

Name of person Interviewed: Jim Ruhle [JR]

Facts about this person:

Age (if known) 60

Sex Male

Occupation Fisherman

If a fisherman (if retired, list the ports used when fishing),

Home port Wanchese, North Carolina / Hampton, Virginia  
and Hail Port (port fished from, which can be the same) Wanchese,  
North Carolina / Hampton, Virginia

Residence (Town where lives) Wanchese, North Carolina

Ethnic background (if known)

Interviewer: Janice Gadaire Fleuriel [JGF]

Transcriber: Janice Gadaire Fleuriel

Place interview took place: New Bedford Harbormaster House

Date and time of interview: Sunday, Sept. 28, 2008

## INDEX (minutes:seconds) / KEYWORDS

KEYWORDS: Long Island; Wanchese, North Carolina; Oregon inlet; Swordfishing; Longlining; Trawling; Groundfish; Crabbing; Lobstering; Inshore fishing; Hampton, Virginia; Mackerel; Squid; Underutilized species; U Mass Dartmouth; Virginia Institute of Marine Science; Woods Hole; Mid-Atlantic Council; Trawl Advisory Committee; Cooperative research; Marine science; Fisheries research / science; Cape Hatteras; Montauk; Block Island Sound; Rhode Island Sound; New Bedford, Massachusetts; Point Judith, Rhode Island; Cape May, New Jersey; Commercial Fishermen of America; Packard Foundation; *Deadliest Catch*; Magnuson Act; Environmentalists; Conservationists; Cod stocks; Dogfish; Yellowtail; Atlantic mackerel; Climate change; Weather impact on stocks / migration patterns; Scallop industry;

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[00:00]

Long Island family fishing background; Father's fishing; Father moving family from Long Island to Wanchese, North Carolina / Oregon Inlet; Father pioneered longline swordfish fishery North Carolina; Staying in Wanchese after family moved back to Long Island; Crabbing/lobstering/inshore fishing in the sounds; Worked on different fishing boats, including ninety foot steel boat he owns now

[05:00]

Running then buying current boat; Keeps boat Hampton Virginia, because Oregon Inlet not jettied, bottom changes; Grounding boat in Oregon Inlet 1983; Boat's name is Darana

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Running/buying current boat; Swordfishing while stocks and business good; Swordfishing stocks and price decline; Helped Americanize underutilized species such as mackerels and squid; His boat able to carry volume, led to the trawling he does now; Dad taught him net building and other skills; Dad instilled in them an interest in cooperative research before it was called that; University of North Carolina professor Bill Hogarth showing him about swordfish biology on a trip on his dad's boat; Shark expert Jack Casey from Narragansett making trips on his dad's boat; Currently in New Bedford with team of scientists from Virginia Institute of Marine Science surveying in between where Woods Hole Boats and state boats go;

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Nine years on Mid-Atlantic Council as North Carolina's commercial representative; Federal surveys science process is broken, needs to be fixed from the outside; Federal science inconsistent; Was chairman of Trawl Advisory Committee, joint between Mid-Atlantic and New England, to develop new trawl net gear for federal research vessel; Uses net now on this inshore survey, performs flawlessly; Why net doesn't work well on bigger federal vessel, though they wouldn't accept the necessary larger net because the catch would overwhelm the scientists; Purpose of current cruise is to gather better data;

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Scientists use fish hole on his boat as a lab; Potential for industry vessels to be used to gather better data; Current Woods Hole data doesn't reflect stock abundances fishermen are seeing; Surveys need to use local knowledge/account for effects on fish stocks from local weather conditions—wind direction, cold spring; U Mass work by Kevin

Stokesbury and Brian Rothschild has been good; States saw need for research in gap he's filling after Feds ordered much bigger/deeper vessel; How he/his son got involved in hosting the research on their vessel; Need to find long-term funding for the research; [24:57]

Initial research trips—Cape Hatteras to Montauk, Block Island and Rhode Island sounds; States still support the research; Will take anyone interested that can help build public awareness; Tows during festival so far—hitting an obstruction/damaging cable on first tow; Scientists are a pleasure to work with; Story of accidentally ending up with fishermen seeing scientists' work firsthand after a tow out of Montauk; [30:03]

Story of fishermen and scientists (cont'd.); Fishermen and scientists need more opportunities to talk with each other about their respective work; Now also involving recreational fishermen to help build political support; Next survey will include Point Judith, RI, Montauk, Cape May, Hampton; Government resistance to the cooperative research work; Need public support from various sectors to be heard; Currently president of Commercial Fishermen of America; How Commercial Fishermen of America (CFA) got started with Packard Foundation grant; Direction CFA needs to take as voice for the industry; Wants to capitalize on popularity of *Deadliest Catch* show, get meetings with senators/congressmen; Magnuson Act purpose to preserve and protect American fisheries; [35:08]

Magnuson purpose been diverted by environmentalists and conservationists; Need better science if country wants a sustainable fishery; CFA's potential to be industry voice on national policy, not regional fishery issues; Wants sons to have the opportunity to go into fishing; Ocean is healthy now; Attempts to rebuild all species to historical levels simultaneously can't work—example of overabundance of dogfish threatening cod and yellowtail food supplies; Has heard cod are back up though not as much as traditionally—wrong time of year to land them on current survey; Sounds no longer freezing over like they did twenty years ago affecting stocks like Atlantic mackerel and cod in those areas; Research need to account for fish migrations/changes in patterns; [39:55]

Coming to point where he realized he could speak up; Wants sons to be able to choose fishing if they want it; Also encouraged children to finish schooling to have other options; Nervous about low numbers of young people involved in fishing now; Good work of UMass/outside science is reason for health of scallop fishery in New Bedford today; Trying to do same thing on fisheries level as happened for scallops; Council experience, management experience have helped him see federal process needs fixing from outside with better science to put forward; Hopeful that new administration will help change political climate for fisheries; Visitors need to recognize industry heritage, that fishermen are most significant environmentalists/conservationists, honest, and give them credit for who they are; [45:11]

Visitors need to keep images in mind of *Captain Courageous*, *The Old Man and the Sea*, *The Perfect Storm*, and *Deadliest Catch* as to who fishermen are, keep in mind long history of the industry and lives lost to help them appreciate wild caught seafood; One of

CFA's goals is public education; Consumer needs to be involved in fisheries management, regardless of proximity to oceans  
[End of interview]

## TRANSCRIPT

[00:00]

JGF: OK. Today is Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008. This is Janice Fleuriel at the New Bedford Working Waterfront Festival. I'm in the Harbormaster House. And I'll be interviewing Jim Ruhle of Wanchese, North Carolina about his experience in the fishing industry.

