

Interviewer: Okay it is April 30th. We're with Bart Bailey and so I would like to start by just getting a little bit background on your experience in the fishing industry, and the species that you target, and how maybe that's changed over time, and just your general background?

Bart Bailey: I've been stone crabbing since '92 in this area and I stone crab a few back in the 80s out of Marco *[indiscernible]*[00:00:35]. So I've been out a while.

Interviewer: Cool. And now you do-- now you're charter captain?

Bart Bailey: I stone fish and charter fish. Stand by one two.

Interviewer: Okay so you've been stone crabbing since '92 and are you still stone crabbing?

Bart Bailey: I still stone crab.

Interviewer: And then--

Bart Bailey: Not like I used to run 5000 traps now I only run two.

Interviewer: So when did you start chartering?

Bart Bailey: I've chartered fish on and off for the last 30 years. I used to run tuna boat from let's see '85 until '92 in the Gulf of Mexico down in Costa Rico down in Mexico. I've been on the water commercially fishing or charter fishing since about 1982.

Interviewer: And how long have you been in this area?

Bart Bailey: I have been here the entire the time except for the '85 to '92. I was out of the country, out of the area at that time.

Interviewer: So what's your charter-- when you're chartering do you fish inshore, offshore [00:02:00] or combination?

Bart Bailey: Combination. We call it *[indiscernible]*[00:02:03]. We also do offshore trips 30, 40 miles snapper trips we call them.

Interviewer: Yeah. So most of your-- well, I guess I'll just ask so essentially we are looking at red tide from a historical perspective so I'm interested in talking about the first one that your remember seeing or experience in Naples or before Naples.

Bart Bailey: I remember it. Okay go ahead.

Interviewer: And then just trying to get as much information about that as possible and talk about the next one you experienced and kind of move forward in kind of a historical way?

Bart Bailey: It's hard for me to do chronologically. I remember as kids the dead fish on the beach when we were little, but there used to be a lot more dead stuff on the beach. There were sharks, and lots of little eels. Lots of glass grouper just lots of fish on the beach. Nowadays it seems when there's a die off it's always mullet and catfish that's on the beach for whatever that's worth. This last one we had was the first one that I ever recall when I was charter fishing and we had dead fish floating from about 4 or 5 miles out to over 20 miles out solid fish dead. What I remember about the red tide is very rarely we would joke about it's hard on the stone crabbers, but it's not hard on the stone crabs because they had plenty to eat most of the fish people don't realize that aren't going to the bottom and the crabs get them. So this time around, this is the only one that I'm aware of that actually killed the Crustacea off. That actually killed bottom. I don't know why. I think it has more to do [00:04:00] more than red tide but I haven't had any good answers, anything that makes sense to me. And that's kind of what we're in the process of now is finding out like the ledges we can still go catch fish on but most of--

Interviewer: Where are those like when you say the ledges where you can still--?

Bart Bailey: There's a lot of different spots where there's ledges. We got ledges out of a doctor's pass out five miles. Once again fishermen don't like giving up their stuff.

Interviewer: Yeah. Why am I interested you know if those places are hot spots for red tide or places *[overlapping conversation]*[00:04:42].

Bart Bailey: No, it's not really no. The red tide kind of goes in and over it's own will. Okay there were streaks of it and if you look back on the records you guys had it reported pretty well.

Interviewer: Yeah and this is-- this is his past?

Bart Bailey: This is his past one.

Interviewer: When was the first-- which month that noticed that you were going to get a red tide this year? When did you start noticing?

Bart Bailey: Well, they had been getting. They got *[indiscernible]*[00:05:05] North of us up in Boca Grande, Sanibel, they had both ends over. They had blue green algae and Charlotte Harbor. And so I don't know you have to talk to those guys over there.

Interviewer: So when you heard that it was up there, did you know that it was going to come down here or?

Bart Bailey: Sometimes it comes, sometimes it doesn't. It doesn't always follow. They may have it bad right up there have it bad on Sanibel and we won't see a thing. I mean when they were getting crushed up there and they had killer whales on the beach. We still had no sign of it here. They had little bit up off Venetian Bay and up that way but we didn't have it bad done here. Then it kind of crapped it's way down.

Interviewer: From when to when?

Bart Bailey: But once you get chronologically they had first and we got it [00:06:00]. We didn't get it as bad as they did but we still got it bad. We never had it very bad in the back water. Minor kill off, chasing off the big jacks away, a lot of dead catfish floating in the bay but not a massive die off not-- it was your slow movers and stuff the ones that usually fill it first, mullet and that catfish.

Interviewer: Are there any other impacts that it has on species availability or sporting aggregations or?

Bart Bailey: Oh who can say you know usually in October you would have to check [indiscernible][00:06:37]. You can look at see what mullet sales were like and where they came from. I don't know how good your records are on that but I'm sure they're available. You have to take some time to weigh through them. That's most of your breeding stuff that's well-known of. We got the mullet run anywhere from 1st of December to the end of February.

Interviewer: So how do you adapt? How did you adapt last year with the red tide?

Bart Bailey: I went charter fishing.

Interviewer: You went charter fishing.

Bart Bailey: The charter fishing we could still make a living. Charter fishing used to be easy. I could go to any fish where there was a little bit of live bottom and catch people enough fish, make them happy. And then we go over and move over to the artificials or [indiscernible][00:07:27] and catch him a glass creeper, catch him a few barracuda. After you've caught enough fish for dinner and you're done four hours nice and easy. After it cleared up enough.

Interviewer: Do you remember when? Do you remember like when it started like when it was clear how long it took to recover?

Bart Bailey: No, there was kind of some false starts about it clearing up. We got happy like we had a [indiscernible][00:07:59] come through or we had some weather-- it might have been Hurricane Michael [00:08:00]. We thought okay cool it's going to be fun off shore might blow it up to the North or get it the hell out of here but it came back after that not as bad. On the charter fish we just about quit fishing. We would fish the offshore fishing, coastal fishing we would take them in the backwater and catch a few more little

fish but the bottom was pretty much wiped out. The live bottom a large percentage of live bottom was killed off.

Interviewer: And you said you haven't seen that before?

Bart Bailey: I had never seen nor even heard of that before.

Interviewer: Yeah, from red tide.

Bart Bailey: Right from red tide. Like I said I think it's more than red tide entailed another angle of it. Maybe another a cousin of the red tide or whatever something that work in conjunction with it but I've seen oxygen levels get so low where the swimmer crabs the little purple legged crabs that swim around off shore I don't know the name. The best permit they were up against the beach and off the bottom. They were swimming around trying to stay in where there's oxygenated water and they were-- it's usually hard to deep one. You could deep three or four or five and once were more. Everywhere you looked where crabs so evidently it was enough to--as I knew that it would kill them off.

Interviewer: Where did you see that like the crabs up on the beach?

