

**Interview with Crista Bank**  
**Occupation: Fisheries Research Technician**  
**Port Community: New Bedford**  
**Interviewer: Julie Olson**  
**Date: Sept. 23, 2007**  
**Working Waterfront Festival**  
**Logger/Transcriber: Azure Dee Westwood**  
**INDEX: (minutes:seconds)**

**Interview Contents**

00:00 Introduction to Crista Bank's job description, history, time in Australia studying tropical coral ecology.

3:01 More on work in Australia; work in Florida Keys aboard sailing boats teaching; worked at New England Aquarium

5:59 Worked for computer company/ distant learning, sailed around the world; headed back to New Bedford, worked with kids on sailing vessel Ernestina; has a captains license.

9:02 Worked as a fisheries observer; was sea-going, never been sea sick before until observing; story about the gale and her sea sickness.

12:23 Learned that sometimes seasickness happens; likes field work element of observing; spoke with SMAST scientists on behalf of the fishermen and their questions; went back to FL observing on shark longline vessels.

15:24 Husband was Captain of Ernestina; she came back to New Bedford to do more observing; worked for SMAST on groundfish; wants to get Master's doing monkfish research.

18:05 Experience as woman in fishing industry; female observers are few but generally earn good reputation as hard workers; partly women work harder to prove themselves; only one woman professor at SMAST, but more women technicians; family issues; has a 15 month old and is pregnant currently.

22:14 One woman captain of scalloper; women on sailing vessels, but not so much on fishing vessels; comments from fishermen about why she is on a vessel and not at home with her children; fishermen gave her boss a hard time for letting her go on fishing/research trip; going to sea gives a unique perspective about fisheries issues.

26:12 Grew up with no connection to the ocean; scuba diving drew her to the ocean; interest expanded to fish; enjoys traditional family elements of New England fisheries.

28:22 Discussion of fishermen/ scientist antagonism; she see's validity in both arguments at times; things are becoming more cooperative; shark story.

30:57 Discussion of fishermen involvement in projects; scallop industry favors more than groundfish from cooperative projects; delay in seeing decisions made after research; often research shows stocks to be better off.

34:35 Goods relationship between fishing industry and SMAST; compensate vessels for research involvement; people should come away from the Festival knowing fishermen are hard working, especially scallopers, and want the resource saved as well.

38:34 Don't always believe the media; wonders about biases associated with working on boats as a scientist, trying to strike a balance of befriending and neutral scientist.

40:50 Sometimes feels biased on the side of fishermen.

43:06 Discussion about whether in certain situations she would be more like an advocate; her position doesn't allow her to make sweeping decisions; management should act timely to results from research; tough to change management.

46:26 Reference to cod tagging meeting and difficulty implementing a change in stock boundaries; finish up interview; not very excited to pursue Masters after extended period away from school.

48:00 End of interview

### **Major Themes**

- Education interviewee – Bachelors, work experience in Australia, on sail boats
- Gender – female
- Home address – New Bedford
- Location of interview – New Bedford
- Crew – has good working relations with many boats
- Ecosystem, state of – cooperative research improving our knowledge of it
- Education history – Australia, Florida, UMass Dartmouth
- Fictive Kin – close with fishermen
- Fisheries – experienced many types
- Husband – sail boat captain
- Job satisfaction – choice to work in field, on boats even as new mother
- Management impacts – harder on groundfishermen lately; scallopers benefiting more
- Marriage
- Organizations – cooperative research projects, SMAST
- Perceptions of fishermen – hard working; bad media portrayal of fish consumption
- Raising children – at sea while child is little for a couple weeks
- Role of women
- Traditions and Celebrations – enjoys traditional aspect of New England fisheries