

Matthew Barr: Okay. Now, that we have gone through all this stuff [laughter], Tom, appreciate you doing this. We can edit around everything. Basically, what we will do is, obviously, we do not keep the questions in there. We just want what we call the sound bites out of the answers. But talk a little bit about some of the things we filmed you doing today. I mean, talk about what kind of fishing you do out there. But we will just get started that way. How did you get into clamming? Let us start with that.

Tom Bergess: Well, as I grew up, some neighbors down the road, their family were clambers and I liked what they were doing. So, I followed in their footsteps you might say, or what they were doing. So, I started doing that kind of work, and we got to where we made a little money at it. That was nice. One thing led to another.

MB: Talk about where you grew up.

Female Speaker: Yes, Long Island. Tell us about that.

TB: Well, I grew up in Long Island. I guess we were about 60 miles from New York City. It was an area where clamming was quite popular at that time. It was an occupation by a fairly large number of people. It's not so much today, but at that time, it was. So, I just took to it. It was something that I kind of got a feel for. I enjoyed the water and being out on the water and outside. So, one thing led to another, and here I am.

MB: Okay. [laughter] So, talk about what you actually were doing out there with the rake and everything.

TB: Well, the kind of rake I have, they call it a bull rake. It's something that's been developed a long time ago. It hasn't had much progress in it. It's still the basic kind of work. It's fairly steady income. You can work throughout the year. There is no real season on it. Of course, some seasons are a little better than others, as far as the spring is a good time of the year. The winter is one of our slower times for clamming. So –

MB: So, on a good day, what kind of numbers are we talking about?

TB: A good day right now, it'd be about 1,000. It would be a decent day. Put in a full day for that. If you want to put in a little overtime, you would catch a few more. When the weather's nice, you need to work longer hours, or we do work longer hours because of the nicer weather and how much time we lose in the winter.

MB: So, in a way, it is a little bit seasonal. In other words, even though you can really work year-round, I know that you do fishing as well as clamming, so that you are not limited to one thing. So, in other words, take us through a little bit. In other words, this is physical labor, though. I mean, I just tried it today. I got all three clams.

TB: [laughter] Yes.

MB: It might be a tough way for me to make a living. Well, talk about what you are actually

doing. What are you feeling for the clams?

TB: You get a feel for it. You have to develop a technique where you – and that only comes from time actually pulling on the clam rake. You get a feel for what's happening. As you respond to it, hour after hour, you get a feel for what works for you as far as when you start catching more clams. Through the course of time, you get a feel for it. This enables you to catch more, but there's nothing like that time and practice.

MB: All right. So, how long have you been clamming? Tell me about how long you have been at this. You are a veteran clam right now.

TB: Well, I've been clamming for about thirty years. When I was young, I started doing it. Like you say, it's physical labor, but it's something you have to get a feel for. But you also have to stick with it to keep a feel for. It's not like a bicycle that you ride and then, all of a sudden, you can always ride one. Once you put it down for a little while, you kind of lose your touch for it, and then you have to develop a feel for it again to some degree. Of course, you have some of the basic talents or being familiar with it, but it's not the same as compared to doing it day in and day out and staying focused on it.

MB: So, you are feeling for the clams. You are digging into the bottom of the river there for those clams.

TB: Right.

MB: But this is one thing Ella and I were talking about while we were eating at the Riverview. We have talked about this with shrimpers too and other. Like the shrimpers, for example, really know some of those areas where they drag. They know that area intimately.

TB: Right.

MB: Like Buddy Davis talking about actually pulling rocks up, almost creating a dragging area. You were talking about today. You knew exactly where to go. I mean, it is almost like, in a way, you studied this river so that you cannot just go drive raking anywhere. Talk a little bit about that. It is almost like you studied the new river so that you know where to go.

TB: Over the course of time, just through wanting to make a living and having to produce an income for your family, you go where the best clams are. The clams lay on edges and that's where your best concentration of clams are. Or a change in the bottom where it goes from mud to sand or on the edge of channels, like I say, on the edges. Over the course of time, what happens is as you're out there working, you develop a feel for the way the channel runs up the river. You work on these edges and follow them up and down the river, and you find out where the best concentration of clams are through actually pulling the rake and working in that area. These things tend to stick with you because you get a good day's pay there. So, of course, you do quite a bit of exploring and looking around, but you do have an idea where the best concentrations are. You might have a tendency to hit those places more than others.

