



Interview with Sven and Britni Lundin

**MOHAI, *Commercial Fisherman Oral History Project*, 2018.63.17
Transcribed for the 2023 4Culture Collections Care Grant**

Narrator(s): Ryan “Sven” and Britni Lundin

Date: 23 October 2015

Interviewer(s): Jeffrey Kahrs

Interview with commercial fishermen Ryan Sven and Britni Sheri Lundin about their careers as deckhands in Southeast Alaska and being married and working on a boat together.

Keywords: Fishermen, Alaska

Transcriber’s Note: Areas of uncertainty have been marked with an asterisk (*).

[Statement begins]

Jeffrey Kahrs: Let me make sure everything is fine.

Sven Lundin: Mark’s buying me a beer for this one. Not that this is a pain in my butt, I’m just—

[Laughing]

Britni Lundin: It’s just a reason to get a free beer.

Sven Lundin: Exactly.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Free beers are always good.

Sven Lundin: I didn’t put the apartment number, sorry babe. I got to do that.

Britni Lundin: Oh, okay.

Sven Lundin: Can I have the apartment number, what is it?

Britni Lundin: 202.

Sven Lundin: Apartment 202.



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Jeffrey Kahrs: Oh, you live on the north end there.

Britni Lundin: Yeah.

Jeffrey Kahrs: That's my old zip before we moved to Edmonds. I don't live in King County anymore. I was when I applied. Okay, let's start up, what is your name?

Sven Lundin: Ryan Sven Lundin.

Jeffrey Kahrs: How old are you Ryan?

Sven Lundin: I'm twenty-nine.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Okay. And what is your full name?

Britni Lundin: Britni Shari* Lundin.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Okay. And how old are you?

Britni Lundin: Twenty-eight.

Jeffrey Kahrs: I know it's not polite to ask a woman's age, but at least you're under 30, so it makes it easier. Okay, um Are you from Seattle?

Sven Lundin: No, I grew up in southwest Washington in Clark County outside of Vancouver, a small town called Brush Prairie.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Oh, okay. Was it west of Vancouver or east?

Sven Lundin: Northeast of Vancouver.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Ah, okay. Was it a logging town, or?

Sven Lundin: I think there was some logging there. It's just a really small rural community.

Jeffrey Kahrs: It sounds pretty small. Pretty small. Okay, like if you wanted to have fun when you were a teenager did you go into Portland?



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Sven Lundin: We went into Portland, but it was best of both worlds because we'd always be out in the woods playing, hiking around, getting in trouble out in the woods, but then my dad would always take us down to Portland Saturday Market. It was a good mix.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Great. And where did you grow up Britni?

Britni Lundin: Mainly in Montana.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Oh, Montana, okay. Which town mainly?

Britni Lundin: A little town called Cut Bank, Montana.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Cut Bank! Right, right, it's, uh, I think where the mountains come down into the—

Britni Lundin: Right.

Jeffrey Kahrs: With—moving in the prairie. Is it wheat country?

Britni Lundin: Yes. Yes, lots of wheat (laughs).

Jeffrey Kahrs: A little too much it sounds like. And were you raised there the full time?

Britni Lundin: No. I grew up all over. I was born in California, raised in several different places in Montana, but the majority of my time in Montana was in Cut Bank.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Okay, alright. And what were you doing there, what were your folks doing that you were moving around so much?

Britni Lundin: My father is an investment broker, and so his business just moved him around to different locations.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Wow, so an investment broker in Cut Bank, too.

Britni Lundin: Yes (laughs).

Jeffrey Kahrs: And what did you father and your mom do?



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Sven Lundin: My mom was a stay-at-home mother, and my father owned his company, he was a sales consultant representative for several companies in Europe, who manufactured tile and building products.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Huh! Oh, that's great, that's interesting. So, he must have gotten out from the little town quite a bit then?

Sven Lundin: Right. He just had his office there and most of the communication was done—he actually got his job, moved from Sweden at a young age. Lived in South Africa, back to Europe and met my mom, and then got a job at Columbia Machinery, which is right on the Columbia River in Vancouver.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Oh, okay, so your dad was born in Sweden?

