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## Davis, Wayne ~ Oral History Interview

Natalie Springuel

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# **Interview with Wayne Davis by Natalie Springuel**

*Summary Sheet and Transcript*

## **Interviewee**

Wayne, Davis

## **Interviewer**

Springuel, Natalie

## **Date**

January 9, 2015

## **Place**

Tremont, ME

## **ID Number**

VWWF\_WD\_004

## **Use Restrictions**

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## **Biographical Note**

Wayne Davis is a commercial lobsterman from Tremont, Maine.

## **Scope and Content Note**

Wayne Davis was interviewed to capture his family's experience using the Maine Working Waterfront Access Protection Plan (WWAPP) to secure the Davis wharf's future as a commercial fishing pier in perpetuity. Mr. Davis describes the important history of the Davis wharf to that region of Mount Desert Island and how, in the late 2000's, the effects of the lobster price collapse due to the recession triggered extreme pressure on the family to sell. Mr. Davis describes how his family undertook the laborious process of first understanding the legal jargon surrounding a covenant, and then applying for WWAPP funding. In a part of the coast where most working waterfronts have been converted to non-compatible uses, Mr. Davis shares the deep gratitude his family and the community feel as a result of this public funding helping ensure that the wharf will remain a working waterfront into the future.

## **Indexed Names**

Millard Billings, Dick Clime, Brian Davis, Deanna Davis, Edwin Davis, Fred Davis, Matthew Davis, Robert Davis, Dennis Damon, Ned Larson, Willow Rheault, Raymond Robins, Walter Robins, Andrew Walls, Jr., Hannah Walls, Kyle Young

## **Transcript—WD\_004**

**Key:**  
**Wayne Davis=Answer**  
[Inaudible] = Inaudible  
[Word] = Attempt at Word  
[Gesture/Action] = Gesture/Action

WWF/NOAA  
Wayne Davis

January 16, 2015

1 **[Begin Wayne Davis Interview]**

2

3 **00:00:02**

4 **Interviewer:** All right; this is Natalie Springuel interviewing Wayne Davis in Tremont on  
5 January 9, 2015. All right; so you were just saying about how you ended up in this house.

6

7 **00:00:19**

8 **Wayne Davis:** Well my family, my--my grandfather owned property across the road and in the  
9 history of his time, he become a fisherman and he'd--he had one son, my--my dad named Edwin  
10 Davis. And he raised a small family right in this house that you're sitting in. It was a small four-  
11 bedroom home and five children was raised in it.

12

13 **00:00:42**

14 **Interviewer:** This one right here?

15

16 **00:00:43**

17 **Wayne Davis:** No, not this one.

18

19 **00:00:44**

20 **Interviewer:** But the--

21

22 **00:00:44**

23 **Wayne Davis:** But the old one.

24

**Key:**  
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**WWF/NOAA**  
**Wayne Davis**

**January 16, 2015**

25 **00:00:45**

26 **Interviewer:** On this site?

27

28 **00:00:45**

29 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; so this house that we're in right now it replaced the old one and that was  
30 part of the agreement when we went and settled with the Working Waterfront Program and went  
31 in--went in full steam ahead and--and received a grant. This house could be rebuilt in a safer  
32 footprint 'cause it was going down. The old house was actually it was going down into the  
33 ground. It was--it was dilapidated. Yeah; so we kind of wanted that to stay and my older brother  
34 lives--Robert lives on the ridge right above this house.

35

36 **00:01:18**

37 **Interviewer:** Okay.

38

39 **00:01:18**

40 **Wayne Davis:** So this is how it all fits together, so we're all of us that worked the sea pretty  
41 much live right around here. So we can actually look right from our window and see what's  
42 happening in the ocean.

43

44 **00:01:29**

45 **Interviewer:** It--that is so wonderful for you. So you can see out to Tinker from here? Is that--?

46

47 **00:01:34**

**Key:**  
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WWF/NOAA  
Wayne Davis

January 16, 2015

48 **Wayne Davis:** Tinker is to the west. We can look across toward Stonington over the middle of  
49 the Bay and we--we can see--actually see fireworks when Stonington--in Sunshine they're  
50 having their celebration so we're looking in that direction, yeah across Blue Hill Bay.

51

52 **00:01:51**

53 **Interviewer:** So your family has been here for a long time?

54

55 **00:01:55**

56 **Wayne Davis:** Yes.

57

58 **00:01:55**

59 **Wayne Davis:** Right here in Tremont?

60

61 **00:01:56**

62 **Interviewer:** Yes since the '40s.

63

64 **00:01:58**

65 **Interviewer:** Okay.

66

67 **00:01:59**

68 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; yeah and--

69

70 **00:02:00**

71 **Interviewer:** What brought them here?

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WWF/NOAA  
Wayne Davis

January 16, 2015

72

73 **00:02:01**

74 **Wayne Davis:** Well you know I really can't tell you where my grandfather originated and how  
75 he happened to settle here, but I do know that he--he bought the property across the street--that  
76 big--big house that we were looking at across the street and pursued fishing, his career and done  
77 ground fishing, scalloping, and lobstering.

78

79 **00:02:26**

80 **Interviewer:** Hmm.

81

82 **00:02:26**

83 **Wayne Davis:** So he done the multi--multi-species of the fish that was available. And like I say  
84 he had my--had one son which is my dad, Edwin and he--once he served the War he came back  
85 and he pursued fishing. And grandfather died, passed away and this all got developed at that  
86 time. It was no more than just a--a piece of land that was just rough on the ledges and they used  
87 to cross over the ledges into these pea-pods at this time. If you can imagine the rowing and that  
88 was the days of the rowing. So I mean this is way back when you know the beginning of time  
89 that this has been--been a fishing port and--and an important part of the community here, so--.

90

91 **00:03:16**

92 **Interviewer:** If you were to describe this area to someone who wasn't here seeing it how would  
93 you describe it?

94

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WWF/NOAA  
Wayne Davis

January 16, 2015

95 **00:03:22**

96 **Wayne Davis:** Irreplaceable and beautiful, yeah; yeah. Many--many fishermen have come up  
97 by this cove and have told us it's one of the prettiest spots that they've ever come up by and  
98 looked in--into. It's beautifully shaped, cove--Goose Cove is and it's got a--a quaint church at  
99 the head of the--the harbor, a Steeple at Shoals and it's kind of a landmark. It's kind of--a lot of  
100 people have told me this; yeah, yeah.

101

102 **00:03:51**

103 **Interviewer:** Yeah; wonderful. And has there always been a wharf here? Has your family  
104 always had some sort of--well you said earlier it was the dories going over--?

105

106 **00:04:02**

107 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; over the top of the ledges.

108

109 **00:04:03**

110 **Interviewer:** And someone--

111

112 **00:04:04**

113 **Wayne Davis:** Across the rock, cross Mill Rock and then--and Mr. Walls--I got actually a note  
114 and I'll get this. This will help us a lot more on this narrative. This is something that you can  
115 look at.

116

117 **00:04:22**

118 **Interviewer:** Thank you.

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WWF/NOAA  
Wayne Davis

January 16, 2015

119

120 **00:04:24**

121 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah. Yeah; Andrew Walls, Jr. and his wife Hannah owned this property in the  
122 beginning. And from that point on it went into Walter Robins and he was a commercial  
123 fisherman until he decided that it was a rough--too rough a life and he went to--he went to  
124 Danvers, Mass and I don't know why he went there. But this is back in the--oh it was probably--  
125 it shows it here in the 1950s. So that gives us a date of where my--my grandfather Fred bought  
126 this property right here, as told by our neighbor that has since passed away. He wrote this up for  
127 us when he was 80 years old and as being a young person I remember my days with my father,  
128 but my grandfather I cannot recall a lot. I can just picture him. And he--you know when I was  
129 little, so I was fourth in the family, as a child. Okay; you understand that?

130

131 **00:05:43**

132 **Interviewer:** Yeah.

