

Karen DeMaria: What is your mailing address?

Victoria Impallomeni: 23 Key Haven Terrace.

KD: [inaudible]

VI: [inaudible] The longlining [inaudible].

KD: What was your occupation?

VI: [inaudible] Charter captain.

KD: Yes, [inaudible].

VI: Yes, charter captain. Anybody can be a charter captain but it kind of is.

KD: How long have you been here in the Keys?

VI: Out of forty-four, thirty-three.

KD: Thirty-three years?

VI: My first thirteen years. Then the last twenty.

KD: The last twenty years straight?

VI: Yes. Got back in [19]73.

KD: How old are you? What is your location and what is your weather experience?

VI: Just on the gulf side from (Money Keys?) to Marquesas. Chicago, I got somebody [inaudible]. Oh my God, I got [inaudible]. On the Atlantic side, it would be from American Shoals Light to Marquesas, (Reed and Adams?). But a lot of the times it was [inaudible] and all the islands. Usually, in the island.

KD: What did you observe? What is the first thing that comes to your mind?

VI: Well, the [inaudible] down in the water is different from before. I was just saying from the time I left here to the time I came back, that eleven-years span, the amount of growth in eleven years' time while I was gone.

KD: What kind of growth?

VI: Mangrove growth. [inaudible] filling in at the bottom coming up. There was a lot of that [inaudible]. What I saw then when I came back. See, I had my first boat and I used to stand and I was in the back every day. Every day I could get away. So, for those three years out there, that

was when – [19]59, [19]60, [19]61, in those three years, I got the –

KD: [inaudible]

VI: Seven or eight. [laughter]

KD: Yes, [inaudible].

VI: That is when I was the most out there and I knew where I was going. Then I left for eleven years. When I came back, it was all full. It was all filled up where the trees had filled in. But now taking any eleven years since then and looking at the growth rate and the attrition. All of a sudden, 1989, everything stopped coming up and stopped growing the trees. 1989, all of a sudden, I realized I was seeing a beginning of a death. I could remember sand there, but it was pure, I think, just erosion.

KD: Do you think that from the time you came back you saw definite growth? By the time you came back from 1989, it was the same type of a continuum growth, very steady?

VI: No, that's what I'm saying, it wasn't. It was slowing down until by 1989 it stopped and was reversing. It was 1976 when I started seeing on the water every day. Well, not every day but [inaudible]. But got specific of the observation period again. So, [19]76, I realized I was the only one out there other than the men who couldn't speak English. All the Spanish fishermen, the [inaudible] fishermen, they were all kids, and they were Black. I didn't see any white guys out there at all. So, I couldn't talk to them but I knew that there were out there that knew what I knew, what I saw starting to happen but they don't communicate it. I've been wanting to communicate it for a long time what I had seen stop. That now, there are gaps where the captain filled in. The white mangrove, black mangrove and [inaudible], I have noticed any of those beyond the reef of changes of the shapes of the island.

KD: What do you think is happening?

VI: They are mine. Fewer numbers of vessels going fast washing away the sediments that is usually filling in and filling out, allowing a new [inaudible] to get started. [inaudible] Instead, they just go right through the cuts and [inaudible].

KD: [inaudible] are really bad and what [inaudible].

VI: [inaudible] right to the side piece. Those were really bad. The gap between [inaudible] and the gap between [inaudible] have changed amazingly.

KD: I remember.

VI: When I was kid when it had all the [inaudible] civilians on the islands. When they made him take it down and they made it [inaudible], I thought he was right.

KD: How about the fishing houses?

VI: That was when I moved here. [inaudible]. The remains of those and what was said and what it ends up [inaudible] you watched that wash up and wash out, wash up and wash out. The accumulation of sand for the first time when this mass storm happens and then [inaudible]. I used to bring two bags of trash off the beach that were 30, 40, 50 years old. I'm now seeing foundation pieces I've never seen in my whole life. They were [inaudible] when I was a kid. Now, that storm took out the [inaudible] just stand-up way into the back of it. But I saw three pieces of [inaudible] on the beach that I've never seen before and all around the mangrove [inaudible] the Florida Keys was trash. It was absolutely [inaudible] with trash. It's not the tourist that made the trash.

