Interview 4 Transcription

We would like to learn

(00:13.0 - 00:15.4)

about your experience commercial fishing.

(00:15.5 - 00:18.0)

The goal is to improve marine safety in

(00:18.0 - 00:21.0)

Norton Sound, and we hope to use your

(00:21.1 - 00:23.3)

stories and knowledge to share with the community

(00:23.4 - 00:26.2)

here and in other fishing communities.

(00:26.6 - 00:28.9)

Also, I work for a training center, and

(00:28.9 - 00:31.4)

so it can improve our trainings, the way

(00:31.4 - 00:34.4)

we do training for marine safety.

(00:35.4 - 00:38.3)

Have you taken any classes?

(00:41.5 - 00:43.6)

No, I don't think so.

Okay.

(00:44.8 - 00:46.9)

So can you start off by telling me

(00:46.9 - 00:50.4)

the areas that you have commercial fished and

(00:50.5 - 00:52.4)

then the types of fishing that you do?

It's all set netting.

Okay.

(01:01.9 - 01:07.5)

Usually fish about I used to fish about 15 miles

(01:07.6 - 01:17.7)

north, just past Egavik, I used to, and then I got a different boat, a flat

(01:17.7 - 01:20.1)

bottom boat, so I can't go as far.

(01:21.9 - 01:24.2)

Maybe I don't take as many chances.

(01:26.9 - 01:34.5)

As when I’m young, bulletproof, so I don't take too many chances.

(01:34.8 - 01:39.3)

We used to fish even farther to Foot Hills.

(01:39.3 - 01:45.0)

That's about maybe 10 miles from Shaktoolik.

(01:45.1 - 01:55.6)

We used to go there for other purposes, too. For berries, a lot of berries.

(02:06.6 - 02:08.5)

When you were out there, were you camping?

(02:08.6 - 02:09.8)

Yeah, camping.

(02:10.3 - 02:14.1)

So if it gets rough, we can just pull our boats up.

(02:14.2 - 02:14.9)

Okay. On shore?

On shore.

(02:20.8 - 02:23.3)

What was the longest that you've been out then?

(02:25.8 - 02:29.8)

Usually come back before dark, after

(02:29.9 - 02:33.2)

dark, and really watch the wind.

(02:33.3 - 02:39.8)

Anything over 25 or anything over 20 is

(02:39.9 - 02:42.4)

usually bad news to be out there.

(02:42.4 - 02:46.9)

It's usually not good over 20.

Yeah.

(02:47.6 - 02:54.5)

Waves can get pretty big in a few mile

(02:54.5 - 02:56.8)

ride turn into longer.

(02:58.0 - 03:00.4)

An hour ride will turn into 2 or 3

(03:00.4 - 03:04.6)

hours and really have to really slow down.

Yeah.

(03:05.6 - 03:08.1)

So in watching the weather, can you tell me

(03:08.1 - 03:09.8)

some of the things that you look for?

(03:10.0 - 03:12.1)

Southwest wind.

Okay.

(03:16.6 - 03:20.9)

So if it's coming from the southwest, that's bad.

Yeah.

(03:20.9 - 03:22.3)

Then you come in?

Yeah.

(03:22.4 - 03:24.1)

Start to come in. Okay.

(03:25.0 - 03:27.3)

Really watch the weather and make sure it

(03:27.3 - 03:30.8)

doesn't go above 25 or above 20.

(03:33.1 - 03:35.3)

You gotta really watch that weather out there.

(03:38.4 - 03:40.0)

If you don’t then that's my nets twist.

(03:44.2 - 03:45.8)

Can you describe your boat?

(03:46.6 - 03:48.3)

You mentioned two different boats.

(03:48.4 - 03:52.3)

One was when you were younger, you went out farther.

(03:53.3 - 03:56.9)

A wooden boat when I was young. Wooden boats.

(03:56.9 - 04:00.1)

Nowadays it's aluminum, but you have

(04:00.1 - 04:02.9)

to have a good bottom bind.

(04:03.1 - 04:05.6)

The boat I'm using right now is a flat bottom.

(04:05.7 - 04:11.1)

So it really hits the waves [motions slamming] It's really slams.

(04:11.3 - 04:14.1)

It's like doing a belly flop.

(04:14.5 - 04:15.6)

It's flat.

(04:17.2 - 04:18.6)

It hits pretty hard.

(04:22.4 - 04:24.0)

Can’t take too many chances.

You don’t take chances?

(04:28.5 - 04:32.1)

I don't take too many chances. Gotta weigh

(04:32.2 - 04:34.5)

the risks versus the reward.

(04:37.8 - 04:40.6)

Some people leave their nets out when it starts

(04:40.6 - 04:44.0)

to get rough, and maybe they don't think

(04:44.0 - 04:45.6)

it's going to get quite as rough.

(04:45.7 - 04:47.3)

And the nets will twist. That’s a lot of work to untwist.

(04:50.3 - 04:51.1)

Right.

(04:54.4 - 04:58.1)

How many feet long is the aluminum boat?