Bart Bailey: All a long from doctor's all the way down here. The bait was pushed up on the beach. We were seeing fish from offshore. Usually the-- what do they call them? White grants. Usually the white grants you see them out here. We were catching big white grant here. They were offshore specie in the backwater more than there were a lot of fish moved in [00:10:00]. Let's mark ours Q80. Could be the same down there. Dinner's fished stone crabbed a lot further south here always enclosed. The stuff offshore the guys out of Marco were having the fish 40 miles. Stone crab 40 miles south to make 11. I won't get around that far and I probably-- I think to the North you had to go 100 miles. You had to get to North to Sarasota. The guys up there in Tampa, Springs, Fernando, they all get riches here.

Interviewer: Yeah, how long did you notice like how long were there crabs on the beach and this was going on and you saw this, animals that live on the bottom looking for air and offshore fish being pushed on the--?

Bart Bailey: This was September.

Bart Bailey: Yeah.

Bart Bailey: I'm sorry. I had no reason, I just go by when the crab season was going to start.

Interviewer: Yeah. No, I mean that's approximate.

Bart Bailey: The reason why I didn't put any crabs offshore because of what I was seeing when I was charter fishing. A lot of the guys put all their gear out and just took it out on the --

Interviewer: So you never put your gear out?

Bart Bailey: I put like 450 traps down. All my insure stuff and I had all along this beach right here. I had a couple more out here passed there are some rocks right there. And you know there were-- I caught a few crabs there but not usually knock them dead and usually they would have been covered up with traps, all kind of gears everywhere we still would have gone.

Interviewer: How many traps total do you have?

Bart Bailey: I fished. I have 2200 tags but I only fish about 12 or 1400. I used to -- I had 6000 tags at one time.

Interviewer: So you just put out for safety just to see?

Bart Bailey: Just to see what was going on. I work by myself so I don't have-- so if I go out and don't make any money I don't have to try and pay a worker out of that.

Interviewer: Yeah and then do you know right away that I'm just going to work on chartering and--?

Bart Bailey: That was pretty much. I saw that coming [00:12:00]. I've got friends in the business so.

Interviewer: Are there any other clues or indicators before about red tide?

Bart Bailey: Not that I know of. Usually you will see it will be either North or South here. The guys coming in will say hey I've seen some red tide. We got floating fish offshore a lot of times. There's another type like a golden algae, you guys heard of it?

Bart Bailey: Yeah.

Bart Bailey: That rises comes to the top and goes back to the bottom. We've seen that sometime offshore and go. You know *[indiscernible]*[00:12:31] look like *[indiscernible]*[00:12:32] what hacks the deal and goes through the next day and won't be too bad or sometimes you go through it and get back in the boat like you have good clear water underneath it and other times you wouldn't that's when you got the red tide that's what you look back at your wake and see okay is it kicking up green water. Is it just on the top or is it you get brown water coming off from down below too?

Interviewer: So when you notice that there's brown water coming off from down below that's when you dock?

Interviewer: Usually you get bad red tide all the way at least down further than normal. Usually I mean--

Interviewer: But you said-- has that ever happened before where you saw brown water below and you didn't want to put up traps?

Bart Bailey: No, like I said usually--

Interviewer: This is all something that you recognize in the last --?

Bart Bailey: Usually the stone crab wasn't affected by the red -- it affected our output. Our production but it didn't affect -- actually it was good for the crabs. Sometimes the crabs double clutched. They will put out two sets. They'll get grabbed twice a year. Sometimes they won't. It depends, as female they can hold the sperm, fertilize the eggs until she's ready, until she knows I have good stuff going on here. After a red tide you see a lot of grabbing females.

Interviewer: Yeah. So when there's been red tide in the past and it's stone crabbing season, do you do the [00:14:00] same thing where you only-- you put out less traps?

Bart Bailey: Now, usually you fish your way through it. You just don't pull them as often. You go through like the way you go through a moon phase. Dark nights are usually when the crabs get out and feed. If you don't have bad weather to make the water muddy okay then it's only on the dark nights so the crabs will get out and feed so what you do is you put small -- you keep a small female in the trap that looks like she's ready to sluff and that's when they become available. And you leave that in there and you leave the trap for a month. You also put bait in it. You catch whatever you can catch because you can never know. It's called baiting with females and it can be very effective.

Interviewer: So where are some of the areas you said there were some areas where you could still fish and you're able to charter during the red tide, where are those and Let's use a different.

Bart Bailey: A different color.

Interviewer: So areas that you're still able to fish that had clear water that you're able to take your charters?

Bart Bailey: You guys are going to be better off getting your information looking back at - okay we could fish out to up to about 35 feet. I'm pretty sure that's-- so like from here inward we could catch fish. After it got bad we could still catch fish there and then you'll have to go off of this chart. You have to go out 25 miles in order to catch fish and fishing was good there because a lot of these fish got pushed off shore and they [00:16:00] were on the good bottom and the good wrecks. The fishing was incredible.

Interviewer: Yeah. You said like 50 miles?

Bart Bailey: Outside of about 28 miles.

Interviewer: Okay.

Bart Bailey: So from wherever the 28 mile would be. One of these is not 30, is it? It's my. From the 40 feet inward.

Interviewer: It's 32.

Bart Bailey: Okay, that's about what I have figured.

Interviewer: Yeah, you said from about 40 feet. Yeah, this is right 40.

Bart Bailey: Right but there was hidden miss all in this area right here and then it got to an area where there was nothing, you couldn't go out and lose bait when you're fishing.

Interviewer: So intro fishing was still good?

Bart Bailey: It was okay weren't good. This is Dennis.

Interviewer: Hey Dennis.

Dennis: Yeah, any kind of information for me?

Bart Bailey: No, they're gathering information. They're not giving information.

Interviewer: Yeah, we're just here learning about red tide and how it looks in this area over time so.

Dennis: Everything else that had 20 foot around here is dead black bottom.

Bart Bailey: The bottom died off. The bottom got killed off.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Dennis: Starts to get about 80 foot and then it goes way past Marco. It's almost outside every *[indiscernible]*[00:17:31] where it starts picking back up.

Bart Bailey: The other guys would --

Dennis: 60 miles from here.

Bart Bailey: Yeah they were gone 60 I had thought they were starting to catch there in about 40 miles South. About like on that 30, 32.

Dennis: They start on that stuff-- they're not all that big.

Bart Bailey: Yeah at least or something there.

Bart Bailey: So you said you could still fish in this area but was intro fishing was ineffective?

Bart Bailey: What his talking about is stone crabbing. I was charter fishing and crabbing at the same time [00:18:00].

Interviewer: Yeah, so for charter.

Bart Bailey: Then for a while this died off as well. You could fish right up on the beach and all this eventually is where I moved in.

