

Participant: Chris Aiello
Interviewer: Deanna Caracciolo
Location: Port Orford
Greying of the Fleet – Voices of the West Coast
[start 0:00:06.0]

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DC: Fantastic, so let me just open up so I don't lose my place in the recording. So it is August 22nd, we are in Port Orford, and could you just state your name for the recording really quick?

CA: Uhm, Christian Aiello.

DC: Fantastic. So I kinda wanted to start out with what were your motivations for getting into fishing?

CA: Depends how honest I can be.

DC: Be as honest as you please

CA: I've always been an outdoor person. And there's just a high you get if you're a physical person regardless of intelligence, that draws you to that kind of activity, outdoor activity. So even though I have a bachelors of science degree from NYU, of all places, New York City, I knew some friends who lived on the west coast; and I had done menial jobs back east, but training to be...in the twin towers or...wasn't my idea. So I took 2 years off from high school and lived on my own and that's when I did a lot of break your back work. Then my parents convinced me to go back to school and I got into NYU, graduated in 3 and a half years, but still it was to please them. It wasn't going to please me. But there's something that through the years I'm eternally grateful to them for because it gave me the tools to deal with people that deal with management schemes and business practices and all those things. So I have a bachelor of science level of education so I can understand kinda how those things are working and not working. So when my friends said "Well come to Oregon!" And I've always, ever since I was a young boy, I used to open up the atlas and see all this green patch in the western states and I'd been camping; I'd go camping on my own when I was 10 if I could. Well anyway, so I came out here to grow pot in 1977 and that was before it was fashionable. But they were kinda hip to you and they weren't chasing you around with army helicopters yet. But the sheriff's departments and stuff. So after 2 years of doing that, it was a little bit...cause I'm not that kind of a never guy, I'm just not. Well anyway, I made some commercial fishing friends and one day they just came up and said they needed a deck hand and I said "Yeah, I'll go." So I put in a 3-day trip and I made \$670 in 3 days, which back then was a fortune, and they didn't take any taxes out. And I'm sitting "Boy this is the life for me." And I didn't know anything other than how to tie a cleat. So I've been doing it ever since because it satisfied my need for outdoor excitement and independence, and you have to believe it or not be somewhat intelligent to be a commercial fisherman. But believe me there are complete idiots that get away with it, but most people who are successful have to have some business sense. When you start with nothing, you have to live on nothing. One of the phrases I came up with through the years was to be a commercial fisherman you have to be willing to eat dirt. And not just for a short time, it could be years in a row, because of the way the seasons are. You know, the booms and busts of the crab, or the salmon, or whatever it may be. So You really...if your going to survive...I used to think it was 5-10 years cause you live through cycles of these ups and downs in the fisheries and unless you experience in one of those things it's still financially solvent to that time period, you really haven't proven yourself. Well then I had to reassess that, it's now 15 years because some of these cycles last for that long. And that's just so you can prove to yourself that you can make it. Cause I've seen lots of guys 10 years in go into debt, then 2 or 3 bad seasons come on and then they're bankrupt. So It's a careful balance between expansion, debt load, the fluctuations of the seasons including price, not just [unsure] but price is also involved, whether or not you make the right move at

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the right time, or didn't, and sometimes it takes years to figure that out. But I would say those who started out as crew, less than 1 out of 5, 20% actually become captains and are competent enough to get through. Most of them don't have the stomach for it. Anyway, that's the long short story.

DC: Are you from New York?

CA: Actually born and raised...I was born in Newark New Jersey and raised in Hoboken till I was about 8. Then we moved to a very richy place, Monte Claire New Jersey which is...New Jersey is kinda like a cancer. I don't know if you know anything about...

DC: [chuckles] I'm from Long Island

CA: Oh you are! Well hey local! That's as local as you get. Where in Long Island?

DC: Smithtown right next to Port Jeff, where the ferry comes across from Connecticut. And my roommate is actually from Brick New Jersey

CA: Yeah! That is a small world. Believe it or not after being here for 35 years I've met a girl that I went to high school with. She moved here in '83. I moved here in '77. And she recognized me and I didn't recognize her and I didn't recognize her and we dated for about 4 or 5 years then we didn't quite work out. But it was kinda strange, here in the middle of nowhere, Curry Country is in the middle of nowhere. To meet somebody, you went to high school with was cool.

DC: It's a small world, I'll tell ya.

