

castillo-leonard-2018-01-02.mp4

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Leonard Castillo [00:00:10] I was a kid we was poor people.

James Thull [00:00:14] And this was in Nicaragua.

Leonard Castillo [00:00:21] I start from Nicaragua But I had something. It that I have to be bigger in fishing. Right. So when I was 16 years, my uncle come and tell my mother I want to carry Leon to the capital. My mother say oh my son is to young I say mommy I can go she say ok go at 16 I didn't fuck a lady yet right yougot to use your way right so when we went I was like cool guy I didn't want to make problems up to this day 70 years I don't have problem so we went to the capital and I went to a seaport named for the, for the Somoza. There goes Somoza time, right? My uncle was working there before so I tell my uncle I don't come here to visit I want to talk to the boss but theres plenty ship you know plenty big ship come around and sometimes you look in the harbor we don't unload ship to the dock in Puerto Somoza the ship harbor 70 80 miles out to sea. but we have a lots of, big barge you know with tugs the time come I remember that good day man

Leonard Castillo [00:02:16] About February 23, 1947. So my uncle come around and tell me you know what? The bossman tell me he want you to be the waterboy on the ship .

Leonard Castillo [00:02:17] You know how I feel? I feel great. At 4 o'clock, the ship try to blow the whistle. the company going to come by the dock But I knew I would be a seaman, you know. I knew I would be, from a kid I was a swimmer. (unintelligible) I can't sleep at night. I couldn't sleep at night. I want to hear that whistle vroom vroom. when I hear that whistle blow so I took my little cup and my spoon because the company they have the kitchen and serve you the breakfast, dinner and your supper. When I get on that barge, it's tug is harder you know? I think I'm becoming a man now. went to sea everybody went below the ship and I remember Kashi Maru (unintelligible) from China. big fucking animal you look at (unintelligible)...one hole one hole one hole, but we have a gander this is twenty mile this is twenty mile, Just like a football team no? they have two watermen and you have to be with a rope on a bucket,

Leonard Castillo [00:04:19] And that ship last fifteen days. sometimes I sleep in a ball of ropes, you know, when you're tired I young. "Waterboy!" And you have to fucking get up man. (unintelligible)

Leonard Castillo [00:04:49] and you can fishing if you want to, fishing on the side.

Leonard Castillo [00:04:52] You catch drummer you catch Pargo (snapper) you catch all those things

Leonard Castillo [00:04:54] when your young I didn't look at those things you know fisherman, they all work and catch a line on one. They used to unload barge if you working in this hutch and that barge gone you can rest so you can catch a fish on a line.

James Thull [00:04:54] Did you fish with hand lines or a pole.

Leonard Castillo [00:04:54] I don't fish with a pole.

James Thull [00:04:54] With hand lines.

Leonard Castillo [00:04:54] That's my fishing all my life when I fishing with the American guy in 53 or 59 (unintelligible) 9pd sinker in 300 feet of water if I want to put on hydraulic I put on hydraulic if I want to handreel but when I go fishing with those American boat we was fishing the calamari so small calamari they used to come from Salvador they fishing calamari you know what calamari is right? But the small ones not the big animal they no good we have the smaller ones from Salvador we used to get them in 5pd pack I could catch 2000pd of snapper in one night, I'm not fucking lying. (unintelligible) to hold up the wheel, that is (unintelligible) boom. You know you have a real lure and that fucking thing touched the bottom man you can pow and 18 big fucking snapper like that man. (unintelligible) no fucking fisherman. They could never...

Leonard Castillo [00:06:38] snapper.

James Thull [00:06:38] Snapper.

Leonard Castillo [00:07:36] I catch fish.

James Thull [00:07:36] Is that your favorite fish to eat.

Leonard Castillo [00:07:36] I have a line out there. I had a line out there (unintelligible) I tell them guy, with a lawnmower. 2 1/2 ton but you know here is hard to get boats here you can't keep boat, do you see (unintelligible) where it is? here they don't have no fucking place to put big boat here I work on big boat the anchor goes big and the rope is half past. I came in 1971 I was fishing in (Cabo Gracias a Dios) you remember that hurricane ? I was up there I was up there in it because 19 boats was up there from Blue Creek I hear the talking with Havana radio station Swan Island. Swan Island (unintelligible) they announce it, but i didn't know that when the weather come in the shrimps and flounder run everybody start to run and every time I could pick up I have 3000 pd of fish (unintelligible) but at least we have two (unintelligible) I heard the news. Hurricane is heading to Cabo Gracias a Dios. I tell the captain you hear that? No man (unintelligible)!

Leonard Castillo [00:08:38] Then we have enough 100 box (unintelligible) but you know the shrimps coming and everybody running. We look and people run, the shrimps are running the animal is running. But we catching enough. I don't feel good I want to rig (unintelligible) I say I'm fucking finished here 22 years I say you can't see the sea what its bringing? (unintelligible) and i hear hes talking through the radio i I hear captain you hear whats taking place? Hurricane is coming up here that was about 7am in the morning. I smoking? I hear the guy say (unintelligible). I don't feel good.

