

Karen DeMaria: So, we will sit down and kind of chat properly with people instead of – what I would like to do, basically, is to touch base both of you and get the background information first about how long you have been down here, et cetera, and then ask you what you have been, what you have observed. The three main components that we are looking at is fisheries, either decline or increase in fisheries, locations of spawning aggregations, water clarity, water quality, and changes in benthic communities, corals, seagrasses, sponges, the identification of any really unique areas with corals, sponges, or something like that. Just basically trying to gather as much as I can. Then once I get all the information, I sit down and write this report. Then I will start reading you that and figuring out what is going to go in and what is not. Your full name is Cecelia Roycroft, right?

Cecelia Roycroft: Craft.

KDM: Craft, sorry.

CR: [inaudible]

KDM: [laughter] How long have you been here in the Keys?

CR: My whole life.

KDM: Which is?

CR: Forty-four years.

KDM: How long have you been?

Bob Holston: [inaudible]

KDM: Have you always been on the dive shop or have been into the dive [inaudible]?

BH: [inaudible] in the Navy in [19]70, and I got out in [19]72. I've been diving ever since.

KDM: Were you a SEAL? Just a regular marine?

BH: [inaudible]

KDM: So, you opened up a dive shop in...

BH: [19]72.

KDM: What did you do before?

CR: Unemployed.

KDM: Really?

CR: Yes.

KDM: When did you become involved in the dive shop?

CR: [inaudible] the opportunity, working in the military.

KDM: Really? Why did you decide to open a dive shop?

BH: I went to work with a guy that [inaudible]. The agreement was if he ever wanted someone that [inaudible] about ninety days that I wanted first started working, he said that he wanted out. [inaudible].

KDM: So, you lucked into it? [inaudible]

BH: You could say that. [laughter] [inaudible].

KDM: Come on, think positive. Think positive. [laughter] Now, you do two drive tips a day?

BH: [inaudible] trips in a day.

KDM: [inaudible]

CR: We also do night dives.

KDM: Night dives, so sometimes three.

CR: And [inaudible] a variety of [inaudible].

KDM: Rec diving, snorkeling, regular reef diving – do you spearfish any fish too?

CR: No, not really.

KDM: But you do the rec and everything like that. What particular areas do you devote to

[inaudible] go out to?

CR: We go from basically on Western [inaudible].

KDM: Do you guys get on the boat much?

CR: No, the commercial [inaudible] we get on our own boat, but no as often [inaudible].

BH: [inaudible] we're trying to do something about it. But recently...

CR: Certainly [inaudible].

BH: [inaudible] times we have gone out the last couple of years. So, I think we can [inaudible] going to say that.

KDM: Are those changes [inaudible] what kind of changes?

BH: Mostly just [inaudible] also coral. I don't think there's been any real change in fish population on the reef.

CR: That continues to be very impressive [inaudible] reoccurring statement of our clients is that [inaudible] more fish life and more marine life here than any other dives that [inaudible].

KDM: [inaudible] common in relation to Key Largo marathon? Have you heard anything [inaudible] that is common.

CR: Years ago, there used to be the common [inaudible] we often said that too when we described [inaudible] that you would see bigger fish in the protected areas. [inaudible] areas on our reefs, people shoot bigger fish, so they're not. But in the last few years, we have gotten little [inaudible] and groupers and things like that to inhabit the artificial reefs. So, people are getting into that.

KDM: Do you think the moratorium on the jewfish has anything to do with what you are saying, or do you think that since there has been [inaudible].

CR: Two reasons we're seeing jewfish [inaudible]. Number one, an unethical dive shop owner that was a national champion spear fisherman who subsidized his poor business practices [inaudible]. Truly, he decimated the jewfish [inaudible].

KDM: We will use [inaudible].

CR: [inaudible] truly, in just three years from the time it was gone, [inaudible] starting to come back in smaller amounts. [inaudible] finally got the damages – when we first started in business, we used to throw in anchors, of course. But you would go down the anchor line, and the jewfish would be at a few weeks for an anchor to come in, but you would go down the anchor line, and the juicer would be at the anchor one, but who had a cure, you know? Do you think a term like the anchor wondering who [inaudible].

