Interview 6 Transcription

So we would like to learn about your

(00:06.4 - 00:09.5)

experiences commercial fishing here in Norton Sound.

(00:09.7 - 00:12.4)

The goal is to improve marine safety here

(00:12.5 - 00:14.6)

and we'd like to use your stories and

(00:14.6 - 00:17.2)

knowledge to share with the community here and

(00:17.2 - 00:19.4)

then potentially other fishing communities.

(00:20.0 - 00:22.2)

And can you start by telling me the

(00:22.2 - 00:27.6)

area or areas you've commercial fished

Just around

(00:27.7 - 00:31.3)

locally here in Unalakleet. Um, the farthest I've been

(00:31.4 - 00:37.6)

was about Foothills between here,

(00:37.7 - 00:40.0)

yeah, it's like right outside, closer

(00:40.0 - 00:41.1)

to Shaktoolik than here,

(00:41.1 - 00:50.4)

but we've always delivered here to Unalakleet.

You can’t deliver in Shaktoolik?

We could,

(00:50.5 - 00:55.2)

but the prices we'd be getting like that ten cents

(00:55.4 - 01:00.3)

lower for fuel to deliver to a tender, five

(01:00.4 - 01:03.5)

or ten cents I couldn't remember.

Yeah.

(01:04.0 - 01:07.0)

And then what type or types of fishing have you done?

(01:07.1 - 01:12.5)

Commercial pink salmon and coho

(01:12.6 - 01:17.5)

salmon, silvers, reds and dogs.

(01:22.9 - 01:24.7)

And that’s all set netting?

Yes.

Cool.

(01:25.0 - 01:27.5)

So why do you fish where you fish?

(01:28.3 - 01:32.0)

We typically have a spot up north where we

(01:32.1 - 01:36.7)

fish at because when it's doing great, it's great,

(01:36.8 - 01:41.0)

and another reason is to try to get away

(01:41.1 - 01:44.3)

from everybody else that's setting close to town.

(01:45.1 - 01:48.3)

That way we're not corked from the north and the south.

(01:48.5 - 01:49.2)

Yeah.

(01:53.9 - 01:56.5)

And can you describe boat the boat that you fish on?

(01:57.8 - 02:01.8)

I believe it's a 24ft boat and we

(02:01.8 - 02:05.0)

just got a new motor for it the other year.

(02:07.5 - 02:11.0)

My dad bought a permit and the boat and

(02:11.0 - 02:13.5)

the motor all and he got a loan for

(02:13.5 - 02:16.7)

it so we're still paying that off.

(02:16.8 - 02:18.2)

It's a really good boat.

(02:18.3 - 02:24.0)

We could go out in rough water, do a lot with it.

(02:24.0 - 02:33.4)

It's built for this kind of seasonal work.

Is it one of the boats on the river?

(02:33.5 - 02:35.7)

Yeah, it's by the bridge.

Yeah.

(02:35.7 - 02:38.4)

Because I see the boat with the reel.

(02:38.6 - 02:42.2)

Yeah, we got a roller on the boat.

(02:42.6 - 02:45.7)

We only use it when we're pulling the net.

(02:45.8 - 02:50.4)

We also have a roller for the net but we don't have

(02:50.5 - 02:54.9)

it installed in the boat so we should put it in.

(02:54.9 - 02:56.7)

It'd be easier to pull it in

(02:56.7 - 02:59.4)

when it's rough with the roller.

Yeah.

(03:01.1 - 03:02.8)

What got you into fishing and

(03:02.9 - 03:04.1)

kind of when did you start?

(03:04.3 - 03:11.1)

I started like around 14 and it was just a summer source

(03:11.1 - 03:14.8)

of income for like school clothes and to get my own

(03:14.8 - 03:19.6)

spending money and it was just one of the first jobs

(03:19.6 - 03:23.1)

I was able to get without having to get like, I

(03:23.1 - 03:25.6)

had to get a helper's permit but I didn't have to

(03:25.6 - 03:29.2)

do like a worker’s permit or have hours restrictions.

(03:29.3 - 03:32.8)

It was just go out, check the net, set the net,

(03:32.9 - 03:38.8)

come back.

And then you've been fishing ever since?

(03:38.9 - 03:42.9)

Yeah, pretty much every season since. I missed one but

(03:42.9 - 03:47.6)

I was down and training in Arizona that year.

(03:53.9 - 03:56.3)

You missed one season.

Yup.

What were you training for?

Refrigeration.

(03:56.4 - 03:57.8)

Okay, cool.

(03:59.0 - 04:02.8)

What is your position on the boat?

Deckhand.

(04:05.5 - 04:07.4)

With your father?

Yes.

(04:09.8 - 04:12.5)

Could you describe the steps involved in the typical

(04:12.6 - 04:15.6)

day fishing and what you do when you're out?

(04:16.5 - 04:20.0)

So we start the day off, we already have the

(04:20.0 - 04:23.2)

nets in the boat, we take off and we'll take

(04:23.2 - 04:26.6)

off early before, like, opening at 06:00 p.m.

(04:26.7 - 04:28.5)

We'll take off, like, at four

(04:28.9 - 04:30.6)

to get to where we're going.

(04:30.8 - 04:32.9)

And that way we could drop the

(04:33.1 - 04:35.1)

net in the water right at six.

(04:35.6 - 04:37.4)

And then we'll just hang out at the boat

(04:37.5 - 04:40.7)

for a couple of hours and watch the net.

(04:40.8 - 04:42.5)

If it's catching, we'll stay.

(04:42.5 - 04:48.4)

If it's slow, we'll just come back and then go back early

(04:48.5 - 04:52.6)

the next morning and check the net and make a move.

(04:52.8 - 04:54.8)

If we want to move, like, if we

(04:54.8 - 04:57.8)

feel there's better fishing somewhere else, we'll pull

(04:57.8 - 04:59.6)

the net and go set somewhere else.

(05:00.1 - 05:03.4)

Our first set is just like a, see how

(05:03.4 - 05:05.9)

it is, leave it overnight, come back.

(05:06.1 - 05:07.9)

If it's good to stay, it's good to stay.

(05:08.0 - 05:10.8)

If we're wasting money, we got to come closer.

(05:12.5 - 05:13.2)

Yeah.

(05:13.4 - 05:15.5)

What's the longest you've been out?

(05:16.3 - 05:19.2)

I'd say 18 hours.

(05:19.2 - 05:20.2)

We got stuck.

(05:21.1 - 05:22.3)

We couldn't come in the mouth.

(05:22.4 - 05:23.9)

Our boat was too heavy.

(05:24.3 - 05:26.3)

It gets pretty shallow, low tide,

(05:26.4 - 05:30.2)

so we're up there and my dad came home.

(05:30.2 - 05:31.9)

I had to stay with the boat. [laughs]

(05:34.1 - 05:35.2)

Everybody else left.

(05:35.3 - 05:36.7)

Everybody just threw their anchors in

(05:36.7 - 05:39.0)

the water and walked home.

(05:39.6 - 05:41.8)

But I was like, no, we're not leaving the boat.

(05:41.9 - 05:43.2)

We got to stay with it.

(05:43.2 - 05:46.8)

Yeah it was a pretty long night watching

(05:46.9 - 05:48.8)

people drive by out in the high road.

(05:56.1 - 05:56.7)

So other people came to shore and pulled up on the water, on land?

Yeah. And there was other people that got stuck out

(05:58.7 - 06:00.3)

there and just left their boat out there.

(06:00.3 - 06:01.7)

And they're like, “you're here all night?”

