

Name of person Interviewed: Angela Sanfilippo [AS]

Facts about this person:

Age (if known)

Sex Female

Occupation

If a fisherman (if retired, list the ports used when fishing),

Home port,

and Hail Port (port fished from, which can be the same)

Residence (Town where lives) Gloucester, MA

Ethnic background (if known) European American / Sicily

Interviewer: Janice Gadaire Fleuriel [JGF]

Transcriber: Janice Gadaire Fleuriel

Place interview took place: New Bedford Harbormaster House

Date and time of interview: Sept. 22, 2007

INDEX / KEYWORDS

KEYWORDS: Women; Fishing; Porticello, Italy; Sicily; Gloucester, Massachusetts; Gloucester Fishermen's Wives; Fishermen's Wives Memorial; Regulations; Environmental issues;

[Start of File WAV_0019_001]

[00:00] Born in small fishing village of Porticello in Sicily; Family background in fishing; Porticello shaped by fishing and Catholic religion; Acquired a lot of knowledge from her grandfather—boat technologies, weather lore;

[03:46] Story of grandfather predicting a tornado-like storm about twenty minutes ahead, people preparing. Brothers lost at sea, made it home next morning, she married one of them later;

[07:30] Technologies today great but now lack the abilities to tell the weather that her grandfather, others had; Did school programs in Gloucester after “perfect storm” occurred, kids fascinated by older fishermen's ability to tell the weather; Have done lots of fishing oral histories but more on topics like fishing grounds, didn't tape the school programs, would like to get the older fishermen on tape about the weather;

[09:43] Description of Porticello, motor boats just introduced when she was a girl in the fifties, boats very colorful to identify with the family; Starting to introduce steel, but still mostly wooden boats today, many have religious icons; Industry rebuilding during economic boom in sixties with some government subsidy; Regulations in Italy stricter around licensing for captain, other boat jobs; Pleasure industry late fifties/early sixties took many licensed men away from commercial fishing; Many family members both sides had come to various parts of U.S. to fish; Her family came to America for girls' future, because no local schools past grade five, not respectable for fisherman's daughter to go to next town to school, it was a farming town;

[15:48] Grandfather forced their father to go so girls could get education; Emigrated October 1963; Economic boom happened after they left; Tourism hasn't hit Porticello much, glad for it, still pure there; Went back once in 1973, then got involved in Gloucester Fishermen's Wives and didn't go back for 22 years; Went first to Milwaukee when came to U.S., father's cousin's worked in breweries, they fished weekends, then Great Lakes poisoned from too much chemical and waste dumping, everything died, father not willing to stay;

[19:10] Family came to Gloucester from Milwaukee when she was 15; Trip was hard because no one spoke English; A friend had rented them a house right by the fishermen's statue, felt like a big welcome; State has been great; Changes in fishing in Porticello; Regulations very strict there but have paid off in safety; Has gone back 5 times last 10 years;

[23:46] Kinds of regulations needed most are the safety regulations; They also have conservation regulations now in Italy; Fish eaten much more on everyday basis in Italy/France/Europe; Eat some species there that are thrown away here; Squid very important, cooked many ways there; She's demonstrating a squid dish named after waterfront where she grew up – “Squid Trizzano;”

[26:42] Work with Gloucester Fishermen's Wives; Started 1977 when asked by a friend to translate at a fisheries meeting, spoke up because fishermen weren't explaining

well why closings were going to hurt them with the big catches they'd had, she explained that sale price of cod meant they made no money; Became an advisor to the New England Council, by end of 1977 president of Gloucester Fishermen's Wives (GFW); GFW mission; Been active in things like stopping oil drilling and ocean dumping, has come to New Bedford many times; GFW cookbook has members' and families stories in it; 2001 erected GFW memorial dedicated to all women of fishing families, not just widows;