[Sound check]

And, what we usually like to do is just start by having people talk about where and when they were born, and your personal and family background in fishing, or whatever else it is.

JR: OK.

Well, let's see, I was born Long Island, New York, Long Beach, as a matter of fact in 1948. And..., I'm the third generation fisherman in my family.

I have two sons that fish with me, one fulltime, one part-time. And..., so there's the fourth generation. And, fortunately, last summer, we took the fifth generation out when he was three years old, so. We had three generations on the boat at the same time. So that was quite a rewarding experience.

JGF: Yeah... That's great.

And so..., you were born in Long Island?

JR: Yeah.

JGF: How long did you stay there?

JR: Well, my dad fished with a small boat—several small boats—started day fishing, and then they progressively got a little bit bigger as he got more wandersome. He was the Columbus of Long Island, basically. There was no distance far enough, or no fish big enough that he wasn't going to go after it. So. He liked that kind of challenge.

And..., he traveled down... He would fish on a day trip basis most of the year, but for a couple months of the year it was impossible to make it. So he traveled down to the better fishing grounds and that happened to be south, at that time of year. And he discovered the port of Wanchese. By *accident*. And he was very impressed with the potential for it. He didn't like the inlet. And I don't like the inlet, either. Oregon Inlet is unjettied. It's just an open sand bar. It's the only entrance between—for a hundred and twenty miles it's the only entrance between Cape Hatteras and the Chesapeake Bay.

JGF: Wow...

JR: And..., it's still a very dangerous inlet. But anyway, he went in there [phone ringing interruption]. And..., the..., he was very interested in fishing down there. So we *moved* down there [phone ringing interruption].

JGF: So... OK, so your dad was doing...

JR: Well, he was—he saw the potential for more of an expansion in the fishery and better fishing down there. And he really liked the area. Because it was much more rural. It was like Long Island when he was a child.

And..., he just felt like it would be better to raise—He had five sons. I'm the oldest of five brothers. And he just felt like that was a good area to raise children.

And my mother being *from Long Island* all her life, she never really adjusted to the small town. My dad *loved* it, but she didn't.

He came down there—We moved down in '63. And he pioneered the longline swordfish fishery out of North Carolina.

JGF: Oh...

JR: And he got a lot of acceptance in the local community for developing that fishery.

JGF: Wow...

JR: And teaching it to the locals, and... So we were an instant success more or less.

JGF: Oh, that's neat. Was that something he brought down from Long Island?

JR: Yeah, well he was one of the few—first boats into it. Yeah, he actually learned it from some friends of his in Maine.

JGF: Oh OK.

JR: And... He only messed with it a little bit on a very small scale. But when he saw the potential—and then when he made some trials, sets down there, why they were so rewarding, you know, that he just expanded it to really an enlarged operation, enlarged the boat, the whole nine yards.

But anyway we stayed there from '63, and he moved out in '65. Him and my family moved *back* to Long Island.

JGF: OK.

JR: It wasn't that fishing had changed. My mother wasn't happy there. And it was just, I don't know, it was just another opportunity to move.

JGF: Right...

JR: In the meantime I'd met my now wife. I've been married forty-three years.

JGF: Wow.

JR: And... So I had no [chuckles] *desire* to leave. I didn't like moving the first time.

JGF: How old were you when you moved the first time then?

JR: Fifteen.

JGF: OK. So that's a hard time to move, to begin with.

JR: Yeah. Changing high schools and all that.

So anyway, they moved away. And I fished in the sounds. Crabbing. Lobstering. Inshore fishery.

JGF: Right...

JR: And then, different fishing boats that I worked on, differently. I finally ended up with the boat that I've got *now*, which is a ninety foot steel boat...

[05:00]

JGF: Wow...

JR: ...but I was actually running it for other companies before I bought it.

JGF: Oh... OK.

JR: And, we were swordfishing with her always. Actually we made trips—landed trips here in New Bedford.

Yeah, that was in the 70s. Prior to the two hundred mile limit, so we could fish the Canadian waters, Flemish Cap, the Grand Banks. We were in the same fishery *The Perfect Storm* was in. But, twenty years earlier. So. You know, that's where we were.

But, my father was never one to be satisfied with the fishery he was in. I mean, he did—he'd get into something and go as far as he could with it. Then he was always looking for something new. He was the adventurous type.

So... Anyway, we—I stayed there, and I've raised my family there.

And... My vessel doesn't work well out of Oregon Inlet, so I actually keep my boat a hundred and ten miles from my house. I have to drive to Hampton, Virginia. That's where I keep the boat. Which is, somewhat of an inconvenience, except that you can get in and out anytime you like. With the boat. And... it's silly to have to get a traffic report before you go fishing, but, you know—so you know how to figure your time up there, but it works. You know?

I got aground in Oregon with the boat in 1983.

JGF: Oh boy.

JR: And I did a quarter million dollars worth of damage to the boat. I never *abandoned* the boat. The Coast Guard suggested that we get off. But I always felt like she'd get us through it if we could just get some better weather.

And we did.

And we were able to get off.

But it was a lot of damage. So I vowed not to go back until the inlet was jettied and stabilized, which has never happened.

JGF: What does jettied mean?

JR: Jetties is rock—piles of rock...

JGF: Oh...

JR: ...that run, what you'd call [?as groins]. You know? And they use them on beaches to keep the sand from shifting.

JGF: Yeah... OK.

JR: You know? And that's what we call a jetty.

JGF: So every time you went in and out there'd be sandbars in places there weren't before?

JR: That you wouldn't—yeah. That's what got me in trouble. There was great water when I went out. And I came back two days later and it wasn't there. And we were stuck solid.

JGF: Boy...

JR: You know? We come in on a rough sea and got picked up and set down on top of water—a shoal that had developed and there was no way to get off. You know? So. Anyway we learned *that* lesson.

JGF: Yeah... How long were you stuck aground?

JR: Three days. Three days and two nights.

JGF: Three days...

JR: Yeah.

JGF: Oh that must have been a miserable time.

JR: It was, pure hell. It was—I had no idea if we were going to be able to save the boat. We were worried about—we weren't worried about the crew, because, the boat never actually started taking on water. But the Coast Guard kept insisting that we get off the boat. And I says to them, "I'm not getting off until I see there's a danger." You know? So, it was kind of a....

JGF: Yeah...

JR: ...debate back and forth as to who was going to win, and just pure stubbornness. But, had I not been on the boat, we'd *never* got her off. So.

JGF: Right.