(04:59.2 - 05:00.3)

My boat?

Yes.

(05:00.4 - 05:04.1)

26 foot.

(05:06.3 - 05:07.8)

And then what about the wooden

(05:07.8 - 05:09.2)

boat when you were younger?

(05:10.0 - 05:14.2)

Probably about maybe about 20, maybe less.

(05:18.2 - 05:21.1)

So it was smaller and wooden, but

(05:21.2 - 05:23.7)

you'd go out farther in it?

Yeah.

(05:24.2 - 05:28.0)

Well, the motors back then they weren't

(05:28.1 - 05:29.5)

as good as they are now.

(05:29.6 - 05:34.5)

There's a lot of manufacturers that back then,

(05:36.1 - 05:40.0)

Like Chrysler used to be a manufacturer of motors.

Okay.

(05:40.2 - 05:40.9)

Chrysler.

(05:41.0 - 05:42.8)

So you had a Chrysler motor?

(05:42.9 - 05:46.8)

Yeah, a Chrysler 20, I think.

Okay.

(05:46.9 - 05:48.0)

But it was kind of slow.

(05:48.1 - 05:49.2)

Yeah, slow.

(05:49.6 - 05:51.7)

So it makes more sense to stay

(05:52.1 - 05:54.4)

there and get a full load of

(05:54.4 - 05:59.3)

fish and really ditch to the weather if you have to.

(06:00.0 - 06:03.0)

You don't want to be chucking fish over. It’s a lot of work.

(06:06.5 - 06:08.2)

What got you into fishing?

(06:08.7 - 06:09.7)

My grandparents.

(06:09.7 - 06:13.2)

I was raised with my grandparents, and yeah, I

(06:13.2 - 06:17.7)

was commercial fish, so that's what I got into.

Nice.

(06:20.8 - 06:24.2)

What was your position when you were a kid then?

(06:24.8 - 06:27.1)

Probably a crew member.

(06:27.3 - 06:28.5)

Just help out.

(06:29.2 - 06:32.3)

Not really have a fishing

(06:32.3 - 06:36.1)

license, but go out. We were camping anyway.

(06:37.0 - 06:38.3)

Kids want to help.

And then what about, did you end

(06:46.2 - 06:51.6)

up getting your own permit?

Passed down?

Yeah.

(06:53.0 - 06:54.1)

From your grandpa?

(06:54.2 - 06:55.9)

Yeah, from my grandpa.

Okay.

(06:57.7 - 07:00.0)

And then were you the captain?

(07:00.7 - 07:02.2)

Now I'm the captain.

(07:04.1 - 07:05.9)

The captain, the crew member. I usually fish alone.

(07:07.6 - 07:09.3)

The whole show?

Yeah.

(07:09.5 - 07:10.4)

Do everything.

(07:14.3 - 07:16.6)

Can you describe what boat life is like?

(07:16.8 - 07:18.8)

And if it helps, think

(07:18.9 - 07:22.2)

of sounds, smells, physical sensations.

(07:26.4 - 07:27.7)

Slime, I guess.

(07:27.9 - 07:29.3)

Slime from the fish.

(07:34.0 - 07:34.7)

It’s a dirty job,

(07:34.8 - 07:36.0)

but somebody's got to do it.

(07:36.1 - 07:37.2)

I enjoy it.

(07:37.4 - 07:41.0)

When I’m out there I’m free. I'm my own boss.

(07:43.4 - 07:45.7)

To me that’s a big thing, being your

(07:45.7 - 07:48.4)

own boss, doing your own thing.

(07:55.5 - 07:57.7)

So have you ever fished, had

(07:57.8 - 07:59.5)

friends or family join you out on the boat?

(08:01.5 - 08:02.4)

Friends, yeah.

(08:02.5 - 08:05.3)

But every now and then, usually when I start

(08:06.4 - 08:09.4)

with them, I'll try to finish with them, but

(08:09.4 - 08:12.7)

it all depends on if they’ve got other commitments here.

(08:20.5 - 08:22.9)

So you don’t have a regular crew member, it’s just like having a friend on the boat?

Yeah, but for the most part, I fish by myself,

(08:23.6 - 08:26.4)

pulling nets and take out all the fish.

(08:29.3 - 08:30.7)

I don't mind doing it.

(08:30.7 - 08:33.3)

That's just fun to do.

Yeah.

(08:33.5 - 08:35.3)

So you prefer to fish by yourself?

Yeah. Two nets.

(08:40.1 - 08:41.3)

I work hard.

(08:42.0 - 08:43.1)

I don't talk too much,

(08:43.1 - 08:47.0)

So just get down and do my job.

(08:55.3 - 08:57.8)

Fishing right out here there's a sandbar.

(08:57.8 - 09:00.7)

If you look over here, there's a sandbar.

(09:00.8 - 09:03.4)

Well, there used to be one that was farther out.

(09:03.4 - 09:06.9)

And you come fish on inside when it's windy,

(09:07.0 - 09:09.8)

or if it's really blowing you fish on the inside,

(09:09.8 - 09:13.2)

though, like, about ten minutes in that little spot.

