Interview with Jake Eaton, commercial fisherman

Occupation: sternman (commercial fisherman)

Port Community: Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Interviewer: Sarah Schumann

Date and year: March 11, 2019

Location: Portsmouth, NH

Project: The Graying of the Fleet Part II: How and Why Young Fishermen Choose to Fish?

Transcriber: Sarah Schumann

[Start of interview]

[00:00]

Sarah Schumann [SS]: My name is Sarah Schumann. Today is March 11, 2019. I'm in Portsmouth, New Hampshire with Jake Eaton. Jake, could you please state your occupation?

Jake Eaton [JE]: I am a sternman on a lobster vessel.

SS: What is the name of that vessel?

JE: The Last Penny, out of Portsmouth.

SS: Is that a fulltime or a part-time role?

JE: Fulltime. As well, I also fish out of a skiff. I fish a hundred traps in the summertime.

SS: Is that your own skiff?

JE: Actually, my father in law owns it and he's kind enough to let me use it.

SS: Does that skiff have a name?

JE: Yes. It's called the Eyesore.

SS: [laughter] I like that. Is that also in Portsmouth?

JE: Yes.

SS: Ok. What's your age, Jake?

JE: I am twenty-six.

SS: And briefly, your educational background?

JE: I have a bachelor's degree in business administration from Mount Washington College.

SS: Alright. Now, at this point, I will invite you to tell me your story as a commercial fisherman, if you like. You can start at the beginning or wherever feels natural.

[01:10]

JE: I'm going on seven years fishing now. I've been fishing with my father in law the whole time. I've gone with a few other guys to fill in, in the wintertime and here and there. I started in August of 2012. My father in law needed to find a guy quick, and he knew I wasn't really happy in my other job, so he gave me chance and I just fell in love with it. I actually come from a long line of fishing families in Downeast Maine, so to be able to get my family back into that is pretty cool.

SS: Where did you grow up?

JE: I grew up in Seacoast New Hampshire. I went to high school in Dover, where I live now.

SS: What were you doing or planning to do, before you fell into fishing?

JE: I didn't really have a plan. I was still trying to figure it out. I had worked selling wood stoves for a few years. That's where I was when I got this job. I worked at a farm stand as a teenager and had done a few jobs like that. Once I found commercial fishing, I realized I could make a career out of this, hopefully, and if I played my cards right, I'll have a business of my own someday. You can't really be a sternman forever. It's kind of more of a young man's game. The freedom of being a captain someday would be really cool—being able to go out and do it on your own. I definitely got that feeling fishing out of a skiff when I started doing that. I've been doing that for four or five years now. When you go out and catch your own lobsters, it's a pretty cool feeling. You make your own decisions on where to set your gear, and it pays off. It's a neat feeling. I'd like to take that some day on a bigger scale.

SS: Is the boat that you're a sternman on also owned by your father in law?

JE: Yes.

SS: The boat and the skiff both are?

JE: Yeah. He had the boat built in the late eighties. I think it was '87. He's had it since then and he's made a lot of money with that boat. He's a good fisherman.

SS: With the two boats, is one for a particular season and the other is for a different season? How do the two sort of fit together as a business?

JE: With my father in law, we go all year. In wintertime, we get out every few weeks or something. He goes back and forth to Florida, so it's mostly shore work, or if there's a chance to get out with another fisherman that has to get out, I'll go. It's pretty slow this time of year, anyway. In the summertime, when it's nice weather and stuff, that's when I go. I just

go on my days off. It's like seven days a week that I'm on the water, from June or July until—well, in the fall, I start getting out less with the skiff, like end of October.

SS: Is it just you on the skiff, by yourself?

JE: Yeah. The first few years, my father in law would go with me, as my sternman, kind of. A few years ago, I started going out alone. I find it very therapeutic, just being out alone, just going at my own pace. Nobody bothers you. It's enjoyable. It's hard work. It's definitely hard work hauling a hundred pots alone on a skiff.

SS: By hand? Or do you have a hauler?

JE: No, I have a hauler, luckily. I've had to haul them by hand before. It's not much fun [laughter].

SS: You said that past generations of your family were in the fishing business. But not your parents, I take it?

JE: My dad grew up in Stonington, Maine. He did gillnetting and some scalloping. My grandfather was a lobsterman. My dad ended up down here in his late teens, early twenties. His parents were split up and he sort of bounced back and forth between Stonington and Exeter, New Hampshire. Then he kind of ended up down here. My great-grandfather was also a commercial fisherman—on both sides. My grandmother was from Beals Island, Maine. There's probably a lot of people I'm related to that have come and gone. They're all fishermen up there.

