

Interview with Elizabeth Kordowski [EK]

Occupation: NMFS Port Agent/ Girlfriend of fisherman in Point Judith

Port Community: Point Judith, RI

Interviewer: Lisa Colburn [LC] and Azure Westwood [AW]

Date: Lisa's office, NOAA Fisheries, Narragansett

Women's Oral Histories Project – NOAA Fisheries

Logger/Transcriber: Azure Dee Westwood

Interview

[00:00]

LC: Could you just say your full name?

EK: Elizabeth Ann Kordowski.

LC: Could you spell the last part of it?

EK: Yep. K O R D O W S K I.

LC: And you're a port agent in Point Judith?

EK: Yep. I'm actually a contractor for NOAA and NMFS through REMSA but we're Federal contractors. We're basically a NOAA contractor. I can't really represent them, but I'm working with them and I maintain a base...

LC: OK. So you're working for the Port Agents?

EK: Right.

LC: But you're not technically a Port Agent? You function as one...?

EK: I function as one but not like the full-time employee, like Walter, he does all the data and we do the sampling and then we'll do some stuff if he needs assistance. We do all the biological sampling.

LC: And how long have you been doing it?

EK: I just came onboard in September, for the Port Agent job but I've been in the field for like six years. Because the lobster restoration program was about five years ago.

LC: Was that your entrée into the fisheries?

EK: Yep.

LC: And was the restoration project, was it run through...?

EK: North Cape Oil Spill...

LC: They were the ones that provided the funding?

EK: Ocean Technology Foundation, they were the main highliners out of Connecticut. It was all the insurance monies that funded the project. The insurance promised to put back so many lobsters and how they figured was the whole V-notching program which worked great and got guys V-notching and they actually saw that it worked. And then after four and a half years the program ended.

LC: So you were with it the whole time before you came?

EK: Yep. I was with it for the whole time, for four and a half years and then after that I was in transition. I worked on lobster boats doing deck hand work because I liked it.

LC: Was it in Point Judith?

EK: Yep. Point Judith day boats.

LC: Sternman?

EK: Yep. I'd go out for the day and make some extra cash. I loved being out there.

LC: How long did you do that for?

EK: I did that through... probably 3-4 years. I did it whenever I could for some extra cash. And then when I was looking for full-time work to keep busy. And then I was with the RI Lobstermen's Association. The guy's saw that I was passionate about the field and everything and with my education; they asked me to be their Executive Director. So I did that.

LC: Now, you're in a relationship with Mike Marchetti, right?

EK: Yep.

LC: And wasn't he President?

EK: This was after he stepped down as President, and then Lanny the new President asked me if I wanted to do that and I said: "Sure!" The experience would be great.

LC: You're not anymore?

EK: With RILA? No. It was great experience; it got me into the whole regulation side of things which is a completely different language; Atlantic State meetings and Fishery Council meetings. To me it's a different language and the more you go, the more you understand. It helped me so much with this job because we're dealing so much with the regulations. Each fishery is different but its not. I did that for a year.

LC: What was the year for RILA?

EK: I want to say 2006-07.

LC: Until you came into the...?

EK: I stopped that because they couldn't really sustain a full-time employee. But then I worked for them, volunteer type-thing, just because I was passionate about it and the office is such a mess over there and they need organization and all that stuff. So I did that for awhile and realized I couldn't work for free. So I worked for an environmental research lab up in Wareham, MA called Springborn Smithers. That was doing environmental testing work, so I did that. But that was a lab, so I continued job searching and then I had to stop the lab because it was a two hour commute, "I just can't do this anymore" and it wasn't me. So I did some stuff for the EPA, I did water quality stuff part time. I just kept job searching and finally this job came through and I'm in heaven because it's perfect for me right now.

[04:40]

LC: Where in there did you meet Mike?

