

Informant: Bill Marinaccio – VIDEO

Date: June 18, 2015

Interviewer: Nancy Solomon

Location: Freeport, NY

AUDIO LOG

0:00 – 2:00 – Early memories of father captain Carmine Marinaccio and charter boat business/ fishing.

2:00 – Dedicated life to catching tuna fish.

3:35 – Reputation for catching fish. Best tuna captains around. Written up in newspapers.

4:00 – Tale of tuna trolling with charter boat in bad weather.

5:30 – Charter boat scene in Freeport took off after prohibition repeal. Rum running no longer very good business.

6:00 – Like Wild West story – boom in charter boating – people from all over the world came to catch giant tunas in Freeport.

8:30 – Customers on father's boat.

9:55 – Freeport early 1930s had boat - The Duchess.

11:58 – WWII ended all fishing industry. Boats confiscated by coast guards.

12:50 – Volunteered his boat to coast guard. Went on submarine patrols.

13:28 – After war, everyone went back to tuna fishing. Good for a while until discovered stain in water. Caused by acid waste dump.

14:11 – Ruined tuna fishing. Had to go much further to catch them. / Started activist group. Story written up in newspapers.

14:56 – Permits given to lead company by Army Core of Engineers. Against the law. No choice on what to do with the acid waste by-product.

15:10 – Cleaning titanium which replaced lead. Brought out on barge. Dumped in ocean. Went on for years. Outside 12 mile radius. Not covered by laws.

17:22 – Another pollution problem. Dumping of sewage sludge. 12 miles south of Long Beach.

17:33 – First started dumping it. No one noticed in 1928. Every year got worse.

17:45 – By 1970s, got so bad – seven million tons dumped in Atlantic Ocean every year. Kept fish away. Some fish almost extinct. Clamming beds and bays closed.

18:20 – Went on for years with many complaints. Outside 12 mile limit. Lawless. Torpedo acid barge?

19:00 – Father wrote a letter to Eisenhower. Not until Nixon – establish EPA Clean Water Act. If it interfered with fishing, it was illegal. Got hearing from EPA. Proved tuna fish deflected in dirty water. Fish will not swim in dirty water.

20:18 – Told dump the acid at 106 miles mark. National Lead Co. decided to go out of business than spend the extra money.

20:34 – Another pollution problem. Sewage sludge dumping 12 miles off coast of Long Beach. No one noticed in 1928 when first started dumping it. Every year it got worse.

20:55 – Till finally 1970s- seven million tons dumped in Atlantic Ocean. Sea bass almost extinct. Clamming bed in ocean and clamming in bay closed.

21:36 - Help of Congressman Norman Lent – got hearing to prove sludge dumping interfered with fishing.

22:14 – EPA says dump at 106 mile dump site. Big commercial boats from all over discovered foul water.

22:55 – Congressmen complaining. Finally enforced law. No more sewage sludge dumping allowed at all in ocean. Law affected Los Angeles. Forced to cease.

23:24 – Father did writing for newspapers, plays, stories.

23:55 – Occasional bad weather. Worst called a white spall. Couldn't see anything.

24:40 – Remembers when he was 11 years old. Describes fishing in bad weather.

27:25 – Bill Wisner, writer for Fishing LI Waters magazine. Wrote about his father and tuna fishing.

27:55 – Contest. Would bring in first tuna fish of the year. Father usually won contest. Bill wrote story.

29:15 – Story of catching tuna for the contest.

31:00 – How father Carmine got into writing. Different groups wanted to charter boat. Free time in the winter. Wrote about birds.

32:00 – Autobahn society. Group did not want to see shore birds. Wanted sea birds, like albatross.

33:45 – Father writing bird stories. Eventually published a small book. "Yarns and Tails"

34:20 – Wrote three-act play about the acid waste dumping. Discovering. Destroying the tuna fishing. Hearing from EPA. "Mariner's Odyssey"

36:20 – How father named boat "Duchess". From popular song on the radio.

37:12 – Things father taught him. Learned a lot about handling money. Taught to be honest. Keep busy.

38:50 – wintertime made own fishing lures.

39:45 – Program in the schools. Teach children about fishing.

40:50 – What Bill did in the fishing industry. Went to military.

41:44 – When came back, things changed a lot. Cod fish disappeared.

42:42 – Captain from Brooklyn. Knew how good blue fin tuna fishing was. Got job in San Diego.

43:00 – Vessel with half mile long net. 40 foot boat carried net. How they caught school of blue fin tuna. Easy to catch because swim in tight schools. Showed on the surface.

44:00 – After three years wiped out schools of tuna fish. Spotter planes. Ruined tuna fishing altogether. Finally laws were passed.

44:00 – Worked for rich boat owner when his father retired.

45:19 – Worked ten years for NY Harbor running launch boat. Captain of charter boats in Freeport.

47:00 – Worked on charter boat Atlantica – mostly for taking the crew tuna fishing.

END