Interview 3 Transcription

So we'd like to learn

(00:10.8 - 00:13.2)

about your experience commercial fishing.

(00:13.5 - 00:16.5)

The goal is to improve marine safety In Norton sound.

(00:16.8 - 00:18.2)

And we hope to use your stories

(00:18.3 - 00:19.8)

and knowledge to share with the community

(00:20.0 - 00:23.0)

here and in other fishing communities too.

(00:23.6 - 00:26.0)

So to start off, can you tell

(00:26.0 - 00:29.9)

me the areas you've fished commercially and

(00:29.9 - 00:32.1)

the types of commercial fishing you've done?

(00:35.3 - 00:40.3)

I did fish in Toggle district

(00:43.8 - 00:48.5)

and that was drift drifting.

(00:50.0 - 00:51.7)

Drifting? Yes.

(00:56.1 - 01:12.3)

And I've set net here just for a short period of time.

(01:12.4 - 01:19.3)

Fish for northern glacier, for pollock

(01:23.5 - 01:30.3)

on a 270 some ship. Ship? Yeah.

(01:30.4 - 01:31.2)

Trawler.

(01:34.1 - 01:38.4)

And lately it's just been set netting. Okay.

(01:38.8 - 01:41.7)

How many years have you done drip netting?

(01:47.4 - 01:48.6)

When was that?

(01:49.6 - 01:51.7)

Back in the 80s. Okay.

(01:53.1 - 01:55.4)

And then what about setting?

(01:57.4 - 01:59.8)

It's been on and off ever since.

(02:04.5 - 02:09.6)

Eleven was the earliest I was out on the ocean.

(02:13.1 - 02:20.9)

My uncle, he showed us all about the ocean.

(02:21.1 - 02:28.9)

But it was a different time.

(02:29.1 - 02:40.1)

In the late sixty s and early 80s.

(02:45.3 - 02:55.7)

That's where we got our seal oil from fish and mammals.

(03:02.1 - 03:04.3)

Why did you fish where you fished?

(03:06.8 - 03:12.2)

We just explored finding where the fish were,

(03:14.1 - 03:16.5)

where we caught a lot of fish.

(03:17.6 - 03:23.9)

And other people have different preferences where they go

(03:24.1 - 03:30.0)

because they can it's their preference to go far.

(03:31.6 - 03:37.2)

Other people have their nets real short, but all the

(03:37.3 - 03:42.1)

ones that like playing out, they got them real far.

(03:45.4 - 03:47.7)

They don't mind playing out.

(03:50.1 - 03:51.5)

They love the ocean.

(03:51.6 - 03:55.7)

And that's how they taught us to love the ocean.

(03:56.3 - 03:58.7)

And it is just so fun.

(03:59.4 - 04:00.9)

It is so fun.

(04:01.4 - 04:05.1)

Even when it's rough out there, we

(04:05.2 - 04:08.4)

just come to live with it.

(04:11.1 - 04:12.9)

Can you describe the boat that

(04:13.0 - 04:16.4)

you were setting on the most?

(04:18.5 - 04:20.5)

18 footer. Okay.

(04:21.7 - 04:23.8)

I fished with my uncle that had

(04:23.8 - 04:27.8)

a 22 footer, 20 or 24 footer.

(04:32.0 - 04:37.0)

And when I drifted we was using a 26 footer.

(04:38.4 - 04:42.5)

I believe it was 26 footer. Yeah.

(04:45.8 - 04:47.5)

What got you into fishing?

(04:48.0 - 04:50.8)

I guess start off when you were eleven?

(04:52.8 - 04:54.1)

I had to.

(04:56.0 - 04:58.7)

My elder said, you got to help.

(05:00.9 - 05:03.0)

Even though I didn't want to help.

(05:03.1 - 05:05.9)

I wasn't even used to the ocean.

(05:09.0 - 05:11.0)

I was forced sunny.

(05:11.1 - 05:12.9)

You got to go out there?

(05:13.3 - 05:19.0)

Yeah, that kind of stuff.

(05:20.0 - 05:23.9)

And then it was really hard at first

(05:24.5 - 05:27.3)

and I said I'd never go out there.

(05:27.9 - 05:32.4)

But then when you're young, you got to

(05:32.4 - 05:37.7)

do what your elders say, wherever you're staying.

(05:38.5 - 05:42.1)

And when I was young I stayed with my grandmother

(05:44.1 - 05:49.3)

and she would just say, loom, you got to help.

(05:49.5 - 05:51.9)

You got to help.

(05:52.0 - 05:55.0)

When you get sick, just throw up.

(05:56.0 - 05:58.7)

Yeah, just throw up.

(05:59.3 - 06:11.2)

And I first started fishing with my cousin Clyde.

(06:11.2 - 06:13.0)

He's up there somewhere.

(06:17.8 - 06:20.3)

When he needed help when I was eleven.

(06:25.2 - 06:29.5)

And he used to fist right over there real close.

(06:33.2 - 06:34.3)

What was your position?

(06:34.4 - 06:35.6)

What did you do on the boat

(06:35.7 - 06:37.2)

when you were with your cousin?

(06:38.3 - 06:40.7)

I was just a helper. Yeah.

(06:56.6 - 07:00.8)

When I subsisted, I subsisted all by myself.

(07:01.0 - 07:03.1)

Except for when I needed help.

(07:03.3 - 07:08.9)

I always came to Dickie or my son when he was here.

(07:09.2 - 07:11.4)

I would tell him to go and help.

