27:09.1 - 27:11.8)

the tide was dropping, we had the boat

(27:11.8 - 27:13.2)

here and let's say here's the sandbar.

(27:13.2 - 27:15.7)

We were sitting here pulling the net out of

(27:15.7 - 27:17.8)

the boat, taking putting the fish back into the

(27:17.8 - 27:19.2)

boat as we kept the net out.

(27:19.3 - 27:22.5)

But as the tide was going out, the boat, the bank started going

(27:22.6 - 27:25.0)

like that and so it was pushing the back end.

Yeah.

Towards the water.

Yeah. Pushing it down.

(27:27.0 - 27:28.6)

And so I knew I should have pushed the

(27:28.6 - 27:33.3)

boat out so it would be more level.

Okay.

Yeah.

(27:33.4 - 27:36.0)

That's the only thing yes.

So you could have lost the boat.

(27:36.2 - 27:37.9)

I could have. Yeah.

(27:39.2 - 27:42.8)

And so looking back at that day, I knew

(27:42.8 - 27:46.2)

that I should have pushed it out, but I

(27:46.3 - 27:48.3)

didn't want to stop taking the fish out.

(27:48.5 - 27:53.3)

So I didn't listen to my first instinct in doing that.

(27:53.3 - 27:54.7)

So that's the only thing that

(27:54.7 - 27:56.8)

I would do different that day.

Yeah.

(27:57.4 - 28:00.2)

Is that conflict too, like thinking about, oh,

(28:00.3 - 28:03.9)

I'll make more money if I get…?

No.

(28:03.9 - 28:05.1)

I already knew that I was going to make

(28:05.1 - 28:06.4)

the money because I had the fish there.

(28:06.4 - 28:09.2)

It was just a matter of getting done is what I wanted

(28:09.2 - 28:11.6)

to do is I just wanted to get done cleaning the net.

(28:11.7 - 28:17.4)

And it wasn't going to take long to take the rest

(28:17.4 - 28:20.6)

of the fish out because after we did get that, after

(28:20.7 - 28:24.4)

we situated the boat where it wasn't a concern of sinking,

(28:24.5 - 28:27.7)

it took us like 20 minutes to finish cleaning the net.

(28:27.9 - 28:28.6)

Yeah.

(28:32.3 - 28:37.3)

Can you think of some other dangers that you face

(28:37.4 - 28:48.2)

or that other fishermen face?

Other than waves, um, those are

(28:49.2 - 28:52.7)

the main dangers that we face, is the waves.

(28:52.8 - 28:56.6)

and the determination to make the money with

(28:56.6 - 28:59.5)

the prices increasing to where they are now,

(28:59.9 - 29:04.1)

is that I know that fishermen are more

(29:04.1 - 29:06.5)

to put themselves at risk in going out.

(29:06.6 - 29:10.6)

And then in the past, when I first started,

(29:11.7 - 29:14.0)

if it was rough out, people wouldn't go out.

(29:14.1 - 29:16.7)

But now it's like, if it's rough out and

(29:16.8 - 29:18.7)

there's an opener, people are going to go.

(29:24.1 - 29:27.6)

That's the biggest danger that we have here for the

(29:27.7 - 29:32.7)

fishermen is the determination to make money over safety.

(29:38.7 - 29:42.2)

And when did you notice that change from your

(29:42.2 - 29:45.8)

time as fisherman. When you were younger to now?

(29:46.0 - 29:51.3)

It just started like, four to five years

(29:51.3 - 29:56.5)

ago, when the price of the Coho went

(29:56.5 - 30:00.9)

up and the amount of fishermen, well,

it's not the amount of fishermen, but the price

(30:03.7 - 30:07.9)

of the Coho and the quantity of cohos out

(30:07.9 - 30:13.8)

there, that's when people are like, “the fish are out

(30:13.8 - 30:15.1)

there, I'm going to go and fish.”

(30:15.2 - 30:17.2)

And so we are taking more risks

(30:17.3 - 30:19.0)

than what we normally would do.

(30:21.3 - 30:26.1)

And the quantity there's less?

In

(30:26.1 - 30:27.7)

the past, there was less.

(30:29.1 - 30:36.8)

In 2017 and 2018, the Coho population was so

(30:36.9 - 30:44.1)

high that we were bringing in record numbers.

Okay.

(30:44.2 - 30:44.5)

Yeah.

(30:44.6 - 30:49.8)

Like, my lowest delivery was 80 some cohos.

(30:50.5 - 30:55.6)

And in the past, that was a lot for one day.

Okay.

(30:55.8 - 30:59.7)

But in 2017, that was just a normal check.

(31:00.9 - 31:07.2)

I'd bring anywhere from 80 to 200 some cohos.

(31:07.3 - 31:15.9)

And there was one year that I knew that the Chums were

(31:15.9 - 31:20.4)

going to be, when the Chum population was high and the tide

(31:20.4 - 31:22.4)

was coming in, I knew my net was going to be full.

(31:22.4 - 31:25.3)

So I convinced my cousin to be

(31:25.3 - 31:27.6)

out there with me all night.

(31:28.4 - 31:30.2)

And we kept that net clean.

(31:30.3 - 31:36.2)

And in 7 hours, we delivered over 700 chums.

(31:37.3 - 31:39.0)

And then I had to go to work the next morning.

(31:39.1 - 31:42.2)

So we checked the net, stayed with

(31:42.2 - 31:43.7)

the net all night, kept it clean.

(31:43.9 - 31:46.3)

I came in, we came in at 730.

(31:46.3 - 31:50.7)

And when I woke my dad up, I said, “It's your turn.