Sven Lundin: Yeah, yeah. So, I'm practically first generation.

Jeffrey Kahrs: You're first generation, yeah, yeah, yeah. And you mentioned that you had a grandfather who was—

Sven Lundin: It was a great uncle who moved to—had left Sweden and spent quite a significant amount of time fishing in Alaska.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Right. Any stories about that?

Sven Lundin: Just the story of coming back from my first couple of years of fishing and looking at my wall at my father's house and saw a couple of wooden sewing needles from the early 1900's, and we use similar needles now that are plastic, but that was kind of a really interesting connection. And then my wife and I were in Ketchikan fishing one summer on a walk, and we walked by a street name, and it had my last name Lundin, L-U-N-D-I-N, but it's a very Swedish name. And so, we went to the museum there in Ketchikan and found that there was quite a few Swedish immigrants in southeast Alaska.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Yeah, I'm sure there is because there's like Scandinavians all over the place there. Norwegians of course in Petersburg, there's so many. Okay, so, uh You were raised in these towns. And, uh ... how did you discover fishing, at what age, and how did it come about?



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Sven Lundin: I was probably ... I was probably twenty-two when I first had an opportunity. I had a friend who had always gone fishing. And one year—I had always told him I was interested in the idea, and had no experience at all—and one year there was a position open on the boat and it—

Jeffrey Kahrs: What was the name of the boat?

Sven Lundin: The *Wonderland*.

Jeffrey Kahrs: The *Wonderland*!

Sven Lundin: It was a wooden seiner built in 1942 run by Kevin Patrick.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Right. I know—I know the boat.

Sven Lundin: Yeah. And a spot opened up and it was like most things within the fishing industry, just word of mouth. And my interview with Kevin Patrick the skipper took about ten minutes. He asked me if I was mechanical, and I told him I wasn't a mechanic, but I felt capable. And the next thing you know there was five crew members in Seattle, and we were all green. One crew member had one year under his belt, but the rest of us had no experience at all. And Kevin lined us up and said, "You're the skiff man, you're the cook," and he pointed at me said "You're the engineer." (Everyone laughing) And I had no idea what that meant. So—real quick, this is a good story. So, we-we work on the boat for three or four weeks. We get it ready, we're heading up north. And on the way up I say—we're cruising in Johnstone Streets, it's calm, we're following his son, who is leading the way on the *Favorite*, 1940's wooden seiner. And I say, "Kevin, I need to know what the heck my job is down in the engine room." And he said "Okay." So he took me down and I'm asking him questions trying to get an understanding of what's happening in the engine room. I lean back and I'm not paying attention and my pants get stuck in the alternator belt. And I'm wearing sweatpants and instantly they're ripped off my body. And I'm standing there in my underwear next to my boss that I've known for about three weeks. And my boot is getting sucked into the alternator, and noise is happening, and yeah, it was a disaster. So, they shut down the engine and everyone ran down to find Kevin's head right next to my butt trying to pull out my leg. And that was kind of like my introduction to engineering and-and yeah, working on a fishing boat. I didn't even make it up to—

Jeffrey Kahrs: Did you know what a zerker was?



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Sven Lundin: A zerk fitting?

Jeffrey Kahrs: Yeah, before you got on a boat?

Sven Lundin: Probably not—I learned that quick because the boat was hauled out, but no, I didn't know anything really.

Jeffrey Kahrs: How long did you fish with Kevin?

Sven Lundin: Uh, I fished with Kevin for about five years.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Okay! Oh, that was a good run then with Kevin.

Sven Lundin: Yeah, a long time.

Jeffrey Kahrs: So, you had a pretty good relationship, probably still do, with Kevin?

Sven Lundin: Kevin is a really nice guy, yeah.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Oh, that's great.

Sven Lundin: And his son, who is also a seiner skipper.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Oh, yeah, so his son is also a seiner, okay.

Sven Lundin: Yes.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Now, let's move to you. Did you go to school first when you got out of high school, or?

Britni Lundin: Yeah. I got my degree in psychology, which I haven't really used. But then I met Sven, and because he goes up north, then that's—

Jeffrey Kahrs: How old were you when you—when you met Sven?

