

JackHail

[00:00:00]

Interviewer: Okay. We are at Jack Hail, it is April 30th and we are in Naples. So, first I want to just get a little background if you can tell me again what your fishing portfolio is, where you fish, how long you have been here and everything.

Jack Hail: I lived there my whole life, I'm pretty much at least stone crab or I used the only stone crab until this happened. Now, I have no idea what I'm going to do to make a living. I used to be a gillnet fisherman before they outlawed that in 95 or whatever it was. But I've been in stone crab for at least 30 years, maybe longer.

I did have 10,400 certificates until this last year gotten so bad. Actually, we thought last year was really bad from Hurricane Irma, this is not even any comparison. There is note from anywhere -- I usually fish from probably from Captiva to Marco, from Captiva to Marco absolutely no cramps. The only place I've actually found any cramps was way to the south and super far out in 68 foot of water offshore.

It's the only two places that when I say a little bit, I don't mean much, maybe a 100 pounds one time, you know, and then it drops off to 20 pounds and 15 pounds. And I mean, there's just really no stone crabs, something actually killed them off. Amanda, this is my son, Jackson.

Interviewer: Hi, Jackson. We're recording.

Jackson: Hi.

Jack Hail: This is my son Jackson.

Jackson: Are you guys from the same *[indiscernible]* [00:01:31]

Interviewer: Yes. So, we both work Noah.

Jack Hail: Somebody must be from Maryland because I found out it's from Maryland.

Interviewer: Yes, I'm from Maryland.

Jackson: And I just see you guys down now or...

Interviewer: So, essentially, what we've been doing is interviewing fisherman and anyone who spends all their time on the water all up and down the Gulf Coast and trying to get historical information on red tides. So, from the first red side you remember.

Jack Hail: Honestly, I don't think this is red tide. Honestly, I really don't think is red tide.

JackHail

Interviewer: Yes. And we want to talk about that too. [00:02:00] Amy want to talk about any theories, causes, whatever.

Jack Hail: Whatever it is, they killed them, everything on the bottom.

Interviewer: Yes.

Jack Hail: I mean everything.

Interviewer: So, I want to try to focus and I know this is hard because the 2018 red tide is so fresh in our memory. But I want to go back to like, what's the first red tide.

Jack Hail: I've seen red tide since I was a child there.

Interviewer: So, how often do they occur here?

Jack Hail: Actually, we used to only have red tide maybe in August, September and it might last two or three weeks at the most, a month at times. And that was very weird maybe like once every 10 years or something. We never had red tide every year like this.

Interviewer: So you saw red tide once every time years?

Jack Hail: Eight to ten years we might have seen red tide, when I was a child.

Interviewer: When you're a kid.

Jackson: When I was kid, we had it pretty frequent like I mean three times a year.

Jack Hail: He just turns 20. He's only 27. So, he hasn't get there I think but he's been on the boat since he was six months old.

Jackson: She's trying to get a time frame like when you were kid, how often did you have it.

Jack Hail: Very rare, very rare.

Interviewer: Very rarely.

Jackson: Throughout the year is you're trying to say it's getting worse.

Jack Hail: It's definitely been getting worse. When we've had red tide lots of times and it's never killed the stone crabs. Stone crabs are just always very healthy.

Jackson: For what \$58 or whatever it was...

JackHail

Jack Hail: Yes, we've never seen dead dolphin when I was 52 or 58, dead dolphins too. We've never seen that. I mean how could they not out run that tide?

Interviewer: Yes, exactly.

Jackson: That's why I'm saying one red tide, different tide doesn't kill wilkers and dolphins and it kills fish but not that.

Interviewer: Okay. So you said in the past growing up, it would be like every eight or so years?

Jack Hail: Yes, maybe every eighth or tenth year and it would be only in the water was super super -- August, September only then would we ever see red tide.

Interviewer: And how long would it last?

Jack Hail: Three to four weeks, maybe two weeks.

Interviewer: And where would it be especially? So...

Jack Hail: Well, actually, when I was a child, [00:04:00] I was pretty much been fishing with the piers and stuff when I was a kid. It has probably on the 2675, which is, let's see here where we're at the, which is the 26 would parallel 2632 right here, is that what this is? 26 [indiscernible] [00:04:18]

Interviewer: Yes.

Jack Hail: Okay. Well 2607500 when I say five it's 500 and right on the beach right there, sometimes we'd see it when I was a child, like when I was eight or 10 years old.

Interviewer: Okay. So, let's just draw that, that area or can I get you over the line. So, like where you saw it when you were a kid?

Jack Hail: We'd see it on the -- I'd be fishing on the pier when I was a kid, you know, like around like I mean, right on the shore too. Do you want me to actually do this thing? We actually have some fish where we just took our Captain's crews and you want us to plot, it's not exactly, do you?

Interviewer: Yes, I would love that.

Jack Hail: Want to grab your [indiscernible] [00:04:53].

Interviewer: You sat as Captain since then?

Jack Hail: Excuse me?

JackHail

Interviewer: Then he just do as...

