

Interview with: Ron Borjeson
Occupation: Fisherman
Port Community: Sandwich, Massachusetts
Interviewer: Samantha Sperry
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Oral Histories Project – NOAA Social Sciences
Logger/Transcriber: Samantha Sperry
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Radisson Hotel, Plymouth, MA

Interview

SS: For the record, my name is Samantha Sperry. It is February 15th and we are at the Radisson Hotel right now. If you could on record please state that you read to and agreed to sign the release forms?

RB: I did read the release forms and did sign them, Ronald Borjeson

SS: To begin can you please start out stating your name, residential address, homeport, if you are in a sector or the common pool, and how old you are?

RB: I'm not going to tell all that information! Ronald Borgeson, I reside at 31 West Long Pond Road here in Plymouth, Mass. My home port is Sandwich, Mass I have the *Anne-Genet*, and how old am I? I forget. I would be 62 years old.

SS: So to begin can you just provide kind of a general context about yourself. Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and your family, like where you are from, how long you have been here, your family structure, if you have kids, brothers or sisters and your educational background?

RB: I am one of four siblings. I originated in Worcester, Mass, West Boylston, small town outside of Worcester, Mass. I spent a lot of time on the Cape; my family had a summer home down there and I migrated down to the Cape. I am a second generation fishermen because my Uncle Gilbert who was... this is an interesting story. He went to Brown University, all of my uncles went, and my father was the only one that didn't attend Brown but, that was my lineage, I was supposed to attend Brown too. But my Uncle Gilbert, he was also an athlete and he threw the hammer and went to Brazil in the Olympics and he won a bronze medal. And that was in 1955 and he befriended an Olympic sprinter and they decided that they were going to walk to Alaska from Brazil.

SS: How cool!

RB: That's what they were going to do, and they did! Then by hook and crook and thumb they worked their way up there.

SS: How long did that take?

RB: It took probably about 7 months. And along the way they did have a lot of fun, and saw a lot of the country. But when he got up there he was totally blown away by the Alaska fisheries, mostly the halibut fishery, rod and reel because he was a big sportsman and we all loved to hunt and fish. So when he came back to Worcester, which was home, he decided he was going to go. Now this is a guy that graduated with a degree in Creative Writing and English Literature. That was his major. So he decided when he came back that he was going to build a boat, and go commercial fishing in Alaska.

So what he did was he hoodwinked my uncles, my father and my other uncles into building this boat up in Boston in Chelsea Creek, he bought an old Navy Launch, a 50 foot Navy Launch and they converted that boat into what would be a trawler. Of course all us kids were there helping out, because I was a really little kid at the time. All us kids helped him, whatever we could do and in 1960 he actually had a launch and we had a bon voyage party for him and off he went. The old Navy Launch had a booter engine in it and they made it down to the east end of the Cape Cod Canal and that old booter engine blew up right on the east end of the canal and he had to get towed into the Sandwich Basin. Of course they didn't have enough money, the engine was beyond repairing, they didn't have enough money to put a new engine in so he was tied up in the basin in the summer time.

And Gilbert was, he was a spear fishermen, he could scuba dive, he knew quite a bit about carpentry by this time so he picked up odd jobs and he had met my aunt, and they had married. And in the interim she shared the dream and they had children and they were living on the boat and in the winter time they would rent a house. In the meantime Gilbert picked up these other jobs, you know anything he could do to get by. And of course I had grown up quite a bit and I was attending college and he said, "Where are you going for spring break?" And I said, "Well, I am going to go to Florida." "No, no, no" he says, "you have to come down here because we are going to rig the boat up to go scalloping." And I said, "What?" He said, "We are going to have a ball and we are going to make a lot of money." So I said alright. He convinced me to come down in the middle of February/January to rig this boat up, this 50 foot boat to go scalloping.

Well, we did it, it was a whole learning experience and sure enough when I got out of school I went down that summer and we went scalloping. Well of course, we are two guys that don't know anything about fishing, so all boats to speak of, no experience, so we had blocks pulling out and wires parting and the mast was tipped over and all kinds of adventures, but we had a good time and we made a lot of money and that was it.

So I went back to school, this is my second year in college, the second semester, he called me up the next winter, he said, "What are you doing Ronnie?" I said, "Hey, I'm going to Mexico to see what it's all about." "Oh no, we've got to rig this boat up to go stern trawling, that's the latest thing, we are going to go fishing, catch fish all summer long, we are going to make a fortune and have a good time." I went, "Gilbert, scalloping was fun but, all that... oh well, ok I'll

be down.” We worked all my break and then I went down in the spring when I got out of school and we went fish dragging.

And this is 1970 and we made a fortune in spite of not knowing anything and ripping the net up and not knowing anything about that but we learned and it was a lot of fun and we did make a lot of money. So it got to the point 1971, I didn’t go back to school. I fished with Gilbert all that winter. And wintertime on the smaller boats, it gets tough but that next spring I bought my boat, which is the *Anne-Genet* and I went out on my own. So we would fish kind of together, him on his boat and me on mine out of the Sandwich Basin and we did well. Of course 1973, ‘74 I met this gal, she had two little kids, we ended up getting married and with the little boat in the wintertime there wasn’t enough money coming in so I got jobs fishing on big boats out of Fairhaven and New Bedford in the wintertime to supplement my income.

[07:52]

RB: Well, I got good at what I did and I learned quick from the experience that I had from small boating and everything and I was just mechanical. It was just something that was natural, I got really good at things like that. I could take things apart and put them together and understand what they are so I went [as an] engineer for a lot of times. And this fellow got a new stern trawler in 1979 and he said to me... you know I still had the *Anne-Genet* and I would still go fishing all the time in the summer time. I wouldn’t stay any time with any one for too long with the understanding that I was going back on the small boat in the summer when the weather got better.

So in 1979 a friend of mine had a new stern trawler built and he said, “Ronnie, I want you to take this boat.” So I said, “I’ll take it for the winter but I’m not taking it in the summer time.” Well, that was my demise. I just stayed there and from then on it was 18 years that I had big boats offshore through partnerships and so on and so forth. But I still had my small boat and in the interim, because at that time boats cost a lot of money and I wanted to replace that boat, the *Anne-Genet*, with a new boat.

SS: But that’s the same boat that you still have?

