

Christina Package-Ward: Can we start maybe with your background and how you got into the fishing industry?

Mike Wilson: Okay. I was born and raised down in Waldport. Dad's an auto mechanic. I actually headed to Alaska running away from what everybody thought I should do. I was highly recruited out of high school; professional baseball team looking at me. I got a little lippy with a collegiate coach on an interview and then the word got out that I was uncoachable, had an attitude. So, I just thought, you know what? Screw all you people; hopped in my truck, and I headed to the end of the road, took a buddy with me. Had no idea where I was going, or what I was doing, I was just going. Ended up in Homer. There was a boat sitting there. Cars were going on. Where's that boat going? I was going to Kodiak. Oh, we're going to Kodiak. So, we drove on to that ferry. Well, they didn't tell us it wasn't coming back for six months. So, here we are stuck over in Kodiak and decided you need to get a job. So, he ended up in a cannery, working in a cannery and I started out backing crab in a butcher shop. I wasn't there but maybe two hours and I kind of caught over the corner of my eye that guy that just hired me was standing over there pointing at me with another guy. I'm like, holy crap, am I doing something wrong here? Now, I had a mountain of crab in front of me twice the size of anybody else, thinking shit, maybe I'm doing them wrong. So, I reached over to this little Filipino guy, and I took one of his crabs away from him. It looked the same thing I'm doing, and pretty quick tap, tap, tap on the shoulder. I never really worked for anybody other than my dad. So, it was seed run equipment. I also in the summertime worked in the woods building logging roads. So, I'd run Cats and skidders and loaders and whatnot. So, the gentleman seeing that I'd run equipment, so he took me off of backhand crab and made me a foreman the first day loading the Sealand vans full of finished crab. So, I did that job for I don't know, two, three weeks maybe. He needed a tune up done in his car. He also saw on my application that I'd worked in an auto shop and so he wanted to know if I knew how to do a tune up. Duh. So, I started asking him a bunch of questions about what he might need and – or what I might need in order to get it. Well, the hardware store's over there, just go get what you need. So, I took his car in the shop, and I did a tune up on it. The next day I got a tap on the shoulder and that car didn't run that good when it was new, I got a new job for you. So, I'm now on maintenance. Or what's that? Well, basically you sit up there, and you drink coffee till something breaks and then you order this tool belt and the radio. I'm not a clock writer. If there's something to do I want to be doing it. I happened to that particular day in (Essen?) was broke down. I ended up helping in the unloaders. There was a boat in, unloading crab, and so down the ladder I went and into the fish hole of that boat, now I'm pitching crab a madman. The next day, that boat owner showed up looking for that big redheaded guy. Needed a deckhand. Oh, shit, I never did it before. I don't know. So, he said, “well, none of us knew if we could do it until we tried it.” So, I went out and I was promised no pay. No pay. If you work out, we'll talk about pay after the trip. If you don't work out, we'll give you something for the trip, and we'll have to get rid of you. So, I go out there and I've never been yelled at as – I mean, holy shit. My coaches, that's a piece of cake to what I got yelled at. Didn't know squat from nothing. Never got seasick. I thought I worked my ass off. I've set chokers behind Cats; two of them. You run to the landing, you can hook them, you go back and hook the load on the next load. You follow that cat back to the Atlantic. Nobody will ever say anything about me not being a hard worker. That's the first thing you are ever going to hear. So, I go out and I made this fishing trip. I've never quit anything in my life. I just can't say that word. You can fire me. That's your choice, it ain't mine. So, we're on our way to town and I'm

thinking holy shit. I hope I get fired, I got to figure out a way to get fired because this – I thought I was tough. No. So, we're about an hour out of Kodiak and I get a call from the skipper and the owner to come upstairs and I'm thinking, oh, good, I'm going to get fired. He's telling me before we get there, I'm going to get fired. So, I get upstairs and he's – he said, "I've been fishing a long time." He said, "I've never run across a situation like this before. So, this is what I'm going to do." He said, "I'm paying you top share." He says, "you are one of the working–est guys I've ever had on my boat." Shit, I'm not fired? So, I go back downstairs in my bunk and I'm thinking, "oh, man, this might be the first time I have to say I quit." So, we get to town. I got no money, because I had to buy all the gear to go on the trip. So, one of the other crewmen, I asked him to borrow twenty bucks. For what? So, I have something to eat. Well, eat the boat's food. That's what it's there for. I said, well, we're not working. I can't eat the guy's food. Well, no, it don't work that way. If you're on the boat, eat the boat's food. You're working on the boat while you're in town. I say, I can't do that. Well, get a draw. I said, well, I only worked for four days. How can I ask for a paycheck? So, that was it. He wouldn't loan me the twenty bucks. So, I didn't eat. The next day, the owner came up to me and handed me a check. Well, why didn't you say you needed money? Well, I've only been working here for four days? That ain't right. Well, you can have a draw anytime you want. You'll get paid on the 30th of every month. So, he hands me this check, and I'm like, give it back. He said, somebody made a mistake with this. "Well, no," he said, "That's a draw check." How much of that do I share with other guys? None. That's your draw check. How much did I make? Well, I don't know I ain't got time for that, you get ten percent of the gross dollars and figure it out. You know what we delivered and – so that's all mine. Five thousand dollars for four days, I can do this again. Them guys can yell at me all they want. There's not a problem here. So, out the next trip, and it got easier because you learn as you're going. Back in those days, they didn't teach you nothing. You learn by getting yelled at, and to do it fast. Don't care if it's wrong. Just do it and do it fast. You'll learn as you're going. One of the guys on the boat, years later – or not years later, but after being there for a while. Got to know him well. Ex Marine, three tours in Nam in North Vietnam, as part of that sounds kind of odd. So, he was a platoon leader for a unit that was behind enemy lines that secured a perimeter for snipers. They sent snipers into North Korea to knock off head people. So, these snipers had to have somewhere to R&R. So, they just killed a few people, probably with his hands, probably with a gun and a knife. So, one day he was sitting on a five–gallon bucket, I was running the hydraulics he was sitting on a bucket. My job was to come out from where the hydraulics were, get the line, put it on the top of the pot. Well, he was sitting down on this bucket. I didn't pay attention that he didn't move the bucket because it was right in my path. It caught me right in between the knees and the shins down I go and I'm a little warm. So, I had a bit of reputation for getting in a few scuffles right off the bat getting into Kodiak. So, I started in on him, "you lazy SOB, you sit on his bucket, and you're supposed to be some big, tough marine, and sitting down on your job." So, he turned around to me and said, "oh, you're just being childish." I said, "do you want to step back here behind the pot, and I'll show you what childish is. Oh, what, you want to fight?" That's all it took. I hit him four or five times before he even knew. I picked him up and threw him overboard. Not even thinking about he ain't going to come back. But I'm just solving the situation. So, we got him back on the boat. He went in, cleaned it all up, put new gear on, came out, and we never spoke of it. To this day, have never spoken of it. So, in the back of my mind, I always have wondered, probably till the day I die. Was it his training that he knew he pushed me too far and he had it coming. So, what's the bloody nose? Big deal. Or did I actually get him by surprise and whip his ass? That's the

bottom line. That's the question that I'd always wanted to ask him. He lives in Virginia now and he stops by and sees my dad all the time. So, anyway, that kind of started –

CPW: I think he said he would hurt you or something [laughter].

