

Robert Livingston Jr.: – Junior. I am a retired fishery research biologist from the National Marine Fishery Service in Woods Hole. I am collecting information on the history of the fishing industry in Woods Hole for the collections of the Woods Hole Historical Society. I am visiting this afternoon with Loretta Doucette in Falmouth. She has been kind enough to tell me something about her father who was a fisherman and fished for Sam Cahoon's Market in Woods Hole. Now, I can shut that off – or how much time we – okay. Loretta, why do you not tell me something about your dad, where he was brought up as a young man, and what his hobbies were, how he got into fishing, and something a little bit about his life?

Loretta Doucette: Well, my father was born in Nova Scotia. At a very early age, his father was drowned at sea. He was brought up by a stepfather and had many brothers and two sisters. In those days, times were very difficult. They were really poor. So, everyone had to work.

RLJ: What time was this you are talking about, in terms of years?

LD: This was before the turn of the century, before 1900.

RLJ: This was before 1900.

LD: Before 1900. I think he was born in 1888 or [18]89. He was not happy with farm life as a child. He just ran away from home because he was unhappy with his stepfather. Although he had a good stepfather, he just was unhappy and ran away from home and went to Yarmouth. [inaudible] Yarmouth as cabin boy [inaudible].

RLJ: When did he come to this area?

LD: He came to Boston as a young man, probably in his early [19]20s. He worked for a while doing some sort of masonry. He told me at one time that he had worked on the bridge that spans the Charles River, between Charles Street Station going towards Kenmore Square in Cambridge. I can't remember the name of the bridge. But on that bridge there, that he had worked for a short time there.

RLJ: How did he happen to come to the Cape?

LD: Oh, that's a long story. Many of the people from Nova Scotia fished in New England waters. They fished on Georges Banks. They put into port in places like New Bedford, Nantucket, and Martha's Vineyard. He apparently felt that the men from the vineyard were doing pretty well fishing out of Edgartown. He decided that that would be a good place for him to come. At that time, he had married and had two young children, and decided that Edgartown was a good place to fish from. So, that's where he made his home until 1924.

RLJ: He was in Edgartown until 1924?

LD: He went there around 1910 and left in 1924.

RLJ: Did he get a boat over there for commercial fishing?

LD: He bought a small boat called the *Gypsy Maid*.

RLJ: It was the *Gypsy Maid*.

LD: He changed the name of the *Gypsy Maid* to the *Mary D*. He named her *Mary D* for my mother and for one of my sisters.

RLJ: Oh, he did?

LD: He had a crew of five or six men. They went from Edgartown to Fulton Fish Pier in New York to sell their fish.

RLJ: Now, he fished out of Edgartown, and he brought his catch into Edgartown then?

LD: Sometimes, because he used to sell fish at different times to Eldridge who was the fish buyer for Edgartown at that time.

RLJ: Okay. All right. I have heard of this. Yes.

LD: But many times, he went directly to Fulton Fish Pier in New York.

RLJ: In other words, he would truck his catch to the Fulton Fish Market, or did it go...

LD: He would come from the fishing grounds, from Georges right into New York.

RLJ: Oh, I see. He would go into New York City – all the way into New York City.

LD: Right.

RLJ: Was he a dragger fisherman, or did he handline?

LD: At first, he hand-lined.

RLJ: What did he handline? When he hand-lined and...

LD: Mostly had a cod. He didn't do dragging until later on. I can't remember just what years he did dragging. But when they did dragging, they got mixed fish.

RLJ: Did he fish yellowtail flounder at all?

LD: Yellowtail, dabs, cod, haddock, flounder, any of that kind.

RLJ: You know all the [inaudible].

LD: Yes. I used to listen to the fishing reports and get the – that's how I knew yellowtail and

dab and all these other things.

RLJ: You mean the fishing reports on the radio?

LD: On the New Bedford radio, they would list the catch each morning of the boats as they came in, what the price was for the day.

RLJ: They only listed the price. Yes.

LD: That, we used to listen to quite often. We listened mostly to see if our boat had come in and whether they'd made anything or not. We were interested in that.

RLJ: How many did he have on the crew on his boat?

LD: On the *Mary D*, I think they had maybe six at the most. But then later on, when he bought the *Gleaner*, they had a crew of ten.

RLJ: *Gleaner*?

LD: *The Gleaner*.

RLJ: What does that name mean, gleaner?

LD: A gleaner, I always refer them to people who grow wheat in the field. After they've got their crop, they clean up what there is. They glean, I think that's what the word...

RLJ: They glean the wheat. Okay.

LD: Right, and I suppose they gave the boat that name for the same reason. They were picking up whatever they could find in the ocean that was saleable.

RLJ: What size was this last boat that he had? It was a...

LD: Oh, I can't remember the name of the last boat that he had. But the *Gleaner* he owned in partnership with a (Mr. Wardell?) from New Bedford. I think that was a 110- foot.

RLJ: Oh, it was a big one.

LD: Yes.

RLJ: So, they could go out on Georges. They could go up to Sayville Island and whatever.

LD: They would be gone a couple of weeks at a time. They did that until the government came out with certain regulations that you could get so many pounds of fish per man and that you could be out so many days. Before that, they could be out as long as they wanted to.

RLJ: Did he land his fish at Sam Cahoon's in Woods Hole?

LD: He did sometimes. He came in many times to Woods Hole to sell.

RLJ: Did you ever see them unload in Woods Hole yourself?

LD: Occasionally, if I knew he was going into Woods Hole. But by that time, my father was getting older and was more or less retired. If he was on the boat at all, most of the fish then were being brought into New Bedford. He went where the market was paying the best.

RLJ: Sam Cahoon apparently had a very good quality fish because, as Ken Shepherd said, I read...

LD: The best.

RLJ: I read another report, they even went on the auction in Boston as Sam Cahoon's Flounders. I mean, the yellowtail were in such good condition.

LD: Sam Cahoon bought the best. He had the customers that wanted it, He bought the best. He was a remarkable man.

RLJ: Did you know Sam Cahoon?

LD: Yes, I did, and I dearly loved him. He was one of my father's dearest friends. He was kind and nice to everyone. Everybody. I never knew anyone to say an unkind word about Mr. Cahoon.

RLJ: So, how many years did your father fish?

LD: Well, practically, all of his life. He was supposed to have retired at the age of seventy-two. He would occasionally go out on a boat. Of course, the men were a little leery of taking him sometimes because of the laws forbidding them to have too many older people. They didn't have insurance coverage. Because the older men were not as quick on their feet and it cost them more money to have him on.

RLJ: This has been more of a problem in recent years, I think, with unions and whatnot –

LD: Yes.

RLJ: – with certain regulations.

LD: He would act sometimes as watchman aboard the boats. When they'd come in and stay overnight, he would stay aboard the boats for them.

RLJ: What other kind of fishing did he do besides this ground fishing?

LD: Well, after a while, he went entirely scalloping when the draggers came out.

RLJ: Did the *Gleaner* go scalloping?

LD: No, I don't believe so, because he lost the *Gleaner* in 1929 off of Hull. She hit a submerged wreck and was sunk in 1929.

RLJ: Whereabouts was this?

LD: – at 3:00 a.m. Just off of Hull.

RLJ: Off of Hull. Oh, I see, off the North Shore.

LD: They were coming into Boston to sell their fish. They were loaded and coming into Boston market to sell their fish. It was sometime in the middle of February in 1929. They hit a submerged wreck, and the boat was sunk off of Hull.

