

Christina Package-Ward: So, I guess could we start with your background and how you got into the fishing industry? I kind of know [laughter] a little bit.

Daniel Hall: Yes. I grew up in a fishing family, so kind of was born into it.

CPW: [laughter] So, your dad and your uncle fish. Do you have other family members that fish?

DH: None of my sons, just dad and uncles. Yes.

CPW: What did you fish for, I guess, when you started?

DH: In the fifties, I began going out once in a while in dad's boat for drag fishing, for bottom fishing, crabbing, albacore. Pretty much it.

CPW: Was that down here in Oregon or up in Alaska?

DH: Yes. Except the albacore, we would range down to Northern Mexico.

CPW: You fished up in Alaska for a bit. Is that correct?

DH: I've done quite a bit of fishing there beginning in the [19]70s, I guess. Yes.

CPW: What did you fish for?

DH: Actually, in the sixties, I crewed on my uncle's boat, *King and Winge*, for king crab in the early sixties to mid-sixties. Then I began going up there with my own boats in the [19]70s.

CPW: What were you fishing for? A crab?

DH: Did some king crabbing and shrimping. That was in the [19]70s. Then in the [19]80s, I think we joint ventured with the Russians on the yellow fins and codfish in the Bering Sea.

CPW: With that joint venture, I guess I do not really understand how that works. It was just a partnership with the Russians?

DH: Yes. They came over with the processor ships. We caught the fish and delivered to them.

CPW: You were tied to that processor then?

DH: That's all we had. [laughter] Yes.

CPW: That was in the Bering Sea?

DH: Yes. Right. We joint ventured with them down here for hake. Whiting, they call them that. We do that in the spring and summer. Then we'd go up for – start in February, I think for

yellowfin sole in the Bering Sea. Do that through August, something like that. That kept us fairly busy for the year.

CPW: Yes, that sounds like you would be fishing pretty much almost the whole year.

DH: Yes. We weren't regulated so much back in those days. [laughter]

CPW: How have the fisheries that you have been part of changed?

DH: Well, the foreign joint venture fisheries are gone, for one thing. Almost the fish we catch now have a quota. Either individual quotas or this quota is for a season under charter. So, overall, quite a few less fishing days, but it's still working out. We're eating regular. [laughter]

CPW: So, are you still fishing now?

DH: I haven't actively fished for fifteen years now. I'm too old. [laughter]

CPW: You guys still own boats, though, right?

DH: Just this one. We sold one three years ago. Just one left.

CPW: That one is still fishing up in Alaska?

DH: Yes. He's fishing pollock right now as we speak up in the Bering Sea.

CPW: Where have you all historically delivered to you? Was it out of Kodiak also?

DH: Oh, yes. We still delivered into Kodiak. Yes, it's pretty evenly divided. We do about half our fishing in the Bering Sea and half in the Gulf. We deliver in Kodiak when we're in the Gulf.

CPW: Was it Akutan or something in the Bering Sea?

DH: We just changed markets. We have been delivering to Akutan. Now, we deliver into Dutch Harbor.

CPW: Did you spend much time up in Kodiak?

DH: Yes.

CPW: [laughter]

DH: All the king crabbing I did was in out of Kodiak. I never did king crab in the Bering Sea. It was all in the sixties and [19]70s.

CPW: It seems like it has changed quite a bit. [laughter]

DH: Yes. No king crab in there or anything. [laughter]

DH: I think it was sixty-four when I was fishing on the *King and Winge* for Uncle Willy. It was eighty million pounds, something like that delivered into Kodiak that year.

CPW: Wow.

DH: Now zero. So, that's a change. [laughter]

CPW: I do not know what their main fishery is now. They do groundfish and all that, right?

DH: Yes. Pollock, cod and rockfish.

CPW: I guess I am interested in –

DH: Oh, and halibut. Black halibut delivered there. Black cod in longliners and salmon, too. Don't forget the salmon. [laughter]

CPW: So, while you were still fishing, you were still involved in fishing down here, but also up in Alaska the whole time, pretty much, right? Doing whiting down here and then –

DH: Yes. We still fish down here for about three weeks a year in the at-sea pollock fishery. We fish down here for three weeks this year. But that's all. The rest of it's up there.

CPW: Are there any species that you used to fish for that you did not in the end?