Britni Lundin: Uhh ... twenty ... four? Twenty-four.



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Jeffrey Kahrs: Okay. Alright. And he was already—you said twenty-two, so you were already fishing on the *Wonderland*?

Sven Lundin: Yes, yep. Yep.

Britni Lundin: Yeah. He had been fishing—he had been fishing for five years when I met him.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Oh, so twenty-seven then, you were twenty-seven.

Sven Lundin: When we met.

Britni Lundin: When we met.

Jeffrey Kahrs: When you met, yeah, yeah, yeah—

Sven Lundin: But she was twenty-four.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Yeah. And so—okay, and you meet a fisherman, okay, that's fine. But you actually started fishing?

Britni Lundin: Yeah, that was actually kind of a weird set of circumstances. I was filling in—supposed to fill in just for three weeks for a gal that was already working on the boat while she finished up a surgery. And when she came back her injury was too extensive, she couldn't work on the boat, and so I got back on and, yeah.

Jeffrey Kahrs: What was the boat?

Britni Lundin: The *Baranof Queen*.

Jeffrey Kahrs: The *Baranof Queen*. And who did you fish with there?

Britni Lundin: That's Brad Jenson. And that boat's out of Port Townsend, it's a skiff boat.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Right. And, uh, so—what was your job on the *Baranof Queen*?

Britni Lundin: Um, I am the cook and the cork piler.



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Jeffrey Kahrs: Oh, you do both?

Britni Lundin: Yeah.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Okay. Do you have one of those beams that, you know, the booms that rotate, so that it moves so that you can pile gear?

Britni Lundin: Um, yeah—

Sven Lundin: Yeah, the boom moves, it's all hydraulic.

Britni Lundin: The boom moves. Yeah, everything is—

Jeffrey Kahrs: What do they call it, I can't remember?

Sven Lundin: The vanging.

Jeffrey Kahrs: The vanging, yeah. It's quite common now, but it wasn't when I started.

Sven Lundin: Right.

Britni Lundin: Yeah, yeah.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Yeah, but then we had to use— when I started we used pues on fish. It was really horrible.

Sven Lundin: And pitched by hand out of a dry hold.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Oh, yeah, a dry hold, that's a horrible smell. I mean, you think it's bad now. Okay, it's not my story, it's your story. So you started now— okay, is there anything unique about being a woman on a fishing boat? I mean, you're, you know, usually, not always, but very often the only female crew member?

Britni Lundin: Yeah. I think, um I think almost everything about being on the boat and being a woman is kind of unique. It's definitely a—it's definitely a man's world. And yeah, I don't really know (laughs), I don't really know what else to say about it, but I think it's—



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Jeffrey Kahrs: Can you think of a— like, give me some illustration or something, I mean, how do you take care of yourself, how do you carry yourself to, you know, keep yourself, you know, keep the guys away, (Britni laughs) or to keep things straight, or have respect, I mean, how does this work on a boat?

Britni Lundin: I think you definitely—you have to earn respect in the fishing fleet. You have to work hard, and you can't be a diva, you know, you're there to work. And I have to work just as hard, if not harder than a man in that situation because I want that respect. I don't want to, umm ... I don't want to appear that I can't do something, that I can't handle a task. I want to be always willing to learn, always giving 110 percent because I don't—I don't want to be the weak link on the boat.

Jeffrey Kahrs: And do you think that you're pretty well respected now among those you've worked with, you know, and?

Britni Lundin: You know, I think so. I hope so. I hope I've earned their respect.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Sure.

Sven Lundin: She has. (Britni laughs)

Jeffrey Kahrs: She has?

Sven Lundin: Absolutely.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Yeah, so you know from what you hear from other people because people do talk.

Sven Lundin: And what I've experienced, I mean—ten years you work with a lot of different people, you see a lot of different work styles, work ethics, you know, and there's no question that she's surpassed a lot of crew members that I have worked with in terms of work ethic and commitment and just getting the job done.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Now you guys did fish together at some point.

Sven Lundin: Yes.



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Jeffrey Kahrs: What boat did you fish together on?

Britni Lundin: On the *Baranof Queen*.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Was that difficult being, uh, you know, significant others or married as it might have been then to be on the same boat together?

