

Interview with Eric Reid [ER]
Occupation: Former Fisherman, Seafood dealer
Port Community: Point Judith, RI
Interviewer: Samantha Sperry
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Deep Sea Fish, Point Judith, Rhode Island

Interview

SS: For the record my name is Samantha Sperry. It is January 24 and we are in Pt. Judith right now at Eric Read's office.

ER: Deep Sea Fish at 65 State Street, Narragansett

SS: To begin can you please start out by stating your name address, homeport, vessel name, if you are in a sector or common pool?

ER: My name is Eric Reid and my physical address at work is 65 State Street Narragansett, [Rhode Island]. My home address is 315 Hamilton Allington Road North Kingstown, Rhode Island. I am the former owner of the *Huntress 1* and the *St. Jude*. The *Huntress 1* was in Sector 5

SS: If you don't mind me asking, how old are you?

ER: I am 54

SS: Okay, to start out can you provide... just start out telling us a little bit about your family, where you are from, how long you have been up here, your family structure and your educational background?

ER: I am 54 years old. I have been in RI since 1979 when I went to URI fisheries school, once I graduated from the Fisheries School I continued at URI for Resource Economics. I did not complete my degree, but I did take extensive Resource Economics classes and some graduate courses as well. I am married, I have two twenty something year old daughters and none of them are in the fish business. It's only myself. What was the rest of the question?

SS: I think that was it for that question. Can you give me a few more details about your family's involvement in fisheries? For example how and when did you start fishing did anyone else in your family fish before you?

ER: Well, my mother's brother, my uncles were artisanal fishermen in and around Sarasota, FL. When I was a kid they were kind enough to take me with them and that kind of set my path. Nobody else in my immediate family is in the seafood business. My father, my mother, obviously not, my wife and kids are not.

SS: What types of fishing have you done? What kind of sissies, what kind of gear, and where?

ER: Well, I started on deck on a party boat from Brielle, NJ when I was 12 and from there I ended up with my captain's license when I was 19 to run party boats. I worked on some day boat draggers out of Pt. Pleasant and then in 1979 I moved to Rhode Island to go to the University of Rhode Island Fisheries and Marine Technology program. Since then I have fished on a variety of draggers from Pt. Judith, Newport, New Bedford, Gloucester, Newburyport, MA. I have worked on a Scottish seiner. I have been long lining for tilefish and a variety of sporadic variety of fishing for things like tuna and cod.

SS: How has this changed over the past couple of years?

ER: How has it changed? Well, there are a lot more regulations than there used to be, and certainly with all of the pressure on the different fish stocks and the different management regimes, it's gotten a little bit tougher. [Not only] on [how to] the follow the rules all of the time but also to manage boats. The biggest problem we have right now is man power. You can't really get qualified crew any more because there is no real recruitment, at least in this area for qualified crew.

SS: Have you or your family members roles changed since sectors began like boat captain to shore captain?

ER: Well, it changed quite a bit because I have since sold my boats. So I don't have any actual fishing business right now. I am just involved in the seafood wholesale side, which I have been in the wholesale side of it since 1985. And over the last 6 or 7 years I have owned two boats. One was a scalloper dragger and the other was a freezer trawler, neither one of which I own now. As far as the sectors goes the *Huntress 1* was a common pool vessel but it was very evident that being in the common pool was not very advantageous because of the management scheme for that particular group of vessels so I was forced to join the sector to maintain my place in the line up as far a catching capacity goes for groundfish.

SS: How many crew members are on the boats, and where did most of the crew come from? Has this changed over the last year or so since sectors began?

ER: Well, like I said earlier, as far as the sector goes, the *Huntress 1* was involved in sector 5. We were an inactive member. We were fishing for squid and then we converted over to slime eel fishing. That just presented a better opportunity that seemed fit for making a better living because my groundfish allocation was more or less 100,000 pounds and that's not enough to make a years pay. So as far as the origin of the crew goes, we had mostly local crew local

meaning southern New England and New Jersey. Unfortunately, except for the captain, the balance of the crew was mostly transient. We have had some pretty good turn over for crew.

SS: Can you tell me a little bit about your neighborhood? Would you describe it as a fishing community and why did you decide to live/settle here? And how does your community view fishing?