JR: Well, we learned that lesson. I don't run the boat in and out of there. It's *unfortunate* because a lot of times I'll jump in the truck, drive a hundred miles, get in the boat, and then take the boat, come out twenty miles, steam down a hundred and end up five miles from where I left.

JGF: [laughs]

JR: You know... But...

JGF: Really...

JR: That's neither here nor there.

JGF: Right... It's just what it is.

JR: What it is.

JGF: Now, was there any..., concern when it was aground that it could tip over? Was the water so shallow as that? Or no?

JR: Uh..., she could have. That was one of the concerns. But I just didn't feel like she would—If she went, she wasn't going to go—she *couldn't* go over. She could lay on her side, but she couldn't go all the way over.

JGF: Alright.

JR: And as that threat became more and more apparent, the seas actually calmed down. And that made it better. She'd roll down, *stop*, hit on her [?chine], then roll back and hit [chuckles] on the other chine.

JGF: Oh [laughs]

JR: You know... Bing! Bang! for two and a half days. But anyways.

JGF: Were you like lashed onto something or what [laughs]?

JR: [Chuckles] Well I was trying to keep—I was actually able to keep the engines running, through all of it. So that we—and running *forward* believe it or not. We were facing the beach. But what I was able to do was..., intermittently have an engine running and actually dug a little channel behind us?

JGF: Right.

JR: So that when the time come to get out, there was a way to get out.

JGF: Oh... OK. That was smart.

JR: And, it worked. You know?

JGF: Yeah.

JR: You know, but it was just... It was just meant to be. It wasn't—it was just meant to be. We were meant to keep the boat. So. We did.

JGF: That's great. And it's called Da-RAN-a[sp?]? Or...?

JR: DAR-a-na.

JGF: Darana.

JR: And Darana—Darana R is the name of the boat. Darana is my oldest daughter's name. And it's so unique, you don't have the fear of another boat with it. She's always kind of fussed about it, because she didn't like having to spell her name in syllables.

JGF: Uh huh [laughs].

JR: And it's ironic. My wife was on the ferry when she was carrying Darana. And *thought* that she heard a woman call that name to another little girl. And, she's not even sure that that's what she heard. But she—she said, "That's what I'd like to name her." OK?

JGF: Huh. That's great. Yeah.



JR: I thought it was going be a boy so I didn't care.

JGF: [Laughs]

JR: [Chuckles] But, she's... Darana is her name and the R is for the Ruhle, you know? So. It worked out.

JGF: Right. And... When you said you ran this boat for other companies before, was it still for fishing?

JR: Oh yeah. It was—the boat was built for the lobster fishery.

JGF: Right...

JR: Offshore. And I was used to—Well I had a twenty-six foot of my own that I worked on. My dad's biggest boat at that point was only sixty foot. This is a ninety foot steel trawler with five engines. And it was like, a *ship*, then. And there was a lot of expense in getting into a boat like. And they needed my abilities to run the boat, because she wasn't doing well and they were swordfishing.

[10:08]

JGF: Oh... OK.

JR: I—which I had the background. So I ran it for one company. And they sold it to another guy. Right here from New Bedford, as a matter of fact. Who bought it... And I ultimately ended up buying it from him a few years later.

JGF: Right...

JR: So. That's how we ended up owning it.

JGF: Oh... OK. Wow. Interesting. And do you like the dragging better than the other stuff?

JR: Well, we were in the swordfish business when it was good.

JGF: Uh huh?

JR: You know? And we could see a depletion of the stock. We could see too many boats getting in it. We could see a downside coming. The trips were getting longer and longer, and further and further away.

JGF: Yeah...

JR: And the last trip... And I believe I landed here in New Bedford. We were gone forty-eight days. You know?

JGF: [Gasps] Wow!

JR: And we had a—we had a hundred and fifty thousand—no we had fifty thousand pounds of swordfish aboard. And they dropped a dollar a pound overnight. So that was a fifty thousand dollar loss.

JGF: Oh, man...

JR: Before we unloaded.

JGF: Yeah...

JR: And... It was—you couldn't recoup that.

JGF: Right.

JR: You know? I mean, your expenses were the same. And I was *gone* from the family *so much*. That I just said, "There's got to be a better way." So.

JGF: Right.

JR: Dragging looked... Yeah, in—interesting. I'd *done* enough of it to know. Not with that boat. But there was a lot of fish available.

JGF: Right.

JR: But... She's a..., boat that carries weight very well. So, some of these underutilized species—mackerels and squids—we helped Americanize those fisheries.

JGF: Oh...

JR: And develop markets for it. And learn the techniques to catch them. But you were dealing with *volume*. So you needed a boat that carried a lot.

JGF: Right.

JR: And... I got involved with that, and... And that ultimately led to where we are now.

JGF: Wow. Wow. And so you went from longlining to trawling, then?

JR: Yes.

JGF: So that meant another whole gear investment.

JR: Oh... yeah. Completely. But.

JGF: Yeah. Yeah.

JR: Well, my dad had taught me how to build nets. He had a lot of ideas of his own.

JGF: Oh...

JR: And, we were... I had a pretty good drop on that. You know? I had a full understanding of gear. That I just expanded to the size of the vessel. But...

JGF: Right. Right.

JR: You know, on thing he taught me early on—and he instilled it in all of my brothers and myself—was the *value* of, what is now termed cooperative research.

JGF: Yeah?

JR: He would—When he found somebody interested in what he was doing, and—genuinely concerned with what he was doing and interested, he'd do anything for them. Take them anytime they wanted to go. Show them anything they wanted. But he wanted to make sure that whatever came out of that was just truthful. That's all. He didn't want anything added—their spin, or “Well we think, this is what this means.” He just said, “You can't make that assumption based on this.”

JGF: Just the facts.

JR: Just the facts. Put the facts out there, and I'll work with you.

JGF: Yeah.

JR: And... Even thought it wasn't a popular term, cooperative research...

JGF: Yeah.

JR: It was something instilled in us. And he worked with some of the top notch people, especially with the swordfish business.

JGF: Wow.

JR: Ironically, in '63—'64 it was—'63 we moved down there and '64 was the first winter—a professor from State University of North Carolina came down and worked with my dad about showing *me*—I was the one dressing the swordfish. I had quit school to go fishing. And..., identify male and female swordfish. And, the stage of the roe, the reproduction on them. You know? How close they were to spawning or whatever. And he brought a graduate student with him. And I worked with him. That was Bill Hogarth, the guy that ended up running this fisher[?ies] for this country.

JGF: Oh...

