

Interview with Ted Ligenza [TL]
Occupation: Fisherman
Port Community: Chatham, MA
Interviewer: Azure Cygler
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Ligenza house, Chatham, MA

Interview

[00:00]

AC : Okay, so for the record my name is Azure Cygler and it's the 22nd of August, 2012 and I'm here at Ted Ligenza's house in Chatham, Massachusetts. And Ted, if you could, just to open, say that you agree to do this interview and signed the release form.

TL : I, Ted Ligenza, agree to do this interview and to sign the release form.

AC : Okay, and then to start if you could just give me your full name?

TL : Theodore Joseph Ligenza.

AC : And your residential address?

TL : 134...South Chatham...I'm not going to give my address, it's just...

AC : That's perfect, perfect. This is just more for context so people can identify you. And Ted, your homeport?

TL : South Chatham, well it's Chatham, Mass(achusetts), but yeah, it's Chatham Massachusetts.

AC : And your vessels' name?

TL : *Reina Marie.*

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

TL : Sector.

AC : And you were in a common pool prior to being in a sector?

TL : Well, the Georges, well it started out as a George's Bank hook sector which coalesced with the fixed gear sector, so now I'm in the fixed gear sector. But the George's Bank hook sector was the first sector, so I was in a common pool before, but we were the first sector.

AC : Okay, so we'll get into all those details, but just to sort of open it. And if you don't mind my asking how old you are, how young you are?

TL : Sixty.

AC : And Ted, to begin, you and I know each other from working together in the past, but for the sake of this interview, if you could just give me a little bit of context about your life, where you're from, how you came to be here, your family structure, you know, married, children that kind of thing, just tell me about yourself.

TL : I am married with three sons and a wife. My three sons are all in the fishing business, but they don't do what I want them to do, they don't listen to me, regrettably. I lived in New Jersey and went to high school, grade school and everything in New Jersey, I went to college in Pennsylvania.

I used to come up here in the summer for vacation, visit my grandmother since I was a little kid, Cape Cod was one place that always stayed the same, so I immediately moved up here. Since I wasn't a great success in school, I figured I could do what I really wanted to do anyways, and I moved up here, got a job at the fish pier and started fishing when I was, I think, twenty-two.

AC : What year was that, roughly?

TL : Well, I don't know, it was, I'm sixty years old, so you do the math.

AC : The seventies?

TL : Seventy-something or other.

AC : Yup, got it.

TL : Seventy-something or other.

AC : (Laughs) And if you could tell me a little bit about that first episode in fishing; you worked at the fish pier, how did you get from there to a boat, or to the captain of your own boat, if you could walk me through that history.

TL : Well I got a job at the fish pier, I walked down there and asked if I wanted a job, they said "Sure." And then I said, they said, "When you want to start, tomorrow?"

I said “No, I’ll go home and get some clothes, and start today.” So I worked there until, I think it was in October or something like that. I liked working at the fish pier but then one day I woke up, I fell asleep in the gutter at the fish pier, and woke up and said, “It’s time to do something else.” And a friend of mine wanted to go scalloping that I had met, so I went scalloping with him.

I quit working at the fish pier, and it didn’t work out scalloping with my friend Craig. And so then I picked up, called up Jim Hardy and asked him if he wanted me to crew with him, because I saw him coming into the fish pier by himself and I figured he could use a crew. He says no, but he gave me two numbers to call. So I called up a fellow named Kenny Bloomer and got assigned with him and the guys at the fish pier were really upset.

They said you know, “This is a good job working at the fish pier. We make \$30 a week and we could live through the winter making \$30 a week; you’re crazy for going fishing.” Well, the second trip with Kenny Bloomer we got twenty-six boxes, and I was standing on the boat, I looked up at the guys, and I go “Look! I made more money than I make all winter! What are you guys thinking?!” (Laughs)

AC : They were sorry they said that after that day.

TL : Oh, I don’t know if they were sorry they said that, but that was it. I was hooked. We caught, we went out, the first trip we got 600 pounds and the second trip we caught cod the whole day, filled up his whole boat. I think we caught twenty-six boxes which were a hundred-twenty-five pound box, so it was over three thousand pounds. So that was a good start for me.

AC : And then you just worked your way up to owning your own boat?

TL : Oh, well let’s see. I fished with Kenny that winter, and then he took on another crewman named Georgie Small, and George, he taught me how to coil and do all the jobs on the boat, and taught me a lot about fishing. And that summer Kenny wanted to take his son, so I quit fishing with Kenny, and then I started quahogging. So then I got my own boat back then and started driving around quahogging.

And the next year I got, I think it was the next year I got a bigger skiff and went out on Crab Ledge, jigging, I think it was May, the month of May. And I didn’t have a compass, so, I knew where Crab Ledge was from fishing with Kenny, I knew it was east, so I got up, drove my boat out right east, and stopped the boat, and I caught 600 pounds. So I was an instant success.

AC : And was that in fact Crab Ledge?

TL : Yeah, it was Crab Ledge.

AC : You just found it with your nose, you smelled it out?

TL : Yeah, I found it with my nose, but there were other guys out, everybody was out jigging so I saw the other guys out there, but I had a natural instinct of where to stop the boat, and it was... it came naturally to me. And it came naturally just to catch fish, you know, it was, I had no problem with it. Which was back then, it was a great thing about fishing, if you were a young fellow and you wanted to go fishing, you just went fishing. Because you had to buy a boat, there were no licenses, no nothing, and everybody was handlining and longlining back then, which made the, which was a good thing, because we didn't overfish. You could only catch so many fish on the hooks, and you can't clean out the ocean with hooks so we had plenty of fish so everybody could fish.

AC : Sounds like good days.

TL : All the guys in Chatham had old trucks, they had old cars, they had old station wagons, and they were all complaining about money, and they all owned their own homes, all the fishermen. They were always broke and always complaining, but they were always happy, always, always making money. Every time of the year. They went shellfishing in the winter, fishing in the winter, or scalloping it up in October, and November and December, and spearing eels, and handlining fluke, flounder and scup, trawling for codfish. Everybody had all kinds of different fishing to do, and we all could do whatever we wanted.

But we did it in a manner that we didn't ruin any of the fisheries that we were involved in so everybody could work. So it was a wonderful place for a young man back then. I was always talking about going to Alaska but things were so good in Cape Cod I never left. And it got, I would tell my friends, "Oh, I'm going to go to Alaska.", and they just, they didn't want me to go because they liked me and in a couple of years, you know, I never thought about it anymore.

AC : Because you were doing well fishing here?

TL : I was doing well, and I had an eighteen foot skiff, [it] was my first real boat. Then I got a nineteen-foot skiff, and then, I don't know, I was about twenty, considered fishing for about, that's, I was about probably twenty-five years old. One of my mentors, Eddie Tucker, had a twenty-eight foot boat. I was out jigging in my skiff that I had bought from him, and we were offshore and it was a roly, roly swell day, we were catching some cod, and I was talking to Ed in his other boat while we were fishing. And one of those roly swells went by us, a calm flat day, and Ed lost his balance, fell over the engine box, in fact he fell ass-over, got up and said, "That's it!", and I didn't know what Ed was talking about, but that night he called, he said, "You got first refusal of my boat."
(Laughs)

AC : To run it, or to buy it?

TL : No, to buy. So Ed had had enough, his boat was real rocky, it didn't have a big keel on it, it had too much, a little bit too much above the water. It was one of the fastest boats in the harbor. He made it to go fast but it rocked too much and it pissed him off, so he sold it to me.

AC : That was the final straw for him?

TL : That was the final straw when he fell over that time; so that's how I got my first real fishing boat, [it] was the *West Wind* and I bought it. I think he sold it to me in, I think it was in July, those were the first warm days in July. And I remember the first day I went fishing, I caught a box of fish and I burned 50 gallons of fuel and I was terrified. By the end of August, by the last day of August I paid for the boat, I caught so many fish.

AC : Did he ever come to you regretting that he sold it to you?

TL : No, no Ed was an old-timer and when he sold me the boat, which he sold to me for \$10,000, [which] was a lot of money back then. But it came, I didn't know that it came with this guarantee, that when anything went wrong with the boat, Ed would come down to the boatyard and fix it. Anything went wrong with the engine, Ed would come down and show me how to fix it. So the entire, my rest of my life, I had....

AC : My goodness.

TL : Yeah, well that's the way Ed was, you know. I remember once I had a girlfriend, I went off to visit the girlfriend, and he took the rudder apart and straightened it out, put it all back together for me, and when I got back it was ready to go.

AC : Gosh, if only our world worked like that now, right? With cars, and....

TL : Absolutely, that's the way it was with Ed, and I would bring him fish, help him do whatever he wanted to do. We'd go out in the spring and buy cow manure together and we'd split it up, because I had a truck and he didn't, and then we'd have competitions to see who got the biggest potato in the summer. Yeah, so Ed was a great friend.

AC : Excellent. That's a good story. Now what types of fisheries do you fish in now, Ted?

TL : I go dogfishing in the summer, I go clamming or quahogging, long-raking or clamming in the winter, I go codfishing in the fall, I go striped bass fishing during striped bass season, and I handline bluefish.

AC : And this is inshore or offshore or both?

TL : Ah, the codfishing is a little bit offshore, everything else is inshore.

AC : So day trips?

TL : All day trips.

AC : And that's always been the case for you?

TL : That has always been the case. One time my son and I went offshore down the channel to go on a two day trip and there was about a ten foot swell on, and I looked at Mike, I says, "You want to go home or you want to stay out tonight?" Mike goes "Go home." I said "That sounds like a good idea to me too." After one trawl (laughs), we didn't want to stay out there all night. That was the only time I ever decided to try and take a two day trip. My wife's a good cook (laughs).

