

## KRISTY B

Interviewers: Cameo and John

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Place: Friendship Village School

Transcribers: Cameo and John



**Q: Kristy, how long have you been lobstering?**

A: Practically all my life.

**Q: When did you start lobstering? At what age?**

A: Well, when I was probably five.

**Q: What other members of your family go lobstering?**

A: My brother and my father go every day. My mother goes when I go.

**Q: What months do you go fishing?**

A: I go every summer vacation.

**Q: What did you have to do to get a license?**

A: My dad filled out a form with information. Then we sent it to the state. They sent it back because I didn't have a sponsor. So we got a sponsor, then sent it back in, and about two weeks later I got my license.

**Q: Where do you go fishing?**

A: I go fishing down river, which is like Martin's Point, Timber Point, The Mud, and down the other way towards Egg Rock, Monhegan, and that's about it.

**Q: How do you know where you can set your traps?**

A: Actually, I don't know; my father just sets them.

**Q: What is your job on the boat?**

A: Well, I pretty much just do nothing until it's time to go to my traps. I have to fill the bait bags, bait the line, measure the lobsters, put them in a bucket so we can keep track of them, and that's all.

**Q: Describe how you set a trap.**

A: We have to get some traps, new or used. You have to make sure they have all the heads, you throw the buoy rope out in the water, you bait the lines, and that's just about it.

**Q: What's a head?**

A: The heads are the netting; they sometimes allow lobsters to come in.

**Q: When does your day begin?**

A: Well, I get up at 3:00 in the morning, and earlier in the season we got up at 3:30, but at the end of the summer it was around 4:00 because the days were getting shorter.

**Q: Why do you wake up so early?**

A: We wake up so early because it gets the day going faster and hopefully we will get home earlier.

**Q: What color is your boat?**

A: My father's boat is gray, and it's a 38-foot Holland, and it's a nice boat.

**Q: What do you use for bait?**

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A: We use herring, flatfish, redfish, pogies, and I think there's more, but I can't remember.

**Q: What's a pogie?**

A: A pogie is a small fish about, oh, I don't know, but it's a good-sized fish.

**Q: What color is your buoy?**

A: It's red on the bottom and white on the top.

**Q: How many traps do you set up?**

A: I have 25 traps.

**Q: Is that a lot for lobsterman?**

A: No, that is a very little portion. They can have up to 800 traps.

**Q: What's a normal catch for a day?**

A: Well, it really depends. If the season is poor, you really don't get very much, but if the season is good, you can get like 500 pounds. You could get 800 pounds.

**Q: What's the biggest lobster you've ever caught in your life?**

A: Well, I haven't ever caught a really big lobster, but down by the Puffin Rock, and Egg Rock are pretty big lobsters. One had an area of huge lobsters, like three times the size of a normal-sized lobster.

**Q: Describe how you haul a trap.**

A: You find your buoy color, and you have this thing called a gaff; it's a stick, and it has a hook on the end. And you hoist the buoy up out of the water, you put on a davey [davit]-- the pole that holds the hauling block, a mechanical device that reels it in, and when you see the trap, you stop. You take it off the davey, put it on the washboard, you unhook the top, and you take the lobsters out. And if you have a sternman, the sternman will take the bait bag out, and he'll empty it out and put a new one in.

**Q: How do you keep from being pinched by a lobster?**

A: I guess you have to be very careful. It depends on how you hold them, and it also depends on what mood the lobster's in.

**Q: What size lobsters are you allowed to keep?**

A: We have a measure. I don't know the actual size they have to be, but there's a measure, and you put it from the eye socket, and there's a black line on the top of the lobster, and if it goes to that line, then you can keep it.

**Q: Why do some lobsters have v-notches in their tails?**

A: They have v-notches in their tails because they're eggers.

**Q: What's an egger?**

A: An egger is a female lobster that has eggs under its stomach, and you're not allowed to keep them because it's against the law.

**Q: What happens if you're caught with a short lobster or a v-notched one?**

A: You're in trouble. I think you can lose your license if you're caught with one, but if there's one like only an inch short, I don't know how it really goes, but I guess if you're caught with an egger or one that has a v-notch in it, you could lose your license.

**Q: Could you ever regain your license, and how long would it take?**

A: I don't know. It depends; I guess the commissioner can take it away, and I guess he decides how long you lose your license for. I've heard of some people who have lost their license up to three years.

**Q: What other kind of fish get caught in traps? What is your favorite one?**

A: Well, there's sculpin, there's flatfish, and there's other kinds of fish, but I can't remember what they're called. And I don't have a favorite one, but there's something really funny that I can connect to that. Every time my dad catches a sculpin--I hate sculpin--my dad always catches them, and on the boat he'll throw them at me, and I'm petrified of them, and he'll throw them at me, and he'll tease me with them, and I'm screaming my head off!

**Q: That's kind of funny. I don't think I'd ever like that to happen to me. What is your least favorite one?**

A: My least favorite fish is sculpin.

**Q: Can you describe your traps for us?**

A: I don't know what size they are, but they're orange with white ends.  
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**Q: What's inside of it? Can you describe it?**

A: I think there are white heads, and that's just about what they have inside.