

Name of person Interviewed: Patricia Gerrior [PG] [Note: Pronounced like 'Jerrior']

Facts about this person:

Age (if known)

Sex Female

Occupation Fisheries biologist (retired)

If a fisherman (if retired, list the ports used when fishing),

Home port,

and Hail Port (port fished from, which can be the same)

Residence (Town where lives)

Ethnic background (if known) European American

Interviewer: Janice Gadaire Fleuriel [JGF]

Transcriber: Janice Gadaire Fleuriel

Place interview took place: New Bedford Harbormaster House

Date and time of interview: Sept. 23, 2007

INDEX / KEYWORDS

KEYWORDS: Women; Fisheries biology; Fisheries science; Fisheries service; Fisheries observer program; Regulations; Stock cycles/declines; Woods Hole; Port of New Bedford; Fish auction; Marine mammal/right whales research; Commercial shipping industry;

[Start of File WAV_0035_001]

[00:00] Retired fisheries biologist;

[End of File WAV_0035_001]

[Start of File WAV_0035_002]

[00:00] Retired fisheries scientist, 35 years working for federal government; Born Cambridge, Mass., also lived in Arlington and Weymouth Mass.; Family background Ireland and Nova Scotia; Father built own recreational fishing boat when she was young; Majored biology Colby College, January independent studies at Woods Hole; Early experience as a woman on a research vessel;

[03:29] Overcoming the reluctance to putting women on research vessels; Started working late 1960s; Loved going out to sea; Usually not seasick, got seasick once inexplicably; Doing marine mammal/shipping industry work, aerial surveys for right whales at end of career; Plane motion worse than boats for feeling sick;

[06:31] Started working with commercial fisheries before agency was Dept. Commerce/National Marine Fisheries Service; First permanent job was librarian of the scientific library; Statistical agent at New Bedford auction 1970s, very early 80s; Visit to auction hall day before interview brought back many memories; High regard for Captain Woody Bowers;

[09:20] Story of going out on a fishing boat—lots of captains saying they'd take her and then backing out when she was ready to go; Captain Lars Sovik/FV Valkyrie took her—others said he would if he had said he would—word spread fast around the fleet about a woman on board, caught lots of fish that trip and scallop bycatch she shucked/kept, lobster "bakeoff" on board,

[End of File WAV_0035_002]

[Start of File WAV_0035_003]

[00:00] Valkyrie trip continued—Captain's wife unhappy afterwards she'd been taken out, but now they're good friends; Later went out on a scalloper for research, offloading in Boston because of strike in New Bedford; Offshore crab boat trips (primarily out of Fall River)—did master's research on that fishery; Other trips—tuna buy boat, menhaden, seine gillnet, tuna purse seine, research trips on Polish and Soviet vessels;

[02:39] Thoughts on 200 mile limit issue—fishermen needed to live with ramifications such as price drops after it passed; Fleet developed after limit passed, perhaps to point of overdeveloping; After New Bedford, worked with developing underutilized species—squid, dogfish, mackerel; Difficult to sell to industry, hired because of good working with relationships with industry; Those species no longer underutilized;

[04:46] Been retired about eight years, not in best position to comment on issue of how things are today with declining/rebuilding stocks; Sad to hear cod so devastated; Always troubled by difficulties fishermen and scientists have communicating, would

encourage scientists to talk with fishermen on their level/work with them; Able to bridge some of that in years she worked here; Sea experiences helped her appreciate fishermen's hard work, knowledge and understand need to work cooperatively with them in ongoing way;

[End of File WAV_0035_003]

[Start of File WAV_0035_004]

[00:00]Could see cyclical nature of stocks during her time working; Industry did get to a point of being overcapitalized/very efficient, new equipment; 1977—perhaps some declines could still be blamed on foreigners but now can't; Nitrogen issue one thing to look at; Fisheries scientists originally focused a lot on individual species vs. ecosystem; Scientific data/measuring just a drop in the bucket of what needs to be looked at; Need look at multiple ports, months, years, ocean conditions, etc.

[02:55]Plankton study methodology;

[05:16]Not many research gear changes during her working time; Just brought a new research vessel to Woods Hole, will need to spend a year calibrating it against current research vessel; Fishermen would say they weren't using right gear but it was comparable, or that sampling where they know no fish but the research needs to sample randomly for an overall assessment which will include areas with no fish, some fish, lots of fish; Research is looking at the long term and all the species;

[08:10]Hard to comment on regulations issue because of different work last 8-10 years, but would see others working on management areas and it was so complicated, put a huge burden on fishermen to keep up with it all; Other side of the story is that's what came out of having public input in fisheries council process; Taken same avenue with right whales work, seasonal management areas;

[11:24]

Not just for commercial shipping, these areas now overlaid on other fishery management areas; Trying to look at rerouting with commercial shipping; Shipping industry way more complex than fishing—multilayered, international, affects everyone in country because so much is imported on ships; Public and captains want to protect whales—difficult, they don't see them, whales don't necessarily move out of way; still doing small amount of consulting on that issue, has a passion for it;

[14:30]Enjoys working together, encouraging input from the industry to find solutions; Work with the fisheries observer program; Initially put observers on foreign vessels after 200 mile limit, because they could come in for underutilized species; Eventually put people on U.S. fishing boats; Fisheries observer is a difficult job, often springboard to something else; Need physical and mental stamina for it; Foreign vessels observers some cases only English speaker except captain who might not talk to them;

[19:36]Foreign vessel observers were in regulatory/sampling role, work with captains over regulatory problems; Domestic observer for most part did not include regulatory, primarily sampling/documentation; The "observer factor" changing how captains fish when observer on board; One captain who fished closed area despite observer on board and Coast Guard flyover; Went from observer program to right whale/ship strike work; Aerial surveys initially Coast Guard helicopters, then to a NOAA twin engine plane; Lots of flights, some way out, from half hour to 10 hours; Attended

monthly port meetings Boston, Rhode Island during shipping industry work; New ground for the agency;

[23:30]Misses it, good to continue consulting; Would like to see festival visitors leave with better appreciation of how hard a life fishing is, what they give up to bring food to tables; Would like people to understand more women are involved in so many aspects; Member of Women's Fisheries Network, great for finding out how women are involved; Also need understand not quite as easy for women to do these jobs as seems right now, issue of woman in "a man's job;" Quite a lot of work to work into mutual comfort level with people in New Bedford industry; Learned a lot of new swear words; After a while people stopped taking note when she was working down at docks slinging, sorting, weighing fish;

[27:13]Doesn't think a woman had done that work before her; Interesting experience trying to get out on a fishing boat and having captains back out; Lars Sovik was a highliner; Auction hall would have been good place to do interview; Experience in auction hall, not being a morning person, some fishermen having had bad trips or not telling the truth/her calling them on it; One showoff captain in auction hall pushing her up against wall, thinks it was Woody Bowers who told him never do it again; Usually some one would step up and put an end to things like that; Fond memories of Woody Bowers;

[End of File WAV_0035_004/End of Interview]

TRANSCRIPT

[Start of File WAV_0035_001]

[00:00]

JGF: Today is Sunday, September 23rd. This is Janice Fleuriel. I'm interviewing Pat Gerrior [pronounced like 'Jerrior']. Is that correct?

