

Karen DeMaria: What is the date today? Twenty-ninth. What is your mailing address?

Ted Hoverson: 41 Bay Drive.

KDM: Good.

TH: 3304.

KDM: What else?

TH: 3304.

KDM: Occupation?

TH: U.S. Post Office.

KDM: What did you do there?

TH: Now?

KDM: [laughter]

TH: Not much.

KDM: [laughter]

TH: Back when I first came down here in [19]78, I ran a patrol boat. So, I was on the water all the time.

KDM: But now you are sort of an inspector now.

TH: I haven't [inaudible] Customs down here, the inspectors who basically sit in an office. They go out once in a while and check the boat [inaudible].

KDM: So, that is what you are doing in management?

TH: Yes. We are out there chasing crooks all the time.

KDM: In [19]78, you came down here. I bet you had all those kinds of fun.

TH: Oh, yes. It was the Wild West back then.

KDM: I am going to have to ask you some of the stories. I have not been able to get some of them on tape from some of the guys. Well, I think there are still a lot of them who are still sort of scared about getting caught for things they did in the early [19]80s.

TH: [laughter]

KDM: How long have you lived in the Keys?

TH: Since November of 1978.

KDM: Full time then?

TH: Yes.

KDM: Did you ever come down here and visit it?

TH: No.

KDM: Or just in 1978, you just moved down here, and that was it?

TH: Yes.

KDM: How much time do you spend on the water?

TH: Now or back then?

KDM: Well, back then when you ran a boat, you were pretty much on the water every day.

TH: Every day.

KDM: How long did you run the boat? How many years?

TH: Consistently through [19]85, and there was a slight break in the summer of [19]85. I came back because I went to work with the [inaudible] Academy in Brunswick, Georgia. I worked there. I taught during the summer of [19]85. I came back here in winter. I went back up in the summer of [19]86. So, when I came back here in the winter of [19]86, I was back on post for another – [19]86, [19]87 – I don't know the year. [inaudible] get out on the water.

KDM: Now, you do a lot of recreational fishing in [inaudible]?

TH: Back during those years also, but then I stayed off west two, three years. I haven't done much of that [inaudible]. I ran the patrol boats. I'm still on the water.

KDM: So, how often do you get out on the water now?

TH: The last time I was out was the first week of December. [laughter] I have not been out much.

KDM: Well, we have not had much decent weather in a while though. [laughter] So, about once a month or so?

TH: Yes, once a month in the west.

KDM: What was mostly your water experience then?

TH: Fishing.

KDM: Fishing?

TH: Mostly local, based in one area.

KDM: Oceanside?

TH: Oceanside.

KDM: Now with Customs?

TH: With Customs, I've been everywhere. [inaudible]

KDM: [inaudible] Let us see. How old are you?

TH: Forty-nine.

KDM: Obviously, you graduated from high school?

TH: Yes.

KDM: Go to college?

TH: No.

KDM: Before you moved down here, were you with the U.S. Customs?

TH: Yes. I ran a boat in New York, did a lot of fishing up there.

KDM: Where in New York?

TH: Where I live, or where I ran a boat?

KDM: Both.

TH: With Customs, I ran the New York Harbor. But I fished a little on Long Island. I fished on all of Long Island.

KDM: I was raised in New Jersey. That is why I asked that.

TH: I see the same things happening in the Keys that's happened in Long Island, looks exactly the same.

KDM: What was that?

TH: The water quality and the fishing right down the Keys. I grew up on Long Island. I was born in Brooklyn. We moved to the city line, on Valley Stream, just below the city line when I was five. That was still country. Then the island grew up. As the island grew up, fishing went down to the water quality, fishing went down the tubes. More people were moved off the island. Further out they went, the same thing happened. That's the reason I left up there. I see the exact same thing happening down here.

KDM: Where are you going to go next?

TH: Yes. Where are you going to go next? Exactly.

KDM: [laughter]

TH: This problem down here is they should have stopped building ten years ago.

KDM: You are not the only one who has said that.

