

00:00:10

Wang: Okay. So today, this is an interview with Tom Genochio. The interview is taking place on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018. And the interviewers are Susan Wang ...

Lesyna: And Kristine Lesyna.

Wang: Okay. So now, we'll have you introduce yourself, Tom.

00:00:29

Genochio: Okay. My name is Tom Genochio and, and we're in the cabin of the boat, Helen Ruth, in Princeton-by-the-Sea in Half Moon Bay, California.

Wang: Thank you.

00:00:44

Wang: So we just wanted to start off by learning more about you and how you got into fishing.

00:00:49

Genochio: Well, I got into fishing—my father was a fisherman. He started just a few years—when I was about 14, he started fishing. And he went in the fishing business. And he actually had a, a bar business and he, and he sold that and he decided to go fishing, so I went with him during school—after school. And then when I graduated, then I told him, “Either you have to help me buy a boat or pay me.” So he decided to loan me the money for a boat and then we both had a boat. Then I went to college and fished during the summer.

And then, then after college, then I went fishing and never used any of the college stuff.

00:01:38

Lesyna: So you both owned a boat in Half Moon Bay?

Genochio: Yeah, yeah. They were two Monterey's. Then about 1970, we decided to buy this boat. So we went together and sold the two little boats and bought this one.

00:01:54

Wang: Did you start with Halibut fishing or another fishery?

Genochio: No, we started salmon fishing, that was the first thing we did—was salmon and Albacore. And then the next year we went into crabs. And then in 1976, we decided to go drag fishing for ground fish. So then we set the boat up, went and bought all the gear and everything, set the boat up to go ground fishing. So while we're ground fishing, well, the Halibut are right here, so we went and fished those—there in that—when the, when the markets got flooded with ground fish, we just went Halibut fishing and vice versa, so we fished both types of fish for, for all them years.

Wang: Oh, wow.

Genochio: And then we'd fish salmon, when the salmon was good, which wasn't very often. And then we'd fish crabs every winter, so it kept us busy.

00:02:45

Wang: When did you get this boat?

Genochio: 1970.

Wang: 1970. Okay.

00:02:51

Wang: So both you and your dad fished this one?

Genochio: Yeah. Mm-hmm. [Affirmative]

Wang: Okay.

Genochio: Yeah, it's been a good boat.

00:02:59

Lesyna: And when did your dad retire from fishing?

Genochio: He retired about—well, he retired about 65, but then he went—he, he drilled the boat during crab season, until he was about 70. So then he retired completely.

00:03:18

Wang: So how long has it been?

Genochio: Since he retired?

Wang: Or since you started fishing?

Genochio: Oh, started fishing? Probably 19-, well, I had the little boat in 1966.

Wang: Wow.

Genochio: Yeah.

00:03:35

Wang: And have your other family members also joined into fishing?

Genochio: Nope, just us.

00:03:46

Wang: They haven't come—have they come out with you before or...?

Genochio: Oh, my daughter used to go with me once in a while. She was a luck—good luck charm. Every time she went, we caught something, whatever—didn't matter what it was.

Wang: That's really cool.

Genochio: Yeah.

00:04:04

Wang: Have you ever, like, stopped fishing for a while and done anything else?

Genochio: Nope. Nope. Nope. Fished the whole time.

00:04:13

Wang: You just fell in love with it?

Genochio: Oh, yeah, it was a good living, good living on the ocean. It was, it was fun. We used to travel up and down the coast all over when we fished salmon and Albacore. Then when I got married, we had—I decided to stay home, so that's when we put the drag gear on her, so we stayed home most of the time.

00:04:35

Wang: Oh, so it's—the other fisheries, you have to travel more?

Genochio: Yeah, yeah.

00:04:45

Lesyna: Can you tell us a little bit about your experience with the California Halibut trawl fishery specifically? So—how long have you been trawling for Halibut?

Genochio: Oh, probably since 1977. Yeah, and it's a—yeah, it was a good fill-in for everything else. When everything else went belly-up, there's a—it was a good time to—you can always catch some Halibut. So—some of them, bad crab seasons, then we'd just fish, fish Halibut during the winter.

00:05:21

Wang: Did you still fish other fisheries too?

Genochio: No, not—I'm just fishing Halibut—that was—I, I—little by little, I got out of fisheries—this the last one.