[32:52] Located in area where first English settler families perished while men had gone back for more people; Story of going ahead with its dedication ceremony morning after a Russian freighter hit a Gloucester fishing boat, four guys lost; GFW cookbook has the poem about how God created fisherman's wife, read by Coast Guard admiral at dedication; Always something to be active with—regulations, environment, ocean dumping, LNG tankers, drilling, wind towers; Have to be very vigilant, if ocean poisoned, doesn't reproduce, then in serious trouble;

[37:15] Fish stock declines are due to the 30 years of foreign factory trawls; Things will eventually rebound, but now getting rid of U.S. fishermen, so will it be foreigners who benefit again?; Festival visitors need to understand that a fishing community cannot survive without involvement of women who are at home taking care of community while fishermen responsible for being at sea; Also need to understand that fishermen not just here to make a living but to preserve an industry and the ocean as a natural resource, need people's understanding and respect; Could do another interview, she could tell much more;

[End of File WAV_0019_001/End of Interview]

TRANSCRIPT

[Start of File WAV_0019_001]

[00:00]

JGF: Today is September 22nd, 2007. This is Janice Fleuriel, and I am in the Harbormaster House at the Working Waterfront Festival of New Bedford with Angela Sanfilippo, doing an oral history.
So, thank you for coming.

AS: You're welcome!

JGF: And... I would just like to just start—if we could, Angela—we like to get a little background about where and when you were born?

AS: Yes. I was born in, Sicily. In the small fishing village of [?].

JGF: How do you spell that?

AS: Porticello. It's eighteen kilometers from the large city of Palermo, in Sicily.

JGF: OK.

AS: I was born in a fishing family. It goes back, seven generations. And I, grew up as a fisherman's daughter. Fisherman's granddaughter. And I married a fisherman. And, my life has been—was shaped, you know, from my family and their activities.

Our community in Sicily was strictly fishing. It still is. And, everything surrounding the fishing, and our faith, in our community... Being Sicilian, we're very religious, in the Catholic faith. And our social events are related with our religious events, and our fishing. Because everything that takes place... From Thanksgiving, to, our Lord, the Blessed Mother, the same—for good season, for good catch. For whatever keeps us our community *going*, which is, fishing. As a little girl I worked on my father's boat. I spent all my summer days on the beach. I would say I grew up on the water's edge. With my grandfather as well. And his brothers. By then, they were up in the age and they no longer *fished*, but the sons were fishing.

And we had a big storage shed, down the waterfront. So, in the hot summer days of Sicily, I would go down there, and spend time with them. And we would sleep in the shed because it was cool. Because the shed was carved into a *rock*. Because our city slopes down, into the water.

And, from them I acquired a lot of knowledge about the industry. I think I've been so lucky to see how things have changed, you know?

JGF: Yeah.

AS: From the little wood, rowboats to the sophisticated boats that we have today. With all the electronics and all the communications, that we have compared to these *people*. They had *nothing*, you know? And in order to see, the way that the wind blew, they put a handkerchief on the clothesline and see.

JGF: Oh...! How to tell...

AS: How to tell, from which direction. Even though these people were *very, very* skilled. And they could even predict the weather by just looking at the sky, the clouds, the stars, the position of the moon.

JGF: Wow!

AS: And, these were *gifted* people, in the absence of the technology that we have today.

[03:46]

JGF: Right...! And so that was the kind of knowledge that was just passed down, right? The weather lore, and...?

AS: Yes.

JGF: Huh! Do you remember hearing, like your father and grandfather talking about like, a specific weather situation by looking at...?

AS: Yes. I, very much...you know, instilled in me.

About a month or so before we left, it was a hot summer night in August. I believe—I think it was like August 27th. And we were sitting outside. And my father just had come home from fishing and he went down to the waterfront. My grandfather and this other old man, they were sitting next to each other outside. They said to us, “Well, you better go and put your flower pots in. And lock all your windows and doors. Because, in twenty minutes, the end of the world is coming.”

