

Female Interviewer: [00:00:00] March 14 with Howard Grimm.

Howard Grimm: Yes, ma'am.

Female Interviewer: In Everglade city.

Howard Grimm: Perfect.

Male Interviewer: Yeah, that was in Tallahassee last week.

Howard Grimm: Last week, oh yeah.

Female Interviewer: Oh, yeah.

Howard Grimm: Because I want to feel I am the mayor of the city as well.

Female Interviewer: Yes. We know.

Howard Grimm: And like this.

Female Interviewer: A lot of people tell us we could talk to you. Yeah that's good.

Howard Grimm: I grew up down here in the Keys.

Female Interviewer: Okay.

Howard Grimm: Mom and dad or [indiscernible] [00:00:23]

Male Interviewer: How long have you been here?

Howard Grimm: We've been here since 1978.

Male Interviewer: Okay.

Howard Grimm: Yeah. Like I say mom dad was born in Punta Gorda. Dad was born in 1918 it's Punta Gorda and he said that there was you know red tide was just as bad and.

Male Interviewer: Is that right?

Howard Grimm: It was it is now yeah, at times that's that area but it really seems to, to get it more I don't know why but.

Female Interviewer: Off a Punta Gorda.

Howard Grimm: Punta Gorda, Punta Island.

Male Interviewer: So, even as far back as the 1930s.

Howard Grimm: Yeah.

Female Interviewer: He was saying that they had bad long episodes of red tide.

Howard Grimm: Yeah, yeah, for sure. Dad was a character, he always thought that it was it was drums that were put aboard after World War One offshore there in an area where they put, you know, like chemicals and stuff like that, biological warfare and all that stuff. But I don't think so but because it's been recorded back as far as some of the sailing ships and stuff you know.

Male Interviewer: Right, right, right. Yeah. Now was he a fisherman?

Howard Grimm: Yeah.

Male Interviewer: Okay.

Howard Grimm: Yeah, he's fisherman and in iron work for a while when World War II is over and in Africa and, you know, so.

Male Interviewer: And, and when you moved here was it to fish?

Howard Grimm: To fish yeah, yeah. We just got so crowded in the Keys where we moved to Marathon when I was probably four years old. And fish down there and then we bought that place it's over there and moved up here to fish because this is more like Old Florida like the Keys was man when tourism took off in like the early 70s. It was insane down there I mean, [00:02:00] you couldn't pull out on the highway hardly. So, we kind of move back to what we, we like you know just kind of laid back Florida.

Male Interviewer: Right, right. There's nothing else like it in this whole South Florida and we heard it.

Howard Grimm: And that's one thing they we're trying to keep.

Male Interviewer: It's incredible.

Howard Grimm: Trying to keep here as well we have a high restriction, you know, like two stories as tall as you can go above the flood just trying we don't want that, you know, if you want the high rises there's plenty of on the east coast and this is over Naples but we like to keep the Quaint Fishing Village.

Male Interviewer: Right, right. Yeah, it's nice.

Howard Grimm: Yeah.

Male Interviewer: So, back then when you moved here were you fishing?

Howard Grimm: Yeah.

Male Interviewer: Spending a lot of time out in the water...

Howard Grimm: I was – yeah, then yeah, sure. That's all it's, that's where I was at most of the time.

Male Interviewer: And was it stone crabbing that you were doing?

Howard Grimm: Stone-crabbing, lobster, we love, we'd love to fish. I did love group for fishing.

Male Interviewer: Okay.

Howard Grimm: And stuff like that. We had red tide and I'm not too good with that we days we had red tide. And I think it was like 80, 82, 83, you know, you'd probably find some data and it was horrible. I was dad grouper on it, in 40 foot of water and stuff as way off shore, here.

Male Interviewer: Where?

Female Interviewer: Can you saw us on the map? We would like to kind of like...

Male Interviewer: So, we're – yeah, we're trying to we're actually going around and we're trying to map out historical red tide events as best that we can and then we'll you know, we can go back and track it.

Howard Grimm: Yeah. It'd probably along in here.

Female Interviewer: Prepare and get can you, I get can you draw it with that? And it was like covering like all the way to the shore or...

Howard Grimm: This one never went to the shore now back in the, the guys have reported some stuff back in I think it was on my way Billy said that was I think it was the 60s like the mid 60s, it went all the way up into Pavilion. All the way up on the shore here.