00:05:36

Lesyna: So can you tell us why the Halibut trawl fishery is valuable to you?

Genochio: Well, it's, it's been real consistent, more consistent than the other fisheries.

00:05:48

Lesyna: So the, the population of Halibut has been steady?

Genochio: Yeah, I'd say so. It's mostly—especially in the last, maybe, 15, 20 years. Before that, there wasn't very many. You usually just get them certain times of the year. But the last, I don't know, maybe 15 years, they've been pretty steady. There's more now than there was before.

00:06:11

Lesyna: So it used to be more seasonal, and now they're here year-round or accessible. And now you think there's even more than there was when you started...

Genochio: Oh, yeah, yeah.

Lesyna: ...in 1970?

00:06:22

Genochio: Yeah, I've seen a big improvement in it.

00:06:25

Wang: Why do you think there's been that change?

Genochio: You know, I think everything comes back because of the pollution in the bay. Because they all go in the bay and they grow up in the bay and if the water's clean, I think it's better off.

00:06:38

Lesyna: So you think the water's cleaner in the bay now than it used to be?

Genochio: Now, yeah, it's cleaner in the ocean too, than what it used to be. We used to, used to—be—go by the sewer plant there up in—off the city, and—years ago, and you could smell the chlorine. You can actually smell it when you're on the ocean. I don't think that did anything any good. But now you need—there's a lot of life around it, you go by it and there's a lot of seaweed and stuff.

00:07:08

Wang: That's a, that's a really good thing.

Genochio: Yeah.

Wang: I don't want to smell chlorine.

Genochio: No.

00:07:20

Wang: So would you describe, like, what a typical day is for you when you're Halibut fishing?

Genochio: Well, we always hope to put the net down and bring it back. And it, it—a typical—there is no typical day.

Wang: Different every day.

Genochio: Yeah, it's always different. Yeah, you go fishing, there's a lot of fish, lot of fish, and if there's not a lot of fish, you go and move somewhere else. And you don't

find them that day, you, you go home.

00:07:47

Wang: Do you usually start, like, early in the day or...?

Genochio: Mm-hmm. [Affirmative] Yeah, usually you want to set around daylight.

00:07:55

Wang: And then you come back in the evening?

Genochio: I do. If you wanted to trip fish, you could, but I don't do that no more.

00:08:03

Wang: And how do you decide when to go and when...?

Genochio: Oh, when the weather's nice, yeah, usually when—it's the weather.

00:08:13

Wang: And, like, how do you decide where to go? Do you have places...?

Genochio: Oh, I just flip a coin, guess, doesn't matter, just got to go try the spots.

00:08:23

Wang: Oh, so you don't have space—like, places that you go or, like, you hear from others?

Genochio: Well, certain times of the year you know about where to go. The summertime, they're in closer to the beach, wintertime, they're a little offshore, so you know where to—that's the basic things. And they don't go very far offshore, so you don't have to go very far out.

Wang: Yeah, that's nice.

Genochio: Yeah.

00:08:50

Wang: So is it—do you usually have someone here with you or do you go on your own?

Genochio: No, I have a crew, one other guy.

00:09:02

Wang: Has it changed very much, like, from when you first started fishing for Halibut versus now?

Genochio: Well, there's more fish, I think, down there—'cause there was a lot of times you wouldn't find too much. It's funny, over, over the period of all these years, the ocean has changed a lot. You get different fish. You're, like—maybe 30 years ago, you'd get a lot of English and Sand Sole. And then, then it changes—you don't get too many of them, you get more Halibut. And then it just, it just changes all the time on the water conditions and, and stuff. So over the years it's changed.

00:09:41

Lesyna: Have you been able to pinpoint any of those water conditions and relate them to how the Halibut population has changed?

Genochio: Well, Halibut like, like warmer water. But, but actually, we—I remember—El Nino years were always the best years. You'd get the El Nino years, and they're, they're always better than, than the other years. That's the only thing. As far as knowing what's going on in the bottom, I have no idea. If, if, if we think we know a lot, we don't know anything. Just the way it is. It's the nature—you can't see them. So...

00:10:26

Lesyna: Have you changed your fishing tactics over time?



Genochio: Well, yeah, we've changed nets a lot, made them more efficient and less dirty.

00:10:37

Lesyna: So you get less by-catch?

