

Interview #1

Date: 10/08/05

Location: Cape May, New Jersey

INTERVIEW

RES: [] And you mentioned that your grandfather and your father were fishermen and farmers?

INT: Yeah. I had grandfathers on both sides that were fishermen. They had forums. Their great grandfathers had a forum and a fishing boat – 46 foot fishing boat. And on my daddy's side, his daddy had a fishing boat a 46-48 foot boat. And then my daddy had 2 brothers and they had the fishing boat. You know a little bigger boat as the years went by, they got a little more mud. And, my daddy never...yeah I had the boat together with my brothers before I came to America.

RES: So you fished in Sweden for a while before you came?

INT: 10 years before I came here.

RES: And what were you fishing for there?

INT: Herring, and mackerel, and haddock, codfish, and we were at the Baltic Sea and fished quite a bit.

RES: So you just went for [] and ground fish when you were out there?

INT: Yes exactly. Haddock, and codfish, and what do you call them pollock and all these kind of fish and [].

RES: Why did you decide to come to the US?

INT: Well, I guess I was young, and I always wanted to come. I went to the movies...I was not allowed to go to the movies because it was sinful, you know, in those days you go to the movies. And we had to, they claimed that we snuck off and see these cowboy films with John Wayne and Tom Mix and all of these guys you know. John Wayne and Hop along Cassidy or whatever it was and Gary Cooper and all these.

RES: Very good. So you arrived in 1954?

INT: 1954 yeah.

RES: And were you married at that point?

INT: Yep. My wife, we met 2 years before we came in 1952.

RES: And did you begin fishing right away then?

INT: Right here?

RES: Yeah.

INT: Yes.

RES: And you moved to Cape May at that point?

INT: I came to New York on a boat on the Stockholm, and we arrived on XXXX And, I had an address to [] in Cape May. His name was XXXX, XXXX. You remember the dock that they used to have there.

RES: Yeah, Yeah.

INT: Their daddy. I had an address to him because my uncle he new him you know. And, when I came to New York, I didn't know him. I hadn't talked to him before and called him up and ask him...

RES: And all you know was his name?

INT: His name was XXXX...yeah yeah and the address. There was no telephone number. They got that from the directory you know, and I call him up and I asked you know I knew he had the boat. And he asked me, have you been fishing before? All my life I said. Come on down, you have job he said.

RES: Ah so he was a fisherman?

INT: Yep. So I came down. I was up there for about 5 days in Brooklyn, oh no in Bronx. Then, I came down there and we rented a hotel room here in cape may, and we came on Friday. We went out with that boat, he was done over hauling and stuff when I came, and we left Monday.

RES: So you're fishing within a couple...

INT: And my wife, she came here and she couldn't speak English. None of us could speak English you know.

RES: And XXXX he spoke Swedish.

INT: Yeah he spoke Swedish, but he did not want to speak Swedish with the crew. He says I'm going to speak English, I'm not going to speak Swedish to you.

RES: So you better learn.

INT: Yeah, and you know it took me quite a while, but after a while I started getting the hang of it. And so, that how we went up. We went up to Long Island up in Rhode Island, and we were fishing for butterfish and porgies.

RES: That was your main fishery then?

INT: Yes, and then flounders fishing too.

RES:: That's summer flounder?

INT: Yes summer flounder. We caught them all year []wintertime you know.

RES: Before I ask more about your fisheries, do you have any children?

INT: Yeah I have 5.

RES: And are they fishermen?

INT: Yes, my 2 boys they got the boats down there XXXX and XXXX. They're captains on them.

RES: Those are 2 big ones down on...

INT: Yeah. Right. My oldest son has been fishing since he was 6 years old.

RES: Since he was 6?

INT: Yeah he went out with me fishing. So he knows his way around. And the younger one is 42, and he's been fishing...he took the boat out when he was 16 years old. You know, I went to Sweden...

RES: Now how old were you when you started?

INT: I was, well I told you earlier, I went out you know during the war. I went out with my uncles and my daddy. I even had an encounter with the Germans at that time. The war was on then in 1942.

RES: Did you really. You were born in 1931, so you were just a young man then. You were what 10 or 12 years old.

INT: Ten years old, and we went out squidding for mackerel at that time. In summertime we was off from school, and I went with them. I was allowed to have a little hook for my self to try and catch some fish and mackerel I mean. That's how it went in Sweden, so when we came in I used to put the mackerel in the basket and then I went selling it.

RES: How much did you get for mackerel?

INT: Oh, it wasn't very much. I think I got probably 5 cents for a kilo you know. It was not very much, but I was very ambitious in those days. I had a newspaper, so I carried around the

newspapers and would sell the fish at the same time. So I came early in the morning you know about 4 o'clock, and the ladies didn't like that when I came and knock on the door. It's too early for them to get up and buy fish. Can you come a little later hahaha.

RES: SO are you retired now or are you still fishing?

INT: No, I have a small boat – 1999. A 42 foot boat, and I rig that up for dragging.

RES: Ok, and you're the skipper for that. You're the captain for that?

INT: Yeah I do it by myself. Once in a while my grandson go with me out.

RES: They had a term in Newfoundland called cross-handed. Did you say that here?

INT: Cross-handed, no I didn't see that.

RES: Cross-handed means you're fishing alone. You're going out by yourself.

INT: Right, yep.

RES: So a 42 foot vessel, what's the name on your vessel?

INT: XXXX, cause when I got the boat I bought it in Canada. When I got the boat, my grandson asked me what do you want to call the boat. So I looked at him and said, he was my sons son, I said I think I want to call XXXX. XXXX, he said, []

[]

RES: That's a good name. So you began in the fishing industry some time in 1940...

INT: 1945 right after the war, I started after school you know when I was done with school. I was about 14 years old in those days. And, the war was on, so the fishing wasn't that... they had to watch because, you know, when they went out because there was too many mines around. So when I started fishing, I remember the first trip going out, I counted 14 mines that were drifting.

RES: 14!? How did you see them on the water?

INT: Just laying there drifting yeah. You see the horns sticking up. Sometimes the boat went on them and blew to kingdom come.

RES: That's a danger you don't have to deal with anymore.

INT: Oh yeah, and we got used to it that we would steam it at night, and the sometimes he had the search light up on the bow there to look for.

RES: You guys, I don't know if you're brave or what.

INT: No, it was stupid you know. And one boat was sitting there two man in the [] out there were looking for that white water for the bow water, and they see that mine riding that white water going by at that one side. We didn't see in that one. But we did have them in the net, so we had to cut the net. And the boat, my daddy and my brother was on, they had one exploded in the net. They were taking the net in and she exploded, and the whole boat was covered with water for about a minute.

RES: Was anybody hurt?

INT: No everybody thought that he would go on, you know the boat on the distance, but then he finally they started see him again. Everything on the boat, windows in the parlor and all the lockers was turned upside down, and everything throwed down there and upside down.

RES: I imagine if you hit that with your hull you'd be done.

INT: Yeah yeah.

RES: Now when you got started in say Cape May, was it difficult to get into the fishing industry at that point? You mentioned you knew somebody, but was it difficult...

INT: Yeah, it was in those days you couldn't borrow no money unless you had the collateral, and you know I went to the bank so many times. I had, I got a small boat together with my daddy's cousin from New York.

RES: This is XXXX your talking about?

INT: No not XXXX Eric, another man. His name was XXXX.

RES: Ok actual [] ?

INT: No, he was XXXX was his name. And he lived in Bronx and he was a floor layer. And, he said he wanted to get into the fishing business, so we bought a small boat from Islip in Long Island. And we to it down there and...

RES: Took it down here to Cape May?

INT: Yeah to Cape May. So, I went fishing with that fishing for flukes, flounders, and whiting and things like that.

RES: Ok, and what size vessel would that have been?

INT: That was a 35 foot boat, 11 foot wide. There was my...I thought I was going to lose my life on that one. I had a couple of times where I sprung a leak and the boat was leaking so bad it would have sunk on the [] of two men. And they were gaining on us anyway you know. We was pumping and bailing, and then you run in full speed.

RES: What happened, were you in heavy seas?

INT: No, it was a piece of plate. It was for a propeller shift log in the back. The propeller hit that and went up and went right up through the hull, you know the plank, and that made it all like the fifth and it broke the wood you know and the hole right through there.

RES: You're a lucky man.

INT: Yep, that time I was sure I was going to be swimming.

RES: So it was difficult to find a loan to finance that first...

INT: Yeah, well my daddy's cousin he financed his boat, but I had...I made a little bit of money, so I gave him you know and bought into it so to speak but not very much.

RES: Ok, but you fished out of Cape May and went for butterfish and...

INT: Yeah we fished out of Cape May. Yeah we fished for butterfish, but mostly whiting and flounders. I specialized in flounders, summer flounders, and I worked from April to October on that flounder fishing on the beach there mostly. Sometimes I went over in the Delaware Bay there and fished a lot.

RES: So maybe I can actually bring out a map, and you can show me on the map.

[]

INT: This area here is about two miles red line here. Follow that ok you know like this 42 here

RES: That's north along...

INT: And the Cape May inlet is down this way. And we fished here two miles, and then we fished around this area here, and then the green buoy bank here, Fife Island here, and this bank this Fife Island Bank is - oh there probably too small to see.

RES: On this large scale...

INT: Ten Bank is right there you know. This is Fife Island here; we can see quite a bit here around this bank.

RES: Ok and that's marked with number 1.

INT: Yeah that's the Green Buoy right there, which is inside that two mile.

RES: Ok, and what are you fishing for there.

INT: Flounder, we used to catch flounders and then go codfish in the winter time with long line. I would long line in the wintertime.

RES: How long has it been since you've been cod fishing?

INT: Oh we used to catch them in the nets, of course you know before we sorted that, like now in November, the middle of November, we can go I can go at some time I can go with the []out of Cape May about 4-5 miles and I get 40-50 box of cod fish.

RES: Today?

INT: From this, you know, date forward. Now you can't even get one. You don't even see one.