KDM: Do you think term "the puppy dogs of the sea" is actually [inaudible] when you are talking about jewfish.

CR: Oh, sure. [inaudible] yes, they're great. [inaudible] I love them. In fact, I had my first interaction this year with a jewfish. Up until that point, I had never seen one in twenty years diving. But we have a small one that's on one of the wrecks. We see it, and that was the first time I've had any interaction with that. It was great. [inaudible] that's the video I was watching last night [inaudible] was this little eighty-pound jewfish in ten feet of water on a wreck. [inaudible] never feeding them. It was great watching them, because you just put the camera down, and the fish just comes right up and it checks it out. It's great.

KDM: They are such amazing creatures.

CR: Well, it's [inaudible] very good because people get to interact. That's kind of how I feel about the [inaudible] situation too in a perfect world. But people [inaudible] have so much more cognizant of these creatures, because they can be with them and interact with them in respect. You take away a love for those species trains [inaudible] into other people, and you're protecting the species. [inaudible].

KDM: The same [inaudible] small groupers too, you said?

CR: Yes.

KDM: That is just recently, in the last few years?

CR: Yes, definitely. What [inaudible] did you say?

BH: [inaudible]

KDM: Yes.

CR: [inaudible] Yes.

BH: [inaudible]

KDM: What did you say about [inaudible] years, big groupers, [inaudible] much more prolific?

BH: I would think so. I don't know if the [inaudible] decreased the number [inaudible] spearfishing and not be very confrontational in my [inaudible].

CR: We covered that one. [laughter]

KDM: That is why I had to turn off the tape.

BH: [inaudible] spearfishing, we see a lot more [inaudible] still not become as friendly as [inaudible] get on the wrecks [inaudible].

CR: [inaudible] decline hasn't reached that part of the bio system. The fish are, I think, maybe going to be the last to be affected.

KDM: [inaudible] time Bob or earlier from people that I have been talking to and stuff, Marathon is being hurt really bad right now. [inaudible] I have not talked [inaudible] to Key Largo, but Marathon is being hurt real bad because of what is going on in [inaudible] everything.

CR: See, that's what's frightening to us. I can't [inaudible].

KDM: Exactly.

CR: I am very, very involved in the city level on TDCs [inaudible] I sit on the Tourist Economic [inaudible].

KDM: [inaudible] couple of years, it is going to be hitting here.

CR: Exactly. Key Largo's going to fare well because Key Largo's going to block a lot of that flow. But [inaudible] people are what's needing [inaudible].

KDM: I said, "Well, [inaudible] there is actually a lot better, a lot more of a showing than I [inaudible]." The hook-and-line fishermen, people who are using hand lines and stuff, they are doing a [inaudible] banner year this year. Well, it is because all the fish are being chased out. The dirty waters, they are heading out [inaudible].

CR: Moving out, right. Sort of like the bird thing [inaudible].

KDM: Oh, birds are [inaudible].

CR: Well, see, I kept [inaudible] look at the birds. Never in my life [inaudible] I've lived here my whole life seeing so many birds.

BH: [inaudible] the other day with Mark Robertson and his [inaudible] seeing there's a bald eagle behind us [inaudible].

CR: [inaudible] encroaching civilization's affecting them [inaudible] but then someone made the point [inaudible] the Everglades, the birds are being driven out of the Everglades from a lack of water.

KDM: Lack of water, they have no food, fish [inaudible] because all the [inaudible] fish are chased out [inaudible].

CR: Right. So, they're moving somewhere [inaudible].

KDM: [inaudible]

CR: Yes, it was pretty cool. Very cool.

KDM: It just makes you feel good, honestly, with all the [inaudible] was talking about the health of coral and water quality are two key things that [inaudible] you noticed different. Explain that a little bit more.

BH: [inaudible]

CR: Why is that?

BH: We're trying to figure out [inaudible].