RB: Right, so I looked at things at that time, Cape Dorrey was up in Taunton. They were building these new fiberglass boats. I wanted one in the worst way but I couldn’t afford it because of all of the responsibilities I had at that particular time. So I said, “I know what. My boat’s in really good shape.” It was a good boat from the get-go. I said, “I’m going to invest this money and rebuild it.” Which I did, but it took a long time, from 1980 until about ‘87. The boat was re-launched brand new, with everything brand new. So I had people run it and I came back to the boat. I could see the hand writing on the wall, what’s happening with the offshore business so, and of course my kids in the mean time had grown and gone through college and were off and doing their own thing, so I could take it easy so that’s why I came back to the *Anne-Genet*.

But in the interim, this is when we started off with Amendment 10, 1991, '92, we had all these things happening to us and as I pointed out to you before, or we talked about, this is when NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service) really got into fisheries management. What they started out to do was they would do dockside interviews. When you came alongside the dock if the port agent saw you, and only if he saw you, he might ask, "Well where did you go, Ronnie, to catch these fish? Where did you get those haddock or those...?" And you would tell him and off he'd go and that's when they started to collect the information.

[10:58]

RB: Well it got more and more complicated after that because then you had to do the best of trip reports and they made that mandatory. That was the start of all this type of management, because once they figured out where you got the fish, where we used to do a lot of fishing, those places ended up closed places. Area 1, Area 2 closed only temporary first. At first it was only temporary and then they made them permanent closures. Area 2 you had access from June 1st until October 1st but anyways, this is what they did, and this is what made me skeptical of National Marine Fisheries Service and the government from the get-go. They used our own information to hurt us. That was the start of it.

Then, of course when I came back inshore here, we could really see what was going on, because by that time, NMFS had grown and they started to steam roll more and more, with more people, more intervention into your everyday life, and everything that you did they wanted to know about. So then of course they got into the New England Fisheries Management Council and all of these regulations, more and more closures, more and more regulations, mesh sizes, everything that they did to us was in the name of conservation and in the name of a better fishery for us, because it was not only going to benefit the fish, but it was going to benefit us in the long run. It's like I said before, when they implemented the rolling closures out here in my backyard, in Cape Cod Bay and Mass Bay, they did it with the ploy that you guys are going to have to bite the bullet and its going to be tough for a little bit but in the long run you are going to have all of these fish, the fish stocks are going to come back and you will be rich.

And of course your permit is going to be worth a lot. And these were new-found permits that they started to issue, these paper permits that they issued and you had to have one for mackerel, one for squid, one for this and one for that and multi-species and so on and so forth. They put a value on these paper permits all of the sudden... "Because we know the fish are coming back, and then your permits going to be worth a lot of money so you've got a retirement right there to look forward to, and of course you are going to be able to upgrade your vessel to a bigger one, so you can reach further off shore" or whatever. So it's like I said, it's the old carrot in front of the horse. They kept egging us on and leading us on and leading us on and this is all good and this is all good and of course we believed them.

Except we knew that there were a lot of fish, and they kept saying, "No, there's no fish." So that's what made us skeptical right from the immediate go, but we had faith in our government to say that this is really what's going to happen, and at the end of the road, things are going to

work out for us. We were very naive to believe that because it's not the way it is. Once we have been revealed and it goes back 12 to 15 years ago, is that when Andy Rosenberg was the head of the Northeast Fisheries Council, he was the one that started to implement all of these plans. His association with Jane Lubechenco and Pew Fellowship members, they had devised this catch share management program 15 years ago. What they needed was, of course they are being paid by Pew, they are being paid by NMFS, they are being paid by everybody to promote this particular management scheme, which the reason that they wanted to promote it was so they could lose these permits.

Through NMFS' own admittance, they wanted to get rid of the groundfish fleet. Initially they wanted to be cut in half. When we added it up, initially it was 1,200 permits; they wanted 600. Then when we were down to 8, they only wanted 4. So anyway, they had devised this plan and the plan was to squeeze us out, economically. To squeeze us out by not allowing us to catch as much fish, not allowing us access, and of course what they do is they control all of the information and all of the numbers, so they are judge, jury and execution when it comes to everything. They are the divine leaders, and of course like I said we had no order or ups in here, so here we are. They used the Cape Cod Hook Association as their poster child and they implemented the sector system with a SAMP (Special Area Management Plan) on the haddock. And of course they were issued a percentage of the west of Georges Bank cod to catch which they never ever, ever caught. Their 20 percent of the TAC (Total Allowable Catch), they never caught it, but they still own it, to this day because everybody was beating the drum.

[16:42]

RB: All the NMFS people and all the environmental groups were beating the drum about how great this sector thing is and once they got the momentum going, they pushed it though the Council. By this time everybody, every fisherman I know that attended the Council meetings in the 90's and into the early 2000's was fed up with the system. You got nowhere, you had no opinion, and if you had an opinion it was anecdotal, they would just dismiss it. That's what their favorite word was, "Your comment or your opinion was anecdotal information." That's an outrage, for people that spend their entire life on the water, collecting this information, knowing about the fish, they call us anecdotal? Can you imagine? It's an insult!

So here we go now, we are into this sector management business. Well this is what they did. They gave you a little window of time, you either have to go into a sector and they ram rodded this down our throats without any social-economic impact study and without any foreseen consequences of what was going to happen to the fish. So this was your choice: you go into the sector or you go into the common pool. Well we said, "What is the common pool?" Well nobody knew about the common pool. You couldn't ask them and you would say, "What's the common pool?" To NMFS well, if you aren't in a sector then you are in the common pool. You get out and you just go catch your fish, and you have so many Days at Sea. "We can't even tell you how much fish it's going to be." Well, how can you make a plan of which one to go with if you're not going to know what's what? You don't know.

Because now with the Days at Sea at least you know if you have 48 days and you have 800 pounds a day. You do the math, you can figure it out, you get 38,000 pounds of codfish so okay you can live. You can plan that way, but not knowing what your ACE (Annual Catch Entitlement) is going to be when you choose to go into the sector, because that was not revealed to you until after they forced you to sign into it, or you were going to go to the common pool and then you see no information to what you were going to have access to then.

Most of us thought it was a safer bet to join the sector and pool our resources from there. Of course, most of us found out that our ACE's that we were issued were highly discriminatory, because we in the south shore, Cape Cod and Provincetown, we were closed out of where we fish. We are all small boat fishermen now, where we traditionally fished. We were closed out 7 months out of the year, and in 1997, we had as little as 35 pound trip limits per day on codfish. 35 pounds, it's not enough to pay the fuel, but we could get by with what we caught with the flounders, and the yellowtails, the rest of the fish that we caught there. At that point and time, [these fish] were not regulated as harshly as the codfish, so with the other species that we caught we could get by. But its only 7 months out of the year, so when they went to the sectors, what they chose for the years was to calculate your ACE, they used the years that we on the south shore were closed out 7 months out of the year. Yeah, so that's what we were given for our codfish, and our groundfish. We were the ones that were tortured, and made all of the sacrifices, and had to go to Nantucket, we went to Block Island, we went squid fishing, we went fluke fishing; we did all of these other things. Some of us went scalloping for what? What for?