133

134 **00:05:43**

135 **Wayne Davis:** Okay; so it was 1950s Walter Robins gave up lobstering and moved to Danvers,  
136 Mass and sold the property to my grandfather Fred. And then from there on they--there was--in  
137 between that time there was an actual little small shed in that picture right there--is that little--  
138 that's my father right there in that little shed building wooden traps and so it really was a very  
139 quaint and very small operation. And then it developed into some--a much larger operation of as  
140 many 15 fishermen here. Actually a--an 18-wheeler could back out on a wharf that they built. It  
141 was rugged enough to hold an 18-wheeler right down there.



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WWF/NOAA  
Wayne Davis

January 16, 2015

142 **00:06:24**

143           And it would go--it was a narrow one but they would go out there and they could load  
144 that truck at the end of the dock with lobsters and fish. So it was--it's really--

145

146 **00:06:33**

147 **Interviewer:** An operation.

148

149 **00:06:34**

150 **Wayne Davis:** --it got big at that time. And when I grew up I remember a lot of those men and  
151 there's only two men that are not fishing from this property now that are still lobstering. One is  
152 in his middle 80s and one in his 70s that--no; it's three. There's one in--he's 80--he's 80--what  
153 the heck; he's 82 and then his brother is 85 or 86 and then there's another one in his middle 70s  
154 that I can recall are still alive that used to fish here in that time. [*Phone Rings*]

155

156 **00:07:03**

157 **Interviewer:** Wow; and they were fishing lobster and ground fish and scallops?

158

159 **00:07:06**

160 **Wayne Davis:** Everything that was going. Yeah; you could at that time, yes, yes.

161

162 **00:07:09**

163 **Interviewer:** So you need to get your phone?

164

165 **00:07:11**

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WWF/NOAA  
Wayne Davis

January 16, 2015

166 **Wayne Davis:** No; that's--that's fine, yeah, yeah.

167

168 **00:07:15**

169 **Interviewer:** Great. And so the people that fished around--out of your wharf were from around  
170 the cove or sort of around the larger area?

171

172 **00:07:23**

173 **Wayne Davis:** The exact--exactly. They lived up the street. They lived in the center of the town.  
174 Yeah; yeah.

175

176 **00:07:29**

177 **Interviewer:** So this wharf really played a critical role?

178

179 **00:07:32**

180 **Wayne Davis:** Yes and at that time a lot of people didn't have very good transportation you  
181 know at that time. A lot of them would walk from up center. We called it center, the center of  
182 this town and it would be by the church up here. A lot of them lived in that little area.

183

184 **00:07:44**

185 **Interviewer:** And that's considered the center of Tremont?

186

187 **00:07:45**

188 **Wayne Davis:** West Tremont.

189

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WWF/NOAA  
Wayne Davis

January 16, 2015

190 **00:07:45**

191 **Interviewer:** West Tremont, okay.

192

193 **00:07:46**

194 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; that is a little--that is the center. [*Laughs*] If you blink you go by it. Yeah;  
195 yeah, so it was big in the time and I told--got told stories about how that a man named Ned  
196 Larson he--he--he took my grandfather scalloping. And they would keep that boat down inside  
197 that granite pier you see there that was built down there; they moored down in there. It would be  
198 no ice with the rest of the cold here that--them piers could be froze clean over. I mean you could  
199 pretty much walk out there you know right out on the--this cove. That's when the--we had really  
200 cold, cold winters. And they would come down. Ned would walk from up to West Tremont there  
201 which is--uh it's got to be a good mile and--it's over a mile anyway walk and right in the winter,  
202 come down and meet my grandfather down there and they would go out and they chopped that  
203 boat out. Go around and chop it out; start up and go out and they'd--they'd be out in the Bay and  
204 at that time the scallops was in the center of that Bay in 300-feet of water. But they had  
205 equipment so they could reach them. And that was quite a feat in itself.

206

207 **00:08:55**

208 **Interviewer:** I bet.

209

210 **00:08:55**

211 **Wayne Davis:** And we still catch--today we still catch shells in our traps out there.

212

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WWF/NOAA  
Wayne Davis

January 16, 2015

213 **00:09:01**

214 **Interviewer:** Scallop--scallop shells?

215

216 **00:09:02**

217 **Wayne Davis:** Scallop shells. My grandfather Fred and Ned could have been shelling. They  
218 would come in you know and the tide would bring them into the traps and you would catch--you  
219 know you would see them inside your traps, scallop shells. And I always think about that's what  
220 they did, yeah. It was a hard life.

221

222 **00:09:16**

223 **Interviewer:** And then ground fishing right out here in the Bay too?

224

225 **00:09:18**

226 **Wayne Davis:** Ground fishing was--a lot of ground fishing was in Blue Hill Bay way before I  
227 was even thought of. **[Laughs]** You know and as slowly as the fishing got better and fishermen  
228 got better and they got over-harvested and it kept going out and out and then it got down to the  
229 what we call--well it's Green Allen which is adjacent to Frenchboro. It has a deep gorge that  
230 leaves this Bay and goes right down through there. They kept receding off and off and then they  
231 was to the southwest of Duck Island in that--in that same channel that runs from this Bay and  
232 actually reaches right out there. And then it went to Mount Desert Rock and then it's gone. And  
233 it's--that way here now to where we are to where you can't really harvest the ground fish, you  
234 know.

235

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WWF/NOAA  
Wayne Davis

January 16, 2015

236 **00:10:06**

237 **Interviewer:** So today it's all lobstering out of here or--?

238

239 **00:10:10**

240 **Wayne Davis:** Lobstering is the--is the main thing and that's what we have left. And we're  
241 teetering on that to save us. It's not a good feeling but we've been very fortunate that since '91 is  
242 when the turning point came where in my mind, in--it's a fact in my life anyway and where I fish  
243 from--it's steadily gone up and we've had steady catches on the increase you know. And our  
244 prices have not but that's where--that's where the Working Waterfront came in and--and I'm--I  
245 made the--I made the attempt to go to that meeting that you actually remembered me at.

246

247 **00:10:51**

248 **Interviewer:** Yeah.

249

250 **00:10:51**

251 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; it was for all the old--

252

253 **00:10:54**

254 **Interviewer:** So what made your family start thinking about--we have to do something? What  
255 was happening?

256

257 **00:10:57**

258 **Wayne Davis:** Well in 2008--it could have been '07; it was 2008 I believe I got that in the  
259 paperwork too, but either way we--we in that time we was--we had a beautiful year. Our catches

260 was big. I was actually in--in the process--I got another boat. I had a boat for 19 years, a  
261 beautiful boat built by a boatyard right nearby but I thought it was time to trade up and get  
262 something more with less wood in it and less maintenance and you know. So I went that way.  
263 Everything was right up; it was a great time in life and I recall--and I was young and I was doing  
264 good and you know.

265 **00:11:38**

266 And our eyes got big; that's what I call it. Our eyes got big and the old shop that was  
267 down here on the property needed to be replaced and Robert and my younger brother Brian and I  
268 and one other fisherman who was fishing here, one other non-family member fishing from the  
269 wharf here and we decided we needed to improve. We needed to improve our infrastructure. We  
270 got things going good; it was time now to do it. Well we went ahead and done it. Things went  
271 along that year and we got \$4.95 for our lobsters from Maine Shellfish in Ellsworth. Now that's--  
272 now that's--that is something and we--we was told by our lobster buyer there that we have got a  
273 wonderful market. It's unlimited; catch what you can catch. We're doing it where this is going to  
274 stay and it did and we--we--we had a big year. And it was all going rosy and we had that--we had  
275 a payment down here for that new building that you can look at right down there and we--we--  
276 we did a lot of shore-front projects to keep the--the erosion from going away and we--. So we  
277 had a mortgage, you know essentially besides our living cost, our boat payments and--and but we  
278 thought it was the right move.

279 **00:12:50**

280 But as it turned out being the next year we had the crash and the lobsters dropped 90-  
281 cents a pound and that's why--

282

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Wayne Davis

January 16, 2015

283 **00:13:00**

284 **Interviewer:** And that was in 2008, right?

285

286 **00:13:02**

287 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah.

288

289 **00:13:02**

290 **Interviewer:** When everything crashed?

291

292 **00:13:03**

293 **Wayne Davis:** Yes 2008; so in March I went to that meeting and I was with that--here about the

294 Working Waterfront and that Dennis Damon had set up for--in--in the Congress there. What

295 would you call that? It would be a--?