(09:14.2 - 09:19.9)

Everybody tried to fish. Last year, the Fish and Game,

(09:20.0 - 09:24.5,

they didn't open when it was rough,

(09:24.5 - 09:27.2)

and that's usually when the fish really move.

(09:28.1 - 09:29.8)

They were trying to wait for

(09:29.9 - 09:32.5)

it to be smooth, flat, calm.

(09:32.9 - 09:35.0)

That's not when the fish are going to move.

(09:35.2 - 09:36.9)

They're going to move when it's rough.

(09:38.3 - 09:41.1)

You can get a lot.

Yeah.

(09:44.4 - 09:47.3)

Do you have an opener that sticks out in your mind?

(09:47.4 - 09:55.9)

Like, one day?

Like, about pretty

(09:55.9 - 10:00.2)

close to 500 silvers overnight. I checked and

(10:00.5 - 10:02.6)

I thought somebody cut my net.

(10:04.5 - 10:06.1)

Like, somebody cut my net,

(10:06.2 - 10:08.4)

run over my net by accident.

(10:08.6 - 10:13.8)

You're traveling in the dark or I thought somebody

(10:13.9 - 10:17.0)

cut my net and lifted up the net.

(10:17.2 - 10:18.2)

Holy cow.

(10:18.3 - 10:19.4)

Lots a fish.

(10:21.1 - 10:23.8)

Because parts of my floaters were sinking

(10:23.8 - 10:27.0)

and it was a raggedy net,

(10:27.0 - 10:30.4)

but for some reason, it just did real good.

(10:33.5 - 10:39.3)

That was like for maybe 4, maybe £3500 of silvers. That was a lot.

(10:44.3 - 10:47.2)

Do you remember what the weather was like on that day?

(10:47.3 - 10:51.1)

It was calm, but it was calm

(10:51.1 - 10:52.3)

when I checked the next day.

(10:52.4 - 10:57.1)

But the day before it was kind of windy.

(10:59.5 - 11:02.7)

Took a chance and set on the inside of that sandbar

(11:05.3 - 11:08.4)

because I can get out to it no matter what.

Yeah.

(11:08.6 - 11:10.8)

Except for when it's real high.

(11:11.6 - 11:14.3)

Except for when the tide comes in real good.

(11:16.1 - 11:21.2)

Bigger waves, especially out there.

Yeah.

(11:23.5 - 11:24.0)

Let's see.

(11:24.1 - 11:27.6)

What were you wearing in terms of gear?

(11:28.9 - 11:43.0)

What I'm using is rain pants. This gets wet, take it off. Sweater.

Do you ever get wet or cold?

(11:44.2 - 11:46.9)

It’s summertime. A little bit. A little.

(11:47.0 - 11:52.5)

But toward fall, as the temperature gets a little

(11:52.5 - 11:56.0)

cooler, be a little bit warmer, then you try

(11:56.0 - 11:59.3)

to avoid getting wet because it's cold.

Right.

(11:59.5 - 12:06.7)

And then do you wear a rain jacket?

If it's raining or if I'm

(12:06.7 - 12:11.1)

traveling, if don't want to get wet from the spray.

Okay.

(12:11.5 - 12:13.5)

So you're able pretty much to stay

(12:13.5 - 12:15.8)

warm and dry if you want to.

Yeah.

(12:21.8 - 12:23.1)

On the day that you caught all those fish and you’re just out here,

 (12:24.8 - 12:27.9)

can you remember, were you wearing a life jacket?

(12:29.3 - 12:32.3)

Usually it's too bulky and too warm.

(12:33.1 - 12:40.3)

I'm by myself, I’m not where I can fall over.

(12:42.9 - 12:47.7)

Most of us, we'll start using the life

(12:47.8 - 12:49.8)

jacket and then we'll take it off.

(12:50.0 - 12:51.4)

And we're always in the

(12:51.4 - 12:55.1)

boat, so always somebody watching us.

(12:56.2 - 12:57.6)

The person that might be a

(12:57.6 - 12:59.8)

real good interviewer would be Jerry.

(12:59.9 - 13:02.7)

Yeah, Jerry Ivanoff.

Yeah.

(13:04.2 - 13:05.7)

What would he tell me?

(13:06.1 - 13:10.2)

He's been a longtime commercial fisherman.

(13:10.3 - 13:21.3)

And you've probably seen his what do you call it.

(13:23.9 - 13:26.8)

Like a little film short.

(13:27.9 - 13:29.1)

Film short?

(13:32.8 - 13:34.9)

Like a short film short.

(13:35.0 - 13:36.9)

Oh, he made one.

Yeah.

(13:37.1 - 13:38.5)

I could watch that.

(13:39.0 - 13:40.0)

I don't know.

(13:40.9 - 13:45.2)

I've seen quite a few of his things on TV. KTOO. Public television.

 (13:59.7 - 14:02.2)

Okay, I'll check it out. Thanks.

