

Oral History Program

OH-468

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Brigham Young University - Hawaii
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Walter Wong

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BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY-HAWAII
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM
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- J So, your name is. . .
- W Walter Wong, I live in this place for almost 63 years here in Laie. And I have been around this area, you know the mountain and the ocean for quite some time. As a boy, as childhood, I started off fishing was my first because all my family especially my uncles, they are all fishermen. And I can not say they are great fishermen, but, it's hard to beat them. They are very good clever fishermen.
- J So, did they teach you about all the fishing holes around here?
- W Yes, they teach me a lot about all the fishing areas and ways the best, and what kind of fish here and there, and certain type of fish, you know. Not all the fish stay in the same hole. Theres a certain kind of fish that stay in that hole and you go in another place, there's another type of fish in there. So, I learned from my uncle when I was a young boy about eight years old. I started off fishing with my uncles. And we do a lot of deep sea fishing, diving. Not scuba diving, but regular skin diving. And they dive very deep waters too, it's not a shallow water. Actually from about 60 feet up, 60 to 70 feet, and sometime eighty feet. I can not dive that deep, but I'm the one that pull the bag. For, when they catch the fish, they put it in the bag, see, and that's what my job was, is to pull the bag here and there and when the fishermans come up with their fish, I take the bag there, and they put it inside, and they go and dive again. and that's what my job was, as a bag man.
- J So, this is all the north shore?
- W All on the north shore, right here in Laie area. We started off mostly all the time we always start off is Laie point. And we dove off the point, and from there, we go to the islands and then to the next islands, and then we go to the trench. They started off with the trents maybe about 45 or 50 feet. And the trents start going deeper and deeper over about a hundred feet.
- J So, it's 45 feet deep.
- W Ya, we started 45 deep and because the point area, that's where it starts, you know, the slope starts going down deeper and deeper. So, when it gets too deep we don't go to far because it's over hundred feet already. And pretty tough to dive that much. All the time, just to go down and pick up one fish and come up for just one hundred feet, you know and we don't go to, we don't do that. So, we cut off on certain area and we go about 75 feet, 60 feet like that, we dive around there, and we pick up a lot of fish out there. Lobsters especially, you know, lobsters and those red fish called kumu and Aweoweo, mostly all those red fish are the best fish.
- J What type of aweoweo?
- W Aweoweo and kumu and they are all the best, and today there are nothing but the best and expensive fish, the kumu.
- J So, can you still get those fresh out here?
- W Yes, we still can get them, but not like how we used to get them before. The fish is not tame like how before he is. Now, it's getting little more wild like--you go over there by the hole, ready to poke them and they run away. And that's what

you call--they get scared already and because theres so much fishermans around the area. And what they do to, you know, they do some other kind of things to catch the fish, and that's not what you call a good sportmanship by doing other kinds of ways of catching the fish.

J And what kind of other ways?

W The kind of ways that they bomb the fish out from the hole, and they put the net around the hole and then they bomb it and all the fish start coming out so fast. And they don't know what's going on, and they hit all the net on the outside of the hole and they get all stuck up on the net and all they got to do is just later on when they get through, they get a long rope come down and they tie the net and they tie the net and pull all the fish out. And those kind of fish, I wouldn't eat it because the meat start changing and they come white, black, and mushy, you know, all those kinds of ways and that's no good.

J This is when you bomb it?

W Ya, after when you get um, bomb, you know. And those fish, the meat started to change and it's not like it suppose to be. The taste started to change. So, all this area outside here is a very good place to fish. That's why we don't go no other places to fish, but in this place in Laie bay, and all this area from the point, Laniloa point, down to Goat Island to Kahuku, and there were all the best fishing ground for us. We don't have to go any places, because there is so much fish in one hole, one type of fish in one hole. You want another type of fish, you go unto another place, and you go and catch another type of fish, and there is a home for those kind of fish--where they stay, you know and this old timers, they just know what kind of fish to catch. They want to catch kumu, they go into the kumu hole or the kumu crack, and they go over there and the poke all the kumu they want. And if they say they want to get some other type of fish, they go and want to catch Minpachi they go onto another place and they dive only just minpachi. And there are loaded with fish inside the hole.

