

[00:00:00]

Interviewer: Okay. It is April...

Tommy Locke: [overlapping conversation][00:00:01] another time too. I have no problem.

Interviewer: Oh no. This is great. Yeah. So, this is April 17<sup>th</sup>, and we're with Tommy Locke and Boca Grande. So, first I just want to hear a little bit about your history in the fishing industry and what species you target and how long you've been in this area?

Tommy Locke: Tarpon primarily is my focus. I love tarpon fish more than anything but snook, redfish, cobia, kingfish, you know, probably that's the whole gambit of fish about fish but tarpon is my passion, especially fly fish and for tarpon. I started my career in Homosassa. I was born and raised in Webster, Florida and fish at Homosassa, Bay Port, Tampa Bay area. I started coming down here as a kid with my great uncle, which he'd like own property in Sanibel in like 1949. And so, but I came down on Cayo Costa, from the time I was like five or six years old until a junior in high school because that's when he passed away.

Went to college, played baseball, came out started fishing or sort of guiding, in Homosassa leaving the keys most most of the year for about three years in the 80s, late 80s. And then I started a family and then I moved here to Boca Grande area and then move in an island in 97. But I read – yeah not 97. I was in Port Charlotte. I've been here for 29 years, watching the water flow and change around the world, got many guys back then. We all knew each other. And I saw – started seeing a big changes of our water quality around here probably 12 years ago, that's when I started seeing it.

As soon as we started getting more rainfall and kind of got out of that drought that we were in for years, I mean from the mid 80s, realistically, from the mid 80s all the way through mid 2000 we've been in a drought [00:02:00]. Not much rainfall, the water table in the state of Florida is down. So, you didn't have the severity in red tides. Talking to the people that live here, I think it was in like 19, I don't know the exact numbers and dates and records on this stuff. I was thinking about the worst red tide we've had was like in 1946, I think when John Knot (Phonetics) was talking about the worst red tide. Back in history, that's when they first opened up the [indiscernible] [2:30]. That's when they just poured out all that stuff they've been digging for all those years.

And so, you know, it turns into what it turns into. The next real bad, when I heard about was in 72 and I remember this, I was only 12 years old but I remember how high the water table was in the state of Florida. So, much rain so they end up probably turned in – I don't know the record from what the – from the blocks and stuff. They also in that same time they had a big spill in the Peace River from, wasn't mosaic, back then I forget the phosphate company that had it. Anyway, they had a big spill up there in the Peace River that came down. So, that two combinations in 72 to call that huge red tide. And I remember, because we even came down in summer vacation [indiscernible] [3:23]. It's

the only time I've ever seen the water red. And you could actually see the red tide coming in off the gulf coast.

Up there, you really don't have that tannic water that you have down here. There's a lot of stuff they see here, was tannic. And then this year, I mean I've seen red tide last and go and come. You know, if we didn't have it, all our water's going to be dirty around the state of Florida and you're just, you know, because the water – it cleans the water. Takes all the algae's out and it actually helps with a lot of nutrients in the bay. It's better this year in the bay than it was last year and year before last. We're getting [00:04:00] these winter grasses and matt grasses that are growing, that weren't here before. We got this long stringy, we called it snot grass, real long stringy stuff in the winter time, it wasn't here in the past 12/14. Actually I did see a little bit earlier.

And then, there's black winter matt grass that grows on our sand and over our light, seabed, you know, that's something like seven to eight feet deep or not real deep. That stuff covered up in a winter and as soon as it starts getting warmer outside, the oxygen what's causing it to lift off, and depart. And then it's kind of like a grassy stuff. Something like I would see in like [*indiscernible*]. You know it was like a bottom like, hyacinths and it streamed like that. And then it lifts up. And then it's everywhere. Then it disappears in the heat or in the summer heat. Last year, that's all stuff in Turtle Bay and in different places especially in Bay's that had a corner. There was – I actually have it in my phone too.

It was a green – brilliant green on the bottom, it just look bright but when you looked through that, it was a brilliant like a green algae type stuff. And I called Aaron about it and I showed him the picture of it. He sent to the [*indiscernible*] [5:24] and it was a freshwater algae. We never had that before. Even back in the years in when I would be fishing in the Harbor, I used to say hyacinth coming out of the river and stuff and tarpon will be up in there. It was a different because you'd see those the – during the drought years, you see the hyacinth real green coming out of river, you know, I'll be fishing them all the way out because tarpon get around the [*Indiscernible*][00:05:47] and turned toward the Harbor. And it was just a color would change as I saw and they would die like bam and keep going. So, it's interesting, you know, seeing the different flowers.

Interviewer: So, [00:06:00] when you say you know 12 years ago, you started to see water quality decline in this area?

Tommy Locke: And more nutrients that I've never seen before in the bay. That's what I really started noticing 12 – yeah, I would say about the way rather than...

Interviewer: So, when you say more nutrients like what were you actually observing?

Tommy Locke: Over top of the turtle grass, out of the turtle grass beds, there's these algae and red grasses and brown grass, you know, brown weeds that are actually a nutrient. I mean eating nutrients but probably they go up on the shoreline, they die and then they decay again so, we got the same process going. But there are nutrient grasses

that are growing over top of our natural seabeds. And I'll see – I hadn't seen too many black algae worms like, you know, you'll see in down the Everglades enough fish to everybody's lot, exploratively a lot. And there's out there. And there's more of – there's almost like silty algae down there, those are the – stuff so fine.

And a lot of people confused a lot of the white floater down there and stuff like that but that's atrocious because of the makeup of the system down there. But there – it's hard to say and seeing the water and the water quality other than all the nutrient grasses and stuff I've seen that have influenced area in the past 12 years.

Interviewer: And are you fishing year round like full time? Mostly tarpon?

Tommy Locke: I do tarpon fish probably 85% at the time.

Interviewer: Okay.

Tommy Locke: So, I'm like, I mean, I'm tarpon fish today and yesterday, so, it's a pretty good fishing.

Interviewer: And then what's the other percentage?

Tommy Locke: What's that?

Interviewer: What are the other species that you talked about?

Tommy Locke: Snook, redfish, tripletail, kingfish, a grouper, snapper, everything in the bay, you know, just all time, you know, [Indiscernible][00:07:57] for the species here. [00:08:00]

Interviewer: Yeah. So, the red tide back in 72 that's something that you heard about or?

Tommy Locke: No, I don't know. And at the time we know, they were younger and they lived here during that time. They said it was worse. They said it was about a year and a half before they saw the recovery of it. You know, that the fish talked about, you said, like it killed everything on the beach and so, it actually killed more fish. Like red tide this year, it killed a lot of fish, you know. I don't know about Sanibel, wasn't run down there but when I came back from the keys here with the red tide, she was in the chamber, she runs the chamber so they were doing the tarpon tournament there. And she called me and said that and a snook coming from the beach and it's a goliath groupers and you know, this is horrible and I said...

Female Speaker: You couldn't have walked outside?

Tommy Locke: Yeah, you couldn't have walked outside, yeah.

Interviewer: This past year?

Female Speaker: Oh, my god. It was awful. You couldn't walk outside. You couldn't fish anywhere that was for sure, and the beaches were just covered with fish?

Tommy Locke: Yeah. Sand, I knew it was covered with sand. So, it went real deep out there.

Female Speaker: It was like a [Indiscernible][00:09:11].

Tommy Locke: So, it was a – it was filling with sand for a long time. Actually all the way into July and August it was filling with sand.

Female Speaker: [Indiscernible][00:09:22]

Tommy Locke: Yeah, maybe just like, just really bad. But then when I – if I started looking back at it, and then like there are a lot of species that they say, you know, they have like tarpon because the first time, [Indiscernible][00:09:37] fresh water that red tide can't survive. I think that's the reason that all the species around [indiscernible] [9:46] red tide been around since the beginning of time that they can escape. They just run up in fresh water. Now there's some that weren't – I mean, I saw probably a dozen dead tarpon. I think they were killed offshore and was hanging out [00:10:00]. Just there's one place out in the past out there. There must be an area that the fish can get away from red tide, because they stayed there. All the way during the red tide and everything these fish, stayed there.

Now the people that found them on a fish farm, I think they put these fish the ones that got the dot, they hooked these fish and followed them and they got them stressed. And then they got into other red tide. I got onto the guys and some of my nearest and many other leaders fish alone out there. I said, I am not – I know I got to catch them but I didn't want to mess with them because of the stress in that fish. And in the end, the goliath groupers, you know, it killed thousands and thousands, I don't think so. Because I only remember seeing like, you know, I'd see groupers like 10 or 15 but I'd see it for two weeks they float, tarpon, same thing, they floated for two weeks and none can eat them.

But I'd see the same fish there, they had the same scales and I saw them two or three times. But the pinfish all the – anytime of bait fish but most like scales [Indiscernible][00:11:11] and they came back real big in March. I was like, wow, look at this. Everything kind of, you know, always kind of flips back around like the snook fishery in the back country right now is phenomenal. Certainly it got killed on Bagarabon Beach [Indiscernible][00:11:31] a bunch of snook. And all these reef and stuff here are [indiscernible] [11:37], they never really come inside and not anybody part responded that influences our fishery around here. I don't know but all these are on the inside come out and trauma, even coming down to [indiscernible] [11:53] for the past like two weeks, every time that I get when I can fish, I'll go fish to west wall. And I got [indiscernible] [00:12:00]

So, and it wasn't that cold this year. They did go way up the river. So, they are coming out like right now. Huge numbers of snook. So, but I don't know if there was snook offshore that stayed out there. Even though we are down through Everglades, there's a lot of rock pile up there that have tons of snook on them. Even on the keys, on the reefs down there, there is a lot of snook and might be part of our spawn, so, that I don't know.

Interviewer: Besides snook, are there any other species that you think red tide affects those species distribution or their spawning aggregations?

Tommy Locke: I'd say throughout that they spawned like every full moon, every new moon through the whole year. And I didn't know there's one thing this year that's called some trout fish [Indiscernible][00:12:45] I was catching 15, 16 inch tarpon full row. Usually you don't see the big till you get 20 inches. They have the big massive grows. I've seen a 15 inch and you get them, they'd like pop roll like that. Their gross would be that long and have bigger round. So, I don't think that's Mother Nature's way of, you know, kind of replenishing some of this stuff like trouts and acorns and pine cones, you know, when they have droughts, it produced more. So, I think our recovery with them would be good.