CA: I have a favorite phrase about that. You know somebody who knows somebody who knows somebody who knows everybody else in the world. So within 3 people you know the King of Siam. You know President Obama. You know Donald Trump. Within 3 people you know there's somebody who knows Donald Trump. So you talk about a small world. That's how small it really is.

DC: Man how fun. Anyway a quick aside. Do you think that motivations have changed for incoming young fishermen?

CA: You know in that I try not to look at it with a jaded lens, is the only way I can think of it, because though I see some of these guys doing the exact same thing I did that I'm now warned that that's not the thing they do. You want to tell them, but they have gotta learn for themselves. And that's true from birth we almost have to learn for ourselves. But I kinda always wanted to shepherd them. Not just in terms of giving them advise; I offered to take it or don't take it, it's fine. But in terms of the policy and decision making processes, that's why I've been involved in that. Trying to protect us, so to speak. And not so much because we want to control everything. All we want to do if hold these people who do regulated us, feet to the fire. You know? And performance. I've gotta preform every day. I make a mistake, through the decades I have been a commercial fisherman I have wasted tens of thousands of dollars making mistakes, one way or another. And I would even consider it to be close to \$100,000 worth of mistakes, but it's not quite that much. But it's a lot of money. Anyway, when I make those mistakes I've gotta pay cash. Nobodies going to give me a new engine cause I didn't check the oil or whatever it is. So and in that when you start with nothing, even 2-3 thousand dollars in our bank

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account was a fortune. But back then you could buy a new, not a new engine, but you were looking for surpass whatever it was. You get a surplus engine for \$500. You did what you had to do and you get it running for another 3[hundred]. So it wasn't as...you know...as expensive as it is today. But you had to watch every penny. Where was I?

DC: Motivations of young people.

CA: Oh and then dealing with the management people. So I get to pay every day I make a mistake. Well you guys, you ever held to my kind of performance standard. Admit to your mistakes, which you never ever do. And it's critical that you recognize your mistakes because how are you going to fix it if you don't know what, in a very objective way, what went wrong. And then the fixes may not be perfect either and in that they refuse, they are too stuck in their bureaucracies. They refuse to move forward in leaps and bounds and not that that's called for, but they refuse to move forward other than at a snail's pace. And they are doing it at such a slow pace that they are not including the people who are the regulators who lose their belief that this is working for them. They are not included in the process, including interns of the everyday. Last Tuesday they made decisions at the discussions that were critical to what was going to happen. Next Wednesday, every day of the week. I can't be there. I can only be there when the public meeting was there. And I'll tell you that's why Trump has got this hold on certain sections of the population is because enough people have been negated that we're ready to throw a whole system out. That's what earlier [unsure] Trumpster, or Trumpism, well throw everything out. We are going to start all over again. Well I don't believe in that. I believe in systems that have their problems but basically adapt and manage and it took us 45 years to get here. What, now you are going to throw it all away and start with what?

DC: Could I mic you so that doesn't overpower you. Apologies. I want to make sure I don't miss out on anything.

CA: So I don't want to blow the system up but I'm frustrated and ready to do that. But I don't see any positive outcome from that because then you start from square 1 and you know, that's just as dangerous in my opinion. As oppose to fishing a system that's just dysfunctional.

DC: That's really interesting. I find a lot of people in the natural resource and extractive resource industries very into [unsure]

CA: Well I don't know. I think that's short sighted. Personally. But you can't blame these guys. And I'm not holding anything, my education, above these guys cause they are very intelligent people too. But in terms of communicating, they do not have the skills. They don't. And what really bothers me ever since the Mag Stevenson Act...if you read the charter just in the very first page, the commercial fishermen and his knowledge and activities is very important to the establishment of the correct management policies. Well guess what? To this day it's the exact, third paragraph down on the first page, what do you have? Data poor science and... the inclusion...we need to include these guys. But it's still all show. It's not really...in fact 45 years ago the structure...no it's not happening. So these guys that say no, throw it all out; I can see where they are coming from. But it's more, just as dangerous to keep going the way we are.

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DC: So what would you say the average age of fishermen are? You can break it up into any position that you want.