(14:05.1 - 14:08.7)

Can you think back to your let's see,

(14:10.4 - 14:12.7)

did you feel like anyone mentored you?

(14:13.2 - 14:18.8)

Kind of taught you how to fish?

By example, my grandparents.

(14:22.1 - 14:25.0)

Your grandma fished, too?

Yeah.

(14:27.2 - 14:31.5)

Or stayed on the beach, kind of watched from a distance. Check and make sure the boat and I was okay.

(14:39.7 - 14:42.8)

Do you remember any lessons that the taught you

(14:43.2 - 14:45.6)

for being out on the water and being safe?

(14:46.0 - 14:47.9)

Don't take too many chances.

(14:48.9 - 14:51.4)

You keep taking chances, sooner or later you're going

(14:51.4 - 14:55.1)

to take the wrong one and go and die.

(15:03.0 - 15:07.1)

People will usually wait until it's low [tide] for the type

(15:07.2 - 15:10.6)

to go down before they go out check net.

(15:11.3 - 15:13.8)

You almost always see people, they won't

(15:13.8 - 15:15.2)

check it at the high tide

(15:15.3 - 15:17.4)

when the waves are at their biggest, they'll

(15:17.4 - 15:19.9)

check it when waves get lower.

(15:21.0 - 15:23.8)

Even to this day, you'll notice if it's

(15:23.8 - 15:29.0)

ever rough when they're fishing, some will go

(15:29.0 - 15:33.7)

out, but for the most part they won't.

Yeah.

(15:34.4 - 15:36.8)

So you kind of learn by example, too, of

(15:36.8 - 15:39.7)

seeing what other people do.

Yeah.

And other people wait

(15:39.7 - 15:43.4)

till the lower tide, but just when it's rough.

Yeah.

(15:45.5 - 15:47.1)

And do you teach anyone or mentor anyone?

(15:48.7 - 15:50.7)

I've got a three year old son.

(15:52.7 - 15:56.7)

He's still young and impressionable.

(15:58.7 - 16:00.9)

He'll probably want to fish, I don't know.

(16:01.5 - 16:03.0)

That's up to him.

(16:06.1 - 16:06.9)

Right.

(16:09.2 - 16:10.8)

Can you describe what a good day

(16:10.9 - 16:12.6)

of fishing is like for you?

(16:14.3 - 16:21.8)

Any day. When you’re your own boss, whether or not you succeed,

(16:21.9 - 16:23.5)

it's really up to you.

(16:27.9 - 16:30.5)

Sometimes if they're not doing real good

(16:30.6 - 16:33.8)

up north, they might go down south.

(16:35.2 - 16:37.4)

They're not doing real good down south.

(16:37.4 - 16:38.8)

They'll go up north.

(16:39.6 - 16:42.5)

People nowadays talk with cell phones.

(16:44.7 - 16:45.1)

Yeah. Follow the fish.

(16:45.1 - 16:47.5)

Follow the fish or try to follow the fish.

(16:49.1 - 16:51.1)

When I was young, we used to be

(16:51.1 - 16:55.0)

able to look at that fishing tickets.

(16:55.1 - 16:58.9)

But nowadays we can't just by knowing

(16:58.9 - 17:01.0)

the name, you know, where that person

(17:01.1 - 17:03.7)

is fishing and if they're doing good.

(17:03.8 - 17:07.5)

Yeah.

But nowadays they don't let us.

(17:10.1 - 17:13.6)

So how far do you travel these days?

(17:16.1 - 17:22.9)

Nowadays I usually go maybe 5 miles, maybe less.

(17:23.3 - 17:25.9)

I'll usually fish right out here, real

(17:26.0 - 17:27.9)

close on both sides of the mouth.

(17:28.6 - 17:30.5)

I'll have one net on one side of the

(17:30.5 - 17:33.1)

mouth and another net on the other side,

(17:33.2 - 17:36.4)

maybe a mile or so away.

(17:37.9 - 17:40.4)

If the fish are moving over there, then I can

(17:40.5 - 17:43.2)

pull that net and move it real fast over there.

(17:43.4 - 17:46.9)

Yeah.

But with the tide, that's

(17:46.9 - 17:48.9)

when the fish will easily move.

(17:51.7 - 18:03.3)

With the tide.

They move with the tide.

Yeah. Come in, come in the mouth. It’s fun. It’s a lot of work, but it's enjoyable.

(18:05.3 - 18:08.4)

Can you think back to a specific event that seems

(18:08.5 - 18:11.8)

dangerous when you were fishing and describe what happened?

(18:23.0 - 18:24.9)

Just when it's rough.

Can you think of a specific day?

Not a specific day, but when it’s rough

(18:30.7 - 18:35.1)

and it seems like it's not going to

(18:35.1 - 18:38.4)

be calming down, you have to pull out,

(18:38.5 - 18:42.2)

otherwise you're going to get a fine, by Fish and Game.

(18:42.2 - 18:45.7)

Or they'll understand.

(18:46.9 - 18:49.4)

But still, it's not a good

(18:49.5 - 18:52.3)

practice to be pulling out late.

