

Nancy Fitzpatrick Oral History

Date of Interview: December 8, 2014

Location: Newport, OR

Length of Interview: 47:28

Interviewer: SC – Sarah Calhoun

SC: Okay, today is December 8, 2014; I'm in Newport, OR. My name is Sarah Calhoun and this is an oral history with Nancy Fitzpatrick. Nancy, would you mind stating your name for the record?

NF: Nancy Fitzpatrick.

SC: Great, thank you. I really like to start these interviews off by just going back to the beginning and seeing if you can talk a little bit about how you got started in the fishing business.

NF: Absolutely. My husband's been a long-time fisherman, sport, for, since the day he was born basically. And we ran into a commercial fisherman in 1976 in Pacific City and my husband went out on the commercial fishing boat, dory boat out of Pacific City, decided we needed to buy a boat, we bought a boat and I crewed for him for several years out of Pacific City. And then we had kids, he did commercial fishing on his own, but then I was the wife.

SC: Can you talk about what it was like crewing on the boat?

NF: Oh absolutely. We would go out, most mornings, depending on the weather, the conditions, and what the other boats saw out there. Going through Pacific City is a unique experience, in that you push the boat through the surf. So my husband would dump the boat into the surf with the bow pointed out toward shore, I would turn the boat so it would go bow out and I'd hold the boat while he parked the truck and the trailer and then I would jump in the boat and then he would push the boat out through the surf and then we'd go out. I would help cut bait, I'd bait the hooks and we each had a side of the boat when we fished for salmon and so... when a fish would land, then we'd pull up one side, pull up the other side, re-bait, check the hooks, catch the fish, and put them in the fish compartment. And then come in at the end of each day, do it the next day. And at this time we lived in the back of our canopy truck and we had a little stove in there and a little refrigerator and we had two big dogs and that's where we lived for three months. We were teachers during the school year and then we fished in Pacific City at the end of the school year until it started again. So that's how we kept busy in the off-school teaching time.

SC: Okay, that sounds like an exciting summer.

NF: It was definitely an experience and the first year we were in the back of our truck, the next year, uh, I forget where we were the second year, but the third year we actually rented a little cabin. So we evolved.

SC: And so when you weren't fishing, you were teaching?

NF: Yes, yes.

SC: What did you teach?

NF: I taught first and second grade in Beaverton and so I had the little tykes and it was very fun. And then we came back summer time, we fished. And they complimented each other because the fishing season didn't start until May or June, school was over and then we could come over and do that.

SC: Okay, so then you said you eventually became a mother?

NF: Yes, during the commercial fishing season I got pregnant and so decided that's where I needed to be to raise the two girls. We did that and then, there was a time when we moved back to California for some business-related things, came back to Oregon, and it was at that point that Mike decided he wanted to do commercial fishing full-time. And so then we moved to the coast after being in Tigard for a while and that

was when an opportunity came up to work with the Oregon Salmon Commission. The Oregon Salmon Commission is a state commodity commission that started in 1983 and it was actually administered by the office we're in right now, Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association (OCZMA). And they then hired a manager, Tom Robinson, and then he needed a secretary. And so I applied for that job. I was accepted and started work in '89. And that was when they had the old Mac computers, the big square ones and I worked right here next door, to OCZMA. Tom and I had the other side of the office and that was our first computer, was that tall, square Mac. So I did all the accounting, all the dealer assessments, in and out, and all of that stuff. And then in '91, let me back up. Because the Salmon Commission is a state commodity commission, it is funded strictly by the industry. Even though it's a state commission under the Oregon Department of Agriculture, it's funded by the industry. So it receives a percentage of the fishing revenue that the fishermen catch. So if it's a good season then there's good money coming into the salmon commission. If it's a bad season then there's very little money coming in. And in '91 there was an el Niño year, and there were several years of very little fishing and so Tom and I had to go down to 3/4 time and then 1/2 time and then 1/4 time and then we took the office to his home and to my home and then Tom couldn't remain manager, and therefore it all came to me. And Department of Ag. said, well you can't be called the secretary; you need to be called an administrator. So that's how I became administrator of the Oregon Salmon Commission. And then I did everything! Everything that Tom did and what I did. But it was on a reduced hourly basis because the commission couldn't pay, because there was no income. And then money started building back and then I was hired as an employee in '05. And so I've been working with the salmon commission ever since. Well I've been working with the commission the whole time, but then back as an employee. And then in '06 the albacore commission came under... well I don't want to say umbrella. The albacore commission started in '99 and it was administered originally by the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission. The albacore commission didn't have enough money to hire their own administrator/manager so the Dungeness crab managed them. And then it was decided in '06, we all decided that the albacore could work with the salmon commission because they're both mostly the same boats, they both troll through the water, which is the boat moving through the water with hooks in the water and so on. So then they're both run out of my office. Separate books, separate everything, but I do both pieces.