RLJ: Who did he sell his fish to in Boston?

LD: Now, let me see if I can remember. Nagle's.

RLJ: Nagle?

LD: Nagle was one of the men. There's some man that's there now. I can't think of his name.

RLJ: Not A.F. Rich?

LD: Yes. He sold some to Rich.

RLJ: Oh, he did?

LD: Nagle was who he did most of his business with.

RLJ: Sam Cahoon sent a lot of fish to Nagle's in Boston.

LD: Yes. Apparently, he was a popular man.

RLJ: Then your dad, you said he was seventy-two or so, was he still fishing then?

LD: He would go occasionally with them.

RLJ: He would fill in or whatever.

LD: Yes. He would go occasionally.

RLJ: He was strong and able to do this kind of work until the day he died, practically.

LD: That was his life, and he loved it.

RLJ: He must have been in pretty good physical condition. Was he?

LD: He was. He was in excellent condition.

RLJ: Yes. They worked so terribly hard.

LD: As a matter fact, people around here, when he was in his eighties, people would often ask me how old my father was at that time. I'd tell them he was in his eighties. They'd say, "He walks like a young boy." Well, he always kept himself very active. He took walks every day.

RLJ: That is interesting.

LD: Kept himself physically active.

RLJ: Now, was Louis your brother?

LD: Yes.

RLJ: Louis fished with him during this early period?

LD: Well, as a child, summertime, when there was no school, my father would take him fishing with him. Once in a while, one of my sisters would go. I had one sister that was sort of a tomboy.

RLJ: [laughter]

LD: She would go. She didn't do much of any fishing. But there was always the thrill at that time that they were going into New York City to sell their fish. Of course, that was the attraction. But my brother was just a young boy when he went with them then. Whatever he learned about fishing, he learned from my father.

RLJ: What made him want to write a book about his relationship with his father? I mean, I think that is a wonderful thing.

LD: Our families have always been very close. My father was a very wonderful person. He had a lot of personality. He was well-liked by most people, and we dearly loved him. He was the old fashioned kind. His word was law. But we respected him. We loved him. He had had so many trials and a lot of hard luck. But he always came smiling through. We just loved him. I think it's for this reason that my brother, now that he's older, appreciates – I think sometimes you have to lose someone to appreciate their true value.

RLJ: How old is your brother?

LD: My brother is in his very early seventies. He may be seventy-one –

RLJ: Is he really? This is Louis?

LD: – or seventy-two. Yes.

RLJ: Oh, wow. I will have to go over and see him.

LD: Yes. He's just a little over seventy. I have to figure my age in his age too.

RLJ: What do you remember about Sam Cahoon's market?

LD: Oh, it was the office I remember more than the market where you bought things. The manner was pleasant in there. The fish was always arrayed beautifully. Good, nice fish. But I didn't go there so much to buy fish. When I first lived in Falmouth, I did. Because if I went down to the boats, I knew several different people who used to give me a fish [laughter] now and then. That was great. Especially if my father came in, you never had to buy fish because you always had plenty. But in his office, Sam's office, it was a warm, friendly place. The secretary was a nice, sweet person. Sam would just...

RLJ: Was that Clara who was...

LD: I can't think of her last name. Yes. I think it was. She was...

RLJ: Was she the bookkeeper?

LD: Yes.

RLJ: Was Frannie there too?

LD: Frannie was there also. Frannie was the one of the Cahoon family, I think, that seemed to know the most about the fishing business. I don't recall seeing young Sam there very much. Occasionally, I'd see him. But Francis was there a great deal. Whenever you would go in there, it was such a nice, friendly feeling.

RLJ: But they really put their fish in beautiful displays.

LD: Yes, they did. Everything was so clean.

RLJ: You do not see that now. Gosh.

LD: It was so clean. All that fish would be there. Everything looked so good.

RLJ: Did your dad ever go lobstering?

LD: No. But he would occasionally bring in one of those huge deep sea lobsters. [laughter]

RLJ: That they would catch in their nets or whatever.

LD: Right, or he'd catch a small one. Those big ones, my mother used to get furious [laughter] with them because –

RLJ: [laughter]

LD: – she always had to have them cut off a claw so she could find a kettle big enough to cook it.

RLJ: I know I have seen some up to 20-some pounds.

LD: Well, I'm sorry, I haven't got one now. The largest one my father said that he ever saw was a 42-pounder. But we had a 32- pounder that he had mounted. My brother in New Hampshire's got that now.

RLJ: But they taste just as good as the young ones if you cook them the right amount of time.

LD: If you cook them properly. Right.

RLJ: They make delicious chowders. I know that.

LD: They make good sandwiches.

RLJ: Do you remember the kind of prices that your dad got for fish when he...

LD: Oh, 1 and 2 cents a pound per haddock. If he got 5 cents, that was a good price.

RLJ: Is that not terrible?

LD: Yes, and lobster even then – the last time I bought lobster at Sam Cahoon's market, we had some – my father had been a patient at the Marine Hospital in New York after he was in an explosion in New York Harbor. He became friends with this Mr. McKenna. All through the years, the McKenna family and ours have always been friends. Joe, the son who worked for the telephone company in New York for years, comes to the Cape occasionally. So, we knew he was coming. The first thing I said to my father is, "They'd probably like some lobsters. Do you know if Joe likes lobsters?" My father said, "I don't know. We'll have to ask him." So, I asked him. He said, "Oh, I love them." So, I figured, which would be the best, to go to [inaudible] the four of us, or to buy the lobsters? So, I went to Sam Cahoon's market, and for \$20, I came back with twenty-two lobsters.

RLJ: [laughter] Oh, you are not kidding.

LD: I am not kidding.

RLJ: Was this when Edna Harris was running the Coonamessett?

LD: Oh, yes.

RLJ: They had good food then.

LD: Yes, they did.

RLJ: Yes. They really did. Yes.

LD: But I figured, for the number of people that we were going to have –

RLJ: Is that not ridiculous?

LD: – for everybody to be able to have lobster, so I said to my father, "I think" – So, my father and I got in my car. We went to Woods Hole. We bought twenty-two lobsters for \$20. Now, there might be possible, Sam was alive then I think, that we got a little discount on it. But even at that, I could have paid whatever those twenty-two lobsters cost wouldn't have been much more.

RLJ: What do you think you would pay for twenty-two lobsters if you went and bought them today?

LD: Oh, at \$7 a pound today?

RLJ: A pound? [laughter] Can you imagine that? I have not tasted lobster for several years.

LD: When we go to Nova Scotia, we have lobster. But even up in Nova Scotia now, it's expensive.

RLJ: Yes. There is a place that I have been in Nova Scotia. It is St. Andrews.

LD: Oh, I love it there. That's in New Brunswick.

RLJ: That is right. In New Brunswick, yes. Excuse me.

LD: I think that's a beautiful place. I love it.

RLJ: But there is a lobster pound out there. They used to have wonderful lobsters in a basket with [inaudible].

LD: Well, my sister and I used to stop in Lincolnville, Maine, and have lobster at the lobster pound there. We used to order the pound and a half. For 10.50, we would get steamed clams and that lobster and a baked potato and a salad. More than you could eat really.

RLJ: That is enough. Stop it, please. [laughter] I know what that is.

LD: We thought that was great for 10.50.

RLJ: Did your dad, when he was fishing, did he have a lot of fish he always had to discard, which they are trying to market now?

