

TONY SOUGSTAD

May 8, 1987

Tape 1 SIDE A

001 Introduction

003 Ocean fishing only. Fish in season. Cycles. Oct.-Nov. Vacation. Then maintenance

011 Age of boat. His age -46

021 Making nets - least important part of the operation

024 Most important part of the operation - "having the will to do it" Eventually things go well

028 Started in 1970. Was an engineer before. Didn't like working on land. Likes being his own boss. Glad he switched

042 Father was a baker. Manufacturing runs in his family. Didn't like the insecurity of the business. Likes owning his own boat. Training his son to run the business

058 Learned to make nets because he had to. Learned from Frank Cona, owner of Apache. Baldwin fisherman. Attended seminars

066 Skills needed: sense of geometry. Traditional designs only. Basics on boat only

076 Older boats didn't have drag nets. How it works. Net made of plastic. Buy webbing and cut it out. Tapered cut. 4 seam better than 2 seam

100 High-rise nets. Different nets for different seasons. Small mesh for whiting. "Different design nets for different kinds of fish"

115 Designs: Yankee 35s inch fluke
4 seam Italian nets

122 Plastic nets don't pick up as much junk as the nylon nets do. Gets too much grass

124 Traditional nets made of cotton

127 Cotton ripped up every day. Salt would rot them. Nylon was stronger. Dipped it in tar later. Still has some nylon nets.

134 Designs have stayed the same. Bigger boats have changed nets to

catch bigger fish. 5' mesh. Squid, herring, etc. caught. He goes after small fish. Gets garbage in ocean on net.

151 Spends a lot of time fixing nets. Demonstrates how it's done. Shows a new section he just did.

193 Learning. With time you get faster

201 Where to go fishing and maintaining boat most important skills. Navigation

222 Boat's history. How he got it. Why he picked this model

244 Caught 7,000 lbs. of fish

248 Predicting good fishing days: winds, weather. Weather on Long Island. Fluke fishing. Bluefish not lucrative. South winds are best, east are worst.

275 Only catches fish at bottom. Thus ground swells are bad for business. Nets can only rise 8" - 10" from bottom. Most fish live at bottom. Bottom fish are the most marketable.

298 Types of nets. He doesn't use them. Drag nets are more steady. Likes catching flounder.

313 August 16, 1978 storm at George's Banks. Leak in boat. Sharks

surrounded the boat. Gear got caught in another boat's tow. Towed backwards for two hours. Anchored for the night. Next day - storm.

5 p.m. tremendous storm. Boat filled up with water. Thought they would sink. Called coast guard, who sent helicopter to wrong boat. Tried to assist USSR boat, who sent them to Tony's boat. Dropped pumps and left. USSR asked them if they needed help. Threw them a line. Asked for rope. Got hooked up. Coast Guard took them to Newport, R.I. Got home. Wife thought boat was sunk and he was dead.

SIDE B

001 Had most trouble catching porgies in Long Island sound. Equipment was wrong. Things are easy now. Catching sharks.

016 Describes catching a tiger shark. They were in the cabin.

023 Philosophy on killing fish: only when necessary. Shark behavior on boat

033 No fish attacks. Whale swims - privileged. Highlight of the day

052 From Flushing, N.Y. Picked career because he likes adventure and some sense of danger and challenge

066 Carmine Marinnacio

068 Camaraderie. Men only in this area. No women mates

078 Norwegian ancestry. Family was farmers in the Dakotas. No fishermen in the family

086 Gamut of ethnic groups who work in this area. Other ports are more segregated. Provincetown-Portuguese, Gloucester-Italian, etc.

092 High turnover rate amongst fishermen

095 Leaves charter boat captains alone. Thinks they're more into "flash and chrome". Different breed. "We're kind of loners..."

105 Lots of friends everywhere

115 Some of the risks of being a fisherman

120 My hurricane story

130 Inlet passage. Learning how to maneuver a boat

146 Wrecks and knowing locations. Chart coordinates in book

153 Chains on net make it go down harder

163 Took a while to learn where fish were. Learned from the old
timers. First six months nobody talked or helped him
173 Frank and Charlie Cona helped him. Bill taught him
discipline and work habits. Discipline is essential
191 Cory Weyant is his assistant. Likes him. Doesn't help to
be wild. Will miss him
210 Packing fish. Sells his own fish. N.Y. Fulton Fish market
buys his fish
220 Nylon ropes with dacron on boat
230 end