SC: Okay. Can you talk a little about how, like what roles you had in the commission? I know you mentioned how your jobs changed over time...

NF: As far as roles, yes, it was, like I say, beginning I was just in the office doing books and receiving the assessments from the dealers for the season. And then when it came totally to me, it was newsletters, it was all the communication, it was the promotional parts of it also. So then I became involved with going to the trade shows, going to the Boston seafood show. We've done the Louisiana Restaurant Association, the Great American Seafood Cook-off; we've gone to Texas. We've gone to multiple other places, to go out there and promote albacore and salmon. And when I say we, I'm talking about Seafood Oregon, which is the four seafood commissions: the crab, the trawl, which is the net fishing, the salmon and the albacore. So the four of us go together on events so that way we can have a whole seafood Oregon umbrella and we can talk about all the seafood that Oregon promotes. And so we do all of those pieces, also another big piece, for salmon in particular, is all the regulatory pieces that are involved. So that's going to Pacific Fishery Management Council meetings, it's attending other meetings that might impact, that have an impact on the industry or could impact the industry. So I need to attend those. And so there's a bit of travel around. There's being aware of meetings, there's letting both sets of commissioners know what's going on so they can attend meetings or they can direct me, as far as what they wish me to do. With each commission, I have a board of nine, comprised of fishermen, buyers, and one public member each. So we meet about 4 times a year, each separately. And they're the ones who give me my guidance. I know my general mission, what I'm supposed to do, but then they make specific decisions and vote and say, okay, we want you to do this, take care of this for us, or we want you to do this other thing. And like the 'Save our helo (helicopter)' thing, they gave me guidance for that. They said, yes we do want to do an ad in the News Times, yes we do want to do this so yes, write letters and go on and do things like that. So they will give me specific guidance, but then as a whole, I have my standard direction that I know to do. And I do a newsletter for each commission and so those are, you know, whatever the topics are of the day, I'll put those out. [10:00] And I try to do 3-4 per year for each commission. So there's a lot of moving parts (SC: Yeah) it keeps me busy, and I'm able to... with both commissions there's a lot of synergy with

the two because there are issues that are common to both of them. So I'm able to, when I testify for certain things, I'm able to say both albacore and salmon agree that this is, you know, what we should do or shouldn't do, or what we suggest. And other things are totally separate topics. And so I deal with those separately. And I have, like I said, my commissioners, nine of each. And with each of them, because I'm only one person doing both of these commissions, the commissioners have stepped up and have helped with certain things like salmon, salmon commissioners themselves will go to the Pacific Fisheries Management Council meetings and take care of those discussions so that I don't always have to go. So that they're going most of the time, they're the ones who are the fishermen and you know, intimately involved in it. So they're able to go and help with those discussions. And same with albacore, when we're having discussions with uh, Canada and US, as far as the albacore boats, Canadian boats fishing in US waters, or US boats fishing in Canadian waters, commissioners went to that. And so they were able to do those, and so both sets of commissions are very helpful in taking some of those pieces so that I don't have to do all of those because I can't physically be every place. (SC: Right) So they're very, very supportive and they are intimately involved with their commissions because they believe in what each of the commissions do and their missions are promotion, education, research, and communication. So promotion, obviously, is going out talking about the product. Education is going out and educating people, in particular like with albacore, talking about the mercury and the radiation, no it's not a problem, blah blah, all those things. And that's the education piece. I've gone to the aquarium and had a table there to educate the public about albacore and salmon and who we are, what the fisheries are. Communication, obviously is working with the fleet and my newsletters and those types of things. And research is if there are any things out there that we can help fund to help the industry, we will do that. And so those are our four pieces that we work on that help move us forward and help the industry as a whole.