AC : Certainly, for the record I will concur, she cooked us a delicious meal of fresh garden veggies and other goodies. So, tell me about your sons' involvement in fisheries. How was that, when did that start?

TL : When my sons were young, the clamming in town was really good, so they all went clamming, and they all went codfishing with me, because codfishing was good back then for awhile, and so that's...

AC : Okay, and currently, are they on the boat with you?

TL : No, no I don't think they could stand fishing with me now.

AC : Do you have a crew?

TL : In the winter when I go jigging codfish I have a crew. Otherwise, single dory; my crew is my line that I hang off the side of the boat to pull myself back in with.

AC : Wow, has that always been the case, Ted, for you?

TL : No, no I used to... back when the codfishing was good, I always had a crew, and a site on a codfishing boat was desirable because all you have, I was a good jigger and all you had to do was go jigging. You didn't have to bait gear, it was fun; catching fish with a handline is fun. And it was twelve, yeah, I'd go twelve months a year almost all the time so anybody who went jigging with me knew that he would have work round the whole year and I always had a crew back then.

AC : Okay, and has it just been a matter of scaling back because fishing isn't as good or you're not able to fish as much, or why is it that that's changed?

TL : Well, I mean, you need a crew when you go handlining codfish, because two guys, you want the fish to follow the boat, so, if you have one guy, every time he pulls the line up, you're liable to lose the school of fish that's following the boat. So if you have two guys, you're more likely to have the fish follow the boat. And it's a very long day, so the crew dresses the fish on the way home. And that's very important to get the fish dressed on the way home, or get the fish dressed, period. If you're by yourself, you got to take special time to do that.

AC : And is your buyer, are your fish buyers in Chatham only, you sell only to Chatham fish buyers?

TL : Yeah, pretty much, yeah.

AC : And why have you only hook-fished?

TL : I go dredge scallops, and shellfish a real lot, that, a real lot of shellfishing. I used to go longlining for halibut, when there was halibut around. We had codfish around; that was one of the most fun fisheries that I used to do.

AC : What, when was that, in the eighties, was halibut...?

TL : Oh, I don't know, it must have been the eighties.

AC : The eighties, I remember hearing stories about the halibut.

TL : Yeah, when did you move here?

AC : Late nineties.

TL : Okay, yeah, so it must've been in the eighties. Yeah, it was already history by that time.

AC : Right, I had heard you telling some stories.

TL : Yeah, it was a blast.

AC : And I missed it, by a decade.

TL : Yeah, by a whole decade.

AC : Ted, tell me a little bit about your neighborhood, or really just Chatham in general. Earlier we were talking about how North Chatham, South Chatham there's..., it's very clearly different. Can you just tell me a little bit about the neighborhoods and how

people see fishing? Whether it's here in South Chatham where you live, or down at the pier? Just kind of describe what that looks like.

TL : Well the neighborhood it's, the neighborhood here it's not, the neighborhood thing is, when it comes to fishing it's everybody in Chatham, so the neighborhood for a fisherman is not only Chatham, it's Harwich, Orleans. So our neighborhood is Harwich, Chatham and Orleans. The Provincetown fishermen are quite a distance away, but that's a neighborhood too, because I'll meet guys in Provincetown who are friends with other friends of mine. I was actually down at one of the ponds up in Wellfleet and I got talking to a guy up there and he was friends with friends of my son, so the community as far as fishermen go are, it's the whole Cape.

AC : Okay and is it, so the public in general, do you think the public's pretty in touch with fisheries issues?

TL : The public?

AC : Yeah, do people...?

TL : Nah, no they're not, they have no idea what's going on.

AC : They have no idea.

TL : No conception.

AC : So people come to Chatham for sort of beach vacations or for, what draws them to Chatham, because it's a big vacation spot, it's not fishing it sounds like?

TL : People come here to go to the beaches, they like to go shopping, and some of them like to go fishing too.

AC : Okay. And in terms of your social networks, do you primarily socialize with other fishermen, or would you say that your friend group and social networks are not fishermen?

TL : My social network is a small number of fishermen, because there's just very few handliners left, and you're really not going to social network with people who are in fisheries that are in competition with you. Which is kind of sad, it used to be....

AC : You mean other gear types?

TL : Other gear types. And it used to be that there was a whole bunch of us that used to handline, and everybody used to get along, but that's not the case anymore.

AC : Okay, what's changed that, do you think?

TL : Greed. (Laughs)

AC : Everybody wants more than there is out there, so you're competing for a smaller number of fish?

TL : Competing, yeah.

AC : And that's changed the way people talk to each other and the way people interact?

TL : Yeah, I think it's changed the way people act. When I first moved here everybody was... it was much more of a close-knit community. All of the fishermen... I guess there's quite a network of fishermen, but it's certainly not the network that was here when, years ago, I mean, because there's very few handliners left, there's very few longliners left, and there's even not many gillnetters left, so....

AC : Right, what is the primary gear type then?

TL : It would be gillnetters.

AC : It would be, is...?

TL : It would be.

AC : Currently?

TL : Yes, currently, the gillnetters in Chatham, but there's not a real lot of them either. I mean what's happened is fishing's coalesced into more efficient, larger boats....

AC : From out, from away?

TL : No, no, from guys in town who have bought more of the, bought more of the industry up for themselves, or the quota up for themselves. It's just less opportunity for younger people to go fishing as I described at the beginning of this.

AC : So there's not a lot of younger people getting into it?

TL : No. Absolutely not.

AC : And how has the infrastructure changed in Chatham as a fishing community? Is there, is there more or less ice houses, or bait houses, you know, things you need to support a fishery? How has that changed in your view? Or maybe it hasn't, I'm not sure.

TL : (Sighs) I don't think it's changed a real lot, yet. But the thing that's really changed is that the marinas used to fight over the fishermen. So back in the day we had two marinas that really wanted to have fishermen haul their boats out there, whereas now they all take care of wealthier people, and so we don't have that anymore. So we do..., just recently we had one marina, it's not on the water, but it's taking up, having commercial boats on its property. And the guy that owns it was a commercial fisherman; he takes care of us. Actually, this last year was the first year I put my boat in his boatyard, which was great, it was just like old times. So we still have that infrastructure. And he makes money on us; he hauls us out, he puts us back in the water, and we pay our bills because fishermen pay their bills because if they don't pay their bills they're not going to get hauled out, and they need to haul out, whereas a wealthy person, "I'll pay my bill, sometime."

AC : Right.

TL : So, these guys, people love having us. Well, this one guy understands it, the other ones they didn't want us anymore. So I had no place to put my boat but my yard for years, yeah.

AC : And your boat is how big?

TL : Thirty-one feet.

AC : Thirty-one, right, okay. And in terms... go ahead, did you want to say something else?

TL : Oh, we still have a place to buy gear, and we still have Cape Fishermen's Supply to get our gear from, and we still have the fish pier, so we still have all our infrastructure.

AC : Now the fish pier is an actual place, but is it also a specific business? When you say "the fish pier" what is that? What does that mean?

TL : The fish pier, I think it's owned by the town [but a] large part of the property that the fish pier is put on is owned by the Chatham Bar's Inn. The fish pier leases the right to buy fish, the two fish buyers at the pier, and they allow a number of boats to offload. If they're not happy with the situation with the two buyers, which a lot of guys are starting to take advantage of now.

AC : Okay. It's been the same two buyers all along?

TL : It's been the same two buyers for quite a few years now, but there's been a lot of buyers in and out. There's been a lot of different buyers down there, over the years since I moved here.

AC : Has sectors, the start of sector management, and I guess for you guys it's different, we're talking about sector management for all of New England so, in the last three years, has that affected anything? I mean obviously Chatham....

TL : At the fish pier?

AC : Yeah, the hook fishermen were the first to have sectors, long before, what five years ago, when did...?

TL : I don't know.

AC : It was a while ago.

TL : It was a while ago, a long, quite a while ago.

AC : But in the last few years have sectors influenced anything with infrastructure or the dynamics of the fish pier or anything like that that you've seen? Or they might not have, but has that been something that's a force that's affected things down at the pier?

TL : I think it hasn't because fishing is just the way it is. Fishing's gone way downhill, we don't have codfish so we have boats bringing in skates, and dogfish, monkfish, got scallop boats down there, they do a lot of business down there, we've got the lobster boats. But it used to be mainly codfish, but that change doesn't have too much to do with the sectors. I mean, anybody who has a multispecies permit in Chatham is in the sector.

AC : Okay, no common pool...?

TL : No common pool boats. No common pool boats with a multispecies license at the fish pier that I know of offhand, that go fishing for multispecies. A common pool I think, means you have a multispecies permit and you're not in a sector, right?

AC : Not in a sector, right.

TL : There's a lot of guys that decided to include a 300 pound license. There's a number of guys that have a 300 pound licenses or 75 pound licenses that don't need to be in a sector that are down there. But there's no, I don't think there's anybody down there who's in the common pool that has a multispecies license that has a lot of catches on it, or anything like that; everybody's in the sector.

AC : And why did you choose to join, just because it was really the only option, or because was it just...?

TL : It's the way things were going down here in Chatham, and they, I just saw what was happening in Chatham and I knew that, you know, there wasn't much for me outside of the sector, so I had to join. I saw that if I wanted to go codfishing I would have to join the sector. I was joining the sector with the intention of going codfishing. I figure it was the best way to be able to go codfishing, was to be in the sector. As it's turned out, at the moment I really don't need to be in the sector. Because I'm in the sector so I can go codfishing, and codfishing is so horrible that I could actually stay in the common pool and fish. [It] wouldn't make any difference to me right now, because I have more than enough Days at Sea so that I could go fishing. Even though I'm only allowed, I think 1,000 pounds most of the time I catch less than that, so, I really don't have to be in the sector to go fishing.

