

**Interview with: G. Harris**  
**Occupation: Fisherman**  
**Port Community: Eastport, Maine**  
**Interviewer: K. Yentes**  
**Interview Location: Local Restaurant in Eastport**  
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**INDEX:**  
**Interview Duration: 01:02:18**

### **Interview**

[00:00]

KY: This way if one breaks I have a backup which often tends to happen. Could just say your name and how old you are?

GH: I'm George Harris Junior and I'm 44.

KY: OK. Were you born here in Eastport?

GH: Born in Eastport, yea, and grew up here.

KY: Excellent. What was your neighborhood like when you were growing up? Was it mostly a fishing community or?

GH: Mostly fishing yea, yea.

KY: Kind of a tight knit community?

GH: Yea, real tight knit, yea.

KY: And is your family originally from here, or?

GH: Yea.

KY: OK.

GH: Yes, for four generations.

KY: What are some hot topics in the Eastport fishing community right now?

GH: Um, scalloping, urchining, and the salmon industry, are the main ones, the hot topics.

KY: Are there any issues, like a bait issue with the herring, are you guys worried about that?

GH: Yea, we're worried about it but we're worried about prices.

KY: Yea.

GH: The price of lobsters, the price of bait, this summer also.

KY: OK.

GH: So, that'd be a hot topic for this summer.

KY: Yea. So you guys don't anticipate the price to go up much or?

GH: Um, I really don't know on that.

KY: Do you have any children?

GH: Yea two kids.

KY: How old are they?

GH: One's fifteen and one's ten.

KY: Are they doing any fishing, or?

GH: They go once in awhile with me scalloping or lobstering, but not that often, yea.

KY: OK. Do they have their, are they allowed to have a student license yet?

GH: Yea, but neither one of them do now but they're going to have it this summer.

KY: Excellent, so they can fish a hundred and fifty traps with the student license?

GH: Yea I'm pretty sure 150; I haven't even looked into it yet, but...

KY: OK. Are they both boys or?

GH: No, the girl's fifteen and the boy's ten.

KY: Oh excellent and they both want to be out on the water. That's great. You can all share the love of the water together.

GH: Yea, they do a lot of sailboat trips with me in the summer.

KY: Oh ok.

GH: They do a lot of tourist stuff with me.

KY: Oh excellent.

GH: Because they're at school then, most of the fishing I do is during the winter not the summer.

KY: Are you encouraging your kids to go into fishing or?

GH: I'm encouraging them to go to college first.

KY: Does your daughter have any idea about what kind of college she wants to go to or what she wants to do?

GH: I think she wants to go to UMO right now or UM.

KY: That's not too far away from here.

GH: Nope, two hours.

KY: Two hours? Not bad.

GH: Yea, two hours.

KY: Does she know what she wants to major in or?

[03:01]

GH: Nah, she hasn't decided yet.

KY: Yea, well she's fifteen so she's got a few more years. So your dad is also a fisherman?

GH: Yea, he used to be. He passed away, um about 5 years ago.

KY: Oh ok.

GH: Yea.

KY: What was it like to be part of a fishing family?

GH: Yea we, when I grew up he was mostly into the herring.

KY: OK.

GH: Catching [XX0:03:28] they call, we call [XX0:03:30] we actually went into coves to shut off herring.

KY: Oh.

GH: Took them out, took them to the sardine plants.

KY: Oh, ok.

GH: And uh most of the sardine plants are closed up now and lots of them just closed in Maine, just recently, so.

KY: Right.

GH: That's how I grew up mostly, and uh, scalloping.

KY: OK.

GH: And then urchining came along so I, that's one of the first urchin fisheries.

KY: OK, so you dove for those?

GH: I used to dive and drag...

KY: OK.

GH: But mostly drag.

KY: Would herring be mostly day trips?

GH: Uh yea.

KY: Or would you go out for long periods?

GH: You would go for long periods of time but you turned off in a cove and you just tended to babysit them.

KY: Oh, ok.

GH: So you could get them all pumped out?

KY: OK.

GH: Sometimes it'd be a couple days; sometimes it'd be three weeks to get them out of the nets.

KY: So your mom took care of you a lot then or?

GH: For?

KY: Like when your dad was out fishing or?

