

Savannah Bell: My name is Savannah. I am here with Amber. We are both students at Georgia Southern University. We are interviewing Mr. Robert Long. He has brought today his sweet little dog, Chopper, for the oral history project, Fishing Traditions and Fishing Futures, Oral Histories of Commercial Fishing in Georgia. We have received that you have done your informed consent forms and everything. We just want to make sure it is okay to record this. We will be taking pictures of you afterwards. Is that okay?

Robert Long: Yeah. [laughter]

SB: Just want to double check. I think we are just going to go ahead and get started.

Amber Gosser: If at any moment during this interview, we ask you a question that you are not comfortable answering, or if you just want to end the interview at any point, feel free. There is nothing wrong with not answering the question.

SB: No problem. Do you have any questions before we start on this? Can you tell me when and where you grew up?

RL: I grew up in a little town called Shallotte, North Carolina.

SB: Is that inland?

RL: It's on the coast.

SB: So, did you grow up on the water?

RL: Oh, yes.

SB: You grew up on the water? Was it mainly a fishing grabbing community?

RL: Well, it was farming. When I came along, there were only three things to do there; either way, you fish, farmed, or logged. My family, they fished and farmed and logged too. But that's all there was to do there.

SB: That is all there was to do?

RL: That was it. We had a caution lighting there. When I left from Shallotte, didn't even have a stoplight. There was one caution light in the middle of town. Now, God, I got lost up there.

RL: How did you get into fishing? I know you said your family was into fishing, but how old were you? How did all that start?

RL: It's like a way of life, the way to make a living. That's how your grandfather did this, your daddy or your uncle or something like that. You just did what everybody else did. Just the way of making a living.

SB: How has your involvement changed over the years? I know that sounds weird. How has your involvement in fishing – so, did you ever do – [laughter]

RL: Are you asking me, is the only thing I've ever been is a commercial fisherman?

SB: Yes. There we go.

RL: Yes, I bought my first boat when I was twenty-two years old. So, it was.

SB: Spent twenty-two years. How did you come about that, buying your own boat and everything? What was that like? Was it scary?

RL: Well, no, it wasn't scary. It was just hard to get them to give you any money at that age. So, the first boat I got, it was an older boat and what I could afford to get. I started that way. Then I sold it. Then I bought me another boat. I kept going up like that with it. Because I come from a large family, and I can remember when we got indoor plumbing. I know that seems weird, but everybody in where I lived at that was, I remember a lot of people when they got indoor plumbing. So, yes, I can remember being on the back porch, toting 5-gallon cans, filling Mama's washing machine with it and stuff. I mean, this just used to be real rural easy. You don't understand it. You say, "Well, it hasn't been that long ago." But back there then the kids like Wayne Thompson, that is somebody I went to school with, his daddy had a shrimp boat. They were the ones with the brick homes. His daddy restored him a brand new fifty-five shuffle eight when he was sixteen years old. I can't say much about it. My granny got me a car too, [laughter] but I had to work.

SB: So, were you the first one in your family to get a boat?

RL: Yes.

SB: So, that must be like a real story.

RL: See, I'd work in grocery stores in the wintertime and do something else. So, in the wintertime I went to school. You see, and daddy was adamant about that. So, in summertime, you fish.

SB: What was your day like fishing on the water? What time would you get up and everything? How would that work? I know you all start early.

RL: Well, most days, if you're just working in daytime, it starts at 04: 00 a.m. Then it's 09:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m. before you get finished at night. Then sometimes it's around the clock like that. When I was younger guy, we go out and make ten days. I'd make 9:00 like that. But you had to then too, because there was a bunch of boats around then like that.

AG: So, I know you said the day is really long. Are there any memories you have that kind of stick out? I know you started really young. So, you have been in the business obviously a while.

RL: Forty-two, forty years now.

AG: [laughter] So, what are some exciting memories, I guess, of being out on the boat and just daily life out on the boat?

RL: I'm supposed to be honest here, right?

SB: You can say whatever you want to say.

