

Interview with Tracey Bowen [TB]
Occupation: Wife of Newport fisherman
Port Community: Newport, RI
Interviewer: Lisa Colburn [LC] and Azure Dee Westwood [AW]
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Interview

[00:00]

AW: If you could start out for the record saying your name and where you live, that would be a good starting point for us.

TB: My name is Tracey Bowen and I live in Middletown, RI.

LC: Give us your address.

TB: I live at 52 Jean Street in Middletown.

LC: Would you, for the record, say that you've read the release, you're comfortable with all the conditions and you've signed it.

TB: Yes, I've read the release, I'm comfortable with the conditions and I've signed it.

LC: Thank you.

AW: What we'd like is if you could start out by telling us a little bit about yourself, where you're from originally, how you got involved with the fishing industry, your husband is a fisherman, and just tell us a little bit about yourself.

TB: I'm originally from Portsmouth, which is the next town over, I'm an islander, exactly. I work at the Mooring Restaurant, I'm a waitress, and I've been there eight years. It's a great, great job and a great place to work. My husband is a fisherman who bought his own business three years ago.

LC: The fact that he came in so recently is interesting, but we'll get to that.

AW: Do you work part time or full-time?

TB: I work about four shifts, about 30 hours a week and sometimes more, in the summertime it gets busier so I'll hopefully be picking up more shifts. My daughter is getting older too.

AW: And she is how old?

TB: Three years old.

AW: Just the one child?

TB: Yeah.

AW: Plans to have more?

TB: We go back and forth with that, sometimes we think about it, but we're happy and blessed with one. It took me a little while to get her.

LC: Would you mind sharing your age?

TB: I'll be 35 in August.

LC: And your husband's age?

TB: Brent will be 38 in October.

AW: So he's relatively new to the fishing industry?

TB: Yes and no. New to his own business and then before that he worked for someone.

LC: So he was crew?

TB: Yes, he was one of the crew for some offshore lobster boats; he did that for awhile. He also worked for his dad for awhile in operations and logistics for his dad's company.

LC: What kind of operation?

TB: Freight, so he did that for awhile, he's really smart.

AW: All in this area?

TB: No, some in Massachusetts, Swansea, but the freight company basically ran from down the east coast, from Norfolk, VA down to Texas, I think. It's a big company.

AW: Was he gone for extended periods with that?

TB: No, he worked in an office, doing logistics, basically dispatching, saying this needs to be where by when, and this needs to be done by this time. So he did that for awhile, because he broke off from fishing for awhile and didn't want to work for his family anymore and wanted to get back into fishing. And then saw it from a different level, wanted to start his own business, and that's what he did.

[03:35]

LC: When did he start fishing?

TB: As a young teenager.

LC: Where did that come from, was his family involved in fishing?

TB: No, his dad used to quahog, he would take him out as a little boy and got him acclimated to the water. So he's always had it in him; he likes the beach, boats, and his dad has a sport fishing boat and he likes to go out on that too.

LC: He's a first generation fisherman.

TB: Yes.

AW: And what does he fish for primarily now?

TB: Sea bass, lobster, and fluke, I think.

AW: Day trips mostly?

TB: Mostly. On his own boat.

AW: What sort of gear do they use?

TB: Gillnets and lobster traps. He also uses another sort of trap to catch fish too, sea bass traps, actual traps. As of last winter, he's not making enough money in the summer sometimes that he can see himself making, because of all the regulations. There's plenty of fish out there; he can't catch them all, because they don't let him, because the government doesn't let him. So he makes as much as he can and then there's four months where he doesn't work, so sometimes he goes out on these bigger boats, which he risks his life to go out on. And even when he runs his own boat, he's trying to make as much money as he can and he's so driven to make it because we need it, and he doesn't pay anyone to go out with him, so he's risking his life.

LC: He's his own sternman?

TB: Yes.

LC: And has that been true for the whole three years he's had his boat?

