

Connie Kennedy Oral History

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Interviewer: SC – Sarah Calhoun

SC: All right, so today is January 28, 2015; my name is Sarah Calhoun. This is an oral history for the Voices from the West Coast Project; I'm with Connie Kennedy in North Coburg, OR. Connie, could you state your name for the record?

CK: Mhm, Connie Kennedy.

SC: Great, thank you. So I was hoping we could just go back to the beginning and hear a little bit about how you got started in the fishing business.

CK: Okay, well actually, me personally, I met my husband when I was 24 and he was 22. He was working out of Newport. I was originally born in Newport, but had moved away and had come back when my parents moved to eastern Oregon in La Grande and had moved back when my parents retired after I graduated high school. At first I said I wouldn't, my no no's were to go out with a fisherman or somebody I met in a bar and of course both of those things are where I met him, so it was sort of a while before I kind of warmed up to him because of those things. My family was actually in the fishing business, my grandfather moved out here from Colorado in the 1940's, 1941 actually, with some other family members. He had early signs of emphysema, some kind of lung disease from working in the automotive industry. And the doctors said go to the coast it will heal your lungs. So my grandfather, my grandma, my father and his two siblings, or three siblings, excuse me, loaded up the car, brought my grandfather's sister as well and some cousins of my grandmother who apparently had lived here and drove out. They built, or my grandfather re-outfitted a boat, called the Gertrude E in, I'm not even sure what era it was, probably in the 50's, maybe late 40's early 50's. And went fishing with my uncles and himself and they did pretty good. They fished for shark fins and for salmon, it was a little double-ender. This of course is just what I was told, I don't have a lot of written history about it or anything, some pictures, but basically they did it for a while. They went down to like the, oh I want to say the Bay area of California with a lot of the other fishermen and fishing families who were doing that at the time. Grandma said they used to all, all the families would go down to like that area and have big picnics, which kind of reminded me of things that we did when I got started with Fishermen's Wives. So I think that's sort of always been kind of something in the industry, is that the people came together, because we're a little odd anyway [laughs] and supported each other that way, and the women I know supported each other when the men were gone. So anyway, I kind of had this... I came here in the 80's and at that time there were a lot of things in the newspaper about vessels going down, there were several vessels actually that went down and there was loss of life in the early to mid-80's, and it scared me. And my cousins were also, had also come from Nebraska and fished in Newport as well and it just, it was scary to me. The fact that people went out on the boats and could lose their lives so to me it was like a no, no I wouldn't do that. And I met Tony and just kind over a short period of time realized I really did like him and we kind of courted I guess and that was 30 years ago, 30-some years ago, 31 years ago, anyway [laughs], you lose track. It was tough, in the beginning it was a little bit of an adjustment, just having him be gone days, it was just days back then and that was tough because when you're getting to know somebody you want to talk to them about something and they're not there and then you sort of have to put it in the back of your mind and maybe bring it up later, or maybe not, sometimes the moments lost. Anyway, we ended up getting married, we have four daughters and through the course of raising those daughters, the first two were two years apart and in that time I also took care of my ailing mother, my stepfather would bring my mom over, she had some strokes and couldn't really take care of herself so I would have them come over during the day and I would make lunch, or dinner, whatever, breakfast depending on what time they came over, and helped take care of mom and then they would go back home and usually they came everyday and then I had the two little girls, so it was a lot of work, but I wouldn't change it for the world because it was time I got to spend with my mom. And then she passed when my oldest was, actually I only had one at the time, she passed when my oldest was three months and then my grandfather became ill and so that was

something... he was doing okay when the second girl was born, but as she was probably about a year old, he began to become ill, he was like 92 when he passed, so we would go over there, or the girls and I, and I would help take care of them, they stayed in their home. They'd been married for a long time, 61 years or so. So it was nice to be able to do that, but at the same time it was a lot of work, it's just being a caretaker to children and then being a caretaker to my grandparents. Grandma wasn't ill at the time, but she couldn't see very well and she'd always relied on my grandfather to do the grocery shopping, she didn't drive or anything like that so we used to drive them up to the hospital in Portland to see their doctors and what not and I'd take the girls with me. At the time, I kind of just kept my head down and just tried to do the best I could, but then I read a blurb in the newspaper, in the Newport News Times, and it was just a short little thing saying, hey all you Alaska fishermen wives, widows, whatever, girls that stay home when their husbands go to Alaska, how about getting together for kind of some fun events and maybe just relying on each other, talking to each other, so I went to that and it was, right off the bat it was a lot of fun. I found out later that one of the people, who later became a really good friend of mine, told me, she thought I was the babysitter when I came in with my children [laughs]. I had a two-month old and a two year old and she thought I was the babysitter and I took that as a compliment, but anyway [laughs]. And so we basically had potlucks and we kind of got together, I think it was once a month and just kind of talked to each other and after a while we realized some of the issues that we were facing were kind of bigger than just the people that were in our group and so we started bringing in speakers to talk about different things and I can't remember how long that group went on, it was probably a year, and then the leadership of Newport Fishermen's Wives at the time was just coming off getting the helicopter here at the time, and it was still flying from North Bend to Newport everyday or however often it was coming, everyday and then leaving. And so they asked us if we would take over the gavel and the bank accounts of Newport Fishermen's Wives and at that time...

SC: Just to clarify was this two separate groups at the time?

CK: Yes. The support group was sort of a loosely based group of women that just kind of came together, there was no real association I don't think at the time, other than we would meet in each other's homes, or at restaurants depending on if we had speakers or what not and yeah. It was Sydney Lasseign, Ginny Goblirsch, Nancy Cooper, and I think those were the three ladies that I remember at the time who were the leadership still involved in Newport Fishermen's Wives, and I know that they were feeling like... I don't know if burnout is the word, but they had just worked really tremendously hard to have that happen [Newport Coast Guard Rescue Helicopter station] and I know personally, how few women actually work behind the scenes. I mean there are always a lot of people that will come forward to help in any given event. Make food if there's a tragedy or something, make food for the family, or do something, because people always wanted to do something, but for the day to day, I knew, we knew, the group that we were at the time knew that those ladies were probably the back bone of what was going on, I know there were others, but those were the three that came to us. So we had a meeting, elected people, they gave us the gavel and the bank accounts and kind of moved forward from there. And I was involved for about, gosh, I'll say about 22 years that I was probably on the board every year, in some capacity or not. And they also wanted to know that the blessing of the fleet would continue on, and that was really why we said yes, because that was such a, really such a wonderful community event and something that Mo had started. Mo Niemi had started in the, I think it was the 1950's, because she saw a need at the time to do something like that and we wanted to continue that so we did. And I organized the blessing of the fleet for, gosh, about 16 years I think and I think out of all the things that I did, that was probably what I liked doing the best. It really brought together people that often didn't get together and not because we didn't want to, but because ... fishermen were passing at the docks, sometimes we were passing at the docks with other women [10:00] saying bye to our fishermen, whatever hour the tide was that they had to get down there. So it was kind of a neat event and it brought the whole community came together. I mean all the pastors and it was pretty easy for me to do because the people that had done it before, had a really nice, nicely set up, they worked with the local radio station and the coast guard and the local clergy so it was something that really wasn't hard to take over and it was a lot of fun. It was something that gave us a connection to the coast guard, who we have a good connection with the coast guard in Newport because, well for obvious reasons, it's very important to. But that also, because the coast guard changes hands every... the commanders leave every 2-4 years, or whatever it is, you always have a changeover so you're learning new people, you're getting to know new people all the time. And so that helped us in that