EK: I worked with him for four and a half years before anything happened. So I never pictured us, whatsoever. Of course I always had a little thing for him like girls do. And then the last year of the program, because that wasn't allowed, obviously when you're working on the boats you can't have a relationship, but the last year of the program things started happening.

LC: The last year of what?

EK: Of the lobster restoration program.

LC: So there had to be some professional distance from the lobstermen? There was a conflict of interest?

EK: Exactly, from the Ocean Technology perspective, just in case there are any dishonest people, they don't want people hooking up with guys and doing stuff you weren't supposed to. But anybody that knows Mike and I, we're completely honest people. But we didn't get together until the end of the program. We kept things silent for a really long time. That was partially me. I didn't know where I was going into the future and I didn't want it to affect my future. I didn't want people to look at me like I am here because of him. So I was, I guess, stressful about that.

LC: Was that relationship going on when you were with RILA?

EK: Yeah it was actually.

LC: But no one knew?

EK: They knew, the guys knew, of course, they know everything stuff gets around quick, whether it's true or not. Of course I told them, but it didn't affect anything. It was really no big deal.

LC: And what is it you said your educational background is?

EK: I went to URI.

LC: Who did you work with there?

EK: I did undergrad stuff; Stan Cobb was my advisor. So I did that. I studied abroad for a few years; I studied in Australia.

LC: Where in Australia?

EK: New South Wales and Lismore, Southern Cross University. That was a great experience. I finished with Marine Biology, Bachelor of Science, and everybody through school says you have to really be into it because it's not easy, it's not going to be all whales and dolphins and seals. I knew that and I was up for the challenge and stuck with it. Even when I was going through the hard times of finding full-time work in the field, I didn't give up. I worked so hard, I didn't want to let it go. I guess good things do happen to those who wait patiently I guess.

LC: And how is it with contract work? That's always sort of a contentious thing with NOAA. Are you 12 months?

EK: You know Chris over at Walter's office, Chris Zanni; he's been there for ten years. He's a contractor as well. We're in the same company, it's called REMSA. I can give you my card. It's weird. You're called contractors but everyone at the Point, they call you the government. They think you're the government because you're working for the government. But we're not allowed to represent or speak for NOAA like that. We just do the field work.

[08:08]

LC: I'd like to jump in and ask some of the questions because I really want to respect your time. It doesn't sound like you had family in fishing?

EK: No, none whatsoever. I'm from Long Island and came here from school. Of course my dad gets a kick out of it; he thinks it's great. I sent him boat shots when I worked on the boats. There's no tie to fishing.

LC: What do your parents do?

EK: My dad is an accountant and my mom is an administrative assistant, she works in the school district. So completely separate. There are four girls and I was always the one with the kooky outdoor jobs, I collected ticks for awhile, the crazy stuff. So here I am and loving it.

LC: And how long have you been in your relationship with Mike?

EK: Probably... we kept it a secret for awhile. We've known each other for six years now, but I guess as a couple, 2 years.

LC: Are you guys living together?

EK: Yep, living together.

LC: And that's been about 2 years?

EK: I moved in last April. I took my time; we worked for four and a half years together and I didn't move in right away. I was just taking my time.

LC: It sounds like you've been in the Point Judith area for awhile? When did you come to URI?

EK: I graduated in 2000-01? So I came to school in 1997. I've been here for awhile.

LC: In terms of the general community and what you see amongst Mike's friends and other people, what kinds of things do you see them going through? We've talked a lot with fishermen. We have a real good beat on "We're angry with NMFS" and that kind of thing. I'm looking at

the social/family/community issues you've observed. And the next level would be how your relationship has been affected by some of these things.

EK: It definitely makes dinner conversations exciting. It's funny, we're passionate about the same thing but we're kind of at different spots. I don't know how to answer that. I totally understand and feel what he's going through. I see it and I understand it, working on the government side of things and I know how some of these fishermen can be so frustrated. Sometimes it puts a tension, as you know; fishing is their life, 24/7. And people outside of the industry don't realize it's everything.