PG: Mm hm.

JGF: We're in the Harbormaster's House at the New Bedford Working Waterfront Festival. And I have written down on my information Pat that you're a fisheries scientist.

PG: Yes I'm a fishery biologist.

JGF: OK.

PG: Retired now.

JGF: Wait—hold on one second...

[Interrupted/End of File WAV_0035_001]

[Start of File WAV_0035_002]

[00:00]

JGF: OK! So you were saying that yes you are a fisheries scientist.

PG: I am a fisheries scientist but I am retired now.

JGF: Oh...OK.

PG: Yeah. After almost thirty-five years working for the federal government.

JGF: Wow... Wow.

PG: [laughs]

JGF: You have seen a lot of changes then, probably.

PG: I've seen a *lot* of changes. A real lot. So I—I worked actually in New Bedford prior to the passage of the two hundred mile limit bill.

JGF: Oh...this will be interesting.

PG: Yeah.

JGF: Before we get into that I just want to—If you could tell me where and when you were born. And, you know maybe a little bit about your family's background coming to this area, if they even are in this area.

PG: OK. Yeah.

I was born actually in Cambridge, Mass. And spent a couple years living in the Arlington area and then moved to Weymouth where I lived most of my life. My parents, on one side are from Ireland. On the other side, they're from Nova Scotia. So we've got a little French and Irish mix there.

And, actually my father always had an interest in the ocean. And I think he probably is the one that sort of peaked *my* interest in the ocean because when I was young he built his own recreational fishing boat. Small boat, about eighteen, twenty feet. And, we used to go fishing. And I really loved that.

So. That's kind of where my heart and my interest went, I guess, when I was quite young.

JGF: I see. Yeah.

And then... So, when you went to school you chose to major in...?

PG: I majored in biology. I happened to go to Colby College in Maine. And, one of the things that we had was a month of independent study every January. And, I *did*,

two of my independent studies interestingly enough down at the fisheries service down in Woods Hole. And so again, there's another launch into all this.

And between the two independent studies, I actually worked there one summer. And when I did that I went out to sea. So I made my first research survey cruise quite a while ago.

And, at that time there weren't a lot of women going out on the research vessels. Rachel Carson was one of the first women that had gone out, on our research vessel. And there weren't a lot of people that went out between her, and myself and a couple of other people. They really didn't send a lot of women out.

JGF: Wow...

PG: And in order for a woman to go at that time you had to have two other women, so you would fill a complete cabin on the ship. And so there were some times where you'd get scheduled *on*, and then you'd get scheduled *off*, because of the male-female dynamics.

And, there was still some reluctance on the part of the scientists to put women out there. But we—We worked on that [laughs].

JGF: Yeah! What was the reluctance around? Just the dynamics, or...?

PG: Well, I think it was the dynamics. But I think it was also, this thing about—you know, is it a good place to send women out there to sea? And, you know, there's always that thing that, women were the ones to first get seasick on the vessel before the men. And I don't think that's really true.

JGF: No?

PG: But I used to go through that every time I'd go out on either the commercial fishing vessels—which I did go out on later, or the research vessels. You'd walk over near the railing and they'd say, "You sick? We know you're sick. You're sick, just tell us. Go ahead, do it. Get sick." And I'd say, "I'm *not* sick. I'm just looking over here!" you know.

But—I don't know, you know, science had been, male dominated and it still is to a great degree. So, there was some reluctance to put women out there. But now... You know, it's a government agency, where I used to work. And now, things are a lot easier for women to go out. [laughs]

JGF: Yeah... Because of the equal opportunity and all that?

PG: Yeah. Yeah.

[03:29]

JGF: Now when you said you had to work on it, getting the reluctance to go away...

Was that simply by, showing up and proving that you could do it? Or was it more like advocacy on women's part?

PG: Well, it was a little of both I'd say. You know, when you went out there I always felt like, well...you know, we're going to give a hundred—in fact, we're going to try to give *more* than a hundred percent. So that we can—you know, hold our weight and a little bit more. To show these people that yeah, we could do the job.

I know one is—as I spoke to yesterday when I was in one of the seminar panels. We actually were scheduled to go. And... We were scheduled and the next thing you know, we were *unscheduled*. And... So I—I, you know queried what *happened*. And they said, "Well, basically we need to send some of these new technicians we have out there." And of course, they were males. And I said, "Mmm... You prepped us all

to go. We've all made arrangements—all the women that were going to occupy this cabin." And I said, "I have a bad feeling here." So I went to my boss at the time, who happened to be the lab director. And I said, "You know, I think we've got a problem here." Because he asked me "Are you ready to go?" And I said, "No! We've been pulled off the cruise." And he goes, "What do you mean?" And I said, "Well, they've put men out in our place instead." I said, "It almost seems to me like we're being discriminated against."

JGF: [laughs]

PG: And... Wow! There was a big buzz. And a lot of discussion and the next thing you know they put us back on the cruise.

So... In some respects yes, you had to do a little advocacy at that point. But this again was—you know it was quite a while ago.

JGF: Yeah. Right.

PG: Because remember I worked for thirty-five years, so. [laughs]

JGF: And when did you start working?

PG: Well... I started when I was in college. So, if we *really* need to give that date [laughs] I started back in I think it was either sixty-eight or sixty-nine.

JGF: OK. So the late sixties anyway.

PG: Yeah.

And... I *loved* it. I loved going out to sea.

JGF: You did?

PG: Yeah.

JGF: You never got too sick or anything?

PG: You know it's funny. I *didn't*. For years and years and years. And then, later in my career, quite a bit later, I was actually out on a commercial fishing boat. And at one point, *yes*. I did get seasick once. And I was like, "Wow! This is weird. Why would this creep up on me years later?"

JGF: That's bizarre. Yeah, you never figured it out.

PG: No. No. But it—I—you know you got sick, and you moved on. And that was it. I didn't linger. Like, some people really get debilitated. And it's terrible.

But the other thing that happened—At the end of my career I was doing actual, aerial surveys. I was doing aerial surveys for right whales because I switched on to doing marine mammal work the last—working with the shipping industry.

And... Actually, the survey, the airplane, the way we would survey, that motion in the plane was worse than going on a boat.

JGF: Was it the side to side kind of...?

PG: Well, yeah. It was banking. It was circling. And it was no horizon. It was no, no ability to stabilize yourself. So I found that motion even more—much more than disturbing than going out on a vessel. Which is interesting. So...

But I think I got worse as I got older. And why would that be? [laughs]

JGF: Yeah. I don't know.

PG: You know I couldn't—I couldn't fathom that myself.

