

**THE CENTER FOR ORAL HISTORY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE**  
**of**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI**

**Recording Log**

**Interviewee:** Wesley Stork, resident of Mississippi, retired commercial fisherman on Gulf Coast

**Interviewer:** Barbara Hester

**Date of recording:** January 4, 2012

**Recording format/notes:** Recorded digitally in one file at Mr. Stork's home.

**Recording length:** 1 hour and a half

**Location:** Mr. Stork's home

**Subjects/Topics:** Oysters, oyster reefs, terrapins, commercial fishing, subsistence fishing, Mississippi Sound, purse seines, regulations, mullet, Clark Seafood plant, shrimp, gillnets, butterfish, fishing equipment, fuel, fishing boats and crews, charter boats, sports fishing, nets and webbings, roe mullet, offshore islands in Gulf of Mexico, seabirds, shrimping equipment, snapper, fishing boats lost, Hurricane Katrina, Mississippi River, floodwater diversion into Mississippi Sound, Bonnet Carre Spillway, BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill, Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Grand Bay Savannah, cast nets, family, Bayou Heron, Native American Indian shell middens, bears, litter in seas, BP Deepwater Horizon Vessels of Opportunity

<b>Time/ Counter</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>Track 1 of 1</b> 0:01:08.3	Learning to fish, circa 1940s
0:01:57.1	Oysters, terrapins
0:02:46.8	Beginning of fishing career, Pearl Harbor bombing
0:05:03.6	Species of fish caught in early career, Mississippi Sound
0:05:38.3	Purse seines
0:07:16.8	Best fishing year, four-million-pound catches
0:07:16.9	Regulations
0:07:51.4	Purse seines
0:08:55.5	Salted mullet feed German POWs, WWII
0:09:20.5	Clark Seafood

0:09:26.5	Shrimp
0:10:34.1	Regulations
0:11:32.4	Gillnets
0:12:11.4	Butterfish
0:14:44.4	Fishing equipment, ice, fuel
0:16:03.6	Capacities and crews of boats
0:17:20.8	Sports fishing, charter boats
0:18:50.6	Fishing on father's sixteen-foot rowboat, 10 years old
0:19:59.3	Nets of cotton and linen
0:21:15.5	Appeal of commercial fishing
0:23:13.0	Regulations
0:25:40.7	Conflict between commercial and sports fishermen
00:27:41.1	Trammel nets, yokers
0:32:10.7	Banned gillnets in Gulf of Mexico
0:32:48.7	Purse seines catch roe mullet
0:34:07.1	Regulations
0:35:10.0	Louisiana sports fishing
0:35:53.1	Working offshore islands at night
0:37:13.0	Birds help fishermen find fish
0:38:15.3	Best seasons for fishermen
0:39:48.7	Equipment for shrimping
0:41:00.4	Changes in fishing over his career

0:41:54.8	Mullet roe prices, circa 2012
0:42:44.9	Salted mullet
0:43:51.5	Snapper fishing, circa 1960s
0:44:47.8	Caribbean catches, equipment seized by foreign government, other boats lost to rocks
0:46:52.6	Captain's last words before boat, crew vanish
0:51:36.5	Hurricane Katrina, 2005
0:53:43.0	Oyster in Pass Christian and floodwaters from Mississippi River
0:54:50.5	BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Disaster, checking Chandeleur Island for oil
0:56:50.9	Advice for young men regarding commercial fishing and oystering as career; regulations, laws
0:58:12.0	Birds, animals blamed for pollution, closing of oyster reefs
0:59:31.8	Favorite seafood to eat
1:00:38.9	Cast nets
1:03:06.4	Family of fishermen
1:04:20.6	His father's fish house on the bayou
1:04:41.8	Terrapins
1:06:12.6	Trains and fares, circa early twentieth century
1:06:57.1	Grand Bay Savannah, Bayou Heron
1:08:20.7	Native American Indian shell middens
1:10:34.0	Grand Bay Savannah bears
1:11:42.2	Pollution issues, Grand Bay NERR
1:12:17.7	Closed oyster reefs

1:13:26.4	Bonnet Carre Spillway freshwater diversion killed 80 percent of Mississippi's oyster reefs in Pass Christian
1:14:09.6	Hurricanes kill oysters
1:14:46.7	Reseeding oyster reefs
1:17:20.6	Protection for bears and other animals in Grand Bay NERR and Louisiana
1:19:07.8	BP Deepwater Horizon oil disaster
1:19:47.7	Future of fishing industry, sports fishing
1:20:20.0	New net webbing, circa 2012
1:22:10.2	Consequences of littering seas with nonbiodegradable plastics for marine life
1:23:47.2	BP Deepwater Horizon oil disaster Vessels of Opportunity program