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KM: This is an interview with Captain Jim Dickey. On April today's the 11th. Today is the 12th and it's being conducted at Georgia Sea Grant. And what was the name of the dock? Dickey and sons and seafood . Okay, so let's start with, tell us about your connections to the dock. Like how long have was it operating? How long have you been there?

JD: I worked in doubt with daddy since when I was 16 years old. And my brother. They ran shrimp boats and then I learned short, run shrimp, boats for them too. He had four, four, five, shrimp boats at one time and my uncle's worked for my daddy too, And I work there too. I did DCT thing through high school, worked there doing some type of job like DCT job

KM: Was it still Dickies and Son Seafood at that time?

JD: Yeah, ever since uh, in the 50s, Daddy started in the 50s right now. Saint Mary

KD: Is it still is it still open and operating

JD: No, my brothers, my daddy sold out to my brothers and they all sold out for probably 2010 and guy next door bought the dock and made a marine out of it. . I live across the street from there.

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KD: So you've been there a long time I've been

JD: I've been at house 60 years. But raise their right there

KD: Is are they are they actively building that marina or

JD: Hurricane a year ago ,tore down, they hadn't rebuilt. His Lang's Marina Lang's Marina.

LW: So you said that you had been at the stock since you were little and then you said the hurricane took it down? Yeah, which hurricane was that

JD: 2022,I can't remember

LW: So kind of recently. Okay. Did you do anything on the dock when you were little? What did you help with anything at all?

JD: Yeah, I helped pack shrimp, unload shrimp boat and pack shrimp.

LW: How long did you do that? Like how old were you and you just kind of stopped

JD: Shrimping for my dad, I think 19- I mean, that was 18 years old. Then I got my own boat in the middle of 75 and sold at 92. Yeah, come on G8. I worked up here about 20 years part-time at UGA. Diverse of Turtles, herb. I'm working. Drages and trawlers. -

KM: Doing some stuff with Ted's

JD: I think we started at fisheye to buy cage. I did that for UGA

KM: And you did that right here. Do you do that on the Bulldog, right?

JD: I went on different boat. I don't know from here to Texas and now let's start a warm up for them. When I went on different boats, I don't know from here to Texas and all over you know, stalling them for them and getting the bycatch. When I weren't on no boat I was turtling

KM: So you've packed room before, you've captain, you've done some research stuff. What else have you done at the dock?

LW: What have you not done at the dock?

[laughter and inaudible]

JD: I've been from Virginia to Brownsville Texas, you know, they're going to Turtle World different stuff. Bycatch, it's been interesting, it's a lot work answer today allowed to work with on that bulldog.

LH: And then was it any other docks operating in Georgia? Anyone similar to yours? Any other docks similar to yours

JD: No, whatcha talking about? What you say-say it again.

LH: Was there any other docks similar to yours?

JD: yeah, there were 3 docks at St. Mary's-

LH: St. Mary's and what were their names

JD: lane's seafood, flying seafood and middle seafood, one time or 30 Some boats and St. Mary's but I think there is one in the county now. Started depleting in 1980 going around that. Pretty much downhill.

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KM: Why was that?

JD: If it's too many boats built then everybody got a new boat. [inaudible] decline in shrimping, it couldn't shoot out. Couldn't make the payments stuff like that.

LW: What has the dock been through in like, all of the years that you've been around? I know it's not here today but like, what other things and now you said I got hit by the hurricane. What are some other things that is going through

JD: Well, that's much of things. It's 64 When I was in high school 64 with St. Mary's, [inaudible] shrimp . They had Tuesday hurricanes in St. Mary's lucky they weren't real bad.

KM: In St. Mary's is down on the border right, Florida Georgia,

JD: Georgia Florida line

KM: Gotcha. Trying to see it in my see my mental map in my head.

LW: I have no name and I'm trying to think of exactly where it's at. I'm pretty sure I get to it

JD: I'll get one of those fishing maps. They got it i'll show you

LW: That would be great.

KD: And was it, was the dock right on the, was it like on a river, It was on the St. Marys River?

JD: Yeah. I live right across the street from it

KM: So I bet you've seen a lot of change growing up. Is it the same house that you grew up in?

JD: Oh Yeah, same house, built in 56, but brick house. Yeah a lot of changes in St. Mary's [Inaudible] about 16 years ago pay from now, but the base is there now thats about all the stuff they got around . Kings Bay naval base. But the only people got a job right now. The mayor was there since 40s. went on in 2006. Sold out to Mexicans and I think they let it go.

KM: What else has changed in St. Mary's?

JD: The county dead. Everything's up near the kings. It used to be downtown, everything moved up there in 95. You know that's where all the hub is Walmart at that, Hotels are all up there. Everything is up by the way, can you blame k them, that's where the money at?-

LW: That's true. So like a big tourist area.

JD: Well you go to Cumberland Island, in front of my house. All right down at St. Mary's Street.

LW: In Cumberland Island. We learned earlier was the one with the horses, right.

JD: Yes. Brian come down there like once a month.

[All laugh]

LW: Yeah, yeah. Never been we'll have to take. How far is it from St. Mary's?

JD: About 45 minutes.

LW: Okay, we got a ferry over.

