Voices from the Fisheries: Collecting, archiving, and sharing the human experience related to our nation’s fisheries

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Susan Abbott-Jamieson, University of Kentucky

National Working Waterfronts & Waterways Symposium
Project Partners

– Madeleine Hall-Arber, MIT Sea Grant
– Bonnie McCay, Rutgers University
– Laura Orleans, New Bedford, MA, Working Waterfront Project;
– Commercial Fishermen of America
The Voices from the Fisheries Project is a central repository for consolidating and disseminating oral history interviews related to commercial, recreational, and subsistence fishing in the U.S. and its territories.

The VFF Project goal is...

To make available to the public these oral histories and to inspire new collections.
Progress to date

• Over 475 interviews in database from 31 collections – many converted from analog…
• Created 11 multimedia exhibits
• Compiled a reference list of books, videos and websites
• Partnered with NOAA Preserve America
• Conducted NOAA Oral History Workshop and “boot camp”

www.voices.nmfs.noaa.gov
Voices collections include:

- Florida’s Forgotten Coast
- Long Island Traditions
- Cortez Fishery Interviews
- Working Waterfront Festival Community Documentation Project
- Oregon Residents in Alaska’s Historical Fishing
- The Fishing Industry in Newport, RI 1930-1987
- Maine LFK Project
- Sector Management in New England
- **NOAA projects**: NOS Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary; PIFSC (Samoa TEK project); AFSC (Inuit TEK project); SEFSC/Beaufort Lab (NC fishermen); NEFSC, New England fishermen and wives oral history project

www.voices.nmfs.noaa.gov
How to Participate: New collections

www.voices.nmfs.noaa.gov
How to Participate

Who can participate in this project?

Participation is welcome from anyone who is interested in helping preserve our Nation's marine fisheries heritage by conducting, recording and donating oral history interviews with those who have been involved in some aspect of our nation's marine fisheries, other marine resources, or our coastal zones. We encourage teachers to participate through developing a related oral history project in their school; student participation is valued. We encourage everyone who has an existing marine fisheries, marine resources, or coastal zone related oral history collection to consider donating a copy to the Voices from the Fisheries Database.

Who can you interview?

You can interview fisheries managers and scientists, and others who work to conserve and preserve our nation's marine resources and coastal zones. Other possibilities include commercial, recreational, or subsistence fishermen; businessmen who furnished equipment for fisheries; captains of fishing boats; women who worked in the industry, and related aspects of the fishing industry.

Useful Documents

You will need Acrobat reader (free on the Web) to read these PDF format files.

- **Voices from the Fisheries Project Information Form**
  Required form for becoming a Voices Project participant.

- **How to Participate in the Voices from the Fisheries Project**
  Instructions for participating in the Voices Project.

- **Release Forms**
  Copies of Voices from the Fisheries Release Forms for new projects

- **Voices from the Fisheries Handbook**
  Helps you design and conduct your own Voices from the Fisheries Project.

- **Voices from the Fisheries Users Guide**
  Step-by-step guidance for uploading interviews to the Voices Database.

- **Topics for Coding Interviews**

www.voices.nmfs.noaa.gov
We provide a How-to Handbook!
Suggestions for interviews:

• Commercial fishermen – captains and crew
• Fisheries managers
• Fisheries scientists
• Shore side business owners and employees
• Subsistence fishermen and marine resource harvesters
• Families of fishermen and marine resource harvesters
• People involved in all aspects of the Nation’s marine and Great Lakes commercial, recreational, and subsistence fisheries

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Suggested topics:

• interviewee’s role in the industry
• fisheries management
• habitat & other environmental characteristics
• species types & characteristics
• business & economics of fishing
• gear & fishing technology
• social & cultural characteristics of fishing
• general social & cultural characteristics

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Who can you interview?

You can interview fisheries managers and scientists, and others who work to conserve and preserve our nation's marine fisheries and coastal zones. Other possibilities include commercial, recreational, or subsistence fishermen; businessmen who furnish gear; and users of fishing methods. Businessmen, teachers and others may also be interested in conducting interviews with their own students or with other students.