Genochio: Yeah, yeah, less by-catch, less, less stuff, period. When we first started, all the nets were tight close to the bottom. Now, we got—we have spacers about, you know, maybe 18 inches, so a lot of that stuff goes through.

00:10:55

Lesyna: So the nets kind of, like, skimming, skimming the bottom, but not touching it?

Genochio: Yeah, just, just, like, like, the foot rope is just rolling along the bottom, and then you got this much space, so a lot of stuff flies through, in between there. Because fish, fish have a tendency to jump up, so you don't have to have it close to the bottom. And hopefully the small fish don't jump too high and they go through the bottom.

00:11:19

Lesyna: Can you tell us how you, you modified your trawl gear over time, as you learned more about how to catch Halibut?

Genochio: Yeah, we raised it off the bottom and then we put in a little bigger mesh in the cod end, just for Halibut, so you don't catch a lot of other stuff.

00:11:36

Lesyna: And how big is your mesh?

Genochio: It's—on the bottom—it's seven-and-a-half inches on the bottom, four-and-a-half on top, because you leave it too big on top, the sea lions eat them.

00:11:51

Wang: Do you see anything interesting in your catch?

Genochio: What's that?

Wang: Anything interesting that you've seen in your catch that, like, surprised you before or...?

Genochio: Couple weird fish, yeah. Caught one sea robin. It's a fish that comes from Mexico, got a thing—it's got three dorsal fins on it.

Lesyna: When was that?

Genochio: Oh, this had been quite a few years ago now. And then we've caught true cod, you know, from Alaska true cod—we've caught a few of them. And some weird fish you catch. Caught one fish, I don't know what it was, it's not in a book, it's not in anything. It was just a weird-looking thing.

00:12:33

Lesyna: Did you keep it?

Genochio: Yeah, I kept it for a long time. I even told the Fish and Game, "You might not want to hear this," but I took—called the Fish and Game and I told the biologist about it and he didn't want anything to do with it, so ...

00:12:45

Lesyna: What did it look like?

Genochio: It was, it was all black with a, with a tiny white eye. It, it was a perch-like fish. It stood this way, stood up and down, and it, it—blue, real dark blue or black, and it had—just a, a weird-looking thing. I've never seen one before or after.

Wang: That's weird.

Genochio: Yeah.

Wang: Now, I'm curious what it is.

Genochio: I don't know. I've never found one in the book. I got—looked all through all these fish books and never seen it.

00:13:18

Lesyna: Were you in a different spot than normal, like, deeper or...?

Genochio: No, no, just where we always fished out there.

00:13:28

Lesyna: Is your, is your fishing gear different than other fishermen's gear?

Genochio: You know, you know, I don't know, I don't know. Nobody shows anybody anything.

00:13:37

Lesyna: Is there anything, is there anything that you think is unique about it, maybe?

Genochio: I don't think so, no. It's just a—we've played with it a lot, changing things around, trying to make them fish cleaner, because you—why catch them if you can't keep them? So it's just a—just my idea.

00:14:00

Wang: So just that change in the mesh size has helped reduce the...

Genochio: Well, yeah, well, it let's all the, all the little crabs out too. They fall out real easy, so you don't catch a lot of crabs, which doesn't do you no good to catch those. Because a net fishes better when there's less stuff in it, you know? You can put a lot—you start getting a lot of stuff in it, then that starts flopping around, doesn't work as good.

00:14:28

Lesyna: Have changes in management policies and regulations impacted you and the fishery?

Genochio: In the Halibut fishery?

Lesyna: In the Halibut fishery, specifically.

Genochio: I don't remember anything changing. Has the date—I don't know, I don't remember.

00:14:45

Lesyna: How about in the groundfish fishery?

Genochio: Oh, ground fish, yeah, that, that put us—when they put observers on the boat, that kind of finished us up, because we're a small boat, so we couldn't afford to pay that much money for observers, because you almost have to go out and catch a lot of fish to be able to pay for it, so, so that's why we stopped doing that.

00:15:13

Lesyna: Have you seen any shifts in market demand that affected Halibut locally and how you're able to sell them?