KD: So, maybe it is [inaudible].

VI: Just look and [inaudible] trash that weighed itself like that. I've seen the beaches every time I go out and [inaudible] storm just before it got that storm. Just the trail through the black mangrove. It's the only black mangrove left on that. The [inaudible] to the south side. This is mostly from March.

KD: [laughter]

VI: Is it January to the right. It's very, very old black mangrove, that last mangrove. It's the only one left. I've been trying to [inaudible] the black mangroves stopped ages ago because all of the [inaudible]. But that's kind of nice because those were everywhere. So, that's lying on the side [inaudible] was watching was whether you were seeing [inaudible] islands all around it, the island had disappeared. All of the roots were gone too, it was just a [inaudible] of boat lakes and boat lakes and boat lakes. There were a number of boats down across the bay and going [inaudible] finding that [inaudible]. It was over the fish. There was no island under it. [inaudible] that was a great area.

KD: What about the boat life?

VI: They used to try to change their names out to [inaudible]. I like to bury the birds when I find them dead. I don't just leave them out. [inaudible]. So, I go ahead and set them over here. In 1989, I was going to set them out first, which I knew was pretty much probably you're setting them out on the [inaudible] to die, whatever. But the numbers of herrings, I didn't see that many herrings down at Pelican Bay and [inaudible]. 1990 was double. 1991 it went up again by a leap. Every year, it has been amazing. I got to the boat and then [inaudible] I take them in to (Linda Balash? ) and she said, "This is [inaudible]. It takes about a month as I get rid of all the [inaudible] and those little night times, and they have very nice shade. They're down the side of that and I feed them and they fly away. [inaudible]

KD: Do you think more birds were affected?

VI: Yes, more birds, a lot more. Not like it's [inaudible] scavenger, it's more of a shopping. If I'm not seeing at the top of [inaudible] when the jet skis moved in, in eighty-nine, it began about 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. every day, all day. Same amount it cost the same price, never stopping.

You can't prove [inaudible]. The birds that were territorial to those spots were the ones that I was picking up because I couldn't find proof.

KD: What about you spent a lot of time in the [inaudible]. What kind of boats did you have? [inaudible]

VI: Lots of boats. That was 9 inches when she's on [inaudible] and 12 inches when she's down. Very light [inaudible].

KD: What did you go that was different?

VI: The shallow areas where the mangroves were there and you couldn't go out. I think that's where [inaudible] growing a lot of mangroves or [inaudible] the mangrove through there. The heat from the water, we have over 90 degrees water for [inaudible]. This is the time that would have had to happen.

KD: It was the coral of [inaudible], there was a lot of coral that was on the roots?

VI: Right, and they also [inaudible] because we saw a lot of – I guess it [inaudible] kind of finding out more gravitational exposing more of the roots and then [inaudible]. I think that the [inaudible] things like that, are [inaudible].

KD: [inaudible]

VI: Than they expected and [inaudible] more of the [inaudible].

KD: You were seeing more – any other kind of a [inaudible] around here at all besides –

VI: Not down here. Well, I moved here and got away because of [inaudible] when I came down here. Where I am is slightly away from Key West, like a restaurant that I'm going to get [inaudible]. We don't seem to have that kind of [inaudible] because obviously I saw the Key West [inaudible].

KD: Of course, [inaudible] both.

VI: Both. I [inaudible] when I fish there, mangroves down there. Of course, the mangroves [inaudible] and runners. But I can't because they're strong and that's strange to me.

KD: [inaudible] mangroves. Where have you been [inaudible].

VI: Sort of a black stop, eight years maybe. It's that whole [inaudible] in [19]73.

