

**BAYSHORE DISCOVERY PROJECT
DELAWARE BAY MUSEUM
ORAL HISTORY TRANSCRIPTION**

INTERVIEW DATE: July 8, 1991

SUBJECT: Fishing on the Delaware Bay
NARRATOR(S): Marvin Rankin
LOCATION: unknown

INTERVIEWER: Meghan Wren, Executive Director
TRANSCRIPTION
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Mr. Rankin explains how he got his start in the fishing business. Unlike many who end up in the fishing business he learned the trade later in life. Rankin mentions he fished once or twice when he was young but trapping was a much bigger deal. He got into the fishing business after he got out of the military and settled down with his wife. He became friends with a man who was much older than him (about 20 years older) who taught and introduced the trade. From then on he explained the trade and how it changed over his life time. He chronicles the decline of fishers in the area, the changing equipment, and provides interesting personal anecdotes.

MARVIN You are aware, you know about the Island paper, right?

INTERVIEWER YES, YES

MARVIN So Maybe you've already got..

INTERVIEWER I DON'T THINK I SAW THIS ONE -BOB BECK. HE DOES A LOT OF WRITING ABOUT WATERMEN - LIFESTYLES. HE WROTE ABOUT MUSKRATS AND

MARVIN Oh, yes. There is one Beck guy over there who is doing a lot of studies, he's a biologist and doing studies on the river, so if you want to know about

RECORDING NOT CLEAR

0:46

MARVIN This is the older fella, the one that runs the museum in Delaware City. Have you ever been to the museum in Delaware City?

INTERVIEWER NO, I HAVEN'T

MARVIN Fort (?) (Port (?) Penn (?)

MARVIN There's an old schoolhouse -an old converted schoolhouse. He knows about the old and the new

SOUNDS OF LOOKING THROUGH MATERIALS

INTERVIEWER I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN GET BACK ISSUES OF THE ISLAND PAPER

MARVIN Now you can take that with you, You can photostat and send it back to me if you want

INTERVIEWER O.K.

MARVIN The person in charge - I'm trying to think of who's in charge, probably (relisten), there's my boat and myself and my fishing partner with a few shad

1:50

INTERVIEWER WHAT YEAR WAS THAT TAKEN?

INTERVIEWER I NEED THT ARTICLE-

MARVIN Yes, That was in the Island paper, too. We was right along side of the second son. He was posing for this

INTERVIEWER DO YOU KNOW WHEN THAT WAS IN IT

MARVIN, Oh, it's been 5 years, 6, 7 years ago, I guess. I don't know,

INTERVIEWER WERE YOU FROM, WERE YOU BORN RIGHT AROUND HERE

MARVIN Right here

INTERVIEWER OH YES. AND YOU'VE BEEN FISHING SINCE

MARVIN Well, not really. My Dad wasn't a fisherman - I mean he fished and fiddled at it, but you know, He didn't really fish a whole lot like some people. You know he'd catch perch and herring and then shad and like that. Oh ah, I didn't really start fishing until, you know, I got out of the army and got married and all that kind of stuff.

2:47

INTERVIEWER DID YOU EVER WHEN YOU WERE A KID WORK WITH ANYBODY?

MARVIN No. No, I didn't. For me to learn the trade I had to, kinda, I had a fellow that I, you know, worked with and he was, and you know he had, he was about 15 or 20 years older than myself and he'd been involved with the industry so he, you know, he kind of helped me along over the rough spots. But of course, he knew about the old time ways but then times, material, the type of net we use and all that, that's changed so much you know. He had to keep changing all the time, and then, plus, having to have money to invest in equipment, that was always the problem you know, because, you know, he was trying to survive, plus invest in equipment you know, and, so, as the years went by, he kept, you know, adding on and adding on buying more and different boats like that, so

3:46

INTERVIEWER SO DID YOU ALWAYS DO SOMETHING IN THE OFF SEASON TO HELP

3:52

MARVIN Oh yes, yes. I farmed a little bit and then I worked in the jail, too, for 25 years, but see the deal I had, you know, I had a lot, I worked in shifts, and a lot of times I worked nights and like that so I could fish during the day, and crab. But when we first started Shad fishing, I mean, I made money out of perch. I made a lot of money out of perch and it kind of give me a jump start, and I was able to buy more net and I really didn't - when they first started doing the nuclear plant down here and oh, a lot of the workers in the construction part of the project, you know, they liked to buy perch. They liked perch, so I could catch perch in the Spring and I could catch perch in the Fall and I could sell every perch I could get, like I'd have them backed up here. I had to add two or three people waiting on them, you know, to sell them. But they didn't eat shad all that well. They liked perch. But then, oh, we got a contract with a country club (CHAIN SAW STARTS UP)

5:11

and oh, for roe shad, and, because they'd plank shad and have a plank shad dinner and we got the contract with the country club for the plank shad dinner, and that was a big help to us, plus we sold a lot in (Bridgeton?) for the people over there (5:35) (RE LISTEN) marinas there and we sold quite a lot of fish to them (when they'd bone them, and stuff like that. ?)(RE LISTEN -CHAINSAW NOISE) They paid us pretty good, some years they paid us pretty well and, so then the perch kind of fell by the wayside and then we really made our money out of shad,

INTERVIEWER ARE THEY BOTH GILL NET FISHERIES?

MARVIN Yes. The only thing with the perch, we caught the, primarily the perch with stake nets and we'd catch the shad with drifting nets. I imagine you'd catch some shad with stake nets but most of them

6:05 CHAIN SAW

INTERVIEWER DIFFERENT SIZE NETS FOR THE TWO FISH

MARVIN Yes, You can take them with you if you want and you can send them back to me.

INTERVIEWER GREAT THANK YOU. WHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPH?

MARVIN Someone on the Island

6:32

LOUD CHAIN SAW NOISE INTERFERENCE 20 foot, 23 foot
INACCURATE. VERY HARD TO HEAR

INTERVIEWER IS THAT THE FIRST ONE YOU HAD OR IS THIS

MARVIN (RE LISTEN) I've had this boat, I think it is the twelfth or thirteenth year we've had this boat

INTERVIEWER HOW MANY FEET DID YOU SAY THIS WAS?

MARVIN 23 foot

INTERVIEWER WOULD YOU SAY THAT IS PRETTY TYPICAL FOR THE GUYS OUT THERE? DOES IT VARY A LOT?

MARVIN Most people that is shad fishing is fishing out of that, maybe a little bit bigger. Not too much smaller, but about that size boat, you know, within that realm. Some people's -I guess like Steve Crane (sp?) he was fishing a little bit this year out of his crab boat but up (CHAIN SAW RE STARTS)here we, most, I just found a boat, a guy with the net reels and all that kind of stuff, nobody up here has went with net reels (? HARD TO HEAR) to that. We fish now, I've got a partner that's with me. (VERY HARD TO HEAR) Sometimes we have, we get somebody to help us, because we can do pretty good on calm days, but when it is bad rough, why we need, a third man kind of helps out a little bit. (RE LISTEN) but some days we just fish with the two of us.

7:46

INTERVIEWER IS THIS YOUR PARTNER HERE

MARVIN Yes.

INTERVIEWER Is he the one you were talking about that

MARVIN His name is Duffield, Harry Duffield (sp) -No he's not that guy, no. no, the guy that taught me, he's gone by the wayside,

INTERVIEWER OH ,YES. WHAT WAS HIS NAME

MARVIN His name was (HENRY?) (PANKHURST ?) VERY HARD TO HEAR

INTERVIEWER (sp) PANKHURST (?) SOMEBODY MENTIONED, AND I GUESS HIS SON IS STILL AROUND. WOULD THAT BE EARL PANKHURST (?)SP?) OR IS THAT SOMEONE ELSE

MARVIN No, that is different one. There is an Earl Pankhurst (sp?) still around, but , they are a relation, I mean, I think Henry was Earl's uncle, maybe. -all the same clan. Henry had a son, but his son lives in California or somewhere he's some kind of professor or something

INTERVIEWER SO HE DIDN'T CARRY ON THE TRADITION

MARVIN No, no he didn't. But see, Henry, his father, you know like some of the people around here second or third generation, frequently (?) (re listen) like your father's a fisherman and your grandfather's a fisherman, which I didn't have that advantage, but oh, well I guess it was an advantage, but

INTERVIEWER BUT HOW LONG DID YOU WORK WITH HIM TO LEARN, TO FISH WITH HIM,

MARVIN, Well, I don't know we, we fished together off and on, because I was just getting started. He didn't have much money, and I didn't either, and of course, I, you know, when you are younger and first married, you don't have a lot of money to fool with anyhow, so we didn't have a whole lot of net. We did, oh ah, we didn't really make that much. We didn't really get going. I was learning all the time, you know. And times have changed, like I said before, we sold perch. Perch was a big thing, and I mean we really could sell perch. Shad we had trouble getting rid of, and really, I don't know how many shad there was out there then.

9:39

INTERVIEWER WAS THAT BACK IN THE 50'S OR SO

MARVIN Yes, and the early 60's, but then the shad started increasing, or at least we started catching more, anyhow.

INTERVIEWER SO NOW, DO YOU SELL PERCH AT ALL

MARVIN Yes, I still sell them. I can still sell quite a few perch but, we can sell perch still in the Spring and in the Fall. I can still catch them in the fall, but, perch are not as plentiful as they were, they really aren't. It is like all fishes, I guess, they have their up cycle and their down cycle and maybe the perch is just in a down cycle. I don't know.

10:17

INTERVIEWER SO WERE YOU AROUND ANY WHEN THEY WERE STILL CATCHING STURGEON

MARVIN When I was young, when they was. Yes, I've seen sturgeons when they'd brought them in and had them boxed up and all like that. We kept seeing them now and then

INTERVIEWER ARE YOU STARTING TO SEE MORE

MARVIN Eh, I don't know whether we are seeing any more or not, but oh uh, there's quite a few in there. There's quite a few out there, some days you see some of them jump, the small ones,

INTERVIEWER OH YES?

10:47

MARVIN Just like cod, you see some of them jump sometimes.