TB: Yes, on and off. When he can, when things are going good, he will pay someone and when he can't, he won't.

LC: What size boat does he have?

TB: Forty-two foot boat, I think.

LC: That's a fair size.

TB: It might be high 30's, I can't remember; he was looking at a bunch of different ones and I forget. I get them all mixed up.

AW: What is it like being married to a fisherman, if you were to describe the experience?

TB: It's fun. Well, people find it so fascinating. In my job, because I work at the Mooring, a seafood restaurant, so it will come up a lot in conversations. I say that my husband is a fisherman. People ask things, so I use that a lot and they just want to talk to me all the time about fishing, and what it's like, and it makes me feel good that people are interested.

AW: Are there pluses and minuses or more pluses or more minuses?

TB: The struggle of it all, the sadness of it all. When people lose... I mean, someone died last year.

LC: Out of Newport?

TB: No, I think it was Point Judith? They did an article; it was part of the whole series.

LC: A boat went down in New Bedford.

[07:13]

TB: It's frustrating. That's what I would say, the life of a fisherman is frustrating and it's sad to see what happens. It's sad to see that whole aspect of it. Because it doesn't really make any sense, that's why it's frustrating to me. What I'm learning about it doesn't make any sense. The conservationists have the government by the throat, so they have to put these laws into effect, regulations into effect, and it's like there's fish out there. My husband said that on some of the boats, some of the fish they catch, they are dead and they have to throw them overboard. What's the conservation in that?

AW: That's a common sentiment as well amongst other fishing industry members.

TB: So it's that and my husband is going out there without anyone sometimes, what's that all about?

LC: Now how far does he do on a typical day?

TB: On his boat? Three... he's permitted to go three miles offshore I think. He's really inshore, inside the three-miles.

AW: Maybe a state permit, do you know whether he's...?

TB: Yeah.

LC: Well, there's also the way in which lobster is managed is different from the other ones. It's not strictly the three-mile limit. It's area management at the same time, so it's a little bit different. The way they organize us at NMFS is that I will tend to write the impact assessments for people that are involved with monkfish and groundfish, so I have more of an awareness of the intricacies of people that are involved in those fisheries, and I'm just learning about lobstering which is big here in Newport.

[09:07]

TB: The lobster are affected now too, the shell disease, which we believe are pollutants in the water. The fishermen get blamed for that, that they [the lobsters] are being overfished by the fishermen. But the science behind it, they populate quickly; thousands upon thousands of eggs; they are fine. The fishermen will get blamed... there's a lot of injustice, that's all. They need to revisit this in a whole different way, I think, because fishermen are providing food for this world. We better hope that there's not a crisis, because we're going to need them. They are putting fishing fleets out of business and we could really be hurting. I believe anything is possible in this world that we live in.

LC: Your sentiments are really, a lot of people feel that way. One of the things we're trying to understand is there's that tension there. Some people are more O.K. with the science. Some people aren't but all are affected by whatever the limitations are whether it's due to resource issues, which some believe it is, or isn't, or changes in management. Everybody, it doesn't matter what you believe, everybody is affected.

TB: Well, and you combine that too and the prices of fuel.

LC: The fact that people are affected, by however they view it; it's a cross-cutting theme. One of the things we're trying to get at is, if you were to look back... and how long have you guys been together?

TB: Married for five years and together for eight years total.

LC: So when you started in this journey with your husband, or when he wasn't yet your husband, what were you thinking, what were your dreams, where were you thinking you guys would go? Was he rooted in fishing at that point or was he going back and forth?

TB: No, we weren't in as much debt as we are now. We weren't struggling like we are now. It was just different.

LC: What were you thinking at that time?

TB: I was thinking, save some money, get married, buy a house, and have a family.

LC: When did, you've been together eight years, so when did lobstering, when did fishing come back into your life?

TB: I wasn't thinking about that right in the beginning.

LC: I'm just trying to think of when that...

TB: After we got married, that's when you start thinking about having kids, buying a house.

