

hughes-henry-2017-12-09.mp4

[00:00:09] Yeah.

[00:00:10] Shrimps get a little bit of a fisherman in him as well. He showed up a few years ago skinny struggling stray.

[00:00:17] And I was washing off the boat. We had been Salmon Fishing in those pickled shrimp that we sometimes use. One of those hit the driveway in shrimp gobbled it up. I'm afraid he's been here ever since we really love him.

[00:00:30] Well that's great. They're good to have around. Good bouncers. Yeah. He's a whole different kind of stuff. Oh yeah. Mean they are by nature.

[00:00:37] I identify with that even though he's well-fed. He feels the urge to hunt. Sure.

[00:00:43] Yeah. And catch things. And he loves catching them and playing with them. And you know it's funny I think about why we like to play the fish. I guess if we were just.

[00:00:56] Extracting the fish in the quickest most painless way we'd just get him in and kill them instantly but almost every angler enjoys right a good a good fight. Sure. And the shrimp reminds me that. Well that's kind like playing with your food enjoying food.

[00:01:14] You know some mammals orcas are seen to do this with with seals. Yeah it's a little bit scary that we take pleasure in the struggling of our prey but. I guess we do that. Kind of maybe that feel of conquering or that that feel of satisfaction that. Yeah. You know when I was younger I did feel like conquest like bringing home a nice fish to show my mom and something we could eat.

[00:01:43] You know. For some people it's a trophy. You know I don't feel that way anymore and I've never been a trophy fisherman.

[00:01:49] I've never had a fish mounted or anything. Yeah I got some pictures memories. But there is something you know perhaps it's in know are deep genetic history that we like that the feel. Of the prey. And.

[00:02:07] It's just it triggers something thrilling about Chase and pursuit and yes indeed capture officials in the net.

[00:02:16] It feels good.

[00:02:22] I did discovered on my own mostly except it was in the environment I grew up in Long Island New York and my dad did not like fishing. He had no interest in fishing. But it was in the air. It was in the water Port Jefferson small town right on the North Shore had a little lobster fishery going there and lots of sport fishing and some commercial trawling as well. And I just I was in love with the idea of these mysterious creatures under the water for the most part couldn't really see them occasionally come up in a blue fish or striped bass. But I was just so fascinated by getting in there and getting something and other kids fished and I just I just wanted to fish. I like looking at fish. I love going to the fish market with my mother and seeing these fish on the ice and I would ask questions of the fish monger or kind of fish are these where they come from and the lobster tanks and all that.

So there was a very early fascination. With. Fish and. And fishing and then my dad was you know he didn't.

[00:03:29] Help it. He didn't like fishing. But he encouraged my hobby. And he was good with boats and motors and so got us out on.

[00:03:42] Yeah we saw a couple of things that come to mind.

[00:03:45] We enjoyed snapper fishing along the docks Stony Brook is a great place to catch snappers snapshots or immature blue fish and the blue fish is a very big game fish on the East Coast and summer late summer. The juveniles snappers command that can be like 8.

[00:04:06] To 12 inches and they're abundant and they're fun to catch. It's a real. Simple fishery much like catching blue gills in a pond would be you go out there on the docks on a rising tide cast a barber with a little Shiner underneath.

[00:04:25] Barbara goes down. I remember missing them and missed them. Other people were catching them and something was wrong my dad didn't really know what to do and it wasn't really a skill. But then it was like This guy came over and said Give me a few tips you know and he gave me a smaller Barber a little smaller hook and told me how to put that little minnow on and sure enough I got my first snap but I think it was my first fish and. Got and just lucky.

[00:04:49] And brought home maybe six in a bucket. And my father knew roughly how to clean a fish and. We fried them up the next day. My mother and. I. Really enjoyed them all so it was very positive. Absolutely. I had a couple great mentors a guy named Kirby Clark. It's one of those people who's. Who knows. For me Clark anymore. Maybe me. And a handful of people. But he was just a real or Long Islander A SALTY DOG WHO LOVED duck hunting and muskrat trapping fishing of all varieties. He really took me under his wing. And he was salty. I mean he would say things and I never heard an adult save more. He liked to drink and get into trouble but he taught me a lot about fishing and hunting as well. And I. I've always had good mentors and I try to do that too. I really enjoy taking my colleagues out fishing with their kids. And I just love having young people on board. You know as little advice as possible.