296

297 **00:13:21**

298 **Interviewer:** Legislature.

299

300 **00:13:22**

301 **Wayne Davis:** Legislature, yes; it was--it was a vision that he had saw and it turned out to be

302 bigger than I don't even--I think he--I don't even know if he realized how big it was. But it

303 impacted us in such a way because we was paying a mortgage and all our other debt and then we

304 had one more--one more thing happen to us. And it's tragic but my younger brother Brian went

305 through a second divorce and he was a partner, as we were a partner. So as things happen that

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January 16, 2015

306 you cannot see in life, he had to bow out, so he had to bow out of our business. So then we  
307 picked up; we had to pay him a third of this property value.

308 **00:14:07**

309 So we was in big trouble, you know. It was unforeseen and unfortunate but we did it and  
310 that's what happens when you have these things go on. And so I came to that meeting and I  
311 couldn't get anything out of it. I couldn't even say the word that the covenant; I couldn't even--I  
312 didn't have no idea and I couldn't hardly say the word honestly. It was like it was green you  
313 know and it was hard to comprehend and so we went fishing. Yeah; I come back and told my  
314 brother Robert; I said I don't know. I don't know if it's for us. I said I couldn't understand it. So  
315 we went fishing.

316 **00:14:43**

317 Well we got into that deal and we looked at what our bottom line was at the end of the  
318 year and it wasn't good. That 90-cents a pound it was really hurting us. So we was paying an  
319 awful big mortgage. It was like almost cleaning you out. That's how bad it was; you could not  
320 have anything left to get to the next springtime. So in late November, I--I called Coastal  
321 Enterprises and I talked to a girl named Willow.

322

323 **00:15:13**

324 **Interviewer:** Oh yeah.

325

326 **00:15:14**

327 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah Willow--

328



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WWF/NOAA  
Wayne Davis

January 16, 2015

329 00:15:15

330 **Interviewer:** Willow Rheault I think it was.

331

332 00:15:16

333 **Wayne Davis:** Willow came and she came and we sat in that building and we told her a story;  
334 Robert and I told her our story. And she said well I've never met in a time that's very short time  
335 they had been going in there--I don't know if it was three or four years they had been--this had  
336 been in effect--we haven't met a fisherman--we have not thought of a fisherman and a family  
337 that might want to do this. Most families would want to say after 30 years of going--wouldn't  
338 want that and just quit, sell out. And guess what? That was in our future. And I'm actually--I  
339 actually am not very proud of it and I'm glad it didn't happen but I drove a stake *for sale*. Robert  
340 and I decided this was what we've got to do and he's been in it and I've been in it roughly the  
341 same amount of time and we could not see a light you know. It wasn't good. You know I was  
342 real--real bad.

343 00:16:07

344 But I got to meet Willow and Willow give us that hope. She said what I see here and how  
345 you guys are organized I think you got a shot at this. But it's going to take some work. We can  
346 help you through this, you know this work. So my wife Deanna is very great at office work.  
347 She's super-smart so we let it go and it came--we got our taxes done and in mid-December we  
348 sat down to the kitchen table and we started talking about how we're going to write the grant and  
349 answer every question that come up and go through all the hurdles. And--and it was like--like  
350 going to school obviously. **[Laughs]** And we'd look at each other and she'd look at me and said  
351 what does this question mean? And we'd be like--this would be fraying; I mean I don't know.

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352 You know I don't know. Then we'd--we'd make a call to Willow or--or Dick Kline. Dick Kline  
353 took over for--in the process so we--we talked to him about some things and--and we got some  
354 ideas and it--and it went right along. And it was like when we got through each problem that was  
355 asked--answers, when we got the answers for each problem we celebrated.

356 **00:17:22**

357       So it was our biggest thing in my mind that we--us two has ever accomplished and one of  
358 the proudest things for our family and you know my father. It means a lot. And that's--

359

360 **00:17:34**

361 **Interviewer:** And he is still living?

362

363 **00:17:35**

364 **Wayne Davis:** No; he--he never saw this happen. But you know there's a reason why that this  
365 all happened and a reason why I'm sitting in this house right today you know. We know there's  
366 things that go on, so--. Anyway that program has been--it was--it was fabulous and we--when--  
367 when Deanna sent 16 copies of this--let me show you this book.

368

369 **00:18:01**

370 **Interviewer:** Oh wow. How overwhelming to have to go through that process.

371

372 **00:18:10**

373 **Wayne Davis:** It's pile of them. You can just pan through that right there and 16 of those went  
374 in boxes that she had--and I had done and she is wicked. Dick Clime in that--Hugh

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375 Cowperthwaite said when they opened that up they was like kids in a candy box. And they had  
376 never seen anything more complete; you know so it was such a proud thing.

377

378 **00:18:35**

379 **Interviewer:** I'm holding in my hand a three ring binder that says Davis Wharf, Robert E. Davis  
380 and Wayne M. Davis of Goose Cove, Clark Point Road, West Tremont, Hancock County, Maine  
381 Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program, the complete application packet.

382

383 **00:18:53**

384 **Wayne Davis:** That is right; yeah.

385

386 **00:18:54**

387 **Interviewer:** Wow; wow I can see why they were so happy. **[Laughs]**

388

389 **00:18:59**

390 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; yeah. That's organizing you know. They had fun; they had fun and--and  
391 we was proud and it was--. I don't know how much more you could say. It was just a very proud  
392 moment. There was no way you may express it you know and the gratitude that we had because  
393 we got our debts paid. That is what--they paid us in return of putting a covenant on this to protect  
394 this property as--as a future--always be a fishermen or a crossing this Bay out there to the island  
395 for Island Institute to--to secure the islands for whatever. This could always be an access point  
396 for cleaning up. If we--if we--if we fail at fishing, lobstering goes away, then there's no more  
397 fisheries for us to pursue--then they have first refusal to buy this back at--at a really different

**Key:**  
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398 rate--a different--yes at a very low rate and it will be continued for what they might want to use it  
399 for. And that was what this is about.

400

401 **00:19:57**

402 **Interviewer:** So--so now that you have gone through the covenant, how does that work?

403

404 **00:20:03**

405 **Wayne Davis:** We went through the covenant and we got accepted; we received a portion of  
406 money. It's a value they think not as a resale value but a value as commercial fishing. It's a--it's  
407 a reduced--it's not as a property of oceanfront, which a wealthy person could come down and  
408 develop this. It's--it was--it was based on what it was used for, so we took a--it was a formula  
409 they did and I cannot tell you the percentage but I'm thinking it's around a third--a third I think  
410 of what the value was. And I think our land come in at \$750,000 or something. This was--so the  
411 initial--the covenant was like \$275,000 yeah that we received. We had--we took that money and  
412 we paid our--our mortgage off and we built--had a ramp and float installed and there was very  
413 little left. That's how deep it was, but because we had to pay off the family member. It was deep;  
414 yeah, yeah. It was unbelievable how deep it was. So I don't know; it--in the hindsight Deanna  
415 and I actually talked about this now that you was coming over here, we--we talked about it and I  
416 said I don't honestly know where we'd have been right--. I don't know if we could have made it  
417 'cause I'll tell you personally it--this was--this was \$23,000 each one of us had to come up with  
418 in--before Christmas to pay the mortgage on this place.

419 **00:21:31**

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420 That was like--that was like you know after you've taken and pay your crew to work for  
421 you and all of the stuff to keep your boat going and you know you got your checkbook and you  
422 got--we had enough for it but we didn't have nothing left, so--. [Laughs] I don't think we--I  
423 don't think the way it's been going we could have done it you know--kept it, you know. We'd  
424 have had to do some other planning and I don't know what that would have been.

425

426 **00:21:56**

427 **Interviewer:** And do you think that there are other families who were in your position who  
428 could--you know like is this--would you recommend other families to go through this?

429

430 **00:22:06**

431 **Wayne Davis:** Oh exactly; oh yes. I--I've had several calls and I've never--I have never  
432 persuaded anybody to do it but I've told them just how it went down for us and--and I--and it's  
433 doable. And I've offered them help you know, so I mean obviously we went through it; we could  
434 you know help them. You know one--one fellow was from Swan's Island I went to school with  
435 but he's hedged on it and he's hedged on it now for two years. He actually called me up and  
436 want to do it; I don't know you know and I want my family to be secure. And then he didn't do  
437 it; yeah. So it is a lot of factors to think about.

