
Jennifer Stock: You're listening to Ocean Currents, a podcast brought to you by NOAA's Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary. This radio program was originally broadcast on KWMR in Point Reyes Station, California. Thanks for listening!

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Jennifer Stock: Hi, this is Jennifer Stock and you're listening to Ocean Currents. I'm sitting here in San Francisco at the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary office, Chrissy Field, with Barbara Emley. Barbara has fished commercially since 1985. She has been the strategy team leader for the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations since 1995 and was the chair of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary advisory council from 2002 to 2007. She fishes with her husband, Larry Collins, and both are members of the San Francisco crab boat owners' association and represent the San Francisco fleet on the California Salmon Council and are very active in fishery politics.

Still a sanctuary councilmember, she was recently appointed to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, which supports policy and action to conserve, develop, and manage fishery resources in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska. Welcome, Barbara. It's so nice to have you today.

Barbara Emley: Thank you.

Jennifer Stock: So, why don't we back up and talk about how did you decide to get into fishing?

Barbara Emley: Well, my eight year old son was given a fishing pole for his birthday and we all went down to the MUNI pier and rigged it up and we caught fish and he lost interest after a few months, but my husband and I really liked it. So, we went pole fishing around all of the piers of San Francisco Bay and the Pacific up here in the ocean and eventually took a charter boat trip for salmon and found that there were commercial fishermen near us, wondered what they were...what were those boats doing and we said, "Oh, wow! You can get paid to do this?" So, we talked our family into helping us finance our first boat.

We had a construction business and I was a cabinet maker and he was a California licensed contractor and I guess he still is and so, we were just going to supplement our income when times were slow in the construction business.

Jennifer Stock: And what species were you fishing for at the beginning?

Barbara Emley: Just salmon. Just salmon, yeah.

Jennifer Stock: And have you been fishing other species?

Barbara Emley: Right after the best salmon season ever in 1988, only three years after we started, we were able to earn enough extra money to buy our first 100 crab traps. Our boat wasn't big enough to fish them. So, we found somebody to work with and used his boat and our traps until we finally were able in 1992 get our own boat that was big enough.

Jennifer Stock: And your boat is in San Francisco. You're at Fisherman's Wharf, right?

Barbara Emley: Right. Yeah.

Jennifer Stock: So, what was the scene like in the 80's in terms of fishing. Fisherman's Wharf has somewhat evolved to become a big tourist attraction and you have to kind of go behind the streets to look and realize there's all these boats and many of them are still very active, but how has it changed since 1985?

Barbara Emley: Well, first of all, we didn't really have our boat there until 1989. We were over in Sausalito, but that there can give you a good sense. There was a Sausalito buying station for the Sea Cave Fish Company and the transient boats from all up and down the state there were quite a few that delivered to that company and so, we just met a lot of people that way. Anyway, that's gone. That's all you've got now.

Jennifer Stock: So, that's a big change.

Barbara Emley: Yes.

Jennifer Stock: And how about in San Francisco? Is there still a reasonable fleet?

Barbara Emley: Yes, there is. I would say smaller than it used to be, but that's one of the things that we've noticed, my husband and I, that we would like to stop that attrition in fisheries and make it a more desirable career, but there's about, I would say, forty commercial boats that work out of San Francisco, Fisherman's Wharf, and I know that's surprising to a lot of people.

Jennifer Stock: It sounds like there should be more.

Barbara Emley: Well...

Jennifer Stock: Forty sounds small to me.

Barbara Emley: Yeah, but most people think there aren't any, that's it's just tourists, that it's just little cute boats that don't go anywhere, but we're a small boat fleet. We're...most of us under 50 feet, family-owned operations and people who live, maybe not in San Francisco, a few do, but they keep their boat there and they live mostly in the Bay Area. Some actually go a far distance away to be able to afford a home, but they still come up to the city to fish.

Jennifer Stock: For the season that they're fishing for. You were mentioning family-owned fishing businesses. Are most of the fishermen in San Francisco and the bay area here on the coast, are they independent in terms of they work for themselves and how does it work to find a buyer to buy a product for fishing?

Barbara Emley: Right, well, in San Francisco the Pier 45 has quite a number of processors that you can make arrangements with. You say, "Can you buy my fish? Will you?" You have to do that before you go fishing and make assumptions. When we first started, it wasn't really like that. You could pull up under any hoist and sell your fish, but that's actually changed over the years.

Jennifer Stock: And do you set a price ahead of time before going out?

Barbara Emley: Yes. We used to do that for salmon, but that doesn't happen anymore with salmon. We just go fishing pretty much. With crab, we still get a price that we understand is an agreement between the fishermen and the processors of what they will pay and that's for the opening days. Those prices change as time goes by, but we don't really negotiate every change, but we do get our price to start with for crab.

