

Lianne : How old would you have been then?

Mr. Wiseman : Oh, still going to school, when I was sailing around.....

Lianne : So 12, something like that?

Mr. Wiseman :the Harbour. Yeah. I must have been in the last years of school, because, well I was what, 13 when the war started, so obviously I can't, I looked after the, that boat while Mick Stenning was away at the war. I used to put it up on the bank and paint it and clean it for him, and so, I, you know, I can't sort of remember when I started these things and when I finished them because I had no reason to, it was just that I had a boat at my disposal and I was going to use it. Oh, I used to get told off. Mum used to tell me off, after school I'd get down there, sailing around, and I'd forget all about time and arrive home at 8 o'clock for tea and this sort of thing, well, it didn't go down too well. Oh well, whether there was a boat I used to like to be in it. (*Lianne laughs*) And that's, that's the reason why I took to fishing like I did. Well, I went with dad and as I said, at 10 years of age, I knew you know, all the fishing drops and have remembered them ever since.

Lianne : And it must have been a real family thing, because Aunty Von had a photo here earlier, which was um, it looked like it would have been the 1910, 1920, something like that, and it was a barrow, like a big cart – big flat cart with a really big high wagon wheel, and it was covered with fish and she said she thought that it was your Uncle Sam Wiseman who used to sell....No?

Mr. Wiseman : No, that was Uncle Bill Wiseman, er yes, he used to have this flat trayed hand cart with, oh, er wheels about so high.....

Lianne : So, what's that, about a metre and a half high?

09:24

Mr. Wiseman : Wooden spoke, wooden spoke wheels and on Thursday afternoons when, which was shopping afternoon.....

Lianne : Market Day.....

Mr. Wiseman :for the farmers, he used to be down on the corner of McFarlane's store, selling his fish there. Well, he used to sell quite a few too! But, yes that went on for years. It was just a way of making a crust, that was the thing.....

Lianne : But you weren't the only one that liked the fish because you used to have to fight the sharks for them, didn't you? Didn't you have some shark tales there? (*Laughs*)

10:05

Mr. Wiseman : OOh, sharks! Yes, well, well one day I went out and em, well Frank Stocker had been to this ground and he'd caught 450 pound of snapper, and I said to him, well, are you going out in the morning, do a morning trip? And he said, no I

think I just about caught all that was there, so I said alright, well I'll go. So I got up at some ungodly hour and got out there at daylight in the morning, and there was fish to burn there, they were. But there were sharks there too, and I'd lost 20 fish to catch 11. I had 11 in my well, and I'd lost just about all my gear, hooks and sinkers, they were breaking the lines and I was just standing there rigging a line when this shark came to the surface and started circling around the boat, and, next thing he went around the boat and came in underneath the well, and ohh, gave it a bump. And I thought, oh yeah, he's miscued a bit there, so, he came out the other side and went around and came back and did the same thing again, and I thought, oh yeah, well I think it's time to go Bryan, so I started the motor up and just idled up on the anchor and started pulling the anchor up and got the anchor up about, aw, I reckon about 10 feet off the bottom when he hit it the first time and I was standing there pulling it, and of course, nearly dived me over the bow (*Lianne laughing*) and er, so well I had to go on pulling it up and it got it up to within about, oh, I would think 10 to 15 feet from the surface and he came straight up and had another go at it. And when I saw him coming, I just slid down the mast and sat down. (*Mr. Wiseman and Lianne laugh*) Anyway, I got the anchor up and I headed for home and I, well I was about 5 miles out I suppose, and I got back into the entrance, well just inside the entrance when I met Frank Stocker and Leon Jackson just going out fishing and I told them what had happened and, well, Stocker said to me, as soon as he saw me, he said, what's wrong with you, you're as white as a sheep? (*Lianne and Mr. Wiseman laugh*). And I thought I would've got my colour back by then, but anyway, I said, well there's a school out there but I said the sharks are too good for me, so he said, what about the three of us go back there again? Well, I wasn't very happy about it, but I did, but and I went back there again and the first fish I hooked the shark took that. (*Mr. Wiseman and Lianne laugh*) So we only caught 2 fish between the three of us, and the sharks got so bad that we gave it away, you just couldn't, couldn't land one. And that was when the, obviously I didn't know at the time, but that was when the shark had opened his jaws on the bilge of my boat and left 3 teeth, (*Lianne laughing*) that were, well they were virtually sticking through the planks. The planks were an inch thick, and they'd just lifted the timber a bit on the inside, and broke it off level.

Lianne : So when did you find that?

Mr. Wiseman : I didn't find that until I put my boat up on the bank to paint it and scrub it (*Lianne laughing*) and that's when I found them, and I couldn't believe, look I just couldn't believe it.....

Lianne : Nice surprise for you.