I think what we got to do is stop but nothing to nutrients. The excess nutrients into the salt water that weren't here before, you know. Cut that for a while [Indiscernible][00:13:26] Okeechobee. Same Okeechobee, although I cannot get in Okeechobee, so, I know what it is and I just got in argument with somebody the other day and I got so mad because of the nutrients that are called from the aquatic weeds, the army corps engineers himself and stuff what water management is doing for water control. And all they're doing is doing it for irrigation. For all of the stuff in [Indiscernible][00:13:53]. It really angers me because they killed – [00:14:00] one thing they're doing now too is, it really frustrates me. I know the hydro is really not that much of a detriment. The fish love it, the ducks love it. It slows water down. I think that's a good thing but it doesn't nutrients out of water. That's why they put in the STAs.

That's one of the weeds that you used in all the storm water treatments, so, you got the [indiscernible] [14:22] The cattails are like angry at these cattail right. The cattail won't grow so far. Once the water flow comes back in Okeechobee which was natural, semi-river through the Everglades, I think there are issues we need to straighten out. I disagree with a big pond that they're going to put in the back of their – it needs to be three shell SDA. It needs 60,000 acres to make this right to where and then they never – they need to shut down in the coastal from Okeechobee to [Indiscernible][00:14:51] and they're killing the other side and they're killing our side right here. All the natural seagrasses don't grow there anymore because actually there's no grass in. St. Lucie, there's no grass in it. They kill all the seabeds. A lot of seabed come back, yeah, you have to plant them back once you cut off that flow of water from this place and send it back south, so...

Interviewer: Yeah. With the 2018 red tide, when was the first time that you noticed that? Like what month?

Female Speaker: Second week of June.

Tommy Locke: yeah. Second week of June when those red tide kicked in but there's a...

Female Speaker: We went back in. The day I got back it was here.

Tommy Locke: They got – but I knew it was going to happen because anytime we get really hot water in summer time.

Female Speaker: The huge rain and...

Tommy Locke: We only get – anytime we get all the rains and stuff, usually, we get them in, you know, July and August. And that later, we don't get too many tides on October. Soon as the nutrients come out of the rivers and stuff. They get out here and they turn into whatever that red tide was and then red tide says, okay, I'll eat you.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Tommy Locke: But there might be more real pretty afterwards. I mean, it gets [00:16:00] so clear right now the water is jin clear, because that red tide has ate all those nutrients out. And now we're kind of in a drought again. So, we don't have any more nutrients coming up.

Female Speaker: I've lived here obviously my whole life. And we'd always experienced, red tide maybe before a couple of weeks or something [Indiscernible][00:16:17]. It was very rare.

Tommy Locke: Yeah. Jim, first time I've ever asked him. If I hear something like that first time I've ever seen red tide. First time I've seen it through the season. I haven't seen it go through the winter back February and March part of March. We'd patches of it around here in the Bay and stuff. I don't see it in May and June.

Interviewer: So he said, you know, when the water tables high when there's a claim that you're going to get a red tide that year?

Tommy Locke: Yeah, I usually tell about the amount of rainfall that we're getting day. The rainfall is going to be in the middle of the state too. I mean, it's like, when you get from more land in the South you get rain, it's all coming here. And you've seen cloud, it's in the river basin and it shouldn't come here. But they send it down that river we're going to get either a [Indiscernible][00:17:08] out of Okeechobee or they open the gates. And that's what [indiscernible] [17:19] like, 6800 cubic feet per minute for two and half weeks that Rick Scott opens it. Just really made me, angry me. That's when I watch that water come down Cayo Costa, had gotten the keys yet. Maybe right before...

Female Speaker: It got back. It was one of your...



Tommy Locke: It was the golden fly, yeah, I went to the golden fly, so, I fish in the three big tournaments and a key fly fishing tournaments And I went down to golden fly third week of May. It was the second week of May when I started releasing that water. When I came out, and I came out of the past now usually in the earlier season I face south down toward Murdock Cayo Costa, same, always the same though, right [00:18:00]. There's a fisher gentlemen coming back and then they come out, they pass and they go south to fly fish, we need more. [Indiscernible][00:18:08] pretty and everything and not many fish. I said, come on let's run down the Captiva to get people pass and there is a shoal about fish where I get run in the morning and I was looking and I say, something wrong. What's it? What's wrong with this water? Pull up, stock in it and I said, oh, hell and I started running back until I got out of it. By then, sun was up and I could see the plume of water. Now inside of the beach because of, you know, I'd said it whoops out around the corner set it down and no going back and I caught up with it. And I caught up with the beach. But the halfway [Indiscernible][00:18:46] and I ran the rim of it and I went out. I was probably up nine miles when I could get around. And by the time I left there, I ran back to the shoals, it cut the shoals.

Interviewer: And that was red tide?

Tommy Locke: No, that was a nutrient water coming out with [Indiscernible][00:19:05].

Interviewer: What did it look like?

Tommy Locke: Oily brown like a brownish algae not tannic. I mean, it's like I couldn't see through it. It was like thick and then I'd take it. And you know, because you get all kinds of like, you know, algae from Australian [Indiscernible][00:19:25] pollen on the water out there and you know, I'm shaking my hand to go through it. I put my hand down and checking notes and little like it was about that deep because it was on top of the salt. So, it kept coming across the past the next day. And then I end up finishing at north.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Tommy Locke: And it just, you know, and then I went back, yeah, here we go. Here we did go, yeah.

Interviewer: Yeah, wow.

Tommy Locke: In that color. And this is like a little tan but it hadn't when they search that, it was not like a tanning [00:20:00], you know. And everyone, very long and they have, you know, matter of fact the guy that I've envisioned the past few days, he lives on Cape Coral on the water. He says, he's just now able to see in the water. So, he had [Indiscernible][00:20:17] he had a blue green algae this tick and Cape Coral that's like right there in the corner of [Indiscernible][00:20:25]. So, I was just, that's bad when you have the blue green algae, I mean, that's all the toxic [Indiscernible][00:20:31]. It was

just like what, in this state, it's allowing this. I was like, you can't. They can't allow those stuff.

Interviewer: Yeah. When you see water like that, and you know there's a red tide coming. What...

Tommy Locke: I mean, well before, you know because that water came out and no one will start right then because it's got to turn into a different algae in order for, because I do understand how the red tide works. And it can't, you know, you can't feed on that water coming directly out of – the fresh water coming out here and up and out here they're eating the nutrients that it has a different nutrient. The red tide does not attach to it. It's when it involves into a different but it's all from this, turned into a different nutrient. And then the red tide attaches and it blooms. There's no other phytoplankton can eat that out because all the phytoplankton can eat algae that so chop. When the red tide kicks in and then compete. That's why the water gets unclear. I remember at one raw, we have one that was hitting this – I think it was 98 or 99, there was one that lasted a year and a half. But it wasn't real bad. There was like patches here and there that, you know, it was just red tide, okay, it killed my bait.

It wasn't dense enough to kill the fish. It was like I'd catch bait on the beach out here where nobody can catch it. You know, when they went on the beach and I got to live there and I said, oh well, there's a lot of live bait here back when I – bait fish and I don't do it anymore. And I go out there on the beach from a – there had been [Indiscernible][00:22:11] and I ran out there and I threw my cast in that, I caught my bait and I put it in a lot well. And the baits were jumping out. I said red tided was here. Because there's all in the bottom or on the top of it. This is bad. So, I thought for a second, I said, oaky I got it, I'll go back in South Harbor, don't know a lot of that but I ran back in and I had filled it up. I run out there, shut my valves off from the water coming in to be certainly throwing my cast net [Indiscernible][00:22:44] and I can fish all day.

But the red tide was there, it was on the surface. No, it just had been on the top of it. So, a lot of time, the red tide is not heavy. This one this year it went to the bottom and 28 to 30 foot of water to 32 foot out there to kill the snook. Sand eel will come to the surface at night. [Overlapping conversation] [23:17] and it lasted all the summer, all of it besides this sand eel. And there was nothing out except for crabs there was billions and billions of crabs. I mean, little blue crabs, this big, and all past crab. It looked like a plankton itself in the water. And that's why the guys are doing so good crabbing and I'm sure that's why the trapon industry went through the roof because you had all that decay of fish out there. And so, all those species that don't get affected by red tide. They said, food, and then let's make it. So, billions and billions, yeah.

Interviewer: So, let's talk about this last. Let's talk about the 2018 red tide. And I have a few more questions about [00:24:00] that one. And then I want to talk about the one back in 1980. So, for the 2018 one, how did that actually -- how did that impact your fishing?



Tommy Locke: Oh, it affected me, probably at 14 days in July when I fish with these two guys that are fishing this year. So, I got to fill those days rather. So, I'm still feeling the effects of red tide. The whole falls almost locked up, [Indiscernible][00:24:23]. It probably – I lost, probably a third half of my income.

Female Speaker: And many guys canceled their entire season.

Tommy Locke: A lot of people [Overlapping conversation][00:24:37].

Female Speaker: Said, just don't come in.

Tommy Locke: [Indiscernible][00:24:38] I just quit. And then [Indiscernible][00:24:42] a lot of people in the lounge right here, you know, because people like to eat fish and their bait fishing and stuff. They've already sold their stuff, they're done but the people that stayed in are smart [Indiscernible][00:24:56] people come to fish and not to kill all the fish.

Interviewer: Yeah. So, what can you do, you know, if you can't take people out to go tarpon fishing. Are there any adaptations that you can do or anything?

Tommy Locke: Well, I got a [Indiscernible][00:25:11] I lost two houses. I've build just to get them through college and stuff because I have been [Indiscernible][00:25:18] three of them already finished college. And then I got one to go. So I've done [Indiscernible][00:25:31] my dad was a GC for like 55 years and I got my construction loss and we had cattle farm, we did everything except [Indiscernible][00:25:42]. And when Charlie, one of my clients needs this place to fix. So, I said, okay, I'll do it. And then I turned it over and I build the house for that. Not physically, I just settled down. I did another one and then I did two. And then, you know, when I have a guy that [Indiscernible] [00:26:00]. And we're getting ready to build two for speculation. And then when I finished those two, I didn't even do it anymore. You know, I survived.

That's the only reason I'm able to survive when I got. And I turned back around and I loss two houses. They're like, you know, \$1.6 million home.

Female Speaker: General misconception, just people that work – that fish on the water are the ones that have hard time. If you live in a place like this, we're fully dependent. All of our business circle independent, people coming and being in a beautiful place. Even if you don't care fishing.

Tommy Locke: Almost 80% of the rentals are...

Female Speaker: You can go to the beach [Overlapping conversation][00:26:36] you can't walk to a coffee shop. Nobody wants to be here, the entire economy.

Tommy Locke: [Indiscernible][00:26:48] \$3 billion in real estate. And that was [Indiscernible][00:27:11] and it's not that big, sure there's causing it they're blocking the water, it should be going to natural flow of water. What is our own [Indiscernible][00:27:20]. What did people doing to the natural flow of what Mother Nature put here? That's when I found that [Indiscernible][00:27:28] going all the way up to, you know, 75.

Interviewer: Yeah. Where is that? Let's start and look...