So, you can go other place, you get lot of aweoweo and if you want other kind of type of fish like papio, you get on a hole where they call a lot of papios inside of there. Hundreds and hundreds inside of there. So, you can pick up so much. And that's all. So, you want to a place called Ualua, and bigger that a papio. Ulua runs up to about 45, 50, 60, 100 pound, 200 pounds. And they all hole out there where the fish house. And they stay inside, and they come out, they swim, they go back in the hole, they go back in the hole, they come out again. Oh, you can see those huge kind, those Ulua. When they small, they call then papio when they come little bigger, they call them ualua. The big fish--and there's the kind of fish you want to catch, those kind about 80, 90, 200 pound, 150 pound. they are very great big Uluas, you know. And, they catch one too, and that's all. And they string it to the hire, and they hang it on the big floater so I can pull it. So, I keep on pull, pull, and pull and we catch so much, and then after that we go to another place where we feel like lobster not. And we go to a lobster hole, and we dive down there, and we pick up lobsters, and we get glove--cotton glove, you know they put on a cotton glove where they can grab the lobsters and you know all those prawns they have. A cotton glove will just stick on it. And you can pull it out easy, and that's what we used to do. Just because we like to grab hold of the lobster, it's better cause when you damage the lobster, you loose the meat because the thing comes out like slime you know, and the meat loose out in the shell, and then when you take it home and cook it, the meat not solid and solid in the shell

cause they get little skinnier. And the meat is not too much and kind of, when you cook it, it gets kind of mushy and it doesn't taste too good. But, when you grab it, and you bring it out and you take it home and you cook it, the meat is solid inside the shell, and that's why the best way to catch those lobsters is by that way instead of spearing the lobster. You damage them, and you loose a great deal of meat inside it because the meat comes out of the hole where you spear the lobster. And the shell get all bust up and the meat start coming out, like slimy come out, you know.

And then if you want to move on to another place, where you want another place to dive, maybe you want another easier place to poke another type of fish again, then you go to a manini hole and there's so much manini, there's thousand of them just swimming down into the hole, come back out, and you go down there and get all the maninis you want. Manini is a common fish here. Is so much, here and there you find maninis all over the place. You can find them by the aveoveo hole, you can find them by the kumu hole, you can find them by the menpaki hole, manini is all over the place so we have no problem. But, when you really like catch a lot of manini where you don't have to go all over the place, you just go where the manini hole. You'll find the maninis over there. It just like a house where maninis just go inside and come out--loaded with maninis, so you can poke all you want. Then after that, you think you get enough for the day, then we all swim in, and we would come home. And also, before the 1946 tidal wave, that was the time that we used to dive a lot. And the ground was very plenty of fish. You don't have to dive in the deep, you can dive way in the shallow. And the shallow water means shallow. Only about four feet, maybe less that four feet.

And there's a lot of fish there, but only the trouble is, the fish kind of too small, maybe about four inch long. But four inch long, those fish, like for instance kumu, oh, there are thousand, thousand of them way in shores, shallow places. And after that when the 1946 tidal wave, all the fish round the house of the fish area all got covered up by sand rocks and the fish can not go back into that house no more again because it's all filled up. I know a lot of holes have been filled up by the time the 1946 tidal wave. Power heads, and bust up and all shove into the hole, sand covered, and then you can see the ground is different, and fish started to swim around looking for the place. And no more again those fish can not go back in the hole no more again.

J Did it ever recover from the 1946 tidal wave?

W Ya, 1946, a lot of holes been covered.

J Did it ever recover, did the fish ever come back?

W We can go right there and say this is the place, but when you look at it, there's no hole over there. It's all covered, and more yet, those kind corals when you get stuck in there, they grow. And they block all the holes and where all those fish used to go inside, there's no more again.

J So, would you say the damage to the Laie bay, was the wave of 1946?

W 1946.

J More so than what man has done? Has man done more damage that the wave?

