



NEW BEDFORD FISHING HERITAGE CENTER

Date of Interview: June 6, 2017

Tebalan, Santos ~ Oral History Interview

Corinn Williams

Tebalan, Santos Interview by Corinn Williams *Workers on the New Bedford Waterfront*. New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center. June 6, 2017

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New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center
38 Bethel Street
P.O. Box 2052
New Bedford, MA 02741-2052

Interview with Santos Tebalan, June 6, 2017.

Background

Name of Person Interviewed: Santos Tebalan

Facts about this Person:

Age	37
Sex	Male
Occupation	Boat Painter
Residence	New Bedford
Ethnic Background	Guatemala

Interviewer: Corinn Williams [CW]

Transcriber: Pricilla Gamboa [PG]

Interview location: New Bedford

Date of Interview: June 6, 2017

Key Words

Guatemala, textile, New Bedford, fishing, scallops, painting, commercial fishing boats, work environment, fishing industry

Abstract

Santos Tebalan is from Guatemala and now works in New Bedford painting fishing industry boats. Tebalan shares information about his early years in America, his current work as a boat painter and his thoughts on the future of the fishing industry.

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[00:00] Introductions, Ethnic background is from Quiche, Guatemala. Reasons to come to America are shared. Young life and work experiences in Guatemala.

[07:02] Life in America when Santos first arrived to America. First job in America was in the textile industry for around 12 years in New Bedford.

[09:15] First job in the fishing industry in New Bedford. Boats needed various types of maintenance. Job opportunity came through friends. Learns something new every day.

[11:23] Regular work day description. Employers are given safety equipment first. Create mixtures of paints. Majority of the boats painted are used for fishing or scallops. They remodeled boats if boat owners request it. Boats can be painted in water or land depending on job required.

[16:20] Work weeks are usually 40 hrs. Work is usually busier during the summer than in the winter. Painting a boat ranges from a week to two weeks, longer if needed. Hardest part of the job is painting the outside of the boat, it can cause you to fall in the water. Most interesting part of the job is working by the ocean and enjoying the scenery. Works as a team to finish the job on time.

[21:14] Usually six people begin a paint job on a boat. Work skills are taught by coworkers. Diversity of coworkers. Languages used at work are Spanish and English.

[24:43] Views on changes in the fishing industry. Explains that there are other companies that also do the same work he does. Company is based in the Greater New Bedford area.

[27: 36] Wishes to continue in the fishing industry, would want to try to go fishing. Advice for anyone who wishes to join the fishing industry. Shares his future wishes for his young daughter.

[34:04] End of recording