JD: So we get like Sapelo. I think they've been in the 70s. 72 I think. Already keeping the ferry boat and stuff. It's been a good while. And there's been a lot of people 50,000 a year goes over there.

LW: Oh, wow. That's crazy. There's a lot of people.

KM: It's just a lot of people on a ferry back and forth.

JD: They want to carry 300 people. They never own it full of it and carry up to 300 people a day. They got a limit on Sapelo. How many people are not

LW: I'm not sure I've never been to Sapelo, so I don't know. It's on my list of places to go for sure. That we're that's what we were talking about today.

JD: Is basically similar. I think

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LH: Can you tell us about the people that you've worked with at the docks?

JD: Mostly black people we work with. We would head the shrimp. When you catch a lot of shrimp you couldn't head them. You have to bring them in and get them headed. My dad had people that had a retail Market and they sold fish and shrimp. They cleaned them. So for a long time they good people. They had to work. Everybody, even little kids, they got to make money. It's a good thing to die for. That's unheard of now. I think they do next door head shrimp, most people on the freezer boat keep the head-on, they ain't even got to head them, no more.

KM: Do they sell for a higher price if they have the head on?

JD: Oh it's less; you lose 40 percent of shrimp with the heads.

LW: Okay. Did yall sell with the heads on.

JD: Yeah, we do too. But mostly we head what we got. You know. You don't see too many in the grocery store with the head on. You see a few a lot of people don't know what it look like.

LW: What do you think change that ? like why people started like quit, like just selling them with the head on.

JD: People think they're getting a deal but they haven't seen [all laugh] they like t-bone steak you don't eat the bone, you paying for it.

KM: That's true

LW: It's very true. I've never ate- I've never ate shrimp heads so.

JD: Really I don't think they think they're getting a deal, it sound good. Is a good price. Then you got to head them, you got to do something with them get rid of them

LW: What did yall do with heads?

JD: We let the fish eat them, the crabs. And the thing, just throw them overboard..

KM: What other people did you work with that the dock?

JD: You know my cousin, different people. Taking them all over. Mostly black people work down heading shrimp which were good. We have three big old tables. They have 100 people heading sometimes. It was a big business back then. Everybody did good shrimping. That's a big thing.

KM: So you e process everything right there at the dock so y'all had a fish house.

JD: The fish house across the street. It been there before my daddy, a canning plant. They can cook shrimp. That's in the early 40's. They had a good business when that happen, then he bought it the canning business went out. He just took it for regular shrimp house. That's before

my time. The canning.

[All laugh]

[0:14:13](#)

LW: Will you tell the funniest moments that you've had on the dock? If you can.

JD: you know we got outriggers on the boat, you suppose to pull-em up before you come to the doc, some man comes out and rigger down the tie [inaudible] he better start running and hollering at me, [inaudible] he thought something else was wrong. He trying to tell me about this outrigger. I don't know what he's thinking about. [the dock?]

KM: Was he new, had he been doing it for a while.

JD: Yeah. he had his mind somewhere else or something. It happens. I don't know what he was dreaming, but

KM: He was wishing his nets were full I guess.

JD: It only happen one time

KM: Probably no one at the dock let him live it down.

JD: No, is one wonder his dad didn't run him out. They let him tie off no more

LW: How old was he? How old was he when that happened?

JD: He was in his 50's. He knew better

LW: Do you have any other funny moments? Or memories

JD: Crazy stuff. Sometimes

KM: I know you got more funny story

JD: That's about it. We had some time , Me and my twin brother. We did it all round there. We tried everything, troublemakers, we trying to outdo the other.

LW: About how siblings go especially if they're brothers.

KM: Twins Nonetheless

JD: They try to blame it on the other one. So you want to you want jagged him. I said, I don't you tell it

KM: Are you all identical? Oh gotcha?

JD: No, I can tell you that [far]. We use to catch diamondback [tear], ge gonna be cute, he got a hold of me. He stuck to the back end. He is cute, Mambo stick[inaudible]. We was something [out there] I tell you

KM: anyways, yall were only doing commercial shrimpin

JD: Yeah

[0:17:49](#)

LH: Do you happen to have a best memory while at the dock?

JD: Best memory

KM: What's your favorite?

JD: I don't know, when you come in a good trip with shrimp. Thats a good thing you know, when one of your best trip you ever made. That's a good feeling sometimes.

KM: What does a good shrimp trip look like?

JD: I don't know. 6 8 thousand pounds . 60 to 80 bucks. You competing with your brothers and your uncles. That competition, which is good.

LW: So what changes have you seen throughout all these years, with the industry, the water, the weather? Just everything that comes into play over the years

JD: Bigger boats and it's one of the downfalls and they got the big old boats go out and they fished 24 hours a day. 30 days. They deplete me, you can deplete the industry. I guess I got make boat payment, but it's like anything else, but anything I've ever read, seen? Years ago we only

work in daytime. Even the ground needs rest but we're damn no rest will take them fleet. Those big boat show up and all day long take care of what few shrimp you do catch around you know.

KM: Why do you think the shrimp are fewer now?

JD: What you say?

KM: Why do you think there's fewer shrimp now?

