


8-11-2011

Transcript of The 127-Pound Halibut

Robert W. Bush

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Recommended Citation

Bush, Robert W., "Transcript of The 127-Pound Halibut" (2011). *All Story Transcripts*. Transcript. Submission 2.
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Title: The 127-Pound Halibut

Storyteller: Robert Bush

Interviewer: Chris Forrer

Interview Date: 2011-08-11

Collection: *Launching through the Surf: The Dory Fleet of Pacific City*

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Transcribers: Casee Clark, Andrea Snyder

ROBERT BUSH: Robert Bush. In 1971.¹ I more or less taught myself, I think. I've, uh, I've kinda picked up things from other people around. Uh, did em' ourself.

Friend of mine was out fishing with me, and then my second son's, uh father in-law, was along, too. And we had, uh, two poles, leaning out back the—we sport fish—and we had two poles out the back of the boat. This, uh, halibut come up and took both poles. One right after the other, and uh, both baits. And the two of us fought that fish up to the top of the water. And he reached out with a gaff hook and tried to, kill—and uh to the back of the head to kill it, ya know. All it did was make him mad. And he jerked and he broke one of the lines off, and went back to the bottom again, so he fought it up then.

It wound up anyway, it was a 127-pound halibut. [Laughter] It took three of us all we could to do get it into the boat. And then when we got it in the boat we had to, take and put a rope on its tail and through the gills and hog-tie it, uh. Otherwise, it would've beat the boat apart, with—with—with their nerves, uh, it would've beat the boat apart. But,

that was probably the biggest fish we ever put on the boat,² a 127-pound halibut.

NOTES:

¹Robert Bush began fishing in 1971.

²Robert Bush's dory is named *Short Shot*.