MB: So, you were saying whenever you were on the boat today that you have maybe, what, ten or eleven places that you generally go to? Is that right?

TB: That's correct, yes. Clams don't grow everywhere. According to the weather, the way the wind is blowing or which way the tide is running, you do better at certain times in certain areas.

MB: A lot of years of experience. Could you learn clamming from a book? Clamming one A?

TB: No. It's something you have to develop a feel for through experience. You go out there, and you clam a little bit. Through repetition, you develop a feel for what works for you as far as the way you move the rake through the bottom, the way it catches or fishes, as they say. What you have to do is you have to realize the way you pull the rake through the bottom. Say, if you want to use a long handle – the handle a little bit long or a little bit short, and you adjust your own style to how you work and how you produce with each area. A lot of times, there's people that will catch better in the softer bottom and they won't do good in the harder bottom. Where just the opposite for other people, they'll do better in the harder bottom where they won't produce in the softer bottom. So, it's all your own personal preference about how things seem to work for you. You just get a feel for it.

FS: Like today, when you were bouncing the rake.

TB: Yes.

FS: Is that something like –

TB: Yes.

FS: – your own technique that you have developed?

TB: Right.

FS: I noticed the other clammer near us in that other boat. He was doing a little bit of that, but it was not exactly like what you were doing.

TB: Right. Well, what happened is I just felt the clam, and I just moved the rake so I could get him [laughter]. So, what happens is, all of a sudden, you'll be pulling on your rake, and then you feel something going around it, or underneath the teeth rather. So, you'll move the rake a certain way to get that clam to pop them out of the bottom and try to get them in the rake. Then you'll slide the rake along until you feel another clam. Then you try to just make a move or two to put him in the rake. Whereas if you buried the rake all the time to that level, you would be digging so much, it'd wear you out all day long. So, what you want to do is slide the rake along until you feel a clam, and then pop them out of the bottom. This way, you can last for the whole day.

MB: It is physically demanding work. Talk a little bit about that. I mean, what was –

TB: Well, it is physically demanding, but you get used to that because you've been doing it so

long. What happens is, when you do something like that for so long, you know when you're supposed to work hard – not necessarily work hard at it, but when you're supposed to – where to apply your strength at, at a certain time. It's called the technique. Whereas if someone doesn't know that much about it and it's their first day on the job, you would be expending a lot of energy when you don't really need to. When you might be able to slide the rake along, you might be digging like crazy. Whereas somebody who knows there's nothing there, he might be just sliding it along the bottom. Then when he feels the claim, he'll dig it in. Whereas if someone isn't used to it, he might be digging right from the get-go.

MB: Well, now going back a little bit to how you became a clammer. But you grew up in Long Island, New York. So, tell us a little about, a little bit on the personal side, how you came to live in Sneads Ferry, North Carolina. That is a long ways from Long Island.

TB: All right. Well, I moved out to West Hampton Beach in Long Island. A man there, another fisherman, was a clammer. His parents lived here in Sneads Ferry. They lived right on the water. They were people tying their boats up right behind their house. They were coming to shore with clams every day. Word got to me that these people were catching these clams down there. So, I said, "Boy." Long Island was – I don't know, it was a crowded area. There was a lot of competition. The future didn't look all that bright to me. So, I thought I'd come down here to Sneads Ferry and check it out and look around. I liked the area and found out I could catch some clams here because these people were catching these clams the same way I catch them. So, one thing led to another, and I stayed.

MB: So, what was it like for you to come to a small southern town?

TB: Well, it was a little tough at first. I was a Yankee [laughter] out of town. It was a little quieter here then, but it wasn't too bad. I mean, I had the ribbing quite a bit in the beginning, but then it settled down a little. You had to tough it out. But I was determined to make a life for myself somewhere different from Long Island. So, I tried to shrug it off as best I could. So, I survived [laughter].

MB: Then you met?

TB: Yes. I met Barbara, my wife, a local girl. That made it easier on me [laughter]. Barbara's very well liked in the area and very accepted. So, that went along good for me.

MB: So, you have been here. Tell about how long you lived here.

TB: Well, I've been here – I guess I moved here in [19]81, so that's about nineteen years now. I've really spent more of my working career down here in North Carolina than I did up in New York. So, a much longer time, I've been on the water here than I was up there. So, my career has developed down here quite a bit.