SS: Were your father and grandfather encouraging when they found out you were starting to do this for a career?

JE: My grandfather passed away in the late nineties. He was fifty-seven. I guess it was right around 1998. I was just a little kid around five or six. I actually remember him. But I didn't really know him that well. Especially since he lived up in Stonington. We didn't really get up there that often. It's kind of a bummer. I wish he was around. It'd be cool to talk to him about fishing and stuff, now that we have that in common. My dad definitely. My dad's come out fishing with me before. That was pretty cool, getting to do that with him. Everybody's very encouraging about it, my parents and everything. My grandmother, she gets nervous. She's kind of one of those worriers. She knows it's a dangerous job. The thought of me being out on the water in rough weather kind of scares her. But we take the necessary precautions. That's like our top priority. I don't know where I was going with that now. Oh, yeah, so everybody's very encouraging, I'd say. I haven't had anybody that hasn't been. I've done well for myself, fishing with my father in law. It's allowed us to buy a house. I'm twenty-six. We bought a mobile home when I was nineteen. That allowed us to save up for a down payment on our house, which we bought when I was twenty-three. We have two little kids. I'm married. We just got my wife a new car. So it's nice to be able to have those things in life at a young age. It makes me feel like I'm pretty successful so far. It's just when it comes to talking about being able to get a boat and the permits, where I kind of feel like, right now, it's like a dead end.

SS: Why do you say that?

[08:50]

JE: Because everything is so damn expensive. The permits are all big money. To be able to get into it right now, I'd have to be able to find a whole business to buy, with a boat and permit and the gear. Because to just go buy a boat without a permit, they you got a loan and you're not making money with it. That's the biggest thing now. We've been paying off student loans. Hopefully once I get my student loans down, I'll be more comfortable to take that kind of chance.

SS: What does your wife do?

JE: She's a stay-at-home mom. She just started doing some sort of a business selling some sort of supplemental stuff, like girly products, for girls' hair and all that stuff. She actually just started with it, and right off the bat, she's doing pretty good with it, so we're hoping that will bring in a little. Any income right now is income that we didn't have when she was staying at home, so we're looking forward to seeing where that will take us.

[10:12]

SS: How old are your kids?

JE: My daughter turned four in December and my son just turned two in September. It's pretty fun. It keeps us very busy.

SS: Are you fishing day trips or are you going out further and staying overnight?

JE: Me and my father in law, it's just day trips. I've had a few opportunities to do overnights. I was lined up to do it, but with the weather, we didn't end up going fishing. I haven't gone far offshore. I've thought about it, but to go for like ten days with the kids at home, and leave my wife at home. It feels like I'm gone so much as it is that she never has a break. Maybe when they get older. I think it would be a good experience. It's probably good money.

[11:14]

SS: You talked about getting a boat and permit. Are those permits managed by the state of New Hampshire?

JE: The state licenses, yes.
SS: The state licenses. That's what would you would ideally be looking at, or a federal permit?

JE: To me, it seems like to make it fulltime and make a good living at it, you'd need to have both a federal and state. You have to be able to do the inshore fishery in the summer, and you have to be able to move out in the fall when they start making their migration.

SS: How much are those permits running for right now? If money was no object, and you could buy the boat you wanted to right now, how much would it cost you?

JE: For everything? Boat and permit and everything?

SS: Yeah. What do you think it costs to make a viable business of the type that you would ideally like to have?

JE: I don't know. You'd have to have a big enough boat that you could move a good amount of gear offshore with it. Like a forty-two footer, something like that. I'm sorry, what was the question? I lost my train of thought.

SS: If you had all the money in the world and you wanted to buy your fantasy boat, how much would it cost you, with all the permits and everything?

JE: It's hard to say. To get a decent boat, like I said, it would probably be at least over a hundred thousand, I would think, unless I could get a boat that the motor isn't too old in it, and it doesn't need a whole lot of work, like under eighty thousand maybe. Then with the permits, I think the federal permit, probably the average price—I see it in the National Fisherman—they're asking over fifty thousand for them. Reasonably, you could probably get them for thirty or thirty-five thousand. I do have a fisherman that offered me, he said he was holding onto his federal permit and when I wanted to get into this, he'd sell it to me and he'd let me make monthly payments to him, which is really nice.

SS: Is this someone you know that you're close with?

