



Duane Pacheco

Yeah, this story goes back to my experience when I was much younger back in the mid 1980s and I worked as a fisherman in part of the fleet. Actually, I was on a scalloper. It was quite the challenging experience. It was a very difficult job. The men that I worked with were all very hardworking men. It was never an easy day on a scallop boat. I believe that is true of all fishing boats, especially those commercial boats out there.

My background, I grew up on the water sailing with my family. We would sail for weeks up the coast of Maine every summer as my father took long vacations to make sure that we had time to really spend time on the water. That said, it was really just part of my, it was in my blood to do something on the water. Unfortunately, it wasn't in my back, and after a couple of years working as a fisherman, I really could not continue doing that type of work. It was just so demanding.

They fish in all types of weather, year round, hot summer, cold winter. The only thing they avoid is really, really bad weather. Really cold, rough seas, which caused the boats to ice up just to a degree where it's really unsafe. But it didn't seem to matter how hot it got in the summer they just kept going, and you'd work night and day, you'd just work long shifts on and short shifts off for, I don't know. I think the normal trip was 10 days to two weeks in that range because you really have to consider at the two-week point, you now have scallops that you caught at the start of the trip that are almost two weeks old. So, you really want to deliver a good product, so the time is you really have that constraint to consider.

I also later worked on crab boats, after my experience with scallop boats, but the crab boats were out of Fall River. Also, a very challenging line of work, but keeping with my story in regards to working out at New Bedford, there was so many great boats out there, and unfortunately I did not end up on one of them, not to slander the boat I was on, but it was considered one of the lesser renowned boats out there. We didn't always catch a ton of scallops and it used a ton of fuel. I won't name the boat in this, but needless to say, I really got a real taste of what the job is like when it's both really good and really hard. That was my experience. I'm glad I was able to have an opportunity to share, and I hope someone appreciates the hard work that those men and once upon a time myself do and did out there on the ocean, and they really do. Even though they avoid the worst of weather, it's got to be really bad for them to not go out.

Thank you.