

Scott Clark: My name is Scott Clark. I am a student at Georgia Southern University. I am here with Angelique, conducting an oral history interview as part of the project Fishing Traditions and Fishing Futures oral Histories of Commercial Fishing in Georgia. I have already received informed consent and permission to record from Frank McDowell. But could you please confirm out loud that you do give our consent, if you don't mind?

Frank McDowell: I give you permission to do whatever you ask, whatever you want.

SC: Thank you, sir. Appreciate that. I have a couple of questions to guide us along, but I really just want to encourage you to tell the stories that you think we should hear. So, first question, just a little bit of background, if you don't mind. Can you tell me where and when you grew up?

FM: Born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia. I was born on the south end of the town of Grundy, Georgia, and then I moved to Savannah, Georgia, when I was young. Then we moved back from Savannah and been living in Brunswick. I went to school in Brunswick and went to Ballard School, the old country school. Then I went to school in town. I've been fishing and everything like that with my dad ever since I was about fourteen, fifteen years old. I've been off and on boats. At the age of nineteen, I was a captain on a commercial shrimp boat when you had to go to custom house to sign on, now you don't have to. But when I would become there at nineteen years old, I went to U.S. Customs and signed on as a carpenter, said 20-foot [inaudible].

SC: Okay. So, maybe you just give me a little overall sense of what life was like within your family and the overall community.

FM: We had a tough life, but it was a good life. I keep saying that most of the kids should go back to where I started at and learn, but I don't want the kids to start that hard. Fishing is a hard life. I come from a family of fourteen.

SC: Wow.

FM: Daddy raised all of us kids out of the river. He stayed in the river mostly, but not all the time, but fourteen kids. But he raised all of us as kids. He was a commercial fisherman. His oldest brothers were commercial fishermen, tow boaters, and stuff like this. Then all my brothers, I got six brothers. All the boys have been fishing. We've been in Texas. We've been in Campeche, Mexico. It's just in our blood. I've been on tugboats. I've been on drag boats and everything up and down the coast. I've been all the way up the Mississippi River on tugboats, worked out of James River by Jamie Dean's home up there and James River. We raised all up there and everything, but we mostly shrimp, and we shrimped in there. In Georgia, we fished in the sounds, and now we can't fish in the sounds. They closed the sounds. The Fish Commissioner got the commission to close the sounds for a short period of time to run a survey. But once they got the control of it, we don't open it no more. The shrimping went down and down, but it's the idea like a chicken pen. If you go to a chicken pen all day long and never let rest, you don't get no babies. That's what the fishing is. The sound reduces, the shrimp come in and lay their eggs in the sound, but it's so dirty and so nasty. There's probably grass as high as this table. You put your net out, you couldn't drag the length of this building. Your nets would come together with trash and stuff. When I was a kid, we shrimped fish in Cumberland River,

Mixer Tiller, and all like that. We'd see shrimp boats, big shrimp boats, well, sure, and we'd be fishing in there at night. We could fish there at night, and we could put a John boat, what did they call it? A John boat or bateau with a light on the boats at the edge of a bar so we could drag up to the boat. When we get to the boat, we know to turn around and come back. If you didn't, we'd get shallow, because back there, when I was a kid, we didn't have fathometers. A lot of times on the river, you throw a line overboard to check and see how deep it is, and it is just efficient. It went down since they closed the sound so dirty. Big boats caught good shrimp offshore, and the small boats would catch good shrimp inside, but we kept the bottom clean where the shrimp could lay their eggs. The shrimp is smart. They go up to the brackish water. They'll pick the tiller. They go so far up there, and it turned blackish. The saltwater fish won't eat it, and the freshwater fish can't come. So, they can lay the babies there, and it just would help us if we had to stay on open. It would help all the commercial fishermen all over. Anybody would come in. It would help them because it would give them a place to lay their eggs and clean up and subvert the state of Georgia. The fisherman is like a colonel island over here. The only way he could go to Colonel Island was on a boat. Before that, there was even a big car place there. We used to go over there coon hunt in the winter. We had permission to coon hunt and stuff like that to help the family. Now you can't do this no more. It's all gone. We are dying innocent. My daddy told us more times than one, "Son, it'll come a day when there won't be commercial fishermen no more." There's so much control over it. It's a dying industry. So, if you can find something else to do, you need to find it. Because you got too many people telling you what you can do and what you can't do, and they don't know what they're doing. He learned it from a book. But my belief is if you – your first name is what now?

SC: Scott.

FM: Scott, if you were taking over this job here, my opinion is you should work at this job around a fisherman on a shrimp boat for a year. Well, let that be your salary. I know you can't live on it, but that would be your salary for this year. Then you could see what's going on in the fisherman's life. Then go back to your regular pay, which you would know, and then you would have the authority, and you would have the knowledge to tell us what fishermen do for a living. How hard it is. Nothing like this. You know what I'm saying?

SC: Yes. To really experience it first.

FM: That's the way I see stuff going. But they are saying somebody from Arizona, New Mexico, up North Georgia, don't tell me on Georgia now, I was born and raised in Georgia. I've been all over Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming and all over. But I'm a Georgia boy. But if you were born and raised in Georgia, you all know what Georgia life is. You know what I'm saying?

SC: Yes.

FM: It's a hard life. Fisherman is a hard life. But it's in your blood, and you cut your vein, the water comes out, and blood don't come out [laughter].

SC: So, you started really early, then you grew up fishing.

FM: I was born in 1939, and like I say, I was about fourteen, about fifteen years old. They'd take me out of school once in a while to work in the ranch. Then I quit school, went fishing. I had to go fishing. But then I got more in fishing. Like I told you earlier, I'm about that far from being illiterate. But if you show me what to do, I can do it. I've been on dredge boats that engineers went to school on, and they quit the job, and the engineer on the dredge showed me what to do and how to do it. I operated motors costing a million dollars and dredge. I was on that one Alco motor that cost \$1 million. I was operating it, but he took time. He showed me what to do. Just like my daddy does, and just like we do, my son and all of us, we were shown what to do. We didn't read it in a book. It was just in our blood, and the old people showed the young people what to do and how they have done it when they were small. That's what fishing is all about. But you got to love it. At one time, Grundy, Georgia was one of the biggest seaports on the East Coast. There's nothing like if you see over there at City Market Dock, there's about four or five or six boats tied inside one another. From here, this one here is branded marine. Was here a big place working on tugs and boats and stuff. They had shrimp docks all up and down, all the way up there to where them yachts are at. It was shrimp houses, Joe Farrell, Louis Crab Factory, Joe Cruise, all of them. We had a lot of Portuguese in Grundy, Georgia. They were good fishermen, and we all worked together, and it just going down. It ain't nothing to him no more. What you see is the city market dock. That's the boats in Georgia now.

SC: That is it.

FM: It was big. Hundreds of them on Mother's Day parade, on Mother's Day of blessing earthly. It'd be hundreds of boats going up and down there and being blessed at the dock and everything. But now, if there's ten, fifteen boats, ten boats at the most, that's all it is.

SC: But everybody still participates in the blessing of the fleet.

FM: Yes, it was a Catholic thing, and it was the Portuguese. The Portuguese people brought this end because the Portuguese most they – to go back in history, Portugal, they had had blessing the fleet. When the season comes in, they decorate the boats and stuff like that. So, they brought it into Georgia. It was a big thing. It is a big thing in Darien, Georgia. But now in Brunswick, they just see nothing. They ain't know that's the only fish house there is. City Market Dock, that's the only fish house in Brunswick. All the rest of them gone.

SC: Wow.

FM: There were ten or fifteen people working at shrimp houses that owned shrimp houses and stuff like this, but that's the only one there is now.

SC: There is still a big showing for the blessing of the fleet.

FM: Yes. Blessing the fleet was a huge thing. People come from miles around like they do in Darien, Georgia. They come all over there, and Crescent, Georgia, and Daring and Valona and all them places up there. It's a big thing in Darien.

SC: So, it sounds like your father and your uncles led you right into the fishing business. You

did not have too many other choices, maybe. Did that really influence your decision to get into...

FM: It was just so interesting to be a shrimp fisherman. Today you go out and make \$100, \$200 and go out and make \$2. It was just what they all say in a fisherman's luck. It's just something that interests you in, just going shrimping, being a fisherman. I had worked one day and one night and had twenty-five, thirty boxes. A box is 100 pounds of shrimp. That's 2125 headed. Then go back the next couple of days, I have five boxes, and I had three boxes. They'd be gone. Then all the ones, they'd come back in. But when we had the sounds as I can relate, I think Georgia had the most sounds raised in the water there is on the East coast in Georgia, we have more things coming in. But when the sounds was open where the shrimp could spawn, and we could drag it and keep it clean, there was more shrimp offshore for the big boats, and we could look offshore out there and see boats working all day, and we'd be in the sound. We could fish at night, we could fish in the daytime. For nighttime, we were fishing brownies, and we put a little John boat, like I said, and in the daytime, we could drag in the daytime, and we could catch crabs. We could gill net and catch gill bass and stuff like that to sell, to make a living. Now you can't do this.

SC: So, there were boats designed for offshore shrimping. Then there were other boats, smaller boats for sound fishing.

