



The Oral History of Jerry Marancik

July 19, 2010

Interview conducted by Steve Rideout

Ambajejus Lake, Maine



Oral History Cover Sheet

Name: Jerry Marancik

Date of Interview: 7/19/2010

Location of Interview: Ambajejus Lake, ME

Interviewer: Steve Rideout

Approximate years worked for Fish and Wildlife Service: 30 years

Offices and Field Stations Worked, Positions Held: Started at Warren, PA Office of Fisheries Assistance (OFA) as a Fish Biologist, Laconia OFA, as Fish Biologist and Assistant Project Leader (APL), Berlin National Fish Hatchery (NFH) as APL and then Project Leader (PL), Craig Brook NFH as APL, Maine OFA as PL in Maine Coordinator position, finished at Green Lake NFH as PL.

Most Important Projects: Started first ATS fry stocking in Merrimack River program. Maine Salmon restoration, especially as Maine Coordinator. Atlantic salmon conservation and restoration, especially in Maine after the ESA listing.

Colleagues and Mentors: John Andersen at Warren OFA, Al Knight, Laconia OFA, Henn Gruenthal at Berlin NFH, Mike Hendrix at Craig Brook NFH, Jean Long at Laconia, Dick Roy at Berlin, Dan Kimball in RO, Chuck Stearns, and Tom Nelson at Area Office, Roger Dexter at Craig Brook, Tom Kane at Craig Brook, Jim Weaver – Assistant Regional Director (ARD) R5, Larry Stolte and Steve Rideout Merrimack and Connecticut (CT) River coordinators, Paul Rago at Leetown Science Center, Fred Griffiths as APL at Maine Coordinator/OFA office. Peter Bourque at Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (F&W), Lew Flagg at Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR), Ed Baum and Al Meister at Maine Salmon Commission, Fred Kircheis at Maine Salmon Commission.

Brief Summary of Interview: Jerry Marancik was always in Fisheries, starting and ending in an OFA office, the last one as the first ever Coordinator of Maine salmon programs. He also worked at both Berlin and Craig Brook NFH. With the exception of Warren OFA his entire career was spent in New England and mostly in Atlantic salmon conservation.

INTERVIEW

Steve Rideout: It's Monday, July 19, 2010, and I'm recording Jerry Marancik retiree from the Fish and Wildlife Service who's completed his career as the coordinator of the Maine Anadromous Fish Program. Let's start with how you got into this business Jerry.

Jerry Marancik: Actually, I think it started with my grandfather who never really grew up. And when I was about 10 years old, he moved and my grandmother and my uncle to a duplex house and we bought the other half in Rahway, New Jersey. So, for about many years I lived with my grandmother and grandfather, and my uncle was more like a big brother to me; he was 7 years older than me only. And my grandfather, as I said never grew up, use to take us fishing all the time and mostly saltwater; he raised rabbits, he did all kinds of things like that. My uncle, who, he died in a plane crash 15 years ago, but anyway as a big brother is what he was. He used to take me fishing, all kinds of fishing and I think that's really what got me into it. So that was good you know we use to do a lot of; in New Jersey there wasn't really major fresh water fishing so, well there was but not where I lived; little suburbia. So anyway, I think I just followed that. I think that's what got me into the field of biology.

SR: Did you see this interest while you were in high school as leading you in a direction you might want to go college-wise after high school?

JM: Yeah, I bet; I kind of knew what I wanted to do when I was about 12 years old.

SR: Okay.

JM: I knew I wanted to get into the field somehow and then and through high school it was, yeah, I wanted to go to college and become a biologist. I didn't know if it was fisheries or wildlife or whatever, but I wanted to do something and that's something I just always wanted to do so it worked out well.

SR: Where was college?

JM: Rutgers University, I graduated from there in 1971.

SR: So, you started directly with the Fish and Wildlife Service?

JM: Yeah, pretty much. Yeah, I graduated from Rutgers June 4, 1971. I got a telegram dated June 11 or June 10, 1971, offering me like one of six jobs, like it was Lamar, Warren, Pennsylvania; Elkins, West Virginia; I think three hatchery jobs, three fisheries service's job at the time. And they said, "Which one do you want?" So, I picked Warren, Pennsylvania and I started there on June 30, went to Warren.

SR: Was that with John Andersen?

JM: John Andersen, yeah. Yeah, and he was good, he, for a 21-year-old kid I mean fresh out of college, he was like a father; he was really good to me. And thinking back, you know when

people would ask when did you enjoy your job most and I think right then if you had given me a piece of paper and said, “Okay write down what you want, what would you take for a job?” I think that’s what I would have described. So I was in Warren, Pennsylvania 21 years old, single. I had the job that I wanted, that I couldn’t have dialed any better, living in the Alleghany National Forest, and John was really good to me, he was a good start. And very patient for a 21, he once told me the only thing he can’t forgive me for is being 21 years old. And at the time I thought that was kind of a silly remark, but I’ve since learned what that means. So, I’ve thought of that many times, that was an excellent start.