ER: Well, I guess my neighborhood would be southern RI, which it's only Rhode Island so it's no massive square mile area. Fishing in this part of the state is a pretty good economic component, although I am sure that the data would indicate that it has been declining, especially for finfish for the past 5 to 7 years. How is it viewed? It's basically a tremendous economic engine for the southern part of the state of Rhode Island. I don't know if it is 2nd to tourism, but it certainly is one of the top 5 economic resources in the state of Rhode Island.

SS: Do you hang out with, socialize, with other fisherman and their families, if so are they also groundfish fisherman or involved in a variety of fisheries?

ER: Do I hang out with fishermen? Well most of my friends are fishermen or former fishermen; groundfish isn't really a big component of what we do. We are more involved with the squid fishery, which in RI, squid is a big component of what is caught and landed in the state of RI-by-RI vessels. So, we go groundfishing if we can make a living at it, but like I said earlier, my allotment was so small that it was easier to lease it off than make a living at it.

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

ER: Well, we certainly... the fish business has not been tremendous to us. Because of my allotment [in] the sector, the economic component of my life as far as sectors goes is minimal. We should really qualify all of this by saying that my boat is gone. I am not involved in that particular part of the seafood business right now. As far as our personal lives go, it's a lot tougher to make ends meet than it has been in a long time. Some of it is management based, biomass based. Squid fishing has not been spectacular over the past couple of years. We do a lot more fluke now, which although it is not managed by a federal sector, we are involved with the Rhode Island fluke sector which has a state management tool, as opposed to a federal management tool. We have boats that are in that fluke sector that unload with us, and we also have boats that are out of that sector that are unloading with us. So that's really my economic component, really just the fluke sector not the groundfish sector because Pt. Judith isn't really known as a groundfish port, although we are seeing more and more landing of yellowtail flounder than we have in the past.

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

ER: In my opinion, the late 70's early 80's. And of course there is resurgence in the scallop business, which has been pretty spectacular over the years. The 90's are with the advent of the market for squid, both domestically and internationally. With the US fleet and processors to compete with other international suppliers into what has become an international market.

SS: How has the industry changed since sectors started in May 2010?

ER: There is certainly more consolidation of quota to the haves and the have not's, and for somebody like me, if I wanted to participate in something more heavily like the groundfish sector, I would have to augment my piece of the pie by buying additional quota, which unfortunately, because of the way that business has been we don't have the capital to do that. So, we have basically been eliminated from groundfishing because we don't have the financial resource to get the poundage that we need in order to make it a successful fishery for us. We engaged heavily in the squid business and butterfish business back in the 80's and early 90's and avoided fishing for groundfish. So because of that, our catch history was pretty poor when it came time to delegate your portion of your ability to go groundfishing in the future. Which is reasonably unfortunate because we were always told "Don't worry about it, don't worry about it, don't worry about it, go to these other fisheries and in the future you won't be penalized for it". But that turned out to not be the case and we were heavily penalized because we didn't kill all of the fish that we could when we could have and we went to basically underutilize what was characterized as underutilized species, which now of course most of them are fully utilized. So we took a beating because we went down a different path, which is unfortunate that that is just the way it went.

SS: Would you say that your quality of life is better or worse since sector management started?

ER: I would have to say, in my case it's neither, only because we didn't participate in groundfishing before sectors and of course once sectors went into effect, I couldn't participate in groundfishing. I just didn't have enough pounds so it really has had no effect, other than the fact that it has eliminated some of the flexibility we have had in the past. Financially, it just didn't make any difference to us because we were participating in other fisheries [that] were not in what is now sectors.

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

ER: Find something else. How do you make a small fortune in the seafood business? Well, you start with a large fortune, that's the joke. Basically it is... it's very, very hard to encourage somebody to get into the fish business right now, unless they have financial resources which are well beyond what the average person would have, especially what a teenager or a twenty something [would have]. It's, looking forward, it's very hard to see that there may be a future for an independent person to come in because if you want to get into groundfishing you have to have a lot of money to buy a boat, you have to have a lot of money [to] buy a permit and you have to make sure that you have the resources to withstand mechanical breakdown, bad weather, bad catch, bad this, bad that.