[12:18]

LC: When do you guys spend time together?

EK: Usually at night, dinner time when he comes home.

LC: So he comes home most nights?

EK: Yeah. Sometimes he has long days. Today is one of his long days: he left 2:30/3:00am and he won't be in until like 9-10 or 11pm and that's a long day. I'll always wait until dinner, because that's our time to talk, so I'll always wait until 9-11pm and then we'll have dinner. But when the weather is crappy and he's not going out he's around. When the weather is good, he's not around. It's not hard, you just have to understand and respect it. Understanding is the huge thing. I think being a woman and being in a relationship you have to see what they do out there to really understand what their lives are all about. And when they go to work, how they are going to work and what they do.

LC: And what about you're friendships and networks. How much of that is sort of fishing community friends and maybe your friends?

EK: We're pretty much home bodies. There's nothing better than sitting at home, have a couple beers and sit by the wood stove. That's like my perfect evening. I'm such an old lady. I'll have my friends come over. We don't really hang out in groups or with couples that much. When we do go out it's usually just us. I've always been one to have just a couple girlfriends and do my own thing and never really have a group environment. It's been that small networking thing.

LC: Where do you guys live?

EK: In Perryville. It's really southern Wakefield, on the other side of Matunuck Beach. We love it.

LC: In relationship to those questions, what have you seen or observed from other people? You've described your situation, which actually matched what I've heard from others they are not part of any group or faction in Point Judith, but some are. There are these enclaves of fishermen that are like-minded. That hang out together and might campaign for certain management measures together or not, but there are a lot of people in Point Judith who don't align themselves with anything; they are just their own person. It sounds like that's kind of where you guys are coming from.

[14:59]

EK: It's so divided because there are so many fishing organizations down there. Each one stands in their own group. Then you have the ones who aren't part of anything. I think it's hard for them to realize that they really have to come together and there can't be any segregation. You have RILA, then you have the commercial fishermen's group, then you have the Alliance... there's so many different ones. I don't think they realize they all have to stand together to really be heard.

LC: The history of Point Judith is what we see. It's these different groups. I guess it was a little bit different when the Co-op was there. It seems as though this is a character of Point Judith that is really quite unique, at least in my findings.

EK: So you'd say Point Judith stands out more than New Bedford in that aspect?

LC: Sort of. People don't live in Point Judith; they live all over the place. I think it's a little bit of a different situation in that respect. You were saying RILA, then the commercial fishermen's association, then what?

EK: For organizations?

LC: Yeah.

EK: The RI Commercial Fishermen's Association which is Chris Brown's group.

LC: And what are some of the other's?

EK: The Point Judith Fishermen's Alliance, which is a new one. That's Rich Fuka's group. He's one of the newer groups.

LC: Who's in charge of RILA now?

EK: Lanny Dellinger. He fishes out of Newport. Really nice guy.

LC: What's his boat?

EK: *Megan Marie*.

LC: Are you familiar with the state pier?

EK: He's over on the right side. I used to go on his boat.

LC: That's over with Dave Spencer, on the Dave Spencer side.

EK: I don't know where Dave Spencer's boat is. I know Russ Wallace, all the little day boats there.

LC: So it's *Megan Marie*?

EK: Yep. He's really nice; he's the President.

[17:42]

LC: You don't by chance, could at some point give me his phone number?

EK: Yeah. Its [XX] I think. I haven't dialed it in so long. I can email it to you. I'll give you my email.

LC: And so you have RILA, Commercial Fishermen's Association, Point Judith Fishermen's Alliance...?

EK: Then of course you have the shellfishermen's group. They aren't really in Point Judith, I think, but they're another fishermen's organization.

LC: Are there any other groups that you can think of?

EK: Those are the big ones that stand out. There's Ocean State, which has Russ Wallace, but that's a smaller group.

LC: And you said Russ Wallace is in Newport?

EK: Yep. I think its RI Ocean State Fishermen's Association. They're with the Commercial Fisheries Center, over at East Farm.