RL: Well, when you are young and stuff, you like to go places and do things. So, shrimping was a means for end, if you understand what I'm trying to say, is there like that. So, your fun times are when you come in. Some did hard work, sweetie. I mean, people say what they want to about it, but it's a bad job. Who wants to get up at 4: 00 a.m.? Who wants to work twenty-four hours? Who wants to be out there in the weather? Oh, let me tell you one that tickles me most of all what people say, "Oh, when you anchor up out there, he just rocks you to sleep." Oh, yes, that's right. I like my feet to be 4 feet up and my head be 4 feet up the next second. I'm like that when I'm doing like this here. Yes, you get good. Yes, he'll rock you to sleep all right. If you like a hurricane, it does. But people just say things. I mean, it's just amazing. I remember one time I was coming out of Charleston, South Carolina. I had this year ball girl. She was on the boat with me. We were running South. Anyway, she's up there. She's just looking on the bow. The dolphins are jumping and whatever. I'm sitting up in there. I think I'm like twenty-six, twenty-seven years old then. She comes back in. She says to me, "So, you really have an end of throw way of making a living." I told her, I said, "Yes, my wife says that too about me and like that." She says, "No, you don't understand. You all the last hunter-gatherers." She's right. If you hunt well, you do well. If you don't because you can't see them, so, it takes years and years.

SB: So, just going off you said you cannot see them. How do you track where the shrimp is? Is that just like a local knowledge thing that you have to have?

RL: No, it's kind of handed down some of it. Then some of it, you learn on your own and stuff. You learn to look at the trash that you're in, the difference between a male shrimp and female shrimp, like that in there, because females pay off better than males do. So, females are always easier to catch, aren't they? [laughter] They're always more, you all, than us. Oh man. No, what it is there are just more female shrimps than there are male shrimps. That's just the way it is. Male shrimp always be smaller than the females. So, in the shrimp business, the females are the dominant. Do you know the difference in between them?

SB: We actually got to learn it. I think in case, it is their legs kind of bend them backwards, and if it is a male...

RL: Where the head and the tail attach to the first set of legs, you pull it back. A male has a little thing there, and a female doesn't.

SB: What are some positive and negative changes in the fishing community that you have seen over?

RL: President Clinton, he destroyed this business. He's the one single person that did. I don't care why. He signed them trade agreements right over there, right on the island. It's been bad ever since, more or less.

SB: Can you tell us more about how that affected you personally?

RL: Well, I'll give you an example. The year 2000 or so, Daylight was licensing 1500 boats to shrimp here. Now it barely gets over 200. Average crews on the boat are three. So, you're talking about \$3,600 jobs that's lost. Plus, you've got to support what you call support fish houses and net shops, stores to buy the nets whatever out of, and stuff like that, different stuff that you need and stuff. A lot of them went out of business. So, it wasn't just the thirty-some-hundred fishermen that lost out of the deal. It was also the community here. Now let's just say they didn't make the \$20,000 that's cheap. Now, multiply that over the years, that meant we talking about forty-something-hundred people or better, 5,000 people was affected after that. Figure them at \$20,000 a piece, then multiply it by ten years and stuff. Let's see what kind of money we're getting into. Now we're talking about billions of dollars that's been taken out of the local communities by Davis. It's the industry that takes nothing, you understand? I mean, it replenishes itself by itself. The government don't have to spend no money on it other than law enforcement officers. So, why would you want to devastate an industry like that? I mean, all other industries, you got to have all this other stuff, but not in the fishing industry. It isn't like that. The funniest thing is the regulations and stuff about commercial fishing, you can't fish it out. Now let me explain that to you. You can take something like a whale or something off, because they've got the surface or whatever. You might do that with that. But the type of fishing we do, you can't do that because it becomes non-feasible before it runs the species. Then in nature, things decline naturally and then come back up back and forth. If you got a lot of rabbits around, you'll have a lot of foxes around. So, with that rabbits replenish, the fox replenishes. That's just the way Mother Nature works. The thing of it is, commercial fishermen, they have to have a certain amount of stock. When it gets below that, you don't mess with it. I've been to places that you couldn't catch your shrimp. Then go back the next year, and it'd just be – but that's just the way it is. Even offshore fishing, same way. When they get it to where – that these importers and stuff – to where they aren't no more of us, no more to compete against them any kind of way, then aren't charge you anything they want to. The problem with it is with the imports is the consumers aren't saying it. It's devastating. We get paid the same thing for shrimp that I did in the [19]80s. Now you got say the [19]80s, my fuel was like 35 cents, 40 cent a gallon. Right now, it's around about 250. A block of ice was a buck, \$2. Now it's \$15. I'm getting paid the same thing I did. But if you go up there to market or anywhere else, go look at the price of what's in there. I get paid \$5 for a large shrimp. It's going to cost you 12 to buy it. It didn't use to work that way. The consumer could buy it for a little over a dollar from what we're getting paid for it. That's what's has devastated business. Then they regulate us to death and stuff like that. Well, then they come with the saying, "Well, you can't compete with them over there." Well, no, not if you go chopping our legs off. But over, there they can use steroids. They can use – grow them in ponds, put steroids in them. They can antibiotics and stuff. Because usually, they come and raise a large shrimp because they get up to certain point the ponds would get so stagnated with feces until they had to harvest them, you know what I mean? So, they learn about steroid and stuff like that. So, it makes them grow faster. So, they can produce a large shrimp now and stuff like that there. But they don't have the regulations there