But I stay in it, I don't know, maybe out of habit because my first intentions were, it would..., I think the reason I joined the sector was because I was fearful that the quota would get caught up in my area and then when the fall would come the quota would be caught. And that was the best time to go codfishing was the fall and the winter, so I figured I would have to be in a sector to go fishing because that quota would get caught. And I know that if the codfishing ever gets better and the rules are going to be stringent and that I would probably be better off having my own quota to fish for, because I do have substantial, relatively substantial catch. It's enough, enough catches, and I bought a license from one of my friends.

AC : Okay, so you have multiple licenses?

TL : I have a little bit more, just two. I bought Mikey Anderson's license. But I bought his license as an insurance policy because he fished for a lot of dogfish. If they ever go to quotas on dogfish, I'll have enough dogfish to catch for sure. And he fishes like me, he goes bluefishing, and he gave me his bluefish license so I'll have enough bluefish to catch. And he has a good amount of Days at Sea, a small amount of codfish, but I bought it so that if this sector thing doesn't work out, because I'm not convinced sectors are going to work out, I'll have enough Days at Sea so I can fish.

And if one of my sons want to go fishing in the future, he'll have his catches and his Days at Sea too, so maybe it'll be a little bit more worthwhile for one of them, if they ever wanted to use my licenses, when I get done, which is going to be a long time so they're going to have to take care of themselves.

AC : Better have a back-up plan.

TL : They better have a back-up plan, because I'm going to be around for awhile.

AC : Have they talked about wanting to stay in fishing, your sons?

TL : Who, my sons? Yeah, that's what they do.

AC : They want to stay in?

TL : Yeah.

AC : You encourage that, or do you...?

TL : No, I didn't encourage it, but one of my sons got so angry when I tried to discourage him that I never said it to him again. He called me a dirty word. My other son, he likes to go clamming, he works, they all, well my oldest son works with another guy, he goes quahog dragging with him. It's a steady job for him. Right now they're clamming but they'll probably go back quahog dragging, and he's a good clam digger. My other son, he's worked, he crewed on a whole bunch of different boats. He's a really good crew and he also has a couple boats that he fishes out of, so.... And he's the one that called me a dirty word when I told him to get a job as a plumber. And my other son goes clamming, and he's crewed on a lot of boats too. So, it's what they do.

AC : There's no, you don't see that changing radically?

TL : See them doing something else? Well, my younger son says that he might get another job some day when he gets his life in line, but right now his life isn't in line so he's probably going to go clamming until he gets his life squared away. He is, my younger son is the one that there's hope for in the world. He might do something more reasonable (laughs).

AC : Gotcha, well, you've given him a great model to follow, you being their dad, so that's going to be....

TL : Well, they don't follow me, they don't listen to what I tell them too much. [They've] got their own ideas.

AC : How have, has your family's plans changed, like longer-term life plans changed in recent years? So for instance, thinking about retiring or moving, those sorts of big life decisions, has that been influenced by fisheries management, specifically sectors over the last few years, or maybe it hasn't?

TL : Well, fisheries management?

AC : Yeah, has that changed kind of how you think of your long-term life plan, you and Reina?

TL : Well, it has become much more difficult.

AC : Okay, how so?

TL : I [have] got to work three times as hard to make less money. I used to just go fishing, and if I wanted to take a day off, take a week off, then I knew the fish would be there when I got back. And now when I'm making money I know that I got to go because I know that it's not going to last. When I used to have plenty of codfish to catch, I used to work very, very hard, but I also knew that if I didn't work that I could go fishing the next month to make money.

Now I have the dogfish season and sometime when I go jigging and bluefishing and striped bass fishing, it's all limited, time-wise, and a lot of it's limited how much I can make a day. So I have to use that time up and then I try to make up for the whole thing shellfishing seven days a week in the winter. It gives us very little time, very little time to think about having fun, so it's taken a lot of the fun out of our life, because you have to work so hard. Our whole life is about staying in business, and you have to make a profit in your business, enough of a profit to be able to keep the boat. So it takes a real lot of work to pay the bills on the boat, because the price of the bills on the boat keeps on going up and the amount of money you make stays the same so you have to make up by that by working more. So I'm working much harder now than I was when I was younger. Not that I didn't work hard, I worked hard, but you know, there was more time. I could relax if I wanted to. Now it's not too much of a luxury.

AC : And why is that? Is it related to the resource availability or management, or something else?

TL : It's because of resource availability and management. I mean you've got quotas on everything. You've got, you've got a quota on dogfish so when dogfish season is open, you've got to go dogfishing, period. There's just not too many codfish to catch, so when you go codfishing you get what you can but it's not enough to.... Like, it used to be, if the codfish was good, all you had to do was go codfishing and when you had a day off, you had a day off, because you made [some] money codfishing and that was great and if it was windy the next month, you'd relax. Now if it's windy for a month, then I go shellfishing every day, seven days a week. So yeah, it's diminished; it's diminished the quality of life as a fisherman.

AC : Okay, now being in a sector does that mean you have, you said the codfish aren't there as much as they used to be, is that right?

TL : Oh yes.

AC : So being in a sector, do you have access to more codfish, than if you were not in a sector? So even if they were around would you be able to catch more because you're in a sector, or how does that work?

TL : Well I have a lot of Days at Sea because I used to fish a real lot. So a lot of guys... I caught, because I used to handline, I used to catch, you know, 1,000 pounds, 1,500, 1,600, 800, 500, 300 pounds a day, which was a good day's pay. But it took a lot of days to put it together. So I have my maximum Days at Sea because I went fishing a lot, so I could almost live on Days at Sea. But they put such a cut-back on Days at Sea lately, that if I was really going to go codfishing I would have to be in a sector. And, I could go codfishing now, and possibly make a living, but I don't want to kill the last codfish in the ocean when I can go dogfishing and make good money dogfishing. And there actually [are] a lot of dogfish in the ocean, there's no question about it. It's a great....

AC : You feel good about yourself catching this plentiful resource like dogfish, that's, that's an interesting point.

TL : Yeah, there's billions of them out there, that's how..., a healthy fishery is where you go out and you catch the fish and you come home, and the fish are there. It's not like you have to hunt around for them, spend all day scratching your head where they might be, although dogfish will do that because they're a fish, but basically they're going to be there. And if they're not there, they're over there.

But with the way codfishing's become now, you're searching for some resource that there's very little of, and that's not a healthy fishery. So codfishing isn't a healthy fishery. Any kind of fishery where you have to struggle to find what you're looking for, it's... it means it's not a healthy fishery. To me, dogfishing is great, you just go out there and catch them, and you come home with them. I like that kind of fishing (laughs).

AC : Sounds good. Sounds like....

TL : Yeah. And codfishing was like that when I first moved here. [I] used to go out, get out to the grounds and find some fish and catch them, but they were all over the place. There were codfish on the shoal water; there was codfish on the deep water. When they showed up in places you could just drift, like, for two hours pulling in fish. The ocean was full of codfish. Codfishing was kind of like dogfishing when we first started; there was a lot of them. We would catch 1,000 pounds of codfish every day, every single day, all summer long. Inshore, if you went offshore you'd catch a real lot.

AC : And was the price always pretty decent for codfish?

TL : Nah, it was terrible sometimes.

AC : It was terrible.

TL : Yeah, sometimes it was awful. I remember one time jigging within sight of land, and I had 1,000 pounds of fish and I had, I think I had 400 pounds of scrod, and they didn't pay the fuel bill. Within sight of land. It's the way it was.

AC : Ted, what's in your opinion, the best years for the fishing industry in Chatham?

TL : Uh, I don't, I guess it was when we had, it was..., to me the best years was when I first moved here. You know when I first moved here in the seventies and early eighties. Before they started, before everybody started gillnetting down here was the best years because people seemed to get along a lot better.

It was..., the fish pier had a zillion boats moored out there, a lot of longliners, a lot of jiggers, a lot of young kids. All the young kids in town would all get skiffs and they would go out of every port in town and go jigging. All the young guys, that's what you did if you were a young guy; you get an eighteen, twenty, twenty-three foot boat and everybody would go jigging. Those were the good years.

And the older fishermen would have some old 'Novie, you know, and they'd go longlining and other young guys would crew on those boats and when they weren't crewing on the boats they'd go dig steamers or go quahogging or clamming and stuff like that. Those were the... we didn't know how good we had it.

AC : And is there anybody longlining at all anymore?

TL : Ah, there's a few boats left.

AC : A few boats.

TL : A few boats, but they don't go longlining year-round, they just go sometimes. They go longlining for dogfish, some of them go tuna fishing some times of the year. And other ones, some of them go conching part of the year and longlining other part-time's of the year, it's just something they do for awhile, it's not something they do year-round anymore. It used to be something they did year-round, longlining.

AC : Right, and you didn't ever do much with that, you were...?

TL : No, I never, only...

AC : It wasn't interesting to you?

TL : What's that?

AC : It wasn't interesting to you, or it wasn't appealing for some reason?

TL : Oh, I was good at jigging.

AC : You just were good at jigging.

TL : I was good at handlining, I had, when I got the *West Wind*, I had a number of different crews that a friend of mine started fishing with me, an older man, (Jimmy Small), he taught me how to handline. I remember that first day he went out with me, I was watching, I said, "What the hell's he doing? What's he doing with that handline?" You know? And then he kept on going with me and I learned from him. I used to try to talk Jimmy into going longlining, "Oh, I want to go longlining, look the guys are making a fortune." He said, "I ain't putting no snots on the hook." (laughs)

AC : That's funny.

TL : Yeah, I used to put little pieces of clam on the hook and he'd call them 'snots', you know, says "Well, we'll just go jigging." So I couldn't talk Jimmy into going trawling a lot of the time, and he fished with me for years. By the time Jimmy was done with me he had taught me. And Jimmy was a good longliner, he just didn't feel like going, so he kind of manipulated me into not going, to going jigging. But he was good at jigging and he taught me a lot.

