

Interview with Christine Sherman [CS]
Occupation: Northeast Seafood Coalition,
Port Community: Gloucester, MA
Interviewer: Azure Cygler [AC]
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Telephone interview

Interview

[00:00]

AC: Okay, for the record, I am over the phone with Christine Sherman on the 12th of November, 2012. And Christine if you could just state that you agree to do this interview today, in the absence of a release form?

CS : Yes I do Azure, I do agree to do this.

AC : Okay, thank you. And can you please, for the record also, just give me your full name and your address?

CS : Christine A. Sherman and my address is 95 Concord Street, and this is in Gloucester, Massachusetts.

AC : Okay, and you are, what's your profession currently, and how are you involved in fisheries, I guess, if you could give me some background?

CS : Well, currently I am working with the Northeast Seafood Coalition. I've kind of, I've been involved in this since it first started. I organize, I don't do any of the intricate work. Vito Giacalone, they're the brains and I'm the brawns. I keep things organized, I do fundraising. In the beginning, back in 2002 when we first formed, I was kind of shaky at best because it was such a hard crew to get together. This is when we first took on all the different gear types, not only gear types but vessel sizes, and back then there was controversy amongst all of them and nobody wanted to, nobody got along very well. But everybody realized that we needed to speak with one voice and we had to unite for the good of all, and the Northeast Seafood Coalition has helped us progress, they've really done a heck of a job.

I'm proud to be part of the organization, and, oh, other than that, I guess I can even go back further than that. My first fishing experience even though it wasn't

directly fishing, was, well I worked for twelve years as a bartender in the fishermen's bars here in town. So I got to know many of the old-timers that, they had some stories to tell. They were really some funny people, you know, each one had a funny name, "Joe Bag of Donuts" or "Sammy Pecker" or just really strange names but they were wonderful people. Some of them, you know like I had mentioned to you earlier, part of their..., it was their office, when they came in from fishing. Especially the old-timers and I'm talking, you know, most of them are dead now, but they would come in, they'd have a little bath on the boat, and they would come in with their fedoras and their long top-coats on, and have a brandy in their coffee and talk business. And the stories I heard and the people I met, they were just great, a great bunch of guys. It's a shame that we've lost that whole generation.

And then I guess, oh, I did work on the wharf as well, I used to live in East Gloucester, back where the, oh, right near where the Dehyde used to be. Our house used to be up on Stanley Court, which was just up the hill from the Dehyde, and on a hot summer night (laughs) it got pretty smelly. But we always said it smelled like money, and that was a fact.

AC : There you go. Now your husband is currently fishing, is that correct?

CS : Yes, he is currently fishing, much to my chagrin. I've been trying to talk him out of the business now for the past ten years. Because I'm sure, you had talked to him and he's probably told you his story of how he's been in the water. Fortunately I didn't know him back then, but when I was tending bar, I loved the fishermen but never wanted to date a fisherman seriously. My uncle was a fisherman and he drowned at sea back in the 1960s, he was on the *Saint Stephen*. And, I just always said, there's no way I will have anything to do with a serious relationship and here we are, thirty years later, I'm still married to a fisherman. But times are so much different now than what they were.

My daughter, I have, my daughter, she'll be 28 this year, and she really didn't have much time with her Dad. She, uh, we had a radio here at the house, and he worked his buns off. He would fish, he could be fishing just day-fishing or he could be trip fishing for maybe three or four days, but he'd work like hell, he'd come home, he'd shower, he'd eat and he'd go to sleep. And that whole process would start again. So the only real contact that he had with her, other than a few hours here and there or if there was bad weather, was the radio. And it was great, because I did mention this to you earlier, and Maggie will not be talking on, she does not want to do the interview, but she was kind of the life of..., she livened up the radio for all the Dads that were out there fishing, because, you know, it wasn't everybody that had a radio that had the capacity to get further out, we had a big antenna on the roof. And so we could get quite far out and she would call him and talk to him for about, oh, anywhere from fifteen minutes to a

half an hour every night before she went to bed, and you know, tell her Daddy how much she loved him and she knew that he needed to catch the “Magic Fish”, and you know, all the other Dads just related to it so well that they looked forward to hearing from her too. Because it was a situation where everybody knew your business, if you had a radio you heard the whole conversation. There weren’t any cell phones back then. But it was kind of sad growing up without being able to go on vacations, and you know, Russell had his priorities.