INTERVIEWER OH, I DIDN'T REALIZE THEY JUMPED

MARVIN Yes. Jump straight up in the air like

INTERVIEWER OH YES

MARVIN The little ones

10:57

INTERVIEWER SO HAS THERE BEEN MUCH OF A CHANGE, YOU SAID THAT HENRY HAD KNOWN DIFFERENT WAYS AND THAT NETS WERE CHANGED AND THINGS (re listen)

MARVIN Well you know like, when the old time guys fished, they used cotton and linen nets, right? -and they had cotton lines in their nets, you know, and that material would rot. And back in them days the rule was too that you couldn't fish from 2 o'clock Saturday, until twelve o'clock Sunday night, you know you weren't allowed to fish and gill net so, oh ah, so then, like, every Saturday the guys would bring their nets in and run them out on poles -they had to run them out on poles to let them dry. You couldn't leave wet net piled up in the boat - cotton net, oh, because it would rot. So every Saturday around, when they were shad fishing, you'd see the fishermen running their nets out on poles to dry, you see. Then on Sunday afternoons they'd be bagging their nets up and putting them, getting them ready to go, to leave Sunday night to go fishing again.

Now, we've got manufactured fibers, they wouldn't rot, you know, no way in the world. -like when we put our net in the boat it stays there until we get done fishing the first of May, or whenever it is, because you know, we don't have to worry about it rotting, because it won't rot.

12:24

INTERVIEWER ARE THERE ANY REGULATIONS, CAN YOU FISH STRAIGHT THROUGH NOW

MARVIN Yes. We can fish seven days a week now,

12:28

INTERVIEWER WHAT'S THE SEASON BASICALLY

MARVIN Well, I would, we really, probably the beginning of March until the first of May. I mean you can catch a few ahead of that and a few after that, but you know- so see, we don't have that long a time on them you know.

But oh, you know, like up here where the Hancock House is, up here you know, now I've heard the old time people talking about on Saturday afternoons in that whole yard, Hancock House lawn, would be net poles and all the fishermen would be there running their shad nets out. This was a little bit ahead of my time. You know, the whole yard would be full of net, you know, because there would be several -a lot of people were fishing back in them days.

But then I think, come around the first world war, the river really went backwards. Because you know, in them days the industries were dumping in the river to get rid of it, right, and I heard my grandfather talking about along the river shore you'd see big sturgeons and all kinds of fish laying dead all up and down the river shore where, you know -just from the pollution.

And then the shad, some of the people from Hancock's Bridge one time, the shad left here so they went up to Bridgeport (sp), to fish up out of Bridgeport, and they said that after fishing up there about a week, the net looked like they tarred it, you know. It was just all full of oil and gook and everything else. The water up that way was so bad-

14:25

INTERVIEWER HAVE YOU SEEN

MARVIN So then the shad took a bad slide down hill. and I know when I was a young man, you know, like the guys'd go shad fishing around and would catch, you know, if they caught 25 or 30 shad a day -they would have thought they had caught a lot of shad, but then, you know, then of course they could catch stripers, and they sold pretty good, you know, and then, so they were able to survive between the perch and stripers and what few shad they caught they still could maybe turn a dollar. -and things were cheap, and things were a little bit cheaper in them days.

15:01

INTERVIEWER DID YOU CATCH ANY STRIPERS AT ALL WHEN YOU STARTED OUT?

15:07

MARVIN Yes.

INTERVIEWER HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SELL THEM.

MARVIN Oh, I don't know, it seems like forever. I don't know. Of course they say we really was, really never was allowed to catch them. I don't know. I thought they was an incidental catch. You know, as an incidental catch you could still, you know, keep them. -but I don't know, they said that wasn't really so. But, you know, I thought you could sell them from 18 inches to 20 pounds. Any where in between that. That's what I thought the rule was. I sold plenty that way anyhow, but the -there are a lot of stripers out there right now, terrible lot of stripers

INTERVIEWER REALLY GETTING IN THE WAY OF THE SHAD

MARVIN Yes, Its really, that's one thing that is really bothersome, because I think they've got an awful lot of us guys that are all fishing, everybody is trying to stay away from them. You don't want to get them in your net, so, it's got us -there's a smaller place in the river where everybody that fishes is almost fishing in that one area, trying to stay away from the stripers.

INTERVIEWER DO THEY TRAVEL IN DIFFERENT PLACES, THE SHAD AND THE STRIPERS

16:12

MARVIN Well, I don't know about that, but I know it seems like there are some areas of the bay that you can catch more stripers than you can catch others, and places that you can catch more shad than you can, you know -so we try to stay in an area that you are not going to catch a lot of stripers if you can help it. You know, if a school of them passes through and your net is there you are in trouble -because you've got to pick out a whole lot of fish for nothing, and those stripers, they've got sharp gills and they are a pain in the neck.

INTERVIEWER WHERE DO YOU FISH OUT OF? WHERE DO YOU KEEP YOUR BOAT?

16:52

MARVIN I fish out of Mad Horse Creek. And, I don't know if you've ever been around that way, and a little wooden bridge is over there. That's were I keep my boat

INTERVIEWER IS THAT WHERE YOU'VE ALWAYS KEPT IT

MARVIN Oh, for several years. I have another place where I trap from. Years ago I went ahead from there but since I got this little bit bigger boat than what I'd use (RE LISTEN) and then we caught more fish. And then where I keep my boat now I can back my truck up pretty close to it so it, like some days for a few years back, why some days we'd catch two thousand pounds of fish or something like that, we didn't want to wheel them too far, you know, to get them to the truck.

INTERVIEWER I GUESS NOT

17:37

MARVIN But we haven't caught the fish these last two years that we had the years before, but we changed the net around, because, like, for a while everybody wanted roe shad because they liked the roe. The roe shad sold. So we changed the size of the net, the size of the mesh, increase the size of the mesh so the smaller buck shads, we wouldn't be bothered with them. There wasn't no sense carting them home if you couldn't get nothing for them, you know. So, that cut down on the amount, the volume of fish that we had, because you know, we didn't catch any bucks, it was all roes that we caught. -which was really what we wanted to do but- I don't know whether the fish were just (re listen) down, a little bit of a cycle, or, there's quite a lot of nets going down through one area, and, oh, I'm getting older I guess maybe (re listen) maybe we (RE LISTEN)

18:40

INTERVIEWER HAVE YOU SEEN A CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF FISHERMEN OUT THERE

MARVIN I don't know whether there is a difference in number, but we are just closer together. Because sometimes we used to fish down, - Arnold's Point, I don't know if you know where that is, Sometimes we used to fish down that way, some, and we don't never go down there that way ourselves, me and my partner, because we don't, we're afraid we will get into a whole lot of striper bass between Arnold's Point and Mad Horse, so we just don't go down there, and maybe some of the other fishermen that feels the same way, so we all stay right up here from the nuclear plant down to Mad Horse, mostly that's where we drift from, from the nuclear plant down to Mad Horse and back. So, there is probably about 10 or 12 of us out there fishing, so you got, I think legally you can fish 400 fathom, with a drifting net, so -and some boats maybe you can have two 400 fathoms because you've got that much license, so, you know, you're talking about, you've got quite a lot -several -a lot of net going down through there in a day, and when the fish comes up, you know, the nets keep picking up what comes up, and oh ah,so, and for that day that's in that area, you know. So. I think it kind of cuts down on what everybody catches a little bit.

20:13

INTERVIEWER SO WHAT IS THE PROCEDURE, EXACTLY, WHAT TIME YOU GO OUT, AND WHAT IS A DAY LIKE?

20:17

MARVIN Well. We like to stop somewhere where we think the fish might be, because the fish get in the net better when the tide slacks off and starts back, so we have an area there where we like to let the nets stop, so we figure how far the net, how fast the net will travel so it will end up approximately -well would like for it to end up in a certain area. But when you go up, you know, to get ready to lay your net off, maybe somebody else has already got their net laid off there, so we run up, we run the boat up to almost the nuclear plant. Where, you know, they've got a ring of sunken ships up in there. We usually lay the net off there and let the net drift with the tide. You know. We lay it crossways to the tide and let it drift on down around Hope Creek and down around that area, down in there for the ebb tide.

21:14

INTERVIEWER SO DO YOU DECIDE WHAT TIME YOU ARE GOING TO GO OUT BY WHAT TIME THE TIDE

MARVIN Tide- We go a different time every day. Yes. We usually, we don't like, we don't fish, me and Mr. Duffield, We don't fish very much at night time, but, you know, some of the guys fish at night time, but we

INTERVIEWER SO YOU WORK ONE TIDE A DAY

MARVIN No, sometimes we have fished three tides a day.

INTERVIEWER REALLY-

MARVIN Two low waters and one high water. We don't like fishing the high water too well. Lots of times we don't catch that many fish on the high water. Really, we like, the low water is the best. We have fished three tides a day but

21:55

INTERVIEWER MUST BE A LONG DAY

MARVIN Yes, it is. But mostly we just fish one or two tides. Of course, him and I -I'm sitting almost 60, and he's a little- 2 or 3, I mean, when we was younger we might have worked a little harder at it. And then sometimes we've got, sometimes we've run a few stake nets for the shad but not- We don't like stake net shads because they don't -they lay in the net too long. They get kind of soft. The shad's a soft fish anyhow, where the drift-net shad we'd get them out pretty near as fast as we'd get them in there so- I mean, I think the drift-net shad are a better quality shad than the stake-net shad. Of course I might be prejudiced because some stake-net guy, he'd probably take an attitude over that but-

22:51

INTERVIEWER SO WHEN YOU GO OUT, YOU HAVE YOUR NET ON BOARD AND YOU DROP IT IN

MARVIN Yes, We keep it on the boat, yes, right, we've got it right in there, and like we've got flags on both ends of it and we throw one flag off and then start feeding the net out and run the boat right across, you know, like we started towards shore and run towards the channel, usually, and run the net out and usually

INTERVIEWER I GUESS IF YOU START IN THE CHANNEL IT'D MOVE TOO QUICK BEFORE YOU'D HAVE THE REST OF IT OUT. IS THAT WHY?