(31:50.9 - 31:52.3)

You can watch the net,” even though

(31:52.3 - 31:56.7)

it's not necessarily legal to do that.

(31:56.8 - 32:00.2)

But if the fisherman allow another fisherman

(32:00.2 - 32:01.9)

to be with the net, they can.

(32:02.0 - 32:03.9)

And so it was like my dad and I

(32:03.9 - 32:06.3)

were just taking turns because I had to work.

(32:06.3 - 32:08.6)

And so he'd check the net throughout the

(32:08.6 - 32:10.8)

day, and then I'd get the evening.

(32:16.5 - 32:18.3)

And then there's more fish now?

(32:19.8 - 32:25.1)

No, for the past, that was like

(32:25.1 - 32:28.0)

three years, like, 17, 18, and 19.

(32:30.1 - 32:30.9)

A good period of time?

Yes.

(32:31.1 - 32:35.6)

And then the fish crashed after the 2019 season,

(32:35.7 - 32:39.1)

due to the high temperature that we were having,

(32:41.9 - 32:45.6)

high temperatures, lack of rain, and the amount of

(32:45.7 - 32:48.6)

pinks in the river was draining the oxygen.

(32:49.0 - 32:50.0)

And so we had a high

(32:50.0 - 32:53.0)

mortality of salmon within the river.

(32:54.8 - 32:58.4)

And the trawl surveys were indicating

(32:58.5 - 33:00.5)

poor returns for the chum.

(33:00.6 - 33:04.1)

And so the survival rate for the salmon

(33:04.2 - 33:09.9)

in the ocean has not been that high.

(33:11.1 - 33:12.9)

And I don’t know, it's hard to say if it's in the

(33:12.9 - 33:15.3)

river or if it's out in the ocean.

(33:16.9 - 33:21.1)

I know last year we were having, there was a lot of

(33:21.2 - 33:23.4)

coho, but a lot of them were small.

(33:24.5 - 33:28.7)

And what happens is that when the Coho leave the river,

(33:29.2 - 33:32.9)

they spend like a year to two years in the ocean.

(33:34.5 - 33:36.5)

But, what’s been happening, it’s happening with the kings as well, is

(33:36.5 - 33:38.3)

that they leave the river and they spend a

(33:38.3 - 33:41.5)

few months out in the ocean and they grow

(33:41.7 - 33:43.6)

to a certain size and they come right back.

(33:43.7 - 33:46.2)

So they're not spending the entire time

(33:46.4 - 33:48.1)

out in the ocean as they should.

(33:48.7 - 33:59.5)

So we're getting smaller fish.

So with

(33:59.5 - 34:01.4)

the smaller fish, less fish now,

(34:01.4 - 34:05.7)

is that contributing to people more likely

(34:05.7 - 34:07.7)

to go out when the weather is bad?

(34:08.0 - 34:11.4)

Not really, because they're not…

So you’re saying that

(34:11.5 - 34:13.5)

just happened when there was high?

(34:13.6 - 34:18.6)

Well, now they'll still go

(34:18.7 - 34:20.7)

out because the price is high.

(34:20.8 - 34:22.6)

And so they're going to sit there and try to make

(34:22.6 - 34:26.1)

as much money for the fish because for a lot of

(34:26.1 - 34:32.3)

the fishermen, that's their main source of income. So with nearly,

(34:32.4 - 34:34.0)

I think it's going to be close to

(34:34.0 - 34:37.7)

$2 a pound for the Cohos this year.

(34:39.6 - 34:41.4)

It's going to drive people to go out

(34:41.5 - 34:44.4)

regardless of the weather because of the price.

(34:51.3 - 34:54.0)

But that's not the case for crabbing.

(34:54.9 - 34:58.2)

The mean won’t go out there when it's rough.

(34:59.6 - 35:01.8)

Well, the times that we do go out

(35:01.8 - 35:04.2)

and check the crab pots, it's at night.

(35:05.1 - 35:08.2)

And the reason behind that is that it's

(35:08.6 - 35:10.9)

not as windy and not as hot.

(35:12.9 - 35:16.1)

So that's how it is for crabbing.

(35:16.1 - 35:21.6)

But I didn't have some bad experiences crabbing and it

(35:21.6 - 35:24.9)

was not my crab pots that I was after.

Oh.

It was end of the season, the season had closed.

(35:34.0 - 35:36.9)

My cousin had motor issues and he

(35:36.9 - 35:39.3)

couldn't go and retrieve his crab pots.

(35:40.0 - 35:43.4)

And he was headstrong to go out.

(35:43.5 - 35:45.9)

And I told him it's not going to be good to go out.

(35:46.5 - 35:48.2)

I looked at the weather, I knew what

(35:48.2 - 35:49.3)

the winds were going to be like.

(35:49.4 - 35:54.9)

And he was just determined to get the pots and get out.

(35:57.0 - 35:58.2)

And I told him I'd help them.

(35:58.2 - 36:02.7)

So we went out. And we were in at

(36:02.7 - 36:06.0)

least twelve foot swells in a 30 foot.

(36:06.1 - 36:08.4)

I mean, we're just like going up and down.

(36:08.4 - 36:11.3)

And I look at him, “there's no

(36:11.4 - 36:12.8)

way we're getting to your pots.

(36:12.8 - 36:14.7)

We're turning around and going home.”

(36:15.4 - 36:17.0)

And I told him, I said, “you're not taking

(36:17.1 - 36:19.4)

my boat unless I can say you can go.”

(36:19.5 - 36:20.7)

I said, “I know you want to go and get

(36:20.7 - 36:22.8)

them now, but I'm going to be watching the weather

(36:22.8 - 36:24.4)

and I'll tell you when you should go.”

