

People of the Sturgeon: Wisconsin's Love Affair with an Ancient Fish

LeRoy Remme Oral History

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Interviewer: DC – Dominic Carmona

Transcriber: NCC

Dominic Carmona: Hello. This is Dominic Carmona. I'm here at the residence of LeRoy Remme. We're doing an interview. It is January 17th, 2007, and it is 10:20 a.m. He lives up here in Appleton. Okay. Mr. Remme, when and where were you born at?

LeRoy Remme: Actually, I was born in Theda (Clark?) Hospital over in Neenah, Wisconsin. From the time that I was taken out the hospital, I lived in Menasha for twenty years over on Milwaukee Street. Eventually married and moved back to Neenah for another quite a few years. Started raising a family and moved out to the country, out in the town of Clayton.

DC: How many kids do you have?

LR: I have five boys and a girl.

DC: Five boys and a girl. Okay. Now, how did you first learn about sturgeon fishing and how long have you been doing it?

LR: Well, I fished Lake Winnebago and Poygan all my life, from probably seven years old until present. Throughout that time, I didn't sturgeon spear. But I was around a lot of guys that did and didn't take it up until 1987, I believe it was. The season of [19]87. I didn't see a sturgeon for, I think it was three years until this guy came through the hole. I mean, first time I saw him, I think it was the same fish. Anyhow, came to the right side of the sturgeon hole, and all I saw was the back side of him, the tail part. But it was huge. I thought, "Oh boy. I just missed my chance." But I did throw a spear anyhow, just for practice, I guess. Brought it back up, got it all set again, and about fifteen or twenty minutes later, here he came back again. He'd come right up to the [inaudible], but in sixteen feet of water. In 1990, that water was so clear, you could see a dime down on the bottom of sixteen feet.

DC: So, where was this fish caught at?

LR: Off of Waverly Beach on the north end of Lake Winnebago.

DC: Were you by yourself?

LR: No, my wife was with me. She was off work because of Washington's birthday. I coaxed her to go along. We were in the shanty maybe twenty minutes when he came through the first time. After we got the fish is when everything started to break loose. There was quite a bit of excitement out there after everybody heard about the fish. They all came to see it.

DC: So, how big was it?

LR: The fish weighed 144 pounds. It was 74 inches long, with a 38-inch girth. Shad population at the time was really bad. Inside the fish, we counted over fifty-seven shad in its stomach that was countable. At the time, we were told that sturgeon don't eat shark shad. But I think this one had quite an appetite for them.

DC: Now, you said that you pulled out quite a few shad out of this particular sturgeon. This was

back in 1990. Previously, did [inaudible 00:04:43] you speared others?

LR: Yes, I did. Yes. Yes. I've gotten a few after that.

DC: So, what kind of things did you find in the stomach?

LR: Just the shad.

DC: Oh, you continued to find shad?

LR: Yes, and whatever else was digested. Of course, we couldn't tell what it was. If he had worms that he picked off the bottom – or she, I should say.

DC: So, you mentioned that you've been sturgeon spearing for as long as you can remember. Now, who actually taught you?

LR: No. I only went spearing for about seven years.

DC: Oh, okay. I thought you said you did since you were seven. Oh, okay. Then who taught you the technique or the activity?

LR: Well, actually, the activity itself was there for the taking. Like I said, being around Lake Winnebago all my life, walleye fishing, I finally got the urge to take it up. After the first couple years, I wish I didn't [laughter]. It was many, many long hours sitting in a shanty that I didn't see anything. But there was always that small hope, and when it happens, it happens quick.

DC: So, now, as far as the actual spear, did you design your own or how did you come about, you know –

LR: Now, this spear here, I bought the spear. But it was made by a fellow that we all knew that made spears. It's a good thing we went to them because as you can see from the picture or from the photograph, that fish did a number on that spear. That was a heavy-duty spear.

DC: Now, do you remember the name of the person? Is it a local person?

LR: No. He was from Oshkosh. I don't remember his name.

DC: So, I see in the photographs you have, you're holding a trophy. Was that for that fish?

LR: Yes. That was given by – the Seagram's Company ran a contest. Fortunately, I took first place in the contest.

DC: Now, the Seagram's, was this an annual contest that they had?

LR: Well, it was intended to be an annual contest, but I never saw them after.

DC: Okay. Now, was this given to you at some sort of banquet? Did they give you anything else?

LR: It was set up for distribution to me and my wife at Waverly Beach.

DC: Was there any other award, a cash award or nothing else?

