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Transcript of Battle Stations

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Title: Battle Stations

Storyteller: Mike Cellers

Interviewer: Casee Clark

Interview Date: 2011-06-30

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

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Transcribers: Casee Clark, Andrea Snyder

MIKE CELLERS: Michael Cellers. In about 1958, when I started fishing with my grandpa.¹

I can remember one time, on the other side of the rock, just on the south side of the rock, from that point you see on this side 'til coming across where the buoy is on the back side there—one time it took us probably two and a half hours to go that distance because we kept catching so many silvers and we'd go across, and in those days you'd kind of shut the boat down, well the boat would drift back, and we'd start going through there again and catch more and more and oh my God, it was, I mean, just stuff like that, you know, that you hardly ever see happen any more. I mean I've had some good days, don't get me wrong I've been out there—Steve² and I were out there once last year when we could have sunk the boat probably, but we didn't dare, but I mean—it was, they were biting, you know, once in a while like that and you get into 'em still like that but it's not near as often as it used to. And they're not as big a fish. We used to, catch silvers that would be in the fall like 14 pounds and stuff, you hardly ever get that. First of all, we can't fish usually that long, because the quota gets reached

before we get to where the fish get that big but, they just, not as many get that big any more.

One of the guys that used to—Windy³—that used to fish down here, every time he'd get a big fish on he'd always yell, "BATTLE STATIONS!" Ya know, and he'd get, oh my God, everybody'd start laughing and everything, it was so funny when you get a big Chinook on—ya know he was a commercial fisherman, and when you get a big Chinook on that commercial gear it's, it's way harder than a pole, because they, they can't do, they can't pull like a pole, they can run away with it. Well they can't do it on those and so you gotta be kinda, cool about it or they, even with a 150 pound test line a Chinook can snap that, uh, big one easily. And so it was just funny to listen to him do things like that—but that was one thing I remember that "battle stations." We used to laugh about that all the time, oh my God it was so funny, and he'd say it so funny, too, I mean he was a—coulda been a comedian I think, anyway, on the radio or something anyway, but oh my God it was funny.

NOTES:

¹ Al Cellers

² Steve Rice

³ Don Wenzinger