Sven Lundin: Well, we were very newly married—

Britni Lundin: Yes (laughs).

Sven Lundin: So that comes with its own challenges. And then all of a sudden, you're in a twenty-four-hour work environment. So yeah, it definitely came with its own challenges, but I think it also stretched us and we learned a lot about each other and how to communicate with one another.

Britni Lundin: Right.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Do you have any amusing examples of what you're talking about? Not – not- not the usual things that all couples go through, fighting or this, or making up, or whatever, but anything you can think of?

Britni Lundin: I think I have a good story. I think our first day on the boat, I remember before we went out fishing Sven said— he said, “Britni, you're gonna have to listen to me. If I tell you something on the boat, you just need to do it and not question me because you could be in a dangerous situation. I just need you to listen.” And I said “Okay,” you know, “I'll do that.” Well, our first day out on the water, we were—we had some really rough weather. We had gale winds and—

Jeffrey Kahrs: Were you outside?

Britni Lundin: Yeah, outside.

Sven Lundin: Gale wi—No, we were in Chatham Straight.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Oh, in Chatham. That still gets pretty rough.



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Sven Lundin: Gale winds, four-to-six-foot seas, which it wasn't easy, and for someone who this is their first fishing gig

Britni Lundin: Yeah, it was my first; it was my introduction to the industry. But, um, the boom started to be lowered, and I didn't know that. I'm just piling gear. I'm just trying to stay on my feet on the back deck. And Sven said, you know, he yelled at me "Get down!" And so, you know, I got down a little bit and he yelled again, you know, "Get down! Lower! Lower!" And what I didn't realize is that our boom was being lowered and our block was swinging like this, and it could have just knocked me right off the back deck as soon as I looked up, you know. And he wasn't happy until I was laying on the pile of the back deck, and was just about to—yeah.

Jeffrey Kahrs: So they lowered the boom because of the weather. They were trying to get the – the – the, you know—

Sven Lundin: We had a problem, there was—either a web was caught up in a backlash in the block, or there was a problem with the hydraulic hose. I don't remember, but it was lowered at a rapid rate without warning, you know, and she wasn't experienced to look up and to keep an eye out.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Yeah, that must have been pretty difficult to watch?

Sven Lundin: Yeah, I think – I think I was all of a sudden, it's like—it's a lot to be on the boat and worry about your own safety, but then all of a sudden to feel responsible for someone else. I got a glimpse of what it's like to be a skipper, you know, because then you have five lives, or four other lives that you're responsible for.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Right. So, you've recovered from that moment.

Britni Lundin: Well, I learned the true importance of listening to my husband, trusting him and, you know, keeping my – keeping my wits about me on the back deck. And yeah, I mean, it's a different experience. I grew up on a farm, so hard work that was no surprise to me, that was nothing new, but that environment—

Jeffrey Kahrs: Were you around mechanical stuff on the farm, too?



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Britni Lundin: Not so much. I helped my dad fix a lot of things, but I wasn't, you know, I wasn't around heavy machinery, and definitely not hydraulics and that kind of a thing.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Yeah, yeah, okay. So, you guys fished together—how long did you fish together?

Sven Lundin: Two years.

Britni Lundin: Two years.

Jeffrey Kahrs: And so, it went pretty well then? After—I mean, you guys worked together as part of a crew and so forth.

Sven Lundin: Mm-hm.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Do you have any other interesting stories to add from that time?

Sven Lundin: About working together?

Jeffrey Kahrs: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Sven Lundin: I don't know do you?

Britni Lundin: I don't know that one was my— kind of my favorite, but—

Jeffrey Kahrs: That's the first day.

Britni Lundin: (Laughs awkwardly) Sorry.

Jeffrey Kahrs: How about in the average day? I mean, you guys are a crew together, an average day for you?