(36:26.1 - 36:27.3)

And so I did that. I’ve got the Windy app.

(36:27.4 - 36:31.3)

So I'll use the Windy app and I said,

(36:31.4 - 36:33.8)

“you have this time frame to get out there.”

(36:34.0 - 36:35.9)

So you didn't go back?

No.

(36:36.0 - 36:37.0)

Out there with him?

(36:37.2 - 36:38.8)

No, I let him go out.

(36:38.8 - 36:40.7)

Because I was getting ready to go down

(36:40.7 - 36:43.2)

to the Yukon to go moose hunting.

(36:45.4 - 36:47.4)

That's why, because I was using that time frame to

(36:47.4 - 36:49.8)

actually travel down there and then to come back.

(36:49.8 - 36:53.3)

And so I knew when I got back I was going

(36:53.3 - 36:58.1)

to be coming against like 20 to 30 mile an hour east

(36:58.2 - 37:02.1)

wind, which isn't bad if I just stuck along the coast.

(37:02.2 - 37:05.0)

And so that's what I did.

(37:06.4 - 37:12.3)

Oh, to get back from that.

From that moose hunt. I was

(37:12.4 - 37:15.4)

using my dad's 26-foot skiff to go.

(37:15.8 - 37:17.6)

And so I had a moose in the boat

(37:17.7 - 37:19.6)

with the 20 mile an hour east wind.

(37:19.6 - 37:20.5)

I knew when it was going to

(37:20.5 - 37:22.9)

hit, so I left that community, I left Kotlik,

(37:23.0 - 37:28.0)

like at eleven in the morning.

(37:28.2 - 37:29.9)

It's like after I got my moose, I put

(37:29.9 - 37:31.3)

it in the boat and I got to go.

(37:31.3 - 37:33.2)

I said, the winds are going to pick up.

(37:33.7 - 37:35.5)

And I knew how long it was going

(37:35.5 - 37:36.9)

to take me to travel that distance.

(37:36.9 - 37:40.2)

And so when I got there I was like I knew that I

(37:40.2 - 37:43.5)

was going to get hit, so I just stayed right along the coast.

(37:47.2 - 37:48.9)

It’s less windy?

The waves are a lot smaller.

(37:49.3 - 37:52.0)

It's still windy, but there's not enough time for the

(37:52.0 - 37:54.8)

waves to build because it's coming right off the coast.

(37:55.0 - 37:55.7)

Yeah, smaller waves.

(38:00.3 - 38:02.6)

Yeah. So it's just like knowing which way the winds

(38:02.6 - 38:07.7)

are blowing will indicate where I'm going to travel.

(38:14.0 - 38:16.8)

Do you wish you had any gear on that trip that

(38:16.8 - 38:22.5)

you didn't have or?

No, I had what I needed because

(38:22.6 - 38:28.2)

my dad all the gear that NSP had provided in the

(38:28.2 - 38:33.7)

boat and I had my Inreach and so I was

(38:33.7 - 38:36.0)

able to sit there and text anywhere I was at.

(38:39.4 - 38:42.3)

Yeah, I mean I've kind of gotten a sense from

(38:42.3 - 38:48.3)

a lot of people, but when people, have you ever

(38:48.3 - 38:51.3)

needed help, you're out on the water and you have

(38:51.3 - 38:55.6)

to communicate that to land or to another boat around you?

(39:07.8 - 39:09.8)

I cannot recall. I haven't been in that situation.

(39:11.5 - 39:14.8)

If you did need help, what would you do?

Use my cell phone. [laughs]

(39:19.2 - 39:21.8)

And that's just to regular cell phone GCI.

(39:22.8 - 39:24.7)

And there's a tower.

(39:25.1 - 39:27.3)

Is there a repeater or is it just one?

(39:27.5 - 39:29.9)

There's one here and they use these ones are

(39:29.9 - 39:33.5)

up on the hills more for relays and they

(39:33.5 - 39:35.1)

don't necessarily pick up your cell phone.

(39:35.1 - 39:37.0)

You can be right next to them.

(39:37.2 - 39:38.8)

But if you're in a spot that blocks you

(39:38.8 - 39:41.6)

from here, you're not going to have signal.

Okay.

(39:41.7 - 39:42.9)

Which is really weird.

(39:45.8 - 39:47.7)

And then how far can you go?

(39:47.8 - 39:50.0)

Do you know the distance that

(39:54.7 - 39:56.5)

you can get cell phone service on the water when you’re fishing?

(39:56.7 - 40:03.1)

You can get cell phone service like 15 miles south and 6 miles out.

(40:05.4 - 40:08.8)

And when you go straight out here, you could be

(40:08.8 - 40:13.7)

up to 10 miles out and still have cell service.

(40:14.5 - 40:17.4)

What about north?

North?

(40:24.8 - 40:25.5)

It depends.

(40:25.5 - 40:32.2)

If you're more along the beach, I

(40:32.3 - 40:33.8)

want to say Blueberry Point’s, like around

(40:33.9 - 40:36.1)

10 miles from here, 10 miles north.

(40:36.5 - 40:41.3)

But I've actually gotten cell service out on Besboro Island,

(40:41.4 - 40:44.7)

which is like 20 some miles from here, because you have

(40:44.8 - 40:46.9)

Unalakleet and Shaktoolik, you can both see.

(40:47.0 - 40:50.0)

And so you're kind of picking up I don't know which

(40:50.1 - 40:58.2)

one you're using. [if service is coming from Unalakleet or Shaktoolik]

And then we talked about this a little

(40:58.3 - 41:00.8)

bit earlier, but just so I can have it too as part of the study,

(41:03.8 - 41:05.7)

How often do you wear PFD?