Jack Hail: Yes. We both just got our luck. We haven't even got them in the mail yet. We just have to figure out something else to do. We can't make a living doing this anymore. I had, a couple of days, I pulled 380 traps for three pounds of stone crabs. It cost \$700 and then I used to have three guys working for me. It cost \$700 to the time that we loaded from the dock with bait, fuel and help.

Interviewer: Yes.

Jack Hail: I had to fire everybody else and it's just me now and we work for free now.

Interviewer: Yes.

Jack Hail: We're just been bringing the tramps into the last month.

Interviewer: Wow.

Jack Hail: Today, actually, we had some cramps way to the south 25 pounds out of 200 traps. I mean that's no crab you know? But at least it pays for the fuel.

Jackson: Okay. Do you know that?

Jack Hail: On these things, actually this is 60 miles square on these things. I don't know if you know that.

Jackson: Same thing as we had in school just ours is *[indiscernible]* [00:05:49].

Jack Hail: Yes, it's hard for me to give you exactly...

Interviewer: Yes, it's a little hard with them.

Jack Hail: But I can get right here real quick.

Interviewer: This is 26 [00:06:00].

Jack Hail: You guys want me to write that width? We got a little dot it's right here is probably the pier.

Interviewer: Okay. And that's where you saw...

Jack Hail: That's that 2637500, probably in 8148 or something.

Interviewer: And that's where you saw red tide on the beach.

JackHail

Jack Hail: When I was probably eight or 10 years old, I've seen red tide there when I was a child, almost 54 years ago?

Amy: What about the red tide that you see?

Jack Hail: We see fish floating on top of the water. And it's shark and stuff, you know. And also I've been a surfer all my life so I was always in the water around this kind of stuff. But that red tide has gotten a lot more frequent. And we've definitely had in the last 12 or so years, it's really been a lot more frequent. And this is not red tide, I'm telling you.

Interviewer: Yes. So, when did you start noticing that it was increasing?

Jack Hail: Just, you know, every year when we're going out on traps and stuff, we're seeing stuff in October, November when the water's starting to get cooler and it shouldn't be there. It used to only be August and September, when it was really, really hot. You know, it was a year like wind is just miserable, like 95 degrees every single day, no wind or nothing. That will be the only time we'd ever seen them.

Interviewer: Yes. Is that something that you knew where you go to like, were there any clues or indicators that you knew you were going to get a red tide that year?

Jackson: I think it's just that any just that chance, you know, when the water is super hot and they release that water down to the flesh end...

Jack Hail: And I don't know this but I don't think they used to release [00:08:00] that water from that place, they have to do a long time ago like that.

Jackson: Yes, they didn't.

Jack Hail: At least I don't think they did.

Jackson: That's why they became more frequent is when they release that water in the summertime through the Apache (*phonetics*) river, and that's when the algae bloom happens when they do that in the middle of the summer time and the water is super hot, that's when it happens. But they didn't use to like you're saying, they didn't use to do that. That used to run the [*indiscernible*] [00:08:24]

Jack Hail: If they did, we didn't know it.

Jackson: Yes. Well, Jeff told me they used to have trout and everything when they start doing that, and then they start putting it through the Apache river. And that's what started everything.

Interviewer: So, when you were, you know, eight or nine or 10 and you, you're still, I mean, you were going out in that time and you're fishing?

Jack Hail: I was way out here on the Naples.

Interviewer: *[indiscernible]* [00:08:43]

Jack Hail: It's not fishing in the summer time like that.

Interviewer: So, were you still catching stuff at that time in the red tide?

Jack Hail: Yes. But once that red tide came like that, you can still catch fish. But we wouldn't because it's everything's gone so bad, we would *[indiscernible]* [00:08:57]

Interviewer: So, you don't want to be out there?

Jack Hail: Right. But you could still catch fish.

Interviewer: Yes, you would still catch them. What was the next, what was the first...

Jack Hail: And actually, a lot of these fish that we would see would be like red grouper and stuff that we would see floating, tons are quads. And that's what we would also start seeing like probably 12 years ago, tons of quads, lots of red grouper, stuff like that we would see.

Interviewer: Okay.

Jackson: I remember not this October but last October, I remember *[indiscernible]* [00:09:21] there is dead little crunch I mean in that place so...

Jack Hail: Everywhere you wanted to look.

Jackson: Last year as we know.

Interviewer: So, after, you know, instead of these red tides that would happen every 10 years or so, what was the first red tide that that happen of, was past October through September?

Jack Hail: I don't fairly remember anything when I was young, it was probably 15 years ago I would say would be the only time I ever saw it in October, something like that. And it would be like we're on a tram stuff or something. You know, and it was still kind of warm like that. But sometimes we don't start getting fronts until late October, early November.

Then once November came or something, few fronts come [00:10:00] through, gone...

Interviewer: Yes. So, if you think about, you know, the 90's and the 2000's what in there, what in that time period on the 90's?

Jack Hail: Oh, actually, I didn't really see it very much then.