14:03

Mr. Wiseman :when I saw it, but that, that's when it happened, there's no other time that I'd had a shark hit the boat like that. There was, there was so many incidents with sharks, it was a pretty hazardous job; fishing for snapper when they were around and, one year there in '63 or '64, when that big school was out there, and there was a lot of boats fishing out there, well, there was 9 boats there and Frank Stocker was unfortunate enough to have the shark hit his boat, and he cracked a piece of plank out of it, four inches wide and about, oh, a foot long, I suppose, but it happened to be above the water line, but that was the only time that, I think, that a

boat got hit. Your father and I were there and we didn't see hide nor hair of the shark. So, we were going out again the next night and Frank put a lead patch over that hole (*laughs*) and went out fishing and caught a couple thousand pound of snapper again, so yeah so, that was a, but sharks hitting boats, well it, Leon Jackson er, he was out, I wasn't there this particular day, but he was fishing and there were 2 or 3 other boats there with him and er he only had a few snapper in his boat, in his well, and he was pulling a double header, and this shark came straight up, but it went straight past the fish into the bottom of his boat and put a hole through, well he reckoned about 2 feet in diameter. The boat went down in about 2 and a half minutes, and fortunately the other boats were able to get him off. They couldn't pull their anchors and get to him, they just started their motors with the anchor down and motored to him and got him off, and they grabbed the anchor line as it went down, and that was all that they had to, they were going to try and tow the boat in, but they said the shark was ah, well the fish in his well had turned up and they were floating on the water, but the shark was just snapping at everything that was floating on the water, it was just, it went berserk, so er, he lost the boat and he'd just put a brand new Simplex motor in it, it had been in it 3 weeks. (*Mr. Wiseman and Lianne laugh*) So, that was just another shark tale.

The other time, there was 3 of us fishing, there was Ross Turner, Vaughan Williams and myself, 3 boats and, and but it had been a very rough night and they'd been more boats out there but they went home because it was too rough to stay, and we stopped on because we reckoned that eventually we'd get fish, and which we did. When the moon came up at about 11 o'clock and as soon as the moon came up the, er the wind went off and it went off to be quite a reasonable night, we started catching fish and Ross Turner sang out to me, soon after we started fishing, and he said that there was a shark here and I said, yeah I know, I said, I've already lost one line and, and I heard it hit his boat, and anyway I had 7 heavy snapper lines ring because I'd had a couple of lads fishing with me before, not long before that and when I finished that night I had one sinker and one hook left. (*Lianne laughs*) And I'd used, broken all my lines and I'd re-rigged the lines with the spare hooks and sinkers I had, and I did finish up with about 1100 pound fish, but, Vaughan Williams was anchored, oh, he was probably 50, 60 yards away and he wasn't getting very many and he came on the radio and asked if we were getting any and I said, yeah, we're getting fish but there's plenty of sharks here too! And he said, well, I think I'll stay where I am. Anyway, eventually he came up and anchored alongside me, and he had his anchor line bitten off, he'd lost his anchor. The shark apparently had a snapper in its mouth and swam over his anchor line and it got caught in its jaws and, and bit the anchor line through.

Lianne : What was the anchor line? It wasn't metal. A rope.

Mr. Wiseman : No, no, it was silver rope. But er, yeah but they found the anchor, that was the rope floated to the surface and Des Wren went out next morning and when the tide was slack, the rope floated to the surface. (*Lianne laughs*) But there was a lot of sharks there that night, I don't know how many, I reckon I lost between three and four hundred pound of fish that night with the amount of gear I lost, and we always fish with 2 lines, you'd, you'd be pulling a fish on one line, you'd throw your other out, you'd pull that fish in and land it, bait it up and throw it back in and you'd have fish on your other line then and you'd start pulling, well this particular night,

normally sharks while you're fishing like that, if your line was on the bottom the shark wouldn't touch the fish that were on your line, but they did this night. You'd hear your line go *twang* and that was it. (*Lianne laughs*) So, but that was a fairly hairy sort of a night, we should have cleared out before we did, but, anyway we preserved and got a few fish but there's Frank Stocker had, was fishing for snapper one day and it was a smaller one, but he reckoned it was about 9 – 10 feet long, and it chased a fish up when he was landing it, like swimming it over out of the water over into his boat, the shark flew straight up over his boat, (*Lianne laughs*) and slid back into the water again.

Lianne : I thought somebody had had said something about a shark following a fish out of the water.

20:50

Mr. Wiseman : Yeah, oh, they do. Well, I was out with Shane, Shane's boat one day. Shane was there and I was pulling a fish, there wasn't very much tide, and pulling it virtually straight up and I had the fish, er, well, it was on the bottom hook and I had the line that I'd grabbed where the snooze went off for the top hook to lift this fish abroad, and the shark came out from under the boat and grabbed the grabbed the fish, and ripped the fish off it, but when the strain came on the line, it was nylon line, the top hook went in an arc and came out and went straight through my thumb there. (*Lianne says OOOHHH!*). Through the glove and split my thumb off. Yeah, when I took the glove off and showed it to Shane (*laughs*) he said, you're very lucky, if that had gone into my left hand, well it would have, I wouldn't, I don't know what would have happened to my hand. Number 10 snap hook would have been through it like that, but that was just fortunate probably it was, it hit the bone and it was enough to turn it off so that it didn't go through the bone.....