And they had their expression... And as we did that, within twenty minutes, it was a horror story. It was like a tornado, that had, you know, that came... I remember the *boats* were out, and many of them did not make it in. And at the end of the storm, which lasted about two hours... Which, I never forget, the thing that really bothered me was, the water in the toilet was like, boiling. And like I said, it was a steep, hill.

And at the end of the storm when we opened our windows again, we could hear a woman screaming. And, before we knew, somebody came up to call my father... And, actually my *father* came, during the storm. But then, they came and *called* him to say, “We need you down the waterfront.” My father was like a leader. “So and so boat, did not come in. And, all four brothers are missing.”

And, finally... And that was, a horrible experience. But they did come home. And, it’s a long story. But they did come home. And they happened to be our next door neighbor—they just moved into our neighborhood. And there were four brothers, in this event. Which, their story goes, they were fishing, longlining, and they went in the dory. They got separated, because of the storm. And the dory flipped, in the water. And the younger brother would, get the brother with the motor boat. And, for some reason they couldn’t get the engine started. But eventually the boat came home, to say that they couldn’t find the other brothers. So. That became a real horrible story.

But. The next *morning*, just before day broke, as the women were walking on the waterfront and praying, they heard the noise of the oars. And they showed up. And, that came to be that the young boy who was in the motor boat that couldn’t find his brothers, is my husband.

JGF: Oh... my God! [laughs] So how old were you, when this happened?

AS: I was thirteen at the time.

JGF: Oh, boy...!

AS: And... You know, that is... When you say, you know, these men predicting the weather. Oh, yes! Many, many times.

[07:30]

JGF: Wow...! Do you remember, was it something about how the sky looked that time? Or did they...?

AS: Yes! It *was* dark! So it was something, in the sky. Something, in the air. That these, men, these two old men—and I wrote about this story. And how these two old men, were able to *tell* us. You know? And... So they had, you know... They had this gifted skill in the absence of our technology today. And in a way, it's great what we have. But in another way, that is a lack that fishermen have today. Of being able to have the ability, to tell the weather.

And plus, there was the time when we had the perfect storm in Gloucester?

JGF: Yeah.

AS: After that, there was such chaos, of the loss of the boat and the weather that was not, predicted. That I worked with, older fishermen and we went to schools and talked to kids. And I tell you it was such a great, event, because I learned so much from them. They were telling the kids, like... Because the kids were saying, you know, "How would you tell the weather?" And the old men were able to say, "Well, when we saw the seagulls flying [?], you knew that something was, going to happen." And then, you know, they mention...

But unfortunately we didn't think of tape recording these! So, some of these stories are gone, but... A few people are around. And I hope that—We've done a lot of oral history with fishermen. But, I would like to do *more* with the *older*, people.

JGF: Yes!

AS: We did more like, fishing areas, and fishing grounds, and, [?] and things. But, we are losing a lot of them. So maybe, I think in New Bedford has got it going, and do it over here. This knowledge, of being able to tell the weather, based on so many things. It would be something that it's not, [?] and it's not taught by...

[09:43]

JGF: Maybe I'll take your phone number. [Talking about willing to go out to Gloucester, help her if needed.] Because especially... To me, the weather lore...

AS: Yeah.

JGF: I've been doing this for four years. And most of the people today that you talk to are already, too young to have a lot of that.

AS: Exactly.

JGF: And so... You're the first person that's really talked about it in such depth. So, that's exciting. Wow...!

Can you talk a little more about what your village looked like? And the kinds of boats that were there? And then we'll talk about coming here [laughs].

AS: Yeah. Well, you know, it's still a fishing... It's one of the most famous fishing [?] of Sicily. You know, the fish from our port...the name.

And back, when I was a little girl in the fifties, they had just introduced motor boats. Before World War II. And then up to the end of World War II, both there was sailboats, and rowing. And people sailed with sailboats to the fishing grounds. And the motor boats were introduced right after World War II. And, so that was emerging.