LC: Eight years ago you said he wasn't fishing.

[12:06]

TB: No, he was still working for his dad at that point. But mind you, in his early, 18, 19, 20, 21, maybe like five or six years he fished too, while he worked with his dad, they kind of overlapped.

LC: But in the last eight years, when you first met him, he wasn't, then you said he got into working for himself three years ago, did he fish those first five years at any point in time?

TB: Yes, he actually worked with a friend of his and they worked together monkfishing.

LC: There was some point where he was working for his dad and fishing, sort of doing both. What was that critical point at which he said or you two agreed, I assume he took on a boat mortgage, you didn't buy it out right?

TB: No. He went through the SBA, got his loan through the SBA (sp?).

LC: So at what point, what were you thinking at that point in terms of ...?

TB: Thinking we would be a little more comfortable I guess, than we are now.

LC: And how has that worked out? Was it easier in the beginning and it's gotten more difficult the last couple years or?

TB: No, it's been progressively, it's been a little struggle. It is when you first start a business I think. So no... you know what it is? It's got its ups and downs.

LC: It has its natural ups and downs and then there's another thing...

TB: Same goes with... right now, money is a little tight. I'm looking forward to the summer, things will start... we live very sporadically.

LC: It's an occupational hazard.

TB: Yes. It's an occupational hazard, with both.

LC: With tourism, and being dependent on tourism.

TB: Yes, so it's got its good points and bad points.

LC: What's your level of optimism now?

TB: I feel optimistic because he's inshore, we'll always eat, we'll always be able to unless they just completely shut him down, which I don't think they will. I feel pretty optimistic about it. I have no choice, it is what it is, and we're going to keep fighting it.

LC: What kinds of plans are you making, based on where you guys are now, what kinds of plans are you making for the future, what are you thinking?

TB: I want to buy a house some day. I'm just waiting for the right time. We're thinking hopefully after this summer, we'll be able to, something small, common Fence Point area, maybe Bristol, or Warren.

LC: One of the differences between people that have been in the industry for awhile, there's characteristics of guys that are in their 50's, they've weathered changes so far...

TB: I feel bad for those guys too, the divorce rates, I know a lot of them...one of the guys Brent worked for... because he's never home.

[15:36]

LC: Is that somebody he worked in Newport with?

TB: No, I think he worked with him in Point Judith. It definitely affects your marriage when you're worried all the time, or they're not home. To make no money, go out there and make nothing, how do you.... Brent does alright, he's smart, he's learning, I should say, more and more and he adapts. But right now, we live in low income housing because it saves me money. It's expensive.

LC: Please don't feel like if it's too personal that you have to answer it, but has this been a source of strain in your relationship. You're talking about other people and I'd like to talk about that as well, the whole divorce rate issues, but...

TB: No, yeah, it has, because when you're sometimes stressed out about money, it can trickle down. But we're pretty solid. I don't see myself going anywhere; I'm not going to... what am I going to do... I'm not going to divorce, I won't. He would stick by me.....

LC: You're holding your own.

TB: He's so smart; I think it's going to get better in the next few years. We talk about that too, I say to him all the time; I say to him "why are you staying in this?" And he's like "if it really came down to it, we'd sell out of it." But I think eventually, something is going to happen. . Because there's food out there; we need it. He's just an inshore guy, so he's only going to take care of who he needs to take care of and make a little humble living. Who knows what will happen. But I think that things need to happen. He said, you can walk on some of the species that he can catch out there, you can walk across them. So I don't get it, some thing is going to happen. That's what keeps me going, and my marriage going, that it's going to happen.

[18:21]

LC: Now how are you dealing with...

TB: And I work hard too.

LC: Do you get insurance through your work, or do you have health insurance?

TB: Yeah, I have Right Share, through the State, we pay a certain amount.

LC: Does that cover all of you?

TB: Yep, it covers all of us. It's pretty good. I have to pay for blood work and stuff like that. We're pretty healthy too, knock on wood. I don't go to the doctors that much.