(07:12.7 - 07:20.8)

Whenever my son here, I'd have to be gone somewhere

(07:21.4 - 07:26.7)

or just had him use a skip and do it.

(07:31.0 - 07:35.3)

But my real helper was tackle on

(07:35.3 - 07:38.9)

my bigger projects, like, well, net.

(07:42.5 - 07:48.1)

One time when I was in Anchorage or something, I

(07:48.1 - 07:51.4)

had like five whales in that net and he had

(07:51.4 - 07:56.2)

to bring it all by himself to here from Blueberry.

(07:56.9 - 07:58.6)

You know where Blueberry is?

(07:58.7 - 08:01.3)

It's right on the other side over there.

(08:02.7 - 08:07.8)

Five of them real slow with my 50 Fantasy net.

(08:08.6 - 08:13.5)

Yeah, that was what Cackle could do.

(08:14.6 - 08:18.9)

The only reason he never got it in was because

(08:19.1 - 08:24.9)

the tide was low and he couldn't bring it in.

(08:25.3 - 08:29.7)

Four of them ended up no good out there.

(08:35.1 - 08:38.8)

Can you describe the steps involved in a typical

(08:38.8 - 08:47.8)

day fishing safety, but like, starting your day off?

(08:49.8 - 08:52.2)

If I didn't know how to set that at all.

(08:52.3 - 08:54.1)

Describe to me what you do and

(08:54.2 - 08:56.6)

what it's like a typical day.

(08:58.1 - 09:00.0)

Maybe pick when you're an adult.

(09:07.8 - 09:14.7)

My mom, she tried and taught me into getting up

(09:14.8 - 09:20.2)

early because you got to take care of your net.

(09:20.8 - 09:23.1)

You don't know when you catch fish.

(09:23.3 - 09:26.8)

So she would say, Go out there and

(09:26.8 - 09:30.7)

check in the morning, in the evening, and

(09:30.8 - 09:34.3)

then one more time in late evening.

(09:35.4 - 09:38.6)

So I just pretty much followed

(09:38.7 - 09:46.3)

that right there, keeping your net.

(09:46.4 - 09:50.6)

Because sometimes that net would get so

(09:50.7 - 09:56.0)

plugged if you left it unguarded.

(09:57.9 - 10:00.4)

That's how people lose nets.

(10:00.9 - 10:04.9)

They lose all their catch when those

(10:05.0 - 10:06.7)

fish are caught in the water.

(10:08.4 - 10:15.3)

They lose their firmness, everything.

(10:15.4 - 10:18.6)

You know, that's why you have to keep on top

(10:18.8 - 10:28.5)

of checking the net, not wait more than 6 hours.

(10:28.7 - 10:35.0)

Yeah, you try and have that in mind so

(10:35.1 - 10:40.4)

that the fish don't get soft and then they

(10:40.4 - 10:44.6)

get hard to cut, they get hard to dry.

(10:47.3 - 10:53.6)

And it's a pain trying to make fish like that because

(10:53.9 - 11:01.5)

the bugs just attack them when you try and subsist.

(11:02.6 - 11:05.7)

Yeah, you got to keep on your net.

(11:05.8 - 11:09.4)

And when you're not going to keep on it, you got

(11:09.4 - 11:15.1)

to take it out if you're not going to watch it.

(11:15.3 - 11:18.5)

Mom would always tell me, you know, when we

(11:18.5 - 11:22.8)

get enough, we don't need it out in the

(11:22.8 - 11:26.2)

ocean because we don't know how much we're going

(11:26.2 - 11:31.3)

to catch, but everything we caught.

(11:36.0 - 11:41.8)

Because I didn't have a permit, but I

(11:41.8 - 11:47.3)

just worked for people that had permits.

(11:50.3 - 11:52.0)

Did you ever have a permit?

(11:52.6 - 11:57.6)

No, I never did have a permit.

(11:59.6 - 12:02.4)

My dad sold his permit when

(12:02.4 - 12:05.1)

we had to move to Anchorage. Yeah.

(12:08.5 - 12:11.3)

Can you describe what boat life is like?

(12:12.0 - 12:13.8)

And if it helps, think

(12:13.9 - 12:17.3)

of sounds, smell, physical sensation.

(12:23.2 - 12:27.7)

What is like being out on the water and for

(12:27.8 - 12:35.6)

commercial at times when it's real calm, you got to

(12:35.6 - 12:38.9)

have a book where you got to keep your mind

(12:39.1 - 12:47.8)

on something that is positive because there's no fish hitting

(12:49.3 - 12:54.2)

and you're not saying, Yeah, let's get another one.

(12:56.0 - 13:03.2)

And you're just sitting there and no one that fishes.

(13:05.3 - 13:08.7)

I mean, it's dull out there, especially

(13:09.5 - 13:13.0)

if you got your fishing partners and

(13:13.1 - 13:16.7)

nothing is happening because you're not working.

(13:20.9 - 13:22.6)

So how do you stay positive?

(13:27.4 - 13:31.9)

You think about your big strikes and how much

(13:32.0 - 13:38.5)

the narrows you're going to pull and what you

(13:38.5 - 13:41.6)

can get with that, what you can get with

(13:41.7 - 13:46.8)

your earnings to better your subsistence life.

(13:49.0 - 13:55.5)

Buying shells, buying cash, buying tools that

(13:55.7 - 14:00.8)

you need for everyday use in Alaska.

(14:07.6 - 14:10.3)

So when you're setting, is it just you

(14:10.3 - 14:14.2)

and the skipper typically or how many people?