DH: Yes. I used to fish Dungeness crab every year down here. Don't do that anymore. We don't troll for albacore anymore and bottom drag fishing. Bottom fishing was a big part of our annual revenues when we were just in Oregon fishing. We don't do that anymore, except for the whiting. Sometimes they're on the bottom.

CPW: [laughter] Why did you stop fishing for those things?

DH: Kind of got regulated out of business. So, we moved to Alaska.

CPW: [laughter] Did it seem like there was more opportunity up there?

DH: Yes. What's the difference between surviving or not, I think?

CPW: [laughter] So, you started up there on your uncle's boat?

DH: Yes. First fishing I did in Alaska was on the *King and Winge*, yes. Uncle Wilburn said you are going to meet him there.

CPW: Yes. [laughter]

DH: He has lots of fish stories. He'll be a lot better.

CPW: [laughter]

DH: He's going to be better than I am.

CPW: I do not know. He was trying to get out of it.

DH: Really?

CPW: His wife – I do not know what her name is, she talked to him to do it. [laughter]

DH: (Kathleen?).

CPW: She was good. [laughter]

DH: She loved to talk. You'll have a hard time getting away from her. [laughter] Nice lady, but she talks. [laughter]

CPW: So, the boat that he had up there, was it a midwater?

DH: Uncle Willy, he's had a lot of boats. He's the admiral. [laughter]

CPW: It sounds like he is the one that kind of started the whole movement up to Alaska.

DH: One of them, yes. He was in the king crabbing early on.

CPW: I guess maybe this is too general of a question, but I am just kind of interested in how it was up there during that time fishing. Alaska is still kind of seems like the last frontier to me, but it seems like at that time it was even more –

DH: It was busy.

CPW: [laughter]

DH: It was good money everybody made. We weren't regulated much. We could just go fish, come in and unload, and go back out and catch some more. It was a real grind working life. Yes, I enjoyed it. It's a lot less laid. I didn't have to pay attention to all the politics than it is right now. It was easier. [laughter]

CPW: Was the council around then? No, right? I know when they came, started up –

DH: I never did pay much attention to politics.

CPW: [laughter]

DH: I don't even know what around it. I knew what I could do or what I was supposed to do. I don't know who decided. [laughter]

CPW: Were you able to buy your boat with the money from your crewing on your uncle's boat?

DH: No. I was young. I spent all my money about as fast as I made it back in those days.

CPW: [laughter]

DH: My first boat, we put some money down. Dad and I partnered on it, and we financed most of it. Boats didn't cost much back then. Didn't take long to pay for it. Like that boat I just saw in the current Alaska fishermen publication.

CPW: Really?

DH: It's Boat of the Month in the magazine there. [laughter]

CPW: Do you know who owns it now?

DH: Bob Jacobson owns part of it.

CPW: I think he said something about it. [laughter]

DH: I think there's three or four of them. I only know him.

CPW: You had to have a license, right? At that time, that was just a license.

DH: Yes. You had to have federal and state licenses. I don't know if they had it divided up in the fishing lake then or not, if we had to have control permits. There weren't as many as there are now.

CPW: What about the cost of them?

DH: Pardon?

CPW: The cost of licenses, is it expensive or cheap?

DH: Yes. That's all kind of relative, though.

CPW: [laughter]

DH: Depends on how much you're making.

CPW: [laughter] Yes. That is true.

DH: I'd say that it's probably pretty much held even the increased earnings to the cost of living,

cost of expenses.

CPW: Do you think that Oregon fishermen are still going up to Alaska? The fishermen I know, some of them still do from down here that have for a while. But do you think new guys are going up there?

DH: Probably some crewmen mostly or some of the crew have to evolve into skippers or there wouldn't be any of them, but yes, a few. There's no new boats. So, it's just a matter of replacing people when those guys get old, phased out. I have replacements. [laughter] It isn't a rapid turnover.

CPW: Can you talk about the kind of boats that you were on up in Alaska as far as like the gear and all that?