LC: So Chris Brown would know them?

EK: Yep, he would know. Barbara Summers over at Sea Grant does all that stuff (Newsletter) and Beutel, same office.

LC: Do you know of any other women?

EK: The girl I work with does exactly what I do, she does biological sampling, but she jumps around from port to port, so she might be interesting to talk to. So she samples New Bedford and Gloucester. She's like the transit person. Her name is Katie and I can pass along her email to you. She's been doing this for 5-6 years so she's been around for awhile.

LC: In Point Judith, are there any women fishermen? We're not just talking about fishing, but also anybody you might know that's involved in shore support?

EK: There are a lot of girls in the markets, the fish markets, down there. I don't know any of them, but just through working there so long you know them by face. Ferry Wharf Seafood and Champlain's, stuff like that.

LC: So on a daily basis, you're direct interactions are with the fishermen or?

EK: We work out of the fish houses. We go into the coolers. We'll come in contact with the fishermen, but it's mainly the guys that are taking off all the fish and putting it into the coolers. That's mainly who we communicate with.

LC: Which fish houses in Point Judith?

EK: Handrigan's, Slaven's who does the co-op I believe, Town Dock. We'll also go to Gambardella's in CT once in a while. They are a fish house in Stonington and sample out of there. We'll go to Blount which is in Warren for clams. We kind of try to hit everywhere and get some numbers.

LC: Do you have any interactions with the people that work there? Are any of these technically processing plants?

EK: Blount Seafood is. They are all where the guys unload, so they drop off the fish. It's mainly, all the guys are out in the coolers, out on the floors, boxing up the fish.

LC: There's not processing technically going on. They are taking in the fish, they're buying them...?

EK: And selling. It's quick. What comes in usually goes right back out. I think Slaven does squid, packaging of squid.

[22:53]

LC: What about... another part of what we're interested in is not just fishermen, not just shore support, also people in processing plants. Anything where there is people's lives that are dependent on fishing, I'm wondering... I had noticed that when I was at Slaven's several years ago that it looked like there were Hispanic employees.

EK: There's a lot of, I think they might be Guatemalans down there. Slaven's has... it's weird, one day they'll be quiet with not much going on and the next day it'll just be slamming with squid and there'll be a line of them packaging them up. It's crazy to see the transition of it. Where do these people come from!?

LC: This is a question that is technically, fairly sensitive question if I went in to talk to someone at Slaven's. You don't have any idea of where these people come from? There's this whole INS issue. You start poking into that, and particularly working for the government, even though NOAA doesn't care about whether or not you've got a green card, I'm just, it's an area I'd like to know more about; where these people come from.

EK: I have no clue. It's not like I converse with them much. They are super hard workers; they work non stop, that's all they do is work.

LC: What I would guess is they are day laborers and they call on, but I don't know where they come from or where they go at the end of the day. Is Slaven's the only one...?

EK: I think Town Dock does it.

[Discussion that this information is context; Elizabeth is concerned about us telling people about this issue; Lisa digging around for Profile to show Elizabeth; tells her about profiles].

LC: It's such a sensitive topic.

EK: The Slaven guys are really nice. In the fishing industry it is time and trust. I think that's when you get accepted and they keep seeing your face and knowing you're good rather than bad. That's for everything really.

[27:54]

LC: Is there anything you can say about relationships with other fishermen, problems or issues that they have? In particular, issues of money problems, drinking, drugs, marital issues, etc? What are your thoughts or observations on that?

EK: I don't know; I'd have to think about that. Just from what I see working?

LC: From your professional job, if you were interacting with a lot of fishermen, you might be able to comment on it from a personal standpoint, but just your...?

EK: I don't think I really see that much stuff going on. What I do know from working around fishermen for a long time; they'll be really nice to a person, and as soon as they are offshore they will turn their back on them and say bad things about them. That's just the industry; you don't know who and when you can trust. I've never really had any experience with captains... I don't know how to answer that.

