

# PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM

Inventory for  
Manuscript Collection

**PMM 43**

**Richard Jellison Collection**

1965-1990

3 boxes  
3 linear feet  
Accession No. LB2017.4

**Stephen Phillips Memorial Library**

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## PMM 43

### Richard Jellison Collection

**Jellison, Richard, 1929-2012**

Collection, 1965-1990

2 boxes and 1 oversize box

Fisherman and trawler captain from Rockland and Swan's Island, Maine.

Notebooks, sketches, equipment manuals, and other records and ephemera from Captain Richard Jellison's career as a trawler captain, providing a largely technical record of New England groundfish fisheries in the late twentieth century. Contains detailed notes and sketches of Jellison's fishing grounds and trawling patterns, noted in Loran coordinates, as well as notes and ephemera related to trawl and navigation technology. There is little personal or descriptive material.

In English.

Candis Joyce; Gift; 2017; LB2017.4

Finding aid available; folder level control

**Subject Headings:**

Cod fisheries

Fishers

Fishery management

Fishing boats

Fishing boats—equipment and supplies

Groundfish fisheries

Loran

Trawlers (vessels)

Trawls and trawling

**Acquisition:**

This collection was given to the Penobscot Marine Museum by Richard Jellison's daughter, Candis Joyce.

**Restrictions:**

This collection is open for research. There are no special restrictions.

**Condition:**

Materials in this collection are well worn from use. Notebooks are often battered and pages are loose in the bindings. Many items are early photocopies or otherwise on cheap and unstable paper. All materials have a distinct smell of mold, which appears to be dormant.

**Historical Note:**

Richard Jellison (1929-2012) was a fishing trawler captain from Swan's Island, Maine. He started fishing commercially at age 14 and worked his way up to command large, off-shore trawlers like the National Sea Products' 120-foot trawler TIDE and the F.J. O'Hara and Sons' ARAHO and FRANCIS O'HARA. On these vessels, Jellison fished for cod, haddock, hake, sole, and other groundfish in the Gulf of Maine and off the broader North Atlantic coast. Jellison had an active interest in fishing technology, and was known for re-designing trawl gear when ashore.

Apart from serving in the US Army during the Korean War, Richard Jellison spent his entire career fishing. Ashore, he lived in Rockland with his family, then moved back to Swan's Island after his daughter, Candis, finished high school in 1976. After retiring from deep-sea trawling circa 1990, Jellison stayed on the water as a lobsterman until just a few years before his death.

**Scope and Content:**

This collection contains notebooks, sketches, equipment manuals, and other records and ephemera from Captain Richard Jellison's career as a trawler captain, providing a largely technical record of New England groundfish fisheries in the late twentieth century.

The bulk of the collection consists of Jellison's notes on fishing grounds, bottom conditions, and trawl patterns, mostly described in Loran-A and Loran-C coordinates. Some of these records are in notebooks, while others are sketched out as routes on chart plotter printouts or 3 x 5 cards. There are also occasional records of fish landings for individual voyages, though these are far from complete.

The remainder of the collection deals primarily with fishing technology. This includes published ephemera like equipment manuals, reports on fishing grounds and closures, and safety reminders meant to be posted aboard a trawler. It also contains an extensive file of notes, clippings, and sketches of otter trawl nets and related technology. There are only a few personal notes and items specific to the vessels that Jellison commanded.

**Box and Folder List:**

Published Material

Obj-ID	Box	Folder	
43-2	1	1	Notices of fishing ground boundaries, closures, and regulations, 1986-1988
43-3	1	2	Walter H. Rich, <i>Fishing Grounds of the Gulf of Maine</i> , 1929; rpt. 1983
43-4	1	3	Mark E. Merdinyan, Christine D. Mortimer and Laine Melbye, <i>Bibliography: The Relationship between the Development of Fishing Gear and the Study of Fish Behavior</i> , c. 1980
43-7	1	4	Simrad/Taiyo Loran-C Color Plotter Guide
43-11	1	5	Kane MK-6B Dead Reckoning Computer, with instruction manual
43-9	1	6	Refleks oil stove and diesel heater instruction manual
43-10	1	7	Band-It Tool instruction chart, 1979
43-5	1	8	Lambeth Manufacturing Co., "Knots & Splices"
43-12	1	9	Fishing vessel navigation and safety instruction posters, 1965-1977