JGF: Maybe that has to do with people's balance getting—and everything about your equilibrium throwing off...

PG: I don't know.

JGF: No idea?

PG: Don't know. But...

[06:31]

JGF: So you—It sounds like you've done a variety of *kinds* of work within your scientific field.

PG: I have.

JGF: Could you talk a little bit about those?

PG: Yeah.

When I worked for the government, at that time it was—when I initially the [?] commercial fisheries. Which predates, probably, almost everybody that we could think of. But...

Then the agency switched to become in the Department of Commerce and became National Marine Fisheries Service.

And, when I first started out they actually said to me in my second independent study month they said, "Any interest in a permanent job?" I was like "Yeah! Of course."

And I put in all the paperwork and then had the opportunity right—I think it was right about the time I graduated from college. To become the librarian of their scientific library. And I was like, "Well, do I really want to do this?" But it was a permanent job and I said, "Yeah. Let's do it." You know, it's a foot in the door. And I asked them at the time I said, "If I do this, can I still go out to sea?" And they said "Yeah." So I was the first and only seagoing librarian.

JGF: [laughs]

PG: [laughs] And from *that* job—and I actually did some plankton work while I was a summer student. And from these jobs, I actually applied for a job to come over and work in the Port of New Bedford, as one of the statistical agents that would go to the auctions every morning. And go down on the docks and sample the catch. Interview the captains, etc. So I did that. I worked in New Bedford here in the seventies and the very early eighties as a port agent. And really, got to work a *lot* with the fishing industry.

JGF: Yeah. Now... Paul Swain...

PG: Paul Swain. Paul Swain was before me.

JGF: I interviewed him last year or the year before I think. OK.

PG: Yeah. And, Paul worked with a guy named Jack Mahoney. And every time I'd go to do something everybody'd say, "Oh, are you taking Mahoney and Swain's place?" And I'd say, "*No one*, could take his place."

JGF: [laughs]

PG: "So, no. I'm not filling their shoes. I'm trying to do the same job. But I'm not filling their shoes." So. Yes, I know both of them very well. So that's—Yeah, that's the job I did.

JGF: So you saw the old auction and all that?

PG: Well. You know, yesterday I went to the auction hall and that was really neat. Because I went in there and I said, you know, I have a story or an association for almost every one of those boats up on the board there.

JGF: Oh....!

PG: Everybody--. So I could go in there and tell you something about almost every one of those boats, and stuff like that. And the captain that's *pictured* in the middle of

that auction board is someone that I knew very well. And I think he's still alive—I hope he is.

JGF: What's his name?

PG: Captain Woody Bowers.

JGF: Oh... I've heard a lot about his name. Yeah.

PG: Oh...yeah yeah. Captain Woody Bowers of the Ellen Marie. And his boat is right to the right of him as you face the board. It's listed on the auction board there. And he's one of the first captains I ever met when I came here. In fact, Jack Mahoney introduced me to him.

JGF: Huh!

[09:20]

PG: So... Yeah, I have a lot of good memories of working here. It was an incredible education.

And one of the things I did while I was here was... I said, "You know, I really want to go out on one of these boats and see what it's like to fish." And so *all* the captains would say to me "*I'll* take you out! *I'll* take you out! Don't worry I'll take you out when you're ready to go." Well, when push came to shove I approached them and I said, "OK, Captain. You know, I'd really like to go. Can we try to make arrangements to go?" And one by one they all dropped by the wayside. And they said, "Ah... well, I don't think I can take you. I don't think my wife would be happy with that."

JGF: So it's because you were a woman not because you were a scientist?

PG: Right. Yeah, it wasn't the scientific connection.

JGF: Interesting.

PG: Yeah. Yeah.

But *one captain*, had said he'd take me. And the guys on the boat said, "If he told you he'd take you, he will take you." And he was one of the highliners here at the time. And he came up one day to my office and he said, "We're going Saturday. We're going to leave at one o'clock. If you want to go be over on the dock at such and such a time and such and such a place." And I said, "I'm going."

JGF: Great! Who was that?

PG: Captain Lars... Now I'm trying to think, why can't I think of his last name? He was the captain of the Valkyrie. He was a highliner at that time. [Lars Sovik, per *South Coast Today* at archive.southcoasttoday.com/daily/12-96/12-12-96/a01lo004.htm]. And... I showed up and I went with them and I don't think he had told anyone on the crew and possibly his own wife that he was taking me out. But as soon as I got out there word spread throughout the fleet. That I was on the boat. And not only did the word spread to the fleet, it came back into the land. And it wasn't completely well received. I think a lot of the wives were uncomfortable. That there was a woman out there.

JGF: So I take it that this was at a time when there weren't even really women going as deckhands or anything like that?

PG: No. No. There might have been one woman that I can think of that fished at that time. And she fished on a smaller boat that operated out of here and out of Westport. And they did shorter trips.

But... I'm not even sure she was completely regular on the boat. But.. No, there weren't women.

And... I went on my own time. I took vacation time to go. Because I really wanted to see what it was like out there.

And I couldn't have chosen a better boat really. Because he—They fished hard. They fished well. And we got *lots* of fish.

JGF: Was it ground? Or scallop?

PG: It was ground fish.

And... You know, that was another interesting thing. We got—We were fishing very hard bottom. And so we got, you know as bycatch, we got a *lot* of scallops. And of course they would just shovel them and of course, I *love* scallops. So I said, “Oh, gosh! I'm going to see if I can shuck some while I'm here.” [laughs]

JGF: [laughs]

PG: So I shucked them. You know, when I was sort of between watches. Because I stood a watch right along with the fishermen. I worked the same schedule they did. And, so I shucked scallops. And I think I brought in about sixty pounds of them. Which, of course, I was tickled with.

And, everybody on the boat said to me, “Oh, sell them. Sell them to the shack guys. Sell them.” And I said, “No. I have no interest to sell them. I really—they're worth more to me than the money!” [laughs]

JGF: Yeah! [laughs]

PG: So... Yeah, they got lots of ground fish. They got so much that I—I seem to recall the trip that we brought in about, roughly about sixty or seventy thousand pounds.

JGF: Hmmm!

PG: And this was probably for five days of fishing.

JGF: Wow...

PG: So there were days then...and some of the catches where we were literally up to our—up and above our knees in fish from each catch.

JGF: Wow...! Wow.

So you were actually right part of the crew doing all the work too?

PG: Yeah. Yeah.

I was right down on deck with them. Sorting, throwing. And I probably wasn't anywhere near as skilled as they were. In fact I know I wasn't. Gutting and ripping and everything else. But... I did everything I could to help them. And, fit right in. And of course I proved also to be, some entertainment to them out there of course you know. One of the things they wanted to do while I was out there—because I think this is kind of a good story. Was they all started boasting about how they cooked the best lobster.