MARVIN Well, I don't know. I guess you could do it but just, you usually do it that way. If you start drifting for shad maybe you'd lay yours off the other way! I don't know.

But see, one thing, you kind of try, the net on the edge side toward the channel will move faster than the net in towards shore. So we usually lay the net off at an angle so we hold the outside end up, hopefully, so that the net, when it stops, is square across the river.

If you hold the net down too much, the net is likely to come up and be straight up and down the river when you get done. So that way you catch the fish going from Delaware to New Jersey and back and forth.

We'd rather catch the ones that's going up the river so we try to keep the net so when it stops, or when the tide starts to slow down, that the net will come up straight, you know, kind of straight across -hopefully, but sometimes it will go all kinds of ways. sometimes you get all kinds of -and then sometimes you've got to be careful you don't get, it don't hook on the bottom on an old crab pot or old anchor or something on the bottom you know, and that could pull out of the way or get in the way of the oysters or something like that.

INTERVIEWER HOW DEEP IS THE WATER WHERE IT'S DRIFTING

24:31

MARVIN Oh, I don't know, 10-12 feet,

INTERVIEWER -AND HOW DEEP IS THE NET -HOW LONG IS IT

24:36

MARVIN 10 or 20 foot Well, you see, it's 20- it's about 25 or 30 meshes deep- 6 inch stretch mesh, which maybe in some places the water is deeper and you know, we're moving, you know, to different areas I mean, like, when the net moves, I don't know how many miles it moves, but oh, you know- Although you'll go from a deeper area to a shallower area you know, shoal area, or go up, you know there are a few little bumps or like that you know, and go through them, you know

25:19

INTERVIEWER HOW LONG, IS THE, SO IT WOULD MAKE IT 400 FATHOMS - HOW MANY FEET IS THAT

MARVIN 6 foot is a fathom so it's 2400 feet

INTERVIEWER AND IT IS MEASURED BY THE LENGTH OF IT, NOT THE DEPTH OF IT

MARVIN You mean the law?

INTERVIEWER Yes,

MARVIN The law is that you're only allowed to have -Well each license - drift-net license is 1200 feet and I think the law says that one person is allowed to have, or the old law, is allowed to have 400 licenses, But you can only tie two licenses together (RE LISTEN)-two 1200 foot pieces together -so that is what we'd do, I mean there were some people that's got more licenses, they- Now we've got more licenses. We could do it if we wanted to, but we only fish two licenses, two 1200 foot pieces is all we fish, Because we usually try to stay somewhere and keep an eye on it, you know, I mean we don't generally get too far away from it.

26:21

INTERVIEWER WHAT DO YOU DO WHILE IT IS DRIFTING

MARVIN EH, Sometimes, I mean if there's quite a few fish or something and the wind's not too bad we'll (run up up and down and pick a few shad out of it (RE-LISTEN) Or other times we'll anchor up and just keep an eye on it, and let the net come down. See, we have to watch out for boats running over it too, Specially, any more when the've got these automatic pilots and things. Lots of times them guys will set their boats, pleasure boaters will set them on automatic pilot. They are really not paying that much attention. You know, they might be looking for another boat, They'd be in the way, but they're not really looking that much for a net so we've got to be on guard that they don't run through the net. Because sometimes they'll cut inside the channel

INTERVIEWER HAVE YOU EVER HAD THAT HAPPEN?

27:05

MARVIN We've had some mighty- yeah, we've had somebody run over the net and cut it, once. Most generally we've managed to get them out of the net, -keep them from getting in it. Close calls, -they get on my nerves.

INTERVIEWER AND MARVIN RANKIN LAUGH AND HE OFFERS HER A SODA

27:28

MARVIN But oh, That oh, with this new, what we've got is this new monofilament, monofilament fiber any more, and it's oh ah, a really good fishing thing you know, so

INTERVIEWER DO YOU HAVE TO SPEND MUCH TIME REPAIRING IT OR

CHAIN SAW RUNNING

MARVIN Well, We really don't repair it, we, what we do, we save it, like we cut the net out of the lines. Like and we use (RE LISTEN) (?kinetic core (?) cord (?) (red line, (lead line) (?) we use (?) kinetic core cork?)(?) line RE LISTEN core line and polyethylene cork line, most generally, and so any more mostly I just cut the net out of the lines. Maybe I can get two years out of it and then, oh ah, the third year cut it out and hang in new because it's cheaper. I don't even know how to make that anyhow. So to me now net's really all that expensive. I don't think- Net only runs around I don't know, 12 or 14 dollars a pound for the lease, so it's almost easier and cheaper to cut out the old and just hang in the new, because I can, I think I can get, I'm guessing too- I think I can get about 1200 feet of net about out of that 12 pounds a lease, so I

INTERVIEWER SO HOW DOES IT COME? DOES IT COME IN A - A LONGER -WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY A LEASE I GUESS?

MARVIN I'll show you. Stay right here

INTERVIEWER THANK YOU
(TAPE SILENT BRIEFLY TO 29:34)

MARVIN (Showing net) (? RE LISTEN) Goodness gracious, This is a Perch net.

INTERVIEWER SO DIFFERENT SIZE FOR PERCH AND SHAD,

MARVIN, yes, so this is smaller

SO HOW- WHAT DO YOU MEASURE IT BY?

MARVIN When you buy it they sell it by square mesh or stretch mesh. I buy- I'm used to talking stretch mesh, so when you stretch it, you stretch the mesh out like that and you measure from this knot to that knot, so this should be, I think this is 3, 3 1/2, or something like that. So this is the edge. This is the selvedge edge. That's doubled, you see, that's got a double selvedge to it. Like I say, we go along with the net needles and we run the net needle through this and this is what holds it to the line, see
30:22

INTERVIEWER AND SO WHEN YOU SAY THIS IS LIKE THREE-

MARVIN 3 1/2,

INTERVIEWER LIKE WHEN YOU LOOK AT IT THE HOLE ISN'T 3 1/2.

MARVIN Right, right

INTERVIEWER IT'S FROM THE TOP KNOT TO THE

MARVIN Yes. When it is 3 1/2 it is stretched, you know, stretched tight from that knot to that knot, see, yes. But some people talk about, some people go to square mesh so that would be from there to there.

INTERVIEWER I SEE

MARVIN So -and you've got a different size thread too, I think this is a little bit

INTERVIEWER SO YOU MEAN

MARVIN The size of this thread is a little bit bigger than what we use for the shad

INTERVIEWER OH REALLY- WHY IS THAT

MARVIN Well, we like to have fine- Shad is, oh, they're not that- They might fight for a few minutes but then they give up quick. So, and this finer net will catch more fish

INTERVIEWER OH YES

MARVIN Well, the heavier net, if he don't get his head in there just right, he'll get gilled but he'll just slide off it, that's all. But the finer the net is, if he gets up against it he can't get away from it and I don't think he can see it as well, either, with the finer net

INTERVIEWER SO HOW BIG IS THE SHAD?

MARVIN O.K. Six inches. That's what we are using to catch the roe shad, six inches.

INTERVIEWER SO WHEN YOU LOOK AT THIS OPENING

MARVIN Some people use 5 1/2,

INTERVIEWER SO THIS OPENING WOULD BE ABOUT TWICE THIS SIZE -FOR A SHAD

MARVIN Well, not, maybe, half again bigger
32:09

INTERVIEWER THE PLACE WHERE IT IS DOUBLE LINE IS JUST AT THE TOP AND THE BOTTOM

MARVIN yes ma'm,

INTERVIEWER AND DOES IT COME IN A STANDARD DEPTH -10 INCH

MARVIN You can get whatever you want. You can get it whatever depth you want. You can get it real deep like in the ocean I think they use really deep nets, but we go by (TRAFFIC. HARD TO HEAR) We go by how many meshes how deep it is

INTERVIEWER AND YOU SAID THIS IS HOW MANY MESHES

MARVIN Eh, on this side I think it is about 25 meshes. Of course you know, see, the meshes is only 3 1/2 and you've got a 25 mesh net, it won't fish as deep, but you've got 5 or 6 inch nets, 25 meshes deep -that would be deeper, you see. That would be deeper.

INTERVIEWER, YES. Hmmm. CAN YOU COMPARE THIS TO FISHING LINE, WHAT POUND TEST IT IS?

MARVIN Well, they can tell you, I don't have a book right here but, I mean, there's a test that comes with it. I don't even know or worry about that. Meanwhile, I just get the real fine net. It tears easy, like, you know, if the striped bass get in it you know, but, they are really hard on a net because they've got sharp gills and you know, they are fight fish, you know, they beat around, they just tear that fine net, really up. Now, the heavier net, they, you know, they can't tear it up so good,

INTERVIEWER WHEN YOU ARE CATCHING SHAD AND USING A FINE NET

MARVIN Yes, well, I want to stay away from the stripers if I can. I hate 'em. I was thinking about devising a poison to poison and kill them all! - I mean it was one thing if we could catch them and sell them. That would kind of help to ease the pain, But when you've got to catch them and throw them back, and after they are tearing up the gear, you know, Well, I wouldn't want to catch them if they were endangered. I'd be the last one in the world to catch one of them, but it is hard. We're saving them, and somebody told me that you would never be allowed to catch striped bass in a net and sell them. Never. They say we'll be eating the eagle for Christmas dinner before we can catch a striped bass and sell 'em. So here we are out there saving these striped bass for who? For what?

INTERVIEWER I GUESS YOU ARE ALLOWED TO TAKE THEM IN THIS YEAR IN DELAWARE

MARVIN Yes, they gave them a small- I don't think it was too much. But we've been seeing dead ones out there, striped bass, floating up and down in the tide streaks now, because these guys out here hook and line fishing, they're catching striped bass to bring it up, on their hook and line, and they say they're swallowing the hooks lots of times, you know the way fish will, but by the time you get the hooks out of them, they've done killed them. And they can't bring them home because they've got to be about 36 inches long so they're throwing them back - so they are killing them too. It makes an awful loss. And I don't understand about letting them keep the big ones, of course I'm not a biologist, so I suppose they must have some basis of biology, scientific basis for it, but back when the law was 18 inches to 20 pounds they said they wanted to save the big spawners so you couldn't keep them over 20 pounds. Now the thing is, kill the big ones. -Because they've got to be 36 inches long, you know that's over, most generally I'd imagine a striper that's 36 inches long is almost 40 pounds or more.