He’s always been a hard worker, and the priorities were, okay you pay for your house, you pay for everything that you need first, nothing frivolous. I mean even in our house here, we lived here for, we bought, when we bought this house, I could’ve easily had a diamond, wanted to get engaged by, or I could’ve had a home. And of course it needed a lot of work, but I was more of a practical Yankee, you know, and decided this was what I wanted, so my house has been my solace. I love my yard, I enjoy working in the yard, getting my hands dirty, it’s very therapeutic. I garden up here so that helps, but as far as vacations, pretty nonexistent. When Maggie would get out of school, my daughter, I would take her for short weekends, you know, up to all the usual spots in the New England area, Santa’s Village and what-not. But, we didn’t have a whole lot of money to waste, well it wasn’t really waste, but like I said priorities, bills, everything came first. We never went in the hole for anything. I lived with a plywood floor for twenty years. I do now have a nice tiger’s wood floor (laughs), but you know, everything had it’s time. But now, I tell you, things are really starting to go backwards since catch shares, it’s been very difficult, it’s been very difficult for everybody. Because my daughter’s older now, she does not live here with us any longer, she’s off on her own, on her own. It’s just me and my dog, Katie, and she’s my company, she’s my, as I said before too, she’s my happiness, because Russell is out fishing.

This past summer he’s been forced to do things that he hasn’t always done. This will be his first year that he went squidding. He’s had a lot of problems with crews, um, the thing is as the fishing dwindles, any of the fishermen that have gotten out, that have owned vessels that knew their jobs have gone on to something else and they no longer are available to go fishing. So you don’t have the crew that’s experienced any longer. It’s very few that know how to mend nets, it’s very few that even care to learn how to mend nets or take a tow in watch. And unfortunately you have to be very careful on who you hire because there’s a lot of people that you really don’t want behind the wheel of your boat. You need to protect yourself and you would have to do drug testing you know, if they were drunk, there’s so many drunks and druggies in the communities. Not just here, Russell was fishing out of Connecticut for all summer, I mean I didn’t see him probably, maybe two or three days all summer.

AC : Oh, wow.

CS : Yeah, oh yes. Because he was fishing out of Stonington, and it was, even though it was a like a two-and-a-half hour drive, he's got to turn around and go right back out again. He still needs to sleep, he still needs..., he wasn't..., because he's not just the skipper, he was the skipper, he was the engineer and he was the cook. So he had to do all that work before he could even leave the boat. So even if he was just in for one night, he had to spend it there and work.

AC : Hmmm. Does he just stay on the boat?

CS : Excuse me?

AC : Was he sleeping on the boat at nights when he was in port?

CS : He was.

AC : Oh, boy.

CS : He was sleeping on the boat. Luckily, you know it's big enough for that, and he did have one of those makeshift showers, but as the weather got colder, because it was, the water was heated by the sun (laughs), as it got cooler, it was pretty nasty. But, you know, in order to be able to, because you know, we've, last year it showed, um, with our taxes it showed that we never made so much money in our entire fishing career. But when in actuality we had one of the worst, one of the worst years yet. When you have to lease your fish before you even go leave the deck...dock, it's..., everything is so uncertain; the price of fish, what you pay for the price of fish, opposed to what you actually get for the price of your fish when you bring your fish in. You're at the dealer's mercy, at the Auction, you know, the dealer's mercy, um, the price of fuel. There's just so many variables that go into it that..., and we've actually lost because we had to pay, it wasn't just the crew that was paying for this, some of the fish we had to eat ourselves because it was near the end of the fishing year and so many people had changed, we had changed crews so many times that we didn't get the money that, you know, to, that little extra, the crew, you know, as an equal share to split the cost of that leased fish. Because if we weren't leasing it, they weren't going to fish it.