Lianne : Gosh.

Mr. Wiseman :yes, and er, another day I took Shane out, it was virtually the first time he'd been out on snapper, and I said to him.....

Lianne : So how old would he have been then?

Mr. Wiseman :well he was still going to school. It was probably, could have been 12 or 13 or 14, I wouldn't know. But he was, he hadn't experienced catching snapper and I said to him, now if you're pulling a snapper and I sing out to you to let go, well you drop your line because it will be a shark coming. The boat was like that, say that was the stern and we were fishing across here, he was fishing on this side and he was fishing across here and he had to pull the fish around the boat to throw.....

Lianne : So he'd pulling it back across the boat? Yep.

Mr. Wiseman :it aboard. Well, I saw this shark coming and he was just in the process of pulling it around the corner.....

Lianne : Side of the boat.

Mr. Wiseman :of the boat, and lifting the fish out of the water, and this damn shark flew out about 3 foot 6.....(Lianne laughs)it was that level with the top of the rudder, and Shane sort of, he completed the circle, he didn't see the shark coming but he, he sort of completed the circle, threw the fish aboard and looked back and he was just in time to look him fair in the eye as he (Lianne laughing) went. Well, he shook that much that I could go, it was travelling right through the boat, with the floorboards of the boat. So, that was a pleasant surprise for him, as to, you know, what happens with the problems with the sharks.

But it happened so many times that.....

Lianne : What was it you were saying before about one hitting the motor, you and dad going somewhere and dad had said, he'd saw a nasty one the night before and then you were going somewhere and did it hit the motor and knock it out of the pinnons? No?

Mr. Wiseman : No, no, no that was the night that was this Mako, and he'd come and told us that.....

Lianne : Mako shark?

Mr. Wiseman :one was swimming towards him exercising his jaw, And it was either the next night, this was during the day, and it was either the next night or the night after we went down there. We went out again, catching nothing, just sitting there with our lines in the water and next thing, this thing flew out of the water, the stern it was, straight up in the air! It was a dark night, but you know, he looked like about 45 feet long (*Mr. Wiseman and Lianne laugh*) and when he flopped back into the water, it just, you know, he splashed us. A wall of water came over the top.....

Lianne : He drenched you, yeah.

Mr. Wiseman :of the boat. We were only in a 12 foot dinghy, but that was when I said, well I think it's time we went home and he just said, well I don't think I want to stay. (*Mr. Wiseman and Lianne laugh*) So we cleared out, but oh yes, I was on my own that day it nearly knocked the outboard off the back. That was, you know, a bit hairy, you're fairly close to a shark when they do that and you're in, standing back on the stern of a 12 foot dinghy. (*Laughs*)

Lianne : What, he was coming up and charging the outboard? Batting into the outboard?

25:29

Mr. Wiseman : Ah, he was, he was, I started to move. He was swimming backwards and forwards, he could obviously see me in the boat and probably there was enough movement that it attracted him, and he was swimming backwards and forwards across the back of the boat, and I was standing there with my line and he was swimming underneath my line, and that was when I thought, oh, something's going to happen here before long, so I think I'll clear out, and I started to pull my line in and, well he turned in his own length and came at such a flash back across the back of

the boat and hit the outboard, and nearly knocked it off. One clamp came off and it was just hanging by one clamp, and I was in the bottom of the boat. (*Mr. Wiseman and Lianne laugh*)

Well, probably I'd have joined the.....

Lianne : It's better than being in the water! Oooh.

Mr. Wiseman : If I hadn't dropped down, I'd have probably gone over the side.

Lianne : Ohhhh!

Mr. Wiseman : Yes, so but, they frighten the life out of me now. I, I at night, if ever I had a dream it was either a white pointer chasing me (*Lianne laughs, and so does Mr. Wiseman*), or yes, they, I can remember one dream, one was after me and I climbed up the end of the small jetty there and he was flying out (*Lianne laughing*) the water trying to grab me or something like that. (*Laughing*)

But, obviously it's in your, on your mind, we had so many experiences with them.

Lianne : Wasn't it Dr. Thompson who had a white pointer that bit his boat and sank it, or something?

Mr. Wiseman : No, no, well.....

Lianne : No.

Mr. Wiseman :the only incident I know where a white pointer sunk a boat was Leon Jackson's.

Lianne : Oh.

Mr. Wiseman : Ah, Des Wren lost his boat. One day we, Frank Stocker was a keen fisherman, you couldn't say anything else about him, (*Lianne laughs*) and he had to make a living, and we used to leave, you know, 2 o'clock in the morning to go out there in the dark and, and this particular morning the 5 of us got outside the entrance and it was just starting to break day, get a little bit of light, and we decided it was too rough to go on, so Stocker said, well we'll drop our anchors and wait and it might go off so we can go on when it gets daylight. And, but it didn't, well I suppose it did moderate a bit, must have for Stocker, well it must have still been pretty rough 'cos, he still reckoned it was too rough to go on, but like an idiot I said, well I don't know, I said, I think I'll go on out and try one ground and, so Vaughan and Des decided to come too. So we got out there, and it was rough, I will admit and Vaughan decided that it was too rough so he turned around and went home, and I decided that I would go on out further and try another ground, and Des thought that, well, it was good enough for him well it's good enough for me, so he went off in a different direction, and I went out and tried this next ground and didn't get a fish, so I thought, well that's enough for me but I'd lost sight of Des, and I thought, well that's strange, I should be able to see him. Couldn't see him anywhere, so I went back to the entrance where the others were still waiting and I said, well I don't know what's happened to Des but I, I couldn't see him anywhere. I don't know where he'd gone, whether he'd gone into