Interviewer: Okay, when--

Bart Bailey: Okay then it took about a month and a half or two months till we started catching little trash fish like blue runners, sand patch, junk fish.

Interviewer: So it took like two and a half months before you were able to fish in this area at all? It took like two and a half months.

Bart Bailey: Well, you couldn't catch enough fish to keep people happy. The fish started coming back.

Dennis: The only place I caught any crabs was up in the slosh of 12 feet of water. That's the only place I caught any crabs all year long. And then when I caught these out then I started fishing in the river. You go outside 20 feet of water you catch nothing. You've just done nothing there why?

Bart Bailey: That stuff where I put those short charts after, you guys had some stuff there. There was a little bit of ironic crabs there earlier on.

Dennis: Yeah I remember I had two for 100 pound there for a while and then but once those where caught out that was it.

Bart Bailey: Right that is the scary part. It's like the red tide--

Dennis: It's like the red tide was pushing the crabs out of the water.

Bart Bailey: The red tide killed all the little tiny crabs off. Well, not so tiny but the ones that now would be egg bearing and producing our crabs for next year.

Dennis: There's none. *[Indiscernible]*[00:19:18]

Bart Bailey: Usually when you bring your gear in there's lots of little bitty ones the size of your finger nail rocking around the corner on the deck. Well, they're not here so we have a generation maybe two that's going to be missing.

Interviewer: So you think that it will take a couple of years before it uncovers?

Bart Bailey: No, no. You know

Dennis: This happens again it will be for good.

Bart Bailey: For a long time but...

Dennis: About 20 to 40 years probably.

Interviewer: You mean if you get another red tide.

Dennis: We get the same thing like we had last summer, I won't even bother. I'll sell my boat before I go crabbing again.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Bart Bailey: So it's pretty *[indiscernible]*[00:19:50].

Interviewer: Yeah, I know it's-- I mean it's terrible. We've been talking to a lot of stone crabbers and it's really weird to me that there's [00:20:00]been such a hard year this year when red tide hasn't affected.

Bart Bailey: Like I said I'm not aware of it ever. Red tide ever killing the bottom off like it did this year. I don't know if that happened. It might have but I'm not aware of it.

Interviewer: So going back to intro fishing for the charter.

Dennis: I'll let you guys go on.

Bart Bailey: Alright, Dennis.

Interviewer: Bye thanks for your input. So the intro fishing you said after two and a half months you were able to catch some?

Bart Bailey: Yeah what you would do is you could catch some fish back in the back waters. Catch some jack and lady fish and stuff like that but you tell them say hey red tide was bad. This is not going to be any YouTube moment here where we can go catch some fish and I stay on the boat as long as you don't have guys at all going out. You take him out show him good times, show him *[indiscernible]*[00:20:52] houses. Show him the birds the purpose and stuff.

Interviewer: When was the result still going on there?

Bart Bailey: It's not back. It's a long way from recovered, but like I said on the ledges not just in a specific area but just about anywhere where there's ledges it seems like that didn't die off.

Interviewer: Like the bottom didn't die off there.

Bart Bailey: The bottom didn't. The things that keep the ledges going. I don't know. I don't understand the difference but areas where I mean we got big huge areas of nice hard bottom. We've got fingers, sponges, and sea ferns, and all kinds of stuff on it. All stuff died. On the sponge I haven't dove it but you know.

Interviewer: But there's ledges where the bottom is not done, where you--

Bart Bailey: Where the fish came back sooner. We can still catch *[indiscernible]*[00:21:49], snapper. You know decent fish.

Interviewer: Okay and that's just a change unlike the elevation of the bottom or?

Bart Bailey: I don't know if they've got down in the crack or in the ledge [00:22:00] and got protection down there somehow or there's water coming out about the crack. We've got lots of spring holes and stuff around here and that helped him. I don't know. I got guesses but I don't have any good ones.

Interviewer: Yeah. No, just interested in your observations and so what about health impacts from red tide?

Bart Bailey: I'm not aware of any.

Interviewer: It doesn't *[indiscernible]*[00:22:25].

Bart Bailey: You get some people who have an issue but even before when there weren't any red tide, no dead fish on the beach there are areas where you come in and you can feel the lot of the out board. It airfies it and you go through you cough and then it's gone but you notice. If you know what it is you notice it and it would be unusual not to have it bothering you in the one spot.

Interviewer: Besides the stone crab which clearly like were impacted in the last year, are there any other species that you think are as affected by red tide?

Bart Bailey: Well, we got these little they call them cleaner shrimp. It's like a little pink. It's got longitudinal red marks on it. They don't usually get any bigger than that. Usually they're considerably smaller. They get into the crab traps and I was seeing those back sooner than I thought and I don't know if it was just because the crab trap was the best place to be. I just don't know because we got a food source in their form but I was seeing

a lot of grabbing female grabbing shrimp so there's something going on there. I don't know. I don't have an explanation for that but I know that is what I saw.

Interviewer: So I want to go back to '92 and think about what was after that point when you're back in the country, you're back in this area, what was the first major red tide [00:24:00] like one that was significant and impacted you and?

Bart Bailey: You would be better off talking to the charter guides about that because like I said we don't pay much to it the stone crab that's all I was doing from '92 until the year before last.

Interviewer: You were just stone crabbing?

Bart Bailey: I was just stone crabbing. I used to run a lot more gear. Like I said sometimes you try and come out of the stuff and other times you would take three or four days off and actually a buddy of mine owns a couple of boats over there. He's been in the charter business for a long time. Let me get you his number. Eric Alexander.

Interviewer: Oh captain Eric I might have-- I may be talking to him later.

Bart Bailey: Good I'm a lone wolf [*indiscernible*][00:24:59] CFR.

Interviewer: I don't have a last name for him so I'm not sure.

Interviewer: Big guy, nice guy.

Interviewer: Is he 0532?

Bart Bailey: Oh that sounds right. Let me get over to a spot there.

Interviewer: Because I'm talking to a captain Eric later but I'm not sure if that's the last name.

Bart Bailey: 0532.

Interviewer: Yeah okay so I'm talking to him later.

Bart Bailey: Yeah good. Eric's kind of a biologist and a lot of guys don't know shit here don't know what he's talking about.

Interviewer: So red tide hasn't bothered you until this past year and that's when you started really focusing on chartering?

Bart Bailey: It bothers you like that's why everyone would tell this red tide must be bad for you. I'll say well tide on us is not bad on the crabs. We'll reap the rewards over a little bit later. That's the way it's been. [00:26:00]That's my part answer always has been until

this year when I started seeing all the crabs swimming to the top trying to get away from-
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Interviewer: And that was in September?

Bart Bailey: Yes.

Interviewer: Yeah. And that's when you cut back on how many traps you're going to put out and

Bart Bailey: That's when I started leaning that way.

