

**Paul Moore**

Interviewer: When did first start stone crabbing and how do you get into it?

Paul Moore: I started in 1980 that's the year I graduated high school and I went right on to the stone crab boat with my father because our family had more stone crab restaurant on the key. So it was a family thing and so that's what I did for the first 15 years I was out of high school, I primarily worked on the crab and lobster boat.

Interviewer: Okay. And did you start running your boat yourself?

Paul Moore: No, I didn't start running the boat until '91 I think it was so.

Interviewer: And when back in those days when you first started where were you fishing then?

Paul Moore: Primarily right off our coast here right say Tampa to maybe Manasota Beach.

Interviewer: Manasota?

Paul Moore: That was what we stone crab primarily. We lobster fish the first 2.5 to 3 months of lobster season in the keys.

Interviewer: When do you guys were down keys?

Paul Moore: Right, we have piece of – we have lease down there with store here down there. We go down there and fish lobster, like I said, 2 and 2.5 months get as many as we could for restaurant freezing, you know bring back of your freezer, so we have lobster for the season and we put our gear on the hill and then come back for stone crab.

Interviewer: And so and all your fishing this stone crabbing and lobster all that was for the restaurant?

Paul Moore: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay.

Paul Moore: Yeah. We didn't wholesale anything it all went through our restaurant.

Interviewer: Do you remember any red tides from when you were younger?

Paul Moore: All these days, yeah. I think the worst one I want to say is probably in the early 70s, '71 or '72, we had a real bad red tide. You know, we had a dolphin in the pin and the bay out in front of the restaurant [overlapping conversation] [00:01:54].

Interviewer: Yeah. I forgot about yeah.

**Paul Moore**

Paul Moore: Okay. Well, it was so bad that we had to remove him [00:02:00] out of service of the bay and we took him down to a place called Florida Land it was down in Englewood. And they kept him for about three weeks till it cleared up enough to where we can bring him back.

Interviewer: So it was pretty bad.

Paul Moore: It was real bad.

Interviewer: And did you see a lot of dead fish.

Paul Moore: Oh yeah. I can remember having to rake them out from underneath the restaurant every day.

Interviewer: What kind of species did you...

Paul Moore: I would say it's probably mainly mullet and catfish, pinfish and stuff like that.

Interviewer: Okay. And do you remember were you on the boat grabbing at that time?

Paul Moore: No, no, no that was...

Interviewer: That was.

Paul Moore: I was well I was born in 62, so I was probably 12.

Interviewer: All right. But so you remember that one in the 70s as a really pretty bad one.

Paul Moore: As bad as I can ever remember.

Interviewer: Do you remember smelling it.

Paul Moore: It killed the business.

Interviewer: We did.

Paul Moore: Yeah.

Interviewer: Because of. [overlapping conversation].

Paul Moore: No, because you can get nobody to come out and sit there and smell it.

Interviewer: Okay.

**PaulMoore**

Paul Moore: I mean literally our building, water went underneath our building.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Paul Moore: We're right there on the bay on pilings. So it went.

Interviewer: Now, I've been there. It's been a long time.

Paul Moore: Yeah.

Interviewer: But does your – do you remember affecting your dad's catch of stone crab that all was he – did you remember anything?

Paul Moore: I could say to that.

Interviewer: You just –

Paul Moore: That was yeah.

Interviewer: Yeah. Okay. So is there one after the 70s that you remember when you were crabbing.

Paul Moore: That affected it?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Paul Moore: Well, I can't remember specific but I in general recall whenever we did have a red tide that it usually if it wasn't super bad, it usually benefited the crabs.

Interviewer: Oh really.

Paul Moore: Yeah.

Interviewer: How?

Paul Moore: [00:04:00] What we always had a fresh and real big shark because they would have been eaten the decomposing fish.

Interviewer: Okay. [Overlapping conversation]. All that dead fish the crabs are feeding on t.

Paul Moore: Well, it's just like right now the blue crabbers are doing great and the shrimpers are doing great.