AC : I see, yeah.

CS : So, you know, it's scary times right now. And I would, I've tried to get Russell to leave the business for the past ten years because I've see the downhill slope, and you know, I'm kind of like the person that I see the glass half-empty and Russell's always seen it half-full, until recently (laughs), but now it's a fire sale, we couldn't sell the boat even if we wanted to. Because we couldn't sell it for what

we owe on it, period. We lost, when we were doing some research work for the government, we were doing the cod study, I think that was back in 2004. And the whole..., it was supposed to be a three-year program. And he was contracted, everything was set in stone, they were going to run it just as they did the other research vessel, only this was done by fishermen. And things were going along, and it was a program where it was supposed to sustain itself, the fish that was caught was going to go back into the program, and that didn't happen. Paul Diodati said his group somehow mishandled the money, appropriated monies when they shouldn't have and the program was stopped here and there so the whole integrity of the program was shut down. And this was also the time that they took, when it came for the catch shares, our history. So even though we caught a humongous amount of fish, we got no credit for that fish.

AC : I see, because it was a research fish, essentially.

CS : So we lost all kinds of history during that time that we were helping the government that did this research project. So we had one foot in the grave right then and there. And it hasn't been very good since. It's like I said, it's downhill all the time. When I was, when I used to tend bar, the guys would tell me their thoughts about fishing, and I really can understand it now. It was like when they go out, when they leave the dock and the boat goes out beyond the horizon and you look back, and as you drift out over to the edge and you look back and you know, you see that things get smaller and smaller and smaller until it finally disappears? Well, that's their problems. And when the land and there's nothing in sight, they're as free as a bird; they're at peace with themselves. The only problem is now, when they come back ashore it's just the reverse, everything comes into focus again and that sadness is there all over again. And I was pretty impressed with that, I thought that was kind of a unique way to look at it and I never forgot it, and I can understand it. It's really, it's not a happy life, I don't know too many people that are very happy. I know a lot of people that have mental problems as far as needing Prozac, because they're very depressed.

AC : This is fishermen?

CS : Fishermen.

AC : Okay, hmmm.

CS : What else can I tell you? (Laughs)

AC : Have you seen relationships change between fishermen or between families at all due to the sectors? Is that something you've seen in the community or in your own life?

CS : Well I can say in my own life, our relationship, my husband and I, we, it'll be thirty years November 21st and it's more of a partnership now than what I would consider a real marriage, just because there's no time. There's no..., you know when everything is coming at you in a negative form it's very depressing, and I'm not a drinker so I don't lose myself in bottles, but I do know a lot of people that do have those problems. Russell is not one of them, he would take his problems, and I took my problems out on myself as far as, I had a serious weight problem, and I had gastric bypass surgery. I ate my problems away and Russell was doing the same thing. He, since his, just this year, has got, he didn't go as drastic as I did, but he did have a stomach banding, because it wasn't just mental health-wise, we were both in bad shape, and he had the stomach banding and he is doing much better. He's lost quite a bit of weight, he's close to 100 pounds I believe, and feels a lot better within him, you know, physically. He would have never been able to the work that he's doing now with the weight that he had on before. But that's how we buried our..., that's how we took it out, we took it out on ourselves.

AC : And friendships, Christine, did you find that all these immense challenges...?

CS : Well, there's no, well, I have a few friendships with, actually my best friend is a girl I went to school with in elementary school and she's not related to the fishing industry. I have many fishermen friends, but I don't, we don't, as a rule, associate on the outside with them because there's really not much time for the outside as a couple. Because when Russell comes home he is so exhausted, not just physically but mentally, he eats, he sleeps, he goes, and that's it, that's his routine. I do go out, but not often. You know, if it's like weddings, or showers, or you know things like that because I've learned if I didn't..., if I waited for him I didn't go anywhere.

AC : Right, right. And I know when I spoke with Russell a few days ago he mentioned that between fishermen, friendships have changed in a way that's very negative, there's some, a lot of anger. Is that something that you see?