FM: Yes, sir. But the big boats could come in too. But there was no reason for them to come in because the smaller boats – I'm saying small boats, 35-, 40-foot long, or maybe a little bigger, kept the sounds clean. So, they could open them, and the shrimp go offshore when it's time. A shrimp, to my opinion, it's like a young man. When it's time to leave home, he going to leave home. He don't need Mr. Clark to tell you when to leave home. He don't tell Frank McDowell when to tell him to leave home. When it's time to leave, they coming out of that sound. They going offshore and get in that warm water were going south because a lot of the shrimp caught in Florida and Georgia. Shrimps ain't going to come against nature. They ain't going North. They come out, and they going South like South Carolina, North Carolina. They come out of them sounds, and they go in South all the time. That's the way the shrimp is. I mean, for my opinion, if it's worth anything. But things my daddy told me about shrimp fishing years and years ago, it's a dying industry because we got nobody to care about fishermen no more. They don't care if the fisherman lives or dies. It was told to me one time by a man that he might be in here talking already. That he called, accidentally, drag anchor into efficient hazards in key ways, and the judge told him – we might want to raise this, but the judge told him he doesn't care if the shrimpers was the lowest scum people on the face of the earth. There was no place for fishermen, and we had somebody right here in Georgia who said they would like to know one time, go to the beach and never see a shrimp boat out in the ocean. They got high up in the same kind of business we in, and I don't know if it's a university or I do know, but I ain't calling no names.

SC: No problem. So, your father had been saying this for a while. You said sort of predicting the decline.

FM: Do what now?

SC: Your father had been predicting the decline of...

FM: The decline. I probably was maybe twenty-five years old. I was getting out of it, trying to get away from it. It's hard to get away from it. But Dad said, "Son, if you can find something else to do, you need to do it because it's going to come the day that shrimping is going to be nothing to it. It's nothing will be for you. If it's there for you, you're going to make so little money that you can't survive because so many people have got control of it. They tell you what to do and how to do it, and when to do it, when they don't know what they're doing." If, like you were saying a while ago, if you had to live off of shrimp fisherman pay for a year, I would feel more like you could come in and tell this young lady or tell me what fishing is like, how hard it is, and what you need to do because never a day alike and never a week alike, and never a month alike. People can tell us what to do. Certain times you got to fish. It should stop night fishing in the state of Georgia.

SC: Night fishing.

FM: Night fishing. You fish all day and all night and go back to what I was telling you a while ago. You run through a chicken pen all day and all night. That chicken can't lay eggs and you ain't go get no babies. They dredge it. They dredge all day and all night and never stop. They come from Texas. They come from all over. They don't have to. They're not Georgia fishermen. They don't live in Georgia. They don't even have to get licensed as long as they stay outside of six miles line. They come in inside of three, that state water. They got to pay license, but they can come from anywhere they want to and fish six miles off, and they bring all them fuel and ice, and they freeze the boats, and they come here and work around the clock for the thirty days or ninety days when the shrimp is the thickest, they take it and leave and go, but Georgia don't get no revenue out of it where the Georgia people, they born and raised here, they depend on their shrimp. They come here and get like coffee, take the cream or the coffee and leave. They ain't worried about the state of Georgia. They're worried about what they can make. I know fishing is hard, and they got to do it, but it should be a point somewhere where you get a bottom time to rest. Even North Carolina has stopped the boats from fishing on a Friday night, and they can't go out no more to Sunday. They give them big old sound up there. Time to rest for a little while. But see, they'll fish all day and all night. In that time, they come to the dock and rest. But if they were stopped night fishing so the bottom would get rest, they opened up the sounds to give us a chance to get the smaller boats, get in there and clean out the bottom, make the bottom clean for the fish, for the shrimp to lay. Because the shrimp just can't lay eggs and stuff in there when it's so nasty and so scummy and muddy and stuff. They can't get down there to eat and lay their eggs and stuff like this. So, they're just dying. It just when it was open, everybody made money, sir. Portuguese never come in this island. They never come in much inside of 3 miles. They stayed offshore. That was their fishing ground, and they made money. They would make money for everybody. But now there's not money for everybody. The small people are dying because we got nobody back on us. They don't care about us. They just don't care about fishermen no more. I got a son-in-law fishing in North Carolina, longlining and stuff like that. It's so much stuff goes on up there. They got cameras on the boat. You got to get a certain amount of fish. You got to be a different kind and all that. They got cameras and is eventually going to come to cameras on shrimp boats. Can you imagine we would put a camera

on a boat? It will come if they're still here. But now they ain't fifteen boats in Grundy, Georgia now. They ain't fifteen shrimp boats. It could be hundreds. They are all gone.

SC: So, how does this change affect you? How did your involvement with fishing change over the years, would you say?

FM: Probably like about a first grader or 10th grader or 12th grader. It just took it away from me. I mean, it's just changed. There's nothing there for you no more. You got nothing to support your family on. A woman's got to have a certain amount of money to live on. I've been married several times, and my wife left me because I wasn't making no money. I was working down for Little Car factory. We were getting seven and a half to two cents a pound for crabs. We could work the sound then for crabs. We could catch crabs, we could catch shrimp, whatever. We could fish in the winter, in the sounds and in the sounds is calmer with the boats could get in there and work. But now we can't work there no more. It's all closed. You can't catch crabs in the wintertime. A cent and a half, two cents a pound. Can you imagine catching 1,000 pounds? You're going to get a \$20? They hold them out of North Carolina and pay fifteen to twenty cents a pound for the Saint crabs. But what is left for the Georgia people? There's nothing. It just changed. I got away from fishing because of this. I hadn't fished for a few years, okay, but I had to get away because there was no money to – you can't pay rent. You can't feed your youngins. It's just that bad, and it's getting worse. Like go back and you said, "My daddy said fishing is going to be dead. There's nothing in it because it's controlled too much." It's taken away from our family, taken away from our livelihood. Where? I'm seventy-nine years old now. I couldn't have done Social Security and making what I'm making if I stayed in shrimping because you couldn't make it because they go by what you make. I couldn't make what I do, and I'm on Social Security now. I got some brothers on Social Security. They don't make what I make, but I got away from it, and they forced me away from it. But they are hardcore like my little baby brother, Ben. He's hardcore. He's like my daddy. If I'd have thought of it, I could have brought a picture of my daddy. He looked just like he was alive. Just hardcore. They don't know nothing but shrimping. When they take it away from you, you get sort of ugly. You get maimed. You got no respect for nobody no more. Because when you get up in the morning and go fishing, you come back like if you leave the dock today and come back when you got paid the last, you got \$3.50 for a box of shrimp. When you come back to the dock. The price has dropped \$50. That's a lot of money when it comes to taking home for your family and everybody, they do it. Then when you control the water where you can fish and what you can't fish and tell you where you can fish and what day you can fish, that takes it away from you. Like right now, you can't fish within that twenty-five miles offshore. But if some of the boats could be working six miles offshore or something like that, they might not hit nothing today, might have hit none tomorrow. But that one day that week they might catch a couple hundred pounds of shrimp. That would give them a little bit of money, but now they can't do nothing. They closed at the wrong time. They don't know what to do. They get excited and they go jump overboard and close it like we had no shrimp, and all at once the river was alive with shrimp, and they let the boats catch them up for about a month, and then they decided to close it. Now the shrimp is already a size of where you could make a dollar off of it, but they got to close. You got to go to Florida, and then you can't come back from Florida with your doors on any outrigger like they do. You got to be in on the boat and all that kind of stuff. They're DNR fined you for that. If you come back, they think you might be bragging. It just took it away from the

fishermen.

SC: So, you got totally out of fishing for a while and then came back?

FM: No, I haven't come back yet. I got too old, and I fell on the boat and tore my knee up. But yes, if I like to be shrimp fishing, yes, I'd rather be shrimp fishing and eating chicken. I just can't do what my striker can do. I just can't do what I know I need to be doing on a small boat. I mean, sometimes, you have trouble on the end of your outriggers. You need somebody, a second man out there to climb out there and help him help the striker. I can't do it. Well, yes, I do, I want to. Yes, sir. Do I know what to do? Yes, sir. I know what to do. But I just get where I can't do it no more. Do what I want to do and what I love to do. What I love to do is shrimp fish. But the money's not there. It just ain't there no more for the fishermen's.

SC: Yes. It is a shame. So, when you were still fishing, could you give us an idea of your day-to-day routine? What was it like? What was life like on the water from the time you wake up, when you stop to eat and how you finish the day? Things like that on the water.

FM: Well, it's hard to say when you start, but when I was a kid, I ran behind my daddy. We walked about five or six miles sometimes to the boat. The old truck was broke down. We walked to the boat, and I ran a lot of time to keep up with him when going fishing. I get up at 3:00 a.m., 4:00 a.m., 5:00 a.m., you go out. When you get out of the way, you stop and put your doors at the end of the outrigger and get your nets all straightened. When you get to the limit where you sound, sign where you could fish in the sound, it more or less at the crack of daylight you put overboard. Like the old saying, "The early bird gets the worm." So, we get out there and get the first dragon, and there's nobody drug that little piece of ground. We might just slip along there and get two or three bushels of shrimp. Somebody else comes along there, and next time you ain't going to get one. It comes to where you just don't do it. But it's just a lot of parents getting ready. We get up in the morning and we go fishing all day. Sometimes, we come home at night, but most of the time we stayed out. When dark comes, we want to quit and anchor out, get ready, get everything prepared. We had 300 pounds of blocks of ice that you took a shaver and chipped it off, and you ice the shrimp. Now they got blown ice, and it's easier, but we chipped it when we were kids. You had to be careful because it could slip and cut your foot or something, and we repair it, and we get it ready. Like me and my daddy were working the boat. Maybe I could handle the deck and stuff like that. My dad be in there cooking dinner and stuff, and we eat maybe sometimes at 10:00 p.m. or 11:00 p.m. when we go to bed. At 4:00 a.m., you're going to be up. If you didn't, the old man be shaking, ask you what's your problem, and we get everything. What we all had to do was pull anchor and everything like that. They had to be all ready, prepared, and then we started the day over again. This was a routine. You didn't try to not miss a day. If you miss one one day, that might be the day that you caught shrimp. If you miss it, you can't never gain it back time.