AC : Now, what advice would you give someone starting out today?

TL : Don't do it.

AC : Just not something you could make a living at?

TL : Um, (sighs) I don't know. Around Chatham here..., well if they wanted to go fishing, the advice that I gave my son Willy, I said "Get a job on a scalloper, and crew on the scalloper." And Willy's a good shucker, but he says it's a lot of work. Crew on a scalloper and then make huge money. I say buy yourself a house and buy yourself a boat, and when you get your house paid for and you got your boat paid for, then you can go do, go fishing like that.

AC : Do whatever you want.

TL : Do whatever you want. Get your house, buy yourself a nice boat. So my advice for a young fellow around here who really wants to go fishing, is to crew on a sea scalloper and make a lot of money, and....

AC : Great advice.

TL : ... And then take the money and buy a boat and maybe you want to go dogfishing, whatever you want to do, buy a license to do something on the boat. That's my advice. That's where the money is, is crewing on a sea scallop boat, on a big boat.

AC : Out of New Bedford?

TL : Out of New Bedford, yeah.

AC : And tell me a bit about sector that you're....

TL : He couldn't make enough money doing what I'm doing to support a family.

AC : You could not?

TL : Could not, could not. Could not pay for a house and everything like that, I don't think you can do it.

AC : So how are you guys able to make ends meet? You have the house paid for?

TL : The house is paid for, the boat's paid for, [I'm] sixty years old, my kids are grown up. You know, even in this situation here I got to work like a dog to keep my business going, so how could I support a wife and three kids? That's one of the most ridiculous things about it, is I supported my wife and three kids easily when I used to be able to go codfishing and had time off to do stuff with them, and was more relaxed and happy back then than I am now.

I have to work harder now; I have to work harder now just to stay in business than I did back then supporting a wife and three kids. So that's why I wouldn't advise somebody to do what I'm doing right here and support a family at it. I think that the wisest thing to do would be to get, would be to work on a sea scalloper. But they make just, like mega-bucks, they make a real lot of money. You do that for a number of years and you save your money and you invest in a house and you invest in a boat for yourself, and maybe you want to buy yourself a lobster boat, whatever you want to do. You know, and then, you know, you could buy a lobster boat, but I would strongly advise a person not to intend on going scalloping until he's eighty years old and his hands fell apart, because it's brutal work.

AC : Just a temporary thing to some make cash?

TL : A lot of cash.

AC : To buy things you need.

TL : Yeah, so I'd advise a person to get a crew [spot] on a boat of that kind. I don't think they could do what I'm doing and support a family. I don't know how they [would] make it.

AC : So how have you guys adjusted for [this]? Has your income changed, then, over the last few years? It sounds like it has, but I don't know if I am implying that.

TL : Well, my income has been not fantastic, but it's been enough.

AC : Okay, so has it decreased over the last few years or is it the same?

TL : I think it has stayed the same because of the amount of effort it takes to make it is, I'm not in poverty for money, but I am impoverished for time.

AC : Okay, which is...?

TL : Which is a huge poverty. It's a huge poverty as far as I'm concerned, not having an afternoon [off]. I wanted to do things and try to fit everything in a day, you know, is to me, is a poverty. You just don't have enough time to do the things that you want to do because you have to work so much. I think I'd call that a kind of poverty, compared to financial, so I'm not, financially I'm not impoverished at all.

AC : Shifting gears a little bit, could you just describe to me what the sector that you're in looks like? How many members, roughly, or...?

TL : Oh, I don't know, it's got a good number of inactive members who have codfish licenses, who sell some of their fish.

AC : We're talking dozens of members, or hundreds, or...?

TL : I don't know how many there is, my guess would be, I don't want to state it because I don't, you know, I can't speak for the sector in that manner....

AC : Okay, sure.

TL : ... but you know, I think, I may, I think it's under 100, I think. But a lot of them are people who, a number of them are people who own some fish that want to lease to people in the sector or out of the sector, they want to keep their licenses active in a way, in that fashion, too.

AC : Okay, and is the allocation pretty big? Do you know, I mean is it, it must be...?

TL : Well, for a sector?

AC : Yeah.

TL : The codfish part of our sector is substantial. Pollock is substantial. Haddock is substantial, but there's a lot of other species that aren't substantial at all, so if I was to want to do... fish for hake or something like that or, go dragging with my Days at Sea or something like that, I couldn't do it, because I couldn't buy the fish I need to catch.

AC : Okay, and what's the name of the sector officially?

TL : It's the Fixed Gear Sector.

AC : Okay, Cape, is it Cape Cod Fixed Gear, or just Fixed Gear?

TL : No, no, just Fixed Gear Sector.

AC : ... and it includes members off of the Cape, potentially?

TL : I think most of the members of the Fixed Gear Sector are all mostly from Chatham, especially, the net, the guys that go netting, which are the majority of the active members of the sector. A good portion of them are gillnetters in Chatham. There are a few longliners from Chatham, and a few from outside of Chatham. And a few jig boats, there's me and a couple of other jig boats.

AC : And are you on, do you hold a position like President or Treasurer or anything like that?

TL : Oh, I was on the Board of Directors for the past few years but I retired from that. I'm retired and done. (Laughs)

AC : Was the process, how was the process to join? Was it pretty straight forward? Was it complex, when you decided to join?

TL : I joined when it was first initiated, and I wasn't really excited about having sectors, but I knew that a number of the guys in town really wanted to have a sector because they had huge catches and they saw it was great for them. In any case, they did most of the footwork because they really wanted to have a sector whereas I realized that, that if I wanted to go codfishing, that I better be in a sector by the way things looked, so I joined a sector.

AC : When you decided to sign up, it was pretty easy to sign up or was it something...?

TL : At the time it was, you know, that was when it was a hook sector, they wanted to get all people that fished by hooks in the sector. And we had a lot of catches of codfish so we figured, you know, it would be a good thing to have a sector. I wasn't real excited about it, but as I said, you know, it would've been, the sector would've been a great thing if we had fish to catch. But we have less and less fish to catch because the stocks keep on diminishing.

AC : Okay, and how's the resource? Do you see it's something that's cyclical or is it something that you think this is it, we've decimated it?

TL : The codfish in my area are in huge trouble because of the herring seiners and because of the seals. And most of the people who – let me get a glass of water here – nobody's really concerned about it other than us. That's the situation with the codfishing.

AC : Mm-hmmm, I'm going to trail you, Ted, if you don't mind (laughs). Can you tell me what a day looks like for you? So a typical day when you're going to go out fishing from sun-up to sun-down.

TL : Well, let's talk about what happened with the codfishing.

AC : Okay, yes. We'll go back to that, then.

TL : We'll go back to that, because we were just discussing codfish here. So, being that this is going on the record, I'm not going to go into great details about how we caught all the codfish, but people in our area who fish in our area caught, caught the adult stock of codfish in our area, which was a travesty. But I'm not going to go into detail about that because this is a public record, I don't want to, I don't want to say a bunch of ugly things about fishermen in Chatham, but we did a lot of damage, particularly with gillnets.

But, we still had fish around, and we also have a lot of small fish around, so it wasn't like our fish were all gone. And we still had fish that would come around. We still had a few fish that come around now, but they're not the fish that used to live here. One of the things that gave us some hope was the fact that there was a substantial amount of small fish that was in Chatham, and they would grow up, then we'd catch them too quickly. This went on for quite a few years.

About three or four years ago one of the things that we noticed during this time period which I would say was about the past six, seven years was that we'd have a lot of small fish around, and we didn't seem to get too many bigger fish the next year. They would disappear a little quicker than we'd expect, if we did, we'd catch them too quickly. So, in that facet I would say that we didn't have enough regulation to stop us from catching the larger fish when we still had them around, so we caught too many. And that, that is not the fishermen's fault, because if you're a fisherman, your job is to catch fish, and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) was set up to protect the fishing. So, they didn't do a good job stopping us from catching the fish, because that was, that's what we were born to do, was catch fish.

It happens I was a handliner, so I know that I probably didn't catch too many of the fish, but if I was another gear type, I would've caught too many fish, because the kind of equipment that we have now is too efficient. And so the government was wallowing in this problem with gear types that could catch every last fish in the ocean, and when there was fish around Chatham, they didn't do enough to stop us. And a lot of us complained earlier that..., about the situation with the different kinds of gear types that were too efficient that were going to catch all the fish. We told them. We explained it

to them. We wrote them letters. It wasn't because we hated the other fishermen that were overfishing, it was because we were concerned about our livelihoods, and I felt bad complaining about other fishing types, but I also wanted to fish.

I knew if I didn't say anything I stood a chance of losing our beloved codfish. So in any case, it's, they didn't do enough. They were told what needed to be done. They weren't willing to do enough, so as the stocks diminished, every year less fish would show up, they'd show up later every year. I could remember one day going out to Great Hill in June, there was always fishing in Great Hill in June, and my crew didn't go with me because he was concerned there wouldn't be any fish

So I went out there and there were no fish, there were no fish in Great Hill in June. And I went out on The Peaks. There were no fish, I mean I looked at my sounding machine, there were no fish; they hadn't shown up. And we used to catch the big fish in the fall, and I remember the first fall I went out there were some fish, but there weren't the big fish. The big fish that we needed, these were shocks that a lot of us fishermen lived through, a lot of us lived through it by setting more gear, fished for different species so they didn't realize how bad things were.

AC : What was that year, just put a time frame on it for me?

TL : Oh, that I went to Great Hill?

AC : Yeah, just for perspective.