MW: Oh, he could kill me. Was it that much restraint that he's thinking, “oh, you know what? I had it coming.” The guy’s not going to kill me. He might give me a bloody nose. Funny guy. Became very good friends. So, I was there for about two years. The guy I was working for him, and his brother were building a new boat. They both had little boats. So, they picked the crew for the big boat from the two little boats. I was chosen as the engineer because the engineer he had really wasn't doing his job. From my background, I see things that need fixed, I'd fix them. You didn't have to tell me. No, it's not right. It needs fixed. So, the owner was impressed. So, I got more pay and started engineering on the boat. So, then I was chosen for the engineer on the new boat. I spent about nine months in Alabama building that boat, brought it up from Alabama. The two brothers had gotten into a fight down in Alabama and a second boat got built because the younger brother ended up with the first one. If you want me shorten the story up I can. I've been partnered with the same guy for thirty–some years, we've owned four or five boats together over those thirty years. So, I can fill in a lot more from there if you want or just cut to the chase.

CPW: Yes, who is the guy on the boat?

MW: The Painters. Ted Painter. Actually, in about 1980 or [19]81, I was running another boat. I had been on the Trailblazer. I ended up quitting. Yes, I quit and – I guess I end up quitting, I went and ran another boat for a guy to take it away from his partners and get it back to him. Not sure what I was going to do next. But then the old feller Painter had had a friend that owned the boat. The guys that were running it were stealing from the guys. I mean, it was horrible. I turned the job down originally and then they coaxed me into going ahead and taking this boat. So, I ran it for two years. Then Ted, the one I originally started with, he was ready to retire at thirty–eight. So, he approached me, and he said, “You started with me. If you come back, I'll sell you twenty five percent of the Alaska *Trojan*.” So, I went over started and started running the Alaska *Trojan*, ended up buying twenty five percent of it. Then in 1989, we got the *Trojan* down here and cut it in half. Eighty-nine, I think it was. We cut the *Trojan* in half and added twenty feet to it. We were still filling it up really, really fast even with another tank. So, then we had the *Kiska* designed and we built the *Kiska*. A year later we built the Siberian Sea. Two years ago, sold the *Kiska* to Aleutian Spray Fisheries. I'm going to stay running for them for a while. In the meantime, there, I bought another boat over in Guam and took it to – well – Tinker. Mom is leaving. She gets upset. We fished the North Pacific South Pacific albacore. That's kind of a corrupt fishery, you got to be on the A–list out of San Diego to really get anything done. So, we took it to Hawaii, and we – long line for the Big–Eyed Tuna. I just sold that boat two years ago, because I couldn't be in two places at one time, the normal Skipper, he needed some time off. I hired a guy; he quit after two days – or no, four days. He brought the boat back to town and just in commenting to some guys that I was pissed off; I was going to put a For Sale sign on the boat and sell it. The next day they put nine–hundred–thousand dollars in my hand. Sold it [laughter]. It happened quick. So, that brings us up to date. So, that was kind of how. After being there for a couple of years and making a shit pile of money, my brother followed me up there. My dad came up when he was forty-four. He sold his business, said, “if you punks can

make that kind of money, I work twenty hours a day.” He did; he worked twenty hours a day seven days a week in that shop. So, he came up and he worked on deck with us for about four years on the Trailblazer. Made enough money came back down then he signed an agreement he wouldn't do any mechanical work for ten years within so many miles of his old business. So, he drove a fuel truck for a while and then he ended up building another shop and went back to auto mechanic. My brother, he's – he'd been running boats for – oh, since the mid-eighties probably. He's running [inaudible] (Marie?) right now for (Cornelia?). He normally runs – he used to run the Lady Kodiak and then over to the Lady Illusion. Then the Incentive and he's still running. I think they renamed it to the Unsatiated or some damn thing.

CPW: Are those Newport boats?

MW: No, those are out of Kodiak. Yes. Those are Kodiak boats.

CPW: Yes. I think I got your brother on my list.

MW: Yes, Jim. Well, he got – ran with the wrong people with start with up there. The drugs kind of flowed freely on some of them boats back in the day. He went down the wrong road. He had to hang it up for four or five years and get cleaned up and then came back and he actually started working for me on deck. Then when we built *Kiska*, he was running the *Trojan* and then Dave Capri bought into the *Trojan* and Dave and my brother couldn't get along. So, my brother quit, and the Painters were no nonsense, get her done, act professional, be treated professional. There was no room for any of that. I mean, back in the day, I walked in and saw he was borrowing Kodiak, you could see a hundred-thousand-dollar pile of cocaine sitting on a bar table. It was no big deal. No big deal. Police would walk right on through; they were all on the tape. They'd walk through and as long as everybody was being have, they'd just look the other way and walk right on out. The white drugs were readily available back there in the day, there was so much money, so much money floating around young kids. I mean, you'd see young kids that couldn't even drive having brand-new pickups all jacked up sitting in driveway waiting till they get that driver's license. Salmon season was going good, the shrimping was phenomenal. Young kids are going out with their dad salmon fishing and make twenty-five, thirty thousand dollars in the summer at fifteen years old. Holy crap, that's a lot of money. So, it was the Wild West back in the day. Back there in the late seventies. I went up in 1976. Had actually no real idea where I was going; I was just going. Get away. So, my buddy, he ended up staying at the cannery for quite a bit longer than I did. Then he actually got on with us on the boat I was on, on the *Buccaneer*. So, that's pretty much my story. I'm sticking to it.

[laughter]

CPW: Do you think with the drugs and Kodiak was that just because there was so much money going around that it just –

MW: Yes. If there's money like that there's going to be drugs. That's the bottom line. What else are you going to spend your money on? When you're fishing and fighting all the time and drinking. I'm too much of a redneck. I like to fight, so if you're all messed up, you're going to get your ass kicked. So, I had quite a reputation for banging people around, because I could.