SC: So, you could spend multiple nights out there.

FM: Wednesday night, I went to Campeche, Mexico and stayed forty-five days without clearing land.

SC: Wow. Single-day trips were pretty uncommon.

FM: Single days are pretty uncommon. Two days, three days at the most around, and we come back to the dock because you keep the shrimp more better, and they'll be more fresher. But two to three days. Three days at the most if they get just a little spot on them, like ice and made with ammonia and get a little spot on them, the dealers aren't going to buy them. They'll drop the price on you. That's what happens all the time. That's the reason we come in. We want to look fresh and look best for them and about three days. But in Campeachy in Mexico, we kept them high at fourteen, fifteen days, but we had to change them out of disband. So, we got a bin on this side of the boat. We had to shovel all the shrimp, say we had 1,500 pounds in that band. We had to take out 1,500 pounds of shrimp, shovel them and raise them, put them in another band so we could stir them up so the ice wouldn't burn them. We had constant boats coming in from Mexico. We'd get together, and we put all our shrimp on his boat, and he bring them in. We put our extra groceries and fuel on his boat and vice versa so he could fish longer. So, when he comes back, and he comes in – there's always a vote coming and going. Sometimes they come in, and you hear rumors that this boat come in with two or three hundred boxes of shrimp, maybe had a third of them, or a 10th of them wasn't his. There were other boats, and he'd bring them in.

SC: Some teamwork, then.

FM: It was teamwork. That's all it was. But there was no teamwork no more. Too much greed. But I understand what it comes from. But again, if they would stop night dragging in the state of Georgia, that would help shrimp. If they open up the sounds, open up the sound and night fishing. In two years or less, you would see the production of shrimp boats. You would see more boats coming in. You could probably see more people getting interested in being dealers or people that want to invest money. So, Mr. Clarke wanted this \$1 million. Come in, get permission, and build him a dock and buy shrimp and sell them. It'd be people coming in wanting to get in this industry again because there'd be money in it. You can't buy enough of shrimp. Everybody eats shrimp, and you ain't going to beat a Georgia shrimp. It's like chicken. You go to Popeye's or McDonald's, at a Kentucky Fried Chicken to get chicken. You don't go to Burger King or nothing like that to buy chicken. You don't go to them to buy shrimp. You go to this place and get good fresh shrimp, and Georgia is the best green tail shrimp in the world. I ain't bragging on it, but I was born and raised in Georgia. I'm going to brag about Georgia.

SC: I believe you. I believe you. So, would you still say fishing is central to the community here? Or have you seen a big change over time in that?

FM: Yes, sir. Fishing will put a lot of people back to work in the state of Georgia because people love fishing and love shrimping. But like you say, it ain't there for them. Shrimp eaters, I say, these black boys that are born and raised with. They worked for me when they was jitterbug, and they without jobs now. They have to live low income and stuff like that. They wouldn't have to do this if the shrimp industry was blooming, because that's what they need to do. That's what they love to do, is get on a deck of a shrimp boat and go fishing. They don't want to live on welfare. They'd rather be shrimping. But why go and work your heart out when you come to the dock and it ain't there? So, it would be a test for shrimping. If we would do things different and open it up more, there'd be more people got jobs, more people that would



could live better and do what they want to do for their family if some of the things were changed in Georgia.

SC: Got you. Have you seen any positive changes in this community or in the fishery over your lifetime?

FM: Any what?

SC: Any positive changes? Anything good?

FM: No, it ain't no good. It ain't no been no change for anything they change big is stop the shrimping. Like today, boats are laid to the dock for a month now, and I made \$1. No help. They ain't had no money. They hadn't caught no shrimp this year, but it stopped to a halt. There's nothing going on in the state of Georgia right now. You can't wait on that. You can't even pay nobody to go out on a boat. So, there's the captain and the strikers, and everything like that is stop. No money coming in. No nothing is coming in on the shrimping industry in Georgia now. It is dead and it's going to get worse if we let it go. We need help. We need help in Georgia and probably all over for fishermen from Cape May to Brownsville, Texas, or wherever you're from. The shrimping industry, the shrimping people that depend on making a family living on shrimper, they need help. They don't need it next year. They don't need it five years from now. They need help now to help them survive. So, without laws, we can go right now. There isn't much lower that we can go right now. But people have been in it. I got a brother, I got nephews, I got friends that I was born and raised with. All they're doing is just hanging on and hoping stuff will change for them. But every time they make a decision to change that would help us, I mean, really help us, they go off that way. They don't know nothing about it. They don't know what a shrimp is. They never seen it. Know nothing about a shrimp. You don't learn about a brown shrimp. They don't know about a roach shrimp. I mean, they tell you about roach shrimp, they tell you about it, but it's just going down and down and down and there's nobody that wants to – they don't care. You got people that go into it that could help. They don't know, and then they make the decisions and down the road it's the wrong decision. But sir, if you make a decision on how I should live and you're thinking it's a good decision, and you make it, and down the road it's the wrong decision, you can't change it. It's already been made. Once you sign into law, it's there. Like the sound down here. DNR was going to take the sound and run a survey on the sound. The spearmint, when I was a kid, they kept it. They were promised they was going to give it back to the fishermen.

SC: It was never opened.

FM: It was never opened again, never been opened again. From that day on, the shrimping has been going down, and then all at once now. It was going down a little bit, and now the bottom has dropped out of it. It's like going to the table, and it's gone. It's there. You're getting your paycheck. You're going to get your own every month. I mean, I'm talking about people, but shrimpers don't do that. If they don't go out and catch no shrimp, they don't get a dollar and price of fuel, and the price of things is going to sky high and we are going to pay so much for that. When we leave the dock, we could be \$5,000 in debt. There's \$3,000 in debt. We go out and work a week before we come to the dock. We make it 3,000. The book is clean. But when the

hell did shrimp fisherman's? Where the wife and where the wife and them going to live off of? That money had to go back to the ice and fuel man and the grocery man. You got to eat out there. So, you just breaking even. But if we had a little help, maybe we'd go out there and catch 3000. We might make \$3,500 or three or \$5,000. Now we have a little money to live off, but it's just ain't there. It just keep going down and down and down because we got people that don't care.

SC: Some of the technological innovations over the years, have any of those caused any positive changes?

FM: Some of the problems that they change. Are you talking about how they change things and they were hoping to do good, but it makes it worse? Is that what you're saying?

SC: Yes.

FM: Yes, sir. Most of the changes they had done and made it law and everything. It ain't beneficial to shrimp one bit. They haven't benefited from it because the law that they make and put it in effect, they assumed that this was going to be a good thing by reading a book or whatever. But when they actually do it, no, it had insufficient maltol.

SC: What about the improvements to the boat itself or the equipment itself? Maybe the electronics or any sort of innovations or improvements on the equipment that you guys used over the years? Have any of those?

FM: There's been a lot of changes. When I first started shrimp fishing, we drove one net then it went to two nets. Now they gone to four nets. My brother on the boat, he is dragging, assume that 440s as 240s on each side. So, that's an eight-foot net on each side. It's been a lot of changes from the time I changed, from the time I was in shrimp fishing to now. It's been a lot of changes and some of the changes on the equipment sides. It's been real good. But then some of the equipment that they allowed to drag the bottoms and come in, it's been bad. You take a boat, a dragon to 440s or 450s. You take the out-of-state boats that come in here, they drag them for seventy and eighty foot, and we're talking a ninety-six-foot boats, got twin screws on them. They got bigger nets and bigger doors and bigger chain, and it just stores the bottom. So, it's been a lot of improvement from the time I shrimp fished since I was about to quit school in about fifteen, sixteen years old to now. It's been a lot of changes, and some of the equipment they changed too, has helped. Fish eyes on nets. I don't think change that much. I mean, it helped us that much. Terrorist shooters. Ain't helped us that much. You get a hole in your net, you sew a hole up, keep going. Like you stock. You get a hole in the sock, you sew it up, keep your toe sticking out. If you shoot a turtle out, it's going to shoot a certain amount of stripe out Wouldn't you think? I mean, just this type and logical. If you put water in a bowl, in a cup, and it had gotten holes in it, it's going to hold more. If you put a hole in there, a couple of holes in there, water is going to go out of that cup, ain't it? A certain amount of shrimp could go out of that shrimp. Nobody knows shrimping is no more just this over here than Lindsey or Captain Dilly Hagan. Marty here now. They are born and raised. Marty Daddy saved my life when I was nineteen years old. I got pulled overboard off Bernie and pulled unconscious on a shrimp net. The Coast Guard said I was dead, Kevin Marty's daddy kept pumping. He said, "You're just

wasting your time." No offense to you. They say I was just as a Black person. I had no life. He kept pumping. The Coast Guard said, "You're just wasting your time." He said, "I got nothing but time." He kept pumping, and they don't call my family and my wife and told them I was dead. They bring me to Saint Simons Pier, but in between that time, he hit the right spot, and I come back. Kevin Diddley today, before he died, he's easy walking and talking. He come up to me and lay his hands on my shoulder and say, "Bud. Sometimes I wonder if I done the right thing." I say, "Hell yes, you done the right thing. How did he know?" But let's go back when I was nineteen years old.

SC: Wow. Did you say in the net?