that we do here. I mean, people try shrimp farming in here too. But with the regulations, you can't do it. It's just plain unfair. If you chop a guy's legs off before he can get started, it won't work. He isn't going to run no races like that.

AG: So, going off of all that, I know you said kind of how it is impacting everything right now. Everything you are talking about, how do you see that moving into the future?

RL: It's going to continue doing what it's doing because it's more about the feud and the making money this day and time. I don't know whether you all understand this or not. Young people, they vote totally different than older people. You ever thought them older people might be a little smarter than you are? I aren't trying to be ugly about that, is you went to school, I got what they call wisdom sense. Funniest thing about getting older is it's kind of like – I mean, okay, this isn't going to work. But you don't know it won't work. But I'm supposed to still give you a chance at it kind of deal. But I reckon the point I'm making is that I don't know what this country's coming to. I can remember things that you all aren't saying or done or act like it isn't ever going to happen again. But all my history lessons that I've learned over a lifetime, if it does repeat itself, every century, it keeps repeating itself. So, we keep getting more dependent on this foreign stuff. What we going to do? Look at Great Britain during World War 2. If it hadn't been for us, the war would've turned out a lot different than it did because we supplied, because we could, food and everything. So, what if something gets tilted just a little bit? I don't ever hope anything like that happen. But the point of it is, is when you got superpowers and stuff like that, that they always flexing their muscles and stuff like that. So, if you knock off the farmers and you knock off people that produce your food and stuff like that, what are you going to do? Who's going to come? People think like nothing's ever going to happen. I didn't think when I was your age, shrimping would ever be like it is now. But it is. I mean, it used to be a nice way that somebody wasn't really educated, could make really good money, upper middle-class money. You aren't going to get rich, but you can have the brick home. Your kids can go to college and different things for you. The generation before you can't do that. But this dream isn't going to last. Young people look at it totally different because they aren't sane enough yet to understand. Give you an example, like China right now. We buy millions of pounds of shrimp from them every year. Didn't China just make a bid on they wanted to change the standard from dollar to yen? Do you understand how much your life would change if that happened and how much of that the currency could be worth nothing in this country? Why are we making them rich? They want to be a superpower. The honest way you become a superpower, recognize that as a superpower. Go to your history book. You'll find out. We weren't a superpower till when? Think, you can't answer that. Can you go to school? That's terrible. We became a superpower during World War 2. Before that, we weren't considered a superpower. When we first began with superpower status or part of what we wound up being, was during World War 1. That's how you become. Well, look at what we do now. We had a war in this country, in the world. I'll ask you all a question. How many years of peace have we had in this country in the length of time? What's the longest length of time since before the Revolutionary War that this country's actually been in peace that we weren't fighting somebody somewhere?

SB: Twelve years

RL: Less than most. You're right, sweetie. When did that occur? Right after Vietnam War until now. We see, why, fighting the Indians, the French or somebody somewhere. We're the war in this country, in the world, and I'm getting off of something else. I'm getting into politics now. But the point of that, all that does affect it. People don't see it that way, but it does. It affects the industry, how the world actually works.

SB: So, moving forward, what do you think needs to change?