way to sort of always solidify that relationship so that when there was a tragedy at sea or something, we had that connection with the coast guard, we could say, call this person, call us, we'll come up, we'll help you coordinate with the families or whatever, so we did a lot of that. Not a lot thankfully, but we did do it to a degree. And the other thing that they left us with, the Fishermen's Wives group left us with, was... they had an idea that they wanted to do a memorial for fishermen lost at sea because often times there's no recovery of a body so a family wouldn't have necessarily a place to go to mourn the loss of that person, there's no cemetery where they're buried or anything like that. So they had worked with the coast guard who had actually bequeathed to them somehow the lighthouse in North Newport, the Agate Beach lighthouse and they had actually put up a monument with the help of a local artist, so they had a plaque out there already that they had fundraised for and put up there, and there's a small area where they can do memorials out on the headland, which at the time that we were doing them, was usually quite cold and windy, but it kind of gave you an idea of what fishermen are feeling when they are at sea. And so that was nice, but they wanted... they had plans to actually build a place for them to go, a place where the names could be engraved on something so that rather than just one that said for all fishermen, a light for all fishermen, which is what they had dedicated the light house and this plaque, and it's still there, you can go out there, although you have to pay to go out there now because BLM owns the land now, I don't know how that worked out, but. Anyway, the idea was to build something out there at the lighthouse. Well we worked on that for a period of time and then realized that there was going to be people from... there were some people in the community that thought it would put a blight on the natural beauty of the headland and they already didn't like it. There was a... that there had been plans to put an interpretive center out there, but we thought rather than fighting with... and this group contacted us and said, we've heard of your plans, we really don't think it's a good idea for this reason, they thought it would impair the visual resources is what they said. So we started looking around, one of the girls and I that were in the group with me, started looking around, Wendy Anderson. And we went to the state park, just kind of driving through, we were just driving all over the place, we went to the bay front, we went to the state park, somewhere close to where the boats are moored. We actually talked to at the time, the port harbor master because we were thinking we would like to do it down at the port and he told us to go talk to a city manager and we did. We already had plans that we had planned to do out at the headland so we took them to him, we'd had someone do that for us, pretty inexpensively, it wasn't completely free, but he gave us a pretty good discount to draw up the plans for us. Taking the information actually that was something else; the idea for the memorial came from a student at Newport High School. The drafting teacher, Mr. Jacobson, I think it was Mr. Jacobson, wow, starting to forget things, anyway [laughs]. He had a drafting student come up with criteria that Fishermen's Wives had given him at the time and he drew something up and then we took that to a structural engineer who then took the idea and made it something we could actually have built, that would support itself. But they told us at the city that it didn't really go with what was down on the bay front, they told us it didn't go with the... the architecture didn't go. If we wanted to draw up new plans, come back and talk to them. Well we didn't really have money for that sort of thing so we sort of scrapped that idea. At that time we went to the state parks and as soon as we brought the idea up to them they were actually pretty open to it. At the time, state parks were sort of struggling a little bit with funding and they said, that it might be something they could do over in South Beach, well we looked at a spot down in South Beach, but it was in the tsunami inundation zone and we wouldn't have been able to get it built. Then we said, well what about this spot up at the state park, it would be to the north of the restrooms, it was just a seemed like a good spot. And they said, well why don't you go ahead and write a proposal, which I did and we submitted it to them and they came out and looked at it and said, yes, we'd love to do this. So we had the very first cooperative agreement with the state park for anything being built on there. There were some criteria; it had to be called something that didn't have a specific religion to it, so it's Fishermen's Memorial Sanctuary, Yaquina Bay State Park. And that took a few years to get built; it's there now. That was a lot of work as well, but very thankful it's there. There's been... since it's been built, some issues with transients being in there. The memorial podium that we had built inside the house, over a hundred names in there, 120 probably by now, was broken. It was open in the back and we think somebody got up under there, and I don't know how they did it because it's black granite, solid granite, but they were able to push it over. And so when we had it rebuilt, we had it completely enclosed so nobody could get underneath it and do it. The sad part about it was the first one was hand engraved, it was all done, the whole thing was built on donations from the community and the cooperation between the state park and Fishermen's Wives. It's just a nice place for families to go; and the idea was it would be a nice place where they could go and grieve, remember their loved ones. It's looking out on the ocean.

We have memorials there where the US Coast Guard and the helicopter participated, it's just a really moving experience and I know they still do it. There's some other things they do now as well that some of the other girls have come up with. That's still probably one of my favorite things about Fishermen's Wives. Anyway, so from there we had all kinds of projects, things that we worked on. I worked with the group, we were going to try and build a fishermen's market and for different reasons, they did a feasibility study and realized it would be pretty difficult to have a standalone market because fishermen, when they're selling their product on the docks, or in a market, which it would have to be the fishermen selling it, then they're not making money. Because if they're not fishing, they're not making money. So that didn't really turn out to be something we could have done, and it would have been probably 3-400,000 thousand dollars for us to fundraise again to build the commercial kitchen that we were thinking of trying to put in there and then also get some other sort of anchor tenants that would help maybe pay the rent on the building, the port would have been in there. We were trying to make it at the time; so that some of the agencies, some of the management agencies might be able to be in there. Maybe a coffee shop where fishermen could go in and get a cup of coffee and there'd be fishery managers there that might be able to have coffee with them and be sort of a neutral space where collaborative things could go on. It just was something that at the time wasn't really... it didn't pan out for a lot of reasons I guess. But Fishermen's Wives still worked to try to sort of foster those relationships anyway and I think they did a good job. We worked with, of course Ginny [Goblirsch] at Oregon Sea Grant; she was always spearheading those kinds of things as well. Anyway, I worked with Fishermen's Wives for many years and then I volunteered also with Sea Grant early on in a project that when the first salmon crisis happened in the 1980's. There was sort of a need I guess, for [20:00] people in the fishing industry who were peers basically to be able to talk to people and find out what issues were at the time and what maybe we could do to help connect them with resources that were already in the community existing already. So we did that for a year, a year and a half, maybe it was even two years. It was clear, at that time that things were sort of... I don't know if the fishery was in decline, but there were things that were going on at the time that were making the price, how hard it was for them at the time to find the salmon, they were having to go further, different ports, whatever, and it was something that was happening coast wide. And then at the same time, that was when, or right after that I guess, all these things are starting to come together, but the groundfish fishery was between management and markets and things like that, they were talking about, something was going to have to be done to reduce the fleet is what management was thinking. Well that scared us and the Sea Grant program that I was volunteering in, and so Ginny and Flaxen and some other people put together a proposal that sort of put peers in place so that when and if it happened, we'd be able to connect them with resources in the community, kind of like we had been doing with the salmon fishermen at that time. And at the same time that that was going on, there was information, the fishermen were also talking with management about cooperative research and so that there was like a three-pronged stool, I guess, they were also talking about reducing the fleet so it was families, what could we do if anything to help families connect to resources in the community if and when there was a need to reduce the vessels. And they were just talking at the time about reducing the vessels and that was it. And we were like, well wait a minute, there's a lot of people, families, generational fishing families who would lose their livelihoods and so we kind of went from that perspective and at the same time, we were listening to what else was going on and we were talking at that time about doing cooperative research... make sure you're hearing what the fishermen are saying about what's out there instead of just assuming what's out there. At that time, that was when terms like 'overfishing' were coined, and it was a contentious time because fishermen didn't like having that word put on them. Because it really wasn't and at the time that that term was coined, what it meant was, it could be anything from the weather to fishing effort to fishing effort in an area, whatever, to cycles, 20-50 year cycles, all kinds of things, but they used the word to cover a lot of things. So that created a lot of contention. So at that time they were also really pushing for cooperative research to kind of maybe combat what fishermen were actually seeing out there and what management was saying they had to do. It was a pretty interesting time [laughs]. I ended up being the coordinator of peers up and down the coast and it was kind of often times really hard sitting in on meetings because we would hear something from the peers who were hearing from the fishermen and the community and we would go to fishing communities and facilitate meetings and listen to everything that was being said. It just seemed like there was this big hammer that was coming down and it didn't really matter what people were thinking, it was almost like the cart was being put before the horse. That was a time when, I remember recreational fishermen and commercial fishermen sitting in rooms, and I was shocked sometimes to listen how the recreational fishermen would go after the commercial fishermen at that time.

