Jennifer Sweeney Tookes: So, my name is Jennifer Sweeney-Tookes from Georgia Southern University. I am here with Charles Phillips, 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 Charlie, but if you could confirm that out loud.

Charles Phillips: It was done.

JST: Thank you. I have some questions to guide us. But as I mentioned, I really want to try to be quiet and encourage you to tell the stories that you think we should hear. Also here with us is Charlie's dog, Trouble, so you will hear him participating in the background as well. We are on Charlie's porch overlooking the…

CP: Sapelo River.

JST: Does not get better than that. So, my first question is can you tell me about where and when you grew up? What was life like with your family and your community?

CP: After I got to the coast?

JST: You were born?

CP: I was born in Jesup. So, I know how to bale hay, and I know how to pick tobacco. I don't recommend picking tobacco as a livelihood, if you can help it. It's hot, dirty work. Baling hay is not much better. But I came to the coast, I guess, maybe in the seventh grade. Where most kids had a bicycle to go visit their friends, I had a fourteen-foot aluminum skiff and a 9.8 Mercury motor. That's how I went to go see people. So, I lived in the marsh, in the river, and mostly swimming. Once we got a boat that had enough horsepower, skiing and riding around and exploring in the marshes. My best friend lived about fifteen minutes away by boat. So, that's how I would go visit people, in the boat.

JST: So, did you grow up around fishing and crabbing and shellfish though? Can you tell me about your family's relationship to seafood?

CP: My dad used to have a feed mill in Jesup. His partner got killed. So, my dad ended up selling out his interest of the feed mill. He moved to the coast. He went shrimping with some people. They shrimped for half a day and came home and made about $500, had about $500 worth of shrimp. So, being pretty good at math, he said, "Well, if they worked all day, they should have made $1,000 and that's really good. So, I'm going to go get a shrimp boat." What he didn't know at the time was they only worked half a day because they knew they weren't going to catch any shrimp the rest of the day. But it was too late. He'd already bought the shrimp boat, or had one built. But there were a lot of what we came to call later on as farmers. So, he had a fifty-seven-foot shrimp boat built in Valona. It was named the *Rebel*, had a V8 GM in it. So, he didn't know how to run a shrimp boat, so he hired a captain. He worked on the deck until he learned how to run the shrimp boat. Eventually, hired a deckhand and he started running the shrimp boat. But there were a lot of what we called farmers that would come from up the country, Glennville or wherever, that had farms or worked on farms. They just wanted to go work on the water or have a boat or have a shrimp boat. A lot of them would come down and get a boat, but they just couldn't do it. There were very few of them actually lasted for the long term. The captain worked really, really hard. He'd get up at 4:00 a.m. We were dragging offshore at daylight. He was generally among the last to come back to the dock. He was successful. He made it as a shrimper. He probably had boats from – let's see, I got the *Misty Dawn* in [19]76. He probably ran boats since the early [19]70s for probably ten years, I guess, give or take. The whole time he had boats, my summertime job was as a deckhand on the boat. Later on, I was the captain on the weekends. So, he could work five days a week, and then he could send the boat fishing the other two days a week. I learned how to run the boat when I was probably seventeen. I was not a good captain. So, I learned how to follow people around and ask questions and get people to tell me things. I was a pretty good bird dog. But because I wasn't a good captain, I had a hard time getting the crew. Even the captain's crew that was supposed to work for me on the weekend, wouldn't show up a lot of times because it was Saturday. They partied all night Friday night or if they did show up Saturday at 4:00 a.m., 4:30 a.m., they showed up in their jukin clothes, carrying their dress shoes in their hand. They came straight from wherever they were, but it wasn't from sleeping, and got on the boat to go to work. Needless to say, it was hard to get stuff done like that. If they didn't show up, then I had to go up to Briar Patch, it's called Bolton now, or somewhere. Just blow the horn at houses, different houses, hoping somebody would come out, and that was willing to go shrimping that day. I would take people shrimping. Sometimes I didn't know what their name was until breakfast. But captain said, "You're going to run the boat, and you're going to work." So, I had to take the boat fishing Saturday and Sunday. That was my days to go fishing. It didn't matter what I was catching. He said, "I'm paying for the fuel. You're going to drag daylight to dark. Don't bring the boat in before." "Well, there's not going to be any shrimp after these first couple of drags in the morning." "Doesn't matter. Stay." So, I had to stay and drag all day. A lot of times, I wasn't catching any shrimp. But because I was dragging, I was there, then I would just kind of wander around. I would try things, and I would look for little slews. I learned stuff that a lot of other people didn't know. I figured out how to catch shrimp. After a while, it took me a while, I got to be pretty good at it. But it was because I had to, it wasn't a natural – but I had to learn. I used to get seasick, and the captain said, "Summertime, you're working on the back deck." I didn't particularly want to go to work, but I had to go to work. If I was seasick, I could lay down in the bunk, not a problem. I felt better laying down in the bunk. The problem was, if you're laying down in the bunk, you're not working. If you don't work, you don't get paid. So, I'm out there laying in a bunk day after day, not getting paid. So, after a couple of weeks of that, I finally decided I might as well get up, deal with it, get over it. I got seasick. I went to the rail. When I got through calling the fish, went back to picking up shrimp, and just toughed it out. Then I could get paid. But I learned it the hard way. We did it all. We actually, even some summers, went to Mississippi and fished in Mississippi in the summertime. There was a lot of shrimp over there. They were generally small. You just have fifteen, twenty, thirty baskets a day, a lot of shrimp to handle. It was me and my sister. Sometimes he'd have another deckhand that actually was a regular deckhand. But sometimes it was just me and my two sisters and my stepmom. Sometimes she was on the boat, sometimes she wasn't. We worked. I didn't have a choice. It was slave labor. [laughter] You'd never get away with doing that now.