Jennifer Stock: Ok. It seems that fishing is changing a lot and there's been so much in the news in terms of overfishing and more and more regulations and how has that affected independent fishermen like yourself?

Barbara Emley: Well, the regulations have actually, I think, caused pretty much close to the elimination of the salmon fleet in California. There were about close to 5,000 salmon permits in California and now there's about 700 permits in California. It's a huge difference and it's largely regulatory. The kinds of structural changes that have

been made to the seasons over the years have been mostly due to the returns on the Klamath River. It's what's called weak stock management. So, the Sacramento River has been very healthy all this time except very recently and yet, you wouldn't be able to harvest any salmon in the ocean because you have to watch out for the Klamath River salmon and you can't tell the difference by looking at them.

Jennifer Stock: What's the most recent change in the Sacramento River that's changed the health of the river?

Barbara Emley: Well, the diversion of water from my point of view. There were some changes in the ocean during that time period that seemed to have alleviated since then, but I don't think that that kind of change would cause a complete collapse of a run of fish. In all the years I've been fishing, surely those kinds of changes existed before and didn't do what they did. What I noticed was that there used to be between four and five million acre feet of water diverted from the river and starting in about 2005, they increased that to 6 million acre feet of water diversion and then the stock collapsed.

So, it seems pretty clear to me.

Jennifer Stock: So, the fishing, this is for salmon, right?

Barbara Emley: Right. Yes.

Jennifer Stock: And that's state regulated.

Barbara Emley: It's federally regulated...

Jennifer Stock: Federally regulated

Barbara Emley: ...but for recreational inside three miles, there is some state regulation, but they tend to just conform to the federal decisions.

Jennifer Stock: Now, is it the Pacific Fisheries Management Council that makes the salmon regulations.

Barbara Emley: Yes, yes.

Jennifer Stock: And so, you said the regulations have changed quite a bit and it seems like there's probably a big disconnect between the health of the habitat and the regulations or is that why it's becoming tighter and tighter.

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- Barbara Emley:* Well, the management council is not the Pacific farmers management council, it's the Pacific Fishery Management Council. So, even though it's clear where the problems originate, they can't do anything about that. So, they can only regulate fisheries and we just get ratcheted further and further down as the stocks weaken and finally, in 2008 and 9 we could not fish at all for salmon and that's the first time that ever happened.
- Jennifer Stock:* That was a huge, huge loss. How have fishermen dealt with that economic blow?
- Barbara Emley:* Yes, it was terrible. We did get disaster assistance and if it wasn't for that, I don't think any of us would be left doing it and even with the disaster help, I do believe that it's probably destroyed the salmon industry in California. I really think it has. A couple of years more and we'll see.
- Jennifer Stock:* So, we're still seeing salmon in markets. Where is that salmon coming from?
- Barbara Emley:* Well, this farmed salmon, if it says it's Atlantic salmon, then it's farmed and it's...so that's one place. There's different kinds of salmon. There's coho salmon. That's not the fish we were catching. That's coming from Alaska. There's a few kings that come from Alaska, but our kings are the ones that were missing, the Sacramento River Kings. So, you know, mostly Alaska would be where you'd be seeing them farmed, farmed Atlantics.
- Jennifer Stock:* Now, since you do work with the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association, how I know that Zeke Raider is very involved with trying to help promote protection of these fisheries and habitats. How has PCFFA helped with the water diversions?
- Barbara Emley:* Well, of course, they've been very, very strong in it and have joined in lawsuits on the water issues and there was one recent one that we just actually won in court. So, that was good.
- Jennifer Stock:* And which one is that?
- Barbara Emley:* Well, it was interesting. The San Joaquin River water agencies sued the management council and said they shouldn't have allowed any fishing again, still because it might have endangered their ability to get all the water they needed if their runs were threatened and, of course, it's their activities that have caused this problem in the first place. So, it was kind of a funny lawsuit.

Jennifer Stock: Interesting. For those just tuning in, this is Jennifer Stock. You're listening to Ocean Currents and I'm talking to Barbara Emley, a fishermen in San Francisco. We've been talking about salmon fishing. Crab is a whole 'nother situation and crab is regulated by the state?

Barbara Emley: The state. Yes and it's regulated by legislation rather than the Fish and Game. Fish and Game, what do you call it? They enforce the regulations and they write some of them, but it all originates in legislation.

Jennifer Stock: Now, this fishery has been one of the most sustainable over the years. This is the fishery that really boomed San Francisco during the gold rush and has it been because of the type of species that it is or the management of it? How does it sustain so well?