Like their livelihoods were going to be pinched also, so it just created a very contentious, there was a lot of contention at the time. And personally, we were... my husband was fishing out of Newport on a boat that a family had bought, a family with very young sons, not very young, but not old enough at the time to run a boat and they purchased this boat asking my husband if he would... and he was up in Alaska at the time, fishing in Alaska. Our youngest daughter, who is 17 now, was a baby, and asked him if he would like to run the boat down in Newport, and after talking to him and really getting an idea of what that meant, he said yeah, he'd love to do that because then he would be home with the girls a little more. It's interesting, when you're home, when you fish out of Newport, the boat's there so anytime you come into port, everything that needs to be done, needs to be done at the port, the boat still takes a lot of your time. Where Tony fishes now, when he comes home, the boat's in Alaska or Seattle or wherever the boat is at the time and when it's in Seattle he'll travel up there, but he'll be gone for a day to a few days and then he's back home and we kind of have his undivided attention. He used to go to school with the girls, do fun things with them in school, so that was a cool thing. But then we had our youngest daughter and he saw that as an opportunity to be closer to home with all of them and her especially as a baby. So we did that for a few years, until that boat... it became pretty obvious that we couldn't... it was a shrimp boat at the time, pretty obvious that we couldn't make a living just in the shrimp and a little bit of groundfishing, but groundfishing wasn't going well. And so because the boat didn't have a crab permit, he was talking with the owners about possibly getting a crab permit for the boat and then we could probably do just fine. They chose not to do that, I think they saw the writing on the wall with the boat buyback and so they sold that boat, Tony went back to Alaska. He fished for a few years down there [Newport], a couple years that was right in the bite of the groundfish disaster I guess. Which is what they called it [laughs], it was a disaster in a lot of ways, because the boats were bought out and couldn't return to the fisheries is what the deal was. They couldn't return to the fisheries in the United States once they were bought out. Then... lost my train of thought there for a second [laughs].

SC: So he went back to Alaska?

CK: Yeah, he did, he went back to Alaska, which, it's great, he's good at it, it's what he does. He comes home, he's gone for maybe 3-4 months at a time and then he comes home for 2-3 months at a time, so as hard as it is to be without him, we now have cell phones, email, satellite phones. At the time, when we first got together, we didn't have any of that, it was word of mouth that you heard how your husband was doing. So it helped when he went back and we had all the technology, the girls kept a little more in touch with him that way. Well actually after he sold, he didn't go back to Alaska, I'm jumping ahead a little bit. He actually went over to, there was a possibility of buying another boat. Some friends of ours were, who had a fishing business were getting older and wanting to see someone else take over the boat, they still wanted to buy the fish, but they wanted to sell the boat. So we got into that situation, that was nice for a little while, although we didn't have money to put down on the boat so it was sort of a pay as you go kind of thing and the girls would come down to the boat and sell albacore off the boat, which I don't know if you can do it the way we used to do it, but it was a lot of fun. We'd have the barbeque out and cut up fish and give out samples and people would buy, and the girls would help their dad get the fish out of the fish hold and put them in fish bags and sell them. It was a neat connection for the kids to be able to do that with him because they were too little really to go out on the boat at the time that he was fishing on the other boat. We talked a lot about what he did and they understood that when we would go down to the boat of course they'd help clean the boat, things like that, that sort of gave them that connection. They've been to pretty much every port from tip-top of Washington and down to about Bodega Bay, California and in between. Yeah, we know where every park is in every one of those communities [laughs] and what the best beaches are, where to eat, where to stay, where not to stay, things like that. So when we were working with these people with this boat, it became clear that the insurance on the boat [30:00] was going to be something that they wanted him to pay it all up front and we just, there was no way to do that, so we parted ways there. They had the boat back. At that time though he was, when he had that boat, rather than going out during crab season on that teeny, tiny boat, he leased another boat and put the pots from the little boat on that boat and that was kind of a nice... it was Dungeness crab fishing. That was a pretty good year. And he also ran another boat for some other people, the Michele-Ann, which is no longer owned by those folks, but he ran that for a while. He did a lot of, like teachers would contact him and they'd want to come down and bring their students down to the boats and he did a lot of that, where he'd kind of go through the boat and explain what he did, and he'd go in schools and help them understand

what he did. He made a lot of fishing mats, or floor mats out of fishing rope and stuff and taught the kids how to make them. Just a lot of cool stuff with his kids, that was a nice thing about him being home, that he could do those kinds of things when he's home from Alaska.

SC: So he'd go to the schools while your daughters were in school?

CK: Yeah, yeah, and the teachers just loved it because he always had a captive audience and he'd either leave the mat for the teacher so when they came into the room they'd wipe their feet on it or help the kids make a smaller one or whatever it was that he was doing at the time. This is all kind of running together because it's a lot of years of being in the industry, but those are some of the... [SC: It's a rich history] Yeah, we definitely do, I think for me, Fishermen's Wives afforded me the connection when he was gone to the industry and to, just to our community in general. And I enjoyed working with the community and making sure that the community understood the connections between the fishing community and just the community of place that Newport is. It's beautiful, it's a great community that we always used to say, it's marriage of tourism and fishing and people would come to Newport for the working waterfront, I mean that was something that Sunset Magazine, we thought that was pretty cool when that came out in the, I think it was... I can't remember exactly, it might have been the 90's or early 2000's they did a spread in the book about fishing communities and working waterfronts and Newport was right up there at the top. So, even though people were coming to go recreational fishing or go to the Seafood and Wine Festival, whatever, go to the beach, they also came to look at the working waterfront. And a lot of the other communities, I found when I was working with the peers, during the groundfish disaster outreach program, which wasn't part of Fishermen's Wives, that was just something that I found out about because I was part of Fishermen's Wives, but a lot of the other communities didn't have that. maybe they had one fish plant or maybe they didn't have any fish plants and they had to go to a different community to unload their fish, but yet they were ported out of a community. And as time went on, fewer and fewer fish plants were still open and so we watched a lot of that. So having a community where the robust fishing industry and tourism has always been something that Newport sort of had... Astoria has it and so does Charleston, but not a lot of the other ones do. A lot of the smaller ports, they really had to hold onto their fishing aspect of their community, a little tighter. But now it's changed a lot, it has changed a lot. You see back when the "groundfish disaster" first, and I say that with quotations [laughs], when the groundfish disaster first hit, we had all these plants that as soon as they closed, there was serious concern that that infrastructure could be lost based on how the property was zoned in those communities and once you lose something like that, you can't get it back. Especially with the way the EPA is nowadays, if you're grandfathered in for something like that, maybe you can continue on, but you couldn't actually put in a fish plant without a lot of... it would be very expensive and probably extremely difficult if possible at all so we were real worried about that. I think in Newport, they've pretty much been able to stay, even where there was a fish plant that was based in Newport that closed, maybe another fish plant from Astoria would come down and have fish coming across that dock, so it's still being used for that and maybe they just truck it up to Astoria. I think that's how some of them are done now, I'm not really sure because I'm not over there anymore, but when you start seeing restaurants and hotels in spaces that used to be commercial fishing ports, fish plants and things like that, I think that's not going to be good unless they figure out another way to process the seafood, but anyway, I'm probably digressing here.

SC: Yeah, so I'm curious about... So you've given a really good background of kind of the history and all the changes that happened and I'm curious on a personal basis, now we're here in North Coburg because you're not in Newport anymore. [CK: Right] When did that transition happen?

