

Fishtales
Sunday, September 30, 2012
Working Waterfront Festival

Interviewer – Markham Starr
Interviewee – Annie Humiston

MS What is your name?

AH Annie Humiston.

MS And where are you from?

AH Seattle area.

MS And do you have anything to do with the fishing industry?

AH Not any longer, but when I was 18 I decided I was gonna go fishin'. I was gonna go gill netting so I had a friend who was building a boat, brand new boat for somebody else and I got on as crew. I took, paid special attention to what, how the, what was port and what was starboard because I didn't really know that port was red and left and starboard was right and green. I just knew that one was one and one was the other. So I paid special attention. Brand new boat. So I was taking night wheel watches goin' up the inside passage all the way to Ketchikan and here came a tug boat, comin' at us. And it was his red light to our green light. Oh my god we're gonna crash. I'm thinkin' that doesn't seem right, but that's what's on our boat. It's my green light to his red light. So I grabbed the skipper and I shake him awake and I said "We're gonna crash! We're gonna crash! 'Cause our green light's to his red light." And he said "What are you talkin' about?" I said, "There's a tug boat comin' and we're gonna crash!" He comes up topside, and he says, "No, no, no, we're passin' port to port. You're fine. What are you talkin' about?" I said, "You gotta go outside and look at our lights, 'cause we're goin green to red, and I know that's not right." [chuckles] Turns out the next morning he did go look at the lights and his crew member, his right hand man had wired em in backwards as we left the dock. So that's the first story. Let me think about the second one. So second story, so we finally get to Ketchikan after havin' some engine trouble and blowin' up the turbo charger and we idled across Milbanke Sound and we idled across Dixon Entrance and we get to Ketchikan and the brand new boat's all covered with soot and I scrub the boat clean and then the rest of the fleet comes in. So we all go playin' out that night, I'm 18 years old I could go out drinking in Alaska. So that was kind of fun. Next day my first job ever in the fishing industry besides hangin' nets was cleanin' the herring skiffs. And there were, there were scales stuck to everything. And I scrubbed and I scrubbed and I scrubbed while these guys sat in their boats all warm drinking coffee and its blowin' and it's snowin' and we're tied up eight deep at the docks. And I'm seasick as can be at the docks. And after I cleaned three skiffs by bailin' the water in and bailin' the water out, one of the guys, Arne Jarsted from the Read Out, big seine boat, took pity on me and hooked up his

pump and siphon system and decided that I was a pretty darn good hand. Third story: Same trip, same week. The skipper got sick and had to fly back to Washington. And I had to find a job. Well the fleet took off for Sitka and I was left with a boat to stay on, but I had to find a job, so I did find a job. I found a job in the food and beverage industry. And I came home from work at 3 o'clock in the morning on the boat and I go down into the bunk and there's somebody sleepin' in it. And there's not supposed to be anybody on the boat. And I'm 18 years old, what does a girl do? She goes to the toolbox in the wheelhouse and gets a monkey wrench [laughs] and goes down and wakes this guy up holding the monkey wrench sayin' "What are you doin' on this boat?" He goes, "No, no, no. I'm supposed to be here. Dougout said I could stay here." "Huh!" So I went and slept in the wheelhouse. It was fine. So those were my three stories.

MS Very good

AH Yup!