JST: One of the questions we usually ask is what made you decide to go into fishing. I do not know if that is appropriate for you.

CP: That's not appropriate.

JST: So, why did you decide to stay in seafood?

CP: After a while, if you get good at something, you generally stay with it. I got where I could shrimp, and I got where I could catch some shrimp. I finally learned how to sew webbing. Thought I knew how to sew webbing, I'd remember where all the holes were that I sewed up because I know in three or four days all the knots were going to come loose. I was going to sew them up again. I was pretty bad. Eventually, I got that down pat, and I got pretty good at patching nets. I could build a tri-net if I needed to. Put pieces of webbing in, whatever. Again, Captain Mack taught me how to sew webbing. It was like you try it, try it, you don't get it. All of a sudden, a light bulb comes on. Oh, yes, that's it. Those guys, they taught me stuff. I was nice to them. I didn't follow the same person all of the time. I gave them a break. I made them take turns letting me bird dog them. There were some other captains that were really good producers, like Captain Bobby. He liked to fish in Blackbeard Hole. I liked to fish in Blackbeard Hole. He would get in there really early in the morning. But he'd turn off all of his lights and pretend like – but everybody could see him with the radar. If you had a radar, which I did. So, sometimes when he had all of his lights turned off, I would turn my spotlight on, even though he may be a mile away. I just pointed at him, knowing I couldn't see him. But boy, it sure did piss him off that I was lighting up where he was at. To the point, where he threatened to shoot it out with his .30-30, and I'd tell him to go ahead. He never did. But yes. There was a lot of stuff went on shrimping. Then you had people that you liked to work with, and then you'd be out dragging. Sometimes you would have codes to tell people, code words, so you could let somebody know you were catching shrimp without telling the whole fleet and getting covered up. That was really prevalent in the Gulf of Mexico when you were working with the guys from Alabama. They had all kinds of codes, secret radio channels, you name it. That was a sneaky bunch. They were good people, but they were sneaky. You never heard anything, somebody saying, "Oh, I'm catching a lot of shrimp on the radio." You just didn't hear that, unless everybody was catching a lot of shrimp. But I spent almost every winter in Key West or Fort Myers working down in the Gulf in the winter. Because you couldn't catch any shrimp anywhere else in January and February. You pretty much had to be in the Keys. So, I was down there almost every winter. Once I got my own boat, the first boat was the *Misty Dawn* back in 1976. I brought it home on the 4th of July. Then I got the *Black Beard*, a sixty-eight-foot fiberglass Desco, a bigger, nicer boat. Because I wanted to be able to go further and fish further offshore. I told people I just wanted a bigger kitchen. But it held 6,800 gallons of fuel and eight hundred gallons of water, and you could go long ways with that. It was a really tough, nice boat. Actually, I've got some pictures of it. I found an appraisal for it going through some papers the other day from 1988. So, she was a really pretty boat. We covered a lot of ground. We fished everything from Chincoteague, Virginia, catching sea scallops one summer. I still remember it was so cold on the 4th of July with fog that I had to wear insulated underwear. I said, "This place is not for a Georgia cracker." So, once that three months of hell was over, I came south and I never went north again. I should have kept that scallop permit because they got to be worth a million dollars, literally. Scallop permits are very, very valuable now. But then if I'd have stayed up there scalloping, I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing now, or I wouldn't have the clam farm. So, you end up where you end up, and it's all okay.