JGF: [laughs]

PG: And so they said, “We're going to have a lobster bake-off.” And I said, “Fine by me.” I didn't tell them I don't even *like* lobster. But I let them go through it. The captain got into it. A couple of the other guys got into it. And I had to sit there and *taste*... So.

JGF: [laughs]

PG: I had to taste and say who's was best [laughter]. Of course I think the captain ended up eating most of it anyway.

[Phone ringing/Paused/End of File WAV_0035_002]

[Start of File WAV_0035_003]

[00:00]

JGF: OK. So...

PG: Yeah. So we had a lobster bake-off. We got lots of fish. And we had a really good trip. The only downside was, is that—as I said, I think some of the captains, or the cr-. Not so much—well, the captain, and some of the guys on the boat, their wives were very unhappy. But... You know I think *my* perspective—and I don't think I could necessarily share this with all of them—was that, really—and I'm not speaking specifically to that boat—but, I mean...I certainly didn't need to go to sea to rendezvous with any of these guys. If I wanted to. But that wasn't [laughs] my interest, you know? I really wanted to go for the experience.

So... And it was a great one. And I happened to see the captain—I went out to eat with someone that night and I happened to see the captain and his wife in the restaurant that same night. And I—I could tell you even though she's a *very* good friend of mine now, she was, *very* unhappy with me that night.

JGF: Oh... Did you know her before that?

PG: I did. I mean, I just, you know knew who she was. But... Oh, boy, she—The person I was with said, "God! She's giving you some wicked looks." And she will admit to this day yes she was [laughs].

JGF: Yeah... That's interesting.

PG: Yeah. So...

And then I had the experience to go on—That was a dragger, I went out on a scalloper. Made a trip and *that* was to do research. So I went out there to do sampling and things like that.

And *that* was, pretty interesting too. Because we ended up *not* offloading in New Bedford. Because there was—I think a small strike going on here. We ended up going actually to, Boston. And, very rarely at that time—in fact, *never*, did scallopers ever sell in the Boston fish auction. But we did because they couldn't sell *here*. So we went up there and offloaded.

I went out on a—I made two or three trips on an offshore crab boat. That was pretty interesting.

JGF: Yeah. We don't here too much about that.

PG: No. It's a deep sea red crab. And they operated primarily out of Fall River then. And, I ultimately did my master's research on that fishery. And that's why I was going out primarily.

Let's see what else did I do? I went out on a tuna buy boat, a boat that would go out and buy bluefin tuna and yellowfin tuna from some of the guys that were out there fishing.

And... I went out on a menhaden boat.

I went out on a seine gillnet boat out of Scituate.

And then I made a tuna purse seine trip, too. Out of here.

And... While I was doing, you know some of the research trips I went out on Polish and Soviet, vessels.

JGF: Wow...! Like the big factory...?

PG: Yes.

JGF: Wow! Huh.

PG: Yeah. So I got some good experiences and some interesting perspectives.

JGF: I bet you did.

PG: Yeah.

[02:39]

JGF: What do you think about the whole, 200 mile limit thing?

PG: Well... You know, it was interesting while I worked here. You know, people would talk about it a lot. You know, this was prior to the passage. And they'd say, "Oh...", you know, "we've got to get this bill passed..." and I said, "You know. It's happening. It's going to be a process. This is the government. Nothing happens overnight. But *understand*" I said to them, "there'll be some ramifications to this. When it comes to pass." Well, after it got passed I can remember a couple of the captains coming up to me and saying, "Oh...! You got to bring the foreigners back! The prices have dropped. You've got to bring the foreigners back. The prices have dropped." And I said, "Hey. You *wanted* this bill. You *got* it. You *live* with it now. This is the way it is. There's going to be some good and bad to everything we do here."

And then, of course some of the *good* if you want to call it that, that happened afterwards, was the fact that there was a lot of development of our—of the vessel fleet afterwards. And then we got to the point where the government *encouraged* that. And then we got to the point where perhaps we overdeveloped.

But by that time I had left New Bedford. I actually *then* went into working on—When I left New Bedford, I left to do something a *little bit* different but it was fisheries related again. And it was with, underutilized species. Because at that time we did, believe it or not, have some species that we felt were underutilized. Such as squid and dogfish. And mackerel. And so I worked on some of that for a few years. And that was—That was difficult, to sell that to the industry, to try to get them... And that was one of the reasons I was *hired* because they knew I had a good working relationship with a lot of the industry. And to try to get them to understand that, there's a fair amount of mackerel resource out there. Fish it! But of course they were concerned that they weren't going to get the price or be able to have the markets in place to sustain it.

But now, for the most part I think we've—That's not underutilized. None of those species are underutilized now. Nope.

[04:46]

JGF: What do you think about the whole issue—I mean where you've seen, sort of a fairly long span of things, with the whole issue of declining stocks or rebuilding stocks. Where do you think things are today?

PG: Well... I fortunately haven't worked for the last, oh gosh, probably eight or so years. I'm sort of afield of the whole fisheries things. I'm sort of...almost a spectator. I mean I will hear and read about it perhaps more than the general public but I'm not as involved as I was.

And it's sad to me to hear some of what's happened. You know, it seems like yellowtail have made somewhat of a rebound. Perhaps haddock has also.

But now, from what I'm understanding the cod stock is pretty devastated.

JGF: Right.

PG: So I think we've had some success. I've always been troubled—especially since you know I had the ability, well the opportunity to work firsthand with the industry

here, that the scientists and the fishermen have such a hard time being able to work together and communicate. And I tried to tell the scientists that, you *can't* come and talk to these people at a level where they're not going to understand you or be able to wrap their arms around the concept. You've got to talk to them on their level and work with them. They *know* so much about what's going on out there. And it's so difficult to get some of those people to understand that.

So that trouble me. And I felt I could have been of some use to people in that respect. And I think the years that I spent *here*, I was able to bridge some of that.

JGF: I was going to ask you—It sounds like you know, when I've talked to the fisherman. You know, there have been instances of good collaboration when—

PG: Yeah.

JGF: —the scientist people seem to have an appreciation for the industry and their knowledge. Did you just sort of feel like you always sort of *had* that? Did you have to learn that yourself?

PG: I think I had it. And then you know, having these experiences that I had going out to sea and being around them, I really got to appreciate so much of *how hard* this is and how much they really do know. And how much is up in their head, and we, can't necessarily get some of that knowledge into our assessments that we do.

And you know, I mean some of these people, the scientists, are good guys and they *want* to know. They *want* to know and they *want* to come over here and they want to work with these people. Others are a little bit in their ivory tower.

JGF: Uh huh. Yeah.

PG: So you've got some that will be able to work with them and some not. But you know, you can't expect as a scientist that you'll come over here and spend a morning with some of these people. And, they're going to be, you know cooperatively working with you all the time. It really takes time to establish a rapport with them.

I had that opportunity but, everybody else did not.

[Interruption/Paused/End of File WAV_0035_003]

[Start of File WAV_0035_004]

[00:00]

JGF: Alright. So we were talking about the rapport, I think, between the fisherman and...