CS : Oh very, very much so.

AC : Especially being at the Coalition.

CS : People are bitter, very bitter, very angry with what's happening, they had no..., they've lost control. You know if they, I feel bad for the, you know, the people that don't have a real strong marriage, that, you don't need the sex, you don't , you know if you just..., it gets past that, but if you're a young couple, I..., if my life was the way it is right now when I was younger, because I'm 60, you know Russell's 65, we would've been divorced a long time ago. I mean we have a mutual likeness and affection for each other, but we have two trains of thought

a lot of times, because he's always loved the fishing industry, and like I said, I've wanted him for the past ten years, I could see it coming, going downhill and I wanted him out before it fell. That didn't happen. So now we're here and we're stuck with it.

AC : Sure, right. Now how...

CS : I don't know what to do with it. I know if the government does come up with this bail-out, from what I understand it's going to be an industry-funded buy-back. I don't see how that is absolutely possible unless you bring Wall Street in to buy them out. Because these big owners, they're big people that have multiple boats they also have multiple loans and multiple problems that go with it. So somebody with a small boat, even though they think, well the guy with the big boat is better off, that's not necessarily true, they just have bigger payments and bigger problems.

AC : I see. Now, with you being at the Coalition do you feel like you have a finger on the pulse more than maybe some fishing families? Is that, has that been to your advantage in terms of forecasting these changes ahead of time, or how has that worked for you, and for your family, your role there?

CS : Well in my role there, I don't, I try not to get involved in the politics of it, because it can change almost on a daily basis. And, so you now, you can't really count on anything, but I do stay out of the politic end of it because it's so complicated that I wouldn't even want to repeat it to anybody. My niche is fundraising, and organizing. I do, I organize a lot of the meetings, I do a once-a-year fundraiser that I've been doing since before the coalition. Before the Northeast Seafood Coalition there was another group, the Gulf of Maine Fishermen's Alliance. And they kind of rolled over into the Northeast Seafood Coalition and the Alliance, the first year that they had the fundraiser because I opened my big mouth, it was a party that one of the guys, you know, I think they needed a party, and they had gotten a vehicle and raffled off a truck, but the money that they spent on this party (laughs), was absolutely insane. And I told them, I said "What are you crazy? I thought this was supposed to be a money-maker!" and I had never done it before, but because I opened my mouth, guess who was elected the next year? So I've been doing this now for thirteen years, but I knew that you don't pay \$600 or \$700 for a band, and \$500 or \$600 for a place to house it, and then maybe another \$1,500 for food, and you know, I put on a pretty good party at a lot lower cost than that. I go around with my hat in my hand and hope to get people to help donate, and it's worked. But that was unfortunately my big mouth that got me into that, because I had told them how bad they were. "Okay, you think you can do better, it's all yours!" So that's what I do, that's what I do.

AC : Now do you, Christine, do any of the book-keeping for your business?

CS : For my business? Actually, I've been lucky that way, because at one point in our marriage, you know in the very beginning, I was doing the books, and it was just the house books. And when I was single, because I always had, you know, I worked hard and had enough money, and had myself a new car every year with money in the bank, and I had whatever I needed or whatever I wanted, really. I..., that changed, you know, when a bill came in, you know, I had one or two credit cards, and I would pay by credit card but I would pay them all off immediately. And any bill that ever came through, I always paid everything in full. So when Russell put me in charge of doing the house books here, oh my, I almost had a heart attack. I didn't know this rob Peter to pay Paul baloney. And I didn't like it, I didn't like it at all.