Lucky Bay or where, but he, he'd gone to the grounds that we call Gundy's, and we waited for about half an hour and didn't see a sign of him, so then Vaughan, no Leon Jackson came with me, and Vaughan and Frank Stocker went out together. We just decided to go out and have a look to see if we could see him, well, we went out to the furtherest snapper ground, couldn't see him anywhere and didn't see a sign of anything, so we came home and that was my second trip out, I was ready, you know, just about ready to drop then but with the excitement. Vaughan sort of panicked, we were in first because I had the quickest boat and he said, well what do we do now? And I said, well I think the first thing we got to do is get a plane in the air and Dennis Bienke was working next door here, and he had an interest in the plane the Morris's had got and, and there was also Mackie's. So we came up here and saw Dennis and he said, yes he'd go, but, that plane was out at Morris's and they'd have to bring it in from there and pick somebody up to go with them to go out and that was going to take some time, and while I was talking to Dennis, I said to Vaughan, well what about slipping down see Mackie, he's home, so Vaughan went down and saw him and, well they were back up here at 10 minutes and away we went, flying around out there and Mackie got on the radio to Adelaide to organise a search plane, and he wasn't allowed to fly under 7,000 feet, I think it was, well we were out there on our own and we picked him up, we reckon, well I did, and I said to Vaughan. I turned around and said to Vaughan, you keep your eye on him. Well, when I turned around to Vaughan he had his knee boot off and up to his arm. (*Lianne and Mr. Wiseman laugh*) He was air sick.

Lianne : Not a good flyer.

31:37

Mr. Wiseman : Well, the water with the, Mackie at that time, Mackie was talking to Adelaide about the, the search plane and er, he sort of lost the circuit , but with the sun shining on the water for half the circle, you couldn't virtually see anything so we lost him, and whether it was him I wouldn't be sure, but the area it was in, I think it would have been him, and er anyway we couldn't pick him up again, and so, we sort of flew into the entrance and out again and Mackie said to us, he said, well can you swim? And (*laughs*) I knew what was going to happen, we were going to go downstairs, but just then Norris's came out and they were flying out at 500 feet and they were able to find him and, then we had no way, the only way we could get contact with the shore was to go through Adelaide and back to Cowell and to Lucky Bay and so Mackie flew in and out to where Norris's were circling and that was when Bill Lamb came out and picked him up. And, yeah, it turned out with a happy ending fortunately but when they got the boat up, one of the prawn boats towed it in, it had a hole about that big up in the front cabin area, and it went down fairly smartly and it was just that he had a big hatch, oh probably when I look, it could have been about that, a square hatch straight across that line of the table and the end of the table, with his.....

Lianne : So you're talking about over a metre and a half.....

Mr. Wiseman :he had his waterproof overalls on that had straps and he strapped himself to that hatch, and all he had was one small snapper, and that was floating on the top of the water and that was the last time he wanted to see a

snapper.....(laughs), you know sharks, but he doesn't know what hit the boat, didn't see anything.....

Lianne : Oh, right.

Mr. Wiseman :so, well never know what hit it, but it went down fairly smartly. Yeah.

Lianne : You said, um, you were out there once and you, um, came across pilot whales – the black fish, so they would be a fair old size, wouldn't they?

Mr. Wiseman : They are pilot whales which used to come up the Gulf, just about every year, and.....

Lianne : So, that would have been in the 50's, wouldn't it, back then?

Mr. Wiseman :oh yeah, well they were, I can remember I was, I was pretty young. I was out with dad when one swam under our boat and frightened the damn life out of me, I thought, (laughs) I thought we were going to get lifted and carried away, but they, I reckon, those particular years there could have been up to a couple hundred of them. They were all various sizes that, er, they used to go up the Gulf and when they did, well, it was useless going fishing because they cleaned everything up – frightened what they didn't clean up, they frightened and this one particular, one year that one particular school of snapper they cleaned them up and there was tails and heads and briskets lying everywhere, and that sort of ruined the, that area because of the, it polluted the bottom, where they rotted on the bottom and, so that year there wasn't any snapper caught there for years and years after that. And no, to my knowledge, no big schools came there after that, but we had a lot of snapper used to be caught there beforehand. But, those were the days; you never see them now, so obviously the fish are not there for them to come up the Gulf.

Lianne : To eat. Hmmm.

