

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

Recording Log

Interviewee: William Thiroux, resident of Mississippi, commercial fisherman on Gulf Coast

Interviewers: Barbara Hester and Louis Kyriakouides

Date of recording: January 24, 2012

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

Recording length: 1 hour, 6 minutes

Location: Mr. Thiroux's home in Ocean Springs, Mississippi

Subjects/Topics: Commercial fishing, crabbing, oystering, learning to fish, multigenerational fishing family, factory limits on catches, Mississippi Gulf Coast seafood factories, fishermen's strike, factory boats, costs of fishing, prices for catches, species in Gulf of Mexico, regulations, sponge/egg crabs, health of fisheries, boats, fishing/crabbing/oystering equipment, baits used, conchs, Hurricane Katrina, BP Deepwater Horizon oil disaster, Vessels of Opportunity, lost-income claims, closing of Gulf waters, spillway openings, freshwater diversion into Mississippi Sound, soft-shell crabs

Time/ Counter	Topic
Track 1 of 1	
0:01:41.2	Learning to fish on father's boat
0:03:08.7	Factory limits on catches
0:04:11.2	Shrimp picked by hand in factory
0:04:24.4	Seafood factories in Biloxi, 1930s through 1960s
0:05:35.0	Fishermen strike at DeJean's factory
0:06:41.7	Prices factory paid for fish
0:06:41.7	DeJean's factory boat
0:07:19.7	Very few boat owners in heyday of factories
0:07:47.1	Overhead costs of fishing

0:09:07.5	Prices of shrimp caught for DeJean's
0:09:30.0	Strike at DeJean's seafood factory
0:10:26.5	Working on dad's boat
0:10:35.5	Service in US Navy
0:11:13.0	Reentering commercial fishing
0:11:28.2	Fishing alone, injury
0:14:46.2	Croakers, trash fish for cat food factories
0:15:15.9	Crabbing after service in Navy
0:15:40.0	Factory limits on crabbing
0:15:51.0	Selling Mississippi crab catch in Bayou La Batre, Alabama
0:15:56.9	Transition from crabbing to shrimping
0:16:43.7	Oysters in winter when crabs got scarce
0:17:22.7	Good crabbing waters
0:17:49.3	Crabs scarce today, 2012
0:18:01.7	Regulations regarding sponge/egg crabs
0:21:14.7	Appraisal of health of crab fishery
0:22:39.2	Biloxi crab factories
0:24:39.3	Many left crab business
0:27:17.7	Biloxi lugger
0:27:36.8	Working for Sea Coast Packing Company
0:28:28.7	Eleven-dollar profit, last crabbing day with partner
0:29:12.7	Two-cent-a-pound crabs in Biloxi

0:29:45.0	Working for Bryant's Seafood
0:31:13.1	Crabbing
0:32:20.6	Changes in equipment
0:33:17.6	Speed boats destroy crab pot buoys, crabbers lose pots
0:33:51.7	Regulations
0:34:53.9	Changes in crabbing methods, equipment
0:35:13.9	Baits for crabbing
0:35:57.1	Shrimping
0:37:49.8	Oystering
0:38:48.9	Regulations
0:39:17.3	Shrimping
0:40:34.7	Crabbing
0:40:56.4	Oystering
0:41:36.6	Conchs kill oysters
0:42:17.4	Changes in fishing, dearth of fish, species of Gulf of Mexico
0:43:10.4	Regulations
0:44:31.8	Sponge crabs
0:45:31.9	Regulations
0:48:47.5	Hurricane Katrina, 2005
0:51:39.1	Repairing boat after Hurricane Katrina
0:52:14.5	Crabbing after Hurricane Katrina
0:53:05.4	BP Deepwater Horizon oil disaster

0:53:59.4	First thoughts about BP Deepwater Horizon oil disaster
0:54:39.6	Vessels of Opportunity, lost-income claim against BP
0:56:47.6	Closing of Gulf waters after BP Deepwater Horizon oil disaster
0:57:20.4	After BP Deepwater Horizon oil disaster, differences in crabbing
0:57:50.3	Opening of spillway, freshwater diversion into Mississippi Sound
1:01:02.5	Soft-shell crabs
1:04:44.2	Appraisal of health of seafood industry
1:01:50.4	Rising overhead costs of fishing, no increase in prices paid for catches
1:03:53.8	Regulations