(41:05.8 - 41:08.1)

Or in what conditions would you wear one or

(41:08.2 - 41:09.2)

not wear one?

(41:09.4 - 41:12.1)

Well, if I was out like the

(41:12.1 - 41:14.4)

weather yesterday, I'd have my PFD on.

(41:14.6 - 41:17.8)

If it's calm waters, I don't put

(41:17.8 - 41:21.2)

them on because I get hot easily.

(41:21.2 - 41:24.5)

And the one that I do have, it's really snug

(41:24.6 - 41:29.9)

to my body, and it keeps me really warm.

(41:34.6 - 41:36.7)

I try to use it as much as I can, but

(41:36.8 - 41:40.6)

it depends on the condition that I'm going out on.

(41:42.1 - 41:45.0)

Do you think that's the same for other fishermen,

(41:45.0 - 41:47.3)

or how is that different for most people?

(41:48.0 - 41:51.4)

I feel that there's some that I'd say, like

(41:51.5 - 41:55.4)

40%, if not less, maybe more than like 25%

(41:55.5 - 41:59.1)

of the fishermen that I see using PFDs consistently.

(42:00.9 - 42:04.6)

But when it's rough, it jumps up to like,

(42:04.6 - 42:08.5)

50% to 55% of the fishermen using PFDs.

(42:10.3 - 42:14.8)

And there's a lot of people that have

(42:14.8 - 42:16.8)

them in the boat but won't use them.

(42:18.8 - 42:26.7)

Even when it's rough?

Mmhm.

Why do you think that is?

It's just being out on the

(42:26.7 - 42:30.3)

water and just being out on the water so much

(42:30.3 - 42:34.7)

and knowing how to read the waves and drive the

(42:34.7 - 42:37.7)

waves, because I know I do that sometimes.

(42:37.8 - 42:40.4)

Is that when it's rough out there, I won't put a PFD

(42:40.4 - 42:46.2)

on because I can sit there and look at a wave and

(42:46.3 - 42:49.1)

know which way to drive and how to drive the.

(42:52.7 - 42:56.8)

So they're relying on their own …

Knowledge.

Navigation.

Yeah.

(43:00.1 - 43:02.4)

Even though it's rough, they feel like

(43:02.4 - 43:05.9)

they're within the bounds of being safe.

Yes. Yes,

(43:06.6 - 43:09.6)

and so a lot of the times when we drive when

(43:09.6 - 43:12.4)

it's rough out there, we're closer to the beach for, like,

(43:13.2 - 43:19.1)

I would say probably like, 300 yards off the beach.

(43:20.9 - 43:23.3)

And the reason for us to travel closer to the

(43:23.3 - 43:26.9)

beach is that the waves are a little farther apart.

(43:31.4 - 43:33.0)

And so, it's easier to drive the waves when

(43:33.0 - 43:34.6)

they're farther apart, and you don't have

(43:34.6 - 43:36.7)

to worry about the breakers as much.

(43:42.0 - 43:44.4)

The waves are farther apart, closer to shore?

(43:47.5 - 43:50.3)

And it's more like when you're right around town, it's

(43:50.3 - 43:56.9)

just like this area is relatively shallow. At low tide,

(43:57.0 - 43:59.8)

you can actually walk out there about a

(43:59.8 - 44:02.4)

mile, and it's only like 3ft deep.

Whoa.

Yeah.

It’s why you all have flat bottom boats.

(44:10.8 - 44:12.9)

Well, there's a lot of v shaped boats.

(44:12.9 - 44:14.7)

There's not a lot of flat bottom boats.

Oh, okay.

Mine.

(44:15.2 - 44:19.8)

Yeah, there's only, like, a handful of

(44:19.8 - 44:21.7)

people that have flat bottom boats.

(44:22.4 - 44:24.2)

Why do you have a flat bottom boat?

(44:25.1 - 44:26.3)

Because I didn't really want to

(44:26.4 - 44:28.4)

invest in a new boat yet.

Okay.

(44:28.4 - 44:30.6)

So it would be better to have a yeah,

(44:30.7 - 44:33.4)

a v shaped boat that breaks the waves better.

(44:34.5 - 44:38.6)

And I've been driving that boat since I was a

(44:38.6 - 44:45.1)

kid, and that's the boat that my dad taught me

(44:46.0 - 44:50.0)

how to drive in the ocean when it's rough.

(44:50.1 - 44:54.5)

I sat there and I actually stood in front of him as

(44:54.5 - 44:56.6)

he was driving and I had my hands on the wheel and

(44:56.6 - 44:59.1)

he was sitting there and telling me what to look for in

(44:59.1 - 45:01.0)

the waves and which way you got to go.

(45:01.5 - 45:04.9)

So I was more in tune in wanting to

(45:04.9 - 45:07.1)

learn how to actually run the boat myself.

(45:08.7 - 45:13.7)

By the time that I was in 6th grade, my

(45:13.7 - 45:16.6)

dad was letting me take that boat out by myself.

(45:17.5 - 45:22.5)

Actually, no, I was in fourth grade and he's letting

(45:22.5 - 45:27.9)

me take it out to go bird hunting here.

Up or down the coast?

Just like right along the slews in these slews.

(45:30.7 - 45:32.5)

I was going out hunting by myself at

(45:32.5 - 45:35.0)

that age and then with my friends.

(45:35.1 - 45:37.6)

And then when I was in 6th grade, he

(45:37.6 - 45:40.9)

was letting me drive the river whenever I wanted

(45:40.9 - 45:42.8)

to or wherever I wanted to go.