Tommy Locke: Let me look at my phone. There's a – I was looking at this and there is like – there is one in the Union Bay that's going through the forum section there too. Was there tide in the Union Bay and Everglades is like, one of y'all crazy.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Tommy Locke: Oh. And then, you know, we're not back in the Hoover, yeah [00:28:00]. I remember all the Hoover ditches and stuff that were done in the state.

Female Speaker: Right now the whole time and it was operating at a level of panic. If we are to experience something like last year. And yes we can't. Our tourist industry cannot survive another year of it. Because people just stop coming here they're like, oh shit, I'll just go [Indiscernible][00:28:21] or I'll go somewhere else because I have the money to do it. But if it's not available or if they can't be here hospitable and that...

Tommy Locke: And all the people around [Indiscernible][00:28:30] natural place. And they do so much, buying a lot of the real estate around there to keep development from hitting it.

Female Speaker: They gave so much money they're like, just fixed it. We don't care what you do. Just fix it. So, our home is nice, but that's not an easy fix like that. It's so much...

Tommy Locke: Okay. So, here, there is Venice. That's a Venice Jetty, right? And a Donna Bay. Look at this drainage ditch. It won't stop, it keeps going. All of this still coming.

Interviewer: Yeah. All of it.

Tommy Locke: All from the development right here.

Interviewer: Yeah this developments country club.

Female Speaker: Yeah, those beautiful golf course.

Tommy Locke: [Indiscernible][00:29:28] Then the thing about it is Lemon Bay stopped right here. This is where Lemon Bay had stopped. This is a rock Jedi that ties into this

bay. This right here did not go all the way. They went through here, here, here and it stopped by running here and there was landmasses tide right here. They separated Sarasota Bay. And Little Sarasota Bay, there's [00:30:00] passage. There used to be a pass. There was a pass here, there was a pass here or here. And then if you go back down the pass, don't pass. That was midnight pass. There was Don Pedro pass. And it quit because of this ditch right here.

And now what you end up having is in this ditch, is this water from [Indiscernible][00:30:26] you could never get here and flush out. You can never go all the way through here and flush out. So, this dead water goes back and forth in her own path until the big moons in July, in July and August. And it flushes out, one side or the other. And this is the core of our red tide area right here.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Tommy Locke: And it's like peak, you know, it comes out and kind of flushes in Tampa bay or whatever Tampa Bay [Indiscernible][00:30:54]. And there's a cities right around there, I know, [Indiscernible][00:31:00].

Interviewer: So, let's go ahead and draw the area that you saw affected this last year by red tide?

Tommy Locke: The area that was affected by red tide went from – it falls on that way. I mean, all the way up Sarasota. I feel [overlapping conversation][00:31:20]

Interviewer: Yeah. So, since we're just going to draw...

Tommy Locke: Well, I mean I didn't go out this way right here. But I went all the way the big pass. There's tarpon in July, until I got covered up.

Interviewer: Yeah. No, I'm definitely interested in your experience and...

Tommy Locke: The red tide, it kept going and got all the way to Tampa Bay. So, I don't know how far it went from there. But I know that the big pass at Sarasota Bay right here, there's a big pass right here. And I was fishing right here and it covered, not ran from here to get there because there was nothing down here to fish.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Tommy Locke: And so, I started from here [00:32:00]. I don't know how far out it went but it kept moving and it was out to Sanibel.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Tommy Locke: And then, it didn't go. But if we got an inch, yeah you go to South pass. And the only way beneath is springs because that's where the water comes out

[Indiscernible][00:32:17]. And then we had the red tide beneath the springs and it came back. When they get the red tide down in the Everglades, there was one in that same two times. That's when all that water too and then the key had red tide. The key that had red ties and Everglades have red tide everywhere. So, State and then the record in Spanish one time came in, in the Gulf of Mexico they turned around let's say place as a dead zone because of the red tide.

But it could have been during flood times and nutrients and we had red tide last year. Roger Fernandez (Phonetics) won the Gold Cup. You know very pretty damn tough turn. And he thinks it's very good. And they're fishing [Indiscernible][00:33:08]. And Roger ended up winning the tournament in the first three days of tournament and they got – they didn't go fish to place in one fish in a fishing ocean side. And they ended up off tide [Indiscernible][00:33:20] and he's sitting down there. And all of a sudden pinfish started spinning off, pinfish started spinning [Overlapping conversation][00:33:33]. And the red tide was kicking off tarpon shortly [Indiscernible][00:33:38]. All the decayed leaves and stuff are all back in black, Black Burton Bay, and all that stuff out there and you get those outgoing tides turn into an algae thing.

Interviewer: Yeah. When was that?

Tommy Locke: That was in June. Third week of June.

Female Speaker: The 17<sup>th</sup> when it was, you know, two years...

Tommy Locke: [00:34:00] Yeah. A year or so but but they still had all that you know leave decayed plus they had all the palm leaves not have drain off there. But whatever did it, they feel red tide kicked in out there in that area. What else is going to start killing, spinning, kicking fish out of the water. It's red tide, I don't see anything else. So, they went on and then Rob told us almost beat him in the tournament came in second the last day because the red tide moved a little further north. And he ran into him and called him in the last two days. So, and there's my theory on list. The decay that the state calls which, thank God, [Indiscernible][00:34:38] you shut them down. Now, so, now they can't spray for next five years.

Interviewer: Yeah. What about the health impacts of red tide?

Tommy Locke: You got asthma, your – it's bad on me because I do have a mild asthma but I can survive, you know, inhale but older people or younger kids, it can be devastating.

Female Speaker: Nobody get in the water. We have people – I have friends that, you know, wanted to make some money and said they go around the thing...

Tommy Locke: [Indiscernible][00:35:12] because all the dead fish, there are so many bad things, the bacteria in the water when you get all the dead fish around. The water after when all the fish and everything turned into oil. It was like the consistency it had oil

resin black resin on the water, just – I’ve never seen that color. And then I hadn’t seen that much death.

Female Speaker: But I had friends, that wanted to clean up the canals just to make some money and they all got real sick. And then people I know that, I think it was Venice. There were businesses that had like restaurants on the water and they would close down because of health risks to their employees.

Tommy Locke: All the time. The more you’re around it, the more you’re affected by red tide. More essentially, I’m smelling like [00:36:00] it could be a red tide [Indiscernible][00:36:01] red tide around. They burn my nose.

Female Speaker: And it was such an elderly community, they could panic.

Tommy Locke: [Indiscernible][00:36:12] with a series of red tide over the years.

Interviewer: You think?

Tommy Locke: No, but I can point it on that.

Interviewer: Did the health impacts ever – would that ever stop you from going out on the water that you just?

Tommy Locke: Well, if there’s no fish and no need for me to go in the water or there’s the beauty of the water in the state. If we lose the natural state of Florida, that’s why I’m so against development that’s why I hate construction. My dad did it even most adult schools and jails. I hate construction because I don’t like to developed. I hate that blue footprint. But it has so many kids and they need to keep my boat, I wouldn’t go to house as big. I’ll go to grad school no air conditioning. That’s me that...

Female Speaker: We have the red tide, we have last year. Our family’s been here as long as I’ve been alive, and loves this fishery has helped, protect this fishery after last year’s red tide we all sat around and we’re like do we move if this happens. Do we move to the keys because if there’s no fish or there’s no reason...

Tommy Locke: I can’t make a living. And then I’ll do construction, I’ll cash out. You know, then what will happen to my house right now, with real estate values that they are worth like you know, about \$30 million. I don’t have that much in it. And only, you know, a third of that and I work and a lot of cash. I’d like to build probably a nice place on the bay and keys and fish out, I would not have to worry about anything. But I love this community and the people here because it’s always worth it.

Female Speaker: So, it’s most of, like risking your health and more just like are the – health being the reason it’s more that there is no reason if there’s no fishing?

Tommy Locke: And I'm like, never I'm like seven generations already. And I'm not going to move on the state of Florida [00:38:00]. But people just coming in here, people just moved here and then they came in and saw that and they saw it right away [overlapping conversation][00:38:06]. This is the first time it went nationwide. It needed to go to nationwide in order to get our state politicians involved in trying to protect what they have. Okay. So, I'll take this big hit this year [Indiscernible][00:38:25]. But now, we need to get it straightened out but if politicians don't get it straightened out, then I'm going to be angry.

And then I'll push it. I mean, the reason [Indiscernible][00:38:35] you elected is because of the people like me. He was like, you know, it missed, it missed, you know, against Putnam when he started. And I think the [Indiscernible][00:38:48] was trying to do was lease that land back to big sugar and they want to, deep water inject the water, the surface water back down into the aquifer. Well, that's a real smart move. There's something, they're talking about doing that at Suffolk County where I grew up. I'm like guys [Indiscernible][00:39:11] only filtration, basic sciences. It's just like tells you that you don't do that [overlapping conversation][00:39:21]

Interviewer: So, when did this last red tide under this finally clear up?

Female Speaker: A month ago.

Tommy Locke: It – let me think.

Female Speaker: It was around Thanksgiving.

Tommy Locke: Well, I know, in late August, mid August where she caught her first tarpon on flood. And unique, you know, the thing that I knew the reason they were there was because I got pushed offshore. It was [Indiscernible][00:39:51] down in Pine Island that it pushed the fish across the bar and it was about three to 4000 tarpon in a bay [00:40:00]

Tommy Locke: In a bay that was probably a mile long.

Interviewer: Wow.

Tommy Locke: And they were in there anything that it was so cool about it, there were 3000 or 4000 spinner sharks. There were hammer, small hammerhead, small Tiger sharks. I saw a dusky in there. I'm never seeing dusky in the state of Florida. And it was just all these sharks were lemon sharks and they're all together tarp and swimming and their pin, I guess it makes as a red tide on the outside of redfish pass or inside of redfish pass.

And I'm fishing for about two weeks. Call off, I never tried to catch a fish [indiscernible] [00:40:38] we need them. But they were commingling except for the tarp and did not like the little hammerheads. They beat them to death until they got them out there for



some reason, they lock them but there were no bull sharks. Then I go in every day and then the tarps are gone. The only thing that was there was spinner sharks. So, I said the red tide, I saw when I ran in past [indiscernible] [00:40:59] I see the red tide's in there now so they're gone.

Sure enough, they were gone, all the sharks were gone except for the spinners were still there. They come back two days later and all the spinner who did, they didn't make it. It was like 2500 to 3,000 spinner sharks all dead.

Interviewer: But when do you think that it, red tide clear?

Tommy Locke: Red tide pushed them in there.

Interviewer: No, no. When do you think that the red tide...