LD: No. He didn't. But I don't know whether you know – now, you may be able to correct me on some of this. At the time that Franklin Roosevelt was elected, boats would go into the New York fish pier into Fulton Fish Market. They would buy – we'll say the first ten boats come in. They buy all their fish and they don't want anymore. So, the other boats, all they could do with theirs was dump it. Until Roosevelt came in and some kind of a new regulation came out. They limited the number of men to each boat and the numbers of pounds of fish that they could bring in. Anything over that at the – when it first started, they took it, and it was given to places like the New York Foundling Hospital, old age homes, and places like that.

RLJ: This certainly sounds like Roosevelt.

LD: So, later on, the men would only bring in the number of pounds they were allowed to catch per man. It made their trips a little bit shorter maybe.

RLJ: I did not know about this dumping. But in other words, the first boats that got there, first come, first serve, they got the best price.

LD: Right.

RLJ: Now, I know in Boston, there is a custom of, when you come in and hail your catch, I mean, for the day of the auction, if the guy sees it haddock for, say, 17 cents, and he knows that there are no boats coming the next day, he may hoard over in the harbor, you see?

LD: That's right.

RLJ: Then the price would go up then the next morning, and he gets quite a bit more.

LD: That's right. They do that.

RLJ: So, there are many ways to skin a cat.

LD: That's right.

RLJ: These guys know all about it.

LD: Well, that's done also. But at first – and this was one of the reasons why my father was so enthused over voting for Franklin Roosevelt, was because at least the fishermen were getting a decent break. When you've got a family of eight children to bring up, that's an important thing in your life. On some of that, I may not be absolutely accurate. But I think my brother could probably tell you more about that than I could. But this was what I understood had happened. I

do know that now, they're limited to the number of pounds per person per boat. It depends upon the size of the boat. Whether they can have ten men on that boat or not depends upon the footage. Then each man is allowed so many pounds of fish.

RLJ: See, now, they have quotas –

LD: Yes.

RLJ: – on boats. There is quite an argument now because the big boat can go out and get his fish in a short time and get back and sell it. The small boat has got to go out and take that much more fuel to get out there and take that time to catch the fish and get back. Fuel is...

LD: That's right.

RLJ: Henry Klimm told me that a trip –

LD: The fishermen are complaining.

RLJ: – was \$5,000.

LD: The fishermen are complaining now about that.

RLJ: Of course, they are, yes. So, I do not know what is going to happen with this new administration. But we certainly have to do something about bringing down the operating cost for these guys because people cannot afford to pay \$4 a pound for haddock.

LD: The people that are making the money right now are the scallopers. They're making money. My brother's – one of his grandsons has been going out fishing. The first summer that he went, what is it? Two months' vacation they have at school? He made \$5,000, sixteen years of age, fishing.

RLJ: Is that not fantastic? Yes. Working on a scalloper?

LD: Yes.

RLJ: Well, the prices of scallops have been awfully high, but the crop of scallops is going down. It's been a little bit overfished. So, they are going to have to wait until the seed gets in and gets growing again. Because there was a nice bank off Chatham that I know that Henry Klimm and a number of boats were fishing. That one has mostly been fishing...

LD: I'm going to tell you something. My father was not an educated man. He never went to school. But he knew a lot about the ocean and the way that things work. He said, when they brought the draggers in and the draggers cleaned the ocean bottom, they were going to clean the food that the fish lived on. They were going to have to find new beds elsewhere. He was right.

RLJ: In other words, he was concerned about the damage that the...

LD: That the draggers would do. Right.

RLJ: [inaudible] did on the bottom. They destroyed the food and whatnot.

LD: They would drag the bottom. They would take up eel grass and all the other things that the fish lived on.

RLJ: I think one of the things that we have learned in recent years, and it was really as plain as the nose on our face if we thought about it, was that, when we got rid of all that small mesh – I mean, all the foreign vessels, with their herring-sized mesh, inch and a half mesh and whatnot, that they were the ones that were really destroying quantities of small, young of the year haddock and cod and other species. We did not use our head about that, really.

LD: This is why the fishermen would complain so much coming into the market, that the foreign vessels were putting them out of business.

RLJ: I used to talk to Dick Dobbin, the guys on the *Massachusetts*, the *Wisconsin*, all the boats up in Boston that I came into contact with when I was getting samples from them, they all complained about the Portuguese pair of trawlers, the foreign vessels that were fishing for herring in the same grounds where they were fishing for haddock or cod. But they know it now. Of course, they passed the 200-mile limit. There is a chance with –

LD: It took them a long time to do it.

RLJ: – proper management, that the fisheries can come back. It certainly is an important industry for New England. My gosh, look at New Bedford. Third in the nation in terms of value and landings and something. Really is.

LD: Well, look at Boston, what it was and what it is today.

RLJ: Oh, I know. I have seen some of the pictures. I worked at A.F. Rich. They told me about the contracts that the first national food stores had there and – is there something you want to do?

LD: No. You're not disturbing me at all.

RLJ: Okay. The hundreds and thousands and hundred thousands of pounds that the boats brought in there, the haddock and cod and squid and everything. They had these big contracts during the war. But we have to be a little more careful now. Yellowtail flounder is a good example of something that has gone way downhill.

LD: You know something else that happened that was interesting? During World War II, many of the fishermen were on the lookout for submarines. They were on sort of – I don't know that they had a commission. It wasn't anything that gave them any money or anything. But my brother was given some kind of a commendation –

RLJ: Was he really?

LD: – for what he did during World War II, watching for foreign...

RLJ: Because the fishing boats all had the capabilities of echo sounding.

LD: Right.

RLJ: In other words, they had the fathometers –

LD: They all had LORAN.

RLJ: – or LORAN.

LD: Right.

RLJ: They could probably report or – and as you say, were good observations over a very large area –

LD: Right.

RLJ: – that the Navy Department could use probably.

LD: This was the one remarkable thing that I noted about my father even in his old age, even when he was almost eighty years of age. We lived at the Heights at the time, looked out across the vineyard sound. He could see a boat coming. I would look out and think, "Oh, he's crazy. There's no boat out there." Five minutes later, sure enough, there'd be a fishing boat [laughter] coming up there. He had been so used to looking for those boats on the banks that he could see them.

RLJ: Oh, yes, and boy, is that important. I mean, when you are out there...

LD: His eyesight was tremendous. The only time he ever put glasses on was when he would look at the newspaper.

RLJ: That is something. Yes. That is interesting because I have a great cue in on birds of prey – on hawks and whatnot. I will be driving along in the car, and I always see them sitting on the telephone pole or on the wire. Frannie says, "Oh, Robbie, you are crazy. It is a blue jay," or whatever. [laughter] But I have trained myself over the years just to recognizing. I used to be –

LD: That's great.

RLJ: – murky with that when I was younger, you see. It drove my family crazy.

LD: Well, this is the way he – his whole life was the ocean. He could spot them. I can remember just looking at them and thinking, "Oh, papa's getting old." [laughter] Getting old my

foot. He was a sharp person.

RLJ: Getting back to Woods Hole again and Sam Cahoon's, there were quite a few boats that came in there, were there not?