SC: So I'm curious about, from my understanding, how fishermen are very independent and even though the fisheries are different entities in themselves, there's a lot of, it sounds like, collaboration in making sure everything kind of moves together. (NF: Mhm) But have there ever been, have you ever experienced issues where there's butting heads between salmon and tuna, or?

NF: Um, salmon and tuna have been pretty easy, but let me back up here for a second. When I first came on board in '89 with salmon commission, basically every fishery said, you know, we're independent, we're not mixing, we're not doing anything with anybody else because we're here, everybody else is separate and that was the feeling. And when the albacore commission first started, there were some who said, well you know, we don't want to combine, we don't want to have anything to do with anybody else and separate. Salmon has always, I won't say always, that's the wrong word, has had concerns with crab pots out in the water, because when salmon trollers move through the water with their cannonballs in the water and their hooks, if there are crab pots that don't have an identifying buoy up on the top, then the trollers can't see it and they can get their gear stuck in a stray crab pot. And so that's been a concern, year in and year out, because crabbers start December 1 and they can fish until, they can crab until August 15th. Salmon trollers start anywhere from April to May and go through the end of October. So there's live fishing gear out there, crab-pots out there, and there's fishing pots that may have lost their buoys or have strayed somewhere and so they're unidentified and we get into that. So I mean that's been, not that the fishermen don't like each other, it's just that the gear can interact and have problems. Okay, so you'll hear some grumbling about that periodically. You know, why are they fishing or why are they crabbing or why are they... but I mean, we all have a right to be on the ocean and during our managed times. And so that, there are some issues of that sort, but it's nothing that can't be worked through. And one of the things that we have found in doing Seafood Oregon, and promoting all four of our products together, is we bring commissioners or fishermen to these events with us also. So they're able to see us working together, they're able to see that our discussions aren't among Oregon fisheries, but how can we compete against other national seafood and international seafood. So we don't need to compete among ourselves because we all have totally different products that fill different niches. So, how can we promote our products in the bigger, global arena? And acknowledge that ours is a different product and of course we always say, a better product. Um, like when we went to New Orleans for the Louisiana Restaurant Association and the Great American Seafood Cook-off, here we are with our sign that says Seafood Oregon and New Orleans is a seafood capital, and they said, Oregon? Why are you doing seafood from Oregon in New Orleans? And so we explained that, you know, we have Chinook salmon, you don't have Chinook salmon over here. We have the pink shrimp, which is our salad shrimp; they have the big shrimp

so they don't have the pink shrimp. They have crab; it's not Dungeness crab. And then the albacore, they don't have our albacore, so I said, you know, ours is different than yours. We're not competing with your products; we're showing you additional products. And so taking commissioners to that, taking fishermen to that, they can see that it's the big picture of how we can promote our Oregon products to benefit Oregon fishermen and therefore the industry and not compete among ourselves. So it's, it has been very interesting to see the growth and to the fact that both salmon and albacore are administered by, under one umbrella so to speak, I mean they're totally separate, but they're administered by me together, says something. Because they feel, yes, a lot of the guys who fish salmon also do albacore. Same boat, they just gear them differently. So, there is this understanding that you know, we are in this together, we are all fishermen together. We all have the same issues as far as having to abide by the Coast Guard regulations, and how can we help each other take care of those and satisfy those requirements. One of my commissioners, the other day at a meeting, said, well, can salmon and/or albacore commission uh, get a class organized for first aid? So that our fishermen can take the first aid courses that they need to have them. If we can organize it and get the people there, the trainers there then, you know, we can open that for the fishermen. So, you know, how can the commissions, whether it's my two or it's all four, help our fisheries and our industry grow and promote and educate everybody as far as what our products are.

SC: Okay, so I'm curious, on a personal level for you, what it's been like as a woman working in the fishing industry with your various roles over the years, because we often see fishing as a male-dominated industry, so what are your thoughts on that?

