

Interview With: John Moore  
Occupation: Student  
Port Community: Pt. Judith  
Interviewer: Lisa Colburn  
Witness: Kate Yentes  
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0:00:00

LC: Thanks John for agreeing to meet with me I really appreciate it. I've got a couple of things I want to talk to you about just up front and we have a release form that we do with everybody and basically that is to protect you and for you to understand completely the ways in which the interview might be used and also the control you have over the use of that interview. I'm going to read this outloud, actually I am going to let you read this allowed why don't you go ahead and do that first and then you can fill out this (XX0:0:37).

JM: Oral History release form...SEE SIGNED RELEASE FORM  
[0:02:53]

LC: If you want to contact me in the future here is my card. Could you please state your name and where you were born?

JM: My name is John Grant Moore and I was born in Westport Massachusetts.

LC: And what is your age?

JM: I am 24 years old.

LC: Oh one of things I would like to say before we get going too far is ask questions at any time. If you are not comfortable with any question that I ask please simply state so, there is no right or wrong answer and if you wish to say something off the record you are more than welcome to do so. Can you tell me about your family, the ages, female, male, and occupations?

JM: My father is an offshore lobsterman, commercial lobster, he has done that now for over 30 years. My mother is a stay at home mom she works in the tax collectors office or she did, she does occasionally now still. I had an older sister and I have a younger brother.

LC: And what is the age range in your family of the kids?

JM: My brother is 22 he is 18 months younger than I am, and my sister would have been 33 this past October.

LC: So there is about a 10 year age span.

JM: Yes.

LC: How many people are living in the household?

[0:05:52]

JM: Right now?

LC: Yes are you living with your parents?

JM: My parents are living by themselves. My brother is in Hawaii working with a program called Woof and I am in graduate school at URI living down in South County.

LC: Could you expand upon your relationship to offshore lobstering? What age did you begin lobstering?

JM: Okay, well I guess I have been exposed to it my entire life seeing how it is my father's career. The stipulation was I couldn't work on the boat until I received my undergraduate degree from college because that was one of the regrets he had always had. My dad went to Ithaca for a year and dropped out. He just wasn't enjoying it but he always looks back on it and wishes he had that degree. After I finished school I hopped on the boat and did that for over a year and that's how I got introduced into the business. I didn't have prior knowledge. I knew a couple of knots and things like that but had interest in it and I wanted to be out on the boat.

LC: Has your family encouraged you? You've got your degree and you are getting another degree. Did they encourage you to continue? Does your dad have any aspirations for you continuing in lobstering or does he, your parents, think they would want something else for you?

JM: I think my parents especially my mother more so than my father, really want something different for me as opposed to taking over the business or getting involved in the business. My father probably feels the same way just for different reasons. My mother probably just wants a better life style for me than what she was exposed and what my father had as far as being away from home and things along those lines. My father is more apprehensive because he's unsure of the future of the industry and how successful I would be able to be, not as in terms of how well I would do with my job but in terms of how well the business would be able to thrive.

LC: What age did he start fishing at?

JM: He was 22 when he started fishing. He hopped on a boat in Westport Massachusetts and they were scalloping and doing some groundfishing and from then on he got further and further involved into lobstering primarily.

LC: Does he own his own vessel?

JM: He owns his own vessel the fishing vessel the Direction and before that he co-owned a vessel the fishing vessel Broadville in Westport.

[0:08:54]

LC: What's the approximate size in feet?

JM: The Direction is 77 ft. long.

LC: How long is he at sea?

JM: The boat in the summer time will generally run 9 days and in the winter time between 5 and 6 days just based on weather and actions of the lobster.

LC: What size is the crew?

JM: We'll run a skipper and then either a 3 man crew or a 4 man crew depending on if guys take trips off or if guys quit. Preferably we run a 4 man crew.

LC: And what's that like in terms of the crew? Who are they, where are they, and how long have they been with your dad?