(14:16.5 - 14:19.0)

It's usually just me.

(14:21.0 - 14:23.1)

Oh, not subsistence commercial.

(14:23.2 - 14:26.3)

I mean commercial. Commercial? Yeah.

(14:28.5 - 14:30.7)

It's me and my captain.

(14:30.8 - 14:35.9)

The captain's driving, and I'm setting out the net.

(14:36.0 - 14:38.4)

Make sure it goes out correctly.

(14:41.0 - 14:42.7)

Who have you fished with the most?

(14:47.0 - 14:51.1)

Peachy Econ.

(14:53.0 - 14:54.2)

What was he like?

(14:55.3 - 14:57.4)

He was a very good champ.

(14:59.2 - 15:06.0)

He always caught a lot and he still catches a lot.

(15:15.6 - 15:18.0)

Being with him for a long period of time?

(15:19.9 - 15:26.5)

No, he was so easy to get along.

(15:39.9 - 15:45.1)

My fishing captains for drifting in To, GAC, I only

(15:45.2 - 15:53.4)

had them for one year, and his name was Andrew

(15:53.5 - 15:58.5)

Moore, and the other one was George Pleasant Senior.

(16:08.0 - 16:10.4)

I really enjoyed both of them.

(16:14.9 - 16:17.4)

Andrew Moore was the one that got me to go

(16:17.5 - 16:45.7)

to Tobiach in the first place, next to Dillingham.

(16:50.3 - 16:53.5)

I stayed at this little village in Twin Hills

(16:53.5 - 16:58.4)

which is right across from Tokyo to Bay.

(16:59.1 - 17:00.9)

What do you call Bay because you got

(17:01.0 - 17:04.8)

to go across to go to Togia.

(17:11.1 - 17:14.7)

When the tides in, you could pull the cross or

(17:14.8 - 17:19.5)

you could just fly if you got to fly.

(17:20.6 - 17:22.8)

Flying was real cheap.

(17:25.5 - 17:27.7)

It was beautiful. I loved it.

(17:27.7 - 17:28.9)

I loved it up there.

(17:29.0 - 17:31.6)

I might have been three years.

(17:31.7 - 17:36.8)

Actually I did, because I ended up staying there

(17:38.2 - 17:44.6)

with my friend just to check it out.

(17:50.6 - 17:54.2)

There was only 13 families there in Twin Hill.

(17:55.1 - 17:57.4)

Twin Hill is one of the reservations.

(18:04.9 - 18:05.3)

Yeah.

(18:05.3 - 18:09.7)

The other one is Illum, Alaska.

(18:09.8 - 18:15.2)

And then I think the last one is Met Lacatla. Okay.

(18:15.3 - 18:22.5)

I'm not sure, but I think that's it.

(18:23.5 - 18:24.9)

Okay. Yeah.

(18:28.9 - 18:32.5)

Run like other villages. Yeah.

(18:33.4 - 18:37.4)

They say who can come in and who can.

(18:37.6 - 18:39.6)

Yeah.

(18:39.8 - 18:41.4)

That is so cool.

(18:52.7 - 18:57.7)

Do you ever fish with family commercial? No.

(18:59.7 - 19:05.1)

Yeah, my uncle had just to help me.

(19:08.1 - 19:09.5)

What was that like?

(19:19.6 - 19:23.6)

I think that was for herring only.

(19:25.1 - 19:25.8)

Okay.

(19:30.1 - 19:33.1)

We didn't really catch too much herring that time.

(19:34.1 - 19:36.7)

It's like a one week thing.

(19:37.9 - 19:39.9)

And I would just help him in

(19:39.9 - 19:44.0)

the ocean when he needed help.

(19:44.2 - 19:46.6)

When he didn't have his partners there with

(19:46.7 - 19:51.5)

him and I was there, I would help.

(19:53.2 - 19:55.7)

And I did fish with my cousin

(19:55.7 - 19:59.0)

Jingle when I was in high school.

(20:00.9 - 20:03.8)

I believe I was 17 or 16.

(20:08.6 - 20:11.9)

So for fishing commercial, have

(20:11.9 - 20:13.5)

you had anyone mentor you?

(20:14.4 - 20:22.8)

Yeah, my Uncle Ed, my cousins, all my cousins who

(20:22.9 - 20:27.4)

fish, and there was a lot of them that fished

(20:30.2 - 20:34.1)

because that was a summer source of income.

(20:40.0 - 20:43.8)

And do you remember anything that they taught you specific

(20:45.1 - 20:48.9)

or about related to being safe on the water?

(20:54.0 - 20:58.3)

He taught me how to drive and

(20:58.3 - 21:00.5)

not be afraid of the ocean.

(21:05.1 - 21:11.4)

And they taught me you got to catch fish

(21:11.8 - 21:14.4)

and you got to go where the fish are.

(21:14.6 - 21:17.1)

If they're not there, they're not there.

(21:17.3 - 21:19.7)

That means they're somewhere else.

(21:19.8 - 21:21.9)

Where are you going to try next?

(21:22.4 - 21:24.9)

You just can't watch your net

(21:25.0 - 21:27.4)

and wait for something to happen.

(21:27.6 - 21:30.9)

You got to make it happen, even if

(21:31.0 - 21:33.3)

it means going all the way down.

(21:34.6 - 21:40.6)

That's what I learned from you.

(21:40.6 - 21:41.9)

Just can't wait.

(21:43.8 - 21:48.7)

And boy, I seen the results. Boy.

(21:49.8 - 21:52.6)

Sometimes he would just make the

(21:52.7 - 21:55.0)

right decision at the right time.

