

Aaron Longton Oral History

Date of Interview: July 18, 2014

Location: Port Orford, OR

Length of Interview: 38:28 + 4:36

Interviewer: SC – Sarah Calhoun

SC: This is an interview for the West Coast Project, today is July 18, 2014. I'm with Aaron Longton in Port Orford, OR. Aaron, can you state your name for the record please?

AL: My name is Aaron Longton.

SC: Great. So I want to go ahead and start at the beginning and hear a little bit about how you got started in the fishing industry.

AL: Well, much unlike today, it was pretty easy to start and this was just like 15 years ago. I bought a boat for \$3700 dollars, which included a salmon permit. And I was, believe me, it was not much of a boat, it gave me a lot of problems, but I was able to work through the problems, go out, fish, make enough landings to advance, get a reputation for being able to catch fish, even though I was disadvantaged by the size boat that I had [laughs], and ended up getting enough money to put a down payment on a real nice vessel. Bought out a guy who was retiring because he had broke his neck out at sea and was having problems with his ability to fish anymore, the strength, because he had spinal damage. So anyway, I was able to put a good down payment and he carried me the rest of the way because I had a good reputation for catching fish and took me a few years to take care of that. I took care of it well in advance and then I went from that and then we went into a salmon disaster. The Klamath River decline, which I helped lobby for the government to step up and declare it a disaster. It was one of those kind of deals where agriculture concerns over in the Klamath Valley had a limited resource of water and it was a national... it was a national level issue. Dick Cheney, which was at the time, was vice president, was over here with, I think it was, I forget who the secretary of agriculture was then, but I think it might have been Vilsack, or something out of Idaho. Anyway, it was a big deal. The community got together and dammed off the river and decided that they were going to just take it for agriculture and they caused a \$70,000 plus fish, adult, salmon die-off in the Klamath River. I mean they were complacent in this decision. So they were held to account and we were compensated at our highest landings over the previous three years so I got that, which was \$82,600 dollars, which was a lot of money to get at once and I was smart about it. I put a down payment on a house of \$40,000 and a down payment on a 2-year blackcod permit with the other \$40,000. So I partied away a couple thousand, but you know that was pretty good for me. And so you know talk about dropping your anchor right? So there I am with a house and more options fishing, so now I have everything but crab. And I never really... I didn't start commercial fishing until I was like 38 years old and it was during kind of a down turn in the crab landings and I had seen the guys struggling and knew it was a cyclical fishery and that, you know, it took a lot of capital just to have the pots and all the stuff. And a lot of backbreaking work, and a lot of fishing real tough, tough weather. And I decided to just kind of say, you know what, I think I can do without that. And so I haven't pursued that at all and don't ever have any intention to. I love eating crab and I think it's a great fishery, they got it right with the way they have the legal sizes and the males only, it's one of the, I don't know whether there was a lot of forethought to it, but that's a sustainable fishery, and it has proven to be. So, I guess getting started for me, it was, you know, quite a process and it took a little bit of good fortune, it took a lot of hard work. I fear that in these days, that upward mobility is not there for people to get started. Especially with the catch shares programs and you know, privatization of the resource. You know, that you have to be rich to buy in. I mean either that or you have to have some good fortune.

SC: Can you elaborate on the current fisheries management situation?

AL: Well I mean the groundfish fishery, you know, I don't know exactly... the overwhelming majority of the groundfish are basically based on historic landing history with the existing trawl fleet. Like if they divorce their wife, they're going to fight over that, just like it was a car or a piece of property, right, it is a tangible asset. And they have exclusive rights to that, in perpetuity, you know, they can buy it, they can sell it, they

can trade it. And there are some good things about it. I think that as far as unintended bycatch and it has probably reduced the amount of discards that there used to be, which that's a good thing. But it also has privatized what used to be a public resource. It used to be owned by everybody, you know, collectively. And there was opportunity for people to, you know, who wanted to get involved in the industry to get in at a lower level and work their way up. Now, even the smaller tiered trawl boats, I think probably hold a billion dollars worth of quota and unless you're a direct descendent or, you know what I mean, or you have a million dollars to drop on it or somebody's going to co-sign for you or whatever. Like I said, the entry-level is just not there. Now, again there's still smaller-scale fisheries, there's still some open access fisheries like halibut is open access. There's open access blackcod fishing, but again that seems to be being reduced from time-to-time. [That just took quite a... it's shooting right down here now. Maybe it was an earthquake.] But anyway it seems to me, it's harder, there's not doubt that the game is getting to be more and more rigged. That it's harder to get in, it's harder for a person to come and get a job on a boat and learn how to fish, you know what I mean, and to leap from that deck hand to an actual boat owner, it's a tough thing to do.