JM: Okay the crew I worked with generally had been with my father on and off up to 15-17 years. They are older guys around 40 except for one guy who just started. Two of the guys are from New Bedford, the Fairhaven area, and one was from up in Taunton and two guys both named Scott have been with my dad awhile.

LC: And is there a particular season?

JM: Well I should say the skipper also has been with my dad for 20 years now and he is the one that primarily runs the boat most of the time and his name is Alex...

LC: Scott?

JM: No Alex but...

LC: And when he needs an extra person how does he get them?

JM: From my understanding he has a log book. Within the log book he has a list of guys that have come down to the dock looking for work. He will try to give them a call or you know a guy that will be available just by being around in the area and what not.

LC: And with the guys that are available are they all older or is there a particular age range?

JM: A couple of guys that did fill in trips had worked for my dad before. They are all fishermen and they are older. They are 50's, late 40's at the youngest.

LC: All right, so what's it like being part of a fishing family?

JM: I've been asked this question before...I guess it's just normal for me. I grew up in it so I don't have anything to really compare it to as far as what a normal family life would be. I think you just have to adapt to what is going on. I guess you know your father is not around a lot and you just try and cherish the times when he is home especially during your childhood when you are growing up.

LC: What was it like when he wasn't there? How did you and your family, your mom and your sibs, manage? What kind of things do you imagine were different because he was absent at certain points in time?

[0:12:03]

JM: Well I guess my mom pretty much raised my brother and I with the help of my older sister. She played a big part when he was off shore. She um did everything. She was there for us all the time. She would play catch with us in the backyard with the baseball and stuff like that and that was different. I mean when my dad would come home it got to the point we wouldn't see him enough and get all excited and say "mom dad" and so it

was a big joke, a big running joke that his nickname was mom dad. It was hard at times but like I said my mom knew what she was getting into and I am really fortunate to have my mom. I don't think a lot of women would put up with that kind of lifestyle so I am really lucky both my brother and I are really lucky in terms of that respect.

LC: How did she, did she work in addition to that or was she a full time mom?

JM: Before having my brother and I she was working full time. Once my father was off shore she just became a full-time mom and worked seasonally at the tax collector's office.

LC: So she worked seasonally in the tax collector's office, she worked before...

JM: I believe in the tax collector's office.

LC: Okay and did she have any formal education?

JM: She graduated from high school so both of my parents graduated from high school.

LC: Are you aware of any organizations that are meant to support fishing families?

JM: To support fishing families? In which way, in terms of advocacy, or funding, or...?

LC: Well there's the advocacy component potentially, but you can talk about any of these things at any time. I am thinking of more social support.

JM: I am not aware of any.

LC: Talk to me about your decision to enter fishing.

JM: Well it's kind of like an evolving process still. I went into fishing for a year with the mindset that I'm not going to be a fisherman I am going to fish for a year. Currently it is kind of evolving and I am second guessing whether or not I want to be involved in the business. I was very happy off shore I enjoyed my time out there and I am thoroughly missing it right now, to be honest with you.

[0:14:59]

LC: What is it you are missing? Can you put it into words?

JM: I guess one of the best ways I can describe it is I am a little bored right now. I miss the work. I miss the manual labor. I miss being off shore on the ocean which is a bit of a catch 22 because you miss being from home when you are out there. I enjoy the labor. I enjoyed learning everything while I was out there.

LC: Who taught you?

JM: The guys, in terms of the work, the guys on deck you know. Scott Barbosa was pretty big factor in terms of teaching me how to do things. My dad would as well but he doesn't fish as much as he used to, so Scott on deck was the guy who helped me learn how to do certain things, just by watching him trying to observe how he worked.

LC: So your dad doesn't go out as much as he used to?

JM: No he has been fortunate enough to where he can make a handful of trips a year now. He is 54 and its quite different even from 12 years ago. He was gone all the time and now he is fortunate to be home.

LC: Are you involved in the fishing community in anyway aside from you're a graduate student right now? You have experience fishing. Is there any aspect of the fishing community that you are currently involved or have been involved in?

