

## Interview

Interviewee: Morris Butler

Interviewers: Ahmauri Alford and Mpume Hlophe

Duration: 00:38:02

---

Ahmauri: My name is Ahmauri Alford, I'm with Mpume, and I'm a student at Georgia Southern University. I'm here with Morris Butler conducting an oral history interview as part of the project "Fishing Traditions and Fishing Futures." I've already received informed consent and permission to record from Mr. Butler, but if you could um, please confirm that out loud for me?

Butler: Uh, yes, yes...I'm Morris Butler.

Ahmauri: Okay, thank you. I have some questions to guide us, but, um, feel free I encourage you to just...tell your story the way it is. My first question for you is can you tell me when and where you grew up?

Butler: I grew up in McIntosh County, Georgia.

Ahmauri: Can you um...explain the kind of experiences you had growing up?

Butler: Um...well as a child I um...grew up playing sports and...um...when I was, I can remember when I was about ten years old, my dad was a shrimper and um...he took me out on the boat with him one weekend and I fell in love with...shrimping. And that was in um...1967 or 68. And ever since then, you know, I just...I wanted to be a shrimper and I was a shrimper ever since then. But when I started on my own it was 1975, when I graduated high school. And um... It was just a fun thing to do, you know? You get to go out on the boat and see the dolphins and turtles, and you know just...see everything that was in the ocean. And then you know got to travel a whole lot. Cause we, you know... we traveled from Georgia all the way to Key West Florida, Texas...you know, following the season of shrimping. And...basically you know it was just a a...good experience. Great experience. And still is.

Ahmauri: You said your father was also a shrimper?

Morris Butler: Yea, mhmm.

Ahmauri: Do you have like a long family line of shrimping?

Butler: No, it was only just me and my dad. You know he was...I had two other brothers, but they went to school. They went to college. But I uh... I love the water ocean. And um... they used to go, but very seldom. And um...they say once you uh...taste the salt [laughs] you know, you'll always be a, you know, on the ocean. And that's what it was for me.

Mpume: And how did your mom feel about it?

Butler: Uh well...she...at first you know, she was kind of leery about me going when I was real young. But...you know I used to go every summer, and then when we could have a school break on Christmas

holidays I used to go shrimping with my dad and um...I guess it just fade off, where it was just so, it was common. Mmhm.

Ahmauri: Was your community like, heavy in fishing or-?

Butler: Yes, the whole county was. That's what the county was mostly based on back in the 60s and 70s...was shrimping.

[Interrupted]

Mpume: You were just explaining about your community.

Butler: Oh yeah, yeah. It was um...you know, it was based on...uh, maybe 50% of the population um...was shrimpers. It was like an industry here. And um...they used to uh...process shrimp. And um, just basically seafood, but shrimping was the main thing. They had like...um...four or five shrimp docks and um...they use to supply shrimp to all the restaurants...here um...Glynn County, Savannah. You know, just all around. But it was a popular thing, shrimping. It was, you know, it was great. And you know it's been on a decline ever since the 70s.

Ahmauri: What do you think that change was?

Butler: Well, at one time...the shrimpers thought it was because there were so many shrimp boats. And then...I don't...you know, I'm saying Mother Nature or, you know...you know, I just can't you know, people just can't really say. You know, everybody can take their guess on it. But um...the main thing I really think it is, is pollution...from you know, the mills and stuff you know, putting the pollution in the waters. You know and um...causing bacteria and then you know...no shrimp. And...it's just a bad thing. And it's a bad time right now you know? Only the strong survive.

Ahmauri: So can you tell me what the average, like, day to day routine was on like, your life on the boat on the water?

Butler: Well, you get up at three o'clock in the morning then you go to the boat, and you take about maybe two hours, hour and a half to two hours, to go out on the ocean and you...set the nets overboard and...they call it dragging. You know you drag maybe two hours and then take it up and see what your catch is and, separate it, ice it down, you know, wash it, ice it down and um... another two hours, you know, do it again. Same routine until that afternoon, get ready to come home. Then you come home and...you know, come back to home port and then you come home and then um...get ready for the next day. Go to bed and rest, and...whatever. And then next day you do the same routine. Over and over and over, you know every day. You know, as long as it's productive. But if you didn't do well today, so like today is Saturday, and maybe tomorrow you say well I'm not going tomorrow, you go to church or take a day off or two days off or whatever, and then you go try it again. But you know as long as production is good, you know, you don't stop. You keep going, you know, every day.