LR: No, there wasn't any cash. But I did receive some cases of pop and the wine coolers.

DC: So, I see also, by some of the photographs that you mounted this particular fish. Where is it at? I mean, where did you put it initially and then where is it at now?

LR: Initially, after the fish was mounted – my son mounted the fish. Did a beautiful job. Initially, we had taken the fish on tour. We've had it at a number of places after the fish was in the cage here. It's a glass cage that I had built, and we'd had it displayed. Like, it went out on Lake Winnebago over at the [inaudible] of the town in Winneconne. Ma's Bait Shop at the time, where – at the time, my son didn't own Ma's Bait Shop. The people out there at the time thought that was quite an attraction.

DC: Okay. When you caught this fish, did you do anything? Did you eat the meat at all?

LR: Oh, yes.

DC: Now, how did you prepare the meat?

LR: Oh, some of it, we put like, on a grill outside and did them just like steak. Others, we had done in the house, deep fry. A very good tasting fish too.

DC: How long did it take to finish?

LR: Oh, I gave most of it out.

DC: Oh, you gave it away?

LR: Distributed, yes.

DC: Or else, probably eat fish for [laughter] a couple of weeks at least.

LR: Yes. That would've been quite a meal for many, many years.

[laughter]

DC: So, now, do you fish at the same spot year after year?

LR: We did, but we did move around. We had a group. There was like four shanties in the group at the same time that would scout out an area. If it got hot, we'd all group together. Of

course, we weren't the only ones in at the time that would group together. There'd be other shanties that would come in. This particular day, I had gone out the day before that we got the fish and I moved. I was on the hole since the season began, which apparently, was around the 10th of February at the time. I think it was anyhow. This would've been like the 22nd. So, I was on that hole until then and moved my shanty off or moved it onto another guy's area that had moved from there. He went about fifty yards away. I moved my shanty onto his area and luckily got this fish [laughter].

DC: So, this activity, you do it with other members or other groups?

LR: Oh, yes. Mike, my son, he was out, and his friend, Freddy (Steelo?), was out. Paul Sielow was out. They're quite a sturgeon bunch of guys. They hunted them just like people hunt deer.

DC: Can you spell Paul's last name?

LR: I think it's S-I-E-L-O-W. I think.

DC: Okay. So, your son, did you teach him how to spear?

LR: No. He was spearing before I did.

DC: Oh, he started before you?

LR: Yes. He's gotten a number of fish, and Paul has gotten a number of fish. Freddy just passed away.

DC: Okay. So, what do you think that you do like most about this particular activity?

LR: What do I like the most about it? Actually, it's just the idea of getting out. I enjoy doing stuff like this. Whether you get a fish or not, it's still fun to go.

DC: Okay. Now, this group that you mentioned, do you guys still go every year?

LR: No, I don't go anymore. I get too lame in my –

DC: You retired sort of?

LR: Yes. I have rheumatism. The other boys, they still go.

DC: That's Mike and Paul?

LR: Now, I have a son-in-law. He goes.

DC: Well, is there anything else that you'd like to add today? Or anything else you'd like to mention about this particular fish? Now, when this was caught at the time of [19]99, was this a record for the year or was this an all-time record at the time?

LR: At the time, it was the record for the year. Plus, it came in third for all time. That chart that you got there?

DC: Yes.

LR: That's supposedly the biggest sturgeon – I can't say forever because I don't know. But it's the biggest recorded, I believe, for that time.

DC: Oh, yes, I see it now. Yes.

LR: That fish on the top there was out at Waverley Beach at the barb out there. A couple of pictures that we had taken, in fact, it was in the background.

DC: So, is there anything else you'd like to just to add to this or any comments or anything? Just your overall thoughts on sturgeon spearing?

LR: Doesn't look like there's going to be much of it this year.

DC: [laughter] Yes. Well, it's getting some cold weather now.

LR: It's still time, but –

DC: February 9th, I think.

LR: – I think it's going to be a little touchy.

DC: Yes. Well, you still got a little ways. We don't know what things are going to happen, but –

LR: Well, just so the guys are using their brains, I'll tell you, it's not a good thing to drop in.

DC: Yes. Well, yes, I guess on that note, are there any stories that you know that you've heard or witnessed as far as [inaudible].

LR: Oh, yes. Yes, there was a few.

DC: You know, some people falling in or anything like that?

LR: Yes. Oh, yes. [laughter] Heard one fell far right in the hole. He fell asleep.

DC: Really?

LR: Yes. Luckily, he woke up abruptly.