SC: Can you talk about what that means for the Port Orford fishing community?

AL: Well, we don't have any trawl quota here; we don't have any trawl fishing here. We're all a hook and line fleet, the main reason for that is the... we have a constraint of what size boat can fish here. We have shallow ports, so it has to be a shallow-draft boat, it's got to be 40-feet or less to get lifted in between, you know just because the amount of room, and also the weight capacity of the crane. So those three determining factors, you know, make it impractical or impossible to have a larger vessel. And it goes that way for even the fish buying, the people who buy fish here. You know, they can't offload a giant boat here, right, because the port is too shallow. So we have constraints. But also, that has... a good thing about that is, we're basically all comprised of the same components, you know what I mean. You go to a bigger port like Coos Bay, Astoria, Brookings, Newport, you'll have hundred foot boats and you'll have 20-foot boats, you know what I mean. They're not necessarily on the same page, they all have different needs, they have different concerns, they have different regulatory regime. It's a completely different world. Here, because of this constraint, we're all using the same methods, so therefore we basically have the same concerns. You know, we may have different ideas of how to negotiate those things or manage the resources just like anywhere, but for the most part, you know, we're all in the same boat.

SC: So you were saying that you got involved in fishing when you were 38, so a little later in life. Can you talk about what sparked that desire?

AL: Oh well, I'd been fishing all of my life, my dad was a 20-year Navy man and he was a boat manufacturer. He built aluminum boats for running the rivers, [10:00] some of his jet boats were the first ones to run like the Snake River, Hells Canon over in Idaho, Oregon border, go up the Salmon River, up above Riggins, Idaho. So I was born and raised in Roseburg [OR] on the Umpqua River and when I was 12 years old I had an 18-foot sled boat. I would rush home from the school bus to get in my boat when I was just, you know, started in junior high, and go fish for salmon and steelhead in the evenings. So I mean, fishing is in my blood, I started coming over here to Port Orford and fishing for salmon on the Elk [river] and the Sixes rivers when I was, well, we used to cut school and come over here. So when I was like 16-17 years old. And I got to know quite a few of the commercial fishermen over here. We would come over here and they would be coming in from fishing off the mouth of the Elk and Sixes River commercially, and we would wheel and deal and get the roe out of the female salmon so we could use it for bait. And so that's where I first struck up relationships with commercial fishermen here. I knew fishermen that have fished out of here that haven't fished for 20-30 years. I mean it's a generation that's passed. Here I was on the shore, you know fishing the mouth of the river, and watching the boats troll by and you know, it's kind of like, thinking to myself, well someday I'm going to do that. I exhausted a lot of the opportunities, you know I worked 9 years fighting wild land fire, I worked 10 years in a nickel smelter, a bunch of different other things that I've done, but finally I decided, well you know, maybe I'm getting older, I mean if I'm going to do what I really want to do, and I've always wanted to try that. I always had a real good knack at fishing and always seemed to kind of think like a fish [laughs] came over and made it work, salmon fishing. It was, had some good fortune and worked hard on it, and it worked out for me. But, you know, that's basically what led to it, is you know, being around boats and fishermen, my dad was a

fisherman and my uncle... I went commercial fishing with him a couple times when I was like 10-12 years old. He had an old double-end trawler that was out of Coos Bay, way back when. Just always wanted to do that and like I said, exhausted other opportunities, the time came to do it and I was able to make it happen with minimal investment. Like I said, \$3700 dollars was what I bought in. That bought the boat and the permit, pretty incredible really. And like I said, I wouldn't change a thing. I wish I would have done it sooner. I wish I would have done it sooner. Because I could have gone without working in that hot, nickel-smelter over there in Riddle for those 10 years, I'd have just as soon been over here fishing.

SC: So besides fishing on the boat, do you have any other roles in the fishing industry?

