

Karen DeMaria: With the tapes [Inaudible] so I can make sure I got everything.

Freeman Bateman, Sr.: The tape?

KD: Yes, right there. I have to be sure of that because I may use it so I do not have to take detailed notes later. [Inaudible] since 19...

FBS: [19]65.

KD: Where did you come from?

FBS: Everglades City [inaudible] migrated to North Carolina and lived in Everglades City for ten years and I migrated to North Carolina after the transfer [inaudible].

KD: So, you have been how long as a shrimper?

FBS: Since 1951.

KD: So, it has been long. [laughter]

FBS: I worked in the factory between high school there and then doing [inaudible] in 1953. I haven't transferred [inaudible] since 1978, I [inaudible]. I think I owned my first boat in 1965.

KD: How many boats you own now?

FBS: One. I did have seven at one time.

KD: When did you have seven?

FBS: 1980.

KD: Now you have one boat. That one boat is in Marathon or in Key West?

FBS: No, in the Key West.

KD: Key West.

FBS: That boat one night in September out to Sambo [inaudible].

KD: When you went to the Keys, would this be in the Marathon area?

FBS: Yes, I've lived in the same house since 1956.

KD: So, tell me about shrimping [inaudible]. Lived down in the Everglades City and you were down there. Tell me about when you first started shrimping and what it was like. During the course of the year, where did you go? I know a little around it.

FBS: We basically went to Tortugas for three days. Basically, it's the same area we worked all these years. The shrimps are back but the Tortugas area has shrunk because of pollution not because of anything. One thing that shrimping in my mind was unique in the effect there has never been misused in this area of being overfished because there are so many natural habitats for shrimp and for the larvae. So, the shrimpers can't get through. By that, I mean the rocky areas and areas that [inaudible]. They are a replaceable resource until pollution came along. The difference is the growing pollution. There's always some [inaudible] and some other things, middle old way blackwater found. It would turn in that [inaudible] and blackwater in the ground and [inaudible]. Well, about that time, or maybe a year earlier, the difference I noticed in shrimping and I didn't realize then it would terminate them. I thought it was just a phenomenon, which again was the focus for five years. From that until 1985, anytime we would have heavy rain – by heavy rain I mean two [inaudible] you'd hear it on the news or 3 to 5 inches [inaudible] or whatever. Or a large flow, you'd have a tropical depression basically. If you had a lot of rain or a lot of wind, you could figure [inaudible]. Ten days to two weeks, you would have a run of smaller shrimps on the Tortugas ground.

KD: Going towards [inaudible].

FBS: Right. The best shrimp research in my mind that was ever done was done a doctor named (Milton J. Lindner?).

KD: Spell the last name.

FBS: Lindner, L-I-N-D-N-E-R. He was one of the Galveston Laboratory. Well, he started at the University of Miami, where he did this study. Well, he did it in the late [19]50s and early [19]60s. He spent almost as much time on the water. It's not like the studies he's done nowadays. [inaudible] is mandated under the [inaudible] and you didn't find them out on the water itself doing it.

KD: It is the biggest gift a lot of people have.

FBS: Then they draw conclusions, is what they're taught a lot of times. But he spends a lot of time on there. We hired him as a witness in front of state's senate's [inaudible] committee in 1971. At that time, I was president of Florida Keys Shrimper's Association. We hired him as our chief witness and we spent a lot of time at [inaudible]. He was [inaudible] and he and I would spend a lot of time together. We spent about two weeks in South Hampton. He always tell me that "A lot of things are stuck in my mind." He said when he was on the [inaudible] program, when he was doing that, it attacked shrimp from [inaudible] to Cape Romano. Are you familiar with [inaudible]?

KD: No.

FBS: Anytime you protect boatsmen, 100 percent of the ones that were recovered were recovered in Tortugas. Once they reach the point of Cape Romano north, it would lead to them going to Marco. Marco in those days was nothing but a sandy beach. Once they reached

the point of Cape Romano, some would come to Tortugas, some would go to [inaudible].

KD: Some would go to where?

FBS: [inaudible]. You're not away there was something out there [inaudible]?

KD: No.