GH: Yea, oh yea, yea.

KY: Did she have any other jobs?

GH: We had a motel and cabins.

KY: Oh yea, okay I saw that on the internet. OK, so she kind of took care of that stuff.

GH: Yea she took care of that also, yea.

KY: OK.

GH: And my father also ran three party boats when I was a kid.

KY: Oh wow, ok.

GH: To, take out passengers to catch codfish, [XX0:04:54] haddock.

KY: OK, that's really good.

GH: We still do that today so.

KY: Excellent, so you can kind of be in everything.

GH: Yea you have to.

KY: That's good. When I talked to David Pottle he said you could do construction and carpentry, driving trucks, and said you have to be diversified here to make it.

GH: Anyone that fishes has definitely got to have more than one job. They usually have two or three jobs. Dave is mostly into lobstering so he's got a pretty good fishery to be in right now.

KY: What is it like to be a fisherman with a family? Is it hard? Are you away from home a lot or?

GH: No most of the stuff I do is day trips, long hours.

KY: That's right, yea.

GH: You leave in the day and a lot of the times you don't get back till dark, and you don't see much of your kids sometimes in the middle of the fishery.

KY: Right, but now that they can go out with you a little more...

GH: In the summer they can go with me, so I get to catch up in the summer.

[06:01]

KY: Oh that's good.

GH: But in the fall I don't see them much at all.

KY: Besides you and your dad do you have any other family that has worked in the fishing industry?

GH: Um my brother a little bit.

KY: OK.

GH: I have an older brother sixteen years older than I am. He did a little herring fishing years ago, but more he goes as sternman for me when I need him, but he's got a job at the Long Shoreman Dock down there so.

KY: Oh ok.

GH: He does mostly Long Shoreman, yea.

KY: How many crew do you normally have on your boat?

GH: One, two, usually two, two sternmen.

KY: Is it getting harder to keep guys on with the low prices that you're getting for the resource or?

GH: Not really I usually have the same guys year to year to year.

KY: Oh that's great, they're dependable.

GH: Yea, they're dependable and they also can do other things.

KY: Oh.

GH: They might not work for me in the summer.

[0:07:03] to [0:08:32] not part of interview

KY: Besides your brother do you have any uncles that?

GH: I have two sisters too.

KY: Oh, ok. Are they both involved in fishing at all or?

GH: No, but they both help in the cabins that my mother still runs today and they do twelve cabins, eight motels, and I think there's like ten or twelve trailer hookups.

KY: Wow.

GH: So it's all been a family business.

KY: Right, so you guys are really busy during the summer probably.

GH: Yea.

KY: But that's excellent that you can maybe have people that are staying in the cabins and say oh you know we have these party boats, or you know the tourist trips.

[0:09:08]

GH: Yea then same thing many of the people come in and do a trip and say where can we stay tonight and say oh my parents. There's only Motel East and other bed and breakfasts.

KY: I looked at, when I came up to talk to David, a couple of hotels even in the wintertime it was still pretty pricey so.

GH: Yea, I think my mother's is like forty-two bucks so.

KY: Oh that's not bad compared to what these hotels were up here. So, what was your first industry job did you help out with your dad on the boats?

GH: Yea, I spent most of my time from the time I was like 5-6 years old to the time I was 15 on the passenger boats.

KY: OK.

GH: Going as a mate.

KY: OK.

GH: So by the time I was eight or ten, I was real familiar with the water.

KY: That's good.

GH: And I was actually doing some trips on my own.

KY: Wow.

GH: Six people with the... on the 22 foot boat.

KY: Mm, taking tourists on trips?

GH: Yea.

KY: OK, so you'd take them out and just show them the area? Do you have any traps when you're out there or?

GH: Not then, but I do now.

KY: OK.

GH: I have a boat now that I take 15 to 20 people out. I take them out with me and do a little lobstering. So I've incorporated that also into my summer.

KY: Oh wow. That's great.

GH: So summertime we have lobster boat trips and we have a fishing trip boat.

KY: OK.

GH: And then we have a schooner we do the whale watches on.

KY: Wow so you keep pretty busy.

GH: So I have three boats in the summer.

KY: So a lot of trips. Do you think your daughter or son will take over that business?