JE: Yeah. He's a fisherman right out of Portsmouth here. As far as the state licenses go, my father in law has a twelve hundred trap state license, which ideally that's what I'd be looking at. But I suppose to get started, you could get started with a six hundred trap, until you really get the feel for everything and get used to everything. Then you could always trade to one of the older guys that wants to downsize from a twelve, work something out like that. Between that and all the gear, it would probably be like a house payment. I'm thinking at least a quarter of a million dollars for an entire business, I'm guessing. It all depends on who you find that's willing to sell out, and if they're willing to help you out a little bit and if they're willing to come down on their prices and stuff. There's plenty of old-timers around that are getting up there in age, so I think there will be some available. Just a matter of when, and if they don't have the boat spoken for already. That's where we're at now. I have been talking to my father in law about when he's in Florida in the winter. In the next couple of years, he's thinking about having me run his boat in federal waters, to give me some experience running a boat and everything, which will be really nice. I'm looking forward to that.

[15:05]

SS: Is it just you and him on the boat or is there a third man?

JE: Yeah. Just us.

SS: In terms of learning the job, did he mentor you or did you have to figure out a lot of it on your own?

JE: No, big time. He's always been very good about—I ask a ton of questions all the time anyway, and I pay attention to a lot of different things, but he's always been really good

about just everything, I guess. I'm thankful to have him, for sure, because like I said, he's a wicked good fisherman and he's a hell of a guy. You couldn't ask for a better father in law. I'm lucky.

SS: Sounds like it. That's great. What do you think you would be doing if you hadn't gotten connected with him and he hadn't invited you to work on the boat?

JE: I have no idea. I don't know. It's a good question. I hadn't really figured out what I wanted to do, and then this came along, and it's like everything kind of clicked. It's what I want to do.

SS: Did you recognize that immediately? Like the first time you walked on the boat, did you feel like this was your calling or did it take a while to dawn on you?

JE: I liked it from the get-go, but once I really started learning the ins and outs, even learning how to tie knots and stuff. I find that I'm able to do a lot more than a lot of different sternmen, because he's taught me so much. I think a lot of guys want to teach their sternmen just enough, because they don't want them to go off on their own someday. Right now, this day in age, especially with the drugs and everything going on, it seems like it's very hard to find reliable help. I feel like a good sternman is worth their weight in gold right now.

[17:16]

SS: Are people having a hard time finding people to fill those positions and to do it well?

JE: Yeah, big time. A lot of the people, when somebody's looking for a sternman, they get all sorts of people that respond to their posts or whatever, and they'll say, "I can work, but I live an hour away. Can you pick me up every day?" Or they have somebody that comes and works, and it lasts a month, and then they start not showing up or they're late every day. The drug problem right now is just terrible. Between that and that the economy has been doing so good, people are finding jobs everywhere, it seems. It's tough right now.

SS: Would you say that people like you—hard-working, motivated young people—are rare in the fishing industry around here?

JE: I wouldn't say we're rare. It's just that the ones that are the reliable ones are hard to find nowadays. To find a new guy. It seems like the boats around, the guys that are working on them, for the most part, they have guys that work on them for a long time, and there's not much guys coming and going. It's more like they have a fulltime sternman that's been with a guy for a while. But then when it comes to a guy needing to find somebody, it seems like I always have people, when they ask me if I know of anybody, I try to think of good people that I can think of off the top of my head that would want to go fishing. But most of the people that I know, they either have a job or they don't have any fishing experience. Especially around this way, there's not that many fisherman around here, as opposed to like if you go Downeast Maine, everybody and their brother is a fisherman, so you can find good help.

SS: One of the things I sometimes think about and that people talk about is that obviously you can make a good living in this industry. You just described owning your own home by

age twenty-three, which is not something that a lot of young people can accomplish, and fishing has done that for you. You went to college too, so you've been around a lot of different people your age, who probably wound up in a lot of different careers. Why do you think that it's hard to find people for this industry? It has a lot of appeal for those of us who are in it, and it can actually support people economically, and yet there seems to be this recruitment challenge.

