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Transcript of The Boat Inspection

Nancy Bush

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Title: The Boat Inspection

Storyteller: Nancy Bush

Interviewer: Chris Forrer

Interview Date: 2011-08-05

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Transcribers: Whitney Weber, Andrea Snyder, Brenda DeVore

Marshall

NANCY BUSH: My name is Nancy Bush, and I was one of the first women to go out in 1971.

Now this was 1988. And, ah, this is the first year of barbless hooks. Now I've covered quite a few years here in just a few, ya know. And uh, uh in 1988 barbless hooks were mandatory. And so, uh, we had all of our barbless hooks. So, Bob [Bush],¹ Bob had had ah some minor surgery, and he couldn't go out. So I took his brother Henry [Bush], and we're fishing. We've got probably four or five fish. And, uh, and we're out just a little bit off of, uh, Sand Lake. And here comes the State Marine Board. They wanna get on board. Okay, come on.

So this one guy comes and he gets on the—what they do is drive up between the float lines out there, they drive up so that they can get on the back. And so he got on there, and he got up on there, and the first thing he does is he sees me. And, [In the inspector's voice] "Do you have a license?" [In her voice] "Yes, I have a license."

And then he comes up and he says, “Well, I wanna see some fish.” And ah. I says, “Oh, there they are, right there in the fish box; crawl—crawl in and look.” Now he sounded antagonistic, so I just was a little too. And ah, then finally again, did I have a license? “Yes, I have a license.” [In the inspector’s voice] “Well, I wanna see some, ah, see the lines.” I says, “Okay. I’ll pull this, this line here, it’s got a fish on it.” [In the inspector’s voice] “Do you have a license?” [In her voice] “Yes, I have a license.” [In the inspector’s voice] “Can I see it?” Had he asked me if he could see it, I would have give it to him the very first thing.

But ah. So anyway, I’m bringing up the line [Clears throat] and Henry’s takin’, bringin’ the hooks in. And, ah, so ah, there’s the fish, and the cop reached behind me, is where the net was standing up. The cop reached that net, now. Re-Now notice, I have my mask on, and my dark glasses and my hat. [Pause] And uh. [Clears throat] And when he reached for the net, it lifted it up, I says, “You net it, you lose it, you’ll swim for it!” The cop [Chuckles] put the net back down, and Henry netted the fish. And he says, well now he’ll go. And I says, “No, you can’t go.” [In the inspector’s voice] “Well, I can leave this boat² any time I want.” [In her voice] “No, you can’t. I have to put the gear back down first.” ‘Cause when you have the one side up or anywhere, the boat slides, it doesn’t go forward. And so, he was so P-O’d when I finally let him go.

And so they were, they were gonna check the other boats, but after I did what I did they weren’t gonna do that. So they go back up to Garibaldi, and they park at the Coast Guard station up there. Well, my number two son, Randy [Bush], was in the Coast Guard, and he was stationed up there. [Laughs] And these cops come in and they’re parkin’ the boat, and they’re

talking about that woman captain down in Pacific City. [Laughs] And Randy, he just kinda sneaked around the station so he could get to the other side, so they didn't see him because he didn't wanna have to answer any questions. [Laughs] And so, later that night he, he called and after we got in he called and he says, [Using his voice] "Mom, what did you do to the cops today?" [Laughter] And so I told him.

But we've had a lot of, lot of fun things out there, lot of fun things out there.

NOTES:

¹Bob [Robert] Bush is Nancy's husband. He is one of the Dory Project's storytellers.

²The name of Nancy and Bob Bush's dory is *Short Shot*.