(06:01.7 - 06:03.3)

They don't got to worry about it. [laughs]

(06:04.1 - 06:05.4)

I had no choice.

(06:09.3 - 06:12.4)

In the morning, everybody came walking back before the

(06:12.6 - 06:16.9)

water got high and drove and delivered our fish.

(06:16.9 - 06:20.5)

And then I had to go right back out.

(06:25.6 - 06:27.2)

Long day.

Yeah.

(06:29.7 - 06:34.5)

So on a long day like that, do you have enough food?

(06:34.7 - 06:38.8)

Yeah, we usually bring snacks and stuff

(06:38.8 - 06:47.4)

out and that night we were set. We'll have at

(06:47.4 - 06:50.2)

least enough grub for getting overnight.

(06:50.7 - 06:54.4)

And 99% of the time we don't use it all.

(06:54.4 - 06:55.9)

We just bring it back, put it back

(06:56.0 - 06:58.9)

away, just take it just in case.

(07:01.9 - 07:03.6)

We're only bringing stuff.

(07:03.6 - 07:05.3)

Like if we break down way out there

(07:05.4 - 07:09.2)

and there's not fishermen around, but if we're

(07:09.2 - 07:11.9)

within town, like, people could see us.

(07:12.0 - 07:13.7)

We're not too worried about it because

(07:13.9 - 07:17.2)

people are good about towing other people.

(07:17.3 - 07:19.2)

They're broken down.

Yeah.

(07:21.9 - 07:28.6)

What about getting enough water?

Yup.

Okay, and then what

(07:28.6 - 07:30.7)

kind of gear and clothes do you have?

(07:36.4 - 07:40.9)

We just have usual rubber boots, rain pants, rain jacket, gloves.

(07:42.4 - 07:44.2)

I only use the gloves, like fall

(07:44.2 - 07:47.3)

time when it's cold in the morning.

Yeah.

(07:48.5 - 07:50.2)

Rubber gloves?

Yeah.

(07:51.5 - 07:53.0)

Some people don't use rubber gloves;

(07:53.0 - 07:54.5)

I was surprised about that, like cotton.

(07:59.6 - 08:01.7)

What about life jacket?

(08:02.4 - 08:05.8)

I haven't been using one just because

(08:05.8 - 08:11.8)

of the, too uncomfortable and hot.

(08:17.3 - 08:20.4)

This is not really for the interview, but for just

(08:20.5 - 08:23.2)

the training center purposes of who brings, because I bought

(08:23.2 - 08:27.8)

a bunch of life jackets and I was told that

(08:27.8 - 08:28.9)

those are the ones you guys use.

(08:29.0 - 08:31.1)

They have straps and they buckle up,

(08:31.2 - 08:32.4)

but then people are like, “yeah.

(08:32.5 - 08:35.1)

we don't really wear them, or we might wear them, but

(08:35.1 - 08:37.2)

then we take them off and we mostly don't wear them.”

(08:37.3 - 08:38.9)

So I was trying to brainstorm

(08:39.3 - 08:41.7)

what people would wear more.

(08:42.9 - 08:44.9)

What would you keep on longer?

(08:49.2 - 08:55.1)

I'd prefer those, not those life jackets, but like those,

(08:56.5 - 08:58.4)

it's hard to explain them.

(08:59.9 - 09:01.2)

They're a flotation device

(09:01.3 - 09:02.4)

you just throw on.

An inflatable?

(09:02.4 - 09:04.6)

Yeah, an inflatable.

And it goes around your neck?

(09:05.8 - 09:06.4)

Yeah.

(09:06.6 - 09:10.0)

And it's not bulked up until you need it.

(09:10.8 - 09:12.8)

Like, I'd be able to use that without

(09:13.4 - 09:15.5)

wanting to take it off work.

Okay.

(09:16.8 - 09:18.3)

That was the one that I was kind

(09:18.3 - 09:21.3)

of thinking of from talking to everybody.

Yeah.

(09:23.7 - 09:25.1)

That way I find it up in the water, I could just [makes inflation sound].

(09:25.1 - 09:33.1)

Because we also have another popular one

(09:33.1 - 09:36.9)

for fishermen are the Stormline Bibs, and they're like

(09:37.0 - 09:39.7)

rain bids and they have padding on the knees.

(09:39.7 - 09:41.0)

So they'd be kind of good for

(09:41.0 - 09:43.6)

picking fish, maybe, or hauling the net up?

(09:43.8 - 09:47.6)

But they might be too hot because

(09:47.8 - 09:49.2)

I think they're even more hot

(09:49.3 - 09:50.5)

than wearing a vest.

(09:55.2 - 09:55.7)

Yeah.

So I thought, I don’t know, do you think that’d be too hot?

(09:55.7 - 09:58.4)

They’d probably most likely be too hot

(09:58.5 - 10:03.1)

for the start. We'd probably start switching to

(10:03.2 - 10:06.3)

them in the colder part of the season.

(10:07.7 - 10:09.5)

Like fall?

Yeah.

(10:09.7 - 10:12.4)

Towards the end, that's when I

(10:12.4 - 10:14.8)

pull out the thick rain gear.

(10:17.3 - 10:20.1)

When is the end of the season?

September, the first week of September.

(10:21.1 - 10:24.5)

It's usually around September 7th.

Okay.

(10:29.9 - 10:32.3)

Going back to fishing with your dad,

(10:33.2 - 10:34.9)

do you ever fish with other people too?

(10:35.0 - 10:39.0)

Yeah, I fished with cousins, other permit holders

(10:39.0 - 10:42.7)

that just their helper’s temporarily out of

(10:42.7 - 10:47.0)

town or sick or doing something else.

(10:47.2 - 10:49.4)

“Hey, you want to check net?”

(10:50.5 - 10:53.7)

Pay a percentage or whatever of the catch.

(10:54.7 - 10:58.3)

It's pretty much like that every season I've done it.

(10:59.4 - 11:03.6)

Just go help out cousins or there's some people that like

(11:03.6 - 11:08.9)

to fish alone and they need a break.

Yeah.

Yesterday.

(11:09.0 - 11:10.6)

Like Dean, he fishes alone.

(11:10.6 - 11:12.6)

He'll never ask for a break. [laughs]

(11:13.6 - 11:20.1)

He’s hardcore, and he's at it all year long.

(11:20.7 - 11:22.8)

How does he do it? Pretty tough.

(11:22.9 - 11:30.4)

Pretty tough with other people.

(11:30.5 - 11:33.7)

(12:15.7 - 12:20.0)

Do you enjoy fishing with different people?

(12:20.0 - 12:21.3)

Yes, absolutely.

(12:24.5 - 12:26.7)

It’s, say our net’s in the water over here, and we're

(12:26.7 - 12:27.9)

going to go check it out over here,

(12:28.0 - 12:29.8)

I could “hey, dad, we got to move over

(12:29.9 - 12:34.9)

here” or say, “hey.” We got two different spots

(12:34.9 - 12:36.9)

that we’re checking at the same time.

(12:37.6 - 12:40.2)

And then if we're both doing bad,

(12:40.9 - 12:42.6)

we know not where to go.

(12:42.7 - 12:47.3)

So it's just like prospecting fishing spots.

(12:48.3 - 12:49.6)

Yeah, I like it.

(12:50.7 - 12:51.9)

Sometimes we just get a

(12:51.9 - 12:54.2)

little friendly, competitiveness going on.

(12:55.1 - 12:57.9)

We're going to beat you this period.

Yeah.

