

Interview with: Timothy Caldwell

Occupation: Boat Owner

Port Community: Point Judith, Rhode Island / Scituate Harbor, Massachusetts

Interviewer: Angela Wilson

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Oral Histories Project - NOAA Social Sciences

Logger/Transcriber: Angela Wilson

Index: [minutes: seconds]

Brewed Awakenings; Narragansett, RI

Interview

[0:00]

AW: For the record, this is Angela Wilson, it is January 12, and I am at Brewed Awakenings at the South County Commons, here interviewing Tim Caldwell. Can you please state for the record that you have read, agreed to and signed the release forms?

TC: I have.

AW: To begin can you please start out by saying your name and address?

TC: Timothy Caldwell, 6 Curtis Road, Swanville, Maine.

AW: Your homeport and vessel name?

TC: My homeport is, right now, Point Judith, Rhode Island. *CW Griswald*. It was Scituate, Mass, and I had a vessel up there called *Kylie Lauren* but lost it after sectors.

AW: And are you in a sector or the common pool?

TC: I am in a sector.

AW: And if you don't mind me asking, how old are you?

TC: I am fifty-one.

AW: Okay. So to start this interview we would just like to know a little bit about yourself and your family. Maybe you could give us a little history of where you are from, how long you've been here, your family structure, your educational background?

TC: I am from [and] I grew up in Scituate, Massachusetts. I have a high school education. I started fishing when I was 18 years old, right out of high school. So I have been fishing thirty-three years right now.

AW: Your family structure, do you have siblings that also fish?

TC: I have a wife, I have a daughter who now is in Brandeis University getting her Masters and moving on to her doctorate after that. My son, he went to two years of Maine Maritime and a year at another school, Cape Cod, CCMC, something like that. It's a trade school and now he's fishing with me. My wife is a high school English teacher and literacy coach.

AW: And when did your family get involved in the fishing industry?

TC: In 1979.

AW: Is that when you started fishing?

TC: 19... yes... 1979, 1980, yeah.

AW: And do you have family members that also fish?

TC: No. I come from a history of family members fishing. All [of] it dates back to 1634.

AW: Was your father a fisherman?

TC: No. [He was] Insurance salesman.

AW: Insurance salesman. And what type of fishing have you or your family done? Now or in the past?

TC: I have done long lining, mussels, gill netting, dragging, inshore lobstering, offshore lobstering, some trawling, hook and line, tuna fishing, [and that's] probably about it.

AW: That's about it?

TC: 'Bout it.

AW: And what kind of fishing do you currently do?

TC: I am a gill-netter for monkfish at the moment.

AW: Do you fish inshore, offshore, Atlantic Bight, George's Bank?

TC: I fish mainly in the southern zone for monkfish at the moment. I have been doing it for the last couple of years. Since sectors have been implemented, I haven't gone groundfishing. I get such a low allocation that I had another boat and I had another crew running that boat and I

had to fire them all and sell the boat, due to a low allocation. So basically, right now it's just in the southern zone. Monkfish.

AW: And so your allocation for your other boat, it was too small when sectors started?

TC: It was too small. It was enough that it would keep them going for one month of the whole year.

AW: And was that because of your historical record of landings?

TC: Yeah, the historical record. But the boat had worked all the years except for one, '97 to present 'til sectors started. And so it only missed one year of the qualifying years and yet I got such a low allocation from it that it's not worth doing. It wasn't worth buying the fish and trying to keep a crew going. It was too much of a hassle and I wouldn't have been able to make ends meet.

AW: So, was it because you were fishing for different species during those years that you weren't allocated the ground fish?

TC: At certain points, yes, when they told us to stay away from the cod fish and wouldn't punish us for it, they obviously did. We went dogfishing, we went monkfishing, we went skate fishing, a lot of different types of fisheries that, at the moment, it did not help me at all. And at one point I remember the National Marine Fisheries said that we would not be punished for staying away from groundfish.

AW: And yet you feel as though you have?

TC: Yeah, oh yes, definitely. Definitely. Yeah, I get a very low allocation. It wasn't any, less than 30,000 pounds of fish for the entire portfolio.

AW: Wow. So now did you have both boats back then also?

TC: I did. And the other boat had the same amount of groundfish, but I mainly went monkfishing with that boat. I have been monkfishing ever since. I have become quite active with Gulf of Maine Research Institute. I do a lot of research with them and I do some monkfish allocation fishing for them also, which has helped out. If I lose research on that end of that boat, I will be in trouble again. I've had research every year for the past five years, six years and if I lose that, I'm going to be in trouble. Completely in trouble, and I don't know if you'll survive.

AW: How many crew members do you have on your boat?

TC: Between two and three. It depends on the time of the year.