Tommy Locke: Oh, the red tide cleared? Well, they never got back in the bay and here so fishing in the bay and along the Gulf, the water sort of pretty enough around October. So, I would say probably around the first October, November. I mean there was still patches red tide around but it started really, they started eating the nutrients so the water start getting to cleared on the Gulf.

Interviewer: Yes. The intensity was...

Tommy Locke: In the bay, we still had tainted water coming out. So, it's hard to tell inside the bay because, [00:42:00] you know, that time of the year, you were involved in the thing we didn't have real wet season but a lot of that rainfall we get back in the bay, you know, you still got tainted water. So, it's hard to tell there. But, you know, red tide only goes like K-base point as far back as it goes because of too much fresh water after that they can't survive.

Interviewer: Yes. Where is that on you?

Tommy Locke: Up here, you know, the red tide went further apparently, it lasted longer. One up in the St. Pete and everything because like I said it was north. The water went north that was here and so it gave red tide appear something few long. So, now, you know, a day that I'll wait. It will keep eating it until it's gone.

Interviewer: Do you think that the area that you are fishing as it recovered from red tide this past year?

Tommy Locke: Say that again.

Interviewer: How is the recovery? Have you seen the area that you fish, has it come back in productivity and...

Tommy Locke: Yes, yes. The fish and everything has started to recover pretty good. Everything that I've seen started to recover from the red tide.

Interviewer: How long do you think it took to recover?

Tommy Locke: They still are not totally recovered. You build a tale, it'll probably a year, a year and a half or be a total recovery kind of miss it. What I see is a trout population is down pretty good. But I didn't see a lot of dead stuff but I don't know if that messed up the respond times, you know, like every month, Full Moon, New Moon all the way through that whole tarpon season that's when those, the trout are pretty, the big trout, the big brook trout 20% show up off the beaches in that time of the year.

I never saw [indiscernible] [00:43:46] on the beach but I know they're out there on the [indiscernible] [00:43:50] and everything because they are not in the bay. They don't live for three years, four years [indiscernible] [00:43:54]. So, but that's why they close it down for 20 years drought [00:44:00] from Tampa Bay to Naples I think, but they close, closure down for 20 years drought.

Interviewer: Do you think there's any other long term changes or shifts because of the last red tide?

Tommy Locke: No, I think, you know, after a year and a half and you're pretty much over all that stuff, you know, you just got to get our precautions in the way of stopping it from ever happening it again. But until they cut down the flows of water that naturally flows south on the state, then, you know, if that pop up, all that water had flowed south into Florida Bay to where we lost what, 48 to 68,000 acres of seabed because of lack of fresh water.

I remember when they close Buttonwood Canal of southern Florida Bay the sea crest start dying and all the shoal grass and all that stuff until they start putting their stuff back they were natural it goes, I think that you don't have an ongoing problem with this. If they put that water back where it goes out, you know, through when they're dumps out of the Shark River and [indiscernible] [00:45:12] and also it jumps out.

Now the Taylor slew and the Florida Bay, until that flow gets back, I think the stay is scared to do it because I think it's going to be an immediate recovery. I think it's going to happen, you're going to see it that next year you're going to say wow, look at this, you know, because they kept the Everglades in a drought for 18 years, not 18 years but just 46. When they open that thing, they shut that flood and so I think they're scared okay, well, we didn't. This was a big bo-bo. I'll but it and let's get this thing done. And then I think it will survive.

Interviewer: What specific management do you think should occur like what [00:46:00] ideally if it was...

Tommy Locke: Ideally, the management. I think everything needs to be looked at and in the flow of water coming from anywhere. If it's off a road, they need to look at some way to make some kind of filtration system an STA or small STA in a ditch or something like that instead of, the state's always into all the place are always into storage water right?

Interviewer: Yes.

Tommy Locke: You know, a store water, I want it to thin out just like if you ride down like Belmont road or somebody rode over here and you see all these flatland pastures grew up in that kind of area right there. You get big range and everything and the water is traveling but it's traveling about this deep through grass, through times, through everything's got tannic acid that filter [indiscernible] [00:46:54]. The cleanest water you could drink probably in the state of Florida are coming right out of the spring that will be safe since you can probably drink the middle of [indiscernible] [00:47:02] tannic water and you probably would get sick because the tannic acid kills down a lot of the leavers and everything else so they can probably kill you.

So, that's our filtration. So our mangrove and stuff and they, you know, the nutrition but we need to, in this day like all the straight line canals that we got from the old Hoover ditches, all the way down on 75, all these ditches that they have need to go to some kind of filtration before they dumped into salt water. They got to be more natural. We got to have more natural flow of water into our state course.

Interviewer: Yes. So, let's talk about the 98, 99 red tide that you experienced. You said you kind of first noticed that when with the bait fish?

Tommy Locke: Yes. I mean, what you have noticed is where the, you'll see the bait fish has been, well, it's usually the first sign other than smelling it. You know you start sneezing and stuff but then once it gets ashore like that, the first thing you're going to see is it's going to kickoff and die usually pinfish. [00:48:00] Also then skipping and then the scales sardines and red thin hair and all the rest of the bait fish and everything start dying by that then the cat fish.

The cat fish smell decay and fish and so they swim into mullet. They're very sensitive breeders anyway and they're always on top. That's why they die a lot. And a lot of times that red tide hits, you know, during their spawn and season in the fall, so they run through it, never run through it out there offshore. But most of the red tides, you know, start in here, they don't start out here. They start in here.

This year they start out here, we're going to have so much water and it's close to it. We know that the red tides basically yes, someone out here in this area right here and there's two reason they think that they are dead. I've talked to some of the scientists and stuff. Phosphate industry right here. Also they get a phosphate industry right here. They had cerebral sewage filter stuff offshore and sort of bay and stuff but now all the phosphate

industry is here. You know, where they loaded the phosphates here they load their phosphate.

They dig it off this river right here. That's where most of phosphate comes, all of been here parish and all the stuff I can hear. And then they got so much control, we shut down Arcadia thing which is great on the Mule Creek. I can't believe they're thinking about that. But there was, the mosaic was trying to mind, trying to get [indiscernible] [00:49:35] and Mule Creek Arcadia tides right in the Peace River, which I don't know. That can happen.

So, we shut that down. And you know that years ago too, here's [indiscernible] [00:49:51]. Years ago, the Peace River, they had all the small mining operations on the Peace River for phosphate. And so that could have been some of the other red tides back then. [00:50:00]

Interviewer: Yes. What the species that red tide effects? Do you think it has anything, is it related to their size? Is there the larger fish species or smaller fish so they get away with that is or anything?

Tommy Locke: I don't know, there's no, the only one that gets a little bit of salvation is probably the tarp and the gor fish because they live in freshwater, tarpon can breathe air. So, I've seen redfish, you know, pinfish is such been and off and I've seen tarpon eat them. I've seen sharks eating because red tide's not dense. There's always a level of the red tide how thick is it, you know, that's the biggest part.

Once they got like it was this year, fish did survived in it.

Interviewer: For the 98 red tide, how long did it last?

Tommy Locke: It was like a year and a half. That's what I remember. It was a real long one and you just kind of went through the winter oh, you're not supposed to have in the winter but we had it and it was a cool winner. And then it, you know, it clear up and then it was kind of hit and miss. They're like clear up and then again, clear up again and we got back the fall, we had a little bit of rain and same thing kind of went to the fall and then we didn't have it for like five years. Then we got in and like 98 in there, we had, you know, some red tides and stuff and then we hadn't really no red tide for a while till this one, this one.

Interviewer: So, 98 was the last big red tide event that you remember in this area?

Female Speaker: So, it's the longest?

Tommy Locke: It was the longest one. I remember real long red tide. I'm thinking no, you can't say that. 04 is a red tide after Charlie.

Interviewer: Okay.

Tommy Locke: And then it was leaves and stuff in the K because there wasn't a leaf on a tree between here and Arcadia. After that, we had a red tide but he clear that real quick [00:52:00] which is like pretty quick, boom, boom done but with a heavy rain after that. It's just like drakers. I remember I had all my siding off the house and everything else and I rebuilt this thing and like never rained after it.

Interviewer: So, there was 2004 red tide after Charlie and then there is one in between that and...

Tommy Locke: Yes, wait. I mean there was one, little one. There's been a little one you know?

Female Speaker: Yes, like [overlapping conversation] [00:52:24]

Tommy Locke: In Sanibel, there is a...

Female Speaker: [overlapping conversation] [00:52:28] every other year more or less and it was very normal to get a couple of weeks a red tide...

Tommy Locke: Yes, but not bad. We get along west wind, they'd blow in there and they'd eat out, things out and it kind of dissipated, never lasted long. Actually a wind could come in right after that and it would blow it up and go ahead and disperse it. And then it never can get really attached. If all these allergies are together, you know, if you think about what red tide does is if you get concentration so thick of few main fuel status what was out of Okeechobee fuel that once that red tide attaches to the bottom and be 12 but it puts off and then start eating the algae then it blooms. And as long as that core food sources, they don't care what wind comes in, it can't break it up. That's what happened this year.

So dense, so thick, so much fuel that we got so much to eat and take care of kind of like the microbes on the leaky oil in the Gulf of Mexico. That's our job. I think that's what red tide job is. It's never I said oh, it's our enemy, oh, we got to get rid of. No, you can't get rid of it. They suck it one time what was it back in the 60s like copper sulphate dumped on top of this red tide and here we will know what to do this. It sunk but it still had [00:54:00] the problems. And so...

Female Speaker: It's a natural phenomenon.

Tommy Locke: Yes, so it's not like I'm not mad at red tide. I'm not angry of red tide at all because I know that if we don't have that red tide all this water around the Gulf of Mexico closed all the way up Atlanta closed it's going to be ugliest four years in your live.

Interviewer: Yes. So, for 98 to that, 98 red tide do that start in the late summer, the fall?

Tommy Locke: It was in that fall. We had quite a bit of rain at one year around there.

Interviewer: Do you remember what month?

Tommy Locke: September, October.

Interviewer: Okay.

Tommy Locke: I know it was because on 31, I know when it started because that's when I did, it's been October because I had tarp and kingfish eating the pinfish that were dropping off the beach out here. So, I remember exactly like 1<sup>st</sup> of October because there is tarpon migration back and I was out there on a beach and I see these pinfish start spinning off and then here comes the – but it really did even that year when I was here and never really got real bad where you had big fish scale.

We had one, what year was it with a redfish that killed? They got pushed down, that was worst red tide we'd had for a while, probably about six years ago, seven years ago. Oh, that was probably around I remember in 2010. 2010 were pretty bad one because it killed...

Female Speaker: We had big freeze around that time, a couple bunch of smell.

Tommy Locke: Yes, no, no. I want to freeze, this was the, the red tide that killed in big redfish it was scooter redfish, it was laying off the beach out there and you probably research that back in the paper when that was. But it killed, it pushed him into trapping on the beach and it killed probably 50,000 pounds.

