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RESILIENCE OVER A LIFETIME OF CHANGE ON THE COAST

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Coastal communities are at the forefront of rapid and radical changes today, but also have decades and generations of experiences responding to past disturbances and opportunities. Despite increasing awareness of the significant societal and environmental shifts and events experienced by coastal communities, little research has been conducted on individuals' ability to cope, adapt, or transform in response to these changes (their "resilience") over their lifetime working in the marine environment. We aim to understand how individuals living and working in coastal communities have exhibited resilience to multiple change events over their lifetimes. This qualitative study uses sixty-two oral history interviews undertaken with those who have lived and worked in the marine environment in four coastal communities in Devon and Cornwall, England. The oral history dataset draws on flexible coding and thematic analysis to explore the ebb and flow of resilience to change and change events through individual lives. Ongoing analysis is used to better understand resilience throughout different life stages, mapping change and resilience to individual timelines to identify characteristic patterns of resilience. We explore how oral history interviews can be used to provide a richness and depth of insight on individual experiences to analyse the dynamics of resilience, and ways in which responses that preserve livelihoods can have other positive and negative impacts, such as on wellbeing. We conclude by providing an account of resilience to change over a lifetime, to improve understanding of resilience and adaptation processes at the individual, multi-decadal scale.