[00:06:02] I find as one of the best strategies. If you take a young person fishing.

[00:06:08] And they get in a tangle I say don't worry about it.

[00:06:12] Happens all the time.

[00:06:14] Maybe a little tiny bit of advice. You know well if you don't bring your poll straight up the line will get wrapped around it just keep it out a little bit.

[00:06:22] You know tiny little tips like that but really less is more. And I've been a teacher all my life and I've learned a little bit about you know correction but. I really just let the let a person fish and if I take a friend fishing an adult who hasn't fished very much. Same thing. You know you don't want them to injure themselves or maybe you can you know run the boat aground but other than that.

[00:06:48] Let them fish and make small little suggestions and now watch you and then try to get him into a fish if you can. It's nothing like the thrill of actually catching. So maybe choosing a method. Or fishery that's a little bit easier.

[00:07:09] That's a great question.

[00:07:11] Well it's related to less is more it's nice to have conversation. I love to talk.

[00:07:20] I liked often. If we're driving to a location we do a lot of talking in the car but we get to the water. It's OK to have quiet time. And I really appreciate someone that is willing to talk and they can talk about anything they want. But it's also just happy to fish and sit there quietly and we have quiet moments. I'm not overly competitive. It's fun to maybe tease each other about losing a fish but. I've never been turned on to someone who is really super competitive especially like steelhead fishing walking a river. Do our own thing catch a fish loser fish. And I know I'm thrilled if the other person catches one. I don't really need to like if I'm special I'm hosting and they catch a fish I'm like great. The deck is very successful. That's all I need. But I've had amazing conversations out on the water. I mean people. Have really opened up. I've been able to open up about things and so it's a lot of time. People don't realize that you know they say we all go fishing with you. Mike. Well it's not a whaling voyage. We will be out all day. I mean I really. Eight hours is not uncommon. Ten hours in Oregon for still head hadn't salmon that might be in the rain. So it's a lot of time and there are some people I've fished with once or twice and I'm like OK that's enough.

[00:08:51] You know they may be great people and they may be in your life in other ways but those dear friends like Ted I could fish with any day and spend many hours together and it always feels good.

[00:09:08] Well I fished in many places. Sure. So I grew up in Long Island New York. I went to school in the Northern Plains and Midwest.

[00:09:17] I now live on the West Coast. I lived in East Asia for five years. I fish in many places in the world and I think most anglers would agree that you know we are experiencing environmental degradation. And I'd say climate change is number one for Oregon. Our trout or salmon or steelhead need cold water. Just like the great fish in Montana. And we've had ocean warming and it's affected our fishery. The official reports from NOAA have indicated large masses of warm water off the west coast and our salmon returns have definitely declined since I've been here. There are some golden years when I first got here and they have not returned. That concerns me. I try to do whatever I can. I don't think recreational angling. Is the main problem. Of course anglers need to obey the rules and follow bag limits.

[00:10:21] But we have to we have to somehow control the temperature of the planet and we have to protect habitat. Trout salmon steelhead need excellent rivers. They need places to spawn and any kind of development is going to destroy that.

[00:10:39] And we have a rising world population. So I'm typically an optimistic person. And I like what I see in a raised consciousness about environmentalism and conservation especially in places like Montana Oregon Washington and I've seen. I can. Testify that I have seen improved fisheries in places like New York where I was a kid growing up in the 60s 70s and 80s very hard to get a striped bass Montauk Point maybe the sharpies who went out at night with live yields but we never quite bass.

[00:11:17] I went back many years later in the 90s and there were some striped bass.

