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Transcript of An Octopus in My Dory

Don Grotjohn

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Title: An Octopus in My Dory

Storyteller: Don Grotjohn

Interviewer: Stephanie Raso

Interview Date: 2011-07-01

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Transcribers: Whitney Weber, Andrea Snyder, Mary Beth Jones

DON GROTJOHN: Ah, Don Grotjohn, Pacific City, Oregon. The history of my being down here began in about '68.

I would, say probably [Pause] octopus is the oddest thing I've caught. You don't like to—you know you snag 'em, and what you don't want to do is bring 'em in the boat, because every one of those suckers will grab something. And try to get an octopus out of your boat—they don't wanna go. [Laughs]

Made the mistake of gaffing it, and I dropped it in my fish box, [Laughter] 'cause I was gonna take it in and try to eat it, see what it was like. Well, when I got home, the inside of the fish box is fiberglass coated so it's smooth. And it took about six of us to get that octopus out of that thing. It was just awful. The other thing that's funny is we have drain holes in the sides of our boat for the fish box, there's drain holes you can put fresh water in, it keeps the fish cool. But you look over the side of the boat when an octopus is in there and here's his arm going around down there trying to figure out—he'll put his arm, tentacle, through the fish hol—you know through the fish, drain, and it just looks kinda funny, you look over there and here's this thing feeling around. But they're not dangerous.