(45:44.1 - 45:46.6)

But my older brother is three years older

(45:46.6 - 45:48.3)

than I was in 9th grade and had

(45:48.3 - 45:53.9)

a limitation in where he can go.

Wow.

Yeah.

(45:54.7 - 45:58.2)

And that's how I feel with my kids, is that the older

(45:58.3 - 46:02.7)

ones, I'd be more reluctant to let them take it.

(46:03.6 - 46:08.5)

But the two younger boys, I'll let them take it

(46:08.8 - 46:11.7)

if they wanted to because I had the, let’s see, how old is he now? 13?

(46:16.3 - 46:20.7)

But when he was eleven, I had let him

(46:20.7 - 46:23.8)

drive that boat by himself and I was letting

(46:23.8 - 46:26.7)

him follow me in that flat bottom boat.

(46:30.0 - 46:32.0)

I did the same thing my dad did, just

(46:32.0 - 46:35.1)

let them start training when they were young.

(46:37.4 - 46:39.9)

What else do you try to pass on to them? Your sons?

(46:41.1 - 46:45.7)

How to read the rivers, how to read the waves,

(46:45.8 - 46:49.1)

and making sure they have all of the things they're

(46:49.1 - 46:51.6)

going to need in any kind of situations.

(46:55.5 - 47:01.0)

And we make them use PFDs at all times.

(47:01.1 - 47:06.0)

And so if they go in a boat without

(47:06.0 - 47:09.3)

the PFD on, I make them go home. [laughs]

(47:11.4 - 47:12.7)

So that's one of my rules.

(47:12.8 - 47:20.9)

And so the second oldest boy, when he was

(47:21.0 - 47:26.0)

three, had fallen out of the boat, but he

(47:26.0 - 47:27.8)

had his PFD on because we've always put them

(47:27.8 - 47:29.9)

on before we let them get in the boat.

(47:30.1 - 47:34.0)

And he was in the back in my dad's boat and there's

(47:34.0 - 47:36.9)

a bench and so he was looking over in the water.

(47:37.0 - 47:38.9)

I don't even know how he fell in, I just heard a

(47:38.9 - 47:43.4)

splash and I was watching him and it's just like he was

(47:43.4 - 47:47.4)

up like that and he was trying to get onto his stomach.

(47:47.8 - 47:49.8)

And so right when he did, I had

(47:49.8 - 47:51.8)

just got to him and pulled him up.

Right, it’s better to be on your back.

(47:55.2 - 48:00.5)

Yeah, he wasn't even three.

(48:00.6 - 48:02.0)

I think he was two.

(48:03.3 - 48:07.7)

But after that incident that entire summer, when he would

(48:07.7 - 48:10.6)

get to the water, he would put his PFD on. [laughs]

(48:16.0 - 48:18.4)

He knew. I don't even have to say anything to my kids now.

(48:18.5 - 48:20.3)

It's just like it's just a second nature

(48:20.4 - 48:22.8)

for them to put their PFD on.

(48:22.8 - 48:27.8)

And so when I go out with them, I've been trying to use

(48:27.8 - 48:33.3)

my PFD as much as I could, but some days I just like

(48:33.3 - 48:37.2)

I'm busy loading the boat and just trying to get out.

(48:38.4 - 48:40.5)

I'll get ridiculed by them sometimes. [laughs]

(48:48.4 - 48:50.6)

And then another question I want to ask.

(48:53.8 - 48:56.7)

Do you feel like Unalakleet has all the resources

(48:57.1 - 48:59.5)

that people need to go out and be safe

(48:59.6 - 49:02.4)

in terms of getting training or getting equipment?

(49:03.8 - 49:06.6)

Where is it lacking or where could it be better?

(49:08.6 - 49:13.7)

I think it's more so the lacking in training and knowing

(49:13.8 - 49:25.1)

the importance of using a PFD, people understand it, but they would

(49:25.1 - 49:31.2)

rather not, be, it's more of a hassle for them to have

(49:31.2 - 49:33.2)

it on than it is for them to use it.

(49:33.3 - 49:40.1)

So I think that's the only thing that they lack,

(49:40.2 - 49:45.5)

but other than that, as far as getting the proper

(49:45.6 - 49:49.2)

safety equipment, is that they can get it fairly easy.

(49:51.0 - 49:56.3)

And I know if any fisherman went to NSEDC and to

(49:56.3 - 49:58.4)

the fish plant and say that they want to get

(49:58.5 - 50:01.2)

this, that they would actually order it for them.

(50:01.4 - 50:04.8)

And how they charge them is that they

(50:04.8 - 50:06.8)

just take it off of their fishing checks.

(50:08.1 - 50:19.8)

So there's no upfront cost for the fishermen.

Regarding

(50:19.8 - 50:22.7)

the PFDs and it being more of a hassle

(50:22.7 - 50:27.5)

to have on, do you think if people tried

(50:27.5 - 50:32.7)

on PFDs that were not hot, not uncomfortable, if they

(50:32.8 - 50:34.9)

didn't really feel like they had anything on, like

(50:35.0 - 50:40.6)

Inflatable…

And then having these [points to type 3 vest] as a backup.

Right.

(50:41.0 - 50:43.2)

Since it's not a type three, so

(50:43.2 - 50:44.5)

it doesn't mean the Coast Guard requirements…

(50:44.7 - 50:47.3)

No.

But maybe do you think that people

(50:47.3 - 50:49.0)

would be more likely to wear them?

(50:49.2 - 50:50.4)

I think so.

(50:50.8 - 50:54.0)

And I was actually thinking about ordering that myself this

(50:54.1 - 50:58.6)

year for me and my deck hand. Because I

(50:58.6 - 51:00.2)

know I need to start using it, but it's

(51:00.3 - 51:05.5)

just like I said, it's just getting too hot.