[00:11:21] They had restored a lot of that habitat Hudson River Chesapeake Bay strict bag limits strict limits on commercial fishing. It was tough on that on the old Long Island culture. The same knitters who used to run those nets with the dory since you know the 17th century. But had to hold off on that fish recover. Fish would cover salmon recover quickly if we give him a break. I've seen a lot of excellent management of fisheries in New York and I think Oregon is very well managed. I mean they're on top of it but when you have fish go out into the ocean and cover you know thousands of miles it's hard to protect them. So it concerns me. Humans are very strange and maybe unless immediate threat is present. OK we're being bombed. React. Your house is on fire. React. We're slow. We're slow to react. So we are seeing you know phenomenal extraordinary changes in the environment. We're seeing the polar caps melting. Is that enough it's enough for me. I'm going to vote in a direction that favors controlling carbon emissions. I went to school. I have a small boat you know as a as an American. I'm relatively low impact person but I'm still you know a middle class guy who drives around and takes trips enjoys flying to exotic places. I'm part of the problem too. It's just not a panic situation for most people. So they're like.

[00:13:00] Yeah that's okay. You know that big house you know.

[00:13:05] I don't know. That said I we're just a species we're just more prone to be reactive than proactive compared to animals. Maybe not committed to look at polls.

[00:13:18] But given what we have our capacity to foresee and predict and forecast and the science that we have as human beings. You would think so that we could do more. But you know. Oh you know one thing I really enjoyed. In the 90s I went to Japan and I was in my 20s and I was the first really foreign country I had lived in.

[00:13:51] And fishing was a common language. I mean like really within a few days of arriving in the country. I worked at a small school. And you got to. On the sea of Japan you received Japan. As teachers took me out. And I didn't know any Japanese. Except for you know. When. You two are you know and Domo and very quickly I was learning vocabulary. And very quickly I was engaging in communication and fishing was an entree into that world for me and the Japanese are very fishy people. And the best way they love to fish they love to talk about fish. They have fish iconography throughout their culture.

[00:14:36] Fish are you know fish and their religion Shin fish was everywhere. I was very much at home.

[00:14:43] And that really helped me. And in China I also lived in China for a couple of years. I lived in Beijing was harder in some ways. Created another kind of challenge I actually would go out to these fish parks.

[00:14:56] That they have. And. You know it's canned fishing but. People really enjoyed it. And I had wonderful conversations. Partly through a friend you know as a translator but then eventually on my own you know about managing fish growing fish the carp was another iconic fish I saw and all this art. I realized how important it was for festivals the symbol of the carp. The fish that's often maligned. In America.

[00:15:23] The Brits understand carp. My wife is British and we go to England.

[00:15:27] That's a good car culture but America carp was a trash fish. And so I really one of the things that I do is try to promulgate a new carp consciousness and talk about carp is a great fish. Beautiful fish. And a fish that should be sought by anglers. It's common. It's popular. So you're not going to do any damage. Catching a few carp and boy that's an amazing fighting fish. I actually snuck into a few places in Beijing. Where we bribe the guards a little bit with cigarettes very calm. No harm done. And just like some private compounds with a fly around it was a very primitive fly caster that just anything just sending out a drive fly in this pot and you know these 20 pound carpet. Well I mean this thing would. RIP RIP light off my run know go round a pagoda is just crazy but I will I will always savor those moments I feel like I was connecting to like to the ancients.

[00:16:26] I love poetry and it's a lot of beautiful Japanese and Chinese poetry and painting of course music really extolling the car you know the golden car. So.

[00:16:43] Most definitely. The common place to go to would be Isaac Walton is the complete angler. He talks about this explicitly. That no one cultivates. A sense of art. Through angling. And that whether it's the art of understanding yourself. God. Shaping something like a poem. There's so much shared. Energy and concentration and. Angling takes a lot of concentration. Jeremy Wade said well it's not people think you have to be patient be really patient. It's not really patients you're it's you're not bored it's like you're waiting for a bus or a friend. You know I'm never bored.

[00:17:33] I mean often it's like oh my goodness I can't believe you know we've been out here that long so it's really a focused energy.

