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Transcript of The Exceptional Tuna Catch

Paula Hook

William D. Hook

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Title: The Exceptional Tuna Catch

Storytellers: William “Bill” Hook and Paula Hook

Interviewer: Chris Forrer

Interview Date: 2011-07-22

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

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Transcriber: Mary Beth Jones

BILL HOOK: I’m William, but people call me Bill, or Billy Hook. And this is my wife Paula.

PAULA HOOK: Paula Hook.

BILL: She’s the admiral. I’m Captain Hook, and she’s the admiral, and this is Skipper, the dory dog. [Sighs] I believe it was in 1967 on a charter boat was my first trip out in a dory.

PAULA: I’ve—started coming down to the coast here in the ‘70s and, uh met Bill at that time. Um I was raised in, the Portland area. And I, started fishing with him, in 1990. I’m a—I’m a water baby. I’ve always enjoyed being out on boats. Um, my family did it, you know, in the lakes and the rivers and boats, and, so I’ve always enjoyed being out there, it’s very peaceful for me. Very serene and, catching the fish on top of it is exhilarating and a lot of fun, but.

I think one of the most exciting trips that I wen—I think of exciting as being a good thing as [Laughing] opposed to being a bad thing—um, was when we went out tuna fishing—

BILL: [Overlapping Paula] Oh.

PAULA: —here a couple years ago. And it was Bill and I and his stepfather Bernie¹ before he passed away and, it was an exceptionally wonderful, beautiful day out there like this and, we were catchin' tuna like crazy. There would be three and four on at a time, and they're just throwin' fish over their shoulders and, sooo darn tired because of all the fish they could hardly hold onto the ropes [Laughing] any more. And just bringing fish over their shoulder and we ended up, filling up the fish box, filling up the front part of the boat with fish, and covering 'em with wet towels so that we could take [Chuckles] 'em the two hours back in. And uh, and we couldn't even get the boat up on a plane 'cause we had so much weight in the front of the boats so we had to run both the motors at the same time to get it even to go, a little. [Laughter]

BILL: Yeah. That we put—

PAULA: [Overlapping Bill] That was, that was a blast.

BILL: For numbers, we put 75 tuna in that boat in less than four hours.

[Researcher whistles]

PAULA: Yeah.

BILL: All on hand lines and I can remember turning to Paula and saying, "Tomorrow when I'm standing at the fillet table remind me what a good time I'm havin' today." [Laughter] And the next day I started filleting at eight in the morning, and I finished at 10 at night in the headlights of the car.

PAULA: Yeah.

BILL: To process those 75 fish.

NOTES:

¹ Bernie Gilliland, also known as Hobo Bernie