CA: You know I think it comes and goes. A couple of good crab years and guys get in it so there will be kinda a boom and bust in terms of people who want a sea career in it. Back in the early 80's, and this goes back into some history, PCA which was Production Credit Association, which was a federally funded pool of money to help these guys buy boats and gear and the only trouble was it was with a fluctuating interest rate. I forget what they call it. Variable interest rate. You will have to forgive me. It's been 45 years since I've had an intelligent conversation with doctors, lawyers, Indian chiefs, so I do stumble and I'm older now. It's not [unsure] yet but I do have to search for some words once in a while. But anyway, so you know, whether or not they get in and get too much debt and then the bad time comes and then they don't quite make it. In that sense, there...if you look through the early 80's and how the government wanted to expand the commercial fleet. The American fleet because the Russians, Polish people, I mean a lot of people were harvesting American sea food, but the Americans didn't have the infrastructure, didn't have the boats to do it. So there was an impetus to get that up and running and you know, it was somewhat successful and some failures. We had some really bad salmon seasons in the early 80's. Which I lost my boat in. I couldn't afford it. Back then, I think in '83, '84 the interest rate, I think, was 23 and a half percent and I made my interest payment but no payment on principle. So even though I was a little behind the lender, at that point was - nope. So they were willing to take 30-40 cents on the dollar and threw me out of business and gave it to somebody at a new lower rate. But there's no safety net and that's just the way the timing worked. It's just the way things go. So for these young guys, you know, I try to tell them you've gotta live within your means. If you can't pay cash you don't need it. Work with a... I bought a boat that sank twice before I bought it. And I made it fish for 14 more years. So you can't start with the Taj Mahal and go into debt a half million dollars and think you're going to be able to survive it. You know? Now the only thing that has kinda changed that matrix a bit would be your personal abilities. I know guys that can catch a fish in a flushing toilet. That's pretty difficult but they can do it. I can't. And I'm not belittling the other guys because they had to work hard. But I had to work twice as hard and maybe that says what I mean. Maybe I didn't work twice...it's just a matter that working that hard taught me enough even if it was subtle. It was in my subconscious... "Oh! That's what I should be doing." And it took years. Decades even to get that kind of innate knowledge to where occasionally, just statistically speaking, I was a highliner. And I was a lowliner. So the only thing I can actually claim is I was your average commercial fishermen. I'm not a...and we all know who the high liners are, I'm not going to say their names, but they're highliners. They're guys that were just special at it. And their low liners, the guys 3 years in the business, or even 8 years in the business, or 15 years in the business who are gone. And your average guy who lives within his means, that's me. This is the average guy. And we can get into the 401K's and the value of these things late but that came with limited entry. That's not my fault, why these things are now valuable. But they fluctuate too so...anyway.

[16:21-17:23 talking to friend outside]

DC: So I just wanted to get some rough numbers on the average ages. So what's the average age of a deckhand, and a skipper, captain, owner?

CA: I would say...well deck hand around Curry County you can start around 15 and some of these real local people...the boys, you know, and some of the girls even. I know back when I first started a guy had

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a daughter, she was 13, 14 years old. A freshman in high school. She was out there during the summers salmon fishing with him, and she was a tough cookie. Thank god she didn't pick it as a career. She went on to college and to do much greater things but you know...and then probably people who just come through town are in the 18 to 22 range looking for something in life and several of them get stuck here and try it and move on, and some of them stay. Depending on availability and how good the seasons are, you know, they might put in 3,4,5, or 7 years. Generally working for someone like me or a couple guys down their own 3 or 4 boats so they need crews for all those boats. And then once you're a crewman for 4 or 5 years and the captain thinks you're capable, he'll let you run one of those boats. Personally I thought 1 hole in the water was enough. I didn't need 3 holes in the water. So within 5 or 7 years, or 10 years' maximum I would say, either you've stepped up or you stay a deck hand. And in the \$17,000 to \$35,000 working for the medium size guy like me, these guys can live on that here. 17 grand you couldn't live for 3 days in some cities, like maybe Portland, but probably not that bad. But being that their ambition isn't strong enough, they will just be a crew[men] all their lives. Some have more ambition and become captains. But only 1 out of 5 that actually try to be captains are actually successful. Really successful. Get through their whole career as captains and not kill anybody or sink their boats, or do something stupid. And then you put in your career and you end up like me. You know a year ago I knew this day was coming 5, 6 years ago. So I started giving the guy who just came in here to ask me about the oil...but he still wasn't sure if he wanted to be a commercial fisherman. He's done everything from oil working in Colorado, to farming, horsing here. The trouble with them is I didn't become a mature adult until I was 24, 25, after I got through college. And then I realized, well now I really have to pay for myself. So moved out here and went to work. And then 40 years later you have what you have. Which is basically your gear and the value of your permits and your boat. As much as it seems, it's not really that much. It really isn't. But it's enough to, if your very frugal and live in a poor county like Curry County, you can survive on 15, 18 grand. As long as you're not having to fly to Hawaii 3 times a year or do anything really exciting, most people consider that a minimum in life but no...I was happy to go to work, come home, be with my family and kids, go to sleep, and get up at whatever time and go back to work. So anyway...