Interviewer: Oh really.

**Paul Moore**

Paul Moore: And it seems like I don't know every time after red tide you got blue crabs do good and shrimper do good. Then next year, they're killing shrimper right now.

Interviewer: So can I get a little help myself but going back to your fishing history when did you stop grabbing what for the restaurant.

Paul Moore: See, we should say that was probably the '95.

Interviewer: 95?

Paul Moore: Yeah. Yeah, my dad passed in 91. And I think about 95 we pretty much had quit and we're just buying crab from locals and around the state.

Interviewer: Okay.

Paul Moore: And then I didn't start crabbing until I went to work for John.

Interviewer: Okay. And when you're running a restaurant and back in most days.

Paul Moore: Yeah. I was working at the restaurant.

Interviewer: And so when did you start working with John?

Paul Moore: Let's see we sold the restaurant be four years in July, I took a year off, so three years ago.

Interviewer: Three years ago, okay. So then any red tides that you remember being on the water would be from that time till now, would do you have other -- were you working on the water previously?

Paul Moore: Well, from 80 to 95.

Interviewer: 80 to 95.

Paul Moore: Yes.

Interviewer: And were there any red tides that you remember then?

Paul Moore: Well, not specifically but I can remember avidly, you know, what I'm saying, but it had to be real bad to effect stone crab because [00:06:00] it had to be from the top to the bottom.

Interviewer: Okay. So you don't remember any of those types of red tides in that time period.

Paul Moore: That killed stone crabs?

**Paul Moore**

Interviewer: Yeah.

Paul Moore: Is that what we're talking about.

Interviewer: Well, just red tides had an impact on stone crab or that you recognize having. So I guess what we're trying to get is from your past history of fishing till now. Are there instances of red tide that you remember that might had some kind of an impact on your fishing or crabbing or anything like that from, yeah.

Paul Moore: Yeah. I'm trying to – I can't say that I can remember specifics, but I can remember having red tide and having dead crabs in the trap.

Interviewer: Okay. For sure, but nothing like the 70s one or this past one...

Paul Moore: I would say of in terms of the intensity that was probably – there are probably about even, but this one stayed around so long. I never seen one last as long as this last one did. I mean usually you got a couple weeks and it's out of here. But this thing is like and we had storms and the gulf got rough and it got cold and still hung around, so. I would say that was the longest duration I've ever seen.

Interviewer: For sure did last longer what about intensity is it more intense or was it?

Paul Moore: I would say it was on par with that one I remember in the early 70s.

Interviewer: Okay.

Paul Moore: Intense wise, so there were a lot of dead fish.

Interviewer: When we so, what do you remember from last year in this area that you were fishing. Can you kind of draw out the areas that was affected by the red tide?

Paul Moore: Well, well I don't know that I saw any effects other than there was no crab off our coast. See I always I never crabbed in that area [00:08:00] in my whole life. I've always worked like I said from say now for Tampa Bay to Manasota Beach.

Interviewer: Manasota Beach? Right.

Paul Moore: Maybe Boca Grande at stretching it for this, but there was nothing of our coast I mean nothing. We put a few drops out there.

Interviewer: So would make more sense to go down and talk about that area?

Paul Moore: Well, this area out here see our problem here's a brief that. Right here, here's a reef I was probably. I'm going to say about here would be the furthest north of the first offshore we were.

**Paul Moore**

Interviewer: Okay. And then let's see where clear water, John's past right here.

Paul Moore: This is John Patrick okay well we were probably about here all through here headlines all through here, here, here, here, but along the line here. We were nothing inside of this is a three mile, right. We were yes a three mile and we don't have anything inside the 3 mile island. So we were from 3 mile line how to -- I think it's about not this line here is 9 miles. That line there is the natural resource line. That's 9 miles offshore.

Interviewer: Okay.

Paul Moore: We were between those two, all in this area.

Interviewer: And you didn't have anything inshore --

Paul Moore: No.