Sven Lundin: I think an average— I think we're crew members, right, but we're also— she's in the kitchen, or in the galley, you know, and I'm— I'll come in and I probably help her more than I would a normal cook, just because I'm (everyone laughs) you know, she's my wife, you know, so I feel obligated to help and I want to help. So it's—yeah, it's Britni cooking really, really *great* meals. I mean, we definitely eat better than any other seiner on the water for sure. Britni's committed to cooking really good food, and she does a good job with that. And yeah, an average



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day of fishing is pretty hard to sum up. I mean, it's up early before the sun comes up. And then, you know, we're unloading fish at eleven, twelve, and fishing again before the sun comes up. And we'll usually do that for two days in a row and then have two days off.

Jeffrey Kahrs: That's right yeah.

Sven Lundin: So—

Jeffrey Kahrs: [Unintelligible] except early in the season?

Sven Lundin: Yeah, except early in the season sometimes it's more days. It's funny to hear married couples talk about their stressful situations or their, you know, (Britni laughs) like, "Oh, yeah, it was just—the other day, you know, so-and-so didn't take out the garbage and I had to do this, and it was eight o'clock at night." And you're just going, "They have no idea." You know, so I feel like we've really gained a lot purely as a couple from that experience.

Jeffrey Kahrs: It made you closer then?

Britni Lundin: Yeah.

Sven Lundin: Absolutely closer.

Jeffrey Kahrs: I mean, you were literally pretty close. A boat can be—even a big boat's pretty close.

Britni Lundin: Yeah.

Sven Lundin: Yeah.

Jeffrey Kahrs: So okay, two years on the *Baranof Queen*, and then—uh, now you're fishing on different boats again?

Sven Lundin: No, that was last summer

Jeffrey Kahrs: That was last summer?



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Sven Lundin: Last summer was our second-year fishing together. And now I'm doing a fall season on the *Page Marie*. Britni is applying for nursing school at the University of Washington.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Oh, great.

Sven Lundin: Yep. And we're moving to Freemont.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Wow. How do you feel about the change? Of course, nursing school probably would be in the fall, in the winter, and the spring, so you might still keep fishing, is that what you're thinking?

Britni Lundin: Well, my program actually goes through the summer, so my— as of right now I've got a year and a half program to do before I get my doctorate. And so I'll be definitely not fishing this next season. And I think I'm a little bit sad about that in some respects just because of the adventure of fishing. I love that adventure. I love going up to Alaska and being up there, it's fun. It's a really fun experience, but I'm excited to be – to be ... kind of opening some new doors and stepping in a different direction.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Mm-hmm. How do you feel about that Sven? You guys won't be fishing together?

Sven Lundin: I'm excited. Um, fishing is wonderful, fishing has a— I mean, I started as a way to pay my way through school. I wanted to go and get my undergrad, and the only way I could fathom paying for it is to have a summer job and fishing fulfilled that need. And then I finished my degree, and I kept fishing because I loved it.

Jeffrey Kahrs: What did you do your degree in?

Sven Lundin: I studied history and political science.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Alright! I like people who studied these things like I did (laughs).

Sven Lundin: Right. But then, you know, I got finished and I just kept fishing and I loved it. And I, you know, I thought for a long time, and still do, about running my own boat. But there was a buyback with the permits and the price skyrocketed. When I started the permit price for a southeast sein permit was around \$60,000 to \$80,000, and now it's over—I think it's down to \$250,000, but

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at one point in the last couple years it was up over \$300,000, and that's just for the permit, and then you have to acquire a vessel, and a net, and—

Jeffrey Kahrs: I understand, they were \$35,000 when I was fishing for a southeast sein permit and a Puget Sound permit with like ten grand—ten th—ten grand or something.

Sven Lundin: Right, right. Now they're both over \$200,000.

Jeffrey Kahrs: It's incredible. Yeah, it's very expensive.

Sven Lundin: And it's not a guaranteed income, so for my wife to be pursuing something that she really desires and loves, I'm all about it. And fishing has given us a means to pursue that and achieve that, so I'm thrilled. And as far as my future in fishing, I don't *know*. I think, you know, we don't want to be apart for three months out of the year, so I've got to find something else. And one thing I've discovered is it's really—it's a great industry, and it's kind of difficult to get in, but it's even harder to get out. Not that everyone—all fishermen want to get out, but if you want to transition into something a little more stable, a stable income, a stable work environment, it's pretty difficult to transition out of.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Right. So, um, you're fishing now and of course it's to your advantage if you're going to go to school that you have the money coming in and so forth. Where do you see yourself a couple year—well, let's start with you Britni, a couple of years down the road do you see yourself working as a nurse?