CK: That happened in, let's see, it's going to be three years in May, so 2012 I guess we came over here, 2013, I can't remember. Siobhan's a senior, we came over when she was, it was the summer before her sophomore year and we moved over because Tony fishes in Alaska, he flies out of Eugene, which is about 15 minutes from here, which is really nice because I don't know how many times I got up at 3 in the morning, tired, drove to Portland with him, dropped him off, came back to Newport, just exhausted because that's just what you have to do [laughs]. And I have a hard time usually right before he has to leave. We moved over because we had two girls over here, going to school and Siobhan being the last of four, she was always on the bench watching her sisters when they played sports, all of our daughters were in sports or dance and it was just something that we thought, hey, let's consider this. I came over

and did a lot of research on the schools and the volleyball programs over here. And the other thing that actually, one of the catalysts was, Newport lost their longtime volleyball coach, she retired because her daughter was getting ready to go play in college and I don't fault her for that, she wanted to watch her play. And then we thought when she retired that we were going to have another volleyball coach who was also one of Siobhan's coaches, and he was ready to go and we had a meeting and we were all excited about it. Then we found out, and the girls, Siobhan and her friends did a bunch of camps that summer, their 8th grade summer prior, yeah it was their 8th grade summer. Anyway, and then we found out he wasn't going to be able to do it because he got a job as an administrator at another school and you can't be an administrator at one school and coach at another, and he was the AD, so that was sort of a conflict of interest. And so Siobhan played one year, her freshman year, she did really well, played volleyball there and we just realized that if she was going to be able to go further than she already had, she's going to need to go somewhere else, so that was another catalyst coming over here. There's a volleyball program at Sheldon where Siobhan is going to school that is really a good program. So we came over the summer of, and we just happened to find this place, which was for rent at the time, and put her in school. In the summertime signed her up and she started going to the workouts and she basically went all summer and got in shape to play volleyball here. And then we also knew there was a club over here, it's called Webfoot, and we wanted to put her in that and it just seemed like it would be too much for her to be able to do school in Newport and come over here and... just because even driving in Newport, we have three sport athletes and some of our kids so we were driving 2 or 3 times a week 2 hours each way, and I know from her older sisters how hard that was on their studies so moving here has been awesome for her school-wise, she's done really well. She's actually signed to play, she's going to play in college up in Clark, there's a junior college up there and she's going to play volleyball. So it's been a really good move for us. We have family that's renting our house in Newport and a friend of our daughter, who can't really live on her own yet, she has some, oh I don't know, she just has never been living on her own and she's getting better, I think she finally will at some point. But anyway, she rents the upstairs and my sister rents the downstairs. So that's helped us, it's not been easy having two households [laughs], but Siobhan's going to be graduating here in the summer and we're considering buying this because I have a huge garden, put up a lot of vegetables [40:00], canned a lot of food, and we have a pool over here. Summers are summer, and Tony and I both kind of come from the valley, him from southern Oregon and me from eastern Oregon, and this is a great... we're in North Coburg, which is 5 miles from the freeway and 5 miles from Coburg this way so we're pretty well close to everything. All of our family has been able to come and see us on their way somewhere; it's not 2 and half hours out of the way over to Newport so. I think we were ready for it though, I think it's just something that both Tony and I were ready for. It's made it easier for me to sort of, and I decided I was ready to retire from Fishermen's Wives, so I'd kind of tried a few years earlier, but saw that there's some younger women that were interested in being part of Fishermen's Wives, but there weren't many people left from, I don't if you want to call it the old guard, at that point. There were a lot of new people coming in, but they didn't have the history, so I sort of felt like I should stay around and maybe help out a little bit with the transition, which I did, and we kind of came up with some different events that really sort of suited those people who were participating now, like the cook-off and wild seafood weekend. The cook-off really was something that fit in with our mission, which was part of was to promote the consumption of seafood. This person was a cook, and so she loved food, so that really was sort of a kind of a nice transition. After a while it just seemed like, it's really hard in volunteer organizations to keep people involved, again it usually falls on a handful of people, usually the board [laughs], and even sometimes depending on people, how busy people are, how much they can do, even on the board. It just seemed like some of the things we were doing were sort of becoming... I was doing more and more kind of push the rock up the hill so to speak [laughs] and I just felt like it was time for me to sort of step back and kind of let it move on with the younger girls, and I think they're doing a great job and so it was just sort of a matter of me being able to let go on my end and moving over here really helped me to do that as well. I'm not as close, it wasn't as easy to just jump back in so that also helped me a lot. And I see, sometimes, I see what's going on, like with the helo [Newport Coast Guard Helicopter Closure] and whatnot, and you get that feeling in the pit of your stomach, like oh my gosh that can't happen kind of thing, but then I tell myself, what they're doing a great job, it's okay, they'll make it happen. For me, just having kind of a new perspective over here has helped me to get... I had always been kind of a crafty person, and I always sewed when the kids were little and I have a little online business that I... a little online shop that's vintage and handmade things. I'm sort of, as the girls get older, Siobhan's getting ready to graduate, I'm seeing that I'll probably do a little bit more of that. So just, and

having Tony to be able to just fly in and out of here has been really nice as well. When he has to go to Seattle he just gets on I-5 and he's 4 hours, 5 hours from Seattle and then back. So we now have a daughter in Seattle, a daughter in Phoenix, a daughter in Huntington Beach and then Siobhan will be in Vancouver, which means that I would be able to just hop on the freeway and go watch her play as well. So we're considering actually buying this house and see how that goes, but after Siobhan graduates we'll see if I really want to be here rattling around by myself [laughs]. But I think that's probably what we'll do.

SC: How often does Tony fish up in Alaska?

CK: Well he, there's two seasons, well there's more than two seasons, but two seasons that he's up there. A and B season. During B season he also does C, D, and E season [laughs], but he goes up in January, comes back in April, then he goes up in June and comes back usually, well it's been November, but now they're, National Marine Fisheries is really trying to keep the fishery, have it be done in October, which will make it a little nicer for us as well [laughs]. So he's usually home for the holidays, or he is home for the holidays, there's been times in the past where we had Christmas early because the boat left Newport and had to get up to the Bering Sea when Tony was fishing off of the boat in Newport, but that doesn't really happen too much anymore, they pretty much... the boat is either in Seattle or Alaska. When the boat's in Seattle, they usually leave a little bit before the season starts, but still he's, they don't leave before Christmas. He misses New Years sometimes, or not New Years, or his birthday, I guess he has missed New Years, and then his birthday is the first week, but it's just something that happens. He misses my birthday; he misses our anniversary, its just par for the course. You celebrate when they're here, and we do. And that's fine, it's just something that, it's a date on a calendar, it's a very important date on a calendar and we recognize it, but we usually, when he gets home is when we celebrate. I actually went to Kodiak last year; the boat that he's on now, he has only been on for about a year, a year full-time. They asked him if he would run the boat last January, or to start in January, and prior to that he had gone over and filled in on the boat, the person that was running it before was having some issues, so he's been on it about a year and I knew that he was going to be up there... he normally takes a couple weeks off in summer, but because he was the only captain, he didn't have a relief captain, he was going to have to stay up there. So I went up for a week in July, they were tendering salmon, that's something the boat does now in Prince William Sound. So I flew up into Cordova and met the boat, and then spent one night in Cordova and then we drove the boat, or I rode with them to Kodiak, which was, that was interesting. It was absolutely beautiful, completely, I just, it was wonderful, but through the night the weather picked up a little bit so it was a little bit of a bumpy ride, but I did okay. He was pretty surprised I did okay [laughs], I didn't get sick or anything, which is, I guess is a big deal. At the time I was just, it made me tired is what it did, so I slept a lot. And then we went to Kodiak and we drove around and checked places out on the island and that was really fun too, and looked for bears but didn't see any. My husband, you want to go look for bears? Well not really [laughs], yeah let's go look for bears! So we would drive and he'd get out and I'm like, I'm not getting out [laughs]. But, if you don't come back in 5 minutes, I'm going to go get help kind of thing [laughs]. Since he's been up there, he's seen a few bears and I don't need to. I can see them on postcards, that's just fine with me or zoos. So that was kind of cool and then I just flew home from Kodiak to here. That was really neat, that was something... his boat, in all the years that he's fished in Alaska, he usually fished in either Dutch Harbor or Akitan and I've been to Dutch Harbor, which is also a really cool place, but I'd never been out to Kodiak because the boat, if it went to Kodiak, it was usually just briefly. They would go over into the gulf of Alaska, maybe fish, they rarely delivered over there, they usually took their fish back to whatever their fish plant was that they were fishing at. Or maybe he unloaded there and I just don't remember, but it was just, Kodiak wasn't his port really until he got on this boat. So that's interesting. Kodiak is a very... it's a fishing community, on an island, it's really a fishing community. It has a lot of native and Russian heritage so it's a cool place, I enjoyed being up there and sort of seeing a different fishing community perspective that I hadn't seen before so that was pretty neat. Anyway, I think that moving over here has been really good for us, we do still go to Newport and we still have the house, we're considering keeping it because you never know, if we ever fish back in Newport, you just never know. At this point, we're not sure if we'll sell it or if we'll keep it but anyway.