(12:58.3 - 13:01.3)

Is it different pushing the family versus friends?

(13:01.4 - 13:04.1)

Yes, it's way different because it's my dad.

(13:04.6 - 13:06.0)

He grinds me.

(13:08.0 - 13:09.3)

Everything's got to be done.

(13:09.3 - 13:11.0)

And when I'm with my cousins

(13:11.1 - 13:12.9)

or friends, it's like more chill.

(13:13.6 - 13:18.6)

I already know I don't got to be barked at.

(13:20.3 - 13:21.0)

I don't know.

(13:21.1 - 13:25.5)

I think it's just my dad power tripping over. [laughs] It's

(13:25.6 - 13:28.9)

a lot more chill fishing with friends and stuff.

(13:32.7 - 13:34.4)

Have you had anyone mentor you

(13:34.4 - 13:35.7)

or teach you how to fish?

(13:37.1 - 13:44.5)

Just pretty much my grandparents on both sides.

(13:44.9 - 13:47.1)

My dad's dad and my mom's dad.

(13:50.5 - 13:54.8)

We were pretty heavy into the subsistence. We used to have a

(13:56.3 - 14:01.4)

fish rack, fish smoke house up camp up, beach.

(14:01.8 - 14:03.8)

But high water took it away.

(14:03.9 - 14:06.1)

We never rebuilt it after that, but we used

(14:06.1 - 14:09.5)

to always, the whole family go King Salmon time.

(14:10.9 - 14:12.4)

Our grandparents would be camping

(14:12.4 - 14:13.9)

up there the whole summer.

(14:14.0 - 14:16.9)

So, yeah, we'd be into fishing a lot.

(14:17.0 - 14:18.5)

So we'd be doing commercial or

(14:18.6 - 14:22.1)

subsistence before commercial even starts.

Right.

(14:23.7 - 14:28.2)

Did either of your grandparents teach you any lessons

(14:28.3 - 14:30.2)

about how to stay safe on the water?

(14:30.4 - 14:37.5)

Yes, both of them told me this is a time where you

(14:37.5 - 14:41.0)

don't go out or you got to pay attention to the wind.

(14:47.0 - 14:48.4)

Yeah, just like, pretty much common sense.

(14:48.5 - 14:54.2)

Safety. Don't go out if it's blowing

(14:54.4 - 14:56.4)

more than 15 out of the north.

(15:00.5 - 15:03.3)

Pretty much everything I learned about safety, about

(15:03.4 - 15:06.9)

going out, was from them and my dad.

(15:09.6 - 15:12.0)

Have you mentored anyone yet?

No.

(15:13.8 - 15:17.4)

I will be. I got an eleven-year-old boy.

(15:17.6 - 15:22.5)

We're about to get him, he’s been wanting to go out, but, like,

(15:22.5 - 15:25.4)

he'll see the ocean and “those waves are too big.”

(15:27.1 - 15:28.3)

I didn't have no choice.

(15:28.4 - 15:29.5)

I had to go. [laughs]

(15:40.1 - 15:42.9)

So you’re easier on him? [laughs]

Yeah.

Yeah, when we're going out, we're in a smaller boat.

(15:46.3 - 15:47.3)

No choice.

(15:51.5 - 15:53.8)

Can you think of lessons that you would want to

(15:53.8 - 15:58.8)

pass on to him or what you'll teach him when

(15:58.8 - 16:01.0)

he's ready or if he wants to learn?

(16:04.0 - 16:08.2)

What I’d want him to get down or

(16:08.3 - 16:10.5)

learn first would be the work ethic.

(16:11.4 - 16:15.5)

Like, some people get paid and then go out

(16:15.5 - 16:18.4)

and party, and the next day “I got to

(16:18.4 - 16:22.0)

take this period off” because they're sick.

(16:22.1 - 16:25.5)

But once it's time to work, it's time to work.

(16:28.8 - 16:31.2)

And I have a problem with that myself. [laughs]

(16:33.2 - 16:36.0)

Last year, my dad, I missed a couple of periods.

(16:36.0 - 16:37.5)

My dad wasn't too happy.

(16:38.6 - 16:40.8)

“I'm going to replace you.” “All right, I’ll be out there.”

(16:40.8 - 16:43.9)

How was that then?

When I was hung over he had to go out alone.

No, he got a helper that already had a permit.

(16:56.8 - 16:59.6)

Oh, okay, he did replace you temporarily?

Yeah. Temporarily.

(16:59.6 - 17:01.6)

And he was like, it could be permanent if

(17:02.1 - 17:03.3)

you keep this up, so.

(17:03.5 - 17:05.3)

How many days did you miss?

(17:06.4 - 17:09.5)

Two periods or the ending of two periods.

(17:09.5 - 17:11.8)

I started and then didn't finish the

(17:11.9 - 17:15.8)

period because I went out too hard.

(17:15.9 - 17:19.6)

the night before.

That's the longest

(17:19.7 - 17:21.2)

you've missed was two days?

(17:21.4 - 17:23.5)

A couple of periods last year.

Like one day off a couple times.

Can you think about an opener that sticks out in

(17:34.5 - 17:42.4)

your mind and describe the day?

The last pink opener,

(17:42.9 - 17:46.0)

The price was like a dollar.

(17:49.2 - 17:50.8)

It was over a dollar at least,

(17:50.9 - 17:53.8)

but normally they're like a penny a pound.

(17:54.5 - 17:57.6)

There's a different company that came up to buy them,

(17:57.6 - 18:00.9)

and they're paying, like, a dollar or something a pound.

(18:02.4 - 18:04.1)

Whoa, a new company?

Yeah.

(18:04.2 - 18:07.3)

They came from Icicle Seafood.

(18:08.5 - 18:09.1)

Yeah,

(18:09.2 - 18:13.4)

they had tenders all over, and that was pretty good

(18:13.4 - 18:16.1)

because we didn't really do too good with the salmon.

(18:25.4 - 18:29.5)

And everybody's like, “Holy cow, they're going crazy”.

(18:30.6 - 18:32.8)

“They're going crazy on the pink this year”,

(18:32.8 - 18:36.3)

so hopefully we go crazy again this year.

(18:36.4 - 18:38.4)

That was last year, you said?

Yeah.

So last year was a good year?

(18:42.1 - 18:45.0)

For pinks, that's just about it.

(18:46.3 - 18:48.7)

Was that a hard fishing, too, because you were

(18:48.8 - 18:51.3)

trying to fish so much?

It got tiring,

(18:51.4 - 18:53.7)

Yes. Because the pinks are like

(18:53.9 - 18:56.3)

they're all over the place.

(18:56.4 - 18:59.5)

And by the time we're halfway through our net,

(19:00.0 - 19:03.1)

the net we picked is already full back again.

(19:03.2 - 19:05.2)

So we go through the whole net, and then we get

(19:05.3 - 19:08.6)

to the end and the net’s already full again, and

(19:08.6 - 19:13.8)

they're just splashing all over. Just go, take a break.

(19:13.9 - 19:16.0)

And then while we're taking a break, we’ll watch it

(19:16.0 - 19:21.8)

fill back up, grind it out, come into town,

(19:21.9 - 19:23.9)

everybody's boat’s full of humpies.

(19:27.9 - 19:28.8)

Nice. Getting into town,

(19:28.8 - 19:31.2)

what was that like, getting back on land?

(19:33.5 - 19:34.6)

Just a relief.

(19:34.7 - 19:37.1)

Like, all right, time to go

(19:37.3 - 19:40.2)

get something to eat and relax.