Interviewer: Yeah. If you had to rate this red tide versus red tide that you've experienced in the past on a scale obviously from 1-10, what would a previous red tide, what number would you give that?

Bart Bailey: Like I said I've never heard or seen or had of one--.

Interviewer: That killed the bottom.

Bart Bailey: That killed the bottom off so we're going to call this one 11 and we'll call-- I remember as a kid has seen big die off and I think around '94, '95, there was one that really messed up the charter guides pretty bad. Eric will know that. But I never remember one affecting killing off crabs much less killing the bottom.

Interviewer: You said with the crabs the-- you explained that it doesn't affect them. They have a lot to eat and that they won't-- they're just don't-- they're not on the traps.

Bart Bailey: Yeah they just grab a dead fish and go back in their hole.

Interviewer: Have you ever noticed any impacts on the crabs themselves?

Bart Bailey: Yeah no the crabs look dirtier, nastier. It's not you know it's too late now but you should look into the claws and stuff. A lot of times especially after this sluff there are big beautiful crabs. These things have been probably buried up but they've had a hard time.

Interviewer: Is there like behavior different or they're not as active?

Bart Bailey: Dennis was saying that. I had noticed it but he was saying they were active. But a lot of times when the water warms up they get a lot more active and spanky [00:28:00], spring crabs.

Interviewer: So do you have any suggestions for management changes that could help people to adopt to red tides?

Bart Bailey: Our trouble is and it's always the trouble with marine birds. You got no baseline. You got nothing to go by. You can't go. You go look at them now it's not doing you any good and because the money wasn't put into. I think they did some studies up in Tampa bay on a stone crab about 10 years ago, 8 years ago something like that. Check on that you might be able to get a baseline and work off of that but Tampa bay didn't get hit bad like we did. But that would give you a baseline because we had lot more crabs down here than they have up there and this is bad. We lost all the crabbing from Sarasota to [indiscernible][00:28:58] City and we're not getting any help. I still got to pay for my trap tags next year. That isn't right.

Interviewer: It's not.

Bart Bailey: They had one hurricane come through and they got free lobster tags up in the down in the keys but those guys swing a big stick down there and they did okay crabbing so they don't care. We tried to get that going it didn't work.

Interviewer: So if this continued, if there was another bad red tide this summer that killed off the bottom, would you-- what would you do? Would you start chartering?

Bart Bailey: Start working at Home Depot. I don't know. I'm trying to make the charter thing work and actually I was to start doing a stone crab charter where I go out, put people on the boat, go pull 50 traps show him what it looks like, maybe make a little aquarium for him, and put the live stuff there and let him play with it, point at it, do whatever they want. There's a lot of neat stuff out-- there used to be a lot of neat stuff out there.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Bart Bailey: So you know what-- [00:30:00]

Interviewer: What are some of the obstacles? What are some of the challenges with making a charter work in this area?

Bart Bailey: The cost of the dockage. Getting the people when you get them from the hotel, the hotel scraps off most of the money and they just put it in their pocket. They don't have to tackle any of that stuff but there's nothing you can do about that. They're producing the customer but it's not fair but it's how it is.

Interviewer: So what about any other algae blooms or you know you said like golden algae or environmental changes or anything else?

Bart Bailey: We don't know. We can't get any information. There's no information.

Interviewer: But anything that you've seen?

Bart Bailey: I looked on the google-- what do they call it? Google--.

Interviewer: Google it or.

Bart Bailey: No, there's a science. Google Science, Google--.

Interviewer: Google Scholar.

Bart Bailey: Google Scholar and they didn't have anything. All the other studies were 8 or 10 years old and it's like really nobody seems to be looking. It's like everybody is confused and pointing fingers at the other guy and all the hotels care about is get these fish off the beach. They don't care what's causing it. I don't know what the answer is. I would like to have more information but it's not available. My son goes up to school in St. Pete. He's marine biology major and I said well make me up a report here. Give me a report on anything you can find about red tide and there's just not very much there and why is that? Nobody is thinking. Universities are getting paid to look at it. Why isn't it? Do the big eye people keep it away? They're afraid something is going to shine on them and they're the ones that put all the money in. [00:32:00]The hotels got to get off their butt get in the game but what do you do.

Interviewer: This past year tide like when we talk about the extent of it, how far south or north? You said it was mostly out here and then it came in closer to shore?

Bart Bailey: There were stricks of it. Okay once again if you look back they did a pretty good job. I was running out like 32, 35 miles through it every day to go catch fish and you could see. You would run for 10 minutes and see dead fish as far as your eye could see. Sometimes so thick you look that think you could walk on them.

Interviewer: What kind of fish?

Bart Bailey: Grand lane snapper mostly, some grouper. That was the majority of it because you don't have the cat fish. It seems like the jack, the blue runners and stuff we good to swim away from a moment. Very rarely see a macro.

Interviewer: You said that you hadn't seen the same amount of dead fish on the beach as you had in the past?

Bart Bailey: As I remembered as a kid. I was six, seven years old before we moved down to Marco and there were a lot of fish on the beach. We spent a lot of time on the beach but it didn't seem they had as much fish on the beach as we had back then but I don't know what it was like off here. This is Rick Matthews.

Interviewer: Hey Rick Matthews.

Bart Bailey: This is Amanda Camanda and Adian. Adiana.

Rick Matthews: How are you?

Interviewer: Nice to meet you.

Adiana: Nice to meet you.

Interviewer: So I'll let you know that we're recording this. Most of it is for our notes but if everyone is uncomfortable with everything you said we have voices of the fisheries which is why we are collecting these historical fishing stories and going [00:36:00] to put them in line if they're good and informative. So that's just at the end you can sign a form that would allow us to do that but mostly this is just for note taking.

Rick Matthews: Okay. It has to do with the red tide?

Bart Bailey: It's exactly to do with the red tide.

Interviewer: Everything to do with the red tide.

Bart Bailey: And they're asking about is this the worst red tide you ever saw, when was the last bad one?

Interviewer: So looking at it yeah.

Bart Bailey: I don't ever remember it killing bottom off and killing crabs off.

Rick Matthews: Never. Which I think it was a combination of armor and the red tide.

Bart Bailey: Yeah that's his-- what's his theory he's been going on.

Rick Matthews: Yeah I'm going with that because if you research Donna back in the day, Donna was a very similar land fall and had very similar characteristics. I wasn't crabbing back then. I haven't talked anybody that was crabbing back then so I don't know if it killed off.

Bart Bailey: Probably nobody was crabbing back then. I was 60 or 61.

Rick Matthews: Right but it did wipe out the fisheries main. The fisheries back then and it took them months if not years to recover and the shrimp the next year after Donna came back and just they just moved it out there and that's what they're doing now.

Interviewer: Is this something that--?