FM: We were seeing a rig and seeing a single rig, you got to control your nets. When you dump your bags, you got to make a circle to keep this stuff and going in the wheel. Now you go straight. You got them all along. Excuse me. I got carried away there. I got them long outriggers on there, and they would keep the nets away from the boat there. The nets was right. The doors was just right close to the boat. So, we had to make a circle, and you throw your bag overboard, so the captain goes up there and hooks it up to pull the net and stuff away and you got a lazy line. It runs from your door to your bag where you dump your shrimp. I was telling it, playing it out, but I got caught right at the bag and I had three-quarter boots on. My feet flipped up like a propeller that they're going up and down. But while he was making that circle and when he straightened up, he waited for me to unload the net to put it back down on the bottom. I didn't indulge it. So, he goes all over the boat and look, thought I went to the bathroom, and he went all over the boat looking for me. Didn't see me. In the meanwhile, I was back there in the net, spinning over and over and over and over. So, he happened to see my feet down there. So, he stopped and took the lazy line and pulled me up. He couldn't get me up, so he put the web line, the one that put the bag up. He picks the bag up and drops me down on all them. We had a deck load of big old croakers, what they call croakers or spots and stuff like that. That's what I was dumped into. But it wasn't my time to go. The good Lord got different ways to operate things in different times. You can go just like that perfect time boys, they made a dollar or nothing like that. We weren't making money. We get it at Saint Boat. I worked one day and one night we had twenty-one boxes, 2,100 pounds of big old shrimp. The next morning we put old boy off the Sea Island beach, and that's what I got pulled in the net. But we worked, and that's like the perfect time boy, we never caught fish they got net fish. They overloaded. Man, didn't have good equipment on the boat, and you have that today. No equipment on the boat. The man wants to make so many dollars, but he won't put equipment on the boat. My brother didn't make one dime last year on roster. The man wouldn't want to spend \$5,000 for a clutch. We could win a Jacksonville and took a clutch 5,000. He probably lost 60,000, 70,000.

SC: So, you had no problem getting on a boat after that incident?

FM: No, no, no, I got where I could go fishing on your boat today, and I could come back in that afternoon. I'd go fishing on another man boat next day. I was good on a boat, but I would learn hard. My daddy learned his boys hard. All of us boys was our fishermen. Most of us worked Mexico. I got my oldest brother. He passed away now. We fished Mexico, Campeche. All my brothers had been shrimp fishing. Three of my sisters have been fishermen. They quit school to go fishing. They was good on a shrimp boat. They know what the shrimp boats was about.

They just looked. It was I got some sisters. Go get on a boat and before we get on a boat, they seasick outside the dock. They seasick, but we always weren't fishermen. All my uncles, my nephews, my cousins. At one time in the state of Brunswick, I had 172 aunts and uncles, and first cousins. We ain't counting those seconds or nothing about ninety-five of them were fishermen, has worked on shrimp boats, tug boats and stuff like that. It just is a smackdown line. But that's joy. That's Grundy, Georgia. Georgia is a good place to live. We live in a horseshoe hill. When storms hit Florida, it passes up by. Sometimes we get caught, but then it goes up to the Outer Banks I lived in. I haven't lived in Florida long, but I live in Georgia. But when Hurricane Matthew went to North Carolina, I was in North Carolina with my baby daughter, and Matthew raised Cain her down the street there on Street 12, Interstate 12 coming in there. They row boats down there, boats come down there, people rowing on it, four or five foot of water right there in the Main Street that Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. But there's boats in there. But Georgia, like I say, Georgia was a world capital on the East Coast shrimping and shipping. But when the people left Georgia and went to Savannah, they took the. Shipping with them. Now we're getting it back. See, when I lived here, there was no city in air bridge when I was young. No way to go to Jekyll Island like we talked about early. Only way you go to Jekyll Island, you leave around it and go on a paddlewheel like the Robert E. Lee. They took the Jekyll Island, Georgia to take plywood there and stuff by boat, with no driving, no bridges to Jekyll, no sitting in their bridge, no Colonel's Island. None of this. It was all desolate. It was just like Quarantine Island. It was a beautiful place. People wrecked it. At one time it was three ships, and I can't quite remember. I think they were Army ships. I was laid out there at anchor to take two forts to where they could cut them up. I was maybe fourteen years old.

SC: Could you tell us a little more about your connection to Jekyll Island? What you were telling me about before.

FM: My granddaddy was raised on Jekyll Island. I never seen my granddaddy, and my daddy and all his brothers and sisters was born on Jekyll Island. My daddy was a caretaker over there for Volinsky and Henry Ford and John D Rockefeller. When they had their summer homes. They got summer homes over there. They got homes right now, and my grandma and my dad used to take care of them. When they sent a word down there that they was coming over, they would open the homes and get them ready for the people that was coming and visit. Maybe they wasn't Rockefeller himself, but maybe it was just friend. Maybe it was the clerk, maybe it was myself. Maybe it was the young lady was going down there. They was going down there to spend the week. So, they would send word that there so-and-so was coming to Jekyll Island to get certain home, to get home ready. So, they was going to be down there for the week, for the summer or something like that that's what my granddaddy done. They were singing the beaches, catch shrimp, cook them at the house. They bring them to Vernick on the little boat and sell them to make revenue to go back. I mean, sure, he was getting a certain amount of money and taking care of the island, but I'm sure back to those days, they didn't make no big money.

SC: So, they were singing on Jekyll and they are bringing some of the cash back.

FM: They sang like they did to sing that in the same way. You know what singing that is, they run a net out and purchase and bring in, and they would cook the shrimp and boil them, and they bring them they had little markets and stuff in Brunswick. So, they would sell them maybe a

bushel shrimp, they might get \$2 for, for 50 pounds of shrimp.

SC: But how was the relationship with the Rockefellers or their guests out there? Did they get to know them?

FM: I don't know them, sir. I couldn't answer this and be telling you the truth. But, Daddy Ford, I know my grandma and my granddaddy stayed there for years. Would take it all over and stuff. I had an uncle that had a good relationship with the state of Georgia and Jekyll. They would let him go over there and coon hunt because the coons were so much, and they get them around people's houses and stuff like that. They gave him permission to go over there and trap them and to thin them down a little bit. But right now there's no training back because the wrestlers over there – now, you go in there at night. The wrestlers – you go in the back with the trash cans and stuff and nothing to count ten, fifteen coons around the back of the wrestler. Jekyll is a nice place, but it is decaying away. The north end of Jekyll. My daddy, when I was a kid, he showed me a pipe right at the waterline, when the low water line, he said that pipe was in their front yard when he was a young, and that was about a quarter of a mile, or maybe not quite from his front yard. it was in the ocean. That's how much Jekyll Island is washed away.

SC: Oh, wow. Erosion.

FM: Northeast wind corroded up, and on the south end now, it's growed up down on the south end of Jekyll because all the north end of the islands, they decayed away because the northeast beats them up. But like I say, my granddaddy, I have some kilns that get on tour buses when people come here, and they ride them around and go to Jekyll said that I never seen it myself. But my granddaddy, Jim McDowell, they had a plaque on my granddaddy on the wall in John D Rockefeller's home. So, they must have cared for him a little bit. Just not go off to war and put the rowdies name on there. But it says John McDowell and stuff like this was my granddaddy, but I never met my granddaddy and my grandma on my daddy's side. But I have known my granddaddy and my grandma on my mama's side. They were born in White Oak, Georgia. He's skipping hop from Woodbine, Georgia, or Saint Mary's right in there.

SC: Okay. Got you. Man, it is fascinating stuff. So, what do you think have been the most rewarding parts of your career on the water? Back to you.

FM: Most rewarding part, what I love the most about the water?

SC: Yes. Exactly.

FM: Shrimping. Every day is the same in shrimping. It ain't the same. There's rewarding days as when you got a wife and kid. You go out there and make a good day and come in and you get a good price on your shrimp and stuff. It's a good day. That's a rewarding day that you can go home, and the wife know that you got a paycheck coming. I have worked all week crabbing, and he made \$10 in the winter because the price was so low. But sometimes, when the price come up a little bit, we get a little more, and it was a rewarding thing and just something about shrimping is just seeing the shrimp jump. You get into silence. You ain't got no deep water. So, a lot of shrimping when you pick up in the sound, they jumping on deck and shrimp a crawl and

you see the shrimp live and look at it and crawling on deck, and you got a good drag. Thing go to pop it in your mind what you can do for the kids and what you do for the wife and stuff like that. But it's a good feeling. It's a good feeling. Like I say, right? Today we drive about twenty-five miles just about every day. We came to the water, me and my brother. But when he's out fishing, I don't. But when he was in, every day he comes to the water and the day go by, I don't come to the water and what I enjoy about it. I made all my old friends, and we swapped stories about shrimping and stuff, I guess. But it's fishing and shrimping and is if it would grow up and people would get interested in shrimping and stuff like this, it'd be a wonderful life for a lot of people. It would take a lot of people mind, and a lot of people would want to go back into shrimping and be proud to go back into shrimping and be a lot of jobs for all kinds of people, all of us. I have some bright brothers that are just as close to me as my wife was. They worked for me and we slept in the same bed. We ate at the same table and worked for days and days and days outside of one another. We talk all the time. There's a lot of them come down here and we talk and they miss her in theirself. They really miss it. They took it away from us. Not only us, they took it away from everybody. It's rewarding to see things change. When things change, it would change for the good and people would know what they're talking about, not just think they know and pass the law or pass it and put it in effect then six months down the road, God, we done the wrong thing. But you're not going to change it until you go through the act of Congress to change it. But the shrimp fishermen's got to suffer. But when they do make something, they change it, it's been a while since they've done something really good. I'm not bragging on University Hill, but they have done more for shrimp fishermen than DNR has, and I have to call names. They have done more for shrimp fishermen's and helped shrimp fishermen more than anybody I know. Dave Harris. I might not be announcing the name. You know who I'm talking about?