GH: If they want to, I hope they do. I'm encouraging both of them to get a license anyway and they say oh I don't need that, but it's something they could always use.

KY: Yea, and from what I've heard it's a lot easier to get like a student license now to go fishing to get into the fishery, because the apprentice program there's so many people on the list that it makes it hard to get into.

GH: Yea it takes several years to get into it, with the apprentice program.

KY: Which is sad when young people want to get into the fishery, but.

GH: Yea.

KY: Have you held any other positions in the fishery like besides being on your dad's boat; do you own the Lady H now?

GH: Yea.

KY: OK. And.

GH: We've hauled salmon. I had two boats that hauled salmon up and down the Maine coast.

KY: Oh wow, so.

[0:11:37] to [0:12:15] not part of interview

[0:12:16]

KY: So you have a boat that's in Haiti?

GH: Yea.

KY: Is she taking supplies?

GH: Supplies. I loaded her up with medical supplies and 20 tons of rice.

KY: Oh, that's excellent.

GH: She was in Florida for the winter. It's the boat I built, uh, eight years ago. I built a 90 foot schooner. She's a lot bigger than this one down here.

KY: Wow and you built it?

GH: I built her, yea, to do passengers overnight. We have ten staterooms and a shower in every stateroom.

KY: Oh my gosh that must be a huge boat I'm trying to like get a visual but, I mean that's huge.

GH: A mini motel.

KY: Yea, that's excellent.

GH: An uh she was in Florida for the last two years doing trips out of Key West. Have you ever been to Key West at all?

KY: Um no I used to live in St. Petersburg.

GH: OK.

KY: But I never made it down to Key West so.

GH: Yea well she was running trips over there for the last two years so. We were on our way home to Maine and a non-profit group asked us if we'd donate the boat to take a load of medical supplies and rice to Haiti, so I volunteered her.

KY: That's good so will that boat come back to port or come back to...?

GH: She's coming back to Maine.

KY: OK. And so you'll use that boat as another tourist boat?

GH: Yup.

KY: For overnight trips?

GH: Yup.

KY: Excellent.

GH: So I have my hands in everything.

KY: Do you know any women that work in the fishing industry? Like as crew or any captains?

GH: Austin Humphrey has a couple women crew; one is his wife I think.

KY: Ok.

GH: Wife or girlfriend. And usually has another stern girl crew.

KY: Ok.

GH: Yup.

KY: Are there a lot of women who want to get into the fishery or...?

GH: Hmm, I don't think so it's a pretty tough fishery because it's all winter other than the lobstering, lobstering is in the summer and into the fall but the other fisheries are during the winter months and it's pretty tough.

KY: Yea I would imagine it gets pretty cold up here.

GH: Freezing, spraying, ice.

KY: Besides the tourist boats and working on the fishing boat did you have any other occupations like logging or?

GH: No, no we did a little bit of clam digging but that went along with the boat.

KY: Yea.

GH: We'd dig clams for the bait for the boat.

KY: So you just stayed in the fishing industry.

GH: Yea.

[0:14:40] to [0:16:42] not part of interview

[0:16:43]

KY: What type of fish have you targeted through your entire fishing career?

GH: Herring was the main one years ago.

KY: OK.

GH: But there's less and less of a market for the herring now because there's no place to sell them other than as lobster bait. Lobster bait, lobster bait is the main market now. But the fish, the herring come up here but don't seem to come to shore like they used to.

KY: OK.

GH: So.

KY: OK.

GH: Um, so we mainly, I've gone on to urchining, scalloping during the winter months. That's what I mainly target now.

KY: And you said you did some salmon fishing?

GH: Well I used to haul salmon.

KY: OK.

GH: Actually I raised salmon for sixteen years. That was something my brother, my father, and I was involved in.

KY: And did you just keep the pens down here? I know I've seen a couple of them.

GH: Yea. We had three sites, three different sites here.

KY: OK, excellent.

GH: But that was, that was pretty much you feed them everyday and at the end of eighteen months you would sell them.

[0:18:01]

KY: OK.

GH: That's your profit if the seals didn't get you too bad, you didn't lose too many to disease, or lice, or.