But then I got in a fight there when I was twenty-three. I was three-time state champion shotput or discus thrower. Phenomenal distances for back then in a sixty foot, sixty-two-foot, sixty-four foot. I had quite an arm, and that's what everybody wanted from me. For my size to throw a shotput like that. I can throw a punch. I hit a guy. I didn't. I beat the shit out of him is what I did. He called me out. I hear you're the tough guy around here. I don't know. I play to win. I'm a pretty tough guy where I come from, and I hear you're the man. So, we went out behind the bar. We rose sober, stone sober. Actually, I don't think I was stone sober, I had just enough in me where I was kind of mean, but not drunk. I knocked him out the first punch and I wasn't satisfied. I wanted to make sure he remembered that he got his ass kicked. So, I picked him up and I held him just about at my waist. I didn't know anybody would follow this out there to watch and it was a gentlemen's agreement whatever happens, happens, nobody goes to jail. That time I went a little over the edge with a guy and I messed him up really bad and ripped his jaw out from the corner of his ear right into the center, here. The way I was holding him and the way I punched it just caught him just wrong. I remember hearing people that were watching saying, "come on, he's had enough, you proved your point." I'm like, "no, no, I'm going to make sure," and that next one was the one that made sure. So, the ambulance comes to get him, taking him off. The police came and they locked me up, threw me in the back seat of the car. We made it over to the hospital and I was in the backseat. They were in there for, I don't know, twenty, twenty-five minutes or something. They came out, they grabbed me out of the backseat, throwing me up against the back of the car and they uncuffed me. They said, "you're free to go." Yes, "he said he started it, and you were just defending yourself." I said, "well, take me back down the bar you son of a bitch because you didn't pick me up here." Well, I've learned my lesson about keeping my mouth shut with the police when you got a good thing going. So, I got back down there. They're like, "what the hell happened to you? That son of a bitch of a guy didn't even touch you." I said, "when you get a good deal with the cops you keep your mouth shut," because they beat the shit out of me, and they left me in a mud puddle at the hospital. So, the next day I went to the hospital, told the guy where I live, my phone number, what boat I worked on, and when you get done, you give me the bill. We'll split it down the middle, you start – you caused half, and I caused half. So, that's the best I can do. We remained friends for a number of years until he finally left the island. But it was that way back in the day. It was nobody needed to get the police involved. You just went out there and sorted it out. Most of the time you went back in and had a drink together, but this particular time he had to go to the hospital. So, I made a promise. I have not broken that promise. I've been in plenty of fights, but I ain't punching nobody. I will not throw that punch. If I get a hold of you, I'll mess you up just as bad. I mean, I'll bite your ear off, your nose. I don't care, finger. I mean, I'm going to play to win, but I'm not throwing that punch. So, I quit drinking. Actually, not totally quit. I'll have a glass of wine or a vodka tonic. Maybe it's dinner. Baileys in my coffee, a beer on a hot day, but I am not ever approaching that spot that I know I can't go past. So, I'm not a friendly drunk. So, Anybody that knows me will tell you the same thing. Holy shit don't get in his crosshairs. So, I played to win. If you don't knock me out right off the bat, you're in trouble. So, it was just the way it was back during the days. Nobody went to jail over it –

CPW: I mean, what is the craziest thing that happened up there that you can think of? That you would want to tell me [laughter] about?

MW: In the bars?

CPW: Anywhere? I am just curious what it was like up there.

MW: I was just – I mean there was law around, but they didn't get involved. God, the craziest thing?

CPW: Or wildest or funniest or [laughter] I don't know.

MW: Yeah, that's a long time ago and I'm old. Just drinking and partying and carrying on and – no. Well actually one of the funniest things I've seen, which really wasn't funny, but at the time, Wayne Baker that runs the Trailblazer now, big old guy done more drugs than – and he finally quit. Said, "oh, I've done everything they got, and it didn't kill me so might as well quit." Him and his brother could eat glass. Just bite the bar glass up, start chewing on it. One night he got a little wound up there in the B&B bar in Kodiak. He went over to the pool cue rack, and he just started grabbing the pool cues right up at the top and just snipping the tops of them off with his hand, just snap, snap, snap. The barmaid Amy comes over like, "Wayne." Wayne wouldn't settle down and so the police came. This little four-foot-tall policeman was studded knuckled black gloves on, and his little Sap and they were trying to get Wayne corralled enough to put the cuffs on him. I had just left the bar because it was getting out of hand. Well, I was running the boat at the time, and I didn't need to be going to jail. I got down to the end of the – or Cannery Row and there go the police cars. Oh, shit, the cops are going back to get Wayne. We were going to leave tomorrow morning. So, I turn around I go back to the bar. There they are. Well then black bar ashtrays are a real, big heavy, thick, black plastic. Wayne was holding them up in his hand, this right in the cop's face and just crushing them. Just give it a try or anybody you know that's strong just have them try it. Them cops didn't want nothing to do with Wayne they're backpedaling towards the door, and I came up. Let me just take him to the boat and put him to bed, we're leaving in the morning to go – oh, he works for you? Could you get him out of here? They're like, "get him the hell out of here." So, I take him back to the boat put his ass to bed. I go home. The next morning we're going to leave, Wayne's in jail. He had went back down to the bar continued on but his – him and his brother they are some tough son of a guns but he was one of them happy drunks. I don't ever remember we're never getting into a fight with nobody and one of the crew one time on our boat, Raymond, he's running the *Trojan* now, he got all drunk up and lipped off to somebody and they picked him up he's two hundred plus threw him across the bar and broke his goddamn shoulder. So, we had to go make a bunch of trips shorthanded. There's a lot of people from this Lincoln County area that are in – that were – that went to Kodiak, the Halls, Wilburn Hall, and (Laverne?) and Chet the whole Hall family went there and then the Painters were there and the (Kosseff's?). There were just a ton of local people. So, the funnest time back in those days was at Christmas time. Everybody kind of slowed down on the fishing and you had massive Christmas party get togethers, it gets from one house to the next house and more food than you can shake a stick at. We have in the wintertime the ice would freeze on the lakes, we can go out and have barbecue bonfires at the edge of the lake and ride the snow machines and there was a real community get together from these Lincoln County people that were up there, the wives, they had the Fisherman's Wives Club and they all kind of stuck around each other.

CPW: So, did a lot of people have houses up there then?

MW: Yes, we didn't live in igloos like everybody thought. Oh, you wouldn't believe I come back home people asking you, if you live in an igloo up there. No, there's real houses. Yes.

CPW: I just didn't know if people lived on the boats.

MW: No. Well, if you had your family up there you had a house and you want to get off the boat you spend so much time on the boat that when you're in town, you're wanting to get off, so you end up buying a house. I mean there's just – I'm sure there's tons of funny things and excitement that, like I said, it's been a long, long, long time ago.