Genochio: No, it's, it's always, it's always been like that. If you, if everybody—if it's nice weather and everybody goes fishing, it puts a lot of fish on the market. So after a couple days, it kind of plugs up. So you just have to stay in a couple days and wait for them to sell, because California Halibut is more of a fresh market. See, like, Alaskan Halibut, that's a, that's a frozen market, so they can—they sell them all year-round. But these here are more of a fresh market, nobody wants to freeze them, so...

00:15:51

Wang: Is it just because of the—why-why is California Halibut more of a fresh market?

Genochio: You know, I don't know. They just don't seem to want to freeze them, so, you

would have to ask a fish buyer that question. Yeah, see, so we just—even if it floods, it floods the market, but then you just stay in a couple days, then you go back out and there's some more. It's good for the fish.

00:16:18

Lesyna: Do you think a lot of the Halibut that you catch stays local?

Genochio: Yeah, I think majority of it does, yeah. I think a majority of it is.

00:16:34

Lesyna: Have you seen the local fishing community change around you over time?

Genochio: Yeah, yeah, I've seen it change. Well, the whole area changed. It just—I see a lot, a lot—like, now, you get, get a lot of people selling their fish off the boat and stuff. That's a big change.

00:16:57

Lesyna: So before they used to sell them to the buyers?

Genochio: Just the buyers, yeah, they'd, they didn't sell them to the public.

00:17:06

Wang: Is that more, like, what caused that change?

Genochio: Yeah, I don't know. I—well, I think just because of the marketing conditions, like, some people, you know, they'd, they'd rather sell to the buyer—buyers, and other people would rather just sell to the public and make more money and catch less fish, because when you're selling, you can't catch a fish, so it's just on the attitude.

00:17:34

Wang: How about, like, how—have you seen, like, new technology? How has that changed the way that you fish or your fishing success?

Genochio: Oh, technology, I'm a dinosaur, so I don't have much technology.

00:17:52

Lesyna: What about your GPS plotter?

Genochio: Well, that helped, that helped. I remember we first started fishing, we didn't have any of that stuff. It was just a—we had a stick out in the front there with a lead on it, and at least it showed you you were going forward. But—and then, then we had the old LORAN's, they weren't very accurate, so once we got the GPS plotters, it did make a big difference. You could, you could mark all the rocks and you knew exactly where you were, and you could go between them.

00:18:20

Lesyna: So you snagged your gear less?

Genochio: Yeah, oh, a lot less, lot less, first started, it was terrible. When we started, it was only couple boats fishing. You had to kind of map the whole area. Didn't really know where the snags were. But we found them.

Lesyna: Trial and error.

Genochio: Yeah, trial and error, yeah.

00:18:44

Wang: So how did you—when did you start using the GPS thing and...?

Genochio: Oh, when, geez, I don't know—over the years, I, I couldn't tell you what year that was. It's been quite a while though, probably been 20 years, I'm guessing.

00:19:05

Wang: And so before that, you just had to remember or...?

Genochio: Yeah, well, you had to take a LORAN. What a LORAN does, it tells you approximately where you're at, and then you—it wouldn't give in and out readings, so you'd have to go—we'd—what we used to do is take a reading every 15 minutes and go by the depth and just mark it on the chart and see how far you went. That's how we figured out the speed.

Wang: Wow.

Genochio: Yeah, it wasn't easy, but we didn't know any better, so that's the way it was. Then we got the GPS, of course, that tells you exactly how fast you're going, so that made a big difference.

Wang: That's pretty amazing.

Genochio: Yeah.

00:19:48

Lesyna: Did you—were you able to expand your fishing areas because you now had a GPS plotter where you knew you could avoid...?

Genochio: Oh, yes, yeah.

Lesyna: How did those change with time?

Genochio: Well, I think that changed a lot, a lot of things around here. It made it, made it a lot easier for, for new guys to get in the business. Because in the old days, you went into it, you had to kind of had—had to have a sense of the swells and everything else to see where you were. You know, just—used to go, used to go crab fishing, used to know approximately where the traps were. We'd have to run a course. You'd always go up the string about 10 traps, just—so you'd hit them and then you'd run back down the string to find the end pot. And you didn't know exactly where it was, so the GPS made a big difference. Made it so you can go right to the spot.

00:20:43

Lesyna: When you first started fishing, did you learn a lot from your, from your father?

Genochio: Oh, yeah, yeah. Well, actually, when he started, it wasn't too much longer than when I got started. So we kind of learned on our own.

Wang: So you just, you just tried it...?