SR: Were you co-located with the hatchery at that point?

JM: No there was no hatchery.

SR: Oh, this is before the hatchery?

JM: I was in before the hatchery; I was in the Forest Service Research Station at Buckaloons, west of Warren, and we kind of rented space from them and I was there when they were building Alleghany, and it was completed while I was there. And then I moved to Laconia, New Hampshire and then after that is when the station moved to the hatchery.

SR: Okay. Do you recall who was the first hatchery manager there?

JM: His name was Bob Beers, something like that.

SR: Okay.

JM: Something like that, I can’t totally remember.

SR: So, all before Dave Ostergaard?

JM: Oh yeah. Yeah, it was, he was this guy who came in, I think that was his name, he was an old timer, and he retired shortly after that and then Ostergaard came in.

SR: Okay.

JM: But yeah, that was fun, just being a 21-year-old kid playing as a fisheries biologist, so I enjoyed that.

SR: And then up to Laconia.

JM: And then I went to Laconia and well I went to Warren as a 21-year-old kid with a ‘65 Mustang; that was my car, with a folding table, folding chair, and a folding bed because I was expecting to get drafted. And I was going to go but they were going to have to come and get me because I didn’t want to give that job up. So, I moved there in June of ’71 and I left there in December of ’74 with a very pregnant wife and a moving van. Ann was eight months pregnant, and they said, “We’re going to send you to Laconia, do you want to go before or after the baby’s

born?” I said, “Gee it would be nice if we could get there before the baby was born.” So, they ran the paperwork through the regional office like in a day, which is unheard of. I sent my wife to stay with her parents and I moved everything to Laconia. And then that was like right before Christmas and then Greg was born January 3; so, we made it. When we went house hunting, they weren’t going to let her on the plane without a doctor’s note, but they did. So yeah, then I moved to Laconia I was there for six years, from 1974 to 1980, and then that’s when I moved to Berlin, and I was in Berlin for two years. And then I moved, they closed or gave Berlin to the state and sent me to Maine as an assistant at Craig Brook under Mike Hendrix. And so, I was in that position for five years and then they created this coordinator’s position in Maine, and I got that. So, I was in that position till 2004 when I think I upset somebody named Jamie Geiger, so they sent me to Green Lake as manager eight months before I was eligible to retire. So that’s how I finished my career at Green Lake.

SR: Let’s go back to Laconia, what was the position that you took there?

JM: It was Assistant Project Leader.

SR: Assistant.

JM: Yeah, under Al Knight. And that was a lot fun, actually that was the beginning of the Merrimack River Salmon Program; I probably stocked the first salmon fry in that whole program up in the White Mountain National Forest. So that was a lot of fun.

SR: And Jean Long, who recently passed away, was also there.

JM: Yeah, she was there. She was not only just a good secretary, but she was a good friend. She was kind of a comrade; Al Knight was kind of difficult to work with and so she was a good buddy. And I was sorry to hear that she had passed.

SR: Yeah, yeah.

JM: She was fun, I mean not too much bothered her that’s what was really good; very little bothered her. She would just kind of laugh things off or if she did get upset, she’d just kind of shrug.

SR: One of the things that I want to touch on this a little bit, sort of the different levels of supervision between area offices and the regional office and that, but one of the things that I know Charlie tried to do and I thought was good, is he tried to have the office assistant or secretaries or whatever positions they happen to be, with the project leaders, he’d tried to have them at some of his project leaders meetings. And she and Diane were, you almost couldn’t separate, you couldn’t see daylight between the two of them, which usually was not a good thing for...

JM: And Nells, remember Nells from Nashua?

SR: Oh yes that’s right. The three...

JM: The three of them, that was embarrassing.

SR: Yes! In an entertaining sort of way.

JM: I remember we were at a project leader meeting and Nells and Jean Long were acting up and you know having a heck of a good time, and I was standing there talking to Vick Segarich and I said, “Should we do something?” Cuz I was, I guess acting project leader at that meeting. I said to Vick, “Should we do something?” He says, “Why?” I said, “I don’t know.” So, we both turned around and walked away and just like fine, but yeah, they were fun.

SR: Was the area office in place when you were first at Warren, or did that not happen until...?

JM: No, it was when I was in Laconia.

SR: Oh, that was what I was thinking.

JM: Yeah, that was when I was in Laconia. And, you know I liked the concept, I really did. What was difficult, it was almost like the Republicans and the Democrats. The regional office just would not give up control of the programs, which meant the control of the money and so there was always this fighting between the two, as near as I could tell. And I needed to get out of Laconia big time, so I called Chuck Sterns and said, “Look Chuck you got to do something.” So, he called me back a little bit later, oh he said, “Well we have an assistant hatchery manager position in Berlin.” I said, “Gees I really don’t want to go Berlin.” So, he said, “Okay. Let me check.” So, he called back an hour later and said, “Well I talked to Hen Gruenthal and if you want to go to Berlin, he would be happy to have you as assistant manager.” Somehow that was different, you know somehow that as different than “well we could, there was a position open.” So, I went to Berlin, and it was, as you know Berlin’s like six miles from the nearest road and it was a difficult place. My youngest son was 2, my oldest son was 6, my wife’s....