JD: Well, yeah, they got bigger boats. Well like you say, we gon start on one net , they pulling four nets now. Four compared to [inaudible] it's tough out there with that. To get around, but everybody loves it. Bigger is better. That's what they think I guess. Bigger boat, bigger fuel bill, bigger crew. You got more crew, if you find the crew [that can start]. I think bigger boats got 20 or 30, if they keep them out there, they aint got. Who was getting the top , sometimes they hard to find till they get broken

[0:20:44](#)

LW:How long out of the year did y'all shrimp, when did y'all start and when did y'all end

JD we start:around May.They work through the January. [inaudible] you either go somewhere else and go to the gulf. Or some of them us to go in the summertime and go all the way to Texas. But that's a long way over there and now they can't afford the cost of fuel at all. They get anything seasonal now I don't care what you look around, everything got season,but you gotta make it why you can. if you don't go nowhere you just work on your boat painting it, spending money like that.

LW: Did yall ever shrimp in Texas

JD: I've been there a couple times. Takes five or six days and nights just to get their run and stop. Go around to Key West. It's a long way over there, but they us to do every season, good season over there, July and August, September they bring your boat back over visco. That's when I have seen the best season, October through January. Here that used to have [abyss or the best] season it used to be.

KM: But not anymore.

JD:Well it can be, but now in May, it might be good catch[inaudible]. You killing the mama's [inaudible].

KM:What about other changes like in the water or weather?

JD:The weather might get a little bit worse and they had been. A lot more hot, hotter summers seem like [inaudible] it's got to have to do with something.

[0:22:54](#)

KM: Do you think the hotter summers are affecting the shrimping populations?

JD: I think it can. Well the sharks are worse in the summertime. You can't drag the nets, literally. Yeah, certain times a year out there. They get bad. I haven't been out there a few years, but make a drag and maybe get two bags. you at the dock working all day sewing them back up to go the next day and they had know. There was nothing you could do about it.

KM: What shark species are around here?

JD: Just black teal , you can throw a piece of paper towel and they eat it. They eat anything. [inaudible] I hate to fall overboard and they are bad

LW: I would too. Have sharks get me, I would not be okay.

JD: Yall get bit on the beach somewhere

KM: How long is it? How long does net repair normally take after? Can you get it done and you'll be out the next day. I

JD: Yeah, you can, but you'll get tired of that.

KM: Yeah, especially if you're-

JD: You're around here say man they back out. You know, I've talked to him [inaudible] they terrified of you, shot. Then sometimes you take up and you don't have stuff in one net and eat the bag. All the shrimp went out of one net . that aint no fun, but It happen

LW: Has the water, can you tell if the waters gotten any warmer when it's not supposed to warm?

JD: It must be like that cause the shark never use to be like that. [inaudible] no problem now something to do with it.They used to let the sharks come in I think, but DNR had them nets. Catching one of the nets. They outlawed them.

LW: When did the sharks start coming

JD: June, July. when the waters warmer. They get cold weather they gone.

LW: Are they staying on longer than usual?

JD: They must be in a way the shrimper are talking about.

LW: did it do that like when you were still-

JD: No, we didn't have much of a problem when they around?

KM: Did you see that change for them start coming in and really your bags?

JD: Shot probably, 15 years ago. None discussing of that cause you aint got nothing of that. Nothing you can do

KM: what about so we talked about sharks or any other species changing with the time

JD: No, I think mostly same kind of shark, black tips and stuff like that.

KM: nothing weird showing up in the south.

[0:26:32](#)

LH: Did you ever notice any hard times at the docks?

JD: Hard times on the docks

LH: Besides the shark or including the sharks.

JD: No, not really. No, pretty good. I guess I quit surfing. 2015, I do turtle work ever since. But now 2013, [inaudible] Athens on the turtles observer or something.i gotta show yall pictures I got. I gotta get this album I done made up. I'll get it out my truck and bring it to you.

KM,LW,LH: Oh, that's awesome. Yeah, that's really cool. Yeah, we'd love to see.

JD: We went to Georgia southern, I got pictures of that. We did a tour on the Georgia bulldogs. [inaudible] we tried to catch the male sea turtles. We got an old sonogram. I got pictures i'll show you. We did at Cape canal. They put radars on top of them, every time they come up. We get a signal out to keep track of them. I got them in the truck. I'll let y'all look at them. [inaudible] They get the cameras in the net trying to show them, showing the turtles go in and go out.

KM: Making sure that- Yeah, cause isn't it to be passed it has to have a certain amount of turtles have to be able to get out right?

JD: Yeah, we had to pass the [guba] NOAA come out in do. They do a lot of stuff. They installed the nets here, got camera in there. Y'all know Marty.

LW: Yeah, we met him yesterday-

KM: He talked at us for a couple minutes.

LW: Did you work with him?

JD: Oh, yeah. The whole time. I knew him before I went here, his daddy, he was a shrimper. His dad used to run the bulldog from one time. All right. A long time.

KM: Yeah, Seen a lot of changes in that time. I'm sure

JD: We've seen some stuff

LW:you got any stories with him

JD: We don't have enough time.

LW: We have all the time in the world.

JD: We've had some good times, I'll tell you.

