

Lyle Keeler Oral History

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Length of Interview: 37:22

Interviewer: SC – Sarah Calhoun

SC: Okay, this is an interview for the Voices of the West Coast Project. Today is July 17, 2014, I'm with Lyle Keeler in Port Orford [OR]. Lyle, would you mind stating your name for the record?

LK: Lyle Keeler.

SC: Okay Lyle. Well I'd like to go back to the beginning and just get a feel for how you first got involved in the fishing industry.

LK: Well I started because my uncle was a commercial fisherman, and I moved up here. My brother fished with him and then he bought a boat the next year and we started fishing. That was in '69, so then we've fished ever since then.

SC: So can you talk about what your first job was and have they changed over time?

LK: It was a deck hand for crabbing and hasn't really changed much at all. It's pretty much the same now, more people doing it and that's about it. A lot more pots in the water, that's the only change.

SC: Have you worked in other fisheries [LK: Oh yeah] besides crab.

LK: Yup, I've worked in sablefish, tuna fishing, live fishing, bottom fishing. Pretty much every fishery that a small boat can do.

SC: What were the best and worst ones for you?

LK: The best overall has been crab and sablefish, and the worst ones, hm I can't really say. They've all been fairly good, you know. Some not quite as lucrative, but they were all interesting.

SC: Speaking of interesting, what's the most amazing or bizarre situation, person, animal, thing that has happened at sea?

LK: Uh, what comes to mind is I caught a scalefish, which is a deep-water fish, relative of the sablefish that gets up to 200 pounds. And we heard about them, oh 30 years ago and tried to fish for them and never caught them, then about 3 years ago I caught one that weighed 60 pounds, that was pretty interesting. There's been a lot of other... some scary things happened, like the last halibut trip I made. I took 3 rogue waves and for a second there I thought the third one was going to tip the boat over, that's the scariest thing, they came out of nowhere. I'm sure there are a lot of others, but those are the ones that come to mind right now.

SC: Sounds like fishing is a risky business.

LK: It's very risky, it's hard work, but it's healthy. I can't say it's been lucrative for me, I've made good money in the past, but as of now I'm not very stable.

SC: Can you talk about some of these financial changes and maybe why.

LK: Markets, is one of the big things. Politics is the biggest thing. And a lot of it is just bad luck believe it or not. Plus I'm getting older and working not near as hard at it, it's a young man's fishery now. If you work hard and smart, not just work hard, you have to know when to work and when not to, you can make good money. But you have to be, like I said, a young man. It's not for the older people. It used to be, it used to be you could fish, salmon fish and do pretty good, you know. But things have changed now.

SC: So what kind of advice would you have for a young man, or woman, thinking of becoming a fisherman?

LK: First off, don't even think about it unless you've got plenty of money to... let's see. I don't know exactly how to explain it, you have to have backup, you have to have enough money in the bank to fix everything that could possibly go wrong and fix it right, not just. You can't just patch things together and expect to make a living out of it. It doesn't work and it's dangerous. A fishing boat, it should be fixed right. That's been my biggest financial problem, I never had the backup. Right now I'm leasing a boat from my brother who retired 3 years ago. The first year we did really good and now it's really bad. So. But that's my advice, make sure you have enough financial backing and don't, this is a personal thing, don't buy anything, but a big boat. Big boats are actually shoving the smaller boats out. It's happening and it's probably going to keep happening because they got the money and the backing.

SC: From my understanding, Port Orford is a small-boat port for the most part.

LK: Right, our biggest boat is basically, it could be up to 44-foot, but I don't even think we have a 44-footer there. Basically 40-foot and down. We don't do any dragging. Any of that kind of fishing, it's all hook and line.

SC: Can you describe the Port Orford fishing community a little bit more?