(51:05.7 - 51:11.2)

And the bulkiness of these ones… [type 3 vest]

So I've

(51:11.2 - 51:12.7)

been looking into it for the last few

(51:12.8 - 51:15.2)

years, and I just haven't ordered them yet.

(51:20.9 - 51:24.8)

Another thing I wanted to ask, what are the

(51:24.8 - 51:27.9)

long term effects of fishing on your body? Physically? What is the experience you’ve had or what do you think it will be?

(51:34.2 - 51:35.2)

For myself,

(51:35.4 - 51:37.5)

I don't think so.

It doesn’t have to be a negative thing?

No.

 (51:42.3 - 51:44.3)

For me, the benefits of it is

(51:44.4 - 51:46.1)

that it keeps me in shape.

(51:50.8 - 51:54.5)

I consider it my workout, but

(51:54.5 - 51:55.9)

I do make sure I stretch.

(51:56.0 - 51:57.5)

And that's the important thing, is that I

(51:57.5 - 52:01.1)

can see my dad and how he has…

(52:02.3 - 52:04.5)

He calls it a back issue, back problem,

(52:04.6 - 52:06.5)

but I know for a fact that it's

(52:06.6 - 52:10.4)

more him not stretching, because he doesn't stretch.

(52:10.5 - 52:15.2)

And so I feel the same problems when I'm preparing

(52:15.3 - 52:19.5)

for the season, and I feel that my lower back

(52:19.5 - 52:21.8)

is hurting, and I just sit there and I stretch

(52:22.2 - 52:25.2)

a lot and the pain goes away.

(52:26.2 - 52:29.2)

I try to tell him, but he doesn't listen to me.

(52:29.3 - 52:30.7)

He knows more than I do. [laughs]

(52:34.6 - 52:36.4)

And I can understand that.

(52:38.0 - 52:40.4)

I've been trying to train myself not to

(52:41.3 - 52:43.1)

feel the same way with my boys.

(52:46.1 - 52:48.1)

What about emotional effect fishing?

(52:51.3 - 52:55.6)

I enjoy it and so it's a relaxation for me. It’s like a…

(52:59.0 - 53:00.0)

People will meditate,

(53:00.1 - 53:08.5)

that's my meditation. For the most part, if I'm

(53:08.5 - 53:11.9)

by myself or if I'm with somebody that moves

(53:11.9 - 53:15.6)

as quickly as I do and I don't have

(53:15.6 - 53:19.2)

to be constantly repeating myself, it's a meditation.

(53:19.2 - 53:27.7)

But when I have a deck hand that's not as consistent

(53:27.7 - 53:30.7)

or just like how my nephew is, it gets frustrating.

(53:30.8 - 53:35.2)

So, yeah, there was a couple of periods

(53:35.2 - 53:37.4)

that I didn't even bother calling him because

(53:37.5 - 53:39.9)

I told my mom, “I'm not taking him.”

(53:40.0 - 53:41.4)

I said, “last time he didn't do

(53:41.5 - 53:43.7)

much and so I'm leaving him.”

(53:43.9 - 53:45.1)

And he came and asked me and

(53:45.1 - 53:46.7)

I said, “Why didn't you call me?”

(53:46.7 - 53:48.2)

I said, “well, here's the reason.”

(53:48.3 - 53:50.5)

And so he tried improving.

(53:52.5 - 53:53.6)

He tried improving.

Did he?

(53:53.7 - 53:55.9)

He did.

(53:55.9 - 53:57.7)

He did a little bit, but he was still

(53:57.8 - 54:03.7)

moving slow because I wasn't going to train him

(54:03.7 - 54:05.4)

the way that my dad trained me.

(54:07.1 - 54:09.2)

What's that?

Yelling at me. [laughs]

(54:13.2 - 54:16.1)

It worked for me, but I don't like training

(54:16.2 - 54:28.7)

people that way. And what things I do.

(54:28.7 - 54:30.7)

Well, I'll sit there and I'll talk to them about

(54:30.8 - 54:34.6)

safety issues and even with my nephew, I would sit

(54:34.7 - 54:37.8)

there and I'd show him what to look for. And

(54:37.9 - 54:39.8)

not just the people that I’d take out fishing,

(54:39.8 - 54:42.7)

but when we just went out for subsistence,

(54:42.7 - 54:46.3)

I'll share my knowledge that I have with the

(54:46.3 - 54:49.2)

with the people that are with me.

(54:52.7 - 54:55.3)

Have you got any injuries while fishing?

(55:06.1 - 55:07.3)

Yes and no.

(55:09.4 - 55:14.6)

I got hit in the head by my crab puller, but it didn’t… It hurt,

(55:14.6 - 55:16.9)

but I didn't sustain any injuries.

(55:16.9 - 55:20.6)

It's just like I got hit over the

(55:20.6 - 55:22.2)

side of the head, but that's it.

(55:24.0 - 55:25.3)

Other than that, any other

(55:25.3 - 55:26.8)

kind of injuries from fishing?

(55:26.9 - 55:32.6)

No, it's just from hunting. [laughs]

(55:37.7 - 55:41.2)

And then one last question and then I'll

(55:41.3 - 55:43.7)

ask if you have anything else to share.

(55:43.8 - 55:47.3)

But can you think of the main differences

(55:47.3 - 55:53.1)

between fishing 20 years ago and fishing now and then take that back maybe

(55:53.1 - 55:55.9)

even 40 years compared to now?

(55:56.8 - 55:57.7)

In 40 years?

(55:57.8 - 56:01.1)

I wouldn't know.

From stories or anything?