AW: And has this changed over the last two years? Obviously, the amount of crew that you employ [has changed], because you lost a boat.

TC: Yes, I had to fire three people, four actually. Yeah, four people. Between three and four people have lost their jobs.

AW: And were you the captain of both boats, or did you have a captain on the other boat?

TC: No, I had a captain on the other boat. And I ran the *CW Griswald*. He ran the *Kylie Lauren* and when I got the allocation it just wasn't enough to keep the *Kylie Lauren* going.

AW: And was the boat scrapped or sold?

TC: It was sold at about a \$60,000 loss because everyone's boats were up for sale at the time, because many people were [in the] situation that I was in.

AW: And where are most of your crew from? Do they live here?

TC: My son lives in Portland, Maine and my other crew member, the one that is off and on, he lives in Maine also, in Islesboro. The other one is my life-long friend that lives in Scituate, Mass.

AW: Sometimes you have all three on board and sometimes you have two?

TC: Correct.

AW: But you are always running the vessel?

TC: Yes, well my son is starting to run the vessel now. Which, I would love him to run the vessel and keep going, but I don't know if I see a future in fishing for him the way things are going. If sectors were supposed to work in two years why is codfish being cut in half in the Gulf of Maine? I thought sectors were supposed to increase the volume of fish instead of decrease the volume of fish. In a year and a half, obviously according to the government - which is completely wrong - all the trawl surveys, they say that codfish is depleted yet fishermen don't see that.

AW: And did you encourage him to get into fisheries or did he come about it on his own?

TC: I discouraged him.

AW: You did?

[9:19]

TC: And he just wanted to fish. He filled in for a while and then really liked it and then didn't want to go on. He was working on a cruise ship in Alaska as an Alaskan guide which was a great job for a 21 year old and his 6 months, 7 days a week. No days off. I can understand why he didn't want to do that anymore. But he wanted to fish, he really loves it. He loved to get into it, but I'm not sure I see a future in it for him. And I would love to set him up, being in this business for 32 years, but I don't know if I can do it. Financially, I can't.

According to what everyone said when sectors started they said just reinvest and buy more quota and buy more permits, but you're talking huge money and I couldn't. I didn't have the resources to invest another \$500,000, which is what most people did. And I have been in business for 32 years, I built a business that was in pretty good shape, and when sectors came along, it just destroyed it.

AW: So, has the implementation of sectors changed your plans for the future?

TC: Oh, completely. [I] don't know where I'm going to be in the next few years. I've been a fisherman for 32 years. I've owned boats for just about 20. I have no idea. I have not made a business plan in those 20 years. The rules change so quick that everything [is] so volatile that I have never been able to make a business plan. I have always flown by the seat of my pants. You have an idea of what you are going to do. It changes sometimes mid-year. Every year that the regulations have been implemented on us I thought, "Well, they can't do any more to us" and of course they do more. It just keeps coming and coming and coming.

My idea is that I think that there is an agenda to get rid of the boats. I really think that there is an agenda to get this fleet down to a hundred boats. Bill Hogarth, he was head of National Marine Fisheries, I don't know what year it was, but it was in National Fisherman Magazine, had said that his ultimate goal was to get it around 300 boats. I think it was 300. And then I have heard even since then the government says down to a hundred and that is their ultimate goal. You know this is something they don't really say that they are doing but there's an agenda for sure. And I really feel that they are fulfilling their agenda and not trying to keep us employed, they're not trying to help family fisheries. I think that fisheries is going to go corporate. And it already started. And they say it hasn't. But when a shore-side facility buys four boats in one year in Point Judith, that's proof right there.

[12:36]

AW: So in your opinion what do you think the best years were for fishing?

TC: In my 32 years, I'd say back in the early 80's was really good and then the mid-90's came along and regulations needed to be done, but the government went way overboard. Way, way overboard. I agree with regulations, I agree that some needed to be done. But, what they have done is just completely, to my knowledge, it's just too many people trying to get into it. You have energy companies looking for spots in the ocean. You have a sanctuary, which is the environmentalist and then you have fishermen. And when it comes down to it, energy always

wins out. Sanctuary gets paid by energy to go after the fishermen and fishermen lose all those battles. And basically, we're not going to end up with much.

We have wind farms going in. They want to drill in the ocean. They want to turn areas into sanctuaries which will take away prime fishing grounds. I feel that fishermen basically don't have the resources to fight any of this and government is right along with environmental and energy. They are helping them play out.

AW: So you feel like fishermen don't have any representation?

TC: Fishermen have very low representation. They have got us to the point where we are so weak and so disarrayed, all the regulations, lack of money, lack of being able to do what we need to do, that basically, fisheries are fighting against each other. Never mind going against the government or environmental or energy, which we all should be on one tier here as fishermen, but it seems to me that the fishermen have been basically pushed apart and everyone is fighting for their little piece of pie. But that piece of pie is pretty small.