Ahmauri: What's the longest amount of time you've been out?

Butler: Uh, twenty days. But...not, on the east coast. Not here in Georgia. That's like in Florida or Texas. Because you know, um...you're not close to the dock. You know, you're um...in the gulf on deep waters. But see here, we only take about an hour and a half and you could be home. Mmhm.

Mpume: You guys must've been really tired by the end of the day.

Butler: Well, it's...well see you get breaks. I mean you know, you might say, the two hours you're dragging, you know maybe every 20 or 30 minutes you pull the tri-net you know, sample net. But other than that, you're sitting there watching TV or...just whatever. You know...until the time you take the nets up, like two hours or three hours, sometimes you drag four or five hours. And then all that time you can sleep or just whatever. You know, some days you be tired when the production is great. I'd rather be tired every day. You know what I mean. Yeah, when the production is great. Mmhm.

Ahmauri: What are some positive and negative changes in the fishery or community over your lifetime?

Butler: Well, when I first started going, well...when I first started working for you know, myself as an adult, we didn't have uh, like the um, turtle excluders and stuff like that. And so much regulations, the fish eyes, and all the stuff like that. You know...a hole in the net is a hole in the net. You know...if the turtle get out, you know shrimp getting out too. But you know basically...they say that it don't, you know, the regulators say it don't. But, if a turtle is as big as it is and a shrimp as small as it is...if the turtle gets out, two or three shrimp get out. I'm just saying two or three, you just don't know. And um...you know...that's...I figure that's a bad thing. And um...like with the fish eye...it helps us who does the work on the boat, because it you know, it let the bycatch gets away. But...fish get away, shrimp get away. I mean you know...I just don't see how they can select the fish go, and the shrimp you know, shoots it out of there. You know...it has its goods and it has its bad. But the good is, like I say you know, you don't have to go through all that jump you know, to get the shrimp. So that's a positive. But the negative is, the hole, the two holes in the net. The big hole for the turtle, and the, you know, small hole for the um, fish eye. You know, it is what it is, you know, that's the law. And you know, you have abide by the rules. 'Cause you know nobody wants to go to jail, nobody wants a penalty.

Mpume: And how much was the penalty at the time, if you can recall?

Butler: Well if you get...um...I think it was like uh, \$500 for each um...if you got four [two?] nets, that's \$1,000. And if you have four nets that's \$2,000. And you only gonna do that one time, cause you know what I mean? You're gonna abide by the law. Mhmm. And if you get caught without the turtle shooter...they...take your nets and um...you know, your fishing gear. Because you know that's really bad, bad. You know? And really, really illegal, but there have been some people who got caught like that. Mmhm.

Ahmauri: How do you, or, what do you feel is the most rewarding part of your career?

Butler: Um...well, it's that uh you know...I come here, living for over 40 years, you know, on the ocean you know and...be able to tell stories to my grandkids, you know, about shrimping, and been able to have shrimp and fish whenever I want to, family, you know what I mean stuff like that because you know, you're working on the boat. Mhmm. You know, always have fresh seafood.

Mpume: Do you own a boat right now?

Butler: No, I did at one time about...12, 13 years ago. But I had um...I got sick. I had to have a kidney transplant, and I sold out.

Ahmauri: This is probably going to be a random question, but what was the name of your boat? I always hear these fascinating stories.

Butler: Oh uh, God's Property.

Mpume: How did you come up with it? What was the inspiration?

Butler: Well I mean, you know...I'm next to my pastor in church and you know uh, Kirk Franklin had a group called God's Property singing group and I said wow...that's the name of the boat. You know? Name it that. Yeah, mhmm. That's how I got that name from that. Yeah.

