

WILLIAM MCKUSIC

Interviewer: Joshua

Date: October 3, 2003

Place: Bill McKusic's home

Transcriber: Peggy Simmons



Bill McKusic was born on September 21, 1971, and moved to Friendship from Rockland 10 years ago. He has three children. Bill has been lobstering for 20 years as a sternman. Other jobs include plumbing and carpentry.

Q: When did you start lobstering?

A: Started back in the early 80's.

Q: How long have you been lobstering?

A: Twenty years.

Q: Why did you become a lobsterman?

A: For the money--pretty good money at the time I started.

Q: What is your job on the boat?

A: Sternman, baiting bags, putting bags in the trap, measuring lobsters.

Q: Describe your lobster traps, size and weight

A: Regular 4-foot traps. Forty-six pounds.

Q: Describe how you set your traps, when, where.

A: I use the fathometer. It tells you how deep.

Q: Do you move them during the season? If so, why and where?

A: You catch certain lobsters in certain spots. You shift your traps around and find lobsters in other spots.

Q: How often do you pull them?

A: Four days a week.

Q: How do you tell your traps from someone else's?

A: Buoy color.

Q. How has lobstering changed since you began fishing?

A: There's lots more fishermen now. Less lobsters.

Q: What do you like least about it?

A: Cold weather.

Q: What happens when it's foggy?

A: It's a hard time finding your gear.

Q: What is the worst thing that has ever happened to you while you were lobstering?

A: Getting hauled overboard with three traps around my leg.

Q: Describe your most memorable time fishing.

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A: Tuna fishing. Catching a tuna fish.

Q: How often do you eat lobster?

A: About once a year.

Q: Do you have a favorite way of preparing it?

A: No.