[21:07]

RB: You'd think we were going to get rewards. No we got slapped in the face again. We got handed less than other people that didn't make any of those sacrifices, and it's not enough to make a living with, and it's not enough to make a living; that's the truth. Of course, when you don't have that money, that causes all kinds of stress in the family and financial things. If I wasn't in the position that I'm in now where I own the boat, and don't have any mortgage, I would be out of business myself.

But in the interim what's happened is there have been no young people that have come into this business, so all of the things that the government was telling us all along the line that the permits are going to be valuable, that the boats are going to be valuable, because you'll have so much fish, is a lie. And there's no value on the permits, there's no value on the boats, and we have no access to the fish. Which I have been doing it for 40 years, in the same place, the only difference is... the boat's the same, same horse power, same everything. The only thing that's changed is the mesh size, and it's 7-inch mesh as compared to 3-inch mesh.

And there's more fish in the ocean now than I have ever seen before and they don't let me have any of them. I haul back and I see 7 to 8 thousand pounds of fish in the net and it's because I have an observer on the boat; it's 100 percent retention, you have to keep all of those fish. So we make 10 minute tows, 15 minute tows, so we don't get as much. You don't

want to put all of your ACE on one day's market, you know? Because fish prices fluctuate so much it's unbelievable. This was another thing that when they were promoting this sector business, National Marine Fisheries Service said, "Well you guys will be able to negotiate your prices before you leave the dock." Well that sounds great, but did that ever happen? No, it never happened. It can't happen, because it fell right into the fish buyers' hands, right into their laps. They know you only have 'X' amount of fish and you're at their mercy. So if one boat comes in they know, "Well Ronnie's only got about 3,000 pounds left" they aren't going to give him anything when he comes in, or that's it.

It didn't work in our favor, it worked against us. So here we are. We are in a huge mess, and what's happened with all of these other fish that are out there since the sector management plan came into effect? One of the things that they overlooked was all of the boats, the big boats that could fish offshore all of the time had access to the west of Georges Bank codfish and had huge allotments of it. And Cape Cod Hook had a huge allotment of it, 20 percent of the ACE. They bought some of that fish and they came right up here into my backyard, right where I fish, these big 100 foot boats, and they rape that resource.

All they simply did was they towed down the west side of the bank which is Gulf of Maine cod, they would catch 50,000 pound tows of codfish and keep towing down around the southwest corner of the bank and all of the sudden they are on the western side of Georges Bank, they haul back down there, all of the sudden Gulf of Maine Cod turns into West of Georges Bank codfish, bam like that.

So in essence, what NMFS did was they made it all one stock, do you follow me? Did they know that? They aren't stupid, they knew that. So what they have done is they provided access to all of these huge boats to come in and rape this resource to make a lot of money, to help along with the consolidation with these guys that own 10, 15, 30, 40 boats at our expense. We are the guys that did all of the conservation and suffered for 15 years of conservation through these rolling closures and everything else to squeeze us out of business.

[25:44]

RB: What's going to happen in the consolidation is going to go forward, there's going to be two or three blue chip companies that own everything.

SS: It's a scary thought.

RB: It's the truth, that's what's going to happen, because we cannot survive.

SS: I think that that is something that we are seeing not just in this industry, but many other industries.

RB: Well they did the same thing to the small mom and pop farms in the 80's. They did that. It was methodically thought out, implemented and executed by the government. What happened

to them? Billy Joel and everyone was singing the Farm Aide songs, everybody was aware of it, they hoodwinked all of them, all of those farmers, and I told you earlier I had a friend that was a farmer. And just for simple figures let's say grain. Let's say it was three bucks a bushel. The whole government went around and said, "If you don't grow any grain..." because they had an embargo going on, "we will pay you \$1.50 a bushel not to grow it. But you have to sign off for 10 years. But you should buy a new tractor too because you have the rest of your farm to take care of, so here's a low interest government loan to do it."

Well what happened? Those people signed on for 10 years, they bought all this machinery, and as soon as they got 95 percent of these farmers signed up, they deregulated the price of grain and wheat. And remember the embargo with Russia? The price of grain went from \$3.00 a bushel to \$15.00 a bushel but because you signed on with them, you could not grow any. So they couldn't make their mortgage payment, they were disgruntled. They ruined those people, they lost the family farms, and that's exactly what they are doing to the small boat fisheries all up and down the coast. So that's my tale.

SS: May I keep asking you questions?

RB: Sure.

SS: But, I do agree with you. How many of your family members are involved in fisheries? And how did they get involved?

RB: None of my boys were. I discouraged [them] from doing it right from the get-go in spite of the allure in the 80's of a lot of money. I was very skeptical about what was going to happen.

SS: Back in the '80's you felt that way?

RB: Yup, I was skeptical about what was going to happen. Of course they went fishing, and they love to go but I discouraged them from doing it, and pushed them in the other direction.

[28:43]

SS: So you said you have fished offshore. How about now, do you fish mostly inshore?

RB: Strictly inshore.

SS: Strictly inshore? When would you say that that changed for you?

RB: 1995.

SS: Have you or your family members roles in the fisheries changed since sectors began?

RB: Roles in?

SS: Roles in the fishery like boat captain to a shore captain?

RB: No. I'm still captain.

SS: How many crewmembers are on board the boats and where does most of the crew come from? Has this changed since sectors began?

RB: One, I have one other fellow that goes with me in the winter time and what's happened now is it's hard to get somebody to go, because not only is the money not there, but a knowledgeable, sea-worthy person... there's nobody. There's nobody but us old timers left that have any sea legs or knowledge about fishing. It's tough to get people to work.

SS: Competent crew?

RB: Yup.

SS: Can you tell me a little bit about your neighborhood? Would you describe it as a fishing community? Why did you choose to live or settle here, and how is fishing viewed by your community?

RB: I would have to make that reference towards Sandwich. Yes, it was very.... Sandwich was very comparable to the fishing community because in the Sandwich Basin we had diverse fisheries there. We had lobstermen, we had scallop fishermen and of course we had groundfishermen there. There was probably close to 30 commercial boats, that everybody knew everybody else, and of course we all tried to help each other while we could, or work around each other when we could or when we had to. Ship supply grew and prospered because of us, and of course we always shopped locally. We had a farm in town which was good and Brussels market, which was a little mom and pop market right in town before there was a Stop and Shop or anything, so we would get all of our grub there and everything.