Barbara Emley: I think it's the management. The management, of course, didn't originate back at the beginning of the fishery. You could just take any old crab, take them out of San Francisco Bay, which we don't anymore, take females, take undersize, what we call undersize now, there was no restriction. They found after a time and biologists getting to work on it that we could manage the fishery by what's called the three S's: Size, sex, and season.

So, you don't fish for the fish, for the crab, when their molting. So, that's their season. You keep an eye on when they'd go through their molting so that you don't harvest crab that don't have hard shells and then, the sex. You don't harvest any female crab and they do look different. It's easy to tell a female Dungeness crab. So, those are just put back in the water and apparently, that...and then there's the size, which has to be six and a quarter inches across the back of the shell at the biggest part of the shell and all of those things mean that the crab can reproduce at least twice in their lifetime and these three things together have kept it a good fishery. It has it's cycles. It goes up and down, but it's always been pretty good and lately, it's been fantastic.

We had the best landings last year in the San Francisco area ever.

Jennifer Stock: In 2010?

Barbara Emley: Yeah.

Jennifer Stock: Now, 2011. We're just before Thanksgiving as we're recording this and usually we have crab season opening up and recreation has been open for a while. We've been hearing good reports and good

catches from recreational fishermen. Now, can you describe what's happening with commercial? There's always a little bit of a rough start in terms of getting that price and waiting for the right weather, but what's happening this year with the commercial season?

Barbara Emley: Well, we're still waiting for the right price. We...the fishermen have worked together in three harbors. It's interesting that the fishermen's marketing act in California from sometime in the 30's allowed fishermen to negotiate prices with other associations. It's not price fixing in these circumstances. We can talk to each other and figure out what we think will be a good price for the three harbors: Pillar Point, Bodega Bay, and San Francisco.

So, if one harbor can get a better price than the other, we sort of wait it out and see if we can get that same price and over time, eventually, it all sort of falls into place and we go fishing. It may be a compromise that nobody is real happy with a lot of the time, but it's what we can do.

Jennifer Stock: You do the best that you can. Now, what's happening this year? I heard there's crab coming in that aren't fully in their shell yet.

Barbara Emley: Well, that's what some people are wondering if that's the case. So, some of the processors would like to make sure that they're buying crab that are fully ready for market. This usually has not been an issue in this area. It's not required to do this kind of testing here, but they're using it as a tool to...now, another tool to hold us back, whatever reason they have to not want to buy right now or want to lower price or, I don't know.

Jennifer Stock: So, as it goes on, the more they push on the fishermen from going, they can ratchet up the price because of the demand?

Barbara Emley: Well, they think...I think that they would like us to go for a lower price so they can make a greater profit and then the longer we wait, the more desperate we get, the more likely we are to agree to a lower price.

Jennifer Stock: So, we're waiting right now.

Barbara Emley: We're waiting right now.

Jennifer Stock: Oh, we'll see how it ends up next week and the weather is good right now too.

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- Barbara Emley:* The weather is good these two days here, but then it's going to get bad so, it'd be very nice if we could get it settled today and set the traps. It's very dangerous to go out in bad weather with traps on your boat. It's much safer to fish that weather without traps on your boat. So, once you get the traps off, you can go to work in pretty bad weather, but you don't want to go out there in bad weather with your boat stacked up with traps.
- Jennifer Stock:* (Unintelligible)
- Barbara Emley:* Well, it tends to roll boats over if there's bad weather.
- Jennifer Stock:* Oh, extra weight on top.
- Barbara Emley:* It's just not the stability that the boat is designed for.
- Jennifer Stock:* What do you use for bait?
- Barbara Emley:* Squid. We use squid and we have two jars. We have one jar that has squid in it and another jar that has an oily fish of some kind, a mackerel or albacore or, you know, something.
- Jennifer Stock:* How about Humboldt squid? Are they a good bait?
- Barbara Emley:* No, we've never used Humboldt squid. There's not a commercial fishery for them. So, we wouldn't know where to get them anyway. Fishermen will try anything. If they've got some Humboldt squid in their freezer at home they'll probably try it.
- Jennifer Stock:* Yeah. Well, Humboldt squid have been a fairly recent species that have moved into our area. How has that impacted the fishing in terms of...because from what I understand, they are voracious predators.
- Barbara Emley:* Yes. That's what I understand too. Now, they did some studies...stomach contents to see whether or not they were what was responsible for the lack of salmon. Did they eat up all the salmon? Is that why they didn't go back? But they didn't find salmon in the stomach contents. So, they're not the problem.
- Jennifer Stock:* From my understanding with salmon, the critical habitat is really the streams, the rivers, and the ocean conditions are a part of that, but it's not so much because they have a flexible diet. They can eat krill, they eat a lot of gelatinous zooplankton...