Rick Matthews: It's the same. Almost the same scenario with Donna and other than the red tide event but I don't know how much red tide event was going on around Donna. It could have been a year before or some after. They had a combination.

Interviewer: When was Donna?

Rick Matthews: '61 I think.

Bart Bailey: '61. '60 or '61.

Interviewer: And were you--?

Rick Matthews: I was *[indiscernible]*[00:35:45]. I was three years old. I was *[indiscernible]*[00:35:48]. I just did research to it to see what matched what we got going on now and it pretty [00:36:00] close to almost exactly matches.

Bart Bailey: When did the crabs come back after Donna there professor?

Rick Matthews: That's Donna as far as the research I did on a little bit. First similar characteristics and the land fall was very similar. The direction where it came in as opposed to armor and then we had a combination of. We've got newer chemicals now being dumped in the water from back then whether or not it's bad for the environment, I don't know. I'm pretty sure it's not long term because we've been noticing a decline. I've been seeing it for the last three, four years now, this is the worst year ever. This is the worst year ever. This is the worst year ever. Steadily going this way *[indiscernible]* [00:36:51]. The amount of effort I have to put in to try and catch crabs.

Interviewer: So are you just stone crabbing or do you also do any--?

Rick Matthews: I king fish also. King fish also.

Interviewer: You king fish also commercially or?

Rick Matthews: Commercially yes.

Interviewer: Okay so you king--

Rick Matthews: And that's been different this year.

Bart Bailey: And we didn't have any off shore today for sure.

Rick Matthews: You can talk to these guys here that king fish forever and their dads' king fish forever, Randy and Tom. Randy *[indiscernible]*[00:37:20], Tom *[indiscernible]* [00:37:21].

Interviewer: Yeah we spoke with Tom.

Rick Matthews: Yeah. Well back in the day his dad was catching king fish right out here upfront and they didn't ever have to go out to 60 foot. Well, that is what they're doing now which is probably because he didn't have to. The fish were probably there but over the past 10 years or so that I've been doing it the fish have been consistently in the same

areas every year. They go to the same pieces of bottom or what note this year. They skip right on by.

Interviewer: But that's probably bait didn't have the bait there like it's usually there.

Rick Matthews: The food source wasn't there.

Bart Bailey: Right so they kept going on to the next spot.

Rick Matthews: And the water fall wasn't there because on any given Sunday [00:38:00] you would have the water looking it's coming back. Next day, next morning it's like night and day. It's like what the other charter guides--.

Bart Bailey: Yeah we were talking about it. The gold algae.

Rick Matthews: Gold algae come to the bottom. Well, that's down at the bottom all the time and those fish don't like being around it and they're smart enough to know that they went offshore because they didn't come through their normal pattern at all. So they run offshore, by passed us and went on down south.

Interviewer: How long have you been in Naples in this area?

Rick Matthews: All my life pretty much between Bonita and Erin. I was six months old when I moved here from Missouri.

Interviewer: Okay so...

Rick Matthews: I've been commercial fishing for 30 years.

Interviewer: What are the things we're trying to get at is focusing on other bad red tide years and I don't know if there's a year that sticks out to you since you started fishing that was really a bad red tide year specifically?

Rick Matthews: It seems like it's every year.

Bart Bailey: Like I said we usually--

Rick Matthews: But not as bad as this last one though.

Bart Bailey: Right we can work around it.

Rick Matthews: Right.

Bart Bailey: We either move some gear apart or most of the gear out of it or you let that gear sit until the red tide, it bounces back from the red tide.

Rick Matthews: Somewhere around five years ago was our last really bad one and it looked like it was just going to be horrendous and then it kind of backed off for some reason. I don't know what changed. Was hoping for hurricane to come along and break it up and do whatever. I think we did have a hurricane and whatever that year but I want to say it was five years ago.

Bart Bailey: I can't remember one where I had to really remove all the gear and do all that.

Rick Matthews: Well, it was about five years ago so it picked up just recently of what we got to contend with out here on the bottom. Like in this figure out where I've got red.

Interviewer: Yeah sure.

Rick Matthews: Because how long my traps.

Bart Bailey: Yeah he has a better feel for what's happening more at the bottom [00:40:00]. For stuff that comes up on the long line. Sometimes it's grass, not grab but seaweed. You got former seaweed like a purple stuff that he can hardly get his gear up.

Rick Matthews: That's a bit of opening pulling my long line. It's [indiscernible][00:40:23] get here Wi-Fi. Easy stuff on the line.

Interviewer: Yeah, is that normal?

Rick Matthews: That's not normal at all. I can't fish in that area bottom because that literally this is what it is for the whole line. Locate that adds up after a while for the weight so I can't lift the line up. I had a band in that line and come back to it almost a month later when it died off and I could get my line back because it break the line.

Interviewer: Can you pick up those shrubs?

Rick Matthews: Not for a month. They had to just sit down there that was like 300 traps. I had ride here all doctors. Well, about five years ago it was so bad all down the coast you're up to 30 foot. That stuff was carpeting the bottom. We're talking-- it had to be just like taking carpet and just covering the entire bottom which we're talking shells, coral, everything so it's smoldering.

Interviewer: What is it?

Rick Matthews: It's an algae. It's what washes up on the beach as they talk about Santabell.

Bart Bailey: Any purple stuff that pile up.

Rick Matthews: But they have to break up all the time. They say it's a natural occurrence but I don't think it's quite so natural.

Bart Bailey: Yeah so is red tide but.

Rick Matthews: So is red tide but it's not as calm as it should be. But I have to literally go out 40 foot plus and even then I still get some of it. But I can just imagine all up down the coast here if you've got a carpet as this, what can survive in that?

Interviewer: When did you start noticing this? Like when did this happen?

Rick Matthews: Five or six years ago was the worst event but then it was worse than this year. But this year was bad and I know well if it's out there now because even when [00:42:00]I was trolling the other day, king fishing, my planers go down in the water, 40, 15, 20 feet okay and I'm in 30 feet of water. When I pull my planers up that stuff is on my planers so it's not only on the bottom it's in the water cup.

Interviewer: So five or six years ago this mudded algae that keeps you from fishing that was worse than the past year?

Rick Matthews: That was worse because I had more traps in this area and I just abandoned the area. It could have been still as bad this year in the same area that I was fishing don't get me wrong. Right there is I just don't-- I get scared about bringing it anymore.

Bart Bailey: Burn your hand on the stove, you don't go near the stove anymore.

Rick Matthews: Yeah, I didn't bring a lot of gear and I stay away from that anymore so it could have been just as bad but as far as it affected me personally it wasn't as bad because I just had 300 traps in there instead of 1000, 1500 that I had that year then I could probably get back.

Bart Bailey: The city cleans that stuff up on the beach. I'm sure there's records of how many loads of they had to get up and down the beach. I don't know where it's kept, who would keep it but I'm sure somebody does.