36:08

Mr. Wiseman : And, plus the fact that the fish, the snapper, seemed to have altered their course now. They never used to catch a lot of snapper over on the Wallaroo side of the Gulf, but I had a mate who was a rifle shooter and he told me that the fish were getting better over there every year, and they were petering out here. But people were dumping so much gear over the side to make snapper grounds, like fridges and washing machines and you name it, anything that would sink and then they started these tyre reefs, uh, I think they altered the course that the fish used to take and, but the grounds, the snapper grounds went very quiet out here – you'd never get the schools that we used to get. And they, you know, there used to be so many fish caught out of one school at a time, like that one particular incidence where there was 2 nights we, there was better than 30,000 pound of snapper came in, well, that's a fair few fish, and er

Lianne : And it was the size of the fish that you were catching too, because back then those fish would be almost be a metre high, they'd be, how many pounds in one fish, one of those big ones?

Mr. Wiseman : Oh, well see that, no, no, they're not that big, they average from probably about, they're average overall was about 11 pounds, I think it would.....

Lianne : But those really big ones you used to get, you snag over the boat?

Mr. Wisemanoh yeah, well you know, well one day we were weighing fish off and Stocker said to me, this is the biggest one we've got today. He put it on the scales and it went 28 pounds (*Lianne laughs*), the next one I put on the scales went 28 and a half pound. (*laughs*) So, we used to get really big ones....

Lianne : Huge, absolutely huge.

Mr. Wiseman :mixed in with the er, but the average run of fish er, well they used to average about 11 pound, they were a fair size fish admittedly, but er never used to catch a lot of the real big ones. I reckon that your father and I were fishing out at Gibbon one night, I caught 2 that night. The second one I caught weighed 32 pounds, and the first one I caught, I couldn't lift over the side, I had to get him to give me a hand and a fellow came and took that fish and Charlie Kittle didn't want it. I reckon it would have gone 40 pounds – I'd loved to have known, but anyway, it was just a guess but 32 pounder looked small alongside the other one. Another night I caught.....

Lianne : That, that wasn't the night that dad was supposed to motor you home and you ended up almost at Wallaroo 'cos he went the wrong way, was it, in the dark?

Mr. Wiseman :oh, yeah he wasn't a very good navigator. We got out there and well, we shouldn't have been out there, it was a, it came in misty rain, you couldn't see anything, but he didn't think to work on the direction the wind was, or the direction the tide was, and we headed off and I said to him, well where do you reckon you're going? And he said, well into the shore, well, I said, well, it's a long way away to Wallaroo. So I was able to head him (*Lianne laughing*) back in shore and we found our way in, but and another night, well we used to get so tired that another night we were coming in and I was sitting up in the bow of the boat, half asleep and motoring along and I thought well, I don't know, we should be in by now, and I don't know whether he was asleep as well, but we were nearly down to Gibbon. (*Lianne laughs*) So, we had to turn around and motor back about 3 miles. (*laughing*) Oh, there were so many experiences that we had, another night we were, he had the single seater shift, er, with a dicky seat in the back and we were going down fishing and we were going to Gibbon to fish and we were running a bit late, so we went down the Knob and then went down onto the beach just on the western side of the Knob to drive along the beach, and we'd, we'd only gone about 200 yards when we got bogged, and the tide was coming in and so, we couldn't get the vehicle out and the tide came up around it, and we had to wait until the tide went out again before we

could dig it out and get out and come home. That was er, oh well, there was so many times that, you now, little things happen that, it's a wonder we came out of it alive, but certainly the sharks were a big problem, quite a big problem.

CD5.

01:00

Mr. Wiseman : After I bought my slow boat, I went out fishing one day and I was standing up in the boat and I was fishing out this side of the boat, and feet fishing for whiting, and I don't know why, but I sort of had a feeling that something wasn't quite right, so I turned around and looked over my shoulder and I had a white pointer lying alongside my boat, with and he was just a bit longer than my boat, which was 17 feet. Well, my knees went very watery (*laughs*), I could have leant over the side and touched his dorsal fin, and I thought, what's he doing there? I wasn't catching any fish really, you know, just an odd whiting and so he swam forward and did a circle round and came back and then he swam up to the stern of the boat, right up to the rudder, and just almost touched with his nose and I thought, well he'd not very friendly, I don't think, so I did nothing. He just sort of reversed off and went down a little bit and did another circle and came around and came right up to the stern of the boat again, and I thought, well my rudder's not tied in and we'd known from experience that they had a habit of bumping your rudder out. And we always, in the old cutters, we always used to have the rudder tied, had a little bit of rope through the head of the rudder, and tied to your boat. So, I thought, well if I move to do something about it, well I just didn't know what would happen from previous experience with them, so he backed off again and when he backed off and started to circle around, well I started the motor and I put her into gear and I motored away with the anchor down, full bore (*Mr. Wiseman and Lianne laugh*). Well, he followed me! So, I thought, well while I'm on the move, I don't think there's going to be much damage, so I used to pull the boat anchor up from in the cabin, I didn't have to go up on the bow, and I thought well, I'm safe enough pulling the anchor up, so I pulled, retrieved the anchor and then motored off, and I was going back into shore, into the fairway. Well, he followed me, course it was only, I was probably doing about 6 or 7 knots at the outside. Well he followed me for, well I reckon about a mile and a half, right up the stern of me boat, (*laughs*) well I thought, if he stays there it's alright I didn't think he'd do anything about then with the motor going, and so I kept going, I wasn't stopping. Eventually he left me and oh, it was a sigh of relief to see him go, but that was, that was probably the last really big white pointer that I've seen being out fishing, er because I hadn't done any snapper fishing at all after that and, I er went out last summer to catch a few just to eat, and it was in the back of my mind all the time. You know, what do I do if one shows up with this little light aluminium boat I've got, you know, he won't have to bump that very hard and (*Lianne laughing*) I might be in trouble, but fortunately I didn't see any and was able to catch a, you know, a few snapper to eat. (*Laughs*)