KY: OK. You said you've been fishing since you were about five, you've been out on boats since you were about five?

GH: Yea.

KY: So about 40 years of fishing experience?

GH: Yea.

KY: OK.

GH: From the time I was 10 or 12 I hardly ever got off a boat.

KY: OK, so you always knew that's what you wanted to do?

GH: Yea. I had a chance to go to Maine Maritime, and I thought about Maine Maritime or being a marine warden, but I like fishing too much.

KY: What types of boats have you fished on like what's the boat the Lady H?

GH: She's a lobster boat, lobster style, then draggers.

KY: OK and how long is that boat?

GH: She's 37 feet.

KY: OK and how big is your schooner?

GH: 118.

KY: 118, ok.

GH: Overall, yea. At one point I sold a 90 foot steel boat that we hauled salmon with and I sold my 72 foot wooden boat that hauled, they both hauled salmon.

KY: OK, excellent. So what's a typical fishing trip like in the winter? What time do you get up, what's your kind of ritual?

GH: I usually am out for daylight that's when we'll actually leave, so two hours before daylight usually out.

KY: OK so like two in the morning? Three?

GH: No, daylight's usually about, uh, in December when it's open 7, so 5.

KY: OK that's not bad.

GH: So I get up at 5, and get on the way at 6 and we're allowed to fish at 7 o'clock in December.

KY: OK so you guys have a time limit on when you can start fishing?

GH: Yea, daylight.

KY: OK.

GH: Daylight, fish daylight to dark on the scallop.

KY: OK.

GH: So uh they restricted us to a quota, a hundred and thirty five pounds, so sometimes when we begin the season you only fish for two, three hours.

KY: OK.

GH: To get your hundred and thirty five pounds. Years ago, well ten years ago we'd fish from daylight to dark and catch as much as we could. That lasts for about a week, week and a half, till it stretches out into all day.

KY: OK.

GH: By two, three weeks into the season then you're pretty much all day catching.

KY: OK. How healthy is your scallop population here?

GH: It bounces back pretty well here so I call it healthy.

KY: OK, excellent.

[0:21:00]

GH: But there's some who say it isn't as healthy as it used to be. We used to have more boats fish here, and fish here harder and there seemed to be more uh, [XX0:21:10] on the bay back then than there is now. It doesn't make any sense it's getting less draggers, a lot less, but there still seems to be the quantity there.

KY: OK. And how many full time fishermen would you say fish out of Eastport?

GH: Full time? Um, actually no one that's totally full time.

KY: OK. About how many fishermen are out there?

GH: I'd say there are probably, 8 or 10 at the most that make 75% of all of them.

KY: Oh ok, ok.

GH: So it'd be David Pottle, Angus McPhail, Charlie [XX0:21:53], me.

KY: Does Joel Stanhope?

GH: Joel, yea, I call him Joel, uh Joel [XX0:22:09].

KY: Yea, I interviewed him at the same time with David, so I got to meet both of them.

GH: Oh yea.

KY: Yea.

GH: Oh you met both of them.

KY: Yes.

GH: Oh ok.

KY: Yea I did this whole interview with them.

GH: OK.

KY: I was up here probably about a month ago now.

GH: OK.

KY: So yea, trying to come up about every other week but.

GH: So I'd say there's about eight down there.

KY: OK.

GH: But If I saw the boat I could tell you whose boat it is. The Griffins they do a lot of lobstering they have three boats; there's three of them, three brothers, two brothers and a son.

KY: OK.

GH: They pretty much lobster.

KY: OK.

GH: Commercial.

KY: Is that what a lot of the guys do, because a lot of the boats look like lobster boats?

GH: Yea there's probably about six that fish pretty hard.

KY: OK.

GH: Out of the Eastport area.

KY: OK.

GH: There are lobstermen and probably ten, fifteen scallopers that fish, we have in all.

KY: Ok now with those boats is it easy to convert them back and forth between lobster and scallop?

GH: Yea. It's real easy.

KY: OK.

GH: Pretty much just put a winch, and a mast, a boon and a set of lights. Almost all the boats go lobstering or scalloping.

KY: That's great they can kind of switch on and off.

GH: Yep. Because the boat at times does lobstering then switches to scalloping.