[0:29:30](#)

KM: Were there any business disruptions that you noticed while you were there working on the dock? business disruptions like, like, anytime you were struggling.

JD: Oh, well, bad times. You know. You're like you get season just like the farm. You don't have a good year every year. Just make the best out there. One time we asked SBA loans to help you get out of that all. Everybody went to that I think and like the 80's, during the 80's. But it's good and bad. Then if you eat enough money to pay it back. It's not for everybody, in that way.

Someone borrows money ain't no way they could pay it back.

KM: Did you do the, did you do jelly balls in the offseason?

JD: No, I didn't do that. That's one thing I had never done. I know some friends that did that. I got some pictures. [inaudible] a whole net full of them. A handful of shrimp come out of it. That's the way it was. Till we got the excluders in the turtles, shoot all of them. That's the best thing going around just about, it came in 1989. The turtle excluders, big people hated them, but now I don't think they make a drag without them now. [people] get use to them and it works

KM: Do you think some of that pushback at the beginning was because it was kind of required?

JD: Yeah. oh, yeah. They don't want the government tell them what to do. Fisherman they own boss all their life, the government gone put them out of business, just like I just did. Bycatch putting the fish eye in there all day. I try in get boats to let me go with them. He put me out of business. I said okay. But it is more crime and I wasn't trying to put him out of business. They just hate change. They their own boss and that's the way it is. Somebody gonna be your boss and tell you what to do in here. The way you look at it.

LW: what all regulations like are changes I guess did you go through

JD: That's about all. Turtle [inaudible] and fisheye. It was all good. fisheye was alright, they weren't all that great cause you had to have them. You know, people tried to pug them up, so they weren't loose no shrimp [inaudible]

KM: Do you think, I know you said you stopped fishing in 2013 or 2018. Did you notice any changes of like, at the dock due to COVID? Because COVID You know, during COVID in 2020.

JD: Yeah, no, not really. Some people well, yeah, I wouldn't be on boat with some them. Bring in on there and you step on there with them, I mean that rough right there. You don't know what they brought on there. You know it don't take, but one guy to catch a cold and spread it

KM: But people were still coming in. Shrimping was still coming in

JD: Oh yeah. People would get the mask, get the shots. They won't quite tell them what to do.

LW: They're like, I've seen this before.

JD: They ain't seen nobody lay in the hospital.

[0:34:02](#)

KM: Why did you stop shrimping?

JD: I just went to other things, shrimping got so bad. So, I sold my boat and now I run a yacht for someone a little bit and I got hooked up with the Bulldogs and I did the turtle thing. Well that's guaranteed money that's a difference, can't beat that. Shrimpin a gamble [inaudible] farming good. I still love shrimping. You can't like it, you got to love it, like anything else. If you hate going to work, when you gone be there long. I don't care if you get \$1,000 an hour. if you don't like it you ain't gonna stay there. Always the people you work with that I tell the story too. You know, you got good and bad. I had one black guy worked with me for 20 years, same guy. He

was older than I was but we get along just like that. that 's what it takes

LW: Does he still shrimp or-

JD: no he did been dead, 22 years now

LW: he was lot older than

JD: Oh, yeah. 15 years older than I was. He was a good fella, good cook the main thing.

LW: Do you shrimping at all?

JD: Oh, yeah. I miss it. I know I had to get on board with some of those fellas. You know. Fellas, what drugs. I didn't know I had to work with some of them. That's what people do now. That's their lifestyle. Yeah, I love shrimping. He out there [inaudible] cut your radio off. Well just cut your tv on if you don't want to look at it. They got them made now, heat and air everything. Cable tv, noting ain't got on the boats. Luxury items [inaudible].

LW: What y'all do to stay entertained? Like if you're especially if you're on a trip to like, Texas, and you're going five, six days?

JD: Oh, yeah. Just take turns. Watching the wheel, you had to do it. Dixon had a tv or something. [inaudible]

LW: The entertainment was just the keep going

JD: If you ain't sleep you had to watch a wheel. That's all you can do, it's boring there.

LW: I mean, I don't know. Depends on who you are.

JD: [inaudible] if the weather right. That's the other story, but it's rough it ain't pretty. - you don't go out in it, but you get caught in once in a while. Just take your time, you figure things out. Then you got to watch for ships at night

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LW: What was the like- I'm interested is what the weather was like, when you were go through some incidents and stuff? what kind of stuff was that like

JD: It was just miserable, sometimes too rough. You can't fall asleep, but rockin and rollin. What you gotta do to keep going

LW: don't scare me.

JD: I mean they say you get sea sick. I said no, I've been too sick to get- too scared to get sick. You can do that.

LW: that make sense

JD: you get to thinking about stuff

LW: Did y'all have any, If y'all got caught like a storm or anything like that, did you have any repairs or would have to make to the ship and stuff?

JD: No, usually if it gets too bad you hung in you go inside. So far you can get caught going to key west. It's a straight shot and you just can't go in and two days without seeing anything, you just got to go by your navigation. [inaudible] got to walk in on. You just try to do the weather right. Listen to the weather, watch tv. But sometimes it happens, freak weather comes in out there. Oh, you hear folks talking that bad weather coming, especially hurricane different time of year. You watch your boat, you see him. They tell you something you better go with them. Some of the people.