CR: To best explain it, when we started [inaudible] boats, the only dive boats, certainly, on the reefs. I mean, [inaudible] particularly, was common enough [inaudible] ago. That was common. We would apologize to people if it was [inaudible] waiting for visibility. We are ecstatic when it's very [inaudible] there's so many arguments and people saying, "Well, it's the impact on the coral and [inaudible] snorkels and diver." Yes, I'm sure that if you don't [inaudible] educate people well to interact with the area – that you're going to have physical damage. But when you go out and you look at the area, and the entire panoramic view is not monotone in color, you can't tell me that because somebody stood on the coral over here, and [inaudible] area over there.

But that is going to impact an entire area.

KDM: [inaudible] been hearing recently.

CR: Well, you're going to have concentrated damage to areas.

KDM: But that is sort of a given. [inaudible] I mean, no matter what, you are going to have some [inaudible].

CR: It just to me, reinforces that [inaudible] within everything that you can see is a similar decline and effect, that it's the most common denominator, which is this water. What's happening in our waters? [inaudible].

BH: [inaudible].

CR: [inaudible] I mean, we just went out last week snorkeling. I got family down, and I went to Eastern. I get back to the boat, and I saw [inaudible] I saw every fish there could be, [inaudible] to my family. There was a huge gray grouper.

KDM: [inaudible] talking about, normally, when you are on the reef and [inaudible] grouper is up, he sees you, he is going to snag into the coral, and you are never going to see him again. This grouper was swimming right out in the sand. I would dive down and [inaudible] point down at it, and it would just look up at me. It was just [inaudible] totally not afraid of me. That impressed me. All the marine life [inaudible] every type of fish. They were colorful, so I know what it was not a [inaudible] filtration of the water. All the fish were there, the colors were there. The colors were not [inaudible].

BH: One of the questions I had earlier [inaudible] what we're trying to find out is [inaudible] we don't know, because there's never been...

CR: Documentation of the corals.

KDM: [inaudible] I would say the nature decline has truly been in the last five to seven years. But that is when you started noticing when things were changing...

CR: Well, that's what I've asked people. [inaudible] asking for timeframes and stuff, and you're like, "Well, I don't know." I said, "Well, when did you really notice it?" Because people are going to notice something drastic.

BH: I would say from about [19]84, [19]85. [inaudible] what is scary is when you look at...

KDM: Was that gradual [inaudible] and then you just had not noticed it at that time?

BH: When did the beavers [inaudible] started dying?

KDM: [19]84, [19]87, around there.

CR: That was the first documental thing that had happened on the reefs. That was that first [inaudible] where people would notice something is wrong.

BH: [inaudible] we've always overlooked this [inaudible] decline in the shrimping. We should have realized something was going on.

KDM: Your analogy is [inaudible].

BH: You're just wondering what's going on. [inaudible] when the figures that were reported [inaudible] studies for the [inaudible] what's going to happen? Word started getting out [inaudible].

CR: Bob and I originally got involved in the [inaudible] sanctuary problem because of [inaudible]. We looked at the problem, and we said, "Something has to be done." It's never going to happen from a city or county level, because they don't have the funding and the means and mechanisms to study and correct the problem. We knew what the problem was. We knew back then it was Florida Bay. We knew it was the canal system. Bob testified before Congress denominating the reef sanctuary. So, we've been involved in this whole process from the day one. This was the exact reason we originally got involved. It was water quality.

KDM: On the corals, was there any particular species of coral that you noticed a definite problem with, or was it generally across the board?

CR: I would say that the – no, I can't really say that. [inaudible] trying to go back over the dives you make [inaudible] the first that we kind of [inaudible] that we saw was bleaching. I think that was the first.

KDM: [inaudible] the bleaching if they ever recover?

CR: Yes, I think some of them did. There's been lots of problems, but now, the incidences of [inaudible] are more often. The sea lice was something we never, ever had.

KDM: When was your first?

CR: I believe the sea lice were three years now, Bob?

BH: What?

CR: Sea lice.