LK: It's a tight-knit, really political, everybody has their own opinions and... [sigh] It's a bad time to be interviewing because we've had a really bad political situation down here, and I'm really ashamed to even say I live in Port Orford, which I don't. I live in Langlois, which is, it's not a suburb, but it's just outside of Port Orford, small town. But uh, well it's tight-knit, people are scared, Port Orford fishermen are scared because we're actually being shoved out of the fisheries. But by being scared, we're also not taking the opportunities we need to. We're not even looking into opportunities, which bothers me. Like our sanctuary thing that was suggested, they're still looking into it and getting facts on it, but this community said no and they started manufacturing problems, that could be there. I'm not saying I'm pro-sanctuary, because I'm not sure I am. I've looked into it a lot and we've had quite a few meetings, but I don't think I would support one right now. But it should have been looked into in a town like ours that, like I said, we have no logging industry anymore, this is it. Really don't even have a tourism. And we're going to have to do something eventually to... not sure what the right word for it, but build our economy. That would be as close as I can think of.

SC: So what was Port Orford's economy like in the past?

LK: During the logging deal, the height of it, it was really good. We had 6 or 8 service stations, barters all over the place, I few other establishments I wouldn't want to suggest, but motels were doing business, it was really... of course fishing was good too. Everything was good. And when the logging industry collapsed that was our main source of income. Went downhill ever since. There's probably like something like 12 buildings on the main street throughout right now, so. But that, in the old days there were a lot more people too. Like I said, there was, I think there was 8 service stations in Port Orford and now there's two. I guess it was a pretty economical state.

SC: So in the past, were commercial fishermen, did they also work in the logging industry?

LK: Yes. I started logging, my dad was a logger, he was logging for years, and I started logging when I got right out of high school. It didn't last very long, when I went into fishing I realized it was much healthier, and at that time, more lucrative.

SC: So can you talk a little bit about some of the highs and lows in your fishing career?

LK: Well the high was when the sablefish price came up. We, I had actually quit fishing for one year to go mushroom picking, I was making more money mushroom picking than I was fishing, and I realized we

started longlining and the sablefish industry was going to get really good. So I came back into it, and we did, for about 4-5 years there, we did really good. Sablefish is blackcod, I guess most of the people know that. Butterfish.

SC: And how has the market for fish, the price of fish changed over time?

LK: Uh, ups and downs. Lately the price has been better than ever, except for sablefish, which is what we've done. 3 years ago we averaged \$4 per pound for sablefish, last 2 years, we've averaged \$2. And that has been our best fishery for probably 15 years now. Before then it was crabbing. So, the price crab, was, this year, fantastic. Way more than it's ever been before. We got \$5 bucks a pound in January, which is unheard of. In fact, I don't know that we ever got \$5 bucks a pound for anytime. And if we did it was in the summer time when there weren't any crab. Actually, the price is good. You know all we can catch is bad, crab is fine, but everything else we're limited to. So. Other than that, yeah I'd say they, the price is good.

SC: So what kind of changes have you seen in the ocean, or the coast, or fishing over time?

LK: The last few years, it's uh, I'm not sure why, I'm inclined to believe that global warming is here, what's caused it, I have no idea, but the ocean has, we're catching species of fish we've never caught before. And species that we used to catch lots of have moved. Like the sablefish, we haven't been catching hardly any sablefish [0:10:00], well I shouldn't say that, we haven't been catching near the amount we used to catch and according to NOAA, the main stocks has moved down to Southern California. And I think that's right. Now they may be starting to move back up, we're doing better this year than we have been. But it's uh, I don't know what's caused it. Up until the last 3 years, the Humboldt squid have been so thick they were eating the salmon and everything else, I mean in a bad way. You could go out there any place in the ocean, catch a Humboldt squid at night, with the light in order to get around. So they were really bad, but they've seemed to have move on now. Maybe it's just something happened, I don't know. I've never seen them before, but I'd heard of it so.

SC: What are some of the other species that you guys are seeing that aren't normal? In this area?