Lianne : Now, wasn't there a particular night, years and years and years ago that you and dad were out and there was one of the pilot whales, or black fish or whatever they are called, that it was quite a dark night and it came up alongside your boat and.....

Mr. Wiseman : Oh yeah, well that happened, yeah. And they frightened the life out of you because er.....

Lianne : Did it bring it's fluke down on the water or it's fin or something?

Mr. Wiseman :no, no.....

Lianne : Did it splash you or something?

Mr. Wiseman : Oh course they er, well they come up just about alongside your boat and they blow when they breathe, and, and, I think we both ducked (*laughs*) we thought he was throwing stones at us or something. But er, they, yeah well, when you're out there at night in the dark, well it can be fairly frightening, you know, everything's quiet.....

Lianne : 'Cos you don't actually know what it is either!

06:10

Mr. Wiseman :well, we, I think we knew what it was, we knew it was a whale of some sort. (*Mr. Wiseman and Lianne laugh*) But er, they, yes, we didn't see a lot of them. Another night, well evening I went down to Gibbon on my own and there was one down there and he was well, probably only about 30 or 40 yards off the shore, enough water for him to swim and he was swimming up and down there, and I thought, well there's no point in going out fishing, I'm not going to catch a fish while he'd there. Because we used to drift around, we used to drift into within about 30 or 40 yards of the shore and still catch snapper, so he knew that there was snapper around there and probably had caught enough to satisfy him, but, so I didn't, I came home, I didn't worry about putting the boat in and going out there. But er, things have changed dramatically with, we don't, just don't see them in the Gulf now. I haven't seen any in the Gulf for, you know, quite a few years.

Lianne : Still lots of sharks though, lots and lots of sharks and the white pointers are.....

Mr. Wiseman : Yes, well, probably the snapper are not chased like they used to be out here that I.....

Lianne : Is that because there aren't the numbers of them now?

Mr. Wiseman : Well, there's snapper still coming out here because Blue Burton, I think he caught 7 or 800 kilos just last summer.

Lianne : Wow.

Mr. Wiseman : Eh, but whether the sharks, whether there's enough fish for the sharks to be with them, I don't know, but obviously we reckon that the sharks follow these schools of fish and with a lot of fish like there are probably fish that drop out that the sharks can catch and feed on them, and I reckon that's the reason that they follow the schools of fish and, when you're catching fish, and the sharks hear a fish that's in trouble, well, that's when he attacks. And well, a fish are feeding, it's amazing how sharks can take them off your line, but the fish will continue biting. They, well, you take the night I told you where I reckon I lost about 3 or 400 pound, well those fish kept biting all the time and the fish, the sharks were taking them off our lines and feeding on them, and yet they kept biting. So, probably fish are fairly stupid, I think, (*Lianne laughs*) or they're very hungry. (*Mr. Wiseman laughs*).

Lianne : They reckon they've got no memory, there memory's about 4 seconds or something, and then they forget.

09:21

Mr. Wiseman : Oh, I don't know what but, er, I know that they can take a fish off your line when it's hooked, and they, we always used to reckon they used to wait until they, the fish got up above them, that they would attack, and which made it fairly hairy because they left their attack, you know, pretty late at times and they were very close to your boat, (*Mr. Wiseman laughs*) and sometimes they hit your boat, and well, in a, in a fibreglass boat with your rudder and your skeg and your propeller, I had one underneath the boat, he he'd grabbed my fish, but he, he was underneath the boat hitting the boat all the time, well he was probably shaking his head with these, this fish in his mouth and the noise seems to be amplified. Hell it kicked up a racket, and I didn't know what to expect when I went to start my motor (*laughs*) I thought a bent propeller and, well where another incident in the old cutter, I was fishing, I had to play football that afternoon and I'd gone out early to try to catch some fish and I caught a few, but I had a shark turn up and I was fishing out the side of the boat, the wind was making, hanging me that way but the tide was running that way and that's the way I had to fish and it was in fairly shallow water, and this damn shark took 5 fish off me, but every time he took a fish he would swim straight into the side of the boat with this fish in his mouth, and it was a fairly old boat. (*Lianne laughs*) And this happened 5 times, so I thought well it's time to pull up the anchor and move on, and I got out of that alright, but it was the boat I bought from Bill Fairbank and, and the keel of the thing was just about eaten out with termites and how (*Lianne laughing*) it, how it withstood, but it had been double ribbed and he was sitting, hitting the strongest part of the boat which was, you know, around about.....