BH: Yes.

KDM: I hate those.

CR: Yes, I had my entire staff...

KDM: [inaudible] you have got a catch-all basin right here [inaudible].

CR: Well, my entire staff last summer were totally wilted out. I mean, we finally realized – I worked with a guy, Toliver, Dr. Toliver [inaudible] from the Atlantic, trying to figure out what was going on. We finally, the guys, [inaudible]. But that's the problem [inaudible]. That has directly to do with the water temperature.

KDM: [inaudible] was it the lice that is [inaudible] actually juvenile...

CR: Thimble jellyfish.

KDM: Jellyfish, right.

BH: [inaudible].

KDM: What about bleaching? When was the first time you observed coral bleaching?

CR: Probably just part of getting involved with the sanctuary [inaudible].

BH: [inaudible] prior to doing the nomination, we had worked [inaudible] dive industry [inaudible] we went out on the boat one day, and we started [inaudible] what the reefs looked like [inaudible] was pointing out the black band [inaudible] and the corals from that point on have been seen to do [inaudible].

KDM: You said you have seen the incidences more often [inaudible] black-band disease.

CR: In summertime, that's the bleaching [inaudible] because of the hot water. You see, that's

been replaced specifically, [inaudible] looking for coral that had been infected. I think that's been replaced. I don't know want to say [inaudible] all the reefs in the last year. But when you got to do something like eastern [inaudible] it's not a specific bleaching or just an affected area. It's the entire terrain [inaudible] it looks like it's dusty [inaudible].

KDM: A lot of fine silt you think is on there?

CR: No, I used to think it was – [inaudible] it's okay. I used to think it was [inaudible]. When it first started getting really bad, when he was working down there, it was in the summer [inaudible] all new [inaudible] all that [inaudible] and sediment was being washed over on our reefs. That's what I thought was kind of what was happening at one time.

KDM: It is more like a refined silt, dusty [inaudible].

CR: Yes.

BH: [inaudible]

CR: That's the other point. The people were so alarmed that we were putting out raw sewage into the water. But I'll tell you, the quality of those reefs when we went into the other system, [inaudible] major decline. Major decline. I mean, that was like the...

BH: Somebody told me that the [inaudible].

CR: Yes.

KDM: When you secondarily treat sewage, you make the chemicals of nitrogen and phosphorus much more readily available in the marine system for organisms to pick it up. Whereas raw sewage, nitrogen and phosphorus is in a form where it is hard for marine organisms to assimilate it out. It takes time. The main problem with raw sewage is BOD levels, by biological oxygen demand. It drops oxygen out of the water. But the bad thing about secondary treated is that [inaudible] nitrogen and phosphorus just hanging out and going, "Eat me, eat me." That is what the key thing...

CR: [inaudible] used to think the [inaudible] systems were so [inaudible] that the saltwater infusion into the system, things started breaking down way before they were pumped out. So, it was more user-friendly than [inaudible] out there.

KDM: [inaudible] of decline ever since [inaudible].

CR: [inaudible].

KDM: In what? Corals?

CR: No, water quality. You could see, the visibility drops, and the quality of the corals, the pristineness of the corals decline.

BH: It obviously ties in to the [inaudible].

CR: Yes, it's very [inaudible].

BH: I think it's a matter of all of these factors all at once happening.

CR: We used to try to look at this [inaudible] keeps saying, "Well, what was happening with the [inaudible]?" What was going on?" Because the water definitely is so different now. Water temperature up and down is so different.

KDM: Do you all logbooks on your boats?

CR: Yes.

KDM: Which part of the Keys where [inaudible] what kind of information do they have?

BH: They normally put the wind direction and [inaudible] visibility.

CR: Water temperature probably, too. Obviously, water temperature is less [inaudible].

KDM: [inaudible] visibility accounts for twenty years, would you say?

CR: No, but there's [inaudible] some of the boats, the logs are no longer [inaudible].

CR: [inaudible] Well I can tell you what, hon. [inaudible].