LC: Are you able to have boat insurance as well at this point, because that's a major expense.

TB: Yep. I think we have it, actually, we might not, that's a good question. He hasn't worked in awhile. Right now is a tough time; we're kind of struggling right now. But he does do well when he's out there. That's what I meant when I said we live sporadically; in the summer we pay everything off and then we get back into a little [debt] in the winter. So that's what's making it so hard. We need money down now to buy a house, and I want to put some money down, so it's hard for us to put away some cash. And he can, and that's what is so frustrating about it; is the potential to make money but then as soon as he starts to, they cut him off at the knees. Our

business plan, he sat down and did a business plan, we need to make a certain about during X, Y, and Z months in order to... so those numbers are all thrown off now, because he'll come, and be like, oh, another.... It's so funny too; the fines that they put on coming in with a couple of illegal fish will put you right out of business. It's thousands upon thousands; what's the justice. It's a couple of fish, are you kidding me? Are you kidding me? It's frustrating.

LC: You're not just able to do what you do well; you have all these other complications.

TB: And we're only hurting ourselves. I like to eat fish; it's a good source of food.

LC: [commentary about her father being a sport fishermen, grew up eating fish]

TB: Now there's no swordfish out there; well there are, but not as much. My husband was saying there's a lot of dogfish out there and you can't...

LC: There's not really a market for those at this point.

[21:19]

TB: He said they do use them in England, fish and chips.

LC: [commentary about Boston Seafood Expo; skate chips, alternative ways]

TB: I was just going to say. I work in a really savvy restaurant and we experiment. We had skate wings for an appetizer, Otty made them. He's awesome; he whips these great things up. Once it gets out there, like dogfish, just call it by a different name and sauté it up with whatever and people are going to be... "It's fabulous! Where's my Sauvignon Blanc to go with it." It's got to happen, I guess.

LC: I thought there were some movements to find new markets for some of these under utilized species.

TB: I forget what he did with it... skate... corn meal, he fried them. They are good, they're tender.

LC: Where did you guys go to school?

TB: I went to Portsmouth High School. I did Early Childhood Development at CCRI, I took a few classes. Then I started working in a store, started managing retail, trendy store in Providence. Then I came back here and started waitressing because I needed money and I never stopped.

LC: And Brent?

TB: Went to North Kingstown High School and I don't think he did any schooling, college. Just went right into the family business then the fishing business.

LC: Where are you all with your social relationships in your life, what percentage of those people are involved in the fishing industry? Are you friends with other fishermen's wives?

TB: Not many. I'm friends with just one, and I haven't really seen her that much, the guy that Brent worked for, who was his Best Man in our wedding, just good friends. They'd be friends regardless, I think. They just started working together and they've been friends, hit it off. No, we don't really hang out with.... I have a lot of friends from school, there are 15 of us since forever, those are my friends. I just got together with them last week. My husband hangs out with their husbands who all mesh.

[24:09]

LC: And what about him, it's kind of common in Point Judith and here, because not very many people actually live in Newport. The people that fish here, don't live here, and they

certainly don't live in Point Judith. It's common, here, verses northern Maine, where everybody is involved somehow. Would you say that Brent socialize with a lot of fishermen? Or when he leaves the boat at night and comes home...?

TB: No, he'll go out after work sometimes. He talks to the guy that he's docked next to, we'll see them out and we talk. But they don't call each other on the phone.

LC: Or socialize?

TB: No. The last social event we went to was at the Cook House with my friends that came into town. If we go out, it's more like that rather than a party or...

LC: Your social networks aren't fish related?

TB: No, not really.

TB: No we're not. I mean we are, but... not for any other reason than between working and the friends you already have... I don't really hang out with a lot of people I work with.

LC: Who do you rely upon for social support?

TB: My friends. I talk to my friend Lisa every single day on the phone.