JR: Dr. Bill Hogarth. Worked side by side with me when I was a kid on my dad's boat.

JGF: Wow...

JR: That's how ironic things turned out. You know?

JGF: Yeah... Yeah...

JR: And Bill to this day will say the only trip he ever made on a commercial boat was out of Wanchese, North Carolina to Montauk, New York, with my dad. You know? So.

JGF: Wow. Wow.

JR: You know? That just happened to be. Then with Jack Casey—his name's—well we call him Jack. John Casey, down in Narragansett lab, who is, retired ten years ago. But he was the world—this country's expert on sharks. But he made multiple trips with my dad and myself. Tagging and studying sharks.

JGF: Wow.

JR: And we just, really enjoyed working with people like that.

JGF: Yeah!

JR: Because they were honest. They learned from us. We learned from them.

JGF: Right.

JR: And that brings me to where I am *now*.

JGF: Yeah...

JR: We're in New Bedford with a team of scientists from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science.

JGF: Hmm!

JR: Which is the College of William and Mary.

JGF: OK.

JR: And we're doing the inshore trawl survey for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries and Mid-Atlantic Council, and..., [?] the New England Council. So we're doing exactly what the Woods Hole boats do. Only they can't get in as close as we can. And the state boats don't come out to where we are. So there's a....

JGF: Oh, you're in a gap, then.

JR: We're in a very productive area of bays, and oceans, and sounds that..., that is not at all sampled.

JGF: Wow...

JR: And that, that sampling *must happen* to have good data.

[15:02]

JGF: Right.

JR: So. The need arose as—I spent nine years on Mid-Atlantic Council as North Carolina's commercial representative.

JGF: Wow.

JR: And I was actually liaison to New England Council for five years.

JGF: Wow!

JR: So. I know the management system. I know how it works. I just got off August the 10<sup>th</sup>, that was nine years.

JGF: Good for you! [Laughs]

JR: Yeah. Good for me is right. The process is broke. And I recognize that and you can't fix it from within. It has to be fixed from without.

JGF: The process of the councils?

JR: Fisheries management. But that's another whole discussion.

JGF: [Laughs] Which I might ask you about later.

JR: That's fine, yeah. But I mean—I'm not at all satisfied, nor is anyone in this port, with the current science being provided by the federal surveys.

JGF: Right.

JR: Simple as that. I don't think it's a personal thing. I think that because they are so set in their ways, and wanting to use this, forty-three, forty-six year old time series, trawl survey, and not *change* anything, that that's giving them good data. Well it's not giving them good data. And they argue that it's—As a matter of fact, ten years or twelve years ago, the existing original administrator then, told me after a *heated* discussion in a public forum that, “We know we're wrong but we're consistently wrong.” And I said to him, “You gotta' say that again.” And he did. And I said, “That's the stupidest thing anybody ever said.” And he still believes that. And I said, “You *can't* expect me as a fisherman to buy into that.” I said, “You have to do better than that. That's all there is to it.” And *now*, through this project I'm involved with now, and their *own* errors, with the trawl gate, when they ended up pulling it in sideways, and... all those other things. Now they're not consistent. But I can prove they've never been consistent. And there lies the problem. You know? It's not the ability of their gear to fish as well as ours. That's not necessary. But it needs to catch a representative sample of what's there all the time!

JGF: Right.

JR: Not part of the time. And it doesn't do that.

JGF: Right.

JR: So. By—The opportunity came, as I was chairman of the committee, called the Trawl Advisory Committee, which is a joint committee between Mid-Atlantic and New England, to design and develop the new trawl net gear for the new research vessel. The federal vessel Bigelow. I was the chairman of the committee that developed that gear. The net that's on the stern of my boat, *now*, is that net.

JGF: Wow!

JR: And we can use it in this inshore survey. And it performs flawlessly.

JGF: Hmmm!

JR: And I spent ten days on the Bigelow. And I can't make it work as well as I can on my own boat. And I know *why*. But they don't want to hear it.

JGF: Why?

JR: *Why* is because my boat is ninety foot. Tonnage, she weights about four hundred and twenty tons. The gross tonnage is a hundred and sixty-six. In the very stern, where you pull the net from, the gallows, the stern width is twenty feet.

JGF: OK.

JR: On the Henry Bigelow, which is two hundred and six foot—over twice as long, *four times* the gross tonnage, *five times* the horsepower—same net, the [?] distance on that boat is fifty feet. So, there—To *me*, the boat is overwhelming the net.

JGF: Right.

JR: And we argued from day one, you need a bigger net for this boat. We can't scale this net down small enough for that boat. And they argued—the scientist—oh no, we can't do that, the scientists will be overwhelmed by the catch. I said, “So what?!?”

JGF: Yeah, right.

JR: You know? “You’ll have something that works!” And, I’m not satisfied that that boat will ever do as *well*, as well—it will certainly do better than the Albatross, certainly. But it—I don’t believe it’ll do as well as we can make the... I *know* that—They won’t acknowledge the geometry of the net. They wouldn’t acknowledge it to me as the chairman of that committee or to the committee. So they’re—basically, they’re saying—They’re ashamed of it, is what it is. And they *know*—ours out there, it’s public knowledge. We’ve made four hundred and ten tows. And It’s all right there, with a very narrow parameter. [?Head row by door spread, wing width]. It’s there. It’s right where it’s supposed to be. They can’t get close. So. There’s... Anyway. You can’t—You can sit there and argue *all day long* with scientists, but the only way you’re going to beat them is put better data on the table.

JGF: Right...

JR: That’s the purpose of this cruise now.

JGF: Wow...

JR: To—Not only to survey areas that haven’t been. But, to show that you can take a commercial platform, like any dragger in this port. With the right people and the right thought process, and the right arrangement, and make a research vessel out of it.

JGF: Yup...

JR: I normally operate my boat with three or four men, counting myself. Right now there’s three—my son, myself, and one other man. *Five* scientists. Every bunk that I usually keep storage stuff in, I got jammed in the engine room now, because I’ve got eight people on this ninety foot boat. And it’s—I wouldn’t say it’s *totally* comfortable. But it’s workable.

[20:06]

JR: But these scientists... The fish hole is kind of [?] into a wet lab. They do all of their analysis of stomach content, aging, [?], all of that takes place down in the hole. We’ll be twenty-five days, twenty-six days doing this survey. But, for the best bang for the buck, if the budget is going to drive how much gets done or doesn’t get done, you need to look beyond a vessel that just took on a quarter of a million dollars worth of fuel.

JGF: Right...

JR: One trip. As opposed to what we could do.

JGF: Yeah.