KY: OK and so you, would you consider Eastport your port of landing where you bring all your catch in?

GH: Yea, all my catch.

KY: And you sell to a dealer or do you guys have any type of co-op?

GH: Mostly all dealers.

KY: OK.

GH: Yea, usually two, three trucks on the dock when we come in.

KY: Oh, so they're waiting for you?

GH: Yea.

KY: OK.

GH: And then the lobsters, we have a couple, David Pottle is one of them, we sell them to Bob [XX023:53] is buying lobsters, and Griffin so there's three lobster buyers right in Eastport.

KY: OK that makes it kind of convenient.

GH: Yea.

[0:24:00]

KY: Now with the dealers do they provide any discounted bait or ice or?

GH: Yea bait usually.

KY: OK. When the boat is docked what are your responsibilities like are you doing a lot of maintenance to the boats or?

GH: Usually, usually there's always something you can do.

KY: OK, ok. And do you do your own books, keeping the logs and everything?

GH: Yea, yea.

KY: OK.

GH: I do it all.

KY: OK. And you said you'd had two crew members who have been with your for a good while?

GH: Yea a good number of years.

KY: OK that's good and where does your crew come from, are they from Eastport?

GH: Eastport area, yea.

KY: OK so you know them pretty well and?

GH: Yea.

KY: OK.

GH: One of the guys drives trucks in the summer so.

KY: OK.

GH: I kind of lay him off. I do that with different crew for my schooners so.

KY: OK.

GH: The schooners don't pay as good as the fishing so usually I have younger kids that do the schooner with me.

KY: OK.

GH: The school kids or Pottle's kids that want to get the experience on the water.

KY: So now when the kids go out on the schooner with you do they have an opportunity to get their captains license.

GH: Yea, by being out on the water for so many hours. That's why a lot of them do the schooner to get sea time.

KY: OK.

GH: They have to have 720 days on the water to go your license.

KY: OK that's a lot of time.

GH: You can go 365 for your inland license.

KY: OK.

GH: Just being inside the boundary marker, 1 mile boundary marker.

KY: When you've been fishing have you had any close calls or severe storm experiences?

GH: I've been through a few bad storms.

KY: But nothing too traumatic?

GH: Nah nothing too bad.

KY: Have you ever pulled up anything unusual or?

GH: A few cannon balls, old sailing ship anchors, a lot of old schooner stuff.

KY: OK so there have been a lot of boats that have sunk off Eastport or just?

GH: Yea, or just they've lost an anchor or got buried in and couldn't get it back.

KY: OK.

GH: Kind of loose and weak come along with the dragger and brings it up.

KY: OK.

GH: So.

KY: How has the industry changed over the years like what were the best years and?

GH: Mm, the 80s were really good for scalloping, early 90s scalloping and herring fishery, but we had a lot of boats here too we'd clean them up pretty quick, clean the scallops up pretty quick. They'd be cleaned up in two, three weeks. But, like I said we landed a lot more product back then and the month, first month of fishery than we do all season now. There's a lot less boats and a lot less, you can only take 15 gallons of that.

[0:27:01] 135 pounds is 15 gallons.

KY: So how has that changed to now, what's it like?

GH: Well they restricted the number of days we could fish.

KY: OK.

GH: We used to be able to start November 1<sup>st</sup> fish to April 15<sup>th</sup>, now like the urchining we can only fish three days a week with urchining.

KY: Oh, ok.

GH: And they're talking about cutting back scalloping to possibly three days a week.

KY: Wow.

GH: So that's pretty tough if you only have, well urchining is only a forty five day season now the way it's setup, so you have to make your boat payments, insurance payments, and dock fees and break it down all into 45 days if you're just going to regulate us.

KY: OK.

GH: And then scalloping I think ended up being 75 days this year, and they overlapped too so, you might get a hundred days if you had both licenses, if you have both licenses you might get a hundred days fishing.

KY: OK.

GH: So you have to make all the pay in a hundred days.

KY: A hundred wow.

GH: So it's tough.

KY: Yea, you have to be able to manage your money I would think.

GH: Yea.

KY: You have to save up for those rainy days. Do you have advice that you would give someone staring out today? Would you advise a young person to enter fishing?

GH: They'd almost have to grow up in it now.

