

Date: December 30, 2015  
Interviewer: Nancy Solomon  
Informant: Joey Scavone  
Location: Freeport, NY

#### AUDIO LOG

00:41 – Changes Superstorm Sandy. Working on bay and ocean 40 years.  
1:15 – What he harvested and currently harvesting.  
3:28 – Changes in water temperature and water quality. Right after the storm.  
4:10 – NYS closed waters for clamming and Town of Hempstead enforces it.  
4:42 – No fishing going on. Worked on ocean on clam boat after storm. Very restricted.  
5:06 – Talks about history of Day Star boat. Talks about Clams.  
6:31 – Describes trips on Day Star. 24 hour trip.  
7:14 – Only thing you can do after the storm. Two trips a week. Sometimes three.  
7:40 – Storm pounded into corner – where all waves came together. Washed all the clams out of bottom. Beaches were covered with baby clams. Seed destroyed.  
8:13 – Still ocean bottom has not come back yet. Bitter cold winter followed.  
9:10 – Superstorm Sandy – 9 foot tide – washed all the clams off the sand bars.  
9:55 – Called it angel hair – grows on top. Not growing. Bald bottom still affected. Stuff still not growing. Underwater roots froze.  
10:22 – Hoping for a warm winter. All the little baby clams froze.  
11:22 – Fishing changed after the storm. Caught plenty of fish few years before storm.  
12:00 – Net in water for only half hour. More than that net would be too heavy to pull in.  
13:04 – Couple good seasons before that storm came. 20 hours a day per fishing trip.  
14:05 – Caught about 2,000 pounds of fish a day.

15:32 – Today – goes 10 miles away from area where fished most of his life.  
15:45 – Ever since storm there has not been any fish in that area. Off Long Beach and Atlantic Beach. One mile from the beach.  
17:25 – Not able to change 2,000 pounds of fish today in a day.  
17:40 – Now goes out average two times a month. No profit in it. Costs money to do it.  
18:05 – Cannot have boat sitting at the dock. Have to run motor. Keep boat functional. Otherwise will rot away.  
18:25 – Now catches 400-500 pounds per day.  
19:00 – Value of striped bass and blue fish.  
19:35 – Before Sandy everything was around.  
19:52 – A lot of junk floated off land. Saw oil tanks floating. Two months after, oil still in water.  
20:35 – Water was dirty. Debris in air.

21:10 – Sinus infection because of debris.  
22:00 – Waters closed for clamming. Big changes in income after Sandy.  
22:44 – Getting rashes from the slim on the nets.  
24:15 – 20% of what he used to make.  
25:00 – Fishing wise – no income. Most income now from clamming.  
25:17 – Since storm closed waters. Reopened only 50% of area.

25:55 – Before Sandy most income from fishing. Now totally reversed. Now just from clamming. Goes clamming seven days a week.

26:33 – Loves clamming. But likes fishing more. Story of giant striped bass.

27:10 – Old timer told him “Never look a big striped bass in the eye.”

28:30 – Made large net in living room over the winter. Ten inch mesh.

29:25 – No damage to nets. Tied boat at marina in the water. Boat made it.

30:12 – Only damage to back of boat. One dock broke loose, hit back of his boat.

30:36 – Little clamming boat survived. Tied long line to dock and used anchors.

32:00 – Wood pilings went all over neighborhood. Got back 74, all but one piece.

32:40 – Lost one brand new fishing net.

33:33 – What he uses to catch spearing – seine net. Talks about net.

34:10 – Spearing can be sold as bait or food. Selling as food good part of income.

35:00 – All the things he lost.

36:20 – Salt water ruined tools.

36:50 – His home got trashed. Evacuated for the storm. Stayed with friends in Freeport.

38:15 – Water came close to friend’s house. Two blocks away cars were under water. Some cars floating around.

39:17 – No gas at gas stations. Riding bicycle. No gas for three weeks. Then snowstorm.

40:40 – Living off generator. Looting going on. No one in community. Only one there.

41:21 – Rented house in Elmont. Close to market. But no fish to catch. Able to go back. Piles of garbage 12 feet high everywhere. Bulldozed everything into piles.

42:06 – Living nightmare. Waters closed for clamming. No access – boats in roads.

Blocking front doors of homes. Devastation. Went around town helping people for the next year. Old people who did not have strength to clean out houses. Condemned.

43:00 – Bags of stuff were never taken away. Customers’ restaurants were destroyed.

Did not use clams following year. Needed to rebuild. Only customers still operating away from water.

43:53 – Nothing has come back since.

44:25 – ’92 Nor’easter was not bad. Had no effect. Did not hurt fishing or clamming.

Same with Gloria in 1985. Fished two days after Gloria. Even though swells were huge.

45:10 – Storm came at a different angle. Came from Amityville.

46:15 – Boats tied to floating docks that broke away. Oil tanks. So much debris.

Parkways and bays with debris. Bay houses washed away.

48:00 – No killies in water since.

49:00 – Horseshoe crabs migrate. This year saw billions of baby horseshoe crabs.

Tossed around. Many died.

50:53 – Only goes as far east as Fire Island.

52:31 – Works alone a lot. Likes to bring at least person.

53:35 – Prepare differently for another storm. Safer having boats in water. Would get everything on land off ground.

54:33 – Worries fishing will not get better in next few years. Now so many regulations.

55:10 – Unfair to fill out trip reports.

55:21 – How fishing really works. Very unpredictable.

56:11 – Make new laws according to the data you send them. So wrong.

56:22 – How he documents data of catch. Waterproof tag and a paper book log.

58:48 – Riding bicycle trying to save on gas during the snow storm.

59:00 – Fishermen on water before and after Sandy from Freeport. No people. No birds.

END