LK: Uh, we're seeing more whales, I think that's just because they're on the comeback, but Sperm whales are starting to eat our blackcod now, which they learned how to do up in Alaska. We've been reading about for years and the last trip, blackcod, there were two of them working my gear. Not a whole lot though, not catching a whole lot of anything, but you can definitely tell they're eating your fish. And they just come up and, when they come up to breath, they come up right beside your boat and look at you, and say thank you, and go back down and do their business. Excuse me, my eyes water a bit.

SC: What do you do about these pesky whales when they start feeding on the fish?

LK: Well, now nothing. I thought seal bombs would do the job, but I talked to one of the other guys that fished the day before I did and he said the bombs worked good for whales up until that trip and he said it seemed to draw em then. He tried them, I was out of them so I didn't try them, but he said they didn't affect the whales at all. Absolutely nothing. You just grin and bear it I guess that's what they say.

SC: It seems like a tough... it seems like it would be... beautiful and great to see the whales, but then...

LK: Oh it's very interesting, Humboldt, but the uh... I can't think of the name of them, the ones with the big flipper, whales. They come in here every once and a while now and you'll see them jumping out of the water and that's fantastic. They jump clear out and make a splash, you can see it for miles. No, I really like whales, but like I said, we don't like them eating our fish! That's money out of our pocket, but there's nothing you can do about it.

SC: So what brings you the most joy and also the most grief in the fishing industry?

LK: The most joy is just being able to be out there in the ocean on a good day and just being there. Sunsets and sunrises, boy they're fantastic. My most disappointment is the political situation. The attitude fishermen have. Not just fishermen, people. It's just hard to live with. It used to be, well it never was really, but it never was like it is now. People are just scared, I think that's what happened. They're being driven out of the business and we're doing everything we can to keep from doing it, and some people are, over the deep end. They're very uh, I'll just use the word mean. It's good enough for me, I could use a lot of other words that I don't think you want on your camera, but I won't.

SC: [Laughs] Thank you. So I wonder what kind of role your wife or your children have had in the, your family in general.

LK: They've always supported us really good. Yes, even though, when times were bad, which they have been, some years were worse than, well way worse than now. But they have been bad. It's never been a real lucrative thing for me, but it was, like I said, it was refreshing and a healthy life and they've all been real supportive. My kids have all fished with me at one point in time, my son fished with us quite a while. But the girls, usually we just go out, if we're going out. I have two girls and one boy. And they, like I said, they were all supportive. Very supportive.

SC: Do they still have any involvement in the fishing business?

LK: Uh, not really. They've all moved away or something. My son-in-law was fishing with me up until last year, and he got a better job, which I encouraged him to do. And now he's working at a different place, but other than that no, they're not fishing with me.

SC: So I'm interested in hearing, a little bit of your perspective about women's roles in fishing. What you have seen here in Port Orford, or other places, over time.

LK: I have never seen any woman fishing out of Port Orford that I've been disappointed with. I'll put it that way. None of them have stayed very long, I think it's because it is a hard, hard life. We only had one of them that fished for several years that did real good that I can remember anyway. But, uh, no I have no problems with women fishing. If she wants to fish that's great, it's up to them.

SC: And what about onshore? How would you describe a day in the life of a fisherman's wife?

LK: Well, it used to be, we keep going back in time, but that's what we're talking about, especially when we had the blackcod derbies, they would bait tubs for us, which my wife still does, but not to that... they'd spend anywhere from 8 to 10-15 hours a day baiting tubs, which is kind of hard. Because we had to have tubs baited up for the derby, it's a short fishery period. And we had to have so many tubs baited every day when we were fishing. And they were baiting, our crew was baiting, women mostly, 60 tubs a day for us, which is quite a bit. And we were fishing every day with that 60 tubs, which we made a lot of money that year. We had a 7-day season, so we were fishing 24-hours per day and without them home to support us... and my wife does all the bookkeeping, which is I think pretty normal. So, yeah. Women are very much involved if they want to make a living. Behind every true, good or successful fisherman, there's a woman who works. That's the old saying, and it's true I think.

