

HenryRolandBlakely

Interviewer: Okay and we are here in Fort Myers Beach with...?

Henry Roland Blakely: Henry Blakely.

Interviewer: Okay.

Henry Roland Blakely: Henry Roland Blakely.

Interviewer: Okay, so you go by Roland?

Henry Roland Blakely: Everybody calls me Roland.

Interviewer: Okay cool. Yeah so thanks for meeting with us. And you are a stone crabber, correct? Do you target any other species?

Male Speaker: Kingfish.

Interviewer: Kingfish? Do you use stone crab for the stone crabbing season and then kingfish for the rest of the year?

Male Speaker: You can mix them together.

Interviewer: I can?

Henry Roland Blakely: Lot of time we are for king fishing in March and April. You know it will still be... my traps will still be up.

Interviewer: Yeah so you can actually do both of them in one trip?

Henry Roland Blakely: Exactly.

Interviewer: Okay any other species?

Henry Roland Blakely: Not in one trip but...

Interviewer: In the same season?

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay and then are there any other species you targeted or there are anything?

Henry Roland Blakely: No.

Interviewer: Okay and are you from Fort Myers Beach?

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah.

Interviewer: Yeah? And you have been fishing for...?

Henry Roland Blakely: All my life except that I have been doing other things along the line too so.

Interviewer: So I want to talk about red tide and most importantly the one that's been in this past year besides you know been really the what's big reason why we started doing this research is because we don't have this historical information about red tide in this area. We are going to need to move forward on kind of fixing this issue and combating it. And I want to start with kind of the first red tide that you remember and then kind of move forward in time and talk about other events whether they are large or small and then finally get to this year. So what's kind of... what's the first red tide do you remember in this area?

Henry Roland Blakely: Well that would be me fishing with dad years ago and we didn't have a clue about the years, dates and stuff. The first one I really [00:02:00] remember about one was I was driving a Pepsi truck. I was working for Pepsi. I was 18 or 19 years old and I had a route on Wednesdays took me to [Indiscernible] [00:02:15] and I remember road across the car lane and stopping the truck and looking at all... there was a mess. That red tide even had up in a little bit of surf which is being surfing a bit and you had a little roll of dead shrimp, it actually killed shrimp... big sized shrimp. It turned pink you know and it had just rolled all along this beach. Yeah I had never seen a killing shrimp before but that one did.

Interviewer: What year was that?

Henry Roland Blakely: I would have been 18 or 19 years old. I was born in 1949 so we are talking 1966 or 1967 one of those years. I don't know which year it was. I worked for Pepsi for a couple of years so.

Interviewer: So you weren't fishing at that point?

Henry Roland Blakely: Probably some... yeah probably some. I probably had a fishing boat you know, we're net fishing by then.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Henry Roland Blakely: And you know it was hard to make a living fishing so I took a job driving a Pepsi truck. But I would go fishing on the side on weekends and at night and whatnot.

Interviewer: Yeah. Do you know what the scale of that red tide was like how large it was the area that it affected?

Henry Roland Blakely: No because I wouldn't have been going around different places around by boat you know except for where I saw it at and that's... I mean like in the past when I have been when I have been offshore and the whole works I know where it is at. I can see it. But that one I didn't. I don't know the outside scales of it at all.

Interviewer: Even the causeway?

Henry Roland Blakely: Even the causeway was bad they *[indiscernible]* [00:03:55] and all that in the river, the river channel.

Interviewer: Is it an area that's [00:04:00] on this map... the area where you saw the fish die? Can you try?

Henry Roland Blakely: And what you can see of it and of course it was a lot smaller than that, but it just would have been a circle. It takes in all of the causeway. And whether I could see it on the beaches over like I could Blind Pass, I don't remember. I probably could but I still don't remember.

Interviewer: So do you remember what fish were the fish killed, what species or...?

Henry Roland Blakely: Oh everything you can think of?

Interviewer: Yeah?

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah all of them.

Interviewer: Was there anything that wasn't affected?

Henry Roland Blakely: Not that I am aware of. But that was a bad one. It was even killing a few tortoises you know and a few turtles.

Interviewer: Were there any you know clues or any reason like you thought that there was going to be a red tide in that area before or were you just driving through and you noticed it?