TH: They should have stopped building ten years ago. The water and the environment can only support so much waste. It's not that we are doing anything wrong, it's just too many people with too much waste.

KDM: What about boat traffic?

TH: I see less boat traffic now than I did back then.

KDM: Really?

TH: Because the commercial fishing industry down here is dying. When I came down here in the wintertime, you could walk across the shrimp boats. When the wind was blowing, you would have thought there were no shrimp boats. You would have thought there was [inaudible]. But you could walk. From one side, you could walk across the water on shrimp boats. They're gone. A lot of the boats are gone. The mackerel fishing boats and the bottom fishing boats are gone. You don't have the boats [inaudible] has actually gone down.

KDM: What about recreational?

TH: Recreational, I think, is pretty much maybe has gone up a little.

KDM: I guess, if the commercial guys are going, you are having each other or recreationally replace that [inaudible] is I think what you are trying to say.

TH: I think it's actually less because I think the recreational hasn't gone up in proportion to the commercial people.

KDM: Well, you have your fish logs. Now, you had just told me about the correlation between the development and the water quality.

TH: You can see it from my own backyard. I'm living on the water. I moved into Bay Point.

KDM: Do you live on the open water or canal?

TH: Kind of both. I'm the west house on the canal. So, that's the best of both worlds. You can see the bottom of that canal probably three hundred days a year when I moved here in [19]78.

KDM: What does the bottom look like?

TH: The bottom was nice and clean, grass...

KDM: Was it the white turtle grass, or was it a different kind of grass?

TH: It's pretty much turtle grass. Bay Point is basically a hard rock bottom of the Bay. The bottom of the canal was also pretty hard. So, we don't have a tremendous amount of grass. But we had well-defined patches of grass with no silt on it. Now, all we have is silt. The grass is pretty much what's there. It's not healthy. You can put an anchor in the bottom and see it for a week. Now you throw an anchor in the bottom, it disappears in the muck the minute it hits the bottom.

KDM: How deep is the muck, do you think?

TH: Oh, probably an easy 2 feet.

KDM: When did you notice that?

TH: Well –

KDM: Difference.

TH: – basically, the worst is in the west. I'd say six years, five to six years.

KDM: Any correlations with when it started getting mucked up and anything else going on?

TH: The clarity, buildings. When I moved to Bay Point, probably on the whole block, there were maybe twenty houses on the whole Bay Drive, which is pretty long.

KDM: Yes. I know Bay Drive.

TH: There were maybe twenty houses in [19]78. Now, there is not an empty lot. As the houses

were built, the water clarity, fewer and fewer days did you see the bottom. Now, I never see the bottom. Never see it on the canal.

KDM: On the grass, you said that there is a lot of silt on them. Is there anything else that you are noticing on them at all?

TH: Like I said, waste, mucky.

KDM: I guess the seagrass beds have declined, too.

TH: Definitely. Not that there were any great seagrass beds in Bay Point [inaudible].

KDM: What else was in the canal before? What else was growing? Were there other organisms or anything that was in there? Sponges, coral, manatees, algae?

TH: You see a lot of blue crabs.

KDM: Really?

TH: Yes. There were many blue crabs. You see a decent amount of salt crabs, a lot of salt crabs, a lot of lobsters, I'd say just as many lobsters now [inaudible] not that there's a great amount in Bay Point. But I didn't see any decline in the lobster population. But no more blue crabs, no more salt crabs. Bay Point was never big with tropicals. The canals in Bay Point, you can actually see a lot of the reed-type tropical. Never had that in Bay Point. Had a lot of snappers, had more groupers [inaudible]. I see dolphins in the wintertime.

KDM: Really?

TH: Yes. We see them. It's a strange place to see dolphins. It's shallow, but you'd see one or two wandering.

KDM: With the tide, probably.

TH: I never see that anymore. We see stingrays. There were stingrays here.

KDM: You talked about clarity.

TH: Moray eels, got a lot of moray eels back then. There weren't any here either.