[00:17:39] And I find that same kind of focused energy is really helps me as a writer. I do both in the morning mostly. It's often very good fishing.

[00:17:49] Early in the day. I do my writing early in the day when the rest of the world hasn't distracted me you know. So there's a kind of also quiet focus. Precision. Seeing connections. Ted Leeson has written beautifully on this.

[00:18:05] Making connections one thing leads to another. Another leads to another. So these associations we make in poetry in art. I see them in the river. You know whether it's the ecology of the river or just you know how you your gear works or how the dynamics of the day and the weather and the water all come together to catch a fish. So lots of connections. But yeah definitely. Poet angler I think it's a good it's a good complement.

[00:18:37] Yes. Yeah. This is really interesting because you might think. Well who isn't a good observer. I mean doesn't everyone just come only awake. Well. No. You know. People have said extraordinary things to me like you know do we have deer in this town like this. Are there wild turkeys around. Absolutely. Well some like. Yes I hear them every night in this tree.

[00:19:05] So some people don't pay attention to nature but also I've taken people out on the boat and that I mean this time they're chatting there. But I'll be like oh there's a sea lion huh. Yeah. And they're not really that interested in first of all you know. So not everyone you know wants to observe or is interested in these things but the. Observation is key to fishing. You have to watch what's going on. Often it's visual but it's a lot of other things to sound. Here's the splash. You know a kind of fish that is. I can hear almost like the tides and stuff around the channels we fissure the inlets. You can just kind of hear the rushing water like well back off a little bit. So observation is key and I'm sure people observe

different things. They're interested in different things. But if you're interested in nature you think that's an important prerequisite to being good angler. Well I grew up that way spent fishing bait fishing with conventional rods you know had a fly rod when I was in high school. Caught a few sun fish out of the ponds and then started we actually caught like herring with them you know in the winter. That was great fun and I started realizing there's something about the feel of this. But it was a primitive kind of intuition or primitive perception and that ultimately. Has got me into fly fishing. The cast the motion of that cast when everything is going right and that line is loading properly that Rod is working and you lay that line out. That feels good. Now I actually take pleasure in nice light spinning Rod and casting you know the spinner. A jig but it's not saying something about the fly rod. There really is. Yeah of course much has been written on this. I speak you know crudely about it but I know what I feel and it just feels good and then I'm interested in literature. I'm interested in reading. I love to read. Wow what a library. Right. What a history. And you know our best fishing writers typically are either exclusively fly anglers or heavily into it you know. And and why we should ask right. Well there's something to that and it's a refined art. It is.

[00:21:37] You know I mean I don't mind using a worm you know to catch a stock trout but there's something about tying your own fly and presenting it properly is worthy of admiration.

[00:21:54] There is just so many good angling authors and it goes way back. I mean the Romans wrote about angling.

[00:22:02] There's a passage you know in the Odyssey about pulling a mackerel out you know a surf caster pulling mackerel out of the surf. Chinese and Japanese wrote about angling not just recreational fishing about. Fishing with a rod and a soap line and a book. Law.

[00:22:20] Bait. So deep traditions there. I love the ancient stuff. Among favorites and I'll start with poets. People don't often talk about poets Ted Hughes.

[00:22:30] Great British poet avid angler. Fantastic. There are women now I'm seeing more and more literature from women poets Cicely Park's Great Poet Rosanne Lloyd wonderful poet has written beautifully on fishing John angles book Big Water one of the great fishing collections poetry fishing collections contemporaries Todd Davis Pennsylvania poet really very good.

[00:22:58] Willard Greenwood of Ohio writing some new poems.

[00:23:04] Then there's the prose writers and among the I think the greatest American angling essayists would be Thomas Maguire. And when I read the longest silence I was like OK. Not only is a good fisherman. But there's real philosophical. Work going on here. He's really thinking. And there's plenty of good fishing journalism. And I like it. And the humor sometimes is is the human aspect about that really becomes you know colorful and interesting engaging reminds us who we are. McGrane grains a thinker a deep thinker and I get that also from Ted Leeson habit of rivers brilliant book Jerusalem Creek very strong couple British authors I admire deeply. Luke Jennings blood nuts. One of the best fishing memoirs ever read.

