

TAPE SUMMARY INDEX FOR
LONG ISLAND TRADITIONS FIELDWORK PROJECT:
BAYSHORE TO PATCHOGUE

TAPE 007:

BOB KALER

JULY 12, 2000

NOTE Bad Audio due to conditions on boat

Bob was born in Patchogue, NY and has lived most of his life in this area and on the same street. Bob went into crabbing after clamming went bad in the 1970s. While clamming he did raking for hard clams. Currently when he is not crabbing, in the spring, He is bait musseling on the North Shore of Long Island. He has been crabbing for twenty years. He describes the area as beautiful and his boat is named paradise because that is what we are in. Discusses how to set the trap lines for crabbing. Bob got his start working on the bay just by living near the bay. He states that you have to learn along the way. He started out by bait fishing when he was around 11 years old. Some of the biggest changes have been the addition of more crabbers due to the decline in clamming and the market for crabs. Freedom in his job is one of the main reasons he stays with crabbing. After retiring from his job with the school system he plans on returning to the bay full time. Discusses the use of traps. Bob speaks about the year—so far it has been good. After a day on the bay he must load his truck and get the crabs to market as soon as possible. The crabs do like humidity and buyers will not buy dead crabs and the crabs must be placed brown side up. Bob uses the expression the crabs are going to the hot tub, or sauna, when he takes them to market. Speaks about the importance of knowing the bay and tries to avoid working during the winter. Would like people to know it's a long tough job and receives fun, freedom, and more fun. Bob believes the bay will stay good as long as it does not become too polluted. He states that you need two incomes to survive working on the bay—his wife is a nurse. Bob also explains that with the influx of recreational boaters that many of the people who work on the bay are no longer welcome because of the smell of the workboats.