Interviewer: Yes.

Jack Hail: Don't quote me, you know, maybe in the 2000 and 90's definitely not.

Interviewer: 90s probably not? What about...

Jack Hail: Eighties definitely not. And I always spend a lot of time on boats on those days too. I know I did a grouper fish, gill net fish. I've spent lots of a time and I don't really remember very much red tide back then. It was mostly like from around, I'd had to say from like 2005 on.

Interviewer: Yes. But even then at that time, you know, by 2000, your son is saying that they increase or almost every year where you'd see red tide almost every year?

Jackson: Yes, when I was a kid, I remember being in to the beach and it wouldn't be like all the time, but I mean at least once or twice a year we get it.

Jack Hail: It would be more like in the September time and it's when I do surfer as well.

Jackson: Yes, exactly, yes.

Jack Hail: *[indiscernible]* [00:11:02]

Interviewer: So, did you notice, you know, was there a difference between when you were growing up and the red tides were 10 years apart to getting into the 80's and 90's?

Jack Hail: When I was a child, we hardly ever had red tide but I did have seen them.

Interviewer: And then in the 90's, when did you start noticing it coming like every...

Jack Hail: Around 2005.

Interviewer: Around 2005.

Jackson: The tides got right on it.

Interviewer: Was that about red tide here?

Jack Hail: Not necessarily, you know, that 2004, 2005 was but I can remember seeing some of that.

Jackson: What was that year? Was it like 2010 or 2011, I remember when like during the winter time, we had that all fish *[indiscernible]* [00:11:42]

Jack Hail: That was real cold, that was a freeze, that wasn't from red tide. That was a freeze.

Interviewer: Yes. So, 2004, 2005?

Jack Hail: Yes, we started seeing red tide and they'd be a lot more often too. Every year and they kept going [00:12:00] and they kept getting worse and worse.

Interviewer: So, when you say worse and worse...

Jack Hail: Never ever affected the stone crabs. Only would we receive floating grants grouper, eels, all kinds of stuff like that, stuff that you just can't even imagine where they come from.

Interviewer: Yes. Are there any species that aren't affected by when it killed [indiscernible] [00:12:22]

Jack Hail: Actually, I know people this year that saw lobster trying to climb out of the water on the beach. We never have lobster around here. You know, we used to catch in the fish crafts and stuff a long time ago when we're lot of fish trapping. That was probably 30 miles offshore.

Interviewer: Yes. What about spawning aggregations or where the fish are located, the distributions especially, does red tide affect any of that?

Jack Hail: If it does, we don't know like, I know that when the mullet lead to go out and spawn, they would run and trying to kill the mullet.

Interviewer: Yes.

Jack Hail: But that would be the only fish I know about [indiscernible] [00:13:00].

Interviewer: So, in 2005 and onwards, the red tides that you saw after that, where were those, if you drew those like on the map.

Jack Hail: Like I say, I pretty much fish from Captiva up here to Marco Island, which is a pretty good 60 miles area right here I would say. And I've seen it everywhere, from anywhere you want to go.

Jackson: I can surf through these thing, man.

Interviewer: I mean, you can do that. We'd love you to do that.

Jack Hail: Really, it would be. Honestly.

JackHail

Jackson: That's what I'm hoping. I would even go out that far out at 60 miles, yes.

Interviewer: Yes. So, that's...

Jack Hail: That's pretty much the killing area, right there.

Interviewer: Yes. And is that...

Jack Hail: And this is where I stone crab at, this is where I've seen everything dead. And believe it or not, I thought that okay, the red tide was really bad up here around the *[indiscernible]* [00:13:54] so, I thought I'm going to haul some stuff away on your big wander to the south. That was actually my worse stuff of all.

Interviewer: Yes. [00:14:00]

Jackson: I've seen it that's...

Jack Hail: All the crabs tried to get away from -- they tried to go and throb because the only people we know caught crap this year were either way to the south or way up inside.

Jackson: These people and on the beach. Actually, there's some traps out inside the *[indiscernible]* [00:14:17] not quite a lot, a couple.

Interviewer: So...

Jackson: We saw some.

Interviewer: Is this the area that you saw red tide back in the 2000's and 2005?

Jack Hail: Reef killed the stone crabs now. Listen, actually, where there was red tide in a long time ago, three or four months later, we killed the crabs there.

Jackson: Grabbing would be good.

Interviewer: Yes.

Jack Hail: Really good.

Interviewer: Yes. So, there wasn't any like recovery time or anything this past because...

Jack Hail: Yes even when there was red tide, we just don't kill a crab.

Interviewer: So, you're able to completely run your business as normal?

JackHail

Jack Hail: And 2010 was the last year I could catch 500 pounds of stone crab a day or closer to that amount. That's the last time I can remember from January 1, 2000...

Jackson: I actually keep records of it too like, every year it's been a decline, every year.

Jack Hail: Steady decline.

Interviewer: Since 2010?

Jackson: Yes, that's what I mean. That's when I started to keep record.