Mpume: And is there anyone in your family that's currently doing shrimping again, like right now?

Butler: No. No, no, no, no. I'm the only one in my family. I'm uh, like my mom's siblings...you know brothers and sisters but um...I had my cousins and stuff like that, you know, but close, no.

Mpume: So none of your grandkids also, do you think anyone of them are gonna do it?

Butler: No, no, no. I don't think so. Cause my oldest grandson, well he graduating high school in May, and he's um, already signed up for the um...military. So I know that's out. Matter of fact, I went and took him out on the boat with me one time and you know, he didn't really want to go back cause he got sick. Yeah. But thank God, you know, that's something I never did got, sick. Cause, you know, some people still get sea sick right now. But I never experienced that, so I thank God for that.

Ahmauri: What do you think younger people, or those who don't live on the coast, should understand about the history and heritage of coastal Georgia?

Butler: Um well...well they could say like coastal Georgia...well we made a living off the ocean. Crabbers, shrimpers, oystering...you know, we made a living when things were great back in the 50s, 60s, and 70s. In the 80s, it was a decline. And um...a lot of families...oldest shrimpers died out, and their sons you know, they just didn't...you know didn't fool because they would always tell us that there was no future. You know, there wasn't a great future because you know it was...decline. And...it was better to go to school, you know, and get a job and um...you know, stuff like that. I can say I was one of the lucky ones, you know, to make it through. Cause uh...me and my wife, we raised five daughters, five girls. Mhmm. Things are great. You know, it is what it is. But I thank God, you know, that it was um... is was great for me. I have no regrets...at all about shrimping. I had to travel a whole lot, and I got to travel for free because you ride on the boat. Head to Texas, Louisiana...you know...and that was free ride. Get to see places you know what I mean? Able to go back you know um...cause I, have you been to like Mobile, Alabama? And I said well, me and my wife can go to Mobile you know, and vacation or whatever, because I liked it when I was there. Key West, Florida...just all over.

Ahmauri: All over like, the south Atlantic? Or were you up north too?

Butler: Well yeah, yeah. I've been um, to North Carolina and um, Virginia. That's the only place I've ever been. Other than that...I was uh, shrimping in North Carolina probably maybe...maybe 11 or 12 times. Mhmm. [unclear]...go up there in like the summer time...in the middle of like maybe 12 different years. I'll say that. Mhm. And in Virginia, only been up there once. Uh, flounder fishing. And I didn't like that.

Mpume: Why was that?

Butler: It wasn't so...you know...bad weather, you know. You have to work in the high seas and it's dangerous...you know? It wasn't for me.

Mpume: You like the still water?

Butler: Yeah, well, I mean...it's better. It's great. But you know, you just have to be very very careful. And I didn't really like that too well. Its good money but...good days and bad days. More bad days than good days. Mhm. So I just...never went back at that. But you know guys make uh...fast, fast money. I mean you know, you could make two or three thousand dollars in a week. And that's fast, fast money. But...long as the weather's calm you know, feasible it's great. But...if it ever get the blowing out the northwest wind...20 to 25 miles an hour it gets rough. And you have to be very very...very, very careful 'cause if you ever get blown over the boat...you're history.

Ahmauri: So, I learned a new term yesterday. It's called smoke stack. Um...so if you don't have a kind of...I guess a paper mill blowing in the direction of the wind, how would you determine which direction you need to take in order to determine where the shrimp are going to be?

Butler: Well...you...my intake on it is...I think the tide has a whole lot to do with it. Tide and the banks. High tide or low tide or whatever. First you have to see really how the shrimp are running...really are they running on low tide or high tide? Or whether are they gonna be...up on the bank or in the deep. And you know, it's just a chance. And like...me and two or three other boats might be together and...one might be on the bank and one might be in the deep. And uh, on the bank might have 200 pounds and you might be in the deep and you might have 500 pounds, or vice versa. You know what I mean. It's just a chance. You know? You're taking a gamble, you know, whatever you do. You just don't know. Because they're on the bottom of the ocean, and you're just trying to do the best that you can do... you know, with the harvest.