SR: And I think it’s closer to the North Pole than it is to town, right?

JM: Yeah. And my wife is not one to live like in six miles in the middle of the White Mountains in the winter with 12 feet of snow, so it was a difficult time. But Hen Gruenthal, I had absolutely no hatchery experience at the time. So, I talked to Hen about it, and he said, well another quote I remembered was, “Ignorance is temporary, stupidity is permanent.” He said, “You’ll learn.” Said, “Okay.” I said, “If you understand that then I’m happy.” And he said, “Okay.” So, I talked to my wife, and we said, “Okay we’ll get to Berlin.” And four months after I got to Berlin, Hen left, he transferred to Iron River Hatchery.

SR: Oh yes, yeah.

JM: So suddenly I’m manager of this huge, sprawling antiquated hatchery and very labor intensive. I had two people that were very reliable, Dick Roy was the biotech, and he was...

SR: Oh okay.

JM: He knew the whole system. But anyway, that's when they were trying to close Berlin, so that's when the area office and the regional office were fighting and we heard; one of these assignments I gave Elaine Nichols, the secretary at the time, was to listen to the radio first thing in the morning because the regional office, i.e. Dave Allen, was being interviewed every morning about closing the hatchery; closing it, giving it to the state or whatever.

SR: Yeah.

JM: And that was kind of annoying because no one was telling us what was happening. So, we were listening to the radio, and it was kind of infuriating but that's where, again, the regional office...

SR: That was your information source.

JM: ...it was yeah, listening to the radio. And that's where, again, I think a lot of it was cuz the regional office and the area office were competing. One day in the mail, I got a printout of all of the hatchery finances, and it said to Dan Kimball, who was in the regional office. So, I called Dan up and said, "If you have any questions, ask me. I'll be happy to give you any information you want." I said, "But you don't have to sneak around." And Dan said, "Well I wasn't." So that was, and then shortly afterwards then I went to Craig Brook two years after that and that's when the area offices were absolved or dissolved.

SR: Okay. That's interesting I didn't realize you moved there, so you moved to Craig Brook a bit before they actually closed down the area office or just about exact same time?

JM: Just about the same time, yeah, just about the same time.

SR: So, in which case they knew that was going to be happening?

JM: I think so, yeah. Well, that was, you know, you tried to predict the future, and I remember telling my wife, "The area offices will never close, the government usually doesn't take that bold of step to establish an office." And it was probably six months later they were closed, cuz when they were trying to close Berlin, I was actually looking maybe at getting, moving into an area office. I wanted a job so I figured I'd rather kind of look at what kind of jobs I could dial up for myself. But you know I mentioned Dan Kimball in probably not the most complementary way a couple minutes ago, but if there's anybody I truly liked, truly respected and influenced me through my career it's probably Dan. I mean he was probably in almost my whole career; he was somehow involved either my direct supervisor or indirect supervisor or something like that. He was always, except for these couple incidents when the area office and the regional office were fighting, Dan was always there, and I appreciated that.

SR: I think that was a big challenge for them because clearly, they had had such a primary rule until the area offices came in and I think Charlie viewed part of his responsibility is trying to make those lines clear whether they saw eye to eye or not. And so, it was like well if we have these things here's how they ought to run, there ought to be something substantive about them.

JM: You know I know Charlie wasn't the most popular person, as I said I kind of like the concept I thought it was nice having local influence, local knowledge of the projects in the areas. And Chuck Stearns was, I thought, was great; Tom Nelson was great. I enjoyed working with them and again they were very supportive. They knew the program, they knew the people and for me, especially being in Berlin, which was a difficult time, they were there, they were supportive.

SR: While you were there, who were some of the other; now you were there two years?

JM: In Berlin?

SR: Yeah. Who were...

JM: Yeah, October of '80 to August of '82.

SR: Who were some of your other hatchery manager counterparts during that time period?

JM: Bernie Dennison was at Green Lake.

SR: Okay.

JM: Mike Hendrix was at Craig Brook, Segarich, no, maybe it wasn't Segarich. It was that other guy at Nashua that moved...

SR: Out west.

JM: ...he went down south.

SR: Oh, down south.

JM: Anyway, and then maybe Vick came in, I'm not sure. Yeah, I think Vick was at Nashua, but he replaced somebody 'cause I remember calling this other hatchery manager when I was on Laconia, he might have moved to White Sulphur I'm not sure; asked him if he had any positions in region 4 uhm. So those were basically the, then there was Dan McKinnon at Berlin.

SR: Okay, yeah.

JM: And as you said, Ostergaard at Alleghany.

SR: Was Berlin, it was primarily doing trout during that time period is that right?

JM: We started the salmon program.

SR: Okay.

JM: Yeah. We started getting eggs in from Nashua, I believe, salmon eggs.

SR: Okay.