SC: Do you have any roles in fishing while you're here and Tony is fishing in Alaska?

CK: Oh yeah, yeah. I'm actually getting busy right now, it's January so that means it's tax time. So most of the wives that I know, it's their job to kind of compile all of the information to get to the accountant and it's just something that I've done forever, so of course I still do it over here. Our accountant's still in Newport so I'll get it together and take the stuff over to them and then they'll do our taxes, but that's something that Siobhan helps me with, she goes through and helps me go through all the files and makes sure I have all the right information, checking with my software on my computer and stuff. She helps me inventory my stuff for my little business as well so just, yeah, there are always things. It used to be, [50:00] I don't do this much anymore, or I often times would either take parts to the boat, I've even done it since Tony's lived in, or fished in Alaska. I one time had to go to Newport, pick up a, or go to Toledo, we lived in Newport, and pick up a winch or something and get it up to the airport... or maybe is was pick it up at the airport and get it to Toledo, to the boat. I mean there's just, whatever they ask you, you do. I used to take crew to different ports; I don't do that so much anymore. If Tony's looking for somebody, I kind of put my ear to the ground, or tell him if I've heard somebody's looking for a job or stuff like that. Yeah, keeping his truck, while he's not here, we have to make sure we drive it once a week, keep it clean, anything like that. Any gear that he has, when he comes home, we have to keep that clean. I don't do that as much as Siobhan, Siobhan does the laundry and that sort of thing for him. I think my role more than anything, and it always has been this, but I see it more and more is to just sort of... when he calls, be available for him to talk. Because he doesn't have a lot of time because he's busy, obviously, so when he does call, I just listen. Sometimes he's stressed about something and he just needs a sounding board, same thing with me, usually though I wait to hear how he's doing [laughs] before I start in. Yeah, just kind of bring him back down to, maybe this isn't as big a deal, or, oh you need help with that, I'll help you with that. call, if it's something I need to call boat support in Seattle about or if it's something to do with... usually it's something to do with his check or something because I'm the one that does that. I do the books throughout the year, when he gets paid, making sure, you have to cross reference things to make sure he's getting paid, and then I usually call him and we talk about it. Because you have to make sure that it's right, which it most of the time is. Every once in a while something gets taken out of a check sooner or didn't get taken out and we were expecting it to or maybe fuel is a little more than what he thought or he was told that something wasn't going to be taken out of that check, a license or something, or whatever. Just kind of keep on top of all that, as the year goes on, as the seasons go on. I used to do all of his flight information, I don't really do that so much anymore, check the flight, but we have boat support through Trident so they usually do that, but I also have to check and make sure we get charged the right amount, things like that. It's just... in any business, or you go to a store, you get a receipt, you look at it to make sure that what you got charged was what you got charged for. Yeah, just those kinds of things. And just kind of keep on top of what money we have, let him know if we have a purchase we have to do, if he has a license he has to get or whatever, we have to figure out how to... how and when we're going to fit that in. So just sort of strategizing the money [laughs] with him.

SC: Do you feel like that's sort of been consistent through [CK: Yeah] fishing in Newport and Alaska [CK: oh yeah], has it ever been higher or lower or less?

CK: Well I know there's a lot of, and I can only speak for myself. I know there's a lot of women that don't do any of that, they're given an allowance, whatever and they don't pay the bills. But I always have been that person and so that's the other thing, making sure that things he needs when he's in Alaska are paid on time or whatever and that's something I've always done. It's not anything that's really changed. If nothing, more actually. Because as he's gotten more responsibility with the boat, he doesn't have time for some of that, he's glad to let me do that [laughs]. When he's home, he doesn't... he's home. he can relax. He's often on the phone even when he's home, I mean he tries really hard when he first gets home not to even talk about the boat for a couple of weeks because it's a decompress time, and a time for us to sort of transition back into, he comes home, I'm not as responsible, which is really nice [laughs]. I sleep in, he gets up, makes breakfast for Siobhan, that's their time to talk and that's really nice for me. And then usually he's to bed earlier at night, sometimes, and so if that happens then I'll stay up and make sure things get done that she needs at night. So we sort of tag-team it I guess when he's home. As far as, I guess I have less responsibility with crew than I used to, although, every once in a while, somebody quits or, isn't really a good fit for the boat, so he'll be telling me he needs a new crew member and I sort of bounce things off of him. Have you asked so and so, have you asked so and so, I heard so and so... stuff like that. But I don't drive crew to the boat or anything like that obviously because the boat's in Alaska.

Yeah, I don't think my role has changed a whole lot, honestly. Yeah, I mean our kids are older; I have less responsibility in the day-to-day with the kids, as the kids get more responsible, obviously. Siobhan, I still, we still do the volleyball thing together, that's, I'm going to miss that, but at the same time, I'm really excited for her, for the next step. And I'll get to go watch her; I just won't be as responsible. She's, through club volleyball, become very responsible, they have to be. We live 10 miles from town here, we were about a half a mile from her school in Newport and I can remember her saying, oh I forgot something, can you bring it to me? And be like, uh no, you can come get it. Or sometimes I would just take it to her because she didn't have time, well now I can't do that. We're 10 miles from town, if she forgets it, that's too bad [laughs]. She's gotten really, really good about it, she's 17 now; I think it's an age appropriate responsibility for her to have.

SC: And so your daughters, it sounds like they're sort of spread all over the place now, do any of them have involvement in fishing or have chosen a career that's fishing related?

CK: No. I shouldn't say that, my daughter, our oldest daughter dated a fisherman at one point; they're no longer together. She lives in Seattle, she's in her own career, she's in fashion design and sales. She works for a company in Seattle. She and her next sister Jordan are two years apart, and everybody else is 4 years after that, so Silken is four years after Jordan and Siobhan is 4 years after Silken. And that was sort of by design because, again, I had a lot of responsibility with the two when my grandparents were still alive so I told Tony, I'd really like to see these two in school before we have another child and we did and it worked out that way. There have been some... that hasn't necessarily been good all the time because they're not as close. Then Silken, who was the next one under Jordan, she's considering going to Alaska, she's kind of looked into going up and tendering this summer, just to make some money, some extra money to pay off some school debt and possibly work toward a business she wants to buy. But she just moved to Huntington Beach and is working three jobs right now so I'm not really sure at this point if that's going to fit in or, I haven't really talked to her about it too much, she's only been down there for about a month and a half. Megan at one-point kind of talked about it, yeah, it's just something that I think they sort of steer away from it [laughs] a little bit. Because they know the sacrifice and that they're not going to see that person as much, they've dated fishermen before, a couple of them, and just wasn't the path I guess.

SC: Do you think if you had boys, they would have gone on to fish? I know that's kind of hypothetical but...