[20:20]

JE: It's hard physical labor and it's long days. [You're] constantly exhausted and sore and everything. That, and I think that a lot of young kids, they go to college and they get some expensive degree, and they want to be a CEO of a company. I don't blame them for wanting to go and use their head instead of their back all day. It seems like a lot of young people nowadays, they get a job, they get into a company, and in a year or two, they expect to be running a company overnight. There's people who have been working there for twenty-five years, and they expect to have their job overnight. So then they go and find another job. I don't know. I guess I was kind of brought up with the old-school mentality of "stick with something." You just work as hard as you can. For me, I feel like if you work hard enough, you can get what you want all the time. For me, I think it's kind of proof. At a young age, like you said, I have a house and a family. It's not like it's not tough sometimes. We get into the winter season and your bills going out are way greater than what's coming in, so you start to see your savings account dwindle. You get into the fall and you start seeing it add up. The whole lifestyle, it's just not for anybody. Being able to manage your money is huge in this industry. You have to set aside money for taxes, which some people can't handle. We have been taking out thirty percent of every paycheck and it goes into its own account and we don't touch it until tax season comes. Then we end up having a good chunk of money left over that we can put towards student loans or whatever, or put it back into the savings account or whatever. I guess I kind of got off track a little bit. I guess I kind of got off track there.

SS: Are there parts of your job that you find stressful at all? I guess, what's the downside? Are there any parts of it you don't like much?

[23:04]

JE: I guess the downside is just the physical end of it. The biggest thing for me, too, is making plans ahead of time. If I have somebody that says, "March 18th, we're having a party or a function at such a time." It's like, "I'll try to be there but we might be fishing, we might not." Some days, up until that day, the plan is to be fishing, and then you wake up in the morning and it's a little too breezy and we don't go. Sometimes it looks like the end of the week is going to be crappy and I'm looking forward to being able to go do something, or we made plans and then those change and you have to go fishing. That's kind of hard sometimes. My family understands and stuff, but I feel like sometimes my friends feel like I ditched them. It's just one of those things, unless you do this everyday. Other friends that I have that are fishermen get it, but my friends that have regular nine-to-five jobs, I don't think they understand it, really. That can be tough. That's really the only downfall. That, and in the summertime when it's nice and you want to be taking the kids places, we're fishing every day because the weather is so nice and you kind of have to fish every day so you can stay on the lobsters, because they're always on the move. That's kind of tough, but we try to

manage it as best we can. On the days that I go on the skiff, I'm usually in by noontime, so we have some times once I get home when we can go do something. That, and by the end of the summer and into the fall, you're just so tired from working every day that you get into the fall and you start getting some days off because of the weather. That's kind of nice. You begin to get kind of a breather. That gets to be kind of a grind in the summer. Other than that, I like everything about it. You get your share of nasty days when it's not so much fun, mornings when it's cold and you lay in your warm bed and it's four o'clock in the morning and you got to go start up your truck, and everything's all frosty and cold. That's no fun.

SS: You said you like everything about it. What are your favorite parts about it? How does it make you feel?

[25:26]

JE: I guess the biggest thing for me is I like that it's just me and my father in law and we don't have to answer to anybody. We get along awesome. There's times when we talk a lot. There's times when we go hours without saying a word. We just have our job and everything's so routine and repetitive. I'm to the point now where I don't have to be asked to do anything. I know the ins and the outs of the boat. It makes you feel good when you get to that point, where you don't have to be asked to do something. Everything's down pat. It makes you feel like you're doing the right thing. As far as that goes, the thing I like the most would probably be that—that I'm not dealing with driving to Boston every day in the mornings, dealing with traffic. The commute's the best part on the boat—sunrises and everything. Yeah, it's just a nice, laid back job.

[27:13]

SS: What kind of people do you think are the best fit for fishing? What is it about a person that makes this the right fit for them?

JE: Obviously, if you're strong, it helps, but I feel like you don't really have to be. It helps, but I think you learn to use your body. You learn how to swing a trap around and let the trap do the work. I think the biggest thing is just a mental thing. The hours are long. It seems like our average day is ten to twelve hour days. You leave when it's dark out. Sun's not up. In the wintertime, you get home when it's dark already. I think the biggest thing is definitely the mental of it—being kind of trapped on a boat until you go home. If you can handle that and you don't mind fishing in rough weather and stuff. That can be kind of tough for greenhorns if they're not used to it. But it seems like the more you do it and the more experience you get, it's kind of like a second nature kind of thing. I would say mentally tough people, for sure.

SS: The repetitive nature of it, some people might think that was monotonous and boring. But you said the word "therapeautic" earlier, like you almost get in the zone and enjoy that.

JE: In the skiff, it's therapeutic. When I'm out alone, that's therapeutic. What was I going to say? Sorry, what did you just say?

SS: Oh, I was just commenting on how the repetitive nature of it, some people might find that boring, but it almost sounded like there's a rhythm that appeals to you.