RES: Why not? They're not there anymore?

INT: No, they're not there anymore. I don't know what...I guess something happened to the bottom or whatever it is, but they were never fished up because nobody took time to fish for it because it was too much work for that little money that you were making.

RES: On codfish?

INT: Yeah, it was 2 cents you got for the small ones and 3 cent for the steak, because you had to cut the heads off and gut them.

RES: So there used to be cod here, but nobody...

INT: Oh yeah, there was cods all the way down to Virginia and up in Delaware Bay there was codfish.

RES: But nobody fished for them because they weren't worth enough money?

INT: Oh yeah they'd be winter time they'd fish for them, because we did get a little better in winter time you know when there was nothing no sea bass and stuff around you know.

RES: Ok, but only in the winter you would fish them?

INT: In the winter time we were fishing. And them, it seems like cod fish did like the mackerel, went north. They migrated sort of.

RES: When did that happen?

INT: Well when I came here for about 20 years, every year they came down here.

RES: So that's from 1954 to 1974?

INT: Yeah 1970, after that they started to get less and less and less. For the last 20 years there hasn't hardly seen a codfish. They claim that they get some out in the wrecks, in the big wrecks out there. They can get them out there hook and line, but not dragging or with long line. But, we use to get them on the long lines all over here you know. We set the long line around 5 fathom and 5 fathom like ship and it would go to Delaware and [] and out there and 8-10 miles off we used to get all kinds of codfish.

RES: And that, but your primary fishery during that time was summer flounder?

INT: Was summer flounder right.

RES: A little bit of whiting, a little bit of cod, a little bit of butter fish.

INT: Right. I used to catch every year, I had that little boat, I caught anywhere from 50000 pounds to ...what do they say now if a 500 boxes 50000... anywhere from 50000 to 75000 pounds...

RES: A hundred pounds in a box right?

INT: Yeah of the flounder for the summer so figure 100 days.

RES: That's what your season was?

INT: Yes I fished for flounder about 100 days, and you know about 750 boxes. That about a 1000 pounds a day or 700 pounds a day average.

RES: And you were dragging for those?

INT: Dragging yeah. I've been doing that all of my life, and now I can't even go out there.

RES: Why can't you go out there now?

INT: Because they won't give me my license.

RES: Why won't they give you your license?

INT: No, I didn't have a history. You know we have them two big boats there that we have...

RES: When you say we, is that the family?

INT: Yeah, my sons and me. We have them two big boats, and we have flounder license on there, and they can't use licenses because there's not enough in there to for them to make any money, because the boats are too big and there quota is too small you know. They can only catch 7000 pounds, and that won't be enough for shoes for them to go out and fish.

RES: In the big boat?

INT: Yeah, and I've been trying to get that license. I can put that in my little boat.

RES: But the license is on boat, and they won't give it to you or your sons?

INT: On the boat yeah, and they won't take it off because it's all on one license you know. The pieces are on one license.

RES: Ok. So, what licenses do you have?

INT: I have a New Jersey state license between 2 and 3 miles.

RES: Ok, so you're restricted to fish within 3 miles?

INT: Yeah, can you imagine that? Me being here for 50 years fishing for the fish and I can't do that.

RES: Why did that happen?

INT: It's like that.

RES: I believe that it is like that but I want to know why do you think that happened?

INT: I think that's because I didn't have no license when they came through. You know when they started to get the licenses together, you have to have a history, but this boat I had didn't have no history. But you can buy history from somebody else, and I desire to do that but I couldn't. But, our two boats have these licenses, flounder licenses, but they're not allowed to transfer and go to me. And, my name is on that papers there. Isn't that crazy?

RES: That sounds crazy to me.

INT: I you can lose that one for me you have something haha.

RES: My next question is, did you ever have any formal fisheries training? Did you take a class in fishing or you learned along the water?

INT: No. I learned on the water, and from our parents and grandparents.

RES: Did fishermen back in the fifties and the 60's when you started out, did the fishermen socialize together a lot like did you hang out with the fishermen?

INT: Yeah, the Swedes in Wildwood and the Norwegians over in Sweden, they hung out a lot together because they had the dock and sometimes they had meeting, you know, they had a lodge you know the [] lodge. They came together on that, and sometimes they had other meetings where they came together.

RES: Were they all fishermen?

INT: Oh yeah, most of them were fishermen. When I came to Wildwood there must have been 20 boats anyway, the smaller boats, two-man boats, three-man boats. And, there was all Norwegians and Swedes. So when I came there, they was all talking Sweden and Norwegians on the dock there.

RES: Sounded like you were home.

INT: Oh yeah, I had no problem there.

RES: And the port of Wildwood at that point was mostly small boats?

INT: Yeah. There was three four bigger ones that could also drag.

RES: Ok. When you say small, what do you mean? How many feet?

INT: I'd say anywhere from 35-50 feet, smaller boats, and after that 60 foot boats and a little bigger boats.

RES: And how many did you say there were?

INT: There was probably 20 in Wildwood, and there must have been 10-15 in Cape May or maybe even 20.

RES: Ok and those were the small ones, and there were 1 or 2 larger ones in wildwood?

INT: Yep, and there was a few large ones in Cape May. Between the 2 places there was 50, 60, 70 boats. They were just mostly dragging.

RES: Draggers. And when you say draggers, I bet you mean an otter trawler.

INT: Yeah, right, and the mostly that. And you know there was the boats when I went scalloping they changed over, you know, they took the fishing gear off and put the dredges on in those days.

RES: What were they fishing for back then, most of the people?

INT: Well, they were fishing for porgies, sea bass, or butterfish, or flounders, and all these species they were fishing for.

RES: Ok, so those three were the big ones?

INT: Yeah. Porgies, and flounders, and sea bass, and butterfish.

RES: That's black sea bass you're talking about right?

INT: Black bass, yeah.

RES: And scallops were not a big deal?

INT: No, but there was a thing that they changed over in the summertime. There was mostly the bigger boats that did that. That was the 65-70 big boats; no small boats did that, because they put 11 men on there.

RES: Ok, but there was only a few of those boats?

INT: Yeah, New Bedford was quite a few in those days, and there was boats down here that changed over, maybe a half a dozen boats that did that. And can you imagine down there [] they used the coal stove to cook the food with, and they used the ice to ice the food when they went, and they went out late to 11 days.

RES: That's the scallop boat you're talking about?

INT: Scallop boat, and they had that stove cooking down there and the cook was making bread and everything in those days. And, I was on there when I came with XXXX at 50 years ago he had the cook stove on there, no air conditioning. All we had was a vent up there, and that's how we was living. And, you know, nobody thought air conditioning; they didn't even know what that was. And hot, it was warm down there, but you was eating and you was working and everybody was happy.

RES: Was it hard work?

INT: It was hard work; You had to take all the fish it was hard work because you had to bend down and pick up everything. You picked up the good stuff and shoveled the bad stuff overboard.

RES: Now you mentioned before, and I just want to make sure we get it on tape, that you didn't have any – when you began here you had few navigation aids right? No radar?

INT: No that's in Sweden. I went to navigation school in Sweden.

RES: Oh you did.

INT: Well I did that on my own you know; I wasn't forced to it but I was in the Swedish navy for about 1 year before I came in. And, to be at that time [], I went to navigation school for half a year, so I was licensed for 500-ton cargo vessel. So, that's the navigation. I knew all about navigation when I came here, and I've been on the water all my life; I know what it was all about.

RES: Did your first vessel have, the one you began with in New Jersey, did that have radar on it?

INT: No, radar. They didn't even have the [] we used to [] it by hand. We couldn't afford to buy anything you know.

RES: When did you first get radar? When did that come on here?

INT: 1965.

RES: And what about depth like a fish finder?

INT: I got that maybe right after, or no I came 55, 54 – yeah about 55 I got one of [] machines.

RES: 55 or 65?

INT: 1955.

RES: 1955, so soon after you got...

INT: Cause it was a small [] you know with a paper on it. Then we'd save the paper because we didn't want to spend no money on that. And I was thinking to take one of those toilet rolls and put it on the turner, but it didn't work hahaha.

RES: I don't know if that would work; you might have trouble with that. Were the fishermen organized at that point?

INT: In Sweden they would.

RES: Up here in New Jersey?

INT: That's one of the reasons I came here is because I didn't like all of the regulations that started over there.

RES: That was a fisherman that started that?

INT: Yeah fishermen and the government way before they started here.

RES: And so when you came here there was not much?

INT: No, there was not much. That's the way I like it, and that's what I heard about America. Everything was free and...

RES: What did you need to start going fishing? You were in 1955 and you're 24 years old. What did you need to do? Did you need to get a license or...

INT: No, I just went fishing. I took a couple guys...

RES: Got a pole...

INT: Yeah.

RES: No license at all?

INT: No. And we don't have no license now; we just have a picture from NMFS with our picture on it. You can have the big boat if you want. I like that; that's fine because nobody wants to put a man on the boat if he is not capable of doing navigation, and running the boat. You don't need no paper for that.

RES: That's a safety issue...

INT: Yeah it's safety, but I think it's for the birds too because it's insurance; they want things like that. I don't blame them in a way, because there is a lot of irresponsible people. So the way I look at it I think if a man is brought up right, you wouldn't need that because when you are on the water you know as much as any sea captain around. I mean what they know I know. There's nothing that they know that I don't know.

RES: In terms of navigation?

INT: Yes. Yes, and being able to do whatever it takes on the water, and my sons are the same way. They know exactly what they are doing and everything.

RES: Which they learned from fishing from being with you?

INT: Yes, and they know a lot more than I am, because they know about all these computers and stuff you know, and they got all they sonar's, and they got so much equipment that it's not even funny on that boat.

RES: I know, boats now these days are just crazy with the electronic equipment they have. So, you began in Wildwood at the beginning? And, what was your season like? Can you describe and average season? I know you said that summer flounder was from beginning...

INT: Yeah summer flounder was in the beginning of April.

RES: Let's start in January.

INT: January, we usually went ... If I didn't go long lining for codfish, I went whiting fishing over in like in Delaware Bay for whiting and []...

