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Transcript of DARE Interview (1967): St. Francisville, Louisiana; Primary Informant LA005 (Tape 0577-S1)

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INTRODUCTION: The following was recorded from Dictionary of American Regional English, tape zero five seven seven, side one.

5 FIELDWORKER: This is a recording of Leo [beep] made in Saint Francisville, Louisiana, on November eleventh, nineteen sixty-seven by [beep]. What kinds of commercial fish are found here in this town, [beep].

INFORMANT: Well, we have the yellow cat, blue cat, eel cats, and mud cats and bullheads.

FIELDWORKER: Uh-huh, now how big do mud cats get?

INFORMANT: Mud cat get up to about, oh on average about two to three pounds.

FIELDWORKER: And, what color are they?

10 INFORMANT: They're about the same color yellow cat would be around here, kind of a light yellow, some's a dark yellow, and some of them's kind of blackish looking, almost.

FIELDWORKER: I see.

INFORMANT: Depends on the water, whether you catch them in the lakes or the river.

FIELDWORKER: And what's the difference between a mud cat and a bullhead?

15 INFORMANT: Well, it's just a difference in the color and the size that they get and all.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm, which one's bigger?

INFORMANT: The bullheads gets the biggest.

FIELDWORKER: I see, how big does it get?

20 INFORMANT: Well around here, on average, twelve pound is about the biggest (that) I've knowed of them to be caught around here.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. Do they have a square tail?

INFORMANT: They have a square tail, same as the mud cat.

FIELDWORKER: I see. Same general shape as a {mud cat?

25 INFORMANT: Yeah.} And same as the, what we call the yellow cat around here, I mean they got a square tail.

FIELDWORKER: I see, and a big head.

INFORMANT: A flat head.

FIELDWORKER: Flat head. Is that another name for them?

30 INFORMANT: No no, the yellow cat is, it gets on up bigger, I mean, they get on up, well, I have knowed of them to weigh a hundred pounds, course, we don't catch them like that around here anymore.

FIELDWORKER: Oh.

INFORMANT: Then your blue cat, I mean he's a big catfish, he's got the forked tale.

FIELDWORKER: Same as a channel cat?

35 INFORMANT: Same as a channel cat. But what they, the channel cat, out in different parts of Louisiana that they call a channel cat, we call it a eel cat here.

FIELDWORKER: Oh, I see. I see, well I was going to ask about the eel cat, {what it was like.

INFORMANT: Yeah, I mean} it's, it's the same as some of them call channel cats.

40 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. Well, let's {see— And} same as your yellow cats, I mean, what we call a yellow cat further on out in the southern part, I mean they'd call it a spotted cat. I see.

INFORMANT: And up out this way, out towards, uh, I guess you'd call it out towards the west, western part of the state, they call it a opelousas cat.

FIELDWORKER: I see. Well I'm learning things there, because they've got a, that same catfish, the spotted one, is called 'appaloosa' {in Arkansas—

45 INFORMANT: That's right}. We called it opelousas cat.

FIELDWORKER: Opelousas, and it's spelled different—O-P-E-L-O-U-S-A-S, isn't it?

INFORMANT: And then it's spotted cat, and some of them even calls it a mud cat. You get on out way up the Amite River now, plenty of them call it a mud cat.

FIELDWORKER: I see. How about, uh, scaly fish that are sold for—

50 INFORMANT: Well you have the gou, which they call it a gaspergou and {buffalo.

FIELDWORKER: Where's it called a} gaspergou?

INFORMANT: Gaspergou?

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. {Is that across the river?

55 INFORMANT: Well you get on down} around, on out in the city like that, in Baton Rouge and place and all, they come in to the fish market, they'll ask for gaspergou, plenty of them.

FIELDWORKER: I see, but you just call it gou (along xx).

INFORMANT: Just call it a gou. Then we have the buffalo, they get on up sixty, seventy pound.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. They look a lot like a what?

INFORMANT: They look similar to a German carp.

60 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And usually around here if you'd asked anybody it's very seldom they'll ever say a German carp. It's just carp.

FIELDWORKER: I see. Oh, I've had trouble telling the difference between a buffalo and a German carp. What's the, you know, {just looking at them.

65 INFORMANT: Well a}, a buffalo, usually when you get it out of the river, Mississippi river, around St. Francisville, here they're white looking.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

70 INFORMANT: I mean the buffalo is white looking. The German carp, he's red looking, something like a goldfish, I'd say, reddish color to them. And they're little slimmer built than what a buffalo is.