[00:23:59] Charles Rangel Wilson the BBC series on fishing got a couple of books.

[00:24:05] So I mean there's a lot and then there's the old classics Norm McClain river runs through it. I love it.

[00:24:09] I teach it to great novella no question about it. David James Duncan the River Kwai typically young people really love that undergrads really like that. I love his essays. River G. I think some of the best essays on fishing are there too. I put some of those essays up with McGlynn so there's a lot of people don't you know.

[00:24:30] We need more. Maybe women writers.

[00:24:33] There's a few Holly Morris. I'm thinking gov does it. You mentioned a couple poets but. You know I'd like to see more encourage more women and I have a lot of female students as English majors here at the university and I'd like to encourage them to write more about sport whether it's hiking show straights book was wonderful wild about hiking the Pacific Crest Trail here but you know camping fishing skiing love to see more of that. And misuse trout and some monied collection. Is. Just. A superb project. I don't know of any other project of this scale. I don't know of librarians like you going out around the world and doing interviews and collecting oral histories and interest in visual art potentially music film.

[00:25:35] It's fantastic. Fishing is ancient. This is one of the most important activities people have done. Throughout the world. For millennia. Both to feed themselves and to enjoy. The sport. And what what you're doing is preserving it six years from now will people be looking at this collection.

[00:26:05] Yeah you Yeah it's a big country.

[00:26:08] The West is big. Right. That's what's so attractive about it. I think that's in the mythos of the rainbow trout for example. The cutthroat trout. And in parks you can you can control the impact. And for example I am very happy to have a catch and release only park. OK now that's not maybe the right or the only strategy for fishing nationwide. I think it's good for a kid to take home a trout. But to have regulations in parks to have development curtailed. I mean global warming habitat destruction. It's people. We're building. They're building Bozeman. Right. The big suburb down into the valley you see it here in Portland.

[00:26:55] Seattle. That's where our salmon habitat is gonna be devastated on these sites. People want to live on rivers so parks you know we've got to just have some areas. That are truly protected.

[00:27:09] I am I am unhappy with the current administration for shrinking national monuments potentially shrinking parks. I think it's the wrong thing to do the wrong thing to do.

[00:27:20] We need to protect native species. Very important. We have cut through here as well. We have our Steelhead. And if the native species are doing well. That's clearly indicates that the environment. Is doing better.

[00:27:37] In some cases perhaps it is impossible to fully restore native populations. I'm not a purist. Sometimes I'm an idealist.

[00:27:49] But I do think we need you know fisheries. I think it's good for people to go out and catch fish. And if a population is you know completely devastated maybe we need to reconsider. I think we have overused hatcheries and stocking programs but I think they have their place. I was out with Ted Leeson at a lake. That's part of a dam. North stand Tim river. And we caught some stopped rainbows and some cocooning and we enjoyed it. And he's a great fly angler who is fishing the most beautiful places in the world but we fish together we brought home some fish for the smoker. I think that's a legitimate use of our land and water and so hatcheries have their place but they've been overused. Yes it is a thrill and we hike into some coastal streams. And. The longer the tougher the hike the better the fishing off in effect people. My friends my my brethren. And so last winter it was very tough. Winter still had fishing but we did a couple of these hikes into some remote spots on coastal rivers here. And I caught a lovely wild steelhead. And held her and let her go. And it was a hot fish. She was all over the place she was jumping. She was running and you know not for a minute. Did I regret not eating that filet. But I was pleased that she was in there and there were a few other steelhead in there. And I guess it's like Yeah it's like touching something you know pure sacred beautiful. You know I don't over mythologized it but I feel that way. You know I'm not I'm not completely a romantic but it's a good sign to know they're there and right in the mountains here just to the west of us there are lots of little cut throat in the streams. They're great fun to catch and they're easy to catch. Kitchen with a drive fly in the summer and they're only small maybe six inches eight inches 10 inches would be a big one but I love catching them.