DC: What about owners?

CA: Hmm..?

DC: Ages of owners?

CA: Ages of owners...Well like I said if they're really ambitious by the time they're 27, 28, they've struck out on their own. And that's what I did. I fished for 2 or 3 years for other guys and then I said - you know what? I wanna do this for myself. And I borrowed \$2000 from my father-in-law which I paid back and I bought a boat that sank twice before I bought it, and knew cause it was a boat that sank here. I lived here so I knew the history. So I fixed kind of what was wrong with it. If the bilge pump quit at any time, within an hour you would have been sunk. I learned how not to sleep by fishing on that boat. No, literally. I can go days and days and days with these half naps, half asleep. Because if you didn't hear the bilge pump come on, which was this far away from where my head was [show short distance with hands] it would sink overnight. So you could - okay it didn't come on- hit the flip and you know the float would switch and turn the bilge pump on and just being half asleep...so to this day the maximum that I sleep in a row is 3 hours. And then I'm up. And I can go another 24 hours. I've gone...let's see...and this is true of all of us. If you're a commercial fisherman you have to be able to do this. I've gone 4, 5-day

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Albacore fishing on 8 hours of sleep. I'm not kidding you. If you get 10-minute little cat nap here you can go another 10 hours, 12 hours. And then you get a...you're in a 50 knot northwestern Albacore fishing and you get an hours' worth of sleep. You get up all night long and your just kinda waiting and you work all day and then maybe a cat nap for 10 minutes on the deck during the day and go another 24 hours. Rarely are you on the ocean and it's calm enough to where you can actually set a cup of coffee down and not have it spill or tip over...very rare.

DC: Would you say that most of the boats currently owned are owned by people who worked their way up and bought their...

CA: Yeah, some of them got their in's into fishing through family because their dads were here. A matter a fact, guys my age are dropping like flies. That's why I decided to retire. I didn't quite finish the end of that story. 4-5 years ago I tried to train these guys up but they weren't paying attention enough, they didn't realize how dangerous this was, and the last guy that I actually turned the boat over to for the last year, I was still black coding but crabbing...he damn near...I mean I never flipped the boat over and lost all my pots. Not once in 40 years. He did it on his second day taking gear out last year. I took it as lesson learned, lesson learned. But he kept drinking, then I found out he was doing some hard drug. Crack and stuff. I didn't want to confront him about it because sometimes they get violent. SO I just said look, and I had warned him, you know since last December which was not a very good crab season...I mean a year ago last December.

[24:32 - 25:00 talking to friend outside]

CA: So I just told him no, I'm just going to sell the boat because he just wasn't trust worthy. And I'd been 5 years looking. I went through him, I went through another guy, I went through 4 guys trying to find a captain hat was conscious enough and cared enough to...and no money down. And that's what I mean by my commitment. You've gotta put your money where your mouth is. When I started with nothing, it took me 40 years to have all that I ended up with. 5 years ago I was able to finally finance...

[0:25:29- talking to friend outside, and about his house renovation]

CA: Well anyway, I just couldn't, I just couldn't stand it. I couldn't control it because I didn't...I love fishing but after 40 years I've had enough. I'm done. My backs killing me, my knees blown out. You know, it was good. Now I'm done. So I decided to sell it, and it's now gotta have a salmon permit which is somewhat problematic. Which gets us into the policy issues. Which is not very friendly. Either to the people who I can try to finance or in other words, it's very hard for somebody to come up with enough collateral so they can go get a bank loan for 4-500 thousand dollars. Because there's just no money out there. PCA is long gone. Unless you're really...I think it's still around, but it's saved for the big boys. You know the guys that are worth...boats are worth millions of dollars. You know, you need \$500,000 for a new kind of whatever, yeah here! But for the little guys there no financing opportunities. So I put in my money where my mouth is. Look, you won't have to start with nothing like I did and work for 40 years to get it all. I'm going to trust you with this whole operation and you can go black coding, salmon fishing, crabbing, live fish, you can do it all. Everything you can do with a small boat, you can do...go to work. Every day you can go to work. You can leave right now. It's screaming 30, and you can do a black cod trip, go to work. Well they didn't quite, capable of doing that. So I tried for 5 years, I couldn't fill it. I had to sell it the way that I did, which was some people who could find \$250,000, \$150,000, \$70,000.