SC: I have heard the name, yes.

FM: When I first started, I knew him. He was running by. He was a fisherman's god. He helped the fishermen. He was there for the fishermen. If you needed something, you're going to try his best to do it for the fishermen. Now, he got out of it. He got old, and I think he's passed away now. I'm not too sure about this, but he was a fisherman's guide. He was there for the fishermen. That's what DNR should be there for, the fishermen. Help us not just want to catch us and make laws that were to do the things that we know that's costing us money, that we got to live by their rules. I know everybody got to have rules. I know that. If it weren't for cops, we couldn't be sitting in this room. You know that good as I do. I'm better than I do, probably. But there are some things that you need to help people. People need help, help them. If you got the authority to help them, help them. Don't have the authority to help them you want to beat them down. I just love fishing, and fishing is in my blood, but I can't do it no more. But do I want to? Yes, sir.

SC: Are there any specific things you would like to see in the coming years for improvement?

FM: Yes, sir. I'd like to say not dragging shut out in the state of Georgia. I don't want face no more because I'm not able. But for my friends, my brothers and cousins and stuff like this, they stopped not dragging. If you can't make it from daylight to dark, you can find you a better job. The old fisherman can't find another job because you go interview for a job and say, what do you

do? What do you know? I know shrimp fishing. Well, you don't know anything about plumbing. You don't know nothing about this. You're sufficient with shrimp and start up again. You're going to be gone and opened the sounds. If they do this in the state of Georgia, the shrimp will grow, and there'd be more money for everybody. You see more happier people, more families stick together. Because when the money's gone, the wife is gone sometimes because they got to have money to live off. If they make it better to live, open up the sounds, close night fishing down, any money for everybody. Everybody. The big boat is going to stay offshore. They're going to make money. The smaller boats or whoever wanted to go. If the big boats want to go in there, let them go. That's their property, but they don't want to go because they claimed in the bottom the shrimp is going to go ashore where they got plenty water for the big boats. But if they do things, you see everything coming different from the state of Georgia, and shrimping would be better. It'd be better life for shrimp fishermen. I'm not going to say this, but I would love to sing it. [inaudible].

FM: If there's something changed with it, it might come to pass like my daddy said. "Shrimping is going to be dead. They're going to be no shrimp boats." You don't see no shrimp boats coming in here, and bring your shrimp boats, and anything you're going to get, you're going to get fish from Japan or China. Pond-raising shrimp. Pond-raising shrimp. They built a pond. Put a chicken pan over it. Chicken dropping it in there. When it's time to raise the shrimp, they moved the chickens, drain the pond, put it up, and sent them to the United States. That's what our president done for us. I ain't going to call no name. That free stuff.

SC: The chicken pen is actually on top of the pond.

FM: It's nothing. Well, just like Georgia right now. Who are you to say if we went in there, if your family was hungry, we'd go in the sand and we could drop our net down for fifteen, twenty minutes and got five or \$600 shrimp for your family? How can you say we're stealing? You ain't never raised it. You don't know what's there. You don't know nothing about that shrimp. You don't cultivate it. You don't do nothing. I know in that way, as I say, you need to stop that, too. I'm not saying open the sand. Let you work it twenty-four hours, seven days a week. You got to have control of it so the shrimp can raise. But if it had a place to where they going to raise where we could, it would help the shrimp fishermen. The shrimp fishermen could survive. Let them go in and catch crabs certain time of year. Crab prices out of reach right now. If you go to the crab house now, we got two cent a pound or seven and a half a pound. He's paying fifteen to \$20 a dozen for shrimp now, for crabs now. So, if we could get into something like that, the crab house. Louis crab house is one of the biggest crab houses. Julius Warden going down there right about the end of the winter. Yard starts there. They had a big crab place where you could go out and catch – it was no big money, but we could make a few dollars every year on crabs. They stopped that. Anything that fishermen could make money on now is being stopped. You could sing that fish. You could catch a whittings. You could catch trout and stuff. They wanted to do this no more. They got to be a certain size. Got to be this. Anything that has changed has not helped fishermen. But if those two things would happen in Georgia, open us down and stop night fishing, it would help Georgia. Like we said earlier, the boats come from Texas, Louisiana. They stop twenty-four hours a day. The only thing they do is come in, fish it, rape the bottom, and they leave. They don't have to pay Georgia \$1. Georgia don't get \$1 from them as long as they own that. Don't come in on the side of that three-mile line. They come inside of

three miles and some of the boats is too big to come in three miles. They want six miles. As long as they outside of three miles, they don't have to pay Georgia \$1. They're catching us up and taking them back to wherever. We don't get nothing out of it. So, it's just like a man coming in your house with a gun and taking your food off your table. That's what they do. That night dragging is killing us. That sand is killing the fishermen innocent. If those two things could be stopped in the state of Georgia, they'd be a happy lot of Georgia people, and everybody would be happy. Not only Georgia people because so many shrimp people would have to quit buying them pond shrimp. But there's no way the state of Georgia and the shrimp can fly to the United States, or shrimp. You, as a rested owner would go this far. You might not want to on it, and the rested owner, if you could buy a pond shrimp from Japan or South America or wherever they get them from for \$2 a pound and put them in your restaurant and sell them, where are you going to get Georgia shrimp? Beautiful fresh shrimp for \$3 a pound. What are you going to buy?

SC: To save the money. Hopefully.

FM: That's what business is about. But if they stop that, more boats would get back into it. More shrimp would be in Georgia. Cut that trade stuff down. I was telling this one guy, I think he's the head of the guy right now. Shrimping industry clothes yourself. I didn't need Mr. Clark to tell me the shrimping was over this year when the shrimp got a DNR go, I went out and got shrimp, got a certain size sand automatic clothes, the beach automatic clothes. When a shrimp got of size and everything like that automatically opened it up. We didn't need somebody to tell us what to do. He let it close yourself, but again, go back to night fishing and sailing. That's our biggest problem in Georgia.

SC: Do you think there is anything else other than those regulations that could create more interest in the industry? Could help it out?

FM: Yes, it's something that a lot of people don't want to hear. Fishhouses. The prices of shrimp and stuff like that, it just kills the fishermen because I know when I was a young man and shrimp fishing, we had left the dock in the morning to know that we was going to get \$3 for shrimp. Dealers would get together and cut the price on it, and we'd get a dock. We ain't got \$2 a pound for it. This fish house get it one day, next week, just to get it in the next week, get the opportunity to jack the price up so we can get all the shrimp. If it was controlled shrimp prices and not bounce up and down like a yo-yo overnight. There's no way that prices can change overnight that fast. In a twenty-four-hour period, you could lose \$2,000 on a catch if you come in with a good catch. The prices have dropped that fast. That man up there, with those million dollars in his pocket, he couldn't stay in business that long either. Would you think? I don't think so. It's a price drop on that fast. They control the price, we get to control on the price and price and price. Everything we do on shrimping is controlled too much. But who would have me to say? It just had too many people telling the fishermen what they can do and what they can't do, and they don't know what they're doing.

FM: I mean, it's just outrageous. I don't know the reason, who gives them authority to tell us what we can do and what we can't do in the water when they don't know nothing about what's in the water. If you go down in that sand and you take that, say, the University of the State of Georgia or DNR or whatever it is, they go down there and clean that bottom up and everything



like that every year. So, it's all nice with the bottom has got a little bit of mud on them which never eat mud. That shrimp don't eat sand, they eat mud and stuff like that. They go down and clean that bottom out, and run tests on them and know how many shrimps are in there. They would have the right to tell us what we could do or what we can't do. They don't know nothing. They know something, but they don't know about shrimping. It's killing the state of Georgia. It's too much control on telling the shrimpers what they can do and what they can't do. My opinion on Rosemount, go back to what we were talking. That's where your big money's at. They let you kill them, let you destroy them. You understand what I'm saying? I heard him say once shrimp has maybe half a million shrimp, one-row shrimp, and you knock the head off He got no babies, is he? You catch him shrimp, but you give him a certain amount of time in spawning season to go in and have them babies. You have more shrimp with you. But no, that's where the big money's at, and you catch him, you hit them, cut the heads off and sell them. That's where your big money is at. But if you get to shut them down for thirty days, give them a fighting chance to spawn. They're going to come in there? Sand, like we said, if you shut that sand down, shut that, clean that bottom up, so then shrimp can come in. Now, they're not going to spawn all the time in the sand, but a big part of them is they're going to come up in where the brackish water, fresh water come out of the Satilla River, where the fresh water don't fish don't want to come in and the saltwater can't breathe in. mother nature's been here. You don't fight mother nature. They're going to raise that egg, and you have a better chance for that shrimp to raise. You'll get more. Say, if they have a half a million, they lay eggs on half a million, 300,000 of them going to die. We still got a chance on that 200,000. Well, you probably get off of it. You got to do it.

SC: So, people are harvesting the rose right now. That is the main target.