That's a problem that you see in Pt. Judith. At least in my opinion, it's very hard to make a living and it's certainly very unpredictable. That's the nature of the fish business is that it is unpredictable. But I would be very, very hard pressed to encourage somebody to get into the fishing part of the fish business just because it is too hard to predict what is going to happen with fish stock as and with management schemes. Certain fish stocks have rebounded, but the management program hasn't really made it so easy to take advantage of rebuilt stocks. And certainly there are some stocks that one minute they are rebuilt and the next they are not. Fluke is a perfect example; codfish in the Gulf of Maine is another example. One minute the data indicates that the stock has been rebuilt and everything is beautiful and within less than a month, new data indicates that everything is overfished and the sky is falling.

So the business model for that, you would have to be out of your mind to figure that out. Unfortunately, the resources are hard to quantify and science is... well to go from feast to famine in less than two months for several stocks, well that's insanity. I don't know if it's right or not, but that's the fact. We have gone from increased fluke quota to decreased fluke quota in a couple of months. And we don't participate in the GOM cod stock, but that was very healthy and then very, very quickly after that it was totally collapsed. Which is... that's based on management using a statistical model which unfortunately doesn't take into account that the ability of the fish stock to move out of the way of a statistical trawl survey. That's a problem, is what I'm saying.

SS: I know that you said that you sold your boats, but when you owned them were they day boats, or were they multi-day boats.

ER: Well, they were trip boats, multi-day boats for sure.

SS: Can you tell me a little bit about your sector, how many members there were, your position, how many boats were in the sector, the total sector allocation and your allocation?

ER: I can't tell you because I don't really know. Like I said, I was in the common pool and that kept getting reduction after reduction and the total catch share for the common pool. So I joined sector 5 as an inactive member, and I don't know how many members it has I don't know what the total allotment is. I think... Dan Salerno was the sector manager he could probably give you all of that, but I really don't know. It's a local sector so it was easy for me to participate in that but basically I was an inactive member. I just did it to protect my position as far as my PSC.

SS: So when did you join the sector and how did you join it?

ER: I joined it about two years ago and it was just a matter of filing out some paper work and that was it. It was nothing too complicated because I was an inactive member.

SS: Okay, so the process was pretty easy.

ER: Yeah, it was pretty simple.

SS: Can you describe what a day looks like for you? How [do] you start and end the day, specifically how your day functions in relation to your involvement in the sector, or how it did function since you don't have the boats anymore?

ER: Well, primarily I am in the wholesale end of it, but as far as my daily activity went as far as sectors goes, I really didn't have any involvement in it because I was an inactive member. We were involved in fisheries that were outside of sector management and in some cases they were actually fisheries that didn't even require federal permits to participate in. But basically as far as sector management goes, I get up in the morning, I come to work at 7:00 [am] and we are running a seafood wholesale outfit here and when we are done we go home. Sometimes we go home at 3:00 [pm], sometimes we go home at 9:00 at night, but my life was not really revolved around sector participation.

SS: So would you say that this is different from your days before the sectors?

ER: No, basically it is the same.

SS: What services does your sector provide to assist you with, insurance support groups, and representation?

ER: It's a local sector, so if I needed any information about my capabilities in the sector, my sector manager Dan Salerno is very accessible, but like I said I really haven't had, other than when I wanted to sell my boat, to find out what I had to do as far as selling my boat, requirements for right of first refusal, I didn't really have much need to interact with my sector on a day to day basis.

SS: In your opinion what, are the pros and cons of sectors or of being in the common pool?

ER: Common pool is no good, because it seemed like every year there was less and less fish available to the common pool. If there was going to be a deduction, it was going to be in the common pool. That's why I felt that I was basically forced to join a sector. As far as an advantage of being in a sector, is restriction of trade an advantage? When I went to sell my boat I was able to find a buyer, but once I had a buyer whether he was... if he was outside of my existing sector than I had to take all of that paperwork, which as far as I am concerned is proprietary to me and the buyer. And I had to parade it in front of my sector because the agreement is that they have right of first refusal to purchase the sale of the vessel, or leasing the quota and honestly, I think that is restriction of trade. Its basically forcing you to do a lot of work and at the end of the day circumvent anything that you may have accomplished with an interested buyer and then perhaps the buyer would lose out on the sale because the sector has right of first refusal. Which as far as I am concerned, I don't know if there has ever been a legal challenge about it, but as far as I am concerned it is a restriction of trade.