Britni Lundin: Oh, absolutely, yeah, I see myself in two years hopefully pursuing my doctorate and—

Jeffrey Kahrs: A doctorate? In nursing?

Britni Lundin: In nursing, yeah. That's my goal. Hopefully I'll be working in a—in a hospital and pursuing that final degree.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Oh, that's great. And what do you see Sven, what do you see for yourself?

Sven Lundin: I don't know, that's a really tough question. You know, I'm focused so much on supporting Britni in her pursuit as a nurse, and that means at this point just putting food on the



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table and paying the bills. And then I think once she has a job as nurse, then we can take a deep breath, and I can start to look at maybe using my degree or going back to school. We both love to learn. And I've seen a lot of that with younger crew members now. It's like a great way to pay for college. You know, a lot of people who don't end up becoming career—

Jeffrey Kahrs: Actually that's true, it was always a great way to pay for college.

Sven Lundin: Yeah.

Jeffrey Kahrs: You always had a certain group of young people who come up and sein, and—

Sven Lundin: Which is fun because they're not—it attracts these I don't know, I don't want to say just intelligent, but like people with, you know, with ideas, and people who have a desire to learn. Do you know what I mean?

Jeffrey Kahrs: Right.

Sven Lundin: Which maybe is a—

Jeffrey Kahrs: But reasonable don't want to go into deep debts to do it.

Sven Lundin: Right. And maybe people don't really realize that you think of a fisherman, and you think of maybe a salty drunken sailor, you know, but it's really—you can meet a lot of very interested and educated people.

Jeffrey Kahrs: And would you—would you say—that's true, but wouldn't you say there's also salty drunken sailors, too?

Sven Lundin: Absolutely.

Britni Lundin: All over the place.

Sven Lundin: Absolutely.

[Everybody laughing]

Britni Lundin: No.



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Sven Lundin: No, absolutely, there's a lot of truth in that statement. I think I might have been one for a few years there. Uh, not anymore.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Yeah, I mean—yeah, salty drunk. I was a salty drunken sailor. It wasn't my natural habitat, but I certainly adapted to five a.m. in the morning a couple of times, if you know what I mean?

Sven Lundin: Right.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Okay. I don't know what else. You guys have been really great. And God, you're so precise and articulate. The last guy I interviewed was eighty-nine, and it was like little bits, you know, because he's very old and it was really difficult, and this was so easy. I don't know, if they could only be so easy.

Sven Lundin: I think you need to show up with, you know, a bottle of Scotch or something and catch the guys like, you know, a night they come in from fishing, you know, when they're on all like a little bit hyped up. And then they're like, you know, someone hands them a drink and asks them to tell a story, you'll probably have a hard time getting them to shut up, you know, because that's what fishermen do, they tell stories.

Britni Lundin: That's a great idea.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Yeah. I got to figure out how to write off the booze, so that I can be reimbursed for it.

Britni Lundin: Right (laughs).

Sven Lundin: Interesting.

Sven Lundin: That does sound challenging.

Jeffrey Kahrs: That's a major challenge I face with purchasing Crown Royal for the crew. Do you guys still buy duty-free?

Sven Lundin: Yeah, when we go up to southeast a lot of skippers do that.



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Jeffrey Kahrs: Yeah, okay. What do you guys usually get in duty-free? I know what we used to get, but.

Sven Lundin: Well, the skipper in Port Townsend doesn't get duty-free.

Britni Lundin: I have no experience with that.

Sven Lundin: I don't know. We got beer and we got alcohol.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Yeah, there was always alcohol like Crown Royal.

Sven Lundin: Yeah, some whiskey and a little bit of everything.

Jeffrey Kahrs: The Irish—do you guys still get like Irish cream for the coffee, for like after the opening?

Sven Lundin: Yeah.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Yeah? That was kind of a thing, you know, after you're done with the opening and, you know, two days, and unloaded the boat and you go to sleep and wake up in the morning—

Sven Lundin: Feeling really haggard after, yeah.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Yeah, yeah. We used to do that with the Irish coffee kind of deal.

