

JIMMY R

Interviewer: Steven

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Place: Friendship Village School

Transcriber: Sally Merrick



Q: How long have you been lobstering?

A: Five or six years.

Q: When did you start lobstering?

A: About five or six years ago.

Q: How old were you?

A: Either five or six.

Q: What other members of your family lobster?

A: Everybody except my little brother.

Q: Who do you go lobstering with?

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A: My father and sometimes my grandfather.

Q: How often do you go out in a week?

A: In the summer probably five or six days, and during school Saturdays and Sundays.

Q: What months do you fish?

A: The summer months.

Q: Do you have a license?

A: Yeah.

Q: Are you sure?

A: Yes, I'm positive.

Q: What did you have to do to get one?

A: You have to fill out an application and send it to Augusta at the Inland Fisheries place there.

Q: Where do you fish?

A: Otter Island, Long Island, Shark Rock, Mosquito Rock, Egg Rock, and a lot of other places.

Q: How far out do you go, how deep?

A: I go quite a ways out, about to Shark Rock, and that is about 25 fathoms deep.

Q: How do you know where you can set your traps?

A: With a plotter.

Q: How does your day begin?

A: At about 3:30.

Q: When does it end?

A: It depends on how long the day is. If it's a short day, 10:30, 11:00; but if it's a

normal day, then probably 12:30, 1:00.

Q: What is your job on the boat?

A: I am the sternman. I bait the bags; I put them on the traps; I band the lobsters.

Q: Describe how you set your trap.

A: You have it on the washboard, and then you just push it overboard, and you pay the rope out.

Q: How much line do you put out?

A: It depends on where you fish. It can go anywhere from 5 fathoms to 25 fathoms.

Q: What color is your pot buoy?

A: All white on the top, green on the bottom, and a red tail.

Q: What do you use for bait? Where do you get it?

A: I use herring mostly, sometimes pogies, sometimes redfish, and sometimes flatfish.

Q: How many traps do you set? How many do you pick up in a day?

A: I'm going to set about 50 traps next year, and we usually haul 200 to 240 in a day.

Q: What is a normal catch for a day? What is the biggest lobster you have ever caught?

A: It depends on how good the year is. This year hasn't been very good, so probably 300 or less. The biggest lobster I ever caught was about as long as the trap was.

Q: Describe how you haul a trap. How big is a trap? How much does it weigh?

A: You pull up to the side of the buoy, gaff it in the rope, then put it in the hauler and haul it up. There are many different sizes; there are 3-footers and 4-footers, and sometimes even 2-footers. [They weigh] 50 to 60 pounds.

Q: How do you keep from getting bit or pinched by your lobster?

A: You grab it by the knuckle so it can't turn and bite you, and some of it is common

sense.

Q: What size lobster are you allowed to keep?

A: Anywhere from 3 1/4 to 5 inches, and you put the measure in the eye socket and measure it to the back of the body.

Q: What happens if you get caught with a short lobster or a v-notched one?

A: You can either get a warning or a fine, and sometimes you can lose your license.

Q: What other kinds of fish get caught in your traps? What is your favorite one? What is your least favorite one?

A: You can catch sculpins, horn pout, stripers, mackerel, codfish. My favorite one is probably the codfish, and my least favorite one is the horn pout.

Q: What other kind of sea life do you encounter?

A: You can catch crabs.

Q: Describe your lobster boat. What kind of boat is it? What color is it? What's the name of it?

A: It is 36 feet long, it is a Mitchell Cove, and it has a 260-Cummins in it. It is white with Newport green, and the name of it is *My Two Sons*. The *My Two Sons* part takes after Jimmy Richards and his little brother Alex Richards.

Q: What do you wear when you go out to haul?

A: I wear oil pants if it's raining, and a raincoat, boots.

Q: Have you ever fallen overboard? Explain what happened. Have you ever gotten seasick?

A: No, I've never fallen overboard, and I've never been seasick.

Q: Do you like to eat lobster?

A: Yes, I like to eat lobster, and sometimes it's often, and sometimes it isn't.

Q: What do you like the least in lobstering?

A: Getting up so early and dragging the bait down on the wharf.

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Q: What do you like most about lobstering?

A: I like the working and the money.

Q: Have you ever used toggles?

A; Yes, I use toggles.

Q: Describe the parts of a lobster trap.

A: It is a box of wire; it has heads and a bait line to put the bait bag on.

Q: How big is the engine? Is it a gas or a diesel?

A: It is a 260-Cummins; it is a gas boat.