JR: So anyway...

JGF: That’s nice.

JR: I’m encouraged... I took it upon myself because I realized that, the best way to sell this process, and this survey to the industry is to bring them involved with it. And... *No one* has confidence in the current Woods Hole Survey. No one. Because it doesn’t *ever* coincide with what we’re seeing as an industry.

JGF: Right!

JR: They’re either saying there’s too many of these—well, very rarely. They keep saying, “There none of these.” And we’re saying, “Why the hell are we seeing them in high abundances?” You know?

We know that they can't—fishermen can go to where there's fish to catch fish. A survey is different. You have to design your area. You have to pick random stations and then you have to start there. And build the time series. I *understand* all of that. But if you don't take into consideration facts like climatic changes. Or are we having a warm spring or a cold spring? If you're having a cold spring, everything that's supposed to be there this month ain't going to get there until next month. And if you do your survey *this month*, you're not going to see them! You know? And just for an example, this real hard wind we had the last few days, easterly wind. The fishermen of Rhode Island Sound and Block Island Sound told me, you'll catch a tenth of what you normally do on an easterly wind. And I learned this last year when we were on our survey, and I said to the scientists, "We got a problem." I said, "The industry just told us we're not going to catch worth a damn, with the winds to the east at over fifteen, eighteen, mile an hour." I said, "We're going to look foolish doing these tows." And they said, "No we won't, because we won't make the tows. We'll write protocol that says we will not survey in conditions when the easterly winds are over fifteen or eighteen mile an hour."

JGF: Wow.... So you actually have scientists listening to your [?].

JR: Oh yeah. This is a win-win situation. That... I guess the best way to compare it is the work that UMass has done with Kevin Stokesbury and Brian Rothschild, this is the southern version of that.

JGF: That's great.

JR: And it is great.

JGF: Now how did it come? Did *you* initiate getting this research thing....

JR: No.

JGF: No?

JR: No. The..., SFMC, the states, saw the need for it about eight or nine years ago. Then when the Feds ordered a boat so much bigger and deeper than the *current* vessel, there became this gap. The gap got *wider*.

JGF: Yes.

JR: You know? And the need was there. So that kind of multiplied the need for it. Well that's the same time we were designing the net as a trawl committee. Ironically, again, I was in Newfoundland with one of the lead scientists on the project, testing the model of the net on the flume tank. And he said, "Do you have any idea... We're thinking about bidding on this contract. Do you have any idea where I can get a boat that does this, this, and this." And I said, "No, I don't have any idea." Then I—My *sons* were with me and I said, "You know what? This is how I guarantee you a future. Alls we want to know is what we can catch. We don't—we want the truth. And these people are willing to do that." I said, "Let's tell them we'll do it." You know? Because, I know a lot of people in this industry and people—I've got a reasonable reputation. My *name* has a reputation. And, I can utilize that to the benefit of the entire industry. So I said, "Let's tell them we'll do it." And we did it. And that's—it just... [?followed it] in front of us. Of course anybody can bid on it. They can pick any boat that they want. It's a low-bid deal, you know? It's... Financially, it's not as good as *good* fishing. And it's better than *bad* fishing.

JGF: OK.

JR: So... But, I don't care.

JGF: And it's guaranteed. Right?

JR: It's guaranteed. Well... See, there's another problem. It's guaranteed on a *year to year* basis. What we need to do is guarantee long-term funding for this.

JGF: Yes.

JR: Because, that's how it will be beaten by the outside.

JGF: Yeah.

JR: If the funding dries up... Then..., "Well, you had it for three or four years, now you don't have it anymore. And look at us. We're there forty years."

JGF: Right.

JR: You know? No, that's ain't going to work. So.

They actually—the Feds put three hundred thousand. It costs about a million a year to do two surveys. And that includes a year-round staff at VIMS, all the people to do the aging, stomach contents, and all the biological work. At *shoreside*. Not counting what's done on the boat.

JGF: Right...

[24:57]

JR: Putting out the reports. Chartering the vessel. And the whole nine yards.

They... Initially we went as far from Cape Hatteras to Montauk, New York. The pilot cruise, the proof of concept. Well, the *Feds* put in three hundred thousand.

And then they gave us thirty tows, thirty stations in the Block Island and Rhode Island Sound. Which by the way they have *never* successfully worked. *Never*.

And they... They *certainly* want the information. They know it's valuable. But they had no clue in the world we could get through there. They thought we'd lose everything that we had. And I probably would have had I not said, "Look," to the industry. "I need to make a two in this little one-square-mile block. Can I do it? And if I can do it, how do I do it?"

They provided me the information I need. I made twenty-nine out of the thirty tows. Never tore the net up. Never did any damage. Caught humongous amounts of fish.

JGF: Wow...

JR: And... Consequently the three hundred thousand disappeared the next year.

So... You know? We were reduced in funding.

JGF: Oh...

JR: But. We're still doing the tows. Because the states recognize the benefits and have come in to support it.

JGF: Wow...

JR: So. That's where we are.

JGF: Yeah...

JR: And I'm bringing this to the fishing public, almost as a road show. I mean, when I suggested I could be to this festival, and I could take groups of fishermen, or groups of politicians, or reporters or scientists. Anybody wants to go, give me a couple of tows out front, that I can get through, cleared, get me the permits. I'll take you out there. And show you what a team of outside scientists can do.

JGF: So have you actually been taking people out on your boat?

JR: Yes ma'am. Yes ma'am.

JGF: Oh way cool!

JR: This morning. Yesterday was..., a terrible experience. I had eight or nine people on there. No, more than that. Ten or twelve. And the minute we set out we set into a..., either a rock or an obstruction and tore the—broke the cable. Almost lost the net but we got it all back. We got everything back.

JGF: Oh...

JR: And this morning we went out with the mayor, the top Coats Guard representative from this area. Probably twenty people plus us eight. And successfully made a two. Dr. Rothschild was with us. Kevin Stokesbury was with us.

JGF: That's *so* awesome.

JR: And they were amazed by..., the efficiency. Not... Never mind my crew. My guys know what they're doing. I know what I'm doing.

JGF: Yeah.

JR: But I want emphasis on the scientists. This is a young, energetic team of people that are out to do their job. And they have no agendas. They just want to do *good* fisheries science. And it is a pleasure to be around them. We got gear that fishes correctly, that fishes consistently.

JGF: Yeah...

JR: And I'm willing to show it to anybody.

JGF: That's amazing.