CPW: So, did you just fish for all the boats that you had I guess besides that one that you did the tuna and all that were they crab boats?

MW: Yes. Yes, didn't do any dragging. My philosophy on dragging, if you want to drag you go out here and you pull logs. Dragging on the ocean. I don't know about that. So, no we did all the crab species. Then with Alaska *Trojan*, we did a lot of halibut fishing, black coddling, and we ended up faring really well in the IFQs in the halibut when that thing came around. That was pretty much it and it's strictly crab and then halibut and Black Cod.

CPW: So, I guess maybe – yes, with the IFQs. I just think it is interesting because another one of the guys was talking about halibut and then kind of opposed to crab. I just –

MW: Well, what happened was a number of things I guess happened. It wasn't just any one thing. When the Magnuson–Stevens Act was developed it pushed them foreigners outside of two–hundred miles. They're out there supposed to be cod fishing. Well, we know they took tons of halibut too. Well, what kind of got us into halibut was when the Bering Sea King Crab went on its butt, you got to do something to survive. I'd been out on the edge off at (Chania?) on that last king crab season and man I was getting twenty Halibut per pot in the crab gear thinking, Jesus, you can catch him in the crab pot you should be able to catch them with a hook. So, we bring the Alaska *Trojan* up actually Teddy started it, and I made the very first trip on the boat with him and then he got off and we went out there in four days and we had eighty–thousand pounds. I mean, shit we slept every night and when I got to the boat there wasn't any sleeping, we went out there and put the wood to them. We made a lot of money off them halibut when the crab we'd go fish [inaudible], fish the brown crab and we went out there and fished bear die, [inaudible], and the red crab. Then you'd go back and do the tanner crab and Kodiak then we're getting king crab seasons in but there was some bear dice still to be caught Then I took the *Trojan* and migrated West with it because we pretty much were Kodiak people and I went down on the Alaska Peninsula there below Sandpoint, and fished paddle off bay for tanners just murdered them. I mean, just – had a fish around and all of them little boats and man they hated us. But you know what? We built the boat to crab. It's not a combination dragger salmon fishing boat that went crabbing. So, you know what? I'm an Alaska resident, I have just as much right to them crab as you do. Well, they cut our pots up in a shot at us, shot our pots up. It was a mess. We had to have the trooper boat come down and – but we still went down there and made a half million dollars in a month–long season. So, we had to go wherever we had to make a living. Then from there, there weren't any seasons around Kodiak at all, the bear dice went on

its rear end. So, we migrated on out into the Bering Sea and then – let's see. Ted moved back to Oregon here probably in around eighty-five, maybe, and I stuck it out in Kodiak until ninety or ninety-one. We either had the boat out fishing, or here in Oregon in the shipyard. So, we just decided, might as well move to Oregon full time. It's moving back and forth half the year in both places. My kids were both born in Kodiak. Then they spent half the year there, half the year here. Finally, just moved back down here full time. No, they pretty much stayed down here after ninety-one. Think it was ninety or ninety-one. I don't remember what year it was. That's pretty much that one, I think. You're starting to ask something else about IFQs.

CPW: Oh, I guess – I do not know. Maybe this isn't the right time to talk about it. But I am just curious what you think about the whole crab rationalization as opposed to halibut happened?

MW: Well, I'm an on-a-whim kind of guy. When you leave the dock knowing what you're going to catch, the only thing you got to brag about is getting home before somebody else. I think the – and then Gary Payne we're all – argue this with me upside down the other but this IPQ thing?

CPW: The processor?

MW: Yes. Yes. I mean, I know they wanted to do something because of the halibut the way the halibut went so they wanted to keep it in Alaska, well, who going to come in there and put in that kind of money to build a crab processing plant when you don't know from one year to the next if you're going to even have a season. So, it's different than the halibut you can sit on that halibut a while you can ship it off and put it in the freezer and sit on it. Well, then crab, once it's in the tank, you only got so long, and you've got to deliver or throw them back over. Well, we ain't doing that. So, you're going to sell them to the plants that are there and established. So, the IPQ, I just think that's wrong. Our prices have went down, down, down. Yes, the economy is poor. But I think they could do a better job in their marketing. So, as far as the IFQ, it really hasn't made it safer, because the plants put so much pressure on us for timely deliveries. Like in (Tigre?), if you don't have them delivered by November 15, you're going to get one dollar a pound less. So, you got to go balls to the wall to get your crab caught from October 15 to November 15. Well, we've got six-hundred-thousand pounds of King Crab. That's five and a half percent of the whole quota on one boat. I got to push it. So, the reason why this – my feeling is the reason why the statistics show there's no sinkings because M-Boats that have sunk are already on the bottom, they were going to sink anyway. Or they're at the dock because they know they are going to sink. So, we had three hundred boats out there in the heydays of the red crab. We're down to sixty-five or sixty-six boats. The boats that don't belong out there are not out there. So, they can't sink. So, the statistics are, oh, well, there hasn't been any sinkings and there hasn't been – you contain it anyway you want. So, I've been driving them rigs since 1982 and I've never had a guy hurt. If you didn't help me one bit, I mean, it made me a lot of money by owning the shares. But with these EDRs that the government is doing, hey, it's just like the timber industry. There's a stumpage and you don't – the government ain't going to give you – the working man don't get nothing for free. It's the guy that don't want to work, there's a goddamn ton of programs out there. The first-time homebuyer getting all kinds of money. What about me? Jiminy Christmas? There are no programs out there for the guy that's working. It's for the guys that don't want to work, they're going to give you everything. So, yes, some of it



just – EDRs they're going to put a tax. There will be a tax on the IFQ without a doubt once they get all the data from the EDR figured out and they figure out exactly what guys are making. “Well, we can't have that.” So, there'll be a tax, and that's one of the reasons that we sold the *Trojan*. It was because the capital gains taxes are the lowest they've ever been in our lifetime, and is probably as low as they ever will be. So, if you were going to sell out of the fishing business two years ago was the time because Obama got in there and what's going on? Taxes, taxes, taxes. Tanning bed tax, have you heard about that one? No, I'm not kidding you. Yes, they have imposed a tax for people that use a tanning bed. To develop a program to educate them in the –

CPW: How dangerous it is?

MW: Yes, what can happen to skin cancers and I'm thinking, here we go again, it's going to be government funded, and it's just going to put more people on the government payroll, that's all it's going to do. It's just like slamming your finger in the door, it only takes once. You learn to get your God damn fingers out of the way. The people go into that tanning bed I guarantee you if you took a hundred of them and line them up and ask them, “do you know what the risks are of going to a tanning bed?” Every one of them are going to tell you, “We don't think we're going to get skin cancer.” Well, why do we need to take a tax to put somebody – I mean come on let's be accountable for some of our actions.

