



AIATSIS
Australian Institute of Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Finding aid

JOHANNES_R01

**Sound recordings collected by
Robert Johannes, 1983**

Prepared May 2017 by CCH
Last updated 18 May 2017

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ACCESS

Availability of copies

Listening copies are available. To arrange an appointment to listen to the recordings or to order copies, contact the Access and Client Services by sending an email to collectionenquiry@aiatsis.gov.au or phone (02) 6261 4212.

Restrictions on listening

This collection is open for listening.

Restrictions on use

Copies of this collection may be made for private research. Permission must be sought from the Mabo family for any publication or quotation of this material. Any publication or quotation must be consistent with the *Copyright Act* (1968).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Date: 1983

Extent: 1 audiocassette (approximately 60 min.) : analogue, mono.

Production history

This collection was recorded by Dr Robert Johannes as part of his research into traditional fishing rights in the Murray Island group. The recordings were subsequently passed on to Dr Kim Akerman. The collection features speaker Eddie Koiki Mabo. The collection was deposited with AIATSIS on 17 November 2004.

RELATED MATERIAL

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ARCHIVIST'S NOTE

This finding aid was compiled from information provided by Dr Kim Akerman and audition sheets prepared by AIATSIS staff. Timing points may be slightly out depending on the technologies and procedures in place at the time the recordings were auditioned.

ITEM LIST

Archive number	Field recording number	Description
018504	Field Tape 1 Side A (MABO Interv.)	Eddie Koiki Mabo discussing traditional fishing rights on Mer / Murray Island.
018505	Field Tape 1 Side B (MABO Interv.)	Eddie Koiki Mabo discussing traditional fishing rights on Mer / Murray Island.

ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

018504 / Side A of Field Tape 1 (MABO Interv.)

Performer/speaker(s):	Eddie Koiki Mabo
Personal subject(s):	Sam Passi, Dave Passi, Kathleen Salee
Subject keywords:	Fishing; Social organisation – Clans; Law – Cases; Law – Indigenous - Traditional law; Land rights - Sea rights; Land rights – Ownership; Land rights - Hunting, gathering and fishing rights; Gathering - Seafood / Shellfish; Food - Sociocultural aspects - Sharing
Language/people:	English, Meriam people (Y3)
Places:	Townsville (NE Qld SE55-14), Mer / Murray Island (Qld TSI SC55-05)
Recording quality:	Fair – Good

Timing point	Description
	<u>Eddie Koiki Mabo discussing traditional fishing rights on Mer / Murray Island. Recorded in Townsville, QLD 1983.</u>
00:00:00	Archive Announcement
00:00:14	Eddie Koiki Mabo states that he is the head of one of nine clans in the Murray Island group. He goes on to speak about sea rights and what people are and are not allowed to take.
00:03:40	Eddie Koiki Mabo speaks about fishing rules. He talks about building and maintaining coral shelters for crayfish, and the shelters eventual destruction. Mention of Sam Passi and Dave Passi.
00:06:05	Eddie Koiki Mabo speaks about the boundaries around Mer Island and its reefs. He mentions the clans that own parts of the Great Barrier Reef. Eddie explains the difference between clans and tribes and states that he is part of the Piadram tribe. He goes on to mention the many clans within his tribe.
00: 11:48	Eddie Koiki Mabo mentions what tribes have fishing rights. He goes on to talk about the fishing laws still in place on Mer Island.
00:15:35	Eddie Koiki Mabo and Robert Johannes discuss a previous court case. Eddie explains joint ownership of land and sea areas. Mention of Kathleen Salee.
00:17:44	Eddie Koiki Mabo and Robert Johannes discuss the need to settle internal boundary issues between clans rather than in court. Eddie talks about the problems that occur when other people, outside the Murray Island group, use their reefs and resources.
00:21:22	Eddie Koiki Mabo speaks about some of the new issues that would arise with sea rights due to commercial activity. He goes on to talk about the ownership of channels and reefs in the Torres Strait.
00:24:50	Eddie Koiki Mabo talks about fish traps and fish die-outs.
00:27:06	Eddie Koiki Mabo and Robert Johannes discuss fishing rights.
00:30:25	End of Side A of Field Tape 1 (MABO Interv.) and end of 018504.

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018505 / Side B of Field Tape 1 (MABO Interv.)

Performer/speaker(s):	Eddie Koiki Mabo
Personal subject(s):	Dave Passi, Peter Tapau, Wilfred Tapau, Ron Day
Subject keywords:	Land rights - Hunting, gathering and fishing rights; Fishing - Fish poisoning; Food – Seafood; Animals – Fish; Animals - Reptiles - Turtles / Tortoise; Animals - Invertebrates - Crustacea and molluscs - Octopus / Squid; Food - Preparation - Cooking – Seafood; Food - Sociocultural aspects - Sharing
Language/people:	English, Meriam people (Y3)
Places:	Townsville (NE Qld SE55-14), Mer / Murray Island (Qld TSI SC55-05)
Recording quality:	Fair – Good

Timing point	Description
	<u>Eddie Koiki Mabo discussing traditional fishing rights on Mer / Murray Island. Recorded in Townsville, QLD 1983.</u>
00:00:00	Archive Announcement
00:00:12	Eddie Koiki Mabo talks about the seafaring men who were required to report their movements.
00:00:38	Eddie Koiki Mabo mentions other people who Robert Johannes might like to interview on fishing rights. Some of these people include Dave Passi, Peter Tapau, and Wilfred Tapau.
00:03:13	Eddie Koiki Mabo talks about <i>weres</i> baskets. He and Robert Johannes discuss ornaments and fishing instruments.
00:05:20	Eddie Koiki Mabo speaks about fish poisons.
00:06:50	Eddie Koiki Mabo recalls the Meriam names for different turtles. He mentions which species can be eaten and how to prepare them.
00:11:39	Eddie Koiki Mabo describes how to hunt octopus. He talks about crayfish and how they distribute it between themselves.
00:15:09	Eddie Koiki Mabo speaks about the Murray Islanders lack of involvement in the commercial cray fishery around Murray Island.
00:15:34	Eddie Koiki Mabo clarifies the Meriam words for sacred house and the parts of the reef where gropers reside.
00:16:52	Eddie Koiki Mabo names the different species of mackerel.
00:17:51	Eddie Koiki Mabo and Robert Johannes clarify the list of Meriam names for fish species that are being compiled by Murray Islanders at the Australian Linguistics Institute. Eddie goes on to describe the fish. Mention of Ron Day.
00:22:36	Eddie Koiki Mabo speaks about the spawning seasons and habits of king mackerel, mullet fish, coral cod, and rock cod.
00:25:42	Eddie Koiki Mabo speaks about garfish.
00:26:25	Eddie Koiki Mabo and Robert Johannes discuss conservation.
00:30:21	End of Side B of Field Tape 1 (MABO Interv.) and end of 018505.

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