So they were like... It was a poor fishing community. We're talking about Sicily in the fifties. You know, after World War II everything was destroyed. And, the

community was going to rebuild itself. And it started to... So most of the boats were, like these, motor boats—*very* colorful. Their boats over there are very colorful. They like, identify with the family. They were very beautiful I have beautiful pictures of them. You see most of the boats—It's like Greece. Most of the boats are white, with blue stripes. And, other colors. But white is the prominent color. You know, they're really... Small, large, medium, whatever they are that's the way they're painted.

JGF: And they're wooden?

AS: Yeah. They have wooden boats. They are *starting* to introduce the steel ones. But they are still wooden boats. Many of them have, icons—religious icons, on their boats.

JGF: Oh... They must be beautiful!

AS: Of, the Blessed Mother or particular saints, that they're dedicated to.

And, they fish, you know, like ours. Our day boats, our two-day boats, our eight-day boats. Because, they also go far. Now they go—They had an economic boon, in like the sixties. And, with some subsidy from the government, they rebuilt the whole industry. Because as they were building the economy, in Sicily, in the late fifties, early sixties the fishing industry really started to suffer, bigger, because what was happening in my community was happening in the other communities. They built piers. So, those piers were all to be used for pleasure boats. Just to bring the economy up.

And what was happening... Because of the regulations... Back then, fifties to today. Not like here, anybody can just go out on a boat and become a fisherman. Over there, to be a fisherman you have to start from the bottom up. And, even for commercial boat, the smallest it could be, you have to have a captain license. If you had an engineer, would need to have an engineer license. If you had a deck person, then you need to know everything about the deck. So, some of the younger fishermen, already had those skills, and those permits, would be hired by wealthy people to ride their pleasure boats. Because even the pleasure boats they required license. Captain... You know? Not just anybody can go off and do it. So, many of the fishermen, like my father, who was still in his late thirties, who were young—and I was the oldest daughter, and my brother was too young to help him out—find themselves with no crew. Because, the young fishermen were going for the better things. So it came to a decision point, as to what to do. Now, to go back to that. Many members of our family, both on my mother's side and my father's side, they all, had been in the United States. They were the pioneers in the West Coast fishing industry. They started the *salmon* fishery in Alaska. In the early twenties. And, they started the *swordfish* industry. And they started the *tuna* fishing industry, in San Diego. So, we had lots of family in the United States.

And, actually my mother's *grandparents* are buried in the United States. And so, we came to America.

And the reason we came to America was, for *our* future. Because—I was thirteen, my sister was eleven, my brother was nine. And living in a small fishing village, even though it was so close to the big city, that has *lots* of tradition, *lot* of no-nos, you know? We look today, at some of the, Orient, cultures and things... And

Sicily, historically was invaded by all these cultures. So a lot of these things, kept going on. So, as I was thirteen and I finished the fifth grade, in our hometown there was no school *higher* than fifth grade. So *I* had no opportunity for furthering my education. I had to go to the *next* town. Well, it was not respectable for the daughter of a fisherman, to go the *next* town, where everybody were farmers.

[15:48]

JGF: Oh....! Interesting! Huh!

AS: So... My education was cut, at that point. And my sister just, stopped going to school as well. And, so my *grandfather*, who was my father's father, who was illiterate—he didn't know how to write or read—was the one that forced my father to take us away, where we could get an education.

JGF: Oh boy...! Hmm!

AS: And [?] remaining alone, we left. To get an education. We left in October, nineteen sixty-three.

JGF: Your parents, and...?

AS: And us. But... So, I guess then after we left there was this big economic boom, the government came in, and subsidized the building of boats and technology. And really, because in a community like Porticello there is nothing else. You know? It's still, a place where even tourism does not hit them very much. Which *I* think is great. Because, everything is so pure, still. And the coast of Sicily is just so, beautiful.

