

henriksen-jostein-2019-06-11.mp4

Jostein Henriksen [00:00:10] I got started. I grew up with a, with a cabin by the Oslo Fjord. So we went out, we had a small boat, and we went out. We went out fishing for cod, primarily. With, with a, with line and bait. And we went there every summer. So I basically fished every summer. From what? From I was three years old, or something. And kept doing it, all throughout my, my, my childhood.

Jostein Henriksen [00:00:54] Yeah. Yeah, definitely. So we fish, too. I can remember is eating, eating fried cod for, for breakfast, on bread. That was sort of a staple at that cabin. So, yeah, definitely. We went out and we fished for food.

Jostein Henriksen [00:01:17] Oppstrøms. That's 'upstream' in English. Yeah.

James Thull [00:01:20] Wonderful. And that's a local Norwegian. Is that correct?

Jostein Henriksen [00:01:23] Yeah. It is an online fly fishing magazine, Norwegian fly fishing magazine, that sort of, sort of sprung out of an old print magazine? That went out of business in 2013, or something. So but some of the some guys from that print magazine, they continued with an online version called [unintelligible] that's that's where we are now. And we're planning to to relaunch on paper soon. So.

Jostein Henriksen [00:01:58] I mean, that's a good question. I think. I think well, we do, of course, seen in the fly fishing world, is social media and the Internet sort of changing, changing a lot, I think. It's become much more of, it's become much more visible, somehow. It used to be, we used to be weird. Weird guys doing, doing a weird thing. Now it's, it's, it seems to be more mainstream, and more sort of out in the open. That's one thing. But I also, I also now recently, I'm thinking about changes with nature. That's apparent. I see Pacific Oysters in the Oslo Fjord, I never saw that as a kid. The Oslo Fjord is now empty. There, there's no cod left. So you see this kind of, kind of change that has to do with climate change, and with the, with, and also with the introduction of foreign species, and so on. So you're really starting to feel that, when you go out into nature now, you see that things have changed. Sigmund Freud talks about it. He has a, he talks about, he has an essay, essay about something called [unintelligible]. Which I think means something like 'the unpleasant' or something. And he, he he, he talks about it. And so he describes that feeling of seeing something familiar. And there's something unfamiliar in it. And I often think about that, that term when I when I go out into nature now. It's familiar, but it's somehow changed.

Jostein Henriksen [00:03:49] I'm actually fairly new to this, so I don't have any, I don't have any great insights into this, but but I think that, of course it's, running a fly fishing magazine in Norway is probably like running a fly fishing magazine anywhere in the world. You won't get rich. But at the same time, I think there's, uh. You see magazines in the US like the Flyfish Journal, the Drake magazines, that the print magazines, quality print magazines, that people, people seem to be willing to pay for. So I think those still can, can, can play a part somehow, or survive. But I mean, the whole publishing industry, the whole media industry, is just fragmenting now, into, into, into everything. Into, into online, into blogs, into videos, into Instagram posts, into whatever. So I mean, I guess the fly fishing publishing business. It's not, it's no exception to that.

Jostein Henriksen [00:05:06] I mean, here in Norway, what is a great concern here in Norway is, it's a loss of habitats, I think. Primarily. I mean, hydro electricity is huge in

Norway. And now with climate change, you we want to produce more electricity. Of course. But now you speak about putting up wind turbines in wilderness areas. You talk about damming, damming more rivers. And this is, this is a huge problem in Norway. I mean, you see that effect. It has already had on Atlantic Salmon. It's a catastrophe. Several distinct populations of salmon is extinct. And when I speak to, to leading biologists, marine biologists or someone, they're they're they're not very optimistic about the situation. And this has to do with. I mean, we often talk about the climate crisis. But I think in reality, it's more of a human crisis. It is more of the sorts of climate changes, of course. Part of it. But but if you see in Norway, it's well, we're, we're more and more people, using more and more energy. We're using more and more agricultural products. We're using more and more of everything. So. So I think that this is kind of a wave now, coming. Especially with, with, with renewable energy, energy. Which of course, this is necessary because of climate change. But then again, there's a balance. On how, on how that will affect the rivers especially.