Genochio: It's not an easy thing—and we had a lot of good friends that taught us, helped us, too. Fishermen are good about that. And we knew a couple of guys and, and that really helped.

00:21:25

Wang: So just kind of transitioning to the future of the fishery, we're interested in hearing what you think your future role in this fishery is?

Genochio: Well, if I was going to keep fishing, I would be optimistic, because it's a—it look, it looks good for the future. I know, like, the salmon looks good for the next couple years. Hopefully it'll give them a season to fish, but it looks good. There's a lot, a lot of fish in the ocean. And ground fish—looks like there's a lot of ground fish, because nobody's really fished them in 20 years, so there should be quite a few of them out there. All that is if they can go fishing.

00:22:05

Wang: Why do you—how do you know there's a lot of fish out there?

Genochio: Because the guys that have been fishing have been catching a lot of fish—and a lot of small fish, too.

00:22:14

Lesyna: A lot of small Halibut?

Genochio: That—salmon, salmon. There was a lot of small Halibut earlier, there, there was a lot of them. We hadn't fished in two months, so—well, actually, I did, I fished one day. But, yeah, there's—there was a lot of small ones. It looks good for the future,



I think.

00:22:39

Wang: Have you seen that change over time, like, the size of the fish and, and the number of the, the...?

Genochio: Oh, yeah, you, you can kind of tell the next year what it's going to look like when you're, when you're fishing. Like, this year, it doesn't, it doesn't look good for crabs this next coming year, but it looks good for the year after, so...

00:23:01

Wang: Well, how—why do you say that, like...?

Genochio: Because with this net—one day we got a lot of little crabs and, and there was a lot of them in there. So it looked good for the, for the future. They were all like two-and-a-half, three inches across, so that'd be another two years.

00:23:21

Wang: And you said if you, if you were going to keep on fishing—so what are your future plans?

Genochio: Oh, I'm retiring, I'm going, I'm going to quit in January.

00:23:35

Lesyna: Do you plan to pass on all this fishing knowledge to anybody else?

Genochio: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah, a lot of young guys, yeah, it's good. I like, I like to see young guys in the business. And just this last couple years, we've seen some young guys get into it, and hopefully they, they can stay in it and make a living at it.

00:23:55

Lesyna: So even after you retire, you'll plan to stay involved...

Genochio: Oh, I'll come down here.

Lesyna: ...in the community here and...?

Genochio: Shoot the breeze with them, yeah. I'll try to help as much as I can.

00:24:05

Wang: Have you seen a change in, like, interest in the fishery?

Genochio: Hm?

Wang: Have you seen a change in the interest in the fishery?

Genochio: Yeah, I see a lot more younger guys, like, 10 years ago, there was no young guys even thinking about going fishing, you know? No, this last couple years, I've seen some—quite a few younger guys, so it—that's a good sign.

00:24:27

Lesyna: Why do you think there was that change?

Genochio: I don't know, I don't know. But it, it looks good. I like to see young guys in it.

Wang: Yeah, it's a good sign.

Genochio: Yeah.

Wang: Continue.

Genochio: Yeah.

00:24:21

Wang: How about your vessel, what is going to happen—what are your plans for your vessel?

Genochio: Well, I'd—hopefully somebody would buy it and take care of it. Yeah. So, we'll see.

00:24:55

Wang: What's the story behind the name? Is there a story?

Genochio: Oh, there is a story. That was a—the, the fellow that built this—built this boat, Lomar McGinnis, that was his daughter's name, Helen Ruth McGinnis. Yeah. So it was funny. I met her. We were unloading fish one day at the dock here, because this boat originally was built in Inglewood, California down by —San Pedro. So I was sitting there, we were unloading the boat, and this woman comes up to me and says, "You know who that boat's named after?" I said, "I have no idea." She says, "Me." It happened to be she lived in Livermore or some place over in the East Bay. And so—carried on a conversation with her, and she took a bunch of pictures to send back to her father. And that was pretty cool.

Wang: Yeah, that's really cool.

00:25:49

Wang: Is there a significance to that bird?

Genochio: Yeah, she made that.

Wang: Oh, the parrot?

Genochio: Yeah, the daughter made that and then he put it on there. Yeah. I don't know what it means, it's been there ever since.

Wang: That's cool.