LC: Could you call her if you need someone to look after you daughter for an hour or two?

TB: Yes, or my friend Becky, or my mom, she lives close by.

LC: Is she in Portsmouth?

TB: Yes.

LC: Real islander!

TB: Yes, real islander.

LC: How many generations?

TB: My mom is first generation from the Cape Verde islands, she's from another county. She came over here, met my dad, we lived in New Bedford and then to Portsmouth.

LC: What would you describe as your customs? When you have celebrations, from your parents' side, did they really bring Cape Verde with them?

TB: Oh yeah, they love the fact... I might as well have married a doctor!

LC: You mean in terms of....

TB: Yeah, the fish, they love fish. Fishermen were really held up in the Cape Verde, it was a food source, they were very respected. And it is a very respectable profession. They have their ins and outs. They really like Brent, and they support us and stand by us.

[27:10]

LC: Are there any particular fish in Newport that are traditional to Cape Verde? Or is it just that they feel lucky to get fish?

TB: No, they'll eat anything that comes out of the water. My mom is very exotic; she'll eat eel and all that stuff. The lobster she eats all of it, the tomalley, the roe. Me and Brent just eat the tail and whatever, a couple bites. So as far as living here, it's just been me and my brother and my mom and dad. But we have family all throughout Rhode Island too.

LC: When did you're parents come over, both your mom and dad?

TB: 50's maybe, 60's. No, my dad is Cape Verdean but he was born here in New Bedford.

LC: What's his family history? Was he ever involved in...?

TB: They were seamen but through the merchant marines, he worked on oil barges, not as a fisherman, but out to sea a lot. So I kind of grew up with it, with my dad being away, that was sad.

LC: Have you ever been to the museum there?

TB: Yep, it's pretty neat.

LC: And Brent's family is mostly in North Kingstown you said?

TB: Yep, and Florida. His real dad lives in Florida but his step dad has been his dad for his whole life.

AW: Does he get involved in any management meetings?

TB: Brent does? Yeah. There's some he goes to in Jamestown or something, they get together. He hasn't gone in awhile. He goes to the important ones, the ones that affect him more.

LC: You don't remember the name of the associations?

TB: I don't.

AW: So he's not heavy involvement...

LC: Industry representative or anything like that?

TB: No.

LC: Between your income and his income, what's the percentage, what do you contribute to your overall, how much do you contribute verses him?

TB: We just did our taxes so I know this, so he makes about 3 times as much as I do.

LC: So about 75 and 25.

TB: Right.

LC: And who's in charge of writing the checks in your household?

TB: I do.

LC: And does that include doing the boat finances as well or does he keep that separate?

TB: He keeps that sort of separate. Well, we do that together, but he basically does it. He adds up all the...

LC: He's the one that has that math in his head, and you're the household, you keep that math in your head.

TB: I'm not that good about it.

LC: [Lisa describes the differences between here and northern Maine; women's involvement in finances, their contributions to the whole fishing business.]

TB: He does it for the most part.

[31:17]

AW: How do you think that fishing in general is viewed by the larger Newport community? You said at work you have people interested and excited about the fact that your husband is a fisherman, but do you have a sense of the broader Newport community and how they feel about fishing?

TB: Sometimes I think fishermen might get a little bit of a bad wrap. I don't know, I don't really see it that much, I don't know.

LC: Well certainly your family, they're supportive, Cape Verdean, son is a fisherman! That's really neat.

TB: This is like a tourist town to me, that's just how I see it. I know everybody and people know Brent and they don't judge him.

LC: How important do you think in relation to what Azure was saying, how important do you think fishing is to Newport? The image of Newport or however you want to put a spin on it?

TB: It's kind of a dying business, I don't know. The restaurant I work in, we have so many other fish, South American, Thailand... a lot of different exotic fish. I get a lot of people that ask, they want what's local to here, and you don't have as much of an option. But then again too, that might just be my restaurant; they like to do what they like to do.