I suppose if I was in a position to want to buy boats or quota it would be a great thing because then somebody else can do all of the work for me. [They can] establish a price for a vessel, or a permit, or a quota, then all I have to say is, "Yes I want it", "No, I don't want it" without having to do all of the leg work of someone who would normally do what I was trying to do, which was to sell what I had to somebody that was interested in buying it. As an inactive member and an active seller of a vessel, I thought it was pretty insane that I would have to do all of that and then it certainly is not very user friendly to someone that wants to buy a boat that is not involved in that particular sector that I was involved in. I don't think that is a good thing. Like I said it might very well be illegal if somebody were to press it, if somebody had the capitol to fight it I think that a legal challenge might prevail in that case.

SS: Do you think that other fishermen share your opinions about the sector, or might be feeling the same way that you do?

ER: I know for a fact that there are quite a few fishermen that share my opinions, mostly independent operators that own one vessel or perhaps two vessels. There are other guys that I know that own multiple vessels who are very, very happy with their ability to manipulate their system and spend their capitol to do very well. I just... if you have money you can really take advantage of the system but the way things are now, not everybody that really needs to participate can. I don't think that there is a lot of gray area, I think there are guys that love it and I think there are guys that hate it. There may very well be more individuals that are unhappy with the way things are.

SS: So, I know since you are not fishing anymore, I am not sure that this pertains to you, but what motivates you to stay in the sector?

ER: I have no basis for an answer because I am out.

SS: Okay, I figured. How have you changed how you have fished since joining sectors?

ER: Well, we haven't. We really haven't because we weren't groundfishing before and we aren't groundfishing now.

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

ER: It hasn't changed at all because the health insurance is through my wholesale business, so that has nothing to do with sectors. As far as boat insurance goes, the freezer trawler insurance rate is so exorbitantly high compared to just a fresh fish trawler, of course this really has nothing to do with sectors because we weren't participating in that fishery for either one of my boats. But my 80-foot fresh fish trawler scalloper, I think I paid around 38 to 40 thousand dollars in insurance and my freezer trawler, which was 89 feet, was 95 thousand dollars a year.

Which is, well, insurance had been going up and up and up and now it is reasonably stable but it's a stupid amount of money.

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

ER: The answer to that is being in a sector hasn't affected my personal life in any way, shape or form, but what we are seeing is that we are getting, we are getting fish familiar. Like I said we have the Rhode Island fluke sector which is a state managed, very small sector. It is very species specific; it is only for fluke. We have a few guys that are in that sector that unload here. We have a few guys that are out of that sector that unload here. The interaction between those two entities is pretty stark. Can you please turn that off for a second?

Sorry what was the question again?

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

ER: As far as being in a sector, it didn't affect me one way or another. I was an inactive member and I have nothing to base that on because I was not involved. What sectors have done in my opinion, is they have split the fishing community on some very, very stark lines. Those who are involved in sectors who are doing very, very well, and others who are in the common pool or are in sectors for a variety of reasons, none of which they like. What it has really caused is a rift in the community, which in my opinion right now, the fishing community really needs to be united to move the business forward as opposed to being split over a management regime.

SS: Like I said, I am not really sure how much these next few questions are going to apply to you. How often do you interact with other sector members, do you work together in projects through your sector or work together in any other way?

ER: No.

SS: Would you consider other sector members as friends, if so were they friends before sectors? Do you spend personal time with them outside of fishing?

ER: Sector members. The answer is: I don't think that sectors have alienated any friendships as far as I go. Any interaction I might have with them is on a one-on-one basis on whether or not the price of fish is it a good time to go fishing? Should I do this? Should I do that? It's more of a market-based interaction. As far as drawing the line between professional and personal life, there really, we have been able to handle that pretty well. It has not affected me either way, and my position now because I am not a boat owner and I am not in a sector is now informational and market-driven conversations to try and take advantage of whatever quantity of fish the fisher might have. So, the whole fisherman-dealer interaction, you know, that's the

good and the evil and it has been that way for thousands of years, but it doesn't affect me personally.

SS: Have your relationships or friendships been enhanced or detracted since you joined the sector? Is there more or less interaction between you and other fisherman since sectors began?