LD: Yes, there were. A lot of boats from the Vineyard used to sell to Sam. I can't remember the Captain Bill before it went to work for the Oceanographic. I think they sold some to Sam. George Fisher from Edgartown, well, I guess his residence was considered Oak Bluffs. He was born in Edgartown, but he fished and lived in Oak Bluffs. I guess his boat went out of Oak Bluffs. He used to come into Woods Hole and sell to Sam. Now, George was a younger – well, probably my brother's age. I think he's dead. I can't remember. Kenneth Shepherd would know, but I think George Fisher died. There weren't as many younger men. All the old timers that I knew that were my father's age and friends of my father's are all gone now. But all the boats that went out of New Bedford – my father had the *Addie Mae* at one time. He had the Sankaty Head. I can't think of all the different boats that he had.

RLJ: I have heard of the *Addie Mae*.

LD: Well, that's the one that he went [laughter] rum-running with. They picked him up right off of here. This was incidentally – did you read the book written by – was it Mr. Allen? Who was the man that wrote for the Vineyard Gazette? Chase. Chase Allen. What's his first name? His son's name is Everett, and he wrote a book on the rum runners. Okay. What did I start to say about that? I was a little peeved at Mr. Allen for the simple reason that he said the men were interested in making money. He did not tell people – people your age and my age know that this was the age of depression. But the younger people coming up today don't think of that.

RLJ: You mean when everybody was bootlegging to make a few bucks [inaudible].

LD: My father had to go to do something. He had to feed his family. He didn't want to break the law any more than anybody else did. He sold to some of the biggest people in this town. Some of these people today [laughter] that got money were buying the booze that he was bringing in.

RLJ: Well, I told you that house down by us where Hazel and Fred (Pancreat?) were, I mean, before it burned down, they had a lovely, great cupola on the top. This used to be one of the lookouts for the –

LD: Sure.

RLJ: – to notify the ships.

LD: That's right, because I think...

RLJ: If the revenueurs were around – yes.

LD: Plenty of people right in the town of Falmouth made plenty of money in those days and

they didn't get caught at it. They were bringing them into [inaudible] into that nice little bay that they got in there. They were bringing them into West Falmouth Harbor. They were bringing them in everywhere. People had to eat.

RLJ: They certainly did. Yes. Did you ever go out with your dad fishing?

LD: No. I never did. I'm not a very good sailor. I get seasick. [laughter]

RLJ: You are not a very good sailor. That is...

LD: I get seasick.

RLJ: People get seasick. Nothing wrong...

LD: But there was nothing I liked better than to go – when we lived in Edgartown, I went to live with my father's sister. I went to visit my father's sister for a couple of weeks when I was very young. While I was up in Boston visiting her was when he had his accident in New York Harbor when the *Gleaner* blew up in New York Harbor. My father landed in the hospital for two years.

RLJ: The *Gleaner* blew up in New York Harbor.

LD: In New York Harbor in 1920. Was it 1918? It must have been around 1918.

RLJ: What was it? A gas?

LD: Apparently their galley was close to where the gasoline tank was, and they overloaded it. They lost four men in that. A brother of my father's was lost in that. He had just gotten out of the service. Must have been 1918 because it was shortly after the Armistice was signed. I went to visit his sister up in Boston. I stayed and lived with her for quite a long time. But we used to spend summers in Edgartown. My father would take us. Oftentimes, he took my mother to New Bedford to shop. We would get on his boat in Edgartown and go to New Bedford. That was the extent [laughter] of my sailing. Or he would take us on a Sunday afternoon, sail down to Nantucket, something like that.

RLJ: Well, that must have been nice.

LD: That was a lot of fun. I used to love doing that. I never got sick on those trips. But I could have never gone out deep sea fishing with them without getting sick. We had lots of fun as youngsters on the Vineyard. There were many boats that went into Edgartown.

RLJ: Into Edgartown?

LD: Yes. The Jackson's boat went in there and Claude Wagner's boat came in there. My father's boat came in.

RLJ: This was Eldridge?

LD: Eldridge had the fish market in Edgartown at that time. I don't know which Eldridge. I think the same Eldridge that had a place over in Fairhaven in New Bedford. I think that same family. Where they had their fish market in Edgartown when I was a child is now where the yacht club is. Are you familiar with Edgartown?

RLJ: Yes.

LD: Well, where the yacht club now stands, Elridge – not on that end there. There was pier, but a little back from it. When we were kids, we used to [laughter] get underneath there where he put his lobsters. He had some sort of a raft thing built to keep the lobsters fresh. They'd stick them in there.

RLJ: The live catch. Yes.

LD: We used to go in to see – my father would've killed us, but my brothers used to go to see if they could sneak a lobster.

RLJ: Under the dock you and open it [inaudible]?

LD: They'd swim under there to see if they could swipe a lobster.

RLJ: Just like a big predatory goose fish or something.

LD: Yes.

RLJ: Oh, my gosh. Yes. Well, that is really something. Well, I think that I have asked you enough questions to know about your dad and his fishing experiences. I find it really fascinating to think about the lives of these older people. I mean, I think of how we were brought up as children and how much better it was to have had somebody who really disciplined. I mean, I was brought up with an ivory handle hairbrush.

LD: Right.

RLJ: My mother used to spank us. Then I think...

LD: Oh, my mother was a little thin woman. [laughter] We were more afraid of her than we were of my father. But she had to be mother and father to us while my father was away. My favorite book as a child – one of my favorite books was *Captain Courageous* because this was the kind of fishing my father did when I was a child. The lines that you rolled in the barrels with the hook every so many – what is it? Every foot, they had a hook on it and tossed it out.

RLJ: Now, in other words –

LD: That's the kind of fishing he did.

RLJ: – before he began dragging, he was line trawling.

LD: He was line trawling. Yes.

RLJ: Line trawling out of this area?

LD: Out of this area, yes.

RLJ: Really?

LD: Yes.

RLJ: So, this is where he went out to Nantucket Shoals and Pollock Rip and these fishing grounds to go line trawling.

LD: Yes.

RLJ: Just like they do in Chatham.

LD: Right.

RLJ: So, he would get pollock and cod and haddock and...

LD: Haddock and all the different flounders. Flounders have different names. We've got dabs and yellowtails and...

RLJ: Fluke, yes.

LD: Right. Blackback and – right.

RLJ: Well, that is really interesting. Well, Loretta, I appreciate these notes very much. I think the plan is going to be that they are going to have a talk on the history of the fishing industry in Woods Hole, trying to look at – I would probably look at the old part of it. If we can get a couple of these young guys that are fishing now, like Hank (Stammel's?) son or Norman Vine's son – because they're sons of scientists, and they are fishing commercial boats – and then talk about the future and maybe look at the problems of getting a new – set up a new dock or extending it or getting power and light out there in Woods Hole. I think they will probably do something like this.

LD: Well, I hope you get in touch with my brother.

RLJ: But I would really love to go over and talk to Louis. I really would.

LD: Oh, I hope you will because he can tell you so much because that's been his life.

RLJ: Yes. Well, the boat, *The Irene* and *Hilda*, I think, that went down this last summer. She

had too much of a load.

LD: I don't know. But I...

RLJ: They were the ones, when I retired...

LD: Oh, yes.

RLJ: I think I told you this before. I am going to turn this off now.

LD: Okay.

RLJ: You can tell it again because I would like to know about this.

LD: Now, let's see where I started. [laughter] In 1954, I lost a brother and a brother-in-law. My brother-in-law was Joshua Murphy II. He was the captain of the boat. He was taking the *Doris Gertrude* out for his father and with a crew of eleven. They were on the banks during one of the worst storms that we had ever had. This was 1955, I made a mistake. It was January of 1955 and we never knew exactly what happened. Oh, there's a boat from New Bedford, the *Jimmy* something. I can't remember the last...