TL : Oh, I don't know, could've been seven, eight, nine years ago. It was a while ago. There were still fish around, I mean they showed up later, but I knew when I went out, when I went out in June and didn't see any fish, I could remember one time I came into the fish pier, I said, "I drove my boat for a whole mile and I didn't see any fish on my machine, there's something wrong." And I remember the guys at the fish pier laughing at me (Laughing). But you know, the fact was that I was used to [go] driving around and looking at the fish on my machine and finding a spot where there were more fish. All of a sudden one day I drove for a long distance and didn't see anything on the fishing grounds where there was supposed to be fish and I was concerned about it.

So this goes on and on and on. For quite a while of years, but we still had some big fish around that would show up now and then, and we had a large pool of smaller fish, but they didn't seem to come back the next year. So, I think it was three or four years ago we had really good jigging in October, and me and John, my crew, we made a fortune in October. And then later on in October we were fishing for small fish on the inshore 'Figs' and there were billions of small fish, and we were like, "Whoa, this is going to be good next year, and things look good."

And our Crab Ledge was covered with small fish, whole giant year-class of little fish, and I said "Gee, this looks really good, you know?" so John and I were pretty excited, we were fishing next year there was nothing. I said to John, "What in the hell happened?" He goes, "Well," he says, "it had to be the seiners or the seals, because you know, we certainly didn't catch them, there wasn't a lot of draggers around to catch them, but they're gone. I mean some of these fish were real small, some were almost big enough; there were all kinds of smaller fish around. They were all gone.

And so, in any case, I know that there are a lot of seals out there and I know in the winter time the seals are offshore and I know that they're eating everything they can. I know the seals eat a lot of these codfish. And not only that, the seiners who say that they got the cleanest fishery in the world, I was suspicious that they would be towing on the bottom and catching the smaller fish because they didn't have observers on the boat.

Well this last fall we had some fish up in Nauset, and that's right off of Nauset Beach and John Smalls was with me, we had good jigging and the seiners showed up. They started towing around, but they were towing up off the bottom because the herring and mackerel were up off the bottom and one of the first things that we saw was we saw a seiner in State waters and he had his lights off so nobody could see him. "Ha!" I said to John, "Jesus Christ look at this! This guy's turned his lights off! He's towing in State waters and he's zooming out when he sees us!" I says, "Could you imagine if I did that in my boat? They would kill me, but this guy's got a 120-foot boat, he's acting like some kind of renegade, how could he ever get away with this?!"

So, you know, these seiners were towing around off of Nauset and it was in December and as the year progresses the herring and mackerel go to the bottom. So there was a lot of small fish up at Nauset at this time, you know, and a lot of fish that were keepers and stuff like that. Now generally when the seiners show up, the jigging isn't any good, but this time there were only fish at Nauset. It was the end of the year so I had to fish with them. And the fish went on the bottom, the seiners kept on fishing.

Now I know that the herring and the mackerel are on the bottom that the seiners are towing on the bottom. And there were some areas where I couldn't catch any codfish where I was supposed to and I realized the seiners were towing back and forth over that area. And by the end of January the water was still warm, the bait and herring were still there and the codfish were gone. And I know they should have still been there and I know who caught them. So I know the seiners have a red-hand in this deal of those fish disappearing, and I know the seals do, but nobody cares, and especially the U.S. (United States) government.

AC : What are they doing to try to? What management measures are in place to try...?

TL : Well, a bunch of fishermen have gotten together to complain about the seiners and we finally were allowed after years and years and years, we never could have a public hearing talking about the seiners. Now if they were mad about jiggers, which they are mad about jiggers, they put observers on my boats, they count every fish I throw back, they make sure that I'm not catching any fish when I go dogfishing and make sure I didn't catch any codfish when I went bluefishing. They... if you're a longliner you have to take an observer all the time and make sure you're not catching any codfish, but the seiners, who have tiny mesh, can tow on the bottom with no observers, so, I start....

AC : And has that changed in the last eight years then, since that happened? No observers on the seiners?

TL : Nothing has changed, Azure! Now they're going to have observers on seiners because they had a giant meeting, they had a whole bunch of guys and a whole bunch of fights, but it seems like these seiners get to do whatever they want. And I think these are government-funded boats.

AC : Do they tie up in New Bedford?

TL : They're in New Bedford, they're in Gloucester....

AC : Okay, so big ports.

TL : ... in Rhode Island, in the big ports, and I guess they're government-funded, and I was talking..., a guy in Gloucester was talking about it, he said that somebody bought a huge dock in Gloucester, rebuilt the whole thing, did you hear about this?

AC : I did, it was in the paper, yeah.

TL : Rebuilt the whole thing, and all the guys in Gloucester had no idea what was going on, then all of the sudden seiners pull up and start unloading their fish, just like that, out of thin air. It was like God had put the seiners there, with God, the U.S. government, because this was a government thing, they decided there was a lot of herring in the ocean, and they would, they traded something for the herring. In other words they told other people, other governments, "We have a lot of herring, we're going to let boats come in and catch the herring, foreign boats come in and catch the herring, give the herring to foreign processors, and we're going to trade that for something else" which I heard was oil.

So it's, you know, I found, so in other words, my codfishing industry, we've all done over the years, it's had the last strangle-hold put on it by the large boats that are capable of fishing on the bottom, catching up the codfish and catching up the herring that the larger fish would have been eating and everything else the ocean depends on.

So I was pretty upset about it, and I realized that my government has sold me out for something else, and I was pretty upset about it and I realized that NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service) really sucks. So I was down in Florida, and my sister's, my wife's sister was down there and we were visiting them and her son was down there, who is a schoolteacher. And I go, I start talking, I said, "You know, they just don't care about it. It's like fishermen are, it's like the U.S. government thinks that fishermen are some kind of expendable second-class citizen that really doesn't count. And if they could trade our fishing rights for oil, or favors from another government... that we just don't count."

And I told him about these seiners, and how these seiners are basically protected by the government and put in business by the government and we have no say about it whatsoever. They just come in here, take all our herring, take our codfish, take our baby haddock. They're allowed in our closed areas, they took..., it seems like all our baby haddock disappeared, all our baby codfish disappeared, all our fisheries are disappearing.

They got to be going someplace and I know where they're going because I was there, I saw it happen. Most of the time when the seiners show up I'll go someplace else. I saw them catch all our pollock. The pollock have a good spawning year about every five years, and every four or five years the ocean would be full of tiny little pollock and they show up in particular on 'The Peaks and deepwater 'Lemons' in January.

Well, this was quite a few years ago, I went out jigging and all the little pollock were there and all the seiners were there. I know what they were catching; I saw them towing over the schools of pollock. That was the end of our pollock fishery; they caught those baby pollock, they caught that year class. And pollock breed in pulses, every five or six years you get a big year-class, so all our pollock were gone so I've been sold out by the government. According to other fishermen, its fish for oil, favors from oil-rich countries. So I was complaining to, getting back to when I was in Florida, I was complaining to Clinton...

(Wife : Your nephew, Clinton's her nephew)

TL : What's that? Yeah, Clinton's my nephew, he's a schoolteacher. I was like, "You know, why would they sell me out like this? Why have they sold us out like this? What's wrong?" He says, "That's nothing. Down in Florida here, in Dustin, when the Vietnamese came over to America, they built them all government boats to go shrimping. And they put all the fishermen in Pensacola and Dustin out of business. You see any local boats anymore?" I said "No, I wondered what happened." He says, "Well it's all those big government Vietnamese boats, in Dustin that get to go shrimping now.

All the guys who fished all their lives for shrimp most all of them are out of business." He says, "They sold them out. They didn't care what happened to them. They had

some deal with the Vietnamese, they took care of them and they sold us out." I said, "Jeez, that's terrible." you know? He says, "Oh, that's nothing, and then in Mobile," is that Mobile?

AC : Alabama.

TL : Mobile, I think it's in Mobile, or Texas or Alabama, the deep south there, he said that when they had that war in Bosnia, they had a bunch of Bosnians come here, and they built them boats, in Mobile, and put all those guys out of business.

Wife: Mobile is up in Alabama

TL : It's in Alabama?

Wife: Yeah, you got the wrong....

TL : It's Mobile, Alabama.

Wife : They couldn't be up in [Mobile], Mobile isn't on the shore.

TL : Well, which one was it?

Wife : I don't know what Clinton told you.

TL : Okay.

AC : So you think larger forces are at work in terms of...?

TL : Well, this is, this was in Mississippi, it was one of the ports in either Mississippi or Alabama.

(Wife : Gulfport? Was it Gulfport?)

TL : No, no. They built the Bosnian's boats there and put all those guys out of business, so then they started complaining about the oil wells and how they put them right by the state line and then, and the fishermen and whatnot, in Florida and the people living in Florida don't want them, don't want their oil wells, but they put them there anyways. He started telling me the same crap that's happened to us up here! So, I've come to realize that they don't think much of us, that, you know, our fish is something that's not ours. It's something that, our ocean is something that is more important to them for things other than fishermen.

AC : Expendable?

TL : We're expendable.

(Wife: Like a chess game.)

TL : It's not even a chess game, it's not even a chess game, it's, they sold us out. So, this was a final straw for the codfish in my area is having these seiners here. Yeah, they got, they're going to have observers on the boats and stuff like that, but there really shouldn't be any seiners here of that magnitude fishing in that fashion. And a lot of people were angry about it right from the start and knew it was going to be trouble and complained about it immediately but it was just, they just don't care. They don't care about the fishermen; they care about their jobs, and how much money they're making every year, and I'm sure, I know some good scientists in there who have good intentions but the overall result for the NMFS has been disgusting.

Now I think that there are powers that be, fish don't understand politics, so it's a political thing, you know, a fish can't deal with politics, it's a fish. And so fish, the codfish had to deal with politics and it's, in my area on western Georges, the edge of western Georges they're almost non-existent because they can't deal with politics. And politics is probably what goes on over at NMFS because one guy's on top of the other guy and the other guy's above the other guy, and the other guy doesn't even have anything to do with fisheries that runs the whole thing, because it's the Department of Commerce, so this is the end result: we got no codfish.