Henry Roland Blakely: Well I probably heard of it and saw it and smelt it and yeah just pulled over to look at it. We had red tide pretty regular you know even you might go a few years without any or without any or gotten bloomed up and start to killing things.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Henry Roland Blakely: The killing red tides have you know bloomed up where you can actually see the color of the water.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Henry Roland Blakely: Yes when it starts blooming yes it reminds you of clouds, you know white clouds and if you see them in fast motion they are blooming well that's what the red tide there so you can see water is blooming just like that. You can see that.

Interviewer: So when you talk about the regular red tides, they will have them, where you wouldn't see a fish killed what were those like? How would you notice that those were occurring?

Henry Roland Blakely: Well you could smell it you know and usually you could feel it in your eyes and nose and stuff but also you would realize that there are not any fish around there running away from it so [00:06:00] that... you know that would be about the only way you could really tell if there was any red tide because it wasn't out blooming red enough to see. You probably couldn't even see it with your eyes but you could smell it and it is a matter of deduction trying to figure out if a red tide is going on.

Interviewer: And it would impact the fishing. You noticed that the fish were not in the area but you didn't see any like fish killed?

Henry Roland Blakely: No. A lot of times you won't see any floating fish but there is still red tide there.

Interviewer: And how many of those... how many red tides have been in that category? How many of those would happen? Was it yearly or every other year?

Henry Roland Blakely: Not every year but and probably not even every other year. You know you might go a couple of years and then have it each year and then go two or three years and not have any until you notice that it is blooming up again. So in my lifetime I have probably seen ones bad enough to be killing fish even offshore killing groupers and stuff probably a dozen times.

Interviewer: So there were also red tides where you saw fish killed?

Henry Roland Blakely: Oh yeah.

Interviewer: And how often were those?

Henry Roland Blakely: I would say could be three or four year's maybe or something like that. I don't remember what the particular years were those but I can remember those dead fish would wind up forming what was called a tide line or a weed line. They would all gather along a long streak and you could go ride along that tide line looking at them.

Interviewer: Where is that area?

Henry Roland Blakely: *[indiscernible]* [00:07:37].

Interviewer: What are some areas when you think about the red tides that have occurred over time?

Henry Roland Blakely: When we were out here crabbing and stuff.

Interviewer: And these were the bad... these were the bad red tides that caused fish kills?

Henry Roland Blakely: Almost everything got on here... from here this way except I don't know why [08:00:00] we probably don't get out that deep, we will see how deep they have down.

Interviewer: We have another...

Henry Roland Blakely: We actually had almost everything you got on this from here to here.

Interviewer: Yeah? And is this an area that... how would you notice the red tide occurring?

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah by pulling traps and fishing nets used to be *[indiscernible]* [00:08:25].

Interviewer: Using kind of a *[indiscernible]* [00:08:31]?

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah we hardly ever got passed north passed Redfish Pass *[indiscernible]* [00:08:34].

Interviewer: Okay so not north the Redfish Pass?

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah we fished south.

Interviewer: And where is Redfish Pass?

Henry Roland Blakely: Let's see which one it is *[indiscernible]* [00:08:49].

Interviewer: Okay so is this the area... this entire pink area? Where there any areas that you noticed which the red tides throughout the year that were they didn't affect... areas that were impacted.

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah some areas weren't impacted at all or any other bloomed up enough to notice it.

Interviewer: When it was out here and you saw it out here in this area, was it also in the canals and was it also in the inside areas?

Henry Roland Blakely: Sometimes.

Interviewer: Yeah?

Henry Roland Blakely: Not always but sometimes.

Interviewer: Okay.

Henry Roland Blakely: You know a lot of times you would have a red tide inside and run out and then completely the other way around. This past one was inside and outside.

Interviewer: Yeah so is it normal for it to be inside and outside?

Henry Roland Blakely: Yes.

Interviewer: Yeah? Okay so that's also a normal thing? And then is this phase-ally different from the red tides that were more intense when you saw fish kills or like... so you were talking about red tides that happened every three or four years [00:10:00] and there would be some that were in a spot but you noticed because you could smell it and then there would be some where you could visibly see it and you could see... notice that there were dead fish in the water. Were those all... yeah were those all in this whole area? Yeah?