DC: [laughter] I guess he was by himself.

LR: Yes.

DC: So, yes. I guess that's probably –

LR: But that isn't the first time that's happened.

DC: You know a lot of people who fall in there? [laughter]

LR: Yes. Well, I don't know a lot of people that did fall in, but I hear [laughter].

DC: Well, then, yes. I guess it suits a certain personality. You have to have a lot of patience, I'm sure.

LR: Well, at the time too. But when we speared the fish, my wife was sitting alongside of me. As we got the fish up into the hole, it was so heavy that it took like three times for me to get him out of the shanty. Out the door, both of us went. As I hit the ice, I'm laying alongside the fish. Here come a guy with a station wagon. He saw the spear. He thought I speared myself.

DC: Oh, really?

LR: He got out of his station wagon and didn't take his car out of gear. It kept going and bumped up against another guy's shanty. But once he found out that it was a fish that I had laying on the ice with the spear in it and not me, he was all happy.

DC: So, that was the talk of the season, [19]90?

LR: Yes. It was quite a day that day.

DC: That catch, according to this, it was the, like you said, the biggest one for the season and third as far as at that time. Third biggest one.

LR: Right.

DC: That's good. Now, I forget. Now, this was what? It wasn't your first time out.

LR: No. This is three years into sturgeoning.

DC: Into sturgeoning. Yes. Because I've heard people who go out and like, do it for twenty years and don't catch anything.

LR: Yes. That can happen.

DC: Yes. [laughter]

LR: Yes.

DC: So, it's [inaudible] third time out [laughter].

LR: But since then, I did get a number of sturgeons. I got to the point, even after the last, say, in [19]93, I felt sort of bad that I speared this big fish. This fish, apparently, at the time there, when I got it, I was told – and we had charts put out by the DNR that said that this fish was a hundred years old for the size. Since then, I haven't seen anything that says that it wasn't. But I know they have different ways of –

DC: Aging them.

LR: – aging the fish.

DC: Yes. Yes, and actually, that's one thing that the DNR is working on right now, is looking at their archives and trying to get a better record of the ages and stuff.

LR: Well, there was a lot of history behind this fish [laughter].

DC: Yes.

LR: He was there before I was born, and a lot of other people besides me [laughter].

DC: That's right. That's right. But a hundred years, that's a long life.

LR: Yes. It makes me feel that I ended that fish's life. Who knows how long that fish could have been in that lake if I wouldn't have been there at that time?

DC: Yes. Well, it was just, I guess fate. It was the time for this fish to be speared. But, I mean, at least you ate the fish, and you gave away some of it.

LR: Oh yes. The fish actually would've weighed quite a bit more. When we put him up on the scale at Waverly Beach, the whole scale broke down.

DC: Really?

LR: The jar – the fish falling, you can see it on one set of pictures. On the bottom of the picture, you can see quite a pile of eggs that flew out of the fish. So, it would've weighed more?

DC: That's –

LR: No. The one hanging up – sorry, I think it's on a big one.

DC: It's that one?

LR: Yes. Yes. These are all eggs down here. Could have been like another 5 pounds. Maybe even eight or ten.



DC: So, you took it over to Waverly Beach to register it?

LR: Yes. That's where we come in off the lake, and that's where we went out from.

DC: Oh, that's a big fish.

LR: [laughter]

DC: That's huge, man. Sometimes, yes, you just don't realize, well, what's living below us.

LR: Well, the first time that I got him up into the hole to gaff him, I thought I had lost the fish. But he was under the ice. The ice, or the pressure from the fish, apparently, I was pulling on the rope, and there wasn't no feeling to it. It was like a dead weight. You're so excited, you think, "Well, why isn't the spear hanging straight down?" It wasn't. It was horizontal, out away from me. As I pulled on the rope, all of a sudden here, this fish pops up into hole. There was an actual sound when it came up into the hole. Like, a submarine sound when it comes up out of the water. I tried gaffing him, and the gaff pulled right through. I had to re-gaff it.

DC: I think it's huge. So, you said that the scale broke on this one.

LR: Yes.

DC: Wow. So, how did you determine the weight again?

LR: Well, we rigged the scale back up again and weighed it.

DC: Wow.

LR: Maybe I should have had a second opinion on the weight, but what the heck? We were happy.

DC: I figured it's probably close –

LR: We were just happy that it was up there on the shore [laughter].

DC: Wow. So, how did you get it to the registration station? Did you drag it or did you –

LR: No, we –

DC: – put it in your truck?

