

JOSHUA M

Interviewer: Randall

Date: September 18, 2003

Place: Friendship Village School

Transcribers: Joshua and Randall



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

A: Probably since I was four years old

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

A: My dad and my little brother Daigan.

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

A: My dad and his boss.

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

A: About three or four times a week.

**Q: What months do you lobster in?**

A: A lot in the summer and a little in the winter.

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**Q: Where do you fish?**

A: Pretty far out, and around Cushing and the Saint George River.

**Q: How deep, do you know?**

A: I don't know, usually about 10 to 20 fathoms.

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

A: We just know.

**Q: What is your job on the boat? Describe it.**

A: I band and bait the bags and do a few strings every once in a while.

**Q: When does your day begin, and when does it end?**

A: It begins usually about 4:30 and ends usually anytime in the afternoon from 1:00 to 3:00.

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

A: My dad's are green and white.

**Q: What do you use for bait? Where do you get it?**

A: We use pogies and mackerel. We get them right from the wharf that we sell the lobsters at.

**Q: Who do you sell your lobsters to?**

A: We sell our lobsters to John Olson.

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

A: A lot.

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

A: Usually around 200 or 300.

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

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A: About 9 inches.

**Q: How big is a trap? How heavy is a trap?**

A: About 3 to 4 feet long and weighs about 40 pounds.

**Q: How do you keep from getting pinched by the lobsters claws?**

A: There's a special way of grabbing them. It's kind of hard to explain.

**Q: What size lobsters are you allowed to keep? How do you measure them?**

A: You can keep them if they are 3 1/4 inches to 5 inches. You measure them with a measure.

**Q: Why do some lobsters have a v-notch in their tail? What do you do with them?**

A: It means it is a mother and it has had eggs, so you have to throw it back.

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

A: First, you get a warning; then if you get caught again, you either get a fine or you lose your license. If your boat gets checked and you are 15 and under and there is nothing wrong, you get a free ice cream at MacDonalds.

**Q: What other kinds of sea life do you encounter while you are lobstering?**

A: We encounter dolphins, porpoises, seals, sea stars, and fish.

**Q: Where do you sell your lobsters, and whose wharf is it?**

A: We sell our lobsters to Blue Water Seafood. It is John Olson's wharf.

**Q: Describe your boat. How long is your boat? What color is it?**

A: Our boat is 37 feet long, and it is green and white.

**Q: What is your boat's name? Why is it named this?**

A: Its name is the *Lisa Marie*. It is named that because it is my dad's boss's wife's name.

**Q: What do you use for a bathroom on the boat?**

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A: We use a bucket, or we just go over the back.

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

A: We wear oil pants.

**Q: Do you ever use toggles? Explain what a toggle does.**

A: Of course. Everyone uses toggles. Toggles help the rope stay off the bottom so your traps don't get stuck on the bottom.

**Q: Where do you put the lobsters when you have caught them?**

A: Sometimes we put them in crates and in a big tank.

**Q: How do you know where to go in the fog? What electronics do you have?**

A: We have a radar, and my dad's boss knows where to go.

**Q: What safety equipment do you have?**

A: We have lifejackets, a raft.

**Q: Have you ever fallen overboard? Explain how.**

A: I have never fallen overboard, but I have been thrown over before.

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

A: No!

**Q: Has your boat ever broken down at sea? Describe what happened.**

A: Yes, but I wasn't on it, so I don't know what happened.

**Q: Has your boat ever been hung up on something or run aground? Describe what happened?**

A: No.

**Q: Have you ever lost a trap or bait bag while hauling? Explain what happened.**

A: We lose bait bags sometimes, but my dad gets them before they are too deep, and we never lose traps.

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

A: Nothing scary has ever happened to me.

**Q: What is your favorite thing about lobstering?**

A: Money and spending time with my dad.

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

A: Nothing.

**Q: How do you like to eat lobsters, and how often do you eat them?**

A: I like lobsters soaked in butter. I eat them a lot.