Interviewer: So Rick

Rick Matthews: That's it. A snapchat picture of it. That's how heavy and that stuff you're literally probably talking 20 pounds if you took that little section off. In order to get my line back the year that I first experienced it I would literally go with a knife down my line and cut it off.

Interviewer: And that was the first time you had experienced it?

Rick Matthews: The first time I had experienced but I'm relatively new in the long line as far as the last 10 years that I have been doing it.

Interviewer: Okay so you've only been--

Rick Matthews: Long line the last 10 years.

Interviewer: --doing the long line and with your traps for *[overlapping conversation]*[00:43:52].

Rick Matthews: Other than that it was stone crab regular boats and ropes and what note so you really wouldn't notice as much. You may catch on your traps which we all did but it doesn't [00:44:00] affect you so much because it's a single rope that comes up down there. This is mile long, two miles long that's all strung out so I've got to deal with it or I'll wait so it's laying on top of my line because it goes down the bottom.

Interviewer: Do you see the same stuff floating on the surface too?

Rick Matthews: It was up in the water column whenever I was trolling out in the water the other day. Just trolling in the water.

Bart Bailey: You would sometimes see a little bit on the surface when it's in the water column. You will see some of it on top but not that much.

Rick Matthews: Yeah but that's after a little bit of a storm stirs the bottom of it.

Interviewer: I'm trying to think if this is the same or different from what the fishermen I spoke to in-- where were we? I think over four miles they call it star cross.

Rick Matthews: No, I think that's the stuff that's inside the bait that gets on the gill nets that gets it so heavy you can't get bring the gill net in. That was back then we used to gill net fish. That would get us almost like a jelly fish type consistency but it's so heavy. You got to rope your net on, run it over board about 20 times and then pray hard that you get most of it out but that's different than this because I had that before when I used to gill net. But that was totally different. We call it gamble.

Interviewer: Okay.

Bart Bailey: Yeah that's what--

Rick Matthews: It was gamble but this is different. This is something I've never--

Bart Bailey: Rolling gamble.

Rick Matthews: --experienced as in past five years ago and I'll say it hasn't happened years past. You got to think of seeing this red stuff up on the beach before but it didn't affect me as much.

Bart Bailey: I think this has affected by nutrients and fresh water. Too much fresh water that's I remember--

Rick Matthews: I won't say they call this a natural event also but if that's a natural event, it really does some problems because now it doesn't kill off the shells. Because after that you don't have any more shells. Because I get shells that came to my line so when I'm pulling it up I say I got good shell at the bottom, good lively bottom. Well, I wouldn't get that anymore [00:46:00]when that's around it just kills, smolders everything because a shell can't climb on top and survive because there's nothing there to eat. It's killing everything off. [Indiscernible][00:46:11] which are--

Bart Bailey: Sea urchins.

Rick Matthews: Sea urchins are very staple commodity to the bottom. It cleans the bottom. Cleans the [indiscernible][00:46:21] and whatnot. It kills those off. You don't get those so it takes a year or some for all that to recover and if it didn't get a chance to recover everything else starts getting affected like crabs they got nothing to eat. And it kills the grass off the bottom. I got areas out there that I fish that I would get some little grass. Like at Charlotte Harbor, have you seen these grass floating on top? I don't know if you—you know the long stranded grass.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Bart Bailey: The turtle grass.

Rick Matthews: It gets turtle grass. It gets beat up. Well, I'll get that sometime on my lines and I'll know I'm on good grassy bottom which is good for crabs because they eat that. They're vegetarian as well as meat eaters but there's nothing to that because that carpets everything. It just kills everything so you got a combination of that. You got a combination of no oxygen because of armor. You got a combination of red tide killing the oxygen up on top that may or may not settle to the bottom. I don't know but the hurricane started bottom up and pushed all oxygen out of the water which is what Donna did back in the '60s.

Interviewer: How did this last year's red tide impact for the king fish? How did it affect your king fish fishing?

Rick Matthews: Pushed everything out and I thinking there's was a less amount of a body of fish even though the airplane said he's seen more than he's ever seen in a particular area but so far south it could be a combination of key west fish coming and meeting northern sub zone fish.

Bart Bailey: Usually it's a temperature. Water temperature that pushes [00:48:00] the fish further south. They're following where the bait. Usually it's pretty specific like you said there's three or four spots straight out here that we'll fish on and then we jump down about 40 miles and we fish some more down there. There's a few spots in between but not much. The majority of the time it works out just like that.

Interviewer: So for king fish you have to go out further?

Rick Matthews: I was going to get killed looking for king fish. I don't know if it affects them.

Bart Bailey: It affects their pattern.

Rick Matthews: It affects their pattern.

Bart Bailey: Doesn't affect--

Interviewer: But for you, you have to go out further to find them so.

Rick Matthews: Oh it was 50 miles. Literally 50 miles as opposed to 15 miles.

Interviewer: That must impact your--

Rick Matthews: Oh it's huge.

Interviewer: A huge in cost.

Bart Bailey: It affects my sleep patterns *[laughter]*.

Rick Matthews: Instead of going out here two hours when I'm fishing, it's four hours one way. Four hours back if you catch it then you know you have to stay overnight if you don't catch them.

Interviewer: So what were you doing in this past year when stone crabbing was so bad? Were there any other-- could you engage in other parts of the fishery or?

Rick Matthews: Only once the king fish season opens then you can go but then you have to wait for the king fish to get here. And thank God this year they got in a little bit early. This far we had a couple of shots out here. I think it was 1st of December or end of November we had a couple of shots but traditionally we wait till February because that's when they're really here but we had a little dribble to come in a early.

Interviewer: And every one was out there trying to catch king fish.

Rick Matthews: Everybody was out there catching king fish.

Bart Bailey: That's what happens. They usually catch the quarter early. There's still plenty of fish.

Rick Matthews: I've had my trap out of the water for the last two months to focus on king fish specifically. Then once that quarter is caught up now I've got tomorrow, the next day, I'm headed north to *[indiscernible]*[00:49:56] because I have to follow. Because that's the only income there's now but normally the last two months I've been catching something crab wise [00:50:00] but when you come in here--

Bart Bailey: A lot of times you do good in spring.

Rick Matthews: -- three pounds, four pounds.

Interviewer: So you would stay here through the end of stone crab season?

Rick Matthews: Traditionally.

Interviewer: And then go *[indiscernible]*[00:50:12]?

Rich Matthews: Then I'll go to Louisiana in July.

Interviewer: Okay how long are you in Louisiana or?

Rick Matthews: Two to three months. Two months.

Interviewer: And that's every year?

Rick Matthews [00:50:22]: Well, last couple of years it's been that way because of that decline in stone crabs. Like I said earlier three or four years ago I went from bad year, bad year, bad year, bad year.

Interviewer: Okay.