(19:40.3 - 19:42.1)

Like, there's no more energy to go

(19:42.2 - 19:44.5)

play out or go for a rides. [4-wheeler]

(19:44.7 - 19:48.7)

Just relax, and then next day back at it.

(19:48.9 - 19:51.1)

And then enjoy the day off between periods?

(19:51.1 - 19:52.5)

How does that work in a given season?

(19:59.6 - 20:01.9)

How many days off do you actually get?

(20:02.1 - 20:07.1)

There's usually about two 48

(20:07.2 - 20:10.5)

hour openers a week, about average.

(20:11.0 - 20:15.0)

Sometimes there'll be three openers in a week.

(20:18.0 - 20:20.9)

We'll go an opener for 48 or

(20:21.0 - 20:24.7)

last year, I think they were 20, not it was 48.

(20:24.9 - 20:29.5)

But we'll start and then go for two days, and then

(20:29.5 - 20:32.5)

we'll have a day off and then have another opener.

(20:34.5 - 20:37.9)

I think they're going to start going off by the catch.

(20:39.9 - 20:41.7)

We even had limited openings.

(20:41.8 - 20:44.9)

Like once a week we're opening

(20:44.9 - 20:47.8)

up, and that was pretty hard.

(20:48.3 - 20:52.4)

Financially, it was rough, but we couldn't help it.

(20:52.4 - 20:54.1)

There wasn't any fish out there.

(20:57.1 - 21:00.0)

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

(21:00.8 - 21:05.4)

Going out, catching a lot of fish and

(21:06.4 - 21:08.5)

Yeah, just going out and getting a lot of fish.

(21:10.1 - 21:12.6)

What about crew, weather

(21:13.3 - 21:16.1)

equipment, mental state, physical state?

(21:18.0 - 21:21.5)

Everybody’s in a good mood on a good day.

(21:21.6 - 21:22.9)

Everybody's happy.

(21:23.5 - 21:24.8)

The weather is nice.

(21:24.9 - 21:27.7)

It's not hot or not raining, not

(21:28.3 - 21:34.3)

cold, and fish are hitting the net.

(21:37.2 - 21:38.9)

Can you back to a specific event

(21:38.9 - 21:42.2)

that seemed dangerous and describe what happened?

(21:42.7 - 21:46.2)

We were trying to pull our king salmon last year

(21:46.2 - 21:52.2)

in rough water and we were pulling the net, I was pulling the net and

(21:52.2 - 21:59.7)

then like those not rogue waves, but yeah, a rogue

(21:59.8 - 22:04.0)

wave came out of nowhere and we don't have the

(22:04.0 - 22:07.2)

net roller, we have to pull it in by hand.

(22:07.4 - 22:09.5)

And when the bow came up, I was holding

(22:09.5 - 22:12.6)

onto the net and it took the net, it's going to take the

(22:12.7 - 22:14.7)

net out and I almost went with it.

(22:14.8 - 22:17.9)

And when I let go, my hand got caught in a

(22:18.4 - 22:24.3)

hole and started dragging me out and it was just a

(22:24.3 - 22:26.5)

couple more feet and I was going to be over and

(22:26.6 - 22:30.2)

we're in like five, six, seven foot swells.

(22:30.5 - 22:32.0)

If I went over with the net,

(22:32.1 - 22:34.7)

I probably would never got picked up.

(22:36.6 - 22:38.9)

It'd be a pretty slim chance that they'd be able

(22:38.9 - 22:47.9)

to maneuver. Unless my hand stayed in the net,

(22:48.0 - 22:50.0)

then they could just pull the net back in.

(22:53.1 - 22:56.0)

But the closest call I've ever had out there

(22:56.8 - 22:59.5)

my entire life was almost getting pulled out.

(23:03.0 - 23:05.5)

And it was rough, we even had logs and stuff in the net.

(23:05.7 - 23:07.6)

We were pulling, we had to pull everything in.

(23:09.2 - 23:12.0)

It wasn't calm enough to clean the net out there.

(23:12.0 - 23:16.3)

We pulled all the fish in and all the logs in and had

(23:16.4 - 23:21.3)

to take them into the river so we could take them out.

(23:29.2 - 23:32.3)

How did you get, so you didn’t fall off the boat? So how did you get your hand loose? (23:32.3 - 23:33.6)

The net just ripped it out. I was just pulling.

So it tore the net?

(23:38.0 - 23:39.6)

No, I don't think it tore the net.

(23:39.6 - 23:42.7)

It just slipped out, luckily.

(23:43.4 - 23:47.6)

But it was pulling me and I was like, damn I’m going over.

Were you wearing a life jacket?

Nope.

(23:54.6 - 23:59.2)

Yeah, that could have been very bad.

(24:01.7 - 24:04.3)

After that happened, how did you feel?

(24:04.6 - 24:08.2)

It was like a whole lot

(24:08.2 - 24:16.2)

of adrenaline, like you know the butterflies and stuff.

(24:16.9 - 24:20.2)

I got those and I didn't really

(24:20.3 - 24:24.4)

think like, I almost died, I could’ve almost died.

(24:25.1 - 24:26.6)

Holy cow, I almost fell in.

(24:26.8 - 24:30.0)

In my head I was thinking I would have been

(24:30.0 - 24:35.2)

able to get myself out, but I come to think

(24:35.2 - 24:38.0)

of it, that was a whole lot more dangerous than

(24:38.0 - 24:40.0)

I thought about it at the time.

(24:43.7 - 24:47.6)

Those kind of things like make you “all right, you know, maybe

(24:47.7 - 24:54.2)

I do have to suffer in a lifejacket.” [laughs] But yeah, once

(24:54.3 - 24:59.4)

I'm getting to a point where my dad's age, that's

(24:59.4 - 25:02.7)

when I'll have a life jacket on every day, but

(25:02.8 - 25:06.2)

now it's just like too hot, don't need it.

(25:16.2 - 25:18.5)

Maybe if there was one that was more comfortable?

Yeah.

Well, looking back then, would you

(25:18.5 - 25:20.9)

have done anything different that day? Would you have had one on?

Yeah, I definitely would have had, we all

(25:28.5 - 25:31.3)

should have had one on, given the weather.

(25:31.4 - 25:34.3)

And I think we're one of, there’s only a

(25:34.3 - 25:37.1)

couple of us that went out to get our nets.

(25:41.2 - 25:43.5)

Yeah, we knew what the weather condition was like,

(25:43.6 - 25:45.8)

but we still didn't bring the life jackets.

(25:45.9 - 25:48.7)

I don't know why, but those were one of the

(25:48.8 - 25:54.1)

days where anything happened to the boat, we wouldn't be

(25:54.1 - 25:59.6)

able to grab one. Yeah, so we completely went

(25:59.9 - 26:06.3)

out with no life jackets in a situation where the

(26:06.3 - 26:08.9)

chance of using them were way up.

(26:09.0 - 26:12.3)

Right, so if you had it on the boat, you would have put it on?

(26:13.4 - 26:15.3)

If I had it on the boat, yes.

(26:18.0 - 26:21.3)

It would have been on before we left the mouth. But

(26:21.5 - 26:27.5)

it's just something that slipped all our minds until it was

(26:27.6 - 26:31.1)

too late. We got out there and started pulling in

(26:31.1 - 26:36.8)

the net and the boat start turning sideways and that's when

(26:36.8 - 26:40.6)

my dad's like, well, if anything happens, it's too late now,

(26:41.0 - 26:51.6)

we're 3 miles offshore but yeah, we'll be more like, we

(26:51.7 - 26:54.2)

learned from it this year when it's like that one “oh,

(26:54.2 - 26:56.6)

yeah, we're definitely bringing life jackets out.”