RLJ: *Jimmy Boy*?

LD: It might've been *Jimmy Boy*.

RLJ: I am not sure about that.

LD: But I didn't think so. But they were the last ones to talk to the *Doris Gertrude*. They always felt that one of the ocean liners coming from Europe ran them down. The Coast Guard officially declared them dead. They said one of four things could have happened. Number one, they could have been on the shoals, and the boat broken apart. Number two, they could have had a fire, and she could have burned. They could have been run down by an ocean liner. I don't remember what the fourth thing was. But they officially declared them dead. Nothing was ever found of the boat again. She was never heard of again. That was 1955.

RLJ: That was a really fierce winter.

LD: It was a terrible winter.

RLJ: They had a big north easter out there on Georgia.

LD: Oh, one of the worst storms we'd ever had.

RLJ: [phone rings] If that is for you, I mean, please...

LD: No. It must be for him.

RLJ: Okay. Ken was talking about the winter of 1935, January 1935. He said they were iced in for over a month and...

LD: Now, see, he would remember. In 1935, I was in Boston. I don't remember too much about that winter.

RLJ: *The Boston Globe* had an article Sunday about the winters of the past, and they talked about 1934. I do not know whether Ken is making a mistake on this. Then 1918, in 1918, the temperature went down to minus seventeen. [19]34 it went down to minus 18 at one time. I think it was in February.

LD: Yes. Well, I had a picture, a snapshot which I gave back to my oldest sister. Now, my oldest sister is about seventy-three. A picture of her taken on the ice in Edgartown Harbor. She must have been twelve, thirteen years old. Between Edgartown and Chappy, and there's a current of water...

RLJ: Oh, terrible current.

LD: Yes, and she's on the ice right up there. That was way back in, well, in the early [19]20s maybe.

RLJ: It is interesting because...

LD: Or even before. No, it must've been the early [19]20s.

RLJ: Sam Cahoon put his ice plant in up on the [inaudible].

LD: Oh, I remember that. Right

RLJ: Then he did not have any cold weather for five years [laughter] and did not get any natural ice. So, he had to spend a lot of money on ice machinery finally.

LD: It's too bad you didn't know Sam. He was such a delightful person.

RLJ: Well, I see Cynthia, you see, all the time because she is very active in the church and super person and...

LD: Yes. Well, she probably...

RLJ: [inaudible] her husband knows him...

LD: Her mother was a dear. Mrs. Cahoon was a very sweet person.

RLJ: Unless I had known her when we first came here, I mean, through Mason Wilson or something like that, I do not remember.

LD: As a matter of fact, my father always told me that he introduced Sam Cahoon to Mrs. Cahoon.

RLJ: Is that true?

LD: She was dating somebody from the Vineyard. My father said, "Oh, he's not much. I know somebody that's better than that," and introduced the two of them.

RLJ: Oh, wow. I met my wife on a blind date. [laughter] That is really something.

LD: Did you shut that thing off?

RLJ: My name is Robert Livingston Jr. I am a retired fishery biologist from the National Marine Fishery Service in Woods Hole. As part of my quest to get information on the different industries in Woods Hole, I am talking to Norman Vine, who is the son of Al Vine of the Oceanographic Institution. I am trying to get some feeling for what some of the younger men who are going commercial fishing, what their thoughts are about the industry, and just sitting down having an informal chat. So, I am with Norm Vine this evening. This is – is it January the 27th? Something like that. I don't know.

Norman Vine: Yes.

RLJ: Oh, dear. Here we go again. My fault. This is what I did with Henry Flynn. I spent an afternoon with him, and I was so mad. When I got home, my wife said to me, "Well, you must remember something, or try to write it down." I said, "Damn it." I said, "I have forgotten everything I talked about" [laughter] Well, I guess the first thing I asked you was how you got into this [inaudible]. Why do you not say it again because it is kind of interesting in terms of what is available and what is [inaudible].

NV: Well, I [inaudible]. How do you actually say where you're getting anything? It seemed like it was one of the few jobs that you could make a decent living at that was available in town. It was steady year-around work.

RLJ: How long have you done this [inaudible]?

NV: Three and a half to four years.

RLJ: Three and a half to four years. How many guys [inaudible] about your age [inaudible]?

NV: Probably fifteen, twenty.

RLJ: Really? Because I can think of you and [inaudible]. I do not know if Kevin was in the bay fishing.

NV: Yes, Kevin was fishing. We had crews on all the boats there, on all the boats. Well, it

comes and goes. I'd say they're probably fifteen or twenty.

RLJ: But are they mostly younger guys?

NV: Yes.

RLJ: Are they? I have talked to some of them down at the dock, but I do not remember their names. Of course, I know Marty [inaudible] Julie and some of the bunch that goes out with him. It is quite a change from what it was.

NV: Well, you just [inaudible] some of those industries. You don't see the people. I mean, it's like people working with labs. They're there. You see them every day. You go to work on a fish boat, you don't see them. You see the guys who own the boats. They're on the dock. We try to do all the work at sea. So, as soon as we tie the boat up, we go home. That's all you see.

RLJ: So, what is your operation usually like? I mean, you go out before daybreak?

NV: No, I fish [inaudible]. We go out for four or five days at a time.

RLJ: You go out for four or five days at a time. So, are you fishing mostly on the local grounds, four or five days?

NV: No, we might go as far as 100 miles from here. But usually we're...

RLJ: So, how much of your time do you spend on Georges Bank?

NV: I've never been to Georges in my life on a fish boat.

RLJ: Is that so? That is interesting. You fish the channel?

NV: Yes. We mostly fish the channel on Nantucket Shoals and the back side of the Cape. [inaudible]

RLJ: Okay. Those are important haddock and cod [inaudible]. But you say that there are no boats that leave directly from Woods Hole [inaudible.]. Is that right?

NV: Well, we leave Woods Hole, but we usually stop somewhere else and sell our catch before we come back.

RLJ: But do you go to New Bedford, I mean, to stock up? Is that what you...

NV: Well, no. We'll stock up before we – what we'll do is on our typical fishing day, we'll leave Woods Hole around 11:00. We'll fish for however long it takes, three or four days. We'll stop in New Bedford before we come back to Woods Hole.

RLJ: In other words, you hail your catch in New Bedford?

NV: We'll go to New Bedford and offload our catch and get the supplies for the next trip. Then come back to Woods Hole, tie the boat up and [inaudible].

RLJ: How do you feel about the price structure by going to New Bedford? Do you think there would be a different price structure if you had more of a fishing industry in Woods Hole?

NV: I have no idea. [laughter]

RLJ: So, in other words, you – but you are going by the price of the auction the day that you are here.

NV: Yes, well, the price for fish on the East Coast, it's determined by two auctions. One's selling in Boston. One's selling in New Bedford. So, you get the same price whether you – for example, if you offload fish in the Vineyard, which you could, if you're lucky, you'd get New Bedford price. Usually, the guy might give you a couple of cents under the Bedford price, and he'd charge you for shipping the fish or whatever.

RLJ: Do any of you go to Sandwich to unload?

NV: Some boats do. Matt does.

RLJ: Matt unloads his fish in Sandwich. So, does he fish the same grounds that you do?

NV: Yes, we fish the same grounds.

RLJ: Pretty much in the Nantucket Shoals area. Do you fish by seasons?

NV: Well, the boats here now, we only fish eleven and a half months a year.

RLJ: Right now, they will be fishing for cod?