Rick Matthews: It used to be the worst, the worst, the worst so I had to supplement

Bart Bailey: You made enough to were you just worked on your gear during the summer. You didn't have to go trying to make.

Rick Matthews: Usually I'm working on here instead of working on gear I've got to chase fish.

Interviewer: You got to focus on king fish.

Rick Matthews: Because the cord is done here so I got to chase fish.

Interviewer: And then when you go to Louisiana, *[indiscernible]*[00:50:50], what are you fishing over there?

Rick Matthews: King fish.

Bart Bailey: King fish.

Rick Matthews: Yeah, I got a king fish permit and stone crab. That's the only two I've got. I used to have reef permit for grouper and what note but I just could get connected and I didn't have the code of that must be with the new.

Bart Bailey: Shares.

Rick Matthews: Shares. I didn't have the shares to really pay off even if I did get the hang of it. That was a different fish all together. I could catch him. I could get enough to eat but I'm not get enough to-- I'm not as lucky as Tom and Randy that's what they do. They've focused on reef fish and king fish all their lives that's what they do. Me I focused on gill net which went by the way side and then focused on king fish and then stone crabbing. Stone crabbing first and then I kind of got into king fishing to help supplement my stone crabbing because even though back when I was king fish-- crabbing was good there was still the off years [00:52:00]. Which an off year I can live with. You're catching 100 and 150 pounds on an off year a day. Three or four pounds aren't going to do it. That's what I was doing this year when I was bringing them in thank God I had some traps way offshore. We're talking 28 miles almost 30 miles.

Bart Bailey: 80 feet of water.

Rick Matthews: Straight out where normally I'm in here and 12 foot out.

Bart Bailey: We don't get much over about 55 feet a *[indiscernible]* [00:52:30] but it's usually.

Rick Matthews: I'm out 80 feet of water to find life and that was just a little bit of life and the only thing I'm catching is big crabs. I'm not catching anything that's going to get me any help for next year. Same thing is right out here. When I brought in, I had 1500. I had 3000 to pass but I only put 1500 in the water because there was nothing going on. I didn't want to keep throwing them out there if there's nothing going on. So any way when I brought in that 1500, not one little crab. I'm talking about the little crabs that are big as your little finger. They're normally daunting all over the deck.

Bart Bailey: Yeah you can sweep them away if you don't want to crush them.

Rick Matthews: You can rinse the deck all the time just keep from stepping on because that's next year's or it was a year after crab not one. I had the three or four maybe pregnant females which traditionally all year round you're going to catch that on any given Sunday not out of 1500 traps the whole time bringing them in. It was dead.

Interviewer: Yeah and that's been--

Bart Bailey: There's stuff on the beach. I had more *[indiscernible][00:53:30]* females.

Rick Matthews: Yeah it's right up today. There's no difference. There's a friend of ours Jack *[indiscernible][00:53:33]*, he's been bringing them in. I've been seeing his traps almost every day when he unloads and I specifically go out look at his *[indiscernible][00:53:39]* because here no matter what you do you can't get everything off of the trap. And so you're going to get a little crab here, there to get some on the trap, nothing.

Interviewer: No little crabs.

Rick Matthews: That's what he says.

Bart Bailey: Well, yeah he was in the real desert.

Rick Matthews: There's nothing on the deck.

Interviewer: Yeah so back then you said four or five years ago around 2014 there was another bad red tide. If you think about the impact *[00:54:02]* of that red tide versus the one this past year and you rate it on a scale of 1-10, what was 2014 red tide and what was the--?

Rick Matthews: It's probably been as far as impacting crabs or impacting fish that I don't. It was probably half. Half as bad as overall fish and crabs and affecting migration of fish and what note.

Bart Bailey: Like I said I was charter fishing.

Rick Matthews: It was bad red tide and it killed a lot of fish and you could see.

Bart Bailey: But it was as much of a wide spread area and didn't kill off the bottom.

Rick Matthews: And one other thing about this year's red tide after armor, okay we didn't see a lot of dead fish. Why we didn't see a lot of dead fish because there weren't any.

Interviewer: Because there wasn't any fish.

Rick Matthews: The red tide was still there but there was nothing to kill. They had already been dead from the red tide previously.

Interviewer: From 2014?

Rick Matthews: Well, a combination of that. Nothing had the chance to really recover because there were still little red tide events in between so nothing really had a good

chance to come back. But before armor we always had a red tide before armor that it had already wiped out what was alive down there. People were saying oh there's red tide in the bait. Yes there was red tide in the bait but no fish. Yeah no fish because there's no fish. If there had been fish, it would have been-- you would have seen it so it would affect people more but if there's nothing there to kill it's not going to affect nobody.

Bart Bailey: Just having the tide there.

Rick Matthews: Just having the tide there

Bart Bailey: No visual--

Rick Matthews: Just down there but it is still killing things. I promise it's still killing the larvae. It's still killing the baby whatever was trying to come back. It's just not going to see that float to the top. Like you're not going to see a big old mullet float to the top or a snooker get there or so whatever.

Interviewer: Yeah. Because there was--

Rick Matthews: There wasn't anything to float to the top. Same thing with *[indiscernible]* [00:55:59] so the one back [00:56:00]—going back a ways that really killed off a bunch of fish. I mean it was just-- I could barely say 60, 70 foot.

Interviewer: That is in 2014?

Rick Matthews: Yeah.

Interviewer: So the 2014 red tide, what species did it kill off? What did you notice?

Rick Matthews: Everything. It didn't kill off crabs that's we're talking well they're immune to it.

Interviewer: Any other thing species not affected?

Rick Matthews: Yeah, anything that's up in the water column because red tide ends up in the water column. Once it's down below a certain point, passes a certain depth of water because the red tide is going to-- in 10 feet of water it's going to be top to bottom that's why your *[indiscernible]* [00:56:33] die when they're going down the beach but the deeper you go the red tide is here, down here the crabs and fish start to survive but anything that swims a little too high doesn't work out for good for them.

Bart Bailey: You see that is what was weird about it. You see up on the beach with the swimming crabs were getting away from the layer of dead death down below that's what was so unusual about this.

Rick Matthews: Not count the blue crabs this year. At the beginning of this year, the blue crabs a little-- we usually catch one or two in our traps. It was nothing to catch 20 or 30 in every trap, everywhere you went. Where they came from? I don't know but they've had a bumper year up down the coast blue crabs all year that I know of. Friend of mine who fishes out of King Beach and *[indiscernible]*[00:57:24] blue crabs and I don't know where they came from. Obviously, they're not affected by red tide, low oxygen in the water which I guess because they swim up to the top but stone crabs are swimming nowhere. They're--.

Bart Bailey: Stuck so you dig a hole deeper.

Interviewer: Yeah they're on the bottom.

Rick Matthews: Yeah we were hoping. When the year started we were hoping a lot of crabs got buried up and what note.