Jack Hail: That was the last time I could consistently catch 500 pounds a day. And I mean, for a few weeks or month at a time. That's a lot of crabs.

Jackson: 2009 really.

Interviewer: Yes. So, you know, back in 2005 and this red tide awareness about this year, but they were in this area. It didn't affect how many traps you put out or anything like that at all?

Jack Hail: No.

Interviewer: Okay. And it wasn't -- usually it would be, you see it throughout this whole area?

Jack Hail: Yes.

Interviewer: So, what about -- okay so, you'd see it throughout this area, but it wouldn't affect your fishing at all. Were there any other species that weren't impacted by the red tide, at all?

Jack Hail: I'd say pretty much. [00:16:00] I mean, I don't know because we don't really have any lobster up here. We never saw a lobster and we saw -- we have stone crabs here. You know, and I just thought that when we went to fill our traps out in October this year that, you know, it's just going to be like normal. They're seeing a dead fish and everything. But the stone crab is completely there, not the case.

Interviewer: Yes.

Jack Hail: They'd be dead.

Jackson: And we get all day long and not see eyeball, nothing.

Interviewer: Yes.

Jack Hail: I mean can you imagine for 380 traps to catch 19 claws?

Jackson: Sometimes, not even.

Jack Hail: That was what our worst day was that day 19 claws.

Jackson: no, the worst day we had four, probably had one pound, one and a half.

Jack Hail: I mean honest it's four of them.

Interviewer: Yes.

Jackson: I have it written down in the end. We had a pound.

Interviewer: So, I definitely want to talk about impacts of this year. But I also want to talk about back when these people like red tides that you saw, anyway that were and in still this October to September rains, you said some of *[indiscernible]* [00:17:05]

Jack Hail: You know, if we're holding a traps, that was in October, November.

Interviewer: Yes. And that's when you'd see it, on October and November too? Were there any years before this year that were particularly bad?

Jack Hail: Yes. I mean there was lots of times...

Jackson: The last five years.

Jack Hail: In the last ten years that we've seen bad red tide but never ever affected the stone crabs, ever.

Interviewer: Were there any specific years where the red tide where you saw them like more fish kills or more...

Jack Hail: Yes, I mean sometimes the red tide would be like you can say in probably 2011 or 12 maybe 14. We'd see some stuff where you're just going, my God.

Jackson: And '17, it was pretty bad over in October, you know, it was pretty bad in 17. This year obviously but 17 was pretty bad too.

Interviewer: Yes.

Jackson: But didn't affect the fisherman.

Interviewer: It didn't affect the stone crab?

Jackson: Yes, that's right.

Interviewer: Yes.

Jack Hail: It has never affected the stone crabs before.

Jackson: And mullet too. The same thing the mullet fishing in the last two years [00:18:00] has been -- there hasn't been a thing.

Interviewer: Do you think the decline in mullet is also due to red tide?

Jack Hail: I have no idea. I know that whatever this is, it's definitely what kills the stone crabs.

Amy: So, even pulling -- so even back in the 2000s where there were a couple of really bad red tides and they're annually, they never hurt the stone crab or the fishing whatsoever?

Jack Hail: Never.

Interviewer: Never, okay. So, there wasn't a recovery period because it was never hurt? There wasn't any problem?

Jack Hail: There wasn't any problem, everything was still there.

Interviewer: And it didn't affect their distribution or anything like that?

Jack Hail: No.

Interviewer: What about the health impacts? So, were there days that you didn't want to go out on the water and get jobs, does it bother you?

Jack Hail: No. Never bother.

Jackson: I mean sometimes we go to the pass, whatever there was a lot of boats kicking up the water.

Jack Hail: And you can see that -- I guess the spray, the mist would be in the [indiscernible] [00:19:05] only right there would you go some cough that makes you fall to the [indiscernible] [00:19:09] you know, but we're moving so we're getting away from it.

Interviewer: Yes. So, aside from that minor cough, red tide really hasn't bothered you until this year?

Jack Hail: No.

Jackson: It still hasn't even bother me. It's just my parents.

Jack Hail: Just, they may have no money.

Interviewer: Yes. I mean that would bother you.

Jackson: That's real.

Jack Hail: [*indiscernible*] [00:19:26]

Jackson: I mean not your health or anything.

Interviewer: Yes. Okay. So, the 2018 red tide, the one in this past year that you saw in this area, did it extend...

Jack Hail: Actually, I don't know that we're really saw any dead fishes [*indiscernible*] [00:19:48] You could actually just -- and after we...

Jackson: That was kind of before that....

Jack Hail: Yes, the red tide was before this crab session, way before it. Right, right. [00:20:00].

Jackson: September, early September.

Interviewer: Yes, when do you think it started?

Jack Hail: I think it started like June or something, June, July or something. But we didn't really see dead fish all in traps out.

Jackson: Yes, the year before 17 was a lot more dead fish than last year.

Interviewer: Okay. So, then let's talk about the 2017 red tide. When was that? When did it occur?