438

439 **00:22:42**

440 **Interviewer:** What are some of the things that you remember you had to do to get this huge  
441 binder together? What were the--?

442

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Wayne Davis=Answer  
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443 **00:22:47**

444 **Wayne Davis:** Well you have to do a land assessment. You have to get a survey and you have  
445 to get--you have to get a soil test done and make sure there's no contaminants. We had about  
446 \$15,000 of cost out of pocket and it's a risk but--you know but it's--it was a risk but we got kind  
447 of persuaded you know it was going to go. All you had to do was work, you know. If you do the  
448 work this is going to happen. So you had to do the work. I mean you couldn't--you couldn't  
449 expect somebody to do it for you. You know I did a lot of legwork, a lot of work, from the Town  
450 Office to--that's another thing that was so great about it was this Town of Tremont, for the  
451 fishermen, this is a fishing community. Bass Harbor is probably the biggest port of real  
452 fishermen on--on Mount Desert Island really. We're adjacent to them by 10 minutes by boat.  
453 Tremont, the Town, the manager there came up and--and he--he was gung-ho, you know  
454 realizing that--.

455

456 **00:23:50**

457 **Interviewer:** Who was the Town Manager at the time?

458

459 **00:23:52**

460 **Wayne Davis:** That was--oh I don't know; I wish I could remember.

461

462 **00:23:57**

463 **Interviewer:** That's okay.

464

465 **00:23:57**

466 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; he's gone. He's passed; he's gone away. He was great. Oh Millard  
467 Billings, Millard Billings; yeah Millard. And Kyle Young was the tax assessor. And them two  
468 was great for us. Kyle was a Coast Guard man and he--he--he worked on the water and he knew.  
469 He lived from Eastport. I think he was from Eastport and he came here to be the tax assessor and  
470 he was great and--and this house, when this house was--I went down and I looked at Kyle and I  
471 said I got a chance to build a house and before I take the old one away I want you to come up  
472 and measure from the high water mark to whatever legal you know obligations I have to have.  
473 Both of them come. Millard and him and they were so glad that a local person could stay on the  
474 waterfront.

475 **00:24:49**

476 So everything that we went through it was all positive. I don't recall anything negative  
477 about it except a fear of not completing this--this book you're holding. **[Laughs]** We was--it was  
478 nervous--nerve-racking but like I said it was great at the same time.

479

480 **00:25:06**

481 **Interviewer:** Yeah; and I--I just turned to a page and you had to create a business plan.

482

483 **00:25:11**

484 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; we--we had a pretty good plan. Robert--Robert and I were very  
485 responsible. He--he was responsible about his debt and I was, you know. We--we're brothers and  
486 we--we--any family members that have ever owned anything together we--we banged heads and  
487 over things and you know but we worked for one cause. And we got one thing to be proud of; if  
488 anything else has ever gone wrong in our life together we did this together, yeah.

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489

490 **00:25:37**

491 **Interviewer:** This is pretty huge.

492

493 **00:25:39**

494 **Wayne Davis:** This was a big thing. And the number one reason it's really big is because of his  
495 son and that boat--well you can't see it now in this blizzard we're having but his boat is out there.  
496 He's fourth generation lobsterman and this is all set up for him. This is basically all done in a  
497 long-range future plan so he could come and--and his friend down there that's--they look like  
498 brothers themselves, he's not a family member--they're the ones that's taking this place. They're  
499 running the show here--really are. They're the ones and Robert and I are--we're getting--we're  
500 going to go out to pasture or whatever you want to call it. **[Laughs]**

501

502 **00:26:14**

503 **Interviewer:** And what's your nephew's name?

504

505 **00:26:15**

506 **Wayne Davis:** Matthew Davis, yeah.

507

508 **00:26:16**

509 **Interviewer:** Okay and it sounds like another--another one of his friends is also fishing out of  
510 here?

511

512 **00:26:21**



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513 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; it would be--it would be a young man that had no ties to fishing but he  
514 went to school--college and he--he was a carpenter. He went to school for carpentry. He--he got  
515 into lobstering. He--he was down to Corea, Maine and he lobstered for a couple high-liners down  
516 there. And then he came this way and I don't know what pursued him to come this way to live  
517 but he came this way. He showed up in my driveway where--a mile and a half where I used to  
518 live--and I'm putting bottom paint on my boat up there. I had a nice spot for it. And he come by  
519 and he said I want to be a stern man somewhere when I move down this way.

520 **00:26:55**

521 And I said well; I said you might want to go to Bass Harbor. So he went to Bass Harbor  
522 and he found a man to go with and then he went with him for a season or two and then he ended  
523 up with Robert, my brother Robert--and Robert finished out his time as an apprentice. And then  
524 he was such a good boy that--and we want to help him. So he was a--you know he was a person  
525 that would help you, so he was desirable to have which is sometimes it's hard to find you know  
526 and so he's here. And everybody calls him Matt's brother. *[Laughs]*

527

528 **00:27:28**

529 **Interviewer:** That's great.

530

531 **00:27:29**

532 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; yeah, yeah. So it's all been good there.

533

534 **00:27:33**

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WWF/NOAA  
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535 **Interviewer:** So you used the funds to pay off the debt and then build some--fix up some  
536 infrastructure down there?

537

538 **00:27:42**

539 **Wayne Davis:** Yes; yeah. Yeah.

540

541 **00:27:43**

542 **Interviewer:** Put in?

543

544 **00:27:45**

545 **Wayne Davis:** A float and an aluminum ramp for excess down there which we never had. We  
546 always used to go down on the shoreline. We had these pulley lines like you see a lot of places  
547 you know. They'll--you know you pull your pot out and pull it in but you had to cross down over  
548 some terrain. Well this was something there that we wanted for a long time but we always put  
549 our money somewhere else you know; yeah.

550

551 **00:28:05**

552 **Interviewer:** Oh okay; how about fuel? Where do you guys get--?

553

554 **00:28:08**

555 **Wayne Davis:** We have--we have our fuel delivered and there's a cement container down there,  
556 a box that holds four barrels, four of these 275-gallon barrels and a local fuel company comes

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557 and fills them and our bait is delivered from an outfit called Wyman Bait in Stockton Springs.

558 Yeah and lobsters are picked up here twice a week, yeah.

559

560 **00:28:32**

561 **Interviewer:** Oh okay.

562

563 **00:28:32**

564 **Wayne Davis:** So we're all--

565

566 **00:28:34**

567 **Interviewer:** So everything is right out here?

568

569 **00:28:35**

570 **Wayne Davis:** Everything comes right out of here; yeah, yeah, yeah.

571

572 **00:28:39**

573 **Interviewer:** So do you know that this program is looked at all over the country as a model for

574 protecting working waterfronts?

575

576 **00:28:48**

577 **Wayne Davis:** I did not know this. No; no.

578

579 **00:28:51**

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WWF/NOAA  
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580 **Interviewer:** Yeah; so--so this project that we're doing interviewing folks like you is connected  
581 to different efforts throughout the country. And people we talk to in all kinds of different areas  
582 say oh, I'm glad you're talking to someone who is in that program in Maine. I want to learn more  
583 about that program.

584

585 **00:29:06**

586 **Wayne Davis:** Yes.

587

588 **00:29:07**

589 **Interviewer:** This has really become--you know and you guys have such a great story.

590

591 **00:29:10**

592 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; it was as personal one, like I--I might not have said it in the beginning but  
593 being raised right here, grandparents across the street that started it, all we had then--all we had  
594 then--we had to entertain ourselves. You know back in our--my time we had to entertain  
595 ourselves. We'd go down and swim in the water down there in that creek, ride our bicycles  
596 around this road. This is our life. And to--to go to the program and basically sell it, you know is  
597 what we done. We did sell it but we kept it at the same time, but still at that time it gives you a  
598 funny feeling. And when the day I went and--with my brother and our wives went to Ellsworth to  
599 initially sign the paper and receive the money I said I got a funny feeling. I did. And I--I told  
600 them; I said I got a funny feeling you know. That's when I--that's when it really hits you this is  
601 going to happen you know and it was all good and everything 'til--but we did it and it's been  
602 positive. We've not had any hassles. We keep the place decent you know and--and kept up. We--

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603 we--we have not had one problem with working with Coastal Enterprises. As a matter of fact,  
604 Dick and Hugh are great--great people, yeah, yeah.