AC : Now has this conclusion influenced your...?

TL : And these guys, and these guys, we have this problem with the seals and they don't even talk about it. On their website they have a picture of seals on it. They don't even care about it. I mean, they're destroying the whole fisheries on the Massachusetts coast line and probably the Maine coastline and probably going to be down to Rhode Island or how far south they're going to go. It's destroying the whole thing and it's like they don't even care. It's probably because they don't care! They don't care. There's no fish there. They're so out of touch, but they've got these giant buildings and all these scientists and stuff like that.

When you have a problem like that, it should be dealt with. It just goes to show how little they care and they're really not doing anything about the seals, doing any serious studies or.... It's, it's like having a gorilla in the room with you and saying it doesn't exist! So we have these giant problems in the fishery right now, and it's like all, "Oh, that's really not a problem." You get in a room with a bunch of scientists and they're all just kind of staring at the ceiling and you get one or two scientists in there that'll get up and say, "Where's all the baby fish going?" And the other scientists kind of, "Well, I don't know." So you've got a few guys that really care, do a good job that are good scientists, yet most of them....

AC : Now has this influenced your desire to do research? Has this conclusion sort of jaded you to, you know, because you were doing some cooperative research projects before...?

TL : Oh, I'll do cooperative research.

AC : Okay.

TL : Yeah, I love doing that, you know.

AC : What are some of the things you've done in that regard, Ted, for the record?

TL : Well I did trophic ecology of cod, and tagged codfish, tagged a lot of, you know, a number of, I forget how many tagging studies I've done. Done a number of tagging studies, feeding habits of codfish, and that one I wrote up and designed myself, and some good scientists at NMFS worked on it with me. And so I was just saying they're not all bad, and I did spawning, some spawning ones with some people at the Hook Fisherman's Association, [a] collaboration with the Hook Fish... so I've done a lot of collaborative research.

I'd like to do some tagging studies with dogfish, and I just can't seem to drum up too much interest in dogfish with the scientists, which is odd, because there's so many dogfish out there you'd think that they'd want to know something about them. And everybody's fishing for them, it's another good example of... I remember once watching a NMFS boat towing, and they came into Chatham to take a tow - the research vessel - and they drove across all the dogfish, and almost went to the beach and took their tow. And it was pretty obvious to me that they were unwilling to tow in the middle of the dogfish because they didn't want to deal with 1,000 baskets of dogfish.

And there's, I think they're supposed to get a grid and throw a pair of dice down there, however they do it, and pick it by guesswork, but that was no guesswork because I watched them drive across the whole thing, and stop where I knew the dogfish stopped, and then they drove by me and I was, I think I gave them the finger because I knew what they had done. You know? And that's the human factor in fishery science, they should've towed where the dogfish where because there was 10 square miles of dogfish, but they drove right to the beach where there wasn't any dogfish. I know what they were doing. It's embarrassing.

AC : Now, Ted, for audiences, describe what a day looks for you, from start to finish, just so people can have an understanding of what it's like, being on the water. Just kind of walk me through from when you wake up to when you come home.

TL : Oh, for what I'm doing right now? Dogfishing, right now? I'm dogfishing right now.

AC : For fishing, for dogfishing, yeah.

TL : Well I wake up at 3:30, I should wake up at 2:30, but I found out if I wake up at 3:30 I'm not as tired. But I have a hard time waking up, but I find if I watch the TV for 15 minutes, then I wake up. (Laughs). So I watch TV for 15 minutes, then I eat a breakfast and get ready to go and head down to the pier when it's still dark. And paddle out to my boat while it's still dark. And get the boat started up and sometimes I got to fool around with my SkyMate because it didn't work the night before. I tried to get it working in the morning, and... that's another thing about the NMFS, they've got the SkyMate, and it doesn't work.

AC : Is that different from VMS (Vessel Monitoring System)?

TL : Yeah, it's the VMS.

AC : It is VMS.

TL : It doesn't work. The connection is, and it don't work, I mean, the actual piece of the SkyMate machinery only lasts for a short amount of time. It's ridiculous, the antennas fall part, the connections to the SkyMate fall apart. So you wiggle it, here you got this thing that the government says you have to have on the boat, and you got to grab the wire and wiggle it to get it to work, but you have to figure out which wire to wiggle, I mean, that's....

AC : At 3:30 in the morning that's not, that's triply hard, that's sure, it's twice as hard.

TL : Oh, ridiculous. SkyMate's ridiculous. It's the most ridiculous thing in the world. I think, most of the time fishermen need to be kept track of because, you know.... But in any case we probably do need the SkyMate, but the fact is you'd think that they'd give us one that would work.

So at any case I get down there and get the boat started up and drive to the dock, grab my bait, I have my bait then I grab my lunch. Yesterday my lunch box flew open and dropped my whole lunch all over the parking lot, put that back in. Take the bait in the boat, take the bait on the boat and I got two things of bait, and I take the first thing of bait out and throw it out so it starts to melt. Then I drive down the harbor and I got to make sure I didn't leave my knife by my compass and stuff like that, and it's just getting light so I don't have to use a searchlight, because I go out... and everybody leaves at the same time.

It used to be that we'd all leave at 12 o'clock at night and drive down the channel, but now we all get up at sunrise, so it's kind of weird because if you get there, if you get down to the fish pier a little early, like, let's say a half hour before everybody leaves, there's nobody there. And I can't get over the fact that if I get to the fish pier early that

there's nobody there! Because everybody leaves at sunrise now, everybody used to leave at 12 o'clock, 3 o'clock, sometimes 11 o'clock to go down the channel.

AC : Why is that? Why has that changed?

TL : Because it's a long trip.

AC : Oh, so, but why...?

TL : To go codfishing.

AC : ... did it used to be longer so people would have to get up at midnight?

TL : Oh yeah, you had to drive down the channel, it's a 3 hour trip, see everybody was codfishing back then.

AC : So now it's shorter, okay.

TL : So we had to fish these long hours but we made a lot more money, so it was worthwhile getting up at 12 o'clock at night. Get down at 12 o'clock at night everybody would be down at the pier getting ready to go, you know? I could remember one time going down there and had Halle Bopp, it was that comet you know, and walking down there you could see the comet going across. Then you head out fishing you could see all the lighthouses: there's Nantucket and so it was kind of neat leaving in the middle of the night.

AC : The Northern Lights, I remember someone telling me that they saw the Northern Lights, is that beautiful?

TL : Yeah, you'd see all these night things, you know, in the middle of the night going fishing and everybody would be down there, everybody would be headed over the [Chatham] 'Bar. There'd be a sea in the 'Bar and somebody would lose a couple of windows in the middle of the night, you know? It was just, it was a lifestyle. It was, probably wasn't the smartest thing in the world but we all did it, we all loved it.

So when I'd get down there too early to go, to go dogfishing I'd really get weirded out because there's nobody there. Sometimes I do leave before everybody else because it takes longer to catch the fish handlining. Lately I've been getting down there when everybody's there, so you've got to try to fit in the dock and everybody's throwing trawl gear and lobster guys are putting all their gear in the boat. All I got to do is throw my bait on the boat. So then I drive down the harbor. I generally end up behind somebody or in front of somebody. Then I'll head out to the grounds and in summer the weather's been fantastic, so, head out and then I throw out my three lines. I have three lines with three hooks on each line. But you've got to find the fish, and so we all call each other on

the telephone, you know, "Where are the dogfish." "Oh I saw them over here."
Sometimes we talk on the radio, "They're over here."

AC : Is it the same people you talk to every time you're fishing or is it, does everybody talk, or is it between friends?

TL : Well, sometimes, then everybody talks, sometimes you, some of my friends, you know, we don't want to put some of the other people on it because they chase around and set their trawl gear by us, so sometimes you try to be a little bit quiet about it, because you don't want to.... Because if you're a handliner you've got to deal with everybody else setting their gear around you. So sometimes you don't, if you see a lot of dogfish you don't want to call a bunch of longliners on top of you but you feel a little guilty about it.

So in any case we find the fish, you throw the handlines down, you have the deep line and two lines up at the top, and if the fishing's good the dogfish will come up and swim all around the boat right away. And you get three of these lines, you just, so I just use two lines then I walk back and forth pulling in three at a time, and then we use, sometimes they come up close enough you can gaff them. [It] takes between four and seven hours to catch 3,000 pounds. And sometimes they bite really well. You get the three at a time for three and a half, four hours you catch them. Sometimes the tide's running queer, and things aren't right, you have to stay out for six hours or something like that. That's a long time to be hauling fish and you know, six hours, it's a little bit long. So it's a short day, put it that way. Most of the time I'm done by 1 o'clock, 2 o'clock at the latest. Sometimes I get done at 9 o'clock.

AC : You dress them on the way in?

TL : Oh yeah, we've got to dress them.

AC : Whole?

TL : Yes, whole. So you just, you get in to the dock and it's a bloody mess.

AC : Carnage (laughs).

TL : Yes, carnage, it's a real mess. They're all bloody, you throw them in the thing, you get your face covered with blood, your shirt covered with blood, and that's it.

AC : Got it. It's a good day right there.

TL : Yeah, it's a good day.

AC : Now, Ted...

TL : Then you got to clean the boat.

AC : You get home by dinner time?

TL : Oh, if it's a real, if I get home early...

(Wife: between 2 and 4)

AC : What?

(Wife : Between 2 and 4)

TL : Between 2 and 4.

AC : 2 and 4, okay, so that's, yeah.

TL : It's a short day.

AC : That sounds... you have to go to bed early because you get up early, so your day is kind of different from most 9 to 5 jobs.

TL : Yeah, I got to go to bed by, between 8 and 9 o'clock.