So it changed your practice.

(26:57.7 - 27:07.8)

When fishing is difficult,

(27:07.9 - 27:11.5)

what motivates you or what keeps you going? Makes you stay positive?

(27:13.7 - 27:18.8)

I just keep on believing that next period will be

(27:18.9 - 27:23.6)

Better. With the low numbers last year, it would

(27:25.5 - 27:33.3)

eventually keep trying we didn't stop until they made us

(27:33.3 - 27:39.4)

stop, because of the low numbers we just got to

(27:39.4 - 27:49.6)

keep trying

What about staying positive with your crew?

(27:52.9 - 27:55.0)

Like my dad's like, “it'll get better.”

(27:56.9 - 28:00.6)

He's trying to have the same mentality as I am, so.

What would you say are some of the greatest dangers

(28:09.4 - 28:18.4)

for set netting?

Checking the net in rough water, pulling

(28:18.4 - 28:24.6)

the net in rough water. What else is there?

(28:25.7 - 28:28.1)

Falling overboard anytime.

(28:31.5 - 28:40.0)

That usually really doesn't happen, but it could.

What would make you more likely to fall overboard?

Just lack of awareness like sometimes I'll ride

(28:47.9 - 28:50.1)

the boat when we're going to the net on the

(28:50.1 - 28:57.4)

side and just sit casually, smoke a cigarette; we hit a wave wrong

(28:57.5 - 29:08.9)

and what I could fall out or stuff like, awareness like

(29:09.0 - 29:12.0)

once you drop your level of awareness, that's when things

(29:12.0 - 29:22.6)

start to happen.

Do you think that fishing here has

(29:23.2 - 29:25.1)

more dangerous than other places? Or different…

(29:26.0 - 29:33.3)

No, I think we're safe, probably safer than some areas. We

(29:33.3 - 29:39.4)

don't fish like how they do in Bristol Bay well,

(29:39.5 - 29:42.0)

Where, well we're all packed on the coast but we're not like

(29:42.1 - 29:47.6)

boat to boat like they are down there. we usually

(29:47.6 - 29:51.6)

have at least a couple of hundred fathoms between boats.

(29:59.3 - 30:05.9)

So I’d say we’re as safe, if not safer than other regions, areas just because

(30:05.9 - 30:11.6)

we're not grinding hardcore like they are. They're going out

(30:11.6 - 30:15.9)

and setting a whole net, pulling it and boating around.

(30:18.4 - 30:22.8)

The boats are smaller too than some areas like Bristol

(30:22.8 - 30:27.2)

Bay, they use like 30 foot boats that could hold

(30:27.6 - 30:31.4)

a whole lot more fish than our kind of boats

(30:31.5 - 30:35.6)

Here.

So which is safer, do you think? Boat size..

(30:37.6 - 30:42.0)

I'd say their boat size is safer for the weather and

(30:42.2 - 30:46.7)

I'd say our boat size is just safer for the condition

(30:47.7 - 30:53.2)

because our mouth, well, we could get them in but we'd

(30:53.3 - 30:57.8)

have to wait for high tides, certain tides to come in

(30:57.9 - 31:02.4)

and go out. With these boats we could go in and

(31:02.4 - 31:08.4)

out high and low tide with some exceptions like us last

(31:08.4 - 31:14.8)

year when the tide was too low to come in.

More maneuverable because it’s smaller.

Yup.

Have you ever gotten any injuries while you were fishing?

(31:23.3 - 31:30.4)

No

And then how much sleep do you typically get in the 48-hour period?

(31:33.7 - 31:38.8)

It's not anywhere near enough and it's majority because of

(31:38.8 - 31:45.4)

my choices, instead of getting off, like my dad will

(31:45.4 - 31:47.9)

get off, go home, relax and I'll get off, go

(31:47.9 - 31:51.2)

home, eat and hit the road, go up to the

(31:51.2 - 31:57.5)

bridge, or go up river or go out and sleep.

(31:57.6 - 32:02.2)

It's hard to come by when just any time.

(32:02.3 - 32:04.1)

Summer for me because it's bright.

(32:04.3 - 32:06.6)

I black my windows out and everything.

(32:07.7 - 32:11.8)

I don't know, I'll go to bed at like three

(32:11.8 - 32:14.9)

in the morning and wake up at eight, seven.

(32:26.8 - 32:29.0)

What about the quality of sleep at that time?

It doesn't feel like I'm getting sleep.

(32:29.5 - 32:31.0)

And it's just like, closed my eyes,

(32:31.1 - 32:32.6)

open my eyes, time to go.

(32:35.4 - 32:37.9)

And then I just tell myself I'll sleep winter time.

(32:38.0 - 32:41.3)

And it's weird because I do, I sleep a whole

(32:41.4 - 32:44.2)

lot longer wintertime than I do summertime.

(32:44.2 - 32:46.2)

It's like my body is catching up.

(32:50.1 - 32:52.9)

So then are you ever tired when you go back out the next day?

(32:53.0 - 32:57.6)

Yeah, pretty much for the first hour,

(32:58.1 - 33:01.6)

like every period I'm still waking up.

(33:04.0 - 33:08.5)

Sometimes I'll just sleep for a whole day and be

(33:08.5 - 33:10.8)

well rested, but most of the time it's go out there,

(33:10.9 - 33:13.5)

I'm waking up, still waking up.

(33:13.6 - 33:15.6)

And that's when my dad's like, “you got

(33:15.6 - 33:16.9)

to do that, what are you doing?”

(33:17.0 - 33:18.8)

And I'm like, “I'm still waking up.”

(33:19.4 - 33:21.0)

“That's why you got to go to sleep early.”

(33:21.1 - 33:24.9)

I'm like, “I can go to bed, but I can't go to sleep.”

(33:27.2 - 33:31.9)

Do you have any strategies to try to wake yourself up?

(33:33.0 - 33:38.5)

It's just like a series of alarms.

(33:38.6 - 33:41.4)

Oh, I meant when you're out fishing and

(33:41.4 - 33:45.9)

you're tired?

Just splash face with water.

(33:47.0 - 33:48.6)

Salt water?

Yeah.

(33:51.1 - 33:54.2)

Wash my face, stretch.

On the boat?

(33:56.1 - 34:03.7)

Yeah, energy drinks, that's about it.

(34:03.9 - 34:05.1)

And then work.

(34:05.9 - 34:14.0)

Got no choice but to do it.

Towards the

(34:14.0 - 34:19.2)

end of the day, are you more tired?

Towards the end of the day, I’m wide awake. It’s like backwards for me.

(34:19.3 - 34:21.4)

I'm like, I should be getting tired.

(34:22.6 - 34:24.3)

My dad's yawning and I'm just

(34:24.3 - 34:25.9)

like, all right, time to go.

(34:27.9 - 34:29.4)

Do you have any physical health

(34:29.4 - 34:31.9)

challenges while you're out fishing?

No.

(34:33.9 - 34:35.3)

And then what kind of things do you

(34:35.3 - 34:37.3)

do to prepare for a fishing trip?

(34:38.4 - 34:46.5)

Just ask around and see where everyone's fishing.

(34:47.2 - 34:50.3)

Like my relatives, ask them how they're doing, where they're

(34:50.3 - 34:55.2)

at, and get an idea, like if we should go

(34:55.3 - 35:01.3)

there or just strategize with my dad's family.

