NEW BEDFORD FISHING HERITAGE CENTER

Date of Interview: 03/15/24

Name of Narrator: DEAM

Name of Interviewer: Samantha Mendez

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Background Information:

- **Name of person interviewed:** DEAM (this is the narrator's initials)
- **Age:** 28
- **Gender:** Male
- **Occupation:** Project Manager at a Packing Company
- **Ethnicity:** Hispanic

Interviewer: Samantha Mendez (SM)

Translator: None

Observer(s): Laura Orleans (LO) Emma York (EY) Kassandra Ayala (KA)

Transcriber: Samantha Mendez, Reviewed by Ellen Huggins

Interview location: New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center, 38 Bethel Street

Date of interview: March 15, 2024

Language the interview was conducted in: English

Key Words: family, education, seafood, truck driver, El Salvador, Day boat scallops, New Bedford, DACA, Mass Maritime, dogfish, first generation college student, cod, squid, COVID, inequality, monkfish, undocumented, permanent resident, Narragansett, Boston, Tiverton, Chatham, Taunton, packaging, engineering, thermoforming machines

Abstract: In this interview, DEAM speaks of his evolving relationship to the fishing industry; from growing up with various family members involved in fish processing and delivery (including his father), to working as a truck driver for the fishing industry to finance his college education, eventually leading to his current job as a product manager at a food packaging company. He also speaks about his experience as an immigrant moving to the United States from El Salvador at the age 5, and how his immigration status has affected various aspects of his life up until now, including his educational journey and his decision to marry his wife at a relatively young age.

Notes: The narrator chose to be identified by his initials: DEAM

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[00:00] DEAM talks about how he came to the U.S. and why he joined the fishing industry. He explains the type of fish he transported and why he had to work multiple jobs.

[5:14] DEAM discusses seafood exports, his hours, wages, and working conditions, outsider's perceptions of the fishing industry, inequality, hiring practices, and temp agencies. He recalls an experience stumbling across the filming of a reality TV show while on the job.

[10:02] DEAM talks about working to finance his education, his pursuit of an engineering degree, and his experience as a first-generation college student. He discusses the practice of sending money to family in a home country, learning lessons that can be applied to many aspects of life, and hoping to visit family back in El Salvador.

[15:02] DEAM talks about his current job working as a project manager for a packaging company, the similarities between being a truck driver and a project manager and his observation of inequality in other food processing industries. He shares some life lessons and his father's job as a truck driver.

[20:04] DEAM talks about working alongside family, driving the truck for long periods of time, close calls on the job, and earning a degree. He discusses being an undocumented driver, getting permanent residency status, and applying for US citizenship. He shares advice for new immigrants, the importance of getting an education, and how his perception of the fishing industry changed.

[25:06] DEAM talks about COVID-19 and job insecurity in the fishing industry. He discusses his family's immigration story and how it impacted his decision to get married young. He talks about being a 'Dreamer' under the Trump administration, and traveling for work.

[30:00] DEAM describes the process of getting hired to be a project manager for a packaging company and provides more detail about the nature of his work including the global supply chain. He shares similarities between the equipment used in seafood processing and other food industries as well as his own relationship to eating seafood.

[35:09] DEAM talks about religion and how working in the fishing industry provided free fish that his mother would cook for Lent.

[40:09] End of audio.

Full Transcript

[00:00]

Samantha Mendez: Today is the 15th of March 2024, and we are at the Fishing Heritage Center. My name is Samantha Emory Mendez and I'm interviewing— do I ask him to pronounce his name?

EY: Yeah, you can ask him to pronounce his name if you want.

DEAM: DEAM.

SM: This interview is a part of the New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center's Casting a Wider [Net] project. The audio recording and transcript from this interview will become part of the Center's archive and the NOAA [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration] Voices Archive and may be used to develop future programs, publications and exhibits. Could you repeat your name and slowly spell it?

D: Yep. DEAM. D-I-E-G-O.

SM: Do you give us permission to record this interview?

D: Yes.

SM: Could you please introduce yourself?

D: DEAM. I was born in El Salvador; San Salvador to be specific. And at the age of five I was brought to the United States, specifically coming to the port city of New Bedford.

SM: Can you please tell me about the community you grew up in?

D:I grew up predominantly in a Hispanic household, going to church, a lot of Spanish traditions. But in school, there was very little of me represented. And typically, during those times, you tended to get bullied because you were different from everybody else.