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah that's supposed to be the country that it covers [indiscernible] [00:10:22].

Interviewer: And when you noticed that would it be in certain patches or was it always kind of the whole area?

Henry Roland Blakely: No it gets in patches and a lot of times you can go across a piece of water in the morning and can't see anything that you know reminds you of red tide come back in the evening where you can see plenty of it so it bloomed up during the day.

Interviewer: Yeah? Are there areas that are always impacted or areas that are impacted worse than others?

Henry Roland Blakely: No I don't think so.

Interviewer: No?

Henry Roland Blakely: Not that I can put my finger on.

Interviewer: How [indiscernible] [00:11:06] you usually notice it or how I guess how far...?

Henry Roland Blakely: Down in the Naples maybe in [indiscernible] [00:11:10].

Interviewer: Yeah.

Henry Roland Blakely: We didn't fish down there a lot. We went down there fishing troves so you didn't have as good of an idea of what was going on there as you did by *[indiscernible]* [00:11:23].

Interviewer: Yeah.

Henry Roland Blakely: Right out here it was about two or three times during a week at least or more so you know what's going on out there.

Interviewer: So in that area when there has been red tide how long does the red tide usually last?

Henry Roland Blakely: It seems like it may last for maybe a couple of weeks you know and then it will die afterward so you really wouldn't notice it.

Interviewer: Has there ever been a red tide before this year that lasted more than a couple of weeks and that lasted for a longer period of time?

Henry Roland Blakely: That one we first talking that lasted a long time [00:12:00] and there were several others that lasted really less whether they lasted more than two weeks I couldn't remember. You know some of them lasted you know a week or so yeah. I couldn't put my finger on which one was...

Interviewer: Yeah.

Henry Roland Blakely: But over the years there have been a number or maybe a dozen fairly bad ones that I witnessed.

Interviewer: Was the really bad ones, how does that affect your fishing?

Henry Roland Blakely: It is hard. *[Chuckle]*

Interviewer: *[Chuckle]* In what ways do you know?

Henry Roland Blakely: Well I guess you can't catch anything.

Interviewer: Even with kingfish and stone crabs?

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah usually it doesn't hurt stone crabs that badly. They survive. They don't kill them. This one killed them.

Interviewer: Is this the first time that a red tide has killed stone crabs?

Henry Roland Blakely: Probably not but it is the first time I have noticed it.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Henry Roland Blakely: Even last year... when I talk about year our year starts in October so the year before this past October we put our trawlers off shore and we could hardly catch anything because of the red tide as it lasted that long. But I don't think it was killing them back then. I think it just battered them [*indiscernible*] [00:13:20] catch them.

Interviewer: Yeah so it's happened? You have had years in the past that have been really bad for stone crabs?

Henry Roland Blakely: I have seen years where offshore it has shrimp, they have pretty big shrimp of certain on top of the water drive from red tide.

Interviewer: So do you remember specifically any years that were particularly bad that stand out to you?

Henry Roland Blakely: No I can't. I can't.

Interviewer: But there have been?

Henry Roland Blakely: I remember them but I just don't know which years they were.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Henry Roland Blakely: I was mixing it with daddy and daddy [00:14:00] said it was the worst one in his life. You know he was here fishing 20 years where I was. Worst that he can remember was 1947.

Interviewer: Yeah?

Henry Roland Blakely: 1947 was a really bad one.

Interviewer: How would you say did he ask them how that compared to the one that we had this past year?

Henry Roland Blakely: Well he just talks about it as the worst that he has ever seen.

Interviewer: Yeah?

Henry Roland Blakely: However he didn't see this one. He is 89 years old now and he hasn't moved in 15 years so he doesn't even know. He only knows what we told him and what he saw on TV on this one. [*Chuckle*]

Interviewer: Yeah.



Henry Roland Blakely: He can't compare this one to that one and tell you which one is worse. But that one he claims was the worst one he has ever seen and that was in 1947.

Interviewer: So that has been your experience with red tide up until this past year?

Henry Roland Blakely: Uh-huh.

Interviewer: Okay and then with the 2018 red tide...

Unknown Female Speaker: *[indiscernible]* [00:14:57] recovery time in the areas were they were affected.

