

**Interview with Phil Ruhle [PR]**  
**Occupation: Fisherman**  
**Port Community: Point Judith, RI**  
**Interviewer: Azure Cygler**  
**Date: December 5, 2011**  
**Catch Share Oral Histories Project – NOAA Fisheries**  
**Logger/Transcriber: Elizabeth Wetterhahn**  
**INDEX: [minutes:seconds]**  
**Rhule Home, Narragansett, RI**

Interview

[00:00]

AC: Okay, so just to start, I'll say for the record my name is Azure Cygler. Today is the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2011. We are at Phil Ruhle's home in Peacedale, RI. 28 Serenity Way. And Phil, if you could just, to start, state that you have read and signed the release form.

PR: I have read and signed the release form.

AC: Okay. And then, please just give me your full name and your address.

PR: Philip Ruhle. 28 Serenity Way, Peacedale, RI, 02879.

AC: Okay. And your homeport?

PR: Point Judith, RI.

AC: And your vessel's name?

PR: The *Sea Breeze Too*. T-O-O.

AC: Okay. And are you in a sector?

PR: Yes.

AC: And which sector is that?

PR: The Sustainable Harvest Sector.

AC: Okay.

PR: I'm actually on the Board of Directors.

AC: Okay.

PR: My father and them started the whole sector thing, so I'm for it.

AC: Excellent. We've got a lot of questions about that.

PR: Sure.

AC: How old are you, Phil?

PR: That's classified... 37.

AC: Okay. You can modify it later. So this... just to start, I ask to just get a general overview of your life. Where you're from, how you came to be here.

PR: Okay.

AC: You know, your family structure: married, kids, that kind of thing. Just to give people a general picture of who you are. And you can go into as much detail, or as little, as you'd like. Just the basics or some of your family history would actually be...

PR: Yeah.

AC: ... interesting as well. Go ahead.

PR: Oh, Okay.

AC: Yeah, just kind of....

PR: I thought you were going to ask something.

AC: No, just go ahead and give me a little bit about when you moved here.

PR: Well, to start, my grandfather was the first Philip Ruhle. He's the second Philip Ruhle. I'm actually the 4<sup>th</sup>. My son's the 5<sup>th</sup>. Different middle name in the first two, but... he started fishing. He used to swordfish, and scupper seine, and drag, and tilefish back in the '50s, '60s, '70s, '80s, and then he retired in the '80s. My father, my uncles all owned boats. (fax machine) And now myself. So I'd be the third generation owning and fishing on the East Coast. Basically from Canada down to the Gulf of Mexico, really, they swordfished. But for us, really, the last fifteen years or something has been basically Southern New England. You know, New Jersey, Gloucester or something like that, up on

Georges' Banks and stuff. But basically around those areas for the last ten or fifteen years anyway, you know?

AC: Okay. And what sort of an ethnic background? Do you have any...?

PR: Well, my grandfather was Russian.

AC: Russian, okay.

PR: Wait a minute, did I say Russian? German.

AC: German.

PR: We were just talking about, my grandfather's German. That's where the Ruhle comes from. And then my grandmother's is Italian and Portuguese. My wife now is full Portuguese. She's from, her parents are from the Azores. Like, on the boat.

AC: And have you visited?

[03:20]

PR: Oh, no. Well, I drove by there swordfishing one time. That's as close as I'll get.

AC: Give it a nice wave.

PR: I was 12.

AC: Okay. So is it, swordfishing was the start of...

PR: Swordfishing was the start....

AC: ... of your family's fishing?

PR: Well, they all had swordfish boats.

AC: Okay.

PR: You know? I wouldn't say the start. My grandfather, he caught mackerel and all kinds of things. Gillnetting and dragging and you name it, you know? Swordfishing is what made him famous, you know? He was... still to this day, if you mention swordfishing, everybody knows his name, you know? Everybody knows his name, so... my father, my uncle, all of them, same thing. They all had, at one time, all three of them were on the Grand Banks together. Year after year after year, you know?

AC: Right.

PR: My father put 18 years in a row up there. And he'd leave in May/June and come back in November.

AC: Wow. Where was the port of call to offload?

PR: Halifax, Trepassey, St. Johns [Canada].

AC: Wow.

PR: All up there, you know? He might come home for a little while on a plane, but most of the time the boat went up there and stayed up there, you know?

AC: Yeah.

PR: For the whole summer. Swordfishing. And then they'd stop back in the spring and the fall.

AC: Yeah.

PR: And then move to Florida and the Gulf of Mexico, Puerto Rico, all those places, all the time.

AC: So they just followed the migration?

PR: Just followed them south and then come back in the winter. They'd stop in every now and again, you know?

AC: And what does a swordfishing boat look like compared to what we're used to, with draggers? Is it nets, is it lines? Longlines?

PR: It's longline. You'd set 40 miles of gear with, you know, in those days 2,000 to 2,300 hooks a night. Set it out at night, bring it back during the day. You know, it was good going in those days. They did very well, very well. So, a lot of money, but they were gone all the time, so it was kind of tough, you know?

AC: Yeah. So you don't remember seeing your...?

PR: My dad, it's like....

AC: ... dad or grandfather much when you were little?

PR: Well, one of the stories goes, my grandmother sold the house and moved while he was gone. And he came home and went to the wrong house. That's how long they'd be gone for, you know?

AC: Right.

PR: It's not like whaling or anything, but it's the next step to what we do now, you know? It's not that bad, but, you know, now I go out for a day or two, you know? So, and I come back from two days and I'm like "Phew, been gone forever!"

AC: Right.

PR: They wouldn't even be to the grounds in two days. It used to take us, the last time I went swordfishing, I went when I was 12 and 14 on the Grand Banks and, you know, I left in July and come back late for school in September, you know?

AC: You're friends must have thought...

PR: Never saw land, never saw anything.

AC: ... you were wild. A wild youth?

PR: Yeah, I mean you'd go to school and be like "What did you do this summer?" You know? "Oh well, I swam, I played." "Oh yeah? I went to the Azores. Swordfishing. We caught Great White Sharks." You know, I mean, all of this cool stuff, you know?

AC: Oh my goodness.

[06:18]

PR: Pictures of just stuff that you wouldn't believe, you know?

AC: And now you, that was pretty interesting that your dad...

PR: Pretty interesting.

AC: ... took you?

PR: I started when I was 3.

AC: You're still young.

PR: I made my first trip fishing when I was 3. Scutter seining.

AC: And you would go out for the whole time?

PR: Oh yeah. When I was 3, I went out, it was like 3 days, 2 ½ days I think. And then by the time I was like 5, 6, 7, a week, 8 days. When I was 10, 12, I made my first Grand Banks trip and that was 44 days. 44 days. Never saw land.

AC: And you remember that vividly?

PR: Oh yeah.

AC: Thinking this is horrible or this is amazing?

PR: 1986. Hurricane Charlie went by and it was like, 100 mile an hour winds and just... in a 76 foot steel boat. Like 40 foot seas just rolling because the waters real deep so the seas get massive. You know, just real far apart. But no where near as dangerous as if, it's dangerous, but not if you had 40 foot seas up inside.

AC: Right.

PR: Up on the self, you know?

AC: They're not going to break.

PR: Yeah. They're real spread out. But the wind would stop and you'd have a 30 foot ground swell that would just swallow a boat. You would just see one coming and one leaving. It looked like a big tube, because they were so far apart. It was actually a nice day with a 30 foot ground swell, you know? It's just real... I've got a picture of a boat. We were handing them a bird and it's just gone. Its just cool looking, you know? It's just different out there, when you get out thousands of fathoms of water, you know?

AC: Wow.

PR: It's really cool. But at 12 you're like "Ah, this is cool!" I didn't know enough to be scared, you know?

AC: Exactly. And you're mother....

PR: And now I, forget it. I'd have a heart attack, you know? I look back and go "Dad, what were you thinking?" You know, like no way.

AC: Was it a battle with your mom and your dad...?

PR: Oh yeah.

AC: ... to let you go?

PR: I remember that vividly. Oh yeah, no way. She didn't want me to go.

AC: She didn't.

PR: You know, you didn't have BoatTracs, and fax machines, and satellites or nothing. You just, after 30 to 40 days, you start looking for the boat, hoping they're going to be home soon. They should be home soon, you know? So you'd, when we were kids, you'd ride down to Newport. They were homebased in Newport, RI. And you'd ride and look around in the drive and wait to see the lights. See if you see them coming, you know? And you'd do that every day after school.

AC: Oh my goodness.

PR: And see if he's... and "Oh, here they come today!" You know, and that was it, you know?

AC: Talk about Christmas...

PR: Oh yeah.

AC: ... Eve...

PR: Who are you?

AC: ... Christmas morning.

PR: So it was like, you know, you just waited for that, you know?

AC: Wow.

PR: It was different.

AC: Any brothers and sisters, did they go?

PR: Yeah. I had an older brother, not from my father. I'm the first one from my father.

AC: Okay.

PR: And a younger sister. So I'm the middle.

AC: You're the only one who would go fishing with him like this?

PR: I was the only one, yeah.

AC: Wow.

PR: My older brother, Roger, went fishing with me on my boat later.

AC: Okay.

PR: But it just wasn't for him. He did it 'cause he had to.

AC: Yeah.

PR: You know, it's not in his blood, you know. But my boys now, I have one that's 5 and one that's 11, almost 11. And they've both been fishing since, Patrick started at 3, Philip started at 5.

[09:21]

AC: And they always were willing to go?

PR: Oh, [they would] cry "Daddy, I want to go, I want to go!" Now I can't take one without the other. It's a production now, you know. I used to just take the big one and now the little one, you know? But I take the big one with me down to New Jersey for two weeks at a time. Running in and out, like day trips, 2 day trips.

AC: Yeah.

PR: Catching *Illex*, squid in the summer. But he'd go down there with me for two weeks and live on the boat, you know?

AC: And does that kind of bring back memories for you?

PR: Oh yeah, because at that time my father would be there too. So there'd be the three of us, you know?

AC: Wow.

PR: The three of us on there, all at the same time. It was really cool. Really just, can't ever get that back, you know?

AC: I've never even heard of anything like that.



PR: Yeah.

AC: That's very special.

PR: Yeah. And my uncle has the same thing on his boat now. They have, his son runs the boat a lot. And his son now, you know, is 7 or 8. So a lot of times they'll have all three on there too, you know?

AC: Wow.

PR: On his boat, which is just pretty cool. But his boat runs out of Virginia.

AC: Okay.

PR: Pretty cool dynamic, you know? You know, at one point there'd be three or four, three Rhule boats, at least, swordfishing back in the day, you know?

AC: Yeah.

PR: Now we're down to the swordfish boats. I mean, that kind of played out. That boat sank. The big swordfish boat they had sank in '89, I think. And then my father went to work, he bounced around a couple other swordfish boats for a little bit. And then he went to work on a freezer processor out of Davisville, RI. The *Relentless* and the *Persistence*. He was working on the *Relentless* as an engineer on there. And then I, when I graduated high school in '92, I got on there with him. And we worked together on there. Me and, my father and I worked together on that boat for almost 8 years.

AC: Wow.

PR: I worked up to the end of the year. He became the shore engineer and took care of the whole operation. And I became the engineer on the boat, and then I became the mate on the boat, and then, that was '98,'99, we decided to buy our own boat. We went out on our own. So then me and my father bought a boat in '99. And we had that one for 9 years.

AC: And that was the *Sea Breeze*?

PR: That was the original *Sea Breeze* that sank. That's the one that my father died on. He went down with the boat.

AC: This was 2000...?

PR: July 23, 2008.

AC: Okay.

PR: Two days after me and my son got off the boat, like we passed on the road. He went down to take over with his crew. We were running two crews out of New Jersey. He went down to take over with his crew and me and my son and my uncle, who was working for me, drove up. So doing the same kind of thing, you know, it's dangerous. You just never know, just never know. We were catching the same amount of fish, loading the boat the same, everything was the same, just a bad day.

[12:33]

AC: Was the weather...?

PR: A little bit, but not too bad.

AC: Okay.

PR: Not bad. But with a loaded boat, it was a little not good.

AC: Yeah.

PR: But....

AC: Yeah.

PR: I did the same thing the week before with my kid on the boat, so....

AC: Right.

PR: Just, you do that stuff all the time, you know? You just, kind of, you don't realize how close you are to being dead. To things going bad, you know?

AC: Right. Now did that change you wanting to bring your son...?

PR: Oh yeah.

AC: ... as much?

PR: Oh yeah. Now things have to be perfect, you know, I won't take him, now we only make short trips, so I [was] afforded that luxury too. I don't have the big payment, I don't have the big, I can be more selective and we don't, a lot of times we leave in the morning and we're back at night, so it's not a big deal, you know? It's not as big of a thing, you know? You're not riding that edge. You know, on the big boats with big payments, and bills, and fishing wasn't all that great so when you were catching, you

had to put them on, you know? So you pushed it. You pushed it all the time. This boat now is more of a vacation.

