

Nantucket Lighthouse Middle School Oral History Interview

Interviewers: Nona Westerlund & Virginia Bullington
Date: 5/2/11

Full name- Robert R. DeCosta

Occupation- Primarily fishing and bit of carpentry

Age (roughly) - 50-59

Abstract summary of interview- Mr. DeCosta talked about his typical day on the water. He spent a lot of his time comparing the fishing industry today, to when he first started. He claims that there are many more rules and regulations now, which takes away from the joy of fishing.

Time Marking-

0.11 to 1.33 Introduction
1.33 to 2.01 Basic information (full name, DOB, birthplace.)
2.01 to 3.32 Occupation and history of.
3.32 to 4.52 Details of job
4.52 to 5.30 close calls
5.30 to 7.00 big fish
7.00 to 7.30 likes and dislikes of working on the water
7.30 to 15.08 Over-fishing and regulations.
15.14 to 15.57 changes in the fishing industry
15.57 to 18.59 Tournaments
18.59 to 19.45 boards and committees.
20.14 to 24.23 selling fish
24.25 to 30.27 future of fishing industry
30.27 to 31.44 other occupations
30.55 to 32.42 not fishing
32.55 to 36.41 diminishing numbers of fishermen.

Subject Headings-

Role-

Commercial fisherman (captain/crew)
Recreational fisherman (charter, guide, party boat operator/crew)

General Social and Cultural Characteristics-

Family, family roles, family organizations
Social networks (family, friends, neighbors, co-workers)

Social and Cultural Characteristics of Fishing-

Fishing territories

Gear and Fishing Technology-

Hook line

Business and Economics of Fishing & Other Maritime-

Making a living
Family involvement
Competition (domestic and foreign)
Selling/marketing the catch

Off-season occupations and activities

Seafood safety

Seafood Retail (e.g., restaurants, services)

Fisheries Management-

Regulations

Permits /Licenses

Bycatch

Endangered, protected or threatened species

Enforcement

Habitat and Other Environmental Characteristics-

Aquatic ecosystems

Species Type-

Fish-General

Highly migratory species (e.g., tuna, billfish/swordfish, dorado/mahi-mahi)

Sharks, skates, rays

Lobster, crab, shrimp

Shellfish (e.g., Scallops, mussels, clams, oysters)

Species Characteristics-

Current population, stock size

Historic population, stock sizes

Current distribution, range

Historic distribution, range

Migration routes and seasonal patters

Spawning areas, breeding grounds