Interviewer: Which area?

Tommy Locke: Boca Grande. The redfish were out of the pass out here. And then we had high water [00:56:00] in the Peace River at that time too. But anyways, it push a redfish kill them and then they all floated up on both Grand Beach. But it was one of our big, you know, bridge scores 30, no, I mean these are all 30 pound redfish. It was a sad sight.

Interviewer: So, for the 98 red tide where was that, specifically where did you...

Tommy Locke: From both Grand Pass all the way up to Englewood, that's where I was always saying.

Interviewer: Is that the same?

Tommy Locke: You know when they had red tide or redfish, you know, they did from here to halfway on the Grand Beach, same area.

Interviewer: Same area?



Tommy Locke: Same area.

Female Speaker: Can you draw with marker?

Interviewer: Well, if it's the same then...

Tommy Locke: I don't know how far north, it went up about but it would still been like, it's usually from right here off big pass. And it was, you know, just like this and then it went to [indiscernible] [00:56:59]. It went halfway down the Boca Grande. All of our red tides seem to start off Englewood and red tide attaches somewhere in this area.

But then it just get bowling and we get wind and [indiscernible] [00:57:18] keep blowing the red tide and then get some more fuel in it bling, bling, bling. Most of the time, red tide I believe might not be as big as my bookshelf right there. We're not be as big as this table. You know it was a circle eating this [indiscernible] [00:57:32] stuff whatever it is. And then wind can brought break that up and then we'll get a swim you know you never notice red tide here but then as soon as you get that northwest winds on the core front.

Interviewer: So, you said back in 98 there would be red tide and then it would, you think it would be gone for a while and then it would come back?

Tommy Locke: I don't think it was ever gone. I think wind direction or you smell it. I just didn't see the number of fish scales [00:58:00]. It was like you can go out on a beach and it'd be offshore and you couldn't breathe. They don't mean it was killing the fish because there was no fish in that area at that time. But you could walk down the beach and you had Northwest wind, you're choking at that.

Interviewer: Was the 2018 red tide patchy like that in the same way?

Tommy Locke: No.

Interviewer: No?

Tommy Locke: It was solid.

Interviewer: it was solid?

Tommy Locke: It was solid. There was Arizona beaches out there, there was no fish. There was no life.

Interviewer: Have you ever seen red tide that solid before?

Tommy Locke: Just when I was 12 years over at [indiscernible] [00:58:37] at one time that would have been in 72. And so that would have been one real bad one that I've ever seen. I've never seen one the density the 2018 was. Not even close to that.

Interviewer: So, how did the 98 red tide impact your fishing?

Tommy Locke: No.

Interviewer: It didn't?

Tommy Locke: No. Until this national televised national media that this one really effect. Because I had people in, I mean the two people I lost in July, Seattle.

Interviewer: Right.

Tommy Locke: What's going on with this red tide, no one chose to go to Cuba, one kind of blame it on Sutton house but I can probably switch the date around. The one was because of red tide and I had so many in my clients Tom Ranger (*Phonetics*) he called me and he, [indiscernible] [00:59:33] will be fine, don't worry, they'll be.

Interviewer: Yes. So, even in 2018, you could have still gone out on trips with people that you think it was [indiscernible] [00:59:44]?

Tommy Locke: Yes. That was a lot of people backed off on Carmen. Plus a lot of people in office got pick up and stuff [indiscernible] [00:59:54]. I mean nobody ran here. I mean you got what from July, [01:00:00] from July through October, their rentals were down like 90%.

Female Speaker: But during that, the fishing was bad during that time.

Tommy Locke: Oh, yes, fishing was bad. I could go find fish because I could go back and fish [indiscernible] [01:00:16] you know, here's tarp laying on surface, we're coming at you. You couldn't really sight fishing. But I could do on cold fish form but not that what I use again.

Female Speaker: The fishery will recover but the perception is lasting.

Interviewer: Yes.

Tommy Locke: Yes.

Female Speaker: That's the problem.

Tommy Locke: Yes, that's the problem.

Interviewer: With a 98 red tide was through that same public perception issue?

Tommy Locke: No. No, they're first time I ever seen the national. The first time the media ever gotten, they would, you know, the medias in there and one of the stations was

NBC years up and they're in behind Sanibel saying oh, look at the red tide. I said no, dude, that's panic water so...

Interviewer: So, It didn't affect your fishing in 98?

Tommy Locke: Oh no, no, no. I don't think I lost any days.

Interviewer: Okay.

Tommy Locke: This is the only time I've really been devastated by the effects of a red tide or you know effects of what happened from the red tide.

Interviewer: Yes.

Female Speaker: And media is just so different now than it was in 98. I mean...

Tommy Locke: Yes. Social media and everything else so it'd like it went through it. They really did go through the roof on that, so...

Interviewer: Yes. Okay. What about the 2004 red tide after Charlie? When did that start?

Tommy Locke: Let's see, 2013, I get tarp and fishing through that and it was probably in October. October, I really think it was a – because we did get some rain in October [indiscernible] [01:01:51] actually more locally that it was affected because like all the leaves and stuff on those island and stuff. And it wasn't a real bad red tide either.

They're just going to hit and miss there but there was so much, you know, nutrients from all the mangrove [indiscernible] [01:02:10]. I mean there's a little I drive from here all the way up to, I drive from here up in the Bull Bay, Turtle Bay all the way down to Peace River might end you never saw a mangrove with leaf on it. I mean they were just like a sticks. It was the craziest thing you've ever seen and then it looked like they had algae on the mid spring. It was like man, look at those algae growing. It was leaf growing off the trunk in it you know start growing and then that's been what 10 or 15 years now. Now, [indiscernible] [01:02:46] you'll see some dead black mangroves are still around shoreline and stuff.

Interviewer: Were there areas like specific areas on the chart that you remember with the 2004 red tide was?

Tommy Locke: Yes, [indiscernible] [01:03:00]. There was the chart.

Interviewer: Yes.

Tommy Locke: Yes. So, that's where you seen the date or and that's where you had a lot of leave decayed. It was in the sound itself, not too much on the beach it's little bit on

the beaches, it was only not going but there was like whole pine on the sound area. There was just [indiscernible] [01:03:19] and stuff and all the leaves and stuff. That's where I saw the worst red tide.

Interviewer: Yes. Did you see it up here at all?

Tommy Locke: You know, I didn't see on the beach at all. I mean, most everything I saw well, I can't say that because that's – no, no, no. Most of that stuff because that goes through the winter so it's kind of a different fishing that might then is going into back a long time. They'll spend a lot more time in the bay. So, but I did see the, you know, when I go across the pass then I'd be see fish worth floating in the dot lines and stuff like that to what was a, but that's a, you know, that's an area where all the fish gathered [indiscernible] [01:03:59]. [01:04:00] So, it's like when all the tides come together and [indiscernible] [01:04:05] timelines you know rip lines and then you'll see all the fish floating on that one line and it looks like there's 10 billion fish drilling on, it won't that be but it's not in the whole area.

So, the redfish – the red tide was tinder in that time but I run across on a big whale or you got to buy, they got the [indiscernible] [01:04:25]. So, somehow I got in there and it goes back and forth in the canals in there because it really can't get out. And so you couldn't come in here. You had to go pick your guys and go catch bait offshore. And so there's a lot of things that you got to do like that. But it's red tide, you know, carry it. I don't know we fished around red tide since I've been here so and there's been more red tide you know? I just think of more the bigger red tides, there are small red tides [indiscernible] [01:04:55] you really don't think about it because it just serves a nutrient patches, getting eaten and it's not that bad. This year, this was bad. 72, what I understand that was real bad. And then the one in 46 real bad.

Interviewer: So, the 2004 red tide that didn't affect your fishing?

Tommy Locke: No. No, nothing like this right here.

Female Speaker: The current how do [indiscernible] [01:05:19]

Tommy Locke: Yes, hurricane. Yes, that's right, you know, that was only...

Female Speaker: So, the strong red tide event.

Tommy Locke: Yes.

Interviewer: Yes.

Tommy Locke: But yes, it was, I put everything back together. But you know even when you get a hurricane like that there's nothing is like all the debris on this whole island was on this ball field. That's the only place they're going to do. So, they stopped and then the keys down there real close to where red tide was kicking off, that's where

the head off of debris that was still piled up. So, that's still leaking out and drain and going somewhere and that was going probably right there in that bay and caused an issue. So, a lot of stuff, you know, when they do, they need to think [01:06:00] before the thing is done. Get right off and our estuaries.

Interviewer: How long did it take the areas to recover after that 2004 red tide?

Tommy Locke: It was I think, it is more what she said. It was more of the hurricane but there was really know it didn't really hurt anything because if it kills, it comes in we get red tide and killed like pinfish and stuff like that. That stuff, that's twice a month [indiscernible] [01:06:26]. So, they just go through a little area. I do remember though that was in the late 80s and 98 when that I've caught all those snook back in the bay because it kind of went through [indiscernible] [01:06:38] or maybe push look in areas where there was no tide and it just, there was thousands of snook in there and I just go in there just but I had to go in on a tide that was high enough because the red tide kind of mixed up in the grass and if I hit a grass on the bottom, it will come up, kill all my baits. So, I do wait for the tide, get a [indiscernible] [01:06:56] before I could get my bait into the bay. And then I go in there and I just crush the fish. And the fish won't leave because the red tide can't get to them in there. So, like stack all of the fish would be like 10,000 [indiscernible] [01:07:10].

Interviewer: What about the year, year and a half, you know, that longer red tide and 98? Did it take longer for the fishery and for the areas to recover or was it also back right now?

Tommy Locke: No, I didn't see. I didn't, they have one in 98, they hit the mullet pretty hard. But other didn't hit any other species or anything like it. I don't think it hit it real hard. I think it was more than mullet population because I did mullet fish back then a lot. And [indiscernible] [01:07:39] and I did remember that. I do remember another one though which is I remember this in 95. There was a red tide that stayed offshore because it pushed all those snook off of wrecks and stuff I'm talking about. This was in October when it happened too. And it could have been for mullet flow because they don't want to surges I did a [01:08:00] local charity.

But in the backside of all the [indiscernible] [01:08:05] Islands, Cayo Costa, all the way up here, Devil's fish always backside as always, you couldn't put another 20 pounds in the [indiscernible] [01:08:12] and they came from offshore. And they were there for about two weeks and they would not bite. I mean there's like the big giant [indiscernible] [01:08:22] and bait fish never caught one because they were in there, out of their element, down to the special on the backside of Cayo Costa and on this side of Boca Grande and devil fish and all that and a lot of [indiscernible] [01:08:38], they went back offshore. Stay there. I watched the fish snook from Boca Grande and it might have been at same time. And I was going across the pass and I see the fins sticking out of the water and said what is that? I looked at it, I stopped and there was a whole of snook from under the phosphate dock swim across the Grand pass and I followed them. Got over the [indiscernible] [01:09:02] and they settled down because red tide came about the

phosphate dock. They went to the other spot. They stay there for two weeks, couldn't catch them either. They turn around and came it back to the phosphate dock then you could catch them.