JM: And then we were raising some smolts.

SR: Four year smolts at Berlin?

JM: (Chuckling) Yeah, I think, they were small. Yeah, we had the new raceways, there were some new raceways built for the salmon. But they were at the end of the trail, so, you know, that's where I put the salmon. I mean those were the salmon raceways and kind of found out later that they should have been really been up, Roger Dexter gave me hell for putting down there when they should have been up at the headwaters because they're more important and they needed more virgin water if you will.

SR: Roger was still the virologist...

JM: He was at Craig Brook.

SR: Bacteriologist. I guess he was...

JM: Pathologist or whatever he was, yeah, he was at Craig Brook at the time.

SR: Were you one of the folks that ever rented his camp over there on the Maine coast?

JM: I don't think we stayed there. We went there twice; I think Tom Nelson and his family rented it for a week and then we went and visited them for just a day; I believe, I don't think we stayed there. I see his wife at the hardware store.

SR: Is that right?

JM: Shirley, yeah, she...

SR: They still have the camp.

JM: Do they? That's what I was, I hadn't asked her that.

SR: And I say that just because that part of the state is still an area that we like because we've gone there, we rented at least three maybe even four years in a row and it was mainly because Vick had, and Rick Nelson had, and Tom had, and they all raved about it, and we had great times too. So, every once in a while, we're in that area we'll just take a drive down and there's still the Dexter tag on the tree.

JM: Yeah, next time I see Shirley, and that's one thing nice about working at the hardware store because I see people that I was involved with in little league like twenty years ago, which I hadn't seen in twenty years and then all a sudden I see them almost every day and people like Shirley come in and just chat with her for a little bit so that's kind of nice, but I never thought of

asking her if they still have that camp. Yeah, I know that was almost a Fish and Wildlife Service haven.

SR: Yeah exactly.

JM: And they didn't have to go any farther than the Service I don't think.

SR: So, Berlin up to Craig Brook then?

JM: Yeah, Craig Brook was like living in the middle of a big city after Berlin. The only thing I regret about Berlin is that Greg remembers some of it, but David was two to four years old when we lived there, and he doesn't remember anything. And it was just a really neat place, like one day, one evening my wife took a walk just down the road and she couldn't get home because two moose were standing in the middle of the road and they wouldn't move, and she came home madder than hell. You know but for the kids to sit there, we used to watch the cow moose and her calves in the pond and everything, and it was really kind of a neat place, but it was difficult. And then they did give it to the state.

SR: Did you and she meet at Rutgers?

JM: Yeah. Again, they brought a manager in Berlin, I can't remember his name I should; he went to Connecticut, you know him. I think he went to Sunderland.

SR: Oh Jim Van Alstine.

JM: Jim Van Alstine.

SR: Yes.

JM: He came in as manager while I was still there. I think the area office again was taking pity on me. So, they brought him in as manager and I'm not sure he was aware that they were trying to close it or give it away.

SR: Well, my recollection of that time period is Charlie was very strong on the side of "Oh they'll never close this." And I think if the only option had been open or close, he would have probably been right but because the state of New Hampshire was obviously very interested in it that made it easy, I think, at higher levels in the service to say, "We can make this happen."

JM: Yeah, so anyway they brought Van Alstine in and so he was manager for 6 months I think, something like that.

SR: Yeah.

JM: Maybe around there and then he went to Sunderland, and they sent me to Craig Brook. So, I had been talking to ES in Concord about any positions they had down there, and they really didn't have any. And then I was talking to Chuck Stearns and Maloy about it, and they said, "No

we'd rather keep you in fisheries, so we do have a position at Craig Brook that we'll send you to." So that's how I ended up at Craig Brook.

SR: Who were the other staff people at Berlin, what happened to them?

JM: Elaine, I think, just retired or left. She was from there and she was kind of elderly. And you know she's one of the people that I often kick myself for not keeping in touch with or finding out what happened to her, she was pretty elderly 30 years ago so.

SR: What was her last name?

JM: Nichols.

SR: Okay, oh that rings a bell so I must have seen her once or twice.

JM: Yeah, Elaine Nichols, but she was just a motherly, very nice lady and I don't know what happened to her; kind of lose touch. And Dick Roy, he was kicked around for a while and his son Steve, who I worked with on Laconia and that was with the Green Mountain National Forest. He and I kept in touch 'cause he was involved in the program as was I. So, we used to keep in touch that way, but Dick Roy...

SR: Went over to White River.

JM: Yeah, right. There was Valerie Elliott, who she quit, that was a difficult situation. But basically, that was it and the rest of it was YACC's; YCC's YACC's, we ran the whole program with them. One of the criteria, the school bus would come up and pickup our son, which again was six miles from the winding, narrow, forest road. And if the road was too snowy, we would bring my son, Greg, down to the road and meet the school bus; so, our criteria was two inches of snow. So, I'd get up in the morning, that's two inches.

SR: To your knuckle.