KDM: You talked about clarity. I guess, you were saying before it was nice and clear.

TH: Yes.

KDM: What is it like now? Describe it.

TH: So, the water is green. It's green, more of a green color.

KDM: Is it like milky, or is it just a...

TH: When the wind blows, it'll start to go that milky color. That happened when it was clear, too. When the wind blew, it stirred [inaudible] the bottom of it. When the wind is quick, six hours or so, it would go back and be clear again. Now, when the wind blows, it turns milk. It stays milk. It never clears off. If you have four or five days of calm days in succession, the water turns a green color. The water is never clear. We've got a shallow spot where it's like a beach area. [inaudible] You can probably see as it tapers off. I would put it 1 or 2 feet deep and still look the water's all clear. But when you get to 3 feet now, you have to go 4 feet, and it's straight into the sea. The bottom at 5 feet, it's green. Then forget about it after that.

KDM: Do you see any particles in the water? Are there more particles and stuff that is floating in the water, or not really?

TH: Something is keeping you from looking through it. It's not a visible particle that you can see when the wind stirs up, or you're in there swimming, and you hit the bottom of it. It's not a particle you can see. These things are so...

KDM: Sounds like phytoplanktons, which are microscopic algae.

TH: Yes.

KDM: [laughter]

TH: You can't really see it. It's just something there that's...

KDM: When you were on the boat, what was the water like when you were on the boat?

TH: From the canal in Bay Point, it's the same thing. Back when I first moved down here, [inaudible]. My first year I was down here, I [inaudible] through December, and the second year, November.

KDM: Had to get you out of the Bay, right?

TH: [laughter]

KDM: [inaudible] [laughter]

TH: You just back it up now in September.

KDM: You talked to people who have lived down here a long time. It's like that water gets below 80 degrees, forget it.

TH: Forget it. Seventy-seven is about my limit.

KDM: [laughter] [inaudible]

TH: Yes, really. But the same thing happened in the North Channel. I used to free-dive snorkel from 30 feet of water because you can see the bottom. You can go over the top and see a fish 30 feet down and go down and shoot. Can't do that now because you can't see the bottom.

KDM: What does the Hawk Channel used to look like? Tell me about what was there. The same type of thing they did with the canal.

TH: Basically, the same thing that's happening with Hawk Channel is happening with the canal but not to a greater extent yet. We still have the ability to go to Hawk Channel and do it right now. But it has lessened tremendously, I'd say. That's probably taken place in the last three or four years. It was a gradual progression. The last three or four years have been terrible. You never go out there and get a clear day where you could see – I used to shoot a free spear before I went out, which was not too often.

KDM: My husband's favorite thing to do.

TH: Free spear?

KDM: Yes.

TH: There was no problem. You could shoot a fish. Even shoot a big fish and if it took off with the spear, you could follow. [inaudible]

KDM: You have to put a springer on your spear, or you will lose them.

TH: Not easy to go through the muck. Out there I see more visible particles, not so much the algae in the canal. But you can actually see the sun reflecting off clouds of particles in the water.

KDM: What was the bottom of Hawk Channel like? Is there anything on the bottom? Tell me what you had out there. I have never focused on Hawk Channel much.

TH: The bottom of the shoreline, well, to me, looks pretty the same, the same houses, that area, more mangroves. You've got shallow flats, grassy flats. [inaudible]

KDM: Right there on [inaudible].

TH: [inaudible] As you come out, and the water gradually drops off, the grass gives way to a harder bottom with what they call gorgonians, soft corals, sea fans, soft corals. Certain patches in there are [inaudible] patches. Now, I've talked to [inaudible] small broken rock. Some of those areas could be barren, but the other ones will still have the soft coral stuff on them. If you come out into 10 feet of water and they start developing those big, huge gray –

KDM: (Gray corals?)



TH: – gray corals. I have this...

KDM: [laughter] It is a great book, by the way. [inaudible] There is a really beautiful book. It is a brand-new book that came out. [inaudible]

TH: [laughter]

KDM: Did you ever see at the bottom of Hawk Channel large areas of grass?

