Final Themes and Clusters

**Fishing with family**

* Learning young from family: parents, grandparents, uncles, cousins
	+ (1) 5:46 “Well my mom owned a permit, my brother owned a permit, and all my uncles owned permits, so somebody always needed a deckhand.”
* Subsistence/traditional harvest activities combined with commercial
	+ (1) 5:55 “So I’ve been fishing since I was basically five, six years old. But I’ve been in the ocean since I was a baby because that’s where my mom and dad would always take us out for camping or go pick berries.”
* Teaching the next generation at a young age
	+ (4) 6:37 “Kids want to help”
	+ (10) 10:14 “I kind of like to keep it kind of family oriented.”
* Safety attitudes and lessons passed on from family
	+ (6) 15:00 “Pretty much everything I learned about safety, about going out, was from them [grandparents] and my dad.”
	+ (10) 47:22 [Wearing a PFD] “It always depends on the family.”

**Fishing as a lifestyle**

* Enjoying fishing
	+ (2) 6:19 “Oh it’s great. [laughs] It’s a lot of fun setting the net.”
	+ (4) 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.”
* Being self-sufficient, not asking for help
	+ (4) 35:52 “People need to kind of learn it for themselves.”
	+ (1) 50:31 “Sometimes you just got to learn to don’t rely on nobody and just learn to rely on yourself because you’re the only one that’s out there.”
* Fishing with friends, spouses, girlfriends
	+ (10) 27:27 “Herring fishing brought out the women.”
* Multiple fisheries/fishing for most of life
	+ (8) 3:41 “I never saw it as work. It was just something to go out and do.”
* Difficulty aging and fishing
	+ (10) 19:58 “Fishing is a lifestyle and it’s hard for me to put it aside, and that’s where I’m at.”

**Survival equipment, preparation, and training**

* Open skiffs in 20s-foot length range/safety in knowing how to drive a skiff
	+ (10) 22:29 “And there’s a lot of skill that’s involved with safety in the ocean, especially driving a skiff.”
* Type III PFD vests are hot, bulky, and entanglement hazard. Many wear only when it’s very rough when coming back
	+ (5) 11:34 “I don’t want to get tangled in the net. You don’t wear PFDs when you’re checking net.”
* Self and family taught, or safety training received in larger communities (not Unalakleet)
	+ (5) 23:09 “No, pretty much all on your own out here. Yeah, and all those years never had any safety training. All the training we learned ourselves.”
* Safety equipment: PFDs, oar, anchor, water, bilge pump, signals, cell phone, working motor, line, tarp, life ring, float plan, cell phone for emergency communication
	+ (1) 46:37 “You don’t want to be dead in the water out in the ocean.” [water in fuel]
* Feeling safe on the water/self as greatest safety resource.
	+ (1) 24:03 “I grew up on the ocean…I’m not scared of water”
	+ (8) Dad taught him important lesson: 11:22 “Knowing what you can handle and what your boat can handle.”

**Physical health**

* Long term physical effects
	+ Positive: being in good shape
		- (4) 22:22 “I’m almost 60. Keeps me in good shape.”
	+ Negative: joint aches, arthritis, difficult to keep fishing as aging
		- (1) 42:23 “You’re always rocking, so it’s really tough on the body…trying to keep up right”
* Financial stress/not catching enough fish
	+ (5) 27:51 “It’s sad when you’re not catching any fish and making any money. That’s the bad part of it.”
* Getting enough sleep
	+ (7) 32:14 “I made sure of that. Because you don’t want to go out there tired. If you go out there tired, your mind is not all there. And you do stupid things. Once you start doing stupid things that’s the end of it. End of your life.”
* Strategies to relax or take a break
	+ (7) 31:33 “Eating just clears your mind, makes you feel at ease, makes you sleep.”
* Stretching and getting in shape to prevent injuries
	+ (8) 51:54 “I do make sure I stretch…I can see my dad and how he has, he calls it a back issue, back problem, but I know for a fact that it’s him not stretching.”

**Respect/awareness of water and surroundings**

* Rough weather in the fall
	+ (1) 12:22 “Boy, they can get rough at times. I’ve been out in Norton Sound where I’ve seen 25, 30-foot waves.”
* Knowing when it’s time to come in
	+ (1) 71:04 “You respect it. Learn to get off when it’s time.”
	+ (5) 14:54 “The ocean’s the boss, it’s the boss.”
	+ (4) 36:35 “You can replace the net, but you can’t replace a life.”
* Being observant/watching for bad weather approaching
	+ (8) “Things in the land that you can sit there and look, out at Besboro [island] and use that as a weather indicator.”
	+ (7) [Elders taught] 20:48 “They’d tell me what to look for. Tell me what to try to observe. Always look at the water, they said.”
* Don’t take too many chances/push your limits
	+ (4) 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.”
* Being aware of where you are
	+ (1) 31:18 “You got to know where you’re going”

**One mistake can lead to death**

* Familiarity with marine fatalities
	+ (1) 25:51 “All it takes is one goof up and anybody could be done. I’ve seen it happen in our [river] mouth many of times.”
	+ (1) 34:49 “I lost quite a bit of friends to the ocean, but that’s just the way life is”
* Overloaded with fish/stability hazards and strategies
	+ (8) 28:59 “That’s the biggest danger that we have here for the fishermen is the determination to make money over safety.”
* Falls overboard, capsizing, and local fatalities
	+ (6) 24:16 “I didn’t really think like, I almost died, I could’ve almost died. Holy cow, I almost fell in. In my head I was thinking I would have been able to get myself out, but come to think of it, that was a whole lot more dangerous than I thought about it at the time.”
* Driving/maneuvering a small boat in big waves
	+ (7) 5:27 “I found out that you got to be ocean wise to go out there when it’s rough because when you hit a wave, you’re most likely gonna flip over.”
* Awareness of entanglement hazards
	+ (2) 49:20 “Watch where you place all your gear or equipment and that’s mostly the danger with those is entanglement.”
* Remoteness in the event of an emergency
	+ (1) 14:51 “I mean, you’re the only boat out there. You don’t see anybody else…Other days you might see the whole fleet out there.”

**Changes in fishing over time**

* Climate change: rougher weather, wind direction changes, rain or sun for a month at a time
	+ (7) 62:06 “Look at this weather. Always windy. It’s always windy today. When the kings really start hitting, our winds will shift to the west and southwest and be rough all the time.”
* Changes in fish populations, species, and sizes
	+ Trawlers, climate, salmon disasters
		- (1) 21:13 “All the communities live by rivers that produce salmon. And if we can’t even catch a salmon because somebody else is killing them and throwing them overboard, what’s the point of even catching fish?”
		- (10) 38:35 “I think that regardless of what is happening, the high seas fishery doesn’t report as much by-catch as they should. And I think the fish are also not coming back because they don’t have the feed that they used to have.”
		- (10) 34:22 “We have seen enough over the years to know that global warming has affected the mass.”
* More permits now and less fish/harder to make a living
* Equipment advances: faster motors, bigger boats, can go farther