

Orange County Marine Life Abstracts

OH 2644

“An Oral History with Don Hansen”

Narrator: Don Hansen

Interviewer: Julie Goodson-Smith

Date: October 20, 1997

Status: Not transcribed

Length: Not digitized

Location: Dana Point Sportfishing in Dana Point, California

An oral history with Don Hansen, a resident of Orange County, California. This interview was conducted for the Orange County Maritime Oral History Project at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the status of the Southern California Bight in the forties, fifties and sixties, as well as the strength of the fishing industry then and now. This interview includes discussion about the varieties of fish in the Southern California area and how this changes due to phenomena such as El Nino; talks about the advent of new fishing equipment and gear; speaks about the affects of the San Onofre Nuclear Plant and the kelp harvesting companies in the area; comments on the influx of Vietnamese fisherman into the area after the Vietnam War and the small meshed nets that he believes caused a decline in fishing; discusses sport fishing tournaments and the importance of “hook and release;” talks about the difference in the number of boats in the water and launching ramps down the coast; comments on different acts and regulations that have had an effect on the local fishing industry, such as the Marine Mammal Protect Act and the dolphin regulations; and briefly speaks about the resurgence of sardines on the coast and the lack of processing plants to handle the population being fished.

OH 2645

“An Oral History with Dr. Wheeler North”

Narrator: Dr. Wheeler North

Interviewer: Julie Goodson-Smith

Date: November 5, 1997

Status: Not transcribed

Length: Not digitized

Location: Kerkoff Marine Laboratory in Corona Del Mar

An oral history with Dr. Wheeler North, a resident of Orange County, California. This interview was conducted for the Orange County Maritime Oral History Project at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to obtain information about the changing maritime conditions in Southern California with respect to scientific research, especially regarding the coastal kelp beds. This interview includes discussion about Dr. North's association with SCRIPPS Institute of Oceanography in the 1950s and a Fish and Game grant to conduct research on kelp beds; speaks specifically about procedures of the kelp project and the concerns of local fisherman; talks about different state and Fish and Game regulations and their relation to his research and the current state of Southern California's coast; briefly discusses old scuba diving gear and how he learned to dive; tells about specific sites of the kelp study, including several locations in Orange County; details the similarities and differences of kelp species along the coast, as well as efforts to revitalize extinct beds; and comments on the growth of Southern California and its relation to climate change along the coast and a decline in biodiversity.

OH 2646

“An Oral History with Claud Sympson”

Narrator: Claud Sympson

Interviewer: Julie Goodson-Smith

Date: December 11, 1997

Status: Not transcribed

Length: 00:49:58

Location: Laguna Cliffs Marriott in Dana Point, California

An oral history with Claud Sympson, a former kelp harvester in Southern California. This interview was conducted for the Orange County Maritime Oral History Project at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the kelp harvesting business in Southern California in the 1970s. This interview includes discussion about the different commercial uses of kelp, including supplements for cattle feed and in medicinal products; tells about the plants he bought in San Pedro and Port Hueneme, as well as the move to base the businesses out of Port Hueneme; comments on the Fish and Game agreements with the kelp harvesting businesses, as well as Kelco's major influence in the business; speaks about the bountiful harvests pulled out of the Santa Barbara waters that would average 300 wet tons and would take two to three days to accomplish; discusses the products that his company was able to develop through chemical alteration of the kelp; speaks about having to leave the business due to a lack of funds; briefly comments on the concerns of sportfishermen and interest in human pollution of the kelp beds; and explains that the biggest obstacle to contemporary investment in kelp harvesting is a lack of giant kelp to harvest, due mainly to the natural variations of storms, warm water, and sea urchins.