CPW: Yes, in Washington I think we have a soda or pop tax now and bottled water and candy [laughter].

MW: Oh, crap. When is it going to end? When's it going to end? I got mixed emotions of IFQ. It made a lot of guys extremely rich. The buyback program and the IFQs it made us a lot of money. There's more product for us to catch. You know, we get a higher percentage of, but we're paying back that buyback in a tax, so until you pay all that three-hundred-million dollars back to the government you're really not realizing any of it, so.

CPW: So, how does that work? Is it just a certain percentage of your income in years?

MW: King Crab has one tax rate, and the tanner crab is another tax rate and right off the top of my head I don't remember what they are. But there's a different rate on each species for the buyback program. I want to say it's five percent on the king crab and maybe three percent on (Opie's). Next question. That answers my feelings on IFQs.

CPW: [laughter] Let me see.

MW: I'm going to get a glass of tea. Are you sure you don't want something? There's iced tea, there's root beer?

CPW: Maybe just water would be great. Thank you. Stop this.

MW: Oh, he is. He's – he bought his way to Heaven.

CPW: So, let me see. I think maybe we've actually talked about almost everything that I had on my list here. So, when you went up there first you were just right out of high school?

MW: High school, yes, seventeen years old.

CPW: Okay. You are still involved in boats, so.

MW: No. Well, I'm fishing – yes, I'm skippering but I don't own any anymore sold everything. Put the money in the bank. I wanted a little bit simpler life went through a divorce five years ago and Pam and I've been together five years and just wanted a little simpler life.

CPW: Do you think that Oregon guys still get their start fishing up in Alaska? Do you think that is still a trend like it seems like it used to be or?

MW: No, no, no. There's not too many new guys coming in. You got to have so much money to buy your way in because everything's locked up with IFQs. Coming from a non-fishing family down here, everybody asked me all the time. Oh, is your dad a fisherman. Well, no, furthest from it. There's not that many new kids that want to get into the fisheries. These IFQs, owners take a huge lease rate. So, the reason you got paid what you got paid is because you risked your life. So, I think they're thinking it's safer because it's IFQ, you're not working as hard, you don't have to pay as much. You still got to go do the job. It's the same job as it was before. They're just less people out there doing it. So, a lot of these owners that don't fish anymore got the crab rights all tied up they sit home put a lot of money in their pocket don't do anything. So.

CPW: They are just leasing it then?

MW: Just lease it out. So, for new people from here going up there I mean, you get your occasional one but back then that was a big thing like one of Jacobson's friends Tom Luther was teacher up here to high school. He would all year long pick kids to go up and work on a processing ship. They just don't do that anymore. So, you go up in plants anymore and it's all Mexicans and Filipinos. The cost of living has gotten so much higher, and the wages haven't gone up. Then we're fishing for the same kind of money. Like snow crab, for instance. Twenty years ago, we got this much money for it, and our quotas were one hundred fifty, two hundred million, three hundred million and now we're at forty million and we're still getting the same kind of money that we got back then. Fuel prices didn't slow down and neither did groceries or insurance and so there's not as much money to take home as there was back then. So, no, I don't – there's not too many new kids coming out of here, at least in the crab business may be in the processing side of things, on factory trawlers or salmon canneries in the summertime and – but it's hard to, there's – we don't see a lot of new skippers coming up in our ranks either. So, it's going to come a time where it's going to be tough to even get guys to run the boats. There's not many, there's no going from three hundred boats with probably average crew, either four or five, down to sixty boats with an average crew of four or five, we run six guys. So, I mean, that fleet got just chopped. So, there's not the guys in the wings waiting for the jobs like there used to be. They went on to other things. Some of them went –

CPW: Do you think that's what happened to all those crew members?

MW: Well, the government puts some money out to retrain you. So, guys that knew they weren't having a job, probably some of them took that opportunity to get retrained. On a crewman side of things that IFQ, I mean, it really cut them out. Holy crap. It's tough to find guys who are just not out there they were back then. You used to have guys just standing in line and I've been getting resumes from kids all over the country and I finally called one of them back; how'd you get my name? Oh, there's a book out their Crewman's Guide to Fishing in Alaska, Greenhorns Guide or something like that. I'm going to help you here. Number one, you don't talk about what you're going to get paid right off the bat before you even get a God damn job. You didn't put anything down about your physical makeup. You know, are you four foot two, five hundred pounds? Or are you six foot four and move like a cat? I'd find a spot for you somewhere. If the second question was a yes, so keep pounding on it if you got somebody that's kind of interested. Tell them what you're about and who you are, what kind of guy you are and get your shot. Just be upfront. I don't know God damn thing, but I'm willing to learn. Show me what you want and that's what you'll get. You might get a job. We had a guy that's already putting down how much money he would want. What the fuck. Holy crap, I've never had to do it. Well, I did too do a resume when I went to work for (Lucian Spray?). They tried to get me to stay in as an owner when we sold out and I'm like, I don't know you. You don't know me. We'll wait a couple of years and we've been talking again about buying back in, but I don't know. But I had to sit down and put a resume together. First one I'd ever done and being around the same boat, well, I run the *Trojan* for about twelve years and the *Kiska* for twenty. So, it was kind of a short resume [laughter]. They said they just needed it for insurance reasons. Checks with our insurance company we've never had a claim on either of the boats in thirty-something years or so.

CPW: I mean, how big are the boats, the *Kiska*?

MW: It depends on who's asking.

CPW: [laughter] I am just curious how many people are working on them.

MW: Oh, we got six crewman and me as seven. Well, the reason I asked that question –

[talking simultaneously]

CPW: How do I make this stop? All right, there we go. So, maybe as far as the crew that were on your different boats, were they people from down here or were they guys from up in Alaska?