Interviewer: -- because.

Paul Moore: Just because that's where all of them. Well for one thing I don't like to be inshore when it's rough in the January, February. The traction or blow to the beach plus all the weekend warriors were out here. I mean you can get out here. Nobody messes with you.

Interviewer: Okay. But then -- but this area you didn't have any red tide up here [00:10:00] or did you.

Paul Moore: Well, I saw dead fish floating on the surface, yeah for sure.

Interviewer: When you did, okay?

Paul Moore: Yeah. We went through patches of it, but every day crab. I didn't see it moving driving crab anywhere.

Interviewer: So we're used to -- where they saying dead crab down here.

Paul Moore: From what I saw and from what I've heard of it.

Interviewer: All right. Okay.

Paul Moore: I mean nothing that's --

Interviewer: So you guys can even set traps.

Paul Moore: Well, I put a few out there, yeah. But I didn't catch a single one.

**Paul Moore**

Interviewer: Nothing, okay. And then that made you come up, yeah.

Paul Moore: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay.

Paul Moore: [Indiscernible] [00:10:39] they were catching good crab out there. So we got a crab here all year long. But it was – it's a 2.5 hour run from here. So 2.5 hours up and 2.5 hour back from travelling 5:00 hours a day.

Interviewer: And so with that what would you normally if you didn't have when you're fishing all of this coast outlook how far when you travelling?

Paul Moore: I go out long boat pass and go out three or four miles I will be fishing.

Interviewer: And how long would that take about fishing.

Paul Moore: 40 minutes.

Interviewer: 40 minutes, so you're going from 40 minutes to get out your fishing that's crabbing grass to now 2.5 hours.

Paul Moore: Right.

Interviewer: Okay. And burning a lot –

Paul Moore: Yeah. That was costing you more.

Interviewer: Yeah. I say average 150 gallons a day.

Paul Moore: Really.

Paul Moore: But if you catching the crab, the price of crab that's you can make that up. But it's just lost time.

Interviewer: What was that how to affect the price of crab?

Paul Moore: Crabs were pretty expensive this year.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Paul Moore: Yeah. I'd say our average I think we run four sizes and what I normally do I take the price of all those four add them together and divide by four and that's give you, you know, your average prices it's almost \$20.

Interviewer: \$20. And what would you normally get for an average price.

Paul Moore: [00:12:00] Well, last few years that's about right. Here's pretty – they've been pretty expensive the last few years.

Interviewer: Is that because of scarce.

Paul Moore: That's -- it's supply demand.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Paul Moore: I mean if there's a bunch of around the price drops and varying around price group super sale just like anything.

Interviewer: So can you describe the red tide I mean when you will coming up here you're probably going through it?

Paul Moore: Yeah. Yeah. I definitely when through it Tampa Bay ran through clouds of it just north of the ship channel. You would see dead fish, it was patching, very patchy.

Interviewer: Okay. What was it like can you describe the colors are used?

Paul Moore: It was like a burnt orange almost when you run through it and you wake and your prop wash has a red color to it.

Interviewer: We can see here.

Paul Moore: Yeah. It was pretty bad. It was pretty big.

Interviewer: And how did affect your health at all make it smell and –

Paul Moore: Desperately –

Interviewer: Desperation or anything like that.

Paul Moore: And personally not me no. Yeah, it really doesn't bother me. I mean years past when it's break it up on the beach. It'll cost and all that driving through it and really get bother me all.

Interviewer: What kind of fish dead, fish did you see with species?

Paul Moore: Lots of mullet, [Indiscernible] [00:13:23] grouper, lots of trash fish, you know, [indiscernible] [00:13:28], snake fish, eels, catfish. I saw some bait fish, I saw some [indiscernible] [00:13:37]. Saw a couple big red fish, I personally didn't see any [indiscernible].

Interviewer: But you heard.

**PaulMoore**

Paul Moore: I heard I mean it was a bunch of but I don't see any out with anyway. I saw some of the beach in my neighborhood. I live in the village there right there where the restaurant used to be.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Paul Moore: [00:14:00] There was some dead fish there on the beach.