Female Speaker: I think the recovery for the red tides over the years wasn't as long because the 2018 red tide was so intense the concentration was so thick and dense and everything else but that's why it's been such a marker obviously we had the media and everything. But that's why the fishing...

Tommy Locke: When that red tide stayed out here more. It was on the Gulf more than it was in the bays. They did come in to Pine Island silent and killed all the pinfish and stuff. I didn't see a lot of red tide come up into our little [indiscernible] [01:09:45] and stuff. I guess they did up and storm pass and then [indiscernible] [01:09:48] sort of got devastated. It destroyed that area.

I don't fish up that inside the bait but as I say, it killed all the fish, the big Sarasota Bay all the way down to Venice. Lemon Bay, I can't get to, I can't get in the back here. [01:10:00]

Interviewer: Why do you think the 2018 was so much more dense and concentrated than red tides that you experienced in the past?

Tommy Locke: Just fuel coming out of it and it was just like boiling on and they've lied and say whatever they want to. When you're doing a 6800 cubic feet a minute out of one place for two and a half weeks, had a lot of fuel.

Female Speaker: Since, red tide is a phenomenon, [indiscernible] [01:10:25] when that happened and especially being in June, how [indiscernible] [01:10:30].

Tommy Locke: We're going to have a rainfall. We didn't have anything calls in anything. That's the thing is like okay, so however that a normal standpoint, we have no red tide in this bay right here. They have no red tide anywhere and then all sudden, May, they dumped this water out of here and it hits a red tide bigger than any red tide ever been existed. I mean, they're dumping water out of Lake cause the docks about to fail on the backside and they can't get over 14 dept feet. I know the reason they're doing it. But they're not wondering if they can release that water. They could have been releasing that all the time. And everybody is through two to three at three SDA's down here but it was a government block because of big sugar. This is the biggest [indiscernible] [01:11:10]

Female Speaker: [indiscernible] [01:11:09] occurring phenomenon like red tide and all those nutrients into and just puts it on crack basically?

Tommy Locke: Yes.

Female Speaker: And that's why it's so intense because I have all the food in the world and that's...



Tommy Locke: That's why it's so intense and there was no [overlapping conversation] [01:11:23] and they say that we can't tide in the picture. Oh, yes, I can because they're blocking the water from going south. There are problems out there, and then we [indiscernible] [01:11:33] with this at least 60,000 acres. You're crazy? And if I go in there and because I got, you know, they don't have a permit for it but they are putting like 300,000 home load like for that farm in there anymore and those people will try to do that. If they do that, if we lose the Everglades, the state's done. Fishery is over. Done. No more. I don't know what I'll do then [01:12:00]. I'll go to South America so I don't know [overlapping] [01:12:03]. But if they develop the Lake Okeechobee and stop that water move on to Everglades, this state fishery is done because that is one of the biggest nurtures we have. That is one of the biggest thing is keeping the state alive.

Female Speaker: Well, people, you know, they talked about like [indiscernible] [01:12:20]. So, people would just lose their ever loving minds if something were to damaged [indiscernible] [01:12:32] or like a wonderful world. The Everglades is a wonder of the world. This mother estuary is so unique and it's so insanely awesome.

Tommy Locke: That's been devastated.

Female Speaker: But people don't protect it in the same way. And it should be protected that way.

Tommy Locke: You can't really visit because of bugs and everything else. But, you know what, that is our extra work. If that water was flowing the bugs would be as bad ending. It will make stagnant, ants everywhere. Lake Okeechobee a stagnant pond. It wasn't a lake. It was always a low spot in the semi River Basin. There's never a like. Yes. If you want to say like no, it wasn't really a lake because it wasn't surrounded, it wasn't trapped. It wasn't, it was a flow. It was a constant flow Lake Okeechobee was never over eight feet deep. That's the deep as it ever gotten, eight foot. They come in and kill all these people in 26 that storm. Our record engineers comes in and 33 said okay, we're going to build it, I can drain all this water, we'll never let this happen again. All the land south and west, the lake had been purchased from nothing, 10, seven acre or just take the taxes over on it right?

And then our record engineers are designing this thing and building it rain in the water this way in that way and in putting drainage ditches for water to irrigate this land below and you tell me that's all the government bio and destroyed Everglades [01:14:00] and kill us on both sides? It makes me angry.

Female Speaker: You know and it's hard because what makes general sense to us, you know, we don't want the water pouring out the west or the east side. They, the Everglades need the saltwater, the freshwater to come through and filter out and in Florida, they need – the state needs it to operate naturally and it's just completely blocked.

Interviewer: So, for the 2010 red tide, you know, you said there was an area that kill off the redfish and push them up [overlapping conversation] [01:14:39].

Tommy Locke: The way it killed it was on the beach too. It was actually – the fish were 33 foot of 6 to 9 miles offshore. I knew they get there well, they're not there anymore because that's a big redfish schools and a lot of them in our nursery because our redfish has been down for the past five, eight years. That school fish don't kept, it does not come to the shore. It was a [indiscernible] [01:15:03] there 25 to 35 pound redfish. It pushed them up against the beach and killed them.

They never came really inside that 2010 red tide. We would smell when the wind blow you go I mean you couldn't work on the beach the guys and how is it going over on that time. And the guys that were working on my project were working on the beach projects. They had to double up online because they couldn't work on the beach when the wind came out of the West because the red tide is so intense.

Interviewer: What other impact were there from...

Tommy Locke: you get your fish clinging up, you know, you get dead fish everywhere.

Interviewer: Yes. Did that affect your business at all?

Tommy Locke: No. No affect. The only one that's affected my fishing and what goes on with my fish. I even had people hear about red tide, you know, our red tide [indiscernible] [01:15:54] say come on fishing is great. We kind of had great fishing. But 2018 [01:16:00] you know just the one that really hurt – that really twisted things up pretty bad.

Female Speaker: We had lots of captains that are, you know, [indiscernible] [01:16:12] may be just started fishing and they wanted their claim to fame so they put out, oh, you know this red tide is terrible and they would put up these videos to make the news and then that type of footage as another thing that killed our our tourist industry. Oh, this is crystal real or whoever he's saying how terrible it is and it is a long time fishing, got to spend here for two months. And you just want to...

Tommy Locke: Yes.

Female Speaker: Yes, I know it's, you know, difficult for me to kind of understand that this is an issue that needs attention and people need to be paying attention to red tide. But that's the same time the more the public is aware of it, the more it actually hurts areas that are...

Tommy Locke: Yes, it's good. You know what? Here's the problem. And you said here's, this is a problem that for some reason I can't get into people's mind. Red tides not our problem. It is actually the cure for our problem. Our problem is what we're causing and draining out here and given this thing fuel. If we don't give a fuel, it can't

come around okay? The only way you'll control red tide is quit fuelling it. It cleans our water. I'm telling you the water it's going from Gulf of Mexico will be the ugliest thing you ever seen. It would look like Vietnam, well, Vietnam is different because it's gotten more mud but this water would be algae bloomed and just horrible.

I remember at Homosassa, that would have been like well, another bad one. No, no, I want to say there was one in the 90 [overlapping conversation] [01:17:57]. [01:18:00] 95 that was the 95. The new one I was talking about 95, I remember what happened to and that one came in spring time when it showed up to the course because the same thing happened because I didn't fish in Homosassa that year because there was a cold front kind of stalled out like that and we got like 24 inches of rain in like 36 hours. It flooded all the rivers and bridges and narrow the canals, the drainage system they got out here. I'd like to find out what drains into Peace River and stuff. All the porch off and all that stuff, all that stuff and then canals need to close up.

But anyway, it blew all the bridges out some of the main canals and all that water flushed out. And then because I remember in Homosassa, water is always clear but it was in such a drought that it shocked the aqua first and pump all of these nutrients and all these aqua first that weren't there anymore out in the Gulf of Mexico because all those things are connected. They are springs out there in the gulf. It'll start energy bloom up there that I could take this right here are red can and [indiscernible] [01:19:21] and you couldn't see it. Fish were there but you couldn't see and that was like the algae bloom was so bad then I use fishing in May, I had to come back down here and fish.

Interviewer: How long did that will last?

Tommy Locke: The algae bloom?

Interviewer: Yes.

Tommy Locke: The algae bloom lasted [indiscernible] [01:19:39]. It can go all the way through the summer and it was in like November and then it was gone. That was when I tip or drop down low enough to get, you know, get it out of the 80s.

Interviewer: And where was it?

Tommy Locke: That was in, it's is actually from Chassahowitzka point south to almost there at peak.

Interviewer: Is that farthest... [01:20:00]

Tommy Locke: North of Tampa Bay.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Tommy Locke: But that was that same year we had that red tide down there because it was I remember it was like 24 inches of rain we got that cold front they had the same thing up there and it was just like okay, that's too much water and shut down through and pumped down the Gulf out there. Now, algae bloom other when my three miles offshore and rather onshore [indiscernible] [01:20:22].

Interviewer: So, for that one you actually – you moved your fishing area and you came down here to fish.

Tommy Locke: I was already fishing here.

Interviewer: You're already fishing here.

Tommy Locke: But I still went back to Homosassa in the month of May and fish through 2006 or seven. And then, the fishery fell off so bad up there and I didn't go back. I might go back now because it's going to pick back up again because it's just a unique place to fly fish tarpon. So, just a fishery.

Female Speaker: Big tarpon.

Tommy Locke: Big tarpon – yeah, so were records come from.

Interviewer: So, the fishery decline in that area?

Tommy Locke: Drop.

Interviewer: Drop?

Tommy Locke: Yeah, because I like the freshwater flow that was coming out used to wiki watching river they, they, they measured the height of the water and offered for stuff by the height of the bowl, the bowl so when that comes up out of spring in wiki was spring to attraction. When I was younger and then starting out in the mid 80's and early the early 80's, the mid 80's early mid 80's. The water bowl six and a half feet high come up on the spring and it went down to like six inches. But they develop the area there, it was just same hills and stuff like that. That should never been developed but anyways, I did. And now, it's back up is backup like three and a half four feet.

So, I think the decline, it wasn't the fish and water there, there was several things that happened. The shrimp industry, the bait shrimp industry increased from 12 boats to 90 boats. And so, the tarp and we'll get behind [01:22:00] those at night stay out there offshore. But that spawning activity coming around the full moons but there's like last year they said the fish will back again in numbers that they were and I got real good friend of mine that I'm not very good. Not really good we get. First time it's been that good probably since.