AL: Well I mean, yeah sure. I've been pretty, I wouldn't say political about fishing, but in the regulatory regime and stuff, I've been, the CROOS Project (Collaborative Research on Oregon Ocean Salmon) scientific study, I was their coast-wide fleet manager for that one year. I served on, what I alluded to earlier, the Klamath River disaster, I served on the appeals board for that, you know, to make determinations for fishermen. That either, for whatever complication or whatever, in their claim didn't get their claim, and then appealed it. And that was rewarding. We were able to sift through things and get some money to some people who needed it and had it coming for sure. But we were also able to seek out, or find a couple situations where they just simply didn't qualify, you know. And I've been involved in advocacy for meaningful conservation ethics. I also started Port Orford Sustainable Seafood, which is our marketing program. We ended up packaging and freezing up a bunch of fish. We had a neighboring business in the neighboring community, Gold Beach that's the south of us that helped us get started. Fishermen's Direct, they did the processing for us, we jobbed it out to them and then we went over and started selling at farmer's markets. And then we got a few restaurant accounts, and then we got a few retail accounts, you know markets. Now we've developed a community-supported fishery, which is built on the community-supported agriculture model, where we're selling shares and we have drop sights... I think we have 5 in Portland, 1 in Corvallis, 1 in Salem, 1 in Eugene, 1 in Roseburg, 1 in Coos Bay, Cape Junction, Jacksonville, Ashland, Medford, Eagle Point and Grants Pass. So I mean, basically the I-5 corridor, all the way from the California border to the Washington border. But I do know for sure that we actually have people in Yreka [CA] that come to the Ashland place to pick up, and we have people from Vancouver [WA] across the river, so [laughs] not only are we selling from border to border, but we're drawing a little bit on either side and that's been exciting to develop that. I build relationships with consumers, you know, it's all basically, it's an intriguing story, you know, they're able to get their seafood directly from the fishermen, you know, we tell them which boats caught them, post information on Facebook, email... so they have a direct, traceable, path between the ocean and their plate. And that, they really value that. And we value being able to meet all the different people who care about those things, you know, its a great relationship. One that, I'm sure is very, very valued from both standpoints. Ordinarily a fisherman pulls up and sells their catch and it gets lost in the shuffle, you know, nobody knows it comes from here. They say 90% of the seafood that comes into the United States is from abroad and 70% of the seafood from the United States is mislabeled, so you may not even be, you know, when you go to the grocery store, I won't name one for fear of slandering somebody [laughs], but you know what I'm talking about, the big grocery chains. Chances are, when you go to get fish there, it's not what you think it is or where, or it may have been previously frozen when they say it's not. It's just a... and fresh is a very loose term. When does fresh become rotten? So we flash freeze our fish right away. We're day boats, small boats, we don't go out on long trips so the fish are real fresh when we get in, we ice them down overnight, let them get good and firm, and then process them and vacuum seal them to -38 degrees, is what we're running our freezer at, so it gets solid as a rock real quick, it's about as good as you can do it. As far as the molecular structure and what it does to the cells so it's the best you can get. And again, we sell all over the state, but we also have [phone ringing] other [oh it's a fax, I can't...] we work with [I'm going to just let this go, it will quit in a second... pause]. Okay. But anyway, we ship fish all the way back to Washington D.C., we can a bunch of tuna, we sell can tuna all over the country. People in Florida, we have a lot of customers in Atlanta, Red Oak, Virginia, Michigan, you know, a case here, a case there. We ship it through, oh what are they called? Flat-rate boxes, yeah, through the US mail. We have to really pack them up, I mean that's why you see all kinds of bubble wrap and everything hoarder around here, because they don't necessarily treat those packages really good, but it's really cheap and it's understandable for \$15, oh I think it's \$17 bucks now, they'll ship anywhere in the country and it gets there in 3-4 days. So it works out pretty good. We've been able to pay more for fish. So the fishermen

benefit. We've been able to, for the first time in a long time, provide fish to our local community, all our fish that goes into the corporate system leaves here, right? You can go to the grocery store and get fish here, but chances are it's from British Colombia or who knows where right? Crapshoot on where that came from you know. But now we have local fish here that people can buy. Local labor to process and package it. So it's been an economic benefit [20:00] for the community and we're just getting started really, we've been at it for 5 years now, and we've doubled our sales almost every year, pretty close to it anyway, probably tripled our expenses [laughs], but we're still in business. I think we have a lot of promise. We've had a lot of good, big opportunities with some big name things that were just way to much for us, that now we're getting to where we might be able to circle back and take advantage of some of those offers.

SC: Sounds like some pretty big enterprise for a small community.