NV: Well, it's cod fishing and flounders.

RLJ: Flounders. Winter flounders or a mixture?

NV: Well, it depends on the season, what you're [inaudible] fishing. But now, we chase pretty much just cod fish, what you call winter flounder and blackback.

RLJ: Do you have any problems with discard?

NV: I don't know what you mean. If you catch...

RLJ: I mean you get a lot of skates if you fish at night?

NV: Yes. You get...

RLJ: You run [inaudible] fish occasionally.

NV: Yes. When you drag in the ocean, you catch what's there. [laughter] You don't know what's going to be there.

RLJ: Do you use fathometers to locate fish or mostly for navigation?

NV: Well, that's a good question. You know the business that we don't use sonars or anything that you can see. Usually codfish on a machine sometimes, you see.

RLJ: You can see those little chevron motors –

NV: Yes.

RLJ: – that make individual codfish.

NV: Well, not necessarily individual fish. Pretty much, we fish the bottom. There's no really good way to search for fish.

RLJ: In other words...

NV: The machines you have are going to show you what's underneath you and so you're there anyway. You might know where the fish were to come back to if you...

RLJ: In other words, you are simply using the sonar as a way of remembering where certain type of bottoms with a lot of fish.

NV: Right. Or if you go over a certain bottom and you haul back enough fish there, then you can go back and look at your fathometer and sort of figure out where the fish were. Then use a fathometer to go back. You can't really use it [inaudible].

RLJ: I may have asked you this question before, but how many boats are there fishing out of this dock?

NV: Well, right now, it's three boats that actually go to Woods Hole Port. But they're probably four or five boats mostly out of Woods Hole [inaudible].

RLJ: Can you give me the names of it?

NV: Right now, there's *Northern Star* and the [inaudible] that's owned by [inaudible]. Other boats are [inaudible]. Then there are a couple of boats that [inaudible].

RLJ: These guys are all draggers?

NV: Yes, pretty much, they're all draggers.

RLJ: How many lobsters are there?

NV: There are a couple of small inshore lobsters. It was George Chase and Sherman [inaudible].

RLJ: Sherman Williams.

NV: Yes.

RLJ: Or Sherman [inaudible].

NV: [inaudible] in Prospect Street.

RLJ: In Prospect Street.

NV: There are a couple others, Frank [inaudible]. I think that's it for lobster. There might be one or two other small lobster boats.

RLJ: Are there any other kinds of fisheries going on?

NV: Not really, no.

RLJ: Is there anybody eel fishing?

NV: I guess there are a couple of eel fishers. I don't really see the small [inaudible].

RLJ: What about sword fishing?

NV: There's not too much sword fishing.

RLJ: Mostly [inaudible].

NV: Yes. [inaudible] comes in, but he's only here a month in a year.

RLJ: He's only here in the summer [inaudible]. Are there quite a number of boats coming out of the Vineyards that are going on the fishing with you guys?

NV: Well, I don't think there are any boat – or actually, I guess two or three. No, we – I don't know how to say it. There's no real group. I mean, we fish the same bottom – basic bottom. We run into each other out there. Of course, we live in the same town. So, we know each other. We share experiences with one another when we're on the beach. So, we tend to fish a little closer together than a lot of people do.

RLJ: Are there quite a few draggers or as much of the fishing community [inaudible]?

NV: Yes. There are quite a few boats in [inaudible]. They are mostly smaller boats.

RLJ: Were they day boats?

NV: No. They're 50-, 60-foot boats. Right now, I think they're mostly – there are a couple of draggers and quite a few scallopers. But the scallops have gotten scarce recently in the last couple months. I don't know what they're [inaudible].

RLJ: Did another guy come here with [inaudible]?

NV: Could be [inaudible].

RLJ: [inaudible] would have been the [inaudible].

NV: Yes. Whatever coming in.

RLJ: But is the scallop [inaudible]?

NV: [inaudible].

RLJ: Is it?

NV: Yes.

RLJ: So, the [inaudible]. What are the major problems that you see for Woods Hole becoming more of a fishing port and having a better fishing industry?

NV: Well, it's a limited waterfront, and it's a congested town. People are [inaudible] one small dock. [inaudible] There's no really – we have tremendous traffic problems. If we also had fish there, you'd start creating – where the fishing dock is, you have tremendous traffic congestion. You're going to have traffic congestion.

RLJ: You mean with the aquarium, with the laboratories?

NV: You have the laboratories. You have one road to get there really to speak of. I don't think the industry's going to get too large here. Again, it's a deep-water port. But then again, everybody's competing for it. The veterans are geared up for it. All the related trades are represented there. Supply houses are there. The yards are there that can handle those. Ice. Anything else? Modern fish plants take up quite a bit of space.

RLJ: It is interesting, apparently, years ago they had an ice machine on [inaudible].

NV: Yes. They had ice that came from [inaudible].

RLJ: They had ice from Sam Cahoon because he had the ice plant up there. But you do not see any way – I mean, this is a good port. No question about that. But there is so much competition.

NV: Well, the competition's for the dock space.

RLJ: It is for the dock space. So, in other words, you do not have anything now. You do not have electric power. You do not have water. You do not have enough space out there as you say. So, well, that is about the only area where you could enlarge, in that area [inaudible].

NV: Well, you could do that, or you could – if you really wanted to expand the industry, you'd have to make a dock. You'd probably have to do whatever everybody else in town has done [inaudible] make it. I could foresee– I mean, you envision big docks. I don't know if you would want to do it or not. For example, there's a hard space between the Oceanographic and the fisheries that you'd put a big dock into.

RLJ: I mean, in that area between where –

NV: The breakwater [inaudible].

RLJ: – Henry ties up?

NV: Where Henry ties up. There's a lot of ways you would utilize space the fishery has. You can make a lot of fishery service places down south within [inaudible]. There's a great big joint [inaudible] where you –

RLJ: Did I hear you say [inaudible]?

NV: [inaudible]. You can tie the breakwater in the big dock. For example, you put finger up here and just put [inaudible]. If you tie that into the breakwater, it can make quite a dock there.

RLJ: If they had the dockage space and provided the [inaudible] and water, do you think that many of the boats would use this [inaudible]?

NV: Well, I think you'd find an increase in the boat that use [inaudible].

RLJ: There is still a problem of unloading fish.

NV: There's still a problem unloading fish.

RLJ: So far, guys come in and drive [inaudible] to the local buyers around here [inaudible].

NV: There's a little bit of fish that goes there in the wintertime. In the wintertime, sometimes the veterans [inaudible] or some of the boats go to [inaudible] town. Or if you just have a, what we call a broken trip, and maybe it's less than 10,000 pounds of fish. You have a small truck go outside of town.

RLJ: In other words, broken trips might be a [inaudible]?

NV: Yes.

RLJ: So, you have a contact that you can call after your broken trip. They will come and meet you.

NV: Yes. Some of the fish drags have trucks most [inaudible].

RLJ: How many fish draggers are in this area?

NV: There's none in the town. The closest is probably the [inaudible].

RLJ: The lobster trap company used to take lobsters and swordfish or...

NV: Yes.

RLJ: [inaudible]

NV: He had three or four buyers in Sandwich and a buyer in the Vineyard. He was going to withhold for a while. Again, there was no space in the dock for him to really maintain his operation. So, he went somewhere where he could find a docket zone and put a building.

RLJ: How much money is involved in acquiring three- or four-day fishing trips in terms of the expenses?