FBS: They transport down the [inaudible] and go to Tampa every year. But the breaking point was Cape Romano. Anything in that code of Florida Bay, they were recovered in Tortugas. You can see why heavy rains or the drafts would make water be fresh and to drive them out [inaudible]. You could follow them all the way [inaudible] to a point at Dry Tortugas. You could follow the trail. In fact, that was in 1960, after [inaudible], we started getting shrimp on the extremely end of the bottom. We followed their transport for about a week in May, and then we'd go back and get another crop as the [inaudible] shore again, [inaudible]. After Hurricane Donna, the Everglades were [inaudible] the tides poured at times. But it never stopped coming out of the boats. [inaudible] after Donna, it constantly ran out. It caused so much water in the [inaudible]. It would slow down during normal tide changes, but it would keep them right out for about ten days, two weeks. So, you were constantly [inaudible]. It was probably the most [inaudible] on Tortugas in one night across the [inaudible]. We'll verify that in the statistic. 1981 was the highest statistic because there was more [inaudible] on the ground at that time. But in 1981...

KD: So, as far as the [inaudible] catch.

FBS: 1960 that was in September and October, and all of the boats went back. But [inaudible]. One night [inaudible].

KD: Where did it start?

FBS: It'd start on what we called the north end, a point north of [inaudible] and work on down there to Dry Tortugas. They were in about eight in the water, off of seventy-eight, eighty feet of water. [inaudible] and work on down to 120 feet of water [inaudible].

KD: That is where mainly [inaudible]?

FBS: Yes, [inaudible].

KD: [Inaudible] about north, right?

FBS: Well, the difference is you got clear water here and you have dark water in [inaudible] in the water where you can't see the way you have [inaudible] a lot of times. You'll have [inaudible]. In North Carolina, in [inaudible] they have what they call [inaudible]. A friend of mine [inaudible] in the field and [inaudible] and he had a carrier in [inaudible]. There was a huge ask for it and [inaudible] and they'd fit in and he took shrimping and he had a [inaudible]. You could have [inaudible] and you could transform it around. You could walk over and turn

the lights on them and [inaudible] those shrimps were very [inaudible] you could see with those eyeballs looking at you.

KD: [laughter] So, a brown [inaudible].

FBS: Right.

KD: That comes up from Johns Island with my grandfather. [inaudible]

FBS: From Camp [inaudible].

KD: Is that here?

FBS: [inaudible] What you have would come in on boats from South Carolina, you would put them in boats down here. There were not any boats coming down here.

KD: You could carry full. So, they could go down and [inaudible].

FBS: What you really need, on account of what your view of shrimping is, is to see what is done from the [inaudible]. Have you ever seen that?

KD: Once.

FBS: [inaudible] sea life.

KD: Yes, once it is destroyed. They never can really step on that line.

FBS: That's is gone but we don't [inaudible]. We then locked in with all of them. So, when you talk about culling, when you talk about [inaudible], this area is just like any other and plank and everything else. Because you definitely can't tell them. The turtles are no more. The turtles that you get that are expensive are normally caught coastline fishing. [inaudible] big birds could go out because they were trying to let you go into it. Even when we transferred, we'd start out with something like that. It was about 12 miles and we could shrimp for Marquesas. So, [inaudible] but it's not here. From out here we don't pay attention to that.

KD: We need to take points for a unique [inaudible].

FBS: That's right.

KD: It is something I [inaudible] from a scientist [inaudible] married to a commercial fisherman [inaudible]. That is okay. I have a good [inaudible]. I am not narrow minded. I am very open-minded person. But it is something that I think has [inaudible] and associated with water [inaudible]. Do you think people who would come down here wanting to make regulations, camp for the kids, and they put them back in blanket regulations [inaudible] don't know that. I know as a marine biologist, my career, my study, these are totally different [inaudible] and you have look into things like [inaudible], a little more like detaining or something or I think it

should be on so much land base area that is different from this.

FBS: We have a packing program led by the [inaudible] in 1983 [inaudible]. They did that on my objection to what they were trying to do [inaudible]. The bank had been set up under [inaudible]. The Corps they put [inaudible] and they made the conclusion. [inaudible]. The fisheries now [inaudible] and how they were to [inaudible] independently. But [inaudible] and it does affect [inaudible] back then in summers. [inaudible] Dr. Montgomery, the way he got this graph, I can show you the graph, I can show you who's done it with the way he [inaudible]. Because he was a council member.

KD: When was this?

FBS: This was done in [19]83, I think, or [19]84. [inaudible] climate [inaudible]. When we started using [inaudible].