Interviewer: Yeah so you said that it doesn't really have an impact on your fishing or some years that it did so like in the years that it had an impact on stone crabbing.

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah well some years you can have red tide and it didn't impact so much on stone crabs where it would bother you if you were fishing for something.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Henry Roland Blakely: We almost haven't been fishing for anything. We have almost abandoned this you know so that's kind of tough going in right but...

Interviewer: So the years that were really bad what were those like? Do you have to target other species you rely more on?

Henry Roland Blakely: I may have to target other species yes.

Interviewer: Yeah? What have you done in the past...?

Henry Roland Blakely: It's your job.

Interviewer: *[Chuckle]*

Henry Roland Blakely: *[Chuckle]*

Interviewer: What have you done in the past when the fishing is bad due to red tide? You know how do you change your business, how do you adapt it?

Henry Roland Blakely: Well you can... I am Coast Guard licensed so I can rent a charter boat that kind of thing. I have a Master of Towing license so I go and run a tow once in a while that kind [00:16:00] of stuff. There was more money in that than there was in fishing to start with. It's just that I liked fishing. *[Chuckle]*

Interviewer: Yeah so you prefer commercial fishing to towing?

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah.

Interviewer: But you have done charters in the past because of issues from red tide?

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah I got lot of money. *[Chuckle]*

Interviewer: Yeah.

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah we got to thanks for doing fishing.

Interviewer: That's fun. So is this... is the red tide that's been... this past year has that been different from some of the other ones that you said were really bad in the past?

Henry Roland Blakely: Not necessarily different, just more of it.

Interviewer: Just more of it?

Henry Roland Blakely: A couple more areas all at once. All the times it will bloom up here and the next thing you know some of them are there and not here. Yeah it moves around. I guess its wind blowing or something moves it.

Interviewer: So I kind of want to draw... I want to have you try the areas that you noticed were affected by red tide on this map.

Henry Roland Blakely: On this past one?

Interviewer: Yeah until 2018.

Henry Roland Blakely: Okay I want to show you where I got traps and for sure it was red tide there?

Interviewer: Yeah. *[indiscernible] [00:17:11]*

Henry Roland Blakely: It's a 26 and a 26, really get easy... a 20 and a 20.

Interviewer: Thirty?

Henry Roland Blakely: A 20. There is a 20.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Henry Roland Blakely: I got traps there and I also knew there was red tide there.

Interviewer: Okay, what if you were going to draw an area...?

Henry Roland Blakely: I am going to. I am thinking about it. Let me see the map here. Look over here that was around 20 and 20.

Interviewer: Okay and then we can... if this is hard to see we can lift it p and make sure... [00:18:00]

Henry Roland Blakely: 25, 28, 26, 20... there... and 83, 20 is also there. Okay.

Interviewer: So how large is that area and if you want to just draw a circle around the area...?

Henry Roland Blakely: We are probably talking like this.

Interviewer: So go ahead and draw that shape right there on that paper.

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah its 60 feet. Let's see where 60 feet is... oh this is in fathoms, it's okay?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Henry Roland Blakely: Oh that's *[Indiscernible]* [00:18:31] occasionally get in here so that's probably a line along there.

Interviewer: And then would this complete the circle or...?

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah. I don't even know if we fish up in here but there is plenty of red tide in there.

Interviewer: So we complete every *[indiscernible]* [00:18:57] because I am going to take this and I am digitize that, okay.

Henry Roland Blakely: *[Indiscernible]* [00:19:06].

Interviewer: So this is your whole fishing area?

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah for now. We are not net fishing anymore. Net fishing we would be running around even more you know. We wouldn't be that far off shore either.

Interviewer: So if we are comparing this.

Henry Roland Blakely: We would be out here in 20 feet of water.

Interviewer: So we are comparing this you know to kind of the shapes you saw the tides before... it would be in this area?

Henry Roland Blakely: Uh-huh.

Interviewer: And you never noticed them all the way out here?

Henry Roland Blakely: Oh yeah.

Interviewer: You have before?

Henry Roland Blakely: Oh yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. Yeah so this is...