TH: Yes. There are areas like that. Sure. Well, the Hawk Channel's got a little area with grass.

KDM: I think there was already a time when I moved down there that it really was kind of on the dirtier side. We spent more time diving off the bar area, right behind the reef, 60, 80 feet of water. [inaudible]

TH: It's not really brain coral, it's just coral. It's big and round like that, but they don't have the brain coral pattern. It's more like that.

KDM: Like great star-like coral.

TH: On that rocky bottom, you see patches like this where it's just...

KDM: It is a massive star thing.

TH: Yes. It's more like this. It's more so than a brain coral. [inaudible]

KDM: I have seen that in that area.

TH: It's not brain coral. It's just a...

KDM: It is a great star coral.

TH: Huge, huge coral head. It's still there. When the water was clear, you can see [inaudible] a big patch that would be brown with a distinctive white ring around it, about 3 feet in the grass. Now their white rings, they're less distinctive. They're growing in size, but they're less distinctive for some reason. I think it's the silt. We used to have grass, which was one color. It stopped the white ring. Then they had all kind of mushed in together. The silt has covered the grass. The grass is still there. It's all distinctive colors because it's got this haze, this white haze that's gone all over it.

KDM: What is going on with the corals?

TH: The corals are still there, too, but the tops show a lot of scarring, even from people standing on them, or the boats, injuries on them. There's one coral there that I fish a lot. I dove it. I didn't dive into it too much. It's a little on the deep side. It's 26 or 30 feet. It never was tremendously

clear over it. Do you know where Ninefoot Shoal is?

KDM: Yes.

TH: I think this is 110 degrees or about 110 degrees over Ninefoot Shoal. It was a nice fishing patch. [inaudible] Back when I started fishing in 1979, it was distinctive on the depth finder. You could see the grass. You could see the little drop like that, which was a white spot, a huge coral head. That thing has probably flattened by 50 percent in the last ten years.

KDM: Really?

TH: To the point where I have trouble picking up on the depth finder. The coral out there has absolutely disintegrated. That's not a place that's [inaudible]. So, it's got to be water condition that's killing it. The fishing has gone quiet on that spot. You still get fish on it, but it's harder to find. The height has dropped. I'd say that thing jumped 20 feet up from 10 feet, 10 or 12 feet across the bottom. It's about 20, 60 feet up now. Again, the distinctive white ring is gone. There were days where you could see pretty good ten years ago. I haven't seen that coral other than in the dark.

KDM: A dark spot on the water, right? [laughter]

TH: A dark spot on the water, and it has to be on a clear day.

[talking simultaneously]

KDM: [inaudible]

TH: [inaudible] where you could see down there, see what it looked like. [inaudible] I can't tell you what it physically looks like now. But it used to look like these coral heads that were in the shallow water. Now I can only guess that it's disintegrated or got broken coral.

KDM: What about other areas? Any other areas off of Key West or anything?

TH: Not that I frequently would have any consistency, I do most of my fishing course-wise [inaudible]. [laughter] Because I don't do it commercially. When I first came down here, we used to sell [inaudible] responsibility.

KDM: [laughter]

TH: [inaudible]

KDM: Did it work?

TH: Yes. It did to some extent.

KDM: [laughter]

TH: [inaudible] But we did sell fish for two years before [19]81, [19]82. [inaudible]

KDM: Did you do much fishing on the reef?

TH: Very little.

KDM: You may or may not pass on the Hawk Channel to the reefs?

TH: Correct.

KDM: What about [inaudible] much out the deep water?

TH: Yes. We used to patrol them. [inaudible].

KDM: Where are you having your logs?

TH: Well...

KDM: [inaudible]

TH: Yes. The first one will be back in one hour. [inaudible] January 16th in [19]79. When I first came down here –I used to fish extensively in water. I used to fish several times a week. I was very pleased with fishing. When I came down here, I didn't know anything. I thought I did, but I didn't know a thing about fishing. It's two different worlds. So, for me to come down here and catch a fish, that'd be easy to catch. Despite my knowledge of fishing, all of it is back there. It's two different worlds. I came down here. I can go out fishing mackerel with my eyes closed. You can't catch one steady like that.