AC : Right (laughs)

CS : So, he took that up too. Because we do have a book-keeper, but he prepares everything for the book-keeper, so you might say he does his own books too. But while he was away this past summer, I was not only doing the house bills, but I was doing the boat, you know, getting everything ready for the book-keeper and paying between the settlement and the boat book, trying to keep things in line there too, and I'll tell you, I used to go upstairs and I'd have to have about a ten minute cry first, and then I could sit down and write out the checks, just because it scared the pants off of me. It's very worrisome. And then that's when I realized just how bad Russell really had it. You know, money is a big thing. I mean, like I say, you can't pay everybody off, but you try to please everybody by, you know, as long as they can see that you're trying, and a little bit here and little bit there. God, to me that's very nerve-wracking, and I can understand why he gets very crabby. Because like I said I had to have at least a ten minute cry before, you know, I'd put it off and put it off, until I couldn't, I had to do it, and it was tough. I'm so glad he's back, I think I hated that the most out of everything, doing the bills.

AC : Oh jeez (laughs). Now is he back for, since the summer's over, he's done squidding?

CS : Yes, yes, yes, and you know, it was his first attempt at it. He..., when he first went there at the beginning, he didn't make the very beginning of the season, which was too bad because they did very well down there. But, he had, it was the beginning of the fishing year, and he had fish that he wanted to use because he wanted to have some extra cash in the books, well, cash, extra money in the books that he didn't have to pay, it wasn't leased fish. So he took two trips and did that, and then he ended up having to get a generator for the boat. And that set us back quite a bit, not just money, but time. And by the time he got down to the fishing grounds, even though he did have help with a friend of his that

does this out of Stonington, it was the end of it, the season, the second round, there was like two weeks, two-and-a-half weeks left of the quota before they shut down. So then he had to come back again, and he tried it when they opened it up again for the third trimester, but it just wasn't successful, they had really gone out further than where he knew, and it just cost..., it was a learning experience. Next year I'm sure he'll do better because he'll have..., he'll know what he needs to do, when he needs to do it.

But now with the bank, the Gloucester Permit Bank, that's been a God-send for any of these guys in Gloucester that fish. Because when you only have to pay, I don't know, just maybe take for example codfish. I think you can buy codfish for like anywhere from thirty, twenty-five to thirty cents, for the quota per pound. As opposed to if you buy it on the open market, you can pay anywhere from a \$1.00 to a \$1.20.

AC : I see, so that's quite a difference.

CS : It's a huge difference. And we actually had our house paid for, for one week this past summer until we, because the banks, you know, we had to get a revolving credit loan of \$100,000 in order to be able to lease this fish. And as far as I can see, it doesn't, you don't go forward with it, you just keep a job over your head and your crew. Nobody goes ahead, the boat doesn't go ahead, because the boat doesn't get what it should. Russell, in order to pay the crew, because he feels so bad about having to..., having them take their share, you know, pay for some of the leased fish. It sickens him to have to do that, but that's the way it has to be because we can't foot the whole thing. But we had to take a \$100,000 loan and of course, the bank, it's a revolving loan, but the bank, they don't want the boat, they don't want the permit, they want my house (laughs). So we got the house back on the line again, but we did have one whole week that it was free and clear.

AC : Oh my goodness. Now, how, income-wise, has it been distributed for you guys since sectors started? Contribution-wise, or is it fifty-fifty?

CS : How he settles up you mean?

AC : I'm thinking more for your family, so your income versus fishing income, is it, how has that changed? You don't have to give me numbers, but just percentage-wise, how has sectors affected that? Are you now contributing more, or is that not, how does that work?

CS : Well, since I've been working, well years ago when I worked, I used to work at Gloucester Engineering, in the print room, it was great. Because we had better years then, I mean we saw \$100,000 years, and my check was my own. And with

it, you know I would buy some groceries, or I would take us out for dinner, or movies or whatever my daughter wanted, I'd pick up the incidental stuff, but that was considered my money. But when fishing got bad, my money went by the wayside. I get, I take home \$600 every two weeks, and my check money, I get \$25 a week that I can have for myself, that's it. So I keep \$50 of that \$600, so \$650 is my take-home money, and out of that I get \$50 for two weeks.

AC : Meaning the rest goes into bills?

CS : The rest goes into the house, into the bills. And there's been times that I've made more than him, unfortunately, you know, because, thank God for unemployment, but when he ran out of unemployment and he wasn't making any money, that's tough.