KDM: The reason I ask is just so I [inaudible] trying to keep note of who was what information, so if I need to come back and check on specific information, then I know who to call. Plus, if a scientist calls up and says, "Hey, listen, I am doing this. Can you give some names, people [inaudible]?" People have logs. This is the kind of stuff that they have. So, [inaudible].

CR: Logbooks [inaudible] usually keep my old logbook here. [inaudible] entries in it far-out experienced. [laughter]

KDM: You probably have [inaudible] at least ten, fifteen years, you would think?

CR: [inaudible] opportunity.

BH: I would have to go through the [inaudible].

CR: [inaudible] we tried [inaudible] to keep people [inaudible] to get moldy. Well, you can't imagine. I can take it out and just show you what two years of [inaudible] we have a total paper jungle in there.

KDM: [inaudible]

CR: That's true. Well, it's definitely going to [inaudible].

BH: [inaudible]

CR: Well, your old books, maybe.

BH: Yes.

CR: I have no idea where those are. Do you?

BH: They're in a box somewhere [inaudible] papers out.

KDM: Water quality.

BH: [inaudible]

KDM: What is the difference in the visibility?

BH: [inaudible] Used to be with what was [inaudible] water visibility, [inaudible].

KDM: More physical

BH: Clarity, [inaudible] lateral visibility. We just don't get those [inaudible] days very often. I mean, we don't have those days [inaudible] halfway out to the reef [inaudible] picking up a cocktail [inaudible].

KDM: What would you say it is now?

CR: Average today?

KDM: No, I mean the clarity of the water, what are you seeing? You are basically [inaudible] the water used to be really clear [inaudible] gin clear. You could see the different – what is it now?

BH: I think we're beginning to experience Southwest Florida's problem [inaudible] the development that's going on, the [inaudible] but what I'm seeing is we're no longer as gin-clear [inaudible] you described kind of [inaudible] green color. [inaudible] seems to be true. I don't know what it is. It's not that turquoise color anymore.

CR: [inaudible] my husband write a letter to the editor, I guess [inaudible] when he went to South Pacific. [inaudible] all these advertisement going, "Come to your annual green waters." [inaudible] the advertisements say, "Come to your turquoise-blue waters. It's definitely been [inaudible].

BH: It changes [inaudible] to the South Pacific, but they didn't find anything [inaudible].

CR: They won't know. There's a couple of things that they think are promising, but every time they go to – they went to New Guinea for two months, and he was in [inaudible] for two months [inaudible] throughout.

BH: [inaudible] medical pharmacies, trying to find new [inaudible].

CR: He was working for a scientist out of [inaudible] Cologne who had started a research foundation called Coral Reef Research Foundation stationed out of California [inaudible]. He has a five-year research grant from the American Cancer Society to collect invertebrates throughout the South Pacific. He's hired Don months at a time to fly over there, and he'd help him collect. They said there's a few things [inaudible] but they take everything back to Washington. In a lab in Washington, D.C., they do all the – and there's still stuff that they collected [inaudible] that was collected in the Caribbean by other groups, because they have the Caribbean, and he got the rainforest and stuff. They're just coming up with stuff that they were collecting back in [19]85, [19]86, as becoming medicinal. But what they do, they kind of do cursory checks, and they see what might have promise. Then they tell them to go recollect those and check on that. [inaudible] flying out to Indonesia for the whole month of May to do the same collection [inaudible].

CR: Pretty nice.

KDM: Yes [inaudible].

CR: Well, it probably makes you feel [inaudible].

KDM: You kidding? We were sitting there, and Don's [inaudible] whole comment was he heard scientists say [inaudible] coral reefs were dying all around the world, and Don is like, "Wrong." [inaudible] he was diving off of New Britain in the Vitu Islands, which is [inaudible] volcanic islands and stuff. There is no people, except for a very small native community. So, these coral reefs were pristine. I mean, we got these underwater videos taped of just coral on top of coral on top of coral on top of coral. There were camera down [inaudible] they are all pretty much walls and ledges and stuff. This camera just shoots down this ledge, and you could see thousands of [inaudible] feet. You forget there is water there. It just looks like air.