(35:02.0 - 35:03.2)

“Where do you guys want to go?

(35:03.3 - 35:06.6)

What we're going to do”, are we just going to set net

(35:06.6 - 35:09.8)

and come back home or we're going to stay out there?

(35:13.1 - 35:17.4)

We have a plan ready to go before we even take off.

(35:19.1 - 35:21.0)

It's just like everyday.

(35:21.6 - 35:25.1)

New plan, new period, new plan.

(35:28.7 - 35:30.5)

Have you ever had, I'm just

(35:30.5 - 35:33.8)

thinking of preparing to go out.

(35:35.5 - 35:38.6)

Have you ever had safety training in town where you could take?

(35:40.0 - 35:40.8)

No.

(35:43.7 - 35:45.9)

What about, can you go to a

(35:45.9 - 35:47.4)

store and get what you need?

(35:47.6 - 35:53.7)

In terms of safety equipment?

Other than a life jacket,

(35:53.8 - 36:04.9)

I'd say pretty much have to order, like if

(36:04.9 - 36:11.8)

we wanted the life ring or inflatable raft

(36:11.9 - 36:14.5)

or what, you know, in case the boat goes down.

(36:15.0 - 36:16.9)

I don't think we're ever going to put one on our

(36:17.0 - 36:21.2)

boat, but if we needed one, we'd have to order.

(36:24.1 - 36:26.2)

What are your requirements for what you

(36:26.2 - 36:29.0)

have to have because it's so different than my fishery in Sitka?

(36:34.0 - 36:36.2)

Do you have to have a life boat of any kind?

(36:36.9 - 36:41.6)

No, I think it's to a certain like, once

(36:41.6 - 36:43.5)

your boat hits a certain size, you got to

(36:43.5 - 36:47.4)

have a life raft or something on board.

(36:47.8 - 36:50.8)

But we're not required to have it.

(36:50.8 - 36:52.0)

I don't think anybody will ever

(36:52.1 - 36:54.2)

put one on their salmon boat.

(36:54.7 - 36:59.1)

Unless it's like a crab salmon boat.

Do you guys have EPIRBs?

(37:05.6 - 37:07.6)

I think we actually have one. Yeah.

Is it required?

(37:09.1 - 37:11.4)

No, I don't think it's required.

(37:11.9 - 37:14.3)

And we could get them from our fish plant.

(37:14.5 - 37:16.9)

Because they have them for their tenders.

(37:18.7 - 37:24.7)

I think we just get some for free, I believe.

(37:26.4 - 37:27.9)

I'm not too sure about that, but

(37:27.9 - 37:29.8)

I'm pretty sure we have one.

(37:37.3 - 37:38.4)

What about, like, food and?

(37:38.4 - 37:43.7)

Does anyone help you prepare to go out?

Yes, our mom. She gets the sandwiches and stuff

(37:47.2 - 37:54.1)

ready and makes sure that there's good food

(37:55.3 - 37:58.5)

ready for us in case we're stuck.

(38:00.4 - 38:02.3)

She was like, “what do you want to eat?”

(38:02.7 - 38:05.9)

At this point, anything but fish. [laughs]

(38:13.1 - 38:17.4)

And then when you’re out on the water, are you able to communicate with people on land?

Yes.

(38:17.8 - 38:20.8)

If we're close to the cell tower, we'll have

(38:20.9 - 38:26.8)

cell service, and my mom usually calls my dad.

(38:27.6 - 38:28.4)

“How's it going?

(38:28.4 - 38:31.5)

When you guys coming back?” She'll have dinner

(38:31.6 - 38:33.4)

ready for us when we get back home.

(38:34.4 - 38:39.7)

So communication, we pretty much communicate daily out there

(38:39.9 - 38:45.4)

with people back home or even other fishermen.

(38:45.6 - 38:48.7)

My dad and his coworker, they called each other up.

(38:51.6 - 38:54.5)

“How’s it going over there?” “Pretty slow,”

(38:54.5 - 38:56.6)

and “pretty slow over here, too.”

(38:59.9 - 39:01.9)

What about if you needed to

(39:01.9 - 39:03.8)

communicate a message of help?

(39:04.4 - 39:05.9)

How would you do that?

(39:07.4 - 39:12.6)

If we're in cell service, I’d just call 911.

(39:13.0 - 39:16.5)

But if we're out of cell service, we have a VHF.

(39:16.9 - 39:21.6)

And if we're able to use the VHF, we just hey,

(39:22.1 - 39:26.0)

if the motor broke down or we weren’t able to make

(39:26.0 - 39:28.4)

it back to town, we just get on the radio and

(39:28.5 - 39:30.8)

ask somebody to come and pick us up.

(39:35.5 - 39:38.2)

What do you think the time response time would

(39:38.3 - 39:43.7)

be for someone, like, let's say, who called 911?

(39:43.7 - 39:46.8)

Who would come and how long would it take?

(39:48.3 - 39:52.2)

Like, if we're at a normal fishing area, it'd be,

(39:54.0 - 39:59.2)

give or take 45 minutes to an hour response.

(39:59.2 - 40:05.6)

And once our community gets a distressed call, anybody

(40:05.7 - 40:11.0)

that's able to respond will respond right away, as fast as

(40:11.0 - 40:13.8)

they can without getting themselves in danger.

(40:14.4 - 40:17.8)

So I'd say the response time would be fair

(40:17.9 - 40:18.9)

given the distance

(40:19.0 - 40:25.5)

and depending on the situation. Like, if a

(40:25.5 - 40:28.0)

person got hurt and needed medical attention,

(40:28.6 - 40:34.8)

or if the entire boat sank, everybody's

(40:34.9 - 40:39.4)

response would be different, but the speed

(40:39.4 - 40:42.5)

of the response depending on the problem,

(40:43.5 - 40:45.8)

pretty sure we'd be able to get out there

(40:45.8 - 40:49.3)

as quick as we can and safe as we

(40:49.3 - 40:54.9)

can without getting ourselves in trouble or hurt.

Yeah.

(40:55.8 - 41:07.6)

So calling 911, that would go to the station in town, and then they would get the message out? How would that happen?

By social media or just, like, on their way to a

(41:13.4 - 41:16.1)

boat, they’d see somebody and be like, “hey, can you go

(41:16.1 - 41:22.7)

and go and ask people if they could help,” say, Preston and them’s

(41:22.8 - 41:28.7)

boat sunk, and “oh,” it’d spread like wildfire.

(41:28.8 - 41:32.1)

And they're probably people going up on

(41:32.1 - 41:34.2)

the beach and in the water.

(41:40.0 - 41:42.2)

And it depends on the time of the day too.

(41:42.2 - 41:45.5)

Like if it's 04:00 a.m., we're not going

(41:45.5 - 41:47.2)

to be out there at 04:00 a.m., but

(41:48.1 - 41:51.3)

nighttime around closing time, 10:00 p.m.

(41:51.5 - 41:55.2)

or if it's in the middle of the day when more

(41:55.2 - 42:00.4)

people are up around, it'd be a factor into it.

(42:00.9 - 42:02.4)

When do you think you would actually need

(42:02.4 - 42:05.2)

to call and be able to call?

(42:05.3 - 42:08.7)

So if you have a cap sizing, obviously you can't call.

(42:09.3 - 42:10.8)

You probably can't call for help.

(42:12.0 - 42:15.4)

So when would you be able to call?

(42:17.1 - 42:21.8)

If we capsized, we’d just have to

(42:21.8 - 42:24.3)

get to shore and then get to signal.