35:38

INTERVIEWER I GUESS WHAT I HEARD WAS THAT THEY WERE TRYING TO PROTECT THE 1982 AGE CLASS BECAUSE THEY HAD HAD A REALLY GOOD SPAWN THAT YEAR SO EACH YEAR THEY'VE BEEN RAISING THAT LIMIT

MARVIN I know that some years that there was a lot bigger hatching, and there was a, you know, a whole bunch of them that size and next year they was like that and the next year they got bigger like that, but there are pretty near all sizes out there right now.

INTERVIEWER Oh yes, huh. WELL MAYBE ONE DAY

MARVIN They come and go, I mean like some days they're thick and some days -they might be gone for two or three weeks and then, you know, you don't see them

INTERVIEWER SO THEY DON'T JUST COME IN ONCE IN THE SPRING AND THEN LEAVE. THEY STICK AROUND ALL SUMMER

MARVIN Yes, I, they're out there right now because I know them guys that's fishing with hook and line say they've got trouble with them can't catch the weak fish because the striped bass is on there. So sometimes, not every day, not all the time, but you know

36:35

INTERVIEWER DID YOU EVER NET FOR WEAK FISH

MARVIN Well, we caught a few, in a -but the weak fish don't really come up the bay this far, that's only if it is a dry year, and the water's probably salty. You know, weak fish is kind of an ocean fish, and it in salt water you know, and the water out here gets kind of brackish sometimes, you know, and oh, but we caught weak fish this year because it was a dry Spring and then in the fall sometimes we catch weak fish. But I never went down the bay to catch them like them guys catch a whole lot,

INTERVIEWER A LOT OF PEOPLE UP HERE DO THAT - THEY FOLLOW THEM AROUND

MARVIN AAh, most of the guys up here when shad fishing season's over they don't really -they go to crabbing, so you know, maybe they might hook a line for weak fish, but it's not very not yet, anyway. It is kind of a soft fish too, so you've got to be - I think gill netting weak fish. I them guys down the bay, they probably pick up right away but we're not leaving them in there very long because when the water's hot I would think you'd have to get them weak fish out of the water pretty fast or they get soft.

INTERVIEWER HOW QUICK DO THEY DIE WHEN

MARVIN Oh, I don't know. They probably live for a little while. Of course that's the advantage of the perch. The perch, he'll live a long time in the net, and that way, you know, perch is a hard fish and you can, you know - you take a lot of hucksters like perch because you can kind of abuse them a little bit and they still will look pretty good. With a shad and a weak fish you can't abuse them because they are a soft fish and they'll go backwards fast, and you know the customer is not going to want them.

INTERVIEWER WHEN YOU CATCH THEM YOU SELL THEM OUT OF BUSHELS -YOU PACKAGE THEM AND SELL THEM BY THE BUSHEL OR WHAT? BY THE POUND OR

MARVIN Out here at the house I sell them by the pound. -clean a lot of them

INTERVIEWER OH YES

MARVIN I have people coming here to buy them

INTERVIEWER THAT MUST BE A JOB

MARVIN And when the country club, the why he cleaned them, took their heads and tails off and took the guts out of them and they split them and did whatever they did to them on one of the planks pounds at a time because they have their dinners scheduled and we always tried to make sure that we had fish for their dinners. But then of course we took the fish every day over to the marinas. Of course they wanted good quality fish too, so we tried to take every day's fish over to them and try to calculate how many I would need over at the house because the shad, you know, you can't fool around with them. You can't keep them, you know they will go soft on you if you

39:33

INTERVIEWER SO HOW DO YOU GET A BIG ORDER TOGETHER FOR THE COUNTRY CLUB. DO YOU FREEZE THEM OR

MARVIN Well, we clean them, we try not to keep them very many days, I guess maybe they freeze them after we take them over to them some times. But sometimes they have dinners scheduled at night after the shad's but most generally we can keep them, pack them in ice and keep them that way for a couple of days at least. Because, we've got to be careful, like if they've got a dinner scheduled and it should come up a storm or something and we couldn't fish, you know, it would be a disaster because we couldn't get the fish, -so we always try to have some.

I've got a walk-in box here and I pack them in. I hold them a day or so, but I'm not going to- I figure three days is the max, maybe, for the shad. I usually try to pack them on their backs with their stomachs up and I kind of pack them in rows and put ice on them, and then I look in there, because some people want little ones and some people want big ones, and you usually try to manage to want something I don't have!

If they want all little ones I have all big ones - so, -You've got little ones- they want big ones. But, oh, I don't want to be picking them up and handling them any more than you have to, because the more you pick them up and handle them, you know, it's not good for them.

41:02

INTERVIEWER DOES IT SEEM LIKE YOU CATCH A LOT OF THE SAME SIZE AT THE SAME TIME. DO THE SCHOOLS SEEM TO BE ALL SIMILAR FISH OR DO THEY VARY A LOT

MARVIN The net -if you're fishing with a 6 inch net it's going to catch practically all the same size fish but, there is a difference in the fish. You're right. Like people you know, it's tall people, skinny people fat people, naked people and all like that. All this shad. sometimes we do get in long, narrow shad and sometimes short, chumpy shad like that. I guess maybe all families like, or they return from where they're born and that family from that stream has them characteristics or what, you know. I do know some days we catch different shaped shad a little bit you know.

INTERVIEWER WELL THAT IS REALLY INTERESTING

MARVIN Yes, sometimes you'll get really long, long ones, and sometimes we catch shorter, chunkier ones.

Of course the bucks usually come first and then most generally when we first start fishing we catch primarily -like maybe it will be running maybe 60 or 70 % bucks and then on the last half you'll be catching 60 or 70 or 80 % roes. So, The bucks usually come first and then the roes. But, and then this year was kind of a screwed up year.

42:50

INTERVIEWER YOU FIGURE BECAUSE IT WAS SO DRY

MARVIN Well, -and warm. The water never got really cold, and the problem we had when the market died.

Easter, a lot of people especially in this area have a tradition, they eat shad for Easter or Good Friday. Seems like, because it is a Springtime fish and I guess these people just got into the habit, that time of year, the shad was here at that time, so they made it a habit for a shad dinner, for a Sunday dinner, on Easter Sunday. And then after that, so sometimes Easter is not until the middle of April, or pretty well into April, but this year, Easter I think was the first- either the last day of March or the first day of April, you see, so shad sale was high going up to Good Friday, and then the price fell apart and the price stayed down for a long time.

And another thing we had was, it seemed like we had shad the same time that the people in Virginia was catching shad and the people in the Hudson and the Connecticut River was almost catching shad, they was catching shad with a few days of what we was. Most generally I think the shad like to go into Virginia, The Virginia guys get shad before we do, and then maybe we've got them for a few weeks before they get into the Hudson and then the Connecticut Rivers.

This year it seemed like they almost come into all the rivers at the same time so it put this big volume of fish on the market all at one time and it just killed the price. And, but then, see normally after we're all done, they're catching them in the Connecticut and like that on up there. Their shad got done the same time that ours did, and then the price went back up on the last day

44:37

CHAIN SAW RUNNING

INTERVIEWER (RE LISTEN)(?) WHEN THERE'S NO MORE SHAD

MARVIN Yes The old story of supply and demand, and this is, this is a strange year you know. -selling them and catching them too. That's (?) -Things changing. Maybe in a few years they won't even be able to sell shad -or maybe they'll be worth a lot of money. I mean, you never know. You maybe will have new materials or new ways of catching them and all that

INTERVIEWER DO YOU EAT THEM YOURSELF

MARVIN Eh, I eat them once in a while. -Of course they're a boney fish. But I like the flavor of them. Of course sometimes I'll sell my shad and then go to MacDonalds and buy, an egg MacMuffin or something!

LAUGHTER

INTERVIEWER Do (SOUNDS LIKE GROUPE ? ?) (RE-LISTEN) EVER COME UP THIS HIGH

MARVIN Yes

INTERVIEWER DO YOU CATCH THEM AT ALL

MARVIN yes. We don't like catching them in the shad net too well. Some times they really mess, they really get in the shad net and make a little notch in nets. Of course if the bunker would keep his mouth shut he wouldn't get caught in the shad net. But he's swimming in the water with his mouth open and he gets that thread in his mouth and he swims around and makes a little knot in there. That's the deal "If you keep your mouth shut you wouldn't get caught!" Because he's too small to get gilled in there.

46:00

INTERVIEWER YOU CATCH THEM IN PERCH NETS

MARVIN Yes, yes. He can get gilled in that net. Big bunkers

INTERVIEWER BUT YOU DON'T GO AFTER THEM SPECIFICALLY

MARVIN Yes, yes. Sometimes we might- especially in the Fall sometimes I'll set a few nets to catch some crab bait, Blues and things like that too

INTERVIEWER DO YOU CATCH BLUES UP IN THE FRESHER WATER EVEN

MARVIN Yes, oh yes You know, striped bass is going

TAPE BLANK 46:44

This guy know I was a gill-net fisherman because he was an evil person, that's all he was, I'm sure they would have drugged me out on the street and lynched me if they knew it. But I heard them talking about, you know, catching the striped bass clean up the river to the Delaware Water Gap, so- and I caught, we caught last year, I don't know how many striped bass with lures in their mouths

46:58

INTERVIEWER REALLY

MARVIN I caught one legal one. One 36 inch one. I caught him with a hook but there wasn't much line because, you see, he was dragging this lure in his mouth, which had two sets of treble hooks on him. One was in his mouth and one was hanging out of his side and they got caught in the net, so that's how we caught him, by the hook.

INTERVIEWER SO IF YOU CAUGHT A 36 INCH ONE IN THE NET CAN YOU KEEP IT OR

MARVIN nuh uh. You ain't allowed to take none in the net. I don't think

INTERVIEWER BUT HE WAS HOOKED SO HE

MARVIN No, well, splitting hairs. I can't He wasn't caught with a hook, but sometimes, oh, you know, we catch fish, like sometimes in the crab pots. Evidently, the fish, oh, break the fishermen's line, you know, but he's swimming through the water, dragging this hook and sinkers at any rate, or that other hook will have hooked in the crab line and so we'll pull up the crab pot and here it is fish swimming all around on the other hook

INTERVIEWER SO YOU CRAB IN THE SUMMER TOO

MARVIN Yes.