JM: To my knuckle, I'd stick my knuckle in the snow and if it was two inches I'd put him in the car and take him down and meet the bus down there. If it was less than two inches the bus would come up and pick him up, so I'm sure they were more than happy when we finally moved to Maine.

SR: So that was the only school child at the station.

JM: At the time, yeah.

SR: Now were you on station housing?

JM: Yeah.

SR: Yeah, okay.

JM: Yeah, you almost had to be.

SR: Sure.

JM: So, I mean it was just kind of, well to this day Ann and I don't talk about Berlin. (Laughing.) That was very difficult.

SR: Craig Brook was a big change then?

JM: Oh, it really was and the Hendrix, they had like a daughter who was my son Greg's age so that was good. And then Mike and Ann Hendrix are just tremendous people, so that was good for Ann, and it was a real family affair. So, we got along great, and it was just heaven after Berlin. And I still keep in touch with Mike quite a bit, I'm afraid I've lost touch with most people, but I still do keep in touch with Hendrix.

SR: That's good; I'll have to do that too.

JM: Yeah, I have his email address, I can give it to you some time. Yeah, Craig Brook was nice.

SR: And so, he was the hatchery manager, who else was there; so, Roger Dexter I guess was still there at that point?

JM: Roger was there. Tom Kane.

SR: Oh okay, yep, yep.

JM: He was there. Well, he was acting assistant manager until I came as assistant manager, and he was kind of like the hatchery biologist type thing. And he went out west somewhere.

SR: Okay, yeah.

JM: Columbia, something like that. John Soper was the maintenance man; Peter Bourque was the biotech. And at Green Lake, Bernie, I don't think Marchyshyn, yeah Marchyshyn was manager at Green Lake when I was at Craig Brook, but he retired shortly afterwards and then Bernie came in. That's what it was, Marchyshyn was there when I was there and then Bernie Dennison came in as manager. Craig Brook, well I said Warren was probably the most fun I had, most enjoyable, a GS 5, you know, no real responsibilities and too stupid to know if I did have any responsibilities, you know it was just fun. Craig Brook was probably the best for the family....

SR: Yeah.

JM: ...as a family cause if you remember the old Craig Brook, I mean it was just a big open field.

SR: Yes.

JM: Right on Alamoosook, you know the kids could play ball in the field, go down to the beach, go down to the lake and catch frogs. The Hendrix's were just a tremendous family, so that was really good. The kids would go up to the hatchery building and wait for the bus and the secretaries would make sure they were prim and proper and take care of them, comb their hair if necessary. It was just a whole good family affair type thing, it was nice.

SR: Other residents on the road going into the hatchery besides you folks?

JM: Are there other residents?

SR: Yeah, were there then, so the school bus wasn't coming just for your kids?

JM: It might have been but it's only like a mile and a half as opposed to six miles.

SR: Yeah exactly, six mile yeah.

JM: There might have been a couple other houses on the road. Now it's built up, there's a lot of houses on that road now, it's built up quite a bit. So that was fine, and Mike was a good friend as well as, he was a good hatchery manager and a lot of fun; that was just a good time, I was there for five years as assistant manager.

SR: Okay.

JM: And I lived on the station in that 1929 farmhouse behind the hatchery building, the one that Chris Domina lives in now. And that was a nice big ole farmhouse, which I think if we could've bought a house, we would've bought a house just like that. So, Ann, my wife, liked the house and as I said a great place for the kids to play, it was good. But after I got a coordinator position, I figured I'd better kind of move out. Of course, when we first got to Craig Brook you could've bought a house for like \$25,000. When I left the hatchery housing six years later, it was like \$100,000 for a house. That's when all the people from Massachusetts moved up and discovered Maine where you could buy half of Orland for what their 3-bedroom cape cost. Yeah, a lot of, like Roger Dexter retired while I was there, the secretary retired while I was there, Marchyshyn, Dennison, no I don't think Dennison ever retired, did he? I think he just, I think he died.

SR: No, he retired.

JM: Did he retire?

SR: Yeah...

JM: I'm sorry yes, he did.

SR: I remember going to his retirement thing but, he went on with one of the salmon culture things were just starting up and he went on with them, cuz I remember Dan Kimball giving quite

this little thing characterizing what Bernie was doing in retirement versus what he was doing, of course, the way Dan did it and only he could do it made it sound like there was zero change. So, it's like, so you didn't really retire then, right?

JM: Gees I'm sure I went to, I'm sure I would have gone to Bernie's.

SR: It was in Bangor, I think somewhere...

JM: Yeah, I'm sure I went.

SR: ...it almost might have been the same place that Al Meister's was.

JM: Yeah, I'm sure I went, it's funny I just don't remember it. But yeah, so a lot of people retired.

SR: Quite a few changes.

JM: Yeah, even at that time.

SR: So, from there you went into the coordinator job when they created that?

JM: Yeah, and that was a lot of, very controversial because the state of Maine didn't want the feds getting their foot in the door with a position as influential as a coordinator.

(Break in tape)

SR: And we're back at Craig Brook picking up with the coordinator's position.