SC: Well earlier you gave me a bit of advice for if there was anybody interested in getting involved in the fishing industry, would you have any advice for a woman interested or about to marry a fisherman?

LK: Uh, be prepared for ups and downs in your financial situation. And support your husband. Be there at the dock when he comes in! I don't tell my wife this, but I tell you, it really... when a guy has had a hard day at work, it's really nice... in Port Orford you look up and you see faces of people you know. It makes you feel good. It makes you feel like they care what you're doing. And my family used to always do it. Of course we fished so long now, it doesn't happen, but that's one advice I will give, is support your husband wherever he needs it. It's not an easy life.

SC: So out of curiosity, why wouldn't you tell your wife that? That you like having her at the dock when you come in?

LK: Oh I don't know, stubbornness probably. Probably. And I don't really want to make here come into town everyday, we live 8 miles away and the price of gas is pretty expensive right now. So. And right now, at my age, it's not as important as in the early days.

SC: What are your greatest hopes for fishing?

LK: Geez, I was hoping my grandkids would be able to fish a small boat when they get old enough. Not that they want to, but they could if they wanted to, let's put it this way, and I can't see that happening. I'm just afraid, it's not going to be... my hope is that that'll happen, you asked for hope, that's my hopes. Yeah. And, I suppose this is part of it. I'm hoping we get a lot more research, which we've been getting a lot of it since we got our reserve in. Yeah, the first reserve in Oregon, and then we've been getting a lot more research. I don't see more money put into it, naturally, but that's what we need desperately. That's one thing, we get accurate stock assessments. And another thing, we have a product, a protein out here that's accessibly and could be fished with no problem and that's canary rockfish. There are more canary rockfish out here and it's one of the prime fish. They should do stock assessments and let us catch some, because the world's going to have to eat pretty soon. There's limitations naturally. The RCA (rockfish conservation area), which they put in, most fishermen really hated it and I think they went overboard, but I think it saved the rockfish industry. There's like I said, there's lots of them there, but at the rate they were going, with draggers fishing... not most of them, most draggers are good people, but a lot of them didn't know what they were doing. They killed more fish than they harvested and they were actually wiping the fish out in the '70's and '80's. I made my living off of bottomfish for years, before the RCA there. When we were harvesting, we'd catch 2,000 pounds on average, probably 10 canaries a day and we weren't hurting stock. Almost every fish we caught was utilized, which was not the way the draggers were. But eventually, like I said, the worlds got to eat and we're going to have to realize that some of those can be harvested.

SC: So, can you elaborate on your thoughts on the current fishery management system?

LK: No money. Too much jealousy in the agencies. Going to have to get over that, that'll probably never happen. But we have... [phone ringing] Excuse me, let me turn this thing off. Our association, the Port Orford Ocean Resource Team (POORT) has been working with ODFW and has a lot of successes, but I think the main reason we haven't succeeded in things we thought were good for them ... [0:20:00] [unable to hear over phone] ... and it's because of the agencies. It's just... most of them are good. It's like anything else, but I think one of the big problems is... is they don't have time to do their job and they think we're after them for not doing their job. And they get their [?] back up. See, you know, they realize what we want established as a good project, one or two of them don't like it, that just happens. And it's uh, like I said, we have some really good stuff, we have a review with ODFW, which they're supposed to listen to us and it was pretty successful in that part. I guess that's my main gripes, you got to get a gripe in there once in a while [laughs].

SC: Sure. Can you talk a little bit about your role here at the POORT office, or what the POORT office does?