Jostein Henriksen [00:06:54] Yeah, that's the question, isn't it? I think... We, well, the Australian writer, Greg French, that I talked about earlier. He's, he writes in the book, I think it's the wild, Last Wild Trout, or something. He talks about, especially fly fishing, being, being a way of seeing the world. And he talks about the indigenous people, how they, how they have a certain kind of knowledge. That not, that sort of, that, that's an alternative to science, to scientific knowledge. And he talks about. He talks about. I think he talks about, landlocked Chinook in New Zealand, or something. Moving over a lake and the scien- scientists couldn't figure out why they moved in, in these arches over the lakes. And for a fly fisherman, it was obvious: it was it was wind blades. And I think, this is somehow, how I feel that after, after you start fly fishing. You, you sort of, you see nature in a whole different way. You see I mean, you see you, see the bugs, you see, you see the, you notice the wind. You notice vegetation. You notice... Snow melting and so on. So you see, you really see different in nature in a, in a totally different way. And in the more, somehow, in a way that feels more, more profound or something. So I think, I think it has a lot to do with that. And of course, just, it's just catching something. I think that's, that's sort of the basic, I think, the first time I caught a fish, my mom tell me, tells me-- I caught a small, I don't know what it's called an English, [Norwegian] --at that cabin. And that same night, when she wanted to do, what you say,.

James Thull [00:08:50] Oh, to clean it?

Jostein Henriksen [00:08:51] To clean it. I went ballistic. So I was I took the fish and ran. And hid behind the, hid in the cabin and ended up taking taking the fish to bed. So she had to sort of sneak it out of my hands, while I was sleeping. And I think that's that's sort of, of course, the basic, the basic motivation isn't it? To just catch a fish, to do something. I mean, the last 15, 20 years I've been fly fishing exclusively. But now when I go out with my sons, we fish with a bobber and worms. And I kind of think, you know, when we go out, I think, 'Ah, this will be OK.' But then we get, get started, and I just, I, I get lost in it. And it's, it's totally, it's as fun as it was when I was a kid. So I think that the basics, just, just to catch something is, is probably the, one of the main motivations.

Jostein Henriksen [00:09:57] I mean, of course, it's important. How you think, you won't want to keep, in things that you've experienced yourself and thought was nice, you want to, you want to somehow relay that to your children. But at the same time, I, of course, I'm, I'm wary of sort of pushing and pushing it on them. But I, but I tried to, I tried to take them out to nature as much as possible. I think that, I believe that these relationships with nature, they often form in your childhood. I still feel this... Often when you're out fishing, or

when I'm out fishing, or I'm out in nature, this, this sort of nostalgic element to it. That I think has to do with, with, with, with memories, and so on. So, so, so, of course, it's important. It's very important.

Jostein Henriksen [00:10:56] I'd really like to go to New Zealand. I think New Zealand looks, looks spectacular. I mean, the fish, fishing looks spectacular, but also just nature. That sort of wilderness fishing that you can get there on these inland rivers where you can catch huge, huge Browns and Rainbows, and so on.

James Thull [00:11:15] Smart Browns, too.

Jostein Henriksen [00:11:16] Yeah. yeah, I hear it's tricky. Yeah. So yeah, I'd really love to see Patagonia. I haven't been to Patagonia. I guess that's, that's one of the reasons for fishing, too. You get to, you get to see the world, you get to, you get, it's sort of a motivation for traveling. And to see the world in a different way than than you would if if you weren't fishing?

James Thull [00:11:41] Yeah.

Jostein Henriksen [00:11:44] I mean, I'd like to fish everywhere. I'd like to I mean, I want to fish in, I want to fish, fish, Tiger Fish in Africa. I want to fish, I want fish Tarpon, in Cuba, or permit. I want to fish. So, yeah. I have a lot of, lot of places on my bucket list.

Jostein Henriksen [00:12:06] Yeah, that's a good question.... Yeah, what makes a good fishing partner? I guess, I guess I'm kind of... A good friend, makes a good fishing partner. I mean.No, I don't.... Obviously, it's, it's good to fish with somebody who's better at fishing than you, so you can learn something. But I don't know, I haven't really thought about that. I think, I think, you know, you can have a lot of different fishing, fishing partners, and then they can be sort of, sort of.... They can be rewarding in their kind of way.

Jostein Henriksen [00:13:10] Absolutely. I mean, you, you... I think. I think fishing for, fishing for many people, plays a huge, huge, huge role in their lives. And when you, when you meet other that sort of have the same affliction, you can't help but, but find each other interesting. You have, you have a lot of common ground, I think. So. Yeah. I mean, the answer is, yes.

Jostein Henriksen [00:13:53] I'm a big, big fan of Ted Leeson. That was how I stumble upon your project. But yeah, Ted Leeson. I love, uh... the guy up on the West Coast, River Why, Duncan Gierach of course. I think a lot of, a lot of them. That's fascinating with America. You have a lot, a lot of good fishing writing. You have. And I mean the level of writing in, in magazines like, like the Drake, the Flyfish Journal, and so on is amazing. And you have books with, I mean, amazing books. And amazing authors. So. But I think for me, especially, especially, I remember reading The Habit of Rivers for the first time, and it absolutely blew me away. It was it was a revelation, really. The way he sort of goes about fishing, like it's a, like it's a whole, whole world. That was absolutely fascinating. I read that book, I mean, ten times.