INTERVIEWER ARE YOU CRABBING NOW?

MARVIN Yes.

INTERVIEWER HOW MANY POTS

MARVIN I've got maybe, 100 some. I farm just a little bit too.

48:18

INTERVIEWER A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING

MARVIN Aah, you, yes. A little but, I don't (RE LISTEN) so much but keep trying and have fun trying

INTERVIEWER ARE YOU STILL TRAPPING

MARVIN Yes, but that's bad.

INTERVIEWER I HEAR THE PRICES ARE REALLY DOWN.

MARVIN Yes, but the prices are going back up they say. It bottomed out I guess. It finally hit bottom. It was really, I used to do really good trapping, you know,

INTERVIEWER WHEREABOUTS DO YOU TRAP

MARVIN Oh, all around here. Trap maybe 5 or 600 acres of private people and then trap some on the state land, but oh, there for a few years the price of fur was up and (RE LISTEN) we got caught with a double whammy with the trap I must generally trap for muskrats. I don't like trapping 'coons and foxes and stuff. That ain't my bag. I like trapping muskrats. Oh uh, for some unknown reason the population on the marsh has gone way down. There just don't seem to be many muskrats on the, we've got meadows that haven't been trapped for two or three years and there are no more muskrats on that meadow than what there was when they stopped trapping.

So, it is not over trapped. I don't know what is wrong with it. I'm afraid to say they've got a disease because you sell the meat, you know. That's the only thing that saved me this year. I got a dollar seventy five cents for the meat. And, you go telling about them being sick and then people won't want to be buying meat so I don't want to say they're sick, and I don't really know whether they are sick or not. They seem fat, the ones I was skinning, but for some reason they're not multiplying like they should. I don't know

INTERVIEWER I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO HARVEST 80% OF THE POPULATION IN ORDER FOR THE POPULATION TO BE HEALTHY?

50:03

MARVIN Well, they always told me that they needed to trap them at a, keep them so that they was, so that they didn't become in-bred, because if you didn't trap them they was, you know, that family unit would

stay right there together and they would get in- bred and they would get, you know, I guess it is not good to get in-bred, you know.

The strain goes backwards.. It is like when you trap you're moving the trap. They move here and you move there and that way it kind of mixes up the breed you know. That's true and maybe that is the reason why some of that meadow that's not been trapped, is why the 'rats is going down hill you know.

But, I'll tell you, all these chemicals- the farmers put weed killer on their fields and the spray,- and if the farmers didn't spray we'd starve to death but you can't raise anything without spraying. But still and all, you know when the rain comes and wipes it off and it goes down in ditches and the ditches empty out into the marsh and all that stuff, sediment, you know gets in there.

Now whether it's- I noticed that with my perch, when I used to, down at the head of Mad Horse Creek there's 1100 acres of meadows that's banked in. It's controlled by dikes you know, and they did it to raise muskrats like, you know, and duck, and things like that.

The perch always used to come at the Spring of the year. The perch would come to them sluices , you know, because they'd go into those meadows to spawn. Well, they got this thing you know, people don't want mosquitoes so they've been spraying for mosquitoes.

Of course now the mosquito commission will get mad at me because they don't, they say that the spray they use decomposes in a few months or weeks or something, But I ain't a scientist, maybe it's not that, but I do know that there is something in that water that them perch don't like no more. It don't kill them, but you take, like, you set a net up by them sluices now and you won't catch hardly any perch.

Especially, like, they keep the water banked in in the wintertime for trapping, because they raise the water so much so the muskrats can build their houses. In the Fall when it comes November when the muskrat is getting ready to build their houses they raise the water. That way the muskrat can float the material to their houses . They don't have to work so hard. That way they can live a better life and grow bigger and fatter and nicer, -and then in the Spring of the year when we're all done trapping they pull these boards out and let all this fresh water that they've got trapped in there out. Well, that is really drawing the perch there. and there was some in there, I'd be catching the perch there, until they'd open them boards and let that water out, and after them perch just disappear. They just go.

INTERVIEWER AND YOU USED TO SEE A LOT OF THEM THERE
52:47

MARVIN Yes, right. There used to be, why there'd be so many in the net, why every mesh always had a perch in, you know.

So, there's some kind of chemical reaction in there. It might not be from mosquito spray, it might be some kind of chemical that accumulated in there from the run off from the fields or something. I mean, but I do know there is something in that water them perch don't like. It don't kill them. But they take off from around there when they start, when that water starts coming out of that meadow.

And I don't know whether it will have the same effect on some -of course a lot of people like to blame the nuclear plant. You know, it looks evil down there you know, coughing out that steam and them big towers, but I don't know, I'm not that much against the nuclear, as long as it's safe.

But I've seen these other electric plants where they've got coal generating plants and they've got that awful smell from burning that soft coal and that (RE LISTEN) and the DuPont company, of course they all say that- and I think they are because it is good business to try to clean up the environment.

You know, that's what everybody wants to hear. You know, like DuPont's got this ad up they got going now they've got double hulled tankers. I don't know how many they've got. I bet they ain't got very many. That one they've got the picture of is probably the only one they've got! -but oh, I don't know

You know, one time a guy came to me and said DuPont wants some fish. They wanted 50 fish. They said all kinds, catfish, carp, perch, all kinds of fish. I thought they was going to do a scientific, some kind of scientific study, you know -some chemical work. But that wasn't it. I found out later, they wanted them alive. I had to get them live fish. I found out why it was: They had another ad on television. They had this old guy, like a grandfather type guy, and this kid, right, and in a boat. And they was fishing up here at the Chambers works by the Delaware Memorial Bridge, at their out-flow where they spit their water at. Well the ad was saying, "Our water is so clear that you can catch fish right there", But the fish was, I caught in the net and they was tying them on that guy's hook and I said, you know, I said, -But they said, but them actors, they were really actors from New York, and they say, "You know they charged a lot of money", and, "We can't be having them actors paying them all this big money out there waiting to catch a fish!" So they had to buy all these fish to be sure to have them.

INTERVIEWER AND MARVIN LAUGH TOGETHER

MARVIN CONTINUES -but you know, there you go, see, people looking at that ad you know, so it hasn't proved to me where their out-flow is all that pure. Same way with their double hulled tankers.

INTERVIEWER IT MAKES YOU WONDER

55:33

MARVIN And, oh, the bottom line is, like with the nuclear plant down here, I mean they got the nuclear plant, everybody got mad at the nuclear plant because they thought they was killing the weak fish.

I'm one of the only ones, I guess, I can't swallow it myself. I mean, if the weak fish lived up here, I mean if you told me they was wiping out the white perch, the carp, catfish, the fish that live here their whole life cycle. They spawn, they live their whole life here, right here in front of them screens out there. But when the nuclear plant was destroying them I'd buy.

But the weakfish, we don't see- just like I told you earlier, the weak fish only come up here on a real dry year, now maybe certain stage life-stages, when they were hatching, or when the larvae drifts up here or something, or maybe so, maybe there are- But, I just can't see how the nuclear plant is killing that many. That much of the weak fish and the whole thing. Where are the dead? They might kill some.

You take like these mud shad- alewives, Now they live up here all the time - Now there is a population explosion with them. Now I've never seen so many of them, you know, (we call them mud-shad) and oh, if the nuclear plant was doing that to the fish, why wouldn't it kill them?

Or the carp? I know the carps is spawning right out in front of them screens, why don't it wipe out the carp? They ain't wiping them out, either.

I don't know. -I ain't swallowing- They ain't made me believe that the nuclear plant is killing that many of the weak fish -and I think that the nuclear plant is helping us with the shad a little bit. Because I think that water temperature, see, the shad's worth more money in the Spring, you know when they first get here they usually they are worth money, and I think that nuclear plant, putting out that warm circulating water back there, it is only maybe a degree or two warmer but I still think it kinda helps maybe for shad to come on up here, you know, to keep them coming up here because they used to be, I noticed when we first started fishing, they would catch the shad down at Reed's Beach and (CHECK) Beach and them stake nets down there in the Maurice River Cove, and like that, and they might be catching them a week or two before we would get them, and now, it seems like the last few years, we've got them as soon as they've got them. You know. And I've just thought that maybe, I mean it is no scientific proof, and I could be dead wrong. But I just feel that that warm plume of water out there is more helping me than it is hurting me.

But I'm in the minority on that thinking. I went to several meetings and I got kind of angry and, well, I had to get up and leave a few because I was swallowed what they was trying to say. I know- (MARVIN CALLS

OUT TO JERRY, NEARBY, WORKING) Hey Jerry, what's that guy's name that's doing that biology study? (ANSWER: SCOTT.) Yes. Scott Beck. If you ever wanted to, he's- I'll tell you how I met him: I've got his telephone number if you want to call him.

58:58

INTERVIEWER WHAT DOES HE STUDY

MARVIN He studies the river. Fish and, and he does a study on the shad.

I sold this shad to this fella, I sell a lot of shad just, you know, the whole fish. This guy took it home and cleaned it, and he found this thing in its stomach.

Well, he thought I was trying to kill him I guess, so he runs up to the police department with it. Yeah right. It was about that big around I guess, And oh, the police department, they could read, so they read it and they found out it was a radio transmitter, see. And this Scott Beck had put this transmitter, it had his number on there and everything, and oh ah, and he, so he called me and wanted to know -that's how I first met him.

You know, where to call him and when to call him and all like that for his study you know. And that is how I met him and then, later on I see him out on the river some times because he sets nets, periodically, you know, to take samples, and they are out there doing all kinds of sampling.

1:00:00

INTERVIEWER WAS HE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE?