KD: That means you do not have to go by yourself.

FBS: [inaudible] there's three devices. I bought my boat – it wasn't my boat at the time to take [inaudible] is an object that I [inaudible]. I had to get wood to [inaudible] it would take a month before [inaudible] and what not.

KD: [laughter]

FBS: Pretty good. But I wanted to make sure [inaudible]. So, before it went to any petitions, I wanted to get [inaudible]. The only question about it [inaudible].

KD: Over there, it does not matter much.

FBS: No. It doesn't matter. The only thing was they would take you [inaudible] before I got it [inaudible]. I could have gotten primaries for [inaudible]. How could he sign to disapprove? This is ridiculous. This is [inaudible]. To fill that whole area with [inaudible].

KD: We needed a change [inaudible]. You were changing of that?

FBS: Well, I came over on 1987 and this whole area was open. I had [inaudible].

KD: I can remember reading something like that.

FBS: The [inaudible] I got him to make a time off because the shrimp were really almost all [inaudible].

KD: My education on shrimping here.

FBS: It came from [inaudible].

KD: There was not a thing to wear above the ground.

FBS: Yes, right.

KD: From my experience shrimping, which is very limited, you get little.

FBS: Yes.

KD: Then spend some time to catch up. Could you explain to me when you were fishing and everything like that. Oddly that part I know pretty much what you are going to say but you might as well.

FBS: I think you're thinking ahead of yourself.

KD: [laughter] My knowledge is based on [inaudible], which is based on you.

FBS: Right.

KD: [inaudible] a friend of mine.

FBS: Yes, they often [inaudible].

KD: See that is when my dad first came down here to work. I told her [inaudible]. Now, you wouldn't just say [inaudible]. There were no rules to handle making comments because everything was based on pure facts. You never had to make a comment unless it was based on pure facts.

FBS: [inaudible]

KD: I know, exactly. That always made me proud. [inaudible] came down here and realize anything about that [inaudible] was a part-time [inaudible]. So, we [inaudible]. His wife was a [inaudible]. I said that is a valuable resource if we want actual information. Or if you want frustration, you can go outside the realm of the [inaudible].

FBS: [inaudible] been around at this [inaudible], take them back to Carolina and things like that. [inaudible].

KD: [inaudible] made it up. I kind of have an idea who it is. [inaudible] head off.

FBS: [laughter]

KD: [inaudible]

FBS: You can find his office [inaudible].

KD: Would you back in the [19]50s?

FBS: In the [19]50s, [inaudible].

KD: Back in the [19]50s.

FBS: It's [19]60 for them.

KD: [inaudible] what everybody could have?

FBS: [inaudible] until 1965.

KD: Why did you move Malcolm then?

FBS: The photoshoot right there and he kept calling the phone [inaudible] all the way and I got [inaudible]. So, I moved around because I feel more convenient than wherever it could have gone to the [inaudible].

KD: How many [inaudible] in Marathon?

FBS: [inaudible] had about [inaudible].

KD: Did they all take provisions?

FBS: [inaudible]

KD: Something [inaudible]. I want you to go through that now. They were mainly new because the shrimping population actually left, right?

FBS: Right, shrimping population. Always in [inaudible] you don't have to [inaudible]. The first three weeks it really was bananas [inaudible].

KD: Lived with guys here and there [inaudible]?

FBS: I did that too.

KD: [inaudible] and then they ask you to come back out there fishing?

FBS: The Northern boats would come back for them.

KD: Yes, it's hard to do a midshipman's knot. It's another object to work this boat. A little bit of ideas about a lot it's monitoring?

FBS: The path that [inaudible].

KD: Why?

FBS: They just did, they were raised by chores and family. That's one of the reasons why I

[inaudible], it's a smaller town and there's more [inaudible].

KD: How boats are there now?

FBS: More because we were...

KD: They lost when you were...

FBS: The last I think [inaudible] a year ago, out of my mind.

KD: When did the change really affect just a number of points that are both, up until last night?

FBS: Don't now. [laughter] Starting to go down their rules of regulation.

KD: Mid-[19]80s.

FBS: Mid-[19]80s to late-[19]90s. You have been encouraged by that, the inclusion of water, but I can't [inaudible].

KD: Speaking about pollution, why do you think [inaudible]?

FBS: I believe the make-up of the group [inaudible].