ER: Well, I think I probably answered that just a second ago. The interaction becomes more and more important because of the dollar value, maximizing the value of your own personal allocation.

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

ER: Absolutely, they do. We touched on this just a little while ago as well. It has created... there is a lot of animosity between the different opinions that each sector members, and non-sector members have. We are talking about hundreds of small businesses that have to interact with each other. Granted without sectors there's always some positive and negative interaction between users. But at this point, I think what sectors have done is they have really hardened the lines between sector members, non-sector members, guys with a lot of allocation and guys with a little allocation. So it's really, as far as I can see, it's caused some rift in the industry, which I think is totally detrimental to what we really need to do in order to survive.

SS: Has shoreside infrastructure changed in the last two years? If so, how have sectors played a role in that change or lack of change?

ER: Well, Pt. Judith is not a huge groundfish port to start with. As far as this port goes, whether or not it is a sector driven thing, I honestly don't think so. But there are less participants in fisheries of any kind, in RI, in Pt. Judith in particular. I honestly don't know if that is sector driven, you would have to look at that at a case-by-case basis. But, there are a lot less fisherman, fishers to be politically correct, but there are less shoreside dealers. Which, I think that's just a factor of a lot of things. The squid fishery, which is totally outside of any sector right now, price of fuel, I honestly don't think Pt. Judith has been affected by sectors, groundfish sectors, because it's not really known as a groundfish port. There used to be a lot of people in this port and now there's not that many.

SS: Based on your experiences in the sector, would you recommend another fishermen here to join a sector?

ER: I would have to say yes. I would have to because my experience being in the common pool originally, which I thought was worth a shot, and then finding out very, very quickly that being in the common pool was a total deterrent to survivability. So, I would have to say that at this point being in the sector is an absolutely necessary protection mechanism.

SS: Are you involved in the fishing community, if so how do you attend fundraisers, meetings? Are you involved in a wider community like school board, town council, Lion's club?

ER: No school, no Lion's. I am involved as need be in Rhode Island fisheries issues. I'm actually a governor appointed board member for economics in general in the state of Rhode Island. I am not a member of any fisheries organization at this point. I was a founding member of New England Seafood Producers Association. I am the past president of Rhode Island Seafood Council, past president of American Seafood Institute, but at this point, if I am asked to participate by other fishermen, legislators, managers, in the state of Rhode Island, I will do so at their request, other than that I pick and choose my battles.

SS: These are just a few questions on your income, feel free to answer them or not, that's fine as well. How do you get paid?

ER: How do I get paid? Well, when I was a boat owner I didn't take any income from my vessels. What I did do was... of course I owned vessels that delivered product to my wholesale business and 100% of my income is derived from my wholesale business. How do I get paid? Well, when there is no money there is no money, I guess. That's how I don't get paid. I try to support my family as best I can but I do not pay myself from my wholesale business on a regular basis. When I have money available to me, I try to take it. We do a lot right now of robbing Peter to pay Paul. So my personal income is hit or miss, let's put it that way. Like I said, you have to keep your priorities straight. You have to pay your suppliers, your vendors and you have to pay your staff because you need them. And certainly my own personal life has suffered some financially because of the state of the fisheries, which is not necessarily sector driven, it's just a fact of life right now in the seafood business.

SS: Has your income increased or decreased since sectors? What has caused the change in your income, and how have you compensated for these changes?

ER: Well, I can't, the answer to that is: because of my involvement or lack of involvement in sectors, and the general nature of my business, my wholesale business, we aren't really reliant on groundfish in any way. I can't really say that sector management has affected my personal income.

SS: How are earnings distributed in your family, for example what percentage do you contribute and what percentage does your spouse contribute and have sectors changed this distribution?

ER: Sectors have not changed distribution just because of what we have been talking about. Generally speaking, as far as the seafood business goes, I think probably in my household, my wife contributes 20-35% of our household income, in which case I would cover the rest. My percentage might not have changed but my participation has probably, my income has decreased there is no question of that. It's not a sector thing; it's more of a seafood business in general.

SS: These are just a few questions on leasing, have you needed to lease additional quotas?