JST: Let us talk about that transition from owning a single shrimp boat and shrimping to what you do now. What did that transition look like and describe your business now?

CP: I got the *Black Beard* in 1980. I fished it until around 1990, and then I figured it was time to – I needed to get off the boat and be on with my wife and adopted son at that time. So, I got off the boat, and I hired a captain for the boat. All of the captains that I hired either couldn't catch anything or they'd steal a big chunk of what they caught or they would tear up more gear than they could pay for. So, me being off the boat, was not a good thing to do financially. Actually, after being gone for so long, it was too late for me to get back on the hill and try to rebuild relationships and stuff. But I started running the dock, and we packed shrimp. We packed snapper, grouper fish. There were probably eight or ten boats packing there, thirty-five to forty-five-foot boats. The limits back there were a lot higher than they are now. My dad, when he got off the boat, he built a shrimp dock. When I started running the boat for him in probably [19]75 or something, he built a shrimp dock. So, when I got off the boat, I just started running the shrimp dock and packing fish. Then the *Black Beard* caught fire and burned sometime in the late [19]90s, I think. So, I took the insurance money and no one's shrimping, wasn't doing very well, ended up buying snapper boats. I just shifted gears thinking snapper looked good, and they're catching lots of fish. That's better than shrimping. Well, a few years later, they started lowering the limits and this and that and the other. So, the snapper boats weren't doing as well, and I've still got snapper boats. They don't make me any money. They're probably more headache than they're worth. But I keep thinking that we should be able to catch snapper, grouper, whatever fish we're trying to catch and be able to get it to the public. Because it's a public resource and make some money doing a good job getting the fish to the public. But it's hard to find good crew. It's hard to find people that will take care of your boat and actually produce some fish. Then in the late [19]90s, probably around [19]97, the University of Georgia came and asked a friend of mine, "Did you want to grow some farmed clams?" He came to me. We used to go pick wild clams and stuff together. We decided, "Sure." His dad had a lease, four-mile. It was Roger DeWitt. So, we got 750,000 grow-out clams, which are about thumbnail size. They told us where to plant them on a sandbar in some black plastic bags. The worst place you could possibly ever want to plant a clam. So, the first thing we learned was how to kill clams, and we got really good at that. But we managed to get some to live, sold them, bought some more seed. Then we planted the next ones in some mud. Then we realized we really don't want to be growing them in these black plastic bags. We needed another method. So, we planted some in grow out bottom plants. We planted some in some bags like they use in Cedar Keys. Then we went back to bottom plants, and then we figured out we could dip the bags from Cedar Keys to keep the predators from eating them. Cedar Keys did a lot of R&D stuff for us, like they showed us how to dip bags. It didn't work for them because it was sandier bottom, and the oyster spat could get in the bags and attach to all the clam seed. It just made a mess. But our bottom's siltier, so once we put stuff out, it didn't – the oyster spat couldn't attach to the clam. So, it worked really well for us. So, we just appreciate Cedar Keys doing that R&D for us. Then we tweaked some other stuff and learned you can't put them but so high. You need this kind of bottom and so on and so forth. So, we've learned a lot of stuff to do and not do. Still sometimes the environmental just change and you'll take a hit. We planted a bunch of clams – I don't know – five years ago. They were doing well, grow out seed. A week or so later, we had a tropical storm came through. It was really rough. It beat all the mud out of the bags. So, the clams were just exposed again, which would have been okay, but then we had three hundred-degree days in a row. Before the clams could silt back in, they just got cooked. We lost probably two-thirds of those clams. We probably had several thousand bags that instead of getting a 70 percent yield, we might have been getting a 30 percent yield. We didn't get anything out of a lot of bags. It was just the nature of the beast. You've got to be pretty tough to be able to put out tens and hundreds of thousands of dollars of seed. There's no insurance, and you don't know if there are any of it's coming back.