SM: Did you grow up in a community with any connection to the fishing industry?

D: Yes, yep. Both my parents, my aunts, all worked in the seafood processing industry, so companies would hire them at low wages to process the seafood that came off the boats those days, and they sold it.

SM: What brought you and your family to New Bedford?

D: That's a good question. I'm not exactly sure (laughs). But I think my dad's older sister was here for some time. She had traveled to New Bedford, she came and met her husband here, and then my dad saw the opportunity to come here for a short period of time. He came and worked, I

believe, for six months to a year, then he decided that he wanted to bring the rest of his family. And that's when he went back to El Salvador and grabbed my mom and myself. We came and lived on Purchase Street for I want to say, a year or two? It was a small apartment on the third floor and we had, like, eight to 11 people living in that apartment, and it was only two bedrooms. But it was all family, so at the time that was all I knew. I thought that was normal for everybody.

SM: Why did you decide to join the fishing industry?

D: I joined it because I was in between going to BCC [Bristol Community College] and going to Mass Maritime [Academy]. I was finishing off BCC, but I also needed money to go to Mass Maritime, and since you're an immigrant, you don't qualify for FAFSA [Free Application for Federal Student Aid]— or, at the time, you didn't qualify for it. So, I either had to put [down] my parents and have them get loans, or I had to get loans, or the third option was for me to work multiple jobs and provide enough money to cover tuition for the semesters. So that's what I did. I worked at Market Basket, I worked at a daycare, and I worked at the fishing industry as a truck driver.

SM: Can you tell me about your first day at the job?

D: It was interesting because I was 21 and the job was to be a truck driver. So at 21, I was able to drive around this massive truck (laughs). But it was weird, it was interesting.

Emma York: How big was the truck?

D: I looked it up, what class—it was classified. It was a class two— (Pauses). Sorry, [I] had to turn the phone off, shut it off. It was a class two truck and it was—

[05:14]
Kassandra Ayala: It's like one of those smaller box trucks.

D: Yeah, pretty much a box truck—

KA: Not like the big rigs or anything.

D: —no, not a trailer or sixteen-wheeler, or bigger than what you typically see. (Pause). It was a class five medium duty truck. Sorry (laughs). [I] want to be specific.

EY: What were you transporting on the truck?

D: Transporting on the trucks was primarily dayboat scallops that came off the auction house. I also went to Narragansett to pick up squid. Fresh squid. So, if you like Rhode Island calamari, that's kind of where it got its name from. I went to Chatham in Cape—in the Cape Cod, to pick up dogfish, and a lot of the dogfish was typically exported. The scallops were either frozen and exported, or sold fresh to restaurants in the US.

SM: Walk me through a typical day at work for you from waking up to falling asleep.

D: Typically—not all the time, but sometimes, you would wake up at like 3 AM, punch in at around 4 [AM], drive to Rhode Island, pick up some seafood, drive back to New Bedford from there. There were— depending on the day, I'd either go to Chatham and pick up some dogfish, or go to the seafood terminals in, um, South Boston to drop off seafood that would get exported, or sent to restaurants and—or go to the Logan Airport, and they would often get shipped out from there. So, typically the day would start 4 [AM], 5 [AM], and went on until 10 [PM].

Unclear: [10] PM?

D: Yes.

SM: Who are people that you have worked with that you respect most? Could you tell me why?

D: Probably my dad the most because he's been doing this since he came here, back in 2001. And he's still doing it, and he enjoys his job. Even though it's typically a job that people don't look at fondly, or don't want to say, 'Hey, I want to go into the fishing industry.' So, I really respect that about him.

SM: How had your job changed since you first started?

D: So, I ended the job in 2019, and more or less it was the same. So for me it didn't change, unfortunately.

SM: Do you have any special memories from your job?

D: Yeah, just—I went to—I forget the port, it's in Tiverton, Rhode Island. It's a small, small port, and I went there on, like, a Sunday to pick up, uh, monkfish. And when you looked to your right, there was these people on a boat filming or recording, and it turns out to be— it was, like, a reality TV show that was being recorded? I was like, 'That's pretty cool.'

KA: It was The Bachelor.

D:The Bachelor, yeah. I looked that up after. But that was pretty cool. Also, just going from New Bedford, going to different seaports and seeing all the boats come in. Sometimes you go down to Chatham and see a seal, just roaming around in the water. It was pretty cool.