JGF: Yeah... And you've gone back there it sounds like?

AS: Well, actually I only went back in nineteen seventy-three, ten years after. I was just married and had a young child.

And then, I became involved with the Gloucester Fishermen's Wives. And I didn't go back for twenty-two years.

JGF: Now how did your family choose to go to Gloucester?

AS: It's another story. We actually—When we came to the United States, we went to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. A lot of our family was also there, a lot of people from our community. And... Because the other thing was like, get away from fishing industry. But, we only stayed there for a year and a half. And, we were going to go back to Sicily. My father was very unhappy. He didn't like it there. And a friend of ours, who lived in Gloucester, asked my father to come to Gloucester. And said, you know, "Come here. If you don't like it, you can leave." But something very important to be noted... When we were in Milwaukee, my cousins—my father's cousins—they all worked in the brewery. But they also had boats—fishing boats, they fished in the Great Lakes. They fished with gill nets. So *my father* would go fishing with them on weekends, because that's when they went. However, at the same time in this small period of time, that's when the Great Lakes went dry. You know, they said the Great Lakes were poisoned and everything died. It happened at that time. By the time we left, there we no more fishing boats, in the Great Lakes. And, after we left, things started to get worse, because of all the chemical dumping and the waste and everything else. So, with that also gone from his life, my father was not willing to stay. So, we came to Gloucester and our lives began all over again.

[19:10]

JGF: And how old were you then when you came to Gloucester?

AS: When I came to Gloucester I was fifteen.

JGF: How was that for you? To, move...?

AS: It was a great, you know... The trip here—I wrote an essay when I was in high school that they asked us to write, and they said, “one thing worse than death.” And basically, I wrote about that trip from Milwaukee to Boston, because none of us spoke English. We had *no* knowledge, basically, of where we were going. You know, we were like, thrown... We took these buses, Greyhound buses, to Boston. And we had to change, in Buffalo, New York. And, none of us spoke English. And we had no concept of where we were. You know? We only knew we were going *east*. But, not so much the knowledge of where we were going. But, when we went to Gloucester, we drove in a car with our friend. They came and picked us up. We went to, Gloucester by 1A, which is all the, coastline, along the North Shore. And when we got—This is June fifteen. And, we got in about one o’clock in the afternoon. Down the boulevard in Gloucester, the fisherman, the statue, was the most beautiful sight. And our friend says, “We’ve rented you a house. And it’s that one.” Right by the fisherman’s statue.

JGF: Oh...! Nice!

AS: So, it was a big welcome. And the state has been great for us.

JGF: Yeah... That’s great. So it made the trip worth it?

AS: Mm hm.

JGF: Now what kind of—In Italy compared to in Gloucester—was there a difference in the kinds of fishing?

AS: Oh, yeah. The fishing is quite different. Because we are [?]
 There is a type of fishing for every season. You know, it’s a cycle through the year that they fish for different species. And it hasn’t changed much. Where before they used to use different gear. You know, everything was manual. Longlining was manual. Purse seining was manual. Then, the other type of nets, they were all manual. Today, like here, everything is technology. They do have dragging, which was not a big thing, back then. They use longlining. They have *tons* of fishing regulations. Just as strict as they are here. But, what they have over there that we don’t have here—and this goes back a long time—it’s like I said, the knowledge that individuals on the boats need to have. Not somebody just come out of the street, and become a fisherman. You know? Mostly father to son it used to be, but... But then [?] government regulation. And this was *all* because of safety. You know? Like I said, you have to have license for everything. To change an engine on a boat, before that boat can go out it has to be federally inspected to make sure it was done right. And [?]. You know? It’s a pain in the neck just like we see it here, because there are so many things. But these things, are made for safety. And, I think, from my knowledge, that’s it’s paid off, in less accidents and things that happen. Because, both the knowledge that is required for them to have and the knowledge that has come as you grow up in the business. You cannot be a captain unless you’ve been on deck for five years. You cannot be an engineer unless you’ve been an apprentice of an engineer for so many years. And then you have to pass some tests. And, a couple of years ago when I was there—luckily in the last ten years I’ve gone back five times—but one of my

cousin's son was going to take the captain test. And it was unbelievable! He had to know *everything*. He had to know, if you get hooked on the bottom what do you do to get yourself out. How would you make this knot? And these are regulations, that they *need* them for the commercial fishing.