LW: I was gonna ask you something, but it just left my mind . It'll come back to it will at the worst time probably like when I go to bed tonight, so I'd like for future commercial fishing, and I'd like you hadn't done it in a couple of years, but you, keep you, seem to like keep up with it. You still talk to everybody

JD: I still talk to everybody. I talk to all the fellas to [Phil and Zach line] every day at work around a dock a full royal South Carolina. I talk to people all the time, just keep up with just a

habit

LW: So what do you think about the future for commercial fishing?

JD: I don't know about that. I'm glad my son went to college and all. I tried to carry one summer, but he did not. I wasn't pushing it. I'm glad he went to something else. Nobody wants to learn unless their daddy was in it other than that not many of them wants to do it. Not that much money in it anymore. Unless you get on one big boat. if you like staying out like that

[0:41:26](#)

KM: The bigger boat stay out longer.

JD: Oh, yeah. Nice day out, some of them 30 days, freezer bags.

KM: What kind of boat did you run was it a freezer boat

JD: No, it was ice boat. We stay out 10 days and most ice, but you can do that.

LW: how early would yall go?

JD: Two hours before daylight somebody went two hour run off Cumberland daylight you start. Usually the first drag the best one you don't want to miss. Put some rain and the [inaudible] even things settle down and fishing instead of shrimping overnight or something they might come out there you know, swim. You know when they were asked to the best drag.

LW: what would be the latest y'all would stay out there, the latest

JD: would you mean the daylight till dark

LW: how late normally wouldn't just be as soon as it got dark.

JD: We have, we used to do that sometimes. We run all every day but you don't get much rest like that. You get home after dark, we go by an island like Cumberland, different place where it's calm anchor up and you know you got some help, you don't have to hunt your crew the next day. Good people has a 4 o'clock in the morning [inaudible] you know they in the house, but they not here. You should have told me yesterday that you didn't want to go out. I wouldn't have come up there, I wouldn't have gotten out of my bed. they know that, that's the bad part. You up beaten on people door at four, five in the morning.

KM: So it sounds like crew because I heard y'all talking when we came into sounds like crew is hard to keep.

JD: Oh, yeah. I'm not going to day I had that once of my own, so use of them. When he retired, I found out how good I had it.. You can depend of him. I want to say it again. You better keep him out there anchor up. You need to get somebody with a family too. They got to go to work stuff like that. They got to work whether they want too. For the family [inaudible] they don't care. They don't care you make any money. Cause they not doing [inaudible] that's life.

KM: So would y'all just anchor up until you caught your limits basically and then come back in

JD: Yeah, well, whatever [inaudible] shrimp get bad you go to the dock and he's sitting out there try and try and make shrimp what we call drag. You can catch him up by now there you know and you don't hear nobody else. you get in contact with people on the radio we are in the radio no more telephone, cell phone. They don't even talk on the radio, they text.

KM: Oh yeah, well radios open channel right

JD: Everybody [inaudible]

KM: know secret

LW: That would be interesting.

KM: So it sounds like there is a good sense of community here too, like yall radio each other like shrimping here go somewhere else

JD: They good people. You know, Everybody making money they get along. Nice to do. An early day, man. Everybody made money in the 60s, 70's. It started getting bad in the 80's vary

off of different stuff, but you can't blame them. If you can't make it you better do something else. Unless, you got your boat then you got to make payments. if you get paid for it that's a ticket.

[0:46:12](#)

LW: Do the shrimpers really communicate with each other today?

JD: No, cell phone. They talk a little bit [inaudible] See they didn't have a cell phone back then. Well, that's like anybody else. Cell phone range and I don't see that number or name, I don't answer. Like anybody else Oh yeah. What did he say. Caller ID told on him. The name pop up there, that's what told on him. I don't have to answer.

KM: That's great, but I don't talk to you. What do you think the docks that are still operating today need in order to continue to be successful?

JD: Gotta get the shrimp price. I talk to Bill Harris [inaudible] it's tough. Some of the docks won't even, the docks don't even want to shrimp. That's bad, last year they tell them go pay them yourselves. Everybody, well my shrimp lower, but the shrimp at the dock. Well it ain't my fault they can't get the money for it, that's the import and different stuff. That's what Bill said, it's tough. So, he just bought that dock 4 or 5 years ago. He always been over on the side, now he's seeing what it's all about now. You know him and what's her name are partners that go along. Bobby. They were partners, Bill bought her out years ago. They were partners, you see he would have bought him out, but that's the way it is. Bill's a good fella, He got the good dock. You've been down there. Saplo seafood that's so nice. He got everything out there. That's what it takes, he had him a bunch of boats. That's what it takes. More boats, more shrimp, but you got to-a dock, get shrimp to make money

KM: What's the price per pound right now on shrimp do you know?

JD: 3 or 4 dollars maybe. Top 4 dollars. Last year the docks didn't even want the small shrimps, go tell them [inaudible], one of them was a big shrimp. Me and Marty was talking about that earlier. He talks to the guys, I call him to see what's going up there couple times a week, we are good friends. The [dock or doctor] would tell him we don't want him, don't even want it. They just got the clientele. Some of them selling to these buyers, they said they still waiting on the money some of them. That's bad [inaudible] that's not good.

