

**Interviewee Name:** Hallie Arno

**Project/Collection Title:** Voices of the Maine Fishermen's Forum 2019

**Interviewer(s) Name(s) and Affiliation:** Galen Koch (The First Coast)

**Interview Location:** Rockland, ME

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**Interview Description:** Hallie Arno, a student at College of the Atlantic (COA) in Bar Harbor, ME, speaks about her experiences moving to Maine and beginning to work around the ocean. She has a deep interest in aquaculture, which has driven her to take marine-focused courses at the College of the Atlantic and brought her to the Fishermen's Forum. Arno focuses on her own experiences conducting research on the coast of Maine, living in small communities, and her hopes for the implementation of aquaculture at COA.

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**Transcribed By:** Ela Keegan

**Length:** 11:16

GK: Galen Koch

HA: Hallie Arno

GK: [0:00:00] We will get started. This is going, and I'll ask you questions.

HA: Sounds good.

GK: I'll just have you say and spell your first and last name.

HA: Okay, Hallie Arno, H-A-L-L-I-E A-R-N-O.

GK: All right, Hallie. Where are you coming from today?

HA: I'm from Lincolnville, Maine, and I go to school at [the] College of the Atlantic.

GK: Do you have a fishing history?

HA: Not really, no.

GK: What brought you to the Forum?

HA: I'm really interested in aquaculture and hoping to learn more about that, and I've always been interested in the oceans and thinking about doing marine biology sorts of things.

GK: What brought you to that? Why have you been interested in it?

HA: I've always loved the ocean since I was really young, as long as I can remember, and I always knew I wanted to work with the ocean in some way. I wasn't really sure how, so I've been exploring that a little bit, and aquaculture is one thing that I'm really excited about.

GK: What makes you excited about it?

HA: I really like farming as well, so it was a way to combine farming and getting sustainable healthy food to people with the ocean, and my interests kind of merged in aquaculture.

GK: [0:01:12] Can you tell me what your parents do and what your childhood was like in Lincolnville?

HA: I actually grew up in Northern New Jersey.

GK: Oh, you did?

HA: It was very different from Maine.

GK: What's the Lincolnville connection?

HA: We moved four years ago.

GK: Oh, cool. What was it like in New Jersey?

HA: Oh god. We lived in a really suburban area outside of New York City. We weren't very close to the ocean, but I really liked going to the beach in the summer. We visited Maine a lot growing up before we moved.

GK: Did you feel a connection to it when you came?

HA: Definitely, yeah. I knew I wanted to live on the Maine coast, so I'm glad I got to.

GK: What brought your family to Lincolnville?

HA: My stepdad. He's from the area, Mid-Coast Maine area. We've been trying to move, and it was a good time when I was starting high school and my sister was starting middle school to make that transition.

GK: Yeah. Did anything surprise you about the community there? What was it like when you made that transition?

HA: [0:02:18] Something that was really interesting was that everybody knows everyone. In New Jersey, we'd go to the grocery store and not see anyone we knew, and it would be weird if we saw someone we knew. Now, every time we go to the grocery store, we know we're going to run into someone. It's nice to have a small community like that.

GK: Is that something that you liked?

HA: I enjoy it, yeah. I have a lot of friends that have grown up in Maine and are really used to that and want to get out of Maine because of it. I think I'm sort of the other way because I've lived somewhere else and seen what it's like in other places. I like that [I'm] able to know everybody in my school.

GK: Yeah, so you're at COA [College of the Atlantic] now.

HA: Yeah

GK: And is this your first year?

HA: Yes, it is.

GK: Can you tell me --? I mean, what's that like? What are the classes you're taking like? What has it been like for you?

HA: It's been great. I'm taking a lot of marine science ecology sorts of classes, which I'm really enjoying, and getting to explore the island and see more of Maine. I also got to spend some time on the water, which has been awesome.

GK: [0:03:27] That's great. What were you doing?

HA: Mostly learning how to drive the boats right now, which is a challenge, but it's fun.

GK: Is that something at COA that you have to do, is learn how to drive the boats?

HA: No, it's just something that I was really interested in, so I've been asking about it and trying to get involved in any way I can.

GK: That's great. What kind of boats are you driving?

HA: Zodiacs. They're little inflatables. And learning to sail. I was on the high school sailing team in Rockland right here.

GK: Oh, wow

HA: Sailing out there, yeah. I'd like to get more involved in that and learn to sail bigger boats.

GK: That's great.

HA: Yeah,

GK: Did you have experience on the water when you were in New Jersey, or is this –?

HA: No, not at all. The first time I stepped in a sailboat was right out there when I tried to join the sailing team. I wasn't on the team to start, but after a couple of seasons of learning, I was able to.

GK: Cool. Did it scare you at all? How did you feel when you first got on the water?

HA: [0:04:30] I had no idea what was going on. There's all these sailing words. People would say, "Trim the sheet," and I'm like, "What are you talking about?" But it was a lot of fun because I just got to go out on the ocean after school every day and just sail.

GK: Yeah. That's so great. You're at the Forum. Is this your first time at the Fishermen's Forum?