FIELDWORKER: I see, {a buffalo is humpbacked. Is that why they call—

INFORMANT: But then you got—yes, you got} two different kinds of buffalo. You got a, what you call a razorback buffalo, is the humpback. Then you got the gourdhead.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

75 INFORMANT: Well the gourdhead is, well I, I believe he do get bigger than what the razorback would.

FIELDWORKER: How about paddlefish or spoonbill cat, which do you call them here.

INFORMANT: Well, we call them spoonbills. You don't get too many of them down here until late in the, well mostly in the spring of the year before you start catching a few.

80 FIELDWORKER: They get pretty big, don't they?

INFORMANT: Mm-hmm. Now around here they have got another fish that they commercial a whole lot, what we call a choupique.

FIELDWORKER: What's it like?

85 INFORMANT: Well they have so many names for them, they call it green cypress trout, choupique, and grindles.

FIELDWORKER: Oh, yeah, well I know what they are then, yes. [laugh] They sell them sometimes.

INFORMANT: Yes, they sell plenty of them around this part of the town, I mean out, you know, around St. Francisville here.

90 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. Well they, they just trash fish in Florida, and they're not called gindle in Florida.

INFORMANT: Well they, plenty of places in Louisiana they are too, I mean they don't fool them, but, I mean right around St. Francisville here it's, actually it's, most of the men fishing right now is what they make their money on is, is the choupique.

95 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. Oh, well how about sport fish then, I think we've 'bout covered the, the uh, commercial fish {(xx)—

INFORMANT: Yes all} except we do have what they call a cold-water carp down here at times.

FIELDWORKER: Oh, how's it {different than—

INFORMANT: They hard-}, it, they look a little something like a buffalo, only they're more whitish color.

100 FIELDWORKER: I see.

INFORMANT: But uh, they, I har-, you hardly ever find any weigh over about four or five pounds, six pounds.

FIELDWORKER: Any others you can think of?

INFORMANT: Well we have the gar fish, I mean they—

105 FIELDWORKER: Do they sell them?

INFORMANT: They sell, man they can sell more gar than they can catch.

FIELDWORKER: [laughing] Now I really am learning things cause they're trash fish everywhere I've ev-, el-, everywhere else {I've been.

110 INFORMANT: Well you've} got plenty of other fish maybe, they're about to run out of fish around here.

FIELDWORKER: Oh, I see.

INFORMANT: But actually the, the people loves gar fish around here.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: I mean to eat. And plenty of them will smoke them.

115 FIELDWORKER: Where do, do they have special buildings to smoke them in, or—

INFORMANT: No, I mean it's just the, your different families and all, I'd say, that they smoke them but if anyone ever buy them, I mean they always come back and smoke gar.

FIELDWORKER: I see. Any others?

120 INFORMANT: Well now and then we catch a few sturgeons down here but there's no market for them, I mean the commercial fishermens out here that catches them, they eat (but) most of what they catch.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. I think I've tasted sturgeon back in Texas. I don't recall what it was like.

INFORMANT: They're fine eating, I think.

125 FIELDWORKER: How about sport fish?

INFORMANT: Well I don't fool with sport fishing and it, even if we catch, catch the fish, I mean, we, we gotta throw them right back in the water, I mean. They have sacalait, you catch a good many barfish at times.

FIELDWORKER: What are barfish like?

130 INFORMANT: To me, something like a striped bass. Only they're a lot bigger around here than a striped bass gets.

FIELDWORKER: Really? Do they hit artificial same as striped bass?

INFORMANT: Yes, they don't, they'll hit artificial bait.

FIELDWORKER: Are they, do they have stripes on their sides like a—?

135 INFORMANT: No, they don't have the stripe, {and they look—

FIELDWORKER: They don't but they're} same shape?

INFORMANT: They're shape, shaped about like it other than their mouth, they have a whole lot bigger mouth than what a striped bass has.

FIELDWORKER: Well where do you catch those?

140 INFORMANT: Mostly in the Mississippi River.

FIELDWORKER: In the river. (xx). Oh.

INFORMANT: Then they'll have the goggle-eye, what we call the goggle-eye perch.

FIELDWORKER: And that's a big sunfish, or that sunfish is my word.

INFORMANT: Well around here they usually is real dark-looking.

145 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. Are they dark greenish or dark brown?

INFORMANT: Dark brown.