Sven Lundin: Carolans in the—

Jeffrey Kahrs: Yeah, Carolans in the coffee.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Do you guys still do that?

Sven Lundin: Yep, that still goes down.

Britni Lundin: That's so nice in the morning.



Interview with Sven and Britni Lundin

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Sven Lundin: You should go over to the *Wonderland* and—and, uh, there's a cook on the *Wonderland*, who has cooked and fished for years and years and years, and he's an excellent chef, and you'll get him to talk for a long time.

Jeffrey Kahrs: What's his name?

Sven Lundin: His name is Chris Hunter.

Britni Lundin: Oh, he's actually—he's working on Mark's boat right now.

Sven Lundin: Yeah, he crews on Mark's boat, but he's actually staying on the *Wonderland* right now.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Actually, I wanted to get to—you told me there was some women skippers.

Sven Lundin: Yep, I can get you their names.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Are they local?

[1 minute and 10 seconds redacted due to privacy concerns]

Sven Lundin: And then the other skipper, she's the second seiner in history from my knowledge is Hollis—and I don't remember her last name and I don't have her number.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Hollis?

Sven Lundin: Hollis is her first name. And she runs *Natalie Gail*. And that should be moored here somewhere. It has been in the past.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Yeah, she's local then, somewhere. Hollis, huh? Yeah, that's great. Hey, really thanks. You know, it's just not so easy to do actually, because you try to like with—I don't know what happened to Mark this morning. You know, he's a really good guy and I've heard great things about him over the years, but who knows? Who knows what happens to people?

Sven Lundin: Right.



Interview with Sven and Britni Lundin

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Jeffrey Kahrs: Fishermen are not always actually—they're reliable about getting to their boat for the opening, but they don't really structure their time otherwise.

Britni Lundin: Right.

Sven Lundin: It's a totally different world that they—

Jeffrey Kahrs: It's a different way of structuring time. I mean, haven't you found that to be true?

Sven Lundin: Oh, 100 percent. And that's another reason why it's difficult. You know, not just because it's hard to explain to someone the skills, the knowledge that you've acquired on a fishing boat, but also that you're so used to giving—you're checking in, and you don't punch out for three months. You're always on call, and you're working really really hard. And then when you get done, you're done, you're checked out. No one—you don't own anyone anything, you know. And that's really different than the rest of the workforce and the rest of the way the world works. It's nine to five, Monday through Friday, and when you don't fit into that, people don't get it and it's hard to get back into that rhythm.

Britni Lundin: Yeah. I think that's what so attractive about the fishing industry though just in general for people that desire that more laid back or more nomadic kind of lifestyle. You don't have the nine to five, and you don't have the—you don't have to answer to somebody every day, especially if you're a skipper you get to—you know, you get to make all your own rules and structure life how you want it to be. And I think that's really attractive for more free-spirited people.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Yes. Does time kind of work different for fishermen do you think?

Sven Lundin: Do you mean like long term time?

Jeffrey Kahrs: Yeah, I mean, just because of the way they work, and then the way they are not working and things like that?

Sven Lundin: Yeah. I think absolutely time is And, you know, a lot of people say, "Well, you're away from your family so much." And David Sorenson, the skipper on this boat, he—I will quote him and say it because he says it all the time—he goes, "It's a misconception" because he did miss a lot every—all those months he way away, but when he was home, he was home. He

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was 100 percent invested in his family. He could wake up and make breakfast for the kids, make their lunch, see them off to school, pick them up from school, go to their practices. Do these things and really invest in his family, where maybe you're home more working a nine to five, but you're not all there. You're still—you bring your work home with you a lot. But, you know, I say that, but at the same time I don't want to leave my wife for three months.

Britni Lundin: No. And I think it depends on the person, too. I think it depends on—because you see a lot of, in the fishing industry, you see a lot of broken families. You see a lot of divorce. And yeah, you see a lot of brokenness.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Yeah. I mean, as a couple who has fished and so forth, I mean, this is a—it's like a problem in fishing, and why do you think—I mean, you fish, but now you're going to be separated, so maybe you'll unfortunately understand it a little bit better, the hard, the longing, the difficulty of being separated.