JR: And the way I've been able to buy industry support, is to go to a... Well, this is kind of an odd example, because, nobody's allowed to fish where we do in these tows. But like, for example—and this is how it happened, by accident, Montauk, New York, I didn't realize scientists count days different from fishermen. I was told that we were going to do a crew change every seven days, on the first trip. Well, to *me*—oh well my *dad* was *worse*—if we left to go fishing on Monday, and set the net on Wednesday, Wednesday was the first day. Well the scientists counted—not only Monday as the first day, but they counted Sunday because they were *thinking* about going Monday.

JGF: [Laughs]

JR: So I said, "Holy smokes! Scientists and fishermen count days totally different." So, two days before I'm expecting to have a crew change, they waddle into the wheel house and say, "OK, what are we doing about the crew change tomorrow?" I said, "What?!?" You know, "It's not tomorrow. It's two days away!" "No, no. It's tomorrow." I said, "Well..." We got that resolved. So, Montauk was right there. And..., we had a station a mile outside the jetty. So I call some of the fish guys, "You know what? We're going to make a tow right in front of your inlet. I know some of your guys were there today." I said, "I need dock space. I need this, this, and this." And they said, "Come on." And I said, "Well, how about coming down when we get in?" And I said to the scientists, I said, "Listen. Put the—don't work the tow up. Leave it. Put it *on* the table, cover it up." So we get to the dock, and I said, "There are a load of fishermen, and they're all fishermen that worked there that day. Know the place like the back of their hand." I said, "Now. If you were going to go out with a reasonably small net..." It's only forty-two foot wing spread. For the size of the boat. You know? "And you were trying to catch everything out there, that you could, with one net. What do you think it would look like?" And



they said, “Phh! Don’t know.” And I pulled the canvas back and I said, “How would that be?” And they were amazed at the makeup of that catch.

JGF: Wow...

JR: And how..., how much of different fish were there. How *big* some of them were. How *little* some of them were. And they said, “That’s great! The big boat—the Woods Hole boat couldn’t do that in a year!” “Well,” I said, “this ain’t the Woods Hole boat.” I said, you know, “But, that’s what we caught right there twenty minutes ago. What do you think?” And, they were amazed. Then the next thing that happened out of it, ironically, was they watched the scientists do *their* work. Well, they’d never seen that. They never saw the detail. They never saw the enthusiasm of scientists. They never met *real*, true fisheries scientists.

[30:03]

JGF: Right...

JR: Alls they’ve ever dealt with is..., what they’ve heard from Woods Hole. And not—very little personal experience. And they stood there, in amazement. And watching these people do their job. And then they turned around and *thanked* those people, the scientists, for doing what they’re doing.

JGF: That’s awesome.

JR: And bought us dinner that night.

JGF: Wow...

JR: Well the *next* day, the scientists come up to me, and say “Gee, Cap, thanks for taking us into that port and interacting with the fishermen.” I said, “Boy this is—you know, why didn’t somebody think about this before?” You know?

JGF: It sounds so obvious now! Right.

JR: It is! It is! You know?

JGF: Yeah... Yeah...

JR: It makes you want to slap yourself in the head? “Why didn’t you *think* of this?”

JGF: It’s like, “How about if they talk to each other?”

JR: Right! And I said, “Well now... Now we got an issue. Now we need to make this *part* of this process. We need to take this out.” So I invited more people and now we’ve got *recreational* people going. Because—there’s no need—I needed the commercial endorsement. I need the commercial support because they can get me the tows.

JGF: Right.

JR: They can get me the information that I needed to get through wherever the computer picks.

JGF: Yeah...

JR: But then I said, “You know? If we’re going to get this long-term funded, we need political support.” So, we need political support, we need recreational fisherman. They’re going to benefit if there’s more fish allocated to be caught. Just as much as we are. OK? So. “I need them to buy into this.” And I always need them to see that, you know, you can take a commercial boat and make a scientific platform out of it. So we carried fifty-four people out of three different ports last spring. And they were very pleased. And we’ve already carried what—probably thirty?—in the last day. We’re scheduled to go on the survey tomorrow. We’ll be twenty-five days about. We’re going in Point Judith, Rhode Island Tuesday. Dedicating a whole day

to sailing every four hours. Taking whoever wants to go out. Witness what goes on. They'll actually be survey tows. And they'll see the workup. We'll do the same thing in Montauk. And then we'll do the same thing in Cape May, New Jersey. And actually I think we're supposed to do one out of Hampton.

JGF: Yup.

JR: It... You have to have a port that's reasonable close to a station.

JGF: Right...

JR: Unfortunately, Chesapeake Bay it takes me two and a half hours to get to the ocean from the dock.

JGF: Right...

JR: So you got a five hour trip whether you set the net or not. Montauk, you don't even have time to get a cup of coffee and you're setting out. You know?

JGF: [Laughs] That's right.

JR: So... Point Judith's the same thing. But... I think, I think it's a good opportunity for the industry to see real science, recognize the *need* of it. We *do* recognize the need of it, but, see that it can be done on a commercial platform.

JGF: Right.

JR: So I'm, I'm really excited about it.

JGF: It is. Well, and it reminds me of that phrase in terms of the government not being as cooperative, someone said to me once, "If the followers lead, the leader will follow?"

JR: Yeah.

JGF: And it sort of feels like, I don't know, that's what you're doing here. And they're going to have to...

JR: Well.... They're put—there's a significant amount of resistance to what we're doing.

JGF: I bet.

JR: You know? And...

JGF: At least for now, huh?

JR: Yeah. It is for now. And they've tried different angles to defeat us. And I don't give up. You know, we're... If we can get enough public support, whether it be just the general public. Press. Political. Recreational fishermen. Commercial fishermen. And get the exposure. We're going to be hard to make go away.

JGF: Right.

JR: You know?

JGF: And I think this is just so interesting. Of course, I interviewed—is her name Margaret?

JR: Margaret Curole.

JGF: Yeah...

JR: Margaret Bryan Curole.

JGF: About the whole commercial fishermen.

JR: Right.

JGF: And you're involved in that, also.

JR: I'm the president of Commercial Fishermen of America.

JGF: OK. And did all start sort of hand-in-hand with this for you?

JR: We recognized the need for a national voice for our industry for years.

JGF: Yes.

JR: And we were at a conference in DC. And I believe—I don't remember if it was 2002 or 3. And three of—there were *six* of us—National Fisherman gives a highliner award every year to different fishermen. That have worked—not necessarily for ability to catch fish, but for what they've done for the industry. There were six highliners there. Myself, Larry [?Sims], two or three others. I can't recall them all. And, we were just saying, "You know, we could do this." And..., the..., Packard Foundation put a grant up to do a national organization. So we seized that opportunity. We actually went in as watchdogs just to see what was going to happen. Larry and myself. And it's turned into something that I think has a lot of potential.

