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Transcript of The Whale Sighting

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Title: The Whale Sighting

Storyteller: Robert Royster

Interviewer: Casee Clark

Interview Date: 2011-06-24

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

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Transcribers: Casee Clark, Andrea Snyder

ROBERT ROYSTER: Robert Alan Royster. I go by Rob Royster. Started [fishing] in the summer of 1971.

The year I graduated high school, 1973, I had a friend of mine, he was, big, tall, six foot three, red head guy. He was fishing with me in the, in the original *Mox Nix* my dad had bought and, and my dad had this boat brand new that year. It was a foggy morning, and, and we had caught a few salmon, and, all, and he had just come in, kinda, he was sitting on the side of the boat. He wakes up, and he stands up, and he looks down at the water and he goes, "What's that?" And I look down in the water and all I can see is these barnacles, and it looked like a rock. And then I see the eye. And it was a whale, about 20, 30 feet, and it was like, vertically up and down in the water. Cause we were fishin', we had all this line out, and like 200 feet of line out, and I go, "It's a whale!" And he stands up and screams like a girl. [High-pitch] "AHHHHHHH!!!!" [Laughs] And I just watch it. It nudges my deep line, cause my poles were going out like this. It nudges the deep line and shakes the spring, and then, just kind of gently the tail goes up and it goes down, and then all of a sudden, we caught a couple fish.