KY: Ok.

GH: To be on a stern of a boat quite a while, it's a tough thing if you don't know the ins and outs.

KY: Ok.

GH: You'd have a real tough time making it.

KY: OK so grow up in a fishing family.

GH: Yes.

KY: OK. So what makes a good fisherman in your opinion?

GH: Um. I have to think about that for a minute. I don't know just wanting to be in there to learn, knowing how to be scalloping, where to tow, where you find the scallops. Being able to do your own maintenance, mechanical, welding.

KY: OK.

GH: Being, like being able to do everything.

KY: OK and what makes you stick with it?

GH: Building a drag, how to build a drag.

KY: OK.

GH: Some guys will build a drag to fish, but they can't get scallops because the draggers don't work.

KY: OK so really knowing your equipment.

GH: Knowing the entire equipment yea.

KY: So what makes you want to continue to fish?

GH: Uh I just like being on the water.

KY: Mm, ok. Is there any other, if you couldn't fish would there be another job you would like to have or is this all you've ever really wanted to do is fish?

GH: Probably move boats back and forth, up and down the coast, to the Bahamas or something like that. That's probably why they get into it now.

KY: OK.

GH: But I'm working to build another schooner when the other one comes home. I'm working to build her up because I see the fishery declining and cutting us back on days, it's going to be pointless and hard to make it.

KY: Mm.

GH: Lobstering seems to be the only fishery that seems to be, increasing yea.

KY: OK.

GH: Other than the prices going down for lobster this year, but we seem to be catching more and more lobsters but there's less, uh, predators out there. Less codfish, less pollock, so they're not eating the small or baby lobsters that are out there.

KY: Yea.

GH: So the landings are getting bigger and bigger, yea.

KY: Mm.

GH: Cause it is affecting the price too.

KY: Yea. Who would you say is in your social network, are you mostly friends with other fishermen or?

GH: Mostly the guys from the dock.

KY: Yea, so would you consider Eastport to be a fishing community, would that be its main characteristic or?

GH: Yea around the dock anyway.

KY: OK.

GH: I don't know why it is I mean there's a lot of families that live off the docks you know as far as the boats down there.

KY: OK.

GH: Say like Angus. Angus' family, Joel's family, Dave's family, the Griffins they all live off the water. They do a lot of cutting wood in the wintertime, but all three of them go back lobstering all summer long so.

KY: OK.

GH: They lobster now right through December, then December till now they'll do the woodcutting, to get them through the winter, but yea there's quite a few families who live off the dock, a lot of money goes over that dock and people don't realize it. The money gets spent right in the community.

KY: Oh that's great.

GH: It's each, each boat takes in I'd say roughly nine hundred, a thousand dollars every day, a thousand dollars gets uh, divide that by three guys on the boat and all of it's spent local.

KY: That's good.

GH: If you have at the beginning of the season it's probably about thirty boats. Twenty five, thirty boats fishing beginning of the season. The guys who cant fish as good can't fish as long so.

KY: Yea.

GH: Fifty to sixty pounds is not worth it, so a lot of them mostly give it up first.

KY: OK.

GH: And there's a few of us who will hang in for another month.

KY: OK are you guys having a problem with people moving in and buying up the waterfront property and driving up like the taxes or?

GH: Well the taxes have gone up quite a bit.

KY: OK.

GH: Because the property, people are buying property for what I consider way more than it's worth in this area.

KY: OK.

GH: You know.

KY: OK.

KY: Have you had a problem with the summer people that come in? In some places you know these summer people come in and they like you know oh it smells...

GH: Yea.

KY: Down there and its really loud, are you guys having to deal with that?

GH: No, no problem with that yet.

KY: OK.

[0:33:02]

KY: Is it mostly locals that are running for like the town offices or?

GH: Yes, I think it's pretty much all local.

KY: So it's just keeping pretty local.

GH: Yea.

KY: That's good. How do you split up the shares on your boat, between yourself and the crew?

GH: My new boats, I go fifty percent on the boat and then usually three ways.

KY: Ok, ok.

GH: But um some boats go forty percent and take fuel, forty percent then fuel.

KY: Right.

GH: And uh split it.

KY: OK.