PG: Yeah we were talking about the rapport and you asked me if I thought... I could see... One of the things I *could* see I think, was, I was able to see some of the cyclical nature of some of these stocks. Which, I think is—that's natural. I mean, I think it's happening but I think, as I mentioned earlier I think we did get into a point where we probably became overcapitalized and *very* efficient. They started to get new equipment and be able to *really* fish for these things out here.

So I mean as much as some people had wanted to blame some of this on the foreigners, obviously—That was 1977. We can't blame that on them anymore [laughs].

JGF: OK! Because somebody mentioned that yesterday.

PG: Yeah. A lot of the collapse that occurred—Well, years ago, I mean *after* seventy-seven they tried to blame on the foreigners. And some of that, *might* have been legitimate, but—We can't even touch that now. That's just too far behind us. It's definitely too far. I mean... Now we have to look to our own efficiency and... And

perhaps we've got to look to other, variables, such as... Could be, what we all talk about—global warming. I mean there's a lot of things that come into play. It's a very complex ecosystem out there.

JGF: Right. And I know people talk about the nitrogen issue. With, you know, the nursery beds get too much in them or something?

PG: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. There's a lot of things to look at. And when we—you know, when the fishery scientists managed stocks in the beginning, a lot of focus was looking at individual species. And you can do that to an extent, but then they all began to realize that this is an ecosystem and all of these are interrelated. And you need to take a more complex look at it. It's not easy. And as we sampled down here, when I worked on the docks, we would take scale samples to age the fish, otoliths or ear bones out of the head to age the fish. We'd take [...] and... You know, continually you'd be asked, "What are you *doing* with all this stuff?"

JGF: Yes!

PG: And you know it's just a drop in the bucket of what they need to look at. You know?

We took scallop shells. We measured those.

And so, you had to be able to field those questions and try to give people the information back. And sometimes it's not easy to understand. But, a hundred numbers isn't going to tell them everything they need to know. They need hundreds of numbers from *all* the months, from *multiple* years. You know, to be able to look at it. And *not* just from New Bedford. You've got to look at other ports where this catch is coming into also.

JGF: Yeah. And then I know I talked to somebody last year and they talked about, you have to look at conditions and things of the, the...

PG: They would look at some of the oceanographic conditions. They'd look at the plankton. The plankton's going to give you an indication of how many eggs and small fish are coming in. That's *not* going to tell you necessarily whether they're all going to *survive*. Because then you've got environmental and predatory variables that are going to step into it. So. It's pretty complex.

[02:55]

JGF: You mentioned doing a plankton study. How do you—They're *little* right. They're tiny.

PG: Very little.

JGF: How do you do that [laughs]?

PG: We have these things called bongo nets. They're kind of, two circular frames to which you attach a conical net that has varying meshes. That you actually drop over the side of the vessel and *tow*. And you *tow* it and it gets filled up with everything in the water column that can't go through those little holes. And, then you've got to wash that all down, put it into a jar, preserve it. And then you actually come back and put that into little trays, and sit there with forceps and separate things out.

JGF: Wow...!

PG: *Very* tedious. Can be very boring.

JGF: Right.

PG: But you're looking for, crustaceans. You're looking for small fish larvae. You're looking for a lot of different things that show up in there. Not so much the plant matter but you're looking for the animal life in there. And that's what we were looking at, the zooplankton.

JGF: And you wouldn't need a microscope for that? It was visible to the eye?

PG: Not usually. No. Not usually you wouldn't. It, again depends on—you can vary the mesh, that you're collecting at. So the bigger the mesh, then you will lose some of that really small, microscopic matter that will go right through. Yeah.

And then they did... You know they got, pretty sophisticated with it where they'd actually—if you *sample* at different parts of the water column you will find different things at different times of the day. Because, fish and zooplankton and marine mammals and stuff will migrate up and down through the water column. Depending on what the light conditions, etcetera.

So they would then do it so that they would sample this level of the water column, shut it off. Drop it down lower. Sample down there. So they would do *stepped*—they call it stepped oblique tows, through the plankton, to see what they would see.

Because it's not the same plankton through the whole water column.

And when you drop the net *down*, and pull it back *up*, you'd be sampling throughout the column so to *isolate* the sample you started to get to the issue where you'd want to *close* those collecting devices off, so that you would actually drop it, open at the level you wanted.

JGF: Oh...to get the depth you wanted.

PG: Yeah. *Close* it. And then bring it back up again.

JGF: OK.

PG: Yeah. So it's not... You know, we'd be doing things like salinity. We'd be taking the salt content. You'd want to look at the chlorophyll, different things like that when you were sampling, too.

[05:16]

JGF: Yeah... And over the time that you worked did the research methods change very much? Or the gear or techniques the way it has in fishing.

PG: No... A lot of it didn't change. And that's one of the things that... They've just brought a new research vessel on, to the lab in Woods Hole. A big one considered to be state of the art. And one of the things they're going to spend a year doing now is *calibrating that vessel* against the *current* research vessel to make sure that they're sampling the same ways.

So *most* of the stuff did *not* change. They used an otter trawl like most of the guys here use. They use otter doors.

One of the things that—a lot of the fishermen would say, you know, “You're not using the right gear,” but we brought them in to consult on this stuff.

JGF: You did?

PG: Yeah. They consulted. And, for the most part I think the gear is *comparable*, but what they would *always* say to me when I was here, and I always got a laugh out of it because this was *such* a difficult concept to get across to them was... They go, “You sample where we know there are no fish. You're going to places where we know there are no fish. So you're *telling* us there's no fish because you go to these places.” And we'd say, “No... What we *do* is we randomly select these stations where we tow.

Completely randomly. So that means we're going to get areas that have, probably as you say, *no* fish. We're going to get areas that have a *lot* of fish. We're going to get areas that have *some* fish." Etcetera. But when you do that over a period of seasons and year, you start to see trends regardless.

JGF: Oh... OK.

PG: Because you see the fisherman *only* want to fish in the places that they have, the best information that there *are* fish. And that of course is what they want to do. And they couldn't—It was very difficult for them to understand that we had to go out there and take, this type of random sampling to be able to do an overall assessment.

JGF: Well, and because you're looking at the long term, too.

PG: Yeah. Looking at the long term. We're looking at all the species. And we're looking at—Are there a lot of *little* ones? Are there a lot of juveniles? Are there a lot of adults? They would primarily—if they could do it—they'd want to fish... If there was segregation—and there isn't always in those species—but if there were segregation they'd want to look at catching the adults and the biggest of the adults. That's the best bang for their towing time.

And they would throw over obviously... But what they throw over, *they* have a mental note of. But we *do not*. So, hence we *have* to go out there and do this kind of sampling. So we would do what we call fisheries *independent*. Which is the commercial—I mean the *research* stuff that we do. And then we *also* factor in when we did these assessments, all the data that we got from the *ports*. Because there weren't people just here in New Bedford. They were in Boston. They were in Portland. They were in Point Judith, etcetera. So they would factor both in to try to get the best picture they could when they crunched all these numbers as to what was out there.