RES: Ok whiting and [] and what kind of gear were you using for them?

INT: Well we were dragging for that. Tied a small size net to [] we drug with.

RES: Ok, and what happened to those fisheries? Are they still around?

INT: Well, they was, quite a few years they was around here to 1970-75, and then they started disappearing too.

RES: Why?

INT: I don't know. I don't think anybody knew the reason, and I can't say it was through any over-fishing.

RES: You can't say that?

INT: No, I can't say because the market didn't [] the fish. A lot of times we went out there and 1 day fishing, and then they couldn't sell no more.

RES: Why?

INT: Well, there was no market.

RES: The market, they just wouldn't pay for it or...

INT: They didn't want to pay; they couldn't make no money on it so why bother with it.

RES: Oh. Because why, people weren't eating that or it just wasn't quite selling?

INT: No, I think there was a lot of people who could eat whiting, but I don't think it got out to the people the way that it should, and it wasn't taken care of the way it should.

RES: So, was it an infrastructure problem or...

INT: Yeah I think it was – from the docks. When I came here, I came like you know in Sweden, I came from the 19th century and I came to the 18th century when I came here.

RES: It's almost like you went backwards.

INT: Yeah, in taking care of the fish. Where I came from, I always use to be on the boat, and we put the fish in the boxes, and we ice everything, and we put squares on, and put the next box off and never squash the fish, and we had beautiful stuff. And, we put it up in the market, and they were documented and everything.

RES: And when you came to New Jersey?

INT: You shovel it up you know and I was scratching my head you know what is this?

RES: And that was in every fishery or just the one...

INT: Yeah in every fishery, and I was use to...we use to take care of our fish. When I got a boat, I took care of the fish and had nice stuff, but the thing is that the guy could be out the r 4 or 5 days without no ice coming in with a little bit of ice [] and he got the same price I did.

RES: So it didn't pay to have...

INT: No, it didn't pay, but you know that they have to be put into the person. You have to do it right.

RES: There was the same problem in Newfoundland. I mean there quality was down, and they lost their market.

INT: Yeah, so in Sweden there's no use putting it in the market if it is not qualified.

RES: Well, I think the consumers in Sweden know more then in the US.

INT: Yes, right, and that's the kind of stuff I will use on the boat. And when I came here you know and I've got to say that XXXX that I was with, he kept good stuff. He always had good ice on the boat, and he iced the fish, and he made sure, and he didn't fish too long. He always came in, and he had nice stuff when he put it on the dock, always did.

RES: So, you're going out for whiting and pollock in January, what about later in the season? The February months...

INT: I'd say from November you know...are you talking about the boats I had?

RES: Yeah at the beginning.

INT: Right, from November right like now, and up to if we didn't go for codfish and stuff, there was strictly whiting all winter. Sometimes, you know, we had a lot of ice here so we couldn't go out. So we just like tied it to the dock, and the weather was so bad and cold a lot of times, so we couldn't go out for months on end. I remember when I got my 65 foot boat, one winter we didn't have no settlement for 42 days...

RES: You didn't have no?

INT: Settlements, that get any money for 42 days, because it was blowing every day. You couldn't get out. We was caught going out, the weather was half decent kind of half way out, there was a gail of wind, and we had to go back in. And we kept on like that almost the whole winter.

RES: So you went from a 42 to a 65 boat?

INT: Yeah, I had a 35 foot boat..

RES: 35 right sorry.

INT: ... and then I had a 52 foot boat, and then I got a 65 foot boat.

RES: And then what was after that?

INT: Then we got an 84-foot steel boat. I had 3 wood boats, and 5 steel boats.

RES: 5 steel boats?

INT: Yes.

RES: So the 84 was your first steel boat?

INT: Yes.

RES: what year was that in?

INT: It was 1975. There was 85 it was a XXXX was the name of that boat.

RES: XXXX. What'd you get after the XXXX.

INT: Then we got XXXX.

RES: And you still have that one right?

INT: Yeah, no but there was another XXXX then. It was a small.

RES: Ok, XXXX the 1st, and how long was that one?

INT: I had that one to 1978 I think I sold it, '77. Yes down there []. It's a marina.

RES: It's been renamed?

INT: Yeah.

RES: So what did you have after the XXXX.

INT: Then we had XXXX.

RES: Is that the same XXXX?

INT: No, there was a XXXX before this.

RES: And how long was that one?

INT: That one was 100 feet.

RES: Steel?

INT: Yeah.

RES: And what was after the XXXX?

INT: The XXXX was 90 and XXXX was 100, and then we got the XXXX 2...

RES: Ok, and that's the XXXX that's...

INT: Yeah, it was 120 feet.

RES: And what year was that?

INT: 1988, I think it was.

RES: And when you say we, is that with your sons?

INT: Yeah, yeah.

RES: Do you have any other partners or anybody that...

INT: No, we got a son in law to that's married to our daughter.

RES: And he's in on...

INT: He's in on it too, right.

RES: How big is the XXXX 2?

INT: XXXX 2 is 140, 143 feet something like that. And the XXXX was 120, the second one, and we lengthened it 40 feet.

RES: Ok, so it's now 160?

INT: Yeah 160, yeah.

RES: Why did you get these...I mean you've had a career where you've gone from a 32 foot boat to a 160 foot boat; why did you go through that transition? Why did you get bigger and bigger and bigger?

INT: Well because when you are out on the water, and you have a couple of wood boats, and got a couple of bad breezes of wind, and you're almost sinking, that's the reason because the wood boats wasn't going to take it like the steel boats does. And, that's the reason. I wanted the boys to

have the best stuff you can take to go out on the water with. Just because of that, because of the weather, because when the weather comes along they be able to take it there.

RES: And how did your fishery change in that time? I mean different capabilities or using different gear or...

INT: Yes, the gear kept changing, and I like to work with twine and stuff, so I made a lot of the gear myself.

RES: So you always were an otter trawler or a dragger?

INT: Yeah, and I made rope nets that were made out of rope at []. I started with that. I had that for about 6-7 years; it was the only thing I had. And there was big [] you know, and we always caught nice clean fish with it.

RES: Yeah, and you made that yourself?

INT: Made it myself.

RES: Did you learn the twine and ah...

INT: Well, I learned the thing in Sweden, yeah. Well, I learned here too you know. When you got a your own you learn, you learn the old way a lot of times.

[]

RES: Well why don't you tell me, what was the port like back in the 1950's when you started? What was Wildwood like when you started in the 1950's? What did the town look like?

INT: Well the town looked a little old times, so to speak, you know back in the 30's or 40's like that. It was a little more modern in Sweden than it was here.

RES: What do you mean by modern?

INT: Ah the houses, the appearance of the houses and things like that. You know in Sweden they had more up kind of up to date you know, and they kind of went ahead with things. But, the Swedes and the Norwegians, they usually had pretty nice houses...

RES: Here in NJ?

INT: Yeah, NJ.

RES: And how big a place was Wildwood and Cape May?

INT: Well almost as big as it is now, it's just that there was no bigger houses or anything like that.

RES: How important was fishing to the community back then?

INT: I don't really know if fishing was that important in Wildwood, tourism was. I think the tourism was. Way back they had used [pound nets]. They use to have that all along the coast, and there was pretty, way back there, there was pretty important to the community.

RES: Do you remember the [pound nets]?

INT: Yeah I remember. I use to fish, like there, I fished outside of them when I was flounder fishing. And they were working some of them, but most of them kind of laid up and quit with them. And they took their poles out, they kind of had poles all over...

RES: Why, I mean why...

INT: Well there was for navigation, you know, they were scared of navigation because boats come there and hit the poles.

RES: Was that a profitable fishery?

INT: Yeah the [pound nets] in those days, yeah. They told me, the old timers there in Wildwood some of those older Swedish, said they came down with wagons and horses. And, you know, they came in with the fish like they came in and they had the rockfish, they had the porgies, they had sea bass, and everything in those pound nets, and they put them in and carts that the horses carry. And people came down from all over, and they was buying it like that.

RES: Wow, but that's been gone now for...

INT: Oh that was a long... that was before my time probably in the turn of the century, you know 1900's. I was with a Swede that came 1917 he came or something he came to Wildwood when I was with him fishing 1954.

RES: You mentioned before that there was quite a few boats in the area and a lot of them were in Wildwood and Cape May. You said around 30 in each place that was around 35-55 feet. How many people would have been on each boat in those days?

INT: Well, the bigger boats probably was 3 men on them, 3-4 men.

RES: Bigger, that means on a 64...

INT: On a 50-60 foot boat.

RES: Ok, what about on a 35 or 40?

INT: A 35 or 40, there was usually two men on it.

RES: And that's what you fished?

INT: Yeah. And sometimes they went mackerel fishing. Way back they told me I never did go mackerel fishing with drift nets, and they went in the spring they went, and then they could go three hands on there cause sometimes they could get pretty big hauls you know they had to cull them in you know by hand.

RES: [] per mackerel or were there drift gill nets?

INT: Well, they porgies use to come from Gloucester come down there and did that. The sailing schooners, they came down and did that, but there was no Cape May boats doing that with the [] We do it with dragging you know got a dragging.

RES: So, this is a dragging fleet back then, Cape May and Wildwood, and still is except for the []?

INT: Yeah, scout right. So, we used to catch a lot of mackerel, you know, when I started dragging and I started to get these modern nets from Sweden, and I started to catch a lot of mackerel.

RES: You did?

INT: Yeah, yeah.

RES: When would you mackerel fish?

INT: Well, 1968 I started. You know we mackerel fished before that, but we never got no quantity. You just got the, you know, a little bit on dragging, a few boxes, but then we started to get better quantity. We get 100 box 200 box days like mackerel you never heard before.

RES: Did you have sonar at that point?

INT: No. We just had the finder meter you know. Just went by birth place and things like that and...

RES: I know in Newfoundland a lot of guys said that a good sonar really changes the mackerel fishing.

