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Transcript of The Big Tip

Dick A. Yates

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Title: The Big Tip

Storyteller: Dick A. Yates

Interviewer: Jackson B. Miller

Interview Date: 2011-07-07

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

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Transcribers: Whitney Weber, Andrea Snyder, Mary Beth Jones

DICK YATES: Dick Andrew Yates. I started, uh, sport fish[ing] back in, the, '40s and, uh, started commercial fishing in, uh '63.

My brother had a, motel down here, ran, the Exalted Ruler of the Elks from New Jersey was down here, cause he's telling 'em stories about me fishing out here. He says, "You gotta take this, this guy fishing for me, Dick." I says, "Well I got my commercial gear on, if I do that, I have to pull all my gear." He says, "Well just do it as a favor for me." So, I said, "Okay," I says, "It's \$70 a pole." I figured that would stop it—

JACKSON MILLER: Yep.

DICK: —'cause the goin' rate was \$12.50. So it was back in the '60s I don't remember exactly, what year. I'd say, "Okay," I pulled my gear, and I took this guy's—two guys and, eh, the guy had a 12-year-old son. So, we get in the boat and, he opens up his tackle box, got three trays. Man I never saw so much color in my life. And, he says, "You don't care what we fish, do ya?" I said, "No." I said, "All I'm guaranteeing is a boat ride." [Laughter] So, fish were right in outside the surf, so. We go out, these guys—had some Canadian Wanderers here, pretty good lure, but they both put 'em on. I bet

they let out a hundred yards of line behind the boat. I didn't say nothin' I just, kept going. [Laughter]

I baited up this 12-year-old kid, with a herring and a, and a crescent sinker. He gave me about 15 poles off the back of the boat. Turned around [to] bait up my boat and this kid had a fish on it. Huh! That—his dad started to take the pole away from him; and I says, “That’s the fastest way to walk to the beach I know.” He looked at me. I said, “You hook a fish, my boat, you land it. Whoever hooks it lands it.” So, I baited that kid up again, put him out, baited up myself, put out—me and that kid hung two fish at once. And you ought to seen those two guys crankin’ those reels! Took ‘em [Laughter]—took ‘em 10 minutes to get the line in. Said, “Here bait us up.” So, I—I bait ‘em up, limit ‘em out and I was back at the beach, hour an’ a half—from the time I left. And, uh, they gave me a hundred dollar tip after I’d told ‘em, that was the fast way to walk to the beach!