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- Barbara Emley:* Yeah. So, when they come out of the river as very small fingerlings, then they need smaller bait, I think. I don't think...although I actually caught a fish one time that went...it was a salmon that tried to eat a piece of bait that was the same size. I was fishing this great big herring and here was this salmon, must have just come out of the river and it was on my hook. I thought, "Oh, they think they're bigger than they really are."
- Jennifer Stock:* I've seen some gulls trying to take off some mackerel that way as well. It's incredible. What do you see happening with fishing now since you started in the 80's and the fleet you said is about 40 boats right now. What are you seeing happening to fishing as a trade right now?
- Barbara Emley:* Well, both my husband and I noticed that, it was more him at this time, we were losing the younger people that were in our harbor to the starting families that couldn't really afford to stay in the Bay area and so they just packed up and left, went up to Crescent City or places that are cheaper to live and we were losing our community and so, we realized that the only way to make that change is for there to be a better...for the fishermen to make a better living. They're tired of living like peasants. We want health insurance too, all of that stuff.
- If we want to raise a family, we've got to have those things. You know, a lot of people think fishermen are so different. They can't possibly need the same stuff as everybody else, but we...so, that's why we got busy trying to get this community fishing association formed so that we could buy and sell our own products and keep the profits and put that back in the fishermen's pocket.
- Jennifer Stock:* So, can we talk about that a little bit. What is the community fishermen's association all about? What is your goal here to do?
- Barbara Emley:* Well, there's a few different goals. The Magnuson Act says that community fishing associations can receive what's called initial allocation of quota in the ground fish. Ground fish are your rock fishes and also your soles and...
- Jennifer Stock:* Halibut.
- Barbara Emley:* ...and things like that. Now, we're not so much interested in trying to catch those small soles because we wouldn't be able to harvest enough. That's more of something appropriate for the trawl fleet, but we would like to harvest the rockfish as we used to do that and we are what we call portfolio fishermen. We need more than one

species to make it. We're not...and if you focus on just one species that's bad for that species.

You've put all of your...it's sensible in a small boat fleet that you move to other species when the one you're trying to catch seems bleak. So, go catch something else, but we've been kept out of the rockfish for a number of years because of the huge closure of the rockfish conservation area. So, we set up the Community Fishing Association to be able to receive allocation and our idea was if we did get an allocation of quota that we would share that amongst our members and they could go harvest that as they needed and some of our members are more inclined to want to do those fisheries anyway.

So, that's the initial thinking. The management council then went on to decide that they weren't going to give any initial allocation to community fishing associations in spite of what Magnuson Act said. So, we are still working on ways of improving our lot. So, we have got space at pier 45. So, we're now like another processor at Pier 45, but we're buying from our own membership and we started in February and we're about to have our first real big season, this crab season. We'll see how we do, if we're able to sell all of those crabs at prices that are good for our members.

Jennifer Stock: And do you find the buyers are local here, they distribute the seafood here local in the Bay area?

Barbara Emley: Do buyers do that?

Jennifer Stock: Well, I mean you're working together as a co-op and so, is the product that you're bringing into port being distributed here locally in the Bay area?

Barbara Emley: Well, that's what we are hoping will happen and we do have some outlets that are local. On the other hand, we also have a great interest, and you may have hear about this, but a great interest in the part of certain brokers who would like to move live crab to China. There's a huge market in China and this could end up being an issue. This happened with the lobster fleet in southern California. They're doing very well, but they have their annual lobster festival and they couldn't get any lobster. They would all have gone to China.

They had to get Maine lobster in for their California lobster festival, which is a different species altogether. So, it's possible that this has happened of...sort of...giving our resources away and not keeping them here and it is our goal to sell locally. On the

other hand, when somebody comes up and says, "I'll buy everything you've got and my check is good and here it is on the spot, no waiting." It's hard to turn that down.

Jennifer Stock: Right. There's a big incentive there.

Barbara Emley: If we want to survive as a group too besides help keep the product in the local community.

Jennifer Stock: Well, we need to take a short break here, but we'll be back in just a little bit continuing to talk with Barbara Emley, a fisherman in San Francisco and we've been talking a lot about salmon and crab fishing and how to make it as a fisherman here in San Francisco. We'll be right back.

(Music)

Jennifer Stock: This is Jennifer Stock. You're listening to Ocean Currents and I'm talking with Barbara Emley, a fisherman in San Francisco. We've been talking a little bit about salmon and rockfish, or salmon and Dungeness crab, but one of the other things you've set up recently, Barbara, is the community fishing association. We were just talking about that and that's to help deliver certain products to the market, working together as a group, trying to keep yourselves sustainable and alive as a group. You've recently been trying to get in with an exempted fishing permit. There's a bit area closed between Washington and California that's closed rockfishing for commercial.