Mpume: And um also, we learned that sometimes to know where the shrimp is, you would use a stick and put some sort of soap at the end of a metal rod and stick it in the mud, and if the mud sticks that's where the shrimp is.

Butler: Well, a long time ago they used to do that. Yeah, back in the day...that's what I was telling you about on the bank. You know...they did that long, long years ago before they had better equipment. You know like, electronics. Everything is electronically. See like right now, there is a thing called a chromoscope, it's like a meter. And uh, you could be running along and looking at the depths of the water. And it'll show you like the um...you can't actually see the shrimp, but you can see like...little specs and stuff and then...and you drag along, long as you see the specs, and then when you run out of specs you turn around go back, you know right back, stay in that area. That's you know...and it's real popular. And if you got that, you could do excellent. Mmhm.

Ahmauri: What do you hope to see in the next generation of commercial fishing?

Butler: Well, I hope it...to turn around, you know? Where it gets back great again, you know, like it used to be like...lots and lots of shrimp. Instead of um...a third of the shrimp, you know, that we used to catch 40 years ago not...60 and 80 years ago because 50 and 60 years ago...they used to have so much shrimp, you know, they could walk on. I mean, you know? It was shrimp, shrimp, shrimp. My daddy used to tell me stories...they used to go out and um, they had a limit. You know, you only could catch so much. And by the middle of the day they'd be on gone and come back and had their limit. And that was great. And now you can't even get a limit. There is no limit. You know what I mean? So, I would like to see that again. I sure would.

Ahmauri: Do you remember how much that limit was?

Butler: I think it was like 50 bushels. And they used to go get 50 bushels with no problem. And back then they were smaller boats, less power, and one net. And see now...on average, most of the boats are pulling four nets. And...four, five times the power, you know, they have to pull the nets. Mmhm. But see back then, they only had smaller boats, one net, and they could get to 50 bushels in half a day. Now with the four nets...they will get 200, you know what I'm saying. Yeah, mhm. It been great. I would like to see that again. Mhm. Only time I ever seen something like that is...I went to Freeport, Texas, shrimping one summer. I think it was 1980...or either 1980, no 1981, and the shrimp was so thick over there. Until you make uh...two drags, two hour drags at night. You fish over there at night. And you could quit, you had to quit to harvest, you know, to get the shrimp iced down. It took you from ten o'clock that night, til ten o'clock the next morning to get through with that. And maybe like nine o'clock, you had to still push some back overboard because it's so hot, you know, they [spoil?]. That's one time I'd ever seen shrimp like that, you know, just couldn't get out of them. I would like to see that on an average but, God only knows if we ever see that again. I would like to see that again. And that's what you call great, great, great, I mean you know what I mean, just fabulous. Fantastic.

Mpume: So, would you say shrimping at night was better? Did you get more shrimp when shrimping at night or during the day?

Butler: Well, over there in the gulf...when you past Cape Canaveral, Florida, the water, you call that um... west coast. And the water's so clear because it's so deep, you have to fish at night. Because you see everything'll see the nets, and the [inaudible] and stuff, you have to fish at night. The only time you can fish over there in the day time is like the weather get real, real bad and...rough, rougher days and the water get muddy. Then you can fish in day time for a day or two and then, have to fish at night...because it's so deep and clear. That's why it's called gulf. Good, good fishing at night. Only fishing at night. The day time you sleep all day.

Mpume: And did they get more fish during, like, the number of fish, more pounds during the night or more pounds during the day?

Butler: Well...I think we caught more here on the east coast than they did on the west coast. You know they had like a season but...we shrimp here from April to December, and from January til March we used to go to Key West, you know, just travel over there like that. But um...I think it's more better in the day time on an average. Mhm. Yeah.

Ahmauri: Do you have an idea as to why you think it's better in the day time?

Butler: Well...not really, but it's just, it seems like the catch is better because you know...like over here on the east coast...when um...the closer it is the sun goes down, the shrimp declines. I mean, I guess that's just the way it is, you know, they bury up in the mud, you know, for the night and then um...daylight come again. They unbury from the mud and you catch them again. Mhm. Yeah.