And even Plymouth, all the way up until the '80's, you could get all of your grub for the boat from Perry's Market right up here in Standish Avenue. They would come and grub the boats up, which you would put in an order for the grub and they would bring it down to the boat. Of course every port, everybody knew everybody else. When I first got the *Anne-Genet* my options were either I had to take out in Provincetown, or we would go to New Bedford and most of the time I went to Provincetown to take out rather than transit the canal and Buzzards Bay to get to New Bedford because there was nowhere to sell our fish. If you didn't actually truck it yourself to Provincetown, which is a long drive or to New Bedford it's a long drive, or its three hours by boat. I'd take the boat over to Provincetown and take my fish out there at the Co-op.

So I did that for a number of years, and of course sometimes there would be a private dealer, would come and take out different things, if they were scalloping they would take your fish out,

things that we did. And that's a good example of scallop fisheries, because [they] bought their little 40 pound bags, so you get 10 pounds, 400 pounds and you throw that in the back of a truck like nothing. When it came time for a history on all of us that went scalloping every single summer because of the dogfish, that we had no history. The other thing was....

SS: What do you mean you had no history? There was no record of it?

[33:13]

RB: There was no record of it, so in that time how they would collect it is like I told you, there would be a port agent that would see the boat taking out and he'd come and say, "Okay, where did you go fishing for the scallops?" Okay, you get a slip [with] how many pounds you got or whatever. So any ways I thought that I was safe because I have good history on my scallops. And what they did and of course when I came back I didn't go scalloping from 1995 on, when they chose the qualifying years, because I didn't go scalloping, I went dragging I stayed off of the groundfish like they told me inspite of scalloping for 25 years. They wouldn't issue me a scallop permit, because the qualifying years I was dragging. Well you can't do both at the same time, yet I had history for years from 1976 all the way up, I had history but they wouldn't give me a scallop permit.

So once again how do you have any faith in your government when they give you a permit initially, and then they take it away because you didn't qualify for the years that they chose arbitrarily to say these are the guys that are going to be anointed to do it. It's all new entrance into the fisheries, it wasn't fair. In spite of writing a letter and going to have somebody else listen to my problems, they just denied me plain and simple.

SS: Do you hang out with or socialize with other fishermen and their families. If so, are they mostly also groundfishermen or involved in a variety of fisheries?

RB: No, I hate them all because they are not to be trusted. (Laughs) Yes, a lot of them. They are all good people, really nice people, [you] couldn't ask for better people. [They're] always there to help, I know all of these guys here.

SS: Have you or your family changed any of your long term life plans over the past few years? If yes, have these changes occurred because of the fishing industry, fishing regulations, or sectors specifically?

RB: Oh yeah, absolutely, because of sectors, because you just can't make any money. It's impossible. When all of this was factored and implemented and everything.... What's happened is the price of fish hasn't sky rocketed like they promised. Fuel prices have gone up. Insurance prices have gone up, I pay over \$10,000 a year in just dockage alone. That's because I'm forced down to Nantucket to go fluke fishing and squid fishing. \$10,000 a year, or dockage alone, so you don't get any help. All that takes away from the bottom line. And the quota system has stayed the same. If only or less, I can only catch 300 pounds of fluke per day, only 300 pounds,

that barely pays the expenses. If I didn't get any bycatch, a few conchs, or a few horseshoe crabs, it would not be viable for me to do that.

It's the same thing here now; if I can't go out and catch my quota in a very short period of time, it's not worth me going. If I had to go hunt and fish, you know hunt for the fish, I couldn't do it because I couldn't afford the fuel, and everything else that is affiliated with the cost of owning the boat. But that's another thing that they don't take into account. They don't take that into account, the price of fuel and maintenance, and everything else that you have to do.

I mean fishing is a lifestyle. You get up in the morning irregardless if it's a lousy day, the worst kind of day, there's things that have to be done for maintenance on the boat, so you go down there and you're in the engine room doing this that or the other thing, or it's always something. You have to fix the net, you have to do this, you have to do that, and I don't care what kind of fisherman you are if you're a gill netter, or a trawl fisherman, or any kind of fisherman, lobster fisherman, there's always something to do and everything relates back to home. Your shop is full of tools to do everything, you've got welders, and everything you can imagine, nail guns, everything to facilitate your business, yet it's not taken into consideration.

[38:14]

SS: In your opinion, what years were the best for fishing?

RB: In my lifetime?

SS: Sure.

RB: I would say in the early 80's. I made a lot of money and there were no rules. There were no regulations. There were no observers. There was no VMS (Vessel Monitoring System). All these things that cause you stress and heartache and money, they were not in existence until NMFS started to implement all of these things and that all came with the sectors.

SS: So how do you think the industry has changed since sectors started?

RB: It's much worse, much worse. It's good for very few people and those few people are the ones that have many licenses, and a lot of quota and have access to money so they can buy more fish. A person like myself that has no access to money, to buy fish, you're just stuck at one point.

SS: How would you say that that has affected your quality of life?

RB: Well, just think about it, you haven't got any money, you can't have any fun right? You can't buy anything. I'm riding around in a 10-year old truck. I used to buy a new truck every few years. [I] can't do it anymore. [I] wouldn't even think about doing that stuff now, because the

future looks so dim now. It looks darker now than it ever has before. I don't believe that I am going to have another year in this fishery.

SS: What advice would you give to someone starting out today?

RB: Starting out in the fishery? You're out of your mind.

SS: So do you fish on a day boat, or a tip boat?

RB: In the summer time I fish every day for fluke. In the winter time I trip fish. We are gone for two or three days. Whatever it takes to get a trip, so early on when I was younger on the *Anne-Genet*, when I say younger I'm talking about '95, '96, '97, we would be gone for three or four days, in spite of these rolling closures we were forced to go outside, and I would fish out east of the Cape in this little tiny boat, to make a living. Myself and one other crewmen, make three, four, five, six hour tows and get grey sole, dabs, a few haddock and pollock just to make a living, because we couldn't fish right here in our backyards.

So it has changed immensely; the boats older, I'm older. I don't want to be out there anymore, so that's how it has radically changed. My abilities have been limited because of attrition; the boats older, I'm older, and I have a lot more sense. Before, we were fearless. When we were young we were fearless. We just kept going and going and going, but today, you don't do that. Plus, I'm tired. I have been doing this for a long time, you know what I'm saying? You don't want to keep killing yourself, you know? So, and the weather takes its toll. My legs are shot. Fishing takes a toll on you and it does it really all of a sudden, it springs up on you in your 60's. I'm in good shape but your knees hurt, your hips hurt, your hands are full of arthritis from mending twine out in the snow and ice and sleet. That's what happens to you.