LC: Like in New Bedford, they have two methadone treatment houses amongst other kinds of social services for the community. Though supposedly, although this hasn't been documented, a substantial number of the people who use the service might be crew. It's a slightly different situation, lots of non-overnighters from New Bedford, bigger fishery, bigger boats, they tend to go out for a week or longer. It's a different social dynamic and there is supposedly an issue around drug abuse.

EK: I think there's definitely a scene in Point Judith. It's not as prominent as the New Bedford drug scene but you know it's there. You hear that guys sleep on the boats, live on the boats, because it's all they have and the captain lets them crash there.

LC: So it's the crew that is really more of that kind of thing?

EK: I think so. I think the captains, they are the responsible ones and do good for themselves. And the crew are... some of them... just don't know any better. I think that's just what the industry attracts sometimes because of the freedom and such sometimes.

AW: Is there transience as far as crew members on boats, or do you see that crew stay with one vessel?

EK: There's definitely transience going on; you have to go where you're going to make money. Even with Mike, this past week, his deck hand left because the weather was so windy so he didn't get out for a couple weeks and the deck hand was like: "I can't stay here." He hopped on a dragger or whatever so Mike had to fish with someone else when the weather got good.

LC: And how long had he had this particular deck hand?

EK: He's been with him for awhile and he was good.

LC: Awhile meaning six months, a year, several years, etc?

EK: I want to say close to a year. One of those success stories; boy came from a freezer boat, I think they had a love hate relationship, the captain will bark and the crew will bark back, but they really like each other, from what I see. Mike sometimes tells me stories like that on the boat, so I think it's one of those love-hate relationships.

[33:56]

LC: How does it work for Mike, for more details about what he does, we'll talk directly to him. Does he go through a settlement house or does he do all the books himself?

EK: He has an accountant, is that what a settlement house is?

LC: New Bedford they call them settlement houses but I think they just call them accountants here.

EK: I think he has an accountant for that. He's really responsible because you have to be. That's just the way he is too.

LC: You're in this relationship with this person, what's your take on the future of the fishing industry, of lobstering, however you want to spin that?

EK: The future of my relationship of being involved in the fishery or just the fishery in general?

LC: I would say both if you're willing to comment. Talk to the general first.

EK: It's scary; you never know. We hear stories from guys all the time saying how much fluke there is out there, so much fish out there yet more and more regulations are coming and the government doesn't know what's out there; we hear that all the time. Whether it's true or not, you don't know. Sometimes you really do have to question the data; are the numbers really accurate? Sometimes they are working on numbers from years and years ago, so it's not really updated. You don't know. As for my relationship with Mike, in a way, I don't know if it's cheesy, but he's so passionate about what he does so you find a way to continue to work and I don't know how he does it, like a lot of the other guys they pay the fuel, they pay the bait they're keeping up with it; it's crazy.

LC: In your relationship, how do you guys deal with household finances?

EK: There's the mortgage on the house and he won't let me pay the mortgage but I pay everything else, so I pay the heat and utilities and the food and stuff like that so it kind of evens out to half the mortgage.

LC: There's that split, so you're making a significant contribution in the house. Have you seen, in the time that you've been with him, not just the time you've lived with him, have you seen things go up and down for him?

EK: It's always going up and down. If he's not fishing, then there is no money coming in.

LC: What do you guys do?

EK: He still works throughout the winter and you just survive somehow. I'm so lucky I have a good job and it definitely doesn't pay great, but that's the field – you're not going to be rich in this field. But you get through. This year, it seems it's working rather well.

[37:40]

LC: In your mind, in your relationship, have there been critical points in which there wasn't money to do something you wanted to do? It could be taking a vacation, or you had to put off doing that which you want to do or that thing you want to buy.

EK: On the weekends, should we really spend money just to go out to eat. You have a couple drinks and it all adds up. That just happened a couple weeks ago. It's no big deal. I definitely, I love to cook, so I go food shopping; I do all the food shopping. It's kind of an old fashion relationship but I like it; it works for me.