(21:55.1 - 22:00.0)

He had his timing for fishing and

(22:00.1 - 22:04.4)

weather patterns, all those come into play.

(22:04.9 - 22:06.3)

They all do.

(22:07.4 - 22:11.6)

But things are changing so much nowadays

(22:11.7 - 22:19.2)

with excess water that we have. Yeah.

(22:22.2 - 22:23.8)

Can you describe that?

(22:35.2 - 22:38.7)

Look at what's happening on our land.

(22:39.7 - 22:45.4)

Our land is dropping landslides.

(22:45.4 - 22:50.0)

When it rains, all of a sudden down south and

(22:50.2 - 22:56.5)

up north, there's big caps of holes that just dropped.

(22:57.0 - 23:02.4)

And our ocean, as soon as the wind change

(23:02.6 - 23:08.9)

comes, you know it's going to get bad when

(23:09.1 - 23:12.2)

that west wind comes and you're far.

(23:12.8 - 23:16.4)

So it's best to get out of it

(23:17.1 - 23:21.2)

because the waves are just in Humongous.

(23:31.0 - 23:33.6)

Did you mentor anyone for fishing?

(23:37.1 - 23:44.0)

Only by doing it there with them.

(23:46.1 - 23:47.7)

Younger nephews.

(23:49.1 - 23:49.9)

Cousins.

(23:50.7 - 23:55.8)

Cousins that came with us on our trip

(23:55.9 - 24:06.7)

to Illum to picnic, tow, but to Coyote

(24:07.0 - 24:13.1)

and learn where to camp around Koyuke.

(24:20.0 - 24:23.4)

It's all about being safety, and I

(24:23.5 - 24:26.0)

really haven't been a safety person.

(24:26.2 - 24:28.7)

I lost a boat and a motor.

(24:29.1 - 24:30.8)

Can you hear me about that?

(24:36.8 - 24:39.9)

One year I lost a boat down there at Black

(24:40.0 - 24:46.3)

Point and it became west wind, and I had it

(24:46.4 - 24:54.7)

anchored out in the ocean when we should have had

(24:54.7 - 24:58.7)

it pulled up on the rocks at Black Point.

(25:01.0 - 25:08.9)

But I neglected to pull it up when Mom's boyfriend, Jack

(25:09.5 - 25:14.6)

Calcher asked me if I want to pull it up.

(25:14.8 - 25:17.8)

And then when it started to get rough, I

(25:17.9 - 25:21.8)

didn't take it and go to Black Point.

(25:26.0 - 25:32.2)

I thought because my anchor was big, I thought

(25:32.3 - 25:34.8)

it was going to be able to hold it.

(25:35.6 - 25:43.0)

But what happened was from the constant going up,

(25:49.9 - 25:57.4)

my anchor got so stuck in there that one

(25:57.5 - 26:04.0)

side bended on my anchor and the boat got

(26:04.1 - 26:11.3)

loose and it ended up on the rocks. Yeah.

(26:11.4 - 26:16.3)

And I lost my motor and boat at that time.

(26:16.5 - 26:18.3)

And you couldn't do anything about it?

(26:18.4 - 26:30.8)

Yeah, I had the opportunity, but I didn't do it.

(26:37.2 - 26:40.5)

Can you think back to an opener when you

(26:40.5 - 26:44.4)

were commercial setting that sticks out in your mind

(26:46.9 - 26:59.3)

and describe the day that would seem just like

(27:03.4 - 27:09.1)

waiting for the fish to hit and nothing happens.

(27:09.7 - 27:14.6)

So you're just sitting there hoping.

(27:16.6 - 27:19.0)

You're sitting there in your rain gear and it

(27:19.0 - 27:24.8)

could be raining and you're like, wondering, what in

(27:24.9 - 27:28.5)

the world did I sign myself up for?

(27:31.4 - 27:32.4)

What about food?

(27:32.5 - 27:34.1)

Did you get enough to eat?

(27:35.7 - 27:50.2)

Yeah, because you're out there, right, and you don't

(27:50.2 - 27:52.4)

know how long you're going to be out there.

(27:53.7 - 27:57.6)

It could be all day.

(27:58.6 - 28:04.4)

And sometimes you have that when you want a good catch.

(28:05.1 - 28:07.3)

You got to stay out there and you got to

(28:07.3 - 28:11.6)

get all those fish that are in your net. Yeah.

(28:18.1 - 28:19.8)

What you're typically wearing.

(28:20.5 - 28:21.8)

Are you comfortable?

(28:23.0 - 28:24.5)

What's your gear like?

(28:29.7 - 28:31.8)

Light, warm clothes.

(28:36.9 - 28:43.7)

Your rain jacket and your rain gear.

(28:46.4 - 28:47.4)

A hat?

(28:50.7 - 28:52.8)

Sunglasses for the sun?

(29:07.8 - 29:10.1)

No, I always use those.

(29:10.2 - 29:11.2)

White gloves?

(29:13.6 - 29:16.3)

I don't like using rubber gloves.

(29:22.3 - 29:23.2)

Cotton.

(29:31.0 - 29:34.2)

Can you describe what a good day of fishing is like?

(29:36.5 - 29:37.9)

100 fish.

(29:38.4 - 29:39.6)

Over 100.

(29:41.8 - 29:43.5)

And they're all good.

(29:45.2 - 29:51.3)

Preferably the price, the higher one

(29:51.7 - 29:55.1)

more of the higher price.