Jack Hail: We don't know when it occurred but we saw dead fish all in traps something in October. October 5th when we can start [*indiscernible*] [00:20:30]

Jackson: I'd say at least September and really October. But I mean there is death fish everywhere.

Jack Hail: And what he is saying, we're talking millions of dead fish, anything you can think of.

Jackson: From the beach, offshore, from the beach to 20 miles out, 20-30 miles out there was just dead fish literally everywhere. But they didn't affect the fishing or the stone crab.

Interviewer: So, that was even the year before this last one started?

Jackson: Yes. And it didn't affect stone crabs.

Jack Hail: Was it right after Irma?

Jackson: Yes. It was exactly right after Irma.

Interviewer: How long did the 2017 red tide last?

Jackson: Probably a month I'd say at least. Kind of cleared up after we know we got a couple of *[indiscernible]* [00:21:16] every year we get at -- our first couple *[indiscernible]* [00:21:19] they're generally washes the water out all the dead stuff.

Interviewer: So that was kind of -- did that one -- was that one different then ones in the past or that was another...

Jack Hail: Oh, we were more worried about Hurricane Irma, you know. It was just deeper water right here so our water *[indiscernible]* [00:21:38]

Jackson: You wouldn't think you'd ever worry about the stone crabs especially for something like that, that went through, it didn't really affect the stone crab and there are still crabs is what I was saying.

Jack Hail: Oh, like I said there's always been stone crab. We've never had this.

Jackson: That's what I were saying. This wasn't a red tide, this is some bullshit story and we're saying something else is going on really...

Jack Hail: [00:22:00] And yes the dispersements from VP Oil spills made it out here. Something...

Jackson: His brother, my uncle, that's what he thinks. It's stuff that they put in the water for the oil spill and it finally came down here. That's what he thinks the most.

Interviewer: What other ideas do you have? What do you think caused this past year and, you know, the stone crab die of?

Jackson: Whatever they put in the water was bad stuff.

Jack Hail: Whatever they want to tell, somebody probably really doesn't know what was released. It's something, I mean I just can't imagine that vast up here. I mean there were miles.

Jackson: I mean it wiped the whole bottom now like...

Jack Hail: I mean there's nothing alive.

Jackson: Everything that grew on the bottom...

Jack Hail: And the only people that caught any stone crab will be either on the beach or way up inside or way to the south.

Jackson: And they didn't even really catch any crabs. It's just *[overlapping conversation]* [00:22:50]

Jack Hail: And I don't know if you're very good with GPS *[indiscernible]* [00:22:51] other people. I'm telling me like from the 2549, don't worry. I mean absolutely nothing, no stone crab *[indiscernible]* [00:23:04]

Jackson: The only people that caught crabs were north of the Apache river...

Interviewer: So, with red tides in the past, is there a way to tell where it is on the waterfall and like can you tell the difference between a red tide that's on the surface versus a red side that's maybe on the bottom as well?

Jackson: Sometimes you can see it.

Jack Hail: It's all where we're really going to see is dead fish. And we can see and they'll be like a pollen on top of the water.

Jackson: It will be like a weird oranges like brown color...

Jack Hail: Almost like a 83 *[indiscernible]* [00:23:46] because I'd seen lots of times like the pollen would be just driving through it for miles and the boat lake through it is just like *[indiscernible]* [00:23:57]

Interviewer: Is there any...

Jack Hail: But when it moves like that [00:24:00], it reflected the crabs.

Interviewer: Is there any difference in the past when you pull traps during red tide or do they look different in any way?

Jack Hail: No, but usually we have that, you know I mean, they have horrible smell like when we would load them on the boat and you're like, oh *[indiscernible]* [00:24:18] and they were like a worse color. Actually, the first, I call that WC guy *[indiscernible]* [00:24:24] I don't think I know his name. It's actually the head guy, a Lieutenant in town here.

Jackson: We have this year.

Jack Hail: Yes and we had found three tramps have left from the year before that had the lease cut off that we would wrap around our tramps from this year. And I thought I mean, only when I was trying to get some biologists to come take a look so that they could call -- I mean they could figure out what it was because you could see it had dead stone crabs shells there.

Jackson: And usually when you find an old crab like that, it's...

Jack Hail: It's full of crabs.

Jackson: Full of crabs.

Interviewer: Yes.

Jack Hail: Good line of crabs. Then you find an old crab you go all right then.

Interviewer: yes.

Jackson: Everything was dead.

Interviewer: And I'm not sure you would find them in...

Jack Hail: Everything was dead. It was dead shells.

Jackson: Like we can at least we found -- we've heard of lobsters trying to get out of the water underneath and they did. That's how bad it was. They're trying to get out of there.

Interviewer: What are your options? Is there anything, you know, you said you tried to put some traps farther south, are there any other things that would you do so to work your way through a red tide like this?

Jackson: No, not like this.

Jack Hail: It's pretty much *[indiscernible]* [00:25:36] like I say, we rode with this tool, *[indiscernible]* [00:25:39] we were trying to figure something else out to do. We don't know what to do.