SM: Is there a part from your job that you did not like at all?

D: Probably smelling like fish. It was a pretty (laughs)—pretty bad smell, for the most part.

SM: Have you faced any inequalities in the fishing community?

D: Inequalities?

SM: Mm-hmm.

D: Yeah, there's a tremendous amount of inequality in the fishing industry. A lot of the times— not me personally, but you see people not being hired by the company directly. They get hired by, uh, a second party or third party, and then through that they're allowed to pay lower wages because the company isn't providing any benefits to the employee themselves. For me, I think I started at 13 dollars [an hour], and they kept me at 13 dollars for four years, and the job I was doing was not worth 13 dollars. A lot of people would tend to get paid more than that.

SM: Why did you choose to stick with it for a while, even after you were facing this inequality?

[10:02]
D: Just so I could pay for school. So really the main objective and goal was to do this until I graduated from school, so, I graduated in 2019 and that's when I left the job.

EY: What degree did you graduate with?

D: I have a bachelor's degree in energy systems engineering, so it's a mix of mechanical and electrical engineering.

EY: Did anything from your experience working in the fishing industry guide you towards that path? Or influence that path in any way?

D: So, I went to Mass Maritime primarily to be a marine engineer. And that would mean that I'd have to be on boats, I would say, like six months out of the year? But since I was an immigrant, and don't have citizenship, I wasn't able to get on boat because you would need to leave and come back to the state safely. Um, so I was not able to continue that degree and I had to switch over to a different degree, which was 'Energy Systems Engineering.' And then, from there— that's how I kind of ended up in it. And really, Mass Maritime was the choice because it had the most return for being a state school.

SM: Are you the first to go to college in your family?

D: Yep, yep. So, I'm the first one to graduate high school and first one to go to college.

SM: Has this job taught you any life lessons? If so, how?

D: Hm, that's a good question. (Pause). I would say, um, being persistent and humble, because it's not the best of jobs that you typically do. It's not something that, like I mentioned before, someone that wants to actually go and do— be a truck driver for a fishing industry or being on the seafood processing floor. So in that way, you're persistent to do what's best, either for you or for your family. And then it's humbling, because you're able to do that everyday and still be happy with life.

SM: Have you met anyone at your job that you felt sorry for?

D:Yeah, yeah. There's a lot of people that I met during that time that just, um, were working there a tremendous amount of hours just to make ends meet. A lot of the times, the people that you see working in these facilities, they're providing for a family here in the US in terms of apartment, education, food. But they also, a number of times, have to support family back home in their original country. So the wages that they get aren't very much considering the rent and the cost of food, and they always have to set aside money to send back home to their parents, or their grandmothers, or whoever it may be.

EY: Did your family have anyone in El Salvador, when they were here in the US?

D: Yep, yes. We still have family in El Salvador.

EY: Have you been back?

D: Nope, it's been 23 years and I've never been back. I look forward to going back. Not yet, though.

SM: Was there a point at your job that you felt disappointed, or sorry for yourself, considering the fact that you were working to get an education?

D: (Pause). Not really, no. I'm pretty tough skinned, so I took the days as they came.

SM: What are your aspirations for the future?

D: Um, good question. (Pause). I think my aspirations for the future, during that time, have come to fruition. I have a wife, I have a house with her. We have a son, the dog (laughs). And I have— I have a stable job, you know? It's a good spot to be in. So I think all my hard work from working in the fishing industry has paid off to now.

SM: Could you tell me about your current job?

[15:02]
D: Yes, so, I'm a project manager at a packaging company, surprisingly. So, we build and manufacture equipment to package seafood (laughs). Seafood is one of the product categories, but it's not everything that we do. So, think of going to [grocery stores] Market Basket, Stop and Shop or Shaw's, everything that you see there, we tend to have equipment to package it. Think of the bags of lettuce, or the box of lettuce. Or, in the poultry aisle—or the meat aisle, the black trays or the yellow trays that come with the chicken, wrapped. Or even in the—in the aisles, think of, like, cereal boxes. It's an interesting world, because I came from seafood processing to making equipment to package it.

SM: Are there any similarities from your former job to your current job, other than the seafood?

D: Um, yes, I still do go and see a lot of factories. So, thinking of seafood or processing, there's different processings for your vegetables, your pork, your meat, your chicken. I do go and see these different facilities, and you still see a lot of the inequalities that you see in the seafood sector.