- W Well, I can not say that the man did more damage. I say the 1946 did a lot. But just one good hole, you can see all those fishes are there, one time you dive down and you bomb that hole, you won't find no fish going back inside that hole again.
- J Never?
- W Never again for a long time, maybe over 20 years, 15 years. All depends, if the coral come back alive again, then alright. You know what I mean come back alive, the coral starts growing up again and put in seaweeds on the coral head and it started to grow, then alright. The fish will come back to the hole because there's food around. But when it doesn't grow, that's all. The fish will never come back to that area.
- J So, when did people start bombing?
- W They start bombing the fish in the 50's. The early 50's--say about 51' 52'. That was the most time that we ever see people coming down on boats from way on the other side, and they come all the way down to this bay in Laie, and they'd find places.
- J From where would they come?
- W I guess they come from Kaneohe, maybe Honolulu, there's a lot of fishermans all over the place, but I believe mostly was all Kaneohe. Kaneohe, come down to Waikane, Kahaluu, all those kinds of place, cause there's a lot of fishermens over there. Because the ground is not too good as ours because the guys ground there is mostly sand and a deep channel for the Kaneohe bay. And there's no too much fishing in that kind of area. But when you go out in the open where, in a place like Laie, there's reef here and there, and there's channels where fish come and eat on the reef, and then after that, they drop into the channel and they go back out go back home. They go outside in deep where the fish house is. And that's how we know all these fish, and we do that catching those kind of fish during that days, we never did too much of net. We were mostly all spear. That's what you call good sportsmanship is spearing the fish, how good you are to catch those fish. Then, in the 1957-58 in the 60's started to get net, and they call them amoimoi net, surround net, you know, moimoi net it, they lay the net for overnight. The fish travel in the night. So when you moimoi the net in the night, the fish travel in the night, and when they ready to go back home, they go through the channel and they going out. And they hit the net when the net it blocked that place--the channel. And that's why all the fish will get all caught in the net by going home time. And other type of fish that we surround, we have surround net, and we go and look for the school of fish during the day, and then we see the fish--school of fish, then we make a surround right around all the fish, and we catch them inside the net.

And then after that, we make the water splash or we just go underneath, and we make a big noise like (sound effect) like that, and the fish start scattered out, and they all stuck on the net. and when we get through with them, we just get a long loop from on top where we have the boat, then we pull the net up and we get all the fish stuck on the net. And there were lots of fish here. We get all kinds of type of fish. We have moi, we have the good size, medium size moi, we have the claw--the small kind. Well, before this there wasn't a law, you know, that stopped the people from catching the small moi. And the small moi is called moipala and that's the kind of fish--the Hawaiians really like it. Every once a

year, this four fish called moipala comes they stay on the sandy place, on the bay like all sandy, and they all eat on the sand with a wave brake. And they eat all on the sand area. And then when they get little bigger, they started to go where the rocky place, and they stay there, and then when they get little more bigger, and then they go out in the deep, and then they stay out all out in the islands. And the islands place is where they survive out there. And then a certain time of the year come, those fish come back into the sandy place again, and they brought all the eggs of the fish, and then they leave all the small ones back, and they go back out in the deep again. And the small ones called moipala The gradually become bigger and bigger and then started to move again.

But sometime when we like to think about those kind of fish, we like to have some. We go and we catch em in the small net, we call it the drag up net. And we catch all the small fish and we bring it home and we dry it, and we don't clean nothing of the intestine, just dry it all like that because there's nothing to throw away. The intestine in nothing, so we just dry it up, make salt, and we dry it up and we hang it up on the line, or something like that, and let the sun heat it. Oh, one day, two days, three days is good enough, and you got dry fish there and you can put it away and leave it there for one month, two months, three months, four months, and here, you can still eat that fish here. And then we get lots of more other type fish, but we don't go to much for that time, like veke like that, we don't brag off those veke we just let it go. Those fish are more like those rubbish fish so much. They stay close to the shore line, you can see them all over the place. You have no problem on those fish. But today, those fish are very good. Everybody's catching them.

J Why's that? Because the other fish are gone?