[08:10]

JGF: Huh! Interesting.

I have heard people say—along the lines... I'd be curious to hear what you think of the regulations and how well they're working. One of the things I've heard some people say is they feel like the regulations were maybe put in place too soon for the amount of data. I'm wondering if you would agree with that, or if you felt like, something *had* to get done anyway, or...?

PG: Well... Again, you know I don't want to sound like I'm stepping away from this. But I *didn't do* this type of work for probably about the last eight or ten years. But one of the things that *I* would see, because I'd see other people working on it because I did work up until—well, right to the end I worked down in the lab in Woods Hole. And I was with a lot of those people that were doing the assessments because I was on that same floor actually. I'd see, all these, management areas. And we even started doing the same thing with respect to marine mammals and fisheries. And these areas would open, they'd *close*. You *could* go in with this. You *couldn't* go in with that. You'd have to go in [...]. And I began to say to myself, "This is *so* complicated. It's so complicated and it's putting a, *huge* burden on these people to try to keep up with all this." The other side of the story is, I *think*, with the process the way it is to the fisheries council and all the public input, it—that's what came out of this process. "We want to be able to go into this area, at this time of the year. And if we can't fish in that area at that time of the year we want to at least be able to *steam* through the—

and, how can we steam through it? We don't want to steam *around* it, because if we steam around it..." So I *found*... The process has gotten very, very cumbersome. And there's a huge burden on everybody now. Almost to the point where I think it's, over the top. We haven't kept it simple.

But the public process I think, and the vetting of all this through the councils and everything has resulted in some of these things. But I... I wish I could answer your direct question.

JGF: But actually just what you said there is very fascinating to hear. It's just, sort of the pro—Because that *does* sound a lot like what people say. The complication of it is maybe the biggest burden.

PG: [Sighs] But, the input has resulted in some of this. And one of the things I was that particularly brought it home to me, is we have a guy that does geographic information system work. So he does all the mapping. And I *saw*... He showed me this map and he goes, "Look at this!" It was all the fishery management areas, maybe in the Gulf of Maine. And I looked at it and I went, "It's nice. Oh my *God!* Who would *ever* want to keep track of all this? I mean this is *so* complicated. You're proud of your accomplishment to be able to plot it and show it geographically, and apparently that was a big effort on your part." So can you imagine if you're a fisherman and you're out there [laughs] trying to do all this?

JGF: Yeah... Yeah...

PG: But. This is kind of where we've gone and we've sort of taken that same avenue with some of the regulations for, primarily for right whales which is what I worked on. Where we've got these seasonal area management areas. And when those seasonal area management areas are in place, you can't do this and you can do that. And it's—Oh boy!

[11:24]

JGF: Wow.... Is that—and you said that's the commercial shipping?

PG: Well it's not—No, this is not just for commercial shipping. This is now for the fishing industry. So those are now... Those areas are now, overlaid on some of the *other* fishery management areas. So it's another *set* of regulations that have come on top of everything. And presumably... I don't know if the fishermen see those as separate issues or not. It's all part of the whole bureaucracy I would imagine, to them. But... No, the commercial shipping end of it, that's something we're still working on. And to them actually, what we're looking at is to try to look at rerouting, so that we route them away from where these right whales are. Or slowing them down.

JGF: Right. And that is—I've read about that I think in the *Globe*. Right?

PG: Yes.

JGF: That issue. Yeah.

PG: Because it's been in the news lately. Yeah.

So that was—When I, started working on this aspect of things I sort of stepped away from some of the fisheries issues. And stepped into another industry, which is *way* more complex than fishing. And that's the shipping industry. Because it's a completely multi-layered, international industry. And it affects, *everybody* in this country. So, we do something *here*, we're going to affect everybody. Because, really—I don't know if people understand this. We have, so much that's imported now into the United States. From your, sneakers to your, computers to your TVs to

your iPods, to everything. That really, more than ninety percent of that comes in by ship.

JGF: Yeah... I guess that's the part maybe we aren't aware of is how it gets here.

Whether it's plane, or...

PG: By ship.

JGF: Yeah. Wow. Wow.

PG: So when we do things—if we slow ships down or we reroute them and stuff like that, the implications to that will go right out throughout the whole country.

But.

JGF: If you don't it... Right?

PG: If we don't do it, we stand a very good chance of wiping out that species. *Very* good chance of it.

JGF: Which I would imagine at least today the climate around caring about the whales and things helps... I mean people seem like they're sort of conscious about those things.

PG: A lot of people somehow relate. At least coastally they seem to relate to marine mammals. You know?

JGF: Yeah.

PG: And they *want* to protect them. And so do the captains that operate these fishing vessels and operate the container ships and the cruise ships and the LNG tankers and things. *But*. It's not that simple. It's not that simple.

They can't *see* these guys, the whales. The whales don't necessarily move out of their way.

It's a very—it's a very difficult problem.

JGF: Right. And you're still involved or you're retired now from all that?

PG: I'm retired now but I'm still doing a small amount of consulting and working primarily when I can on that, that issue. Because I have a passion for it. *I really*—Just as I enjoyed so much working with the fishing industry, I really got to enjoy working with the shipping industry. And the pilots. And...

[14:30]

JGF: It sounds like you have a passion for the solution.

PG: [laughs]

JGF: To me. Is that accurate? Like you don't—I mean you have a passion probably for the fish. But you also have a passion for the industry. So it's, really the solution that...

PG: Yeah. Yeah. And I—I like to think that we can come..., that we can work on this together and come with some reasonable solutions. I think I took a different approach when we started working with the *shipping* industry, because we've had so many up and down times with the fishing industry.

When we went to these guys, I'd say to them, "We have a problem. We want to let you know what the problem is." Because, everybody's not aware of this. "We want to tell you what it is. We want to tell you why these whales don't seem to get out of your way necessarily. And then we want to tell you that we *have* to fix it. *But*, you *don't* want us doing this without your input. You don't really want us doing this. You don't want the government to fix it without your input. So *stay* involved in the process and help us. Participate, because, if you don't we're going to keep moving forward."

And, it really was a different approach than we've taken. And it seemed to work pretty well... And then, within the last couple years something's gone a little bit amok. I don't want to say it's anything to do with me retiring [laughs] but something's gone wrong.

JGF: Well it does sound like, there really needs to be someone like *you*, who's willing to do that liaison kind of thing.

PG: Well I enjoyed it, too.

JGF: Yeah. Yeah.

PG: I liked, going back and forth. And I had a good appreciation for the fact that the..., the government's got a responsibility under a couple of legal mandates that they have to do something. But, you kind of want them to do it as responsibly as possible. To both...to the whales and to the shipping industry, so.

JGF: It sounds like it could be its own job right there.

PG: Oh yeah.