[14:51]

AW: So these significant changes since sectors have began they have really had a deep effect on not only you, but also your family?

TC: Oh, completely. My wife has noticed how bitter I am and it has affected my home life. It's affected my life personally, I mean completely. At some points, I'm consumed with how badly we've been treated. What's actually going to happen, where my future is going to be. I'm only 51 years old; I need to get this through until at least retirement age before I could sell out, or I'd rather see my son take the business but I don't know if I see a future for him. It just never seems to stop. For 20 years we've been regulated and for about 18 years, 17 years, we've been regulated heavy. It's just..., and they keep piling it on and it doesn't get any easier. And some of the stuff that they pile on, it's just absolutely ridiculous. Just out of control. And they say, "Oh there is a reason for everything." Of course there is. When you have too many people involved in one thing, I mean instead of common sense, they just go basically with their uncommon sense values.

[16:21]

AW: So, you have mentioned that you would like your son to get involved if the conditions in fisheries were different? What advice would you give him today if he said to you, "Dad this is what I want to do"?

TC: Well I can't really give him any advice because I don't know what National Marine Fisheries is going to do to us next. Every year it's more. They want to take more away from us. More, more, more. And at this rate, very few of us will be left. Very few. It will be down to that hundred boats and they'll reach their agenda and they say, "There's no agenda there". And it's

not true. It's not true. You know... As we've known, we have observer coverage, but I'm watching the federal government in the past ten years. I think that if someone needs to be watched, it's the federal government.

AW: So you think that the federal government needs observers?

TC: I think they do.

AW: So fishermen should hire observers to the federal government.

TC: If they did, I don't think they would be putting the stuff on us quite so heavily.

AW: Observers for the observers.

TC: Observers for the observers. For the observers.

AW: So can you tell me a little about where you live?

TC: I live in Swanville, Maine. It's a small community of about a thousand people, up by Belfast, Maine. I have a nice old farm house, big barn and I actually started a small farm not knowing what's going to happen to me and the fishing industry and it's very difficult to try to do both things at once. I have started a small raspberry farm. But in the first two years I've killed most of my plants because of neglect. 'Cause I was down in Rhode Island fishing.

AW: And would you consider your neighborhood a fishing community?

TC: There are some fishermen in the community, but not a lot. When I moved there from Massachusetts, usually people are not welcome from that area. But, I had fishing gear in the yard and I was actually pretty welcomed.

AW: And so, you find that the people in your community are welcoming to fishermen?

TC: Oh, yes, definitely. It's a blue collar working area. Everyone works very hard up there.

AW: And are there other people in your social group that are also fishermen? It could be people that live in Maine or even down here?

TC: Yeah, I've got some friends that are fishermen up there. Most of them live an hour or so away though, so I don't get to see them that often.

AW: But your main social group of people you hang out with the most, are they fishermen?

TC: Well, no they'd be the wrestlers. I'm a wrestling coach sometimes and I actually hang out with the other coaches.

AW: Like for high school wrestling, not like for WWF?

TC: I still coach occasionally; do a little bit of clinics and things with kids. I enjoy working with the kids a lot. That's probably the one thing that has kept me sane all these years was doing that.

AW: So you had something close to your heart?

TC: Yeah, I've been wrestling for 42 years.

AW: Wow. And you wrestled in high school yourself?

TC: I did. Yes.

AW: And do you think that sectors have changed the way that you interact with other fishermen?

TC: Yes, definitely. For the past I'd say 12 - 13 -14 years, every time you see a fisherman you're... basically the first thing you do is start bitching about the government. I mean, we need that outlet. Otherwise, we'd probably explode. None of us would be normal, nerve problems. I don't know how many are on Prozac, but I'm sure that a lot of fishermen had to go on something like that. Because what the government has done to us, basically has put us in positions that we're constantly nervous, constantly upset, constantly worried about our financials.... Constantly, I mean it's effecting people's home life. Basically, from the minute you wake up to the minute you go to bed, at some point during the day, you have these feelings. And, it's wrong. It's wrong and I just feel that if they had any idea.... They know what they are doing; they know what they are doing. They want us to be like this. And I think that this is basically part of their agenda. Get us out; get us to the point where we want to just sell.

AW: Has all of this stress that you have obviously been under, since sectors have started, has it increased since sectors started or was it continual?

TC: No, it's increased since the sectors started. I basically had two boats going full time, well not full time, but you know, 7-10 months a year. And I lost one of those. I lost a third of my income.

AW: And has this caused you any health problems?