[42:10]

SS: Can you tell me a little bit about [your] sector? How many members are in your sector, your position, how many boats, and your total sector allocation and your allocation?

RB: Off the top of my head, I can't tell you. And these aren't precise figures; I believe we have 32 members in our sector. Our sector ACE is not much, I wouldn't even want to mention what it is total, some guys have a little more than others, but most all of the people in the sector have a low allocation so there's probably only 8 or 10 active boats in the sector.

SS: Can you tell me a little it about your involvement in the sector? When, why, and how did you join? Was the process easy and straightforward or was it difficult?

RB: No it was complex and abstruse, like I told you before. They didn't reveal to us, and they did this management plan on a wing and a prayer and nothing was revealed to us, how it was actually going to play out and day by day. A good example is they were going to implement this fish tracks system, our sector was supposed to pay \$7,000 for it, and it was so we could

transmit our landings to our sector manager so they would have real time information on what we caught and all this other business. That never, ever, even got off the ground yet in spite of having... this was one of the programs that was supposed to benefit us and that never happened.

So in my position, I am on the Board of Directors on the sector, it's just frustrating trying to change and of course when you hear the frustrations of the sector manager trying to deal with the every day problems, you know and understand those problems, you wonder, you know it's impossible to fathom that this was a thought-out process. It just wasn't, it just wasn't. They didn't do that. The other thing that they change daily is the, what do they call it; they call it the 'Assumed Discard Rate', that changes almost daily on whatever stock you catch. For instance, yellowtails last week, if I caught 400 pounds, the Assumed Discard was 4-point something, something to 1, so that means they were going to take from my ACE 150 pounds of discards. So they would take that away from my ACE, that's half of. If I had continued to fish and I had say 4,000 pounds of yellowtails in my ACE, they were going to take 2,000 pounds away just for Assumed Discards. That's half of your income right there.

In the month of December I paid \$1,800 for management fees. That's only a nickel on a pound to the sector, that's like my dues that I have to pay. Now wouldn't it be nice to have \$1,800 in your pocket at the end of the month rather than have them? Well this is what was implemented by this grand scam to implement sectors, it was to squeeze more money out of you all the time.

SS: Is this like a tax?

RB: Yeah, exactly everything in the VMS is a tax. Next year they want to put the observer program on us, \$700 a day. You do the math; there's no point in going because you just cannot absorb that fee.

SS: Right now, don't you guys get subsidized for having an observer on the boat?

RB: No, it's under a grant program. There is grant money for that.

[46:36]

SS: Can you describe what a typical day looks like for you? What time you start and end the day and how your day functions in relation to your involvement in the sector? And how that might be different from your days before the sector?

RB: Days before the sector, we never had to call, report, or send any paper work in. That was a wonderful thing. But today you have all of this mandatory reporting. Before they had, they have since done away with it, but you had to call in 8 hours before you hit the dock to let them know which dock you were going to be at. They had a weigh master at the dock that you had to pay for which was going to be \$67, you know, to have somebody meet you at the dock to say you

know, "The *Anne-Genet* has about 20 boxes worth of codfish." And he puts a little tag on it and if it's over one hour then it goes by the quarter hour and then it's up to \$100 and you know that they always were there for more than an hour, so there went another \$100 every time you took out, every time. If you are day fishing, that's 100 bucks a day, if you go five days, that's 500 bucks a week. Who can afford that? This was another thing that was devised by National Marine Fisheries Service. There was such an outrage about it that politically we had that squashed. They realized that it was just another scam to rob more money from us.

SS: What services does your sector provide or assist you with, insurance, support group's representation?

RB: Well, the sector manager has representation when he attends any of the managers meeting to voice our disapproval about how things are done. For instance, the Assumed Discard Rate, that's an outrage. We have been trying to right that since the get-go, but to no avail. There's no equity in that at all, it's un-American, it is, you know. They take half of your income away from you for no reason. An assumed reason? Assumed? Its like me telling a federal worker, "Well you're over at the water bubbler, I think you go to that water bubbler ten times a day, I'm going to take two hours off of your pay, how do you like that?" I assume, that he spends two hours at that bubbler, I'm taking two hours off his pay. It's the same thing with us; they just assume. That's a ridiculous word, a ridiculous way to do business.

[49:36]

SS: What are the pros and cons of sectors or of being in the common pool?

RB: Pros and cons? Once again, you don't know what the common pool is going to give you. You know, you don't know what's going to be given to you. How many boats participate, how much they catch. You don't know how long it's going to last. There are too many inconsistencies in there. In the sector at least you have some kind of idea, in spite of all of the inequities of it that you are stuck in that sector, it's like what do you want to do? Do you want to be shot in the head or do you want to be stabbed to death, those are your choices. I kid you not, I would rather take Days at Sea, where you know how many days you are going to have and you can do some math. If I have 48 Days at Sea then I know that I have 38,000 pounds of codfish and I have this much of this and this much of that, and, "Hey, let's go fishing."

SS: Do you think that other fishermen feel that same way that you do about it?

RB: Absolutely, absolutely.

SS: How do you view other sectors? Successful? Operating better or worse than yours?

RB: I think that everybody is pretty much in the same boat except Carlos Rafael who has got all of the boats in New Bedford. He's got the biggest sector, the biggest ACE on Southern New England yellowtail, on West of Georges Bank codfish. What he does is he just sends one of his boats out to collect all of that ACE. He can do that, he can transfer that ACE over. So my point is that's how those guys are going to win. The big boats are going to win and its consolidation, plain and simple. There are the smaller boats that have small ACE's because of the inefficiency of them to realize why we were allocated such a small amount, we are not going to be able to make it.

SS: So what motivates you to stay in the sector?

RB: Like I said, what do you want to do? Do you want to get shot in the head or be stabbed to death?

SS: How have you changed how you fish since joining sectors?

RB: You make three or four minute tows because, eight trips I made in December I had six observers with me. Because of the 100 percent retention, you must, everything you catch, and you must bring on deck. Everything you discard, that's what I told you about the Assumed Discard Rate. I have got 7.5-inch mesh in the cod end to make sure that all of the small yellowtails that can escape. I don't want any small yellowtail, and I don't mean undersized, I mean small, because they are so plentiful that you catch a lot of them. So all I want to do is catch the larger ones because my ACE is so small on the yellowtail and of course you don't want to catch any small cod.