KDM: Was it in large schools?

TH: Large schools, and I used to go out off of Sand Key. Then the Cubans would be out there in their 20-, 25-, 30-foot boats, one guy by himself in each boat. They'd find a school. They'd set the wide on the steering wheel and leave the wheel and have the boat running a large shallow circle around the school. [inaudible] That was in [19]79. In [19]80, the net folks came out. That was the end of it. As far as I was concerned, that was the end of mackerel fishing. Then you have the net boats fighting with the [inaudible]. But I can run out for two and a half hours and get mackerel worth 30 pounds. Now it was an average fish back then. That's a big fish now.

KDM: [laughter]

TH: Same thing when I went out for king mackerel, a 10-pound yellowtail in January of [19]79.

KDM: I can start – go ahead and turn that down.

TH: I'll turn this around. I think the most interesting thing is when I first came down here, I was

living in Key West. So, I did salt fishing out here. When I moved up to Bay Point, [inaudible] Grouper was one of the things that I noticed that declined the fastest.

KDM: The size and number?

TH: Size and bulk, size and numbers. I attributed them to the fish traps. When they put the bait on the fish traps, and they transport them on the Florida waters, within a year, they sort of come back on it, on the groupers, on the fence. My parents said that Florida couldn't keep people from transporting the fish traps. They were sort of reasserted to the fish traps and caused the corresponding decline of the grouper.

KDM: Well, have you noticed anything since 1991, January, with the grouper?

TH: There's a lot more grouper out there now, small ones. [inaudible] But there's many, many, many small ones.

KDM: The reason I say January 1991 is when the fish traps law took into effect, the ban.

TH: You go out there now and catch a lot of groupers. You can't keep any of them. [laughter] [inaudible] Last year, I noticed there were a lot of small ones, too.

KDM: Well, it will grow up. Give them a couple of years, they will grow up. We have the water quality.

TH: [inaudible]

KDM: How about a jewfish?

TH: I haven't seen any jewfish in ten years. Those same rock piles of stuff that I fish and dove –

KDM: In Hawk Channel?

TH: – in Hawk Channel. There wasn't a tremendous amount of jewfish there. But you will see one or two. In the course of a year, you will see one or two. I haven't seen one in the ten years that I was here. [inaudible]

KDM: [inaudible] They are showing up on the wreck. The divers are saying.

TH: Oh, they're seeing them?

KDM: Yes. The divers are seeing them like crazy.

TH: I used to see them. I used to dive a lot out [inaudible]. You'd always see a few fish or two out there. [inaudible] we see a few fish.

KDM: My husband was out there two weeks ago out on Alexander's Wreck. [inaudible] 5, 10

feet. He decided to go over there and shoot some mangrove snappers. He ended up feeding them to about 70-pound jewfish that was living there.

TH: Oh, yes?

KDM: Yes. He was so excited. He had it on tape. Because it has been a while since there have been jewfish on that channel.

TH: On which section?

KDM: I do not remember which one.

TH: Bow or stern?

KDM: Look up the bow. We have 10 feet of water. So, it has got to be the bow.

TH: It's got to be the bow. The stern's out about 30.

KDM: I researched, in the past, 70-pound was an average – there were no jewfish for less than a couple of years. I do not think it is the same one. It seems like there is the one that comes in where the corals are hollowed out on both [inaudible]. We got two. You can only ever see them on a slight tide because the current is so strong over there.

TH: [inaudible]

KDM: Yes. There has been one fairly, consistently there. We are trying to be optimists. We think there used to be an old pond [inaudible].

TH: November [19]89, I saw some lobster heads, got one small grouper, one large grouper [inaudible]. Most of my fish, I don't count.

KDM: [inaudible]

TH: [inaudible]

KDM: I see cero mackerel.