Female Interviewer: Oh, here's Pavilion Key.

Howard Grimm: Right, right. Yeah.

Female Interviewer: Is that what? Yeah.

Howard Grimm: Yeah. In here, and he said that year...

Female Interviewer: When, when was that?

Howard Grimm: It was in the 60s. He said that there was a kingfish [00:04:00] and everything that it pushed up in there and they stayed there all summer long and they couldn't go anywhere. It was it was really different, you know, some people say that that, that red tide that year killed the clams. So, it was a big clams industry here. And they had a boat they came down and they dredged and all and now they're going you know, there's some of them seem to think that.

Male Interviewer: It was the red tide did that.

Howard Grimm: Yeah, the red tide did it. You know in stone crabs generally don't die from red tide. They bury up and they go dormant so they don't need as much oxygen unless it's real, real bad. You know, like it was this year off of Fort Myers and all.

Male Interviewer: Right, right.

Female Interviewer: Do you remember so you said last of the whole summer?

Howard Grimm: Yeah.

Female Interviewer: A whole summer in the [indiscernible] [00:04:41] you know did how long did it take until the fish came back?

Howard Grimm: Oh, they come back really quick.

Female Interviewer: Really quick.

Howard Grimm: Yeah, they will come back really quick. You know, a lot of fish don't go in it. You like mullet dies real bad. But like in Pompano and Mackerel stuff I get they'll sense it and back off or go around.

Male Interviewer: But you said it had trapped the Mackerel...

Howard Grimm: It trapped in there. Right, exactly.

Male Interviewer: And so, they couldn't they couldn't go out...

Howard Grimm: They couldn't go out.

Male Interviewer: They were surrounded – yeah.

Howard Grimm: Yeah.

Male Interviewer: Okay.

Howard Grimm: Yeah. And if it does, you know, you can push them in so far with the brackish water stuff, you could probably kill them, you know, but that year it just trapped them so I keep fishing.

Male Interviewer: Yeah, I was...

Howard Grimm: And nowhere to go.

Male Interviewer: And so, so the first one that you remember that you actually experienced was in the 1982, 83 early...

Howard Grimm: Early 80s – yeah.

Male Interviewer: Okay. And that was in this more less...

Howard Grimm: It was off, offshore.

Male Interviewer: Offshore?

Howard Grimm: Yeah.

Female Interviewer: And was that coming was it offshore to this plant there?

Howard Grimm: I don't, I don't know. I don't know where it just kind of just kind of showed up. It may have drifted to the South because generally it seems to start up this way. Maybe, where all the fresh water comes out and it kind of drift South.

Female Interviewer: Did you notice like fish dying or dead at all?

Howard Grimm: Yeah, fish coming to the top both, both fish come to the top die, you'll see your, your trigger fish die early puffer fish die really quick. They seem to be some of the first stuff [00:06:00] that die but this had the goliath grouper and I mean it's a big grouper stuff too.

Male Interviewer: Goliath group those are the kind that you see die first.

Howard Grimm: Yeah, especially, especially triggerfish and a pufferfish yeah.

Male Interviewer: Okay.

Howard Grimm: Yeah, they really die quick.

Male Interviewer: So, what else do you does this affect the way that you - the way that you fish I mean, did you have to...

Howard Grimm: Yeah, we just had to stop in that area, you know, because the crabs and as soon as it was gone for like a month then went back to catching crabs. But you didn't catch crabs because they were either dormant or they just didn't need to crawl into the trap there was no reason for them to go looking for food because there was food everywhere.

Male Interviewer: So, but, but that's what you were doing in this area at the time.

Howard Grimm: Crabbing, stone crabbing.

Male Interviewer: Okay, so you stone crabbing and started doing...

Howard Grimm: Doing well, probably went offshore, group of fisher something like that. And that could have been crabbing ensure, you know, stuff just away from it.

Male Interviewer: Right, right. So, you're able to switch out to a different fishery.

Howard Grimm: Yeah, then you could but as you know now, man, it's difficult. Everything's were restricted and I, I'm and I get trouble all the time for saying this, but I'm not for a lot of the stuff that's going on now, because it restricts the fishermen to wants certain specific species. So, if there's no stone crabs if all that you have are stone crab, you know, tags, you continue to hammer that and hammer it because you don't have anything else to do. We're historically in the past, you'd have guys that would go macro fishing, they would go group of fishing and they do something different.

