

Name of person Interviewed: Dave Martins (DM)

Facts about this person:

Age: 35

Sex: Male

Occupation: fisheries technician - SMAST

Home ports: New Bedford

Residence:

Ethnic background: Azorean/Portuguese

Interviewer: Janice Fleuriel (JF)

Transcriber: Laura Orleans

Place interview took place: Working Waterfront Festival

Date and time of interview: September 23, 2006

Keywords: St. Michael, Azores, observer program, fisheries science, SMAST, fish tagging, cooperative research, NOAA, regulations, waste water, Georges Bank,

INDEX (minutes:seconds)

- 00:00: Tape intro; Born Fall River, parents from St. Michael, Azores, worked in textiles; Family always fished for fun and also to eat, from shore or uncle's small boat;
- 02:13 Marine fisheries scientist; Getting into the field, college U Maine, then fish observer Woods Hole
- 03:50 Now works for SMAST, U Mass Dartmouth; Does "cooperative research" with fishermen; Fish tagging studies; Work with certain boats for tagging, some interested in the science; New Bedford primarily but work out of other ports too; Cod studies Georges Bank primarily New Bedford boats
- 06:56 Never did the fishing, talked out of it one summer by fishermen neighbor, still wonders if would have been good at least that summer; Most fishermen he talks to don't encourage their kids to go into fishing;
- 09:10 Work cycles between half out at sea collecting data, half in office processing data; Data written down at sea, entered in office, but currently switching to computer with software NOAA created/SMAST helping test; Waterproof paper description; Keep raw data in case need backtrack later
- 12:22 Typical day on boat similar to fisherman's; Dusk and dawn busiest when fish most active; Reasons fish active those times; Sometimes catch skates for skate wing market; Move around by species after catching each quota; Skate sizes for catching, usually wing meat for processed fish, frozen dinners;
- 15:36 Work title fisheries biology technician; Job role; How decide which fish/species to tag determined by what need know most; Trying create historical data;
- 19:06 Two tagging strategies—join a trip or special charter a boat; Charters usually 5 days; Tagging cod 14 inches or larger;
- 21:20 Tagging technique/tools; Process from fish taken out of net and returned to sea;
- 24:45 Quotas for numbers fish tagged; Has dreamt about cod tagging when sleeping on boat; Tricks for holding onto fish without harming; Getting "beat up" by cod;
- 28:50 Wife understands when he's gone, works observer program but not to sea so much; Still a sacrifice; His job some flexibility, such as which part of month to go; Observers work vs. SMAST research; Can't always choose when to go, try fit in with fishing line of work, time sacrifices they make in own lives, helps build trust understanding with fisherman;
- 33:32 SMAST's impact on fishing's views of the science end of things; See they're there to serve community, help the fishing; SMAST respects fishermen's knowledge, skills, makes sense to utilize it;
- 37:53 Process for boats to report tagged fish; Give SMAST caps to show appreciation; Hope for up to 10% return on tagged fish over 3 to 5 years;
- 40:20 A surprise return found in Taunton River; Gets excited about returns; Sometimes calls from Canada for fish tagged in Georges Bank; Tagging creates connections between scientists and fishermen, fishermen get interested where fish was;
- 43:50 Helpful have decades of data to see trends;

- 46:40 Current regulations good right now but surprised don't see cod stocks faster rebuilding, better condition; Haddock and scallops a success story; Not seen with other species like cod, wonders if missing something about why, different factors or a combination might be reason; Possible wastewater issues, similar to streams in Colorado having sterile fish because of female birth control pills;
- 50:32 Wastewater discharge up and down east coast could reach stocks; Canada and US work together on managing stocks; Analysis they do could show how factors come together, so collect data for things like wave height even though not sure yet what if any effect;
- 53:52 No bad storm experiences, some close calls for injuries; [Good story] Picking monkfish and pick slipped into forehead; [Good story] Throwing hammerhead back, trying hold onto hook stuck in its tail, head slammed against steel bulwark; Been in bad weather, one January scallop trip frigid and gale winds; Trick for not having drink end up in food on boat;
- 57:55 Festival visitors should understand trying really hard to really get a handle with what's happening with fish stocks by working with fishermen, that will be part of the answer to rebuilding fish stocks; Optimistic that future will be bright.
- [End of interview]