W Well, right outside on the shore line, all in the shore line, just close to the shore. And they get big up to about maybe ten inch long and some get a little bit more longer than ten inch. They get some good vekes?? they get big. But, they get lots of small one too, maybe about six inch long.

J So, why have veke become so important now, why are they so popular?

W Because they are the easiest fish to catch, right up to the shore. They come by the schools. Hundreds and hundreds of them, so they get there surround it, and they just surround it and pull it right up, and they get the fish and are going home already. They got enough already. And certain time of the year comes, they get another type of fish come in like kala. Kala is one of the well known fish. They come in by the schools maybe six, seven hundred. Sometimes lucky you eat those kind of schools come in--1,000--1,200-300. And they are a big big type of fish. Say about--they weigh about seven--seven eight pounds one--might big fish there that come in by the schools, by the bundles. And they come in. Easy to see because they're so big, and the color of those fish when there not fat enough to eat, they're black color. When you look it in the water. But, when they come fat, they come yellow, and that's the more better one. You know, you see those fish yellow, those kalas are fat and everybody likes that.

J Are they still coming today?

W Yes, today. The month is coming for those kalas now--March and April. They all be inside by the schools inside. They suppose to be coming in now. You get some, but not to much the day will come, maybe the months of March and April we see

them inside by the schools--big schools. And we got a bigger net to surround those fish, because they are strong fish too. And you surround those fish, and you bring them up and sell them to the Polynesians, and they'll like that. Boy, they go crazy, they are two spend two hundred dollars amount of fish. They'll spend two hundred dollars, and they'll like it--very good fish, they'll like it very much. And then certain time of the year they get another type fish come in to the bay and they call them akule. Akule is a school of fish, and they do come inside. Boy, they come in by the schools, and I mean thousands of pound of those fish.

And everybody go and surround those fish. And there are some good, big time commercial fisherman like we have around in this place here, in Hauula and over here in Laie, we used to have all those fisherman. Big time fisherman would surround all these fish, akule, opelo, halalu, all those kind of fish, they all come in the same time. Akules, halau and opelos all these fish come in the same time of the year. And they go throughout the month all the way. And they're a lots of them. Everyday these commercial fishermen, they're good commercial fishermen, they go and surround all those fish, and they catch a lot, thousands and thousands of pound.

J So, did the commercial fishermen cause--did they over fish--did they take to much fish?

W Well, as long as a pile come in--one school of fish come in, they make a run around and that's all. Whatever they catch they catch, what's run away, they just let it go, and what don't stuck on the net just swim around on the inside. They don't bother it, they just let it go, and just pick the net up and they catch what they like. And then whatever left and then run away, that's what is left over they let it go.

J Because I remember you telling me last week, the commercial fishermen would come in and take all the fish and all the crayfish and leave none.

W Well, you know, they get some good fishermen and some rotten fishermen, the greedy one, they don't let nothing run away, they take everything what they can. And it's not the right way. I learn to become a fisherman from all my great uncles, they are all great fishermen like the Kalilis, the Logans, the Makaiao, and Puaheo, all those fishermen, they always catch so much and they got let some go. Because those fish knows the rode, and they know when to come back again. They go out, they find the schools, and they then become leaders. Who knows, and they bring that school of fish right back into that area there. And they catch them. And then whatever let it go, they go back out again, and they swim, swim, swim until they find one nother school again, and they mingle with them, and they bring them back into the bay again. How terrific those fish, and that's it, that's true about the fish. If you take all, how you expect another one going come back in this place here? They have to keep on going and going, and finally maybe after a couple years, then they finally, the fish start turning and coming to they bay, where they are placed, they are unknown to them.

But, if you get some old timers in that school, they'll drive them right into that bay--right inside. And that's how it was suppose to be. And those days, all the fishermen, they always let go, so much of the fish. I mean so much of the fish, they let go maybe a good 30, 40, they let it go. 30, 40, they can make a great deal of school, and bring it right back into the place again, and that's alright. And sometimes, there's two schools come in--two school of fish come right into the

place, and they no meet together, no. We see it with our bare eyes how fish come in. One school come in, they go on one side, the other school come in, they go on the other side. And they're separate. And one guy can catch one school there, and the other guy can catch ther other school there. And they're satisfied with them and they let go whatever they let go, and they go out, but who knows, we don't know.