Leonard Castillo [00:09:31] When you get those when you looking on the sea hurricane coming up, you see little breeze. When you look at the cap of the sea, white, white, white. I tell those guys go on tie those booms. (unintelligible) I say you put on all the chain on this thing because its going to be a bad time here (unintelligible). 10 oclock it started with the reaction. When you look behind you you start to see the big rollers right? Big rollers. The captain (unintelligible) and Everything closed. Everything tied off. The boom then tied, you know they have chain on them (unintelligible) We had on stabilizer. you know stabilizer?

(unintelligible) it bullshit man. Stabilizer gone here stabilizer gone here. This boat coming down behind.

Leonard Castillo [00:10:32] We run with 500hp GMC you know, 500 hp but we're coming down. but we didn't run with the 500 hp you know what we running with? with the breeze! We have 18 (unintelligible) I said huh, I wonder if we're gonna make it there. Nobody can- my bunk was here. when the sea (unintelligible) POW! The glass don't go inside. We run run run reach to (unintelligible) you know what a (unintelligible) it's a island. The anchor rope is a big nylon like that rope but we have too, too hard here. the captain says Leon try throwing the anchor.

Leonard Castillo [00:11:28] see if the breeze was behind the island. I just, I couldn't move the rope (unintelligible) 200 meters (unintelligible) just like a tread, man. Just like a Uhauler tread, Jesus Christ we have to run again (unintelligible) and I say if I get out of this I will never be on the sea again well daylight you know early morning (unintelligible) well then I look where the hell I was man. (unintelligible) Nobody could save you god you could never get out. When the rest of (unintelligible) everybody (unintelligible) Nicaragua, you know? The capt- down there is the beach and there is the port.

Leonard Castillo [00:12:45] We have a good boat but not good on the sea. (unintelligible) The boat went right into the beach... And we just, we don't stop at the seaport we went to the, we have big river you know? With deep water we went. Nobody. Nobody doing nothing. I said. Jesus Christ.

Leonard Castillo [00:13:29] My mother said, I don't want you on the sea again. I said (unintelligible). Three days afterward I was on the sea again. I followed aboard (unintelligible) the rope catch me here and here I go in the water (unintelligible) I used to fishing with 4000 traps.

Leonard Castillo [00:14:28] Everything. But you know what my life is just will be on the sea my mother dead and gone 20 years. you know what she tell me? I will go

Leonard Castillo [00:14:42] But you know what? You know, (unintelligible) I got lucky I just love my job you know its my life I just feel no pressure on sea like when you live on your land, you have pressure from woman and you have to pay for house. pay this pay that but when I am on the sea I am not bothered (unintelligible) the little thing I have to pay is when I am on the boat they put my breakfast and I am not a fisher after the captian I am the second captian

Leonard Castillo [00:15:43] They cook my breakfast, cook my dinner cook my supper what I need I didn't need a wife. but you know when I take a wife I make a fucking mistake when I take a girl she had two kids from me and the third one wasn't mine. what a sad day what the fuck I was doing wasting my time In one trip I can make 12,000 dollars. in one trip 28 days (unintelligible) I didn't come here because my country is richer than here you know. You that my country is fucking richer than Costa Rica why if you were living so good did you come here? I ask them why you all fucking go to the United States cause you are living good there too (unintelligible)

Leonard Castillo [00:17:02] Do you know who will live bad in the Pacific? I live on the Atlantic (unintelligible). I can give you a bit of fish I can give you a pan of fish but on the other side then cannot give you fucking a glass of water.

James Thull [00:17:26] Is it about the weight of it?

Leonard Castillo [00:18:13] from you hold it.

James Thull [00:18:13] From the way it pulls.

Leonard Castillo [00:18:13] he is my partner he is not a fisherman I catch 7 fish for every 1 he catches in this place I fishing (unintelligible) lobster time I used to fishing with 9 fucking line (unintelligible) you can pick up in three line a 1000 odd kilo of lobster those times was good (unintelligible) you find prostitute you drink you eat and 2 o'clock again you go out. you spend your money and your gone again tomorrow you come same money what today is too much tomorrow (unintelligible) ok when you was young and you was making money (unintelligible)

Leonard Castillo [00:19:08] Very not good for me but in my country I can catch fish every fucking day man.

James Thull [00:19:08] So is the fishing as good.

Leonard Castillo [00:19:08] Not as good you spend money here but you can't make no money.

James Thull [00:19:08] So in Nicaragua is the fishing is good now as it was when you were a boy.

Leonard Castillo [00:19:08] .it's better they have everybody living off fishing who would work in a company they don't want to be. we go I go the last time I went we go fishing shore we fished yellowtail and lobster and ok if I bring maybe 1000pd of fish here I sell it today. 2000pd (unintelligible) nobody catch it here I catch the biggest fish over there I catch a few fish 300 odd pounds run my line over there same line I catch two turtle 700 pound each one they are a big fucking animal man I hold fish like that you know I'm big man (unintelligible) why you fucking called captain man you running a little boat with 2 tourist. (unintelligible) I wish you had more time for interview and to go fishing. The hardest animal I catch big fish down here I was fishing in deep water maybe 85-100 with 3 big hooks and something passed and hit the line. (unintelligible) you know I have 180pd test but that fucking animal took all 300 meters and went like a seal I said fuck what this is like a whale or something but you know what it is the line is going out of the water (unintelligible--describing a bird)