CK: Yeah. Yeah, I think they probably would. We would probably have steered them to get an education first, but I think still, even if that was... it's harder nowadays. If you don't own a boat, you can't bring your own son on your boat usually if you... like the boat that Tony worked on prior to this one, he and his brother both worked on, but the company sort of made an arbitrary decision that not have people who are related on their boats. I don't think it's set in stone kind of thing, but it's something to sort of discourage that, which is sort of curious to me. Because the fishing industry is one where you bring people up under you. Tony has taught a few [laughs] people the ropes, even though he didn't come from a fishing family, he came with a friend when he was 17, he went down to the docks in Newport and he was working as a busser at a local restaurant and he was making about \$400 dollars a month [laughs], this is like 1980 or something. And his friend said, hey let's go down to the docks and see about getting a job and he said, oh okay. So they went down and kind of perused the docks [60:00] and talked to somebody and this guy hired them and they went out and he was gone for 3 or 4 days, and he came back in and they gave him \$400 dollars. And he thought \$400 dollars for a week as opposed to \$400 dollars a month, and this was on like a salmon boat or something. And so he said, wow, and I get to fish! Because he'd been a kid that would go out after school with his fishing pole, down the creek with his fishing pole and his dog and fish until his dad came up the road on his way home from work and would pick him up. And he would sit in the truck and eat out of his dad's lunch box after he'd been fishing. So to think that he could get a job where he was being paid to fish was sort of a dream come true for him. That's kind of how it started for him. I've lost my train of thought again [laughs]. Oh I know what we were talking about. So it seemed to me like, so he and his friend got the job on the boat with someone that wasn't related to them, but that person taught them the ropes, and that's what you do. A lot of times there are siblings and fathers, fathers and sons, and daughters nowadays, working on the boats, and there have been for years, daughters have worked on the boats for years, if you owned the boat. So I think that it was sort of a natural thing for fathers and

sons, uncles, grandfathers, whatever to work on the same boat and now, if you don't own the boat, it's a little more difficult. I think if we would have had sons, and even our daughters, if we owned the boat, our daughters probably would have. But Tony's always been a hired hand and worked on many different boats and many different fisheries, I think he's pretty much done every fishery on the west coast and Alaska as well. It's just something that you really have to have a passion for. It's not just a job, it's kind of a way of life. He has a young man on his boat now who is the son of one of his friends, who runs a boat as well and he's sort of pouring all of his knowledge into him because he's kind of a wants to know, wants to learn kind of kid. And he actually just graduated from college so he did go out and get his degree and whatever it was that he got his degree in, but then came back to fishing, and that happens a lot. It's good to have the education under your belt, but fishing is a wonderful occupation, it's not really an occupation, it's a vocation. It's something that you're sort of... you either love it or hate it and usually if you hate it you don't do it very long. Yeah, it's not really a job.

SC: Do you think you guys will ever own a boat or are looking into it?

CK: Oh I don't know about that. What he's doing right now works really well so I think that, and he's been doing it so long, that it works, it works just fine. We kind of like our time off and, [cat jumps up on couch] she's going to be in your lap [laughs], I think that yeah, it's just, never say never, but I don't know. I couldn't really say, I think he really likes where he's at.

SC: So you talked a little bit about, having more time for your crafting and your store, which sounds really neat by the way [CK: thank you], what else do you see kind of going forward, in fishing or not?

CK: Yeah, well going up to Alaska last summer was kind of, that was really cool. With our kids being gone, the empty nest, I might do that a little more often, although Tony's going to try and find somebody to take the boat during tendering and then come home at that time, and then we'll probably visit our girls and kind of maybe do some of the things, traveling, we've talked about maybe doing a little bit of traveling. having one in Arizona, one in California; a couple in Washington that right there is travel time so. And then gardening and just... we like the outdoors. And we haven't really gotten there yet, because we're still invested in what Siobhan's doing and helping the other girls as well, sort of get their feet squarely on the ground. But yeah, I've really just started thinking about it because Siobhan's a senior and it's hard to think out too far when you're busy all the time. We've talked about maybe traveling a little bit, and I'll just, my store, I mean I'll do that, my little online business a little bit more.

SC: Well you have a really rich history and it's been really interesting hearing about all the involvements, getting started with Newport Fishermen's Wives and I'm wondering if you have a piece of advice that you could give onto any woman thinking of becoming a fisherman's wife, what would it be?

CK: Well I think the most important thing is, you have to be really independent and strong because you are going to be alone part of the time and that's just part of it. If you're not willing to give and be open to being alone, then the times Really, know if you can do that, I think that's the most important thing, I know there are women, I have a lot of friends who have been married to fishermen for many years and then others that, that haven't been married very long and I think it's always the same thing, it's a give and take. when their home are that much better, but it's a struggle. It's not easy, but it's also very worthwhile and very worth it. It's both and you have to be ready, you have to be open to both and you have to be flexible for sure. Be able to see them when you can see them and plan your time around that. For people who everything happens Monday through Friday and every holiday and things like that, you might be setting yourself up for failure if those things are what are really important to you. I think just kind of take it a little, as it comes and don't stress too much about the little things because honestly, in life, for everybody I guess, that's kind of good advice. Yeah just sort of be flexible and open. Because the good stuff happens, you just have to be open to it I think.

SC: Well you've hit on just about all the questions I have, do you have anything else that you'd like to add or feel like there's something we haven't really talked about?

CK: Well gosh. [SC: I know it's kind of a hard question] Well it's an open-ended question. I think for me, we've been in, like I said, we've participated in almost every fishery and something we learned a long time ago, down here anyway, you really have to be diversified. I know, right now, people who were counting on the crab season because crab is pretty cyclic and they had some fabulous, fantastic years and then this year has been sort of, for the big pull anyway, in December-January, just wasn't there. I think the people that are, the smaller boats that are still doing it, are doing okay, because the price is up, but you have to be diversified. You have to be able to weather the good years and the bad years. Put some money away or have investments or something. A lot of women work. So that when... I think that that would be really difficult, to have a family, work full-time, and be the wife of a fishermen, so I really... my hat's off to those women because I don't know if I could do it. And I see women doing it and I think wow, they're really strong. But yeah, be diversified, be considerate. I can remember times when Tony would come home from fishing and we would have a month stretch or longer before the next fishery and he would go get a job in a net shop or he would go get on another boat for Dungeness crab season if he was home at the time, he'd go fill in or find people who want to take time off and he'd go fill in. So you have to be open to... I mean if you're just going to rely on the season as it comes, sometimes it doesn't come and in fishing you don't get paid if you're not putting product on the boat and there's a lot of boat work, gear work that's required so it can be tough. It can be really tough, so I think that's really important and then, regulations are just, that's something that my husband is constantly having to think about as he's going out fishing. So there are layers and layers of things, the fishing, the weather, the gear, all of those things. The tides, all of that has to, how his boats doing, how his gears working, if he needs something worked on or whatever. Needs to be in when the guy that's going to be there to work on that is in, those things are all things that normally you'd have to consider in fishing. Well now with all the regulations, they're just more layers. Like what area you can be in, what are the regulations for that area, who is the management for that area, you have to make sure... and if he ever has a question, I'm like, well you need to call them. Don't... if you're not sure, call them. Because you just have to, there's just, or you could find yourself in trouble. It's a lot, and that's kind of [01:10:00] where I think I just have to be able to listen, because usually he doesn't need me to tell him what to do, he just needs me to listen and be a sounding board and then he hears himself saying it and then he's like, okay I'm going to go to sleep and then when I wake up I'm going to do this, and that's what he does usually.

SC: Do you keep up on all the regulations?

CK: I do not. I do from a perspective of, when he learns something, he tells me, but I'm not the one going out and researching it, no. Because, he's up there and I'm down here [laughs]. And there's always someone he can call, whether it's Alaska, ADFG, NMFS, or in fact in Kodiak, they're all there, which was interesting. While I was in Kodiak, he had to go to a couple of places, we drove to a couple of places to find the right people because he was getting ready to go groundfishing and he hadn't before. Apparently the guy that ran the boat before did, but there was no transition there really, he didn't have a lot of understanding of what the boat had done before so it was a learning experience. So he had to go and kind of talk to people and find out what he was supposed to do, but he's very smart. That's his [laughs], that's his job. I try to sort of log things that he's said to me, but I don't do the actual research or anything.

SC: Well with all these changes that you've seen and that's happened over the years, do you have any hopes or fears for the fishery?