AC: Tell me a little more about the boat and how far offshore you go...?

PR: The new one?

AC: ... and what exactly you're catching. Yeah, if you could.

PR: The new one is a 55 foot fiberglass boat. Drag boat. We drag the bottom. We do some mid-water trawling for herring and stuff, too. Herring and mackerel. We drag, catch squid. Squid and scup and fluke and cod, haddock, yellowtail founders, things like that. And we....

AC: So I could see you if I'm surfing Monahan's? I might be able to see you right off there?

PR: Next week.

AC: Okay. So that's how close....

PR: Saturday, Sunday I'll be a quarter mile off the beach at Monahan's. Yeah, yeah I will. That's when we catch herring. Should start any... it's getting cold enough now.

AC: Okay.

PR: So we'll catch herring. They run down the beach from the Gulf of Maine. And we'll start working on them. The boat will hold about 80,000 pounds of herring.

AC: Wow.

PR: And we can do that a day, usually.

AC: And how many, do you have a bunch of crew?

PR: Two.

AC: Two?

PR: Sometimes just me and one guy.

AC: Wow.

PR: Sometimes three of us all together, sometimes two.

AC: And this has been the same person or same persons for awhile?

PR: That guy's been out with me for about 10 years.

AC: Okay. So on the original *Sea Breeze*?

PR: Oh yeah. I don't think he was there when you were there. I don't think, he kind of comes and goes a little bit.

AC: Okay, yeah.

PR: But I doubt it. I don't think he was there that time. But he, you know, sometimes we'll go, I've been to Georges Bank on the boat too. You know, 170 miles from home so, but not very often. I've only done it 2 to 3 times in the summer, when everything's nice. But most of the time, you know, 36 hour trips. 40 hour trips. 20. Probably half the year is leave in the morning, back in the afternoon, you know?

AC: Wow.

[15:27]

PR: So it's kind of a whole different world. It's not good for somebody who doesn't like to get up in the morning.

AC: Well, your morning is a whole different....

PR: Well, I'm a nighttime guy, not a morning guy, so 3:00 in the morning is early.

AC: Yeah. It's the bewitching hour.

PR: Oh no. I hate it.

AC: Nothing should happen at that hour.

PR: So it's just a different, you know? It's a different world.

AC: Yeah.

PR: It's smaller, you know.

AC: Is there more stress, is there more or less stress involved in that type of fishing? How has it changed your...?

PR: You know, I thought it was going to be a lot less....

AC: Yeah.

PR: It's definitely less. I suppose its all relative though, you know?

AC: Yeah.

PR: You know, not having the big payment anymore and stuff is definitely nice.

AC: Yeah.

PR: You know, financially it's less stress. But still, it's still a boat. It still breaks. It still breaks at bad times. Never when you, you know, always when you're busy. And you still have to deal with the crew, which could possibly be the worst part. I mean...

AC: Really?

PR: ... I have one, you know, I have one guy. I've always had a couple of good guys on the other boat or one or two and, and then they'll turn on you, just like that. I mean, guys I had on the other boat 6, 7 years. The boat sank and they sued me, you know? Like it was my fault, you know? I mean, they just know where they get a payday, you know? And it's really a smack in the face when that happens. You take care of these guys for 6, 7 years, you make them a good year's pay, you really watch out for their best interests, you loan them money when things are slow....

AC: Right.

PR: You know, you do this, you do that, you know, things turn and then they sue you. Right now I'm in the process of being sued by my uncle for the second time. Second time in my career, by my uncle that worked for me, you know? He's a black sheep kind of, every family's got one, you know....

AC: Yeah.

PR: But he's a great fisherman on the boat. On the boat, you aren't going to find anybody better on deck. He's fast. Phenomenal cook. Everything you want in a deck hand, except for the other part. When you get home, he's a mess.

AC: Sounds like he should just be at sea only. Always.

PR: My grandfather used to say, that's my grandfather's 5<sup>th</sup> son. He's the youngest.

AC: Yeah.

PR: He used to say "If I could just leave him on the buoy on the way in, and pick him up on the way out, I'd be alright." You know? But as he got older, now he got into what he could, figured out how to sue people and... he never did that when he was younger, you know? But now he's done it to me twice.

AC: Wow. So is your, I'm just picturing family Christmas.

PR: That's nonexistent with this one.

[18:16]

AC: Okay, so there's a whole different...

PR: Yeah.

AC: ... your family is...?

PR: He was put on the penalty box on my other boat with my father. He spent almost 5 years that we wouldn't speak to him, you know? And then, just down and out, my father finally broke down and let him come back, you know? Then he was with me when the boat sank. He didn't sue me then. He wasn't on it, he was with me. He was on my crew.

AC: Okay.

PR: We had two crews.

AC: Yeah, okay.

PR: And then he helped me put this boat together. He's been with me 3 years with this one. And now he just sued me last month, you know? So it's like ridiculous. Over nothing. Just, you know dealing with these guys....

AC: Issues?

PR: Oh yeah. He's....

AC: There's something going on there.

PR: Hey, every family's got one. You talk about family dynamics, every family's got one. But it's just, you know, they start costing you money.

AC: Yeah.

PR: It's a, you're still trying to run a business, you know? Now the guy won't show up or he's this or that or, you know....

AC: And you can't go alone, you wouldn't go alone?

PR: No way. So when you have 5 guys, you can do without one. When you're two-handed...

AC: Right.

PR: ... you count on that guy.

AC: Right.

PR: So it's a different dynamic on this boat than it used to be. And it's just, but dealing with these guys is enough to make you.... I've literally been fishing all my life. My grandfather, father, and I'm literally like this close to going.

AC: Wow.

PR: Take it away, you know? I'll sell it tomorrow 'cause the stress of that just rides on me. It just beats you up. The regulations and stuff, that's a different ballgame, but, just the day-to-day, you know? The regulations, they're bad, but....

AC: You've probably adapted to those or something...?

PR: Exactly. My father always said it's easier for me because, you know, it's easier for me because he had to learn regulations. They didn't have any and then they ease it in so it feels.... I don't know what it was like before. I only know, there's always been regulations. So what, you know? What's another one? Throw them on, who cares? I've got to report, I've got to do this, I've got to, yeah, I've got to call, I've got to, who cares?

AC: Right.

PR: It's just, keep piling it on. It doesn't matter.

AC: Right.

PR: For them, for the old-timers, it really rides on them, you know? I mean, it's bad on us, even the younger guys. It's bad, but for those guys it's, it's completely debilitating. They can't figure it out. Most of them aren't very computer savvy, and now you have to be, you know?

AC: Yeah.

PR: So it's tough on those guys, you know? They just want to go back to the way it was, and that's not going to happen. I always tell them "That's why we're in this boat, it's cause of you guys. Thanks a lot! You know, it's your fault. You guys caught all the fish and threw them back and..."

AC: Yeah.

[21:10]

PR: ... did all this stuff that you're not supposed to do. Now we're paying for it."

AC: I'm sure at the moment they were not thinking...

PR: Nobody was, nobody was.

AC: ... it's going to affect us longer term.

PR: Neither was the government, right?

AC: Right.

PR: They didn't, they weren't paying attention or thinking either. Otherwise they would have stopped them.

AC: That's right.

PR: But you know, you tell us we can, so they did, you know? Somebody should have stopped them before, but you know? My father was on the council, the New England Council. My uncle, my grandfather, they all did all their time on the councils, you know, over the years. And one of the last things my father said on the council was he thinks that we should close Georges Banks completely, Gulf of Maine and Georges Banks completely, to fishing for 5 years. No fishing, no lobstering, no scalloping, no nothing. 5 years.

And then if the fish aren't back, now who are you going to blame? 'Cause his thing was you're not going to have all of these things at optimal levels at one time. The ocean is an aquarium, and you can't have maximum dogfish when you have maximum striped bass and maximum bluefish and maximum cod. Whenever you've got a lot of these, you've got to less these. Whenever you've got these, you've got no lobsters now 'cause you've got too many stripers and it goes on and on and on.



AC: Sure, predation and....

PR: So you cannot have maximum everything at the same time.

AC: Right.

PR: It's impossible. So the point is, with us fishing, they can always blame us. So he's like "You know what, we'll bite the bullet, 5 years, no fishing at all. Nobody. Nothing. Don't touch it. It's an aquarium, leave it alone. And in 5 years if it isn't fixed, now you can blame somebody else, but it isn't us." You know?

AC: Yeah.

PR: It's not us. 'Cause that's the problem, is they want to blame, we're the only ones. We're the only ones that you can blame, you know? Ships strike, what is it 80-something percent of whales die from ship strikes?

AC: Yeah.

PR: Never see that on the news. Not once have you ever, as soon as a piece of string gets tangled around one, its front page news, all the time. We're 10, 15%, you know? But you're not going to stop the shipping industry, it's too big. [You] can't blame them.

AC: Shift the blame.

PR: So if we're here, we can be blamed, you know? We're dealing with river herring now, you know? Well, go over here, there's a dam that, you know, was built for industrialization. And the river herring can't get up it. It's not built properly.

AC: Yeah.

PR: The fish ladder.

AC: This is the one in Wakefield, on Main Street?

PR: Right over here in Wakefield.

AC: Yeah.

PR: So last year in the spring, I got pictures of us flipping herring up the river, trying to get them to get up there cause they're all bundled up into one little piece, right? Because how many of these times... so they want to [get] back to how many herring we should have from 1920-something. They said we had this many river herring, and now

we don't. But they're not blaming them, they're blaming me. I didn't put a dent in those things, you know?

AC: Right.

PR: The fishermen did not put a dent in those. We have caught some, yeah. But, come on.

AC: Yeah.

PR: You know? You can't blame everything, in 1920-something there was grass all over the place, too, next to the water. And dirt. Now it's concrete.

AC: Yeah.

PR: You've got millions and billions of people living near the water that weren't there before.

AC: Yeah.

PR: Don't add that in. That has nothing to do with anything. It's all you.

AC: It's too complex of a variable.

PR: Can't figure that out.

AC: Yeah.

PR: It's an anomaly, you know? And you just, you deal with getting blamed all the time. Every time you turn the Discovery Channel on or Nat. Geo (National Geographic) or whatever, you know?

AC: Yeah.

PR: It's just, it gets hard. It gets hard to listen to, you know? When you sit out there and you know the truth. When I went fishing when I was a kid, not that long ago, I'm 37, so it was only... and I'm not talking about, you know when I was on the Grand Banks swordfishing or even out front here swordfishing, I remember the old man waking me up to see a whole pod of whales or, you know, a pod of porpoises, right? It was a big deal.

AC: Yeah.

PR: Wake up, you have to see this.

AC: Yeah.

PR: Now I can show you that out of every window, all day, every day. Right here at Block Island. All day, every day. There are seals in the harbor.

AC: Wow.

PR: From September to May, you know, swimming around, all over the place. You know what those things eat? But yet we get blamed every time one of them gets killed, you know? It's not, how many of them do we actually need? Nobody wants to kill them. They're beautiful, right?

AC: Right.

PR: But if there's that many of them now, yeah, we're catching more of them, 'cause they're everywhere. You can't help it. They're there every time we turn around to set the net in the water. They're all around it. So, when you put that many of them in the ocean, you're going to have more incidental takes.

AC: Right.

PR: Isn't that a good thing? Not the take part, but that they're to be taken.

AC: Right.

PR: How can we get blamed for this? We keep getting blamed for it. It's like "We're going to shut you down." There's, they're everywhere. Everywhere. You know, how many do we need? Do we need a kid to get taken off the beach by one like Jaws or something before we realize that...

AC: Right.

PR: ... there are too many. And they eat millions of tons of fish.

AC: Right.

PR: But don't take that into where all the fish went either. We can't figure out that number, so....

AC: Yeah.

PR: The only thing they can figure is us. So we're kind of, you know....

AC: Well, hopefully when this whole movement of eating fresh, local, you know....

PR: Right.

AC: That's a movement that people are really into.

PR: Oh yeah, my buddy's doing that.

AC: ... getting higher prices for your fish and also seeing, portraying a new picture of fishermen...

PR: You have to.

AC: ... harvesters of this....

PR: The worst thing is, nobody wants more to be a, there's no bigger conservationists than the fishermen. There are bad apples, just like any business.

AC: Right.

[27:30]

PR: Just like in the, you know, the software business. There are bad apples in that too, I'm sure, you know? But for the most part, most of the guys, especially nowadays that are, like I said, the younger generations, they really are major conservatives. I need those fish. I want my son to be able to go catch those fish. I don't want to catch too many, that's so stupid. 2005, I think it was the year classic cod was massive up in Gulf of Maine.

AC: Right.

PR: Those guys threw away so much fish. They were catching 1,000 pounds a minutes, for the last like three winters in a row up there. And now they're taking a big cut, and they're all pissed off. And it's like "Hey stupid, you threw 12, 13, 14 and 15's [thousands of] fish over last winter. You threw them over cause you caught too many, you know? You've got to be smarter than that."