We're in our infancy. We got a long way to go.

JGF: Right...

JR: We got behind non-controversial issues. Health care for the fishing industry. Loss of waterfront property.

But *now*, I'm convinced, myself—and I haven't approached the board with this yet—some of the members but not the entire board—we need to be the voice for the commercial industry to have this mismanagement of America's fisheries, around this nation, dealt with by the next administration.

JGF: Yeah...! Wow...

JR: So, I would like the opportunity—all of the Deadliest Catch captains belong to our organization.

JGF: Excellent.

JR: And I want to capitalize on the popularity of their show.

JGF: Right...

JR: And I've had this vision. And maybe it's just a vision, but. I envision myself and two or three of them guys walking down the halls of congress, with certain appointments for certain key senators and congressman, saying, "We need a few minutes of your time. And we want to ask you a simple question. Do you want the United States to be a major seafood producing nation or not? If you in fact do..." 1976 the Magnuson Act was created to *preserve* and to *protect* the American fisheries.

JGF: Yeah...

[35:08]

JR: Since then, it's took it down ratchet by ratchet by ratchet to a point where we're almost disappearing.

JGF: Right.

JR: And it's been controlled by the environmentalists and conservationists. Just make up your mind. If you *don't* want this industry to exist, tell us now. Reduce the National Marine Fisheries Staff by two thirds, take that money, and buy us out. And we'll go away.

JGF: Right...

JR: We don't want to!

JGF: Right.

JR: Now. That's one option. The other is, we do want a sustainable fishery. We want this country to be a major seafood producing nation so we *don't* import eighty

percent of our fish. Then you've got to recognize that the current laws, that this Congress has developed, are tying hands of *all* of the national agencies controlling them, and the industry.

It's an imperfect science. The way you deal with an imperfect science is to try to get better science. You don't add extra levels of the precautionary approach, and say, "Well, you might be able to take this many but we'd better only take this many."

You don't win that way.

JGF: Right.

JR: So... If I could get in that position while I'm still president of CFA or involved with it, I think we could have *one voice*, for the commercial fishing *harvesters*. In this country, saying, "This is what the position of the Commercial Fishermen of America is."

JGF: Yeah...

JR: And see what happens.

JGF: That's g—I mean, I did ask Margaret about the regulation aspect.

JR: Yeah.

JGF: And she said, that there were sort of universal aspects of Magnuson that go across the fisheries that you *can* work on.

JR: Yup.

JGF: That aren't about specific fishery's laws.

JR: That's a good point. We have agreed to not deal with regional issues. But this is the way I would answer that question. We're not going to talk about a groundfish issue in New England. We're not going to talk about a salmon issue in California, or a shrimp issue in the Gulf. Or a king crab in the Bering Sea.

*But*. We will talk about the policy that drives that. A national policy at a top level that says, this is how you operate a fishery. Maximum sustainable yield, you know, is this portion of the surplus production. And, provide the flexibility for the unknowns. Don't make it more stringent. You know? Flexibility's the key.

And... So anyway, I hope, for my sons' and my grandson's sake, which will be fourth and fifth generation Ruhle fisherman, that there is a group speaking for our industry.

And... Of course, the ocean is healthy. There's abundances of fish that I had never seen in my lifetime. And there's certain ones that are in trouble. But I want to try to recognize which ones we need to fish harder on, fish harder on them... Species like dogfish. For whatever reason, the environmental community think they're the most cute, cuddly damn fish there's ever been. And they're a pain in the ass! They're a predator! You know? But the abundance that we're trying to build to *will destroy* all other fisheries.

JGF: Yeah.

JR: It's going to come down to, if you try to reach the unachievable biomass target of dogfish, you will never have a codfish resource. You will never have...

JGF: Oh...

JR: ...a yellowtail resource. Because they can't compete in the same ocean. There's not enough *food* for everything!

JGF: That many dogfish. Yeah...

JR: That's the biggest problem with Magnuson now. Rebuild all fisheries to historical levels. *At the same time. It can't happen.* Nature won't let it happen. And you can't—you know, trying to upset the balance of nature is a big mistake.

JGF: Right. Right.

JR: Anyway.

JGF: Wow.

You mentioned cod. What have you seen up in this area for cod? Because...

JR: It's the wrong time of year to see cod. We're way inshore so we're not going to see them.

JGF: Oh OK.

JR: The reports that I'm getting from people that I have a lot of faith in in the industry said the abundance of cod is at a historical level. High level. But they're *not* what they're traditionally were.

JGF: And so they're not getting found in the surveys.

JR: Right! Well... They... No, they're not being found in the surveys. Atlantic mackerel—Mid-Atlantic Council manages Atlantic mackerel. And everybody's in a panic because the fishery's not reaching its—landings have declined. I said, "Yeah? How many times did you have to put a coat on last winter? How many times did the sound freeze over?" You know?

The Mayor of New Bedford this morning—ironically, when we were in the wheel house, s—we grew up two towns apart on Long Island.

JGF: Oh, no kidding!

JR: And we were talking about the old days of Long Island. And he said, "Yeah, I remember this [?], but do you remember when the bays and the sounds were frozen? For three months of the year?" Well when they were frozen from December until March, you had codfish! Off of Long Island.

JGF: OK.

JR: But there hasn't been ice in Great South Bay, in substantial amounts, in twenty years.

JGF: Wow.

JR: And there hasn't been any codfish south of Long Island in twenty years. You think there's a connection?

JGF: Yeah...

JR: I do!

JGF: Yeah...

JR: You know? Has nothing to do with the resource. Fisheries mi—change their patterns. You know? So. Anyway.

JGF: Wow....

JR: That's all part of it.

[39:55]

JGF: You seem to..., break the mold, or the stereotype, of the typical fisherman who's, you know..., you hear about a lot of fisherman who either—because they're too busy out fishing or because it just doesn't suit their personality—to be a strong voice for their own industry. You seem to do an excellent job at that.

JR: Well... I got a—I'm fortunate that I'm able to speak in front of people. And I had that problem initially. I was intimidated by them until it dawned on me, "You know

what? I'm just as good a man as he is." I don't have a degree. But I know more about what goes on in that ocean than he does. And I'll *argue* it. You know? And as long as I'm speaking on the truth, somebody's going to defend me. Maybe not be on this earth, but somebody else.

JGF: Yeah [chuckles].

JR: And, again, I'm third generation. I want to give my children the opportunity. They don't want to go fishing that's fine. I just want to give them that opportunity. I love fishing.