JST: You have more going on with your business though than just the clams. So, can you give us a snapshot of sort of your life in seafood all together right now?

CP: Things we do, right now, I am terming out of nine years at the South Atlantic. I am currently the chair of the council. Before that, I don't know how many years I had on advisory panels from wreckfish, that I actually used to catch in the early [19]80s. We were one of the first boats out there that tried to do it. We caught some with the shrimp boat, the *Black Beard*. We actually caught golden tile with that *Black Beard*. The University of Georgia taught us how to catch golden tile. I just went out there and learned how to catch wreckfish. So, I'm terming off of the council. I'm on a couple of state boards, Coastal Advisory Council, the Finfish Advisory Council. I work with several NGOs to help them get the message out of how important keeping a clean environment is so we can have healthy fisheries and healthy places for recreation. Tomorrow, I'll be in Charleston for an ocean acidification workshop. That's another important thing. There's just a lot of important things, and a lot of people don't know how things network together. People in Atlanta don't understand that when they're putting pesticides and herbicides in their yard, and it's fixing to rain, that stuff's going down storm drains. It's going into the waterways, and it ends up on the coast. It affects their abilities to have healthy shrimp and fish and shellfish. A lot of people, they don't know. So, we need a healthy environment so we can have healthy businesses and healthy places to live. So, we do that. I've been on a Large Whale Take Reduction Team trying to figure out how to protect right whales which are threatened. There's been a lot of losses for right whales, most of them in Canada. We talk about climate change a lot where fisheries are moving north, whales are moving north, shrimps are showing up in places like Chesapeake Bay where they've never caught shrimp before. There's just a lot of changes going on. So, today, I had a representative out on the airboat teaching him and sharing with him about shellfish and talking about oyster aquaculture. So, a lot of it's sharing with people and teaching them because a lot of people just don't know. They want to do the right thing, but they really don't know how things are connected. That's important. Then I'm still trying to raise a dog. [laughter] It's not easy raising a dog, especially when his name is Trouble. But he wears it well. [laughter] Let's see. So, it's all of these things. It's all connected.

JST: Taking that back down smaller then. Thinking just about the community that you live in and that you work in, is seafood and fishing central to this community, and how so? Can you talk about that?

CP: Shrimping was probably much more important back in the [19]70s and [19]80s than it is now. There were a lot more boats back then. There were less regulations back then. The main thing that affects shrimpers are pulling TEDs. With your turtle excluder devices, you can pull

TEDs. If you've got everything set up right, you can – it won't hurt your production. At certain times, if you're dragging around, say, a lot of jellyfish or cannonball jellies, it can help your production. Because it'll kick the cannonball jellies out of your net and just let shrimp through. But there's been a lot of changes. But shrimping is not nearly as profitable as it used to be. Fuel's gone up, expenses have gone up, and for the most part, the price of shrimp has not gone up. I probably got paid as much shrimp back in the [19]80s as these guys are getting paid now thirty-five, forty years later. But when I used to shrimp, there were times when I could buy fuel diesel for thirty-five cents a gallon. You can't get it. It's much, much, much higher than that now. So, it's a lot harder to make it shrimping. It's hard to find good help or help at all. So, you could still make money doing it if you've got a big boat, a freezer boat for instance. But there's a lot of the people that are shrimping that are telling their kids, "Don't do it. Go get an education. Get a job on the hill. You don't want to do this." I almost want to say the die-hards and the hard-headed ones that just bound and determined, that's what they're going to do. So, we'll have shrimpers and shrimping, because on a good day, there's nothing better. On a bad day, there's not much that's worse. You remember the good days, and you try to forget the bad days.