TC: Yes, definitely. I have tachycardia; it's a heart problem and [I] have had quite a few episodes because of nerves.

AW: And how about problems in your personal relationships?

TC: Definitely. Personal relationships has been probably the worst part of the regulations, because we're always so nervous, always so irritated, always so mad, it's hard to switch gears when you are with your loved ones, and not think about it. It shows. There have been times where my wife wanted to leave me over fishing. So, yes it has affected my life 100% in all areas.

AW: And have you lost any friendships with other fishermen because of sectors, because of joining a sector or what sector you are in?

[23:02]

TC: No, I haven't lost any friendships, I basically... I don't judge other people if they like sectors, there is a reason they like sectors. If they don't, there is a reason they don't. I mean everyone is entitled to their own position. I just don't feel as though I personally have gone against anyone. But I do feel like there are people out there that are out for themselves, and not worried about other fishermen. You know, years ago, it was a community. There are only a certain number of people doing it. It's a job that no one has any idea... 99 percent of you have no idea what we do and how hard it is and what we've done all our lives. It's sometimes excruciatingly hard and I just feel that no one really knows that and that's about it really.

AW: And I know that you live in Maine but you fish out of Point Judith?

TC: I started fishing out of Point Judith back in like '93 and my wife and I were, "Either we're going to move to Rhode Island or Maine." Money was... Maine, you'd get a lot more for your money and we looked at houses up there, and I said, "I can move my business up to Maine eventually, and start monkfishing and doing things up there". But regulations changed so much and fish dynamics changed so much that I ended up having to fish in Point Judith to supplement my income, keep my income high enough. If I tried something new, I could actually lose everything if I failed. So it was very difficult to make any more. I finally went up to Maine and I failed miserably for about a month and that was about it.

AW: So since 1993, you have spent your time at work in Point Judith?

TC: Not just Point Judith. I fished for monkfish from North Carolina all the way to Maine. I would follow the fish up and down the coast. I did what I had to do. It took me seasons in. Try to get my full years in. So, I spent a lot of time away from home. A lot.

[25:29]

AW: And have you seen the dynamics in these ports change since sectors have been implemented?

TC: I've seen more and more people going from one port to another. Certain rules and regulations change then a group of boats will move from one place to another. Yeah, I'd say more people are being displaced from where their natural fishing was done.

AW: The infrastructure at these ports, have you seen that change too?

TC: The infrastructure, for sure. I've seen four or five companies go out of business. I've seen buildings go into disarray. I've seen less and less fuel companies. For every fisherman, there is something. For every boat there is like 17 jobs on land that benefit from these fishermen. I think that's what it was, 17 jobs, one study did. So every boat that goes out of business, these 17 other businesses also get hurt.

[26:44]

AW: So based on the experiences that you have had in your sector, which is sector 10, would you recommend that they join a sector or would you recommend that they stay in the common pool?

TC: I don't know enough about the common pool. I don't know anyone that was in it to see how'd they done. But, this whole sector thing came about when the Magnuson Act forced us to do something drastically to change fishing mortality and yet, all they had to do was... 'cause the fish really weren't in that much trouble. The government said it was, say it is, everyone, the environmentalists, everyone saying it was, they don't know, they weren't out there thirty two years, they didn't see what went on. They did little studies here and there, like the trawl surveys. 120 random tows, 20 minute tows, and they started from when the net hits the water, so by the time it reaches the bottom, sometimes the tows are 5, 10 minutes at the most. So they basically... could you repeat the question? I just want to get this right.

AW: Would you recommend people join sectors or not?

TC: No, definitely not. I would basically say that sectors are a way to consolidate more people. 'Cause, basically, you get into a sector and you're bound to more rules, more regulations, more coverage, which is always going against us, it's never helped us. They say this coverage can help you. Observer coverage and scientific coverage, and like everything else, they say it will help you, but it's always gone against us.

AW: Now, I know that you said that you consider your sector, sector 10, a fish poor sector?

TC: Sector 10 is one of the most fish poor sectors, if not *the* most.

AW: Can you switch sectors?

TC: No, I've been in this sector the whole time. I grew up in Scituate, Mass. and most of the guys from Scituate are in the sector and so I figured I'd work with the guys I know, even though it's a fish poor sector. I could get up and move to one in Maine and do better or what have you, but I'd rather work with the people I know. And basically, I've got my allocation and it is so low

that it's not worth it for me switch over and fish for a month for groundfish, so I just sell my allocation.

AW: Do you sell your allocation?

[29:18]

TC: I sell my allocation.

AW: And fish for monkfish instead?

TC: And fish for monkfish. But if I lose my research then I'll be in trouble with both. I'll just sell my allocation, and fish from my monkfish days. I don't think I'd fare very well.