605

606 **00:30:40**

607 **Interviewer:** They are; yeah. Are there any requirements that you have to keep doing, any--?

608

609 **00:30:46**

610 **Wayne Davis:** There's no paperwork. Nope; there's no paperwork, no. They could come on site  
611 any time and inspect it you know that it isn't run down or like that. They know better. [Laughs] I  
612 think they know the clients they deal with you know what they've been with--in with it, yeah.

613

614 **00:31:01**

615 **Interviewer:** Are you guys the only family who has gone through the program?

616

617 **00:31:05**

618 **Wayne Davis:** To my knowledge; to my knowledge we're the only family of fishermen. They  
619 might have a family that sold a place that might be in Maine here that might be a cross into a  
620 place. I think there might be some that might be--let you cross down to go clamming and  
621 whatnot. I don't think there's any families; I know there are none in MDI yeah. This is the only  
622 one on MDI yeah.

623

624 **00:31:29**

625 **Interviewer:** Okay.

626

627 **00:31:30**

628 **Wayne Davis:** And there is other ones that--there's one or two other families that own property  
629 that could do it I believe. But it takes courage and it's a big step. It is--it is something you have  
630 to really think about, yeah.

631

632 **00:31:43**

633 **Interviewer:** How did you originally find out about the program?

634

635 **00:31:46**

636 **Wayne Davis:** Uh you know that's an interesting thing. You know I think I might have read it  
637 or there might have been something in the TV news. That I don't know but I--I got it I think  
638 through the Commercial Fisheries Newspaper. I believe that's where I seen this, yeah. And I  
639 couldn't see why we wouldn't fit. I was thinking right from the get-go you know; when I went to  
640 that meeting in March where you was there you know I realized when I did leave there that I  
641 think it's--I think it's for me and it wasn't for no--none of the yacht builders and stuff 'cause they  
642 was in control of their income. Where we was not in control of our income; our income we never  
643 know what we're going to get. We're--we're at the mercy of what nature gives us, you know per  
644 season. And it was pretty well pointed--pointed right out that--that was for fishing use. But I still  
645 would come home--took the whole season to decide. **[Laughs]** You know after a 90-cent drop;  
646 yeah. That didn't take it too hard there.

647

648 **00:32:50**

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649 **Interviewer:** Yeah; it's like jumping off a cliff. It's a huge--yeah.

650

651 **00:32:53**

652 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah. Yeah but we succeeded.

653

654 **00:32:57**

655 **Interviewer:** Yeah.

656

657 **00:32:59**

658 **Wayne Davis:** And Dennis Damon you know he knew my wife. He had--he had her in school.

659 Now I didn't take his class. I don't know why. But she took his class and he was a--he taught

660 commercial fishing, the business of commercial fishing, netting and twine bending and all about

661 the commercial fisheries. It was really good; Deanna loved that class. She was good at it you

662 know and he was very happy. He was here when we celebrated. It was a big day here.

663

664 **00:33:28**

665 **Interviewer:** So you had a celebration here?

666

667 **00:33:31**

668 **Wayne Davis:** Yes.

669

670 **00:33:31**

671 **Interviewer:** They came and--okay?

672

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673 **00:33:33**

674 **Wayne Davis:** Yes; we invited the news and we invited Commercial Fisheries. We--the--we  
675 invited the Warden Service. We invited all the politicians and it got around; it was a big affair. It  
676 was one big day down here.

677

678 **00:33:48**

679 **Interviewer:** That's great.

680

681 **00:33:48**

682 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; yeah, yeah.

683

684 **00:33:49**

685 **Interviewer:** And it sounds like it was very much a celebration for your family but such a larger  
686 celebration too.

687

688 **00:33:55**

689 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah.

690

691 **00:33:56**

692 **Interviewer:** Because of what it represented to this community.

693

694 **00:33:58**

695 **Wayne Davis:** Oh yeah; yeah. All--all the people were so--so happy for us, the neighbors here.

696 We're surrounded by wealthy people and there's one gentleman that's living--he's actually here



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697 from Atlanta now. He's in this huge house right over there. You can't see it in the blizzard here,  
698 but--. **[Laughs]** I just called him before you came and asked him how he liked the sights today  
699 because they--they're here for this. They wanted to see the storms and the snow and the wind and  
700 all that and they--they wrote up a great thing that they--they love to hear our boats get up--going  
701 in the morning you know and--and he actually goes out with us once in a while on occasion,  
702 yeah.

703

704 **00:34:37**

705 **Interviewer:** So around you, so you guys in the cove are the only commercial--?

706

707 **00:34:40**

708 **Wayne Davis:** No; there's another family that's in the north end and they actually used this  
709 wharf back in the--back in the early--early time you know and that's--that man is 82 and his son  
710 is one of Robert's really good friends growing up. He's 61, so no; they're lifetime fishermen  
711 over there. They have their own little spot. They have their own little entrance in a little creek  
712 and they got a wharf up in there.

713

714 **00:35:11**

715 **Interviewer:** Up in here?

716

717 **00:35:13**

718 **Wayne Davis:** Up in the north end, yeah; yeah. And their name is Larson, yeah and they're  
719 lifelong lobstermen, and like we are; yeah.

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720

721 **00:35:24**

722 **Interviewer:** So now everything is hauled up for the winter. Obviously you're not out there.

723

724 **00:35:27**

725 **Wayne Davis:** Everything is all hauled up for the winter. We--we're very fortunate that we can  
726 get enough out of the lobstering business now even at these reduced prices but the volume is up  
727 in our area in a way that would be unbelievable and we've--we've had biologists a board here a  
728 few times. I had one with me this summer and she pointed it right out as we was lifting our traps  
729 through the day that the numbers are unbelievable for Blue Hill Bay offshore here. I took her  
730 both places and she--she said to the west of here not too far it's not so good. So yeah; we realize  
731 it will probably happen here but we've had a big run. So we don't have to pursue it winter time  
732 fishing. Matthew's boat is still in but they're waiting to get the railway ice off it and this big  
733 huge cold front we've had has bothered it. So here he is stuck a little bit, but yeah the rest of us  
734 got ours out, yeah.

735

736 **00:36:19**

737 **Interviewer:** So in terms of the way that the program works you know say in 20 years  
738 lobstering is not working anymore, the--the property itself stays--it can't be sold for like a condo  
739 or something--?

740

741 **00:36:36**

742 **Wayne Davis:** That's--that's what is--that's what the covenant is about. It's protection against it  
743 from being--being sold to a--a summer resident or a wealthy tycoon that could come in, you  
744 know and just--not let anybody come here you know no access. So that would be a loss to the  
745 community; that would be one more piece of the coast of Maine gone that could be huge for  
746 commercial fisheries or aquaculture or like I said simply going out and you know securing the  
747 islands once in a great while which they're right off here. Island Institute owns a lot of interest in  
748 the islands off here that's in this Bay, so there's reasons to keep it and the obvious reason was--  
749 is--is--in Dennis Damon's mind and I believe in Dick Clime's and Hugh's all the time helping us  
750 through this it's 'cause we're family and it's tradition. And in today's time, that's getting a lot  
751 less of it. There's a lot less third--fourth generation fishermen coming right from scratch up.

752 **00:37:43**

753 My grandfather passed away of cancer here. He didn't have anything but this land. And  
754 at that time that land wasn't worth much when he passed away. But when my father passed away  
755 this land could have been worth a lot and it could have been--meant something for his time,  
756 before he passed away but he passed away pretty much with his boat which was a wooden boat,  
757 an old wooden boat and--and what his possessions was. It was very little but he passed this land  
758 onto us and this is what we--Robert and I have done for Matthew. And I'm in this house. This  
759 house is going to go with the property. This--this is--I'm living in this house and my wife and I  
760 are living in this house and I've already deeded my rights to everything to Matthew for the future  
761 for him, so if something happens to us now we got it where it's all been done, you know. So  
762 we've got lifetime residence here and that's--that's it and he's going to be able to carry on. And  
763 that's what father did for me, so I want to do it for--for my nephew Matt, yeah.