Maybe the two pile on the one that they let go, maybe they meet together and then they go together. They are smart ones, that's the one that can bring any school back into the bay again. Maybe another good two, three months later they can bring them right back inside again, another school. And I noticed in Laie bay, the fish used to come inside, and where the shore line and the brakers, maybe only about 25 feet, right outside behind off the break, the schools are there. There are about two, three, four tons of fish right in the front there. You don't have to go all the way maybe a good hundred, two hundred feet outside. It's right inside there. That's how those fish comes in, way inside, and you only just make a short surround and bring it all up. And then the man there, they just pick up some fish and throw it back inside, all those fish just chicken all here and there, you just grab it and throw outside behind of the net and let it go. And next time you see the schools, that pile of fish were thrown back in another big school back into the bay again. And also Kahana had an uncle there, he's a Puaheo, big fisherman over there. He can catch those kind of fish, opelo, and okule every week he can get one pile inside there. He just come back in again. Another pile come in the next week, and they only catch, oh, they catch about four or five tons of fish, and they let it go so much.

J So the bad fisherman will take. . .

W The bad fisherman will take them all. And that's the kind of fisherman, we don't like them around.

J So, do local fishermen get together and try to stop these fishermen from coming in?

W Well, you see, there's a group of fishermen in this side, in Laie, a group of fishermen in Limalo'o and a group of fishermen in Kahana, and a group of fishermen in Malaekehana and they all spread out. They have their own ground--fishing ground. And you can tell where the one that is good. Fish come in, fish don't come it. You'll say, why is there no? All these place was all good. A lot of fish were coming in. And I don't think those guys were doing something wrong, they know the idea of a fisherman should what they should do. It's not being greedy take everything, not thinking of that some, you know. That's how I know it is in Laie. This place was very good fisherman. But until some time came in Laie had some little friction. The friction start in about the late 60's somewhere around that time.

And we have fishermens in Laie bay that they always, well Hawaiian style is a Hukiki. If I came there and I saw the school fish, and you came after, I think you shouldn't go and catch that fish. I saw it first. I saw the fish first. In Laie, in the late 60's they had some fishermen started to change the ways. You know, that's what you call greedy--they started to get greedy. If I happen to go down the beach and I saw this school of fish, by the time I went back to the town to go and pick up my fishermen, you know, all the ones that help me, by the time I came back there, he gets only about two man or three man and they start putting the boat in

the water and started to go and surround that school fish. And then, here is me, I got my full crew--I can catch the fish, but when you do not have your full crew, you can not catch it. You only going to chase the fish away. So, that's what he was doing.

How can you do with one man in the rowboat with all the pile of net inside there about nine, eight hundred feet of net, one man ore and one guy throw and steer the boat, how you expect that guy going to catch the fish? You know what I mean? But if you have a full crew; three ore man, one steer, and two throw the net down, guarantee you can catch all those fish. But no, this guy, he went out there by himself and then just go trying to go and catch the fish, the fish go faster than him because the boat can not travel fast enough. For get behind of the fish where he can make a turn, and then trap the fish inside. Do you see what I mean? And that's how it was. The time came and then the people start changing in Laie. So, we had three fishermans in Laie. We had the Logans, the Kalilis, and we had the Moke Hiram all these fishermen were doing that. So, we had a lot of problem on these fish. Every time when these fishermen start going out to catch--surround the school of fish, the fish move on the corals. We don't know why the fish move on the corals, you can not surround the fish on the corals, because those are drag up nets. If you surround it, you drag them right on up to the shore. And these fish was doing that. So, there's another guy came in one morning and said, "Well, if the fish is going to go by the reef, we gonna take one boat and we gonna cut that side and cover that reef over there so the fish can not go on top there. You know what the fish did? The two guys started going out, the fish going out deeper, and deeper and deeper, and going more outside on the deep so they can not--there's no enough net.