AW: So, on your particular, on your boat, since you do sell your groundfish allocation and you fish for monkfish, when you go fish for monkfish, are you out for multi-days or are you a day fisherman?

TC: Well most of the days, I'll stay at the most two days. Mostly, 24-hour trips.

AW: And, do you know how many members are in your sector?

TC: I'm not sure.

AW: Like 5 or like more?

TC: Oh, no there's more. There is probably 15 or 20.

AW: 15 or 20. And how many boats? Do you know?

TC: I don't.

AW: Okay. Do you know your total sector allocations?

TC: No I'm not sure. It was only like 1.8 million or something at the beginning. No, 1.2 million the first year and then I'm not sure the second year. And if they cut this codfish, like they say they are going to in the Gulf of Maine. I mean fishing is all cycles and they do a couple random tows and they say, "Oh, there is no recruitment, no juvenile fish." And then they get all up in arms. They say, "Well, we got to cut it 15 percent maybe up to 70 percent". And they just are so out of control. They have no idea what they are doing. They never fished for 30 years and seen bad years that are [followed by a] good year. Like the best year right after the worst year. It's just cycles. The fish follow bait, they may go into Canada. All the fish went into Canada. There is no fish.

AW: Fish don't know how to read charts...

TC: That's right. And so I mean where ever those fish are, at that point in time it's just 'cause of following bait. Most of the time, if you can find sand eels, you'll find the codfish. There were no sand eels in this area this year in the Gulf of Maine, so basically that's why there was no codfish. It was elsewhere. There's plenty of fish, just the quantity moves and it cycles.

AW: And how about your allocation, what is your allocation and how does it compare to what you were catching before sectors started?

TC: My allocations for sectors, I had 20,000 cod, no 12,000 cod for one boat, but catchable that's only about 9,000. On the *Kylie Lauren* the boat that got put out of business, he was catching probably somewhere around oh, 50-70 thousand pounds of cod a year before this.

AW: So that's a considerable decrease.

TC: Completely. No comparison. And he was catching yellowtail and you only get 3,000 pounds of yellowtail for the year. He'd probably catch, oh, you know, between ten and fifteen thousand pounds of yellowtail. He'd catch lobsters; he'd catch monkfish, all these things that basically he couldn't catch anymore. Blackbacks, he'd catch ten thousand blackbacks a year, 5,000 sometimes and you would not, he got down to 400 pounds they're allowed.

AW: So again, I understand why you wouldn't be able to make ends meet for that particular vessel.

TC: Right.

AW: Did you ever consider leasing quota for the *Kylie*...?

TC: No, it's not worth it. Buying quota is just basically, why? I've been in this business 32 years why should I have to pay for fish to go fishing? And when you're done with it, sometimes you pay more for the fish than you get in the market. A lot of guys bought last year, yellowtail for 70 cents to a dollar and by the time the yellowtail season came around for them, the price was 70 cents.

AW: And after you paid crew and everything, you took a 30-40 cent cut so you were actually paying to go fishing instead of getting paid to go fishing?

[33:38]

TC: Exactly.

AW: And have you leased quota recently or in the last...?

TC: I haven't, no.

AW: Because you have been selling your quota?

TC: I sell my quota. It's not worth... I don't feel that leasing is correct. I think that everyone should be able to fish. I'd rather go back to a Days at Sea system of some sort. I think this whole thing could have been changed and fixed by rewriting the Magnuson Act. Obviously, congress can't get anything done in this country. So instead of writing a piece of paper and keeping everyone in business, the government obviously didn't want to do that. The government wanted the fleet to be cut down in size and so that's why they dragged their feet about rewriting the Magnuson Act.

AW: So can I ask you why you joined the sector?

TC: I joined the sector so I would have something to do with my allocation. Otherwise, I would have become common pool. Word was that common pool vessels were going to be shut down immediately. And so basically I didn't want to go to common pool and get put out of you know.... I did have 12,000 pounds of cod and 3,000 pounds of yellowtail that I could use it somehow. Sell it or do something or basically miss the season and not catch very... catch very little in the common pool.

AW: Was it a straight forward process to join or was it a little bit more challenging then you expected?

TC: Straight forward but the \$2,500 fee, I always feel that if the government wants us to do something, then pay for it. If it's expensive, like on the ridiculous side like that, then pay for it. I mean we had to buy pingers for our nets because of porpoise. And I spent \$11,000 on pingers so far since it started because of what you lose. And it's just another ridiculous thing.

AW: So the \$2,500 was that one time or was that annual?

TC: That's one time.

[35:43]

AW: And how do you compare your sector to other sectors? What are the differences?