AC : Yeah. And when you look down the pipe Christine, what do you see for your future, are you, do you think those ten years of pushing him to get out of fishing is going to happen soon, or what are you guys thinking for your future?

CS : Well, I know he'd like to see..., you know he's got a friend that's younger than himself that he'd like to train as a Captain, but I personally don't see it happening. After next year I don't see, it's very bleak for me, after next year with the fish that they're going to allow us to fish, I see Gloucester going down the tubes, I see New Bedford going down the tubes, I see a lot of fish..., this whole industry is going to change. This whole industry is going to change because it won't be able to sustain itself, and not only the fishermen but then what happens to the infrastructure? The infrastructure is going to fall apart and once it's gone, even if you have a fleet, you've got nothing. I'm sorry, I definitely have a different, Russell's more hopeful than myself, but I don't see it that way.

AC : No, that's okay, that's your honest perspective on it, and that's profound. Now is there something about your experiences, you know, in a fishing family that you would want to share for the record or just a thought, kind of, for others who are not associated with the fishing business that you think they should know or something that stands out for you?

CS : Well what stands out for me, is you know, actually the demise. Because the young people aren't getting into it. The older fishermen they see what's going on in the industry, they don't want their children to get involved, they discourage them, "Go out and get yourself an education." But you know, that's a two-prong sword too, because then look at the kids that go to college right now and have their degrees and get out of school and then there's still no work. I don't know, I really, it... And another thing that really irritates me is what they do up at NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) as far as, you know, they say retrain the fishermen. Okay, retrain them to do what? Most of

these guys are older guys and I would be ecstatic if they would take these guys under their wings and provide them with a job where they could help. They will not hire a fisherman. And I think that is so wrong, and that really angers me, because who knows the ocean better than these guys that have been working this ocean all these years? They could put, they could give so much, and yet they refuse to hire the fishermen.

AC : In the science center, do you mean, or in NOAA across the board?

CS : In NOAA, even right here in Gloucester up at NOAA, there have been jobs open and fishermen's wives can't go up there either, they will not be hired.

AC : Hmmm, I see.

CS : Anybody that has any relationship to a fisherman is told they cannot, you know, they're told not to have relationships with fishermen other than work-related, no personal relationships. Which I think stinks.

AC : Even with all the co-operative research that Russell particularly has done and others that doesn't count then for much, I see?

CS : Nope. Well, like I said he lost all of his history because of that, and it wasn't his fault that they, he actually leased out all his fish because he had that three-year contract and they stopped him from working, so he could not work. He did not have any fish.

AC : Oh goodness.

CS : He not only didn't have any fish of his own, but all that time that was taken from him when he was working, all that history, that could've all been documented and added to his quota, but no, it wasn't.

AC : Is there an appeal process that he did to try to, or some sort of protest, or how...?

CS : It just was not accepted.

AC : I see. Hmmm.

CS : So I am very bitter.

AC : Sure, sure. And Christine is there something, we're just sort of wrapping up here, is there something I didn't ask that you feel is important to know, or maybe a memory to share for others who might listen to this in the future?

CS : I really don't know what to say, I really don't. Of I haven't said it, I just can't think of it.

AC : No, you've done excellent, you really have, it's been very, very informative and sometimes as a closing I ask if there's a, you know, a story from your history or particular memory that might stick out, and there might not be, either, but some folks have mentioned a particular person that was influential to them or a lot of fishermen will tell a, sort of a, harrowing tale or something along those lines at sea. I didn't know if there was some memory in that regard that you would want to share, and that's okay if you don't have one, but that's sort of as a closing for our interview today.

CS : Well, I'm sure Russell must have told you the story of when he went into the water and the Coast Guard left him behind, and he was there for like forty-eight hours and they finally did get him, but it was Paul Howard that was on the Coast Guard boat that saved him.

AC : Oh, he did not tell us that story.

CS : He did not tell you that story?

AC : No.

CS : Ha, yes, Paul Howard was the one that came back and searched around, they were looking for a body, because this was in the month of November off of Kodiak, not Kodiak, off of Maine, Catalina Island. And he was there searching for a body, but...