Barbara Emley: That's right. That's closed to recreational too.

Jennifer Stock: So, there's a recreational fishery and commercial near shore, but not in the offshore waters and that's been for years now.

Barbara Emley: Oh, it started in 1999 or 2000.

Jennifer Stock: Yeah. I remember when it started we didn't know how long it was going to be and here it is, it's been 10 plus years. So, tell me, what is the goal of getting an exempted fishing permit and what's the authority that the Magnuson Stevens Act and the Pacific Fisheries Management Council has to potentially give you that.

Barbara Emley: Right. It's what....we're trying to do is show that we can use some fishing gear, pretty old fashioned gear, to avoid the species of concern that cause the creation of the rockfish conservation area in the first place. There was overfishing on the part of trawlers...not

their fault. They followed the rules, but the rules allowed fishing above the levels that were sustainable at the time. It was an honest mistake that was made by the council, but in any case, these species were over fished and they had to set up these big, green building plans.

In order for the trawlers to keep working, they set up this rockfish conservation area. Now, that whole area was not designed, I mean, the small boat fleet was not the issue and the number of fish that we can harvest with hook and line was not the issue, you know? You can certainly grab a whole bunch more with a net than with a few hooks.

So, we've been trying to get some fishing back in that area. It's not been successful. So, now what we're trying to do is show that we can keep our hooks off the bottom where those fish live that are in trouble and harvest the very abundant midwater fish, rockfishes that are in the area.

Jennifer Stock: So, the species that are of concern are bottom-dwellers.

Barbara Emley: Pretty much, yes.

Jennifer Stock: So, canary rock fish? What are some of their species?

Barbara Emley: Canary rock fish, yellow-eye rockfish, we always called them goldeneye in our group, but I guess the official name is yellow-eye. Fishermen have different names for fish. We called the canaries fan tails. I don't know why, but they were fan tails.

Jennifer Stock: I can see that.

Barbara Emley: We never heard of a canary rockfish. We didn't know what that was, but anyway, those are the species of concern right now. The Boccaccio, I think, are also maybe still some issues there, the widow rockfish, which are not bottom-dwellers were just declared rebuilt. So, that group of fish is available for harvest. We believed that if we were able to get this initial allocation that I was speaking about earlier, the problem has consistently been that they can give you as many pounds as they can dream up, but if you can't go fish where those fish live, it doesn't do you any good.

So, and that's been basically the problem. Those fish that we're allowed to harvest live in the rockfish conservation area.

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- Jennifer Stock:* And they're probably rebounding even faster since they weren't overfished.
- Barbara Emley:* They weren't overfished in the first place. That's right. The yellow-tail rockfish is our target species in this permit. So, we've managed to get to the council to agree to move us forward. We're in public comment period now between now and June of next year and then the council will decide after that whether or not to let the whole thing happen. So, that's where we are. The community fishing association applied for this exempted fishery permit and the idea, once again, is to get us the third piece of our portfolio that's been missing all of these years.
- Jennifer Stock:* How many fishermen would that allow to go out?
- Barbara Emley:* Well, it would allow very few for the study itself to see whether it works, whether the gear works. If they decide that the gear does work after two or three years of testing it, then it would be open to anybody who wants to do it. So, that's our idea is to, you know...there's so few of us left, we can't imagine it being a problem.
- Jennifer Stock:* Right and it's hook and line. It's not dragging the bottom.
- Barbara Emley:* Right, exactly.
- Jennifer Stock:* What is the draggers, the trawlers, what's their future for fishing?
- Barbara Emley:* Well, their future seems pretty good, the ones that manage to stay afloat after they went to this individual fishing quota or what's called catch shares. We're very opposed to catch shares, the smaller boat fishermen. It's like giving away public resources. It's like giving the national trees in the national forest to warehouses and saying, "Go get them. Here's your share based on how many you cut down in the past." The more you've cut down, the more you get now, but that's how it's working and we don't think it's right.
- Jennifer Stock:* So, can you describe it a little bit in terms of what is a catch share program?
- Barbara Emley:* Well, this is a program to give a quota, an individual quota that's given to the fisherman. He gets those fish. He owns them before he catches them and he can decide when to catch them, all of that, based on his schedule and weather and all of that, but they're his and the more you caught in the past, the more you're entitled to

under this program. Now, there's bycatch where the conservation benefit apparently, two benefits that it reduces the size of the fleet because the people that didn't have enough harvest in the past can't afford to do it.

So, they sell what little piece of quota they have. It tends to, in my point of view, to industrialize the fishing...consolidate it into fewer boats, bigger and bigger companies owning these shares of fish.