Female Speaker: Compare to what?

Tommy Locke: Late 90's. So, I got that drought really there was different down here is a different effect, these are these are more of the spawning fish that are here. I mean, a grant passes a spawning aggregate of a lot of our tarpon in the world. I mean in our area, and this is one of major places that fish concentrated in this past that's why they called it tarpon capital. This like – no, they live in the keys they live and they spawn these other places, but largest concentration of spawning aggregate and they spawned in May, June, July sometimes in August. And they use it past and area to get together and always going back and forth and around that moon phase y'all get together and when that moon phase when everyone offshore the spawn like it take off you know 60 to 100 miles offshore go to depth to like 200 feet, 300 feet released a rag for a lot of booming next day.

They're back in the past or they're moving around, but that is a spawning aggregate gathering place for this fish to offshore spawn. I mean, there they spawn up now and go off and probably the Atlantic too. But this is the largest concentration spawning aggregate, that's why this is so critical for a target fishery in the state. I, mean they do spawn you know somewhere else. They really do concentrate here real heavy during that spawning aggregate that's why we got rid of the PTDS and all this other things was devastating our carbon fishery, was the freshmen here very conservation minded on fishery we don't try to beat him up, want to catch him oh, my great grandkids to catch these things, but... [01:24:00]

Interviewer: You said, you kind of are at the tough spot because on one hand, you don't want to advertise it and make it an ugly thing. But you also want it, your track. What's your job? I'm sorry, where you guys from?

Female Speaker: So, we both worked for NOAA.

Interviewer: Okay.

Female Speaker: Yeah.

Interviewer: So, I think the big problem with people, the 2018 when people get now all this information, good, bad and the ugly is that they're not educating people on the facts of what's really happening. So, people aren't becoming part of the solution. They're just yelling and screaming, and that's all they're doing. So, then if you can educate people to say, okay, so this is what's happening, talk to your politicians or do whatever you do, but also in your own home. You know, don't use these sprays, don't use these soaps like be a part of it's not just fiction that's a big problem.

Tommy Locke: All our parts and everything we [overlapping conversation] [01:24:55] good for the ecosystem. We don't use things to have phosphates.

Female Speaker: Yeah.

Tommy Locke: Because, okay, there's another one, our industry phosphate meant to be in brown and not meant to be on our clothes, so...

Interviewer: But I think that a lot of people they're like, oh, what can I do? But, you know, getting your 10 minutes of fame on the news isn't going to help, what's going to help is educating your friends and making sure your community is aware of the problem and how they can better educate and help people and really fix the problem instead of just strengthen on it.

Tommy Locke: Yeah. And then, [indiscernible] [01:25:29] or shouldn't be political, but like, they want a Green New Deal. Okay, Green New Deal is taking care of our micro ecosystems. Everything else takes care of ourselves. We take care of every little Bay and Estuary. Climate changes there climate change, yeah, climate changes beginning of time so I don't go into the climate change saying I don't, I don't buy that. What I do buy is you turn [01:26:00] something into your turn the Arizona into a farming region. Think about that, okay desert farm region. No. Yeah, so it was like if you take care of what Mother Nature gave us take care of our ecosystem. I think everything else will take care of itself.

We can live in harmony with this place. You know, which is like and but, but then we didn't needing to educate the people. And really, the flows and people that are running their mouth about things they don't and go into places. And people start running their mouth and I said, oh, don't do this. And then, finally I can't take she hits me don't say anything, I'm saying that as I'm falling, I can't take it. So like, this is the stupidest thing I've ever heard. Don't you be blowing snook up these guys want to go from victory came in see you, I was already killed because he was just lying to the people that were there. And try to burn out that was like oh, no, no, no. No, you're – don't do this not my town.

Interviewer: Yeah. What do you think of the current monitoring and forecasting of red tide? And do you have any suggestions for how could be?

Tommy Locke: The only way that they can do that as amount of fuels that are coming out in wind direction. We can't monitor that really.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Tommy Locke: I mean, they can monitor the density, but they can't predict it. The only thing that we've take we got a lot of red water. We got a lot of water flow coming out we got a lot of nutrients coming out. Okay, we got some west wind possibility we might get some red tide. That's the only warning system you can have. Then we don't know what kind of rainfall we're going to get. We don't know what kind of nutrients are going to come out to do spawn red tide.

Interviewer: Have you noticed any other algae blooms or any other environmental...

Tommy Locke: I do see different algae blooms but generally when I [01:28:00] see around here I mean nutrients grasses and stuff like that – yes, I do see a lot of that stuff but those do help but we need more plants you know like our natural seabeds that grow and stay there and not nutrient grasses it free and flowing the tides and then go up on the shoreline and die and decay because I think that's just continuing cycle right there. So, we need it more things are in as far as the algae blooms and stuff I've seen around here generally is from rainfall coming out nutrients and kick it off like that in the wind directions and tides, it move stuff around there's nothing we can do that can we know what a generally water tides or winds can affect anything that's on surface referred analogy bone.

Interviewer: Yeah. So, I think we've covered a lot of information.

Tommy Locke: Good, good. I want to help everything I can help. I just...

Interviewer: Scarlet, do you have any other questions?

Female Speaker: I don't think so, I mean we cover quite a bit.

Tommy Locke: Good, good timing.

Interviewer: You did good job the timelines given us some really good years and it's really helpful.

Tommy Locke: And you – I mean, you can get this little bit closer to if you look at if you can get if you can get the hour go look at the, the outflow records that about [indiscernible] [01:29:32]

Interviewer: Yeah, no, we're looking on it.

Tommy Locke: So, and you see in my life see in my day might be off a little bit, but I guarantee it, you can correlate red tides to that. I can't prove it but I guarantee you can...

Female Speaker: Well, like BTT, they do a lot of fish tagging and that kind of stuff. And they haven't released it yet. But one of the things they're looking at is the way the fish move wants to at least is happened and where they go. And not that you can definitively saying [01:30:00] you're the you know, you're the smoking gun but if you the more you can back it up with this correlates with this release or this fishermen this way because of this happening it's you can prove that there is a reaction to that release.

Interviewer: Yeah, yeah.

Tommy Locke: When, in the fishery, you know, like a \$3.1 billion in your industry.

Interviewer: Yeah.



Tommy Locke: Make sure that 800 million or whatever.

Female Speaker: And people you know, realizing that the entire coast of Florida and nobody wants to go to the center of Florida unless you like courses been a peek and I like horses, but I mean, if, if the...

Tommy Locke: Want to know this on.

Female Speaker: If the fishery fails and the water fails and the Estuary and the, everything's failed, nobody's coming forward any more.

Tommy Locke: Now, I'll quit I'll leave [indiscernible] [01:30:49].

Female Speaker: And that's what I've been like where would we go. We go probably to a different country.

Tommy Locke: Move on probably.

Interviewer: Which you move down to the like east.

Female Speaker: We talk about it.

Tommy Locke: Something happened and it messed up in my fishery around everywhere I get to do it. I mean, I fish a lot to Keys now I know why the Keys because of the traffic and the Keys and the traffic and if I had a place on the bay where I didn't have to go out I just get my boat in the fishing and come back, that'd be great.

Interviewer: I'm surprised that you talked about the path to red tide during the tournament down by like Key Largo in that area.

Tommy Locke: Key Largo, yeah, I loved Key Largo.

Interviewer: Is that a regular today?

Tommy Locke: No.

Interviewer: Okay.

Tommy Locke: Rare, rare. Very, very [indiscernible] [01:31:40] ocean there.

Interviewer: Because we kind of got the impression because we've talked to people down on the Everglades and we kind of got the impression that that's kind of where the red tide peek there's out, right around there. Yeah.

Tommy Locke: Which it was just you know, that you don't have the fuel down here. You just think about it you got Florida Keys, where you going to get the fuel [01:32:00].

The only thing at this time what caused the hurricane. Armor went in there and restored all that stuff and then your four by does come up there but 1972 like there wasn't any you know another one I think it was in the 40 sometime they have real bad word it about killed the, it might have been know what hurricane was like that, that came to like that and then it was after that the commercial fishery and a lot more commercial fishing and the keys back then there was anything. This is you know the railroad got killed during that flyover and everything after that the fishery red tide and this then with the fisherman. So, we just walked out the commercial fishery down there.

Female Speaker: Well, and if you think about the keys, this is under theory he's got, we walk outside and it's the famous red tide I've ever went that's red tide people down there they don't experience it like we do. So, it could be happening and they'd be like, what the hell's going on? You know, they're not looking at it like that red tide that they don't experience it on a yearly basis like we do.

Tommy Locke: They're hardly rarely see it down there. I mean, just because there's another...

Female Speaker: So, even that happen they may not realize that that could be what it is.

Tommy Locke: They do get it occasionally in their place, but not, not that often there because the semi I think about the whole Everglades it's all freshwater pretty much on it outside. You know, then it would be more freshwater and be better fishery if we had the water going down there naturally and split there.

Female Speaker: So, you're about [indiscernible] [01:33:30] in not going south so they don't have that feel that's getting pumped out the other side. Was it 2016 where the blue green algae hit Port St. Lucie the toxic like?

Tommy Locke: Yeah, that was 2016 or 15.

Female Speaker: And that was the big really South Port St. Lucie side.

Tommy Locke: That was Lucie side.

Female Speaker: I don't know how people can deny that these things are connected, but...

Tommy Locke: They had to go first time they've got red tide this side was this year.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Tommy Locke: red tide kill everything there, the equip dump went out here and it really put it on that side over there because [01:34:00] they dumped too much on this side. They don't go that side then the red tide. And then some of the guys said were no red tide around there and they came around to the Gulf Stream and I called who's sit on that.

That stuff was right there was like that water there goes that water goes when it comes out to St. Lucie there it goes south with all the Gulf [indiscernible] [01:34:22] like this. And so, and it pushed it right down south down there that...

Female Speaker: My friend lives in Boca Raton and she said they were experiencing red tide over there and everyone up there likes, what is happening we're dying on the beach because...

Tommy Locke: Like it was all that water dumping out and then going that way it's just like the craziest thing in no, don't know it came around in their side. Well, still have had fuel you know that's Atlantic Ocean you just don't have the concentration unless it's coming from somewhere for red tide to attach it, I was like great. What come around from the Gulf? No, it's not. The Gulf Stream so far is 100 mile offshore here it's not near what we're doing. So, it was like – yeah.

Female Speaker: What do you do for now?

Interviewer: So, I work in Social Science. So, I worked for an anthropologist. So, we interview fishermen and try to figure out what's going on.

Female Speaker 1: I'm on the Biology side. So, I'm currently working on the...

Tommy Locke: So, you really into this.