AC: You mean just tailor the way....

PR: Well now you have sectors, so you're accountable for all of your pounds. But up until two years ago, right, you could have 800 pounds a day. So you go out there for two days, and you have four 8,000 pound tows....

AC: Right.

PR: Now you're throwing away 30,400 pounds, you know?

AC: But now you could bring them in...

PR: And you didn't get in trouble for it.

AC: ... and trade them...?

PR: You didn't get in trouble for it, right? 30,000 pounds down the ramp. Whatever, I got my 800. 'Cause you're trying to catch yellowtails, or you're trying to catch monks or something else.

AC: Right.

PR: Oops, I keep catching these pesky cod. They're everywhere. Well, now you can't. We're only allowed to take X-amount out of the ocean now, right? Before we were allowed to take them, but we were killing way more. And by we, I mean somebody else. I didn't do it. I'm not exempt from making mistakes, but guys were doing it trip after trip after trip, and these are the guys who are now hurt by the new cod assessment saying now you're not going to be allowed 20 pounds and it's like "Whoa, buddy." And they're crying boo-hoo, but they did that to themselves, you know? The regulations, you need them.

AC: Right.

PR: I guess what I'm getting at, long story, is that they should have done this 30, 40 years ago...

AC: Sectors?

PR: ... if they knew better. They should have done something.

AC: Something that would have...?

PR: Right. Like I said, my grandfather, my father, guys like that, the old-timers, they ruined it for us. I'm not kidding, you know?

AC: Right.

PR: They did. They shouldn't, they let them go free willy and let them do whatever they want and by the time they started reigning them in, it was too late, you know?

AC: Smaller nets....

PR: Plus the Russians and the foreigners, whatever, all the different, they let everybody in at that point, so it's not just us, but....

AC: Yeah.

PR: You know, now you have to have these regulations. You have to have sectors. Now you're accountable. Sectors is, it's hard. And it's hard to deal with, but you're accountable. Now it's more of a business. You own 'X'.

AC: Tell me a little bit about how they work and how...

[30:27]

PR: Sectors you're allowed, from your permit history, you're allowed 'X' amount of pounds of all the different species. And you do what you want with it. You can sell them all to somebody else, never go fishing. You can catch yours, plus a whole bunch of somebody else's, and buy them from them. So, but what it does is it allows you to have basically like a commodity, basically, right? It allows you to take, the beginning of the year and go, I can almost tell you what I'm going to make off this, you know, prices being what they are. Take the average. Okay, that's fine. Now me, personally, with the new boat, I have a lot of Georges Banks quota from the old boat.

AC: Okay.

PR: But I don't go to Georges Banks all the time, so I just trade my Georges Banks stuff and keep Southern New England yellowtails and some codfish and things that I can catch out here, so I don't have to go far anymore. And I stock up on all that, and trade that for stuff I don't need. And I can make a pretty good living off that. I mean, this year right here is the most I've ever gone groundfishing. Ever.

AC: Now that trade, is it a fish to fish trade or...?

PR: Yeah, I'll trade....

AC: ... trade for dollars?

PR: You can trade for dollars or....

AC: Depends on what you want to do?

PR: Up on the Internet all the time trading back and forth, back and forth, 'X' for this, this for that. Guys are trading stuff for a set of doors and a dinner at Bertucci's, you know what I mean?

AC: Really? So it's flexible?

PR: Oh, the flexibility is phenomenal.

AC: So the world when you get on your sector's website, I'm presuming, is just wide open?

PR: You do what you want.

AC: Each person can figure out, 'cause you own it, so you can....

PR: The thing is, you can't go over, you know. You're held accountable. You can't go over the pounds. So now, as a group, the Northeast, we're fishing under TAC (Total Allowable Catch). No matter what, we're fishing under, because we're not allowed to go over it....

AC: Okay.

PR: You know?

AC: Yeah.

PR: So all together, collectively, we can't catch more than we're allowed of Georges Banks cod or Georges, you know, or of Gulf of Maine cod, right?

AC: Okay.

PR: That's it. If we get to 95 percent, we're shut down.

AC: Yeah.

PR: No fishing. So you have to be careful. You know, you use different nets now. You've got separators, you've got the Rhule trawl, rope nets, you know, so that helps...

AC: Lots more...?

PR: ... avoid cod and flounders and things like that, so that you can continue to catch haddock and things that are in good shape. You know, pollock and redfish. So guys have to fish smarter now. They can't just drag. They've got to fish.

AC: But the predictability sounds like a nice element.

PR: Oh yeah.

AC: Like you said, you can lay out your year financially...?

PR: You just, you own something.

AC: ... roughly?

[33:17]

PR You own something. You know, every year that kind of changes a little bit with the TAC, the way they set it, but you own something now. You can't, it's not just 'X' amount of days and I hope you get them. And the flexibility, not only that, the flexibility fishing, too. Weather stinks, you don't have to keep driving because of the, you know, we're allowed so much per day. Or we don't have to stay out when the weather's bad because I've got too many cod on the boat or too many...

AC: Right.

PR: ... yellowtails on the boat. You just, I can go catch mine all in one day if that's what happens. So what, you know? So I can be more efficient. Come home, shut the engine off. Beautiful.

AC: And if for some reason you caught more than you had planned of something else you could come home...

PR: Yeah, that's the other thing.

AC: ... and trade it?

PR: Well, I do that before I even hit the dock. You own them as a group and you still, every little thing you'd have to worry about. Oh, I'm allowed 1,000 cod a day, I was out 8 days, that's 8,000. You know what 8,000 codfish looks like on a boat? It's pretty hard to tell whether you've got 8,500 or 6,500, you know? You've got a good idea.... We're pretty good at it.

AC: Sure.

PR: But you can be off.

AC: Sure.

PR: You can be off, you know, after a week. So now you're coming home all the time biting your nails. "Oh man, if I'm over on my cod I'm going to..." Now you need to catch all of it...



AC: Yeah.

PR: ... 'cause you need the money. But you're always in a panic. "Am I over? Did I do that?" You're biting your fingernails the whole way home all the time. Now, none of that. If I'm over, so what.

AC: Right.

PR: I left on a trip last year to go to Georges, the first year, and I'm like "I'm going to run out of dabs." But I wanted to catch all of my Georges stuff, cause I didn't, I wasn't going back there for the rest of the year, so my guys were like "Don't worry about it, just keep fishing. They're like 20 cents a pound, so if you need an extra 2,000, that's 400 bucks." You know? No big deal. So you don't have to worry about going over. You don't have to worry about any of that. You just go fishing. And then, you know, you trade or do this or do that to be able to keep your boat going, you know? We're lucky to be able to have squid, scup, all these other things. Guys up in the Northeast have it a lot, Gloucester, New Bedford, and Maine....

AC: Yeah.

PR: That's a whole different ballgame, cause they strictly groundfish up there, and that's...

AC: That's just...?

PR... that's a lot tougher, you know?

AC: And they don't get the...

PR: They got...

AC: ... migratory fish?

PR: ... more groundfish than the guys down here, allocated to them. Because they caught groundfish year round...

AC: Oh.

PR: .... during the time period.

AC: Yeah, I see.

PR: So they made out better in the groundfish grab-bag, you know, when they were shuffling and dealing stuff to everybody. They made out better 'cause they did that. But we have squid and other stuff that we were doing that let us have that, you know, that flexibility. So we catch squid, we catch herring. You know, my boat is one of like 30 that has a herring permit. It's only like 30-some boats, I think on the coast, maybe. Not active, but permits. I think there's only active boats, there's probably only 12, 15 active herring boats. Mine's one of them.

[36:19]

AC: Is that 'cause over time...?

PR: I caught enough during that period. There are a lot of people that would love to have that...

AC: Yeah.

PR: ... piece of paper. You know, one little tiny piece, the piece of paper that I bring with the boat is worth 450 to 550 [thousand], right around a half a million dollars. Just for a piece of paper that says you're allowed to go, but you have to have it. What are you going to do without it? You can't just let anybody just go drive around and catch fish. That's what we did 30 years ago. That's, that doesn't work, you know? They don't let me sell liquor, you know, you've got to have a license to do that. You've got to have a license to do anything, so....

AC: Yeah. It's a system we work under, I suppose.

PR: It's the way it is, you know?

AC: Now why did you join the Sustainable Harvest Sector versus joining the Sector 5? It seems to be most of the guys in the area are part of Sector 5, from what I understand.

PR: Probably step back 3 years to before we went to sector management.

AC: Yeah.

PR: My father, Jimmy, Maggie Raymond, a couple of other guys, they got together and they were going to start... they had already done sectors for the Cape Cod Hook Sector, and stuff like that. And we got together. We used to fish with those guys, groundfishing a lot. And Dad was on the council with them. So we said "Hey, we want to get our own sector together..."

AC: Okay.

PR: "... of groundfish guys." We weren't thinking everybody was going to go to sectors, we were just thinking that we wanted to do like the Cape Cod guys...

AC: Yeah.

PR: And let's take our own bundle of fish and let's manage it ourselves.

AC: Yeah.

PR: We wanted to get away from the managers telling us, you know, NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) telling us when its time to go, when you can come home, what you can have, and have them watching over you all the time. Let us, we'll take care of it. We won't go over our quota, but we'll do it the way we want to do it, you know? That's what we wanted. Then they just went to... we got that and we said, and then they said "Oh yeah, and all the rest of you are doing it, too, whether you like it or not." And it all just kind of came together at one time.

AC: Okay.

PR: Guys like... so we had a pretty core group of guys that we wanted that were pretty big players in the... most of the big hitters...

AC: Yeah.

PR: ... in the business were already aligned with us. We were aligned together. My father and them, I didn't really have much to do with it. I ran the boat and Dad did the politicking, you know?

AC: Yeah.

PR: Those guys, we had it all together, and then.... So by the time when they came out with "Okay, everybody's going to do this." Guys were scrambling to put sectors together. Just like "Oh my god, I've got to get in a sector." You know?

AC: Yeah.

PR: And we didn't want anybody else in our sector, because the more people you have, we didn't know what was going to happen, but you've got to control all of these people. You can't have somebody mess up and...

AC: Right.

PR: ... catch too much cause the whole sector could get shut down. So you really had to have a core group of guys you could trust, you know?

AC: Sure.

PR: You had to be able to get on the phone and talk to these people like “Hey Joey, don’t do that.” You know?

AC: Right.

PR: “Or I’m going to have to come over there and smack you” or something, you know?

AC: Consequences....

PR: Yeah. It’s a business. That whole thing is a... it’s serious. I’m on the Board of Directors, by default I think. It’s a pain in the butt, but it’s a real thing, you know? Guys, we have consequences. There’s a whole penalty schedule, there’s payments....

AC: Really?

[39:27]

PR: Oh yeah. First offense, second offense, that kind of stuff, you know?

AC: And who regulates?

PR: Me.

AC: Oh, it goes to the Board of Directors?

PR: Yeah, so I’m one of the three that does the “What happens to you if you do something wrong.”

AC: Policing....

PR: Yeah. So I’m the only one out of Rhode Island.

AC: And how many members, roughly?

PR: Oh, I don’t even know what we’re up to now. 30-something or something like that.

AC: Oh, wow. So...?

PR: And there are a lot of permits. We have a whole... we have three this year we've started. There's like three separate sectors now...

AC: Okay.

PR: ... in our sector. There's the main fishing sector and then there's one or two separate sectors that are just lease-only, guys with permits pay per fish that they just are selling.

AC: Oh.

PR: So they don't actually actively fish. They're just in our sector...

AC: I see.

PR: ... and they pay a fee to be in it. And then that allows them first access to our fishing boats.

AC: Gotcha.

PR: Which happen to be pretty much the biggest hitters going. So they're actively buying quite a bit of fish.

AC: And you guys were able to sort of select the people that you wanted to....

PR: Yeah.

AC: 'Cause that's part of....

PR: One of the best things we have going for us right now is the sector manager we've got is... he's just an absolute cracker-jack. He just, right front jump street, we were so far ahead of these guys. They're trying to run around, you know, fishing season started and these guys didn't have managers, they didn't have, you know, down here were just like... and some of them still, coming into the second, third year they're just like "Oh my god, we're a mess." We had it down....

AC: Operation plans and...?

PR: Done. We were ready to go. When the bell went off, we were ready.

AC: Wow.

PR: You know? And that's why we've had no hiccups, we've had no problems. Everybody knows what they're doing.

AC: Now each fishing year, do you get a lot of new people trying to...

PR: Yes.

AC: ... get in and become members and...?

PR: Yes.

AC: You have to sort of weed, filter out?

PR: Yeah. I just got an email yesterday, about Saturday, for three new members.

AC: Yeah.

PR: 'Cause we're getting down to where we have to have a list here soon.

AC: Okay.