Interviewer: Was there any species I didn't see the surprise that you didn't see it?

Paul Moore: But I didn't see it.

Interviewer: So, it's – were there any indicators before that was coming that you could tell that you notice for you?

Paul Moore: No. I would say so it just appeared and you guys. You did a kind of move up from the south and you –

Interviewer: Yeah.

Paul Moore: That's the way I understood it.

Interviewer: [indiscernible] [00:14:45].

Paul Moore: It was a Charlotte County and then moving north.

Interviewer: And your way of adapting was all you had to move north to crab when you came up here with their more fishermen up and then?

Paul Moore: Yeah. Everybody.

Interviewer: Right I mean did that cause any – were there any issues because of the concentrated effort there?

Paul Moore: No.

Interviewer: You guys when [indiscernible] [00:15:10].

Paul Moore: Not any worse than ever before. I mean I've seen it. It happens.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Paul Moore: No, nobody was never complaint to me about it anyway.

Interviewer: Has it – this area off of this coast is recovered yet.

**PaulMoore**

Paul Moore: I don't I can't say. That's a good question.

Interviewer: So when we put traps out again.

Paul Moore: Well, you can't put the water again until October.

Interviewer: It would be October for you really know.

Paul Moore: Yeah. But I probably sneak feel out there during the summer just to see if there's anything crawl around.

Interviewer: Yeah. Does –

Paul Moore: That's a good question. I mean how long was going to take to recover?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Paul Moore: I mean I've heard people say that [00:16:00] they know the bottom line there was nothing lots are fisherman dead or everything was dead.

Interviewer: Did where these crab were they reacting any differently or was there anything about them that was different from?

Paul Moore: No.

Interviewer: No. Did you –

Paul Moore: I would say that probably were driven.

Interviewer: Do you think they moved up.

Paul Moore: Yeah. I would say.

Interviewer: You moved up that.

Paul Moore: I would say that was driven there because if that happens like if we have a influx of octopus a lot of times octopus were show up coming from offshore and no drive crab right to the beach.

Interviewer: Would you guys you catch them in the travel.

Paul Moore: Octopus, yeah. We didn't get live fish, but I'm just saying in years gone by I can remember our offshore traps it starts here we see octopus or tuna and then the next week you could see 15 or 20 in the next week every track would have two in it.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Paul Moore: And no crabs any movement short couple miles ended up driving all the way to the beach.

Interviewer: That's interesting. So they're going to have to the crab.

Paul Moore: Octopus yeah. You do anything but they really like crabs.

Interviewer: And you're not seeing any other species kind of their differences and species make some things and bring up the traps some of the red tide or anything like that?

Paul Moore: No.

Interviewer: That's okay. Is there anything why do you think what's the cost of all the stuff do you have any ideas of what you think cause all this?

Paul Moore: What causes the red tide?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Paul Moore: Well.

Interviewer: This type of red tide or anything like that or anything that you.

Paul Moore: Well, I mean everybody says the same thing you're feeding it would run off from the land and all that, but I mean it's a natural occurrence has been happened since beginning the time. [00:18:00] Is it anywhere has been I don't really think so. I mean the only thing I can say was worse was the duration.

Interviewer: That lasted long.

Paul Moore: Yeah that lasted a long time.

Interviewer: But the intensity was very similar to the one in the 70s but the duration of this one lasted longer.

Paul Moore: Very longer.

Interviewer: And so what it would –

Paul Moore: That we go away with comeback it's moved up there over there. I don't know who knows.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Paul Moore: Yeah. Title flow you've got all that nutrients coming out of the bays. You know I mean I'm sure that doesn't help, does it cause, I don't think so. That's feed it you may.

Interviewer: So you think it's after all the time and some –

Paul Moore: You assured it is.

Interviewer: Like them and just [overlapping conversation] concentrate enough all that everything's right.