I see 8-10 pound codfish that are actually trying to wiggle through a 7.5-inch mesh. That's almost a large cod that is coming through my cod end when it comes up on deck, so think of how many escape. They just get through the net when I'm towing; I'm telling you it's crazy. And we make short tows too because we are scared to death that you are going to catch too many and then you are going to put a substantial amount, a significant amount of your ACE on one days market, where you can get hardly anything. I have an opportunity to buy more fish for the rest of they year, I'm not going to do it. I can buy fish relatively cheap, but I'm afraid that there aren't going to be any fish out there. I'm not going to invest my money to go out there and find out that the fish are all gone, to see that that resource has been depleted.

[54:31]

SS: Do you have health insurance, boat insurance? And how has this changed for you or your family members since sectors began?

RB: I have boat insurance, it's gone up. I do have health insurance, that's gone up. So anything that you do, you have to be money conscious. I'd like to think about a vacation; that hasn't happened in the last 5 years.

SS: Do you think that being in a sector has influenced your friendships or interactions with other fishermen? If so, in a positive or negative way?

RB: Well, I think what they have done is they have pitted fishermen against fishermen in the offshore and the inshore; there is no two ways about that. There's adversity there. Other than that, I respect those guys and I'm sure they respect us just from being fellow fishermen and doing it every day, but those guys have more access, we don't.

SS: How often do you interact with other sector members? Do you work together on projects, or work together in any other ways?

RB: Yes, there have been a couple of projects that have come up.

SS: What kinds of projects?

RB: Well, there have been cod end projects with the state, but that hasn't, we have worked through it, it's not done yet. But there have been other projects, and of course I go to the meetings and we discuss things like the Assumed Discard Rate which is a big topic of discussion.

SS: Would you consider other sector members as friends and were they friends with you before the sectors?

RB: Absolutely.

SS: Do you spend a lot of time with them outside of fishing as well?

RB: Socially, yeah, they drop by or [I] see them on the dock.

SS: Have your relationships or friendships been enhanced or detracted from since you joined the sector? Is there more or less communication with other fishermen since sectors began?

RB: I think communications have probably increased, not for the better because it's all been about bad news. You get tired of hearing the bad news all the time. "Oh no, here comes what's his name. Oh no, he is going to tell us about the Assumed Discards. Oh no, we don't want to have this discussion again." So yeah, it has affected us.

SS: Have sectors changed your dynamics in port? Do sector members and common pool fishermen view each other differently due to their involvement or lack on involvement in sectors?

RB: I'm sure they do but it was a choice they had to make. And still every year you have the option to do what you want to do.

SS: Has shore side infrastructure changed in the last to years in your port? If so, how and have sectors played a roll in that change?

RB: Absolutely. It's diminished all the shore side facilities that we have had; the fuel man suffers. When I say suffers I mean he doesn't get as much business from any of the boats because we don't spend as much time at sea and when you don't do that you don't use as much gear, so the gear supply house suffers, the net supplier suffers, where you buy your gloves that you use every day, they suffer. So yes, everybody suffers. The grocery man suffers because you don't buy as much grub. It's all-relevant.

[58:30]

SS: Based on your experiences in the sector, would you recommend that another fisherman join a sector?

RB: Than what?

SS: Not?

RB: It's either that or the common pool. You have no choice. That's what I'm saying, you have no choice. Do you want to be shot in the head or stabbed, for the hundredth time? Do you want to be killed? How do you want to be killed?

SS: Are you involved in the fishing community? If so, do you attend fundraisers, meetings? Are you involved in a wider community like the school board or town council?

RB: Yes, fish fry's which has been for scholarships, and I am involved with other fisheries-related... the Fishermen's Partnership, I sit on the Board of Directors for the Massachusetts Fishermen's Partnership. I'm in the Massachusetts Commercial Fishermen's Association. I'm on the Board of Directors of Save Our Sound which is the alliance of... we are against the wind farm in Nantucket Sound. So I am involved in different things like that, but time and money and expense, you just don't jump in the truck and think about driving down to Provincetown just to say hello to someone when you don't have the money that you used to have too.

SS: So how do you get paid? How is it all divided up?

RB: It's a share system which is the way most boats share up. The boat gets a percentage, the captain gets a percentage, and the crew gets a percentage.

SS: Has your income increased or decreased since sectors?

RB: Decreased.

SS: What has caused that change in income?

RB: My ACE.

SS: How have you compensated for these changes?

RB: How have I compensated for these changes? I eat dog food.

SS: You should meet my father.

RB: He likes it too?

SS: Eukanuba.

RB: Eukanuba yahoo, my favorite too! That's amazing, but you know we can't even eat as much fish as we would like to because it's all accounted for. You come to the dock, and you're afraid to take any of because, "Oh my god, we have so much." What happens if you get caught with some?

[1:01:43]

SS: How are earnings distributed in your family, for example what percentage do you contribute, what percentage does your spouse contribute?

RB: She's probably, she contributes more than I do but I mean I give 100 percent, all \$20 goes to her.

SS: So would you say that that has changed since sectors?

RB: Yeah, oh yeah, you know, the way it was, I was the bread winner and that's no longer because you can't make as much money. And like I told you before, the bottom line is being taken away all the time, by riding fuel costs, less access to the fish, quotas and so on and so forth all implemented by National Marine Fisheries Service.

SS: Can you describe how leasing works for you? Have you needed to lease additional quota? If so, how much, how often, from the same person?

RB: Like I said before, no I didn't lease any fish because I don't think that it's going to be a profitable way to do business. The other thing is I don't have the money to buy additional fish. It's a gamble. It's a huge gamble to do that. Even if I bought the fish for say 60 cents, what happens if I go out and I don't catch any? Or, I go out and I catch a few and I only get 80 cents for the codfish and it costs me a dollar to catch the fish? It's no good. It's a no brainer to think that it's a huge gamble and this is another thing that National Marine Fisheries Service knew about but yet weren't forthwith about.

SS: Has there been a concentration of quota ownership by state region, or other subsets?

RB: Absolutely.

SS: Who is included or excluded under sectors? Certain communities, geographic regions, certain sizes of vessels?

RB: Yes. Like I said before, the south shore that was subject to all of those rolling closures for all those years, and the low trip limits. They were the ones that were mostly impacted by this whole thing. We were told my National Marine Fisheries Service that we have the largest surviving biomass of codfish in the Gulf of Maine and we have got to protect those fish and that's exactly what we did. But when the access to the fish became available, we were handed crumbs to go get it with this whole ACE thing because we were kept out for so long. I would say yes, it was mostly the south shore, small boats inshore that were most adversely affected by it.

[1:04:58]

SS: What would you say happens to those individuals that leave the fishery?