Lianne : You were lucky.

Mr. Wiseman :the waterline. But you would think that he could see the damn boat there and he wouldn't want to run into it, wouldn't you?

Lianne : Perhaps he wasn't very bright either, like the fish – dumb fish, dumb shark.

11:57

Mr. Wiseman : Oh, he was bright enough to take my fish and frighten the life out of me (*Lianne laughs*) But er, incidents like that, there were so many incidents with sharks, you know, hitting your boat and what have you that, well I don't know, well your father and I were on the same particular ground, and it was gem clear water, we could see the shark swimming around, and we were sitting down having our tea, waiting for it to get dark and for no reason at all, this er shark decided to change what it was doing and it came up and knocked our rudder out (*laughs*), for no reason at all, and I thought well, you know, we're not going to get any fish here tonight with him there so, and we didn't, we didn't stay very long but why they do that well, you know, I just don't know. It was probably, the rudder moves a bit with the movement of the boat, but we were sitting on the hatch on the cabin and you could see the thing swimming around in the clear water, just circling around. We couldn't see any fish but er yeah.....

Lianne : Perhaps it was just movement?

Mr. Wiseman : It's er, well we.....

Mr. Wiseman : He probably smelt your jam sandwiches! That would've been what you were eating for tea (*laughs*).

Mr. Wiseman :no, it was probably chutney. Yeah, but he er, I don't know what, you know, how what goes through their mind or, but obviously they will tackle anything that moves. And as I said, I think with the movement, that it was pretty calm and, and er there might have been just a bit of gentle swell but it was glassy calm on top and the water very clear that you could sit there and watch him, but er that is just what happens and well, I've, I've had, you know, sharks hit my boat any number of times, but have got out of it alright and, and you get 8 or 9 boats fishing together and you got a shark there and he fills himself up on the fish that he takes off various lines, and then quite often they'll come up to the surface and swim around, in around the boat. You could prod him with a paddle and it wouldn't take any notice of it. For some reason they, they just hung around the boats, and we'd go on catching snapper and he, it wouldn't worry him one little bit. Yes, so, you know, we went on fishing and probably caught quite a lot of snapper after he'd come to the surface.

15:07

But, another incident was your father and I, this was when we were still in Adelaide, I think. I came back, summer time and your father and I went out to this particular ground and Oddy Hornardt was out there, and we were catching a few snapper and, and er Oddy hooked 12 and didn't get one of them, and the last one he hooked – the shark bit it in halves and Oddy said, well I'm going to get a half of one, but he didn't, the shark got that too, had a second go at it, and yet, we were fishing alongside Oddy and we caught 21 and didn't lose a fish (*laughs*). What's the difference? Yeah, so er, there were times when Oddy wasn't pulling a fish and we were and but, he didn't tackle any of our fish.....

Lianne : Still didn't go to you. That's funny. There must be some reason but to understand it.

Mr. Wiseman : Ooh, they, they're very unpredictable, no doubt about it. Well, we know what they're like with, when the tuna boats were poling tuna. Shane said that they had a monster out there one day that came up and grabbed the rack, the poling – the men used to stand in to pole the tuna. Grabbed it and dragged the stern of the boat down. The, course the men in the rack, they were out of that rack and back on the boat as quick as a flash (*laughs*). But he said it was a monster of a shark, so er, you know, he was just testing it out to see whether it was worth attacking or (*laughs*).....

Lianne : Well, that would have been a great white, 'cos that's off Lincoln.

A6.....

Mr. Wiseman : Yeah, that was a great white, and he said it was a, you know, a pretty big shark too, but, yeah they weren't quick enough to catch the tuna because once the, you know, when they were poling them, they, once they hit the hook, well they were poled out of the water straight away, they had no hope, not like pulling a snapper fin, you know 60 feet of water where they had an opportunity to grab them, but that's what they used to do and er, they, well look at these sharks down at Dangerous Reef there, where they go down in cages, you know, put, let scuba divers go down there and tourists and have a look at them. No, I've seen enough, I don't want to, I wouldn't want to worry about that but er, there are so many incidents of these sharks attacking, well look at that woman down at Tumby Bay, she was only walking out in, in virtually a bit over waist deep water when the shark grabbed her. So, er, you never know where they are or what they're going to do. But er.....

Lianne : I'd stay away from them.