[00:30:05] You know I might see a kingfisher also fishing with me. OK. You might find the remains on a rock of a raccoon.

[00:30:12] Maybe got a wounded one so that's. I'd also feels good that I'm out there you know kind of praying with these other animals but yeah it's so beautiful to see those beautiful.

[00:30:28] Yeah it's the main thing people will say Why don't you just go on like go on the boat one and just go walk the river and you can do that. But you know hunters and fishermen will tell you that when you are actually pursuing the fish when you really want to catch one.

[00:30:46] It takes you to another degree. It immerses you more deeply.

[00:30:52] It really does.

[00:30:53] You just well you spend more time who's got like 10 hours how long we are walking up the river.

[00:30:58] Ten hours really you know because you want to catch something. So you put in your time and then you just kind of watch everything. You watch the river and the water loves water levels if you live in Oregon.

[00:31:10] Water levels we're only you know we're 10 nine. Chip what's how. How high is the LSC allies. What's going on. Is it blue green. What's the clear.

[00:31:17] You know all that very conscious super conscious of the of the conditions the ocean to a fish the ocean a lot. Weather. Tides. OK. Do we have a nip tide a smaller tide. It's going to be good for rock fishing. And so just the level of intensity that you bring to your outdoor experience is heightened when you wait for me when you fish. Maybe a biologist

would have that level of intensity but the average day tripper I don't think does. I don't think. The best thought is wherever I am you know I mean I really I fish a lot of different water so we might be drifting a gorgeous coastal river for steelhead. You know you feel like you're in like the Garden of Eden or I know Jurassic Park. You know cedars firs walls of soul mossy dripping gorgeous.

[00:32:17] Then sometimes you know we go to the mouth of the of there of the Columbia and there's like you know cargo ships and boats and Coast Guard islands. It's very you know. And that also has a kind of intensity.

[00:32:29] Seeing big river seeing the ocean like a quiet pond. I really do catch in blue and bass used to do with my children. I love you know being way out in the ocean chasing tuna. I really do love it all back home. I go back to Long Island. Long Island Sound in summer. It's beautiful 70 degrees. We jump off you know and swim around a bit kitchen sea bass kitchen blues. So I really I mean there are some places that maybe you were drawn to more than others but I like diversity. My fishing. If you've never.

[00:33:17] Seen a wild animal you're far less inclined to want to save it. If you've never been on the water that's an abstract notion that you've seen only through your screen you're less likely to be interested in water conservation so there's a lot of confusion about what we should do.

[00:33:40] But I can say this. We need to be out in nature. And many people have written about the change that young people are involved in their digital worlds. And they have their friends across the globe. But they game with them when they communicate with them on the screen and they do not spend time out outside.

[00:34:01] I think it's true.

[00:34:02] I'm not a sociologist but I've seen in my own family. What do you do. I try to encourage it. I really do. So I take my friends and their kids fishing. And it's often thrilling for them not always. Sometimes they're bored. Sometimes they want to play. I'd rather do that. I find it kind of crazy. There's a whale surfacing.

[00:34:21] But if a whale comes up you've got a good chance you going to distract them.

[00:34:24] If they catch a fish you've got a good chance. So that to me is super clear. You know get people involved in nature and they will be more interested in nature.

[00:34:36] Change the abstract. Make it real make it physical. Make it a real experience.

[00:34:41] And you know food we all eat now. You know our oceans are in trouble and we are overfishing. But going to a stopped Lake and catching a rainbow trout and bringing home and eating it that's good.

[00:34:54] I think catching wild fish that are in abundance maybe even better. OK. We have herring in abundance here and a lot of Americans you know well we know about pickled herring. But they only eat herring we eat herring. My wife's British of course you know we put him on the grill. You know we smoked them. That's an abundant food source. Great source of protein. How about feeling that herring knowing what it's doing knowing where it's living seeing it chased by sea lions catching it bringing home and eating it. What a reconnection.