Jennifer Stock: These communities that we have on the coast here, I'm just thinking, in our region, Bodega Bay, Bolinas, Sausalito is kind of hard to even see the fishing community there anymore. It's pretty much gone...San Francisco and Half Moon Bay and....how are they reacting to all this in terms of trying to stay afloat with these big changes?

Barbara Emley: I'm not sure what's going on in Pillar Point, I mean, Princeton Harbor...they have problems of their own. Crab boat owners in conjunction with the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association has sued thinking that this is illegal, you can't be giving fish away like this into ownership, just wrong. So, we've sued, but we're not doing well in that lawsuit yet, but I think it goes to the Supreme Court next.

Jennifer Stock: So, when will you find out about the exempted fishing permit?

Barbara Emley: In June, we'll find out if it's going to go on to the next step, which would mean we could actually do it.

Jennifer Stock: Going back to the crab fishery. I've heard in the news in the past that fishermen from Oregon and Washington would come down for the California season and fish here and it's three weeks or so prior to their fishing season opening up and this has kind of created a conflict.

Barbara Emley: Yes. It was a real problem. The fishery here was always a day fishery. Guys went out and ran their traps every day, came in with the product, late afternoon, started at 3 in the morning, come in and deliver your crab every day and go home and stay with your family for dinner, go back to work at thee in the morning again and that's been the local fishery and these guys that came from out of state had huge holding tanks, they could hold as many as 50,000 pounds in their boats.

They had way more traps than we have and they fished for maybe five days as they wouldn't be more than that, three to five days

perhaps, before they came in with their crab. They would keep the market flooded, prices low, force us into trying to think about alternatives to our day fishery, but we didn't really get into that tanking of crabs, as they call it locally, and these boats had, like I say, lots and lots of traps and we've been trying to get trap limits in California for about right years, working hard at it and get it through the legislature then Schwarzenegger vetoed two bills that we got through and now we finally got a bill through, which was signed by governor Brown.

So, we do finally have trap limits in California, won't go into effect until next year, but hopefully it will help and they can still come and fish here, but they can't bring 1,000 traps.

Jennifer Stock: So, was there concern that this would take away the crab earlier and the season would become shorter?

Barbara Emley: Well, it does do that. There's a certain number of crabs that are available for harvest in the ocean when you manage the way that it's managed. So, we apparently, according to biologists, they say we catch 99 percent of the legal crab in each year.

Jennifer Stock: Wow.

Barbara Emley: But that leaves enough for the next year to come along and be ready for the next year. So, it's a question of how fast you catch those. If you're going to catch 99 percent, we have a seven month season, but they can be all gone by the time two weeks has gone by and then there's no crab for the other times of year. There's no crab for Super Bowl, there's no crab for Chinese New Year. They're just pretty much gone by then and the price goes up as they become fewer in numbers. So, we think that even though the price might start a little higher, it will last longer and it will be more even price as the season goes along.

Jennifer Stock: It levels the field a little bit. Well, that's good. Tell us the story of a day in the water that's memorable to you. I mean, we're talking a lot about the politics and the management, but the real life and becoming a fisherman is on the water.

Barbara Emley: Yes. Well, I'll tell you a story of one day that sticks out in my mind. There are so many. The ocean is never the same from day to day. You go back to the same exact spot and it's different the next day, but they talk sometimes about hot spots in the ocean and trying to set aside hot spots and it's my opinion, you can't do that because those hot spots move around and we were fishing for

salmon and we left the harbor early in the morning and there weren't any other boats around and the fleet had pretty much moved north. We were up in Mendocino fishing and we came out of the Mendocino anchorage and my husband said, "Well, this looks good here. This looks pretty fishy. Let's set our gear." So, we did and then all of a sudden, the ocean was just aboil with life, a thousand dolphins jumping through the area.

There were whales, humpback whales all over the place, birds, pelicans diving. Just an amazing boil of life and we caught a few fish. They were mostly coho, which we weren't allowed to keep, but there were a few kings mixed in. So, we said, "Well, let's go back and turn back on that." And we turned back and nothing. It's gone. Don't know where those animals went. Where did the thousand dolphins go? Just gone! It was just beautiful and just unbelievably lively. Just stunning.

Jennifer Stock: Is that what we'd call a feeding frenzy?

Barbara Emley: Yeah. That's what it was.

Jennifer Stock: That's exciting and it comes and then it's gone. That's what's amazing about the ocean to me. You just never know.

Barbara Emley: That's right. You don't.

Jennifer Stock: So exciting. That's wonderful. So, you've been fairly involved with the Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary and the advisory council. What do you see as the sanctuary's role in helping to protect fisheries?