FIELDWORKER: I see. And their eyes are red?

INFORMANT: Yes, their eyes are red.

150 FIELDWORKER: OK, I know which one that is now. They call them, they use the word *goggle eye* for two different fish in different places and so, I know which one it is now. Oh—

INFORMANT: Now they had the brim [=bream], good many brim. You know {(what brim are)}.

FIELDWORKER: I know what they're like, (yes).}

INFORMANT: And they have these, uh, oh I wish I could think of it, chinquapin.

FIELDWORKER: Now I don't know {what that is.

155 INFORMANT: They're just} little old red perch. They don't, they don't get as big as the goggle-eye do, I don't believe.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. [dog bark] Are they {flat?

INFORMANT: But they}, they're fl-, they're kind of flat, that's right. Something like a, like your bluegill. [barking throughout]

160 FIELDWORKER: Do the chinquapins have the same general shape as a brim? But a different {color?

INFORMANT: They're, they're} different color, red-red, and uh, and more shorter, seem like.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. Well you said that about covers the sport fish that they fool with around here, how about—

165 INFORMANT: Well they, they have what we call trout.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And plenty, plenty peop-, we call them trout around here and then further on toward Baton Rouge and all, they call them a bass.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. Yeah I'm, I'm {(xx)}.

170 INFORMANT: And then you got the} small mouth and then got the large mouth, and they're both around here, you know.

FIELDWORKER: But they live mostly in lakes, don't they, not in the {river?

INFORMANT: Yes,} stay in the lakes and ponds.

175 FIELDWORKER: Oh, oh how, how do you fish for, maybe we should've covered this when we were talking about commercial fish, but how do you fish for catfish? What's the main {(method)?

INFORMANT: Well if} a, when we did have a lot of yellow cat around here, we'd fish with live bait. Little, you know, little German carp. There wasn't no limit or nothing, you know, it's actually against the law to fish with live bait, but we'd use little carp and these little choupiques and the mud cat, which there's no law on them around here for fishing (with them), you know.

180 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. And what kind of lines would you set?

INFORMANT: We'd, we'd usually use, get in deep water, bluff banks in the river where there'd be deep water.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

185 INFORMANT: And we'd run out from the bank with about ten or twelve hooks. And have maybe about a pound and a half or a pound sinker on the out end of it, and one right next to the bank, and we'd put our hooks about eight to ten foot apart. Fished about ten or twelve hooks.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. {And—

INFORMANT: And} plenty of times you could catch them with, uh, the regular river shrimp. You can bunch on live river shrimp, and yellow cat would hit that pretty good.

190 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And other, other ways, well we caught them in hoop nets, you know?

FIELDWORKER: I see. How big is a hoop net generally?

195 INFORMANT: Hoop nets, around here we would usually fish them anywhere from three and a half foot fronts, seven-hoop nets, some nine-hoop nets, up to about four-and-a-half-foot front. We hardly ever fish a net over four-and-a-half-foot front.

FIELDWORKER: And the front is what, the first hoop?

INFORMANT: That's the first hoop, there. And that has two flues in it, or two throats, we call it.

FIELDWORKER: Throats. And that's a cone-shaped net?

INFORMANT: Just like a funnel.

200 FIELDWORKER: I see.

INFORMANT: Like a funnel.

FIELDWORKER: OK.

INFORMANT: And for, when you, well we catch all kinds of fish in them, I mean.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. And you just have to throw the sport fish back?

205 INFORMANT: That's right. Now for the blue cat fishing, I mean, we put out what you call a jump line, just rigged up on a board and you bait it before you even put it out.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: Bait it on this board. You got notches about a inch apart all the way around the board to where it will hold about fifty to a hundred hooks.

210 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And you could tie it to the bank, or plenty of times we's fishing on a sandbar. We just drop a buoy with a sinker on it and tie the line into one end the sinker and just run out quarter-mile from the river with little sinkers about every ten or fifteen hooks, usually put about, well fifty to a hundred hooks on a line, and you can bait with anything for a blue cat.

215 FIELDWORKER: I see.

INFORMANT: Cut-bait, any kind of cut, other cut fish, uh, cut eel, shrimp, crawfish, just about anything you can find.

FIELDWORKER: How about for the scaly commercial fishing?