(30:01.9 - 30:05.8)

So now can you think of a specific event that seems

(30:05.9 - 30:12.0)

dangerous while you were out commercial fishing and describe what happens

(30:13.2 - 30:24.6)

while you were setting when bad weather comes upon you, when

(30:24.6 - 30:30.3)

you're just starting to pull a net that has a lot

(30:30.3 - 30:46.1)

of fish and you are constantly in the waves, or when

(30:46.1 - 30:58.6)

you get beached, when your boat is being overtaken by waves,

(30:58.7 - 31:06.0)

when your motor can't start and you got to drift to

(31:06.0 - 31:15.4)

shore and you worry about how you're going to land when

(31:15.4 - 31:16.9)

you're reaching shore.

(31:17.7 - 31:19.5)

How many times has that happened?

(31:20.6 - 31:21.4)

Once.

(31:25.1 - 31:29.6)

When that happened, were there any resources or equipment

(31:29.7 - 31:31.5)

that you wish you had on the boat?

(31:37.1 - 31:39.7)

We were wishing we had a good motor.

(31:39.9 - 31:41.3)

So the motor died?

(31:41.8 - 31:45.0)

No, it wouldn't run correctly.

(31:56.3 - 31:58.3)

Do you remember what happened to it?

(32:03.1 - 32:04.6)

It kept dying.

(32:06.6 - 32:09.4)

It would start, but then it would stop.

(32:15.8 - 32:17.0)

Do you know why?

(32:18.4 - 32:21.6)

Probably water and the gas.

(32:28.1 - 32:29.7)

Is there anything that you could

(32:29.7 - 32:32.9)

have done differently, looking back?

(32:32.9 - 32:34.7)

You would have done differently at the

(32:34.7 - 32:41.5)

beginning of that day, not going out

(32:41.6 - 32:44.8)

and checking the net when it's rough. Okay.

(33:02.7 - 33:04.4)

And then when times were

(33:04.4 - 33:08.2)

difficult, what kept you going?

(33:10.9 - 33:12.8)

I think you already mentioned this.

(33:15.8 - 33:19.2)

You said thinking about a big fish and

(33:19.2 - 33:20.6)

what you're going to do with the money.

(33:20.8 - 33:24.6)

Yeah, that pretty much covers it.

(33:24.7 - 33:26.0)

Do you have anything to add?

(33:30.1 - 33:34.7)

A big fish load, a big pay?

(33:38.2 - 33:39.8)

What would you say are some of

(33:39.8 - 33:43.6)

the greatest dangers to setting commercial?

(33:49.7 - 33:51.2)

How do you set it?

(33:57.0 - 33:59.2)

You have to check it properly.

(34:00.6 - 34:03.3)

If it is rough out.

(34:07.6 - 34:10.4)

You just can't start from the outside.

(34:10.9 - 34:14.2)

You got to start from the low side.

(34:18.7 - 34:25.2)

But other fishermen have different preferences.

(34:35.2 - 34:44.5)

Don't take mine for a short way because

(34:45.0 - 34:49.4)

there's so many things out there, like a

(34:49.4 - 34:55.3)

bad wave or not seeing another wave come.

(35:00.5 - 35:03.0)

You have to watch and you have to be

(35:03.0 - 35:06.9)

aware of what's going to come on that boat.

(35:08.7 - 35:11.6)

Those waves state throw boats.

(35:20.1 - 35:23.4)

What kind of things go wrong when they go wrong?

(35:29.5 - 35:42.6)

The motor and attitude.

(35:48.3 - 35:56.8)

That is not panicky.

(35:57.5 - 35:59.8)

You can't have an attitude.

(36:11.0 - 36:14.5)

Do you think fishing and Norton sound has unique

(36:14.6 - 36:25.0)

challenges or dangers compared to other areas for fishing?

(36:28.7 - 36:31.4)

We don't really look at it that way.

(36:32.2 - 36:33.2)

I don't.

(36:37.3 - 36:42.3)

You're going to have them whether you do or not.

(36:45.9 - 36:47.8)

How you're going to take it?

(36:50.5 - 36:55.4)

Myself, I just want to get those this I want to get it and

(36:55.5 - 36:58.9)

I want to do it and I want to get done with it.

(37:04.0 - 37:06.1)

It ain't going to get done by itself.

(37:15.1 - 37:17.1)

Do any injuries you've gotten while

(37:17.1 - 37:19.5)

fishing stand out in your mind?

(37:19.6 - 37:21.3)

Have you gotten any injuries?

(37:28.8 - 37:40.6)

I've gotten a lot out but I really don't see it.

(37:40.7 - 37:44.1)

Seems like I would have got a lot of injuries.

(37:48.1 - 37:55.5)

One time I had to fly from my uncle's

(37:55.6 - 38:01.7)

boat to another boat while it's rough out to

(38:01.7 - 38:04.5)

get in there to help them pull the net.

(38:06.0 - 38:06.7)

Yeah.

(38:06.8 - 38:13.6)

And I was like when my kidding right?

(38:14.7 - 38:19.3)

He's like, no, I just told you how to do it.

(38:24.8 - 38:30.7)

I just jumped and I tried not to hurt my feet.

(38:32.0 - 38:36.3)

Yeah, I was worried that I would spring my ankle.

(38:37.5 - 38:40.1)

How fast were you moving the boat?

(38:41.8 - 38:44.0)

It was just right by the boat.

(38:44.5 - 38:46.3)

How far apart were they?

(38:46.5 - 38:52.4)

It was close but the problem was that one

(38:52.5 - 38:55.6)

boat was going up while the other was going

(38:55.7 - 38:58.4)

down and you had to time it.