LK: Well what we do, is we're a bottom-up agency. We try to, if we see, like a, something that should be done in the fisheries, like I said, the canaries, we tried it. Get the research done to prove the stock assessments of them, plus we do a lot of different things. Mostly for small boats, we're small boat fishermen, so we're trying to support the small boat. We also do a lot of other things like get fishermen access to programs to help them out, like help the programs and stuff like that. And displaced fishermen, like that. We haven't been doing that for a little while, but we did that. We got a lot of people jobs, well we didn't give them jobs, what we did is give them the education to get the jobs. Through a different agency, we're just kind of... I'm not a pretty good talker. We, we find out what's out there and we let the fishermen know and we try to help them get it. We help a lot of people with truck driving and all kinds of different things they've taken for education, whatever they wanted. And we helped with salmon disaster programs,

we helped get those money. A lot of stuff like that. We just do a lot of all around stuff that we think help fishermen out. We started out trying to change the rules on fishing to... like, I said I'm not a very good talker. But halibut fishing, the RCA basically, I just give a personal example: my brother and I were catching on the derby limited halibut every year with very few tags, which you only have 10 hours to fish. When the RCA came, said we were shut down in that area and we can't fish for the fish, or now we fish port, 5 times the tubs and still don't catch our derby fish because we can't fish where the fish are. We catch the bycatch. Well since the RCA, the halibut have gotten so thick in this area, which we can't prove, but we're catching them out in areas we've never caught them before. And we catch them with our blackcod. Well we're fishing blackcod, we tried to get ODFW to change the laws where we could catch them as a bycatch. Because you're going to catch so many anyways a year, that's the only reason they let you catch. [And we're catching them on our deal?] And it would have helped the markets, everything. Because instead of having all the fish come in at once, it comes in over limited and the buyers can kind of buy it and stuff. And that was a real good idea. And we knew a lot of the fishermen, liked the derbies, so we were going to keep a choice between derby and bycatch. You could choose the one you wanted one, and only from... basically banned in size. Because most of the fishermen up the river have big derby boats and like the derbies and we knew it. And that's where the RCA actually stopped the biggest commodity. Well we worked on, and worked on, thought we had it down, and that's where I think the jealousy came in. I think they realized it was a good idea, but the big boats did not want to change. Of course there was one big boat that was catching something like 70% of the derby fish, and he did not want to change for, you know, us. Supposedly, we had meetings, and the particular guy that did that, I know him real well, he didn't say anything against us. I have a feeling that maybe somebody said something to somebody else, but anyway that's just one example.

SC: Thank you for that. And how long have you been involved with this organization?

LK: 13 years. Actually it was before then, because when, well when Leesa first started this, that's the reason our board is in there now. We got tired of just sitting at coffee loggers, which is where we drink coffee, naturally, bitching. That's all we were doing, we were bitching with no, no... when Leesa got us together, she got the whole port, it wasn't the association we got now. She wanted all the fishermen to get together and kind of work at it. Well, it evolved to where only a few of us actually come to meetings and that's how we formed the association we have now. We tried to get the support of everybody we could, but fishermen don't have time. That's the true reason, we didn't have time either but we did it. So I've been, 13 years we've actually been the association, plus the 2 or 3 before, whatever it was before we actually evolved into what we got now. Leesa's always been kind of a personal hero of mine. I think she really cares about the fisheries and the fishermen and wants to see it extend itself, and she suggested it. All the board members are on it now. I think we really jumped on it for that reason. We knew she was a natural leader, that's what we needed.

SC: So do you see any solution with the association working with the agencies?

LK: [Sigh] Well I did up until a year ago. But with the sanctuary thing, I think we lost all the support of the community, which you have to have to work with agencies. Because they assume we were pushing for sanctuary, we weren't. But they assumed it, it got pretty heated. And I, really what I support, no, I can't see us working with them. We're going to try, I mean we'll just keep trying, but no. I don't.

SC: Can you elaborate a little bit more on what you mean when you talk about this sanctuary?