LC: Do you guys eat fish?

EK: Yeah. Plus we're really spoiled because we get scallops and fish so we're really lucky in that aspect. We'll be like: "Scallops again?". The scallops he brings home they are huge; you have three and you're full. We're definitely not struggling. I guess I should be careful how I say that, at least I don't think we're struggling – but his bills are a lot heavier than mine. Through his eyes, he is struggling, but everyone in the fishing industry is struggling. It's just so many bills; whether it be the hardware store, RI Engine, the fuel man, the bait... that's all him.

LC: In relation to what he does, what's the level of optimism? Is he more pessimistic than optimistic? Is the glass half full than empty?

EK: I think he tends to be more optimistic, but I think sometimes he's just right in the middle. You have to be because if you're looking at it down, it'd be hard to go to work. You guys know, he's been involved with the whole political side of things forever.

LC: Is he involved now?

EK: Now he's with the Point Judith Fishermen's Memorial Foundation. So he does that because it's light.

LC: Can you tell me about that?

EK: They're constructing a memorial in Point Judith for lost fishermen at sea which is going to be by the lighthouse. I guess there's a spot down there where they are going to put up a little memorial with benches and stuff with a really pretty monument and scriptures. So they're raising money for that. We're going to a fundraiser on Thursday at Spain's. Mike's out today getting scallops for it, so it's all local donations [of seafood]. I went last year and I showed up late but it's nice to see... that's the thing with the fishing industry, there is a sense of community. Whether you work on the docks or in a market or a fisherman, there is this sense of community that is nice. Everyone knows everyone down there.

[42:26]

LC: You said it's the Fishermen's Memorial Foundation? Is that something that is more of a unifying interest up here? There are the factions, and then are you finding that the Fishermen's Memorial is something that more people are...?

EK: I think that's something completely separate. It's not like fishermen join that group. They get donations from people that maybe lost someone and want to help them out. So it's not like it has members like the other groups.

LC: Do you guys have any sort of long term plans in terms of kids?

EK: Well, I hope marriage. I hope there's long term plans and I think there is on his end.

[RECORDING STOPPED]

[00:00]

LC: So it feels secure.

EK: It's so natural. It's nice to be in something that is actually real.

LC: How old are you now?

EK: I'm 28. There's an age difference there; he's 41 but it doesn't feel like there's an age difference. That was never an issue I think because we were just on the same level. I think it's our passion, our goals, are similar. It works. I knew a marine biologist, Rebecca Braie? She's at Biomes; she works for the Marine Biology center, an educational center. I worked with her awhile ago and she's married to a fisherman. She said: "You would never think, a marine biologist married to a commercial fisherman! But somehow, it's amazing." It's that goal and that connection. Fisheries are so unique and no one really knows or can explain it unless you're there. You try to explain it to people and tell people but they don't know.

LC: How is it, you technically work for the Feds, how does that work in terms of credibility in the community? It looks like Mike is aligned a little too closely... if I go down into the Point; I have to work really hard to gain trust.

EK: Well I think, because the lobster restoration program, I think I really stood out from the observers because I was really passionate about it, because I was one of the few observers that actually wanted to be there and enjoyed the work, and was on time and never missed the boat, and actually helped the guys do their work, not just my work, I was more hands on. And through

the years, guys saw that and I think I gained respect that way, with the inshore lobster boats I'm talking about. And that's why when we first started seeing each other, that's why I was stressed out. I didn't want people to think I was there because of him. I'm an independent girl, I want people to realize I'm here because I'm passionate about it, not just because of who I am with. And that was an issue for awhile, actually. Even to this day, Walter doesn't know who my boyfriend is. Which is fine, I'm waiting. He's such a nice guy. It was funny because when he interviewed me, he asked if I had a boyfriend. And he thought that was great because in the field, being around all the fishermen, he wanted to make sure I wasn't going to be hooking up with anybody. So I'm waiting and I want to tell him. I was afraid to tell him because I was afraid it was going to screw up my position. Because positions in the field with the government and in the fisheries are so hard to find these days. They are not out there. And when this came, I can't tell him. I asked my mom and she said that's my personal life and there's no need to tell him.