RB: Most of them don't fair well. Like I said earlier, it's a way of life, and when you don't have that way of life, it's traumatic, mentally it's traumatic. What are you going to do? Most fishermen are very capable and adaptable to do many things, but where their heart lies is in fishing. It's almost like an addiction, you know, you just can't wait for the next haul back to see what's in there, you just can't wait! "Oh what have we got?" My uncle always thought it was going to be a treasure full of gold. That didn't happen.

SS: How have sectors influenced safety at sea? Do you feel like you take more or less risks under sectors?

RB: I think it's just as risky, and I'll tell you why. You keep saving your fish thinking well maybe the fish prices will be higher in December than they are in September, so you say well I'm going to wait and go get the fish in December when the fish prices are higher. So you try and maximize your ACE. The weather is just naturally worse in December, so you take more chances trying to go out and maximize your price. So yeah, that hasn't helped, sectors have not helped in that respect.

SS: Can you tell us a little bit about how sectors may have influenced how you view your relationship to the resource?

RB: To the resource?

SS: In other words have sectors influenced how much you discard, or your bycatch?

RB: Yeah, influenced, bycatch was never an issue. Typically there was not a concern about it but now you are penalized by anything you throw over the side and so in a way you are still penalized for that. That is the Assumed Discard Rate that we spoke about earlier. So yeah, it makes you mad. It makes you angry to think about that. It's very frustrating.

[1:07:34]

RECORDER PAUSED

[00:00]

SS: Ok, we are back on.

RB: We are back. I can feel the rays coming in, I can feel a presence.

SS: From the recorder?

RB: From the government, they are here again.

SS: Is your participation in decision-making or management changed in your community? Are spouses more or less involved in meetings, councils, etc. that relate to the fisheries?

RB: Well I think that we are forced to be involved to an extent with the rigmarole of the whole sector; you are forced to do it. As far as people participating in the process to change things, I think that people are so discouraged and mentally beat down that they don't want to anymore. It's like touching a hot stove; how many times are you going to touch that stove and get burned before you learn that it's not worth it? And that's what's happened to us with these meetings. I don't care if it's with politicians or with NMFS. You get "yes, yes-ed" to death. Nothing ever happens to help you out.

SS: Tell me how management has responded to your concerns over sectors; do you feel that you have a voice in the process?

RB: No. Absolutely not, this thing is a runaway train. It is a crime.

SS: Are regulations becoming easier to understand or harder?

RB: More complex every day.

SS: Has your general outlook on life and well being changed for the better or worse since sectors started?

RB: Absolutely. I'm very skeptical. I do not trust the government any longer and National Marine Fisheries Service has brought that forward; they cannot be trusted.

SS: With sectors in place, do you think that the future of fisheries is brighter or less bright?

RB: It's dark. The light is almost out.

SS: What does the future hold for fishing in your community?

RB: I don't think that there is any salvation, I mean unless they do something radical right away there is not going to be any salvation. My boat, let me just take a step back in what I said about the licenses being worth money, and the boat having value and everything. What's going to happen, what's already happened is the licenses are almost worthless. I'm going to wind up taking the boat, running it onto the beach and taking a bulldozer to it and putting it all in a dumpster, that's what's going to happen. That's the reality of sectors.

SS: Have you or anyone you know experienced any health issues that can be attributed to sector based management? Like anxiety, stress, relationship problems, substance abuse?

[03:22]

RB: All of the above.

SS: Have you experienced any life changes that you can attribute in part or in whole to sectors, the ACLs (Annual Catch Limits) or the general downturn in the economy or a combination of these?

RB: Absolutely. I was almost killed.

SS: How?

RB: I kid you not, because what I did was I could see what was happening and I said we are going to have to make some kind of investment with the little bit of money that I have, or had to try and forestall the inevitable, which was not making any money. How am I going to do it, how am I going to do it, so I said, "You know what I'm going to do? The building industry is low. I'm going to buy this house and I'm going to fix it up and finish this house and that's going to be a chance." I'm hoping that the building, the home market, housing market comes back.

So I bought this 8,500 square foot house and finished it off. I bought it at a foreclosure and of course there was nothing done in regards to landscaping or anything like that. They had just cleared the site, a couple of huge D-9's come in and clear the site and there were piles of dirt and wood loam and everything 18 feet tall. So I was running a backhoe trying to clear it after I got the house so we were able to live in it. Through my fishing experience moving things around, everybody can run a backhoe because you are forever running around lifting heavy stuff, and everybody's got a backhoe. But the backhoe, when I was doing it rolled over right on top of me.

SS: Oh my gosh!

RB: You want to hear a story, this is a true story, the story that I would like to relate to you when the backhoe fell over on me. I was pinned underneath the cab, and I had been on the machine since 6:00 in the morning, and my wife had brought me out a sandwich. She was in the house and I thought, I assessed the situation. The machine was running out of fuel and there was a breather cap for the hydraulic oil that runs 95 percent of the machine.

[07:11]

RB: So, here I am stuck underneath this machine, this machine rolled over on my back so I'm pinned.

SS: You are in the machine?

RB: No, I'm out of the machine because I bailed out and the top of the cab came down, because I was trying to get clear of it as it rolled over, and I got pinned right there right across my back so I was pinned face down in the sand, and it's slowly running out of fuel and the hydraulic oil where the vent is over by the seat, which the oil was hot as can be because I told you I was 12 hours on the machine. My wife brought me out a sandwich, it's running up my jeans, this boiling hot hydraulic oil. I've got scars, this is just one.

SS: Oh my gosh!

RB: It goes all the way up to my belly, so I am getting burned by this hydraulic oil and on top I shattered my pelvis, I blew my bladder out, and other internal injuries, but I assess my situation I could move my fingers and my arms and wiggle my toes so I knew that I was pretty much intact, and I knew that my wife would hear the machine not running and would expect me to walk in, but I knew that she would come looking for me and I knew that I had to reassure her that I was okay, that was number one because I knew that she would panic and flip out when she saw me like that.

Well she didn't come right away so I called for her and she came out, and she looked at me and I said, "I'm okay, don't worry, don't panic, I am okay." I was calm as a cucumber because I knew what I was going to do, I had it all planned. I said, "Do not call 911, Sheila, do not call 911, go right in the garage and there is a 4-ton floor jack in there, bring it out here." "I can't do that," she said. I said, "You can do it, you can do it, you have got to do it." And she did it, she actually did it, and she tried to put it underneath the cab to pump it up to pull me out because I knew what would happen if 911 came, they would make a huge project out of it, they'd have cranes and helicopters to move this thing off of me and blah blah blah.