TH: The small ones are cero mackerels, two big sharks, and there are three barracudas.

KDM: [laughter] November [19]89.

TH: Yes, late November, December [inaudible].

KDM: We just did that for \$3,000 worth for our 43-foot boat. We were doing most of the work ourselves.

TH: Yes. So, I just [inaudible] 29th, one grouper for three nights, first of January, seven big lanes. That's about it.

KDM: There has been a decrease in your overall quantity of fish, too, I have noticed, in here.

TH: Six to nine lanes in one month.

KDM: Lowest tide ever, February [19]90. Must have been something similar to the tides we just had.

TH: Oh, yes. The last one [inaudible].

KDM: [laughter]

TH: The high tide we had?

KDM: Yes.

TH: I had never ever seen as high as that tide. That's crazy. The step-down area on my seawall never had water coming in here even on hurricanes [inaudible] the rest of the seawall. That high tide we had two months ago?

KDM: Yes, the beginning of March, February, March, sometime in that.

TH: I got 3 inches of water in that stuff down here.

KDM: Driving down here when we were going home, we looked to the left, there was no water. Where did it go? [laughter] Our boat in Garrison Bight, we keep our boat out there by the harbor lot. I guess it was the same time you were talking about the high tide. I thought our boat was going to come out of the seawall.

TH: Seawall, yes.

KDM: [laughter] Just the least you expect it. Monsters.

TH: [inaudible]

KDM: Did a jump there.

TH: [inaudible]

KDM: In the wintertime there.

TH: In the wintertime. I pulled the boat out on November 10th. [inaudible] December [19]91, two small black-tipped sharks, two cero mackerels, eight small lanes, a lot of small groupers, some small ones, and on a rock pile, two groupers. They're probably small ones. A couple of

the yellowtails on another rock pile, four black-tipped sharks at [inaudible], a couple of small groupers, and small lanes [inaudible] big ones, January [19]92, [inaudible] four, small grouper, and yellowtail.

KDM: Is that the one that has disintegrated?

TH: Yes, that's the one. [inaudible] On the rock, those were small lanes and one big one, 24 inches. In 1992, small lanes and one big fish, maybe blue.

KDM: It definitely showed what is going on there because of the decrease in your quantities and the changes. Your lanes are the only thing that stayed pretty much around.

TH: December [19]92...

KDM: You lost your mutton, too.

TH: Right. Before mutton would just...

KDM: You lost your [inaudible]. [laughter]

TH: Yes.

KDM: [inaudible]

TH: [inaudible] small grouper.

KDM: Yes. [inaudible] because they will go around those small rock piles. You are also not fishing as much as before.

TH: Yes. It's just not – fishing decline.

KDM: Once I put this quality of water, you do not really – my husband, I go, "Why do you not go diving or why do you not go out on a boat?" He is like, "Why?"

TH: Yes, really, that's – why?

KDM: Why? Is there anything else that you have noticed or anything else that we have not had time that you want to touch on?

TH: You pretty much noted the overall decline in water quality and clarity, right?

KDM: Yes.

TH: The silt. I'm noticing more – I don't know what you call them, I just call them jellyfish, the little pulsating ones that sit on the bottom.

KDM: Cassiopeias.

TH: More and more of those in the canal.

KDM: Tell me something about the old drug smuggling days down here.

TH: Like?

KDM: Well, the boats.

TH: What kind of boats did they use?

KDM: The reason I am asking is that I have heard some comments. People were asking me if I could try to find out about another – certain kinds of boats were used a lot more than others.

TH: Right. It was actually an evolution of the type of boat they used.

KDM: Then how they used to hide the drugs. They used to have a cover sometimes. Sometimes, they did not. People wanted to know what was...

TH: I didn't know you were interested in this. I could have brought you a history I wrote about it.

KDM: Really? Well, maybe you can mail it to me.

TH: Yes, I can do that. When I came down in [19]78, they didn't hide the drugs. They just piled them in the boat. The shrimp boats, they just filled the ice holes. Sometimes they filled the whole damn boat with ice [inaudible], even up in the wheelhouse. They showed how greedy they were. But the most common was just filling the ice holes. They would sell it right in the Key West Harbor right to the –

KDM: Pretty much the shrimp boats, right?