JGF: Just being the facilitator between the two.

PG: Yeah. Yeah.

JGF: Mediator.

PG: Yeah. It was good.

JGF: That's neat.

PG: So... That was—When I left working in New Bedford I went to work on the underutilized species as I mentioned and then from there, I actually went to do something else which I want to include in this, because it's such an important part of what goes on.

JGF: Oh good.

PG: And that is the fisheries observer program.

JGF: OK.

PG: Where we put—Initially we were putting people out on all the foreign vessels that operation off our coast *after* the two hundred mile limit.

JGF: Yeah.

PG: Because they were allowed to come in, and again, fish for those species that we really didn't *use*. Which were the squids, the mackerels. But they did not come in here unless we put someone on board. An observer to watch them. And then, *that* evolved—The foreign fleet actually got reduced in their ability to do things here and they basically started to be, I call it a kind of multi-step process. They got to the point where we were Americanizing the fisheries completely. And that is, the only thing they could do towards the end was sit out there and take U.S.-caught fish over the side. In what we called joint ventures.

And so as this evolved we also started to realize that we had a need to put people out on the *U.S.* fishing boats.

JGF: Oh...! That's interesting.

PG: And so, we've been putting observers out on those boats now for... I'm trying to think how many *years* it's been. Because I've worked with the program over fifteen years.

JGF: Oh you did too? OK.

PG: Yeah. And now..., the program's even bigger. Because it's gotten more funding. And more people *here* I'm sure, right in the Port of New Bedford are *very* familiar

with this program because they're being asked to take these observers out on their boats. Draggers, scallopers. Tuna guys. Lobster guys. Etcetera.

JGF: Yeah. I just had an interesting talk yesterday with Amy Van Atten.

PG: And Amy used to work for me. And now still works in the program. Yeah. So you interviewed her?

JGF: Yeah. Which was great. But I'd—See no one had mentioned... Last year I spoke with Dave, Martens? Who used to do it I think?

PG: Dave was one of my observers. Dave's married to Amy [laughs].

JGF: Oh, OK. I didn't know that. Very interesting. Neat.

And neither had mentioned the longevity issue, that they had started with the foreign fleet. So that's something that...

PG: Well they did not. I don't think either one of them did. When *they* did, they were involved, and it was almost completely domestic observer coverage at that time.

JGF: OK.

PG: And *each* of them has had their own set of issues and problems. It's a very complex program [laughs].

JGF: Right... It sounds...

PG: A lot of personalities. A lot of people coming in. They get trained to do the job. They do it for a while, that's a springboard to something else. And it's a *difficult* job. It's very difficult.

JGF: It sounds like—I mean you'd have to have the physical whatever it takes but also...

PG: And mental!

JGF: Yeah I was going to say, the mental aspect of the relationship on the boat. Right?

PG: Yeah. Especially these guys—and gals—that went out on the foreign vessels. We would put them out there usually for a minimum of three weeks.

JGF: Wow!

PG: And they were the only—in some cases, you know, English speaking person. The *captain* has to have capabilities. But that doesn't mean when you get on board and you're out there watching what he's doing that he's going to continue to converse with you [laughs].

JGF: That's right. Yeah...

[19:36]

PG: And they had... We had them in a sort of, regulatory role. They were regulatory and sampling role. And that was... There were regulations, and they were to *counsel* the captain to stay within those regulations. And if they didn't, they were asked to document and then, in some cases, they had to do affidavits and... We definitely followed through on some of those issues where they didn't do what they were supposed to do out there.

So they were to *counsel* the captain, *work* with the captain. Try to get him to *correct* what was, perhaps being done incorrectly. And then... And document the whole way through it. And if it got resolved, fine. And if it didn't then, we had to follow through on it with our legal counsel and the law enforcement.

And... *That* role, the regulatory role, for the most part *stepped* right out of the observer program when it became domestic. If they had any issues it would probably be with marine mammal bycatch and things like that.

But... They were out there primarily to do biological sampling and documentation of the catches and stuff.

JGF: And that was a conscious decision not to continue the regulatory part?

PG: Well, I think yes it was. I mean, we wanted to be able to go out there and get good, unbiased data on these domestic vessels. And we knew that, there's always that problem of what we call the observer factor. Which is, that the captain when he takes—and it's usually he, of course—when he takes an observer out they fish differently than they would if there weren't an observer on board. So, we wanted to make this data as valuable to us as possible. So that meant you didn't really want them out there in a regulatory role. You wanted them out there to say, "I'm out here to collect data. And to do sampling. I'm not out here to be..." And, *most* of the guys, I guess, understood that. Although you know, we [chuckles]. And one guy *particularly* [laughs]—I guess, said, "I don't care there's an observer on board." And he went into a closed area with an observer on board. And when the Coast Guard flew over him he went *further* in. It was like, well, I guess the observer didn't influence him nor did the Coast Guard! [laughs]

JGF: [laughs] Really! Wow...!

PG: Yeah.

So, that program was very interesting. And then when I left that program that's when I switched over to working with this..., the right whale, and the ship strike issue. I was working with..., very closely with the Coast Guard and the State of Massachusetts. And we were doing aerial surveys.

And initially we flew on the Coast Guard helicopters. Like the one that's here today. And, that was our first year. We did—That was our platform, to survey off the helicopters. It wasn't the *best*, to do marine mammal aerial surveys. And then we moved to using—We have a NOAA twin engine plane that we now bring up. And we have that here almost year round. It operates out of the Coast Guard air station out at Otis.

So, we did *lots* of flights. And went *way* out. You know, out to the edge of the shelf. And, we'd be out there anywhere from—depending on the weather and the conditions—from, half hour to ten hours.

JGF: Wow! [laughs]

PG: Flying. So... It was pretty interesting.

And then, that was when I got into working *with* the shipping industry. And I would attend on a monthly basis meetings at the Port of Boston. I'd go to Rhode Island and attend their meetings with the shipping people. And bring them up to date on what was going on and what we were seeing. So..., it was good!

It was a *whole* different thing. I mean, I stepped—You know, the fishing industry was now, something that unfortunately I wasn't still working with, but I was into something new, and very interesting and very new. And something that *our* agency had no familiarity with. It was new ground. Yeah.

[23:30]

JGF: Interesting. Do you *miss* it?

PG: I do. Yeah, I do miss that. Yeah.

And, that's why if I can continue to do a little bit of consulting that's good, too.

JGF: Yeah. Sounds like it'll work out for them, too.

PG: Yeah.

JGF: Well I'll just—One more question would be, I like to ask everybody this. What would you want the average festival visitor to understand, both about the industry and about, well, this year because of the theme, women's roles in it?

PG: Well that's two questions to me I guess.

One, I'd *really*—and I think it's hard—but I'd *really* like people to have, a better appreciation if they *could*, about *how hard* a way of life this is and how hard these people work, to bring this seafood into us. And how much they give *up*. Family life, personal life, etcetera. And how physically taxing it is on them. I think it's important for people to understand, this is, as they say one of the most dangerous occupations you can have.