JGF: So you're not trying to talk them out of it the way some people...

JR: No... I asked them to finish school.

JGF: Yes.

JR: I regret not finishing school. My dad needed me on the boat. I moved from Long Island. They put me *up* two grades, because I knew everything, and then they said, "We can't do that." [?] took back down. And I said, "Guess what? Bye!" You know.

JGF: Oh...

JR: Neither there—But I did ask them, and they all... They've both graduated. My daughter graduated college. She's got degree. But, my sons are capable of doing, a *lot* besides fishing. But they *want* to go fishing. And I'm trying to insure that opportunity. Not only for my sons but for every fisherman's sons on the coast.

JGF: Right. That's wonderful.

Have you met Dave Densmore here?

JR: Excuse me?

JGF: Have you met Dave Densmore from Kodiak?

JR: No. That I don't know.

JGF: He's the fisher poet. He's around...

JR: Oh. Oh, no no. I heard the name. I heard the name.

JGF: One of the points he made at the end of his interview was, exactly what you're doing is what's needed. That—That—He didn't mention you guys. I wonder if *he* knows about you. But...

JR: Oh well.

JGF: Yeah.

JR: Doesn't matter.

JGF: Yeah. You'll get people as you get them. And you've got a lot of people up in that area, which is great.

JR: What makes me nervous is there's very few young people *in* this fishery anymore. And if it wasn't for scalloping New Bedford wouldn't look like it does today. You know? And that was *outside* science. Kevin Stokesbury and UMass—without the intervention of outside science to *challenge* the *regime*, we wouldn't have a scallop industry. And you wouldn't have half of the boats in the shape that they're in here now. And that would be scary. So I'm trying to do the same thing on a fisheries level.

JGF: That's great.

JR: For the coast.

JGF: That's great! Wow... Super.

Well I'll just ask you my two wrap-up questions. This has been...

JR: OK. I'm sorry.

JGF: No...!

JR: I should have given you advance warning that I can talk forever.

JGF: And that's true and I would love to keep you but I know you're all stretched out today.

And this is great because I have *not* had anybody in all my five years talk in such detail about this sort of aspect. And so this is been really fascinating.

JR: Well I'm glad. I hope it's helped.

JGF: Yeah!

And you probably did answer both of these questions but is there anything else I haven't asked that you would have like to talk about?

JR: No, not really.

JGF: OK.

JR: I mean, you've... Unfortunately I'm going on and on. But, by having the council experience and the management experience, sitting at that table, dealing with that level of people, knowing that there's twenty-two people sitting at this table, and there's only one that knows what the hell is going on, and that's me. And..., recognizing that no matter how you argue or how you convince them to vote, that it can be cut to the bare bone because of the policy. I'm satisfied that the current regime and the current process is beyond repair. And in order for our industry to do anything different, we've got to have a different approach.

It just—And you *have* to be able to put something on the table. Now the science, for example. Your science is no good, you don't know what the hell you're talking about. That works really well! Gets you nowhere! Your science is no good, you don't know what you're talking about, "*Here* is what we can offer." That gets you somewhere. That gets you somewhere. So. You can't just go at them empty-handed. Make sure you know what you're coming up against. And don't, bullshit anybody. Know what you're talking about. Be able to defend anything you say, in front of anybody anytime. And I think that's a value—And I think that applies throughout life. I don't know how the deal works dealing with women. I've been married forty-two years...

JGF: [Laughs]

JR: ...[laughs] I don't know how that's going to work. But.

JGF: [Laughs] No matter what you do you'll be wrong, so don't worry about it. [Laughs]

JR: Well... Yeah, that—See that's what I mean. Right, that approach could get you in trouble, but.

JGF: [Laughs]

JR: I think there is—I do think there's a future for our industry. But we do need to change things drastically. And we need to do it quick. And I hope that the outcome and the change of administration will give us that opportunity. So.

JGF: Yeah... Yeah... That's great.

JR: The timing is right. So we just got to make the best of it.

JGF: That's neat.

And my only other question is—again you might feel like you've answered it—what would you want the festival visitors to leave the festival feeling like they understand about the industry?

JR: Well, the heritage of our industry is something, the culture—People need to recognize it. They need to recognize the *value* of our industry. Not in dollars. But what it means to be a fisherman. And how many of the fishermen are without a doubt the most significant conservationists and environmentalists you'll ever meet. It's instilled in them, but it's not presented by them. And there is a lot of *good* in our industry. There's *more* honest fishermen than there is politicians. Any day of the week. There's *more* honest fishermen than there is *lawyers*. Any day of the week. They need to recognize that. Give us credit for what we are.

[45:11]

JGF: Yeah...

JR: You know? Think about—I tried this at a couple of presentations that I've made. When you think about commercial fishing, just for the few minutes that you're talking about it, or listening to me, put these images in your mind. *Captain Courageous, The Old Man and the Sea, The Perfect Storm, and Deadliest Catch*. Because *that's* what we are. That's all.

JGF: Yup.

JR: Just give us that ability to be even keel, competitive to start with. Think about all the history that's involved with fishing. Think about a port like Gloucester. Where fifty-four hundred men have lost their lives. Going to sea. Over five hundred years, four hundred years. It's an industry that, is *unique*. It's... And the more the general public supports us, and recognizes and voices their opinion—that, wait a minute! We would *much rather* have wild caught seafood as opposed to something raised in a mud *pond* somewhere, in China. That's not inspected.

JGF: Yup.

JR: Get the general public to support our industry. That's where festivals like this need to have an impact. I mean, anybody that ate a fish meal at this event this last few days, was *amazed* how well it tasted.

JGF: Right...

JR: How many of them know how it's caught? How many of them know that that particular resource is in great shape? We just can't get *to* it. You know? That's the kind of thing—education. CFA—One of the goals of CFA is to educate the general public.

JGF: That's great.

JR: The *consumer* has been left out of fisheries management totally. Involvement of the consumer—the everyday Joe, I don't care if he lives in Massachusetts or Ohio—he needs to know that the fish dinner that he's going to eat was *caught* by fishermen, given the opportunity to provide that dinner. And the connection's never been made.

JGF: Yeah... Wow... That's great! Thank you.

Your passion is a really wonderful way to end these interviews for me this weekend. I think it's wonderful.

JR: Well. I hope so.

JGF: And I hope it all pays off the way you want it to.

JR: I hope it does. Are you real busy this afternoon? [Not on tape: invitation to attend 1-hour net drop on his boat /unfortunately need to decline, head out]

[End of interview]