

*Interviewer:* Good morning, sir. How are you doing today?

*Devin Kocsis:* Not too bad.

*Interviewer:* Could you tell us a little bit about yourself?

*Devin Kocsis:* Well, my name is Captain Devin Kocsis, and I'm a charter captain down here, and I've worked on everything from headboats to massive yachts.

*Interviewer:* What steps do you take to ensure your safety?

*Devin Kocsis:* Well, the usual FWC and Coast Guard regulations, your flares and mirrors and all your floatation devices and everything, and, basically, just knowing the area is the best possible way to be safe, know the weather and know the area. You don't want to run up on a flat, and you don't want to get caught in a nasty storm.

*Interviewer:* What would be your favorite form of fishing and why?

*Devin Kocsis:* I personally really love inshore fishing, and I just started doing that, and I bought my own boat, and it's a lot more skill involved than just bottom fishing offshore, and you've got to actually cast, and you've got to know what you're doing, and it's a lot more fun, to me.

*Interviewer:* I don't mean to be unprofessional, but how do you keep such a majestic beard?

*Devin Kocsis:* You just let it grow and go swimming a lot in salt water, and it keeps it intact.

*Interviewer:* Thank you.

*Devin Kocsis:* I like that question.

*Interviewer:* Do you personally fish?

*Devin Kocsis:* Just by myself?

*Interviewer:* Yes, sir.

*Devin Kocsis:* Yes, every day.

*Interviewer:* What would you say is the average amount of fish you

catch every day, or every time you are out there in the ocean?

*Devin Kocsis:* Well, it depends, really. It depends on tides and what we're actually going for, and, me personally, when I go out, it's more for trout and sheepshead, and they're a lot easier to catch, and I can come back with bigger numbers, but, offshore, it's more grunts and some smaller grouper right now, this time of year, and then basically redfish, a lot of redfish.

*Interviewer:* How did you get into fishing?

*Devin Kocsis:* Well, I grew up in Florida, on the east coast, and my dad had a boat, and I just grew up, from when I was this tall, fishing every day.

*Interviewer:* While you're fishing, have you ever experienced bycatch, and how would you personally deal with it?

*Devin Kocsis:* No, not really.

*Interviewer:* What is the craziest story you have fishing, say the most dangerous?

*Devin Kocsis:* Well, I was on a boat, and I was working on there, and my buddy Rich -- We had caught a small blacktip, and he wasn't holding it properly, because he was too busy trying to show it around to people, and it came in and bit him on the -- It grabbed his shorts on the inner thigh, and we made a lot of jokes about that, and that was by far one of the funniest things I've seen on a boat.

*Interviewer:* How do you feel about the fishing regulations?

*Devin Kocsis:* Actually, personally, I love them, and I know that they're expanding red grouper this year, which is really good, all grouper, but the regulations help the fish grow bigger, and to where we can have them around for a lot longer, and I personally -- I believe in all of them, and I think they're great.

*Interviewer:* What is the most common species of fish you catch?

*Devin Kocsis:* Grunts, a million grunts. They are easy to catch, and they're everywhere.

*Interviewer:* What is your opinion on more destructive forms of fishing techniques, such as bottom trawling or using poisons and explosives and the effects of ghost fishing?

*Devin Kocsis:* I don't think you should do any of that, because it really just ruins the ecosystem, and, if you're using explosives or anything else like that, you should be in jail in the first place. That's just wrong.

*Interviewer:* What is your favorite type of fishing?

*Devin Kocsis:* Like I said, inshore fishing and going for snook, really. Snook is the most fun, or shark fishing is a lot of fun as well, and that's a little bit more dangerous though, and it gets the adrenaline going.

*Interviewer:* Do you ever run into invasive species?

*Devin Kocsis:* I do, and I was just telling him earlier that, down in Sarasota, we've been killing a lot of lionfish lately.

*Interviewer:* How does that affect your profit?

*Devin Kocsis:* Well, actually, Tradewinds is buying lionfish from all the fishermen around here, and so, actually, it's helping out my profits, but they just go in and they kill a lot of species that we fish for, and they need to be taken care of.

*Interviewer:* Do you feel in danger when you are fishing?

*Devin Kocsis:* No, not really.

*Interviewer:* Do you deal with competition from other fishermen?

*Devin Kocsis:* A lot, and I have learned, doing inshore charters now, that the inshore guys have a very tight-knit club, and, if you're not part of it, they will pull right up on you, and, yes, it's very competitive, and it's getting into some fights with some people.

*Interviewer:* I guess that's the fun of it.

*Devin Kocsis:* Yes.

*Interviewer:* What kind of fishing would you recommend to newcomers,

as a way of gaining experience?

*Devin Kocsis:* I would personally do pier and bridge fishing, because you really kind of learn some of the inshore species around, and you can do both bottom and casting, and so you can get anywhere from small grunts and sheepshead to the bigger redfish and snook and shark and whatnot, and so I personally would recommend that, and that's the wider spectrum of everything.

*Interviewer:* What got you into fishing, or why did you start fishing?

*Devin Kocsis:* My dad. My dad was a big, avid fisherman, and so I went out with him every day.

*Interviewer:* So you have done fishing all your life?

*Devin Kocsis:* Yes, inshore and offshore and fresh water and everything.

*Interviewer:* What is your best advice for someone that is just starting in fishing?

*Devin Kocsis:* Patience, definitely patience. That is the number-one rule of fishing, because you could go out all day, and you could not catch anything, not even a pinfish. It's definitely the patience, and keep going with it, and you will eventually get to that point where you can go out and you can start catching the things that you want to catch.

*Interviewer:* Do you plan to teach fishing to future generations or your children?

*Devin Kocsis:* I do with some of my mates over the summer, and I have a bunch of kids that are still in high school, and younger and whatnot, that come out on the boat with me, and I kind of teach them how to run a boat and how to tie knots and do all of that, and so kind of, but not really in the big spectrum.

*Interviewer:* Have you ever experienced firsthand signs of overfishing?

*Devin Kocsis:* Yes, actually. Definitely during some of the snook seasons, and you can tell that, where they should be, and where they have been in the past, in large numbers, they are kind of dwindled down, especially with grouper over the last few years, and you have seen smaller and smaller numbers

offshore. It goes back to the regulations and why we have those, and let them try to catch up with us.

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