FM: That's the main target. Rose season. They're waiting for that rose season to come in. That's what we go back to. What we were talking about. The big boat, both from Louisiana and Texas are waiting for that rose season to open up in Georgia, so they can come in here and scoop them up, take them back to Louisiana and Texas, and don't leave one Georgia, \$1, as long as they stay outside of that three-mile line. Us, we got to pay that licence. We got to pay that license, the captain, the license for the boat. The striker price is going up this year. Everything going up. I'll tell you, Georgia, if you live here in Georgia, they can come in and fish twenty-four hours, seven days a week, not pay \$1. The only time when I'm a kid and my nephew's over there, went out in the mornings, make that first drag. It's had all night to rest. The shrimp come in here to eat. So, only once you come in there by a crack of daylight, boom. You drop your net. Have your five or six, seven, eight, ten bushels. I've seen many a times. My nephew will be coming to the dock at 10:00 a.m. He got in ten baskets, fifteen baskets of shrimp. He got the cherry. But you go out there now and you drop your net in daylight. What do you get? A deck load of dead, rotting fish that in big boats has done, raided the bottom. You know what I'm saying? All night and drag and push that stuff overboard, and that's what you catch in the morning. I would get you two or three baskets, but it's a hell of a lot different than two baskets and fifteen or ten or something like that. But they are allowed to do it. See, they're not fishing on the three mile line, but all they fish all night. That tide coming in, that stuff's going to come in with them, ain't it? At Rodney's dead stuff. It's going to come in with them. Shrimp don't eat dead fish. They live on mud and stuff.

SC: So, what can we do for the next generation, the younger generation, to try to garner more interest? Is there anything other than these regulations to try to get more people interested? I understand there is a little bit of lack of interest in getting help getting crew.

FM: It's hard to get a striker. We all come the same way. But a striker, you come down and you learn him. He don't. Maybe he come from North Georgia. They come from all over. They want to come to Georgia. They want a shrimp fish. Because sometimes, the money is good, and sometimes, it ain't. You take time to learn a man shrimping, and he's interested in it. He doesn't move from wherever he moved to from Tennessee, whatever, got his home down here and everything like this, and we go back to this price gouging, a night fishing and stuff like this. He's made good money and all he wants, there's another law change that takes the money away from him. He is now there. He's done. Move to wherever. He moved to the state of Georgia, and he wanted to do this. So, he'd lose interest in it because there's nothing there for him no more. But does he want to shrimp fish? Yes. He wants to be a shrimp fisherman. Some of the guys I have hired, and the young man that ain't never been on a deck of a boat, but they were so enthused about it. They were so interested in shrimping. In six months time, they could become captains. Some of them do become captains. I got a real close in. Now he's in Florida. He was just a little curly-headed kid when I knew him. He grew up, and he started stripping. He just fished with me. Now he's kept him on a boat down in Florida now. That's where we talked to him this morning on down there. I was told, and I don't know this, they have some in Louisiana or Mississippi, like when you catch the shrimp is a 2 percent, 3 percent or something like that, taken out the catch that they put in a fishing association. So, you and I had a hard time this year or something like this. There'd be a little money they could draw out of this, you know what I'm saying? You could enjoy a good draw down, \$2,000 out, but you could make a little money, too, to help the young people that's going into shrimping and stuff like this, put something in there for them. To sort of start something like a little school, to try to help them learn how – that guy we were talking about a while ago, Heron, they had a sohonet how to set doors on a boat to make the doors spread in the water. Have a little schooling for them like we doing right now. Have a little ejector on there and show them what nest does on the bottom. I'm sure they got films right here. Right now, they show you a net that drags on the bottom and what goes in it and how to set them, and different stuff like this. If a person, young man wanted to come into the industry and he's interested like this, have a little school that you could give them a little help. Food stamps. I'm not necessarily food stamps. A little help for them while they learn it, you know what I'm saying? Let them be on the boat. Let them have a job on a boat. But if it's laying in all day, they come back, come here, and they had to come in and sign in to learn these nets and stuff like this and how it works and stuff like this, to get interested in it and to become good at it. They want to do it bad but want to do it bad don't feed your family and help them. I'm sure there's somebody can work out something that they can help. Like right now, the shrimp fisherman needs a little help right now, and they just talk that there's going to be something for them. But who gains the most? The fish houses. The captains and the strikers don't get no much help. The fish houses – is one fish house here? Two times in a row. They had a disaster. He got almost \$1 million each time. First year he got it. Next time he got it, they canceled out the first one. He got another chunk of money. The captains and the deckhands, the captains and the strikers on the boat didn't get \$1. Now that ain't right. Help one, help them all. Like the young people wants to get into shrimping, have some sanity for them. Help them. There's some kind of help. All this. There's money. There's millions of dollars out there that the government or the state of

Georgia or any state could help the young people. The young people needs help. I was just lucky I was born and raised in it and everything. But there's people that own the farm that wants to come, leave farming and come shrimping, but give them a little sanity to come shrimping, make something for them, show them what it's all about or something. Or maybe they don't get a job on a boat. Show them all about it, then when they go down there and talk to the man on the boat, they kept him on the boat. Yes, sir, I done it. I never been out on a boat, but I know this and I know that, and you showed it. You know a little bit about it. Man will give you a job. I would hire a man that has never been on a shrimp boat in his life, and a man been on a shrimp boat that thinks he's been on a shrimp boat. I had guys come on the boat and tell me, "We had a fishing. You can lay down and catch your nap." I can stare at a boat. No, you don't want a shrimping job. You want my job. They ain't even want to come on the boat. That's me. I had people come on there say, "I don't know nothing about it. I ain't never been on a boat in my life. I just come from Tennessee or Kentucky." Take him on in. He's interested. You show him how and everything. Like this. Come some of the best strikers you ever laid eyes on. A striker is hard to get and to keep. But they're the backbone. They wanted the backbone. Without a striker, you don't have it. A young man that come from there, and if he's not interested, you don't take up time with him. He's not going to be nothing. But I have seen some people down here that come from off the farm and off whatever. Don't know what. It's never seen a sailboat. They turned out to be nice, and the cabins and some of them is owned now. They bought some boats on the sale, you know what I'm saying? It's just the young people coming into shrimping later. They need a little sanity. They need a little help.

SC: Some training. So, striker was a word you used for any of the crew members other than the captain? Or what does the striker mean to you?

FM: A striker he may call for the captain. Now that's just a joke, but without a good striker, you don't have nothing. You can't run the boat by yourself. I can't run the boat by myself.

SC: Do you have one on the boat?

FM: Or sometime you got two on a boat. On a big boat, you got two. Most of the time you got two because you got to hit them. If you are dragging two hours or three hours at a time from the time you take up, if you got five, six bushels of shrimp, they got a head and shrimp. Get the deck clear. Put them in a hole. Ice them, get ready to put in that length of time for the next time. Maybe they get through fast. Maybe they fast. But without a striker, you don't have nothing. Captain can't go out there and put out them nets and take them up and steer the boat and – a striker is the backbone of a boat. If you got two good strikers on the boat, there's no telling what you can do with two good strikers on the boat. You can say from 10,000 to \$1 million. If you don't have a striker on a boat, you can't go fishing that day. So, that day you went out, Mr. Clark went out and caught fifty bushels of shrimp. You couldn't go that day to get that fifty baskets. You didn't have a striker. He is one of the main things. He is just about as important. If you get a good striker, he just about as important as the door, the nets and the doors on the boat. The captain, Jenny, sets the doors and the nets and stuff on the boat, and some of the strikers knows how to do them.

FM: I have my brothers told strikers to do this and do that, and they done it just the way he

done, the way he told him, you know what I'm saying? But he's watched him do it. But they turn out to be captains and stuff like that. But a striker is hard to come by. If you get one, you treat him like a human being. Don't treat him like some dog or dirt or nothing like that. You treat them like a human being. It don't matter what color he is or where he come from. You treat him like a human being. I had two jitterbugs I hired on a boat with me, they're captains on that boat now and stuff like that. They have learned, but everybody, you ain't born to know what you know. You had to learn over the years of paradigm. Me, I learned over the period of time. But I had a good teacher. I had my daddy, had my uncles, some of my cousins and stuff like this. They were fishing before I was born, but as I grew up, I worked with my uncles. I worked with all my uncles. He was six of the boys. I worked with every one of them, and they were just knowledge. But like I said while ago, they showed me how to do it. If I had to read a book how to do it, I'd be lost. I ain't no one but you show me how, I do your job. That's the way I learned my life. Is about what I learned. Old fishermen took up time with me and showed me how and where to go. Portuguese, Black people. Calvin's all work with a black captain as a striker. The man who owned the boat, his wife got sick. He asked me, "Do you know this guy run the boat?" He says, "Yes, I know him." "Oh, you mind working with a Black captain?" I said, "Why the hell I worry about working with the Black captain? He can't shrimp, don't he?" I know Willie Joe Rogers from Darien, Georgia. I know Willie Joe went on a good boat because Joe, come on a boat. We work. I was your striker. No matter what color you was, the man was a good captain. Without a stack of dough, you ain't got nothing saying you can't leave it. You ain't no leave it a dog. My brother couldn't take that boat he got and go shrimping by himself. My nephew Johnny, I see him take that boat out when he was a little younger by himself. When I was young and gone, I was afraid to get a phone call and say he fell overboard drowning. He go out and fish that boat by itself.

SC: But he go by himself?

FM: Yes.

SC: He captain the boat and dropped everything by himself.

FM: He dropped it by himself, but he went to go get her. Like I say a while ago, he go out, make that one drag and have about ten baskets and stuff like that. He can make it or not. He didn't have to fish all day. I always tell him, Johnny, you don't need to go in that boat by yourself. "Uncle Frank, I got to go." But he done it many days by himself.

SC: That is impressive.

FM: That's the door right over there. It's one of the oldest boat that goes around. It's been in more magazines. It's been on the phone book. Have you ever seen a phone book on South Georgia? It was door F was on the front page of the phone book. People come here. It's been in magazines and stuff and stuff like that. Anybody comes from anywhere, won't see anything boat, they go to the city market. Captain Frank, bring them down to the door. He's been in magazines and like I say, on the phone books and everything like that. Georgia, that was my nephew. He run it. It was the only along out there. It didn't have one dead on each side, you know what I'm saying? He go out and make that one drag, take your time, come in.