CR: It's like diving [inaudible] feel like an astronaut when you're diving [inaudible].

KDM: Then when we were in [inaudible] I flew out during [inaudible] we spent the month in trucks [inaudible] and we were diving every day on all the different wrecks and stuff. That is inside of a lagoon. All those wrecks were in a lagoon and stuff, so you have more sediment in the water. But still, there were days where you had this [inaudible] bad day, you still had forty or fifty feet of visibility. But just the light, the invertebrates – I mean, I was just like a little kid, going, "[inaudible]." It was just incredible. It really was. But of course, there is no industry there. There is no big commercial fishing fleets. All the wrecks are completely protected. No one really fishes on the wrecks either. [inaudible] what you say was just [inaudible].

CR: Well, I don't know what's going to happen.

KDM: On the water quality, do you notice that there is more [inaudible] particulates in in the water?

BH: Appears to be.

KDM: Any kind of description that you want to give towards what...

CR: [inaudible]

BH: It's almost like [inaudible] shark on a photo.

KDM: I had one guy who described it as mucus. Like snot, is what he said.

CR: [inaudible] that's a good point. There is more...

BH: [inaudible]

CR: There's more of those jellyfish in the water. I'll tell you another thing that's changed. Years ago, I had instructions to pick up new jellies when they were sort of [inaudible] it was a joke with the students. There were just select people that those moon jellies would sting. To most people, they were just annoying. Those moon jellies now sting like hell. They change. They evolve over the years to be more of an irritant to people. Don't you think so, those big purple ones?

BH: I was drawn to them [inaudible] in the time we had those [inaudible] huge epidemic of them. I haven't seen [inaudible].

CR: Yes.

BH: But I'll tell you what I have seen. [inaudible] jellyfish I think you call a cannonball jellyfish, I've never seen [inaudible].

CR: Yes.

BH: Oh, yes. I've never seen them before.

KDM: Which one is that? What do they look like?

CR: Cannonballs look like...

BH: They look like the moon on the top, just more rounded.

CR: It's a mushroom. It looks just like a mushroom, and darker on the inside.

BH: It looks like it would sting the bejesus out of you. I haven't been close to one...

CR: [inaudible] they do stop that. In fact, I just wrote a position [inaudible] letter to the mayor [inaudible] Mike Griffin to represent on the [inaudible] the attractions association, which has [inaudible] business, catamarans, [inaudible] part of those trolley train aquarium – the whole spectrum [inaudible] associate membership for other church-related businesses. But I think that's what Joe Haven's [inaudible] calling marine dive shops and pleasure boats. [inaudible] the point I'm trying to make is that I had expressed the opinion [inaudible] of the association that we don't want the [inaudible] area dockage to be more commercial – I mean, divers [inaudible] just one commercial charter boats. The last thing we need here. We're overdone.

KDM: Thinking of year, when did you see the explosion of [inaudible] I am trying to if it was gradual up until a certain time. I know the whole [inaudible] a sudden explosion. When?

CR: In two years, there were probably ten boats.

BH: [inaudible] market that basically was destroyed.

KDM: When was this [inaudible].

CR: I'm trying to think how far back it goes.

BH: About four years? Four, five years.

CR: At the most, yes.

BH: [inaudible]

KDM: About [19]88, [19]89?

BH: Yes. Then you look at a market that [inaudible] so, now you got people during Spring Break [inaudible].

CR: The other thing that happened is the [inaudible] boats coming in the wintertime. They would just...

KDM: I remember that [inaudible].

CR: They don't do that anymore.

BH: [inaudible]

KDM: See, what I was saying is not...

CR: No, it's true. That's the point. Let's get all of the things that [inaudible] I can say that especially because I'm not on [inaudible] trying to be too much too soon. They're taking an unknown, and they're taking away and making more opposition [inaudible] boats. Let's try one or two, and take the worst [inaudible] take Tortugas. If it works, then we can work it out.