Manuscript Material

Obj-ID	Box	Folder	
43-8	1	10	Richard Jellison, catch tallies, radio license, and personal notes, 1984-1990 and undated
43-13	1	11	Trawl nets: instructions, drawings, and designs
43-14	1	12	Loran notes and coordinates
43-15	2	1	Fishing log, 1979-1982. Includes notes on named fishing locations and trawling patterns.
43-15	2	2	Fishing log, 1988-1989. Daily log with locations, trawl directions, and quantity of fish caught

- |       |   |    |  |
|-------|---|----|--|
| 43-15 | 2 | 3  | Notes on fishing locations   |
| 43-15 | 2 | 4  | Fishing locations, Loran-A, 1976. Notes on depth, bottom condition, and fish   |
| 43-15 | 2 | 5  | Fishing locations, Loran-A. Notes on steering directions and hazards.  |
| 43-15 | 2 | 6  | Fishing locations, Loran-A. Notes on steering directions and depth.  |
| 43-15 | 2 | 7  | Fishing locations, Loran-C. Notes on bottom features, type of fish, and entrances to Rockland, Portland, and Boston.   |
| 43-15 | 2 | 8  | Fishing locations, Loran-C. Information on trawling sites, some with sketches.   |
| 43-16 | 2 | 9  | Fishing locations, Loran-C. Loose notecards, some with notes on fishing nets or fish caught.   |
| 43-15 | 2 | 10 | Fishing locations, Loran-C. Includes sketched trawl patterns and notes on using a Loran plotter.   |
| 43-15 | 2 | 11 | Fishing locations, Loran-C. Includes carefully-drawn trawling sites, some with notes on conditions.  |
| 43-15 | 2 | 12 | Bearings, Loran-C. Some include notes on latitude and longitude.   |
| 43-15 | 2 | 13 | Harbor entrances, Loran-C. Includes approaches to Boston, Gloucester, Portland, Rockland, and Southwest Harbor.  |
| 43-15 | 2 | 14 | Index to Loran-C coordinates. Listed numerically, with annotations of wrecks, net hang-ups, place names, depth, and other topics.  |
| 43-15 | 2 | 15 | Loran-C waypoints, with grid references. Engine log with notes on fueling and oil changes.   |
| 43-15 | 2 | 16 | Loran-A and Loran-C location crosswalk.  |
| 43-17 | 2 | 17 | "Hangs and Obstructions to Trawl Fishing, Atlantic Coast of the United States." University of North Carolina Sea Grant, 1979. Includes photocopied pages with Loran coordinates of obstructions. |
| 43-15 | 2 | 18 | List of wrecks, lost nets and fish, 1977-1978.   |
| 43-15 | 2 | 19 | Locations of wrecks and lost nets. Includes types of fish. Locations in Loran-C coordinates.   |
| 43-15 | 2 | 20 | Boat operations. Notes on operation and maintenance of engines, generators, valves, galley, winches, fishing line and tackle.  |

Oversize

Obj-ID Box

- |       |   |  |
|-------|---|--|
| 43-6  | 3 | Chart (fragment), Gulf of Maine. Canadian Hydrographic Office L/C-4011, with Loran-C coordinates. Sketched fishing areas.  |
|       | 3 | Chart (rolled), Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank. United States Department of Commerce. Loran coordinates and vessel tracks. |
| 43-21 | 3 | 13 folders of Loran plotter printouts, most with vessel tracks.  |
| 43-18 | 3 | Art print, "Wharfside" by Dan Cake, 27/35  |
| 43-19 | 3 | Prints, loons, Meryll Hodgson  |
| 43-20 | 3 | 3 prints, Saturday Evening Post covers   |