AL: Well yeah, we had 9 people processing fish the other day in a room about this size, our little processing area has, it's not very big. I mean 5 of those people have knives [laughs] and nobody got cut, we didn't even have to get the Band-Aids out. We process 7,400 and some odd pounds, of albacore tuna in a little more than two and a half days, which was wham bam, get her done. We had 11 totes of it. And that was the biggest undertaking we've had so far, you know, as far as obtaining that much product at once. And it worked out! We got it all vacuum sealed and froze, and the freezer kept up with it and, you know, we sold some of it whole and some of it to restaurants in sleeves, where they're 5-10 pounds, but there were people looking at us, when we bought that much tuna, like laughing under their breath, thinking, yeah, we'll see if they can do this. And we did it. And we did it with all local help and it worked out fine.

SC: Well congratulations, you sound really proud of this [AL: yeah] and it sounds like a great benefit to the entire community.

AL: It's a leap, and it is, you know, I mean I was laughing under my breath at the same time too, you know what I mean, thinking, well here we go. Let's see, this is where the rubber hits the road, but that's how we did everything. You know, it's kind of like somebody will look down their nose like, you can't do that. Well, let's just see whether we can or not, and so far we've proven to be able to do the things that... bite off or chew what we bit off, let's put it that way.

SC: So where do you see your personal history in the future of the fishing industry?

AL: Oh I don't know, I hope that maybe I've helped make it a little easier [phone ringing-again I'm just going to wait for a second, I'm not going to compete with the phone-I can do that] I'd like to think that I maybe built a couple bridges along the way that will make some of the things that seem awfully ominous to a fisherman, a little bit more within reach. To actually take control of his own product and you know, own it. Be able to process it and market it, where you can get a better price. Build real relationships that people can count on. Again, I am not a doomsayer, by any means, but our food system is really kind of... got a lot of faith built into it. You know, whether its bio-type problems, bio warfare, contaminated food sources, to be able to know where your food comes from is going to mean something some day. I mean, I'm sorry to be pessimistic in that sense, but the system we have now, like I said, it has way too much faith built into it. You know, when those bigger blocks start to tumble, and people don't really know where their vegetables, where their beef, where their fish comes from, and if they can't draw those connections, they're going to have a lot of uncertainty in their lives whenever they take a bite of food and it's just bound to come to that. I mean, you know, with global warming and the climatic changes we're going to have, they're saying more drought, there's going to be ocean rising, people moving away from areas that used to be agriculturally important, significant areas. It just seems to me, people talk about freshwater and they've got some executive from Nestle now that's saying, that drinking water is not a right, you know what I mean, and they want to own it. People are going to want to own the water, you have genetically modified agricultural products, you know this is one of the last, if not the last wild resource, right. That's still relatively free of any man-caused contaminants. Ocean-acidification, we're going to see what happens there, I think that's going to take some time and of course it's going to take calcium out of the ocean, you know, which will more or less affect the shellfish industry, at least to start with. But, anyway,

being able to be, to have a relationship with a fisherman who's going to give it to you straight, what's really going on, and how important it is to maybe curb your impact on the environment, via storm water ordinances, things of that sort. I'd like to think that all that's going to be important and I'm proud to have been a big part of it.

SC: So I want to revisit a little bit, you talked about ocean-acidification, have there been other changes that you see in the ocean or in the coastal fishing communities over time?