GH: Sometimes the captain will get more, he'll get two shares. Divide it four ways and he gets two shares but mostly the crewmen make twenty, twenty five percent.

KY: What do you think the future is of the fishing community around here? Do you think that it's going to continue to be a fishing community for many generations or?

GH: I think so for a while yea. There's always going to be the scalloping and urchining and lobstering so.

KY: OK.

GH: Lobstering is, lobstering I think you're going to see more people getting into lobstering. The guys that have had their licenses and haven't been using them. I haven't used mine since I've had the schooners, so six or seven years I haven't used it a lot, because my schooner takes me too far in the fall.

KY: OK.

GH: And I usually jump right into urchining. I see the urchins declining so I'm probably going to get back into lobstering.

KY: OK.

GH: I'll still do some urchining only three days a week then I'll do lobstering four days a week.

KY: OK. And how many traps do you think you'll set out?

GH: Um probably set about six hundred.

KY: OK.

GH: I normally do eight hundred but I'll probably work my way back up to eight hundred.

KY: Ok, now do you have boat insurance?

GH: Yup.

KY: Ok, ok.

GH: Yup, I got it on the crew too.

KY: Do you have health insurance through fishing?

GH: No. There's no health insurance through fishing unless you buy it. If you buy your own boat of course you have got to buy your own insurance.

KY: Yea so do you buy your own insurance?

GH: Yea I do, because I have the kids. If it was just me I probably wouldn't.

KY: Have you had any injuries due to fishing or any physical health problems?

[0:36:03]

GH: It is starting to take a toll on me now, joints and the cold weather, but I know it's the cold weather now. My knees and fingers. Get it in the middle of the winter. They usually didn't bother me five, ten years ago. But as far as injuries no injuries.

KY: No injuries, ok. Um so what are some of the pros and cons of fishing?

GH: Hmm, pros and cons. I don't know just being self employed I guess would be the main one I like. Being able to go when you want. Pretty much if you're self employed you're pretty much working seven days a week. That's the bad thing about it I guess. And one other thing being self employed you come and go when you want.

KY: Right.

GH: But if the lobsters are there you have got to fish seven days a week. Daylight to dark out scalloping if you're trying to make a day's pay, you pretty much have to go every day.

KY: Are you married?

GH: Yea.

KY: OK. So does your wife have a job?

GH: She's a hairdresser during the winter months, and then she sells my tickets for the tour boats in the summer in the office down there.

KY: Oh, ok excellent. Um now does she have insurance where she works or?

GH: Nope, no.

KY: OK.

GH: I buy all the insurance.

KY: OK.

GH: She's [XX0:37:42] too.

KY: OK.

GH: She has her own hairdressing shop.

KY: Oh, excellent.

KY: Have there been any stresses in the family because of fishing or?

GH: Mm, no, not really. We do pretty good at fishing so.

KY: Are you aware of any drug or alcohol problems in the fishing community?

GH: Mm, nope.

KY: In general?

GH: No I don't think so much in this area but there's other areas like.

KY: OK.

GH: There's a little bit here but there's other areas that's really bad.

KY: OK.

GH: Don't really want to say where they are but.

KY: Mm, that's ok. Do you think that there should be mandatory drug testing to go out on the boat or, because I know that's been talked about in a few places where I've been?

GH: I think you should be but I think we'd lose three quarters of the fishermen.

KY: Oh, ok. But do you think it affects their fishing activities I guess or...?

GH: Eh. Some I think.

[0:39:00]

KY: OK. And how is fishing viewed by the wider community, like outside of Eastport? Do you think a lot of people are accepting of the fishing community or are there any biases towards fishing or?

GH: From Jonesport up I think it's pretty much the same as Eastport, but below Jonesport I think you have a lot of problems with tourists and people buying property. I know at one point the tourists didn't want the fishermen starting their boats at 4 in the morning, so and when they go offshore they even start their boats earlier. They wanted to get a moratorium saying the fishermen couldn't start their boats until 8 in the morning. I don't think that flew very well. Those guys are putting in long days.

KY: How long is your day generally? In the winter time?

GH: It is actually a little shorter in the winter time because of the scallop fishery. We usually start at five in the morning and we are done by two.

KY: OK, so you can get home and have dinner.