PR: Three new members looking to go. And a lot of them get in. It depends on who they are, you know? Like I said, you've got to be able to police them. You want to have as much fish as possible in your pool...

AC: Right.

PR: ... to deal from, because if you need them, you want them. You don't want to have a short amount of people and a short amount of fish and then if you bump up against that 95 percent your whole work is shut down.

AC: So in the end is it the Board of Directors that says yea or nay?

PR: Yeah.

AC: So it's like a consensus or...?

PR: Yeah, yeah.

AC: That's a true little government.

PR: It's a business.

AC: I mean, you're running a little country, in a way.

PR: Yeah, that's what it is. It'll keep you out of my hair.

AC: Yeah.

PR: Not you.

AC: Yeah.

PR: But keep the, you know...

AC: Sure.

PR: ... Big Brother out of my hair.

AC: Sure.

PR: And we'll figure it out, don't you worry. You know, we take 50 percent observer coverage.

AC: Yeah, yeah.

PR: We're the only sector that wanted 100 percent. I want 100 percent and I want 100 percent dockside monitors, 'cause I want you to know what I'm doing.

[42:19]

AC: Yeah, so there's no questions in the future.

PR: I don't want you to use any of that fancy mumbo-jumbo paperwork...

AC: Yeah.

PR: ... to figure out what I discarded. Because the fish that you discard that are too small...

AC: Yeah.

PR: ... they go off your quota. Small codfish, small yellowtail, small flounders count. So when they do...

AC: Yeah.

PR: ... averaging across a deckload of fish...

AC: Yeah.

PR: ... you could get screwed out of hundreds and thousands of pounds. You know, hundreds, potentially a thousand or more pounds. I lost over 2,000 pounds one trip because of that. Doing it one way to the other, it would have been over 2,000 pounds different. An actual weight and estimates.

AC: So you still are better off paying, having an observer versus...

PR: In the long run.

AC: ... of an equation that they're using...?

PR: Well, we're not paying for observers yet.

AC: That's, okay.

PR: That's coming.

AC: That's coming, okay.

PR: And that kind of stuff is just going to be, for big boats it might be alright, but for guys like me, that's going to be a real tough one.

AC: The cost?

PR: We don't make enough.

AC: Yeah.

PR: You know? We do not make enough to be able to pay for an observer. There's no way. So that's going to be....

AC: Yeah.

PR: I'm all for it until you get to that part, 'cause when we get to that part, I don't know what we're going to do.

AC: Right.

PR: That's, 70, 80 percent of the fleet's going to be like "What?" There's no, there's not, it's not like scalloping, where there's, you know, the guys are making \$40, 50,000 a day.

AC: Right.



PR: You know?

AC: Right.

PR: Yeah, I'll pay the \$700 for the observer, big deal.

AC: Right.

PR: Whatever it is, you know?

AC: Exactly.

PR: There's no way. There is no way that we... you know? We work on a couple, \$3,000 a day.

AC: Well, it sounds like that's....

PR: So if the observer's 800 bucks, there's no way.

AC: Right.

PR: I can't go.

AC: Right.

PR: So, we just won't. I'll lease all my fish out and we won't go. Which is sad, you know? The government has to pay for that kind of stuff. There's just no way that...

AC: Yeah.

PR: ... that we can sustain, you know? And they want this to work. It's the best way to manage the fish. We didn't really want the sector part of it. We kind of wanted to go, it was kind of a stepping stone to get to, the way I understood it, like I said, my father did most of the.... The way I understood it, it was more like a stepping stone to get to quotas. Just give me my quota, is what we wanted. I'll figure it out myself, just give me... the only way to do it was to be tied into a group.

AC: Right.

PR: So we did it that way. And then now everybody does it that way.

AC: And it sounds like it's...

PR: It's working.

AC: ... it's pretty solid...?

PR: It's working great.

AC: ... in terms of it's not going to be, it's not going anywhere...?

PR: Well, people want it to, but its not going anywhere. They just....

AC: But the alternative is...?

PR: The haters... they love to hate.

AC: But the common pool is the alternative, right? Which is...?

PR: Yes, absolutely absurd.

AC: ... not a good option?

PR: Guys that are arguing against it want to go back to the way it was. Well, we can't. We need a reduction in fishing mortality. We can't go back to the way it was. So they don't realize that "Oh, we were better off in 2009" before or whenever it was, right, 2009? "Before we went to sector management? Well, yeah but we're not going to be able to go back to that.

AC: Right.

[45:17]

PR: The alternative was, we had 50-some days and we'd have been down to like 22. That wouldn't be good.

AC: Yeah.

PR: That doesn't create a lot of dollars. So this way, it's not what it was, but its flexibility. If it's not worth it for you to go fishing, you can sell that. Try selling those days; they weren't going to be anything. You wouldn't get dinner out of that.

AC: And that's, yeah.

PR: You know? So, they like to look back at what it was. Well, like I said, most of those guys are older guys that, either older guys that had fished with no regulations before and are just tired of getting beat down, and they just hate. They just hate. They

get up in the morning and they have to hate something. And it's sad because they're just beaten. They're just beat down from years of this stuff. It's really sad, you know? I'm not saying anything against them, they just...

AC: Yeah.

PR: ... they don't really get it. I don't think they get it, you know?

AC: I see.

PR: It's trouble because these, right, are nowadays, with the emails and stuff, there's stuff that goes back and forth, it's just, if everybody got together and we just did this thing...

AC: Yeah.

PR: ... we could get the funding to make it a little more smooth...

AC: Right.

PR: ... instead of having all these battles...

AC: Right.

PR: ... we're not all on the same page...

AC: Right.

PR: ... which is, I don't know, maybe that's where they want us. Fighting each other, you know? Dividing and conquer.

AC: I think you're doing a great job of making this work. It may not be absolutely ideal but...

PR: It's not the best but...

AC: ... it sounds like it's...?

PR: No, none of us go "This is what we want 'cause this is the best!" No, this is what we're going to be dealt with. This is our alternative.

AC: Yeah.

PR: You know, and it's like we can either have that or that.

AC: And what are some... so it sounds like there's the pros of flexibility and predictability but...

PR: Flexibility.

AC: ... some of the, are there cons that you would say, you say it's not the best...?

PR: It's expensive. It's already expensive. You know, you hear the guys that don't like it say "Well, it's crazy... you have to buy fish." Yeah.

AC: Okay.

PR: And then look at it like, I can buy fish.

AC: Yeah.

PR: Well, that's the other side of that coin. I can buy. That's pretty cool.

AC: So that's the expensive part?

PR: Buying fish, yeah. Sometimes it gets expensive. I sold yellowtails last year for \$2.50 a pound. You don't even get that for them.

AC: Oh, so you're just going...?

PR: Guys were buying.

AC: ... whatever someone's going to pay?

PR: Guys were buying them to cover...

AC: Oh.

PR: ... "cause they didn't have very many, and they're catching so many. Guys were catching 5, 600 pounds of yellowtail with a rope net. You shouldn't catch any. That's how many there are.

AC: Wow.

PR: Yellowtails on Georges Banks, and they were catching so many, they couldn't get around them. Even with a rope trawl. So they were, in order to catch haddock, they had to have enough yellowtails to cover. Well, I had those yellowtails. I was happy to

sell them to him for \$2.50. He was not happy to buy them at \$2.50, you know? He was losing money on those fish.

AC: Yeah.

PR: But he made 50,000 on his haddock.

AC: Right.

PR: 'Cause it's a big boat, he can catch you know 80, 90,000 of haddock, so he made a ton of money on them. You know, it's cost, it's like fuel. It's the cost of doing business, right?

AC: Yeah.

[48:28]

PR: It's just one more expense. That stinks...

AC: Interesting.

PR: ... but its flexibility for me, flexibility for him. If it wasn't for that, he'd be shut down.

AC: Yeah.

PR: All done. Go tie your boat up. So that's not going to work.

AC: So under sectors, you have to bring everything in?

PR: Yes.

AC: Okay. So yeah, you need some way of....

PR: You've got to cover. It's called accountability.

AC: Sure. Do you think that that...?

PR: Like we should have done this a long time ago.

AC: Right, right.

PR: Accountability. If everybody accounted for everything they caught, and we brought it all in and got paid for it.... The new push now is why do we need size limits? If the fish is dead, bring it home.

AC: Yeah.

PR: What are you sizing it for? I'm towing 6 ½ inch mesh, the biggest mesh in the world, in the world. It's absolutely the biggest terminal mesh in the world. And if I killed it, let me bring it home.

AC: Right.

PR: If it's going to come off my quota, bring it home. I mean, you're not going to stay and work on that stuff 'cause you're going to get less money for it.

AC: Right.

PR: And you're trying to maximize, I mean, guys have gone to using bigger mesh even just because you only want to catch large yellowtails, you only want to catch large codfish. You don't want to catch little ones 'cause you've only got 30,000 pounds of them. I need to get top dollar for every pound.

AC: Right.

PR: So guys have done just the opposite of what you'd think, right?

AC: Sure.

PR: It used to be the other way, try to catch all you can. Now its try to catch the best.

AC: Sure, sure.

PR: That's pretty good thinking.

AC: So, interesting. Do you think that shift is...?

PR: Totally, cause now you're accountable.

AC: So it's 'cause of that accountability?

PR: This is it, this is what I have to work with, you know? These pounds, this is it or whatever it is, you know? Yeah. These pounds are it. So when we roll through them, that's what I have left.

AC: Oh, this is your...?

PR: This is what I have left...

AC: .... Excel tracking sheet...?

PR: ... as of last week.

AC: ... 5 species, pounds remaining. Wow.

PR: You know, how many percentage I am, stuff I've traded....

AC: That's amazing.

PR: And this is week after week after month or, you know, when I'm actively fishing.

AC: Yeah.

PR: If I'm not actively fishing, then they don't send me one.

AC: This is great.

PR: But you punch it up, and I know what I've got. I go fishing, I grab that paper, and I go "This is what I've got to catch this week."

AC: Yeah.

PR: Something happens, I catch over that, I've got to make some phone calls. But I'm not going to get locked up.

AC: Yeah.

PR: You know? I'm not going to get a ticket; I'm not worried about it. It's just, if I catch more than that, oh well, right? You know?

AC: And that seems like a neat way to feel like you're, it's almost a...

PR: It's great.

AC: ... target. Like, here's my target?

PR: I'm going shopping.

AC: Right.

PR: I'm going shopping. Right now we go out and we do this. We catch 5,000 fluke, I get this, I get that, 250 of them, and however many yellowtails I want to take off the table.

AC: Right.

PR: 'Cause it's like, cause the fish are there. That's the other thing. The fish are there, its just shopping. Just go get them. Make a withdrawal, you know? It's not a problem, catching the fish. That's easy.

AC: Now does you being homeported in Point Judith, and being in a different sector than most of the guys there, does that create friction?

PR: You better believe it.

AC: How does that...

PR: Oh yeah, sure because you're in that one, yeah.

AC: Okay, so you just kind of roll with it?

[51:40]

PR: That's why you get a lot of, yeah.... What are you going to do? I'm in the best sector there is...

AC: Yeah.

PR: ... no doubt about it, you know?

AC: Yeah.

PR: I'm in the... and I'm the only one from down here. They don't want what I want and I don't want what they want.

AC: Okay.

PR: So they're all trying to sell me the stuff I want, so I get it cheap.

AC: Now has it changed your, did you have close friends...

PR: No.



AC: ... for instance, or...?

PR: Yeah, but....

AC: What are the social dynamics in Point Judith for you like? Like what are your social networks, your friends?

PR: I'm pretty quiet, believe it or not, even though I haven't shut up yet.

AC: You're not supposed to.

PR: Right. But, one-on-one I can talk to anybody.

AC: Yeah.

PR: Even you.

AC: Yeah, I am pretty horrendous.

PR: In Point Judith, I'm very quiet. I don't talk to anybody. I don't get into politics with those guys because there's a big battle down there between... there's another sector. There's the fluke sector...

AC: Right.

PR: ...which is a whole different....

AC: State sector.

PR: That's a state run thing, which is....

AC: I talked to Chris Brown. I interviewed him as well.

PR: You did? Yeah. So, and there's a whole different aspect that's got people completely divided down there. And then this just adds on to it. So I try to stay right out of it, because I'm friends with guys on both sides of the table there, you know?

AC: Right.

PR: So, and I'm not in the fluke sector.

AC: Okay.

PR: I'm not. I could be, but I'm not. For no other reason than my boat didn't catch fluke during the qualifying years, so I wouldn't have a lot. If I went to do that, I wouldn't have a lot of fluke to catch, so it makes no sense for me to do it.

AC: Okay.

PR: You know?

AC: You're not being excluded from it?

PR: Nope. No, they want me to join.

AC: You just decided....

PR: I just decided not to.

AC: Okay.

PR: And just kind of stayed out of it.

AC: Okay.