(42:25.9 - 42:28.0)

Like three years ago we capsized.

(42:28.1 - 42:30.4)

This wasn’t commercial, this was subsistence.

(42:30.5 - 42:32.6)

We went down to get wood

(42:32.6 - 42:35.2)

and our back anchor got caught.

(42:35.8 - 42:39.4)

And by the time I cut the rope off, we swamped.

(42:39.5 - 42:41.1)

Me and my dad, we had to go

(42:41.1 - 42:44.9)

to shore and had to climb a cliff.

(42:47.8 - 42:50.6)

Both our phones were wet. My phone was just a burner phone and

(42:50.6 - 42:53.9)

his was an iPhone or Galaxy, but his

(42:53.9 - 42:56.7)

phone didn't work and my phone barely worked.

(42:56.7 - 42:59.3)

And we were able to get one call out to

(42:59.4 - 43:02.4)

my cousin. She was teaching at the school and

(43:02.4 - 43:05.3)

I was like, “we capsized, we swamped, the boat's

(43:05.3 - 43:08.9)

gone, we're soaked and we're way down.”

(43:10.7 - 43:12.4)

We walked as far as we could,

(43:12.5 - 43:14.0)

toward town and they spent the night.

(43:14.1 - 43:16.5)

They dropped off food.

(43:16.6 - 43:17.8)

We had no gun.

(43:18.8 - 43:20.3)

That was the one time my dad's

(43:20.3 - 43:21.2)

like, “we don't need a gun.”

(43:21.2 - 43:22.1)

It was a Sunday night.

(43:22.2 - 43:23.3)

My favorite team was going to

(43:23.3 - 43:25.0)

play, my best friend's favorite team.

(43:25.0 - 43:26.4)

And I was like, “all right, man,

(43:26.4 - 43:27.6)

we're going to head on today.”

(43:27.6 - 43:29.2)

And my dad said, “it's time to go get wood.”

(43:29.3 - 43:30.8)

And I was like, “My team is playing.”

(43:30.9 - 43:34.2)

He said, “we'll be back in an hour.” “All right.”

(43:35.1 - 43:36.8)

Took off and never came back in

(43:36.8 - 43:43.1)

an hour. [laughs] If we needed to.

(43:44.0 - 43:45.8)

We just have to find the quickest way,

(43:45.9 - 43:52.7)

like get into cell service or depending on

(43:52.8 - 43:56.0)

how far out or if where we swap.

(43:56.1 - 43:58.3)

The main goal is to get to land.

(43:59.1 - 44:02.8)

If we could, then if not, just

(44:03.0 - 44:04.3)

try to stick with the boat.

(44:04.4 - 44:07.4)

If it's still floating upside down or if it's completely

(44:07.5 - 44:11.0)

gone, then we're probably going to go with it. [laughs]

(44:12.4 - 44:14.3)

If we don't have a life jacket, or.

(44:15.9 - 44:21.5)

So in this case, how far did you have to swim to land?

(44:25.1 - 44:26.7)

We were like 30ft.

(44:29.7 - 44:31.7)

It was close. Close enough.

(44:32.1 - 44:34.2)

I was able to go back out to the

(44:34.2 - 44:37.7)

boat because we left our jackets and stuff.

(44:37.9 - 44:40.6)

Mine was actually drifting away and

(44:40.7 - 44:41.8)

my phone was in there.

(44:41.8 - 44:43.8)

And that phone is the one that saved us.

(44:43.8 - 44:46.4)

And I almost turned around and I almost turned around.

(44:46.5 - 44:47.3)

I was like, I don't need that

(44:47.3 - 44:51.3)

jacket because I got tired, I was like, fuck man.

(44:53.0 - 44:57.6)

My jacket is like 50, 60ft off drifting out by then.

(44:57.7 - 44:59.5)

I went out and got it, and when I was

(44:59.6 - 45:03.9)

coming back, I'd use one arm, hold onto my jacket.

(45:04.7 - 45:07.2)

By the time I got to the beach, I was, just like,

(45:07.8 - 45:10.7)

laying there, and my dad’s trying to pick me up.

(45:10.7 - 45:12.5)

And I was just “let me rest for a while.”

(45:14.3 - 45:15.8)

He's like, “we need to go call.”

(45:15.8 - 45:18.1)

And we had to climb up that cliff.

(45:18.2 - 45:20.5)

That cliff took a while to climb, too.

(45:22.6 - 45:23.1)

Yeah.

(45:23.2 - 45:25.5)

Our next problem after that was bears.

(45:25.6 - 45:28.4)

And we were making a campfire and a bear

(45:28.4 - 45:30.9)

popped out and we had no gun or nothing.

(45:30.9 - 45:33.7)

And after that, I couldn't sleep.

(45:33.9 - 45:35.5)

My dad said, “you better get some sleep.”

(45:35.6 - 45:36.5)

I'm like, “no.”

(45:38.1 - 45:39.7)

Dark out all around.

(45:39.8 - 45:41.8)

The only light we had was campfire.

(45:44.2 - 45:45.7)

Yeah, this ain't good, man.

(45:48.3 - 45:50.8)

The one time my mom was like, “what

(45:50.8 - 45:52.0)

kind of gun are you going to take?”

(45:52.1 - 45:53.0)

“We don't need no gun.

(45:53.0 - 45:54.7)

We're going to be back in an hour.”

(45:59.4 - 46:01.7)

How many miles away were you from land?

(46:06.1 - 46:08.4)

We were just right there.

(46:08.9 - 46:12.4)

We drove up to the beach and then parked on the beach.

(46:12.5 - 46:14.8)

And when we were taking off, that's when

(46:16.1 - 46:19.1)

we ended up swamping because the back anchor

(46:19.2 - 46:22.6)

got caught, caught on some rocks or something.

(46:22.7 - 46:25.2)

We couldn't pull it up and it was holding the boat.

(46:25.8 - 46:30.5)

And by the time I cut it, I literally just cut

(46:30.6 - 46:34.0)

the line and my dad was about to go, and then

(46:34.4 - 46:37.1)

a wave came in and swamped the hole boat.

(46:37.2 - 46:38.1)

One wave.

(46:40.2 - 46:42.6)

But how many miles did you have to walk? Or would you had to walk back to town?

(46:47.8 - 46:53.2)

30, give or take 30.

(46:54.6 - 46:57.7)

Because we walked for, like four or 5 hours

(46:57.7 - 47:02.4)

before it got dark and we were still far.

(47:02.5 - 47:04.3)

The ground team couldn't get to us

(47:04.4 - 47:08.5)

because there's a mudslide or whatever.

(47:09.0 - 47:12.9)

They couldn't get around it and they couldn't come

(47:13.0 - 47:15.3)

get us through the ocean because it got stormy.

(47:17.5 - 47:19.5)

So how did you get rescued?

(47:19.7 - 47:23.3)

We walked as far as we can, camped, and then

(47:23.4 - 47:26.8)

the next morning walked all the way around the mudslide.

(47:29.4 - 47:35.0)

So we, I don't know, I'd say like 15, 20 miles.

And you made it back?

(47:38.6 - 47:39.1)

No.

(47:39.2 - 47:41.4)

There's a team waiting for us with four

(47:41.4 - 47:44.1)

wheelers on the other side of the mudslide.

(47:44.2 - 47:48.1)

One person walked, met us and carried our

(47:48.2 - 47:50.4)

bags that we were carrying for us.

(47:52.4 - 47:53.1)

Gave you some food and water?

Yeah.