NF: Right, right. Um, well I'll come back to personally in a minute, but there have been very successful women running their own boats, very, very successful husband and wife teams, I've seen a lot of those. And they work really well together out on the ocean. As far as knowing what their roles are, who's doing what. I, when I left the ocean and we had our kids, then my role was the bookkeeper, the financial, to make sure that my husband went out with all of his clothes clean, with food on board. With a dory boat, which is just in and out during the day, it was just sandwiches [20:00] or whatever. He now has a bigger boat so as the onshore wife, the food has expanded, because he has a crew so I've learned new things and different things that I can send out with him to do that. Making sure that when, uh, certain coast guard things and whatever expire, that then I can make sure that everything is renewed on time or at least put in front of my husband, okay this needs to be renewed, this needs to be renewed, and you know, keep those pieces all going so that we can make sure everything is current. So those are all part of the wife of the fishermen. And then of course, maintaining the household and whatever. My husband has never been a long, out at sea fishermen, might be 3 days, maybe 4. So I haven't had to deal with, you know, an extended month or longer, him being out on the ocean, but being the one at home and raising the kids, then when my husband came back it was ensuring that he had all that time with the kids and could interact and be the daddy. And then take care of those, oh by the way honey, there's a list of things you need to take care of while you're back on shore so take care of these. So that was my role and as far as a wife. As far as my job, being in a male-dominated industry, I have never felt that my being a female has deterred from my job. I have, the fishermen respect me, part of that is because I was a fisherman with my husband and we did Pacific City and so a lot of the people that I work with now, knew that and knew us then. And so that translates into, okay she's been on the water, she knows what's going on, she's baited a hook, she's caught salmon. And so I have been very accepted and haven't had anyone say, oh well she's a woman, she doesn't know anything. I don't know everything. I guarantee you that. I rely on my fishermen because they have been in the industry for years and years and they know the ins and outs and that's why I depend on them to do some of those regulatory things, because they know it so intimately. So they have those strengths and that's what we do, we play on our strengths. And so I can be a delegator, I can be an organizer, I can be the person that kind of holds it together and then makes sure that the pieces get done. And as a female, I figure that's my strength, is the organization and all of those pieces in that I can do that. So that's where I am and that's why I feel I can work in a male-dominated industry.

SC: So you mentioned you have two daughters (NF: Yes) can you talk a little bit about what they do and do they have any roles in the fishing industry?

NF: Well, animals yes. One, the older one, is 35 and she works at the humane society in Maui, so she's been with humane societies for about 10 years now working with dogs and cats. And my younger daughter, 32, is a vet in Pennsylvania. So they do animals and they don't do fishing per se, and they're not even sports fishermen or whatever, that's not something that they got into. But, animals are definitely a part of their lives and that's something we've always had with our kids. We've always had dogs, we've had chickens, we've had goats, we've had the whole, everything. So, the girls had grown up with that and they're very, uh, understanding of all the different parts of choices of jobs and that you do what you need to do. Because my husband was a commercial fishermen, he could not do that exclusively, he had to do other things because you could not, with a small boat, you could not make a full-time living commercial fishing, so we also had a painting/contracting firm and so he would paint houses and fish and that's what you do. You had to have, especially living on the Oregon coast; you have to have multiple jobs to survive, because many of the jobs are not family-wage jobs. And so my husband had his fishing and painting, and I had the salmon commission and when I was down to 1/4 time, I also worked at one of the schools as an aide because of my past teaching experience, I worked at the 4-H office, helping train leaders for 4-H clubs. And I helped here at this office (OCZMA) doing minutes and financials. At one point, I had four different 1/2-time jobs, and they said, what a minute, 1/2 time. That doesn't work. [Laughs] But it is a matter of being flexible and doing what you need to do to take care of your family. And so we worked multiple jobs and my husband still does the painting and the fishing and I am now just exclusively salmon and albacore. But that's what we needed to do to raise our family.

SC: And can you talk a little bit about the highs and lows, either in your career or fishing life in general?