SC: Local celebrity then if he is on the cover of the phone book.

FM: It is. It's been DNR took pictures of us dragging out there. You know what I'm saying to the door? F, it'd be hundreds of boats out there. They go to the door and take a picture of it and run the thing in the paper and stuff like that. If I must take it, that boat was built by Portuguese. It's Buddhist. See, they go. We go back to forty-eight professionals for we were fishermen. I would say. You understand what I'm saying? Portuguese go over there and that's where you get you Mother's Day and stuff at it was big time in the state of Georgia, was taken away from us, the grand County, our county commissioner and mayor and stuff. They took it away from the Portuguese and they just – people get a hold of it. Like I say, they dock down there. It was built for the fishermen. Fishermen ain't allowed there. I don't reckon with this thing. We no good or we just ain't them cruise ships come in there, they pay top dollar, I reckon, to tie up there and get fuel and stuff like that. But they did one down there, now they can come in. But you take one of these shrimp boats and go down there, policemen come down and tell you, you got to move.

SC: One more question for you if you do not mind.

FM: All right, sir.

SC: I just want to get your outlook on the future. What do you think? What does the future look like to you for the fishing community in general? What do you think?

FM: Well, we have to go back to the laws. The thing that we was talking about, if they change some of this like that, I think we would have a good future. They say maybe not a good one, but it would be better. But it could work up to be a good future for the fishermen. My brother is sixty-five. My nephew we were talking about is sixty-five. He got boys that were shrimp fishermen with his daddy, but they had to get out of it. But they would come back into it if they would change some of the laws like we were talking about and bring fishing back, they would come off a hill work, like I say, in the hill work is get a job on the hill with a roofer or yard service and all like that. They'd come, young people would come back to the serpent because it'd be making money for the families. If there were some laws change, the future of shrimpmen will come back to the state of Georgia to any more and more of the states. You know what I'm saying? Like I go back. Georgia got a lot of sands, a lot of water the shrimp can spawn in. So, if we clean it up and let the boats work the sands and let the sand close itself for the shrimping. When the shrimp get too small, you can't catch them. Because you don't get why I go out there and catch a shrimp when you know you ain't going to get but \$5 or \$2 or something for him. If you wait thirty, forty days or maybe something like that, you won't get twice the money for him. You understand what I'm saying? When that shrimp get too small in the sand or too small inside a three-mile line, let the sand close. Let it close itself. You know what I'm saying? Open the beaches up. Stop the night dragging and open the sands and clean it up, and it would make a good future for shrimp fishermen and the young people. A lot of young people don't want to be on the hill. Every day I sit out there in the country, say to God, God, I wish my old age was good. I'd be on me a shrimp boat. But I can't go near that outrigger no more. I see you out there on that outrigger, you got a problem, and I want to come out there. I know I ain't going to be no good to you. You ain't going to say it. There are trackers out there. They need a little help

sometime. But if you're down, an old, old fella like me, I got another name for me, but it's not there. But it could be good for the state of Georgia and for the young people. It would be a lot good. It would be a dream. It would be a surfer's dream right now. It'd be like a God come down here and we all know there's a God. There's a shrimp of God come down there and smiled on the shrimpers if something like this would happen for us. Not in the next five years, we need it to happen soon. You know what I'm saying? Get it in process and get it going, and let people know what we need and let them – there are some old fishermen here would like to see things change. Most of us would, but they would tell you, and probably, most of them that haven't told you, the other people that this is what we need to make our life better for us and our family and for the state of Georgia, and mostly for our fishermen and stuff. We need help and we need it to happen soon, or it's going to be like my daddy said, there going to be no fishing when your head's under the water. We need somebody to pull the head out of the water, not standing there with our feet on the neck and pushing it down in the water and don't let us fill it back up. We need you to help us, and we need it now. We need to get it in process. If something like this could happen and start out, I don't think you could happen this year, but it could happen next year. If something like this, go ahead and put it into effect and let it take place. God, you're going to say a lot of prove. Joe, I think he would see more fish allergies come back. I see you think more dealers come in here to buy shrimp and stuff like this. You know what I'm saying? This is what I think would happen because I can sit here and name canned fish houses. If where we at now to where the yacht is ten shrimp houses, the people that bought shrimp and stuff like that that own shrimp. We had five Portuguese guys that owned shrimp boats and had shrimp houses to buy shrimp. Okay. Well, not only crackers, it was Portuguese and we all fished. I worked with Portuguese on the shrimp boat for crackers, but a striker is the bone of it. You ain't got a striker. You ain't going to make it. You got a truck. If you don't know how to drive that truck, you ain't got it. You got to have a truck driver. That captain can't run. Like I say, a captain can't run that boat by himself. That guy in Alaska can't run that crab boat by himself. That guy in Bedford up there, he can't run that lobster pots and stuff by himself. He got to have somebody on that boat. That's what we call a striker or a deckhand. Most people call them deckhands, but with a good deckhand can mean your bread and butter. If you know what he's doing, and going out there and everything you got depend on that deckhand. You fall over and break a leg or have a heart attack or something. That's cracker. You can take that boat and come bring you to the dock, you understand? To save your life. I'll get on that phone and call that Coast Guard and come to you. If you're that striker, you got that striker on the boat and you had that striker knowed a little bit about the boat, he got to know about that winches. Winches cut your leg off. It ain't particular about it. It ain't prejudiced one way or the other. If you don't know how to work that winch and stuff like that, you can get hurt and hurry. I seen guys get hurt on with the arm cut off leg pulling a winch and broke all busted up. I laid out for a year and I start clean, made a dollar, but then I go back to some kind of sympathy for the strikers. Every shrimpers need help and I keep going back over and over and over. We need some law changes about the sounds and this night dragging. The shrimp has got to have a place to lay their eggs. They got to have the bottom clean, and we got to quit raping the bottom out there twenty-four-seven when the state of Georgia don't get \$1 from it. The Georgia get revenue from the shrimpers in Georgia, but they don't get no revenue for nobody else if they don't come inside of that six miles, they can go inside of the three miles, they can kill it twenty four days, seven days a week, and they're gone. When the shrimp is gone, they're going back to Texas, Louisiana, wherever they come from. They don't even come in here. They got freezers. They keep them

that long. They come in with ten, 15,000 gallons of fuel, stuff like that. They don't ever stop him. When they come in, they fish. When they got their load or whatever, they're going back. It's killing us. It's just killing the fishermen. It just taking the bread right out of our family's mouth. Then to them, two things were done in the state of Georgia. It would help the fishing industry, and we got, like I say, we got a lot of sounds not in Glynn County. We talking about from Florida line all the way to the South Carolina line. We got a lot of water for shrimpers to grow and they will grow. When they get big, they going to leave home. You ain't got to tell them when they leave home. When they get ready to leave they going to leave. We don't need university or we don't need DNR, we don't need nobody. God gives them this sand. When they get old enough, big enough, like a young man does, he going to leave home and he gone. I quit school the eighth grade. I can't do that. But I know that because I've been in it all my life, and certain time a year they are gone. When they leave, they don't come back, sir, that's shrimp that goes in that ocean. He don't come back. He gone. We got to depend on this and young family starting already starting here. He left behind or she left behind to grow up, and then when he gets old enough, he gone. It's just a cycle, That's the way it is.

SC: Well, that is fascinating stuff. Angelique, do you have anything you want to add before we wrap this up?

Angelique Jennings: I think you answered all the questions.

FM: Again, in fishing, we need to go out and catch our whittings, North Carolina. Call them similars. We'll call them whittings. In Georgia.

SC: Some people call them kingfish too, I believe. Right?

FM: No, Kingfish is different in a way. We have a certain size they put on. We can't catch them. Would you allow to push them overboard? Well, I mean, I always say this. There's so many people going hungry in Georgia. They eat whiting. Whiting is better than chicken, and when you push them overboard, but you could push him down here at this city dock, and my family come down and get five, ten pounds and take them home and cook them. That'd make a meal for some young ones and stuff. But you can't do down there in the city dock. The law says you got to have a certain size, but you can push them back overboard and they dead. Why couldn't you let somebody.

SC: Instead of going to waste if they are dead.

FM: They could do a lot of people. Just a little, little love. Just a little love and all that takes. It could change things. A lot of people, a lot of people. Not me. Just a lot of people. A lot of people go to bed hungry here in Georgia, South Georgia, all over Georgia, all over the world. But you could help them. I don't help them. You open up a little market down there right now on a Saturday morning. I bet it'd be hundreds of people down there. Black, White, Portuguese, whatever it is, we all be that, I want to fish. You couldn't go down and get no 100 pounds and take them off and sell them to somebody else. You know what I'm saying, lady? You don't get a mess of fish. Got a little bit of grits. Oh, Georgia. More delivered grits and fish. I laid them many a days and love it, but it just the things need to be changed and it need to be changed now,

not no five years down the road. Five years down the road, you ain't going to be here talking this way, because they ain't going to be nobody to talk to. It's going to be a ghost town, people hanging on by their teeth right now. I got a brother. He made nothing for summer and he made nothing now. If you don't get this road season, he going to be. What are you going to have to do is just get off the boat and go depend on his wife. His wife tells him every day, "Man, don't go fishing. Quit the boat. Come home. I'm Peyton. She made good money on Sea Island. Saint Simon, I'll take care of us." We're not going to live high on the hog. But you don't have to get up. No 4:00 a.m. and go fishing for somebody that don't give a damn about the boat. It's not going to put equipment on the boat. You understand what I'm saying? Stay home. When you get up at 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. during the day, go out in the yard and rake a little bit and cut the grass a little bit. We going to survive, baby. Don't worry about it. But no, he's a fisherman. He wants to go fishing and nobody wants him to go fishing. Nobody cares about him. Don't care if he's alive, dead or alive. It's hard to get up 4:00 a.m. and go to the boat, and you ain't got a striker. Without him, it ain't no sense of getting up. But you got to have go back to that striker. We got to have that young man or that man on that boat, that deckhand. He got to be there ain't no getting out of it. There's a lot of things we need help on. But then two things go back, then two things. If we could get something done on that God, it'd be a lot of people, a lot of more young people would come in back into it and it'd be a lot of more jobs. I say a lot, but there going to be people that really wants to go shrimping being efficient. They'd come back and it might help them get off the drugs, might help them get off of stealing and stuff like this. When you hungry and you got a family, you going to do what it takes to feed your family. I don't care what the hell it is. You can tell me this, that or the other. You ain't going to tell me that you wouldn't go if you had a wife and kid hungry, you wouldn't go out and get a chance. You could pick up a little bit of thing there and panhandle it and get something to take home to your young, and you had to go to bed hungry at night. You don't tell me that. I'm seventy-nine years old. I didn't think this happened to some good people. Good people.