LK: Uh, nationally marine sanctuaries program, I don't know if you're aware of it or not, they have several of them in California and none in Oregon, and all over the world really. But, the United States, not really. But anyway, there weren't any new nominations accepted after '99, well we found out they were going to accept some and, not us as an organization, but actually Leesa did. She wanted to look into it and see what the work... she saw that it was a national thing for Port Orford to have and such. And several people were behind her, so we had a lot of meetings to find out what a sanctuary involved. Most of us were dead set against this thing to start with, we find out, you know, what the basics were, course all we had at the meetings were people for sanctuaries. So, like I said, we're neutral on it. And I think it probably would be good for the town, that doesn't mean.. I'm not sure. So, I can't support it. But that's basically what it is. A

sanctuary can be anything you want it to be, it's build by a board, you know, community members, they have a board and everything and they can pick and be just about ship wrecks or something. But one problem with Port Orford, well I think it's all small areas now, problem is, the whole country, we're afraid of any more government intervention and that's what they're afraid of, federal influence. Which is already there, but anyway. There's a lot more on sanctuaries and stuff, but.

SC: What about the Marine Reserve, Red Fish Rocks?

LK: Greatest thing out in the Port Orford... boy you talk about taking a lot of guts when we got that in. We were having a meeting with the governor staff, they came to Port Orford and they said, the governor has mandated there will be marine reserves, which basically we did not care too much for, naturally. But we decided to be proactive on it and we looked into it and everything, and we didn't want them telling us where to put a reserve. So we had numerous and numerous meetings with fishermen in Port Orford about where they wanted a sanctuary, and naturally the whole other coast of fishermen were not too happy with us. But anyway, we all got together, we got the support of the honor, our nomination of the marine reserve. It's a good reserve, a lot of people think it's too small, but no, it's got everything that the governor, or the governor staff mandated to be in a reserve is there. And this is the area that most of the fishermen wanted. They didn't want a reserve, don't get me wrong, but if you're going to have one, that's where they wanted it. And for our board, it really came into, because we wanted research done and we thought, by having a reserve we could get a lot more research in. That's why Red Fish Rocks *Research Reserve*, that was very important to some of our board members, me included. One of them really pushed it, but anyway. Yeah, and we have, we've got more research done in the last 3 years than we've ever got done. And we need more money, like everything else, always need more money.

SC: So who is in charge of the research [0:30:00] that's done here in this area?

LK: Well, there's nobody really in charge. Guy by the name of, Tom Calvanese, he's actually doing most of the research, he's a real good guy. He came to us... we have a community team, Red Fish Rock Community Team, which I'm also a member of. And he came to our board meeting and talked to us about tagging and stuff like that, which is what I've been pushing every since we started this thing. That's one problem I got with agencies, I wanted to start tagging down in the... basically nobody compared to other stuff. They always wanted more of the more expensive stuff. I said, why are you. It's like great! Let's get the more expensive, let's do the cheap stuff first, because we can do that. Well, when Tom came he actually got us involved in acoustic tagging in Red Fish Rocks, which *FishTracker*, if you ever get a chance, get online and look at FishTracker, it's a really interesting thing. It's kind of in its downward thing right now because of money, but during the first two years when they did the acoustic tagging done, it was really interesting. The fish that came into that reserve was amazing. I couldn't believe they had that many people with acoustic tag of fish, excuse me, fish with acoustic tags. We had a great white come through there, we had sturgeon come through we didn't know about, we had a lot of different fish come through that reserve. And we also learned, which really surprised me, certain fish do not move. Once they're big, that spawning female, which is the push for a reserve. They stay there and they keep spawning, that's money in the bank. Those fish will always be there as long as that reserve's there, they can't be caught, legally, and uh, we'll always have a good abundance of fish for that reason. So, yeah, I'm really impressed with Tom. He's one of those scientists that says, here's his favorite saying: What is, is. He doesn't care if it's for fishermen, against fishermen, against anybody, if it is, it is. He just goes by the facts, he doesn't try to bias things in his opinion, which is one problem, and one-reason fishermen don't trust scientists. We have more in the past, but a lot of times, if they want something to be, it will be that way. Even though it's not. So, yeah. And as far as in charge, there's really nobody in charge, probably, our organization is as much in charge as anybody. We're hoping that OSU, once they take over our new research building, it's going to be a [good thing?]. We don't want to, we know we're not capable, we're fishermen, we don't know how to do this research and stuff. So this is what we were hoping for. That's our biggest success, research. As far as I'm concerned.