KD: But they did okay. Why did you [inaudible]? Tell me about any off thing if I am applying. [inaudible] was videotaping an angry, whitefish with white or brown. She went out on a boat [inaudible]. One day it is me and I apply to med school. I watched just like me make notes. I decided to have this [inaudible]. He was wonderful. [laughter]. Might not agree with everything you did; I might say I'm in. You are kind of those people that you could sit there and listen to forever.

FBS: [inaudible]

KD: [laughter]

FBS: I kind of resent that [inaudible]. Definitely as far as [inaudible].

KD: Yes, like [inaudible] right there.

FBS: So, you got there by scooter, some sort of car [inaudible] I could tolerate. I could tolerate [inaudible]. Is that shocking?

KD: Down there in the bay.

FBS: In 1955, when I was put in the database, there was a date [inaudible] in the summertime, the [inaudible] if they continue to be [inaudible]. Numerous people [inaudible] you could on a week night. Every time [inaudible]. You ever heard of [inaudible]?



KD: No. Whey they [inaudible] to come over?

FBS: When they're caught up in [inaudible].

KD: Was there any donation with the [inaudible]?

FBS: No.

KD: [laughter]

FBS: Now the rumor was [inaudible] an alligator. But he would have known [inaudible].  
[laughter]

KD: [laughter]

FBS: The best part of [inaudible]. That was their end game.

KD: [laughter]

FBS: [inaudible] they made a big pile [inaudible] on the bottom of the lake

KD: [laughter] You do not think [inaudible] because lots of people are leaving off the land.  
[inaudible] you have to understand and recognize that you are going to deal with the people.

FBS: I don't know about that but in 1960, when I started my first charter, it was a great charter. A friend of mine saw a photo and changed it. They tell you things. I took it home and our house wasn't destroyed by the flood. Of course, [inaudible] that's been around [inaudible]. I used to go through there. My wife [inaudible]. It was probably ten times [inaudible]. I loved it. I sure did. Now I got [inaudible] I caught one baby whale with my bare hands and all the [inaudible]. My favorite [inaudible] I caught a [inaudible] or what it's called?

KD: [inaudible], yes.

FBS: Pretty much [inaudible]. I called into the dock [inaudible].

KD: [inaudible]. They are all the same. [laughter] [inaudible] north, right?

FBS: You drive for four hours. The train wheel I don't think [inaudible]. But my ferry was the [inaudible]. I caught a larger percentage [inaudible] or those things as far as [inaudible] on turtles. But they killed more turtles [inaudible] fine is what they did. The team was always on [inaudible] [laughter] just like that.

KD: 1984, I guess.

FBS: Yes, that's right. [inaudible] that was the only other option [inaudible].

KD: You spoke about how by-catch is not really a problem down here.

FBS: Well, by-catch is not a problem that's out here.

KD: [inaudible]

FBS: Well, the crowns are real skinny. It doesn't matter if there are biters down here or not.

KD: Phytoplankton.

FBS: Not, phytoplankton. Those are brown. They look like a [inaudible] when they're brownish. They're really pretty. I don't know what [inaudible] did. But that right there, I don't think we're dealing with the commercial value here because we've been cooking forever [inaudible]. Now to summarize [inaudible] because they do this whole thing and they're white. There's crab, there's mac, [inaudible].

KD: Do you like [inaudible]?

FBS: It's destroying the [inaudible].

KD: Why?

FBS: Because the [inaudible] until the water is [inaudible]. We got to fish the same thing.

KD: Now speaking of jellyfish, [inaudible] when is that?

FBS: Periodically [inaudible] now yearlong you get three of them.

KD: Same kind of jellyfish?

PBS: It's the other kind of jellyfish. But they have a master or where the mother jellyfish or the [inaudible]. But there is a great, great clamming thing. Have you ever seen those?

KD: [laughter] Do you ever notice any [inaudible] when you have jellyfishes here?

PBS: I'll answer that why there. I've been faithful with the shrimping. I've been here [inaudible]. It's unforgettable food that you get [inaudible] or to your council. Migrating out on the shells and they just spent that much for streamers off that right here. Forty-five, a drunk or something and you get on the wrong coast, you ride, you make us run about.

KD: What kind of nets could do that handmade [inaudible], I am curious as to what kind of –

FBS: There's the [inaudible]. It's just examples, it looks like a frog before they change [inaudible]. That thing is that long. There's a book on it. [inaudible]

KD: Other than the fact that [inaudible].