SC: You ought to take it.

FM: Had to do what they had to do. But it wasn't the right thing. But to them, it was the right thing. To the law, it wasn't the right thing. It ain't the right thing to steal nothing but to feed your wife and kids, you don't know what you going to do until you come into that, till you get your feet wet. You wade in that water, you'll get your feet wet. That's the way it is in fishing. Fishing is one of the wonderful things can be. Anybody can take up that thought. I'm concerned. Like I say, we got fourteen brothers and sisters. We were all raised in the water. Some of the laws went in there when my daddy was raising us. If they was there now, some of us kids probably wouldn't be here now. Daddy couldn't raise no fourteen. Would you like to know that you could go? Mr. Clark, with the law the way they are, you have fourteen kids. You had to take a boat and go fishing right now. No, sir. You wouldn't want to go in that water. You would want your feet get wet. Hell, no. You couldn't raise no 1,400 yards. My daddy raised many a night out in that water. I know I've been out there with him. Cold, your hands was throbbing. You put them up on it, down your pants or somewhere to get them warm for just a little bit so you could go back, pick and strap a swing and it up so you could start the next morning. You know what I'm saying? But he loved it, and he raised us all over his yard. I wouldn't want to be raised a little different, but I always tell my youngins, you're a little away. My mama and daddy live. You know what life would be about? But no, I don't really mean that.



I want my life to go back down and my kids would go back to that. They got a good life. You know what I'm saying? But they spoil. Thank God they spoil. People like my daddy helped spawn them. My daddy was born in 1896. Social security all his life.

SC: Sound like a real fishing family.

FM: All of us. All of Macdowells. It's a McDowells. Fishing uncles, aunts, cousins, sisters. All of us. A lot of my girls scramble. I shrimp fish, tug boat and dredge boated. Been up the Mississippi River on tugs. Been all the way up to James River on dredge boats. I've been you name it. If you got something to do in the water, fight my dad wants to do it on. But the older McDowell's that way. Aunts and uncles and all of us. Uncles run fish camps and stuff like this. Like where? Colonel Hollins at Fancy Bluff. You couldn't get it just by boat. I ain't got that big car of them ships and stuff over there. It was a little fishing camp over there, and once they built that bridge, they all the causeway. People go in there and buy bait. Or there was a McDowell there catching live bait for fisherman's. Some day were fishing, is this a good life? You go down there right now. They ain't one instrument but shrimpers, and they are hanging on by their teeth. They tell you, no, I don't want to be no swimmer no more. They tell you I need a little help. We need a little oil change. We need something change for us, not for some people. It just needs to be done for the shrimpers. If we just need a little help, they could survive. A lot of them in bad shape right now. Another year of what they're going through right now, they ain't going to be half of them. If you do away with half of them, you ain't going to have ten boats or ten boats in Grundy, Georgia. Like I say, we had hundreds of boats. Hundreds of boats. Mother's day blessing the fleet. Big boat. I didn't take ticket here on a dog back, all decked up, painted up, purdy and everything like that. Going up under the dock getting blessed by the priest and everything like that. It was some day we look forward to now. The Georgia city didn't give a damn about some fishermen. If it wasn't fishes at all, they'd be happy. But how would you want to stop people that born and raised on a shrimp boat and beneficial to take this away from me, who died and left you, made you God that I can tell you. You can't do what you do now no more, that you can't do what you're doing now. I'm a who to me to tell you. You can't do that no more. I don't have that authority. Nobody has. But it's coming to that time where it's going to be that way, that people is going to tell you what you can't do and what you can't do, and it's already that way. But shrimpers need help and they need it now. Whoever can help us now, we need them. It don't matter if you are the bottom of the totem pole or you are up high. We all need to get together and pitch in and help everybody help shrimpers. If it don't, it's going to be no shrimpers no more.

SC: Anything else you would like to pass on to the younger generation or people that do not live on the coast? Anything else you would like to say before we wrap this up?

FM: To the young people to out of the United States, you got to be with your true to your word and what you promise somebody. My daddy always said your word is you. If you don't live up to your word, you're not nobody. If you want to lie, cheat and steal, it's going to come back on you. But you don't need to do this in life. There's somebody out there. If you ask somebody, I'm sure it is. Somebody will help you no matter where in creed or color you are. There's somebody out there would help you. If you travel through the country and stuff like this, all you got to do is stop and ask and knock on the door. God loves all people. He don't matter who we

are. As long as you know there's a God in heaven, you can make it. Why don't you think if you're evasive and you don't think there's a God in heaven, it's going to be hard life for you, and all you got to do is ask for help, and if you got a baby, you take care of that baby. That baby was a Godsend to everybody. All kids are Godsend. I know God sent us fourteen. Just whatever you do, just do the best you can in life. You can't do no more than the best. Don't try to do nothing else you can't do. If you know it and you doing the best, that's all you can do. So, you just do the best you can and you'll make it in the world. That's all I got to tell any young person. I don't care what you're doing, farming, shrimping, but be shrimping. But you just do the best you can and that's all you can do. You can't do no better than the best. Whatever you do, do the best you know you can do. You can't do no more. No matter what you doing from New York or wherever you at. It's all we do the best, and knowing you're doing the best, and that's all.

SC: It is wonderful advice.

AJ: Thank you so much.

SC: We appreciate it. You are welcome, sir.

FM: No, I was just saying, if you tell somebody, talk to somebody about the problems, maybe they can help us. If you don't talk to people and tell them what's going on and nothing like that. No. They can help you. Maybe you might be able to help me right now. But what you tell somebody else months or two months down the road could help me and the surface in the state of Georgia. But you got to let somebody know what you need. My brother might not be able to help me, but if I tell him outside what I can help him, he could talk to somebody and he might say something to somebody and they could pick it up, have a little more power, and they could help the state of Georgia or shrimpers and the shrimpers need it bad. Right now, we are hurting. We headed on the water. We don't know anybody. Put the foot on it. We need somebody to reach down there and pick us up. If we don't get it, they're not going to be. My daddy has said, "Son, do something different. Because it's going to come to a day if we don't need help now, there's going to be no shrimpers, and it's damn well there." Right now, they ain't fifteen boats in Grundy, Georgia, just shrimping where it was hundreds was shrimp fishing. This was Grundy Marine. I think this was a burden and rain. The people that pull up boats and stuff like this, where this ground is at right now ain't a camp. Lindsey, this is running rain. We're running. The marine was at, wasn't it? From hill to the yacht with maybe ten fish houses. That ain't one that's right here. That's all. Hell, no more. They all gone. They forced out. They're not here no more. They was hundreds of boats. Blessing the fleet. There w as hundreds of boats. But we can blame that on Grundy, Georgia mayor and stuff like that. The surface is no good. We just like foreigners. They don't give a damn about some fishermen. But when they want to shrimp, they go to the city market. Where they go to the city market for to buy shrimp. What they want? Georgia shrimp. They don't want no more than Japan. That's what they're getting now. But when you're running a restaurant, you serving seafood. You buy shrimp from Japan for \$2 a pound. You going to pay \$3 here. What you going to get? You going to pay the \$2. You going to pay the \$2. But you make you make more money, make an extra dollar. But for its quality you ain't got it over there. They got ponds. They tell me got ponds, raised shrimp. They got a chicken pen built over that pond. The chicken poo poo drops in there, shrimp eats it and it come time they drain the pond shrimp in the United States. We got president answer that, a good

president Clinton. I think we had money when Clinton was in office, but he wouldn't sign that bill. He wasn't running us. But the shrimp fishermen need help now, like I told Mr. Clark. Oh, the sound. Open the sound up and stop not dragging. They do we going to have some shrimp in the state of Georgia? Because we worked in the sound as I was a boy. Look, offshore, big shrimp boats out there, catch the shrimp in the sound. We catch us around. But we kept the boat going. We kept the bushes off the bottom with the shrimp could lay eggs and stuff like that, and the shrimp is like a young man. When he gets old enough, he can leave home. When he thinks he's a man, he wants to serenade. He leaving Georgia, he going to the ocean and he going south. He don't come back. He don't come back to Georgia. He's gone to Florida. That's what the boat to Louisiana and Texas, they come in here and rape our bottom. They don't pay Georgia \$1 long. As long as long as they outside of three miles, you don't have to pay Georgia \$1 then freeze the boat. But we had to pay him license, captain license. Leave him everything. They don't come in here, get ice and fuel and don't get groceries. Nothing. They come in there, right in the bottom. Take it back. It's gone, and Georgia got nothing.

[end of transcript]