TC: Well, I think we're a fish poor sector. I think that we are kind of left out of the loop on monies. A lot of sectors have foundations such as the Moore foundation. They help them out; give them money to buy more permits. We're basically very poor in that situation. We get some money from, I guess it's the Allen G tanker line coming in. Or we get very little. They bought a couple of permits but it didn't really... the permits weren't really that effective for our area, or to help any of us fishermen. As a matter of fact I didn't get any of that fish anyway because I didn't join the south shore... It was the South Shore Association. And I wasn't a member of it,

but now they're part of the sector, but only the Association get the fish from the sector, not the whole sector.

AW: And obviously you've changed how you fish since you've joined the sector because you're fishing monkfish and you're selling your allocation?

TC: Well, my, the cod, the *CW Griswald* hasn't changed that much, but the other boat changed completely. I lost it basically. I had to get rid of it, I took a huge loss. I took a good cut in pay too.

AW: So do you find that your livelihood in general has decreased?

TC: Oh definitely. Definitely. There's no doubt about it.

AW: Now, do you have health insurance?

TC: Through my wife who is a teacher.

AW: And how about boat insurance?

TC: Boat insurance, yes. Through the Mass Lobstermen's Association.

AW: And before sectors began, did you have health insurance through your wife's employment?

TC: Yes.

AW: So that hasn't changed?

TC: No.

AW: What motivates you to stay in the sector?

TC: Just being able to get rid of what little fish I have. I only have one boat left and I can get about 7 or 8 months of monkfishing out of it at the moment with the research. So I am, I'm working about 8 months a year. And that I just sell my sector fish and it actually carries me through the other two months. I'm just making it. I'm basically, I have nothing left at the end of the year when I'm done.

AW: So are you breaking even?

TC: Basically. No profits.

[38:37]

AW: And can I ask you if there are any pros of being in the sector?

TC: That's a tough one. I mean, if it was worked correctly and they gave you fish, it might work. But it's because we're fish poor, now there aren't any.

AW: Okay. And does your sector provide you any assistance such as insurance coops, or support groups or representation, or anything like that?

TC: We have representation. The best thing about my sector is my sector manager, Jim Reardon. Amazing guy. [He] works extremely hard for us, willing to go 110 percent, go the extra mile. The guy's amazing. But other than him, I just don't think that sectors are any good.

AW: Can I ask you, how do you get paid? How do you get paid?

TC: I sell my fish through Deep Sea Fish Company at the moment. They sell my fish and I get a check directly through Deep Sea Fish.

AW: And your income has increased or decreased in the last two years?

TC: Decreased.

[39:55]

AW: And because of the fish you are allocated, you sold your boat. That was the change in income?

TC: Correct.

AW: Okay.

TC: I basically couldn't use it. If I was going to fish the allocation I would.....
[The interview was interrupted by a curious gentleman passing by us in the cafe and the recorder was turned off while we answered his questions.]

[40:12]

AW: So, the way that you make money or the amount of money that you have made since sectors have been implemented has decreased because you sold the boat?

TC: Correct.

AW: Has that changed in your family? Has your wife had to contribute more? Or, how do you compensate for that decrease in income?

TC: We'll cut back on as much as we can on... basically, you know, certain things... I try to cut my own wood at the house for fuel. It's a lot of different things. She's trying to tighten up and that's I mean.... I'm covering the bills, but there's not profit. There's no, basically, we're just making it. That's it. My wife has had to contribute more out of her check for certain things. My goal is to be, [to] get out of debt. I'm afraid of what's going to happen in the future. Every year they keep putting more regulations on us, and they said it would get better. They told us as soon as you get into sectors, things will get better. You'll get more fish. Everything can be great. Ever since sectors started, they've been cutting fish more and more. They give certain areas a little bit more but then certain areas they take it away. And, it's on bogus science.

AW: So has your plan for the future changed significantly or your wife's plans for the future changed?

TC: Well right now, we're kind of in limbo. We don't know what to do. It's very difficult to make any decisions when you have a fisherman in the family. You don't know if you're going to be working or out of business, or whether you're going to go banking profits.

Obviously, I feel that they're not going to stop until there are 100 boats or something and the consolidations which they want. The one thing really to take to heart [in] is when they printed that in the booklet for National Marine Fisheries, or NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), that there would be winners and there would be losers. And you work 32 years in business and you become a loser? Bad choice of words number one. And extremely. Someone should have been fired over that, it's ridiculous. I feel that basically nothing is going to get better until fishermen get a hold of the entire thing ourselves. We need to be a part of this process and they say we are and yet we're not.

AW: And how do you think that will happen? How do you think that fishermen can get more involved in the process?