PR: So in Rhode Island, in Point Judith, there's a major, major, major battle. It's stupid. It's absolutely stupid, but I could go on and on that for hours.

AC: Yeah. Well, tell me a little more about, one of the things we're interested in is just seeing friendships or, like I said, social networks and how has that changed over the last few years for you? Did you primarily spend, I mean, you have a family so you're home at night and you want to be with your family?

PR: Yeah.

AC: But in some of your off time, did you ever, and do you still, spend time with other fishermen? Has that changed?

PR: It's changed. I don't think because of fishing.

AC: Not because of fishing.

PR: Just me getting older.

AC: Just you.... Okay.

PR: Like I went to the, last time I was in a bar was a month ago. To have a Pepsi, and that was for a herring meeting with the herring guys. Got to get the four herring guys, us four guys down here...

AC: Okay.

PR: ... got together to figure out how we're going to...

AC: Yeah.

[54:20]

PR: ... take care of the river herring issue this year, you know, with SMAST (School for Marine Science and Technology).

AC: Okay.

PR: So we had a little..., and it just happened to be at a bar...

AC: There you go.

PR: ... 'cause that's where we can go and be quiet. But anyway, it was... you know, I don't go out very much. I don't do anything.

AC: Yeah.

PR: I come home.

AC: And does your community recognize here where you live, that you're a fisherman and do they...?

PR: The swordfish light post gives it away.

AC: Right.

PR: And the nets going back and forth all the time in the backyard and, and stuff, but....

AC: And do they sort of...?

PR: I just drop them off a bag of scallops now and again and some fish and they go "Oh, that's nice. I love that guy!"

AC: Right.

PR: You know?

AC: Okay.

PR: They, anywhere I go....

AC: So it's not a fishermen community?

PR: No.

AC: There aren't other fishermen living near year?

PR: No, there's some down the street, there's a lobsterman over there. A good buddy of mine that my kids and his kids play together. He has his lobster boat, we go trick or treating together and stuff....

AC: Yeah.

PR: You know? Fishing's weird. Everywhere I go, everywhere I go, they all want to talk about it. I go, my buddy's a big wig lawyer-type out in San Francisco with.... I go out there with him and he's got all these companies doing this and that and he's, you know.... So we're sitting down to dinner at this fancy restaurant with, you know, like I said, lawyers and doctors and this and that and give it an hour, hour and a half and everybody's looking at me going "So let me get this straight, you did this? Oh, that's unbelievable!" You know? "That's so cool!"

AC: Right.

PR: Everywhere I go, every time.

AC: For the rest of your life, it will be like that.

PR: You know what I mean? It's really the coolest thing ever, you know? And now with, and that was before *Deadliest Catch* and everything, you know? Now, forget it. Now everybody goes "Oh my god!" and I go "Sig? Oh yeah, he's right here on my speed dial! Do you want to see it?" You know what I mean? I've got... I talk to him all the time, you know?

AC: Right.

PR: So, I'm nothing but another fisherman. Nothing but a drunk, another drunk fisherman, you know?

AC: There you go.

PR: Which is the... what everybody thinks.

AC: The stereotype.

PR: Yeah, the stereotype, you know? Sadly, for most of the deckhands, that's the way it is. Its tough, you know? It's a hard. It's a hard racket, but....

AC: For the captains, like yourself, it seems like...?

PR: No.

AC: The other folks I talked to, you know, its family and being home and....

PR: Yeah.

AC: You know, doing stuff that's outside of fishing, when you're done.

PR: That's it.

AC: Does that seem like the case for you?

PR: Yeah. I just think it's, it's not the Wild West anymore either. It's not the '70s and '80s where it was, you know, guys were just running rampant, you know? It's a real business now, you know? You know, on the boats, you happen to see in my other one, you're surrounded by 7 flatscreens and computers and laptops and GPS and satellites and, you're not out there in a sail, you know, just being a pirate, you know what I mean? You're not out there being a pirate. It's a real business, you know? So....

AC: And your wife, does she, are there other fishermen's wives who she spends time with or...?

[57:15]

PR: No.

AC: There's no cohesion there?

PR: No, probably not. I mean, there really just isn't. That might be more me than anything. Other guys do. You know, we go to the Christmas parties, we go to this thing, we go to that but I'm a real homebody. Like I am mad if I'm not at my house. My two boys are everything, so I just come home. That's it. We play baseball every day. I don't

miss any of that, so I just, that could be more me than the actual dynamic of how it is for maybe a lot of the guys, you know?

AC: No, I, it's actually very, everyone I've spoken to has had a very similar....

PR: Really?

AC: Which it was surprising.

PR: Yeah. Some of the guys still are. You can look on Facebook now and see some of the....

AC: It's a wide age range so it's not an age thing, it's definitely, yeah.

PR: You can look on Facebook now and see some of them and just go shake your head.

AC: Really?

PR: Oh my god.

AC: With their...?

PR: Yeah, it's really bad. So you just kind of laugh, you know?

AC: There you go. How are you doing on time, Phil?

PR: Oh, I've got time.

AC: A little more time? One of the things, too, we're interested in seeing is how insurance is a huge expense for everyone. You know, health insurance, boat insurance, do you have those?

PR: Yeah.

AC: Has that changed? Is it percentage-wise, I mean, is it a huge part of....

PR: Well, when I bought the first boat, the big one....

AC: Yeah.

PR: It was an 80 foot boat, you know? I bought it for \$400,000. Boat and permit.

AC: Okay.

PR: We did an unbelievable amount of work to the boat. [We] rebuilt it basically from top to bottom. So the boat was obviously worth more.

AC: Yeah.

PR: And 9 years later, when it sank, it was worth \$750,000. And the permit. And you keep the permit.

AC: Yeah.

PR: Permit's worth, like I said, right around 450, 550 [thousand]. You know, half a million bucks.

AC: Right.

PR: So the boat I bought for 400 [thousand] was worth 1.2 [million] when it sank. 'Cause I kept that permit.

AC: Yeah.

PR: That boat I had insured, in the beginning, for 400,000. And it was \$19,000.

AC: For the year?

PR: In 1999. For the year.

AC: Holy crap.

PR: Now, when it sank, I was paying \$58,000, when it sank. In 9 years, it went from 19 to \$58,000. The payment for the boat was 52,000 a year. Cost me more to own the, to insure it than it did to own it.

AC: Oh my gosh. And is that pretty standard?

PR: Yeah. Most guys can't afford to have their boats insured for that much, you know?

AC: Yeah, yeah.

PR: We had it insured for \$750,000.

AC: Okay.

PR: On a boat like that, a lot of times, you know....

AC: Yeah.

PR: There's obviously guys with bigger boats or better boats that are insured for more.

AC: Right.

PR: But boats in that class, nowadays, just a few years later are going "Well, we can't afford that. Well, we're going to have to insure it for 500. That's it, that's all I can get, you know?"

AC: Is there a lot of insurers as options?

PR: No.

[60:22]

AC: So that's why you're paying as, oh, and that's Nationwide?

PR: No.

AC: I mean, is it...

PR: Oh no.

AC: ... provide insurance company, I shouldn't say....

PR: Nationwide, that is on the East Coast basically.

AC: So there are three options, and that's it? Those are your only options? You can't go to an international carrier or...?

PR: You can.

AC: But you're paying....

PR: You're not getting....

AC: You're not getting as good coverage.

PR: You're getting coverage, you're getting everything you need, you don't get any, you know....



AC: I see.

PR: My boat, you know, I can't say enough good about my insurance company. It costs me a lot of money, but when the boat sank, they wrote me a check for 750 G's in my backyard.

AC: Wow.

PR: Not, you know, the guy came over, shook my hand....

AC: Wow.

PR: He was here the next day when the boat sank. He was here that afternoon...

AC: Wow.

PR: ... you know, when the boat sank. I mean, so it's a guy. I know him. I talk to him all the time.

AC: Sure.

PR: We sit on the dock. I feel something when I'm talking to this dude...

AC: Yeah.

PR: ... you know? It's not some, you know, you know, somebody in Pakistan or something, you know?

AC: Right.

PR: So it's expensive, but you get something. The guy comes down "Don't worry about it, Phil. I've got it taken care of. Don't worry about this, don't worry about that, I take care of that."

AC: Wow.

PR: You know, he was at the funeral for my father. You know, these guys, I can't say enough good about them. And there was no question about what happened.

AC: Yeah.

PR: They, you know, you filled out a, I filled out a report. Coast Guard filled out the report. I did the thing, they wrote the check. No problem. I wanted insurance for this boat. I called them up "Yup, no problem."

AC: Wow.

PR: You've got to worry though, you get these lawsuits now from these guys. You could lose your insurance, and I've had, that was a big claim on my name....

AC: Yeah.

PR: Now you get these...

AC: I see.

PR: ... bologna lawsuits. It starts adding up, you know. I don't blame them if one day they go "Hey, that's enough." Thirty, forty years ago, twenty, thirty, forty years ago, my grandfather never had a claim on his boat. Once, twenty... people just didn't do that. The lawyers weren't there. Now they're on every TV station and every book and every magazine.

AC: It's true.

PR: You didn't do that then. You did that then, you'd get thrown overboard, you know? Back in the days. Now, forget it. The guys, you know? Most of it didn't happen on the boat, you know?

AC: Right.

PR: Its kind of bologna. These are guys that, most of the guys who work on the boats a lot of times, it's sad, but they don't have an education. They don't have any skill set besides being a deckhand on a fishing boat. And they make \$50, 60,000 a year. And you know, they hurt themselves. Yeah, it's a rough job. So they get banged up and now they sue for, you know, 500 grand, you know?

AC: Right.

PR: It's awful.

AC: Now health insurance, is that something...?

PR: Health insurance. Don't get me started.

AC: Do you have health insurance?

PR: I have health insurance.

AC: For the whole family?

PR: Yeah, and I have to pay for it.

AC: Direct? You pay direct?

PR: Yeah.

AC: We do, too, sort of.

PR: \$1,310 a month. And they cover less and less every month. Every year it gets less and less. The co-pay goes up. Right? I mean, they don't cover anything.

AC: So your wife...?

[63:20]

PR: She used to have insurance through her work. She works at the hospital, the Rhode Island Hospital. So she used to have insurance through that.

AC: And now she stays...

PR: She's a stay at home mom.

AC: ... home with the kids. Okay, so you have to pay direct. That's your only option.

PR: So I have to pay.

AC: I know.

PR: And you have to have it. I mean, no way.

AC: I know. I mean, with kids.... You can't not have it with a family.

PR: So I mean, you have to have it.

AC: Okay. And in terms of infrastructure shore side, how has Point Judith changed? And this is kind of looking more in the last couple of years since sectors started. Have you seen some big shifts?

PR: I've seen a shift just in the real recent past here.

AC: Sure.

PR: The Town Dock has, what's known as the Town Dock, it's called The Town Dock. [I'm] not just saying the town dock.

AC: Yeah.

PR: The name of it is The Town Dock.

AC: Okay.

PR: They have, they're a big squid processing facility and they have a place out on the West Coast, too.

AC: Okay.

PR: And they have a place here in Point Judith, too. That's where I take out. Great people.

AC: And its right there on State Street? Or whatever...?

PR: Yeah, when you drive down, it's straight down.

AC: That's that.

PR: That's the first one you come to.

AC: Okay.

PR: Great place. Good place to take out. Good people. They pay very well. But they own some boats and they're buying boats and they are actively...

AC: Oh.

PR: ... doing just what a lot of the people, oh, I don't know, the people that say they don't like this way of things going, "Look at sectors now, its all going to be owned by 10 people."

AC: Oh.

PR: Well, that's happening. Is it because of sectors? I really don't think so.

AC: Right.

PR: Those people, if we stayed with, if we stayed with Days at Sea, the same people would be in trouble selling. And the same people would have money, and they'd be buying.

AC: I see.

PR: Okay?

AC: Yeah.

PR: Cause they'd want to have more days. Or they'd want to have more.... You know, everything's going to quotas, so they just want to have more quota. A guy like a processing plant, like Lund's in New Jersey, and these guys...they want to have as many boats going and getting them squid. 'Cause they have got squid. If they own 12 boats, they can tell their 12 captains "Squid, now." You know...?

AC: Wow.

PR: "Go get us some squid. Don't worry about...."

AC: To meet the market demand.

PR: 'Cause that's their big thing is squid. It really doesn't have anything to do with the groundfish. They don't do much with groundfish at all, so....

AC: So they're just buying boats for the permits?

PR: Because they think since sectors is happening with groundfish that it's going to happen with squid.

AC: I see.

PR: And then they're going to own a big percentage of the squid. They're setting themselves up for what's going to happen. It's what's going to happen.

AC: Now for enough, for guys to sell, so it must be worthwhile to sell.

PR: One of the biggest haters sold his boat to them.

AC: Yeah.

PR: So, he can't.... Good thing that guy came in with a check.

AC: Yeah.

PR: You know?

