

Interviewed: February 9, 1976

FISHERMAN: Mr. John Polanski,
Steveston, B. C.

- Started fishing in 1946, was 26 years old then.
- His father was not a fisherman.
- He fished with his uncle for six weeks when he started.
- He then purchased a boat and net for \$600 and fished for another 3 weeks til the season ended.
- His brother Frank is also a fisherman.
- None of his childhood friends became a fishermen as he was born on the prairies.
- He started fishing after he came out of the services.
- After he got out of the services he was still single and.....
"Didn't know what the heck to do with myself, I lay around the sand beaches of Vancouver and played poker for existance. I was fairly fortunate, maybe lady luck looked after me for a good year, then I said there's no future in this life, I met my present wife, after knocking around for a few years doing nothing, my uncle said... marry the girl and settle down, be a family man and get into some line of business. The year we got married, I had ordered a new boat from the company, I have still got that same boat."
- Mr. Polanski says that it was his love for the outdoors and the chalenge of fishing that made him decided to become a fisherman.
- He likes being a fisherman as he's his own boss.
- He has never been in a severe boat accident in 30 years.
- He says he has heard of many accidents concerning fishermen, everything from drownings to losing fingers.
- Gives story of a fisherman losing his fingers.
- Talks about boat designs.
- Does not like the new designs. (Explains)
- Mr. Polanski has gotten rheumatism and arthritis from fishing.
- Many fishermen have arthritis.
- It shows up in fishermen over 50 years old, possibly 3 out of 10 fishermen have it.
- It could be a result of the elements (cold, rain, etc.) and also poor diet when fishing as most fishermen don't have time to eat proper meals when they're fishing. They eat tinned food and don't get enough

things like potatoes and fruits.

- It is often the case that fresh milk is unavailable to the fisherman when he is working.
- Mr. Polanski has fished in many different areas over the past years.
- Logging has plugged many of the streams that the salmon run on.
- He plays the tides more now than he used to.
- The Japanese are very keen fishermen.
- Mr. Polanski served in the airforce during the war.
- He says that fishermen wouldn't have Workmen's Compensation if not for the Union.
- Was getting 25¢ a pound for sockeye, 6¼¢ for dog salmon when he started.
- He spent 2 or 3 years fishing for dog fish livers.
- He was paid \$40 for 40 pounds can.
- The livers went to Western Chemical in Vancouver.
- The market then "turned sour", but the companies then wanted to buy the belly flaps.
- The company offered to give him the bait free if he would go fishing for them but he didn't as it was a two-man operation.
- "Belly Flaps" are the little white circular area underneath the dog fish. It is the tenderest part of the fish.
- To get these dog fish was like skinning a pelt as he did it on a long board.
- When the belly flaps were cut into strips and smoked, they tasted like bacon rhinds..."it's delicious!"
- "Fishing stocks have not declined that much."