INT: Yeah. But then, we just had the poor nets you know in those days that there was not... mackerel is a fish you've got to have key rig in order to get mackerel. You know, if you have old time rigs you know you won't catch them.

RES: Can you describe the difference between those rigs?

INT: Oh yeah, when I came here from Sweden, you know, they had more modern nets and things like that, and when I got that net from Sweden we was catching the stuff.

RES: But they were nylon, diagonal...

INT: Yeah it was a nylon net you know with big matches instead of having that small mesh cause getting bigger meshes, and that made the difference you know. And, we used to get a lot of fish with that net, herring and mackerel- herring we couldn't sell because we got a lot of mackerel. And, then we started to catch the weakfish with them, you know, like the weak fish end and summertime sea trout.

RES: So you fished for weakfish also?

INT: Oh yeah. We got a lot of them big weakfish, you know, from 1968 to I guess 1980 almost we had them big weak fish, or '85, for 20 years.

RES: That you participated in?

INT: Yeah.

RES: And then what happened?

INT: Then they disappeared probably just disappeared. You can't hardly see one now.

RES: So there use to be whiting, there use to be...

INT: There use to be whiting, and ling, and codfish, and even...

RES: And the weakfish have all disappeared?

INT: Have all disappeared, and even mackerel now. We use to come in shore there; now they never come that close anymore.

RES: And you attribute that to some change in the environment, the water...

INT: Change in the environment and the water that...because it's not being exploited, you know, that they are catching that many fish; we do sometimes offshore. But compared to the Russians, when I was here cod-fishing 1955...

RES: Here in NJ..

INT: Yeah, yeah, and I was out 5 fathom, I can remember seeing 15 of that Russian trawlers you know 10 miles. It was right inside the 12 mile line fishing for mackerel and herring, and they had barge with them and salted it in there. And every day I was out cod fishing I'd seen these boats, and I'd say what is this boats doing there.

RES: There was no enforcement, I mean what about the Coast Guard?

INT: No, the Coast Guard came out and in the fog they went inside, because the stuff was inside a lot of times. And I've seen them, and I even called and told the coast guard; I didn't call but I told them that they are out there, because I was out 5 fathom. I was out there cod fishing right on the line there then I seen them.

RES: Do you think that played a role in why there's no...

INT: Well, I don't know if it did or not, because I think the environment was like that and things have changed, you know. You know, I think they blame a lot on the fishermen that they did, but I don't think it did because I think it's other things that do that. I really do believe that...

RES: Can you explain that a little bit more.

INT: Well, you know like they never in this country, the boats never had the gear to over-exploit what you had I fish. When I yeah here in this coast, you know, in this Cape May coast, or Jersey coast, or [], or all the way up to Nantucket, there was too much fish of different kinds. You could go to 20 fathom, you could go to 30 fathom, you could go to 40 fathom, and you could catch some kind of fish – either dogfish, you catch sea robbins, you catch sea bass, you could get butterfish some places, and it was you could get other fish all over. And, it was...I always thought boy look at all these fish and we can't sell them because we couldn't sell it.

RES: So what...that's the basis... you mentioned that a couple of times now. The market was really a big...

INT It was really bad yeah.

RES: Why was it so bad, I mean why...

INT: They couldn't handle it. If every boat went out there and with the rigs they got today, one boat would be enough to choke the whole market up. But in those days we didn't catch them all; our rigs, we didn't have the rigs to be able to catch that much. And, you know, the rigs those days we say if you catch 30 boxes of fish, if you have one of those rigs today with that amount of fish that was there, you probably have 1000 boxes.

RES: There that much more efficient?

INT: Yes, more efficient today, but even that stops the fishing because the market never was there in order to be able to get any money for it.

RES: The question that we have down here is we have to be able to describe the biggest challenges in fishing at that time when you started, so it sounds like the market and the infrastructure was a big challenge.

INT: Well that was the biggest thing, and everything was private. Each man that sold the fish, he'd put a little dock there with the 2 pilings and a little dock there to tie the boats up. And, you know, that's not enough to satisfy a lot of boats. I remember coming here with my boats, and when I got the modern nets and stuff, I came here and they said nooo we can't take no more

oohhh. We came in, and one big weak fish, I was the first boat that had the big weakfish. Was going over the Delaware, we'd be catching these small weak fish and stuff that came in a pack. So one morning I said to my partner, it was another Swede I had with me, I said I see all the stuff here on the other side here every morning we go by it; it must be something...

RES: What do you mean you'd see it, you were picking it up on sonar or...

INT: No on the machine, on the finding machine. So I said, let's try it. So we lay there one morning, all the boats went over to the Delaware side, and we tried it. So, I made a swipe around there, a little shoal there, and then I drug over to where the other boats was. And it was time to haul back, and they hauled back and they had a little bag like that. I hauled back, I had 250 boxes of these big weak fish. I nearly fainted. I haven't seen a fish like that...and that's when it started. I knew right away where I got the fish, so I took the fish on the boat, steamed over to that other side when I seen the fish, and set, and made another 35 minute drag and had 350 boxes. And I mean every one o them was alive; the whole net was alive. They was kicking every one of them, and all the boats came over there and loaded up, and that was it. We didn't, 10 days we didn't get out no more, because they couldn't handle the fish.

RES: The mark...

INT: There was no market. But we couldn't handle the fish, and after that then we started... I think we got 3 cents for that fish.

RES: 3 cents per pound?

INT: Three cents a pound yeah, and then later on they went to 5 cents, and then it went up to 10 cents. And they put the limits on it; you could only so many. So you say would it be like that right here, and I seen a lot of fish, but you know I don't think you can blame any of these, some of it you might be able to, but that the fishermen is the one that made the fish disappear. I don't think it's got anything to do with it, because they didn't have the equipment to do that in those days. Later on they did, but not in those days.

RES: When do you think they began to have the capabilities to do that?

INT: Well, I'd say 80, 85, 90 around there; then they started to get equipment. And what I found out was the bigger the mesh we put in the net, the cleaner we could catch the fish and the less we got the bottom stuff and the small stuff, because we saved the big stuff even if small stuff. And we use to, you know, caught the fish that we were targeting, but we did load the small stuff like small whiting and small butterfish, and things like that went through there, and because the [] was big. And, we got the fish like bigger porgies, and bigger bass, and you know bigger squid ever- things like that.

RES: What are the main fisheries the XXXX and the XXXX are in now?

INT: In squid fishing, loligo with squid.

RES: When did that come in?

INT: Loligo with squid you can, you know, can almost catch all year round. Not all year round, but you can catch them up in Long Island and Nantucket and there almost, you know, if you want to target that. But our boats, they came, you know, they got to target something they can make a living on.

RES: So what do they target?

INT: Well they target right now loligo with squid. Before that, it was ilex squid.

RES: And do you mean before that in the season?

INT: Yeah in the season. In summertime like in May, the ilex season starts, and it keeps on till about September, in the middle of September, in the end of September. Then the loligo season starts.

RES: So those 2 boats are focused on squid?

INT: Right now they are, but then from January then it's mackerel, and it's mackerel for 4 months. But, from January, around Christmas time, up to almost end of April.

RES: So mackerel, loligo, and ilex are the primary...

INT: Yeah the main thing.

RES: And how long is that been the way the fishery has been pursued or...

INT: Well it's 20 years it's been like that or more. Well, we use to catch the ilex squid for the [] you know when the Portuguese and the Japanese and all that boats was there, we use to have joint venture with them on ilex. Ilex has been a thing that's always been there ever since I came here.

RES: You use to have flounder, and porgies, and a little bit of whiting, and cod, and other things and then it changed to squid and mackerel, and that was around 20 years ago?

INT: It a squid and mackerel is what we target, because it seems like that's an item that they can freeze and you can catch so much of it, so you can make something out of it, you know. The rest of it is quote on, so when you flounder fishing is on your only allowed to catch 7000 pounds to a trip.

RES: So, the main reason you target those species is economics, because you can get more money, catch more fish and the rest are restricted so...

INT: Yeah, more fish to make a dime, and the rest o fit is restricted. So, our boats can make out. Smaller boats can do fine, 2-3 man boats, they can do fine, but not our boats. Mackerel and squid are the only thing that we have, and herring.

RES: A high volume species.

INT: Yeah, and herring and [] and you know to [].

RES: The pelagics and squid.

INT: Right. So we have...and why the fish disappear I often wonder, because I went out today, I'm a fisherman so I went out today, and I was looking for either squid, sometimes we catch squid this time of year, and I was looking for butter fish, you know, sometimes nice butterfish. And I went out on my cruise, and I seen a lot of stuff on my thing there, and I set, and I made an hour drag. I think [] says you know looks like it's going to be something here. I hauled back, and there was nothing but shiners that feed. The whole net was blanketed with them.

RES: Were you picking it up on your finder or just looking...

INT: Yeah. Yeah, I seen it on the finder, it looked like real fish, you know, big fish. And all it was, there was a handful of butterfish. And I got 1-2 small weakfish, 2 small porgies, and a butterfish. I got just enough for dinner yesterday. That's all there was there.

RES: Hahaha, at least you got your dinner.

INT: I probably have to let NMFS by write out one of them.

RES: The trip reports haha.

INT: Yeah, you have to make a trip report. I don't think I'm going to do that haha. But, I didn't get nothing; there was nothing in there. 4 king crab, a shark; I couldn't believe it.

RES: Why do you think it was so... []

INT: I wish you could tell me. I used to be able to go out and look for fish and find fish, but I don't think I could find nothing in there right away if things is bad. It's between seasons, and from then on it should be whiting in the bay and ling. I don't think you could get nothing [] codfish.

RES: The whiting are gone, the ling are gone, the cod are gone, the weak fish are gone?

INT: Yeah. All of that stuff they used to be, and its not that the boats changed them. The only thing that seems like croaker there's been quite a bit croakers. That's been kind of a savior, so I did go out and have one day of croaker fishing. I had about 7,000 pound there one day, but I've been doing pretty good on croak fish. Smaller...none of the smaller boats...

RES: You have?