MB: So, what is it about being a waterman or a clammer, a fisherman that is special to you? Talk about that.

TB: Well, I've always wanted to work on the water. I always enjoyed it. At a young age, I saw where I could make some money at it. I like being my own boss, coming and going as I please, being outside, and being on the water. I like boats. So, everything kind of fit in. It's a nice life. Of course, it has its setbacks, but everything does. But so far, it's been good to me and to my family. We've made a living at it. So, I really can't complain at all about it.

MB: Well, when we were on the skiff today, you were talking about, well, if you miss a day from bad weather or whatever, then there is no way to get that back. I mean, it is different from my job at a university, where I get paid. If we are closed for an ice storm, it does not really matter. I am thinking, "Oh, boy, I get to watch television and all that."

TB: Right.

MB: But I am saying that I get paid regardless. I get paid through the summer. I am doing this, which is part of my work. In other words, you have got to face all the weather situations. It is like a farmer in a way. You are harvesting the sea.

TB: Right.

MB: So, if it is good one year, it might be better. One year, it is up and down. I mean, you have a lot of variables there, your equipment.

TB: Right. That's a little hard to get used to. What you have to do is try to be disciplined and know after you go through a season or two of what happens, the ups and downs of it. You take advantage of the good days. Also, you take advantage of the good weather, and you stay out a little bit longer. When you go through a time when you're a little short on money, that next time when you have a good day, you wouldn't mind spending that extra hour or two working. Or when you have a bad day, you wouldn't mind spending that time working on your equipment to take advantage of the good weather, because if you don't, you won't survive. Through experience, you realize you got to make hay while the sun shines. That's really what it comes down to, take advantage of your time.

MB: Is this something you want? This is your career, your life, so you want to do this your whole life?

TB: Yes. I've really never had any other jobs. So, I really don't know anything else. That's not real comforting thought to me, but I am satisfied being a fisherman. We have made some progress. Financially, we seem to be getting along okay. The future looks pretty good, as good as any self-employed person that would have to go out there and work and try to stick with the times. Make the changes as they change around you, and try to develop with everything else, and just try to make ends meet.

MB: I have been talking with fishermen about personal complaints about regulations.

TB: Right.

MB: What about that? I mean, what is your take on some of that? Are there a lot of regulations you have to worry about?

TB: Well, there is a lot of regulation in our business, but of course, I doubt you'll hear any fishermen that would say we don't need regulations because we all need some type of regulation. To what degree? That is debatable. But what happens is, the regulations, at times, I would say, they don't seem justified to the commercial fishermen. They don't know where they come from with these regulations. Say, if a regulation comes into effect one year before that regulation has a chance to take effect, what will happen is two or three years later, they'll come up with another one. One of the gripes about the commercial fishermen or the commercial fishermen makes is, "You haven't given this one regulation a chance to come into effect, to really feel it out before you put another one on us." Now, the commercial fishermen is limited. It's not a wide-open industry anymore. It is something that is highly regulated. They do not let many new people get into the industry. You have to buy your way into it. Say, you have to purchase a license in North Carolina. Also, in the federal area where I'm also involved in, you cannot buy one license. You have to buy two licenses to get one now. So, they're trying to eliminate the amount of people in the industry. Of course, times change, and we have to change with them. But because the regulations seem kind of fuzzy at certain times, it's hard for a man to determine how to run his life and his lifestyle and run his business when he's not sure how the regulations are going to go from one year to the next because we don't dictate them. There's other people in the management area, say the South Atlantic Council in the federal area and also the Department of Marine Fisheries in the statewide area. They make these rules, and we have to live by them. We do have some input. They have public hearings where we can voice our opinion and this and that. But because we're not sure which way things are going, we don't know which way they're going to go next year or the year after or what they're trying to do. We have outside influences affecting our industry as far as they come up with a certain idea about how many fish are actually in the ocean, about the biomass, and about how much you can harvest. They determine a sustainable yield. If they determine the sustainable yield at X amount of pounds, they're going to put everybody on the limit to some degree, or a season or a quota. These things change from year to year. At least they seem like they have up until this point. It seems kind of a little bit fuzzy or hazy about which way things are going. As far as a man saying, "Well, I'm going to harvest so much next year, so I'm going to expend \$10,000 on equipment because I know I can spend this much time out there and harvest this amount of seafood." But that might not always be the case. You spend all that money on your equipment, and what happens is they put a new law to say that, "Well, you can only fish two or three months." This is just an example of something that happens. So, I've heard more than one time a man say, "I invested in all this equipment because we wanted to do something different, to try to get away from something that has been already depleted or you say is depleted. Now, you're telling me I invested all this money, all this time to learning this, and now we can't do it anymore. Or you cut us down to a time span where we can't make a living." So, it's a very tough way to deal with your business because you have other people dictating to you what you can and cannot do.

