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Date: Interview recorded in 2010 about events from 1967 to 2010.

Description: Interview with Swans Islander Spencer Joyce about lobstering

Interview with Spencer Joyce about lobstering, from 1967 to 2010.

My name is Spencer Joyce and I grew up on Swan's Island, Maine. I eat, sleep and dream lobstering. I have ever since I was a kid. Everything about lobstering I like. I just don't know how to explain all to ya but... Some people don't love it. My father didn't love it. My father he didn't really hated it but yeah he might of hated it, but didn't have anything else to do. My father's name was Llewellyn Joyce.

I was seven years old when I first got my first traps. I had only about five. The first two, three years we just rowed, rowed punts. Then I think I was like ten, twelve when my father got me an outboard motor. I remember it was a 5 1/2 Johnson. I thought I'd died and gone to heaven. (Laugh) That was a long time ago. My father taught me to always make sure that I wasn't the last one out, at night. "Don't be the last one, out" he told me. (Laugh) That's what he 'use' to tell me. Don't always, don't always be the last one out. Make sure you come in, in time you know, but of course we didn't. We all, lot 'a times we all had to stay way after dark cause we had to make, you know, payments and stuff. I always thought he was trying to tell me a thing what to do but actually just 'kinda' do it because he had already been there and seen it done this way and as you get older your mother and father they start smartin' up. You know what I mean?

When you're a teenager your father and mother don't know nothing. But as time goes on 'gees' you know what he wasn't quite so dumb as I thought he was. You 'smartin' up after a while, I think. When I got out of high school and pretty much on my own, he took me in the boat with him. One year I started to learn all the ropes, ropes of the trade and then the next year I got a boat. I was 19 years old and since then I've been on my own, so....

I didn't plan on being this old so quick because of the stroke you know. I was going to conquer the world between now and when I was 75 years old, but that stroke really messed me up. Yeah, it was in March of 2009. Yup, I was down in Texas visiting the daughter. Took my motorcycle out for one more run and I was on it when I had this stroke. It was, it was not (laugh) not good. And then ten days after that I don't remember nothing. I wanted to be jumping loops by now. I couldn't even walk when I first got home here. I was in a wheelchair for six weeks. But you can't worry about that stuff though. You can't be pissing and moaning about that. Just keep on 'truckin'.

I got back aboard the boat in July this year (2010) but I wasn't supposed to. They told me not to even think about going to work until in the fall but I went because from the fourth of July to Christmas is the only time to make any money really, I mean any good money. I was a kid in the candy store. (Laugh) Yeah, I had a lot of people last year when

I was getting my traps ready the whole, there's about 15 people showed up and we did the whole thing in one day. All repairing all the traps. Done it all in one day. Usually you're all winter doing that stuff. Little stuff like that has been a big help to me. Now that's the way Swan's Island is you know. We might be mad at each other about for that but when somebody's down and out, all; everybody turns out no matter what.