SC: Well it sounds like there are some highs.

LK: Oh yeah, they're definitely. We sometimes wonder when we keep losing the balance, especially on the, the fishery regulations. We know we have some good... one of our biggest things, and Jeff Miles, who's one of our members, really pushed, because he does a lot... we wanted a top size limit on Cabazon, we don't think they can keep catching the big Cabazon the way they're doing. And we pushed and pushed for this, but we can't get it. They're still catching the big ones. And even the buyers, anything over 12 pounds, the buyers don't really care that much for. So we were trying to put a 12-pound upper cap, and we talked to the buyers, we talked to everybody, but ODFW doesn't think there's any reason for it. And we disagree, but it's one of our unsuccessful things. I say them, but I'm not talking about the organization, they're a good organization, certain members of them, don't think there is, but they don't know. They believe what they believe and we wanted more research, basically is what we... because we're afraid. We know what... when we started longlining, my brother and I, we had a 30 pound average on lingcod. And we shouldn't have, we didn't know. We didn't know all big fish were spawning females at that time. So, but we probably couldn't have hurt it because longlining, like I said, you can only fish so much here, you can't catch a fish that doesn't bite. That's the big thing about it, the draggers don't have that. Some said, that's an example of why we... a little disappointed in regulations. We know we have good ideas, but we just can't seem to be successful in getting them implemented.

SC: Yeah, that sounds like... essentially the largest challenge in fishing communities all over the place.

LK: Right, it is. What bothers us is common sense doesn't seem to play in anything. I mean it's common sense, if you know a big fish has more spawning capabilities, more eggs, that's more fish, better quality of fish, because of genetics, and Cabazon especially. You can't... the males do get just as big, but once the Cabazon spawns, the female, the male guards the eggs and he's really easy to catch. And once he's caught those eggs are gone. So, just examples, you know.

SC: Well it sounds like, it's a whole learning process too.

LK: Oh yeah, it definitely is. When I started this, when they said that fish got to be 75 years of age, I said, you damn fools, nothing can live that long out in the ocean, but I spent years, actually it took years, and it was from our interns, actually I learned. How they actually... and I believe them, you know. I was really skeptical and it took a long time, but I see how they do it, and hate to admit they were right and I was wrong. It happens. But there's probably 10 fishermen at the docks that believe the same thing I do. Because they live like I am, what fish could live out in that ocean for 75 years because of all the predators and everything. But they... yeah.

SC: Well it sounds like you've had a lot of different roles in the fishing industry over time and working with POORT. And where do you see your future in the fishing industry?

LK: I have no future in the fishing industry. Like I said, to have a future, you have to have the financial stability to stay into it, and I don't. Hate to say that, but it's just the way it is.

SC: Will you have continued involvement here at POORT?

LK: Oh definitely. As long as POORT is here, I'll be here. Unless I have to move somewhere else for financial reasons, which I don't see happening. Yup.

SC: I would like to ask, this is the last question I have. If you could use one word to... one word, emotion, idea, or whatever to associate with fishing, what would it be?

LK: Health. Healthy, it's a healthy living. Yup. It's scared. No, no, no, scared is the wrong word, respect. I have high respect for the ocean. There's old fishermen and there's tough fishermen, but there's no tough, old fishermen. That's a saying I was told when I started fishing and I agree with it. So. That was more than one word wasn't it? [Laughs]

SC: Yeah, but that's okay though, we'll take it. Well thank you Lyle, is there anything else you'd like to add before we finish up?

LK: No, just thank you for the opportunity.

SC: Great, well thank you so much.