JE: There is. It's almost like you get to a point where you're always striving to be faster and better. But also, we have shore work and stuff. We build all our own traps, and I work on rope and buoys and do everything ourselves. That kind of gives you a nice change of pace in the winter. When you've been doing that and trapped in the shop for a few months, and spring comes, you can't wait to get back on the boat. It's kind of nice that you get that break and that chance of pace in the wintertime. It's not like it's three hundred and sixty-five days a year. It's kind of nice to get the change of pace, too.

SS: Do you get involved in any science or management-related things?

[30:21]

JE: I haven't. No.

SS: Is that something you might be interested in?

JE: Possibly.

SS: Alright [laughter].

JE: Whatever's bettering our industry, I think most fisherman are all for that, for sure.

SS: Are there any factors facing the industry right now that give you any concern?

JE: Definitely the right whale issue. I've been to a few of the meetings, and that's kind of scary. They're talking about a bunch of different options, as far as that goes. The biggest threat to us is the environmental agencies, and then they go after NOAA, and NOAA has to do something about it. Then I feel like the commercial fishermen are the easiest people to go after. This whole whale thing, they're talking about maybe trap reductions. I feel like that would be a huge hit to our industry, because the expenses are so high—the bait and the fuel and everything. Now the herring quota this year, I heard it was already half used up for 2019. I heard that. I don't know. Bait's going to be an issue. It seems like it's not getting any easier. That's one of those things, as a young guy, it's scary to make that jump and take that chance and invest so much money in something, to have it possibly ripped out from under you. It makes it very, very hard to commit to that. That whole whale thing right now is very concerning.

[32:40]

SS: You've mentioned a couple of things that are concerns. What is your general attitude about the future? If you were to imagine what things are going to look like for you, personally, in the fishing industry, ten or fifteen years from now, what's your best guess as to what that might look like?

JE: It's hard to say. Everybody's always talking doom and gloom. Then when I talk to my father and law, he says it's been like that since he started out. But there's definitely been a lot more regulations and there's been trap reductions in the past, so things have gotten harder since he started fishing. It would be nice to get the same kind of opportunities that

generations before us had. I don't think it's one of those things where it doesn't have to be regulated. I think some regulations are obviously good, for the longevity of the species and everything. I think we're doing a good job to preserve them and make it sustainable, with measuring them and throwing back eggers and stuff. It's so hard to say now what the future will hold, and the whale issue and stuff. They put the groundfishermen out of business, for the most part, so what's to say they wouldn't do that to the lobstermen? I just hope to have the same opportunity, I guess. That's really what I want—to be able to have some sort of peace of mind, knowing that I can make a career out of it and it's not going to go away, so I can feed my family and hopefully build up a retirement, and if my kids want to do it some day, it would be awesome to have them do it some day.

SS: Are there any topics we haven't talked about that you think are important or that are on your mind as a young fisherman?

[35:17]

JE: I guess what I was just saying. I hope that these lawmakers and stuff, when they are considering stuff, I hope that they consider the young guys. There's a lot of hardworking young guys that really want to do this. It seems like there's a lot of older guys that are in this industry, because there's not as many young guys as there might have once been, but there's still a lot of young guys that have a lot of motivation and really want to work hard and be successful. I hope that they take that into consideration when they're passing laws and stuff.

SS: You feel that as a young guy, you're not a total rarity? There are others like you, who share your passion for this way of life?

JE: Oh, yeah. There definitely are. There are still young guys around that want to work hard and do this. I guess it's just a matter of how hard you are willing to work, and if it's worth it. If they do regulate it to the point—I guess the benefits obviously have to outweigh the negatives, as far as the expenses and everything. If we can only fish five hundred traps, it's just not enough to make a full-time living. If you're willing to fish as much as you can and then have a second job on top of it. It would be nice to be able to make a fulltime living at it.

[37:13]

SS: What's your advice for policy makers? Do you have specific words of advice? What would you advocate for, in terms of making sure that young people like you can continue to thrive in this business?

JE: It would be nice if there was some sort of program for young guys to get into it. If they had some sort of, what's the word, like if they had grants and stuff to help young fishermen get started.

SS: To defray the cost of boats and permits?

JE: Yeah, exactly. Just to help you get started. Because it seems like now, you have to have a huge chunk of money to get started.

SS: Is there anywhere to get loans for those things right now?

JE: Yeah. I forget. They do have some sort of revolving loan fund.

SS: Is that through the state?

JE: Yeah. It's through the state of New Hampshire.

SS: Specifically for commercial fishermen?