Ahmauri: What type of things do you think could happen in the next five years within the fishing industry?

Butler: You said could happen?

Ahmauri: Mhmm.

Butler: Um...I think it's gonna have to be uh...like well...some of the rules and regulations are gonna have to be lifted up off the fishermen because the economy's...so on a decline. It's so expensive with the rules and regulations and uh...and um, the gear you have to buy. There's more people getting out of it, you know, getting out of the business. And...It's just a bad time for shrimpers. Very, very bad time. And, very few are getting into it right now. There's more getting out than um, than getting in. I think I talked to someone...it's been a few months back. I think it used to be like, three or four hundred licenses issued, and I think it's now only 100 on an average. And that's bad. Because the younger generation, they don't know anything about shrimping. And they don't have uh...no input to get into it because it's a gamble. I mean you know, especially if you have a family...you know, you may or you may not, and...bill collectors, you know, they want their money. And you know, I've been in it so long...I'm just stuck. You know? And I made it through so, I thank God that I did. You know, I got in when it was just on the verge of it was great, and then it was just on a decline, and then it's been going downhill ever since. But you know, only the strong survive. If you really get out there and work you could make it. But if you just... don't really want to work hard you know, you're not gonna make it. The main goal is working hard, you know, when it's feasible. You know what I mean? You have to get it while it's there. Because you know, you only have from April to December. Let's say in May, it's a great month, you have to go every day. But you know, maybe June is...you get a break. You may not have to go only but 10 days in June, but you know when it's good you got to get it. You know and then um...like the uh, imports that really put a damper on our, you know, our prices. That's a lot to do with it too. You know, that makes people want to get out of it because...when you get the same prices...2017, 2018 that you got in 1980...you know, that's rough. You know, for the same shrimp, but you're getting the same prices with more gear, more regulations, and fuel prices, ice prices, you know everything is up...except the shrimp price. And that's kind of rough. You know, but it's only like I said, only the strong survive. But through it all, God has the last say so, you know, on it. So do you like shrimp?

Ahmauri: I love shrimp.

Butler: What about you?

Mpume: Yeah, shrimp is good.

Butler: Yeah, but you know um...I don't like them that way. I mean you know...I don't have to have them, but I mean you know, 'cause I've seen so many, you know, it's just a common thing. But you know, they all good. They great. They used to be great, but it's just common to me. I've seen so many, white shrimp, brown shrimp, pink shrimp...yeah. I know I probably sound like, uh what's the name, Bubba Gump Shrimp. [laughs]

Mpume: Which one do you think taste better for you out of all the ones you've seen?

Butler: Um...it's hard...um...I would say I like shrimp and gravy.

Mpume: And which shrimp is that? Is that the white shrimp?

Butler: No, the brown. The brown. They just have a sweeter, you know, taste to me. The brown shrimp taste the best to me. Most people like the white shrimp, you know. And a lot of people like the big jumbo ones. I like the medium ones, you know. It just tastes better to me.

Ahmauri: So how does...I'm not sure how to like word this necessarily, but how do you...what determines a white shrimp from a brown shrimp from a pink shrimp?

Butler: Okay well, the pink shrimp is in the gulf. The brown shrimp has a season. The white shrimp are from April to June. And the brown shrimp be from the end of June til August. Brown shrimp. They be brown, they really be brown shrimp. Yeah, you know, they look brown. But you know they, 'cause they call them brownies.

Mpume: When did you say the white shrimp was?

Butler: Uh, April...to June.

Mpume: Okay, got it.

Butler: And then um...the brown shrimp come from um-

Mpume: End of June til August.

Butler: August. And then...the end of August til December, the white shrimp come back again, the ones that spawned off of the first ones, the grown shrimp come out, the white shrimp come again.

Mpume: Were you also in to other sorts of fishing like crabbing?