Male Interviewer: Right. So, it was...

Howard Grimm: But now you can't keep all those licenses, you can't afford to keep them and if you don't use them, you know, it's, it's not worth keeping. To me it makes again difficult.

Male Interviewer: Yeah, yeah.

Female Interviewer: Do you remember how long that they see?

Howard Grimm: That was about three months.

Female Interviewer: Three months. Okay, so fairly long as well.

Male Interviewer: So, do you remember any are there any others that you remember after that?

Howard Grimm: That we had some but nothing, nothing real bad. You know, generally this area down here it doesn't get the real bad red tide is often as they do other places. You know, I mean, there's, there's some stuff that it was really bad [00:08:00] but it seems like they get it almost every year you know.

Male Interviewer: Up in Fort Myers area?

Howard Grimm: Yeah, yeah.

Male Interviewer: What about Marco and Naples? So, they...

Howard Grimm: Naples got it this year pretty bad. You know, Marco a little bit but you know it wasn't, wasn't terrible as far as what happens all the time I really don't know.

Male Interviewer: Okay. Now, and so you don't there was no other these are the two major once a year that you know of.

Howard Grimm: Yeah, yeah. I'm sure it was some other stuff along but we just you know, you didn't notice it as bad.

Male Interviewer: Okay, you don't know of any other of this kind of events that affect the way people fish or people had to stop fishing or anything like that.

Howard Grimm: Not that I can think of I know like I say this year but Fort Myers we got people to just went completely out of business they just couldn't, couldn't continue to crap. Now, the blue crabs came back really fast once a red tide was gone. Some guys were able to blue crab and stuff and burn it really well. I want to try to I got to go back to Tallahassee in about two weeks.

I'm going to try to meet with the Commissioner that, the agriculture Commissioner and see if there's anything they can do for some of them guys, you know, I'm just, just going to make voice map and I mean, I think that as much help as the farmers get, fishermen don't get any help at all. Very rarely get any help at all. And so, it's it doesn't make any sense we're all under the same umbrella. But we just we don't get treated the same. So, since I have a position on I just used it.

Male Interviewer: Yeah. How did Wilma affect the fishing?

Howard Grimm: Wilma it made it real bad the year after Wilma for this solid year, but the hurricane did its job. It cleaned up man, it cleaned a bottom up offshore cleaned up inshore and now we got juvenile redfish, juvenile Snook and stuff coming back. The guides are doing excellent, you know, and this year the Pompano's come back. We haven't had Pompano since the year after Wilma.

Female Interviewer: So, [00:10:00] loving.

Howard Grimm: So, this the way how Pompano coming back really good. Yeah. So, you know, like I say, we don't like it but hurricanes have a specific purpose and that's to clean.

Female Interviewer: Fort Myers kind of.

Howard Grimm: Absolutely the same exact principle.

Male Interviewer: What about the stone crabs that are, I mean, they're having a hard time this year is that?

Howard Grimm: You know, I had one guy tell me the other day, he's from Tennessee. He seems to think that the stone crab that was so bad with that stilt it over and buried them up. So, he said some of them may not ever come out. That's just his opinion.

Male Interviewer: Right.

Howard Grimm: And it sounded, sound it like it could be true.

Female Interviewer: From the hurricane.

Howard Grimm: From the hurricane – yeah. Because like when they go down and bury up they do like this stone crabs because you've got lot of guys that used to go around and reach in holes and pull them out. Because they knew when they go and get hit because it's just wrapped up and they'd have a hard time if they got covered up or they crawled in a rock and then seal it over top of it. So I don't know. But which is...

Male Interviewer: I mean, it is this have there been other periods where the stone crabs are just I mean, this is...

Howard Grimm: This is to me is normal. Dad used to say you need a bad season once a while and take people out of the business that don't really belong in the business. But I'm beginning to wonder if I'm belong in the business. It's been pretty bad because we had a hurricane. And we had four feet of water inside the building, so we had to replace all the equipment inside the building. And initially it's just a bad year. But we had 1989 we had just as bad a year.

Female Interviewer: 1989?

Howard Grimm: 1989, yes. It was just as bad it was it was horrible.