MW: When we lived in Alaska, it was pretty much guys that lived in Alaska. Then now that we're back home, it's been – and we took guys up there from here and now they're all pretty much from here, one guy – two guys from Washington State actually. One kid that kind of floats between Cordova and LA. Then one of the guys is from here, he got out of the Coast Guard from here in Newport. One of them is my ex-son-in-law, he still was even there fifteen years. So, pretty much local guys here. The boat in Hawaii it's a highly migratory species that we're fishing. So, in the Jones Act, you can use foreign labor, fishing for highly migratory species,

because we're fishing out in international waters. So, in those tunas, you can take a five-thousand-dollar tuna fish and turn it into a five-hundred-dollar fish if you don't know what you're doing. There's a certain way they have to bleed them, a certain way you spike them, a certain way you clean them, you'll land them on carpeting and foam rubber. So, these Filipino guys, they come out of a fisherman's union over the Philippines, where they're taught how to take care of this and how to work the gear. They'll sign a year's contract to come over on the boat for a year. When they're in town, they're confined to the vessel they cannot get off. In Hawaii, they let them get off in what they call a fishing village area, it's two peers, they can go both to boat and visit but don't get caught outside the fence. You're shipped back, you'll never get to come back, and it cost us twenty-five grand. So, we have church on the boat. They bring everything. There'd be forty, fifty people having a big old get together, they put the tent up, they got the screen, guitars, and they have their sermon and then it's the biggest barbecue you have ever seen in your life. I can go to bed at two o'clock in the morning on one of these barbecue nights and get up at six, and you wouldn't know there was ever one person on your boat. I mean, there is not a scrap of food. There's not a beer bottle cap. All the dishes are done. I mean, it's immaculate. Their contracts were for four-hundred dollars a month US. Now, that's bullshit. Our guys averaged about twelve hundred. We doubled their contract price. Then we had all kinds of bonuses the iceman got a bonus; the cook got a bonus. If you didn't cause any trouble, being a shithead on deck, you could get a captain's bonus of up to fifty dollars. Then for every five hundred hooks we set we give the crew two. Put them anywhere in a gear you want whatever their posts catch is yours. The boat takes no cut. Man, there's one night where we only caught three of them big tunas and every one of them came up on the crew hook. You go around the auction and there's a three-thousand-dollar fish, there's a two-thousand-dollar fish. See, there's another. The crew just made a seven-thousand-dollar bonus for the five of them. I had wives call on the phone just crying. You know you are a gift from God, you've changed our life, we build family homes, our home is your home. I mean they send stuff all the time. They're just so doggone appreciative. They've always asked about going to Alaska on the big boats. You can't go guys. You don't know the rules. You can only fish on the Hawaii stuff. When I sold the boat, I sold the crew with them to the new company that bought that boat. Now all five of their boats they have Filipino crew on there. They were just, holy crap. We've had a really good group of guys. You treat them right and they're loyal. So, that's pretty much it. All guys from down here, a few scattered around once in a while, but we just had a change in two crewmen. That one of them had been on for about I don't know I picked him up when he was eighteen years old down there to Dairy Queen back in about eighty-two or eighty-three. He quit a little spot in the middle there and then he was back for I don't know five, six years. We had a little disagreement and he decided to quit. So, my nephew, he got throttled in the galley. I'd had enough of his lippy mouth and so, yeah, I backed him in a corner and got him in a headlock and put my fist right there a couple of times and said, "you know how bad this could be if I really wanted to." So, he decided it'd be best for him to stay away from Uncle Mike for a while [laughter]. So, I got two new guys. The company keeps reminding me you don't own the boat anymore Mike. I said, "well, you know what? You told me to run it the same way I've been running it for twenty years and that's what I'm doing until you tell me different, I'm not putting up with that kind of shit so whatever you need to do it, do it, fire them all if you have to. They said, "I don't need to fire them all." Just had a little situation there that didn't go the way I thought it should go. I didn't get the right answers. So, some guys got their butts in hot water.

CPW: So, how much of the year is that boat going up to Alaska?

MW: Well, we leave out of here somewhere in that last week of September, depending on the weather, what it looks getting back up. We get our king crab done the last two years we've done right at six-hundred thousand both years. We've been home the day before Thanksgiving. So, we're home until – last two years I left January 2 to go back up, this year I'm leaving probably December 27. I'm going to have to get started a little bit early. We got so much crab, that ice coming down. It was brutal at the end; they were trying to get finished up. So, if I can get up early and get a trip out of the way maybe that'll get us home a month earlier. So, if we give up a week of being here for the New Year's we might get to come home a month sooner. Because that ice has just been brutal last two years. So, we got to boat home this year on Mother's Day, which was May 9. So, we're pretty much gone from the end of September to May with a little break in the middle there maybe a month. This year, the guy's got two months off and then you're in the ship until we leave. So, it's pretty much a nine month a year job. About nine months probably. That all depends on the quota too, so if the quota's down we're going to get home sooner.

CPW: I don't know. Is there anything else you would to say about especially with the eighties up there fishing in that kind of time period, but then also just in general fishing in Alaska?

MW: Yes. Yes, one thing that general public needs to know. You get hit with these tree hugger environmentalist kind of people. I ran into one last year and it pissed me off. I had to set her straight and I ain't holding back. You asked my opinion; you're going to get it. If you don't want to know keep your mouth shut. Overfishing. Overfishing, it's kind of global warming. You agree with them dumb bastard. You know why? This Earth has been warming up for three hundred million years. There's not a goddamn thing we're going to do about it. That's the way it is. I mean, this thing was covered with ice three hundred million years ago. It's a progression for Christ's sakes. There's nothing we can do about it. So, them kind of people just – oh, God, they set me off. So, anyway, back to overfishing. I don't want to be a pig farmer. I'm a fisherman. I don't kill my babies. One of the things I watch on that Deadliest Catch, I need to chew some ass. Because I see him stacking pots with crabs in the pot. That crab is going to die. He's going to freeze to death, you dumb shit. That's what we need to catch next year. I mean, the department wants to put a twenty-seven percent mortality rate on us. I can guarantee you on my boat, other than what I don't know about under the water. Did my propeller chew up a few? I don't know. I'd like to have them do a study. Let's tag some crab in an area, throw them over and then drive over the top of them. When we're dumping pots and rail dumping that kind of stuff, when you get a pot full of crap and you always turn away from it. You don't run the goddamn wheels over the crab. So, what happens under the water? I don't know. But I guarantee you, you can see any picture any film of fishing on the *Kiska*, you'll never see a crab in the pot stacked on deck. If you see one crab on the deck that fell off the table, if that ain't the first thing you do, next time it will be because you – it'll get pounded in your head you won't forget don't kill my babies. So, sidetracked again. Back to overfishing. The department sets a goddamn quota. If we don't exceed the quota, how are we as fishermen overfishing it? You know they want to blame us fishermen, “oh, you just rape and pillage and plunder. You're nothing but a bunch of pirates.” Don't get me started. You know, okay, lady, there's about nine hundred thousand square miles in the Bering Sea and the state and the federal government, they

go out there and they survey. They know how many crabs are on the ocean floor, we get to take a certain percentage of about half of them. How did I overfish it? They told me how much I could catch. I had nothing to do with setting the amount. I'm just doing what they tell me I can do. So, if you want to get pissy with somebody, go talk to the people that make the numbers up. It ain't the fishermen. I mean, it's just they do not understand and until we as fishermen join together and educate the goddamn public how this all happens, they just, "oh, I boycott. I boycott tunas." One of the healthiest fish that you can eat. And "I'm boycotting shrimp." Well, why are you boycotting shrimp? "Oh, well, it's just such a dirty fishery." Well, how do they weren't farm raised? "Oh, well that'd even be worse. You don't know what they're feeding them." I mean, these freaking people. They need educated. Let's spend some money to educate them. Put a tax on it. Everything else seems to get taxed. They're going to tax us for crapping pretty quick. On the airlines. Did you see that one? They want to tax you – or they want to charge you for using the bathroom on the airline. Oh yes, because the waste weighs and so it's going to take more fuel to get the airplane there.