NF: As far as highs and lows, the highs and lows would be... the fishing industry in particular, not knowing from year to year how it's going to be, as far as, are you going to catch fish, are you going to catch a lot of fish, are you going to catch a few fish, is your boat going to have an issue, are you going to lose gear, and those types. We've been very fortunate personally, that we have not had any major issues and that's been fortunate, but it's not an industry, fishing, that you can rely on. It's like farmers, if the rain doesn't come and they need the rain, or too much rain comes, it's very hard to predict what your season is going to be. But like farmers, fishermen are very optimistic. Next year, next year will be better, next year I'll have my boat ready, next year we'll do this or that. Some of the major lows are the fishermen that we have lost in the industry. Uh, two years ago we lost one of my albacore commissioners, his boat sank, he and his wife and two cats were saved, but in December of that same year, he died, from possibly complications from the boat and the issues there, but it was just, it was very hard. Years ago we lost one of my salmon commissioners and so those are very... losing fishermen happens, boats go down, but that doesn't make it any easier when it's people you know personally. So those are the lows, is when that happens and you have to move on and talk about it and deal with it. We just lost, a week ago, someone who was one of my commissioners back in '96, I think it was, but he's been involved in the salmon industry for years and years and years, one of those people, that you wish you could do a brain dump on him because he had so much knowledge in his brain that is just, you can't find it anymore. And so while getting older, and that's making it so this is happening more often. And that is an issue with our fishing industry, is a lot of our fishermen are getting older, there are some younger people starting to come into the industries, but in some of them, like crabbing and trawling, those cost quite a bit to get into those because of the permits. Salmon and albacore don't cost as much to get into them because you can start with a smaller boat and so those are more entry-level fisheries that some of the younger folk can come into with little, with minimal economic output. And so, this is one of our issues in the fishing industry, that we're dealing with, because a lot of us are getting gray hair and how do we bring in new people, how do we make it attractive and how do we get people to want to be part of the industry. And not just fish, but become part of all of the concerns and all of the issues that are wrapped up in each fishery. Because anymore it used to be that a fisherman could go out and fish, come in, sell their fish, go to sleep, go the next day and do it again. And that's all they had to deal with. But now [30:00] there's so many other outside factors that the fishermen need to be involved. There are entities now that want to take up parts of the ocean for wave energy and so fishermen are having to be at the table for those discussions and help guide where those facilities should or could be put on the ocean. So it's not just as easy as fishermen go out fish, come back, sell your fish, and do it again the next day. They've got to attend these meetings; they have to be there to protect their industry because if they're not out there protecting it then someone may try to take it away. And so this is, there's an evolution of fishermen and what they are doing now. It's not just as simple as it

used to be. You know, changes in the industry, changes as far as what they're doing and how they do it and their involvement, but this makes them a better fisherman also, because they do see the big picture. They do see all the things out there and they're not ignorant of what's going on, but they're aware of... in order to protect my industry; these are some things I need to do. I think I diverged there a little bit, but.

SC: That's okay, that brings me to my next question in talking about changes in the industry, whether it's economic, regulatory changes, ocean changes, have those changes also affected your role in the industry?

NF: They've changed my role in that if, if the regulatory issues become more stringent or potentially harmful, maybe not harmful, but potential curtailment of our fisheries, then my role has to switch from maybe doing more office, I need to get out there and get in front of it, I need to talk to people, maybe need to do some more letters and get out there. So my day-to-day role in the office as far as what I do, is dependent on what those issues are. Like I can start the week out, like this is Monday, and I kind of look at my week and say okay, these are the things that I need to tackle this week, I've got a newsletter, which I do have, a newsletter I need to work on this week, and so that's you know, what my goal is, by Friday I hope to have a newsletter done. Well, if I get a call on Monday morning that says, Nancy, this just came across my desk, we need to deal with this, then that means I need to hop on that one and deal with those issues until we get to a resolution or to a point where I've done everything I can do, then I can back to the other things that are on my desk that need to get done. We've got issues with salmon related to California drought. What most people don't know, is that a lot of the salmon we catch here in Oregon are from the California, Sacramento River area, and so if they're having a drought down there and they're having situations and there may not be that many salmon going out of their river, then that means there's not many coming up to Oregon for us to catch. So I have to be aware of California and their situation, potential bills, there's one out there right now with California and water, and they want to take a bunch of water and this and that. So, those kind of issues determine what I am doing that week or that day. I can get an email that says, hot off the press, legislatures are going to be talking about this tomorrow, you need to do something now, okay. So that, those type of things determine what I'm working on right now. Regulatory, typically is pretty, uh, steady, as far as knowing what is going on with salmon in February, end of February. We always have a salmon industry meeting and it's at that point that we know what last year was like and then what they predict the current year will be like. And so that's when we talk about, how do set the seasons, how do we make it so that we can optimize the catching without impacting those fish that we should not be impacting. So, yes, whatever is going on, if ocean conditions are such that there's el Niño, la Nina, whichever it may be, then that impacts the salmon industry. If there's issues, like with the radiation and the albacore, then I need to jump on that and I need to try to educate people that fish have been tested, everything's fine, no you're not going to start glowing in the dark type thing. So those are all things that come up outside of regular office things that then determine what I'm doing.