MARVIN Yes, I think so. Let me get my telephone book and I'll give you his number, because if you wanted to know about the life and the health of the river, he could probably, he tell you scientifically

INTERVIEWER O.K. THAT WOULD BE NICE TO KNOW

1:00:14

MARVIN (RETURNING) And this other(RE LISTEN) museum or I don't know whether he works some for, you know, where the nuclear plant has to pay so much, you know, because it had to do -like they did a study on, before the plant started operations and then they had to carry on their studies, you know, on a whole lot of things. So selling crabs we used to get paid for sending in reports on what we caught and how many we caught and all that because they had a -they looked at stuff that I didn't even think about. Sometimes Salamanders and all that kind of junk. But I guess they want to get a norm, because they didn't -because if something had a natural climb or decline or what ever, they didn't want to take the rap for it if it was a natural thing, you know. Diamond back turtles, they did a big study on them too.

INTERVIEWER WHEN YOU CRAB, DO YOU DO THAT -I MEAN DO YOU START ON -WHEN MOST OF THE PEOPLE START CRABBING,OR DO YOU FISH PARTLY INTO THE CRAB SEASON

MARVIN Well, I think the shad season goes out the 15th of May, the 10th or 15th of May, I don't know for sure, But of course now the guys down the bay start crabbing before that see. We, up here, crabs don't come on until, usually, you know, in the middle of May usually we- Sometimes we catch them the 1st of May or last of April, but most generally the crabs don't start. You know, if you have enough crabs so you can make a profit up here.

INTERVIEWER YOU TAKE A LITTLE BIT OF A BREAK BEFORE YOU START UP

MARVIN No, not really. You usually jump right in from shad fishing right into crabbing.

1:02:09

INTERVIEWER DO YOU GO RIGHT FROM CRAB FISHING TO TRAPPING? -OR FISHING AGAIN I GUESS

MARVIN Well, I'll probably crab until almost November and then you know, the price is going up. If it stays like it was last year- I kind of lost interest. I'll still crab, but I don't know how hard. Like that.

INTERVIEWER HOW MANY PEOPLE WOULD YOU SAY ARE STILL TRAPPING AROUND HERE. HAS IT DECLINED A LOT?

1:02:32

MARVIN Yes. There is still some. I mean there is still some people fishing and crabbing and trapping but it is getting less and less and less on the trapping all the time. But I mean, you know, you can't, -by the price they were last year you just can't make it. There is just no way.

INTERVIEWER DO MOST OF THE PEOPLE THAT FISH ALSO TRAP?

MARVIN They have trapped

INTERVIEWER AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER

MARVIN Yes, But I don't know whether they've trapped lately., the last couple of years. People that trapped last year were kind of scarce. I don't know if there really were that many. I was trying to think how many people fished up here. I guess there was 10 or 12 people fish up here

INTERVIEWER ALL FROM NEW JERSEY, FROM RIGHT AROUND HERE

MARVIN Yes.

INTERVIEWER THERE ARE JUST AS MANY FROM DELAWARE

MARVIN Well, the Delaware guys, they don't have New Jersey license. They can't fish. There are one or two Delawareans come over here and fish with us. I don't know, down the bay kind of. There's one or two Delawareans that have New Jersey licenses that fish over here but of course there are a lot of Delawareans that fish, you know, on the Delaware side. Of course, we are not allowed to fish on the Delaware side.

INTERVIEWER YOU CAN'T EVEN GET A LICENSE THERE CAN YOU?

MARVIN Well, they've got a few, There are six guys I think that've got a Delaware license that can fish in Salem Cove. - You see we're not allowed to fish of the river above the nuclear plant

INTERVIEWER BECAUSE THAT BECOMES DELAWARE'S WATERS

MARVIN. That's all Delaware waters -24 miles of the river is all Delaware

1:04:03

INTERVIEWER THAT BECOMES - HOW LONG? THAT'S BEEN FOREVER, HASN'T IT -

MARVIN Well, not forever! There's William Penn and oh!

INTERVIEWER THERE HAVE NEVER BEEN NEW JERSEY COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN NORTH OF THE PLANT.

MARVIN Yes, they used to fish up there.

INTERVIEWER OH YES?

MARVIN Yes, they fished up there and oh, the Delawareans I guess, used to fish over here, -crab over here too, years ago.

INTERVIEWER DO YOU KNOW WHEN IT WAS THEY STARTED GETTING, YOU KNOW, STRICTER?

MARVIN They had a lot of people that kind of part-time fished and they fished in Salem Cove and oh, for fun, but yet they caught more than they could eat themselves and give to their friends so they sold them too, So, but they didn't do it for a living, but they, you know, and they did give them a chance to buy a shad-net license, but they was only(allowed to? CAN'T HEAR)-And I think they was only 6 or 7 people that took them up on it. -Took up the license

INTERVIEWER BEFORE THAT THE SHAD FISHERMEN USED TO GO UP?

MARVIN Yes, yes. Jersey guys would fish right on up. Like I, well, it is New Jersey water to get up to Bridgeport but, you know, years ago they fished (RE LISTEN) sturgeon of course (? RE LISTEN) Of course they always knew that it was Delaware water. Just nobody, you know, I think when they come out with this license bit- I don't know. It stopped it. But Delaware seems a little bit ahead of New Jersey sometimes. But I think Delaware is a small state where It only has three counties, and I think that they have more of, I'm just guessing here, but I think they have more access to their state government than what we do here in New Jersey.

1:05:49

INTERVIEWER THAT'S WHAT I HAVE HEARD

MARVIN Because we have 21 counties and we're down here where it is lessly populated and

INTERVIEWER AND THEIR COUNTY GOVERNMENTS, I UNDERSTAND, HAVE A LOT OF POWER

MARVIN Yes. Right. And I think. They can get to Dover. If they see that there is a law needed, like they seen there was a law needed to get the New Jersey guys out of their water from fishing, I think they would be able yo get the job done in a relatively short period of time. Where if we've seen that there is some kind of law that would help us it would take ten forevers for us to take- because the people in North Jersey, they are not the least bit interested in what happens down here and you know, to get anything through our legislature you've got to get support from more than just our legislator, in Salem, Cumberland, and Cape May counties so, They can't drive over here unless they've got our license but of course they have such a restricted fishing license over there. They've even got the Delawareans can't even get, you know, because thy've even got closed entries saying, that no new fishermen can enter the fishery. I was told that they dropped down to 30 licenses, or 30 fishermen I guess -or something. And that's not very many fishermen for all of Delaware Bay.

That might not be true, but I don't know. I mean that is what I was told. Of course they allowed everybody that was involved in it, in the industry, to buy license, but they, when they are finished with their license - that license is

INTERVIEWER THEY CAN'T PASS IT ON-

MARVIN Right. They can't pass it on -until they get down to these 30 fishermen or whatever it is. Of course that is what New Jersey is trying to, in a way, shoot for I guess.

Well, I guess it is all over. I mean, a lot of places, are either trying to restrict gill-nets or do away with them or, you know, one way or the other or, and I know, a lot of people

Or with the lobster- We was talking about the oysters, but right now I think they've got a set number of oyster licenses that they issue, and the only way you can get in the oyster business is to be able to buy somebody's license.

Well, I know, I was up in Maine, I mean Massachusetts, one time, and I was talking with these lobster-with this guy, he was a trap fisherman. He caught fish in traps and he's- he was trying to get a lobster license, in-shore lobster license, and I guess, you know, they've got closed entry on that.

He went in to get his fish license and he said, and he asked the lady in the office and said, "Well how's my lobster license coming along?", and she said, "Well, How old are you?" He told her how he was, I guess, 40, or something like that. She said, "Well, I don;t think you are going to live long enough to get a license."

So, I guess it is not only in New Jersey and Delaware, it is all up and down the coast and , but they are trying to limit the amount of people that is involved with the fishery. But sometimes economics takes care of things too. People who can't make any money drop out of it too.

1:09:05 (CHAIN SAW RUNNING)

INTERVIEWER I GUESS LAST YEAR THEY HAD A PRETTY GOOD OYSTER YEAR, AND NOW THIS YEAR THERE ARE ABOUT TWICE AS MANY GUYS OUT THERE

MARVIN Yes. Like you said, the time to get your oyster license was about three or four years ago when they was dead!

INTERVIEWER UH HUH

MARVIN And it looked like it would never be resurrected. Can't get into it now. Aah, I don't know nothing about it anyhow but- See, I wouldn't worry about it when the muskrats is good, because I'd make more money in trapping, But now, with the muskrats bad and I'm, 30 years ago - people got, or (RE-LISTEN) Oh, that might not be all of the reason but, just killed the fur business.

1:09:50

INTERVIEWER I GUESS THERE IS NOT THAT MUCH ELSE GOING ON IN THE WATER AT THAT TIME OF YEAR OTHER THAN OYSTERING?

MARVIN Can't do anything other than getting nets ready and work on building crab pots and there is always plenty you can do. Sometimes you might need something to make a dollar out of

INTERVIEWER YES. HMMM.

MARVIN Of course, if you can make enough crabbing, why you can ride on your crab money. Sometimes when you end up crabbing you haven't got that much money left. We did fairly good last year, crabbing.

INTERVIEWER DID YOU EVER THINK ABOUT DREDGING CRABS?

MARVIN. No, I never even thought about it. I mean I know some of the guys do. I think Steve Crane has done it, you know. (RE LISTEN!) He fell on his head in the creek this morning. (? ?)

INTERVIEWER YOU SAID THERE WERE ABOUT 10 OR 12 FISHERMEN. THEY ARE ALL OUT OF MAD HORSE

MARVIN Most of them. Some of them, I guess, is out of Alloway Creek , some, a couple, down to Cohansey or somewhere like that

INTERVIEWER FISHERMEN OUT OF HANCOCK'S BRIDGE

MARVIN No, I don't believe so. Not now. Used to be, years ago

INTERVIEWER IT USED TO BE SUCH A TRADITIONAL PLACE-

MARVIN Yes. You know when I was a kid we used to ride over and see those shad skips (skiffs?) all lined up as they'd try to pull around. But then there are some people that'd come. There is no body out of Hancock but down below Hancock at Port Lucy (?) a few people that fish out of there but some of them do I guess. There might be, maybe there might be two or three guys (CHAIN SAW - RE LISTEN) so fast I can't keep up with it. But I believe there is, two or three, maybe even four boats down out of Alloway Creek.