Butler: No, uh uh, I never, um, liked crabbing. I mean you know, I fell in love on the shrimp boat. But you know um...I went crabbing a time or two, not for a living, but just for fun, for recreation I'll say. And oystering um...I still do that...up until maybe five years ago, picked some oysters with a friend, but I wouldn't want to do that for a living. You know, it's too boggy, you know, walking in all that mad. But it's fun, you know, but um... it's fun. You go and pick you a bushel or two of oysters and... have an oyster roast or just...preserve them and have them for yourself. So you eat oysters too?

Mpume: Mm, I'm not a big fan.

Butler: Really? Oh, they good. I'd rather have oysters than shrimp.

Mpume: Really?

Butler: Yeah, mhm.

Ahmauri: Is it because you've dealt with shrimp for so long or do you feel like...?

Butler: No, yeah, I'm used to them. I've seen them so long and I've been dealing with them for 40 years, 40 something years, you know, and...nothing strange. And me and my wife we was married uh...32 years, and we go out to eat and she still orders shrimp. [laughs] You know, I look at her like, wow.

Mpume: And your daughters like shrimp?

Butler: Oh, man. I can't keep them home, you know what I mean? 'Cause I got five of them, and um...and, they just...they love shrimp. 'Cause you know, they were raised up on, you know...they didn't have no problem with getting shrimp, you know, seafood, shrimp, fish, crabs, you know just whatever. But, shrimp yeah. Mhm. All five love them. Yup.

Ahmauri: In your opinion, what do you think are the fishing futures of Georgia?



Butler: Um well, the future...I'm hoping to make a turnaround because as of now um...it's not looking too prosperous, you know, for shrimping because its...you're not getting much fishing time and...nobody really wants to do it. And...the only people there is the people who's been in business a long time and, you know, they have to keep on going with it. But as of, new group, I'm saying the next 10 years, it's going to be slow and very slow. 'Cause nobody really wants to do it...because you know, the production isn't great. You know, to um...you know to survive. Mhm. And you know, the [unclear] to the bank or whatever...I mean you can't go into all 'I didn't go today, I didn't catch nothing', you know what I mean, today. And so...it's gonna be hard to get people to go work on the boat because you have to go get a job or, you know. And it's...it's just a crying time. It's a praying time. But you know, the good Lord could turn it around. Just like that. But you know, that's what we're praying for. But God only knows. They just have to make the best of it.

Mpume: If you don't mind me asking, what are you currently doing now?

Butler: Now?

Mpume: Mhm.

Butler: Well see, it's the end of the season and...just waiting on April to come back again and, you know, start back up. Mhm. See that's what I'm saying as a down time you have to save your money, and you know, manage your money you know, so you could be able to...January, February, March, you know, you don't be doing nothing unless you go to the Gulf, you know, to shrimp or whatever or get a job or whatever. But now...I'm not doing anything. Just taking it easy. Relaxing, cause I know that once it start back up, it's gonna be on. Mhm.

Mpume: How many men do you have on the crew?

Butler: Just three. Three of us.

Mpume: Okay.

Butler. Mhm.

Ahmauri: Is that about the average-?

Butler: Yeah, that's the average number. Yeah, on the bigger boats. Right. Bigger boats have three, some take four when it's, like I said, when it's good so they could really, you know, work don't have to stop but, you know, get the catch cleaned up. Yeah uh, four, and then you could, you know, work. And then when you come home, you could take some time off to relax. But the main thing is, you know, how you manage everything. Mhm. But, you know, shrimping I have no regrets. It's great. It's been great. You know, not the only part getting, you know, getting your own seafood...but it's just, you know, it's a good living. But it was great, but it's still good you know. But it could be better. Much better, if the shrimp population, you know, picked back up. That's the problem now. It's not um...decline in the shrimp. So y'all are professors, y'all can't help the brothers out?

Ahmauri: We're um, professors in training.

Butler: But I mean that's close, that's close. You know what I mean. That's close. I mean y'all do some studying, do some background. Y'all could get some shrimp in the ocean for the fishermen.

Mpume: That's why we need you to teach us. So we can come prepared.

Butler: So y'all ever been out on a boat?

Ahmauri: We actually went on the Georgia Bulldog-

Butler: Oh y'all did? Okay y'all went um...uh, with Truck?

Ahmauri: Yes.