INT: No. I maybe one trip yeah, and I had some small trips after that, but the bigger boats three man boats, four man boats, they've been having some nice catches.

RES: On croaker?

INT: Yeah, and I don't know how come they are living and the weak fish and other living...and butterfish is not there. I don't understand it. I mean it goes beyond me.

RES: Where were you fishing for those – the butter fish and...you mentioned your you sort of pointed out your ground for summer flounder on there, but where were you fishing for...this was Cape May, where were you fishing for butterfish and...

INT: Butterfish was at Delaware Bay, right off here.

RES: Look for the little circle on there if you want.

INT: Yeah Delaware Bay was right ...there's a channel right here that's 25 fathom, and there's Cape May there...let me see if I can see. J23 there is right up like this, and it's right on both sides of the edges there, up and down there [he is using a map for reference]. Then there's something here we call flats. We used to catch weakfish and butterfish, and I mean we could get porgies, we can get rock fish, we can get cod fish here on this...

RES: So that was a rich grounds for everything?

INT: Yeah, and I was there the other day and I hardly get nothing there. Yeah, nothing.

RES: And how long has it been like that?

INT: I don't know. This is the last couple years it be like that. They're having a little shot with croakers, and a lot of times we have flounder fishing right here too, good flounder fishing.

RES: And you floundered up here as well eh?

INT: Yeah, floundered here, and floundered here. Where I was flounder fishing was mostly here 2 miles here, you know, up and down the beach here – Cape May and down this way. And here at [] we use to catch, you know, a lot of fish, cod fish, rock fish, and things like that.

RES: Now how well were you able to do back then.

INT: Well, you know, with the rigs we had...with that first boat little boat I had, you could make 3000 dollars in a season – 3500 dollars that's all. And then, boats got a little bigger and improved a little bit, they got about 7-8000\$ a year you know.

RES: So when you had your 32 or 45, 3000\$ would be a good season?

INT: Yeah, I don't want to say it was good, but you could live on it. They way we lived, we can live on it. And, some of the boats with a little more horsepower, they probably done a little better.

RES: And, were there any regulations on the fishery at that point?

INT: Well, not really. There was...nobody was enforcing anything. There was regulations, but not like it is now.

RES: What were the regulations?

INT: You could go fishing whenever you wanted. The only regulation was you was not allowed to go inside the two mile. That was the only regulation.

RES: You couldn't drag inside the two mile?

INT: No.

RES: Okay, why is that?

INT: That's what the state law was, you know, they didn't want people to...

RES: ...be so close in with the fishing boats, for recreational boaters and...

INT: Right, and that's the reason for that.

RES: Sop as long as you were outside of 2 mile, that was it?

INT: Yeah staying outside of two mile, but I saw the guys that went inside anyway you know. Who knew, we didn't have any radar in those days. You know, in the Wildwood Beach when the tide was out, it was almost half a mile, you know, that the water was up then you have to be shaved out, and you know where the slough was, you know you're staying in the same slough...hahaha...sometimes the game warden came out, you know, and got you, but...

RES: When did regulations start to affect your work?

INT: Well, the regulations started when the matches started, you know, when they changed match [] sizes and stuff like that.

RES: Do you remember when that...

INT: No I guess that started with the flounder license...flounders use to be, we use to use 4 ½ inch twine for flounders in the diagonal. Now, it is 5 ½ or 5 ¾, you know, and a lot of medium fish go through there you know. You're losing fish.

RES: That's in a cod end [] you're talking about?

INT: Yes, and same thing the squid, they changed the measurements so many times and made it so hard, because it's inch and 7/8's and you go to one man and he says you buy inch and 7/8's and its two inches. And, sometimes the twine stretches and gets bigger than that, and then you lose the squid. Sometimes that twine its 2 inches and it shrinks, you know. So, and they cost the fishermen a lot of money those regulations because you got to keep all of these sizes of different twine in order to be comply. And, that's hard, and when you go out fishing you don't know what your going to run into. If they come out and check your...they can get you on anything anytime really. And that's what's bogged down, and a lot of guys used to quit to that, they don't want to bother with that because it's too much hassle.

RES: Wait, so you think a lot of guys quit fishing because of...

INT: Yeah, I think a lot of people quit fishing, and I'm trying to...fishing almost for the fun of it, but not for the fun of it, because I love fishing and it's been my life. But, I'm...I'd just as soon quit, because I when you go out that inlet, you don't know if you're an outlaw or not because...

RES: You feel like an out law when...

INT: Yeah, I feel like an outlaw that there's something in my rig or something that I'm doing that's not right. And I got to make out the report and I can't even, I can write and I can do all of these things but, I can't be out there by myself and make out the report and have that all information for them what they want.

RES: Why? It's just...

INT: When you're 60 you have to keep your mind on what's going on, around the nets and around the boat, and everything, and where you're at fishing because the boat is always moving, so what tide to look for. And, the tide takes the boat everywhere if you don't watch it. You've got to be on your toes all of the time, and this stuff came in extra.

RES: What stuff?

INT: All the you know log box and all of this kind of thing to keep track, you know, so they're going to keep track of what we're doing. I can see it in a way, but my sons see they are young and they have a problem keeping up with it.

RES: Do you think in general people do a good job with that, or are people not doing a good job or...

INT: No, I think a lot of guys, you know, they learn to live with it, but I don't think they like it. They learn to live with it, and they don't really see what's good with it. I tell you when I first started with this many years ago, I forget what year it was, I think I had my wood boat. They started with this, they wanted to have information, and it was supposed to give reports. And we

did, and we send it in, and now we found out tht they took these reports and they threw it in a trash can – they never took it out.

RES: How did you find that out?

INT: Somebody up there that's been there and seen the whole sotry of what they did with it, because they wanted to know what was going on and []

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[]

RES: Ok, it's back on so..

INT: Ok. Now what I'm saying, this quota and all these reports and all of these things...for instance, they go out there and catch...they get trip limits on the porgies like a 150 boxes or 100 boxes. And, you come in and that's the trip limit, and, you know, there is plenty of porgies. There's boats that go out there and they fish sometimes half hour drag, and they get 500 boxes, and they are only allowed to take 75 boxes, or whatever it is, 100 boxes is the limit. Then, they got to dump the rest overboard and take what they have. And that happens because when there is a lot of fish, why not set it where the fishermen can make a living because you can't make a living on a 100 boxes of porgies. That's why we was always targeting porgies way back on our boats. That's why we don't do it no more, because we couldn't begin to make a living. I remember our boats lying there because we were sweeping squid at that time, and then, you know, sometimes you run into porgies when you're sweeping squid. And sometimes they wanted to get porgies before they went in and have some fresh fish with them, which was good. And, I remember times we could get 7-800 boxes, 70-80000 pounds of porgies, and come in with it and get a good price, and get a big trip with one drag. But today 150 boxes... and you see a lot of porgies and porgies can get pretty thick sometimes, there is a lot more porgies than they're saying there is. And, they don't know it all. The fisherman knows a whole lot more than they do, and it's a whole lot more. But when they run into porgies, you can get some big tremendous drags and big porgies too, and then you take a 100 boxes and you dump the rest. Isn't that a waste?

RES: It is a waste.

INT: And, I mean, it should be where if boats should have to make a living. And when they make the laws, why don't they figure this way. Now if we're going to put the quota on them, how about to put the one so they can make a living, so they can make a trip, so they don't have to lose out an use...

RES: How many boxes would you need to...

INT: Well, it all depends on the price, but I say 2-300 boxes of porgies when the prices are half decent should make a decent trip – at least 200 or 250 boxes. 100 boxes, 150 boxes is not enough. The smallest should be 200-250 boxes even on a small boat. And even our boat that we

have, we could even make a living on that 250 boxes, because we may get 500 at least in order to do it.

RES: On your big boat?

INT: Yeah. And you know...

RES: They don't have any exceptions for a larger boat?

INT: No, they don't have any exceptions. The only thing that they can do that is that may give individual quotas, so a bigger boat would get more quotas, or if you have bigger history, you should get more quotas.

RES: But they don't do that?

INT: No, they don't do that.

RES: Do you like the idea of individual quotas?

INT: Yes, I think that would be a great thing. And, but you should get where you could make a living on that according to the boats and sizes. And, they should go back through history that they should do that. I would really love to see that. They got the quota on ilex squid and loligo squid that they had, and if they didn't use it up they can have it for next year or you could give it to somebody else or even sell it if that was the case.

RES: Some people worry that if you make the quota salable, bigger companies will buy them all up. Do you think that would happen or...?

INT: No...well, it might because there'd be people that'd be selling that can't make a living, but its got to be made in a decent way where a person can make a living. But, I don't think if someone has only been in there a year and never caught nothing should have a big quota. But, I think that someone that's been in there for 20, 30, 40 years, and doing his thing, and being the main stage, I think they should have the quota where they could make a living off of.

RES: So, if you have a history then...

INT: Yes, and I believe the same thing with the mackerel same thing, with the butterfish same thing, with the herring, and all of that should be have the quota. They do it in Scotland, they do it in Ireland, and, you know, out on the west coast they have it and quotas like that, and I think it is a good thing. I really do, but they should be where they shouldn't do it like here, here is 100 boxes for you 100 boxes for you. They should look at what you got what you got invested. You know on our boat, we've got invested 10,000,000. We got to get a quota accordingly to be able to pay for that. And now, scallop has been a great thing for a lot of boats. And there's another thing I think is bad, because they get a scallop quota and then these boats that have this scallop

quota, he can take his other licenses that he has dormant, and he can give that to somebody else. Then you can go out fishing with that license.

RES: So, for example, I was fishing scallop but I have...

INT: Yeah you have scallop is a separate license, and I can take the other licenses that I have, and I can put that on another boat, and they can go fishing with it. Is that fair? Why should two boats have two quotas... that he can go scalloping, and then he can hand it to somebody else, and he can even have another boat that uses that quota that never had a quota before. That means that the fishery is more burned out more and more because of that, and you know, I don't think they should be doing that. I don't think it is fair. I think it is the most unfair thing I have ever heard of. If I am in the squid business, I should be in there and I shouldn't be able to take the license out of my squid and give it to somebody else so I could have two boats where somebody else goes fishing on my license. You see how it is? I can't even get my fluke license that I have on my little boat; I can't get that. But, the scallop boat can take that license, the other license they have...