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But it wasn't the local boys. SO if they can't wake up to the opportunity that I was offering them, within 10 years, 27, 37, you own something that's \$400,000 what's wrong with you? But they aren't mature enough to recognize that that's value there. And man, no money down. The last guy that damn near sunk it and killed all 4 people on the boat. I said, you don't have 2 times. If you flip it, which hopefully you all survive, but the boats worth \$70,000. How are you going to pay me back? I mean, pay attention. Your me on that boat. I've already sold it to you. How are you going to pay me back? You don't have 2 dimes to rub together. So don't sink her. Don't do stupid shit. Well I found out he did stupid stuff all the time and I just couldn't take the risk because that was my 401K. So I shut it down. I tried to help these guys but...

DC: Why do you think they aren't waking up to it?

CA: I don't know, like I said earlier, I said it wasn't until I was 24 [quick side conversation with friends outside] I didn't wake up until I was 24, 25. Really. At that point in my life I had rent payed, I had breakfast, and \$5 in my pocket. Man I was good to go no problem. But when you work the back deck on a boat it's [unsure] and paychecks. You just do your job and they hand you your check. You don't have to think. You don't have to be responsible. So they make you, cause your job is dangerous, you've gotta pay attention. I remember my first trip that I was telling you about black coddling, I made \$670 in 3 days, well I knew how to tie a cleat, but setting a long line gear at a Marko automatic baiting system is a very complicated to know what you're doing. So "get in there!!" "okay." I'd be doing something wrong and they come out on the deck and punch me in the shoulder and knock me to the deck and say "I told you to not to do that." Did that twice in the first 24 hours. Finally, I learned what he was trying to tell me what was dangerous. And by the end of that 3-day trip, I had it no problem, done. These guys can't learn this job in 3 months. And they don't realize how we caudle them compared to the way it used to be. But back then there were 10 guys looking for my job. SO you paid attention. Now for what's become a commercial fisherman. There's no future in commercial fishing-oh screw it. I'm not going to do that. I mean it's a lot of hard work. So that really limits the pool. It really does. These guys think they can do it and then it's not long before ...no. Because it is a lot of hard work, and no money. No money lots of times. I encouraged us through my carrier. Literally had to be paid for what...I'd loan the money too but I wouldn't be in business if I never got paid back. But I knew we were going to go fishing again, and I knew we were going to make some money and they could pay me back. But there were times where "no.". Wait until I get paid, you know? Which is by law, I don't have to pay you until I get paid and then there is a certain amount of time. But, so, literally "I gotta have my money today". "Okay, here's your money for today." They just don't realize what it takes to create sweat equity. And that's what it is. Putting in your time now so you can have something later. And that's, I want to get to that kind of, the sale of these permits because of limited entry have gained in value a lot. I'm not going to talk about what agency, but I tried through these last 2 or 3 years inter-wrapped with the powers at be, in terms of how they make these permit transfers and the control of them. In other words, if I finance a guy for 10 or 15 years to buy me out and then he defaults, you know the state of Oregon, the OSFW does not recognize a court order, which is the normal way a business does get transferred back. You go you get your lawyer, and if you have a contract, and half these guys don't even have a contract. You've gotta have a contract, but anyway...it says in a normal contract that if your defaulting then you have to pay. Now they're not going to get a penny out of anything. But at least you get your permit back. The judge says he is in default so you can have your permit back. Your contract is now void with this person. ODFW doesn't recognize that court order from a state judge, in that when I go there and say he's in default, I have to get him to vulnerably come in and sign that permit back to me. They do not