JM: Not particularly. I keep in contact with fishermen that I have met and friends I have met but that is about it. I am not part of any organization or a member of any organization.

LC: How would you describe your social life? How much of that includes people from the fishing community and how much of it is other, other folks?

JM: Outside of my family the only fishermen that I'd I keep in contact with thoroughly is Scott and he's 40 some odd years old so I am not going to go hang out with him and what not. Most of my friends are from college that I keep in touch with and high school.

LC: What about both your dad and your mom in terms of their social life and the people they consider closest to them? Is it people from the fishing community, can you sort of describe that?

JM: They have a few close friends from the fishing community but most of them are the ones that are fishing friends from Westport. They fish out of Westport and that is where my dad started fishing and where my mom is from. It is a relatively small town so that could be a factor in it, but those friendships date back decades now. I think that their fishing friends make up a small factor of their social aspect. A lot of the friends they have are actually from relationships my brother and I had through sports or school or things like that, so that's how a lot of their friends came to be.

[0:18:24]

LC: Is there anybody in your family, in your extended family, that is part of the fishing community in anyway? Whether it is shore support...

JM: Nope. Nope, my dad is the only one. It was kind of a big decision for him. It was not what his parents' wanted for him.

LC: What did his parents do for a living?

JM: My grandfather is an architect and my grandmother was real estate agent.

LC: And your mom did she or does she come from a fishing family?

JM: Nope, she doesn't.

LC: How did her parents feel about...?

JM: I honestly can't tell you, they passed before I had any sort of relationship with them so I don't know how they feel.

LC: So have you, you said you have done offshore lobstering, have you done any other kinds of fishing?

JM: Oh yeah. I've done recreational fishing my entire life, bass fishing, fluke fishing, tuna fishing all that kind of stuff. Basically rod and reel.

LC: Any other types of commercial?

JM: Um nope, that's it.

LC: So the only boat you have ever worked on is your dad's?

JM: Commercially, yes.

LC: Okay, what positions have you held on the boat?

JM: Just deckhand, t that's it.

LC: Can you describe to me what a deckhand does?

JM: On a lobster boat you....

LC: Give me a quick day in the life of...

JM: Alright so you wake up...

LC: What time?

JM: It varies, generally around 5, quarter to 5. You get a cup of coffee and you go on deck and throw some bait in the checker and break it up. You have to get the bait bags ready for the trawl and you are either breaking rail or stacking traps...

LC: What is breaking rail?

JM: Breaking rail is when you bring the traps over the rail and our skipper does all of the hydraulic aspect of it. On the trawler and we are just pulling them in and what not. And if you are running a four man crew you have partners, a guy behind you will be banding and flaking the rope to go back, because we side set because we don't have an open stern. [0:20:52]

LC: What does side set mean?

JM: You set over the rail.

LC: Okay and you have a wench that pulls them up over the side versus the back.

JM: No, the line goes into a block through the hauler and the rope goes into the rope blocker but our set-up is different. A lot of lobster boats have open sterns so when you set your trawl back they just go off the back. We stack them vertically on deck then set them over the rail again so we have to move them again, put them on the rail, and set them which is just a preference and the design of the boat by my dad. And on the other side of the table, we have a table in the middle, and guys on the other side will be stacking the traps, bringing them back, and stacking them. The other guy will be making bags of bait and banding lobsters.

LC: What kind of bait do you use?

JM: It varies on price and things like that and what's working. Generally we like to use red fish and well I have to go off the record on this.

LC: Okay, go ahead.

JM: You don't have to shut it off, but if I say off the record right?

LC: No its okay.

[0:22:05]

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LC: Okay so, continue the day in the life.

JM: Okay um generally if you are running the four man deck after all the traps are stacked you have the two guys stacking them set and you repeat it all over again that process of bringing up the bait, breaking it up, and that's pretty much it. Once in awhile you will have splices to do when the trap, trawls stack up or have to replace a pot or fix a pot, you know twine work and things like that.

