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# The Hungry Ocean



## Synopsis

THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER--NOW AVAILABLE IN PAPERBACK! Known to millions of readers of *The Perfect Storm* as the captain of the *Hannah Boden*, sister ship to the *Andrea Gail*, Linda Greenlaw is also known as one of the best sea captains on the East Coast. Here she offers an adventure-soaked tale of her own, complete with danger, humor, and characters so colorful they seem to have been ripped from the pages of *Moby Dick*. "A beautiful book . . . a story of triumph, of a woman not only making it but succeeding at the highest level in one of the most male-dominated and most dangerous professions." -- Douglas Whynott, *The New York Times Book Review* "An authentic, insightful account of the intensity of captaining a crew of strong men in an ocean which does what it wants." -- Daniel Hays, co-author of *My Old Man and the Sea* "A crystal-clear account of fishing the Grand Banks in a modern swordfish boat. Greenlaw is an excellent captain and an excellent writer." -- John Casey, author of *Spartina* --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 6 hours 7 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Brilliance Audio

Audible.com Release Date: October 17, 2008

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B001IV0EK6

Best Sellers Rank: #26 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Sailing >

Narratives #853 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Sports & Recreation #1063

in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Hunting & Fishing > Fishing

## Customer Reviews

I didn't know of Greenlaw (didn't remember her from the *Perfect Storm* book or movie) but ran into a neighbor of hers on vacation who sang the praises of this book, and it's a good read. It's not exactly suspenseful like *The Perfect Storm*. It's more of a memoir. But it's interesting. She writes very honestly. Easy read. I'd like to read more of her stuff, and more stuff from people like her.

I really enjoyed learning about the life and subculture of sword fishermen. From the specific

language and terms used in fishing to the unique experiences probably only found at sea Linda draws you in with recollections of how she got into the business of running a ship, the colorful people she has interacted with, and a composite of one such adventure out at sea. I especially appreciate all the references to New England, the geography and way of life that I knew was historically and remains currently important, but never really understood. Coming from an author who isn't an author professionally, this was well done and an enjoyable read.

Everything you ever wanted to know about the life of a Swordboat Captain as told by one who has been there. It's a tough life whether your perspective is from the Bridge or from the Deck. As the boat steams out into the Atlantic for five days there is no guarantee that the trip will be profitable for the Owner, Captain or Crew. So much depends on the ability of the Captain to find the fish. Although the Author states the Crew was one of the best she had ever had a month at sea can wear on even the most compatible group and she has to deal with any issues and keep fishing. There is also no guarantee that the boat will make it safely back to the dock as was the unfortunate case with her sister ship the Andrea Gail.

Another great book by a great author and lobster boat skipper. Thank you Linda Greenlaw and . John Offield, Hemet, CA

I found it fascinating. The challenges of being a captain, the isolation and the weight of the decisions - and just the personalities, and the fact that she gives very little weight to her being a woman in a role that is seen as a man's. And also that she takes no advantage of having been the Andrea Gail's sister boat and also out in the "Perfect Storm". I have read a number of her other book, fiction and non-fiction and very much enjoyed them!

Very good. Wonderful reading.

This was the first book I read by Linda Greenlaw. She basically describes a typical swordfish fishing trip, from filling the boat with groceries, gathering the crew, fishing itself, and the final payment. Very interesting and educational, but I also related since she is a woman in charge of an all-male crew in a male dominated industry. Ms. Greenlaw is a great writer and has plenty of interesting tales.

Who didn't see the film, (or read the novel) The Perfect Storm? Not many of you, given its status as

one of the top-grossing motion pictures of all time. The story made for riveting reading--and with the addition of some very high-tech special effects--a dramatic movie. It was a fictionalized account of actual events surrounding the loss of the Andrea Gail, a swordfishing vessel lost at sea with all of its crew during a horrific storm in 1991. One of the characters in that story, Linda Greenlaw, captain of the Andrea Gail's sister ship, the Hannah Boden, has written a fascinating tale of life aboard a swordboat--minus the tragedy. What happens when everything 'goes right' is the theme of Greenlaw's *The Hungry Ocean: a Swordboat Captain's Journey*. To most of us, the concept of spending a month or more at sea in smelly, cramped quarters, working torturous 20-hour days and MAYBE getting a paycheck to show for it, (depending on how good the catch is), hardly seems worth the effort. Linda Greenlaw is one of the most successful swordboat captains, and it's very obvious she loves her work. That she is perhaps the world's ONLY female swordboat captain is incidental to the story. After reading this book, it would be hard to enjoy a meal of grilled swordfish without reflecting upon just what it took to get it on the plate. Over 12,000 pounds of bait and \$4,000 worth of groceries is loaded on board and stuffed into every conceivable nook and cranny prior to heading to sea. On the trip out, thousands of hook-and-leader sets are crafted, which are then attached to the 40-odd miles of line played out every single night--a 'set.' With a baited hook every 100 yards or so, they consider themselves fortunate if they haul in 20 or 30 fish per set; typically running about 15 sets per trip. Despite the fact that she is not an author by profession, Greenlaw very competently conveys a picture of life aboard a swordboat. *Hungry Ocean* is an entertaining and fascinating read! (I bought an additional copy as a gift for my father-in-law, whose late father was also a fisherman out of Gloucester, Mass. HE loved it too!)- Jonathan Sabin

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