KDM: It is convenient for everyone else. It is a perfect area because there is actually spawning

aggregations right there too. If you are going to do replenishments on them, let it count for something. That is why everyone was so [inaudible] there is still ample fishing area around that...

CR: I think they're trying to delay to [inaudible].

BH: [inaudible]

CR: No, it's very...

KDM: Well, it is like [inaudible] dive zones.

CR: Ambitious.

KDM: Little protected areas for divers and stuff. There is so much conflict between user groups in the diving community. It is just...

CR: We don't find that. I keep hearing that, but we don't find that.

KDM: Well, I think a lot of it also has to do with [inaudible] well, essentially, you get the fisherman, and you get the divers. The divers get hung up or they get pissed off at each other. We get it more because Don is a spear fisherman, and he is on the fishery council, advisory council. He hears a lot more from the other people.

CR: Maybe.

KDM: When you have got a couple of really jerky spear fishermen who are real inconsiderate, and they anchor up right behind a boat that is fishing and they jump in and shoot the fish – and people who are hook-and-lining on the boat happen to be the two chairmen of the fishery council and the president of the FMSC. They go, "Great." That is shooting yourself in the foot [inaudible] we got the injunctions put in there, and now every Tom, Dick, and Harry is out there getting as much as possible. Look what happened to [inaudible] bozos from Washington State. No comers, nothing. Not even NOAA [inaudible] but they are out there. They got hammered. They got caught.

CR: Well, see, this is one thing we have to realize in life. You can't [inaudible] stupidity.

KDM: I am sorry, we are trying to, but you cannot. There is nothing that you can do. The other thing they are saying [inaudible] no boundaries. In a perfect world, yes, okay. But all these rules and regulations, there is going to be the same percentage of people, no matter what the

regulations are, are not going to pay attention to them. They are just saying [inaudible] who is out there doing the [inaudible]. You have to start by giving just a refresher. That is what education is for. That is why [inaudible] that is where the diving industry is light-years ahead of all the other user groups. We do educate commercially, commercial dive [inaudible] we have been educating people about preservation and the area of [inaudible] hotels, I guess. People are coming down here for the most part to go diving.

BH: [inaudible]

CR: [inaudible] we know people who come down and stay for six weeks, and they subsidize their entire vacation by just shooting up the whole world and selling it. It takes it out of the guy who's doing it as a living.

KDM: Who is doing it legitimately and correctly.

CR: Right.

KDM: It also hurts them because it hurts the price.

BH: I've been diving for a long time [inaudible].

KDM: Did you read Don's philosophy statement that I put in that package?

BH: No, I haven't.

KDM: The comments you just made are more of Don's philosophy – limited entry in marine preserves that have proven to work.

BH: Southeast Florida fisheries...

KDM: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. [inaudible] has sort of become Don's big cheerleader.

BH: George and I have gotten along much better in the last couple of months.

CR: [inaudible]

BH: [inaudible]

KDM: Hey, I have had numerous run-ins with him on the boat. You make a comment in the

office [inaudible] what he wants to hear, and it is just like, "Boom." You hear it. [laughter]

CR: They had a meeting where they had a facilitator, and sanctuary [inaudible]. The facilitator called for a motion – he made the motion. Afterwards, I went and I said, "[inaudible], point of order. [inaudible] can't make a motion." The only reason I was telling that is there's so many [inaudible] appearance about the marine sanctuary. You got to be involved and do it just right. [inaudible] but NOAA's sanctuary guy is making a motion about replenishment zones and stuff? He goes, "Who are you?" I looked him right in the face and I said, "Cecelia Roycraft." He goes, "No, no. Who are you?" Cecelia Roycraft. "Well, you're wrong." I said, "No, sir. I heard it. I'm merely giving you [inaudible]." He went [inaudible].

BH: [inaudible]

CR: Come back out [inaudible].

BH: I was sitting next to her [inaudible].

CR: [laughter] What did he do?

BH: He just laughed.