Henry Roland Blakely: Over the years we wound up crabbing in here in 20 and 30 feet of water and over the years we worked farther and farther off shore.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Henry Roland Blakely: So what happened out here 20 years ago you might not have noticed because you might not have went out there.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Henry Roland Blakely: That didn't mean there wasn't one there. It just means you didn't go see it. [00:20:00]

Interviewer: So this is the entire area that is affected by the red tide?

Henry Roland Blakely: For this past one yes because that was the area I worked in.

Interviewer: And then what about other areas if we are talking about previous red tides? Are there other areas where you have seen it?

Henry Roland Blakely: Oh yeah along the shore line in 20 or 30 feet of water from here all the way down to Marco.

Interviewer: Yeah?

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah.

Interviewer: And could you draw that too?

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah I will although that's not going to be so easy to draw but there is the cape. That's the wrong cape. This is the cape I am thinking of. See there we used to pump fish all around this country and all the way to *[indiscernible]* [00:20:44].

Interviewer: Okay.

Henry Roland Blakely: But we wouldn't be out this far. We would be in this territory.

Interviewer: Okay so here?

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah not even that deep. See that's seven fathoms. That's 42 feet. We did hardly get past three or four fathoms.

Interviewer: Okay so that's here?

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay and that's more towards... and that's not just following the coast?

Henry Roland Blakely: Exactly.

Interviewer: Okay and is that more...?

Henry Roland Blakely: That's where you found... that's the depth of water where you usually found the fishes.

Interviewer: And that's when you were pumping up fish?

Henry Roland Blakely: Right pumping up fish and *[indiscernible]* [00:21:24].

Interviewer: So when was is the year of ranch of that?

Henry Roland Blakely: Since I was 16 years old I have been to net ban.

Interviewer: Okay net ban was in 1994?

Henry Roland Blakely: Something like that yeah. I was just going to say 1995 but I think it was maybe 1994. It's been a long time.

Interviewer: Okay so then after the net ban how did that change your fishing? What did you do? [00:22:00]

Henry Roland Blakely: I went stone crabbing.

Interviewer: Then you went stone crabbing? Okay so after that that's when you started noticing it in this area because you were out in this area?

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah.

Interviewer: But you have seen red tides throughout this whole... all the areas that we have talked about?

Henry Roland Blakely: Oh yeah.

Interviewer: Yeah?

Henry Roland Blakely: Every three or four years or so yes.

Interviewer: And...

Henry Roland Blakely: Actually after the net ban I really got on a dredge boated for a while and that's what how I ended up with a towing license so I could work on tow bridges because you know you didn't anticipate fishing much anymore but I did decide [indiscernible] [00:22:39] I went stone crabbing so I was doing good for four or five years. That was on the Carolina shores in North Carolina -- Charleston South Carolina.

Interviewer: So when it was... what you describe as being a regular red tide here where it wasn't that bad but you could just kind of smell it and you noticed that the fishing wasn't as good.

Henry Roland Blakely: And you might see a few small fish off shore around the [indiscernible] [00:23:07].

Interviewer: Yeah okay so you would notice of your small fish, what type of fish?

Henry Roland Blakely: That's the first thing you notice about red tide [indiscernible] [00:23:16] red tide.

Interviewer: So in those regular red tide years where it wasn't very heavy would it be this whole area?

Henry Roland Blakely: No just in spots.

Interviewer: In spots? And it would change throughout?

Henry Roland Blakely: It's pretty spotty.

Interviewer: And the 2018 that suffers when you have noticed that's longer than a couple of weeks?

Henry Roland Blakely: A couple of years [Chuckle] because it's been the longest one that I can remember.

Interviewer: Yeah. How long would you have to avoid [00:24:00] the spot like once you know you have red tide?

Henry Roland Blakely: For fishing or...?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Henry Roland Blakely: That... actually that depends on the species also because some of the fish were running down the shore are migratory and some of them aren't and it's kind *[indiscernible]* [00:24:16] they run off shore. Even if there is a red tide and they are going to die they all deposit their eggs and then do.

Interviewer: Why do you think this year has been worse than other years?

Henry Roland Blakely: I don't have a clue with the exception of over population. I really don't know why. Mother Nature can't keep up with this.