LW: How much was shrimp a pound? When you were

JD: Oh lord, those big old shrimp \$1.50 with the heads off. 16-20 shrimp that's as big as they grow. But A Fuel was 20 cent. That's a different in it.

KM: What is it now like five bucks or something?

JD: Three something, probably like 3 something for the boat I guess. It ain't cheap, but that's the difference in it. And ice wasn't nothing, that's all we had the ice for. It's a difference out there. Gasoline was nothing but a quarter when I was in high school

LW: I wish

KM: It takes like 60 bucks to fill up my car

LW: I drive a jetta it takes 45 almost 50 to fill my car up.

JD: That's life aint it, go with the flow, there's nothing we can do. Pay it to sit, park it. What's your major in?

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LW: Anthropology and criminal justice

JD: I remember all that. Y'all need some of these shrimpers

LW: Me don't want to take them, y'all need them

JD: I don't need them.

KM: Honestly, I don't know if I can hold a bucket of shrimp. Like

LH: I don't think I could be there all day catching shrimp or heading them

JD: Your learn

LW: I gotta go to the gym right quick then I'll go.

JD: Buy them with the heads off

KM: Oh, so if something crazy happens like a really super storm or really crazy king tide or something, how do you think the dock would fare? Do you think it would still be there?

JD: I got no pictures. I live right there, across the street is in the road out in front of my house on king tide. It's been in my garage, but 've never gotten in my house that have been inside my garage, the whole street. I had the old pictures and I think I got some pictures, but I'll show you some of it.

KM: It's probably just the dock will probably float away huh?

JD: No, it wasn't for that. Were the bad thing King tide and northeastern that's a real fact, but now you think the tide goes up and comes down. Thank goodness it goes back. Yeah.

KM: Have the king tides always been like that or is that new

JD: I don't think it been that high as it is now for some reason. Maybe, it used to be a certain time a year, but I think the last 6 or 7 years it's been the worst I think cause we get in our garage. When those hurricanes almost as bad as king tide almost as high as a hurricane. At least close to it

KM: Imagine the king tide and a hurricane together. How's it gonna fare in that situation?

JD: I know, that's what they say

LW: Did the tide have any effect on how much shrimp y'all got?

JD: Yeah, it means a lot the tides. That's when you do you best on the new moon or full moon during the high tides. It moves stuff around, that's when we always do the best. It's always been like that the tides run higher. You got a 8 foot something tide, you got 2 or 3 foot sometimes but no one [inaudible] about the highest tide 8 foot something on a new moon or full moon

LW: Is it the same hurricanes? Or I guess just maybe after, maybe not a hurricane but big storms or anything like that. Does that help too?

JD: Yeah. We had one the other night and next night wouldn't even see it in that room at the front of the house. Just that southeast for two days ago. It blew that night tides, it wouldn't even come up

KM: That's crazy. We drove through that. Yeah to come down here. It was some weather we were rocking and rolling in the van on 95.

LW: I have faith in her drive and she did good.

JD: That's good, take your time. You'll get there, ain't no trying to rush.

LW: We might get from A to B, that's right.

JD: You'll have some stories to tell now, when you go back to Georgia Southern. We should have Marty in on this or Roland

LW: He was telling us some stories yesterday. It was nice, learning.

JD: Yeah, he a good one. He been a long time, but not as long as me.

KM: I was gonna say longer than you or no.

JD: Nuh-uh

KM: Yeah. You've been in for a long time.

JD: Yeah,

KM: Basically born into it. What's your youngest memory? How old were you with your youngest memory shrimpin with daddy.

JD: I shrimp with my brothers mostly. They were 4 or 5 years older than me. Daddy use to run the fish out he stayed, someone had to run the docks. My brothers and my uncles would run the boats for him. We had good and bad times when you work for your kin people. It ain't pretty, it ain't pretty, they the worst ones in the world.

LW: You're competing for as long as you can remember as a young age. That kept y'all working though. Did y'all only do shrimp or did y'all do crab-

JD: No, shrimp is all we ever did. My brother got into it when run his dock, he had people doing it. All we were had was shrimp

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KM: What investments do you think could be made towards the dock to keep it going for the next 5, 10 years? What does it need?

JD: What does it need? It need some help from the government I guess.

KM: What kind of help, what do they need help with?

JD: Like a grant money, small anything when you like that. They can borrow money SBA, a grant would be a lot better. Anything cause a 10,000 have a limit. 10,000 dollars might get them back on their feet.

KM: What do they need to do to get back on their feet?

JD: They trying to get organized now, but now like I tell them the boats been sinking and now he better, it's true. It's been sinking for a while, when they sunk it's hard to get back up. They easier to sink. I think they learned that they tried to get state [ribbon] different stuff. They better do something, they gonna pay that bill now. See he do that turtle work now, he can't be that. guaranteed money. You get paid so much regardless. But everybody, you know, everybody don't like doing that. Someone tell him what to do. You do that 25 a day, he got two crews. That's the way he had to do it. It dread works like that.