MB: It is based on –

TB: These formulas come up with numbers. What happens is, if you change your number of – say, there's five or six numbers in the formula – I'm not really sure. Say one or two or four, say

it's a 4.7 and say you go 4.6 or 4.5, you change things drastically. This can affect people's livelihoods. The reason they've changed these numbers is because possibly the way they get data. The way they acquire this data is by research. If anything is compromised as far as from one year to the next and you throw off one number, then it throws off the whole system and things are taken out of – it doesn't seem right.

MB: Well, I remember when I first got into this. They sent me the marine fisheries from Brevard or someplace or Morehead City. These regular rules, this little green book –

TB: Yes.

MB: – I could not make any sense of all this stuff. But all the rules, my God, about from this point, latitude, you cannot do this. Yes, this looked like very complicated stuff to deal with all the time. So, obviously, your point is well taken. Obviously, you need regulation too. The question is how much, and how arbitrary it is, and all that. But it is obviously going to be a charged process in terms of a lot of pressure in terms of how much that regulation is. I think there are a lot of stereotypes about fishermen out there in the general public's mind. A number of fishermen have talked about it. You talk about fishing and people. This documentary is not about the issues of bycatch and all that stuff.

TB: Right.

MB: I am not talking about pollution. There are always forces that are going on that can be bigger and all these condos and everything. Well, how does that affect the sea turtle? You know what I'm saying?

TB: Yes.

MB: But it is all the fishermen, and it is all their fault that – well, what about a million condos? Obviously, turtles can coexist with all these. What about all the septic? What about all the sewage? Where is all that going? All these things, it is the growth –

TB: Right.

MB: – that people all want to live by the coastline these days. There is only so much coastline, but people do not talk about that because the developers are powerful, way more powerful than fishermen in terms of their political power.

TB: That's true.

MB: Then you were talking today about the sports fishermen and having some agendas. What about some of that? In other words, are there conflicts between the sports fishermen who often have some money? If they can afford these big power boats, they have got money, they are certainly not about to get the fishing business and actually provide people with seafood.

TB: That's right. It seems like what that comes down to is, as far as what you were saying about

people are getting data about how many fish are in the ocean and who is going to be allotted a certain amount of fish. The commercial area, and also the recreational sector. So, what happens is if they feel there's X amount of fish out there to be caught, the recreational people want to have a certain amount, and the commercial fishermen would like to have a certain amount. This is just from what I can tell about it basically is. If a sportsman goes out there and is finding an area where he's not finding many fish and sees some commercial fishermen out there, he might have a tendency to think that, "Well, he's depleting the resource. There's only about, say, so many fish out here. He caught them all, and I have none to catch." But that really isn't the case. The fish have fins, and they move around on a regular basis. The commercial fisherman might have a little bit of an advantage because he's out there day in and day out and studying the weather and the conditions of the ocean and where the fish are actually concentrating the most. There's no commercial fisherman that I know of that doesn't like a sport fisherman. Everyone has a right to go into the ocean and catch whatever they want or whatever the rules allow. I don't think any man would deny another man the right to go in his boat and catch fish. But when we are constantly attacked in certain circles by sports fishing groups that we are depleting the resource. I'll say just a type of fishing that shows no type of – what is the word I'm looking for [laughter] – thing where we're trying to – a sustainable yield, I guess you would call it. I think that is a very big word that is used in commercial fishing now as far as management and sustainable yield, as far as how many fish you can take out of the biomass, where it'll still have enough fish to reproduce. We feel that we do that on a regular basis. What we do is, when we go out fishing, we'll work if there's plenty of fish out there to catch where it'll be worth for us financially because that's what we do for a living. But then when the fish, say, move to another area – like I said, they have fins. They leave the area. Natural conditions, weather conditions, make these fish move. They'll lay there if the weather's pretty and they have something to eat, they'll stay in that area. But if the weather gets cold and the bait leaves that they happen to be feeding on, what they'll do is they'll leave also. When we start catching less fish, what we'll do is we'll stop fishing for that particular species and we'll go to something different. What happens is, whether these fish leave the area or we catch up a certain amount of them, if it's not financially to our advantage to catch this species, we'll go to something different. So, people don't realize that. What happens is when everyone goes to a different species, or, say, some groups go to a different species because we're spread out over a large area or in different types of fishing, that this species have a chance to come back because nobody's fishing for them because there's not enough of them to work on. Then all of a sudden, through natural conditions and cycles, the fish come back. Then all of a sudden, maybe one guy will start catching a few, and then all of a sudden, another guy says, "Well, he's making a little bit at it." So, he might start, and one thing leads to another. It's like they trickle into it. All of a sudden, there might be five or six or eight people doing it, or a dozen or however many, fifty. But it's only because it's warranted, because there's enough fish out there to catch. If they weren't making that money or producing that income to catch a certain amount, they wouldn't be doing it.