764

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WWF/NOAA  
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765 **00:38:42**

766 **Interviewer:** Well that's great.

767

768 **00:38:42**

769 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah.

770

771 **00:38:44**

772 **Interviewer:** What a story.

773

774 **00:38:45**

775 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; that's why I speak about it. Yeah; yeah, yeah, we're real proud of it, yeah.

776

777 **00:38:53**

778 **Interviewer:** You should be. It's a great--really wonderful--

779

780 **00:38:55**

781 **Wayne Davis:** 'Cause a lot of fishermen today you know they--they--they got into it and I--I

782 call it coming out of the woodwork. We call it--if we didn't have this program set up that

783 prevented entrance in the lobstering I don't know where we'd have been today because

784 everybody wanted to be one. Everybody wanted their son to be a lobsterman. They want their

785 son to be a lobsterman today 'cause they think it's a great you know money--money-making

786 thing. It's not a money-making thing to us. I like the money but I do it because that's what I did.

787 You know when I--when I watched my father come home day after day and I--I went with him, I

788 learned trades and I learned skills and I learned to respect the ocean in a way that I don't think

789 some of the younger guys do today. They're just going out and they're banging out that big  
790 money and buying everything they can buy and it's different. It's--it's a changed business. Yeah;  
791 there's still a few of us family fishermen that was--and realized what our fathers did for us and  
792 how they went and they went and they enjoyed it and they didn't do it for the money. They did it  
793 for the lifestyle. It was what they did. And that's the biggest thing about having pride in the  
794 business, yeah.

795

796 **00:40:08**

797 **Interviewer:** Your nephew is lucky that you're passing--not just the property but everything  
798 about it, the traditions and the skills and--.

799

800 **00:40:16**

801 **Wayne Davis:** He--he realized it. He went--actually went to school to be a jet pilot and he went  
802 to Cape Air and he was very successful. He graduated and he was bringing jets out that needed to  
803 have a--I guess it was a certain amount of time on them for tests. And he'd come out and he'd fly  
804 over us as we're fishing. And then one day he had something happen. He's never told my father-  
805 -or his father or he's never told me. He won't talk about it. But something happened. And he  
806 decided it wasn't right for him. He had a feeling.

807 **00:40:51**

808 So during that time he took up residency at New Hampshire where he lost the opportunity  
809 to become a Maine lobsterman because it was--he's closed out. So he had to go through the  
810 apprenticeship program. As it worked out he--he was very lucky; he--the list wasn't too deep. He  
811 did the program and he got in. It was like--it was like almost like almost the door was almost

**Key:**  
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812 shut but he got in and he was very lucky. And he's--he's been successful. He's very--very smart  
813 with his operation and he's fussy. He's the best one that's fishing from this place right now;  
814 yeah. Even though we got knowledge he's got--he's got a talent that I don't know how you  
815 explain it but he's done it. That's all I can say; yeah, yeah.

816

817 **00:41:41**

818 **Interviewer:** That's great.

819

820 **00:41:41**

821 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; yeah, yeah.

822

823 **00:41:43**

824 **Interviewer:** So for other--when--when people call you up and say how was it? Should I do  
825 this? What do you tell them?

826

827 **00:41:52**

828 **Wayne Davis:** I tell them just what I said right here. It's the greatest experience that we went  
829 through. When you have a representative come like we did like if you have Dick Clime come to  
830 your property and--and he looks it over he's going to give you the idea whether you've got it or  
831 not. And then you can go from there and that's--that's what you need. You need that  
832 encouragement. You have to have that encouragement. You have to have that yes; this can work.  
833 And we'll be--you're desirable you know; your operation will be desirable in our program. And

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834 then it's a go-for-it you know. There's no reason not to. You know and if you don't need it you

835 know that's one thing but if you need the help you know--.

836

837 **00:42:33**

838 **Interviewer:** Yeah.

839

840 **00:42:33**

841 **Wayne Davis:** It's going to do what it's--it's programmed to do.

842

843 **00:42:38**

844 **Interviewer:** It's dependent on bond funding, right?

845

846 **00:42:42**

847 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah.

848

849 **00:42:42**

850 **Interviewer:** Is that how it works?

851

852 **00:42:44**

853 **Wayne Davis:** Yes.

854

855 **00:42:44**

856 **Interviewer:** Okay; okay so it--that--that's an unknown part of the--

857

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858 **00:42:48**

859 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; they--they get bond money every so often and they just come up. They  
860 came up with this—Governor LaPage released like \$1.3 million, for the Working Waterfront  
861 Land Protection; he released it and they finally was able to do it and they're--they're in the  
862 process when I was down in the forum in March they asked me to come speak for them. And I  
863 did a--I did a speech for them in--in favor of all of the audience members. And I saw a few that  
864 looked like us at the time you know, the bewildered look. I did the best I could for them. And I  
865 think I did all right. **[Laughs]** You know--yeah; yeah.

866

867 **00:43:27**

868 **Interviewer:** Good. Yeah; is there anything else you think that we haven't covered that is part  
869 of your story?

870

871 **00:43:37**

872 **Wayne Davis:** I think we've pretty well covered it you know. As I say it started out in a--this  
873 land was an 1870s--and then as this right here will say, this piece of paper gives it all and if you  
874 would like to take it and copy it. I have to have this back. But this is great; this is really--it's  
875 1877 and the '50s and this man--this man lives--he's passed away since but he was my father's  
876 best friend growing up. I'll tell you a little quick story about him.

877 **00:44:08**

878 Raymond Robins is his name and he--he and my dad used to go out squirrel hunting and  
879 rabbit hunting and deer hunting. They lived on nothing here, like I said; this was back--way back  
880 when they grew up and kids. They had--they had to feed the family you know and that was what



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881 they did. They--they gathered up the--the gun, pea shooters and they'd go out and shoot and--and  
882 they clammed and they rowed pea pods out of here and Raymond decided this was no good for  
883 him.

884 **00:44:31**

885 He went to--he went to Rochester, New York and he worked for Kodak Company. And  
886 that was all good and fine, you know and he was doing well and he brought up--he brought up his  
887 sons and--and his home is still over there sitting but it's been tragedy since then--has happened  
888 with that property. But what the story is about is--is he watched--he watched my father raise us  
889 boys, three boys and go fishing and he watched it become from nothing to something pretty  
890 darned good. And in that little article you'll read how he--he wished that he did not go to Kodak,  
891 go to--go out of State. He wished he stayed and did it for his family. That's how much strongly  
892 he felt about this--what had happened here and how it all turned out, yeah.

893

894 **00:45:23**

895 **Interviewer:** I'll look at it today.

896

897 **00:45:24**

898 **Wayne Davis:** Look at it today, yeah. Our business that is thriving and there's money being  
899 made and a good lifestyle; yeah, yeah.

900

901 **00:45:37**

902 **Interviewer:** Great; huh. There's a--I'd love to take a couple pictures if I could.

903

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WWF/NOAA  
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904 **00:45:41**

905 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; I got a little picture I'd like to have you take of me. I've been thinking  
906 about it and I asked Deanna. I said what do you think? I said my father passed on knitting to us  
907 and knitting is an old tradition. We all--well Matthew is a new generation. He doesn't use it but  
908 we all knit nylon heads and we put this nylon parlor head in our four-foot traps, Robert and I.  
909 We're old tradition; we're old school. Knitting has gone by; knitting is not the thing no more but  
910 that parlor head is a--is a net--nylon head that stands up good in wear and you can put your rope  
911 in on top and it won't collapse it. Like the plastic that you see in the traps now, they'll sag in the  
912 traps and they'll sag the heads out of shape. This nylon won't but this is something that old--old  
913 school guys won't give up. And you'll see a little bit of it.

914

915 **00:46:28**

916 **Interviewer:** So it's for the bait?

917

918 **00:46:29**

919 **Wayne Davis:** No; it's for the--for the parlor which is the holding end, yeah, yeah, yeah so--.