JM: Yeah, and that was kind of funny the way it started like small town USA. I was in the supermarket shopping and our former secretary, Betty Jane, said something like, "Hey I understand you're moving." And I said, "What?" She said, "You're getting a new job." I said, "Really?" I said, "No." She laughed, she said, "Yeah." I said, "No I'm not." She said, "Okay." So, the next morning I said, "Hey Mike, I understand, is there something happening?" I said, "Somebody just told me I was moving." And he kind of like huh alright, he said, "Yeah they're trying to create a coordinator's position, and you are in line but there has been some opposition by the state so, so you know it's in the works." And I just thought it was funny that some, and this former secretary who was no longer even with the service, knew about it before and I just still don't know how she found out.

SR: The grapevine has mysterious pathways.

JM: Oh, it's wonderful, yeah. But yeah, there was some opposition by DMR and by the Salmon Commission and Al Meister. But Ed Baum was supportive of the position, and I guess he kind of pushed his, Bill Vail, who at the time was his commissioner of IF&W. And one day Bill Vail called Howard Larson and said, "Yeah go ahead with it." So, I got a call from Dan Kimball saying that I'm now the coordinator in Maine, as opposed to the Maine coordinator. I never did

like Maine coordinator because people would say, “Oh you’re the Maine coordinator.” I’d say, “No I’m the coordinator in Maine.” And so that’s kind of how I started and that was kind of, I talk about people who you influenced you like you were the coordinator on the Connecticut, Stolte was the coordinator on the Merrimack, and I was the rookie. And I *really* do appreciate to this day how you guys kind of helped me out, took me under your wing. And the Three Amigos is kind of how, other people called us Three Stooges, but that was okay, I preferred Three Amigos. I really do appreciate the support that you guys gave me and advice on some of the things.

SR: Who was the ARD for Fisheries then?

JM: I’m not sure now, was it Dave Allen?

SR: Well, I’m thinking that might be the case in that I know Dave Allen was the one who I first heard at that level come up with that idea. I remember him talking about it, so I know it was something he wanted to do, I just was never quite certain whether that happened while he was still there or after we would come, but I think it was, he was still there probably.

JM: I think he was, but he might have left shortly most of my work was with Weaver.

SR: Weaver, yeah.

JM: So, you know, it was kind of interesting actually being the coordinator. First issue that came up that I had to brief Howard Larson on was the Native American, the Penobscot’s, they had some issues, and they wanted to discuss with the regional director. So that was probably my first assignment as a coordinator to go between the tribe and the regional office, and that was kind of fun. I went down to the regional office to brief everybody, and it was kind of nerve wracking, actually. Then my next assignment was the Basin Mills Computer, the simulation that Larry Stolte helped me with.

SR: Was Paul Rago involved with that?

JM: Yeah, you know Larry taught me a lot about it and then one time we had a committee of the Penobscot’s, the state, Bangor Hydro, and we were putting in the data, running the simulations and it took, it was a lengthy process. And at one point we didn’t know what some of it meant or some of the ramifications, so Paul Rago flew in a couple times to meet with the committee and kind of explained what it did mean. And again, that was kind of stressful because it was, everybody took the computer simulations to be, well you get two numbers; with Basin Mills is this percent of probability, without it is this percent and it’s just too easy to misuse those two numbers. And so, it was a good exercise, but it was, again, kind of people jumped on the numbers too much just as empirical yes or no’s. So, then we went into the Basin Mill’s hearings with Gordon Russell, who was major. Clem Fay and John Banks for the Penobscot’s were influential in that so; Kimball again was involved. And talk about people that, there were some people that you like but you don’t respect over the years, some that you respect but you don’t like, some you don’t like or respect and some you both like and respect. And Gordon Russell was one of those, to this day, I both like and respect; I just really enjoyed working with him. He

just amazed me how he could take information from the past, stand up in front of a large crowd and just methodically go through the information, logically piece together the puzzle; it just amazed me how he did that. And then to go have a beer with you and just be a normal person so, but I really enjoyed working with him. I told him one time, you know, he made my life miserable because every program I worked on with him was controversial and difficult. I said, "I don't ever think I worked on fun project with you." And he just laughed in his typical way.

SR: He's another person I should interview.

JM: Yeah, he is, he was great. You know there are a couple people that are like that that you ask maybe about people that influenced me and everything. And I'm not saying this just because you're here, but you are probably the other one, you and Gordon are the two that I both like and always respected. And I remembered on the Kennebec when they wanted to start a Kennebec River coordinator position, something like that. You remember that?

SR: Actually, I don't but you know it would have made sense...

JM: Yeah, you were in the regional office at the time, and they were trying to start a Kennebec River coordinator position and Geiger wanted me to go meet with Lew Flagg and some other people...

SR: Oh yes.

