

DAVID NEUBIG

Interviewer: Randall

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Place: David Neubig's home

Transcriber: Randall



David Neubig was born on March 29, 1965, and has one brother. His family has lived in Friendship for five generations. He has lobstered for 22 years. His other jobs have included being a brick mason, wood cutting, and clamming. His hobbies include hunting, car racing, bowling, and snowmobiling.

I started lobstering in 1981 at the age of 15. I became a lobsterman mainly because my father and grandfather were, and I grew up around the lobstering business. I also love

the ocean and the freedom of being my own boss. The first year I lobstered I had 75 traps, and my boat was a 14-foot wooden boat with a 25-horsepower outboard motor. I hauled my traps three times a week then and averaged 40 pounds a day at \$1.50 a pound.

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Today things are a lot different. The boat I use is a 35-foot fiberglass boat. I named it the *Salty Cod*. My boat is powered by a 220-horsepower diesel motor. I have many electric devices on my boat that help me while I'm on the ocean. I have a radar that I use on foggy days or after dark. I have a color bottom finder that tells me how deep the water is and whether the bottom is hard, gravel, or mud. I have a VHF radio to communicate with other boats. I have an FM radio for entertainment. I also have a compass to show me where my boat is going, and I have a spotlight to see after dark. I also have safety equipment such as life jackets, flares, survival suits and a life ring. Most important, I have an anchor for securing my boat if the motor stops.

To catch lobsters, I have to have traps. Today I have 800 traps. They are made from vinyl-covered wire, and they measure 4 feet long, 13 1/2 inches tall, and 21 inches wide. Each trap has a set of openings that the lobster crawls into. The traps are tied to a rope that is tied to a marker buoy at the other end. Each fisherman has his own colors on his markers. My colors are blue and yellow. It takes me three days to tend to all my traps. I like to let them set five days in between tending them. When I tend to my traps, I use a hydraulic hauler to haul them. As I bring my traps aboard, I take the lobsters out first. I have a tool called a measure, and I have to check every lobster. If they are too small or too big, I have to throw the lobster back. After I get the lobsters out, I put fresh bait in the traps. I use herring and pogies, and during the spring I use alewives. On a regular day I use two 50-gallon barrels of bait.

I lobster from April to November. In the spring the fishing is harder. A good catch in the spring is a pound a trap. During the summer and fall, a good catch is 3 to 4 pounds a trap. I have to move my traps around quite a bit because lobsters migrate. In the spring

they like the deeper water, and as summer nears, they move to shallow water. In the fall they move back into deeper water. I have to change my ropes a lot because the lobsters move to different depths. I have ropes that are 50-feet long and ropes that are 300-feet long! As you can see, there is a lot to the business in lobstering.