SM: What is one thing you wish you could change about the fishing industry?

D: Hm. I would say to make it more transparent. Just transparency, in terms of where the seafood is coming from? How it's getting processed, the people that are doing some of the processing, and providing it to the consumer. Because a lot of times, the consumer that's buying this at the counter doesn't know, 'Oh, this— this specific scallop came from the Port of New Bedford.' They just know it's a scallop, and they don't know how many people have interacted with that before it ends up at the counter. Or at their dinner table, or if they're at a restaurant, or something like that.

SM: Could you tell me how you balance your jobs and getting an education at the same time?

D: Yeah, a lot of the times I had a full, twelve course credit credits— no, twelve credit courses, right? And you do that throughout the week. And then on the weekends, I put in as many hours as I needed to in order to meet the tuition cost.

SM: Is there anything you've heard that's stuck with you since?

D: (Pause). No? I don't think anything has stuck with me since.

SM: What is one thing you hope listeners take away from your life story?

D: I would say that if— if it doesn't look great right now, it will get better.

SM: Do you have anything else you would like to share?

D: I don't think so. Thank you, though. This was great (laughs).

EY: I have a question, if it's okay, Sam. And if you'd like to add any more, we have quite a bit of time. So, there's time to ask all of the questions. Um—I forgot actually (laughs). I thought that— you said you had a son, but it's a dog. So, it's not going to go into the fishing industry. (Everyone laughs). Okay.

D: He does like seafood (laughs).

Laura Orleans: I have a different question— you mention your dad, and how you respect him and admire him. I'm curious, does he work in the fishing industry?

D: He does, yes. He's a truck driver for the seafood industry.

LO: Ah, okay. And was that helpful in terms of your—getting a job with that company?

D: Yeah, I think he stuck his name out there and said, 'Help me hire my son,' and, 'You could be a truck driver.'

LO: And how did you learn—I mean, driving a big, giant, truck is a little different, I think, than driving a car. How did you learn?

D: He taught me. So, he was— him and his coworker that was doing it for like 10-15 years, helped me learn how to drive the truck and drive it effectively.

[20:04]
EY: What was it like working with family?

D: It wasn't very different. Um—

EY: I mean, you'd never see him.

D: Yeah, we were always in two separate trucks. And you would always be on different routes of— I would see him, like, maybe, once or twice a day? It wasn't a huge interaction.

EY: What would you do to pass the time, when you were on a long drive?

D: Uh, drive? (Everyone laughs).

EY: Really? No music, no podcasts?

D: Oh, yeah. I thought you meant, like, just hanging out on a long drive. I'm like, 'Well, I don't know, I kind of have to drive!' (laughs). No, but typically, I would put music on. There really isn't much else to do. Listen to NPR, or something else.

LO: What was the longest, kind of, drive that you would do?

D: Typically Chatham or Boston, so an hour, or an hour and a half [there]. Then back, an hour and a half, depending on traffic.

LO: That's through the winter months and everything as well?

D: Yep.

LO: Did you ever have any close calls on the road with the truck, or—?

D: No, no. I was very cautious in driving just because, again, with immigration status and everything, you can't be taking risks. So you have to be cautious of both police and other people around you.

EY: If it's okay, are you in the process of getting citizen— the long and arduous process of getting citizenship?

D: Yep, I'm working towards it. Hasn't happened yet, but my name is on an application and USCIS [United States Citizenship and Immigration Services] has it (laughs). And now it's just the waiting game to see what they say, or hear if they approve it or not. And it's not something that we can control, it's— we put everything that they require, and they determine if you're a thumbs up or a thumbs down.

KA: He's a permanent resident at least now though, it's much— like, I don't want to say too much, but it's a safer— I feel like it's a safer status than what he was before. Which I'm very grateful for.

EY: Yeah, it can be a really, really long process. I have quite a few friends who have just now gotten citizenship after being in the country since they were five, or younger.

D: Mm-hmm. Yeah, no. It's not the best. But we're here, so. That's all that matters.

LO: What advice would you give to, um, you know, a young person coming— a new immigrant from El Salvador?

D: I would definitely say stick to the education, um, because I've seen a lot of like family members that have either—not even just family members, but friends that have dropped out of high school, or didn't finish college, and you don't see them. You still see them at— I would call it sweatshops, either in New Bedford, Fall River or somewhere else. I don't know, maybe that's something that they want to do, but not something that I would want to do.