LR: Yes.

DC: Wow. It was just you and your wife?

LR: Yes, and the kids.

DC: Oh, they helped you?

LR: Oh, yes.

DC: They had to. I guess [laughter] I was wondering [inaudible]. I mean, how did you – it's heavy. Wow. It looks huge. So, in the other times you've gone out and the other sturgeon you've caught haven't been even close?

LR: Oh, no. No. The biggest one that I got was 65 pounds.

DC: After that?

LR: Yes.

DC: What year was that?

LR: I am thinking now, that was like in [19]92.

DC: [19]92. So, you said you no longer spear?

LR: No.

DC: When was the last time you went out?

LR: Probably, 2003.

DC: Oh, okay. Did you catch anything in your last year?

LR: The last year? Yes, I did. Yes. No, in fact, that had to be a – I think whenever Poygan was open. At that time. I don't remember what year that is. 2003 or four.

DC: Could have been four maybe. I'm not sure myself.

LR: Yes. But anyhow, I got one off of Lake Poygan.

DC: Oh, you went up to Lake Poygan?

LR: Yes. I got a small one there that was like 40 pounds – 45 pounds.

DC: Well, what made you go up to Lake Poygan that year?

LR: Just that everybody else did. The whole group did.

DC: Just try it out.

LR: Yes. In fact, we got three sturgeons out of one hole that day.

DC: Wow. That's a good catch. So, this one right here again, the record one at the time, I know you mentioned that you kind of felt a little bad about spearing her. Any other thoughts? Or since the years have passed, have you just sort of –

LR: Well, sometimes, I think maybe I'd try it again. But actually, I can't. I'm too beat up [laughter]. The rheumatism has taken its toll. You think you can do it. But then once you start or you try, you find out that it wasn't a good choice.

DC: Just participating as far as just being in the shanty.

LR: Oh, we visit. Yes.

DC: Okay. You do that. Okay. That's nice. So, you go with the new group members.

LR: Yes. When the ice is safe.

DC: Yes. [laughter] So, you still participate to some –

LR: Yes.

DC: You don't spear.

LR: We go out. We take trips. Or Kay and I will take a ride to just see what they got –

DC: Sure, and then –

LR: – what's hanging.

DC: Yes. Just to catch up and see how the group is doing. Now, you mentioned that your son and son-in-law are still participating in this activity.

LR: Yes.

DC: Do they have sons? Any of them?

LR: No. Paul does. Paul Sielow has a young – no, I shouldn't say young anymore. He's a teenager, I believe, or maybe older.

DC: Now, does he go out with his dad?

LR: I am not sure.

DC: Not sure?

LR: No.

DC: Because it seems like a lot of times, with these stories and the people I interview have said, it's a family. Definitely, a family activity –

LR: Oh, yes. Right.

DC: – that is usually passed on to generations.

LR: Yes.

DC: That's kind of nice. It's kind of nice to see that connection.

LR: Some people go to church to see everybody. At sturgeon time, you go out on Lake Winnebago to see everybody. Yes.

DC: Yes. It's in the little tight-knit community that people –

LR: Oh, yes. There's good times to be had.

DC: Yes. Well, I'll be out this February at – I don't know where exactly where Ron's going to have me working. But I'll be out. I would like to visit some people. Maybe I can come and visit with Mike and your son-in-law, sit down with them and just to see what's going on.

LR: If you want to take a tour, they would take you around.

DC: Yes, that'd be cool to see what Ron said. But I don't think he'd have a problem with me just sitting along. Unless he has something else for me to do. But –

LR: In fact, you can meet the Sielow Boys. They're all active spearers as far as I know.

DC: Yes. I'd probably like to get their information or whatever. Let's see. I don't think I have anything else. Now, you said your wife would go out with you or just this one time in [19]90 when you caught the record one.

LR: Right.

Kay Remme: Well, it's [19]91.

DC: Did she go out with you other times too? Or was it just a –

LR: No.

DC: – rare occasion when she had off, and she went. [laughter] Well, I guess it's all in the eyes of the fishermen or fisher person who –

LR: You can interview her. Ask her what she thought.

KR: Well, it was exciting.

DC: Yes?

KR: Yes.

DC: Well, that was your first time out, right?

KR: It was the first time and the only time [laughter].

DC: Only time [laughter]. But wow. What is –

KR: I cannot sit there and look in a hole like [laughter] – but it was exciting. I have to say that.

DC: Yes. He was mentioning – your husband – about how a few people he knows fell in. Just fell asleep looking in.