So, they stop and they pull all the net back and put it on the boat, and come in all the way back is shore, and that's what would happen. So, they went find out why these things happen like this because the fishermen are not doing the right things. And that was going on for some time until just lately, I say about five, six years ago, school of fish start coming inside. And we had some of these small time commercial fishermens. They go out and surround the fish, and they got this airplain fly on the top, and they tell them where to drop the net, and where to go, right or left. And then they just got the control from the airplane. A guy got the walkie-talkie, and says, "Okay, keep on going, they still there yet, keep on turning, hot right-hot right, keep on going, straight ahead, okay--hot right--hot right, " and when they get them surround right around the fish, then after that, they got the speed boat, and they run right into the school, just went all the way round into the net. The net is inside, these little fishes inside the net already. And the boat just go and go and the fish will never come up.

Any time you make a noise they go down to the bottom, and they swim on the bottom and they eat all the net on the bottom. You don't need a tall net, only need is a seven foot net is all. But with that noise of the boat, the fish dive down and goes to the bottom, and then swim in the bottom, and they keep all the net. And then later on they just go get a rope and pull the net up, put it on the boat, all the fish coming up. That's what they going go. But, lots of fish don't hit, they still swimming around inside. Because once they hit the net, they won't hit the net again. They just swim around, and whatever left back in there, that's good. And the fish go out and come back and another school. So, I say about five, six years ago, the fishermen were doing good around everything. Playing and surrounding all these Halalu, and Akule and all these expensive fish in the market. They are very expensive--good fish though. Plenty people like that fish.

So, with all this time these fishermen were doing, well to me, I wasn't that kind of type of fishermen. You know, surrounding school of fish like Akule. I was mostly kind of Vekeula, Veke, school of Manini, Kala. I was all that kind of type of fishing, surrounding those kind of type fish. And also, divings, scuba diving lobsters, all like that. I was mostly all that kind of sport, you know, diving go get my fish, surrounding my fish out in the deep Vekeula like that, bring home about maybe couple tub, maybe about two hundred pound of fish like that, small kind man. Not the kind--two ton, three ton, no, I don't go for those kind of things. I was a small fishermen--just catch enough to come home, feed the community that they like, and so much for me and my family. That was a very good life of fishing. Till today, I still do those kind of fishing, like that.

J Is there still just as many fish today as there one in times past?

W Today fish now, in the past time, today one is not to good. There's not much as like before.

J Why do you think that is?

W I think because of the house of the fish house are destroyed, and fish don't come into the bay too much.

J How did they get destroyed?

W Well, all they got destroyed, high water, sometime it's not tidal waves. Oh, they got some huge waves, they call them high water. We call it high water. Sometimes you look at it like its almost something like that, but no, it's just a natural storm just come by and they get ruff for bout maybe a week or maybe more, and those waters are huge too, those big waves. They move all the grounds, and all the corals are all broken up. Because the wave pushed the other corals and hit the other corals, and he banged, and all those corals and then he smoothed up the ground, and you don't see no coral here, like a small type of coral growing up like you used to see over here. It's all bust up because of the waves pushing and slamming those corals to another coral and break them all down, and the corals are all house for the fish. Fish like to go on the side of the corals and looking around, you know like that. But when you see too much the land smooth, there's no house for the fish. So, fish don't come in no more. They go out more in the deep and they stay more in the deep maybe who knows, three hundred, four hundred feet. Because all the coral is out in the deep. It doesn't get bust up like how in the shallow place. In the shallow place, that's where all the coral, all the waves bust them all up.

J I remember you telling me you'd go and find a lobster hole, and you dived down. Did you take one or two, or. . .

W Ya, we'd take about, maybe inside there get about a five hundred to a thousand like that, we'd take maybe a good bag, maybe about 20 or 30. That's all he can put in a big bag.

J And you said other people would come in after you and take everything.

W Yes, there's people that would take everything. They put a net around the place there. And they go inside and blow them out. All the lobsters go out from the

hole. They go out and they stuck all on the net. Three, four hundred lobsters come outside, and they'd haul them up, bring another net back down.

J So, in those holes, do they have lobster now?