[23:46]

JGF: Yeah—You know it's interesting because, *here*, people feel like the regulations they *do* have aren't necessarily great, and like, what you're saying is the ones they need are *those* kinds of regulations.

AS: Yeah.

JGF: That's interesting.

AS: And then, now they also have the conversation regulations.

JGF: Right.

AS: Very strict, as well. But, you know, for as small as the Mediterranean is, and whatever they say, that ocean keeps producing, producing, producing.

JGF: Yeah.

AS: Because also you have to understand that, in Sicily and Italy and Europe, because I've been to *France*, I've been to other fishing communities. Fish is appreciated by the everyday person. When you go to a restaurant, you don't see a lot of meat dishes. Most of them are all fish.

JGF: Oh, interesting.

AS: Seafood and fish. The restaurants, they serve you fish that they display, that you really go there and choose which one you want to eat.

JGF: Oh!

AS: And, there is this passion, with seafood and fish. Quality is very, very, very important. Top of the line quality. I mean, they get a swordfish that they got two hours ago and it's already been cut—from the fish auction [?]. And then these fish markets, that—And they are, you know, very much used by the common people. That is the main staple food. It's fish.

And some of the species that we throw away here, they're worth thousands of dollars. I'll give you an example. Whiting, you know? We've never been able to make good fishing money, making—we did in the old days but, that is gone. They still throw them overboard.

In Italy to buy a kilo of whiting, because they buy it by kilo, you'll probably going to pay thirty-five dollars.

And squid is very prominent. This is why tomorrow I'm doing a squid dish. Other than just the fried squid that you see on all the menus, which we promoted for, God knows how long, there are so many other things you can do with squid. So tomorrow I'm going to be doing a cooking demonstration. I'm going to do a squid dish which, I've dedicated to the little waterfront, where I grew up. It's a place called Trizzano [spelling taken from

<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070912/LIFE/709120318/-1/life0602>]. So I'm calling it, Squid Trizzano.

JGF: Oh! Nice!

[Discussing what time she's doing that.]

[26:42]

JGF: Oh, that's really neat.

Well I don't—before we—I know I have an interview at eleven and before we run out of time I want to make sure I hear about your work with the fishermen's wives. Can you talk about how you got into that and what you do with that?

AS: Yeah. Well, it was nineteen seventy-seven. And, the two hundred mile limit had just been passed. I was living in Gloucester. We had our own boat, our own family boat in Gloucester. But I was never involved with the community. I was living a very private life. But, being bilingual, and because Gloucester at the time, the fishing industry was ninety-five percent Italian American, just recent immigrants. They were going to a meeting with National Marine Fisheries and the Marine Fishery Management Council, and they needed somebody to translate. Because they were pretty sure the fishermen were not going to understand what was going on. So, one of the fishermen's wives, [Lena Novello], called me up on the phone and she introduced herself. I mean I knew her from seeing her in town. And she says, "You know, we're going to have this meeting. They're not going to understand. And we need a translator." She says, "I can do it but my Italian is very old, and people talk different today." So she says, "Can you please come and translate?" And, I said to her, "I will ask my husband. I'll talk to him and see what he's doing. And I'll let you know." And my husband came home and, I told him, he says "Oh yeah!" He says, "There's a meeting. We have to go too. So, why don't you with Lena?" He says, "Be prepared!" But I remember my husband said, he said, "Be prepared. There's going to be chaos." And sure it was. My job was only to translate. Until, after listening I was going back and forth and... The questions that the regulators were asking and, the answers that the fishermen were giving were not really matching. Basically, they were saying, "You caught all this fish. Now we're going to close the fishery. Why do you say you cannot survive until December if you caught all this fish?" And, the answer was simple. But the fishermen couldn't come up with it. We had made no money! Because we sold cod fish at four cents a pound. And, so... I put my hand up! I made my speech. And then I heard this loud applause. And before you know, they said I was invited—the Regional Director of National Marine Fisheries [?], invited me to go to the council meeting. I became an advisor to the New England Council. And by the end of seventy-seven I became the president of the organization.