Interviewer: Are there any clues like before a red tide besides seeing fish in the water are there any other clues that you could tell that it was going to be bad or that it was coming in or anything like that?

Henry Roland Blakely: None. You would have to be able to *[indiscernible]* [00:25:03].

Interviewer: Are there any management strategies or ideas that you think would kind of help the impact of a tide in this area?

Henry Roland Blakely: You know I don't know. They are claiming that nutrients are making it bloom faster and more. That's quite possible. How are you going to stop them? I don't have an exact count but red tides have been there forever. It is going to be there forever. How do you slow these big blooms down? I don't have a clue.

Interviewer: Do you think that there is going to be... how long do you think... you know this red tide just ended. Are you still seeing impacts from it? Are there still...?

Henry Roland Blakely: Well we are still hunting crabs. *[Chuckle]*

Interviewer: Yeah. *[Chuckle]* how long do you think before [00:26:00] the stone crab... like before the next stone crab season? Do you think this is going to impact you for...?

Henry Roland Blakely: It is going to be a while because right now I am just late in the season getting close to the summer time where you are supposed to have all the females... we have all the little female crabs that are unloading their eggs in the mornings *[indiscernible]* [00:26:22] they don't have any tail. They don't swim. Blue crabs can take of immediately. Stone crabs can't.

Interviewer: Have you ever seen red tide affect blue crabs?

Henry Roland Blakely: Not a lot. Not like this one. This one really... this one actually killed the crabs... lots of them.

Interviewer: Where did you see that?

Henry Roland Blakely: All over. Blue crabs would try to get on the island and try to get out of the water to breathe air I guess. Blue crabs and shrimp did that.

Interviewer: Yeah?

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah you see a lot of that.

Interviewer: So now I am noticing like the crabs, the babies and the traps and everything. Do you think that means that you are in for another year where it's going to be a tough stone crabbing year?

Henry Roland Blakely: I think it is going to be three or four years.

Interviewer: Three or four years before its back to being normal?

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah. We are taking claws off of the stone crab this year and of course we are talking about seasons and the season already here. We are taking claws off of the stone crab. The next season you catch that same crab and you got a little crab off or a big crab. Well then the next season you don't notice that. So obviously the way it's figured it is that in two years [*indiscernible*] [00:27:34] and you notice them big crab or little claws.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Henry Roland Blakely: So it looks like a couple of years and the possibility of three or four years, I don't know. I feel it's going to take three or four years for them to come back.

Interviewer: How does that impact your business?

Henry Roland Blakely: It's ruined the traps here.

Interviewer: What do you do? How do you adapt? How do you change [00:28:00] to make up for it?

Henry Roland Blakely: You just have to find something else to do.

Interviewer: Yeah?

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah.

Interviewer: And you have been able to do that?

Henry Roland Blakely: Oh yeah.



Interviewer: Yeah?

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah you have to make it work. *[Chuckle]*

Interviewer: *[Chuckle]* through another type of fishing?

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah I run a charter boat.

Interviewer: Yeah?

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah. And in the last few years I have started collecting social security and my wife still works, so we get by. *[Chuckle]*

Interviewer: Have you noticed any changes in spotting aggregations or fish distributions over the years due to red tide?

Henry Roland Blakely: Due to red tide? No I don't think so.

Interviewer: What about in general?

Henry Roland Blakely: I would say *[indiscernible]* [00:28:47] that doesn't mean it is so, but it sure is noticeable when they take off and run. They can run right into that red tide and kill themselves, they don't *[indiscernible]* [00:29:04] *[Chuckle]* commit suicide.

Interviewer: Yeah, now we have heard that of them just running straight and kind of popping up to the surface.

Henry Roland Blakely: Well it takes a while but they start swimming around in crazy circles and stuff.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Henry Roland Blakely: They are suffocating is what they are doing.

Interviewer: Uh-huh. So what about the health issues because you know you suddenly notice that... like it makes breathing more difficult?

Henry Roland Blakely: Everybody's noses and eyes water.

Interviewer: Has that ever... you know what impact does that have? Does that mean that you don't want to go out fishing that day or...?

Henry Roland Blakely: No it doesn't bother me. You know it's just part of it. It doesn't really bother me that much. I notice it when I am working but you know you just notice it for a second and then you go about your business.