LC: How many pots does your dad have a license for and over a nine day period how many times do you set the pots, pull them up? How does that work?

JM: In the summer time depending on how the lobsters are moving you generally shoal up, I think its over 1500 but I don't think you can quote me on that. Basically you will haul all that once, let it soak for four nights, and haul it all again. So you go through all the traps twice in the summer time.

LC: And when was the last time you fished? Was it last summer?

JM: Yes.

LC: How did you do compared to years past? You know your awareness of years past, since that was probably your first summer?

JM: My guess would be the catch is comparable to years past. Years have been better for sure and years have been worse for sure, but the overriding factor in the last couple years has been expenses in terms of fuel, price of bait, things along those lines have effected how a fisherman does income wise more so than what the actual catch is. Now that's my opinion. And the price of lobster also affects my perception of this year compared to years past.

LC: Which is at an all time low? How has that affected your dad's strategy when he fishes? Is he maybe more days between...how is he trying to maximize profit in this situation?

JM: Well it might be in the summer time because of the fuel expenses and how things move we stay out there longer than they maybe have in years past. But other than that we may have to cut back on bait a couple of times, but you just stay with what works pretty much.

[0:03:00]

LC: If your dad was to comment on, aside from the whole cost management and profit management, is there anything else that is different or of concern at this point that has changed in any way or just in general, concerns he has at this point in time?

JM: Well I'm sure there are management concerns. He is fairly good about that in terms of agreeing that he wants to have a sustainable fishery. Concerns he has are things like the whale rope regulation which costs him a lot of money to implement all that new ground line and results won't be shown for 8 years or so. So those are concerns, but he is a firm believer in cyclical price cycle.

LC: Yes.

JM: Of the species and that there is really no threat to sustainability.

LC: Okay.

JM: Especially with management efforts and things like that.

LC: Do you have any experience with women crew? Or has your father ever had experience with female crew?

JM: No.

LC: Is there any awareness in where you guys fish out of female crew at all? Are you aware of any?

JM: I know of one girl just through that show on the Discovery Channel there is one female crew member. I don't know how well she performed on the boat, I don't know anything about it really but that's it.

LC: Okay and that was out of?

JM: Point Judith and Newport.

LC: Okay. You don't by chance remember her name?

JM: I could find it.

LC: I would just be curious. How do you think women are, in terms of female crew, are women involved in fishing? How are they viewed by the rest of the fishing community?

JM: Female crew?

LC: Yes.

JM: I really don't know of many female crew members to speak of. If you can do the work that is his primary concern and that you are not slowing things up and that is both male and female. I guess a lot of the concern would be can she keep up and what not...

LC: Are you qualified to do the job.

JM: Are you qualified to do the job and that goes for men as well, but I guess you would be looked at a little more if you were a woman and be a bit more of a concern probably.

[0:06:02]

LC: Have you ever pulled up anything unusual?

JM: No, not really.

LC: Did you have any close calls? Any concerns about safety? You know, got into a situation that was really a concern?

JM: The weather never concerned me. There is one instance where I got a little tangled in the line, but nothing came of it. You know just stuff you get scared a little bit and then

you just shake it off and go on. That's all you can really do because you are out there and you aren't going anywhere.

LC: What's your perception of how industry has changed over time?

JM: I say it is getting harder and harder to be successful in this industry. There are, I would say, fewer and fewer fresh faces especially in the industry I was involved in. I think it is getting older and older and the people getting involved are older too and I think that has to do with the successfulness of the industry and how profitable it is. Also other trends like I think it is pretty common for fishing families not to want their children to get involved now. Where in years past it was kind of common for them to get involved in the business so I think that is a dying characteristic I guess you would say.

LC: When, for the year that you were fishing, did you see any other people your age? Or, sort of below the forty mark?

JM: A couple of people in their 30's. I saw guys on other boats, scallop boats or ground fish, guys that are young but I say the older faces outweigh the younger ones by a vast majority.

LC: Can you give sort of a gut level percentage?