(18:53.1 - 18:54.4)

People will talk.

(18:55.5 - 18:57.5)

Why are you catching all this fish?

(18:58.1 - 19:05.2)

Right

When the fish are moving, they can really move.

(19:07.3 - 19:09.1)

When you see them jumping, that's a

(19:09.1 - 19:11.0)

good time to be setting your net.

(19:11.7 - 19:13.7)

When they're jumping in the ocean, that's when

(19:13.7 - 19:16.0)

the fish are the fish are there.

(19:17.1 - 19:18.8)

I've seen them a few times

(19:19.0 - 19:23.3)

when they're jumping. I've learned to stop.

(19:26.9 - 19:28.0)

I Thought, Oh, good,

(19:28.2 - 19:31.8)

they're jumping, going past the jumpers and going

(19:31.8 - 19:33.5)

up north, trying to get ahead of them.

(19:33.6 - 19:36.5)

Get ahead of the fish and go up there

(19:36.6 - 19:37.9)

and there's no fish.

(19:38.6 - 19:41.1)

Man, I should have stopped.

Yeah.

(19:42.1 - 19:44.6)

That’s usually right around that point over there. Jumping a lot.

(19:53.1 - 19:56.2)

Can you think of some of the dangers of

(19:56.2 - 20:00.0)

fishing or the kind of things that go wrong?

(20:01.2 - 20:05.9)

Your motor could stop or you set too close

(20:06.0 - 20:09.3)

to the beach and you're trying to pull out

(20:09.3 - 20:13.6)

the net and the waves will push you up on the beach.

(20:14.8 - 20:17.9)

So you got to weigh your risks.

(20:18.2 - 20:20.2)

Whether or not you want to cut your net or

(20:20.2 - 20:25.6)

not, when you're pulling. When you’re pulling net you have to weigh

(20:25.7 - 20:28.2)

whether or not you want to go as far to the

(20:28.2 - 20:34.0)

beach as you can, take whatever of the net you can.

(20:37.7 - 20:39.6)

If you cut the net, is it lost?

(20:39.6 - 20:41.9)

You can repair it.

(20:41.9 - 20:45.0)

I mean, when you cut it's held on

(20:45.1 - 20:48.3)

by the top line to the anchors.

(20:48.5 - 20:51.2)

But you have to cut it sometimes for safety?

(20:51.2 - 20:51.9)

Did you say?

(20:52.0 - 20:53.3)

Yes, for safety.

(20:54.7 - 20:57.2)

What could go wrong if you don't cut it

(20:57.2 - 20:59.5)

and you should have?

You might get fined by Fish and Game.

(20:59.6 - 21:05.0)

It's usually a 24, 48 hour period.

(21:07.3 - 21:08.8)

If you leave the net, you have

(21:08.9 - 21:12.5)

to you're pressured to pull the net. (21:13.9 - 21:16.5)

What kind of things can go wrong with the net and

(21:16.6 - 21:23.1)

your boat that would be dangerous would you say?

When it's shifting or you put

(21:23.3 - 21:25.9)

too much of the load on one side of your boat.

(21:27.1 - 21:28.7)

My boat anyway.

(21:29.6 - 21:32.6)

I try to keep it pretty much balanced.

(21:34.1 - 21:37.0)

Or if you go too fast, you'd dive. You go over a wave.

(21:38.9 - 21:39.7)

Right.

(21:47.0 - 21:51.0)

So I'll really slow down during those waves.

Go slower?

(21:51.0 - 21:52.5)

Yeah, go way slower.

(21:52.5 - 21:57.6)

And try not to take too many chances.

(22:06.6 - 22:08.6)

And then did you feel

(22:08.6 - 22:10.9)

like conditions were ever difficult

(22:11.1 - 22:12.7)

emotionally or physically?

(22:13.9 - 22:16.0)

You're just feeling really run down.

(22:16.7 - 22:20.3)

And if you felt that way, how did you cope with it?

(22:22.3 - 22:24.9)

I've never felt really run down.

(22:25.6 - 22:28.5)

It's part of fishing; you can either choose to set

(22:28.6 - 22:31.3)

your net or choose not to set your net.

(22:32.7 - 22:35.4)

Once you put it in the water, it's

(22:35.4 - 22:38.2)

like you make a commitment to fish.

(22:43.6 - 22:44.2)

Okay.

(22:44.3 - 22:48.8)

So that's how you manage morale.

(22:50.0 - 22:51.5)

You could just not set or once you set, you’re committed.

 (22:58.8 - 23:01.7)

Yeah. And you can choose whether or not to

(23:01.7 - 23:03.4)

pull out your net or not.

(23:06.4 - 23:08.6)

It's the beauty of being your own boss.

(23:11.5 - 23:15.8)

Live to fight another day, another year.

(23:18.8 - 23:21.9)

Have you gotten any injuries while you were fishing?

(23:22.0 - 23:31.8)

No.

We kind of talked about this earlier.

(23:31.9 - 23:33.9)

How often do you wear PFD would you say?