00:26:12

Lesyna: So do you always fish off of Half Moon Bay or do you go up to San Francisco or anywhere else in California?

Genochio: Well, for, for Halibut?

Lesyna: Yeah, for Halibut.

Genochio: I fish from San Francisco to Pigeon Point.

Lesyna: Okay.

Genochio: That's it.

Lesyna: And that's what you've been doing since 1970?

Genochio: Yeah, well, 1977, we've been dragging Halibut, yeah, that's when we started for that. But before that, we used to travel all up and down the coast for salmon and hali—Albacore. Yeah, you had to travel for those. Been from Canada to Mexico.

00:26:47

Lesyna: Have you seen any changes between Pigeon Point and San Francisco with the Halibut population over time?

Genochio: Yeah, yeah.

Lesyna: Yeah?

Genochio: Yeah, you know, you get good years and you get a little worse years. But I, I see more fish now all year round than we used to see. Like I was saying before, before you usually get them, you usually get them in the summertime up on the banks up off of San Francisco, and then you would get them in the wintertime off the banks. You know, like, down here you'd get some. But then—but now, seems like you can—all year round you see some.

00:27:26

Lesyna: So all your old fishing spots are still reliable?

Genochio: Mm-hmm. [Affirmative] Yeah. Yeah. I don't see no changes in that.

00:27:38

Wang: How about other, like, other changes in just the general marine environment over that time?

Genochio: Well, it—I think it's cleaner now. I think the ocean's a lot cleaner. We first started fishing—first, first time we went dragging for ground fish, we used to catch a lot of garbage down off of Pigeon, between there and Pigeon.

00:28:02

Lesyna: What kind of garbage?

Genochio: Ship garbage. They'd throw bags of garbage over and we caught a lot of that, lot of garbage. The ships used to just dump it overboard. They don't do that no more.

Wang: I'm glad.

Genochio: And then we'd catch it. But we'd always bring it in and put it in the dumpster.

Lesyna: Oh, you did?

Wang: That's good.

Genochio: We felt like garbage men for a while there.

00:28:28

Lesyna: Did that ever mess with your net at all?

Genochio: No, not too much, no, just a bag of garbage you'd have in there.

Wang: I'm glad they don't do that anymore.

Genochio: Yeah, it's a lot—the ocean's a lot cleaner now than it used to be.

00:28:50

Lesyna: Do you have any concerns for the future of the fishery? I know you said that you think everything looks really healthy.

Genochio: I guess I'd just like to see them give these guys a chance to catch some fish, give them the time on the ocean to be able to catch them. That's all it needs. You know, they got plenty of times off with the wind and the weather and everything, that they don't need all this time off. You know, Halibut fishing, we don't have time off. We can fish any time we want. But the salmon and, and, and that kind of fishery, it's just—it's a shame. Yeah, so they get—because the weather takes care of the time off. You get plenty of time with that.

00:29:27

Lesyna: Are you ever concerned with competition from other fisheries that are occurring in other areas?

Genochio: Not with—we've got limited entry now, so there's—you don't have too much competition. There's so many boats doing it.

00:29:47

Lesyna: So there's no competition from, like, any, like, imports from...?

Genochio: Oh, that—oh, I don't, I don't know. There might be some, but I don't any—you know, I don't know who buys them fish or what.

00:30:14

Lesyna: Do you have any thoughts on how you think the fishery might change in the future?

Genochio: Change? Like, I—I don't know, I hope it doesn't change too much. So I don't know how it could change.

Lesyna: Yeah.

00:30:36

Wang: What are—like, what are your hopes for this fishery?

Genochio: That it keeps going, like all fisheries, so it could feed the people, yeah.

00:30:46

Wang: What do you think is needed to do that, to keep it going for a long time?

Genochio: Well, that's a good question. I don't know. To keep it going—it—just leave it the way it is, I guess. I don't know. You know, it's just hard to say what's on the bottom of the ocean and how it's going to keep going—but you're going to have down years, you're going to have up years, that's just the way it is. It's cycling. So I don't know how you can change that.

00:31:18

Wang: So what's, like, what's working well now that—that you see is, working well for—because you've seen Halibut do well and what do you think is working now?

Genochio: What's working now—well, I, I think the, the, the quotas and limited entry, you have to have that. I think that works. That way there you don't catch—you don't, just wipe them out. I think that, that's helped the ground fish a lot. But I don't know what else. Seasons, they got those. I don't know what else they could do, really. Yeah.