LW: What do you think the government won't help or give a grant or anything like that? No matter

JD: I don't know why. The farmers, they been helping the farmers ever since I know, shrimping the same thing in my boat. They don't, farmers, they don't grow it. The government pays them not to grow certain thing, but the fishing nets. I don't know why they think it's different, it's the same.

LW: Isn't the same for everything like not just shrimpers, but even people who do crab, just everything really.

JD: I think that, [inaudible] it just use to be shrimp organization, now it's for all. [Seafood thing]. That's for the better, they all need that too. They didn't use to be one crabbers have their own association, shrimpers.

LW: Just all together. Kinda under one umbrella.

JD: They trying do that. They just started that last year sometimes.

LW: Oh, so this is new, very new

JD: This is new. I just started going to meetings last year. I think it's a good thing they get the right people and you can do something. I say, you get the wrong people, nothing going to work. You got have [a ride] I feel like. Organization, you ain't got the right one to run people aint gonna follow.

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LW: What are some recommendations you have for the future of commercial fish?

JD: I don't know. I got to think about that. I don't know that's kinda sad commercial fishing

LW: just like shrimp in general.

JD: Well, you know, if I don't be trying to get these other workers, people workers, they got to have workers. They want to work, that's the big difference. We won't go out, nobody want to go.

LW: Why do you think that is?

JD: The money's not there like it use to be. Then they tell you they'll be there and they won't never show up. Sure some of them. I say you get good help you better pay them well to keep them. Cause they are really hard to come by.

LW: Is it a lot of young people like the younger generation

JD: No, I haven't seen that many

LW: I didn't know if they were the ones who you know just don't show up or anything like that.

JD: Same old ones. They the ones, they know you had to train them but you can train but I haven't seen. I think that staring something in Darien, you don't even think about that they trying some type of school-

LW: Do you know anything about it?

JD: Well, they got something in Darien. They got some type of class to get kids [inaudible].

Marty was making them bags, they paid him to make it, they got them training.

LW: We did see those

JD: They got Marty's cousin out, some big shrimpers. Got some kind of class in Darien high school. Some type of deal out there, which is good. I haven't seen them, but I heard them talking about them. Which is good

KM: yeah, trying to get the younger generation interested.

JD: Make it interesting for them. You got to make them interested. It's interesting out there in the open

LW: oh yeah It's beautiful

JD: Oh, yeah it's pretty [inaudible] getting them to go

KM: Are there less multi generation families like yours doing this like you said your son didn't want to do it. So he went off and did his own thing

JD: [inaudible]

KM: Do you think people are actively pushing their children away from the industry because its dewendling

JD: Some of them [inaudible] I let my son go, it's up to him. Which is the best thing he did

LW: So you kind of gave him an option here, or I guess took them out and see if he enjoy it.

JD: I guess you know, we have a good time together. bonded in a friend zone in that way too.

One of his buddies which is good, both of them went the other way which is good. He went to college, my son went to college. UGA four years finished up somewhere else.

LW: Are most parents like that now or are they more like I don't really want you to have to worry about this you know you go or do they kind of give them the option like you do.

JD: I think they give them the option, it's better too But most of them don't, they look at the money side. You get a good job, can't be that guarantee money. It's hard to turn that down.

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KM: Well, if you have money right now to spend on the doc What would you spend it on though if you if I handed you a check right now.

JD: Oh, [inaudible] tryin to get 50,000 dollars to redo his stuff, the ice machine different stuff.

Through that organization somewhere in South Carolina. They trying to, the people acting like they gonna give them the money. I think they get up to 100, 000. The big dock he just got his own private dock. [inaudible] That be good for him. They trying to figure out what they need, the girls been down there to look at the stuff and some girl for North Carolina from the sea grant

some kind of deal with that.

KM: Came in like kind of asset the dock?

JD: Yeah, she hooked up with different women. Which would be good. That's a free latte, them docks cost something to keep them up and you got them post wearing them out, beating them up, tearing them up.

LW: Are there any kids who like you know your son or anything for instance, do any of them go off to college and then come back and like try to help at all.

JD: No, he lived too far from me. He probably would, but he got too much going on. He travels on the road.

KM: What did he go to school for?

JD: Well, I forget what he majored in.

KM: Well, what does he do now?

JD: He used to work for Tyson chicken and a chicken plant. He was the [inaudible] but now he works for a chemical company. They hook up the chicken plants cleaning aspect. He goes all over from here to Tennessee back into different plants and he likes it.

LW: It's Good money. I know people.

KM: So you said pylons, ice machines. What else would you spend some money on?

JD: Equipment, conveyors, endurance stuff, scales you got to have scale to weigh them. The boxes put in ice, which basically got to have ice. Well I suppose [inaudible] ice boats. They still got ice boats. Most of them still ice boats

LW: Would you get another ice boat?

JD: Yeah, I just don't- ice don't tear up in my freezer. They cost you money. I mean buy what you like, ice just melts. You need to get some to work on that freezer. A hundred dollars an hour they don't play for them to fix them. Yeah, they pray. They running 25 a day. They don't start with them. Some got to give as to why, even freezer bags different stuff. It's all what you like.

LW: Do you think the shrimp is better? Sitting on ice than being frozen?