CPW: So, then if you don't go to the bathroom?

MW: Then it don't cost you nothing. Yes, you got to pay on the airplane to use the bathroom. I think they nixed, and I just seen the thing on the news this morning that Congress or somebody is looking into these airline charges, the extra bag and the extra this. Just put it on the ticket, what the heck? God.

CPW: That's crazy.

MW: Nuts. Yes, tanning bed tax. Holy crap. So, yes, that would be my advice about the fishing businesses.

CPW: Well, I wonder where that perception by the public comes from about –

MW: Oh, I think a bunch of it is the nondiscriminatory fisheries. The worst thing, the absolute worst thing that the government ever did in any fishery in Alaska, was outlaw the use of black cod pots. You can use them in – hey, Tinker, quit. Oh, Rod's here? They outlawed the use of pots in the Gulf, in the central Gulf. You can use them in the western gulf, it keeps the resolutions. Tinker, I'm going to lock you out. Because it's selective. A hook is not selective. Anything that comes along and takes that hook is going to get caught. Lingcod, snappers, yelloweye rocks, thorny, idiots, everything. The Black Cod Pond is designed to catch black cod. If you catch one fish, any one of those are going to file the trigger. Because their thorns get caught. Ain't no more fish going in? Well, the hook can't do that. Very rarely did we ever have a fish, one of those other fishes, caught in the tunnel. They just don't go in them. Everything will go along and eat a piece of bait on the bottom. So, that's stupid, stupid. Oh, because all the little boats couldn't fish around us. Because that little gear is going to lose against the big gear and the pots. So, the little boat started screaming and hollering that there's ten guys got into that, and we pretty much had it sewed up all the way from southeastern at the border all the way to Dutch Harbor. Hook boats come out. Some guys wouldn't work with the hook boats because you're just going to tear their gear up. Being it's from Kodiak and it happened to be out there around Kodiak boats, have to face them in town, I'm not tearing your gear up. I'm telling you

when I'm coming out if you got gear. Some of the guys are like, "oh, we want to know when you're leaving because that's the best fishing is around your pots." Just give us a chance to pull them up so I – the different guys I knew around I'd call them up and tell them, hey, I'm coming out in a couple of days. So, if you got any gear over me go ahead and try to get it off. Because they're just going to break off one hook where it hangs up and they just pull it right off the top of you but if I come along pulling one inch line and then pots, well shit, I'm going to snap their line off right now. So, some of the pictures that – the dragging. You tried to be selective, but you know what? It don't happen like you'd like it to happen. There's a tremendous amount of waste. But I think they're getting better, designing these nets. But I don't think the public gets too educated that things are getting better; we have non trawl areas to protect certain species. When you're down Pollock fishing and you're right next to the bottom, you're going to get some halibut. There's an element as being a halibut fisherman back in the [19]90s, mid-[19]90s are quoting an area for delta, which is Western Bering Sea up to St. Matthews. A half a million–pound quota. Now it's up to seven hundred and fifty maybe a million. That draggers, they egg it. This was back in the [19]90s when I looked at the report nine hundred thousand animals per quarter. "Oh, but it's only one–point two million pounds," because they're all little babies. It's still nine hundred thousand animals that if you left them alone for five years, I get a shot at them. My quota goes up. What's right about that? It's about money. That sole fishery is worth so much money because of the row that we're going to kill nine hundred thousand Halibut per quarter. Holy crap. There's nothing right about that. If you're environmentally conscious, non–bycatch. I mean, I realize that it's really no different going out here and following a tree, that you want to take down a fur and it knocks an alder down. But that really wasn't the tree you're supposed to get, and you're going to kill it. It does happen. But maybe they could do something to clean that up a little bit. No, it's been a good living. Still dangerous. You push the edge. Being as competitive as I am in every aspect it was the absolute perfect occupation for me. But I do sit back sometimes and wonder what if I would have kept my mouth shut in that coaches' office? I don't know where my future would have took me. I have no regrets, but I just said it how it was I just went down to UCLA and Stanford, and you get five visits. I came back up here to Oregon, and I tired of them. Everybody is telling me the same thing. What we're going to do for you, you come here, and we're going to do this for you and we're going to do that for you. They get the best–looking girls on the campus to run you around and just, it's all a bunch of bullshit. All I said to the guy, coach, I see this a little differently. I see what I can do for you. If I hadn't already done it, I wouldn't be in this office. That's all I said, literally. Man, he came out from behind that desk. He got me by the back of the neck. Actually, his foot was in my ass. I don't even think he opened the door. I went headfirst right through that door and out the way I went. So, I started calling around for more visits. "We don't have any scholarships available right now. No, sorry. We're full up, no scholarships." Holy shit. I had one Junior College offer me a full ride, and at that point I just said, you know what? Screw this. I get on with my life. So, that was pretty much it. Here we are today nursing some wounds. But I saved the guys' boat for them, so that's what counts.

CPW: Yes. So, the only other thing I can think of is you've already talked about this, but how all the different fisheries you've been involved in have changed over time, and changes you've seen since you've been fishing them, as far as crabs.