DH: Well, *King and Winge*, I think it was built 1917, a hundred-foot wooden boat Uncle Willy bought. It was originally built as a dory boat. It did some time as a bar pilot boat up on the Columbia River. Uncle Wilburn got it converted into king crabbing, which was done for a year or two. Then I ran a smaller boat he had, *Sea Breeze II*. It was a fifty-eight-footer. I ran it for a while, for a year or two. Then we built the *Genoa*. I fished it up there a few years. My dad retired. He had the *Leslie Lee*, but it's the same boat we still have and began running that full time on the joint ventures that I told you about mostly. It's been widened, lengthened, so it's a lot different boat than it once was. But I guess that's about covers the boats I worked on.

CPW: Is that pretty common to, I guess, widen and lengthen and all that? Different boats?

DH: Yes, it is. It is now. Yes.

CPW: How long do boats last? Some of them have been around for a long time.

DH: The Alaska Fisheries Act, they gave us our own pilot clause. The way that's written, unless an act of God takes your vessel away, you can't replace it.

CPW: Really?

DH: You can widen it, lengthen it, and do all that stuff, but you can't replace it. [laughter] So, we're kind of stuck doing it over and over.

CPW: For forever. [laughter]

DH: No, for now anyway. [laughter]

CPW: Wow. I did not realize that. [laughter]

DH: If they don't change that, there's going to be some old boats in the lake there.

CPW: [laughter]

DH: We're the old ones now. I guess our boat was built in the [19]70s.

CPW: [laughter]

DH: But what you ended up doing here is developing a new boat around the old boat. [laughter]

CPW: Is there anything you would like to say about your time fishing in Alaska?

DH: No. I don't know what it would be. It was kind of like an adventure every year when you took off up there. I kind of enjoyed it. I made my longest fishing trip up on the Bering Sea one year. We'd refuel and have other people bring – well, we had a couple freezers on the boats, so we had everything but fresh produce. But I spent four months out with that.

CPW: Wow. [laughter]

DH: That's why I retired early. [laughter] I got wore out. [laughter]

CPW: I think the weather must be pretty crazy up in the Bering.

DH: Yes, it can.

CPW: Four months, though. [laughter]

DH: Well, you got to put your time in somewhere.

CPW: It seems like Kodiak has changed a lot and just kind of how it was then as compared to how it is now as far as the community and what it was like.

DH: It was kind of a rowdy town. There was a lot of money made and a lot of money spent. Nightclubs did very well. [laughter] They played fifteen-hundred-dollar cribbage games at a (Chilean Bay bar?). [laughter] Yes, different. [laughter] I think I'm a little more civilized now. [laughter]

CPW: How much of the town do you think were fishermen back in the [19]70s and [19]80s?

DH: How much of the town was fishermen?

CPW: Yes. I guess how many fishermen were there?

DH: I don't know how many.

CPW: [laughter]

DH: I think the population of Kodiak was five or six thousand people. I think that included the military. The hub of the activity there was the military base and the fish plants and the docks.

That's about what it was. It was a place to fish. [laughter]

CPW: Were there very many processors?

DH: Yes. Probably about the same as there is now.

CPW: I heard one of the processors up there was owned by some people from here in Newport.

DH: Uncle Wilburn has some money in one, yes.

CPW: Does he still [inaudible]?

DH: I suspect he does. I don't know for sure in the last few years. Now that he's getting older, he has been getting some of this stuff over to his kids and stuff. I don't know what the status on that is right now. You can ask him when you interview him.

CPW: Yes, I will. [laughter] I think we have gone through about everything I have for you. But do you think your experience up in Alaska was typical? As far as, I guess, also kind of stopping fishing down here as much for the different things, although still doing whiting, but moving up there.

DH: Well, it was typical for the guys that did it. There were quite a few of them. For the size of Newport, there was a lot of us, really, and many, many from Seattle area through the south area. Yes.

CPW: [laughter] Then I guess, is there anything else you would like to say? [laughter]

DH: I don't know what it would be. [laughter]

CPW: Let me see here. I think I got about everything I have on my list here.

DH: Yes.

CPW: Except for maybe talking about crew members that were on the boats with you in Alaska. Were they from up there or from down here?

DH: Mostly down here.

CPW: Down here.

DH: Yes. We've had maybe a handful over the years that lived up there, mostly from home. Most of the time, we hired from up there. They were just fill ins. One of the regulars decided to leave because of a minor injury or go home for a funeral, things like that.

CPW: Well, I think that is about it. [laughter]



DH: All right.

CPW: Thank you.

DH: You're welcome. Good luck with your –

[end of transcript]