NV: Well, fuel is \$1 a gallon. Ice is \$20 a ton. Food's the same as everywhere. So, most of these boats [inaudible] now are burning 300 gallons of fuel a day. They probably use 10 to 20 tons of ice a trip. It's expensive.

RLJ: Then you have to do quite a bit of running extra. [inaudible]

NV: Oh, yes. You're talking \$2,000 anyway for expenses.

RLJ: For a trip, which would include food, fuel...

NV: That would include fuel and ice.

RLJ: Yes. I would say that [inaudible].

NV: Well, we gamble. Our trips take four or five days.

RLJ: Four or five days? But there is no [inaudible]?

NV: Oh, no. [laughter] No fuel's \$2 [inaudible].

RLJ: None of that [inaudible]. So, it is a real struggle in terms of your investment and your maintenance, your repairs, and the problems you have in fishing.

NV: Yes. Well, times are tough right now for the fisherman. I mean, you have to be good to survive.

RLJ: You have to be good to survive. In other words, you mean you have got a [inaudible]?

NV: Yes. You have to have both [inaudible]. I mean, dragging is just about, you can equate how much fuel you burn and how much fish catching potentially you have. But of course, you have to be on the fish [inaudible]. So, you have to have good gear. You can't be broken down. I mean, a new boat today probably has a 6,000 to \$7,000 a month in mortgage payments. So, you're talking...

RLJ: At a fairly high rate of interest.

NV: At a high rate of interest. It's a tough nut right now. A lot of boats are going under. A lot of boats just can't make it.

RLJ: Is it because of the bad weather we have?

NV: No. It's [inaudible] The boats around are good boats and good cruise. We're surviving. But a lot of the folks are over-mortgaged or over-financed.

RLJ: You say they are over-financed.

NV: Yes.

RLJ: What do you have tied up in a trawl that you would probably take [inaudible].

NV: Well, a complete net's probably over 5,000 bucks.

RLJ: This includes the doors and [inaudible]?

NV: No. That's just the net and [inaudible].

RLJ: Is it?

NV: Yes.

RLJ: What else?

NV: The trawls are probably \$2500.

RLJ: [inaudible] Are you guys using the drum trawl?

NV: Yes, we use a drum trawl.

RLJ: [inaudible] just along the West Coast?

NV: Yes. I guess it was – the books say it was developed in the West Coast.

RLJ: I certainly remember [inaudible]. But then again it changed.

NV: We're all developing new use this far.

RLJ: We are all developing new use this far. [laughter] You can get by with a fewer men of [inaudible] arrangement than you can by the [inaudible].

NV: Well, you don't really even need a [inaudible], but it makes easier. It's a good way to store them. It keeps them in storage [inaudible].

RLJ: So, I gather that you feel that there was kind of a limited chance that Woods Hole would become a fishing port [inaudible] that people would [inaudible 01:05:57].

NV: Well, I think you'll see more boats in Woods Hole than you have now. But I don't think there'll ever be a major port.

RLJ: Mainly because of the difficulties of getting [inaudible].

NV: Well, yes, I don't see any dock space that – I mean, other ports of the area have a lot of dock space. They're trying to attract business to the area. Where in Woods Hole, there's no dock space. It has to be created. I just don't think it's economically viable.

RLJ: There are many more people who would rather see [inaudible].

NV: Yes. Fish dock isn't [inaudible].

RLJ: [inaudible] the problems I have and they are trying to [inaudible]. How do you feel about the squid? Are you guys going to go fishing for squid this year if the price is right?

NV: Well, we don't fish for squid, but we hope everybody else does. That way, it keeps the price up on the other fish.

RLJ: On the groundfish.

NV: On the groundfish. I mean, maybe you have to make your mind up. But the squid's ground is so congested.

RLJ: [laughter] [inaudible] on my window last spring. There was like thirty-something [inaudible].

NV: Well, there are a hundred something this year [inaudible]. But then again, if you get everybody going for the squids, then that takes the pressure off the other fish.

RLJ: Keep the price up.

NV: Helps us keep the price up a little bit.

RLJ: Do guys who fish squid come from all over?

NV: Yes, mostly – yes, they come from all over. Probably main...

RLJ: Where do they unload their catch?

NV: There's not a lot of squid in [inaudible].

RLJ: Well, I see right down here [inaudible] the trucks backing up to the [inaudible].

NV: Yes. They'll do that. They'll do it in the [inaudible] in Woods Hole.

RLJ: People did not like that, did they? They complain about the number of trawlers and [inaudible].

NV: Oh, yes. People are...

RLJ: What do you feel is the investment is in terms of putting money back into town? The small fishing industry in Woods Hole. Do you guys not spend quite a bit of money in the town?

NV: Well, if you live here, you spend your money here.

RLJ: You said you spend your money here. Then you would probably spend more money here for [inaudible].

NV: Well, there's room for other businesses in town. There are a lot of fishing-related businesses that could develop if people wanted to.

RLJ: Are you getting right back to where [inaudible]?

NV: Yes. That kind of store.

RLJ: [inaudible]

NV: Yes.

RLJ: [inaudible] supplies or anything. But now, you do not get that locally if you are [inaudible].

NV: No, you...

RLJ: You go to places over New Bedford. [inaudible]

NV: Right. Well, we're in New Bedford anyway, and everything's there.

RLJ: [inaudible] Is anybody doing anything with mahogany [inaudible]?

NV: There were coal boats around here a while ago. But there's nobody – I don't know if there's anybody on the Cape doing that now. I can't think of any in the Cape. They call the boats in Maine. I know that they call boats in [inaudible].

RLJ: There was just no market for it?

NV: I couldn't really tell you. But again, that's a real fuel-intensive operation. It has a big puncture. I don't think – I don't know. I never did it. [inaudible]

RLJ: You think another problem of a person going into this business are the bonus in terms of [inaudible] with the bigger boat to get on and get his quota and get back [inaudible] has to take longer, spend more getting [inaudible]? Or is this a problem in terms of the regulation?

NV: Well, it would've helped with the price if [inaudible]. It's [inaudible] 10,000 pounds a week, I think is just a small dragger isn't allowed that much.

RLJ: So, are you talking about line trawlers?

NV: No. They're allowed to catch more fish than a small dragger is allowed to catch. I think they have – the guys in the small boats are much better working as a group collectively and have louder voice. There are more boats. They talk about their hardship cases. They say, "Look, we have sixty boats here. The sixty boats employing a hundred people. Whereas the bigger boats have crews of six or seven. You have only ten votes employing sixty people. Sure, the bigger boats can work all year round. But it'd be nice if we could take a vacation every January, February.

RLJ: Is Jay [inaudible]?

NV: That name doesn't ring a bell. I don't know that name.

RLJ: [inaudible]

NV: But again, the smaller boats goes at home every night. So, they can all get together when a hot issue comes up.

RLJ: They could come and talk.

NV: Sure. They can come and have a meeting and a small boat [inaudible]. So, the bigger boats, they can't afford to miss a trip. They're only home two days a week at the most, and sometimes, two or three days out of ten. So, they definitely have an active representation.

RLJ: How do [inaudible]? Do you talk about this among yourselves?

NV: Yes, we're waiting on a few [inaudible]. We don't know. I guess they might cause a few problems. I was just reading something the other day where they were talking about making Nantucket a sanctuary to protect it from the oil leakages. On the same token, that would protect it from the draggers. So, it's not a big dragging route.

RLJ: I [inaudible] sanctuary was going to [inaudible].