JE: Yeah. I guess I haven't looked into it enough. Maybe I could go out and buy a boat tomorrow. But could I realistically afford it at the moment? I don't know.

SS: Because of the other things, the small children, student loans, other priorities?

JE: Well, I got a mortgage, all the other insurances, all the regular bills.

SS: You don't want to overextend yourself.

JE: Right. It'd be nice to help younger guys get started in it.

SS: So you're talking about an actual grant program, rather than a loan?

JE: Yeah, in conjunction with getting a loan, or something like that.

SS: Does anything like that exist? Has anyone talked about it?

JE: Well, what's her name? In New Hampshire, we have the community seafood. They partner with seafood. I don't know if you know Andrea.

SS: Andrea Tomlinson? [editors note: Andrea Tomlinson is the general manager of New Hampshire Community Seafood]

JE: She had been discussing with me that she had been trying to get something together to help young fishermen, sort of like a grant, to help them get started. I don't know if it's still in the works or not. It would be very nice to have an extra little bit of help to get started.

SS: You think that's what it would take to make it feasible for a young person to get in?

JE: Probably. Or somebody that's willing to invest in you. Other than that, as far as the lawmakers thing goes, I just hope that if they do implement things, they make it so it's feasible. A lot of times, they put into place these things that to them make it sound like it's an easy task for the fishermen. Right now, they're discussing possibly having to change the end lines to break at a lesser strength than they do now. We already use the whale-safe swivels on the buoys and stuff, the breakaways. They're talking about possibly every end line, splicing in a piece of rope. I think it's like three to every end line, which would be like six splices per end line that you'd have to do. It would take a lot of time.

SS: Do you fish singles or doubles or trawls?

JE: On my father in law's boat, we fish ten-trap trawls up inside, and then when we move off, we fish twenties. I fish four-trap trawls on the skiff, and some pairs. But when you're fishing in the deep water, it's more end line lengtheners and everything. It would be a lot of work to go through every one and splice them all, if that's the route they go. Not only is it time, but it's not like it doesn't cost money. My father in law pays me to work in the shop every day, and the material and everything. It might be one of the cheaper of the things they're proposing. One of the other things they're talking about is these buoyless end lines, which doesn't make any sense to me at all. I feel like guys would be setting over each other left and right. You wouldn't know where anybody set. The device—I guess it's sort of a time-release, I don't know if it's a radio beacon, where you get to the buoy and it pops up—but the technology for that would be big bucks. When we have twelve hundred traps, and if they're ten-trap trawls, they you've got double the buoys, so you'd be looking at two hundred and forty buoys, if they're ten-trap trawls, that would have to all have that, and you'd have to have spares. I feel like that's not even an option, really, from a commercial fisherman's standpoint. It all sounds like a great idea to a young college student, if they've never been on a boat and they don't understand how everything works setting gear and everything. If they did, they'd realize that that's really not an option. That's my thoughts on that, I guess.

[43:23]

SS: Anything else?

JE: Not that I can think of, really. I'm not the best interviewer.

SS: No, it's fine. I think we've covered all the things that I expected to. Any closing thoughts that you'd like to leave with us?

JE: Just, thank you for taking the time to get a young fisherman's voice heard. It's definitely appreciated to have people that are advocates for the young guys, or for fishermen in general, really. I really thank you for your time and efforts. I'm sure you put in a lot of time, long nights and everything, writing up your reports. It's very much appreciated.

SS: Oh, thank you. It's been a pleasure to interview you. I really love doing this whole project. It's been very affirming to me to meet so many young fishermen, because really just focusing on the young people in the industry and not worrying about everything else is very refreshing. I feel like a lot of the young people have a lot of hope, a lot of passion, a lot of dedication to the industry, and it makes me feel better about the industry to know that there are these young people among us that are going to carry it forward to the future.

JE: Yeah. Well, I think that we all cherish it. It's a very interesting way of life. It's definitely a lifestyle. We love it and we want to be able to do it for our lifetime and then for generations to come. That's the biggest thing—just keeping it going. Commercial fishing is America's oldest industry. It's sad when we see these guys going out of business, these groundfishermen. The groundfishermen that are still around, they go out, and they have next to nothing for quota and they're trying to go after these other species, and then they get into the cod and they use up even more. It's just such a shame. Hopefully, somebody like you will be able to interview my kids and they'll still be doing this.

SS: Yeah. Twenty years from now, there will be two people sitting at this table at Starbucks!

JE: Maybe you'll still be doing it. Thank you so much.

SS: Thank you.

[end of interview]

[46:20]