JST: Have you seen any positive changes in the fishery over your career?

CP: We're making things more sustainable. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Act and the councils are – we're making fishing more sustainable. The amount of fish we catch is a lot less than it used to be. We're beginning to give back more fish as some stocks rebuild. Where it used to be, it was always take, take, take. Now, it's not always take, take, take. There are actually some fisheries where we're going to be able to give back. Vermilion snapper, we got a good assessment on that. So, we started an amendment to give the fishermen, recreational fishermen and commercial fishermen, more fish because the stocks look better. The fish prices are going up. So, you don't have to catch nearly as many fish as you used to. But it's still tough because a lot of the fishermen have a hunter-gatherer mentality. I'm just going to catch more fish than everybody else and make my living. There's been resistance from doing things like catch shares where you can treat your fisheries like businesses, and actually take less fish and make more money. Go catch them when you need to catch them or you want to catch them instead of being in a derby fishery competing with everybody else. Everybody landing the fish at the same time, and then all of a sudden, the fishery is closed. Because you've caught your catch limit, and then nobody has fish. The fishermen don't have fish, and the public doesn't have fish. So, I know things like catch shares are contentious. But they actually can work for fishermen if they divide some properly and make the regulations where you can try to alleviate some of the issues caused with derby fishing. You can make more with less, if you do it right. The devil is always in the details.

JST: When you look back, what do you think have been the most rewarding parts of your career in commercial fishing industry?

CP: I really enjoyed shrimping. I couldn't go back to it now. My bones are too old. Even though I am getting a forty-two-foot Duffy rebuilt in Maine as we speak, I will be up there Monday to tell them how exactly I want it built. I'm going to have more money in a forty-two-foot Duffy than I had in that sixty-eight-foot shrimp boat. It's nuts. I am not well. It is a really bad thing to have a boat addiction, folks. [laughter] It's worse than having a red-headed girlfriend. They are just so expensive. But no. When things were good, it was really good. I liked shrimping. I really enjoyed being on the council, even though it could make you crazy. Because you're trying to work out things where it works for everybody. The fish, the stakeholders, recreational fishermen, commercial fishermen, divers, whoever the stakeholders that come to the table, that in a lot of ways was rewarding. But it would also make you crazy trying to get things done. It's just this really slow process, but it's a very public and transparent process. You could have things that are faster, but it's not going to be as transparent. You can have things that are transparent and they're not going to be fast. But you're not going to get both. Then you have allocation issues. This group needs more of that group. So, trying to be fair and work it out where everybody can live and be responsible for their share of the fishery. It's really tough, and you may get growled at by one group or another. But I think for the most part, even if they don't agree with you, they know where you're trying to come from, and they appreciate it. So, just trying to get stakeholders to work together instead of throwing rocks at each other. Some of them are really good about throwing rocks at each other, but that's not constructive. Talking, dialogue, what's important to you? What do you really need, and how can we make this work for everybody? In this day and time, throwing rocks seems to be high on the agenda. But I encourage all of the stakeholders, sit down at the table, talk to somebody, talk to the other side, get to know them. They are not as bad as you think they may be. They're people, they're trying to survive. Whether they're trying to catch recreational fish and make a living, or a charter boat captain trying to make a living, or a commercial guy trying to get fish in, where the fish go to the restaurants and the fish markets. You can feed the public that can't go fishing because it's their resource, too, in my humble opinion.

JST: What do you think that maybe younger people or people who do not live on the coast or are not familiar with coastal Georgia, what do you think they need to understand about the history and the heritage of this region and of the industry?