SC: So, I was hoping you might be able to talk about the fishing community a little bit more. It sounds like you have a lot of experience, not only in various Oregon fishing communities, but in other ones as well. How would you describe the fishing community?

NF: They're a very interesting group of people in that they're, some people think of fishermen other just ignorant people out there doing whatever, they are not. We have some of the most well educated fishermen out there. There are engineers, my husband's a schoolteacher, there are all kinds of well, well-educated people out there. And they're not doing this because they were told this is what you're doing, they're fishing because this is what they want to do. It's their passion; it's what makes their eyes gleam. They want to do this. They don't have a boss over their head, telling them that they need to go out there and work from 9-5 everyday and if you don't this is going to happen. They go out there, they check the ocean conditions, they know what they're going out for, they go out and do it. I mean I talk to the guys and, oh we saw the whales, we saw the dolphins, we saw this, the sunset was glorious. When I ask fishermen for pictures so that I can add them to our galleries, then a lot of times I'll get some of those sunsets, some of those sunrise pictures, or I'll get the dolphins next to the side of the boat, so that they're not just out there strictly focused on, you know, I'm getting salmon, I'm getting albacore, but they're looking at the whole big picture of what's out there and they love it. I mean this is what they do. Anyone in their right mind, going out in the nasty ocean and doing this, why would you do that? They do it because

they love it and that's who they are. And so it's interesting to pass that along, and that's one of the things, when I'm talking to groups, explaining who fishermen are and who fishing families are, I say, there are husband and wife teams out there, several of them, you know, kids grew up on the boat. One made a hammock for the kid to swing in while they were out there on the ocean, while the son was growing up. And so this is a family business, it's a family entity, it's a community thing and our fishermen and fishing families realize that what they're doing is important, it's providing fish for the general public, because the recreational fishermen are getting fish for themselves, whereas this is the only way that the public has access to fish to eat, is through commercial fishermen or through fish farms, but regardless it's through production of some sort, and so our fishermen are providing access for the public to a public resource. And the fishermen know that and they have pride when they bring in their product and the plants buy it from them and you'll hear the plants say, hey nicely done, that's going here or there. We've got fishermen who, years ago, opted not to sell to the plant, but decided to develop their own markets and so they supply... some of the fishermen got their own wholesale licenses so that they could buy their own fish, buy fish from the other boats, and then they're selling them to the local restaurants, to local retail stores, and so then they've got control over it until basically the consumer buys it and they are able to then, you know, say this is my fish and it's in that restaurant right there. And so there's a lot of pride and our communities support the fisheries and know that our fisheries are a big part of the community. When the salmon industry was closed, in '06, '08, and '09, you could tell the impact because it affected the gear stores, it affected the restaurants, it affected the tackle stores, it affected the lodging for people who came over, and so it, commercial fishing in fishing communities is very important and our communities do realize that. And that's why they support the fisheries and are fighting to maintain fisheries in each of the ports, that's why dredging is so important to each of the ports, because if you don't dredge, your boats can't go in and out because there's too much silt in the way. So communities support those [40:00] type of things to make sure our fleets can go in and out. It's not an easy battle, but it's one that they fight for, and so fisheries are very important and it's part of our culture that we need to maintain and it's an important piece.