(23:36.2 - 23:37.4)

When it's rough.

(23:37.9 - 23:39.5)

When it's really rough.

(23:40.1 - 23:43.1)

If there's a chance that I might go over,

(23:45.4 - 23:49.5)

but I'll have 2 or 3 in the boat. It's

(23:49.6 - 23:56.9)

hot and it's bulky.

And then would you say

(23:56.9 - 24:00.2)

that's the same for most fishermen around here?

Yeah.

(24:03.1 - 24:07.9)

Well, we'll all start initially wearing our PFD

(24:08.0 - 24:12.0)

because Coast Guard says you have to, but we'll

(24:12.0 - 24:14.0)

take it off after a while.

(24:14.6 - 24:17.4)

It's nice and calm I’m used to wearing a PFD.

(24:21.7 - 24:25.3)

And then if it's hot too, it makes sense.

Yeah.

(24:29.7 - 24:32.5)

On a hot day like this you can really sweat.

(24:34.3 - 24:35.6)

It's been warm.

(24:37.7 - 24:39.5)

I was not expecting it.

(24:40.7 - 24:41.4)

Yeah.

(24:43.7 - 24:45.5)

How much sleep do you typically

(24:45.5 - 24:47.0)

get when you're out fishing?

(24:47.0 - 24:49.9)

8 hours or so. Normal.

(24:50.3 - 24:53.3)

Good quality of sleep would you say?

(24:56.0 - 25:00.0)

Nowadays kids are a little bit older.

(25:06.5 - 25:08.6)

Do you ever get tired out on the boat?

(25:14.3 - 25:15.9)

No.

And then have you had physical

(25:16.0 - 25:18.5)

health challenges while you're fishing?

No.

(25:20.0 - 25:22.7)

Other than sore muscles. That's it.

Right.

(25:29.1 - 25:32.3)

Sore, get sore.

When you're on land, what kind of things do

(25:32.3 - 25:35.2)

you do to prepare before you go out fishing?

(25:35.7 - 25:37.3)

I'll lift some weights.

(25:37.6 - 25:38.6)

Lift some weights.

(25:38.7 - 25:43.2)

Try to condition my back so I'm not really feeling it after

(25:43.3 - 25:49.4)

the first check or so, first pull-out or so. Try to get my

(25:49.4 - 25:53.9)

body in shape and get ready for the big challenge.

(25:54.0 - 25:54.7)

Right.

(25:59.4 - 26:03.7)

Do friends or family ever help you prepare for fishing?

(26:06.5 - 26:09.8)

Maybe the girlfriend just help put the nets in the boat,

(26:09.8 - 26:11.6)

but I got a certain way of doing stuff,

(26:11.7 - 26:15.0)

so I like to do stuff by myself.

Yeah.

(26:20.0 - 26:22.5)

Do you feel like you have resources in the town?

(26:23.5 - 26:25.7)

Like places where you can buy gear and whatnot

(26:25.8 - 26:28.9)

so you can make your boat safe?

(26:31.6 - 26:33.2)

Except for a welder,

(26:33.4 - 26:36.1)

we pretty much have everything around here.

(26:37.6 - 26:39.8)

When we get a crack in our boat, we

(26:39.8 - 26:42.5)

usually have to look around for a welder.

(26:42.9 - 26:47.4)

They provide NSSP provides a welder, but we

(26:47.4 - 26:50.5)

need the guy to operate the welder.

(26:52.3 - 26:52.7)

Oh, okay.

(26:52.8 - 26:55.3)

So you have to find a person who can do it.

Yeah.

(27:07.0 - 27:09.5)

Also, have you had the

(27:09.5 - 27:11.6)

opportunity to take safety training?

(27:11.7 - 27:13.8)

Has anyone ever said, “Oh, come take this

(27:13.8 - 27:17.8)

class,” and was it easy to go take?

No.

Okay.

(27:23.2 - 27:27.6)

And then do you ever ask people for local

(27:27.7 - 27:31.2)

knowledge or tips or weather, or that kind of thing?

(27:31.3 - 27:34.7)

No, but fishermen usually we

(27:34.8 - 27:36.3)

don't have a problem sharing.

(27:36.4 - 27:40.4)

People ask or offer our advice whether or

(27:40.4 - 27:43.6)

not they take it, it's up to them.

Yeah.

(27:44.2 - 27:46.8)

Everybody makes their own choices out there.

(27:51.7 - 27:53.5)

Do you share advice then?

(27:53.7 - 27:54.7)

If they ask?

(27:54.9 - 27:56.8)

I'll tell them not to do that.

(27:57.4 - 28:02.6)

Just like some people, last year or so, there's

(28:02.6 - 28:04.7)

been some people that have been fishing right out

(28:04.8 - 28:07.3)

here in front of the, right at the marker.

(28:07.8 - 28:11.5)

And if you fish right at the marker, chances are

(28:11.7 - 28:20.7)

whatever junk is in the bottom of the slew, when the tide, a

(28:20.7 - 28:26.9)

lot of that stuff will go out the bottom, go get

(28:26.9 - 28:29.9)

caught in the net as it's going out.