920

921 **00:46:34**

922 **Interviewer:** Got it; oh yeah. Great.

923

924 **00:46:35**

925 **Wayne Davis:** So something I want to--I'll get you to take a snapshot of me knitting one of  
926 them and that will be your shot. I think it will be as great as anything.

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927

928 **00:46:42**

929 **Interviewer:** I would love it. And then I don't want to take your special document away but--  
930 but I could probably take a picture of it and--

931

932 **00:46:46**

933 **Wayne Davis:** Okay; that would be good. That would be good.

934

935 **00:46:49**

936 **Interviewer:** Because I don't want to take your--

937

938 **00:46:49**

939 **Wayne Davis:** 'Cause it's a story that will--you can--you can tune up in your story-writing or  
940 anything else and when it gets down here saying what the--how it--he says right here, like the  
941 Davis(es) represent the best in down east fishing. Well that's a pretty big statement on a man that  
942 we thought had the life by you know this--right with your fist 'cause we grew up. They looked  
943 like they had it all. But when the turn came, moving away and having a good safe income and  
944 retirement fund wasn't what it was all about. He realized that being here and having a family  
945 operation and you know being close to your sons like it was--was the thing, yeah. That's what it  
946 all was about; yeah.

947

948 **00:47:32**

949 **Interviewer:** Wow.

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950

951 **00:47:39**

952 **Wayne Davis:** I had this little old thing here that my stepfather built. He passed away and that  
953 little doggie right there, he married my mom and my mom divorced dad and that was one of  
954 those tragic things that happened, but they got divorced. And mom had this little dog and that  
955 dog is almost 15 now--next month. And she passed away and he passed away just a year--well it  
956 was the second wonter we've had--had that dog, Buffy. **[Laughs]** And she doesn't require much-  
957 -much--

958

959 **00:48:09**

960 **Interviewer:** She's a sweet little thing.

961

962 **00:48:10**

963 **Wayne Davis:** --much attention. **[Laughs]** Yeah; but he--he made this rig. He knit a lot for me  
964 and I'd pay him \$3 a head and this--this is a unique little thing. I get to sit in this chair and  
965 maybe--

966

967 **00:48:26**

968 **Interviewer:** Yeah; absolutely.

969

970 **00:48:28**

971 **Wayne Davis:** --you can shoot it from there or you could step over there and shoot it from  
972 there; yeah. And this is--this is a real old tradition right here.

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973

974 **00:48:36**

975 **Interviewer:** Oh that's great.

976

977 **00:48:37**

978 **Wayne Davis:** It is; it is cool because now--

979

980 **00:48:39**

981 **Interviewer:** So it's the funnel, right? It's what the lobsters crawl in and--

982

983 **00:48:43**

984 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; crawl in and this--this is the funnel that holds them in the bag and right

985 here you just sew it and this is just like ground fishing knot. You know you learn this knot and

986 and--as many shots as you want like that.

987

988 **00:48:59**

989 **Interviewer:** Great.

990

991 **00:48:59**

992 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; that pulling the knot up--it's repetition. It's, I don't know how many knots

993 is in this little head here, but there's a lot of them, yeah.

994

995 **00:49:11**

996 **Interviewer:** So to do one full--full one how long does it take?

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997

998 **00:49:14**

999 **Wayne Davis:** It takes me about 25 to 30 minutes to come out how ambitious I am.

1000

1001 **00:49:19**

1002 **Interviewer:** And this is still how you're doing it?

1003

1004 **00:49:21**

1005 **Wayne Davis:** This is--this has not changed since the beginning of fishing.

1006

1007 **00:49:25**

1008 **Interviewer:** Wow; that is gorgeous.

1009

1010 **00:49:27**

1011 **Wayne Davis:** See; yeah.

1012

1013 **00:49:28**

1014 **Interviewer:** Oh wow.

1015

1016 **00:49:33**

1017 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; that will do it.

1018

1019 **00:49:34**

1020 **Interviewer:** One more line. Do you mind?

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WWF/NOAA  
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1021

1022 **00:49:35**

1023 **Wayne Davis:** Okay; yeah, no, no, no.

1024

1025 **00:49:38**

1026 **Interviewer:** Get a few close-ups.

1027

1028 **00:49:41**

1029 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; this--you can always take a picture of a guy holding a lobster trap in his

1030 hands or standing on his boat.

1031

1032 **00:49:47**

1033 **Interviewer:** Yeah; this is different.

1034

1035 **00:49:48**

1036 **Wayne Davis:** But this is something, this is old school right here, yeah; yeah.

1037

1038 **00:49:55**

1039 **Interviewer:** That's great.

1040

1041 **00:49:56**

1042 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; I hope my bad nose don't show up. I had a cancer spot taken off my nose.

1043

1044 **00:50:00**

**Key:**  
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WWF/NOAA  
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1045 **Interviewer:** Oh really?

1046

1047 **00:50:01**

1048 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah.

1049

1050 **00:50:02**

1051 **Interviewer:** You can't even tell.

1052

1053 **00:50:02**

1054 **Wayne Davis:** Oh good. It's three weeks old. Went to Kittery and they carved it out of my

1055 nostril, yeah.

1056

1057 **00:50:08**

1058 **Interviewer:** Yikes.

1059

1060 **00:50:08**

1061 **Wayne Davis:** Well too much sun.

1062

1063 **00:50:10**

1064 **Interviewer:** Right; all the time. Huh. That's really cool. So what--

1065

1066 **00:50:17**

1067 **Wayne Davis:** Well I've been doing this. This is what I do when the cold weather comes and I--

1068 I usually build 100 traps a season and these go in the bag. These are all of--I mean well they're



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1069 all snow covered now but every one of those traps out there has got this head in it. This is the

1070 head that I knit and--

1071

1072 **00:50:35**

1073 **Interviewer:** So that's what this is called is a head?

1074

1075 **00:50:36**

1076 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; these are--these are wooden knots right here. That's very unique in this

1077 head. It gives it a little bit of body at the very start of it right there. You go through the nets twice

1078 to make that loop right there. So yeah; and--

1079

1080 **00:50:49**

1081 **Interviewer:** What kind of line is this?

1082

1083 **00:50:50**

1084 **Wayne Davis:** That's nylon, 100-percent.

1085

1086 **00:50:52**

1087 **Interviewer:** That's nylon; okay.

1088

1089 **00:50:53**

1090 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; 100-percent nylon, yeah. **[Laughs]** So that's something there.

1091

1092 **00:50:58**

Key:  
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WWF/NOAA  
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1093 **Interviewer:** Yeah; great. Do you mind if I take a picture of--?

1094

1095 **00:51:02**

1096 **Wayne Davis:** No; that's very important.

1097

1098 **00:51:02**

1099 **Interviewer:** This is your grandfather?

1100

1101 **00:51:04**

1102 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; something like that and that's my father.

1103

1104 **00:51:06**

1105 **Interviewer:** Your father.

1106

1107 **00:51:07**

1108 **Wayne Davis:** Edwin Davis; yeah.

1109

1110 **00:51:10**

1111 **Interviewer:** And then I also like this--the Davis Street up there.

1112

1113 **00:51:13**

1114 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; yeah, yeah.

1115

1116 **00:51:17**

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1117 **Interviewer:** That's great.

1118

1119 **00:51:20**

1120 **Wayne Davis:** I can show you in that--that book the old house and it's from an aerial shot. A

1121 helicopter come by one day and--and he shot this picture and he showed up at the--Robert and he

1122 says look. He says I didn't know if you'd like to buy this. This is part of his business.

1123

1124 **00:51:43**

1125 **Interviewer:** Oh wow. This is your--yeah right; so we're up here.

1126

1127 **00:51:46**

1128 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; there's the old house, yeah.

1129

1130 **00:51:49**

1131 **Interviewer:** That's great.

1132

1133 **00:51:53**

1134 **Wayne Davis:** And there's--there's the old shacks. This is an old beach here. We don't have

1135 this no more. But basically everything is the same except there's a ramp off here and float. The

1136 shore was done; we've done that and you can see the rocks there that they put down. The parking

1137 lot, we took the parking lot right out to his--this is where Robert lives and we took it right out to

1138 that ridge right there and we cut it right back, cleaned the house right out. And all of this

1139 shrubbery, and then as you see this house is pretty well-surrounded by four guys' lobster traps

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1140 including the wharf full right now. But this place is all cleaned out and this is--I think--right here.