Interviewer: Yes. What are you planning to do with the captain's license?

Jackson: Started like a tour guide or something like that.

Jack Hail: And these day we get *[indiscernible]* [00:25:51] I owned like a couple of boats and stuff, you know, it was not like I have to go rent and a boat and stuff. We don't have any way to make a living any more.

Interviewer: Yes, without stone crabs.

Jackson: So, if you [00:26:00] and really like we know people who are yet to sell your boat and you sell your traps I mean, because...

Jack Hail: I actually had that in mind like I was telling you before, I used to have 10,400 trap certificates. I've had to sell, last year was bad so I sold 1000 certificates. This year just so we could keep going to begin with, I sold a 1000 of them just so we could keep to have money to pay these guys. Normally, I have three guys.

Interviewer: Yes, and you [*indiscernible*] [00:26:27]

Jack Hail: And all that money is gone now and now I don't have much to do. Now, we only have 5718 traps certificates and I've done many traps.

Jackson: Depends on just [*overlapping conversation*] [00:26:38]

Jack Hail: Just this is for us to pay the bills to survive.

Interviewer: Yes. What are the guys that used to work for you, do you know what they're doing now or are they are still fishing or...

Jack Hail: What's that?

Interviewer: The guy that used to work for you, your crew...

Jack Hail: I have no idea what they're doing.

Interviewer: What about some of the other guys you talked about who had to sell out stone crab and aren't in the business anymore. What are they doing? Had they entered a different fishery or...

Jack Hail: Closed up, the older retired and stuff.

Interviewer: Yes.

Jackson: So, you know...

Jack Hail: He just left, Kelly said, did you talk to Albert Gainfield?

Interviewer: I talked to Albert last time I was here.

Jack Hail: Because Albert sold out.

Interviewer: Yes.

JackHail

Jack Hail: And he gave his boat to his wife, Dennis.

Interviewer: Oh Dennis? Yes, okay.

Jackson: You guys talked to Dennis Gainfield?

Interviewer: No, I haven't. Yes, I know. I heard he's been -- I heard he's been starting probably for a long time now.

Jackson: That's Albert's nephew.

Interviewer: That's Albert's nephew?

Jack Hail: Yes *[indiscernible]* [00:27:40] for I want to say 45-50 year.

Interviewer: Yes. Well, we talked to him but he sounded like you, you know, that was a different situation like he's just retiring and moving out of the business.

Jack Hail: Yes.

Interviewer: So, [00:28:00] are there any kinds of management changes that withheld fisherman during a red tide or some covers during a red tide, anything like that?

Jackson: *[indiscernible]* [00:28:10]

Interviewer: Like what?

Jackson: Anything of the fishermen I assume, no. Not let everybody suffer.

Interviewer: What about any recommendations for monitoring or like better forecasting of red tides?

Jack Hail: I think that would be nice if you could just *[indiscernible]* [00:28:29] somebody would actually come and investigate it and check it out. I've tried to do this a lot of times because we're the ones that see this. But it has still has affecting the stone crabs so it was like why it was hurting my industry you know?

Jackson: It's like Bill said at the beginning of the year they end FWC got a couple traps they haven't test it out, they're not catching any crabs. And he said it would have be nice for this day to *[indiscernible]* [00:28:52] to let us know but they just set us up for failure. They didn't send anybody, nothing.

Jack Hail: We don't throw fire *[indiscernible]* [00:28:59] another 5000 traps out there and...

Jackson: They knew that we got out here...

JackHail

Jack Hail: You guys don't realize how much money this cost to go do this.

Interviewer: No, I know.

Jack Hail: The bait is \$0.40 a pound just for a big swap, plus 200 bucks for each I mean...

Jackson: \$1000 a day.

Interviewer: What would you have done if you have gotten that letter in the mail that's you're not going to catch enough stone crabs this year, the fishery is hurting?

Jack Hail: I'll probably still put some traps out because I had to see for myself. But it would have definitely been something at least *[indiscernible]* [00:29:29] and then I'd say back to myself, should have listen to them, *[indiscernible]* [00:29:35]

Jackson: Or you probably would have got our Captain license sooner and had a way to make money.

Jack Hail: Yes, that's still no guarantee that we're going to make money though.

Jackson: Yes, that sucks *[indiscernible]* [00:29:46]

Interviewer: Are there any other *[indiscernible]* [00:29:54] or environmental changes or anything else that you've notice recently?

Jack Hail: No.

Interviewer: [00:30:00] And then you said you know this red tide is different from anything else that you have experienced because it kills the stone crabs. Are there any other way in which it's just different?

Jack Hail: Just that when you pick the trap up, it has a horrible smell and it's like it's dead.

Jackson: Actually, at the beginning of the year, we're calling some traps and when we're like you said *[indiscernible]* [00:30:24] traps way far to the south than we normally do. They had like this weird like grease and fume like oily. It wasn't oil but it elt like -- and it's like grease on the traps.

Jack Hail: They have horrible smell and when we put them on the boat it's how they smell, and it was like *[indiscernible]* [00:30:40] color to it too.