CK: Well yeah, always. I guess, it's the same for all my fellow fishing families down here, it's always that people far away from the actual, where it's happening, often make the decisions based on something they aren't really... it's second hand information often times. Or... I've seen, we've seen things that have happened that were just like, whoa, really? Way out left field [points right], left field [laughs] things that sort of had to work themselves out in management. I think that as long as people eat fish, I'm hopeful. I do however, when I go into places and read what fish is available in restaurants and in stores, it concerns me that so much of it is from somewhere else, or that people don't really know where it's from. And I ask, but a lot of it comes from other countries where management isn't even a... necessarily something that is even a priority, not even just fisheries management, but I read things about just the way some of the countries fish, they shanghai people, take them and make them work to do the fishing, and things like that just astounds me that here we manage things so tightly, but yet we import all this seafood from other

places that has no management restrictions whatsoever or if it does, it's very different from what ours is. Education is really key, I kind of feel like people just want something cheap sometimes and so yeah that concerns me, that always concerns me, but I'm a person that always looks and asks, even if I'm not going to get it and I'm with people I ask, basically so they get the idea that maybe they should ask. That's probably my biggest concern is that we so regulate what we have here and yet, I mean if you look at the amount of seafood that's imported into the United States, it's astounding. I'm happy to see that the company that my husband works for has a lot more of their products value added into the United States than they did 10 years ago. You can buy the cod that my husband catches at Costco under the Kirkland brand; you can buy fish sticks, same thing, Trident. A lot of the seafood restaurants, fast food restaurants, you can buy, Pollock sandwiches, which is what he's fishing for right now. Cod sandwiches come to Burger King, or it used to come to Wendy's and Burger King both have them. I just, I always like to see who's serving it, but I like that we're importing more of our own, or keeping more of the seafood that they catch here in the United States, but still a lot of it is exported too other countries and I'm okay with that because we're importing and its much stricter standards on ours, it's going to other countries, than on theirs coming into ours. A lot of what's coming in is just farmed, which may or may not also be done in the best practices. So those things concern me more than anything else because it seems like we're in the United States, we always seem to come to our senses about things [laughs] at some point or another. And then other countries, it's not necessarily the case. And I'll eat any seafood if it's caught and processed in the US, I love Gulf shrimp. Mexican prawns are my favorite, I've realized there's oil spills, but they've proved that that doesn't really effect the seafood the way that... especially shrimp and things like that, the way that originally was thought. I think those are my biggest concerns, and just being... the pressure that puts on the American fishermen and fishing families with all the seafood that's being imported and all the aquaculture and stuff that's also being imported. That's concerning. Yeah.

SC: Do you ever go to Local Ocean [Newport, OR]?

CK: Oh yeah.

SC: When I discovered that place I was very excited. Because I ate a lot of seafood in Nevada that you don't know where it comes from so.

CK: Oh I love Local Ocean. I like the concept of sort of sharing where your seafood comes from and I think we're finding that more and more places in the US will do that, but they also... even my local fish market here, which I love, they get fish from a fishing family in Newport who I know quite well, they get all their salmon and a lot of their tuna and a lot of their crab from there, but they also right next to that, sell tilapia that's farm-raised somewhere else. people want that. It's high in protein, low in calories, but I'm just astounded. That they would pick that over something else.

SC: Well it's good, like you said, to share your knowledge when you go out with people, ask where the fish is coming from and you'll put a plug in for other people to do the same thing.

CK: Yeah, I'd much rather eat sole than tilapia. Then again what do I know [laughs]?

SC: Well my last question for you is if you had one word that you could associate with fishing what would it be?

CK: Life [laughs]. That's our life. It really is our life. I was going to say livelihood, but it isn't just our livelihood, it's our life, I mean as we get older, we're a little more, our children, myself, are a little bit more removed from what Tony does, although I got to go back up this last summer, which was really awesome in a lot of ways. I used to ride the boat up the river wherever we were, if we were in Astoria or Newport or wherever, I mean we always did those things. We would go where they were working on the boat, where they were working on the gear, you spend time with them wherever they are because in fishing when they're not fishing, there's a lot of gear work. A lot of gear work, so I learned how to sew web, help build nets. My kids, I have pictures of the girls when they were little making chew bags for Dungeness crab fishing, drilling holes in bait boxes, you do whatever you have to do. As we get older, the kids are sort of more removed from that, and myself, but I think that that, all of that is really engrained into who they are.

It doesn't matter that one lives in Arizona, one lives in Washington, she's still a fishermen's kid and all of that is something that will always be with them no matter what they do and where they are. They're proud of their dad and what he does, super proud; they worship the ground he walks on [laughs]. And they pray for him, so he can be safe and do well, so they're always connected to him no matter where they are and I think that's, I love that. I think that's really awesome, that that's something we will always have even if we're not, when we retire, whatever, wherever we are, it comes up in conversation. When Tony's gone, when Tony's home, people are just in awe, oh you mean you do like deadliest catch? [laughs] He kind of chuckles a little bit and goes, no, that's not how it is. But at the same time, I used to hate that show, I used to think, oh my gosh, really? It reminded me too much of, [01:20:00] just because it kind of felt like they were... they're shining a light on sort of it's all for show. But they're shining a light on things like people, skippers that scream and crewmembers that are, whatever. And it reminded me of living in Newport and a boat going down and we were all just devastated by it and trying to get behind the family and support the family. And somebody came from, I don't remember where it was, Portland, Salem, Eugene, it was a TV crew, it was probably Portland. And they parked right across the Bayhaven on the Bay front, which is a bar and put their camera right on the Bayhaven waiting to see some fishermen come out of the Bayhaven and they were talking about like that was... fishermen are in the bar because this boat went down kind of thing, and I stopped my car and I said, excuse me, you're not going to find real fishermen in there, they're home with their families right now and he was like, kind of taken back. It angered me though, here we were dealing with, as a community and as families, dealing with the loss of a fisherman, a dad, and here all they wanted to do was highlight what they say, what they thought a fisherman looked like, so that really, that sort of thing, I kind of felt like that's what deadliest catch was doing in a way. And as the years went by, and people really started watching it, what I then took away from it, and I still do, because I still, I don't watch it, but I've watched it before, what I like about it is that the respect that commercial fishermen get from other people who watch that show. Because inevitably, anybody that asks me or Tony, or anybody, about it, they're sort of like wow, that's really cool. So there's good in it too, just in the beginning I was like, wow you're going to make a show about commercial fishing and you're going to highlight stuff like that. What it does do is you see the families, you see what goes into a fishing operation, some of the screaming and all that kind of stuff, I guess that's just TV. [SC: The Hollywood aspect]. Yeah, or I'm sure some of that stuff really happened, but then they went oh wow that's really cool, I didn't quite get that angle, can we do it again kind of thing. Maybe now they don't even have to because they have really good camera people and people that follow them around and sort of maybe anticipate things. I mean I have nothing but respect for the people. On the show I just felt like what Discovery was trying to do was sort of not in the best light from the beginning. Now I just see it as, what the good that it does is that people respect what goes into the seafood that comes onto their plate. These are people's lives; it's not just reach into the freezer section or ask your fishmonger for a piece of fish. [SC: Where does it really come from] Where does it really come from, right. What does it represent? So I always try to see the good in things, but boy in the beginning [laughs]. [1:23:23]

I think she likes you, I think my kitty cat likes you [SC: Yeah] [laughs] she's a sweetheart [cat laying between Sarah and Connie]. I think what you're trying to do is awesome, I hope that, I would think that the marine, or the maritime museum in Newport would be a wonderful place to have things like this at some point.

SC: Are you coming to the meeting on February 12th? [CK: Yes, yes] That might be something we can talk about too, because we are going to bring up the Voices project.

CK: Yeah, okay. Do you know Joanne McAdams?

SC: I don't.

CK: She might be somebody to invite, she's kind of a real go-getter behind that, she's Chief McAdams wife and he's like... Joan McAdams, well he's a retired Coast Guard Commander and he was one of the first surf man and they are longtime Newport residents. And she's really a lot of the energy behind the maritime museum at this point. So she would be somebody to maybe invite to that. [SC: okay] If she were there and could kind of see what you're doing, she might really see where it might fit into that. [SC: Yeah] And I just talked to her, I was at a bazaar in Newport over Christmas break and I talked to her, they're

doing all kinds of good things and they're getting ready to open up the, or maybe not open up, but they're getting ready to start construction or something on the theatre portion of it so they've done great things with that building. It's kind of cool. And things like this I think are not as static, which the picture displays are really cool and everything, but I see something like this might go very well with sort of the static displays. Museums can tend to get museum-like if you don't, the fishing industry is alive, it's not something that's gone, it's something that continues on and it would be nice to have something like that in there.