HA: It is, yeah.

GK: What's that been like?

HA: It's been really cool. I'm trying to learn more about aquaculture, so I can try – I'm hoping to work on a COA aquaculture project. I want to learn as much as I can about that here.

GK: What did you learn today? Do you feel like there's been some knowledge passed on to you?

HA: Yeah, some of the talks that were really interesting were about the green crab exclusions on the mud flats for clams, and we actually worked on an experiment doing the same thing with our marine biology class in Bar Harbor at a few different sites but mostly Hadley Point, seeing if we

could get the same results. We actually were about to get similar results to what some of the talks were saying. It was interesting to see how their methods differed from ours and how their results differed but also got similar results up and down the coast.

GK: [0:05:48] What were those results? Can you tell me –?

HA: Yeah, the ones that didn't have crabs in them, there were tons and tons and tons of clams. We counted so many tiny clams. Then there would be a crab, or if the box was gone, or if we just took a sample, there would be hardly any clams. I don't have the results in front of me right now.

GK: But it was striking; you could see the difference?

HA: Yeah, you could definitely see. It was a box full of clams versus a box where we had to work to find clams, or some didn't have any.

GK: Yeah. What do you see living in Bar Harbor – I know you're new to that community, but what are some of the concerns or hopes for the future or thoughts that you have about that community, being a student?

HA: I don't know. I'd like to learn more about the community and be more involved. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to much. I went to the – oh, I don't remember what it's called. I think the Marine Advisory Council meeting, maybe.

GK: I don't know what it's called either.

HA: I don't know. Giulia would know; she was there too. That was cool to see how that process works. I still don't quite understand it, but I'd like to learn more about it.

GK: [0:06:58] Yeah. Do you have thoughts being here and being at the forefront of the next generation? Just things that you want to focus on or are concerned about for the future of the Maine coast?

HA: Yeah, everything. I'm really concerned about climate change and ocean acidification and overfishing and plastics and pollution. The list goes on and on. That's one of the reasons why I was drawn to aquaculture because it seems like it would be a way to mitigate at least overfishing, and there were some studies that have shown that it might be able to help with ocean acidification really locally. It seems like a really sustainable step in the right direction. It's something that we can tangibly do. Solving climate is really, really overwhelming.

GK: Hold on, let's pause for this gigantic noise. Oh, that's what it is because I won't be able to use any of what you say if that thing is in the background. All right. Go ahead. Darn it. What did you just say?

HA: [0:08:07] Oh, climate change. Solving that is really overwhelming, but doing something like aquaculture seems very doable, and it's hopefully going to help a little bit or at least lessen some of the effects.

GK: It feels like it's something that maybe has a future in Maine.

HA: Yeah, definitely. I think it's happening in Maine now, especially based on some of the talks today. It seems like people are really getting involved and excited about it.

GK: Do you feel like your peers and the people that you're in school with have similar passions or outlooks on these kinds of issues?

HA: I think at COA, yeah. It's sort of a shared belief that we really need to do things about climate change and plastics and all of that. I think aquaculture is also starting to be talked about more. I hear it being talked about around campus.

GK: Do you eat oysters? [laughter]

HA: [0:09:09] We have had mussels in the dining hall.

GK: Oh, really?

HA: We haven't had oysters.

GK: Cool.

HA: I'm hoping we can grow our own, but that's a little ways off.

GK: That would be amazing.

HA: Yeah.

GK: That would be really cool. Was there anything that you wanted to talk about when you came in or a question you thought I might ask you?

HA: That's a good question. I didn't really know what to expect. I just showed up.

GK: I love that you did. That is so great.

HA: Thank you.

GK: I think it's cool to have the perspective of the students. What are you most looking forward to in the next three years at COA? You have three more years?

HA: Yeah. There is a lot to see on MDI [Mount Desert Island] and the surrounding islands. I'm hoping to get to spend some more time out on the water, working on aquaculture –

GK: Hold on. Oh my god. I hope this doesn't go on for the next twenty minutes of dragging chairs.

HA: [0:10:11] I don't even know what those are.

GK: We will just pause for a sec. [Recording paused.] This is back on. So yeah, you're excited to explore other places around there.

HA: Yeah, doing research on other islands and doing more research on the intertidal and on aquaculture. I'm really excited about seaweed in general.

GK: Do you think seaweed is something you would want to –? Do you think you would want to grow? You would want to fish and grow?

HA: Yeah, I think that would be really cool, especially – people have tried mixing seaweed and shellfish because the seaweed would, in theory, help with ocean acidification and make the shellfish grow better, so that's something I've been wanting to try out.

GK: That's great. And you have the opportunity at COA to do those things as experiments?

HA: Hopefully, yeah.

GK: I hope you get to.

HA: Thank you.

GK: I look forward to, in four years, you coming back in here and telling us what you're up to.

HA: [0:11:11] Oh, yeah. That'd be so cool.

GK: It would be so fun. Thanks, Hallie.

HA: Thank you.

GK: That was great.

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Reviewed by Molly A. Graham 5/29/2023