(38:59.4 - 39:04.4)

Yeah, that was crazy.

(39:04.7 - 39:06.2)

I still remember that.

(39:06.2 - 39:08.1)

That was right out there.

(39:09.0 - 39:10.6)

Were you wearing a life jacket?

(39:10.8 - 39:14.4)

No, we never wore life jackets.

(39:16.2 - 39:19.9)

No, we just finally started wearing life jackets

(39:21.6 - 39:24.7)

because they said that we would get fined.

(39:26.0 - 39:28.6)

When was that you started wearing them?

(39:29.0 - 39:30.4)

How many years ago?

(39:33.7 - 39:37.7)

I even forget how many years ago

(39:38.4 - 39:43.0)

that became mandatory whenever it became mandatory.

(39:54.1 - 39:56.9)

Back in the 70s when we went camping,

(39:58.8 - 40:01.2)

not one of us had a life jacket.

(40:01.4 - 40:04.8)

I don't even think we had a life jacket in the boat.

(40:06.6 - 40:12.6)

At my cousin's funeral, there were 13

(40:12.7 - 40:15.1)

or 14 of us in this boat.

(40:17.5 - 40:22.0)

It was so rough out there at Clarence

(40:22.1 - 40:25.8)

Kitchen takes funeral when they had checks with.

(40:26.2 - 40:28.9)

Yeah, we had to go 43 miles.

(40:36.2 - 40:37.9)

We went with uncle.

(40:39.7 - 40:41.3)

Can you describe the boat?

(40:44.1 - 40:46.4)

It's a boat that's over there.

(40:46.5 - 40:48.1)

I forgot how big it is.

(40:48.2 - 40:50.8)

It might be a 26 footer. Okay.

(40:55.1 - 40:56.0)

What do you mean?

(40:56.1 - 40:58.0)

Oh, it's open. Yeah.

(41:04.6 - 41:09.8)

There was my uncle Percy because there

(41:09.8 - 41:11.7)

was a lot of wood that time.

(41:12.8 - 41:17.9)

So he took one side and I took one side at

(41:18.0 - 41:22.5)

the top of the boat holding on to the rail and

(41:22.5 - 41:25.3)

we had to ride that way all the way.

(41:29.1 - 41:32.0)

We were Uncle's eyes for wood.

(41:35.9 - 41:38.6)

We made it that time for his funeral.

(41:43.5 - 41:44.8)

It was crazy.

(41:49.6 - 41:54.3)

My mom ended up breaking a chair on the

(41:54.3 - 41:57.8)

way when she was almost to shatter it.

(41:58.8 - 42:01.0)

Uncle had made her a chair?

(42:01.6 - 42:06.4)

Yeah, it was supposed to be a good material.

(42:08.8 - 42:10.4)

It ended up breaking.

(42:10.5 - 42:13.2)

My mom ended up flying back, though.

(42:18.7 - 42:20.2)

That was so good.

(42:22.7 - 42:24.4)

How much sleep do you

(42:24.5 - 42:27.0)

typically get when you're fishing?

(42:29.2 - 42:33.5)

Try to get 8 hours. Okay. Try. Okay.

(42:35.5 - 42:36.4)

Oh, you know what?

(42:36.4 - 42:39.9)

I forgot to tell you that there's carrots.

(43:01.9 - 43:04.8)

Is there any more questions? Yeah.

(43:07.5 - 43:13.2)

So for sleep, are you ever tired

(43:14.6 - 43:16.0)

while you're out on the boat?

(43:17.0 - 43:17.8)

Yeah.

(43:23.5 - 43:25.5)

Do you have any strategies to

(43:25.6 - 43:29.5)

stay awake or to stay alert?

(43:30.4 - 43:34.3)

How could you have a strategy to stay awake and alert?

(43:34.8 - 43:36.0)

One or the other.

(43:44.4 - 43:56.4)

Just keep a watchful eye and just

(43:56.5 - 44:01.3)

kick it with your partners, whoever.

(44:07.7 - 44:09.4)

Do you have any physical health

(44:09.5 - 44:11.2)

challenges while you're out fishing?

(44:14.5 - 44:17.2)

Not getting seasick. Okay.

(44:19.1 - 44:22.7)

But I am so glad that I always get seasick

(44:23.2 - 44:28.1)

and then don't get seasick the rest of the summer. Okay.

(44:29.0 - 44:30.2)

Lord willing.

(44:30.4 - 44:42.3)

Yeah, but I'll tell you after the interview.

(44:42.9 - 44:43.6)

Okay.

(44:46.9 - 44:49.5)

When you're on land, what kind of things

(44:49.5 - 44:51.7)

do you do to prepare to go fishing?

(44:52.6 - 44:57.2)

Eat, cook food, eat, cook

(44:57.3 - 45:00.1)

something good when it's calm.

(45:00.2 - 45:01.6)

We always cook.

(45:02.4 - 45:07.2)

We always cook fish right there on the water?

(45:07.3 - 45:10.0)

No, on land. Okay.

(45:15.7 - 45:18.0)

Did you feel like you had a place to get

(45:18.0 - 45:22.1)

safety equipment or resources that you needed in town here?

(45:23.8 - 45:24.6)

Yeah.

(45:27.8 - 45:29.7)

And then did friends and family

(45:29.8 - 45:33.3)

help you prepare for your fishing?

(45:36.4 - 45:41.1)

They always encourage us to be safe.

