

THE ROLE OF ORAL HISTORY IN FISHERIES RESEARCH

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The Voices from the Fisheries database is a central repository for consolidating, archiving, and disseminating oral history interviews related to commercial, recreational, and subsistence fishing in the United States and its territories.

Oral history interviews are a powerful method of documenting human experiences since they use memory and recollection as a path of historical inquiry. Interviews frequently reveal vital information about the complex relationships between individual identities and work, family and community. Such perspectives can be useful in analyzing not only past events but how individuals perceived their roles during those times.

As an interdisciplinary technique, oral history is capable of gathering a wide range of information that can be both qualitative and quantitative. For purposes of assessing economic and environmental change, this can be especially useful. As the use of oral history in fisheries science and management gains momentum, this is an opportune time to explore the intertextual nature of work regimes and their environmental consequences.