

DON KEARSLEY May 10, 1987 1 tape

SIDE A - beginning

001 Grew up in Linwood, N.J. on Scull's Bay. Bay fishing as a child  
009 Learned to fish from friend's father - Harry Toma – prof. fisherman  
015 47 years old. Parents from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Grandparents: England and Ohio.  
No fishermen in family  
023 Got into fishing because of area. Caught clams - old timers taught him. They were  
descendents of early settlers. English. Go back to 18th century  
043 Methods for clamming - tools, hand-digging. Found them by walking barefoot  
049 Used for restaurants - clams  
054 1st ocean trip - in high school. Got sick. Threw up lunch  
062 Decided to become a fisherman when he finished high school  
069 Commutes from N.J.  
073 Someone else owns his boat. Ownership history  
078 Came to Freeport in 1967. Met other fishermen who told him area was good. Didn't know  
anybody here. Mostly new people in fishing. Was treated well  
094 Learned from Jimmy Lyons, Burt Cummings, knows fish habits. Works for Cummings.  
Learned where fish are, their habits, etc.  
105 Describes what's in season  
109 Freeport has more whiting, cod in winter  
114 Had to learn what's in season here, how to catch them; "mother nature"  
121 Have to know about weather, mechanics, nets, marketing; "have to be a jack of all trades"  
124 Hard to learn electronics  
131 Making nets. Torn up and had to fix them. Captain taught him. Picked it up easily  
142 Interruption  
145 Nets made of linen and cotton. Later made of manila. How cared for. Later: nylon. Cotton  
ripped, rot. Replaced often because they'd hit wrecks. Drawings in books to map wreck spots  
169 Three nets/year. Loran (Long Range Navigation). Essential to know how to fix a net.  
Learned fast so he could make money.  
181 Nylon "bowie" nets are used today. Rips, use same material. Sewing  
190 Other maintenance. Worked on scallop boat. Describes nets  
201 Skills: tying knots, engine work  
208 Wooden boat he's using. Maintenance: scraping barnacles, copper paint, bonding and  
sanding. Does it every year. Built in 1946-47. Engine's importance  
237 Fiberglass vs. wooden boats  
249 How different boats handle  
261 Storms. Describes scallop boat in storm  
274 How he got through it. Kept bow into water. Steering is critical  
285 Getting bit by a lobster. Happens often  
297 Stayed out all day. Some stay out 3-4 days  
306 James Lupskin, owner and partner. Often goes out alone. Works non-stop  
321 Talking with other boats  
334 Screwing up: catching wrecks, engine problems  
344 How to tell a good fishing day. Fish scope  
365 Setting the net out

375 Common problems in beginning. Took about 3 years before he ran his own boat. Had a bad boat at first

393 Met sharks, whales, tuna, swordfish. Hasn't seen a giant octopus. Sees a lot of Russian trawlers.

419 What he likes to eat. Gives fish to friends. Plain cooking No fried food. Dislikes restaurants. Sells some fish to the restaurants

450 Flounder, fluke, squid and whiting nets - all drag. Different size mesh. Heavy chains

### SIDE B

006 Likes fishing because he's independent, his own boss, good living

015 Learned most by watching people. No schooling for fishing

025 Moon and weather prediction

038 Ocean vs. bay fisherman. Have to know more to be an ocean fisherman. Hours are shorter in bay

051 Ethnic composition in Freeport. Diverse. Others are solely Portuguese N. J. - Swedes, Norwegians, L.I. more mixed. Cooperative. Most competition in selling. Ocean fishers - diverse

076 Good years and bad years. Similar to farming. "He farms the land, we farm the ocean"

More mobility - fisherman

088 Names for tourists - none

100 Local place to go eat - Ehrharts

106 end