AC : I know we're coming up to over an hour here so I don't want to steal a lot of your time because I've already taken that short window of time before you have to go to bed to fish tomorrow, so I appreciate it. Could you just tell me a little bit about your guys' life, in terms of, do you have health insurance, is that something you've always had? How is that changing?

TL : Well we ha[d] that fisherman's health insurance.

AC : The partnership?

TL : Yeah, the partnership, but that...

(Wife : That's over with.)

TL : That's over with, so, now a large part of the time I work is paying for that stupid insurance.

AC : So you pay direct, it's like a direct pay?

TL : Yeah, I pay regular insurance now. It's very expensive.

AC : We do the same.

TL : Yeah.

AC : So that's always been the case since the partnership ended, you've always had to just sort of pay your own?

TL : Yeah, that partnership was a good thing, because the insurance was affordable, even though it was like \$700 a year for the two of us, and it was good insurance, it was great. I had a lot of physical problems that I couldn't take care of before we got that insurance that I just had to live with, and all of a sudden I got that insurance, my health was enormously better.

AC : And boat insurance, do you have any?

TL : Yeah, I've got to pay for that, yeah.

AC : Okay, and it's something you've been able to maintain?

TL : Yeah, you got to have that. You got to have that in case you hit somebody else's boat, so you got to have, you know, I think I got \$1 million or something in case I had to, because I had somebody hit me. It was catastrophic, and it made me realize that I could hit somebody else too.

AC : Just pure accidents happen?

TL : Accidents happen, and they're going to happen. It's what... you're on the water, I mean, you're not positively going to have an accident, but they do happen; boats sink.

AC : Right. What are, in your opinion, the pros and cons of being in a sector, for you?

TL : Well, I think I stated that before, that, you know, that I really don't have to be in a sector now, because I have enough Days at Sea to go codfishing as much as I want. But, even though the fact is that now, now that we don't have any codfish in the area, I really don't have to be in a sector. If we had more codfish around, then I would... if we had more codfish around three or four or five years from now, which I don't see happening because the things I complained about are still in process, so I don't think we're going to have any codfish around, so.... But I'm going to stay in the sector anyways.

AC : Okay. And your involvement in the fishing community, are you on any..., you said you were on the Board of Directors?

TL : I'm done with that.

AC : You were.

TL : Yeah, were.

AC : Was.

TL : Was (laughs)

AC : So, any other associations, or clubs, or things that you're involved with?

TL : Commercial, there's a Commercial Anglers Association, it's called, and I'm in that. I don't think I'm in any other fishing groups.

AC : Meetings? Do you go to council meetings?

TL : I go to council meetings, often.

AC : You do?

TL : Often, yeah. Not real often, but when they pertain to me I go to them. I used to go to a lot of council meetings. I've gone to a lot of council meetings in my life. I didn't appreciate them, it wasn't much fun.

AC : I concur. Just a couple more sector-specific questions Ted, sorry. These are all kind of relating to sectors. Do you, how do you feel the fixed-gear sector is functioning, do you think its successful overall, you know, compared to other sectors? Is it sort of fairing better or worse, or, you know, under sector-based management would you say the fixed-gear sector is doing well, or not as well? What is your sense of that?

TL : I think they're fine. And I say they're fine because I feel a little bit removed from it, because for right now I'm declaring "Out of fishery", so I'm not really participating in the sector when I go fishing. I didn't sell; I didn't lease many fish this year. A lot of guys leased a lot of fish. I kept my fish because I wasn't sure whether the dogfish fishery would be successful this year; because I heard there were a lot of issues with foreign workers, and I was wondering whether they'd have enough people to process the dogfish.

So I didn't sell my fish in the spring like a lot of other guys did, because I was, I figured I might not be able to go dogfishing, and I wanted to be able to go codfishing, I still want to keep those fish. So I did participate in selling many fish, I sold a few, very few, so I really haven't participated much in the sector, in that fashion. I'll declare in a fishery when I go codfishing this fall, but I'm not going to make many trips so, I say yeah they're doing okay, but I really don't feel real involved with it.

AC : Okay, and leasing. Is that going to always be an option for you? Can you lease your, whatever you're not using?

TL : No, I can't lease the fish because there's enough fish around so people don't need to lease them.

AC : Okay, I see.

TL : So, the fish I have, I'm probably not going to be able to lease because there was a big run on fish immediately, May 1st or whenever they could start leasing fish. Everybody was in a hurry to lease as many fish as possible so they wouldn't be left with their fish, and I didn't do that. I thought it's, I think it's a little bit weird to be worried about how many fish that you sell, because you're supposed to be catching fish, not selling fish.

AC : So the concept of leasing....

TL : The concept of leasing cod is awkward.

AC : Okay, I've heard that before from others, so that's interesting.

TL : If I could sell the fish later and there was a willing buyer I'd be more than happy to sell them, but running around in the beginning of May, selling all my fish because I might end up with them later is, because I might lose the money that I could make selling my fish, is just, doesn't sound like much of a, being much of a fisherman, you know? So....

AC : You're a purist, as well.

TL : Ah, I don't know if I'm a purist. I'm a fisherman, you know? I'm not, I mean, I want, I have those fish, maybe I would've ended up fishing all summer. I mean maybe something, the price of dogfish would've been so low, or maybe they couldn't have processed the dogfish and the striped bass fishing wouldn't have been any good. Then it's just, "Well, I'm going to go jigging" and maybe I would have caught a few. And I said, "Well, just like that, I'm going to go jigging this year."

So how can I sell my fish in May when I don't know what's going to happen in June, July, [and] August. I don't know what's going to happen. But I'm in competition for selling fish with other guys, who just want to sell them, so.... And that's one of the things about sectors, I think it's kind of odd, you know, you run around selling fish, that's why you're in a sector because you want to sell your fish, that's kind of lame.

AC : Right. How are earnings distributed in your family? You don't have to give me numbers, but what, for example, what percentage do you contribute versus Reina, your wife? Or are you the sole income earner, how does that work, just kind of paint a picture.

TL : Um, well, I, I don't think I want to talk about that.

AC : Okay, sure. In terms of your well-being overall, would you say your outlook on life, your overall sense of well-being, do you think that that's better, or worse, or has that changed at all in the last, say, three years?

TL : That's to do with the sector thing?

AC : Yes, does it have to do with sectors, does it not have to do with sectors, maybe it doesn't play a role? One of the things they want to understand is just how your overall outlook on life might have changed, or not.

TL : Well, I think that if there was a fish to catch and I was in a sector, and I had enough fish to catch, I think that I would have a good attitude about the whole thing with the sectors. But considering that we have no fish to catch as far as codfish go, I don't think so. I'm upset that there's no codfish out there.

AC : So it's affected your outlook on life more than just, trickles into life?

TL : Oh, I like, yeah, I liked going codfishing, I used to really enjoy that, I enjoyed the lifestyle. And you know, this dogfishing thing, most of the time, you know, it goes on for two months, it's very short-lived. It's going to go on longer this year, it's going to go on June, part of June, July to August and maybe we'll get September out of it, or October, but that's, that's unusual. Yeah, so I don't know what to say about that.

AC : I know it's hard to separate life from fishing, your life is fishing, but you have many other facets to your life, but oftentimes that's hard to probably untangle, you know, what affects how you feel. I mean there's family, there are other things that are happening beyond fishing, even though fishing is a big part of who you are, what you do.

TL : I don't think, as I said, I would be, as far as the sector-thing goes, I would be, I would feel comfortable in the fact that if we had fish and I was in a sector I would feel comfortable that I had a quota that I could catch, that I owned it, that I could give it to my sons. But then, even though I would be comfortable being in a sector, I would feel uncomfortable by the fact that somebody else who wanted to go fishing, wouldn't be able to go. So, it would be kind of hollow comfort I would have, because I own something that maybe I don't have any right to own.

I have a right to go fishing, because I've fished all my life. But do I have the right to own the codfish so other people who have the talent to go, the ability to fish, who like to be on the water, who are younger, may not be able to go? Ahh, that's... you know?

But I don't have to worry about that now, because in my area, nobody's going to go codfishing. There's nothing there to catch. But if there were fish to catch, I would be concerned about that. I would be concerned about it.

And my sons would have a problem because if they wanted to go codfishing, I wouldn't have enough fish to say, "Hey, here, take part of my quota and go fishing" because I don't have that big of a quota. So, I guess my well-being for Ted Ligenza would be good, but I would be concerned about the well-being of anybody who is younger and wanted to go fishing. It's nice that I'm all set up, but what about everybody else, you know? You get somebody like me; I have three sons that would love to be able to go codfishing. Then you got somebody else who caught a lot more fish than me, he might have sons that would never want to go fishing, so what fucking good is that? I mean, what kind of....

AC : Right, so the ownership concept is....

TL : The ownership concept, they're going to have to buy fish from somebody else who went gillnetting and caught a whole load of fish from their kid who's some professor in some college, or a photographer or something like that, that would never want to go out on the water. You'd have to call him up every year, "Well, I want to buy some." "Oh, the price went up you know, by seven..." well fuck, how am I going to pay for this? It just sucks, you know? So my pleasure at the moment of being comfortable, having my quota of fish, would have a conscious cost for me.

AC : Okay, interesting.

TL : So, that's how I feel. That's how I feel, and that's the question, is how I would feel. That's how I would feel. You know, I don't think its right.

AC : Yeah, that's an interesting take on it, I haven't heard that before, but that's a very good point.

TL : Yeah, it's a doggone good point.

AC : It's looking outside of your circle.

TL : Looking to the future, of, what's the future of fishing? You're going to... eventually you're going to have people that own the fish, that don't want to fish. To me it's fine right now, you know, but what's going to happen when these fish are passed on to people who don't want to fish? People aren't going to be able to fish anymore. They're not going to have the experience that I had. They won't have that, they won't have the ability to do that, you know? That's the good thing about dogfishing at the moment; it's an open fishery. You want to get a license? You're a young fellow and you want to go?

