

Fishtales, Saturday, September 28, 2013
Working Waterfront Festival

Interviewer – Markham Starr
Interviewee – Corey Wheeler Forrest

MS Let me know when you're set. Ok so, what is your name and where are you from?

CWF My name is Corey Wheeler Forrest and I am from Rhode Island.

MS And your family's in fishing?

CWF Yes we've been, I'm third generation trap fisherman out of Rhode Island

MS And you said you have a story that you'd like to tell

CWF I do. Let's see where to start. I was, one of my first or second years trap fishing, and I'd been trap fishing or at least in the industry for about 18 years and I was the only female on the boat, still am. And our captain at the time who is in his 80s, George Mendoca who had, you know he's a veteran trap fisherman, probably the best trap fisherman that's ever lived and probably will ever live [laughs] and it was a really, really rough day. And we have to jump boats from you know the big boat into our smaller work boats to get into our proper boats and the seas were probably six or seven foot seas and I stepped over from the Maria Mendoca onto the first work boat and sort of a freak wave came and I went between the boats and I had about, you know, 20 hands grab me out and take me out. It was over, you know, really fast but it was also horrifying and my heart's beating fast even thinking about it to this day. So we went about our day, finished fishing and I get back in the pilot house and me and George are in the pilot house and he says, "Well did your boots fill up with water?" and I said, "Yes" and he said "Now you're a real fisherman." [laughs]

MS There was one other story, I'm trying to remember it, I think it involved some language while you were there and one of the fishermen is like, oh, all of a sudden

CWF Oh yeah there was no swearing back there, back then. George was a little old school. That's changed a lot and now I'm definitely, you know I'm part of the crew and gender is definitely not an issue anymore.

MS Yeah, I was wondering do you remember that? I wish I could remember. There was one so he talked about, he let off a volley of bad words and then turned and I think it was you standing there, I forgot what he said

CWF Oh, Sammy Peters. Do I have to say the words?

MS No you can just say expletive, expletive, expletive

CWF [laughs] Um Sammy Peters he fished into his 80s. He passed away a couple years ago, but he was a fiery guy and kind of a pain in the ass sometimes and he's screaming and just having a complete fit and he starts screaming some bad language and can I say it [laughs] "You're all a bunch of cocksuckers." He's looking around and looks up and stares at me and he says, "You have to be a man to be a cocksucker". 'Cause he wanted to exclude me from the insult [laughs] out of respect. So yeah, every day's different. It's fun.

MS Well great. We'll thank you.'

CWF You're welcome.