JGF: Of which organization?

AS: The Gloucester Fishermen Wives Association. I still am. And, the mission of the organization is to preserve and promote the Gloucester and New England fishing industry. And, to help active and retired fishermen and their families live a better life. So that puts us in a very big spot. We've done, tons of things. We stopped oil drilling. I mean, it's not—This is not my first day in New Bedford. I've been coming to New Bedford for thirty years. We've done, stopping oil *drilling*. Stopping ocean *dumping*. Because, our thing is—The ocean is our thing. To always have fish. Fish is a natural resource. It's the only natural protein that we still have left. We have an industry—especially in Massachusetts we have the two big fishing ports, in the country basically. And it's

also... For me, as I say, it's protecting what God has created. We have a resource that's not only for us but for the rest of the country.

And, very recently I spoke with a group of people, they came from Ohio. And I said, "You know, we're preserving this for you." You're not here to protect it. But you have the right to come and see it, enjoy it. So, we're also protecting it for you. And we'll also try to, like I say, make people live a better life, to stay within the industry.

I could stay here for another ten hours telling you what we've done! But, you know, we have our booth. Just recently, 2005, we published a new book. It's called *Gloucester Fisherman's Wives Cookbook: Stories and Recipes*. The stories of eighteen fishermen's wives, who were most of them members of the board of directors through the years. Their stories, their family stories. And then, each of them gave their family recipe. But incorporated in the book we have a lot of history, of the organization, in addition to the history of the fishing industry. We also, in 2001, we erected the Gloucester Fishermen's Wives memorial. Which is a beautiful, woman, and child, that stands on a rock. Looking out at the water. And, that was twenty years in the making. But, we did it! And, that has given us—And this memorial was dedicated, not to the widows of fishermen, it was dedicated to all the women. Wives, mothers, sisters, of mariners all over the world. And it's one of the very few in the world—memorials dedicated to women.

[32:52]

JGF: Now where in Gloucester is that?

AS: It's right on the boulevard.

JGF: Right where the other statue, sort of? [Fishermen's Memorial on Stacy Boulevard]

AS: The other statue, and we are further into the west side of the boulevard. Because, historically, when Gloucester became a colony and it started to be populated, the people came—the pilgrims came from England. And they came and they left their wives and their children to go back and get other people. And when they came back after a harsh winter, they find that everybody had perished. And they had settled on that side of town. So we felt that it was very appropriate, to put it on the west side, on the south side of the Gloucester boulevard. You need to come and see it!

JGF: I should!

AGS: There's a beautiful picture of it in the book.

JGF: Yeah, I will, I'll have to.

AGS: With a beautiful poem about how God created the fisherman's wife.

JGF: Oh, nice! I'm going to have to check that out next time I'm up there.

AS: And you know, the day of the dedication—which sometime I close my eyes and I say, "How did we do it?" We had five thousand people.

JGF: Oh my God!