220 INFORMANT: Well for the gou fish, you had to bait with shrimp or crawfish, pretty well to catch the gou fish.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

225 INFORMANT: Or worms. Now, at times they will hit worms good. F-, as far as cut-bait, I mean, very seldom they'll ever strike a piece of cut-bait. If they do, most time it's probably shrimp or something hanging on that they strike at them. And for the eel cat around here, well you find them mostly up in bayous, and all. Course the river now is getting stocked pretty good with the eel cat. And usually in the spring of the year or the fall of the year they'll hit good on top of the water. You get these bayous and canals and all that, and stretch your lines kinda on top of the water, and you can bait with any kind of cut-bait or crawfish in the spring of the year and all, and they'll hit.

230 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. How about for the carp and buffalo?

INFORMANT: Well, I've never really done it, but I remember my daddy used to fish regular lines for buffalo. And he had a mixture of, uh, mostly cornmeal bait.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

235 INFORMANT: Take cornmeal and have a pot of boiling water and just keep pouring that cornmeal
in that pot of boiling water and stirring it, until finally it just got so much cornmeal and it's cooking
at the same time it got just stiff, stiff to where you couldn't turn it anymore with a spoon.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

240 INFORMANT: And you'd take it out and let it cool and all, then roll it in strings about the size of
your little finger, six, eight inches long. And then you'd cut it up in little bitty pieces and all and
bait with it like that.

FIELDWORKER: I see. Did he have—

INFORMANT: But his hooks would be a lot closer together than what we'd fish for catfish, you
know.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

245 INFORMANT: And the longer you fished the line, and all, in one place, well you naturally baited
your ground up and you caught more buffalo like that, using the smallest hook, about a one-(xx)
hook.

FIELDWORKER: Did you have any particular name for that kind of bait?

INFORMANT: Well we call it, well plenty of them'll c-, would call it a dough bait.

250 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: But it actually wasn't a dough bait. It was made out of cornmeal. Now you can
make the dough bait the same way other than you just roll out the dough like you were gonna
make biscuits.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

255 INFORMANT: And roll it into little s-s-strings like I was telling you—

FIELDWORKER: Yes. —and then boil it in water. Just drop them little strings in that boiling water,
you don't leave it too long 'cause you'd cook all the pieces, naturally, but just dip them in there
for a little while and then dump the hot water off, put cold water on. I see.

260 INFORMANT: And then it'd just be a hard dough bait. Oh you can roll it hard enough you can
bounce it on the floor. [laugh] I mean after you go the hang of it, you know.

FIELDWORKER: Right.

INFORMANT: Well that was good for catfish at time, certain times of the year.

FIELDWORKER: Did you ever play with the dough any, or just leave {it—

INFORMANT: We} never put anything in it.

265 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. What would be a good haul, normal day's haul for a, a fisherman on, you know, just average?

INFORMANT: Well when the fish was here, they did average anywhere from seventy-five to maybe two hundred and fifty pound.

FIELDWORKER: (Mighty good.)

270 INFORMANT: But the fish did leave, I mean, I'd say ten years ago they started leaving, it just got worse and worse up until maybe about three years ago, the, the yellow cat, they started coming back, but we never have really got a good start of our blue cats coming back.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. What's the {(xx)—

275 INFORMANT: But the eel} cat, seem like the eel cat has took the place of the blue cat. Only thing you—

FIELDWORKER: But it doesn't get as big.

INFORMANT: You ain't got nothing when you catch it, I mean. In fact they even lowered the limit on them. If you, it was fourteen inches and they lowered the limit to thirteen inches on them.

280 FIELDWORKER: That's the kind that people like to catch most at home. They say they taste better than any other kind.

INFORMANT: Well they're good-tasting fish, all right, around here but, but a commercial fisherman, I mean, if he's just depending on lines to catch them with, he couldn't make anything of it.

FIELDWORKER: 'Cause they're not big enough, {is that it?

285 INFORMANT: They're not} big enough.

FIELDWORKER: I see.

INFORMANT: 'Bout, well now and then you get one that weigh four or five pounds, but it's seldom you ever do, about three pounds. And then the carp will, there's really no market here for them.

290 FIELDWORKER: Why don't people like them?

INFORMANT: They just won't buy them, is all I can say, all I can say is just the markets won't buy them.

FIELDWORKER: I see.

INFORMANT: Now, most of these men around here have got where they peddle their own fish.

295 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: I mean there's not enough to take to the market, they don't get no price from them to, to make a living out of it, and they peddle their own fish, they make a little more money out of it.

FIELDWORKER: I see.