JM: Oh gosh probably one out of eight I would say, maybe a little more.

LC: Okay so what do you see as the greatest challenges when you are at sea or to the fishing industry?

[0:09:04]

JM: The greatest challenge is finding your target species for anyone that's what you are set out to do and you have to do it. I guess no matter what happens as long as you do that that's what the overriding factor is if you succeed or fail.

LC: Does your dad have any particular technology on the boat that, you know, like they've got depth sounders, that sort of thing?

JM: He is up to date with all that sort of technology that you could pretty much have I guess.

LC: Can you give a brief description of what those things are in terms of technology that helps you find what you are fishing for which in his case is lobster?

JM: Well in terms of lobster there is no real technology. You can kind of base things off of water temperature and depth in terms of just knowing seasonally where they tend to move but in terms of finding fresh bottom that no one is fishing and you want to find a lobster it is a process of a lot of failing and just trying to find certain spots. There are no fish sounders or fish finders that compare to lobster finders.

LC: Now what area is your dad part of?

JM: Three.

LC: And has he always fished area three? I mean that has only been around so long but has he always fished area three?

JM: Yes, he's not really, I am not exactly sure where he used to fish sometimes. I mean I have looked at a chart and seen old grounds and I think a lot of them are pretty close to the borders and what not so I can't quote on that exactly.

LC: What makes a good fisherman?

JM: I say dedication and the aspect that you need to want to work and you have to work hard to make a living and understanding that. As long as you can work hard and get the job done and put the time in, I mean you have to sacrifice a lot of the time as well.

LC: But why would somebody do that?

JM: They enjoy it, they enjoy being out there, and they are good at it. They found something they exceed at. I think a lot of those guys believe, especially the guys that have been doing it for a while, are very good at their job and not a lot of guys could be better than them at it. And then it is fairly lucrative for a lot of people too so that's always a factor.

LC: Looking back to something you said early, what is it about being out at sea that you like? You are saying you miss it. Can you give me a little bit more grit or you know something concrete?

[0:12:22]

JM: I like being out there because I don't have to worry about anything else while I am out there except the job I am doing. I don't have to worry about what is really going on at home which is nice. I suppose that is different when you have a family. But I don't know, that is about it, I can't really explain it to you.

LC: How do you get paid?

JM: How do I get paid? Just like the crew. Do you want the lay system?

LC: Yes and how does it work?

JM: Um

LC: What do you call it?

JM: Well we get our share...

LC: So the share...

JM: Yes you get your share from the owner which would be my father in my case but the crew gets their share divvied up, it's a little over 50%.

LC: So however many crew they get 50%? I mean how do you divvy it up between boat, captain, and owner?

JM: So I have to go off the record with this.

LC: Okay turn it off.

[0:13:38]

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[0:00:00]

LC: Okay there we go. It sounds like in terms of going back you are kind of on the fence; you might get involved in the future.

JM: Well right now, its funny, three days ago I had this conversation with my parents for the first time about wanting to stay involved. And it's more and more likely becoming a realistic possibility for me. I am wavering a little bit but I can see it in my future.

LC: Would you take on your dad's boat?

JM: I talked to him about this. I am pretty sure I am going to finish up getting my masters degree. I think it will help me with credibility in the long run if I want to be a fisherman in terms of the future. After that I want to work on a boat for someone else whether it is scalloping or groundfishing something like that just to have that experience, or even on a different lobster boat for that matter. For two or three years and just to get away from the family business side of it then come back to the business maybe and see what that would be like.

LC: What does your dad think about that?

JM: We have a lot of talking to do about that still I think he is still having that run around in his head because I don't know if he thought that would happen. I think he would be all for it. I think what he is thinking now if that were to happen he regrets not taking out a better insurance plan for the longevity of the boat. The boat is 26 years old now so he only put out a plan thinking that no one would want to take over or run the boat. I think that is running through his head more so than anything else.

LC: But is that something that can be changed or because of boat insurance issues now?

JM: I am not sure.