(56:05.0 - 56:07.8)

I just hear the stories of how much fish they

(56:07.8 - 56:09.6)

would get, how many kings they'd get a lot of

(56:09.6 - 56:13.2)

kings and it's just like yeah, that's the major difference,

(56:13.3 - 56:20.2)

is the population of different species have changed a lot.

(56:28.3 - 56:33.1)

The population of pink salmon has increased dramatically and

(56:34.8 - 56:38.2)

the king population has gone down, but the coho

(56:38.3 - 56:41.8)

population has been fluctuating quite a bit lately.

(56:49.4 - 56:50.9)

Those are just like the big differences.

(56:51.0 - 56:57.5)

It's the populations and species and so.

And the determination

(56:57.6 - 57:00.4)

to actually go out there and get them.

(57:01.5 - 57:05.7)

From 20 years ago to now, the determination to

(57:05.7 - 57:10.3)

do it in rough waters has actually gone up

(57:10.3 - 57:21.2)

a lot.

And why do you think that is?

Because of the price. The price is higher.

(57:21.4 - 57:22.1)

Yeah.

(57:24.3 - 57:28.5)

And so I see that with myself.

(57:28.7 - 57:29.9)

Like, if they were paying what

(57:29.9 - 57:32.1)

they were paying ten years ago.

(57:32.2 - 57:34.5)

There's no way that I’d go out there when it's rough.

(57:35.9 - 57:38.6)

But with the price now, it's hard not

(57:38.7 - 57:41.6)

to. To take any advantage that you can for

(57:41.6 - 57:43.9)

the fishing because the season isn't that long.

(57:47.3 - 57:49.4)

Was the season longer back then?

(57:50.3 - 57:54.7)

Not really, because it's just during that run for

(57:54.8 - 57:57.6)

the run of the Coho, the strength is like the

(57:57.7 - 58:02.9)

end of July to around August 15.

(58:03.1 - 58:04.3)

So you have like a two to

(58:04.4 - 58:08.6)

three-week window of good fishing.

(58:10.1 - 58:13.4)

And even though they're open until September 7,

(58:15.4 - 58:17.6)

they normally close by end of August.

(58:17.7 - 58:20.6)

And at the tail end of August, it's just that

(58:20.6 - 58:22.7)

the fishing out in the ocean isn't as great.

(58:25.7 - 58:26.5)

Yeah.

(58:27.0 - 58:28.9)

Do you think it's harder to make a living now

(58:29.0 - 58:31.5)

off of commercial fishing than it was in the past?

(58:34.8 - 58:35.7)

Not really.

(58:35.8 - 58:38.3)

And the reason I say that is that the prices

(58:38.3 - 58:45.3)

are so good that it's easy to make anywhere from

(58:45.4 - 58:48.9)

15 to 20 some thousand dollars in a few weeks and

(58:52.3 - 58:55.7)

with Icicle coming up last year and paying the pricing

(58:55.8 - 58:57.6)

that they paid for the pinks.

(59:02.9 - 59:05.1)

And then NSSP’s anticipating to

(59:05.1 - 59:06.4)

be purchasing them at this price.

(59:06.4 - 59:08.5)

And so you're going to have more people pink fishing

(59:08.6 - 59:12.1)

Again. It's a lot of work, but it's easy to

(59:12.2 - 59:15.1)

make a lot of money in one day.

(59:19.8 - 59:22.2)

So that's why it's just like people will sit

(59:22.2 - 59:24.2)

there and take the advantage to do it.

(59:24.4 - 59:27.2)

It's just the pricing and the money that

(59:27.2 - 59:29.8)

you can make is a lot better now.

(59:31.2 - 59:34.1)

Like 15 years ago, they were paying five cents

(59:34.1 - 59:36.1)

a pound and it wasn't even worth it.

(59:36.5 - 59:42.7)

So it went up like thirty cents per

(59:42.8 - 59:45.1)

pound in just a matter of a year.

(59:46.2 - 59:47.7)

So now how much is it?

(59:47.8 - 59:50.4)

They're looking to be looking to pay like thirty

(59:50.5 - 59:52.9)

five cents a pound this year, 35 to 40.

(59:57.2 - 60:02.5)

And so it's easy to make it's easy

(60:02.5 - 60:12.3)

to make $12,000 in three openers. And

(60:12.3 - 60:14.0)

then the price for crab this year,

(60:14.0 - 60:15.4)

I know there's going to be more people

(60:15.4 - 60:17.3)

wanting to get into it, but they're not.

(60:20.5 - 60:22.6)

It's harder for people that don't have the

(60:22.6 - 60:24.8)

boats and everything else already lined up to

(60:24.8 - 60:26.5)

get into the crab fishery right now.

(60:26.5 - 60:29.5)

And so just knowing the record pricing that

(60:29.5 - 60:33.6)

it's going to be for the red king crab,

(60:35.0 - 60:37.0)

it's a big draw to get out there.

(60:39.1 - 60:41.0)

Have you noticed changes in the weather

(60:41.0 - 60:43.4)

in the past 20 years ago?

(60:44.3 - 60:49.4)

Yeah, it's changed, it’s changed dramatically.

(60:49.5 - 60:52.9)

And talking with my grandpa, he just passed

(60:52.9 - 60:55.5)

away last fall at the age of 98.

(60:55.6 - 60:58.0)

And so he was letting me know what the difference

(60:58.1 - 60:59.8)

was when he was growing up and even hearing what

(60:59.8 - 61:02.9)

my uncles and my dad were going through and what

(61:03.0 - 61:05.4)

we've seen within the last ten years.

(61:05.5 - 61:11.4)

And the weather’s just been abnormal and the

(61:11.4 - 61:14.1)

storms are becoming more frequent in the fall.