(45:56.3 - 45:57.8)

Does anyone give you local

(45:57.9 - 46:00.6)

knowledge or knowledge about safety?

(46:01.5 - 46:07.6)

Whether or specific places to go or not to go?

(46:10.0 - 46:23.8)

Our elders, everybody who knew you fish

(46:23.9 - 46:30.2)

would say, stay safe out there. Think.

(46:31.3 - 46:32.7)

Use your head.

(46:33.5 - 46:35.4)

That's why you got it.

(46:40.3 - 46:43.2)

You know, in Alaska, there's a lot of smart.

(46:43.3 - 46:49.1)

Alex, can you give me examples of

(46:49.1 - 46:51.6)

what they meant by using your head?

(46:52.8 - 46:56.2)

Like a specific example of a scenario?

(46:56.7 - 47:01.5)

In situations there's always situations that arise.

(47:02.2 - 47:03.9)

You have to be calm.

(47:06.4 - 47:10.3)

You have to know that it could happen, and

(47:10.4 - 47:15.2)

you have to think about what are your options.

(47:29.4 - 47:31.6)

Do you have a place to get safety training

(47:31.7 - 47:34.2)

or have you done any marine safety training?

(47:36.2 - 47:39.1)

I got safety training when I went with my

(47:39.1 - 47:41.9)

uncle and camped with him for a month.

(47:43.3 - 47:47.1)

Yeah, he always gave us safety training.

(47:49.0 - 47:53.9)

That's why when we go out there, we've

(47:53.9 - 48:00.5)

done it already before we've seen, because he

(48:00.6 - 48:02.8)

brought us out there for a reason.

(48:04.0 - 48:05.6)

How are we going to ask?

(48:05.7 - 48:07.1)

What are we going to do?

(48:07.6 - 48:13.2)

What is a way to go about your problem?

(48:17.1 - 48:24.0)

If you live in Alaska and you love it, go out

(48:24.1 - 48:29.3)

there and just get what you want either, whether it be

(48:29.4 - 48:37.0)

on sea, land, just do what's you got to do.

(48:38.2 - 48:39.9)

How do you want to eat?

(48:40.3 - 48:46.4)

Do you want to eat big, or do you want to eat small?

(48:48.8 - 48:56.4)

That was what jack those old stories of all those

(48:56.4 - 49:03.1)

people that didn't have no motors and just pulled folks

(49:03.2 - 49:06.9)

up the river, way up the river, three hour ride.

(49:07.0 - 49:09.3)

Golly, that took how many days?

(49:09.4 - 49:13.3)

Twelve days just to get up there? Yeah.

(49:14.9 - 49:18.2)

We have ancestor stories that

(49:20.5 - 49:25.4)

our ancestors were sailors.

(49:25.5 - 49:31.2)

They sell, I mean, crazy.

(49:33.7 - 49:36.4)

And they went up there to those hills

(49:36.6 - 49:41.5)

and just killed brown bears with spears. Yeah.

(49:43.2 - 49:46.0)

Walk up that hill and kill brown bear.

(49:46.2 - 49:47.4)

I dare you.

(49:53.2 - 49:58.4)

Can you describe what you know of fishing now compared

(49:58.4 - 50:03.4)

to fishing 20 years ago and then 40 years ago?

(50:10.3 - 50:18.4)

20 years ago, I don't think I even fish.

(50:18.6 - 50:20.8)

Oh, yeah, I did 40 years ago.

(50:21.0 - 50:22.9)

40 years ago or what?

(50:22.9 - 50:24.1)

Fishing was like.

(50:24.3 - 50:25.6)

How different?

(50:27.8 - 50:32.8)

40 years ago, when you were young, you just went

(50:32.9 - 50:42.4)

out there and it was just something to do.

(50:44.9 - 50:50.8)

And it was so fun to learning how to drive, how

(50:50.8 - 50:58.0)

to just be trusted with a boat that isn't yours, but

(50:58.0 - 51:01.3)

they trust you enough that you got to go out in

(51:01.3 - 51:05.1)

the ocean by yourself and go and check the net.

(51:06.9 - 51:10.4)

Yeah, that was a big stepping stone.

(51:30.4 - 51:33.2)

I just learned how to drive fast.

(51:36.7 - 51:40.1)

It's always been that way.

(51:41.3 - 51:42.8)

I drive fast.

(51:45.4 - 51:46.8)

I love the ocean.

(51:46.9 - 51:50.6)

The ocean, even when it's rough, it has avenues.

(51:51.9 - 51:56.4)

It has avenues that are lower than the big waves.

(51:56.5 - 51:57.3)

You can see.

(51:57.4 - 52:05.5)

It can see your path when you're going.

(52:08.3 - 52:13.1)

But then as you grow older, it seems like

(52:14.3 - 52:19.8)

you're just looking everywhere and not looking real close.

(52:19.9 - 52:23.1)

You know, I almost did a couple of logs.

(52:23.8 - 52:24.9)

I did.

(52:25.5 - 52:27.9)

I almost ran over a log.

(52:36.2 - 52:38.1)

It's my kind of motor.

(52:38.2 - 52:39.3)

It's fast.

(52:39.7 - 52:42.0)

It's even fast with a load.

(52:44.8 - 52:49.0)

Do you drive just as fast when you're older? Yeah.

(52:53.2 - 52:54.3)

Stay safe.

(52:54.8 - 52:57.6)

I know, man.

(53:00.6 - 53:08.1)

We were boating out there when that Yukon ice came.

(53:08.8 - 53:11.4)

And then we stayed out because we could

(53:11.4 - 53:15.3)

not get a group until early morning.