RES: Why is it different for scallop?

INT: I don't know; you tell me.

RES: I don't know either.

INT: You find out and ask them about it.

RES: I will.

INT: And a lot of boats, the XXXX down there, and every other boat he has down there he's doing that, and there's boats all over the place. Everybody could be in the squid business, in ilex and lolligo, and they never been squidding before, but they can go in there because of the license that he has and can put another boat. They're buying boats from down south; they're coming from everywhere, and they're putting these licenses on. They can go fishing on the quota that belongs to boats that are in it all of the time.

RES: So they're fishing scallop and you've got another boat...

INT: Yeah, and that's the unfairest thing I have ever seen. And, they say oh no no that's business. That's not business. That's robbery I think. They shouldn't be doing that, because its bad enough as it is. And if we have a quota on ilex squid, and they come with all of these scallop boats that scallop, and they take them 100 licenses and put on other boats, and they come out and take the quota...we're not scalloping; we're not doing any scalloping. We're not taking that from anybody, and I think, you know, they catch 1000 tons of ilex that means that less for us []

RES: Cause it's competitive quota and ilex

INT: Yes, and that's what's happening, so I think it's a lot of unfairness. There's a lot of things that they should look into, and they don't.

RES: Is that the only one you can do that in that if I have a scallop boat and I want to transfer my license, is it only squid I can go and get?

INT: No, you can get the whole licenses; you can get the whole thing. I think they said it's only flounder, but you can get the squid...you can hire out that license.

RES: And that license will let me fish for

INT: Yeah, whatever that license says, because it's in for that boat. And if it meets the requirement for the horsepower and the length of that boat, it's fine. That's the way that I understand it; it may not be so, but that's the way it think it is. And is that fair?

RES: It doesn't sound fair.

INT: No, and I think it should be looked in to, and I think if you're doing something you look into things like that and let them know about it, because there is a lot of unhappy people there, and I know I'm one of them. And, I don't understand very much with this legal stuff, but I understand that, you know, that because we've always been targeting fish, and in fact []. The NMFS many many years back told us that we should target fish like mackerel and squid and things like that and invest in that, and that's what we've been doing. And now when we're investing in it, it seems like they're coming from everywhere and saying I want to cramp you in there with licenses that not really belong to that boat, and they started fishing on that quota and started fishing on the mackerel, and they come with boats from west coast, and they come with all kinds of boats that have never been in the mackerel fishing before, and they are coming in there because of quotas and things they can be into. And, they're building boats, and they are getting boats down there that are coming from out of the woodwork with licenses like that.

RES: It sounds like it's not enough...it's too many regulations in some areas and not enough...

INT: Yeah, that's what I think, and I don't think that anybody is thinking, or they don't care. I don't know which one it is.

RES: Who, the managers you mean?

INT: Well the manager, I don't think they care, because they should look into things like that.

RES: Are you involved in fisheries management at all? Do you go to the meetings?

INT: No, I've been going to fish meetings at times, but my son is []. He's been on an advisory committee, and he's been mentioning it to them.

RES: Were you involved in fisheries management back when you began?

INT: No, there was none in those days, but when they started I was in there. I was and advisor to go out to way back there. They ask me questions about these different things, but this wasn't in at that time because scalloping was free. Any body could go scalloping, so anybody could have a license. But then, they made licenses, and then they figure out, you know, instead of them guys making them...cause when you get a scallop license, then you have to take all of your other licenses off and make them dormant, and they will be kept somewhere.

[]

INT: So I mean that's just, and these licenses then they can take them out and they can put it on another boat. So when they got to buy sky of boats with a lot of licenses on, and they buy it for the scallop licenses well then they got the other licenses, and they take care of all instead of putting the dormant. And NMFS let them put it on another boat, and they can go out and catch the squid, they can go out and catch the mackerel, they can go out and catch whatever. Is that fair? One boat is doing two fisheries.

RES: How long has it been like that?

INT: I don't know how long, but I'm appalled, and it seems like nobody can see it the way that I see it. I don't...I've got nothing against them trying to make money, but if they are in the scallop business, if they are in a good business, why should they get another boat and get these licenses on that boat so they can go out and get the squid and get somebody else's living so to speak? One year, not last year, but year before, we was doing good squidding. And then, a lot of boats came in squidding, these guys, and fit the quota, so we had to stop...and the fishing was its best, and we had to quit because quota was caught, and they helped do that. Was that fair?

RES: That's frustrating.

INT: Yeah that's frustrating, awfully frustrating. And with these big boats we have, were right up against the peg when it comes to it. Right up against it.

RES: What do you mean?

INT: I mean, if it be anything less of anything, we just [].

RES: How long has it been like that?

INT: Well...

RES: Has that always been like that in fishing...?

INT: No, it's been like that since scalloping started prices went up on scallop. When it went from three dollars a pound, and it went up to 6,7,8,9 dollars a pound. That's when things started to go crazy, because there's guys that have these licenses and say hey we can do more with this. They have the licenses on that boat; they going to put that on another boat. You can go out and get the

squid too because we want to get the squid we can [speaking as a scalloper]. That's the idea. They don't say that, but that's the idea of it.

RES: So, you mentioned a lot of these regulations, and we're also interested in trying to find out what happens to people because of the regulations – not just what the regulations were, but the effects were. You mentioned feeling bogged down, you mentioned feeling that things were unfair, you mentioned economically maybe it is a little bit more difficult because of changes in the fishing, but what other things have changed?

INT: Well, what happens is, you know, scalloping started and there's day scalloping... a lot of these guys that were fishing, they went to that type of fishing. You know, they can go out day scallop and get 400 pounds. And right now what I know of is only two draggers, it's me and another fellow 2-mile and we're one man on each boat we're one man boats, we are the only ones to drag in there for fish. The rest of them is scallop. And then there's some bigger boats that went for croakers and things like that, and they are out squidding off shore, but I'm talking about inshore, what I call inshore fishing, they use to be thriving. But, it's not any more. All of the boats are gone, people are gone, some of them are scalloping because they was young enough to do that, but a lot of them people quit, you, know, they didn't want it no more.

RES: What do you mean young enough? Why do you have to be young to go into scalloping?

INT: Well the old men, if you are 40, 50 years old scalloping, you don't want to be in there.

RES: Why?

INT: Because you work night and day like that and stand there and open scallop and, you know, an old man can't sleep like an old fellow does. He lay his head down and he sleep, but an old man he lay there and just keeps his eyes open. The only thing that be sleeping is the arms and legs.

RES: So you think the switch to scallop...when did the scalloping really get big here?

INT: Big?

RES: Big, like a big fishery. When did people really...

INT: Well they've been coming on the last 2 years, you know. Scalloping has been always been there since I've came here. The Norwegians, everyone in New Bedford and up there was scalloping. The Norwegians started with that many years ago, and that had been developed into more and more, because the price has been there, and it has always been an item that everybody wants. And, you know, there's demand for it, and that's the reason that scalloping is so popular. And then, the prices are up to 9/10\$ a pound. Can you imagine that? And you go out with a small boat, and they can fish a few hours and get the 400 pounds and come in at 3-4000\$ top. And they can do that three four times a week, boy they had a big week.

RES: That's big money.

INT: Yeah, for a small boat. In those days, if we had the \$15,000 trip way back there in 1965 when I got my wood boat, boy I would have thought things is really happening now, but that never happened. That didn't start before in the 80's we can get \$15-16000 trip, not in those days. We use to 2-2500...

RES: Was that because of the gear do you think?

INT: No, because of the prices. The fish prices was always down, and flounder was the best. And there's another thing, flounders the quota is 40 boxes they allowed to catch on their 5 day week trip, you know. 40 boxes, who can make a living on 40 boxes? I mean, or you can make 8-10 boxes four times a week. If you're a three-man boat, you won't be able to make it on that. You've got to supplement it with something else, so they've got to try to do that and then go and do something else so the can make up for the difference. When the flounders is here, we've got to understand that there is plenty of flounders. Offshore, they get flounders up to their knees in flounders in the depth there sometimes. And they can get 70 boxes in the big net, in the porgy net, that matches 20-30 foot long, and you can get 4-5 big bushels of big flounder and your only allowed to kept 70 boxes? In wintertime? And they used to lay there and catch 4-500 boxes.

RES: Do you think there is any fishery that is being managed well where they are doing a good job or...?

INT: No, I can't really say that. But mackerel, because its, you know... there all of this... dock, they kind of equip themselves with be able to take care of mackerel. You know, you've got a couple of places, one in New Bedford, one in Gloucester, and you got one in Cape May, so they can handle a lot of fish and none of them use to do that. And so I say, they are up to date.

RES: They're doing all right?

INT: Yeah they are doing all right – for the boats too, because that's good for the boats. But most of the time they're being hold back, because you be laying there and if all the boats comes in with a load of fish, you just lay there. Sometimes you be laying there for days before you pack out. It shouldn't be like that. And the prices are not keeping up with the demand at times. And sometimes the demand is there, and there is no fish. There's not always fishes there. You've got to catch the fish when the fish is there; you can't catch fish when, you know, the fish they always move around, and they have their habits, and we're not use to them yet. I don't know if we ever learn them or not. But they are a lot smarter than we are.

RES: You think so?

INT: Yeah I think so. The lord put something in their heads, and in their brains that we don't have.

RES: What's the smartest fish out there?

INT: There's an old man in Cape May, Old Man Fred, learned, he said eat fish because they're smart and you get smart when you eat fish. You get brains. That's brain food.

RES: My wife says the same thing; it's supposed to make you smarter. So, I should probably let you get to your supper here at some point. We have been at it for a while. Are you getting tired or...

INT: No, it's alright. No problem.