JackHail

Jackson: It was like slick on the deck just out from the trap from the deck it was like *[indiscernible]* [00:30:45] some type of like, it felt grease like clear grease out there. It's weird.

Interviewer: Are those during the red? Any other observations about red tide or...

Jackson: You wouldn't really notice anything different this year from all the other years. You wouldn't even find anything *[indiscernible]* [00:31:09]

Jack Hail: And actually, we're holding *[indiscernible]* [00:31:11] I don't think we really saw any dead fish or anything...

Jackson: 17, you saw way more dead fish than last year.

Jack Hail: like I said, we could stop last year was bad. It's funny really. At least we can make a living you know.

Jackson: We used to catch 200 pounds a day going oh it sucks. This year, we haven't even caught that once. We'd love to catch 200 pounds. We'd love to catch 100 pounds.

Jack Hail: The only place we've covered, one day I think we did catch 150 pounds, it was way offshore. It's 68 foot of water straight down in *[indiscernible]* [00:31:44] way out probably 34 miles from there. Maybe more than that.

Interviewer: Why do you think there's difference as far as going out that far? Why do you think that the crabs...

Jack Hail: I think that and another thing that we found was there was like just a couple of here that's stuff didn't get killed. Like we have found a little spot on here off of Naples that they must be still alive. We can go catch 25 pounds of crabs.

Jackson: That's what it seems like it's almost everywhere it's dead but there's just a couple of tiny little square areas.

Jack Hail: Little teeny, teeny pieces that didn't get killed. And when we pick the traps up *[indiscernible]* [00:32:18] but there's not now little bunch of little crabs like they could only crawl out and you find it and you wash them out at the back of the deck of the boat, there's none of that.

Interviewer: Yes.

Jack Hail: Absolutely nothing.

Interviewer: What do you think that means for the future?

Jack Hail: *[indiscernible]* [00:32:33]

JackHail

Interviewer: What do you, like what is that, how many years would it take?

Jack Hail: Well I have never really -- they only tell me but they say it takes three to five years or something for something to come back. It might not ever come back.

Jackson: *[indiscernible]* [00:32:48] at least five years.

Jack Hail: I mean this could be the absolute collapse of it from what I'm seeing. But then again, those guys *[indiscernible]* [00:32:58] They had their best year they've ever had.

Jackson: And, you know, they're North of the Apache river.

Jack Hail: They're north of Tampa.

Interviewer: Is it the same population of stem trouts?

Jack Hail: I think it's several different *[indiscernible]* [00:33:16] and the ones offshore seems to be a lot bigger if it grow up. I think there's lots of different species of crabs. I really do.

Jackson: Yes, because the farther offshore you get, the crabs are night and day in there *[indiscernible]* [00:33:27] compared to right of the beach. I mean it's night and day.

Jack Hail: Same thing the one you caught in the morning seems like a different badge of crabs up there too, stuff like in Sanibel. Seems like a different crab than it does down here. I think they're different species.

Jackson: Yes and everywhere it seems like.

Interviewer: Do you think the crabs that you caught in deeper water that are a little bit larger, do you think they survive because they're larger or they...

Jack Hail: I think it was just that a little bit of an area that didn't get killed for some reason. [00:34:00] Like I told you the rotating fish out here with 32 foot of water in Naples that it's the only place I've seen any crab from anywhere.

Interviewer: Is there like a...

Jackson: But being offshore, it doesn't really matter. They depends on where you're at just like you said. We brought traps super far to the south and way offshore that wasn't anything.

Jack Hail: That was even that was our worst and we thought that we would be okay and at least there was going some crabs here and I saw crabs there lots of time 500 pounds a day, many times there.

Jackson: I mean that's the place where we caught one pound now, way out there. But like you said but farther north, we found those 500 pounds whatever in that one day. That's just a one time, you know, after you catch them, that was it. There's no more.

Interviewer: I want to make sure we covered everything. Did you have any specific questions on you?

Amy: No, I covered everything.

Jack Hail: What are we going to do? What are we going to do to make a living?

Interviewer: I'm asking you, I'm asking you that.

Jack Hail: I don't know what to do anymore. We can't go to the river fishing, we can't even go bottom fishing because there is none. *[indiscernible]* [00:35:07]

Jackson: It's kind of exactly what the state of Florida wanted to do so they have been trying to do forever to get people out of there...

Jack Hail: Seems that way.

Jackson: Worst case scenario for them really.

Interviewer: What other besides...

Jack Hail: Well *[overlapping conversation]* [00:35:24] pretty much. This was our last thing left we could do to make a living.

Jackson: Over the years they may put the regulations so tight on everything that it forced you to quit because...

Jack Hail: We used to make super good money as long as there's shark. Now you're only allowed 33 black and you have to have them *[indiscernible]* [00:35:43] so what do you do? You catch 33 black heads, you got to cut the line and we go in? How are we going to make a living?

Jackson: And every time they noticed that the fisherman make money doing something, they regulated so they forced everybody out of this so then they are ready puts is exactly what they want.