SC: It continues to evolve, yeah it would be really interesting if you could have some headsets or something that you can even listen to little segments or something about the fishing industry. [CK: Yeah] I've seen that, I can't remember what park it was, somewhere, something forest, but it was a museum in the forest and they actually had that we could listen to the old people during the big logging days [CK: Oh cool]. Yeah you just put on the headphones and push the buttons, they were short, like 30 seconds.

CK: And then Kaety, I imagine Kaety Jacobson will be there.

SC: I don't know that she will be there, we're trying to keep it somewhat small, but I did interview Kaety.

CK: Oh, I see, you did. Kaety's a fishing family through and through [laughs].

SC: Well and I might be interviewing her mom too, Robin, I got in touch with her, it was right before the winter break and I was going home, it turns out she's from Reno, Nevada, which is where I'm from so that was kind of a fun connection.

CK: Oh cool! Robin's a lovely person, yeah she is.

SC: So if she gets back to me, that would be really neat to catch her history too.

CK: Yeah, have you interviewed like any of the Retherfords?

SC: I have, yes, so Kelley. Kelley and Tia will be there, they'll be at the meeting too.

CK: Good, good. Who else... the Rocks, Maria Rock.

SC: The Rocks, that sounds familiar, I feel like someone's mentioned their name before.

CK: Yeah, well they're... Corey's a third generation fishermen, I think, second or third, so I think the Retherford's and the Rock's... there are other families probably there. Gosh, I haven't been there in a while, but I'm trying to think of like some of the smaller boats that... Lisa Newell, Mark and Lisa Newell.

SC: Yes, I've been trying to get in touch with Lisa; she's been a hard one to get in contact with.

CK: She is, Lisa's done it all though. She's the one, they're the ones, they're the Silver Quest and they're the ones that supply the seafood to both Newman's and the fishermen's market here in Eugene and have done that for years. Yeah, she's somebody who fished with Mark and I think she still does maybe a little bit of crabbing, but mostly she's the person that sells their fish and she's really good at that. Michele Longo-Eder, have you talked to Michele?

SC: Yes, I've interviewed Michele and Bob.

CK: Yeah, Tony worked for them for years, they're awesome people too.

SC: Yeah one of my good friends in the MRM program is dating their son, Dylan.

CK: Oh cool! Small world. Love Dylan, loved Ben too, yeah good family. And then Ginny, have you interviewed Ginny?

SC: Tomorrow I'm interviewing Ginny; she was a tough one to get too. I feel like with the Newport Helicopter issue, a couple of people have kind of come back [CK: Yeah, yup] into the scene.

CK: Ginny is, she's probably the only person at the time we got involved, I know she was, the only person that was sort of continuity from the old group to the group that I got involved in and then she had kind of stepped back a few years prior to me stepping back and I think she also sort of was getting kind of... it had been a lot over a lot of years so I just think... she has so much knowledge though about the helicopter and about fishermen's wives in general, there's a... and she compiled, there's something at the historical society about the helicopter that she compiled and I remember us going there and giving it to them. So, there's a lot of history because of her [laughs], so yeah. I think she was involved when they first started Fishermen's Wives, so she would be somebody you definitely need to talk to.

SC: Yeah, I'm really excited to meet with her tomorrow.

CK: Okay, I'm trying to think of anybody else that maybe you'll... you've got Tia.

SC: Yeah, and there's a few other... I wish I could spend more and more time, but I'm so close [CK: yeah] to the end of my project now [CK: sure] that I have to stop at some point.

CK: Yeah, you have to put it together at some point, I understand.

SC: I had talked to Suzanne, she's one of the, a NOAA social scientist, I was like, man I wish there was money so after I defend my thesis, I could still go back and continue collecting these interviews.

CK: Well you might consider talking to Joanne, because I'm telling you, I see that as sort of, I don't know how much money they have either, but they also have the ability to [01:30:00] get specific grants probably because of the type of entity that they are.

SC: I think they would fall under a cultural grant, and I noticed the state of Oregon [CK: yes] has some really good ones for each county [CK: Yup, yeah].

CK: I have a cultural trust license plate that I pay for every two years; I think that's where that goes [SC: Yeah!] Yeah, so I just think that she would be somebody that would be, and if she didn't know, she might know somebody that could help you with something like that. So after you're done with your thesis and you want to continue going further with it. Yeah, there's a lot of history that could probably be pulled together. That was something I also stayed with Fishermen's Wives for a long time because I kept wanting to, for us to be able to do our history. It's the type of group that, there's always something that you're doing that's like part of our mission, that everybody's involved in so the history is sort of something that's in boxes, up here in people's minds and stuff. I kind of feel like that's something that would be, something that fishermen's wives could actually benefit from, having their history, but there's just nobody to do it [laughs]. So, that's kind of something you might consider too.

SC: I think again, with this helicopter issue, they've kind of reignited that interest in documenting the history and even getting that video, that's a cassette, a VHS, putting that into DVD format and then...

CK: Is this the one where I'm driving around in my little Volvo taking my kids to the bank? Is that it?

SC: Yeah, I think so.

CK: Okay, I remember that guy, him and his son, they were pretty cool. Yeah that was a long time ago.

SC: Yeah so I think they're really interested in documenting more of the history, like okay we know we did this cool thing, other things that happened, what's going to happen.

CK: Well and the cool thing about Newport Fishermen's Wives is we're one of the first groups, there's one in Kodiak, I don't know how active they are, there's one in... now there's the new group, WeFish. [SC: Oh I've heard of them, are they down in California? Or Washington] Yeah, I think its Washington. There's a small group in Port Orford, I don't know if they're still active, there was a group in Brookings, I don't know if they're still active, but and then Charleston Fish Wives. But Charleston Fish Wives, when I was involved down there, they moved into the food pantry, like that became... the food pantry moved into their building or something. I don't even know who's even really active anymore, so it's kind of an anomaly any more, I know there's Gloucester Fishermen's Wives were super, super active. And then maybe some more over there. And there's a Sea Grant, I think Texas A&M is a Sea Grant college so there may be a group down there as well, I'm not sure.

SC: I know there's a group in Morro Bay [CA], I don't know if it's fishermen's wives or more general, just like women for fishing kind of group.

CK: Yeah, there was one in Fort Bragg for a while too, I forgot about that one. I actually toured and talked to ladies in, because I worked with the group, Women's Coalition for Pacific Fishing, which was another, it was an offshoot of another coalition of fishing groups that had kind of gone away and I just remember talking to women and [coughs-excuse me] up in Bellingham, Port Angeles, all the way down to Fort Bragg, Bodega Bay, and each community, of wives, they had their group, but each community sort of had their own just... each one was different I guess because their community was different, so it was very cool like the people up in Port Angeles actually took their salmon boats up to Alaska, took their families on them all summer long, their kids were raised on these boats up in the Bays, up in Alaska. And then you get down into California and a lot of those people were school teachers that had boats, that that's what they did in the summer time, it was very interesting, very, very interesting. And then you get into like Oregon, and Oregon, our history is so cool because I think, the state of Oregon has always sort of been behind commercial fishing, whereas in some of the other states it was often an adversarial kind of thing. Like you bring your boat into the dock, you have to look like a sailboat, it's got to be clean, spik and span, in California that's how it is. You can't leave anything on the dock; you can't show all your gear. I remember people had to hide their crab pots on their property, on the bay front in Bodega Bay. They had to cover them up because there were... or the smell, people would say ew that stinks, but it was on their property that they had their gear, they would have to hide them behind their gear shed or in their gear shed or whatever, because there were people that didn't like that. They didn't like what it looked like. This was all in the 80's early 90's, so that's when things were changing like that, I don't know what it's like now, but yeah, very interesting. When my grandparents first moved here they were, it was, you just did, it was just something that, you did your gear work out in front of your house by your garage, my grandparents lived above the bay front and that's just what everybody did. People down the street did the same thing, people next door same thing, but now if somebody's moving in that maybe isn't connected to it, they don't want to smell it, they don't want to see it, they think it's junky even though it's. It's money [laughs].

SC: It's life.

Interview ends [01:36:08]