Bart Bailey: First weather will get some crabs moving around.

Rick Matthews: First weather yeah didn't work out so well.

Interviewer: So if you could draw the area especially where you remember seeing the 2014 red tide on this map. Is that something that you think that [00:58:00] you feel you can do?

Rick Matthews: Oh yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. So let's use. And then we'll draw one for the 2018 too.

Rick Matthews: I won't put specific year on it when--

Interviewer: Yeah, yeah around that time.

Bart Bailey: That's a problem [laughter].

Rick Matthews: Yeah, I'm not good with numbers like that.

Interviewer: So let's do the 20 like the one that happened four or five years ago.

Bart Bailey: There's the pass and that's where--

Rick Matthews: *[Indiscernible]*[00:58:31].

Bart Bailey: *[Indiscernible]*[00:58:32] is what this is.

Rick Matthews [00:58:35]: Yeah we're talking over here.

Bart Bailey: You could use a better map.

Interviewer: Should we get-- I have Havana to Tampa Bay chart.

Rick Matthews: Yeah see what that one is like.

Interviewer: Okay how about that. Okay.

Bart Bailey: Guys I'm going to get going.

Interviewer: Okay.

Bart Bailey: You got all the information you need from me.

Interviewer: Yeah let's-- I have a consent form for you to sign.

Bart Bailey: It's a different table?

Interviewer: So it's your name at the top and then sign at the bottom. And that looks good another.

Rick Matthews: Wants a pretty map up here.

Interviewer: Okay and.

Rick Matthews: You need reference points?

Interviewer: Yep, you can have this.

Interviewer2: And it is a good--

Interviewer: Range for you?

Interviewer2: Yeah left hand island area.

Rick Matthews: Yeah where I fish.

Interviewer: Okay. [01:00:00]So this is the one--

Rick Matthews: It's for me.

Interviewer: Okay.

Rick Matthews: For Marco. This basically the area that I was fishing that year. At least that far and at least this far out.

Interviewer: So it was in within this line?

Rick Matthews: Within that line yes and was mainly in this area right here.

Interviewer: Okay you can draw it.

Rick Matthews: That's where those-- that was the main area is affected by that algae. This year it was out here. Where's Clams?

Bart Bailey: Right there.

Rick Matthews: Yeah right here. Right here

Interviewer: So let's do a different color for that one.

Rick Matthews: We're talking this area here was where I fishing 300 traps.

Interviewer: That's where you were fishing in 2018?

Rick Matthews: That's where you're seeing that algae where it was being caught.

Interviewer: It's this here.

Rick Matthews: Back in '14, '15 whatever it was it was this entire area here including that but this was specific to now.

Interviewer: Yeah and then let's use some of the--

Rick Matthews: All in that entire area basically I was catching that red algae but it was worse here.

Interviewer: This is where you saw-- where you experienced red tide?

Rick Matthews: I had experienced it all. I experienced all red tide through all of here but this is where I experienced the worst of the algae back then.

Interviewer: Okay.

Rick Matthews: That's where I experienced it this year. Last year I'm sorry last crab season here.

Interviewer: Okay.

Rick Matthews: Was it crab season? Last crab season because

Bart Bailey: When are you taking off?

Rick Matthews: [01:02:00]If it don't get tomorrow then I'll get a little behind. Thursday probably.

Bart Bailey: Alright so I'll try to get in and let me unload in here.

Rick Matthews: But I'm trying just try to make a trip up here to the north first.

Interviewer: So this is the whole area that-- Okay thank you so much.

Bart Bailey: Good luck ladies. If you need me you got my number you can call me.

Interviewer: Okay thanks and you have mine so if there's any info you want to send me or

Bart Bailey: Okay *[indiscernible]*[01:02:22]

Interviewer2: So this was the red tide and this is was the algae that was on the line?

Rick Matthews: That was the worst of it. I caught algae the whole way but this is the worst to the point where I had to move out because this was so bad. It was unbelievable. Out here is thin enough where I could get my lines up and still fish but I would consider this because what happens is the river drops out right here and this your tide runs past this point and what it does it creates an ending in here where everything sits here. That's what kills everything off pretty much. We call it the cove from here to Clams. I call it the cove anyways. This area here and that's pretty much the death zone. The worst death zone for our area because whatever comes out the river and whatever comes from the north out of north harbor is basically drops down and sits in here because the tides run north and south. Basically north east, south west or north to south basically where they run and then right here it runs but it just pretty much add anything and everything just sits there.

Interviewer: So for the 2018 red tide let's draw the extent of that.

Rick Matthews: We're talking like *[indiscernible]*[01:03:47].

Interviewer: From your experience like when you're out of the boat and you never thought there were areas affected by red tide.

Rick Matthews: I basically started. One here [01:04:00], that's Marco, this down here. I pretty much kept everything in this boundary. So I gave up on the coast because of the reports I already had and everything being dead.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Rick Matthews: So I pretty much put my eggs in the basket of 30 feet on out

Interviewer: So this is where you put all your traps?

Rick Matthews: Yeah all my traps were in this area and there was nothing going on. Other than once I got to the 70, 80 foot then I would catch a few not enough to really make [01:04:46] but had a long run to get out there.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Rick Matthews: I could show you more details where I actually worked less fishing on the computer but--

Interviewer: Yeah, we'll look at that too. What about but I want just to focus back here and ask you about king fish too.

Rick Matthews: King fish were affected.

Interviewer: Were you fishing in this area for king fish?

Rick Matthews: Yeah in this area here is where we caught a few king fish but other than that we had to go somewhere down in here. Whatever 50 miles is from [indiscernible][01:05:32]. It's something going to be somewhere around here. I have to get a little long to see if you can pull that out.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewer2: King fish[indiscernible][01:05:44].

Interviewer: Yeah.

[Silence]

Rick Matthews: [01:06:00] Well, [indiscernible][01:06:14] where king fish started and I can give you a pretty close flat long to where the crabs and death zone started.

Interviewer: Okay.

Rick Matthews: It basically came from Mano north. Came from Mano south. We started catching a few crabs and little crabs and still it's still today. Other than ride against the beach and inside they're still catching a few crabs but not like you would traditionally.

Interviewer2: What about health impacts about the red tide?

Rick Matthews: I think it's blood in my chest. During the season I was constantly coughing and phlegmy just a lot more than normal. It was not good and I'm pretty sure most of us were affected.

Interviewer: Did that continue after or is it something that you experienced while you're fishing?

Rick Matthews: Just when I'm fishing. When I get home I'm okay.

Interviewer: Yeah. And then after the-- you said after that red tide four or five years ago everything that you fish the stone crab and the king fish, it's all been declining since then.

Rick Matthews: Yep. Pretty much.

[Silence]

Rick Matthews: Downhill spiral.