Male Interviewer: And that didn't happen...

Howard Grimm: In the following year, we had more craps and we could sell. So, I don't know.

Male Interviewer: And 1989 was there, there was a hurricane or...

Howard Grimm: I don't know, I don't I don't remember anything like that at all.

Female Interviewer: There was nothing that would what you mean to a bad season. Like what about this year, did you expect a bad season?

Howard Grimm: No, I didn't, I expect it to be good. But you know what because the hurricane went through and I thought well, if everything recover by then it come back, but you know, it's like it and I tell people it may have to do with how much rain and we got four or five years before that. Because [00:12:00] when they lay the eggs and stuff I need someone to brackish water and stuff, you know, I don't know you know it could have anything to do with a lot of different things.

They said the stock is in real good shape as far as the studies go. We have got it those, those pulled they pulled it come down pull the traps, count the small crabs and on the traps and all that stuff. And they say, really no reason for this so it could be the hurricane it done it.

Male Interviewer: They're just hiding they're just under the, they're not coming into the traps.

Howard Grimm: Yeah, because I noticed that a lot of the crabs that were catching out really they're black like they had been buried up. Some of the scientists say that when they're down in the mud they, they get like a scratch on them. And then that's what some of that black is from I don't know if that's true or not.

Male Interviewer: So, 1989 was the last year that you remember that was that was this bad?

Howard Grimm: This bad. Yeah, because this is pretty bad. We've had some of the best crap weather and we were getting two and three fronts a week. You know, to start a bottom up for the crabs to come out. Now you go up the shore like Hernando. This year then guys killed the crabs and just a few years back Octopus went through and wiped them out.

Female Interviewer: Octopus huh?

Howard Grimm: Yeah, Octopus eat them that, Octopus one of the one of the biggest enemies of stone crab. They eat they heck out of, yeah, they wrap around them and they take your beak and stick it in. And shoot inject some gel and it turns everything to gel they suck it all out. Yeah, when you see him in a trap you just pick them up they just swallow, it's crazy.

Female Interviewer: Wow, I didn't know that.

Howard Grimm: Yeah. And then the glass grouper I think they've gotten out of hand I think they need open it back up at least recreational one or two per person because now when you get your big one offshore he's follows stone crabs.

Female Interviewer: Why did you say that crabbing was good this year in Hernando?

Howard Grimm: Yeah, Hernando was...

Female Interviewer: And that was this year?

Howard Grimm: That was this year. These guys they were catching between 1000 and 1500 pounds a day. And the price stayed up for good because there wasn't any crabs anywhere else and just one of them perfect years for them. You know, I need [00:14:00] one of them.

Male Interviewer: Yeah, yeah, they weren't getting anything right off of Fort Myers and those guys weren't getting anything.

Howard Grimm: That my cousin actually he, I don't know what he did with all this equipment stuff but he started selling ice.

Female Interviewer: Yeah, we talk at Cornelia.

Howard Grimm: Yeah, he started selling ice he said, I mean he just got gave up. That's one reason why I'm going to go try to try to talk to it was a Nikki Freed I think. Yeah. So, it's like get some relief over but the government works so slow. I didn't know that till I got to start working with. It was like...

Male Interviewer: Very slow...

Howard Grimm: I got the projects and stuff we got new street lights and all that stuff I said its coming. And so, they don't believe me.

Male Interviewer: They will have, and there is a hurricane. I mean there was relief money that came from the federal government, you know, based on Wilma.

Howard Grimm: Oh, yeah.

Male Interviewer: And we did an assessment for that. I don't know if you've been involved at all. There's a spending plan, I don't know what is heading down the heading this way, but it's slow. That's the issue it's, it's still the money still hasn't been disburse. There is money that will be disburse it's coming probably this summer.

Howard Grimm: Well, you know what I ran into with, with the fish house it's SBA was going to loan me like \$250,000 no problem will give you all I had to have is flood insurance. Flood insurance for one year was \$35,518.

Male Interviewer: Oh, my Gosh.

Howard Grimm: So, needless to say I didn't take the, you know, so it was it was kind of bad. But yeah, there's a lot of other money some mitigation money coming down at Mario Díaz-Balart helped put together our congressmen there's like 719 mega we got a sewer plant that the hurricane did a lot of damage to. So, hopefully...