Paul Moore: Yeah.

Interviewer: Way clean it up.

Paul Moore: Okay.

Interviewer: Is there anything I imagine I could do to kind of help that would help you and your crabbing activities or fishing or anything like that? What type of management that we're talking about?

Paul Moore: Well, I'm just saying that I mean this or I know we have to move and that's your adaptations and it sounds like it's not really created an issue so much in terms of, but is there anything with regard to having red tide impacts you. Is there anything that you thought the management might be able to do to help nothing that you can think of.

Interviewer: I could see how I mean I'm not one of those I think you got to try to stop when red tide I mean the end up like love bugs. Whatever you're going to do to try to stop that might be something else.

Paul Moore: Yeah.

Interviewer: Well it was someone to stop the red tide is there anything that would help you when you're fishing [00:20:00] annual round or crabbing to?

Paul Moore: Boy I could see I couldn't see.

Interviewer: Just this with your adaptation there really isn't anything else that you do.

Paul Moore: What else did you do?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Paul Moore: We go over the crab, yes.

**PaulMoore**

Interviewer: Yes. Is there been any other kind of environment change out there that you've seen in the water other than red tide. And when I say red tide we call red tide of the notes all these different colors are out there.

Paul Moore: And black water go there.

Interviewer: Have you seen black, I haven't seen black water isolated in the Everglades, but I haven't seen it here.

Paul Moore: Okay. I think the coast is pretty healthy. I don't think I've seen more cruel come up that I had this year.

Interviewer: Oh really.

Paul Moore: Okay. Live cruel the road to get around it if you're on the rock like opportunities or whatever.

Interviewer: Is that new for this area to see crab more coral like that.

Paul Moore: I don't know this new but it sure is a good indicator that your waters good.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Paul Moore: I mean coral. Is it really delicate.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Paul Moore: So we got a lot of coral I think that's.

Interviewer: So this coming season you're just going to wait to see you as a trap in this area to see if there's anything there.

Paul Moore: That's all you can do.

Interviewer: And then if not –

Paul Moore: What I'll probably do this year is I probably won't put all gear in the water at once. I'll probably put it put a tester line here and tester line around and in this way to see what happens.

Interviewer: Well, let me ask you this because not supposed to put traps in the water before sees it opens. With that do something that if they had a time that they could allow you to test the water with that help?

Paul Moore: Oh sure that'll be great. But right now it's 10 days prior so the season opens on the 15th you start dropping traps.

Interviewer: You start putting the traps in.

Paul Moore: On the 5th [00:22:00].

Paul Moore: Okay.

Interviewer: Which camp you got.

Paul Moore: [indiscernible] [00:22:00] 15th.

Interviewer: So that's kind of test period.

Paul Moore: Yeah that really doesn't tell you a whole lot because you're putting new traps or dry traps in the water that you know have season up so that really doesn't give you much and you're technically not supposed to go through.

Interviewer: Yeah, you know but everything does.

Paul Moore: So we we'll check one here and there.

Interviewer: But FWC they don't do any trapping to test [indiscernible] [00:22:24]. Did they do any kind of stuff, they put traps off?

Paul Moore: Yeah.

Interviewer: So do you get those reports from them I mean.

Paul Moore: No.

Interviewer: Okay.

Paul Moore: But I have seen [indiscernible] [00:22:36] FWC see them.

Interviewer: So it would be beneficial if you had some they could do it or you guys can do it and test the waters to see.

Paul Moore: That'll be great. I mean at least you can spot check I mean absolutely you could bring any product to the dock.

Interviewer: Right.

Paul Moore: But it would be nice to be able to put some out in August, you know, 10 or 15 here 10 or 15 there and be able to see if there's anything a lot.

Interviewer: Right.

Paul Moore: That'll be great.

Interviewer: And that's what I'm thinking about in terms of how management can help you to adapt with kind of predict what the season might be long. So you guys would know.

Paul Moore: Yeah. That'll be awesome.