Sven Lundin: Yeah, the first year we met—so we weren't married yet, but we were in a relationship, we were away for those three months.

Britni Lundin: Yes. And the second year, two months after we got married, he went off fishing and I was in Ketchikan working while he was fishing, so we were separated then as well, not quite as long term, but—

Sven Lundin: We experienced it for sure.

Britni Lundin: Yeah, definitely. And it was hard. It's very challenging for a marriage. It's really challenging.

Sven Lundin: But I think it comes down to like you said the person.

Britni Lundin: Yeah.

Sven Lundin: It's not—you know, some people can do it and it works for them, but I think it comes down to that commitment to the other person is the bottom-line.

Britni Lundin: And I think knowing for me, just as Sven's wife in that situation, knowing that his commitment was to me, and that I was his priority that he wasn't—that fishing was his job, but



Interview with Sven and Britni Lundin

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not his first priority, that I was his priority. And knowing—yeah, just knowing the kind of man that he is that he's a good man and trusting that he has my best in mind—

Jeffrey Kahrs: Interests.

Britni Lundin: Yeah, in those situations when it's hard to be able to rely on those things, that really helps in a marriage. And I have confidence in that because of who he is, not because I love the fishing industry or because he was on a great boat or anything like that, it's because of who he is as a man.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Do you—I mean, it's a trust issue.

Britni Lundin: Yes.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Do you think it just comes down to whether you trust the person or not?

Britni Lundin: You know, I think you can trust somebody, but that person may not have your best in mind. You know, I think you can trust that maybe they're a very trustworthy person, but maybe they're—they don't have your best in mind. And that, I think, it comes down to a character issue more than a trust issue, because trust is—you know, trust is vital for a marriage to survive anyway, but the character of a man is proven in his actions. And if a man doesn't have character, then his wife isn't gonna be confident in who he is. So—but my husband has character, so I was able to confident, which was nice in those times, you know.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Are you calling your husband a character? (Laughs)

Britni Lundin: No. Well, he is that, too. He is that, too.

Sven Lundin: A character with character.

Britni Lundin: Yeah.

Jeffrey Kahrs: I think that's great. Let me give you my email, so you can send us some pictures.

Britni Lundin: Oh, yeah, let me—actually I'm gonna put it in my phone.

Sven Lundin: Smart.



Interview with Sven and Britni Lundin

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00:33:15

Jeffrey Kahrs: That's so cool. Thanks for the—it's great. You guys were really—really a great—to talk to you. It's so great to hear it. When we write it up I'll give you a chance to look it over, too.

Sven Lundin: Oh, that will be fun.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Because what we do—what I do is, the interviews, I have them transcribed. And then I take them and I actually kind of condense them and put them together into a conversation. Like, with you two it would be kind of a conversation, but probably a little more extended. You know, I might add thing and stuff. And then I send you a copy, actually. And I say, you know, do you have anything to add or anything here you don't want.

Sven Lundin: Do you need our contact information?

Jeffrey Kahrs: Yeah, sure. You know, just write it on the thing here.

Britni Lundin: And I'm ready for your email.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Okay. It's JaffJaffeco@gmail.com.

Sven Lundin: If you—I bet if you don't—if you know the—if you don't want to leave right now without getting some more information, you'd get good conversation from Chris off the *Wonderland*.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Yeah, and—

Sven Lundin: But that's totally up to you.

Jeffrey Kahrs: Yeah, put that—I'm gonna go ahead and do it. You've you're your best, but.

Britni Lundin: Did I do it wrong?

Jeffrey Kahrs: That's okay. There's no reason you should know.

Britni Lundin: That's a long email.



Interview with Sven and Britni Lundin

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Jeffrey Kahrs: I know it's too long. This is what they gave me at Gmail. I was so stupid. You know, when Gmail first came out my brother said, "Oh, you should sign up for this." And I did and used some inane, stupid email address, and I just couldn't bear to ever use it. And then years later I said: oh, yeah, I want to do Gmail and I want to stop using the other.

Sven Lundin: There you go there's our email information.

Jeffrey Kahrs: All right, that's good.

[Statement ends]