LC: Yea.

JM: I don't know. But things like that are probably running through his head and my mother's head thinking why have we wasted all this money on college education?

LC: Alright we are almost there I just want to check on a few other items. In terms of your dad, the crew, you, are there any sort of physical health issues that you encountered? First you and then what you see in other people.

[0:03:03]

JM: No I was fine, just nicks and scrapes that's all. That's about it and that is to be expected.

LC: What do you think in terms of general long term health for yourself and what do you see?

JM: Well I see with the older guys is that it literally breaks your body down over years of doing the work. My dad has back problems. Scott has back problems. They are all sore and they are all going to have arthritis. I can see that.

LC: And how old is your dad and Scott?

JM: My dad is 54 and Scott is in his mid 40's so you can just see the toll it has on that. Guys generally smoke cigarettes a lot on the boat so that takes a toll on their bodies.

That's pretty much it; the physical demand of the job wears down on the body over time I think you could say.

LC: What about sort of lifestyle on shore.

JM: That is all a personal choice.

LC: What do you see?

JM: What do I see?

LC: Yes.

JM: I see varying aspects of guys' lives on shore. Some guys have families and kids and some guys don't and they like to go out party and drink and have a good time while they are home. It all depends on the individual and what they view as important and how they want to spend their check they get.

LC: Is there any particular, I think you already addressed this, any particular worries your father has at this point?

JM: Yes, just in terms of how profitable the industry will be down the road is. He fears the day of the owner/operator are dwindling and the fishery is evolving and he is not so sure if I would get involved how profitable it would be for me down the road.

LC: What about just in terms of overall lifestyle and health. What do you see in terms of family stability and the family, the crew and the other people you are aware of?

JM: I would I say I am really lucky compared to a lot of guys in the fishing industry and that is a big factor. I know some guys I work with don't have that stability at all.

[0:06:06]

LC: Can you describe that a little bit?

JM: They have gone through divorces, have kids, guy has never been married before he's been in jail before and not much of a home at all.

LC: Does that describe your dad's crew or just in general what you have seen?

JM: In general what I've seen and heard. That is the overlying factor in my decision making if I would be able to be as fortunate and have that lifestyle that I have and the family style I grew up with.

LC: So you have mentioned there seems to be kind of a concern or high degree of divorce and there is an issue of stability you seem to agree with that. What is your sense of any kind of family violence? Is that an issue as you see it?

JM: I can't comment on that. I've never been a part of it so I don't know what their house is really like in terms of that aspect. If I did I don't think I would because the people I would know about it I wouldn't want to comment on it.

LC: Where does your dad land most of the time?

JM: He lands in New Bedford and docks in Fairhaven but it is right across. You can see where we land.

LC: And what is considered home port?

JM: Home port on the boat is Westport Mass.

LC: But he generally doesn't dock there.

JM: No he docks in Fairhaven at Fairhaven shipyard.

LC: Right. Where does your family live?

JM: Westport.

LC: Westport, Okay. How do you think fishing is viewed in New Bedford? The community at large you know if you are looking at the whole community, the whole town of New Bedford how is fishing viewed? If you are more comfortable talking about how Westport or Fairhaven fishing is viewed that's fine too.

JM: No I will say New Bedford. I would say it is viewed in different ways. It is viewed as positive because it involves so much of the community in my opinion. I think it brings a lot to the community economically and wish it could bring more. And then there are views that it is negative because of stereo types or some truths about fishermen kind of their life styles and how that negatively impacts a community as far as we were talking about run ins with the law or things like that. But I think I mean the New Bedford fishing fleet is viewed as a positive because it is one of the few ports in the country that brings in more money than any other port in the country or even the world I think. Because of the scallop price and things like that.

[0:09:52]

LC: I think it is the highest grossing for scallops anyway.

JM: I know, well that's the whole thing it doesn't have per weigh. It's not the highest landing, that landing is in Alaska. In terms of grossing for money and everything, it's in the country because of the price of scallops and they land more scallops.