Male Interviewer: The money will start to come in but it takes a couple of years.

Howard Grimm: Money's in there but it's, it's like they won't they've not even going to have the application ready for two months. The money sitting there.

Male Interviewer: Right, right, right but they...

Howard Grimm: They got to rewrite the application because it's something I've never done before. Because not just mitigating what happened. It's mitigating for the future so we can, you know. Instead [00:16:00] of reacting after something happens we can be proactive. Well that makes sense?

Male Interviewer: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Howard Grimm: Which is really strange coming out of Washington.

Female Interviewer: When you say 89 was just as bad here for stone catching do you mean specifically in this area?

Howard Grimm: Right here. Yeah. Right here. Yeah.

Female Interviewer: So, do you know about other areas of this...

Howard Grimm: You know, I didn't, I really didn't pay attention. And it was long around this, I just know it was bad for us. And what really shocked me is, like I say, the next year, we had so many crabs that we couldn't sell them. So, I must to get them everywhere.

Male Interviewer: How has the fishery changed in general since you started in 78?

Howard Grimm: Oh man, it's changed, it's changed a lot as far as like I say, the biggest thing is the species specific thing they just did four shift. And its narrow, you know, we can't do other things. We're about the same size here because these guys have nothing else to do. That a sales and stuff is and so many people that will cook their own stuff and sell it stuff it's, it's harder for fish as to wholesale. There's no real money at wholesale so we've shipped we do shipping now some, some does overnight shipping and then we've adapted to try to, you know, get more profit out of less product. And we haven't had a real good year here in probably 10 years. Yeah, it's been slow.

Male Interviewer: But you I mean, fishermen here are fishing for stone crabs obviously but they're also doing going out fishing for grouper...

Howard Grimm: Very little.

Male Interviewer: Very little.

Howard Grimm: I think it's one stone crab boat that it does grouper as well in the summertime and there's a you know, like, some of these guys like the doing Pompano fishing and stuff like that offshore right now. Mostly it's this stone crab down.

Male Interviewer: This stone crab so and but when you say the last 10 years is been a little slow.

Howard Grimm: Yeah.

Male Interviewer: And in what that's because of the price or what is it that's?

Howard Grimm: No, it just, it's just production, you know...

Male Interviewer: Oh, production is been down a little bit.

Howard Grimm: Been down yeah, for about 10 years.

Male Interviewer: Okay.

Howard Grimm: [00:18:00] But we go in cycles man it's just you have to get ready and try to survive but just you know what killed us this year. Well then, the same thing happened after Wilma. Wilma, it was bad after Wilma because man that was the traps were overboard. So, it last about year they were all tangled up. And then after just about a time we start getting back on our feet, the economy could just tang handover like. So, it was like a tsunami type of thing.

Male Interviewer: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Howard Grimm: As far as the red tide goes here like I say we are we have had no red tide this year at all never came down past Marco.

Male Interviewer: Okay.

Female Interviewer: Can I ask have you observed what I've heard called this dark water or black water event?

Howard Grimm: We had some, we had some about – it was 15 years ago or so.

Female Interviewer: Is that associated with the red tide or is that separate?

Howard Grimm: No, separate. It's different we had we actually invited scientists to come down and test the water and I don't know whatever happened.

Female Interviewer: From a state or...

Howard Grimm: Yeah, yeah, I forget exactly who it was. But I do know that they took some, I think it was from after we've seen, you know, from Renco.

Female Interviewer: Okay.

Howard Grimm: And it was there was one area that they completely killed a rock. I mean, it just there was nothing alive on it in that black water.

Female Interviewer: Where, where, can you show us where, you know this, you don't remember?

Howard Grimm: I don't know, I don't remember where it was because I wasn't on the boat at that time. I was having a run of fish [indiscernible] [00:19:25] but I do know...

Female Interviewer: It was more closer to the shore.

Howard Grimm: Yeah, it was closer to the shore and that was I mean, and then you'd go like five miles away from it. And there was fish and everything alive but when you work that one big area right? There was no fish or anything, you know? And that's why the Pompano come back is year because the feeds right. You know, clean the bottom up and rejuvenated everything and once the feed gets right, then the fish will show up. You know, they kind of follow that but I don't know what that black water was.

Female Interviewer: But that's not frequent you saw that.