MW: Everything's cyclic. I don't care how good a job the scientists think they do. The only

scientists that really matters is up there above us. Because global conditions, ocean conditions, and I can point out things that I pay attention and that's one of the things that really bothers me. We're not educated, most of us, we're just Goddamn hard workers and we're good at what we do. We've been in the business for a long time. So, you start – you pay attention if you're – like I said, I don't want to be a pig farmer. Don't kill my babies. I plan on being here for a while. So, you watch things. For instance, in our halibut lining out spot offs shore to a gully, I fished for years, big fish, nice forty-pound average, every time I go there, all of a sudden, these monstrous Lingcod showed up. Now, back there in the seventies and eighties around Kodiak you never caught a Lingcod in a pot, holy crap I mean. All of a sudden here they are just thicker than the flea on a dog's back. They didn't just show up overnight because I've seen ninety-pound Lingcod out there on my halibut gear and they run their halibut right off the ground. Lingcod is so aggressive of a feeder halibut ain't even sticking around. Well, along with those Lingcod came yelloweye rockfish. We have never seen the yelloweye rockfish. Go back to that same spot holy crap. I have six, seven-thousand pounds of Lingcod on halibut set with maybe one thousand fifteen hundred pounds of yellow eyes where I never caught one. So, my son in law and I got a bait business that we were selling bait down here. So, I had an opportunity to talk to Dungeness fishermen up and down the coast because as a kid fishing off the jetties out here you catch Lingcod. Then all of a sudden man there were no Lingcod. They're back. Look at the Dungeness crab cycles. The primary thing them Lingcod and Cabazon eat are crab. All of a sudden, we had horrible, horrible, horrible crab seasons. There's tons of Lingcod out there. Lingcod disappeared. Record crab season three and four years in a row. Now we're catching these big ninety-eighty – well, I mean, occasional ninety pounds, tons of forty- and fifty-pound Lingcod. All of a sudden them Lingcod in the gulf started disappearing again. You know where they're at? They're back. Every Dungeness fisherman I sold bait to, and I sell bait from Westport to San Francisco, talk about how many Lingcod they're getting in their Dungeness pots. Them Lingcod are back. So, ocean regime shift. I believe it. Growing up as a kid around here two things. Number one, the sardines. The last commercial fishery of sardines on the northwest coast, I believe, was 1954. Only about a million pounds. In 1990 they're back, ninety-two or whatever. 1992. Catching forty, fifty million pounds of sardines. One scientist had the balls to stand up and say, "you know what? Can't take no credit. We didn't manage them. We didn't know we thought they were gone extinct. So, it's nothing we did." The ocean regime shift brought them back. Razor clams. Back when it was clockwise currents in the North Pacific. Most of the spawn comes from up the Long Beach area and works its way down the coast. We had razor clams as a kid, any sand you went on you'd have razor clams. Holy crap. We come back here in the late eighties in the [19]90s when I moved back, I mean, if you went on a beach and got four clams, wow, that was good. Now, I can go down there with my bare hands and dig them, just about anywhere where there's sand, you're going to find clams. Wonder what happened? Well, maybe when the ocean was counterclockwise, it took them Lingcod north, all the spawn went north. Once you get up past Long Beach, it's all rocky coast up there. Where is a razor clam going to take hold? Nowhere. So, all of a sudden, shit. The ocean currents turned. They're coming back to the south. The spawn comes back down here. So, we got razor clams again. Ain't no scientist that can create that. It's cyclic. Another good example. They pissed and moaned about logging wiping out the creeks. Well, silver salmon are up here on the surface within the surface to maybe thirty feet, forty feet under the surface. The Chinook salmon are down here deeper underneath of that. All of a sudden, there's no silver salmon. Seasons are closed. They're extinct. They're not coming. Tons of Chinook salmon. Well, blaming it on the



logging wiping out the spawning beds. Well, let's see. That same salmon, the silver and the Chinook spawn in the same spawning beds in the same goddamn river that you're saying there's no spawning beds. I don't think it's the river's problem. It's in the ocean. Something in that water column in that depth is gone. So, the silvers aren't here. Because when they're not here, and they show up on a year they don't expect them to show up, and he's fifteen or sixteen pounds, holy crap. He didn't leave last year and came back as a fourteen- or fifteen-pound fish. He should be a six or seven pound. Well, maybe they've been out there swimming around where there is food for them. It's not the river's fault. Another thing, when we were kids growing up here, these cormorants and black Cormorant ducks, you killed every one of them you could kill when we were kids and out here in the rivers and marshes duck hunting. Because what do they eat? They eat all the baby fish. After the smolts come down the river, I mean we'll see him twenty miles up in the freshwater herds of them going up there eating a little smolts. So, back in the day, game warden didn't give a shit if you shot them. Well now there's so many do-gooders that the game wardens got to do his job. He catches you – and there's not the kids out there duck hunting, everyone wants to sit behind the TV and play computer games. My granddad grew up on the Elsie River as a commercial netter. You didn't go duck hunting without a whole handful of slugs for your shotgun because every seal you saw you shot it too. The same thing, Game Warden turn his back let you shoot him. Now you see them the same, twenty miles up in the freshwater going all the way up almost to the hatchery, eating fish in the freshwater. In our little bay down here in Elsey Bay, there's probably three-thousand harbor seals in there. Unbelievable. I mean, there was a point where they talked about killing a bunch of them. I mean, there's not a starry flounder left in our bay in Waldport, the perch don't come in anymore. Can't get past the seals. Cormorant sees a little smolt coming down the river and the seals eat the big fish going up the river, they don't stand a chance in the river system. Then you get out in the ocean, what's good for one species is going to be bad for another. You know what? It might change around and what was good for that one ain't so good no more and the other one that wasn't so good is going to thrive. It's just so cyclic out there. Another one, they talk about this non oxygenated spot down here in Oregon. Well, how did we know that it wasn't there until we found it? Did you look for it? “Well, no.” Okay. It could have been there since the beginning of time. So, don't get all wound up about, holy crap, there's this area out there, there's no oxygen in the ocean. Well, it's only there because you found it. It's the tree. Do you hear it fall if there's nobody there? It could have been there for fifty, sixty, one hundred years, but you never looked for it. So, oh, Christ, all of a sudden, we found it and it's just disaster. Give me a break. Give me a break. That's one of the things that started to talk about us guys not being “college educated.” We didn't spend all this time reading books to get educated, our education comes from out there doing it. But oh, we don't talk to you guys, you're just a bunch of freaking fishermen. You don't know shit. I've had them say that to me before. Well, let me see how many days have you been out there watching this? Yes, I can show you how many days I've been out there. So, some of them will listen, some of them don't want to listen. See, I just took two scientists from the Research Foundation. I got their cards over there. They did a tagging study on snow crab. They put some of these time depth reporter things on the backs of the crab. They want to know if the larger Snow Crab once they come off the edge to go in and mate, do they stay in the shallow water or do they come back out? They put forty-thousand dollars or threw these little tags out on the crabs, and we had them with –

CPW: Were they from NOAA?

MW: Yes, they were out of Seattle. Your Jason is one of them. Jason something or other? How I got a really, really nice letter and I just looked at that the other day. I actually gave out. Their boss and other professional operations –

CPW: Oh, that's nice.

MW: How happy they were to come aboard. Do whatever. Oh, Dan was one of them. Jason was the other. Oh, well. They're in that. That sounds like the same title of –

CPW: Yes, I bet they're in my same building and they might even be in my hallway.

MW: Maybe next time. They actually – between us off the record, right?

CPW: [laughter] I can turn this off.

[end of transcript]