[00:35:24] To your food. You know I know you love to garden. I know your interests. You know you have your own energy sources solar energy sources. You're unusual. I'd like to see more people have direct contact with what they need and in some small way. You know fishing.

[00:35:43] Can help with that. And that would make us more conscious of depleting sources and. You know environmental disasters because I'm afraid they are coming.

[00:35:59] Yeah well I've always loved to read and write and so and I teach reading and writing so fishing was a natural place to go. There's a lot of material and I really enjoy doing a couple anthologies for random house the every man Library series. What were the titles of the books. I did the art of angling which is poems about fishing and then we did fishing stories family neighbors. And it was. Similar to your work. Jab you're doing oral histories. I went back into the you know the literary collections and I found ancient Greek poems and had a colleague translate them. I've done some work in Chinese and Japanese I had friends helped me translate. We found work from around the world and through the ages. Where people experienced anger. And was so great to collect those into books very affordable books. The ever man libraries is priced for everybody and that was such a fun project and got a lot of positive feedback about that then. I've always written a little bit on fishing and I wrote a memoir and a lot of anglers do and how your life in your fishing. And what's the title swim together. Backseat with fish. A man's adventures and angling and romance and so I've had a lot of relationships that are connected to fishing girlfriends who either wanted to fish or hated fish or just you know growing up in different places traveling to different places meeting people and how that connected with fishing. And I find something kind of sensuous about fishing. I think fish are sexy. I mean and there's something about their primitive nature and their shape and where they live.

[00:37:54] That reminds me of are kind of more primal roots.

[00:37:59] And so I see those connections as well. And there's something just kind of salty and basic about. Marine life. That. Reminds me. Of the human animal that I am. And I've tried to discuss some of these these connections in the book as well.

[00:38:21] I've had a variety of experiences yes in my experience. It is better to have a partner who likes to fish or is at least supportive and my wife. Likes to fish. She's a fair woman angler. That's fine. She's not gonna go out for 10 hours in the freezing rain to chase a winter steelhead but we've had many nice days on the water together and she enjoys. Being out. And she loves nature and we like to eat fish. So I do harvest a number of fish and we enjoy eating them. And that's part of a kind of a family ritual there as well. But yeah you don't want someone that's actually you know really anti fishing or disgusted by fishing. That can be hard. I can be discouraged but we're all different. Well a lot of people like to fish and more similarities. With. A passion for. For catching a fish. And often anglers know a lot about fish. They know a lot about the water. And so.

[00:39:35] And I mean fishermen come in in all forms too.

[00:39:39] But I have found there's been a lot of similarity and a shared respect for fishing I guess.

[00:39:47] I mean there are many bonds one could have. You might find that you both like basketball you might find you both like beer or you both like gardening and those are good.

[00:39:56] I mean that can happen anyway. I think you know there's something about.

[00:40:00] The pursuit of fishing because it's not always easy to do. It requires local knowledge.

[00:40:08] And this is so true. I mean. It's even in the United States when I go to brand new water. I mean I apply what I know and I may have fished a lake like this or a river like this before.

[00:40:18] But really to get a local someone that can help you and talk to you and give you local information and bring his or her experience that's huge. That's why I go to local tackle shop. And I love that. And there's a whole subculture around tackle shops or fly shops. Oh they're the best. You get the conversations you get the jokes. Some guys are kind of standoffish. Some guys are really warm. You know that's. And I love those places. You know they're as good as bars forgetting great information and getting a feel.

[00:40:52] And if they warm up to you. Sometimes he means buying a few things. Seems perfectly fair. But also I think if they like you and you like them and that works and that that was very true in Japan and China. Where somebody found somebody sound found somebody who knew that I liked fishing and introduced me to a fisherman.

[00:41:11] And suddenly I'm in Beijing and I'm getting into a beat up old car and we're driving across town to a new carp pond because he wants taking fishing and doesn't speak in English. My Chinese is limited. We're having a good time. And as happened many cases in Thailand as well. I had some great fishing experiences there in Malaysia Indonesia. No knowledge of the language by fishermen. Okay I'll take you in the morning you know.