[04:51]

LC: If you all go to this fundraiser, who are you going to sit with at the table?

EK: I don't think Walter is going. I should ask him. He doesn't know yet. I want to tell him. It's crazy, even working as a contractor for the government, there's crazy background checks and it took months for me to even get computer access; it took forever it's like glacial speed. I think finally everything came through mid-October computer, my badge, pass codes, etc. Then you call and nobody answers and this person tells you to call that person. Even being a contractor for the government it's frustrating. So you can see how these guys get PO-ed at the whole system. So, I'm waiting for the day that Walter finds out.

LC: Do you think that's going to be any concern with conflict of interest in any way?

EK: I don't think it should, it shouldn't. That's my personal life. It shouldn't matter who I'm with for my job. Walter sees what kind of worker I am; I'm honest and responsible.

LC: In terms of ethical. When I did my application for NOAA and was offered the job and I queried my potential supervisor about that my husband does a lot of work for the Army Corps of Engineers and some of that dove-tails with NOAA. He's had contracts with the Regional Office. Is there any conflict of interest there?

EK: I went into all the black and white and looked into all the ethics with NOAA.

LC: I think with you, I was thinking more from the fishermen's standpoint.

EK: Some of the guys that come up that know me obviously and know Mike and the situation, they don't really say anything. And so far everything is pretty professional. I think that comes from that they know me.

LC: You've treated it very professional and separate.

EK: And that I'm serious about it and professional. I think I've gained that... just working on the boats for so long. You can be someone that goes on the boat and keeps to themselves and not talk, or you can be the person that goes on the boat and talks. The next day the Point is going to know you're talking. I definitely wasn't that person because I would never do that. That was the first thing going on a boat: What goes on the boat stays on the boat; that's just one of the rules, even in the office. And when I go home, I treat it the same way. I have that boundary that I keep because I couldn't live any other way I don't think. I can't afford to lose my job.

[08:58]

LC: I am curious, and I know you said you needed to go, and I wanted to be very respectful of that. After you leave here today, if you can think of names of women or maybe even querying Walter. Just women to talk to.

EK: His wife might be interesting to talk to. Walter is such a hard working guy and has so much to deal with and I wonder how his life at home is; I'm sure she hears it all too. Even though she's not part of the fishery, it would be interesting to see how Walter deals with it all. Sometimes he has conferences all day long. He's so respected in the field which is great and it's really a good feeling working for someone like that because he's really well respected and it's such a tough industry to be respected in. They may come up and complain about NOAA and they know it's not him or us, but they like to complain to us.

LC: And are there any women that come up?

EK: No. Just all fishermen. There might be one or two lady fishermen down there, full-time, that I've seen but none have come up at all.

LC: The one thing I wanted to ask, if we were to contact you in the future, just call your work number?

EK: You can call my cell phone on there or my private cell phone. So hopefully I made sense.

LC: Absolutely. Let me just ask a couple other quick questions. This is pilot testing and we're very appreciative. We will have a release for people to sign in the future but if we could just have a verbal release. The intent of this information is to use it, essentially, for educational purposes to explain what's going on in the fishery, and we can choose to either let the information be identifying or non-identifying. What I mean by that is that some of these interviews will be added to a National archive of women interviewed in the fishery. So what that would mean is that it might be in a server somewhere, either the written transcription or the verbal transcription and it could or could not have your name on it. Just wondering what your thought would be on that?

EK: I probably would want my name on it because you should be proud of what you're doing and everything else. I definitely am, but I don't think I've said anything I could get fired for.

[12:28]

[END OF INTERVIEW]