LC: Yes it is way up there.

JM: Yes.

LC: Just one last question and it sort of is trying to synthesize a little bit some of the things you have said and who fishermen are. You said that it's the being at sea, it's the being able to be there and be a bit disconnected that is your focus and that is what you are doing and that is something that you really like. You also, I think, said that there is a certain good fit that people like to do that, there is a certain good fit with a person that likes to do that. How does that personality characteristic relate potentially to issues around drugs or other sort of things that might be that you know you might put two things hand in hand how do you see that? I mean there is a good fit personality wise but do you see there as being any truth to good fit for this job but it also tends to come with some other issues?

JM: I guess you could say that. You could maybe characterize it as adventure seeking or things along those lines. But obviously those types of personalities generally do end up being more likely to get involved in drugs or alcohol or things along those lines of being more aggressive. So I think those characteristics can go hand in hand, at the same time where you are good at this job because of those characteristics and attributes, but you are also going to end up getting in trouble or losing your job because of it down the road while you are on shore.

[0:12:21]

LC: How is it that it's a good fit at sea but once...

JM: Well you are completely removed from all those temptations while you are at sea. You don't have to deal with them so the guys can focus on their job in that respect and they can't get high or drunk or anything like that unless their problem affects them at sea. If their problems are really bad, if they are really bad, and just can't function which has happened before, but um...

LC: It's an issue it seems, but it's not an issue for everybody.

JM: Right.

LC: You said it is hard to say sometimes you've got the family people you said that are real stable families are kind of hard to come by in terms of you know there tends to be divorce, if there is anything that you can add to that in terms of my understanding sort of the balance of people in the industry?

JM: I'm not sure what you mean by balance. I mean how many in terms of guys that have stable families opposed to...

LC: What would be your sense and it is simply your perception about how that balance of people that go home they have families could be the same people that have been divorced before, some people have stable families, and then there is this whole possibility of having issues with drugs, alcohol, the law. Do you have any thoughts about how that might be the same or different in another occupation, in society in general?

JM: Well in terms of stable family and home life I think it differs because you are not home when you are working off shore so you are not home every night to see what is going on. I think that plays a huge role in that aspect opposed to other occupations where you get to come home to your family every night. So that would be a key factor in terms of maintaining a stable family in my opinion. Then also when the guy is home if he is not say looking for the family life then starts drinking that doesn't work to sustain a stable family but I mean...

LC: Do you think those issues are any greater if you look at sort of the fishing community as a whole and you were to compare it to society in general, what is your perception about those issues? Are they more or less than average out in the rest of the world? This is your perception.

JM: The issues of...

LC: Drugs, alcoholism, family stability...

JM: No. I really don't maybe family stability because you aren't home but I really don't think drugs and alcohol are more prevalent in the fishing industry than opposed to social norms.

LC: Anywhere else.

JM: I think it is just maybe it is more exposed in the fishing industry in terms of guys. That is because it is sort of a stereotype in my opinion.

LC: It's a stereotype.

JM: It's a stereotype but it is justified in some ways but I think it happens everywhere.

LC: Yes.

JM: And I know of professionals in other fields that have those problems as well, but it's just not being talked about or part of the stereotype of their you know if they are a banker if they are in investments.

LC: That's a really good point. It just might be just as prevalent but because the perception of the...

JM: Right.

LC: Okay that is really helpful. This is at the end of my questions. Is there anything you think I've missed or you know you would really like to put on the record?

JM: Yes I would like to emphasize the points again that I come from a fishing family one and my experience on the boat was not as a fisherman so much but as someone who is fishing you know what I mean? I think that's especially when I talk about the industry in general my dad is a fisherman the guys I worked for, for the most part are fishermen and it wasn't my career choice so maybe my opinions and experience might be skewed. If I had gone out there saying I am going to be, that's what I am going to do for my living down the road um and that might change in the next couple of years but it might be something to consider when looking at all this.

LC: Great thank you.

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END OF INTERVIEW