RES: Just a couple of more questions then. How does, you mentioned some of the changes in fishing and some of the changes in your own operations, but how has the community changed over the time that you've been here?

INT: The community in Cape May, there's a tremendous change.

RES: Can you describe that or...

INT: It's not from fishing.

RES: What's it from?

INT: It's from tourism, and I think it's gambling up in Atlantic City, and people going computers, and things like that. And I think that's what happening, and the offices they're building houses everywhere. I mean it's not \$17-18,000 houses; it's \$4-500,000. Everywhere, they're going up all over. We was almost all alone there in the woods when we built 35 years ago; now they got houses all over. You use to see farms with cows, and horses, and fields with all kinds of greenery and grains and stuff— nothing- beans and dairy, and now you can't see a cow nowhere...no horses. So the community changed something awful.

RES: So in your eyes, it is a negative thing?

INT: Oh, it's negative. Well, I don't know if it is negative or not, but that's what it had done. It changed. And the people that moved in, I don't know who they are, but them must be making an awful lot of money to keep these houses they have.

RES: A lot of them are just summer people right? They come down for the summertime and like a second house.

INT: Yes the summertime.

RES: What has that done to fishing families do you think?

INT: I don't know if it done anything to fishing families, because I think it's a lot of scallopers and different types of fishing, and it is different then it was when I came here, you know, everything changed.

RES: Can you elaborate on that?

INT: Well, for instance, I think it's a lot of fishermen that scallopers and all of these kinds of fishing, because of the computers and the GPS and all this kinds of stuff. And the guys that come, they learn how to work with buttons and how to work all of this stuff, and they know exactly what button to press and what to do. And when they get out there, that's the reason that there is so many captains out there today, because they got the GPS. Take that away, and they couldn't even find the inlet I don't think most of them.

RES: You think that people have gotten less skilled in terms of fishing.

INT: Yeah in a lot of ways I think that that's true, because they are buying stuff from factories of people who make this stuff. We use to make it ourselves before, but now we buy it, and we are doing the same thing.

[]

Wife: The electronics.

RES: You have to go to school to learn how to do the electronics and how to do the navigation.

Wife: No. No, they'll pick up on it.

INT: Our boys, they learned all of that, and we have a daughter that is a commuter and she's a schoolteacher, and so I mean they know all of that stuff. But we never got into it and we never did like it. We did everything by hand. She was the secretary for many years, and it was always by pencil. She learned how to use the finances right too. You know, it's not what you make, it's what you have left over when you're done that counts. A lot of people, they can make a million dollars. They only have a thousand left when they paid out 999000.

RES: Do you think it is becoming harder to be a fisherman that it was? Besides the regulations, do you think it is more difficult?

INT: I don't think so ...

Wife: They were born from pawning the nets by hand...

RES: Do you call them gurdies here, that's a Newfoundland word, it's a gurdy. That's what they call...

INT: Yeah gurdy yeah, that's what help you.

Wife: [] winches that hook up and

INT: You use to pull everything by hand.

RES: So physically it has gotten easier?

INT: Oh yeah.

Wife: [] Basically past time was wood boat and iron men, now it is vica versa. Wooden men, they break easy. They don't have to work so hard, but it is still hard. It's tough for them.

INT: Yeah its nothing easy. It never was nothing easy, because a boat is always moving, it's rolling, you've got to watch yourself, you've got to keep on your toes and knows what is going on, because you can easily lose you arm or leg or head or your life.

RES: Does that happen a lot?

INT: No, not a lot, because...

Wife: [] the boat goes up in the air you know, and they have to keep their eye on whatever is moving on the deck.

INT: But the people there in charge, they got to keep telling them you know that is important too. To be alert, and tell them the things they got to look out for and stuff. So, that is what you have to do and...

Wife: [] fishing, now with all of the electronics that they have [] young people are quick to pick up on these things, and so they go by and they say hi and the old person says []. It just had to be what he saw in the weather and the wind and moon and...

INT: Yeah you learn to live with all of that stuff you know.

WIFE: [] and then you said that the difference here now...it was commercial fishing and farming. Then the farmers just were told, we don't want what you have here. We can get better you know from the other states, and so they died out.

RES: When was that? 50's 60's 70's?

Wife: [] I would say the last farmer was before the 70's.

RES: Before 70, so that's a long time ago now.

Wife: [] – so there's no farmers [] so he changed into having beef you know. [] the newest one that has picked up, and thank god for that, was wine makers. He started for the [] and it turned out to be good [] so we do have a little of that growth around here. It's not, it's just houses [] before we know it.

RES: Well that's the way the coast seems to be going from Florida to Maine.

INT: And I don't know where people are coming from. Where do they get the money from, it doesn't seem like they are working.

RES: Maybe they come from XXXX like me.

INT: hahah

Wife: [] and then the people that have been here, the supplemental farmers and the fishermen...

RES: You mentioned that before that there use to be commercial fishing and farming. Commercial fishermen have left as well you think?

Wife: [] you can count on them. [] commercial fishing is different there then the shell fishing and then draggers, you know, crude fishing, and then there are the other ones that go for the [] which we go for.

INT: But there is a difference in fishing. What you call fishermen today people are fishing just for money. They're not fishermen they are not... what I call a fisherman that is in for life, that's his whole life, he's living. And, he lives and he breaths and he sleeps fishing, you know. And in those days when I came here, that's the way the fishermen was. They was like that, but a lot of them are not like that anymore. They just money, where can I get money.

RES: Why is that?

INT: I don't know that's the change of the way of thinking I think. And they get as mush as they can out of it; that's the idea you know.

Wife: [] Also the people that have come in [] I want to go sport fishing; I want to go sport fishing, and so they have to come [] and basically they don't like commercial fishermen. They want their boat. They basically want that one and nice hunting ground that there gong to go out with [] boat

RES: Are there a lot of problems with recreational fishermen and commercial fishermen in Cape May?

Wife: There have been but not any more. [] There has been almost wars, but the [] they knew that we have to stop somewhere to complain about the commercial fishermen. I mean it got so bad that the coast guard had to come in between it all. So now they are [] and they are... commercial fishermen, they have to keep on fishing to make a living. And so they are out there, not pleasure boats. And them fishing, the fishing for pleasure, they are the ones that work on land. They got the telephone, they can even take a car, and they can drive to [] and they are those lawyers, and doctors, and work in the government and you name it where they work. So, they know how to go with the bureaucratic way to get what they want. And...

RES: Do you think they have more voice than the commercial fishermen?

Wife: [] Oh yes, they have.

RES: And why because there is more of them, or because they know more people or why...their connections

Wife: Both. They don't have to do fishing for a living and I don't know why they ganged up on the commercial fishermen like they did. But lately, it's sort of been quite about them, but they said that the fishermen are the ones that are raking in and robbing everything out there, and they have managed to get the ears of the federals.

RES: The federal managers you mean?

Wife: Yeah, and then suddenly when it came to certain kind of fish or whatever that was coming in, the commercial fishermen were not allowed to take certain types of fish. They have probably told you all of that...

RES: Some of it, not all of it.

Wife: Like, you can only take so much so, so, so, so, and you can't help but bycatch. And your not allowed to go out anywhere. But, the [] fishermen, they were the ones that were [] more fish. Than the commercial men found out, and it got very quite from them. All of that raving that they had against the commercials kind of got quite. So, then they have got the good will going now on the commercial fishing... the federal is involved, the state is involved. And, many years ago, they made up their minds that they are going to regulate [] that America has, and they want to regulate the fishing. And so now, they have regulated it so mush probably that if you want to get any kind of money from the federals [] the commercial fishermen []...so this we that started so innocent that we are going to regulate it and make it real good for everybody has not come to be a [] - that rolls by itself, and nobody knows when it's going to end. But one thing, the commercial fishermen will be locked out from having any decision themselves.

RES: You think that's the way it is going?

Wife: Oh yes, to regulate it. They have tried

INT: They just tell you what to do you know and they...

Wife: [] .And they will tell everything, and then they have the ohhhh my this nice thing up in the sky that if anything happens, we know exactly where you are and we will [] and aid and help you. It's not that, it's police in disguise.

RES: This is the monitoring on the vessel?

Wife: They are going to monitor every vessel.

INT: It's worse than communism in the world, if your objected to the war on the other side. They kept track of them all over wherever. They couldn't go anywhere except they don't where they was.

RES: That feels like an invasion of your privacy to have that on the vessel?

INT: Yeah, yep.

Wife: There are boats that have it and they have been in danger, and they has been no help for them- even having those things.

RES: So you don't really see the benefit?

Wife: No, I can't see the benefit in it. So...

INT: And they have to buy it. They make them buy it, you buy it or you're not in.

RES: I might move the microphone up a tiny bit when you put your arms across there.

INT: You should give it to my wife instead.

RES: Well there's a microphone on here to so we'll pick you up.

Wife: Oh you're picking me up hahaha.

RES: No that's good. I'm glad you came and sat down with us. We'll ask other people to come in and sit down. It's nice to have other voices in on the conversations.

Wife: I would say they would be all evened up. When there's no fishermen [] here comes our sons.

INT: There's the captain on the XXXX on the boat.

SON: Hello

INT: This is the guy from the Rutgers University is it?

RES: Yeah, I'm a researcher there, and we're doing an oral history on project on fishing – Cape May and other communities along the coast.

INT: Maybe you should ask him what do you think of the regulations.

RES: Well do you want to do one of these interviews?

Son: Well I'm not sure, I've got... We're in the XXXX working on a net all day long right now, but...

RES: Well we'll do it at another time... we're taking up a lot of your time but...

Son: You stay on there and hammer away.

RES: Maybe I'll come after you at some point and ask you if you want to do...

SON: Why not. I've been itching on, maybe he's already been filling you in, but I've been itching on...supposedly they're going to do an environmental impact statement where they look back at comparing DEIS, are you acquainted with that term?

RES: Yeah

Son: Comparing the DEIS with what actually happened.

RES: Huh, that's an interesting sounding...