W So far, I've been diving in that area, I say about maybe four years ago; nothing-- nothing in that hole. There's hole outside there, they get one, two, three, four-- four lobsters all over here.

J Where's this?

W This is outside temple beach right here. Straight outside, there's about three over there. Three holes over there, and one over there at Goat Island outside in the deep maybe about 80 or 90 feet. This one over here about 75 feet one, and the other one is about 100 feet. The other two outside in the trench you look at those kind of holes, you can drive your car inside a hole. I tell you, it's really something, I'm not kidding. Lots of lobsters back to back, hanging down. Oh, you can see all of those lobsters just facing you when you come inside a hole.

J So, now they're empty are they?

W Now, you find nothing in those kind of holes--no more lobsters inside there.

J And the commercial people?

W The commercial people, as far as we know, with the bang they were doing that. And now, you find lobster is here and there, you know. Two over there, you go another place you get three and then--those the blue lobsters, and the black lobsters, yes you find a lot of these black lobsters, here and there maybe a small hole get about 30, 40 inside, small type and ready to come big, you know.

J What, about six inches?

W Ya, I say about maybe the six, seven inch long kind, oh, they get about 60, 70 all in one hole, but they're small. But you give them time for maybe another good three or four months, they come good size. And the blue ones, we don't find too much of those blue ones because the where all the lobster coral was out there, there was all the blue lobsters.

J By Laie point?

W Yes, by Laie temple beach straight outside that area, no more again. And I know I've been out there about three years ago, I don't see anything no more again. Beautiful holes, I tell you, but there's fish go inside, not to mush, you know, you figure out, you know, a hole like that will get a lot of good fish go inside. Fish just go inside just cruise and then come back out again. They don't go inside and stay inside, they come out. And not even one lobster in that hole.

J That's sad.

W That's really bad, that's true. If not, you find those lobsters way in shore line all those reef that way inside, those lobsters will make it way inside. But, you don't find those lobsters no more again, way inside, because of outside there, no more lobsters. And that's the problem is when the house of the fish or the house of the

lobster destroyed, you won't find those lobsters no more again this place. Maybe it going take maybe another hundred years before you going to find lobsters traveling from other places, and start coming and coming in the deep, and then coming to the next island. And then they find that hole, maybe another good hundred years they find that hole, and then once the lobster find a good hole, and especially those lobsters when they walk in the night, or they walk by hundreds of those lobsters, they all line up. And when they come into that hole, watch out when they come in that hole, that's going to be their home. They'll never move no place else--right there.

J So, the old story--when you take them out and no lobsters left, the other ones don't find out, so then they have to hunt them down again.

W So, you see, but there some place here still yet there is. Nobody go out that place because that place that place got sharks. They got sharks goes into that hole. And I tell you something, some are maybe this window size, you can swim inside the window, you know, and you come inside the hole like this. You come inside and the hole is just like this living room right here, you see what I mean? And then you go little farther in the front, and you get one hole, you go right up to the ceiling light??? you see, and that place there was once before, the Hawaiians used to dive in there forget lobsters. When they get trapped inside, and that's the escape place. The sharks come inside and the sharks come inside and slip into that cave, because that cave is wide enough and the shark can turn around and can face back outside, and they sleep on the sand, and all the lobsters are all under the ceiling, there's like a wall, and that's where all the lobsters stay. And they used to go in there and dive.

I remember that place, my uncle used to dive inside that place and when you see them coming out through that small hole and there's a big shark inside there. And when they go down there, sure enough, there's a shark in there, and the shark just lies down inside there. And all the lobsters just packed inside there, thousands and thousands of lobsters. And those people when they go there, they just pick up so much, a bag and they take them home and share it with their neighbors and they all eat and enjoy the fish, whatever. Because there's no too much fishermen around this area, the kind that go outside and dive, but they got a lot of fishermen that surround the fish and drag them right up to the shore. They got lot of fishermens like that.

Not only this place in Laie; Laie Malo'o, Kahana, Malaekahana, there's other places too. Maybe down Lani Kai, Kailua side area, Nanakuli, Makaha, all down that side, they get all different kinds of fishermen there that surround and drag up all the big fish out there. There's a lot of those fishermen around that area. Even the other islands too. Many islands outside there do that.