AC: Yeah.

PR: You know, you can't be on, sending all the emails off, whining about that, and then do just that. Sold your boat to.... It's like "Yeah, you took that check, didn't you?"

[66:27]

AC: Wasn't so bad when it was staring at you.

PR: Sure. And that's just part of it, you know. The guys are tired of it. I can get it, but...

AC: Yeah.

PR: ... it's called business. You make a... my good friend had two fishing boats, was doing very well, and made a bad business decision and bought a bigger herring boat.

AC: Uh-oh.

PR: At a bad time, when they were getting ready to put all the closures in on 1-A and all that.

AC: Yeah.

PR: A few years back and he ended up losing everything, all the boats, everything, because of that. And he's a very good friend of mine; we fished together all the time, side by side a lot.

AC: Yeah.

PR: And he will still [say] "Oh the government..." and I always go "You made a bad business decision."

AC: Yeah.

PR: You know? We'll argue about it, but I just don't see it that way. I just, you had the information in your hand, you knew it was coming, you said it wasn't...

AC: Gotcha.

PR: ... and you made a decision and you got bit. And you spent too much, too fast. And you overextended yourself. Now if Donald Trump does that, you don't see the government in there helping him out.

AC: Right.

PR: You don't see, you know, if Apple comes up with something, government doesn't jump in there and say "Hey."

AC: Yeah.

PR: You know?

AC: Yeah.

PR: It's, he made a business decision. You lost. There are no guarantees. It stinks. It's awful. I feel really bad for him, but....

AC: Do you think a lot of fishermen you know are becoming more, like you had mentioned more business, it's more of a business...

PR: Oh yeah.

AC: ... in that you need to focus on that element of it.

PR: The guys, like, when it first, when sectors first came out everybody was in a panic...

AC: Right.

PR: ... that didn't understand what was going to happen. We knew what was going to happen in our sector. I knew what was, pretty much how it was going to go, you know? We had already talked about it in great detail, you know? And everybody else was like "Ah, what's going to happen? Oh my god, the sky's falling!" You know? And now, guys that we're hating it, I hear, I talk to them all the time and they've got a whole different tune, just two years in. They've got a whole different tune "Oh, this is pretty cool. I can go do this and not... yeah" "Yes, you can. You didn't think that two years ago, did you?" It's not that bad. It's not. It's not what it was in '88, but it's never going to be. We're not going back to that, 'cause if we do, we're screwed.

AC: Right.

PR: So you just, you've got to be able to move a little bit, you know?

AC: Yeah. Now Phil, tell me a little bit about your research involvement. I know you've done a bunch of things. Your father did a bunch of things.

PR: Yeah.

AC: Can you just kind of summarize some of that...?

PR: Well, we....

AC: ... and tell me things you're involved in now, if you are? On the research end of things?

[69:19]

PR: My grandfather started research with sharks and swordfish and tuna fish in the '60s, I guess. And, with Jack Casey, who you'll see on National Geographic and stuff all the time, doing the shark expert stuff, you know. It's like "Hey, that dude's been over to the house a hundred times." You know?

AC: Yeah.

PR: Used to go to the Christmas parties at the NOAA lab, you know? And when I was about that tall and his understudy at the time, John Hoey, who we do most of our research through nowadays, he's the head of cooperative research, right?

AC: Yeah, yeah.

PR: I get the title mixed up.

AC: You got it, yeah.

PR: He made his first trip on my grandfather's boat. First trip. He had just started the job the week before and Jack put him on the boat. He said "Hey, you get on this boat." He said "I was a kid, just out of grad school. I, oh my god." And he said "Hey, all you've got to do is stay out of everybody's way and listen to that guy right there" and he points to my father and he says "You just do what he tells you to do" him and my grandfather. "And you'll be fine." 35 days, going out to do swordfish research, you know? [They were doing] shark tagging and all that kind of stuff. So we've been involved in it, you know, before I was born. It's just natural. A lot of guys don't like to do it because they just, "Don't give them any information, don't tell." We go the other way. We go 180 the other way. I want to give them all the information, because I want them to get the right information. Not the information that somebody else is digging up and then skewing. I want it to be mine.



AC: Yeah.

PR: So we've done scup surveys, squid stuff, butterfish stuff. We've done, we ended up doing a... modifying a net that's now called the Rhule trawl that catches more haddock and not cod, flounders, bottom-dwelling stuff. It's a rope net.

AC: That's something someone could go purchase?

PR: Yeah.

AC: Fishermen can...?

PR: Yeah.

AC: ... go to a store and say "I want a Rhule trawl"?

PR: Yes. And I get nothing for it, just so you know.

AC: Really?

PR: Not a, not a dime.

AC: No trademark?

PR: No trademark on that one, no. No. But you can go get it. I still have people call me all the time asking how to use them because they're a little bit fussy sometimes, you know? Getting them set up right to work properly, you know? And once they work, they're fine, but....

AC: And do you use one now...?

PR: Yeah.

AC: ... when you go fishing for...?

PR: Yeah.

AC: ... haddock?

PR: Yeah, I sure do.

AC: Okay.

PR: And that net there, we won the World Wildlife Fund, Federation, whatever it is Smart Gear Competition, which is a worldwide competition. 70, 76 countries or 74 countries had applicants.

AC: Oh my gosh.

PR: We won first prize, which was really cool. Went to Seattle and did that.

AC: Wow.

PR: That was awesome. That was fun. And, so it's a big deal that, that net was a big deal. It's now used all over the world in different places, up in the U.K. and stuff.

AC: Very cool.

[72:19]

PR: It's kind of starting to branch out. It's tough, but it's branched out. And what am I doing now? Well, I'm doing a raised footrope... I'm in the middle of a raised footrope trawl study. It's nothing groundbreaking, it's just more quantifying stuff, you know? So I'm working on that kind of stuff right now.

AC: And you work with NOAA and....

PR: Yeah, actually Cornell University.

AC: Cornell, okay.

PR: Yeah, on this one.

AC: And then SMAST, School of Marine Science?

PR: Oh yeah, we do, yeah, I forgot, see.

AC: I know you're doing a million things.

PR: SMAST, we work with them on river herring avoidance.

AC: Yeah.

PR: It's more of just a, like a web.... Like we're just putting information together everyday...

AC: Okay.

PR: ... so that we can identify when there's problem areas and hotspots to avoid. And we put that out to the rest of the fleet so they can avoid those areas.

AC: Okay.

PR: So we don't have any large takes of river herring.

AC: Okay, sure. Another sector related question: would you recommend another fisherman to join your sector?

PR: Yes.

AC: Like a peer? A fisherman peer?

PR: Yeah, I've dragged a couple of guys, not in Rhode Island, but guys from New Bedford that I know.

AC: Okay.

PR: I've pointed them that way.

AC: So it's positive enough to...?

PR: Oh yeah.

AC: Okay.

PR: Oh and I've, you know, in sectors in general, yeah I think... pretty much most guys are figuring that out now.

AC: Sounds like....

PR: It's just, the sector I'm in, I'm really lucky to be in, so....

AC: Excellent. And then just a couple of questions on income, and you don't have to give me numbers, but percentage-wise, over the last two years, you've talked a little bit about this, but would you say it's increased, decreased since sectors started, your income, or is that a difficult thing to attribute to sectors? Is it...?

PR: My situation might be a little bit different because...

AC: Yeah.

PR: ... because right after the boat sank, we went to sectors, so my income changed drastically anyway.

AC: Okay.

PR: So it's kind of hard to figure out how much of that, you know....

AC: Yeah.

PR: My uncle's not really, not on board with sectors. My uncle, which is....

AC: The crazy uncle?

PR: No, my uncle Jimmy, who's...

AC: Oh, gotcha.

PR: ...world renowned.

AC: Yes.

PR: He's not really, but he doesn't understand it too much. He's fished in the mid-Atlantic and it's different. Now I'm not saying he doesn't understand it, 'cause he understands everything.

AC: Right.

PR: But it's just, he's never had to fish that way, so it's different. He's never fished up here in this multispecies...

AC: Okay.

PR: ... aspect. He's gone and caught squid. He's caught croakers. He's caught herring. He's caught mackerel where you go and you scup, and you're targeting something, and you catch it, and you go home, okay? He's never fished where you set the net and you... up here, and we're targeting, I'm targeting all 6 of that. Bring it, you know? Because they all live together on Georges Banks.

AC: Gotcha.

[75:16]

PR: Multispecies, it's a little bit different. So it's hard to understand. It's hard to get him to understand how that is. So he said to me "If you had your other boat, you

wouldn't think...." I have [an] allotted amount of fish that came from history that was built from a bigger boat. So I've taken big boat history and quota and put it on a smaller boat, so it lasts longer.

AC: Sure.

PR: It looks like a much bigger percentage, for that size boat.

AC: Sure.

PR: But, I have 780,000 pounds of haddock, which I don't exploit at all.

AC: Right.

PR: Last year I caught 76,000, 77,000 [pounds]. That's nothing. 'Cause I'm not big enough to go out to Georges year round...

AC: Gotcha.

PR: ... and catch the rest of it.

AC: Gotcha.

PR: [I] tow my Rhule trawl around and catch haddock, like I used to do. On the big boat, I used to do that all the time. Go out and catch 60, 70,000 haddock, come in with 2,000 pounds of other fish, right? 1,000 pounds of other fish. So he says "Well, you know, you wouldn't think that was so good if you were back on the other boat." And I said "Yeah, why not? I'd be chasing my haddock, like I used to." I said "Now I don't have the tool to go catch that."

AC: Sure.

PR: So it is different. So it's hard to say, you know? It's hard to say, if I was going out and the guys I know, in my sector last year, who I used to fish with, naming a few boats: the *Nobska*, the *Morue*, you know, the *Harmony*, these are guys I fished with all the time. They had the best year they've ever had, all three boats. Last year was the best year, the first year of sector management was the best year they ever had. And they caught almost nothing but haddock. If I ever could show you the bar graph, which I can't, but the bar graph from what my sector caught...

AC: Sure.

PR: It's unbelievable.

AC: Sure.

PR: Haddock, we have lots of haddock, catch them. Don't worry about that, redfish, pollock. And then a little bit of everything else. A little bit. Never even caught the cod, never even caught the flounders, never even caught the yellowtails. Never hit the quota.

AC: And that doesn't roll over to the next year?

PR: No.

AC: Obviously.

PR: No.

AC: You're just accumulating.

PR: But they never even caught them.

AC: Yeah.

PR: They're worried about going over, and just kept towing separator trawls and Rhule trawls all year round and caught haddock, haddock, haddock, haddock, haddock, every year, every day.

AC: Wow.

PR: And they had the best year they ever had. So I said "Hey, I might have been right there with them."

AC: Right.

PR: Would have been the best year I ever had. That's what I did before. So it's hard for me to say...

AC: I see.

PR: ... what it would be.

AC: I see.

PR: It's a little bit of a different story.

AC: Yes, that's true. Very true.

PR: Right now I'm groundfishing all the time, 'cause I have a lot of quota for a little boat, and I can spread it out. I can go make a trip, I stay home 4-5 days. Weather looks nice, I'm going to go make another trip. Make a week's pay in 2-3 days, sometimes. Sometimes we make nothing, you know what I mean? But lately, the last 2-3 months, you know, we're just spreading it out. We don't make a lot of money.

AC: Okay.

[78:18]

PR: Go out, make the guys their 800 bucks, 1,000 bucks for the week in a couple of days. In 2-3 days, and you come home, you know? Last trip they were gone, last trip the boat went, I wasn't on the boat, they were gone 24 ½ hours. Both guys on deck made 890 bucks. Captain made almost 12.

AC: Right.

PR: Not bad, you know?

AC: Yeah.

PR: That was a good trip.

AC: Yeah.

PR: I've had trips where they've made 60 bucks, you know? So you know, you have them too but with the groundfish, I can count on, the fish are there, you go... bang. It's just months of it. I've never fished months of groundfish before in a row.

AC: Okay.

PR: And I'll go herring fishing for the next two months. And then February, March, and April we'll go groundfishing again, for the rest of this year.

AC: Okay.

PR: So I'll probably spend close to 6 months groundfishing on this boat now, which I never used to. Before I used to go a couple of months, that was it. 3 months.

AC: Wow.

PR: So, it's different.

AC: Yeah.

PR: It's different, you know? It's like apples and oranges.

AC: Gotcha.

PR: I still get paid the same. So....

AC: As an owner...

PR: I get paid the same.

AC: ... 'cause you're the one...?

PR: I get paid the same, no matter what.

AC: Okay.

PR: It doesn't matter. I get a salary every week, you know?

AC: Okay.

PR: The company has... we're getting by.

AC: Okay. 'Cause the company's doing not just...?

PR: The company's holding on, you know?

AC: Okay.

PR: I mean, we're not getting rich by any means.

AC: Okay.

PR: I don't have a lot left over.

AC: Gotcha.

