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Transcript of Encounters with Blue Sharks

Gerald Johnson

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Title: Transcript of Encounters with Blue Sharks

Storyteller: Gerald (Jerry) Johnson

Interviewer: Jackson B. Miller

Interview Date: 2011-07-29

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

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Mary Beth Jones

GERALD JOHNSON: Gerald Homer Johnson, and most people know me as Jerry or J.J., which is the name on my boat.

I can name easier two things that I thought were quite unusual, to me. Um, both involve sharks, the—the, the blue shark. We had a number of fish—we're off of Sand Lake, on, 'bout 130, 140 feet, and I knew—I knew I had a Chinook, on my bottom spread, just the way that they tug at it. But there were shark everywhere. And I told my son,¹ "We're not gonna pull this, until we get rid of those shark," and they were nosin' right on up to my fish hole where we'd already cleaned fish and put, put the fish and so was, uh the scent was weep—weeping out into the water. And this one was about seven feet long and I says, "Son get—get me an oar." I says, "We gotta get that fish up," and I says, "Not with, not with this shark around." And, so, I got right up on top, and I hit that shark right between the eyes. He turned around in a flash, went out, turned around again, and as fast as he could swim struck my boat. And shook his head, and then he wobbled off.

Then in a very calm day, a lot of murre, mama with her little murre out for a swim, and, going through the learning process of how to catch food, little

—whatever they are after. And so I was looking to the left and, and here was a mama and a little baby about four feet away. And as we were moving I—gee whiz, you know, normally they'll dive, and get out of the road. But, I looked back and about six feet back of that—uh little one, this much of a dorsal fin came out of the water. [Pause] And it kept getting—here's the bow of the boat, and so the shark was it—gaining on the little one, the mother, came out on the other side, and right here everything disappeared, and I never saw the little one. And I was sad about that. So, [Pause] that's uh, you know, unusual things.

NOTES:

¹ Jerry's son is dory fisherman Steve Johnson, who is one of the Dory Project's storytellers.