

## STEVEN G

Interviewer: Jimmy

Date: September 18, 2003

Place: Friendship Village School

Transcribers: Jimmy and Steven



**Q: How long have you been lobstering?**

A: For five years.

**Q: What other members of your family lobster?**

A: My uncles, brother, and father.

**Q: Who do you go lobstering with?**

A: My older brother, Philip.

**Q: How often do you go in a week?**

A: Every day that you can.

**Q: How often do you go in a year?**

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A: All of the summer months and on Saturdays.

**Q: Do you have a license?**

A: I had to go to the town office and buy it.

**Q: Where do you fish?**

A: The river, Friendship Long Island, Hall Island, Franklin Island, Egg Rock, and a few other places.

**Q: How far out do you fish?**

A: Past Egg Rock.

**Q: How deep do you fish?**

A: Thirty-five fathoms of water.

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

A: A color machine and a flasher.

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

A: About 3:30 in the morning.

**Q: When does it end?**

A: At about 11:30-12:00.

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

A: I am a sternman.

**Q: Describe your job.**

A: I put the bait on the traps, fill the bait bags, band and measure the lobsters.

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

A: You haul it up with the hauler; you put it on the washboard; you take the lobsters out of the trap and everything else in there. Your sternman puts the bait on it, closes it up, and throws it in the water.

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**Q: How much rope do you attach?**

A: It depends on where you set the trap.

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

A: Orange on top and purple on the bottom.

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

A: I put herring in the bait bag and pogies on top.

**Q: Where do you get it?**

A: The bait truck.

**Q: How many traps do you haul in a day?**

A: One hundred and fifty to 200.

**Q: What is the normal catch for a day?**

A: Usually about 250 pounds.

**Q: What is the biggest lobster that you have ever caught?**

A: It was so big that I don't know how he got in the trap!

**Q: How much did it weigh?**

A: Fifty to 60 pounds.

**Q: How do you keep from getting bit by the lobster?**

A: You grab it by the lobster's knuckles so he can't bite you.

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

A: Because they are mothers, but sometimes they don't have eggs.

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

A: The first time you get caught you get a fine, and the second time you most likely lose your license.

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**Q: What other kinds of fish do you catch in your traps?**

A: Flatfish, horn pout, sculpin, dogfish, codfish, stripers, and mackerel.

**Q: What is your favorite fish?**

A: My favorite fish is codfish.

**Q: What is your least favorite fish?**

A: My least favorite is horn pout.

**Q: What other kinds of sea life do you encounter when you are out on the water?**

A: All kinds of different things, like crabs.

**Q: Where do you sell your lobsters?**

A: To the lobster truck.

**Q: Describe your lobster boat.**

A: It is 32 feet long, it's name is the *M/Crack/In*, and it has a 360-Chrysler.

**Q: Why is it named that?**

A: It is my brother's nickname.

**Q: What do you do if you have to go to the bathroom on the boat?**

A: We go in a bucket or over the stern.

**Q: What do you wear when you go lobstering?**

A: Oil pants and an oil shirt when it's raining.

**Q: Describe the parts of a lobster trap.**

A: It's like a big box; it has heads and one string called the bait line that you put the bait bag with the bait in it on.

**Q: Do you ever use toggles?**

A: Yes.

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**Q: Describe what a toggle is.**

A: It holds the rope up off the bottom so you don't get a hung down trap.

**Q: Have you ever fallen overboard?**

A: No

**Q: Have you ever gotten seasick?**

A: Once when I was small.

**Q: Has your boat ever broken down?**

A: Yes. It breaks down quite a bit.

**Q: Have you ever lost traps or bait bags over board?**

A: Yes, all the time.

**Q: What is the most scary thing that has ever happened to you?**

A: Nothing that scary.

**Q: What do you like most on the boat?**

A: Catching lobsters and making money.

**Q: What do you like least about lobstering?**

A: The work.

**Q: Do you like to eat lobster?**

A: Yes.

**Q: How often do you eat it?**

A: Not very often.

**Q: How do you like it cooked?**

A: Boiled.