Interviewer: Like you say you don't want to put on a traps out there.

Paul Moore: Right and just turnaround moving.

Interviewer: Yeah. I mean got move enough as it is.

Paul Moore: So this move and everything and there's nothing that management could do to help with that and you got it right. Let's say one of them down traps [overlapping conversation] [00:23:44].

Interviewer: Any other or anything else that we haven't talked about you think it's relevant. We have a product that you write and you remember about last year which is the issue or something like that?

Paul Moore: No.

Interviewer: [00:24:00] Do you work with FWC?

Paul Moore: No. But I mean we know FWC [indiscernible] [00:24:15].

Interviewer: Do you have a recommendation for them?

Paul Moore: It's really not related to red tide or anything but I was -- there's a lot of different agencies let's say in the water you've got to sheriff, you've got to coast guard, you got to FWC, you've got the homeland security, you've got every city has a -- it would be good for us if we could have one legislative body or whatever.

Interviewer: [indiscernible] [00:24:50].

Paul Moore: I got check stops in check 6 times last year.

Interviewer: Alright.

Paul Moore: Like six different places.

Interviewer: Six different ones.

**Paul Moore**

Paul Moore: And except for the FWC none of them really know how to talk about. And I had a sheriff from Pinellas County board my boat almost to the 9 mile. And I have to assume the way I extradition I don't think they jurisdiction goes past 3 months, County sheriff's.

Interviewer: There's some change that they're looking at and I don't know if it's been implemented not but I think they're trying to move it out to 9 miles. I don't know what happened yeah that might be why he resulted I don't know. But that's interesting know I mean get stop six times, six different entities. One asked to look at this, one asked to look at, but that's really listening to what we're talking about.

Interviewer: Well, that's about all I got in terms of question about the red tide now you reflected something like that. [00:26:00] I appreciate it, you can take some time.

Paul Moore: Yeah. I mean it really doesn't affect stone crabbing like it does general fishing, right.

Interviewer: Right.

Paul Moore: And of course your guide to stuff for effective way more than like I would be.

Interviewer: Well, so I mean you are spending more money coming up here to trap so. And if you're getting the same price on your slightly getting less money than you did the years before so is there any way that you would have to make up that extras expense. Well I couldn't see how, I mean you know prices the prices what the price is.

Paul Moore: Yeah.

Interviewer: And price fuels what the price fuel is.

Paul Moore: Depending how many people were you got on the boat, they all got to get paid.

Interviewer: That's I mean that's one thing you would take what less people or you know, paid there.

Paul Moore: Yeah. We did pick one last man this year you normally do. But it really didn't affect there. Work I think that affected me was travel time I was say the most because you only have so many hours daylight especially in the fall when you know the day short, you know, it's dark at 6. We would leave in the dark and come home in the dark, you know, you got 5 hours in the middle of the day that you have lost all you doing is...

Interviewer: So you traveling further less time to crab.

**PaulMoore**

Paul Moore: Yeah. If I want to caught crab like this off our clothes that's have been on all day.

Interviewer: Yeah. But there were plenty of crabs.

Paul Moore: It was plenty of crab and 20 people grabbing, I mean and north – even north of that I heard was really good [indiscernible] [00:27:56] I know the two guys up there first thing had 900 pounds from the first day [00:28:00].

Interviewer: And then that's not normal for that.

Paul Moore: That's not normal, yeah. That's tells you that tells me that all those crabs were pushed into that area. They were running from them.

Interviewer: Well, I mean I guess they have some out there but I just want to meeting of these ideal waters in this area. Yeah what keeps them from going out is it just...

Paul Moore: Well I think you don't generally Cedar key is about it not too much further north. I would say probably say mainly because of all the fresh water coming out there.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Paul Moore: All the springs and all of you know all at.

Interviewer: Well, that's all I got, Christina anything.

Christina: Frantically...

Interviewer: Well, Paul I appreciate you.

Christina: Thank you.

Paul Moore: I don't know if I gave you any refresh word...