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## Transcript of Cotton Handlines and Pistols

Paul A. Hanneman

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Title: Transcript of Cotton Handlines and Pistols

Storyteller: Paul Hanneman

Interviewer: Casee Clark

Interview Date: 2011-07-28

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

Repository: DigitalCommons@Linfield

Transcribers: Whitney Weber, Julian Adoff, Mary Beth Jones

PAUL HANNEMAN: Paul Hanneman. 1948.<sup>1</sup>

Back in cotton handline days, we used to use cotton handlines before we had wire. And I was going to Cape Lookout, heading toward Lookout, trolling. And I dozed off in the back of the, the boat, and a shark got on, on one of my tip lines and then, fouled up the other three lines too, and, all of my handlines and all those little leads and, all of my, monofilament, and everything was all tangled around his tail. And the rest was being bitten on. And uh, well, I pretty well beat him up. [Laughter] I, I used to carry a, single shot .22 pistol, too, and I shot him full of holes. So I was so mad that after about a, two hours of wrestling with him I put him in the boat. Took him home.

I did have a, a salmon on, on a tip line too, with that old boat with cotton handline, and, I used to think that shooting him, would slow 'em up. It never worked, for me either they'd be under the surface just a little and the lead wouldn't go anywhere, or I'd miss the fish—completely. And with those handlines, I'd, I'd try to handle the tuna—no the, the cotton handline with the gun pointed up in the air, waiting for the right shot. And, I, one day, I got the, I got the, a, a—really, it would've have been my biggest one.

[Laughter] I know it would've. [Laughter] It would've been the biggest one, and it, it got on the tip line and I was down at the mouth of the river and I had such long poles. I, I thought if I had the longest poles of anybody in the fleet I'd cover more distance. [Laughter] I—and, and that [Laughs]—I had guy wires running ever—everywhere, had lines all over everything, it was quite a mess. And I get the chinook on ah, on the, the tip and it pulled the boat around, because I, I couldn't steer and it was way out on the end, out there and I finally—it headed toward the surf and I didn't want to go in there and—by the time I got it up to the boat I was so tired. I had the, the gun in the one hand and, waving it around, and I was getting ready to, to shoot him, and I was trying to pull the fish up, and the gun went off that far from my boat and shot a hole [Laughter] in the bottom of the boat. All I got was a little bit of water shooting up [Laughter] and a lot of shaking. [Laughter]

#### NOTES:

<sup>1</sup>Paul began dory fishing in 1948.