RL: Well, what needs to change is our product. We should get more money for our product and stuff if you want it to be a healthy industry and make it more on. See, we went to Washington there and won a case against them for illegal trade practices and won the case. But we were told that they can collect the money now because they didn't have the manpower to collect the money. I got a piece of paper in the truck I would like for you all to read. The last paragraph, it says that they are going to get all their money before they finish up with us, that they have to be settled with first in foreign countries. I got that two days, I guess. It does make you a little bitter because, I mean, I had a great way of making a living up until signed trade agreements and different stuff like that there. My stepson, he worked for me. The last time he worked for me, and that now we go back in the [19]90s now. The last five months that he worked for me, I paid him over \$30,000, which weren't bad money. You understand? We're talking about a \$50,000 a year job. Hell, that's hard to find a \$50,000 job, even with a college education. A friend of mine's daughter just lost her job. She was making \$80,000 a year up there. But the regulations and stuff, and they need to listen to for the shark problem we're having and all that kind of stuff. I just don't understand some things. It's like they're wanting to protect sharks now. How long do you think it's for? This is a funny thing too, is they'll say that there aren't no more shark bites than there were in the [19]60s. That's a lie. Bites are more. But what they do is per capital of people. So, let's say Daytona Beach. So, 1965, let's say you had a million people go there. Now you have, what, five, six, seven million might go there. But the percentage, in all, actually I tell more people getting bit. It's because you have more people going to a place. Don't mean more people getting in the water or they put them, but they are just all kinds of different things that's there. First, like I said, mostly it's our product. We don't get the money we should get for it like that it seems. Used to be we got the lion share. Now we do all the leg work and stuff, and regulations is killing us. That's why I'm talking about getting it cut off at your knees with stuff like that. If they regulate us and then like they do, we can't produce what we did. See, I don't understand conservation. If they license 1200 boat in Georgia and say 2000, and they were 200 boats fishing in Georgia, now what is that 90 percent regulation like that? Why are we pulling all this stuff still? Why are we doing the stuff we're doing? It doesn't make no sense. You've done it already, achieved what you wanted to, but now it has devastated the fishing industry. It did.

SB: As much bad things that have happened to this industry over the past few years really, has there anything that has been just really rewarding coming out of your experiences? I know it sounds like a crazy question. Is there anything that you can look back and...

RL: The thing about shrimping is that it's the one of them things that if you do good, you did good. At the end of the day, you can be proud of yourself. I've worked hard. I've earned this. I didn't take it away from nobody else. That I'm proud about. I don't take nothing from nobody

else. I make my own living. Most fishermen are really independent like that. That's one of the reasons that we don't never agree about nothing.

SB: Do you have any other questions?

AG: So, going back to what you were saying earlier about the younger people not really understanding the industry, what is something that you personally wish that the younger people knew about this culture or the heritage in coastal Georgia or just shrimping industry in general?