Right.

(28:30.6 - 28:33.4)

So is that a problem just for

(28:33.4 - 28:38.7)

the net, or can that be…?

Just a problem for the net.

(28:41.8 - 28:45.0)

And when you're out setting a net, do you

(28:45.0 - 28:48.1)

have a way to communicate to people on land?

Cell phone.

(28:48.2 - 28:49.0)

Cell phone.

(28:52.0 - 28:53.1)

How does that work well?

(28:53.2 - 28:57.2)

It works pretty good.

It does?

Yeah.

(29:00.0 - 29:03.0)

Have you ever felt like you needed to communicate a

(29:03.0 - 29:05.8)

message of help while you were out on the water?

Nope.

(29:06.4 - 29:08.7)

You never needed assistance or anything?

(29:08.8 - 29:13.0)

If you did need assistance?

Then I would just

(29:13.0 - 29:20.1)

call the plant, Norton Sound Seafood Products: 624-3014.

(29:22.4 - 29:27.4)

And then they'll find somebody or they'll ask a fisherman.

(29:29.0 - 29:32.3)

I've had an old man ask me to help pull

(29:32.3 - 29:35.3)

out his net one time after I pulled out.

(29:37.0 - 29:38.5)

What was I supposed to do?

(29:38.5 - 29:39.5)

Tell him no. [laughs] He was in his 60s-70s. He asked so.

(29:49.4 - 29:50.9)

The plant is right in town, right?

(29:50.9 - 29:54.3)

Yeah, it's right over there.

What's it called?

(29:54.4 - 29:56.7)

Norton Sound Seafood Products.

(29:59.5 - 30:01.3)

It's a subsidiary of

(30:01.3 - 30:07.8)

NSEDC, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation.

Okay. AMSEA works with NSEDC.

(30:12.5 - 30:14.0)

So if you were to call the

(30:14.1 - 30:15.8)

plant, they would send a boat?

(30:15.9 - 30:17.6)

Yeah, they would find somebody.

(30:27.8 - 30:29.1)

A few more questions.

(30:33.5 - 30:35.2)

Can you describe what it's like getting back to land after…

A rough?

Yeah.

A relief. [laughs] It’s a relief.

(30:44.4 - 30:50.3)

Having your nets not out there, they're not twisted.

(30:55.4 - 30:56.4)

It's fun. Lot of work.

(31:00.8 - 31:03.3)

Can you think what the long-term effects

(31:03.4 - 31:06.4)

of fishing are on your body? Physically?

(31:07.6 - 31:08.7)

Feel pretty good.

(31:08.8 - 31:10.1)

I'm almost 60.

(31:10.6 - 31:12.4)

Keeps me in real good shape.

(31:14.0 - 31:14.8)

Good.

(31:16.7 - 31:17.3)

And then (31:17.3 - 31:18.6)

what about emotionally?

(31:20.3 - 31:21.9)

I look forward to it.

(31:22.9 - 31:25.3)

I'm happy doing what I'm doing.

(31:26.9 - 31:28.6)

Probably if you weren't happy doing what

(31:28.6 - 31:30.1)

you're doing, then it would be different.

(31:30.2 - 31:31.9)

But I'm happy doing what I'm doing.

(31:32.0 - 31:36.3)

I know what I'm doing.

Yeah.

If don't like it

(31:36.3 - 31:40.8)

maybe I'd find a job here in town or at the fish plant.

(31:42.2 - 31:44.1)

Something different.

Yeah.

(31:44.6 - 31:47.6)

Fortunately, I never got PTSD or something.

(31:50.7 - 31:52.3)

What about spiritually?

(31:56.8 - 31:57.9)

I don't know.

(31:59.5 - 32:00.8)

Believe in something.

(32:01.2 - 32:03.1)

I'm sure there's something out there.

(32:03.3 - 32:10.0)

Yeah, but do you feel anything when you're fishing?

(32:10.2 - 32:11.1)

Spiritually?

(32:11.6 - 32:12.8)

No, not really.

(32:13.0 - 32:15.3)

Just have faith. Yeah. You gotta have faith.

(32:17.7 - 32:19.7)

We all get down, but we got to

(32:19.7 - 32:23.0)

have faith that things will work out.

Yeah.

(32:29.5 - 32:31.9)

Do what you can do and let the chips fall where they may.

(32:35.7 - 32:39.6)

What would you say are the main differences

(32:39.6 - 32:43.0)

between fishing now and fishing 20 years ago

(32:44.3 - 32:46.8)

in general, how fishing has changed?

(32:47.7 - 32:54.8)

Well, a lot of fishermen were all consolidated

(32:54.9 - 33:00.0)

here in Unalakleet instead of all spread out

(33:00.0 - 33:07.3)

like it used to be. There's 40 some permits around here.

(33:07.4 - 33:10.3)

There used maybe 20 some.

(33:12.5 - 33:23.8)

Okay.

So it's a little tougher.

(33:23.9 - 33:25.7)

Do you feel like there's less fish now?