JM: ...and he said, "Okay this is what I want you to say." And I was saying, "Okay why don't we just start slow, get like maybe \$15,000, get involved in the Kennebec and work." And he said, "No, no we're going to ask for like \$250,000 and get a coordinator's position and everything." And he told me he said, "This is what I want you to say." And it was ridiculous actually and you came in and you said, "No you can't expect him to say that." I mean, "You can't tell him what to say and then expect him to go to a meeting and say it." So, Jaime went, we went, I went, Jaime, that might have been it. But he did, he said what he wanted to be said and the next day Lew Flagg and some of the private people, Trout Unlimited or whoever else was there I forget, were calling me up saying, "That's ridiculous!" Like Lew Flagg said, "I would have supported a position or involvement, but not at that level." He said, "No that was ridiculous!" So, I said, "Yeah." So, I always appreciate you getting me out of that and when you were Connecticut River coordinator, again, you were there very supportive.

SR: Yeah, I do remember that now, that situation.

JM: Yeah, I remember you saying, "You can't expect him..." Like I could've said that, well I would've said that but I'm glad you did cause he listened to you. And I appreciate that, but as I said even when I was just working with you it was, I do appreciate the support. It was logical! I mean you were not; you were reasonable, you were logical and that was fun; I appreciated that. Stolte sometimes gave me some bad advice.

SR: One of the sayings that you made to me that is like just absolutely stuck forever, and I think it was like just when you had first started in the Maine Coordinator position. I don't know quite

where we were at, but you just made this comment along the lines of, “I don’t really know that much about salmon, but whenever Larry Stolte and Al Knight agree, I take it as gospel.”

JM: Oh yeah, those two.

SR: Which would have been, what like two times! (Laughing.)

JM: Yeah, yeah, I remember driving somewhere to New Jersey or somewhere, I forget, and I was sitting between the two of them in the front seat; it was when we only had a like a front seat in a van type thing. It was the two of them going back and forth, back and forth and then when I was in Laconia, not maybe we were just going up to Bangor to start when working with the Salmon Commission because it was the beginning of the Merrimack Program, so the three of us went up to Bangor to meet with Al Meister and Ed Baum. And we were in the motel and Knight and Stolte started arguing and they were arguing, and I couldn’t stand it anymore. So, I left, I went to the local bar down the road. I came back several hours later, they didn’t move they’re just still arguing. I said, “I’m going to bed.” But just the two of them were just constant. And then again that’s where Mrs. Long, Ann Long would just kind of like, “Yeah whatever.” And then the, like the Atlantic Salmon Coordinating Committee, was that...

SR: Oh yeah ASCCOM.

JM: Yeah ASCCOM, when you were the first chairman.

SR: Oh, yes, that’s right, yeah.

JM: You were the first chairman for like one year and then I got it.

SR: Okay that’s right ‘cause I went down to D.C.

JM: Yeah, I cannot tell you how much I learned from that one, cuz again I was a new coordinator just maybe a year or so. But you had done a great job setting up the process, the whole people bringing information, and we’d assemble it and everything. And it was an evolving process, but the basics were there, and I thought, okay well people, we did it last year. Everybody’s going to know what to do, they’re going bring in their information and we’re going to you know do this, and this, and this. It didn’t happen and I wasn’t prepared for that, so it was kind of interesting to; I learned a lot, an awful lot. And I was getting some grief from like Kevin Friedland, like, “Mr. Chairman, why are we doing this?” Or “What are doing?” And I remember 2 A.M. walking the streets of, where were we, that motel there near Woods Hole?

SR: Oh yes, yeah, I know what, I can’t remember the name.

JM: Where we stayed at, but anyway 2 A.M. I’m walking the streets talking to myself and it was just an extremely valuable lesson that I learned that don’t expect people to know what to do without being reminded from year to year, and don’t expect them to just do it without being asked to do. That would be outlined so that was extremely valuable. So, I think I was chairman of that committee for three years and then I gave it to Stolte. But yeah, that was kind of

interesting, again a valuable learning experience when you can get a chance to help somebody, well like your staff, give them a lesson, “Okay I learned this during the assessment committee, this is what you shouldn’t do.” But anyway, I do appreciate what you did for me when I was both coordinator and when you were in the regional office.

SR: Now you started out then as coordinator in Maine and just yourself, but you actually expanded into a bit more of almost a Fisheries Assistant Office right.

JM: Yeah right. Yeah, the Salmon Commission was asking for help in the field, so I did get an assistant, Fred Griffiths.

SR: Okay, yeah.

JM: Who came from Warren, actually, with Andersen. So, he came up and he was with me for four years, something like that, five, four years. And then he went to Alleghany, which he was from Warren actually. So, he had a chance to go home, and he retired from Warren but, so anyway I had like one assistant and then I got this grant money, and it was like a hundred, I don’t know what; I forget what it was, a hundred thousand, quarter of a million, two hundred thousand. Actually, I forget what it was, it was a sizable chunk of change, and it was a three year program to evaluate salmon or initiate the salmon restoration program down east mostly and investigate or do some outreach. So, I did get to put on some “temporary people” including Peter Steenstra, who was in outreach, and he’s still there at Craig Brook. By then Tracy Copeland had come in, Griffiths went to Alleghany, Tracy Copeland came in as assistant project leader. But she wasn’t on the stewardship money is what it was, she wasn’t on that. So, I hired Denise Buckley, Peter Steenstra, Dan Kircheis who had worked for the Salmon Commission, is now working for NOAA.