KR: Yes.

DC: I am sure after a while [laughter] –

KR: Yes [laughter].

DC: – because it's an all-morning. It starts early in the morning, right?

LR: Well, then, it was from daylight until dark.

DC: Really?

LR: Yes. Now, there's hours.

DC: Yes. There's hours.

LR: Yes.

DC: Yes. At that time, what sort of restrictions were placed on the fishermen as far as what they could take or couldn't take? Or was there any at that time?

LR: Oh, there was a size limit, yes. At the time, you could still fish, even regular fish while you were sturgeon spearing.

DC: Oh, really?

LR: Yes. We'd catch perch and walleyes. But then they stopped that. So –

DC: You couldn't do that.

LR: – then it really got boring.

DC: [laughter] So, yes. I'm just interested because I've never done this and never sat in a shanty ever before in my life. What are the things you do to just pass the time?

LR: Think about what you would do if you had a ton of money.

DC: [laughter] Yes. So, just sort of your mind wanders –

LR: Yes.

DC: – things like, what am I here for? Why am I doing this again [laughter]?

LR: No. Then you're wondering, did anybody else get anything? What's happening? Try and find out. Or, well, of course, nowadays, you got your walkie talkies and telephones. It's pretty easy compared to what it was a few years ago.

DC: Right. Yes. So, now, there's more communication –

LR: Yes.

DC: – because of the technology with the cell phones and walkie talkies.

LR: Yes. We didn't have all that.

DC: Before, you just went, and you didn't see anybody or talk to anybody else.

LR: No. You were a hermit.

DC: [laughter] Well, that's interesting. So, that's an interesting sort of evolution of the sport. Because, yes, back then, twenty years ago, you didn't have cell phones that you could instantly contact your friends and other members.

LR: Yes. I've got to find a home for the fish though, eventually.

DC: Oh, yes. One, at your son's shop right now.

LR: Right.

DC: I mean, you want to keep it in the family, I'm sure.

LR: Well, we're not sure about what to do because it's so large that you can't hardly hang it up

anywhere in the house. Yes. It's big [laughter].

DC: Yes. Well, yes. Just based on the picture of you holding it up, having it hanging there, it's huge. Is there anything else that you'd like to just –

KR: Did he tell you about the hook coming out when he was pulling it out of the hole?

DC: Yes.

KR: How he had to drag it out with the –

DC: The gaff.

LR: With the gaff. Yes.

DC: Yes.

KR: Then he's telling me, "Get the chair out of the way. Get the chair out of the way." I'm trying to get everything out of the way, so he can pull it out of the hole. Like he said, out the door, we went flying.

LR: Oh, yes.

DC: Oh, okay. Okay. I think I just have one more question. Mr. Remme, that would be about the plaque that you were given by Sturgeon for Tomorrow.

LR: Right.

DC: Now, how was that done? Or was that done at one of their [inaudible]?

LR: That was done at one of their meetings. It was like a yearly gathering down in Oshkosh. They had found out about the sturgeon and called me and wondered if I would bring photos down and show them the photos. I didn't know that they were going to give me a plaque. But called me up on their stage and awarded a plaque to me. It was all made out real nice.

DC: That's nice. You still have this plaque in your possession?

LR: Oh, yes. Yes, I do.

DC: So, do you remember exactly what it said, or did it just say, "Congratulations?"

LR: Congratulations to LeRoy Remme. Then they listed the fish and what it weighed, the length.

DC: So, this was at their annual banquet –

LR: Right.

DC: – in Oshkosh?

LR: We got a couple of cups. In fact, there's still a few of them roaming around here that said Sturgeon for Tomorrow.

DC: Now, do you know any people who are in that group, or have you ever been a part of that group?

LR: Not really. Not saying that I wouldn't, but we never got to that point where we joined many clubs at all. We joined, one year, the Paynes Point Club. That's a fishing club.

DC: What was that again?

LR: Paynes Point.

DC: Got you. That's here in Appleton?

LR: Neenah.

DC: That's a fishing club. I'm sure they're pretty active in the spearing season.

LR: Yes. Yes. They're off of County Trunk A, south of Neenah. I think they're the sponsors of the annual Fisheree in that area. I am not sure about this year's, but the past years, it's always been quite a success.

DC: Okay. Now, I think that's pretty much all I have for you right now. Like I said, is there anything else you'd like to just end on or just any final thoughts?

LR: No. Just that it's been a heck of an experience. Something that a lot of people probably should get into just for something to do. Not just necessarily to get a sturgeon or to eat a sturgeon. But it is something different, and it does take up a lot of time.