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recognize the court order. And I tried to tell them this is taking away part of this market because these guys can't get financing. I'm going to give this guy a chance. Successful or not. But at least I can support this market and the valuation of them if this guy, overtime, becomes successful. He's now a local guy with a family and a family wage job. He's not going to become a billionaire while doing this but he is going to support his family and a couple crew. Why are you so intransigent in trying to understand how these permits are being sold today? And understanding that there is a self-funded market and give me more of an impetus to do it so I'm not so afraid that I'm going to lose this permit in this quagmire of you! Of the bureaucracy! And that's just one instance. I'd have to calm down a little bit to remember the 3 or 4 ways that they make this impossible. Or at least I don't want to do this and then it takes away those local opportunities for these guys who don't have that abilities to get those kind of finances. And for the life of me I can't understand it. How could ODFW not recognize a court order that says it is in default and give you my permit back regardless of whether he signs the piece of paper or not. It actually says in the contract that your default, I get my permit back! But the bureaucracy says no. He's gotta voluntarily come forward...my ex-wife, she had a crab permit and a salmon permit with a guy who I told her, [unsure]. She sold a permit on a handshake. It's been a nightmare for 8 years. She can't get it back. She can't...it's stark. He hasn't paid her back. He paid her 5 grand on a \$70,000 permit over 6-7 years. He would have given her nothing. She can't even find the contract. I suspect, cause I know her real well, she didn't even have a contract. But anyway, that's kinda her fault. But even at that incompetency level, and I'm not saying this what I mean about the safety net isn't supposed to be able to save everybody, but if she could go prove to the judge, let's say he's in default and she kept the stubs, I'm not sure if she did or didn't, what he did pay or didn't pay, how long it's been since he paid anything. He could make a reasonable judgement and say "yes, you get your permit back." and give him that kind of an order and then be recognized by ODFW. Nope. And their premise is that there's too many permits out there anyway, this is what I mean about the planning behind the scenes, not really letting people know. They want half the permits gone and for one of the problems they have with it given the level, personally I think in all the fisheries, even salmon there's enough permits, they have decreased enough to where it, and none of them, never 100% of the permits ever go active. It's usually around 60%. The rest of it is laying in dormant, you've got [unsure], he's gotta take care of his father or something so he's out of it for a few years, but generally speaking. The level of the active permits is now the minimum that you need to support the infrastructure. Like canneries that have employees that can process the volume that's coming in. Any lower volume and they won't be able to stay in business. Unless the big boys take them over and that's dangerous too. Cause we have literally 3 pars in the west coast and there's kinda different levels of them, but they get to dictate price. They are so powerful. They are a monopoly cause I've been involved in negotiations for 30 years, formally for the Dungeness crab commission for the Oregon crab prices for the last 11, 12 years, plus informally in that case before, but sanctioned by the Department of Ag, we now have negotiations but you'd almost had to live through it. It wasn't until 2 years ago that the Department of Ag realized just how much power the buyers really have. Even though there's 5 or 6 buyers in the room, they can just dictate price until about 3 years ago. And then the arguments all of us are making, me specifically, saying "you guys have purposely devalued, undervalued seafood" and you ant believe the excuses why they can't pay a decent price for this stuff. Just believe me, you just shake your head. But one of the reasons, and it's one of 50, and I thought I heard them all until I heard the 51st reason, the 52nd reason [chuckles]. Then they repeat the reasons why they can't pay. Wasn't that reason 24? 8 years ago we had reason 24, and it's not admirable now, but it's another...they ran out of new reasons so they used the old ones. And since they do have so much power and we are so isolated in terms of the ports, you know we have fishermen associations and stuff, they still have all that power. And it wasn't