(61:15.6 - 61:24.4)

We're getting an influx in the rain, sun, and it

(61:24.4 - 61:26.7)

just has not been consistent like it used to be.

(61:26.7 - 61:31.6)

Where in the summer it rained, be sunny, rain,

(61:31.7 - 61:35.7)

and it was a consistent turnaround of the weather patterns.

(61:35.8 - 61:38.6)

But now it's just like it's either raining for

(61:38.6 - 61:41.4)

a month or sunny and hot for a month.

(61:43.1 - 61:49.1)

And the winds have been predominantly

(61:49.7 - 61:52.3)

west winds in the summertime, whereas

(61:52.5 - 61:55.4)

ten years ago predominantly east wind.

(61:56.2 - 62:00.2)

So that's the change in the wind patterns.

(62:03.8 - 62:07.3)

Do you think that it changes the dangers to fishing?

(62:07.4 - 62:08.2)

It does.

(62:08.7 - 62:11.6)

When it's west wind, the waves are bigger.

(62:12.1 - 62:13.7)

So you have to deal with more waves.

(62:13.8 - 62:15.4)

The east wind will come off of

(62:15.4 - 62:17.0)

the coast or right off the land.

(62:17.1 - 62:20.0)

And so when it gets off to the coast, you're

(62:20.0 - 62:21.9)

fishing right next to the beach and so you don't

(62:21.9 - 62:24.2)

have any waves or swells to worry about at all.

(62:24.3 - 62:27.2)

And so there's no dangers out

(62:27.3 - 62:30.8)

there when it's east wind.

(62:37.5 - 62:40.1)

Is there any other knowledge you'd like

(62:40.2 - 62:43.0)

to share or lessons that you've learned?

(62:47.8 - 62:50.9)

It doesn't necessarily go along the lines with fishing,

(62:51.0 - 62:54.5)

but it's just like surviving out here.

(62:55.6 - 63:00.3)

If somebody was to get wet or stranded out

(63:00.4 - 63:04.4)

anywhere and it's raining out, is to put the

(63:04.4 - 63:07.8)

alders down and make yourself a little bed, like

(63:07.9 - 63:11.2)

go under the alters and find where there's the

(63:11.3 - 63:15.4)

thickest canopy and then just get leaves.

(63:15.5 - 63:18.3)

Or you break the limbs of some of them and you

(63:18.3 - 63:22.6)

just actually lay on the leaves to stay off the ground.

(63:22.9 - 63:24.1)

So I've had to do that once.

(63:24.2 - 63:25.7)

I was taught that when I was a kid,

(63:25.8 - 63:31.2)

and I did it once and it actually helped.

(63:32.7 - 63:34.5)

I don't want to take up too much of your time

(63:34.6 - 63:37.2)

at the end, but do you want to share what happened?

(63:40.2 - 63:41.5)

I got stuck.

(63:42.0 - 63:44.6)

I was just a little ways up the river and the

(63:44.6 - 63:46.4)

tide was going out and I couldn't get my boat out.

(63:46.4 - 63:47.2)

And so I was like, I'm going to

(63:47.2 - 63:48.3)

wait for the high tide to come.

(63:48.4 - 63:53.7)

And so it was raining out and it was like in

(63:53.7 - 64:00.4)

the 50s. And I didn't have any kind of extra gear with me.

(64:03.9 - 64:06.3)

And so I just, I made myself a little branch.

(64:06.4 - 64:10.2)

I laid all the branches down underneath the canopy and I

(64:10.2 - 64:12.3)

just kind of crisscrossed them so I can stay off. [the ground]

(64:12.3 - 64:16.9)

And then with the thickness of the alders, it kept me

(64:16.9 - 64:21.4)

dry and so I was actually able to get four or

(64:21.4 - 64:25.5)

5 hours of sleep and wake up perfectly fine.

(64:26.7 - 64:29.1)

What I had on me at that time

(64:29.2 - 64:31.5)

was warm enough to sustain that weather.

(64:31.6 - 64:38.0)

And so being able to stay dry was a big factor in that.

(64:38.8 - 64:40.4)

Did you crawl under it?

(64:41.1 - 64:47.9)

Well, see, I found an area in the trees and where

(64:47.9 - 64:51.2)

it was the thickest branches, like, you know, where the leaves

(64:51.2 - 64:53.7)

are just like come together and it's a thick canopy.

(64:53.8 - 64:55.6)

And I went and I took alder, alder leaves,

(64:55.6 - 65:01.1)

 not the leaves, but the limbs.

(65:01.2 - 65:02.6)

I just broke them off and I

(65:02.6 - 65:05.2)

just put them and stacked them.

(65:05.6 - 65:08.0)

Did two to three layers of those

(65:08.0 - 65:09.5)

and I stayed off the ground.

(65:11.3 - 65:12.7)

That's what I was saying with the email.

(65:12.8 - 65:15.8)

I know Tim was wanting to go and take the kids

(65:15.9 - 65:18.3)

out canoeing, and that would be one thing that I'd show them.

(65:18.3 - 65:21.5)

That's what the elders are telling me.

(65:21.5 - 65:24.1)

Like, if you get stuck out there, it's raining, and you

(65:24.1 - 65:27.0)

find that there's a spot in the trees, and you make

(65:27.1 - 65:29.4)

yourself a bet like that, and you'll stay dry.

(65:38.4 - 65:39.1)

I don't know.

(65:39.2 - 65:41.2)

I can't think of anything else.

Okay.

(65:41.3 - 65:43.1)

Yeah, I don't have much to do.

(65:43.1 - 65:44.5)

I got to go bring Clayton the battery.