RL: Well, it was a way of life for people. It was handed down. I could give my son something. They're like that to where he can make a good living for himself. It's all gone. Can't do that. Personally, myself, I think people have gone too overboard with, they want to protect this, they want to protect that. You don't ever even come ask the people that know more about it than anybody else. I mean, we are the last one that gets asked about anything. Like the turtle thing, they have more turtles than they've ever been. More turtles than they were in the [19]70s with you all started this stuff. But let's protect them some more. Like the sharks, they're destroying us. I had never seen sharks like this in my life. I keep my boat used to my dogs and all. I let them run around on the boat like that. As a fellow boy, we fish them out. Now I keep all the scuffle holes and all blocked up because I wouldn't have my little dog to fall overboard or nothing. I'm scared to get in the water out there. I mean, seriously, I've worked on the water all my life. In the last ten years, I've got to the point I want young guys that work with them, we used to when we'd anchor up and stuff, we'd go up on the stuff. When I was young, I'd do the same thing, climb up the ladders and stuff and jump overboard and swim and big kids like that. Now I want him to let them get in the water. I mean, I don't get this stuff. What always happens with everything is they go too far this way or too far that way with it. Now they just getting around trying to get other countries that do it. You got to have the meat with the fin, or we won't buy yours. They still buy the fins in this country, but our fishermen can't go catch them. But that's wrong. If it's wrong for us to do it, it should be wrong too for them, for it to be able to come in, like sea bass or flounder anything. They import all this stuff in here. I mean, I've looked at enough fish. I can look at a filet and tell how big a fish it comes out of. Well, we got to have a certain size, but they can import it in here, any size. We have to have a standard with our stuff. You ever been in any foreign country, sweetie? You should go to Vietnam one time in your life. I did. You'd be kind of go to Africa one time. You want to see some crap they ship this stuff in here. It's wrong. They don't have the same idea about what we do. Let me ask you a question while I'm sitting here. We import shrimp in Vietnam, right? If somebody killed your daddy or your granddaddy or your brother or something like that, do you feel real comfortable with them shipping you food? Think about that. If you don't believe I'm not telling you the truth about people being vengeful about stuff, they still talking about the Civil War in this country. Now you telling people that this something just happened just thirty, forty years ago. Oh, they forgot about it. What do you reckon they do? I know what I would do. What would you do? If I was processing food for a country and it's going to be shipped over here, what would I do? You ever thought about that there? I know what I would do. I know what they do too when they get a chance sometimes. It's kind of like a waitress. Don't never mess with your waitress or the cook. Do you understand the point I'm talking about now? Do you think they don't do that? Now, you got common sense. Tell me they don't do that. You ever thought about that there? No. You don't think about things like that because you come out of a different

culture. You need to go see the world a little bit and understand. How can you ask somebody to not do what you'll do yourself? See what my point? So, oh yes, they nice people. They love us in Vietnam. I mean, shoot, people can't get past the Civil War. It's been over several hundred and some years now. Actually, I met a person that was living during that time, believe it or not, when I was a young, my great-grandfather. He was – anyway, that's another story.

SB: I would love to hear it afterwards. We will try and wrap this up real quickly. What do you hope to see in the next generation of fishermen if you even see a future for a next generation?

RL: Well, sweetie, if the money isn't come back, it's like anything else. There will be no more. I'm sixty-two now. When I started, I was twenty-two running a boat. You understand like that. Younger than that, it used to, when I was in my twenties, all the guys that I fished with were my age at that time. They were older guys but just abundance of us too. Now you don't see that no more. But there's no money. That's with anything that you do. When the money's gone, people's gone. People don't mind working hard as long as they make money. That was the one thing that you used could do with shrimping, is if you didn't mind the long hours and the hard work like that there, you could make really decent money out of it. I used to pay my guys 2000, 3000, \$3,500 in a week. I mean, not one week, I mean week after week like that there. I just don't get it. You got people right across the street here that's poor. They used to come to the fish outs and head shrimp. They'd be a hundred of them. They're heading shrimp and stuff like that doing it. It helps out. But seems like people this day and time, they always want to tell you, "It ought to be this way." But they don't give you a solution for your problem. If you can't give me a solution for my problem, don't tell me anything because you just part of the problem. What ought to be isn't the way it is. But I don't never ever see it coming back, sweetie. I just be honest with it. It'll be taken over by big boats. That'd be what'll be left eventually. That's it, companies and stuff. Even with the customs money, it was supposed to been for the fishermen. It wound up being gifted to the other part of the industry. We didn't even get the money really and stuff. It don't matter.

SB: Besides regulation?

RL: No. He just got dust.

SB: Besides regulations, what do you think is the solution to the problem?

RL: The solution to the problem is lower fuel prices and more money for our product. Anytime you put money into anything, people will come. Simple as that. That's just the way it works. But until the money comes back to the industry – because the boats employ more than anybody else does, if you understand what I'm trying to say there. So, until the money comes back to the boats, let me just put it like this if, if he could go back to what it was in the [19]80s right now, it would just like that. You see the thing people don't understand when all that went down, they had boat yards building, one boat right after another, and they employed people. That's what I'm trying to say is we weren't talking about just 3000 fishermen that lost their jobs. It was like, well, Ford Motor Company lays off 40,000 people. There is another 40,000 people affected from the support of it and stuff. They lost people. Other people lose their jobs too out of the deal. So, that's just the way it worked on that. It's the money. Money means, I hate to say it like

that, but that's what it is. It boils down to money. Simple as that.