00:32:19

Wang: I guess is there—well, we have, like, a final question, but before that, I guess, what do you enjoy most about fishing?

Genochio: Oh, the freedom and the—and being out in the ocean, not being in a crowd. We get enough crowds around here just driving down the road.

Lesyna: Mm-hmm. [Affirmative]

Genochio: Yeah, always liked that. Always liked—well, the harder you work, the more money you make, so that's kind of a good deal. I always like—it's just a freedom, I think, is more than anything—and peaceful.

Lesyna: It's an escape.

Genochio: Yeah. And you don't have anybody telling you what to do.

Lesyna: You're your own boss.

Genochio: Yes, that's a big thing right there.

00:33:04

Wang: Do you have a most memorable day in your fishing career?

Genochio: Oh, Jesus, I, I bet you I have a lot of them.

Wang: You could share a few of them.

Genochio: There's a lot of good memorable—memorable days. I remember fishing salmon up off of Saint George Reef and just filling the boat up with salmon. We had a really big day that day. And I don't know exactly how many fish we had, we never counted them, but must have had about 400. And then one time, Albacore fishing, we were off of Coos Bay. And it was a—we fished all day long in a fleet of boats, working back and forth. We'd maybe had about 150 fish. And just—about an hour before dark we were there, and my father was cooking. He had made some pork chops. And he says, "Dinner's ready." Okay. So I put the boat on the—just a big wide circle, and the boat was going around and around. We had one of my—one of our good friend's sons was, was with us on the boat. And the boat went in the circle, when all of a sudden all the lines went down. So then we all jumped in the back there and we started throwing fish on the boat. And, and we filled the whole deck with fish—and then until after dark, in about a two-hour period there was fish all the way to the—couldn't open the back door of the cabin.

Lesyna: Wow.



Genochio: That was a good—that was a memorable day.

Lesyna: And that was an accidental fishing spot too.

Genochio: Yeah, it was—it just happened. Those are the best times, the ones that surprise you.

00:34:45

Lesyna: Well, did you get to finish your dinner or did you have to go back to work right away?

Genochio: Well, it was cold, it was cold, by the time we got to it, it was cold. But it didn't matter. Yeah, there was some good crab days too, deck load of crabs.

00:35:01

Lesyna: How about Halibut, were there any, like, amazing days?

Genochio: Oh, yeah, yeah, there was some really good days of that, too. Yeah. Yeah, it was a—there was good days of everything. I remember. You remember those, you don't remember the bad days.

Lesyna: Oh, good.

Wang: That's good.

Genochio: Then the days my daughter went with me. Every time she went, we caught fish or crab or whatever we were after. She was good—lucky. She's busy with a couple kids now, so.

Lesyna: I was going to ask you if she was going to take over for you.

Genochio: No, she won't go no more. She's too busy. Yeah.

00:35:42

Wang: Have the grandkids been out here?

Genochio: They go on the boat, yeah, not on the ocean yet. They're only seven and five, so...

Wang: Oh, yeah.

Genochio: I'll have to take them for a ride before I quit though.

Wang: Yeah, of course. They've got to experience it.

Genochio: Yeah, yeah.

Wang: Maybe they'll get bitten by the bug, too.

Genochio: Yeah, yeah.

00:36:05

Wang: Is, is there anything else you'd want to share about your career with others?

Genochio: Well, I wouldn't trade it for anything. It was a good life, yeah. A lot of fun. A lot of good memories. Yeah, a couple, couple close calls, but we don't want to remember those.

Lesyna: Well, hang on.

Genochio: So, yeah.

Wang: Do you have any more questions? Well, thank you so much for your time, Tom.

Genochio: Oh, you're welcome. You're welcome.

Wang: Thank you, it's been great.

Genochio: Yeah.

Wang: Fifty-two years of fishing.

Genochio: Yeah, 52 years.

Wang: Congratulations in your retirement.

Genochio: Yeah, and, and I made it.

Wang: Yeah. Now you get to enjoy.

Genochio: Yeah. Now I'm going to go enjoy some down time.

Wang: Yeah, definitely.

Genochio: Yeah.

Wang: Well, thank you. I'll turn these off.

[End recording at 00:37:07]