Jack Hail: [00:36:00] Pretty much we don't have any way to make a living anymore. Luckily, I'm going to be 62 this year and I'm going to getting start getting Social Security

JackHail

because that's it. I mean we don't have anything left. And I've got to admit that was some 5700 traps, 5700 traps, I don't know what to do anymore. Like I said, I had to sell, I did have 10,400 certificates before I've had to sell of that many of this to people.

Jackson: It's not like yes, you can just load up couple of 100 traps and go to where the crabs are, it doesn't work like that. You can't just, I mean these things are big and heavy. You can't just pick up and go where the crabs are, you just can't do it.

Interviewer: Who's out there buying stone crab shops right now? Like this actually...

Jack Hail: I don't know but mine was at the beginning of the season. The people that bought my certificates were from key west. That's where they were from. And nobody told me that it didn't affect them too bad and then my friend Billy Weeks. The guy that bought his *[indiscernible]* [00:37:01]

Jackson: The neighbor is just killing them out there so he may have money this time.

Jack Hail: And one guy caught 1400 pounds every day for two weeks in a row. Have you guys heard the story already?

Interviewer: Wait, no.

Jack Hail: Justin Sawyer I believe his name, about 1400 a day, 1400 pounds two day every single day for two weeks in a row.

Jackson: I mean that's unbelievable. So, they had money to burn. They couldn't get enough crabs. And you can't like you can't just pack up and go up there because the guys that lived there, that's their spot. He put traps there.

Jack Hail: Plus how we're going to haul 5000 traps there anyway?

Interviewer: Yes.

Jackson: Just there with a couple hundred traps because it doesn't work like that.

Interviewer: How does it work?

Jackson: You got every 1000 of traps, you can't like...

Interviewer: No, but I mean you have 1000 of traps, if you went up there and...

Jack Hail: Oh, you're fishing in their area, the first thing you're going to light somebody else coming up in there and putting 5000 traps with your fishing net, no.

Interviewer: What would happen?

Jack Hail: It might come off.

Interviewer: They would just cut the trap [00:38:00].

Jackson: Yes.

Jack Hail: Cut the rope, there you go. *[indiscernible]* [00:38:03].

Jackson: Because you're taking their money.

Jack Hail: And it's super -- you know, they told us traps cost \$25 a piece plus you got to put it together. It's super expensive. This is a very expensive industry. I mean looks like we're making big money if we cross 250,000 every year. I probably didn't have for all the years of my life but *[indiscernible]* [00:38:22] but that's not profit. And you got it out, bait, fuel and traps...

Jackson: Like I said, by the time you get done paying somebody, you put them together and brand the buoy, paint the buoy, put all the files on, build the traps, I mean it's probably 30-40 bucks a trap. It's a lot of money to do anything. So it's like I said, you can't pack up 5000 traps to move somewhere and like, that's so much work, you know...

Jack Hail: Plus this is where I live and I don't want to go moving somewhere else anyhow.

Jackson: But even if you did, that would be a big-time deal like you would have to rent a tractor trailer, all the traps, I mean that would take months to a year.

Jack Hail: And wherever I move, those people are going to hate you.

Interviewer: Yes.

Jackson: You can't do it, you just can't.

Jack Hail: They're going to hate you and *[indiscernible]* [00:39:08] wherever it goes the money, the trap.

Jackson: You can't do that. I mean the only thing you do is go as far as you can by boat where it makes sense where you can get out there and back in the Bay because you know the crap is spoiled if you don't cook them at night. So the only thing you can do is go to or even travel by boat and get back that night. So, you know, you can travel 40 miles a day.

Jack Hail: And that didn't work for us because was dead. It's still dead. It didn't matter we went north or south. It's still dead. Once they got way to the other guys off everybody's those guys caught *[indiscernible]* [00:39:45]

JackHail

Jackson: And that's too far for us. I mean that's 60 miles or you can't go down there and...

Jack Hail: We actually went camp fishing for a while, anything to try to make a living you know, but it's just really tough especially when this is [00:40:00] all you've done, you know? This is how we really made our living on stone crab. I have *[indiscernible]* [00:40:07] fish in probably like 15 years but I didn't have any choice.

Interviewer: Is there an option like to go back to king fishing, is that something...

Jack Hail: It's seasonal. The water is gone, it's whatever you're done.

Jackson: *[indiscernible]* [00:40:18]

Jack Hail: It's not going to pay the bills and they costs big money to rent a boat like that.

Interviewer: Yes.

Jackson: Gas and fuels *[indiscernible]* [00:40:37].

Interviewer: yes, I know, it's an expensive business going out in the boat anyway, I think if you're just chartering just like gas alone and the upkeep on everything, it's a lot of work.

Jack Hail: Well, we're hoping you guys had some ideas for us or the government is going to help us. We're dreaming huh?

Interviewer: Oh, we're just here to learn on this trip, that's the plan right now. So...

Jack Hail: And you guys work on the same team?

Interviewer: We actually work out of Miami.