AG: Do you have those questions to ask?

SB: No, I do not think so. Is there anything else you would like to tell us that maybe we did not ask?

RL: No. I hope I approached this all right before you. You got to understand a lot of us has done this a long time. Yes, some things make you a little – and I hope you all don't ever have to experience that one. When your living's been taken away from you by somebody else and told different things. It is like they closed down the sounds that was supposed to make it better. It isn't. Our shrimp now get what they call black gill. We didn't used to have none of that. They aren't but took places that can come from is it's something probably pollution, it's called it. They go there. They change. Now for the shipping, they dig out the channels all the way to the rock and stuff now and all that air kind of stuff. When they put this Bird Island down here in the creek, we call it Bird Island, but they're supposed to kind of change the way the water flows there and stuff like that. He killed it. The boys used to run with smaller boats could go down in the lower part of the sound and work and stuff. They aren't even no shrimp there no more. It wasn't like that till they did that. But they didn't hear them say they did not do anything to hurt nothing. Well, I'm simple-minded. If something changed, what did you change? 99.99 percent of the time, that will be your problem. You can think of it this way. You can think it that way. But if you'll go back to what you changed, that'll be your problem every time. That works with anything you do. But a lot of people, and I don't mean this here in a bad way, and I got a little bit of education too, is that sometimes education isn't what it's cracked up to be. What you read in a book and how it is, are two different things most of the time, 99 percent of the time, and practical purposes. But the number one thing is back us off this regulation. Get us more money for a product, and the industry will come back. But that's just simple economic, is get out of our business. I made a good living until everybody got in my business. My God, I mean used to – I could go out here and do road shrimp see, and in the fall of the year too, is that I could count eighty boats dragging in between me and 3 miles or so down there. We were all making a good living. Then they started doing all this other stuff. We lost the price on our shrimp and all this here kind of stuff and all the regulations and this is going to help us and that's going to help us. Nothing has helped us. So, after a while, you come to the point that I don't want to listen to you. You are not helping me. You are hurting me. Every time you do anything, you're hurting me like that there. We were doing a good job by ourselves. When the federal government got involved and different states got involved, their way of thinking has destroyed this industry. It was fine as long – I mean, a bunch of stupid people that had sixth grade education were making a great living. Then they come in and change everything. Now nobody can make a living. How smart are you? The one thing that I do resent just a little bit is a biologist. A biologist only gives a damn about their job. Now you got to understand this here. They've been doing this for a while. I'm not being rude here. Well, the right beginner, you get a house payment, you got kids, and all this your stuff, and you get – making this much money. What is it in your benefit to say, "Oh, well now, okay, it's doing good. We can back off a little bit." When the way that works, most time, when you back off, you just cut your own throat. So, you think they're going to give a true accurate report. They're going to always want more money. They always want to get a grant or something like that or whatever. That's what they will hurt 5,000 people, so they can

