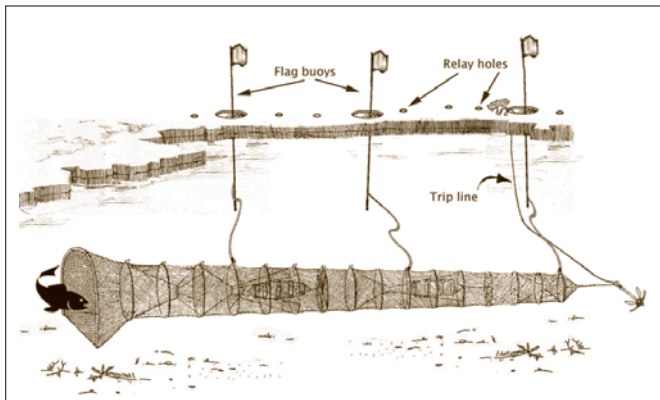


LONG ISLAND MARITIME MUSEUM

Baymen's Oral History Group

- Carl Chichester ▪

When LImm Research Associate John Kochiss recorded this interview with Carl Chichester in November of 1979, Capt. Chichester was 89 years old. In it he reminisces about a life lived on the Great South Bay. In addition to working as a commercial fisherman, for a variety of catches, Chichester also found employment as a guide for market hunters.



TAPE: Carl Chichester 1A

Contents:

- Ice harvesting & ice houses ; working with Capt. Casey Smith aboard the sloop, Louisa; pound fishing, gill netting, trap fishing, gill seine netting, the fish oil rendering plant at Ocean Beach on Fire Island. (0:00-18:00)
- Barrels, casks; oyster boats and boat building, sail making. (18:00-21:00)

TAPE: Carl Chichester 1B

Contents:

- William Ketcham-built ice scooters; market gunning, fishing through ice, fyke fishing; various ways he made a living on the Bay (0:00-15:00).
- South Shore oyster companies,. (18:00-22:00)

TAPE: Carl Chichester 2

Contents:

- Techniques for dredging scallops under sail; the use of fish traps; fyke fishing. (0:00-6:00)
- Memories of his father, Andrew Chichester. (6:00-8:00)
- Salt hay gathering. (8:00-14:00)
- Fire Island ferries. (14:00-22:00)
- Market hunting with scooters. (22:00-31:00)

All times are approximate indications of subject/topic areas.

Top: Set-up for fyke fishing through ice. Leader/opening end is facing out, since fish always head for deep water when they hit an obstacle. Holes are cut in the ice to drop, set, buoy, stake and anchor the gear. Anchor is set with a trip line. Flag buoys (often old or broken tong handles), with strips of fabric attached, extend a few feet above the ice to mark the set-up.

Far left: Scallop sloops and cat-boat dredging. Louisa (built in Patchogue, 1893) is in the foreground.

Left: Carl Chichester's Ketcham-built gunning scooter (c.1925).

Below: Frank Brounbaker and Rob Birch of Amityville, after a day of broadbill and brant shooting, with their guide, Capt. Carl Chichester, c. 1902.