LC: It's very common, more and more, because of the either the limitations or the down turn over the years, they had to outsource and get items from elsewhere. And some places really focus on what's available locally and others just open it up. I'm curious, with the Mooring, what percentage of what they offer is local, like Newport even?

TB: Pretty much just the lobster. What my husband would catch you mean? Yeah, we don't really have sea bass or fluke, but we might, they're doing new menus.

LC: In terms of what's on their menu, the consistent thing that's local is lobster. And what's their source. Do they get it from your husband?

TB: Maybe indirectly, yeah, because my husband sells to Aquidneck Lobster, but technically no, because we get it from Newport Lobster Company. We buy our lobster from Newport Lobster Company.

LC: Where's Newport Lobster?

TB: It's on Aquidneck Island. Kenny Hasling (sp?), his business.

[34:40]

LC: Have you been following what's going on with Aquidneck Lobster? What's your husband's thoughts on what's going on over there?

TB: I don't know too much about what he thinks. All I know is they built shops all around it. The owner there is getting older too, it's just time, ...and plus there's not as much... their business isn't making as much as say in the '80's.

LC: But you're husband, it doesn't sound like he's really dependent on Aquidneck, so if they sold out, which I've heard from a number of people is that he's just waiting for the right price. One of the things we're looking at too is if you lose fishing infrastructure, what are people going to do? Like the ice house went out; how many people are truly affected by the ice house that went out at the end of this last year? With your husband, does he get ice from them?

TB: I don't know, I didn't even know that actually.

LC: [Lobstering is less dependent on ice; no one Lisa spoke with had been hugely affected by ice house; but 20-30 years ago ice house was very dependent on fishing industry; shifted and adapted like restaurants.]

TB: I think there will always be somewhere. He sometimes goes to Parascondola's too. So I think once Aquidneck closes, he'll probably go there and from there, wherever else.

AW: And has your daughter, I mean she's still quite young, but has she sort of identified that her dad's a fisherman; how does she react to being around the boat?

TB: She likes it, loves it; she was on the boat the other day. She's three. She loves it, they were fishing off the boat.

LC: When they were tied up?

TB: Yes. Pretend fishing with her pretend pole.

LC: Do you guys ever go out on the boat?

TB: I think once or twice. Forth of July, we were going to go out and watch the fireworks. It's a fun life.

AW: Any aspirations for her to enter the fishing industry in any way, obviously it's a ways down the road?

TB: I do think about it, but whatever she wants to be; I would never lead her in any direction, I'll let her decide. Let her figure that one out.

LC: Would you or Brent encourage anybody to go into fishing today?

TB: No, I don't think I would. Like a younger brother or something? No.

[38:00]

LC: What's it like for him being a young guy on the totem pole? He really is young?

TB: He's like a fighter. He's Popeye!

LC: In relation to the other people at the dock? Are they welcoming to young people coming in?

TB: I think so. They have their own, I don't know what you would call it, politics in a way. Some of the things they are fighting for affects Brent, but he understands and respects it and they do too.

LC: Down at the State Pier, are there political factions? In some other ports, there are people, several fishermen that have their own politics about how they are going to deal with things and they may not talk with the other group.

TB: I don't see that that much, they are pretty ok about that kind of stuff. I mean a little bit, but not in a bad way. I'm just going by conversations Brent might have with some friends when he does hang out with them or talk about things. Him and his friend, they get into debates, but it's all the drinking and having fun. Same with the Steelers vs. the Patriots, that level or debate.

LC: Has Brent experienced any sort of health problems or do you have any concerns for him?

TB: He's a heavy smoker. But no, the only other health problem is the worry of him going out alone.

LC: The stress and anxiety for you about him going out alone. What about, with lobstermen, it's the whole back, long term...?

TB: He sometimes complains of his back, I do too, so yeah.

LC: The sternman by himself, plus doing everything else, I think long term that can be a stress.