Well, she managed to do it, she pumped it up and she pulled me out and I said, "Okay, now you can call 911 and then I realized how bad I was injured because I couldn't move my legs, I

couldn't do anything. I was in agonizing pain but still conscious. I was bleeding out from the inside. She called 911. They were there in moments. The ambulance was there, the rescue squad was there, in, I kid you not, 3 or 4 minutes, police were there in 30 seconds so they knew the severity of my injuries. They assessed me, they put me into the ambulance stretcher and they called for a helo[copter] to fly me up to Boston right away. So they met me at the helo pad right here at the hospital which was only 3 or 4 minutes away from my house.

The guys from the, have you ever seen these rescue helicopters? Well these guys wear the suits, the full face masks and they push this button to talk to the hospital and this button to talk to the doctor and they talk to the pilot. They are feverishly working on me. They are putting IV's in me, they have got an IV in here that has got multiple things in there. They have got morphine and plasma and liquids going into me. This guy is working like a crazy man and I am well aware of it and I could see him and he is really, really working hard you know and so finally they transfer me into the helicopter and after all of this he gives the pilot the thumbs up to take off and I can't see these guys because they have these face shields on. Well the guy that was working on me the hardest, this is the gods honest truth, he went like this. He went right over to me and he put his hand on my chest just like this and he pulled his face mask back and he said, "Capt., don't you worry. You're going to be fine." It was a guy I had on deck 20 years ago.

SS: No way!

RB: Mike Collins, that's right and he is a doctor, an MD now. Last August I'm quite sure that he passed that exam but before that he was a nurse practitioner. That's what he was and as soon as I saw him it was like a revelation, it's like I couldn't believe it and when he told me that I was going to be okay, I knew that I was going to be okay. And he got me to the hospital and like I told you I had all of these internal injuries. I had part of my urethra bleeding out on the inside and I had all of these burns, and I absolutely destroyed my pelvis so I went, they told Sheila that "He is not going to live, he is just not going to make it. He is bleeding out" and all of these other things. So they get me into the emergency room, and "if he makes it through this, he's never going to walk again that's for sure." So anyways we fooled them on that one.

[12:58]

SS: How long ago was that?

RB: It was a year ago July 5th.

SS: A year ago?

RB: Yup, a year ago last July 5th.

SS: Wow.

RB: I was 3 months; no it will be two years this July 5th, yeah because I was 71 days on my back.

SS: That's insane!

RB: It's amazing. So point being, this is what I did because I knew that I wasn't going to make enough money with the sector business and all of that. You know I just couldn't do it, so I thought this is what I would do with my little pile of money would be to invest it this way and I could do most of the work myself. I am a capable guy. So, what happened to me, because they weren't going to let me go fishing, which is what I really wanted to do, and what I am best at. What happens? I almost die.

SS: That's crazy, that's crazy!

RB: It's unbelievable isn't it? It really is, but it's the God's honest truth.

SS: If you could go back in time and remove sectors as a management tool would you do it and what would you replace it with?

RB: I would replace it with either trip limits or Days at Sea, which worked. Both systems have problems, but nowhere near as complex, nowhere near as stressful as the sector thing. The other thing is it's nowhere near as taxing. With the Days at Sea you didn't have to pay for sector management. You didn't have to pay into the Coalition. There wasn't a fee for this and a fee for that. You didn't have the VMS thing and the fish tracks and all of the rest of the things that they scammed up to actually squeeze us financially. And of course you wouldn't have the allocations that we got that were so unfair. So either one would have worked better for us.

And the other thing is we wouldn't have this massacre, this rape that went on in Stellwagen Bank. That would have never happened. It behooves me to think that they didn't think about that, it really does. They knew that it was going to happen, they knew these other guys were going to be richer and richer and richer and more powerful and the small guys, the inshore guys that traditionally fished there, are out of business because the resource is now going to be gone.

[15:43]

SS: Have you considered returning to the common pool?

RB: No. Like I said before, there are too many variables. You just don't know what you are going to end up with. You know when it's going to start, but you never know when it is going to finish.

SS: Is there something else about sectors that I have not asked you that you would like to add to the record?

RB: Other than I think that it was a grandiose scheme, if I wasn't clear on that, it was a grandiose scheme that was conceived years ago by Jane Lubechenco, Andy Rosenberg, and that

it was executed through the Cape Cod Hood Association, John Papolado, and Paul Parker. It was at our expense; they were going to intentionally remove all of these smaller boats from the fisheries and all of these small communities in Provincetown, Sandwich, Plymouth, Scituate, Marshfield, Green Harbor, all of them were just crushed by this sector stuff.

SS: To conclude is there something you'd like people to know about your career in fisheries, your views or even a story to share with those in future generations that might read this?

RB: People ask me today what I miss most about the fisheries. I miss the camaraderie of the crew, to see the excitement on their faces when you get a good tow. I miss it. I love to see the fish come aboard. I miss the weather. I miss the sunsets. I miss when the sunrises every morning, all of those things. The *aurora borealis*, I used to see it all the time; I miss it. You don't see that; the sea birds, the change in the weather, laying to, things that. When you lay to, the gangs all cook something. They have their favorite meal that they could cook up. They'd be after me because I could make the best fishcake there is, no this side of, anywhere. They always would ask, "Capt., can you make some fish cakes?" So I would make fish cakes, and everybody enjoyed that or somebody would make spaghetti or lasagna or whatever.

So, there are a lot of things that are affiliated with fishing that people don't think about. It's men that live together, and interact every single day, you know, every single day. Here's a good example. Forever, there was always... you go to get a paper towel, there was nothing there, it was an empty wrap up, or you go into the head to use the head, no toilet paper, so I would institute a fine. If you were the last one and you didn't fill up the paper towel or the toilet paper thing, \$50 fine. Well it got to the point that everybody was so worried about it that they would rat somebody out. If they knew somebody used it last, rather than... all the finger pointing going on they'd say, "Hey, Steve was the last one in the head and there is no toilet paper." I'd go down there and sure enough, "Steve, were you just in the head? Yeah, well you didn't fill up the toilet paper, well that's 50 bucks." So anyways these were things that went on.

I have no regrets other than my kids grew up quicker than you could imagine. They were all gone; this is when you trip fished, even when you were day fishing too, the kids were all babies, they would grow every day, you could see the difference from when you leave in the morning to when you come home at night, you could see a difference. Anyways, I sound like a sentimental old man, but an angry one too at that. That's it. The government brought this on, that's who you have to blame. So this concludes our interview about fishing.

[20:17]

END OF INTERVIEW