Barbara Emley: Well, I think that there are a lot of people that would like to the sanctuary to be more engaged in fisheries management. Fishermen and especially those of us who have been involved in fisheries management can't see that as a role for the sanctuary. There's already, I mean, the meetings that the management council holds, five a year, seven days long, thousands of people, hundreds of scientists, advisors from all walks of life from conservation to fishing. It's just the sanctuary couldn't possibly do anything like that and so, we don't think that they should be engaged in fisheries management.

I think that they can work to help the fishing communities in their area and I think that they do. I think, for example, both sanctuaries, Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones, have supported this effort

to get an exempted fisheries permit. I think that they feel that that's good for the local small-boat fleet. It'll be good for the sanctuary.

Jennifer Stock: It's sustainable.

Barbara Emley: Yes and it's a sustainable fishery. A lot of people seem surprised that there's any fishing allowed in the sanctuaries.

Jennifer Stock: Yeah. I encounter that a lot.

Barbara Emley: That's not what it's about. The sanctuaries were established in the first place about oil, oil development and drilling. It was never about fisheries and fishing was protected in those laws that set up the first sanctuaries.

Jennifer Stock: Right. Yeah, it's different. I've seen with all the national marine sanctuaries, it's different. Every single sanctuary is different in terms of the role they play and it's based on the designation document of how that sanctuary got established and how...what's been some of your...how have you carried your voice as a fisherman through the sanctuary advisory council? What are some pieces that you feel that have helped fishing?

Barbara Emley: Yes, I think that when we first got started here there was the management plan. So, we were helping to write the new management plan, the national office wanted each sanctuary to get that re-upped, kind of, you know. So, there was a fishing activities working group and I was able to represent the fishing voice and the concerns of fishermen there and I think we were successful. I mean, I hate to say this, but that one of the problems that happens is that some sanctuaries become too beholden to the conservation communities needs and interests and it's...the sanctuary needs to be careful that they not do that. They've got to hear from all of the interests, all of the constituencies and not just the conservation groups.

Some are...some conservations are what I call crisis-oriented and their fundraising comes from people being concerned about a particular issue and people become concerned about that issue because that sub-conservation group has told them that, "Boy, it's a real problem here. The ocean's dead." This ocean isn't dead at all and it's well-managed fisheries in the west coast, at least, I don't know about the rest of the coasts, you know, but these issues that are raised by the conservationists are kind of just, I don't know, pulled out of the air to help them raise money.

So, we have to be careful not to fall into that because even some science...scientists....some work...the one that said that all the fish would be gone by 2048, that's been...that got headlines, but the fact is that after peer review that work was discredited. That did not get headlines.

Jennifer Stock: What do you think that the biggest concerns are these days for the future of our health of our ocean from your perspective as a fisherman?

Barbara Emley: Yeah, well I know that the ocean since I started in 1985 has been constantly changing. It goes through cycles. We've had warm water cycles, cold water cycles...it's just...it's not possible to decide yet whether or not there is going to be big climate change issues for us. I think that it's possible that there will be, but it's not going to be something that I think we can prepare for as far as fishing.

What's going to happen is if there are big changes is that perhaps the species that are available for harvest, what we're prepared to harvest....maybe it won't be salmon country anymore, but we won't know how to harvest what kind of country it is and that will be something that evolves over time, you know? I remember during the big El Nino of, I forget which one it was...might have been the '98 El Nino, that there was....these Langoustines, these small little red lobster type creatures were all over the beaches up here and that's a commercial fishery in Mexico. Well, if that ended up being a large number those animals here during the climate change, perhaps we would have to learn how to harvest them

Jennifer Stock: So, things will change and it's basically a waiting game.

Barbara Emley: Yeah, I would think that for us that it is. It's hard to think about how to get ready for it because you don't know what's going to happen.

Jennifer Stock: Well, it's very challenging, I think, with the magnitude of the ocean and the cycles that it currently has that we barely know about....

Barbara Emley: Yes.

Jennifer Stock: ...very large environment and I think it's one of the challenges about the ocean is that we know so little about it.