Female Speaker 1: Well, I'm more the fish side, but I'm currently working on the red grouper Gulf assessment. So,

Tommy Locke: Are they coming out closing it down or some.

Female Speaker 1: Not talking about closing it down. But the red tides tend to affect the groupers quite a bit and we're just trying to catch thing...

Tommy Locke: I didn't see any grouper other than the goliath grouper floating around. And then like I said, I don't know how many really got killed. But I saw six this past week out in Pine Island, big one, swimming around the Bay in there. So, I don't think they got killed. I think they just floated for a long time.

Female Speaker: And they're quite beside to see so.

Tommy Locke: Yeah. I had a big.

Interviewer: Yeah. Is there anything else that y'all want to add about [01:36:00] red tides in this area or anything else?

Tommy Locke: No, just you know, just the flows is a big thing you know, what, what you know where we're at with just that what's causing it?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Tommy Locke: You know what, what why do we have red tide so bad? And that's...

Female Speaker: If anything, I would say that you know, red tide like that so that's not really the problem that is a...

Tommy Locke: [overlapping conversation] [01:36:28].

Interviewer: Yeah. Right.

Tommy Locke: There's no lock in this. This is all development, right?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Tommy Locke: I get past this, I guess in the forums. And I actually get into developments. The Naples down there, there's old tide in. There's a situation where things are still far.

Interviewer: But that, that drainage from, from these developments that's coming out right?

Tommy Locke: Yeah, in the Everglades.

Interviewer: But the Everglades as we said you know that doesn't have as much of a...

Tommy Locke: Didn't have as much red tide.

Interviewer: red tide.

Tommy Locke: But there's not, there's not a whole lot of development there either way. So, these are all this all got shut down. This was a future in development this all port Everglades now.

Interviewer: Yeah. Right, pick in strain safe for us.

Tommy Locke: So, they close that down. But you can see that I had it all planning at one time.

Interviewer: Yeah. Are they still planning to develop there?

Tommy Locke: No, no. It just no...

Female Speaker: It's protected.

Interviewer: It's protected now?

Tommy Locke: National or state honorary pick in strain.

Female Speaker: Red tide is unnatural occurring algae, but what happened in 2010 was so [01:38:00] unnatural. And that is what the intensity of it just proves that not only is the flows out of Okeechobee, unnatural and fueling it, but just the general development of Florida and the – what it be, be just like nobody is consciously aware of what they're putting out. So, if the entire state gets behind selecting what we have in our resources, then we'll all be better for it. That's I mean, but that's common sense. I mean, I'm saying that you guys know that.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Tommy Locke: And that's why I talked to I talked to Aaron Adams quite a bit in scientists that I talked to quite a bit is because they can't do they, they can't see what I've seen.

Female Speaker: There, they don't have the time...

Tommy Locke: They don't have the time on the water – yeah. They can't, they got too much to think about. And then, there's, there's some other people a lot of them that say they know a lot of big BS or but they're not really concerned about their love their ecosystem and live in I want to be part of it and live in it and teach people out there. My main thing got because I teach people how to do it.

Female Speaker: Because we're passionate about where we live in our fishery as whole he and I both went to Webinars went to we talked to scientists, we went to the conservation groups and became educated hyper educated on it. We think, but I'm...

Tommy Locke: I miss some things.

Female Speaker: Yeah. And we...

Tommy Locke: But I got the general...

Female Speaker: But generally you go out in the news, hear people talking to you, I want to tell that there's a lot of misinformation and people just generally are, you know, everyone's got the answer, but it's not a united front and if it becomes a united front, then we have a chance at saving state.

Interviewer: So, I have a couple of consent forums. This is to show if you feel you know comfortable with everything you said during this interview, then we can share the audio, we have a website called voices of the fisheries and [01:40:00] we're putting it together and sharing coral histories from fisherman and some.

Female Speaker: You know, I end up like I got all of my calls all over the summer work about retired and I've referred them to you guys quite a bit if they wanted to ask some questions.

Female Speaker: Yeah. Okay.

Tommy Locke: What's the date?

Female Speaker: In 2017. It was my friend's birthday.

Tommy Locke: And who?

Female Speaker: Sarah's birthday.

Interviewer: That's an awesome thing and you get to go around in interviewing all this...

Tommy Locke: 19 then, I can't believe.

Female Speaker: It well, I mean, you guys have so much more knowledge and experience on the water than we do. It really you know, we and part of the problem with the grouper is, you know, we've looked at Florida State that they do have the cell count data, but there's the concern of we know what's happening in surface waters. But like what happens underneath is that where the grouper's like, there's still a lot of stuff we don't know. And our, we're not really we don't have the time or the money to do that research.

So, we got to find a way to get it done. Because we need to be able to account for this kind of stuff in the assessments if we know there was a big kill, and we put it in the model, we're counting for extra mortality, we're getting a better representation of what's going on, right? We don't want to say, ignore red tide and say, oh, the fishermen knock it down and that's not what happened. There was a natural, you know, Paulson mortality that you want to be able to capture. So, the great thing about this is, we're getting that history like the 1940's there could have been event so it gives us more sort of background to go back and try to develop the historical timeline of these really severe events because there's red tide every year. At some point, there's a threshold where it gets so bad and just everything dies that we want to be able to come up about.

Tommy Locke: And when I'm about like 46 that's what John's night said he remember there were so many grouper.

Female Speaker: Yeah, [01:42:00] see that's.

Tommy Locke: Then, got back then, there were all these other red tides unless they come out of the bay and stuff you know, I mean there's a lot of red grouper in the past. And I want to finish up...

Interviewer: Just the top one?

Tommy Locke: Oh, you want the top one?

Interviewer: Yeah. That's right.

Tommy Locke: But I haven't seen all the red tides and everything seeing any grouper really, the gags or anything, I didn't see anything like really coming up. And there's a lot of true blacks around here that we get more on inside better actually how inside of an early like March and April and be used to put fish a lot for tarpon and through threadfin and I come across a little boat out and it'd be like boom. And I was catching these blacks they were like, five, six pound eight, ten pounds, you know, blacks, but I never catching red grouper inside. They catch in the past I never catching red there. Hold on second.

Female Speaker: Red what?

Tommy Locke: Red grouper.

Female Speaker: I caught one.

Tommy Locke: Where?

Female Speaker: Offshore.

Tommy Locke: Oh, no you catch them offshore.

Female Speaker: Oh, inshore.

Tommy Locke: No, no I said in the base, I never seen in the bay. I see him in the past anywhere rocks and stuff like that. But up and home I said we didn't catch him in inshore either there's all gags.

Female Speaker: One of the big gags we have with them is like the, the young of the year where do they go very few people catching even all the Florida State surveys that they do nobody really catches them so.

Tommy Locke: Yeah, it'll be interesting to find that out because I just saw that in most of stuff I'm at least you have been homeless last year at least 32 foot of water when we start catching reds, and only a certain time of year. I get in sometime all that.

Interviewer: Oh, I just hope this red tide goes away for good. You guys have such clear years because this was just.

Female Speaker: [01:44:00] Yeah, yeah. I mean, I think I said it before but the islands kind of operating in a state of unease and panic that it might occur again because if our



repeat visitors, clients, everybody if they feel like well, so I'm not going to spend \$5,000 to down there per week if I don't know if I can walk outside. It's but I think...

Tommy Locke: What a fact is that area move down there that's my second one I got a new boat one got bailed on me on this boat right here and I've had a couple more bail on me and I have sold that boat because business is down and so I sell boat like real quick and then sold a boat, owe from my new one I usually know my boat dead.

Interviewer: And yeah, you're saying like even back in 98 even though it lasted a year, there wasn't that same level you can [indiscernible] [01:44:52].

Tommy Locke: You just move around. You can move around at a lot of time. This time it just sudden all the way now. It like, like I said, this right here goes all the way to Bonita Springs. And this one right here goes all the way to the middle of Boca Grande. I didn't see much on this one. It doesn't go south of the past Boca Grande pass. This one right here went all the way to Bonita Springs.

Female Speaker: Well, and there was during the 2018 Red Tide, there was just a helpless devastation across the board for people that were like we don't even know what to do people call, what are y'all doing about this red tide? What do you want us to do about the red tide pray it goes away, we, there's nothing you can do once it's there. So, it just this bad.

Tommy Locke: Live through it hopefully. Lives all the algae and stuff and it's gone and...

Female Speaker: Well, and then the long term, short, short term it sucks obviously. But long term hopefully, it got the awareness needed for people pay [01:46:00] attention to.

Interviewer: Yeah, I know, and it's been real interesting here and also from you and some other people that we've interviewed that like it is, it is a good thing. It is a needed natural I think.

Tommy Locke: Yeah. Very natural. It has been around before we were...

Interviewer: Is there anyone else in this area or even Northern Sarasota or something else that you think you know, would be really good to talk to about this would be a good person.

Tommy Locke: [indiscernible] [01:46:34]

Interviewer: I mean, we're doing the whole Gulf Coast, so...

Tommy Locke: Yeah, [indiscernible] [106:45] too because he's very familiar with all the red tides, David Malvon (phonetics).

Interviewer: Malvon?

Tommy Locke: Malvon.

Interviewer: He is in Tampa?

Tommy Locke: Yeah, Tampa. But he fish [indiscernible] [01:47:01] be very familiar with the red tide you know the school. 813-833-0312. And if I was to talk to somebody like down in the Everglades or something I tried to get hold of Steve Hub.

Female Speaker: What?

Female Speaker: Steve Hub.

Tommy Locke: Steve has more knowledge about [overlapping conversation] [01:47:38] he's top fishing in country and he'll be more than welcome to help you.

Interviewer: He's in Everglades.

Tommy Locke: Yes. I can give you his son, I don't have Steve number but I got his son Dustin which is I got down that, there I'll give you let me give you Dustin's number and give him a call and just tell him who you were then want to talk to you his dad about [01:48:00] red tide and freezers he knows all that stuff down there.

Female Speaker: You know, if you might what about...

Tommy Locke: And you can text Dustin he's a big texture. So, he's going to...

Female Speaker: Oh, [indiscernible] [01:48:12] more.

Tommy Locke: No, he just younger.

Female Speaker: Well, in the past, he's...

Tommy Locke: But he's actually pretty good, [indiscernible] [108:26] a good one around here his number is 305.

Interviewer: This is Dustin?

Tommy Locke: Dustin.

Interviewer: 305?

Tommy Locke: 305-360-1404.

Interviewer: Okay.

Tommy Locke: And Dustin [indiscernible] [108:42] he has been around listen to his dad forever. And Crag Brewer (phonetics) is another one. He is like in second generation fishing, got out of the keys. And he knows a lot about Florida Bay and the red tides and stuff there. I had Craigs is here, I might have Craigs in here. I think it was on my phone I lost last year.

[109:31]