Interviewer: Yeah do you work with a crew? [00:30:00]

Henry Roland Blakely: No not now. I used to.

Interviewer: Yeah?

Henry Roland Blakely: I have downsized. I just go by myself now in a 24 foot [indiscernible] [00:30:08].

Interviewer: Why did you downsize?

Henry Roland Blakely: You know when you get old you get [indiscernible] [00:30:10] about earning.

Interviewer: [Chuckle]

Henry Roland Blakely: [Chuckle] that's hard work.

Interviewer: Yeah I know. I know.

Henry Roland Blakely: I used to run 3600 [indiscernible] [00:30:18]. I run 600 now.

Interviewer: Oh wow! Okay yeah that's a big... that's a big change. Yeah so, I don't know, do you have any more... let's see... let me make sure here... is there anything else that you wanted to add?

Henry Roland Blakely: Well I suppose we have pretty much covered everything I can think of.

Interviewer: What about when you charter... I imagine that this red tide also affects your charter business?

Henry Roland Blakely: Big time. The charter I rented last year this time... two or three a week and [indiscernible] [00:31:07] all those folks they weren't... you know they went on the big time media. There wasn't any fish that I didn't already catch so when you do take out the fish you know... I was lucky to catch a little bit of stuff.

Interviewer: Do you think a lot of people turned to charter or commercial fishermen and that kind of also makes it more competitive or...?

Henry Roland Blakely: Probably not because you have to be coast guard licensed to start and to be able to go do it so it is kind of hard to bounce back and forth doing that.

Interviewer: So how long have you also been charting... chartering?

Henry Roland Blakely: Well just off and on stuff almost all my life.

Interviewer: Yeah?

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah.

Interviewer: But then how...?

Henry Roland Blakely: My mom used to make me go to church. There was a guy in church that taught me and would take me fishing after church so I was going back then [00:32:00] as a kid.

Interviewer: So after the net ban you did the tow boating which...?

Henry Roland Blakely: In September yes mostly out in the Bahamas.

Interviewer: And that's what you got the coast guard at the same time or later?

Henry Roland Blakely: Well no you had to have a coast guard license to even start or to even do it. I wound up getting my Master of Towing license when I was [indiscernible] [00:32:23] way back in my early 20s so I have been licensed for a long time.

Interviewer: And you said before this past red tide you were doing chartered trip two or three times a week?

Henry Roland Blakely: Uh-huh yeah this time of year we were doing two or three charters a week... sometimes more.

Interviewer: So would you mostly charter during high season or during the winter?

Henry Roland Blakely: Mostly... I don't charter my own boat. I go work in somebody else's boat and run the boat for them. You know I just do it when they need me you know. Sometimes they don't need me. One of the other [indiscernible] [00:33:10] two or three captains might be going with the charter. When they need me I go if I am not busy.

Interviewer: So let's say a client or a group of clients and you would go out and guide and run their boat. They haven't been... they weren't going out a lot last year like the other times?

Henry Roland Blakely: Right now yeah.

Interviewer: Yeah? Were they still in this area or did they...? Yeah?

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah.

Interviewer: And they are local?

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah I am going to do a charter for them on Monday.

Interviewer: Okay but it just stopped for a while because of the red tide?

Henry Roland Blakely: It stopped because they don't have any clients wanting to go and give them money. *[Chuckle]*

Interviewer: Yeah so...

Henry Roland Blakely: They didn't stop on purpose. *[Chuckle]*

Interviewer: Yeah but I guess what I am wondering is the difference between you know not having clients and not being able to catch fish.

Henry Roland Blakely: Yes same thing, yeah.

Interviewer: Yeah. [00:34:00]

Henry Roland Blakely: The clients would be there I am certain if it hadn't been for those red tides. You might as well quit fishing if you can't catch anything. *[Chuckle]*

Interviewer: Yeah. *[Chuckle]*

Henry Roland Blakely: Anything for a freebie. They will even eat the fish if they catch them which I don't believe that's true at all because I have been eating red tide killed fish all my life. When the red tide was off shore you could *[indiscernible]* [00:34:23] the fish were still on the top of the water and alive and upside down. You could just dip your net and pick them up.