(33:25.9 - 33:28.8)

Yeah, it seems like there's a lot less fish because,

(33:29.5 - 33:33.6)

like I said, all those permits are jumbled here. Unalakleet.

(33:35.5 - 33:40.7)

The majority is between Unalakleet and Shaktoolik.

(33:42.3 - 33:44.7)

People sell our permits from other villages,

(33:44.9 - 33:47.0)

but then the fishermen come here.

(33:53.7 - 33:55.0)

Oh okay, fish it here.

Do they move here?

(33:55.6 - 33:57.4)

They'll come here for the summer.

(34:00.9 - 34:02.9)

Just for the summer. Do they have family or cousins or?

Yeah, some do.

(34:04.5 - 34:06.7)

It's mixed village.

(34:08.7 - 34:10.3)

My girlfriend's from St.

(34:10.4 - 34:13.4)

Lawrence island originally.

Yeah.

(34:13.9 - 34:18.7)

What about fishing 40 years ago from stories or it could

(34:18.7 - 34:21.3)

even be longer, like what your grandpa told you.

(34:22.4 - 34:26.6)

The boats are nowadays are way bigger compared

(34:26.6 - 34:28.2)

to what they used to be.

(34:28.3 - 34:32.0)

You can go farther, be more efficient on gas.

(34:35.9 - 34:37.2)

Pretty much had to do.

(34:37.3 - 34:38.6)

Had to know it.

(34:40.2 - 34:42.7)

Had to be a mechanic or whatever on

(34:42.7 - 34:45.6)

the motor if you have a problem.

(34:48.8 - 34:52.3)

But now you can get help.

Now you can get help and you

(34:52.3 - 35:00.0)

learn more how to change injectors, what's gonna

(35:00.0 - 35:02.6)

happen, how the motor acts.

(35:05.7 - 35:06.5)

Yeah.

(35:07.3 - 35:10.1)

Just seem to be more self reliant.

Yeah.

(35:12.8 - 35:17.6)

Are there any experiences that you have fishing in

(35:17.7 - 35:21.0)

terms of trying to make fishing safer for other

(35:21.1 - 35:24.2)

people that you think other people could learn from?

(35:26.1 - 35:27.2)

I don't know.

(35:37.6 - 35:38.9)

We're all different.

(35:39.1 - 35:41.1)

Everybody faces their own way.

People need to kind of learn it for themselves.

(35:52.7 - 35:53.5)

Yeah, right.

(35:53.6 - 35:59.1)

Just on the fly, you learn where

(35:59.1 - 36:01.3)

to set, why to set there.

(36:08.2 - 36:09.6)

Is there any knowledge you'd like

(36:09.6 - 36:13.1)

to share for other commercial fishermen?

(36:14.8 - 36:15.9)

Be safe. [laughs]

(36:17.3 - 36:18.3)

Just be safe.

(36:18.5 - 36:28.0)

Try not to take too many chances, untwist your net, or pull out your net.

(36:28.5 - 36:30.1)

Wait until it's calm.

(36:30.7 - 36:34.0)

If you get all twisted up, just wait.

(36:35.7 - 36:39.0)

You can replace the net, but you can't replace a life.

(36:42.8 - 36:45.2)

Might seem like a lot of money to replace that

(36:45.2 - 36:50.2)

net, but at least you're alive to replace the net.

(36:57.2 - 36:57.6)

All right.

(36:57.6 - 37:01.5)

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

No.

Okay.

(37:01.7 - 37:04.4)

And then we kind of talked about it a

(37:04.4 - 37:06.0)

little bit, but can you think of any ways

(37:06.1 - 37:09.1)

that this could be shared with, because I'll take

(37:09.1 - 37:13.9)

this, I'll interview ten people or up to ten

(37:13.9 - 37:18.1)

people, and then I'll take themes that came out.

(37:18.6 - 37:20.8)

People say the same thing sometimes over and

(37:20.8 - 37:22.9)

over again, and there's nuggets of information.

(37:23.0 - 37:27.3)

And if I want to share that with other fishermen

(37:27.3 - 37:31.2)

in Norton Sound or other communities, or here in Unalakleet,

(37:31.4 - 37:33.4)

do you have a way that you can think of

(37:33.4 - 37:34.7)

that would be a good way to share it?

(37:34.7 - 37:37.6)

Like, it could be on the radio or I could make

(37:37.6 - 37:44.6)

a poster or I could make a video or have someone

(37:44.7 - 37:51.5)

make a song

I don't know how to reach.

(37:51.7 - 37:53.2)

Every fisherman is different.

(37:53.3 - 37:56.1)

Yeah, we all make choices.

(37:57.9 - 38:00.4)

You got to live with them or not.

(38:03.6 - 38:05.4)

What about Jerry doing a video?

(38:05.5 - 38:07.3)

Do you think that would be good?

(38:07.3 - 38:09.7)

Yeah, a lot, everybody in town knows him

(38:10.0 - 38:12.5)

around the villages, he’d

be a good one to do that.