There are young kids that are doing it. My son does it, you know? And it's an open fishery.

AC : He has his own license?

TL : Yeah, you know, you can get a license. You want to go dogfishing, that's the way fishing should be. Some day, somebody's probably going to decide that, you know, we got too many people dogfishing, you know, we're going to have to get dogfish sectors now, you know? Jeez, they went up to fifty cents a pound, you know?

Instead of in time saying "Okay, we're going to have a restriction on how many licenses you have" some kind of way it's a little bit more, less ownership-oriented. You buy a lobster license, and it's a lobster quota. You sell the license to somebody but it's, I don't know, this quota thing has a stamp that goes on forever. When a lobsterman gets too old to go lobstering he gives the license and the boat to his kid. But if his kid doesn't want to go lobstering, he says "Well what the hell's the matter with you?" And they go, "Oh I don't want to go, look Dad, I live out in Seattle now, I mean." "Why don't you come back?" "Okay, I'll sell the business."

So, my son Willy buys a license from him and goes lobstering. But, if he's a codfisherman, calls his son in Seattle, "Well, I don't want to fish, but send me the quota Dad, and I'll sell it. Every year I'll make \$20,000 a year doing nothing." And his son, and his son will do that, and pretty soon the guy who owns the quota will be living in Costa Rica, and I think that's happened, and I don't think that that's a good thing. I mean, momentarily it's good, but the future is not, I don't think the future is that good. I fought it, I fought this thing; I didn't want it to turn out this way.

AC : Would you remove sectors if you could go back in time? As a management tool would you scrap them, would you replace it with something else, or is it working the way it was?

TL : Well, it wasn't working the way it was. I don't know what to do about it, you know. You know, it's a personal quota right now. They like to call it sectors, but I own those codfish, I own, I don't know, I've got about 30,000 pounds of codfish that's, they're mine, they're out in the ocean swimming around. I've got that, I own it.

AC : That's been something Chatham has fought against for a long time as I recall.

TL : Oh some guys fought it, but some guys wanted it because they had huge catches. That's what I said, you know, when it first started I was just like, "Oh boy", you know. So, okay well the first thing we had was the hook sector, and we had our quota pooled, see? So we had a sector in the pool, and we would go out and catch whatever our quota was that we had in our pool. So it wasn't a personal ITQ (Individual Transferrable Quota) but

when they made the fixed-gear sector, they immediately decided that they would all add their own ITQ.

They all owned, each boat has its own ITQ, so all of a sudden it changed. So that's when the hook sector joined the fixed gear sector; we all had our own personal quotas.

AC : They folded together the concept?

TL : Yeah, so that was it, you know. So it started out one way and ended up another way. So it's like, switched, because a lot of the guys, some of the guys were hoping this would happen because they had huge catches, and some of the guys had ethical problems with it. Because there were a lot of hook guys back then that were older that were, you know, they were, some of them weren't too cool on it, me being one of them.

So, yeah, asking should we scrap sectors? I don't know what should be done about it. They're ITQs, which happened on the West coast. I hear stories that the guys who own quota have little cards and advertisements (laughs), and they live other places in the world, okay.

AC : Just a couple more questions if you have some time, you still have..., you doing okay?

TL : I'm okay.

AC : (Laughs) It's a lot, it's a lot to talk, I know, it's very intense I know, so I recognize that. Health problems, is there anything you've seen in Chatham in the fishing community that you've recognized that might be attributable to fisheries management, to sectors in particular. Are people, you know, mental or physical health problems? Has that affected people in that way?

TL : Yeah.

AC : It has?

TL : Yeah.

AC : Okay.

TL : Unhealthy mental attitude because the guys who have all the quota, the other guys hate them, that's health.

AC : Yeah, it is, exactly. Right, mental health, stress....

TL : Being angry at somebody all the time, "Look at that fucking asshole, he caught all those fish because he sat out eighty-one hours, out there and then he caught the fish, and he

did this, and that, and now he's got all the quota, and how in the hell did he manage to get all the quota? Why does he get it all?" That, that's health.

AC : Yes, it is.

TL : Then the guy's like, "Well, you know, it's all mine." That's not healthy either. He might think he's doing fine, but, you know, it's not fun having people glare at you, you know? So yeah, that's unhealthy, I mean, you know, but I suppose the guy that has all the quota, that you know, he doesn't worry about the whole thing, which he probably doesn't, then his health is fine. But he causes a lot of animosity, and animosity is unhealthy.

AC : And you see that? You see that...?

TL : Yeah, oh yeah, sure.

AC : ... You see that more so than, well certainly than when you started fishing?

TL : Ha, it's completely different. Yeah, there's a lot of animosity there. "Well, I caught all the fish." you know.

(Wife : And they're ruder to each other.)

TL : Oh yeah, everybody's ruder to each other.

(Wife : That's the one thing that really strikes me.)

AC : Again... you mean against each other, or they're...?

TL : "Ruder to each other."

AC : "Rude", oh, rude, sorry, I was thinking "root".

(Wife : They used to have a thing where they all would be fishing together, they wouldn't leave anybody out, now it's just willy-nilly, rudeness.)

TL : Yeah.

AC : Is there, so there's not sort of a looking after each other on the water, has that changed, like, kind of looking back?

TL : Ah, people look at, yeah, if you're out on the water if you're fortunate to have the licenses and be out on the water, people are fairly...

AC : People look out for each other.

TL : For, yeah, yeah they do, everybody looks out for each other when they're out on the water.

AC : But on the dock?

TL : But when you get in the room making deals and stuff like that, then it's a different story. That's what did they call it, the table, the bargaining table, that's what they call it, the bargaining table. Who wins at the bargaining table gets to fish.

AC : And have sectors influenced your personal, I mean have more people been rude, or less rude to you, or, do you feel that it's affected you personally in that way, social networks?

TL : Yeah, social, yeah.

AC : Have there been friendships made or lost, or, you know, has it been at that level...?

TL : I found out that there's some people I don't like as much as I used to. And I used to just, I used to come down to the pier, I'd talk to everybody, you know? Even though I didn't like this guy too much because of the way he fished, I would always, I didn't like the way he fished, put it this way, I didn't like the way he fished. But he seemed like a fine person to me, I would always talk to him.

Now I get out of my truck and I walk to my boat, like I said, in the morning, get out of the truck, I walk to the boat. Remember that? That's what today was; I get in, I unload, I get in the truck and leave. It used to be that everybody'd stand at the dock, but being that there's more animosity among the people now, I'm not as friendly as I used to be, so I just... pshhht!... come in and go, more than I would in the past.

AC : Gotcha, so that's changed things?

TL : Yeah, it's too, well, you know, it's not only the sector situation, it's, the resource is not limited anymore. I remember when I first started fishing that people who were friends of mine would go, "Well, how you doing fishing Ted?" I said, "Oh, I'm doing great." "So how much money you making?" I said, "What, money?" I says, "I'm richest man in the world, I need money, I go fishing. The fish are there, and I make money, see? That's all there is to it, it's an unlimited amount of fish out there for me to catch, and I'm the wealthiest man in the world."

They go, "Oh, jeez, that's interesting, I thought fishermen were poor." I go, "Oh no, no, I'm very wealthy." You know, of course I was kind of joking about the whole thing, but it had some truth to it. But now everybody, the resource is limited, because we've got

quotas and ITQs and Days at Sea, and everything else, and people are, people are arguing about, you know, the Bargaining Table and what-not, so....

AC : Gotcha.

TL : That's about the health. It's a limited resource now. That's not only due to sectors, that's what I was thinking. It's also due to the plain fact that fishing is limited now, so that's, sectors is a way to split up a limited resource.

AC : Is there something else I haven't asked you that you could, that you want to...?

TL : Nah, I stuck it all in already.

AC : "Stuck it all in...." (laughs) Is there something that you would like for posterity's sake for people to know, maybe something that happened in your career, a fishing story that you would want to share? Or a thought or someone that was good to you? You know, something that really marks your career in fisheries.

TL : I wrote a whole book, and it just has to get published, can look there, so.

AC : And what is this book about?

TL : Book....

AC : Or roughly, you don't have to give away the plot on the record, because, you have to buy the book.

TL : It's about, it's got to get published, it's a book about how to take kids fishing, but the name of the book is "How to Go About Fishing". It's for people who want to go fishing who don't know too much about fishing, written by a commercial fisherman. So if you have a young family and you want to take your kids fishing and you don't know much about it, you read the book and it gives you a lot of ideas about how to approach the subject, you know?

Whereas, fishing is a family tradition, you know, the father teaches his son, the uncle teaches his son, the grandfather teaches the grandson how to fish, or else the kid has to learn how to fish on his own. Which, in my case, my father was a terrible fisherman, and both of my grandfathers weren't around so I had to learn on my own, and I read a lot of books. But I wrote this book for people who maybe don't have time to learn like I did, maybe they want to start when they're 25 and they're an executive or something like that, but they want to go fishing. Well that's what this book is for, and it's enjoyable. But it hasn't been published, so, I got plenty of stories there.

AC : Have your boys read it?

TL : They, yeah, they read it, some of it, yeah. They were worried it was too radical (laughs).

AC : Hopefully one day they'll use it, and read it to teach their kids to fish.

TL : Nah, nah they all know how to fish. They've got their own ideas; they don't got to read a book. (laughs)

AC : Well, Ted, if there's anything else you want to add, feel free.

TL : No, that sounds good, that sounds good.

AC : Thank you very much for your time and I will turn off the recorder.

TL : You're welcome.

AC : Again this is Azure Cygler with Ted Ligenza on the 22nd of August, 2012, thanks Ted.

TL : You're welcome Azure.

END INTERVIEW

[01:50:24]