AL: Well I think most of the change that I've witnessed is social change, and it's social change because of economic changes. And like I said, we haven't really began to see what I anticipate will be the ramifications of ocean privatization, catch shares, or consolidation, where, as the resource gets consolidated, more and more, you know, to where two or three companies own the whole thing, you know and it's traded on wall street, uh, it isn't going to make sense to have three mega-trawlers that harvest this resource and then have what, two ports on the West Coast that they land into? I mean, inevitably, probably, someday, we'll be that way. And that sounds, oh, that's a really efficient system, well perhaps it is, at the peril of all the other small communities that depend on these resources right adjacent to their homes. I mean to be a small town, here in Port Orford, where we're at, we don't have to go very far to see what happens. To the south of this, Gold Beach, it's just 30 miles south. Way to the north of us is Bandon. I remember when I was a kid; they were both vibrant commercial fishing ports. Not big trawlers or high in volume, but a lot of people made their living that way and it was a cultural importance to the community and fiber to the community. Luckily, they have both, kind of, reinvented themselves. Of course, Gold Beach has always had the Rogue River, the mouth of the Rogue River for an economic engine and all the recreational fishing and other recreational activities that come along with that. And then Bandon, you know, I remember when I was a kid, on AM radio, hearing 'Bandon by the Sea', 'Bandon by the Sea', and now it's t-shirts, candles, and chocolate. But they're making it work, the old town is vibrant. I went up there today for an acupuncture appointment, I couldn't find a parking spot; I had to make my own and pull off onto the grass. But I mean, they're booming. You know, they're doing business. I think Port Orford kind of wants to stay the same; it wants to have a fishing fleet and I really have a... good expectations that that's a doable thing. It seems to me that without meaningful conservation though, I mean if you want to protect fishing jobs, you have to protect fish. So, there's got to be a mix of that. And you know, being a pawn of the brokers that own the resource that have them lead you around, that's not the way it's going to happen. There's a tipping point, we're not there yet, and I hope we aren't, but I mean, fishing, fish stocks, some of them are kind of on the rebound, others aren't, others are cyclical. I have concerns, a lot of the fisheries here are data-poor, which means they don't have the supporting underpinnings of science to substantiate the amount of harvest. There are a lot of variables. Climate change is one of them, acidification, and the effects that it will have on the food web. We don't even know. [30:00] And 20 years from now there could be some enormous changes that we haven't even foreseen. That's why I think that conservation is very meaningful. I think that to be able to have areas that are performing at 100% efficiency, given the circumstances, will be very important to offer resilience to the stocks in the bigger picture. That you'll have these strongholds, you know, where there are protected areas that during catastrophic, perhaps, unforeseen threats, those may be the places where the biodiversity's efficient enough and the biomass is sufficient enough to withstand that kind of, you know. And if you don't have those places then everything is hanging on by a thread, well you know what happens to threads. So, I just think it's important.

SC: So it sounds like the fishing industry and the success of it is about the people, the fish, and the environment. So I want to revisit the people you talked about, the communities at large. Can you talk about the fishing family dynamic?

AL: Well everybody has a role in it. You know, a lot of the people in this community that, there's a lot of people here that make their money from baiting tubs, from pinning squid on hooks that have never been to sea. And that don't care to actually. The great thing about their job is whether we're catching fish or not, we're throwing bait in the ocean; they have to pin it on hooks. So they always get their catch, we're kind of like, it's like a poker game where you push it all out there and say, go ahead and deal the cards, I'm all in. They're baiting tubs and we're going to burn tubs going after our fish. In fact they make more money, the poorer the fishing is, because we have to spend more gear to get better, the same amount of catch. So, there's always, the fabric of the community is, of course just like any community, there's you know, a lot of

people here in arts and crafts, and there's a lot of people here that are just retired from else where that, you know, aren't welding into the fishing industry. It's kind of like a subculture to a sense. But in our community, you know, we bring between 4-5 million dollars into the community here and with the multiplier effect, I think it's probably about, oh what did they say? We have 1200 people in town, 400 living-wage jobs, and about 125 of those jobs, I think, are directly related to the fishing community so you know, what's that, working on 30% of the living-wage jobs here. And so it's definitely important, economically, we try to look at things through the lens of not just of economics, but you know a triple-bottom line economic structure where you're looking at the environment, you know, economics of course, and then just equity; social fiber of... a lot of equity here for us, what we consider to be equity is access to the resource. Is that going away from us? It kind of seems that way, now that people are able to own it, right. We're not in a position. They have money, they have politicians, they have, you know what I mean? Little, by little, I would imagine, if we don't raise a fuss and stand our ground and reach out to a constituency of consumers, you know, that will take our costs seriously, uh, I would imagine that even here in Port Orford, that little by little, things will slowly slip away. So I think it's important.

SC: So, you have a lot of passion, and a lot of expertise in this field and I'm wondering what brings you the most joy and what brings you the most grief?

AL: Well, I love it when I score. I mean really it's about fishing, I love catching, making the right moves. Getting a hunch and saying, hey man, I think if we do this and you know what I mean... where nobody's been for a long time or whatever, you just play hunch. If you're following other people around and picking up their scraps, it doesn't seem to work out too well so you got to kind of be a maverick per se, you know, to make decisions, jump from this fishery to that fishery. Making big scores is what, as far as the fishing sense of it, but the rewards are there everyday. There's hardly a day at sea where I don't see something that just almost takes my breath away, whether it's a breaching whale or a sunset or just something beautiful. It's always nice when you see the whole food web there, you know what I mean, when you've got fish boiling on the top and whales feeding and you're machine's lit up so you can... birds, even the sea lions [laughs] who we battle with quite a bit. But, uh, yeah, no, no it's good to see a good rich system. And you know, it feels good to do respect, you know, because it's a part of you and all the other people that consume the fish, but you have to be there for it too, it's not an endless resource. I think it's also; I get a lot of enjoyment out of the marketing and telling the story, talking to people, building relationships with people. It's amazing how most people, fishermen, be it big boat, small boat, it doesn't much matter, are used to pulling up to the dock, hoisting their fish up and picking up a check. You go out to a farmer's market and people engage you and ask you questions and you realize that they know quite a bit about what you're doing, you know, and they want to know more. And that it really matters to them and they thank you for fishing rather than just looking down their nose at you trying to cheat you out of your catch, like, you know, it often happens. It's rewarding, I wish that every fisherman could feel that.

