

**THE CENTER FOR ORAL HISTORY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE**  
**of**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI**

**Recording Log**

**Interviewee:** Nick Alfonso, shrimper, crabber in Louisiana wetlands

**Interviewer:** Stephanie Scull-DeArme y

**Date of recording:** April 24, 2012

**Recording format/notes:** Recorded digitally in one file.

**Recording length:** 1 hour, 19 minutes

**Location:** Phone interview; Alfonso in St. Bernard, Louisiana, and Scull-DeArme y in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

**Subjects/Topics:** Species caught, marketing catch, learning to fish, grading shrimp, bycatch, equipment, moon's effects on sea life, trawl nets, regulations, imported shrimp, rising fuel costs, wetlands, freshwater diversion, Bonnet Carré Spillway, Hurricane Katrina, conservation, boats, skimmer nets, skimmer nets, Brazilian shrimp, turtle excluder devices, sea turtles, Shrimp Advisory Board, levees, Katrina's debris, net making, BP Deepwater Horizon oil disaster, Vessels of Opportunity, sea birds, crabbing, lost-income claim against BP, current health of fisheries, testing seafood for eating safety, naturally-occurring oil seeps, oil-eating bacteria, rising costs of fishing, dwindling prices paid for catches

<b>Time/ Counter</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>Track 1 of 1</b> 0:01:03.6	Personal history
0:01:53.5	Species caught commercially and marketed
0:03:29.5	Learning to fish
0:04:05.2	Grading shrimp
0:04:37.2	Bycatch
0:05:20.6	Shrimping equipment circa 1975
0:06:56.6	Using the moon to catch shrimp
0:09:07.3	Trawling for shrimp in the daytime
0:11:00.8	Species caught
0:11:14.9	Regulations

0:12:33.8	Cyclical nature of fishing for a living
0:12:55.4	Decision to become a commercial fisherman
0:13:53.9	Meaning of seafood industry to him and his family
0:14:33.6	Imported shrimp, rising fuel costs, price paid for catch
0:15:07.6	Importance of wetlands
0:16:27.8	Erosion of wetlands, freshwater diversion
0:17:18.8	Restoring lost wetlands
0:17:27.9	Bonnet Carré Spillway
0:19:32.3	Loss of wetlands
0:19:59.0	Freshwater diversion
0:21:14.6	Wetlands as protection from hurricanes
0:22:52.8	Hurricane Katrina, storm surge
0:24:34.7	Marketing catch
0:25:21.9	Economic meaning of seafood industry
0:25:74.2	Fishermen as conservationists
0:27:34.7	Fishing boats
0:28:08.0	Meaning of seafood industry to people and culture of Gulf Coast
0:31:25.8	Fishermen's rules
0:31:45.9	Changes in fishing over his career, skimmer nets
0:32:53.8	Bycatch
0:33:57.9	Catches in skimmer net
0:34:32.3	Brazilian shrimp

0:35:09.4	Changes in regulations
0:37:14.0	Turtle excluder devices, sea turtles
0:38:10.3	Loss of wetlands
0:39:01.6	Changes in marketing, need for regulations on imports
0:42:06.8	Shrimp Advisory Board, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
0:42:53.1	Hurricane Katrina
0:44:56.9	Boat mold
0:47:35.0	Help in recovery from Hurricane Katrina
0:49:13.4	Commercial fishing business after Katrina
0:51:30.4	Rescue and recovery at nursing home after Katrina
0:54:48.2	Levees kept Katrina waters in neighborhoods
0:57:13.4	Katrina's debris in fishing waters
0:58:00.9	Net making
1:00:18.8	Expectations of fishing season before BP Deepwater Horizon oil disaster
1:01:00.9	Vessels of Opportunity
1:02:10.8	Making it through summer of 2010 after BP Deepwater Horizon oil disaster, testing waters for presence of shrimp, crabs
1:03:22.7	Sea birds as litmus test for health of fishery
1:04:29.9	Crabbing waters closed
1:04:56.4	Lost-income claim with BP
1:06:39.1	Appraisal of future in Gulf fishing
1:07:05.5	Appraisal of current health of shrimp, crab fisheries
1:07:51.8	Testing of Louisiana seafood for safety to eat

1:09:16.7	Naturally-occurring oil seeps, oil-eating bacteria
1:11:34.9	Appearance of waters
1:11:40.4	Sighting oil
1:12:44.7	Appraisal of health of crab, shrimp fisheries, reproductive systems
1:13:36.0	Appraisal of future drilling in Gulf
1:16:51.0	Cooking speckled trout
1:18:18.2	Rising costs of fishing, dwindling prices paid for catches