Butler: Yeah, we shrimped together for like five years. Before he went to work with them. You know, it got kinda bad so he said well...and the opportunity came up. Yeah, mhm. Yeah, that's one of my best friends. Mhm.

Ahmauri: We did get him in an interview yesterday.

Butler: Really?

Ahmauri: yes.

Butler: Oh, okay.

Mpume: And how often do opportunities like that come, like, for people who have done shrimping for so long, and then...?

Butler: Get a break like that?

Mpume: Yeah.

Butler: Very rare. I think um, only like...just say like when he...he'll probably do it another year or two and he'll probably just, you know, retire. And then, you know, another person step up, you know, very rarely. 'Cause you know, once they get that job, they be there til retirement. Mhm. Yup. Sure does. Be there til retirement. He just happened to got in there...probably three years ago. I think, yeah. Maybe three years ago. Mhm.

Mpume: Would you take an opportunity like that or would you just...?

Butler: Well um...well, I...yeah, yeah. I would now. But um...I would rather a younger person to get it than me because see...I'm 62 my next birthday and um you know and...I'd rather somebody, you know, else get it, a younger person, you know, that could a build a future because...I'm history. You understand what I'm saying? You know? God been good to me. So I would rather...yeah if the opportunity come, I would take it, but I'd prefer somebody younger, you know, to get it. And go on with it. Make a career out of it. If I could, if I got it I'd give it to my grandson. You know if it worked like that, but I knew it wouldn't work like that. But, you know, shrimping is great. So y'all gonna take me out to buy a shrimp dinner for lunch?

[Laughs]

Mpume: What?

Butler: [laughs] I'm asking are y'all gonna take me out to buy a shrimp dinner for lunch? [laughs] No, no. I don't have to have that. So how long um...have before y'all get finished with your um, for y'all be...through with school?

Ahmauri: I graduate next spring.

Butler: Oh, okay.

Mpume: I graduate this coming December.

Butler: Oh, December?

Mpume: Mhm.

Butler: Oh okay, y'all...that close. Oh, okay. God bless you with that one. Both of y'all on that.

Ahmauri: I have um, no further questions for you. So, do you have any questions for us you'd like to ask?

Butler: Um, can I get 5 dollars? [laughs] Together be fine. [laughs] I mean um, forgive me, I didn't...I'm just kidding you on that part, you know. Yup, just kidding. But you know, thank God to see young bla-ladies you know what I mean, in the field doing great. God bless y'all...to keep on elevating, and just do great things in life. And so you um...you going back to over there, or you going to be here?

Mpume: Um, I'm gonna go back and um, try and apply for more studying. And then come back probably. Get a good opportunity to come back to study again.

Butler: Oh, okay. Well, if you ever need a job on a boat I'll give you a job.

Mpume: You'd teach me how to head shrimp?

Butler: I wouldn't want you to put that in your blood 'cause you might quit school and be a shrimper.

Mpume: Is it really that fun because you-?

Butler: It is. Yeah. You just pop them off real fast. So y'all wanna...did y'all see any shrimp the other day when y'all went? You did?

Ahmauri: Yes, and they taught us how to pop them.

Butler: Oh, really? Did you pick up one?

Ahmauri: He made us all do it.

Butler: Really?

Mpume: Yeah.

Butler: Did you like it?

[Laughs]

Ahmauri: Noo.

Mpume: It was not fun.

Butler: [laughs] So, how did you like the boat ride?

Ahmauri: The boat was fun. A lot of fun. Yeah.

Mpume: We saw some pelicans. It was so funny seeing them fight.

Butler: Oh yeah, fight over the fish? Yeah. You're right, you're right. So did he uh...did Truck cook y'all some shrimp?

Ahmauri: No, he didn't.

Butler: He didn't? Oh, man. I'm gonna get on to him 'bout that. Maybe next time y'all come he'll cook y'all some shrimp. Hope so anyhow. But it was nice meeting y'all. Nice doing the interview.

Ahmauri and Mpume: Thank you so much.

Butler: God bless y'all.

Ahmauri and Mpume: Thank you.