TH: – shrimp docks. Yes. Unload it right in broad daylight in the middle of town. That's where they trade it. Are you familiar with the area around the [inaudible]? No?

KDM: Yes.

TH: The last pier now that's right along...

KDM: Along the cut?

TH: Along the cut. That didn't used to [inaudible]. That was Marquesas' shrimp dock. There would be shrimp boats there. They would make anything from sailing right in there with 20 tons of pot in a shrimp boat and unload them right next to the Coast Guard base.



KDM: [laughter]

TH: It happened more than once. In [19]78, we arrested – how many cops – three or four Key West cops guarding the offload of the shrimp boat right in town.

KDM: I have heard of that.

TH: That's when we opened our office in [19]78. We started busting their chops. Then things started to move. Instead of bringing it into the harbor, which is what they're used to doing, they started bringing it into the outlying area. Of course, this reduced where they could go with the shrimp boats because of the deep draft of the shrimp boats. We started seeing more lobster boats. Sometimes lobster boats would go all the way down and float in Colombia or Jamaica. Other times, the lobster boats would just – the lobster boats would get in the shallow...

KDM: Would the lobster boats have anything on them besides the drugs?

TH: No, not with the drugs. Sometimes they got really greedy. They thought they could get away with it. Although the whole thing ended up in the bales because they were intent on running in the dock and unload it real quick. This happened a lot of times. Then we started getting better at – we started with shrimp boats in town to shrimp boats and lobster boats. We started what we called the shotgun effect. We started using the T-Crafts, the 20-foot T-Crafts, the pound bales, and the T-Crafts. So, they would go on the oceanside. The load that they'd brought would lay out. They'd go off to the T-Crafts. That's why we called it the shotgun. They'd come in like [inaudible] bullets that we got.

KDM: What is this now, the transit of years?

TH: The transition of years. The T-Crafts in 1981 progressed at a rapid rate at [19]78. Then we started seeing the secret [inaudible].

KDM: In [19]92.

TH: Right.

KDM: [laughter]

TH: Again, shrimp boats and lobster [inaudible], and the T-Crafts are out altogether now. Now, we're not bringing them in, the T-Crafts. Once we procured – the T-Craft was pretty much a local Key West thing. The smuggling between Key Largo and Key West is totally different. I'm telling you now, from the end of the seventh month...

KDM: It is right there, right?

TH: Exactly. But down here, it's pretty much local gangs who [inaudible].

KDM: [laughter]

TH: [inaudible]

KDM: It is obvious.

TH: Today, we wouldn't even bother with it. I have arrested them. [laughter] [inaudible]

KDM: This is about the Keys. Were they using...

TH: They're using the Keys out of the Bay closer to the Bahamas. It's a few steps away, anywhere from Miami to the outer Keys. Out there, you have more pricey stuff. They [inaudible].

KDM: I have heard a couple...

TH: [inaudible]

KDM: I guess I have heard some stories about people finding a wreckage or whatever or got damaged in a run.

TH: I've actually watched that. They were sinking, ran through the ground, whatever, and the equal amount – you've heard enough stupid tales [inaudible] set a port before coming in. You set your operation and set them according to their plan. You know what their plan is and [inaudible].

KDM: [laughter]

TH: Just get this thing over with. We watched the shrimp boats, my partner and I, just [inaudible]. We watched them. We'd sit on the dock. We watched them go at it in Stock Island.

KDM: I think I know who you are talking about.

TH: [inaudible] This one I never got to report. It moved down to [inaudible]. I'm watching the running lights. The running lights both came towards the reef [inaudible] meandering. Until it finally meandered out of sight towards St. Pete. The next morning, we found them sitting in [inaudible] –

KDM: [laughter]

TH: – with the bottom knocked out. [inaudible] They didn't know what they were doing.

[end of transcript]