TC: Well, they listen to us, they use our data. I was at a symposium, a tagging symposium years ago and one of the British Columbia scientists stood up and told all the scientists in the room, he said, "You guys have to start using fishermen's data more, you're relying way too much on your own." He said that right in front of everybody at the University of New Hampshire. Have they relied on any of our stuff? No. They say they do, but they don't. They don't listen to us at all. It's basically everything, 90 percent of it is probably right from the trawl survey which is a ridiculous survey.

AW: So what do you think the future holds for the fishing community in Point Judith?

[43:46]

TC: Well, the fishing community in Point Judith, you can actually look and see how many people sold their boats last year, I can name at least four. And it went to... four of them went to a fish

house. So, basically, you're looking at a fishing community of corporations. You're going to see corporations swallowing up all the small boats. There will not be any family fisheries left. That diversity thing that we went through, I think it was in the past couple months, trying to get diversity, meaning that small boats have to stay small and everything else. You'll see it's all going to go corporate. Corporations are going to swallow everything up. There is going to be a few people left, but by far, it's going to be entities owning multiple, multiple permits. And having fish kept and worked for them for very little money. You'll see it's going to be just the way it's been in other corporate takeover type situations.

AW: So you feel like the individual fishing boat is going to be a thing of the past?

TC: There's going to be a few left of course, but yes, it already is. The consolidation is going to be just like the 1 percent and the 99 percent. The 1 percent is buying up.... And it's basically... the people that are happy with the sector fishing are the people of money. The people that can afford to do all this. People that can afford to buy quotas. The people that can afford to buy quota. The people that can afford to take a small loss they have to gain later. It's a very difficult time in this country and they just add to it, and it's no different than any other corporate take over.

AW: Now, I know that you mention that you sell your quota, so you are leasing it out to other fishermen?

TC: Yes.

AW: And does that sort of help make up for the loss of income?

TC: Oh yeah, I get some income out of it every year. It does. There's no doubt about it. It's probably.... I would make, probably double to triple that, anyways if I was still fishing the other boat.

[46:20]

AW: And can you fish with your quota on the boat you have now, or is it just not rigged for that?

TC: I can fish the quota, but it's like for a month's fishery. It's just not worth it to me, I'd rather just sell it instead of changing everything over, move to a new area, fish out of that new area, file the permits, file the licenses to fish in that area. You know when you get done with it all, I'd almost make as much as if I just, you know paying the crew and everything else, I'd make probably just as much as if I'd sold it.

AW: You make the same amount of money with no hassle by leasing.

TC: Well, not the same amount, but just the 'no hassle' and I take a little less.

AW: Besides your personal relationship with your wife being affected, you said that sometimes, you can't leave work at work when you come home, has there been any other changes in your family dynamic since sectors have began?

TC: Well, my son is trying to get into fishing with me, and he sees how difficult it is, and he is having issues also. He's irritated; he can't stand the way that things are going. He starting to get involved in it and looking at it and seeing what they are doing. And he just keeps asking me, "Is this really what they are doing? After this information comes out, that's really what they are doing?" He's in disbelief also. And he's an educated kid, he knows what he's talking about. He really doesn't understand what's going on. And I just try to tell him basically they have an agenda. They don't want us here and they are going to get us to consolidate so a lot of us won't be here.

[48:08]

AW: Now would you consider returning to the common pool?

TC: If I could make a living, yes, definitely. If I knew I could make a living, I would. But right now, I got rid of the other boat because it was costing me \$5,000 a year to insure it and store it. So I had to sell the boat.

AW: Now, if you could go back in time and remove sectors as a management tool, would you do it? And if you would, what would you replace it with?

TC: I would have changed to.... First things, first, they should have rewritten the Magnuson Act.

AW: Just from scratch? Just scrap it and start all over?

TC: They should have rewritten it for our fishery. That was written basically for Alaskan fisheries, by Ted Stevens and a few other people. And I would have rewritten it and lengthened the amount of time we can get the fish back to historical levels or whatever levels they needed. Instead of forcing us to have one or two years for the fish to come back or this to come back, that's all that needed to be done and everyone would be in business right now. There would be all the family fisheries still in business. There wouldn't be corporate takeover. That's all that needed to be done. And of course all congress is reading right now is 9 percent. They can see why they didn't get anything done. And nothing [is] what was done there.

But National Marine Fisheries didn't want that to happen. They wanted consolidation; they wanted to see fewer boats; they think that's the way to save the fishery. Instead of saving the fishermen and the family fisheries, they would rather have corporate fishing. As soon as fishing goes completely corporate, you're going to see lobbyists, lobbying congress and they are going to get what they want and NOAA isn't going to be able to control fishing anymore. It's going be controlled through congress.

AW: If you had an opportunity to create a different management tool, what would it be based on?

TC: Could you repeat that?