18:23

Mr. Wiseman : Oh well, Jeffrey Swincer was out there one day fishing and there were several other boats there. Jeffery wasn't popular with the rest of the fishermen, and the shark knocked his rudder out, it didn't have er, it tied so it floated away, so none of the fishermen went to retrieve it for him. (*laughs*) He had to use a paddle to steer to, to retrieve his rudder and, and well, with the rudders that we had, they were probably water logged if we didn't have them tied, well they would have sunk and we'd have lost them, but er, that's why we used to tie them so that er, you could still steer the boat and it didn't affect the steering, but it saved your rudder when it was knocked out, and well any number have had their rudders knocked out and er, and Lance Sims fishing out there one day, I was fishing not very far away from him, he had his wife out with him, and er, May was, she was sitting up on the cabin and she was pulling fish and lifting them over the side and, and the shark flew out the water. He was out of the water and grabbed this fish and May's mouth opened about that wide, I reckon, (*Lianne laughs*) when it happened, and the shark hit the boat and he, he was still there. He was swimming around and where he hit the boat the anti foul, the red anti fouling, he had it all his side where he hit the boat. (*laughs*) He was a painted shark after that. (*Lianne laughs*) But er, oh that lot of fish that were there, well the sharks were shocking and er, but Lance and May were going out each afternoon, when the fish would bite and, and they were catching quite a lot of fish, but

one only had to miscue and they were in big trouble. I know I went out there, and Midget Harris was out there and, and now what happened to Midget? I think he lost his rudder, he had his rudder knocked out but, when you stop and think about it, you were foolish to stay there when the sharks were in a feeding frenzy like that and, but it was, you know, you knew the fish were there and you'd try to catch them, well, it got that bad that one year I missed one particular ground. There was a school of fish there, you could go there, drop your line over, you'd get a double header and before you could get them aboard the sharks had them. And it got that way that nobody went out there anymore, they just left the, you know, they don't know how long the fish stayed there or anything else, but every time they went there the same result.....

Lianne : They'd lose them all.

21:28

Mr. Wiseman :to anybody that went there, they said they just couldn't land a fish. So er, the sharks obviously just stay with the school of fish, the fish are feeding there, there's the type of bottom where they feed and, and er yeah, and er, well we were out one night, Frank Stocker, Jackson and myself and, an er we were just drifting around in the dark and it was a foul night, it was very windy and it dark as a dog's inside, and we got separated. We did have walkie talkies, just hand held walkie talkies, and er if I was catching a few fish, you just drifted until you caught a fish and then you'd anchor and er turned out Jackson had finished up, when it came daylight, in the morning, he was right on the this one particular ground and er, he said, well, I think he had lost his torch or something, or didn't have his torch and I was, well I must have been about aw, I could have been about a mile further out than he was and I had no idea where to find him, you know, with the way the sea was and, and he he came on the air and said about trying to find him, and I said, well if I pull my anchor up I'm going home. (*laughs*) So, I stopped there, well he finished up er he had a bucket sitting on the deck and the shark knocked that off, knocked that over the side and er, but he stayed there and went on fishing and he finished up with a, about 1200 pound of fish. Stocker had got sick of it and he'd gone home and when he got home he'd expected to find us home, but he couldn't believe that we er stayed out there, the way the weather conditions were. Well, I finished up, I don't know, I probably had about 5 or 600 pound, but it was, well worth staying for and Stocker came in and when he, he waited and when he saw us coming in after daylight, well he was of course, he was down the jetty to meet us and he couldn't believe it that we came in with fish and stayed out there, you know, the way the conditions were and, and the trouble Jackson had with the shark, so (*laughs*) but er.....

Lianne : Um, what would be an average catch? Would it be about 300 pound, 400 pound? And what would be a good catch?

24:16

Mr. Wiseman : Overall, during the seas.....Well, I, I, it would be hard to put an average on it, but that would probably somewhere near it, but usually about, in the middle of the season we would expect to catch, one day a week, we would expect to catch about 1,000 pound, had one better day.....

Lianne : Day.

Mr. Wiseman :and then, well you know, it er, it dropped off. By the end of that week well, you're probably down to, you might get er, go out there but you might only get 10 or a dozen. So, averaging it out, over a week well, yeah it would be somewhere around there. Well, oh, giving you an instance, we used to have to fill our stats out and send them in to the er.....

Lianne : SAFCOL, whatever it is?

Mr. Wiseman :Department of Fishery. One year the stats were that Stocker and Jackson landed 55,000 pound each in the three month November, December and January, and I was only fishing at weekends and I had 16,000, just going out at weekends, so er.....

Lianne : When would that have been, roughly what year?

Mr. Wiseman : Oh, hell, oh that would have been back in the 70's, I would think. 70's early '80's because er, yes well it was before we started fishing together anyway, and er Larrie's had her sleep, she just went past the window. (*Lianne laughs*) Er, we er, they used to have to send out stats in each month and er, we weren't fishing together then so it was, yes it was early 70's probably. But er there was er, that was only the one year that er, I knew about their stats and mine. I mean apart from that well, after we started fishing together well, I wouldn't have a clue as to what our stats were, what we averaged out over the, the summer period for snapper but, certainly they weren't that great because the er, the fish were falling off in quantity because, which was probably caused by, a lot of the time, by a chap at Port Pirie netting snapper. They used to go up the Gulf to spawn, round Pirie and this chap up there used to spot them from the air and direct his net fishermen with their boats to, well, one year I went up to a rifle shooting prize meeting at Pirie, a two day prize meeting, and word came out to the range that a couple of fishermen, who were also rifle shooters and were out there shooting, had boats and he sent word out that he had.....