CR: He calls me out. They had a word with me after the next break [inaudible] and goes, "I would like us to start over." I said, "Mr. Barley, you were quite rude to me. I was merely helping you, but you didn't stop to listen. What I said hasn't happened." So, the next meeting – I blew him off a little bit. So, next thing [inaudible] really upset. [laughter] They were trying to find out if I'm right or not. The third time he comes out, he goes, "I do truly apologize. You are right."

BH: [inaudible].

KDM: [laughter] I can imagine.

CR: [inaudible]

BH: He has made some changes in his style.

CR: The thing that I do admire him most for is that he did make Florida Bay a priority.

KDM: Like a lot of people [inaudible] you guys got to realize that he is probably one of the main reasons why there is so much attention on Florida Bay. I mean, before George did

anything, what was done? You got to give him credit. He has really put his whole heart into it.

CR: He continues to say, "We heard you. We want to know what the options are." He continuously pushes to have some [inaudible].

KDM: You can't ignore him. I mean, he is not a man you can't or will ignore.

BH: You can't just [inaudible].

KDM: He won't. He is a very strong person.

CR: Yes, I admire him for that. I really do.

BH: Well, we didn't [inaudible].

KDM: Anyway, George is – when you are talking just fishery [inaudible] in 1991. He was still [inaudible] on our side this time. He suggested that we get both George and Graham to not just write a letter, but be a lobby to support, constantly contact the office [inaudible] make a point of saying something. I can [inaudible] with no problem, but it is got to be [inaudible] the other half of my office. He has left the office. So, it is like, "Well, we have sort of cut back."

CR: Graham has pretty open [inaudible].

KDM: Well, because Graham knows about them. He does know [inaudible].

CR: I'll tell you one thing. [inaudible]

KDM: When he was doing his – he was playing lobster trap fisherman a couple years ago. 1991 I think is when he did that in St. Petersburg. [inaudible] discuss Don then. It kind of got to the point [inaudible] once. But that is what we are asking.

CR: He's great. He worked on [inaudible].

KDM: Yes, that is right. I remember that.

CR: He [inaudible]. We've sat in the office [inaudible]. He's just a real [inaudible] of a person. He was very...

KDM: He had to go to the coral reef dinner that night, and he had that jacket on. [laughter]

CR: He washed up [inaudible].

KDM: Of course. That is what we [inaudible] need to get help, get the support from Graham, and to get Graham to be active. The reasons are all very – we have never had anyone from [inaudible] fish breed panel. It is a full-time [inaudible] part-timers. Never had a commercial guy. Never had a diver. Now, [inaudible] going to be adjusting with the diving a lot more now.

CR: It's definitely better to have someone...

KDM: Well, that, and the sanctuary and Florida Bay, all the [inaudible].

CR: All of them are [inaudible].

KDM: One final statement from you guys for now. If I have other questions or want to touch base, I will come back at a later time. But right now, I am just trying to cursory go through. I had a feel for what is going in Key West and stuff already. Pretty much, you have all added on to that. What final statement would you like me to leave with that you see out here?

BH: I think that I'd like to [inaudible].

CR: [inaudible]

KDM: What do you see as being what you have observed? What are the problems? Quick couple of sentences.

BH: I just think that [inaudible].

CR: It's not even a lifestyle [inaudible] we do not have an alternative. There's nothing that we can do outside of using the ocean as a [inaudible] regardless if it's tourism or harvesting. There's nothing we can do unless they decide to legalize the Florida Keys [inaudible] a drug port.
[laughter]

KDM: The government has already pulled out.

CR: The biggest problem that bothers me is that this is not a new issue. This is an issue that we have addressed for over ten years. The government is aware of what the impacts and results of their lack of intervention. How do we cut through the [inaudible]? How do we get those folks to move? I don't know if they fully understand the impact of their lack of intervention. So, that's what my biggest concern is. I mean, if laypeople can look at the problem and know what's wrong, why would it take them – and obviously, the answer is, who's benefiting from this lack of

intervention? That's the bottom line. My question is, the buck stops where?

KDM: Thank you both very much.

[end of transcript]