keep their one cheque. That's wrong in anybody to do, but that's what's happening too. They won't give to – I mean, I see more and more. They say it's less and less. I'm okay. I remember twenty years ago, with sharks like that, very rarely had to sew up a hole in them. Now, I've got spend four hours a day sewing up holes. They never leave anymore. There is so many of them out there. That's what I'm trying to say, it's stuff like that is destroyed if people just be honest. I don't understand their morals, neither is – do you ever hear the story about the guy that filmed the grizzly bears all the time up there in Alaska? You haven't never heard that story? He would tell you about how if they postured, they do this or that. They wouldn't bother you if you didn't do that. He got *National Geographic*. They got the cameraman running along. You see the ground like that. They're, "Oh, my God." He's screaming. Him and his girlfriend got eaten. Well, to me, one child getting bit up out there, kill them all. That's just how I feel about it. You don't feel that way because it wasn't your child that got eat up. That's the problem. You should feel that way because it could have been just as easily you and I. That took me a long time to learn that about it's always the other person or whatever like that. But a few years ago, something happened to me. I realized, "Hey, it can happen to you too." But people are inconsiderate of others. They really are. When it comes to making a living, it's a real high priority. I mean, that isn't nothing at playing is one thing and making a living and taking care of other people and stuff like that. That's something else like that. There's a moral something wrong there. Do you believe in the Bible? What does this say about that other man is put over the dominion of animals? But until they bring back the money, break off the regulations and stuff, I just don't know. It's harder to look in somebody's face and take their living away from. But it's easy to do it on a computer because you don't never see that person. People don't communicate like they used to and stuff. But now if they don't get the money back into it and they don't back off some of these regulations and stuff like that, we're gone, as simple as that. I say, "Oh, there'll always be one or two boats around." But that's not an industry. I mean, when I moved here in 1990, there were probably fifty boats here, or more. Go there and count what's down there. Some of them just come in here over the last couple years. We were one boat's out of North Carolina over there what the probably maybe ten boats in here. It used to be fifty or sixty boats in the heights of the season. Shoot, I've seen one dock had that many, roe shrimp season was here like that. When I first come in, I packed that with the Lewies over there. Shoot, they'd have shoot twenty-five, thirty, forty boats tied up at their dock. But until they bring the money back and back off of us a little bit and let us go work and make a living, it's going to continue. Then it puts it as a – we can't compete like that. You understand what these foreign countries bringing in imports and stuff, when you regulate us and tell us when we can do this and when we can do that there, and they put quotas on our fish, flounder, all that kind of stuff like that, but they don't have no quotas over there or whatever, we can't compete anymore. Like I said, it regulates itself when you hunting something that you can't see here. It will regulate itself. Trust me on that. I mean, end of the day, I've seen it where you'd have to quit and wait a year or sometimes or more like that. Then it would come back, simple as that. Always worked that way.

SB: Do you have any kind questions for us or anything?

RL: No.

SB: No, I do have one last question. We have learned a little bit about some other fisheries. Do

you see a future in any of the other fisheries in Georgia besides shrimping?

RL: What are the fisheries where you are talking about, sweetie?

SB: Oh, are they talking about futures in like clamming or crabbing?

RL: Clamming was growing because they can grow clams.

SB: So, what about crabbing? Had they talked about that?

RL: He'd eventually go away too.

Like that there, they doing pretty good now. Crabs pretty high. A lot of things are things that they can't grow and do like they do, is like scallops. Used to be the last thing you'd do was go scalloping. When I went scalloping, you'd have to have twelve guys on the boat with you to shuck out enough to have enough to make a decent trip. Now, they went up, and I mean they were like \$2 a pound or something, \$1.50, a pound. I remember all them prices like that when we were getting 6, \$7 pound for shrimp at that time. Well, they don't import them like that. So, they've upped over \$14 pound and stuff. They're buying everyone that the Americans can produce. Matter of fact, scallop license now starts out at \$800,000, which I think that's wrong too because only that puts it to where only rich people can have a scholar. Actually, it's a permit that's furnished by the government. So, everybody should have a shot at it. But when you start costing \$800,000 dollars to buy one, then how many people going to be able to do that? So, it's all about the money, sweetie, the way it works anywhere, not just the bottom line. It's about the money. But shrimping was one of the things that employed more than any other the industries did because it went from all the way from North Carolina all the way to Texas. They have built boats. People were working and stuff like that. I mean, there was thousands and thousands of people that used to be in the shrimping industry. I'd seen 300 boats tied up in Key West before deer and blow. That's back in the [19]70s and [19]80s before like that, aren't no jokes.

SB: How far up the coast would you travel to shrimp in?

RL: I'd go to North Carolina and then the further St. Johnson. I go to Cape Canaveral anymore. When I was younger, I'd go all the way to Brownsville, Texas and places like that. It was fun. [laughter] Women are interesting anywhere in the world you go. Well, it's the truth. I had all brothers. I'm telling you the truth here. You think I'm being funny? You haven't got a clue about a woman when you are raised with six brothers. You got your mother, but now she isn't a girl. You understand what I'm saying? See, the funniest thing about that story is you all smarter than we are, but we don't understand that yet. When you're at that age, and you all just totally act differently. If you aren't ever been raised with a sister and understand that women can be devious too like that there, you don't know that. The only thing you got to go by your mom, and that's the most wonderful thing God ever made. That's the truth.

SB: Well, we do not have any more questions for you.

RL: Well, I hope I helped you out a little bit.

SB: You definitely did. I want to thank you for your time.

[end of transcript]