300 INFORMANT: And around this part well they, they sell a German carp about as quick as they would a buffalo. If it's a good size. Most of them want buffalo and carp anywhere from five pounds on up. Mostly ten pounds if they can get it.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

305 INFORMANT: And you can go into lakes plenty of time and catch the carp. They will stay back after the backwater comes up, leaving water in these lakes, well the carp will stay in there, same as your choupique. And a few mud cats, they'll stay in there. And then this time of the year when they're not catching them in the river, they'll go to these old lakes and get them out of the lakes.

FIELDWORKER: They don't catch them in the river at this time of year?

310 INFORMANT: Not too many. But they'll, they're always hoping they don't catch them anyway. [laugh] They'd rather not fool them. And we do, well right now I'm not commercial-fishing, but I have started using trammels.

FIELDWORKER: {What are they like?

INFORMANT: (One of the last)} fishing I done, I used a lot of trammel nets.

FIELDWORKER: What are they shaped like?

315 INFORMANT: Well you might say they just like a seine, only they got corks and leads at the bottom and got a wall on its, each side of it. It's just similar to a seine, you got that wall on each side, and then you got corks on top, leads at the bottom.

FIELDWORKER: I see.

320 INFORMANT: And actually the corks float your loose webbing, you got so much loose webbing in there and when the fish get in they get tangled up.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. It's not pulled through the water then, it's just—

INFORMANT: No, it's just stationary, just stayed wherever you put it at. Same way with your gill net. You got two types of gill net they fish around here with. Fish the flag gill, which is nothing but loose webbing.

325 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And then you got leaded gill, and it's got leads on the bottom and corks on top.

FIELDWORKER: I see.

INFORMANT: They fish them mostly in the lakes for catching them choupiques now.

FIELDWORKER: Mm. There's no size limit on the choupique, is there?

330 INFORMANT: No, there's no size limit on them.

FIELDWORKER: Choupique, that's a good name. Never heard it before, never read it before. So I've learned—

INFORMANT: Well plenty of them call it a green cypress trout, (mainly). {Grindle.

335 FIELDWORKER: I've caught those things} in Florida. But nobody, everybody grins when you catch one (down there) [laugh], "Mm, caught you a mud, mud fish," {(they call it).

INFORMANT: Mud fish}. Sawfish, they, lot of people call them sawfish around here.

FIELDWORKER: Well they got teeth like a saw, I'll say that for them. Well does that about cover the fish, can you think of any other means of fishing?

340 INFORMANT: No, I mean, we have seine fish, I mean out, small lakes and all, but it still wound up, you still have what, scrap fish, you might call it.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. Which is the most efficient method and which one do you like best among all kinds of fishing?

345 INFORMANT: Well for a long time before they started blacktopping the river banks and all, you'd catch ten times the fish in a trammel net as what you did in hoop nets. But they've blacktopped all the banks and now you've got no place to fish because you've got to fish them in dead water or either slack water, where there's very little bit of current.

FIELDWORKER: I see.

INFORMANT: You haven't got it anymore since they blacktopped the banks, you got a straight current.

350 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: You actually haven't even got hoop nets there. If they keep blacktopping you can just pull up and start hunting a new job. [laugh] You gotta run out twenty, fifteen, twenty, thirty miles just to find a place to put out four or five nets. There's no place left around here to fish.

FIELDWORKER: What do we got, some {pictures there?

355 INFORMANT: Oh, that's the} picture of a gar fish I caught. Hundred and forty-seven pound.

FIELDWORKER: Man he's a nice one. That's an alligator gar, isn't it?

INFORMANT: Alligator gar.

FIELDWORKER: Alligator gar.

INFORMANT: I caught him in a trammel net.

360 FIELDWORKER: Mm.

INFORMANT: And this is a buffalo weighed fifty-four pounds, I caught him on a hook right here behind the house in the creek.

FIELDWORKER: Uh-huh. Those are some nice looking fish.

365 INFORMANT: Now the turtles, I don't know if you wanted to know anything about the turtles {(and all).

FIELDWORKER: Indeed yes.} Yes I would like to.

INFORMANT: We have a regular snapping turtle around here and got the loggerhead.

FIELDWORKER: What's the difference in them?

370 INFORMANT: Well the loggerhead gets a whole lot bigger than the snapper, and he got kind of half slats, saw teeth or something I'd call it, on top of his back. And the snapping turtle, well he's just an old round, round-backed turtle and usually have a pretty good odor to him.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm, yes I've smelled them.