INTERVIEWER WHEN DID THEY SWITCH FROM SKIFFS WHEN DID THEY STOP USING THEM AND START GOING WITH THE FIBERGLASS? WAS THERE SOMETHING IN BETWEEN? -BETWEEN THE SKIFFS AND THE FIBERGLASS BOATS?

1:11:51

MARVIN They were definitely slow in the water. I mean everybody wants to go fast, now.

INTERVIEWER WHERE DID THEY BUILD THEM

MARVIN Oh they built some around here. Some of their names on them, it was their style boat you know. Somebody could look at it and say, well I think there was some people by the name of (?) Bramble (?) built some boats. Someone could say, well, that was Burt Brandle's (CHECK) boat, you know, because (?) the architect of the boat you know, and he was the one who built it. He had this little creek where he built his boat.

1:122:22

INTERVIEWER AND YOU SAY THERE WERE A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE WHO BUILT THEM

MARVIN Yes, there were several

INTERVIEWER LIKE YOU THINK OVER TEN?

MARVIN, No, I don't imagine there was that many. One or two left around.

INTERVIEWER OH YES. WHERE ABOUTS? I'D BE INTERESTED IN SEEING ONE.

MARVIN (HARD TO HEAR) (Sidney Riley ?) -he's got some. (NOISE OF PAPERS) They (rowed?)(?) the net off and they rowed (rolled ?) the net on, mostly. -because they thought it was cheaper
1:12:54

INTERVIEWER (?) A LOT OF WORK

MARVIN Well, they thought it was cheating to use the motor I guess!

INTERVIEWER EVEN WHEN THEY HAD MOTORS THEY DID THAT

MARVIN Well, see, at first I guess maybe they did that. Well, Sidney, he could tell you a lot about that. As far as that Beck guy over there, over to that museum, he's got a lot of stuff over there. I guess maybe they used sails when they first had them. Because I think I've seen some that had a center board in them. They dropped down, you know, when they had the mast on them. Of course then they went to these engines, these single cylinder engines that they, and then they had cabins out along the edge of the river and they would stay out there all week and then they would come home on Saturdays and then go back out Sunday nights.

INTERVIEWER I HEARD A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THEM. IT SOUNDS LIKE THEY WERE

MARVIN They were so slow, it would take them a long time to go, to come all the way from home because they didn't make very good time.

INTERVIEWER SOUNDS LIKE THEY HAD HUNDREDS OF THEM OUT THERE, THOSE CABINS
1:13:57

MARVIN I don't know whether they had hundreds or not, but they had quite a few. I know this fellow that taught me to fish, you know, he didn't really teach me but he really was a big help to me to start out fishing- He said he wouldn't eat no more eggs because when they were living out there there in those cabins, because they shad fished and then they went to sturgeon fishing when they got done shad fishing. They said they used to eat eggs all the time when they were in the cabin. Of course they needed something that would keep. They didn't have a lot of refrigeration or anything back in them days so he said he got so tired of eating eggs he never wanted to eat another egg.

INTERVIEWER DO YOU KNOW OF ANYBODY AROUND WHO IS STILL AROUND WHO WOULD HAVE FISHED OUT OF THERE?

MARVIN See, then now we are going back you know. There was cabins, but then they began to -see, the shad was, as I said before, the shad really dwindled, after the first world war. From the first world war to the second world war the shad really- Then the second world war they really went bad.

So, because I can remember they used to have at Pennsville they used to have a Ferry, like a passenger boat that would take you on cruises from Pennsville to Philadelphia. I guess they are beginning to get popular again now, Well, anyhow, I was only a young pup, in the second world war I was maybe 12 or 14 years old. Then my father and mother one time took me on this cruise from Pennsville to Philadelphia and back, and I

can remember when we got up above, like Chester Pennsylvania and up in that area, back where the wheel was kicking up the water, it smelled like a cesspool, you know, it was like bad. The river was really bad.

And I think a lot of these fish, especially like shad, which was trying to get up the river, they weren't going to live in Philadelphia, they were going to pass through, and I think maybe the water got so bad they just couldn't even hardly get through it, enough of them to make any difference.

So, then, it is one of these things where, I mean, you just can't turn it off and on. You wipe them fish out. You just can't get them all back. O.K. so I'm going to do good now, but you just can't undo all the damage that's been done in one year you know. So. It took a number of years, you know, for the shad to recover.

Of course you always take -I think the Maurice River had a run of shad, and some of these others -like Alloway Creek, up here. They have a run of shad. I mean just a little run. Because it has a fresh water source, you know, and there is shad goes up Alloway Creek. Now Mad Horse Creek don't have any shad in it. The shad don't come up Mad Horse Creek

INTERVIEWER IS THAT JUST A SALT CREEK

MARVIN Yes, because it doesn't have no fresh water source, you know, that much. Well, and see, one time, years ago, At Hancock's Bridge the state had a fish hatchery there for several years, and they hatched perch and shad and stuff like that out there. That was back, I guess, back then when the state had money. I don't know, I'd have to think about it. Maybe Sidney Rolley (sp) RE LISTEN could tell you about it. He was really into this shad fishing and he named his road "Shad Roed" you know! He had shad on the side of his truck and all that stuff. He is really in to it.

INTERVIEWER DO YOU THINK HE HAS COLLECTED THINGS LIKE PHOTOGRAPHS AND STUFF

MARVIN Yes. I imagine he has. And like I say, I think he's still got a shad skip.

INTERVIEWER I'D LIKE TO SEE IT.

MARVIN Off hand, I don't know where else I could take you to you to see it.

1:17:44

INTERVIEWER WHERE WAS THAT COLLECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT BEFORE

MARVIN Yes, well, the township has some. Of course they have photographs of other things, different size boats and stuff, but oh ah, he had some. He was the one that originally got them for the township, but he kept some, and then the township, have been trying -see, the township has a museum and oh now, they have them in a book form so people can just look through them, protected like. But it's not open and I couldn't get a hold of the guy that is in charge of it and I don't know whether they'd trust me to let me take it out or- But I'll still work on it. Maybe I can get a hold of them and let some, try to let you see pictures of some of these guys.

INTERVIEWER WELL, THE ONES AT THE TOWNSHIP HALL, CAN YOU JUST WALK IN OR IS THAT

1:18:37

MARVIN No, they're in the museum and that is only open on Sundays I think they said, some Sundays maybe once a month, they have it open, like that. I'll try to find one. Maybe they'd let me have it, I don't

know. But I have been running around busy. But I thought I could these pictures off this other guy and oh, because I called him and he said, "Yes, sure you can have a look at them," and then I went up there and he said, well I said I'll come up there Sunday afternoon and I went up and he wasn't there and I couldn't find him, and then I went again today and I couldn't find him either. I didn't have a whole lot of time I could put into it, so

INTERVIEWER WELL, I APPRECIATE YOU CHECKING AROUND

MARVIN Yes, well, if you give me your phone number, I had it somewhere. I probably put it on an envelope somewhere and misplaced it.

INTERVIEWER I HAVE TROUBLE WITH THAT MYSELF SOMETIMES, BUT I WILL PROBABLY GIVE THIS GUY SIDNEY RILEY A CALL AND SEE IF I CAN DO A CONFERENCE CALL WITH HIM ALSO ONE DAY.

MARVIN Yes, well, I don't know whether you want to go there tonight. Is it too late for you? Or do you want to go out to dinner. ?

INTERVIEWER I DON'T KNOW. WHAT DO YOU THINK, IS IT TOO LATE TO CALL HIM?

MARVIN I don't know. It may be late in the day for him.

INTERVIEWER YES. IT MIGHT BE A BETTER IDEA TO GIVE HIM A LITTLE CHANCE TO THINK ABOUT IT AND -I WOULDN'T WANT TO PUT HIM ON THE SPOT. I'LL JUST GIVE HIM A CALL

1:19:58

(personal aside left out of transcription. not important)

MARVIN Yes, because he knows a lot about the boats. I mean, he is into that stuff. He's been gathering material, probably, on them, because he is really interested in it. He is (ain't?) probably trying to make a living out of it, or anything like that.

INTERVIEWER THE GUYS THAT DO MAKE A LIVING OUT OF IT, IS THERE PRETTY GOOD COMMUNICATION. DO YOU TALK TO EACH OTHER A LOT

1:20:23

MARVIN Oh, yes. Of course I don't know about in the old times, you know they told me that they had this tale, it was told to me that there were so many boats fishing for shad out in the river at one time that you could come from Port Norris or somewhere and come all the way to Pennsville and never come to shore. Because one guy in one boat would tell another guy in another boat and the (jib?) would come all the way to Pennsville without ever coming to shore.

INTERVIEWER WOW. I WONDER HOW MANY BOATS THAT HE PULLS

MARVIN I don't know but there must have been a lot of boats out there. There is no where near that much boats out there.

I mean, you know, people get angry at one another once in a while and tempers maybe flare once in a while a little bit, but I think everybody looks out after everybody. Everybody considers everybody. I don't

have no problem with nobody. and I wouldn't go out of my way to make anybody mad, you know. I'm sure some people get mad at me once in a while but I didn't do it intentionally.

It seems like people laying nets off the front of them- (RE LISTEN) They told me that the old time guys, like, most people lay their net off of the same area and each person would wait for the other guy and they'd give him 15 minutes to lay his net off and then they'd give him 15 minutes and then they'd lay their net off.

Sometimes we're not quite like that any more. We see somebody laying a net off up there we might lay a net off in front of him, you know, all them kinds of stuff with people, So that you can see how that might make somebody's temper kind of, flare up a little bit.

