Interview 4

Theme 1. Family and harvest

* Grandparents raised him and taught to fish
* Helped at young age 6:37 “Kids want to help”
* Grandma would watch him from shore when she wasn’t fishing to make sure he was okay.
* His permit was passed on to him from his grandpa
* Combining fishing with other harvest activities: berry picking, camping

Theme 2. Fishing alone

* Enjoys fishing alone, working hard
* Fishes with friends every now and then, but people often have other commitments
* Girlfriend helps pull nets in the boat
* Never needed help on the water
* Doesn’t ask for local tips, weather etc.
  + 24:44 “Everybody makes their own choices out there.”
* Never been offered safety training
  + 35:52 “People need to kind of learn it for themselves.”
* 7:36 “I enjoy it. When I’m out there I’m free. I’m my own boss. To me that’s a big thing, being your own boss, doing your own thing.”

Theme 3. Enjoying fishing

* Happy fishing. If he wasn’t, he’d find a different job in town
* Memorable opener with 500 silvers overnight---thought someone cut his net
* Fish slime—7:34 “It’s a dirty job, but somebody’s got to do it.”
* Fishes within 5 miles—sets one net on one side of the river mouth and the other net on the other side.

Theme 4. Don’t take too many chances

* Grandparents taught him:
  + 14:46 “Don’t take too many chances. You keep taking chances, sooner or later you’re going to take the wrong one and go and die.”
* Used to fish 15 miles north or farther, but got a flat bottom boat and don’t go out as far
  + 26’ flat bottom aluminum boat
* Dangerous when it’s rough
* Motor could stop or you set too close to the beach and waves push you onto beach when pulling net
* Watch out for southwest wind
* Really watch wind—anything over 20-25, come back in
* Dangerous when weight is shifting or too much load on one side
* Most people wait for low tide with smaller waves to check the net
* Wait until it’s calm to pull your net.
  + 36:35 “You can replace the net, but you can’t replace a life.”
* Can pull boat on shore when it gets rough
* Cell phone for help if needed—would call the fish plant and they would find someone
  + 37:51 Every fisherman is different. Yeah, we all make choices. You got to live with them or not.”

Theme 5. Physical wellness

* Doesn’t get tired—8 hours of sleep
* Sore muscles
* 22:22 “I’ve never felt really run down…You can either choose to set your net or choose not to set your net.”
* “I’m almost 60. Keeps me in good shape.”
* Prep—lifts weights, conditions back. 25:43 “Try to get my body in shape and get ready for the big challenge.”
* Alludes to other fishermen who have experienced psychological trauma fishing, but luckily he has not.
* Stress of pulling out net when it’s rough—you can tell Fish and Game, but people will talk
* Relief returning to land after rough weather
* Fall colder temps—avoids getting wet

PFDs:

* Start off wearing because required by CG, but they all end up taking them off
* Wears when it’s really rough. 23:37 “If there’s a chance that I might go over. But I’ll have two or three in the boat. It’s hot and it’s bulky.”

Now compared to past:

* Less fish now because too many permits (double than past) consolidated out of Unalakleet.
* Boats are bigger now and can go farther
* In the past, with slower motors, they’d stay out longer instead of running back into town.