CP: I think understanding the environment is probably something. I doubt very many people know that Georgia has – I don't know how much it is – 33 percent of all of the marsh on the East Coast. Not very many people know that. They don't know the importance of the marsh. They don't know that we have more tide here than you have anywhere in the Gulf of Mexico or Florida or South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, New Jersey until you get into New England. Nobody has this much tide. If you're in Brunswick and you go due north, you end up in Ohio. People don't know that. Just heading straight north because we're in a big bite, and that's where our tides come from. If I want to get out to seven hundred feet of water and, say, catch a golden tile, I've got to run ninety miles one way to get almost to the Gulf Stream to catch a golden tile. If I want to go catch red grouper, I'm going to run another thirty miles past that before I start fishing. Get on the other side of the Gulf Stream and fish in twelve, fifteen, eighteen, two thousand feet of water for wreckfish. People don't know that we grow clams down in Georgia. They know about oysters. But most people in Georgia don't know anything about clams unless somebody from up north came down and shared with them. A lot of people have, and we start selling a lot of clams now in Georgia. Because people find that they're so easy to handle compared to oysters. I remind them all the time what good aphrodisiacs they are. Once they eat some, they just keep coming back or their girlfriend keeps sending them back. I don't know, whatever.

JST: So, what are your thoughts on the future of the fishing communities in Georgia and the fishing industry as a whole?

CP: We're going to have some fishing. We need to work smart. Pretty much, the rules have everything being sustainable. But if you're going to be in commercial fishing, it is not going to be an easy life, for the most part. There are a few people that do really, really well, but they're the exception and not the rule. Most people that are smart enough to run boats, navigate channels, deal with bad weather, deal with crew, able to catch fish, able to keep the boat together mechanically and with the electronics, anybody with all of those talents can get a pretty good job on the hill somewhere and not get their brains beat out offshore with bad weather. So, we need some ways to figure out how fishermen can make more money with what they're catching, whether we use catch shares or some other methods of doing it. We need to figure out a way to make fishermen more profitable, more professional. That's going to be a challenge.

JST: Are there any things that could happen in the next five years that you think would help the fishing industry to flourish? What would those things be?

CP: I still think there are species out there that are underutilized that we don't catch. So, there may be some niche fisheries learning how to market their product or working with dealers that will help market their product to niche markets or specialty markets. Instead of one dealer selling to another dealer that sells to another wholesaler, and everybody gets a piece of the pie. It's all going to be thinking outside of the box, being willing to try things, and some of them are going to work and some of them aren't. Some of them may work for some people, and then they won't work for other people. But doing the same old thing and expecting a different answer, I think is one of the definitions for insanity. So, we can't do that, which is one reason I like to do stuff that a lot of people don't want to do. But I don't have anybody to take care of but a dog. So, if it all goes to hell in a handbasket, then me and the dog just start hoboing down the road. We're both pretty good beggars.

JST: So, thinking back then over your whole career, if you had this to do over again, would you still go into seafood and fishing? Why or why not?

CP: I probably would because nobody ever offered me a job, as long as I can remember. So, I had to do this. Of course, I was telling that to a bank president friend of mine at a chamber meeting about a year ago, and he looked back at me and said, "Well, have you ever asked for a job?" I said, "That's beside the point." But I will say that working on the water, especially when you're offshore for days on end or you're fishing in Dry Tortugas and you decide you want to just go to Louisiana and you just set a course probably around 330 degrees and you know it's going to take you thirty-six hours to get to land again, and part of that trip your fathometer is not going to even mark bottom or you got out there and you're fishing and storms come up and it's so bad you're not sure that going to come through it, it gives you a different perspective than what you could ever get working on the hill. Watching dolphins play off the bow and seeing whales and things that just nobody else sees. The stuff that you would drag up in the net or catch, the stuff you caught that we used to catch when we were wreckfishing. You see stuff that nobody's – almost nobody's ever seen, maybe a picture of it, but it gives you a totally different point of view of life. It's hard to explain.