Unclear: Are there any other questions right now—?

Unclear: I'm trying to think of one. (Everyone laughs).

Unclear: Did you have any questions—?

Unclear: You've given us a lot to think about. (Everyone laughs).

EY: What was it like growing up with so many family members who were in the fishing industry?

D: Um, it was good and bad? Good that you knew a lot of people when you went to the factories, but bad because—I don't know why, but family troubles, and they all kind of split and drifted apart after those initial years.

EY. What was your perception of the fishing industry before you were in it, and did it change at all once you were in it yourself?

D: Well, when I was younger, I always thought it was easy. Like, 'Oh, Dad, you just drive a truck all day, how hard can that be?' But once I was in it and doing it everyday, it did get difficult because you were working twelve, eighteen hours a day and—not really stop to have time for yourself. So, I did realize that his job was not easy.

[25:06]
LO: You left before COVID happened, but do you have any sense about how that affected the other family members who were still in the fishing community— industry?

D: Yeah, a lot of the processing plants shut down completely during that time. So, a lot of the family members were just at home. Um, like I mentioned before, the companies don't hire the employees through the company, they hire them through a third party. So, a lot of those people were out a wage and they weren't getting paid throughout that time, unless you work through the company itself.

SM: This question actually has to do with your citizenship. My dad came— immigrated from El Salvador too, when he was 19. And when he was with my mom, people were making assumptions that he was only with her for papers. Have you and your wife ever faced that, or has that not yet happened?

D: I don't think so. No. It hasn't happened.

KA: No, yeah, we dated for a long time before we got married. But—yeah.

D: Yeah, we met each other in high school, so, back in 2009. And then—so, we knew each other for eight, nine years, before we started dating?

KA: Mm-hmm.

D: So, no, we were always friends, and we didn't— we never got told that? But it doesn't mean that people didn't say it behind our backs.

KA: I don't think people—? (Everyone laughs).

D: I don't know (laughs).

EY: We don't keep those people in our lives— (Everyone laughs).

KA: Yeah!

Unclear: —'I don't know those people'.

KA: I think it did, like, sway a little—of, like, how we would have gone through our lives? And we did marry at a younger age than I feel like we—

D: We would've.

KA:—we initially wanted to? But, like, I wouldn't trade that for anything.

D: Yeah. So, around the time that we got married was, I think, the time that either Trump was coming into office or he was already in office. Originally, I had DACA [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals] status. Which means 'Dreamers'—?

KA: Deferred—

D: 'Deferred action'? (Everyone laughs). The 'Dreamers'—?

EY: We'll look at that later.

D: Yeah (laughs).

KA: But he was a Dreamer, and that status was coming into, like, question more once Trump was taking office. So we were a little concerned with that. And—

D: Then the options was really—DACA was either ending, or looking to be ended, get married with my longtime girlfriend, or get deported. Which is— even if you have a green card, or permanent residency, it's always something that hinders in my head. Um, that's why we're waiting and hoping for citizenship in the future.

KA: But, to be a Dreamer, you have to have, like, no record, you have to be going to school. There's so many things that you have to follow, that—to just throw these people out and try to deport them back to their countries, when some of them aren't the safest? I know El Salvador is doing very great now, though (laughs). But for a while, it wasn't. Yeah, we're just happy that we have, like, a more permanent status for him right now.

LO: When you get citizenship, would you reconsider the idea of going back for the more, um—work that you might do on a boat? The thing that you originally had hoped to do?

D: No, I don't think so. (Everyone laughs). I, uh—so, Mass Maritime gives you like a small, like, two week period to go on a boat? I went from— it was from—going from Cape Cod to New York, and during that two weeks I was like, 'Nope, this isn't for me.' Like, there's nothing to do on a boat besides doing, like, your job that you were assigned to, or sleeping or eating (laughs). So, no, I wouldn't want to do that.

KA: That's like a cruise. (Everyone laughs). But not, like—

D: It's like a cruise, but you're working.

KA: Plus, he travels for work a lot. He has—oh, and that's a great thing of, like, his status now because he couldn't do his job. Like, he wouldn't have the opportunity to do his job if we didn't

do that? And he travels to Italy and Spain, that, that's where the—I know (laughs)—that's where the machines get manufactured, and—I don't know, I feel like you didn't explain it that well. (Everyone laughs). Alright, so what he does is—

[30:00]
D: Because it wasn't part of— part of the question.