DC: Yes. Okay. Well, I want to thank you, Mr. Remme, again for doing this and opening up and being willing to take the time to be interviewed. I think that's it. I'm going to turn it off. So, then pretty common with this activity is, you go to a spot that you've had success at.

LR: Right.

DC: If that's not producing, how long do you usually wait?

LR: It all depends on the clarity of the water. If the water is clear, you'll give it a couple days. Maybe even more, depending again on what some of the other fellows are doing or the other people are doing around you. Or in areas – like, you hear, oh, they're getting them down at Oshkosh. Or they're not getting them at Oshkosh, but they're getting them up by Waverly Beach.



Well, you're like a bunch of nomads. I mean, the old shanties get ripped off the hole and hooked on the trailer hitch and away you go. Cut new holes, which is no problem today because you have ice cutters that are gas operated chainsaws.

DC: So, how were you cutting in the past? Just with the regular –

LR: Ice chisel.

DC: Oh, ice chisel, right?

LR: Yes. Big time job. Until the saws came into being [laughter].

DC: Really?

LR: You could chop all day.

DC: Oh, yes. Oh, wow. So, yes. I would expect that maybe in the past, people weren't so willing to pick up and move because there was a lot of work probably.

LR: Well, you bet they didn't.

DC: They didn't no matter what.

LR: They hung on until the last dog was out there, I'll tell you that. They didn't want to move. Today, it's nothing. In fact, you even bring your like Christmas trees along to mark the hole. Yes. You bring them right along because you don't know if you're going to be out there for – well, I hate to say it, five hours. Or if you're going to be there two days or three days or a week. But to pick up and move today is nothing. In fact, when you cut a hole today, you can angle it off like you couldn't do with a real good job years ago. To cut an angle on a hole like you can with a saw, well, I'll tell you, it took a lot of patience and a lot of chopping.

DC: So, the angle served what?

LR: Oh, you can increase your vision for distance and see a fish coming through for quite a big distance compared to the old time when you were just chopping a hole straight down.

DC: This idea of wrangling it, was that something that you've done or heard or something [inaudible].

LR: Oh, no. It comes with experience, and, yes, if you would've heard about it, you'd have done it.

DC: Try out new techniques?

LR: Right. But years ago, people – I shouldn't use the word funny. But some of these so-called tips, you didn't get. They kept them. As far as even some of the spearers out there, they get a

fish, you are not going to know they got a fish. Yes. They keep it pretty quiet. Well, there is reasons behind that too. Probably, good reason. You advertise that this group out here got two or three fish. Pretty soon, you got thirty more shanties –

DC: [laughter]

LR: – and all the traffic around. It doesn't work out that way.

DC: I mean, talking about people keeping their tips and fishing holes sort of hush hush. Now, did you do that when you caught [laughter] the big one back in 1990?

LR: No. No, I didn't. In fact, I didn't have to tell anybody where I was [laughter]. Everybody else knew where I was after about an hour and a half. Word even out on the lake spread immediately. There was people coming from all over to see that fish.

DC: Were there other people that set up their shanties [laughter] in the area where you caught yours?

LR: Oh, yes. There was quite a few that came out and set up.

DC: Yes. But they didn't have any –

LR: No. There was other sturgeon got.

DC: Oh, really?

LR: Oh, yes.

DC: In the same sort of –

LR: Same bunch, yes.

DC: Really? How about as far as size? Class?

LR: Oh, there was a couple of good 70- and 80-pounders speared.

DC: That was a good year then, huh?

LR: Oh, it was an excellent year. In fact, it wasn't a record – well, it was sort of a record year, but it wasn't the record. I had somewhere around twelve hundred fish or some maybe even more.

DC: Since then, it hasn't been that productive or would you say you wouldn't –

LR: Well, they're watching the limits now. So, actually, I don't even know if we could get that high.

DC: Yes. There are caps. This year, there's a five hundred limit cap system wide.

LR: Yes. See, and then the season is closed. Yes. So, you're probably never going to see that many total sturgeon speared in a year again.

DC: Yes. Probably not.

LR: But I know there was one other year that it was, gee, I think nearing two thousand. That's a lot of sturgeon out of one lake.

DC: That is. Yes.

LR: But there was like five and six thousand shanties out.

DC: Yes. Okay. Well, I think that's it again [laughter]. The third time, [laughter] I think we've decided to end it. But something always comes up. That's fine. I'm going to pause it here.

[end of transcript]