JST: Dani has some additional questions for you though.

Danielle Sayre: Wow. How do I follow up in on that? That was so beautiful.

JST: Beautiful.

DS: So, I am going to just ask you first off about your personal connection to the Ogeechee River, and what you know of it? Any memories along the Ogeechee River? Could be work, could be personal?

CP: I didn't normally ramble up that far. I fished a little bit out of the St. Catharine's Channel, a little bit off shore St. Catharine's, but I knew Fulton Love. Actually, I saw him not long ago. He was telling me he was having trouble catching catfish this time of year. I said, "Well, let me tell you where I've been finding catfish. If you want wild cats, you don't have to use that farm-raised junk for fill-in." It was really good to catch up with Fulton. He used to be on the council before me, so we could talk council. There's a kinship, a camaraderie, between people that work on the water, work around the water. He built nets and net shopped before. It's like if you don't see them for years and you walk up, it's like, "Hey, how's it going?" It's not that way with people on the hill. So, I really didn't get up in that watershed, and I didn't do much in the freshwater period. We, Phillips Seafood, would buy a lot of shad. So, we bought shad from people up the Altamaha, but the Ogeechee, for the most part, was closed for shad fishing. So, almost all of my shad came from the Altamaha River. So, I didn't get to the Ogeechee that much.

DS: So, then something else I have been wondering about, two things. One comes from something you mentioned earlier. You used the term jukin. "They had their jukin clothes on."

CP: Yes.

DS: Could you tell me about that term?

CP: That's just when they were out partying, the juke joint. [laughter]

DS: You can talk on this. I will edit.

JST: Who goes to the juke joint?

CP: Well, it was the crew mostly. The captains couldn't afford to go, so it was mostly the crews. Well, the captain had to be awake to drive the boat and get out. But the crew, they would show up, they'd lay their nets down on the deck, and do what they needed to do. It took, generally, a good hour or better to get where you needed to go drag. They'd spend twenty minutes laying the nets out. They might make a pot of coffee, but more often than not, they were going to lay down in the bunk and go to sleep. Or I came in one morning, 4:00 a.m., 4:30 a.m., my crew had beat me to the boat. He was still in his street clothes. I looked at him, and he was passed out in the bunk with his eyes wide open. I thought he was dead. I don't know what kind of drugs he was on, but we didn't go shrimping that day. Then after you set out, you were going to drag a couple of hours, they'd go back and lay down again. At best, you'd wake them up every twenty minutes or something to go pull the tri-net. You might get them up to cook some breakfast, but they weren't a lot of help.

DS: So, another question is, when I looked at a map of the areas, basically between Liberty County and the McIntosh County, there was Blackbeard on the stream, this river, this hole.

CP: Yes.

DS: What do you think that comes from?

CP: Whoever made those Google Maps was just careless. If you pull up Google Maps, it shows everything is Blackbeard or Blackbeard Creek or something. So, no. They're not any good for nautical use.

DS: So, there are terms then all those creeks, all those holes, all those places that say Blackbeard, people that work the water have another term for those spots.

CP: If you look at a nautical chart, they have another term. Anything but that has the right term on it pretty much.

DS: I think that we have over an hour and forty minutes of recording. I feel like we have asked a lot.

JST: I can ask questions all night. You do not have to let me have free reign.

CP: You can do whatever you want.

JST: Oh.

CP: I am done for the day, except for you all. You talk about allocation. There's an argument from some recreational fishermen, not all, that they spend more to catch, whatever recreational species it happens to be, than a commercial guy could sell it for. That may be so, but if you figure out what the commercial guy sold it for and what the restaurant sold it for, and then right on down the line, it may not be as apples and oranges as you might think. But are we going to sell all of our public resources to the highest bidder? Are we going to start selling off big chunks in the middle of Yellowstone National Park to high-end condos because they're worth a lot of money, or is that public resource that should be shared by everybody, rich and poor? I believe it should be shared by everybody, rich and poor. I don't think you should be able to. It should be sold to the highest bidder. But that's just me.

[end of transcript]