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- Barbara Emley:* And we shouldn't pretend that we know more than we do because you can't know this stuff....too hard.
- Jennifer Stock:* Well, I guess the best thing we can do then is to just keep working collaboratively across all disciplines...
- Barbara Emley:* Yes, I agree with that.
- Jennifer Stock:* ...and keep a conversation active.
- Barbara Emley:* There was a time when the conservation community and the fishing community worked really well together. That's changes and I would like it to go back. Fishermen are conservationists. They have to be. Their future depends on it, on a good, healthy environment, both in the river and in the ocean. It's very important to us. We're not the enemy of conservation.
- Jennifer Stock:* Right, well, you know the ocean better than anybody.
- Barbara Emley:* That's right, but nobody wants to listen.
- Jennifer Stock:* Is there an organization that you see as listening to fishermen in terms of dealing with these conservation issues?
- Barbara Emley:* The organization that I feel the most...that we get the most help from that I think, philosophically, is the best is Eco-Trust. Eco-Trust's basically fundamental philosophy is that you can't really conserve natural resources without conserving the community that depends on them and so, Eco-Trust does a lot of work both in forestry and in fisheries to help communities. and this is a good organization.
- Jennifer Stock:* Yeah. They did a report for the sanctuaries during the management plan.
- Barbara Emley:* Yes they did. Yeah.
- Jennifer Stock:* ...make impacts.
- Barbara Emley:* It's kind of an economic group. They're more into the economics of things, but they're not...it's...I don't know. The Environmental Defense Fund is a more conservative economic kind of group that believes in what you call market-based solutions, which lead maybe sometimes to this consolidation. We got led to the catch shares. We don't think that's the right approach. The Eco-Trust is not...it's a much more of a...I don't know how to put it, but they're

more community based. They do care what happens to the communities.

Jennifer Stock: We're getting close to the end here. I'm talking to Barbara Emley and this is ocean currents. Barbara is a fisherman. You mentioned earlier some of the changes you've seen and what is the future for fishing in terms of younger people coming in? I know this is an issue for farming and sustainable farmers are....you know, they're looking to see the next generation coming up and it's been challenging. What's that like for fishing? It seems like a tough...

Barbara Emley: It's a tough...

Jennifer Stock: ...thing to get into.

Barbara Emley: ...it's management-oriented a lot. If there's enough salmon around to allow full salmon seasons and to keep the price that the fishermen are paid at a decent amount, then fishermen do...the young fishermen just come out of the woodwork. We see them. We saw them in the 2003, 4, 5, that time period...a lot of new young guys, but then when the salmon crashed, they disappeared too. Where did those guys? Where'd that boat go? We don't know. They were around and now they're gone. So, we need some sort of future that's reliable for a young person if he wants to have a family and to support his family with fishing, he has to be able to see some reliability in his future.

Jennifer Stock: Right, and you need to look around your community to see how the rest of your community is doing...

Barbara Emley: Yes.

Jennifer Stock: ...it's a peer thing as well.

Barbara Emley: You could say it from a selfish point of view as well. Who's going to buy my boat? It's always been something like when we retire, where's the next group? Who is going to be the next guy that is president of crab boat owner's association? We don't see that person.

Jennifer Stock: Yeah. That's scary.

Barbara Emley: Yeah.

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- Jennifer Stock:* That voice.
- Barbara Emley:* I think the average age of fish boat captains is just going up every year. It means nobody is coming in.
- Jennifer Stock:* That's scary. It's a pretty scary thing. Well, how can we as consumers, listeners here who are consumers of seafood, and how can we support sustainable fishing communities?
- Barbara Emley:* Well, I think that you can...I don't know how, really. You've got to buy local...got to buy locally. The cards that tell you what you should and shouldn't buy have a lot of error in them and there's problems with relying on those cards. Our group is the San Francisco Community Fishing Association. We intend, at some point, to have a retail store.
- It's a little daunting right now to be able to do that, but right now we're selling wholesale, but we're selling to other people who have shared that same philosophy of providing local fish and we're going to try to come up with a standard that we hold that the public can say, "Ok, this group said they did this, this, and this and they do." And see what we can do that way to help the consumer figure out what to buy, but ask your fish monger, I mean, you get lots of lies. We ask all the time....
- Jennifer Stock:* It's hard, you know, even as a fairly...I don't consider myself super knowledgeable, but I know what I should be buying and it's hard when you ask the questions. They don't always know and it's so tricky.
- Barbara Emley:* Yes, it is tricky.
- Jennifer Stock:* ...and I'm finding more and more you just have to go to the source to get what you want.
- Barbara Emley:* Well, this is true and as of yet, we can't provide that. We're just wholesale just yet, you know? But, we hope soon to be the source for the Bay Area that people can go to.
- Jennifer Stock:* Great. Is there any other last comments or things you'd like to share that I haven't talked about or asked about?
- Barbara Emley:* No. I think you've done a really good job asking about all the issues.

Jennifer Stock: Thank you so much. It's wonderful to talk with a woman. There's very few fishermen that are women and I'm sure that your presence in the fishing fleet is helpful.

Barbara Emley: It is. The women who are there are helpful. They have a different approach.

Jennifer Stock: Well, fantastic. Thanks so much for sharing your livelihood with us today.

Barbara Emley: Ok. You're welcome.

(Ocean Noises)

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