Son; Now somebody like you can get a grant and get that going..

RES: Yeah that sounds like an interesting project.

Son: Yeah, and that is something that I'd really like to see because this is what they predicted what was going to happen with actually what happened.

RES: And more importantly the difference between the...

Son: Oh yeah, it's effected us big time.

RES: Has it?

Son: Oh yeah, without a doubt. Unbelievable some of the stuff that has happened and that's going on as we speak.

INT: Yeah, I think they really messed things up.

Son: It's a...

INT: Nobody can make a living no more.

Son: Ok commercial break; in a nutshell, the thing on the plate that's what they came over here talking to them about, you might as well here it. They're having a herring []. You're acquainted with that?

RES: The...ba...

Son: The controlled access and Area 1A, 1B, 2 and 3 ok. Well what they want to do, the people up here want to keep us out of there ok.

RES: Is this the New England council?

Son; Well the NE council has the lead role in the herring.

RES: It's by jointly managed right?

Son: Well it's supposed to be very jointly managed. What's happening is, they traded off so the...it's no longer jointly managed. The north east has sole responsibility of herring. Mid-Atlantic has sole responsibility of mackerel. And what they did was they gave an extra seat up from each council to kind of make up the difference in regards to the handling of that. But what's happening is, these people don't like us down here.

RES: Why?

Son: Why, because we're competition ok. So part of the rules is, that they've claimed ocean clean out here to Jeffery's out here which is sometimes 30/40/50 miles offshore is 1A. Then you got 1B out here that covers this bay's and area. Then you got this area here, which is number 3. There setting the tonnages so high for historical participation that it is kicking out a lot of boats that could have been out from here. In the mid-80s our government strongly urged us to go after under-utilized species – the herring, the mackerel and the squids. In the 90's they wanted us to Americanize it. In order to do that, we've constantly been reinvesting in our vessels, so our vessels to date a product of all of that urging by our government. Now suddenly, our government, because of the political winds, is yanking the rug out from underneath of us saying oh you're boat's too efficient to go up there, you cause localized depletion, forage food, all of the buzzwords that they use, and it is all based on perception. All the ideas on recreational interest, they're perception is not based on NOAA's perception. NOAA says there's not a problem with the herring, you know the scientists out here told that there's absolutely no problem with the herring. But what they're doing then is well we have to protect the historical way of life. What about my historical way of life by putting these area closures, GRA's down here, has forced boats out of GRAs up here to all congregate in one little mass area, and it is causing big time problems like in the squid fishery. But the long story short is, they're having a meeting on Thursday to re-vamp the access. And during the criteria setting times, I was up there, but I was not trying to bust into the bait market, which could handle 2-300 tons a night per boat. I was up there looking for 30 tons a day is all. And I was trying to develop a food market in Europe, which we did do. But while up there, I put up 460 tons. Guess what the qualifying criteria is? 500. So I'm going to be kicked out, I've got \$10 million dollars invested in my boat to catch these fish, these herring they range down here in the winter up here in the summer, and they're not going to let me go up there because I don't live up there and I don't have 2000 tons to my name up there. And yet, I've got 10\$ million investment compared to boats up there that have maybe only 100-200,000 dollars investment. And yet I still, you know, this is our governments urging to go after the underutilized species, but now suddenly I'm not allowed to go in this block of ocean and they want to redraw the lines so it's going to be a bigger chunk that you're not

allowed to fish in. So unless you're from this area, you're not going to be allowed to fish here. They can come down here and fish if they want.

RES: Do you think they will?

Son: I...they will when the mackerel...there's already boats coming down here. These guys know, because of our information when they talk to us, they know that the herring are down here. So when they can't find them up there, they've never come down this far, but last winter they were down here catching herring. So, that happened, but what I don't like is you've got federal waters is supposed to be outside of 3 miles and they are grabbing water out to there and saying hey this belongs to the state of Maine because we have to protect the historical way of life up there. What about Cape May's historical way of life? So that means, I should be able to claim half of the state of NJ, claim a block of ocean out here and say ok nobody from New England's about to come and catch mackerel. If they can claim the herring, then I should be able to claim the mackerel.

RES: But it's not going to work that way?

Son: It won't work that way; it's very one way. It's very one way. They have...if nothing else the fishermen up there have the ears of the senators in all of the states in Maine, Mass, they have...and they're big players the Kennedy's you know.

RES: I live in Mass. so I know.

Son: So I'm not telling you anything new. And when I was up there, the thing of it is, the recreational...it started out with controlled access cause the amount of boats that are in it right now that are doing it have the capability of catching tonnage that's now set out as a yearly quota. What they don't want is another 20-30 boats out there that can have the equal catching capacity. Now couple that together with a bad year for the recreational tuna fishermen when the baitfish weren't really showing inshore. but I was packing out in Gloucester, I was catching most of my fish out here on George's, north edge, running back in and then they were taking pictures of my boat saying that I was causing localized depletion, I'm from the Mid-Atlantic, and putting that in all of the sport fishing magazines coast wide inland and everywhere. So now the recreational communities are saying ohhh we've got to kick you out, you're causing localized depletion. That particular year, the giant blue fin never went passed Nantucket. And guess where they were this summer? I don't know what they're going to use as an excuse; we weren't up there catching them. They were on the other side of the Canadian line. The giant blue fin were all up here right in that area.

RES: What's going on there?

Son: The fish went where they want to.

RES: There fish they can go wherever they...

Son: They don't know that there is Area 1A, 1B, Area 3 or Area 2, and they go where they want. To me tuna fish are nothing more than mackerel, a large mackerel, and they are very driven by the temperature of water. So it depends on the warm water, the Gulf Stream coming up, the Labrador Current coming down, and you got the warm water eddies. And with the eddies you get the different schooling of bait fish, and then of course the larger fish chase them. But, they're having a meeting Thursday where they're going to re-address so of those items, and there is seven alternatives in the Amendment 1 of the herring plan.

RES: Where's the meeting?

Son: In Wakefield Mass.

RES: I'd bet I know one of the staffers up there.

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Son; She seems pretty sharp. I like her; I really do. I mean, you know, she's just doing her job as a staffer you know. She's really not a decision maker. I wish she was, because she's open minded enough to see all of the sides of it. But anyway, I'm torn because if I'm going to have any chance to say hey look, I have historical participation in this area in the years when the criteria setting times are 98, 99, 2000, and 2001, I spent more time out on the water because I was catching 30 tons a day spending ten days at a time and then going in either unloading in Edward, Boston or up in Gloucester. And then, these guys would come out and 500 tons would be maybe 2 nights of fishing. Some of the guys were doing that in one night. So, there going to get historical participation for one or two nights fishing and yet I spent 2 summers up there, and I'm not going to be able to participate in 1A because I don't have the so called 2 or 4000 tons needed to be a special category.

RES: Frustrating.

Son: It is because you got the recreational groups are lining themselves with the ground fish and then you have the ecologists in there, and there all lining themselves, because we're visible, saying we're the reason there's a problem when in fact it's not. You know, it's the same time with the GRA that occurred down here on Scott. We have full-time squid fishermen of which I am in the wintertime, when I'm not chasing mackerel, and then our boats are geared to freeze them. Then you have the scallopers and the flounder fishermen that will dabble in squid fishing. I myself call them part time squid fishermen. A part time squid fishermen came in, put the small mesh line on for squid, used that as an excuse, had an observer with him, and said hey I'm going after squid, and went right to the scuff grounds and caught scuff right. And of course they wrote that down, and then they extrapolated it. Oh no no no, we've got to kick out all squid fishermen.

RES: So they get a data point and it spikes the whole...

Son: It spikes the whole...If you throw the high and the low out we're a quarter of one % of bycatch, and that is recorded by Rutgers...halibut. Years ago they tabulated, they claimed they

didn't have the resources to tabulate the bycatch on all of the observer reports that were made, and when they finally did NMFS said no were not going to look at that information – it's biased.

RES: That's meetings, Atlantic [] meetings about the data...

Son: That's even worse. I don't have a lot of love for the ASMFC.

RES: No?

Son: No. I went back there in 1993, and it was a good old boys club, and I went there from 93-97 without missing a meeting. ASMFC and Mid-Atlantic council, and I watched those guys declare stripped bass, the scientists, declare stripped bass fully restored in 1993. And all of the managers, they didn't know who I was I was sitting there with a suit an tie on instead of my fishing cloths, and they says se can't tell the public that [whispering] they'll make open season on the fish and it will drive the fish back down to what it was. And oh shit do you remember what happened when the deer population was declared fully restored, we all lost our funding and we lost our jobs, so we gotta make sure that this don't happen again, so let's come up with some ideas. And they started pounding the table trying to come up with ideas how to pull the wool over the public's eyes in regards to stripped bass. And now, stripped bass are so thick that I've got Carolina fishermen that I'm personal friends with, a New York fishermen, and were off of here, and any given time throughout the year we can go out and get 10-20,000 pounds of stripped bass if we wanted to. The schools are that huge and that up and down the coast. And those stripped bass never swam 50-60 miles off shore, and now their schools are so huge that there way off shore here 60, 70, 80 miles offshore is where they're swimming now. Because they've been protected, and nobody's allowed to touch them and plus they are voracious eaters, they eat everything else. So, you wonder where the trout are, you wonder where the blue-clawed crabs are, you wonder where the bunker are.

RES: It makes sense to look at those ecosystem interactions for sure.

Son: You try telling that to the managers, and it's ah no, no, no, no that's not the way it is. You're just a fisherman; you don't know what you're talking about. But anyhow, no I've got all my soap box and now I'll get off of it, but that's the big issue right now.

RES: Well, I'd like to get you back on your soapbox. I should probably let you guys get to supper. Can I get your phone # and do a...

Son: If you want. I'm in the field here the next couple of days if I don't go to that meeting. That's supposed to be on Thursday.

RES: The herring one?

Son: Yeah the herring...it's a committee meeting. They said don't even try to go to a council meeting. They turn into a knock em down drag em out you know.

RES: Do you have a cell phone or anything.