KD: [inaudible] backwards.

VI: Just continuing.

KD: What is the first [inaudible]?

VI: Outside another species or the shark.

KD: Yes, and the shark.

VI: What I've done is [inaudible]. Every storm [inaudible]. It's unbelievable. [inaudible]. This is from the research because I [inaudible] every day. The sponges are just really white now. It's always been.

KD: [inaudible] that is like a normal thing.

VI: Yes, but this is really many more.

KD: [inaudible]

VI: I was thinking there's so many more. When you walk to beaches out here now, it's like an overview of the pile and how high and how many to remember. I'm not just excited of everything it was in the past like in these other photos.

KD: Is that [inaudible].

VI: [inaudible] about convenience and [inaudible]. A bottom reach is [inaudible] circumstance so you have some new botanic. In the back entry [inaudible] and green.

KD: [inaudible] side, I think.

VI: [inaudible]

KD: Hope I do not [inaudible].

VI: Showed her all the sand of all the beaches of Florida Keys and the [inaudible] side of me that's from the DNR and [inaudible]. Stuff you brought to every beach. My favorite [inaudible] every single one.

KD: Do you remember what his name was?

VI: No. [inaudible] Anyway, he sent me [inaudible] he got to see around the world and [inaudible]. It's a shame [inaudible]. He ended telling people something about [inaudible]. So, it's obviously different now than it was [inaudible].

KD: What about fish?

VI: On?

KD: Reduction [inaudible] specific to [inaudible] and specific size?

VI: I don't think there's much of a change. [inaudible] probably dealt within the Keys. [inaudible] the kind of fishing or nothing [inaudible] and that's happened.

KD: How much [inaudible]?

VI: I've seen it [inaudible]. Seen all this again.

KD: [inaudible] came in? [inaudible]

VI: Yes, I think they all did. I thought of it. [inaudible]. I was sick the next day. There were fish out there though. [inaudible] because they were just there. [inaudible] were there and they got [inaudible] we were going to [inaudible]. They said I'm fine. We had a doctor that [inaudible] right there. But the [inaudible] behind us in their own way in that town. [inaudible]. Everything was [inaudible] certain days with him.

KD: Fish [inaudible].

VI: So, we ended up getting him a little bit and sharing a couple [inaudible].

KD: Was that something you could [inaudible]?

VI: I did sometimes.

KD: [laughter]

VI: Yes, I need to take that off. [inaudible] within a year and just like that [inaudible].

KD: [laughter] right there?

VI: [inaudible]

KD: What about [inaudible]?

VI: [inaudible] the best I can see now [inaudible]. Just like a midwife, I'm watching them give birth. [inaudible] water and they're taking [inaudible]. What's going on in the dams, when I think about [inaudible]. Everything is [inaudible]. But they're here for three years and [inaudible] any houses [inaudible]. That was twenty [inaudible] seventy-nine. That is fifteen years [inaudible].

KD: What about [inaudible]?

VI: The interesting thing is [inaudible]. The other thing is [inaudible] ten years. [inaudible] on account of whether it's automated [inaudible] and then have to reset. [inaudible] a lot of time and then after it would come up. [inaudible] It would come sometimes. A lot of things and don't ask about [inaudible]. We began getting winters [inaudible] we had our turkey in 1960.

Everyone could [inaudible] the clarity of the water. They're trying to [inaudible] out. It's fine now because we're doing a lot of the [inaudible]. Southeast, I set my coordinates [inaudible]. In that time, [19]74 to [19]75, a lot of time [inaudible] was in the mangrove trees because it was so out. This is when it came out. [inaudible] in [19]74 and [19]75, that was three years. So, now, [inaudible] to kick me out. [inaudible]

KD: [inaudible]

VI: [inaudible]

KD: It is green a lot of times [inaudible].

VI: [inaudible] it so happens that so much of the time that there's something in here. [inaudible] on the [inaudible] side of the beach.

[end of transcript]