MB: Of course, the recreational fishermen have no intentions of providing seafood. I mean, they want to catch a fish and eat it or whatever.

TB: Right.

MB: But in other words, it is a different kind of thing. It is more of being a way of



psychological act. It is more like, "Yes, I have got this big fish" or whatever.

TB: Right.

MB: But they are not going to provide food for people on a regular basis. So –

TB: I guess a lot of fishermen think they'd like to be able to provide for the consumer who wants to eat fish. There's a lot of people in this country who cannot go out there and catch fish on their own, but they do like to eat fish. If it was only to the point where if you didn't catch your own fish, you couldn't eat them, well, that would eliminate the consumer. They wouldn't have access to it – to a lot of great seafood that people love to eat. It's very good-tasting, and it's good for you too. I think they have a right to it.

MB: Absolutely. Besides, you wonder who is representing the consumer, though. [laughter]

TB: Yes.

MB: Well, now talk a little bit about your work as the yearly head of the fishermen's association. We are going to be filming the meeting Monday night.

TB: Right.

MB: What do you guys do?

TB: Well, we're a small association. Commercial fishermen are a group that – they're independent. They, in a sense, compete with each other in many ways. But it's hard to get everyone under one roof, so to speak, as far as commercial fishermen go, and to be focused on a certain issue. If one thing faced us all as far as a complete ban on commercial fishermen, you would have every fisherman in Sneads Ferry under one roof the next day. But we're not faced with that at this time. Regulations come in slowly, and they hit a different group at a different time. So, what we try to do in our association is monitor what's going on in the management area as far as what affects the commercial fishermen. Basically, we're just trying to survive, I guess, is what the basic association is about. We're trying to keep everybody together so we'll be unified to have some strength in numbers and also one voice where we will be heard. Now, we also are trying to bring them together through certain fundraisers. There's been talk of a scholarship fund for the kids – a person at the high school. We're not sure what area to go in with that, but it's something to get people together. There has also been talk about some type of memorial or a monument dedicated to the fishermen who have lost their lives. That would be another thing that would bond everybody together. It's something that everyone can relate to and hopefully bring everybody under one roof and then get to associate with each other. Then if something does come up, there will be an association where they will have a stronger voice through numbers.

MB: Well, speaking about the loss at sea, it is a dangerous job, but talk a little bit about it. We were going out the other night, and there was a boat that was stuck.

TB: Right.

MB: If it was a wood boat, from what I heard, that could have been a serious situation because a wood boat cannot take a lot of pounding like that.

TB: Yes. Commercial fishing, I don't look at it as a dangerous occupation because I feel confident that when I go out, my equipment is in good enough shape where I feel secure with it as best I can. Of course, anything manmade has a potential to break, and you always are aware of that. All fishermen are at any time. That's another thing, when you have your time off, you need to take care of your equipment and try to be in a position where you can take care of yourself if something goes wrong. Like one man said, "You can stand a lot of bad weather. You can stand a lot of things. But when something breaks, it goes, that's when you get in trouble." That could be, things can break at any time, but also things can break through a lack of maintenance. Well, you just do the best you can to try to prevent that. You also only stick your nose into something you feel a little secure about. You might've been there before. I myself have turned around on a number of occasions going out the inlet because I went out one day and I thought it was okay, but it wasn't and took a couple of waves over the bow of my boat. Everything was fine and everything, but threw everybody on the floor, and everything came off the dash and covered the windows with water, two or three waves. We got out there and said, "Whoa." [laughter] I spoke to some of the other fishermen about it. As I was going out that day, I said, "I took a few over the bow and so on and so forth." I said, "I didn't really see any way to get around it. We were there. All of a sudden, them waves are right there. We had no choice but to keep on going at that time." Of course, they weren't very big waves. It wasn't a terrible situation, but it was an eye-opener. So, the very next time that I went out the bow, or the very next time that we were going out the inlet, and it looked kind of rough, I turned around [laughter] and waited for the tide to change so that the waves wouldn't be as sharp. Then I went out. So, I decided at that time I'd bide my time and wait a little while. I'm glad I did. But I guess after years, you get used to that stuff. But –