PR: But can I afford baseball for the kids? Yeah, no problem. You know, it's not, and that's just what we did before. I never had any extra money before. If I did, I bought something. I bought equipment, you know. I just, the boat was always getting upgraded, so....

AC: Yeah.



PR: You know, always needing something. So I never had any extra money. So I have just as much extra money now. None. You know?

AC: Gotcha, gotcha.

PR: I wish I had more, but I don't. But I never really care either.

AC: Yeah. You sound, you're in a very different place...

PR: I'm in a different place.

AC: ... from the last few years, you take...?

PR: Totally changed me. I used to be the first one out, the last one gone.

AC: Yeah.

PR: You made one, two trips with us, right?

AC: Yeah.

PR: When it was an iced up boat.

AC: It was awesome.

PR: Wide open, all the time. Now I am the most laidback person in the world. I could care less. They could take it all away tomorrow; I don't really care, as long as I have my house.

AC: There you go.

PR: I can't, you can't, I just, you can't take... you realize how none of it matters. It doesn't matter, you know?

AC: And you realized that just through time or through your very difficult experiences.

PR: I've seen a lot of stuff go bad, real fast...

AC: So you're....

PR: ... at a young age.

AC: Yeah.

PR: Even, you know, I was 34 when the boat sank when the boat sank and my father was lost. And that just completely changed me.

AC: Yeah.

PR: Completely. You want to talk about friendships?

AC: Yeah.

PR: Chris Brown.

AC: Yeah.

PR: [He's a] good friend of mine. [I] did not know [him] that well before the boat sank. Knew him....

AC: Right.

[81:13]

PR: Talked to him, fished with him a little bit here and there. We used to be herring fishing on the beach, and that's Chris' beach.

AC: Right.

PR: That's his, he owns that. He's the mayor, you know? So Dad and him talked politically and all that and this, but....

AC: Yeah.

PR: I didn't know him, know him.

AC: Yeah.

PR: The boat sank and it was a big, you know, big to do obviously. Everybody was, it was a big deal, so....

AC: Of course.

PR: 2, 3 months go by. Now I have to figure out what to do.

AC: Right.

PR: I've got to do something. The government, these guys are writing me a check for \$750,000 and if I don't reinvest it in the fishing industry, they're going to take \$262,000.

AC: Wow.

PR: \$262,000. What am I, Bill Gates? Who pays taxes like that? I'm a little guy, you know?

AC: Right.

PR: So my boat cost me \$198,000. The one I've got now. My tax bill was \$65,000. So the boat was free, basically, right?

AC: Right, right.

PR: I mean, I deferred my taxes to a later point, but....

AC: Right.

PR: Which is what I ended up doing, but I got....

AC: Right.

PR: It's free, 'cause I reinvested back into the fishing industry.

AC: Right away.

PR: Right away. I had to do it before....

AC: In that year.

PR: That boat sank in July and I had to do it before December 31<sup>st</sup>. That's a long time to, that's a short time to figure out what you're going to do with yourself. 'Cause that was my out and fishing wasn't looking too good then.

AC: Right.

PR: It was, a lot of people would have gotten out.

AC: Yeah.

PR: Nobody would have blamed me for just saying "That's it." You know?

AC: Yeah.

PR: Chris knows. He knew the history, he knew this and that. I'd been down to the docks. Once in awhile, I'd go down and walk around the dock and talk to the guys and just go down there, you know? I didn't fish in Point Judith. We fished out of Newport.

AC: Okay, yeah.

PR: So we didn't, it's not regular for me to go walk down the dock. But I would do it once in a while just 'cause I live over here now and....

AC: Yeah.

PR: Phone rings, [it's] Chris Brown. We had, "Hey Chris, what's happening?" You know? "What are you doing tomorrow?" I was in a pretty bad funk...

AC: Right.

PR: ... sitting on the couch...

AC: Right.

PR: ... feeling pretty bad. Not wanting to do anything. Don't want to get up....

AC: Yeah.

PR: Don't want to go out of the house. Don't answer the phone. Bad.

AC: Right.

PR: About 3 months of that, you know? It was like in the end of October, November he says "What are you doing tomorrow?" "Nothing. Same thing I've been doing every day." He says "Meet me down at the boat, 4:30. You're going to go fishing with me tomorrow." I says "Oh, I don't know Chris. Now? Fuck you." You know? "You're coming fishing with me tomorrow. Go get..." I said "I don't have any oil gear or anything. No oil gear or anything." He said "Well you better get to the store." "Alright. Shit, I'll go. Alright." And I had been kind of poking around, asking him a few questions about a smaller boat, you know? How he does and poking around the edges a little bit, you know? So I guess he figured he was going to show me, you know? So, alright, I'm not doing anything tomorrow. Nice day, I'll go. So I go down there. Now I haven't been on a boat, I'm scared to death.

AC: Oh my gosh.

[84:22]

PR: You know? Well, I'm not going to let him see that, but...

AC: Yeah.

PR: ... I'm pretty nervous, you know? [I] didn't sleep at all. But I've got to go out on a boat again. I haven't been on one, you know?

AC: Oh my god.

PR: When we go take off, we leave, so now I go "What the hell am I doing?" You know? Not only that, I've never fished on a boat that small. Never. I've only been on 80 foot draggers. 90, 100, 150 foot boats, you know?

AC: Yeah.

PR: I've never been on a boat that small. 55 foot wooden boat, you know? I'm like "Are you kidding me? Look how close the water is. Its November, Oh it's cold." You know?

AC: This was his old boat?

PR: Yeah, his old wooden, rickety boat. I was like "Oh boy, oh boy, oh boy, oh boy. This is stupid." He was great. We went out and, you know, we're doing this and that and he's turning. And we're towing and he's turning and the boat's laid over and I'm just... we're just sitting there, talking to him the whole time, you know? And I worked on deck. I worked, you know?

AC: Yeah.

PR: We're towing and the boat's like laying over 'cause we're turning. He's looking at me. He says "You alright?" I said "Yeah, I'm alright." "Alright, I'm just checking." And he showed me everything that day. He took his books out and we spent 15 hours together and he showed me "Look, this is what we do. This is how much money I make, this is how I make it. This is what you do. This is what the insurance costs. This is what the boat costs. This is what the fuel costs for the year. This is what you need to do. You can be home and go to the baseball game, you can do whatever you want. You can make it home every afternoon, every night, you know? And you can still go fishing. And you don't have to go off to east bumfuck every trip." You know?

AC: Right.

PR: He said "I do this every day, right here. 27 years, I haven't left, never left right here. You know, around Block Island." 27 years, he's never left. He goes maybe to the Island once in awhile. He goes to the Vineyard and the Sound, you know, but that's a rare occurrence. 95 percent of the time, he's home every night.

AC: Right.

PR: You know? And he does extremely well. Now, granted, he is absolutely phenomenal. And actually, now that I do that with him, he really pisses me off cause he's so good, you know? I'm like "I just, can me and you please go to Georges, where I know what the hell I'm doing and you don't? Cause right now I'm not feeling very smart."

AC: Right.

PR: You know? 'Cause let me, let me take you to my backyard where I know what I'm doing.

AC: On par here.

PR: Cause he is so good at it. But he just grabbed me. He didn't know, he didn't have to do that, you know? Some days when I'm not happy on the boat, I yell at him. I call him up and go "Hey, this is your fault, you know? You dragged me back into this. I was out, you know? You dragged me back in." But it's just such a legacy thing...

AC: Wow.

PR: ... with us, you know? Like I said, three... and my son just loves it. Loves it. And now I can take him out on this boat for the day.

AC: Yeah.

[87:12]

PR: We leave in the morning, all three of them. The wife goes, you know. She goes with us, we'll all go. A lot. We do it in the summer, just for fun. And we'll make \$1,000. Hey, it's awesome. It's really cool.

AC: Yeah.

PR: The rest of it, it's just weighing it. Some days, some days the other bologna weighs on your shoulders more, but....

AC: Yeah.

PR: That part of it's really cool, you know? And then you say you meet friends. You get relationships with people that are just, you know?

AC: That's a profound....

PR: Yeah. I'll never forget that. He absolutely just, I needed a push....

AC: Yeah.

PR: You know? He could tell that I needed something. I needed a push. I was in a bad place, you know? [I] wasn't doing anything wrong, I just couldn't do anything. I was scared to do anything. Just was like dying. You know, almost felt like that. You know, like....

AC: Yeah.

PR: "Kill me, please." He says "No, you're coming. You're coming with me." I bought a boat about three weeks later.

AC: Wow.

PR: I did. Yeah, three weeks later [I] saw that boat and said "Oh yeah, how much do you want for that?" "260" I said, "I'll give you 200." "Alright."

AC: Looks like I'm getting back in this.

PR: Cash. Cash, you know?

AC: Wow.

PR: And it's all worked out, you know?

AC: Wow.

PR: It's different; it's a whole different ballgame for me now, but....

AC: Yeah.

PR: I'm used to going out and being gone for a week, so....

AC: Now for your health, health issues, is it helping that you can be in? Is it less stress on you physically or is it...?

PR: Probably less stress on me physically, 'cause you don't put the hours in, you're not doing it....

AC: Yeah.

PR: I don't go as much as I should. I should go, you know, guys like Chris that fish the beach like it's supposed to. They go all the time. They just get up at 3:30 in the morning, every morning...

AC: Right.

PR: ... and they go fishing, every day. It's unbelievable. They're machines. I can't do it. I can't, it drives me nuts. I hate getting up in the....

AC: Just a rhythm.

PR: They just, they've been in that rhythm for 20-some years. Just gets up in the morning and goes fishing. That's it.

AC: Yeah.

PR: If it's blowing too hard, we don't. But we get up in the morning and we go to the boat.

AC: Wow.

PR: Every day. Every day. It's like "You've got to be kidding me." I can't do that. I can't do that. If we're not making a lot of money, I don't want to go.

AC: Right, right.

PR: Just can't be bothered.

AC: Well, you're coming from a totally different history, right?

PR: Different place, it's a different place. And then you have to go, you have to take what I'm used to stocking or seeing on deck for good catch and going "Man, we're not catching anything here. I can't fish here." And he's like "Oh, that's fine."

AC: You're good.

PR: It's like "What? That's nothing!" It's a basket of this and a basket of that.

AC: Yeah.



PR: "Oh, that's all you need."

AC: Wow.

PR: So it's a whole different, it's getting used to it, you know? It's a whole different thing. And I fish a little bit different than Chris does, too. I like to go off a little bit more. But not... I don't have to.

AC: It calls you out further.

PR: Yeah.

AC: Block Island?

PR: He does, his bungee cord comes out south of the Island and he's like, it's a long trip for him, you know?

AC: Yeah.

PR: So, he makes more money than I do right now, I know that. You know, he knows what he's doing, so.... But it's cool. It's just different, you know?

[90:21]

AC: And smoking, do you smoke?

PR: No.

AC: Okay. Have you ever?

PR: Never.

AC: I don't remember you smoking.

PR: Nope.

AC: So that's not something that...?

PR: Nope.

AC: That's good.

PR: Nope. But definitely there's stress. You know, on the other boat we'd be 5, 6, 8 days, longer trips. Just that, you know, when you get done with an 8, 9, 10 day trip, you're tired.

AC: Yeah.

PR: Tired, tired, you know? So, and you don't have that anymore. That major breakdown, you know? You get sick a lot.

AC: Gotcha.

PR: 'Cause you just broke down.

AC: You're not eating probably as well as you should because you're....

PR: Or too much. I don't smoke, so I eat a lot of candy and, you know, junk food.

AC: Right.

PR: Pretzels. You're just sitting up in the chair for 20 hours at a clip, you know?

AC: But now when you're home...?

PR: So now it's totally different.

AC: Is it home meals? Is it more like, okay.

PR: Yeah. Yeah, it's good.

AC: That's good.

PR: I've gone and... I never let anybody run my other boat. No way, don't even look at it. Don't even, don't, don't touch it.

AC: Wow.

PR: Now, go.

AC: Your crew would...?

PR: Not my crew, but I have guys that run it for me.

AC: Excellent.

PR: Another guy who's kind of, he may be my father's age and kind of half-retired.

AC: Okay.

PR: I don't know, Bruce Harvey. You know Bruce? He runs it. And Jim?

AC: Of course.

PR: Jim runs it.

AC: Yeah. He's retired I thought? Or no.

PR: Yeah, kind of.

AC: Sort of.

PR: But he's drawn back. Part-time, you know? [He] goes a couple days here and there.

AC: Okay.

PR: So when I don't feel like it, it's nice. It helps them out, it helps me out.

AC: Sure.

PR: It keeps things going.

AC: That's pretty cool.

PR: It is. It is. I have time.

AC: Now....

PR: It's just like any other job, I guess. Right? You're never happy every day.

AC: No. No, it's....

PR: But it's tough to, some days it's tough to carry on the legacy, but....

AC: Oh, do you feel like that's...?