ER: No. Well, if I wanted to go groundfishing, I would absolutely have to lease quota. My total allotment as more or less 100,000 pounds, most of which was haddock. If I wanted to make an attempt at a viable groundfish, a participation in my sector, I would absolutely have to lease more quota in order to justify the changeover from what I was doing now I own the boat, to what I would have to do as far as making a living at it. I just didn't have enough quotas and there was no economic sense in me trying to get the capitol to buy more quotas so that I could go groundfishing. There were other opportunities available to us that didn't mandate that I do that. That's why I was in a sector to cover my butt on my allocation, but I was a non-participating member because I had such little quota, and I could catch my entire quota in two decent trips or one really good trip. But it just wasn't in my financial cards to go groundfishing, one because I had such little quota to justify the changeover, and I didn't have enough money to buy additional quota anyway, so we stayed doing what we were doing.

SS: Has your general outlook on life and well being changed for the better or worse since sectors started. If so, can you give us some examples?

ER: I hate to really disappoint you, but because my sector experience was so minimal that whether or not it affected my life, other than when I went to try and sell my boat, it made it really, really difficult to attract a buyer for my boat that was outside of my sector or outside of the fishery in general. And that became a real problem for me because of the restrictions of selling a vessel that was in a sector. If I were in the common pool, it would have been no problem for me but because I was forced into a sector, in my opinion, I was forced into a sector, you know to try and market my vessel for sale. Because of the requirements of the sector it really became an issue. And how did that affect me? Well it was very, very stressful.

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

ER: Well, that goes back to the have and the have not's. If you have the ability, the financial capabilities to get whatever quota you need in your sector or outside of your sector, I think it's really bright. I think if your economic position is such that you are reliant on sector fishing for groundfish, and your business is marginal at this point as of now, I think your future is extremely bleak. There are more and more examples of consolidations, cooperation of the fishery, and that takes the independent businessman and turns him into an employee of a much larger business. Is that good or bad? I guess that really remains to be seen. I guess if taking your business, your boat, your allocation, your permit and selling it to someone who is much more solvent and [a] larger entity than you are, it may relieve your own personal financial stress. But I think it really remains to be seen whether or not the cooperation of the New England fisheries, which has traditionally been single boat, single family, single business, I think that really remains to be seen. If you go to the west coast, where it is really more of corporate style industry. I suppose that's something you could see what economic harm or damage has been to the small businessman on the west coast. I think it's a little bit early to be seen here what's going to happen but just by looking at the number of independent vessel owner

operators that exist, I think that it's, generally speaking, it is not the greatest thing for the small guy, for the small business operator.

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

ER: Certainly a lot of anxiety and stress, what that causes who knows? Marital problems, substance abuse, I suppose any of that in any industry, and anxiety or stress in any industry. If you're a college kid and you [have] anxiety or stress because you don't know if you are going to pass your finals, well is there substance abuse there? Maybe, who knows? It's just, there is certainly a lot more stress in the industry. What that particular stress has caused, I think is that's a socioeconomic question that I am not qualified to answer.

SS: Have you experienced any life changes that you can contribute in part or whole to the sectors?

ER: No.

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

ER: My personal feeling right at this minute is I would not go down the sector management road as a management tool. Personally, I think what needs to be done is a total overhaul of the basis for management, which is statistical sampling. We are dealing with a resource that is highly mobile and to expect to do statistical sampling, you go here on this date and make this tow and so on and so forth, I think is totally insane. There has been a lot of "cooperative research." It's my own personal opinion that none of that had really been used as an effective management tool. Whether or not the NMFS' (National Marine Fisheries Service's) trawl survey is good, it's been proven over and over again that the industry can catch a lot more fish than the statistical tows can on a side-by-side basis; but because of the strictness of the statistical sampling as a management tool, I believe that most of that research has been disregarded. So unfortunately, what would be a better tool, I think that a lot more cooperation between the scientific community and the industry itself is required, but I think at this point we are so far down the road of disagreement between the two entities, that basically we have to start from scratch, which is something that is going to be very, very painful for everybody involved. To have scientists to have to start from scratch, fishermen to have to start from scratch, it may never happen. But it's something that really needs to be looked at because there is such a disparity in what goes on. I'm beating around the bush trying to find an answer for you, but in my opinion, that's part of the problem. What the answer is [is] so abstract that I don't know, but there's got to be better modeling when it comes to a mobile resource.

SS: Have you considered returning to the common pool at all?