KA: I know, but like—

EY: Do you want to pose a question to him that you think would help him—

LO: Yeah, that's a good idea. Ask him to explain it more.

KA: Okay.

EY:— explain in more detail what it is that he does?

KA: Yeah. Can you explain in more detail, like, how—what these machines are, and how they're used in plants? And like, what you—how you are, like, the middleman between—?

D: Yeah, so the company buys and sells equipment from the various suppliers in Spain or Italy. Um, the customer in—the US domestic customer comes to us and says, 'This is what I want to do. Can you do it?' We asked the factories in Europe. 'Can it be done? What's the cost? What's the equipment?' And then we propose that to the customer, so a lot of the times we are the middle person in between all of this. And then equipment gets made, and then we travel to Spain or Italy to see the equipment with the customer, to make sure it meets all their expectations and what they originally ordered. And then from there, it goes to the customer's facility. And they use it to package seafood, meat, cereal, whatever it may be.

KA: Are these assembly line machines something similar to what you would see in the shipping industry?

D: They are, yes. They are extremely similar. (Everyone laughs). So similar, that when I worked as a truck driver, I noticed one of the machines that they had was an Olson branded machine. So I was like, 'Oh, I'll look up what this company is.' And they were hiring for an engineering—

KA: Shut up! That's how it happened?

D: Yeah.

KA: I didn't know that! (Everyone laughs).

Unclear: I knew you would learn something from this—

KA: Yeah (laughs).

D: Um, you— I read the name, and I was like, 'Oh, well, look where they are.' They were in Taunton, Massachusetts, so, about a 30 minute drive from New Bedford. They were hiring for an engineering— I forgot what the title was, engineering manager? I applied, and then they hired me before I finished my degree. So, at my last semester, I was only doing one to two credits. It was a design course, so I was only physically in school once a week. So the other four days, I was able to work at this packaging company that made scales and vertical baggers for anyone, and one of the places that it was for was the truck driving company that I worked for.

KA: So, it's safe to say that the fishing industry got you your position that you're in now?

D: Yes, it did (laughs). But a lot of the equipment that you see— that I see now, it's called thermoforming machines. So think of, um, when you go to the meat aisle, and then they have like a one pound brick of grounded meat, not in the trays but the one that has like a black label on the bottom? That's typically what we—you would recognize.

EY: Speaking of food, do you eat seafood?

D: I do, yeah. That's why we went to Turk's [Seafood Market in Mattapoisett, MA] yesterday (laughs).

EY: It's a Surf and Turf. (Everyone laughs).

KA: Oh my god, Boom Boom shrimp at Cisco [Brewers Kitchen and Bar in New Bedford, MA]? Ugh, love it.

D: Yeah, so the perk of working in the seafood industry is getting seafood for free. So typically, like, if we were getting scallops that day, we were able to grab a few and just eat them.

KA: Can you say what your dad would do? What your dad would bring home in—?

D: Oh yeah, or lobster? We typically got, I would say, lobsters that weren't presentable to a consumer. We were able to get those.

EY: What's your favorite kind of seafood?

D: Salmon. Salmon. Yeah, salmon's my favorite. Only because I don't have to do either, like, the bone crushing, or taking out the little bones from it. It's already pre- done for me (laughs).

EY: Was seafood a part of your family's cooking traditions, coming to the US, or growing up?

D: No, no. I would think that's primarily because my mom doesn't like seafood? So,she really didn't make it very frequently. If she did, it was for a special occasion for, like, Easter. Easter is coming up, and they typically do fishes on Friday as— uh, I forgot what its called.

[35:09]
LO: For Lent?

D: Lent. Yes, for Lent.

EY: What kind of fish, do you know?

D: It was typically, like, cod. But, I think over time she changed it and she was like, 'Just any fish.'

EY: So would your dad cook the seafood when it would come?

D: No, no. My mom would.

EY: She would.

D: My mom would cook it, and then my dad would eat it (laughs).

EY: With gritted teeth (laughs). Well, thank you. Do you want to close out the interview in any way?

SM: Thank you. (Everyone laughs).

D: Well, thank you guys for having me. I know it wasn't the easiest of processes emailing back and forth, Sam. (Everyone laughs). I'm happy we did it, I'm happy I'm here. Thanks for your time.

EY: Thank you so much. We really appreciate you taking the time.