AC : Oh my goodness. What year was this? Or years and years ago?

CS : It was a few years ago, yeah, 1970s I think? But he was the Captain on the Coast Guard boat that picked Russell up.

AC : And did that affect their relationship in terms of the council in New England in later years, how did that work out?

CS : It did, it did. In fact neither one of them realized it, because Russell used to go to all the council meetings, neither one of them had, up until there was one meeting that, it clicked and you know, Russell asked him if he was the Captain on this boat, because, you know he was hysterical just about when he picked him up. He was really, his vital organs were starting to crystallize because he was submerged in the water for so long. And there was a great big hug that went

between them, with the way..., and Russell would've done *anything*, you know, you save a life, you owe a life.

But anyways, anything for Paul, but he's not very happy with what Paul's been made to do through the council, you know, being in charge of the rules and how it's going to be taking place. And I know Russell's been very jaded with how he sees the council process, you know, who's on the council, and how it's been, everything's been turning, you know that there's a lot of green people that don't really, it's all about lawsuits, and I don't know it's not about real people or fishing anymore. It doesn't seem like most of them are there for anybody other than themselves. It doesn't seem to me as if, there's always side agreements that are going on and things that people know ahead of time, and okay, you got to look for history and you've got to buy history because that's the way the council's going to go, and the outside people don't know it and the inside people do. I don't know, it's just so, the back-room deals and all the baloney and all the political crap (laughs) it's very discouraging, it's very discouraging. Everything seems to be coming hard, now, on this industry, and I don't think anybody really gives two hoots about it. Because I really do believe that Wall Street's going to come in here and take over. And all the hard work that these guys put in to try, because there was a time when conservation was needed *without a doubt*.

And now it's gone past that, and you know they welcomed it, Russell was one of the first people in fact, some of his fellow fishermen really got angry at him. When, you know, these people came around and wanting to know information and wanting to go out on the vessels to see what happens, and you know, writing down statistics. He was the first one to welcome this, because we did need regulation, and there was a time, I think he, if he went away, oh he had a back problem and he was laid up for a couple of weeks. Somebody tore his net up, cut it up on purpose because they were mad because he had an Observer on the boat. Couldn't prove who it was, but you know, they all felt that was the beginning of the end. But we did need regulation, there's no two ways about it, because we wouldn't have the fish stocks that we have now if it wasn't for regulation.

AC : Yeah, I see.

CS : But it's gone beyond sensibility now, I believe. It's, it's, I wish we had Willie Nelson in our corner, oh God don't I wish we had a, we need a "Fish-Aid". And it's not the fishermen wanting money, per say, all they want to do is work, all they want to do is fish. They all love their lifestyle, they love being able to go out and do what their forefathers did, and that just isn't going to happen for them anymore.

AC : Hmm, right. Well Christine this has been very, very informative, I appreciate your time and all the challenges you guys are going through, so thank you for taking the time today to share an Oral History with us. Is there anything else you would want to add, to close?

CS : Oh, I can't think of anything right now, but I probably will when I hang up (laughs).

AC : Okay. It's always like that. Well, then I'll say thank you again, and again this is Azure Cygler, I'm with Christine Sherman on 12th November, 2012, Christine just hold on the line real fast for me, and thanks once again.

[51:20:00]

END INTERVIEW

NOTE: After the interview, AC spoke with Mrs. Sherman and she wanted the following off-record comments added to the transcript:

Mrs. Sherman finds that when she goes out with her husband and they are with other people, she tells those people not to bring up fishing. The subject inevitably comes up and she said it is impossible for Mr. Sherman to leave the subject alone. It makes her upset because she knows talking about fishing raises his blood pressure and she hates to see him frustrated. She mentioned this is the thing about fishing – it can't just be dropped as a subject and it's hard for fishermen to let it go on their off time. Mrs. Sherman loves this industry and the fishermen and has her own Facebook account where she photographs places and people in the industry. She does this because she feels it's important for people to know about fishing and understand its challenges.