ER: I'm out, I am sold out. The answer is, if I still owned my vessel, I would not consider that, unless there was a tremendous change in the way the common pool is handled in the general management scheme.

SS: Is there something else about sectors that I haven't asked that you would like to add to the record?

ER: I know there's a lot of socioeconomic questions about is it good or is it bad. I think that's the question, to ask more questions than that is not necessary. I hope I have answered all of your questions in some sort of intelligent manner, but who knows.

SS: Okay, there are just a few more questions left. When and why did you leave fishing?

ER: When and why did I leave fishing? Well I sold my last boat on the 10th of January, which is two weeks ago today. The one prior to that, the reasons are the same. There was not enough resource available to that. In the case of my first boat the *St. Jude* there was not enough resource available to us to make it economically feasible to do. In the case of my second boat the *Huntress 1*, there was such a lack of qualified crew that it just became too time consuming to try and send the boat to sea with a qualified crew, and make a living at it. It just got to be such a distraction on my other businesses that it was time to go, and that [is] just it.

SS: Would you ever consider going back to it?

ER: Yes, I would, sure, absolutely, but, I would have to think long and hard about it between now and then. As a wholesaler now, having access to the resource is a necessary evil and the only way to process it right now, to get access to a resource is to have the ability to catch it yourself, or to finance guys that have that ability now. Unfortunately, the business has not been good enough that I can invest in research set aside or sector quota and give it to boats that are unloading with me, but it's an option that I have to keep open in the future. But right now, I don't have the capability, but it doesn't mean I'm not thinking about it.

SS: I think you may have touched on these answers for a couple of the questions I am about to ask you, so if you would like to skip over them feel free, if not. What are your opinions on sectors?

ER: Well, we went through a lot of that, but my opinions on sectors, personally, I think it's a restriction of trade as a management tool, from my position, I don't think that it is the best solution.

SS: How have sectors changed your community?

ER: Sectors have changed this community from what I can tell by alienating different user groups at a time where I think that is the worst thing possible for the fishery.

SS: How do you view other sectors, successful, operating better or worse than yours?

ER: I really can't answer that question because I was such an inactive member in my own personal sector, sector 5, to compare that to any other sector I really have no answer for that.

SS: Would you fish today with the current regulations, if so would you join a sector or stay in the common pool?

ER: Well, considering that I have gotten rid of both of my boats, I can't say that I am ready to jump back in, but if I were to return to being involved in the fishing end of the seafood business I would absolutely be in a sector only because it's good, bad or indifferent, it's a necessary evil.

SS: Okay so to conclude, is there something you would like people to know about your career in fisheries, your views, or even a story to share with those in future generations who may read this oral history?

ER: State that again, that's a good question so I have to think about the answer.

SS: Is there something you would like people to know about your career in fisheries, you views or even a story to share with those in future generations who may read this oral history?

ER: Well, it's an interesting business. It's all I have ever done, so I can't honestly base my experience in the fish business with something outside of the seafood business. What it's done for me, is it's allowed me to travel all over the world selling all different kinds of fish, which is, which is a really nice thing to have been able to do with my life. It's been really, really aggravating lately, but I would be very hard pressed to do something else regardless of my age or experience. It's a really, really exciting business. There's some really great people involved. There are great stories involved. There's a lot of heartache involved, just like any business, but generally speaking it is a really dynamic industry to be in, and I honestly [think] there's a lot of times, especially lately, "Christ I could be doing something else. I should have done this, I should have done that", but the reality of it is, what it's allowed me to do, the life experiences I have been able to have in the seafood business, it would be very hard to duplicate outside of this. The business, in my lifetime, has switched from a very localized domestic business to an international experience, and that, you couldn't trade it, and the stories, forget it. You'd have to turn that thing off because it's so insane, its commodities trading, international marketing forgiven finance, local flavor, and community involvement, that would be really, really hard to duplicate in any other industry. So I have been doing it forever, and I'll probably keep doing it until they start shoveling dirt on top of me but, it's, I just have to weather the storm right now. I'm a lifer. That pretty much sums it up. It's like no other business that I have ever heard of. You talk to people outside of the fish business and they think, once you start talking to them about it, they think your nuts, which we are nuts, but we have a lot of fun doing, so I'm in.