SC: If you had a piece of advice for someone wanting to become a fishermen, what would it be?

AL: Go your own way. Don't be afraid to try new things. It's like every industry, it's evolving and there are all kinds of change on the horizon. If you can anticipate it, make the right moves; you can probably do really well. If you get caught in a trap of following, rather than leading, I think the majority of it is going to crash into the rocks over the course of time. So I would say, go your own way, study it. It's not just the physical, rigorous work of out fishing. Get into the dynamics of oceanography so you can understand where fish are and why they're there. And what their part in the food web is. It's a science. Fishing isn't just hard work.

[Someone enters: Sorry to interrupt]

End of Recording #1 [38:28]

Beginning of Recording #2

SC: Okay Aaron, share with us your favorite fishing story, favorite event or most bizarre situation that's happened out at sea.

AL: I've had quite a few crazy things happen. I remember one time, during a soak longlining for... you call it a soak is after you shoot your gear to the bottom longlining you hang out, wait for the fish to bite and then you haul the gear back and harvest the fish. So during the soak, or the time that we have them to bite, we decided, hey it looks kind of like there's some salmon around here, let's try and catch a salmon. And so all I, I didn't have gurdies on the boat or anything so all I had was a fishing pole and I rigged up the fishing pole and a big ol herring and it was really foggy and I was down at the Rogue canyon, and it was just me and my son, Dylan who's 31 now, but here we were trawling with just one hook, in the water, on a fishing pole, with a baited herring, and all of a sudden out of the fog comes this alpha-bull orca. Big 'ol fin out of the water and it comes right up behind the boat, I'm serious I could have spit on it, it was so close. And it came up and it grabbed that bait behind the boat and went down and turned around and took off. Out of the fog [makes escaping fishing line sound] you know, we ended up cranking down the drag and busting it off of course, but I mean, here we are out in this great big giant ocean, this huge alpha-male, I mean it was a big one, it was the kind that has you know, the ten foot orca fin, right behind the boat, comes up out of the fog, finds that bait, does that right in front of us with both of our eyes bugged out, turns around and is gone into the fog again, just happened that fast. But that was a trip. Made me feel a little small out there in the fog. Because it doesn't matter whether it's an orca or a sea lion, or a harbor seal that weighs 500 pounds, if they want to come on board your boat, they can come on board your boat and run you into your house. They can run you off the deck. There isn't hardly anything out there that can't kick your ass. You know, as far as any of those whales could breach on top of you, smash you; it's amazing how docile everything is. Or the way they fear man, because we're really, we don't match up too well. Any of those creatures can have your ass at any time.

SC: How did that make you feel having your son on the boat in such a dangerous situation?

AL: I don't know that it was a dangerous situation, because again, those things just don't seem to happen. I'm sure it was a very calculated thing for that whale; I mean I'm sure that he heard the boat, came up, just happened to be on the side of the boat that lone bait was. Whether he actually bit it or it got tangled in him, I don't know, I'm just saying, it wasn't a dangerous situation. I think probably the main thing that keeps them from breaching on the boats and being real violent is not wanting to do damage to themselves. I would think. It's probably a self-preservation thing more than anything. My son, he's pretty gritty. I don't have to worry about him.

SC: Does he have a future in...

AL: He's not Jonah and the whale. I like to think he has a future in fishing. He's taken a little break right now. And that's all I have to say about that [laughs].

SC: Okay, so my last question is if you had one word to associate with fishing, what would it be? It could be an emotion, an idea, anything.

AL: I have to give that some thought. Probably just tenacity. I think it's probably something that, you know, if you get your feelings hurt or failure is something you can't wear, then it's probably not for you. Because you're going to learn the hard way for the most part. You've got to be willing to persevere and stay engaged in. It's not for the faint of heart.

[Some chatter at then end]

End of recording #2 [4:36]