PR: I feel like I have to.

AC: You do?

PR: Some days it's really like "I wish I didn't have to. It's driving me nuts. I'd be fine working at Lowe's."

AC: Yeah.

PR: But, you know, just punch my clock and go away, 'cause I hate all the headaches sometimes, you know?

AC: Yeah.

PR: Even though this was less than before, like if I had my big boat now, I'd be losing my marbles. I'd be like, 'cause the bills and the insurance and the 5 guys instead of 2 and....

AC: Yeah.

PR: Just, everything multiplied, right? So you'd be going bananas, but, so this is less, but its still, I used to do them with my father. So he handled 60, 70% of that, right?

AC: Right.

PR: I just drove the boat. So now I have to do it all by myself. So it's, it's half as much. There's only one of me, so it's tough, you know?

AC: Yeah.

PR: So sometimes it's like "Oh man, I just would like to punch a clock and go home." And leave it there. And not go to bed every night worrying about "Geez, did I turn that off? Is this on? Did I forget to call in? Did I do this? Did I, you know?"

AC: Yeah.

[93:17]

PR: All these little things that you have to do to go fishing.

AC: Right.

PR: It'd be nice to just not have to deal with it sometimes, you know? So it's nice to send somebody else fishing and go....

AC: Sure.

PR: I deal with the books and all the reporting and....

AC: Manager or...?

PR: Basically. Let them go a little bit. But I just, if you, when my boy gets to be 18.... We had to, when I started with my father, you know, we had to bankroll some money, buy a boat because their boat was gone. And none of that fishing history counted then.

AC: Right.

PR: None of that, all the fish they caught and all those years, none of it counted until the '90s, right?

AC: Right, when they started doing....

PR: So we didn't have a boat in the '90s. So now we had to buy a boat with history. And now that history's real expensive. So now, you know, if you got rid of this boat and you wanted to buy back in in 10 years, you better bring some money. You know, so that's just not going to happen. It's going to be harder and harder to do from scratch. That's why big companies own them.

AC: So is part of why you're keeping, is it for your son?

PR: If he wants it.

AC: If he wants it, oh.

PR: When he's 18, 19, 20, 25, whatever.

AC: Gotcha.

PR: It would be not very responsible of me to have let it go. 'Cause I own, own it now, right?

AC: Right. And he seems to be interested...?

PR: Oh, they're very interested.

AC: ... now, so there's a good chance...?

PR: That doesn't mean, I mean, in 8 years, any of us will still be here, but....

AC: Yeah, yeah.

PR: There's a good chance. That's what we do, you know?

AC: Yeah.

PR: So....

AC: Does he recognize...?

PR: It wouldn't be very responsible of me to quit. 'Cause I'd feel like I'm quitting, even though it's a business decision. It would feel like quitting to me.

AC: I see.

PR: But, I don't know. I don't know if it is or not, just feels that way. Just 'cause you had a bad week or month. I don't know.

AC: Yeah.

PR: It's weird.

AC: Do your boys see it as this? I mean, they obviously know your family history.

PR: They don't want me to go fishing. It's awful, they love....

AC: They don't?

PR: Oh, it's awful.

AC: They don't want you to go?

PR: That's one of the reasons I think about getting rid of it, is 'cause they hate it.

AC: They do?

PR: They love it, and they hate it. They love that I fish. They love coming on the boat. They don't like to see me go. It was always, it was always worth... and I don't care if it's for the day. I walk in the door and they think I've been gone a month.

AC: Oh.

PR: And I'm like "I just left this morning. You didn't even see me this morning." I left, it was, you know, what's the big deal? The big one, the little one doesn't know, right? But the big one knows. So like two years ago, he would just cry. He was fine for years. And if I went to leave, he would freak out and cry. Well, and I said "Look, you

know, Patrick, the little one, he's not crying." And he says "Well he doesn't know what could happen to you."

AC: Aww.

[96:18]

PR: I guess we're not going fishing tonight. No way, I mean its just heart breaking, right? "He doesn't know. He doesn't know that you might not come home."

AC: Wow.

PR: Kid, you're 8, you know? 9. Brutal. And it's true. He didn't know that. I never thought of that when I was a kid. [I] never thought of that, no way. And then it's like "Whoa." It's true. So....

AC: And it's still hard for him you said? Or has it become a little easier or...?

PR: Yeah, he's kind of grown out of it a little bit. Now the other one's worse.

AC: Wow.

PR: So, maybe when they all grow up it'll be alright, but....

AC: Yeah.

PR: But I have trouble with it, more than anything, even more than them. I have awful panic attacks. I can't go. I'll go to leave and I get.... [I'm] a mess. Just to leave. Just to leave the dock. Once I leave, I get to Block Island, I'm fine.

AC: Wow.

PR: But, the day before, if I know I'm leaving, if I knew I was leaving tomorrow, I'd start right now.

AC: Oh my goodness.

PR: And it's a battle, every day. It's kind of hard.

AC: Now can you just have someone run it permanently?

PR: Well, I'm working on that, yeah. Then there's not that much money. There's not a lot left over, right?

AC: Right, right, right.

PR: So it's kind of tough. I would need a side job. So, it's a struggle. It's a struggle, the balance, right? But it's there. Like I said, if I could make it easier with them when I'm, when we day fish....

AC: Yeah.

PR: Like herring fishing. And a lot of times in the summer when you're day fishing, it's easier for me. I don't like getting up in the morning, but I don't have the, I don't have the panic.

AC: Gotcha.

PR: It's the leaving. It's the going overnight. It's the going to bed.

AC: Yeah.

PR: Sleeping on the boat and putting somebody else in charge. So, my boat sank when my father was sleeping.

AC: Right.

PR: So he got up, but it was too late. The guy that was on the watch wasn't paying attention. By the time he knew something was wrong, it was wrong. It was over. If somebody up there knew what they were doing, we wouldn't be having that conversation, you know? 'Cause you could have fixed it before, so I can't.... When I go to.... When I go, it's rough.

AC: So no matter who you're with...?

PR: I'm not asleep.

AC: ... no matter how much you trust them...?

PR: No. I used to go on the other boat and take Tylenol PM and go to bed, baby. I'm out. Get me up in 10 hours.

AC: Right.

PR: You know? We're not going to be there for another, you know, sometimes it'd be 20-30 hours.

AC: Exactly, exactly.



PR: I'll see you. Don't get me up 'til we get there. Now, forget it. So, it's just different, you know? Different struggles.

[99:12]

AC: Now Phil, do you want to, in just kind of wrapping it up, is there a particular story or something for posterity's sake, you want to leave on your...?

PR: Geez, I don't know.

AC: ... recording. Something, a memory or a thought or not, but if there's something in particular you would want, say your great-grandkids if they listened to this, to hear, or to know about.

PR: Well I just hope that there's still a fishing industry to be had, as we know it now. Not, not Tyson's Seafood owning everything either, but I just, you know, I hope that the port doesn't turn into yachts and condos like it has everywhere else, you know? That my kids can still go fishing and do what we've all done, you know? Some... and I hope that I guess, but some days I'm like, maybe not, you know? Maybe its time to go do something different. Just because it's hard on you, you know? I guess that's it. I don't know. If you want me to tell a story, I can tell stories until tomorrow, but....

AC: Is there one that...?

PR: Oh, I don't know.

AC: ... keeps you calm, or gives you strength when you have the harder times or when fishing's bad or when you have a personal struggle...

PR: I almost sank my boat once. That's not really, it's not really a nice story, but it ended well. I had 100,000 pounds of *Loligo* on the boat and the weather was flat calm. [I was] coming home, probably a \$70,000 trip. Beautiful. Like awesome. Coming home, the weather was supposed to be Northwest 30, 40 late. I said "We'll be underneath Block, underneath Montauk and undercover by then." I woke up in the morning and it was Southeast 50, 60 at 5 in the morning. I was like "Uh-oh, we've got a problem." And the boat was not doing well. She was sick. It was, water just crashing over the top of everything.

AC: Oh my goodness.

PR: Jimmy was next to me. And I said "Jim, this doesn't look good." It was like 5 in the morning. I called my house, my father's house on the cell phone. I said "I'm going to let you know..." My mother answered and she said, she told me later "I knew you

were in trouble as soon as..." She said "I said hello and you said hello and that was it and I gave the phone to your father."

AC: Whoa.

PR: So she said she knew it was bad, you know? And I said to him "I've got this going on. This is my position. This is where I'm at, just so you know. Write it down." "Yeah, yeah, yeah."

AC: Was he calm?

PR: Yeah. He said, I said "I've got to do this and that." He said "Yeah. Well, you'll figure it out." Click. I was shitting bricks. "You'll figure it out." That's what he said and my mother was like "Ahhhh" later she tells me... "What do you mean?" she said. He said "He doesn't have time to talk."

[102:23]

AC: Right.

PR: "He doesn't have time to talk and he's been running the boat long enough. He knows. He knows. He doesn't need me to tell him what to do. I can't tell him." And my mom was flipping, you know? 14 hours later I got that boat home. I was supposed to get in at noon. I got in about 10 at night.

AC: Oh my god.

PR: Yeah.

AC: Just going really slow?

PR: No, wide open. I had to keep it wide open. If I had slowed down, she would have sunk.

AC: Oh.

PR: If I had slowed down... you keep the forward momentum to keep a boat up.

AC: Right, right, right, right.

PR: The boat wants to go up.

AC: Right.

PR: If you slow down, it'll go boom. That's where most guys make their mistake, is slowing down. So I'd have to keep the boat... change course, cause it would take a couple like this and it would bury and I would have to change course to get the water to run out. So I was going like this all the way home, like a snake. Oh yeah. It was bad.

AC: Were your...?

PR: We'd pumped all the...

AC: ... was everyone at the dock to meet you...?

PR: Yes. So we get in there, 10:00 at night and we pass the dock, right?

AC: Yeah, yeah.

PR: And I'm pulled in, I'm in the corner and the wind's coming... they had to come around. By then everything was fine, I put water back in the fish, and the fish hole had water in it to keep it cool. The refrigerator, seawater to keep the fish cold.

AC: Okay.

PR: No ice.

AC: Yeah.

PR: I had to the pump out out fishing, to lighten the boat up.

AC: Right.

PR: And had everything ready to go. I had the nets ready to jettison, the doors off the boat ready to jettison, to get rid of them. Had them all hanging by clips, in case things got real bad, I could get rid of them. Just to lighten the boat up, right?

AC: Right.

PR: 'Cause there's no way to lighten, to get the fish off the boat fast enough....

AC: Right.

PR: I can't, otherwise I would have.

AC: Right, right. It's not, yeah.

PR: Can't do it, so I got the water out. That helped a little bit. Got things the way I could, and that was it. So we get in, later that night I get in, and the boat's sitting there and the water's, the waves are coming at the dock, through the scupper on one side, across the deck, and through the other. That's how full it was, you know? So the water level was basically level with the deck. So I'm pulling in and I'm backing into the slip and my father's standing on the dock and he says "You think you've got enough?" "Yeah, that's enough. She's full. That's it. Not getting anymore on that boat. [We] aren't getting anymore." But it was that confidence, you know.... My father, when I ran the boat, he loved to, you've seen it, you were there. He loved to be on deck, watching me do what I do. He was as proud as a peacock. I saw it all the time, we'd argue and fight and scream and yell, but he was as proud as could be, you know? So it was that confidence, that "He knows what he's doing, I don't know why he's calling me." You know?

AC: Right.

PR: Kind of cool. After....

AC: Incredible.

PR: You know, I made it, and then, and then we unloaded the next day. It was like 10 at night. I had to stay on the boat because I couldn't leave the boat like that, with the water running and everything. I had to stay on the boat. So my wife came down and stayed on the boat with me that night.

AC: Oh.

[105:21]

PR: And we got to fish off the boat. And he said, I was getting ready to go home and he said "No you're not, you're leaving." He said "You've got to get on that boat and go right now, or you're not coming back." He says "You won't want to get on it if you don't go right now."

AC: Wow.

PR: He made me turn around and leave. And go out again. I made another 5 day trip. And was like "You have to go right now, or you're not going to want to get back on it."

AC: Right, right.

PR: Because the longer you stay home, you're going to get scared. And you won't get back on it. And I had to go and leave. I was like "Oh." I was not happy. But later, I'm going "Thank god" because....

AC: Wow.

PR: 'Cause I look at it now and go "I'm frightened to go all the time."

AC: Right.

PR: 'Cause I stayed home, I think, you know?

AC: Right.

PR: I waited, I don't know why, but maybe.

AC: That's an amazing story.

PR: It's good, right?

AC: Phil, it's amazing. I know you have many, many more...

PR: Yeah.

AC: ... but I've sucked up so much of your evening....

PR: No, that's alright.

AC: I just want to say thank you...

PR: Yup.

AC: ... very much.

PR: Okay.

AC: And I'll turn off the recording.

END RECORDING

[1:46:31]