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until a couple of years ago that the Department of Ag realized just how powerful they were and powerless we were. And the way that we learned it, we were paying \$7-\$8,000 to this guy John Saxton who gave us a crab [unsure] for the last 11 years. And in that, you know, there was different levels of a predicament that the price would be only in terms of last year's price and the historical price for 5, 10, 15, 20 years back. But generally speaking, and lets think...I've gotta think a little bit about the numbers, this is a couple years ago I finally retired from doing that, but the last time I went, and it was a special day for the Saxton report, some negotiations about a month before, and sometimes it was just days before, which I complained about because how am I supposed to make an analysis on this report in 2 days and be up here to negotiate price. Completely unfair but that's what they would do to get you to not be effective. Anyway I said, "8 out of the last 10 reports you brought John has brought us have basically been very positive about crab prices." And we get in negotiations and all they can do is point out the negative in those things. And I went through and analyzed, you know, 6 positive pages, 2 negative pages and I broke it down. 70% positive, but we ended up with negative prices. And I'm sitting there, "John, why are we paying you?" If in your analysis we never take it because you have a positive outlook on the crab price and we always take the negative and always get payed a lot less than is predicted the what do we need you for? And I turned it in to the crab commission, Nick Furman and Blake has now taken over, I turned to them and I said, "you know what? How much money has the Dungeness Crab Commission spent in the last 30 years promoting crab? Millions? Millions. Really? and this is the best we can do? And that was one of the very first...and they used it constantly. It's just they weren't doing a proper analysis, or what Dungeness isn't really in a relationship to other crustaceans. Lobster, king crab, snow crab, any kind of crab, I don't care. I wanna see what those...then I wanted to do an analysis, because you know what about Dungeness crab? It's kinda like a sandwich. You get a lot of meat, and a fair amount of body meat. So there's kinda like...king crab you only get the legs. And I kept...The Department of Ag, I challenged them one year. I said, "look you know if you can give me a proper analysis of what, and that's what you do is promote and understand what the values are of what we are producing in Oregon, I don't care if it's wine, corn, whatever it is, is that, if you can properly understand what the market is and give those guys the proper understanding, it's more income to us, which means more income tax we pay which pays your salary. You know? I mean let's get off the dime here and start...and when they took over 10-12 years ago and these formal negotiations were crap, at the end of it, for the first one I said, "what is it you guys do?" and they said " well we promote that are produced in Oregon. And I said what about all these things we have problems with? And they said - Chris your too all over the place. I said - you know what? If you had been doing your job, since how long has the department of Ag been in business? 80 years? If you had been doing your job paying attention to this new industry that's been getting more and more valued, especially for income in coastal communities, we wouldn't have this pile of shit! Excuse me. I did that on purpose. I can avoid curse words. Well anyway that just shows you the level of frustration. But I still, even at that level of frustration, I still think you have gotta be in there and fight. But to this day we are still, they negate it, or just not included on next Tuesday, last Tuesday, this Wednesday. In everyday development of management structure and policy. Implementation. You know? Understanding how it's working. The analysis. How do we believe in sunsets and or reviews every 3-5 years. And they did that for the Magnusson. Every 5 years has to come up for the reauthorization again. But they are not doing proper analysis because if you look at the page when it was first, in 1976 put out, to when the reauthorization is, it says the same things. Poor data and science. In Oregon, we went through it, and this is important history, it's not necessarily to the personal life experiences, we ended up with that we started with, but this is very important to the survival of this communities especially Port Orford. There's no other industry here. This is it. So if it takes a little investment from the state, whether it be dredging or

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whatever else, maintaining some salmon season at all ports if possible, which they completely blew through my [unsure]. But anyway, is it cheaper to have a few hundred thousand or whatever it takes to get a decent price for crab or a decent price for salmon to support this coastal communities that are myopic in terms of anything else they can do, or do you let it all go and then what have you got?

Minimum wage jobs, and welfare. What's more constructive for a small society like Port Orford? And would it cost less in the end? And I'll guarantee you that that slight seed money investment produces a lot more than if you just let it all go.

DC: SO you said you have kids?

CA: Yeah, I've got 2 girls [smiling]. One hates me, the other one is coming around.

DC: Did either of them have any interest in the fishing industry?

CA: Thank god no. Though I don't want to be sexist with this. I know of a few, very few, and my ex-wife was a commercial fisherman, and I'll just leave that one there. Anyway, but the girls, you know, Pacific High School is not a bad little high school. If you pay attention for someone intelligent, yeah, you can do well. They didn't quite take advantage of it the way they could have or should have. So in that I love this place. I moved here. Though I would have liked them to be a little bit more outgoing. Go see the world and if they chose to come home, but their low...and it's not low education skills. They can type, they can spell better than I can. They're intelligent in terms of the basics, but in terms of the aggressiveness to go out on their own, it's just not there. But that's fine. I live here. I love it here. They love it here. So that's fine.

DC: Would you have wanted them to go into fishing?

CA: If they chose to, yeah. But both of them get kinda sea sick so believe me...1 out of 20 people get sea sick. If your sea sick, forget it. Get off the boat as soon as you have that experience and never come back. Don't even go sport fishing. Your just not going to make it.

DC: So what has changed since you started?