[50:14]

AW: If you had the opportunity, yourself, to create a different management tool instead of sectors, what would you base it on? Days at Sea? Allocation? Transferable Quota?

TC: Allocation wasn't a bad situation, except no one got any quota. Everyone got so little, so they couldn't stay in, so they sold out. The allocation may work if everyone had fish. The one thing about it is, you have to understand, Days at Sea, everyone was still surviving. People were still surviving. The discard rates were, at times, a problem, but if we went to some kind of Days at Sea with an allocation system, it might work in that situation where you'd be able to catch your fish up. If you caught 10,000 pounds, instead of throwing 9,200 and keeping 800 pounds of cod, you keep that 10,000 and just take it off your Days at Sea system. You'd bring it in.

And I don't know, I just, the other thing is, no transferring at sea? When a boat caught a bunch of fish they weren't allowed to transfer any of that fish to other boats. If those boats were willing to use a Day at Sea to go get that fish, they should allow that. That's their own fault. The government should allow that right off the bat. No transferring fish at sea? That's ridiculous. If a boat caught 10,000 pounds of fish in one tow, had to throw over 9,200 for the day, dead, then why wouldn't ten other boats go out and get their 800 pounds apiece and take a day off their system? It just blows my mind how stupid that system is.

AW: Is there something about sectors that I haven't asked you that you want to add to the record?

TC: Well, I just feel that sectors were put in place to consolidate, obviously I said that. But I mean consolidate to a point that people don't realize that very few of us are going to be left.

AW: So in conclusion, is there something that you would like people to know about your career in fisheries or even a story you would like to share for future generations?

TC: Just the one thing. I fished for 32 years. I built a business. It took me 20 years of fishing, 32 to build a business, get it going, and then get knocked down completely. And, to have a job that is as cool as fishing is, and be extremely nervous and worried and upset all the time about the job.... At the moment, fishing, which is one of the coolest jobs, I think, on earth, is now one of the most un-cool, ridiculous jobs on earth. I mean, we're being watched. We are paying people \$300 dollars a day, or the government is paying them \$300 a day to watch us work. To measure fish, to count fish, it just blows my mind. I'm out there working my ass off and some guy is

getting paid more than my crew members some days just for standing there and watching. It just blows my mind.

I have worked hard all my life, I feel that, you know, I've been basically, raped almost, just completely raped. It's very sad to see the situation happen. I think that it's going to be too late in the future. I already think that everything, that everything is in order the way that NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service) wants it, which is to get down to a few boats. I don't know whether it's too late or not. If we could get together as a group and go against some of this stuff, which we have tried at times, maybe we could fight them and win. But what I've seen after the past 17 years is there's no winning the situation. For future generations, there might not be any, unless you want to work for a corporation. That's all I can say about that.

AW: Well, thank you Tim, I really appreciate letting me interview you. Again this is Angela Wilson on January 12, 2012 and thank you again.

TC: You're welcome.

[After the interview ended, some discussion ensued and Tim asked to add more on record].

[0:00]

AW: So, Tim is there something that you wanted to add to our interview?

TC: Yeah, just at the end you talked about stories of fishing, it's just that, when I started fishing, it was so much fun. I mean, fishing was just, it was like a job that you went to but you didn't really realize you were in a job; you just get a check at the end of the week. You work really hard but you enjoy it everyday. And now it's so hard to even get up to go to work. It's so difficult with all the things you have to do between the National Marine Fisheries, observers, sometimes you get calls from observers at like dinner time, three times a day, it is just way too much involved. It's so hard to get up and go to work these days compared to what it used to be. It used to be a great living and now it's more a pain in the ass than anything. I'd like to add that just because I think that it's gone from a job that, you know, I would recommend to anyone, to a job that I wouldn't recommend to anyone, even my own son.

AW: You wouldn't recommend to anyone you know to ever get into fishing?

TC: Not at the moment, no. Hopefully it will get better, but I would rather see, as a small boat fishery, I would take less fish to see all the boats stay back in the fishery. Instead of what happened, everyone gets screwed so bad that they had to sell out. And it ended up going to all, you know, either corporate type fishing, but I personally would take less fish to see all the boats back. And you know, sometimes you go and you don't even see a boat. And that's sad. It really is. It really is sad.

AW: Do you think that the future of fishing is not only in jeopardy because of regulations, or overregulation, but also because there are also not a lot of young people getting into the industry?

TC: No young person could afford to get into this; it's going to cost you half a million or more to really get enough fish. I mean more than that. It's going to cost way more than that to get enough fish to go fishing. I mean you need a million dollars to get into this business now. I don't see any young kids getting into this. Basically, just what I said, it's going to go corporate and those young kids can work on the back deck for a corporation and that's it.

AW: All right. Thank you so much.