SR: Okay, alright, yeah.

JM: So, he started with me on the stewardship money and a couple other people that moved on, that kid in federal aid now, I forget his name. Anyway, he worked for me for just a little bit and then he went to stay, I can’t remember his name he’s in federal aid now; starts with an ‘S.’

SR: It’s not Ken Sprankle?

JM: Yeah, Ken Sprankle.

SR: He’s actually the Connecticut River Coordinator now.

JM: Yeah, now right.

SR: And Joe McKeon, I guess, is like the coordinator of the coordinators or something like that.

JM: He’s the main the coordinator (laughing).

SR: Yeah.

JM: That's right Ken Sprankle, yeah, he went over to Connecticut when Jan went to the regional office. So anyway, he worked for me for a little bit under the Stewardship Program. And that lasted for three years and then I was able to keep Denise Buckley on, so she's been there for probably like 15 years anyway. And Peter Steenstra, same thing. So yeah, it did evolve, it did cause, it did create some confusion actually because with all these people under me it was kind of difficult being the coordinator. So, I wasn't sure if I was a project leader or coordinator, what my position really was; so that was a little bit difficult. What else?

SR: That was the position that you ultimately retired from?

JM: No actually I...

SR: Oh, that's right!

JM: Eight months before I was eligible to retire, it was about a year before I was eligible to retire, they asked me if I wanted to go to Green Lake and I said, "No," as manager, I said, "No." Fred Trasko didn't, had been acting for like three years.

SR: Yeah, I think I remember that.

JM: And, yeah, and he didn't want the position, so they asked me if I wanted it and I said, "No." I said, "I just want to complete my career here and finish out what I'm doing." So finally, Carl Burger, who at that time was the Complex Coordinator for the Maine program which was the Fisheries Assistance, Craig Brook and Green Lake. So, he called me in he said, "We're sending you to Green Lake." And I said, "Well," I said, "I'll give you my decision in the morning." He said, "No you don't understand, we're sending you to Green Lake." And I said, "Well let me calm down and I'll talk to you in the morning." So, they sent me to Green Lake and so that's where I finished my career. I was there from March '04 to December '04. And I retired on December 31.

SR: And I think I remember going maybe to your, at least one of your wrap up events down in the greater regional office area.

JM: Yeah probably.

SR: Over at the West Street Café or whatever; it was fun.

JM: I didn't want a, that's how I wanted; I didn't want a big party. And I had some people that I wanted to say goodbye to and to do it kind of my way.

SR: It was a good time.

JM: So, I had this big official meeting down at the regional office and went down with Jan and you, and my friends and that's what I wanted; I didn't want a party. I did same thing I met with some of the state people in Augusta; we just went out, had lunch and that was fun.

SR: Who were some of the key state people you worked with over the years?

JM: Peter Bourque, I worked with, I started working with him on the Spruce Budworm Program when I first got to Laconia, which was 1975, I think. There was Spring for Spruce Budworm in northern Maine, and we had received some money to evaluate the impacts on the fisheries program or fisheries from the Spruce Budworm Spring. So, at the time Peter Bourque was the regional biologist in Ashland, Maine.

SR: Oh, okay up in Ashland.

JM: Up in Ashland. So, he and I worked very closely on that and then from then on, again he's one of the guys that I really, really like and enjoyed working with, and from then on, we're just good friends so I worked with him for a long time. Lew Flagg was probably one of the most gentlemen people I've ever met. And I could tell you one story, but I won't, but anyway he was just a very gentlemen type thing. Then of course the Salmon Commission with Ed Baum, Al Meister. I think that's pretty much it as far as...

SR: Had Joan gone before you left?

JM: Who?

SR: Joan Trial.

JM: She was actually a research biologist with IF&W.

SR: Okay still when...

JM: Yeah, still was. And I was on her selection committee when she applied for her current position as chief scientist or whatever it is. So, I was on her, the selection committee for that position, and so she got that when Ed retired. And I do still keep in touch with her, she's a lot of fun.

SR: Yes.

JM: And like I said one of the, I do keep in touch with, we have lunch every couple months with Fred Kircheis, who is now retired. He was the...

SR: He was their first executive director when they went that route.

JM: He was. And he's the one who had the courage to close the Salmon Fishery in 1995 or whatever it was; so, he had the courage to do that. So, I have lunch with him and Joan and John Kocik and it's fun 'cause we talk about canoes and fishing and gardening...

SR: Non-program stuff.

JM: Non-program and then it will drift to what's happening on the Penobscot for a little bit or down east and then it will get back, but it's nothing serious. So, I enjoy the, 'cause they're just a bunch of interesting people.

SR: Jerry this has been great, thanks a lot. I appreciate it.

JM: My pleasure.