Interviewer: Have you done it?

Henry Roland Blakely: Oh yeah. Yeah dip the net, pick them up and fry them.

Interviewer: Yeah no problem?

Henry Roland Blakely: No problem there... delicious. *[Chuckle]*

Interviewer: *[Chuckle]*

Henry Roland Blakely: *[Indiscernible]* [00:34:35] doesn't necessarily get in there.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Henry Roland Blakely: I have eaten a lot of them. I have been around for a long time and it hasn't killed me yet. *[Chuckle]*

Interviewer: *[Chuckle]*

Henry Roland Blakely: Why should I start worrying about it now? *[Chuckle]*

Interviewer: The red tide fish! *[Chuckle]* this is the first time I have heard of somebody.

Henry Roland Blakely: Really?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Henry Roland Blakely: Oh alright.

Interviewer: I think it scares people.

Henry Roland Blakely: My son in law caught a truck load of snooks in the canal when we had a red tide probably eight or ten years ago now. It was dying. You are not supposed to catch them and *[indiscernible]* [00:35:15].

Interviewer: Yeah.

Henry Roland Blakely: But he is dying fellows so he cast the net and they were like well we aren't eating that snook. It was delicious. *[Chuckle]*

Interviewer: And do you remember what year that was? You said those red tides... do you remember what year that was?

Henry Roland Blakely: That was about when my son in law... that was probably about eight or ten years ago.

Interviewer: Yeah?

Henry Roland Blakely: We had a red tide that killed a lot of the base stuff in the canals. It killed fish in the canals *[indiscernible]* [00:35:52]. *[Chuckle]*

Interviewer: Yeah I heard. *[Chuckle]*

Henry Roland Blakely: *[Indiscernible]* [00:35:55].

Interviewer: Yeah I know. It's on and off. [00:36:00]

Henry Roland Blakely: At summer time rather.

Interviewer: Yeah that's nice. I like it. I am happy about it.

Henry Roland Blakely: We don't like the red tide coming back.

Interviewer: Yeah I am worried about that.

Henry Roland Blakely: We don't need more of that. *[Chuckle]*

Interviewer: No. What would... I hate to ask you this but in a worst case scenario where the tide comes back what does that mean for this area? What does that mean for commercial fishing?

Henry Roland Blakely: It will shut it down.

Interviewer: Yeah?

Henry Roland Blakely: It is already shut down now.

Interviewer: What do you think most people will do?

Henry Roland Blakely: I don't know. They would have to find something to do. Already some of the crabbers... stone crabbers have been talking about taking all their gear and moving northwards when there is a red tide and working out of there.

Interviewer: Yeah? Up to where?

Henry Roland Blakely: Any place north of Crystal River.

Interviewer: Yeah?

Henry Roland Blakely: *[Indiscernible]* [00:36:50].

Interviewer: How far north have you heard of red tide?

Henry Roland Blakely: This one as far as I know went as far as *[indiscernible]* [00:37:02].

Interviewer: Yeah?

Henry Roland Blakely: Actually they did have some red tide across *[indiscernible]* [00:37:08] a little bit at this particular time. And it actually went down to Keyes I believe or thereabouts.

Interviewer: Yeah?

Henry Roland Blakely: I heard it got real bad like ours. Ours was bad enough. Out here in Inglewood it was even worse and there really hasn't been red tide there.

Interviewer: Was that something that you heard about?

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah well I got friends that do live in Inglewood.

Interviewer: Was there a reason why you thought that it was worse up there than down here?

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah it was worse there. They had more fish kills than we did. They got more fish to start with what they did. *[Indiscernible]* [00:37:57] was talking about [00:38:00] *[indiscernible]* [00:38:01]. *[Chuckle]*

Interviewer: Wow!

Henry Roland Blakely: Yeah they got hit real bad... pretty bad. Alright if you think we are done let me know.

Interviewer: I don't know. I don't think we have any more questions. I think that covers it.

Henry Roland Blakely: Make sure you don't get caught in any trappings on your way home.

Interviewer: *[Chuckle]* yeah thank you so much for your kindness. And then I have a form that I would like you to sign.

Henry Roland Blakely: Oh okay.

Interviewer: This is our consent form so we can...