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Launching through the Surf Traveling Exhibit Panel 12: Launching & Landing

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Launching and Landing

“The first thing you do is you get up and you pull the boat and haul it down the ramp and you get to where you back the dory up almost to the ocean on the hard packed sand. You never want to stop on the soft sand because that’s gonna be an immediate disaster. And then you warm your boat up because you always want your motor warm before you take it out to sea because you’re gonna launch it right directly in the surf itself. And, then you spin that boat around, back it into the surf, put it bow first into the west, and start pushing it out. As you’re pushing that boat out, you wait for an opening in the waves, and you’re gone. And, the easy part is coming in. You get to the rock, you turn the boat into the east, you come in with the swell, and you ride the back of that wave right up onto the sand. That’s the fun part, sliding up on the sand. So, it’s really a pretty simple procedure.”

(Steve Rice, Interview June 6, 2011)

Reading the Waves

“The waves come in sets so you just sort of count them and see what the intervals are in terms of seconds and how long it’s going to take you to push in. . . . The typical period, or time between the waves here, is between eight and ten seconds. Because the waves originate sometimes from different areas and then converge, they will periodically build up so they’ll get in sync. . . . They’ll build up to a bigger wave and then they’ll ease off and you’ll have smaller waves, and so you watch them for a few minutes and try to gauge when the big set has come through and try to go when they’re smaller. It works most of the time.”

(Robert Dash & Connor Sutton, Interview July 22, 2012)