NV: Well, I don't know.

RLJ: I mean, the fishing industry out here, the sanctuary [inaudible].

NV: Well, the idea is [inaudible].

RLJ: [inaudible]

NV: [inaudible]

RLJ: Well, they say that [inaudible].

NV: Well, I mean [inaudible] out there [inaudible] get even tighter. Again, I imagine the fishermen that looks after it. [laughter]

RLJ: But an oil rig I think covers a much larger area. [inaudible]. It turns upon the [inaudible].

NV: Oh, yes.

RLJ: [inaudible]

NV: [laughter] It's going to make fishing more difficult. Who knows where they're going to go? I mean, I think most of it's going to be further out, off shore.

RLJ: It is going to be in deeper water.

NV: Well, I didn't know that – where I personally fish, I think most of the oils are out in Georges Banks and places like that. But what I wonder about is how much oil is actually out there in [inaudible1]?

RLJ: Do you know who asked this question [inaudible]?

NV: Yes. [inaudible] actually out here [inaudible].

RLJ: [inaudible]

NV: Then when it comes the other way, you mostly get – fishing around [inaudible].

RLJ: Do any of you go fishing for mackerel or tuna or scad or butterfish?

NV: Well, we do a bunch of small boats every once in a while, that do a lot scad fishing. In the summertime, there's a bunch of small boats that usually are in Boston, Harvard. They're fishing in Cape Cod Bay now. It was high [inaudible]. There's no one in Woods Hole [inaudible]. This fish was coming quite a lot.

RLJ: Where would you go out when you are down the Sound?

NV: Well, I've never done it, so I can't know. But it was around the Sound [inaudible].

RLJ: Have you seen any changes in the numbers of cod fish or [inaudible] or flounders in the four and a half years you have been fishing?

NV: Well, yes. It comes and goes. There are a lot of flounders this year, not as many cod fish.

RLJ: You still [inaudible] yellowtail?

NV: Yes. [inaudible] Yellowtail flounders have made a come back [inaudible].

RLJ: [inaudible]

NV: Yes. There are a few good tides.

RLJ: Well, that should be good [inaudible].

NV: The more flounders [inaudible] flounders around they ever seen this past year.

RLJ: What about cod?

NV: Well, cod, this year they didn't seem to be as many as there have been in the last couple of years. But then again it comes and goes. There's still plenty of codfish around, but they just aren't as many in Nantucket Sound, for example, [inaudible].

RLJ: What about haddock?

NV: I've never seen, and I rarely catch haddock.

RLJ: In other words, Nantucket Shoals [inaudible]?

NV: No. I just don't fish the kind of [inaudible].

RLJ: [inaudible]

NV: Well, again, up there I fish – generally speaking, the bottom I fish [inaudible].

RLJ: Do you think that the 200-mile limit has done good for the [inaudible]?

NV: Well, I don't know. I mean, I think it certainly saved the industry. But then again, I think the industry is one of those that self-regulates itself in a period of a few years. It doesn't sound very scientific, but I think, economically speaking, it regulates itself. For example, the scallop industry right now is in a slow period. I think you're just going to find a real decrease in the scalloping effort. It'll just come back by itself, and even more so with fishing. But it just gets too expensive to catch the last few fish.

RLJ: So, natural production will take over?

NV: Yes. Natural production will take over. I hope that, and I think and I also believe that the species is so prolific that that's the case.

RLJ: Well, that is interesting [inaudible]. We saw a change in the egg production [inaudible]. Egg production increased considerably. [inaudible]

NV: If anything's going to ruin the industry, ruin fishing, then it's going to [inaudible].

RLJ: [inaudible]

NV: Well, they're selected to the fish, but they also [inaudible] just don't stop fishing.

RLJ: They fish forever.

NV: They fish forever. They cheat. People go in, and they – you get into an area where we can't even drag it over that area.

RLJ: [inaudible]

NV: [inaudible]

RLJ: [inaudible]

NV: Yes. [inaudible] Well, actually the last year and a half...

RLJ: It started on the North Shore. Now it is out here and Provincetown too.

NV: Right. We would go to a traditional fishery spot. We generally, we like to [inaudible] gear. We used to in essence close off areas to us that are 5 miles square. They we're not an area where it just would be impossible.

RLJ: Are these seine nets, or are they surface nets?

NV: Mostly seine nets.

RLJ: How long are they?

NV: Around [inaudible] 2-mile strings. It had one [inaudible] two or three, 2- mile strings.

RLJ: [inaudible] This is extremely [inaudible] the fish cannot see?

NV: Yes.

RLJ: They go right into them?

NV: Yes.

RLJ: I know [inaudible].

NV: Well, there are a couple of guys that [inaudible]. I guess it's tricky business. I've never done it. There are a few small boats [inaudible]. None of them are real successful.

RLJ: But there are many more gillnetters though, right? The gillnet represents a hell of a small investment compared to trawler, does it not?

NV: Yes. It looks like a good way to go fishing if you want to catch a lot of fish in [inaudible]. I mean, the small boats are – and again, there are a lot of small boats. They can circumvent the quota system. Whereas...

RLJ: Are there any gillnetters out in Woods Hole?

NV: No. [inaudible] I think Hyannis is –.

RLJ: I think I saw a gillnet out here last spring.

NV: Well, there are gillnets around. There are a few guys might set [inaudible].

RLJ: [inaudible] something like that?

NV: [inaudible] There might be a few around [inaudible]. They work on [inaudible].

RLJ: [inaudible] Is there a better price for gillnet-caught fish?

NV: No. Gillnet fish is the worst fish in the ocean.

RLJ: Why? Because it stays [inaudible] too long?

NV: Well, gillnet is on the bottom and the [inaudible], et cetera, or whatever's living on the bottom of [inaudible] the fish. The fish drowns. It's there. [inaudible]...

RLJ: Guts go to hell?

NV: Guts go to hell. The fish will sometimes be half eaten by sand fleas or [inaudible] or whatever you want to call them.

RLJ: Sharks or whatever.

NV: Or sharks or whatever. But mostly it's sand fleas. Then again, you have a small boat catching them. You only have a couple of guys in the boat. It takes them longer to catch them. They're day boats. They don't carry the ice. They don't keep the fish up in – [inaudible] fish has gone from being the highest quality fish to one of the lowest quality fishes because of that. But it's worth in the volume they catch I guess.

RLJ: How many months of the year [inaudible]?

NV: [inaudible] year-round.

RLJ: Do they change pretty much?

NV: Yes. Well, they have 35-, 40- foot boats. They fish the channel and Poly Group.

RLJ: So, if you went off Poly Group, then you will find [inaudible]?

NV: You'd probably find a few.

RLJ: But nobody sees them from the [inaudible]. They have got a buoy at each end. Is that the way –

NV: Right.

RLJ: Do you have any friends [inaudible]?

NV: I know a few other guys who [inaudible].

RLJ: Are they making good on that?

NV: Certainly [inaudible].

RLJ: Is it [inaudible] a long piece of gear instead of cover – we are going to be fishing along here someplace [inaudible] haddock or [inaudible] cod.

NV: [inaudible]

RLJ: [inaudible] more than they would get. Does it talk about it in here?

NV: I doubt if I've seen any articles.

RLJ: Well, I was amazed when I saw Carl Spin. I used to have a project in Boston [inaudible] sixty-eight to seventy-three. [inaudible]

NV: Well, you don't have to have a lot of [inaudible].

[end of transcript]