GH: But years ago we would get up at four or five before you could fish, years ago you could fish before daylight. We would fish an hour before day light until six or seven. You would get about five hours of sleep a day and get up in the morning and do it all over again. It is a lot easier, but we make a lot less money now.

KY: In the summer time you said you have longer days?

GH: It is usually 6 in the morning until nine or ten at night. Usually ten at night.

KY: How many trips, tours do you do a day?

GH: Sometimes three a day. I do my first one at 9 then usually until noon, then a one thirty to four thirty and then we usually have a sunset cruise.

KY: So they are about 3 hour trips and how far offshore do you guys go?

GH: We don't go very far offshore. We just make it around the bay. We actually go out along Campobello and around Head Harbor and watch for whales. The whales come about 6 miles from where we end up, but we are still only about ½ a mile offshore.

KY: So you guys see a pretty frequent number of whales up here?

GH: Yes. At this time last year we would see 20-25 whales a trip.

KY: Are the fishermen, like the lobsterman, have you heard anything about the whale rope/sinking rope line that they have to use now because of the whales?

GH: Yes, but the whales up here don't seem, they mostly are finback and minke and they don't seem to have the problems getting into the ropes like the right whale and humpbacks.

KY: So you guys haven't seen very many humpbacks or right whales up here?

GH: We see very few right whales and sometimes a humpback.

KY: How many generations of your family would you say have fished?

GH: Four, anyways.

[0:43:16]

KY: You would only advise a young person to enter fishing if they had previous experience?

GH: That is the way I look at it because they would never make it. It is too much. I think years ago it was actually easier, it is tougher now.

KY: Would you still fish if you had your life to live over?

GH: Yes, because I like the adventure and I have made a good living, actually a real good living. It is tougher now getting into it because there are so many rules and regulations.

[0:48:44-0:52:40 Survey questions]

KY: What regulations have most affected your fishing activity?

GH: Days at Sea and quotas.

KY: How have those impacted your fishing?

GH: Cut my income quite a bit. The biggest thing I don't like about it is they tell, like Dave and Angus and Me and the Girffins, several of the top ten fishermen in the bay and when they put the 135 pound law on David and I can go out and 135 pounds in the first two hours of the first day. Some fishermen go fish until dark and still don't have 135 pounds. We have better boats and those guys don't want better boats the way I look at it. We have more equipment to keep and to try and give our sternmen a good day's pay. Normally on the first day we would go and land 600-800 pounds and the guy that has the old boat with the old drag and doesn't care what he makes can make just as much at the end of the month as we do. He maybe spending a longer day, but his income is the same as mine. With a better boat, more maintenance better engines. That is the only thing I disagree with and that goes with quota.

KY: What regulations have had the greatest impact of families?

GH: I am not sure.

KY: What regulations are the hardest on income?

GH: The same two. The state feels like they have to have them, but when your fishing is down so low that you can't make a day's pay you are going to go and do something else. If I can go make more money driving a truck, I am not going to go out there and make 200 dollars a day...It kind of regulates itself the way I look at it.

[0:55:34-0:57:30 Survey Questions]

KY: You guys have the zone management?

GH: Yes.

KY: How does that work? Can guys still come up here and fish?

GH: On scallops and urchin you can travel the Maine coast. Urchins are two zones, so if you are in one zone you can't go into the other zone. Scalloping you can travel the whole Maine coast. Lobstering they have the zones. You are allowed to fish two zones.

KY: Can you describe any rituals fishermen might have? Like some guys don't say pig on the boat, they have different practices that they do.

GH: You aren't supposed to paint a boat blue, it isn't a ritual but it can be bad. Never turn your hatch covers upside down. On the bigger boats they say never leave on a Friday unless it is after midnight. You can leave at 12:01 but you can't leave before that because it is bad luck.

KY: They practice those because they believe it will bring them bad luck?

GH: Yes. No blue totes on a boat, fish totes. All the guys believe that up here. Some boats are painted blue, so.

KY: Do you personally practice any of these?

GH: No.

[0:59:28-1:02:11 Survey Questions]

KY: Is there anything else you would like to add to our interview?

GH: I can't think of anything.

KY: Thank you very much.

**END INTERVIEW**