SC: Well that sounds, your passion for the fisheries is very present and apparent. I'm curious, do you miss being out on the water?

NF: Oh no, heavens no, no, no, no, no, no. [Laughs] Being out there for those years gave me the understanding to know what the fleet is going through, what they do, what they put up with, how they have to do all of this, but no, I like being on land, really, really well. And working with the industry on this side, and one of the nice parts about this is that my husband and I are able to communicate on the same level. Because he can talk to me about how the fishing went. When he says 'he lost a side', I know what that means. So if it enables us to have that same conversation, and I'm able to help him know what's going on outside of fishing. If I weren't there than you know he'd only get it through newsletters or whatever, but it enables us to talk the same language, which is very helpful.

SC: So if you had any advice to give to, anyone really, but maybe a young woman that's thinking of getting involved in the fishing industry, whether it's going out to sea or working on the shore, what would that advise be?

NF: Go in with your eyes wide open, know what you're doing, as far as, if you're going to go out on a boat, make sure that you learn, okay what are the duties of being on that boat, what will I be asked to do? And, you know, determine are you capable to do that? If so, then great, go for it. Don't go out there blind. Because if you like go out on a crab boat right now and you don't know that you've got to be lifting or doing or whatever then you're going to be very frustrated. And this is for any job, know what the job asks of you so that then you can go in and say, okay I can do that, or I may not know everything, but I know enough that I can go out there and I know I need to learn, you know, be very upfront with whomever you're going to work with and say, I want to learn, this is what I want to do, I want to help, how can I do this? If you're going to be onshore in a fishing community, again the same thing. You need to understand what the fisherman is going through, what they're involved in, because if you don't, if you're onshore and you don't understand what they've gone through, I mean just to come back through the jetties can be very, uh, scary, can be difficult, depending on multiple boats coming in and out, if the tide's high, tide's low, all of these things. If whomever you're working with is telling you these things, it's helpful to have an

understanding so that you can then say, I get it. I empathize with you, therefore I... now how can we fix it, how can we whatever. If you don't have a clue as to what's going on out there then it makes it very difficult to even have an understanding. So you need to go in with your eyes wide open, learn what you can, either on the boat or on shore, and that way you can either be a good employee or a good helper for whoever is, you're with that is running that boat. You can't be totally ignorant of what's going on, because otherwise then you have nothing to communicate, to understand, and to help.

SC: What do you see as a future of fishing or for your own future?

NF: Well I'm getting older [laughs] so I hope to stay in the fishing industry as long as I can and as long as I'm beneficial to the industry and I hope and I anticipate that our fisheries in Oregon can continue for a long time. There are definitely battles and things that we have to work on with the wave energy, with... there are entities that want no commercial fishing of any kind on the ocean, there are lots of things out there that are going, that could make it difficult for fisheries to continue, but that's why it's important for our communities and our fishing families and our fishing industries to be aware of what's out there. To stand up and say, we are important, we do matter, we do provide public access to the public resource, and therefore it is important for us to continue. And so that's my pie in the sky that we can continue, that we can, if not overcome some of these hurdles at least work with them, such that we can still have access to the ocean for those fisheries that we have. And that we can continue because this is an important piece, it shouldn't go away. It's part of who we are as Oregonians, it's who we are as communities, and it's not something that we should just let slide because it's important.

SC: Is there anything that we haven't talked about that you would like to add at this point?

NF: I can't think of anything off hand, your list was very good, your guiding questions did a good job and I think we've covered a lot.

SC: Yeah, good. Okay, then if you don't mind, I'd like to finish up with one more question.

NF: Go for it.

SC: Okay, if you could think of one word, emotion, or idea that could describe fishing, what would it be?

NF: Passion.

SC: Passion. That's a good term for this interview overall I think.

NF: Yeah, because the fishermen have the passion for what they're doing, it's kind of what drives us. I'm passionate about the industries and so I try to pass that on when I educate groups, when I talk to groups that you know, that is what we are. So anyway, there's my word.

SC: Well thank you.

NF: Well certainly.

SC: Thank you so much, Nancy.

NF: My pleasure.