MB: But things can change quickly. It can be dangerous out there.

TB: Yes, it is. But we work out there every day, and you get accustomed to it. You really do. What happens is, say, for instance, if you work throughout the summer, what you're doing is you have nice weather. Basically, in the summer, the water is warmer and the waves aren't as thick and heavy. So, you'd be working every day. As the fall comes on, it gets a little bad. Day after day, the winds pick up at times. Then the winter comes on, and then the waves get a little bigger, and it has a tendency to be a little more wind. But what happens is by that time you've been out there every single day and the waves are getting – the weather seems to deteriorate slowly, and if you stick with it, you kind of get into the feel of it. So, you're a little more accustomed to it. You really get a feel for it because you've been out there day in and day out. So, when those bad days come, if it's too dangerous, of course you will never go because you have your vessel that you have money invested in your livelihood. Also, you have another man on deck with you, and his life and his family are in your hands. But by getting that feel for it day in and day out, you're just used to it because you've been there before. You've been there when it's going five miles an hour or less, ten miles an hour less. So, you've generally just come up slowly, and you just get a feel for it and your equipment too.

MB: Okay. Well, so what about the future in terms of – you were talking about today. The future clammers. I mean –

FS: He was saying he was forty-two, and there was nobody younger than you who was doing it.

MB: Yes. What about that? I mean, who is going to take over?

TB: Well –

MB: Who are going to be the future other clammers?

TB: I'll quote another clammer. He said, "We're a dying breed." He said, "Look at everybody out here. There's no young people. They're going to different areas and doing different things. Our work is physical, and it's hard work." When many of the clammers that are out there now started, we were at a time when we got more for our clams according to what we have to spend nowadays. I guess inflation hasn't hit us yet. We're still getting the same price for clams as we did ten or fifteen years ago. But everything else has gone up. But there's no doubt about it. We got 25 cents for clams, say, twelve years ago. Now, we get fifteen. But times are changing. Clam farms have a steady production of clams. They're there the same amount, the same size every day, day in and day out. We compete with that. If it'll ever come back, I don't know. But we do not make the money that we did years ago compared to what we are – inflation. When you get the same amount for your product as you did in ten years, or ten years ago, or fifteen years ago, that's the writing's on the wall. I shouldn't say the writing's on the wall, but as far as if it's a dying industry. But as far as the amount of money that you make at it, I would say the writing's on the wall.

MB: But what about the next generation? Are young people willing to work that physically or –

TB: Well, I don't see the young people out there like I did when I was younger. Like I say, I was 12 years old when I started. When I first came to North Carolina nineteen years ago, there were many people, young people clamming, old people clamming, retired people, women that wanted to go out there. They hand-clammed to catch three or four or five hundred clams, and they make some extra money. Nowadays, they don't do that. There's none of that. They used to catch, or I should say they used to buy, say, two or three hundred bags a day at a fish house. Where now they don't do anything like that. The numbers are not there. There's not the production that there was. The people are not out there clamming like they used to.

MB: So, do you think your generation is the last generation of clammers?

TB: Well, I wouldn't say that. It's hard to predict that. But as far as full-time clammers, there's not a young crop out there or young people getting into the business. Very, very few. So –

MB: How about in fishing in general?

TB: Fishing in general, I don't see it as a thriving business. No, not in this area. There are

several young people who are, say, in their early twenties who are running boats and have their own boats and looking forward to having a career in the business. Maybe they had fathers in it or brothers or something like that. But as far as a large crop of young people around the fish houses and around the docks who were interested in fishing, I would say no. That's just my views on that, or from what I can see. It doesn't seem to be that way.

MB: Yes. It is not too bad. But it is like a way of life that may not be going.

[end of transcript]