AS: And the morning—at seven-thirty, just, when the finishing touches were being put on everything, and we were expecting a lot of dignitaries, I saw—And, one thing, we really didn't want to do, we didn't want people to think this was a memorial to the widows, you know, fishermen's... But it was to all women for all that they achieved to carry on in their communities. And, that morning as I was, like I said putting on the finishing touches, I saw my husband, the chief of police and the

mayor of Gloucester coming towards me. I knew something was wrong. But I, could never imagine. I thought maybe one of these big dignitaries aren't coming. But they said that very night was the night that a Russian freighter hit a Gloucester boat, and we lost four guys. Only the captain survived. And the news just broke, *just* before. You know, that morning at seven-thirty before all the events began. It was a *horrible* time. I didn't know, how to go about, in such stress—They were people that we knew, pretty well. Families, that we knew pretty. And, someone came from the families to say, "The families want you to carry on." And, it wasn't easy. And it was just about, nine-thirty, nine-fifteen, that, the mayor came to me and he said, "Angela, in forty-five minutes you're going to have five thousand people here. And you better prepare for it." I went home, changed, come down. And we had the *biggest* celebration. But... And it was, the admiral of the U.S. Coast Guard, read the poem. That we heard for the first time. About how God created the fisherman's wife.

JGF: Oh boy! That's the one on the statue?

AS: Yes. Well, it's in the book. The whole poem is not on the statue. So, there's been... Like I said, it would take *weeks*, to go over everything. But if you come to the booth we have a flyer with some of the information. So, we are always on the go! There's always something. Fishing regulations, ocean environment, ocean dumping. LNG tankers. Oil drilling. Wind towers. Everything! *Everybody* wants this ocean. Everybody *needs* the ocean. Because you know, out of sight, out of mind. What is the biggest problem on the solid ground? Getting rid of the bad waste. Where do they need to go dump it? In the ocean! So we have to be, very vigilant. Because if the ocean gets poisoned, and it doesn't reproduce, then we are in serious trouble.

[37:15]

JGF: Huh! I hear you say this, and I—you know you hear other people talk a lot about how the fish stocks have declined and it's all because of the fishermen. And I suspect you would answer it's because of all these other things?

AS: No. The fish stock declined because for thirty years the foreign factory trawls as big as five hundred feet, dredged, and ploughed those fishing grounds. As Lena used to say, they vacuum cleaned the ocean. We were lucky that we had enough seeds to start rebuilding again. But the American fishermen and the American fishing communities have paid the highest price.

JGF: So we're seeing the downs—the sort of aftereffect of that?

AS: And *now*, we've made the sacrifices. And things eventually will rebound. But they're getting rid of *us*. So, who is going to benefit? Who's going to reap the benefit? Is it going to be the foreigners again? There is a big question that we need to watch.

JGF: Yeah. Interesting. I just have one last question before we *need* to wrap up. I think I could sit here for hours with you. What would you like the average festival visitor this weekend to understand both about the industry and about the role of women?

AS: Well I like to see—The role of women they have to understand that a fishing community cannot survive without the involvement of women. The men are at sea. They're responsible for being out there. They're responsible for the lives of

the crew. They're responsible for their boats. They're responsible to catch fish. They're responsible to make the right decision to come home at the right time so that they could get a good price. When *they* come home, they do not have time to take care of their community. Because they have to get ready for the next cycle. The women, have been the rocks of fishing communities. And they will—for a fishing community to survive, as I said that day, the women still need to stand on a rock, to [?].

As for what they need to learn about the fishing industry, is that we, as fishing people—we are not just here to make a living. We are here, to preserve an industry, to preserve the ocean, to preserve a natural resource, that the whole country benefits from. We've paid a high price for doing that. We need their understanding and their respect.

JGF: Yeah. I can see why you became the advocate because you speak so clearly and beautifully and passionately about all this. Thank you.

Is there anything else I didn't ask that you would like to add for the tape, at this point? I know as you said, you could go on...

AS: It could be a million questions, you know? So, maybe like you say maybe another time.

JGF: OK. That sounds great.

AS: Maybe then, you know, you could ask me more.

JGF: OK. Well, thank you very much!

AS: You're welcome.

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