



**MORECAMBE BAY PARTNERSHIP
HEADLANDS TO HEADSPACE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
2015-2018**

Cumbria County Council, The Factory,
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TRANSCRIPT SUMMARY

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INTERVIEW NO: H2H2017.46
 INTERVIEWEE NAME/S: Tom Smith (and brother Alan)
 YEAR OF BIRTH: Tom Smith unknown
 INTERVIEWER/S: Ken Howarth
 DATE OF INTERVIEW: 1990s
 LOCATION: Sunderland Point
 SUMMARISER: Jan Bloomer

Track 1	
00.00-03.00	Tom's description of sea birds and otter sightings at Sunderland Point 30 years ago.
03.01-03.57	Culling of Cormorants allowed for anglers but no culling of Sparrow hawks allowed for 'pigeon men'. Is this a class issue?
03.58-04.24	Peregrines frequently seen on the West Shore.
04.25-08.00	Nicknames of fishermen-origins often unknown.
08.01-09.31	Names of different fishing nets and their uses.
09.32-10.15	Difference between 'Keep nets' and Kepp nets'.
10.16-11.34	Difficulties keeping fish without refrigeration.
11.35-12.35	'The Priest' or 'The Killer'-used for 'dispatching fish'
12.36-15.15	Lice on Salmon-a particular problem in farmed fish.
15.16-18.35	Catching Salmon and Sea Trout using the 'Haaf net'.
18.36-22.00	Transferring fish from the 'Haaf net' to the 'Keep net'
22.01-24.49	Description of making the 'Haaf nets'. Sailing down to Ashton Saw Mills for wood.
24.50-28.40	Description of the process of 'Drift netting'. 'Congregating under the Cotton tree'.
28.41-29.55	Harbour Porpoise competing for the fish.
29.56-32.30	Mussel gathering at Basil Point.
Track 2	
00.00-03.08	Plentiful mussels.
03.09-05.40	The eventual demise of the mussel stock led to shrimping and fluke fishing.
05.41-06.10	Change of the law meant fish had to be gutted before sale.
06.11-07.23	Demand then for larger fish to fillet (small fish to cook whole were popular before this) Smaller fish now put back to grow.
07.24-10.05	'Craaming' and 'Whammeling' -discussion of Nordic spelling of fishing terms.
10.06-12.56	Mussels put into hessian sacks (hundredweight in each). Many went to North

	Yorkshire (Whitby and Filey) to be used as fishing bait.
12.57-13.50	The Australian Barnacle, "We were plagued to death by them".
13.51-14.38	The fishing boat 'Daisy', could carry half a ton of mussels.
14.39-17.17	Changes caused by the building of Heysham Power Station.
17.18-18.16	Tom provides quarterly mussel samples for scientific testing of the waters.
18.17-24.50	Tragedy of the Chinese Cockle Pickers. People expected to work in the dark.
24.51-36.10	Local men who fell overboard while fishing. No protective clothing worn then.
36.11-42.00	Debris left on the sands after the war. Training walls to stabilise the sands.
Track 3	
00.00-02.08	The Training Walls (continued)
02.09-07.20	Sailing ships coming to Glasson and Lancaster in the past.
07.21-08.33	Shrimping under sail - Whammel boats.
08.34-10.23	Putting engines into the old mussel boats.
10.24-11.06	Fishermen were happy to adopt new methods.
11.07-12.00	Introduction of refrigeration and synthetic yarns for net making were revolutionary changes for Tom.
12.01-15.00	Although materials and equipment have changed, the basic fishing methods remain the same.