TB: You need to exercise and work out too. That's my whole thing. I do work a strenuous job sometimes, but I need to exercise more. So I'm not going to blame it on that; we can complain all we want but you have to exercise and take care of yourself too.

AW: I was curious too about how partnerships, relationships are interesting in themselves, I'm wondering since you knew him before fishing was his thing, how did his choice to become a fisherman affect your career goals or your aspirations? Do you feel like you had an idea and you sort of sacrificed doing that in order to help his fishing career or maybe not.

TB: Sometimes in the beginning, when he first started, and all the money that was put in, would get me a little tense, annoyed. All this money is going in; so that was a tough time, I remember that. And it was right when I kind of wanted to buy a house. But I think things happen for a reason, and I'm glad right not that I don't own a home. Because I don't know where I'd be right now in the struggle we're having right now. He just didn't feel confident enough yet, so there might be a little bit of something there, but....

LC: It didn't sound like you changed...

[42:25]

TB: I still would be doing what I was going to be doing. No, absolutely not, there's nothing I would be doing if....

LC: You said you work about 30 hours per week, have you had to increase that to offset the short falls?

TB: Yes, sometimes I'll pick up more shifts, like right now, I'm looking to pick up a few more shifts. We also had a couple extra bills thrown at us this month that threw me off, so we had to catch up and make up on those. So yeah, I have to pick up the extra weight. And that's what happens... that's why I think it does work so well... like in the summer time, I'm more free with my money because he's taking care of everything, so the weight goes back on him.

LC: There's a level of comfort around when you get to that summer time, you can breathe and enjoy life.

TB: Yes, that's when we really enjoy life. Winter is just a little crunched that's all.

LC: Relative to before he went back in fishing, has there been any change in your vacations you might have taken, or the things you do for enjoyment and recreation, have you had to cut back on any of those?

TB: So far, no, I went on vacation this year again. I've been doing it for the past four years, I go every year. Brent didn't come with me though, he didn't want to, so I went by myself. Well I went with my daughter and I stayed with my friends; that's why he didn't want to go because I was just going to hang out with my girl friends. But that's one of the things I would say... we haven't been on vacation together and I'm hoping next year we can afford to. I'm going to blow off the friend and go with my husband, because I get down there and I miss him. I hate being on vacation without him. There were nights where I say it would be perfect, our daughter is sleeping, we could just relax, watch a movie or something. I hope that I can.

[44:56]

My job is being affected a lot too. I'm having a little slower of a winter this year. I see a lot more foreign people coming in at the restaurants, so that kind of affects things. That's another thing

that needs to be worked out; the foreign people need to learn how to tip in this country, it really affects me. And sometimes I wonder if they know and they're playing stupid, because I think they do; this is how I live.

LC: Maybe the Mooring can go to just including it in the total.

TB: We do, with parties of seven or more. So hopefully they come in big groups this summer, because that's the only way I'm going to make what I used to. I think it will, I always feel confident going into the summer there. So that's why it works, I think.

LC: I think we've talked about the usual range of stuff and a lot more than that, and I really want to respect your time, but I'm wondering if there's anything you haven't said that you'd like to say. Anything related to the importance of fishing in your life or Brent's life.

TB: I think I've pretty much said it all. Another thing I wanted to drive home, and like a said before, is that something needs to be done, because it's a food source. You better hope there's not another crisis, because these fleets are being put out of business; once it's gone, it's gone. So it's going to be hard; you're going to have to rely on people like my husband and he's not going to be enough; those who have stuck through, it won't be enough. I just hope they work it all out. Like I said too, there's no conservation to it; they're throwing fish over, that whole point I guess I would like to drive home again. That doesn't make any sense to me.

LC: And he has to deal with that... what fishery did you say ... he's lobster and ?

TB: Sea bass. That's been our.... When he stopped fishing his last season, this last whenever, he stopped in November; he was catching sea bass, and doing really well. There's plenty of them out there but he's only allowed a certain amount.

[48:37]

END OF INTERVIEW