Howard Grimm: No, no, we haven't had a problem since then I don't think [00:20:00] nothing I know of anyone for sure.

Female Interviewer: How long did that last?

Howard Grimm: It lasted for about a year on that one spot it took it a while to come back.

Female Interviewer: The black water.

Howard Grimm: Yeah, did come back that rock came back alive. But it killed it for a while. What are they thinking and this is Fort Myers and I think that was actually red tide or.

Female Interviewer: The black water you mean?

Howard Grimm: Is that what, is that what it is up right?

Female Interviewer: No, I mean we hear a lot about it of course we hear every color of the rainbow yellow water, pink water, blue water. So I don't know what's going on but yeah, we hear a lot about, you know, dark water coming out of the river.

Howard Grimm: Yeah, well you know well, a lot of people don't understand like dark water. As if you go up in fresh water that's what it would gets...

Female Interviewer: Yeah. I understand it.

Howard Grimm: And yeah, exactly.

Female Interviewer: Yeah but this seems to be something different.

Howard Grimm: Something different.

Female Interviewer: Yeah, yeah.

Howard Grimm: I know that that I have never heard of anything that killed stuff the way that did [indiscernible] [00:20:57]. I mean, it was guys went out Blackpool like 500 transfer like eight clause.

Male Interviewer: Yeah, yeah. We heard, heard those stories.

Female Interviewer: Yeah. But with the dark water we hear about the stuff dying on the bottom.

Howard Grimm: Yeah. I bet that's the same thing that we had down here.

Female Interviewer: Yeah, so.

Howard Grimm: And I know the blue green algae's it's a natural occurrence as well. But when everybody's got to have a real green lawn, you know, all that fertilizer to run off goes into an empty you got septic tanks, we're trying to build our sewer plant big enough to take the surrounding areas off a septic because I just thought I don't think that's good, you know, a septic run through the oyster shells really fast. So it's ended up in an environment. And I don't know if it feeds it or not but if it's a living organism, then I would think that it would, you know, human waste.

Male Interviewer: Oh, yeah.

Female Interviewer: So, do you have any idea what causes to events or any of them?

Howard Grimm: No, no. No, you know, red tide is just always it's always come and go.

Female Interviewer: Like someone takes..

Howard Grimm: You know [00:22:00], takes obviously down to where I mean, y'all know more about it than I do. But that's why.

Female Interviewer: Do you think like is that natural kind...

Howard Grimm: Yeah, because, I mean, it's nothing it just started. You know, like I say my dad was born in 1918 in Punta Gorda, and when he was a kid fishing, they had red tide in as well, especially up in the up in the bays and stuff at Punta Island whatever stage strike them out and they just go to die in and accomplish what you get if they got excited. And they use more oxygen. It just turned out bad and accomplished.

Male Interviewer: But did you ever talk about any last thing six months?

Howard Grimm: Some, sometimes yeah.

Male Interviewer: So, even back then they would have been super long.

Howard Grimm: Yes.

Male Interviewer: If we need to find somebody who can report on those...

Howard Grimm: No, for sure.

Male Interviewer: Historical, you know.

Howard Grimm: I think the manatees are doing it. I'm just kidding. No, but I want to tell people that they want to save all the manatees, then you need to start to plant some grass. Because I do think that that may have something to do with it with the grass that are disappearing, because when a Manatee eats he just rips the grass out by the roots. And when you get – my uncle you say is to like too many cows on a pasture. So it may have that between that and just so much building then it took all the mangroves out everywhere that natural filter and I think maybe that's why we don't get as much red tide as I do other places is because of that. And even in the rivers and even in the lake they go through and killed the lilies and stuff that float along they kill all that stuff and that stuff would filter the water as well you know.

Female Interviewer: When there's a red tide, are there any clues or, you know, it's like you would think that there's red tide coming or any sense that you know beforehand?

Howard Grimm: No, except yeah, I started in, you know, you can tell when it's in the air.

Female Interviewer: Yeah, okay.

Howard Grimm: And then like I say we start seeing fish come to the top of the water and stuff like that. But as far as the reason why I have no idea and I really feel bad for them guys up there. We've had a bad [00:24:00] season, but at least we're able to survive. We get enough to take care of retail and all that stuff. We just kind of have to change the way we do business a little bit less wholesale.