[00:41:35] So it's been it's been a great way to see the world really.

[00:41:45] Yes. I mean.

[00:41:46] You know Britain has changed. It's no longer just you know you have to be an aristocrat to to catch a fish. But you know Britain is a relatively small country with a big population. And you know especially if you want decent trout water like chalk streams you have to regulate them. I mean I just think it's a very different situation. However fishing clubs have sprung up all over Britain and for a reasonable price you can join efficient club. You can join a fishing club for a year for you know 50 pounds 100 pounds. Now I often gives you access to several ponds that have of course fish pond. You know they had different species that might have a pike you know pot and then top streams are more precious and access to them can be more expensive. But there's still it doesn't take that much to get on some decent water but it is all controlled there isn't that much as public walk on water compared to United States. And of course to catch Atlantic salmon in Scotland is different. That can be difficult. So we have space and we're blessed. Oh we don't squandering. I mean I'm you know the West to write that whole Montana they're big Oregon you know. And I love having access. Oregon has a law that if the river is navigable means even if a log went down it you have to allow access below the low the high watermark. So when I own some property on a river years ago and all people didn't walk across my lawn I said Of course you may walk the river. I think that's a good thing. And as long as we could you know be good stewards and of course people abuse that but I am very in favor of public access. And also you know maybe the rights of fishing clubs you

know as long as are not exorbitant and they know you know exclude people I mean I mean I guess if you will if that's your hobby.

[00:43:49] People who play tennis you know have court fees and so on. And then you put in your money you pull your money and you work on you know bank restoration and clean up something. I'm all for that. You know it's poor resources whatever it takes.

[00:44:11] Although I am an avid lifetime angler I have never done like the TARP in Bowen fish. Permit you know fishing of the tropics. I've read about it you know Thomas McGlynn it's great.

[00:44:26] You know essays have have captured my imagination but for some reason I just haven't done yet. And I'm eager to try that. I also I've been to Alaska and I've enjoyed fishing there but I'd got to go to Iceland. You know places like that.

[00:44:41] Maybe we could trade notes and we could team up and their adventures. You know the adventure is so important. You know I feel it even just getting in that car hitched up this boat putting on my waders and go into a river or a lake you know a lot of us I live you know a pretty safe life. I have a job. I have a house. I do the laundry. You take care of chores and it's look at this neighborhood it's so middle class and safe upper middle class and safe. And my ashamed of that no.

[00:45:18] But boy I feel a need to break out of it sometimes and in some small way the fishing the adventure. I get up early in the morning and get everything ready and then you know might it be an element of danger. Nothing serious but we fish the ocean sometimes there some tricky stuff waiting a swift river. I'm not a thrill seeker like I need to kill myself but I want to be alive I feel alive. You know I don't know if I answered one of your questions earlier about.

[00:45:51] And it's related to class and reaching out beyond and you're right. A lot of fish especially fly fisherman are white middle and upper middle class men.

[00:46:02] And I'm all about trying to change that but I don't know how but I'm not going to like just cheerleader recruit. I think people shouldn't want to come to it but if they're interested I certainly you know embrace that. And I guess we could take more people fishing and just give them a taste for it. I don't think people have to like it but. I would love to see more people fish at least try it. I'd like to see more people guarded. I'd like to see more people hike and you know we are privileged in certain ways because we have we can afford to spend time efficient. I recognize that. But so maybe opening up opportunities you know and I love the projects that people have been involved in. Jeremy Wade and others you know teaching people to fly fish in the Amazon. Because there's going to be a potential destination industry and they'll be the guides. I think it's fantastic. Catch Release fishing around the world. Barb Ellis hooks. Bring it on. People want to travel and go fishing. I love to teach more people to do that and teach all kinds of people to do that.

[00:47:25] So yeah maybe maybe that's where we're gonna to start working on that might be my next idea.