INTERVIEWER SO ARE THERE ANY KIND OF UNWRITTEN LAWS ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO DO, AND RULES

MARVIN Yes, well. Your net is only supposed to be but so far from another net. Sometimes the nets - we don't do exactly, we know approximately what it is going to do, but sometimes it don't do exactly the way you wanted it to do, so, sometimes when a net ends up in a net it might end up pretty close to someone else's net even when we didn't intentionally start to do that. So

INTERVIEWER DOES EVERYBODY PRETTY MUCH GET THEIR NETS AND THINGS FROM THE SAME PLACE

MARVIN There is really not that many people. There's two and three places that you buy this net from and

INTERVIEWER BECAUSE TRADITIONALLY WHEN THEY HAD THE COTTON AND LINEN ONES THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOMEONE WHO MADE THEM, OR DID THEY MAKE THEIR OWN OR

MARVIN Well they'd buy their net and like we did, a lot of them, but they'd hang their nets and oh, a lot of people would hang them in the attic or -they'd need to hang them in a place where there was a fairly long span, you know. They told me them old guys were very particular about, like they'd hang a net and everything would come out evenly, they would cut the whole net out and go back where the mistake was and start in again. Sometimes I'm not that precise, I mean I shoot for, try to get there, but if it is not there I'm not going to be able to bust it up, you know, if it ain't too bad off. Of course you like to keep it fairly straight you know, but sometimes when you're hanging late you might -my daughters how they hang. I hung a, I think I hung 15 pounds of net this Spring you know and I had a lot of bad luck this Spring. I don't know whether they told you that my wif passed away too.

INTERVIEWER I DIDN'T KNOW THAT

MARVIN Yes, in February, so, things were really messed up around here. I had -a lot of people come to help me, you know, always hang my net out here in this yard out here with this parking lot, and I think I had seven different people hanging them, on that net, and I said, "Oh dear", I mean, some of them never hung net before in their life but they just wanted to help me you know, and I said, when I get done, I don't know how far off I'm going to be. You know what it ended up? Dead perfect! I said, well, I wouldn't have believed it. There might have been mistakes in there, but I guess we made the same number of mistakes on one side as the other. Right.

INTERVIEWER WELL, THAT WAS NICE. PEOPLE HELPED YOU OUT.

MARVIN A lot of people pitched in to help me out. Yes, I got good neighbors. People around here, we kind of fight amongst ourselves, but when there is a problem, well then everybody tightens up.

INTERVIEWER THAT MUST HAVE BEEN TOUGH

MARVIN Oh, I was, we'd been married so, now I just've got to readjust Well, generally she lives with me and keeps an eye on things and the other daughters -each one of them has their special leases, so, one of them is a bookkeeper, so she is taking care of my books, and the other one is the township secretary so she keeps me straight up there. One works at the hospital so she keeps after me there so-

INTERVIEWER SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE GOT EVERYTHING COVERED SO

MARVIN I hate that while you were up here you couldn't talk with Sidney. I don't know what to say

INTERVIEWER Well, I enjoy coming up this way
1:25:38

MARVIN Oh, O.K.

MARVIN Well, He lives over at Elsenbor (sp) I don't know how to tell you how to get to Elsenboro

INTERVIEWER WELL, I KNOW WHERE ELSENBORO IS I KNOW WHERE, (I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD TELL YOU!) BUT I KNOW WHERE THE BROWN DERBY IS

MARVIN O.K. Well, The Brown Derby -you could turn before you got to the Brown Derby, Make a left, after you go across Hancock's Bridge, then you could make the first left and then you could go wind around through there, and, have you ever been to Oakwood Inn?

INTERVIEWER YES I HAVE

MARVIN Well, you are getting very close to Sidney. I tell you what when you are talking to him because I was, I know exactly how to get to his house myself. He lives right along the river front, and Oakwood Inn is on the river front, so he just lives right near there so if you know how to get to Oakwood Inn you are all right, so

INTERVIEWER I'M KIND OF JUST STARTING ON TRYING TO PULL TOGETHER ALL THE INFORMATION SO

MARVIN I didn't know what you were shooting for so I

INTERVIEWER IT'S BEEN BEEN REALLY HELPFUL, BECAUSE THIS IS ALL

MARVIN I don't know that much

INTERVIEWER OH YES.

MARVIN (RE LISTEN) I (putty) (?) around at it, at it, that's all, (RE-LISTEN freight boats. I was fascinated with them. I didn't know what, you said you was the Schooner Project

INTERVIEWER I'VE GOT SOME INFORMATION I CAN GIVE YOU IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, ON WHAT WE ARE DOING, BUT THE THING I DON'T HAVE IS- THIS IS OUR NEWSLETTER, AND -THE ARTICLE I DID AND, THAT IS KIND OF WHAT OUR OBJECTIVES -WHAT WE WANT TO DO, BUT THIS IS THE-

MARVIN (reads) "Operation Sail, 1992 " What, are you going to get her on sail by 1992?

INTERVIEWER WELL, THAT IS KIND OF OPTIMISTIC

MARVIN I,(his voice becomes kindly) -well it is good you-

INTERVIEWER -I HAD TO SET A GOAL SOMEWHERE

MARVIN Right. right. -I'm probably not much of a goal setter

INTERVIEWER THIS IS THE OUTLINE OF THE EXHIBIT I AM WORKING ON, THIS IS WHAT I APPLIED TO THE NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION FOR - THE GRANT, AND THEY'VE APPROVED IT, SO THIS IS WHAT I AM TRYING TO PULL TOGETHER AND IT IS JUST THE FOUR CATEGORIES RIGHT NOW, I WANT TO TALK TO HIM ABOUT THE FREIGHT BOATS , BUT THAT IS NOT SOMETHING I INCLUDED IN THIS. BUT WHAT I WANT TO DO IS HAVE, WHAT I'D LIKE TO DO IS FINISH THIS EXHIBIT WITH WHAT I GOT THE FUNDING FOR, AND THEN TRY TO GET MORE FUNDING TO DO MORE THINGS BECAUSE I DIDN'T COVER COASTING SCHOONERS AND HOW THEY-COMMERCE THAT HAPPENED AROUND HERE. SO I'D LIKE TO GET THAT TOO.

MARVIN Because there was, I know they were on the water, and they was involved, like they had these, see, like when you was talking about these cabins and stuff. Well, they had a boat come down and they loaded the shad-

1:28:48

INTERVIEWER ALL THAT, SEE,

MARVIN They was involved in the same way with the farmers . They shipped a lot of their tomatoes, on the boats, and plus they got their fertilizer

INTERVIEWER THAT IS ONE OF THE THINGS FOR WHICH I APPLIED FOR THIS GRANT THE YEAR BEFORE AND THEY TOLD ME I WAS TRYING TO COVER TOO MANY THINGS BECAUSE I INCLUDED TRAPPING, AND THEY SAID THAT WAS NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE WATER. WELL, EVERYBODY YOU TALK TO, IF THEY FISHED, YOU KNOW, IT IS ALMOST THE SAME THING. SOMEONE WHO -YOU CAN'T TALK ABOUT FISHING AND NOT MENTION TRAPPING.

MARVIN Well, I guess maybe some places they fish, and they can fish the year round, but in our area, what fishing we do here is seasonal. I mean, oh, it is not the 12 month of the year thing.

INTERVIEWER I THINK A PERSON ON THE WATER-

MARVIN I like changing the thing around and all. I might get tired of crabbing if I had to crab year around. The same way with trapping. When it comes to 15th of March I am ready to stop. go to something else.

INTERVIEWER GUESS IT WORKS OUT JUST ABOUT RIGHT WHEN IT'S SEASONS.

MARVIN I like shad fishing.

INTERVIEWER IS THAT YOUR FAVORITE

1:29:51

MARVIN Yes. I love catching them.

INTERVIEWER MOST OF THE TIME WHEN YOU GO OUT THERE IS IT A PRETTY STEADY CATCH? OR DO YOU HAVE TO REALLY LOOK AROUND FOR THEM

MARVIN Well, It's up and down. But that makes it fun. I mean, if you knowed you was going to get a big load every day you'd say oh, my god, I've got to get this load again today. See, some days we go out and we don't catch very many because the wind's going to blow and the weather is going to be bad, then once in a while you get a nice day and, I don't know, it's wet, but still you know

THEY LOOK THROUGH PAPERS- MARVIN -Sturgeon,

INTERVIEWER SEEMS LIKE I OUGHT TO -WELL I'VE GOT HERE -SEEMS LIKE I OUGHT TO HAVE PERCH THERE AS A MAJOR FISHERY TOO

MARVIN Well, I don't know, Of course I know some people maybe (RE LISTEN) What really helped me, a lot. Between the and the perch it really boosted my income quite a lot, you know. And the old time guys, see, the old fisheries, they caught perch and shad and then they, I think, if I remember right, I think they told me that moving day was March 2nd. They had these cabins on float, they was like floating cabins, right, and they'd bring them home in the winter time and then they would tow them down to the Hope Creek, or wherever along the river shore where they have, and they'd tie them up and they'd set them up. March the second was the moving day that they towed them down there and they would start shad, I mean I think they would drift for perch and herring and then when the shad came they'd switch over to the shad,

INTERVIEWER YOU DRIFT OR DO YOU STAKE FOR HERRING

MARVIN I just stake for perch. I don't mess with herring.

INTERVIEWER DO A LOT OF PEOPLE STILL FISH FOR HERRING, OR

MARVIN Not many people herring. There are quite a few people who fish for perch, more or less. But usually they come a little bit early, they come a little bit earlier. Some people catch carps too.

INTERVIEWER OH YES. YOU COULDN'T CATCH THEM DOWN THE BAY, COULD YOU

MARVIN I don't know how far. I know here where they catch them there is a little fishery for carp.

1:32:16

INTERVIEWER REALLY. A COMMERCIAL FISHERY?

MARVIN Yes.

INTERVIEWER PEOPLE EAT THEM?

MARVIN Yes. They come down with trucks and get them. They keep them alive. I sell them, now and then, a carp. Can I keep this stuff?

INTERVIEWER OH SURE.

MARVIN Maybe the catfish may be the fish of the future, I don't know. Because we do have a lot of cat fish out here

INTERVIEWER AND THEY COME UP INTO THE GILL NETS

MARVIN Yes, we catch a few in the gill nets but (RE LISTEN) Years ago they used to see a lot of catfish. Because I know some of them people that, one guy told me that he sold a lot of catfish someplace down in Maryland. These big white catfish. And they would use the catfish meat

TAPE ENDS MID- SENTENCE