

VOICES from
the FISHERIES



NOAA Fisheries' *Voices* from the *Fisheries Project*

**A Contribution to NOAA
Environmental Literacy
Education**

Susan Abbott-Jamieson

1.16.09





Talk Overview

- The original Local Fisheries Knowledge (LFK) Pilot Project
- The new Voices from the Fisheries (VFF) Project
- The VFF Handbook and NOAA's goals for environmental education

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NOAA FISHERIES
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Local Fisheries Knowledge (LFK) Project

[What is LFK?](#) [Interview Topics](#) [Curriculum](#) [Pilot Project 2003-2006](#) [Database](#) [Using Interviews](#) [Resources/Links](#)



LFK Project Home

Looking through the lens of marine fisheries, high school students learn about history, culture, science, language arts, and business as part of NOAA's pilot Local Fisheries Knowledge Project.

Through interviews with local fishermen, and others in fishing-related industries, students explore the connection between fisheries, the marine environment, their communities, and their own lives. In the process, students document and preserve the rich knowledge and experiences of these individuals for future generations.

Two high schools in Maine initially piloted the project during the 2003-

Related Links

[Project Goals](#)

[Do you want to be interviewed?](#)

[Access interview transcripts!](#)



Done



First, a few definitions ...

- Ethnoecology
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)
- Indigenous Knowledge
- Local Ecological Knowledge
- Local Fisheries Knowledge (LFK)



- **The original Local Fisheries Knowledge (LFK) Pilot Project**

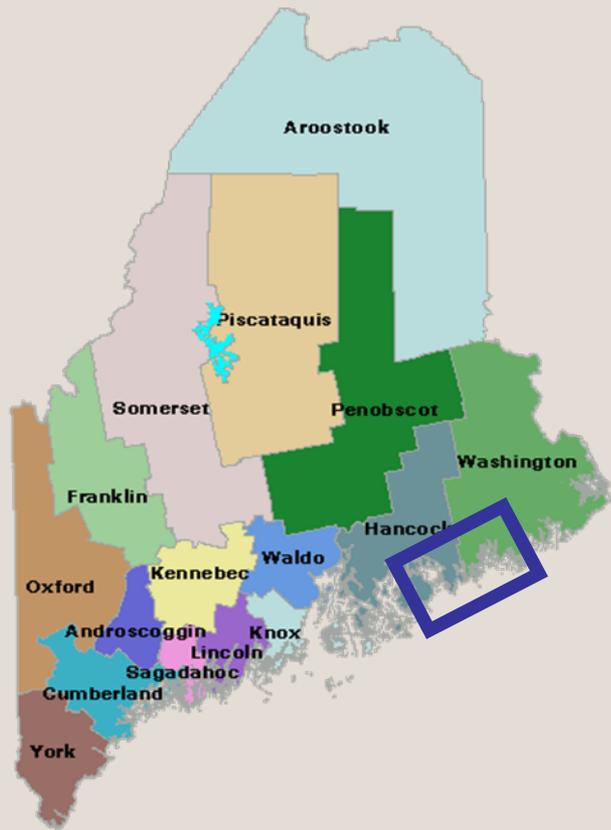
- Funded by NMFS, Office of Science & Technology
- Contracted with Rural School & Community Trust to work directly with the schools
- Grew out of knowledge of other classroom-based oral history projects and power of place-based approaches



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Ellsworth H.S., Hancock County



Jonesport-Beals H.S., Washington County





Project Goals

- Provide learning opportunities in marine science and management for high school students
- Increase student awareness of marine-related careers
- Equip students with skills to investigate, analyze, and communicate the marine culture and history of their communities, improve environmental literacy

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Project Framework

- **LFK interviews**
- High school students interview fishermen and others in marine related occupations/activities
- **Place-based curriculum**
- Developed by local educators
- Integrated into existing curriculum
- Multidisciplinary
- **Online database**
- Transcripts published online
- Free to the public





Student Outcomes

- ✓ Students gain understanding of both social and natural science aspects of fisheries, as well as complexity of managing fisheries resources
- ✓ Prompts some students to pursue marine related careers
- ✓ Education and community outcomes ...

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Project Timeline

- Original Pilot Project 2003-2005
- JBHS continued project for next two years





Lessons Learned by the end of 2005

- The existing LFK database needed a redo
 - Decidedly not user friendly
 - Only accepted PDF format files
- Teachers could do with a handbook of some kind to help them design classroom projects
- Place-based learning is a powerful tool

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ORAL HISTORY DATABASE DOCUMENTING THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE OF THE FISHERIES OF THE UNITED STATES

- [About the Project](#)
- [Search Collection](#)
- [Add Interview](#)
- [How to Participate](#)
- [Links to Related Collections](#)
- [Bibliography](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

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www.voices.nmfs.noaa.gov





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Voices from the Fisheries (VFF) Project

- Began in 2008, NOAA PAIG Grant combined with NMFS/Office Science and Technology funding and IT expertise
- Patricia Pinto da Silva (NEFSC), myself, and colleagues from MIT Sea Grant, Rutgers Human Ecology, & New Bedford, MA Working Waterfronts Project.
- Project goal to make available to the public existing marine and Great Lakes focused oral histories and inspire new collections

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Voices from the Fisheries Handbook

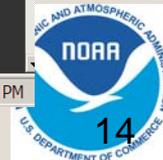
Preserving Local Fisheries
Knowledge, Linking Generations, and
Improving Environmental Literacy



U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service



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Voices from the Fisheries Handbook

- Now in draft, first review underway
- Will be available as a PDF download on the VFF web site
- A link from LFK web site will send person to the handbook on the VFF site



VFF Handbook

- **Audience** –teachers, community groups, museums, individuals
- **Major topics covered include:**
 - Getting started; Building community partnerships; Curriculum integration; Ethical and legal issues for interviews; Recording technologies; Interviewing; Transcription; Archiving; NOAA VFF Database; Assessing outcomes; Examples of other projects; Appendices with lots of useful forms, materials; References and web sites to help out

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- **Release Schedule**

- Hope to be through final edits and clearance to put on VFF web site by March
- Will also print copies

- **Then what?**

- Launch effort to spread the word, launch some new school-based, Marine Sanctuary-based VFF/LFK projects

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Wouldn't you like to save a Voice from the Fisheries for the next generation?

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Jonesport-Beals
High School. ME
students after an
interview in
Jonesport, ME.

Photo: Linda Church

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<http://voices.nmfs.noaa.gov>

<http://www.st.nmfs.gov/lfkproject>

<http://www.ruraledu.org>

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