J So, the one thing I'm interested to find about is like, you know how you've got the Laie sewage and Zion's Securities that runs down into Hukilau, has that run off--has that effected the fish, the taste of fish, or the amount of fish there are?

W Well, you see this river, every time when it brakes and goes out, fish can smell the river, and they all come inside, like Oio, they all come inside, and they look for the shrimp when the ocean--the mountain water push out and come out to the river mouth. They go out to the ocean, and all the shrimp go out, and that's why all the different type of fish, like Oeo, they call them the bone fish, they come inside and they catch all the shrimp, and they stay around in that area and well in

the time now, you look at it with all these things happening inside this river here, you know, polluted the water, you know all these things, the slimy stuff all in the river, they all go out and they land the water starts moving all over in the area, and when this stuff that settled in on top the seaweed, or the coral heads.

Well, the seaweeds is just like a wave that covers all the seaweeds that moves on the reef. And then when you look at it, it's just like a dead bottom of the sea. And fish, when they come inside, they look all those kind web stuff like that, not even octopus or squid come inside to the ground like that. They don't like, so they stay away from that area. So, when you see all those things that started to make the ground all the seaweeds, who knew maybe the kind of waves that cover the seaweed. Maybe they--I don't know what they do, maybe they spoil the seaweed, who knows, you know. And the things stay on top so long, and maybe makes those things, I don't know what--how you say it but, when you get something that cover on top something else, that's not, the things won't grow good. So, all this bottoms over here in front of the ocean where the river mouth area, a lot of the seaweeds there is been destroyed a lot, those kind of seaweeds that we used to eat every time, like Limupepe'e?? you don't find too much of those kind of seaweeds too much around, because where the area where got destroyed a lot from the river, it's right on top that area over there where the river water can run right on top that place.

So, a lot of those Limu called Limupepe'e, Wawae'iole, all those kind of Limu, seaweeds, you don't see it growing too good over there. And when you think about it, Manaua, is another kind type of seaweed, you don't see it growing too good over there. And when you think about it, manaua, is another kind type of seaweeds, you don't see them too much, because those kind of type seaweeds Manaua like that, they feed the fish, and the fish like those kinds. And another one called Limukohu, we don't know what kind of fish eat those kinds, Limukohu, and they called, oh, many other kind of seaweeds that we do really eat up there is lots of them have been destroyed to, and for the fish to come inside, very often you don't find those kind of seaweeds no more again, those school of fish don't come back in that area like they used to, every time.

So, now, they just come inside and see the ground like that and they just cruise, and go back out in the deep and go someplace else. And they try in another year, and come in again, and look and you know, and by the time you lookin at some of the school fish that we catch, they so skinny, you know, they so skinny and kind of sickly type, so, you know already that food a lack for them to come to in because they just know when to come in and eat and go back out. But when they come, no food, they go back out again without no food, so the fish get more sickly type, you know, and not fat enough, and you loose the fish that way too, and I've seen the kind of fish that they get sick, they only stay on the side of the reef, and they just stay there and lean against the reef and just paddle. And one time I happen to see and say, "Oh, this Kala is fat." When I poke him, he don't even kick. Seems like no strength, so when I brought the fish up, he's so skinny, pitiful. And now, when you look at all those kind of fish now, well, they're not like before, they're no fat or good as before. So, with this water came down, well, that's maybe why the cause of all this things polluted.

J So, has this been the last how many years did you say?

W Well, I say it just started about maybe couple years ago with this polluted water.

J So, very recently?

W Yes. So, today, we need more of the ocean to get ruff, so we can stir up the ground, and clean up all those waves more like, you know, that stays on top the seaweeds, or on the reef area, bust them all up and rotate it and the current push it out. You have all those things that can be clear up by the heavy surf and the waves like that. It can clean up the place, and maybe another good 30, 40 years, I think maybe would build up if nothing goes wrong in this Kahawainui.

J Well, thank you very much; it's been excellent.