375 INFORMANT: And, I mean, you can fool with them and they'll just (start a) snap at you. Then you got the streaky-head, what we call the streaky-head's a greenback turtle, got kind of red stripes on his neck.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. How big do they get?

INFORMANT: Oh, I'd say about the size of the top of a eight-quart water bucket.

FIELDWORKER: Which is about fourteen inches?

INFORMANT: Yeah.

380 FIELDWORKER: Um, and all those are salable?

INFORMANT: Yes you can sell them if you catch them.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. There's one turtle that sits out on uh, usually it's in still water, and you'll see him sitting out on logs all the time when the suns out.

385 INFORMANT: That's usually a greenback, greenback turtle. Some of the people around here call them streaky-heads.

FIELDWORKER: OK. Well I know which one it is now.

INFORMANT: Now you got another turtle about the same size as that, w-what we call a grayback turtle. But right on the back of his shell, he got little saws like, he ha-, he hasn't got the, just the complete round hull like the streaky-head's got.

390 FIELDWORKER: I see.

INFORMANT: And then you got the soft-shell turtles. You got two kinds of them here. You got the regular smooth-back soft-shell turtle. Then you got (things) got little old bumps like all over his hull, the top of his hull is just bumpy bumpy.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

395 INFORMANT: A lot like BB shots just all over his back.

FIELDWORKER: I've never seen one of those. Do they have a {(xx)?

INFORMANT: Well they}, seem to me like they get bigger than the smooth-back. These smooth-backs (xx) in these clear creeks. You know where it's usually running water, and it's clear like?

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

400 INFORMANT: But the, that old bumpy back soft-shell, you catch a lot of them in the river at times.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And they get, I have seen them big as a number three wash tub, the bottom of a number three wash tub.

FIELDWORKER: How 'bout frogs?

405 INFORMANT: Well we, we've had what we call a bull frog but, I mean that's the onliest name I know for them.

FIELDWORKER: Do people catch them and sell them?

INFORMANT: Well right around here we used to do it, I mean, certain times of the year, uh, June, July, we used to really hunt them for a living.

410 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: You know at night, with a headlight. But we don't have them anymore, I mean all our swamps has been drained, and lakes, they usually dry up, you just don't have the frogs you used to but the lower country, well they still are, they still go at it in a big way.

415 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. Well I noticed on the game laws here that they had limits on frogs and—

INFORMANT: Yeah they have {some.

FIELDWORKER: —(restrictions)} and I thought maybe they caught them around here.

INFORMANT: Oh we catch, what we catch now usually is just about, about what we can eat.

420 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. Well, can you think of any other fishing enterprises that go on. Fish, turtles, alligators?

INFORMANT: [cough] Excuse me. We don't even fool with the alligators.

FIELDWORKER: I see.

425 INFORMANT: I mean, they're 'bout hunted out, or killed out, or left out I imagine because your lakes go dry now and they don't have, there's just one lake I know of, what we call the lower swamps in, below St. Francisville here. It has got a few alligators in it, (but) we don't fool with them.

FIELDWORKER: What kind of fish do you have that aren't valuable either commercially or for sport?

430 INFORMANT: Well we have what we call a shad and certain times of year, mostly in the spring of the year, they run plentiful then, meaning hoop nets or, well we catch, catch them up to about three pounds in trammel nets.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. But they can't be sold?

INFORMANT: No, they can't be sold. Some people eat them, I mean, mostly amongst the colored people.

435 FIELDWORKER: I see. And uh, what are their characteristics? What do they—

INFORMANT: Well I'm just, it's a fine food, I mean, for other fish, I mean. Far as catfish, yellow cat, blue cat, any kind of catfish eat them, gar fish. Usually when they are running, I mean, you do catch a few catfish, catfish'll follow them.

FIELDWORKER: I see. And are there any other kinds of—

440 INFORMANT: Well like I tell you the cold-water carp, we call that a scrap fish too, I mean there's no market on those. And that's about the onliest kind of scrap fish, I mean as far as I know of.

FIELDWORKER: What kinds of bait fish do you have that are simply good for bait and bait only?

445 INFORMANT: Well when we're using cut-bait, we'll usually take a buffalo or a carp, for cut-bait, or a eel, regular eel they're, they're pretty good for catfish bait. And we don't have any market on them either.

FIELDWORKER: Go on to side two.