Female Interviewer: Can you tell us a little bit more about how you kind of adapt to this bad season?

Howard Grimm: Yeah, we just because we get less, less product, we just have to get more money per pound and way to do that is just to retail. And like I say, normally we ship overnight shipping UBS and there's still a lot of people that don't mind paying for service, you know. So, we're used to, we depend in mostly on wholesale but it you know, if you make it \$3 but you can make \$8 to \$10 a pound. You know, if you get less product, you got to, got to kind of adapt to it.

Male Interviewer: What about the stone crabbers? We're getting less income after they were they doing?

Howard Grimm: They're just, you know, we're trying to pay as much as we possibly can for them. We're paying historically high prices right now, and it help some but no matter what you pay if you're only catching a £150 pounds, it's just not going that not going to make it.

Male Interviewer: Right.

Female Interviewer: We heard that some are just not even going.

Howard Grimm: They're not, they're not. Yeah, let them sit...

Female Interviewer: But do you know how much?

Howard Grimm: I probably they probably haven't went half of what they normally would, you know, because you can't afford to continue to go if you're not...

Male Interviewer: But you let them sit and let them sit and then so you'll get amazing your number of trips, your fuel costs all that and I hope that you going to...

Howard Grimm: Hopefully we get a few crabs.

Male Interviewer: Yeah, when you're going to go out. Yeah.

Howard Grimm: For sure, for sure and that's definitely what they've been doing.

Male Interviewer: I think I'm, you guys getting any other questions?

Howard Grimm: I hope y'all get figure some things out about it and where maybe we can do some things differently.

Female Interviewer: Yeah. That's the idea of this as asked, we need some answers I think everyone agrees there, we just need to figure out what this is.

Howard Grimm: I'm glad the way the governor's act in very proactive. You know, I was look and I like Rick Scott, but I was a little disappointed didn't do any more than he did you know, because he's a nice guy. He's helped the city a lot. [00:26:00] But it seems like Governor DeSantis this is one of his top priority, so hopefully he can get some resources in the right places and do some good I think they're trying to blame as far as I'm concerned.

Most of your big service south of the lake I think they need a little bit north of around and Mickey Mouse ears is that water runs down to the lake. You know, so it needs to be not just focused on that little area right there. I think you need to go north because water flows south. And if there's, you know, it's problem with septic tanks along the way or whatever they figure out, let's fix it. You know, let's all work together. That's why Ms. Pasto Domo, which she just this year, she become the senate majority leader. She's excited about what we're trying to do here because we want to take everybody off Pacific. You know, and I think that it can't hurt.

Male Interviewer: No.

Female Interviewer: Yeah, that's a big problem even in Miami.

Howard Grimm: Exactly.

Female Interviewer: Yeah, I mean, it's amazing how when such a developed city there's so many septic tanks.

Howard Grimm: Golden Gate the same way to my son lives in Golden Gate City out there, and the houses are not from here that truck apart. And they all have shallow wells for the water and said things...

Male Interviewer: And they don't take a brain surgery to figure out that's not good.

Female Interviewer: We've to take the septic in that regard...

Howard Grimm: Well, and that's, that's what I hope for you can be proactive we've been talking to them as well so hopefully we can get some things taken care of you know, I wish I could give you some answers but I hope you'll find...

Male Interviewer: No, no this is very super helpful we're building up you know building up a picture by talking to people who can all bring in different information for us so.

Howard Grimm: Like I said the area that has been affected by red tide the most that I know is up there in that area right there from Punta Gorda, you know, Punta Island and sound and all that should be fun some guys up there to talk to you some old timer and stuff. They could probably remember things did happen here.

Male Interviewer: Yeah.

Female Interviewer: Yeah. We've been all the way up to Clearwater if we can.

Howard Grimm: Do they have any problem up with red tide.

Female Interviewer: The water – yeah, but not to the extent here, I mean, we've surveys all the way up to here in Sarasota.

Howard Grimm: Sarasota, Sarasota. Yeah, hasn't bad, bad [indiscernible] [00:27:59] I think it's [00:28:00] it seemed to me like it from Sarasota down to Marco is some of your worst.

Male Interviewer: We haven't really covered that, that piece as much as, right?

Female Interviewer: Not so, no we've been to Fort Myers...