(47:53.9 - 47:55.4)

I was really happy to see a

(47:55.4 - 47:57.5)

man because my dad's like “a bear.”

(47:57.5 - 47:59.3)

And I looked up and there's somebody walking.

(47:59.4 - 48:00.9)

And I was like, “that's not a bear, that’s a person.”

(48:03.4 - 48:07.5)

We bump into a bear where we just have our hands.

(48:08.7 - 48:10.8)

I was carrying a real long stick.

(48:11.2 - 48:13.0)

My dad's like, “what are you carrying that for?”

(48:13.0 - 48:15.3)

And right before we took off,

(48:15.4 - 48:17.0)

we seen a bear and a cub.

(48:17.7 - 48:19.4)

My dad's like, “all right, we got to go let

(48:19.4 - 48:21.8)

that bear get out of here for a little bit.”

(48:22.8 - 48:25.2)

I was like, “No, we got no time to sit around and wait for bears.

(48:25.2 - 48:26.2)

We need to go.”

(48:26.8 - 48:28.7)

My dad's like, “we're in bear country.

(48:28.8 - 48:30.1)

We sit and wait right here.

(48:30.1 - 48:32.8)

Another one's going to pop up.” “All right.”

(48:33.6 - 48:36.3)

I don't like walking behind a bear that close.

(48:41.8 - 48:44.8)

Getting back to commercial, just

(48:44.8 - 48:46.0)

a couple more questions.

(48:47.3 - 48:48.7)

What do you think are the long term

(48:48.7 - 48:52.6)

effects of fishing on your body? Physically?

(48:53.6 - 48:54.7)

Long term effects,

(48:54.7 - 48:57.8)

I'd probably say arthritis in the hands.

(48:58.6 - 49:07.2)

Our arms get a lot of wear and tear, also on the hands.

(49:10.5 - 49:12.7)

And you just get strong.

(49:14.1 - 49:16.1)

If you're doing it all season long and

(49:16.2 - 49:19.9)

you're doing it right, you get pretty tough.

(49:23.1 - 49:25.3)

Another long term would be getting

(49:25.3 - 49:28.0)

into shape or physical shape.

(49:28.9 - 49:31.6)

It could help you out in the long

(49:31.6 - 49:33.8)

run if we're doing it right.

(49:35.8 - 49:39.0)

Do you have strategies to do it right?

Yeah.

(49:39.1 - 49:43.2)

Eat breakfast, lunch and dinner and try not to party as much.

(49:49.7 - 49:51.3)

What about long term effects?

(49:51.3 - 50:02.2)

Emotionally?

I'd say the effects are more on the financial side,

(50:04.0 - 50:05.5)

we're going to have to worry if we're going

(50:05.5 - 50:08.9)

to have fishing next period or next year.

(50:12.6 - 50:14.9)

What we're going to be looking at next year?

(50:15.0 - 50:16.4)

Are we going to make any money?

(50:17.2 - 50:19.6)

Because my dad just jumped into

(50:19.7 - 50:24.8)

a debt hole getting all that.

(50:26.2 - 50:29.9)

Now it looks like it wasn't a good choice because the fishing’s

(50:29.9 - 50:39.7)

not good, but we just have to grind it out and

(50:39.8 - 50:43.0)

have to pay off the loan one way or another.

(50:44.8 - 50:48.1)

But yeah, I'd say that financial

(50:48.2 - 50:50.7)

stability is like the biggest.

(50:55.2 - 50:57.4)

Yeah. What about spiritually?

(50:58.2 - 50:59.2)

Spiritually?

(51:01.4 - 51:05.0)

We get high spirits when we're getting fish and we

(51:05.1 - 51:07.9)

kind of get low spirits when we're not getting fish.

(51:09.0 - 51:11.4)

So. the more fish, the higher the spirits.

(51:19.2 - 51:20.7)

What do you think of the main differences

(51:20.8 - 51:23.5)

between fishing in the past and fishing now?

(51:24.0 - 51:28.4)

Fishing in the past, there was fish, a lot of it.

(51:28.5 - 51:33.6)

Now there’s, like, so, two years ago we made

(51:33.6 - 51:39.5)

our money on kings and then barely made

(51:40.0 - 51:41.7)

anything, last year was pinks.

(51:42.0 - 51:44.9)

And I'm guessing it's probably going to be

(51:44.9 - 51:48.4)

pinks again this year, but we will see.

(51:48.6 - 51:52.1)

I hope the silvers and everything else come back.

(51:54.5 - 51:59.0)

Because I started thinking maybe I'm just the curse

(51:59.1 - 52:03.6)

because before I started fishing, they were coming in with

(52:03.7 - 52:07.3)

$7,000 loads, a couple of $1,000 loads, and now

(52:07.4 - 52:10.6)

we're coming in with $100 loads.

(52:15.1 - 52:17.3)

Are there any experiences you’ve had that you think others

could learn from in terms of trying to be safer on the water?

(52:22.3 - 52:26.0)

Just that time when I almost went over the boat

(52:26.1 - 52:29.7)

pulling the king salmon

(52:29.7 - 52:32.4)

Net. When it is rough like that,

(52:32.5 - 52:37.1)

definitely need extra hands and a lot more

(52:38.0 - 52:43.1)

Awareness, being up in the rough water.

(52:45.9 - 52:50.1)

So what I'd do differently would bring another helper.

(52:51.1 - 52:53.9)

That way there'd be two of us pulling the net in

(52:53.9 - 52:57.5)

and like, if it started pulling us out, we'd have more

(52:57.6 - 53:00.9)

people pulling on it to stop it because I wasn't able

(53:00.9 - 53:03.7)

to stop it by myself when it was taking me.

(53:04.9 - 53:06.5)

So I think if we had another

(53:06.5 - 53:10.5)

hand, we would have not had that problem.

(53:15.4 - 53:17.6)

And then is there knowledge that you would share

(53:17.7 - 53:22.5)

for other commercial fishermen.

Not that they already know.

(53:22.6 - 53:26.8)

It's, like, still in that curb where I'm

(53:26.9 - 53:28.9)

trying to get the knowledge that they have.

(53:38.1 - 53:40.3)

And then how will you get that knowledge?

(53:41.3 - 53:46.7)

Either just by having coffee with them at the

(53:47.7 - 53:51.7)

fish house or fishing with them or just talking

(53:51.8 - 53:53.5)

with them on the side of the road.

(53:59.8 - 54:03.5)

What’s the fish house, the plant?

Yeah, where we pull up to sell our fish,

(54:03.6 - 54:07.1)

to, and we spend, like, if there's a long

(54:07.2 - 54:10.0)

line, we'll be talking with all the other fishermen.

(54:11.4 - 54:14.1)

Yeah, we're all tied up to each other.

(54:19.8 - 54:21.9)

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

(54:25.0 - 54:26.3)

Not really.

(54:28.4 - 54:30.9)

And then does anything jump out at you

(54:30.9 - 54:33.4)

yet for a way to share information?

(54:33.7 - 54:41.1)

I’d says social media, the radio, and flyers.

(54:45.2 - 54:47.0)

Stick up flyers at stores.

(54:48.6 - 54:50.3)

I'd say the biggest one would be

(54:50.4 - 54:54.6)

social media because everybody's on it.

(54:55.6 - 54:59.2)

And then for, like, radio for the older people.

(55:00.6 - 55:02.4)

I'm surprised how many people

(55:02.5 - 55:04.0)

still listen to the radio.

(55:06.9 - 55:08.1)

That's cool. All right.