FBS: [inaudible] is part of the bay.

KD: Now I have been told from [inaudible] that they used to be like the unions they were continuing that. [inaudible] and the nearshore waterfront used to be heavily...

FBS: The question is how [inaudible], at the time is that I came up [inaudible]. They always wanted to stay down the bay or the [inaudible].

KD: Yes, I have heard that [inaudible] in 1990. There are two different sizes, the young and long, one that is small.

FBS: [inaudible] there are always that [inaudible], and they would get all that, [inaudible].

KD: [inaudible] a lot of his memory. The desire that he gets a lot of the young ones and they're hung up when they take something, they made a note, [inaudible].

FBS: But they're young [inaudible].

KD: Yes, I have heard some comments that [inaudible].

FBS: [inaudible].

KD: [inaudible] what about the [inaudible]. What do you have to say?

FBS: [inaudible]

KD: I've never asked my husband [inaudible].

FBS: [inaudible]

KD: Who?

FBS: [inaudible]

KD: I am not familiar with him.

FBS: J-E-R-U-R-E-R. [inaudible] another one.

KD: They are going to have to do something [inaudible].

FBS: [inaudible] those records.

KD: Sometimes yes.

FBS: [inaudible], it's not going to work. 9 percent of [inaudible]. That was for my fish outdoor, so it's not clear. From 1978 to 1985, I bought all types of boats [inaudible].

KD: [inaudible] like my husband.

FBS: What I'm praying [inaudible]. From 1978 to 1985, I took three [inaudible] that I paid [inaudible]. Those are the same [inaudible].

KD: I have not heard that besides now. You hear it so much that you make sure you [inaudible].

FBS: [inaudible].

KD: I like to come here [inaudible]. I did not come here by myself. The owner [inaudible].

FBS: I did more than that.

KD: Well, people desire [inaudible].

FBS: [inaudible].

KD: [inaudible] so basically, we are not one-size-fits-all.

FBS: No, we're not. The [inaudible] are talking about it. I'm not talking about it.

KD: [inaudible]

FBS: [inaudible]

KD: [inaudible] so they studied for that here until the next day. We were on site so I could officially collect my very big money [inaudible] people are signing a lot of money for this. The total in 1992, [19]93, the first year of [inaudible]. Our attorney filed a lawsuit. The lawsuit basically how you are basing your [inaudible]. The judge says, "We will block it [inaudible], in the meantime you give an injunction. Take the injunction on law back there, everyone and every [inaudible]." Now, people were calling my husband [inaudible]. Never again will we do that again. So, what happened was an injunction was filed. The lawsuit was filed, an injunction. Anyone can go out there and litigate. There is a lawsuit in the state of Florida because the state of Florida has the right to [inaudible]. I do not think it will recall. Well, it has now become a positive. You have got people coming down [inaudible].

FBS: Trying to defend the judge and got your head on the wall.

KD: Exactly. We tell them all before. [Inaudible]. We want to let them know that people get off [inaudible].

FBS: [inaudible] cut a tree like this.

KD: Habitat is habitat.

FBS: Yes.

KD: [inaudible] you can do this stuff. I can talk to you. [inaudible] McCory. [inaudible] I put into a pen to get [inaudible] and send us the amount of time you're going to get. What they need to do, is they need to carry out research. Unless people do that and time up when they are gone, what year. You are going to get the same stuff that you want if you're following the experience or trying in some unique area and have a unique [inaudible].

FBS: I try to really emphasize to them.

KD: I know you really [inaudible] because it is like the fish factory too.

FBS: What do you feel about fish farms?

KD: Oh, I did not like that. [inaudible] as you know [inaudible] my husband could talk to you and has a lot of respect for you. I think because they have taken [inaudible], they do not leave them out, they do not put them in the [inaudible]. But the thing is, as an example, out of a hundred fish factories, we only have five of them that are doing it right. [laughter]

FBS: [Inaudible]. At one time I was so against this strategy. But it cost a lot. At that time, I was doing [inaudible] 1985. About sixty-one years I've [inaudible]. Five to ten thousand pounds [inaudible].

KD: We cannot lie to you. [inaudible].

FBS: [inaudible] anywhere from [inaudible] County, to Napa, [inaudible], Hart County.

[end of transcript]