Male Interviewer: Yeah. We need to go to Cortez.

Howard Grimm: Yeah, taught there's a lot of fishermen live there in Cortez.

Male Interviewer: In those areas so where we're scheduling visits out there.

Howard Grimm: You know, and maybe some of the end. But this year, we had a lot of weather, you know, lot of times when we would start getting red tide if we started getting some real bad weather blowing and stuff, it seemed like a bust it up. And we went several years where we didn't get a lot of weather at all, you know, it's not the front side we used to get. This year, though it's been different. We've had a lot of runs.

Male Interviewer: Right.

Female Interviewer: But this area in 82 you said it did it go all the way?

Howard Grimm: No, no.

Female Interviewer: Do you know like how?

Howard Grimm: Which about 25 foot of water probably, probably up in here longer like, yeah.

Female Interviewer: Okay, let's draw like the rest of that.

This is paper.

Yeah, the map is all move but, wait, wait, the map.

Male Interviewer: You've been crawling on.

Female Interviewer: All right now.

Male Interviewer: So, what she planned for?

Female Interviewer: All right, we're good. Do you want to try it Howard?

Howard Grimm: Yeah, yeah.

Female Interviewer: All right. Okay.

Howard Grimm: Kind of went across here like Florida.

Male Interviewer: So, there between those two.

Female Interviewer: So, in here.

Howard Grimm: And it may have been live for a while sure. But I didn't, didn't realize it at the time because I really wasn't, I wasn't focused on that area work some other area.

Male Interviewer: Right, right, right. Well, this gives us something to look for in other in other records and things as...

Howard Grimm: And they don't have a real problem in the Keys either do they, would red tide.

Female Interviewer: No.

Howard Grimm: Or maybe the water flow down there because of the, you know go around with the Gulf Stream and all that.

Female Interviewer: As far as we've talked to them it doesn't seem to be a problem in the Keys.

Howard Grimm: No. Like I say, I think you got the right area to focus on there and hopefully some people can give you some, some maybe some triggers and things that happen to.

Female Interviewer: Yeah.

Male Interviewer: Yeah, yeah, that sort of...

Howard Grimm: And it may be warmer winters may have been worse. You know, stuff like that [00:30:00] but...

Male Interviewer: Well, that's like getting the mapping this out and get the information out when they saw and when they occurred and we can also you know cross reference that with other things that happened around that time.

Howard Grimm: Good.

Male Interviewer: To see if we can you know, so that's...

Female Interviewer: You know the northern and southern extents too.

Howard Grimm: Yeah because...

Male Interviewer: Yeah. And the intensity of red tide events frequency all up and down the coast basically, that's what we're trying to do.

Howard Grimm: Okay, maybe you can get in some of this data get to the right places to give some of these guys some relief. You know, I know it takes time but there may still be a chance because man I hate to lose a whole industry in one area because that area Punta Island and all.

Female Interviewer: Yeah. I need to wrap this up.

Male Interviewer: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Female Interviewer: 104-year-old business.

Howard Grimm: Oh, yeah, for sure, I can see it. So, maybe you want to. Now, we're going we'll do something. Oh, nice to meet you.

Male Interviewer: Yeah. It's nice to meet you.

Female Interviewer: Nice to meet.

Female Interviewer: It's very helpful.

Howard Grimm: Oh, no problem.

Male Interviewer: So, then I'll give you one of my cars? I don't think I did.

Howard Grimm: Yeah, that's good.

Male Interviewer: Okay.

Female Interviewer: Do you know some other guys in that areas, another maybe sometimes we probably should talk to [indiscernible] [00:31:11].

Female Interviewer: And we'll figure that out.

Howard Grimm: Yeah, I really don't know any but if you go around the river over there and stop and talk to somebody [indiscernible] [00:31:21] said he was like 17 years old.

Female Interviewer: Yeah. Do you have the phone number for me?

Howard Grimm: No, I haven't. Leave crabs out of Hamilton's over there. Joe's place up there.

Female Interviewer: Yeah, I think we [indiscernible] [00:31:37] there.

Howard Grimm: Yeah. He's got a nice boat.

Female Interviewer: Yeah.

Howard Grimm: But if you ever get a chance to see him, then [indiscernible] [00:31:43]

Female Interviewer: Thank you. Oh, stop it, did you stop it?