CA: Well in that I'm jaded cause I got the perspective of 40 years, uhm, but I see some of these guys...I just don't think they are focused enough. They're just not paying attention. They're just not willing. They get a couple thousand dollars in the bank and they go off and buy a new stereo. What are you nuts? You can't afford to buy that. And then the new grown up age now compared to when I was a kid at 25. These guys are going to live forever. And I'm sure you kinda feel that and see that. So it's not until they are 35 that they kinda wake up. And even at that age, if you put your nose to the grindstone at 35, you put in your 20 years. If your 55 years old and you pretty much own your own business, whatever it is, so there is time. But it's still up to the individual. It takes hard work. You could be running a warehouse, you could be commercial fishing, you could be a grocer or a restaurateur, you could be any of those people. It takes that kind of...[talking to ex-wife and grandchild who stopped by]

CA: And this is just an overview. There are so many details. I mean I have to sit and chronologically put them together again. But there's just so many things that we are just not doing. Back in the 60's and 70's with the mechanization of commercial fishing, yeah we overharvested and did a lot of damage. SO

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we deserved what we got. The only trouble was that in terms of not giving the science real money for science. These guys, I know a couple people who are keeping track of whales, and what they eat. Well anyway, they have to design these little go-pro deals. I don't know what they cost. \$250 maybe? But just scraping and saving trying to put that together was an interesting thing about 12-14 years ago. The very beginning of the marine reserves in Oregon. I went to a meeting in Lincoln City and these guys came in there and they were just developing this glider with the buoyancy was able to propel itself forward and come up and down. And they were just showing us, not so much because they saw it as important in finding out what was going on in the ocean, in terms of everything. the chemical analysis of the ocean, I mean everything with the ocean. Was that they were designing this to figure out what grows on Europa off Jupiter. And I'm sitting here thinking, you know we've got millions, billions to figure out what's going on on Europa, but we don't have 2 dimes to rub together to figure out what's going on in our oceans? And that's what I mean. You look at it anywhere. Like a critical analysis of our understanding of the ocean floor. We've kinda investigated 1.3% now. I don't know the exact number, but when your down below 5% of something that's 2/3 of your world your missing there. So and then that out of sight out of mind. You know? And believe me, I have thought of so many ways to say this. It drives me crazy. But trying to speak with you and with policy makers and whatever, I said, "Looks like what we spend on taking care of our land. We can see that. Its drees and dollars over a decade. What we force chemical plants to do, clean water act, whatever it is so we can have a world of [unsure] What are we spending of that on our oceans?" I guarantee you it's not a penny on the dollar. Not a penny on the dollar. And this is what gives us oxygen. Are you kidding?! So I'm not, I love space and I love Europa and all it may present, but we better wake up to what's going on in our own world. We keep thinking there's other worlds. And the other point I'll make is we always keep thinking that technology is going to save us cause it always has. That promise is not there. That is a false belief that it is going to save us and save humanity in general. In terms of 7 billion people and in terms of world economies. We fought communism by peace corps. But it was 10 cents on our dollar. I mean we give them 100 million dollars to Zambia so they could buy weapons to fight communism. Well you know this whole idea of source to sink, well how are you going to fight communism back in a time when Nixon went to China, it wasn't a year later that we were getting little wind up ducks for toys. Now they're building the most sophisticated things that we buy in technology. What did you think was going to happen. So if we are going to raise humanity then that's how we are going to do it. But we try and do it, 90% was for guns and bombs, and 10% for the green piece kind of approach. But if it was the other way around, now since I gave back...and this goes back into my college days, what African is going to join communism if he has a good source of water and feeds his family. So if we put our resources back then, there would be no [unsure]. Capitalism with the seed mine would be proving itself to be correct. No we are in trouble, we keep thinking we bring jobs in. We didn't bring jobs back. Come on! It's over. But anyway what are we going to do with 7 billion people or 3 billion people when technology takes those jobs? And it's not just limited to physical jobs. Not its related to mental jobs. And when it comes case and point a legal Secratart [?]. There's no reason for them to exist anymore. So now what are you going to do with 3 billion people? Are you going to send them checks? Is the moral compass of capitalisms so good that it's going to start creating this utopic that mankind can just wreck the benefits? I don't think so. So is technology going to save us? Yeah it could? Some of us, not all of us. But if we really wanted a little forward, and I don't see this happening, I see the primitive brain still there and strong. And what is the first thing we do? We turn on each other. I think it's a real problem. But as far as commercial fishing. It's the [unsure] I think the commercial fishing is kinda like the canary in the coal mine. The ups and downs are actually telling us something. SO we better take care of it. It's a beautiful life tank. Let's take care of it. But we're not. So that's my closing argument. It's a big picture, little picture. But it's all the

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same picture. I don't want to take away the strength of your future. I think it's there, but we're not doing it.

End [0:55:44.0]