1141 It's not a great photo 'cause the sun is wrong but--yeah.

1142

1143 **00:52:37**

1144 **Interviewer:** Great.

1145

1146 **00:52:38**

1147 **Wayne Davis:** That was a new one. This is before we even joined--

1148

1149 **00:52:41**

1150 **Interviewer:** This is the new building; okay.

1151

1152 **00:52:42**

1153 **Wayne Davis:** That's right. This is before we joined the Waterfront Program. We--we went

1154 ahead and we--we needed the old building gone. But yeah--and this--this harbor was also home

1155 of this--this factory, yeah. Did you ever know that?

1156

1157 **00:52:58**

1158 **Interviewer:** I didn't know that there was one here in Goose Cove.

1159

1160 **00:53:01**

1161 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; yeah.

1162

1163 **00:53:04**

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1164 **Interviewer:** Great; so where was that?

1165

1166 **00:53:05**

1167 **Wayne Davis:** That was on that shoreline right over there. There's a huge field. We call the  
1168 house a house of seven gables is--in the end of it and there's a little map of our position.

1169

1170 **00:53:19**

1171 **Interviewer:** Great.

1172

1173 **00:53:23**

1174 **Wayne Davis:** I think it's--I don't want this one. Oh this is a little--this is kind of an old-  
1175 fashioned--this is even better. Okay; you might like that one. So like I say them guys was like a  
1176 kid in the candy store.

1177

1178 **00:53:44**

1179 **Interviewer:** They must have been; yeah. What a great--

1180

1181 **00:53:46**

1182 **Wayne Davis:** You know 'cause you was part of this. You saw it and you had an idea didn't  
1183 you of what this was going to take? You kind of knew that writing the grant was going to be a--

1184

1185 **00:53:54**

1186 **Interviewer:** Major undertaking.

1187

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1188 **00:53:55**

1189 **Wayne Davis:** --a major undertaking, a lot of effort--not that hard but--but if you once  
1190 understood--. Oh here's some of--here's some of my--they threw this in and they loved this. This  
1191 is--this is my grandfather's--some of his slips way back in the old times and you know what he  
1192 got paid for.

1193

1194 **00:54:16**

1195 **Interviewer:** And so CH Rich is that where he sold it?

1196

1197 **00:54:19**

1198 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah.

1199

1200 **00:54:21**

1201 **Interviewer:** Was that--?

1202

1203 **00:54:22**

1204 **Wayne Davis:** These are lobsters here. Yeah; these are lobsters. You can see in the prices of--of  
1205 gasoline and this payout.

1206

1207 **00:54:30**

1208 **Interviewer:** Oh great 1945--that's great that you have this stuff.

1209

1210 **00:54:35**

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1211 **Wayne Davis:** I know it. I've got a jar. I can bring that jar over and show you. Here's some of  
1212 the--here's a fish. There's some fish ones. Fifteen gallons of gas was \$3.45 in '45, see. Nineteen  
1213 forty-five, \$3.45, 15 gallons of gas.

1214

1215 **00:54:59**

1216 **Interviewer:** Boy and cod huh?

1217

1218 **00:54:59**

1219 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; and he had--what did he have there?

1220

1221 **00:55:02**

1222 **Interviewer:** Wow; is that--yeah haddock.

1223

1224 **00:55:04**

1225 **Wayne Davis:** Scrod haddock and he had 1,700-some pounds and one halibut 22-pounds. He  
1226 got 60-cents--66-cents a pound for it. **[Laughs]**

1227

1228 **00:55:15**

1229 **Interviewer:** Wow; these are great.

1230

1231 **00:55:17**

1232 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; yeah. Yeah; and I wrote that story there about my father, yeah. That was--  
1233 that was quite a--that went into the Fishermen's Voice, yeah. I got these--I'll show you. I'll bring

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1234 them out here. This old--this old jar was right in--this old jar was right in the--in the old fish  
1235 shed.

1236

1237 **00:55:41**

1238 **Interviewer:** Oh my goodness.

1239

1240 **00:55:43**

1241 **Wayne Davis:** It's dusty. **[Laughs]** That's so old some of it is a little hard to read but there's  
1242 really some--really that you can read. And--

1243

1244 **00:56:01**

1245 **Interviewer:** Wow.

1246

1247 **00:56:03**

1248 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah.

1249

1250 **00:56:04**

1251 **Interviewer:** From--okay; so that was like work on the--on the motor or something?

1252

1253 **00:56:09**

1254 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; that was a motor. Yeah; that's--I got some really--. Oh here's some right  
1255 here. Here's one that you just looked at. That was the actual slip right there. It shows what they--  
1256 that you just saw and copied. So those are the bigger ones right there.

1257



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1258 **00:56:25**

1259 **Interviewer:** Boy that's neat.

1260

1261 **00:56:26**

1262 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; these are all things that he done, right here, all of them. You know--

1263

1264 **00:56:31**

1265 **Interviewer:** Wow.

1266

1267 **00:56:33**

1268 **Wayne Davis:** --all catches, yeah; so we found that and it was really kind of cool.

1269

1270 **00:56:37**

1271 **Interviewer:** That's very cool that you found that.

1272

1273 **00:56:39**

1274 **Wayne Davis:** The old jar.

1275

1276 **00:56:43**

1277 **Interviewer:** That must have been so fun to find that.

1278

1279 **00:56:45**

1280 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; we--we looked back upon it and think you know what he was paid for

1281 what he caught you know.

Key:  
Wayne Davis=Answer  
[Inaudible] = Inaudible  
[Word] = Attempt at Word  
[Gesture/Action] = Gesture/Action

WWF/NOAA  
Wayne Davis

January 16, 2015

1282

1283 **00:56:51**

1284 **Interviewer:** Your grandfather?

1285

1286 **00:56:54**

1287 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; Fred. That says 25--gasoline at \$5.25; 25 gallons of gas right there, yeah.

1288 He had 204 pounds of lobster. It looks like it was 35-cents a pound. That's what I'm going to say

1289 it was 35-cents. [*Laughs*]

1290

1291 **00:57:18**

1292 **Interviewer:** Yeah.

1293

1294 **00:57:19**

1295 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; in '45, yeah. See those things are important.

1296

1297 **00:57:23**

1298 **Interviewer:** Those are--those are treasures.

1299

1300 **00:57:24**

1301 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; you don't see too many of those--this old thing.

1302

1303 **00:57:26**

1304 **Interviewer:** Absolute treasures.

1305

Key:  
Wayne Davis=Answer  
[Inaudible] = Inaudible  
[Word] = Attempt at Word  
[Gesture/Action] = Gesture/Action

WWF/NOAA  
Wayne Davis

January 16, 2015

1306 **00:57:28**

1307 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; and they're still in pretty good shape even though--you know. **[Laughs]**

1308 Yeah; this is another one, a big one. I don't know what this one says; probably one that you

1309 copied too, yeah. He was--he was a long-liner.

1310

1311 **00:57:41**

1312 **Interviewer:** Okay.

1313

1314 **00:57:42**

1315 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; he went out there with the hooks.

1316

1317 **00:57:49**

1318 **Interviewer:** That was another era wasn't it, long-lining?

1319

1320 **00:57:52**

1321 **Wayne Davis:** Yeah; that was.

1322

1323 **00:57:54**

1324 **Interviewer:** Well that's neat. I'm going to try to see if I can get these.

1325

1326 **00:58:16**

1327 **Wayne Davis:** I think this old jar is an antique in itself, too--looks of it.

1328

1329 **00:58:19**

**Key:**  
**Wayne Davis=Answer**  
[Inaudible] = Inaudible  
[Word] = Attempt at Word  
[Gesture/Action] = Gesture/Action

**WWF/NOAA**  
**Wayne Davis**

**January 16, 2015**

1330 **Interviewer:** It does with that lid; yeah. That's cool. There--I need to have you--actually I can  
1331 just turn this off at this--.  
1332  
1333 **00:58:46**  
1334 **[End Wayne Davis Interview]**