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How to Participate:
Existing Collections

www.voices.nmfs.noaa.gov
How to Participate

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Who can you interview?

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- **Topics for Coding Interviews**
VFF Users Guide

Provides step by step instructions on how to create a collection and each individual’s record

www.voices.nmfs.noaa.gov
Searching the collections
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collection Name</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Year Interview Conducted</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Samoa Elder Fishermen Interviews</td>
<td>ALASKA</td>
<td>Select</td>
<td>Select</td>
<td>Select</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baymen's Oral History Project</td>
<td>NORTHEAST</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bayou La Batre</td>
<td>NORTHWEST</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Voices from the Fisheries Project does not verify the accuracy of materials submitted to us. The opinions expressed in the interviews are those of the interviewee only and are made available to the public with their consent.
### Example of search results

**Collection Name** | **Interviewee Name** | **Region** | **Interviewee Gender** | **Interviewee Occupation** | **Primary Language** | **Interviewee Ethnicity** | **Abstract** | **Grade Level** | **Age Range**
---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---
**Working Waterfront Festival Community Docu Project** | Diane Flynn | NE | F | Commercial Fisherman-Active | European-American or White | Abstract | Not Known |  |
| Eva Liput | NE | F | Commercial Fisherman-Active | European | Abstract | Not Known |  |
| Janice Marshall | NE | F | Commercial Fisherman-Active | Don't Know | Abstract | Not Known |  |
| Lynn Selbone | AK | F | Commercial Fisherman-Active | European-American or White | Abstract | Not Known |  |
| Moe Howstem and Johanna Rothold | AK | F | Commercial Fisherman-Active | Don't Know | Abstract | Not Known |  |
| Sarah Broadwell | NE | F | Commercial Fisherman-Active | European-American or White | Abstract | 20-29 |  |
| Long Island Traditions | Flo Sherman | NE | F | Commercial Fisherman-Active | European-American or White | Abstract | 50-59 |  |
| Lobstering: A Friendship Tradition | Suzanne R | NE | F | Commercial Fisherman-Active | European-American or White | Abstract | Elementary School | 12-19 |  |
| Women in the New England Fisheries | Shareen Davis | NE | F | Commercial Fisherman-Active | European-American or White | Abstract | 40-49 |  |

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interview #</th>
<th>Interviewee Name</th>
<th>Interview Date</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>State/Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>896</td>
<td>Antje Nieuwenhuizen</td>
<td>05-31-1989</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>New York, Northeast</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Abstract**: Dutch immigration to Long Island, from a woman's point of view. Antje Nieuwenhuizen and her daughter, Grietje, reminisce about emigrating from Ymiden, on the northwest coast of the Netherlands, to West Sayville.

**Role**
- General Social and Cultural Characteristics
- Family member
- Family, family roles, family organization, Community (structure and organization), Ethnicity, Ethnic Identity, Gender roles, Place names, Social networks (family, friends, neighbors, co-workers)

**Available Interview Files**
- Interview (Portable Document Format File)
- Interview (MP3 Audio File)

**Collection Provider Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Job Title</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Organization Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arlene Balcerwicz</td>
<td>Museum Registrar</td>
<td>Long Island Maritime Museum</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Citation: The Baymen’s Oral History Group of the LIMM was organized in 1977 and continued through 2002. The original members of the group were West Sayville residents of Dutch heritage, many born in the 19th century, who shared their unique narratives of the maritime history of the Great South Bay. They shared their experiences and recounted with gusto anecdotes of their lives and relationship to the water. These memoirs vividly portray a sense of community that no longer exists and a way of life all but forgotten. Initially begun by Research Associate Jack Kochis, these interviews were designed as a means of authenticating and documenting artifacts in the Museum’s collections. However, during the course of the project, it developed that these reminiscences were in fact, even more valuable as irreplaceable links to our maritime history.
Wouldn’t you like to save a Voice from the Fisheries for the next generation?

www.voices.nmfs.noaa.gov
Comments, Ideas, Questions?
Let us know!

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