JD: People want them- you go to cook one of those that been in the freezer. You can't get the [hub] off them. I hate them things. You go get you one of those [bento] freezers, boil em against ice things. The [hub] off the ice boat, got to have brine in salt it freeze them about 10 minutes or more. It's shot 30 below zero. They got that salt in the brine that way it won't freeze. It adds to the taste. Everybody say they don't want freezer shrimp, they even say the fish taste different. That's what I've heard people say that. Really?

LW: That's interesting.

KM: I wonder why.

LW: Because in my thought, like my thought processes, seafood, freeze it. You know, I don't really think. I wonder why that's a thought.

JD: I bought some shrimp in some play in [carrington], from this lil fella. They had to send the shrimp back. They left it in that brine tank. It's so salty the people couldn't eat the shrimp. People just don't take care of their stuff. That's why [inaudible]. You don't have to leave them that long. That's just lazy crew, it's true.

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LW: You think if they instead of freezing them? What if they kept them in those refrigerators, cooler?

JD: Yeah, they do that. That the fuel tank. They keep them a couple days usually in ice water. People do that but not many they just put them in the hole with ice. But you can do that with [inaudible] crabs

KM: Well, I mean, if you're staying out for 30 days, you gotta freeze your shrimp

JD: That's really nice. They can do that.

KM: Yeah. Make sense.

LW: 30 days

JD: 10 days alone

LW: Do they make more money like is that why they

JD: No, it's either you catch more cause you laying right there all the time. You may come to the dock and they still out there, some of theme whatever. That's what they want to do. They got to do it and make the boat famous. Well, that will mean you know, you'll come ahead I guess. A lot are over it

KM: Insurance, fuel, ice

JD: Well, that's why you got to catch more on those bigger boat. well over her

KM: I know spending more than you're making on the shrimp.

JD: Yeah, you can do it.

KM: Well, I think we've made it through most of our questions. So the only question I have left for you is, is there anything that we didn't ask you about the dock or the history of the dock that you think we should know

JD: No, I think so, that dock no doubt has been around a long time. [inaudible] repair anything you got to put new [piles], cement around all kinds of stuff. They got plaster duck you can put around to keep the worms from eating the [piles] up. Things ain't change still the better. You got to repair something sooner or later.

LW: I was gonna ask do you think like who got into doing freezer loads instead of ice but it's like is that kind of a younger generation so they can be out longer

JD: They started that-We never heard that in the Gulf , people started and somebody started. Of course they been doing it a long time. Mostly boats weren't like that. Freezers been around a long time since the 60's

LW: It's just weird because you know, you say that ice just better?. And that's not the first time I've heard that since being down here. So I'm just kind of, you know, I get you be out

JD: well, they don't care what they be feeding them.

KM: They not eating them right. They just selling them.

JD: I eat them fresh ones, that always what you want . Well, it's been around a long time Most of it still ice-well ice is harder to get cause most of the bigger boats are freezer boat. You got boats that come everyday we call them day boats. Them right here at [inaudible] right here next door. They ain't got anchors out they ain't got hooks, that's what they wanna do. Man, I got some fresh shrimp from Publix out there. This time of year with no shrimp well they had to be frozen somehow. You know what I say man they were fresh. We know we who [inaudible] nobody eating shrimping right there. Where you get the shrimp.

KM: We gotta go somewhere and get us some fresh Georgia local shrimp

LW: real fresh. Imm ask was this on ice or was this frozen? I need the specifics.

JD: you can probably catch some at the end of the month probably. A few caught some last week you'll see them. You go up to the dock there somebody.

LW: Well, we didn't see him out. But we saw the boats yesterday. That were right. Over here.

JD: To see marty [inaudible] you see the freezer boats you see the tanks on the boat in all. You can tell they freeze their ice shrimp. All those ice boats. Go in those big ole brine tank with salt in there . They be froze in 10- minutes hard as a brick then they put them in the hole, the hole about 30 below zero.

KM: So they like quick freeze them and they clean them
JD: Yeah, quick freeze they hard as a - That's what [marina] do that
LW: And then they thaw them out when they get to land
JD: Whenever they settle just like that, harden [inaudible]
KM: When Publix gets them they tend to not know.
LW: But they're fresh.
JD: They didn't say fresh frozen.
LW: Yeah, that's right.
KM: It does normally say Fresh Frozen. Read the fine print.
LW: That's right. It's like fresh and frozen in little bittie writing right here.
JD: Read [fine]
KM: Captain Dickey, you got anything else?
JD: No, we had enough fun
LW: Anymore stories
KM: I feel like you got so much stories we didn't even tap into
JD: That's alright, we don't got enough time. You got to get me and Marty together
LW: That's what we should have done.
KM: Mental note for next time
JD: We talk about stuff, I tell you. He talk about many different long stories everytime we see somebody. Me and him talk about the time on the bulldog. It was good.
LW: Well, thank you so much I got some good laughs
JD: you got to have fun.-
KM, LW: Yeah, I agree.
JD: We had plenty laughs. If you can't have fun around me, don't get around me.
LW: I like that, I need that
KM: I like that, that's good. don't forget you got one here right here too.

Ends Interview

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