

Look up here." He looked up there, and the wasps were everywhere. Those little guinea wasps are the worst kind. "My God," he said. "I do not see how you [got out of there]."

P: You were lucky.

W: Oh, I was stung on my head, my shoulder, and everywhere. My eyes swelled shut. It was just one of those things.

P: When the dynamite hits the water, does it break the fish in parts?

W: No. Dynamite will kill the ones that are real close to it, according to how powerful it is. It will kill some, but it will just addle some that are a little ways away. They will come to the top of the water. Of course, the river is fully risen in November and December, and it is full of fish, especially mullet. The bay is full of them, and everybody will catch thousands of them in nets. A lot of them they cannot use, or they cannot get them out fast enough, so they die. Back then I would cut a little piece of dynamite about that long off the stick.

P: About two inches.

W: About two inches off of a stick. Instead of thirds, I would cut a fourth. I knew where to go on the river--not just one place, but several--according to where I figured it was the safest. I would walk along till it got just like I wanted. I would never go up a tree. I had a burlap sack with me, and I would just wait till I found six or eight of them, or however many [was enough]. There might be fifty, but you would never get that many.

You have to be careful to protect their roe. If you threw it right on them, it would bust their roe inside of them, and they would not be any good to eat. You have to throw your cord forty or even sixty [feet] away from them, instead of trying to throw right on them. You have to decide how many you want--a dozen, half a dozen, or maybe just four or five for your family--and just throw it away from them a little bit. It would just addle them, and they would be floating on top of the water. Then you would just go out there and put them in your sack. That way the roe would not be busted.

P: How do you fix roe?

W: Yellow roe, red roe, or white roe? I like white roe best. That is the male.

P: The male [mullet] has roe? Oh, okay. So the female's is red or yellow?