As far as, the theme this year. I *think*, I think it would be *great* if people understood that more women *are* involved in the industry and in *so many* different aspects of it. Which is—I'm a member of the Women's Fisheries Network and that's one great place to find out, that people are in fisheries. Science. They're in refrigeration of seafood products. They're in transportation. They're in vessel ownership. They're wives, they're daughters, etcetera. I mean, there's such a broad perspective there. It would be great if people knew that.

And then, I think we may have shared some of this in the panel that we did yesterday. That, it *hasn't* been—it hasn't always been *quite* as easy for women to do these jobs as it *seems* to be right now. The old boy network has been very strong. And I got to tell you, fishermen themselves didn't wrap their arms around having women down here at the docks. When I first did the job, I got *repeatedly* asked—not just by the fishermen—by the lumpers, and the weighers and everybody else, they'd say, "What does your husband think of you doing this job?"

JGF: Wow...!

PG: And I said, "You know he doesn't think too much about it!" Well I wasn't married! [laughs]

JGF: [laughs]

PG: It was so...[laughs]. And you know they would *focus* on that. They would say to me, "You're down here doing a man's job. What does your husband think?"

JGF: That's so interesting!

PG: And I'd say, "He doesn't think much about it at all!"

JGF: That's funny!

PG: And the other thing that they wanted to know was, was they'd want to know, "How old are you?" And "Are you married?" You know, it was like *all* these questions. And I got to the point where I was like, "Don't, *ever* ask me again how old I am. Because I've heard that question so many times."

[laughs]. So... But it took them—Down here it took me quite a while to sort of, work my way into a mutual comfort level with these people.

And I learned a *lot* of new swear words.

JGF: [laughs]

PG: [laughs] Well they probably weren't *all* new, but...

JGF: That could be another whole interview, huh?

PG: Yeah! They probably weren't all new. Unfortunately some of them *stayed* with me. And people would say to me, "God, you're starting to talk like a dock person!" [laughs]
So... Yeah I have a lot of interesting experiences down here. You know? Because I would get right into my old grubby clothes. And go down there and sling fish boxes around. And, pick up those fish and we'd be weighing them, and sorting them. And, taking scales off them and taking lengths and things like that.
And it got to the point where, *finally*, most of the people, didn't say, "Oh... Look! Look! Look!" Because I did—A lot of finger pointing when people'd come in. They'd go, [whispers] "Look at her over there!" You know, "Look at her! What's she doing down here?" You know.
So it took—it took a while. But, it got to the point almost where, things were like, "She's just one of us, now."

[27:13]

JGF: That's cool. It sounds like you were maybe like one of the pioneers for the women to follow.

PG: A little bit, yeah. Because... I don't think, anyone—I don't think they had had a woman doing my job before me. I don't think so. And then the fact that, you know that I tried to make my way to get out on some of the boats. And *that* of course we know was an interesting experience.

JGF: Yeah! Yeah.

PG: But a lot of those captains that were so *bold* and said, "*I'll take you. Sure!*" When push came to shove...

JGF: Right... Maybe they thought you'd never really want to go, huh?

PG: Yeah. When I tried to take them up on it, I guess... No, I think they changed their minds on that. "That's not such a good idea!" [laughs]

JGF: Yeah. It was interesting. Because Amy mentioned yesterday the whole issue of the captain's wives or the fishermen's wives. And *that* hadn't even occurred to me. But, yeah... I can see where they might be getting pressure on the, home side.

PG: Yeah. Yeah. And that's what they'd all *use*. Invariably they'd say, "My wife won't let me do it." It's not, "*I can't take you.*" No, it's "*My wife won't let me.*" "*I can't do this because my wife will kill me.*" "No, no, no. My wife won't let me do it." I'm like, well then *why* did you open your mouth in the beginning? Because it sounded good in front of the other guys?

But that one captain, everybody told me, "If he says he's going to do it, he'll do it." Captain Lars. And I did—Lars Sovik.

JGF: Very interesting.

PG: Yeah. Definite highliner of the fleet too, so.

JGF: Cool.

Well is there anything I didn't ask that you would have liked us to know?

PG: Oh...

JGF: It sounds like you could have a lot of good stories.

PG: No... I've got lots of stories. And I've got—You know when I walked into the auction hall yesterday, which isn't the auction hall now, I said, "Gee we could do the interview right here..."

JGF: You know I thought—I heard you, I said we should probably just, you know, get her, yeah do it there because you would just make everything...

PG: Yeah. I mean, when I went in there and I saw all the pictures and everything, it all came back to life to me. You know, going into that and I'm not a morning person.
[laughs]

JGF: [laughs]

PG: So I would go in there some mornings—because I'd be like, you know my *eyes* and I'd be *tired* and I'd be like, "Gee I don't want to have to ask these guys some of these questions." And some of them would be... You know, they had been up all night probably, or whatever. *Time* doesn't mean anything to fishermen. *Days* and time doesn't mean anything. It's like *all* the same.
And sometimes they'd be real happy. And if they had a bad trip they'd be pretty ugly. And some of them didn't tell you the truth.
And there were a couple occasions when I *knew* they weren't telling me the truth. And I'd say to them, "Come on! If you're not going to be able to tell me the truth then don't tell me anything. Refuse the interview. Because you're doing yourself more harm than good." Whether they wanted to hear it or not, I said, "I got to tell you that. *Don't* do this."

But yeah, I had some interesting experiences in there. And like I said, it did sort of come back to life to me.

And I had one captain who thought he was showing off for everybody in there one day. He was kind of a clown. And he picked me up by the—by both of my sleeves up top of my shirt and kind of pushed me up against the wall in the auction room. And I saw everybody in there kind of looking like, *what the heck's going on?* Well one of the other captains came up. I believe it was Captain Bowers. He told him in no uncertain terms "Don't you *ever* do that again to young lady."

JGF: Wow...!

PG: [laughs] So... For anyone that tried to fool around there usually was some one of the other guys that would step up and say, "Don't go there."

JGF: That's neat! From what I've heard, from everybody talk about Woody Bowers, that would be Woody Bowers. Yeah.

PG: And... You know, I think he was—Was it last year he was here? But I'm wondering... I'd love to see him. I don't know if he's still...

JGF: I'm not sure. But you know what if you went right over to the pod across there and asked the people hanging out there anybody there could probably tell if he's still around.

PG: Good. Yeah.

JGF: I'm not really sure.

PG: Yeah. He probably wouldn't even recognize me now. But... No, I have very fond memories of him.

JGF: That's great.

PG: Yeah.

A *lot* of these guys here I loved them. I really did.

JGF: That's super.

PG: Yeah.

JGF: Great! Well, thank you so much!

PG: Thank you!
JGF: I appreciate it. This was really fascinating.
[End of File WAV_0035_004/End of Interview]