(53:16.3 - 53:20.3)

And when you're out there, it seems

(53:20.4 - 53:22.9)

like there's no ogregs at all.

(53:23.1 - 53:28.5)

But when 12:00 comes around and then all of a sudden

(53:28.6 - 53:33.4)

it's like, man, where did all these ogre come from?

(53:34.7 - 53:38.2)

And then you can't shoot straight.

(53:41.1 - 53:45.3)

We had those days last spring out there.

(53:50.9 - 53:52.2)

That was fun, man.

(53:52.2 - 53:53.7)

We cooked out there.

(53:55.6 - 53:57.6)

We really ate good.

(54:01.8 - 54:03.3)

What do you think are the long

(54:03.3 - 54:05.8)

term effects of fishing for you, physically?

(54:16.9 - 54:18.6)

Physically? Yeah.

(54:18.7 - 54:22.4)

You mean like getting hurt? Your body? Yeah.

(54:22.5 - 54:26.9)

Are there physical long term effects

(54:27.0 - 54:29.0)

from fishing on your body?

(54:33.3 - 54:35.9)

For one, you're standing on your feet

(54:36.9 - 54:40.4)

and Charlie horses are starting to happen

(54:40.5 - 54:46.9)

nowadays whenever you do manual labor.

(54:47.1 - 54:48.0)

Labor.

(54:54.1 - 54:59.3)

It seems like your body can't stand it like when

(54:59.4 - 55:04.1)

you were 20 or 40 and you think you could

(55:04.2 - 55:09.2)

go that hard when you're 62, and then you wake

(55:09.3 - 55:11.6)

up in the middle of the night caught.

(55:14.8 - 55:17.2)

And then you got to have some mustard.

(55:18.4 - 55:20.2)

Mustard helps. Yeah.

(55:23.8 - 55:24.6)

Okay.

(55:24.9 - 55:27.0)

Is that from fishing, though, you think?

(55:27.6 - 55:29.9)

No, that's just from doing hard work.

(55:30.0 - 55:33.4)

Yeah, but fishing is hard work.

(55:37.6 - 55:39.4)

What about emotionally?

(55:39.5 - 55:42.9)

Does fishing have effects on you long term?

(55:43.0 - 55:43.9)

Emotionally?

(55:48.5 - 55:49.5)

Not really.

(55:51.0 - 55:52.4)

Or spiritually.

(55:56.9 - 55:58.6)

I think it's going to help.

(55:58.8 - 56:04.2)

Yeah, I think it really has, because being out there

(56:08.2 - 56:13.1)

sometimes, I always think of bringing a book, but then

(56:13.2 - 56:15.3)

I'll be out there with the book, and I'll be

(56:15.4 - 56:19.1)

like, Why should I have a book?

(56:19.3 - 56:21.6)

I could just look around and just

(56:21.7 - 56:25.7)

get lost in all of this.

(56:27.2 - 56:29.3)

Sometimes I actually do.

(56:35.0 - 56:40.7)

Like, I'll just start eating and it

(56:40.8 - 56:43.7)

will taste good because you're out there.

(56:46.0 - 56:49.5)

I'm really missing the motor right now.

(56:53.1 - 56:55.4)

Are there any experiences you have that

(56:55.4 - 56:57.2)

you think others could learn from?

(57:06.1 - 57:12.4)

When the elders tell you an idea

(57:12.5 - 57:30.3)

how to do things, safe advice.

(57:30.4 - 57:32.7)

That's how I lost both. And motor.

(57:39.0 - 57:40.6)

Is there any knowledge you'd like

(57:40.6 - 57:42.9)

to share for other commercial fishermen

(57:43.0 - 57:46.4)

in Norton Sound or younger fishermen?

(57:48.1 - 57:49.9)

Donate to Israel.

(57:52.7 - 57:55.2)

That will help you so much.

(57:56.0 - 57:57.7)

It will help you more than you

(57:57.8 - 58:04.3)

think, and have fun doing it.

(58:09.6 - 58:10.9)

What does that mean?

(58:11.5 - 58:13.1)

Donate to Israel?

(58:13.3 - 58:17.3)

Yes, because God will see your donation.

(58:19.2 - 58:20.5)

It doesn't matter.

(58:21.6 - 58:23.2)

Who do you donate to?

(58:24.3 - 58:33.1)

Independent International Fellowship of

(58:33.1 - 58:34.7)

Christians and Jews.

(58:35.9 - 58:42.0)

Okay, but there's others.

(58:49.5 - 58:55.9)

Any other safety lessons for fishermen or

(58:55.9 - 58:57.5)

anything else you'd like to add?

(58:58.1 - 58:59.7)

Don't drink and drive.

(59:09.2 - 59:10.1)

All right.

(59:10.5 - 59:12.4)

Can you think of a good way that we could use

(59:12.5 - 59:16.0)

this information and you can think on it, and I can

(59:16.1 - 59:19.0)

ask you in a week or a couple of days, too,

(59:19.2 - 59:24.9)

but a way to share information and knowledge that you've shared,

(59:34.9 - 59:44.5)

just that there are circumstances that happen in the ocean that

(59:44.7 - 59:51.1)

you are not aware of and that you must remember that

(59:51.1 - 59:54.4)

they can and will happen.

(59:56.3 - 59:58.2)

You have to be prepared.

(59:59.8 - 60:05.1)

And when it happens, don't get scared by them.

(60:17.8 - 60:19.5)

Okay. Awesome. The recording.